



MINUTES
of the
Ordinary Meeting
Held
18 December 2023

**Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of Lockhart Shire Council held in the Council Chambers,
Lockhart on Monday, 18 December 2023 commencing at 5.00pm.**

PRESENT

Cr G Verdon (Mayor), Cr P Sharp (Deputy Mayor), Cr J Hunter, Cr I Marston, Cr R Mathews, and Cr A Rockliff.

Cr F Day OAM attended via audio-visual link.

Also in attendance were the General Manager, Director Corporate and Community Services, Director Engineering & Environmental Services, Manager of Planning and Environmental Services and Executive Assistant.

The meeting opened with a prayer, followed by an Acknowledgement of Country.

The Mayor reminded Councillors of their ethical obligations as reflected in the oath and affirmation of office, and the Code of Conduct.

The Mayor also informed all persons present that the proceedings of the meeting were being recorded.

221/23 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Mathews and Day that Cr Day be allowed to attend this meeting via audio-visual link.

APOLOGIES

222/23 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Sharp and Rockliff that the apologies from Cr Walker and Cr Driscoll be accepted and leave of absence be granted.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE OR ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK

Nil.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING HELD 20 NOVEMBER 2023

223/23 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Hunter and Rockliff that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday, 20 November 2023 as printed and circulated be taken as read and confirmed.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cr Day declared a non-pecuniary interest in Staff Report 10 – Australia Day Nominations.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

224/23 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Sharp and Marston that Standing Orders be suspended to allow Council's Auditor, Ms Dannielle McKenzie of Crowe Australasia to present the Audited Annual Financial Statements and Auditor's Report, the time being 5:04pm.

RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

225/23 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Marston and Sharp that Standing Orders be resumed, the time being 5:19pm.

MAYORAL MINUTE

Nil.

REPORT ON MAYORAL & COUNCILLOR ACTIVITIES

The Mayor, Cr Verdon, reported the following activities during the past month:

21 November Attended the Police & Community Consultation Group meeting in Pleasant Hills with the General Manager.

29 November Met with the Acting General Manager in Lockhart.

1 December Hosted the Mayoral Christmas Party at Green's Gunyah Museum.

Cr Mathews reported the following activity:

8 December Represented the Mayor at Lockhart Central School's Presentation Day.

Cr Sharp verbally reported the following activities:

30 November Attended the LG NSW Mayoral Forum in Sydney.

8 December Attended the REROC board meeting with the Acting General Manager.

Cr Hunter verbally reported attending the following:

23-24 Nov Rural Crime Prevention & Community Safety Conference in Gunnedah.

11 December Attended Yerong Creek Public School Presentation Night on behalf of the Mayor.

The Mayor verbally reported, on Cr Driscoll's behalf, that she attended The Rock Central School Presentation Evening on his behalf on 8 December.

Cr Day reported the following activities:

24 November attended the Eastern Riverina Arts Program Advisory Committee meeting.

4-15 December hosted Bush Bursary Placement participants.

226/23 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Marston and Rockliff that the Mayoral Report be received.

URGENT MATTERS

Nil.

NOTICE OF MOTION

1. CR FRAN DAY OAM - LOCKHART SHIRE COUNCIL - ACCESSIBLE, INCLUSIVE - COMMUNITY EVENT

In line with Lockhart Shire Council's Community Strategic Plan 2020-2032 (events) for residents to facilitate and support our community to deliver vibrant and dynamic community events and Disability Action Plan 2022-2025 to provide equal access to facilities, programs services and information without discrimination or barriers to people with disabilities. To promote inclusivity, recognise the rights and contributions of people with a disability and champions of diversity.

I propose that Lockhart Shire Council hosts an event to:

1. Recognise the great contribution people with disabilities make to our community and celebrate their wonderful achievements.
2. Celebrate the generous role volunteers play and say 'thank you' to volunteers in Lockhart Shire who dedicate their time and energy to make a positive impact in our community. Attendees will have the opportunity to explore the many benefits of volunteering and learn how to get started as a volunteer.
3. Welcome new residents to the Community, letter from the Mayor Lockhart Shire Council and information of Council, Health, Events and Community services.

The morning's activities will revolve around networking, including local organisations, Government, and health services with fun experiences tai chi, Pilates, singing and a free barbeque/sausage sizzle, and an official thank you presentation given by Mayor Greg Verdon. All Councillors will be invited to attend.

The proposed event can be funded from the Council's 2023/24 event budget and is estimated to cost \$5,000.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Lockhart Shire to align with other Council's synergies and to be fiscally responsible by having these three important community groups celebrated in the one event rather than each separately. This event can be held yearly at various locations across Lockhart Shire.

Recommendation: Lockhart Shire Council hosts an event to promote and celebrate inclusivity in the Shire as outlined in this report.

MOVED Cr Day, **SECONDED** Cr Verdon that Lockhart Shire Council hosts an event to promote and celebrate inclusivity in the Shire, as outlined in the report.

On being put to the meeting, **LOST**.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nil.

DELEGATES' REPORTS

1. POLICE AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION GROUP MEETING HELD 21 NOVEMBER 2023 AT PLEASANT HILLS

(GM: 23/14451)

A quarterly meeting of the Police and Community Consultation Group was held at the Pleasant Hills Community Hotel on Tuesday, 21 November 2023.

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

- The local Police force is back to a full complement with Constable Keith Toby having replaced Constable Conor Dewar.

- No significant Police issues were reported since the previous meeting.
- There has been a reduction in mental health related incidents and just one “break and enter”.
- Community representatives advised of forthcoming events in their local areas including The Rock Charity Ball and forthcoming Christmas parties.
- The Mayor and General Manager provided an update on Council related matters.

Cr G Verdon
Delegate

**2. CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CONFERENCE – GUNNEDAH,
23-24 NOVEMBER 2023**

Keynote Speaker: Grace Tame, CEO and Founder Grace Tame Foundation

- NSW has the highest figure of police per person ratio 1 per 467.
- 28.5% of the population are abused before 18yrs both Male & Females
- Uni of NSW findings released 20/11/23.
 - 1 in 6 men have sexual feelings towards children
 - 1 in 10 men has offended against a child
 - These men are 6 times more likely to have experienced abuse to them

Grace Tame’s advice is we need to DISRUPT the behaviour and activities of child sexual abuse predators as they are smart, resourced and always steps ahead of authorities.

Words matter. Why we need to get our language right when talking about domestic and family violence.

Ritchie Hair & Rebecca Morrison Violence abuse & Neglect Services Hunter & New England Health

- Attitudes towards Domestic & Family Violence (DFV)
 - 20% of Australians believe violence is a normal reaction to day-to-day stress and frustration
 - 32% of Australians believe that a woman who doesn’t leave an abusive partner is partly responsible for the abuse continuing.
 - 42% of Australians believe it is common for a sexual assault accusation to be used as a way of “getting back” at men.
 - 34% of Australians think it natural for a man to want to appear in control of his partner in front of his mates/friends.
 - 1 in 4 women experience violence by an intimate partner.
 - 1 in 13 men experience violence by an intimate partner.
 - Women who experience violence and sexual violence by an intimate partner are 7 TIMES more likely to be killed by their partner. Source ABS Personal Safety 2016/7
- Language – we condone a behaviour, but our language does not always reflect this.
- 4 types of language used to obscure the violence.
 1. Minimising
 2. Mutualising
 3. Discounting
 4. Blaming
- Minimising language has the power to change how others think about victims. Case studies were given of reporting an incident using the above languages.
- Perpetrators CHOOSE THEIR BEHAVIOUR.

Safer Public Spaces for Women and Girls: Planning and designing through the gender lens.
John Maynard – Safe Cities Planning and Design Consultant

- Safe or unsafe locations and situations will invariably come down to the rhythms of human activity in and around a site.
- 1970s saw the beginning of change in fields of employment. Some areas of employment were held predominately held by men. Men were designing public spaces for all, but were they utilised by all?
- Women think about safety differently – they tend to think about poorly lit spaces or the behaviours of people in public spaces, or incidents of sexual violence- they imagine that they're going to wind up in a news item. It's so divergent. Nicole Kalms Ass Prof Dept of Design, XYX Lab Monash University.
- Streetlights are one of the biggest expenses for Councils. Is this true for LSC? What are our costs?
- Does LSC have a community safety audit?
- Public toilets should be designed with a ratio of 2F to 1 M – different habits!
- Public toilets in public spaces e.g. parks should be within 1-2m of a footpath not in the centre of a park.
- Women don't like CCTV. CCTV usually implemented and run by men. Consultation? Women prefer a human presence instead of CCTV e.g. security at railway/bus stations.
- Spend time in a public space to see how it is used or NOT used.
- Whether it's statues, monuments or street names, cities consistently reinforce the achievements of men, which is proven to reduce girls' interest in politics, science, tech, engineering and mathematics. Constant visual validation of male leaders can generate a poor sense of belonging for women. 2022 United Nations Development Program

Keynote Speaker: What's really going on with young men?
Hunter Johnson – The Man Cave and STUFF

- ABS – 2 in 5 people aged 16-24 experienced mental health in 2020/21
- Suicide is the leading cause of death for men aged 15-44
- This week WHO (World Health Organisation) named “Loneliness” as a Global Health Priority.
- 2 in 3 men are unsatisfied with the quality of their relationship.
- 66 women have been killed by family violence in 2023.
- The “Manosphere” driving boys and men into harmful views of manhood and offering a destructive life purpose for many men.
- Network of online communities that focus on issues related to men, relationships, self-improvement, and sometimes anti-feminist or anti- establishment viewpoints.
- More young men trust online influences than politicians.
- What's working.
- Non-authorities role models
- Speaking with boys at their level
- Validation for their unique gifts, not performance
- Helping recognise the importance of community.
- Respecting boundaries
- Creating safe spaces for the messy conversations
- Sharing stories from lived experiences.
- Resource books – The making of men, Lost Connections, Women, men & the whole damn thing & The social dilemma.

Understanding and Reporting Hate Crime

Sgt Ismail Kirghiz NSW Police Engagement & Hate Crime Unit.

- This unit is the only dedicated unit in Australia.
- Why reporting is important.
- All reports are vital for intelligence purposes.
- Allows incidents to be reviewed and referred to the Hate Incident Recourse Committee
- Monitoring hate crimes within communities
- Indication of behaviours prior to escalation
- Assists in highlighting hotspots.
- Barriers to victims reporting to Police.
- Fear that reporting the incident might make the situation worse.
- Humiliation or shame about being victimised.
- Fear they won't be treated seriously.
- Unsure if what they experienced amounted to a hate crime
- Fear of a negative reaction from the police
- Cultural or language barriers

Countering Violent Extremism Protecting our at-risk youth and most vulnerable.

Heather Jackson Dept of Communities & Justice.

- The countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Engagement & support unit (ESU) is a specialised, multi-disciplinary team within the NSW dept of Communities and Justice (DCJ) love acronyms!
- They run a program STEP together – a helpline and digital support service focused on early intervention and awareness, in the countering violent extremism space.
- A case study video was presented about Rosa and her grandson Tom – **Google ESP Spotlight Rosa**

Hooning: A collaborative cross agency approach

Cr Julie Campbell City of Logan & Senior Sgt Darren Smith QLD Police

- Hooning action plan was developed between all agencies.
- Advocacy
- Education
- Target Hardening
- Technology
- Enforcement
- Key message from the Education plan was Hooning **“Report It”** one simple message.
- They utilised social media well. There were negative comments received – The QLD Police responded on these to show the community that Council & Police were working together on this project.
- From the reporting areas where Hooning occurs were identified and police were in that area in the next 24-48hrs.

Youth Crime in NSW A regional analysis

Dr Alana Cook NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics & Research (BOCSAR)

- Over the past 20yrs there is a decrease in property & violent crimes in NSW. More of a decrease has occurred in Greater Sydney. Regionally only a minimal drop.
- Car theft in Regional NSW – March 2023.
- Highest in 5yrs

- 61% are stolen from homes.
- 41% occur between 6pm & midnight.
- Over 2/3rds are recovered but not always in a drivable state.
- Youth crime in NSW peaks at 15 years of age for property crime.
- 73% of young offenders are male.

Empowering Communities: The power of place-based approaches to creating and maintaining healthy communities

Craig Martin Alcohol & Drug Foundation

- Elements that are core to P-B approaches
- Engage and empower local people from different sectors.
- Works best when govt & community come together to ensure balance of power and shared ownership.
- Shared, long term vision and commitment to outcomes.
- Community engagement
- Experimentation and action learning.
- ADF (alcohol & Drug Foundation) are running a new program – Stronger through Sport. This program can assist with club fees, logistics, family and transport.

Day 2

Keynote speaker – Mark McCrindle Social Researcher & Futurist

- “The key characteristic of a leader is foresight. The reason they can lead is that they see things not just as they are, but as they will be”
- 500,000 new arrivals from overseas in 2023
- 27.7% of population are born overseas.
- 30% of NSW pop. Use another language other than English at home.
- 60% of current pop. Have given thought to moving regionally since Covid. They can work from home and have more appreciation for their home and local space.
- 79% of the current pop. Are concerned with the cost of living.
- Gen Z 75% of them say they feel lonely. ABS census.
- Gen Z will have 18 jobs and 6 careers in their lifetime. Gen Z want stability in their workplace, as the outside factors are so unstable.
- It is predicted in 2063 there will be more people over 60 than 20 & under.
- Fun fact it is 991 days till the next Census!

Community and its Role in Creating Safe Spaces.

Alan Blackshaw – Founder Herding Together, Author, ABCD Consultant.

- Case study on Cairns where Alan resides.
- QLD has some of the toughest youth crime laws in Aust.
- 274 young people each night are in detention.
- Reoffending rates are increasing.
- At least 10% are prolific reoffenders.
- WHY ARE WE CONTINUING WITH AN APPROACH THAT CONTINUES TO FAIL?
- They are not treating the cause, just the symptoms.
- Rebuilding Community
- Most of us live isolated lives, shut off from our neighbours.

- Our neighbourhoods lack social connection.
- Aust loneliness survey 2018
- 70% have no neighbour they could talk to about important matters
- 40% of us see our neighbours less than once a month
- 47% have no neighbour they could call on in an emergency.
- We lack the old style “bump in” places eg butcher, newsagent corner shop. Coffee shops are possibly the only “bump in” places.
- The workplace has become our community/tribe. It used to be our neighbourhood.

Youth Crime and Youth Justice The value of lived experience.

Kyzar Jing & Zoe Robinson – Advocate for Children & Young People

- Kyzar shared his lived experience. He experienced domestic violence in his family life. His father abused his mother. His father would abandon Kyzar when his mother was away being treated.
- He and his mother lived in women’s shelters for many years. He was arrested at 15yrs for a serious crime. Served 5 yrs in juvenile detention. He now says it was the best thing to happen. He completed his HSC in detention and was accepted to a university. He was in poverty before going into detention then he was released into poverty. He made a choice to change his environment.
- He was given his 1 opportunity by Zoe after being released. He seized the opportunity he was offered. He now works as a advocate for Children & Young People.
- Believe in yourself.
- He experienced community and equality in detention. They wear the same clothes/ shoes, eat the same food, watch the same TV, play the same sport. No competition. It gave him for the first time a sense of belonging.

Cyber Security Update Understanding the threat landscape

Stuart Staunton – Cyber Security NSW

- Local Govt does not have a lot of funds to tackle Cyber Security.
- Everything before a cyber-attack seems excessive.
- Everything after a cyber-attack seems inadequate.
- No one is immune from being hacked, everyone will be hacked. It is a matter of how bad the consequences of the hacking!

Cyber Resilience Empowering local business, agriculture & government

Prof Neil Curtis – DXC Technology

- Cyber crime is currently valued at \$8 trillion annually. \$667 Billion per month.
- There are no specific targets – you are the target.
- No boundaries – geographically or morally. They can deploy faster and adapt faster than the govt in any country can.

Keynote Speaker – The Hon. Yasmin Catley MP

Minister for Police & Counter Terrorism

- Youth crime – there has been an increase over the last 20 months. Not much of an increase but there is an escalation in violent crimes.
- There is a Youth Command division of the NSW Police. They conduct Youth Action Meetings (YAMs) YAM has expanded to Wagga Wagga.
- NSW police works with social media companies to shut down negative videos/content quickly.
- We cannot arrest our way out of youth crime.
- Some police to note Operation Kempsey – regional mongoose.
- Operation Amorok – focus on Domestic Violence offenders.

**Connecting Communities through Justice Reinvestment
Scott Hawkins & Jo Kelly – Just Reinvest NSW**

- JR framework
- Placed based
- Community lead
- Data driven
- Bourke commenced in 2013 is now an independent organisation.
- JR has currently a program in Moree and expanding to Nowra & Kempsey. Each site has different programs and strategies.

**Tackling Rural Crime - Det Chief Insp Cameron Whiteside & Det Sgt Graeme Campbell
Rural Crime Prevention Unit**

- Crime that impacts on the function of the pastoral, agriculture & aquaculture industries.
- Rural crime is under reported.
- NSW Farm Crime Survey 2020 University of New England (UNE)
- 88% of farmers reported being a victim of a farm crime
- 55% of farmers felt crime prevention is too expensive
- There are 56 staff across the state – Wagga Wagga & Cootamundra.
- They have collaborated with NSW Farmers Association. They conduct community workshops maybe we could enquire for LSC/Yerong Creek
- Join the Rural Crimes Unit FB page and/or website.

**Over representation of Multicultural Youth in the Justice System Target Zero
Boldened Hauraki – Centre for Multicultural Youth, VIC**

- Our Mission
- Target Zero is a 10yr collective impact approach to
- End the criminalisation of young people aged 10-25 yrs in Melton, Wyndham & Brimbank
- End the over representation of
 - First Nations young people
 - Multicultural young people
 - Young people in residential care
- Chronic over representation of indigenous & young people
- Large % have experienced abuse, domestic violence, drugs and interaction with agencies.
- When a student disengages with education they are more likely to become involved with crime.

Cr Jane Hunter
Delegate

Recommendation: That the Delegates' Reports be received.

227/23 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Marston and Mathews that the Delegates' Reports be received.
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STATUS REPORT/PRÉCIS OF CORRESPONDENCE ISSUED

Status Report: Council Resolutions and Tasks to be finalised

Minute No:	Officer to Action	Council Resolution	Action Taken
Ordinary Council Meeting held 20 November 2023			
218/23	GM	<p>Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Policy That Draft Policy 1.29 CCTV, be placed on exhibition for a period of 28 days and any comments received be considered by Council prior to adoption of the policy.</p>	Placed on exhibition. Staff Report 6 (Dec 2023) refers.
211/23	DEES	<p>Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy – Lockhart Sewerage Treatment Plant</p> <p>1) Council adopts the option as determined in the Councillor Workshop held 16 October 2023 for incorporation into the draft IWCM Strategy, that being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace existing Lockhart Sewerage Treatment Plant (trickling filter) with a new oxidation pond with effluent reuse; and • Include the sewerage of south Lockhart <p>2) That the draft IWCM Strategy be placed on public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days.</p>	Adopted options have been sent to NSW Public Works to finalise draft IWCM. When received will be placed on exhibition.
208/23	TEDO	<p>Draft Brookong Creek Master Plan That...Council places the Brookong Creek Draft Master Plan on public exhibition from 21 November 2023 to 15 January 2024.</p>	Complete.
203/23	GM	<p>Riverina Water County Council Board Meeting – 24 October 2023 That Council writes to Riverina Water County Council expressing its disappointment at the Board's decision to defer joining REROC for at least 12 months.</p>	Letter sent. Complete.
198/23	GM	<p>General Manager's Contract That Council invites a proposal from LG Services Group to undertake a recruitment process for the appointment of a general manager.</p>	Documents being prepared.

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Minute No:	Officer to Action	Council Resolution	Action Taken
Ordinary Council Meeting held 18 September 2023			
163/23	GM	<p>Magnolia Lodge and Youth Flats</p> <p>1) Concept plans be prepared for the development of additional accommodation on the Magnolia Lodge site in Green Street and the Youth Flats site in Drummond Street Lockhart to facilitate further investigation and negotiation with the NSW Land and Housing Corporation; and</p> <p>2) A further report be presented to Council at a future meeting regarding the Prichard Place Lockhart residential developments and the proposal to withhold from sale one or two lots for the purposes of developing them for rental accommodation.</p>	<p>NSW Land and Housing Corporation advised of Council's decision.</p> <p>Concept plans currently being prepared.</p>
Ordinary Council Meeting held 21 August 2023			
148/23	GM	<p>Guidelines for Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees</p> <p>That Council continue to participate in the Internal Audit Alliance and transition to the requirements outlined in the <i>Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Councils in NSW</i> issued by OLG.</p>	<p>To be progressively implemented in conjunction with other Internal Audit Alliance member councils. Awaiting advice from OLG on shared employment of Chief Audit Officer.</p>
Ordinary Council Meeting held 19 June 2023			
100/23	DEES	<p>Proposed Speed Limit Changes – Green Street, Lockhart</p> <p>That Council seeks approval through Transport for NSW to introduce a 40km/h high pedestrian zone in Green Street, between Matthews Street and Day Street.</p>	<p>A review has been carried out on Green St and the application for a HPAA area.</p> <p>After consideration TfNSW would not endorse this change.</p> <p>The following comments were recorded from the review:</p> <p><i>There is no records of accidents in this area.</i></p> <p><i>The roadside environment (car parking, road width, consistency with bordering roads, consistency with other block on Green St) is not reflective of HPAA place. The latest standard promotes consistency for the road user as a defining factor of speed limits.</i></p> <p>Complete.</p>
Ordinary Council Meeting held 13 February 2023			
26/23	GM	<p>Proposed Acquisition of Land</p> <p>That, subject to obtaining the landowner's consent, Council authorises the General Manager to prepare and submit a development application for the development of a car park on the land situated at Lot 2 DP1196082.</p>	<p>Development application has been lodged with landowner's consent and awaiting determination. Further information required, lighting consultant engaged to prepare plan.</p>

*Lockhart Shire Council
Ordinary Meeting – 18 December 2023*

Minute No:	Officer to Action	Council Resolution	Action Taken
9/23	GM	<p>Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements</p> <p>In accordance with the outcome of the Councillor Workshop held earlier in the day, Council nominates the following projects for funding under the Local Government Recovery Grants Program:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Emily Street, The Rock – drainage improvements 2. Cole Street, Yerong Creek – drainage improvements 3. Green Street West, Lockhart – drainage improvements 4. Flood Detour Road – culvert installation 5. Waste Mgt Facilities Access Roads 6. Community information initiative (social media) 7. Access Road – Golf Club 	<p>Projects submitted to the Office of Local Government and funds received.</p> <p>More detailed costings and work plans have been submitted and awaiting approval.</p> <p>Emily Street design has been approved by TfNSW.</p>
Ordinary Council Meeting held 18 July 2022			
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>Survey plan has signed by the affected landowners and now forwarded to the Mortgagee Bank for signature. Awaiting response from mortgagees' bank.</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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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>George the Friesian Bull has been moved into place. Paving commenced, scheduled to be completed prior to Christmas close down.</p>

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Minute No:	Officer to Action	Council Resolution	Action Taken
Ordinary Council Meeting held 16 August 2021			
148/21	GM	Proposed “Tim Fischer Way” Council to reinstate investigations into the erection of tourism signage indicating “Tim Fischer Way”.	Proposed to incorporate “Tim Fischer Way” touring route on new Visit Lockhart Shire website. Phase 1 complete with new website now live. Functionality to facilitate “Tim Fischer Way” touring route being developed is part of Phase 2 of the new website to be progressed in 2023/24. TEDO to continue scoping the project and report back to the TEDSC in February 2024.
Ordinary Council Meeting held 19 April 2021			
63/21	GM	Residential Development – Lockhart 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.	The development application for Lot 62 (westernmost lot) has been approved. The application for Lot 90 has now also been approved. Subdivision works to be scheduled. Quotes from contractors being sought. Sewer design currently being prepared.
Ordinary Council Meeting held 16 October 2023 – Councillor Questions & Statements			
Questions & Statements	DCCS	Cr Driscoll: S355 Committee Subsidies Cr Driscoll enquired whether the annual subsidies to Council’s management committees have been paid.	All payments have been processed. Complete.
	DEES	Cr Mathews: Councillor Dress Suggested an option somewhere between the blazer and a polo shirt might be appropriate for attending conferences etc.	Executive Assistant is sourcing appropriate short-sleeved options. The shirt currently worn by female Councillors is no longer in production.
Ordinary Council Meeting held 16 October 2023 – Councillor Questions & Statements			
	DEES	Cr Day: W Drummond Monument Asked how the matter of the damaged monument is progressing.	Quotes for repairs to the stonework and lantern are currently being sourced.
191/23	DEES	Cr Driscoll: Maintenance of Rear Lanes Asked if there is going to be any kind of grading maintenance carried out on rear lanes, especially at The Rock? Cr Driscoll advised the lane at the rear of Coronation Park is particularly bad. Cr Driscoll asked if there is a priority list?	Condition report being prepared. Staff Report 2 Dec 2023 refers.
	DCCS	Cr Sharp: Pleasant Hills Tennis Courts Asked if there was a timeframe for repairs to the tennis courts to be carried out?	Quotes being reviewed.

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Minute No:	Officer to Action	Council Resolution	Action Taken
Ordinary Council Meeting held 18 September 2023 – Councillor Questions & Statements			
Questions & Statements	GM	Cr Mathews: Veterinary Services Referred to Council's efforts to procure veterinary services for Lockhart and advised a mobile veterinary service that may be available. Cr Mathews asked if this could please be investigated.	Enquiries have been made with the Animal Welfare League NSW mobile veterinary Animal Care Truck regarding scheduling a visit to Lockhart Shire and a response is awaited.
	DEES	Cr Verdon: Lodge Road Advised this road, which provides access to The Rock Cemetery, is deteriorating rapidly and requires attention.	Works request created. Will be attended to when crews in the area.
	DEES	Cr Verdon: Entrance laneway, The Rock Bowling Club Advised there are potholes in this laneway which require attention.	Works request created. Will be included in future sealing program.
Ordinary Council Meeting held 17 July 2023 – Councillor Questions & Statements			
Questions & Statements	DCCS	Cr Day: International Volunteer Day, 5 December Referred to the proposal to seek funding for an event to celebrate International Day for People with a Disability on 3 December and enquired could this be combined with an event to celebrate International Volunteer Day on 5 December?	Superseded by Notice of Motion in December Business Paper. Complete.
Ordinary Council Meeting held 19 June 2023 – Councillor Questions & Statements			
Questions & Statements	GM	Cr Rockliff: CCTV Requested a progress report on this project, given the problems which have occurred lately, and also asked if the funds currently set aside will be enough to complete the project.	Contractor experiencing delay with procuring modem routers for connect of cameras to the internet which is delaying installation. Policy developed. Complete.
Ordinary Council Meeting held 15 May 2023 – Councillor Questions & Statements			
Questions & Statements	DCCS	Recreation Ground Lights Cr Jane Hunter: requested an update in relation to this project. Cr Gail Driscoll: asked is it possible that Council will not get the funding required and if so, can a Plan B be developed. Plan A is for the installation of LED lights. Can Plan B be making the towers safe and putting standard lights on them.	AFL funding has been approved for lighting and towers at Osborne Recreation Ground. Purchase order issued. Complete. Lights installed on existing towers at The Rock. Complete.
Ordinary Council Meeting held 17 April 2023 – Councillor Questions & Statements			
Questions & Statements	DEES	Cr Marston: Yerong Creek Mittagong Road Culvert – Trees Encroaching Referred to this culvert (near the Vincents Road intersection) where trees are encroaching on the road, and asked if Council could investigate trimming these trees.	Works request created. Contractor engaged.

Lockhart Shire Council
Ordinary Meeting – 18 December 2023

Minute No:	Officer to Action	Council Resolution	Action Taken
Ordinary Council Meeting held 21 November 2022 – Councillor Questions & Statements			
Questions & Statements	DCCS	Cr Hunter: Tiled Wall outside The Rock Gym Referred to a problem with tiles on the external wall of The Rock Pool near the gym and asked what was being done to rectify the issue.	Tiles have been sourced and ordered, awaiting delivery. Builder's project manager advises tiles have been received, will schedule date for fitting.
Ordinary Council Meeting held 17 October 2022 – Councillor Questions & Statements			
Questions & Statements	MP&E/ 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.	Meeting held Friday 17 th November with Neil Smith of BEST. Council to provide BEST list of sites.
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.	Majority of work has been completed. Additional fire extinguishers being sourced by Club. When installed, final fire safety inspection will be scheduled.

Correspondence Received

Date sent to Councillors	From	Subject
23/11/2023	Mayor Cr Greg Verdon (via Executive Assistant)	Mayoral Update
11/12/2023	Cr J Hunter (via Executive Assistant)	Delegate's Report – Crime Prevention Conference, Gunnedah
13/12/2023	Mr Alan Zweck	Letter re road issues (hard copy)

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

228/23 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Hunter and Sharp that the Status Report and Correspondence Précis be received.
--

STAFF REPORTS

STRATEGIC DIRECTION A: A Connected and Resilient Community

Nil.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION B: A Dynamic and Prosperous Economy

Nil.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION C: An Environment that is Respected and Protected

Nil.

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

1. ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORT

(DEES)

Executive Summary

Monthly report on engineering and environmental services matters.

Background Information

a) Works

Local Sealed Roads: Heavy patching has continued on Western Rd, Bidgeemia Rd and The Rock Mangoplah Rd.

Rehabilitation works have commenced on Western Rd and The Rock Mangoplah Rd.

Shoulder grading on Boree Creek Kywong has been completed. Slashing roadside shoulders has been completed on Bidgeemia Rd and Rand Bidgeemia Rd.

Drainage improvements and shoulder widening on Yerong Creek Mangoplah Rd has commenced.

Roadside slashing has been completed on Bidgeemia Rd and Rand Bidgeemia Rd.

Unsealed Roads: maintenance of Shire gravel roads has been conducted on Scheetz Ln, Munyabla Munyaplah Rd, Zwecks Ln and Ryan Stock Route, Munyabla Boundary Rd and Spurrells Rd.

Maintenance Crews: Bitumen crew have been kept busy with an increase of pavement failures due to the weather, routine maintenance has continued on our Local and Regional Roads.

Maintenance crews have been assisting with the heavy patching, roadside slashing and sign installation.

b) Parks & Gardens

Lockhart

Mowing of our park entrances and open areas continue as normal, weeding is being carried out both physically and chemically when the weather allows. Mowing of the townships of Pleasant Hills and Milbrulong will be taking place shortly when machine and transport availability is organised. Watering of our street trees and gardens continues during the hot weather.

Paving will begin in the week commencing 18 December 2023 at 109 Green Street. The front will be fenced off and access limited until completion. Skeleton crew will be available over the holiday period attending to urgent matters only.

The Rock

Mowing of parks, entrances and open areas continues, weeding is continuing as the weather allows. Watering of street trees and garden areas continues as normal. Contractors have been sought for slabs to be poured at the Lone Pine and cenotaph for installation of Anzac remembrance seating.

Mowing and weeding of Yerong creek continues as the weather allows. There will be staff shortages at The Rock over the Christmas period as well so available staff will continue to do our best with the staff we have on.

c) Biosecurity

Property Inspections

Inspections were carried out on residential and rural properties. Most properties were selected due to a change in ownership.

The most commonly found weeds were Green cestrum (*Cestrum parqui*) and Privet (*Ligustrum sp.*) 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
4	2	0	0	0	0	0

Control Program

Priority has been given to the control of Horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*) and St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) on roadside reserves and council managed land.

The following roads were inspected for weeds and herbicide application was administered where appropriate: The Rock Mangoplah Road, Jaegers Lane, Klimpschs Lane, Bulloc Hill Road, Jarricks Lane, Weillys Lane, Old Trunk Road, The Rock Collingullie Road, Humphrys Lane, McGeachies Lane, Leitch Lane, Lagettie Lane, Bullenbong The Rock Road, Moores Bus Route, Hendersons Road, Boyds Road, Braithwaites Lane, Coman Street, Yerong Street, Semmens Road, Lodge Road, Nicholas Street, Olympic Highway, Rods Road, McRories Lane, Osborne Yerong Creek Road, Noskes Lane, Seeligers Lane, Finlayson Lane, Neuhaus Lane, Broughtons Lane, Janetskes Lane, Schultz Lane, Geddes Lane, Woodend Fiveways Road, Semmlers Road, Schneiders Lane, County Boundary Road, Figtree Road, Osborne Pleasant Hills Road, Wallace Brownes Road, Alf Freemans Lane, Wrathall School Lane, Grubben Road, Eulensteins Road, Vincents Road, Yerong Creek Mangoplah Road, Shaws Lane, Adams Lane, Plums Lane, Montagues Lane, Willis Lane, Mittagong Yerong Creek Road, Tootool Mittagong Road, Tutty's Lane, Old French Park Bullenbong Road, Lockhart The Rock Road, Curries Lane, Wetmores Lane, Iletts Lane, Terlich Lane, Benders Lane, Bahrs Lane, French Park Bullenbung Road, Mortons Lane, Slys Lane, Vennells Lane, Henty Pleasant Hills Road, Edgehill School Lane, Browns Lane, Alma Park Road, and Spurrells Road.

Control of St. John's wort will continue through December to all other roads within the Shire.

d) Development Approvals

Development Activity Table

DA/CDC No.	Development	Site of Development	Applicant	Value
DA59/23	Re-Open Café & alterations & additions	3 Cox St, Yerong Creek	B Nicholson	\$83,545.00
DA21/24	Single storey dwelling with attached garage	34 King St, The Rock	L Metcalfe	\$473,640.00
DA22/24	Additions to existing shed	17 Milne Rd, The Rock	J Boyle	\$33,000.00
DA23/24	Installation of second-hand dwelling	20 Roberts St, Milbrulong	R Chadwick	\$173,004.00
DA24/24	New single storey dwelling, detached shed & installation of AWTS	Barton St, Lockhart	S Hounsell	\$976,000.00
CDC26/24	New above-ground swimming pool	8 Hill St, The Rock	K M Withers	\$5,000.00
CDC28/24	New in-ground swimming pool	183 Humphrys Ln, The Rock	L Burkinshaw	\$83,150.00
			Total	\$1,827,339.00

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.

229/23 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Hunter and Mathews that Council notes the information provided in the Engineering and Environmental Services report.
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2. INSPECTIONS OF BACK LANES IN THE ROCK

Executive Summary

This report provides a summary of the inspections carried out of The Rock back lanes and recommendations regarding repairs.

Background

Following requests from Councillors, Council staff have inspected the condition of the back lanes at The Rock.

Report

Council staff conducted inspections of the back lanes in The Rock on the 13 December 2023. The inspections were carried out by driving along each laneway and visually inspecting each laneway. Defects identified and classified were potholes, washaways, vegetation growth, and accessibility. Each laneway was graded on a 1-5 scale with 1 being excellent and 5 being very poor. The average condition of the laneways was 2, being good-very good.

Council staff found most laneways need mostly minimal repairs which includes filling of potholes and some spraying to clear some vegetation.

There is one laneway (between Scott and Emily Street) that needs a larger amount of repair work to be carried out to it to get it to the standard that is deemed acceptable for our laneways. This work will need to be carried out with a bobcat or backhoe.

With the current work schedule, quotes will be sourced from suitable qualified contractors to undertake the work.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

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

Legislative Policy & Planning Implications

Nil.

Budget & Financial Aspects

The costs can be accommodated within existing budgets.

Attachments

Photos attached.

Recommendation: That Council notes the report.

230/23 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Sharp and Hunter that Council notes the report.

3. REVIEW OF CORRECT SPELLING AND RENAMING OF PIETCHES LANE

(DEES: 23/14832)

Executive Summary

Council has been contacted requesting that Pietches Lane be renamed to Pietsch's Lane as this is the correct spelling of the name.

Background

Council was contacted by two Pietsch family members, concerned that the spelling on the sign and on our maps for Pietches Lane was incorrect as it is and should be spelt "Pietsch's" which is the correct spelling.

Report

After being contacted by the residents on this matter council staff investigated and found the following:

- The road is not gazetted and therefore the name change can be made reasonably easy.
- There are two numbered addresses along this Lane.
- Even though the correct spelling is Pietsch's, apostrophes cannot be used in naming convention for roads/lanes therefore it would have to be Pietschs on the sign and on Council maps.
- Council would need to contact NSW Spatial Services to inform them about the name change so they can update their database and make appropriate changes.

Council contacted the residents in Pietches Lane regarding the proposed change and no response was received.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

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

Legislative Policy & Planning Implications

Nil.

Budget & Financial Aspects

Nil.

Attachments

1. Map of Pietchs Lane
2. Letter from Janice Clarke

Recommendation: that Council:

1. Endorse the proposed name change from 'Pietches Lane' to 'Pietschs Lane'; and
2. Notify NSW Spatial Services of the name change.

231/23 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Mathews and Sharp that Council:

1. Endorse the proposed name change from 'Pietches Lane' to 'Pietschs Lane'; and
2. Notify NSW Spatial Services of the name change.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION E: Strong Leadership and Governance

4. PRESENTATION OF COUNCIL'S 2022/23 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(DCCS: 23/15284)

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 2022/23 Financial Statements were issued on 12 December 2023 and public notice has been given that the Audited Financial Statements for 2022/23 will be presented to the Council meeting on 18 December 2023.

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 2023.

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 30 October 2023, public notice was given on Council's website that the 2022/23 Audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report would be presented at the Council meeting to be held on 18 December 2023.

The Council achieved a surplus in net operating result from continuing operations (including capital contributions) of \$3.86M (Restated 2022: \$2.17M) for the year ended 30 June 2023. The net operating surplus for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes is \$2.1M (Restated 2022: \$1.4M).

A summary of the 2022/23 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 second year, a qualified opinion and this was with specific regard to Council resolving to not recognise the Rural Fire Service (RFS) red fleet assets on Council's Balance Sheet. Refer to pages 75-76 of the Annual Financial Statements for more detail on the basis for the qualified opinion.

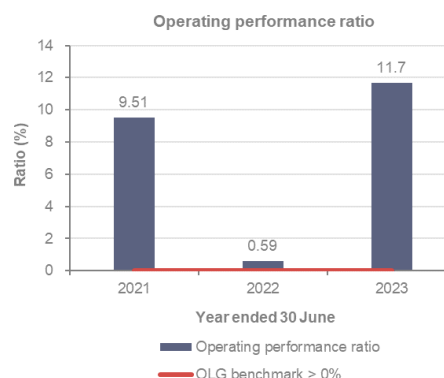
Operating performance ratio

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 percent.

The Council exceeded the OLG benchmark for the current reporting period.

The operating performance ratio increased to 11.70 percent (2022: 0.59 percent) due to the increase in operating grants received.

The 2022 ratio was restated to correct a prior period error relating to found culvert assets, which increased depreciation



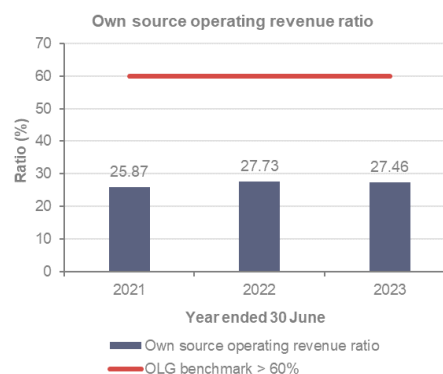
expense for the 2022 financial year. This is disclosed in note G4-1 in the financial statements.

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 percent.

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 decreased in 2023, due to the overall increase in grants and contributions revenue of \$1.9 million.

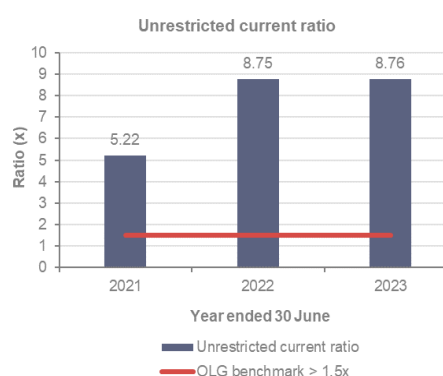


Unrestricted current ratio

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 remained consistent from 2021-22 to 2022-23.

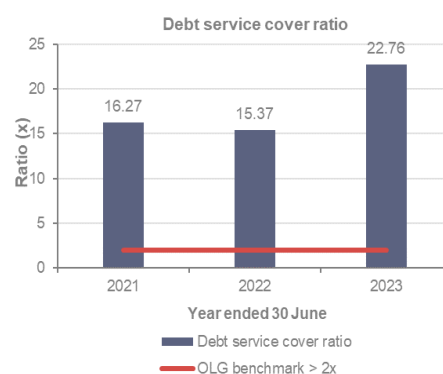


Debt service cover ratio

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.

The Council exceeded the OLG benchmark for the current reporting period. This indicates that the Council has sufficient operating revenue to service its debts.

Council's debt service cover ratio has improved, due to the increase in operating grants and contributions revenue.

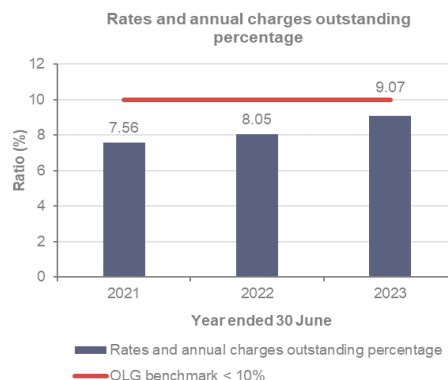


Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage

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 percent for regional and rural councils.

The Council met the OLG benchmark for the current reporting period which is a reflection of sound debt recovery procedures at the Council.

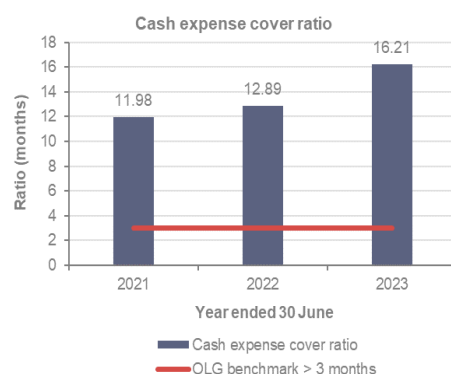
The rates and annual charges outstanding percentage has increased from the previous year, but still remains below the OLG benchmark.



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's cash expense cover ratio was 16.21 months, which is above the industry benchmark of greater than 3 months. This indicates that Council had the capacity to cover 16.21 months of operating cash expenditure without additional cash inflows at 30 June 2023.



The cash expense cover ratio has increased due to increase in cash and cash equivalent and investment by \$4.8 million.

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 2022-23 Financial Year.

Recommendation: That the Audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2023 be received and noted.

232/23 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Sharp and Marston that the Audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2023 be received and noted.

5. INVESTMENT AND BANK BALANCES REPORT – 30 NOVEMBER 2023

(DCCS: 23/15242)

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.

Lockhart Shire Council
Ordinary Meeting – 18 December 2023

Cash at Bank

Opening Combined Cashbook Balance		517,179.32
Add: Total Receipts		
	Miscellaneous	15,210.59
	Rates	133,512.91
	Debtors	67,829.38
	Interest on Investments	14,751.68
	Caravan Park Takings	13,244.00
	BAS Refund - Oct 2023	41,723.00
	Apprenticeship Incentives	20,290.93
	Library Grant	72,345.00
	FAG Payment	61,276.00
	Rockoosh CCS Payments	3,693.66
	Development Applications	76,242.10
	Rockoosh Payments	2,426.36
	Return of Investments	1,000,000.00
	Transport NSW - RRRP Funding	3,401,911.00
	Australia Day Grant	8,800.00
		4,933,256.61
Less: Total Payments		2,251,437.03
	New Investments	0
Closing Combined Cashbook Balance		<u>3,198,998.90</u>
Closing Bank Statement Balance	Bendigo Bank	3,120,494.75
	Macquarie Bank	41,117.40
	Bendigo Bank-Prichard Trust	31,828.30
		<u>3,193,440.45</u>
Add: Outstanding Deposits		6,515.16
		<u>3,199,955.61</u>
Less: Outstanding Cheques		956.71
Closing Combined Cashbook Balance		<u>3,198,998.90</u>

	Interest Rate per		
Investments:	Annum	Amount Invested	% of Total
Bank of Queensland	5.00	700,000.00	6.08
Bendigo Bank	4.59	250,000.00	2.17
Bendigo Bank	4.59	1,000,000.00	8.68
Bendigo Bank	4.95	500,000.00	4.34
Bendigo Bank	on call	66,072.20	0.57
Commonwealth Bank	4.78	1,000,000.00	8.68
Commonwealth Bank	4.83	500,000.00	4.34
Commonwealth Bank	4.75	1,000,000.00	8.68
Commonwealth Bank	4.81	500,000.00	4.34
IMB Ltd	4.85	500,000.00	4.34
MACQUARIE BANK	4.80	500,000.00	4.34
MACQUARIE BANK	4.67	500,000.00	4.34
MACQUARIE BANK	4.73	500,000.00	4.34
MACQUARIE BANK	4.76	500,000.00	4.34
National Australia Bank	4.90	500,000.00	4.34
National Australia Bank	5.00	500,000.00	4.34
National Australia Bank	5.07	500,000.00	4.34
National Australia Bank	5.10	1,000,000.00	8.68
National Australia Bank	4.85	500,000.00	4.34
National Australia Bank	5.05	500,000.00	4.34
		<u>11,516,072.20</u>	100.00
			<u>AMOUNT</u>
	1490-3000-0000		608,256.27
Combined Sewerage	8490-3000-0000		2,558,914.33
Trust Fund	9991-3000-0000		31,828.30
		<u>3,198,998.90</u>	<u>3,198,998.90</u>
TOTAL FUNDS HELD ARE:		<u>14,715,071.10</u>	

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 2023/24 Operational Budget has forecast a total of \$401,000 income from interest on investments for General Fund & Sewer Fund combined. For the period July 2023 to November 2023, the average end of month balance of funds invested has been \$12.77 million and the average return on invested funds has been 4.85%. On these year-to-date figures, Council's budgeted income on investments will be achieved for the General Fund and Sewer Fund.

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 November 2023 Investment and Bank Balances Report be received and noted.
- b) That the Responsible Accounting Officer Statement be noted, and the report be adopted.

233/23 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Hunter and Rockliff that:

- a) That the November 2023 Investment and Bank Balances Report be received and noted.
- b) That the Responsible Accounting Officer Statement be noted, and the report be adopted.

6. POLICY 1.29 CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV) POLICY

(GM: 23/13573)

Executive Summary

At its meeting held on 20 November 2023 Council resolved that Draft Policy 1.29 CCTV, be placed on exhibition for a period of 28 days and any comments received be considered by Council prior to adoption of the policy. The closing date for submissions is 18 December 2023. Any submissions received after the distribution of the Business Paper will be tabled at the Council meeting.

Report

Council has allocated grant funds received under Round 5 of the Stronger Country Communities Fund for the installation of CCTV cameras at selected publicly accessible locations.

The CCTV system is aimed at the detection and conviction of offenders. Council recognises that the presence of CCTV can have a deterrent effect on crime and antisocial behaviour, whilst contributing to a greater sense of safety in the community. Accordingly, it is intended that the images captured by the CCTV cameras will be made available to assist NSW Police.

Notwithstanding this, the CCTV footage captured by the cameras will form part of Council's official records. It is particularly important that appropriate policies and procedures are in place for the management of the audio-visual records having regard to the NSW Government Policy Statement and Guidelines for the Establishment and Implementation of CCTV in Public Places, the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 and the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009.

With this in mind, a draft CCTV policy has been developed. In view of the subject matter and the nature of the policy Council, at its meeting held on 20 November 2023, resolved that the draft policy be placed on exhibition for a period of 28 days and any comments received be considered by Council prior to adoption of the policy.

The closing date for submissions is 18 December 2023. At the time of finalising the Business Paper no submissions had been received. Any submissions received after the distribution of the Business Paper will be tabled at the Council meeting.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

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

E1: Minimise Council's exposure to risk and promote a strong risk management culture within Council.

Legislative Policy & Planning Implications

The draft policy has been developed having regard to the NSW Government Policy Statement and Guidelines for the Establishment and Implementation of CCTV in Public Places, the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 and the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009.

Budget & Financial Aspects.

The installation of CCTV cameras is being funded by a grant made available under Round 5 of the Stronger Country Communities Fund. Allowance will be made in future budgets for the cost of operating and maintaining the CCTV system.

Attachments

Nil.

Recommendation: That, subject to no submissions being received, Draft Policy 1.29 CCTV Policy, as publicly exhibited, be adopted.

234/23 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Rockliff and Sharp that Draft Policy 1.29 CCTV Policy, as publicly exhibited, be adopted.
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7. POLICY REVIEWS

(GM: 23/14248)

Executive Summary

A number of policies are scheduled for review in accordance with the three-year cycle referred to in Policy No. 1.0 Policies – Procedure for Consideration and Adoption.

Report

At its meeting held on 20 March 2023, Council endorsed "Policy No. 1.0 Policies – Procedure for Consideration and Adoption" which set out a process for the systematic review of Council policies and the development of new policies.

Policy 1.0 Policies – Procedure for Consideration and Adoption provides that: -

In order to ensure that policies remain relevant a program of ongoing review of policies not later than every three years will be developed and maintained.

Individual policies will be reviewed and amended in advance of the scheduled review date when circumstances warrant. This may be prompted by factors such as a change in legislation, a change in government policy or as a result of a need identified by the Council, management and staff or internal and external audit activities.

The following three policies are presented for review in accordance Policy No. 1.0:

- 1) Policy 1.9A Records Management
- 2) Policy 1.9B Records Management (Councillors) Policy
- 3) Policy 2.40 Liquid Trade Waste
- 4) Policy 2.44 Street Trees
- 5) Policy 2.57 Grants Management

No significant changes have been made to the policies listed above.

With respect to Policy 2.57 Grant Management it should be noted that the policies generally applies to circumstances where Council is the applicant and/or grant recipient.

Whilst Council grant applications are prepared in-house by Council staff there are also many occasions where section 355 committees, users of council facilities and other community organisations apply for grants. In these circumstances Council does not prepare the grant application but plays a facilitating and supporting role including providing letters of support, landowners consent and maintaining a

database of community organisations so that information regarding grant opportunities can be disseminated.

Council has also partnered with Grant Guru to provide a 'Lockhart Shire Grants Hub' on its web site which provides a comprehensive list of grant and funding opportunities as a free service including a search function and the option to create email alerts for specific types of grants.

Bearing in mind that Council will not have the capacity to be preparing grants on behalf of other community organisations it is recommended that consideration be given to enhancing the community's capability with respect to grant writing.

For example Grant Guru also provides grant writing courses and Council could look to funding the cost of a specified number of participants from the community each year. Whilst the cost would depend on the level of interest in the community and the number of participants involved, an estimated cost of \$8,500 would fund one participant from each of Council's section 355 committees. The proposal could be trialled by inviting expressions of interest from section 355 committees before considering rolling it out to other community organisations.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

- A1: Facilitate and support our community to deliver vibrant and dynamic community events.
- A1: Build capacity, capability and partnerships to encourage sustainable community groups and clubs.
- E1: Meet all governance and regulatory requirements in the conduct of Council operations.
- E1: Minimise Council's exposure to risk and promote a strong risk management culture within Council.

Legislative Policy & Planning Implications

A process for the identification, development and review of appropriate policies and procedures facilitates an effective governance and control environment.

Budget & Financial Aspects.

No changes are proposed to any of the policies that will have a discernible impact on Council's budget. The cost of funding a grant writing course for one participant from each of Council's section 355 committees is estimated at \$8,500.

Attachments

1. Policy 1.9A Records Management
2. Policy 1.9B Records Management (Councillors) Policy
3. Policy 2.40 Liquid Trade Waste
4. Policy 2.44 Street Trees
5. Policy 2.57 Grants Management

Recommendation:

1. That the following Policies, as presented, be adopted:
 - a) Policy 1.9A Records Management
 - b) Policy 1.9B Records Management (Councillors) Policy
 - c) Policy 2.40 Liquid Trade Waste
 - d) Policy 2.44 Street Trees
 - e) Policy 2.57 Grants Management
2. That expressions of interest be invited from section 355 management committees for one representative from each committee to complete a grant writing course funded by Council.

- 235/23 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Mathews and Sharp that:
1. That the following Policies, as presented, be adopted:
 - a) Policy 1.9A Records Management
 - b) Policy 1.9B Records Management (Councillors)
 - c) Policy 2.40 Liquid Trade Waste
 - d) Policy 2.44 Street Trees
 - e) Policy 2.57 Grants Management
 2. That expressions of interest be invited from section 355 management committees for one representative from each committee to complete a grant writing course funded by Council.

8. IPART REVIEW OF THE RATE PEG METHODOLOGY – FINAL REPORT

(GM: 23/14189)

Executive Summary

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) has released its final report on the review of the rate peg methodology with changes to apply from the rate peg for the 2024-25 financial year.

Report

The rate peg is the maximum percentage amount by which a council may increase its general income for the year. For most councils, general income consists entirely of rates income. The rate peg does not apply to waste collection, water and sewerage charges.

The rate peg applies to general income in total, and not to individual ratepayers' rates. As long as its general income remains within the set maximum increase, councils may increase categories of rates by higher or lower than the rate peg. Individual rates are also affected by other factors, such as land valuations, which can affect percentage changes to rates alongside the rate pegging process.

IPART describes the purpose of the rate peg as being twofold as follows:

- 1) *"It allows all councils to automatically increase their rates income each year to keep pace with the estimated change in the costs of providing their current services and service levels to households, businesses, and the broader community – that is, their base costs. This helps ensure that they can maintain the scope, quantity and quality of these services over time without undermining their financial sustainability.*
- 2) *It also limits the impact of these automatic increases on ratepayers, by ensuring that councils cannot increase their rates income by more than the estimated change in their base costs, and that they engage with their communities if they propose a step change in their rates income to fund improvements in the scope, quantity or quality of their services."*

The previous Premier and Local Government Minister requested IPART to review its methodology to investigate and address concerns identified with the local government rate peg. On 9 November 2023, IPART released its Final Report for its review of the rate peg methodology.

IPART has made the decision to make major changes to the rate peg methodology to apply from the rate peg for the 2024-25 financial year. According to IPART the new method for setting the rate peg is simpler than the old method and will result in rate pegs that more accurately reflect changes in the costs NSW councils incur in providing their current services. IPART will use forward-looking measures of councils' base costs, and its changes also better capture the diversity of councils across the State.

Set out below are extracts from IPART's Final Report summarising its decisions on the new rate peg methodology.

"The new methodology for setting the rate peg will use forward looking measures of councils' base costs. This addresses the issue of using lagged data in a volatile economic climate. The new methodology will result in rate pegs that more accurately reflect changes in the costs NSW councils incur in providing their current services, and our changes also more accurately consider the diversity of councils across the State. Under the new rate peg methodology, we will:

- Measure the annual change in NSW councils' base costs for 3 groups of councils (instead of one that includes all NSW councils) to better account for the diversity of their base cost patterns. These groups are metropolitan, regional, and rural councils.
- Use a new, simpler model with forward-looking indicators to measure this change instead of the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI). This measure, the Base Cost Change (BCC), comprises 3 components that we consider better capture councils' costs:
 - *Employee costs (primarily wages, including superannuation guarantee) measured by the Local Government (State) Award.*
 - *Asset costs measured by the Reserve Bank of Australia's (RBA's) forecast change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), adjusted to reflect the average difference between changes in the Producer Price Index (Road and bridge construction, NSW) and changes in the CPI.*
 - *All other operating costs (including administration, utility costs, insurance but excluding the Emergency Services Levy (ESL)) measured by the RBA's forecast change in the CPI.*
- Include a separate council-specific ESL factor, lagged by one year, that reflects the annual change in each council's ESL contribution. This provides for councils to fund their required contributions to support the NSW State Emergency Service, NSW Fire and Rescue and NSW Rural Fire Service without needing to reduce other council services or erode their financial sustainability. In addition, when changes in this contribution impact the rate peg, the approach will ensure this impact is transparent to councils, ratepayers and all stakeholders.
- Continue to add a population factor but use a refined approach to more accurately measure the change in councils' residential populations by deducting prison populations from the residential population in a council area and then calculating the growth in the non-prisoner residential population of a council area for the relevant year."

IPART will review its rate peg methodology at least every 5 years to ensure that its methodology remains up to date and fit for purpose.

IPART also believes it would be timely for the NSW Government to initiate an independent investigation into the financial model for councils in NSW, including broader issues highlighted in the consultation process throughout this review and has recommended that the NSW Government commission such a review.

Subsequent to the release of its Final Report on the review of the rate peg methodology, IPART announced the rate peg for 2024/25 based on the new methodology. The 2024/25 rate peg for Lockhart Shire Council is 7.2% and includes the following components:

- The Base Cost Change (BCC) for Lockhart Shire's council group (3.9%).
- A catch-up adjustment for past changes in the superannuation guarantee rate (0.4%).
- A separate ESL factor to reflect annual changes in council ESL contributions that differ from the changes to the council's BCC (-0.4%).
- A council-specific adjustment to reflect the increase in the ESL in the years when increases were not captured by the rate peg because they were subsidised by the NSW Government (0.6%).
- An annual population factor to adjust for the change in the residential population of the local government area (2.7%). According to IPART each council that receives a population factor will be able to spread the larger increase in general income over a growing number of ratepayers which helps reduce the impact on existing ratepayers and still provide councils with the increase in income required to fund services to a larger population.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

- E1: Advocate and prepare for the long-term sustainability of our Shire.
- E1: Continue to enhance sound financial management policies and practices.
- E1: Meet all governance and regulatory requirements in the conduct of Council operations.

Legislative Policy & Planning Implications

Section 506 of the Local Government Act provides that the Minister may, by order published in the Gazette specify the percentage by which councils' general income for a specified year may be varied. IPART sets the rate peg as the delegate of the Minister for Local Government and has done so since 2010.

Budget & Financial Aspects

The changes announced by IPART will not impact on the current budget but will apply from 2024/25 and will be taken into consideration when preparing the 2024/25 draft budget. Council's income from ordinary rates will be permitted to increase by a maximum of 7.2% in 2024/25.

Attachments

Nil.

Recommendation: That the information be noted.

236/23 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Rockliff and Sharp that the information be noted.

9. OFFICE CLOSURE – CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR PERIOD

(GM: 23/14924)

Executive Summary

It is proposed to close Council's office over the Christmas/New Year period.

Report

It has been Council's practice to close its office for the three working days between Christmas and New Year. Industrial arrangements in place provide for staff to work up the time for these days through time accrued for rostered days off.

In accordance with previous practice Council's office will be closed from 4.30pm, Friday, 22 December 2023 to Monday, 1 January 2024 and will re-open for business on Tuesday, 2 January 2024.

Public notice will be given of the office closure and, as is routinely the case, staff will be available to cover for any emergencies which may occur over this period.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

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

Legislative Policy & Planning Implications

The office closure over the Christmas/New Year period is in accordance with existing industrial arrangements.

Budget & Financial Aspects

Nil.

Attachments

Nil.

Recommendation: That the information be noted.

237/23 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Rockliff and Sharp that the information be noted.

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

Cr Rockliff

- i) **Green Street Monument:** Cr Rockliff asked for an update on the repairs to the monument.
Response – Director of Engineering and Environmental Services
Currently sourcing quotes for repairs with two received and waiting on a third. If a third quote is not received in the near future one of the received quotes will be accepted.
- ii) **Lockhart Gym:** Cr Rockliff has received enquiries from members of the community regarding progress of the proposed gym in Lockhart and asked for an update.
Response – General Manager
The General Manager advised that, as far as he is aware, the Working Group is still working towards a gym being opened in the Lockhart Recreation Ground and are currently seeking quotes.
- iii) **Drain to Creek, Urana Street, Lockhart:** Cr Rockliff mentioned this drain is overgrown with pine trees etc, and requires cleaning out.
Response – Director of Engineering and Environmental Services
The Director of Engineering and Environmental Services advised he will investigate and necessary works will be programmed.

Cr Hunter

Cr Hunter related her questions to her attendance at the Rural Crime Prevention & Community Safety Conference, Gunnedah.

- i) **Streetlighting:** Cr Hunter asked what Council's streetlighting costs are.
Response – Director of Engineering and Environmental Services
The Director advised Council receives a monthly billing report which includes a faults and maintenance report. The Director will provide further information.
- ii) **Rural Crime Prevention Unit (RCPU):** Cr Hunter referred to this very interesting presentation at the Conference. The Unit encouraged people to follow their Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/RuralCrimeNSWPF>) as a way of keeping informed. Cr Hunter asked if representatives of the Unit could be invited to attend a future Police & Community Consultation Group (PCCG) meeting?
Response – Mayor
The Mayor advised that members of the RCPU have attended a previous PCCG meeting and that the invitation could be extended again.
- iii) **Cyber Security:** Cr Hunter asked who Councillor's should report instances of cyber crime to?
Response – Director of Corporate and Community Services
The Director advised that he should be advised of any incidents.

Cr Sharp

- i) **Road Maintenance:** Cr Sharp advised he is receiving positive comments regarding the work being done by maintenance crews on the roads south of Pleasant Hills.
- ii) **Alma Park Road/Scheetz Lane:** Cr Sharp advised of quite a bad pothole near this intersection that requires attention.
Response – Director of Engineering and Environmental Services
The Director advised he will investigate.

Cr Mathews

- i) **Town Entrances, Lockhart:** Cr Mathews commented that the entrance to Lockhart from Albury Road is not looking as good as other entrances, and suggested the terrain might be making mowing difficult.
Response – Director of Engineering and Environmental Services

The Director advised a new slasher has arrived which should assist with this issue but has perhaps not been trialled yet in that area.

- ii) **Disaster Readiness:** Cr Mathews referred to recent disasters in other areas of Australia and asked how prepared Council is. Cr Mathews asked what processes were in place and whether relevant agencies meet to discuss these issues.

Response – Director of Engineering and Environmental Services

The Director advised that the Lockhart Local Emergency Management Committee meets on a quarterly basis, chaired by the Director, and all emergency and other relevant agencies attend. Council's Local Emergency Management Plan is available on Council's website.

- iii) **Heat Havens:** Cr Mathews advised that some shires are providing "heat havens" to provide respite for residents during heatwaves and is this something Council could look at doing?
- iv) **Water Consumption:** Cr Mathews noted that our water consumption has increased this year and asked if Council should be doing something about this?

Response – Director of Engineering and Environmental Services

The Director advised that, while Riverina Water can impose restrictions, they have a general conservation policy of "no fixed sprinklers between 10am and 5pm" at all times of the year. This can be advertised in Council's newsletter.

Cr Day

- i) **Inland Rail:** Cr Day asked what representation Council is going to make to Inland Rail regarding its impact on The Rock and Yerong Creek communities, particularly with regard to noise.

Response – Mayor

The Mayor advised that no changes to alignment is being made within Lockhart Shire. At Yerong Creek Inland Rail are extending and widening a passing loop so trains don't scrape. The only change being made at The Rock is the increase in height of a signal gantry. With regard to noise the Mayor stated that there is a long history of the railway operating through both those townships.

- ii) **Mobile Telephone Service:** Cr Day has been approached by a resident of the Cullivel area who is concerned about intermittent phone service, particularly with the "switch-off" of 3G.

Response – Mayor

The Mayor has advised that there has been mention of upgrading facilities at Galore Hill which should assist with this issue.

- iii) **Upgrade of Audio Visual (AV) Capability:** Cr Day asked is anything planned to upgrade Council's AV connectivity issues, particularly with regard to participating remotely in meetings.

Response – Director of Corporate and Community Services

The Director advised he will continue to investigate and that a dedicated NBN service may be required for Council's meeting rooms.

Cr Marston

- i) **Australia Day:** Cr Marston advised Council's Australia Day commemoration will be held at The Rock Recreation Ground, commencing at 8.30am with free breakfast; trying to arrange musical entertainment; presentation to be held inside the club room. After the official proceedings the pool will be open free of charge and will have the inflatable available, and face painting will be available for the children.

- ii) **Grader Schedule:** Cr Marston asked why Councillors didn't receive one this month.

Response – Director of Engineering and Environmental Services

The Director apologised and advised that staff availability had prevented production of the document, and that this would be rectified for future meetings.

- iii) **Line Markings:** Cr Marston has been contacted by grain truck operators regarding the faded linemarkings at the Olympic Highway/Urana Street crossing which has led to a few near-misses with grain trucks.

Response – Director of Engineering and Environmental Services

The Director advised that he has been in discussion with the linemarking contractors.

- iv) **Condolences:** Cr Marston advised of the sudden, unexpected passing of Mrs Ann Flinn, wife of Michael Flinn and sister-in-law of Cr Driscoll. Cr Marston asked that Council send a message of condolence to Mr Flinn and Cr and Mr Driscoll.

Cr Verdon

- i) **Mayoral Christmas Party:** The Mayor expressed thanks to the Executive Assistant for assisting with the organisation of the evening and thanked all who were able to attend.
- ii) **Proposed Mobile Fuel Site:** Cr Walker has asked whether it might be appropriate to put a mobile fuel depot on land at The Rock which Council has been looking at purchasing for a carpark. This would alleviate the problems for residents at The Rock accessing fuel, particularly the elderly residents with restricted licences.

Response – General Manager

The General Manager advised this could be investigated, the Manager of Planning and Environment believes it would be permissible. One possible course of action could be to continue with current plans of acquiring the land and Council keeping its options open regarding its future use.

- iii) **Public Swimming Pools:** Cr Verdon advised that The Rock Swimming Pool was not clean today and was almost green. Cr Verdon has also received a report that a child fell in the pool and, as the mother was holding a young baby, another patron assisted whilst a lifeguard watched on.

Response – Director of Engineering and Environmental Services

The Director advised that no other complaints have been received with regard to cleanliness of the pool and he will investigate. He advised that Council makes the pools ready for opening but once open it is the responsibility of the contractor to maintain water quality and cleanliness. The Director further advised he is investigating the possibility of the “fob” system which would allow access for patrons after normal opening hours, after received a enquiry from a resident.

- iv) **Community Centre – The Rock:** The Mayor advised the committee has received some good submissions regarding the proposed community centre. They realise they should possibly have provided some guidelines and information regarding the project.
- v) **Christmas Wishes:** Cr Verdon wished all a very merry Christmas, thanked his fellow councillors and Council staff for their work during the year and is looking forward to the next nine months.

General Manager: The Australia Day Ambassador has been announced, Mr Craig Goozee OAM, an ultra-marathon runner. Mr Goozee’s information has been included in Councillors’ meeting folder.

Director of Engineering & Environmental Services: The Director advised that, due to staffing issues and public holidays, the waste collection schedule has had to be pushed out by one day for the week of 25 December. Information regarding the changes has been advertised on Council’s Facebook page and website.

CLOSED SESSION

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.

238/23 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Mathews and Sharp that Council close the meeting to the public as per section 10A(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993.

The meeting moved into Closed Session at 6.55pm.

239/23 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Marston and Sharp that Council move into Open Session.

The meeting moved into Open Session at 7.02pm.

OPEN COUNCIL

The resolutions of Council, relating to Item 10, passed while the meeting was closed to the public were read to the meeting by the General Manager.

10. AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS 2024

(GM: 23/13564)

240/23 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Sharp and Hunter that Council endorses the recommendations of the Australia Day Awards Committee regarding the 2024 Australia Day Awards.

The meeting concluded at 7.04 pm.

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 18 December 2023, were confirmed as a true and accurate record at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 19 February 2024, at which time the signature was hereunto subscribed.

CHAIRPERSON