



BUSINESS PAPER
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

To be held on

Wednesday 26 June 2024
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: 26 June 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, 26 June 2024** commencing at **3.00pm**.

Yours sincerely

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

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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| | | |
|-----|--|---------------|
| 1. | Leave of Absence | |
| | Clr Nena Hicks | |
| 2. | Confirmation of Previous Minutes | |
| 2.1 | Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 29 May 2024 at Walcha Council Chambers. | WO/2024/00935 |
| 3. | Business Arising | |
| 4. | Declarations of Interest | |
| 5. | Mayoral Minute | |
| | Nil. | |
| 6. | Senior Officers Reports | |
| 6.1 | Adoption of 2024-2025 Operational Plan includes Budget, Fees & Charges & Revenue Policy | WO/2024/00936 |

Submitted to Council: 26 June 2024

..... General Manager Mayor



- 6.2 Voluntary Planning Agreement – Winterbourne Wind & Walcha Council
WO/2024/01079
- 6.3 Internal Restricted Funds Movement
WO/2024/01130
- 6.4 Local Roads & Community Infrastructure LRC Funding Allocation
WO/2024/01085
- 6.5 New England Weeds Authority Update
WO/2024/01080
- 6.6 Budget Allocation for Alum Tanks
WINT/2024/02918
- 6.7 Lions Park Donation for Bench Seat Installation
WINT/2024/02917
- 6.8 Regional Meetings 2024
WO/2024/01091
- 6.9 Local Government Remuneration Tribunal Annual Review
WO/2024/01086
- 7. Notice of Motion
Nil.
- 8. Matters of Urgency
(Resolution to admit matters of urgency before being further considered by Council).
- 9. Management Review Report
 - 9.1 Office of the General Manager
WO/2024/01106
 - 9.2 Infrastructure & Development
WO/2024/01107
 - 9.3 Corporate & Community
WO/2024/00981
- 10. Committee Reports
 - 10.1 Minutes of the Beautification Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 22 May 2024 at the Council Chambers Hamilton Street, Walcha
WO/2024/01115
 - 10.2 Minutes of the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee Meeting held on Monday 17 June 2024 at the Council Chambers, Hamilton Street Walcha.
WO/2024/01090
- 11. Delegates Reports
 - 11.1 Nil.
- 12. Questions on Notice
Nil.
- 13. Closed Council
 - 13.1 Referral to Closed Council
WO/2024/01104
 - 1. Write Off Bad Debts
 - 2. Tender W23/71 – In Town Pathways
 - 3. Tender W23/72 – Darjeeling Road Pathways
 - 4. Community Care Kitchen Upgrade

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.

Submitted to Council: 26 June 2024

..... General Manager Mayor



Item 2: Previous Minutes



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 29 May 2024

at

2.00pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

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

PRESENT: Clr EH Noakes (Chairman) Mayor together with Councillors MA Berry, KW Ferrier, NF Hicks, SJ Kermode, AC Pointing and 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.

1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Nil.

MINUTES



2. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL 2024:

CONFIRMATION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON MONDAY 6 MAY 2024:

189 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Berry and Ferrier that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 24 April 2024 AND the Minutes of the ExtraOrdinary Meeting held on Monday 6 May 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

Nil.

5. MAYORAL MINUTE

Nil.

6. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT

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

6.1 Quarterly Budget Review Statements March 2024 WO/2024/00920

191 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Kermode that Council:

1. **ADOPT** the March 2024 Quarterly Budget Review Statements; and
2. **APPROVE** the variations in Income and Expenditure votes as detailed in this report.

6.2 Walcha Preschool Playground Upgrade WO/2024/00860

192 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Hicks and Pointing that Council **APPROVE** the following Preschool Playground upgrades:

- Replace sandpit;
- Install footpaths;
- Replace rubber softfall; and
- Install outdoor toilet.



6.3 Walcha to Bendemeer Sculpture Track

WO/2024/00911

193 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Hicks and Reilly that Council **SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE** the initiative of Walcha to Bendemeer Sculpture Track.

6.4 Draft Risk Management Framework & Draft Risk Management Policy

WO/2024/00925

194 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Hicks and Ferrier that Council:

1. **ADOPT** the Draft Risk Management Framework; and
2. **PUBLICLY** exhibit the Draft Risk Management Policy for a period of 28 days;
3. **ADOPT** the Draft Risk Management Policy as presented, should no submissions be received as a result of the public exhibition.

7. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

8. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil.

9. MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS

9.1 Office of the General Manager

WO/2024/00918

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

9.2 Infrastructure & Development

WO/2024/00805

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

9.3 Corporate & Community

WO/2024/00749

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

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

198 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Pointing that Council **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the Committee Reports as presented.



10.1 Minutes of the Walcha Council Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 1 May 2024 at Walcha Council Chambers.

WO/2024/00768

10.2 Minutes of the Walcha Motorcycle Rally Advisory Committee Meeting held at Walcha Library on Thursday 14 May 2024.

WO/2024/00881

10.3 Minutes of the Walcha Council Arts Advisory Committee Meeting held at Council Chambers on Thursday 14 May 2024.

WO/2024/00888

10.4 Minutes of the Walcha Council Preschool Advisory Committee held at Walcha Preschool on Monday 20 May 2024.

WO/2024/00892

11. DELEGATE REPORTS

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

11.1 Minutes of the Country Mayors Association of NSW Inc Meeting held at the York Club, Sydney on Friday 10 May 2024.

WI/2024/05603

12. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil.

13. CLOSED COUNCIL

13.1 Referral to Closed Council: WO/2024/00915

- 1. Tender REGPRO042425 – Supply & Delivery of Bulk Water Treatment Chemicals;**
- 2. Tender W24/20 – Derby Street Construction ONLY (Late Report)**

13.2 Referral to Closed Council: WO/2024/00924

- 1. Audit Risk & Improvement Committee Meeting Minutes held on Monday 4 March 2024; and**
- 2. Apsley Riverview 10 Year Business Plan**

200 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Hicks and Ferrier that, in accordance with the provisions of:

1. Section 10A(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act, 1993*, the matters of:
 - a) Tender REGPRO042425 Supply & Delivery of Bulk Water Treatment Chemicals; and
 - b) Tender W24/20 Derby Street Construction only;



be **REFERRED** to be discussed in Closed Council and close the meeting to the public for the reason that the reports relate to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business;

2. Section 10A(2)(d)(i) of the Local Government Act, 1993, the matters of:
 - a) Audit Risk & Improvement Committee Meeting Minutes held on 4 March 2024; and
 - b) Apsley Riverview 10 Year Business Plan;

be **REFERRED** to be discussed in Closed Council and close the meeting to the public for the reason that the reports relate to commercial information of a confidential nature that would if disclosed, prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

Council **RESOLVE INTO** Closed Council and the press and public be excluded at 2:48pm.

201 The Meeting resumed in **OPEN** Council at 3:30pm on the Motion of Councillors Hicks and Berry.

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 Tender REGPRO042425 – Supply & Delivery of Bulk Water Treatment Chemicals WINT/2024/02431

CC047/20232024 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Ferrier that Council:

1. **AWARD** REGPRO042425 Supply & Delivery of Bulk Water Treatment Chemicals to the Tenderers listed in Table A for the period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2027; and
2. **ALLOW** a provision for a 12 month extension based on satisfactory supplier performance which may take this contract through to 30 June 2028.

TABLE "A"

| Schedule: | Product Description | Tenderer |
|-----------|-----------------------------|--|
| B(3) | Aluminium Sulphate (Tonnes) | Nowra Chemical Manufacturers P/L, Omega Chemicals, Redox P/L |
| H | Hydrochloric Acid | Redox P/L |
| J(2) | Dense Soda Ash BULK | Ixom Operations P/L, Omega Chemicals, Redox P/L |



3.2 Minutes of the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee Meeting held at Council Chambers on Monday 4 March 2024 WO/2024/00397

The Report was **NOTED** by Council.

3.3 Apsley Riverview 10 Year Business Plan WINT/2024/02484

CC048/20232024 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Ferrier that Council:

- 1. **ENDORSE** the Apsley Riverview 10 Year Business Plan; and
- 2. **SEND** the revised Non-Binding Letter of Offer to Presbyterian Aged Care.

3.4 Tender W24/20 – Derby Street Construction ONLY

WINT/2024/02535

CC049/20232024 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Hicks that Council:

- 1. **DECLINE TO ACCEPT ALL** Tenders for Tender No.: W24/20 – Derby Street Construction Tender;
- 2. **INVITE**, in accordance with Section 167 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, fresh tender submissions based on different project details.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 3:31PM.



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
June 2024 at time of print.



Item 6:

Senior Officers' Reports

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



Item: 6.1 **Ref:** WO/2024/00936
Title: Adoption of Delivery Program 2022 – 2025, 2024 – 2025 Operational Plan including Budget, Fees & Charges AND Rates & Charges
Author: Director Corporate & Community
Previous Items: April 2024 – Draft Delivery Program 2022 to 2025, 2024 – 2025 Operational Plan
Attachments: WI/2023/07069 – IPART Instrument of Approval

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

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

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

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

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

RECOMMENDATION: **That: Council**

- 1. In accordance with the provisions of Section 404, 405 and 406 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council **ADOPT** the Draft Delivery Program 2022 – 2025 and 2024 – 2025 Operational Plan which includes the 2024–2025 Budget, Revenue Policy and Fees & Charges as Final; and**
 - 2. In accordance with Section 494 of the *Local Government Act, 1993*, Council **MAKE and LEVY** the Rates and Charges for 2024-2025 for the General, Water and Sewerage Funds, and Waste Management Charges as detailed in the Report; and**
 - 3. Council **AUTHORISE** the General Manager to arrange for the preparation and the service of the 2024-2025 Rate notices.**
-

Introduction:

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

It is important to note that after the proposed changes outlined in this report the consolidated position of the proposed budget is a \$54,699 surplus with \$1.7M budgeted to move into internal restrictions including \$950,000 to infrastructure reserve.

Report:

- a) **ADOPTION OF DRAFT DELIVERY PROGRAM 2022 - 2025 AND 2024 – 2025 OPERATIONAL PLAN**

Public Exhibition of Draft Document



In accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the Draft Delivery Program 2022 – 2025 and 2024 – 2025 Operational Plan was placed on public exhibition and public comment invited. The report was published on 1 May 2024 and submissions closed 7 June 2024. No submissions were received during the consultation period.

Changes to the draft Operational Plan since it was placed on public exhibition

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

INCOME/EXPENDITURE/CAPITAL

| Category | Description | Change | Comment |
|----------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| Income | Interest | Increase \$66,000 | Draft budget \$384,000 increase to \$450,000. Current YTD interest 2024 at \$600,000 |
| Income | Economic Development | Increase \$250,000 | Energy Co funds offset by expenditure. |
| Income | Capital projects | Increase \$1,495,782 | Additional grant funds to continue bridge program. |
| Expense | Economic Development | Increase \$250,000 | Energy Co funds offset by income. |
| Expense | Noxious Plants, Insect & Vermin Control | Increase \$170,000 | Additional expense allocated to NEWA for expected cost increases in line with administrative actions. |
| Expense | Councillor inductions | Increase \$5,000 | This was not included in the original budget as an oversight. |
| Expense | Special projects | Increase \$80,000 | Allow startup costs for Apsley Riverview Aged Care Facility |
| Capital | Winterbourne Road Bridge | Increase \$704,442 | Additional funding obtained to complete project |
| Capital | Mooraback Road Bridge | Increase \$810,671 | Additional funding obtained to complete project |
| Capital | Plant Replacement Program | Decrease \$11,000 | Replacement of backup Ferris mower no longer required |
| Capital | Electrical upgrade | Increase \$25,000 | 6W Hamilton Street upgrade roll to 2025 |
| Capital (Sewer Fund) | Welfare Facilities Upgrade | Increase \$40,000 | Welfare Facilities Upgrade roll to 2025 |
| NET CHANGE | | (\$262,331) | |

FEES & CHARGES/REVENUE POLICY

Proposed changes to the fees and charges are listed below:

| Fee Description | Current 24-25 Draft | Proposed 24-25 | Comment |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| Rates Notice/Water Notice reissue | | First notice reissue \$22.00 (Inc GST). All subsequent notices \$3.00 each (Inc GST) (Charges applied per request) | New charge not in original draft fees. |
| Sale of cat | \$291 | \$350 | Increase costs to ensure cost recovery |



| Fee Description | Current 24-25 Draft | Proposed 24-25 | Comment |
|--|---|---|--|
| Sale of dog | \$311 | \$400 | Increase costs to ensure cost recovery |
| Fee Description | Current 24-25 Draft | Proposed 24-25 | Comment |
| Section 10.7(2) Planning Certificate | \$67 | \$69 | Update statutory charge |
| Section 10.7(2) & (5) Planning Certificate | \$167 | \$174 | Update statutory charge |
| Development Applications for Building/Works (Based on cost of work) (Up to \$5,000) | \$138 | \$144 | Update statutory charge |
| Development Applications for Building/Works (Based on cost of work) (Up to \$5,001 to \$50,000) | \$212 plus \$3.00 for each \$1,000 (or part of \$1,000) above \$5,000 | \$221 plus \$3.00 for each \$1,000 (or part of \$1,000) above \$5,000 | Update statutory charge |
| Development Applications for Building/Works (Based on cost of work) (Up to \$50,001 to \$250,000) | \$442 plus \$3.00 for each \$1,000 (or part of \$1,000) above \$50,000 | \$459 plus \$3.64 for each \$1,000 (or part of \$1,000) above \$50,000 | Update statutory charge |
| Development Applications for Building/Works (Based on cost of work) (Up to \$250,001 to \$500,000) | \$1,455 plus \$1.70 for each \$1,000 (or part of \$1,000) above \$250,000 | \$1,510 plus \$2.34 for each \$1,000 (or part of \$1,000) above \$250,000 | Update statutory charge |
| Development Applications for Building/Works (Based on cost of work) (Up to \$500,001 to \$1,000,000) | \$2,190 plus \$1.00 for each \$1,000 (or part of \$1,000) above \$500,000 | \$2,272 plus \$1.64 for each \$1,000 (or part of \$1,000) above \$500,000 | Update statutory charge |



| Fee Description | Current 24-25 Draft | Proposed 24-25 | Comment |
|---|---|---|-------------------------|
| Development Applications for Building/Works (Based on cost of work) (Up to \$1,000,001 to \$10,000,000) | \$3,281 plus \$0.80 for each \$1,000 (or part of \$1,000) above \$1,000,000 | \$3,404 plus \$1.44 for each \$1,000 (or part of \$1,000) above \$1,000,000 | Update statutory charge |
| Development Applications for Building/Works (Based on cost of work) (More than \$10,000,001) | \$19,917 plus \$0.55 for each \$1,000 (or part of \$1,000) above \$10,000,000 | \$20,667 plus \$1.19 for each \$1,000 (or part of \$1,000) above \$10,000,000 | Update statutory charge |
| Development Applications for Subdivisions – New road to be created | \$834.00 plus \$65 per additional lot created | \$865.00 plus \$65 per additional lot created | Update statutory charge |
| Development Applications for Subdivisions – No new road to be created | \$414.00 plus \$53 per additional lot created | \$430.00 plus \$53 per additional lot created | Update statutory charge |
| Development Applications for Subdivisions – Strata subdivision | \$414.00 plus \$65 per additional lot created | \$430.00 plus \$65 per additional lot created | Update statutory charge |
| Development Application – Outdoor Advertising (5 year approval) | \$357.00 for first sign + \$93.00 / additional sign | \$371.00 for first sign + \$93.00 / additional sign | Update statutory charge |
| Development Application – Outdoor Advertising | \$357 | \$371 | Update statutory charge |
| Development Application – erection of a dwelling costing less than \$100,000 | \$571 | \$593 | Update statutory charge |
| Integrate Development Fee – fee payable to approval body | \$401 | \$417 | Update statutory charge |



| Fee Description | Current 24-25 Draft | Proposed 24-25 | Comment |
|---|--|--|-------------------------|
| Integrated Development Fee – fee payable to consent authority | \$176 | \$183 | Update statutory charge |
| Concurrence Development – Fee payable to concurrence authority | \$401 | \$417 | Update statutory charge |
| Fee Description | Current 24-25 Draft | Proposed 24-25 | Comment |
| Concurrence Development – Fee payable to consent authority | \$176 | \$183 | Update statutory charge |
| Development Application – referred to design review panel | \$3,763 | \$3,906 | Update statutory charge |
| Designated Development – additional fee to Council | \$1,154 | \$1,198 | Update statutory charge |
| Site compatibility certificate under SEPP (Housing) 2021 | \$333+\$42 per dwelling (to a maximum of \$626.00) | \$345 + 42 per dwelling (to a maximum of \$697.00) | Update statutory charge |
| Site compatibility certificate under SEPP (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 | \$333 + \$265 per hectare of part thereof (to a maximum of \$626.00) | \$345 + \$265 per hectare of part thereof (to a maximum of \$697.00) | Update statutory charge |
| Site verification certificate under SEPP (Resources and Energy) 2021 | \$4,694 | \$4,871 | Update statutory charge |
| Giving of notice for designated development | \$2,785.00 | \$2,890 | Update statutory charge |
| Giving of notice of nominated integrated development, threatened species development, Class 1 aquaculture development | \$1,386 | \$1,439 | Update statutory charge |



| Fee Description | Current 24-25 Draft | Proposed 24-25 | Comment |
|---|--|--|-------------------------|
| Dwelling less than \$100,000 | \$238 | \$248 | Update statutory charge |
| All other development work – Up to \$5,000 | \$68 | \$73 | Update statutory charge |
| All other development work – \$5,001 to \$250,000 | \$107 plus \$1.50 for each \$1,000, or part \$1,000, by which estimated cost exceeds \$5,000 | \$112 plus \$1.50 for each \$1,000, or part \$1,000, by which estimated cost exceeds \$5,000 | Update statutory charge |

| Fee Description | Current 24-25 Draft | Proposed 24-25 | Comment |
|--|--|--|-------------------------|
| All other development work – \$250,001 to \$500,000 | \$628 plus \$0.85 for each \$1,000, or part \$1,000, by which estimated cost exceeds \$250,000 | \$652 plus \$0.85 for each \$1,000, or part \$1,000, by which estimated cost exceeds \$250,000 | Update statutory charge |
| All other development work – \$500,001 to \$1,000,000 | \$893 plus \$0.50 for each \$1,000, or part \$1,000, by which estimated cost exceeds \$500,000 | \$928 plus \$0.50 for each \$1,000, or part \$1,000, by which estimated cost exceeds \$500,000 | Update statutory charge |
| All other development work – \$1,000,001 to \$10,000,000 | \$1,238 plus \$0.40 for each \$1,000, or part \$1,000, by which estimated cost exceeds \$1,000,000 | \$1,285 plus \$0.40 for each \$1,000, or part \$1,000, by which estimated cost exceeds \$1,000,000 | Update statutory charge |
| All other development work – More than \$10,000,000 | \$5,943 plus \$0.27 for each \$1,000, or part of \$1,000, by which estimated cost exceeds \$10,000,000 | \$6,168 plus \$0.27 for each \$1,000, or part of \$1,000, by which estimated cost exceeds \$10,000,000 | Update statutory charge |
| All other development work – Notice of application for review of a determination under section 8.3 | \$778 | \$808 | Update statutory charge |



| Fee Description | Current 24-25 Draft | Proposed 24-25 | Comment |
|--|---|--|-------------------------|
| Review of Decision to Reject – Fee for Application under S8.2(1)(c) – Estimated cost of Development \$100,001 to \$1,000,000 | \$188 | \$195 | Update statutory charge |
| Review of Decision to Reject – Fee for Application under S8.2(1)(c) – Estimated cost of Development over \$1,000,000 | \$313 | \$325 | Update statutory charge |
| Review of Decision to Reject – Fee for Application under S8.2(1)(c) – Estimated cost of Development under \$100,000 | \$69 | \$72 | Update statutory charge |
| Modification of Consent – 4.55(1) – minor error / discrepancy | \$89 | \$93 | Update statutory charge |
| Modification of Consent – 4.55(1A)+ 4.56(1) – minimal environmental impact | \$808 or 50% original DA Fee, whichever is the lesser | \$840 or 50% original DA Fee whichever is the lesser | Update statutory charge |
| 4.55(2) or 4.56(1) – not of minimal environmental impact/other – Original fee more than \$100 (for dwelling house less than \$100,000) | \$238 | \$248 | Update statutory charge |
| Modification of consent – All other Development Work – Up to \$5,000 | \$69 | \$72 | Update statutory charge |



| Fee Description | Current 24-25 Draft | Proposed 24-25 | Comment |
|---|---|---|-------------------------|
| Modification of consent – All other Development Work – Up to \$5,001 to \$250,000 | \$106 plus \$1.50 for each \$1,000, or part \$1,000, by which estimated cost exceeds \$5,000 | \$111 plus \$1.50 for each \$1,000, or part \$1,000, by which estimated cost exceeds \$5,000 | Update statutory charge |
| Modification of consent – All other Development Work – Up to \$250,001 to \$500,000 | \$628 plus \$0.85 for each \$1,000, or part \$1,000, by which estimated cost exceeds \$250,000 | \$652 plus \$0.85 for each \$1,000, or part \$1,000, by which estimated cost exceeds \$250,000 | Update statutory charge |
| Modification of consent – All other Development Work – Up to \$500,001 to \$1,000,000 | \$894 plus \$0.50 for each \$1,000, or part \$1,000, by which estimated cost exceeds \$500,000 | \$928 plus \$0.50 for each \$1,000, or part \$1,000, by which estimated cost exceeds \$500,000 | Update statutory charge |
| Modification of consent – All other Development Work – Up to \$1,000,001 to \$10,000,000 | \$1,238 plus \$0.40 for each \$1,000, or part \$1,000, by which estimated cost exceeds \$1,000,000 | \$1,285 plus \$0.40 for each \$1,000, or part \$1,000, by which estimated cost exceeds \$1,000,000 | Update statutory charge |
| Modification of consent – All other Development Work – More than \$10,000,000 | \$5,943 plus \$0.27 for each \$1,000, or part \$1,000, by which estimated cost exceeds \$10,000,000 | \$6,168 plus \$0.27 for each \$1,000, or part \$1,000, by which estimated cost exceeds \$10,000,000 | Update statutory charge |
| Modification of consent – All other Development Work – Modification to consent requiring advertisement per 4.55(2) 4.56(1) EP&A Act | \$835 | \$866 | Update statutory charge |
| Modification of consent – All other Development Work – Additional fee for modification application accompanied by statement of qualified designer | \$954 | \$990 | Update statutory charge |



Note that companion animals fee changes are not released until July so additional changes will be made and will be provided to Council to note. As they are statutory charges the schedules will be automatically updated.

There was some minor changes to the land rates calculation during the consultation period. This related to a number of non-rateable properties that were included in the original calculation however should not have formed part of the calculation. The below show the original draft at 1.1 and the updated and proposed final rates 1.2.

Table 1.1

| RATING CATEGORY | NUMBER OF ASSESSMENTS | LAND VALUE | MINIMUM RATE | MINIMUM REVENUE | AD VALOREM RATE | AD VALOREM REVENUE | TOTAL REVENUE |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Farmland | 106 670 | 18,992,800 2,922,838,000 | \$617 | 65,402 | \$0.00150433 | 4,396,924 | 4,462,326 |
| Residential | 118 78 | 12,151,230 27,634,000 | \$617 | 72,806 | \$0.00260000 | 71,848 | 144,654 |
| Residential – Walcha | 276 478 | 17,136,480 51,933,600 | \$617 | 162,271 | \$0.00780000 | 405,082 | 567,353 |
| Business | 13 3 | 660,220 1,441,000 | \$617 | 8,021 | \$0.00340000 | 4,899 | 12,920 |
| Business – Walcha Centre | 20 69 | 670,970 9,886,700 | \$617 | 12,340 | \$0.01060000 | 104,799 | 117,139 |
| Business – Walcha Industrial | 7 31 | 292,600 5,282,100 | \$617 | 3,702 | \$0.00785000 | 41,464 | 45,166 |
| Mining | 0 0 | - - | \$617 | - | \$0.01092694 | - | - |
| TOTALS: | 1,869 | 3,068,919,700 | | \$324,542 | | \$5,025,017 | \$5,349,559 |

Table 1.2

| RATING CATEGORY | NUMBER OF ASSESSMENTS | LAND VALUE | MINIMUM RATE | MINIMUM REVENUE | AD VALOREM RATE | AD VALOREM REVENUE | TOTAL REVENUE |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Farmland | 106 670 | 18,992,800 2,922,838,000 | \$617 | 65,402 | \$0.00150441 | 4,397,147 | 4,462,549 |
| Residential | 118 78 | 12,151,230 27,634,000 | \$617 | 72,806 | \$0.00260000 | 71,848 | 144,654 |
| Residential – Walcha | 276 478 | 17,136,480 51,933,600 | \$617 | 162,271 | \$0.00780000 | 405,082 | 567,353 |
| Business | 9 5 | 278,700 1,052,200 | \$617 | 5,558 | \$0.00340000 | 7,362 | 12,920 |
| Business – Walcha Centre | 17 67 | 535,570 9,156,200 | \$617 | 10,428 | \$0.01060000 | 105,445 | 116,873 |
| Business – Walcha Industrial | 7 31 | 292,600 4,984,100 | \$617 | 3,702 | \$0.00785000 | 41,464 | 45,166 |
| Mining | 0 0 | - - | \$617 | - | \$0.01092694 | - | - |
| TOTALS: | 1,869 | 3,068,919,700 | | \$324,542 | | \$5,025,017 | \$5,349,559 |

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

General Fund Rates

On 13 June 2023 IPART announced that Walcha Council was successful in its application for a Permanent Special Rate Variation to increase general rates by 36.5% in 2023-2024, 8% in 2024-2025 and 7% in 2025-2026. IPART has provided an Instrument under Section 508A of the *Local Government Act 1993* by which Walcha Council is permitted to increase general rates income by 8% in 2024-2025. The instrument is provided as an attachment to this report and sets out the requirements and special conditions of the instrument. The proposed ordinary rates reflect the allowable increase provided by the instrument and are reflected in the operational.



That whereas Council has adopted Estimates of Income and Expenditure of the General Fund for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, it has determined pursuant to Sections 534 and 535 of the Local Government Act 1993 that the following Ordinary Rates be made for the 2024 – 2025 year:

- i. Farmland Rate of 0.150441 cents in the dollar (\$) on the land value of all rateable land included in this category subject to a minimum of \$617.
- ii. Residential Rate of 0.259980 cents in the dollar (\$) on the land value of all rateable land included in this category subject to a minimum of \$617.
- iii. Residential - Walcha Rate of 0.780000 cents in the dollar (\$) on the land value of all rateable land included in this category subject to a minimum of \$617.
- iv. Mining Rate of 1.092694 cents in the dollar (\$) on the land value of all rateable land included in this category subject to a minimum of \$617.
- v. Business Rate of 0.696200 cents in the dollar (\$) on the land value of all rateable land included in this category subject to a minimum of \$617.
- vi. Business - Walcha Centre Rate of 1.162583 cents in the dollar (\$) on the land value of all rateable land included in this category subject to a minimum of \$617.
- vii. Business - Walcha Industrial Rate of 0.835660 cents in the dollar (\$) on the land value of all rateable land included in this category subject to a minimum of \$617.

Walcha Water Supply Charges

That where Council has adopted Estimates of Income and Expenditure for the Walcha Water Supply Local Fund for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, it has determined pursuant to Section 540 of the Local Government Act 1993 that the following Walcha Water Supply Annual Access Charges be set:

| Connection Type & Size | Access Charge |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Treated Residential – 20 mm | \$486.00 |
| Treated Residential – 25 mm | \$755.00 |
| Treated Residential – 38 mm | \$1,744.00 |
| Treated Residential – 50 mm | \$3,019.00 |
| Treated Residential – 100 mm | \$12,078.00 |
| Residential Vacant Treated | \$483.00 |
| Treated Non Residential – 20 mm | \$483.00 |
| Treated Non Residential – 25 mm | \$755.00 |
| Treated Non Residential – 38 mm | \$1,744.00 |
| Treated Non Residential – 50 mm | \$3,019.00 |
| Treated Non Residential – 100 mm | \$12,078.00 |
| Non Residential Vacant Treated | \$483.00 |
| Untreated – 20 mm | \$483.00 |



| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Untreated – 25 mm | \$755.00 |
| Untreated – 38 mm | \$1,744.00 |

That where Council has adopted Estimates of Income and Expenditure for the Walcha Water Supply Local Fund for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, it has determined pursuant to Section 540 of the Local Government Act 1993 that the following Walcha Water Supply Usage Charges be set:

- Treated Residential \$4.45 per kilolitre for 200 kilolitres or less
- Treated Residential \$5.90 per kilolitre for greater than 200 kilolitres
- Treated Non Residential \$4.45 per kilolitre
- Untreated \$2.31 per kilolitre

Walcha Sewerage Charges

That where Council has adopted Estimates of Income and Expenditure of the Walcha Sewerage Local Fund for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, it has determined pursuant to Section 540 of the Local Government Act 1993 that the following annual Walcha Sewerage charges be set:

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

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

where

- BR = Annual residential sewerage bill (\$)
- SDF = Sewer Discharge Factor – the proportion of total residential water consumption that is discharged to the sewerage system. A typical value for NSW is SDF = 0.78
- SAC₂₀ = Sewer Annual Access Charge for non residential customers. Calculated to be \$620.00 for Walcha.
- C_R = Average annual residential water consumption (kL). For Walcha last year this figure was 128 kL.
- UC = Sewer usage charge (\$/kL). This has been set at \$1.36/kL which is within the recommended range.

Based on the above formula the sewerage charge for residential customers be set at \$619.00 per year. The unoccupied sewerage charge for residential customers be set at \$316.00 per year.

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



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

where

- B = Annual non-residential sewerage bill (\$)
SDF = Sewer Discharge Factor – the proportion of total water consumption that is discharged to the sewerage system
AC = Customers Annual Access Charge $AC = AC_{20} \times \frac{D^2}{400}$
C = Customer's annual water consumption (kL).
UC = Sewer usage charge (\$/kL). This has been set at \$1.36/kL which is within the recommended range.

The non-residential sewer access charge is set at \$620.00 per user, per annum.

The Vacant Non residential sewer access charge is set at \$303.00 per user per annum.

Trade Waste

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

Council's liquid trade waste recommended fees and charges in 2024 - 2025 are:

- ◆ Application fee – fee based on category with a minimum charge of \$233.00
- ◆ Annual Trade Waste Fee:
 - Classification A \$114.00
 - Classification B \$228.00
 - The annual fee for Classification C dischargers will be set on a case by case basis depending on the complexity of monitoring required (for charging purposes and other administrative requirements).
- ◆ Re-inspection fee - \$109.00
- ◆ Trade Waste usage charge - \$2.07/kL with appropriate pre-treatment.
- ◆ Trade Waste usage charge - \$19.10/kL without appropriate pre-treatment.
- ◆ Food waste disposal charge - \$37.00/bed.
- ◆ Portable toilet - \$22.00/kL.
- ◆ Septic Waste
 - Normal (combined effluent and sludge) - \$3.24/kL.
 - Effluent only - \$3.24/kL.
 - Sludge only - \$31.00/bed.

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

$$TW = A + I$$



where

- TW = Total annual trade waste fees and charges (\$)
- A = Annual trade waste fee (\$)
- I = Re-inspection fee (\$) (where required)

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

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

where

- TW = Total annual trade waste fees and charges (\$)
- A = Annual trade waste fee (\$)
- I = Re-inspection fee (\$) (where required)
- C = Customer's annual water consumption (kL)
- UC_{TW} = Trade waste usage charge (\$/kL) of \$2.07/kL
- TWDF = Trade waste discharge factor

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



The following table represents sewerage and trade waste discharge factors.

Sewer and Trade Waste Discharge Factor

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

Notes:

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

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

³ Includes lawn mower repairers, equipment hire.



⁴ Includes café, canteen, bistro, etc.

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

Waste Management

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

The Annual Waste Management charges for 2024 – 2025 be made and levied as follows:

| Service | Rate |
|---|-------------|
| Domestic Waste Management (DWM) | \$766.00 |
| DWM Additional 140L General Waste bin | \$268.00 |
| DWM Additional 240L Recycle Waste bin | \$203.00 |
| Commercial Waste Management (CWM) | \$789.00 |
| CWM Green Waste bin | \$79.00 |
| CWM Additional 240L Recycle bin | \$203.00 |
| CWM Additional 240L General Waste bin | \$402.00 |
| Waste Management – Rural | \$295.00 |
| Waste Management Unoccupied Town Charge | \$235.00 |

Maximum Interest Rate on Overdue Rates and Charges

The Office of Local Government has determined that the maximum interest rate on overdue rates and charges for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 be fixed at 10.5% per annum simple interest calculated daily in accordance with Section 566(3) of the Local Government Act 1993.

Report Implications:

Policy:

Once adopted by Council, the Operational Plan will set the overarching policy direction for Council for the 2024-2025 financial year.

Financial:

Once adopted by Council, the Budget will set the approved program of works, income and expenditure profiles for Council for the 2024-2025 financial year.

Legal:

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



Section 405 of the Act:

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

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

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

plan in accordance with the notice.

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

Section 494 of the Act:

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

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

Section 496 of the Act:

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

Section 501 of the Act:

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

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

Section 502 of the Act:

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

Social Implications:

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



Environmental Implications:

Council's Operational Plan identifies a number of environmental strategic objectives, strategies and actions. During 2024-2025 Council is also seeking to undertake a review and plan for future opportunities for the use of renewable energy in Council operations.



Item: 6.2 **Ref:** WO/2024/01079
Title: Voluntary Planning Agreement – WinterbourneWind Pty Ltd
Author: General Manager
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: Draft Voluntary Planning Agreement
Explanatory Note

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Goal 6.4: *Walcha will increase the use and production of renewable energy.*
Action 6.4.1.1: *Review and support Councils use of renewable energy opportunities.*
Strategy 8.1.1 *Councillors will exhibit leadership on Council and regional committees as well as in community organisations.*
Action 8.1.1.1 *Provide the opportunity for the community to have input via Council committees.*

RECOMMENDATION: **That Council:**

- 1. ENDORSE the WinterbourneWind Pty Ltd Voluntary Planning Agreement and delegate to the General Manager to finalise and execute on behalf of Council.**
 - 2. NOTE that Uralla Shire Council are co-signatories to the WinterbourneWind Pty Ltd Voluntary Planning Agreement and that the provisions of the Agreement will not become operative until all relevant parties have signed.**
-

Introduction:

The draft WinterbourneWind Pty Ltd (WWPL) Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) was first submitted to both Walcha Council and Uralla Shire Council more than a year ago. The two Council's jointly engaged the legal services of Bradley Allen Love (BAL) Lawyers to assess the VPA, advise Council and assist in negotiating a VPA that meets Council's needs, adheres to previously adopted positions, policies and guidelines, and is suitable within the broader context of the New England Renewable Energy Zone (NEREZ).

The version of the VPA attached to this report is representative of that work, and is the same as that which was tabled to the Extraordinary Council meeting held on the 6 May 2024 and has been on public exhibition since that time. The corresponding Explanatory Note attached is the final version prepared by WinterbourneWind that has been reviewed by Walcha Council, Uralla Shire Council, and respective legal representatives.

As per the report from 6 May 2024, the NSW Government draft Renewable Energy Benefit Sharing Guidelines recommend an amount of \$1050 per megawatt per annum for wind energy development adjusted for CPI. WinterbourneWind's VPA stipulates an amount of \$1M upfront, \$750,000 p.a. up to 600MW and \$1000 p.a. per MW for every MW above 600MW, adjusted for CPI. Based on the anticipated 700MW capacity and 30 year life of the project, this equates to \$1174 per megawatt per annum – i.e. higher than the NSW



government Guideline value. For Walcha, our 90% 'share' will be \$900,000 first year, then \$765,000 p.a. for remaining 29 years - \$23,085,000 before adjusting for inflation.

Other elements of the draft VPA include:

- Requirement to create a restricted and reportable Community Benefit Fund so that all monies received and expended is transparent to the community.
- Requirement to create a Community Benefit Advisory Committee to "make recommendations to Walcha Council for the expenditure of monetary contributions made in connection with renewable energy developments, including the allocation of funds from the Walcha Community Benefit Fund"
- Requirement for funds to be spent in accordance with the recommendations from a Community Benefit Advisory Committee, and "be consistent with any policy adopted by Walcha Council in relation to a renewable energy community benefit restricted fund (as in force from time to time) or, if no such policy has been adopted, the policy principles set out in any benefit sharing guideline prepared by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure or its successors (as in force from time to time)."

Walcha Council has the final say on any money spent from the Fund.

Endorsement of the VPA **does not** constitute endorsement of the WinterbourneWind Project, which will be assessed by the NSW Planning Department, or if required, the Independent Planning Commission.

Report:

Walcha held an Extraordinary Council meeting on 6 May 2024 in order to get the VPA in the public domain prior to the Regional Meetings that were held across the LGA on 13 May and 15 May 2024. This was to allow residents to discuss the VPA, if desired, with Councillors and senior staff in an informal manner during each meeting. A summary of the Regional Meetings is contained in a separate report.

Formal written submissions have been considered from 6 May 2024 until 12 June 2024, of which 80 have been received in this period. All submissions have been provided, in full, to all Councillors, in addition to informal commentary received during the Regional Meetings.

This report will summarise common feedback and requests. It should be noted that any decision made by Council will be with respect to all submissions received and not solely the summary provided in this report. Council must adhere to the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* which prohibits sharing any 'personal information', the submissions cannot be published without redaction.



Some submissions received have noted potential immaterial errors and adjustments, and these will be submitted to Council's legal representatives, Bradley Allen Love (BAL) Lawyers, in order to recommend any final adjustments prior to signing. Any *material* changes would require a re-exhibition, and Council will follow the appropriate legal advice to this end if a re-exhibition is required.

Note that Uralla Shire Council have endorsed the same draft VPA during their Ordinary Council meeting on 21 May 2024. Their resolution requires Walcha Council's signature for the Agreement to be enacted, and vice-versa. Any proposed and accepted material changes to the VPA from either Council may either trigger a re-exhibition for both, or the creation of separate, divergent VPAs with each Council.

Summary of Feedback

There were 80 formal submissions received during the period. Of these, there were 18 in favour of signing with no changes. Some submissions are quite comprehensive – identifying specific clauses for review, amendment and/or clarification in addition to broader objection (or support) of the VPA. As noted above, the intent is for this detailed commentary to be considered against the VPA (via our legal representatives) but may not constitute material change.

Some other common requests/themes:

- General acknowledgement that the quantum of money in the VPA is acceptable, being greater than the NSW Government draft Renewable Energy Benefit Sharing Guidelines.
- Majority of submissions request a greater proportion of the money provided upfront, ranging from the entire amount in one hit to an amount equal to the first 5 years. Requests for an increased initial payment have already been put to WinterbourneWind during the formation of the draft VPA with a negative result.
- Call to refrain from signing the VPA until WWPL provides their response to submissions to the EIS (at a minimum). Currently, the full impact of the project to the community is not known, nor are the proposed project amendments. It is recommended by the NSW Planning Dept. that VPAs should be negotiated between Council and developer before applications are determined.
- Call for a decommissioning bond, or other such allowance for decommissioning, to be part of the VPA. Council have already confirmed with the NSW Planning Dept. that decommissioning cannot be considered as part of the VPA.
- Commentary regarding the inadequacy of the consultation, and inadequacy of advertising the draft VPA for comment. 80 formal submissions have been received, and Council have discussed the VPA at six Regional Meetings and two public Council meetings (including this one). Concerns regarding potential inadequacy on this front have been provided to all Councillors for their consideration.
- A common theme of submissions was trust and confidence in security of payment long term. The 'trust' theme was consistently linked with requests for a greater



sum provided upfront. The VPA is legal agreement between Council and WWPL, and is informed by appropriate legal advice.

- Much commentary that would be more accurately considered as commentary on either the WinterbourneWind project as a whole, or the proposed New England Renewable Energy Zone (NEREZ) as a whole. In many respects, not relevant to the VPA. Council's position, as has been explicitly clarified with the NSW Planning Dept., is that endorsing or signing the VPA does not constitute support of the project.
- Legal fees – while not in the body of VPA, WWPL have agreed to cover the legal costs to date for Council to prepare this document. This is being processed now.
- Future Fund – the VPA as currently written allows for accumulation of funds over time, based on the recommendation of the advisory committee and the decision of Council. Strategic policies or plans to accumulate funds for larger community projects, or future purposes, is outside of the scope of the VPA.

Options/Alternative Recommendations

It is clear there is significant community interest, and in some cases angst and concern, regarding the WinterbourneWind project and the VPA. However, there were a number of submissions received in full support of the VPA and almost all submissions are in agreement to the quantum of money being offered. Signing the VPA is not endorsement of the project. For this reason, the Recommendation of this report is to endorse and sign the VPA 'as is' (excluding immaterial amendments).

Alternative recommendations could include formal written request to WWPL (based on submissions) to increase the upfront payment, publishing of all submissions with redacted personal information, or deferring endorsement until proposed project amendments are known or until project determination.

Legal Implications:

This Agreement is a legal agreement between Walcha Council (and Uralla Shire Council) and WinterbourneWind Pty Ltd.

Financial Implications:

This VPA represents significant financial contributions to be made to Walcha Council for the length of the WinterbourneWind Project – being approximately \$23,085,000 over 30 years before adjusting for inflation.

Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Social Implications:

There may be no amount of money received via a VPA that will satisfy all members of the Walcha Community. However, the eventual adoption of this VPA will represent significant



financial benefit to the Walcha community that is at least comparable with draft Guideline and industry standards.

Policy Implications:

The draft VPA has been updated to refer to the Walcha Council Renewable Energy Community Benefit Policy.



Item: 6.3 **Ref:** WO/2024/01130
Title: Internal Restricted Fund Movements
Author: Director Corporate & Community
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: Nil

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

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

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

1. Internally restricts the prepaid portion of the 2024-2025 Financial Assistance Grants.
 2. Un-restricts the prepaid portion of the 2024-2025 Financial Assistance Grants on 1 July 2024.
 3. Transfer an amount of 2023-2024 calculated annual plant depreciation to the Internal Plant Reserve to support the 2024-2025 Plant Replacement Program including an additional \$280,000 from Internal Unrestricted Funds.
 4. Transfer an amount up to \$950,000 into the Infrastructure Replacement Reserve from Internal Unrestricted Funds.
-

Report:

Financial Assistance Grants

Financial Assistance Grants for the 2024-2025 financial year will be prepaid with Walcha Council receiving a 100% prepayment of the allocated funding.

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

Internal Plant Reserve

The 2024-2025 plant replacement program per the capital plan is \$1,109,000 which considers the sale proceeds.

Additionally, loan repayments on the Jet Patcher and 19T Roller mean that the total expenditure of the Plant Fund for 2024-2025 is budgeted to be \$1,303,500.

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

Plant Depreciation \$450,000 (approximately with final calculated amount to be transferred)



Working Funds \$280,000 (2023-24 plant fund surplus approximately \$200,000)

The Internal Plant Reserve is currently underfunded as historically, no indexing of plant depreciation has occurred with a number of longer life items due for replacement in 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications:

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

Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Social Implications:

There are no social implications arising from this report.

Policy Implications:

There are no policy implications arising from this report.



Item: 6.4 **Ref:** WO/2024/01085
Title: Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Funding Allocation
Author: General Manager
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: No

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.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council

- 1) **ENDORSE** the following allocations for the Local Roads & Community Infrastructure (LRCI) funding Phase 4:
 - a) **Walcha Skate Park Precinct - \$576,796;**
 - b) **Hospital Wall Mural Art Project - \$15,000; and**
 - c) **Churchill Street Rehabilitation - \$341,361**
- 2) **SUBMIT** the endorsed works schedule to the LRCI funding body for approval
- 3) **UPDATE** the 2024/25 budget with the corresponding allocation
- 4) **PROVIDE** an updated Skate Park project plan with updated project budget, scope of work and schedule for approval.

Introduction:

The 2024-2025 budget is now completed with the exception of allocation of Local Roads & Community Infrastructure (LRCI) funding Phase 4. Council gave the community an opportunity to present their input while the budget was on public exhibition during May 2024 or order to determine where the money should be spent. There has been a strong response, especially from Walcha’s youth, to allocate part of the funding to a Community Infrastructure project, namely the Walcha Skate Park Precinct Renewal which needed additional funds to proceed. Feedback was also collected through surveys during the Councillors Regional Meetings during May 2024 on the preferred LRCI allocations specifically.

Report:

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’. This funding 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

Community feedback submitted during May 2024 while the 2024-2025 Budget was on public exhibition and data collected during the Councillors Regional Meetings show a strong community desire to have the Skate Park Precinct upgraded. Parents, children, teachers, youth workers and other community members have explicitly expressed the need for the Walcha Skatepark and the benefits for the community as a whole to complete this project. Over 150 letters of support from our community have been received supporting LCRI Phase 4 Funding (Part A) be allocated to the Skatepark upgrade.

From the Regional Meetings Survey, 67% of respondents wanted Part A to be spent on Community Projects, Art & Culture or a Mix, with 33% wanting the money spent of Community Projects exclusively and 33% wanting money spent on Roads exclusively. Most written suggestions were for the Skate Park, though there were some suggestions for Netball Courts, a grandstand at Peter Fenwicke Oval, new sculptures or continued works at the Walcha Pool.

For Part B, majority preference (78%) wanted the money to be spent on local and rural roads, with low support for Thunderbolts Way or Kerb & Gutter.

The most recent construction estimate (17 April 2024) for all works at the Skatepark from preferred tenderer Convic is \$1,067,934. Based on the remaining Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Funding (BLERF), there is a shortfall of \$582,965. Council would need to confirm current construction prices before proceeding, while noting there is room to refine and descope to fit the budget (removal of coloured concrete, seating, BBQ, etc). However, allocation of the majority of the LRCI Part A funding will ensure delivery of the skatepark with all key features intact (bowl, half-court, etc) to satisfy the BLERF project deliverables.

Based on the submissions received, and previous requests for funding via advisory committees (for example the Arts Committee) the following allocations are recommended:

| | |
|--|------------------|
| LRCI TOTAL | \$933,157 |
| Part A Local Roads or Community Infrastructure Projects | \$591,796 |
| Walcha Skate Park Precinct | \$576,796 |
| Hospital Wall Mural Art Project | \$15,000 |
| Part B Roads Projects Only | \$341,361 |
| Churchill St Rehabilitation | \$341,361 |

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.



Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications arising from this report due to the combination of committed BLERF Funding and LRCI Funding (Part A) allowing Council to deliver a previously committed project with a budget shortfall (the Skatepark).

Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Social Implications:

Delivery of the Skate Park Precinct will provide a great new facility for the towns youth.

Policy Implications:

There are no policy implications arising from this report.



Item: 6.5 **Ref:** WO/2024/01080
Title: New England Weeds Authority Update
Author: General Manager
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: No

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Strategy Number: Provide the framework for improvements in efficiency and liveability of a range of compatible land uses and development types.

RECOMMENDATION: **That Council:**

- 1) **NOTE the current status of New England Weeds Authority based on advice from the appointed Administrator**
 - 2) **ALLOCATE an additional \$170,000 in the 2024/25 budget that may be requested to assist clearing the outstanding financial liabilities of NEWA**
-

Introduction:

The appointed Administrator of New England Weeds Authority (NEWA), John Rayner, held a meeting with all the Mayors & General Managers of the four NEWA Member Councils held on 11 June 2024. This report defines and informs Constituent Councils of the state of affairs at New England County Council (New England Weeds Authority) and to develop a strategy which will continue the services currently provided with better governance and financial sustainability.

Report:

Background

By Government Gazette on 17 May 2024 the Minister for Local Government suspended the Board of the New England County Council for a period of three months from the date of the gazettal. The same Government Gazette Notice has appointed John Rayner as Interim Administrator for the period during which the Council is suspended by the Order.

The Councillors on the Board retain their positions with the constituent Councils. In the response to the Minister's Notice of Intention to Suspend' on 29 April 2024 NEWA Councillors unanimously resolved:

1. *That the Board acknowledges the concerns raised by the Minister of Local Government, the Hon Ron Hoenig MP, and supports the appointment of an Administrator.*
2. *That the member Councils acknowledge the critical nature of the services provided by NEWA and would be highly supportive of working with the Administrator to resolve the governance and financial issues to ensure the continuation of these services.*

The Minister has determined that the Interim Administrator shall have the following functions:



- To perform the role and function of the governing body of the County Council under the Local Government Act and any other Act.
- To exercise the role of the governing body and Councillors identified in sections 390, 0391, 391A & 400 of the *Local Government Act*.

The Letter of Appointment from the Minister states the role will also include:

1. *Undertaking an urgent assessment of NEWA's current financial position and ensuring it is able to meet its immediate financial obligations.*
2. *Recommending and implementing a Strategic Improvement Plan or any other required interventions.*
3. *Ensuring compliance with accounting principles including as provided in the Local Government Act, Regulations and Code of Accounting Practice.*
4. *Restoring NEWA's compliance with its statutory responsibilities.*
5. *Developing strategies to improve its current financial circumstances, including the preparation of a Liquidity Plan.*
6. *Recommending and developing longer term strategies to assess NEWA's long-term financial sustainability.*

Finance

The financial position of the Council is dire! The impact is noted in Report 10.2 'Quarterly Business Review' to the 14 May Council Meeting

"Ordinarily, Quarterly Budget Reviews are undertaken in an environment of relative certainty. In this instance, there is significant uncertainty surrounding Council's operational environment and its capacity to continue operations without a substantial cash injection.

These difficulties have been rapidly escalating due, in the most part, to the continuing delays in obtaining OLG approval for the proposed loan funding, and also the extraordinary delay in the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development releasing the WAP funding, which is an integral part of Council's funding mix and for which Council's own funds have been utilised in advance of funding, in order to achieve relevant delivery targets.

At this point in time, Council has been unable to pay suppliers and contractors for several months and operations have been reduced to an absolute minimum, including substantially reduced activity on project and private works, which has only exacerbated the cashflow position.

Council is now in the unthinkable position where the lack of available funding will result in the inability to pay staff within a very short period of time.



In the light of the above, the proposed budget variations, as presented in the attached documents, represent a scenario where the projected financial position at 30 June 2024, is extremely difficult to predict.

To the extent possible, the predicted Operating result for the year is a deficit of \$190K, whereas the original Budget had presented a proposed surplus of \$198K. This reflects the circumstances where Council has effectively entered a hibernation mode of operation, which is not sustainable."

Since taking up the role of Administrator the extent of the money owing to creditors, ATO and others is being established and the situation is extremely serious.

The Council had been relying on the Weeds Action Program Grant to address its cash flow and a \$700,000 loan to partly assist in funding the depot and office development in the Airside Business Park.

An expert in Local Government finance has undertaken an independent cash flow analysis to 30 June 2025.

[2023-2024 Weeds Action Program \(WAP\) Grant](#)

This grant was regularly provided to the County Council however from this financial year the requests for the grant go through a competitive process. NEWA has undertaken works under the program in good faith. The Minister has yet to announce the recipients of the 2023-2024 \$11M program. The WAP Grants are not guaranteed and will not be in the future. The program is in year 4 of 5 year rolling program and future funding will be subject to Treasury approval and Budget allocation.

In view of the NEWA cash crisis discussions were held on 30 May 2024 with the CEO Local Land Services (LLS). He agreed to release a part of the grant but on the understanding that LLS will arrange a Forensic Audit to confirm that the works declared have in fact been carried out.

If NEWA fails the audit the balance of the grant will not be released and future funding may be in jeopardy. A Confidentiality Undertaking has been provided to LLS.

[\\$700,000 Loan](#)

NEWA has been relying on a \$700,000 loan from Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) to partly fund the Depot/Office at Airside Business Park. Glen Innes Severn, Armidale Regional and Uralla Shire Councils have guaranteed the repayment of the loan. When the Council went into Administration CBA withdrew its previous loan offer. There is no certainty that the CBA will agree to the loan.



Cash Flow Analysis

It is not easy to get an accurate financial position as the occasional additional invoice appears. However, with the information gathered an indicative cash flow analysis to 30 June 2025 has been undertaken.

Summary includes:

"In general terms the annual income from Council Contributions and the previously uncontested WAP grant, totalling approximately \$1,000,000 does not cover the annual operations of the Authority. This needs to be addressed. In the past it appears that other grants may have been utilised to offset operational costs but with a tightening of grant conditions, a reduction in the level of funding available and NEWA currently being subject to an audit of previous grant expenditure it is unlikely these funds will be available in the future.

The Authority has already been advised that a number of grants sought have been declined or that its was not eligible for the grant sought. There is one outstanding application under the Urban Waterways Funding program for \$2M and if successful this would fund approximately \$150,000 of current operation expenses associated with one staff member.

The cashflow statement indicates that on 30 June 2024 the Authority will be \$393,284 in deficit if the employee's entitlement reserve is reinstated (\$335,284 if not reinstated) and no allowance for Externally Restricted Cash/Unexpended Grant Funds has been allowed.

Where known, allowances have been made for works in progress i.e. contactors payments for grant and private works.

The deficit of the Authority improves in July when the remaining 3 Council's are scheduled to pay their members fees. After these payments and expenses in July NEWA will have deficit funds of \$295,811 increasing to \$1,209,811 at the end of May 2025 and may only improve slightly if the last Year of the 5 Year WAP grant program is paid (which has been included in the cashflow in June 2025 at \$340,000 but unlikely to be received) to a deficit of \$951,811 or \$1,291,811. This is obviously not tenable."

The projections in the currently exhibited Long Term Financial Plan cannot be relied upon

Airside Business Park Property

Part of the financial problem has resulted from the poor governance and the cost of the Depot/Office project.



NEW Office & Depot Facility

| Description | Cost pa. (incl. GST) | Comments |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Land Purchase | 200,000.00 | Excludes \$50,000 revaluation on 30-06-2023 |
| Building Cost | 1,875,278.77 | Progress Claim #8 is attached to email |
| Further Fit-out | 5,000.00 | No further fit-out, however, \$5,000 for contingencies |
| Insurance: | | |
| Building Insurance | 19,250.00 | Bricks & Mortar |
| PIL | 19,000.00 | Public Liability |
| Utilities: | | |
| Electricity | 3,740.00 | estimate (including air conditioning/heating) |
| Rates | 944.00 | |
| Water | 352.80 | |

There are further capital costs proposed in the LTFP.

The intention of NEWA was to fund the project with a \$700,000 loan and the balance with its Reserves. The loan was not secured prior to the project commencing and the required CAPEX review was not undertaken.

The builder, Rice Constructions is owed \$440,602 on this project. There is also potential for damages and interest due to the outstanding payment. NEWA currently doesn't have the funds to discharge this debt. The question of disposal of the Depot/Office must be considered.

Service Delivery Options

There have been discussions about whether the NECC should continue considering the financial and governance failures which have occurred. Whilst there cannot be any excuses, one issue facing NEWA is that it must meet the same governance and compliance standards which apply to the largest and all other Councils in the state and meet requirements under other legislation.

Legally the following should be considered:

- An approach to dissolve the County Council can be made to the Minister (Sec 383).
- Process to be followed includes giving public notice
- Assets and liabilities would be the responsibility of the Constituent Councils.
- A proposal to the Minister to dissolve should include an agreement between the Councils as to how assets and liabilities would be dealt with.
- The establishment of an entity outside the Local Government Act (Sec 358) is unlikely to be supported by the Office of Local Government Act or the Minister
- A lead Council could take over the service with member Councils contributing cash and in-kind support.



- The Joint Organisation could be utilised.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Social Implications:

There are no social implications arising from this report.

Policy Implications:

There are no policy implications arising from this report.



Item: 6.6 **Ref:** WINT/2024/02918
Title: Replacement Water Treatment Plant Bulk Liquid Alum tank
Author: Director Infrastructure and Development
Previous Items: N/A
Attachment: Nil

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Goal 6.3. - *Water supply and sewerage services will be sustainable and environmentally sensitive.*

Goal 6.3.3 – *Manage water supply services in accordance with the water strategic Business Plan.*

RECOMMENDATION: That Council allocate \$49,690.00 exc. GST for replacement of the Bulk Liquid Alum Tank at the Water Treatment Plant from the Water Fund Reserve.

Introduction:

Councils original Bulk Liquid Alum tanks at the Water Treatment plant require replacement and funds are required to be allocated for the replacement in place of using a temporary system, this would include a self-bunded tank, the installation on site and connection to current dosing system.

Report:

Background

Over the last year the Water Treatment Plant has been utilising 1,000L Intermediate Bulk Container (IBC) in place of the current bulk storage tank due to continual blocking of the chemical lines and dosing pumps. Currently Council is purchasing this chemical in small quantities that has an extra cost to Council of approx. \$39,000 per year, compared to the bulk supply of chemical approx. \$10,000 per year.

The temporary solution was implemented after repeated treatment issues with dosing failures with the root cause being identified with the Alum tanks having crystallised Aluminium and sedimentation layer build-up due to lack of maintenance cleaning over many years. Additionally, the current GRP tanks are 40 years old and well beyond their design life and the number of fill cycles that could lead to tank wall failures, a new proposed self-bunded tank has a design life is 25 years.

Quotes were obtained for 1. The cleaning of the existing tanks and 2. The replacement of the tanks.

- Cleaning - \$20,000 (outcome – tanks still beyond design life with risk of failure)
- Replacement Tank - \$49,690 (supply and install of a fully self-bunded chemical tank)



The replacement self-bunded tank is \$40,190 exc. GST and installation and decommissioning costs of \$9500 approx. representing value for money compared to the increased cost for the bulk chemical supply. This also includes removal of an environmental risk as these have a bund built in and the existing brick bund is known to leak.

With bulk chemical supply savings of \$29,000 p.a. payback on the investment in a new self-bunded chemical tank is within two years.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications:

With no allocated budget this request is to allocate sufficient funds from the Water Fund Reserves which are still very low.

Environmental Implications:

There will be an improvement in Councils environmental risk with the new self-bunded tank mitigating the chance of a chemical spill to the environment.

Social Implications:

There are no social implications arising from this report.

Policy Implications:

There are no policy implications arising from this report.



Item: 6.7 **Ref:** WINT/2024/02917
Title: Lion's Club – Lion's Park Donation
Author: Director Infrastructure and Development
Previous Items: N/A
Attachment: Nil

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

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

RECOMMENDATION: That Council **APPROVE** the request for donation of in-kind works, approximately \$1800, for the installation of donated bench seat at Lion's Park.

Introduction:

Council has been requested to install an additional donated bench seat at Lions Park.

Report:

Lion's Club has purchased a bench seat for approx. \$3,600 and have requested Council install a concrete pad and fix the bench in place. Lion's Club are willing to pay for the concrete cost of \$950, with the installation cost of \$1800 (estimated Council in-kind works) to be donated. Lion's Club are only seeking assistance for the setup and pouring of the slab.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications:

No current allocated budget, but the activity will be absorbed within the Urban Works team's schedule.

Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Social Implications:

Showing support to the local club, additional seating at a public facility.

Policy Implications:

There are no policy implications arising from this report.



Item: 6.8 **Ref:** WO/2024/01091
Title: Regional Meetings 2024
Author: General Manager
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: No

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

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

RECOMMENDATION: That Council RECEIVE and NOTE the Regional Meetings 2024 report as presented.

Introduction:

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the items raised at the 2024 Regional Meetings.

Report:

Everyone who attended the Meetings were asked to sign an Attendance sheet and received a copy of the Community Report, issued by Council.

Council Presentation:

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

Mayor welcomed everyone to the Meeting. Introduced all the Councillors as well as the Staff, identifying them by title and name. He then handed it over to the General Manager.

The General Manager spoke about and worked through the Community Report and referred to the two Directors along the way. The Director Corporate & Community spoke on the 2024-2025 Operational Plan, which includes the budget, fees and charges and the revenue policy. These documents are on public exhibition and are open for submissions until Friday 7 June 2024.

The Director Infrastructure & Development spoke on Capital Works, both this current financial year and the next financial year works. He further advised on current projects, the new levy from State Government for burials, cremations and interment of ashes, waste, sewer, waste depots, roads, bridges and the Off Creek Storage status.

Items mentioned were:

- the Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Funding (LRCI) that Council would like input from the community for. Advised more information on website under 'Public Notices'.



- Local Government Elections on 14 September 2024 – spoke about important dates, the need for people to nominate to become a Councillor, no Wards. There are several Councillors not running next election.
- Feedback on the Volunteer Planning Agreement and the Renewable Energy Community Benefit Policy. These documents will be on public exhibition until close of business on 12 June 2024.
- Councillors were asked to speak about being a Councillor at each meeting.
- Riverview – currently working through negotiations and learning Aged Care legislation and governance. Public Meeting will be held in the near future.
- Unfinished projects such as the Pool and the Skatepark which are short on funding to complete them. Need additional grant monies.
- Woolbrook boundary adjustment with Tamworth Regional Council.

Clr Kermode spoke on New England Weeds Authority and it being under an Administrator appointed by the OLG. Mentioned:

- Board made up of 3 x Armidale Regional Council Councillors, 1 x Uralla Shire Council Councillor, 1 x Glen Innes Severn Shire Council Councillor and 1 x Walcha Council Councillor.
- Concerns regarding the management and performance of NEWA, Walcha has been poorly looked after for a number of years.
- Construction of a new building and depot, massive outlay of cash (over \$2M) in 12 months – in debt to builder for \$440K
- In debt to Armidale Regional Council for \$350K (advance of contributions)
- Vehicles/plant overdue for maintenance
- Chemical stocks low
- Individual Councils (member councils of NEWA) will have to pick up the tab.
- His opinion is to run our weeds program ourselves.

Monday 13 May 2024

11:30am “Europambela” Shearers Quarters

Public Attendees: As per Attendance Sheets

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

Staff: General Manager Phil Hood; Director Infrastructure & Development Alan Butler; Director Corporate & Community Christian Martin and Executive Assistant Liz Hobbs.

Apology: Clr Ferrier

Elections:

Clr Berry spoke about being a Councillor. He advised the meeting that he has enjoyed it and it has been a good challenge. Specifically keeping Council admin glued together financially is great. Projects are all about challenges. There is no real set agenda – have to be open to all opinions.

Questions & Answers – Issues raised at Meeting

Q: Is the cost of operations similar? – Ross King



A: pretty similar – more static with the same resources. Don't want to over resource whilst grants are available.

Q: Money left over from Off Creek Storage – does it go into Council's 'kitty'? – David Harrison

A: No – it will be used for water infrastructure projects as that was the purpose of the funding.

Q: Do the ARC Councillors all vote together? – Ross King

A: Yes as far as I have seen. – Clr Kermode

Q: What is the State level for weed funding? – Ross King

A: WAP funding – it is becoming very competitive.

Q: Why are they spraying in National Parks? – Rob Blomfield

A: contracted to them – private works.

Q: who is responsible for what? Oxley Highway and Crown Land? – Tony Overton

A: Oxley Highway is LLS; Crown Land is LLS. Should all work together ideally – no doing that and haven't been for a number of years.

Q: how much money for skatepark and pool – to finish projects?

A: \$500K for Skatepark \$1M for Pool. Skatepark might not go ahead – is in jeopardy of not proceeding. Pool – concrete repair and finalise leaks. Pool we can descope and fix parts each year but we will fix leakages this year in winter.

Q: Riverview – what about it? Ross King

A: GM: Short version – still in discussions. Long version: not in budget yet because we can't include it until we decide on whether we go ahead with it. It's an unknown and yet to be confirmed.

Mayor: it's a bit scary. Will hold a community meeting and show what it takes to absorb it into Council and if its viable or not. Hard and slow journey. Constantly changes in Aged Care, discussions on land and buildings, cost of operations. All of these extras – preschool, aged care, weeds, etc (not Council's core business) – put pressure on Council resources and bottom line. There are a lot of unknowns. We are trying to get somewhere before 'caretaker' mode.

GM: don't want to commit until we have all / most of the answers.

Q: Have they (PAC) been transparent? Is it breakeven or loss?

A: Yes they have. Depends how you look at it. Includes data that has been managed by a PAC conglomerate which includes huge admin costs. Other aged care places, such as Warialda, is run well and they have a good manager.

Q: PAC costs went up when they took it over – big costs, big company. Eg: fix a computer screen and they fly someone up from Sydney – huge cost. Not required.

A: Yes we have looked at this.

Q: Vestas & Origin have come to Walcha and will inject money into Council – why is Council having a neutral stance on Winterbourne Wind Project? This money will make community secure; growth and jobs into town. Are Council going to make an effort to support as this will make a massive difference to the future of Council and the community? When are you going to stand up? – Peter Blomfield

A: Mayor: we support proponents whenever we can. Holding a neutral position and we will stick with it. Not backing down.



- Q: There will be new people in the community and there is no infrastructure to house / hold these people with these projects. – Peter McNeil
- A: Mayor – speaking to other Councils who are affected by these as well. (CoREM). FIFO is majorly affecting Mudgee’s tourism as these FIFO are taking the accommodation and there is no where to stay for tourists. We cannot do it without Government help. Central West REZ – funding pulled out! These are outcomes of renewable energy.
- Q: Is there an industrial zone (rateable) for Wind Towers? – David Harrison
- A: Have been trying to get it in – not happened yet. There are 4 rateable zones in the rate system.
- Q: Is there going to be a bond on roads? – David Harrison
- A: No not yet – it works under Development Application consent. Roads need to be maintained. Have had meetings with Winterbourne Wind – intensive process to make sure they are doing what they should be doing (2 years away at least). Inspections will need to be weekly with assessment etc every time.
- Q: Who pays for weekly assessments? – JG
- A: Resources from EnergyCo Agreement – need an officer dedicated to this task when projects begin to come into play.
- Q: DA finished? Changing Plans? – David Harrison
- A: No
- Q: Changed access now? – Peter McNeil
- A: No they have applied to do that but not yet approved. Taking the access from State Road to a Regional Road.
- Q VPA – in regards to roads? K Blomfield
- A: No roads impact as it is covered in conditions of consent. Completely separate to VPA. Mayor: can’t charge under the S7.11 Contribution Plan as it is a State Significant Development Approval Project.
- Q VPA – Council have final say re: fund. So the process is ideas / suggestions go to the Advisory Committee then go to Council and if agree it becomes a resolution – can these be made public? – Katrina Blomfield
- A: Yes – GM
- Q: Rating turbines in VIC – not in NSW – what are LGNSW doing to lobby the government to have a rate levy for this? Is Council doing anything?
- A: CoREM – more on their platform to lobby for this. There is not enough people in Government and no power to get changes.
- Q: Funds spent on Community benefits – benefit all – talk to that! Lots of volunteer organisations and the average age involved and volunteering is over 70 – Lions Club, Rotary Club – will envisage they will end up folding and they do a great job raising funds for the community benefit. How is Council looking to cover these things that may disappear? Is Education Scholarships a community benefit?
- A: Depends on ideas given at the Committee Meetings. As suggested use of the benefit fund could be donations to volunteer organisations. Yes, the Education Scholarship is a good project.



Mayor: be proactive, join a Committee etc. It's a hard gig cause people miss out on funding.

Q: Fund formed from Winterbourne Wind – does it get pooled with the next project and next?

A: Good question – intent of policy / advisory for all.

Q: Landcare approach to Landcare Group – drive through at the moment – good landscape. Massive damage to roads with turbines. Coordinate an approach to repair – SNLC to get involved. \$60M in a coordinated Committee need for renewal – see it in the forefront. – Ross King

A: Mayor: Definitely voiced within CoREM. Biodiversity chucking money into Sydney branch – no output here. Damaging habitat – need a balance.

Q: Sewerage Plant 150Meg – where is it going? – Tony Overton

A: 2 ponds part of the treatment – same coming in gets let out, keep full always.

Q: What is the standard of the water released into the Apsley River? – Peter McNeil

A: Pretty Good

Q: Water Supply – restrictions? What if it gets worse going forward?

A: Level 2 at the moment. Will need to assess – water in the river then we are okay. Need to review current policies. New OCS doesn't factor into assessment at the moment but it will.

Q: Selling water to Wind Projects? Peter McNeil

A: No

Q: Sewerage – what testing and what do you find? – Joanne Gowen

A: Monthly testing – bacteria, suspended solids, pH levels. This is laboratory tested. Local testing onsite throughout the month.

Q: Any chance the water can go to a landholder? Tony Overton

A: We conducted a tender a few years ago and received two. Our water isn't good enough to use by landholders.

Q: The Sewerage Plant and technology is dated and needs replacing – what is the life of both? – Katrina Blomfield

A: Not easy to answer. Planning for the future and we are doing a great job looking after our plant at the moment.

Q: The airstrip is being updated and its not great! – Peter McNeil

A: To be determined. Consultant report due soon to see what is required.

Q: Charges to tip – vouchers for rural landholders? - Ross King

A: Vouchers will be in place at the end of the financial year.

Q: Is it a Community or District Benefit Fund? – Ross King

A: Community Benefit Fund.

Q: Not Yarrowitch? - Ross King

A: no it includes Yarrowitch.

02:30pm Ingleba Hall

Public Attendees: As per Attendance Sheets

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



Staff: General Manager Phil Hood; Director Infrastructure & Development Alan Butler; Director Corporate & Community Christian Martin and Executive Assistant Liz Hobbs.

Apology: Clr Ferrier, Clr Kermode and John Wark

Elections – advice from current Councillors:

Clr Reilly – best decision she has made. Enjoying it! Especially being an Advocate for the community at Council and in making Walcha a vibrant thriving place taking it into the future. It's very empowering helping to make a difference. Enjoy chairing the Advisory Committees and working with the community. You need to know it's a commitment, you will require integrity, respect for people of all cultures.

Clr Hicks – advised that you really need to try and get someone from your community to nominate to be a candidate so you can have a voice.

Clr Noakes – being a Councillor can be very frustrating and very hard but it is like everything else, you have good and bad days. It will be challenging but also very rewarding working with the system and against it. I have enjoyed being both a Councillor and the Mayor of Walcha.

Questions & Answers – Issues raised at Meeting

Q: VPA – don't need it? If Council doesn't sign it I heard that DPI will? Isn't that Blackmail – David Salter

A: True we don't have to sign it, we can walk away from \$700K however that is not good Governance – can't turn down money for the community.

Q: it is pure blackmail anyway – please get an upfront amount. It has been sold already and we could miss out on the money. Bigger upfront amount initially and then smaller annual amounts.

A: \$1Million upfront when project finishes. Maximise the benefit for community.

Q: Not Voluntary at all! Nicole Brewer said "if you don't sign it I will at a lesser amount"

A: Yes. The VPA isn't really written for wind development projects. Decommissioning is a big thing.

Q: How much bridges and infrastructure need to be upgraded to bring everything in (wind turbines etc)? – James Kermode

A: That is not part of the VPA – it becomes part of the Development Application conditions. Significant road improvements doesn't come out of Council's pocket it is part of the conditions of consent.

Q: what is the status of gravel runway at the airport?

A: we are due to receive consultant report for suitability and rectifications to the airstrip. We will have a meeting with the Aero Club representative to advise what will happen.

Q: we have been waiting 3 months for consultant report. Received a letter stating the airstrip will be closed from 23082023 to 23092023 – hold you accountable. Aero Club input was fobbed off, you used the wrong gravel and it has a camber in it which is unacceptable, there is also a drop-off on each side which is also unacceptable and unusable. What qualifications do you have telling us its okay?

A: An outside consultant is doing the report on suitability.



- Q: Council should be scared of litigation – if something happens you will be sued! This is a gross inefficiency and waste of ratepayers money – declared serviceable when it is not! Need comment please!
- A: Not sure what more I can say – we are doing the best we can. We’ve sought advice to get confidence in the solution. RAAF did their own independent assessments and they are using the facility and are comfortable with it for their purposes.
- Q: did you have the engagement with the local Aero Club? – Julie Olrich
- A: Yes of course
- Q: It took six months to get a meeting – David Salter
- A: Will have to check timelines. We engaged a Consultant who took core samples and did a GEO technical exploration and we paid them \$7,500.
- Q: Heard it was in the vicinity of \$30K? – David Salter
- A: yes it would be within that vicinity with all the testing as well.
- Mayor: Meeting with Walcha Aero Club onsite with Council – everyone confirm okay.
- Q: Consider building netball courts – currently Walcha has 2 teams in Armidale – 18 girls and hopefully more next year. Need storage so maybe at John Oxley. This a confidence building thing for girls cause when they start to turn age 11 they do not want to compete with males in sport – they usually drop out of team sport.
- A: Suggest you put a submission in regarding this suggestion. Could be part of the LRCI or another grant – sporting, etc.
- Q: thank you for resurfacing Geraldine Road – Josh Eveleigh – keep him he did a great job. When will the rest be done?
- A: take that on notice and get back to you – check with resheeting schedule 24/25.
- Q: Road into Aerodrome – breaking up – Carolyn Salter
- A: Contractor defect.
- Q: Contractor patches? Any good? Redo approaches to bridge and holes in roads?
- A: The approaches – fault on bridge contractor and have been fixed. Happy with our work so far.
- Q: Aberbaldie – patches coming back, gravelled and then tarred same day. Use to have them settle for two weeks and then refill and tar?
- A: Another conversation to be had. Monitoring results at the moment and they have been pretty good in general. We reseal straight away on the Oxley Highway as per TfNSW standards – do one seal and then second seal is completed 12 months later. Our Jet Patcher is completing patch jobs better than contractors.
- Q: When contractors stuff up are they rectified at their expense?
- A: Absolutely.
- Q: Request for signs on Macdonald River Bridge – third request – Susie Harrison
- A: Will get that organised as Liz is writing it down.
- Q: Army Bridge is closed now – how long for? Ian Olrich
- A: 3-4 months - \$2M bridge
- Q: Road Closed Signs are at the Bridge but not beforehand – nothing at this end – Julie Olrich
- A: they are at Boxley



- Q: Concern from John Wark re African Love Grass is spreading along the roads. It has been emphasised by Council slashing. Can they slash from Niangala into town rather than from town towards Niangala? Less spread.
- A: Mayor spoke regarding NEWA and how they have gone into Administration. It was also suggested by Clr Berry that we spray instead of slashing.
- Q: Some of Council's plant were emptied of fuel during the week – maybe you should put locks on the fuel tanks.
- Q: B double can get on this end of "Englefield Bridge" but not the other end due to the approaches. Ian Olrich
- A: Thought this was fixed – will have it inspected.
- Q: Telstra service is absent as you can see, there is no mobile coverage here at the Hall. This is getting to be a really bad safety issue.
- A: Unfortunately there isn't a lot we can do. We continuously put pressure on Telstra with every conversation we have but no good news on the horizon.
- The General Manager spoke about Riverview updating on negotiations with PAC and within the next month we will bring it back to the community. It could be a difficult trip or it could be okay – it is a little unknown.
- Q: Great community support – good fundraising ideas. Carolyn Salter

Meeting Closed at 4:00pm

05:00pm Woolbrook Hall

Public Attendees: As per Attendance Sheets

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

Staff: General Manager Phil Hood; Director Infrastructure & Development Alan Butler; Director Corporate & Community Christian Martin and Executive Assistant Liz Hobbs.

Apology: Clr Ferrier and Clr Kermode

Elections – advice from current Councillors:

Clr Hicks – there is a lot of reading but it is interesting and a learning curve. Rural people need to be represented to ensure you have a voice; support a very hard working Mayor and team; and it can be frustrating but you need to be involved for Walcha.

Questions & Answers – Issues raised at Meeting

- Q: Boundary Adjustment – letters received with no map from TRC. We had a previous meeting in 2019 and the community voted on it. Is it the same map? Tony Haling
- A: We have had some conversations with TRC but unfortunately they didn't get it organised to be talked about at this meeting. However there will be a Meeting on 29 May with the TRC representatives. This is a great starting point and they are looking for feedback.
- Mayor: I remember the meeting back in 2019 and TRC felt Walcha was predatory. It got 'hung out' due to COVID but we have been following up. TRC are the lead in this conversation, they hold the cards and they will run the meeting.



- GM: TRC Governance team said they are keen to wrap this up and it is going on their website and ours in the next few days. Lets talk more about it on 29 May Meeting.
- Q: You have been threatening to put cameras up at the tip for three years – they cost \$700 – what is the hold up? Wipe the fob if people offend – forfeit their access. Don't they give a time and date of what fob is used when? – Amanda Scott
- A: Camera is the first part. There are people abusing the tip and the clean up costs are outweighing the access fees received from residents.
- Q: How many people have access? Can we get a list of the people? It is disappointing that people are abusing it. Donna Davidson
- A: about 100. No due to privacy issues – no list. Need a separate surveillance on our database to utilise the cameras.
- Q: only a few people abusing it by dumping things like lounges and mattresses – it seems to be the same people. In village area they have both the kerbside pickup and a fob to the tip?
- A: no only 1. Unless they are using someone else's fob. Clr Berry suggested that residents to a volunteer shift, during the weekend, at the tip to assist with people abusing the tip.
- Q: School bus and Preschool – only take 4 year olds on the school bus when 3 year olds attend preschool as well. In the next year or two I will have both a 3yo and a 4yo attending preschool and I can only put the 4yo on the bus and will have to drive the 3yo into town. This is a 120km round trip, both in the morning and afternoon, for me. I have friends who live in the Walgett area and they are able to put 3yo children on the bus – is there any change I will be able to do the same? – Kristy
- A: Will take that on notice and will advise you.
- Q: McHattan Park is on the corner of Fitzroy Street and South Street and South Street and Walsh Street. Can we have it fenced? I feel, as my kids are wild, that this gives potential for an accident to happen. Even if it is just around the playground area?
- A: Could be something to look at under the LRCI funding.
- Q: Army Bridge – renewing approaches? Donna Davidson
- A: Not really – the new bridge will go where the current bridge is now. It will take about 3 months.
- Q: Great job on grading the road – Josh Eveleigh best grader ever! We have a new ramp sitting near gravel pit on Campfire Road. It is part National Parks on the other side and they give us no help with fences etc. Would Council consider removing the old ramp and placing the new one in? – Donna & Kevin Davidson
- A: We will take that on notice.
- Q: Congratulate job of re-sheeting on Niangala Road – Surveyors Creek to Marinka. But when started on other side of Scotts Crossing it was bloody dangerous. Staff advised grave was too small (crushed) and it needs blue metal. Two trucks nearly run off on the corner.
- A: Noted
- Q: In front of "Boxley" and other places eg: 'The Tops' the tar is not being maintained and is nearly stuffed. Not beyond repair but needs some work – Garry Olrich
- A: Expensive commitment - Council ongoing maintenance. Dust suppression



Q: Is this something we can ask for with the additional money? Donna Davidson

A: Yes you can ask

Q: If you put 10-15 metres of tar on each end of approaches to bridges is great common sense. – Garry Olrich

Also, I was offended with the letter that was sent out to us in regards to Woolbrook Tip – I have used the fob once – Garry Olrich

A: Tip - Every year we have the same conversation – it is getting harder with costs.

Some statements from Public on Tip:

Concrete – Put signs up – DO NOT DUMP PAST THIS POINT

A lot of people are dumping illegally.

Can you see how many times people are using the tip via their fob entries?

Costing \$10,000 each time. A camera is not that expensive and it will keep ratepayers happy.

Q: Council Elections are coming up and we got rid of the Wards – do we still have 8 Councillors? – Garry Olrich

A: Yes

Q: How do we sit with standing alone? Donna Davidson

A: Purpose of the SRV was to maintain sustainability

Mayor: 120 Councils in NSW and the Government will trim to 100 – which means that every 8-10 years every Council will have to ask for a SRV.

Q: It was great how you engaged with the community in regards to the SRV. TRC didn't engage with their community they just told us they are doing it – Tony Haling

Q: Walcha Road Hill has had two road accidents lately due to wet weather.

A: Yes we need to look into stabilising some bad parts and will have a talk to TfNSW.



Wednesday 15 May 2024

10:00am Yarrowitch Hall

Public Attendees: As per Attendance Sheets

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

Staff: General Manager Phil Hood; Director Infrastructure & Development Alan Butler; Director Corporate & Community Christian Martin; Disaster Risk & Resilience Coordinator – Kalen Souter and Executive Assistant Liz Hobbs.

Apology: Clr Ferrier

Questions & Answers – Issues raised at Meeting

Q: Runway at Walcha Aerodrome is it open or closed? Charlie Koebel

A: Open and the RAAF is using it.

Q: A Spartan landed and tore up the pavement. Too much slope and drop off, no pavement design – needs to be re-done. Landing on it could be an accident waiting to happen. Aero Club is responsible for maintaining. Charlie Koebel

A: Our Consultant report is due soon. Once it is in we will have a meeting with Aero Club representative, Glen O'Brien, and our Project Engineer.

Q: Who is the consultant completing the report? Charlie Koebel

A: Specific airport consultancy group recommended by Aero Club – design on suitability on the pavement.

Q: When is it going to be fixed? Spartan is 17.5t a Hercules is 35t

A: When we receive the report and analyse the result.

Mayor: Work out when report comes back – have to shelve for now until that outcome. I know its frustrating and totally understand.

Q: Council's Procurement – tenders for Contractors etc. Get someone who knows what they are doing and have some skin in the game or are reputable – not the cheapest tender price. Look at experience and ensure they have previous experience – it is extremely frustrating as a ratepayer and a contractor to see what happens.

A: It can be frustrating on this side too. Use a contractor that should know what they are doing and they don't.

Q: Tia Diggings Road – job well done!

A: Gravel resheeting has been great work completed by Council. Keep reporting bad roads. It would take \$1M every year for 14 years to get around grading all dirt roads. They are inspected twice a month to see what area is needed damage work.

Q: Cotley's Road on Tia Diggings Road – dodging potholes becomes very risky. Minor road taken over by Council. B Doubles in and out in this state is very hard when we are trying to run a business. Have asked 4 times in Council office for someone to ring me back about this road and no one has. Need to maintain and resheet this minor road. B & C Koebel.

A: Understand however Council adopted the road but shouldn't have. We are updating our Asset Management Plans at the moment however through this process we should be able to identify these roads. This will then identify the level of service required, what roads to what standard. Will follow up.



- Q: Oaklands Road – not been graded in a long time, corrugations, potholes; 6 flat tyres; complained to Council and nothing has been done. It would be easy to do and it wouldn't take long, getting pissed off as you promise but nothing gets done. – Guy Zammit
- Q: Kangaroo Flat Road Ramp – do something this is year 5 that I have complained about it. It has a span of 3 metres and I have a 3.5 metre float for my excavator. Dropping on ramp – very bad! Peter & Jeff O'Keefe
- A: Yes it is very bad – due for a review of Ramp (Public Gates) Policy. Totally understand frustration.
- Q: Disappointed with lack of communication to my emails. Emailed 23 Jan & 21 Mar 2024 requesting inspection of Nine Mile Church Road, enclosing a photo of the drains blocked. Had consultation with Troy and culvert needs to be replaced. Equipment has to come back to site – Nine Mile Church Road joins Brackendale Road – equipment was at intersection but not done then! More bigger pipes needed – it rains and water backs up 50-70 metres. Don't want to be labelled a whiner but come on. Communication a major problem.
- A: GM wrote back to you, but yes you have a fair point.
- Q: Removal of trees in Walsh Street – 50 year old trees – too quick – criminal.
- A: Advertised looking for feedback – explained arborist report and the impacts on electricity lines; water mains etc.
- Q: one tree outside Telecottage driveway that you demolished was tearing up the road with its roots – deteriorating the road rapidly. I was happy it has gone.
- A: with the promised works an arborist report was sought and because there is significant damage to root system the trees probably wouldn't survive. Council considered moving the water main, narrowing the street etc however nothing saved the trees integrity and there was only one result – to take them down. Council followed its tree removal procedure, tagged the trees and advertised the removal was occurring, inviting feedback.
- Q: Tree on fence line at Riverview Hostel – can we get it removed? Leone Mackaway
- A: This is a request we have had before but unfortunately it is not on Council land – it is on private land and the landowner does not want it removed.
- Q: VPA – if you sign it do you sign off with the existing Director? What is the security behind WWPL? Changes hands then your agreement is with a different entity – leaves Council high and dry. Charlie Koebel.
- A: It is a legal document between WWPL and Council and the money will be paid by whoever owns the company. We have engaged lawyers regarding these issues and they are specialists in this field.
- Q: Is there any interaction to meet with these people? Seems like a SHAM! – B Koebel..
- A: Agreement is with an entity not a person – WWPL. If WWPL goes broke they stop paying. This is how VPA's work.
- Q: Not for Walcha! B Koebel
- Mayor: What do you want Council to do? We are trying to keep our Council solvent and this is part of the process for Wind Energy Projects.



- Q: Not going to keep Council solvent – can't be used for operational. Might help getting funds upfront! Or at least part of the funding upfront! – Charlie Koebel
Suggest date on the boundaries of Walcha's LGA as if an amalgamation occurs Walcha LGA may not exist in years to come. Therefore money could go elsewhere. 2% penalty if monies not paid – Bank Swap Rate. Specify the boundaries at such a date.
- A: Great feedback !
- Mayor: tough negotiations which have taken a long time to get this far with the VPA.
- Clr Berry: No decommissioning regeneration fund.
- Mayor: No legislation for that.
- Q: Don't sign VPA until approved money upfront
- A: Vestas said "no way". CoREM are asking for half upfront!
- Q: Long term of Council needs to be protected – all well to get money for projects but we still need to maintain them. Don't want to have an ongoing program started and then money falls through and Council are left paying for it! Charlie Koebel
- A: Council have final say – things are not being built without considering Council's ongoing costs and depreciation. Also can't imagine committing to a project unless the money is in the bank.
- Mayor: Future fund – can't do that. Multimillion dollar projects would send us broke in 10 years.
- Q: VPA money can't be put into roads or pool? Sonia O'Keefe
- A: Not really as their intent is not to be put into a bucket and used for operational expenses. However, if Committee want to put a big infrastructure, eg: road project, this can be done.
- Q: When is the bend on the Upper Yarrowitch Road going to be repaired and resealed?
- A: Jet patcher has been in this area over the last few months, if the underlying pavement is in need of repairs then this area will be considered under our heavy patching program next financial year.
- Q: Kangaroo Flat Road, in front of the "Kylie" property when will the gap in the road sealing be done? It is increasing in depth and deteriorating rapidly.
Kangaroo Flat Road northern side of Warnes River, damaged section – when will it be scheduled for repair?
- A: Pavement defects in sealed roads throughout the LGA will be programmed into the heavy patching program for the next financial year. Not all roads will be fixed – prioritisation under road user safety.
- Q: When are the roads scheduled for grading in the Yarrowitch & Tia areas?
- A: As per FB post last month, graders are in the area from end of May to early June.
- Q: Mooraback Bridge – where is this up to?
- A: Waiting on funding bodies to get back to us.
- Q: Has the repair sealing on the two Tia bridges been completed?
- A: It is scheduled to be done by the contractor under warranty shortly.

Meeting Closed at Midday.



2:00pm Nowendoc Hall

Public Attendees: As per attendance Sheet

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

Staff: General Manager Phil Hood; Director Infrastructure & Development Alan Butler; Director Corporate & Community Christian Martin; Disaster Risk & Resilience Coordinator – Kalen Souter and Executive Assistant Liz Hobbs.

Apology: Clr Ferrier & Clr Kermod

Questions & Answers – Issues raised at Meeting

Q: Regarding the Tip what are the specifics that are not happening?

A: Domestic waste going into the skip. Scrap metal to be placed in this area only. No bulky items to be left at the tip which includes: tyres, mattresses, lounges, fridges etc.

Q: This is not noted on the Gate

A: It is stated in all the agreements to use the facility which are signed by you.

Q: Roadside service pickup? Available?

A: No – was discussed but it is too costly and would incur a hefty extra charge.

Q: Costing on tip – money received by recyclables is it taken into account?

A: Yes but very low prices and quality by the time it gets to us (Walcha processing costs and cartage)

Q: Cameras are they smart enough to read registration plates?

A: Yes they can however it depends on the quality of camera. They require a stand alone power source and incur costs up to \$5-10K – not a cheap setup.

Q: Cameras invade peoples privacy

A: It would be stated in the agreement as part of the policy and also we would have signs up stating you are on camera. The camera footage would not be viewed unless there was cause and it is managed well.

Q: Roadside service – other Councils have a pickup of bulk waste items. Heading towards Taree the Midcoast Council conduct these pickups for free – why not Walcha?

A: Council has a waste depot in Walcha. Everyone from the community can take their bulky items there to dispose and yes they will pay for it. That way it is the same for everyone! The bulk pickup other Councils have is included in their rates.

Mayor: Everything costs money – roads, waste, water, sewerage. Nowendoc tip – if it goes over budget then the ratepayers of Walcha subsidise it. We have two options:

1. Charge rates that cover the costs to run the facilities; or
2. Close it!

Q: Is the waste in Walcha profitable?

A: Yes it is at the moment. Building up reserves for rehabilitation of the facility.

Q: Green Waste fees in town waste depot. Tipper load of green waste \$200 10m³ - quite an increase? Is it going to level out? \$2,000 in tip fees charged to a client who lives close to town – lot of money.

A: Cubic rate needs to be more streamline – identified that staff have been overestimating. Ideally a weighbridge would be great however there is no budget.



- Q: In relation to NEWA does Council think about standing on their own – doing their own weeds?
- A: Lots of conversations have occurred regarding this. Firstly we need to find out what is going on – meeting with the Administrator.
- Mayor: We have to ask the Governor of NSW if we can opt out and provide reasons why we would want to do this. NEWA at the moment seems to be unsustainable and is chewing up money before spraying any weeds.
- Q: Any update on Telstra Communications? Porters Camp & Sugarloaf?
- A: No nothing specific. No movement and I wouldn't hold your breath.
- Q: Last Monday morning there was no internet, no landline. At night the internet is intermittent it is disgraceful!
- A: Agree
- Q: Can we expect a bit of work on our roads – is it likely that we will get the twice a year grading done?
- A: Less maintenance grading due to some efficiencies – massive workload next financial year.
- Mayor: Send an email to council@walcha.nsw.gov.au and identify the section / length of which road you have trouble with. Take a picture and send it too! Can use a tool on our website – On the Quick Access Menu – REPORT IT! can do it from your phone and take a picture of the road as well.
- Q: Late year you were looking into reopening local gravel pits – was that successful?
Jenny Bullen
- A: Yes we have renewed private contracts with local landowners and crown lands. Nothing is imported from outside our LGA and we are working through our Quarry Management Plans.
- Q: Road Closure Gloucester Road – no closed road signs here or at Tamworth turn off.
- A: We believe there was VMS Board heading out of town.
- Reply: NO – Nowendoc residents said.
- Q: The post on social media – Facebook – regarding the closure was great communication. Two of the people shared it amongst their contacts and were thanked for it.
- Q: Nowendoc Store – DA regarding selling fuel – any chance we can get through as soon as possible? Inundated with people calling in for fuel. Owner of the Store said there is an Aboriginal Land Claim (from Taree) which could be holding it up.
- A: Aware of DA – our new Planning Manager is on top of the DA's and working through them consistently.
- Q: Motel has same issue – consistently asked for fuel. Maybe we could get some road signage.
- Q: Explain to the Nowendoc Residents why there should be wind farms?
- A: We are not here to do that – not our business.
- Q: Derby Street Upgrade?
- A: Yes tenders closed on Monday and it should get to Council this month.



- Q: Hockey Hall – upgrade on Derby Street – Carparks – immediately on main street, risk to small children and it works great now with the parking off the main street. Parks seem to smaller as well.
- A: Actually there is more spaces than now that are marked. There is parallel parking on Jamison Street.
- Q: Riverview – financially viable? Running at a profit?
- A: Aged care is a difficult area. Some do and some don't. Public Community Meeting in the very near future where we will discuss the next steps.
- Q: If you can't take it on does this mean its gone? Closed?
- A: It could be – there was one other provider they were originally talking to.
- Q: Are you putting it to a vote for the ratepayers? As they are the financial backing?
- A: Not sure – good question! Councillors do it on behalf of community.
- Q: Gravel roads – updating narrow crossings/bridges etc? Where are we up to?
- A: It's a work in progress which relies on funding. For eg: Brackendale Road Crossing – Council won't be changing/improving it.
- Q: If that is the case can we put a sign at Telstra Tower, where trucks have room to turn around, as this crossing isn't truck friendly and there is nowhere to turn around?
- A: We have engaged LEGS (Local Government Engineering Services) to do an assessment of bridges. This could result in some weight limits around the LGA.
- Q: Tia Diggings Road – great job done there on the hill. However there seems to be a trend that when gravelling etc these roads are narrowing? It becomes an issue when two trucks are passing each other (even a stock table top and a prime mover). Maybe could put signs up on what 2-way channels to use?
- Advice from Resident: Channel 40 is commonly used for these purposes. EG: Tia Hill – I am coming through. Channel 40 is used in regards to Port Stephens Cutting.
- Q: How can we make it safer – Triple B Double cattle trucks can't drive down the hill to Gloucester. They are coming from Queensland and are splitting their trailers in Nowendoc – it has become a hard drop area. This is not safe for Nowendoc.
- Q: Kevin Hollis did an amazing job grading the road – I know he is a contractor but it is the first time that drains are working properly. Keep him.
- Q: Grading Road during winter in foggy conditions – no guide posts on Tia Diggings Road – can we get some more please?
- Q: Wind Projects – is there a hard deck drop in town? Anything in the DA?
- A: It is mentioned in the DA but it is out of town I believe.
- Q: VPA – why does it have to be signed before the project is approved?
- A: We are bringing it to the Regional Meetings to get it into the public arena. We are not rushing to sign it we are more asking for feedback.
- Q: What is the likelihood of it going ahead?
- A: Can't answer that.
- Q: I will write in a submission but get the money upfront.
- Q: It is very deflating and disappointing to see Adam Marshall get a new job with Origin.

Meeting Closed at 4:00pm



6:00pm Walcha Bowling Club – Town Meeting

Public Attendees: As per attendance Sheet

Councillors: Mayor Eric Noakes, Clrs: Berry; Pointing; and Reilly.

Staff: General Manager Phil Hood; Director Infrastructure & Development Alan Butler; Director Corporate & Community Christian Martin; Disaster Risk & Resilience Coordinator – Kalen Souter and Executive Assistant Liz Hobbs.

Apology: Clr Ferrier & Clr Kermode & Clr Hicks

Elections

Clr Reilly spoke about being a Councillor. Advised the meeting that she is really enjoying it; it is rewarding and challenging at the same time. Giving back to the community is a great feeling.

Ex Councillor and Former Mayor Mr Bill Heazlett also liked to say a few words. He advised that Councillors are the heart of the community; it provides opportunities into the future. If you can nominate please do so for the future of our Council and community.

Questions & Answers – Issues raised at Meeting

Q: You didn't mention the Aerodrome Project – where is that up to?

A: Waiting on Consultant Report.

Q: \$13,500 2024-2025 Aerodrome Budget?

A: that is just the maintenance.

Q: Skatepark project requires additional funding – are you going to use the Aerodrome funding that is left to fund that?

A: No – will find other funding . The Aerodrome Project funding is still there.

Q: Defects liability period on Aerodrome Road – it has deteriorated in the last 2-3 weeks – is it going to be fixed within the liability period? Or other funding?

A: Not aware – it already has had 5 patches done. Will be checking.

Q: Riverview – ensure a proper building inspection is done, particularly electrical!

A: Already organised to be done shortly. Not in budget but going forward we will need to change our current budget.

The Aged Sector has changed a lot since 2008 – workers, accommodation, wages, etc are all problems to we are aware of.

Q: VPA – Point of detail that the submissions close on 12 June 2024

A: Yes

Q: Horrified that the trees in McHattan Park on Walsh Street side were all removed. Wasn't clearly advised even in the Beautification Committee which I am a member of. No shade in park. No road or water mains/pipes is worth the destruction of these trees. You could have shifted the pipes to the other side of the road – Sydney does! – Peter Blomfield

A: Thanks Peter for your opinion.

Q: Who was the arborist? What is his qualification and is he aware of Walcha's park?
Herb Higgins

A: Not sure who it is off the top of my head. Arborist gave his qualified opinion.

Mayor: Trees – decision by Council.

Q: VPA – answer questions – the amount negotiating? \$23M?

It strikes me odd that IPC funding found in favour of applicant NEON



Uralla Shire Council only gets \$2M?

TRC \$3.3M for 30 turbines. I feel a lot easier that it is \$23M

Roads – Phase 1: rebuilding roads. 50km of roads sealed. Secondary roads need to be built. At \$1M/km = \$50M where does it come from? Ian McDonald

A: Roughly around \$23M. USC has far less towers. The Developer impacts on road network isn't factored into VPA it is in the DA Consent conditions.

Q: I have written a submission – position is to have larger upfront payment to fund significant community projects. Maybe equivalent of 5 years of fixed portion (\$750K x 5) in advance – closed date – variable portion paid annually. This gives community confidence in developer and shows good faith. Don't see why Council couldn't ask for that.

A: Yes. VPA we can ask for money upfront BUT whether the Developer agrees to it is another thing.

Q: WWPL obligation to pay further than life of project as in decommissioning phase. All turbines removed from LGA with WW to pay further community funds.

Top tier law firm in Sydney creating all VPAs – it is generic – we want more specific to Walcha.

A: It's WWPL document and their legal persons. We have our own legal firm – BAL Lawyers – experience in property and planning law.

Q: Who signs off on the VPA?

A: Mayor & General Manager under Council Seal

Q: WWPL is 5% WWPL and 95% another (Shelf company) entity. Helpful to find out who agreement is actually with? It's all about security. Your legal reps haven't picked it up – VESTAS have moved on!

A: We will sign with whoever it is. If they don't pay then they are in breach of their consent details.

Q: No start date, no specifics and therefore not a complete document!

A: We have time – we are not signing it yet.

Q: The wording in the agreement is clumsy; changeable. A few things that Council can protect themselves with: well negotiated agreement; larger upfront payment; and bank guarantee included.

Mayor: We haven't signed it! It's on public exhibition for this purpose – great opportunity to engage with the community.

Q: Yule Hammer – get him here, why not?

A: We have negotiated with this for months.

Q: Why are we doing business with them?

A: Because we could end up with nothing or less than what is being negotiated.

Q: Environmental Impact Statement – landscape damage \$500M – WWPL spend \$64M. Asking Council to lobby they spend within LGA – open to public scrutiny.

A: Agree with you. Biosecurity – loop holes – 1/3 of that would be fabulous.

Q: VPA – specify Walcha LGA boundaries and date. Bank Swap Rate default 2%

A: Put that in a submission please

Q: Business with roads. Concerned operating, businesses like Betts Transport, BSTT, Ok Earthmoving etc – loose employees – grader drivers; tar patchers etc. I loose my



mechanics, contractors stay at Tamworth & Armidale and we have to pay them to travel – out of towners – how we going to handle that – I worry about it – Christopher Betts

Mayor: Lacking government support. Accommodation and traffic on roads effects everyone. Mudgee have 800 tourism beds a night taken and this is killing their tourism.

Council haven't negotiated anything using Thunderbolts Way

Q: Oversize least of worries – it's the truck & dogs etc are biggest problems, specially out of towners. It's not easy to drive through town fully loaded. A lot of foreign drivers passing through and no respect for pedestrians etc.

Q: Why rush signing VPA – Damien Timbs

A: We are not rushing.

Q: Perception is a live document we are acting on now. Why can't we leave it until the end? Damien Timbs

A: I would take that back to Council now.

Mayor We have time – 12 months of going IPC 2-3 years until approved.

Q: I have had first hand experience with the Solar Farm at Uralla – is this the point on agreeing on roads etc?

A: Difference solar – Regional Planning Panel S7.11 & 7.12 Act. Under SSD those roads become part of DA Consent.

Q: Christopher Betts. Contacted from a coastal company with Kentucky solar. Deliver to Kentucky and coming through Walcha to Gloucester empty – this is not in our LGA – how do you get recourse? Heard it was going to be 60-80 trucks per day through Walcha.

A: Not sure – we will have to resource up. We have thought of using the Energy Co money to employ an inspector who would be inspecting roads on their condition weekly.

Q: Christopher Betts - \$750k not going to go far!

A: Agree

Q: I have been listening to a few people speak tonight. Council should have a bond over \$750K and then another Bond over other roads and then pull them if not done. Make sure it is high and well documented.

Mayor: CoREM is dealing with other Councils that have been through this.

Q: State has emissions target of 2030. Council – what are you doing? Nothing! Peter Blomfield

A: Nothing yet. Not in a position to put solar on the roof, electric cars etc.

Q: Peter do you want to elaborate what other Councils are doing? Michael Luchich

A: No. I put something to Council – templates are available. Peter Blomfield

Council's GM: Great timing with elections coming up. We will be setting new CSP goals. If you are passionate about this – become a Councillor. It is hard for Council to invest in something like this with no payback at the moment.

Q: Any program has a benefit to reduce costs to ratepayers.

GM: Yes but it takes time and we are financially constrained. We have purchased plant using business cases and our jet patcher has exceeded its business case.



- Q: Origin Energy – lobbying bridge at Walcha Road and train bridge to be upgraded. Put pressure on the Government to update these bridges! Peter Blomfield
- A: We have been doing this for years and are still continuously lobbying. Walcha Road Bridge is the only one lane bridge on Oxley Highway. This is definitely something that Barnaby Joyce MP is lobbying for on our behalf.
- Q: I have never seen a meeting like this where you go to the public being upfront to your constituents regarding projects and budgets. Admirable!
- A: We are happy to keep doing this.
- Q: The Skate Park – would love to see this finished for our youth. Is the remainder funding coming from a grant? When I was on Council we had a budget for \$480K – why is it so expensive now?
- A: There are a few reasons but it will take more than the \$480K to build it now. We have already completed the CCTV and fence which was paid for out of the grant. We have it shovel ready! If we get the grant.

Meeting Closed: 8:00pm



Item: 6.9 **Ref:** WO/2024/01086
Title: Local Government Remuneration Tribunal Annual Review
Author: General Manager
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: No

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

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

RECOMMENDATION: **That Council:**

- 1. RECEIVE and NOTE the Report.**
 - 2. DETERMINE the annual fee payable to Councillors as \$_____ and the Mayoral Allowance of Walcha Council as \$_____ for the 2024-2025 financial year.**
-

Introduction:

Council is required to determine the amount that will be paid to Councillors and Mayor within the guidelines set by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal (the Tribunal). The purpose of this report is to advise Council on the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal's decision on the range of fees payable to Councillors and Mayors for the 2024-2025 financial year.

Report:

Sections 248 & 249 of the *Local Government Act, 1993* require Councils to fix and pay an annual fee to Councillors & Mayors from 1 July 2024 based on the Tribunal's determination for the 2024-2025 financial year.

The Tribunal handed down its 2024 report on 29 April 2024 and the changes are:

- An increase of 3.75% to Mayoral and Councillor fees for the 2024-2025 financial year effective from 1 July 2024.
- The Tribunal is required to determine the remuneration categories of councils and mayoral offices at least once every 3 years under Section 239 of the *Local Government Act, 1993*. The Tribunal last undertook a significant review of the categories as part of its 2023 determination and will next review these categories in 2026.
- The Tribunal found that the allocation of most councils into the current categories continued to be appropriate having regard to the 2023 review, the current category model and criteria, and the evidence put forward in the submissions received.



- However, the Tribunal has reclassified both Hilltops Council and Muswellbrook Shire Council as Regional Rural Councils based on changes to their combined resident and non-residential working population.

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

Key Points:

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

Please note that Walcha Council is still in the Rural Category. Pursuant to Section 241 of the Act the annual fees to be paid in each of the Non-Metropolitan categories to Councillors, Mayors, Members and Chairpersons of County Councils effective on and from 1 July 2024 are determined as follows.

General Purpose Councils - Non-Metropolitan

Councillor/Member Annual Fee (\$) effective 1 July 2024

| Category | Minimum | Maximum |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| Major Regional City | 20,500 | 35,620 |
| Major Strategic Area | 20,500 | 35,620 |
| Regional Strategic Area | 20,500 | 33,810 |
| Regional Centre | 15,370 | 27,050 |
| Regional Rural | 10,220 | 22,540 |
| Rural Large | 10,220 | 18,340 |
| Rural | 10,220 | 13,520 |

Mayor/Chairperson Additional Fee* (\$) effective 1 July 2024

| Category | Minimum | Maximum |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| Major Regional City | 43,530 | 110,970 |
| Major Strategic Area | 43,530 | 110,970 |
| Regional Strategic Area | 43,530 | 98,510 |
| Regional Centre | 31,980 | 66,800 |
| Regional Rural | 21,770 | 49,200 |
| Rural Large | 16,330 | 39,350 |
| Rural | 10,880 | 29,500 |



Legal Implications:

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

Financial Implications:

The Mayor and Councillor Fees for 2023-2024 were:

Councillor Fee: \$13,030

Mayoral Fee: \$28,430

The Draft 2024-2025 Budgeted amount for Mayoral & Councillor Fees is:

Councillor Fee: \$15,205

Mayoral Fee: \$29,568

Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Social Implications:

There are no social implications arising from this report.

Policy Implications:

There are no policy implications arising from this report.



Item 7:

Notice of Motions



There are no Notice of Motions for June 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



9.1 OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

Ref: WO/2024/01106

Responsible Executive: General Manager

Attachment: Action List May 2024 – WO/2024/00969

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

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

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

1. RESOLUTIONS ACTION LIST

See attached report.

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



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

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| 60/1819 | <p>6.6 On-site Sewage Management Strategy Implementation WO/2018/02306</p> <p>that Council postpone the implementation of the On-site Sewage Management Strategy until the next financial year.</p> | <p>DED DID</p> | <p>Review 30062022 31032023 Sept-2023 Dec 2024</p> | <p>Review Strategy when suitable resources secured (current vacancy for a Health & Building Surveyor)</p> | <p>Council resolved to put this on hold until the drought conditions subside and suitable resources secured.</p> <p>New Planning Manager recruited, this task will now be able to progress.</p> <p>May24. Planning Manager has outlined a proposed risk based strategy to be briefed at the next Council briefing.</p> |
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Extra Ordinary – 22 May 2019

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| 167/1819 | <p>2.2 Planning Proposal 2 Annual Review WO/2019/01107</p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare a planning proposal to include the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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, | <p>DED DID</p> | <p>31012023 June 2023 Aug 2023 April 2024 Aug 2024</p> | <p>As per resolution.</p> | <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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Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



| Minute No.: | Item: | Responsible Officer: | Due Date: | Action to be Taken: | Progress: |
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| | <p>seniors housing as prohibited uses in the RU5 Village Zone Land Use Table</p> <p>d. Increase the current height restriction from 8.0 metres to 8.5 metres on the Height of Buildings Map.</p> <p>2. Request Delegation under section 3.36(2) of the <i>Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979</i> to make the final instrument.</p> <p>3. Submit the drafted Planning Proposal for a Gateway Determination.</p> | | | | MAY24. Planning Manager is prioritising the outstanding strategic tasks to be able to progress these through to conclusion. |
| 168/1819 22 May 2019 | <p>Motion: It was MOVED Clr Heazlett Seconded Clr Kermode that Council prepare a planning proposal to rezone the portion of the land described as Lot 8 DP1167213 zoned RU1 Primary Production to RE1 Public Recreation, remove the land from the Minimum Lot Size map and reclassify the land from 'community' to 'operational' land to enable the subdivision of the industrial land when required.</p> <p>A FORESHADOWED Motion Clr Lyon that the portion of Lot 8 currently zoned Industrial be rezoned 'public recreation'.</p> <p>The Original Motion was put to the VOTE and CARRIED.</p> | DED DID | 31012023 June 2023 Aug 2023 April 2024 Aug 2024 | As per resolution. | <p>Focus on current planning backlog then prioritise delivery for completion. New Planning Manager start date 22 April 2024</p> <p>MAY24. Planning Manager is prioritising the outstanding strategic tasks to be able to progress these through to conclusion.</p> |

Ordinary – 31 July 2019

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| 6/20192020 | 6.3 Crown Land Management Plan Preparation that Council: | WO/2019/01134 | DED DID | 30062023 30062024 Aug 2024 | As per resolution. | Underway. Extension granted for 12 months. |
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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"> 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> 2. Request ministerial consent from NSW Department of Industry—Lands & Water to manage land known as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | | | | <p>MAY24. Planning Manager is prioritising the outstanding strategic tasks to be able to progress these through to conclusion.</p> |

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



| Minute No.: | Item: | Responsible Officer: | Due Date: | Action to be Taken: | Progress: |
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| | <p>Reserve 43749 and Lot 7004 DP 94215 being Reserve 63559</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> g. Nowendoc Waste Transfer Station - 47 Tops Road, Nowendoc – Lot 171 DP 753691 being Reserve 83987 h. Yarrowitch Showground - 92 Upper Yarrowitch River Road, Yarrowitch - Part Lot 125 DP 756475 being Reserve 94641 i. Nowendoc Cemetery - 7817 Thunderbolts Way, Nowendoc - Lot 7301 DP 1134898 being Reserve 1016508 j. Old Oxley RFS Shed - 6432 Brackendale Road, Nowendoc - Lot 157 DP 753691 being Reserve 95794 <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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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>, b) Obtain native title manager advice as per the provisions of Part 8 of the <i>Crown Land Management Act 2016</i>, c) Consult the NSW Dept of Industry Lands & Water on the content of the draft Walcha Crown Land Management Plan for Council consideration prior to Public Exhibition. | | | | |

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



| Minute No.: | Item: | Responsible Officer: | Due Date: | Action to be Taken: | Progress: |
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Ordinary – 24 February 2021

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| 194/20202021 | <p>10.2 Minutes of the Walcha Tourism Advisory Committee Meeting held at Council Chambers on Friday, 12 February 2021 WO/2021/00517</p> <p><u>Item 3.8 – Caravan Access to Water</u> that Council provide a dedicated drinking water refill point separate from dump point tap.</p> | <p>DI DID</p> | <p>30122022 31032023 Dec-2023 Apr-2024 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 introduced by designating a fill point for specific purpose. Grant money being sought Currently no finding available under ongoing review</p> |
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Ordinary – 29 September 2021

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| 36/20212022 | <p>6.3 Heritage Listing Removal from Walcha LEP Request – 2N Middle Street Walcha – Mrs L Green</p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove heritage listing (I017 – being Lot A DP 159627 known as 2N Middle Street Walcha) from Schedule 5 of the <i>Walcha Local Environmental Planning Plan 2012</i>, and 2. Advise the land owner that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 b. They are welcome to submit their own Planning Proposal for Council consideration along with \$4,500 deposit towards the cost of processing the | <p>DED DID</p> | <p>31032021 Aug-2023 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>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> <p>MAY24. Planning Manager is prioritising the outstanding strategic tasks to be able to progress these through to conclusion.</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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| | Planning Proposal, as this will expediate the processing time. | | | | |
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Ordinary – 27 October 2021

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| 59/20212022 27 Oct 2021 | <p>6.2 Draft Amendment to Walcha Development Control Plan WINT/2021/08887</p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt the <i>Draft Amended Walcha Development Control Plan 2019</i> which includes the following amendments: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Minimal editing and word changes to correct grammar, identification of development controls and to ensure state agency referencing is correct 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 & Environment <i>Wind Energy Visual Assessment Bulletin For State significant wind energy development December 2016</i>. c. Clause 41.6(1) - Replace the reference of axis with sector. d. Clause 14.4 - Inclusion of a stated position for State Significant Development in the | <p>DED DID</p> | <p>30062022 Oct 2023 Apr 2024 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 & 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> <p>MAY24. Planning Manager is prioritising the outstanding strategic tasks to be able to progress these through to conclusion.</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>objectives.</p> <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

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| 127/20212022 | <p>Item: 4.2.12 – Constructive Solutions Update that Council maintain a Contractor Register which is to be regularly updated FURTHER THAT the Director of Infrastructure is to create End of Project Completion Report to include comments on contractor performance.</p> | <p>DI DID</p> | <p>30062022 31032023 July 2023 Dec 23 Feb 2024 Apr 2024</p> | <p>As per resolution</p> | <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"> Inception –Initiation – Project Charter |
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Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



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| | | | Aug 2024 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Planning – Project Plan • Project Implementation • Project Control • Project Close <p>Project evaluation tool development underway Oct/Nov 2023. Key project management framework packages to be scoped out and delivered early 2024</p> <p>Advanced Evaluation Tool in VendorPanel rolled out and under test for current closed tenders.</p> |
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Ordinary – 30 November 2022

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| 90/20222023 | <p>7. NOTICES OF MOTION</p> <p>Clr Schaefer left the Chambers and took no part in the debate at 03:50pm.</p> <p>7.1 Notice of Motion Number: 26: Business Plan for Proposed Developers of Renewable Energy Projects WO/2022/03423</p> <p>Motion: It was MOVED Councillor Berry Seconded Councillor Kermode that Council ACKNOWLEDGE the Survey results from Voice for Walcha and DEVELOP a Strategic Business Plan for all proposed Developments of Renewable Energy Projects informed by the work of the Coalition of Renewable Energy Mayors (CoREM).</p> <p>Amendment:</p> | DID / GM | <p>DEC2023 DEC2024</p> | As per resolution | <p>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.</p> <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.</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>An Amendment was MOVED Councillor Hicks Seconded Councillor Reilly that Council DEVELOP a Strategic Business Plan for all proposed Developments of Renewable Energy Projects informed by the work of the Coalition of Renewable Energy Mayors (CoREM).</p> <p>Division of Voting: For: Hicks Pointing and Reilly Against: Berry Noakes and Kermode. 90 The Original Motion became the Substantive Motion and was put to the VOTE and CARRIED.</p> | | | | |
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Ordinary – 14 December 2022

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| 111/20222023 | <p>4.2.1 South Street Pedestrian Crossing that Council APPROVE the South Street Pedestrian Project pending availability of grant funding.</p> | DID | June 2024 | Search for funding for project | LRCI Funding Round 4 Review June 2024. Availability of own source funds to complete this project before June 2024. Design work underway. Feb 2023 Initial design options complete – review and consultation underway. MAY24. RFQ to be advertised for the construction of the crossing. |
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Ordinary – 22 February 2023

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

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| 138/20222023 | <p>6.5 Subdivision of Council Land for Housing Purposes WO/2023/00487 that Council APPROVE a budget of \$5,000, from the Project Development Fund, for the investigation of Lot 20 Sec 1 DP 759035, Lot 25 DP 264515 and Pt Lot 11 DP 1270896 (Site A) for suitability for a residential housing subdivision and report back to Council regarding the outcome.</p> | DCC | 12042023 Sep 2023 Feb 2024 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 |
| | <p>■ 4.2.3 Electrical upgrade of 6W Hamilton Street Walcha – Carlec Auto Electrician That an additional quote be obtained for this work and a report be prepared for Council.</p> | DCC / MCT | 19042023 | Prepare as per resolution – April Ordinary Meeting | Currently awaiting quotations. Likely to occur in the 2025 FY Electrician attended on 21/5/2024 – awaiting quote |

ExtraOrdinary – 19 April 2023

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| CC17/20222023 | <p>3.2 Tender W22/224 Walcha Skatepark Precinct Renewal Construction only – Update WINT/2023/01898 that Council: 1. SELECT Convic Pty Ltd as the preferred tenderer for Tender No. W22/224 Walcha Skatepark Precinct Renewal – Construction; 2. UNDERTAKE post-tender negotiations with Convic in regards to scope and schedule;</p> | DID | July 2023 Aug 23 Oct 23 Dec 2023 TBD | As per resolution | Waiting response from our additional Growing Regions Funding Application before being able to proceed. JUN24 - Application was unsuccessful with Growing Regions. Alternate options being considered potentially LRCI. |
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Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



| Minute No.: | Item: | Responsible Officer: | Due Date: | Action to be Taken: | Progress: |
|---------------|--|----------------------|---|---------------------|--|
| | <p>3. SUBMIT variation request to funding body in regards to price and schedule;</p> <p>4. CONSIDER tender award at future Council meeting with additional funding sources identified and confirmed.</p> | | | | |
| CC19/20222023 | <p>3.4 Planning Agreements for Renewable Energy Developments WO/2023/00585</p> <p>that Council:</p> <p>1. AUTHORISE the Mayor and General Manager to negotiate Planning Agreements under the provisions of Section 7.4 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979, for developer contributions for renewable energy developments affecting Walcha Council Local Government Area whereby:</p> <p>a) The developer contribution over the estimated life of the project is circa 1.5% of the Capital Investment Value (CIV) of the renewable energy development and;</p> <p>b) The developer contribution is allocated via the General Fund to infrastructure, services or other public amenities in accordance with the Operational Plan;</p> | GM | <p>300823 Oct 23 May 24</p> | As per resolution | <p>Preferred legal representation chosen with consultation with Uralla Shire Council – Walcha Council to take lead on the engagement. Allocation of \$25K in budget for upper fee limit for works.</p> <p>Final draft with Winterbourne Wind for review/comment, prior to public exhibition.</p> <p>Completion of final draft VPA is imminent, and will be available for public exhibition and comment during March May 2024.</p> <p>Report to June 2024 Council Meeting with submissions from public discussed</p> |

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



| Minute No.: | Item: | Responsible Officer: | Due Date: | Action to be Taken: | Progress: |
|-------------|-------|----------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
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| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | <p>2. SEEK legal review of each draft Planning Agreement before presentation to Council for endorsement to proceed to public exhibition prior to finalisation;</p> <p>3. AUTHORISE the Mayor and General Manager to seek a Planning Agreement with Winterbourne Wind consistent with the above to replace their current community contribution scheme.</p> | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|

Extra Ordinary – 16 August 2023

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|-------------|---|------------|--------|---|---|
| 21/20232024 | <p>4.1 Adopt Draft Waste Strategy 2023-2027 WO/2023/01537 that Council ADOPT the Waste Strategy 2023-2027 as presented.</p> | DID | May 24 | Implement elements within the Strategy: eg: vouchers, recycling, contractors out of hours induction | <p>MAY24. Manager Urban & Utilities is currently working towards the implementation of phase 1 deliverables, vouchers & local contractor agreements to be implemented for July 2024.</p> <p>JUN24. Purchase Order placed with the software provider for the vouchers functionality with the hardware being delivered on the 28 June and the software set up and implementation scheduled for Monday 1 July 2024 during the scheduled closure.</p> <p>Local contractor access agreements will be further developed and workshopped next month.</p> |
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Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



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

Ordinary – 27 September 2023

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|-------------|---|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|---|
| 58/20232024 | <p>7. NOTICES OF MOTION</p> <p>7.1 Notice of Motion Number 29: Pedestrian Crossings WO/2023/01809</p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. approach Transport for NSW to investigate and implement a traffic calming device to slow traffic approaching the pedestrian crossing in Fitzroy Street. 2. investigate and implement a traffic calming device to slow traffic approaching the pedestrian crossing in Derby Street. | GM / DID | Mar-2023 Aug 2024 | As per resolution | Requests sent to TfNSW currently planning traffic committee meeting for Mar 2024. Feb 2024 - RSA complete late Dec 23, workshop to be programmed to identify control measures. MAY24. Ongoing |
|-------------|---|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|---|

Ordinary – January 2024

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|--------------|--|------------|----------|---|--|
| 117/20232024 | <p>6.1 Apsley Riverview Community Consultation WO/2024/00074</p> <p>that Council AUTHORISE the General Manager to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ENTER into negotiations with Presbyterian Aged Care for Walcha Council to become the operator of Riverview Aged Care; and 2. ENGAGE appropriate legal advice using existing budgeted funds. | DCC | 02202024 | 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. May24 – Council are accredited and legal advice sought (FEB24 CC resolution). Non-binding offer completed. COMPLETED |
| 118/20232024 | <p>6.2 Commonwealth Home Support Program – Presbyterian Aged Care Relinquishment of Funding WO/2023/02452</p> | DCC | - | No specific time line however, if the funding is offered to Council then a complete report to Council with full budget. | |

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



| Minute No.: | Item: | Responsible Officer: | Due Date: | Action to be Taken: | Progress: |
|---------------|---|----------------------|-----------|--|--|
| | that Council APPROVE the acceptance of additional Commonwealth Home Support Program Funding if offered by Presbyterian Aged Care or the Department of Health. | | | | |
| 123/20232024 | <p>7.1 Notice of Motion # 30 – Temporary Worker Accommodation in Walcha WO/2024/00124</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> | GM | 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>1.2 Requests to Waive or Reimburse Waste Depot Fees WINT/2024/00274</p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WAIVE the Waste Disposal Fee for one trailer load of mixed waste for the Walcha & District Historical Society; 2. WAIVE Green Waste Fees incurred by the Lions Club for maintenance of the Lions Park; and 3. DO NOT reimburse the resident as per the Third Request, but investigate the ongoing impacts that the plants are having on road safety. | DID | 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 & Rob and advised of the resolutions. Emailed WDHS to advise of their resolution for one trailer load. – EA 0102204-</p> <p>COMPLETED</p> <p>COMPLETED</p> |

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



| Minute No.: | Item: | Responsible Officer: | Due Date: | Action to be Taken: | Progress: |
|-------------|-------|----------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
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Ordinary – February 2024

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|--------------|---|------------|----------|-------------------|---|
| 137/20232024 | <p>5. MAYORAL MINUTE</p> <p>5.1 Dissolution of Namoi Joint Organisation</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 DISSOLVE the Namoi Joint Organisation on 30 June 2024.</p> | GM / Mayor | 30062024 | As per resolution | Action sitting with Acting CEO of the JO, function taken on by TRC. |
| 140/20232024 | <p>6.2 Agreement between Walcha Council and Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) WO/2024/00288</p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> NOTE the terms of the Agreement now in place between Walcha Council and the Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo); and ENDORSE the immediate scoping of a Cumulative Impact Study to be delivered using funds provided by EnergyCo via this Agreement. | GM | July 24 | As per resolution | Scoping of engagement being finalised by Mgr Strategic Planning & Environment. Looking to award consultant as soon as submissions received. |
| 150/20232024 | <p>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</p> | DID | ?? | As per resolution | NOTED – COMPLETED |

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



| Minute No.: | Item: | Responsible Officer: | Due Date: | Action to be Taken: | Progress: |
|-------------|-------|----------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
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|-------------------|---|------------------|-------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 151/20232024 | <p>that Council consider leaving the town entry signs as they currently are FURTHER THAT install an appropriately sized "Dunghutti Country" sign on these existing town entry signs.</p> <p>that Council allocate \$50,000 for the Shirley Davison Bridge totem pole sculpture and \$15,000 for the Hospital Wall Mural works in the Local Roads Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Phase 4 Project list.</p> | DID / DCC | Apr24 | As per resolution – needs to be placed in the draft budget for review | IN DRAFT CAPITAL WORKS BUDGET |
| CC39/ 20232024 | <p>3.2 Riverview Aged Care Legal Advice Budget Allocation WINT/2024/00753 that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ENDORSE the engagement of Maddocks to provide legal services with regard to the transfer of operations of Riverview Aged Care to Walcha Council; and ALLOCATE \$60,000 from Internal Restrictions currently assigned to 'Project Development' to be available as required for this purpose. | | | | JUN24 COMPLETED |

Ordinary – March 2024

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| | CLOSED COUNCIL | GM | | | 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>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> AUTHORISE the provision of a guarantee as security for loan funding provided to the New England Weeds Authority; 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; That the Mayor and the General Manager are authorised to execute the loan security documents provided by the Commonwealth Bank. That authorisation is provisional on receipt of written notice of resignation of all current members of the New England Weeds Authority County Council. | | | GM to carry out the resolution directives once in receipt of item 4. | As of 17042024 no resignations have been advised. May 2024 – NEWA Board is terminated due to an Administrator being appointed by OLG. Therefore this resolution is redundant . COMPLETED |

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



| Minute No.: | Item: | Responsible Officer: | Due Date: | Action to be Taken: | Progress: |
|-------------|-------|----------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
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Ordinary – April 2024

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|--------------|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|
| 174/20232024 | <p>6.1 Draft 2024-2025 Operational Plan for Public Exhibition WO/2024/00678</p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> PLACE the proposed Draft 2024-2025 Operational Plan inclusive of the budget, fees & charges and revenue policy, on public exhibition for a period of 28 days in accordance with Section 404 & 405 of the <i>Local Government Act, 1993</i>; and 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. | <p>EA</p> <p>DCC</p> | <p>29042024</p> <p>19062024</p> | <p>Advertise in Advocate Place on website</p> | <p>Advocate 01052024 On website 08052024 Advertised with Regional Meetings as well.</p> <p>COMPLETED item 1 20052024</p> <p>COMPLETED – June 2024 Council Meeting</p> |
| 176/20232024 | <p>6.3 Regional Meetings 2024 WO/2024/00604</p> <p>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</p> | EA/GM | 13052024 | <p>Organise Venue confirmations</p> <p>Advertise in Advocate – stating venues and times; agenda items. FB Posts and website</p> | <p>Venues confirmed – COMPLETED 30042024 08052024 – advertisement in Advocate, on website and completed 5 FB posts</p> <p>Report to June 2024 Meeting</p> <p>COMPLETED</p> |

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



| Minute No.: | Item: | Responsible Officer: | Due Date: | Action to be Taken: | Progress: |
|---------------|--|----------------------|-----------|--|--|
| | <p>Wednesday 15 May 2024: 09:00am Yarrowitch Hall 11:30am "Brockley Park" Shed 02:30pm Nowendoc Hall 06:00pm Walcha Bowling Club</p> | | | | |
| 177/20232024 | <p>6.4 Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Priority List WO/2024/00681 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 Operational Plan for adoption accordingly</p> | GM | 07062024 | <p>Actively request feedback at Regional Meetings – advertised as part of agenda.</p> <p>Feedback considered at June Meeting and updated in 2024-2025 OP</p> | <p>Advertised in Advocate and on website from 09052024</p> <p>All submissions close on 07062024</p> <p>Report to June 2024 Meeting</p> |
| 178/20232024 | <p>6.5 Walcha Gym Membership Minimum Age Review – Update from ARIC WO/2024/00617 that Council RETAIN the minimum age for Walcha Council's Community Gym membership at 16 years old.</p> | GM/DCC | 10052024 | Advise resident who requested change to minimum age. | Completed |
| CC45/20232024 | <p>3.1 Quote Evaluation / Loan Approval – Smooth Drum Roller Purchase WO/2024/00695 that Council:</p> | DCC | ASAP | As per resolution | Finance being arranged. Loan funds to be received prior to end of financial year. |

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



| Minute No.: | Item: | Responsible Officer: | Due Date: | Action to be Taken: | Progress: |
|-------------|---|----------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AUTHORISE the purchase of a Bomag BW219D-5 Smooth Drum Roller from Tutt Bryant Equipment; 2. AUTHORISE the execution of a Chattel Mortgage / Equipment Finance for the purchase of a smooth drum roller (Bomag BW219D-5); and 3. APPROVE the affixing of the Common Seal to all documentation relating to the establishment of a loan to finance the purchase of a smooth drum roller (Bomag BW219D-5) FURTHER THAT the affixing of the Common Seal be attested to by the Mayor and the General Manager. | | | | |

Extra Ordinary – May 2024

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|--------------|---|----------------|----------|--|--|
| 187/20232024 | <p>3.1 Renewable Energy Community Benefit Policy WO/2024/00765</p> <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. | GM / EA | 10052024 | | <p>On website 09052024</p> <p>Placed on website until 12062024 with VPA.</p> <p>Communicated with public during Regional Meetings on 13&15052024 Jun24 – review submissions and any changes.</p> |
|--------------|---|----------------|----------|--|--|

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



| Minute No.: | Item: | Responsible Officer: | Due Date: | Action to be Taken: | Progress: |
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|--------------|--|-------|----------|--|--|
| 188/20232024 | <p>3.2 Voluntary Planning Agreement – WinterbourneWind Pty Ltd WO/2024/00766</p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> PLACE the proposed Draft Voluntary Planning Agreement between Walcha Council and WinterbourneWind Pty Ltd prepared in accordance with Subdivision 2 of Division 7.1 of Part 7 of the <i>Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1979</i> (EP&A Act) on public exhibition for a period of no less than 28 days; and 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 proposed for Council's consideration and final adoption. | GM/EA | 10052024 | | <p>On website 09052024 Updated on website 13052024 Public exhibition with Explanatory note from 13052024 until 12062024 Will be presented to June 2024 Ordinary meeting</p> <p>To be presented to June 2024 Council Meeting with submissions</p> |
|--------------|--|-------|----------|--|--|

Ordinary – May 2024

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|--------------|---|----|----------|--|--|
| 189/20232024 | <p>2. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL 2024:</p> <p>CONFIRMATION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON MONDAY 6 MAY 2024:</p> <p>that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 24 April 2024 AND the Minutes of the ExtraOrdinary Meeting held on Monday 6 May 2024, copies of which have been</p> | EA | 03062024 | <p>Action list Resolutions Register Uploaded to website - signed</p> | <p>Completed – sent to Directors & GM Completed Completed</p> <p>COMPLETED ALL 30052024</p> |
|--------------|---|----|----------|--|--|

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



| Minute No.: | Item: | Responsible Officer: | Due Date: | Action to be Taken: | Progress: |
|--------------|---|----------------------|-----------|--|--|
| | distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a TRUE record. | | | | |
| 191/20232024 | <p>6.1 Quarterly Budget Review Statements March 2024 WO/2024/00920</p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ADOPT the March 2024 Quarterly Budget Review Statements; and APPROVE the variations in Income and Expenditure votes as detailed in this report. | DCC | 03062024 | As per resolutions | COMPLETED |
| 192/20232024 | <p>6.2 Walcha Preschool Playground Upgrade WO/2024/00860</p> <p>that Council APPROVE the following Preschool Playground upgrades:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Replace sandpit; ■ Install footpaths; ■ Replace rubber softfall; and ■ Install outdoor toilet. | DCC | ?? | | |
| 193/20232024 | <p>6.3 Walcha to Bendemeer Sculpture Track WO/2024/00911</p> <p>that Council SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE the initiative of Walcha to Bendemeer Sculpture Track.</p> | GM / EA | 03062024 | Notify artist Stephen King and Lauren from Arts North West | Email sent to both as well as Melanie Oppenheimer advising Council's resolution. – WO/24/1112 COMPLETED 30052024 |
| 194/20232024 | <p>6.4 Draft Risk Management Framework & Draft Risk Management Policy WO/2024/00925</p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ADOPT the Draft Risk Management Framework; and | EA | 05062024 | Adopt the Draft Risk Management Framework to actual with resolution etc and place in Policy register Public exhibit, on website and Advocate, draft RM Policy for 28 days | Updated and Saved in CM9 – WO/24/974 – and in Policy Register Policy placed on website 30052024 – public exhibit until 05072024 – 35 days |

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



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

| | 2. PUBLICLY exhibit the Draft Risk Management Policy for a period of 28 days; 3. ADOPT the Draft Risk Management Policy as presented, should no submissions be received as a result of the public exhibition. | | | After public exhibition period adopt if no submissions otherwise report to Council at next Meeting. | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--|--|---------------------|---|------|-----------------------------|--|---|-------------------|-----------|---------|----------|---|----------------------------|
| CC47/20232024 | 3.1 Tender REGPRO042425 – Supply & Delivery of Bulk Water Treatment Chemicals WINT/2024/02431 <i>that Council:</i> 1. AWARD REGPRO042425 Supply & Delivery of Bulk Water Treatment Chemicals to the Tenderers listed in Table A for the period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2027; and 2. ALLOW a provision for a 12 month extension based on satisfactory supplier performance which may take this contract through to 30 June 2028. TABLE "A" <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #ADD8E6;"> <th style="width: 10%;">Sched ule:</th> <th style="width: 60%;">Product Description</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Tenderer</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">B(3)</td> <td>Aluminium Sulphate (Tonnes)</td> <td>Nowra Chemical Manufact urers P/L, Omega Chemicals , Redox P/L</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">H</td> <td>Hydrochloric Acid</td> <td>Redox P/L</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Sched ule: | Product Description | Tenderer | B(3) | Aluminium Sulphate (Tonnes) | Nowra Chemical Manufact urers P/L, Omega Chemicals , Redox P/L | H | Hydrochloric Acid | Redox P/L | GM / EA | 03062024 | Advise Regional Procurement of resolution | COMPLETED JUNE 2024 |
| Sched ule: | Product Description | Tenderer | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B(3) | Aluminium Sulphate (Tonnes) | Nowra Chemical Manufact urers P/L, Omega Chemicals , Redox P/L | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H | Hydrochloric Acid | Redox P/L | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Walcha Council's Meeting Action List



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

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|----------------|---|--|----------|-------------------|----------------------------|--|
| | J(2) | Dense Soda Ash BULK Ixom Operations P/L, Omega Chemicals, Redox P/L | | | | |
| CC48/20232024 | <p>3.3 Apsley Riverview 10 Year Business Plan WINT/2024/02484</p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ENDORSE the Apsley Riverview 10 Year Business Plan; and SEND the revised Non-Binding Letter of Offer to Presbyterian Aged Care. | DCC / GM | 03062024 | As per resolution | COMPLETED JUNE 2024 | |
| CC49/202232024 | <p>3.4 Tender W24/20 – Derby Street Construction ONLY WINT/2024/02535</p> <p>that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> DECLINE TO ACCEPT ALL Tenders for Tender No.: W24/20 – Derby Street Construction Tender; INVITE, in accordance with Section 167 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, fresh tender submissions based on different project details. | DID | 04062024 | As per resolution | JUN24 - COMPLETED | |



9.2 INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT:

Ref: WO/2024/01107

Responsible Executive: Director Infrastructure & Development

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

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

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

OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

- 1. Planning & Development** – Data not available at time of writing – update to be provided in meeting

Monthly Snapshot – May 2024



2. Animal Control

2.1 Companion Animal Registrations 2023-2024

| May 2024 | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Number Registered | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | Current Period |
| Desexed | 6 | 22 | 0 |
| Non Desexed | 2 | 4 | 0 |
| Pensioner Desexed | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Pound Purchased Desexed | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Cat Desexed | 2 | 5 | 0 |
| Under 6 Months | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Working/Recognised Breeder | 21 | 3 | 1 |
| Total | 38 | 40 | 1 |
| Value | \$2,395 | \$2907 | \$0 |

2.2 Companion Animal Seizures 2023-2024

| May 2024 | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Number | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | Current Period |
| Seized | 53 | 60 | 1 |
| Surrendered | 24 | 33 | 0 |
| Released | 9 | 13 | 1 |
| Rehomed | 21 | 34 | 0 |
| Euthanised | 21 | 6 | 0 |
| Stolen/Escaped | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Total | 128 | 152 | 2 |

2.3 Companion Animal Ranger Services 2023-2024

| May 2024 | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Number | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | Current Period |
| Dog Attack Investigation | 19 | 13 | 1 |
| Roaming Dogs | 59 | 39 | 5 |
| Roaming Cats | 32 | 14 | 2 |
| Barking Dogs | 40 | 19 | 1 |
| Total | 25 | 94 | 9 |



2.4 Companion Animal Ranger Services 2023-2024

| May 2024 | | | | |
|-----------------|--------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Number | | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | Current Period |
| Cautions | | 63 | 28 | 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 | 4 |
| Total | | 70 | 34 | 6 |

3. Regulatory Service

3.1 Regulatory Services Financial Year Comparison

| As at 31.05.2024 | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Number | | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | Current Period |
| Overgrown Allotment | | 50 | 14 | 0 |
| Accumulation of Waste | | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| Keeping of Animals | | 146 | 55 | 8 |
| Vehicles on Nature Strip | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Abandoned Vehicle | | 11 | 13 | 2 |
| Noise Abatement | | 37 | 25 | 1 |
| Environmental Pollution | | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 250 | 122 | 11 |

3.2 Regulatory Action Financial Year Comparison

| As at 31.05.2024 | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Number | | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | Current Period |
| Complaint Investigated | | 148 | 104 | 9 |
| Warning Issued | | 100 | 49 | 6 |
| Notice of Intention Served | | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Order Served | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Penalty Notice Issued | | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Total | | 250 | 172 | 19 |



Monthly Breakup of Action Taken Against Relevant Service

| May 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 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 15 |
| Vehicles on Nature Strip | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Abandoned Vehicle | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Noise Abatement | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Environmental Pollution | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 9 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 19 |



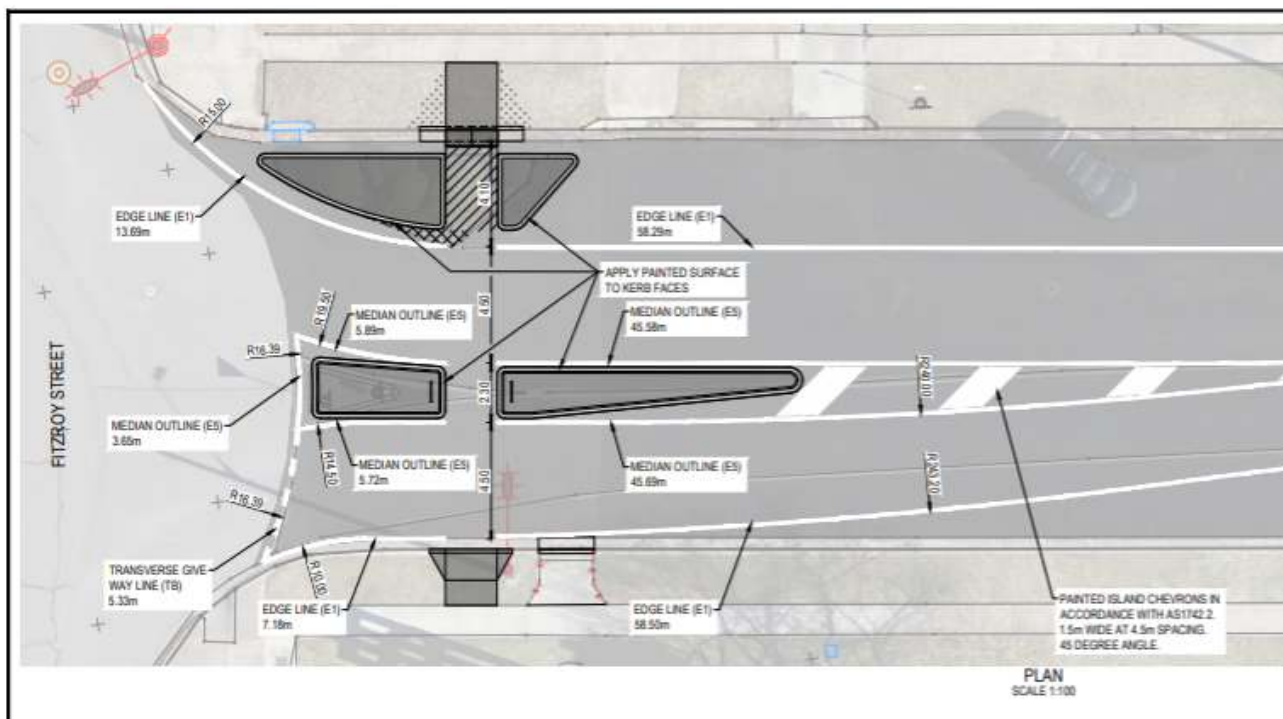
4. Roads

4.1 Inspections & Incidents

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

South Street Pedestrian Crossing - Design

Council have received final designs for this project. RFQ has been published via VendorPanel for the construction of the crossing. Internal discussions will be held to organise and program delivery.







Progress | 20%

Planned Completion | 31/7/2024

Budget | TBD



5. Water & Wastewater

| | | |
|---|--------------------|--|
| Volume of water abstracted – Manual pumping offline. | 0 ML |  |
| Off Creek Storage 1 Level | 26.67 % | |
| Off Creek Storage 2 Level Combined Dam storage level | 76.82 % 38.40 % | |
| Volume of Water Treated | 12.13 ML |  |
| OCS1 – Valve pits constructed and poured. | | |
| Number of Water Quality Incidents – Water Turbidity <0.09 NTU on both filters | 0 | |
| Number of Watermain Breaks/Leaks | 3 |  |
| Trial shutdown for Walsh Street | | |
| Volume of wastewater received / treated | 21.68ML |  |
| Number of wastewater incidents | 2 | |
| Reported to EPA | | |



6. Urban

Parks & Garden:

Tree manual completed winter program planned and signed off.

All Parks, sporting fields, street scape gardens and cemetery gardens were maintained. Nowendoc & Woolbrook Grounds maintenance slowing down for winter.

Construction activities:

Drainage works completed.



7. Solid Waste

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Quantity of general waste received | 166t |
| Quantity of green waste received | 128t |
| 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.

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

Capital Works Delivery Update

| Project | Council 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 |
|---|-------------|--|---------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|---|---------------|---|-----------------|---|
| LOCAL & URBAN ROADS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Middle Street Rehab | PF | Fixing Local Roads R2 | \$ 1,111,215 | Nov-21 | Sep-24 | | \$ 56,413 | On Track | | Construction on-going, variation for time and scope approved. | | Bring the project to completion. |
| Walsh Street Rehab | PF | Fixing Local Roads R2 | | Jan-22 | Sep-24 | | \$ 22,059 | On Track | | | | |
| 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. | | Project currently out on venderpanel | | Construction. |
| Routine Maintenance | JM | Maintenance grading, veg management, drainage etc. | \$ 1,885,337 | Jun-24 | Jun-24 | | \$ 1,216,308 | 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 actives 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 | on-track | | on-Track on-going works | | completion |
| Walcha Aerodrome | PF | Seal existing access, Elec supply improvements, regravell existing runway | \$ 1,610,000 | Oct-22 | Mar-25 | Mar-25 | \$ 1,161,321 | on-track | | on track | | RWY: pavement review on-going - report ETA 24/06 Elect: on-going conection for G.O'Brien hangar |
| BRIDGES | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Army Bridge | PF | | \$ 2,050,850 | | Sep-24 | Feb-25 | \$ 151,319 | On Track | | Bridge demolished, earthwork on going. | | new brdige construction |
| Winterbourne Bridge | PF | | \$ 1,306,921 | | Dec-24 | Apr-25 | \$ 59,244 | Additional FCB fund granted | | time variation approved - will be done after Army Bridge | | precast construction |
| Mooraback Bridge | PF | | \$ 1,302,547 | | Feb-25 | Apr-25 | \$ 49,157 | | | | | |
| RMCC | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| REGIONAL ROADS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | Tender Submissions Identified Budget Shortfall, Tender modified and re published with phased deliverables to align with available budget. Funding bodies engaged to discuss change in scope | | In discussion with funding bodies with regard to change request for extension of time | | 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 |
| WATER, WASTEWATER & WASTE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Walcha Off Creek Storage | AB | Off Creek Storage | \$ 11,000,000 | Dec-22 | Jul-24 | | \$ 9,598,560 | PM costs increasing due to the completion dated being extended. PLG met to discuss increase request to Beca HH2O Upper Fee Limit. Council have discussed reducing the requirements in the resource plan with Council taking on the additional functions. | | 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 overdue completion currently scheduled for July 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 | Aug-24 | \$ 810,801 | Funds to be shifted from either Sewer fund or SCCF-5 pending | | Delayed completion with electrical switchboard | | Switchboard delivery and pump station comissioning, Identify high level of I&I since the John Oxley Oval connection. |
| 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 |

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 |
|--|------------|--|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--|---------------|--|---|--|
| COMMUNITY PROJECTS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 for which BLER VRAF application on going | | Rescoping on going to perform as much required works within available funds. Change of scope request to be submitted to BLERF(rescope) | | beginning of sealing works under remaining funds pending budget variation approval |
| 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 | Overall shortfall of approx. \$1M - drafting budget variation to be submitted to ATfNSW | | time variation submitted | | award and 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 | | | | | |
| Pathways Project - Summervale | PF | Construction of pathway from Walcha to Summervale | \$ 1,750,254 | Nov-24 | Nov-24 | Nov-24 | \$ 77,160 | | | | Construction tender closed and evaluation on-going. Stakeholder risk (Amaroo LALC re land access) | |
| TOTAL | | | \$ 35,815,329 | | | | \$ 15,416,244 | | | | | |



9.3 CORPORATE & COMMUNITY:

Ref: WO/2024/00981

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.

1. 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.

1.1 Financial Tracking

This section of the report seeks to provide Council with an update of the previous month financial performance and note any potential budget variations that would form part of the upcoming Quarterly budget review.

The annual budget and subsequent budget changes are approved by Council and provide the legal authority for staff to commit expenditure. Constant monitoring and updating of the budget is therefore important for sound financial management.

Readers of this report are reminded that the contents should not be viewed in isolation. Quarterly Budget Review Statements provide the Council approved budget variations where this report proposes likely changes to be noted such that Council is kept up to date on the monthly financial performance of Council.



| | Approved Changes | | | Projected Year End Result | Year To Date Actual |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| | Original Budget | September Review | December Review | | |
| Income from Continuing Operations | | | | | |
| Rates & Annual Charges | 7,011,847 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7,011,847 |
| User Charges & Fees | 5,136,677 | (2,000) | 115,378 | (781,600) | 4,468,455 |
| Other Revenues | 260,205 | 70,746 | 110,000 | (84,746) | 356,205 |
| Grants & Contributions- Operating | 5,418,998 | 0 | 3,684,405 | (767,354) | 8,336,049 |
| Grants & Contributions - Capital | 23,483,155 | 2,536,165 | 81,699 | (8,909,500) | 17,191,519 |
| Interest & Revenue | 359,238 | 0 | 75,000 | 0 | 434,238 |
| Other Income | 86,608 | 0 | (18,136) | 0 | 68,472 |
| Net gains from disposal of assets | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Income from Continuing Operations | 41,756,728 | 2,604,911 | 4,048,346 | (10,543,200) | 37,866,785 |
| Expenses from Continuing Operations | | | | | |
| Employee Benefits & Oncosts | 6,249,911 | 8,000 | 174,617 | 0 | 6,432,528 |
| Materials & Contracts | 6,544,359 | 574,066 | (36,461) | (758,100) | 6,323,864 |
| Borrowing Costs | 77,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 77,000 |
| Depreciation & Impairment | 4,892,027 | 0 | (409,636) | 0 | 4,482,391 |
| Other Expenses | 445,069 | 0 | (613) | 0 | 444,456 |
| Net loss from disposal of assets | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Expenses from Continuing Operations | 18,208,366 | 582,066 | (272,093) | (758,100) | 17,760,239 |
| Net Operating Result from Continuing Operations | 23,548,362 | 2,022,845 | 4,320,439 | (9,785,100) | 20,106,546 |
| Net Operating Result before Grants & Contributions for Capital Purposes | 65,207 | (513,320) | 4,238,740 | (875,600) | 2,915,027 |

Note: The table above is updated to 31 May 2024.

COMMENTARY

Income

Rates & Annual Charges are very close to original budget at \$7,026,661 vs \$7,011,847.

User Charges & Fees are significantly lower than the original budget due to over estimation of profit in RMCC ordered works.

Other Revenue is ahead of original budget and will finish higher.

Operating Grants are significantly lower than original budget with Financial Assistance Grants still to be received and prepaid in June with 2024/25 FAGs revenue recognised in 2023/24. Estimate \$3,300,000.

Interest Revenue will finish higher than budget due to higher interest rates.

Expense

Employee Costs are trending higher than original budget estimating to be \$130,000 over original budget at 30 June 2024. Inclusive in the employee costs are one off termination payments totalling approximately \$180,000.

| Original Approved Budget (Direct Labour Costs) | Actuals YTD (May) | Projected to June |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| \$5,746,400 | \$5,289,033 | \$5,729,786 |

Note: The table above represents the direct labour costs while the income statement contained in this report includes oncosts. Direct labour costs are the budgeted hours worked per employee in the organisational chart. The leave provisions are adjusted in the year end process which means that any leave taken is costed to the income statement month on month with a credit being applied during end of year adjustments. Depending on whether the leave accrual is greater than the leave taken will depend on the leave activity during the year. With a number of



resignations/terminations with large leave balances it is likely that a credit will be applied to the income statement for Employee Benefits & Oncosts at year end.

Material & Contract Costs are trending lower than original budget with a focus on completion of capital works.

Depreciation is forecast to be significantly lower than original budget due to an over estimation of the original budget.

Other Expenses are trending lower than original budget.

Net loss from disposal of assets is not budgeted for however there are some losses due to write off and recapitalisation of asset improvement works. This will not affect the cashflow.

| UNRESTRICTED CASH RECONCILIATION | | |
|---|-------------------|------------------|
| | April 2024 | June 2023 |
| Total Cash & Investments | 14,834,735 | 16,275,800 |
| External Restrictions: | | |
| Contract Liabilities - General Fund | 3,010,531 | 4,919,975 |
| Contract Liabilities - Water Fund | 201,440 | 0 |
| Specific Purpose Grants | 4,055,210 | 2,219,877 |
| Water Fund (interfunding balance) | 1,680,210 | 837,030 |
| Sewer Fund (interfunding balance) | 684,458 | 566,819 |
| | 9,631,850 | 8,543,701 |
| Internal Allocations | 3,878,115 | 7,539,223 |
| Unrestricted Cash | 1,324,771 | 192,877 |

Cash & Investments is made up of:

| Category | \$ |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Term Deposits | \$9,931,603 |
| Operating Account | \$4,903,132 |
| Total | \$14,834,735 |

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



Uninvoiced works in progress

| Works | \$ | Claim Lodged | Comment |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------|---|
| LRCI-1 - June 2021 | 76,351.00 | No | 21/22 & 22/23 Annual Reports are outstanding and with auditors, we are awaiting their auditor reports prior to lodgement. Last active project only recently finished, so will now progress final report docs. Auditors progressing the audit. |
| LRCI-2 - June 2022 | 86,714.00 | Yes | Claim rejected due to some incorrect information provided so have amended reports and is with auditors awaiting new auditors report. Auditors are progressing the audit. |

| Works | \$ | Claim Lodged | Comment |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|---|
| BRP – Englefield & Stephen's Bridges | 329,582.00 | Yes | Lodged on 19/04/2024 RECEIVED |
| Get Active NSW | 309,168.00 | Yes (Town section) | Initial lodgement \$284,500 expected July payment. |
| TBW C/S | 104,230.37 | No | Waiting construction to commence. Tenders received higher than expected currently communicating with Restart NSW. |
| AGRN1034 | 1,297,039.41 | Yes | General Ledger submitted last year however evidence photos have been rejected twice, so have sent amended ones for a 3 rd time on 10/05/2024. The issue has been the lack of before and after photos and some location data is incomplete. The current update is that photos and supporting information have been accepted as at 20/05/2024. Expected partial payment by 30 June. Approx. \$700K |
| LRCI 3 - June 2023 | 620,420.78 | No | 22/23 Annual Report is outstanding and with auditors, awaiting their report. The final four projects of this phase have recently been completed and final report docs will now be processed, ready for lodgement. Auditors are progressing with audit. |
| Black Summer Bushfire – Nowendoc | 8,720.65 | Yes | Lodged – RECEIVED |



| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-----|---|
| FCB – Dennis Walls AM 5632 | 62,328.70 | Yes | Lodged 24/04/2024. RECEIVED |
| FCB – Tia Diggings AM 10811 | 46,536.94 | Yes | Lodged 24/04/2024. RECEIVED |
| BRP-HSVPP | 318,698.83 | No | Awaiting construction to commence. Going out to tender again including scope variation. Initial tenders too high. HVSSP advised funding extension to June 2025. |
| FLR – Aberbaldie Road | 301,058.00 | Yes | Lodged 13/05/2024. RECEIVED |
| SCCF4 - John Oxley Amenities | 76,682.91 | No | Claim to be lodged. |
| SCCF4 - Pool Amenities | 257,944.21 | No | Claim to be lodged. |
| SCCF5 - John Oxley Sportsground | 152,108.00 | No | Claim to be lodged. |
| R2R - various projects | 327,154.00 | No | Majors Corner on TBW recently completed. Will prepare reports for lodgement prior to 30 June 2024. Middle St will be claimed by end of July. |
| TOTAL: | 3,626,511.51 | | Down from \$4,256,651.88 in May |

1.2 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:

| INVESTMENTS SUMMARY - APR 2024 | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Opening Balance | 10,943,157 |
| New Deposits | |
| Interest Reinvested | 29,442 |
| Deposits Redeemed | (1,040,995) |
| Closing Balance | 9,931,603 |

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 MAY 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 | 182 | 3/06/2024 | 5.15% | 1,016,712.33 | 26,108.62 | 1,042,820.94 | 31,112.33 | | 10.24% | 305170588 |
| Commonwealth Bank | TD | 4/09/2023 | 274 | 4/08/2024 | 5.05% | 1,040,995.46 | 39,463.71 | 1,080,459.17 | 23,093.82 | | 10.48% | 37844807 |
| nab | TD | 26/04/2024 | 60 | 25/08/2024 | 4.50% | 1,043,763.11 | 7,720.99 | 1,051,484.10 | 43,763.11 | | 10.51% | 371151983 |
| nab | TD | 2/04/2024 | 90 | 1/07/2024 | 5.00% | 571,262.04 | 7,042.96 | 578,305.00 | 22,909.99 | | 5.75% | 972272676 |
| Commonwealth Bank | TD | 20/12/2023 | 210 | 17/07/2024 | 4.90% | 530,054.65 | 14,943.18 | 544,997.83 | 15,101.53 | | 5.34% | 37844807 |
| nab | TD | 1/12/2023 | 241 | 29/07/2024 | 5.20% | 1,000,000.00 | 34,334.25 | 1,034,334.25 | | | 10.07% | 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 | | 6.51% | 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 | | 6.44% | 37844807 |
| nab | TD | 27/05/2024 | 91 | 26/08/2024 | 4.95% | 538,909.85 | 6,650.74 | 545,560.59 | 26,822.05 | | 5.43% | 488134669 |
| nab | TD | 30/04/2024 | 120 | 28/08/2024 | 5.05% | 1,073,595.94 | 17,824.63 | 1,091,420.57 | 53,040.04 | | 10.81% | 485796185 |
| nab | TD | 18/09/2023 | 365 | 17/09/2024 | 5.20% | 266,579.60 | 13,862.15 | 280,441.75 | 10,801.55 | | 2.68% | 444927886 |
| nab | TD | 29/05/2024 | 120 | 26/09/2024 | 5.00% | 1,025,397.27 | 16,855.86 | 1,042,253.13 | 25,397.27 | | 10.32% | 355915664 |
| nab | TD | 4/10/2023 | 365 | 3/10/2024 | 5.25% | 266,237.89 | 13,977.49 | 280,215.38 | 11,220.75 | | 2.68% | 919512554 |
| nab | TD | 12/01/2024 | 365 | 11/01/2025 | 5.05% | 271,325.36 | 13,701.93 | 285,027.29 | 11,808.04 | | 2.73% | 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 | | | | | 21,698.64 | 1,000,000.00 | 0.00% | 305170588 |
| Commonwealth Bank | TD | | | 20/11/2023 | | | | | 13,154.58 | 514,953.12 | 0.00% | 37844807 |
| nab | TD | | | 1/01/2024 | | | | | 14,859.52 | 514,096.82 | 0.00% | 486918667 |
| 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 |
| Commonwealth Bank | TD | | | 3/05/2024 | | | | | 57,810.59 | 1,040,995.46 | 0.00% | 37844807 |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-------|--------------|------------|---------------|------------|--------------|------|
| Average rate | 5.03% | 9,931,601.77 | 267,206.84 | 10,198,808.61 | 590,489.80 | 8,453,774.54 | 100% |
|--------------|-------|--------------|------------|---------------|------------|--------------|------|

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|------------|
| Capital Value of Portfolio | \$ | 9,931,602 |
| Redeemed Value of Portfolio | \$ | 8,453,775 |
| Market Value of Portfolio 30/06/2024 | \$ | 10,198,809 |
| Estimated Profit/(Loss) 30/06/2024 | \$ | 267,207 |

PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR COMPARATIVE DATA: 31/05/2023

| | | |
|--|----|------------|
| Interest Earned YTD | \$ | 235,397 |
| Market Value of Portfolio | \$ | 13,062,110 |
| Average interest rate | | 4.39% |
| 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 | 1 | 1,040,995.46 | \$ 34,717 | |
| TD Reinvested | 2 | 1,564,307.12 | \$ 23,507 | 4.98% |

| Institutional Exposure | Investment at Market Value | % of Portfolio |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Commonwealth Bank | 2,211,072 | 22% |
| nab | 7,720,529 | 78% |
| | 9,931,602 | 100% |

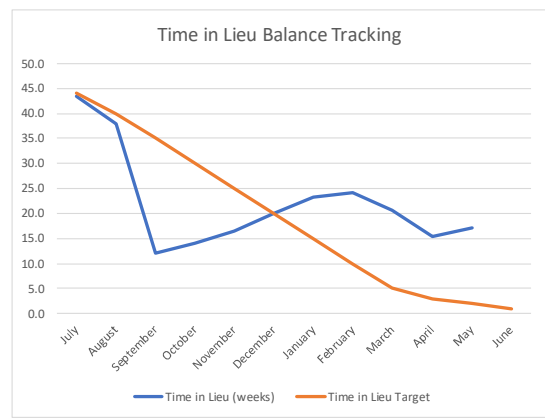
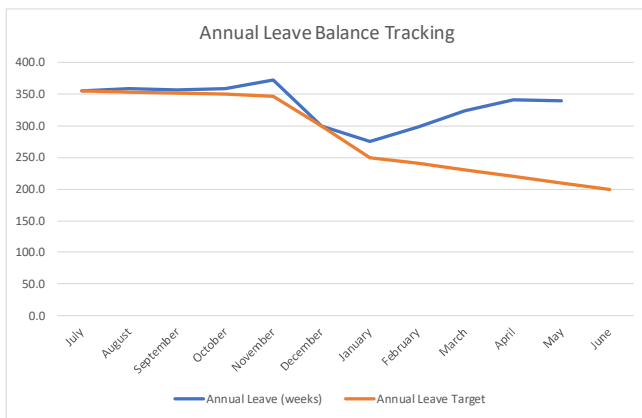
Responsible Accounting Officer's Certification Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Paragraph 212
 The investments have been made in accordance with the Act, Regulations and Walcha Council's Investment Policy.

Signed Rose Strobel (Responsible Accounting Officer)



1.3 Leave Balances

| Directorate | MAY 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 | 115 | 5 | 1 | 109 | 4 | 3 | 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 |
| Infrastructure | 184 | 8 | 12 | 198 | 4 | 46 | |
| Planning & Development | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 2 | 0 | |
| Community & Tourism | 40 | 2 | 4 | 26 | 1 | 5 | |
| Totals | 339 | 16 | 17 | 351 | 11 | 54 | |



Leave balances increasing again due to resourcing constraints. 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: 356 weeks at May 2024

This supports the effective management of leave balances.

1.4 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 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 12 | 27 |
| ENGINEERING | 10 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 8 | 29 |
| ADMINISTRATION | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| Total OPEN CRMS | | | | | | 61 |



April CRM = 267

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.

The tables below indicate the CRM's opened and completed during the month of May. These totals more accurately reflect the activity for the CRM's as some calls that are completed are not closed out. Council is working on improving this process which has seen significant progress from April to May with approximately 200 CRM's closed in May.

| | Opened | Completed |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT | | |
| Development and Building Control - Application Enquiry | 12 | 33 |
| Building Codes / Standards / Regulations - Enquiry | 1 | 2 |
| Companion Animal Enquiry | 0 | 4 |
| Building Maintenance - Squash Courts | 1 | 1 |
| Other Animal Enquiry | 0 | 2 |
| Land Management - Overgrown Vegetation | 0 | 0 |
| Building Maintenance - Other Request | 0 | 1 |
| Council Properties - Leases | 0 | 0 |
| Land Management - Weed Control | 0 | 0 |
| Building Maintenance - Council Offices / Depot | 2 | 1 |
| Squash Court Bookings | 0 | 0 |
| Public Amenities - Cleaning | 3 | 0 |
| Companion Animal Enforcement | 1 | 1 |
| Laws and Enforcement - Investigations | 1 | 0 |
| Building Maintenance - Sportsgrounds | 1 | 0 |
| | 22 | 45 |



| ENGINEERING | Opened | Completed |
|--|---------------|------------------|
| Sewage and Drainage - Drainage Matters - Stormwater | 0 | 0 |
| Waste Management - Missed Waste Service Pickup | 6 | 2 |
| Street Management - Street Trees | 3 | 3 |
| Private Works - Other Request | 2 | 2 |
| Private Works - Roads Maintenance | 3 | 1 |
| Sewage and Drainage - Drainage Matters - Other | 0 | 0 |
| Cemeteries - Enquiry | 6 | 6 |
| Street Management - Footpaths | 5 | 2 |
| Rural Roads - Local Unsealed Maintenance | 6 | 0 |
| Street Management - Driveways | 1 | 0 |
| Street Management - Kerb and Guttering | 0 | 0 |
| Roads and Infrastructure - Road Naming | 0 | 0 |
| Street Management - Median Strips | 0 | 0 |
| Parks and Reserves - Maintenance - Other Maintenance | 1 | 4 |
| Urban Roads - Design and Construction | 1 | 0 |
| Street Management - Road Signs | 0 | 0 |
| Rural Roads - Opening / Closing | 0 | 0 |
| Traffic and Transport - Service Provider Enquiries | 0 | 0 |
| Water Supply - Maintenance - Off Creek Storage | 0 | 0 |
| Water Supply - Meter Reading - Request | 2 | 1 |
| Waste Management - Landfill / Recycling Enquiry | 4 | 1 |
| Roads and Infrastructure - Programs | 1 | 1 |
| Water Supply - Connection Application | 1 | 1 |
| Cemeteries - Internment | 1 | 3 |
| Waste Management - Damaged Bins | 2 | 5 |
| Rural Roads - Regional Sealed Maintenance | 2 | 6 |
| Street Management - Tree over Road | 1 | 3 |
| Traffic and Transport - Parking | 0 | 1 |
| Waste Management - Stolen Bins | 0 | 2 |
| Waste Management - Pickup of Dead Animals | 0 | 1 |
| Waste Management - New Service Request | 0 | 1 |
| Rural Roads - Local Sealed Maintenance | 0 | 1 |
| Roads and Infrastructure - Bridges Maintenance | 1 | 0 |
| Water Supply - Maintenance - Water Mains | 2 | 0 |
| Sewage and Drainage - Maintain - Sewer Mains | 1 | 0 |
| Truck Wash Maintenance | 1 | 0 |
| Plant Equipment and Stores - Manage Plant | 1 | 0 |
| Parks and Reserves - Planning | 1 | 0 |
| Waste Management - Rubbish Removal | 1 | 0 |
| Rural Roads - Regional Unsealed Maintenance | 4 | 0 |
| Street Management - Bus Shelters / Stops | 1 | 0 |
| Street Management - Safety Barriers | 1 | 0 |
| | 48 | 47 |



| ADMINISTRATION | Opened | Completed |
|---|---------------|------------------|
| Rates and Valuations - Rate Fees and Charges | 2 | 1 |
| Risk Management - Claims Management | 0 | 0 |
| Community Relations - Meetings | 0 | 0 |
| Rates and Valuations - Rate Payments | 2 | 0 |
| Rates and Valuations - Change of Name / Address | 1 | 1 |
| | 5 | 2 |

2 Community Services

| Current Grants | | |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Library | nil | |
| Youth | Winter & Spring Holiday Activities | Successful |
| WCCC | Extension of CHSP services to include Home Maintenance | Application has been submitted |
| WCCC | Aged Care Capital Assistance Program | Round 2 should open in June 2024 |
| Housing | | |

| Operational Overview | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| WCCC | <p>A request has been submitted to Transport for NSW to increase the number of CHSP trips we are funded for, \$30,000 additional funding has now been approved. We are already over delivering on these trips, so this request is to align funding with our actual delivery.</p> <p>Our bus was involved in an accident and is currently off the road. Our driver was not at fault, and we have the contact details for the other driver. We are currently hiring a replacement bus at a high cost, so we hope to have our bus back on the road as soon as possible.</p> <p>We are investigating long-term leasing an additional vehicle (10 seats), however the wait time on these is extremely long. We will continue to look at our options in this regard.</p> <p>We will be ending our meals on wheels arrangement with Riverview due to changes in the requirements for meals in residential aged care facilities requiring a larger choice for residents. Tamworth Meals on Wheels will be the new meal provider and they offer a large range of</p> |



| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| | <p>frozen meals that can be ordered, and delivered to our clients frozen or hot. The new system has been trialled and those participating have been very happy with the meals.</p> |
| Preschool | <p>Work should be commencing in early June for the sandpit upgrade and footpath installation.</p> <p>The doors will be having some additional safety features fitted within the coming weeks. This will mean that they are locked for the majority of the time, and people will need to be “buzzed in” by a staff member. This can happen from the reception desk, or remotely using an app. This will increase safety for the children and staff, as currently the doors are left unlocked during opening hours.</p> |
| Library & Youth | <p>We were unsuccessful with our Public Library Infrastructure application. This is disappointing; however we are aware that the State Library feels our library is too small, and they would like to see it enlarged or relocated.</p> |
| Early Intervention | <p>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.</p> |
| Residential Aged Care | <p>Work has commenced on contacting suppliers for pricing and operational requirement information. Riverview has many systems that will need to have a seamless transition, so it makes sense to understand the work required for this as early as possible.</p> <p>A site visit has been arranged with the Gwydir aged care services team to leverage off their experience. An internal project team has been set up to investigate the transitional requirements.</p> <p>The building condition report investigations have commenced, with a final report expected mid June. This will tell us if there are any major structural concerns.</p> |
| Building Assets | <p>Library guttering quotes have been received. We hope to commence this work shortly.</p> <p>2 quotes have been received for the electrical upgrade at Carlec. I am waiting on a start date from our preferred contractor.</p> |



Priorities for May / June

- Riverview Working Group
- Aged Care Infrastructure Grant investigations

2.1 Walcha Council Community Care (WCCC)

May 2024

1.1 Groups

With the addition of our ad-hoc funding we have been put in the wonderful position of being able to put on some fantastic excursion options. To celebrate this and to do something fun for our clients, we shouted a day out to Gloucester. This included a very comfortable coach for the drive, a trip to the Gloucester museum, the Gloucester Recreation club for lunch, morning tea at Carson's Lookout and afternoon tea at Nowendoc. It was a huge day but a lot of fun.



The men's group had a great morning tea as well as a great day trip to Gunnedah, where we checked out the Water Tower museum and had lunch at the Gunnedah Hotel. We also went up Pensioner Hill (it just felt right) and spent some time at the lookout, admiring the amazing art and spectacular view. The museum is built within the water tower itself and has four levels. This saw everyone doing a lot of walking up and down stairs but the quality of the displays

meant that we didn't hear a single complaint, only smugness at having "earned" the beer they were planning to have with lunch!





The women’s group also had a great morning tea and a fun day out that was not without some drama. Half an hour before they were due to leave, the pub that was booked for lunch called to tell us that they had closed their kitchen down. Then the hospital bus (our mode of transport for the day) was sent off for a rego check and wasn’t available for another hour! Thankfully Meg was on the case, booked everyone in for lunch at Kootingal, Robbie made coffees and an impromptu morning tea and they eventually got the bus and went to Moonbi lookout, a great lunch and an ice cream.

The Wanderer’s excursions are back up and running after we made contact with some of our ATSI clients and were able to develop some programming that they were excited to engage in. This month they went on a trip to Glen Innes for the day where they spent some time catching up with friends and family, op shopping and going out to lunch. They stopped for morning tea at Guyra and ice creams on the way home at Armidale.

1.2 Transport

Medical drives – 58 trips were delivered during the month, including local trips as well as to Tamworth and Armidale.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Bus to Armidale (every Thursday) Week 1: 7 Week 2: 7 Week 3: 6 Week 4: 5 Week 5: 7</p> | <p>Group Transport (excursions) 10/5- Gloucester trip- 35 15/05- Women’s Group- 11 21/05- Men’s Group- 8</p> |
| <p>Taxi Vouchers – 32 clients used the service 317 trips being provided.</p> | <p>Additional Group Transport N/A</p> |

Meg has shown true leadership skills throughout this month as she was also driving our bus when it was rear ended at an intersection. Luckily nobody was injured and she was able to get them to the Bendemeer Hotel for coffees by the fire while we came up with a game plan. The trip to Tamworth had to be cancelled and a rescue mission was sent to collect them all. This means that WCCC currently has no bus and we have no clear idea as to when it will be back on deck. We are hiring buses through Fiona’s Minibuses in Tamworth who we already had a great working relationship with and they have been fantastic on such short notice.





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.

Our additional funding has also allowed us to look into additional meal options for those that require a different model than the one we have with Riverview. This can be a case of wanting more choices, smaller portions or being able to determine their own time and date of delivery. To do this we have partnered with Meals on Wheels Tamworth branch and are getting weekly deliveries from their frozen range. The combination of the two programs is going very well and we believe this will expand our engagement across the community.

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: 495

Mains: 160
Frozens: 253
Desserts: 82

WCCC had a staff development day this month and we included a group of clients in an afternoon meeting that then combined with our consultative committee as we discussed upcoming plans for the program, how the new funding will affect day to day operations and requested feedback on the current plans and asked for additional ideas. Through this we were able to prepare for a potential upcoming accreditation, plan the major events for the rest of 2024 and look into future ongoing program growth and development.

1.5 Feedback and Complaints

We have had a number of clients call to thank us for their birthday cards. This continues to be a most appreciated part of the program and has the benefit of making our seniors feel special and remembered.

We also had a number of our clients call to thank us for a great trip to Gloucester. The museum was well enjoyed and the lunch was great!

Jess Goodwin
Community Care Coordinator



2.2 Library and Youth

May 2024

- Loans: 516
- Returns: 518
- Reservations placed & issued: 222
- New members: 3
- Door count: 761
- Wi-fi use: 39
- Computer use: 57
- Housebound: 12

Other statistics:

- eLibrary: Borrow Box
 - 85 users
 - 220 eAudiobooks
 - 106 eBooks

The Walcha Library has continued to be a busy place again this month. The number of loans and returns increased again, as did reservations placed and issued. The new member registrations held steady, and the door count slipped lower than last month, which was a holiday period, so that is expected. Public access computer, internet and wifi usage dropped slightly, but the housebound program serviced a higher than usual number of members. The eLibrary stats showed that despite the total number of users increasing from last report, the number of borrowed items dropped slightly.

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
- The library worked with preschool staff to organise an excursion to the library. The children were very excited for this special opportunity (in both the 3 year old and 4 year old groups). The photos, artwork and educator communication given to families about the day, was great way to reach young families to promote the library, connecting and encouraging families to visit the library with their young families.
- Walcha Library helped promote a CNRL Author talk held in Tamworth this month with an email to the three bookclubs and their members.


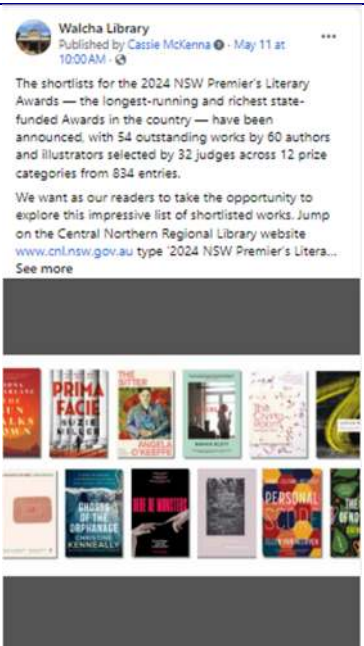
Social Media

The popularity of the Walcha Library Facebook now has 369 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 11 posts on the Facebook page, reaching 1300 people, this is an



increase to last month. With only 2 Instagram posts shared throughout May, the content received 35 'likes'. 275 people follow the library and youth events and information shared through this social media platform, with 6 new followers this month.

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

| Engagement content: fun and interactive posts shared to engage with the library community and/or acknowledge events/themes being celebrated in wider community | # people reached on Facebook | People engaging on Instagram | |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Total 5 engagement posts | 403 | 26 | |
| National Reconciliation Week | 180 89 | 26 |  |
| Dept of Regional NSW Youth Survey | 40 | | |
| NSW Premiers Literacy Awards | 94 | |  |



| Service content: informative posts about the library services, facilities and programs | # people reached on Facebook | People engaging on Instagram | |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Total 10 service posts | 1383 | 9 | |
| Storytime promotion | 76 769 151 | 9 | |
| Legal Info State Library of NSW collection - Did you know? series | 76 48 62 89 79 | | |
| eLibrary promotion Libby app – Picks of the month | 33 | | |

The puzzle library loans dropped again this month, with only 6 puzzles issued, however there was movement in the collection with new puzzles donated. This allowed for weeding of the collection and the Walcha Library now holds 131 jigsaw puzzles in its collection. The main display at the library entrance again including puzzles this month.

This month the Seed Library collection continued to be accessed by the community, and tended to by our volunteers and staff.

The magazine collection held by CNRL is updated by the branches each year. This process has involved looking at loans, consulting with staff and members, especially those who regularly

borrow these items. Walcha have applied for some new subscriptions, and dropped some that haven't been used. These changes will come through in the new financial year.



With National Reconciliation Week showcasing First Nations writers on displays around the library, the Kids Corner display also included books, and colouring in on the theme of National Reconciliation Week, which will carry over into next month, as this celebration runs from 27 May to 3 June each year.

Storytime held at the end of May, was repeated in early June, at the end of NRW.



With almost 20 participants in each of the two NRW Storytime sessions, and a further 7 attending the baby rhyme time session beforehand, it is evident that the library staff's recent changes to the structure, layout and promotion of the storytime sessions has been positively impacted by the collaboration with Walcha Council's Preschool and advertising targeted at parents with multiple under school aged children. Library staff worked with Amaroo Land Council's Shannon Green to deliver a session showcasing First Nations books, stories, discussions, games, songs and craft. Preschoolers in the older group, also talked about cultural diversity and unique aspects of other cultures including a craft activity focussed on the traditional head dress of Torres Strait Island culture. At the request of the children, their 'dhari' craft was displayed at the front of the library for their families (and wider community) to see.





The State Library of NSW DrugInfo & Legal Info collections held at the Walcha Library were assessed this month, against the online directory on the SL's website to ensure the library holds the most recent and up-to-date resources. A series of posts were shared on social media to inform and encourage members to explore this collection, including some examples of how the information might be used in real life, eg how to protect from scammers, negotiating with neighbours, will and estate planning, and 40 most common legal topics available in the library and online.

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.

Library Volunteer, local school student Matilda, continues to help maintain the collection and process items after school one day a week, when she is available.

The Walcha Library, 'Taphouse' and Penny King's Bookclubs held their May meetings this month with average numbers. The 'Taphouse' group having discovered this month that the Walcha



Taphouse has closed, they were able to meet at the Walcha Council Community Care facility on middle street, and are in discussions about where to go in the future (and what to re-name the group). The library staff and bookclub members would like to thank Sean Pendleton from the Walcha Taphouse for his hospitality having hosted this bookclub's monthly meetings since its inception in March 2021. He was very supporting of this bookclub, and accommodated for the group with ease each month.

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. We have consistently hosted remote workers from a range of industries this month, especially now the winter weather is coming in and the library is well heated.

The Walcha Local History Centre asked for updates to the information given to people making enquiries about their service. A new flyer, and an update to the library website were required. With changes to the preferred mode of contact and removal of the library operating hours as they are not associated with the history centre availability.

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 almost 1 hour this month. Staff have also been provided with a presentation to use with youth and seniors in the community about Cyber Safety. This presentation was provided through the Fair trading Youth Community Voice Network Meeting held this month (online) and library staff have begun discussions about how to best present it to the Walcha community.

Staff have received Safetyhub training this month via Council's subscription to Safetycare again this month. Library & youth coordinator Cassie also participated in two Youth Development Officer meetings this month, with the NSW Governments Office for Regional Youth. These teams meetings have provided a follow up to the forum attended in Armidale earlier this year. The first was focussed on community mapping in the youth space, and both gave participants the opportunity to share ideas, raise questions, and collaborate with other council youth officers in the district. There is expected to be one more of these meetings in this series before the state government restructures this program and team.

Youth Activities

With Autumn holiday program, and Youth Week wrapped up, library & youth staff applied for the Winter and Spring Holiday Break Program, and they were successful. This was a competitive process, and some Council's only received one of the programs, or part of their application. Funded by the NSW Governments Office of Regional Youth, these activities were taken from the bank of ideas collected from Walcha youth over the years, from consultation with young people who participate in the activities, and the Youth Advisory Committee. With a quick deadline, it was decided that two basic ideas for each would form the basis of the application.



Winter: laser tag hire & comedy workshop

Spring: escape room bus trip & basketball workshop (fully subsidised)

The winter holiday program is being finalised, and will be launched by mid-June. It is expected that there will be enough interest to hold a tournament of laser tag, where young people organise a team, and play a series of games, with other activities for when they aren't playing and a BBQ lunch. The Comedy Workshop will be held at the Walcha Bowling Club, so as to utilise the stage, PA system and catering, and support local.

The activities that will be supported by the 'normal' Walcha Council Youth and Library budget at little or no cost for the upcoming holiday program include:

- Lego Club
- NAIDOC Storytime
- CNRL Wind Tunnel Workshop
- Feel the beat! Dance workshop
- Netball Clinic with NNSW

Cassie McKenna
Library Coordinator

2.3. Preschool

May 2024

Staff Training

Lacie and myself attended a training about teaching strategies and behaviour solutions delivered by Sue Larkey. The training develops the knowledge and understanding of Autism Spectrum disorder, how children with ASD learn differently to others, different behaviours they may display, sensory differences & differences between tantrums, meltdowns & anxiety. Sue Larkey is a highly qualified special educator who has taught in mainstream schools and in special schools. She has written several books and is very passionate about her mission to inspire educators and parents.

It was a very valuable training day that I would recommend all of our staff attend when she returns to the area, the information around ASD and many other learning difficulties is forever changing and when we are presented with an opportunity to refresh and gain new skills it was gladly taken up.

Sarah and myself also completed a 2-part free training delivered by the Smith family called 'Lets Count' around the importance of mathematics in the early years of a child development. This training reinforced a lot of our current teaching practices and taught us some new strategies and practices that have been embedded into our everyday practices.



Community involvement

This month our preschool children took part in an excursion to the library for story time. The last week in May was reconciliation week, the excursion to the library was to listen to our librarian Cassie read some Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island Cultural stories. Cassie is Torres Strait Island and she read us stories about her culture and showed us photos of her family and we created a traditional Dari head piece.

Shannon from the local land council Amaroo dropped into say hello to the children and read a story, as well as teaching the children how to say hello and goodbye in the local Dughutti language. After story time we looked at the amazing art works and bush garden at the land council. We borrowed a book to bring back to preschool.

Kindergarten Orientation Morning

St Patrick’s Primary school held their Kindergarten orientation morning on Tuesday 14 May. I attended in support of families and the children, spending time with the preschool children and also with the parents.

Walcha Central will hold their orientation morning later in June. It is a big step for children to finish at preschool and transition into kindergarten.

Melinda Bird
Preschool Nominated Supervisor

2.4 Tourism

MAY 2024

Number of visitors to Visitor Information Centre (VIC)

| MAY | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
|-----------------|------|------|------|------|
| Walk in’s | 364 | 446 | 365 | 405 |
| Phone enquiries | 17 | 19 | 36 | 35 |
| Email enquiries | 15 | 3 | 7 | 1 |

| WEBSITE STATISTICS | May | Apr | Mar | Feb |
|--|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| www.walchansw.com.au | | | | |
| Total Visits | 209,775 | 103,186 | 283,833 | 305,100 |
| Total Pages | 10,054,393 | 3,914,270 | 3,212,740 | 2,403,702 |
| Total Hits | 10,268,104 | 4,270,333 | 3,516,272 | 2,633,358 |

Notes on statistics

A huge increase in website hits this month due to our Autumn colour in Walcha promotion. The most viewed pages on the tourism website this month included; Where to stay, Conference and meeting venues, local business directory, downloads of the Walcha Tourism brochure and Where to Eat.



Autumn Colours of Walcha Photography competition

Over 200 entries have been received for the competition, with some very high-quality entries submitted that will be fantastic for current and future promotional use by Walcha Tourism. There has been excellent engagement with the content we have been feeding out through our Tourism social media channels. Robbie Burnett, with assistance from key Tourism staff, will be judging the competition to select the winners and highly commended. These will be announced in early June.

Walcha Motorcycle Rally

Tickets went live on 31 May for this year's event, with a great uptake immediately in ticket purchases from attendees very eager to come to Walcha in November. In town accommodation houses are booked out, some with extensive waitlists. This year's program includes attendance by several highly regarded special guests; including Wendy Crockett, an American long-distance motorcycle rider and Ian McPhee who hold the Guinness World Record the Longest journey on a motorcycle in a single country (US) in 2022. Victorian based adventure skills trainer, Miles Davis, who is one of the most recognisable identities in the Australian adventure-riding fraternity will be attending and the return of the fastest women in the world, Niki Zak. There will be organised Q&As with skills demonstrations by these personalities during the event.

Visitor Economy Summit

I attended this year's Visitor Economy Summit, hosted by Destination Country and Outback NSW (DNCO) in Armidale. 'The Power of Storytelling', was this year's theme. By taking customers on a journey, a story is the most powerful tool to help us connect with an audience. There was an incredible line-up of speakers, including local sculptor Stephen King who spoke about bringing sculpture to rural regions and Walcha's renowned *Open Air Gallery*.

Destination Country and Outback (DNCO) is one of 7 Destination Networks (DNs) and covers 45% of the state. Country and Outback NSW covers 25 local government areas including Armidale, Brewarrina, Broken Hill, Bourke, Dubbo, Glen Innes, Inverell, Gunnedah, Liverpool Plains, Moree, Narrabri, Tamworth, Walcha and Walgett.

DNCO was created by the NSW Government through Destination NSW (DNSW) in 2016 and has been established to assist building the capacity of industry and to strengthen the visitor economy of the Country and Outback NSW

Oxley Highway

We are still getting daily enquiries and visitors arriving to Walcha (or avoiding Walcha) wondering about the status of the Oxley Hwy (and if it is closed or open). I continue to communicate information to local businesses and surrounding Visitor Information Centre's reinforcing that the road is open and to spread the word. I have also been liaising with Transport for NSW with suggestions on how communication could be improved and confusion reduced regarding the current status of the Oxley Highway as it has such a negative effect on our local businesses and visitation to Walcha.



Visitor Information Centre – Visitor book comments

Comments from visitors to the Walcha Visitor Information Centre this month include:

Wonderful Walcha!! Love this town. Thanks for having us. Café Royal and Information Centre are fabulous! (Mona Vale), Very interesting historic town (Brisbane), Great (Hinton), Glad we dropped in – visiting from Catho, So very helpful and proud of the town – thank you (QLD), Thank you (Murwillumbah), Very helpful staff (VIC), Very helpful staff (UK), Great help - thanks! (Roona QLD), Lovely town (Tea Gardens)

SOCIAL MEDIA INSIGHTS – WALCHA TOURISM

Tourism social media posting for May

The majority of this months' posts were promoting Walcha's stunning Autumn colour to encourage visitation at this popular time of year. We also assisted with promoting the Cars and Coffee morning run by Walcha Antique Machinery and Truck Show in conjunction with the Walcha Farmers' Market.

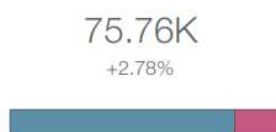
Followers

Walcha Tourism



Impressions

Walcha Tourism



Post interactions

Walcha Tourism

































Ranking of posts

Walcha Tourism

Showing 15 posts sorted by Impressions

| Date | Text | Network | Impressions | Interactions |
|--------------------------|--|--|-------------|--------------|
| May 25, 2024 10:42 AM |  AUTUMN leaves in Walcha NSW are falling. What a... | Go  | 11.48K | 529 |
| May 26, 2024 10:00 AM |  "After leaving Walcha and the beautiful autumn ... | Go  | 11.33K | 1,021 |
| May 15, 2024 02:06 AM |  This Saturday the Walcha Antique Machinery and ... | Go  | 4,417 | 299 |
| May 24, 2024 10:15 AM |  The magical tones and hues of AUTUMN in Walcha ... | Go  | 2,883 | 581 |
| May 23, 2024 09:42 AM |  Golden colours of Autumn in Walcha NSW... More ... | Go  | 2,076 | 508 |
| May 18, 2024 09:00 AM |  Stunning Autumn hues like these continue to del... | Go  | 1,826 | 485 |
| May 11, 2024 08:49 AM |  Beautiful Walcha Autumn images like these conti... | Go  | 1,822 | 340 |
| May 17, 2024 10:00 AM |  Autumn is one of our favourite seasons and a gr... | Go  | 1,760 | 385 |
| May 30, 2024 11:17 AM |  Stopping for a bite to eat in Walcha this morni... | Go  | 1,699 | 107 |
| May 09, 2024 08:46 AM |  AUTUMN Trees and Hills of Light in Walcha. Anot... | Go  | 1,515 | 193 |
| May 01, 2024 12:00 PM |  Fantastic to see over 220 bikes plus 20-30 supp... | Go  | 1,484 | 472 |
| May 15, 2024 09:33 AM |  More beautiful images taken in Walcha for the A... | Go  | 1,351 | 305 |
| May 12, 2024 10:00 AM |  Come up and discover the autumn beauty o... | Go  | 1,270 | 355 |
| May 05, 2024 10:00 AM |  Autumn is a lovely time of year to explore Walc... | Go  | 1,223 | 97 |



| Date | Text | Network | Impressions | Interactions |
|--------------------------|--|--|-------------|--------------|
| May 04, 2024 09:09 AM |  Autumn glory in Walcha NSW. Still spectacular o... | Go  | 1,162 | 339 |

Lisa Kirton
Tourism and Visitor Information Services Coordinator



Item 10:

Committee Reports

That Council RECEIVE and NOTE the Committee Reports as presented.



Walcha Council Beautification Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

held on

Wednesday, 22 May 2024

at

1.00 pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

The Chair welcomed all members and declared the meeting open.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Anna Lummis (Infrastructure Support Officer), Cynthia Morris (Team Leader - Horticulture), Robert Powell (Manager Urban & Utilities).

Committee Minutes



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MEETING:

2.1 List of potential future projects for the Beautification Committee

RECOMMENDATION: That Council source grant funding to complete the streetscape project.

APOLOGIES: Nil

1. CONFIRMATION OF MEETING MINUTES & ACTIONS ARISING

Previous minutes of **21 February 2024** were endorsed by members without correction.

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

Declaration of Interests: Nil

2. GENERAL BUSINESS:

2.1 List of potential future projects for the Beautification Committee

Members discussed the items on this list and prioritised them collectively. Two were selected as being the highest priority but also achievable; the cleaning of the footpaths and the completion of the Hospital Wall Mural project.

Members feel strongly that the overall Streetscape Project needs to be completed, or at least progressed; as was done historically, through its inclusion as a separate line item in the Council budget each year.

DID advised that the 2024-2025 draft operational plan is currently on public exhibition, so now is the time to make a submission on the budget, if members would like to.

Members enquired if the garden planting component of the Hospital Wall Mural Project was included in the costs for the mural; Stephen King advised it was not. Clr Pointing enquired if there were funds in the parks and gardens budget for this garden to be completed; DID advised that the garden works would need to be scoped to determine if there is a possibility of the P&G budget being used for this component of the project.

DID advised members that each project on this list needs to at least have a cost estimation against them; in addition to the prioritisation. This will assist in drafting the annual budget, and determine whether these any of these projects can be built into the operational budget or if they will need a grant to fund them. TLH suggested that if members could recall what plants were decided on for the garden, or if they are listed on the design/plan; she may be able to propagate plants in spring time for this garden.

ACTION: DID to bring the streetscape designs to the next meeting for members to review.

ACTION: Secretariat to locate the Hospital Wall project design, if in Council's possession; and share with members.

ACTION: Secretariat to locate the Walcha Memorial Cenotaph project design, to confirm if the original design included a hand rail; as it doesn't currently have one.

ACTION: UW team to trial a "patch" of footpath cleaning in the vicinity of WOAG .15 "The Cocktail Lounge", to determine if it is successful and is feasible to undertake the entirety of the footpath; once water restrictions are lifted.



2.2 Derby Street Upgrade Design and Project Management – RFT W22/221 – Project Update

Members discussed their concern that the updated tree planting species list, particularly the inclusion of *Ginkgo's*; doesn't reflect the advice and feedback that was provided from them. DID advised that this committee's feedback and advice was taken into consideration, along with many others, including professional advice; to make the final decision on the tree planting species list for this project.

The design for the water main relocation, which will impact the embankment garden located adjacent to the Walcha War Memorial; was discussed. DID and the MU&U outlined the contributing factors which informed the design decision to relocate the water main to this location; thus, requiring the removal and replacement of the garden on this embankment.

ACTION: Secretariat to include a committee site inspection in the August 2024 meeting agenda, to inspect the existing Walcha street trees' species that are included in the Derby Street Project tree planting species list, which members don't believe are prospering.

2.3 DRAFT Walcha Council Tree Management Guidelines

MU&U presented this operational document to the committee. These guidelines will provide the framework that Council staff will work within for all council tree maintenance works, and will be a living document.

ACTION: MU&U to present the Walcha Council Street Tree Species List, at the August 2024 meeting.

2.4 Winter Tree Maintenance Program

MU&U presented the 2024 Winter Tree Maintenance Program to the committee, which is planned to commence in the next 4 weeks. Members queried why the *Plane Trees* at the swimming pool need to be removed; MU&U explained that their root systems are intruding into the sewer main and have caused multiple blockages and a repair to be completed on this main. These seasonal scheduled tree maintenance programs will be presented to this committee at future meetings, and tree maintenance works will continue to be advertised through Facebook and The Advocate; as per the Tree Management Guidelines.

DID spoke about "off set planting" for instances where replanting in certain locations isn't suitable.

2.5 Walsh Street Tree Removal – Walsh Street and Middle Street Rehabilitation – Design and Construction – RFT W22/225

The 11 *Claret Ash Trees* on the Northern side of the road in Walsh Street had to be removed as they were impacting nearby infrastructure assets; an investigation into the available options which would provide enough space for the replacement of these assets, whilst still preserving these street trees was undertaken. A qualified arborist inspected these trees on 2 separate occasions and advised that the rehabilitation works on Walsh Street would likely have a significant impact on the trees' structural integrity and longevity due to the deep excavations required to replace the watermain and reconstruct the kerb and gutter.



Members were disappointed that they weren't consulted prior to the removal of these trees, as they would have strongly disputed it. DID explained that the potential removal of these trees was discussed in a previous BAC meeting and alternative options to removal were thoroughly investigated; unfortunately, it wasn't feasible to retain these trees and deliver the project. Upon completion of the investigation; Councillors were briefed, removal notifications were placed on each individual tree, an advertisement was placed in the advocate and posts were uploaded to Facebook.

Clr Reilly enquired if the trees that were removed, will be replaced; DID advised that tree replacement decisions won't be made until this rehabilitation project is completed; as any potential tree plantings need to be sympathetic to the infrastructure in the surrounding area. Although, it was noted that all 11 trees which were removed won't be replaced with 11 trees at this location.

2.6 Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Tidy Towns Awards 2024

DID spoke about the TT Awards; the Committee believes that due to the amount of entries required to be in the running for the overall award, and the time and effort required to submit each entry; Council should enter in next year's awards instead, when we have current projects completed and can meet the minimum threshold for overall award.

3. OTHER BUSINESS:

3.2 "Old Irish Town" Thunderbolts Way

Caroline Street enquired if Council could access a grant to fence around "Old Irish Town", located on "Homeleigh" 636 Thunderbolts Way; and replace the sign that used to be there.

She discussed the importance of this area in Walcha's history, as well as it's prominent location along the entry to town, and feels it's disappointing that it's not being preserved.

Land owner, Jimmy Nivison; advised Caroline that he was under the impression that the Walcha Historical Society were to look after this historical location. Carol King; as a member of the Walcha Historical Society, advised that this topic has been discussed by the Historical Society and they don't believe the caretaking role of this location, is in their jurisdiction.

ACTION: DID to investigate funding options

3.3 Tree Maintenance Requests

Phyllis Hoy reported that the following street tree maintenance is required:

1. Tree near the "Old Craft Shop" needs to be removed (TLH is aware).
2. Pine Tree in Memorial Park, on the NW side, needs to be removed.

TLH advised that this tree is a "Lone Pine" species and she thought that the War Memorial Park is required to have one of these species in it. This tree was propagated from a seed of a particular "Lone Pine" species and was planted there with input from the Walcha RSL Sub Branch.

ACTION: TLH to investigate if this tree can be removed and if a replacement tree of the same species is required to be planted; can it be planted in a more suitable location in the park.



Next Meeting: 14 August 2024 at 1:00pm.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR THANKED MEMBERS AND DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 3:20PM.

Homeleigh, Irish Town

These buildings date from the 1850's when a block of 84 acres was taken up by Mary Blake. Her parents Thomas and Bridget Bird occupied the land in the 1840's. The Blake family and their descendants the Betts family lived here until the 1980's.

This remnant of a small farm is the only survivor of a number of small holdings in this area taken up mainly by people born in Ireland. The settlement was known as 'Irish Town'. The sites of other homes nearby are marked by clumps of trees.

The original Blake cottage is the one room slab cottage with a lean-to verandah along one side. It has one window and doors on both sides. It would have had a dirt floor and a wooden shingle roof, but now has an iron roof and a timber floor. The larger house was built in 1889. It has four rooms plus a verandah with two small rooms at each end. It is lined with pine boards. There are four other structures in the Homeleigh complex

- a slab store and barn, near the road
- one room slab dairy with earth floor and no windows.
- long drop dunny made from a corrugated iron water tank.
- a dog kennel made from four slab posts, wire mesh and a corrugated iron drum.

These buildings are significant as reminders of the homes of small settlers of the nineteenth century. The men and women survived on fruit, vegetables and animals produced on their farms and by working on the large pastoral properties in the district, especially Bergen-op-Zoom to the west and Ohio in the east.

Most of the Irish families went from here in the 1870's to the Tia and Glen Morrison gold fields south of Walcha.

'Homeleigh' is PRIVATE PROPERTY
Inspection can be arranged through the
Walcha and District Historical Society.



Walcha Council Audit Risk & Improvement Committee Minutes

held on

Monday 17 June 2024

at 9.02am at

Walcha Council Chambers

PRESENT: Mr S Coates – Chair, Mr LJ Hullick, Dr ML Caelli and Clr Nena Hicks

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr PE Hood – General Manager, Deputy Mayor A-MC Pointing, CC Martin – Director Corporate & Community, EL Hobbs – Executive Assistant; Karen Litchfield – Internal Auditor and Mike Lockie – Manager Performance & People.

GUESTS:

Jan-Michael Perez – Audit Office and Veera Kaur – External Auditor – Forsyths (Audio visual attendance)

1. APOLOGIES:

Finance Manager – Rose Strobel

Committee Minutes



2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES HELD ON MONDAY 4 MARCH 2024:

It was **MOVED** that the Walcha Council Audit Risk & Improvement Committee Meeting minutes held at Walcha Council on Monday 4 March 2024, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record with the following amendments:

Item 5.2 Risk Report:

The Draft Business Continuity Plan was sent as an attachment. Comments were as follows:

- *Page 7 of BCP – need to insert a timeline in regard to ‘disruption triggers’ so everyone is aware of when the BCP is to be enacted.*

- *Page 15 under Spokesperson first line should read:*

“No person other than the nominated spokesperson may divulge about an Event and information to the media.”

- *Need to have procedures per work group.*
- *Create operational group plans for core business groups such as water, sewerage; capital works, planning, Office of General Manager etc*
- *Create tactic plans which sits above the operational plans and below an overarching Strategic Plan.*

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

5. GENERAL BUSINESS:

5.1 Financial Report

5.1.1 Engagement Letter / Plan for 2024 – Audit Office

Jan Michael Perez - Audit Office & Veera Kaur – Forsyths were in attendance via Zoom to speak to the Annual Engagement Plan for 2024. Jan-Michael Perez took the plan as read. Items discussed:

- the Key Risks which are Information Technology general controls and cyber security and Valuation of Roads Infrastructure and Fair Value Assessment of Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment.



- Engagement Timetable which highlighted that the ARIC requirements to see the Financial Statements before initially sending to the External Auditor (19 August ARIC Meeting) and before Council certifies the financial statements.
- Mitigation of risks in Management Letter.
- Inclusion in timetable for ARIC to view the Financial Statements at the August ARIC Meeting before Council send them to the Audit Team.

It was **MOVED** that the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the Annual Engagement Plan for 2024 with the ARIC dates requirements to be included in the timetable.

CARRIED

5.1.2 Quarterly Budget Review Statements as at 31 March 2024

An overview was presented by Director Corporate & Community. A number of items were discussed. All questions were answered with valid replies.

It was **MOVED** that the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the items included in the Quarterly Budget Review Statements as at 31 March 2024.

CARRIED

5.2 Risk Report

The Risk Report was taken as read by the Committee. Items commented on were:

- Clarification on public exhibition of Risk Framework – framework not on public exhibition however the Risk Management Policy is on public exhibition.
- Risk Appetite is important within this framework and look forward to the final document.
- If its normal business of Council we should have a risk appetite that we can do it. If it is not normal business of Council, eg: gym, childcare or aged care, then that falls under a different appetite.

It was **MOVED** that the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the Risk Report.

CARRIED



5.3 Work Health & Safety Report

The Work Health & Safety Report was presented by Manager Performance & People. Items highlighted were:

- Recruitment of WHS Officer – this is a shared position with Uralla Shire Council. We haven't been successful yet however we have a couple of good applications this round.
- 'Near Misses' – We have noticed that Staff have been reporting more 'near misses' which is great in assisting us to evaluate and improve processes.

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

CARRIED

5.4 Governance & Compliance Report

The Governance & Compliance Report was tabled at the Meeting and was presented by Manager Performance & People and the General Manager.

SafeWork Improvement Notices:

1. **Waste Transfer Facility – Test & Tagging of Electrical Equipment**

Internally train staff to complete this process – more economic.

2. **Waste Transfer Facility – Eliminate risk of Falls in General Waste**

Quite a drop from back of ute into skip bins – looking at other ideas, consulting with other Councils as well.

Draft Monitoring & Surveillance Policy

- Ensure that the storage of surveillance complies with the Records Act and that each individual's privacy is maintained. This is managed with signage to ensure everyone knows they are being monitored and security on footage collection and viewing – this is only monitored by the Director Corporate & Community.

It was **MOVED** that the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the Governance and Compliance Report.

CARRIED



5.5 Internal Audit Report

Council's Internal Auditor was welcomed by the Chair. The Internal Auditor spoke about:

- the Annual Work Plan as well as the Four Year Work Plan. A follow up meeting with Walcha Council Executive to finalise these plans will be the final step.
- First Audit Scope is for Stores and Small Plant. Internal Auditor will send to ARIC out of session so this can move forward.
- Next Meeting: Internal Auditor will be away and will attend via Audio Visual between 8:45am and 10:30am.
- The ARIC Charter was created using the former Model however OLG have advised it doesn't comply with the new guidelines. Therefore the Chair suggested the General Manager to seek exemptions until after the Elections, on anything that is non-compliance by 1 July 2024. The new one will be presented to the August 2024 ARIC Meeting.

It was **MOVED** that the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the Internal Audit Report **FURTHER THAT**:

1. The Scope for Stores & Small Plant Audit be sent to ARIC Members out of session before the 19 August 2024 ARIC Meeting; and
2. The General Manager seek an exemption on the Audit Charter from the Office of Local Government with the exemption to extend to the first meeting of Council after the Local Government Elections, which would be in the vicinity of early October 2024.

5.6 Other Business Report

5.5.1 Major Capital Works Update – Spreadsheet attached

The General Manager presented the report and advised that the completed projects will drop off once they have been noted they are complete. The General Manager spoke to each project and advised of any updates.

It was **MOVED** that the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the Major Capital Works Update Report.

5.5.2 Update on NEWA – Verbal report by General Manager

The General Manager advised the Committee of the status of the New England Weeds Authority. It has had an Administrator appointed and a Meeting was attended by all General Manager's and Mayors of the member Councils. The Administrator gave a briefing:



- A lot to work through but it is the worst he has ever seen.
- Basically \$1M in debt (to get a neutral position) which includes the contractor who built the new building (\$440K). Also includes: superannuation; tax; wages; etc.
- All member Councils will need to cover these debts. We will have to adjust our budget to increase to the amount that is required by each member Council. This amount is not known yet.
- The County Council is not sustainable – relies heavily on WAP funding revenue. This WAP funding is being reviewed and is not automatic anymore. Everyone must apply to receive and it has become very competitive.
- Consensus from all GM's and Mayors & the NEWA Administrator that NEWA is unlikely to be sustainable into the future. Will need to be a report to individual Council Meetings seeking an alternative to NEWA. Talks of shared arrangements with a Lead Council (ARC) and having Service Agreements with the other Councils.
- The General Managers of the Member Councils are meeting to discuss the new building. It is an option to liquidate the asset in order to clear outstanding debts. It was noted that the business case in the first instance wasn't strong or comprehensive.

It was **MOVED** that the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the verbal report by the General Manager on the New England Weeds Authority.

5.5.3 Update on Riverview Aged Care transition – verbal report by General Manager.
The General Manager advised the Committee of the public meeting conducted last week at the Walcha Bowling Club.

- Margaret McKenzie, from Presbyterian Aged Care, attended the meeting and assisted with Staff questions last week.
- Had a few minor amendments to the letter of offer. Changed and resent last week.
- PAC are preparing the Head of Agreement now. It will be signed before Caretaker period.
- Due diligence (critical path) follows with forming the Clinical Governance Committee and Management Committee – this will be completed by August.
- Signing of contract with start date including in the contract.
- Likely it will not be until January / February 2025 before Council actually take it over.



Feedback from ARIC:

- Need a Risk report on Riverview Aged Care – condition of Assets etc to August Meeting.
- Include in Heads of Agreement – a point regarding ‘subject to a new Council being in agreeance on this project/takeover’. If new Council does a backflip Council doesn’t want to get caught.
- Standard Agenda Item on ARIC – Riverview Aged Care plus the minutes from the Clinical Governance Committee.
- Request a critical timeline for next meeting.
- Ensure there are no Coroner enquiries existing on Riverview Aged Care.

General Manager also informed the Meeting of a new organisational structural change for Council. Due to the Riverview Aged Care becoming part of Council the General Manager’s unit will now include Tourism, Governance, Work Health & Safety, Risk and Human Resources. These were all functions under the Director Corporate & Community.

It was **MOVED** that the Audit Risk & Improvement Committee **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the Other Business Reports including the verbal update on the organisational structure change from 1 July 2024.

CARRIED

Chair’s Other Business:

Adjusted Agenda from 19 August 2024:

8:45am – 9:00am ARIC Committee members to meet with Internal Auditor ONLY.

9:00am – 9:15am ARIC Committee Members to meet with the General Manager ONLY.

9:15am – 11:15am:ARIC Meeting to take place.

Changes to ARIC Guidelines note that certain information must be in a quarterly report. If they are in the Agenda every ARIC Meeting (held quarterly) it will meet the guidelines. Quarterly Report /Permanent Agenda contents:

- Separate formal resolutions of the ARIC for Council

There are no formal resolutions from ARIC to be presented to Council.

- ARIC’s assessment of any audits conducted, including any breaches or deficiencies in controls that require an immediate response from the Council

There were no audits conducted.



- Progress on the implementation of corrective actions

Not applicable this quarter.

- Opportunities for longer term improvement

No opportunities this quarter.

- Any key opinions or 'take outs' from the Committee's meeting

The Committee was appreciative of the reporting provided – short and sharp reports. The Officers of Council were across their brief and the level of discussion was at the right level. The 'take-out' this quarter was the new level of guidelines – we are in a position to meet these. Also the requests from the Committee are being addressed in a timely manner.

Thank you everyone – good meeting covering everything.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10:40AM.



Item 11:

Delegate Reports



There are no Delegate Reports for June 2024



Item 12:

Questions with Notice



There are no Questions with Notice for June 2024



Item 13:

Referral to Closed Council Meeting



| | | |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Item: | 13.1 | Ref: WO/2024/01104 |
| Title: | Referral to Closed Council: | |
| | 1. Write Off Bad Debts | |
| | 2. Tender W23/71 – In Town Pathways | |
| | 3. Tender W23/72 – Darjeeling Road Pathways | |
| | 4. Community Care Kitchen Upgrade | |
| Author: | Executive Assistant | |
| Previous Items: | Not Applicable | |
| Attachment: | No | |

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

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

RECOMMENDATION: That, in accordance with the provisions of:

- 1. Section 10A(2)(b) of the *Local Government Act, 1993* the matter of Write Off Bad Debts be referred to be discussed in Closed Council and close the Meeting to the public for the reason that the report relates to the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer.**
 - 2. Section 10A(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act, 1993* the matters of Tender W23/71 – In Town Pathways AND Tender W23/72 – Darjeeling Pathways AND Community Care Kitchen Upgrade reports relate to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business;**
 - 3. Council RESOLVE INTO Closed Council and the press and the public be excluded.**
-

Introduction:

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

Report:

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

Approval to refer these matters to Closed Council is sought because the

1. Write off Bad Debts report relates to personal hardship of any residents or ratepayers;
2. Tender W23/71 – In Town Pathways AND Tender W23/72 – Darjeeling Pathways AND Community Care Kitchen Upgrade reports relate to commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed, prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.