

COONAMBLE

SHIRE COUNCIL

BUSINESS PAPER

Ordinary Council Meeting

Wednesday, 11 September 2024

Date: Wednesday, 11 September 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, 11 September 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, 14 August 2024 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings of the meeting.



MINUTES

**Ordinary Council Meeting
Wednesday, 14 August 2024**

**MINUTES OF COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE QUAMBONE COMMUNITY HALL, QUAMBONE
ON WEDNESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2024 AT 10.00 AM**

PRESENT: Mayor Tim Horan, Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen, Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher, Cr Pat Cullen, 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), 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 10.06 am, 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**4 APOLOGIES/APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS****APOLOGY****RESOLUTION 2024/189**

Moved: Cr Terence Lees

Seconded: Cr Pat Cullen

That the apology from Cr Barbara Deans be noted and approved.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

5 DEPUTATION/DELEGATIONS**6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****RESOLUTION 2024/190**

Moved: Cr Pat Cullen

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Coonamble Shire Council held on Wednesday, 10 July 2024 and the Extraordinary Council Meeting of the Coonamble Shire Council held on Tuesday, 6 August 2024 be confirmed as a correct records of the proceedings of the meetings.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

7 DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Adam Cohen declared a pecuniary interest in item 12.4 Coonamble Swimming Pool Management as he is a partner in the business that is currently managing the pool and a contractor who has submitted a tender.

8 MAYORAL MINUTE**MAYORAL MINUTE****RESOLUTION 2024/191**

Moved: Mayor Tim Horan

Seconded: Cr Pat Cullen

- 1. That the report be received and noted.**
- 2. As the pool table has some value, Council delegate authority to the General Manager to dispose of the table by way of expressions of interest.**

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

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 2024/192**

Moved: Cr Pat Cullen

Seconded: Cr Terence Lees

That the report be received and noted.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

10.2 COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS/ACTIONS UPDATE

RESOLUTION 2024/193

Moved: Cr Terence Lees
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher

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

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

10.3 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

RESOLUTION 2024/194

Moved: Cr Terence Lees
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher

That Council receives and notes the information contained within the Community Development section report.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

10.4 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PROGRESS REPORT

RESOLUTION 2024/195

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

That Council receive and note the Corporate Governance Progress Report.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

10.5 PRIVACY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ADOPTION**RESOLUTION 2024/196**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher
Seconded: Cr Terence Lees

That Council adopts the draft Privacy Management Plan.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

10.6 STATUS OF INVESTMENTS - JULY 2024**RESOLUTION 2024/197**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher
Seconded: Cr Pat Cullen

That Council receives and notes the list of investments from 1 July 2024 to 31 July 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, Pat Cullen, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

10.7 RATES AND CHARGES COLLECTIONS - JULY 2024**RESOLUTION 2024/198**

Moved: Cr Terence Lees
Seconded: Cr Brian Sommerville

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

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

10.8 COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL ACTIVE TRANSPORT PLAN**RESOLUTION 2024/199**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen

Seconded: Cr Terence Lees

That:

- 1. Council adopt the Coonamble Shire Council Active Transport Plan;**
- 2. The late submission from TfNSW be considered with appropriate amendments being incorporated into the Active Transport Plan; and**
- 3. That Council actively source grant funding to implement the strategies contained within the Active Transport Plan.**

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

10.9 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW - JUNE 2024**RESOLUTION 2024/200**

Moved: Cr Pat Cullen

Seconded: Cr Terence Lees

- 1. That Council approves the variations to votes as listed in the budget review documents distributed under separate cover.**
- 2. That Council notes the opinion of the Responsible Accounting Officer, based on the information as presented in the June Budget review, that Council will be in a satisfactory financial position as at 30 June 2024.**
- 3. That Council notes the position of Council's estimated restricted (reserve) funds as at 30 June 2024.**

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

10.10 PLANNING, REGULATORY & COMPLIANCE PROGRESS REPORT**RESOLUTION 2024/201**

Moved: Cr Terence Lees
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher

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

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

10.11 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH - PROGRESS REPORT**RESOLUTION 2024/202**

Moved: Cr Pat Cullen
Seconded: Cr Terence Lees

That Council:

- 1. Support the Harvest Lunch tourism initiative through a \$5,000 sponsorship donation.**
- 2. Receive and note the Economic Development and Growth report.**

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

10.12 WASTE OPERATIONS REPORT JULY 2024**RESOLUTION 2024/203**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher
Seconded: Cr Terence Lees

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

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

10.13 GULARGAMBONE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT LABORATORY BUILDING - REQUEST FOR BUDGET TRANSFER**RESOLUTION 2024/204**

Moved: Cr Terence Lees

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher

That Council approve the transfer of \$90,000.00 from the Gulargambone Sewer Mains Relining budget of \$300,000.00 to create a budget for the installation of a Laboratory Building and a dual tank pressure pump system at the Gulargambone sewage treatment plant to meet EPA licence and legislative requirements for sewage treatment.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

10.14 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES - WORKS IN PROGRESS**RESOLUTION 2024/205**

Moved: Cr Terence Lees

Seconded: Cr Brian Sommerville

That the information be received and noted.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

11 NOTICES OF MOTIONS/QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE/RESCISSION MOTIONS

Nil

12 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

At 11.13am Council moves into Closed session.

RESOLUTION 2024/206

Moved: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher

Seconded: Cr Brian Sommerville

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 Gulargambone Sportsground Construction of new Amenities Building -

including changerooms, canteen, unisex disabled toilet and mothers (baby) changeroom

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.

12.2 Sewage Pump Station - Yarran Street Subdivision

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 Tooraweenah Road Upgrade Tender

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 Coonamble Swimming Pool Management

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.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

12.1 GULARGAMBONE SPORTSGROUND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW AMENITIES BUILDING - INCLUDING CHANGEROOMS, CANTEEN, UNISEX DISABLED TOILET AND MOTHERS (BABY) CHANGEROOM

RESOLUTION 2024/207

Moved: Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen

Seconded: Cr Terence Lees

That Council

- 1. Award Tender 20240322TWC – for the Construction of the new Gulargambone Sportsground Amenities Building to Winsman Group Pty Ltd to the value of \$544,000.000 ex GST, and**
- 2. That Council approve the reallocation of \$100,000 from the loan funds currently allocated to the Caravan Park internal road project, to the Gulargambone Sportsground Amenities Building project.**

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

12.2 SEWAGE PUMP STATION - YARRAN STREET SUBDIVISION

RESOLUTION 2024/208

Moved: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher

Seconded: Cr Terence Lees

That Council

- 1. Award Tender VP416457 – Design and Construct, Yarran Street Sewage Pump Station to TWS Evolution Pty Ltd for the total contract price of \$426,000 including GST.**
- 2. Allocate the remaining funds within the budget allocation to install gravity mains within the subdivision via a staged approach.**

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

12.3 TOORAWEEAH ROAD UPGRADE TENDER

RESOLUTION 2024/209

Moved: Cr Terence Lees

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher

1. That Council rejects all tenders as there is insufficient grant funds to upgrade the whole road.
2. That Council acknowledges the grant funding is not sufficient to complete the full project, and subject to the funding authorities approval, council undertake the project in two (2) stages.
3. That council receive a further report on the project delivery and funding options to meet the shortfall.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

At 11.48am , Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen left the meeting for the discussion and voting on the following item.

12.4 SUPPLEMENTARY BUSINESS - COONAMBLE SWIMMING POOL MANAGEMENT

RESOLUTION 2024/210

Moved: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher

Seconded: Cr Brian Sommerville

That Council accept the Tender for the management of the Coonamble Swimming Pool for a period of three (3) years, from A J Cohen and D R Lee trading as Lee & Co Operations in the sum of \$574,732 (ex GST) and enter into a contract accordingly.

In Favour: Crs Tim Horan, Bill Fisher, Pat Cullen, Terence Lees and Brian Sommerville

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

At 11.53am Deputy Mayor Adam Cohen returned to the meeting.

At 11.57am Council moves out of Closed session and resumes in Open Council.

RESOLUTION 2024/211

Moved: Deputy Mayor Bill Fisher

Seconded: Cr Brian Sommerville

That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council.

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

Against: Nil

CARRIED 6/0

13 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

The Meeting closed at 12.02 pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Council held on 11 September 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 my final report for September 2024 as Mayor.

Congratulations Councillors

I would like to thank and congratulate each of the Councillors for their service to the Coonamble, Gulargambone and Quambone communities over the past years. As a council we have achieved a lot for our communities.

I also wish the incoming Council all the best for their future term serving Coonamble Shire.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and noted.

SECTION A - MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY COUNCIL

SECTION B - MATTERS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

9 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nil

10 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

10.1 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
02/09/24	Coulton's Catch Up – M Coulton MP 2 Sept 24	M Coulton	✓	✓	✓
30/08/24	Email – Media Release – Records Management	P Gallagher		✓	✓
23/08/24	Email – Media Release – Active Transport Plan	P Gallagher		✓	✓
15/08/24	Email – Media Releases - Town Signage	P Gallagher		✓	✓
16/08/24	Email - Contracts Exchanged	P Gallagher		✓	✓
15/08/24	Email – Media Releases - Planning	P Gallagher		✓	✓
15/08/24	Email – Media Releases - Pool & SES	P Gallagher		✓	✓
12/08/24	Coulton's Catch Up – M Coulton MP 12 August 24	M Coulton	✓	✓	✓

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and noted.

10.2 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

Activities this month have focused on the upcoming Local Government Elections, working with the Returning Officer on administrative tasks relating to candidate nominations and preparing the councillor induction program for the new term of Council.

Corporate Governance staff represented Council at the annual Statewide Mutual Risk Conference on 22-23 August 2024. The conference brought together a range of issues, including cyber security, insurance and claims management, information on risk management at an elite level, effective communication, and positive risk culture in teams.

Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC)

There are no updates in the last month. The next Committee meeting is due to be held on 2 October 2024. Minutes will be reported to Council in due course.

Internal Audit

There are no further updates this month.

Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R)

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

Policy Review

Staff are continuing to systematically review policies and procedures. The new term of Council will consider reviewed policies.

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 (WHS)

Progress and activities this month include:

1. Waste and transfer facility WHS assistance:
 - a. One final Improvement Notice to close out once the safety barrier is constructed at the Gulargambone transfer station. At the time of writing, this was due for completion by end-July.
 - b. Contractor WHS assistance and guidance provided as requested.
 - c. Two other Improvement Notices closed out.
 - d. Documentation in relation to WHS at the waste and transfer facility, including traffic management planning, is in draft stage. The next step will be consultation with stakeholders.
2. Safety day planned for Council staff on 1 October 2024.
3. Quarry WHS assistance and traffic management plans.
4. Workers' compensation claims management.
5. WHS Boost audit arranged with Statewide Mutual, to be conducted in September 2024. The audit will provide a current WHS health snapshot and benchmark for Council.
6. Defibrillators ordered and set up at the old VIC building and Coonamble Waste Facility.
7. Inspections carried out, including first aid kits, defibrillators, and various facility inspections including auditing emergency management requirements.
8. Drug and alcohol testing theory completed (course work).

Risk Management

Status of works:

- Project risk register under consultation with stakeholders.
- Strategic risk register has been drafted. This will be circulated for internal consultation once the project risk register has been finalised.
- Currently drafting the operational risk register.
- Gulargambone Waste Transfer traffic management plan is complete.

- Quarry traffic management plan is under consultation.
- Coonamble Waste Facility traffic management plan to be commenced.

(a) Governance/Policy Implications

Governance impacts all of Council's operations.

(b) Legal Implications

The Governance unit oversees legislative compliance.

(c) Social Implications

Nil in relation to this report.

(d) Environmental Implications

Nil in relation to this report.

(e) Economic/Asset Management Implications

Nil in relation to this report.

(f) Risk Implications

The Governance unit oversees risk management within Council.

CONCLUSION

The Corporate Governance division of Council is continuing to grow and is strengthened by good collaboration across the organisation. The division oversees compliance with a range of legislated requirements, including the ARIC and internal audit functions, risk management and policy updates.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Corporate Governance Progress Report.

10.3 OCTOBER 2024 EXTRAORDINARY MEETING**File Number: C 12****Author: Marina Colwell-Executive Support Officer****Authoriser: Paul Gallagher, General Manager****Annexures: Nil****PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the proposed date of 3 October 2024, for an Extraordinary Council Meeting for the election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor and to set the 2024 / 2025 meeting dates.

(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

L1.4 Encourage and promote a high level of leadership in the community.

(b) Financial Considerations

There are no financial considerations associated with this report.

COMMENTARY

Council's current meeting dates are set for the second Wednesday of each month.

In accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice, this will allow the appropriate time for advertising of the meeting date and time.

(a) Governance/Policy Implications

Councillors and management must ensure that Governance is open and transparent, and that all business comply with *Local Government Act 1993* and associated Regulations.

(b) Legal Implications

- (1) Section 365 of the *Local Government Act 1993* states the following:

The Council is required to meet at least 10 times a year; each time in a different month.

Section 9 of the Act states the following:

Public notice of meetings:

(a) A council must give notice to the public of the times and places of its meetings and meetings of those of its committees of which all the members are councillors.

- (2) *Local Government (General) Regulations 2005*, for example Sections 405

(c) Social Implications

There are no social implications attached to this report.

(d) Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications attached to this report.

(e) Economic/Asset Management Implications

There are no environmental implications attached to this report.

(f) Risk Implications

There are no risk implications attached to this report.

CONCLUSION

It is suggested for Council to select Wednesday 3 October 2024 for an Extraordinary Council Meeting for the election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor and set the 2024/2025 meeting dates.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That Council notes the information contained in the report.**
- 2. That Council hold an Extraordinary Council Meeting on Wednesday 3 October 2024 at 3.00pm for the election of Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Committee delegates and the setting of the 2024/2025 meeting dates.**

10.4 RATES AND CHARGES COLLECTIONS - AUGUST 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 August 2024.

BACKGROUND

(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

The annual rate charges are set out within Council's 2024 / 25 Operational Plan.

(b) Financial Considerations

The annual rate charges are set out within Council's 2024 / 25 Operational Plan.

	31 August 2024	31 August 2023
Rates and Charges	\$7,126,020.93	\$6,392,956.84
Water Consumption	\$614,989.39	\$144,140.57
Total	\$7,741,010.32	\$6,537,097.41

COMMENTARY

Rates and Charges

	31 August 2024	31 August 2023
Rates and charges in arrears as at 30 June 2024	\$1,431,587.79	\$1,173,804.02
Rates/charges levied & adjustments for 2024/25	\$8,527,723.49	\$7,893,795.98
Pension Concession	-\$99,390.27	-\$105,196.05
Amounts collected as at 31 August 2024	-\$2,733,900.08	-\$2,569,447.11
Total Rates and Charges to be Collected	\$7,126,020.93	\$6,392,956.84

The amount levied for rates and charges for 2024 / 25 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 31 August 2024 includes receipts for both arrears and the current year's amounts outstanding.

It should be noted that the rates and charges 2024 / 25 levied amount is reduced by the pensioner concession of \$99,390.27; reducing the amount of income derived from these rates and charges. Of this concession, Council’s contribution is 45%, which represents an amount of \$44,725.62.

The rates and charges as of 31 August 2024 represent 71.55% of the total annual rates and charges levied and outstanding (compared with 70.50% on 31 August 2023).

Water Consumption Charges

	31 August 2024	31 August 2023
Water Consumption Charges and arrears as at 30 June 2023	\$621,860.35	\$393,023.85
Water Consumption charges & adjustments 2023 / 24 year to date	\$27,467.79	\$489,992.43
June 24 Adjustments		-\$394,453.49
Amounts collected as at 31 July 2024	-\$34,338.75	-\$344,442.22
Total Water Consumption Charges to be Collected	\$614,989.39	\$144,140.57

The water consumption charges as at 31 August 2024 represents 94.71% of the total water consumption charges outstanding (compared to 29.50% on 31 August 2023).

Council will recall at the last meeting that an issue was identified after the levying of the fourth quarter water and sewerage usage charges, where approximately 400 assessments were impacted. As per the advice provided at the July Council meeting, Council staff are still continuing to work with our software provider to rectify the issue.

Debt Recovery Agency

During August 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 31 August 2024 represent 71.55% of the total annual rates and charges levied and outstanding from previous years by Council (compared with 70.50% on 31 August 2023). The water consumption charges as of 31 August 2024 represent 94.71% of the total water consumption charges outstanding from previous years (compared to 29.50% on 31 August 2023).

RECOMMENDATION

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

10.5 STATUS OF INVESTMENTS - AUGUST 2024

File Number: Investments General - I5
Author: Imogen Pawley-Finance Assistant
Authoriser: Bruce Quarmby, Director Corporate Services
Annexures: 1. Imperium 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 29 August 2024 after all maturing dates for investments had passed.

The total Capital Value of Investments as of 31 August 2024 is \$23,750,000. The total amount of investments has not decreased or increased since last month.

Council is still 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 part of the June 2024 Budget review process the balance of unrestricted cash has been calculated at approximately \$102,000.

(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 August 2024 to 31 August 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

01/08/2024 to 31/08/2024



Portfolio Valuation as at 31/08/2024

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value (\$)	Face Value (\$)	Accrued (\$)	Accrued MTD (\$)
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	08/11/2023	11/09/2024	5.3200	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	86,869.04	9,036.71
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	11/09/2023	11/09/2024	5.2000	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00	76,076.71	6,624.66
Commonwealth Bank	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	02/07/2024	02/10/2024	4.7700	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	7,971.78	4,051.23
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	16/10/2023	16/10/2024	5.1300	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	90,231.78	8,713.97
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	24/10/2023	24/10/2024	5.3100	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	45,535.07	4,509.86
Commonwealth Bank	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	02/07/2024	04/11/2024	4.8200	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	16,110.68	8,187.40
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	03/11/2023	04/11/2024	5.4600	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	45,325.48	4,637.26
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	01/11/2023	06/11/2024	5.5400	2,500,000.00	2,500,000.00	115,732.88	11,763.01
Unity Bank	Unrated	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	20/05/2024	18/11/2024	5.1000	250,000.00	250,000.00	3,632.88	1,082.88
BOQ	A-2	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	02/07/2024	02/12/2024	5.2500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	8,773.97	4,458.90
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	07/12/2023	09/12/2024	5.2500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	38,691.78	4,458.90
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	02/05/2024	12/12/2024	5.2500	500,000.00	500,000.00	8,773.97	2,229.45
IMB Bank	A-2	FRTD	GENERAL	Quarterly	17/01/2022	16/01/2025	4.8700	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	6,137.53	4,136.16
BOQ	A-2	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	02/07/2024	03/02/2025	5.3500	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	17,882.19	9,087.67
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	06/08/2024	06/02/2025	5.0500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	3,597.26	3,597.26
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	14/08/2024	14/03/2025	5.0000	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	2,465.75	2,465.75
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	28/08/2024	28/03/2025	5.0000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	1,095.89	1,095.89
IMB Bank	BBB+	FRTD	GENERAL	Quarterly	06/08/2024	06/08/2026	4.9000	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	3,490.41	3,490.41
TOTALS								23,750,000.00	23,750,000.00	578,395.07	93,627.40





Portfolio by Asset as at 31/08/2024

Asset Type: TD

Issuer	Rating	Type	Allocation	Interest Paid	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Rate (%)	Capital Value (\$)	Face Value (\$)	Accrued (\$)	Accrued MTD (\$)
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	08/11/2023	11/09/2024	5.3200	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	86,869.04	9,036.71
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	11/09/2023	11/09/2024	5.2000	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00	76,076.71	6,624.66
Commonwealth Bank	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	02/07/2024	02/10/2024	4.7700	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	7,971.78	4,051.23
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	16/10/2023	16/10/2024	5.1300	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	90,231.78	8,713.97
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	24/10/2023	24/10/2024	5.3100	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	45,535.07	4,509.86
Commonwealth Bank	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	02/07/2024	04/11/2024	4.8200	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	16,110.68	8,187.40
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	03/11/2023	04/11/2024	5.4600	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	45,325.48	4,637.26
Westpac	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	01/11/2023	06/11/2024	5.5400	2,500,000.00	2,500,000.00	115,732.88	11,763.01
Unity Bank	Unrated	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	20/05/2024	18/11/2024	5.1000	250,000.00	250,000.00	3,632.88	1,082.88
BOQ	A-2	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	02/07/2024	02/12/2024	5.2500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	8,773.97	4,458.90
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	07/12/2023	09/12/2024	5.2500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	38,691.78	4,458.90
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	02/05/2024	12/12/2024	5.2500	500,000.00	500,000.00	8,773.97	2,229.45
BOQ	A-2	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	02/07/2024	03/02/2025	5.3500	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	17,882.19	9,087.67
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	06/08/2024	06/02/2025	5.0500	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	3,597.26	3,597.26
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	14/08/2024	14/03/2025	5.0000	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	2,465.75	2,465.75
NAB	A-1+	TD	GENERAL	At Maturity	28/08/2024	28/03/2025	5.0000	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	1,095.89	1,095.89
TD SUBTOTALS								21,750,000.00	21,750,000.00	568,767.12	86,000.82



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	17/01/2022	16/01/2025	4.8700	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	6,137.53	4,136.16
IMB Bank	BBB+	FRTD	GENERAL	Quarterly	06/08/2024	06/08/2026	4.9000	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	3,490.41	3,490.41
FRTD SUBTOTALS								2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	9,627.95	7,626.58



Portfolio by Asset Totals as at 31/08/2024

Type	Capital Value (\$)	Face Value (\$)	Accrued (\$)	Accrued MTD (\$)
TD	21,750,000.00	21,750,000.00	568,767.12	86,000.82
FRTD	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	9,627.95	7,626.58
TOTALS	23,750,000.00	23,750,000.00	578,395.07	93,627.40

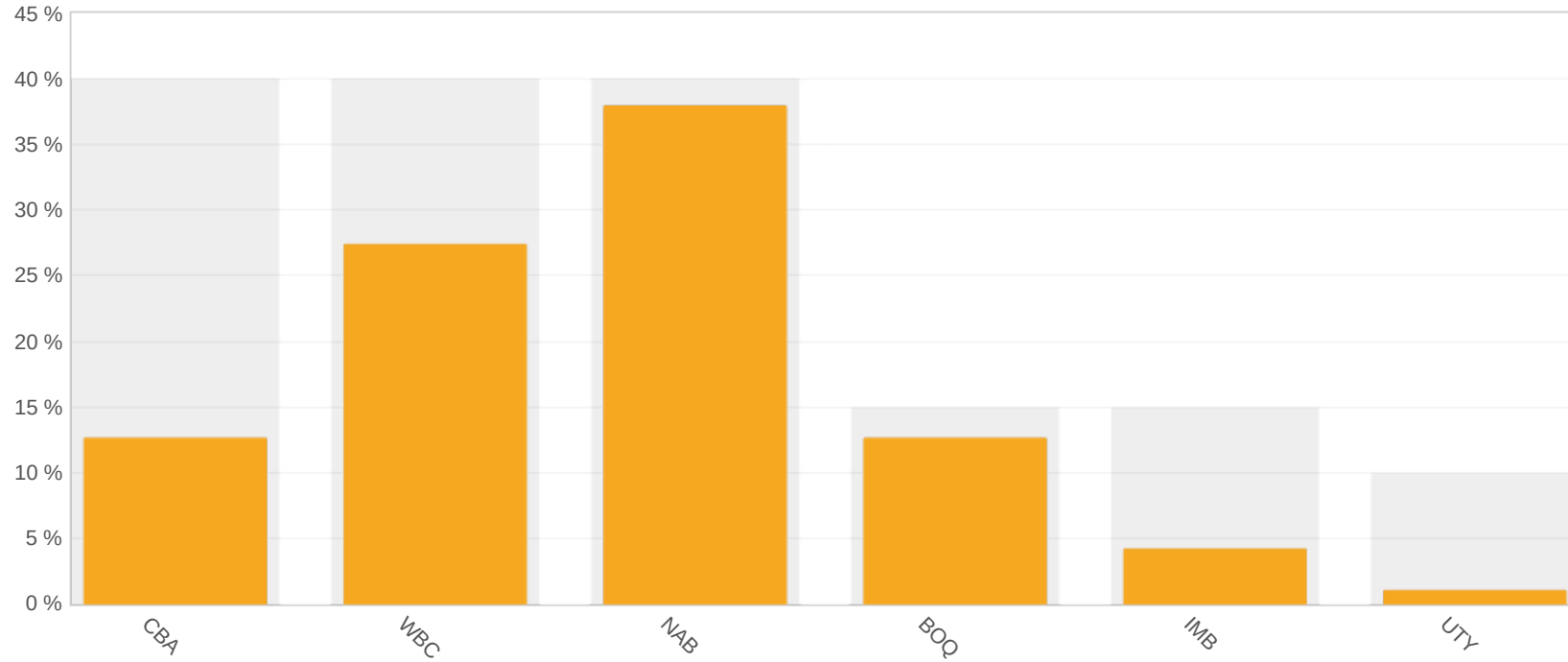


Counterparty Compliance as at 31/08/2024

Short Term Investments

Compliant	Bank Group	Term	Rating	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Limit (%)	Limit (\$)	Available (\$)
✓	Commonwealth Bank	Short	A-1+	3,000,000.00	12.63	40.00	-	6,500,000.00
✓	Westpac	Short	A-1+	6,500,000.00	27.37	40.00	-	3,000,000.00
✓	NAB	Short	A-1+	9,000,000.00	37.90	40.00	-	500,000.00
✓	BOQ	Short	A-2	3,000,000.00	12.63	15.00	-	562,500.00
✓	IMB Bank	Short	A-2	1,000,000.00	4.21	15.00	-	2,562,500.00
✓	Unity Bank	Short	Unrated	250,000.00	1.05	10.00	-	2,125,000.00
TOTALS				22,750,000.00	95.79			

Counterparty Compliance - Short Term Investments

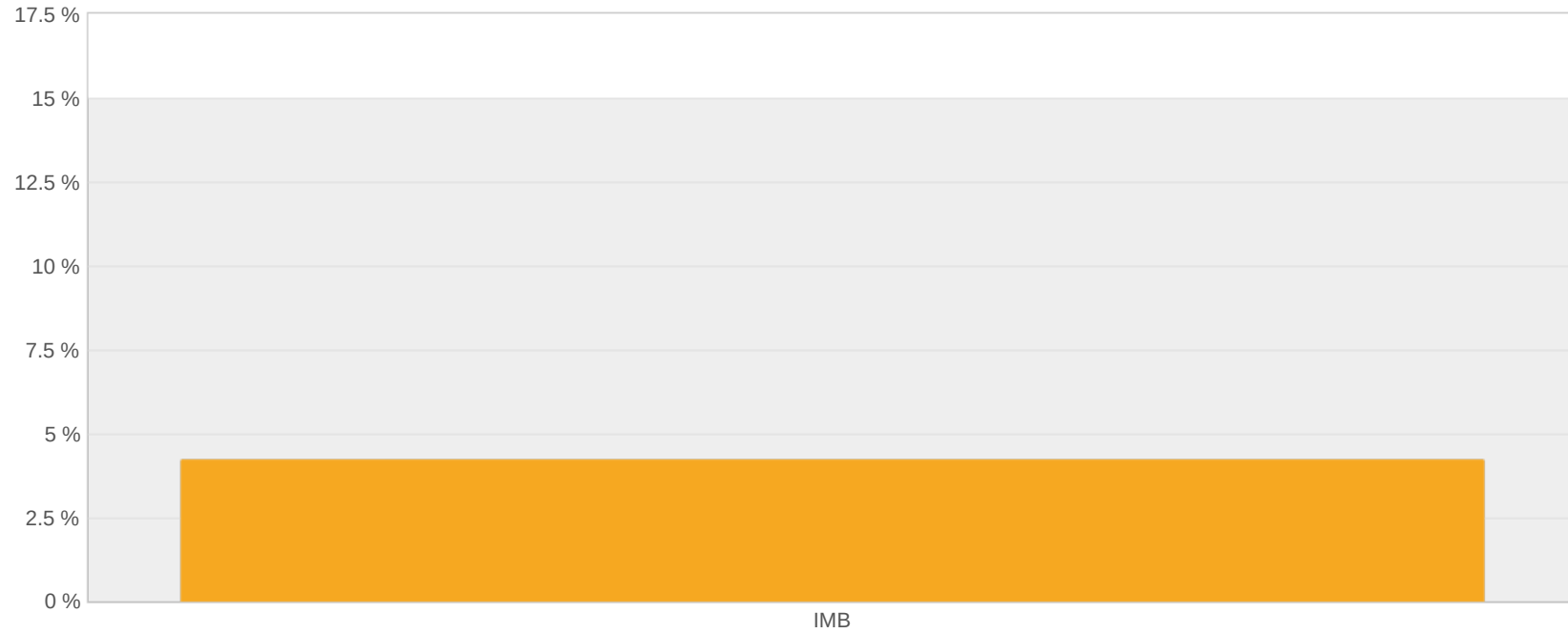




Long Term Investments

Compliant	Bank Group	Term	Rating	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Limit (%)	Limit (\$)	Available (\$)
✓	IMB Bank	Long	BBB+	1,000,000.00	4.21	15.00	-	2,562,500.00
TOTALS				1,000,000.00	4.21			

Counterparty Compliance - Long Term Investments



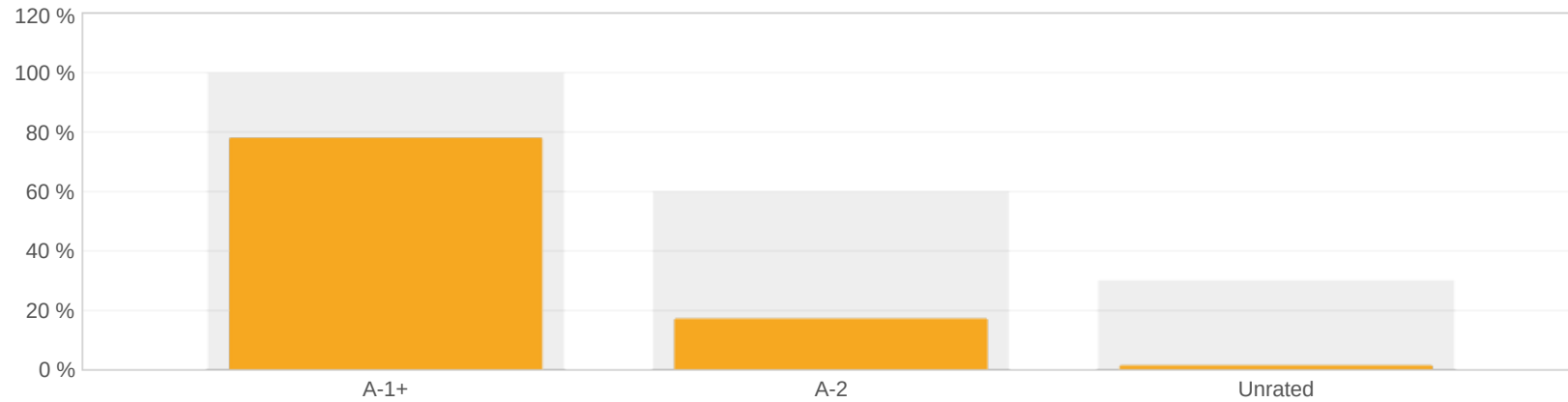


Credit Quality Compliance as at 31/08/2024

Short Term Investments

Compliant	Rating	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✓	A-1+	18,500,000.00	77.89	100.00	5,250,000.00
✓	A-2	4,000,000.00	16.84	60.00	10,250,000.00
✓	Unrated	250,000.00	1.05	30.00	6,875,000.00
TOTALS		22,750,000.00	95.79		

Credit Quality Compliance - Short Term Investments

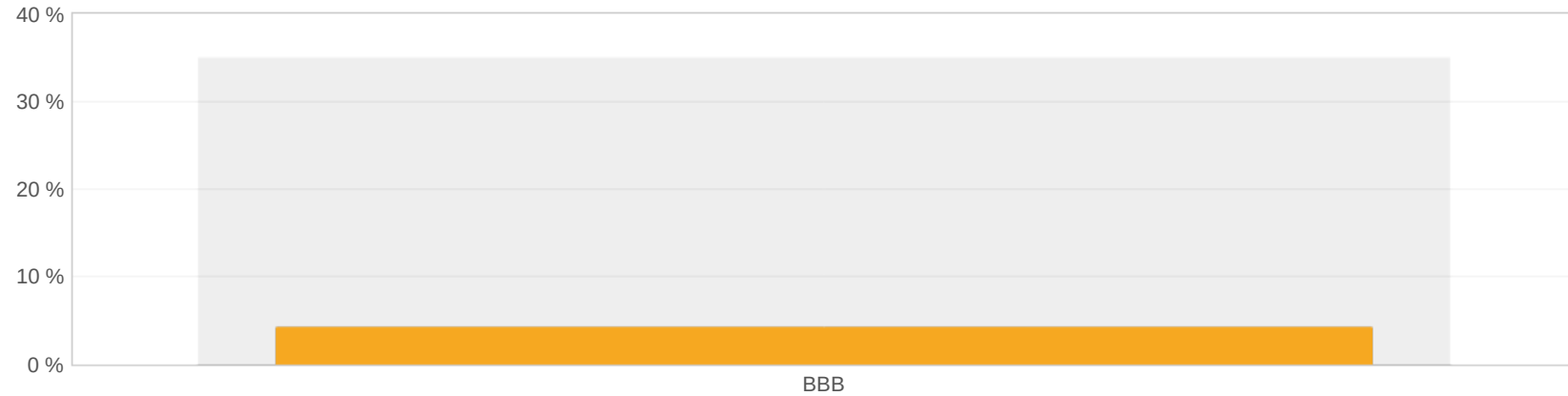




Long Term Investments

Compliant	Rating	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✔	BBB	1,000,000.00	4.21	35.00	7,312,500.00
TOTALS		1,000,000.00	4.21		

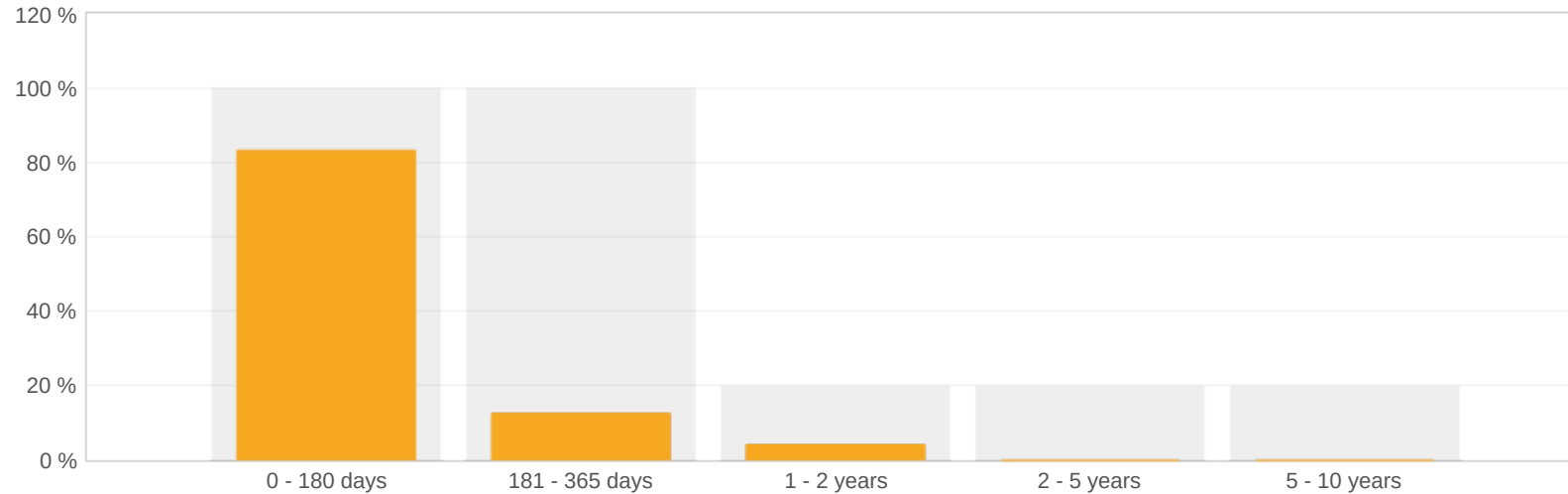
Credit Quality Compliance - Long Term Investments





Maturity Compliance as at 31/08/2024

Compliant	Term	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Min Limit (%)	Max Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✓	0 - 180 days	19,750,000.00	83.16	0.00	100.00	4,000,000.00
✓	181 - 365 days	3,000,000.00	12.63	0.00	100.00	20,750,000.00
✓	1 - 2 years	1,000,000.00	4.21	0.00	20.00	3,750,000.00
✓	2 - 5 years	-	0.00	0.00	20.00	4,750,000.00
✓	5 - 10 years	-	0.00	0.00	20.00	4,750,000.00
TOTALS		23,750,000.00	100.00			

Maturity Compliance



10.6 FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30/06/2024**File Number: A12****Author: Bruce Quarmby, Executive Leader - Corporate and Sustainability****Authoriser: Paul Gallagher, General Manager****Annexures:**

- 1. General Purpose Financial Statement by Councillors and Management** [↓](#) 
- 2. Special Purpose Financial Statement by Councillors and Management** [↓](#) 

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to comply with statutory requirements in relation to the General-Purpose Financial Statements and Special Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024. The Financial Statements are to be referred to Council's Auditor, with authorisation from the Mayor, a Councillor, the General Manager, and the Responsible Accounting Officer.

BACKGROUND

As per Section 416(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (as amended), a Council's Financial Statements for a year must be prepared and audited within four (4) months of the end of the reporting period concerned.

The statutory process that must be followed is that:

1. A statement as required under section 413(2) (c) must be made by resolution and signed by the Mayor, one (1) Councillor, the General Manager, and the Responsible Accounting Officer.
2. The Financial Statements must then be referred to the Council's Auditor, and once audited the statements must be included in Council's Annual Report.
3. Copies of the Audited Financial Statements must then be lodged with the Office of Local Government by 31 October.
4. As soon as practicable after Council receives a copy of the Auditor's report, the Statements must be placed on public exhibition and notice given of a meeting at which Council proposes to present its Audited Financial Statements, together with the Auditors Report.

(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

The Audited Financial Statements form part of Council's Annual Report and therefore represents a vital part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. The Audited Financial Statements provide an important avenue for the review of Council's progress by any interested stakeholders, including the Community. In providing the information contained in these reports, it ensures transparency of governance by Council.

(b) Financial Considerations

The Financial Statements act as a “report card” on Council’s operations and financial performance throughout the reporting period. Whilst the information contained in the reports relate primarily to a past financial reporting period, they also contain information that will need consideration in any future decisions made by Council.

COMMENTARY

The preparation of the financial statements has been affected by several factors including periods of unforeseen staff unavailability and the ongoing implementation of Council’s electronic document records management system (EDRMS).

As such at the time of writing this report, staff is currently in the process of completing the financial statements and making the necessary arrangements to allow for the external auditors’ end of financial year audit to be carried out.

A copy of the draft financial statements will be tabled at the meeting for Council’s information. Further as the next scheduled Internal Audit meeting is not due to occur prior to the planned commencement of the end of financial year audit a copy of the draft financial statements will also be provided to Council’s Internal Audit chair for their review and comment.

Moving forward, Council should note that in accordance with its adopted Internal Audit Charter that in the future the draft financial statements will be referred to Council’s internal Audit function prior to being referred to Council.

(a) Governance/Policy Implications

There are no governance or policy implications arising directly from this report.

(b) Legal Implications

The preparation, audit and review of Council’s Financial Statements are carried out in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Sections 412 to 421).

(c) Social Implications

There are no social implications arising directly from this report.

(d) Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

(e) Economic/Asset Management Implications

There are no specific economic or asset management implications arising from this report.

(f) Risk Implications

There are no direct risk implications arising directly from this report.

CONCLUSION

It is a requirement under Section 413(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, (as amended) that a Statement, signed by the Mayor, a Councillor, the General Manager and Responsible Accounting Officer is prepared for the General-Purpose Financial Statements and the Special Purpose Financial Statements so that they can be forwarded to Council's Auditor.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the Mayor, Councillor....., the General Manager and Responsible Accounting Officer be authorised to sign the necessary Statement by Council on the Financial Reports for the year ended 30 June 2024.**
- 2. That Council's Financial Reports for the year ended 30 June 2024 be referred for audit.**

Coonamble Shire Council

General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Statement by Councillors and Management

Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to Section 413 (2c) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW)

The attached general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- the *Local Government Act 1993* and the regulations made thereunder,
- the Australian Accounting Standards and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board
- the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the Council's operating result and financial position for the year
- accord with Council's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 11 September 2024.

Tim Horan
Mayor
11 September 2024

[Councillor]
Councillor
11 September 2024

Paul Gallagher
General Manager
11 September 2024

Bruce Quarmby
Responsible Accounting Officer
11 September 2024

Coonamble Shire Council

Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Statement by Councillors and Management

Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

The attached special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- NSW Government Policy Statement, *Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government*
- Division of Local Government Guidelines, *Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses: A Guide to Competitive Neutrality*
- The Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting
- Sections 3 and 4 of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, *Water's Regulatory and assurance framework for local water utilities*.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the operating result and financial position for each of Council's declared business activities for the year,
- accord with Council's accounting and other records; and
- present overhead reallocation charges to the water and sewerage businesses as fair and reasonable.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 11 September 2024.

Tim Horan
Mayor
 11 September 2024

[Councillor]
Councillor
 11 September 2024

Paul Gallagher
General Manager
 11 September 2024

Bruce Quarmby
Responsible Accounting Officer
 11 September 2024

10.7 REDISTRIBUTION OF THE NSW VALUER GENERAL VALUATION DELIVERY SCHEDULE.**File Number:** Valuations - R4-1**Author:** Bruce Quarmby-Director Corporate Services**Authoriser:** Paul Gallagher, General Manager**Annexures:**
1. NSW Valuer General cover letter. [↓](#) 
2. NSW Valuer General updated delivery schedule. [↓](#) **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of both the upcoming general revaluation of land within the local government area and the proposed changes to the timing of the delivery of future valuations.

BACKGROUND

The Valuer General supplies land values to Council for use in the calculation and levying of Council rates. Normally this process occurs on a three-yearly cycle, with Coonamble Shire's last general valuation being undertaken during the 2021/2022 financial year. As such the next cycle of valuations for land within our local government area is this financial year (2024/2025).

(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

Council's ability to generate additional income from its general rates is limited to the "Rate Peg" advised annually by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).

Should there be an increase in the overall land values from the upcoming general revaluations of Council land, management will be required to model its revenue policy and rating structure to ensure the yield from its General Rate income meets Council's adopted target.

COMMENTARY

As per the advice received, the NSW government is redistributing the Valuer General's general valuation delivery schedule citing the desire to improve customer response times as well as "reducing costs for council's and the NSW Government."

Under the revised schedule, approximately one-third of councils will receive a new valuation list each year. This will reduce the number of valuations issued in any one year to approximately 900,000. This will allow for improved management of the resulting customer enquiries and objections.

In how the proposed redistribution of the timing of general revaluations, Council will note that the cover letter provides a timeline of deliverables that will be carried out as part of the 2024/2025 general revaluation process. From the updated delivery

schedule, the next subsequent general valuation process will be carried out during 2027.

(a) Governance/Policy Implications

There are no direct governance/policy implications directly attached to this report.

(b) Legal Implications

The *Valuation of Land Act 1916* requires valuations to be issued once at least every three (3) years. Through the implementation of a transition period, as outlined in the attached correspondence will ensure the NSW government meets this legislative requirement.

(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

In accordance with the advice received, the NSW government is redistributing the Valuer General's general valuation delivery schedule. The change to the schedule will see land within the Coonamble Shire local government area being revalued in 2025 and subsequently again in 2027.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the information contained in this report.

Valuer General



Ref: 24/00026

Mr Paul Gallagher
General Manager
Coonamble Shire Council
gm@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au

9 July 2024

Dear Mr Gallagher

We are writing to advise you of the redistribution of the Valuer General's general valuation delivery schedule, aimed at improving customer response times and reducing costs for councils and the NSW Government. A copy of the new delivery schedule has been attached for your reference.

Coonamble Shire Council will receive a 1 July 2025 valuation list in November 2025 for rating purposes. Landholders will receive a notice of valuation showing their new land value from January 2026.

Under the new schedule, approximately one-third of councils will receive a new valuation list each year. This will reduce the number of valuations issued in any one year to approximately 900,000, allowing for improved management of the resulting customer enquiries and objections.

Transition to the new schedule will begin at the end of 2024

The transition to the new schedule will begin at the end of 2024 and be completed by 2027. During the transition period, some councils will receive new valuation lists more frequently until the new schedule is in place. The transition period is required to allow valuations to be issued once at least every 3 years, in line with the *Valuation of Land Act 1916*.

Landholders will receive a notice of valuation when their council receives new land values for rating

Landholders will receive a notice of valuation showing their land value when their council receives a new valuation list. They can also access their land value online at any time. Landholders can lodge

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure – Valuation NSW
PO Box 745, Bathurst NSW 2795
Tel: 1800 110 038

www.dphi.nsw.gov.au
www.valuergeneral.nsw.gov.au

an objection with the Valuer General to have their land value reviewed if they disagree with the land value or property information on their notice of valuation.

Valuation NSW will hold an information session about the new delivery schedule

Valuation NSW will hold information sessions for councils on the redistribution of the delivery schedule on 12 August 2024. To register for the session, please email

[REDACTED]

If you have any questions about the redistribution, please contact Ms Tegan Styles, Director Strategy and Advice, Valuation NSW on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Sally Dale
Valuer General

[REDACTED]

Stewart McLachlan
Chief Executive Officer, Valuation NSW

Valuer General



valuergeneral.nsw.gov.au

Last updated July 2024

Council area	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
Balranald	•		•			•			•		
Balranald	•		•			•			•		
Bathurst Regional	•		•			•			•		
Bega Valley	•		•			•			•		
Bellingen	•		•			•			•		
Broken Hill	•		•			•			•		
Canterbury-Bankstown	•		•			•			•		
City Of Parramatta	•		•			•			•		
Coolamon	•		•			•			•		
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional	•		•			•			•		
Edward River	•		•			•			•		
Fairfield	•		•			•			•		
Gilgandra	•		•			•			•		
Glen Innes Severn	•		•			•			•		
Goulburn Mulwaree	•		•			•			•		
Griffith	•		•			•			•		
Gunnedah	•		•			•			•		
Gwydir	•		•			•			•		

Valuer General



Council area	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
Hawkesbury	•		•			•			•		
Hilltops	•		•			•			•		
Hornsby	•		•			•			•		
Inner West	•		•			•			•		
Inverell	•		•			•			•		
Moree Plains	•		•			•			•		
Mosman	•		•			•			•		
Murray River	•		•			•			•		
Murrumbidgee	•		•			•			•		
Muswellbrook	•		•			•			•		
Newcastle	•		•			•			•		
Orange	•		•			•			•		
Penrith	•		•			•			•		
Port Macquarie-Hastings	•		•			•			•		
Randwick	•		•			•			•		
Richmond Valley	•		•			•			•		
Sutherland	•		•			•			•		
Tweed	•		•			•			•		
Upper Hunter	•		•			•			•		

Valuer General



Council area	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
Upper Lachlan	•		•			•			•		
Warren	•		•			•			•		
Weddin	•		•			•			•		
Wentworth	•		•			•			•		
Willoughby	•		•			•			•		
Wollongong	•		•			•			•		
Albury		•		•			•			•	
Bayside		•		•			•			•	
Blacktown		•		•			•			•	
Bland		•		•			•			•	
Blue Mountains		•		•			•			•	
Bogan		•		•			•			•	
Byron		•		•			•			•	
Cabonne		•		•			•			•	
Camden		•		•			•			•	
Canada Bay		•		•			•			•	
Central Darling		•		•			•			•	
Cessnock		•		•			•			•	
Clarence Valley		•		•			•			•	

Valuer General



Council area	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
Cobar		•		•			•			•	
Coonamble		•		•			•			•	
Dubbo Regional		•		•			•			•	
Eurobodalla		•		•			•			•	
Greater Hume		•		•			•			•	
Hay		•		•			•			•	
Hunters Hill		•		•			•			•	
Junee		•		•			•			•	
Lachlan		•		•			•			•	
Lake Macquarie		•		•			•			•	
Leeton		•		•			•			•	
Liverpool		•		•			•			•	
Liverpool Plains		•		•			•			•	
Lockhart		•		•			•			•	
Mid Western Regional		•		•			•			•	
Mid-Coast		•		•			•			•	
Nambucca		•		•			•			•	
Northern Beaches		•		•			•			•	
Oberon		•		•			•			•	

Valuer General



Council Area	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
Shoalhaven		•		•			•			•	
Singleton		•		•			•			•	
Snowy Monaro Regional		•		•			•			•	
Strathfield		•		•			•			•	
Tamworth Regional		•		•			•			•	
Uralla		•		•			•			•	
Walcha		•		•			•			•	
Waverley		•		•			•			•	
Yass Valley		•		•			•			•	
Armidale Regional		•			•			•			•
Ballina		•			•			•			•
Berrigan		•			•			•			•
Blayney		•			•			•			•
Bourke		•			•			•			•
Brewarrina		•			•			•			•
Burwood		•			•			•			•
Campbelltown		•			•			•			•
Carrathool		•			•			•			•
Central Coast		•			•			•			•

Valuer General



Council area	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
City Of Sydney		•			•			•			•
Coffs Harbour		•			•			•			•
Cowra		•			•			•			•
Cumberland		•			•			•			•
Dungog		•			•			•			•
Federation		•			•			•			•
Forbes		•			•			•			•
Georges River		•			•			•			•
Kempsey		•			•			•			•
Kiama		•			•			•			•
Ku-Ring-Gai		•			•			•			•
Kyogle		•			•			•			•
Lane Cove		•			•			•			•
Lismore		•			•			•			•
Lithgow		•			•			•			•
Maitland		•			•			•			•
Narrabri		•			•			•			•
Narrandera		•			•			•			•
Narromine		•			•			•			•

Valuer General



Council area	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
North Sydney		•			•			•			•
Parkes		•			•			•			•
Port Stephens		•			•			•			•
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional		•			•			•			•
Ryde		•			•			•			•
Shellharbour		•			•			•			•
Snowy Valleys		•			•			•			•
Temora		•			•			•			•
Tenterfield		•			•			•			•
The Hills Shire		•			•			•			•
Wagga Wagga		•			•			•			•
Walgett		•			•			•			•
Warrumbungle		•			•			•			•
Wingecarribee		•			•			•			•
Wollondilly		•			•			•			•
Woollahra		•			•			•			•

10.8 WASTE OPERATIONS REPORT AUGUST 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 has two sections:

1. An update on last month's activities
2. A snapshot of the transformation so far across waste operations, as the first of two major case studies

Next month the second case study will be on the employment and training initiatives.

BACKGROUND

Council is continuing to operate and improve the three 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.

The takeover of waste collection occurred on 1 July.

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***Return & Earn***



Return and Earn recently started at Quambone. Operational Hours Tuesday Friday and Saturday.

At Coonamble 123,700 containers have been returned for recycling in the first 48 days, an average of 2577/day. The number is steadily rising, and it has given much needed cash of \$12,370 to residents, as well as avoiding the need for all these containers going to the landfill.

Re-use & recycling shed

Business is continuing 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. The hours of opening are Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9 am to 1 pm.



Coonamble works

Works at Coonamble include:

- Expansion of the fence line to cater for additional Return and Earn containers - contract awarded.
- Three containers provided by Tomra Cleanaway for Return and Earn were provided and the first two exchanges of filled containers delivered back to Sydney.
- Weighbridge installation - awaiting installation due to wet weather delaying the contractor's scheduling.
- CRC signage - awaiting additional speed signs.
- E-waste collection bins - has commenced with residents dropping off unwanted items.

WASTE COLLECTION TRANSITION

The takeover of waste collection by Council started on 1 July. The truck purchased is working effectively. A key focus of the operation has been identifying and recording how many bins each owner is paying for compared to what they are placing on the kerbside for collection. There is a big discrepancy across the Shire.

Gulargambone

Safe work infringements compliance have been actioned. This includes:

- Site office installed
- Guard railing around the tip face installed
- Depot facilities mowed and cleared of overgrowth
- Water trailer on site actioned and secured at Gular depot
- Staff inductions completed
- Trees removed to comply with traffic management plan.
- Traffic Management plan has been actioned and currently being reviewed.

SCRAP METAL

Our scrap metal and vehicles stockpiles will be cleared by the end of August (see latest stockpile below). The next planned removal with the team from Infrabuild is booked in for collection. The current \$/tonne with dealers is \$185. Currently we have around 120 tonne scrap and 6 tonne vehicles = a possible \$23,310.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENTS & KEY INITIATIVES

Initiatives at the Coonamble transfer station include.

- Coonamble kerb side collection - bulky waste kerbside collection scheduled to start in Coonamble by the end of September
- New drum muster cage installed with increasing deposits from landholders
- Traffic Management and WHS Management Plans drafted.

CASE STUDY 1**Waste Management Transformation in Coonamble***From Ground Zero to Sustainability Hero*

By the end of 2023 Councils waste facilities were in dire straits. Decades of poor contractor performance had led to:

- Four non-compliant landfills
- Costs escalating
- Major legacy issues especially EPA compliance
- Recycling at 0%
- Contractors were driving the performance, and council had little or no control or influence on services and outcomes

In December 2023 Coonamble Shire Council's waste facilities and transfer stations returned to Council control after a long period of contractor management. The second major initiative that followed was the takeover of waste collection by council from the private contractor on 1 July 2024.

Decades of inaction and inadequate resourcing of the waste area had led to major EPA compliance issues across the landfill sites, inadequate control over services and facilities, rising costs, environmental damage, health impacts on workers, poor customer service and exponential growth in waste volumes. The whole operation was already on an unsustainable path and getting worse.

Council now operates three waste facility sites at Coonamble, Gulargambone, and Quambone. The fourth facility is the old landfill site in Coonamble which has been shut down due to lack of EPA compliance.

Council embarked on a comprehensive program to improve the management of the waste facilities. It involved fundamental changes to how waste volumes were managed and either recycled or disposed of in the well managed landfill cells.

Implementation of re-cycling started in earnest at the Coonamble Community Recycling Centre that was established. The objective was to reduce landfill deposits and keep existing resources circulating within the economy, thereby reducing the need to use new resources.

The waste sector is a highly dynamic multi-faceted operation where Council has implemented new initiatives with a wide range of external partners:

- Return and Earn – Tomra/Cleanaway
- Reuse shed – led by Council
- Drums – with Agsafe
- Scrap metal – with Infrabuild Newcastle
- Mattress and tyre collection – with Netwaste contractor

The outcome has been a transformational improvement in the condition of the landfill. They are now progressively meeting all EPA compliance requirements.

There has been a significant reduction in waste and increase in recycling (for example 123,700 containers since 24 June)

To achieve all this, Council took over control and put an experienced local manager in place. We secured the right plant and equipment and progressively employed the right people.

Disciplined project management practices were adopted including project planning, monitoring and reporting. The waste team focussed on progressively developing and improving the transfer station in staged ways in different sections for different waste types.

The team engaged positively throughout with EPA, Netwaste, the public and all stakeholders.

As a specific local example, Quambone was an unmanned site with open slather to neighbouring properties and towns as a free disposal. This has been controlled by council creating local labour force, operational hours, and engagement of local community control. It included establishment of new cell, drum muster, return and earn and rostered maintenance of the compound has bought the facility online with Coonamble and Gular sites.

Some of the many technical challenges were:

- Engineering challenges of moving and managing large waste volumes
- Environmental challenges to minimise the waste impacts
- Land management of the site

All modern current methods for managing waste and encouraging recycling have been utilised and new initiatives implemented like the re-use shop





Quambone before









Figure 1: Exposed waste





(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.

Quotes currently being obtained for new plant and machinery to reduce reliance on high-cost plant hire.

(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.

RECOMMENDATION

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

10.9 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 August 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 in Coonamble and Gulargambone and the Youth Week Program in Coonamble. 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.

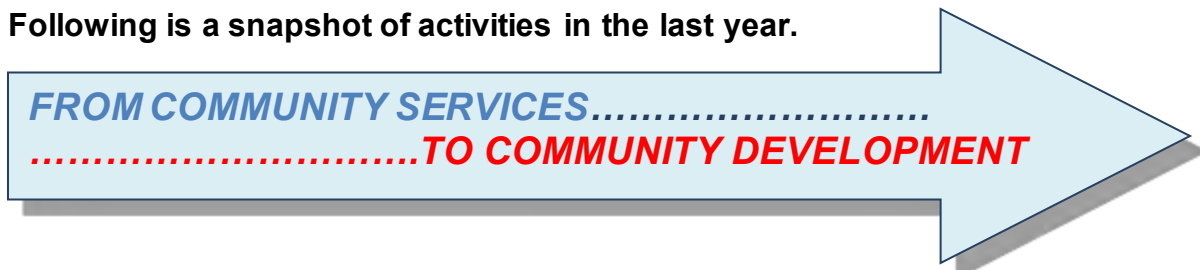
COMMENTARY

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)
- Creating, coordinating and supporting events e.g. Seniors Week Luncheon
- Funding events e.g. the Interagency Resilience Day, October Wellbeing Day
- Youth Empowerment Program (First Light) – Edraak Insights

Following is a snapshot of activities in the last year.



Over the past eight months, the Community Services Department saw a shift in how we work with and for our community – and the change from being solely a service-provider department into becoming one focussed on facilitating, partnering and coordinating community initiatives.

The transition from the Community Services Department to the Community Development Department represents a strategic evolution in our approach to supporting and enhancing our community.

Development initiatives are designed to address root causes of issues, leading to more sustainable improvements in community well-being.

By focusing on development rather than solely on service delivery, we anticipate a more profound and lasting impact on the community. And we aim to achieve more sustainable, impactful results and foster long-term growth.

The shift to a development-oriented approach encourages greater collaboration with other organizations, businesses, and government entities. It positions us as a key

player in driving collective efforts towards community advancement, leading to enhanced partnerships and resource sharing.

Our Community Development Department now has a full complement of staff. Based in Coonamble: Azita Sobhani, Manager Community Development; Nina Sands, Youth and Community Services Officer; Raquel Pickering, Librarian; John Castles, Library Officer; Jenny Langlands and Ann Pawley, Library Casual. Based in Gulargambone: Leah Hammond at the Gulargambone After School Care and Holiday Activities. Based in Quambone: Abby Sinclair and Narelle Sinclair at the Quambone After School Care.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

This year saw the return of Coonamble Shire Council leading the Holiday Programme and Youth Week Programme. In a review of previous programmes, the Team found that most activities were hobby and leisure based. While there is nothing inherently wrong with this – indeed, it can be enjoyable for attendees to join a relaxing and diversionary couple of hours with others – we wanted to ensure that the children attending were fully engaged. We now endeavour to have most of the activities held revolve around increasing the knowledge and skill levels of participants.



**YOUTH WEEK ACTIVITIES FOR AGES > 12: Analysis
of the Feedback**

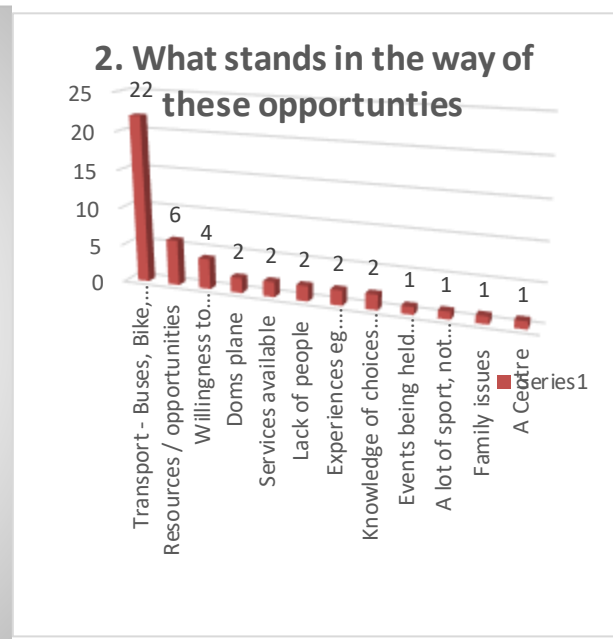
This was most readily seen in the Youth Week 2024 Programme RETURNED after four years. All activities held during Youth Week ensured that our attendees were not just enjoying themselves (which they certainly did!), but that they did so while learning. The Team coordinated with Coonamble High School and Gulargambone School to ensure that students were able to attend the Launch. These days were held on the last two days of the school term and the attendees were able to enjoy the two workshops held by renowned speakers on respectful and healthy relationships, diversity and overcoming adversity. The keynote speaker was Luke Kennedy sharing the story of his complete transformation.



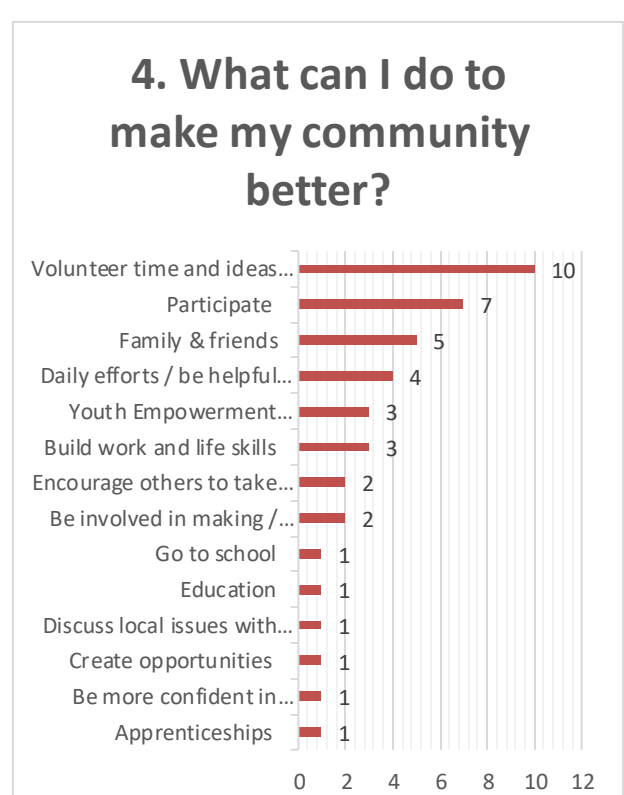
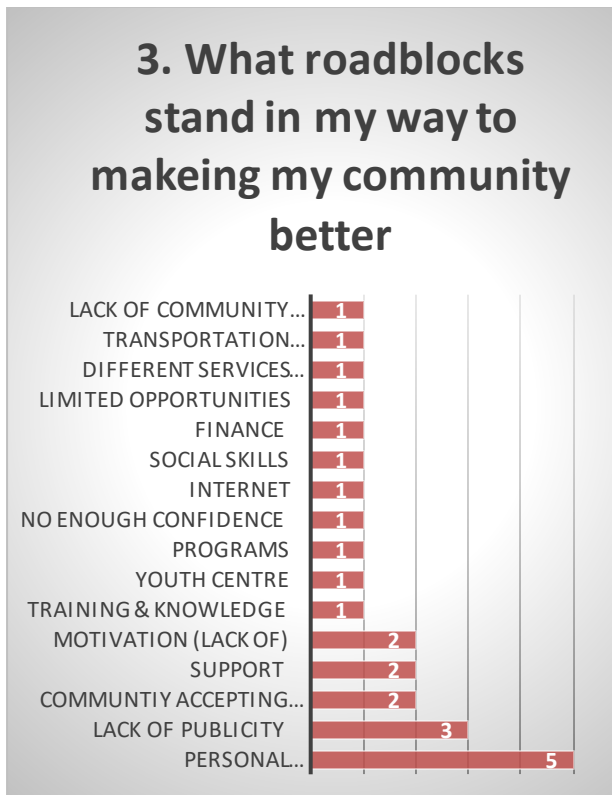
The second day was ABOVE BOARD aimed at teaching local youth aspects of gender equality and respectful relationships through a series of curated board games.



At the two-day LAUNCH, **valuable feedback** was collected from the youth who participated. Following is a snapshot of the feedback we received. This is an interesting analysis into the mind and heart of our young population.



School and *Family*, ranking the highest amongst sources of opportunities. In response to the second question above, what seems to stand in the way of our youth is the towering issue of **Transport** at all levels.



For the third question, youth rank highest **personal circumstances and issues with family and friends**. This fourth question encourages young people to gauge their strength and take responsibility in doing their part. Here youth rank “*Helping community members and volunteering*”, the highest.

The Gulargambone and Quambone youth services are being more firmly integrated into the Team through more constant contact and feedback. Meetings both in person and virtually, are enabling the Team to become more cohesive in their approach to delivering a connected, intentional and educational After School



programme.

Both Coonamble and Gulargambone have individualised Holiday Programmes created and supported by the Coonamble Shire Council either financially or through staff and resources. The Youth Week Programme was open to all those aged 12+ in our local government area.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS

Effective community development requires robust collaboration between various service providers, organizations, and stakeholders. The Community Development Team plays a pivotal role in fostering partnerships that enhance service delivery and drive collective progress within our community.



Meetings with sectors of the community such as the Early Childhood Education operators in Coonamble and Gulargambone, Coonamble and Gulargambone Interagency, Coonamble and Gulargambone Local Aboriginal Land Councils, Mission Australia, Interrelate etc, to introduce our Team and share our vision for one vibrant community.

It is through this collaboration with services and resources, that the Team can identify community needs, ensure they are acknowledged and move

towards helping and supporting the agencies to meet these needs. By utilizing the resources, strategies and strengths of these agencies, the Team hopes to improve and maximize the reach of these organisations while avoiding duplications of service. We hope to encourage them to work together and support each other, whether by way of brainstorming, staffing or resource sharing. We wish to help them become self-supporting.

These external stakeholders are instrumental in helping us to deliver our Holiday Programmes in both Coonamble and Gulargambone. Between running sessions, having the sessions at their premises and staffing the session, external services such as REDIE, Mission Australia, Interrelate, MacKillop and Literacy for Life have enabled a full programme of activities to be run in Coonamble and Gulargambone.



LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

The library has had a hard time resuming after COVID-19. As people were forced to use virtual and online experiences for leisure and education during the pandemic, they became accustomed to this way of life, and it has been an uphill battle bringing them back to the bricks and mortar library.



This made the introduction of new, and the continuation of former, programmes and events important. These programmes have helped to make a big impact, introducing new members to the library and what we have to offer them. The library works with external children's services such as pre-schools and childcare centres to provide **Storytime** and regular excursions to the library and at their premises. One off events, such as Harmony Day, Simultaneous Storytime and NAIDOC Day are celebrated with a story or craft at either the Library or the premises of the early childhood facility.

Our **Seniors Cinema** brings in a number of seniors who do not visit the library at any other time. The offer of refreshments, a movie on a big screen and the appeal of being able to socialise with peers, enticing them to attend each month. We consistently have between 8-15 attendees for each session. They also take the opportunity to wander the library, look at the books and magazines and to chat with the Librarian and other people attending. There is no other service offering this in Coonamble.



We celebrate the **Seniors Festival** every year with an amazing luncheon. 2024 was our biggest yet with 180 people booked in. A chance to meet, mingle and be entertained. This is a completely free event with transport available to Gulargambone residents, making it accessible to a wide range of people. We work with a number of external stakeholders to ensure the day is one enjoyed by everyone with some educational and informative elements involved. The National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy young ladies work with us to deliver a fantastic meal and to sit and talk with the seniors. We even get them up on the dance floor! The Coonamble Neighbourhood Centre, Meals on Wheels and Landcare have joined us off and on over the past few years, bringing trade stalls

and interacting with attendees.

This year also saw the **return of holiday programmes in the library**. We have hosted a number of movie days as well as a couple of activities such as Lego and sand art. The library is overjoyed to have the kids back during the holiday programme. We feel that this gives us the opportunity to encourage reading, providing education opportunities to stimulate intellectual curiosity. The nature of the activities is such that they involve a group dynamic, helping children development important social skills such as teamwork and communication.



Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library was funded by the state government in 2022 and was rolled out in Coonamble as we were identified as having low literacy rates. Coonamble was one of 25 NSW LGAs selected to be funded for the DPIL by the Department of Education under the Brighter Beginnings Initiative, for five years, through “United Way.



The programme covers 0–5-year-olds within the Coonamble Shire Council local government area, and it will post one book per month to them. The books are age appropriate and chosen by a panel of experts. With State government funding ceasing at the June 30, 2024, in October 2023 the Councillors agreed to fund the programme into the 2024-2025 financial year.

The benefits of such a programme are immeasurable. The program is starting to make

a difference to both the children and parents/carers in the way books are used to build stronger bonds and develop children’s curiosity for discovery and learning. The library and the whole community are excited and relieved that the programme was able to continue due to the generous support of Council, and we hope that Council will continue to support the programme into the future.

The library can help build a sense of community, serving as a community hub where



children and families can connect, share experiences and build relationships. Our programmes aim to encourage routine library visits, helping to build a routine for children and families, making the library a welcoming and familiar place for families. The library provides a safe environment for children to participate in activities under the supervision of staff and parents. A safe place to rest and regroup, to enjoy reading, in the cool in summer and the warmth in winter.

Program Name	No. Sessions	No. Attending
First Tuesday Seniors Movie	11	143
Monday Storytime	20	125
Friday Storytime	24	355
Words on Wheels	12	22
Seniors Week	1	180
NAIDOC Day storytime	1	32
Ag Show Writing Comp	1	16
simultaneous storytime	1	12
Tech Help for Seniors	2	28
Prescursions (preschool and childcare excursions)	4	262
Wellbeing Day in the Park	1	200
Hamony Day	1	31
Easter Egg Hunt	1	20
Holiday Movies	2	48
Reconciliation Week Storytime	1	28
Senios Craft	46	232

USAGE STATS 23/24	
	TOTAL
Library Visits	5464
ILLs	0
Reference Enquiries	140
Technology Enquiries	639
Local History Enquiries	87
Wireless Internet	916
Internet Bookings	859
Internet Hours	38090
Non-resident Internet Bookings	129
Non-resident Internet Hours	1024



FIRST LIGHT – COONAMBLE JUNIOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

Overview:

The Youth Empowerment Program is a comprehensive educational initiative designed for those in early adolescence termed as “Junior Youth” (11 – 14 years of age) – who are beginning to shape their identity as young adults, and a second older cohort “Youth Champions” (15 – 18 years of age), who are beginning to learn to bear the responsibility of an adult life.

A central principle of the program is the dual responsibility of personal growth and societal contribution. These two aspects are inseparable and must be pursued together for meaningful progress.

Rather than imposing change, the program aims to unlock and reveal the latent capacities within young people, their families, and community institutions. By recognizing the connection between the individual and their environment, the program supports participants in realizing their potential.

Elements of the program:

- **Creating a Junior Youth Group**, that meets regularly with up to 10 – 15 participants. The group serves as a space where junior youth develop strong bonds of friendship, study together, play sports and, plan and execute service project.
- **Intellectual and Character Development:** Junior Youth this age are eager to reflect on the meaning of concepts fundamental to a purposeful life. Happiness, hope, and excellence are a few examples. Gaining a deep understanding of such concepts, recognising how they find expression in everyday life, can assist young minds in building a sound moral structure and in withstanding the negative forces of society. This is done through the study of 14 books in the Program’s curriculum. The material relates narratives from young people’s lives from around the world, embedding these important concepts for the Junior youth to grasp.

- **Service to the Community**, by planning service projects, the program unlocks capacities in a systematic way to the fullest and use them for the benefit of themselves and their community. Through this they learn to become active participants, in bringing about change and discovering pathways that lead to positive outcome for themselves, their families and their communities.

Core Capabilities Developed:

1. **Enhancing power of Expression** - it includes not only literacy and numeracy skills but the capacity to articulate thoughts and ideas clearly. This is indispensable to improving understanding and the capacity to bringing about personal and community transformation.
2. **Develop the ability to make positive decisions:** by sharpening their analytical faculties which is another core capacity required for personal growth.
3. **Strengthening the Capacity to Serve:** Understanding that personal well-being is interconnected with community well-being is a key concept. The program encourages youth to actively contributing to it.

The following are some of the key highlights of the program’s activities and achievements to date:

Program Launch:

Following significant efforts to build relationships with Coonamble families and institutions, the Youth Empowerment Program organized launch events to welcome the families of Junior Youth (ages 11-14) and Youth (ages 15 and up).



Junior Youth and Youth Champions participating in icebreaker activities, building connections and friendships.



Parents’ Session: Parents engaged in exploring the idea that "children are the gems of the community."



A group photo with the young friends, all ready and excited to contribute to a brighter future for the community.



Group photo with the parents, united and ready to support our collective efforts to help transform the community.

Weekly Junior Youth Sessions

Since the program's launch, Junior Youth groups have met regularly two times every. These sessions are guided by trained facilitators, and have three parts to it:

- Eating together - cooked food specifically for the participants together. Here youth reflect on their day and week, share personal wins or challenges and invite collaborations from their peers.
- Learning together - Going through the material and discussing concepts, workshops, team games
- Creating together - Artistic expressions, sports and planning of community projects further strengthening their bonds and community spirit.



Youth learning through the story of two sisters who discover that true joy comes from helping others without expecting a reward, as the act of service itself brings happiness and fulfillment.



The young friends are discovering the value of consistent daily effort through a fun and interactive activity that encourages growth and perseverance.



The group having fun playing sports after a great session, staying active and enjoying time together.



One of the parents, brought the spirit of camaraderie and service to life by teaching the youth a delicious recipe to bake for the seniors. Her enthusiasm and kindness not only filled the kitchen with warmth but also inspired everyone to contribute and make a difference in our community.

Service Projects

Here are some glimpses of the service projects organized by the Junior Youth group so far,

- Tech talk with Seniors
- Clean up Australia day
- Meeting friends in Long stay

The Youth Champions have also taken part in these projects, working alongside trained facilitators to develop their mentorship and leadership skills.



The seniors and youth are excited to get to know each other, sharing their names and stories. The seniors are also letting the youth know what kind of tech help they'd like, making it a fun and engaging experience for everyone!



Helping seniors with ongoing tech support, the group is teaching our senior friends about amazing apps on their phones.



The young friends enthusiastically joined forces with parents and community members for **Clean Up Australia Day**, showing their shared commitment to keeping Coonamble clean and beautiful. Together, they made a positive impact and demonstrated the power of community collaboration.



The Junior Youth put their baking skills to work, creating delicious treats, with immense support from their parents. They baked these goodies for the seniors staying **long-Stay** at Coonamble Hospital, spreading joy and kindness through their efforts.

Youth Champions Capacity Building activities:

The Youth Champions Capacity Building program, held weekly, focuses on developing essential analytical skills, effective communication, and leadership abilities. Through engaging narratives and activities, participants learn to make informed decisions and positively impact their communities. A recent three-day seminar featured workshops with industry professionals, offering valuable career insights and practical guidance. Workshops like this seminar will continue as part of the program, exposing youth to various industries and helping them make informed decisions about their futures. These experiences enhance their ability to plan careers, become work-ready, and mentor Junior Youth, ultimately empowering them to contribute to community development and leadership.



During the seminar, industry professionals visited to share valuable insights on breaking into their respective careers, emphasizing the important role each

profession plays in enhancing community well-being. They also provided clarity to the Youth Champions about future career pathways and the skills needed to pursue them.

During the seminar, the young friends explored how teamwork and unity can help overcome misunderstandings and lead to significant progress. By listening to and understanding different perspectives, they gain a more complete understanding of reality.



Youth Champions explore the connection between individuals and their environment, learning how each influences the other. They discuss the importance of unity, just like how the cells and organs work together to keep the human body functional. By understanding this concept, they recognize the need to work together to build a better community, which shapes their character and prepares them for a brighter future.



Holiday Camps:

To enhance the impact of the Junior Youth groups, intensive holiday camps have been held, offering a focused environment for meaningful engagement. These camps, now a key feature of the program, extend beyond regular sessions to provide a holistic experience combining learning, reflection, and recreation.

Designed to deepen the Youth Empowerment Program's impact, the camps help participants develop core capabilities. Youth Champions, accompanied by trained facilitators, serve as mentors and co-facilitators, guiding younger participants and applying their training in real-world settings. This hands-on role strengthens their leadership skills and builds confidence as they manage group dynamics, lead discussions, and support the Junior Youth, demonstrating a commitment to community betterment.



Youth Champions are accompanied by a trained facilitator to help Junior Youth understand meaningful concepts from the texts, making the learning process both engaging and fun.



Artistic expressions illustrate the concepts learnt, turning ideas into visuals. Making a poster shows how each finger is essential for the hand's function, they highlight the importance of working together.



The Junior Youth Camp concludes with a celebratory moment, as everyone raises their hats in celebration of making a positive impact in Coonamble. Both the Junior Youth and the Youth Champions successfully complete their first Junior Youth Camp, marking a significant milestone in their journey.



The Junior Youth are setting off on their journey to the next camp, excited and prepared for their second adventure at Lake Keepit!



Here, the Junior Youth are learning the importance of order through prioritizing, planning, and sequencing by becoming rugby coaches. They're using their new skills to create a plan that ensures all six teams play each other within five days. The Youth Champions, with the support of a trained facilitator, are guiding them in this process.



The photo shows Youth Champions after a full day of training with two experienced facilitators at the camp, focusing on "Habits of an Orderly Mind." Equipped with new skills, they're ready to guide Junior Youth through the text, enhancing their leadership and mentorship abilities. Everyone is divided into three teams, each comprising two Youth Champions and a trained facilitator, working together to help the Junior Youth explore the narrative and develop the four powers of the mind.

Parents' Corner and Family Engagement:

The Parents' Corner is a vital feature of the Program, designed to deepen connections between parents and the initiative. It offers families valuable insights into the program's goals, & the holistic development of Junior Youth. This engagement allows parents to provide feedback, which helps to tailor the program to better serve families and the broader community. Each session is complemented by a delicious meal, fostering unity and creating a welcoming environment for open dialogue and meaningful interaction.



Parents reflecting on their children's development engaged in a meaningful discussion about the vital role of collaboration in fostering both character and intellectual growth.

The youth enjoying a meal together, chatting and bonding over their shared experiences.

In addition to these events, regular home visits—taking place on a weekly to fortnightly basis—continue to build rapport and trust within the community, further enhancing support for the youth.

(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 August 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the information contained within the Community Development section report.

10.10 PLANNING, REGULATORY & COMPLIANCE PROGRESS REPORT**File Number:** E5**Author:** Lesley Duncan, Building & Compliance Manager**Authoriser:** Barry Broe, Director Community, Planning, Development and Environment**Annexures:** Nil**PURPOSE**

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

As this is the last meeting for this Council, the report will provide an overview of the Planning, Regulatory and Compliance department's activities for the 2023-2024 financial year.

BACKGROUND

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

(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.

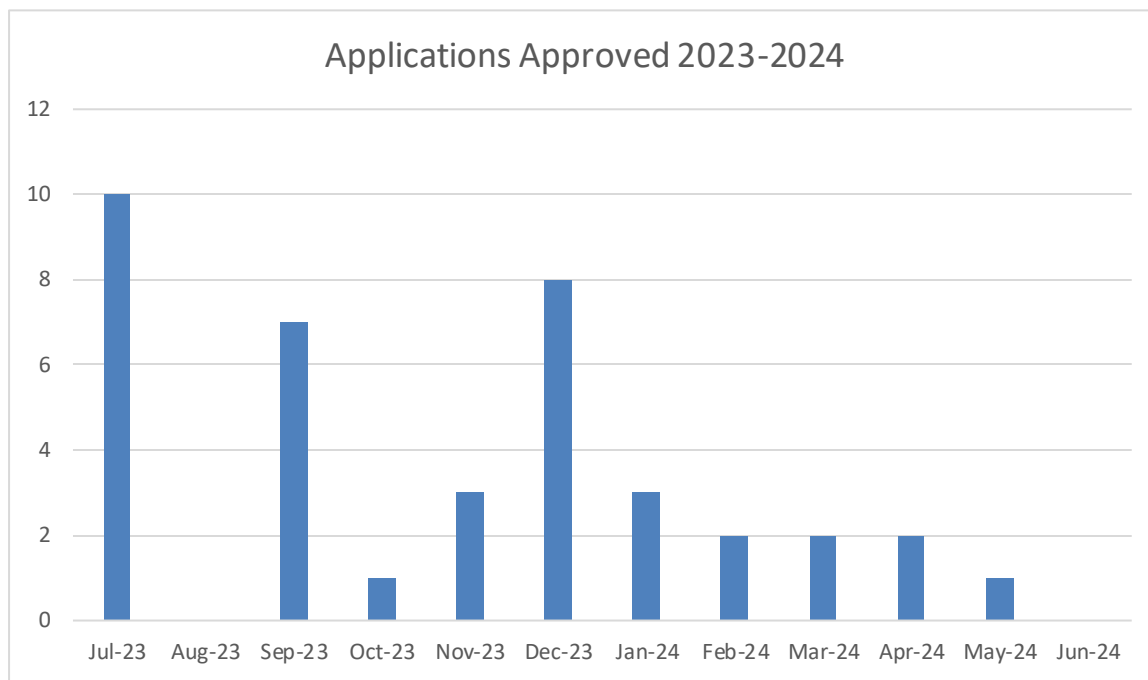
P2.2.4 Controlling straying animals.

(b) Financial Considerations

There are no direct financial considerations with this report.

COMMENTARY

Development Applications Issued Under Delegated Authority



The chart above shows the number of Development Applications that were approved during the 2023-2024 financial year. Council’s assessment times are in the ten lowest in NSW.

Saleyards

A summary of the income and expenditure for the Saleyards and Truck Wash for the 2023-2024 financial year is included below:

Saleyards

Income	\$63,822
Expenditure	\$142,384
Deficit	\$78,561

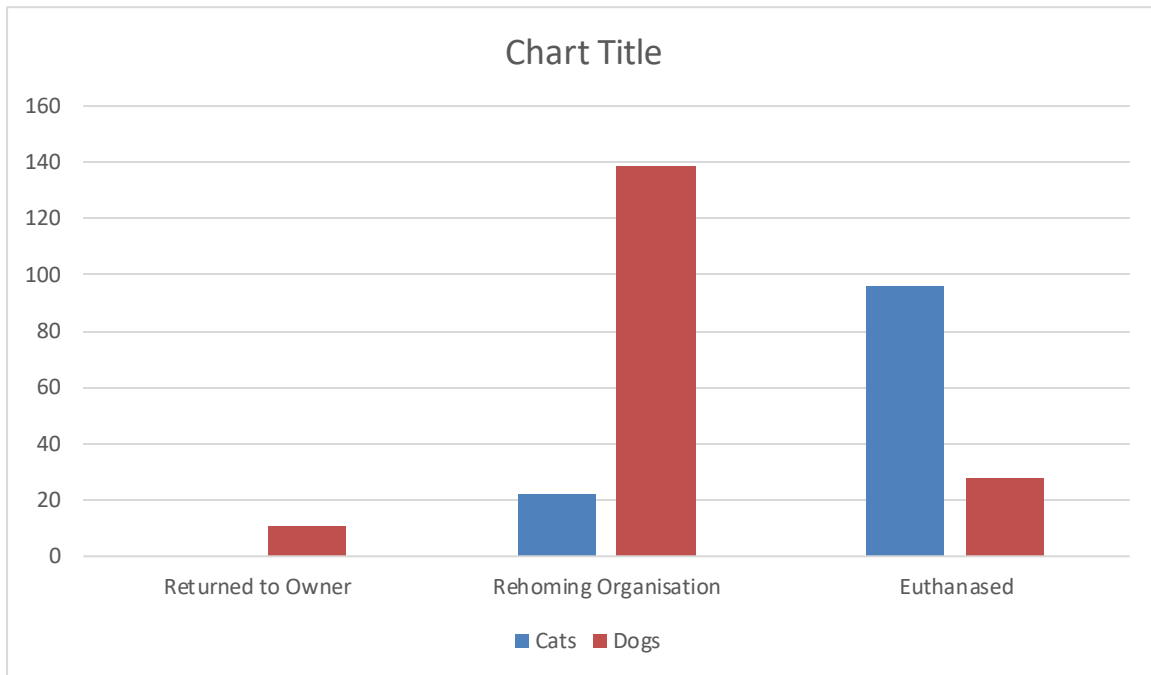
Truck Wash

Truck Wash

Income	\$56,622
Expenditure	\$41,769
Surplus	\$14,853

Update on Activities – Planning and Regulatory Matters

There was a total of 118 cats and 178 dogs impounded during the 2023/2024 financial year. The chart below shows the means in which animals left the pound:



This resulted in a euthanasia rate for cats of 81 per cent and 16 per cent for dogs.

Dog attacks

During 2023/2024 there were a total of seven (7) dog attacks reported.

(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.

10.11 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.
- 11.5 Adopt successful strategies which maximise our community's access to quality infrastructure and assets (11.5.2 – 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

The following summarises progress on key initiatives.

Coonamble Riverside Holiday Park



- Move public dump point and provide improved access
- Water tank removed to create another four powered sites
- Geotech work and service location completed
- Camp Kitchen construction completed

- Resealing of current internal road work (modified to major patching)

Commentary: Modifications to the Camp kitchen completed (lighting timer extended and fridge cabinet ventilation enhanced); decision to de-scope the proposed roadwork to that of heavy patching as required. A new manager started, and a productive initial meeting held. Park tidied up and look much improved.

Coonamble's Main Street Enhancement

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- Weight/load capacity for awnings in Coonamble's main street determined
- Integrity of awnings in Coonamble's main street determined
- Building owners advised of outcomes of inspections
- Immediate remedial actions taken, where advised
- Paint scheme colour palette received for awning painting project
- Lighting determined to highlight Art Deco streetscape
- Three-phase power installed for improved market capability [removed from scope due to cost considerations].
- CBD Precinct Masterplan developed

Commentary: Suggested paint scheme from heritage consultant prepared as a guide for building owners, which will be distributed in the next term of Council. Lighting options being investigated.

Housing Development

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- EOI/ seeking interest from developers done
- Housing contract for modular homes signed
- Carry out civil works (services, road, kerb & guttering)
- Manufacture housing components
- Assemble housing on site

Commentary: Contract for the supply of housing with Simmons Group signed. Initial site visit held. Design for civil works underway.

Land Development & re-zonings

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- Rezoning determined for more industrial land and for improved alignment of zoning to current usage across Coonamble township
- Planning Report drafted for rezoning of the old sheepyards site and submitted to the Department of Planning
- Planning Report drafted for rezoning of the Artesian bore bath project site and submitted to the Department of Planning

- Planning Report drafted for house-keeping rezoning for such areas as the Coonamble Showground

Youth Accommodation – Coonamble and Gulargambone

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- Advertise RFT for design-and-construction of the youth accommodation units at Coonamble and Gulargambone
- Assess tenders for Youth Accommodation
- Award contract
- Build Youth Accommodation in Coonamble and Gulargambone

Commentary: Demolition and clearing underway at the Coonamble site. Tenders received for the YA sites.

Artesian Bore Bath project

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- Take ownership of site
- Complete Geotech and soil contamination studies
- Complete site clean-up and demolition
- Prepare PPP submission to OLG
- Design consultant to be procured

Commentary: Demolition and clean-up work awarded to contractor. To begin shortly. Project sign erected on site.

'Real Country' Regional Tourism Collaboration

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- Real Country Destination Strategic Plan adopted
- Real Country project, Warrena Creek Reserve development business case adopted in principle
- Real Country infrastructure works incorporated into Warren Creek Reserve Plan of Management
- Community consulted on the draft Plan of Management for Warrena Creek Reserve, incorporating proposed Real Country developments

Commentary: Development of this project is now being pursued as part of the rPPP submission.

Grants

Overview:

Grants completed & awaiting acquittal	Responsibility	Comment
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Town Entrance Public Art (DSP)	CPDE	
Youth Week 2024	CPDE	
Reconnecting Regional NSW	CPDE	
Female Friendly Facilities at C'ble Sportsground	INF	
Winter Holiday Fun Grant	CPDE	
Walking Loop around Sportsground	INF	
Limerick Street Footpath	INF	
Gulargambone Youth Centre upgrades	CPDE	
Coonamble Family and Youth Fest	CPDE	

Grants in progress	Responsibility	Comment
Restore Trooper Stables at Museum	CPDE	Unable to proceed
Riverside Caravan Park Development	CPDE	Finalising
Women's Change Rooms at Sportsground	INF	Variation sought
Active Transport Plan	INF	Modifications req'd
Coonamble Artesian Bathing Experience	INF	In progress
Coonamble Youth Empowerment Program	CPDE	In progress
Gulargambone Sportsground Amenities	INF	Tender awarded
Coonamble Region Art Trail	CPDE	Initiated
Wanderers Tennis Club court upgrades	INF	Tenders called
Footpath design to C'ble Showground	INF	Finalising
Elsa Dixon Aboriginal Employment Grant	CPDE	

For the term of this Council, the following grants are representative of the total applied for and awarded:

Grant	Amount awarded (\$)
Open Streets Program	150,000
Summer of Fun School Holidays Jan – Apr 2024	22,000
Winter of Fun School Holidays Jun – Sep 2024	14,000
Coonamble Sportsground Walking Loop	327,083
Coonamble Sportsground Women's Changerooms	450,000
Active Transport Plan	20,000
Limerick Street Footpath, Lighting and Seating	457,370
Gulargambone Sportsground amenities upgrade	520,000
Coonamble Region Art Trail	235,035
Wanderers Tennis Club Court Upgrades	236,728
Regional Youth Investment Program	2,900,000
Female Friendly Community Facilities	491,850
Mosquito Management Plan	18,000

Grant	Amount awarded (\$)
Showground Link Footpath Design	20,000
Coonamble Artesian Bathing Experience	5,500,000
Strong Start Cadetship Program	25,000
Illegal Dumping Prevention	19,080
Youth Week 2024	3,412
Community Events Program	119,863
Small Business Month 2023	2,500
Small Business Month 2022	2,500
Youth Week 2023	3,313
Winter Holiday Break Program 2023	7,000
January and April School Holiday Program 2023	22,000
Australia Day 2024	15,000
Australia Day 2023	22,000
Australia Day 2022	29,289
TOTAL	\$11,633,023

Communications

Council continues to maintain its communication with the community through:

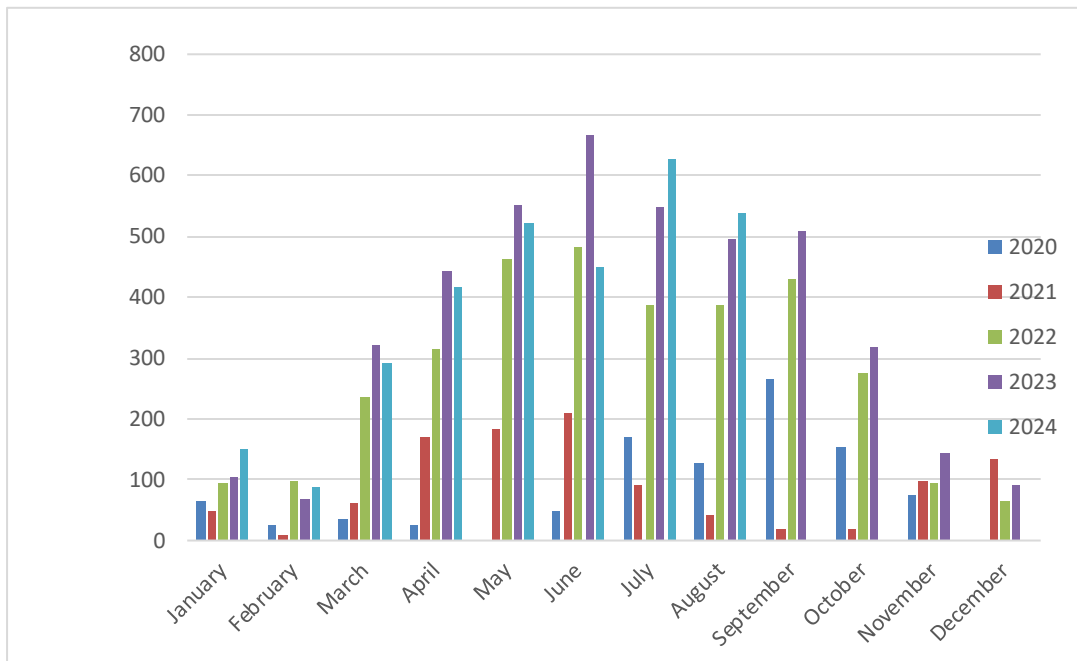
- 1 x weekly half-page advertisement, *Weekly Connect* in *The Coonamble Times* – advertising Requests for Quotations, Tenders and Expressions of Interest, policies and other reports currently on public exhibition and upcoming events for the community.
- Paid classified advertising for current tenders, requests for quotations, expressions of interest and positions vacant.
- Posts in the News column on the homepage of Council's website, on various topics as required.
- Posts in the Events Calendar hosted on Council's website.
- Posts on Council's Facebook page, on various topics including all media releases.
- Council's website – sharing all policies, plans and procedures, fees and charges, and documents for public exhibition, in the spirit of open and transparent governance.
- Media releases as required – on road conditions, project milestones, water supply interruptions.

During July, Council's website attracted 632 hits on its Visit page, which is more than double the average, due to the advertising of the *Vision Splendid* concert.

Tourism and visitation

- **Coonamble Information and Exhibition Centre**

Between 31 July and 28 August 2024, the Information and Exhibition Centre welcomed 539 visitors to the Coonamble Shire. This number supports a continued increase in visitation compared to previous years. This is encouraging because these visitor numbers exclusively capture those who are want to know more about the area, seeking to extend their stay and enhance their experience, rather than driving through.



During this period, three bus tours visited the Centre. On Thursday, 8 August, Cardwell’s Coaches from Numurkah, Victoria, brought 15 seniors on a 14-day tour. On Saturday, 17 August, another 30 seniors stopped in Coonamble on an eight-day tour from Canberra with Potters Coaches. Most recently, 15 seniors from Queensland on a 10-day tour visited on Friday, 23 August, with Diamonda Coaches.



- **Visitor spending habits and demographics**

A new resource from the Commonwealth Bank provides valuable economic data, offering insights into the types of visitors that Coonamble Shire attracts

and their spending habits. This provides further context to the data captured through direct interaction with visitors at the Coonamble Information and Exhibition Centre.

These reports are generated at the end of each month. Data captured in July this year showed that visitors are spending 38.9% more in the Coonamble Shire, compared to pre-COVID figures collected in 2019. The majority of this spending is categorised as private transport and food retailing.

Discretionary spending has increased by 6.5% compared with July 2023, however, there has been a 30.7% decrease compared to 2019. The most prevalent visitor demographic is defined as retirees over the age of 65 years. This data is uniquely current and can be used to effectively measure the impact of marketing campaigns, events and developing trends.

- **Museum Under the Bridge**

Following an assessment of required works on 20 March 2024, the museum will be closed until further notice. Quotes have been received to rectify the structural issues and grant funding being sought for these works.

Marketing and promotions

- **Social media engagement @VisitCoonamble**

Between 31 July and 28 August, the @VisitCoonamble social media accounts on both Facebook and Instagram saw another significant increase in engagement.

This is attributed to strong engagement with organic content and a current paid marketing campaign promoting the upcoming Vision Splendid event. It is positive to see that the top five locations with the highest level of engagement, align with locations that have been identified as a priority for marketing efforts. These include Sydney, Dubbo, Newcastle and Tamworth.

Facebook content promoting the Coonamble Shire and upcoming events has reached more than 14,000 users, which is an increase of 53%. The rate of users clicking on links included in social media posts has increased by 500%. This indicates content is engaging enough for users to want to know more.

The best-performing social media content has included posts about the upcoming Vision Splendid event, new merchandise at the Information and Exhibition Centre, as well as local events such as the Gulargambone Gold Cup Races and the Coonamble Cancer Survival Fund Colour Run, and media releases (e.g. the swimming pool contract).

- **Real Country partnership**

In the next two months, each of the three Councils that make up the Real Country partnership, Coonamble, Gilgandra and Warrumbungle Shire are holding major events, over three consecutive weekends.

These include Bloomin Birds Spring Fest in Coonabarabran on 21 September, Under the Gums in Gilgandra on 28 September and Vision Splendid in Coonamble 5 October.

In addition to these flagship events, there is a full program of exciting and unique experiences and events that will support the extended stay of visitors. To capitalise on this opportunity, this program will be promoted through the tourism social media pages of each Council as well as a printed flyer, outlining all the events and how to get involved. In addition to supporting local initiatives, this will promote Coonamble Shire and Real Country as a vibrant tourist destination.

The Real Country team have also collaborated to launch a small merchandise range to promote the region.

- **Regular event promotion on Coonamble community radio**

Tourism and event staff have been invited to make use of a regular timeslot to promote local events coming up. This will be an opportunity to further collaborate and support community events, particularly those with limited human resources.

Events

- **3 October, Vision Splendid Country Music Event**

The 'Vision Splendid' Country Music Festival 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 includes Max Jackson, The Wolfe Brothers and the headline Lee Kernaghan.

Implementation of the event marketing plan has taken place over the last month, resulting in strong engagement.

This event should attract a diverse group of attendees. These include retirees with caravans, millennials, visiting friends and families, and families with children. There will be a particularly strong interest from local residents, those living within the surrounding area and weekenders from metro areas with an interest in live music and exploring regional New South Wales.

With this event being held over the long weekend and during the spring school holidays, Vision Splendid and the program of events happening in the Shire that weekend will be an appealing option.

This type of event supports an injection of spending into the Shire, activates the Coonamble main street, increases tourist visitation and their number of overnight stays, along with expanding the recognition and understanding of the 'Real Country' tourism brand.

Council is working to deliver the event, with the support of local accommodation providers, other local event organisers, community groups and local arts organisations.

The event will maintain a family-friendly atmosphere and will include side-show alley, style stall holders, such as pluck-a-duck and the clowns.

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

Upcoming events:

- 1 September, Coonamble Cancer Survival Fund, Colour Run
- 6-7 September, Coonamble Campdraft
- 7 September, Coonamble Golf Club Car boot, handmade and homegrown market
- 7 September, Coonamble Auto Club Open Day
- 14 September, Coonamble District Education Foundation, Sportsman's Lunch with Kerry O'Keefe
- 21 September, Coonamble Royal Far West 90th Birthday High Tea
- 26 September, NAIDOC march
- 4 October, Coonamble Greyhound Racing Carnival
- 4 October, Cinderella
- 5 October, Vision Splendid Coonamble
- 6 October, Harvest Lunch – Plated in the Paddock
- 12 October, 'Fairfield' Open Garden
- 13 October, Coonamble Jockey Club Gold Cup Race Meeting

(a) Governance/Policy Implications

Policies relevant to activities reported here include the Community Consultation 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 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 and sponsorship 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 and projects 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. That Council receive and note the Economic Development and Growth report.**

10.12 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES - WORKS IN PROGRESS**File Number: R6****Author: Kerrie Murphy-Director Infrastructure Services****Authoriser: Paul Gallagher, General Manager****Annexures: 1. Monthly Works Report - September**  **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 2024/2025 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.

You will note that there are still projects that remain in the report from the 2023/2024 financial year. These projects will remain in the report until they are completed. At this time, they will be removed.

(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 2024/2025 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.

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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

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	0	0	0	0	
Unsealed Road Maintenance and Natural Disaster restoration works	RTR Council Natural Disaster				191,147	75,122	266,269		Work on Wingadee Road has commenced with \$400,000 allocated from RTR funding this financial year. Other roads maintained including Billeroy, Teridgerie, Killara Lane, Back Gular and Gulargambone Roads

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	2,388,461	918,986	3,307,447	80	Construction has commenced with only one section to be completed. Culvert extensions have been completed. Contractor has been engaged to complete the last section. Project is expected to be completed in September 2024.
Box Ridge Road Reconstruction	LRCI	1,859,636	-	1,225,140	1,068,573	251,848	1,320,420	80%	Project experienced delays in June and early July due to wet weather. An extension of time has been approved by the funding body until the end of September.
Flood Damage – REPA AGRN987 and AGRN1034	DRFA	≈7,800,000	-	≈7,800,000	3,756,734	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, Gorianawa, Bramble, Gilgooma, Mungery, Yarranville, Conimbia, West Point, Walla Walla, Keewong, Tooloon South, Quandong, Sandy Camp, Back Gular, Talegar, Toora, and Wattle Creek Roads
Tooraweenah Road Upgrade	ROSI	22,962,000	-	22,962,000	\$2,804,974	\$132,388.58	\$2,937,363	13	All tenders were rejected at the August Council meeting. New delivery strategy being implemented to complete the works.

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WATER									
<i>Project</i>	<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Budget (\$) (2024-25)</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	300,000	-	300,000	-	-	-	10	Wingadee Street, project scope completed. Quotations being sourced.
Gulargambone Mains Replacements	Council	100,000	-	100,000	-	-	-	10	Breelong Street, project scope completed. Quotations being sourced.
Quambone Mains Replacement	Council	200,000	-	200,000	-	-	-	10	Gidgerah Street, project scope completed. Quotations being sourced.
SSWP244-Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy (IWCM)	Grant/Council	303,900	-	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.
Gulargambone – installation of constant water quality monitoring equipment and chlorine room upgrades	Council	75,000	-	75,000	-	-	-	10	Costed proposals currently being assessed.
Quambone – installation of constant water quality monitoring equipment and reservoir security upgrades	Council	40,000	-	40,000	-	-	-	10	Costed proposals currently being assessed.
Coonamble, Gulargambone and Quambone – meter replacement program	Council	43,750	-	43,750	-	-	-	-	Will commence post the 1 st quarter reads in late August 2024.
Advanced Operational Support Program	DCCEEW Grant	150,000	-	150,000	37500	-	37500	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	200,000	-	200,000	-	-	-	10	Program finalised.
Gulargambone Mains Relining	Council	300,000	-	300,000	-	-	-	10	Program finalised.
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 Sewage Treatment Plant – step screen installation at headworks	Council	130,000	-	130,000	-	-	-	10	Proposals are being assessed.
Yarran Street Subdivision Development – sewerage servicing including Sewage Pump Station, Rising/Gravity Main installations	Council	850,000	-	850,000	-	-	-	10	Contractor engaged, works to commence in October 2024.

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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>
Gulargambone – Sewage Treatment Plant tertiary ponds desludge	Council	250,000	-	250,000	-	-	-	10	Project scoped and options being considered.

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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	27,604	1,744	27,604	70	Planter boxes and Bougainvillea have been installed 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 have been installed 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	10,000	50,000	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
Quambone resurface Tennis Courts	Council + Community funds	45,000	-	45,000	-	46,176	-	25	Purchase order raised waiting on contractor has commenced
Coonamble Tennis Courts	SCCF5	236,728	-	236,728	-	-	-	5	Request for Quotations in preparation
Gulargambone Sportsground Amenities Upgrade	SCCF5	520,000	-	520,000	-	-	-	10	Tender let to contractor

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>

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>
New Columbarium Gulargambone	Council	20,000						5	Obtaining quotes
Pioneer Cemetery Coonamble new fence and signage	Council	48,000						10	Sourcing quotations for materials

**11 NOTICES OF MOTIONS/QUESTIONS WITH
NOTICE/RESCISSION MOTIONS**

Nil

12 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Nil

13 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING