



Ordinary Council Meeting

Agenda

16 March 2023

**Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of the
Local Government Act 1993 that an
Ordinary Meeting of Warrumbungle Shire Council
will be held in the Council Chambers, Binnia Street, Coolah
on Thursday, 16 March 2023 commencing at 5:00 pm.**

Mayor: Cr Ambrose Doolan

Councillors: Kodi Brady
Dale Hogden
Zoe Holcombe
Aniello Iannuzzi (Deputy Mayor)
Carlton Kopke
Jason Newton
Kathryn Rindfleish
Denis Todd

Please note:

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Council's Vision Excellence in Local Government

Mission Statement

We will provide:

- Quality, cost effective services that will enhance our community's lifestyle, environment, opportunity and prosperity.
- Infrastructure and services which meet the social and economic needs and aspirations of the community now and in the future.
- Effective leadership and good governance, by encouraging teamwork, through a dedicated responsible well trained workforce.

Values

- ✓ **Honesty**
Frank and open discussion, taking responsibility for our actions
- ✓ **Integrity**
Behaving in accordance with our values
- ✓ **Fairness**
Consideration of the facts and a commitment to two way communication
- ✓ **Compassion**
Working for the benefit and care of our community and the natural environment
- ✓ **Respect**
To ourselves, colleagues, the organisation and the community, listening actively and responding truthfully
- ✓ **Transparency**
Open and honest interactions with each other and our community
- ✓ **Passion**
Achievement of activities with energy, enthusiasm and pride
- ✓ **Trust**
Striving to be dependable, reliable and delivering outcomes in a spirit of goodwill
- ✓ **Opportunity**
To be an enviable workplace creating pathways for staff development

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AGENDA

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY – Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Land at which the meeting is held and pays its respects to Elders both past and present and extends that respect to other Aboriginal people who are present.

Turn Off Mobile Phones

Audio Recording of Council Meetings

Apologies/Leave of Absence

Confirmation of Minutes

16 February 2023

7 March 2023 – Extra-Ordinary Council

Disclosure of Interest

Pecuniary Interest

Non Pecuniary Conflict of Interest

Mayoral Minute/s

Delegate Report/s

Reports of Committees

Reports to Council

Notices of Motion/Questions with Notice/Rescission Motions

Reports to be considered in Closed Council

Conclusion

.....
ROGER BAILEY
GENERAL MANAGER

WARRUMBUNGLE SHIRE COUNCIL

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Item 1 Mayoral Minute – Mayors Log of Activity, Kilometres Travelled and Expenses from 8 February 2023 to 8 March 2023

MAYORAL MINUTE – MAYORS ACTIVITY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>In/Out</u>	<u>Activity</u>
8-Feb	Email	In	Royal Rehab - invitation to Dubbo opening
9-Feb	Email	In	Gwynne Coughlan - healthy rivers program
10-Feb	Email	In	Armidale Mayor - Renewable Energy Coalition
	Email	In	Warwick Giblin - Voluntary Planning Agreements
	Email	Out	Armidale Mayor - CoREM Meeting
12-Feb	Email	In	Warwick Giblin - Renewable Energy Zone
	Email	In	GM - legal counsel
	Email	In	Narromine Mayor - biosecurity
13-Feb	Email	In	Ratepayer - local quarry
	Email	In	GM - Digilah Road
	Email	Out	Break Thru - Dubbo reopening
14-Feb	Email	In	Warwick Giblin - briefing re Country Mayors
15-Feb	Email	In	Gunnedah Mayor - state election
	Email	In	GM - TRRRC
	Email	In	Armidale Mayor - REZ
	Email	In	Narromine Mayor - AWC meeting
	Email	Out	Warwick Giblin - CoREM Meeting
16-Feb	Email	In	GM - Darling Street Baradine
	Email	In	GM - Liverpool Range windfarm
	Email	In	Warwick Giblin - REZ
17-Feb	Email	In	Ratepayer - War Memorial Funding
	Email	In	Ratepayer - water charges
18-Feb	Email	Out	GM - CoREM Meeting
	Email	Out	GM - TRRRC
20-Feb	Email	In	Armidale Mayor - meeting with State Treasurer
	Email	In	Richard Naden - Dunedoo Infrastructure Renewal project
	Email	In	Ratepayer - Pine Ridge Road
	Email	In	Deputy Mayor - visit by Minister B Taylor
	Email	In	Warwick Giblin - REZ
21-Feb	Email	In	GM - performance review
23-Feb	Email	In	GM - Dunedoo Infrastructure Renewal Project
	Email	In	Brett Vincent - TRRRC mediation
	Email	In	GM - TRRRC mediation
	Email	In	Warwick Giblin - REZ
	Email	In	Lee Doyle - Avonside Road West
25-Feb	Email	In	Cr Hogden - Dunedoo TRRRC
	Email	Out	Cr Rindfleish - community benefits
26-Feb	Email	In	Warwick Giblin - CWO-NE REZ Alliance
	Email	In	Cr Rindfleish - REZ
28-Feb	Email	In	Lismore Mayor - Invitation
	Email	In	GM - Coona bypass

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	Email	In	DTS - Reservoir Street
	Email	Out	GM - Renewable Energy Benefit Policy
1-Mar	Email	In	Warwick Giblin - planning agreements
	Email	In	GM - TRRRC case
	Email	Out	Brett Vincent - TRRRC case
2-Mar	Email	In	Brett Vincent - TRRRC case
	Email	In	Graeme Fleming - GM review
	Email	In	GM - Council resolutions
	Email	Out	GM - Rescission Motion
	Email	Out	Deputy Mayor and Cr Newton - Rescission Motion
3-Mar	Email	Out	Deputy Mayor and Cr Newton - Rescission Motion
	Email	In	Deputy Mayor - Rescission Motion
	Email	Out	Cr Brady - Rescission Motion
	Email	In	GM – Extraordinary Council Meeting
	Email	In	Break Thru - local developments
	Email	In	Warwick Giblin - REZ
	Email	In	Director Dev & Enviro Services - Liverpool Range Wind Farm
	Email	In	Armidale Mayor - CoREM
6-Mar	Email	In	GM - Energy Co payment
	Email	In	Cr Rindfleish - road conditions
	Email	In	GM - TRRRC funding
	Email	In	Brett Vincent - TRRRC case
	Email	In	GM - TRRRC case
7-Mar	Email	In	Brett Vincent - TRRRC case
	Email	Out	Brett Vincent - TRRRC case
8-Mar	Email	In	Brett Vincent - TRRRC case
	Email	In	Brett Vincent - TRRRC case
	Email	In	Brett Vincent - TRRRC case

Date of Journey		Purpose of Journey	Odometer		KM Travelled
Start Date	End Date		Start	Finish	
13-Feb	13-Feb	Council Chambers to sign documents	22749	22775	26
14-Feb	14-Feb	Dunedoo TRRRC Meeting	22775	22976	201
15-Feb	15-Feb	Meeting with the General Manager	22976	23003	27
15-Feb	15-Feb	Council Meeting	23003	23031	28
18-Feb	19-Feb	Dubbo Country Mayors	23031	23325	294
20-Feb	21-Feb	Dubbo Country Mayors	23325	23619	294
23-Feb	23-Feb	General Managers Review	23619	23649	30
23-Feb	23-Feb	Meeting Acting NSW Police Inspector	23649	23679	30
23-Feb	23-Feb	General Managers Review	23679	23707	28
7-Mar	7-Mar	Extraordinary Council Meeting	23707	23742	35
Total KM travelled for period 13 February 2023 - 7 March 2023					993

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MAYORAL MINUTE - EXPENSES 20 February 2023 to 23 February 2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Transaction Details</u>	<u>Comments</u>	
20-Feb	Flight Centre	Travel - Country Mayors Political Leaders Forum	\$191.96
21-Feb	Transport for NSW	Travel - Country Mayors Political Leaders Forum	\$20.60
21-Feb	Regional Express Mascot	Travel - Country Mayors Political Leaders Forum	\$6.07
21-Feb	Due Mondri @ Society	Meal - Country Mayors Political Leaders Forum	\$32.96
22-Feb	Transport for NSW	Travel - Country Mayors Political Leaders Forum	\$20.60
22-Feb	Spotto NSW	Travel - Country Mayors Political Leaders Forum	\$14.81
22-Feb	Minerva Restaurant	Meal - Country Mayors Political Leaders Forum	\$22.00
23-Feb	National Pies	Meal - Country Mayors Political Leaders Forum	\$17.65
23-Feb	Mad Mex	Meal - Country Mayors Political Leaders Forum	\$17.09
Total expenditure for period 20/02/2023 - 23/02/2023			<u>\$343.74</u>

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the report on the Mayor's Activity and Log of Kilometres Travelled for the period 8 February 2023 to 8 March 2023.
2. Notes the report on the Mayor's credit card expenses between 20 February 2022 and 23 February 2023 and approves the payment of expenses totalling \$343.74.

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Item 2 Councillors' Monthly Travel Claims

Division:	Executive Services
Management Area:	Governance
Author:	Executive Assistant to the General Manager – Erin Player
CSP Key Focus Area:	Civic Leadership
Priority:	CL2.1 Provide Council's leadership with a strong governance and management framework that promotes transparent and informed decision-making.

Reason for Report

To provide Council with details of monthly travel claims of councillors.

Background

At the Ordinary Council meeting in July 2017 it was resolved that, "*all Councillors make public their monthly travel claims effective immediately.*" (**Resolution No 10/1718**)

Councillor Monthly Travel Claims

Councillor	Kilometres	\$ per KM	Total Amount (\$)
Cr Brady	-	0.78	-
Cr Doolan	-	0.78	-
Cr Hogden	200	0.78	\$156
Cr Holcombe	90	0.78	\$70.20
Cr Iannuzzi	220	0.78	\$171.60
Cr Kopke	-	0.78	-
Cr Newton	-	0.78	-
Cr Rindfleish	522	0.78	\$407.16
Cr Todd	230	0.78	\$179.40
		Total:	\$984.36

Issues

Nil.

Options

Nil.

Financial Considerations

Outlined above.

Community Engagement

To inform the community.

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Attachments

1. Councillors Monthly Travel Claims

RECOMMENDATION

That the Councillors' monthly travel claims report in the amount of \$984.36 be noted for information.

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Item 3 Minutes of Local Emergency Management Committee – 20 February 2023

Division:	Technical Services
Management Area:	Projects
Author:	Director Technical Services – Gary Murphy
CSP Key Focus Area:	Supporting Community Life
Priority:	SC4 The long-term wellbeing of our community is supported by ongoing provision of high quality services, health and aged care, education, policing and public safety, child, youth and family support, environmental protection and land management

Reason for Report

The purpose of this report is to present minutes from the meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee held at Coonabarabran on the 20 February 2023.

Background

Local Emergency Management Committees are established in terms of s28 of the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989.

Each such Committee is to consist of—

- (a) the General Manager of the council of the relevant local government area, who is to be the Chairperson of the Committee, and
- (b) a senior representative of each emergency services organisation operating in the relevant local government area, and
- (c) a representative of each organisation that—
 - (i) provides services in a functional area or areas in the relevant local government area, and
 - (ii) the council of that area determines from time to time is to be represented on the Committee, and
- (d) the Local Emergency Operations Controller for the relevant local government area.

A Local Emergency Management Committee is responsible for the preparation and review of plans in relation to the prevention of, preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies in the local government area for which it is constituted.

(1A) Without limiting subsection (1), any such Committee may—

- (a) give effect to and carry out emergency management policy and practice, consistent with information on that policy and practice disseminated by the State Emergency Management Committee, and

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- (b) review and prepare plans in respect of the relevant local government area that are, or are proposed to be, subplans or supporting plans established under the State Emergency Management Plan, and
 - (c) make recommendations about and assist in the co-ordination of training in relation to emergency management in the relevant local government area, and
 - (d) develop, conduct and evaluate local emergency management training exercises, and
 - (e) facilitate local level emergency management capability through inter-agency co-ordination, co-operation and information sharing arrangements, and
 - (f) assist the Local Emergency Operations Controller for the relevant local government area in the Controller's role under section 31, and
 - (g) such other functions as are—
 - (i) related to this Act, and
 - (ii) assigned to the Committee (or to Local Emergency Management Committees generally) from time to time by the relevant Regional Emergency Management Committee or by the State Emergency Management Committee.
- (2) In the exercise of its functions, any such Committee is responsible to the relevant Regional Emergency Management Committee.

Issues

The following matters were considered by the Committee:

1. Contact List
2. Regional Emergency Management Officer (REMO) Report
3. NSW Reconstruction Authority Report
4. NSW SES Agency Report
5. Events
6. Evacuation Centre Audits
7. CV-19 Reports

In General Business, the following items were raised:

- Site tours of Coonabarabran Hospital for emergency services staff
- Evacuation plan for Coinda
- Search and rescue coordination in National Parks

Options

The following Committee recommendation will be dealt with under Delegation:

3/2223 RESOLVED that the applicant of Hartwood Campfire & Country Music Festival be invited to meet with relevant agencies of the LEMC to address issues in relation to compliance with section 68.

Financial Considerations

Nil

Community Engagement

The level of engagement for this report is to inform.

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Attachments

1. Minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee – 20 February 2023

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee on the 20 February 2023 are noted for information.

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Item 4 Minutes of Traffic Advisory Committee Meeting – 28 February 2023

Division:	Technical Services
Management Area:	Projects
Author:	Director Technical Services – Gary Murphy
CSP Key Focus Area:	Supporting Community Life
Priority:	SC4 The long-term wellbeing of our community is supported by ongoing provision of high quality services, health and aged care, education, policing and public safety, child, youth and family support, environmental protection and land management

Reason for Report

The purpose of this report is to present minutes from the meeting of the Traffic Advisory Committee held at Coonabarabran on the 28 February 2023.

Background

Authority has been delegated to Council from Transport for NSW (TfNSW) in relation to prescribed traffic control devices and traffic control facilities. Council may only exercise its delegated function in accordance with the Delegation. The Delegation requires Council to seek the advice of the NSW Police and TfNSW and this is usually done via the Local Traffic Advisory Committee. The Local Traffic Advisory Committee has no decision-making powers and is primarily a technical review committee. The Committee has four (4) formal members; NSW Police, TfNSW, Council Representative and the Local State Member of Parliament or their nominee.

Issues

The following matters were considered by the Committee:

- a) Coonabarabran RSL – Closure of John Street for Remembrance Day Service – 11 November 2023
- b) Warrumbungle Eventing – Closure of Part Reservoir Street, Coonabarabran – 16 April 2023
- c) Release of Inquiry Report – Speed Limits and Road Safety in Regional NSW
- d) TfNSW – Pilliga Widening Project Notification – Newell Highway
- e) Coolah Mens Shed – Installation of ‘No Stopping’ and Direction Signs at Campbell and Cunningham Streets
- f) Mudgee Dirt Bike Club – Proposed Recurrent Enduro Motocross Event at Property ‘The Valley’, 750 Caigan Road, Mendooran
- g) McWhirters Bus Depot – Request for Clear Zone in Crane Street, Coonabarabran
- h) NPWS – Installation of Tourist Attraction Signs on Coolah Creek Road and State Forest Road, Coolah
- i) North West Equestrian Expo – Closure of Part Reservoir Street,

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- Coonabarabran – 3-4 June 2023
- j) Essex Street and Charles Street intersection, Coonabarabran

In General Business, the following items were raised:

- Central West Cycle Trail – Installation of Cycle Trail from River Street to Dennykymine Road, Mendooran
- Tooraweenah Rd sealing and speed limit signage

Options

All of the Traffic Advisory Committee recommendations will be dealt with under Delegation:

Financial Considerations

The majority of the recommendations from the meeting on the 28 February 2023 can be accommodated within existing budget allocations.

Community Engagement

The level of engagement for this report is to inform.

Attachments

1. Minutes of the Traffic Advisory Committee Meeting – 28 February 2023

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Traffic Advisory Committee Meeting held on the 28 February 2023 are noted for information.

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Item 5 Minutes of Economic Development and Tourism Meeting

Division:	Environment and Development Services
Management Area:	Economic Development and Tourism
Author:	Director Environment and Development Services – Leeanne Ryan
CSP Key Focus Area:	Strengthening the Local Economy
Priority:	LE 2 Identify, develop and coordinate tourism and economic development opportunities

Reason for Report

The purpose of this report is to present minutes from the meeting of the Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee held at Coonabarabran Tuesday 28 February 2023.

Background

The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice and guidance to Council on planning and priorities for tourism and economic development for Warrumbungle Shire.

Core responsibilities and duties of the Committee are to:

- Provide a forum for discussion and act in an advisory role and not commit Council resources outside the allocated budget for Tourism and Economic Development Promotions.
- Work within the framework of the Community Strategic Plan and Warrumbungle Shire Economic Development Strategy and not deal with day to day operational matters.

Issues

The following matters were considered by the Committee:

- Tourism Report – banners poles to be changed for Easter and ANZAC Day; a number of promotional initiatives of the region have been carried out or underway.
- Economic Development Report – provided an update on projects such as Coonabarabran Driver Reviver; BizHQ Business Workshops scheduled for end of March; Real Country Business Case and Strategy Development with Gilgandra and Coonamble Shires; Regional Drought Resilience Project with Gilgandra Shire; proposal to renew the EDT Strategy in 23/24 FY; and an update on the Community Events Program.

The other item discussed as part of this report was the Town Entrance Sign Project - examples of signs were considered, with the committee agreeing the signs to be constructed of corten steel to provide consistency in design across the Shire. Supporting materials for the signs (e.g. sandstone, timber

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etc), individual layout and preferred locations are to be advised after EDT Committee members consult with their relevant communities. The budget for the project is \$28,334 per community for Baradine, Binnaway, Coolah, Coonabarabran, Dunedoo and Mendooran.

- Visitor Information Centre Report – advised a request had been received by Coonabarabran History Group to renew licence for room use; merchandise sales had increased over Christmas; VIC is now listed on Explore Australia – Visitors Centres App.

Options

Council may wish to adopt the recommendations from the Committee meeting.

Financial Considerations

Nil

Community Engagement

The level of engagement for this report is to Inform.

Attachments

1. Minutes of the Economic Development and Tourism Committee meeting held 28 February 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the minutes of the Economic Development and Tourism Committee meeting held on 28 February 2023.
2. Endorse the selection of corten steel material for the town entrance signs, with EDT Committee Members undertaking consultation with their communities to select supporting material for the sign, layout and preferred signage locations in accordance with available budget.

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Item 6 Revotes and High Value Projects Report

Division:	Executive Services
Management Area:	Governance
Author:	Executive Assistant to the General Manager – Erin Player
CSP Key Focus Area:	Civic Leadership
Priority:	CL1 That Council is financially sustainable over the long term

Reason for Report

To provide Council with updated information on the progress of projects that Council has funded by revote and projects that are considered to be high value and potentially high risk.

Background

From time to time, Council endorses changes to its adopted annual budget by way of a revote. A report on those projects that have been subject to a revote is compiled, with updates provided on progress.

The General Manager is responsible for overseeing the progression of information from relevant staff to Council via the Business Paper and monthly Council meetings.

Council is provided with information on revote items and their progress in the attached report.

Issues

Nil

Options

Nil

Financial Considerations

As set out in the report.

Community Engagement

To inform the community by placing the information on Council's website through the Business Paper.

Attachments

1. Revote Report
2. High Value High Risk Revotes

RECOMMENDATION

That the Revote and High Value Projects Report be noted for information.

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Item 7 Council Resolutions Report

Division:	Executive Services
Management Area:	Governance
Author:	Executive Services Administration Officer – Joanne Hadfield
CSP Key Focus Area:	Civic Leadership
Priority:	CL2.1 Provide Council's leadership with a strong governance and management framework that promotes transparent and informed decision making

Reason for Report

To provide Council with updated information on the progress of Council resolutions.

Background

The General Manager is responsible for overseeing the progression of information from relevant staff to Council via the Business Paper and monthly Council meetings.

Furthermore, the General Manager is responsible for ensuring appropriate information regarding Council resolutions and deliberations are provided to Directors and relevant staff. Each Council resolution is allocated to a directorate for action. Directors and Managers provide feedback to the General Manager on the progress of resolutions each month by way of the attached Council Resolution Report. Once an item is noted by Council as being complete it is removed from the Report.

Resolutions that remain 'In Progress' for a 12 month period will be reported to Council as a separate agenda item with a new Recommendation. This will provide Council staff the opportunity to detail the history and issues of outstanding items before Council reconsiders the matter.

Issues

This feedback is provided to Council for information purposes.

Options

Nil

Financial Consideration

Nil

Community Engagement

Level of Engagement - Inform

Attachments

1. Council Resolution Report

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RECOMMENDATION

That the Council Resolution Report be noted for information.

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Item 8 Reviewed Policies

Division:	Corporate and Community Services
Management Area:	Governance
Author:	Manager Corporate Services – Jenni Maundrell
CSP Key Focus Area:	Local Government and Finance
Priority:	CL2.1 Provide Council's leadership with a strong governance and management framework that promotes transparent and informed decision-making

Reason for Report

The reason for this report is to seek Council endorsement of four reviewed policies:

- Public Art
- Public Forum
- Records Management for Councillors
- Statement of Business Ethics

Background

These four policies are existing strategic policies of Council. Each have been reviewed and no material changes are proposed.

Issues

The attached policies have been reviewed and no material changes have been proposed. Therefore, they are being presented in a bundle.

The policies have each been formatted in line with the current Style Guide for Council policies, and updated as necessary such as dates on legislation or the name of government departments (eg, DLG to OLG) that have changed. However, the policy statements and operations remain materially unchanged.

Options

Council may endorse each of the policies as presented, or with amendments.

Financial Considerations

Nil

Community Engagement

The level of community engagement for this item is Inform.

Information is provided by way of the business paper report, which is published on the Council website.

Attachments

1. Reviewed Public Art Policy

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2. Reviewed Public Forum Policy
3. Reviewed Records Management for Councillors Policy
4. Reviewed Statement of Business Ethics

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the reviewed policies for:

1. Public Art.
2. Public Forum.
3. Records Management for Councillors.
4. Statement of Business Ethics.

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Item 9 Draft Media Policies

Division:	Corporate and Community Services
Management Area:	Governance
Author:	Manager Corporate Services – Jenni Maundrell
CSP Key Focus Area:	Local Government and Finance
Priority:	CL2.1 Provide Council's leadership with a strong governance and management framework that promotes transparent and informed decision-making

Reason for Report

The reason for this report is to seek Council endorsement of the draft policies for media and social media.

Background

The policies have been drafted with reference to the Office of Local Government's *Model Media Policy* and *Model Social Media Policy*. These model policies are contained in a suite of best practice governance policies being developed by the OLG. The model policies are not mandatory and councils are free to choose whether to use them or adapt them for their own purposes.

To bring them into line with other Council policies, the model policies for media and social media have been adapted into a short policy document and an associated procedure.

Issues

The draft Media Policy and Procedure provide a framework to assist Council when dealing with the media, and to ensure that media engagement by councillors and staff is consistent, accurate, and professional. The Media Policy will supersede the existing 'Media Policy – Councillors' (copy attached for reference).

The Media Policy and Procedure outline:

- principles of media engagement (openness, consistency, accuracy, timeliness);
- Council's administrative framework for engagement with media;
- authorised people for engagement with the media;
- standards of conduct when engaging with the media;
- use of media during emergencies;
- media engagement in the lead up to elections; and
- records management requirements.

The model Social Media Policy was developed in recognition that social media has become fundamental in not just how people interact with each other, but also how we work and consume information and ideas. Despite its benefits, social media also presents a variety of challenges and risks, including:

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- the emergence of new, harmful forms of behaviour, such as cyber-bullying and trolling;
- maintaining the accuracy, reliability and integrity of information disseminated from multiple sources;
- organisations can be held liable for content uploaded onto their social media platforms by third parties;
- content uploaded in a person's private capacity can adversely affect their employment and cause significant reputational damage to colleagues and employers; and
- rapid innovation can make it difficult to keep pace with emerging technologies and trends.

Further, social media poses risks of corruption, including:

- customers, development proponents/objectors, tenderers, or other stakeholders grooming public officials by behaviours such as 'liking' specific posts, reposting content, or sending personal or private messages;
- public officials disclosing confidential or sensitive information;
- using social media for sponsorship opportunities, which may unfairly advantage one sponsor over another and lack transparency; and
- public agencies or officials promoting certain businesses by behaviours such as 'following' them, 'liking' content, or making comments, which may result in those businesses being favoured over others.

Social media has become an important tool in government and political discourse, where it has two primary functions:

- it is used by councils to interact and share information with their communities in an accessible and often more informal format;
- it enables councillors to promote their achievements and address their constituents directly about community issues and events in ways that either complement or bypass traditional news and print media.

Additionally, Warrumbungle Shire Council is one of many councils that use social media as the platform through which to webcast meetings. This increases transparency by providing visibility of Council's decision-making in real time.

Councils and councillors are not immune from the challenges associated with social media, which can pose a significant risk both in a legal sense, and in terms of a council's ability to operate in a unified and coordinated way. The draft policy and procedure therefore provide the framework so that Council and councillors can realise the full benefits of social media while mitigating the risks.

The Social Media Policy and Procedure outline:

- principles for engaging with social media (openness, relevance, accuracy, respect);
- social media platforms Council uses, and the mechanism for deleting or adding platforms;
- that 'House Rules' will be prominently featured on Council's social media platforms;
- the administrative framework for Council's engagement with social media;
- authorised users;
- administrative framework for councillors' engagement with social media;

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- standards of conduct on social media;
- moderation of social media platforms;
- use of social media during emergencies;
- records management and privacy requirements;
- private use of social media
- concerns or complaints.

Importantly for all Council officials, the Social Media Policy and Procedure clarifies that:

If a Council official chooses to identify themselves as a Council official, either directly or indirectly (such as in their user profile), then they will not be deemed to be acting in their private capacity for the purposes of this procedure.

This means that, for example, if a staff member lists Warrumbungle Shire Council as their place of work on their social media profile, all content they publish on their 'personal' social media may be taken to be official Council content. All Council officials, including councillors, should take precautions in how they identify themselves on social media.

Options

Council may endorse each of the policies as presented, or with amendments.

Financial Considerations

Nil

Community Engagement

The level of community engagement for this item is Inform + Consult.

Information is provided by way of the business paper report, which is published on the Council website.

The community is consulted through the Have Your Say function, whereby community members are invited to make written submissions on the draft policy.

Attachments

1. Draft *Media Policy*
2. Draft *Media Procedure*
3. Current *Media Policy – Councillors*
4. Draft *Social Media Policy*
5. Draft *Social Media Procedure*

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council endorses the draft *Media Policy* and *Social Media Policy* for the purpose of public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days, with submissions invited for a minimum of 42 days.

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2. A further report be presented to Council on the draft policies for media and social media after the public exhibition period is completed.

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Item 10 Community Financial Assistance Donations 2022/23 – Round Two

Division:	Corporate and Community Services
Management Area:	Governance
Author:	Manager Corporate Services – Jenni Maundrell
CSP Key Focus Area:	Civic Leadership
Priority:	CL5.3 Support community organisations and groups to deliver services and programs

Reason for Report

To present the applications received in Round Two of the 2022/23 Community Financial Assistance Donations totalling \$14,540.50.

Background

Community Financial Assistance Donations are made in two rounds each year under Council's *Donations Policy* contained in the Delivery Program. The purpose of the donations is to provide support up to a maximum of \$500 per round to community groups, organisations and individuals that contribute to the social, economic and/or environmental fabric of the Warrumbungle local government area.

The annual budget allocation for Community Financial Assistance Donations is \$20,000. The remaining budget for these donations in 2022/23 is \$10,400 after donations in Round One totalled \$9,600. Given the requests are for an amount greater than the remaining budget, Council will need to make a decision about how to distribute the donations most equitably.

Issues

Applications for Round Two of the 2022/23 Community Financial Assistance Donations were open from 30 January 2023 – 27 February 2023, and were promoted in local print publications, on social media and Council's website. A total of 30 applications were received, and are provided as an attachment to this report.

In accordance with Council's *Community Financial Assistance Donations Guidelines* applications are assessed against the following criteria:

1. Contribution to addressing gaps in service provision or community development programs and activities.
2. Activities which promote community development in a multicultural context and seek to address issues of access and equity.
3. Involvement from volunteers and self-help initiatives which build upon Council's contribution.
4. Consumer/user participation in management of services/activities.

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5. Innovative and creative approaches to identified needs.
6. Activities which use Council funding to attract further resources and funding.

The Guidelines also state that Council will give low priority to the following types of requests:

- Activities/services which do not attempt to become self-supporting where the potential exists through fees or other feasible income-producing activities.
- Activities of a purely social nature, which do not address the needs of disadvantaged groups.
- Activities which are eligible for support from state-wide or regional parent bodies.

The 30 applications have been assessed against the evaluation criteria. A copy of the evaluation is provided as an attachment to this report. To summarise, each of the applications met a minimum of two different approval criteria, with the majority of applications meeting either three or four approval criteria.

Application Ref 1 relates to a fee waiver for the use of Coonabarabran Town Hall in September 2022. Fee waivers cost Council a considerable amount in lost income each year, and have not previously been budgeted for.

Two applications (Ref 2-3) were from a private citizen who duplicated the request in a separate application made on behalf of a community group. Given that the total amount requested across the 30 applications exceeds the budget for this year, Council will need to make a decision about funding those applications.

Six applications (Ref 25-30) are for the same project. Approving all six inflates the amount being donated to that one project above others, while deducting from the overall available budget.

A summary of the applications received is provided in the table below. Note, the reference number refers only to the order the applications were received.

Table 1 – summary of applications

Ref	Applicant/s	Project description	Amount requested (\$)	Recomm'd donation (\$)
1	Warrumbungle Shire Council	Funding of fee waiver – Australian Unity – Coonabarabran Town Hall (17 September 2022)	240.50	240.50
2	Jim Larkin	Kids coaching clinic at Binnaway Tennis Club	450.00	0
3	Jim Larkin	Showground tree planting	450.00	0
4	Binnaway PAH&I Association	Showground tree planting	450.00	450.00
5	Binnaway Tennis Club	Binnaway Tennis Club kids coaching clinic	500.00	460.00

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6	Baradine Bowling Sporting Club	Contribution to free community entertainment	500.00	460.00
7	Coonabarabran CWA	Contribution to annual rates	500.00	460.00
8	Coonabarabran Bowling Club	Contribution to revamped BBQ area	500.00	460.00
9	Binnaway Bombshells	Contribution to team uniforms	500.00	460.00
10	Dunedoo and District Historical Society and Museum	Collection management – cataloguing and photographing Museum objects	450.00	450.00
11	Coonabarabran Celtic Club	Further development and establishment of a Celtic Pipe Band for Coonabarabran	500.00	460.00
12	Caring for Coolah Inc	Contribution to tipping fees	500.00	460.00
13	Centacare	Incentives for high school students to attend Youth Club programs	500.00	460.00
14	Yarn Support Connect	Pride in the Park	500.00	460.00
15	Coolah and District Historical Society	James McCubbin Monument/Plaque	500.00	460.00
16	Dunedoo Polocrosse Club	Contribution to facility upgrades	500.00	460.00
17	Dunedoo Junior Rugby League and Football	Contribution to open day	500.00	460.00
18	Dunedoo Community Coordinator	Digitising of Museum Catalogue	500.00	460.00
19	Dunedoo Central School	Contribution to debutante ball	500.00	460.00
20	Coolah Volunteer Rescue Squad	NBN set up for VRA Coolah	500.00	460.00
21	Coolah Seniors Recreational Group	Seniors Information Day	500.00	460.00
22	Black Stump Craft Shop Inc	Contribution to purchase of outdoor toilet shed	500.00	460.00
23	Coolah Tennis Club	Contribution to relaunch of club	500.00	460.00
24	Coolah District Development Group	Increase and support Coolah visitation	500.00	460.00
25	Coolah Pony Club	Contribution to purchase of defibrillator for Coolah Showground and	500.00	460.00

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		Recreational Grounds Trust		
26	Coolah Pony Club	Contribution to purchase of defibrillator for Three Rivers Recreation Grounds	500.00	0
27	Coolah Valley Ranch Sorting	Contribution to purchase of defibrillator for Coolah Showground and Recreational Grounds Trust	500.00	0
28	Coolah Valley Camp Draft	Contribution to purchase of defibrillator for Coolah Showground and Recreational Grounds Trust	500.00	0
29	Coolah Cattle Dog Trial	Contribution to purchase of defibrillator for Coolah Showground and Recreational Grounds Trust	500.00	0
30	Black Stump Rodeo Committee	Contribution to purchase of defibrillator for Coolah Showground and Recreational Grounds Trust	500.00	0

Options

Council may approve or decline any or all applications for Community Financial Assistance Donations. The attached applications and evaluation summary are provided to assist in deliberations.

Financial Considerations

The total amount recommended among the 30 applications is \$10,340.50. This amount falls within the remaining budget of \$10,400.00.

Community Engagement

The level of community engagement for this item is Inform.

Information is provided by way of the business paper report, which is published on the Council website.

Attachments

1. 30 applications for Round One of the 2022/23 Community Financial Assistance Donations.
2. Evaluation sheet used to assess applications against criteria.

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RECOMMENDATION

That Council funds the following applications under Round Two of the Community Financial Assistance Donations 2022/23, at a total cost of \$10,340.50

Applicant name/s	Amount (\$)
Warrumbungle Shire Council – to pay for fee waiver of hall hire	240.50
Binnaway PAH&I Association	450.00
Binnaway Tennis Club	460.00
Baradine Bowling Sporting Club	460.00
Coonabarabran CWA	460.00
Coonabarabran Bowling Club	460.00
Binnaway Bombshells	460.00
Dunedoo and District Historical Society and Museum	450.00
Coonabarabran Celtic Club	460.00
Caring for Coolah Inc	460.00
Centacare	460.00
Yarn Support Connect	460.00
Coolah and District Historical Society	460.00
Dunedoo Polocrosse Club	460.00
Dunedoo Junior Rugby League and Football	460.00
Dunedoo Community Coordinator	460.00
Dunedoo Central School	460.00
Coolah Volunteer Rescue Squad	460.00
Coolah Seniors Recreational Group	460.00
Black Stump Craft Shop Inc	460.00
Coolah Tennis Club	460.00
Coolah District Development Group	460.00
Coolah Pony Club	460.00

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Item 11 Investments and Term Deposits – month ending 28 February 2023

Division:	Corporate and Community Services
Management Area:	Financial Services
Author:	Acting Accountant – Lisa Grammer
CSP Key Focus Area:	Civic Leadership
Priority:	CL1 That Council is financially sustainable over the long term

Reason for Report

As required by clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, the details of all monies invested by Council under section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993* must be reported to Council at each Ordinary Meeting.

Background

Council is authorised by s625 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) to invest its surplus funds in the forms of investment notified in an Order of the Minister dated 12 January 2011.

Clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (the Regulation) requires a Council to provide a written report to the Ordinary Meeting of Council giving details of all monies invested and a certificate as to whether or not the investments have been made in accordance with the Act, Regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

Issues

Comments on Performance

Marketable Securities, Term Deposits and At Call Investment Accounts

In accordance with regulatory requirements and Council's Investment Policy, the majority of Council's current investment portfolio continues to be invested in term deposits and at call accounts.

Marketable Securities

Council currently holds no Marketable Securities.

Term Deposits

During the month, \$3,000,000.00 worth of term deposits matured, earning Council a total of \$47,771.99 in Interest. Of that total interest earned for the month, \$8,299.99 was received at the 12-month anniversary of a 13-month investment.

In February, the following placements were made into term deposits:

- \$500,000 with NAB at a rate of 4.15%
- \$1,500,000 with CBA at a rate of 4.24%
- \$500,000 with WBC at a rate of 4.27%
- \$500,000 with NAB at a rate of 4.26%

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- \$1,000,000 with MAQ at a rate of 4.52%
- \$1,000,000 with WBC at a rate of 4.63%
- \$1,000,000 with CBA at a rate of 4.74%
- \$2,000,000 with CBA at a rate of 5.06%

The balance of the term deposits at the end of the month was \$33,500,000.00.

The increase in term deposits in February is due to Council receiving grant monies to the value of \$5,500,000.

At Call

At call accounts are used to hold funds for shorter periods and generally are adjusted on a weekly basis to meet cash flow requirements. During the month, \$867.31 interest was earned on the balances in the accounts and net transfers of \$5,138 were made from these accounts resulting in a month end balance of \$1,108,490.93.

Cash at bank balance

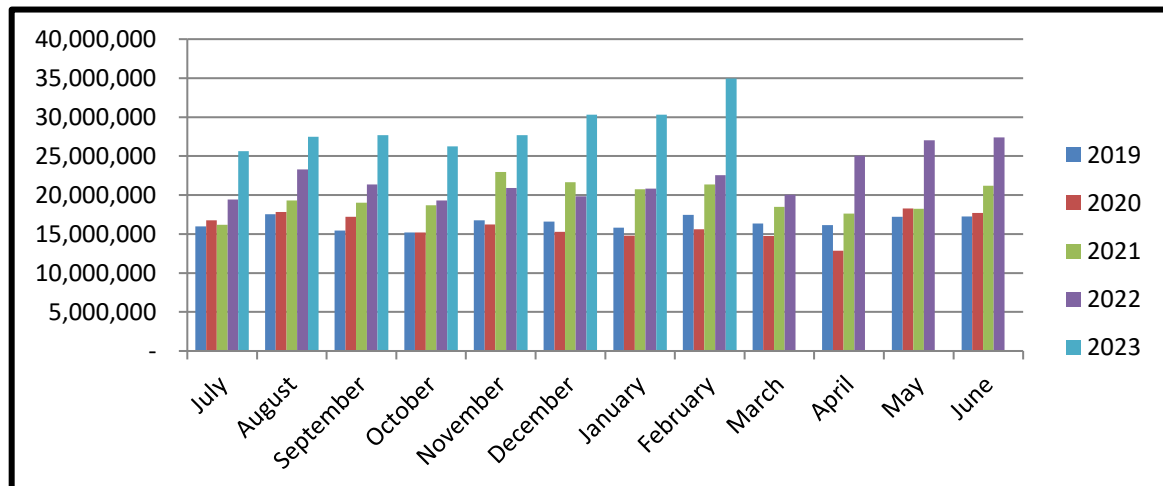
In addition to the at call accounts and term deposits, as at 28 February 2023, Council had a cash at bank balance of \$340,044.69.

Income Return

The average yield on Investments Council held for February 2023, of 3.8277%. Council uses the Bank Bill Swap Rate (BSW) supplied by the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) which was 3.6237% for the month of February. The performance of investments for February, based on the comparison, was the portfolio exceeded the benchmark by 0.2040%.

Council's budget for year 2022/23 for interest on investments is \$147,000.00. At the end of February 2023, the amount of interest received and accrued should be around 66.67% of the total year budget, i.e. \$98,000.00 On a year to date basis, interest received and accrued totals \$212,866.31, which is 144.81% of the annual budget. Council's budget for interest on investments will be reviewed in the March Quarterly Budget Review.

Graph by Month Investments



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Table 1: Investment Balances – 28 February 2023

Financial Institution	Lodgement Date	Maturity Date	Total Days	Original Rating	Current Rating	Yield (%)	Investment Amount (Redemption Value)
At Call Accounts							
NAB	1-Feb-23	At Call	at call	ADI	ADI	0.05%	1,217.99
ANZ	1-Feb-23	At Call	at call	ADI	ADI	0.01%	6,561.60
CBA At Call 1	1-Feb-23	At Call	at call	ADI	ADI	0.02%	335.34
CBA At Call 2	1-Feb-23	At Call	at call	ADI	ADI	3.10%	1,100,376.00
							1,108,490.93
Term Deposits							
MAQ	30-Nov-22	01-Mar-23	91	LMG	LMG	3.82%	1,000,000.00
CBA	30-Sep-22	08-Mar-23	159	ADI	ADI	3.93%	1,000,000.00
CBA	15-Dec-22	15-Mar-23	90	ADI	ADI	3.92%	1,500,000.00
NAB	28-Feb-22	23-Mar-23	388	ADI	ADI	0.83%	1,000,000.00
MAQ	30-Nov-22	30-Mar-23	120	ADI	ADI	3.82%	500,000.00
NAB	30-Sep-22	03-Apr-23	185	ADI	ADI	4.00%	2,000,000.00
WBC	01-Dec-22	03-Apr-23	123	ADI	ADI	3.72%	1,000,000.00
NAB	10-Jan-23	10-Apr-23	90	ADI	ADI	4.10%	1,000,000.00
MAQ - Sewer Fund	03-Mar-22	20-Apr-23	413	UMG	UMG	0.95%	500,000.00
NAB	23-Dec-22	24-Apr-23	122	ADI	ADI	3.95%	3,000,000.00
NAB	05-Dec-22	04-May-23	150	ADI	ADI	3.88%	1,000,000.00
WBC	29-Apr-22	10-May-23	376	ADI	ADI	2.50%	1,000,000.00
NAB	28-Feb-23	19-May-23	80	ADI	ADI	4.15%	500,000.00
MAQ	19-Jan-23	22-May-23	123	UMG	UMG	4.04%	1,000,000.00
AMP	30-Nov-22	29-May-23	180	LMG	LMG	4.45%	1,000,000.00
WBC	29-Apr-22	31-May-23	397	ADI	ADI	2.50%	1,000,000.00
CBA	02-Feb-23	06-Jun-23	124	ADI	ADI	4.24%	1,500,000.00
NAB	14-Dec-22	13-Jun-23	181	ADI	ADI	4.10%	1,000,000.00
CBA - Sewer Fund	20-Dec-22	20-Jun-23	182	ADI	ADI	4.26%	2,000,000.00
MAQ	29-Apr-22	21-Jun-23	418	UMG	UMG	2.05%	1,000,000.00
WBC	27-Feb-23	27-Jun-23	120	UMG	UMG	4.27%	500,000.00
NAB	28-Feb-23	04-Jul-23	126	ADI	ADI	4.26%	500,000.00

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WBC	29-Apr-22	12-Jul-23	439	ADI	ADI	2.55%	1,000,000.00
MAQ	21-Feb-23	22-Aug-23	182	UMG	UMG	4.52%	1,000,000.00
WBC	27-Feb-23	28-Aug-23	182	UMG	UMG	4.63%	1,000,000.00
CBA	27-Feb-23	25-Sep-23	210	ADI	ADI	4.74%	1,000,000.00
WBC	31-Jan-23	31-Oct-23	273	ADI	ADI	4.44%	2,000,000.00
AMP	24-Nov-22	24-Nov-23	365	LMG	LMG	4.60%	1,000,000.00
CBA	27-Feb-23	27-Feb-24	365	ADI	ADI	5.06%	2,000,000.00
						Sub-Total	33,500,000.00
						Total	34,608,490.93

Credit Rating Legend

P	Prime
ADI	Big Four – ANZ, CBA, NAB, WBC
HG	High Grade
UMG	Upper Medium Grade
LMG	Below Upper medium grade

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Table 2: At Call and Term Deposits – Monthly Movements

Bank	Opening Balance	Interest Added to Investment or Redeemed	Net Placements/ Withdrawals	Closing Balance
NAB	505,864.73	491.26	(505,138.00)	1,217.99
ANZ	6,561.55	.05		6,561.60
CBA At Call	600,335.34		(600,000.00)	335.34
CBA At Call		376.00	1,100,000.00	1,100,000.00
Total at call	1,112,761.62	867.31	(5,138.00)	1,108,490.93
CBA	1,500,000.00	20,402.00	(1,520,402.00)	
MAQ	500,000.00	3,750.00	(503,750.00)	
MAQ	1,000,000.00	15,320.00	(1,015,320.00)	
MAQ	1,000,000.00			1,000,000.00
CBA	1,000,000.00			1,000,000.00
CBA	1,500,000.00			1,500,000.00
NAB	1,000,000.00	8,299.99	(8,299.99)	1,000,000.00
MAQ	500,000.00			500,000.00
NAB	2,000,000.00			2,000,000.00
WBC	1,000,000.00			1,000,000.00
NAB	1,000,000.00			1,000,000.00
MAQ - Sewer Fund	500,000.00			500,000.00
NAB	3,000,000.00			3,000,000.00
NAB	1,000,000.00			1,000,000.00
WBC	1,000,000.00			1,000,000.00
NAB			500,000.00	500,000.00
MAQ	1,000,000.00			1,000,000.00
AMP	1,000,000.00			1,000,000.00
WBC	1,000,000.00			1,000,000.00
CBA			1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00
NAB	1,000,000.00			1,000,000.00
CBA - Sewer Fund	2,000,000.00			2,000,000.00
MAQ	1,000,000.00			1,000,000.00
WBC			500,000.00	500,000.00
NAB			500,000.00	500,000.00
WBC	1,000,000.00			1,000,000.00
MAQ			1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00
WBC			1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00
CBA			1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00
WBC	2,000,000.00			2,000,000.00
AMP	1,000,000.00			1,000,000.00
CBA			2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00

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Total Term deposits	28,500,000.00	47,771.99	4,952,228.01	33,500,000.00
Total	29,612,761.62	48,639.30	4,947,090.01	34,608,490.93

Compliance with Council's Investment Policy

Council's Investment portfolio is 100% compliant.

The table below provides compliance status against the Investment Policy:

Institution	Credit Rating	Investment \$	Actual Exposure	Max. Limit per Policy	Compliance status
Tcorp	Prime		0.00%	33.30%	Compliant
	Total Prime		0.00%	100.00%	Compliant
ANZ	ADI	6,561.60	0.02%	33.30%	Compliant
CBA	ADI	10,100,711.34	29.19%	33.30%	Compliant
WBC	ADI	7,500,000.00	21.67%	33.30%	Compliant
NAB	ADI	10,001,217.99	28.90%	33.30%	Compliant
	Total ADI	27,608,490.93	79.77%	100.00%	Compliant
MAQ	UMG	5,000,000.00	14.45%	20.00%	Compliant
	Total UMG	5,000,000.00	14.45%	60.00%	Compliant
ME	LMG		0.00%	10.00%	Compliant
AMP	LMG	2,000,000.00	5.78%	10.00%	Compliant
	Total LMG	2,000,000.00	5.78%	10.00%	Compliant
	Grand Total	34,608,490.93	100.00%		

Certification of Responsible Accounting Officer

I hereby certify that the investments listed in the report above have been made in accordance with section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* and Council's Investments Policy.



Responsible Accounting Officer – Lisa Grammer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council accept the Investments Report for the month ending 28 February 2023 including a total balance of \$34,948,535.62 being:

- \$1,108,490.93 in at call accounts.
- \$33,500,000.00 in term deposits.
- \$340,044.69 cash at bank.

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Item 12 Natural Disaster Response and Recovery Monthly Report for March 2023

Division:	Technical Services
Management Area:	Road Operations
Author:	Manager Road Operations – Kylie Kerr
CSP Key Focus Area:	Supporting Community Life
Priority:	SC4 The long-term wellbeing of our community is supported by ongoing provision of high quality services, health and aged care, education, policing and public safety, child, youth and family support, environmental protection and land management.

Reason for Report

The reason for this report is to provide a monthly update on the natural disaster response and recovery.

Background

Council at its meeting on 16 November 2022 resolved the following:

'150/2223 RESOLVED that:

- 1. Due to the impact of multiple 'Declared Natural Disasters', Council recognises the ongoing urgent need to repair and make safe road networks across the Shire;*
- 2. Council notes the applications for joint State and Federal DRFA funding for works arising due to the impact of Declared Natural Disaster Events have been made;*
- 3. Works associated with AGRN987 (November 2021), AGRN1030 (August 2022) and AGRN1034 (September 2022 onwards) are for the purpose of response to, or recovery from, 'Declared Natural Disasters';*
- 4. Council notes the Office of Local Government Circular No 22-17 dated 10 June 2022 provides that the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 has been amended to prescribe a tendering threshold of \$500,000 for contracts entered into by councils for the purpose of responding to, or recovering from, a Declared Natural Disaster within 12 months of the declaration of the natural disaster;*
- 5. To assist in the recovery process Council endorses the engagement of contractors for the restoration of public assets;*

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6. Council determines that due to the unprecedented demand for the services of relevant consultants and contractors following recent rain and flood events throughout the State is an extenuating circumstance under s55(3)(i) of the LGA;
7. Council delegates authority to the General Manager (or his delegate) to execute the contracts that exceed \$250,000 referred items 4, 5 and 6 above, in consultation with the Mayor. Such works are to be carried out within the approved and funded Declared Natural Disasters AGRN987, AGRN1030 and AGRN1034.
8. Council receive monthly progress reports on the Disaster Recovery process.'

As previously reported to Council, as at 21 November 2022, in addition to the emergency works claim nine (9) works packages to the value of \$12,767,871.13 have been submitted for restoration works. As the submissions have been assessed and adjusted this value is now \$10,532,194 for November 2021 event and \$1,261,741 for September 2022 event. The variance between the original submission amount and current submission amount is due to a number of urban streets being removed from the submission due to Council being unable to meet the proof of damage criteria. Several of the causeways have also been moved from the November 2021 submission to September 2022 submission due to additional damage. September 2022 AGRN 1034 current estimate is \$1,261,741 with further defects still to be included. The estimate numbers will continue to move as each defect is assessed.

As of 3 March 2023, there are 1773 defects for the November 2021 event and 41 defects for the September 2022 event identified. There will be no restoration defects for August 2022 event as this claim will be emergency works only.

To date the amount of \$6,696,744 has been approved for restoration works and works have commenced. Emergency and immediate restoration (emergent) works are not included in the below table.

National Disaster Event	Approved	Queried	Submitted	Grand Total
Road - bridge / structure	\$71,737			\$71,737
Road - culvert / floodway	\$50,257	\$7,184	\$4,761	\$62,202
Road - sealed	\$772,821	\$1,082,048	\$668,394	\$2,523,262
Road - unsealed - formed	\$4,753,977	\$666,446	\$2,436,735	\$7,857,158
Road - unsealed - unformed	\$10,916			\$10,916
Stormwater infrastructure	\$6,919			\$6,919
AGRN 987	\$5,666,627	\$1,755,677	\$3,109,890	\$10,532,194
Road - bridge / structure	\$1,030,117	\$159,671		\$1,189,788
Road - culvert / floodway			\$57,992	\$57,992
Road - unsealed - formed		\$13,961		\$13,961
AGRN 1034	\$1,030,117	\$173,632	\$57,992	\$1,261,741
Grand Total	\$6,696,744	\$1,929,309	\$3,167,881	\$11,793,934

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- Approved refers to defects that have been assessed by TfNSW and the upper funding limiting has been set.
- Queried refers to defects that have been submitted and TfNSW are asking for additional information.
- Submitted refers to defects that have been submitted to TfNSW and are currently being assessed.

Note:

The estimated cost may change as Transport for NSW assesses each defect in the submitted packages and sets upper limit for the restoration works.

Expenditure to the 7 March 2023 for AGRN 987, 1030 and 1034 is \$3,235,985 and includes emergent and full restoration works.

AGRN 897 Natural Disaster Restoration Works carried out in February 2023 on the following roads (in order of expenditure):

- Cobbora Rd
- Pinehurst Rd

AGRN 1034 Natural Disaster Emergency Works carried out in February 2023 on the following roads (in order of expenditure):

- Binnia Hills Road - Bulk Fill and Repair
- Baradine Road – Pavement Failure Repair
- Bourke Rd
- Doganabuganaram Rd
- Sandy Creek Rd
- Pinehurst Rd
- Mendooran Belar Road (MR 334) - Maintenance
- Warrumbungles Way (MR 396)
- Binnia Hills Rd
- Mancers lane
- Coolah Creek Rd
- Borambitty Rd

Emergency works include urgent repairs to make the roads safe and accessible, installing and removing road closure signs, removal of debris on bridges and causeways and immediate restoration works to return the asset to pre-disaster condition.

During March 2023, we are also delivering the following grant funded projects concurrently with the Natural Disaster Restoration Works:

- Pothole Repair Program
- Regional and Local Road Repair Program
- Regional Road Repair Program
- Regional Road Block Grant
- Fixing Local Roads – Tooraweenah Road Sealing Project
- LCRI Causeway Upgrades

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- RMCC Maintenance, Heavy Patching, Guardrail Installation and Flood Restoration Works.

The road maintenance crew is working six days a week most weeks on our local rural roads performing pothole repairs. Crews are also working longer hours where necessary to get the works completed quicker. The additional hours staff are working are being monitored for negative safety impacts such as manual handling incidents as a result of fatigue and physical stress on the body.

As the packages are approved, our strategy will be to carry out the approved works in accordance with the prioritisation process approved by Council.

‘113/2223 RESOLVED that Council:

1. *Endorses the Natural Disaster Recovery approach for the restoration of the Shire’s road network with road priorities as:*
 - *Priority 1 – Regional Roads*
 - *Priority 2 – Local Arterial Roads*
 - *Priority 3 – Local Distributor Roads*
 - *Priority 4 – Local Collector Roads*
 - *Priority 5 – Local Access Roads.*
2. *Endorses that lower priority roads may be considered to be brought forward in the program if it is more practical or cost effective to deliver the works along with a higher priority road.*
3. *Notes that all restoration works associated with the November 2021 natural disaster must be completed by 30 June 2024.’*

We will be using Council work crews as much as we can supplemented with contractors when available.

There are 3 causeways that have been damaged on Pandora Pass. The first damaged causeway is preventing access to the other causeways hence making it difficult for Council to do temporary repairs. Residents and other road users have alternative access to Pandora Pass via Flags Rockedgiel Road. There are three property owners on Pandora Pass.

Residents here have raised concerns about having only one egress. While it is ideal to have more than one egress for residents at all times, it is not legislatively required. There are numerous local residents located in bushfire areas that only have one maintained road access to their property, Pandora Pass is not an isolated case. Residents in the same area on Burragundy Road, State Forest Road and Oakdale Road only have one maintained road access. It is important the residents on Pandora Pass have a bush fire survival plan as promoted by the Rural Fire Service (RFS). This plan identifies options of leaving the property and having a backup plan.

Staff and our consultants are working closely with Freshwater Environment, Department of Regional NSW (Fisheries) to agree on the minimum design requirements for the causeways. Unfortunately, even doing temporary repairs is problematic due to the natural waterway habitats and previous temporary repairs have just washed away. It is likely the new causeway designs, which we are currently preparing, will include replacement of the concrete slab and batter to

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current standards, removal of unwanted material, additional rock protection on the downstream and reconstruction of the causeway approaches. Once designs are completed and estimate construction costs are determined they will be submitted to TfNSW for consideration as part of our natural disaster claim. The designs are being funded as part of the September 2022 event, immediate restoration works section as per agreement with TfNSW.

Issues

While we wait for our applications to be approved, Council can only carry out emergency works.

It is also important to note that the restoration works are to restore the damaged roads and road related infrastructure to pre-disaster conditions, there is no allowance for any improvements to the road network.

The funding submissions for ARGN 1030 and 1034 are currently being prepared with 90% of the inspections being completed. The submissions are required to be submitted to Transport for NSW by the 30 September 2023. Our submissions is currently being prepared will be submitted between July and September 2023 once the emergent works period has finished at the end of June.

At the time of writing this report two roads remain closed to general vehicles while a further nine roads are partially closed.

Options

There are options available to Council to deliver the Natural Disaster works once funding approval has been granted.

Given the quantum of work and the timeframe required in which to complete the works, procurement of contractors will be required to supplement Council staff.

As resolved by Council, contractors will be engaged for various packages of work bundled by location.

Financial Considerations

Council's costs are recoverable for services that directly relate to the restoration of essential public assets in accordance with the NSW Natural Disaster Essential Public Asset Restoration Guidelines.

The recoverable costs will be claimed from TfNSW via their normal invoicing process which includes submitting actual expenditure monthly. Council is also required to submit the corresponding Form 306 when submitting a claim for payment.

As per Council's resolution from the 16 February 2023 Council meeting, the nominated projects for Category D funding were submitted to the Office of Local Government. We were only able to submit a maximum of \$1million. The 7 projects nominated totalled \$1.7million so we had to remove the seventh project. Staff were assured that should one or more of the nominated projects not meet the criteria the seventh project could be re-introduced.

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Community Engagement Considerations

The level of community engagement is to inform.

Attachments

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the Natural Disaster Response and Recovery Monthly Report for March 2023.

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Item 13 Binnaway Water Treatment Plant Upgrades Funding Report

Division:	Environment and Development Services
Management Area:	Warrumbungle Water
Author:	Manager Warrumbungle Water – Tom Cleary
CSP Key Focus Area:	Supporting Community Life
Priority:	SC4.4 The future requirements for water and power are identified and adequately planned for by the service providers.

Reason for report

To seek resolution from Council to execute a funding deed from the Department of Planning and Environment for funding received under the Safe and Secure Water Programme (SSWP) for upgrades to the Binnaway Water Treatment Plant.

Background

In 2019, NSW Health conducted a state-wide cryptosporidium risk assessment of drinking water systems. The risk assessment was conducted to assess the effectiveness and capacity of water treatment systems to control cryptosporidium in water supply systems.

As part of the risk assessment process, Council supplied information to NSW Health regarding existing water treatment infrastructure and raw water sources for all potable water supply schemes operated by Warrumbungle Shire Council.

In 2020, NSW Health finalised the preliminary risk assessment and issued the findings of the investigations to water utilities. Council at this time was advised by NSW Health that the Binnaway Water Supply Scheme was a high risk to cryptosporidium contamination within the water supply due to inadequate control measures in the water treatment process. The findings of the risk assessment resulted in the Binnaway Water Supply Scheme risk prioritisation score under the SSWP being elevated to a 5 for Water Quality. 5 is the highest priority under the SSWP to become eligible for funding.

In September 2022, Council was invited to submit a funding application to address the identified water quality issues within the Binnaway Water Supply Scheme. In December 2022, Council submitted a proposal for funding to resolve the water quality risk in the Binnaway Water Supply Scheme. The funding application was approved by SSWP and a funding deed has been issued to Council to execute to commence works on this project.

Issues

Cryptosporidium outbreaks are of serious concern to public water utilities with several notable incidents recorded globally. Cryptosporidium is a microorganism that is found in water and can cause serious gastrointestinal disease and complications within humans if consumed. Sources of cryptosporidium that affect humans include

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sewerage and livestock. Cryptosporidium is of particular concern for water supplies because it is not controlled by normal doses of chlorine unlike viruses and bacteria. A high standard of filtration and an alternative form of disinfection, such as ultraviolet light, is needed to control cryptosporidium.

As discussed above, the Binnaway Water Supply Scheme with current treatment infrastructure and operational control philosophy does not have the ability to effectively control cryptosporidium contamination as required by the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG). The key issues surrounding the ineffectiveness of the Binnaway Water Supply Scheme to control cryptosporidium include the following:

- The filtration process does not have effective control and monitoring through automated equipment and therefore cannot be validated in line with the ADWG. Currently samples to verify process performance are collected and recorded by operators once per day.
- Current disinfection measures are ineffective in controlling cryptosporidium as chlorine has no disinfection control over cryptosporidium.

Further to the above cryptosporidium risks, there are other prudent issues within the Binnaway Water Supply Scheme that are required to be addressed; these are as follows:

Binnaway Backup Bore - in 2015 Council received funding through Infrastructure NSW to construct a new bore in Binnaway as part of drought stimulus funding to supplement the existing raw water supply from the Castlereagh River. The bore was constructed and commissioned in 2019, however following commissioning of the bore, water testing revealed that water produced from the bore is contaminated with both fluoride concentrations that exceed the ADWG Health Guideline values as well as alpha and beta radionuclides. Further testing in late 2022 confirmed the presence of the contaminants. Advice from the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) and the NSW Health Public Health Unit has indicated that this water source is not of sufficient quality to be utilised within the Binnaway Water Supply Scheme. DPE have also indicated that side stream treatment of this raw water source is not a cost-effective approach to addressing the water quality issue and have recommended that Council construct a new bore in an alternative location in order to utilise water of better quality for the Binnaway Water Supply Scheme. Water from the Binnaway backup bore cannot be treated at the Binnaway Water Treatment Plant.

Existing Amenities and Laboratory - DPE Regional Inspectors have identified to Council that the existing amenities and laboratory at the water treatment plant is not compliant with WHS requirements. This is due to the fact that the room is a small space and also the space is shared with electrical control systems required for the operation of the plant. Insufficient room doesn't provide operators with an amenities area as well as sufficient area to conduct operational water testing.

Options

The approved funding scope of works addresses all of the issues that have been discussed above. The primary concern for the Binnaway Water Supply Scheme is the inadequate control of cryptosporidium contamination risk. Council has the option

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to execute the funding deed from the DPE to address these issues. As highlighted above addressing this deficiency will allow Council to continue to supply a safe and secure water supply to customers in Binnaway.

The opportunity to provide a reliable backup bore in Binnaway will also result in better water security for Binnaway, as with the current scenario, the backup bore cannot be utilised for potable water supply. Council has the option under this funding agreement to construct a new bore in an alternative location to be able to supply the Binnaway Water Supply Scheme.

Additionally, the execution of the deed will allow Council to address long term WHS issues at the Binnaway Water Treatment Plant, improving operational conditions for Council staff.

Financial Considerations

The funding is offered through SSWP, meaning the project is 75% funded, with Council being required to contribute the remaining 25%.

It is proposed to deliver this project through three separate stages of work including concept design, detailed design and construction. The funding deed which is the subject of this report only covers funding for the concept design, however the SSWP has committed to funding this project to resolution of the risk.

The financial costing for each stage of the project is outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Project Costings for Each Delivery Stage

Project Stage	Council Contribution (25%)	SSWP Contribution (75%)	Total	Milestone Completion Date
Concept Design	\$44,808.00	\$134,424.00	\$179,232.00	25/09/2023
Detailed Design	\$120,614.70	\$361,844.10	\$482,458.80	21/04/2025
Construction	\$284,635.20	\$853,905.60	\$1,138,540.80	26/01/2026
Total	\$450,057.90	\$1,350,173.70	\$1,800,231.60	

Currently Council has the following budget allocations within the adopted 22/23 FY capital works programme.

Table 2: Adopted CAPEX Budget Allocations

Financial Year	Total
2022/23	\$200,000.00
2023/24	\$500,000.00
Total	\$700,000.00

To fund the identified shortfall the proposed FY 23/24 CAPEX budget has been submitted for financial review to further allocate funds to this project. The proposed funding strategy in the FY 23/24 CAPEX budget is as per Table 3 below.

Table 3: Proposed Future CAPEX Budget Allocations

Financial Year	Total
2022/23 (Funds to be spent)	\$200,000.00
2023/24	\$500,000.00

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2024/25	\$300,000.00
2025/26	\$830,000.00
Total	\$1,830,000.00

The capital expenditure required to resolve the three funded risks over the entire project lifecycle in relation the Binnaway Water Supply Scheme is as per Table 4 below. The costs referenced in Table 4 below are inclusive of contingency and project management.

Table 4: CAPEX Expenditure to Resolve Risks Related to the Binnaway Water Supply Scheme

Financial Year	Total
Cryptosporidium Risk	\$1,103,949.42
Binnaway Backup Bore	\$465,004.17
WHS Issues	\$261,046.41
Total	\$1,830,000.00

Whilst Council does have the option to reduce the scope of works in relation to the project to reduce capital expenditure, it is not recommended as the resolution of these noted risks is critical to Council's ability to continue to supply safe and secure water to the Binnaway Water Supply Scheme.

Community Engagement

The level of engagement is 'Inform' as per Council'.

Attachments

1. Funding Deed – Binnaway Water Treatment Works Project

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the information contained in the Binnaway Water Treatment Plant Upgrades Funding Report.
2. Delegates authority to the General Manager to execute and sign the funding deed received from the Department of Planning and Environment valued at \$134,424.
3. Allocates further funds to the Binnaway Water Treatment Plant Upgrades as follows: FY2023/24 \$500,000, FY2024/25 \$300,000, FY2025/26 \$830,000.

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Item 14 Alcohol Free Zones

Division:	Environment and Development Services
Management Area:	Planning and Regulation
Author:	Kelly Dewar – Manager Planning and Regulation
CSP Key Focus Area:	Supporting Community Life
Priority:	SC6 – Our towns and villages are characterised by their attractiveness, appearance, safety and amenity.

Reason for report

To re-establish the Alcohol Free Zones within the towns of Baradine, Binnaway, Coonabarabran, Coolah, Dunedoo and Mendooran as per Section 644B(4) of the Local Government Act 1993.

Background

Council has designated Alcohol Free Zones established in Baradine, Binnaway, Coonabarabran, Coolah, Dunedoo and Mendooran that are due to expire in July 2023. Maps showing the location of the current Alcohol Free Zones are provided as attachments to this report.

The Alcohol Free Zones within the abovementioned communities are situated to deter consumption of alcohol on main streets within the Shire, increasing the safety of pedestrians and passing motorists.

The Alcohol Free Zones do not conflict with Council's *Business Use of Footpaths Policy* and Guidelines for outdoor dining. Whilst the Alcohol Free Zones restrict the consumption of alcohol on footpaths, Council's *Business Use of Footpaths* makes provision for approvals to be sought through the development application process for outdoor dining (including the sale and consumption of alcohol) to occur.

Issues

If Council decides to renew the zones, the following process under Section 644B(4) of the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended) is required:

1. Publish notice of the proposal in a newspaper circulating in the area, allow inspection of the proposal and invite representations or objections within 30 days (from the date of publication). The notice should state the exact location of the proposed Alcohol Free Zones and the place and time at which the proposals may be inspected.
2. Send a copy of the proposal to:
 - a. the Police Local Area Commander and the Officer in charge of the Police Station within or nearest to the proposed zone,
 - b. Liquor Licensees and Secretaries of registered clubs whose premises border on or adjoin or are adjacent to the proposed zone.

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and invite representations or objection within 30 days from the date of sending the copy of the proposal, AND

- c. Send a copy of the proposal to the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board, if the local area is listed in Appendix 2 of the guidelines and invite representations or objections within 30 days from the date of sending the copy of the proposal.

In addition to these statutory requirements there are other consultative avenues that would enhance the effectiveness of any Alcohol Free Zone that is subsequently established. Accordingly, a Council is also required to:

3. Send a copy of the proposal to any known organisation representing or able to speak on behalf of an identifiable Aboriginal or culturally and linguistically diverse group within the local area and invite representations or objections within 30 days from the date of sending the copy of the proposal.

Council is to give proper consideration to any representations, submissions or objections received and as a result may amend or withdraw a proposal to establish an Alcohol Free Zone.

Options

1. Not renew the Alcohol Free Zones in Baradine, Binnaway, Coonabarabran, Coolah, Dunedoo and Mendooran.
2. Renew the Alcohol Free Zones by publicising Council's proposal and advertising in accordance with the Ministerial Guidelines published by the Department of Local Government February 2009.

Financial Considerations

Council is responsible for advertising the proposal to declare Alcohol Free Zones and for advertising the declaration of the zones when they are renewed. It is also Council's responsibility to meet the cost of providing/updating signage within the zones.

Community Engagement

Community Engagement is to Inform and Consult.

Attachments

Maps showing the location of the current Alcohol Free Zones –

1. Baradine
2. Binnaway
3. Coolah
4. Coonabarabran
5. Dunedoo
6. Mendooran
7. Letter of Support for Alcohol Free Zones, NSW Police Force

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RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the information contained in the Alcohol Free Zones Report.
2. Commence the advertising and notification process as per Section 644 under Local Government Act 1993 to renew the existing Alcohol Free Zones within Baradine, Binnaway, Coonabarabran, Coolah, Dunedoo and Mendooran for a further period of four years.

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Item 15 Inland Rail Update Report

Division:	Environment and Development Services
Management Area:	Economic Development and Tourism
Author:	Director Environment and Development Services – Leeanne Ryan
CSP Key Focus Area:	Strengthening the Local Economy
Priority:	LE2.2 Work with local business and industry to foster local economic development, innovation and expansion

Reason for Report

To provide Council with regular updates on Inland Rail discussions and matters that relate to Council.

Background

Inland Rail is a freight rail line that will connect Melbourne to Brisbane through regional Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. With freight volumes set to almost double in the next 20 years, the Australian Government is building the rail line to address freight needs.

The following broad points relate to the Inland Rail project:

- Inland Rail 1,700km long, from Melbourne to Brisbane in less than 24 hours.
- Trains travelling on the Inland Rail track will be able to travel at speeds of up to 115km/h.
- The track will enable the use of double-stacked (containers), 1,800m long trains with a 21 tonne axle load. Each train could carry the equivalent freight volume as 110 B-double trucks.

Within Warrumbungle Shire Council, the Inland Rail will traverse part of our Shire to the north-west of Baradine. This section of the line sits in the Narromine to Narrabri section of the project, known as N2N. Approximately 42 kms of rail line relating to Inland Rail will be located within our local government area.

Update on N2N Section of the Project

The N2N section of the line is approximately 306kms in length, and is Inland Rail's longest section of new track. A detailed map of the alignment through Warrumbungle Shire can be found at: inlandrail.artc.com.au/where-we-go/#narromine-to-narrabri

Issues

The following updates on the project are provided:

- The Minister for Planning granted approval for the Inland Rail - Narromine to Narrabri Project on 21 February 2023. A copy of the determination is provided as Attachment 1 to this report.

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- Australian Government announced an independent review of Inland Rail on 7 October 2022, more information on the review can be found here www.inlandrail.gov.au/understanding-inland-rail/independent-review. The review focusses on planning, governance and delivery of Inland Rail. The independent review is expected to be completed by early 2023, with the findings provided to the Australian Government for consideration.
- The date of the Inland Rail Summit to be held in Toowoomba has been moved to 3 July 2023 (the original date was 28 March 2023). Councils directly on the Inland Rail route, or in close proximity have been invited to attend.
- Council staff met with ARTC and contractors on 28 February 2023 to obtain a briefing on potential bores that maybe located with the Council area required for the project.
- Information has been received from the Chair of Inland Rail N2N Community Consultative Committee (CCC) that the determination by the Minister effectively concludes the operation of the Community Consultative Committee for the Inland Rail N2N Project. The Chair, Mr Michael Silver extends his sincere appreciation for Council's involvement, commitment and contribution to the Committee over the past four years. Council's representatives on this committee were Cr Todd and Director Environment and Development Services.

Options

The Inland Rail project will continue to show its presence within Warrumbungle Shire, as construction of the project commences.

Financial Considerations

Nil

Community Engagement

The level of community engagement is 'Inform' as per Council's *Community Engagement Strategy 2020-2024*.

Attachments

1. Narromine to Narrabri SSI-9487 – Instrument of Approval

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the information in the Inland Rail Update Report.

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Item 16 Renewable Energy Benefit Policy Report

Division:	Environment and Development Services
Management Area:	Planning and Regulation
Author:	Director Environment and Development Services – Leeanne Ryan
CSP Key Focus Area:	Strengthening the Local Economy
Priority:	LE3 The community benefits from the economic returns of local renewable energy production, and mining and extractive industries.

Reason for report

To present the draft *Renewable Energy Benefit Policy* for Council endorsement and seek resolution to publicly exhibit the draft policy for 28 days.

Background

The Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (CWOREZ) was formally established through declaration under section 19(1) of the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020* published in the NSW Gazette on 5 November 2021.

The declaration formalises the zone and specifies its intended network capacity, geographic scope, and designated network infrastructure. The projected network capacity for the CWOREZ is 3 GW, with Dunedoo serving as the geographic centre.

The CWOREZ will host an array of renewable energy projects including (but not restricted to) wind farms, solar farms, battery energy storage systems, and associated infrastructure.

At the Ordinary Meeting held 21 July 2022, Council considered a Notice of Motion seeking a policy be developed regarding renewable energy generators, including solar and wind energy farms. As a result, Council resolved the following:

21/2223 RESOLVED that Warrumbungle Shire develop a *Planning Agreement Policy for Renewable Energy Generators, including Solar and Wind Energy Farms.*

Development of the draft policy intends to satisfy the intent of the Resolution 21/2223.

Issues

The CWOREZ will host large developments that will have long lasting effects on the Warrumbungle Shire as a result of the expected impacts.

These impacts are many, and include road and traffic; accommodation; workforce; social; economic; waste; water; sewerage; telecommunications; environmental; not to

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mention cumulative impacts when a number of the developments proposed are constructed simultaneously.

The scope of the policy extends past the Warrumbungle LGA boundary, and includes any renewable energy project that will impact the LGA (this includes development in adjoining LGA's that may create impacts on our residents or communities). This policy does not just relate to wind and solar energy, but extends to renewable energy, storage and transmission projects (and associated infrastructure) including pumped hydro, battery energy storage systems, hydrogen generation, transmission lines and any other form of renewable energy project or infrastructure.

Through the provisions of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* Council will be seeking a Planning Agreement with each developer that will be carrying out a renewable energy project that will likely create an impact on our residents and/or communities.

The policy outlines the key components of Council intentions when entering into a planning agreement with a developer such as:

- The defined use of public purposes, and the material public benefits that can be expected from entering into a Planning Agreement with Council;
- The expected funding target of 1.5% (as a minimum) of the Capital Investment Value of the project as a total value

On that basis, the policy seeks a monetary contribution from each renewable energy developer that will generate an impact on the LGA. The funds received will be expended for public benefits.

Options

Council does not have a policy on renewable energy benefits, however has an outstanding resolution to develop said policy.

Financial Considerations

The policy provides Council's position on planning agreements associated with renewable energy development, and the framework surrounding implementation of these agreements. A quantum of 1.5% (as a minimum) of Capital Investment Value of the project as a total value is sought from each developer through a formalised Planning Agreement.

Community Engagement

The level of community engagement is 'Inform' as per Council's *Community Engagement Strategy 2020-2024*.

If endorsed by Council, the draft policy will be required to be advertised for 28 days seeking public submissions.

Attachments

1. Draft *Renewable Energy Benefit Policy*.

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RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council endorses the Draft *Renewable Energy Benefit Policy* for the purpose of public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days;
2. A further report be presented to Council on the Draft *Renewable Energy Benefit Policy* after the public exhibition period is completed.

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Item 17 Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone Report – March 2023

Division:	Environment and Development Services
Management Area:	Planning and Regulation
Author:	Director Development Services – Leeanne Ryan
CSP Key Focus Area:	Strengthening the Local Economy
Priority:	LE3 – The community benefits from the economic returns of local renewable energy production, and mining and extractive industries

Reason for Report

To provide Council with regular updates on Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone matters that relate to Council.

Background

Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) is a renewable energy zone being set up by State Government.

The following broad points relate to the REZ project:

- It is the State's first renewable energy zone, and covers approximately 20,000 square kilometres.
- Incorporates parts of three LGA's being Warrumbungle, Dubbo and Mid-Western
- The REZ is proposed to unlock 3 gigawatts of new network capacity by mid 2020's (through solar and wind farms)
- Expected to bring up to \$5 billion in private investment to the Central-West Orana region by 2030.
- At its peak, the REZ is expected to support around 3,900 construction jobs in the region.
- Was selected by State Government following a detailed geospatial mapping exercise undertaken by NSW Government in 2018
- Formally declared by the Minister for Energy and Environment under section 19(1) of the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020* and published in the NSW Gazette on 5 November 2021.
- EnergyCo is the Infrastructure Planner responsible for coordinating and leading the development of the REZ.
- In the future, the Minister may amend the declaration to expand the specified geographical area of the REZ, increase the intended network capacity, specify additional generation, storage and network infrastructure, provide further details and specifications or correct a minor error.
- There are 4 other REZ's proposed for NSW being located in New England, South-West, Hunter Central and Illawarra.
- The REZ will be supported by a large transmission line yet to be approved or constructed; EnergyCo have carriage of delivering the this infrastructure.

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- The REZ will host eleven (11) preferred projects in Stage 1 (pending approval from DPE). These include a mix of both wind farms and solar farms of varying sizes. Many of these are partially or totally located in Warrumbungle LGA.
- More information on the REZ can be found on the Central-West Orana REZ website.

The below map shows the location of the REZ.



Within Warrumbungle Shire Council, the REZ will impact our LGA, but particularly the localities of Coolah, Leadville, Dunedoo, Birriwa, Cobbora and surrounds.

An interactive map to demonstrate the location of the various wind and solar farms within the REZ can be found on EnergyCo's website.

Many of the proposed projects are located across LGA boundaries, with delivery of projects potentially clashing and generating cumulative impacts. Some areas that maybe impacted include housing and accommodation, labour and workforce, road and traffic, waste, water, sewerage, telecommunications and social.

It is important to note that the REZ transmission line and associated wind farms, solar farms and battery energy storage systems are State Significant Development requiring approval from the State Government, not Council.

Issues

Over the past months, Council has been involved in a number of matters pertaining to the REZ as follows:

- Lodged written comments on the draft SEARS for the proposed **Dapper Solar Farm** – submitted 7 February 2023.

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- Attended meetings both online and in-person with potential REZ project developers regarding matters of concern to our LGA and the impacts on our communities; these were as follows:
 - Liverpool Range Wind Farm with TILT Renewables – 15.12.22
 - Barneys Reef Wind Farm CCC Meeting – 30.01.23
 - Orana Wind Farm with ACCIONA – 03.02.23
 - Valley of the Winds Wind Farm with ACEN – 07.02.23
 - Tallawang Solar Farm and Barneys Reef Wind Farm with RES – 17.02.23
 - Dunedoo Solar Farm with ib vogt – 20.02.23
 - Spicers Creek Wind Farm with Squadron Energy – 22.02.23
 - Birriwa Solar Farm and Valley of te Winds Wind Farm with ACEN – 24.02.23
 - Birriwa Solar Farm with ACEN – 27.02.23

- Discussed potential REZ projects and associated impacts with our neighbouring Councils being Mid-Western Regional and Dubbo Regional.
- Participated in the Coalition of Regional Energy Mayors (CoREM) along with the following LGA's: Mid-Western, Uralla, Glen Innes, Walcha, Armidale, Dubbo, Tamworth, Inverell, with other LGA's potentially becoming involved.
- Prepared a draft Renewable Energy Benefit Policy – to be presented to Council in a separate report.

The below Table 1 provides the current status of the major projects (currently listed on the DPE Major Projects Portal) that will impact on the Warrumbungle LGA.

Table 1: Major Projects that impact WSC

Major Project	LGA	Description	Status
Sandy Creek Solar Farm	Warrumbungle and Dubbo	750 MW solar farm and assoc. infrastructure	Preparing EIS
Dapper Solar Farm	Warrumbungle and Dubbo Regional	300 MW solar farm and assoc. infrastructure	Preparing EIS
Spicers Creek Wind Farm	Warrumbungle and Dubbo	Wind energy generation project with up to 122 wind turbines, with transmission connection and assoc. infrastructure	Preparing EIS
Cobbora Solar Farm	Warrumbungle and Dubbo	700 MW solar farm with energy storage and assoc. infrastructure	Preparing EIS
Central-West Orana REZ Transmission Line	Warrumbungle, Mid-Western, Dubbo, Upper Hunter	New twin double circuit 500Kv transmission lines between Wollar and the proposed substations at Methoherie and Elong Elong, and connections from these lines to projects in the REZ	Preparing EIS
Barneys Reef Wind Farm	Mid -Western	350 MW wind farm, including 65 turbines (220m), battery storage and assoc. infrastructure	Preparing EIS
Birriwa Solar Farm	Mid-Western and Warrumbungle	600 MW solar farm, energy storage facility and assoc. infrastructure	Response to Submissions

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Tallawang Solar Farm	Mid-Western	500 MW solar farm with 500 MW/1,000 MWh battery energy storage system and assoc. infrastructure	Response to Submissions
Liverpool Range Wind Farm Modification 1	Warrumbungle, Upper Hunter and Mid-Western	Increase maximum tip height to 250m, decrease number of turbines to 220, amend infrastructure, transport route and increase native veg clearing limits	Response to Submissions
Valley of the Winds Wind Farm	Warrumbungle	Construct and operate wind farm up to 148 turbines, energy storage and assoc. infrastructure	Response to Submissions
Dunedoo Solar Farm	Warrumbungle	55 MW solar farm with energy storage and assoc. infrastructure	Determined

Considerable staff resources will be required to review the documents that are yet to be publicly exhibited such as the EIS's (that are currently under preparation) and the Response to Submissions documents. It is expected that there are also some projects not listed in Table 1 that may not have yet started the State Significant Development determination process.

Options

The REZ and associated projects will continue to show their presence within Warrumbungle Shire. It is necessary for Council to remain engaged as information comes to light.

Financial Considerations

Staff time to attend meetings and prepare written submissions is required to be factored in. At the time of writing report Council has expended \$120,525.13 on matters relating to the REZ. This consists of the following expenditure:

- Staff costs = \$15,173.65
- Contractors = \$105,351.48

Community Engagement

The level of community engagement is 'Inform' as per Council's *Community Engagement Strategy 2020-2024*.

Attachments

1. Submission on draft SEARS – Dapper Solar Farm – 7 February 2023

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the information in the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone Report – March 2023.
2. Endorses the actions taken in relation to the submission on Dapper Solar Farm.

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Item 18 Development Applications

Division:	Development Services
Management Area:	Regulatory Services
Author:	Administration Assistant Environment and Development Services – Jenni Tighe
CSP Key Focus Area:	Strengthening the Local Economy
Priority / Strategy:	LE5 – Opportunities exist for the establishment of light industries and range of housing options

Development Applications

(i) Approved – February 2023

Development Application / Complying Development	Date Lodged	Date Approved	Applicant's Name	Location	Town	Type of Development	Referral Days	Stop the Clock Days
DA41/2022	10/11/2022	16/02/2023	Josephine Redden	389 Purlewaugh Street	Coonabarabran	Alterations and Additions	13 # *	0
DA42/2022	17/11/2022	8/02/2023	Mark Hitchenson	22 Binnia Street	Coolah	Alterations and Additions	52	0

Note: The applicant lodges the DA via the NSW Planning Portal, Council makes all referrals to Government Agencies within two (2) days via the Concurrence and Referral dashboard through the NSW Planning Portal.

Crown Lands

*** Local Land Services**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the Applications and Certificates approved during February 2023, under Delegated Authority.

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Item 19 Notice of Motion – Council Honour Boards

Notice of Motion – Council Honour Boards

I hereby advise that I propose to move the following Notice of Motion at the Council meeting:

The Warrumbungle Shire Council update honour boards in Coonabarabran and Coolah.

RATIONALE:

Boards need to be updated to honour members of Council since March 2005.

Coonabarabran Board needs little alteration to be good for next 40 years, as there is plenty of space.

It would also be good if Council have photos of the five councils chambers in each town.

**DENIS TODD
COUNCILLOR**

General Manager's Comment

While no new honour board has been created for the Warrumbungle Shire a research project was undertaken 2-3 years ago and the 'Councillor Honour List' was created.

This is located on the Council website.

A copy of the document is attached.

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Item 20 Reports to be Considered in Closed Council

Item 20.1 Human Resources Monthly Report

Division: Executive Services

Author: Manager Human Resources – Chris Kennedy

Summary

The purpose of this report is to update Council in relation to activities undertaken by Human Resources including Staffing and Recruitment, Training and Workplace Health and Safety (WHS).

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) (*'the Act'*) and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (NSW), in the opinion of the General Manager, the following business is of a kind as referred to in section 10A(2) of the Act, and should be dealt with in a part of the meeting closed to the media and public.

The item relates to personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors) and is classified **CONFIDENTIAL** under section 10A(2)(a) of the Act, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:

- (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors)

RECOMMENDATION

That the Human Resources Monthly Report be referred to Closed Council pursuant to section 10A(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) on the grounds that the matter deals with personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

Item 20.2 Three Rivers Regional Retirement Community Information Report

Division: Environment and Development Services

Author: Director Environment and Development Services – Leeanne Ryan

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the Three Rivers Regional Retirement Community (TRRRC) project.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) (*'the Act'*) and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (NSW), in the opinion of the General Manager, the following business is of a kind as referred to in section 10A(2) of the Act, and should be dealt with in a part of the meeting closed to the media and public.

The item relates to advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege and is classified **CONFIDENTIAL** under section 10A(2)(g) of the Act, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:

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

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RECOMMENDATION

That the Three Rivers Regional Retirement Community Information Report be referred to Closed Council pursuant to section 10A(2)(g) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) on the grounds that the matter deals with advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege.

Item 20.3 2– 4 Digilah Street, Dunedoo

Division: Executive Services

Author: General Manager – Roger Bailey

Summary

The purpose of this report is to report to Council on the possible sale of the property 2-4 Digilah Street, Dunedoo.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) (*'the Act'*) and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (NSW), in the opinion of the General Manager, the following business is of a kind as referred to in section 10A(2) of the Act, and should be dealt with in a part of the meeting closed to the media and public.

The item relates to advice concerning commercial information and is classified **CONFIDENTIAL** under section 10A(2)(c) of the Act, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:

- (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct)

RECOMMENDATION

That the 2-4 Digilah Street Report be referred to Closed Council pursuant to section 10A(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) on the grounds that the matter deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct).

Item 20.4 Council Organisation Structure

Division: Executive Services

Author: General Manager – Roger Bailey

Summary

The purpose of this report is to updated Council on the Council Organisation Structure and employee costs

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) (*'the Act'*) and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (NSW), in the opinion of the General Manager, the following business is of a kind as referred to in section 10A(2) of the Act, and should be dealt with in a part of the meeting closed to the media and public.

The item relates to personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors) and is classified **CONFIDENTIAL** under section 10A(2)(a) of the Act,

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which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:

- (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors)

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council Organisation Structure Report be referred to Closed Council pursuant to section 10A(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) on the grounds that the matter deals with personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

Item 20.5 Supply of Skip Bin Contract

Division: Regulatory Services

Author: PA to Director Environment and Development Services – Meg Meier

Summary

The purpose of this report is to inform Council on the extension of the current Supply of Skip Bin Services Contract.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) (*'the Act'*) and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (NSW), in the opinion of the General Manager, the following business is of a kind as referred to in section 10A(2) of the Act, and should be dealt with in a part of the meeting closed to the media and public.

The item relates to advice concerning commercial information and is classified **CONFIDENTIAL** under section 10A(2)(d) of the Act, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:

- (d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:
 - i. prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or
 - ii. confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council, or
 - iii. reveal a trade secret.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Supply of Skip Bin Contract be referred to Closed Council pursuant to section 10A(2)(d) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) on the grounds that the matter deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council or reveal a trade secret.

Item 20.6 Tender for Real Country Business Case and Strategy Development

Division: Environment and Development Services

Author: Director Environment and Development Services – Leeanne Ryan

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Summary

The purpose of this report is to consider submissions for a joint tender with Coonamble, Gilgandra and Warrumbungle Shire Councils for the Real Country Tourism Experience Strategy and Infrastructure Business Case Project.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) (*'the Act'*) and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (NSW), in the opinion of the General Manager, the following business is of a kind as referred to in section 10A(2) of the Act, and should be dealt with in a part of the meeting closed to the media and public.

The item relates to advice concerning commercial information and is classified **CONFIDENTIAL** under section 10A(2)(d) of the Act, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:

- (d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:
 - i. prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or
 - ii. confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council, or
 - iii. reveal a trade secret.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Tender for Real Country Business Case and Strategy Development be referred to Closed Council pursuant to section 10A(2)(d) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) on the grounds that the matter deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council or reveal a trade secret.

Item 20.7 Supply of Casual Plant Hire

Division: Technical Services

Author: Manager Fleet Services – Stephen Friend

Summary

The purpose of this report is to make a determination in respect of recommendations by the tender evaluation panel for the Casual Plant Hire.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) (*'the Act'*) and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (NSW), in the opinion of the General Manager, the following business is of a kind as referred to in section 10A(2) of the Act, and should be dealt with in a part of the meeting closed to the media and public.

The item relates to advice concerning commercial information and is classified **CONFIDENTIAL** under section 10A(2)(d) of the Act, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:

- (e) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:
 - i. prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or
 - ii. confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council, or

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- iii. reveal a trade secret.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Supply of Casual Plant Hire be referred to Closed Council pursuant to section 10A(2)(d) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) on the grounds that the matter deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council or reveal a trade secret.

FURTHER that Council resolve that:

1. Council go into Closed Council to consider business relating to confidential information.
2. Pursuant to section 10A(1)-(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW), the media and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified confidential under the provisions of Section 10A(2) as outlined above.
3. The correspondence and reports relevant to the subject business be withheld from access to the media and public as required by section 11(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW).