

COONAMBLE

SHIRE COUNCIL

BUSINESS PAPER

Ordinary Council Meeting

Wednesday, 10 July 2024

Date: Wednesday, 10 July 2024

Time: 3.00 PM

**Location: Shire Chamber
Coonamble**

Tim Horan
Mayor

Notice is hereby given that an Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held in the Shire Chamber, Coonamble on Wednesday, 10 July 2024 at 3.00 PM.

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1 OPENING MEETING**2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet today, the Wailwan people and the Gamilaroi people and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

3 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**4 APOLOGIES/APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS****5 DEPUTATION/DELEGATIONS****6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****RECOMMENDATION**

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Coonamble Shire Council held on Wednesday, 19 June 2024 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings of the meeting.



MINUTES

**Ordinary Council Meeting
Wednesday, 19 June 2024**

**MINUTES OF COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE SHIRE CHAMBER, COONAMBLE
ON WEDNESDAY, 19 JUNE 2024 AT 3.00 PM**

PRESENT: Mayor Tim Horan, Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen, Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher, Cr Terence Lees, Cr Brian Sommerville

IN ATTENDANCE: Paul Gallagher (General Manager), Bruce Quarmby (Director Corporate Services), Kerrie Murphy (Director Infrastructure), Barry Broe (Director Community, Planning, Development & Environment), Jennifer Maundrell (Executive Manager Corporate Governance), Marina Colwell (Executive Support Officer), Deborah Tatton (Manager Finance), Kylie Kerr (Manager Roads), Lesley Duncan (Manager Planning, Regulatory & Compliance), Mick Bell (Manager Parks & Urban Services), David Levick (Manager Economic Development & Growth)

1 OPENING MEETING

The Mayor opened the meeting at 3.02 pm, advising the attendees of the following:

The meeting is being livestreamed and/or recorded for on-demand viewing via Council's website and a person's image and/or voice may be broadcast;

- Attendance at the meeting is to be taken as consent by a person to their image and /or voice being webcast (time will be allowed by the Chairperson for people to leave the meeting before it starts);
- All speakers should refrain from making any defamatory comments or releasing any personal information about another individual without their consent;
- Council accepts no liability for any damage that may result from defamatory comments made by persons attending the meetings – all liability will rest with the individual who made the comments;
- The recording will be available on Council's website for a minimum of 12 months and retained as a Council record;
- Individuals acting in a disorderly manner can be asked by the Chairperson to leave the meeting under the Council's Code of Meeting Practice;
- The meeting must not be recorded by others without the prior written consent of the Council in accordance with the Council's Code of Meeting Practice.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet today, the Wailwan people and the Gamilaroi people and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

3 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Nil

4 APOLOGIES/APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS**APOLOGY****RESOLUTION 2024/114**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher

Seconded: Cr Terence Lees

That the apology from Cr Deans and Cr Cullen be noted and approved.In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian SommervilleAgainst: Nil**CARRIED 5/0**

Nil

5 DEPUTATION/DELEGATIONS

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**RESOLUTION 2024/115**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen

Seconded: Cr Terence Lees

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Coonamble Shire Council held on Wednesday, 8 May 2024In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian SommervilleAgainst: Nil**CARRIED 5/0****RESOLUTION 2024/116**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen

Seconded: Cr Terence Lees

That the Extraordinary Council Meeting of the Coonamble Shire Council held on Tuesday, 28 May 2024 be confirmed as a correct records of the proceedings of the meetings.In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

7 DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

8 MAYORAL MINUTE

MAYORAL MINUTE

RESOLUTION 2024/117

Moved: Mayor Tim Horan

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen

That the report:

- 1. The report be received and noted.**
- 2. The General Manager write to the Racing Minister expressing Councils disgust in the Greyhound Association attempting to close the Greyhound track.**
- 3. Resolved to thank Roy Butler for his representation on behalf of the Council and the Coonamble community for his support for the continued operation of the Greyhound track.**

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

SECTION A - MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY COUNCIL

SECTION B - MATTERS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

9 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nil

10 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

10.1 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLUTION 2024/118

Moved: Cr Terence Lees

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher

That the report be received and noted.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

10.2 COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS UPDATE

RESOLUTION 2024/119

Moved: Cr Terence Lees

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen

That Council notes the Council Resolution status (Annexure 1).

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

10.3 CHANGE OF VENUE FOR JULY 2024 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION 2024/120

Moved: Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen

Seconded: Cr Terence Lees

- 1. That Council changes the venue and time for the July 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting as follows:**

Date	Location	Time
10 July 2024	Council Chamber – Council Administration Building, Coonamble	3.00 PM
14 August 2024	Quambone Memorial Hall, Quambone	10.00 AM

- 2. That the General Manager communicates the time and venue of the July and August 2024 Council Meetings to staff and arranges for the above information to be advertised on Council’s website and in Council’s column in the Coonamble Times.**

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

10.4 GENERAL MANAGER - TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS FOR GENERAL MANAGERS LEAVE

RESOLUTION 2024/121

Moved: Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen

Seconded: Cr Brian Sommerville

That Council adopts the following:

- 1. When the General Manager is on leave the following remuneration, under Clause 11 (iii) of the Local Government (State) Award 2020, shall apply:**
 - (a) The Director Infrastructure Services will act in the role of General Manager for the period 1 July and 30 September 2024.**
 - (b) The Director Corporate Services will act in the role of General Manager for the period 1 October 2024 and 31 March 2025.**
 - (c) The Director – Community, Planning, Development & Environment will act in the role of General Manager for the period 1 April and 30 June 2025.**
 - (d) That, in the event a Director acting in the role of General Manager is absent, the other Director in sequential date shall act in the role of General Manager**
 - (e) Should the position of General Manager be vacant, or the current incumbent be unable to fulfill the duties of the position for a period of more the eight (8) weeks that Council will in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, appoint a person to act in the position of General Manager.**
 - (f) To compensate for the additional duties and responsibilities associated with acting as General Manager, an additional 20% of the current wage component only for the relieving staff member will be paid, excluding any allowance other than the Civil Liability Allowance.**
 - (g) Any other non-cash benefits, or terms and conditions that might apply to the General Manager's role are not applicable.**

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

10.5 PECUNIARY INTEREST RETURNS

RESOLUTION 2024/122

Moved: Cr Terence Lees

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher

That all Councillors and designated persons provide completed disclosure of interest forms to the General Manager by 30 September 2024, for these returns to be publicly tabled at the next Council meeting.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

10.6 AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

RESOLUTION 2024/123

Moved: Cr Terence Lees

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen

That Council:

- 1. Receive and notes the information contained in the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee update report.**
- 2. Appoints two independent members of the Coonamble Shire Council Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee, being:**
 - (a) Dr Meredith Caelli, and**
 - (b) Mr. Sam Helweh**
- 3. Adopts the draft Terms of Reference for the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.**

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

10.7 INTERNAL AUDIT FUNCTION**RESOLUTION 2024/124**

Moved: Cr Brian Sommerville

Seconded: Cr Terence Lees

That Council:

- 1. Receive and note the information contained in the Internal Audit Function report.**
- 2. Adopt the draft Internal Audit Charter.**

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0**10.8 MINUTES OF AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
- 4 JUNE 2024****RESOLUTION 2024/125**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen

Seconded: Cr Terence Lees

That Council receives and notes the minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on Tuesday 4 June 2024.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0**10.9 AGENCY INFORMATION GUIDE****RESOLUTION 2024/126**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen

That Council adopts the Agency Information Guide 2024.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

10.10 AMENDMENTS TO THE PRIVACY AND PERSONAL INFORMATION PROTECTION ACT

RESOLUTION 2024/127

Moved: Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen

Seconded: Cr Terence Lees

That:

1. Council receives and notes the information contained in the report on amendments to the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998.
2. Council places the draft Privacy Management Plan and the draft Data Breach Policy, as attached to the report, on public exhibition for a period of 28 days for the purpose of inviting submissions from the community.
3. Council receives a further report, together with all submissions received at the conclusion of the public exhibition period, for the purpose of further consideration and adoption of the draft Privacy Management Plan and draft Data Breach Policy.
4. In the event that no submissions being received within the prescribed exhibition period, Council formally adopts the draft Privacy Management Plan and the draft Data Breach Policy without any changes as policies of Council.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

10.11 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PROGRESS REPORT

RESOLUTION 2024/128

Moved: Cr Terence Lees

Seconded: Cr Brian Sommerville

That Council receive and note the Corporate Governance Progress Report.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

10.12 RATES AND CHARGES COLLECTIONS - MAY 2024**RESOLUTION 2024/129**

Moved: Cr Terence Lees

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher

That Council receives and note the information provided in the report.In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian SommervilleAgainst: Nil**CARRIED 5/0****10.13 STATUS OF INVESTMENTS - MAY 2024****RESOLUTION 2024/130**

Moved: Cr Brian Sommerville

Seconded: Cr Terence Lees

That Council receives and notes the list of investments from 1 May 2024 to 31 May 2024 and that these investments comply with section 625(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* and Council's Investment Policy.In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian SommervilleAgainst: Nil**CARRIED 5/0****10.14 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT****RESOLUTION 2024/131**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen

Seconded: Cr Terence Lees

That Council receives and notes the information contained in this reportIn Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian SommervilleAgainst: Nil**CARRIED 5/0**

10.15 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH - PROGRESS REPORT**RESOLUTION 2024/132**

Moved: Cr Terence Lees

Seconded: Cr Brian Sommerville

That the report be received and noted.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

10.16 REGIONAL PRECINCTS AND PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM - PRECINCT DELIVERY BUSINESS CASES**RESOLUTION 2024/133**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher

Seconded: Cr Brian Sommerville

That Council ratify the steps proposed in making a submission under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

10.17 PLANNING, REGULATORY & COMPLIANCE PROGRESS REPORT**RESOLUTION 2024/134**

Moved: Cr Terence Lees

Seconded: Cr Brian Sommerville

That the Environment and Strategic Planning Progress Report be received and noted.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

10.18 SCORES ON DOORS**RESOLUTION 2024/135**

Moved: Cr Terence Lees

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher

That Council adopts the NSW Scores on Doors program for its food businesses to promote compliance with hygiene and food safety standards.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

10.19 EPA WASTE LEVY**RESOLUTION 2024/136**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher

Seconded: Cr Terence Lees

That Council:

- (i) **Note the Minister's response.**
- (ii) **Provide a copy of the Minister's response to NetWaste.**
- (iii) **Maintain opposition to the introduction of an EPA Waste Levy for Coonamble Shire Council as well along with other NetWaste Councils.**

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

10.20 COONAMBLE WASTE REPORT MAY 2024**RESOLUTION 2024/137**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher

Seconded: Cr Terence Lees

The monthly report on waste activities be received and noted.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

10.21 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN THE PURCHASE OF LAND FOR SALE IN THE CBD

RESOLUTION 2024/138

Moved: Cr Terence Lees

Seconded: Cr Brian Sommerville

This item to be deferred to closed session.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

10.22 SALE OF INDUSTRIAL LAND - HOOPER DRIVE

RESOLUTION 2024/139

Moved: Cr Terence Lees

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen

That Council receive and notes the information in this report, and allocates the proceeds of the sale of the industrial land on Hooper Drive to Council's internal Governance Reserve for the purpose of developing further industrial land at the old Shepyards site in Coonamble.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

10.23 OLD SHEEP YARDS SITE**RESOLUTION 2024/140**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen

Seconded: Cr Brian Sommerville

That Council:

- 1. Resolve to utilise the funds emanating from the Hooper Drive land sales to develop the site at the sheep yards.**
- 2. Approves the rezoning to E1 (General Industrial) and the process to achieve this.**

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

Council breaks for afternoon tea 3.56pm

The meeting resumes at 4.10pm

10.24 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER COUNCIL'S DONATIONS POLICY**RESOLUTION 2024/141**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher

Seconded: Cr Terence Lees

1. That Council receives and notes the information contained within this report.
2. That Council provides the following financial assistance from the Unallocated Donation vote.
 - a. Gulargambone Tennis Club \$1,350.00
 - b. Coonamble Netball Club \$3,000.00
 - c. Coonamble Junior Rugby Club \$5,500.00
 - d. Coonamble District Education Foundation \$1,640.00
 - e. Coonamble Royal Far West, (inclusive of the waiving of the Pavilion hire fees) \$2,500.00
 - f. St Brigid's Catholic School \$ 510.00
 - g. DV Collective - Coonamble \$1000.00
 - h. Meals on Wheels - Coonamble \$1000.00

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

10.25 COUNCILLOR FEES 2024-25 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT RENUMERATION**RESOLUTION 2024/142**

Moved: Cr Terence Lees

Seconded: Cr Brian Sommerville

That Council increases Councillor fees for the 2024-25 financial year by 3.75%, with effect from 1 July 2024, noting that the fees will be as follows:

- Mayor: \$11,870 plus \$22,520 being a total of \$34,390 per annum.**
- Councillor: \$11,870 each per annum.**

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

10.26 REVENUE FROM SALE OF COUNCIL OWNED LAND

RESOLUTION 2024/143

Moved: Cr Brian Sommerville

Seconded: Cr Terence Lees

That Council allocate the proceeds of the sale of land to GrainCorp to Council's internal Governance Reserve.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

10.27 ADOPTION OF 2024-2025 OPERATIONAL PLAN**RESOLUTION 2024/144**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher

Seconded: Cr Terence Lees

- 1. That Council notes the information contained in this report.**
- 2. That the expenditure amounts set out in the 2024-2025 draft Operational Plan and Budget as exhibited and amended as per this report and attached to the Business Paper as part of Annexure 1 relating to this report, be confirmed and voted for the carrying out of the various works and services of the Council for the 2024-2025 financial year.**
- 3. That the 2024-2025 draft Operational Plan and Budget, as exhibited in accordance with the provisions of Section 405 of the Local Government Act 1993 and amended as per this report and attached to the Business Paper as part of Annexure 1 relating to this report, be adopted by Council as the 2024-2025 Operational Plan.**
- 4. That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 535 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*, Council makes, fixes, and levies the Rates and Charges for the 2024-25 financial year for the following rating categories:**

Residential – Coonamble:

A Residential – Coonamble rate of 1.463 cents in the dollar on the current land values of all rateable land in the town of Coonamble, with a minimum rate of \$545.00 per annum;

Residential – Gulargambone:

A Residential – Gulargambone rate of 1.041 cents in the dollar on the current land values of all rateable land in the town of Coonamble, with a minimum rate of \$545.00 per annum;

Residential – Village:

A Residential – Village rate of 1.318 cents in the dollar on the current land values of all rateable land in the village of Quambone, with a minimum rate of \$535.00 per annum;

Farmland:

A Farmland rate of 0.2387 cents in the dollar on the current land values of all rateable land in the Local Government Area being farmland, with a minimum rate of \$435.00 per annum;

Small Rural Holdings:

A Small Rural Holding rate of 0.721 cents in the dollar on the current land values of all rateable land in the Local Government Area being

small rural holdings, with a minimum rate of \$565.00 per annum;

Rural Residential:

A Rural Residential rate of 0.618 cents in the dollar on the current land values of all rateable land in the Local Government Area being rural residential, with a minimum rate of \$535.00 per annum;

Business:

A Business rate of 2.060 cents in the dollar on the current land values of all rateable land in the Local Government Area being Business, with a minimum rate of \$590.00 per annum.

5. That the Schedule of Fees and Charges, exhibited as part of Council’s draft 2024-25 Operational Plan and attached to this paper as part of Annexure 2 relating to this report be made, fixed and charged for the 2024-2025 financial year.
6. That Council makes, fixes, and levies the following charges in accordance with the provisions of Section 552 and Section 501(1) and Section 502 of the *Local Government Act 1993* on such land which water is connected or able to be connected to for the year ending June 2025:

Town/Village	Access Charge (\$20mm)	Usage Charge – 1st Tier (c/kl)	2nd Tier Pricing Limit (kl)	Usage Charge 2nd Tier (c/kl)
Coonamble	420	150	450	240
Gulargambone	510	125	450	190
Quambone	510	150	430	250

The Access Charges as above are for 20mm services, the charges below allow for the size of the water meters as required by best practice pricing. The resulting charges are shown in the table following:

Item	Coonamble (\$)	Gulargambone (\$)	Quambone (\$)
Access charge (20mm meter)	420	510	510
Access charge (25mm meter)	660	800	800
Access charge (40mm meter)	1,680	2,040	2,040

Access charge (50mm meter)	2,625	3,190	3,190
Access charge (75mm meter)	5,905	7,170	7,170
Access charge (100mm meter)	10,500	12,750	12,750

7. That Council makes, fixes and levies the following charges in accordance with the provisions of Section 501(1), Section 502 and Section 552 of the *Local Government Act 1993* on such land which sewer is connected or able to be connected to for the year ending June 2025.

Residential Sewerage – Coonamble

Sewerage availability charge of \$830.00 per annum per assessment.

Residential Sewerage – Gulargambone

Sewerage availability charge of \$890.00 per annum per assessment.

Sewerage – Coonamble Flats

Sewerage availability charge of \$630.00 per annum per unit.

Sewerage – Gulargambone Flats

Sewerage availability charge of \$810.00 per annum per unit.

Non-residential Sewerage - Coonamble

Sewer charge for Non-residential Sewerage – Coonamble is not less than a minimum charge of \$830.00 per annum per assessment. Non-residential services are also subject to sewer discharge factor (usage charge) related to water consumption. The treatment charge to be applied is 340 cents per kilolitre.

Non-residential Sewerage - Gulargambone

Sewer charge for Non-residential Sewerage – Gulargambone is not less than a minimum charge of \$890.00 per annum per assessment. Non-residential services are also subject to sewer discharge factor (usage charge) related to water consumption. The treatment charge to be applied is 340 cents per kilolitre.

8. That Council makes, fixes and levies the following charges in accordance with the provisions of Section 496, Section 501 and Section 502 of the *Local Government Act 1993* for the Waste Collection Services (with the understanding that one (1) Waste Collection Service entitles a property owner to a 240-litre weekly garbage service per assessment – unless otherwise indicated):

Particulars	2024-25 Charge per annum (\$)
Domestic – Coonamble Occupied	460.00
Domestic Coonamble – additional Service (per additional service)	260.00
Commercial – Coonamble Occupied	460.00
Commercial Coonamble – additional Service (per additional service)	260.00
Commercial Coonamble – Coonamble Occupied (Biweekly service) per service	720.00
Domestic – Gulargambone Occupied	460.00
Domestic Gulargambone – additional Service (per additional service)	260.00
Commercial – Gulargambone Occupied	460.00
Commercial Gulargambone – additional Service (per additional service)	260.00
Domestic – Quambone Occupied	460.00
Domestic Quambone – additional Service (per additional service)	260.00
Commercial – Quambone Occupied	460.00
Commercial Quambone – additional Service (per additional service)	260.00
Coonamble/Vacant Land – within collection area	90.00
Gulargambone/ Vacant Land – within collection area	90.00
Quambone/Vacant Land – within collection area	90.00
Rural Waste Charge – Land outside collection area (Local Government	45.00

Act 1993 – Section 501)

9. That Council, in accordance with the provisions of Section 566(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, determines that the extra interest charges on overdue rates and charges will be levied at the maximum rate allowable and as advised by the Office of Local Government on a daily simple interest basis for the financial year ending 30 June 2025. The rate interest payable on overdue rates and charges for the 2024-25 financial year will be 10.5% per annum.
10. Council staff look at a fee and charge for people from outside the Coonamble Shire using the waste facilities within our shire as a part of the service level review.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

10.28 COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL ACTIVE TRANSPORT PLAN**RESOLUTION 2024/145**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen

Seconded: Cr Terence Lees

That Council place the Draft Coonamble Shire Council Active Transport Plan on public exhibition for a period of 28 days and receive a further report following the closure of the exhibition.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

10.29 TOORAWEEAH ROAD UPGRADE - MONTHLY STATUS UPDATE**RESOLUTION 2024/146**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher

That the report be received and noted.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

10.30 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES - WORKS IN PROGRESS**RESOLUTION 2024/147**

Moved: Cr Terence Lees

Seconded: Cr Brian Sommerville

That the information be received and noted.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

10.31 SUPPLEMENTARY BUSINESS - BUSINESS CASE - MEETING COMMUNITY NEED FOR HOUSING**RESOLUTION 2024/148**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen

Seconded: Cr Terence Lees

That Council accepts the following item, 10.31 Report on the - BUSINESS CASE - MEETING COMMUNITY NEED FOR HOUSING, as a Supplementary Report.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

RESOLUTION 2024/149

Moved: Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen

Seconded: Cr Terence Lees

That Council endorse the proposal of supplying land and civil works at no cost to Orana Support Services being the selected Community Housing Provider (CHP) subject to their successful outcome with the “Housing Australia Future Fund Facility and National Housing Accord Facility” (HAFF) for the development of a combination of social and affordable housing in the Coonamble LGA.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

Cr Fisher delivers a verbal report on Castlereagh Macquarie County Council.

11 NOTICES OF MOTIONS/QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE/RESCISSION MOTIONS

Nil

12 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**RESOLUTION 2024/150**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993:

12.1 RFT240514 Caravan Park Ring Road and Renewal Project

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - d(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0**RESOLUTION 2024/151**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993:

12.2 Expression of interest in the Purchase of Land for Sale in the CBD

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - d(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

12.1 RFT240514 CARAVAN PARK RING ROAD AND RENEWAL PROJECT**RESOLUTION 2024/152**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen

That Council declines to accept the tender for the Coonamble Caravan Park Ring Road Renewal Project.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

12.2 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN THE PURCHASE OF LAND FOR SALE IN THE CBD**RESOLUTION 2024/150**

Moved: Cr Terence Lees
Seconded: Cr Brian Sommerville

That Council approves the General Manager to submit an EOI for the purchase of the land to an agreed value.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

RESOLUTION 2024/153

Moved: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen

That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Adam Cohen, Bill Fisher, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

13 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

The Meeting closed at 6.07pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Council held on 10 July 2024.

.....
CHAIRPERSON

7 DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

8 MAYORAL MINUTE

MAYORAL MINUTE

File Number: M3
Author: Tim Horan-Mayor
Authoriser: Tim Horan, Mayor
Annexures: Nil

I am pleased to present to you the mayoral report for July2024.

- **A verbal report will be presented at the July 10 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting.**

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and noted.

SECTION A - MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY COUNCIL

SECTION B - MATTERS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

9 COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

File Number: C6-13

Author: Kylie Kerr-Roads Manager

Authoriser: Kerrie Murphy, Director Infrastructure Services

Annexures:

1. Traffic Committee Minutes 26 June 2024 (under separate cover) 
2. Traffic Committee Business Paper 26 June 2024 (under separate cover) 

PURPOSE

To present minutes and reports from the meeting of the Local Traffic Committee held at Coonamble on the 26 June 2024.

BACKGROUND

The Local Traffic Committee is primarily a technical review committee, which is required to advise the Council on matters referred to it by Council.

(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

CSP I1.1 – Employ a strategic approach to the management of our critical road network.

(b) Financial Considerations

Nil

COMMENTARY

The Traffic Committee met on Wednesday 26 June 2024.

The Committee Report and Minutes are attached.

(a) Governance/Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Legal Implications

Local Traffic Committee is a legislative requirement of the NSW Roads Act.

(c) Social Implications

Nil

(d) Environmental Implications

Nil

(e) Economic/Asset Management Implications

Nil

(f) Risk Implications

Nil

CONCLUSION

The Local Traffic Committee discussed several matters at its meeting on 26 June 2024 and the attached minutes reflect the meeting outcomes.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Local Traffic Committee and the recommendations from the minutes of the Meeting held on 26 June 2024 adopted.

10 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

10.1 SONS OF THE SOIL (SOTS) PROJECT UPDATE

File Number: P10-7

Author: Barry Broe-Director Community, Planning, Development and Environment

Authoriser: Paul Gallagher, General Manager

Annexures:

1. Draft Heritage Report (under separate cover) 
2. Asbestos Report (under separate cover) 
3. Planning Report (under separate cover) 
4. Structural Report (under separate cover) 

PURPOSE

This report provides Council with an update on the status of work done to date on the SOTS project and proposed next steps in developing the project that include producing a masterplan for the site, working on funding applications, and seeking development partners.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Councillors are requested to consider this report in conjunction with the confidential report provided within the closed business paper for the tender on the demolition and partial demolition of the site.

Since the last report and briefing to Council in March 2024, significant background work has been done on the SOTS project. The work involved obtaining heritage, structural, planning and asbestos reports, along with obtaining detailed costs for demolition and partial demolition.

The next key stage of the project involves engaging a design consultant to draw up masterplan options for the site. In parallel with this design work, council will work on securing grant funding for the re-development and continuing discussions with potential development partners.

BACKGROUND

(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

The main links are to economic development, tourism and CBD revitalisation.

(b) Financial Considerations

There is \$500,000 allocated in the 24/25 budget for the project.

COMMENTARY

March 2024 SOTS report to Council

This report advised on the processes that would be followed for the development, which Council has been following consistently in a disciplined way. This includes conducting background site investigations and planning work, calling quotes for various demolition options, considering development options for the site and following all regulatory processes including DA requirements.

The key element of that report was a description of the Development Application process which would involve:

- Advertisement for minimum 14 days
- In-house assessment of the DA
- Independent peer review of assessment of the DA
- Report to council
- Determination
- Council consideration of recommendations and determination

The components required as part of the DA application would include:

- Statement of environmental effects (planning report)
- Design plans & detailed site plan
- Engineering plans
- Waste management plan
- Structural report
- Preliminary site investigation
- Statement of heritage impact
- Traffic impact assessment

Any Development Assessment would include consideration of the Statement of Environmental Effects components particularly:

- The local heritage significance of the building.
- Any detrimental impact on the character of the streetscape.
- The potential for the site to be left vacant for some time.
- The potential for the land to become an eyesore.
- The potential for the future use of the site to detract from the character of the streetscape e.g. industrial style buildings or lack of complementary design features.

Background reports

Since the last report and briefing to Council in March 2024, several investigations have been conducted so far to develop the project as follows:

Structural – the key conclusions are shown below with some photos:

- The main structure of the building is in relatively good condition, with almost no cracking or movement in the concrete walls
- Reinforced concrete columns at the southern end of the building have moved and are beginning to deteriorate and could buckle with more movement. These columns will need to be replaced and a new footing will need to be constructed below the new columns.
- The front balcony has multiple floor beams and roof rafters that have failed.
- Floor members and roof members to be replaced where required.
- Any exposed reinforced concrete throughout the building should be corrosion treated and then repaired using a high strength grout.

- Basement water ingress to be addressed to prevent damage to footings and floor members of the ground floor.



Asbestos – various areas were identified that would need further investigation and removal under any re-development option. A summary of the conclusions is below:

- 38 locations identified with a very low to moderate risk rating of identified asbestos
- Further investigation needed of the former travel agent and the original wiring throughout the site
- The asbestos will need to be removed prior to any works by a class A or B asbestos removalist
- A copy of the asbestos risk register to be provided to any contractor

- The asbestos will need to be taken to a licenced waste facility
- A clearance inspection should be undertaken by a Licensed Asbestos Assessor following asbestos removal works.

Preliminary planning review

This report identified the key environmental factors as follows:

- Flora & Fauna - unlikely the site would have suitable habitat for native species
- Natural hazards – there is no bushfire prone land nor is it flood prone
- Constraints – if retained, achieving fire safety and disabled access is difficult
- Heritage – no items listed in the LEP but acknowledged it was recommended in the 2010 report

Heritage

A 2010 Heritage Study of the Shire considered 133 items with potential heritage significance and recommended 113 items for listing as local heritage items. The main mention of SOTS in the report is one paragraph in a table that summarised the 113 items (shown below). The Council of the day did not support the listing. Subsequently the Coonamble Local Environmental Plan listed only 8 local heritage items and did not include the SOTS.

<p>Sons of the Soil Hotel</p>	<p>The Sons of the Soil Hotel was constructed in 1930 to replace the original Tattersall’s hotel that was destroyed in the 1929 Castlereagh Street fire. It was built in reinforced concrete to comply with new building regulations and to safeguard the building against the effects of the region’s reactive soils. The hotel is a rather unique example of the Art Deco Style applied to a country hotel. It makes extensive use of latticed steelwork in decorative and structural elements. The building is representative of the redevelopment of Coonamble’s business district following the 1929 fire. It has local historical and aesthetic significance, rarity, representativeness and a high degree of integrity.</p>
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Since then, a draft heritage report (into SOTS only) has been produced in 2024 for Council. As part of this work the architect has also produced some sketches of how the building could look with a revamp, examples are shown below.

The architect estimated the cost to revamp the front buildings at \$5m. The estimates provided by KPMG to develop the site with above room apartments was in the vicinity of \$9m.

The draft report from the consultant recommended heritage listing (repeating the 2011 report recommendations) and a conservation management plan. An assessment in this draft report showed that it met 4 of the 7 criteria used to assess heritage significance under the State Heritage Act.

This report is still in draft and not expected to be finalised before the Council meeting. Whilst it is not normal policy and procedure to release draft reports, in light of the requests and to demonstrate full transparency, the draft report has been provided within this SOTS update.



Quotes for demolition options

A request for tenders was put out for three demolition options as follows:

1. Removal of the full building for the creation of a vacant block;
2. Full removal apart from retaining the front façade including the veranda and side wall along Skillmans Lane; and
3. Remove of out buildings, the central wing extension, the courtyard, and the southern shop extension at the rear.

The tender evaluation (refer to the associated report on Tender Evaluation prepared for this Council meeting in the closed section) concluded that, in the absence of a demolition option being chosen, a decision on the preferred tenderer and contract award cannot be made at this time.






It is noted that the range of tender prices was below expectations of the cost for the three options listed above. Whilst this report is unable to provide the actual costs as they are subject to the confidential report within this business paper, they ranged from between \$166-687k across the three options and tenderers.

KPMG Business case

Council in conjunction with Redie engaged KPMG to conduct a feasibility assessment and business case for the proposed redevelopment of the site. It examined various scenarios involving a supermarket and above floor apartments. The snapshots shown below from the 2020 KPMG report summarise the range of benefits that the development could generate.





Community Benefits to Redeveloping the SOTS

Redeveloping the SOTS Hotel on the main street is expected to yield a number of qualitative benefits for the Coonamble community. These benefits have been validated through community consultation performed by the Council.

Expected Community Benefits		Description	Impact
	Community Pride	Consultation with Coonamble residents and Council indicates that community pride is an important element of life for those living in rural small towns. Strong community spirit can create a sense of belonging in an otherwise relatively isolated environment and encourage loyalty toward individuals and local businesses alike.	Updating the SOTS into a thriving supermarket and apartment block will likely imbue a sense of rejuvenation into the outdated retail precinct, uplifting the aesthetics, vitality and overall sense of pride in the Town. Residents may be less likely to leave if they feel proud of the community in which they live.
	Community Gathering Space	Community consultation conducted during the development of the Coonamble Masterplan revealed that residents recognise the value of public open spaces and the amenity it provides. A core component of this is the connection and interaction with their community that comes from these places existing within the town.	Modern infrastructure and a central, accessible location on the Coonamble main street could enable the supermarket to act as a community gathering space, where residents can interact and socialise, fostering relationships and a sense of belonging among the township. These types of spaces are essential for building and maintaining a tight-knit community.
	Shopping Practicality and Experience Uplift	Community consultation indicated that many residents frequently travel long distances in order to access essential goods and services, highlighting the extent of the inconvenience currently associated with shopping in Coonamble. Long travel distances to major supermarkets represent a significant time investment for time-poor families who may require frequent shopping trips.	Overhauling the SOTS with an updated supermarket will elevate the practicality and experience of shopping in Coonamble. It will encourage a more concentrated cluster of retail shops, increasing the accessibility and walkability of the area, enabling residents to save time and get more of their shopping done in one place.
	Increased Housing Availability	Constructing more affordable housing has been identified by Council as a high-priority initiative in order to combat the current housing crisis in Coonamble. Building a set of apartments atop the supermarket will provide invaluable access to centralised housing for existing and prospective residents.	Constructing additional housing in the town centre will provide much needed accommodation for workers in Coonamble. As such, Council, State Service Providers and other businesses will be able to fill important job vacancies. The result is better service provision and more money circulating Coonamble, leading to better economic outcomes for the Town.
	Improved Quality of Life	Updated amenities are especially instrumental in ensuring that the more vulnerable members of the community, such as low-income families, the elderly, those with disabilities, and Indigenous Australians are able to access essential goods and services without the burden of travelling long distances to do so.	By developing a supermarket in-line with community wants and needs, residents will have improved food security and access to medicine. The main street location will also mean shopping trips are safer and more walkable. These aspects are key markers of health and stability and as such, improve the quality of life for vulnerable populations.






Economic Benefits to Redeveloping the SOTS

The expected economic benefits of redeveloping the SOTS are outlined below.

Expected Economic Benefits		Description	Impact
	Strengthen Local Economy	The introduction of a supermarket will contribute to the Town's economic diversification by producing a non-agricultural revenue source, reducing the Town's reliance on a single industry. Furthermore, the increased pedestrian traffic on the main street means more businesses are likely to open nearby.	As increased trading takes place on the main street, Coonamble will see additional economic stimulation. Local workers and residents will look to spend their money at other nearby food, retail and service-based businesses, incentivising new businesses to open, which may create additional jobs. The flow of money from person to person creates a multiplier effect on the economy which, when sustained, leads to long-term economic growth.
	Decrease Shopping Expenses	As highlighted by community consultation, a local supermarket on the main street will reduce the need for residents to travel outside of Coonamble for essential goods and services. Further, an additional supermarket will increase competition within the town by providing residents an alternative shopping location, likely leading to a decrease in grocery prices.	The closer proximity to essential goods and services means that residents can benefit from reduced travel time and fuel costs, while increased competition between the existing supermarkets may reduce average grocery prices. By considering the number of residents currently shopping for groceries outside of the Shire each month and the responses from community consultation indicating that they would prefer shopping locally if another supermarket was available, it is estimated that opening a new supermarket in Coonamble could lead to monthly savings of \$400k in travel costs for residents.
	Boost Investor Attention	Should Council be able to demonstrate a successful redevelopment project and well-performing supermarket, the Town may potentially attract future investment and business development in the Town's CBD; a key strategic objective for Council.	Further investment into Town infrastructure may foster greater economic participation, driving productivity and subsequently economic inclusion; through employment, more people will have a better opportunity for equitable distribution of income. Surrounding property prices may also rise due to the increased demand as a result of their proximity to essential infrastructure and amenities.
	Capitalise on Tourism Spend	Coonamble attracts visitors to the Town through its various tourism activities, such as the Coonamble Rodeo and Campdraft. It also sees significant visitor turnover when it hosts sporting events, attracting players and spectators from neighbouring towns. Having a modern supermarket may enable Coonamble to capitalise on these visitors by giving them a place to spend their money when they're in town.	By giving visitors a place to spend their money, Coonamble will benefit from increased tourism expenditure being retained within the Town. If just 10% of the annual visitors to Coonamble spend \$150 at the supermarket (the approx. average household spend per supermarket transaction), an estimated \$1.1m will be retained within Coonamble each year. It will also drive additional foot traffic to the main street, potentially improving trading outcomes of nearby businesses.

Market Benefits to Redeveloping the SOTS

The expected market benefits of redeveloping the SOTS are outlined below.

Expected Market Benefits	Description	Impact
 More Money Spent in Coonamble	As highlighted during recent community consultation, a modern, centralised supermarket will encourage local residents to do more of their shopping in Coonamble. Council is also confident that people visiting Coonamble for sporting events will be more inclined to spend their money locally if shopping amenities are improved.	With more residents and visitors shopping locally in Coonamble, the Town will be able to capture a larger portion of the retail expenditure. The Town can therefore expect increased economic stimulation as a result of more money circulating local businesses.
 Main Street Anchor Point	Due to its size, position and historical importance, the SOTS is a main street anchor point. Anchor stores bring attention and drive pedestrian traffic to a specific location, which is a key objective of constructing a supermarket on the main street.	By capitalising on the significance of the SOTS site, the supermarket will drive increased visibility and engagement from shoppers toward other small business located nearby. This can improve trading outcomes for these businesses and encourage other shopfronts to open, creating a centralised retail hub in the heart of the Town.
 Addresses a Market Gap	Community consultation confirmed that there is significant demand for a large, centralised supermarket located on the main street. In the survey, the majority of respondents indicated that the proposed location would be "very convenient" for them. As such, the redevelopment would address a market gap in the Town.	Redeveloping the SOTS into a supermarket will answer the requests of many residents and provide them with the shopping experience uplift that has been a significant want and need for a long time. Investing in a community need illustrates dedication to Coonamble and will encourage satisfaction and engagement within the Township.
 Job Creation	The supermarket redevelopment will lead to an increase in the number of jobs in Coonamble, a key consideration given the Town's high unemployment rate. The project will generate employment opportunities during the demolition, construction, and most importantly, during the ongoing operational stage of the supermarket.	More jobs and lower unemployment typically leads to reduced crime and improved quality of life. Furthermore, the additional employment opportunities have the potential to bring new residents with diverse skills and capabilities to the Town.
 Leverage Local Producers	Depending on the ownership structure and layout of the proposed supermarket, once operational, the store could potentially provide a platform for local suppliers to showcase their fresh goods and produce.	Showcasing fresh produce from regional suppliers supports local farms and promotes entrepreneurship within the Town, helping to strengthen the Town's existing reputation and brand image as a regional powerhouse in agriculture and farming. It also provides shoppers with the opportunity to "shop local", a popular sentiment in close-knit communities.

The report estimated the development cost of the site at \$9m.

That study also conducted an online survey of the community - a summary of the results is shown below. It indicates community support for a supermarket and other shops.



Site maintenance

Since its closure, the SOTS has been subject to vandalism and theft of contents and there is substantial damage to the existing assets within the building, because little or no maintenance was undertaken on the building by its previous owner. Council staff have endeavoured to address any key safety risks and keep the property maintained through monitoring and regular site clean ups.

A previous council resolution to dispose of the internal assets, including a community auction and gifting some items to community groups, will be followed during the next project stages.

Discussions with developers

While Council has never intended to be the actual developer, it has undertaken some preliminary investigations and discussions on possible models/options for the development of the SOTS site. There are several public/private partnership approaches that could be considered.

Council is open to all options and has had preliminary discussions with prospective developers and investors. This could include the option of selling the site to a developer.

Next project steps

The key requirement now for the next stages of the project is to integrate the various project elements and align their timing in a logical sequence. The work on demolition has been proceeding relatively faster than other essential work such as defining what the re-development should look like.

Subject to the outcome of the resolution of the confidential report on the demolition/partial demolition, as reported earlier in this report, it is proposed to not appoint a preferred tenderer at this stage until a demolition option is selected. In addition, more work needs to be done to examine re-development options. Sections of the community have been calling for this planning work to be done in parallel with the demolition considerations and so this approach responds to this.

Work on securing funding also needs to be ramped up. To re-develop the site and realise its full potential, Council funding may be required to top up any private sector investment. A key opportunity currently being worked on is the Australian Government's Regional Precinct and Partnership Program.

The third element of the next work is to continue detailed market sounding of potential developers, for example for a supermarket. This will test the appetite of the market to invest in the project and provide the local businesses currently in operation to consider their options.

Another key reason for delaying any decision on the demolition work at this stage of the project is the fact that a vacant site or even partially demolished site could create significant risks for Council if left vacant for a prolonged period of time. There could be significant costs to maintain the site in order to limit our exposure to building and site risk.

(a) Governance/Policy Implications

It is Council policy to re-develop the SOTS site and a key plank in its economic development strategy.

(b) Legal Implications

Council has a responsibility to comply with all legislative requirements. All laws and regulations relevant to the project will be followed. Proper processes and probity need to be adopted in procurement.

(c) Social Implications

Developing the un-used site will have major social and economic benefits for the community. The redevelopment of the Sons of the Soil site could serve as an anchor to commence the redevelopment/invigoration of the Coonamble CBD precinct.

(d) Environmental Implications

All planning and construction activities would follow strict environmental processes and regulations, for example asbestos removal.

(e) Economic/Asset Management Implications

There will be significant economic benefits to developing the site and generating the associated outcomes. There would appear to be little scope to redevelop the main CBD while the hotel – one of the most significant buildings in the main street – is in its current idle and dilapidated state.

(f) Risk Implications

The main risks for council are community opposition, a vacant block for a significant period, an unused building subjected to further decay or vandalism, and/or commercial losses.

CONCLUSION

For an informed decision to be made, all reports must be considered as a whole. Since the last report and briefing to Council in March 2024, significant background work has been done on the SOTS project. The project to date as summarised in this report and consistent with the processes described at the start of the project have involved obtaining heritage, structural, planning and asbestos reports along with obtaining detailed costs for demolition and partial demolition.

The next key stage of the project involves engaging a design consultant/architect to draw up masterplan options for the site. In parallel with this design work, Council will work on securing grant funding for the re-development and continue discussions with potential development partners.

RECOMMENDATION**That Council**

- 1. Note the status of the project.**
- 2. Acknowledge the decision of the Council in 2011 to not support the heritage listing of the SOTS and that this Council has the same view.**
- 3. Note the next key stages of project planning will involve:**
 - (a) engaging a design consultant to draw up master-plan options with concept drawings and base cost estimates for the site for each of the proposed options listed I to IV below (but not limited to these options):**
 - I. a greenfield site development with new construction based on retaining the existing streetscape of the building**
 - II. partial development involving retaining the façade/veranda or components of the existing building**

III. a combination of existing building and new construction

IV. renovation of the internal part of the existing building

- (b) Continue to seek grant funding opportunities which include the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program Federal Government grant to facilitate the development of the site and consideration of the proposed options listed I to IV above.**
 - (c) Continue market sounding with prospective developers and possible business partners**
 - (d) Consider the sale of the site to a private developer**
- 4. That council advises the OLG of the progress and decision of council**
 - 5. Notes that the development of the SOTS will require a capital expenditure review, which will include further consultation with the community, and will be prepared as part of the development process and provided to the OLG.**

10.2 CORRESPONDENCE

File Number: C20

Author: Marina Colwell-Executive Support Officer

Authoriser: Paul Gallagher, General Manager

Annexures: Nil

CORRESPONDENCE

Each month a list of correspondence is sent out in the Business Paper to Councillors to ensure that they have not missed any information since the last Business Paper was produced.

Date	Information Sent	Author	In	Out	Sent
17/06/24	Coulton’s Catch Up – M Coulton MP 17 June 24	M Coulton	✓	✓	✓
17/06/24	Notice – Change of workshop date	P Gallagher		✓	✓
17/06/24	Confidential Email	P Gallagher		✓	✓
17/06/24	Ministerial Response Letter	P Gallagher		✓	✓
18/06/24	OLG Circular 24-11 Guidance for Councillors	OLG	✓	✓	✓
24/06/24	Coulton’s Catch Up – M Coulton MP 24 June 24	M Coulton	✓	✓	✓
24/06/24	Email – Industrial Land media release	B Broe		✓	✓
25/06/24	Email – Wingadee Road Photos	P Gallagher		✓	✓
26/06/24	NAIDOC Week Launch – Invitation	M Colwell		✓	✓
26/06/24	Email – Confidential EOI	P Gallagher		✓	✓
26/06/24	Email – Witness confirmation	P Gallagher		✓	✓
26/06/24	Email – Proposed candidate information sessions	P Gallagher		✓	✓
27/06/24	Email – Response letter from Minister Jihad Dib MP– Youth Crime	P Gallagher		✓	✓
28/06/24	Media Release	M Colwell		✓	✓
01/07/24	Email – Response letter from Minister Aitchison M_ - Rural Bus Services	P Gallagher		✓	✓

01/07/24	Coulton's Catch Up – M Coulton MP 1 July 24	M Coulton	✓	✓	✓
01/07/24	Email – Letter of Response – Hon Mark Coulton MP	P Gallagher		✓	✓
01/07/24	Email – Letter of Response – Roy Butler	P Gallagher		✓	✓

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and noted.

10.3 COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS/ACTIONS UPDATE**File Number:** C17; C20**Author:** Marina Colwell-Executive Support Officer**Authoriser:** Paul Gallagher, General Manager**Annexures:** 1. July Resolutions/Actions Report 2024 (under separate cover) **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to enable Council to keep track of important Council resolutions.

BACKGROUND

Important and significant Council resolutions will be added to the list of items below, and a monthly update on the status will be provided by the responsible officer.

(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

Adopted Council resolutions should ideally link in with Council's suite of Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework documents.

(b) Financial Considerations

The financial considerations relating to each item mentioned below would have been considered by Council as part of the original report that dealt with the matter.

COMMENTARY

A table with information about outstanding Council resolutions is attached as Annexure 1 to the report, in the reporting format from Infocouncil:

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the Council Resolution status (Annexure 1).

10.4 LOCAL ROADS CONGRESS 2024 - REPORT**File Number:** R 8-7**Author:** Marina Colwell-Executive Support Officer**Authoriser:** Paul Gallagher, General Manager**Annexures:** 1. NSW Local Roads Congress Communique 2024 [↓](#) **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the recent Local Roads Congress 2024, held in Sydney on 3 June, attended by the General Manager and the Director Infrastructure.

BACKGROUND

The Roads and Transport Directorate, in collaboration with Local Government NSW, holds an annual Local Roads Congress, where local Council Mayors, Councillors and executives gather to discuss road-related policy issues. The purpose of the Congress is to address policy issues rather than technical issues and to optimise roads and transport outcomes. The first NSW Local Roads Congress was held in December 2005, and it has been held annually since.

(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

11.1 Employ a strategic approach to the management of our critical road network.

(b) Financial Considerations

Council will stay informed of any potential road related funding available or changes to funding parameters, the Congress allows an opportunity to lobby government.

COMMENTARY

The 2024 Annual Local Roads Congress had over 120 delegates in attendance. Under the theme of "Planning for the Future", Ministers, Shadow Ministers, and technical experts provided a range of engaging presentations. These were followed by robust discussions on local councils' funding challenges and potential solutions to these issues.

The Congress identified several emerging trends that will significantly impact the NSW local road network. Immediate planning and action are imperative. The current approach to managing the local road network must evolve to address future challenges such as increased natural disasters, technological advancements, and changing community needs.

NEW INITIATIVES FOR 2024/2025



Asset Benchmarking • Data collection for the next biennial NSW Road Asset Benchmarking project will begin in 2024. This survey identifies the funding gap needed to maintain local roads and bridges satisfactorily. The RTD team will contact all 128 NSW councils to assist with data collection.

Monthly Webinars • The Roads and Transport Directorate will launch a monthly lunchtime webinar series in FY2024/25. This series will focus on sharing information to support best practices and will be informed by the work of the Directorate, government departments, and technical associations.



RIIS Hub • The Roads and Transport Directorate have recently joined the Resilient and Intelligent Infrastructure Systems research hub in partnership with UNSW and WSU to develop improved techniques for the remote monitoring of local bridges using remote sensors, artificial intelligence and digital twins.

Asset Management Support • In 2024/2025, the Directorate will consult widely with NSW councils and related organizations to identify ways to improve asset management maturity and explore options for supporting this change.



(a) Governance/Policy Implications

There are future challenges surrounding government policy emanating around natural disasters, technological advancements, and changing community needs.

(b) Legal Implications

There are no legal implications associated with this report

(c) Social Implications

There are no social implications associated with this report

(d) Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications associated with this report

(e) Economic/Asset Management Implications

There are no Economic/Asset Management implications associated with this report however there are future challenges good asset management recognition

(f) Risk Implications

There are no risk implications associated with this report

CONCLUSION

The current government funding models, which tend to be reactive and segmented, present challenges. They do not consistently offer the necessary support for crucial infrastructure development and retention of a skilled workforce within Local Government. This situation highlights the need for transformative funding strategies which enable councils to adopt a more strategic and sustainable approach. Such a model would better align with the long-term functional needs of the local road network, reducing future costs and improving service delivery across all levels of Government.

RECOMMENDATION

That this report be received and noted.



2024 LOCAL ROADS CONGRESS COMMUNIQUE

Planning for the Future

Over 120 delegates, encompassing council executive staff, mayors, and elected officials gathered with State Government Ministers at NSW Parliament House on 3rd June 2024 to attend the 2024 Local Roads Congress. The discussions and presentations from the Congress inform the advocacy focus of the Roads & Transport Directorate over the next 12 months which is outlined in this communiqué.



2024 LOCAL ROADS CONGRESS COMMUNIQUÉ PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The NSW Roads and Transport Directorate (RTD), a joint initiative between Local Government NSW (LGNSW) and the NSW Division of the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA NSW and ACT), is pleased to present the 2024 Local Roads Congress Communiqué. Reflecting on past challenges and current trends, we reaffirm our commitment to a sustainable, resilient, and prosperous future for New South Wales (NSW) through strategic and integrated road infrastructure planning.

This year's Congress theme; 'Planning for the Future', recognises that there are a number of emerging trends which will have a significant impact on the NSW local road network, and it is imperative to start planning for, or in some cases take immediate action to address these trends. To meet future challenges to the local road network, including an increased frequency of natural disasters, technological advancements, and changing community needs, the current approach to managing the local road network must evolve.

Integrating AI into road maintenance activities can provide significant efficiency gains, as well as helping councils shift to a proactive approach to dealing with road defects, and ultimately reducing overall risk to road users. Consideration of streets as shared spaces helps accommodate the demand for multiple, competing, use cases for the road corridor. Effectively planning for these use cases leads to better utilisation of the space and promotes overall community well-being. The increased uptake of electric vehicles necessitates a forward-looking approach to infrastructure planning, both from a road user perspective, as well as potential efficiency and revenue gains for council operations.

The predicted increase to heavy vehicle movements associated with road freight, as well as the changing nature and distribution patterns of the future freight task, require consideration to ensure economic efficiency is maintained while ensuring the local road network is fit to accommodate these increased movements. A concerted approach to road safety, underpinned by innovative technologies and community-focused strategies, will help address the unacceptably high rate of fatalities and trauma on local roads and move closer towards zero deaths or serious injuries. Integrated network planning is a critical process to ensure that the competing demands on the use of the local road network are considered from a holistic perspective and that the potential efficiency gains from network improvements can be maximised.

However, the current government funding models, which tend to be reactive and segmented, present challenges to the achieving these objectives. They do not consistently offer the necessary support for crucial infrastructure development and retention of a skilled workforce within Local Government. This situation highlights the need for transformative funding strategies which enable councils to adopt a more strategic and sustainable approach. Such a model would better align with the long-term functional needs of the local road network, reducing future costs and improving service delivery across all levels of Government.



NSW Local Government

The Congress supports a commitment from NSW Local Government to:

- i) Develop and implement integrated network plans for the local road network incorporating: critical infrastructure and resilience plans, local transport network plans, asset and risk management plans, community strategic plans, delivery programs and operational plans, road safety plans, and freight strategic plans.
- ii) Consider the adoption of AI technology solutions, as a means of improving the efficiency of road maintenance activities and reducing overall risk to road users.
- iii) Develop implementation strategies to support the roll out of zero emission vehicle technology over the short-medium term, including required support infrastructure and explore the adoption of such technology within council fleet vehicles.
- iv) Develop and implement comprehensive workforce development plans to effectively address the current and anticipated skills shortages within professional engineering and skilled infrastructure disciplines.
- v) Continue providing data to the RTD's Road Asset Benchmarking Survey, including additional data on aging steel and concrete structures, to develop a comprehensive understanding of the state of local road assets, and to support the ongoing advocacy of IPWEA NSW & ACT.
- vi) Harmonise standards and specifications to align to industry best practice, building off work being done by organisations such as the RTD, Aus-Spec and Austroads

NSW Government

The Congress calls on the NSW Government to:

- i) Continue supporting maintenance and improvement of the road network via the Fixing Country Bridges, Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund, Road Block Grant, Regional and Local Roads Repair Programs.
- ii) Review the Fixing Local Roads Program with an annual allocation aligned to the Roads to Recovery distribution formula to provide greater certainty and allow improved short-medium term infrastructure planning by NSW Local Government.
- iii) Provide a long-term commitment to a funding program designed to improve freight outcomes by addressing first and last-mile challenges on the local and regional road network.
- iv) Facilitate a review by the Office of Local Government of the linkages between council long term financial plans and asset management plans, and develop new guidelines to support greater alignment between these

- plans to ensure that the ongoing maintenance costs of assets are funded to meet an acceptable level of service.
- v) Work with Local Government to develop a program to improve maintenance activities, safety, and resilience across the entire state road network. With a particular focus on: critical access routes, key freight routes, high risk natural disasters sites and locations with a poor road safety record.
 - vi) Provide direct financial assistance to local governments to enable upgrading of vehicle fleets to zero emission models. As well as providing support for the development of the supporting charging infrastructure for use by all road users.
 - vii) Develop robust capacity-building programs and training sessions for Local Government staff engaged in asset management, including support to: develop asset management plans, undertake iRAP safety assessments, implement the Automated Access Assessment Program (AAP), increase awareness of the changes to PBS and zero emission vehicles standards.
 - viii) Work with and support local government in the adoption of AI technology, including providing funding to encourage the uptake of such solutions.
 - ix) Utilise the work done on road reclassification to date to inform the development of the future road reclassification framework.
 - x) Consider a methodology for funding betterment over and above natural disaster recovery funding, to increase the resilience of the network and reduce the risk associated with future natural disasters.

Australian and NSW Government

The Congress calls on the Australian and NSW Governments to work together with NSW Local Governments to address the following:

- i) A more sustainable long-term funding model for Local Government with a higher level of base funding support and reduced reliance on individual competitive grants.
- ii) Develop a proactive long-term strategy to address the skills shortage in professional engineers and other infrastructure workers, including support for skilled migration and the development of local capacity.
- iii) Sustainable and streamlined natural disaster funding arrangements, including Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, for all NSW councils, which includes consistent reporting and assessment processes, increased flexibility to build back better and more efficient approval processes (maximum of 6 months) that enable timely recovery work post-disaster.
- iv) Ensure improved arrangements are put in place for the provision and ongoing care of local road assets servicing large-scale economic generators, including zero emission energy projects, as well as forestry and mining projects, to reduce the cost shift to Local Government.



Australian Government

The Congress calls on the Australian Government to:

- i) Increase the annual Roads to Recovery Program allocations to align with the construction cost index and the growth in the road asset base, ensuring funding levels are maintained in real terms.
- ii) Revise the Roads to Recovery funding conditions to include the development of local road safety and resilience plans, as well as the integration of natural disaster adaptation strategies into council transport, asset management, long-term financial plans, delivery programs, and annual budgets.
- iii) Ensure the program guidelines for the new Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program include allocated funds for the upgrading and replacement of bridges on the local road network.
- iv) Work with national professional bodies such as IPWEA Australasia and Engineers Australia, as well as the university sector, to increase the capacity and skills of public works personnel, with a specific focus on integrated network planning, asset management, and road safety strategic plans.
- v) Support collaboration between local councils, universities, and specialist research organisations into innovative technologies and practices to improve the management of local road assets. Provide appropriate guidelines and training programs to put this research into practice.
- vi) Proactively engage with NSW Local Government and the Roads and Transport Directorate in implementing the National Service Level Standards on local roads, with particular consideration of the competing demands of lower order roads as shared spaces.

10.5 INQUIRY INTO THE ABILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO FUND INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE

File Number: C-12

Author: Paul Gallagher-General Manager

Authoriser: Paul Gallagher, General Manager

Annexures:

1. Submission to Inquiry  
2. Transcrip - Inquiry  

PURPOSE

This report provides the Council submission and transcript that was presented to the State Government Enquiry into the ability of Local Government to fund Infrastructure and Service conducted in Dubbo on Friday 28 June 2024.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Standing Committee on State Development invited Councils Director Infrastructure and General Manager to represent Council and give evidence at a hearing for the inquiry into the ability of Local Governments to fund infrastructure and services.

The terms of reference for the inquiry were referred to the committee by the Hon Ron Hoenig MP, Minister for Local Government on 8 March 2024 and adopted by the committee on 14 March 2024. The Terms of reference included:

That the Standing Committee on State Development inquire into and report on the ability of local governments to fund infrastructure and services, and in particular:

- (a) the level of income councils requires to adequately meet the needs of their communities,
- (b) examine if past rate pegs have matched increases in costs borne by local governments,
- (c) current levels of service delivery and financial sustainability in local government, including the impact of cost shifting on service delivery and financial sustainability, and whether this has changed over time,
- (d) assess the social and economic impacts of the rate peg in New South Wales for ratepayers, councils, and council staff over the last 20 years and compare with other jurisdictions,
- (e) compare the rate peg as it currently exists to alternative approaches with regards to the outcomes for ratepayers, councils, and council staff,
- (f) review the operation of the special rate variation process and its effectiveness in providing the level of income Councils require to adequately meet the needs of their communities,
- (g) any other related matters.

BACKGROUND

The terms of reference were quite specific for the Standing Committee on State Development. Council provided physical evidence on the actual costs, the effect of rate pegging, the cost shifting from government and the effect of natural disaster funding.

A couple of interesting points to note.

- Rate peg is 3.7% generating \$241k income – Councils award wage increase is \$345k expense – rate peg doesn’t go close to covering the wage increase.
- Councils General Fund this year is \$31,652,956 of which rate income equates to 16% of this figure and the rest is reliant on grant income and fees and charges.
- General rate income is \$5,370,000 our depreciation on roads is approx. \$3.6m.
- Grants averaged 44% of the operational budget the remainder is sourced from fees and charges.
- Over the past 5 years council has received \$65m in grant funding.
- Analysis of inflation v’s rate pegging.

Financial Year	Inflation % for Year	Rate Peg Applicable	Increase Revenue	Award Wage Increase Applicable	Increase Wages	\$(Shortfall) / Surplus on wages alone
2024-25	Forecast to be 3.2%	4.5%	\$ 241,057	3.5%	\$ 345,106.98	-\$104,050
2023-24	3.8%	3.7%	\$ 190,950	4.5%	\$ 162,738.00	\$28,212
2022-23	5.6%	0.7% after ASV 2%	\$ 158,000	2.0%	\$ 154,425.94	\$3,574
2021-22	6.6%	2.0%	\$ 99,000	2.0%	\$ 146,688.66	-\$47,689
As Council had in its long term Financial Plan a higher rate Council applied and was successful for a 1.3% ASV bringing our rate peg to 2.0%						
2024-25 Fin year has one off bonus which is estimated to be 77,450 , this would bring the shortfall to \$181,150						

The Director Infrastructure and General Manager were provided the opportunity to speak on payments for natural disaster and the effect it has on Council.

Extracts from the attached transcript from the Inquiry:

“It comes down to the roads—the length of roads we have and the expectation from our community. As I said earlier in my opening statement, our rates are a very small proportion of our income. We are very reliant on the Federal Assistance Grants, which predominately go towards our roads.

“If I may, Madam Chair, the other issue we'd like to raise as part of this process for consideration is natural disaster funding, which has a major impact. Our council currently is owed \$5.5 million from the State Government. The Director and myself met with the Minister several weeks ago, and we got a very good hearing from Minister Aitchison. They're aware that that's now impacting on our working funds. We have had to cease flood damage now to ensure that we are still a viable council with funds to continue with.”

“After the occurrence of multiple natural disasters. Council had engaged a consultant to go through and assist with the assessing because it's a big project. What's happened is that the assessments have been done in accordance with the guidelines from the DRFA. We've had upper limits approved after evidence has been provided, and things like that, to the point where I think we're looking at about \$14 million worth of flood damage from those four natural disasters in the four years—not three, which I had in my submission”.

“What has happened is that we've then got that upper limit approval. We've gone and engaged external contractors, because of the time frames applied for that expenditure, to get that work done. What we found was that, in putting in the claims, there were a lot of additional evidence-based claims. Even though the evidence had

been provided in the first case, in accordance with the guidelines—and I appreciate that—we found we were having to jump through more constant hurdles in order to make the claims to be able to get that expenditure reimbursed. In Coonamble we're at the point where, over last financial year and this year, we basically spent \$5½ million of that upper limits that was approved to start with, between emergency works and remediation works. We had multiple claims sitting there, and it got to the point where we weren't getting any of those reimbursements. We've had to stop because, at the end of the day, our bottom line was impacted.”

“There are caveats that I mentioned to Mr Farraway earlier. We've got time parameters on the limit of the funding. Now, if you can appreciate you've got a flood event and your roads are inaccessible, and our residents are ringing up saying, “We need to get to town. We've got to go to school and do different things.” There is an expectation that we're going to fix these roads straightaway. One particular road had been inaccessible for over 14 months. It was just flooded, and it was near impossible to get to. It was assessed, improved and then there was the expectation we would repair it, but you couldn't get to it. The other issue is, obviously, our materials. We run a commercial quarry, and we have our gravel pits, but again, getting access to those is hard”.

(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

The rate pegging limits the capacity of council funds, depreciation forms part of the LTFFP.

(b) Financial Considerations

Cost shifting from Government and the financial viability of Council is at stake from the untimely payment of grants.

COMMENTARY

It will be a wait and see what the final report from the Standing Committee on State Development concludes.

(a) Governance/Policy Implications

This relates to the issues that affect the operations of Council in particular the effect of rate pegging and the ability to provide service to the community.

(b) Legal Implications

This relates to the issues that affect the operations of Council in particular the effect of rate pegging and the ability to provide service to the community.

(c) Social Implications

This relates to the issues that affect the operations of Council in particular the effect of rate pegging and the ability to provide service to the community.

(d) Environmental Implications

Not applicable

(e) Economic/Asset Management Implications

This relates to the issues that affect the operations of Council in particular the effect of rate pegging and the ability to provide service to the community.

(f) Risk Implications

This relates to the issues that affect the operations of Council in particular the effect of rate pegging and the ability to provide service to the community.

CONCLUSION

It is clearly evident that rate pegging needs to be reviewed as well as the funding parameters for Local Government, it will be a wait and see what the final report from the Standing Committee on State Development concludes.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the information.



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ABN. 19 499 848 443

All communications to be addressed to the General Manager
PO Box 249, Coonamble, NSW 2829

27 June 2024

The Honourable Emily Suvaal MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on State Development
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

By email: state.development@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Suvaal

**INQUIRY INTO THE ABILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO FUND
INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE**

I write to you with regard to the Inquiry into the Ability of Local Government to Fund Infrastructure and Services. Please find below a non-exhaustive list of observations from the Coonamble Shire Council.

Coonamble Shire Council Background

Coonamble Shire Council covers an area of 9,926km² with a population of 3,907 (ABS 2020) and is situated on the Castlereagh River which runs through the town, dividing east from west. It is bounded by the Shires of Coonamble, Walgett, Narrabri, Warrumbungles and Gilgandra. Residents of rural properties account for approximately one-third of the LGA population.

A considerable proportion of Council's budget is allocated to roads – 365.84 km of sealed roads and 1,171.66km of unsealed roads.

Council also undertakes ordered works and maintenance on HW18 Castlereagh Highway under the RMCC for Transport for NSW.

Notwithstanding the roads infrastructure, Council also operates three (3) water supplies, two (2) sewerage schemes, and airport, a hard rock quarry as well as other community based infrastructure including sporting fields, parks and three (3) pools.

Council has considered the Terms of Reference set out by the Legislative Council's Standing Committee on State Development and would be pleased to submit our views on the level of income Council's require rate pegging, sustainability and alternative approaches.

Income

Council relies heavily on grants and contributions for improvement and maintenance/operation of its assets. Based on the last three (3) years, the income from operational grants has averaged 44% of Coonamble Shire Councils operational budget. Councils General Fund Revenue budget for 2023-24 was \$31,652,956, of which rate income equates to 16%. General rates income for 2023/2024 was to \$5,370,000. Coonamble Shire Council's depreciation on roads alone is approximately \$3.6M for this same FY.

The allowed rate peg of 3.7% has generated an additional \$241k in income for Council in 2023/24. Council's wage increase for that same period was \$345k, demonstrating that the allocated rate peg did not even cover the wage increase, let alone increases in costs for asset maintenance and renewals.

The other issue that smaller, regional Councils face is that the rateable income is not always paid in a reasonable timeframe. With the ever-increasing cost of living, there is the associated increase in debt recovery for unpaid rates.

Coonamble Shire Council is rarely in the position to be able to provide anything other than minor contributions or works in kind to grant funded projects. Funding bodies need to be able to consider the inability of rural/regional Councils such as Coonamble Shire Council to provide any extra funding/capacity to pay. The funding that is available to Councils is used not only for servicing, but also for renewals.

The level of work to provide grant/project submissions can sometimes be extraordinary and this also limits Council in being able to apply for such grants or to have projects "shovel ready" i.e. designed and community consulted appropriately.

Other issues with grant funding include the time taken to assess and notify successful grants, and furthermore, the months it takes after the announcement to get a Funding Deed for signature.

The State Government should consider providing certain levels of funding not tied and with flexible funding timetables to ensure Council can plan for required known works/projects.

Grants for 2023/2024

Over the past five (5) years, Coonamble Shire Council has been successful in receiving over \$65 million of extra grants from both the Commonwealth Government and NSW State Government.

If similar grant income is not sustained, Coonamble Shire Council's Infrastructure Backlog will start again to increase with the resultant reduction in asset condition and service provision.

With the prospect of a continued reduction in NSW State Government grants, concern is also being expressed regarding being able to sustain the internal Infrastructure

Projects Management Office and the current professional engineering capacity of Council's Engineering Services Department.

Rate Pegging

Rate Pegging limits the annual increase in rate revenue a Council can levy. Of course, this then restricts the level of funding for infrastructure improvement/replacement, maintenance of some and services provided by the Council.

The current regulatory framework, including rate pegging and grant allocation processes, can limit local governments' ability to raise revenue and respond flexibly to local needs. There is a need for greater flexibility in revenue-raising mechanisms and more equitable distribution of funding opportunities.

Overall, rate pegging can impose significant challenges for Council in funding infrastructure services etc. There are no more creative solutions to address the financial constraints from rate pegging, except reductions in levels of service, poor condition ratings of assets and higher risks regarding public liability insurance actions.

Cost Shifting from State Government to Local Government

These latest researched reports commissioned by LGNSW show that the increase in cost shifting has been accelerated by various NSW State Government Policies.

As shown in the latest cost shifting report produced by independent consultants Morrison Low on behalf of LGNSW for the 2021/2022 financial year (www.lgnsw.org.au/costshifting), an amount of \$1.36 billion of expense has been passed on to Councils to fund. This is an increase of \$540 million since the last report from the 2017/2018 financial year and represents lost services, lost opportunity and lost amenity for all our residents and businesses.

On average, this represents an additional cost of \$460.67 for every ratepayer across the state, escalating to \$590.80 for ratepayers in rural councils such as Coonamble Shire Council.

With Council having to fund this ongoing subsidy for the NSW State Government every year, it means our community gets less or goes without. They go without better roads, they go without better parks, they go without important community services that only Councils provide, and our ratepayers are effectively paying hidden taxes to other levels of government.

Our communities deserve better than this. Cost shifting by the NSW Government reduces the amount of bitumen reseals, pavement heavy patching or resheeting etc that can be undertaken each year as examples.

In 2024 it is important to all Councils and their communities that the NSW State Government urgently addresses cost shifting through a combination of regulatory reform, budgetary provision and appropriate funding, so the long-standing impacts of cost shifting on Councils financial sustainability is resolved.

Sustainability

The unrelenting growth of cost shifting to Council, coupled with rate pegging, is increasingly eroding any possibility of financially sustainable local government in NSW

and risks the capacity of Council to deliver tailored, grassroots services to our community and properly deliver and maintain vital local infrastructure.

For the past three (3) years Coonamble Shire Council has been unfortunate to have been affected by four (4) flood disaster declarations; AGRN 898 – January 2020, AGRN 960 – March 2021, AGRN 987 – November 2021 and AGRN 1034 – September 2022. The estimated amount of asset restoration is of the order of over \$14 million, mostly Council's Road network. Having no extra funds available severely limits Council's ability to provide 'betterment' funds to go with the restoration funding to develop more resilient infrastructure capable of withstanding future disasters.

To complicate matters, Council's claims of reimbursement for expenditure have not been assessed in a timely manner which has resulted in a considerable impact on our bottom line.

Coonamble Shire Council does have the appropriate focus on asset maintenance and rehabilitation/ refurbishment works instead of where possible new builds or highly improved assets.

Recommendations for Improvement

- *Review of Rate Pegging*

Consideration should be given to adjusting or reforming the rate pegging system to better reflect the true cost of delivering services and maintaining infrastructure. This could involve periodic reviews tied to economic indicators or regional needs assessments.

- *Enhanced Grant Funding*

Advocate for increased state and federal grant funding specifically earmarked for infrastructure projects and service delivery in regional and rural areas. Grants should be allocated based on transparent criteria that prioritize areas with the greatest need.

- *Asset Management Planning*

Encourage councils to develop robust asset management plans that outline long-term infrastructure priorities and funding strategies. These plans should be regularly updated and aligned with community input and strategic objectives.

- *Community Engagement*

Strengthen mechanisms for community consultation and engagement in the budgeting and infrastructure planning processes. Transparent communication about funding priorities and financial challenges fosters trust and accountability.

- *Partnerships and Innovation*

Promote collaborative partnerships between local governments, private sector entities, and community organizations to leverage expertise and resources for infrastructure development and service provision.

Conclusion

Addressing the funding and infrastructure challenges faced by local governments requires a concerted effort from all levels of government, as well as active engagement

from the community and stakeholders. By advocating for reforms to funding frameworks, supporting asset management planning, and enhancing community participation, we can ensure that Coonamble Shire Council continues to thrive and grow sustainably.

Council thanks you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Committee.

If you have any further questions regarding the submission, please contact me at your convenience.

Yours sincerely



Paul Gallagher

GENERAL MANAGER

REPORT ON PROCEEDINGS BEFORE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE DEVELOPMENT

**INQUIRY INTO THE ABILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO
FUND INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES**

UNCORRECTED

At Council Chambers, Dubbo Regional Council, Dubbo, on Friday 28 June 2024

The Committee met at 8:50.

PRESENT

The Hon. Emily Suvaal (Chair)

Dr Amanda Cohn

The Hon. Sam Farraway (Deputy Chair)

The Hon. Stephen Lawrence

* Please note:

[inaudible] is used when audio words cannot be deciphered.

[audio malfunction] is used when words are lost due to a technical malfunction.

[disorder] is used when members or witnesses speak over one another.

Friday 28 June 2024

Legislative Council

Page 31

UNCORRECTED

Ms LEONIE BROWN, General Manager, Bourke Shire Council, before the Committee via videoconference, affirmed and examined

Councillor BARRY HOLLMAN, Mayor, Bourke Shire Council, before the Committee via videoconference, affirmed and examined

Mr PAUL GALLAGHER, General Manager, Coonamble Shire Council, sworn and examined

Mrs KERRIE MURPHY, Director Infrastructure, Coonamble Shire Council, sworn and examined

The CHAIR: I welcome the next lot of witnesses. Thank you so much for making time to give evidence today.

BARRY HOLLMAN: Madam Chair, we're getting terrible feedback on that line.

The CHAIR: We'll see what we can do about it here in the room. My apologies.

BARRY HOLLMAN: You are actually quite clear now.

The CHAIR: Very good. We'll now move to short opening statements. Would either of you like to start? We might start with those in the room.

PAUL GALLAGHER: I'm here representing Coonamble Shire Council on behalf of my elected members and our community. We appreciate the opportunity for you to have a hearing with us today around the terms of reference. In particular, we want to emphasise that Coonamble shire is just short of 10,000 square kilometres and we have just short of 4,000 population, covering sealed roads and unsealed roads of 365 kilometres. Just short of 1,200 kilometres is unsealed road. Like most local government areas in western regions, we look after pools, water and sewage treatment plants. We appreciate the opportunity to raise issues about rate pegging and the ability to fund our infrastructure.

If I may, in the opening statement, I have some points that I'd like to clarify. Interesting points that relate to Coonamble are that we, like other local governments, are rate pegged at 3.7 per cent. That generates an additional \$241,000 of income to council. Our award wage for our staff this year was \$345,000, so the rate pegging doesn't even come close to covering our wage increase. Our general fund this year is just over \$31.5 million, of which our rates equate to 16 per cent of that amount. Our general rate income for the shire is \$5.3 million, and our depreciation is approximately \$3.6 million. Our grants that we average is about 44 per cent of the operational budget, and the shortfall is made up of our fees and charges. Over the past five years, the council has received \$65 million in grant funding. If I may, I'll hand over to my colleague to talk about a couple of other figures that are relevant to the hearing.

KERRIE MURPHY: We've done some figures on the percentage inflation versus the rate peg versus our wage increases for the last couple of years: 2021-22 resulted in a shortfall of just under \$50,000; 2022-23 resulted in a surplus of \$3,574; 2023-24 resulted in a surplus of \$28,212; and we're forecasting the 2024-25 year at a shortfall of \$104,000. That's an indication of the impact that rate pegging is having in relation to wage increases and inflation alone, without taking out the factors of the increase of costs for maintaining our assets and services.

PAUL GALLAGHER: If I may, Madam Chair, the other issue we'd like to raise as part of this process for consideration is natural disaster funding, which has a major impact. Our council currently is owed \$5.5 million from the State Government. The director and myself met with the Minister several weeks ago, and we got a very good hearing from Minister Aitchison. They're aware that that's now impacting on our working funds. We have had to cease flood damage now to ensure that we are still a viable council with funds to continue with.

The CHAIR: To our witnesses online, would you like to make a short opening statement?

LEONIE BROWN: I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to provide evidence today regarding the Bourke Shire Council's submission. There is a lot of feedback.

BARRY HOLLMAN: We're getting feedback again, Madam Chair. It's very bad.

LEONIE BROWN: Bourke Shire Council is located 780 kilometres north-west of Sydney and 380 kilometres north-west of Dubbo. Bourke shire comprises the township of Bourke and six outlying villages, and is considered a gateway into Far West New South Wales and into south-west Queensland. The shire has an area of 41,680 square kilometres. To put that in perspective, the area of the shire is two-thirds the size of Tasmania. The western boundary is 200 kilometres from Bourke, out at Wanaaring, and the northern boundary stretches to Queensland.

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Bourke and the surrounding area is rich in Indigenous culture and history, and is the traditional country of the Ngemba people. The population of the LGA is estimated to be 2,340 with 30 per cent, or 708, identifying as Aboriginal. Bourke has seen a decline in population in the last 20 years, predominantly due to changes in water allocation to irrigated cotton, horticulture and drought. The population of Bourke in 1996 was 4,000 people, with the population in 2024 estimated to be 2,340, a 42 per cent decline. Bourke Shire Council is a major employer in the community employing 94 staff, which equates to 87 full-time equivalent staff.

In 2024 council estimates to have an operating expenditure budget of \$35 million and a capital works budget of \$15 million. The expenditure aims to provide both services to our community and critical infrastructure to our large local government area. Council's asset valuation in 2023 for infrastructure, property and plant and equipment was valued at \$352 million. With 22 years of experience in local government, and 16 of those as a finance manager, I have witnessed firsthand how it is becoming increasingly difficult over the years for council to balance its budgets and continue to provide the services to our community. Council's rates account for approximately \$1.98 million, or 5.6 per cent, of our operating expenditure and are used to fund council's general operations.

In addition, whilst ever the government continues to purchase rural land for national parks, the number of assessments will continue to diminish and other ratepayers are left to absorb a significant part of the rate base. In 2022-23 in council's audited statements of performance measures, the rates and annual charges outstanding percentage was 10.69 per cent, down from 14.74 per cent previous year, after holding a successful 713 sale for unpaid rates and writing off \$700,000. This reflects a low socioeconomic community, with increases to fees, charges and rates beyond the statutory level being unsustainable, and results in our rates and charges outstanding percentage increasing as so many of our community are simply unable to pay.

Remote and rural councils do not have the opportunity to raise revenue like our city cousins. Some city councils may raise as much revenue from parking fees as they do from rates. Rural and remote councils do not have that opportunity. Spiralling costs in materials and the cost of living also impact on council. Bourke council is significantly impacted by cost shifting from other levels of government, including rural fire service provisions, library services and Crown land management. All these impact on our ability to deliver services to our community. One size does not fit all when it comes to local government. Rural and remote councils are highly dependent on external funding to remain sustainable.

The CHAIR: Did you also have an opening statement, Councillor Hollman?

BARRY HOLLMAN: Madam Chair, I'd just like to say that line is very, very bad. I don't know how my GM got through that. It's very, very bad.

The CHAIR: We've checked at this end and everything seems to be fine so I'm not sure whether there is an issue with volume or the like. Our apologies in advance. We are trying to work through and address the issues.

BARRY HOLLMAN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

The Hon. SAM FARRAWAY: Good to see you, Leonie and Barry. I want to ask about road funding. Obviously for all regional councils, roads are a big thing and that's no different in the Bourke shire, especially with a large road network. I want to get your view on how we make road funding more stable. I'm trying to get your views around whether government be moving away from a hard-and-fast BCR process for distributing funds to councils to support maintenance on their road networks. One, do you support, or do you think Government should move away from, a hard and fast BCR process? Secondly, do you support what the former Coalition Government implemented in distributing road funding based on size of road network for both sealed and unsealed roads?

LEONIE BROWN: Yes, I have to say that, for rural and remote councils, it's very hard to meet the requirements under the BCR. Yes, I think it's good to move away from that and allow the opportunity for small rural or remote councils that do have a significant road network. Council's road network for us is 2,775 kilometres. Our regional roads are 572 kilometres and 269 of those are sealed with 303 unsealed, and rural local roads is 847 kilometres and only 66 of those are unsealed. Funding that was provided through the Fixing Country Roads and Fixing Local Roads was very much appreciated for our council and assisted to upgrade roads that had been—we would not possibly undertake that work, particularly our local roads. Local roads funding comes from our rate base, or we fund that through our FAG. We don't get any funding from the State Government except for the previous Government that had rural local roads, which was very much appreciated and has allowed us to undertake significant works. I think it is really important that the Government continues to look at funding rural and remote councils with some roads funding.

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The Hon. SAM FARRAWAY: Moving away from roads and thinking about community infrastructure, what do you think is a more equitable way to remove the volatility of grants that are being contested between local government areas? For instance, if you were applying for funding for a skate park or something for the kids in Bourke but obviously your neighbouring councils were also applying for the same pot of money—we've seen programs that distribute funding based on LGA, and every LGA gets the same amount of funding for some of that infrastructure. From memory, programs like Stronger Country Communities funding in the past did that. Do you feel that those sorts of funding models that distribute the same amount of money from the pot for every LGA is far more equitable than trying to have a BCR and then almost a beauty contest between councils? Do you think that that creates more volatility for small rural councils to be able to be successful in obtaining grants?

LEONIE BROWN: The Stronger Country Communities Fund program worked very well, and from the four strands of that Bourke Shire Council was able to achieve a lot of upgrades of infrastructure that we would not have been able to do previously. I have to agree that when we're competing, we have limited resources out here. We have limited resources with the ability to be able to write up grant applications and to be successful, and it is a significant cost if we do go out and recruit somebody that has the ability to undertake that grant writing process. When Stronger Country Communities came out and it was provided on LGA, it certainly assisted with upgrading infrastructure that we would never have got there with if we were making individual grant applications and competing against the whole of the State.

The Hon. SAM FARRAWAY: In your experience—and I'll throw this open to Coonamble as well afterwards—do you feel that government, whoever's in power in Macquarie Street, the criteria and structure of the grant programs is as important for small rural councils as it is than anything else because the reality is you don't control the overall quantum of the pot of money. But what would work in small rural councils' favour is a better, more equitable distribution of that funding, wouldn't it, so everyone gets essentially their fair share rather than a beauty contest? Is that a fair assumption, or a fair observation to make for a rural council like Bourke and probably Coonamble?

LEONIE BROWN: I have to agree. I don't know if I agree with beauty contest part of it, but what has previously worked and the success around not just Bourke but all of our rural and remote councils is we've all been able to undertake works that we would never previously have undertaken. It has also created employment. Particularly here in Bourke, we created Indigenous employment programs. The majority of that work has been undertaken by people who were unemployed, and are now on a scheme where we have been able to achieve some fantastic outcomes within the community. So I think it benefited a number of options here, as I'm sure it has benefited a number of other councils, especially for rural and remote councils that don't have that opportunity to make those applications for those grants once we've all got to fight for it.

PAUL GALLAGHER: I pretty well agree with my colleague at Bourke. By way of background, I'm an engineer so I've had the issue on roads for 30-plus years of my career. I've always worked in smaller councils; I like the fact that you're closer to your community. The issue is we've always competed against our bigger brothers. In this case, Dubbo is our regional centre and you've got Tamworth and those areas that are attracting larger funds than we would normally do.

When I was in the Hunter Valley, I worked in the former Merriwa shire council. It was on a proportional basis there. We were lucky to get a token \$50,000 towards roadworks, whereas the likes of Lake Macquarie and the larger councils were getting the fair share of it. Over the years, I have seen, where it has tried to be shared a lot further—and your comment about some of those programs is true and correct. We were very successful—over \$1 million in some of those programs—to the betterment of our community. We've got upgraded change sheds for our youth to play sport and all that.

But it comes down to the roads—the length of roads we have and the expectation from our community. As I said earlier in my opening statement, our rates are a very small proportion of our income. We are very reliant on the Federal Assistance Grants, which predominately go towards our roads. We're reliant on other grants, and we are very appreciative of the grants that have been provided over the last few years through the natural disasters and various things. The issue we have with some of that area—and to touch base, it's great to receive a grant. By the time we get the deed, it's three months. There's a time delivery program on a lot of those grants of, say, 18 months to two years. So we've got three months before we get a signed deed before we start. Then you've got to go through the procurement and go through the process, so there are delays in actually being able to deliver.

Like my colleague at Bourke, grant writing is the key to that. I'm fortunate that we do have a very good colleague on my team that can write submissions, but there is a lot of work that goes into that process to actually get a good grant approved through that process. Your comments there about more and equitable—we're remote communities. Our community, our youth have to travel long distances to actually be able to go and play sport and

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participate. The ability to upgrade our facilities allows them to play in their own town but also brings our surrounding towns together as well.

Dr AMANDA COHN: Thank you both so much for making the time to give evidence today. My first question was to Coonamble, but I'm happy for Bourke to jump in as well. I was interested to read about some of the grants you've gotten recently for things like the regional art trail. There was a grant from the Regional Youth Investment Program for crisis accommodation units. These sound like things that are outside of that very traditional remit of roads, rates and rubbish, which the Committee has really heard that, in 2024, doesn't accurately reflect what councils are providing. Can you tell us a bit about the community need or community support that you saw for those kinds of facilities and, if local government wasn't taking the leadership role to champion these projects or to apply for that grant funding, what else would happen in your community?

PAUL GALLAGHER: We do appreciate that it was a fairly significant grant we got. It was something like \$1 million for the youth empowerment program. It is going extremely well. The first 16 youth have gone through that empowerment program and are building on that, and we're about to go to the next stage. What it's doing is taking opportunities for the youth and showing them that it's not all dark and gloomy going forward. Our program is about getting back in and changing the culture or the thinking of the children and providing opportunities. At our council, we are also running a "wake up and shake up" program that we got some funding to do. Our first program was to take 15 community members who were unemployed or wouldn't have the opportunity and take them through to get the skills they need to get work. Out of that first 15, 13 are now gainfully employed, so we're not only targeting the youth but also in between.

Our community diversion is—I call it the shark bite. Our community is young between nought and 20, and then we have a big gap where people between 20 and 50 have either left the district or chased housing and that side of the issue, and then we have the ageing population. We've lost that skill gap that people would normally be involved with—volunteers and stuff like that. That's the gap we're looking at filling. Some of the other issues we have are, obviously, housing. It's a State issue across the board and, to that, national. We're looking outside the parameters and trying to work out what we need to do to bring housing and create those opportunities. Sorry, I lost the first bit of that question.

Dr AMANDA COHN: That's all right. There was a last bit about the question. If local government in your region wasn't taking the leadership role to apply for those grants to facilitate those programs, would they happen? Is there any other provider who would actually do that?

PAUL GALLAGHER: They would not happen, no. One of the things we've done is gone back to our community and brought our community back in. As one community, we're now talking to all the different organisations. What we did find in the process of building this connection was that every organisation was doing a little bit but no-one was doing the big picture or pulling together, or they were competing against each other. We've now brought our community together so that we're working as one with a common goal of providing those services. But if council didn't take the lead, it wouldn't happen.

Dr AMANDA COHN: I also wanted to ask about disaster recovery and resilience. I think it's another area where communities probably assume that it's the State Government doing that work and funding that work. I understand both of your areas have been significantly flood impacted. Could you talk a bit about the work that has meant for council and how that was resourced?

KERRIE MURPHY: I commenced in Coonamble shire in April last year, after the occurrence of multiple natural disasters. At that point, council had engaged a consultant to go through and assist with the assessing because it's a big project. What's happened is that the assessments have been done in accordance with the guidelines from the DRFA. We've had upper limits approved after evidence has been provided, and things like that, to the point where I think we're looking at about \$14 million worth of flood damage from those four natural disasters in the four years—not three, which I had in my submission. My apologies.

What has happened is that we've then got that upper limit approval. We've gone and engaged external contractors, because of the time frames applied for that expenditure, to get that work done. What we found was that, in putting in the claims, there were a lot of additional evidence-based claims. Even though the evidence had been provided in the first case, in accordance with the guidelines—and I appreciate that—we found we were having to jump through more constant hurdles in order to make the claims to be able to get that expenditure reimbursed. In Coonamble we're at the point where, over last financial year and this year, we basically spent \$5½ million of that upper limit that was approved to start with, between emergency works and remediation works. We had multiple claims sitting there, and it got to the point where we weren't getting any of those reimbursements. We've had to stop because, at the end of the day, our bottom line was impacted.

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We were literally running on almost zero cashflow because of the time frame of waiting for the reimbursement, which is what the catalyst was for meeting with Minister Aitchison in June. To her credit, she gave us a fantastic hearing. We did receive a part payment last week, but there is still a lot outstanding. The other issue in regards to that is not only are the roads still not fixed because we've had to stop doing that work, but it's also eating into that time frame that we have to be able to undertake that work. There's a lot of issues around it. I appreciate the opportunities to be able to have that funding available, but there's a lot of frustrations around how that is actually working in the real world.

Dr AMANDA COHN: I'm pleased to hear you got such a good result out of the new Minister. I suppose for every small council to have to meet directly with the Minister—you shouldn't have to have gone through that process.

PAUL GALLAGHER: If I may, there are caveats that I mentioned to Mr Faraway earlier. We've got time parameters on the limit of the funding. Now, if you can appreciate you've got a flood event and your roads are inaccessible, and our residents are ringing up saying, "We need to get to town. We've got to go to school and do different things." There is an expectation that we're going to fix these roads straightaway. One particular road had been inaccessible for over 14 months. It was just flooded and it was near impossible to get to. It was assessed, improved and then there was the expectation we would repair it, but you couldn't get to it. The other issue is, obviously, our materials. We run a commercial quarry and we have our gravel pits, but again, getting access to those is hard.

We've recently had a lot of feedback from our residents about the flood damage and the expectation of who's paying. We've taken them through that process and explained that it is federally funded and provided through the State to us and so on. We now have other agencies involved that are slowing up the process of payment, which is very frustrating from our point of view. That's what we raised with the Minister. At the end of the day it's our residents that start complaining and whingeing about the condition of the roads. One thing my colleague didn't mention is that we've actually worked a little bit smarter. We understand the word "betterment". Because of the funding, instead of doing two kilometres of road and building the crown and fixing the drainage, over the period of time the budgets have diminished to the point where it's a total grade.

I was horrified when I arrived at Coonamble to find out they were priding themselves on grading a road seven kilometres in a day. That's just ridiculous. It's a skim over the top—it's not doing anything and not achieving anything. We've adopted the philosophy now that we're using the flood damage—and it's isolated areas; it's not an entire length of the road. We've actually used some of the grant funding, though roads recovery and other funds and formats—plus the road maintenance grading—to actually fix the entire length of the road. We can only do a small number of those roads because it eats into the budget.

Dr AMANDA COHN: While we're talking about flooding in Bourke, in your written submission you talked about the shire having to take on some of the roles traditionally undertaken by the SES because of the low number of volunteers. Could you explain what some of that work was?

LEONIE BROWN: In the 2022 flood we had significant flooding here in Bourke. It takes a long time for the water to actually get to Bourke. It's slow and long, and as it is rising it cuts off all different roads to Bourke—Brewarrina, Sydney and the Cobar road—and then it starts to impact on infrastructure. We have a fantastic SES team here in Bourke, but they're all getting older and they just don't have the capacity to be able to undertake the work that is required of the SES. We had council staff undertake sandbagging and undertaking works to prevent properties from becoming inundated. Unfortunately, we did lose one property, but if council staff did not become involved we would have lost many more properties. An example of that is the cost associated with that work that was undertaken is \$118,000. The State Government has agreed to reimburse us \$18,000.

Because we're undertaking those works in our normal daily activities, they would not reimburse the cost for those works. I would've had the teams out working on our roads. It wasn't raining at that time. The rain had been a long time previous—six weeks prior—but it takes six weeks for the water to get here. I could have had our teams doing other works and it coming out of another budget, but I have to find that money, or council has to find the money, to fund that project now because the State Government is not going to pay under the [audio malfunction]. It's certainly a cost to council, and we had to find it. It's just another form of cost-shifting.

I'd just like to talk about council not just being roads, rates and rubbish, with your first question, if you wouldn't mind. Out in small, remote councils, we are the community. Everyone comes to council if there's a problem. An example is we work very closely with the police in regards to law and order. We certainly do. No doubt you've probably seen us in the media on occasions where we do have our issues in regards to law and order, but we work very closely with our police and have an absolutely fabulous relationship, but it all takes time.

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For health, to make sure that we have doctors in our community, we provide housing for those doctors and also a facility for the doctors to operate out of. Education—Bourke council owns two buildings that the Bourke and District Children's Services operate out of. They have a preschool operating out of there and a childcare facility. The youth centre, or youth services—we have a fantastic PCYC here. The council owns the PCYC building. We are responsible for a lot of things that maybe city councils aren't responsible for but we are the community, as I've said. The community expect that council provide those services so that we do have a liveable space.

Again with our roads, we had substantial road damage during the rain events in the last three or four years—since 2021, so it's probably three years. Those events—we've put a contractor on to assist council to complete the assessments and also to assist with having the works done. Council prides itself here on—we have a fantastic fleet. We have maintained that fleet for a long period of time. We like to undertake those works. Predominantly, we don't contract a big firm in to undertake those works. We're doing a similar thing to Coonamble and are strategically looking at our roads and trying to upgrade strategic areas that allow better access for people that live out in the outer areas to be able to access us as a regional centre.

Dr AMANDA COHN: Those are very helpful examples. Coonamble, in your written submission—but I'm sure Bourke will want to comment on this as well—you talked about the level of work that's actually required for grant submissions. You also commented on the need, often, for projects to get to the point of being shovel ready before you can apply for the grant and the amount of resourcing that you need to provide to a project that you don't know at that stage whether it will actually get funded or not. I wonder if you have any examples or quantification of that. What are the solutions?

KERRIE MURPHY: In short, I don't have an example but I can talk in a general sense about that. To the point of your question about having projects shovel ready, with a lot of the grants the requirement is that they are ready to go. In a perfect world you've got two years to undertake the project, so that's plenty of time because you've got a shovel-ready project. Talking about grants in general, the majority of the grants are for new infrastructure, so they're talking about your new skate parks, new buildings, may or may not be sealing a road and things like that. In order to have the work done for those grants, you've got to go and basically have the scope of works ready to go. You've got to have those scopes of works estimated, which all takes time, and designs, potentially, if they're for buildings, or any other things. They all cost money as well.

It's about having that revenue in the first place to be able to fund those preparations for the grant, and then you shelve the project, you apply for the grant and then you may or may not get it. The project may be ready to go and you may or may not be able to justify putting it in your budget. It might just be one of those projects that is nice to have if we can get external funds for it, but given the limited funds we have we can't actually justify spending our own revenue for that. Over time, obviously, costs escalate and then you're ready to re-estimate the jobs and things like that. As far as preparation of that, that also comes back down to the professional people that you have employed as well.

Separate to the issue that we are talking about, it's really difficult to recruit qualified professional people in the west. I'm pretty sure our colleagues at Bourke would agree. It's difficult to be able to get engineers in any sense—project engineers. You really have to think outside the square to be able to attract them—to want to come to your town and choose you over the private sector or a bigger council that can afford to pay well above the market rate for you to go there. It all factors in. As my colleague mentioned earlier, we are very fortunate that we have a really good grants officer who currently works for us—who isn't an engineer. Basically he leans on infrastructure, which is great, because we get the best of both worlds there. But, again, it takes everybody away from everything else they're doing to be able to do those grant applications. We don't know when the grants are coming up either. There are no time frames.

Going back to your previous question or Mr Farraway's question about the grant funding, there is no ability to be able to plan in the future for that funding. It is very ad hoc. You may be fortunate enough to have a project ready to go or you may not. If you don't, unfortunately, you throw something together, you may be fortunate enough to get the grant and then you have to do the whole works and jerks—the design and everything else—in that two-year period, for instance. It makes it very difficult.

Dr AMANDA COHN: In terms of solutions, is it that grant programs should allow you to include the cost of the preparation work you needed to do for the grant in the grant scheme, or is it a move to more untied funding with councils—just inviting the local member to cut the ribbon anyway?

KERRIE MURPHY: I agree. I think it's a combination of both, I'll be honest with you. If I may, I think there probably needs to be more thought given to the maintenance and servicing of existing assets. My colleague here is the chair of the asset management component of IPWEA, so we are very focused on our asset management of our assets. We find that there is not a lot of focus on that with grant funding. It's a lot of the bright and shiny

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things for the ribbon cutting, but not so much for the maintenance and the servicing of the assets that we already have and can't look after. A good example of that was that pothole funding that was granted a few years ago, because it ticked the boxes and helped council to get on top of that. But, again, that wasn't an overnight problem; that had been developing and simmering under the surface for quite some time, until it got to where it was.

PAUL GALLAGHER: If I may, in the submission we were talking about asset management. As Kerrie alluded to, I'm the chair of the IPWEA asset management panel and I'm also the New South Wales representative on the national asset management strategy. If you look at the Audit Office report on asset management, it's not only our regional area—actually we do it quite well in our regional area on our asset management, and we understand our assets because we have to. But when you look at the long-term financial planning and where an asset management plan should be feeding into, there are a lot of councils not doing that very well, and that's because they don't have the qualified staff. I'm very fortunate. I have two managers working for me. They're qualified and they have worked for me in the past—and my background. We are doing okay, but other councils are struggling. It's 1 per cent of the duties of a person in there. It's that asset management and looking at the long term. It's nice—we will accept any grant funding for our community and get these facilities, but the nexus is then we have to start looking at the long-term financials and replacement and repair, which is the issue that we don't fund or look to in the future.

LEONIE BROWN: Dr Cohn, in regard to your question on grant funding and the ability to attract that funding, it is very difficult for us as a small council. I'll give you an example. Recently, we developed an active transport plan, which was funded previously, and developed a very detailed scope of where we would continue to upgrade infrastructure rather than building it new. We are very focused on trying to upgrade infrastructure rather than trying to build it new because we have a significant amount of assets and huge depreciation. We made an application, because we were shovel ready with this active transport plan, to the recent opportunity for grant funding. Just recently, we've been unsuccessful in the three applications that we made. It all takes time. I know that we're not going to get everything, but when you put in the effort, it's very disappointing when you don't receive. But what we've decided here in Bourke is that, for our major projects that we want to upgrade, we're doing business cases on them all. We develop business cases so we are shovel ready. It's not such a simple process, but we are there and we can change and update the reports as required when funding is available.

The CHAIR: I might start with this question to Coonamble based on your submission. Bourke, please add if you want to, for this contribution. In your submission you talk about asset management planning and you also talk about community engagement and the need to strengthen mechanisms for community consultation and engagement in the budgeting and infrastructure planning processes. What would that stronger community engagement process in the budgeting look like?

KERRIE MURPHY: As far as the community engagement goes, to date—and I'll acknowledge that some councils don't do it well at all. Budgets and things like that are behind closed doors. I think the communities want to know more about what councils do, and I think that starts with the budget. They need to understand the basis of how councils determine their budget in the first instance and why we spend what we're spending going forward. This year, for the first time, Coonamble held consultation workshops with the communities. We have Coonamble and two villages, Gulargambone and Quambone. We held separate workshops for them. In a similar vein, as far as asset management is concerned, there needs to be more consultation with that. A similar kind of thing would happen—basically, putting the asset management plans out for exhibition and letting them look at the asset management plan so they can get it.

I'll be honest: A lot of people won't be interested. They won't even care, but it's about the efforts that council makes to engage with the community. You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink. You need to be able to demonstrate that they're the community's assets. We're doing what we can to be able to maintain them and keep them in a condition so that they're going to continue to work. It also sets the scene for when those assets reach the end of their useful life and they need replacement. Potentially, we need a special rate variation because of the rate pegging or things like that, where a council might need to take a loan out to be able to renew these assets, because some of these are quite significant costs. That's where the engagement comes from. It's easier to sell that if the community knows the background to why you want to do what you're doing.

PAUL GALLAGHER: If I may, the other one is we're about to go into elections in September. Potentially, there will be a totally new council with a totally different perspective on what they want to deliver for the community. The advantage of having the asset management plans in place is we can demonstrate what we're planning for the future. If they want to change it, we can amend it, but we know the financial hit on the council bottom line if that's the case. An example we've been dealing with is that there is an expectation of greater sporting fields. We've gone back to the council and to the community and said it would be nice to have sporting fields, but they're going to cost X amount of dollars to develop and we've got the long-term financial.

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So we've actually looked at our own area that we are managing now and have managed to put some extra additional sporting fields within the same complex at a lot lower cost, and we are already maintaining that area. They're the things we need to talk to our community greater. It is interesting that we can call community consultation, and you might get one person, or zero, or you might get 50 people. If you make it a controversial issue, it's guaranteed you will get a rent-a-crowd that will come in. But it's delivering that message out. We, like many other councils, are using our Facebook, media and emails. We've been averaging two media releases out each week just on the good news of what we've been doing, to actually get that message out there. We're getting very good feedback because people are actually hearing that. The radio and the TV are picking that up. The local newspaper is picking that up.

As Kerrie alluded to, you can bring a horse to water but you can't make it drink. It is difficult because of the tyranny of distance in our area. We've got a large rural area, and Bourke is not much different. People aren't going to come in and drive 100 kilometres to listen to a 15-minute presentation. The thing we do well is, on a major sporting event or a community event, we will put up a display and talk about that. My predecessors have done that well in the past. It becomes very interesting, from the community, when it becomes very topical. Other than that, generally, they seem to be reasonably happy with what we do.

BARRY HOLLMAN: Could I say something on that? Bourke council undertakes yearly meetings with six villages and in Bourke. These meetings determine the level of service and infrastructure upgrades requested by the community. They are always considered, but not always can they be adhered to. I'll just give you a good example of why funding is so important to council. We went to Byrock the last few years, and they have dirty water down there. They wanted a filtration plant put in so they could have clear water. We said, "That's okay, but you have to pay for it through your rates." And they said, "We're fine with that. How much would the rates be?" The rate is now probably \$1,500 to \$2,000 yearly. We would have to increase that to something like \$15,000 or \$20,000 per family down there to do that. They just said, "There's no way we can do that."

The point that I'm trying to make is that it's all about why we should get funding from government departments. If we don't have grants funding, we just cannot survive. It's just as simple as that. We have a rating base [inaudible] over \$1.98 million, which is about 5 per cent of our operating costs. Our operating costs are between \$35 million and \$40 million. The equation works out that without Financial Assistance Grants and grant funding from government departments, small communities—and there's lots of them—just struggle to make ends meet. It's just so important that government funding comes to these small communities and lets them survive.

The CHAIR: Did you have anything further to add on that one, Leonie?

LEONIE BROWN: I guess, in regards to your question about community consultation, I think integrated planning and reporting is one of the best things that the Government has implemented, and it has really made councils understand what is required. As the mayor has alluded to, we hold yearly meetings. Since 2013 we have gone out to about six villages and to town and, in the beginning, we were getting many people at our meetings. As we go out now, we don't necessarily get that many because we've satisfied the community. I think they feel heard. We take out a lot of the information about our roads and the costs and give them a bit of a PowerPoint to provide the detail of what's actually going on at council. I agree with Kerrie: They probably don't necessarily understand it, but it's so important that we do consult. Integrated planning and reporting has been a very important phase of local government.

The CHAIR: I want to ask about disaster funding, which I know my colleagues touched on earlier. We've heard across the course of the inquiry that councils are delivering more and more infrastructure in the wake of natural disasters such as floods and fires, particularly relative to their normal course of activities. What sorts of delays are you experiencing in getting reimbursement from the State Government? You mentioned delays; what sort of delays are those?

KERRIE MURPHY: I will give you some perspective. It's quite interesting, because there doesn't seem to be any rhyme or reason. Full disclosure: There has been correspondence to and from Transport for NSW, which is obviously the administering body, with clarifications and things like that. But we submitted a claim for AGRN 898 in March this year and it was actually paid last week, post our meeting with Minister Aitchison. Conversely, we lodged three claims in October last year for AGRN 1034 for emergency works and we still haven't been paid for that. They account for, I am going to say, \$1½ million just of emergency works, which under the guidelines are to make the roads accessible for the community. That's still being queried by Transport for NSW.

There was another claim, for AGRN 987, lodged in January and another one, for AGRN 960, lodged in March. When we've put these claims in, it's taken us substantial periods of time to actually put the claims together with our consultant because of the evidence that we then have to provide with that. That's just an example of what we're looking at, which is accounting to the money that we've spent and haven't been reimbursed with. As I said,

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the emergency works were works that had to be done to these roads in order for our community to be able to move on them. If we hadn't done them, it would be a lot different situation as well.

The CHAIR: Do you know why the delays are occurring?

KERRIE MURPHY: As far as I'm aware, it's because they are clarifying our claims and what is and isn't eligible. I guess, especially for the emergency works, that's the frustration for us, in that emergency works are works that are required—that you would do whether you got funding or not. That's what we've gone and done, and now we're making the claim on that. It's difficult.

PAUL GALLAGHER: I might just add that some of the other works have been approved to an upper limit. In other words, we've got approval to go through that process. We're mindful that we don't go above that. If we go below that, it's fine; it's a win-win for everybody. We're getting queries now on delays in processing that when we've already received the initial approval to go forward and start repairing the road and bring it back. We're very mindful of the word "betterment"—and that's what I alluded to earlier—where we're actually putting our own maintenance money and grant funding to go back and bring the crown back into the road and do the table drains so that the next flood that comes through hopefully won't have as much impact. That's been funded through council, as I said, either supported through grant or our normal maintenance money.

KERRIE MURPHY: Just further, I wanted to clarify that there's a vast majority of that work that we've done under 1034 that was re-damaged from previous natural disasters. We've spent money, we fixed the roads and then, 12 months later, we've had a natural disaster that's washed it away. We sort of just keep spending money in the same places over and over, which is everybody's argument for what they term as "betterment".

PAUL GALLAGHER: We've just gone through the revaluation process for our roads, which is for the end of financial year. We've actually engaged a consultant to come through. They've literally videotaped and condition-rated our roads. We need that evidence to go forward in a claim. They look back and the first thing they say is, "Demonstrate to us, with photos, what the road looked like", and we can't do that because a lot of the time we don't have that information. So now, going forward, we're prepared for the next event. We can say, "We brought this road back up to this condition. Here's the video, here's the photo. This is what was here." But that's additional work. We've only done that this financial year because we've got the infrastructure revaluation as part of the end of year financial process.

KERRIE MURPHY: Another point, especially to Leonie's terms as well, is that, with rural and regional councils, the guidelines expect that for pre-damage evidence there is a photo every 50 metres of the road and it can't be more than four years old. There is all of this, which puts further impost on the smaller councils with less resources to have to go and have this evidence. When you can't necessarily supply this evidence, you can't demonstrate that what you know is true and so that also forms the delays as well. There is a lot in it and it is difficult.

The CHAIR: Thank you, that's really helpful to know. Bourke, did you have anything to add to that from your perspective?

LEONIE BROWN: I think Coonamble certainly have responded to that. We are probably along the same lines. It's all the same issues.

The CHAIR: My question now is what can we do about the delays and what can we do to assist the process?

PAUL GALLAGHER: I'd like to turn back time to when I was a young engineer. Those days are well and truly gone. I'll be blunt then. That was when I was out in a regional council and we received something like \$20 million to fix our roads. It was an open cheque book. Those days are gone. And accountability, we understand all that. But we have gone from one extreme to another extreme. At the end of the day, my priority is to get my roads open and back to a condition where my residents can get to town and children can come to school. The short answer is, in my opinion, over the last several recoveries—sorry, the last thing. We mentioned earlier the three Rs: roads, rates and rubbish. I did a presentation to some conferences with the extra R, which was the recovery component. We've kind of complicated that too much, in my opinion. There is another tier of governance that has been put into there that seems to interfere.

Prior to coming to Coonamble, I worked with a council and we got \$4 million of flood damage. At the time, the staff there didn't know even how to put a claim in. The mayor spoke to me and said, "What do we do?" I said, "We'll just go through this process." We got that funding. Transport, to their credit, when I rang them up and said, "I need some training on how this happens and the process", sent staff up and trained the team so that they understood what was eligible and what was ineligible. They actually went out on the job site and said, "Righto, this is eligible. Yes, you can put a claim in for that. That's not eligible." I'm not sure of our process at

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Coonamble because it was prior to Kerrie and myself arriving. But there just seems to be a level of governance in there that seems to be slowing things down. I understand about accountability and transparency and the fact is that it's Federal money coming through. But, in my opinion, there's something there that's blocking it and making it slower.

KERRIE MURPHY: If I could add, and not to be too crude, I think there are too many chiefs and not enough Indians. I think we've got a lot of government agencies involved. We've got money from the Federal Government, we've got Transport for NSW, we've got the NSW Reconstruction Authority and we've got NEMA. Everybody seems to be having a say in how all of this is working. If I have one suggestion, it would be to go back to basics and actually look at what the purpose of the disaster recovery funding is and look at how that can best serve the communities and how it can be best administered. If all of those government agencies are required, that's fine. But it all needs to be streamlined and it all needs to be spelt out to the council so that they know what to expect. There is a lot of misinformation and, as I said, I think there are just too many fingers in the pie that are really slowing it down.

PAUL GALLAGHER: From a council perspective, there is a lot of work to put that flood damage claim together.

The CHAIR: Yes, it sounds like it.

PAUL GALLAGHER: Prior to my arrival, our council was using a consultant. As a guide, that consultant was paid in excess of around \$600,000 over a period of time to put that together. That could have funded several engineers or staff or permanent employees, but that wasn't eligible at the time. That's one of the issues we were facing. We've since moved back into council staff doing it, because at least we've got a better handle on it. What we were finding when it was the consultants coming in, we were doing all the legwork anyway and then handing them the information. We have actually straightened that out, but that money could have funded some cadet engineers from university who were looking for work experience to go out and assist in that under the guidance of a chief engineer.

The CHAIR: Do the witnesses from Bourke have anything to add to that?

LEONIE BROWN: No, I don't think I've got anything to add. We are doing it a little bit differently to what Coonamble is doing. Certainly, we are using a consultant that I think seems to be working well for us because we find it so hard to get resources to come out and do those works. We have changed around the way we do it. Prior to that, we were doing all our own works and I think that we were missing out on claims because of that. The distance of our roads and the requirement for capturing those shots every 50 metres—it's a job here that's impossible for the staff that we have. There's probably a little bit of a difference between us but, in answer to your question to how we fix it—you know, it's probably that level of different agencies within the organisations that distribute the funding. Along with Paul, I think that previously—I have been here a long time and I have done a lot of flood claims—it was much more simple. It was rigorous to deal with Transport for NSW and to lodge our claims and to get the funding through.

The CHAIR: I have one more question that is specific to the Bourke council submission. In your submission, you do not charge section 64 or section 94 developer contributions. Why is that?

LEONIE BROWN: We've got very limited applications for development and it's just a rural remote council. The applications that we would have would not necessarily build our parks and footpaths. I think you'll find that there are probably many rural councils that don't charge section 94s.


The CHAIR: Is that the case for Coonamble?

PAUL GALLAGHER: Pretty much the same, yes. We want to encourage development. To get a developer to come to our area is difficult enough, and then to charge them fees and charges—yes, we are much the same.

The CHAIR: Interesting. Thank you so much for the time you have given today to give evidence to the inquiry. It is wonderful to hear both your perspectives. If there are any questions on notice or supplementary questions, the Committee secretariat will be in touch with you with the details for that.

(The witnesses withdrew.)

10.6 STATUS OF INVESTMENTS - JUNE 2024

File Number: Investments General - I5
Author: Imogen Pawley-Finance Assistant
Authoriser: Bruce Quarmby, Director Corporate Services
Annexures: 1. Imperium Markets Report [↓](#) 

PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is for Councillors to note the status of its investment portfolio.

BACKGROUND**(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework**

L1.4.10 Maintain long term financial viability.

(b) Financial Considerations

Investment levels and interest rates are currently on par with the revised estimated calculations.

COMMENTARY

The format of the report has been configured to demonstrate Council's compliance with the relevant legislative requirements along with Council's own adopted Investment Policy.

The attached Investment Report was calculated on 28 June 2024 after all maturing dates for investments had passed.

The total Capital Value of Investments as of 28 June 2024 is \$19,750,000. This is a decrease of \$4,000,000 from \$23,750,000 as of 31 May 2024.

The decrease is due to large creditor payments for the following expenses:

- Contract road maintenance and renewal services.
- Progress payments on several capital renewal projects currently underway.
- Continued upgrade works at the Waste Facilities
- Lodgement and payment of annual Fringe Benefit Tax

However, due to receiving some expected grant monies this month we have been able to transfer \$4,000,000 back into our online Saver account as an at call investment.

This amount will not show on the imperium report. As mentioned in previous months it is treated as a different type of investment outside the platform. Leaving the total of investments shown below in the table.

INVESTMENTS	
Term Deposits (Imperium)	\$19,750,000
Saver Account	\$4,000,000
TOTAL	\$23,750,000

Council is expecting payment of several more grants. Once these funds have been received Council anticipates reinvesting in accordance with our Investment Policy.

AVAILABLE WORKING FUNDS

Restricted funds are set aside by Council and external parties for a particular purpose to meet future expenses. Unrestricted funds are available to be used to cover all other expenses of Council.

As at the 31 March the balance of unrestricted cash (working funds) was \$92,000. However, as previously reported it is noted that Council is awaiting reimbursement of a substantial amount of grant funded expenditure that is currently recognised as a debtor. Once these funds have been received, Council’s balance of working funds should return to a more favourable level. At the time of writing this report Council these amounts remain due and payable to council.

(a) Governance/Policy Implications

Monthly financial reporting ensures transparency of financial reporting to enable Councillors to make financially sustainable and accountable decisions.

(b) Legal Implications

As the authoriser of the report, Council’s responsible accounting officer has certified that all investments continue to be made in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993, the Regulations* and Council’s Investment Policy.

(c) Social Implications

Council funds are used to provide services and infrastructure to the community, and, as a result, well managed funds maximise the level of financial resources available to support the community.

(d) Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

(e) Economic/Asset Management Implications

Sound economic management includes maximising Council’s return on investment, and this is achieved by closely monitoring investments in line with Council’s Investment Policy.

(f) Risk Implications

Sound economic management includes maximising Council's return on investment, and this is achieved by closely monitoring all investments in line with Council's Investment Policy.

CONCLUSION

Funds have been appropriately restricted to ensure all areas of Council can continue to operate in accordance with both the annual Operational Plan and the Long-Term Financial Plan. Further, all investments are continued to be made in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993, the Regulations* and Council's Investment Policy.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the list of investments from 1 June 2024 to 28 June 2024 and that these investments comply with section 625(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* and Council's Investment Policy.



Investment Report

01/05/2024 to 30/06/2024



Portfolio Valuation as at 30/06/2024

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value (\$)	Face Value (\$)	Accrued (\$)	Accrued MTD (\$)
Commonwealth Bank	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	10/07/2023	10/07/2024	5.7100	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	111,696.99	9,386.30
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	02/08/2023	30/07/2024	5.2000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	95,167.12	8,547.95
IMB Bank	A-2	FRTD	GENERAL	Quarterly	04/08/2022	06/08/2024	4.9117	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	7,535.76	4,037.01
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	05/02/2024	06/08/2024	5.1400	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	20,700.82	4,224.66
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	14/08/2023	14/08/2024	5.2500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	46,315.07	4,315.07
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	08/11/2023	11/09/2024	5.3200	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	68,795.62	8,745.21
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	11/09/2023	11/09/2024	5.2000	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00	62,827.40	6,410.96
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	16/10/2023	16/10/2024	5.1300	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	72,803.84	8,432.88
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	24/10/2023	24/10/2024	5.3100	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	36,515.34	4,364.38
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	03/11/2023	04/11/2024	5.4600	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	36,050.96	4,487.67
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	01/11/2023	06/11/2024	5.5400	2,500,000.00	2,500,000.00	92,206.85	11,383.56
Unity Bank	Unrated	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	20/05/2024	18/11/2024	5.1000	250,000.00	250,000.00	1,467.12	1,047.95
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	07/12/2023	09/12/2024	5.2500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	29,773.97	4,315.07
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	02/05/2024	12/12/2024	5.2500	500,000.00	500,000.00	4,315.07	2,157.53
IMB Bank	A-2	FRTD	GENERAL	Quarterly	17/01/2022	16/01/2025	4.8700	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	10,006.85	4,002.74
TOTALS								19,750,000.00	19,750,000.00	696,178.77	85,858.93



Portfolio by Asset as at 30/06/2024

Asset Type: TD

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value (\$)	Face Value (\$)	Accrued (\$)	Accrued MTD (\$)
Commonwealth Bank	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	10/07/2023	10/07/2024	5.7100	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	111,696.99	9,386.30
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	02/08/2023	30/07/2024	5.2000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	95,167.12	8,547.95
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	05/02/2024	06/08/2024	5.1400	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	20,700.82	4,224.66
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	14/08/2023	14/08/2024	5.2500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	46,315.07	4,315.07
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	08/11/2023	11/09/2024	5.3200	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	68,795.62	8,745.21
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	11/09/2023	11/09/2024	5.2000	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00	62,827.40	6,410.96
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	16/10/2023	16/10/2024	5.1300	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	72,803.84	8,432.88
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	24/10/2023	24/10/2024	5.3100	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	36,515.34	4,364.38
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	03/11/2023	04/11/2024	5.4600	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	36,050.96	4,487.67
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	01/11/2023	06/11/2024	5.5400	2,500,000.00	2,500,000.00	92,206.85	11,383.56
Unity Bank	Unrated	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	20/05/2024	18/11/2024	5.1000	250,000.00	250,000.00	1,467.12	1,047.95
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	07/12/2023	09/12/2024	5.2500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	29,773.97	4,315.07
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	02/05/2024	12/12/2024	5.2500	500,000.00	500,000.00	4,315.07	2,157.53
TD SUBTOTALS								17,750,000.00	17,750,000.00	678,636.16	77,819.18

Asset Type: FRTD



Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value (\$)	Face Value (\$)	Accrued (\$)	Accrued MTD (\$)
IMB Bank	A-2	FRTD	GENERAL	Quarterly	04/08/2022	06/08/2024	4.9117	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	7,535.76	4,037.01
IMB Bank	A-2	FRTD	GENERAL	Quarterly	17/01/2022	16/01/2025	4.8700	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	10,006.85	4,002.74
FRTD SUBTOTALS								2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	17,542.61	8,039.75

Portfolio by Asset Totals as at 30/06/2024

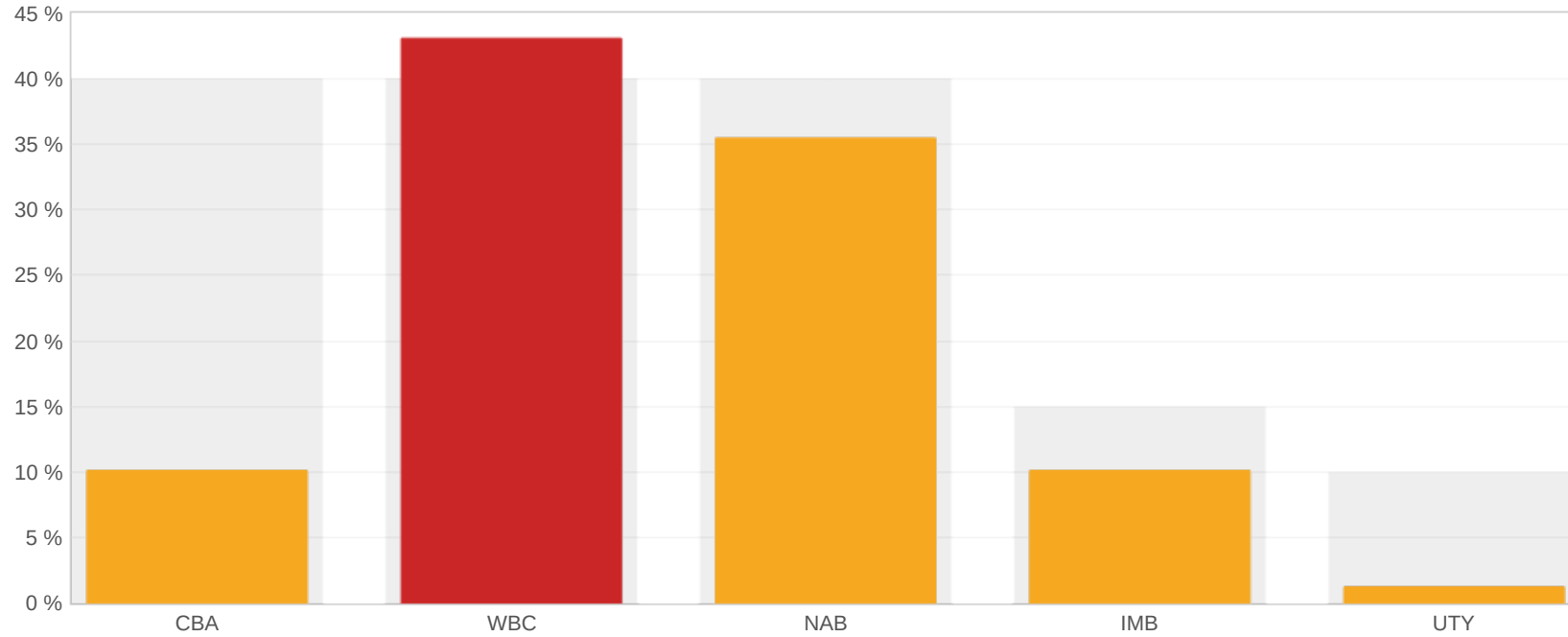
Type	Capital Value (\$)	Face Value (\$)	Accrued (\$)	Accrued MTD (\$)
TD	17,750,000.00	17,750,000.00	678,636.16	77,819.18
FRTD	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	17,542.61	8,039.75
TOTALS	19,750,000.00	19,750,000.00	696,178.77	85,858.93

Counterparty Compliance as at 30/06/2024

Short Term Investments

Compliant	Bank Group	Term	Rating	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Limit (%)	Limit (\$)	Available (\$)
✓	Commonwealth Bank	Short	A-1+	2,000,000.00	10.13	40.00	-	5,900,000.00
✗	Westpac	Short	A-1+	8,500,000.00	43.04	40.00	-	-600,000.00
✓	NAB	Short	A-1+	7,000,000.00	35.44	40.00	-	900,000.00
✓	IMB Bank	Short	A-2	2,000,000.00	10.13	15.00	-	962,500.00
✓	Unity Bank	Short	Unrated	250,000.00	1.27	10.00	-	1,725,000.00
TOTALS				19,750,000.00	100.00			

Counterparty Compliance - Short Term Investments

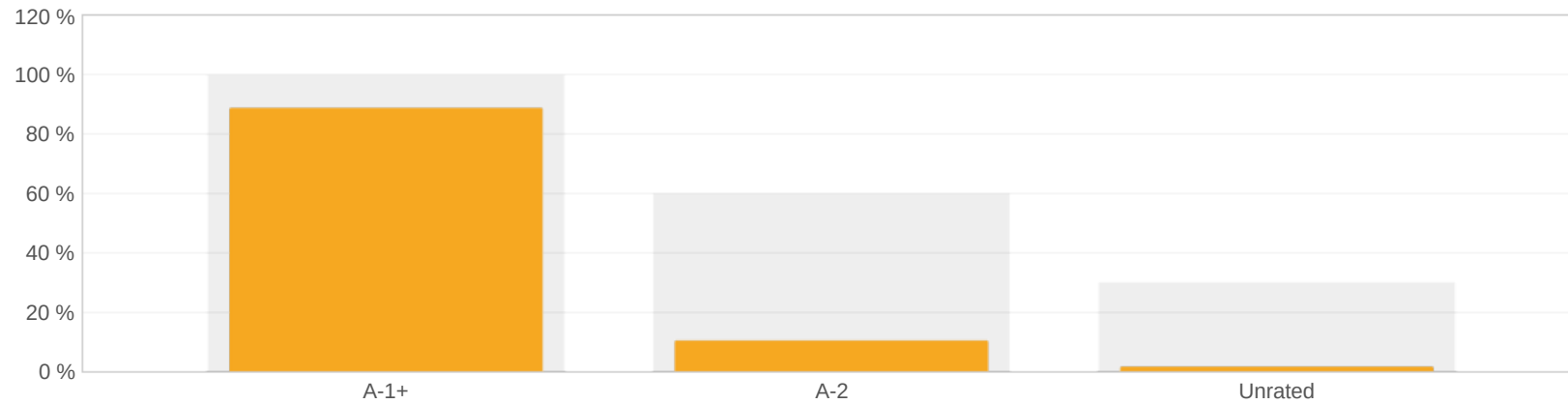


Credit Quality Compliance as at 30/06/2024

Short Term Investments

Compliant	Rating	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✓	A-1+	17,500,000.00	88.61	100.00	2,250,000.00
✓	A-2	2,000,000.00	10.13	60.00	9,850,000.00
✓	Unrated	250,000.00	1.27	30.00	5,675,000.00
TOTALS		19,750,000.00	100.00		

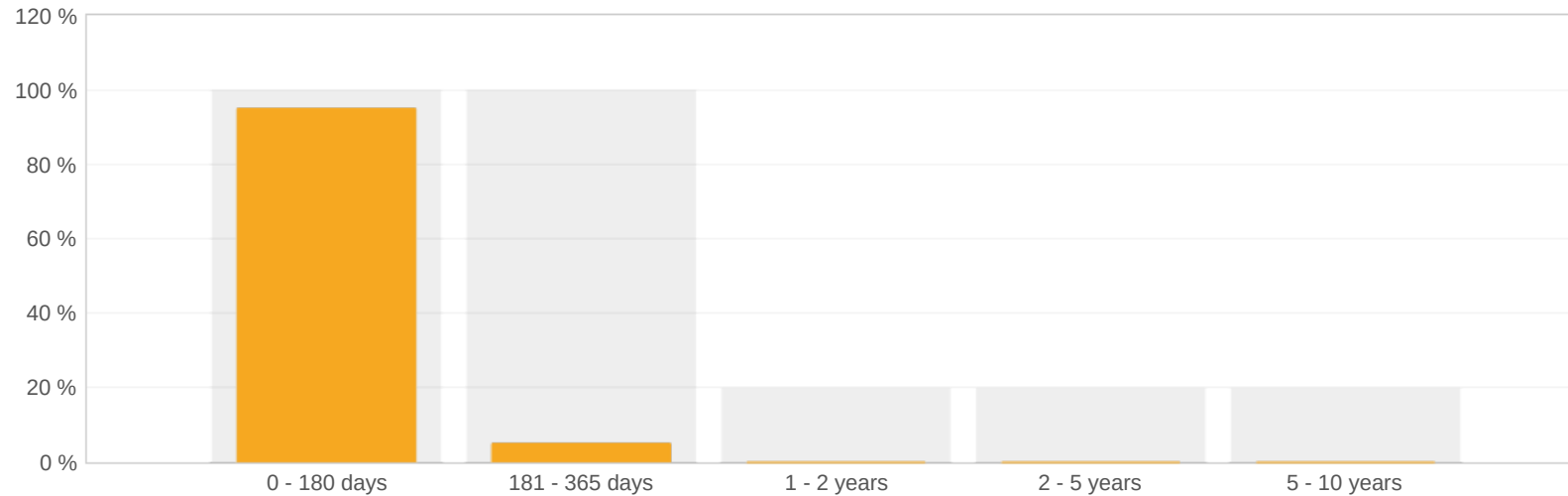
Credit Quality Compliance - Short Term Investments



Maturity Compliance as at 30/06/2024

Compliant	Term	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Min Limit (%)	Max Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✓	0 - 180 days	18,750,000.00	94.94	0.00	100.00	1,000,000.00
✓	181 - 365 days	1,000,000.00	5.06	0.00	100.00	18,750,000.00
✓	1 - 2 years	-	0.00	0.00	20.00	3,950,000.00
✓	2 - 5 years	-	0.00	0.00	20.00	3,950,000.00
✓	5 - 10 years	-	0.00	0.00	20.00	3,950,000.00
TOTALS		19,750,000.00	100.00			

Maturity Compliance



10.7 RATES AND CHARGES COLLECTIONS - JUNE 2024

File Number: Rates - General - R4
Author: Kylie Fletcher, Revenue Officer
Authoriser: Bruce Quarmby, Director Corporate Services
Annexures: Nil

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to be updated with the most recent information pertaining to its rates and charges collections – as applicable to the month of June 2024.

BACKGROUND

(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

The annual rate charges are set out within Council’s 2023 / 24 Operational Plan.

(b) Financial Considerations

The annual rate charges are set out within Council’s 2023 / 24 Operational Plan.

	27 June 2024	30 June 2023
Rates and Charges	\$1,763,021.15	\$956,777.09
Water Consumption	\$756,017.87	\$603,049.96
Total	\$2,519,039.02	\$1,559,827.05

COMMENTARY

Rates and Charges

	27 June 2024	30 June 2023
Rates and charges in arrears as at 30 June 2023	\$1,173,804.02	\$1,020,037.33
Rates/charges levied & adjustments for 2023/24	\$8,056,363.32	\$7,526,412.25
Pension Concession	-\$104,149.96	-\$105,637.46
Amounts collected as at 27 June 2024	-\$7,362,996.23	-\$7,484,035.03
Total Rates and Charges to be Collected	\$1,763,021.15	\$956,777.09

The amount levied for rates and charges for 2023 / 24 includes the current year’s annual rates and charges and any interest added since the date the rates notices were issued. The amount received as of 27 June 2024 includes receipts for both arrears and the current year’s amounts outstanding.

It should be noted that the rates and charges 2023 / 24 levied amount is reduced by the pensioner concession of \$104,149.96; reducing the amount of income derived

from these rates and charges. Of this concession, Council’s contribution is 45%, which represents an amount of \$46,867.48.

The rates and charges as of 27 June 2024 represent 19.10% of the total annual rates and charges levied and outstanding (compared with 11.20% on 30 June 2023).

Water Consumption Charges

	27 June 2024	30 June 2023
Water Consumption Charges and arrears as at 30 June 2023	\$393,023.85	\$329,760.33
Water Consumption charges & adjustments 2023 / 24 year to date	\$1,466,189.33	\$826,012.94
Amounts collected as at 27 June 2024	-\$1,103,195.31	-\$552,723.31
Total Water Consumption Charges to be Collected	\$756,017.87	\$603,049.96

The water consumption charges as at 27 June 2024 represents 40.66% of the total water consumption charges outstanding (compared to 52.18% on 30 June 2023).

For Councils information, following the levying of the fourth quarter water and sewerage usage charges it was identified that there was an issue with one of the handheld readers that has impacted the calculation and levying of approximately 400 assessments. The assessments impacted have had a “zero read” uploaded and subsequently have been undercharged. At the time of writing this report Council staff have been working with our software provider to rectify the issue.

The impacted assessments will be notified, and a correct bill issued prior to any further bills being issued for these assessments.

Debt Recovery Agency

During June 2024 Council staff have continued to liaise with Council’s debt recovery agency with a view to continuing Council’s process outlined within Council adopted Debt recovery policy.

(a) Governance/Policy Implications

Council staff comply with the directions provided by Council’s suite of policies that govern this function of Council.

(b) Legal Implications

The collection of rates and water charges does impact on the community. For this reason, Council is always willing to negotiate payment terms with outstanding debtors. Debtors are afforded several opportunities to contact Council regarding these matters.

(c) Social Implications

The collection of rates and water charges does impact on the community. For this reason, Council is always willing to negotiate payment terms with outstanding debtors. Debtors are afforded several opportunities to contact Council regarding these matters.

(d) Environmental Implications

There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report. However, it needs to be acknowledged that the additional increase in the cost of living could have an impact on Council's ability to collect its rates and charges.

(e) Economic/Asset Management Implications

If Council's rates and charges collection fall behind, it will have an impact on Council's ongoing ability to meet its operational costs and making adequate funding available for necessary asset maintenance and renewal projects.

(f) Risk Implications

As was stated above, the increase in living expenses, has impacted on Council's ability to collect its rates and charges as demonstrated by the increase in Council rates, annual charges, interest, and extra charges outstanding percentage. Strategies have been put in place to mitigate the risk of the further deterioration of this ratio. Council has been working closely with its Debt Collection agency to reduce the amount of debt outstanding from rates and water charges.

CONCLUSION

The rates and charges as at 27 June 2024 represent 19.10% of the total annual rates and charges levied and outstanding from previous years by Council (compared with 11.20% on 30 June 2023). The water consumption charges as of 27 June 2024 represent 40.66% of the total water consumption charges outstanding from previous years (compared to 52.18% on 30 June 2023).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and note the information provided in the report.

10.8 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PROGRESS REPORT**File Number: G9-1****Author: Jenni Maundrell-Executive Manager Corporate Governance****Authoriser: Paul Gallagher, General Manager****Annexures: Nil****PURPOSE**

To provide Council a progress report on Corporate Governance.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Corporate Governance division of Council includes all governance matters, human resources/people and culture, WHS and risk management.

BACKGROUND**(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework**

CSP L1.3 Deliver successful strategies and operations which increase the community's confidence in the integrity and capability of Coonamble Shire Council.

Further, the Corporate Governance section of Council oversees compliance with the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

(b) Financial Considerations

Nil in relation to this report.

COMMENTARY*Corporate governance*Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

Council last month endorsed the two independent committee members, subject to criminal and financial checks. The next meeting is due to be held in August.

Internal Audit

There are no further updates this month.

Integrated Planning and Reporting

Council is currently up to date on the IP&R cycle. Extensive reviews will commence in the new term of Council.

Policy Review

A number of draft policies are on exhibition after the June Council meeting. A further review of existing policies will continue in the new term of Council.

People and Culture

The People and Culture team is continuing to collate information relating to annual appraisals. Additionally, the team is working through processes to utilise software for recruitment.

*Work, Health and Safety and Risk Management*Work Health and Safety

Progress and activities this month include:

1. Improvement Notice close outs at Gulargambone and Coonamble waste sites.
2. WHS inspections
 - a. Sale yards/camp draft area
 - b. Old VIC, Library and Service NSW
3. Alcohol and Other Drugs Training
 - a. Training is organised.
 - b. This will lead to a revision of Council's alcohol and other drugs testing procedure.
4. Arranging guest speakers for a 'safety day' at Council later this year.
5. HSR/Fire Warden training – finalising numbers for training.
6. Quambone waste facility safety improvements and also traffic management reviews at all facilities with the Risk Specialist.
7. iAuditor roll out – assisting RMCC Officer where required.
8. Procedure reviews scheduled.
9. General WHS matters across the organisation on an ad hoc basis.

Risk Management

1. Completed since last month, but still under review:
 - a. Risk management roles, authorities, responsibilities, and accountabilities.
 - b. Continuous Improvement Policy.
 - c. Communication and Consultation Procedure.
 - d. Project works risk register.
2. Work in progress:
 - a. Project Audit tool.
 - b. Strategic risk register.
 - c. Operational risk register.
 - d. Business Continuity Plan (BCP) and subplans (BCPSPs).
 - e. Risk management training packages.
3. Further works to be commenced:
 - a. Migrating risk registers to an online management system.
 - b. Training stakeholders on how to use risk registers.
 - c. Training stakeholders on BCP and subplans.
4. Risk Management Policy is currently under review.

(c) Governance/Policy Implications

Governance impacts all of Council's operations.

(d) Legal Implications

The Governance unit oversees legislative compliance.

(e) Social Implications

Nil in relation to this report.

(f) Environmental Implications

Nil in relation to this report.

(g) Economic/Asset Management Implications

Nil in relation to this report.

(h) Risk Implications

The Governance unit oversees risk management within Council.

CONCLUSION**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the Corporate Governance Progress Report.

10.9 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS 2024 UPDATE**File Number:** E-2**Author:** Jenni Maundrell-Executive Manager Corporate Governance**Authoriser:** Paul Gallagher, General Manager**Annexures:** 1. **Candidate Information Pack 2024** [↓](#) **PURPOSE**

To inform Council of preparations for the local government elections to be held on 14 September 2024.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report contains key dates for the local government elections and information for prospective candidates in the election.

BACKGROUND

Local government elections are generally held every four years. The elections scheduled for September 2020 were postponed twice due to the Covid pandemic; however, the elections will be held in September 2024, bringing the cycle back in line with pre-pandemic norms.

(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

CSP L1.2 Strengthen our engagement and consultation with our local community and stakeholders including increasing community participation in decision making.

(b) Financial Considerations

None relating to this report.

COMMENTARY

The local government elections are administered by the NSW Electoral Commission. General elections will be held on Saturday 14 September 2024. Key dates are included in the table below (source: [2024 NSW Local Government elections - NSW Electoral Commission](#)).

Date	Activity
Monday 5 August 2024	Start of regulated period for electoral material. 8:00am – Lodgement of nominations open. 6:00pm – Close of roll for the purposes of being a candidate or nominator.
Tuesday 6 August 2024	Lodgement of postal vote applications open.
Wednesday 14 August 2024	12:00 noon – Close of nominations and close of registration of candidates and groups. Registration of electoral materials open.

Friday 6 September 2024	5:00pm – Registration of electoral material closes.
Saturday 7 September 2024	Pre-poll voting period opens (days and times will vary).
Monday 9 September 2024	5:00pm – Postal vote applications close. Registration of third-party campaigners closes.
Friday 13 September 2024	Pre-poll voting period closes (times will vary). Telephone voting applications close.
Saturday 14 September 2024	8:00am-6:00pm – Election day. 1:00pm – Telephone voting closes. 6:00pm – Regulated period for electoral material ends.
Friday 27 September 2024	6:00pm – End of postal vote returns.
Monday 30 September 2024	Start of progressive distribution of preferences.
Tuesday 1 October 2024	Start of progressive declaration of results.
Wednesday 2 October 2024	End of progressive distribution of preferences.
Thursday 3 October 2024	End of progressive declaration of results.

The timeline above shows that final results of the election may not be known until 3 October 2024.

While the elections are not a function of Council, the Office of Local Government provides councils and prospective councillors with a range of information and resources to guide them through the process. Further, councils have obligations under the *Local Government Act 1993* to deliver induction training and ongoing professional development to new and returning councillors. In addition to the legislated obligations, the Office of Local Government recommends that councils provide the community with information for prospective candidates.

In line with the recommendation of the Office of Local Government, Council has developed a Candidate Information Pack for prospective candidates. The Pack contains a broad range of information to assist those community members who may be considering standing for election to understand the role and responsibilities. Topics included in the Pack:

- general and demographic information about the Coonamble local government area (LGA),
- the role of Council:
 - the role and responsibilities of local government,
 - guiding principles under legislation,
 - purpose of council and committee meetings,
- the role and responsibilities of a councillor:
 - the governing body, individual councillors, and the mayor,

- strategic role of the governing body vs the operational role of the administration (staff),
- regional and other bodies Council is affiliated with,
- legal and ethical responsibilities:
 - oath or affirmation for councillors,
 - ethical standards,
 - legal responsibilities,
 - Council policies,
- the skills and knowledge required by councillors and the mayor,
- the time commitment, including:
 - participation in the mandatory induction program for new and returning councillors,
 - Council meetings,
 - preparation for meetings,
 - other meetings and events,
 - responding to communication,
 - responding to media,
- support available to councillors, including:
 - annual fee,
 - Councillors' Expenses and Facilities Policy,
 - induction and professional development,
 - support from staff,
- where to go for further information.

The Pack is available on Council's website [Local Government Elections 2024 \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.localgovernmentelections2024.nsw.gov.au) or from the Council administration office. Hard copies will also be distributed at Candidate Information Sessions to be held at Gulargambone, Coonamble and Quambone 23-25 July 2024. Further, a copy of the Pack is attached to this report for information.

(a) Governance/Policy Implications

The Corporate Governance section of Council provides administrative support for the local government elections.

(b) Legal Implications

Council has a legislated obligation to provide induction and professional development to new and returning councillors. Further, the Office of Local Government highly recommends providing candidate information to the community.

(c) Social Implications

This report provides the community with information in an alternate channel.

(d) Environmental Implications

Nil related to this report.

(e) Economic/Asset Management Implications

Nil related to this report.

(f) Risk Implications

Nil related to this report.

CONCLUSION

Councillors and the community are encouraged to access the information available for prospective candidates in the upcoming local government elections.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the information contained in the Local Government Elections 2024 Update report.



COONAMBLE
SHIRE C@UNCIL

**CANDIDATE
INFORMATION PACK
2024**

Acknowledgement of Country

Coonamble Shire Council acknowledges the Kamilaroi and Weilwan people as the traditional custodians of the land on which it meets and operates, respecting Elders past, present and emerging. We seek at all times to show respect to all people and cultures whose privilege we have to serve within and beyond the local government area.

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About Coonamble Shire

The Coonamble local government area (LGA) has an area of 9,955km² and is located on the traditional lands of the Weilwan and Kamilaroi people. The LGA has a population of 3,732 people (2021 Census).

Coonamble LGA is part of the Orana Region of Central Northern NSW and is bounded by the LGAs of Walgett to the north, Warrumbungle in the east, Gilgandra to the south and Warren in the west.

Our shire includes the townships of Coonamble and villages of Gulargambone and Quambone.



Coonamble is situated on the Castlereagh River which runs through the town, dividing east from west. Water from the Great Artesian Basin is pumped into reservoirs throughout the town for domestic use. Residents of rural properties account for approximately one-third of the LGA population.

Coonamble Shire Council delivers a wide range of services and programs including sealed and unsealed road networks, town streets and pedestrian paths, water and sewer supply services, waste management, sport and recreation facilities, community and cultural programs, and manages local laws and regulations.

Council's service delivery is underpinned by the annual Operational Plan (budget).

The proposed budget for 2024/25 is around \$35 million (before grants). There are a number of major projects in development, including a significant economic development package encompassing new artesian bore baths, manufacturing, housing construction, and redevelopment in the Coonamble main street and at Warrena Weir.



Why consider becoming a Coonamble Shire councillor?

- 1** Local government has a significant impact on the lives of all people in New South Wales.

- 2** Councils are complex organisations that provide and maintain a wide range of buildings, amenities, programs and services.

- 3** Councillors, elected by residents and ratepayers, have an exciting and challenging role to fulfil.

- 4** You will be in touch daily with our community and balance the needs and expectations of our local government area within a legal framework of financial and environmental sustainability.

- 5** Councillors are required to make a variety of diverse and often complex decisions that affect people's lives.

- 6** Significantly, you will help shape the values, vision and strategic direction for Coonamble Shire Council.

- 7** It is important to note the *Local Government Act 1993* defines the very distinct and different roles of a Council and the General Manager, which is integral to an efficient, compliant and successful council.

- 8** Becoming a councillor is a fantastic hands-on way to serve and advocate for your community, and positively influence future directions and outcomes for the Coonamble LGA.

- 9** Individuals with diverse backgrounds are encouraged to stand for election, to reflect the diversity of our community.

- 10** If you are passionate about the Coonamble LGA and your community and are willing to learn, grow and participate, then consider nominating as a candidate.

- 11** Being a councillor may be a challenging role, but it is also very rewarding and fulfilling.

Role of Council

Role and responsibilities of local government

Local government authorities in NSW play a crucial role in providing essential services to communities. Councils meet the needs of residents at a grassroots level, and their actions directly impact the wellbeing of communities. Key aspects of the responsibilities are:

- ✓ General services, which may include health services, community amenities, recreation, culture, and road maintenance.
- ✓ Trading activities.
- ✓ Community services such as local planning, transport infrastructure, environmental management, water and sewerage services.
- ✓ Financial management including revenue sources, financial planning, asset management, and reporting.
- ✓ Regulation and accountability through the State government's Office of Local Government.

Guiding principles under legislation

The key piece of legislation governing councils in NSW is the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act). Chapter 3 of the Act contains the following guiding principles that govern Council's functions:

- In **exercising functions generally**, councils should:
 - provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning and decision-making,
 - carry out functions in a way that provides the best possible value for residents and ratepayers,
 - plan strategically, using the integrated planning and reporting framework, for the provision of effective and efficient services and regulation to meet the diverse needs of the local community,
 - apply the integrated planning and reporting framework in carrying out their functions so as to achieve desired outcomes and continuous improvements,
 - work cooperatively with other councils and the State government to achieve desired outcomes for the local community,
 - manage lands and other assets so that current and future local community needs can be met in an affordable way,
 - work with others to secure appropriate services for local community needs,
 - act fairly, ethically and without bias in the interests of the local community, and
 - be responsible employers and provide a consultative and supportive working environment for staff.

- In **decision-making**, councils should:
 - recognise diverse local community needs and interests,
 - consider social justice principles,
 - consider the long term and cumulative effects of actions on future generations,
 - consider the principles of ecologically sustainable development,
 - be transparent and accountable for decisions and omissions.
- Councils should actively engage with their local communities, through the use of the integrated planning and reporting framework and other measures to foster **community participation**.

Purpose of council and committee meetings

Council meetings serve for councillors to consider matters that fall within their jurisdiction and make binding decisions on behalf of the community. Committees of which all the members are councillors may be formed to discuss particular issues.

Council and committee meetings should be:

- ✓ *Transparent*. Decisions are made in a way that is open and accountable.
- ✓ *Informed*. Decisions are made based on relevant, quality information.
- ✓ *Inclusive*. Decisions respect the diverse needs and interests of the local community.
- ✓ *Principled*. Decisions are informed by the principles prescribed under Chapter 3 of the Act.
- ✓ *Trusted*. The community has confidence that councillors and staff act ethically and make decisions in the interests of the whole community.
- ✓ *Respectful*. Councillors, staff and meeting attendees treat each other with respect.
- ✓ *Effective*. Meetings are well organised, effectively run and skilfully chaired.
- ✓ *Orderly*. Councillors, staff and meeting attendees behave in a way that contributes to the orderly conduct of the meeting.



Role and responsibilities of a councillor

The governing body, individual councillors, and the mayor

The role of the **governing body** is essentially to be the decision-makers in local government. Responsibilities include directing and controlling affairs in consultation with the general manager, providing civic leadership, and ensuring financial sustainability of the council.

The role of an individual **councillor** is to make decisions and develop policies that guide the activities of the council. Councillors are expected to represent the views of the community while making decisions in their interests, demonstrate the conduct that the community expects and deserves, and plan and oversee the running of a significant and complex business. They also act as an advocate for residents in resolving concerns relating to services of the council.

The **mayor** is the leader of the council and has a crucial role in the local community, advancing community cohesion and promoting civic awareness. The mayor is the spokesperson and principal member of the governing body, presiding over meetings and representing the views of the council as to its local priorities. When necessary, the mayor may exercise policy-making functions of the council between meetings and also has civic and ceremonial functions related to the office. The mayor is also responsible for leading performance appraisals of the general manager.

Strategic vs operational

The role of the governing body, individual councillor and the mayor is a strategic one. Councillors have responsibility for:

- **Policy and decision making.** Councillors set the overall vision, goals and policies for the council. They participate in decisions related to matters such as budget allocation, community development, and infrastructure planning.
- **Scrutiny and oversight.** Councillors scrutinise the performance of the council against strategic aims. They ensure that the council's actions align with the community's needs and priorities.
- **Major decisions.** Councillors make complex decisions that impact the entire council, focusing on long-term outcomes.

Councillors do not engage in day-to-day operational management of the council. This responsibility lies with staff (officers).

The general manager has responsibility for:

- **Implementation of strategy.** General managers execute the decisions made by councillors. They translate strategic goals into actionable plans and oversee their implementation.
- **Leadership and coordination.** General managers provide leadership to council staff, ensuring alignment with the council's strategic direction.
- **Performance monitoring.** General managers monitor the performance of council services and recommend improvements.
- **Day-to-day management.** General managers handle the planning, organisation, and execution of daily activities and service delivery.
- **Staff supervision.** General managers manage council staff, allocate resources, and ensure efficient operations.

In summary, councillors focus on policy, decision-making, and oversight, while general managers handle operational management and implementation.

Regional and other bodies

Councillors may be appointed as members of delegated and advisory committees, which play an important role in the governance, decision-making and community participation of a local government area.

Councillor representation on various committees and advisory groups is generally decided at the first meeting of the council following the elections. Current external committees with councillor representation include:

- Bush Fire Management
- Outback Arts
- Coonamble Together Partnership Group
- North-Western Library Cooperative
- Castlereagh Macquarie Weeds County Council
- Chamber of Commerce



Legal and ethical responsibilities

Oath and Affirmation for councillors

A councillor must take an oath or make an affirmation of office at or before the first meeting of the council after the councillor is elected.

The oath or affirmation may be taken or made before the general manager, an Australian legal practitioner or a justice of the peace. The form of the oath or affirmation is prescribed in section 233A of the Act.

Ethical standards

All councillors in NSW are required to meet the ethical standards set out in the Model Code of Conduct, adopted by Council as the *Code of Conduct for Councillors*.

Additionally, councillors are expected to act ethically and in the public interest. A key element for councillors is the requirement to manage their pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests. At each meeting of the Council, the mayor calls for disclosures of interests. Councillors declaring a pecuniary or significant interest in any item appearing in the business paper for that meeting must depart from the meeting while that item is being considered and will not vote on the matter. A register of declared interests is kept by the general manager.

Councillors are also required to complete a return of their interests each financial year they hold office. The returns are tabled at the first Council meeting after 30 September each year and are published on Council's website. Personally identifying information is redacted from published returns.

Legal responsibilities

In addition to the statutory roles of the governing body and elected members, councillors have other legal responsibilities under the Act. These include:

- **Privacy and access to information.** Councillors are privy to sensitive information that is necessary for them to perform their official functions. Council and councillors are bound by the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*, the *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002*, the Information Protection Principles, the Health Privacy Principles, the *Privacy Code of Practice for Local Government* and Council's *Privacy Management Plan*. If a councillor only has a private interest in a matter and the material is not open access information, they will need to use the provisions of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act* to obtain the information.
- **Work Health and Safety.** Councillors have an obligation to take reasonable care that their conduct does not adversely affect the health and safety of others at council chambers, offices and other buildings that constitute a council workplace.

- **Record keeping.** Councillors have obligations under the *State Records Act 1998* to ensure that full and accurate records of their activities and decisions in the course of their official duties for Council are created, managed and disposed of correctly.
- **Anti-discrimination.** Councillors have specific obligations under the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977*. It is unlawful for any member of a council to discriminate against another member of the council based on race. Council generally is bound by all aspects the Anti-Discrimination Act, enforced through its Equal Employment Opportunity policy and plan.

Council policies

There is a range of Council policies that apply to councillors. Generally, these policies will be reviewed within the first 12 months of each Council term, meaning councillors vote on the policies each term. Policies may be viewed on the website.

Current relevant policies include:

- Bullying and Harassment in the Workplace Policy
- Code of Conduct for Councillors
- Code of Meeting Practice
- Community Consultation Session Policy (Council Meeting)
- Councillor Access to Staff and Premises Policy
- Councillors' Expenses and Facilities Policy
- Councillors' Training Policy
- Gifts and Benefits Policy
- Lobbying of Councillors Policy
- Public Interest Disclosures Internal Reporting Policy
- Related Party Disclosure Policy



Skills and knowledge

There are no formal qualifications required to become a councillor, but the role does involve significant responsibilities to the community. Councillors and mayors are expected to have a specific set of knowledge, skills and personal attributes to enable them to effectively perform the role.

It is not necessary for a councillor to have all the skills and knowledge when they first become a councillor, and councils must provide an induction program for new and returning councillors to assist with the knowledge component.

Councillors have an obligation to undertake professional development throughout each council term to acquire and maintain the necessary skills for the role. Likewise, councils are obliged to assist councillors by providing ongoing professional development opportunities.

Councillors

Key attributes and knowledge areas that can help to be an effective councillor:

- ✓ the ability to manage yourself,
- ✓ display resilience and adaptability,
- ✓ act with integrity,
- ✓ demonstrate accountability,
- ✓ build effective relationships,
- ✓ communicate and engage,
- ✓ be community and customer focused,
- ✓ work collaboratively,
- ✓ influence others and negotiate,
- ✓ be result driven,
- ✓ plan and prioritise,
- ✓ think and solve problems,
- ✓ create and innovate,
- ✓ understand and make decisions about key Council resources:
 - finance,
 - assets and tools,
 - technology and information, and
 - procurement and contracts,
- ✓ represent communities,
- ✓ inspire direction and purpose,
- ✓ govern responsibly, and
- ✓ make quality decisions.

Mayor

Just as the mayor has additional responsibilities under the Act, the mayor is expected to have or acquire additional skills, knowledge and personal attributes. The mayor must

- ✓ demonstrate advanced leadership and communication skills,
- ✓ be an adept public speaker,
- ✓ effectively resolve conflict within the council,
- ✓ be familiar with the Local Government Act and related regulations, and
- ✓ understand local government budgets, financial planning and resource allocation.



Time commitment

Serving your community by becoming a councillor is a rewarding and challenging experience. The time commitment for councillors can vary significantly depending on your role within the council and local circumstances. If you are considering becoming a councillor, it is essential to understand the dedication required to be effective in this role. Keep in mind that serving a four-year term involves a substantial time investment.

Induction program

All councillors elected to Coonamble Shire Council will be required to undertake the mandatory Councillor Induction Program within six months of the election, as prescribed by the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*. The induction program will comprise a series of workshops on the various functions and services of council across the first six months of the term. Returning councillors are also required to attend inductions.

The Mayor will also be required to undertake supplementary training within six months of their election.

Council meetings

Council meets on the second Wednesday of each month (except January) at 3:00pm. A community consultation session is held before the meeting, commencing at 2:30pm. Council meetings generally last around three hours.

Council meetings are held at the Coonamble Shire Council chambers, with the exception of meetings held annually at Gulargambone (March) and Quambone (October).

Preparation for meetings

Councillors must spend time before meetings ensuring they are prepared. At a minimum, this involves reading the business paper to ensure they have a full understanding of the issues and are prepared to engage in the items that require decisions.

From time to time, councillors may also be required to attend pre-meeting briefings to assist in their preparation and understanding of the matters.

Other meetings and events

Councillors may occasionally be required to attend extraordinary council meetings, committee meetings, external committee meetings, or to meet with the general manager, staff, and/or external stakeholders such as community members, regional organisations, Members of Parliament, or State or Federal Ministers.

It is common for councillors to attend community events, ceremonies and other functions in their capacity as an elected representative of the community. Additionally, councillors may be requested to attend community engagement events organised by the council, such as for preparation of the community strategic plan or community meetings.

Further, councillors may occasionally be required to travel to regional or state local government functions.

Responding to communication

Councillors must be prepared to dedicate time to responding to letters, emails, phone calls and meeting requests from members of the public. Councillors must provide at least one form of contact that is publicly available and will be published on Council's website. Records of such correspondence must be appropriately managed in accordance with the *State Records Act 1998*.

Responding to media

The media may occasionally request information or comment from councillors. This is not only an activity that may take time to deal with, councillors must also ensure they are dealing with the request appropriately and in line with Council policy.

The mayor is the principal member and spokesperson of the governing body, including representing the views of the council as to its local priorities. If the mayor is unavailable, the deputy mayor may act as the council's spokesperson. They may also delegate their role as spokesperson to other councillors where appropriate, such as where another councillor is best placed to comment because the issue is of particular interest to them, or it is within their particular area of expertise.

Councillors are free to express their personal views to the media. When doing so, councillors must be guided by Council's media policy.

Support available to councillors

Annual fee

The minimum and maximum fees payable to councillors and the mayor is determined annually by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal. Fees are adopted each year by the governing body. The annual fee currently adopted by Council is:

- Mayor: \$11,870 plus \$22,520 being a total of \$34,390 per annum.
- Councillor: \$11,870 each per annum.

Councillors' Expenses and Facilities Policy

This policy enables the reasonable and appropriate reimbursement of expenses and provision of facilities to councillors to help them undertake their civic duties. It further ensures accountability and transparency. Councillors must not obtain private or political benefit from any expense or facility provided under the policy.

A copy of the policy may be accessed on Council's website at [Policies - Coonamble Shire Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.coonamble.nsw.gov.au/policies).

Induction and professional development

As noted previously, all councillors – whether new or returning – must undergo a mandatory induction program within six months of the elections. Additionally, councillors and mayors have an obligation to participate in an ongoing professional development program to ensure they have and maintain the knowledge, skills and attributes necessary for the role.

The induction program aims to equip mayors and councillors with the information they need to perform their role effectively over the first few months and has a particular focus on building positive, collaborative relationships between councillors and with staff.



The professional development program is to be developed in consultation with each councillor and delivered over the term of the council (four years) to build the skills, knowledge and personal attributes necessary to be an effective mayor or councillor.

Support from staff

The general manager and Council staff have a responsibility to provide timely information and advice to councillors. Councillor interaction with staff is subject to the *Councillor Access to Staff and Premises Policy*. Generally, councillors will interact with the general manager and members of the executive management team (MANEX).

Administrative support for councillors is provided by the Executive Assistant.

Further information

Anyone interested in becoming a councillor is encouraged to attend a Council meeting to observe Council decision making and meeting practice.

Information for candidates is available:

- NSW Electoral Commission [Becoming a candidate for the 2024 Local Government Elections - NSW Electoral Commission](#)
- Office of Local Government [Councillors - Office of Local Government NSW](#)
- Local Government NSW [Home | LGNSW](#)
- Coonamble Shire Council [Local Government Elections 2024 \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

You may also contact Council for information on (02) 6827 1900 or by email to council@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au.



10.10 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

File Number: C8

Author: Azita Sobhani-Community Services Manager
Raquel Pickering-Librarian
Nina Sands-Youth & Community Officer

Authoriser: Barry Broe, Director Community, Planning, Development and Environment

Annexures: Nil

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the activities within Council's Community Development section for the month of June 2024.

BACKGROUND

The Community Development section focuses on our community and our people and the support that Council offers in the delivery of positive outcomes. A short description is provided for Councillors reference for the key areas in the Community Services section as follows:

- **Youth & Community Services**
Council provides after school activities in Gulargambone and Quambone. Council also delivers school holiday programs and the Youth Week Program. Council also operates a Youth Forum/Council.
- **Library Services**
Coonamble Shire Council is a member of the Northwestern Library Service (NWLS). The Service covers four local government areas and encompasses the libraries therein, i.e. Bogan (Nyngan), Coonamble, Gilgandra and Warren (where the Manager is based).

The Coonamble Library has two (2) satellite branches located in the villages of Gulargambone and Quambone within the Coonamble Shire Local Government Area. The Librarian purchases stock that is rotated to all libraries and participates in book exchanges with Gulargambone and Quambone seven times per year. The Gulargambone Library is run under an agreement with the Gulargambone Rural Transaction Centre Committee. The Quambone Library is run by Council staff.

- **Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework**
Following the adoption of the Community Strategic Plan at the 15 June 2022 meeting, updates on the IP&R Framework will now be reported back in the Community Development Report.

(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

Community Strategic Plan - P1 Community Services and Wellbeing

CSP1.1 – Initiate and contribute to effective and needs-based community programs which enhance engagement, cohesion, vibrancy and liveability.

(b) Financial Considerations

There are no financial considerations arising from this report.

COMMENTARY

In line with Council's 2023/2024 Operational Plan, this report presents a summary of community service progress and activities for the month previous.

COONAMBLE SHIRE PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Holiday Program – Coonamble & Gulargambone
- Youth Centre Gulargambone (After School & Holiday Activity)
- After School Care Quambone
- Library Services (Coonamble, Gulargambone, Quambone)
- Running events e.g. Seniors Week Luncheon
- Funding events e.g. the Interagency Resilience Day, October Wellbeing Day
- Youth Empowerment Program (First Light) – Edraak Insights

FROM COMMUNITY SERVICES TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**PROGRAMS / EVENTS:****Quambone After School Care:**

Quambone After School Care operates out of Quambone Public School every Monday and Wednesday afternoon. Council employs two (2) staff members, Narelle and Abby, who can spend the afternoon caring for anywhere between 12 – 18 children depending on the day.

The young people from Quambone have had a great time this month working on their many projects including their Craft Wall which is themed 'Wonky Houses' for this term - Term 2.

Like many their age, the children enjoy playing a variety of sports, especially football. Other popular things to do at After School Care include playing in the sandpit, working on the worm farm and composting food scraps from the school, and working on the wicking beds which were supplied by the [Warrumbungle National Park Environmental Education Centre](#), and maintained by the students.

The young people also enjoy cooking, and usually do a lot of baking. They try different ingredients and recipes, and this week made a blue and pink vanilla choc chip cake for themselves to enjoy!



Gulargambone Youth Centre:

Community Development staff visited Gulargambone this month to undertake an audit of the Gulargambone Youth Centre site and working arrangements.

The centre is in good shape overall, but definitely needs upkeep and maintenance like any building will do over time. Community Development Manager and officer were able to have welcomed discussions with Leah Hammond who is our only casual Gulargambone staff member, around the needs of the building, as well as additional casual staff to be trained.

For example, there are some small holes on the floor that need patching, the indoor sports area could be painted, and there is room for an office area to be set up (needs internet, desk, computer and a printer). Staff also have ideas that could be useful in capturing the older kids, attracting them to the centre after school as well.

Despite the winter weather, the centre is still well attended by younger children and keeping Council staff member Leah very busy. The kids turn up from around 3:30 pm, and are always keen to play sport like basketball, football, or handball, and are always treated to a fruit platter and sandwiches.





NAIDOC Week
Collaboration:

Community Development Staff and board members from the Coonamble Local Aboriginal Land Council have worked together this month to deliver the **NAIDOC Week Launch** which will coincide with the Council’s Holiday Program during the school break.

This event aims to bring together **the whole of community** to celebrate the first day of NAIDOC Week, but also the resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within the local community, and also nationally.

This event is further supported by Coonamble Aboriginal Health Service and REDI.e and will see some of the

Gulgargambone Youth Centre children travel to Coonamble to attend on the day.

The partnerships involved in making this feat possible demonstrate that Council values the local cultures and Elders, as well as working alongside Aboriginal stakeholders to ensure that celebrations that are important to the local Aboriginal community are commemorated.

School Holiday Program July 2024:

The next holiday period will run from Monday July 8 through to the Friday 19 and encompass NAIDOC Week during the first week of the school break.

Community Development staff have been busy planning and designing a program that will both challenge and educate the young people that attend the individual sessions. Staff have also been mindful of incorporating cultural content into the program to ensure that attendees also learn about NAIDOC and join the community in marking the event respectfully.

COONAMBLE HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Call Council for more info: 68 271 900 & CHECK FACEBOOK FOR ANY UPDATES

MONDAY 8TH JULY
NAIDOC Week Launch*
 Local Aboriginal Land Council
 16 CASTLEREAGH STREET
 10AM - 2:00 PM

MONDAY 15TH JULY
Milkshakes @ REDLe*
 REDLe Youth Centre
 RAILWAY STREET
 11am - 1:30 pm

TUESDAY 9TH JULY
Fun Day*
 Mission Australia
 REDLe Youth Centre
 Railway Street
 11am - 2pm

TUESDAY 16TH JULY
Movie Morning*
 Coonamble Shire Library
 82 CASTLEREAGH STREET
 10:30 am - 12pm

WEDNESDAY 10TH JULY
3x3 Basketball Comp*
 Marathon Health
 REDLe Youth Centre
 Railway Street
 10 am - 3pm

WEDNESDAY 17TH JULY
Sand Art
 Coonamble Shire Library
 82 CASTLEREAGH STREET
 10:30 am - 12pm

THURSDAY 11TH JULY
NAIDOC Week Morning Tea*
 Interrelate
 54/51-55 CASTLEREAGH STREET
 10am - 12pm

THURSDAY 18TH JULY
Lego Masters
 Coonamble Shire Library
 82 CASTLEREAGH STREET
 10:30 am - 12pm

REDLe Oz Tag*
 Coonamble Sports Ground
 4pm - 6pm
 Contact Max: (02) 6841 0111

REDLe Oz Tag*
 Coonamble Sports Ground
 4pm - 6pm
 Contact Max: (02) 6841 0111

FRIDAY 12TH JULY
Cultural Crafts*
 Mackillop Family Services
 23 NAMOI STREET
 10am - 12 pm

FRIDAY 19TH JULY
Fun & Games*
 Mackillop Family Services
 23 NAMOI STREET
 10am - 12pm

UNDER 10S TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT/GUARDIAN

*Food or light snacks provided

Both the Coonamble and Gulargambone programs involve NAIDOC themed activities, cooking, sport, movies, art and free play.

The Individuals and services that contributed to the running of Holiday programs or activities for local children included:

Coonamble Aboriginal Land Council (LALC)	Mission Australia	Mackillop Family Services	Interrelate
Marathon Health	Literacy for Life	REDI.e	Sooty Welsh

The Gulargambone program is also fully packed with fun and is made possible by the generous collaboration between the Gular REDI.e Youth Centre staff, and Council’s staff and facilities at the Gulargambone Youth Centre.

GULARGAMBONE HOLIDAY PROGRAM

MONDAY 8TH JULY
NAIDOC Week Launch
 Local Aboriginal Land Council
 16 CASTLEREAGH STREET
 10AM - 2:30 PM

MONDAY 15TH JULY
Milkshakes & Movies
 Gulargambone Youth Centre
 10am - 12pm

TUESDAY 9TH JULY
NAIDOC Art
 Gulargambone Youth Centre
 10am - 12pm

TUESDAY 16TH JULY
Fun Day
 Mission Australia
 Gulargambone Youth Centre
 10am - 12pm

WEDNESDAY 10TH JULY
Colouring Comp
 Gulargambone Youth Centre
 10am - 12pm

WEDNESDAY 17TH JULY
Lego Masters
 Gulargambone Youth Centre
 10am - 12pm

THURSDAY 11TH JULY
NAIDOC Cooking Day
 Gulargambone Youth Centre
 10am - 12pm

THURSDAY 18TH JULY
Free Play Day
 Gulargambone Youth Centre
 10am - 12pm

REDLe Oz Tag
 Coonamble Sports Ground
 4pm - 6pm
 Contact Max: (02) 6841 0111
 Free BBQ

REDLe Oz Tag
 Coonamble Sports Ground
 4pm - 6pm
 Contact Max: (02) 6841 0111
 Free BBQ

FRIDAY 12TH JULY
Clay & Canvases
 Gulargambone Youth Centre
 10am - 12pm

FRIDAY 19TH JULY
Kids Bingo
 Gulargambone Youth Centre
 10am - 12pm

Call Council for more info: 68 271 900 & CHECK FACEBOOK FOR ANY UPDATES

UNDER 10s TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT/GUARDIAN
 Food provided from 10am - 12pm

The centre is designed to accommodate young people coming through the course of the day meaning that over a regular day, numbers will fluctuate.

Mission Australia took the initiative to run an activity aimed at young people playing a variety of sports and games. Additionally, REDI.e staff are taking clients and some of the Youth Centre attendees across to Coonamble for their Oz Tag games each Thursday for an afternoon of fun and food with their free BBQ dinner.

LIBRARY SERVICES

- **SENIORS TECH HELP**

The second round of Seniors Tech Help was held at the library in conjunction with the Youth Empowerment Programme and was attended by two seniors who were very grateful for the help and support that they received from both the members and coordinators of the YEP.



- **NWLS LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM UPGRADE**

The North Western Library Service, of which Coonamble is a member, recently had an upgrade to our library management system to update and streamline our day-to-day operations. The upgrade was done with minimal disruption to business, being overnight and through to lunchtime the day after. Further training is being organised for the new modules included in the upgrade.

- **COONAMBLE CHILDREN'S SERVICES EXCURSION**

The library had a visit from the Red Room children from the Coonamble Children's Services. This is the first time we have had excursion from the Coonamble Children's Services, and we loved it! The Red Room is made up of two and three-year-old children and for a lot, this was their first visit to the Library.

Toddler Group Leader, Ms Jennifer Hertel, worked with the Librarian to ensure that they had a great time. This month, Red Room are learning about farm animals and

the farming industry, so we read Cows In The Kitchen, and Old MacDonald Had a Farm, two of the recent Big Book purchases made to support Storytime. The Librarian and Ms Hertel will work together to have the children visit the library at least once a term, if not more, from now on.



Photographs printed with permission from Coonamble Children's Services. Names withheld at request.

TRULY TRIVIAL

- Most borrowed author for June: James Patterson

- **LIBRARY STATISTICS (28 May 2024 - 26 June 2024)**

Service	Loans	New M/ships	Wi-Fi (hrs)	Internet (people)	Internet (hours)	Kids Comp (children)	Junior Visits	Adult Visits
Coonamble	340	7	48	51	1280	43	85	248
Gular	25	1						

- **Manual Statistics** - Coonamble (numbers refer to people attending)

Library Visits	Reference Enquiries	Technology Enquiries	Local History	VIC Enquiries
588	11	43	1	3

- **Activity Statistics** - Coonamble (numbers refer to people attending)

Senior Craft	Pre-School Visits	Housebound	Storytime	Seniors Cinema	Other
13	24	0	0	12	6

(a) Governance/Policy Implications

The delivery of community development and integrated planning functions and activities are carried out in accordance with Council’s Operational Plan and Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

(b) Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

(c) Social Implications

Council’s community services section delivers a broad range of support services, activities, and opportunities to all age groups. These services assist in building social capital within the Shire.

(d) Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

(e) Economic/Asset Management Implications

The economic implications of community services are positive, in that these services provide employment opportunities, delivering a service to the community and support the local business sector.

(f) Risk Implications

There are no risk implications arising from this report.

CONCLUSION

The updates provided in this report deliver information to Council on the key activities undertaken in Council's Community Development section for the month of June 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the information contained in this report.

10.11 PLANNING, REGULATORY & COMPLIANCE PROGRESS REPORT**File Number: E5****Author: Louise Abrahall, Compliance and Support Officer****Authoriser: Barry Broe, Director Community, Planning, Development and Environment****Annexures: Nil****PURPOSE**

To provide information on the activities within Council's Environmental Services section and Strategic Planning information for the month. This progress report considers town planning and strategic land use planning, compliance and regulation, environmental management and public health.

BACKGROUND

The Planning, Regulatory & Compliance Services section focuses on all town and environmental planning requirements including regulation and compliance, public health requirements, waste management, and environmental management considerations.

Strategic Land Use Planning refers to updates to Council's planning instruments and are also included. This report provides a summary of activities undertaken during June 2024.

The following topics will be included into the Council Report where there is relevant information to report on:

- Compliance and Regulation

The *Local Government Act 1993*, *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* ('EP&A Act') and *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* are the main legislations providing provisions around environmental management. Compliance and regulation enforce individuals, organisations and businesses to comply with the relevant act or regulation. Environmental management can include, but is not limited to, atmosphere, built environment, heritage, land, and water.

- Development Application Information

Information on development applications lodged in the Coonamble local government area, however, the consent authority relates to another authority and not Council or its delegated staff/contractors. This can include the:

- Independent Planning Commission for state significant development,
- Regional planning panel for regionally significant development, or
- Public authority (other than council) depending on the type of development declared with an environmental planning instrument.

These types of development applications are rare.

Strategic Land Use Planning

Matters relating to the potential amendments to Council's planning instruments such as the Coonamble Local Environmental Plan or Council's Development Control Plans. Council staff also attend forums, committees and workshops around strategic land use planning, and this will be provided to Council for information.

- Sustainability and Environmental Management

Opportunities exist for Council to promote ecologically and environmentally sustainable land use and development, initiatives, and programs. Information under this topic will be reported when opportunities present itself and can come from government agencies, community groups and environmental champions.

- Ranger's Monthly Report

This report provides a summary of companion animals (cats and dogs) impounded and other animals. This includes information of how many animals were rehomed and euthanised. Information on dog attacks is also provided.

(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

P3.1.2. Inspection of Food Premises.

I3.3.1. Implementation Waste Management recommendations.

EN1.1.1. Enforcement of environmental regulations.

EN.1.1.2. Continue to review Local Environmental Plan.

EN.1.1.3. Ensure compliance with NSW Building Certification.

EN.1.1.4 Provide quality over counter, telephone, and email advice to customers.

EN.1.1.5 Approvals completed within timeframe required.

P2.2.4 Controlling straying animals.

(b) Financial Considerations

There are no direct financial considerations with this report.

COMMENTARY

Development Applications Issued Under Delegated Authority

Information provided in this section of the report, provides Council information on what has been determined for the month and not subject to the Council's endorsement or approval.

Individual development applications that require the elected Council's approval will be under its own separate Council business paper report with the recommendation to determine the application as approved or refused.

Under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (GIPA Act), information in the form of Development Applications and its associated information is prescribed as 'open access information' by Clause 3 of Schedule 1 of the GIPA Act. This also includes staff's development assessment report that is written prior to an application's determination. This provides a high level of transparency.

Under delegated authority, the following is a summary of applications approved in June 2024.

June 2024			
Application Number	Description of Works	Address of Proposed Works	Approved Date
Construction Certificates			
CC006/2024	Shade Structure and Play Equipment	64D Aberford St Coonamble	04/06/2024
CC013/2023	Three Bedroom Dwelling	98 Carinda Rd Coonamble	26/06/2024
Local Government Approvals			
LA006/2024	Approval to Install and Operate Septic	98 Carinda Rd Coonamble	26/06/2024
LA008/2024	Mobile Food Vending Vehicle Approval	97 Castlereagh St Coonamble	31/05/2024
LA009/2024	Approval to Operate Septic	9401 Castlereagh Hwy Coonamble	05/06/2024
LA010/2024	S68 Local Approval Water/Sewer/Stormwater	21 Mendooran St Coonamble	05/06/2024

Update on Activities – Planning and Regulatory Matters

Scores on Doors - Update

Following the committee report tabled at the May 2024 Council Meeting, Council will be writing to all food premises within the LGA in July 2024, advising businesses and operators of this NSW Food Authority initiative, as well as providing them with the food rating stickers applicable to each premises. This program is entirely voluntary.

Overgrown Vegetation

No properties were inspected regarding overgrown vegetation during June 2024.

Saleyards

A cattle sale was held on Wednesday 19 June 2024 with 927 cattle sold.

The financial report for June 2024 is provided below:

Saleyards – June 2024

Income	7879
Expenditure	11,957
Surplus	<u>(4,078)</u>

Truck Wash

The financial report for June 2024 is provided below:

Truck Wash – June 2024

Income	8,812
Expenditure	<u>1139</u>
Surplus	<u>7673</u>

Companion Animals

The Regulatory Officer’s report is provided for June 2024. The following is a summary of companion animal statistics.

CORRESPONDENCE		Year to Date 2023/2024 Total
Infringements (Animals)	5	6
Infringements (Other)	0	0
Change of Details	6	44
Microchipped dogs	7	105
Registrations	3	62
Nuisance dog declaration	0	0
Dangerous dog declaration	0	5
Menace dog declaration	1	2
Notice of Possession	0	8

Dog attacks

Three (3) dog attacks were reported during June 2024:

- 3/6/2024: Attack involving two (2) dogs, minor injuries reported to person aged under 16 years.
- 8/6/2024: Attack involving two (2) dogs in presence of an adult, no injuries reported.
- 27/6/2024: Attack involving one (1) dog, minor injuries reported to an adult.

Investigations have concluded.

Animals Rehomed

A total of three (3) cats and nine (9) dogs have been sent to rehoming organisations.

(a) Governance/Policy Implications

The report provides Council with opportunities to understand governance and policy implications in the environment and strategic land use planning. There may be risk implications depending on the nature of the enquiry.

(b) Legal Implications

Whilst not yet formally received by Council, the EPA has indicated its intention to serve Council both a Clean-up and Prevention Notice in accordance with the provisions contained within the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*.

(c) Social Implications

Providing information that is open and transparent to the community will provide positive social implications for the community to understand the work that Council does.

(d) Environmental Implications

The progress report allows for environmental management to be an area of focus for Council and subsequently providing positive environmental benefits. This specifically relates to the area of public health, environmental sustainability, and waste management.

(e) Economic/Asset Management Implications

There may be risk implications depending on the nature of the enquiry.

(f) Risk Implications

There may be risk implications depending on the nature of the enquiry.

CONCLUSION

The Planning, Regulatory & Compliance Progress Report has considered town planning and strategic land use planning, compliance and regulation, and environmental management and health since the last meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Planning, Regulatory and Compliance Progress Report be received and noted.

10.12 COONAMBLE WASTE REPORT JUNE 2024**File Number:** G 1-1**Author:** Janelle Whitehead-Manager Waste, Recycle & Employment**Authoriser:** Barry Broe, Director Community, Planning, Development and Environment**Annexures:** Nil**PURPOSE**

To provide information on the activities within Council's Waste, Recycling and Employment Opportunities Section for the last month.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report advises on current operations, future initiatives and overall performance of Councils waste operations and facilities.

Council's activities and focus is on 5 elements:

- Continuing the improvement of the current operations;
- Upgrading facilities as resources permit.
- A smooth transition to taking over waste collection on 1 July and gathering good data to equate services with charges.
- Safety & environmental compliance.
- Implementing new initiatives in a fundable, staged and manageable way.

BACKGROUND

Council is continuing to operate, develop and improve the three solid waste facility sites at Coonamble, Gulargambone, and Quambone.

Implementation of re-cycling is continuing to reduce landfill deposits and keep existing resources circulating within the economy, thereby reducing the need to use new resources.

Staff have continued the planning process for the takeover of waste collection effective of 1 July and letters have been posted to all residents and business owners outlining the new arrangements. The procurement of a suitable truck has been a key focus of this transition and induction of the existing truck operator.

There are many new initiatives in terms of services and facilities that could be implemented in waste. The focus is on a staged, fundable, and manageable roll-out program of initiatives that is well communicated and efficiently delivered.

(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

All actions and strategies related to waste and the environment are relevant.

(b) Financial Considerations

It will cost more to fix up sites to ensure the compliance of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), take over waste collection, and roll out new initiatives such as Return & Earn.

COMMENTARY

Operating hours

Coonamble 7 days Mon-Friday 8am - 5pm (winter months it is proposed to change to 8.30am - 4pm)

Saturday and Sunday 9am - 4pm

Gulgargambone Tuesday Thursday and Saturday 2pm - 5pm

Quambone currently Tuesday 2pm -5pm, Friday 2-5, Saturday 8am – 1pm

Coonamble



Return and Earn training was completed with Tomra Cleanaway on site, involving 5 participants including four council staff. The scheme started on 24 June as planned.

The happy first customer with his 640 items is shown here.

Conversations are being held with the Quambone school principal and community around a machine at the school.

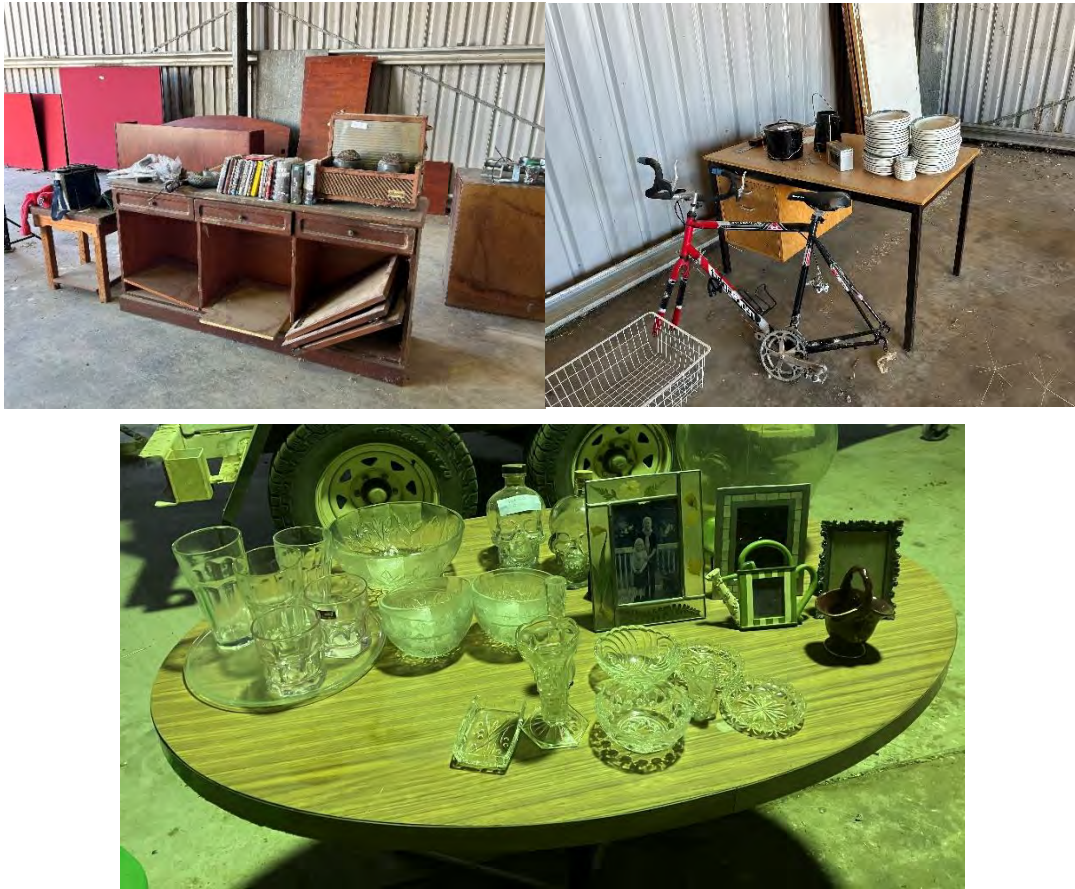
The Tomra Return and earn business manager and marketing manager visited the site and viewed our shed facilities. The aim is to improve the return and earn depot with automated plant in the future.



Re-use & recycling shed

Business is booming at the re-use shop with most initial stock gone and replenishment ongoing. Items already collected include furniture, household goods, golf clubs, kitchen utensils, builder throw outs.

The re-use shop is at the Coonamble transfer station on Quambone Road and opened on 12 June. The hours of opening will be Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9 am to 1 pm.



Other proposed works at Coonamble include:

- Expansion of the fence line to cater for additional Return and Earn activity containers.
- Three containers provided by Tomra Cleanaway for Return and Earn.
- Weighbridge installation.
- CRC signage.
- E-waste collection bins.
- Site office and porta loo installation.
- Gravel for car parking.
- Tree removal.



Green waste cleanup



After cleanup

WORK SAFE INSPECTIONS

In the last week of May Safe Work inspectors visited our waste facilities at Coonamble and Gulargambone. Minor issues were identified, and an improvement notice issued with a four-week timeline for action. This included Traffic Management on site, provision of inadequate facilities for workers, and eliminating the risk of falls from the tipping face at Gulargambone.

Workplace Health and Safety toolbox meetings are held weekly.

New staff inductions and recording of all deposits to landfill are now captured including traffic numbers daily.

As a consequence of these Safe Work inspector site visits, additional safety items will need to be purchased and implemented, with additional costs to budget expected. These include three (3) phase power and water connections to the sites.

Gulargambone

Workplace inductions were completed with Human Resources for the three casual staff employed at the Gulargambone site.

Workplace Health and Safety Site inspections and Toolbox meetings were conducted on June 3 involving evacuation and traffic management, manual handling, first aid and plant operations.

A review and feedback report from Safe work inspectors visit was discussed with the team. An improvement plan and timeframes were discussed.

Changes to operation hours due to winter months have been advised to the community - Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday 2 pm to 5 pm.

SCRAP METAL

Meetings with the various scrap metal dealers across the region were held at Coonamble, Quambone, and Gulargambone sites. A list of the most common non-ferrous items potentially at the land fill and the current prices have been provided by potential contractors. Non-ferrous prices do vary week to week and quotes can be provided prior to collection of scrap.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENTS & KEY INITIATIVES

Extra earthworks to support blue bin deposits

Other initiatives at the Coonamble transfer station include.

- Coonamble kerb side collection - hook bin multi houses bulky bin trial to commence July.
- Scavenging at the cell face has ceased with the introduction of bin deposits.
- Residents deposit to bins allocated with no access to landfill sites this is now staff only access.
- All weather access has improved to the facility with more works to be completed by using gravel and rock.
- Daily cell management implemented including twice daily landfill coverage. This has addressed non-compliance issues previously raised by EPA.
- Eftpos is available on site to increase utilisation of the facility from the public.
- New drum muster cage installed with increasing deposits from landholders.
- Stakeholder and community engagement has increased across all sectors locally and regionally.
- Digital radio system (in consultation phase with supplier).
- Physical Flip charts for all waste facilities (mid-next week).
- Site office and porta loo purchase completed and installed. Awaiting IT and computers installs.

Quambone

Quambone waste facility facelift, clean up and slashing was completed. Gravel installed for all weather access. This installation still needs additional materials to complete. A replacement site caravan for site office was also installed.

In readiness for the Annual Marthaguy Races, removal of old tyres, metal and rubbish was completed and removed in skip bins. An additional bin has been placed on course to assist with waste collection on the new date of June 29.

Wood chipping to mulch to reduce landfill deposits from the cemetery cleanup completed.



TRANSFORMATIONS SO FAR

Council has been progressively significantly improving the land fill and transfer stations, an example is shown below for Quambone.



NEW PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Free water truck from NSW RFS received this week.



ILLEGAL DUMPING

This is an ongoing challenge that makes the task harder. Council has to use resources and pay for towing, then does not recover these costs from any scrap metal income. A waste levy would make matters even worse.



TRAINING INITIATIVES

Return and Earn Training on site was held May 23 at Coonamble by the Tomra Cleanaway account Manager. All were taken through the daily procedures, practices, activities and regulations and compliance concerned with running the activity which is planned to be introduced later in June.

Training and Employment Partnerships

A pilot Council training program for employment in partnership with “Wake up shake up” pre-employment program and Verto Job Network provider and Numbinny Aboriginal Corporation has been successfully completed. A summary of the statistics below:

- 6 pre-employment workshops run.
- Participation numbers 40.
- Employment trial success numbers 15.
- External employment 4.
- Employment assistance program - 2 have been supported for small business startup.

Successful participants were employed in the following Council Departments:

- Waste and recycling.
- Urban services.
- Water and sewer.
- Finance and Administration.
- Quarry.

WASTE COLLECTION TRANSITION

We are continuing planning for the takeover of waste collection on 1 July and letters have been posted to residents and business owners outlining the new arrangements. Procuring a suitable truck is a key focus of this transition, as well having an effective operator ready.

A new weighbridge is also being built, before and after photos below.





A suitable second-hand truck was purchased after being independently assessed to allow operations to begin on 1 July.

EPA COMPLIANCE

All four Council sites do not currently comply with EPA requirements and Council has received two (2) notices from the EPA which remain unresolved. These are:

- 2019 EPA Cleanup Notice
Old Coonamble Landfill
- 2022 EPA Prevention Notice
Coonamble Waste Management Facility
Remediation continuing

The waste team is currently working through the remedial actions required and resources needed.

(a) Governance/Policy Implications

Updated policies and procedures need to be reviewed and updated, especially as more change and new initiatives are implemented, and new staff are employed.

(b) Legal Implications

Council needs to meet all laws and regulations including environmental, safety and health.

(c) Social Implications

Continuous engagement with the community is ongoing to explain the required changes and the value of recycling.

(d) Environmental Implications

Council needs to actively work to maintain a clear focus on protecting the environment surrounding each of the landfill sites and waste facilities and achieve EPA compliance.

(e) Economic/Asset Management Implications

Council needs to actively work to avoid financial penalties. Assets must also be well managed to minimise whole of life costs. Also ensuring budgets and resources are reviewed and effectively managed and initiatives are staged in a manageable and fundable way.

(f) Risk Implications

The main risks that must be well managed are health and safety, environmental, costs and public satisfaction with the services. The transition to waste collection in-house is a risk also to be managed cost effectively.

Fees and charges must reflect the cost of the services being provided – user pays is the key principle.

CONCLUSION

The key activities of the Waste Section for the past month have again been extensive and continuous improvement has been implemented across all sites. The next major initiative is the take-over of waste collection from the existing contractor on 1 July 2024.

The opening of the re-use shed and return and earn are also very noteworthy initiatives now in operation with strong community support.

RECOMMENDATION

That the monthly report on waste activities be received and noted.

10.13 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH - PROGRESS REPORT**File Number: D5****Author: David Levick-Manager Economic Development and Growth****Authoriser: Barry Broe, Director Community, Planning, Development and Environment****Annexures: Nil****PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on recent activities and the progress of projects which contribute to the economic development and growth of the Local Government Area (LGA).

BACKGROUND

The Economic Development and Growth function is tasked with providing effective and efficient delivery of a broader economic base for the LGA, enhancing business prospects, growth, and development. The function facilitates the development of programs and activities that will stimulate economic development by assisting growth and retention of businesses, as well as aiming to reduce barriers and attract diverse, sustainable, and responsible new industry development and improve the profile of the Coonamble LGA to attract investment, industry, new residents, and tourism.

(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

ED1.2 Develop our economy, including the visitor economy.

I1.5 Adopt successful strategies which maximise our community's access to quality infrastructure and assets (I1.5.2 – Coonamble Livestock Regional Market).

(b) Financial Considerations

Activities undertaken as described in this report are within approved operational budget allocations for tourism and economic development activities and capital projects or are funded through grant monies.

COMMENTARY**Economic Development and Growth**

Council will again be a sponsor of the Coonamble and District Business Awards planned for September 2024 and will also contribute to the Coonamble Chamber of Commerce's Coonamble Cash campaign to promote shopping locally in the lead-up to the special Christmas draw.

Council has subscribed to *Council.iQ*, a Commonwealth Bank app, that gives data on the money being spent within different market segments of the local business community (not specific businesses), how much is being spent outside the Shire, and the cash injection into the local economy that specific events, such as the Coonamble Rodeo, stimulate. Data filtering is currently being tweaked to ensure relevant data is captured and presented for later interpretation.

Grants

Staff have completed a variation to the Museum and Stables Restoration grant secured under Round 3 of the Stronger Country Communities Fund to allow for more detailed conservation work to proceed. This is currently with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development for consideration. If successful, the funding would be directed to work that would hasten the reopening of the Museum Under the Bridge to the public.

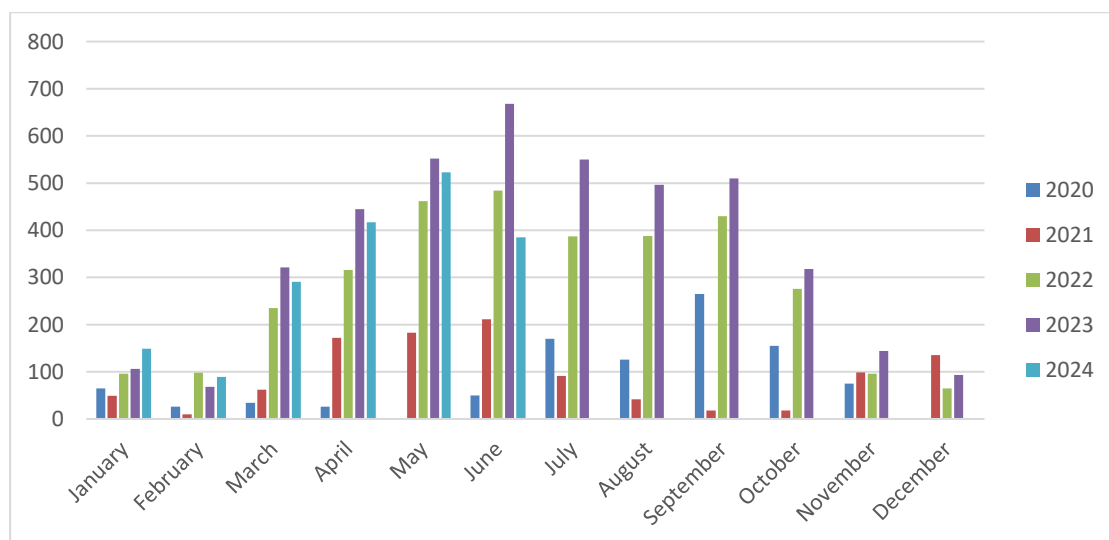
Staff have engaged a specialist consultant to assist with the development of the *rPPP – Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program* Federal Government grant opportunity. An initial scoping workshop has been held to move the submission forward.

Tourism and visitation

- **Coonamble Information and Exhibition Centre**

Between 1 June and 25 June 2024, the Information and Exhibition Centre welcomed 385 visitors to the Coonamble Shire. During this period, a little over 55% of visitors were from New South Wales, 22% were from Victoria and 12% from Queensland.

These statistics show a marked decrease compared to last year. However, it is worth noting that June 2023 visitation had increased by 38% compared with June 2022 figures, indicating June 2023 attendance was extraordinary.



- **June long weekend hours**

The Coonamble Information and Exhibition Centre opened for extended hours over the June long weekend to support the influx of travellers for the Coonamble Rodeo and Campdraft.

- **Museum Under the Bridge**

Following an assessment of required works on 20 March 2024, the museum remains closed until further notice.

Marketing and promotions

- **Caravanning Australia Magazine**

Caravanning Australia is a well-established travel magazine with a national reach that has grown as the domestic tourism market has almost quadrupled. Their engaged readership connects through print and digital distribution channels.

Advertising content, promoting Coonamble Shire as a tourist destination was published in the Winter edition. Various key attractions from across the Shire were featured, communicating the opportunity for overnight stays.



- **Coonamble Shire Visitor Guide, review**

Before the most recent re-print of the Coonamble Shire Visitor Guide to replenish supplies, a review was undertaken to ensure that all listings were current. Since the initial version of the guide was designed in 2021, there have been several changes to businesses, particularly the addition of more accommodation options and food outlets.

- **Social media engagement @VisitCoonamble**

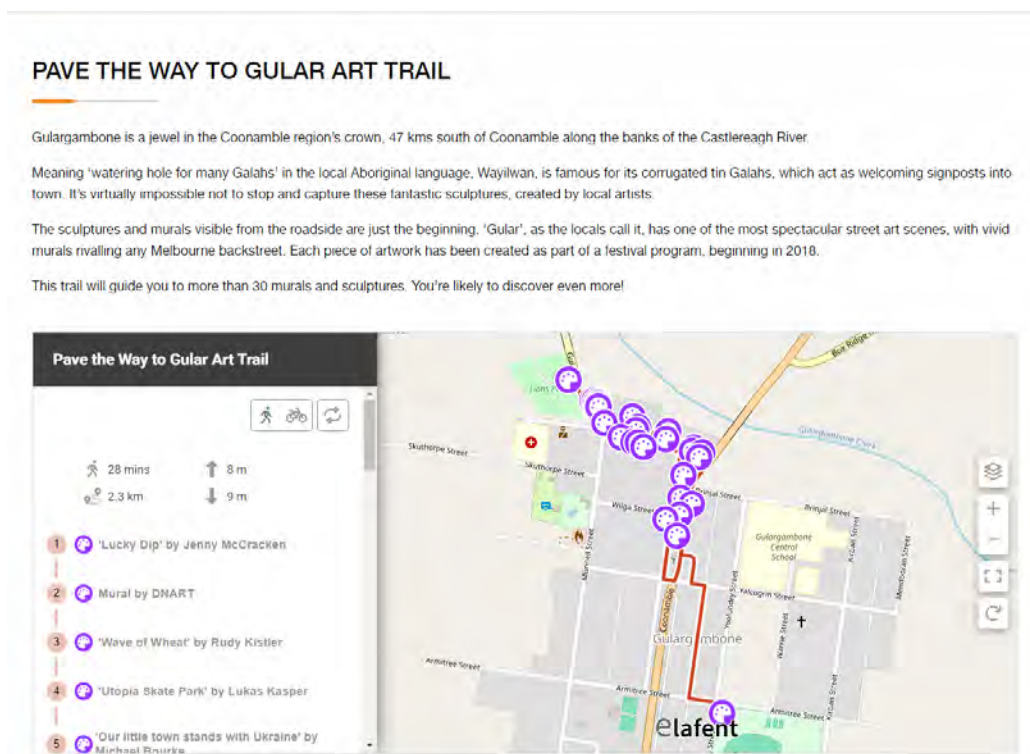
Between 1 June and 25 June, the @VisitCoonamble social media accounts on both Facebook and Instagram saw a significant increase in engagement. Facebook alone, increased by 160%, and reached 6,100 users.

The most engaging content, with the highest audience reach, were the Annual Quilt Show exhibition and the line-up announcement for the Vision Splendid Country Music Festival event.

- **Tourism and events pages of Council website**

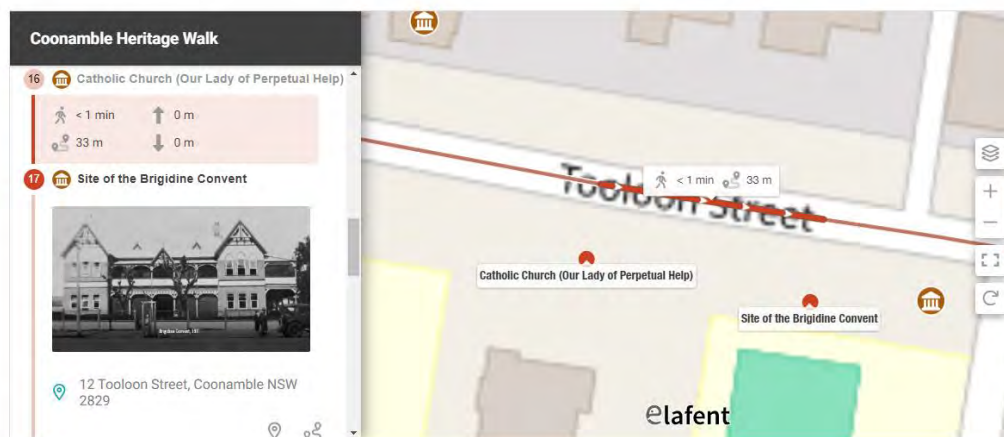
The 'Visit' section of the Council website has recently been updated. Key changes include a greater use of images and the introduction of a new listing integration. Not only does this provide a much more effective user experience on a mobile device but it has extensive capabilities in creating itineraries.

Key walking trails in the Coonamble Shire, such as the Coonamble Heritage Walk, the Nickname Hall of Fame and the Pave the Way to Gular Art Trail have been transformed into interactive walking trail maps, which include an estimated timeframe and level of difficulty. These interactive trails are accessible via the website from a user's phone, where they can follow the route and select each location listing to learn more. For example, information about the mural artist, the project and when it was created.



This feature is valuable for the Coonamble Heritage Walk, where users are guided to specific locations where they can view the historical photo on their device while on site. This is an effective way to showcase Coonamble's history, despite buildings changing significantly over time or being lost to fire. This same new integration has been used to create a more effective events calendar. Event organisers are encouraged to submit their events via the events submission form available as part of their overall marketing plans.

This implementation is an early stage of a more extensive plan. There will soon be the addition of day trip itineraries centred from Coonamble Shire as well as a collaborative workspace for building itineraries with Gilgandra and Warrumbungle Shire Councils as part of the Real Country partnership.



Events

- **Vision Splendid Country Music Concert**

The 'Vision Splendid' Country Music Concert will activate Coonamble's CBD by transforming it with a line-up of professional musicians, food and market stalls, bar and kids' amusement activities. The lineup included Max Jackson, The Wolfe Brothers and the headline Lee Kernaghan.

Marketing implementation will have a strong focus on the coming two months. Tourism data research shows this is the primary lead time where travellers start making decisions.

This event is funded by the NSW Government, Transport for NSW Open Streets Program.

Upcoming events:

- 6-7 July, Coonamble Team Penning
- 6-7 July, Quambone Polocrosse Carnival
- 7-14 July, National NAIDOC Week
- 4 August, Variety Bash comes to Coonamble
- 8 August, Dying to Know Day
- 18 August, Vietnam Veterans Day
- 26 August, Gulargambone Gold Cup Races

(a) Governance/Policy Implications

Policies relevant to activities reported here include the Community Engagement Policy.

(b) Legal Implications

There are no legal implications directly associated to this report.

(c) Social Implications

Projects and initiatives described in this report are undertaken with the objective of delivering social and benefits to the Coonamble LGA.

(d) Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications directly associated to this report.

(e) Economic/Asset Management Implications

Development of the projects proposed for funding through available grants are initiatives to meet objectives of the Community Strategic Plan 2022-32, Delivery Program 2022-2026, Coonamble Shire Masterplan 2020, the Economic Development Strategy 2021 and the Coonamble Destination Management Plan 2020.

(f) Risk Implications

Regular reporting to Council provides an opportunity to communicate and manage any ongoing or unexpected related risks that may emerge.

CONCLUSION

Economic Development and Growth activities continue to progress according to the Economic Development Strategy 2021. Tourism activities and projects continue to progress according to the Economic Development Strategy 2021, and work towards achieving the goals of the Coonamble Destination Management Plan 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and noted.

10.14 CORRECTION OF LANDS TITLE ISSUE FOR LOT 1 DP 132634**File Number:** PR1444-10**Author:** Bruce Quarmby-Director Corporate Services**Authoriser:** Bruce Quarmby, Director Corporate Services**Annexures:** 1. Correspondence - Essential Energy [↓](#) **PURPOSE**

To seek Council's endorsement for management's actions in seeking to correcting the ownership details for Lot 1 DP132634 with the NSW Land Registry Services.

BACKGROUND

Council staff have recently recontacted representatives from Essential Energy property division seeking to correct the land title ownership of Lot 1 DP132634, which currently sits with the Coonamble Shire Council. The map below shows the lot in question, which can be clearly seen as being part of the Coonamble Essential Energy Depot.



Figure 1 Coonamble Essential Energy Depot

(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

L1.3.2 Adopt the eight elements of good governance practices at the essence of operations and decision making.

(b) Financial Considerations

As part of the negotiations, Council has requested that no cost be borne by Council in the required process to correct the ownership of the lot in question.

COMMENTARY

In summary the issue with the ownership on the land title for Lot 1 DP132634 is an issue that dates back to the constitution of the Macquarie County Council in 1957. At this time the ownership of the property was transferred from the Shire Council to the Macquarie County Council. Unfortunately, the lot in question was not included in the transfer.

As can be seen from the correspondence, attached as annexures, several attempts have been made to correct the issue, with the most recent occurring following a meeting between Council and Essential Energy representatives. Essential Energy staff have commenced investigations into the most appropriate course of action and are hopeful that the matter can be resolved by way of lodgement of a request with Land Registry Services.

For Council's information, the decision not to seek "compensation" for the disposal of the property was arrived at following a discussion amongst senior management. The main contributing factor to this decision was that this situation has occurred due to a "clerical oversight" with the initial transfer back in 1957 when the Macquarie County Council was constituted, and the land ownership transferred.

(a) Governance/Policy Implications

The proposed course of action will "correct" the ownership details of the lot in question, to that of Essential Energy, in a transparent manner.

(b) Legal Implications

In accordance with Section 377(1)(h) of the Local Government Act 1993 any decision to dispose of land must be made by resolution of Council, as the power to sell, exchange or surrender land cannot be delegated.

(c) Social Implications

There are no direct social implications directly attached to this report.

(d) Environmental Implications

There are no direct environmental implications directly attached to this report.

(e) Economic/Asset Management Implications

There are no direct economic/asset management implications directly attached to this report.

(f) Risk Implications

There are no direct risk implications directly attached to this report.

CONCLUSION

According to the NSW Land Registry Services the ownership of Lot 1 DP132634, resides with Coonamble Shire Council, due to a clerical error. It is in both the Coonamble Shire Council and Essential Energy's best interest to correct the error and have Essential Energy recognised as the owner of the lot.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That Council receives and notes the information in this report.**
- 2. That Council authorises the General Manager to undertake the necessary actions required to facilitate the transfer of the ownership of Lot 1 DP 132634 from Coonamble Shire Council to that of Essential Energy.**

From: [Property Leasing](#)
To: [Bruce Quarmby](#)
Cc: [Paul Gallagher](#)
Subject: Essential Energy - Coonamble Depot COON1179
Date: Friday, 21 June 2024 4:53:40 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image014.png](#)
[image016.png](#)
[image017.png](#)
[image019.png](#)
[image021.png](#)
[image023.png](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image008.jpg](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image022.png](#)
[image024.png](#)
[image025.png](#)
[image026.png](#)

You don't often get email from property.leasing@essentialenergy.com.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

Many thanks Bruce,

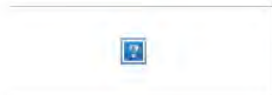
In the interim I have briefed our inhouse legal team.

We are hopeful that the matter may (at long last!) be able to be settled by way of lodgement of a Request with Land Registry Services. We may be able to do that ourselves without the need for either party to expend funds on external legal fees.

I will keep in touch.

Kind Regards

Leasing & Sales Coordinator



T:
E: property.leasing@essentialenergy.com.au
 PO Box 5730, Port Macquarie NSW 2444
essentialenergy.com.au
 General Enquiries: 13 23 91
 Outages & Faults (24hrs): 13 20 80

From: Bruce Quarmby <b.quarmby@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, June 21, 2024 3:50 PM
To: Property Leasing <property.leasing@essentialenergy.com.au>
Cc: Paul Gallagher <gm@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Essential Energy - Coonamble Depot COON1179

WARNING: Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the source of the email and know the contents are safe.

Good Afternoon

Apologies for the delay in responding , I have discussed the matter with Council's General Manager, Mr Paul Gallagher, and he has confirmed Council's stance to the proposed solution to cleaning up the land title issue for the block in question is

- Council would not be seeking compensation for the disposal of the property.

As per our discussion I can also confirm that a report will be tabled to the Council meeting to be held on Wednesday the 10 July seeking a Council resolution to endorse the actions of management in cleaning up the land titles issue as identified.

Bruce Quarmby
 Director Corporate Services
 Telephone: 02 6827 1900
 Email: b.quarmby@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au
 80 Castlereagh Street, Coonamble, NSW 2829
 PO Box 249, Coonamble, NSW 2829
www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au

From: Property Leasing <property.leasing@essentialenergy.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 10:49 AM
To: Bruce Quarmby <b.quarmby@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Essential Energy - Coonamble Depot COON1179

You don't often get email from property.leasing@essentialenergy.com.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Morning Bruce,

Thank you for your time this morning.

As discussed, I will commence the process of having legal ownership of Lot 1 DP132634 being property known as 92 Castlereagh Street, Coonamble transferred into the name of Essential Energy. It would appear that the ownership of the land by Council is a historical matter with the process to transfer the land from our various predecessors having a piecemeal approach with various Lots being transferred in 1975 and 1994 – correspondence attached.

Could you please confirm:

1. Current rates payable for the property;
2. That Council will not be seeking compensation for the property;

Kind Regards

Leasing & Sales Coordinator



T:
E: property.leasing@essentialenergy.com.au
 PO Box 5730, Port Macquarie NSW 2444
<http://essentialenergy.com.au>
 General Enquiries: 13 23 91
 Outages & Faults (24hrs): 13 20 80

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Western Power

Hawthorn St
Dubbo NSW 2830
(068) 845 688
Fax: (068) 845 699

FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

Date: 22 June, 1994
To: Mr Doug Butcherine - Nelson Keane & Hemingway
Fax: 818 117
Subject: Western Power Depot - Castlereagh St Coonamble
Sender: Gerard Fogarty

YOU SHOULD RECEIVE 1 PAGE(S), INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET. IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL THE PAGES, PLEASE CALL (068) 812 525.

Doug

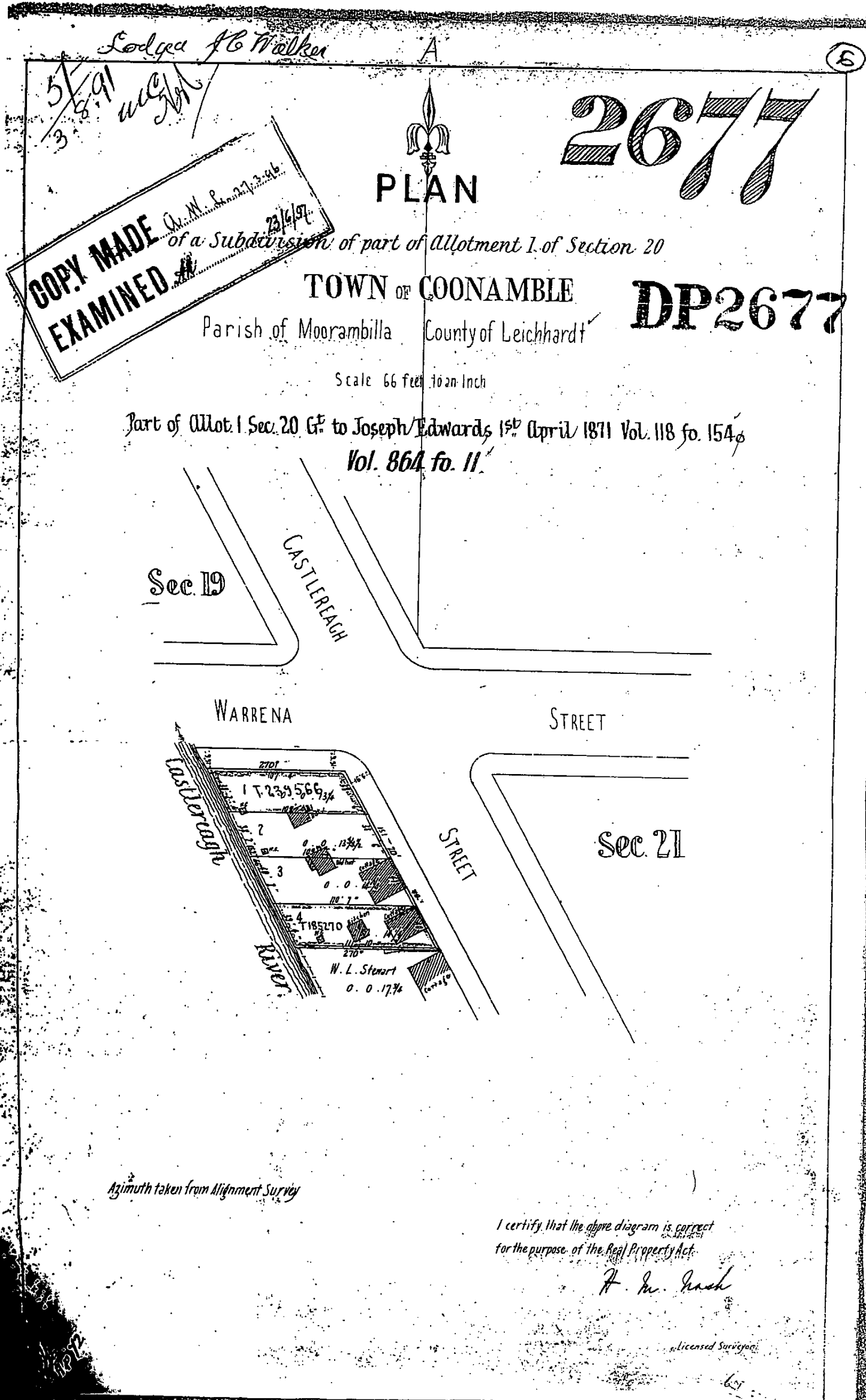
We have just been unofficially informed that our current Depot site at Castlereagh St Coonamble, appears to still have title registered in the name of Coonamble (Shire) Council.

This matter was originally brought to our attention in 1975, and our then solicitor was able to have Macquarie County Council recorded as registered proprietor for Pt Sec 20 Allot. 1 Vol. 4923 Fol. 187 Parish of Moorambilla, Shire of Coonamble. It would appear that this did not constitute the full depot site. Currently Lots 1 & 2 DP 2677, Castlereagh St Coonamble, are still registered as Coonamble Shire land. No rates have been paid on the site.

It is Western Power's intention to sell the entire site, and the Depot has been on the market for approximately 12 months.

It would be appreciated if you would conduct a search with the Land Titles Office to confirm the above, and advise Western Power on it's liability to pay back rates.

Regards



CONVERSION TABLE ADDED IN
REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
DP 2677

FEET INCHES		METRES
16	6	5.03
36	2	11.635
38	6	11.735
39	4	11.99
40	-	12.19
40	2	12.245
41	-	12.495
107	4	32.715
108	4	33.02
109	5	33.35
110	7	33.705
121	10	34.885

AC. RD. P.	SQ. M.
- - 13 1/4	335.1
- - 13 1/2	341.5
- - 14 1/4	360.4
- - 17 3/4	448.9

Table of measures

50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140
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I, Bruce Richard Davies, Registrar General for New South Wales, certify that this negative is a photograph made as a permanent record of a document in my custody this 19th day of August, 1979

[Signature]

CC:DJ (R/1-C-1)

4th November, 1975

Messrs. Peacocke, Dickens & King,
Solicitors,
Box 85, P.O.,
DURBO, N.S.W. 2830

Dear Sirs,

Re: Coonamble Depot Property

The Coonamble Shire Council has pointed out to my Council that title to the Depot property, Castlereagh Street, Coonamble has not been transferred to it. This property was taken over from the Shire Council when the Macquarie County Council was constituted on 1st August, 1957 vide proclamation published in Government Gazette No. 59 on 24th May, 1957.

The above fact came to attention when the Coonamble Shire Council received the valuation notice as per attached copy, from the Department of Valuer General, N.S.W. The Shire Council has also furnished copies of some of the original title documents.

I enclose herewith title deed held by Council, being Volume 4923, Folio 187, and it would be appreciated if you could arrange for the transfer to the name of this Council.

Please note that this deed is in the name of the former Coonamble Municipal Council.

Yours faithfully,

W. PAVEY,
COUNTY CLERK.

Enc.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to the Valuation of Land Act 1916 (as amended) of the valuation of the land described herein being a valuation of an unimproved lot single with vacant possession. Should you desire to object, your objections should be made within the time prescribed. For further details see information leaflet enclosed.

DEPARTMENT OF VALUER GENERAL N.S.W.
NOTICE OF VALUATION AS AT BASE DATE 1ST JANUARY 1974

Prior Series	Valuation District	Valuation Number
Street Name & Number	COONAMBLE	1443
OWNER		358
COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL BOX 249 P O COONAMBLE 2829		

Relevant Date of Valuation	Date of Issue	Unimproved Value
04 02 75	16 06 75	\$ 2000

DESCRIPTION OF LAND - MEASUREMENTS ARE METRIC
 AREA: 676.6 SQUARE METRES
 LOTS 1/2 DP 2677 (COONAMBLE)

200
1975-8-17

*domestic department
12/01/76
- Thomas - 3 -
family dept
676.6 sqm*

10.15 TOORAWEEAH ROAD UPGRADE - MONTHLY STATUS UPDATE**File Number:** R-8-32-1**Author:** Kylie Kerr-Roads Manager**Authoriser:** Kerrie Murphy, Director Infrastructure Services**Annexures:** Nil**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors a status update on the Tooraweenah Road Upgrade Project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Work over the last month has focused on the tendering process and the community consultation meeting. Key activities have included:

- Preparation of tender documents. Tendering period opened on 3 June 2024.
- Tender briefing and site inspection - 20 June 2024 and 2 July 2024.
- Community consultation meeting - 21 June 2024.
- Tooraweenah Road Upgrade Update notice prepared and distributed.

Council completed maintenance on the road over the previous months though unfortunately, wet weather has resulted in new damage to the road. Council will continue to monitor the road condition and will intervene when there is an unacceptable safety risk that can be addressed within the available resources.

BACKGROUND

Tooraweenah Road is the most direct route from the town of Coonamble to the Warrumbungle National Park.

The section of road to be upgraded commences on the eastern outskirts of the Coonamble township and continues to the boundary with Gilgandra Shire Council.

The 56.8 km road currently consists of 30.1 km with a sealed pavement of varying width, followed by 26.7 km of unsealed earthen formation with an average width of 7m. The unsealed section includes two short-sealed sections that total 1.3km.

Most of the existing sealed length requires rehabilitation or heavy patching, however, some of the sections of the sealed pavement are in a serviceable condition and will be retained. It is unlikely that the existing sealed will be improved under this project now as construction costs have increased dramatically over the past few years. Unsealed sections of Tooraweenah Road will be upgraded and sealed.

The project originally aimed to provide 56.8 km of sealed road with a 9.9m wide pavement and 7.5m wide seal with guideposts, centreline, and edge marking. The focus is now on the unsealed section.

Council has resolved to complete the project in the shortest possible timeframe, preferably within a 12-month period from the time of project approval. This original timeframe was not met due to numerous reasons. The project is now expected to be completed by the middle of 2026.

(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

11.1.5 Complete the Tooraweenah Road upgrade project, on time and on budget.

(b) Financial Considerations

The capital cost of the project is funded by the Federal Government's Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) Program. The funded budget is \$22.96M.

COMMENTARY

Council completed maintenance works on the road over the previous months though unfortunately wet weather as lead to new damage to the road. Council will continue to monitor the road condition and will intervene when there is an unacceptable safety risk that can be addressed within the available resources.


Work over the last month has focused on the tendering process and the community consultation meeting. Key activities have included:

- Preparation of tender documents. Tendering period opened on 3 June 2024 for a 5-week period. Tender closed on 5 June 2024. The responses are currently under assessment against the tender requirements.
- Tender briefing and site inspections was held on 20 June 2024 and 2 July 2024. Attendance at the tender briefing and site inspection was a compulsory criterion of the tender. There were approximately 5 companies present at the briefings. The second briefing was held as the first session was held before the tender notice appeared in the local paper.
- Community consultation meeting was held on 21 June 2024 with approximately 12 people attending. The meeting held on site and provided attendees with the opportunity to ask questions about the project and the impact on them.
- Prepared the first Tooraweenah Road Upgrade Update notice. The aim is to release update flyers on a regular basis until the project completed.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and noted.

10.16 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES - WORKS IN PROGRESS

File Number: R6
Author: Kerrie Murphy-Director Infrastructure Services
Authoriser: Paul Gallagher, General Manager
Annexures: 1. Monthly Works Report - July [↓](#) 

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors with information on the works in progress within Council's Infrastructure Directorate.

BACKGROUND**(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework**

I1.1 Employ a strategic approach to the management of our critical road network.

I1.2 Strengthen our strategic approach to the management of our water infrastructure and services.

I1.3 Improve our strategic approach to the management of our sewerage infrastructure and services.

I1.4 Strengthen our strategic approach to the management of our urban drainage infrastructure and services.

I1.5 Adopt successful strategies which maximises our community's access to quality infrastructure and assets.

P3.1 Provide support to our sporting, recreation and community organisations which drives improved sporting and recreational opportunities for our community.

P3.2 Improve the quality of our parks, open spaces, sporting, and recreational facilities, including the MacDonald Park Masterplan Precinct.

(b) Financial Considerations

Provision is made within the 2023/2024 Operational Plan and Budget to fund the associated works and programs listed in this report.

COMMENTARY

This report aims to inform Councillors of the works in progress in the Infrastructure Directorate. Updates are provided for each Departmental area which includes Roads, Water and Sewer and Urban Services. Please note that the attachment is in an updated format with a view to provide additional information to that provided previously. The projects in this report will increase as time goes on, and more valuable information will be provided at that time.

(a) Governance/Policy Implications

Maintenance of Council's infrastructure assets is carried out in accordance with Council's adopted management plans.

(b) Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

(c) Social Implications

Maintenance works are programmed where practical, to minimise social impacts.

(d) Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

(e) Economic/Asset Management Implications

Works are scheduled in accordance with Council's adopted 2023/2024 Operational Plan and Budget.

(f) Risk Implications

Maintenance works are programmed to minimise the risk to Council and the public.

CONCLUSION

This report provides updated information on the projects and planned works within the Infrastructure Department for Council's information.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received and noted.

	<p>MONTHLY WORKS REPORT</p> <p>28 June, 2024</p>	<p>Infrastructure Services Coonamble Shire Council Phone: 02 6827 1900 Fax: 02 6822 1626 council@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au</p>
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Road and recreational area users are to proceed with caution at all work sites and observe signage to ensure safety.
Speed zones are enforceable with possible short delays.
For all enquiries, please contact Council's Infrastructure Services Department on 6827 1900.

CAPITAL WORKS

ROADS - URBAN – COONAMBLE, GULARGAMBONE AND QUAMBONE

Project	Funding Source	Budget (\$)	Budget Variation (\$)	Total Budget (\$)	Expenditure YTD (\$)	Committed (\$)	Total YTD (\$)	% Completion	Comment
Bertram Street Reconstruction	Loan	350,000	-	350,000	113,808.21	16,016.00	129,824.21	100	Complete

ROADS - RURAL – UNSEALED ROAD NETWORK

Project	Funding Source	Budget (\$)	Budget Variation (\$)	Total Budget (\$)	Expenditure YTD (\$)	Committed (\$)	Total YTD (\$)	% Completion	Comment
Rural Resheeting	Council	150,000	-	150,000	67,308.55	5786.19	73,094.74	65	Carinda, Walla Walla, Merri Merri

ROADS - RURAL – SEALED ROAD NETWORK

Project	Funding Source	Budget (\$)	Budget Variation (\$)	Total Budget (\$)	Expenditure YTD (\$)	Committed (\$)	Total YTD (\$)	% Completion	Comment
Warren Road Upgrade	ROSI/FCR/Council	3,161,943	-	3,161,943	2,152,301	177,753	2,330,054	74	Construction has commenced with only one section to be completed. Project is expected to be completed in August 2024.
Box Ridge Road Reconstruction	LRCI	1,859,636	-	1,225,140	409837	142,271	552,108	45	Preparation works have commenced, minor works completed and major works have commenced. Progress is slower than expected due to rain combined with cold weather.
Carinda Road Heavy Patching and Culvert upgrades	FLR	2,265,840	-	2,265,840	1,807,571	71,309	1,878,881	98	Completed except for PCR
Carinda Road Heavy Patches	RLRRP	709,155	151,000	860,155	739,883	0	739,883.07	100	Complete – budget increased in accordance with increase in grant funding
Billeroy Road	RLRRP	45,876	-	45,876	-	-	-	-	Postponed to next financial year
Quambone Road	RLRRP	738,957	-	738,957	48,689.03	3,142.69	51,832	100	Completed
Pilliga Road	RLRRP	588,750	100,000	688,750		93,013	862,578	100	Work completed for 2023/2024
Baradine Road	RLRRP	481,307.84	-	481,307.84	368,504	0	451,099	100	Works completed for this year
Warren Road	RLRRP		-		143,096	5,770	148,867	-	Completed
Gulargambone Road	RLRRP	311,406.16	-	311,406.16	4,419-	-	4,419	-	Works completed for this year
Flood Damage – REPA AGRN987	DRFA	≈7,800,000	-	≈7,800,000	3756734	367,815	4,124,549	53	Work to date includes Aiden’s Lane, Bramble, Nelgowrie, Conimbia, Gulargambone, Gadsens, Haydens Lane, Beanbah, Quabathoo, Emby, Pilliga, Merri Merri, Goorianawa, Bramble, Gilgooma, Mungery, Yarranville, Conimbia, West Point, Walla Walla, Keewong, Tooloon South, Quandong, Sandy Camp, Back Gular, Talegar, Toora, and Wattle Creek Roads

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Tooraweenah Road Upgrade	ROSI	22,962,000	-	22,962,000	\$2,804,974	\$132,388.58	\$2,937,363	13	Tender released. Community consultation meeting held 21 June
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WATER									
<i>Project</i>	<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Budget (\$) (2023-24)</i>	<i>Budget Variation (\$)</i>	<i>Total Budget (\$)</i>	<i>Expenditure YTD (\$)</i>	<i>Committed (\$)</i>	<i>Total YTD (\$)</i>	<i>% Completion</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Coonamble Mains Replacement	Council	525,993*		525,993	342,382.60		342,382.60	70	Broad Street and Tooloon Streets both completed.
Gulargambone Mains Replacements	Council	119,000		119,000	3,016		3,016	10	Transferred to 2024/25 FY.
Quambone Mains Replacement	Council	90,000		90,000				0	Transferred to 2024/25 FY.
SSWP244-Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy (IWCM)	Grant/Council	199,165		303,900	178,562.80		178,562.80	60	Draft Issues paper review completed by Council with external stakeholders. Consultation with external stakeholders ongoing. Flow monitoring being completed.
Coonamble Bulk Flowmeter – Reservoir 5	Grant 90%/ Council 10%	84,750	(-22,250)	62,500	69,134.18		69,134.18	100	Works completed. Remaining funds from grant to be spent on telemetry of bulk flowmeters. DCCEEW approved this and works have commenced.
Gulargambone Reservoir Bulk Flowmeter	Grant 90%/ Council 10%	84,750	(-22,250)	62,500	34,894.71		34,894.71	100	Works completed. Remaining funds from grant to be spent on telemetry of bulk flowmeters. DCCEEW approved this and works have commenced.
Advanced Operational Support Program	DCCEEW Grant	150,000						25	Funding Deed for \$150,000 has been signed and executed by DCCEEW. Invoice sent to DCCEEW for Milestone 1. Meeting with DCCEEW conducted onsite. Draft work program being finalised with DCCEEW.

SEWER									
<i>Project</i>	<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Budget (\$)</i>	<i>Budget Variation (\$)</i>	<i>Total Budget (\$)</i>	<i>Expenditure YTD (\$)</i>	<i>Committed (\$)</i>	<i>Total YTD (\$)</i>	<i>% Completion</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Coonamble Mains Relining	Council	250,000		250,000				0	Transferred to 2024/25 FY.
Gulargambone Mains Relining	Council	100,000	-	100,000				0	Transferred to 2024/25 FY.
Coonamble STP Upgrade – Concept Design	Council	250,000	-	250,000	182,704.50		182,704.50	70	Options study draft report has been issued. Consultation meetings with EPA, DCCEEW and PWA have been conducted.
Coonamble SPS1 Convert to wet well configuration	Council	300,000	-	300,000	5,027.50	294,972.50	300,000	80	Works have commenced and will be completed prior to 12 July 2024.
Coonamble SPS2 Convert to wet well configuration	Council	300,000	-	300,000	281,621.27	18,378.73	300,000	90	Main works completed; SPS commissioned. Contractor engaged to drill the holes in wall to get PS in full capacity. Works to be completed y 12 July 2024.

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URBAN SPACES									
<i>Project</i>	<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Budget (\$)</i>	<i>Budget Variation (\$)</i>	<i>Total Budget (\$)</i>	<i>Expenditure YTD (\$)</i>	<i>Committed (\$)</i>	<i>Total YTD (\$)</i>	<i>% Completion</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Footpaths Reconstruction	Council	75,000	-	75,000	23,000	44,000	71,000	90	Condition Assessment complete. Program being drafted from this information. Works completed on intersection at Post Office corner
Street Tree Replacement Program	Council	50,000	-	50,000	-	6,651.96	6,651.96	50	Planter boxes and Bougainvillea have been ordered for placement at the main street corners and out the front of the Gymnasium. Replacement trees for Memorial drive have been ordered. Irrigation line has been installed in McCullough Street and trees have been ordered. waiting on line-marking of street. Concrete has been repaired in front of the Gym and trellis is to be installed for the Bougainvillea. Plants and materials have been ordered for Mungie Street in Quambone (School to Pool)
Coonamble Showground Upgrades	Council	25,000	-	25,000	27,343.68	-	27,343.68	80	New grandstand has arrived waiting on assembly
Brigidine Nuns garden area Main Street	Council	40,000	-	40,000	18,053.43	27,537.56	45,590.99	85	Waiting on installation of stone benches and screens, Purchase order has been raised for the wall to be painted.
McDonald Park upgrades	LRCI4	223,229	-	223,229	28,863.77	26,437.75	55,301.52	45	Gazebo and Water tank have been installed; carpark design is being done
Water efficiency projects	LRCI4	97,000	-	97,000	89,125.54	-	89,125.54	100	Works complete
Coonamble Sportsground establish additional fields	Council	165,000	46,000	211,000	60,437.86	173,654.38	234,092.24	100	Works complete
Gulargambone Oval Irrigation upgrades	Council	45,000	-	45,000	41,120.44	-	41,120.44	100	Works complete
Quambone resurface Tennis Courts	Council + Community funds	45,000	-	45,000	-	46,176	-	25	Purchase order raised waiting on contractor due in June 2024

SWIMMING POOLS									
<i>Project</i>	<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Budget (\$)</i>	<i>Budget Variation (\$)</i>	<i>Total Budget (\$)</i>	<i>Expenditure YTD (\$)</i>	<i>Committed (\$)</i>	<i>Total YTD (\$)</i>	<i>% Completion</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Swimming Pool Upgrades	LRCI4	466,957	-	466,957	496,529.70	-	496,529.70	100	Works complete
Upgrades to Swimming pools	Council	111,740	-	111,740	98,254.00	-	98,254.00	100	Works complete

AERODROME									
<i>Project</i>	<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Budget (\$)</i>	<i>Budget Variation (\$)</i>	<i>Total Budget (\$)</i>	<i>Expenditure YTD (\$)</i>	<i>Committed (\$)</i>	<i>Total YTD (\$)</i>	<i>% Completion</i>	<i>Comment</i>

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CEMETERIES									
<i>Project</i>	<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Budget (\$)</i>	<i>Budget Variation (\$)</i>	<i>Total Budget (\$)</i>	<i>Expenditure YTD (\$)</i>	<i>Committed (\$)</i>	<i>Total YTD (\$)</i>	<i>% Completion</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Cemetery Improvement Program	Council	20,000	52,000	72,000.00	32,971.29	38,428.00	71,399.29	100	Works complete
New Columbarium Coonamble	LRCI4	52,632	-	52,632.00	35,308.00	20,680.00	55,988.00	100	Works complete
New Columbarium Quambone	Council	17,380	-	17,380.00	17,380.00	-	17,380.00	100	Works complete

**11 NOTICES OF MOTIONS/QUESTIONS WITH
NOTICE/RESCISSION MOTIONS**

Nil

12 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

RECOMMENDATION

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993:

12.1 Closed (Public Excluded) Council Meeting of the Coonamble Shire Council - 19 June 2024

12.2 TEN240531CF - Hire of Plant and Trucks

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - d(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

12.3 TEN20240528CF - Demolition/partial demolition of Sons of the Soil Hotel

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - c of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

12.4 Bore Bath Project

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - c, d(i) and d(ii) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business, commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it and information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council.

13 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING