



BUSINESS PAPER

**of the
Ordinary Meeting
to be held
21 November 2022**

**Our Values: Leadership • Integrity • Progressiveness • Commitment •
Accountability • Adaptability**

The Prayer

We humbly beseech Thee to vouchsafe Thy blessings on this Council.
Direct and prosper our deliberations to the glory and welfare
of the people of this Shire and throughout our country.
Amen

Acknowledgement of Country

Lockhart Shire Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, the Wiradjuri people, and pays respect to Elders past, present and future, and extends the respect to all First Nations Peoples in Lockhart Shire.

Statement of Ethical Obligations

In accordance with Clause 3.21 of the Lockhart Shire Council Code of Meeting Practice councillors are reminded of their oath or affirmation of office made under section 233A of the Act and their obligations under the council's code of conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.

Oath or Affirmation of Office

I will undertake the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people of Lockhart Shire and the Lockhart Shire Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgement.

Webcasting of Council Meetings

Councillors, officers and visitors in the public gallery are advised that, in accordance with Clause 5.33 of the Lockhart Shire Code of Meeting Practice, the proceedings of Council meetings are recorded, and an audio recording of each Council meeting is made available on the Council's website.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

OPENING WITH A PRAYER

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

WEBCASTING OF COUNCIL MEETING

APOLOGIES

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE OR ATTENDANCE VIA AUDIO VISUAL LINK

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING, 17 OCTOBER 2022

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY & NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

MAYORAL MINUTE 4

REPORT ON MAYORAL & COUNCILLOR ACTIVITIES 5

URGENT MATTERS 5

NOTICE OF MOTION 5

COMMITTEE REPORTS 5

1. Minutes of the Tourism & Economic Development Steering Committee held 8 November 2022 5
2. Minutes of the Meeting of the Lockhart Shire Council Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Held at the Lockhart Shire Council Offices, and Remotely via MS Teams, on Thursday 10 November 2022 at 2.00pm..... 8

DELEGATES' REPORTS..... 10

1. 2022 Local Government NSW Annual Conference Held at Cessnock on 23-25 October 2022 10
2. Riverina Regional Library Advisory Committee - 19 October 2022 at Wagga Wagga 11
3. Riverina Joint Organisation (RIVJO) – 28 October 2022 at Wagga Wagga 12
4. Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) – 28 October 2022 at Wagga Wagga. 12
5. Riverina Water County Council Board Meeting – 26 October 2022..... 13
6. Police and Community Consultation Group - 8 November 2022 at Pleasant Hills 13

STATUS REPORT/PRÉCIS OF CORRESPONDENCE ISSUED 14

STAFF REPORTS 25

STRATEGIC DIRECTION A: A Connected and Resilient Community 25

1. The Rock Recreation Ground Management Committee – Request For Financial Assistance 25
2. Request For Financial Assistance – Abbey Fellows 26

STRATEGIC DIRECTION B: A Dynamic and Prosperous Economy..... 30

3. Lockhart Main Street Bins 30

STRATEGIC DIRECTION C: An Environment that is Respected and Protected 32

4. Project EnergyConnect Update 32

STRATEGIC DIRECTION D: Infrastructure for the Long-Term Needs of the Community 33

5. Engineering and Environmental Services Report 33

6.	Lockhart Airstrip.....	36
7.	Lockhart Main Street Parking.....	36
	STRATEGIC DIRECTION E: Strong Leadership and Governance	39
8.	Investment and Bank Balances Report – October 2022.....	39
9.	Presentation of Council's 2021/22 Financial Statements.....	40
10.	Quarterly Budget Review – July to September 2022	42
11.	Code of Conduct Statistics - Annual Report.....	44
12.	2021/22 Annual Report	45
13.	Membership of Regional Organisations	47
14.	Independent Review of the New South Wales Local Government Boundaries Commission	48
	QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS.....	49
	CLOSED SESSION.....	50
15.	Noise & Air Pollution Complaints – The Rock.....	50

MAYORAL MINUTE

DECLARATION OF STATE-WIDE ROAD EMERGENCY

We are all well aware the Lockhart Shire has been hit by a seemingly relentless wave of flood events in the past 12 months.

And we are not alone. A total of 126 of New South Wales' 128 local government areas have had natural disaster declarations within the last 12 months, according to the President of Local Government NSW (LGNSW), Darriea Turley.

On 3 November 2022 LGNSW declared a State-wide Roads Emergency.

The declaration – and urgent call for the NSW and Federal governments to increase their existing road funding commitments in the wake of the floods – comes on the back of an estimated \$2.5 billion in road damages and a collapse of the local and regional road network.

I call on Lockhart Shire Council to show our support for this move and wholeheartedly endorse the LGNSW declaration of State-wide Road Emergency.

The declaration has already been publicly supported by our peak regional body, the Country Mayors Association of New South Wales.

As part of the State-wide Roads Emergency, LG NSW and Country Mayors Association of NSW are calling for:

- An acceleration and significant increase in funding for the \$1.1 billion Fixing Local Roads and Fixing Country Bridges program from the New South Wales Government
- A boost to Road Block Grant funding to compensate for the damage to the regional road network from the Federal Government
- New funding to provide councils with plant machinery and skilled workers to expedite road repairs from the Federal Government.

We have faced, and may continue to face, an unprecedented and unrelenting series of natural disasters that has seen residents and business owners cleaning up again and again, people isolated, workers unable to get to work, and students unable to get to training or school.

Add to this our very real and immediate concern for our primary producers.

This latest rain event has hit at a critical time. Winter crops are ready to be harvested and the window for planting summer crops, including cotton, only lasts a matter of week. Cotton is the single largest contributor to our agricultural outputs.

Livestock are ready to go to sale.

The local and regional road network is critically enabling infrastructure. It is absolutely vital to our primary producers, and the key to keeping affordable food on the table across New South Wales and beyond.

Our road network, and the road network of shires across the state, have disastrous damage. We are facing a task that is beyond the reasonable scope of any local government authority. We face an unprecedented disaster that requires an unprecedented response.

We need help. Our community needs help. Other regional and rural communities across the state and beyond need help. We desperately need our leaders to lead.

We need to support our peak bodies in their declaration of Statewide Road Emergency.

This is an emergency, and it is time to seek help, and by supporting this Mayoral Minute you are endorsing that I write to the Prime Minister of Australia, Anthony Albanese, and the Premier of New South Wales, Dominic Perrottet, pleading for immediate action.

Cr Greg Verdon
Mayor

Recommendation: that Lockhart Shire Council join with Local Government NSW and Country Mayors Association of NSW in declaring a Statewide Road Emergency.

REPORT ON MAYORAL & COUNCILLOR ACTIVITIES

To be presented at the meeting.

URGENT MATTERS

Nil.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **MINUTES OF THE TOURISM & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STEERING COMMITTEE HELD
8 NOVEMBER 2022**

(TEDO: 22/15185)

Date & Time	Tuesday 8 th November 2022 – 6.00pm	
Location	The Railway Hotel Lockhart	
Attendees	Erica Jones (Chair), Matt Holt (TEDO - Secretary), Cr Fran Day, Cr Ian Marston, Cr Bob Mathews, Michelle Bailey, Heather Trevaskis, Navneet Choujar, Cr Peter Sharp; Austin Morris, Director of Engineering & Environmental Services (observer).	
Apologies	Rachel Viski, Mandy Strong, Brent Alexander and Fiona Beckett	
Declarations of Interest	Nil	
The meeting opened with a Welcome from the Chair and an acknowledgment of country.		
1. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting Wednesday 1st June 2022		
Minutes	Nil	Presenter/s
Actions	Nil	Erica
Resolutions	Recommended on the motion of Michelle Bailey and Cr Peter Sharp that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 7 th September 2022 as circulated, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.	

2. Action from previous minutes		
Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has asked Essential Energy of any audits they do and about the fluorescent lights under the Verandah in Green Street Lockhart. Audits on request and lights under Verandah' s will be investigated and replaced, if necessary, by Engineering Dept - Complete • Letters of Appreciation sent to former Committee members, Sharon Lambert and Jared Walker – Complete • Sister City/Shire – Lockhart, Texas, USA – moved to February 2023 • Round 5 – Stronger Country Communities Fund Update – Council at its September meeting finalised the following projects to be submitted <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) \$120,000 Pleasant Hills Tennis Club – Upgrade Tennis Courts & Lights 2) \$140,000 Implementation of Brookong Creek Masterplan 3) \$601,190 The Rock Recreation Ground – Community Centre (draft plans distributed) <p>Total of \$861,190</p> 	Presenter/s Erica/Matt
Actions	TEDO and Cr Bob Mathews to investigate Sister City/Shire – Lockhart, Texas, USA – due February 2023	
Resolutions	Recommended on the motion by Heather Trevaskis and Navneet Choujar that the Committee note the completed actions and the TEDO action the outstanding items.	
3. Vacancies – Two positions		
Minutes	TEDSC to consider replacing two vacant positions as per the terms of reference.	Presenter/s
Actions	TEDO to action	Matt
Resolutions	Recommended on the motion by Cr Fran Day and Cr Ian Marston that Council seek to fill the two vacant positions via EOI targeting the Yerong Creek Community in February 2023	
4. ABC Back Roads		
Minutes	ABC Back Roads have approached Mandy Strong to do a story of Lockhart.	Presenter/s
Actions	TEDO and Mandy to action	Mandy/Matt
Resolutions	Recommended on the motion by Cr Ian Marston and Navneet Choujar that the TEDO and Mandy work together to try and bring this to fruition.	

5. Service NSW Funding - Lockhart Shire																						
Minutes	<p>Service NSW Funding - Lockhart Shire</p> <p>Council has been advised of the below benefit to the community through several State Government programs over the last 18 months (approx.)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #d9ead3;">SERVICE NSW - LOCKHART SHIRE COUNCIL</th> <th style="background-color: #d9ead3;">PROGRAM VALUE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Job-Saver</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$903,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021 Covid Grant</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$355,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mouse Control Rebate</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$190,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Small Business Fees & Charges</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$120,302</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Micro - Business Grant</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$82,714</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Covid-19 Test & Isolate Support</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$10,880</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022 Small Business Support</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$6,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dine & Discover Vouchers Redeemed in LGA</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$11,967</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f2dede;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right; background-color: #f2dede;">\$1,679,863</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	SERVICE NSW - LOCKHART SHIRE COUNCIL	PROGRAM VALUE	Job-Saver	\$903,000	2021 Covid Grant	\$355,000	Mouse Control Rebate	\$190,000	Small Business Fees & Charges	\$120,302	Micro - Business Grant	\$82,714	Covid-19 Test & Isolate Support	\$10,880	2022 Small Business Support	\$6,000	Dine & Discover Vouchers Redeemed in LGA	\$11,967	Total	\$1,679,863	Presenter/s Matt
SERVICE NSW - LOCKHART SHIRE COUNCIL	PROGRAM VALUE																					
Job-Saver	\$903,000																					
2021 Covid Grant	\$355,000																					
Mouse Control Rebate	\$190,000																					
Small Business Fees & Charges	\$120,302																					
Micro - Business Grant	\$82,714																					
Covid-19 Test & Isolate Support	\$10,880																					
2022 Small Business Support	\$6,000																					
Dine & Discover Vouchers Redeemed in LGA	\$11,967																					
Total	\$1,679,863																					
Actions	NIL																					
Resolutions	Recommended by Heather Trevaskis and Cr Peter Sharp that Council note the above information.																					
6. Tootool Telephone Exchange Mural																						
Minutes	The Tootool Rest Stop Committee with the help of the TEDO has engaged a graphic artist to paint the Tootool Telephone Exchange. Concept/ideas were created, given to the artist and the 1 st draft and 2 nd draft were presented to the Committee.	Presenter/s																				
Actions	<p>TEDO to continue to progress the project with the Tootool Rest Stop Committee with the following steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with 2nd consultation meeting on Saturday 12th November 1pm Public Consultation meeting Saturday 12th November 2pm Submit changes to artist from both consultations and TEDSC on Monday 14th November Final draft to be presented to Council for endorsement on the 21st November 2022 Artist/TEDO aiming to have mural complete by Christmas, with signage installed either later in 2022 or early 2023 	Matt																				
Resolutions	Recommended by Cr Peter Sharp and Heather Trevaskis that Council support the Tootool Rest Stop Committee in their project, and that the northern face of the building be dedicated, to an old wall phone and the southern wall for the Tootool Public School.																					
7. Projects Update																						
Minutes	Project spreadsheet in share drive. TEDO provided update on two regionals and the BBRF Grant.	Presenter/s																				
Actions	Nil	Matt																				
Resolutions	Recommended by Michelle Bailey and Cr Fran Day that Council note the above information.																					
8. Museum Advisor Report																						
Minutes	Museum Advisor Report located in Share Drive	Presenter/s																				

Actions	Nil	Matt
Resolutions	Recommended by Cr Bob Mathews and Michelle Bailey that Council note the above information.	
8. Questions/Comments/Feedback/Updates		
	Topic	Member
Question	Lockhart Solar Farm Update	Mandy
Answer	Feasibility and planning approved (Regional Planning Panel). Waiting on National Electricity Regulator for approval. We have been advised that that the project is funded privately, in tune of around \$20million.	Matt
Update/Action	Pleasant Hills Sulky in place, looking to paint the container and install signage. TEDO to follow with Fiona Beckett and Cr Peter Sharp regarding signage and call to action	Cr Peter Sharp Matt
Question	Are there any more updates on The Rock Community Hub?	Michelle Bailey
Answer/Action	Cr Ian Marston provided a verbal response. TEDO to provide a further update in 2023.	Cr Ian Marston
Update/Action	The Rock Bowling Club Mural progressing. Cr Ian Marston to provide update in February	Cr Ian Marston Matt
Comment	TEDO will be on leave from 24/12/22 – 31/1/23 inclusive. Back on deck 1/2/23	All
11. Next meeting: Wednesday 8TH February 2023 – 6pm at Pleasant Hills Hall		
12. Meeting Closed: 7.15pm		

Recommendation: That the Minutes of the Tourism and Economic Development Steering Committee be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LOCKHART SHIRE COUNCIL AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE LOCKHART SHIRE COUNCIL OFFICES, AND REMOTELY VIA MS TEAMS, ON THURSDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 2.00PM
(GM: 22/15298)

1. Present

James Davis (Independent Chairperson) – remotely via MS Teams
Luke Taberner (Independent Member) - remotely via MS Teams
Cr Andrew Rockliff (Lockhart Shire Councillor) – in person

2. In Attendance

Peter Veneris (General Manager) - in person
Craig Fletcher (Director Corporate and Community Services) - in person
Tracy Hounsell (Finance Officer) - person
Ian Roberts (Internal Auditor) – part meeting only remotely via MS Teams
Danielle McKenzie (Crowe) – part meeting only remotely via MS Teams
Hong Wee Soh (Audit Office of NSW) – part meeting only via MS Teams

3. Apologies

Nil.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

It was RESOLVED on the motion of Luke Taberner and James Davis that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2022, as printed and circulated, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

5. Business Arising

The Chairperson referred to Item 6 and asked the General Manager whether the relevant document identified in the Internal Auditor's Report had been uploaded onto the Council's website.

The General Manager confirmed that the document was now publicly available on the website.

6. Internal Audit Reports

6.1 Commercial Leases and Property Management

The Chairperson invited the Internal Auditor, Ian Roberts, to present his report.

Mr Roberts thanked staff for the information provided to assist with the audit.

He noted that Lockhart Shire Council, like all other Audit Alliance member councils, does not have documented procedures in place for commercial leases and property management related matters and recommended that procedures be developed as this can be of assistance particularly in cases of staff turnover.

Mr Roberts particularly noted that the staff at Lockhart Shire with responsibilities for property management have real estate qualifications and/or experience and this is rarely the case in local government.

Discussion then focused on Recommendation 3) of the Internal Auditor's Report which stated that leases of Council owned commercial premises be for periods of five years unless otherwise determined by Council resolution.

Following further discussion it was generally agreed that there are occasions where councils need to be flexible, such as when they are trying to attract a particular service required by the community.

It was RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Andrew Rockliff and Luke Taberner that the Internal Audit Report be received and noted and the recommendations contained therein be adopted subject to Recommendation 3) being amended to read as follows:

"Where appropriate, in future leases for Council owned commercial premises, these be for periods of 5 years with the rentals calculated to market for the 1st year of the 5-year term and to CPI for the following 4 years unless otherwise determined by council resolution."

The Chairperson thanked Mr Roberts for his report and Mr Roberts departed the meeting at this juncture.

7. Audited Financial Statements and Audit Reports

Danielle McKenzie of Crowe, external audit contractors to the Audit Office of NSW (AONSW) presented the Independent Auditor's Reports for the 2021/22 Financial Statements noting that a qualified audit opinion was given in relation to the General Purpose Financial Statements (General Fund) and an unqualified audit opinion in relation to the Special Purpose Financial Statements (Sewer Fund).

Ms McKenzie advised that the audit opinion for the General Purpose Financial Statements was qualified because Council did not recognise the Rural Fire Service (RFS) Assets in its financial statements. She also advised that other than for the issue regarding the RFS assets, the 2021/22 Financial Statements fairly represented the financial position of the Council.

Reference was made to the performance benchmarks established by the Office of Local Government and Ms McKenzie noted that Council met five of the six benchmarks with the only benchmark not met relating to Own Source Revenue which all small rural councils have difficulty in achieving.

The discussion then focused on the Audit Management Letter and Ms McKenzie acknowledged Council's efforts in resolving all the prior year's Audit Management Letter issues (other than the issue relating to RFS assets).

There was more discussion in relation to the RFS Assets and the question of who controls the assets. The General Manager advised that the Council will be maintaining its position that it believes the assets are controlled by the RFS and as such should be recognised in the RFS's financial statements. It was

also noted that the Audit Office of NSW will not be changing its view that the assets are controlled by Council unless there is a change in the legislation.

Cr Rockliff referred to the new matter identified in the Audit Management Letter relating to section 355 Committees and their bank accounts and expressed concern at the implications this would have on retaining volunteers in the Shire.

Hong Wee Soh of the AONSW clarified that at this stage the AONSW was recommending that Council undertake a review of the committees and the appropriateness of any financial controls being implemented by Council.

It was RESOLVED Cr Andrew Rockliff and Luke Taberner that the information tabled in relation to the 2021/22 Audit of the Council's Financial Statements be received and noted.

The Chairman thanked Hong Wee Soh of the AONSW and Dannielle McKenzie of Crowe for their attendance and they left the meeting at this juncture.

8. Prior Internal Audit Recommendations – Status Report

It was RESOLVED Luke Taberner and Cr Andrew Rockliff that the status of prior internal audit recommendations be noted.

9. Notice of Reportable Incidents

The General Manager advised that there were no incidents to report.

10. General Business

Nil.

11. Date of Next Meeting

March 2023 (date TBC).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.50pm.

James Davis
Chairperson

Recommendation: that the Minutes of the Lockhart Shire Council Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee be received.

DELEGATES' REPORTS

1. 2022 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD AT CESSNOCK ON 23-25 OCTOBER 2022

(GM: 22/14509)

I report having attended the Annual Conference of Local Government NSW as Council's voting delegate together with Cr Peter Sharp and the General Manager.

The Conference included a panel discussion on the future of local government involving the Minister for Local Government, Shadow Minister for Local Government, Minister for Regional Roads and Transport, Shadow Minister for Roads, as well as a representative of the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party. Some of the points noted from the panel discussion include:

Wendy Tuckerman MP – Minister for Local Government

- IPART is undertaking a review of its methodology for determining the annual rate peg.
- Changes to the Impounding Act were announced regarding abandoned property in public places e.g. shopping trolleys, motor vehicles, trailers etc so that the costs associated with removing and impounding are the responsibility of the owner instead of councils.
- Office of Local Government (OLG) is working with the NSW Treasury, Resilience NSW and the RFS to address the issue relating to the recognition of Rural Fire Service (RFS) assets in financial statements.

Greg Warren MP – Shadow Minister for Local Government

- Foreshadowed a review of the Code of Conduct to address vexatious complaints and Code of Conduct complaints being used for political purposes.
- Committed to a review of the Rural Fires Act to ensure councils' financial statements are not impacted by the requirement to recognise RFS assets.

Sam Faraway MLC - Minister for Regional Roads and Transport

- Announced a one-off \$50million fund available to 95 regional councils across the State aimed specifically at repairing potholes on the local and regional roads network with applications opening on 25 October 2022 and closing in two weeks.
- The funding will be based proportionately on the length of a councils local and regional road network.

John Graham MLC – Shadow Minister for Roads

- Committed to reprioritising spending on local roads instead of toll roads.

Robert Borsak MLC – Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party

- Advocated for the removal of rate pegging.
- If rate pegging is retained, supported a different rate peg for different categories of councils in lieu of a one size fits all approach.
- Supported the view that RFS assets should be on NSW Government's balance sheet not councils.

The Conference Business Paper contained over 140 motions that were considered by Conference delegates. Motions carried at the Conference become resolutions and form part of LGNSW's advocacy program on behalf of councils.

Some of the motions carried at the Conference that will be of interest to Council include the following:

- Advocating for the State Government to remove any ambiguity in relation to accounting for Rural Fire Service (RFS) assets by acknowledging that councils do not control the assets and therefore should not be recognised in councils' financial statements.
- Supporting a review of the Local Government Grants Commission methodology used to determine the Financial Assistance Grants allocated to each local government area by removing the minimum grant amount.
- Advocating for increased State Government funding of voluntary purchase schemes for flood prone properties.
- Expressing the concerns councils and the community have with the operation of the planning portal and requesting the Government to either abandon the portal or make changes to improve its operation.
- Advocating for the abandonment of rate pegging.
- Seeking increased funding to reduce mobile and internet blackspots.

Cr Greg Verdon
Delegate

2. RIVERINA REGIONAL LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 19 OCTOBER 2022 AT WAGGA WAGGA

(GM: 22/14275)

I report having attended a meeting of the Riverina Regional Library (RRL) Advisory Committee meeting as Council's delegate held in Wagga Wagga on 19 October 2022 together with the General Manager. A summary of the key issues addressed at the meeting is provided below.

- Administration of the RRL has transitioned from Wagga Wagga City Council (WWCC) to Coolamon Shire Council (CSC) following WWCC's exit from the RRL on 30 June 2022.
- The dispute regarding the apportionment of RRL assets following WWCC's withdrawal has been referred to arbitration. A formal date has now been set for the arbitration hearing which is 3 February 2023.

- The draft 2021/22 financial statements for RRL were provided by WWCC as the former Administration Council. WWCC advised that after discussions with its Auditor, the financial statements will remain in draft form (i.e. unaudited) until the arbitration is finalised.
- The quarterly budget review for the quarter ended September 2022 was tabled.
- Leeton Shire Council confirmed that it will be joining the RRL.
- The mobile library (a custom-built Brimarco trailer) is now hauled by a new Volvo FM11 450 truck, purchased from Wagga Trucks in July 2022. The mobile library serves six local government areas and visits 21 communities covering a geographic area of approximately 48,000 square kilometres. It travels approximately 50,000 kilometres per year. The size of the mobile library enables it to provide a collection of some 5,000 items and access to 200,000 collection items held across the region's 19 branch libraries.
- RRL management have met with a customer service representative from Service NSW to discuss collaboration opportunities. This would see Service NSW staff travel with the mobile library to provide assistance and information to remote communities who typically would not, or could not, make the journey to a Service NSW Centre.

Cr Fran Day
Delegate

3. RIVERINA JOINT ORGANISATION (RIVJO) – 28 OCTOBER 2022 AT WAGGA WAGGA

(GM: 22/14727)

I together with the General Manager attended a meeting of RIVJO in Wagga on 28 October 2022. A summary of the main issues addressed is set out below.

- RIVJO's advocacy efforts have focused on the:
 - 28 Day Response Time for Major Projects
 - Closure of Sleeper Services on XPT
 - Rate Peg Methodology Review
- RIVJO has also resolved to write to the Minister for Local Government seeking advice on the extent of Local Government's legal liability in relation to injury or death that occurs on Rural Fire Service equipment which the Government maintains that councils own and control.
- The RIVJO Board resolved as follows:
 - From 1 July 2023 the Riverina JO go into hiatus.
 - The Riverina JO take on no new projects after 31 December 2022.
 - The Treasurer and CEO prepare a budget for the 2023/24 year based on the JO fulfilling its compliance obligations.
 - The CEO determine how administrative support will be provided to the JO and the costs involved.

(See separate report from the General Manager on [page 47](#))

4. RIVERINA EASTERN REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (REROC) – 28 OCTOBER 2022 AT WAGGA WAGGA

(GM: 22/14727)

I together with the General Manager attended the REROC AGM as well as a regular Board meeting of REROC in Wagga on 28 October 2022. A summary of the main issues addressed is set out below.

- Cr Rick Firman, Mayor of Temora Shire, was re-elected unopposed as Chair and Cr Neil Smith, Mayor of Junee Shire, was re-elected unopposed as Deputy Chair of REROC for the ensuing term.
- REROC will seek to undertake a regional project aimed at identifying Crown land for residential development and the Identification of land zoned residential that is unlikely to be developed.
- REROC is considering the feasibility of running a regional program that links businesses with waste products, to those businesses that can reuse them with a view to supporting businesses in our region by reducing costs through the reuse of "waste" products.

- *The REROC Board resolved that:*
 - *From 1 July 2023 REROC will deliver the three core functions of the JO:*
 - *Regional Planning*
 - *Advocacy and Lobbying and*
 - *Intergovernmental Relations*
 - *The Treasurer and CEO prepare a budget for the 2023/24 year based on the budget and assumptions used in the Way Forward decision-making.*
 - *The Treasurer and the CEO determine how administrative support will be provided to the JO and the costs involved.*
 - *REROC write to each Member Council to formally advise of the decision to adopt Option 4, the outcomes of same and seek formal endorsement of the decision from each Member Council by the end of November.*
- (See separate report from the General Manager on [page 47](#))

Cr G Verdon
Delegate

5. RIVERINA WATER COUNTY COUNCIL BOARD MEETING – 26 OCTOBER 2022

(GM: 22/14809)

To support the work of its Board members and provide regular information to its constituent councils, Riverina Water distributes a summary of the key reports from its six Board meetings per year.

The aim is to keep constituent councils informed of relevant matters including water usage, development and growth, documents and policies in development, strategies and plans and other major decisions.

The update relating to the Board meeting held on 26 October 2022 has been received and has been distributed separately to Councillors.

6. POLICE AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION GROUP - 8 NOVEMBER 2022 AT PLEASANT HILLS

(GM: 22/15187)

A quarterly meeting of the Police and Community Consultation Group was held at the Pleasant Hills Community Hotel on Tuesday, 8 November 2022.

The meeting was attended by NSW Police and representatives of licensed premises and community organisations in the Shire. The following matters were noted:

- An appointment to fill the vacant position of Police Sergeant based at Lockhart should be known by the week ending 11 November 2022. However, the appointee will probably not commence duties in that position until the new year.
- A number of incidents had been reported at The Rock and Police reinforced the need for people to take appropriate preventative measures e.g. ensuring their vehicles are locked etc.
- The local clubs and the Pleasant Hills Community Hotel all reported increased activity due to recent events in their respective areas including the Lockhart Picnic Races, the Spirit of the Land Festival, local football finals and the Henty Machinery Field Days.
- There was general discussion regarding recent weather events, and the resulting local flooding issues as well as the condition of the road network, especially the Olympic Highway.

The next meeting will be held at Lockhart on 14 February 2023.

Cr G Verdon
Delegate

Recommendation: That the Delegates' Reports be received.

STATUS REPORT/PRÉCIS OF CORRESPONDENCE ISSUED

Status Report: Council Resolutions and Tasks to be finalised

Minute No:	Officer to Action	Council Resolution	Action Taken
Council Meeting held 17 October 2022			
220/22	DEES	<p>Noise & Air Pollution Complaints – The Rock</p> <p>Council proceeds with the Notice of Intent to Issue a Notice under the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i>.</p>	<p>A Notice of Intent was issued on 31/10/22 providing the recipient with 14 days in which to make a written submission as to why a Prevention Notice should not be issued and/or request the opportunity to address Council.</p> <p>See further report in Closed Committee Business Paper.</p>
219/22	DEES	<p>Tender – Spray Sealing Services</p> <p>Council accepts the tender for spray sealing services from Bitupave Ltd T/A Boral Asphalt as per the attached schedule of rates.</p>	Complete.
218/22	GM	<p>Opportunity to Purchase Commercial Property</p> <p>The information regarding the opportunity to purchase property in Green Street Lockhart be noted and a more detailed report be presented to the November 2022 Council meeting.</p>	<p>A valuation report has been commissioned and is yet to be received.</p> <p>A more detailed report will be presented to the December 2022 Council meeting by which time the valuation advice will have been received.</p>
214/22	GM	<p>Review of Policy 2.23 Disposal of Surplus, Obsolete, Scrap Materials, Stores, Equipment, Plant and Vehicles</p> <p>Policy 2.23 Disposal of Surplus, Obsolete, Scrap Materials, Stores, Equipment, Plant and Vehicles, as presented, be adopted.</p>	<p>Policy Register updated.</p> <p>Complete.</p>
211/22	DCCS	<p>Audited Financial Statements – 2021/2022</p> <p>1. Certify in its opinion the General Purpose Financial Statements and the Special Purpose Financial Statements as prepared, are in accordance with the attached certificates and that the certificates be completed by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, General Manager and Responsible Accounting Officer.</p> <p>2. Give public notice via its website that the Audited Financial Statements will be presented to the Council meeting to be held on 21 November 2022.</p>	<p>Staff Report 9, page 40.</p> <p>Complete.</p>
209/22	DEES	<p>REROC Supply and Delivery of Bitumen Emulsion</p> <p>Council accept and sign a contract with Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd for the supply and delivery of bitumen emulsion on a Fixed Price basis for a period of two (2) years.</p>	Complete.

Lockhart Shire Council
Ordinary Meeting – 21 November 2022

Minute No:	Officer to Action	Council Resolution	Action Taken
207/22	GM	<p>Australia Day Awards 2023</p> <p>Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appoint the Lockhart Football & Netball Club as host of the 2023 Australia Day celebrations; and 2. Appoint Crs Day, Hunter, Sharp and Walker as the Australia Day Awards Committee for 2023. 	<p>Nominations for Citizen Awards have been invited.</p> <p>Complete.</p>
Council Meeting held 19 September 2022			
195/22	GM	<p>Model Media Policy – Consultation Draft</p> <p>That the information be noted and consideration be given to adopting the Model Media Policy when Council's current Media Policy 1.2 is scheduled for review in October 2023.</p>	<p>Deferred for consideration in October 2023.</p>
194/22	GM	<p>Membership of Regional Organisations</p> <p>Council adopts the following options as its preferences for membership of regional organisations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) First preference - REROC stands alone and RIVJO operated by Wagga Wagga City Council. b) Second preference - REROC stands alone and RIVJO goes into hiatus. 	<p>REROC and RIVJO advised of Council's preferred options.</p> <p>Further REROC/RIVJO Workshop scheduled for 14/10/2022.</p> <p>Refer separate report to Council (Staff Report 13, page 47).</p> <p>Complete.</p>
193/22	DCCS	<p>Audited Financial Statements – 2021/2022</p> <p>Council certifies in its opinion the General Purpose Financial Statements and the Special Purpose Financial Statements as prepared, are in accordance with the attached certificates and that the certificates be completed by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, General Manager and Responsible Accounting Officer.</p>	<p>Superseded by Resolution 211/22.</p> <p>Complete.</p>
191/22	DEES	<p>Engineering & Environmental Services Report</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Council notes the information provided in the Engineering and Environmental Services Report, and b) A detailed report be brought to the next Council meeting regarding the investigations of noise and air pollution at The Rock, and what options are available, prior to the issue of a Noise Abatement Notice. 	<p>Superseded by Council minute 220/22.</p> <p>Complete</p>

Lockhart Shire Council
Ordinary Meeting – 21 November 2022

Minute No:	Officer to Action	Council Resolution	Action Taken
186/22	GM	<p>Draft Plan of Management – Crown Reserves for Which Council is the Crown Land Manager and Council Owned Land Classified as ‘Community’</p> <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amend the Draft Plan of Management by adding “community purposes” as an authorised use for The Rock Recreation Ground, and 2. In accordance with clause 70B of the Crown Land Management Regulation 2018 submit the amended Draft Plan of Management to the Department of Environment and Planning together with a summary of the submissions from the exhibition period and a table of corresponding amendments. 	<p>Draft Plan of Management has been amended and the amended Draft Plan of Management has been submitted to the Department of Environment and Planning together with a summary of the submissions from the exhibition period and a table of corresponding amendments.</p> <p>Complete.</p>
Council Meeting held 15 August 2022			
161/22	DEES	<p>NSW Government Electric Vehicle Charging Grants</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Endorse the application for grant funding of EV destination chargers and software subscription at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Lockhart Caravan Park – Lockhart Water Tower Car Park – The Rock Recreation Ground – The Rock Observatory/Golf Course/Showgrounds – Yerong Creek Recreation Ground 2. Allocate \$12,000 as Council’s contribution to the work. 3. Consult with relevant Section 355 Committees to determine the most suitable location for successfully funded chargers. 	<p>Eligible sites submitted.</p> <p>Complete.</p>
160/22	DCCS	<p>Lockhart Out of School Hours (OOSH) Care Service</p> <p>Council undertakes a 12-month trial period of Out of School Hours Care at Lockhart, under a single management structure for childcare services in the Shire.</p>	<p>OSHC Licence Agreement signed and returned to NSW Dept of Education – Infrastructure.</p>
Council Meeting held 18 July 2022			
147/22	GM	<p>The Rock Community Centre</p> <p>Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Authorises the General Manager to purchase Lot 2, Section 17, DP758971 in accordance with the updated valuation advice received by Council, and b) Request the General Manager to further investigate the possible purchase of Lot 2, DP1196082 Burke Street, The Rock. 	<p>Council’s acceptance of the asking price has been conveyed to the vendor. Follow-up email forwarded on 31/10/22.</p> <p>Awaiting confirmation from vendor.</p> <p>Preliminary contamination report has been provided to a suitably qualified person to advise of remediation requirements (if any) if land is used for car parking purposes only.</p>

*Lockhart Shire Council
Ordinary Meeting – 21 November 2022*

Minute No:	Officer to Action	Council Resolution	Action Taken
141/22	GM	<p>Request for Council to Purchase Private Access</p> <p>Council agrees to the request in principle subject to Council and the applicants agreeing to a reasonable cost sharing arrangement.</p>	<p>Quote for upgrading the access to an acceptable standard prior to transferring to Council has been prepared and forwarded to the landowners together with quotes for surveying and legal fees. A 50:50 cost sharing arrangement has been proposed and a response is awaited from the landowners.</p>
Ordinary Council Meeting held 16 May 2022			
109/22	GM	<p>Tender – 109 Green Street</p> <p>Council declines to accept the tender received from ASCO Group (Aust) Pty Ltd for the provision of public toilets at 109 Green Street Lockhart and seek separate quotations for the individual components of the project for the following reasons:</p> <p>a) Seeking separate quotations and being able to negotiate with different contractors for the different components of the project will provide more flexibility in seeking the most cost-effective solution bearing in mind that the funding approved under Round 4 of the Stronger Country Community Fund is less than the amount for which Council applied.</p> <p>b) Accepting the one tender that has been received for the public toilets without a contract in place for the community space component of the project will prove problematic as the community space and landscaping is critical to providing access to the public toilets.</p>	<p>Unsuccessful tenderer notified of Council's decision.</p> <p>Local builder engaged for the public toilets and individual quotations currently being sought for the landscaping component.</p> <p>Landscaping initial cost estimations exceed funding available. Next step is to re-scope landscaping work.</p> <p>Toilets construction is scheduled to commence in the coming weeks with plumbing & concrete slab to be completed in December.</p>
Ordinary Council Meeting held 21 March 2022			
56/22	GM	<p>Development of Lockhart Industrial Estate</p> <p>Council prepares a subdivision application for the development of Stage 3 of the Lockhart Industrial Estate.</p>	<p>Development application currently being prepared.</p>

Lockhart Shire Council
Ordinary Meeting – 21 November 2022

Minute No:	Officer to Action	Council Resolution	Action Taken
Ordinary Council Meeting held 21 February 2022			
33/22	DEES	<p>Flood Mitigation Review – The Rock and Yerong Creek</p> <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes the information provided in this report. 2. Allocates \$65,000 from Council Reserves for the purchase of a mobile water pump and hoses. 3. Awaits the outcome of works to be undertaken by Transport for NSW to clear the table drains along the Olympic Highway before determining whether additional works are required to be funded by Council. 4. Applies to the next round of Floodplain Management grants (2022/23) to revise the Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plan for The Rock. 5. Applies to the next round of Floodplain Management grants (2022/23) to undertake a Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan for Yerong Creek. 6. Notes that a final report will not be available until after funding opportunities are finalised. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted – complete. 2. Pump and hoses have been received - complete. Pump trailer being registered through Transport for NSW. Complete. 3. Table drains cleaned. Complete. 4. Application lodged – complete. 5. Application lodged – complete. 6. Noted – complete.
Ordinary Council Meeting held 18 October 2021			
180/21	TEDO	<p>Committee Minutes – TEDSC held 5 October 2021</p> <p>Minutes of the Tourism and Economic Development Steering Committee held on 5 October 2021 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted with the exception that an information board be erected at Lockhart Caravan Park.</p>	<p>Information board at Caravan Park to be included in list of locations yet to be scoped.</p> <p>New maps and signs are being progressed.</p>
Ordinary Council Meeting held 16 August 2021			
148/21	GM	<p>Proposed “Tim Fischer Way”</p> <p>Council to reinstate investigations into the erection of tourism signage indicating “Tim Fischer Way”.</p>	<p>Submission made to the Tourism Attractions Signs Assessment Committee.</p> <p>Plan to incorporate “Tim Fischer Way” touring route on new Visit Lockhart Shire website.</p> <p>New website now is live. Functionality to facilitate “Tim Fischer Way” touring route being developed.</p>
Ordinary Council Meeting held 19 April 2021			
63/21	GM	<p>Residential Development – Lockhart</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) That Council proceed with the subdivision of Lots 62 and 90 Prichard Place Lockhart as outlined in the report. 2) That the cost of subdividing the land be funded from the Infrastructure Reserve with the proceeds of any land sales to be returned to the Reserve. 	<p>The development application for Lot 62 (westernmost lot) has been approved. The application for Lot 90 is still being processed as further investigation has been required regarding sewerage services to the site and compaction of a former dam on the site.</p>

Lockhart Shire Council
Ordinary Meeting – 21 November 2022

Minute No:	Officer to Action	Council Resolution	Action Taken
Ordinary Council Meeting held 15 February 2021			
9/21	DCCS	<p>The Lockhart Recreation Ground Management Committee – Request for Financial Assistance</p> <p>Approve an interest-free loan to the Lockhart Recreation Ground Management Committee of up to \$70,000 with repayments being Year 1 \$4,200 and the remaining 14 years will be repayments of \$4,700 to support an application to Building Better Regions Fund – Infrastructure Projects Stream – Round Five.</p>	<p>This resolution will be actioned if the application to the Building Better Regions Fund – Infrastructure Projects Stream – Round Five is successful.</p> <p>The Lockhart Football Netball Club have been advised the grant application has been successful. A report will be provided at a future Council meeting.</p> <p>Contractor engaged to source tenders/quotes.</p>
Ordinary Council Meeting held 20 July 2020			
133/20	GM	<p>Naming of Bridges – Brookong Creek and Urana Lockhart Road</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Propose the bridge on Urana Lockhart Road be named Brookong Creek Bridge. 2. Propose the culvert over Brookong Creek in Green Street, Lockhart, be named Greens Gunyah Bridge, Brookong Creek. 3. Write to Transport for NSW advising of the proposed names for the bridge on Urana Lockhart Road and the new culvert over Brookong Creek, Lockhart. 	<p>Advice received on 3/8/22 from TfNSW regarding requirement for consultation with Wagga Local Aboriginal Lands Council. Information forwarded to Wagga LALC and awaiting response.</p>
Ordinary Council Meeting held 20 April 2020			
70/20	GM	<p>Review of Operational Land</p> <p>Council adopts the following actions in relation to the review of land classified as “operational land”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach the adjoining owner of the land situated at 2410 Albury Road, Urangeline regarding potential sale or transfer of the land. 	<p>Contact has been made with the adjoining landowner and information provided regarding the Council owned land in anticipation of further discussions.</p> <p>The landowner is liaising with their solicitor.</p> <p>A valuation report has been commissioned to facilitate an offer being made to the landowner.</p>
Ordinary Council Meeting held 17 October 2022 – Councillor Questions & Statements			
Questions & Statements	DEES	<p>Cr Rockliff: Disabled Parking and Access – Valmar Services</p> <p>Advised Valmar were unable to have a designated disabled parking space in front of their building because there is no ramp access from the street to the footpath and asked if access could be given.</p>	<p>Refer separate report to Council (Staff Report 7, page 36).</p>
	DEES	<p>Cr Rockliff: Streetlighting on Green Street, near Magnolia Lodge:</p> <p>Advised there is no streetlighting on the western end of Green Street, compared to what is in place in the newer streets, Prichard Place and Rockliff Court and asked that the installation of additional lighting be investigated.</p>	<p>Street lighting to be reviewed. Magnolia Lodge has three existing pedestrian lamps potential to be upgraded.</p>

Lockhart Shire Council
Ordinary Meeting – 21 November 2022

Minute No:	Officer to Action	Council Resolution	Action Taken
	DEES	Cr Rockliff: Management Policy - Roadside Drainage Cr Rockliff stated there is a need for a management policy for maintenance of Council's roadside drainage, including table drains.	To be included in asset management plan.
	DEES	Cr Rockliff: Wilson's Crossing "S" bends on Urana Lockhart Road Advised there are trees blocking sight for vehicles travelling along Urana Lockhart Road, creating a possible hazard.	Numerous substantial trees are present. Propose to review line marking through bend and install solid barrier line.
	DEES	Cr Hunter: Drainage Issue, Yerong Creek Mangoplah Road Referred to an issue with blocked drainage on Yerong Creek Mangoplah Road which caused problems in the rain event on Friday, 14 October and asked what action had been taken.	Works order issued for culvert widening. Further work to be carried out to improve drainage in front of school requiring engineering design and future budget.
	DCCS	Cr Marston: Lease Arrangements – The Rock Public Watering Place (PWP) Referred to the lease currently in place for the PWP and amendments made to allow Council to carry out drainage works. Cr Marston asked, now that works are complete, if a fence is going to be put in place, and further requested that the lessees receive a further amended lease, or clarification of requirements.	Investigating.
	DEES	Cr Verdon: Drain in The Rock Recreation Ground Referred to a drain in The Rock Recreation Ground and asked that it be cleaned out.	To be completed when resources and weather conditions permit.
	DEES/ DCCS	Cr Verdon: Disability Access Across the Shire Referred to Kurt Fearnley's speech at the recent Lockhart Community Bank branch birthday celebrations. The speech was a reminder that people with disabilities are entitled to access. Cr Verdon suggested an audit be carried out, with a view to improving access across the Shire, making sure all Council facilities are accessible to all residents.	Audit will be undertaken when resources permit.
Ordinary Council Meeting held 19 September 2022 – Councillor Questions & Statements			
Questions & Statements	DEES	Cr Marston: Drain – Yerong Street Asked if the drainage pipe under Urana Street, along Yerong Street, has been decommissioned as was discussed with the former Director of Engineering & Environmental Services.	Awaiting confirmation from contractor.

Lockhart Shire Council
Ordinary Meeting – 21 November 2022

Minute No:	Officer to Action	Council Resolution	Action Taken
	DEES	<p>Cr Marston: Yerong Street – Driveways</p> <p>Advised he has been contacted by an owner who has requested reflectors on the guardrail/culverts adjacent to their driveway to assist with entry to properties. Cr Marston also requested that reflectors be placed on the culverts at the rear lanes to improve visibility.</p>	<p>Work order issued. All guardrails have been fitted with reflectors or guideposts.</p> <p>Complete.</p>
	DEES	<p>Cr Day: Safe Access to Main Street</p> <p>Has been contacted by a constituent who experienced difficulty accessing the footpath from the disabled parking space adjacent to the Commercial Hotel. Cr Day has also been approached by a resident who utilises an electric wheelchair and would like to access the local laundromat. Cr Day asked how many disabled parking spaces are provided in the Shire, how many are required to be provided, and what is the criteria for a 90-degree parking space? Cr Day also asked what Council's options or requirements are for providing access to premises?</p>	<p>Quotes being sought to install disabled access ramp for car parking. Council exceeds requirement for disabled parking of 1 per 100 spaces. Existing premises are not required to upgrade entrances. Owner of laundromat has been contacted requesting improved access.</p> <p>Refer separate report to Council (Staff Report 7, page 36).</p>
	DEES	<p>Cr Driscoll: Old Trunk Road, The Rock</p> <p>Advised that the 3km of this road situated in the Wagga City Council area is in an atrocious condition and asked if the matter could be raised with Wagga Wagga City Council.</p>	<p>Matter has been raised with Wagga Wagga City Council.</p> <p>Complete.</p>
	DCCS	<p>Cr Driscoll: The Rock Observatory</p> <p>Asked that the Observatory be considered for the same funding given to other s355 committees to assist with the running of the facility.</p>	<p>An allocation will be included in the first Quarterly Budget Review to be presented at November 2022 Council meeting.</p> <p>Refer separate report to Council (Staff Report 10, page 42).</p>
	DEES	<p>Cr Mathews: Rear Lanes</p> <p>Asked if there was a strategy in place for maintenance of these laneways.</p>	<p>The Director advised that, with the wet weather, focus has been on repairing the wider road network but acknowledged the laneways are becoming a more urgent priority.</p>
	DEES	<p>Cr Walker: Carns Lane</p> <p>Reported that due to water on the road a local resident is unable to use the road to remove grain from his property and asked what can be done. He enquired whether securing an additional grader once the weather is more suitable was an option.</p>	<p>The Director advised that the wet weather is having a major impact with respect to both minor repairs and heavy patching. He indicated that the structure of the engineering team is being reviewed, with the possibility of an additional grader crew being considered.</p>
	DEES	<p>Cr Verdon: Lodge Road</p> <p>Advised this road, which provides access to The Rock Cemetery, has broken up quite substantially and asked that repairs be made.</p>	<p>Work Order issued. Repairs completed 12 October 2022.</p> <p>Complete.</p>
	DEES	<p>Cr Verdon: Laneway behind Emily Gardens</p> <p>Asked that the potholes be filled in, and also at The Rock Medical Centre.</p>	<p>Work Order issued.</p>

Lockhart Shire Council
Ordinary Meeting – 21 November 2022

Minute No:	Officer to Action	Council Resolution	Action Taken
	DEES	Cr Verdon: Aumanns Lane Acknowledged that Aumanns Lane is an unconstructed road. However, local landholders require it for access and Cr Verdon asked if it can it be graded when dry.	Added to program for grading when weather permits and in line with surrounding roads.
Ordinary Council Meeting held 15 August 2022 – Councillor Questions & Statements			
Questions & Statements	DEES	Cr Walker – Vincent Road Advised this road is suffering badly from the ongoing wet weather and suggested Council could consider sealing the next 3-4km to alleviate some of the issues, possibly funded by future grant programs.	Included in most recent round of Fixing Country Roads program.
	DCCS	Cr Marston – The Rock Recreation Ground Referred to the drain behind the building at the Recreation Ground needs cleaning out, possibly as part of works for the Second Oval project. Cr Marston advised water is pooling in the drain and becoming stagnant.	DCCS asked if alternate arrangements could be made by the Committee with a local contractor/volunteer to carry out the works it would be appreciated in consideration of the already large workload Council's maintenance crews have due to the ongoing wet weather.
	DEES	Cr Verdon – Sealing of Roads, The Rock Recreation Ground Referred to discussions which took place with the former Director of Engineering & Environmental Services regarding sealing from the sealed road (Wilson St) to the entrance of the Recreation Ground and enquired whether this was still a possibility.	Work order issued. Will be included in summer sealing program.
Ordinary Council Meeting held 18 July 2022 – Councillor Questions & Statements			
Questions & Statements	DCCS/ DEES	Cr Marston – The Rock Pony Club Advised that pony clubs are now required to load and unload horses from their floats in an enclosed area and requested some minor improvements to facilitate this.	Meeting held with DEES, DCCS and Pony Club on 29 July. Cost estimate for minor works has been prepared.
Ordinary Council Meeting held 20 June 2022 – Councillor Questions & Statements			
Questions & Statements	DCCS	Cr Hunter – Yerong Creek Bowling Club Advised the Bowling Club are still awaiting receipt of an Occupation Certificate for the building.	An accredited certifier for Class 2-9 buildings has been engaged to review and identify outstanding works to be completed for the issue of an Occupation Certificate. Inspection completed and report has been received. Outstanding works being costed.
	DCCS	Cr Walker – Electricity Bills, The Rock Showground Could the committee have some assistance in working out a split for the bill.	Electricity bills have been received and currently being analysed. Reimbursement payment processed. Complete.

Lockhart Shire Council
Ordinary Meeting – 21 November 2022

Minute No:	Officer to Action	Council Resolution	Action Taken
Ordinary Council Meeting held 19 April 2022 – Councillor Questions & Statements			
Question & Statements	DEES (GM)	Cr Rockliff: Tree, Galore Street Referred to an email received by Council regarding a tree near 58 Galore Street, which appears to be eaten out at the bottom and could be dangerous. Cr Rockliff asked for an update on this matter.	Tree assessment has been completed in accordance with Australian Standards and landowner advised of the outcome. Tree assessment to be reviewed. QTRA risk assessment was Broadly Acceptable – No Further Action Required. This specimen and many others in this area are remnant indigenous vegetation. An Environmental Assessment will be conducted before any canopy works are approved in the future. Complete.
	GM	Cr Hunter: Connectivity Asked if there were any outcomes from the recent meeting with the Regional General Manager of Telstra.	Council currently collating information on blackspots and connectivity issues across the Shire to provide to the NSW Telco Authority. A survey for this purpose has been distributed to Shire residents and made available on Council's website. The survey responses are currently being collated.
	DEES (GM)	Cr Driscoll: German Church Road "Davidsons Hill" Referred to the road being too narrow for heavy vehicles and the hill providing poor visibility. Cr Driscoll asked if something can be done on 500m of road in Lockhart Shire to where it meets the Wagga City Council boundary.	Cost estimate to be prepared and included in future budgets. Submitted in most recent round of Fixing Country Roads.
	DEES	Cr Verdon: Pedestrian Crossing Brought attention to the section of Urana Street at the post office, where heavy vehicles are causing major "shoves" impeding the travel of mobility scooters.	A works request has been submitted and the matter is being attended to. Requires substantial rectification works, to be included in heavy patching program.
	DEES	Cr Verdon: Roads Budget Asked that Council considers a widening project near "Ryans Hill" on The Rock Collingullie Road.	Cost estimate to be prepared and included in future budgets. Submitted in most recent round of Fixing Country Roads.
Ordinary Council Meeting held 21 February 2022 – Councillor Questions & Statements			
Questions & Statements	DEES	Cr Walker: Bulloc Hill Road Asked for an update on progress of negotiations with Wagga City Council for the works done inadvertently in WWCC area.	Wagga City Council have agreed to reimburse costs and an invoice for payment has been sent. Complete. Road was inspected and will be re-sheeted when grading program returns to the area.

Lockhart Shire Council
Ordinary Meeting – 21 November 2022

Minute No:	Officer to Action	Council Resolution	Action Taken
Ordinary Council Meeting held 10 January 2022 – Councillor Questions & Statements			
Questions & Statements	DCCS	Cr Driscoll: Technology Referred to the address via Zoom by Council's auditor and asked if the equipment in the Council chamber could be upgraded to allow better connectivity for online participation in Council meetings.	Upgrade currently being investigated as the projectors, which were installed during construction of the building, are now 10 years old and outdated. Contact has been made with a Leeton-based company and an on-site meeting is being scheduled. Funds allocated in the 2022/23 Operational Plan Budget. Quotes are being sourced.
	DEES	Cr Driscoll: Urana Street Median Enquired whether it was possible to reclassify the median strip in the road reserve of Urana Street at The Rock as recreation space so the road does not need to be closed for events such as markets.	Median strip forms part of the road reserve and it is not a matter of classification of the land. Whether the road needs to be closed or not, and any other traffic management issues, for any event will depend on the nature and scale of the event and would be assessed in conjunction with the lodgement of an event management plan.
Ordinary Council Meeting held 18 October 2021 – Councillor Questions & Statements			
Questions & Statements	DEES	Cr Marston: Sign, The Rock Recreation Ground Referred to an information sign at the recreation ground which has information on both sides but can only be read from the footpath because of access issues, asked if the sign could be relocated nearer to the playground to allow both sides to be viewed.	DEES to follow up. Cr Driscoll referred to the Progress Association as the original installers. Progress Association have been contacted for location. Works programmed.
Ordinary Council Meeting held 21 June 2021 – Councillor Questions & Statements			
Questions & Statements	DEES	Cr Driscoll: Community Reflection Space Asked if it was possible the park across the road from The Rock Central School could be utilised as a place of quiet reflection for the town, particularly for those suffering the loss of loved ones due to suicide, which has had an impact on the community in recent years.	Park deemed appropriate for reflection space. Proponent to present proposal to Council for consideration. Cr Driscoll met with the General Manager and Manager Parks & Facilities to progress the project. Position agreed upon. Design to be finalised and costed.

Correspondence Received

Date sent to Councillors	From	Subject
26 Oct 2022	The Mayor (via Executive Assistant)	Mayoral Update
27 Oct 2022	General Manager	Avondale Place Update
31 Oct 2022	Executive Assistant	Forwarding LGNSW and ALGA News dated 28 and 31 October respectively.
4 Nov 2022	Executive Assistant	Forwarding LGNSW Weekly News dated 1 November.

Date sent to Councillors	From	Subject
8 Nov 2022	Executive Assistant	Forwarding LGNSW Weekly News dated 8 November.
11 Nov 2022	General Manager	LEP Review – Local Profile and Issues Report
14 Nov 2022	Executive Assistant	Forwarding ALGA News dated 14 November 2022.
15 Nov 2022	Executive Assistant	Forwarding LG NSW news dated 15 November 2022.

Recommendation: That the Status Report and Correspondence Précis be received and noted.

STAFF REPORTS

STRATEGIC DIRECTION A: A Connected and Resilient Community

1. THE ROCK RECREATION GROUND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

(GM: 22/14659)

Executive Summary

A request for financial assistance has been received from The Rock Recreation Ground Management Committee and is tabled for Council's consideration.

Report

A request for financial assistance has been received from The Rock Recreation Ground Management Committee on the following basis:

- The Rock Recreation Ground Management Committee successfully applied for a grant through Riverina Water to erect shade sails over the playground.
- The Management Committee received a quote from a company that was not exactly what the Committee requested as it only covered a third of the playground.
- A new quote was arranged through another company based on a design that will cover all of the equipment. The quoted amount is \$31,625.
- The Riverina Water grant is for an amount of \$22,000 and the Management Committee has \$7,662 of its own funds it can make available for the project.

The Committee is seeking Council's assistance in meeting the shortfall of \$1,963.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

A1: Build capacity, capability and partnerships to encourage sustainable community groups and clubs.

A1: Provide support and advice to community groups, clubs and volunteers.

A1: Within financial means support and fund section 355 committees to manage and maintain council facilities.

Legislative Policy & Planning Implications

Pursuant to Section 356 of the Local Government Act Council may, in accordance with a resolution of the Council, contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons for the purpose of exercising its functions.

Budget & Financial Aspects

Council has allocated an amount of \$52,000 in the 2022/23 budget to accommodate requests for financial assistance and accordingly there is a sufficient amount in the budget to approve the request from The Rock Recreation Ground Management Committee.

Attachments

Nil.

Recommendation: That Council provide financial assistance in the amount of \$1,963 to The Rock Recreation Ground Management Committee and that the contribution be funded from the 2022/23 budget allocation for Section 356 contributions.

2. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – ABBEY FELLOWS

DCCS 22/15523

Executive Summary

Request for financial assistance received from Abbey Fellows.

Report

Abbey Fellows has recently completed her Bachelor of Education. Abbey has been selected to attend a Study Tour to Nepal in 2023 through the Marigold Co-operation. For more information on the Marigold Co-operation go to link: www.themarigoldco-op.com.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

A3.2: Facilitate and Support our Community to Deliver vibrant and Dynamic Community Events.

Legislative Policy & Planning Implications

Our policy objective provides that any assistance will be based on the benefit to the Lockhart Shire Council community.

Our policy statement states in part that Council will consider financial assistance to local sport and other bodies and individuals where the applicants have demonstrated a community need.

Compliance with Council's eligibility criteria is as follows:

- Be based within the Council area – Yes
- Be not for profit – Yes
- Not having received other funding from Council in this financial year – Yes
- Agree to acknowledge Council's contribution in publicity for the event – Not stated

Budget & Financial Aspects

Section 356 Budget of \$52,000, with \$32,362 unspent. (This is not factoring in outcome of Staff Report 1.)

Attachment

Letter received from Abbey Fellows.

Recommendation: That Council determine whether to provide sponsorship for Abbey Fellows.

[Next Item](#)

Staff Report 2: Attachment – Request for Sponsorship, Abbey Fellows

File No :	
Leg :	
	INFO REPLY REPORT
GM	
DCCS	
Rec'd	25 OCT 2022
DEES	
MES	
HR	
TEDO	

21st October 2022

Mr Peter Veneris – General Manager Lockhart Shire Council

My name is Abbey Fellows, I am 25 years old and have just completed a Bachelor of Education (Primary and Special Education) through the University of Newcastle. I have been fortunate enough to be selected, as one of eight students, to attend a Study Tour to Nepal in 2023, through the Marigold Co-Op.

This invaluable experience will allow me to immerse myself in the Nepalese culture, connect and collaborate with like-minded individuals and teach and learn in a developing country; in order to bring this knowledge and experience back to Australian classrooms.

I am writing to seek sponsorship to attend this tour and would be extremely grateful for any assistance you could provide to make this opportunity possible.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me personally via fellowsabbey@gmail.com or 0458 000 160 or I would be happy to meet face-to-face.

Kindest Regards,

Abbey Fellows



Request for Mobility Support for Abbey Fellows: Study Tour to Nepal February 2023

Thank you for reading this letter.

We are a not-for-profit social enterprise (The Marigold Co-Operation) that is focused on supporting the capacity of disadvantaged people in Nepal through importing and selling handicrafts made by marginalised people around Nepal (<https://www.themarigoldco-op.com/volunteer>). We support a reliable program (NRCD) in Nepal that runs training for people with disabilities to start their own self-sustaining businesses in local villages.

One aspect of our work is a volunteer program, whereby emerging and practicing teachers volunteer their time to teach conversational English to Nepali students in two schools in Nepal (Kathmandu and Palpa, a regional town). Thus far, these lessons have taken place via Zoom and have been very successful.

In February 2023, Racheal Arthur-Kelly, one of the founders of the Marigold Co-op, will host a study tour for 8 students from The University of Newcastle as part of course EDUC3800. The 18-day tour will centre on face-to-face volunteer work in our two host schools, building directly on the relationships between Australia and Nepal that have developed amongst teachers, students and volunteers via Zoom technology.

One of these students, Abbey Fellows, has been an exceptional volunteer with us for several years and is at a point in her teacher education program that precludes the provision of financial assistance for this study tour by The University of Newcastle.

We write to ask if your organisation has any capacity to provide financial support for Abbey. Abbey grew up, and is currently teaching in, your local community. Abbey is an outstanding emerging teacher and cares for her elderly grandmother. The cost of the 18-day tour is \$6000 and we would be very grateful for any support you could provide to Abbey for this experience.

In our view, Abbey is a positive and active young person who makes a great contribution to her local community. Abbey is an exemplary emerging leader of young people in the Lockhart Shire community. Abbey has provided educational support for two young Iraqi refugee students, both of whom have Congenital Muscular Dystrophy, has volunteered teaching English in Cambodia and outdoor education in England.

Your support for Abbey would assist the realisation of her vision to enhance intercultural understanding and co-operation between Australia and Nepal.

Thank you for considering this request and please be in touch if we can clarify any aspect for you. We hope to hear from you in due course.

Racheal and Michael Arthur-Kelly

The Marigold Co-Operation

michael.arthur-kelly@newcastle.edu.au

0423 164 057

STRATEGIC DIRECTION B: A Dynamic and Prosperous Economy

3. LOCKHART MAIN STREET BINS

(DEES: 22/15618)

Executive Summary

This report outlines the proposal to replace the current bins in the shire, starting with Lockhart's main street to incorporate a recycling option.

Report

Within the Lockhart Shire main streets, waste is collected in single waste-stream bins pictured below. As part of Council's commitment to sustainability and environmental enhancement it is proposed to introduce new bin enclosures to include both general waste and recycling and a larger 120L bin. As Council's waste contractor already collects recycling, these bins will be added to the existing service. The existing bins are small requiring a higher number of bins compared to the proposed bins. This requires more regular emptying, maintenance and cleaning.



Existing main street bins

Council has adopted a main street masterplan for Green Street, Lockhart. The masterplan outlines street furniture including bin enclosures. The style of bin enclosure is shown below. The purchase of these style of enclosures allows them to be used in future main street upgrades without needing replacement.



'Frame' bin enclosure with Escola eBin Smart sensor by Street Furniture Australia.

Proposed bin enclosure in the adopted main street masterplan.

The bin enclosures can be coloured red for general waste and yellow for recycling. It is planned to place bins near high traffic areas and adequately spaced through the main street. At this stage bin enclosures for green waste have not been included.

Following the roll-out of bins and enclosures in the main street a replacement program will be undertaken over future years to replace bins in the rest of the shire.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

- B1: Manage and improve the appearance of our towns, in line with their desired identities
- B1: Improve the convenience and amenity of our towns
- C1: Utilise effective waste management practices.

Legislative Policy & Planning Implications

The proposed bins are consistent with the adopted Masterplan for Green Street, Lockhart

Budget & Financial Aspects

There is no budget for the proposed replacement, Council would have to allocate funding.

Attachments

Nil.

Recommendation: That council:

- a) Allocate \$30,000 for the replacement of existing bins in Green Street with general waste and recycling bin and enclosures.
- b) Replacement of bins and enclosures in remaining town centres be funded in future budgets.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION C: An Environment that is Respected and Protected

4. PROJECT ENERGYCONNECT UPDATE

(GM: 22/14675)

Executive Summary

A further update is provided in relation to Project EnergyConnect involving the construction of an above ground transmission line between Robertstown in South Australia and Wagga Wagga in NSW. The update relates to compensation payments to landowners announced by the NSW Government and details regarding the accommodation camp to be established in Lockhart Shire.

Report

Transgrid has advised that the NSW Government has announced a Strategic Benefits Payments (SBP) scheme for landowners. The SBP scheme provides for annualised payments to landowners and is in response to the dissatisfaction with the current model of one-off compensation payments expressed by landowners.

Under the SBP scheme, private landowners hosting new high voltage transmission projects critical to the energy transformation and future of the electricity grid will be paid a set rate of \$200,000 per kilometre of transmission hosted. The amount will be paid in annual instalments over 20 years, linked to the CPI. In other words, the SBP is a payment of \$10,000 per kilometre of transmission line across privately-owned land, paid annually over a period of 20 years and adjusted for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index.

The SBPs are in addition to any compensation paid under the *Just Terms Compensation Act (1991)* and will apply to landowners whose properties are hosting major transmission projects that are required for the energy transition under the Australian Energy Market Operator's Integrated System Plan (ISP) and the NSW Government's Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap.

This includes private individuals or corporate entities that own land in NSW. Public landowners are not eligible to receive SBPs. Private landholders within Lockhart Shire will be eligible for these payments.

More information regarding the SBP scheme is available on the Transgrid website at <https://www.transgrid.com.au/customers-community/easement-payments>.

In the meantime the following information has been obtained from SecureEnergy, the Contractor delivering the project, regarding the accommodation camp to be established in Lockhart Shire:

- Located on the corner of Lockhart Collingullie Road and County Boundary Road, the Lockhart camp is expected to have accommodation capacity for 200 beds.
- Enabling works such as access points are scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2023, and camp occupancy is scheduled by mid-2023.
- The accommodation camp will have a small camp shop selling toiletries and miscellaneous items such as snacks.
- The Lockhart camp will be fully serviced. The camp provider, ESS, will be providing a hot breakfast and dinner with a crib lunch from the kitchen.
- The workforce will be on a set roster with a 10-hour working day with no travel permitted to local towns in the evening. Delegated staff will be permitted to access local facilities to purchase project equipment etc.
- SecureEnergy encourages its workforce to visit local tourist locations in the region on rostered days off and once the project has been delivered.
- SecureEnergy is considering providing a bus service to allow staff to go into town on their rostered day off.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

C1: Ensure responsible development practices are exercised.

Legislative Policy & Planning Implications

Project EnergyConnect has been declared Critical State Significant Infrastructure and as a result the consent authority for this Project is the Minister for Planning.

Budget & Financial Aspects

Nil.

Attachments

Nil.

Recommendation: That the information be noted.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION D: Infrastructure for the Long-Term Needs of the Community

5. ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORT

(DEES)

Executive Summary

Monthly report on engineering and environmental services matters.

Background Information

a) **Works**

Stormwater

Ongoing rain is causing minor flooding throughout the shire affecting works programs. Council crews have been working outside normal hours to attend to issues including closing roads. Council crews have undertaken works at Emily Street, The Rock and planning minor work at Cole Street, Yerong Creek. Engineering designs are being sought for these locations to improve drainage and provide budget estimates noting previous work done as part of Councils flood studies. DEES is meeting with The Rock SES to discuss use of the new pump. Council has also received notification of approved works from Transport for NSW for flood damaged roads.

Prichard PI

Minor drainage works will be carried out when weather permits to complete the project.

Lockhart Kywong Rd – 1.25km North of Slocums Ln

Work has commenced on the realignment of pavement over the new culverts.

Mittagong Yerong Creek Road

Culverts have been ordered and construction scheduled to commence February 2023, weather permitting.

Unsealed Road Maintenance

Maintenance of gravel roads has been conducted on Tara Rd, Amerys Ln, Tootool Mittagong Rd, Edgehill School Ln, Edgehill Stock Route, McReadies Ln, Seberrys Ln, Bankvale Rd, Fletts Ln, and Long Park Rd.

Maintenance Crews

Both the bitumen and maintenance crews have been kept busy with an increase of pavement failures due to the weather, routine maintenance has continued on our Local and Regional Roads.

b) **Parks & Gardens**

Pools

Swim season is here again and both our sparkling pool facilities are open.

Lockhart and The Rock P&G teams maintained the grounds and gardens throughout the off season and ensured they were ready to be handed over to our contractors.

Parks and Gardens

Ongoing garden maintenance including weeding, spraying, pruning, deadheading, and mulching has been conducted to prepare Council facilities for spring and the event season.

Irrigation systems will be checked and turned on as required.

Mowing and Slashing

Spring growth rates are with us; slashing in towns and villages is being conducted as required and where access for machines is available. Council asks for your patience as regular rain and saturated roadsides are delaying customary scheduling. Resources have been concentrated around high-profile areas frequented during the recent Shire and regional events.

Growth rates of irrigated lawns have also increased, maintenance is returning to spring scheduling.

Trees

Some tree maintenance has continued, with a focus on under pruning older trees and formative pruning of younger street trees.

Watering of trees planted in the last two years has not commenced, due to regular rain. Watering requirements will be monitored as trees come back into leaf and the weather continues to warm up.

Lockhart Shire's Street Tree Policy 2.44 states; 'Council is responsible for the planting and maintenance of street trees, including the selection of species, regular health, and safety checks, pruning, and removal and replanting requirements.

Issues presented to residents regarding street trees, including species selection, maintenance and/or removal should be made in writing and addressed to the General Manager. Such issues will be resolved based on financial and time restraints.

c) **Biosecurity**

WEEDS

Property Inspections

Inspections were carried out on residential, rural and commercial properties, which were selected due a change in ownership.

The weeds most commonly found were Green cestrum (*Cestrum parqui*), Horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), Lippia (*Phyla canescens*), Bridal creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*), Cape broom (*Genista monspessulana*), Prickly pear (*Opuntia* sp.), Giant reed (*Arundo donax*), Privet (*Ligustrum* sp.), and St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) respectively.

No. 1 st Inspections	No. Re-inspections required	No. 2 nd Inspections	No. Biosecurity Undertakings Accepted	No. Biosecurity Directions Issued	No. 3 rd Inspections	No. 4 th Inspections
21	10	0	0	0	0	0

Control Program

Priority has been given to the control of St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) on roadside reserves, as well as fire hazard reduction of roadside shoulders.

PESTS

Common White Snail Baiting Program

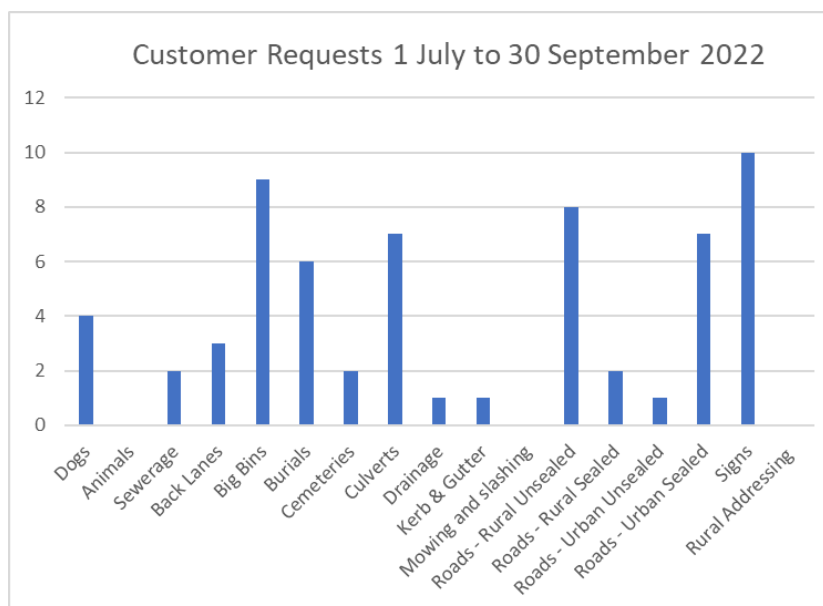
Snail baiting application occurred on Fairview Lane on 18 October.

- d) **Development Approvals:** The following development applications were approved, with conditions, from 1 October to 31 October 2022.

DA/CDC No	Development	Applicant	Site of Development
DA15/23	Additions & alterations to existing dwelling	W & S Jones	3632 Lockhart The Rock Rd, The Rock
DA16/23	Additional bunker storage	S Lutze	Lockhart Boree Creek Rd, Boree Creek
DA18/23	Dwelling house	L Metcalfe	9 Rockliff Crt, Lockhart
DA19/23	Farm shed	R Baker	5086 Albury Rd, Lockhart
CDC20/23	Single dwelling	J Eggleton	222 Green Street West, Lockhart

DA/CDC No	Development	Applicant	Site of Development
DA21/23	Bachelors & Spinsters Ball	G Driscoll	3778 Lockhart The Rock Rd, The Rock
DA22/23	Operation of extractive industry – gravel	C Burkinshaw	Tootool Mittagong Rd, Tootool
CDC23/23 PC	Dwelling & garage	Cavalier Homes	34 Macconochie St, Yerong Creek
CDC25/23	Inground swimming pool	G Leckie	5 Cox St, Yerong Creek
DA26/23	Inground swimming pool	M Coombes	Burkes St, The Rock
DA28/23	Secondary dwelling	S Way	493 Eulensteins Rd, Yerong Creek

e) **Customer Requests – 1 July to 30 September 2022**



Note: “Big Bins” were mainly replacement or additional bins, “Roads – Rural Unsealed” were mainly as a result of adverse weather events, and “Signs” were replacements, new and requests for “give way”.

Legislative Policy and Planning Implications

Development applications are processed under the provisions of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*.

Weed inspections and associated activities are carried out in accordance the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and associated regulations.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

C2: Flora and fauna are protected across the Shire.

D1: Our assets and infrastructure are well planned and managed to meet the needs of the community now and into the future.

D2: Our planning and development controls work to attract new residents and investment.

Budget and Financial Aspects

Will be conducted within Council’s allocated budget.

Attachment

Nil

Recommendation: That Council notes the information provided in the Engineering and Environmental Services report.

6. LOCKHART AIRSTRIP

(DEES: 22/14791)

Executive Summary

Council leases part of Mr Alan Mulholland's land for use as an airstrip for Lockhart. The lease expired on 30 June 2020. Council can renew the contract for another five years or a differing term or choose to let the lease lapse.

Report

In 2005 Council jointly with the Wagga Wagga Gliding Club (WWGC) entered into an agreement to lease land from Mr Alan Mulholland for use as an airstrip. In 2011 the WWGC advised that it had gone into recess leaving Council as the sole lessee. On expiration of the lease Council investigated the option of cancelling the lease due to the cost of the lease and the on-going maintenance. The low volumes of air traffic and prevalence of private airstrips were also factors in the discussion.

In June 2011 Council agreed to renew the lease for five years at a cost of \$2,000 p.a., which was again renewed in 2015. The current maintenance costs are approximately \$10,000 p.a. primarily for regular mowing, however more expenditure is envisaged to address longer term maintenance issues.

One of the main drivers for the most recent extension in 2015 was for fire-fighting purposes. Feedback from the Rural Fire Service (RFS) has been received where the RFS has advised that it is moving towards only operating firefighting aircraft out of registered airstrips; being Wagga Wagga and Griffith in the region. The RFS has also advised that, if Council cancels the lease, it would write off the tanks due to their age rather than try to move them to another location.

Based on the current feedback from the RFS and ongoing costs, it is proposed to advertise the closure of the airstrip. Feedback will be sought from the Australian Airline Pilot Academy based in Wagga Wagga.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

D1: Plan sustainable transport strategies.

Legislative Policy & Planning Implications

Airstrip is required to meet current Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) regulations.

Budget & Financial Aspects

Current lease is \$2,000 p.a. and maintenance cost is approximately \$10,000 p.a.

Attachments

Nil.

Recommendation: That Council advertises the closure of the Lockhart Airstrip for 30 days and consider any submissions received.

7. LOCKHART MAIN STREET PARKING

(DEES: 22/15011)

Executive Summary

Council has requested information on parking for people with disabilities. This report outlines the actions taken to improve parking in Green Street, Lockhart.

Report

Councillors have raised concerns regarding wheelchair access from the marked disabled car parking spaces and the need for further disabled car parking in front of Valmar.

There are currently 78 angled car parking spaces in Green Street, Lockhart. The Australian Standard (AS2890) for on-street parking states that disabled car parking spaces should be provided at the rate of 1 per 100 spaces. There are currently two disabled car parking spaces adjacent to the lampposts on either side of Green Street which exceeds the requirement. There is also a community parking space painted red at the western end of Green Street.

The Australian Standard also states that the spaces themselves should not exceed a slope of 1:33, be not less than 3.2m, have a continuous accessible path of travel and be signposted. To be eligible to park in a disabled space, drivers must obtain a medical report stating that they:

- have a permanent or temporary loss of use of one or both legs
- have another permanent medical or physical condition that means your physical condition is detrimentally affected as a result of walking 100 metres
- require the use of crutches, a walking frame, callipers, scooter, wheelchair or other similar mobility aid
- are permanently blind.

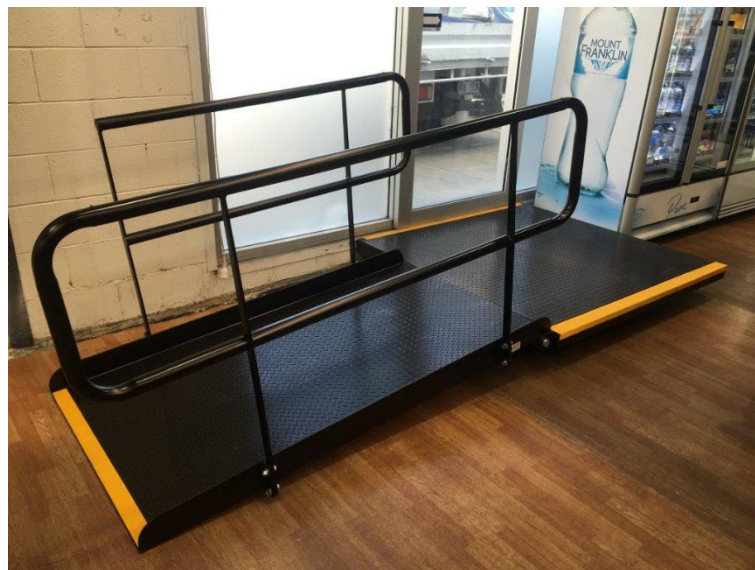
Carers are not eligible for a parking permit.

Valmar Parking

Valmar provides disability services, community aged care and community transport. Public parking is available in Green Street, and rear lane access to private parking is available at the rear of the property. In order to provide disabled access to Valmar and comply with AS 2890.2 requires the kerb to be cut and a ramp installed and removal of an adjoining space to meet the width requirement. Additionally care staff or employees could not make use of the space as they are not eligible for a mobility parking permit. If a disabled car parking space were to be provided Council would need to allocate funds to make the space compliant.

Existing Spaces

There are two existing disabled car parking spaces. Recently the linemarking in the main street was renewed and at that time the space on the southern side was moved east. Signposting has not yet been moved. As the old linemarking and sign have not been removed there are currently three disabled spaces. Issues with the current spaces include the lack of a continuous path of travel and slope of the ground. To address this issue, it is proposed to relocate one of the bench seats on each side and install a simple safety ramp similar to the one pictured below. A local manufacturer has been contacted for a quote.



Discussion

The installation of the ramps will make access easier and compliant with current standards. The proposal retains two disability car parking spaces. Rather than provide a third disabled car parking space in front of Valmar, moving the existing community parking space to the property would allow carers to use the space and not necessitate the need to make alterations to the kerb. Alternatively Council could keep the existing community parking space and create a new community car parking space in front of Valmar.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

A3: Provide support for people with a disability, their families and carers.

D1: Improve the safety of people on our roads

Legislative Policy & Planning Implications

Parking is required to meet Transport for NSW and Australian Standards.

Budget & Financial Aspects

There is no capital budget allocation for the proposed work. Council will need to allocate funding.

Attachments

Nil.

Recommendation: That Council:

- a) Allocate \$15,000 for the construction and installation of two disabled access ramps
- b) Endorse the removal of the existing disabled car parking space on the south-western side of Green Street and move it to the south-eastern side; and
- c) Remove the community parking space from the western end of Green Street and move it to in front of Valmar Community Services.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION E: Strong Leadership and Governance

8. INVESTMENT AND BANK BALANCES REPORT – OCTOBER 2022

(DCCS: 22/15305)

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the funds that have been invested and bank account balances.

Report

It is required under Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 and Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993 to provide the Council with a written report each month detailing all money that Council has invested.

Cash at Bank

Opening Combined Cashbook Balance		2,561,468.12
Add: Total Receipts		
	Rates	76,317.85
	Debtors	48,883.05
	Miscellaneous	76,964.00
	Interest	6,716.41
	Local Land Services - WAP Funding 2022/23	61,000.50
	Transport NSW - Emergency Works Grant	371,019.80
	Macquarie Bank - DEFT Transfer	440,000.00
		1,080,901.61
Less: Total Payments		2,843,053.97
	New Investments	1,250,000.00
Closing Combined Cashbook Balance		799,315.76
Closing Bank Statement Balance		
	Bendigo Bank	738,545.52
	Macquarie Bank	10,295.76
	Bendigo Bank-Prichard Trust	31,690.49
		780,531.77
Add: Outstanding Deposits		19,244.94
		799,776.71
Less: Outstanding Cheques		460.95
Closing Combined Cashbook Balance		799,315.76

	Interest Rate per Annum	Amount Invested	% of Total
Investments:			
Bank of Queensland	3.95	500,000.00	5.27
Bendigo	3.55	500,000.00	5.27
Bendigo	3.55	250,000.00	2.64
Bendigo	3.75	500,000.00	5.27
Bendigo	3.90	500,000.00	5.27
Bendigo	3.55	500,000.00	5.27
Bendigo	at call	79,595.83	0.84
Bendigo	2.85	400,000.00	4.22
Commonwealth	3.39	250,000.00	2.64
Commonwealth	3.01	500,000.00	5.27
Commonwealth	3.01	500,000.00	5.27
Commonwealth	3.39	500,000.00	5.27
Commonwealth	3.44	500,000.00	5.27
MACQUARIE BANK	2.75	500,000.00	5.27
MACQUARIE BANK	3.60	500,000.00	5.27
MACQUARIE BANK	2.30	500,000.00	5.27
NAB	3.72	500,000.00	5.27
NAB	2.83	500,000.00	5.27
NAB	3.50	500,000.00	5.27
NAB	3.55	500,000.00	5.27
NAB	3.46	500,000.00	5.27
		9,479,595.83	100.00
			AMOUNT
General (PTD)	1490-3000-0000		-1,620,882.02
Combined Sewerage	8490-3000-0000		2,388,507.29
Trust Fund	9991-3000-0000		31,690.49
		799,315.76	799,315.76
TOTAL FUNDS HELD ARE:		10,278,911.59	

Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

- E1: Council is strong, sustainable and able to stand alone.
- E1: Plan for the long-term sustainability of the Shire.
- E1: Meet all governance and regulatory requirements in the conduct of Council operations.

Legislative Policy and Planning Implications

- Local Government Act 1993 Section 625 Investments.
- Local Government (General) Regulation Clause 212.

Budget and Financial Aspects

Council's 2022/23 Operational Budget has forecast a total of \$39,750 income from interest on investments for General Fund & Sewer Fund combined. For the months July to October 2022, the average end of month balance of funds invested has been \$8.56 million and the average return on invested funds has been 2.67%. On these year-to-date figures, Council's budgeted income on investments will be achieved for the General Fund and Sewer Fund.

This will be monitored and if required adjusted at the 1st Quarterly Budget Review.

Responsible Accounting Officer Statement

I, Craig Fletcher, hereby certify that all investments listed in this report have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, Clause 212 of Local Government (General) Regulation and Council's Investment Policy. The Internal and External Reserve amounts and Unrestricted Funds are estimate valued only, they are subject to change and review in part with the audit of Council's Financial Statements and each Quarterly Budget Review.

Recommendation:

- a) That the October 2022 Investment and Bank Balances Report be received and noted.
- b) That the Responsible Accounting Officer Statement be noted, and the report be adopted.

9. PRESENTATION OF COUNCIL'S 2021/22 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DCCS 22/15325

Executive Summary

It is a legal requirement that the annual Audited Financial Statements be presented to Council within five weeks of the Auditor's Certificates being issued. The Auditor's Certificates relating to the Council's 2021/22 Financial Statements were issued on 27 October 2022 and public notice has been given that the Audited Financial Statements for 2021/22 will be presented to the Council meeting on 21 November 2022.

Report

The Auditor-General, Audit Office of New South Wales, has completed the audit of Council's Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2022.

Pursuant to section 419 (1) of the Local Government Act 1993 Council must present its Audited Financial Statements, together with the Auditor's Report, at a meeting of the Council no later than five weeks from the date the Auditor's Certificates are issued. Furthermore, in accordance with Section 418(3) of the Local Government Act 1993, and a resolution of Council passed at the Council meeting held on 17 October 2022, public notice was given on Council's website that the 2021/22 Audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report would be presented at the Council meeting to be held on 21 November 2022.

The Council achieved a surplus in net operating result from continuing operations (including capital contributions) of \$2.45M (2021: \$5.88M) for the year ended 30 June 2022. The net operating surplus for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes is \$(1.1M) (2021: \$60K).

A summary of the 2021/22 Financial Statements against the performance measures and performance benchmarks set by the Office of Local Government (OLG) is set out below. Consistent with previous years, Council's financial results are above the industry benchmark for all performance measures with the exception of own source revenue.

Council received, for the first time, a qualified opinion and this was with specific regard to Council resolving to not recognise the rural fire fighting (RFS) red fleet assets on Council's Balance Sheet. Refer to pages 75-76 for more detail on the basis for the qualified opinion.

Operating Performance Ratio

- The 'operating performance ratio' measures how well council contained operating expenditure within operating revenue (excluding capital grants and contributions, fair value adjustments, and reversal of revaluation decrements). The benchmark set by OLG is greater than zero per cent.
- The Council exceeded the OLG benchmark for the current reporting period.
- The operating performance ratio decreased to 2.64 per cent (2021: 9.51 per cent) due to the increase in depreciation expense by \$0.6 million and materials and services expense by \$0.7 million in 2021-22.



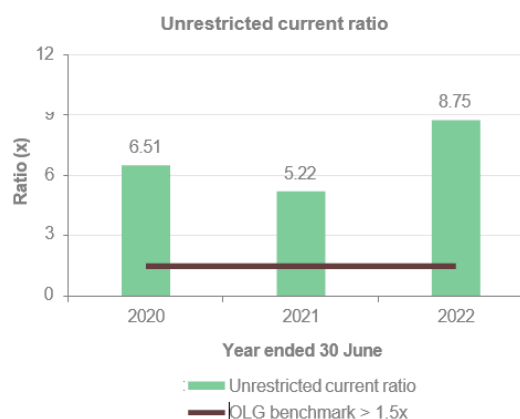
Own source operating revenue ratio

- The 'own source operating revenue ratio' measures council's fiscal flexibility and the degree to which it relies on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than 60 per cent.
- Council did not meet the OLG benchmark for the current reporting period. This indicates that the Council is more reliant on external funding sources, such as grants and contributions.
- The own source operating revenue ratio has increased in 2022, due to the overall reduction in grants and contributions revenue of \$1.3 million in 2021- 22.



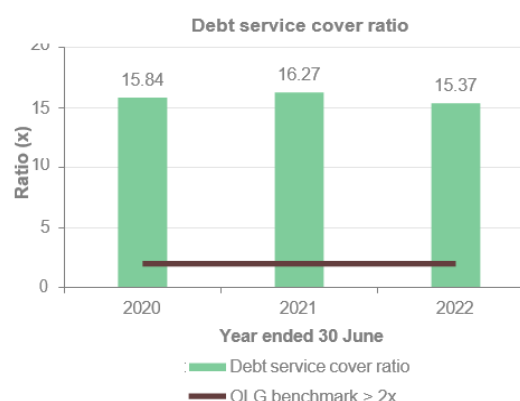
Unrestricted current ratio

- The 'unrestricted current ratio' is specific to local government and represents the Council's ability to meet its short-term obligations as they fall due. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than 1.5 times.
- The Council exceeded the OLG benchmark for the current reporting period.
- Council's unrestricted current ratio has improved, due to the increase in cash and cash equivalents from additional advanced Financial Assistance Grant of \$1.3 million in 2021-22.



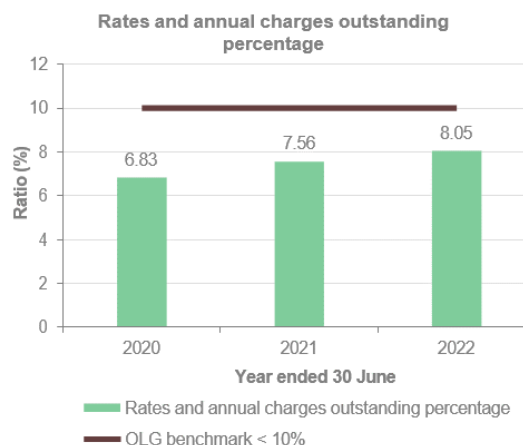
Debt service cover ratio

- The 'debt service cover ratio' measures the operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than two times.
- Council exceeded the OLG benchmark for the current reporting period.
- The Council's debt service cover ratio remained relatively constant from 2020-21 to 2021-22.



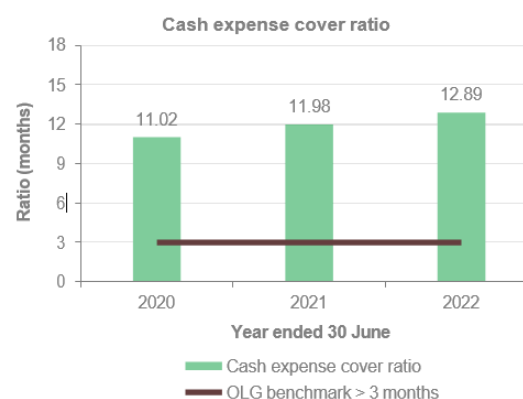
Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage

- The 'rates and annual charges outstanding percentage' assesses the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on council's liquidity and the adequacy of debt recovery efforts. The benchmark set by OLG is less than 10 per cent for regional and rural councils.
- The Council met the OLG benchmark for the current reporting period which reflects sound debt recovery procedures at the Council.
- The Council's rates and annual charges outstanding percentage has remained relatively constant from 2020-21 to 2021-22.



Cash expense cover ratio

- This liquidity ratio indicates the number of months the council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than three months.
- The Council exceeded the OLG benchmark for the current reporting period. This indicates that Council had the capacity to cover 12.89 months of operating cash expenditure without additional cash inflows at 30 June 2022.
- The cash expense cover ratio has increased due to increase in cash and cash equivalents by \$2.2 million.



A detailed analysis of Council's Financial Statements can be found in the Audited Financial Statements, pages 79-88.

A representative of the Audit Office of New South Wales will attend the meeting remotely to elaborate on their report and to respond to any questions.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

E1: Council is strong, sustainable and able to stand alone.

Legislative Policy and Planning Implications

Local Government Act Section 419 Presentation of the Council's financial reports

Budget and Financial Aspects

Report on the 2021-22 Financial Year

Recommendation: That the Audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2022 be received and noted.

10. QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW – JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2022

DCCS 22/15524

Executive Summary

In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1993, a review of Council's Budget position as at 30 September 2022 has been undertaken and the following is submitted for Councillors consideration.

Report

General Fund

When Council adopted the 2022-2023 Operational Plan Budget in June 2022 Council budgeted for a surplus of **\$13,177.00**. The Budget Review at 30 September 2022 indicated an estimated **SURPLUS of \$86,595.00** as at 30 June 2023 after taking into account movements in revenue and expenditure for the first quarter.

Financial Assistance Grant (FAGS): Council's methodology for setting the budget for the FAGs each year is to use the actual allocation for the previous year and then adjust at the first Quarterly Budget Review with latest information available on the Australian Government's Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts website and information provided by the NSW Local Government Grants Commission.

Council's 2022-23 FAGs allocation entitlement of which the Federal Government paid 75% of Council's estimated 2022-23 entitlement in advance in June 2022 is as follows:

- General Purpose Component	\$ 2,665,211
- Local Roads Component	<u>\$ 1,530,498</u>
Total	\$ 4,195,709

This equates to an increase of \$219,170 to the amount in the adopted Budget for 2022-23. Then there is an adjustment for CPI & population from the estimated amount to actual for 2021-22 of \$102,090.

While Council's 2022-23 entitlement is \$4,195,709, Council will receive payments totalling \$4,297,799, being Council's entitlement plus the CPI & population adjustment. The overall total addition to Council's adopted Budget will be \$321,260.

Carry Forwards: these are expenditure items budgeted for in 2021-22, which were not expended in 2021-22 and still require to be expended that are not included in the 2022-23 budget.

- Plant Replacement \$ 110,000

The total unspent expenditure represents the nett cost of four vehicles which could not be ordered and delivered in 2021-22. The carried forward amount of \$110,000 is to be funded from Reserves. Council will present a report to the December 2022 Council meeting to seek approval to order plant for 2023-24 prior to the normal budget being adopted in June next year, to better manage the plant replacement program.

Roads Funding: In this Quarterly Budget Review additional funding has been allocated to assist with repairs to Council's Road network as a result of ongoing damage from the unseasonal wet weather. A total of \$150,000 for Regional & Local Sealed Roads and an additional \$50,000 for additional drainage maintenance.

This additional funding is partly offset with the increase in the FAGs Local Roads component of \$110,744, and additional NSW Regional Roads Block grant funding of \$21,000.

New Section 355 Management Committee: The newest S355 committee, The Rock Observatory Management Committee has not been allocated a S355 subsidies for 2022-23. As we are part way through this financial year, a pro-rata allocation of \$3,500 has been allocated. In the current budget the average allocation for the main Public Halls & Museum Management Committees is \$4,775.

Adjustments of note in the first Quarterly Review Budget:

Increase in **income** general ledger:

- 1040-1400-0000 Financial Assistance Grant – General Purpose \$ 210,516
- 5010-1400-0000 Financial Assistance Grant – Local Roads \$ 110,744

Increases in **expenditure** general ledgers:

- 1020-2385-0000 Recruitment Expenses \$ 20,000
- 1020-2220-0000 Consultants \$ 25,000
- 1020-2345-0000 Grant Application Preparedness \$ 30,000
- 1080-2500-0000 Plant Running Expenses \$ 65,000
- 5040-2335-0000 Regional Roads – Patching \$ 75,000
- 5065-2335-0000 Rural Sealed – Patching \$ 75,000
- 5425-2330-0000 Drainage R&M \$ 40,000

Increase in Capital Expenditure general ledger:

- 3060-4600-0000 New/Replace Street Bins – Lockhart \$ 30,000

Sewer Fund

When Council adopted the 2022-2023 Operational Plan Budget in June 2021 Council budgeted for a surplus of **\$11,651.00** for the Sewer fund operations. For the Budget Review as at 30 September 2022, the budget adjustments resulting in an estimated **SURPLUS of \$13,641.00** as at 30 June 2023 after taking into account movements in revenue and expenditure for the first quarter.

Increases in **expenditure** general ledgers:

- 8405-2331-0000 Sewer Mains R&M \$ 35,000

Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

E1: Council is strong, sustainable and able to stand alone.

E1: Plan for the long-term sustainability of the Shire.

Legislative Policy & Planning Implications

Clause 203 (1) of the Local Government (General) Regulation states that “not later than 2 months after the end of each quarter (except the June quarter), the responsible accounting officer of a council must prepare and submit to the council a budget review statement that shows, by reference to the estimate of income and expenditure set out in the statement of the council's revenue policy included in the operational plan for the relevant year, a revised estimate of the income and expenditure for that year.”

Budget & Financial Aspects

Fund	Adopted Budget @ 1 July 2022	Amendments @ 30 Sept 2022	Revised Estimates @ 30 June 2023
General Fund	\$ 13,177.00	\$ 73,418.00	\$ 86,595.00
Sewerage Fund	\$ 11,651.00	\$ 1,990.00	\$ 13,641.00
Net Consolidated Budget Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 24,828.00	\$ 75,408.00	\$ 100,236.00

Attachments

1. Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the period 01/07/22 to 30/09/22 will be provided under separate cover.

Recommendation: That:

- a) The information be noted; and
- b) The adjustments in income, expenditure and reserves in the September 2022 Quarterly Budget Review be adopted; and
- c) The carried forward as reported to be funded from Reserves be adopted.

11. CODE OF CONDUCT STATISTICS - ANNUAL REPORT

(GM: 22/14636)

Executive Summary

Statistics regarding the number of complaints made under the Council's Code of Conduct are required to be reported to Council on an annual basis following the end of the reporting period. The statistical report is also required to be forwarded to the Office of Local Government. If no complaints are made under the Code in a reporting period a 'nil' return is required to be lodged.

Report

Section 11.1 of the Procedures for the Administration of the Code of Conduct provides that the complaints coordinator must arrange for the following statistics to be reported to the council within three months of the end of September of each year:

- a) *the total number of code of conduct complaints made about councillors and the general manager under the code of conduct in the year to September (the reporting period)*
- b) *the number of code of conduct complaints referred to a conduct reviewer during the reporting period*

- c) *the number of code of conduct complaints finalised by a conduct reviewer at the preliminary assessment stage during the reporting period and the outcome of those complaints*
- d) *the number of code of conduct complaints investigated by a conduct reviewer during the reporting period*
- e) *without identifying particular matters, the outcome of investigations completed under these procedures during the reporting period*
- f) *the number of matters reviewed by the Office during the reporting period and, without identifying particular matters, the outcome of the reviews, and*
- g) *the total cost of dealing with code of conduct complaints made about councillors and the general manager during the reporting period, including staff costs.*

Section 11.2 states the council is also required to provide the Office of Local Government with a report containing the statistics referred to in clause 11.1 within three months of the end of September of each year.

It is noted that for the reporting period 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022 there were no complaints made under the Council's Code of Conduct and that the response to items a) to g) above is "0".

Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

E1: Meet all governance and regulatory requirements in the conduct of council's operation.

Legislative Policy & Planning Implications

It is a requirement of the Procedures for the Administration of the Code of Conduct that statistics relating to complaints made under the Code of Conduct are reported to Council and forwarded to the Office of Local Government.

Budget & Financial Aspects

Not applicable.

Attachments

Nil.

Recommendation: That:

- a) Council note that for the reporting period 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022 there were no complaints made under the Council's Code of Conduct; and
- b) The information be forwarded to the Office of Local Government.

12. 2021/22 ANNUAL REPORT

(GM: 22/13439)

Executive Summary

Council is required, within five months after the end of each financial year, to prepare an annual report for that year reporting as to its achievements in implementing its delivery program. Accordingly, a draft 2021/22 Lockhart Shire Council Annual Report is tabled for Council's endorsement.

Report

Section 428 of the Local Government Act provides that Council must prepare an annual report within five months after the end of each financial year i.e. by 30 November. The annual report must include the following information:

- 1) A report on Council's achievements in implementing its delivery program and the effectiveness of the principal activities undertaken in achieving the objectives at which those principal activities are directed.
- 2) A copy of the Council's audited financial reports prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting* published by the Department, as in force from time to time.
- 3) Such other information or material as the regulations or the guidelines under section 406 may require.

With respect to 3) above the Local Government Regulation specifies the following information to be included in Council's annual report:

- a) Details of any overseas visits undertaken by councillors, council staff or other persons representing the Council.
- b) Total cost of the payment of expenses and provision of facilities to councillors in relation to their civic functions.
- c) Details of each contract awarded by the Council during the year exceeding \$150,000 in value (whether as a result of a tender or otherwise).
- d) Amounts incurred by the council during the year in relation to legal proceedings taken by or against the Council.
- e) Resolutions made by Council during the year under section 67 (3) of the Local Government Act concerning work carried out on private land.
- f) The total amount contributed or otherwise granted under section 356 of the Local Government Act.
- g) A statement of all external bodies that during the year exercised functions delegated by the Council.
- h) A statement of all corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies (whether or not incorporated) in which the Council held a controlling interest or participated in.
- i) Activities undertaken by Council during the year to implement its equal employment opportunity management plan.
- j) The total remuneration comprised in the remuneration package of the general manager during the year.
- k) Total remuneration comprised in the remuneration package of all senior staff members (other than the general manager).
- l) Activities undertaken by Council in relation to enforcing and ensuring compliance with the Companion Animals Act 1998 and regulations made under that Act.
- m) Rates and charges written off during the year.
- n) Information regarding training and professional development activities provided to the mayor and councillors.
- o) Details of fraud control activities undertaken during the year.

A copy of the Draft 2021/22 Annual Report incorporating Parts 1) and 3) referred to above has been separately distributed to Councillors.

The audited financial reports, prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting*, and which are also required to be included in the Annual Report i.e. Part 2) referred to above, are the subject of a separate report to Council (refer Staff Report 9).

Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

E1: Meet all governance and regulatory requirements in the conduct of council's operation.

Legislative Policy & Planning Implications

Section 428 of the Local Government Act provides that Council must prepare an annual report within five months after the end of each financial year i.e. by 30 November.

A copy of the Council's annual report must be posted on the Council's website and provided to the Minister and such other persons and bodies as the regulations may require.

Budget & Financial Aspects

Nil.

Attachments

A Draft 2021/22 Annual Report has been separately distributed to Councillors.

Recommendation: That the 2021/22 Annual Report, be endorsed and the General Manager be authorised to forward a copy of the Report to the Minister for Local Government.

13. MEMBERSHIP OF REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

(GM: 22/14858)

Executive Summary

Council is currently a member of the Riverina Easter Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) and the Riverina Joint Organisation of Councils (RIVJO). The respective Boards of REROC and RIVJO have been considering transitioning to a single regional organisation

The Boards of REROC and RIVJO have now written to each Member Council to formally advise of their respective decisions to adopt Option 4, and to seek formal endorsement of the decision from each Member Council by the end of November.

Report

As previously reported to Council, the respective Boards of REROC and RIVJO have been considering a number of options for transitioning to a single regional organisation. Recently member councils were requested to indicate their first and second preference in relation to those options which are listed below:

1. REROC stands alone and RIVJO folds
2. RIVJO stands alone and REROC goes into hiatus
3. REROC stands alone and RIVJO operated by Wagga Wagga City Council (operating separately from each other)
4. REROC stands alone and RIVJO goes into hiatus

All members agreed that it would not be in their interests to have an option where REROC folded because permission from the Minister would be required to set up an independent legal entity like REROC again.

Lockhart Shire Council resolved to adopt Option 3 and Option 4 as its first and second preference respectively.

Wagga Wagga City Council was the only other RIVJO member council that adopted Option 3 as its preferred option. All other member councils adopted Option 1 (REROC stands alone and RIVJO folds) and Option 4 (REROC stands alone and RIVJO goes into hiatus) as their first and second preferences. The preference outcomes were considered at a joint RIVJO and REROC workshop and then again at individual Board meetings of the two organisations. The overwhelming majority of councils favoured Option 4 as their first preference.

In view of the clear response from member councils the RIVJO Board has resolved that:

- 1) *“From 1 July 2023 the Riverina JO go into hiatus.*
- 2) *The Riverina JO take on no new projects after 31 December 2022.*
- 3) *The Treasurer and CEO prepare a budget for the 2023/24 year based on the JO fulfilling its compliance obligations.*
- 4) *The CEO determine how administrative support will be provided to the JO and the costs involved.*
- 5) *Riverina JO write to each Member Council to formally advise of the decision to adopt Option 4 and the outcomes of same.”*

The major changes that result from the adoption of Option 4 by RIVJO are:

1. The functions that were devolved to RIVJO from REROC in October 2018 will now return to REROC's sphere of operation i.e. Advocacy and Lobbying, Regional Planning, and Intergovernmental Relations.
2. The JO while in hiatus will still need to fulfil its compliance obligations which includes meeting four times a year, Related Party Declarations, Disclosure of Interests and the audit. The JO will need some administrative support to do this which can be provided by REROC.

Having regard to the above, the REROC Board resolved as follows:

- 1) *From 1 July 2023 REROC will deliver the three core functions of the JO:*
 - a) *Regional Planning*
 - b) *Advocacy and Lobbying and*
 - c) *Intergovernmental Relations*

- 2) *The Treasurer and CEO prepare a budget for the 2023/24 year based on the budget and assumptions used in the Way Forward decision-making.*
- 3) *The Treasurer and the CEO determine how administrative support will be provided to the JO and the costs involved.*
- 4) *REROC write to each Member Council to formally advise of the decision to adopt Option 4, the outcomes of same and seek formal endorsement of the decision from each Member Council by the end of November.*

Both Boards agreed that the Joint Organisation should continue to operate until the end of the current financial year to enable it to complete the Office of Local Government funded Capacity Building project. Further, it has been agreed that no new projects will be undertaken by the JO after 31 December 2022 to ensure that there would be no obligations that would need to be fulfilled after 30 June 2023.

Placing the JO in “hiatus” means that it will continue to “exist”, with its current membership in place. Therefore, the JO will be required to fulfil some minimum obligations such as an audit, four meetings a year and compliance obligations such reporting on pecuniary interests. The only business to be conducted at the JO Board meetings, will be related to audit and compliance obligations. There will be some minimal costs involved in this and the Treasurer and CEO have been charged with determining a budget for the work. To avoid duplication, it is anticipated that REROC will undertake the secretariat activities.

From 1 July 2023 the activities that REROC handed to the JO in October 2018 will revert to REROC. This means all advocacy and lobbying; regional planning activities and intergovernmental relations will again fall within REROC’s area of responsibility.

Whilst Lockhart Shire Council’s preferred option was to retain both organisations operating separately from each other i.e. REROC standing alone and RIVJO operated by Wagga Wagga City Council, this is no longer a realistic option as the Board of RIVJO has resolved to place the organisation in hiatus.

Accordingly it is recommended that Council endorse the decisions taken by the RIVJO and REROC Boards which reflect Option 4 i.e. REROC stands alone and RIVJO goes into hiatus.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

E1: Implement “Fit For The Future” improvement action plans, i.e. continue involvement with REROC/JO.

Legislative Policy & Planning Implications

A legislative framework for the formation of JOs was established with the passing of the Local Government Amendment (Regional Joint Organisations) Act 2017. REROC is an incorporated body pursuant to the Associations Incorporation Act.

Budget & Financial Aspects

The 2022/23 Budget has made provision for both the REROC and RIVJO Membership fee.

Attachments

Nil.

Recommendation: That Council endorse the decisions taken by the RIVJO and REROC Boards which reflect Option 4 i.e. REROC stands alone and RIVJO goes into hiatus.

14. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

(GM: 22/15348)

Executive Summary

The Minister for Local Government has initiated an independent review of the New South Wales Local Government Boundaries Commission.

Submissions are invited and should be made before 16 December 2022.

Report

The Minister for Local Government has initiated an independent review of the New South Wales Local Government Boundaries Commission (LGBC).

The LGBC has a role under Chapter 9 of the Local Government Act 1993 to examine and report on proposals for the constitution, amalgamation, de-amalgamation or alteration of boundaries of local government areas.

Any amalgamation and de-amalgamation proposal is required to be referred to the LGBC. The LGBC is required to examine and report to the Minister for Local Government on proposals referred to it, to assist the Minister in considering whether or not to make a recommendation to the Governor regarding the proposal.

Dr Juliet Lucy has been appointed to carry out the review. Dr Juliet Lucy has legal experience with a strong focus on administrative and public law.

According to the Terms of Reference Dr Lucy is to review, examine and report to the Minister for Local Government on the composition, functions and processes of the LGBC established under the Local Government Act 1993 in relation to current and future proposals referred to the LGBC under sections 218, 218F or 218CC of the Local Government Act 1993, including to:

- Review the efficacy of Chapter 9 Part 3 and Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act 1993 to provide robust and cohesive advice to the Minister, including the statutory composition of the LGBC
- Consider and report on mechanisms by which information and community and stakeholder views can be best provided to the Minister to guide and enhance the decision-making process, including whether the different approaches might be suitable for proposals considered by the LGBC, and
- Advise on any improved, effective mechanisms for providing advice on and recommendations relating to proposals to the Minister, to ensure best practice and optimum outcomes.

A discussion paper has been released to outline the current composition, function and processes of the LGBC and to invite submissions seeking suggestions for improvement. The discussion paper is available [here](#).

The independent reviewer's findings and recommendations will be provided to the Minister at the end of March 2023.

Anyone, including councils, individual councillors, council staff and members of the public, can make submissions in response to the discussion paper.

Submissions close **5.00 pm 16 December 2022**.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

E1: Promote the increased participation of local people in local government and the community.

E1: Meet all governance and regulatory requirements in the conduct of Council operations.

Legislative Policy and Planning Implications

The LGBC has a role under Chapter 9 of the Local Government Act 1993 to examine and report on proposals for the constitution, amalgamation, de-amalgamation or alteration of boundaries of local government areas.

Budget and Financial Aspects

Nil.

Attachments

The Discussion Paper released by the Office of Local Government can be viewed at <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Review-into-the-Local-Government-Boundaries-Commission-Discussion-Paper.pdf>

Recommendation: That the information be noted.

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

CLOSED SESSION

Agenda

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 the following business is considered to be of a kind referred to in subsection 10A(2) of the Act and should be dealt with as part of the meeting closed to the media and public.

15. NOISE & AIR POLLUTION COMPLAINTS – THE ROCK

(DEES: 22/15543)