



**MINUTES**  
of the  
**Ordinary Meeting**  
**Held**  
**19 August 2024**

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

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of Lockhart Shire Council held in the Council Chambers, Lockhart on Monday, 19 August 2024 commencing at 5.00pm.

## PRESENT

Cr G Verdon (Mayor), Cr P Sharp (Deputy Mayor), Cr F Day OAM, Cr G Driscoll, Cr J Hunter, Cr I Marston, Cr R Mathews, and Cr J Walker.

Also in attendance were the General Manager, Director Corporate and Community Services, Director Engineering, Director Planning and Environment 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.

## APOLOGIES

**130/24 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Walker and Sharp that the apology from Cr Rockliff be accepted.

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

Nil.

## CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING HELD 15 JULY 2024

**131/24 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Sharp and Hunter that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday, 15 July 2024 as printed and circulated be taken as read and confirmed.

## DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil.

## MAYORAL MINUTE

Nil.

## REPORT ON MAYORAL & COUNCILLOR ACTIVITIES

The Mayor reports undertaking the following activities:

- 19 July Along with Cr Driscoll and the Project Manager attended a project meeting for The Rock Community Centre.
- 24 July Along with the General Manager, met with Gordon Hinds and John Globird regarding the renewable energy project.
- 26 July Along with Crs Sharp and Marston farewelled the General Manager.
- 8 August Along with members of REROC and RAMJO met with Federal Local Govt Minister Kristy McBain in Wagga.
- 9 August Along with Cr Sharp attended the Country Mayors Meeting in Sydney.
- 10 August Along with Crs Sharp, Day and Mathews, officiated at the opening of the refurbished Blue Harper Pavilion with Dr Joe McGirr MP.
- 15 August Along with Cr Sharp met with the new General Manager.
- 15 August Attended Volunteer of the Year Awards in Wagga Wagga.

**Recommendation:** That the Report on Mayoral and Councillor activities be received.

***Cr Day reported the following activities:***

- 16 July Interim Joint Collaboration Working Group.
- 5 August Represented the Mayor at the Lockhart Red Cross 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon.
- 6 August Participated in consultation for Developing Regional Resilience Plan for Stakeholders at The Rock.
- 9 August Participated in Developing Regional Resilience Plan Community Consultation at Lockhart Council Chambers.
- 10 August Attended the Opening of the Blue Harper Pavilion, Lockhart Recreation Ground.
- 13 August Visited Lockhart Central School celebrating Education Week.
- 14 August Follow up with the Tourism & Economic Development Officer regarding the TEDSC meeting at The Rock.

***Cr Sharp verbally reported the following:***

- 2 August Southern Sports Academy Presentation Night.
- 7 August Attended the Tourism & Economic Development Steering Committee meeting at The Rock.
- 9 August Attended the Country Mayors Association meeting in Sydney with the Mayor.
- 15 August Along with the Mayor, met with the new General Manager.

***Cr Marston verbally reported the following activities:***

- 7 August Attended the Tourism & Economic Development Steering Committee meeting at The Rock.
- 16 August With the Mayor, attended The Rock Community Centre for handover of the project.

***Cr Driscoll verbally reported the following activities:***

- 7 August Attended the Riverina Water Board Meeting.
- 13 August Attended The Rock Progress Association Meeting.
- 16 August Attended the handover of The Rock Community Centre.

**132/24 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Day and Walker that the Mayoral & Councillor Activity Report be received.

## URGENT MATTERS

Nil.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nil.

## DELEGATES' REPORTS

### 1. RIVERINA WATER COUNTY COUNCIL BOARD MEETING, 7 AUGUST 2024

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 7 August 2024 has been distributed separately to Councillors.

### 2. COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION MEETING – 9 AUGUST 2024

The Deputy Mayor and I attended the Country Mayors Conference in Sydney on 9 August. The major topic being Health.

Guest speakers included Paul Pisanos, Deputy Commissioner of Police, who spoke on serious youth crime, the impact of the new Bail Act for repeat and serious offenders. He noted that 50% of current arrests, the offenders were currently on bail. He also commented on the number of illegal tobacco seizures in the Riverina and new recruitment drive called Local Cop in your town which allows applicants to nominate where they want to serve.

ALGA President Linda Scott gave her final address as President and gave an update on new Housing initiatives.

Bronny Taylor gave her last address as Shadow Rural Health Minister to ensure CMA retained its focus on rural and allied health and to embrace virtual health.

Richard Colbrand from the Rural Doctors Network chaired a panel on Health Access. The key areas being community solutions, workforce solutions and support, business support and sector advancement.

Dr Joe McGirr spoke about making the role of GP attractive again through an alliance with State/Federal governments.

Dr Michael Holland Parliamentary Secretary for Health spoke on the \$2.5b for staffing and pay rises and an additional 2500 paramedics, incentives for hard to fill positions and a program to promote the wider distribution of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).

Michelle Maxwell gave an update on the recommendations of the Rural Health Inquiry stating that 25 of the 44 recommendations have been completed with another five to be completed this year. She also spoke about MPS and how they can provide sustainable health and aged care services.

Former Wiggles member Greg Page spoke about Heart of the Nation which is a program aimed at increasing the number of AEDs in the community and making those that are there more visible.

**Cr Greg Verdon**  
**Mayor**

**Recommendation:** That the Delegates' reports be received and noted.

**133/24 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Walker and Mathews 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
<b>Ordinary Council Meeting held 17 June 2024</b>			
125/24	DPE	<p><b>Planning Proposal for Existing R5 Large Lot Residential Land at South Lockhart</b></p> <p>Council:</p> <p>a. Endorses the Planning Proposal and forward it to the Minister for Planning seeking an Amendment to the Lockhart Local Environmental Plan 2012 and request that a Gateway Determination be issued, including the delegation of Plan making powers, so as to enable the public exhibition of the Planning Proposal pursuant to the Environmental Planning &amp; Assessment Act 1979;</p> <p>b. Upon receipt of a Gateway Determination under Section 56 of the Environmental Planning &amp; Assessment Act 1979, places the Planning Proposal and any supporting material on public exhibition pursuant to any requirements of the Gateway Determination and Section 57 of the Environmental Planning &amp; Assessment Act 1979; and</p> <p>c. Subject to the conditions of the Gateway Determination, undertakes those actions necessary to address outstanding matters.</p>	The Planning Proposal has been submitted to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure and Council are now awaiting receipt of a Gateway Determination.
124/24	DPE	<p><b>DA44/24 –Construction of four (4), two (2) storey dwellings – 2 Hebden Street, Lockhart</b></p> <p>That Council approves Development Application 44/24 for the construction of four (4), two-storey dwellings at 2 Hebden Street, Lockhart, subject to conditions as outlined in the attached Section 4.15 Assessment Report.</p>	Notice of Determination has been issued to the applicant.  Complete.

*Lockhart Shire Council  
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Minute No:	Officer to Action	Council Resolution	Action Taken
121/24	DE	<p><b>Management of Council's Swimming Pools</b> That Council calls for proposals from interested parties for a three-year lease to operate Council's swimming pools at The Rock and Lockhart.</p>	Advertisements have been placed. Completed.
120/24	GM	<p><b>Naming of 109 Green Street, Lockhart</b> That Council invites naming proposals from the general community for the public open space at 109 Green Street, Lockhart.</p>	Proposals invited up to 23 August 2024.
119/24	GM	<p><b>Policy 1.27 Australia Day Awards</b> that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council Policy 1.27 Australia Day Awards, be amended to incorporate the following additional awards:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Student Achiever Award that recognises students who:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Are developing leadership skills and skills of active citizenship.</li> <li>▪ Have shown either consistent or outstanding qualities of kindness, honesty and/or service to their school community.</li> <li>▪ Have demonstrated community spirit and integrity when participating in sporting, cultural or recreational activities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) Discretionary Awards                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To be awarded at Council's discretion when the Council resolves that the circumstances warrant.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> </li> <li>2. That, in addition to presenting a Student Achiever Award in accordance with a) above, Council also acknowledges those students that have excelled academically as determined by the respective schools i.e. school Duxes on Australia Day.</li> <li>3. The amended Policy 1.27 Australia Day Awards be placed on public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days and any submissions received be considered prior to adoption of the policy.</li> </ol>	See Staff Report 1. Complete.
118/24	GM	<p><b>Riverina Regional Library – Deed of Agreement 2022-2026</b> That authority be granted for the amended Riverina Regional Library 2022-2026 Deed of Agreement to be executed under Council's seal.</p>	Riverina Regional Library will forward the Deed of Agreement for execution in the near future.

*Lockhart Shire Council  
Ordinary Meeting – 19 August 2024*

Minute No:	Officer to Action	Council Resolution	Action Taken
<b>Ordinary Council Meeting held 17 June 2024</b>			
107/24	DCCS	<p><b>Lockhart Long Day Care Services</b></p> <p>That, as the approved provider for childcare services operated from the Lockhart Central School library, Council meets the cost of modification and improvement works required for the purposes of extending the existing licence obtained for the Lockhart OOSH to include a long day care service.</p>	<p>Resolution 107/24 approved funding of modifications.</p> <p>Dept of Education Asset Management Unit have put the scope of works out to tender.</p>
106/24	GM	<p><b>Lockhart Shire Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee - Appointment of Independent Chair and Independent Member</b></p> <p>1) Nick Tobin be appointed Independent Chair of the Lockhart Shire Council Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) for a four-year term.</p> <p>2) Kylie McRae and Raffaele D'Angelo be appointed independent members of the Lockhart Shire Council ARIC for a term of four years and two years respectively.</p> <p>3) Council appoints a Councillor as a non-voting member of the ARIC at the first meeting of the newly elected Council following the forthcoming Local Government Elections.</p> <p>4) Section 4 of the ARIC Charter be amended to reflect the new composition of the ARIC and that a broader review of the Charter be undertaken by the ARIC once the new appointees are in place.</p>	<p>1) Independent chair and independent members have been advised of their appointment. Complete.</p> <p>2) Independent chair and independent members have been advised of their appointment. Complete.</p> <p>3) To be determined at the October Council meeting.</p> <p>4) Charter amended. Complete.</p>
<b>Ordinary Council Meeting held 20 May 2024</b>			
76/24	DPE/ DCCS	<p><b>Trial Waste Voucher System for 2024/25</b></p> <p>That Council provides two (2) vouchers for the disposal of waste in 2024/25 to each ratepayer and to all Section 355 Committees.</p>	<p>In progress. Vouchers will be distributed with rate notices in late July.</p> <p>Vouchers to be distributed to Section 355 Committees by the end of August.</p> <p>Complete.</p>

*Lockhart Shire Council  
Ordinary Meeting – 19 August 2024*

Minute No:	Officer to Action	Council Resolution	Action Taken
<b>Ordinary Council Meeting held 15 April 2024</b>			
65/24	GM	<p><b>Housing Initiatives and Opportunities for Council</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development applications be prepared for the construction of two x three-bedroom units on an allotment in each of the two proposed subdivisions in Prichard Place, Lockhart.</li> <li>2. A development application be prepared for the construction of a single dwelling house on 65 Nicholas Street, The Rock for staff accommodation.</li> <li>3. Council endorses an approach being made to Transport for NSW regarding availability to purchase Lots 4/5 and 7/8 Section 14 Nicholas Street, The Rock.</li> <li>4. Council enquires whether a preliminary investigation has been undertaken with respect to contamination in relation to the property situated at 50 Urana Street, The Rock.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Plans to support a DA to be prepared.</li> <li>2. Plans to support a DA to be prepared.</li> <li>3. Approach made to TfNSW, awaiting a response.</li> <li>4. Enquiries have been made and the selling agent has confirmed that no investigation has been undertaken with respect to contamination on the land.</li> </ol>
57/24	DE	<p><b>Brookong Creek Masterplan</b></p> <p>That Council implements the improvements that form part of the Brookong Creek Masterplan and are outlined in this report, utilising the grant funding received under Round 5 of the Stronger Country Communities Fund.</p>	<p>Quotes being assessed and evaluated. New electricity meter being installed.</p>
<b>Ordinary Council Meeting held 18 September 2023</b>			
163/23	GM	<p><b>Magnolia Lodge and Youth Flats</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>	<p>NSW Land and Housing Corporation advised of Council's decision.</p> <p>Concept plans have been prepared and forwarded to the NSW Land and Housing Corporation for feedback.</p>
<b>Ordinary Council Meeting held 13 February 2023</b>			
26/23	GM	<p><b>Proposed Acquisition of Land</b></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>Determination of the DA has been referred to a neighbouring council in accordance with Policy 2.58 Conflicts of Interest – Council Related Developments.</p>



*Lockhart Shire Council  
Ordinary Meeting – 19 August 2024*

<b>Minute No:</b>	<b>Officer to Action</b>	<b>Council Resolution</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>
9/23	GM/DE	<p><b>Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements</b></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"> <li>1. Emily Street, The Rock – drainage improvements</li> <li>2. Cole Street, Yerong Creek – drainage improvements</li> <li>3. Green Street West, Lockhart – drainage improvements</li> <li>4. Flood Detour Road – culvert installation</li> <li>5. Waste Mgt Facilities Access Roads</li> <li>6. Community information initiative (social media)</li> <li>7. Access Road – Golf Club</li> </ol>	<p>Projects nominated as per resolution. Approval received to access funds for Emily Street. No update regarding remaining projects has been received. Department emailed 8 August 2024 and phoned.</p> <p>Design completed and materials have been ordered.</p> <p>Designs completed for Cole Street, Green Street West. Flood Detour Road in progress.</p>
<b>Ordinary Council Meeting held 18 July 2022</b>			
141/22	GM	<p><b>Request for Council to Purchase Private Access</b></p> <p>Council agrees to the request in principle subject to Council and the applicants agreeing to a reasonable cost sharing arrangement.</p>	<p>Subject land has been transferred to Council and dedicated as public road. Payment has been received from landowners in accordance with agreed cost sharing arrangement.</p> <p>Upgrading of the road to be scheduled.</p>
<b>Ordinary Council Meeting held 16 August 2021</b>			
148/21	GM	<p><b>Proposed “Tim Fischer Way”</b></p> <p>Council to reinstate investigations into the erection of tourism signage indicating “Tim Fischer Way”.</p>	<p>Complete. -</p> <p><a href="https://www.visitlockhartshire.com.au/tim-fischer-way/">https://www.visitlockhartshire.com.au/tim-fischer-way/</a></p>
<b>Ordinary Council Meeting held 19 April 2021</b>			
63/21	GM	<p><b>Residential Development – Lockhart</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) That Council proceed with the subdivision of Lots 62 and 90 Prichard Place Lockhart as outlined in the report.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>	<p>The development application for Lot 62 (westernmost lot) has been approved. The application for Lot 90 has now also been approved.</p> <p>Road and sewer designs being finalised.</p> <p>Complete.</p>

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Minute No:	Officer to Action	Council Resolution	Action Taken
<b>Ordinary Council Meeting held 15 July 2024 – Councillor Questions &amp; Statements</b>			
	DE	<p><b>Cr Hunter: Status Report – Roads Requiring Works</b></p> <p>Asked how items are kept on the Status Report for completion and referred to a previous query regarding roads in the east of the shire which require works.</p>	<p>During “Questions and Statements”, generally those questions and/or statements requiring an action are detailed in the Status Report so progress and updates can be reported at future Council meetings.</p> <p>Statements that do not require an action are not placed on the Status Report. They are included in the Minutes under Questions and Statements.</p> <p>The previous query referred to was taken as a statement that Council needs to allocate future grant funding toward road works. Any future grant programs will be the subject of a Councillor workshop to allocate funds.</p> <p>Complete.</p>
	DE	<p><b>Cr Sharp: Henty Pleasant Hills Road</b></p> <p>Drew attention to a section of road approaching Henty where the road surface has deteriorated and needs repairs.</p>	<p>Works carried out.</p> <p>Completed.</p>
	DE	<p><b>Cr Marston: Parking, Opp. The Rock Central School</b></p> <p>Asked if any works in this area were planned to coincide with the current school holiday period.</p>	<p>Works carried out.</p> <p>Complete.</p>
	DE	<p><b>Cr Marston: Back Lanes, The Rock</b></p> <p>Acknowledged that work has been completed on some back lanes in The Rock and asked if there were any plans to complete works on the remaining lanes.</p>	<p>Director Engineering requested Cr Marston to provide list of back lanes being referred to.</p>
<b>Ordinary Council Meeting held 20 May 2024 – Councillor Questions &amp; Statements</b>			
Questions & Statements	DE	<p><b>Cr Sharp: Grading Works, Wide Lane</b></p> <p>Has received positive comments regarding grading works carried out on Wide Lane and has also received requests for “Dry Weather Only” signs to be placed at each end of this road to minimise damage in wet weather.</p>	<p>Works programmed.</p>
<b>Ordinary Council Meeting held 20 May 2024 – Councillor Questions &amp; Statements</b>			
Questions & Statements	GM	<p><b>Cr Mathews: Empty Shops, Green Street</b></p> <p>Suggested Council could consider subsidising rent to encourage businesses to take up tenancies.</p>	<p>Council's investment Attraction Incentives Policy would need to be revised.</p> <p>Complete.</p>

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Minute No:	Officer to Action	Council Resolution	Action Taken
	GM	<b>Cr Mathews: Border Trust</b> Advised that he, along with the General Manager and Director of Corporate and Community Services met with Ms Sue Gold, Executive Officer of the Border Trust. Cr Mathews suggested Ms Gold could be invited to address a future meeting of Council and believes membership of the Trust could be advantageous.	Border Trust has been contacted with a view to making arrangements to address the newly elected council in several months' time.
<b>Ordinary Council Meeting held 18 March 2024 – Councillor Questions &amp; Statements</b>			
Questions & Statements	DCCS	<b>Cr Driscoll: Umpire and Netball Sheds, The Rock</b> Thanked the Director of Corporate & Community Services for the now completed works and asked where works on the netball sheds are up to.	Netball changerooms builder has encountered issues with partitions. Waiting on delivery of replacement partitions. Building works completed. Complete.
<b>Ordinary Council Meeting held 19 February 2024 – Councillor Questions &amp; Statements</b>			
Questions & Statements	DE	<b>Cr Rockliff: Fairy Lights, Lockhart Main Street</b> Asked if the fairy lights in the shopping precinct can be repaired and/or reinstated?	Fairy lights west of lamp posts not able to be repaired and need replacing. Quotes being sourced.
<b>Ordinary Council Meeting held 20 November 2023 – Councillor Questions &amp; Statements</b>			
Questions & Statements	DE	<b>Cr Mathews: Councillor Dress</b> Suggested an option somewhere between the blazer and a polo shirt might be appropriate for attending conferences etc.	Held over until commencement of new council in September 2024.
<b>Ordinary Council Meeting held 16 October 2023 – Councillor Questions &amp; Statements</b>			
Questions & Statements	DCCS	<b>Cr Sharp: Pleasant Hills Tennis Courts</b> Asked if there was a timeframe for repairs to the tennis courts to be carried out?	Bottom two courts were completed by 30 June 2024. Top two courts require excavation and levelling work.
<b>Ordinary Council Meeting held 18 September 2023 – Councillor Questions &amp; Statements</b>			
Questions & Statements	DE	<b>Cr Verdon: Lodge Road</b> Advised this road, which provides access to The Rock Cemetery, is deteriorating rapidly and requires attention.	Surfaced prepared for seal. Works to be completed when weather allows.
<b>Ordinary Council Meeting held 21 November 2022 – Councillor Questions &amp; Statements</b>			
Questions & Statements	DCCS	<b>Cr Hunter: Tiled Wall outside The Rock Gym</b> 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.	Retiling wall has commenced. A further verbal update will be provided at the Council meeting.

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Minute No:	Officer to Action	Council Resolution	Action Taken
<b>Ordinary Council Meeting held 17 October 2022 – Councillor Questions &amp; Statements</b>			
Questions & Statements	DPE/ DCCS	<p><b>Cr Verdon: Disability Access Across the Shire</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Onsite visit completed week of 3 June.</p> <p>Report received, Directors reviewing report (183 pages).</p> <p>Complete.</p>

**Correspondence Received**

Date sent to Councillors	From	Subject
8 August 2024	Executive Assistant	Forwarding Letter from the Chief Commissioner of the ICAC re: Integrity Issues and the 2024 Local Government Elections
22 July 2024	REROC via Executive Assistant	Invitation to attend the REROC 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner

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

**134/24 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Mathews and Day that the Status Report and Correspondence Précis be received.

## STAFF REPORTS

### Strategic Direction A: A Connected and Resilient Community

#### 1. POLICY 1.27 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

(GM: 24/9816)

##### Executive Summary

At the Council meeting held on 15 July 2024 it was resolved to amend Policy 1.27 Australia Day Awards to incorporate a Student Achiever Award and other discretionary Awards, and to place the amended Policy on public exhibition and consider any submissions received before adopting the Policy.

The amended Policy has been publicly exhibited in accordance with Council's resolution and is now presented for adoption by Council.

##### Report

Council at its meeting held on 15 July 2024 resolved that:

1. *"Council Policy 1.27 Australia Day Awards, be amended to incorporate the following additional awards:*
  - a) *Student Achiever Award that recognises students who:*
    - *Are developing leadership skills and skills of active citizenship.*
    - *Have shown either consistent or outstanding qualities of kindness, honesty and/or service to their school community.*
    - *Have demonstrated community spirit and integrity when participating in sporting, cultural or recreational activities.*
  - b) *Discretionary Awards*
    - *To be awarded at Council's discretion when the Council resolves that the circumstances warrant.*
2. *That, in addition to presenting a Student Achiever Award in accordance with a) above, Council also acknowledges those students that have excelled academically as determined by the respective schools i.e. school Duxes, on Australia Day."*
3. *The amended Policy 1.27 Australia Day Awards be placed on public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days and any submissions received be considered prior to adoption of the policy.*

The amended Policy has been publicly exhibited in accordance with Council's resolution and is now presented for adoption by Council.

No submissions were received within the exhibition period.

The amended Policy 1.27 as publicly exhibited and reflecting the above changes is attached.

##### Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

- A1: Facilitate and support our community to deliver vibrant and dynamic community events.  
E1: Promote the increased participation of local people in local government and the community.  
E2: Provide effective community engagement practices with the community.

##### Legislative Policy & Planning Implications

Nil.

##### Budget & Financial Aspects

Provision is made in Council's Annual Operational Plan Budget for the hosting of the annual Australia Day celebrations and Awards ceremony.

Attachments

Policy 1.27 Australia Day Awards

**Recommendation:** That Council Policy 1.27 Australia Day Awards, as publicly exhibited, be adopted.

**135/24 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Walker and Sharp that Council Policy 1.27 Australia Day Awards, as publicly exhibited, be adopted.

**2. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – EXPLORERS RIFLE CLUB**

**(DCCS: 24/10555)**

Executive Summary

A request for financial assistance has been received from the Lockhart based Explorers Rifle Club.

Report

On 7 and 8 September 2024, the Explorers Rifle Club will be holding its annual shooting competition at the Lockhart Rifle Range. The Club advises that its event has proven to be one of the more popular shooting events in NSW Country regions and it expects attendance by over 60 shooters from within the Riverina, Northern Victoria & other parts of NSW.

The Club is seeking Council's consideration in becoming a supporter or sponsor of this competition with any donation to be expended on trophies and prizes for the event.

Council received a similar request in 2021 from the Explorers Rifle Club. On that occasion Council resolved to contribute \$300 towards the event.

Council also has a number of Events Resources available for free to organisations holding events.

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.

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

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

There are sufficient funds within Council's 2024/25 Budget allocation for financial assistance granted pursuant to Section 356 of the Local Government Act, to accede to this request.

Attachments

Nil.

**Recommendation:** That Council contributes an amount of \$500 towards the Explorers Rifle Club Annual Shooting Competition and that the contribution be funded from the 2024/25 budget allocation for Section 356 contributions.

**136/24 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Walker and Marston that Council contributes an amount of \$500 towards the Explorers Rifle Club Annual Shooting Competition and that the contribution be funded from the 2024/25 budget allocation for Section 356 contributions.

## **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**

### **3. ENGINEERING REPORT**

(DE)

#### Executive Summary

Monthly report on engineering matters.

#### Background Information

#### **Major Projects**

Council has submitted its five-year plan under the Roads to Recovery Program.

2024/25 Osborne Yerong Creek Road (12.9-13.9km from Albury Rd)  
Reconstruction and widening

2025/26 The Rock Lockhart Road (12-14km from The Rock)  
Reconstruction and widening

2026/27 Osborne Yerong Creek Road (13.9-15km from Albury Rd)  
Reconstruction and widening

2027/28 The Rock Lockhart Road (10-12km from The Rock)  
Reconstruction and widening

2028/29 Yerong Creek Mangoplah Road (3.6-5.4km from Yerong Creek)  
Reconstruction and widening

Designs for Emily Street, Prichard Place and Cole Street have been prepared. Flood Detour Road is in progress.

Culverts have been ordered for Emily Street.

Culverts for Hollies Road have been ordered.

Flood damage restoration is ongoing.

#### **Works**

a) Regional Roads - Various Locations

Continuation of routine spot patching to maintain road surface safety and quality.

b) Local Sealed Roads

**Tootool Mittagong Road/Yerong Creek Road:** Progressing with the enhancement of culvert and drainage systems to reduce flood risks and ensure efficient water flow. Culvert works are finalised, with road pavement and guardrail installation programmed for the month of August.

c) Line marking

- Line marking completed on the Lockhart The Rock Road starting at the bridge in Urana St, The Rock to Vincents Road
- The Rock Bullenbong Road 1km from Urana St, The Rock Intersection.

d) Various Locations

- Ongoing routine maintenance and spot patching to uphold the integrity and safety of the road network.

e) Local Unsealed Roads

- Focused efforts on repairing flood damage identified in the 1001 and 1034 flood events, prioritising critical areas.

f) Updated List of Roads Pending Completion

Albert Smiths Road	Jack Mitchells Lane	Pat Gollashes Lane
Alf Freemans Lane	Jaricks Lane	Poverty Lane
Bahrs Road	Jim Mahedy Lane	Rawson Park Road
Barry Bowyers Lane	Jim McDonnells Lane	Robertsons Lane
Bond Lane	John Alexander Road	Schirmers Lane
Boyds Road	Judds Lane	Seberrys Lane
Braithwaites Lane	JR Smiths Lane	Seeligers Lane
Bryan Westblade Lane	Kingstons Lane II	Shaws Lane
Carrolls Lane	Krauses Lane	Shippards Lane
Chaplin Lane	Lallarook Lane	Showground Road
Commera Wilson Lane	Lehdeys Lane	Sielers Lane
Days Lane	Leitch Lane	Slys Lane
Edwards Lane	Lieschkes East Road	Stolz Lane
Ferndale Boundary Road	Lieschkes Lane	Stoney Park Road
Forks Lane	Long Park Road	Tenison Lane
Forest Lane	Lynchs Lane	Tootool Mittagong Road
Galore Hill Reserve – Firetrail 1	McRaes Lane	Tuttys Lane
Galore Hill Reserve - Firetrail 2	McRories Road	Vennells Lane
Gap Road-Access	Milbrulong Forest Road	Weillys Lane
Hamsons Lane	Milbrulong Tip Road	Whittys Lane I
Hebden Lane	Montagues Back Road	Whittys Lane II
Hillcrest Lane	Moores Bus Route Road	Wide Lane I
Hollies Road	Morgans Lane	Wide Lane II
Jack Blights Lane	Noskes Lane 1	Willis Lane
	Old French Park	Wrathall School Lane
	Bullenbong Road	

- Maintenance grading will be performed as part of the flood recovery efforts.

g) Summary

Council teams and contractors are working intensively to improve road safety and infrastructure resilience. Efforts are concentrated on repairing flood damage, upgrading drainage systems, and maintaining both local and regional roads through systematic patching, sealing, and upkeep.

**Parks & Gardens**

The addition of a rose garden has been completed at the entrance of the SES/Rural Fire station at The Rock.



Winter maintenance and repairs are continuing at The Rock and Lockhart pools.

Annual street tree pruning is nearing completion, we will then focus on clearing vegetation from laneways.

Solar lighting will be installed in the coming weeks at the Avenue of Honour.

Staff will be busy completing mulching and general garden maintenance of Council's many parks/gardens prior to a busy spring season.

Legislative Policy and Planning Implications

Nil.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

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

Budget and Financial Aspects

Will be conducted within Council's allocated budget.

Attachment

Nil.

**Recommendation:** That Council notes the information provided in the Engineering report.

**137/24 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Hunter and Mathews that Council notes the information provided in the Engineering report.

**4. PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

**(DPE)**

Executive Summary

Monthly report on priority weeds, environmental matters and development approvals.

Background Information

**a) Biosecurity**

**WEEDS**

**Property Inspections**

Inspections were carried out on rural properties by request, and on land managed by Council.

The most commonly found weeds were Coolatai grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*), St. Barnaby's thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), Galvanised burr (*Sclerolaena birchii*), and African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) respectively.

No. 1 <sup>st</sup> Inspections	No. Re-inspections required	No. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Inspections	No. Biosecurity Undertakings Accepted	No. Biosecurity Directions Issued	No. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Inspections	No. 4 <sup>th</sup> Inspections
2	2	1	0	0	0	0

**Control Program**

Priority has been given to the control of Wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*) on roadside reserves and council managed land. Wild radish was controlled at the railway crossing on East Street and on the nature strip in Day Street, Lockhart.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL**

### **National Tree Day**

In conjunction with Eastern Riverina Landcare Group and The Rock Division of Scouts NSW, Lockhart Shire Council sponsored the distribution of 80 native plants to The Rock residents for National Tree Day. This undertaking was a trial project. Council's Planning and Environment staff envision a larger distribution of local native plants at various locations within the shire for National Tree Day 2025 and propose to involve local school students in the distribution process.

- c) **Development Approvals:** This report advises of the Development Application Approvals for July 2024.

#### Development Activity Table

DA/CDC No.	Development	Site of Development	Applicant	Value
DA74/24	Dwelling	15 King Street, The Rock	Hotondo Homes	\$ 767,763.00
DA75/24	Additions to existing Dwelling	40 King Street, The Rock	C Whitby	\$ 86,000.00
DA44/24	Multi Dwelling	2 Hebden Street, Lockhart	L Hoffmann	\$ 2,055,600.00
DA79/24	Shed	22 Macconochie Street, Yerong Creek	M Pitman	\$ 42,277.00
			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,951,640.00</b>

#### Legislative Policy and Planning Implications

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

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

#### Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

C2: Flora and fauna are protected across the shire.

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.

#### Attachments

Nil.

**Recommendation:** That Council notes the information provided in the Planning and Environment report.

**138/24 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Mathews and Driscoll that Council notes the information provided in the Planning and Environment report.

## **5. HIRE (DRY AND WET) PLANT AND EQUIPMENT**

(DE: 24/10314)

### Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is for Council to approve the list of hire companies for Miscellaneous Plant Hire (Dry Hire) and suitably qualified contractors for hire (wet) plant and equipment, for the period 1 September 2024 to 30 June 2025.

### Background Information

Every year Council invites submissions from companies for the hire of plant (dry) and suitably qualified contractors for hire (wet) plant and equipment.

A request for a schedule of rates was sent to selected companies for the dry hire of plant and an advertisement was placed in the local newspapers and on Council's website for the submission of wet hire plant and equipment. Council received responses from the following:

1. R & L Holyoake
2. I Holyoake
3. Campo's Earthworks
4. Boots Civil
5. Orange Hire
6. Smallmon Bros
7. Lockhart Hardware & Hire
8. Quillo (D Norton)
9. Kennards Hire
10. Rollers Pty Ltd
11. Coates
12. Solomon Provisions Pty Ltd (Mulholland)
13. Burkinshaw Ag (C Burkinshaw)
14. Kennedy Bros
15. JM Kirk Civil

Council is not bound to accept the lowest rates, or any rates submitted. The criteria used for assessing and selecting plant for dry hire include:

- a) Quoted hire rate
- b) Currency of insurances
- c) Compliance with WHS regulations
- d) Capacity to undertake the works
- e) Condition and age of plant and/or equipment
- f) Plant and operator performance/competencies
- g) Proximity and availability
- h) Service and support.
- i) Hire terms.
- j) Local preference.

The Council may undertake an ongoing evaluation of the hire company's performance. The evaluation may be considered in the assessment of future requests for services of a similar nature. A copy of any such evaluation will be forwarded to the company. If the company disagrees with the evaluation, they may forward a request to Council's Manager of Works for a review along with reasons why it should be reviewed. The Council's decision will be final. Council reserves the right to terminate agreements/contracts if the company's performance has been identified as unsatisfactory and the company fails to rectify this. Once hired a daily equipment hire order including a safety check must be completed.

Appointment of a contractor will depend on the availability of plant and equipment required for a specific period as well as current insurances and Work, Health and Safety Systems in place.

### Legislative Policy and Planning Implications

Section 55 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 (Part 7 – Tendering) provides that works exceeding \$250,000 must be awarded by Council by way of public tender.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

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

Budget and Financial Aspects

Council's auditors advised that 'Management should review expenditure on an annual basis to identify goods or services where expenditure regularly exceeds \$250,000 annually and assess whether these should be subject to a competitive tender process.

Council may hire (wet & dry hire) plant on occasions when it is unable to provide plant from its own fleet. Although every effort will be made to minimise the cost of plant hire and keep the cumulative cost per hire company below \$250,000, circumstances may arise where the \$250,000 limit may be exceeded. Irrespective whether the expenditure is spread over several projects it is proposed that Council approves the contractors for the hire (wet and dry) of plant and equipment for the 2024-25 financial year to satisfy the recommendation by Council's auditors.

Attachments

Nil.

**Recommendation:** That Council approves the following companies for Miscellaneous Plant Hire (Dry Hire and Wet Hire) for the period 1 September 2024 to 30 June 2025:

- |                            |                              |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| • R & L Holyoake           | • Kennards Hire              |
| • I Holyoake               | • Rollers Pty Ltd            |
| • Campo's Earthworks       | • Coates                     |
| • Boots Civil              | • Solomon Provisions Pty Ltd |
| • Orange Hire              | • Burkinshaw Ag              |
| • Smallmon Bros            | • Kennedy Bros               |
| • Lockhart Hardware & Hire | • JM Kirk Civil              |
| • Quillo                   |                              |

**139/24 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Marston and Driscoll that Council approves the following companies for Miscellaneous Plant Hire (Dry Hire and Wet Hire) for the period 1 September 2024 to 30 June 2025:

- |                            |                              |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| • R & L Holyoake           | • Kennards Hire              |
| • I Holyoake               | • Rollers Pty Ltd            |
| • Campo's Earthworks       | • Coates                     |
| • Boots Civil              | • Solomon Provisions Pty Ltd |
| • Orange Hire              | • Burkinshaw Ag              |
| • Smallmon Bros            | • Kennedy Bros               |
| • Lockhart Hardware & Hire | • JM Kirk Civil              |
| • Quillo                   |                              |

## STRATEGIC DIRECTION E: Strong Leadership and Governance

### 6. INVESTMENT AND BANK BALANCES REPORT – JULY 2024

(DCCS: 24/10511)

#### 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

<b>Opening Combined Cashbook Balance</b>		5,546,042.08
Add: Total Receipts		
	Miscellaneous	17,784.00
	Rates	101,351.07
	Debtors	151,379.00
	Interest on Investments	18,380.30
	Caravan Park Takings	14,682.50
	Return of Investment - ComBank	500,000.00
	Rockoosh CCS & Inclusion Support Payments	21,805.00
	Development / Planning Applications	14,203.80
	Rockoosh Payments	4,635.37
	BAS Refund - June 2024	73,256.00
	Tip Fees	2,715.00
	ATO - GST - 14 Harry Davies Drive - Lockhart	6,000.00
		926,192.04
Less: Total Payments		5,285,949.38
	New Investments	0
<b>Closing Combined Cashbook Balance</b>		<b>1,186,284.74</b>
<b>Closing Bank Statement Balance</b>	Bendigo Bank	1,047,230.51
	Macquarie Bank	106,012.75
	Bendigo Bank-Prichard Trust	31,912.98
		1,185,156.24
Add: Outstanding Deposits		1,157.50
		1,186,313.74
Less: Outstanding Cheques		29.00
<b>Closing Combined Cashbook Balance</b>		<b>1,186,284.74</b>

Investments:	Interest Rate per Annum	Amount Invested	% of Total
Bank of Queensland	4.90	700,000.00	8.22
Bank of Queensland	5.30	500,000.00	5.87
Bendigo Bank	4.74	1,000,000.00	11.74
Bendigo Bank	4.79	500,000.00	5.87
Bendigo Bank	5.10	250,000.00	2.94
Bendigo Bank	5.25	1,000,000.00	11.74
Bendigo Bank	at call	66,072.20	0.78
Beyond Bank	5.10	500,000.00	5.87
IMB	4.85	500,000.00	5.87
Macquarie Bank	4.78	1,000,000.00	11.74
National Australia Bank	5.00	500,000.00	5.87
National Australia Bank	5.00	500,000.00	5.87
National Australia Bank	5.00	500,000.00	5.87
National Australia Bank	5.00	500,000.00	5.87
National Australia Bank	5.40	500,000.00	5.87
		<b>8,516,072.20</b>	100.00

			<b>AMOUNT</b>
General Fund	1490-3000-0000		(1,364,389.90)
Combined Sewerage	8490-3000-0000		2,518,761.66
Trust Fund	9991-3000-0000		31,912.98
		<b>1,186,284.74</b>	<b>1,186,284.74</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS HELD ARE:</b>			<b>9,702,356.94</b>

*Peter G. Sharp.*  
CHAIRPERSON

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 2024/25 Operational Budget has forecast a total of \$408,000 income from interest on investments for General Fund & Sewer Fund combined. For the period July 2024, the average end of month balance of funds invested has been \$8.52 million and the average return on invested funds has been 5.02%. 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 July 2024 Investment and Bank Balances Report be received and noted.
- b) That the Responsible Accounting Officer Statement be noted, and the report be adopted.

**140/24 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Driscoll and Walker that:

- a) the July 2024 Investment and Bank Balances Report be received and noted.
- b) the Responsible Accounting Officer Statement be noted, and the report be adopted.

**7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS UPDATE AND DELEGATIONS**

**(GM: 24/6994)**

Executive Summary

Council has an opportunity to put in place appropriate delegations to cover the period from 14 September 2024, when the current term of office expires, and the third week of October 2024 when the first meeting of the new Council will be held to elect a Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Report

Council elections will be held on 14 September 2024. The NSW Electoral Commission (NSWEC) which is conducting the election has advised that the declaration of results will take place during the first week of October 2024. This means that the September Council meeting will not be able to proceed as scheduled on the third Monday of the month i.e. 16 September 2024.

Councils that elect their mayor (as opposed to councils that have a popularly elected mayor) are required to hold a mayoral election within three weeks of the election results being declared. Council's October meeting is scheduled to be held on 21 October which will be within the required three-week period.

The Office of Local Government (OLG) has prepared a *Pre-Election Guide for Councils*. The Guide provides updated and comprehensive guidance to councils on key tasks that need to be completed prior to the council election. An extract from the Guide is reproduced below.

*“Prior to the election, councils should ensure that appropriate delegations are in place for their general managers so that they can continue to exercise the functions of the council as required in the period between election day and the first meeting of the council following the election.*

*Councils may wish to consider delegating all delegable functions to the general manager at the last meeting before the election for the period between election day and the first meeting of the council following the election.*

*Councils that elect their mayors will not have a mayor in the period between election day and the first meeting after the election when the mayoral election is held.*

*There is nothing to prevent councils from authorising the general manager to exercise the civic and ceremonial functions normally exercised by the mayor during this period in the absence of a mayor.*

*OLG is aware that some councils that elect their mayors have expressed a preference that the outgoing mayor should continue to exercise the functions of mayor in the period between election day and the holding of the mayoral election after the election.*

*There is nothing to prevent councils from authorising the outgoing mayor to continue to exercise the civic and ceremonial functions normally exercised by the mayor during this period in the absence of a mayor should they wish to do so (even though the outgoing mayor will have ceased to hold any civic office in the council as of the day of the election).*

*Given the possibility that the outgoing mayor may not be re-elected at the election and may therefore cease to be accountable to the council and the community, councils should refrain from making any delegations to the outgoing mayor.”*

#### 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's operation.

#### Legislative Policy & Planning Implications

Section 77 of the Local Government Act states that:

*“A council may, by resolution, delegate to the general manager or any other person or body (not including another employee of the council) any of the functions of the council under this or any other Act...”*

According to section 226 of the Act the role of the mayor is as follows:

- a) *“to be the leader of the council and a leader in the local community,*
- b) *to advance community cohesion and promote civic awareness,*
- c) *to be the principal member and spokesperson of the governing body, including representing the views of the council as to its local priorities,*
- d) *to exercise, in cases of necessity, the policy-making functions of the governing body of the council between meetings of the council,*
- e) *to preside at meetings of the council,*
- f) *to ensure that meetings of the council are conducted efficiently, effectively and in accordance with this Act,*
- g) *to ensure the timely development and adoption of the strategic plans, programs and policies of the council,*
- h) *to promote the effective and consistent implementation of the strategic plans, programs and policies of the council,*
- i) *to promote partnerships between the council and key stakeholders,*
- j) *to advise, consult with and provide strategic direction to the general manager in relation to the implementation of the strategic plans and policies of the council,*
- k) *in conjunction with the general manager, to ensure adequate opportunities and mechanisms for engagement between the council and the local community,*

- l) to carry out the civic and ceremonial functions of the mayoral office,
- m) to represent the council on regional organisations and at inter-governmental forums at regional, State and Commonwealth level,
- n) in consultation with the councillors, to lead performance appraisals of the general manager,
- o) to exercise any other functions of the council that the council determines.”

Budget & Financial Aspects

Not applicable.

Attachments

Nil.

**Recommendation:** That Council delegates the mayoral functions in accordance with Section 226 (a) (b) (h) (i) (l) and (m) listed below, to the General Manager, with the delegation to remain in force until such time as a mayoral election is held by the newly elected council:

- *“to be the leader of the council and a leader in the local community*
- *to advance community cohesion and promote civic awareness*
- *to be the spokesperson of the governing body, including representing the views of the council as to its local priorities*
- *to promote the effective and consistent implementation of the strategic plans, programs and policies of the council*
- *to promote partnerships between the council and key stakeholders*
- *to carry out the civic and ceremonial functions of the mayoral office*
- *to represent the council on regional organisations and at inter-governmental forums at regional, State and Commonwealth level.”*

**141/24 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Walker and Sharp that Council delegates the mayoral functions in accordance with Section 226 (a) (b) (h) (i) (l) and (m) listed below, to the General Manager, with the delegation to remain in force until such time as a mayoral election is held by the newly elected council:

- *“to be the leader of the council and a leader in the local community*
- *to advance community cohesion and promote civic awareness*
- *to be the spokesperson of the governing body, including representing the views of the council as to its local priorities*
- *to promote the effective and consistent implementation of the strategic plans, programs and policies of the council*
- *to promote partnerships between the council and key stakeholders*
- *to carry out the civic and ceremonial functions of the mayoral office*
- *to represent the council on regional organisations and at inter-governmental forums at regional, State and Commonwealth level.”*



## 8. POLICY REVIEWS

(GM: 24/8784)

### Executive Summary

Policy 2.45 Stock Movement and Grazing is 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 policies are now scheduled for review:

1. Policy 2.45 Stock Movement and Grazing
2. Policy 3.31 Health and Wellbeing

No significant changes are proposed to be made to either of the policies.

However, it is also a provision of Policy No. 1.0 Policies – Procedure for Consideration and Adoption that any policies that have the potential to impact on residents and ratepayers be publicly exhibited and submissions invited before being adopted or reaffirmed and it is considered appropriate that this approach be taken in respect of the Stock Movement and Grazing Policy.

### 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

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

### Budget & Financial Aspects

Nil.

### Attachments

1. Policy 2.45 Stock Movement and Grazing
2. Policy 3.31 Health and Wellbeing

### **Recommendation:** That:

1. Policy 2.45 Stock Movement and Grazing, be place on public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days and any submissions received be considered prior to adopting the policy.
2. Policy 3.31 Health and Wellbeing, as presented, be adopted.

**142/24 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Sharp and Hunter that:

1. Policy 2.45 Stock Movement and Grazing, be place on public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days and any submissions received be considered prior to adopting the policy.
2. Policy 3.31 Health and Wellbeing, as presented, be adopted.

9. AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – 2023/2024

(DCCS: 24/10489)

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to address the requirement for Council and Management to make a statement as to the preparation and content of the General Purpose and Special Purpose Financial Statements for the 2023-24 financial year.

Report

The Local Government Act 1993 (The Act) requires Council to produce General Purpose Financial Statements and Special Purpose Financial Statements for inclusion in Council's Annual Report. These statements are to be externally audited prior to being adopted by Council for publication.

The Act also requires Council to resolve prior to submission to the external auditor that the accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Act and the Australian Accounting Standards to fairly represent Council's financial position. Senior staff are also required to certify the accounts to this effect. General Purpose Financial Statements and Special Purpose Financial Statements are to be signed by Councillors and Management after being adopted at the Council meeting to be held on 21 October 2024.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

E1: Continue to develop sound financial management policies and practices.

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

Legislative Policy & Planning Implications

Section 413 (2) (c) of the Local Government Act 1993 states that a council's financial reports must include a statement in the approved form by the council as to its opinion on the general purpose financial report.

Budget & Financial Aspects

Reporting on Council's financial performance for the 2023-2024 financial year.

Attachments

To be provided under separate cover, prior to Council meeting:

1. Statement by Councillors and Management – General Purpose Statements
2. Statement by Councillors and Management – Special Purpose Statements
3. Schedule of restricted funds by Council as at 30 June 2024
4. Draft General Purpose and Special Purpose Financial Statements:
  - a) Income Statements
  - b) Balance Sheet/Financial Position
  - c) Cash Flow (General Purpose/Consolidated)

**Recommendation:** That Council 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><b>143/24 RESOLVED</b> on the motion of Crs Driscoll and Walker that Council 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>
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## LATE ITEM REPORT

### DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

(GM: 24/10663)

#### Executive Summary

Section 377 of the Local Government Act states that “A council may, by resolution, delegate to the general manager or any other person or body (not including another employee of the council) any of the functions of the council under this or any other Act”.

#### Report

It is necessary for Council to make a delegation of authority to the new General Manager, Mr Gavin Rhodes. The wording of the delegation is as follows:

*THAT, pursuant to Section 377 of the Local Government Act 1993, the General Manager, Gavin Rhodes, be and hereby is delegated authority to exercise all such powers, authorities, duties and functions as may be experienced by the Council under any Act other than:*

- (i) in relation to any matter where the Mayor has directed the General Manager, in writing, not to exercise a delegated function and to refer the matter to Council for determination; and*
- (ii) Those functions that are required by Section 377 to be exercised only by the Council.*

#### Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

E6.1: Provision of excellent leadership and governance within Council.

#### Legislative Policy and Planning Implications

It is a legislative requirement that Council review its delegations within 12 months of an ordinary election.

#### Budget and Financial Aspects

Not applicable.

#### Attachment

Nil.

**Recommendation:** That the abovementioned delegation be made, effective on and from 14 August 2024.

**144/24 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Day and Driscoll that the abovementioned delegation be made, effective on and from 14 August 2024.

## QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

### Cr Marston

- i) **Appreciation:** Cr Marston expressed his appreciation for the job the Mayor has done over his term as Mayor and Councillor, and thanked him for his services.

### Cr Day

- i) **Thanks:** Cr Day expressed gratitude to the Mayor for his leadership of the Shire and dedication to the broader community, reflected in his involvement with REROC, the Country Mayors Association, Riverina Water and Eastern Riverina Arts; and also to Mrs Verdon for her support of Cr Verdon in those roles.  
Cr Day also thanked Cr Rockliff for his support and positive impact on the community during his tenure.

Cr Day extended a welcome to Gavin Rhodes as the new General Manager. Cr Day also thanked the Directors for their exceptional work and dedication, and the Executive Assistant for her work behind the scenes.

Finally, Cr Day expressed her thanks to all Council staff for their dedication, hard work and commitment to the Shire community, playing a vital role in making the Shire a better place.

### **Cr Driscoll**

- i) **Thanks:** Cr Driscoll reiterated the messages of thanks to the Mayor, Cr Verdon will be missed.
- ii) **CERT Presentation:** Cr Driscoll advised that discussion of the proposed Community Emergency Response Team was discussed at the recent Progress Association meeting and further advised a presentation will be given on 9 September, 6.30pm, at The Rock Community Centre, regarding the start-up of a CER team at The Rock, liaising with NSW Ambulance to commence training. Perhaps younger members of the community might use it as a stepping stone for future careers.
- iii) **Road Damage, Piggery, Pleasant Hills:** Cr Driscoll has received reports that traffic numbers have caused deterioration of Dick Knobels Road, Semmlers Road and Robertsons Lane, in the vicinity of the piggery. Feedlotting of sheep is happening in that area, which is leading to increased traffic. Cr Driscoll asked if Council could investigate, including whether the owners of that business could be requested to contribute to the road repairs as was included in the development approval?

#### Response – Director of Engineering

The Director advised he will investigate and take appropriate action.

### **Cr Mathews**

- i) **Lockhart Showground Management Committee:** Cr Mathews stated that he had attended a recent meeting of the Management Committee, where they had questioned the recent “test & tag” contractor’s work.
- ii) **Lockhart Progress Association:** Cr Mathews advised that the Progress Association has raised concerns that there is no signage directing people to Lockhart, particularly brown/white tourist signs, on the Sturt and Olympic Highways and asked if this could be investigated.
- iii) **Brookong Creek:** Cr Mathews noted that after a small amount of rain, the creek ponded and asked what can be done, particularly around woody weeds?

#### Response – Director of Engineering

The Director of Engineering advised that NSW Fisheries restrict what work can be done and that Council’s Environmental Officer has looked at available options, including permits. The Director further advised that it is unlikely that, during a flood event, the existing vegetation would hold back water.

- iv) **Sale of Land for Unpaid Rates:** Cr Mathews referred to a recent newspaper report of other councils selling properties for unpaid rates and asked if that was a possibility in Lockhart Shire.

#### Response – Director of Corporate and Community Services

The Director took the question on notice and advised that he would need to investigate if Council has cause to take that type of action, and that it would need to be discussed with Council’s debt collection agency as part of the process.

### **Cr Sharp**

- i) **Thanks:** Cr Sharp thanked Cr Verdon for his time on Council, as Councillor, Deputy Mayor, and Mayor. Cr Sharp referred to Cr Verdon’s representation of council on various committees, Riverina Water, REROC, and others, and thanked Cr Verdon on behalf of Council and the wider community.
- ii) **Dust Suppression:** Cr Sharp advised that in a span of eight years, three residents have asked for sections of road in front of their properties to be sealed to control dust, and referred to a section of Osborne Pleasant Hills Road which has just been sealed for this purpose. Cr Sharp asked if a section at the western end of Forcks Lane can be done? Cr Sharp has recommended the residents make a submission to Council.

#### Response – Director of Engineering

The Director advised that the recent sealing on Osborne Pleasant Hills Road was done under the applicable policy and other areas could be considered under the same terms.

### Cr Hunter

- i) **Major Road Projects:** Cr Hunter requested that costings be brought back to Council regarding the east/west roads mentioned at previous meetings, so those projects can be ready for possible future grant funding.

#### Response – Director of Engineering

The Director advised that costings can be done and will be presented during a future workshop.

- ii) **Thank You:** Cr Hunter thanked Cr Verdon for welcoming her as a “newbie” to Council, and for providing support. Cr Hunter welcomed Gavin as General Manager and expressed her hope to be here at the Council meeting in October.

### Cr Walker

- i) **Thanks:** Cr Walker expressed his thanks to Cr Verdon for being a great captain.
- ii) **FOGO:** Cr Walker asked if equipment had been purchased to assist with processing the FOGO and if there was any idea of what the final product is going to cost?

#### Response – Director of Planning and Environment

The Director advised that equipment, including a flip screen has been purchased and is in use. There is a stockpile ready to go. Staff are currently working through the licencing process. The product has passed all testing. Parks and gardens crews are going to use it in trial areas. A price estimate can be provided. The Waste Supervisor is still required to manually remove contaminates from the collected FOGO.

- iii) **Nominations Process:** Cr Walker stated the nomination process for council elections was much more arduous this year and asked if Council, or nominees, should write to the Electoral Commission to register displeasure? Perhaps this is a question for the incoming councillors.

### Cr Verdon

- i) **Distribution of AEDs:** Cr Verdon referred to a presentation to the recent Country Mayors Association by the former yellow Wiggle, Greg Page, on an initiative called “Heart of the Country”. The initiative encourages the placement of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and recommends changes to signage (particularly colour) to draw attention to locations. Cr Verdon believes the initiative is worthy of the support of the incoming council.

- ii) **Final Statement:** Cr Verdon thanked all the Councillors for their support and friendship and expressed thanks for the privilege of being Mayor. Cr Verdon has thoroughly enjoyed the journey and achieved many great things for the community and has seen Council and the community overcome many things, including floods, fires, Fit for the Future, and the covid pandemic, making Lockhart Shire a place where people want to come and live.

Cr Verdon paid tribute to his mayoral predecessors, Rodger Schirmer and Peter Yates, who paved the way for him, and thanked senior staff, Craig Fletcher, Austin Morris and Jesse Rapley for their invaluable support. Cr Verdon also referred to the former General Manager, Peter Veneris, who was a great attribute during his time and expressed his view that he has no doubt the incoming General Manager, Gavin, will do the same.

The Mayor congratulated Cr Day and Cr Mathews on their election to the new council and wished the B Ward and C Ward councillors who are recontesting all the best for the election.

### General Manager

The General Manager thanked Councillors for the welcome and for the opportunity as General Manager. Mr Rhodes also thanked the staff for being so helpful on his commencement. Mr Rhodes wished the Mayor and Mrs Verdon all the best for the future.

### Director of Engineering

The Director of Engineering expressed his thanks to Cr Verdon for his support during his time as Director.

## 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)(c) of the Act and should be dealt with as part of the meeting closed to the media and public.

**145/24 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Walker and Hunter 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 6.10 pm.

**146/24 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Marston and Sharp that Council move into Open Session.

The meeting moved into Open Session at 6.22pm.

## 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. VOLUNTARY PURCHASE SCHEME

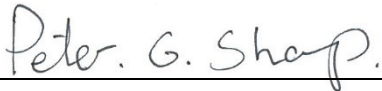
(DE: 24/10445)

**147/24 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Driscoll and Sharp that:

1. No action be taken with regards to the purchase of 5 Urana Street under the Voluntary Purchase Scheme; and
2. A letter be sent to Ms Brackett-Waring advising of such and that any further correspondence will be received without acknowledgement or reply unless any new matters are raised.

The meeting concluded at 6.23pm.

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 19 August 2024, were confirmed as a true and accurate record at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 October 2024, at which time the signature was hereunto subscribed.

 **CHAIRPERSON**

  
CHAIRPERSON