

Business Paper

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GUNDAGAI

6:00PM, Tuesday 23rd January, 2024

Administration Centres: 1300 459 689

The Mayor & Councillors
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council
PO Box 420
Cootamundra NSW 2590

NOTICE OF MEETING

An Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held in the Council Chambers, Gundagai on:

Tuesday, 23rd January, 2024 at 6:00PM

The agenda for the meeting is enclosed.

Steve McGrath
Interim General Manager

Live Streaming of Meetings Statement

This meeting is streamed live via the internet and an audio-visual recording of the meeting will be publicly available on Council's website.

By attending this meeting, you consent to your image and, or, voice being live streamed and publicly available. Please refrain from making any defamatory statements.

AGENDA

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Council acknowledges the Wiradjuri people, the Traditional Custodians of the Land at which the meeting is held and pays its respects to Elders, both past and present, of the Wiradjuri Nation and extends that respect to other Aboriginal people who are present.

ADJOURN MEETING FOR OPEN FORUM**2 OPEN FORUM****RESUME OPEN MEETING****3 APOLOGIES****4 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2023

REPORTING OFFICER	Teresa Breslin, Executive Assistant to Mayor and General Manager
AUTHORISING OFFICER	Matt Stubbs, Deputy General Manager - Operations
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	There are no Financial implications associated with this report.
LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS	There are no Legislative implications associated with this report.
POLICY IMPLICATIONS	There are no Policy implications associated with this report.
ATTACHMENTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 12 December 2023 2. Confidential Minutes of the Closed Session of Council held on Tuesday 12 December 2023 (under separate cover)
PROVISIONS FOR CONFIDENTIALITY	Section 10A (2) (a) - personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 12 December 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.**
- 2. The Confidential Minutes of the Closed Session of Council held on Tuesday 12 December 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.**

Minutes

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

ALBY SCHULTZ MEETING CENTRE, COOTAMUNDRA

6:00PM, TUESDAY 12th December, 2023

Administration Centres: 1300 459 689

**MINUTES OF COOTAMUNDRA-GUNDAGAI REGIONAL COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE ALBY SCHULTZ MEETING CENTRE, COOTAMUNDRA
ON TUESDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2023 AT 6:00PM**

PRESENT: Cr Charlie Sheahan (Mayor), Cr Gil Kelly (Deputy Mayor), Cr Leigh Bowden, Cr Les Boyd, Cr Logan Collins (MS-Teams), Cr Trevor Glover, Cr David Graham, Cr Abb McAlister, Cr Penny Nicholson

IN ATTENDANCE: Steve McGrath (Interim General Manager), Paul Woods (Interim Deputy General Manager - CCD), Matt Stubbs (Deputy General Manager - Operations), Linda Wiles (Manager Business), Zac Mahon (Manager Finance), Michael Mason (Interim Manager Sustainable Development)

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chairperson acknowledged the Wiradjuri people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land at which the meeting was held and paid his respects to Elders, both past and present, of the Wiradjuri Nation and extended that respect to other Aboriginal people who were present.

ADJOURN MEETING FOR OPEN FORUM

RESOLUTION 328/2023

Moved: Cr Leigh Bowden

Seconded: Cr David Graham

Council adjourn for Open Forum.

CARRIED

2 OPEN FORUM

List of Speakers

1. David Harris – Compliance Issue

RESUME OPEN MEETING

RESOLUTION 329/2023

Moved: Cr Penny Nicholson

Seconded: Cr Les Boyd

Council resume the Open Meeting.

CARRIED

Cr Glover entered meeting 6:05pm

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**3.1 APOLOGIES**

Nil

3.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**5.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2023****RESOLUTION 330/2023**

Moved: Cr Gil Kelly

Seconded: Cr Abb McAlister

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 28 November 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

6 MAYORAL MINUTES**6.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - COUNCILLOR ENGAGEMENT****RESOLUTION 331/2023**

Moved: Cr Charlie Sheahan

Seconded: Cr Penny Nicholson

The information in the Councillor Engagements Mayoral Minute be received and noted.

CARRIED

The Mayor also acknowledged two young women across the local government area who have achieved outstanding personal endeavours. Those being:

1. Indi Cooper – Gundagai – nomination Marie Claire women of the year award 2023.
2. Grace Neil – Cootamundra – won Bert Evans Apprentice Scholarship 2023.

Amendments to Be Noted:

Cr McAlister attended the 12 December 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting.

Crs Nicholson and McAlister attended the Gundagai High School Presentation function on 8 December 2023.

Crs Bowden and Sheahan (Mayor) did not attend a Co-op AGM on 29th November. This did not take place.

6.2 MAYORAL MINUTE - CORRESPONDENCE FROM SISTER CITY - HEMET CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION 332/2023

Moved: Cr Abb McAlister

Seconded: Cr Leigh Bowden

That Council acknowledge the correspondence and gift received from the City of Hemet and respond in kind.

CARRIED

7 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Nil

8 GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

8.1 GENERAL MANAGER OFFICE

8.1.1 MEETING DATES 2024

RESOLUTION 333/2023

Moved: Cr David Graham

Seconded: Cr Trevor Glover

That:

- 1. The Ordinary Council Meetings take place at 6:00pm on the fourth Tuesday of the Month from January to November.**
- 2. The Workshop Meetings of Council take place at 4:00pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of the Month from February to November.**
- 3. The Ordinary Council Meeting and Workshop held in December take place on the second Tuesday of the Month.**
- 4. The January Workshop Meeting take place on the fourth Tuesday of the Month.**
- 5. The current arrangement of alternating meetings between Cootamundra and Gundagai remain in place for CGRC.**
- 6. Alternatives to the current meeting arrangements be considered if requested.**

CARRIED

8.1.2 NSW ALGWA CONFERENCE 2024**RESOLUTION 334/2023**

Moved: Cr David Graham

Seconded: Cr Leigh Bowden

1. **The Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) NSW program, attached to the report, be received and noted.**
2. **Council support Cr Bowden and Cr Nicholson to attend the ALGWA NSW Conference in 2024.**

CARRIED

8.2 BUSINESS**8.2.1 AUSTRALIA DAY 2024****RESOLUTION 335/2023**

Moved: Cr Gil Kelly

Seconded: Cr Leigh Bowden

1. **Information on Australia Day Awards 2024 be received and noted.**
2. **Council acknowledge the overview of the Australia Day Award nominations at its 12 December workshop and also acknowledge the nominated award recipients for the 2024 Australia Day Ceremonies.**
3. **The submission of the Australia Day 2024 Community Grant be noted.**
4. **Council include a Community Group Recognition Award for 2024, and future years.**

CARRIED

8.2.2 MUTTAMA HALL MANAGEMENT S.355 COMMITTEE AGM MEETING MINUTES AND MEMBERSHIP**RESOLUTION 336/2023**

Moved: Cr Trevor Glover

Seconded: Cr David Graham

1. **The Minutes of the Muttama Hall Management s.355 AGM Meeting held on 22 November 2023, attached to the report, be noted.**
2. **The office bearers and membership of the Muttama Hall Management s.355 Committee, as detailed in the report, be endorsed.**

CARRIED

8.2.3 THE ARTS CENTRE COOTAMUNDRA S.355 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**RESOLUTION 337/2023**

Moved: Cr Leigh Bowden

Seconded: Cr Abb McAlister

The Minutes of The Arts Centre Cootamundra s.355 Committee Meeting held 16 November 2023 attached to the report, be received and noted.

CARRIED

8.2.4 COOTAMUNDRA HERITAGE CENTRE MANAGEMENT S.355 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**RESOLUTION 338/2023**

Moved: Cr Les Boyd

Seconded: Cr Trevor Glover

The Minutes of the Cootamundra Heritage Centre Management s.355 Committee Meeting held 6 November 2023, attached to the report, be received and noted.

CARRIED

8.2.5 MUTTAMA CREEK REGENERATION GROUP S.355 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**RESOLUTION 339/2023**

Moved: Cr David Graham

Seconded: Cr Les Boyd

The Minutes of the Muttama Creek Regeneration Group s.355 Committee meeting held 9 October 2023, attached to the report be, received and noted.

CARRIED

8.3 FINANCE**8.3.1 FINANCE UPDATE - NOVEMBER 2023****RESOLUTION 340/2023**

Moved: Cr Abb McAlister

Seconded: Cr Trevor Glover

The Finance Update report, be received and noted.

CARRIED

8.3.2 RESTRICTED CASH RECONCILIATION - NOVEMBER 2023**RESOLUTION 341/2023**

Moved: Cr David Graham

Seconded: Cr Penny Nicholson

The Restricted Cash Reconciliation report, be received and noted.

CARRIED

8.3.3 INVESTMENT REPORT - NOVEMBER 2023**RESOLUTION 342/2023**

Moved: Cr David Graham

Seconded: Cr Trevor Glover

The report detailing Council Cash and Investments as at 30 November 2023, be received and noted.

CARRIED

8.4 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**8.4.1 DRAFT SWIMMING POOL INSPECTION POLICY AND PROGRAM****RESOLUTION 343/2023**

Moved: Cr Leigh Bowden

Seconded: Cr Penny Nicholson

- 1. To place the Draft *Swimming Pool Inspection Policy and Program* on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.**
- 2. That, if no submissions are received during the exhibition period that would require material alteration to the draft *Swimming Pool Inspection Policy and Program*, it be adopted.**

CARRIED

8.4.2 DRAFT MODEL CONTAMINATED LAND POLICY**RESOLUTION 344/2023**

Moved: Cr Trevor Glover

Seconded: Cr Abb McAlister

That Council resolve:

- 1. To place the Draft *Model Contaminated Land Policy* on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.**
- 2. That, if no submissions are received during the exhibition period that would require material alteration to the Draft *Model Contaminated Land Policy*, it be adopted.**

CARRIED

8.4.3 DA2023/101 - 6 PINKERTON LANE, COOTAMUNDRA

RESOLUTION 345/2023

Moved: Cr Gil Kelly

Seconded: Cr Les Boyd

That Council issue Deferred Commencement Approval for the following development subject to the consent conditions below:

- Application No: DA2023/101
- Property: Lot: 1 DP: 1296902, 6 Pinkerton Lane, Cootamundra
- Erection of a new shed ancillary to existing dwelling and continued use of carport (erected without consent) ancillary to existing dwelling.

DEFERRED COMMENCEMENT CONDITION

This consent does not operate and may not be acted on until the consent authority is satisfied of the following matter(s):

Testing of the imported fill on which the shed is proposed to be located has been undertaken and shows the material is:

- a) Virgin Excavated Natural Material as defined in Schedule 1 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*; or
- b) a material identified as being subject to a resource recovery exemption by the NSW EPA; or
- c) a combination of Virgin Excavated Natural Material as defined in Schedule 1 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* and a material identified as being subject to a resource recovery exemption by the NSW EPA.

Evidence of the above relevant matter(s) must be produced to the consent authority, within 366 days of the date of the determination, otherwise the consent will lapse.

Under section 88(3) of the EP&A Regulation, the consent authority will notify you in writing if the matters above have been satisfied and the date from which this consent operates.

The conditions of development consent below apply from the date that this consent operates.

General Conditions

- 1 Compliance with Building Code of Australia and insurance requirements under Home Building Act 1989
 1. It is a condition of a development consent for development that involves building work that the work must be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Building Code of Australia.
 2. It is a condition of a development consent for development that involves residential building work for which a contract of insurance is required under the Home Building Act 1989, Part 6 that a contract of insurance is in force before building work authorised to be carried out by the consent commences.
 3. It is a condition of a development consent for a temporary structure used as an entertainment venue that the temporary structure must comply with Part B1 and NSW Part H102 in Volume 1 of the Building Code of Australia.
 4. In subsection (1), a reference to the Building Code of Australia is a reference to the Building Code of Australia as in force on the day on which the application for the construction certificate was made.
 5. In subsection (3), a reference to the Building Code of Australia is a reference to the Building Code of Australia as in force on the day on which the application for development consent was made.
 6. This section does not apply—
 - a. to the extent to which an exemption from a provision of the Building Code of Australia or a fire safety standard is in force under the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021, or
 - b. to the erection of a temporary building, other than a temporary structure to which subsection (3) applies.

Condition reason: Prescribed condition under section 69 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.

2 Erection of signs

1. This section applies to a development consent for development involving building work, subdivision work or demolition work.
2. It is a condition of the development consent that a sign must be erected in a prominent position on a site on which building work, subdivision work or demolition work is being carried out—
 - a. showing the name, address and telephone number of the principal certifier for the work, and
 - b. showing the name of the principal contractor, if any, for the building work and a telephone number on which the principal contractor may be contacted outside working hours, and
 - c. stating that unauthorised entry to the work site is prohibited.
3. The sign must be—
 - a. maintained while the building work, subdivision work or demolition work is being carried out, and
 - b. removed when the work has been completed.
4. This section does not apply in relation to—
 - a. building work, subdivision work or demolition work carried out inside an existing building, if the work does not affect the external walls of the building, or
 - b. Crown building work certified to comply with the Building Code of Australia under the Act, Part 6.

Condition reason: Prescribed condition under section 70 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.

3 Notification of Home Building Act 1989 requirements

1. This section applies to a development consent for development involving residential building work if the principal certifier is not the council.
2. It is a condition of the development consent that residential building work must not be carried out unless the principal certifier for the development to which the work relates has given the council written notice of the following—
 - a. for work that requires a principal contractor to be appointed—
 - i. the name and licence number of the principal contractor, and
 - ii. the name of the insurer of the work under the Home Building Act 1989, Part 6,
 - b. for work to be carried out by an owner-builder—
 - i. the name of the owner-builder, and
 - ii. if the owner-builder is required to hold an owner-builder permit under the Home Building Act 1989—the number of the owner-builder permit.
3. If the information notified under subsection (2) is no longer correct, it is a condition of the development consent that further work must not be carried out unless the principal certifier has given the council written notice of the updated information.
4. This section does not apply in relation to Crown building work certified to comply with the Building Code of Australia under the Act, Part 6.

Condition reason: Prescribed condition under section 71 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.

4 Approved plans and supporting documentation

Development must be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans and documents, except where the conditions of this consent expressly require otherwise.

Approved plans				
Plan number	Revision number	Plan title	Drawn by	Date of plan
A.01	C	Site Plan	DA Busters	21/09/2023 received by council 30/11/2023
-	B	Carport Plans	DA Busters	30/11/2023
-	-	Shed Plan and Elevations	Shed Tech	24/03/2023

In the event of any inconsistency with the approved plans and a condition of this consent, the condition prevails.

Condition reason: To ensure all parties are aware of the approved plans and supporting documentation that applies to the development.

Before building work commences

5 Appointment of a Principal Certifier

Prior to the commencement of any construction works, the person having benefit of this Development Consent must appoint a Principal Certifier.

Condition reason: To ensure legislative requirements are met.

6 Construction Certificate

A Construction Certificate must be submitted and approved by a nominated Certifier prior to any building works taking place on the subject site. The Construction Certificate must be lodged via the NSW Planning Portal.

Condition reason: To ensure compliance with the requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.

7 Erosion and sediment controls in place

Before any site work commences, the Principal Certifier, must be satisfied that erosion and sediment controls in the erosion and sediment control plan are in place. These controls must remain in place until any bare earth has been restabilized in accordance with 'Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction' prepared by Landcom (the Blue Book) (as amended from time to time).

Condition reason: To ensure sediment laden runoff and site debris do not impact local stormwater systems and waterways.

8 Notice of intention to commence building work

The proponent must give the Principal Certifier at least 2 days notice of their intention to commence building works. The notice of intention to commence building works must be lodged on the NSW Planning Portal in accordance with Section 6.6 of Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and Section 59 of Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021.

Condition reason: To ensure legislative requirements are met

9 Underground Services

The proponent shall locate and identify all existing underground services prior to commencement of works and ensure there shall be no conflict between the proposed development and existing infrastructure including areas external to the development site where works are proposed.

Condition reason: To ensure the utility services are protected and satisfactory for the proposed development.

During building work

10 Discovery of relics and Aboriginal objects

While site work is being carried out, if a person reasonably suspects a relic or Aboriginal object is discovered:

- a. the work in the area of the discovery must cease immediately;
- b. the following must be notified
 - i. for a relic – the Heritage Council; or
 - ii. for an Aboriginal object – the person who is the authority for the protection of Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places in New South Wales under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, section 85.

Site work may recommence at a time confirmed in writing by:

- a. for a relic – the Heritage Council; or
- b. for an Aboriginal object – the person who is the authority for the protection of Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places in New South Wales under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, section 85.

Condition reason: To ensure the protection of objects of potential significance during works.

Procedure for critical stage inspections

- 11 While building work is being carried out, the work must not continue after each critical stage inspection unless the principal certifier is satisfied the work may proceed in accordance with this consent and the relevant construction certificate.
Condition reason: To require approval to proceed with building work following each critical stage inspection.
- 12 **Approved Plans**
A copy of the endorsed plans, specifications, development consent, the construction certificate and any other certificates to be relied upon shall be available on site at all times during construction.
Condition reason: To ensure compliance with relevant plans and approvals
- 13 **Deliveries**
While site work is being carried out, deliveries of material and equipment must only be carried out between—
- Mondays to Fridays - 7:00am to 6:00pm;
 - Saturdays - 8:00am to 1:00pm;
 - No work permitted on Sundays and Public Holidays.
- Condition reason: To protect the amenity of neighbouring properties.
- 14 **Earthworks**
No earthworks are permitted to be undertaken beyond those detailed on the approved plans unless otherwise permitted by the exempt development provisions of State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008.
Condition reason: To ensure that the development is consistent with the approval
- 15 **Footpath Storage**
Building materials not to be stored on Council footway or nature strip at any time.
Condition reason: To ensure an adequate level of public safety is maintained.
- 16 **Hours of Work**
Site work must only be carried out between the following times –
- Mondays to Fridays - 7:00am to 6:00pm;
 - Saturdays - 8:00am to 1:00pm; and
 - No work is permitted on Sundays and Public Holidays.
- Site work is not to be carried out outside of these times except where there is an emergency, or for urgent work directed by a police officer or a public authority.
Condition reason: To protect the amenity of the surrounding area.
- 17 **Restricted Public Access**
It is the responsibility of the proponent to restrict public access to the building site, building works or materials or equipment on the site when building work is not in progress or the site is otherwise unoccupied in accordance with SafeWork NSW Regulations.
Condition reason: To ensure public safety is maintained.
- 18 **Roof Water**
Roof water generated by the development must be discharged to the water table or a rainwater tank complying with exempt development provisions of State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008. The stormwater outlet or tank overflow outlet must discharge:-
- to the watertable; and
 - away from any buildings, structures, property boundaries and effluent disposal area;
- The point of discharge from the overflow must be
- protected from being crushed or damaged; and
 - provided with scour protection to prevent erosion
- Condition reason: To ensure that roof water is disposed of without nuisance to neighbours, damage to property or the environment.
- 19 **Works Near Electricity Infrastructure**
Given there is electricity infrastructure in the area, it is the responsibility of the person/s completing any works around powerlines to understand their safety responsibilities. SafeWork NSW

(www.safework.nsw.gov.au) has publications that provide guidance when working close to electricity infrastructure. These include the Code of Practice – Work near Overhead Power Lines and Code of Practice – Work near Underground Assets.

Condition reason: Safety of workers and building occupants.

20 Activities within Electricity Easements and Close to Infrastructure

Essential Energy’s records indicate there is electricity infrastructure located within close proximity of the property. Any activities within this location must be undertaken in accordance with the latest industry guideline currently known as ISSC 20 Guideline for the Management of Activities within Electricity Easements and Close to Infrastructure. Approval may be required from Essential Energy should activities within the property encroach on the electricity infrastructure.

Condition reason: Safety of workers, building occupants and protection of electricity infrastructure.
Before issue of an occupation certificate

21 Repair of infrastructure

Before the issue of an occupation certificate any public infrastructure damaged as a result of the carrying out of work approved under this consent (including damage caused by, but not limited to, delivery vehicles, waste collection, contractors, sub-contractors, concreting vehicles) must be fully repaired to the written satisfaction of Council, and at no cost to Council.

Condition reason: To ensure any damage to public infrastructure is rectified.

22 Occupation of building

A person must not commence occupation or use of the whole or any part of the buildings unless an occupation certificate has been issued by the appointed Principal Certifier.

Condition reason: To ensure the development is completed to a safe standard to allow use or occupation and to ensure compliance with the requirements of this consent.

23 Stabilisation of Earthworks

Prior to the issue of an Occupation Certificate all earthworks must be appropriately retained or battered at a ratio no steeper than 1:3 (vertical: horizontal) and vegetated to prevent erosion.

Any retaining wall constructed on-site must comply with the exempt development provisions of State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying development Codes) 2007 or have necessary development and construction approval.

Condition reason: To ensure earthworks are appropriately protected.
Occupation and Ongoing use

24 Use of non-habitable structures

The shed shall not be used or adapted for any residential, commercial or industrial purpose unless prior development consent has been obtained.

Condition reason: To ensure the structure is used in accordance with this approval.

VOTING RECORD	
FOR RESOLUTION	AGAINST RESOLUTION
Cr Charlie Sheahan (Mayor) Cr Gil Kelly Cr Leigh Bowden Cr Les Boyd Cr Logan Collins Cr Trevor Glover Cr David Graham Cr Abb McAlister Cr Penny Nicholson	Nil

ABSENT	DECLARED INTEREST
Nil	Nil

CARRIED

8.4.4 DA2023/035 - 190 AND 274 TURNERS LANE, COOTAMUNDRA - PROPOSED SIX (6) LOT SUBDIVISION

RESOLUTION 346/2023

Moved: Cr Leigh Bowden

Seconded: Cr Abb McAlister

That Council approve the following development, subject to the consent conditions below:

- **Application No.:** DA2023/035
- **Property:** Lots 5 and 6 DP 1150609
190 and 274 Turners Lane
COOTAMUNDRA NSW 2590
- **Development:** Subdivision – to subdivide the lots into 6 lots of 2 ha, 2.01 ha, 2.01 ha, 2.09 ha, 2.01 ha and 22.53 ha.

CONDITIONS:

PART A – ADMINISTRATIVE CONDITIONS

Terms of approval

- A1. The developer shall carry out the development generally in accordance with the following plans and documents:

Drawing name	Sheet No.	Issue	Prepared by	Dated	Submitted
21288subdivision	1 of 7	6	CMS Surveyors	Nov 2023	28.11.2023
21288subdivision	2 of 7	6	CMS Surveyors	Nov 2023	28.11.2023
21288subdivision	3 of 7	6	CMS Surveyors	Nov 2023	28.11.2023
21288subdivision	4 of 7	6	CMS Surveyors	Nov 2023	28.11.2023
21288Adetail	1 of 14	5	CMS Surveyors	Nov 2023	28.11.2023
21288Adetail	2 of 14	5	CMS Surveyors	Nov 2023	28.11.2023
21288Adetail	3 of 12	5	CMS Surveyors	Nov 2023	28.11.2023
21288Adetail	4 of 14	5	CMS Surveyors	Nov 2023	28.11.2023
21288Adetail	5 of 14	5	CMS Surveyors	Nov 2023	28.11.2023
21288Adetail	6 of 14	5	CMS Surveyors	Nov 2023	28.11.2023
21288Adetail	7 of 14	5	CMS Surveyors	Nov 2023	28.11.2023
21288Adetail	8 of 14	5	CMS Surveyors	Nov 2023	28.11.2023
21288Adetail	9 of 14	5	CMS Surveyors	Nov 2023	28.11.2023
21288Adetail	10 of 14	5	CMS Surveyors	Nov 2023	28.11.2023
21288Adetail	11 of 14	5	CMS Surveyors	Nov 2023	28.11.2023
21288Adetail	12 of 14	5	CMS Surveyors	Nov 2023	28.11.2023
21288Adetail	13 of 14	5	CMS Surveyors	Nov 2023	28.11.2023
21288Adetail	14 of 14	5	CMS Surveyors	Nov 2023	28.11.2023
Statement of environmental effects (53 pages), prepared by CMS Surveyors Pty Ltd, Rev03, dated 28/11/2023, submitted 28.11.2023.					

Inconsistencies between documents

- A2. In the event of any inconsistency between the documentation referred to in Condition A1, the most recent document shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.
- A3. In the event of any inconsistency between conditions of this approval and documents referred to in Condition A1, the conditions of this approval shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

Lapsing of approval

- A4. This development approval shall lapse five (5) years after the date on which it is granted, unless the works associated with the development have physically commenced.

Statutory Requirements

- A5. All licences, permits and approvals must be obtained and maintained as required throughout the life of the development. No condition of this approval remove the requirement to obtain, renew or comply with such licences, permits or approvals.

Cost of works

- A6. All works associated with the proposal, or required by this consent, will be at no cost to Council.

Prescribed Conditions

- A7. All relevant prescribed conditions under Part 4, Division 2 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulation 2021* apply and must be complied with.

PART B – PRIOR TO ISSUE OF SUBDIVISION WORKS CERTIFICATE

Road design plan

- B1. A road design plan shall be prepared by a Civil Engineer or other suitably qualified professional, in accordance with all relevant *Austrroads "Guide to Road Design"*. The plan shall be submitted to, and approved by, Council, prior to the issue of a subdivision works certificate. The plan shall include but not be limited to details of design and construction for the following:
- (a) the widening of Turners Lane to achieve a minimum width of 5.5 metres (2 x 2.75 metres lanes), from the common boundary of Lots 10 and 11 DP 1217995 (to west of the site), through to the eastern boundary of Lot 2 DP 1004745 (to the east of the site),
 - (b) access to each lot, including type, location and available sight distance (from either the existing road or proposed road extension),
 - (c) signage in accordance with Australian Standard *AS172 - Manual of uniform traffic control devices*,
 - (d) tree removal and/or pruning.

NOTE: If the detailed engineering plans identify that additional tree removal (not approved as part of this consent) is required, a modification application for the additional tree removal, must be lodged and approved, prior to a subdivision works certificate being issued.

PART C – PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF WORKS

Subdivision works certificate

- C1. A subdivision works certificate must be obtained from Council or an Accredited Certifier prior to work commencing, for all road construction works.
- C2. Full engineering design plans, prepared in accordance with Part B conditions, shall accompany the applications for a subdivision works certificate, and shall cover all civil works.

Notice to be Given Prior to Commencement

- C3. The Principal Certifier (PC) and Council shall be given written notice, at least 48 hours prior to the commencement of works on the site.
- C4. Seven days prior to commencement of engineering works on the site, the person having the benefit of the consent shall notify Council and the PC of:
- (a) the appointed Project Manager
 - (b) the appointed Construction Contract
 - (c) the intention to start site works,
 - (d) a 24 hour telephone number, for contact with the construction manager, to be operated for the duration of the construction works.
- C5. The Project Manager shall arrange an on-site meeting with the nominated Contractor, Council's Engineering Representative and PC, prior to work commencing.

Application to carry out works in road reserve.

- C6. Any works constructed or undertaken on public roads dedicated in the name of Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council or utilised for the carrying out of work on adjacent properties, shall not be undertaken until an approval under *the Roads Act, 1993* (works within the road reserve application), has been obtained.

- C7. The following documentation and plans shall accompany the application for approval under the Roads Act 1993:**
- (a) a Traffic Control Plan (TCP prepared by an accredited person, which contains their Certification Number, origin of issue and the date of issue),**
 - (b) the approved road design plans and accompanying construction certificate (where Council has not issued the construction certificate).**

Site notice

- C8. A site notice(s) shall be prominently displayed at the boundaries of the site for the purposes of informing the public of development details including, but not limited to:**
- (a) details of the PC;**
 - (b) the approved hours of work;**
 - (c) the name of the site/project manager and the primary contract the responsible managing company (if any), its address and 24 hour contact phone number for any inquiries; and**
 - (d) a statement that unauthorised entry to the site is not permitted.**

Sedimentation and erosion controls

- C9. Where necessary, site erosion control measures shall be incorporated into site management, prior to work commencing. Care shall be taken to ensure that no nuisance is created to adjoining properties or public space by way of sediment run off.**

PART D – DURING CONSTRUCTION

Hours of construction

- D1. Construction hours shall be limited to the following:**
- (i) Mondays to Fridays – 7:00 am to 6:00 pm**
 - (ii) Saturdays – 8:00 am to 1:00 pm**
 - (iii) Sundays and public holidays – Nil**
 - (iv) \Any other times – only with the prior written consent of Council.**

Noise management

- D2. All activities on the site shall be undertaken with the objective of minimising noise emissions from plant and equipment, by installing and maintaining, wherever practicable, efficient silencers and low-noise mufflers.**

Dust management

- D3. All activities on the site shall be undertaken with the objective of preventing visible emissions of dust from leaving the site, including wind-blown and traffic-generated dust. Should such visible dust emissions occur at any time, the Developer shall identify and implement all practicable dust mitigation measures, including cessation of relevant works or dampening of site roads and work areas, as appropriate, such that emissions of visible dust cease.**

Construction waste

- D4. The storage of waste shall occur within the boundaries of the site, by way of a screened area of silt stop fabric, shade cloth or waste disposal bin/skip.**
- D5. Any waste materials removed from the site shall only be directed to a waste management facility lawfully permitted to accept the materials.**
- D6. The Developer shall maximise the treatment, reuse and/or recycling on the site of any excavated soils, slurries, dusts, aggregate and sludges associated with the development, to minimise the need for treatment or disposal of those materials outside the site.**

Tree removal and protection measures

- D7. Approval is granted for the removal of the following trees/shrubs located in the Turners Lane Road reserve:**
- (a) two eucalyptus trees located at the proposed location of the access to Lots 104 and 105,**
 - (b) removal of the exotic shrub/bush immediately to the east of the proposed location of the access to Lots 104 and 105,**
 - (c) removal of the exotic shrub/bush at the proposed location of the access to Lots 101 and 102,**
 - (d) removal of the exotic shrub/bush located approximately 17 metres to the east of the proposed location of the access to Lots 101 and 102.**
- D8. Approval is granted for the pruning of the low-hanging branches on the following trees/shrubs located in the Turners Lane Road reserve, to a height of approximately eight (8) metres:**
- (a) eucalyptus tree located approximately 15 metres to the west of the access to Lots 101 and 102,**
 - (b) kurrajong tree located approximately 20 metres to the east of the access to Lots 101 and 102.**

- D9. No approval is granted for the removal of any other trees on the site or in the road reserve as a result of the subdivision.
- D10. All trees on the site and on Council land, and that may be threatened by the works, are to be suitably protected in accordance with AS 4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites, by way of tree guards, barriers or other measures as necessary in order to protect tree root systems, trunks and branches, during construction.

Fencing

- D11. A rural stock proof fence shall be erected along all allotment boundaries (internal and external). The developer shall ensure that the fence lines adjacent to public roads are on the correct boundary alignment, by having the boundaries marked by a Registered Surveyor, and a written statement shall be lodged by the Surveyor, confirming that all fencing is erected and on the correct alignment.
- D12. All fencing shall be located to avoid tree removal, with any minor deviations in the fencing to be reflected on the final plan of subdivision.

Approved Plans to be On-site.

- D13. A copy of the approved and certified plans, specifications and documents incorporating conditions of approval and certification, and all relevant environmental approvals, shall be always kept on the site, and shall be made available for perusal by any officer of Council or the PC on request.

Unexpected finds

- D14. The applicant must ensure that if any unexpected archaeological deposits or relics not identified and considered in the supporting documents for this approval are discovered, work must cease in the affected area(s) and the Heritage Council of NSW must be notified as required by s146 of the *Heritage Act 1977*. Additional assessment and approval may be required prior to works continuing in the affected area(s) based on the nature of the discovery.

Setting out of Infrastructure / Structures

- D15. The engineering works shall be set out by a registered surveyor to verify the correct position of the infrastructure in relation to property boundaries and the approved alignment levels. A report from the registered surveyor shall be furnished to the PC and Council for verification prior to any inspections being carried out by the PC.

Certification and inspection of subdivision works.

- D16. The subdivision works must be inspected and tested by the PC, at each relevant stage of construction to demonstrate compliance with the approved plans. Where Council is not the PC, documentary evidence shall be provided by the PC to Council, demonstrating compliance.
- D17. Where Council is nominated as the PC, Council shall be given a minimum of 48 hours notice prior to any critical stage inspection or any other inspection nominated by the PC.

Installation of services

- D18. Service conduits for electricity and telecommunications cabling shall not be trenched across any road pavements.

State Survey Marks

- D19. The developer shall ensure that any existing State Survey Marks will not be disturbed. If it so happens that any SSMs falls within any works associated with the development it shall be relocated at the developer's cost or if it is disturbed, reinstatement costs shall also be borne by the developer.

PART E – PRIOR TO ISSUE OF SUBDIVISION CERTIFICATE

Completion of engineering works

- E1. All engineering works (roadworks) shall be completed in accordance with the approved plans and subdivision works certificate, prior to the issue of a subdivision certificate.

Water supply

- E2. Evidence shall be supplied to Council in the form of a works as executed plan, demonstrating that the private water supply line proposed to be relocated, has been relocated in accordance with the approved plans.

Utility services

- E3. Prior to the issue of a Subdivision Certificate, a copy of the Notice of Arrangement (NOA) from Essential Energy, which states that satisfactory supply arrangements have been made for the provision of electricity to each of the lots in the subdivision, shall be provided to Council.
- E4. Prior to the issue of a Subdivision Certificate written advice shall be obtained from an approved telecommunications carrier stating that satisfactory arrangements have been made to ensure the provision of adequate services to the development.

Damage to infrastructure or services

- E5. The cost of repairing any damage caused to Council or other Public Authority's assets in the vicinity of the subject site as a result of construction works associated with the approved development, is to be met in full by the developer prior to the release of any subdivision certificate.

Street addressing

- E6. Rural addressing numbers shall be purchased from Council and erected for each lot, in accordance with the *NSW Addressing User Manual* prepared by the Geographical Names Board of NSW, as follows:

Lot No.	Primary number
101	186 Turners Lane, Cootamundra
102	188 Turners Lane, Cootamundra
103	200 Turners Lane, Cootamundra
104	218 Turners Lane, Cootamundra
105	220 Turners Lane, Cootamundra
106	274 Turners Lane, Cootamundra

NOTE: Rural addressing numbers to be confirmed when entrances constructed, which may result in changes to the above numbers.

Defects Liability Period and bond

NOTE: *These following conditions only apply in respect of works carried out by a contractor other than Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council.*

- E7. For a period of twelve (12) months after the subdivision certificate is issued, the subdivider must remedy any defects or omissions in the subdivision works.
NOTE: Defects do not include reasonable wear and tear or damage caused to the works by inappropriate use (e.g. damage or abuse from traffic accidents or vandalism).
- E8. The defects liability bond must be submitted with the subdivision certificate application. The bond must be in the form of cash or unconditional bank guarantee (no lapse date) for an amount of 5% of the agreed value of the subdivision works or \$ 5,000, whichever is the greater.
- E9. At any time during the defects liability period, the consent authority may direct the subdivider to rectify any omission or defect in the subdivision works. The direction will identify the scope of works to rectification and state the time by which the subdivider shall complete the work of rectification (or stages of the rectification) and may state the time by which rectification shall commence.
- E10. If the subdivider fails conforming to the direction or part of the direction, the consent authority may perform the works and charge costs to the subdivider. The Council will deduct any costs incurred from the defects liability bond.
- E11. At the expiry of the defects liability period the subdivider shall arrange Council to carry out an inspection of the subdivision works, and request a return of the defects liability bond.
- E12. If Council determines that the subdivision works are satisfactory, Council will refund the balance of the defects liability bond.
- E13. If unremedied subdivision work defects or omissions are detected by the Council during the inspection, the subdivider must remedy these works and re-apply for an off defects liability inspection. Council may retain some or all of the defects liability bond for a further period of twelve (12) months.

Final subdivision plans

- E14. The submission of a final plan of subdivision suitable for registration at the Land Titles Office.

Registration of easements and restriction as to users

- E15. Easements shall be created over all services to the satisfaction of the relevant authority, and/or wherever Council deems necessary to allow unrestricted access to the service, and restrictions as to user created, under section 88B of the Conveyancing Act 1919, including, but not limited to, the following:
- release of the existing power easement on Lot 5 DP 1150609 (created by DP 1062169), and creation of a new power easement over the power lines on-site,
 - release of the existing restriction as to user on Lot 5 DP 1150609 (created by DP 1004745),
 - release of the existing water supply easement on Lot 5 DP 1150609, that benefits Lot 2 DP 850604 (created by DP 1004745), and creation of a new water supply easement over the relocated water supply line, benefiting Lot 2 DP 850604,
 - right of access over Lot 102 to benefit Lot 101,
 - a reciprocal right of access over the combined access to Lots 104 and 105,

- f) restriction as to user on proposed Lots 101, 102, 104 and 105), that requires the installation/provision of water storage with a minimum capacity of 20,000 litres for fire-fighting purposes with an appropriately sized Storz fitting.

E16. The 88B Instrument shall be submitted to the PCA with the final plan of subdivision as a prerequisite to the endorsement of the subdivision certificate.

E17. Council is not to be nominated as the prescribed authority in the 88B instrument, in relation to any restrictions imposed by the developer relating to buildings and improvements (e.g building materials, setbacks, design matters, etc).

REASONS FOR THE CONDITIONS:

- To confirm the details of the application as submitted by the applicant and as approved by Council.
- To manage any inconsistencies between the approved plan/documents and conditions of consent.
- To achieve the objectives of section 1.3 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, having regard to the relevant matters for consideration contained in section 4.15 of the Act and the Environmental Planning Instruments applying to the land.
- To ensure that adequate access is provided to each lot, and the road network is upgraded to cater for the additional traffic generated by the development.
- To ensure works are carried out to the appropriate standard.
- To ensure the lots are adequately serviced.
- To protect the existing trees.
- To protect the amenity of the local environment, residents and adjoining landowners.
- To ensure the development complies with all relevant approvals.

SCHEDULE 1, DIVISION 4, CLAUSE 20 - REASONS FOR THE DECISION:

This section of the Act requires the public notification of certain decisions, the date of the decision, the reasons for the decision and how community views were taken into account in making the decision. The reasons for the decision and how community views were taken into account, as it relates to this development application are:

- the proposed development is not inconsistent with the objectives of the zone,
- the proposed development is permitted in the zone,
- the proposed development does not compromise the relevant Environmental Planning Instruments,
- any potential concerns have been ameliorated by appropriate conditions,
- the proposal is not inconsistent with the key planning provisions contained within the applicable environmental planning instruments,
- the proposal will have an acceptable environmental impact,
- the proposal is consistent with the zone and desired future character of the area,
- notification of the application in accordance with the relevant environmental planning instrument and/or policy was carried out, and no submission were received, and the issues raised in the submission have been addressed during the assessment and through the imposition of conditions of consent.

VOTING RECORD	
FOR RESOLUTION	AGAINST RESOLUTION
Cr Charlie Sheahan (Mayor) Cr Gil Kelly Cr Leigh Bowden Cr Les Boyd Cr Logan Collins Cr Trevor Glover Cr David Graham Cr Abb McAlister Cr Penny Nicholson	Nil
ABSENT	DECLARED INTEREST

Nil	Nil
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CARRIED

8.5 ENGINEERING COOTAMUNDRA

8.5.1 CGRC ENGINEERING REPORT - DECEMBER 2023

RESOLUTION 347/2023

Moved: Cr Penny Nicholson

Seconded: Cr Abb McAlister

The CGRC Engineering Report for the month of December 2023 be noted.

CARRIED

8.5.2 PROPOSED STREET NAME FOR THE BOUNDARY ROAD SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENT COOTAMUNDRA

RESOLUTION 348/2023

Moved: Cr Leigh Bowden

Seconded: Cr Trevor Glover

1. The report on the Proposed Street Name for the Boundary Road Subdivision Development Cootamundra be received and noted.

2. The following proposed street name for the Boundary Road Subdivision Development, Cootamundra be noted:

2.1 Acacia Street

CARRIED

8.6 ENGINEERING GUNDAGAI

Nil

8.7 REGIONAL SERVICES GUNDAGAI

8.7.1 REGIONAL SERVICES GUNDAGAI WORKS REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2023

RESOLUTION 349/2023

Moved: Cr David Graham

Seconded: Cr Penny Nicholson

Regional Services Gundagai Report for December 2023, be received and noted.

CARRIED

8.8 REGIONAL SERVICES COOTAMUNDRA**8.8.1 MOA FOR THE SOUTH WEST REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT GROUP****RESOLUTION 350/2023**

Moved: Cr Trevor Glover

Seconded: Cr David Graham

That Council:

1. Endorse the proposed Memorandum of Agreement, attached to the report, and
2. Delegates authority to the Interim General Manager to execute all associated documentation.

CARRIED

8.8.2 REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT MONTHLY WORKS REPORT**RESOLUTION 351/2023**

Moved: Cr Gil Kelly

Seconded: Cr Les Boyd

The Cootamundra Regional Services Department, Monthly Works Report be received and noted.

CARRIED

9 MOTION OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

10 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil

11 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**11.1 CLOSED COUNCIL REPORT****RESOLUTION 352/2023**

Moved: Cr David Graham

Seconded: Cr Les Boyd

1. Item 11.2 be considered in closed Council at which the press and public are excluded in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Local Government Act, 1993 and related public interest reasons detailed.
2. In accordance with section 11 (2) and (3) of the Local Government Act, 1993, the reports, correspondence and other documentation relating to Item 11.2 be withheld from the press and public.

CARRIED

Interim General Manager and the two Deputy General Managers left the meeting at 6.32pm.

RESUMPTION OF OPEN COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION 353/2023

Moved: Cr Leigh Bowden

Seconded: Cr David Graham

The Open Council meeting resume.

CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

Note: The Chairperson announced the resolutions made in Closed Council.

- 1. The conclusion of Stephen Charles McGrath's twelve-month contract of employment from 9 January 2023 to 8 January 2024 is acknowledged.**
- 2. Mr Stephen Charles McGrath be offered the position of Interim General Manager with a contract of employment for up to a twelve-month period commencing on 22 January 2024.**
- 3. The contract of employment mentioned in 2. above is to be offered on the terms and conditions as they exist under the current contract of employment, noting the additional inclusion set out in the report.**
- 4. Mr Matt Stubbs be appointed to the position of Acting General Manager for the period 9 January 2024 to 22 January 2024.**

The Meeting closed at 7:08pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 23 January 2024.

CHAIRPERSON

GENERAL MANAGER

6 MAYORAL MINUTES

6.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - COUNCILLOR ENGAGEMENT

DOCUMENT NUMBER	405922
AUTHORISING OFFICER	Charlie Sheahan, Mayor
REPORTING OFFICER	Charlie Sheahan, Mayor
ATTACHMENTS	Nil

To keep the community aware of Councillor and my engagements, on behalf of Council I intend to provide regular updates through my Mayoral Minutes.

RECOMMENDATION

The information in the Councillor Engagements Mayoral Minute be received and noted.

13 December 2023

Crs Kelly (Deputy Mayor), Bowden and I, Cr Sheahan (Mayor) attended a Meet and Greet lunch with Whales and AGM new workers.

Cr Bowden attended the Stockinbingal Public School Presentation Evening.

14 December 2023

Crs Kelly (Deputy Mayor) Bowden, Nicholson and I, Cr Sheahan (Mayor) attended the “Christmas in Cootamundra” street party.

15 December 2023

I, Cr Sheahan (Mayor) and other Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Council (REROC) representatives attended a breakfast meeting with Parliamentary Secretary for Disaster Recovery Janelle Saffin MP.

18 December 2023

I, Cr Sheahan (Mayor) attended an Australian Citizenship Ceremony in Cootamundra.

Cr Bowden attended The Art Centre (TACC) s.355 Committee meeting.

19 December 2023

I, Cr Sheahan (Mayor) attended a catch-up meeting with the Interim General Manager and Deputy General Managers.

9 January 2024

Cr Kelly (Deputy Mayor) and I, Cr Sheahan (Mayor) attended a weekly meeting with the Acting General Manager and Deputy General Manager.

16 January 2024

I, Cr Sheahan (Mayor) attended a catch-up meeting with the Acting General Manager and Deputy General Manager.

Cr Kelly (Deputy Mayor) and I, Cr Sheahan (Mayor) attended a Cootamundra Floodplain Risk Management Committee Meeting.

18 January 2024

Cr Bowden attended The Art Centre (TACC) s.355 Committee meeting.

7 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Nil

8 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

8.1 GENERAL MANAGER OFFICE

8.1.1 CHRISTMAS IN COOTAMUNDRA

DOCUMENT NUMBER	406014
REPORTING OFFICER	Matt Stubbs, Deputy General Manager - Operations
AUTHORISING OFFICER	Matt Stubbs, Deputy General Manager - Operations
RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN	2. A region for the future 2.2 A thriving region that attracts people to live, work and visit
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	There are no Financial implications associated with this report.
LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS	There are no Legislative implications associated with this report.
POLICY IMPLICATIONS	There are no Policy implications associated with this report.
ATTACHMENTS	1. Christmas in Cootamundra - Final Report - Coota Co-op ↓

RECOMMENDATION

The Christmas in Coota overview provided by Coota Co-op be noted.

Discussion

On behalf of Coota Co-Op, Cr Leigh Bowden has provided an overview of the Christmas in Coota event (attachment 1). This information is provided to Council and the Community.

Financial

There are no financial implications.

OLG 23a Guideline consideration

The 23A guideline considerations are not relevant to this report.

“CHRISTMAS IN COOTA” FINAL REPORT

Introduction

The Coota District Co-op Ltd was successful in being awarded the organisation of the Christmas event in Cootamundra at the Council meeting on 24 October, 2023.

A volunteer committee of business owners and others, all of whom are members of the Coota District Co-op, met regularly to plan the event. Called “Christmas in Coota”, it was held in Parker Street, Cootamundra on 14 December, 2023.

Discussion

It is estimated that over 1000 people attended the evening. Most businesses on Parker Street remained open and reported doing a satisfactory, if not good, trade.

Cars had vacated Parker Street by 4.00pm and Council closed the road at 4.30pm. Special thanks go to the Council staff for their efficient, co-operative and friendly attitude regarding the road closure. It was a pleasure to work with them.

Twelve Co-op members acted as stewards for the evening (a stipulation of Council) and underwent training the evening before. They were aware of the location of first aid kits, emergency evacuation points and how to deal with disorderly behaviour. The police had been notified about the event and had extra personnel on duty at the Cootamundra Station if they were needed. They weren't.

Street Stalls and Displays

There were 34 stalls, including artists and artisans, food vendors and community groups. There was no charge to have a stall. We wanted the community to be involved rather than be dissuaded by cost. All stall holders were covered by their own PLI.

The community groups included The Cootamundra Lions Club, The Arts Centre Cootamundra, Cootamundra TAFE, The Veterans' Drop-in Centre, CADAS Kids, CanAssist, Sacred Heart Parish, Cootamundry Indigenous Community Group, Cootamundra Local Health Advisory Committee, Cootamundra Rotary Club, Adina Care, Cootamundra Fire and Rescue and the NSW Police Force.

Entertainment

All the entertainment for the evening, on the main stage, was provided free of charge by local community groups.

These were Riverina Music Therapy, the Cootamundra Town Band, the Cootamundra Ukulele and Music Group, Ben Visser and Friends, three dance studios – Dance 2590, Christine Wishart's Dance Studio and Miss Em's, and the Samoan Warriors, a group of 36 Samoan abattoir workers who showcased their culture through ceremony, dancing and singing.

Julianne Collingridge acted as MC for the evening and did an excellent job.

The other events on stage included the announcement of the Christmas Lights winners, private residences and businesses. This was an initiative of Council with the prizes being presented by the Mayor. The competition was judged by the Cootamundra Youth Council. The winners of

the best lit up residences were Cassandra Johnson and Marine Morton and the best lit up business was The Bush Chemist. There was also the draw of the Christmas Shop Local competition, organised by CW Jewellers. The winners were Kerwyn Field, Di Jamieson and Libby Hartshorn

Kids Activities

These included Circus McCabe who put on two scheduled shows throughout the evening and also provided a wandering stilt walker, a wandering minion and a balloon artist. A jumping castle was provided by the Lion's Club (sponsored by Ex-Services Club) and blow-up slides and a swing ride was provided by Tony Joes. Face painting was provided by two groups.

Isaac Pratt from Stockinbingal did an outstanding job as Santa. Santa arrived in in the fire truck and distributed lollies to the children. Isaac is employed by Elouera and is becoming in demand as the local Santa. He now has his own Facebook Page, Stockinbingal Santa. The Committee offered Isaac a donation for his time, which he in turn donated to the Black Dog Institute in memory of a local man who had recently committed suicide.

Brainwash Productions were contracted to film the evening and provide a promotional film for use by Council at its discretion. A USB with all the film of the night has been delivered to Council.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ux0FAOV0JJU>

Things that worked well:

- The community support, shown by the number of attendees, the number of stall holders and the voluntary entertainment by community groups.
- The Samoan Warriors input was a highlight. It gave the community an introduction to the culture of the newcomers to the town and the opportunity for people to see and to meet them. You can see part of their performance on the YouTube clips below.
<https://youtube.com/watch?v=IFuh0P7zSE8&feature=shared>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ux0FAOV0JJU>
- The inclusion of community groups, especially the Police and Fire and Rescue, gave the community the opportunity to find out what their job involves and to interact with them informally. The information provided by all the community groups was beneficial.
- The “no charge” for stalls was much appreciated and enabled those, who would not normally have been able to afford to be involved, to participate. It contributed to the heightened community spirit.
- The Kids Activities were excellent and provided entertainment suitable for children of all ages. Circus McCabe is highly recommended.

Things that could be improved:

- There was a need for more food stalls or more food at the stalls. The food ran out early. However, the cafes did a very good trade.

- There were complaints that the event was too spread out, covering the entire length of Parker St. In past years there have been complaints that shops at one end or the other of the street were excluded because the event was set up at one end of the street only.
- There was a need for twice the number of chairs (200).
- A bigger stage was required.
- The timing of the acts on the main stage needed to be better paced. The running schedule did not allow for enough time for set up between acts.
- It was pointed out that there was a tear in one of the pieces of equipment provided by Tony Joes, which could have resulted in a serious accident. Thorough inspections of all equipment needs to be carried out to ensure that it is compliant and safe.

Conclusion

The Coota District Co-op Ltd thanks Council for funding the “Christmas in Coota” celebration and giving the Co-op the opportunity to organise it. The event was very successful and the feedback has been positive. The Christmas celebration is an important event in the calendar year, providing social cohesion, economic development and tourism possibilities.

However, the “Christmas in Coota” Coota District Co-op Sub-Committee is unanimous that it would not be willing to undertake the organisation of the event again this year. For a voluntary Committee there was too much time and commitment required which put stress on the Committee members and consequently on their businesses.

The Committee agreed, however, that it would be willing to offer feedback, information, contacts and advice to the organisation that will run the Christmas event in Cootamundra at the end of this year.

8.1.2 AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (ALGA) NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024

DOCUMENT NUMBER	405805
REPORTING OFFICER	Teresa Breslin, Executive Assistant to Mayor and General Manager
AUTHORISING OFFICER	Matt Stubbs, Deputy General Manager - Operations
RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN	4. Collaborative and progressive leadership 4.1 A clear strategic direction that is delivered upon
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	There are no Financial implications associated with this report.
LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS	There are no Legislative implications associated with this report.
POLICY IMPLICATIONS	There are no Policy implications associated with this report.
ATTACHMENTS	1. Invitation and Discussion Paper 2024 NGA ↓

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. The 2024 Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly discussion paper, attached to the report, be received and noted.**
- 2. Motions be considered at the next workshop scheduled for 13 February 2024.**
- 3. A further report be submitted to the next Ordinary Council Meeting to provide further information on the National General Assembly, and to determine potential Motions for submission to ALGA.**

Introduction

Convened annually by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) the National General Assembly (NGA) of Local Government is the peak annual event for Local Government, attracting Mayors and General Managers from across the Country.

The 2024 NGA (incorporating the Regional Cooperation and Development Forum – 2 July 2024) will again be held at the National Convention Centre in Canberra from 2-4 July 2024. In addition, the Federal Government has again offered to host the Mayors at the Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) on 5 July 2024.

Further information about both the 2024 NGA and ACLG, including registration details, has not been released as yet. This will be detailed in the February report to council.

Discussion

This year’s theme is “Building Community Trust”. ALGA is seeking motions that align with this theme and identify opportunities for new federal programs and policies that will support councils to build trust, both in our communities and as a local delivery partner for the Australian Government.

Motions are due to ALGA by Friday 29 March 2024.

Council will consider Motions at the 13 February 2024 workshop and determine at the 27 February 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting.

Financial

Nil associated with this report. Financial implication will be detailed in the next report to council.

OLG 23a Guideline consideration

The objective of this report does not conflict with the Guidelines.



Cootamundra Gundagai Regional Council Document Received 21 DEC 2023

15 December 2023

File No.....
Initials _____

Mayor Charlie Sheahan
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council
PO Box 420
COOTAMUNDRA NSW 2590

Dear Mayor Sheahan,

You're Invited: 2024 Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly

I'm delighted to officially invite you to our Australian Local Government Association Annual Conference, the National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA), which will be occurring in Canberra from 2 to 4 July 2024 at the National Convention Centre. In addition, the Federal Government has again offered to host Mayors at the Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) on 5 July 2024.

As a result, ALGA is now calling for councils to submit motions for the 2024 NGA. Attending this Conference to debate policy motions that will be considered by the ALGA Board, the NGA is your opportunity to shape the federal advocacy agenda that ALGA will undertake on behalf of Australian local governments.

The theme of our 2024 NGA will be "Building Community Trust". ALGA is seeking motions that align with this theme and identify opportunities for new federal programs and policies that will support councils to build trust, both in our communities and as a local delivery partner for the Australian Government.

The attached discussion paper will help you prepare your council's motions, which can be submitted online at www.alga.com.au until Friday 29 March 2024.

Next year's Conference is shaping up to be even bigger than this year's record setting event, and we are again so proud to be partnering with the Federal Government to incorporate the ACLG into the week.

This year's ACLG was the first to be held in ten years and was a wonderful opportunity for us to speak directly to Federal Ministers with one voice about the challenges and opportunities in our communities.

Further information about both the 2024 NGA and ACLG – including registration details – will be provided to your councils in the New Year. Should you require any further details, please do not hesitate to contact ALGA on (02) 6122 9400 or at alga@alga.asn.au.

I look forward to receiving your 2024 NGA motions and welcoming you to Canberra next July.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Linda Scott
President, Australian Local Government Association

**2024
NGA**

AUSTRALIAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION

**2 - 4
JULY
2024**

Building
Community
Trust

DISCUSSION
PAPER

National Convention Centre
Canberra

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KEY DATES

29 March 2024 | Acceptance of Motions

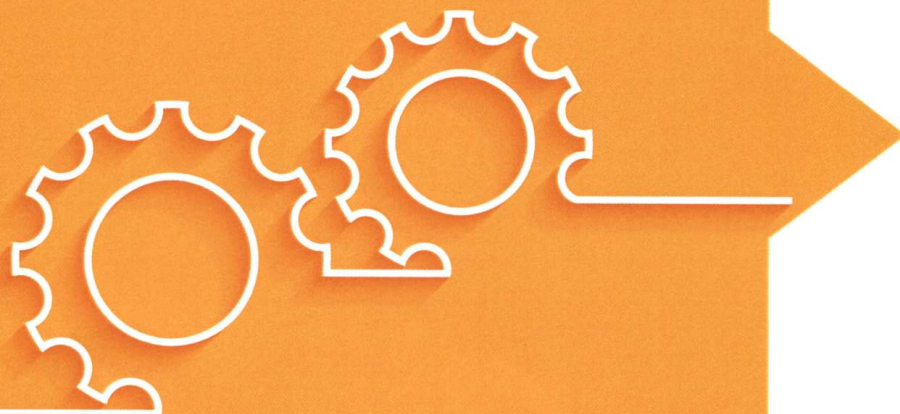
2 July 2024 | Regional Cooperation & Development Forum

3 - 4 July 2024 | National General Assembly

5 July 2024 | Australian Council of Local Government

TO SUBMIT YOUR MOTION

VISIT: [ALGA.COM.AU](https://alga.com.au)





The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is pleased to convene the 30th National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA), to be held in Canberra from 2-4 July 2024.

As convener of the NGA, the ALGA Board cordially invites all councils to send representatives to this important national event.

The NGA is the premier national gathering of local governments, and provides councils with the opportunity to come together, share ideas, debate motions, and most importantly unite and further build on the relationship between local government and the Australian Government.

This discussion paper contains essential information for Australian councils considering submitting motions for debate at the 2024 National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA).

It is recommended that all councils and delegates intending to attend the 2024 NGA familiarise themselves with the guidelines for motions contained in this paper on page 6.

BACKGROUND TO ALGA AND THE NGA

ALGA was established 1947. In structure, ALGA is a federation of member state and territory associations. Its mission is to achieve outcomes for local government through advocacy with impact, and maximise the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of councils and our communities.

Since 1994, the NGA has built the profile of local government on the national stage, showcased the value of councils, and most importantly demonstrated - particularly to the Australian Government - the strength and value of working with local government to help deliver on national priorities.

Debate on motions was introduced to the NGA as a vehicle for councils from across the nation to canvas ideas. Outcomes of debate on motions (NGA Resolutions) could be used by participating councils to inform their own policies and priorities, as well as their advocacy when dealing with federal politicians.

At the same time, they help ALGA and its member state and territory associations gain valuable insight into council priorities, emerging national issues, and the level of need and support for new policy and program initiatives.

Given the structure of ALGA, its Constitution, and level of resources, the NGA does not bind the ALGA Board. However, the Board carefully considers NGA resolutions as it determines ALGA's policies, priorities and strategies to advance local governments within the national agenda.

This is your NGA and ALGA is pleased to act as the convener. ALGA's policies and priorities will continue to be determined by the ALGA Board in the interests of all councils.

The ALGA Board thanks all councils for attending the NGA and those that will take the time to reflect on the purpose of debate on motions outlined in this paper, and to submit motions for debate at the 2024 NGA.

SUBMITTING MOTIONS

Australia is one of the world's great democracies. It is held in high regard across the world but should never be taken for granted.

The theme of the 2024 NGA is – Building Community Trust.

This theme aims to explore the critical importance of trust in governments, between governments, its institutions, and its citizens. This trust is a fundamental building block of our nation's democracy.

While relatively low key, over the past decade there has been increasing public debate by scholars and policy makers about the level of trust in government, its institutions and indeed the operation of our democracy more broadly.

Mark Evans et al (2019) published research in 'The Conversation' indicating that Australians' trust in politicians (our political representatives) and democracy has hit an all-time low. This report indicates 'fewer than 41% of Australian citizens are satisfied with the way democracy works in Australia, down from 86% in 2007.

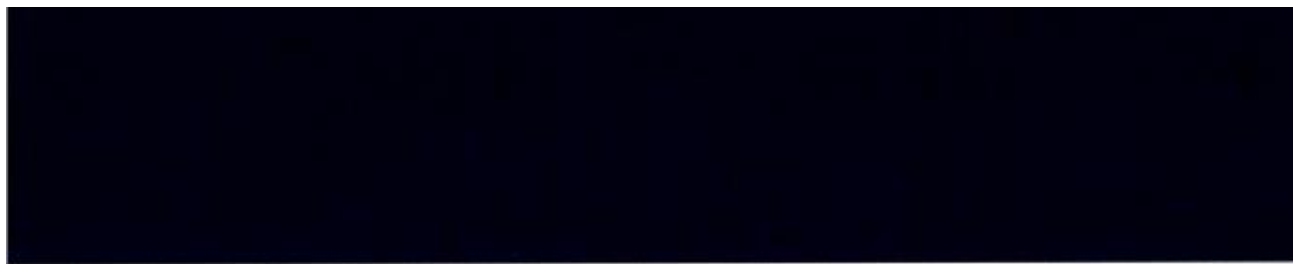
Public satisfaction has fallen particularly sharply since 2013, when 72% of Australian citizens were satisfied. Generation X is least satisfied (31%) and Baby Boomers most satisfied (50%). Some political authors suggest that these trends in part explain the rise in popularity and the relative success of independents and micro or single-issue parties.

These statistics should be of concern to every level of government and those interested in the future of our communities and Australia's democratic system.

It is said that 'trust is hard-earned, easily lost, and difficult to re-establish – and a key to absolutely everything.' While media and public attention frequently focuses on levels of trust in the national and state governments, local governments have an equally important role in building, maintaining and indeed, often repairing government-community relationships.

At its most fundamental level, the 2024 NGA focusses on the role of local government and how all levels of government can help each other build, maintain and strengthen government-community relationships.

This discussion paper is a call for councils to submit motions for debate at the 2024 NGA to be held in Canberra from 2-4 July 2024.



Motions for this year's NGA should consider:

- how all levels of government in Australia can build trust in each other and earn greater trust from the community;
- practical opportunities for the Australian Government to leverage the trust that local communities have in their local council;
- focus on practical programs that can strengthen the system of local government nationally to provide the services and infrastructure required to support and strengthen our communities; and
- new program ideas that that would help the local government sector to deliver the Australian Government's objectives.

Motions should be concise, practical and implementable and meet the guidelines for motions set out in the paper.

You are encouraged to read all the sections of the paper but are not expected to respond to every issue or question. Your council's motion/s must address one or more of the issues identified in the discussion paper.

Motions must be lodged electronically using the online form available on the NGA website at: www.alga.com.au and received no later than 11:59pm AEST on Friday 29 March 2024.

All notices of motions will be reviewed by the ALGA Board's NGA Sub-committee prior to publishing the NGA Business Paper to ensure that they meet these guidelines. This sub-committee reserves the right to select, edit or amend notices of motions to facilitate the efficient and effective management of debate on motions at the NGA.

All NGA resolutions will be published on www.nationalgeneralassembly.com.au.

As the host of the NGA, ALGA will communicate resolutions to the relevant Australian Government Minister and publish Ministerial responses as they are received on this website.

Please note that if your council does submit a motion, there is an expectation that a council representative will be present at the NGA to move and speak to that motion if required.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the 2024 NGA.

CRITERIA FOR MOTIONS

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers, and subsequent debate on the floor of the NGA, motions must meet the following criteria:

1. Be relevant to the work of local government nationally.
2. Not be focused on a specific jurisdiction, location or region – unless the project or issue has national implications.
3. Be consistent with the themes of the NGA.
4. Complement or build on the policy objectives of ALGA and your state or territory local government association.
5. Be submitted by a council which is a financial member of their state or territory local government association.
6. Propose a clear action and outcome ie call on the Australian Government to act on something.
7. Not be advanced on behalf of external third parties that may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members, or to gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of, local government.
8. Address issues that will directly improve the capacity of local government to deliver services and infrastructure for the benefit of all Australian communities.
9. Not seek to advance an outcome that would result in a benefit to one group of councils to the detriment of another.
10. Be supported by sufficient evidence to support the outcome being sought and demonstrate the relevance and significance of the matter to local government nationally.

Motions must commence with the following wording:

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to ...

Please note that resolutions of the NGA do not automatically become ALGA's national policy positions.

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

It is important to complete the background section of the submission form. Submitters of motions should not assume that NGA delegates will have background knowledge of the proposal. The background section helps all delegates, including those with no previous knowledge of the issue, in their consideration of the motion. Please note, motions should NOT be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.

Try to keep motions practical, focussed and capable of implementation to ensure that relevant Australian Government Ministers provide considered, thoughtful and timely responses.

Try to avoid motions that are complex, contain multi-dot points and require complex cross-portfolio implementation.

All motions submitted will be reviewed by the ALGA Board's NGA Sub-committee, in consultation with state and territory local government associations, to determine their eligibility for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers.

When reviewing motions, the Sub-committee considers the criteria, clarity of the motion and the importance and relevance of the issue to local government.

If there are any questions about the substance or intent of a motion, ALGA will raise these with the nominated contact officer. With the agreement of the submitting council, these motions may be edited before inclusion in the NGA Business Papers.

To ensure an efficient and effective debate, where there are numerous motions on a similar issue, the NGA Sub-committee will group these motions together under an overarching strategic motion. The strategic motions will have either been drafted by ALGA or will be based on a motion submitted by a council which best summarises the subject matter.

Debate will occur in accordance with the rules for debate published in the Business Papers and will focus on the strategic motions. Associated sub-motions will be debated by exception only or in accordance with the debating rules.

Any motion deemed to be primarily concerned with local or state issues will be referred to the relevant state or territory local government association and will not be included in the NGA Business Papers.

All motions require:

- a contact officer;
- a clear national objective;
- a summary of the key arguments in support of the motion; and
- endorsement of your council.

**Motions should be lodged electronically using the online form available at www.alga.asn.au.
Motions should be received no later than 11:59pm AEST on Friday 29 March 2024.**

SETTING THE SCENE

The theme for NGA24 ‘Building Community Trust’ aims to focus on the role of local government in the Australian system of government and explore the critical importance of trust in governments, between governments, its institutions, and our citizens.

In a recent essay on Capitalism after the Crisis (2023) the Treasurer the Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP wrote:

‘Our mission is to redefine and reform our economy and institutions in ways that make our people and communities more resilient, and our society and democracy stronger as well.’

The need to strengthen our democracy was also emphasised the Prime Minister the Hon Anthony Albanese MP in a speech at Queensland’s Woodford Folk Festival toward the end of 2022:

‘I urge anyone who thinks our democracy is unassailable to have a look around the world. Even some of the oldest, most stable democracies have come under attack from a whole range of corrosive, insidious forces. No one is immune. Our democracy is precious, something we have carefully grown and nurtured from one generation to the next. One of our core responsibilities is to make it stronger, and the key to that strength is transparency and accountability.’

In early 2023 the Australian Government established a taskforce to advise government on ‘what can be done – practically – to strengthen Australian democracy’.



The 2024 NGA provides you - the elected representatives of Australia's local councils and communities - with the opportunity to engage with the Federal Government and key Ministers.

Further, it is your opportunity to advocate for new or expanded programs and key policy initiatives that could strengthen local governments, its capacity to deliver services and infrastructure to local communities across the nation. This service delivery is critical to build, maintain and strengthen the trust of our citizens.

This year's call for motion focusses on twelve priority areas:

- Intergovernmental relations;
- Financial sustainability;
- Roads and infrastructure;
- Emergency management;
- Housing and homelessness;
- Jobs and skills;
- Community services;
- Closing the Gap and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation;
- Data, digital technology and cyber security;
- Climate change and renewable energy;
- Environment; and
- Circular economy.



1. INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

'Australia's federal structure, built upon reciprocal financial, legislative and policy responsibilities, requires intelligent cooperation on issues of strategic national significance.'

National Cabinet is a forum for the Prime Minister, Premiers and Chief Ministers to meet and work collaboratively. National Cabinet was established on 13 March 2020 and is chaired by the Prime Minister. The National Cabinet is a key mechanism in Australia's current intergovernmental architecture.

A representative of local government, the President of ALGA, is invited to meet with National Cabinet once each year. The President of ALGA also attends one meeting per year of the Council on Federal Financial Relations comprising the Commonwealth Treasurer as Chair and all state and territory treasurers.

A substantial body of research, from Australia and internationally, has highlighted that governments that work together are generally more successful in achieving shared national objectives, including economic recovery from events like the COVID-19 pandemic as well as in service and infrastructure delivery.

This research reinforces the need for local government to be included in relevant ministerial forums that support national priorities – from housing affordability to reaching net-zero emissions. ALGA currently participates in National Cabinet (1/year), Council on Federal Financial Relations (1/year), Infrastructure Transport Ministers Meeting, National Emergency Managers Meeting, Local Government Ministers Forum, Joint Council on Closing the Gap, Planning Ministers Meeting, Meeting of Environment Ministers, Energy and Climate Change Ministers and the Road Safety Ministers Meeting, to represent local government views.

Local government input can provide a community voice, enabling our intergovernmental forums to make decisions with greater legitimacy and authority.

Given the importance of trust in governments, between governments and its citizens, how can intergovernmental arrangements be further improved in Australia?

Are there ways of maintaining and enhancing the community's trust in local government?

Are there new initiatives and programs that could be adopted to improve the level of cooperation and collaboration between the Australian Government and local government?

2. FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Trust in governments is highly correlated with their ability to fulfill the implicit social contract between government and its citizens by keeping promises.

Local government is the third sphere of government in Australia's system of government. Councils are comprised of locally elected representatives who understand local needs and engage locally on strategies to meet those needs.

Councils are responsible for providing a wide range of critical local area services including planning, libraries, waste management systems, transport and infrastructure (eg roads and footpaths, parks, sporting grounds and swimming pools) and social services.

These services are critical to the wellbeing, liveability and productivity of all local communities, and herefore the nation. Equally important is the sustaining of democratic processes at the local and regional level.

Local government's total annual expenditure in 2021 -22 was approximately \$43.6 billion. Non-financial assets including roads, community infrastructure such as buildings, facilities, airports, water, and sewerage (in some states) including land, are valued at \$539 billion [ABS Government Finance Statistics, Australia, 2021-22].

In 2021-22, the Australian Government provided \$2.6 billion in Financial Assistance Grants funding to councils. This included \$1.3b which was brought forward from the 2021-22 estimate and paid through state and territory governments in 2020-21.

Nationally, local government derives nearly 90% of its revenue from its own sources (including rates and services charges), compared to around 50% for state governments. Grants from other levels of government make up just over 10% of local government's total revenue, however these grants are particularly important in areas with a low-rate base, and/or high growth rates, and rapidly expanding service and infrastructure needs.

In 2021-22 Financial Assistance Grants to local governments was less than 0.6% of Commonwealth taxation revenue (CTR), a significant drop from 1996 when these grants were at 1% of CTR. In 2023-24 Financial Assistance Grants have fallen to 0.5% of Commonwealth taxation.

What improvements are needed to the intergovernmental financial transfer system, particularly the Commonwealth transfers to local government, to enhance the community's trust in local government and by extension all governments?

Noting that Commonwealth tied funding is provided with detailed requirements how can this system be improved to provide flexibility and maximize the benefit to local communities?

3. ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

ALGA's 2021 National State of the Assets Report (NSoA) is currently being updated and expected to be launched in 2024. The most recent NSoA shows that while most local government assets such as roads, bridges, buildings, parks and recreation, stormwater, water and wastewater, and airports and aerodromes are generally in good to very good condition, around 10% are not fit for purpose, and around 20–25% are only fair and over time will need attention.

The last NSoA found that in 2019–20 non-financial infrastructure assets were valued at \$342 billion and were depreciating at \$7.7 billion per year. Replacement costs of these infrastructure assets were in the order of \$533 billion.

Local government assets make up a significant proportion of the physical structure of local communities and often provide critical access to and support for citizens to engage in state and national assets and opportunities.

For example, local roads provide important “first and last-mile access” for communities and industry to road networks, integral to economic development and community connection. Local sporting grounds can provide access for community groups to build community participation that has social, health and economic benefits.

Are there programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could adopt to improve the long-term sustainability of local government infrastructure?

Are there programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could provide to improve the sector's capacity to manage local government infrastructure and to integrate these plans into long-term financial plans?

Are there programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could develop to maintain, strengthen and enhance the reputation of Australia's infrastructure providers, including local government?

4. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

In 2022 alone, 46 disasters were declared across Australia, covering more than 300 different council areas. In recent years, almost every Australian council has been impacted in some way by fires, floods, or cyclones.

Last year's flooding caused a damage bill of approximately \$3.8 billion to local roads across Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. This was just a fraction of the total disaster costs incurred by governments across the country.

There have been numerous NGA motions in recent years regarding natural disasters and this has been a significant priority in ALGA's advocacy program.

In 2022 ALGA successfully advocated for a new \$200 million per year Disaster Ready Fund, with the first round of funding allocated in June 2023. This fund will support councils and communities to mitigate against the risk of future disasters and help address the significant imbalance between mitigation and recovery spending.

Councils are encouraged to draw on their practical experience of the improvements that could be made to managing emergencies.

Please note that many aspects of emergency management are state or territory responsibilities, and your motions should focus on how the Australian Government could assist.

What new programs, or improvements to existing programs, could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to improve the current natural disaster management systems to further assist in recovery and build resilience?

5. HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Almost every Australian council and community is facing challenges around a lack of affordable housing.

Alarming research by the UNSW City Futures Research Centre shows 640,000 Australian households – or one in 15 households – are under housing stress.

All levels of government, including councils, have a fundamental role to play in addressing this crisis, which is being compounded by high interest rates, rising construction costs and skills shortages.

At a national level, ALGA is a signatory to the National Housing Accord, and in 2023 successfully advocated for a new \$500 million Housing Support Program for state and local governments to deliver supporting infrastructure for new housing developments.

While the provision of affordable housing is not a local government responsibility, councils have a role to play in ensuring there is enough suitably located land available for housing and that a diversity of housing stock is supported. Councils also want to ensure that new housing developments are supported with the necessary services and infrastructure to create liveable and sustainable communities.

Many councils are also addressing thin markets and developing land and housing themselves, delivering local solutions to meet the needs of their communities.

Councils also want to ensure that they engaged with planning decisions that affect local communities. Taking planning powers away from councils does not always support the best local outcomes.

Councils also play an important role addressing some of the causes of homelessness, including social inclusion programs that can assist mental health and family violence issues, as well as providing support for people currently experiencing homelessness.

What new programs and policies could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to support the provision of more affordable housing?

How can the Australian Government work with councils to address the causes and impacts of homelessness?

6. JOBS AND SKILLS

Local government is a major employer in Australia providing employment, career advancement and training opportunities for more than 190,800 Australians, across an estimated 400 occupations.

However, councils are facing significant jobs and skills shortages that are constraining their capacity to deliver services and build and maintain local infrastructure.

ALGA's 2022 National Local Government Workforce Skills and Capability Survey indicated that more than 90 percent of Australia's 537 councils were experiencing skills shortages.

The survey also showed that for approximately two-thirds of these councils, these shortages were impacting on project delivery.

In particular, councils are facing a shortage of planners, engineers, building surveyors, environmental officers and human resources professionals.

Skills shortages occur for a variety of reasons including an inability to compete against the private sector, worker accommodation, support services for families, ageing of the workforce and geographic isolation.

Are there programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could implement that would enhance local government's capacity to attract and retain appropriately skilled staff now and into the future?

Are there programs or changes to existing programs that would increase local government's ability to employ apprentices and trainees?

Are there other initiatives that the Australian Government could provide to improve the sector's ability to plan and develop skills fit for the future?

7. COMMUNITY SERVICES

Councils provide a wide range of services based on local characteristics, needs, priorities, and the resources of their community. Indeed, it is this level of responsiveness and accountability to the local community that is an essential feature of democratic local governments worldwide.

Some of these services are provided to address market failure, and many of them are provided by councils on behalf of other levels of government.

It is important to note that nationally local government is more than 83% self-sufficient ie funded at the local level either through rates, fees and charges, sale of goods and services, or interest. The Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows that total local government annual expenditure in 2021-22 was \$43.6 billion.

Only 17% comes from grants and subsidies from other levels of government. Unfortunately, many of these grants and subsidies are tied, or require matching funding which restricts the ability to address local priorities in the way the council and community might need.

Arguably there is no greater obligation upon government than to maintain the trust that citizens have in meeting their community services obligations and promises, particularly to society's most vulnerable.

Local government community services are broadly defined, and may include but are not limited to:

- environmental health including food safety;
- childcare, early childhood education, municipal health;
- aged care, senior citizens;
- services to people living with disability;
- programs to address disadvantage, to reduce poverty and homelessness;
- sporting and recreational programs;
- arts and cultural activities, programs and festivals;
- tourism and economic development activities; and
- library services.

Noting the funding arrangements for the provision of local government community services are there programs and initiatives that the Australian Government could implement to improve the delivery of these services?

Are there reforms or improvements in national community services program that would help local governments support the Australian Government to deliver on its national objectives?

8. CLOSING THE GAP AND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER RECONCILIATION

In 2021, ALGA co-signed a landmark national agreement to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. At the heart of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Partnership are four agreed priority reform targets and 19 socio-economic targets in areas including education, employment, health and wellbeing, justice, safety, housing, land and waters, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

The Indigenous Voice Co-design Final Report to the Australian Government was released in December 2021. The Local & Regional Voice will contribute to achieving the Closing the Gap outcomes by providing avenues for Indigenous voices to be heard, including to provide feedback to government on Closing the Gap.

As the level of government closest to the people, councils have an essential role supporting and helping to steer the development of policies and programs in partnership with local Indigenous peoples that address closing the gap priorities at the local and regional level.

Local government plays a positive role in reconciliation and celebrating Indigenous culture and identity, and sustainably funded could work effectively to reduce Indigenous disadvantage in all its forms.

On 14 October 2023, Australians voted in a referendum about whether to change the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing a body called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. The referendum did not pass.

Are there programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could adopt to assist local government to advance reconciliation and close the gap?

Are there practical programs or initiatives that local government and the Australian Government could introduce to maintain, build and strengthen the level of trust between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and governments?

9. DATA, DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AND CYBER SECURITY

Provision of information technology to all Australians is vital to innovation, economic growth, and social equity. However, it is potentially even more important to regional Australia where the tyranny of distance increases the inequity of services available – including education, health, economic and social. Innovative technology is becoming more broadly available and could boost productivity and economic growth.

Councils around Australia continue to embrace new technologies to improve their service delivery standards and broaden consultation and engagement with their local communities. However, implementation can be hindered without access to basic technological infrastructure and the necessary IT skills and resources.

In recent times, cyber-attacks on major corporations and other businesses have resulted in significant data breaches. It is a timely reminder as digital information, services and products become an increasing feature of modern business operation including in local government.

Like all risks, local government must manage the risk of cyber-attacks and address cyber security. At a national level, there is limited understanding of local governments’ vulnerability to cyber-attacks, preparedness and adequacy of risk management strategies or business continuity planning.

While this is primarily a responsibility of the sector itself, governments at all levels must work together to ensure that the public have confidence in government information management systems and its security.

Drawing upon your council's experience, and your knowledge of other councils within your state or territory, are there programs and initiatives that the Australian Government could implement to help local government develop its digital technology services and infrastructure?

Are there actions the Australian Government could take to improve cyber security within the local government sector?

10. CLIMATE CHANGE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Australia's changing climate presents a significant challenge to governments, individuals, communities, businesses, industry, and the environment.

The Australian Government has committed to address climate change and in June 2022 submitted its revised National Determined Contribution (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The revised NDC included reaffirming a target of net zero emissions by 2050 and committing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 43% from 2005 levels.

Local governments have played an important leadership role in addressing climate change, and councils have supported a wide range of community-based programs and initiatives to lower the carbon footprint of their own business operations and of their local communities.

As a sector, local government has been an advocate and active participant in the debate for lowering carbon emissions, is sourcing renewable energy, has responded creatively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, and facilitated the construction of green buildings and water sensitive design of cities and towns.

Local government has been at the forefront in addressing the impacts of climate change and adaptation to climate change. In particular, councils have a practical understanding of the risk and impact of climate change on Australia's infrastructure and physical assets, natural ecosystems, local economies and their community.

Noting the Australian Government's approach to reducing emissions, are there partnerships, programs, and initiatives that local government and the Australian Government can form to achieve Australia's 2050 net zero emissions target?

Are there initiatives that could assist local governments to build trust in the community for implementation of key climate change and emissions reduction initiatives?

11. ENVIRONMENT

Australia's 537 local councils play an essential role in providing, regulating and managing Australia's environmental services and infrastructure.

Whether it's biodiversity, biosecurity, natural resource management (NRM), contaminated lands, waste management, water resources, sustainability or roadside environments, councils are responsible for educating households and businesses on environment policy, as well as driving environmental programs and initiatives in their local communities.

In recent years the National General Assembly has considered a range of environmental issues, and passed resolutions on biodiversity, biosecurity, conservation, climate change and water security.

How could the Australian Government partner with local government to strengthen Australia's environmental services and infrastructure?

What new programs could the Australian Government partner with local government in to progress local regional and national objectives?



12. CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Local government is responsible for the management of household and domestic waste and has a critical role to play in further developing the circular economy.

Australia's 537 councils manage approximately 26 percent of Australian waste, either directly or through contractual arrangements. Each year, local governments collect around 9.7 million tonnes of waste from kerbside bin services, sort it at material recovery facilities (MRFs), and dispatch what can be recycled to reprocessing facilities in Australia and overseas.

Where waste cannot be recovered it is landfilled, and local governments in most jurisdictions must pay a significant levy per tonne for landfilled waste, as well as incur the operational costs of maintaining and managing a landfill.

Collecting, treating, and disposing of Australian domestic waste costs local government an estimated \$3.5 billion annually. Local government also dedicates resources to administering community waste-education programs, collecting litter, addressing illegal rubbish dumping, and ensuring compliance with waste bylaws.

In November 2023, Australia's Environment Ministers agreed that the Federal Government would establish new regulations for packaging as well as mandate how packaging is designed, develop minimum recycled content requirements and prohibit harmful chemicals being used. These changes are expected to have a positive impact on the amount of waste sent to landfill, and the costs borne by councils and their communities.

How could the Australian Government further strengthen product stewardship arrangements to support local governments in their endeavours to increase recycling and reduce the volume of waste?

How could the Australian Government partner with local government to advance the circular economy?

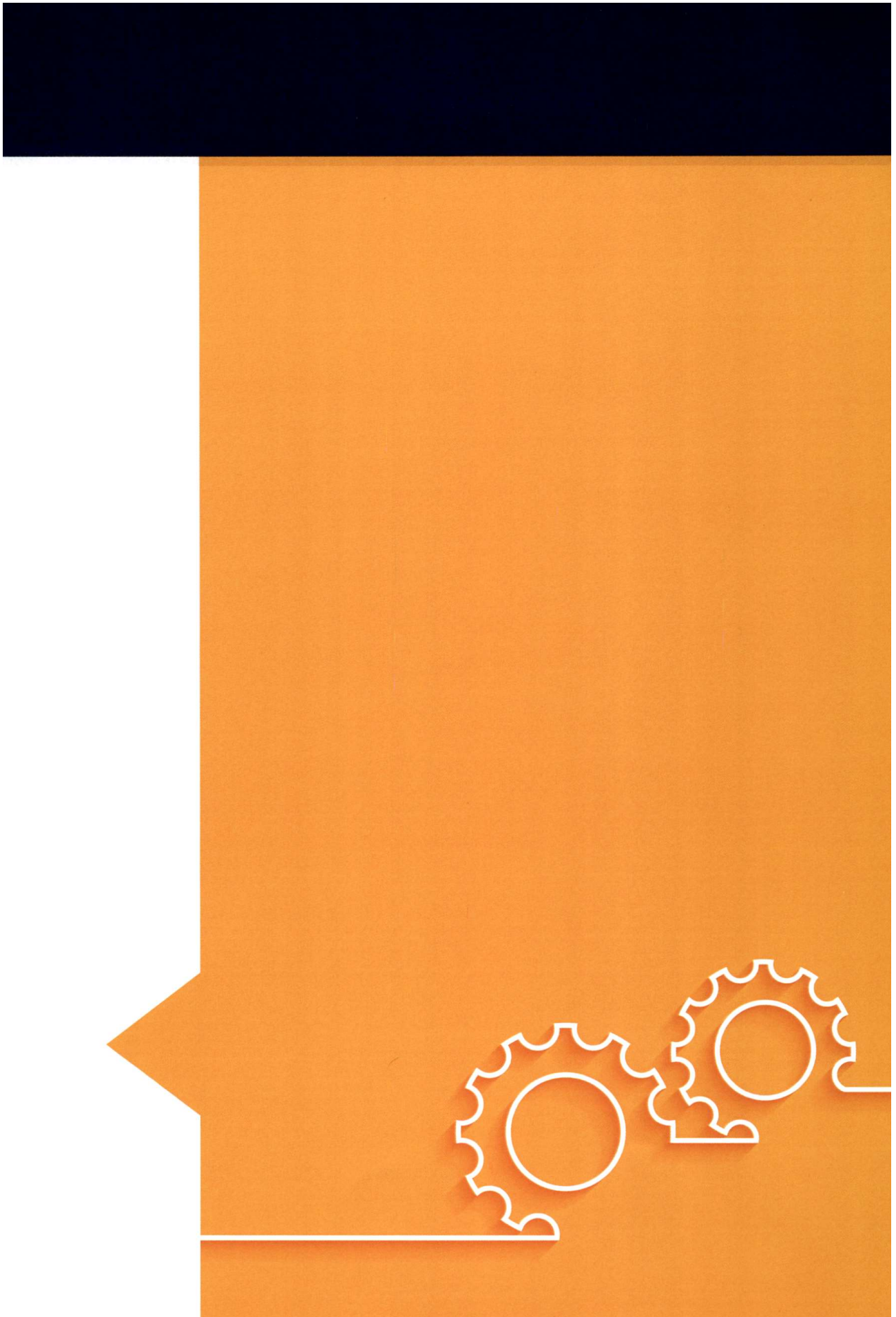
CONCLUSION

Thank you for taking the time to read this discussion paper and your support for the 2024 National General Assembly of Local Government.

A FINAL REMINDER:

- » Motions should be lodged electronically at www.alga.com.au and received no later than 11.59pm on Friday 29 March 2024.
- » Motions must meet the criteria published in this paper.
- » Motions should commence with the following wording: 'This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to...'
- » Motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.
- » Motions should be practical, focussed and relatively simple.
- » It is important to complete the background section on the form.
- » Motions must not seek to advance an outcome that would result in a benefit to one group of councils to the detriment of another.
- » When your council submits a motion there is an expectation that a council representative will be present at the 2024 National General Assembly to move and speak to that motion if required.
- » Resolutions of the National General Assembly do not automatically become ALGA's national policy positions. The resolutions are used by the ALGA Board to inform policies, priorities and strategies to advance local governments within the national agenda.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the 2024 National General Assembly in Canberra.





8.1.3 RIVERINA EASTERN REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (REROC) MEETING MINUTES

DOCUMENT NUMBER	405902
REPORTING OFFICER	Teresa Breslin, Executive Assistant to Mayor and General Manager
AUTHORISING OFFICER	Matt Stubbs, Deputy General Manager - Operations
RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN	4. Collaborative and progressive leadership 4.2 Proactive, practical Council leaders who are aligned with community needs and values
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	There are no Financial implications associated with this report.
LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS	There are no Legislative implications associated with this report.
POLICY IMPLICATIONS	There are no Policy implications associated with this report.
ATTACHMENTS	1. REROC Board Minutes ↓ 2. REROC Board Agenda ↓

RECOMMENDATION

The draft Minutes of the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) Board Meeting held on 8 December 2023, attached to the report, be received and noted.

Introduction

The Agenda/Business Paper (including supporting documentation) and draft Minutes of the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) Board Meeting held 8 December 2023, are attached for the information of Council and the community.

Financial

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

OLG 23a Guideline consideration

This report does not conflict with the guidelines.

**RIVERINA EASTERN REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
held at The Rules Club, Fernleigh Rd Wagga Wagga
Friday 8 December 2023**

Meeting opened at 9.10a.m.

PRESENT

Grant Baker	Bland Shire Council	
Cr Brian Monaghan	Bland Shire Council	
Cr David McCann <i>OAM</i>	Coolamon Shire Council	
Tony Donoghue <i>PSM</i>	Coolamon Shire Council	
Cr Charlie Sheahan	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council	
Stephen McGrath	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council	
Cr Tony Quinn	Greater Hume Shire Council	
Evelyn Arnold	Greater Hume Shire Council	
Cr Bob Callow	Junee Shire Council	
Luke Taverner	Junee Shire Council	ALTERNATE
Cr Peter Sharpe	Lockhart Shire Council	ALTERNATE
Austin Morris	Lockhart Shire Council	ALTERNATE
Cr Rick Firman <i>OAM</i>	Temora Shire Council	CHAIRMAN
Elizabeth Smith	Temora Shire Council	ALTERNATE
Aaron Drenovski	Goldenfields Water	
Giles Butler	Dept Regional NSW	
Julie Briggs	REROC	
Leah Gain	REROC	
William Adlong	REROC	

APOLOGIES

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr. B. Callow seconded Cr. T. Quinn that apologies be received from Cr Greg Verdon, Cr Matt Stadtmiller, Peter Veneris, James Davis, Melissa Boxall, Jenny Pideski, Andrew Trenaman and Rachel Whiting.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr. B. Monaghan, seconded T. Donoghue that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2023 be confirmed.

BUSINESS ARISING

Arrange Joint Meeting with the Presidents of LGNSW and the Country Mayors' Association– to discuss a review of structure of Emergency Services in NSW. Arrangements are underway for a meeting prior to the end of the year.

Write to the Minister for Housing about REROC's Regional Community Housing Project – remains outstanding.

CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED on the motion of T. Donoghue, seconded Cr. C. Sheahan that the correspondence be received.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The report was tabled. J Briggs raised the following issues with Members:

One Organisation

Riverina Water have advised that they will not be rejoining REROC but would like to continue to support Build a Bridge.

Rural Fires Amendment (Red Fleet) Bill 2023

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr. B. Monaghan, seconded S. McGrath that REROC actively contributes to any opportunities that may arise in relation to the Public Accounts Committee's review of the Red Fleet issue and that REROC reach out to local State MPs about the review.

Section 7.12 Contributions

Noted

Local Government Natural Disaster Claims

It was agreed that REROC should explore the Queensland model for managing disaster claims. NEMA have advised that it works well, REROC will look at the process to determine whether it can be applied in NSW. J. Briggs to meet with NEMA to discuss betterment issues.

Disaster Adaptation Plans

It was agreed that Simon Draper CEO of the Reconstruction Authority and Chief of Staff to the Premier should be invited to address the REROC Board.

Review of REROC Constitution

Noted.

Rates Methodology Review

Cr Firman noted the extensive work REROC had undertaken over the last 5 years in relation to advocating for specific changes to the Methodology and that most of the matters that REROC raised and our suggestions for addressing them had been included in IPART's new approach.

Local Water Utilities Inquiry

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr. B Monaghan, seconded T. Donoghue REROC adopts the response to the Local Water Utilities inquiry.

Health and Knowledge Precinct

G. Butler advised that in addition to working on education and skills and innovation the Precinct was also developing a one system integration approach to improve health service delivery overall. Councils have a critical role to play in the development of the One System approach.

FOGO Collection Grants

Noted.

NSW Planning Portal

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr. T. Quinn, seconded S. McGrath that REROC should continue lobbying activities in relation to the Planning Portal.

Southern Lights

Noted.

REROC Regional Freight Transport Plan

Noted

Murray Murrumbidgee Water Sharing Plan

Noted.

Application for Regional Housing Fund Round 2

Noted.

DRRF Second Round Funding

Noted.

Skills Shortage Project

Noted.

Expansion of *Build a Bridge*

Cr B. Monaghan advised that he had been speaking to Evolution Mining about their possible support of Build a Bridge as they need engineers. J. Briggs to work with Cr Monaghan and Compact to set up a meeting with Evolution Mining to discuss possible opportunities.

60 Day Dispensing

Noted.

Regional Bank Closures Inquiry Hearings

Noted.

Recruitment Activities CEO

The timeline for the recruitment of the CEO was discussed at some length.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr. B. Monaghan, seconded T. Donoghue that the timeline be accepted but that it have flexibility to adjust as required, considering the variables.

Meeting with Parliamentary Secretary for Disaster Recovery, Janelle Saffin MP – J. Briggs advised that the REROC Office had been contacted by the Parliamentary Secretary's Office about a meeting. The meeting is tentatively set for the morning of 15 December. Members agreed that a meeting time of 8.30a.m. for breakfast was acceptable and will advise the CEO if they are able to attend.

Department of NSW Roundtable – J. Briggs advised that she was invited to attend the Round Table to discuss future directions for the Department.

30th Anniversary Dinner – J. Briggs flagged that 2024 was REROC's 30th anniversary. A date of Friday, 6 September has been tentatively set for a celebration dinner. J. Briggs to circulate to members about the date to test its suitability.

RESOLVED on the motion of G. Baker, seconded Cr B. Callow that the CEO Report be received.

RESOURCE SHARING REPORT

The report was tabled. J Briggs spoke to the report.

REROC Board Minutes, 8 December, 2023

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Regional ARIC Project

Noted.

Planning Technical Group

It was noted that the NSW Government had created Houses NSW and that the REROC should further investigate the agency's role in regional NSW.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr R. Sharp, seconded T. Donoghue that REROC writes to the Minister for the Environment to follow-up on the matter of the PINs for unapproved land clearing.

Workforce Development Group

Noted.

Water and Wastewater Technical Group

Noted.

Infrastructure/Engineers Group

RESOLVED on the motion of T. Donoghue, seconded Cr. D. McCann that REROC writes to the Minister for Regional Roads, Hon Jenny Aitchison MP to congratulate the Government on the introduction of the RERRF and to request that the funding be made recurring.

Youth and Community Network

The Take Charge Youth Leadership Forum will now be held on Wednesday, 27 March at the Range Convention Centre in Wagga Wagga.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr B. Monaghan, seconded G. Baker that REROC writes to each Member Council to request a \$500 contribution towards the cost of running Take Charge and that REROC write to Wagga Wagga City Council and Riverina Water to request a \$1000 contribution from each.

Riverina Spatial Information Group (RIVSIG)

Noted.

RESOLVED on the motion of L. Taverner, seconded Cr. T. Quinn that the Resource Sharing report be received.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The report was tabled by T. Donoghue

RESOLVED on the motion of T. Donoghue, seconded Cr. B. Monaghan that the Treasurer's Report be received.

WASTE FORUM REPORT

The report was tabled. L. Gain spoke to the report.

Bin Trim Grant

Noted.

FOGO Audits

J. Briggs reminded Members that the outcomes of the audit would have far-reaching effects on the ability of councils in rural areas across NSW to access EPA grants for FOGO infrastructure.

E-Waste Collections

REROC Board Minutes, 8 December, 2023

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Noted

Recycle Night? Recycle Right!

Noted

Regional Contracts

Noted.

No Time to Waste Conference

Noted.

No Time to Waste Conference

The 2024 Conference will be held on 30 & 31 October with the aim of avoiding clashes with council meeting and increasing attendance from elected members and senior staff.

School Projects

Noted.

Community Recycling Centres

Noted.

Landfill Gas Capture Project

Noted.

Food and Green Keep it Clean!

The Board was shown two of the new television/cinema advertisements. Three more advertisements are to come which will go to air in 2024.

RENEW Meeting August 2023

Noted.

Lithium Batteries

Questions were raised about the disposal of lithium batteries. Members were advised that these batteries can be taken to the CRC for disposal.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr. B. Monaghan, seconded Cr. P. Sharp that the Waste Forum report be received.

ENERGY AND NET ZERO PROJECT REPORT

The Report was tabled. W. Adlong spoke to the report.

Energy Management Technical Group

Noted

Federal Community Energy Upgrade Fund

Noted.

REROC Regional Energy Efficiency and Net Zero Plan

Noted.

Access to Council Electricity Portals

Noted.

NSW Destination (slow) Charger Grants – Round 2 Open

The grants contribute to 75% of the cost of the equipment. Noted.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Fleet Transition Template

Noted.

EVX Partnership with Essential Energy to put Destination (slow) Chargers on Utility Poles

Noted.

LED Upgrades at Sporting Fields and Public Buildings

Noted.

SunSPOT – Rooftop Solar Assessment Tool

Noted.

Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration (JONZA Network)

Noted.

Net Zero Health Check Template

W. Adlong is required as part of JONZA funding to go through a Net Zero Health Check (survey) with each council and will speak with councils early in 2024 about questions on emission policies, etc.

Extension of JONZA program

W. Adlong advised that funding for the JONZA program (for his and the other eight Energy and Net Zero Officer positions) has been extended until June 2024. Sustainable Councils is seeking to have the program funding extended for a further year.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr. D. McCann, seconded S. McGrath that the Energy and Net Zero Project report be received.

DISASTER RISK RECOVERY PROJECT REPORT

The Report was tabled, J. Briggs spoke to the report.

GAP Analysis

The project is running well behind schedule and the quality of the work to date has not

Spatial NSW Involvement

Noted.

Mapping Transport

Noted.

Community Education Platform

REROC would like to engage Wagga TV to record some lived experiences of disasters to be used in the Community Education Program, and would like to see this Program outlive the DRRF funding.

RRPAC Meetings

Noted.

Extension of DRRF Project

It has been decided not to undertake Stage 2 Funding because of the 25% contribution required, and because REROC will be focussing on Disaster Adaptation Plans with Councils.

Monthly Reporting

Noted.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr. D. McCann, seconded Cr B. Monaghan that the Disaster Risk Recovery Project Report be received.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Julie advised that JO projects need to be completed. Paul Wolsfold has completed his engagement on the Skills project although he may be available for some ad hoc work.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr. C. Sheahan, seconded Cr. B. Monghan that a thank you letter be written to Paul.

NEXT MEETING

Friday 23 February 2024 at The Rules Club, Fernleigh Rd, Wagga Wagga.

CLOSURE

Meeting closed at 12:00pm

REROC

RIVERINA EASTERN REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

MEETING NOTICE

Date: Friday, 8 December 2023
Time: 8.30 for an 9.00a.m. start
Place: The Rules Club, Fernleigh Rd, Wagga wagga

AGENDA

- Apologies
- Confirmation of Minutes of October 2023 Board Meeting
- Business Arising
 1. Arrange a meeting with the Presidents of LGNSW and the Country Mayors' Association to discuss the Review of Structure of Emergency Services in NSW
 2. Write to the Minister for Housing about Regional Community Housing Project
- Correspondence..... 1
- REROC Chief Executive Officer Report..... 10
- Resource Sharing Report..... 19
- Finance Report..... 33
- Waste Forum..... 38
- Energy and Net Zero Project Report..... 69
- Disaster Risk Recovery Project Report..... 72
- General Business
- **Guest Speaker:** ~~Donna Argus, Director of Reconstruction Authority~~ unfortunately Donna advised today that she has contracted COVID and will now attend the February meeting.
- Date of Next Meeting – Friday 22 February, 2024 Australian Rules Club, Fernleigh Road, Wagga Wagga 2023
- Close - **MEETING WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A LIGHT LUNCH**

REROC

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

28 October 2023 to 6 December 2023

Date Received	Content	Action
17 November 2023	The Hon Ron Hoenig MP – thank you letter re our letter seeking advice as to whether an employee of a regional organisation of councils can be appointed as the shared internal audit coordinator for its member councils as well as the finalisation of <i>Guidelines for Risk Management & Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW</i> and supporting regulations.	Copy to Members
22 November 2023	David Reynolds, CEO, Local Government NSW – thank you letter for sending the 2022-2023 REROC Annual Report and acknowledging that LGNSW has a strong collaborative working relationship with REROC.	Noted
28 November 2023	Dr Joe McGirr MP – thank you letter regarding the Local Government Natural Disasters Claim and his advice that he has written to the Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon Jihad Dib MP, raising our concerns and seeking advice. We will be notified once Dr McGirr receives a reply from the Minister.	Noted
28 November 2023	Cr Tim Koschel, Chairperson, Riverina Water – thank you letter on behalf of the Board in reply to REROC’s letter of 8 March 2023 advising that the Board resolved to decline REROC’s invitation to rejoin REROC	Copy of Members
4 December 2023	NSW Fair Trading - Acknowledgement letter in regards to REROC’s A6 Application to register change of objects or constitution. The change was registered and took effect on 4 December 2023.	Noted

OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

Date Sent	Content	Action
6 November 2023	Letter with copy of REROC 2022-23 Annual Report sent to: <i>Mr Chris Minns MP, Premier for NSW; Hon Tara Moriarty MLC Minister for Ag & Regional NSW; Hon Paul Scully MP, Minister for Planning & Public Spaces; Hon Ron Hoenig MP, Minister for Local Govt;</i>	

	<i>Hon Jennifer Aitchison MP, Minister for Regional Transport & Roads; Hon Wes Fang MLC; Mr Justin Clancy MP, Member for Albury; Dr Joe McGirr MP, Member for Wagga Wagga; Hon Steph Cooke MP, Member for Cootamundra; Mr David Reynolds, CEO, Local Government NSW; Cr Jamie Chaffey, Chairman, NSW Country Mayors' Assoc; Mrs Helen Dalton, Member for Murray</i>	
9 November 2023	Letter with copy of REROC's Response to the NSW Joint Select Inquiry Protecting Local Water Utilities from Privatisation, sent to: <i>Ms Steph Cooke MP; Cr Jamie Chaffey, Chairman, NSW Country Mayors' Assoc; Hon Wes Fang MLC; Dr Joe McGirr MP; Mr Justin Clancy MP; Ms Helen Dalton MP; Mr David Reynolds CEO, Local Govt NSW</i>	
20 November 2023	Letter to Cr Dallas Tout, Mayor, City of Wagga Wagga – letter of congratulations on his election to the LGNSW Board.	
27 November 2023	Letter to Hon Paul Scully MP – letter of thanks in relation to REROC's visit to Parliament House on 12 Oct 23. In addition, issues relating to the Planning Portal; \$100 million for housing development in the Regions; s7.12 developer contributions in relation to State Significant Developments which have been raised with two previous Planning Ministers going back to 2018, and the option that developers could enter into a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) with the developer, in lieu of the s7.12 contribution.	Attached
4 December 2023	Letter to Minister Hoenig MP – thank you letter in relation to REROC's visit to Parliament House on 12 Oct 23. In addition, outlining issues with the Emergency Services' Costs and current arrangements as they exist with the Rural Fire Service (RFS).	Attached

The Hon. Ron Hoenig MP

Leader of the House in the Legislative Assembly
Vice-President of the Executive Council
Minister for Local Government



Our Ref: A875750

Cr Rick Firman OAM
Chairman
Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils
PO Box 646
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650

Via email: mail@reroc.com.au

Dear Cr  Firman,

Thank you for your letter seeking advice on whether an employee of a regional organisation of councils can be appointed as the shared internal audit coordinator for its member councils.

I am advised that the Office of Local Government is still finalising *Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW* and supporting regulations. The draft guidelines (already released) and the regulations (in development), will propose that councils can share an internal audit coordinator to undertake the functions contemplated under Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Council's proposed arrangements. However, that person must be an employee of at least one of the member councils. This is to ensure that participating councils in the shared arrangement retain strategic control of the internal audit function and can actively monitor its performance.

Regional organisations of councils are not formally recognised under the *Local Government Act 1993* or the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* and consequently are not subject to my control under the Act or Regulation.

There is nothing in the guidelines or the proposed regulations that would prevent one of your member councils from employing an internal audit coordinator on behalf of all member councils and sharing the cost of that position with the other member councils.

Alternatively, an existing employee of a member council can be appointed to undertake the shared internal audit coordinator role on behalf of all member councils and the cost shared with the other member councils.

52 Martin Place Sydney NSW 2000
GPO Box 5341 Sydney NSW 2001

02 7225 6150
nsw.gov.au/ministerhoenig

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I hope this information is of assistance. If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact Mr John Davies, Manager, Council Governance, at the Office of Local Government on 02 4428 4139 or by email at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



The Hon. Ron Hoenig MP
Leader of the House in the Legislative Assembly
Vice-President of the Executive Council
Minister for Local Government

Date: 16 NOV 2023



28 November 2023

Cr Rick Firman OAM
 Chairman
 Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils
 PO Box 646
 WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650

Dear Rick,

Invitation to re-join REROC

Thank you for your letter dated 8th of March 2023 and I apologise for the delay in replying. The matter was considered at the Board's April and June meetings and at that time the matter was referred to a workshop which was held on the 9th of September 2023. The board then formally considered your invitation at its meeting in October 2023.

I advised that the Board resolved to decline your invitation to rejoin REROC primarily given the lack of benefits associated with the membership fee to become a member of REROC. The Board further resolved to reconsider your offer in 12 months' time, following the local government elections being held in September 2024.

I acknowledge that this decision will disappoint members of REROC and confirm that Riverina Water looks forward to maintaining its good working relationship in relation to the "Build a bridge" program conducted annually by REROC.

The Board were of the view that whilst considerable benefit is realised through the visits to both State and Federal parliaments every second year, that the other benefits provided to general purpose councils are not as beneficial to county councils and as such, do not represent value for money. The Board did note and was appreciative of, the reduced membership fee and the entitlement to vote at REROC meetings.

Your Sincerely

Cr Tim Koschel
 Chairperson

Riverina Water
 91 Hammond Ave (PO Box 456) Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
 Phone: 02 6922 0608 Email: admin@rwcc.nsw.gov.au
rwcc.nsw.gov.au



ABN 52 084 883 210

REROC

RIVERINA EASTERN REGIONAL
ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

27 November 2023

Hon Paul Scully MP
Minister for Planning & Public Spaces
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Email: office@scully.minister.nsw.gov.au

Dear Minister

I write on behalf of the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) to sincerely thank you for the time you spent with us at our Parliament House meeting on 12 October 2023.

We welcomed your comments regarding making the Planning Portal as painless as possible and the proposal to utilise A1 technology to make it more user friendly. Our Members have also welcomed the recent introduction of more on-line help directed at supporting one-time users.

Our Members also welcomed your advice regarding the \$100 million for housing development in the Regions. Together with the critical shortage of skilled labour, housing availability is a major barrier to growth in rural and regional NSW.

We would like to take this opportunity to raise the issue of s7.12 developer contributions in relation to State Significant Developments. This is a matter that REROC has raised with the previous two Planning Ministers going back to 2018. We believe the current situation whereby developments that are dealt with by the Independent Planning Commission are never, at least in our experience, required to make a 7.12 contribution is inequitable, placing smaller developments that are approved at a regional or local level where the s7.12 contribution is applied at a disadvantage. We also believe that it incentivises developers to inflate the cost of their developments to ensure that the approval process is undertaken at a State-level where they will avoid the requirement to pay a s7.12 contribution.

You would no doubt be aware that it is s7.11 contributions where a link between the development and its impact on local infrastructure is required. However, s7.12 contributions do not require that a link between the development and its impact on local infrastructure be established, providing that the council has adopted a s94A or s7.12 Plan then the contributions will apply to all developments in the LGA including business, industrial and commercial development, as well as residential developments including alterations and additions. Councils who have adopted a s7.12/94A Plan have resolved to apply the contributions on developments regardless of size or type.

We strongly believe that it is inequitable that State Significant Developments, particularly solar farms, are released from their obligation to pay the contribution because the Planning Commission is not including the requirement in their consent orders. These contributions are vitally important to councils as they provide a revenue stream that assists our Members to maintain and renew community infrastructure.

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email: mail@reroc.com.au
website: www.reroc.com.au
ABN: 91 443 421 423

We have received advice that councils could, in lieu of the s7.12 contribution, enter into a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) with the developer. While many of our Member Councils would be willing to enter into negotiations for a VPA, without the financial obligation to pay the s7.12 contribution councils question whether a developer will be a motivated participant in a VPA. The current situation means councils must depend on the developer deciding to be a "good corporate citizen" to enter into a VPA.

It is unacceptable that the Commission is effectively making a donation of council revenue to these types of developments. It is also inequitable because every other development within LGAs that have adopted s7.12/s94A Plans are required to make the payment, whether it be for a residential home, an industrial building, a wind farm or a small solar farm.

Our Members also wish to raise their concerns regarding the requirement to negotiate a VPA prior to consent being given to a development. Solar farms are particularly contentious developments and we are finding that some residents are making an assumption that councils are supporting a proposed development simply because it is negotiating a VPA with the developer. The requirement to negotiate the VPA prior to approval is creating, in some instances, the erroneous perception that the council is receiving a payment for its support of the project. Consequently while councils are following the protocols required by Planning legislation, residents are assuming the worst.

Finally, we note the rise of the concept of "benefit sharing" which is being used in lieu of VPAs, again our Members do not support a situation where the Developer dictates how the money will be expended in an LGA without regard to broader plans that are in place, or legacy maintenance issues that may be created.

Our Members strongly support changing s7.12(1) of the EPA Act, so that the words "may impose" are amended to "must impose", removing the discretion to impose the Contribution, thus ensuring that every development, regardless of location or size is required to pay the Contribution.

We would welcome the opportunity to speak with you further about our concerns in relation to this important issue.

Yours sincerely



Cr Rick Firman *DAM*
Chairman

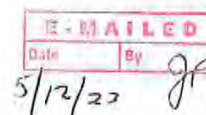
REROC

RIVERINA EASTERN REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

PO Box 646
 Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
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 website: www.reroc.com.au
 ABN: 91 443 421 423

4 December 2023

The Hon Ron Hoenig MP
 Minister for Local Government
 GPO Box 5341
 SYDNEY NSW 2001



Dear Minister Hoenig

I write on behalf of the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) to thank you for making time to meet with us at Parliament House on 12 October 2023.

Our Members welcome the extensive experience you have in local government, not only as a Mayor, but also as a Chairman of a SSROC. REROC was established in 1994, our Member Councils have a high degree of commitment to regional collaboration, not just amongst each other, but across the State. As part of the Southern Lights Group, we are currently working with SSROC on a number of public lighting issues.

We know your extensive experience will inform your decision-making as Minister, however we are also keen wherever possible, to provide input into decision making and to participate in any opportunity to co-design projects or initiatives that will impact Local Government operations or the communities we represent. To that end, I would like to raise some matters relating to Emergency Services' costs and the current arrangements as they exist with the Rural Fire Service (RFS).

Our Members noted with some concern your statement that councils had Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with the RFS that determined the services provided to councils and the communities they represent. In our Region, SLAs have not been negotiated with the RFS since around 2010. The SLA arrangements are such that there is no end date, consequently they simply just exist rather than set genuine operational parameters for the RFS.

The introduction by the RFS of a Global Asset Management approach to fire-fighting equipment almost a decade ago has made those SLAs superfluous. While it can be argued the new approach has resulted in more efficient use of firefighting equipment, reduced duplication and improved asset maintenance, it has also resulted in councils being completely removed from any decision-making that relates to the purchase, disposal and maintenance of firefighting equipment.

The localised decision-making that used to be the norm prior to the adoption of Global Asset Management no longer occurs. Instead, the RFS looks at the fire-fighting equipment at its disposal, which is "owned" by councils and relocates, disposes or replaces it based on RFS needs only. Whatever decisions the RFS reaches regarding the equipment is made without reference to council even though the equipment must be listed on council asset registers where councils bear the burden of its depreciation.

Strong Region, Progressive Local Government, Vibrant Communities

As you are aware, the arrangement by which fire-fighting equipment is "deemed" to be a council asset is found in s119(2) of the *Rural Fires Act 1997* (the Act). At the time the Act was written it accurately reflected the collaborative arrangements that existed between the RFS and councils, however this is no longer the case.

In the late 1990s and mid 2000s the RFS was a volunteer-driven organisation where councils had a role to play in decision-making relating to the assets and fire-fighting equipment needed for its LGA. Today's RFS is a highly integrated, professionally-driven organisation that responds to disasters on a State-wide basis, not LGA by LGA. It needs the ability to move equipment quickly when and where it is required and to use the equipment outside of a council's LGA. It is therefore very reasonable that the RFS has total control in relation to accessing the equipment.

However, councils own the equipment and under s119 (6) of the Act the RFS is obligated to request access. The reality is that this never occurs, consequently council-owned equipment is moved all over the State without councils having any say at all.

While s119 of the Act definitely reflected the actual arrangements that were in place 23 years ago it is clear that it does not reflect current practice.

In our Members' experience, there is a severe inequality of power when it comes to RFS interactions. Councils have no powers that can be exercised in relation to RFS services or what they deliver under out-of-date SLAs. The RFS is a State Agency and the reality is that councils have no powers in relation to their operations, this extends to the RFS management and use of the fire-fighting equipment that councils "own".

Our Members welcomed your advice that the Public Accounts Committee will be conducting a review of arrangements with regard to the Red Fleet. We will of course take advantage of any opportunity to provide input into their work.

We hope that the outcome of the Committee's work will be to recommend legislative changes that reflect current RFS practices and councils' lack of effective input into the control of assets they own.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss the matters raised in this letter further, and once again, thank you for addressing our REROC Board.

Yours sincerely



Cr Rick Firman OAM
Chairman

**Chief Executive Officer Report
REROC Board Meeting
Friday, 8 December, 2023**

One Organisation – as was seen in the correspondence Riverina Water has decided not to rejoin REROC.

Rural Fires Amendment (Red Fleet) Bill 2023 – we have written to Minister Hoenig, to thank him for attending the October meeting and addressed the inaccuracies in his statements about the Red Fleet.

As Members know this matter has now been referred to the Public Accounts Committee and REROC will, of course, be looking for an opportunity to respond to any requests for input that might be made.

Recommendation

REROC actively contributes to any opportunities that may arise in relation to the Public Accounts Committee's review of the Red Fleet issue.

Review of the Operation of Emergency Services – we have been attempting to set up a date for a meeting with the Chair of CMA, Cr Jamie Chaffey and the President of LGNSW, Cr Darriea Turley. Unfortunately, we have not been able to secure a date for that meeting.

Section 7.12 Contributions – we sent a thank you letter to the Minister and raised the issue of s7.12 contributions.

Local Government Natural Disaster Claims – we wrote to the Minister for Emergency Services, Hon Jihad Dib MP about the difficulties Members were having with these claims. Copies of the letters went to all the Local Members, we were contacted by Steph Cooke's office in relation to a meeting to talk about the problem, but have not been able to finalise a date. We had thought we had found some time with Steph prior to last month's CMA meeting at Parliament House but unfortunately that fell through when Steph was delayed due to parliamentary business.

I attended a meeting on 28 November convened by the Reconstruction Authority and run by NEMA that focused on Council claims for funding. We raised all the usual issues in relation to providing evidence, however they appear really committed to photographic evidence taken at the time of the disaster.

I raised the issue about the need for a "circuit breaker" in relation to decisions regarding funding of repairs, stating that it was an issue that REROC had raised a number of times. RA advised that they were looking at introducing this approach and asked if we would be interested in providing feedback on how it would work. I have, of course, agreed to do this.

Disaster Adaptation Plans – the Reconstruction Authority delivered a session with myself and Leah on DAPs for our Region. It is anticipated that we should have them in place by maybe the end of next year. RA are going to produce templates and guidelines for the DAPs and drafts are expected in early 2024.

Review of REROC Constitution – the new Constitution has been lodged with Fair Trading and they have written to advise that on a first review it complies with their requirements.

Rates Methodology Review – IPART has released its [Final Report](#) on 9 November. In relation to implementation IPART have advised that:

We have decided to implement all decisions on the rate peg methodology set out in this Final Report from when we set the rate peg for the 2024-25 financial year. The new methodology will produce rate pegs that more accurately reflect changes in inflation and costs incurred by councils by using forward-looking indicators

to measure changes in councils' base costs and introducing council-specific factors for changes in councils' ESL contributions. As a result, we prefer to implement our new methodology as soon as possible. Under this approach, we intend to release the rate peg for the 2024-25 financial year in October 2023. We can implement these decisions under the existing delegation from the Minister for Local Government to set the rate peg.

A summary of the recommendations is contained in **Attachment One**. It is really pleasing to see that many of the issues that REROC has been lobbying for over the last 5 years have been included in the recommendations.

Local Water Utilities Inquiry – we lodged a response to the Inquiry (**Attachment Two**). We have been invited to appear at the Hearing on 8 December 2023. Cr Firman and myself will be appearing by video link on Friday afternoon. We have received advice from the Inquiry that it is their intention to hold Hearing in Wagga Wagga early next year at which time individual councils will be able to also address the Inquiry members.

Recommendation

REROC adopts the response to the Local Water Utilities Inquiry.

Health and Knowledge Precinct – I am now a member of the interim Joint Working Group. The Group met on 4 December. There are two projects being discussed one in Workforce Development and one in Research and Innovation. The Workforce Development project will include a Skills Audit that is to be undertaken by CSU.

FOGO Collection Grants – the FOGO audits are currently underway for Coolamon and Junee. Depending on the outcome of the audits it is REROC's intention to lobby for a change to the FOGO grants to permit the fortnightly collection of kerbside FOGO bins.

NSW Planning Portal – the Portal continues to be an ongoing issue. I am not sure where REROC Members want to go with advocacy in relation to this matter.

Southern Lights – our focus continues to be on the AER Determination and providing on-going input into the process.

Essential Energy has amended its [Public Lighting Management Plan](#) and Public Lighting Maintenance Standard to align with the new Public Lighting Code effective 1 July 2023 and addressed customer feedback regarding billing clarification and contact information for all streetlighting matters.

Essential Energy is providing 20 business days to seek feedback on our revised Public Lighting Management Plan and Public Lighting Maintenance Standard as consultation under the NSW Public Lighting Code. The consultation period ends on COB, 22 December 2023. Southern Lights will be providing feedback including on the following issues:

- Warranty claims
- Inventory
- Ownership of lighting under awnings
- Reporting

IPART has contacted Southern Lights requesting input re compliance with the Public Lighting Code. We provided this to them in early November, our Member indicated that the timeliness in relation to the rectification of faults was an issue.

Freight Transport Plan Update – we have asked Helen to assist with updating the Freight Transport Plan, she has started working on the project. The new iteration will include data from the CSIRO Freight Study.

Murray Murrumbidgee Water Sharing Plan – we are waiting on a draft of the Plan to be distributed for comment.

Application for Regional Housing Fund Round 2 Funding – we have not heard about the funding application yet.

DRRF Second Round Funding – a number of the JOs are putting together funding proposals for a second round of the DRRF. Second round funding required a financial contribution. In 2024 I think we should, as a Region focus on developing the Disaster Adaptation Plans rather than doing other DRR projects, so I have not put up REROC’s hand for the funding. I have however agreed to continue to participate in joint DRRF activities so we should still generate benefits for Members from those activities.

Skills Shortage Project –we are still working with Compact in relation to the Skills Shortage project. Paul Worsfold will finish up with the project this month, however I believe he is still open to ad hoc project work in the area, and particularly with Start Your Career Here Days.

Expansion of Build A Bridge – this has not gone any further, the ball is with IPWEA (NSW), the COMPACT and REROC remain committed to supporting the expansion.

60 Day Dispensing – this has now been introduced. I am unsure as to whether or not REROC needs to do more about this.

Regional Bank Closures Inquiry Hearings – the final report has not yet been released.

Recruitment Activities CEO – An Expression of Interest has been sent to 4 firms, asking for responses by 15 December.

Christmas Office Closure – our office will close at 1.00.p.m. on 21 December and officially reopen on Monday, 15 January although some staff will return earlier.



Julie Briggs
Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENT ONE
EXTRACT FROM IPART FINAL REPORT

Based on our analysis and consideration of stakeholder views, we have developed a new rate peg methodology that we will use to set the rate peg for the 2024-25 financial year, if it is feasible to do so, and onwards. 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 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,¹ 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.
- Maintain our existing approach and make additional adjustments for costs driven by external factors outside councils' control as needed, if ratepayers will benefit from these costs and we have the information we need to calculate the necessary adjustment. These costs may include managing climate change impacts and cyber security threats, for example.
- 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.
- Retain the productivity factor in the rate peg methodology and for it to remain as zero by default unless there is evidence to depart from that approach. This may include further

¹ For example, this means that the ESL factor in the rate peg for the 2024-25 financial year will capture the change in invoiced ESL contributions amounts between the 2022-23 and 2023-24 financial years (adjusted for cost sharing arrangements for specific councils).

analysis and consultation on the factor and considering outcomes of other local government reviews which could inform other ways of driving productivity and determining the appropriate role of the productivity factor.



Response to the NSW Inquiry Protecting Local Water Utilities from Privatisation

RIVERINA EASTERN REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

Email: jbriggs@reroc.com.au

Ph: 0269319050

REROC

RIVERINA EASTERN REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils Response to the NSW Inquiry Protecting Local Water Utilities from Privatisation

The Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (“**REROC**”) encompasses 8 Local Government entities located in the eastern Riverina region of NSW. REROC’s Member Councils are: Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Greater Hume, Junee, Lockhart, Temora and Goldenfields Water County Councils.



Our Region is unique with regard to the delivery of potable water services, in that the delivery of the services is dominated by two county councils: Goldenfields Water and Riverina Water. Riverina Water services part of Lockhart Shire Council and part of Greater Hume Shire, while Goldenfields Water provides retail water services to Bland, Coolamon and Junee and wholesale water to Cootamundra. Cootamundra-Gundagai provides a retail potable water service to Cootamundra and a full potable service at Gundagai. All our Member Councils provide wastewater and stormwater services for their communities.

Our Member Councils strongly support the protection of Local Water Utilities (“LWUs”) from privatisation. Our Members do not believe privatisation will provide any genuine benefits to the rural and regional communities they represent and is likely to result in poorer service and higher prices because of the low population density coupled with the vast areas that must be covered.

In addition, our councils maintain that one of their competitive advantages in attracting staff to the engineering areas of their councils is the broad range of work on offer including work in the water, wastewater and stormwater areas. The diversity of work is one of the ways rural and regional councils can attract and retain professional staff.

In response to the specific questions raised by the Joint Select Committee, we provide the following comments:

(a) How local water utilities and their assets can be best protected against privatisation, forced amalgamations and sell-offs

There is no compelling argument for the privatisation of LWUs in rural and regional NSW. Our Members believe that given the economics of delivering water, wastewater and stormwater services into rural and regional communities, that the safest place for those services to reside is in the hands of local government. Local Government is government at the grassroots, it is the government closest to the people it services and consequently is held most directly to account by the communities it represents.

Our Members believe that the council-operated LWUs are best protected against privatisation by passing legislation that prohibits mergers or amalgamations of councils and the restructuring of county councils into State-owned enterprises, which could subsequently be sold-off.

In the case of council-operated LWUs where service provision is embedded within core council operations this type of legislative protection would ensure that councils could never be merged or amalgamated. Not only would this protect the LWU functions of the council it would also provide protection to all council operations. While our Members support this approach, we recognise that it is unlikely the State would support such an outcome.

As an alternative, our Members would strongly support legislation being passed that ensured that water, wastewater and stormwater service provision could only be removed from council-operated LWUs where the council resolved unanimously for this to occur. We believe that councils should have the flexibility to determine their own futures in relation to the delivery of LWU services, consequently they should be able to retain the right to determine the future of those services.

In relation to County Councils, like Goldenfields Water we believe there may be scope to protect County Councils through a Constitutional Amendment in the same way that Sydney Water and Hunter Water have been protected. County Councils are stand-alone water providers and therefore could be named for specific protection under the Constitution.

Constitutional protection could also be extended to councils, however this would result in the protection of the council as a whole, because the LWU services are part of the council’s core functions. Our Members would support this outcome.

We note that the *Water Industry Competition Act* (“WICA”) offers opportunities for private enterprise to “tap into” existing wastewater infrastructure and effectively opening competition. In our Region the WICA has not been used by private enterprise and given that the majority of our councils have a strong commitment to the use of recycled water on parks, gardens and sporting fields this is a positive outcome.

(b) *Reviewing governance and other legislation relating to the potential privatisation of local water utilities*

Our Members believe that the most relevant “other legislation” that could lead to the privatisation of water utilities is the *State Owned Corporations Act (NSW) 1989*. We believe that it is a short step for these stand-alone Stated Owned Corporations (SOCs) to privatisation, particularly where there is an income to be generated by private enterprise. Our Members suggest that there could be amendments made to the SOC Act to protect LWUs and particularly County Councils from falling victim to the Act.

We are also concerned to ensure that LWU assets cannot be leased. This situation arose when in April 2017 the NSW LPI was leased to a consortium of operators for a period of 35 years. We are unclear as to what legislative mechanism the former Government used to enable the leasing of a State enterprise, however we believe it should be highlighted to ensure that LWUs are also protected from this hybrid form of privatisation.

(c) *Other Related Matters*

Our Members agree with the following statement:

Publicly owned enterprises provide consistently cheaper and more reliable services because they are run for public good, not private profit. On the other hand, the owners of privatised services have strong incentives to cut corners and raise prices in pursuit of higher profit margins. This consistently leads to privatised services being more expensive and less reliable.

In the specific case of water privatisation, there is overwhelming evidence that private water leads to more debt, less investment in water infrastructure, loss of reliability and quality – and higher bills.¹

We believe that when taking a long-term view the best place for critical infrastructure is under the direct control of Government. In the case of water infrastructure, the situation should be that every dollar earned is returned to improve the services that are provided to the community. In addition, in rural and regional areas, monopoly arrangements for critical infrastructure provide the most economically sustainable and equitable outcomes for communities.

Conclusion

Our Members welcome the opportunity to provide feedback to the Inquiry on this important issue. We support the Committee’s endeavours to ensure that council-operated LWUs are protected from privatisation and would welcome the opportunity to speak with the Committee about our concerns.

¹ <https://australiainstitute.org.au/post/after-the-nsw-election-privatisation-is-politically-dead-in-australia/>

**Resource Sharing Report
REROC Board Meeting
Friday, 8 December 2023**

Regional ARIC Project – we have had a response from the Minister in response to our query about REROC hosting a Regional Co-ordinator. The Updated Guidelines were released this week and they make it clear that the Co-ordinator must be an employee of council.

Alison Balind from Bland has been doing quite a bit of work in this space, and we are looking at calling a meeting of everyone in the first week of February to agree on the tasks that need to be undertaken to have a complying arrangement in place in time for 1 July. Alison is working on a timeline for the project.

Planning Technical Group

The Group last met on 26 October 2023.

We again discussed the PINs issue for unapproved clearing. The Group agreed that we should ask the REROC Board to follow-up on our letter from earlier this year with the Minister. A copy of the letter we sent to the previous Minister in March of this year is attached (**Attachment One**) or information

Recommendation

REROC writes to the Minister for the Environment about the issue following-up on our letter from earlier this year.

The Planning Portal was also discussed with Members being asked to test the “myHome Planner” that the Minister told us about, to determine how effective it was. It looks like it only applies to single dwelling housing. We are still looking at organizing a joint meeting with RAMJO planners with the Portal Planning representatives to talk about some of the issues councils are having.

Updates were provided by the Department of Planning, Department of Environment and Department of Primary Industries. There is still no indication of when the Manufactured Homes Regulation will be on public exhibition.

The next meeting of the Group will be held on 14 December.

Workforce Development Group

The Group is scheduled to meet on 12 December. We will be discussing the future of the Skills Shortage project. Paul Worsfold supported Junee Shire in a very successful Start Your Career Here Day that was held in October. I understand that the Day has resulted in several students indicating an interest in taking on a School Based Traineeship. Photos from the day are attached (**Attachment Two**).

Water and Wastewater Technical Group

The Group last met on 8 November. The meeting had been postponed from October. We have Brendan Guiney the CEO of the Water Directorate who is really a wealth of knowledge about what is happening in the water and wastewater areas.

The Group is looking at ways that we can facilitate and support the establishment of a trade waste regime for councils.

There is a new page on the Careers@Council website on Careers in Water, Brendan encouraged the Members to make use of the site to advertise their jobs.

The next meeting of the Group will be in February 2024.

Infrastructure/Engineers Group

The Group met on 7 November in Coolamon.

The meeting is now attended by Bethany Magill from the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator . She advised that the Regulator was looking to implement a Tasmanian System, know as the Heavy Vehicle Access Management system to the mainland States. Little is known about the system by the Members but it is understood to automate the road and structural assessment function of Heavy Vehicle access decisions.

Quarry management and training was again discussed at the meeting.

The Group discussed the new Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund (RERRF) and the guidelines. The funding will permit councils to perform any work type under the old Repair Program whilst not requiring a 50/50 contribution. Councils should ultimately be in a better financial situation. The Members expressed concern about the short-term funding, it was agreed that REROC would be asked to write to the Minister endorsing the program and recommending that it be made recurring.

Recommendation

REROC writes to the Minister for Regional Roads, Hon Jenny Aitchison MP to congratulate the Government on the introduction of the RERRF and to request that the funding be made recurring.

Representatives from TfNSW talked about their work on alternative routes during disasters. They are currently reviewing the detour maps. They were encouraged to provide the information to Spatial NSW for inclusion on the ESSIL.

Members were also asked to put forward any issues relating to Natural Disaster Claims for a proposed meeting with Steph Cooke.

Youth and Community Network

The Group is scheduled to meet this week to discuss the Take Charge Conference. We are aiming to agree on the final agenda for the event.

Each year we ask that REROC Members contribute \$500 towards the cost of Take Charge and we have also asked Wagga Wagga City Council to contribute \$1000 towards the event so that schools from their LGA are able to attend.

Recommendation

REROC writes to each Member Council to request \$500 towards the cost of running Take Charge and that REROC write to Wagga Wagga City Council to request a \$1000 contribution.

Riverina Spatial Information Group (RivSIG)

The *Mapped Out* Conference which was held 15-16 November. It was attended by about 65 people which is around the same as last year. The feedback from the Conference was extremely positive with most attendees describing it as excellent.



Aggregated Procurements

At the moment we only have two procurements underway, one for the collection of scrap metal which has almost concluded and one that is being prepared for green waste processing.

Julie Briggs
Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENT ONE

REROC

RIVERINA EASTERN REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

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 ABN: 91 443 421 423

8 March 2023

The Hon James Griffin MP
 Minister for Environment & Heritage
 GPO Box 5341
 SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Minister

I write on behalf of the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) to highlight concerns raised at our most recent Board meeting regarding the effectiveness of Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) in sanctioning unapproved land clearing.

Our councils note that the maximum fine that councils can impose using a PIN is \$3,000 (for an individual) and \$6,000.00 for a Corporation) and that this is the only avenue whereby councils can levy a penalty for unapproved land clearing, without entering into costly legal proceedings. This is of some concern because this could support developers deciding to take the risk of an unapproved land clearing, particularly from a financial perspective, as it is cheaper to pay the fine than meet the cost of biodiversity offsets.

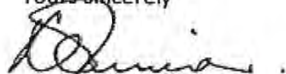
It appears that the Department will only initiate legal action under Part 5 of the Act when the clearing is of significant impact. We appreciate that this may reflect a triage approach whereby the Department only commits to the significant expenditure of prosecution when damage is substantial. This approach, while recognising the Government's resourcing constraints, is perhaps resulting in an unintended outcome of supporting developer decisions to clear land without approval thereby avoiding their biodiversity obligations.

If it is cheaper for a developer to pay the fine than meet their obligations under the *Biodiversity Act*, there is little financial incentive to protect biodiversity through the payment of offsets. The business case for unapproved land clearing on small lots undoubtedly favours paying the fine, consequently supporting a "ask for forgiveness rather than seek permission" attitude by developer. This is particularly the case in smaller rural developments, where the risk of getting caught is lower.

Our Board believes that the current regime needs to be reviewed to ensure that the penalties associated with unapproved land clearing better reflect the costs of approved land clearing, including purchasing biodiversity offsets.

We would welcome the opportunity to speak with you about this issue and thank you for taking the time to consider our concerns.

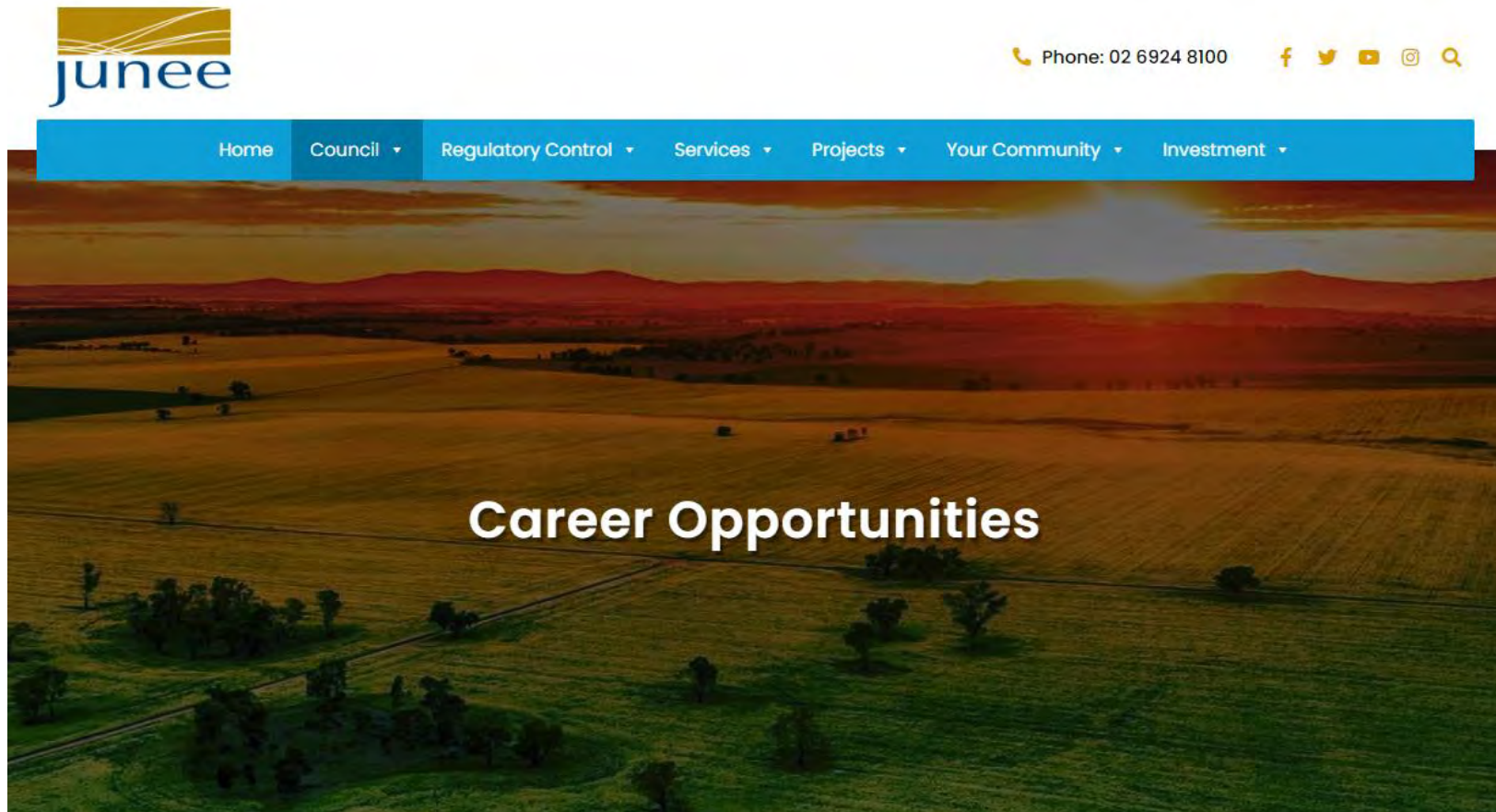
Yours sincerely



Cr Rick Firman OAM
 Chairman



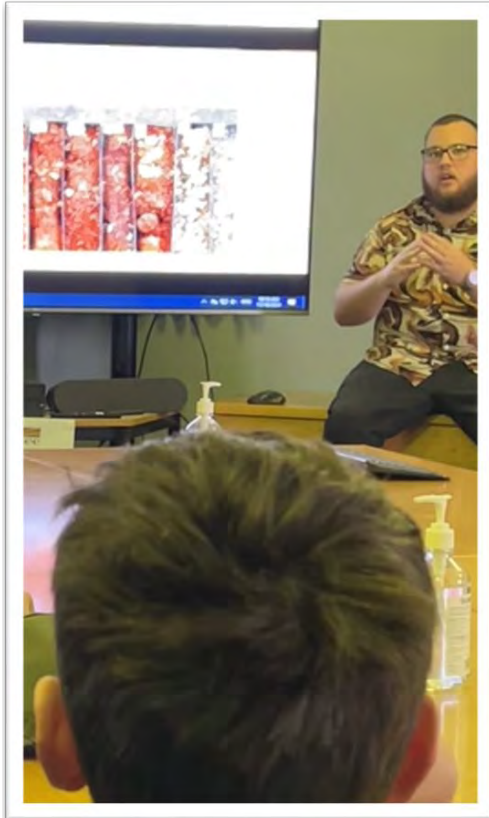
*Junee High School Student Visit to Junee Shire Council
October 17, 2023*



<https://www.june.nsw.gov.au/council/career-opportunities/>

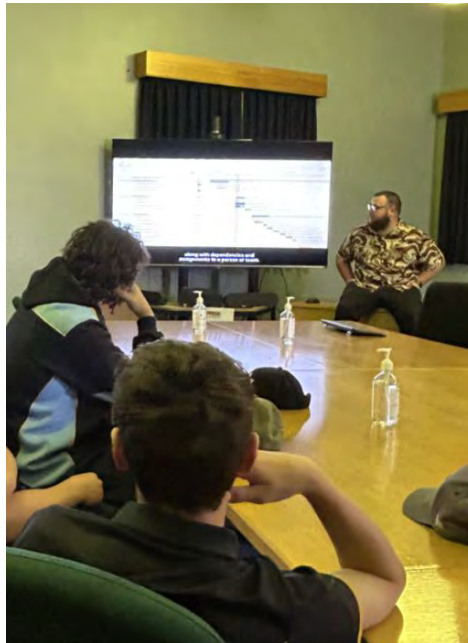
- *Junee Shire Council school-based traineeships provide young students with the opportunity to work at Council while they are still at school.*

24



Engineering:

- Survey
- Design
- Construction
- Environment
- Project Management



<https://www.careersatcouncil.com.au/engineering-asset-development/>

<https://www.careersatcouncil.com.au/environment/>

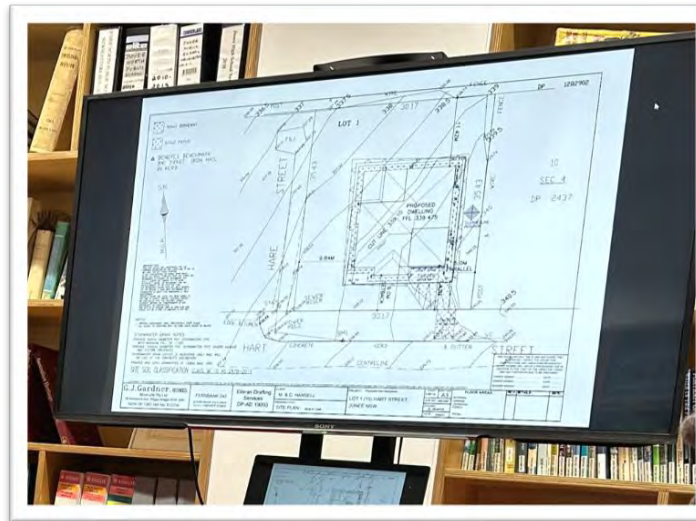
Library:

- Planning Department
- Finance

<https://www.careersatcouncil.com.au/community-services/>

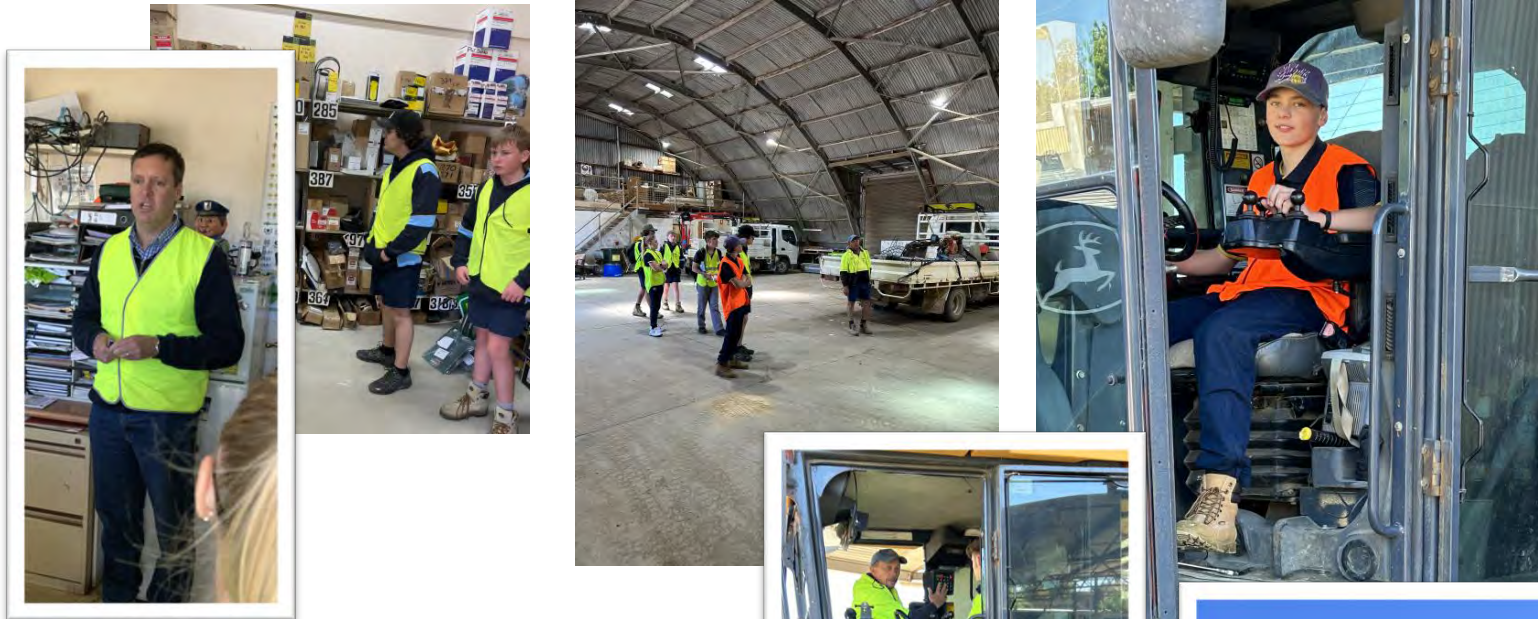
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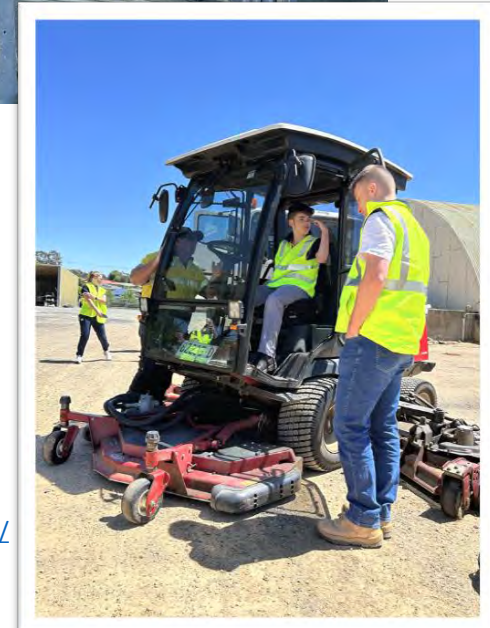




<https://www.careersatcouncil.com.au/tourism-culture-recreation/>



Tour of Works Depot & Plant Demonstration



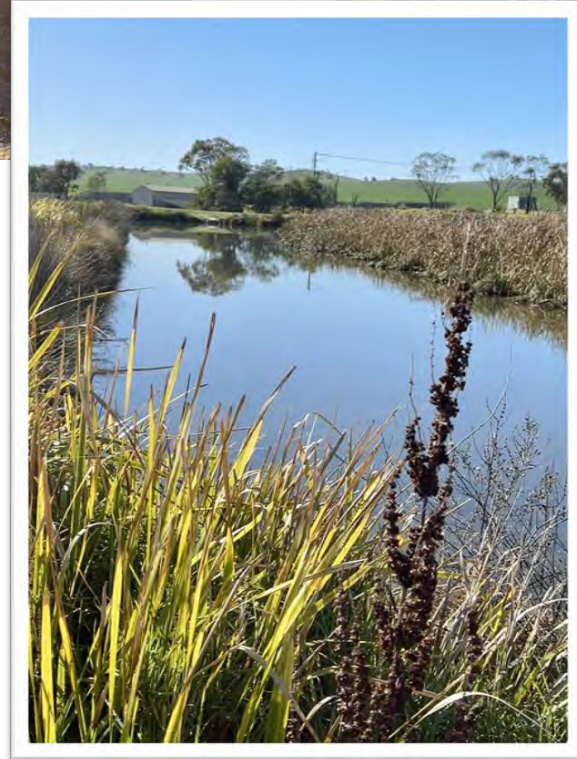
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<https://www.careersatcouncil.com.au/property/>

<https://www.careersatcouncil.com.au/engineering-asset-development/>

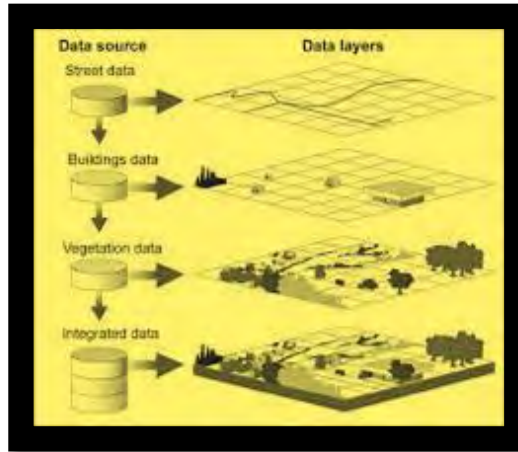


<https://www.careersatcouncil.com.au/water-career/>



<https://www.careersatcouncil.com.au/engineering-asset-development/>

Tour of Junee Shire Council Office



<https://www.careersatcouncil.com.au/news/a-journey-of-continuous-evolution/>

Narelle Hobson.
GIS / Grants Coordinator
Junee Shire Council

14 Dec 2021 People Stories

A journey of continuous evolution

Narelle chats to us about beginning her career journey with Junee Shire Council in 1996, what she loves about her current role and living and working in the Riverina region.



Your career at council starts here

Entry Level Opportunities

The scale and diversity of the work we do means there are many ways to start a new career in Local Government.



Engineering and Asset Management

- Certificate III Civil Construction – Plant Operations
- Certificate III Civil Construction – Road Construction and Maintenance
- Certificate III Heavy Commercial Vehicle Mechanical Technology
- Certificate III Automotive Electrical Technology
- Certificate III Mobile Plant Technology
- Certificate III Carpentry
- Certificate III Plumbing (General Plumbing)
- Certificate III Electrotechnology Electrician
- Certificate III Engineering – Mechanical Trade
- Certificate III Engineering – Fabrication Trade



Parks & Sport Facilities

- Certificate III Arboriculture
- Certificate III Parks and Gardens
- Certificate III Sports Turf Management
- Certificate III Landscape Construction



Environment

- Certificate III Conservation and Ecosystem Management



Business Services

- Certificate II Workplace Skills
- Certificate II, III Local Government
- Certificate III, IV Business
- Certificate III Business (Customer Engagement)
- Certificate III, IV Business (Business Administration)
- Certificate III Business (Records and Information Management)
- Certificate IV Diploma of Local Government (Corporate Services)



Finance

- Certificate II, III, IV Financial Services
- Certificate III Accounts Administration
- Diploma of Local Government (Rates)



Economic Development

- Certificate IV, Business
- Certificate III Tourism



Planning & Development

- Certificate IV Surveying and Spatial Information Services
- Diploma of Spatial Information Services
- Diploma of Local Government (Planning)
- Diploma of Surveying



Communications

- Certificate IV Marketing and Communication
- Diploma of Social Media Marketing



Human Resources

- Certificate IV, Diploma of Human Resource Management



Engineering and Asset Management

- Certificate II Engineering
- Certificate II Civil Construction
- Certificate II Automotive Servicing Technology
- Certificate II Electrotechnology (Career Start)
- Certificate II, III Water Industry Operations
- Certificate II, III, IV Local Government



Property

- Certificate II, III Cleaning Operations
- Diploma of Local Government (Property Management)



Community Services

- Certificate II Community Services
- Certificate III Early Childhood Education and Care
- Certificate III Individual Support
- Certificate III Health Services Assistant
- Certificate III Health Administration



Parks & Sport Facilities

- Certificate II Horticulture
- Certificate II Parks and Gardens
- Certificate II Conservation and Ecosystem Management
- Certificate II Sports Turf Management
- Certificate II, III Sport and Recreation
- Certificate III, IV Fitness
- Certificate III Aquatics and Community Recreation



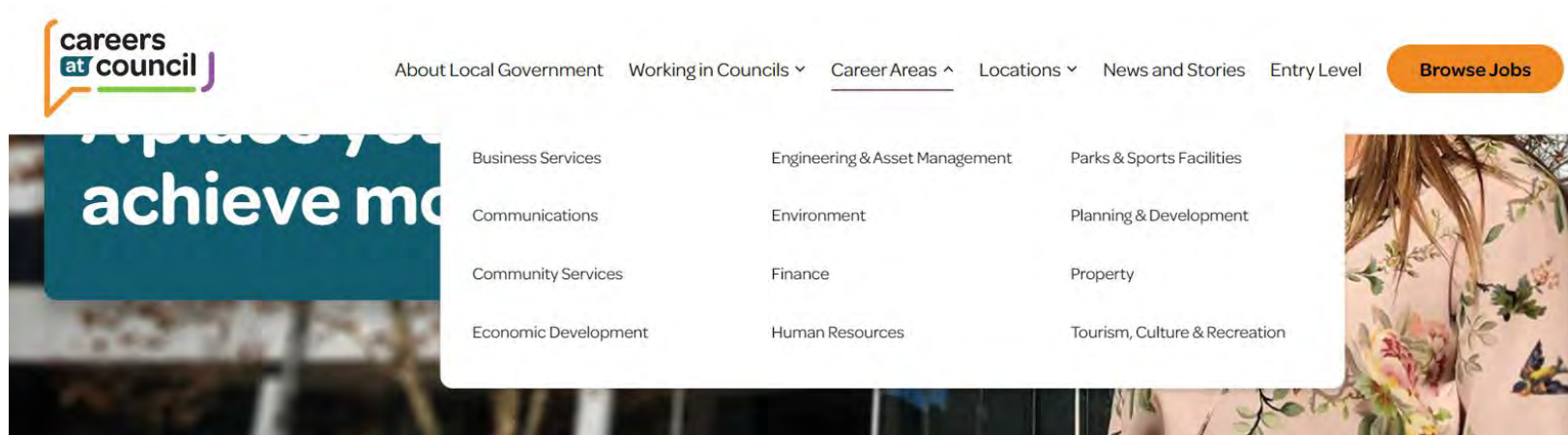
Environment

- Certificate III Local Government
- Certificate III, IV Waste Management
- Certificate IV Animal Regulation and Management
- Diploma of Local Government (Environmental Health)
- Certificate IV Local Government (Regulatory Control)
- Diploma of Local Government (Regulatory Services)



Tourism, Culture and Recreation

- Certificate II in Information and Cultural Services
- Certificate III, IV, Diploma of Library and Information Services
- Certificate III, IV Arts and Cultural Administration
- Certificate III, IV Live Production and Technical Services
- Certificate II, III Hospitality
- Certificate II, III Tourism
- Certificate III Events
- Certificate IV Travel and Tourism
- Certificate II, III, IV Holiday Parks and Resorts



<https://www.careersatcouncil.com.au/>

<p>Finance</p> <p>Ensure the responsible and effective management of council resources.</p> <p>Read more</p>	<p>Human Resources</p> <p>Support and empower Local Government's most important asset, its people.</p> <p>Read more</p>	<p>Park & Sports Facilities</p> <p>Maintain beautiful outdoor spaces and facilities for community wellbeing.</p> <p>Read more</p>	<p>Business Services</p> <p>Discover a career in the engine room of Local Government.</p> <p>Read more</p>	<p>Communications</p> <p>Be the clear, consistent voice of Local Government.</p> <p>Read more</p>	<p>Community Services</p> <p>Make a real difference by supporting those who need it most.</p> <p>Read more</p>
<p>Planning & Development</p> <p>Impact and shape the future of your community.</p> <p>Read more</p>	<p>Property</p> <p>Manage Local Government's vast and unique property portfolio.</p> <p>Read more</p>	<p>Tourism, Culture & Recreation</p> <p>Promote and manage events for residents and visitors.</p>	<p>Economic Development</p> <p>Promote sustainable economic outcomes for communities.</p>	<p>Engineering & Asset Management</p> <p>Design and manage the community's vital infrastructure.</p>	<p>Environment</p> <p>Protect and manage Australia's precious natural resources.</p> <p>Read more</p>

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Profit & Loss [Budget Analysis]

July 2023 To November 2023

REROC
 PO Box 646
 WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650
 ABN: 91 443 421 423
 Email: mail@reroc.com.au

	Budgeted	Selected Period
Income		
REROC Income		
Council Contributions	\$285,000.00	\$285,000.00
Interest	\$2,000.00	\$4,271.34
Other Sundry Income	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Meetings/Catering	\$0.00	\$636.36
Grant Administration Fees	\$85,000.00	\$0.00
Total REROC Income	\$374,000.00	\$289,907.70
Procurement		
Collaborative Procurement	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
Total Procurement	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
Conferences		
Careers in Local Government	\$30,000.00	\$0.00
Energy & Innovation Conf Incom	\$0.00	\$13,420.00
NTTW Conference	\$0.00	\$24,067.45
Mapped Out	\$0.00	\$2,775.45
Total Conferences	\$30,000.00	\$40,262.90
Total Income	\$419,000.00	\$330,170.60
Gross Profit	\$419,000.00	\$330,170.60
Expenditure		
REROC - Expenditure		
Executive Services	\$0.00	\$85,218.00
Telephone Charges	\$7,000.00	\$1,600.38
Stationery & Office Consumable	\$0.00	\$88.73
Printing & Photocopying Costs	\$6,000.00	\$2,948.52
Advertising	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Insurance	\$8,000.00	\$0.00
Rent	\$30,000.00	\$12,500.00
Travel	\$0.00	\$270.91
Meetings & Catering	\$8,000.00	\$2,774.27
Representation	\$8,000.00	\$68.44
Legal, Accounting & Auditing	\$8,000.00	\$5,736.68
Subscriptions Reference Materi	\$0.00	\$1,230.61
IT Expenses	\$5,000.00	\$900.89
Other Sundry Expenses	\$2,000.00	\$6,276.11
Food & Catering Costs	\$0.00	\$2,419.78
Equipment consumables	\$4,000.00	\$0.00
Utilities	\$6,000.00	\$0.00
Motor Vehicle	\$8,000.00	\$0.00
Total REROC - Expenditure	\$101,500.00	\$122,033.32
Procurement		
Procurement Officer - Phone	\$0.00	\$379.67
Procurement - Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Total Procurement	\$0.00	\$2,379.67
Payroll Expenses		
Wages & Salaries Expenses	\$240,000.00	\$0.00
Superannuation Guarantee	\$26,400.00	\$0.00
Workers Compensation Insurance	\$10,656.00	\$0.00

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Profit & Loss [Budget Analysis]

July 2023 To November 2023

REROC
 PO Box 646
 WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650
 ABN: 91 443 421 423
 Email: mail@reroc.com.au

	Budgeted	Selected Period
Leave Entitlements	\$30,144.00	\$0.00
FBT	\$4,000.00	\$0.00
Total Payroll Expenses	\$311,200.00	\$0.00
Conference Expenses		
Energy & Innovation Conf exps	\$0.00	\$17,627.33
Mapped Out Expenditure	\$0.00	\$8,513.00
NTTW Expenditure	\$0.00	\$13,547.98
Total Conference Expenses	\$0.00	\$39,688.31
Youth Expenditure		
Take Charge Expenses	\$0.00	\$13.87
Total Youth Expenditure	\$0.00	\$13.87
Build a Bridge Project		
BAB Expenditure	\$0.00	\$1,782.64
Total Build a Bridge Project	\$0.00	\$1,782.64
Total Expenditure	\$412,700.00	\$165,897.81
Operating Profit	\$6,300.00	\$164,272.79
REROC-Projects Income		
Strategic Collaboration		
Strategic Collaboration - JO	\$0.00	\$5,713.27
Total Strategic Collaboration	\$0.00	\$5,713.27
Disaster Risk Reduction Project		
DRR Funding	\$0.00	\$69,698.28
Total Disaster Risk Reduction Project	\$0.00	\$69,698.28
JO Net Zero Acceleration Project		
OECC Grant	\$0.00	\$44,578.57
Total JO Net Zero Acceleration Project	\$0.00	\$44,578.57
Waste Mgt Income		
Scrap Metal Income	\$0.00	\$19,789.31
Total Waste Mgt Income	\$0.00	\$19,789.31
CRCB - Contaminated Land Proje		
EPA Funding CRCB	\$0.00	\$59,149.11
Total CRCB - Contaminated Land Proje	\$0.00	\$59,149.11
Total REROC-Projects Income	\$0.00	\$198,928.54
REROC-Projects Expenditure		
Strategic Collaboration		
Strategic Collaboration JO	\$0.00	\$5,948.48
Strategic Collaboration Street Lighting	\$0.00	\$1,813.77
Total Strategic Collaboration	\$0.00	\$7,762.25
Disaster Risk Reduction Project		
DRR - GAP Analysis	\$0.00	\$19,597.00
DRR - Mapping and Spatial Data	\$0.00	\$500.00
DRR - Project Admin	\$0.00	\$28,423.08
DRR - Project Admin Support	\$0.00	\$17,500.00
DRR - Travel & Car	\$0.00	\$551.68
DRR - Superannuation	\$0.00	\$3,126.52
Total Disaster Risk Reduction Project	\$0.00	\$69,698.28

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Profit & Loss [Budget Analysis]

July 2023 To November 2023

REROC
 PO Box 646
 WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650
 ABN: 91 443 421 423
 Email: mail@reroc.com.au

	Budgeted	Selected Period
JO Net Zero Acceleration Project		
Net Zero Project Manager (wages)	\$0.00	\$38,516.50
Net Zero Project Officer Super Guarantee	\$0.00	\$4,236.82
Net Zero Project Officer Ancillary Costs	\$0.00	\$1,825.25
Total JO Net Zero Acceleration Project	\$0.00	\$44,578.57
EPA VRWG Funding		
Regional Co-ordination Activit		
Travel	\$0.00	\$813.44
Wages	\$0.00	\$35,000.00
Phone	\$0.00	\$427.19
Rent	\$0.00	\$1,750.00
Car	\$0.00	\$182.72
Total Regional Co-ordination Activit	\$0.00	\$38,173.35
Project 1		
School Programs	\$0.00	\$1,201.60
Total Project 1	\$0.00	\$1,201.60
Project 2		
Home Composting	\$0.00	\$405.73
Recycle Night-Adv & Prom	\$0.00	\$836.44
Total Project 2	\$0.00	\$1,242.17
Project 3		
Regional Collection Contracts	\$0.00	\$453.94
Total Project 3	\$0.00	\$453.94
Total EPA VRWG Funding	\$0.00	\$41,071.06
CRC Education		
CRC Communications Activities	\$0.00	\$1,890.91
CRC Other	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Total CRC Education	\$0.00	\$2,890.91
Waste Management Expenditure		
Waste Management Expenditure	\$0.00	\$51.77
e-waste Tranp & other Exp	\$0.00	\$2,558.09
Total Waste Management Expenditure	\$0.00	\$2,609.86
CRCB Contaminated Land Exps		
CLM Project Officer	\$0.00	\$59,149.11
Total CRCB Contaminated Land Exps	\$0.00	\$59,149.11
Total REROC-Projects Expenditure	\$0.00	\$227,760.04
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$6,300.00	\$135,441.29

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Balance Sheet [Budget Analysis]

November 2023

RERO
 PO Box 646
 WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650
 ABN: 91 443 421 423
 Email: mail@reroc.com.au

	Budgeted	Selected Period
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
RERO Operating Account 663299	\$1,057,536.80	\$668,627.93
RERO Grant Account 663301	\$1.21	\$1.21
Beyond Bank 03671268	\$29.41	\$29.40
Total Bank Accounts	\$1,057,567.42	\$668,658.54
Investments		
Beyond Bank Investment	\$266,308.23	\$274,656.68
Beyond Bank Investment	\$265,597.98	\$271,547.95
Total Investments	\$531,906.21	\$546,204.63
Other Current Assets		
Trade Debtors	\$4,642.01	\$64,191.47
Total Other Current Assets	\$15,378.09	\$64,191.47
Total Current Assets	\$1,604,851.72	\$1,279,054.64
Non-Current Assets		
Motor Vehicles		
Motor Vehicles At Cost	\$36,961.58	\$36,961.58
Accum. Depr. Motor Vehicles	-\$36,960.58	-\$36,960.58
Total Motor Vehicles	\$1.00	\$1.00
Total Non-Current Assets	\$1.00	\$1.00
Total Assets	\$1,604,852.72	\$1,279,055.64
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
GST Liabilities		
GST Collected	\$10,473.97	\$16,099.70
GST Paid	\$1,671.01	-\$23,402.65
Total GST Liabilities	\$12,144.98	-\$7,302.95
Payroll Liabilities		
PAYG Withholding Payable	\$332.00	\$2,360.00
Total Payroll Liabilities	\$332.00	\$2,360.00
Other Current Liabilities		
Trade Creditors	\$27,894.17	-\$112.20
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$27,894.17	-\$112.20
Grant Liabilities		
Disaster Risk Reduction	\$466,940.02	\$163,771.73
Net Zero Acceleration	\$128,565.60	\$66,204.23
Bin Trim	\$85,000.00	\$42,500.00
Contaminated Land	\$137,075.62	\$9,388.70
VRWG	\$107,907.90	\$53,953.95
FOGO Audits	\$0.00	\$60,000.00
Total Grant Liabilities	\$925,489.14	\$395,818.61
Total Current Liabilities	\$965,860.29	\$390,763.46
Total Liabilities	\$965,860.29	\$390,763.46
Net Assets	\$638,992.43	\$888,292.18
Equity		

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Balance Sheet [Budget Analysis]

November 2023

REROC
 PO Box 646
 WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650
 ABN: 91 443 421 423
 Email: mail@reroc.com.au

	Budgeted	Selected Period
Retained Earnings	\$632,692.43	\$752,850.89
Current Year Surplus/Deficit	\$6,300.00	\$135,441.29
Total Equity	\$638,992.43	\$888,292.18

**REROC Waste Forum Report
REROC Board Meeting
Friday, 8 December 2023**

Bin Trim Grant

The Bin Trim Grant has finally been formally announced and the Bin Trim Equipment Rebates Program is up and running as of November 17, 2023. Rebates of up to \$50,000 covering up to 50% of the capital cost of small-scale, on-site recycling equipment or technology, are available.

The aims of the Bin Trim Network Program are:

- to establish or enhance business circular economy networks
- identify and implement opportunities to reduce waste, increase recycling and adopt circular economy solutions across the networks
- build the capacity of individuals and businesses to transition to a circular economy
- support businesses to apply for Equipment Rebates

There is up to \$6 million in total for grants of \$150,000-\$500,000.

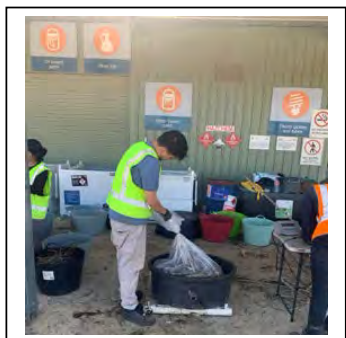
The FOGO audits for the 4 participating councils of Coolamon, Junee, Lockhart & Temora have been finalised this week. The audits look at the FOGO that is collected to estimate the amount of food waste to green waste that is being collected. Junee reported that their FOGO Audit is being undertaken Wednesday 6 December 2023.

FOGO Audits at Junee and Coolamon

MRA Consulting have been undertaking these audits and they will be finalised this week. The councils were informed that they were not to alert residents of the audits because that would possibly impact the way residents dispose of the waste. Junee have advised that the audits have been going well with minimal concern from the community. As the general waste audits have been completed, residents have been informed by council why the audits were being done.

The audits which were funded by the EPA were implemented to inform the guidelines as to whether a fortnightly collection is all that is needed.

MRA have informed us that everything has gone well with the audits and the staff from Junee and Coolamon have been fantastic to work with. The team went out at 3.00am Tuesday 5 December to Coolamon to undertake one of the audits and as all bins hadn't been presented, they had to go out again later that morning.



Junee general waste and FOGO Audits.

E-Waste Collections

E-waste collections have started up again and have been able to pick up waste that had been stockpiled. The total amount of e-waste collected for REROC councils for the period July 2023 – November 30, 2023, is 33,508 kg.

Recycle Night? Recycle Right! Campaign

The *Recycle Night? Recycle Right!* campaign continues. The contract with the Forum 6 cinema in Wagga runs until December 2023 and we have been running ads at the Cootamundra Theatre and Temora.

Regional Contracts

1. Waste Metal Tenders

Scrap metal collections have been finalised, and the process went very well. Access Recycling were selected for this round of collections and were very professional and efficient. Waste metal collected as follows:

COUNCIL	TONNES COLLECTED
Bland Shire Council	293.31
Wagga Wagga City Council	255.77
Coolamon Shire Council	241.62
Cootamundra Gundagai Regional Council	426.23
Greater Hume Shire Council	324.96
Junee Shire Council	245.04
Lockhart Shire Council	190.10
TOTAL COLLECTED	1,977.03

2. Green Waste Processing

The green waste processing contract is almost finalised. The majority of councils have indicated that they need a service, and we are looking to get that started towards the end of December 2023/ January 2024.

No Time To Waste Conference 2024

Due to smaller numbers from this year’s No Time to Waste Conference held in October, we have booked The Rules Club next year for 30 & 31 October. The Conference will run over 2 days and will include a site visit on the second half of the second day.

School Projects

1. Kindy Kits

All the schools in the Region have been phoned about the Kits and were sent an order form which they have returned to us. We have ordered 1800 bags for distribution at the beginning of 2024 and have sourced some items to include in the kits.

2. Eaton Gorge Theatre Company

The theatre in education team will be back in 2024 and we are looking at putting on the shows around March. We rotate the visits between the LGAs and this year they will go to primary schools in Cootamundra, Junee, and Wagga.

CRCs

The EPA’s CRC education funding has not been allocated for this Financial Year. We are still waiting for this funding as there has been a hold up with the EPA due to new staff. We have been informed that the new

staff member for this area is currently reviewing documents.

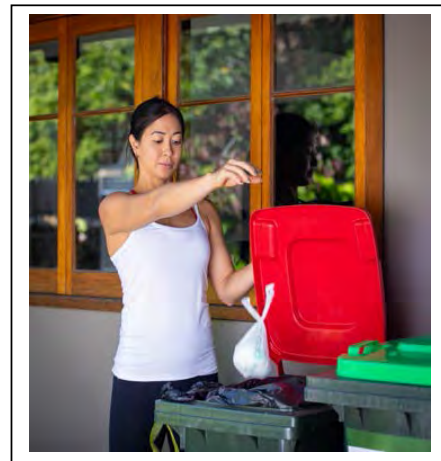
The work on the evaluations has been completed, and the report (**attached**) has been lodged with the EPA. We found most of the figures very similar to last year in relation to CRC stats.

Landfill Gas Capture Specification Project

The work is continuing, and we have requested a formal report on it, as this project has also been flagged by the JONZA project. So we will include the report in our reporting for that project.

Food and Green Keep it Clean!

The first four of the new advertisements for FOGO (being produced by Adam Drummond and team from Wagga TV) are almost completed. We are making five ads in total, with the first four ads about what not to put in the bins. Like: takeaway food containers, nappies, recyclables, and waste. The fifth ad will be using CSU’s extended reality Centre (XRC) and is still being completed.



Stills from the commercials

RENEW Meeting

The last RENEW meeting for the year was held in Sydney 2 November 2023. It was a joint meeting with regional and metro organisations. Discussions were held regarding the frequency of meetings and the format of meetings going forward. Some options include: holding a quarterly meeting but adding another day so that the group has time to go through projects in-depth and perhaps include site visits; the same format as is currently happening which is quarterly meetings over one day. This will be decided later after everyone in the group has input. It was a very informative meeting and there were several lengthy presentations. Some of the other topics covered were:

- the Landfill consolidation and environmental Improvement (LCEI) Program;
- the EPA’s risk assessment tool for unlicensed landfills “E-Ramp” is updated and due to be published on the EPA website by the end of 2023; the EPA is exploring the most effective way to implement the business and household FOGO mandates;
- A schedule of CRC training sessions for councils will be coming out soon;
- CRC program has been delayed due to recruitment delays, but a new person has now started in the role and is currently working through council reports that have been submitted;

- The Waste Levey Review is underway;
- The joint Procurement Funded Support Program is now open to applications from all NSW local councils, Joint Organisations of Councils, ROCs and Voluntary Regional Waste Groups;
- Waste Infrastructure update and measuring WaSM outcomes;
- LGNSW gave updates on current waste projects they are working on including assisting councils with disaster waste;
- All of the Groups present at the meeting gave updates on their various projects.

The next RENEW meeting is scheduled in February in Canberra.

REROC Waste Forum Meeting Dates 2023

The last Waste Forum meeting for the year will be held in person on Wednesday, 13 December 2023 at a place to be confirmed.

Leah Gain
Regional Projects and Waste Officer



EVALUATION REPORT 2022–23

REROC WASTE FORUM COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRE

COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

THIS PLAN COVERS THE FOLLOWING PARTICIPATING COUNCILS:

Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Greater Hume, Junee, Lockhart, Temora and Wagga Wagga

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This report provides an opportunity to document achievements in the last year and identify activities for the next year.

Summary of achievements and outcomes

Please provide a summary of the achievements and outcomes of your education and communication activities from 2022-23.

You can provide information about your plans for next year in Appendix 1 of this progress report.

Achievements and outcomes 2022-23

What were your main achievements this year for education, communications and community engagement? Did you achieve all that you set out to achieve this year?

2022-23 was another year of proactive education and engagement with our communities regarding the use of CRCs.

We undertook TV, radio, cinema and newspaper advertising, distributed coasters with QR codes across the REROC area and distributed DL flyers and posters to councils and residents. For the first time we booked bus advertising which was used in Wagga Wagga to take the message on the road and across suburban populations.

Following on from the success of previous years, we continued the use of drink coasters in 2022-23. The coasters, which included a QR code, directs users to the Riverina-Murray CRC website. Traffic to the CRC Riverina Murray website and REROC Waste Forum Facebook page remains steady.

Our popular REROC Kindy Kits were distributed to 67 primary schools across the REROC region. 1,630 families received the kits which included a CRC flyer detailing CRC locations and other information on reducing waste and recycling.

We expanded our use of community cinema advertising to provide advertisements to 4 cinema facilities – three of these are volunteer run organisations and one had never had paid advertising. It was good to be able deliver strong localised messaging through these venues.

We were able to provide training sessions for CRC staff which was run by Cleanaway and supported by the NSW EPA. The training was held in October 2022 (locations: Junee – 5 staff; Culcairn – 10 staff; and in May 2023: Wagga Wagga – 7 Staff).

We again conducted evaluation on CRC awareness, knowledge and usage, at community facilities and landfills where residents were surveyed on their use of the CRCs. We will be able to utilise the information gained through this process to refine our messaging and our communication channels for 2023-2024.

Over the 2022-23 period, a total of 471 surveys were completed. These were comprised of 286 community surveys and 185 landfill surveys.

Our interviewer set up in a main area of each town where there was a large and consistent flow of pedestrians - outside shops, supermarkets, bakeries etc. This decision was made with the aim of having a flow of local people to speak with rather than a whole group at once.

Community surveys were completed in Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Greater Hume, Junee, Lockhart, Temora and Wagga Wagga.

Of the community surveys completed, 77% of people said they had heard of the CRC in their town. Of these respondents 34% had heard about the CRCs through TV advertising (a decrease from 38% in 2021-22), 19% through newspaper advertising, articles and editorials (a slight increase from 17% in 2021-22) and 23% through their local council website (a decrease from 28% in 2021-22).

21.5% of residents who responded to the community surveys stated they had visited their local CRC as a result of the CRC communications, 19% stated they had started sorting their problem waste at home and 14% had told friends and family about the service.

Landfill surveys were completed in Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Greater Hume, Junee, Lockhart, Temora and Wagga Wagga.

The landfill surveys continue to show residents have a good knowledge relating to the locations and the services provided by the CRCs. For the 2022-23 period 91.5% of residents who completed the landfill survey had previously used the CRC (an increase on 2021-22 which was 88%), 73% had heard about the CRC through word of mouth and 38% had heard about the CRC through TV advertising (a large increase of 10% from 2021-22). 91% of respondents were also 'very likely' and 'likely' to recommend the CRC to family and friends.

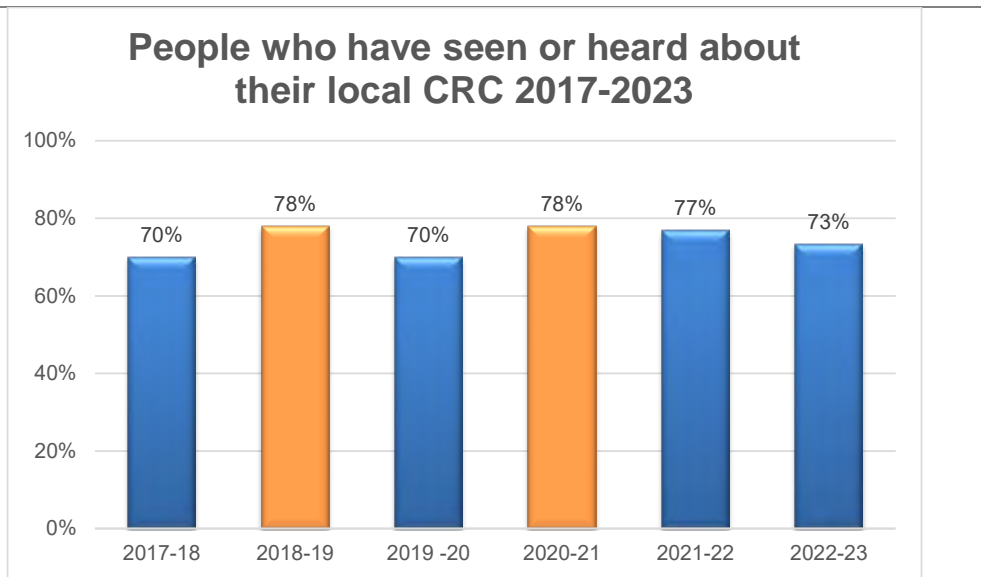
The focus of the REROC Waste Forum CRC Campaign over the 2022-23 period continued the reinforcement of the CRC locations throughout the REROC region. We placed a strong focus on materials accepted at the CRCs and the ease of delivering items to the CRCs. Flyers, coasters and television and cinema advertising were the main tools of delivering the message to our communities.

The REROC Waste Forum 2022-23 CRC education campaign communicated with residents through a variety of platforms. These included:

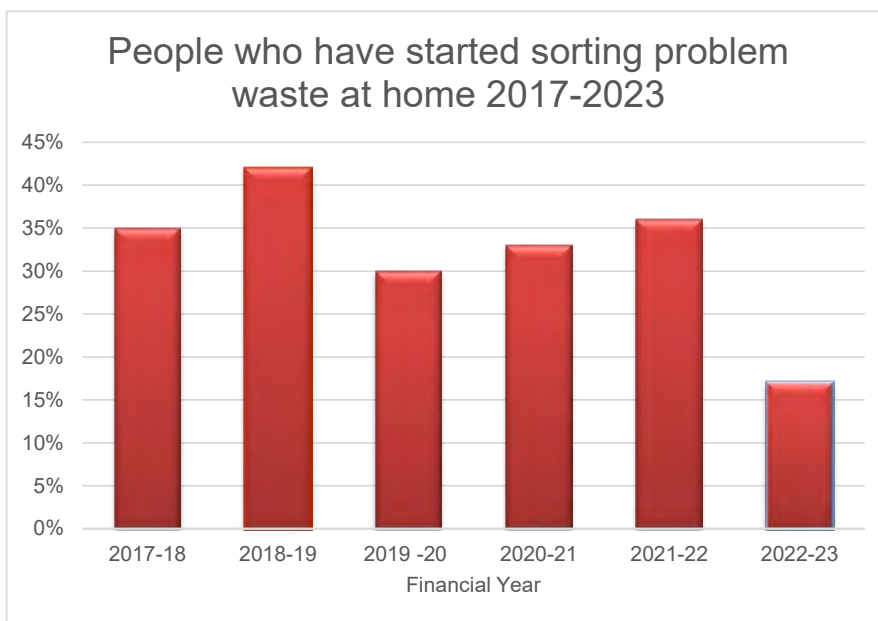
- Media: Television; Community Radio; Newspaper
- Cinema
- Council newsletters and websites
- CRC Riverina Murray Website
- CRC branded coasters with QR codes linking to the CRC Riverina Murray website

The CRC Riverina Murray website has seen another year of significant activity with 3,300 visitors to the site and 3,900 page views. We believe this continual high level of activity is due to consistent ongoing education from a variety of sources in both the REROC and the RAMJO regions. **Note: the website is shared between REROC and RAMJO as a promotional resource with REROC providing site administration.** We note also that there is high level community engagement with council websites and newsletters – the information replicated what we were doing in the ads.

As in previous years, we again saw a large amount of waste coming into the by-catch across the CRCs with 5.2 tonnes of by-catch material collected (out of a total of 66.88 tonnes). This is an increase from 2021-22 when 4.9 tonnes was collected. We will continue to monitor the volumes of material being collected through the by-catch over the next year to determine if we need another mechanism for capturing some of the materials being received at the CRCs. From the 2022-23 figures the highest by-catch products received were pesticide general liquid (1.2 tonne); hydrocarbons and fuels (1.1 tonne); general household chemicals (0.8 tonne); automotive products (0.7 tonne).



Graph 1: It is encouraging to see that the number of people who have seen or heard about their local CRC remains at a high level with 73% of respondents to the community survey advising they had seen or heard about their local CRC.



Graph 2: We have seen a decrease in the response to this question over the 2022-23 period with 17% of respondents advising they are now sorting problem waste at home. We are wondering if this indicates that most people are not “starting to sort” but are sorting and have been for some time. For the next survey the question will be changed to “Do you sort your problem waste at home?”.

Progress against 2022-23 communication and education plan

Your communication and education plan set out how you planned to monitor and evaluate the activities in your plan. In this section, please report your monitoring and evaluation data, and explain any changes from the plan. If you received additional education funding for CRC small-item drop-off stations or other promotional activities, please ensure these activities are included.

Please provide a summary of the monitoring and evaluation data for both the activities and outcomes in your plan. ridding

Table 1: Activities

ACTIVITIES: Monitoring and evaluation of 2022-23			
List each activity and summary of the monitoring and evaluation data			
Activity <i>(add new rows as needed)</i>	Measure	Monitoring and evaluation summary	Status (Not started, In-progress/rollover, Complete)
Flyer and Coaster Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of flyers printed and distributed ▪ Digital flyers prepared for council use ▪ Number of coasters printed and distributed throughout the REROC region 	<p>A regional CRC flyer was reprinted detailing CRC locations for Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Greater Hume, Junee, Lockhart, Temora and Wagga Wagga. The flyers were used when conducting community surveys and were also included in the REROC Waste Forum Kindy Kits bags this year which were distributed to 1,630 families across 67 primary schools located in the REROC region.</p> <p>See Appendix 2: Education and communication materials 2022-2023.</p> <p>Digital copies of the CRC flyers were distributed to councils for website placement and were posted on the REROC Waste Forum Facebook page. See Appendix 2: Education and communication materials 2022-23.</p> <p>This is the third year we have distributed drink coasters highlighting the locations of the CRCs in the REROC region. 3,000 coasters were distributed across the REROC area. The coasters provided a QR code for direct access to the CRC Riverina Murray website for further information.</p>	Complete

ACTIVITIES: Monitoring and evaluation of 2022-23			
List each activity and summary of the monitoring and evaluation data			
Activity <i>(add new rows as needed)</i>	Measure	Monitoring and evaluation summary	Status (Not started, In-progress/rollover, Complete)
Newspaper Advertising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Total audience reached ▪ % increase measure in relation to CRC usage ▪ Recall of advertising in CRC survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Newspaper advertising is very expensive and, consequently, we opted to again focus press advertising via The Rural newspaper insert. ▪ The Rural is an insert in several papers throughout the REROC region and its wider coverage delivers a better result for our investment. ▪ The Rural is one of the largest circulating rural newspapers in Southern NSW, with a circulation of 45,000 copies each week. <p>See Appendix 2: Education and communication materials 2021-22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 9% of the residents surveyed through the community surveys noted they had heard of their local CRC through newspaper advertising, this is a large decrease from 17% in 2021-22. 	Complete
TV Advertising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of TV ads placed ▪ % increase measure in relation to CRC usage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ From the 2022-2023 community surveys 34.6% of respondents said they heard about their local CRC through the TV advertising campaign. This is a slight decrease from the 2021-22 year where 38% of respondents noted they had heard about their CRC through TV advertising. ▪ We again spread our CRC advertising across two of the major local commercial TV channels (Prime and Win) in the region for the 2022-23 year, with each channel featuring the ads over the 12-month period. ▪ A total of 4179 ads ran over the course of the advertising campaign. 	

ACTIVITIES: Monitoring and evaluation of 2022-23			
List each activity and summary of the monitoring and evaluation data			
Activity <i>(add new rows as needed)</i>	Measure	Monitoring and evaluation summary	Status (Not started, In-progress/rollover, Complete)
TV Advertising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recall of advertising in CRC survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In 2022-23 the CRC ads, developed in conjunction with the other VRWGs, were utilised again. This ensures there is consistent messaging regarding the use of CRCs across New South Wales. 	Complete
Radio Advertising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % Increase measure in relation to CRC usage ▪ Recall of advertising in CRC survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We only used limited advertising on community radio. ▪ 12% of the respondents to the community survey said they had heard about the CRC via radio, this is on par with the results from the previous year (11% 2021-22). <p>See Appendix 3: Chart 2.</p>	Complete
Cinema Advertising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of times the ad is shown, in how many cinemas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cinema advertising has proven a cost-effective way of reaching a wide demographic across the REROC region. Residents from all over the region attend cinemas on a regular basis. The main cinema servicing the region is based in Wagga Wagga. ▪ The ad was booked to run on 3 screens in Wagga Wagga every day for the 12-month period - equating to 175 ads per week and a total of 9,000 ads over the 2022-23 year. ▪ We have also run our CRC ads at the following cinemas throughout 2022-2023: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Temora Cinema, approx. 260-300 ads shown in this time (based on a minimum of 5 per week then additional during school holidays). ▪ Cootamundra Cinema approx. 20 shown between April and June 2023. 	Complete for 2022-23

ACTIVITIES: Monitoring and evaluation of 2022-23			
List each activity and summary of the monitoring and evaluation data			
Activity <i>(add new rows as needed)</i>	Measure	Monitoring and evaluation summary	Status (Not started, In-progress/rollover, Complete)
Social Media Advertising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of times the ad is placed ▪ Recall of advertising in CRC survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We have encouraged our Councils to advertise the services on their social media throughout the 2022-23 year. <p>See Appendix 2: Education and communication materials 2021-22.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 7.6% of respondents to the community surveys said they had heard about the service on Facebook, this is very similar to 2021-22 where 8% responded as having seen information on Facebook. <p>See Appendix 3: Chart 2.</p> <p>See Appendix 2: Education and communication materials 2021-22.</p>	Complete
Council newsletters and websites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of articles/advertisements published 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Councils were provided with CRC flyers to utilise in both newsletters and on websites. In 2022-23, 23% of community survey respondents said they had heard about the CRC through their local council website. REROC finds that council newsletters are very effective communication tools for a number of our projects. 	Complete
Community Surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of people who participated in the CRC survey ▪ % increase measure in relation to CRC usage ▪ CRC survey results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This has become an important part of our CRC delivery, enabling us to compare data over the years, determine which strategies are having the most impact, which strategies are not as successful and use the data to develop future strategies and implementation plans. ▪ A total of 286 community surveys were completed. ▪ Community surveys were completed in Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Greater Hume, Junee, Lockhart, Temora and Wagga Wagga. 	Complete

ACTIVITIES: Monitoring and evaluation of 2022-23			
List each activity and summary of the monitoring and evaluation data			
Activity <i>(add new rows as needed)</i>	Measure	Monitoring and evaluation summary	Status (Not started, In-progress/rollover, Complete)
CRC Surveys at Landfills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of people who participated in the CRC survey ▪ CRC survey results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A total of 185 landfill surveys were completed. ▪ Landfill surveys were completed in Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Greater Hume, Junee, Lockhart, Temora and Wagga Wagga. 	Complete

ACTIVITIES: Monitoring and evaluation of 2022-23			
List each activity and summary of the monitoring and evaluation data			
Activity <i>(add new rows as needed)</i>	Measure	Monitoring and evaluation summary	Status (Not started, In-progress/rollover, Complete)
CRC website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of unique visits on website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The CRC Riverina Murray website www.crcliverinamurray.org.au is managed and maintained in house by REROC, allowing for constant updating of the site. The website is shared between REROC and RAMJO as a promotional resource. ▪ Over the 2022-23 year there were 3,300 visitors to the site, 3000 of those were new users, and there were 4,155 page views. This is still significant usage of the site although it is slightly down from the 2021-22 year where there were 3,500 visitors, 3,100 new users and 4,700 page views. ▪ In 2022-23 91% of this number were new users and 9% were returning users. This is compared to 2021-22 where 86.8% of users were new and 13.4% were returning visitors to the site. This highlights our advertising campaign is achieving its desired outcome and people are accessing the site for information. ▪ In 2022-23, 29.1% of users accessed the CRC Riverina Murray site via desktop, 68.75% via mobile device and 2.9% via tablet. This is a significant change from 2021-22 where 34.1% users accessed the site via desktop, 59.3% via mobile and 5.6% via tablet. ▪ We believe the continued high website usage reflects the success of the CRC Riverina Murray drink coasters still in distribution throughout the region with QR codes. <p>See Appendix 3: Chart 5.</p>	<p>Complete for 2022-32 year</p> <p>Ongoing website</p>

<p>CRC Small Drop Off Stations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of Stations in the region ▪ Number of Small Drop Off Station coasters distributed throughout the region ▪ Response to community and operator survey conducted across the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We have a total of 16 small drop-off stations in the REROC Waste Forum region. Each LGA has at least one small drop-off station for the community to use. Each station was also provided with a set of scales and record sheets to weigh and record items collected at each facility along with disposable gloves and hand sanitiser as a COVID and general hygiene safety practice. <p>See Appendix 2: Education and communication materials 2021-22.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2,000 CRC small drop-off station drink coasters were printed in 2022-23 to add to the 60,000 that are still being used throughout the REROC region. These coasters feature a QR code which takes residents straight to the CRC Riverina Murray website where the locations of all CRC small drop-off stations in the Riverina Murray can be accessed. The coasters will be available around the region in local pubs, clubs, cafes, bakeries, and motels. <p>See Appendix 2: Education and communication materials 2022-23.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The CRC Riverina Murray website also lists all the CRC small drop-off stations for both the REROC Waste Forum and the two RAMJO Waste groups. <p>https://crriverinamurray.com.au/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community surveys include questions about CRC small drop-off stations with 56% of Community Survey respondents advising they had seen or heard about a small drop-off station in their LGA. 30% of respondents had heard about the Small Drop Off Stations via TV advertising, 31% via website, 31% via council and 11% via family and friends. 34% of respondents confirmed they had started sorting their problem waste at home because of the advertising, 31% advised they had stopped putting problem waste in the kerbside bins and 23% had told family and/or friends about the service 	<p>Small Drop-off Stations an ongoing service by the councils.</p>
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For any activities that are incomplete and not being carried over to 2022-23 please provide an explanation below.

Not Applicable

Table 2: Outcomes – Monitoring and Evaluation 2022-23

OUTCOMES: Monitoring and evaluation of 2022-23		
Provide any monitoring and evaluation information for the three main outcomes and explain how this information was gathered.		
Outcome	Measure	Monitoring and evaluation summary
Community awareness of the CRC	Community surveys were conducted at each of the REROC Waste Forum CRC Locations (except Wagga Wagga) Landfill Surveys were conducted at each of the REROC Waste Forum CRC Locations	From the surveys conducted in the 2022-23 period, 73% of survey respondents said they had seen or heard of their local CRC. This is similar to 2021-22 where 78% of survey respondents said they had seen or heard of their local CRC. See Appendix 3: Chart 1.
Use of the CRC	Survey data and collection data from CRC sites	A total of 66.88 tonnes of waste was collected from the 16 CRC sites across the REROC region in 2022-23. This is an increase from the 55.75 tonnes of waste collected in the 2021-22 period. 91% of respondents in the 2022-23 landfill surveys stated they had previously used their local CRC, which is an increase from 88% in 2021-22.

<p>Level of inappropriate disposal</p>		<p>We did not undertake audits of kerbside bins or illegal dumping results.</p> <p>Across the 16 CRCs there was 5.1 tonnes of by-catch material collected. This is a small increase from the 2021-22 amount where 4.9 tonnes of by-catch was collected.</p> <p>From the 2022-23 figures 1,175kg was general pesticides, 1,091kg was hydrocarbons and fuels, 670kg was automotive products, 552kg was aerosols and 776kg was general household chemicals.</p> <p>See Appendix 3: Chart 7.</p> <p>As noted in previous REROC reports (CRC Communication and Education Report 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 and the REROC Hazardous Household Chemical Cleanout Report 2019) we would like to explore the opportunities to utilise the by-catch for collection of highly toxic materials. We are no longer running household chemical cleanout events because with the introduction of CRCs, they are poorly attended and capture very little product.</p>
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Expenditure in 2022-23

On the CRC education and communication expenditure 2022-23 spreadsheet please detail this financial year's expenditure and underspends.

Spreadsheets detailing expenditure for 2022-23 are attached at Appendix 4

Appendix 1: Community and Landfill Survey Completion

Image 1: Temora Community Survey



Temora Community Survey

(Main St, Outside Rick Firman's Clothing Store, Interviewer is pictured with Cr Rick Firman OAM, Mayor of Temora)

Appendix 2: Education and communication materials 2022-23

Image 2: REROC Waste Forum Kindy-Kit Bag



Appendix 2: Education and communication materials 2022-23

Please include copies and/or links of any materials and resources that you would like to share. This may include media releases, social media posts and new creative materials.

Appendix 2: Education and communication materials 2022-23

Image 3: REROC Waste Forum CRC DL Flyer

The flyer features the NSW Government logo and the REROC waste forum logo at the top. The main heading is "Community Recycling Centres" with the subtext "The right place for your problem waste". Below this, there are icons for various items accepted: Paint, Gas bottles, Fluoro globes and tubes, Smoke detectors, Aerosols, Motor and other oils, Household batteries, and Car batteries. A note states "Only household quantities accepted." A light blue box contains the text: "This is a free service. To see all the locations and opening hours in the Riverina-Murray region go to: www.crcriverinamurray.org.au or scan the QR code." To the right, there is a section titled "How to recycle other household items:" with five bullet points: 1. Visit www.cleanout.com.au for household chemicals. 2. Return unwanted medicine to a local pharmacy. 3. Recycle mobile phones with Mobile Muster. 4. Drop off used or empty laser and inkjet printer cartridges at Australia Post, Officeworks, JB Hi-Fi, and Cartridge World. 5. Recycle TVs, computers, and printers at www.recyclingpearyou.com.au. A final note says "Businesses are not eligible to use the Community Recycling Centres. Find out where to recycle business waste at www.businessrecycling.com.au." At the bottom, it says "Brought to you by the NSW Environment Protection Authority. Printed on 100% recycled content paper."

Image 4: REROC Waste Forum CRC Branded Coaster

The coaster is split into two main sections. The left section has an orange background with the text "Problem waste? Free drop off at your Community Recycling Centre" and a "FREE SERVICE" badge. It includes icons for paint, gas bottles, household batteries, and a globe. Below this, it says "For full list of items accepted and opening hours visit www.crcriverinamurray.org.au" with a QR code and logos for NSW Government, REROC waste forum, and Community Recycling Centres. The right section has a white background with a pink border, stating "Your local Community Recycling Centre is located at Coolamon, Cootamundra, Culcairn, Gundagai, Junee, Lockhart, Temora, Wagga Wagga and West Wyalong". It includes the website "www.crcriverinamurray.org.au" and the REROC waste forum logo with a QR code.

Appendix 2: Education and communication materials 2022-23

Image 5: CRC Small Drop Off Station Branded Coaster



Appendix 2: Education and communication materials 2022-23

Image 6 Advertisements placed with the Rural Newspaper

Household problem waste? No problem.

Community Recycling Centres

You can drop off for FREE:

Paint	Gas bottles and fire extinguishers
Household batteries	Car batteries
Motor and other oils	Fluoro globes and tubes
Electronic waste	Smoke detectors

Only household quantities accepted.
 Brought to you by the NSW Environment Protection Authority.
www.crcriverinamurray.org.au

Household problem waste? No problem.

Drop off these items for FREE at your 9 Community Recycling Centres.

For more information call your local council or visit www.crcriverinamurray.org.au

<p>Coolamon Landfill 102 Dyces Lane T: 02 6930 1800 Hours: Tue: 7-11am; Wed: 1.30-5pm; Fri: 8am-12.30pm; Sat: 1-5pm</p> <p>Cootamundra Waste Transfer Station Turners Lane Hours: Mon-Fri: 8.30am-4.30pm; Sat: 1pm-5pm; Sun: 9am-5pm</p> <p>Culcairn Transfer Station Schnaars Road Hours: Tue, Sat, Sun: 2-5pm; Thu: 8am-12noon</p> <p>Gregadoo Waste Management Centre Ashfords Rd, Wagga Wagga Hours: Mon-Sun: 7am-4.30pm</p> <p>Gundagai Landfill & Recycling Centre Burra Rd Hours: Mon, Fri: 7am-11am; Wed: 1-5pm; Sat: 11am-5pm; Sun: 7am-1pm</p> <p>Junee Transfer Station Kahmoo Road Hours: Tue: 8.30am-4.30pm; Wed, Sat, Sun: 10am-4.30pm (Sat, Sun daylight saving: 10am-5.30pm); Fri: 11am-4.30pm</p> <p>Lockhart Waste Depot Tip Road Hours: Wed: 8.30-10.30am; Alternate Sun: 8.30-11.30am</p> <p>Temora Landfill Teal Street Hours: Tue, Wed, Fri: 8am-12.30pm & 1.30-5pm; Sat, Sun: 1-5pm</p> <p>West Wyalong Waste Depot Racecourse Road Hours: Mon-Fri: 8am-12.30pm & 1.30-4pm; Sat, Sun: 10am-3pm</p>	<p>Coolamon Landfill 102 Dyces Lane T: 02 6930 1800 Hours: Tue: 7-11am; Wed: 1.30-5pm; Fri: 8am-12.30pm; Sat: 1-5pm</p> <p>Cootamundra Waste Transfer Station Turners Lane T: 1300 459 689 Hours: Mon-Fri: 8.30am-4.30pm; Sat: 1.00pm-5.00pm; Sun: 9am-5pm</p> <p>Culcairn Transfer Station Schnaars Road T: 02 6036 0100 Hours: Tue, Sat, Sun: 2-5pm; Thu: 8am-12noon</p> <p>Gregadoo Waste Management Centre Ashfords Road Wagga Wagga T: 1300 292 442. Hours: Mon-Sun: 7am-4.30pm</p> <p>Gundagai Landfill & Recycling Centre Burra Road T: 1300 459 689 Hours: Mon, Fri: 7am-11am; Wed: 1-5pm; Sat: 11am-5pm; Sun: 7am-1pm</p> <p>Junee Transfer Station Kahmoo Road T: 02 6924 8100 Hours: Tue: 8.30am-4.30pm Wed, Sat, Sun: 10am-4.30pm (Sat, Sun daylight saving: 10am-5.30pm); Fri: 11am-4.30pm</p> <p>Lockhart Waste Depot Tip Road T: 02 6920 5305 Hours: Wed: 8.30-10.30am; Alternate Sun: 8.30-11.30am</p> <p>Temora Landfill Teal Street T: 0407 931 231 Hours: Tue, Wed, Fri: 8am-12.30pm & 1.30pm-5pm; Sat, Sun: 1-5pm</p> <p>West Wyalong Waste Depot Racecourse Road T: 02 6972 2266 Hours: Mon-Fri: 8am-12.30pm & 1.30-4pm; Sat, Sun: 10am-3pm</p>
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Only household quantities accepted.
 Brought to you by the NSW Environment Protection Authority.

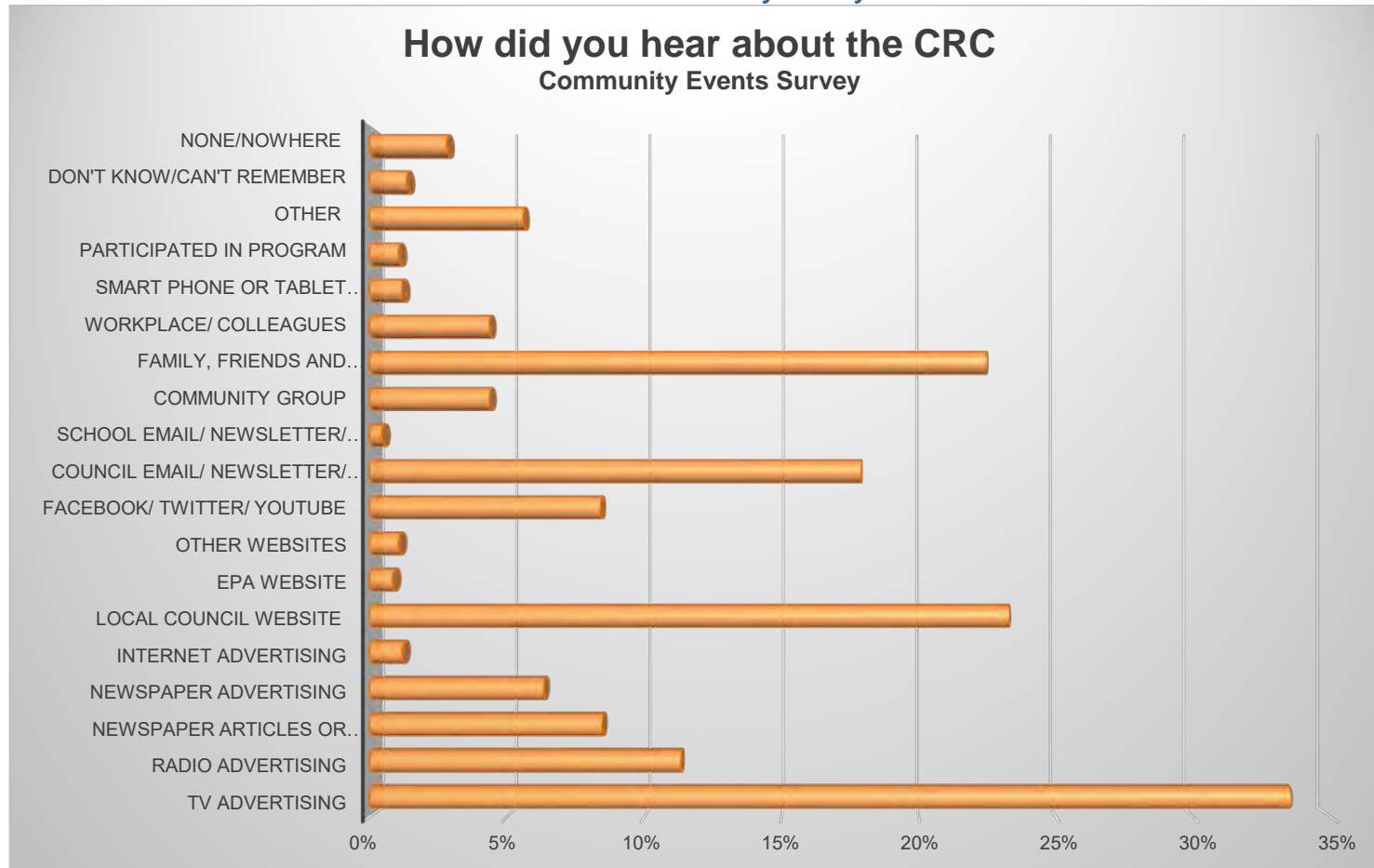
Appendix 3: REROC Waste Forum 2022-23 CRC Survey Results

Chart 1: 2022-23 Community Survey Results



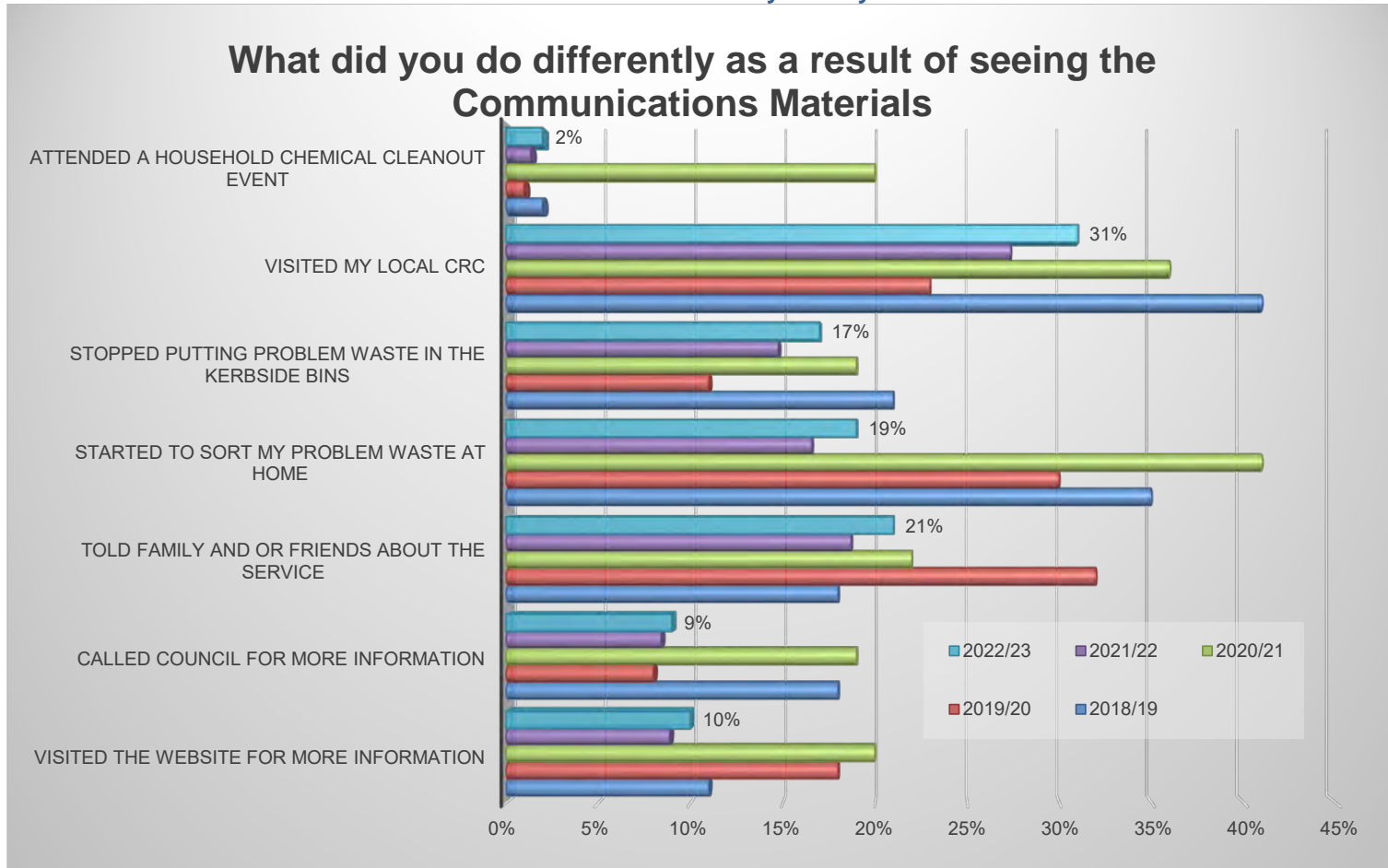
Appendix 3: REROC Waste Forum 2022-23 CRC Survey Results

Chart 2: 2022-23 Community Survey Results



Appendix 3: REROC Waste Forum 2022-23 CRC Survey Results

Chart 3: 2018-23 Community Survey Results



Appendix 3: REROC Waste Forum 2022-23 CRC Survey Results

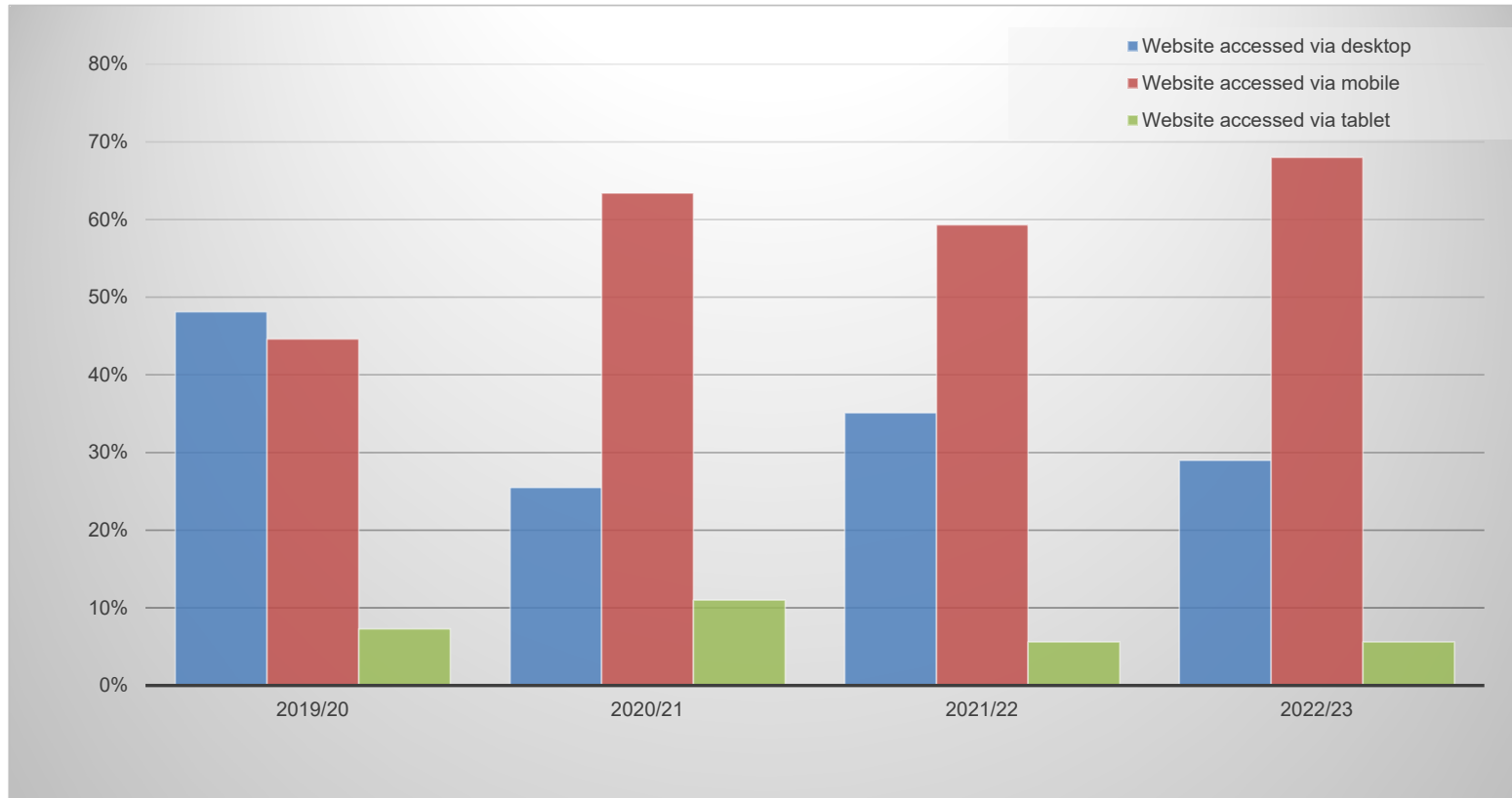
Chart 4: 2022-23 Community Survey Results



Appendix 3: REROC Waste Forum 2022-23 CRC Survey Results

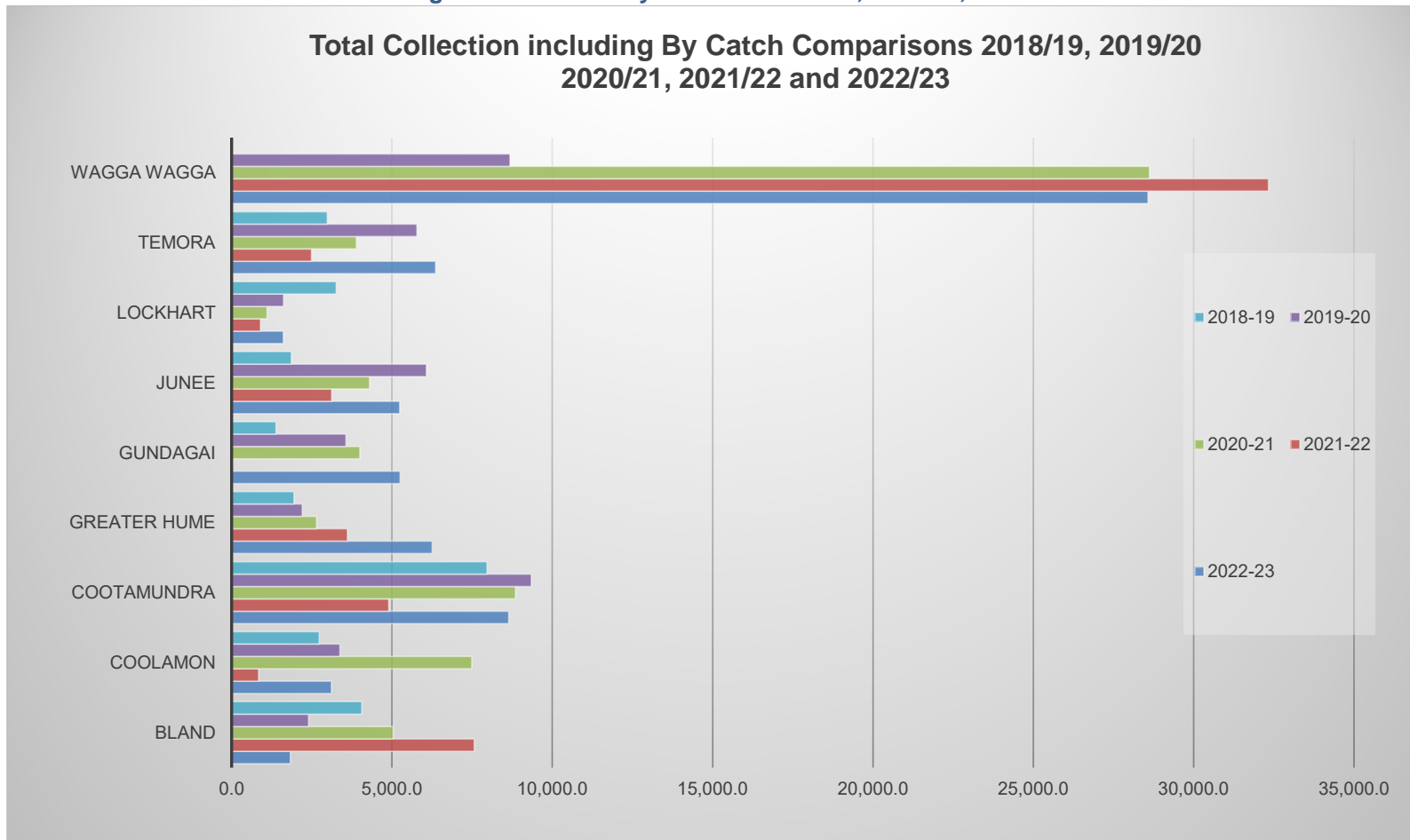
Chart 5: 2019-23 Community Survey Results

**CRC Riverina Murray Website Analytics
2019-20, 2020-2, 2021-22, and 2022-23**



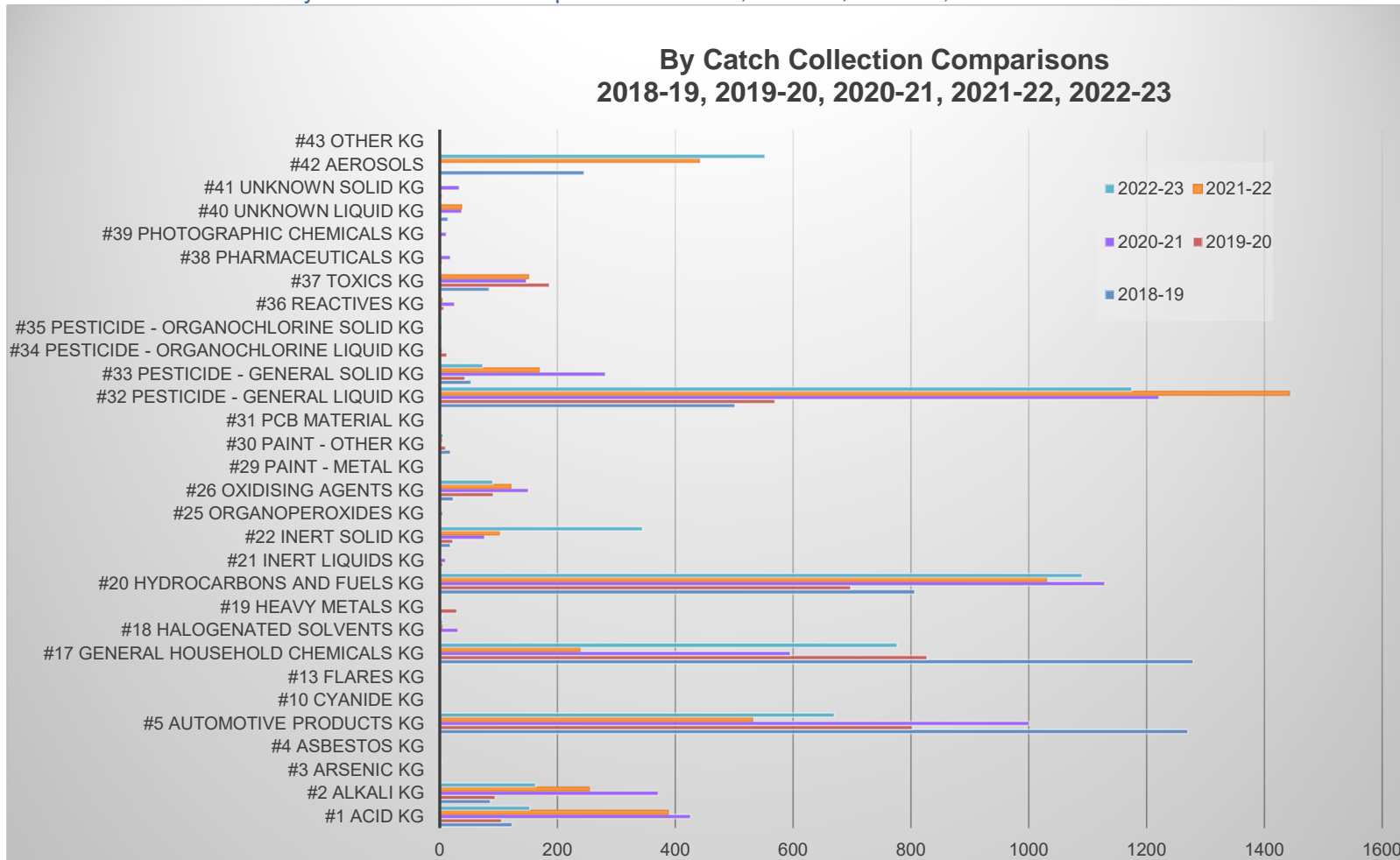
Appendix 3: REROX Waste Forum 2022-23 CRC Survey Results

Chart 6: Total Kilograms Collected by Location 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2022-23



Appendix 3: REROX Waste Forum 2022-23 CRC Survey Results

Chart 7: By-Catch Collection Comparisons 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-2023



**Energy and Net Zero Report
REROC Board Meeting
8 December 2023**

Energy Management Technical Group

The Group met on 4 December. There was a presentation by SunSPOT on the upgrade of their tool & the info on a new council dashboard. That and other points covered are included below.

Federal Community Energy Upgrade Fund – [new details released](#)

- \$100 million for councils across Australia.
- Guidelines to be released this month, applications to open in Jan and close in Apr.
- Co-funding of up to 50% - from \$25,000 to \$2.5 million awarded on merit basis
- I encourage each REROC Member Council to
 - identify a project that would maximise the benefit to council, or shortlist a few best-option sites; and
 - dedicate some staff time to developing the detailed feasibility & business plan for the application, in collaboration with the REROC Energy and Net Zero Project Officer or engage a consultant to provide support in developing the required documentation.
- Examples of some projects councils might consider are: adding a battery & enlarging solar PV on a council site (STP?) with high electricity use (some of the council Energy Saving Action Plans have already provided a high level analysis of some battery/solar options).
- Leveraging this funding working with the Members will be a priority for me and the Energy Management Technical Group.
- In the attached are examples of eligible projects from the Fund webpage.

REROC Regional Energy Efficiency and Net Zero Plan

- Final draft will be distributed for review prior to the Board meeting.
- We ask for your feedback, so the Board can be ready to endorse the Plan at the February 2024 Board meeting.
- This is one of the key outcomes of the JONZA funding as it provides a plan for REROC's future work.

Access to council electricity portals (for network tariff reviews and business cases for initiatives)

- I now have access to the council Iberdrola large sites, but don't yet have authorisation to the data for all councils' small site retailers (& portals if available).
- ChargeWorks has developed a tool (& is tutoring JONZA Project Officers) to assess which sites can save costs by making a network tariff change.
- I expect to be in a position to present tariff reviews to councils early next year, when 12 months' data is available.

NSW Destination (slow) charger grants – Round 2 open

- NSW has opened the [next round of the destination charger grants!](#)
- Grants will provide more funds for installation than in earlier round.
- Some councils have had (OECC funded) feasibility studies completed by ChargeWorks to use for application. If anyone needs support in preparing their applications they can contact me.

Electric Vehicle (EV) fleet transition template

- Fleet transition template being developed by consultant ChargeWorks and CNSWJO to be shared with REROC soon. The template will provide guidance about the entire process of transitioning to an EV fleet can work.

- Total Cost of Ownership may be cheaper for EV, especially where:
 - EV travels above average distances
 - EV can be charged with excess rooftop solar
 - Fringe Benefit Tax would have applied (as EVs under \$89,332 are FBT exempt).

Next round of NSW (EV) Fleet Incentive program

- NSW Net Zero Transport aims to launch round 4 of the Fleet Incentive program in the first part of 2024 (TBC).
- Applicants 'bid' a requested amount to bridge any Total Cost of Ownership gap for purchase of one or more EVs for their fleet.
- Some REROC council EVs have received support through this program.

EVX partnership with Essential Energy to put destination (slow) chargers on utility poles

- This was raised again at the Energy Management Technical Group. There are members of the Group that are looking to take advantage of this free service. ([Example description here](#))
- Members are discussing opportunities directly with EVX.

LED Upgrades at Sporting Fields and Public Buildings

- At the Energy Management Tech Group (EMGT) we discussed focusing on this as a REROC project if councils have sites they are interested in upgrading.
- A number of the EMGT members are new and so Energy Saving Action Plans for their councils, with a number of LED projects listed have been sent to them.
- We seek to bring together a list of sites where our councils are interested in LED upgrades.

[SunSPOT – rooftop solar assessment tool](#)

- SunSPOT provided a 45 minute presentation on their tool and their dashboard to the Energy Management Technical Group this week. We are encouraging all Member Councils to promote the tool to residents and businesses.
- Free tool that a council can promote to households and businesses (or use itself)
- SunSPOT provides an objective assessment of the business case for solar PV and battery on a residential or commercial (or council) roof.
- Premium version is automatically available to our LGAs (where Lidar data available), thanks to NSW funding.
- SunSPOT can now use electricity usage interval data from Essential Energy (or other DNSP), which means the business case for solar or battery is calculated with reference to 30 minute electricity usage data over every day of the year (& different seasons).

Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration (JONZA) network

- Funding for the Project Officers has been extended to June, and Sustainable Councils (OECC) is hopeful to get a decision in coming months to further extend funding (perhaps by a year).
- At the weekly meeting with JONZA (& OECC) network, we get updates on NSW energy and emission initiatives, identify opportunities to collaborate on projects, share resources, etc.
- NSW Government is developing an emission reduction (& inventory) tool to help councils
- OECC has recently released a [Net Zero Community Emissions Guide](#) for NSW councils.

William Adlong

Regional Energy and Net Zero Project Officer

The Regional Energy and Net Zero Officer position is funded through the Joint Organisation and Net Zero Acceleration (JONZA) project of NSW Sustainable Councils (Office of Energy and Climate Change).

Attachment One

Project Eligibility for [Community Energy Upgrade Fund](#) - \$100 million for councils

Projects eligible for funding include:

- upgrades that increase the energy efficiency of a facility, improve the demand flexibility of a facility through energy storage and load shifting, and/or undertake electrification upgrades to replace the use of fossil fuels (such as natural gas). These may include one or more of the following activities:
 - load flexibility/demand management systems e.g. air-conditioning controls upgrades including demand management capabilities at a civic centre
 - electrification upgrades such as the replacement of a gas boiler with a heat pump and heat recovery at an aquatic centre
 - electric vehicle charging infrastructure such as smart electric vehicle charging for multiple vehicles at a depot for local government vehicles
 - energy efficiency upgrades such as variable speed drives fitted to electric motors at a wastewater treatment plant
 - behind the meter renewables generation and storage such as a rooftop solar power system with a virtual power plant enabled energy storage system at a childcare centre.
- other activities that meet the objectives and outcomes of the program
- integrated projects that bring together several activities and encompass multiple sites.

Projects not eligible for funding include:

- projects that use fossil fuels, even if they improve efficiency
- purchase of electric vehicles (but not including enabling infrastructure such as charging infrastructure)
- remote area power supplies.

**Disaster Risk Recovery Report
Board Meeting
Friday, 8 December, 2023**

DRR Project Steering Committee

The Project Steering Committee met on 28 November. However, attendance was quite poor but nevertheless we were able to do quite a lot of work on designing our community education.

The next meeting of the PSC is set for 18 December when we expect to have the first draft of GHD's Gap Analysis available for review and discussions.

GAP Analysis

GHD has been holding face-to-face interviews with Member Councils to complete the GAP analysis and then providing each with meeting notes. The meetings, in the main, seem to have been quite successful. However, as these meetings were not factored into the original budget for GHD's work we were required to execute a contract variation for the work and pay an additional fee of \$3,744 (excluding GST).

The GAP analysis outputs are way behind. Originally the Gap Analysis was supposed to have been completed by the end of November, and then it was the beginning of December. I have attached (**Attachment One**) the timeframe that is now proposed which could see finalisation stretch to March. Having said that we anticipate that we should have drafts of most documents by early 2024.

As previously raised, we received the Literature Review from GHD, and all the proponents in the DRRF agreed that the work was not at a level that was expected. Following discussions, GHD undertook to revisit the work. The second iteration was delivered last week and is twice as long as the first, our PSC is yet to review the latest version of the work.

Spatial NSW

We are progressing our involvement with Spatial NSW. With regard to the Data Sharing Agreements, we are working with Spatial on amendments to the Agreement to extend the ESSIL's access. Currently, the Agreements limit access to emergency services agencies and do not allow the whole of council operations or even Reconstruction NSW to access the data. We are looking to amend these provisions so that councils can access the data to Prepare, Respond and Recover from disasters.

Spatial NSW seem very open to making the amendments, which will also facilitate the Group's commitment to a "one-source-of-truth" for spatial data in disasters.

Mapping Transport

We are still working with the Engineers to map alternative routes and their constraints. We have engaged Helen Mundy to assist us with mapping the alternative routes. We also want to work with the TfNSW staff who spoke at the Infrastructure meeting about their work and incorporating it into ours.

Community Education Platform

We are working with RAMJO on the development of the Community Education program. We have scoped out a structure for the delivery (**Attachment Two**).

We think the key to delivery is finding community champions who are prepared to deliver locally with assistance from the SES and RFS.

RRPAC (Regional Resilience Project Advisory Committee) Meetings

These meetings are held monthly with all the JOs, ROCs and the Reconstruction Authority. It is a general catch-up and an opportunity to identify areas where we can work together.

There are a number of working groups run by the RRPAC which we take part in, the one that takes up most of my time is the Technology Working Group.

Extension of the DRRF Program

There is Stage 2 funding available for the DRR, however it will require a 25% contribution from REROC. I have looked at this and what we should have achieved by the end of the current funding and do not believe that we need further funding to work in this space.

From mid-2024, REROC will be assisting councils in the preparation of their Disaster Adaptation Plans and I see this as our major focus moving forward.

Reporting

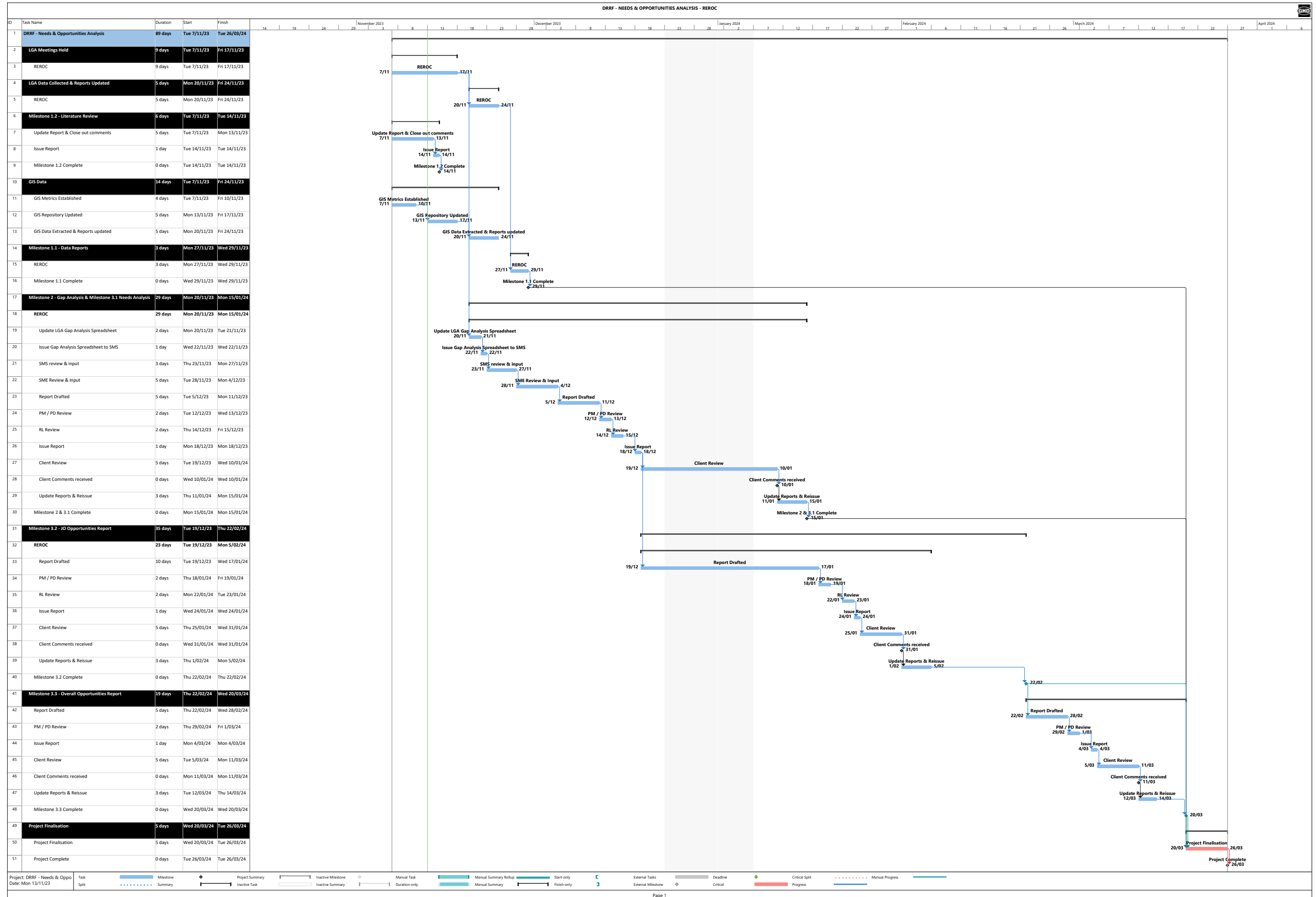
We have lodged the quarterly financial report with RA, however our Milestone Two report is late. I am still hopeful that we will get it to them by the end of this week.

Future meeting dates

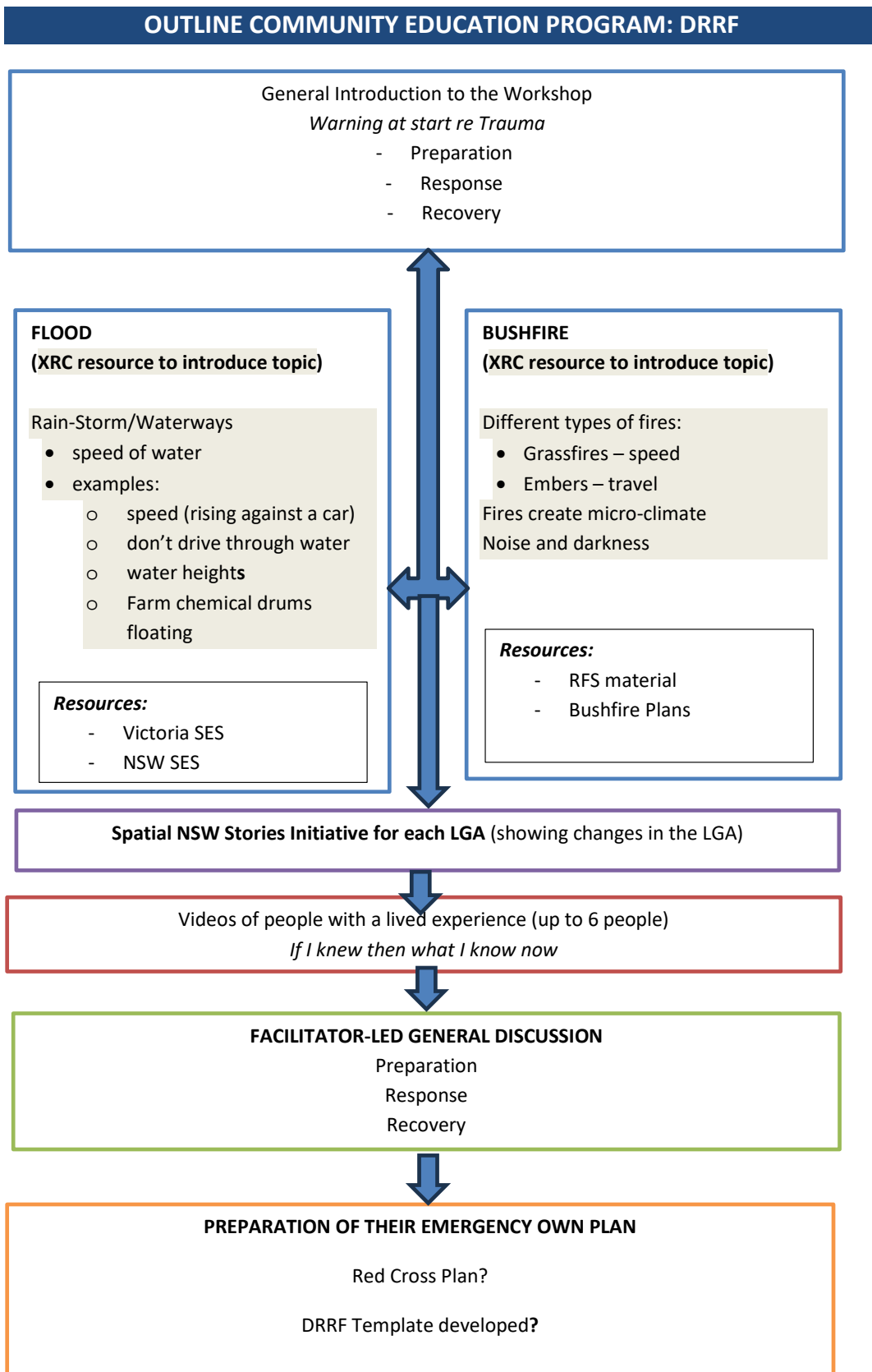
Monday, Dec 18, 2023, 10:00 AM

Julie Briggs
Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENT 2



ATTACHMENT TWO



8.2 BUSINESS

8.2.1 STOCKINBINGAL ELLWOOD'S HALL S.355 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DOCUMENT NUMBER	404331
REPORTING OFFICER	Anne Chamberlain, Governance Officer
AUTHORISING OFFICER	Paul Woods, Interim Deputy General Manager - CCD
RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN	4. Collaborative and progressive leadership 4.4 Recognised as a premier local government Council that represents and advocates for community needs
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	There are no Financial implications associated with this report.
LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS	There are no Legislative implications associated with this report.
POLICY IMPLICATIONS	To Comply with the s.355 Committee Management Manual.
ATTACHMENTS	1. SEHC Minutes - 23 November 2023 ↓ 2. SEHC Minutes - 12 December 2023 ↓

RECOMMENDATION

The Minutes of the Stockinbingal Ellwood’s Hall s.355 Committee Ordinary Meeting held on 23 November 2023 and 12 December 2023 attached to the report, be received and noted.

Discussion

The Stockinbingal Ellwoods Hall s.355 Committee have advised that Sue Caldwell has resigned from her position as Vice Chairperson.

The attached Minutes of the Stockinbingal Ellwood’s Hall s.355 Committee Ordinary Meeting held on 23 November 2023 and 12 December 2023 are submitted for the information of Council and the community.

Financial

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

OLG 23a Guideline consideration

The report purpose does not conflict with guidelines.



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Minutes

STOCKINBINGAL ELLWOOD HALL SECTION 355 COMMITTEE

AT ELLWOOD'S HALL STOCKINBINGAL

4.30PM THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2023

1. AGENDA ITEMS

1.1. Attendance and Confirmation of Quorum

Attendance: Chairperson: Carmel Payne

Secretary: Lorna Nixon

Treasurer: Alan Pether

Councillor: Leigh Bowden

Guest: Steve Lowe

General Members: Michelle Harper, Jim Preston, Robyn Gray, Lynn Basham,
Su Moon, Stephen Neave, Sara Williams.

Confirmation of a Quorum: There are **11** Members appointed to this Committee. Quorum numbers are met

1.2. **Apologies:** Wendy Millyn

1.3. **Disclosure of Interests:** nil

1.4. Confirmation of previous meeting minutes:

The minutes of the last Stockinbingal Ellwood's Hall Section 355 Committee meeting dated **26 October 2023** be confirmed as true and correct.

Moved: Carmel Payne

Seconded: Stephen Neave

1.5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

- Donations Box: This has been fabricated by the council and is ready to install. Signage will also be placed at the pump track.
- An antenna to boost phone reception for wifi has been purchased and installed.
- All underground drainage has been replaced to hopefully correct mould in the meeting room.
- Heritage Grant - awaiting notification.
- Inland Rail Grant - awaiting notification
- Screen Door for Heritage Room - in progress.

1.6. Correspondence in/out:

- 06.11.2023: Letter of thanks to Steve Lowe for the drainage job.
- 15.11.2023: Active Print - invoice for recipe books - to the treasurer.
- Letter of resignation from Sue Caldwell (omitted from October minutes).

1.7. Report from the Treasurer:

Balance c/f: 6211.48
 Income: 894.00 (market stalls, wedding deposit, Stop & Mingle; Party)
 Expenses: 1250.70 (printing of recipe book)
 Balance: 5854.78

Card a/c Bal: \$ 530.63

Alan Pether **moved** that his report be adopted: **Seconded:** Lorna Nixon

1. General Business:

a) Markets: Raffle and 100 Club ticket sellers - Lynn Basham, Michelle Harper, Lorna Nixon, Su Moon.

Stall payments and waivers signed: Lorna Nixon

Tarps are to be sourced to cover the outdoor BBQ area. Steve Lowe offered to ask CGRC for the loan of marquees and mud boards.

Storing hall tables and chairs and general tidying of the hall: Friday 24 Nov 2.00pm.

Sale of recipe books: Stephen Neave and Marsha Philips.

Name tags to be made for Jim Preston, Su Moon, Michelle Harper, and Robyn Gray.

b) Morning Tea at Civic Hall for s355 committees: 7 of the committee will attend. Secretary to give RSVP.

c) Purchase of a ladder for the hall: Jim Preston and Alan Pether to investigate and purchase.

1.9. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Undecided.

i. Time Meeting Closed: 6.00pm

Signed:

Carmel Payne

Lorna Nixon

Chairperson

Secretary



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Minutes

STOCKINBINGAL ELLWOOD HALL SECTION 355 COMMITTEE

AT ELLWOOD'S HALL STOCKINBINGAL

TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2023

1. AGENDA ITEMS

1.1. Attendance and Confirmation of Quorum:

Attendance: Chairperson: Carmel Payne

Secretary: Lorna Nixon

Treasurer: Alan Pether

Councillor:

General Members: Michelle Harper, Steve Neave, Sara Williams

Confirmation of a Quorum: There are **11** Members appointed to this Committee. Quorum numbers are met.

1.2. Apologies: Councillor Leigh Bowden, Robyn Gray, Lynn Basham, Jim Preston, Wendy Millyn, Su Moon.

1.3. Disclosure of Interests: Nil.

1.4. Confirmation of previous meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the last Stockinbingal Ellwood's Hall Section 355 Committee meeting dated **23 November 2023** were confirmed as true and correct.

Moved: Michelle Harper

Seconded: Carmel Payne

1.5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

- Donations Box: Has been installed at the Recreation Ground. Signage to come.
- Heritage Grant: This has been granted by CGRC for \$5000 for the treatment of a small part of the rising damp in the hall.
- Inland Rail Grant: This has been granted to cover the Tin Shed Rattlers Band in March at the bush dance - \$1300.
- Screen door for Heritage Room: Work in progress. Locks have been put on the windows in the Heritage Room.
- Morning tea at the civic hall: Was attended by Steve, Lynn, Lorna, Marsha, Alan and Leigh.
- Purchase of a Ladder: Alan will check Bunnings in Young but needs a ute to transport home.

8.2.2 COOTAMUNDRA HERITAGE CENTRE MANAGEMENT S.355 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DOCUMENT NUMBER	404904
REPORTING OFFICER	Anne Chamberlain, Governance Officer
AUTHORISING OFFICER	Paul Woods, Interim Deputy General Manager - CCD
RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN	4. Collaborative and progressive leadership 4.3 Actively engaged and supportive community
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	There are no Financial implications associated with this report.
LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS	There are no Legislative implications associated with this report.
POLICY IMPLICATIONS	To comply with the Section 355 Committee Management Manual.
ATTACHMENTS	1. CHCMC Minutes - 4 December 2023 ↓

RECOMMENDATION

The Minutes of the Cootamundra Heritage Centre Management s.355 Committee Meeting held 4 December 2023, attached to the report, be received and noted.

Introduction

The attached Minutes of the Cootamundra Heritage Centre Management s.355 Committee meeting held on 4 December 2023, are submitted for the information of Council and the community.

Financial

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

OLG 23a Guideline consideration

Report purpose does not conflict with guidelines.

**THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COOTAMUNDRA HERITAGE CENTRE
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MONTHLY MEETING HELD AT THE COOTAMUNDRA
HERITAGE CENTRE ON 4 DECEMBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 4.00PM**

Present: Geoff Larsen (Chairperson), Betty Brown, Yvonne Forsyth, Helen Hamilton, Michele Pigram, Betti Punnett, Leah Sutherland, Ros Wight

Cootamundra Gundagai
Regional Council
Document Received

- 8 DEC 2023

Apologies: Craig Stewart,

Disclosure of Interest: There was no disclosure of interest.

File No.

Minutes from the Previous Meeting: Omitted from November Minutes - receipt of document Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council Heritage Centre Section 355 Committee Financial Management Guidelines. Moved Betti Punnett, seconded Helen Hamilton that the Minutes be confirmed. **CARRIED**

Business Arising: * Arthur Ward morning tea - members reported on a very successful event and complimented President Geoff Larsen on his speech. It was a happy occasion with a number of family members and volunteers (fewer?) as well as community members from Cootamundra Golf Club, Cootamundra Uniting Church, Cootamundra Local History Society Inc and Cootamundra APH&I Association Inc.

* Front door - Craig Stewart was thanked for his work in repairing the front door (not quite completed). Yvonne Forsyth reported that it had been damaged in a forced entry attempt.

Financial Report: Betti Punnett presented the November Monthly Report and the Financial Report from 4 November - CHC 192 Ch 8 \$228.60 VIC 98 Souvenirs \$169.00 EFTPOS \$53.00 Total \$450.60 Moved Betti Punnett, seconded Betty Brown **CARRIED**

Betti Punnett reported that since 4 November she had banked \$510.75 (takings 30 Oct - 4 Dec) in SWSCU.

Correspondence: OUT: November Minutes, Agendas

IN: Leah Sutherland re Treasurer position, 10 Request for Payment forms

General Business: * Treasurer - Betti Punnett reported that Marie Scott had declined the position of Treasurer. Members agreed the stipulation "All monies received by the Committee must be banked within 24 hours of receipt" was impossible for volunteers, but agreed "or as soon as practicable" as being more acceptable. Betti Punnett reported that Frances Redden was willing to accept the position. Moved Helen Hamilton, seconded Betty Brown that Frances Redden be appointed Treasurer CHC. **CARRIED**

* Yvonne Forsyth reported that the purchase of milk was the only CHC expense not requiring Request for Payment form (phone call to Leah Sutherland).

* Flags - Yvonne Forsyth queried possible purchase of smaller flags for the verandah (on windy days possibly impeding entrance). Betti Punnett (who personally purchases these flags) will seek smaller flags.

* Entrance sign - Yvonne Forsyth requested that an ENTRANCE sign be installed at the front door as she felt the present one is not noticed. A sign should also be placed on the middle door so visitors would not attempt to enter there.

* Donations - Yvonne Forsyth requested that a better sign be placed at the entrance to encourage more donations from visitors. Members discussed the possibility of establishing an entrance fee (\$5.00?) for CHC as is in place at Bradman's Birthplace. C/GRC to be consulted as to whether this was possible because of the CHC's being also the VIC (Leah Sutherland).

* Volunteers - Yvonne Forsyth commented on the need for more volunteers. Notice for volunteers to be placed in monthly Council Newsheet (*Leah Sutherland*). President Geoff queried whether an advertisement could be placed in *Cootamundra Herald*. Leah Sutherland suggested that the need for volunteers be featured at the next Seniors' Week activity.

* Data Logger - Michele Pigram reported that NMA happy with readings. There is some problem with sending information regularly - Cody Hardy assisting.

* Christmas Morning Tea - Leah Sutherland was thanked for organizing the date/place for this year's morning tea.

* Lawn mower - Betti Punnett reported that the lawn mower presented by David Hardy was now in place on the back verandah. She commented that the back verandah really needed attention and it was decided to do so in the new year.

* New presentation - calendars T Williams & Co 2003 presented by Lyn Thorburn. Added to collection in Commerce Gallery

* Mary Angove (Albion Hotel 1877-1881; 1882-1884) connection J Donnell visited CHC and has offered *Albion Hotel* inscribed items to CHC and will deliver same next visit.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.55pm

Bett Punnett Secretary/Treasurer **Next meeting: AGM Monday 6 February 2024**

***Should you have any item/s you wish to place on the next meeting agenda,
please notify me by 31 January 2024***

bettipunnett@bigpond.com 69421158

******* Please note that the February meeting is the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING *******

Christmas Morning Tea

10.00am Civic Hall

13 December 2023

MERRY CHRISTMAS

HAPPY NEW YEAR

8.3 FINANCE

8.3.1 FINANCE UPDATE - DECEMBER 2023

DOCUMENT NUMBER	405747
REPORTING OFFICER	Zac Mahon, Manager Finance
AUTHORISING OFFICER	Paul Woods, Interim Deputy General Manager - CCD
RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN	4. Collaborative and progressive leadership 4.1 A clear strategic direction that is delivered upon
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	There are no Financial implications associated with this report.
LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS	There are no Legislative implications associated with this report.
POLICY IMPLICATIONS	There are no Policy implications associated with this report.
ATTACHMENTS	Nil

RECOMMENDATION

The Finance Update report, be received and noted.

Report

The December Finance Update has been reviewed and no issues have been detected.

Operations

Income

The operational income is at 65% when comparing actual to budget, with the annual rates already being recognised as income but becoming due and payable quarterly throughout the year.

Department	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET	% Received	Result	Comment
Development & Building	287,403	315,000	91%	😊	OK – Income is hard to predict
Finance	13,059,068	12,118,026	108%	😊	OK – Grant receipts to be allocated
Business	54,064	88,000	61%	😊	OK
Executive	14,738	40,000	37%	😊	OK
Regional Services - Cootamundra	2,742,561	3,553,500	77%	😊	OK – Grant receipts to be allocated
Regional Services - Gundagai	1,481,064	1,441,500	103%	😊	OK
Engineering - Cootamundra	257,538	483,084	53%	😊	OK

Engineering - Gundagai	240,740	455,116	53%	😊	OK
Water - Cootamundra	1,996,335	3,092,720	65%	😊	OK
Water - Gundagai	983,270	1,523,280	65%	😊	OK
Sewer - Cootamundra	1,591,617	2,753,150	58%	😊	OK
Sewer - Gundagai	423,087	731,850	58%	😊	OK
Grants & Contributions	7,805,861	20,990,374	37%	😊	OK
TOTAL	30,937,347	47,585,600	65%	😊	OK

Expenditure

The Operational expenditure actual spend to budget is at 56% which is tracking well to budget. Finance, in collaboration with the department manager will review the spend in Sewer.

Department	TOTAL YTD	BUDGET	% Spent	Result	Comment
Development & Building	629,934	1,223,715	51%	😊	OK
Finance	6,821,330	14,157,325	48%	😊	OK
Business	2,576,587	3,430,000	75%	😐	High compared to budget
Executive	984,232	2,030,000	48%	😊	OK
Regional Services - Cootamundra	2,609,688	5,189,300	50%	😊	OK
Regional Services - Gundagai	1,739,792	2,407,200	72%	😐	High compared to budget
Engineering - Cootamundra	4,858,296	9,953,520	49%	😊	
Engineering - Gundagai	4,308,301	5,174,400	83%	😐	High compared to budget
Water - Cootamundra	865,885	2,154,050	40%	😊	OK
Water - Gundagai	426,481	1,060,950	40%	😊	OK
Sewer - Cootamundra	1,083,087	1,429,900	76%	😐	High compared to budget
Sewer - Gundagai	287,909	380,100	76%	😐	High compared to budget
	27,191,520	48,590,460	56%	😊	OK

Capital

Income

Capital income is at 29% of budget as at 31 December 2023, the plant replacement program has been planned but the delay in progress will be investigated in early February.

CAPITAL INCOME to 31 December 2023					
ASSET CATEGORY	TOTAL YTD	BUDGET	% SPENT	RESULT	COMMENTS
Plant & Equipment - Cootamundra	73742	188750	39%	☹️	
Plant & Equipment - Gundagai	35909	188750	19%	☹️	
TOTAL	109651	377500	29%	☹️	No progress since October

Expenditure

Capital expenditure is at 24% of budget as at 31 December 2023. Council is continuing to develop a program of works that will forecast expected capital expenditure to ensure projects are progressing.

ASSET CATEGORY	TOTAL YTD	BUDGET	% SPENT	RESULT	COMMENTS
Bridges - Cootamundra	0	0	0%	☺️	N/A
Bridges - Gundagai	46307	920000	5%	☺️	
Buildings - Cootamundra	58903	1119502	5%	☹️	Finance to follow up re status of projects
Buildings - Gundagai	30835	1101325	3%	☹️	Finance to follow up re status of projects
Land - Cootamundra	59550	0	0%	☺️	Expenditure covered by building reserve
Land - Gundagai	0	0	0%	☺️	N/A
Plant & Equipment - Cootamundra	1126209	1240378	91%	☺️	
Plant & Equipment - Gundagai	793288	1240378	64%	☺️	
Cemeteries - Cootamundra	0	0	0%	☺️	N/A
Cemeteries - Gundagai	0	80000	0%	☹️	Finance to follow up re status of projects
Recreation - Cootamundra	168146	161032	0%	☺️	QBR Adjustment to cover grant funded expenditure

Recreation - Gundagai	157043	1637331	10%	😊	Finance to follow up re status of projects
Roads - Cootamundra	1453144	2317056	63%	😊	Works at planning/procurement stage
Roads - Gundagai	783374	4550185	17%	😊	Works at planning/procurement stage
Waste - Cootamundra	0	522000	0%	😐	Finance to follow up re status of projects
Waste - Gundagai	0	520000	0%	😐	Finance to follow up re status of projects
Sewer - Cootamundra	69857	2850000	2%	😊	Works at planning/procurement stage
Sewer - Gundagai	385888	745000	52%	😊	OK
Water - Cootamundra	90242	1240000	7%	😊	Works at planning/procurement stage
Water - Gundagai	10300	1584000	1%	😊	Works at planning/procurement stage
TOTAL	5233086	21828187	24%	😐	Spend lower than expected, review to be undertaken to ensure that budget is achievable in 2024 FY in early Feb

Financial

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

OLG 23a Guideline consideration

Report purpose does not conflict with guidelines.

8.3.2 RESTRICTED CASH RECONCILIATION - DECEMBER 2023

DOCUMENT NUMBER	405750
REPORTING OFFICER	Zac Mahon, Manager Finance
AUTHORISING OFFICER	Paul Woods, Interim Deputy General Manager - CCD
RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN	4. Collaborative and progressive leadership 4.1 A clear strategic direction that is delivered upon
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	There are no Financial implications associated with this report.
LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS	There are no Legislative implications associated with this report.
POLICY IMPLICATIONS	There are no Policy implications associated with this report.
ATTACHMENTS	Nil

RECOMMENDATION

The Restricted Cash Reconciliation report, be received and noted.

Report

The restricted cash figures have been reconciled to 31 December 2023 as shown in the below table.

The recognition of second quarter general rates and sewer and water charges as well as the advanced payment of a grant valued at 3.4m has led to an increase in the restricted balance but planned reserve funded capital and operational expenditure over the next few months will improve this position.

Internally Restricted Reserves	Bal 30 June 2023	Transfers To	Transfers From	Bal 31 Dec 2023
Aerodrome Bitumen Resurfacing	165,588			165,588
Bradman's Birthplace	94,337			94,337
Cootamundra Caravan Park	172,553	38,745	(1,907)	190,972
Heritage Centre	27,181	1,536	(1,355)	27,362
Development - Land & Buildings	1,182,693		30,476	1,213,169
Employee Leave Entitlements	1,774,746			1,774,746
Quarries & Pit Restoration	570,207	1,556	(51,131)	520,632
Plant Replacement	3,026,533	2,013,706	(2,611,025)	2,429,214
Saleyards	0	75,769	(119,007)	0
Swimming Pool Pump & Equipment	0			0
Cemetery	102,989	184,772	(156,586)	131,175
Southern Phone	586,464			586,464
Waste Management	500,000			500,000
	8,203,291	2,316,084	(2,910,535)	7,633,659

Externally Restricted Reserves				
Domestic Waste	806,958	1,160,505	(302,175)	1,665,288
Water Supply	7,462,014	2,428,729	(1,582,065)	8,308,678
Sewerage Service	5,402,866	1,653,606	(1,662,731)	5,393,741
Stormwater Infrastructure Renewal	262,011	63,898		325,909
Developer Contributions	1,037,818	36,268		1,074,086
General Fund Unspent Grants & Contributions	6,665,901	3,491,368	(622,194)	9,535,075
	21,637,568	8,834,374	(4,169,165)	26,302,777
TOTALS	29,840,858	11,150,458	(7,079,700)	33,936,435

Restricted Cash Reconciliation

Restricted Cash	33,936,435
Cash at 31 December 2023	32,912,187
Unrestricted Balance	(1,024,248)
Grant Debtors Outstanding	671,928
Balance	(352,320)

Financial

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

OLG 23a Guideline consideration

Report purpose does not conflict with guidelines.

8.3.3 INVESTMENT REPORT - DECEMBER 2023

DOCUMENT NUMBER	404082
REPORTING OFFICER	Zac Mahon, Manager Finance
AUTHORISING OFFICER	Paul Woods, Interim Deputy General Manager - CCD
RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN	4. Collaborative and progressive leadership 4.1 A clear strategic direction that is delivered upon
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	Council’s cash and investment portfolio decreased \$872,029.79 from \$33,784,217.07 as at 30 th November 2023 to \$32,912,187.28 as at 31 st December 2023.
LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS	Council investments comply fully with Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.
POLICY IMPLICATIONS	Investments comply fully with the Council’s Investment Policy.
ATTACHMENTS	Nil

RECOMMENDATION

The report detailing Council Cash and Investments as at 31 December 2023, be received and noted.

Introduction

A report on Council’s Investments is required to be presented for Council’s consideration in accordance with Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

Financial

Council’s cash and investment portfolio decreased \$872,029.79 from \$33,784,217.07 as at 30th November 2023 to \$32,912,187.28 as at 31st December 2023.

OLG 23a Guideline consideration

Report purpose does not conflict with guidelines.

Cash and Investment Portfolio

Type	Long Rating	Short Rating	Issuer	Frequency	Purchase	Maturity	Days	Rate	Benchmark*	Principal
TD	BBB	A2	AMP Bank	At Maturity	15/08/2023	16/01/2024	154	5.20	4.16	\$4,000,000.00
TD	AA-	A1+	CBA	At Maturity	13/09/2023	13/02/2024	153	4.82	4.16	\$4,000,000.00
TD	BBB-	A3	Judo Bank	At Maturity	11/10/2023	12/03/2024	153	5.00	4.16	\$1,000,000.00
TD	AA-	A1+	NAB	At Maturity	13/09/2023	12/03/2024	181	5.05	4.16	\$3,000,000.00
TD	AA-	A1+	NAB	At Maturity	10/10/2023	9/04/2024	182	5.05	4.16	\$4,000,000.00
TD	BBB+	A2	Bank of QLD	At Maturity	10/10/2023	7/05/2024	210	5.10	4.16	\$2,000,000.00
TD	BBB-	A3	Judo Bank	At Maturity	12/12/2023	14/05/2024	154	5.25	4.16	\$2,000,000.00
TD	BBB-	A3	Beyond Bank Australia	At Maturity	12/12/2023	11/06/2024	182	5.30	4.16	\$4,000,000.00
TD	BBB-	A3	Judo Bank	At Maturity	15/12/2023	16/07/2024	214	5.30	4.16	\$2,000,000.00
TD	BBB	A2	AMP Bank	At Maturity	15/12/2023	16/07/2024	214	5.20	4.16	\$2,000,000.00
CASH	AA-	A1+	CBA	Monthly				4.10	4.10	\$1,904,506.18
CASH	AA-	A1+	CBA	Monthly				4.10	4.10	\$947,137.04
CASH	A+	A1+	Macquarie Bank	Monthly				4.40	4.10	\$2,015,094.26
CASH	AA-	A1+	NAB	Monthly				3.10	4.10	\$45,449.80
Total										\$32,912,187.28

*Benchmarks

On Call - RBA Cash

Floating Rate Deposit - 3m BBSW

Term Deposit - BBSW

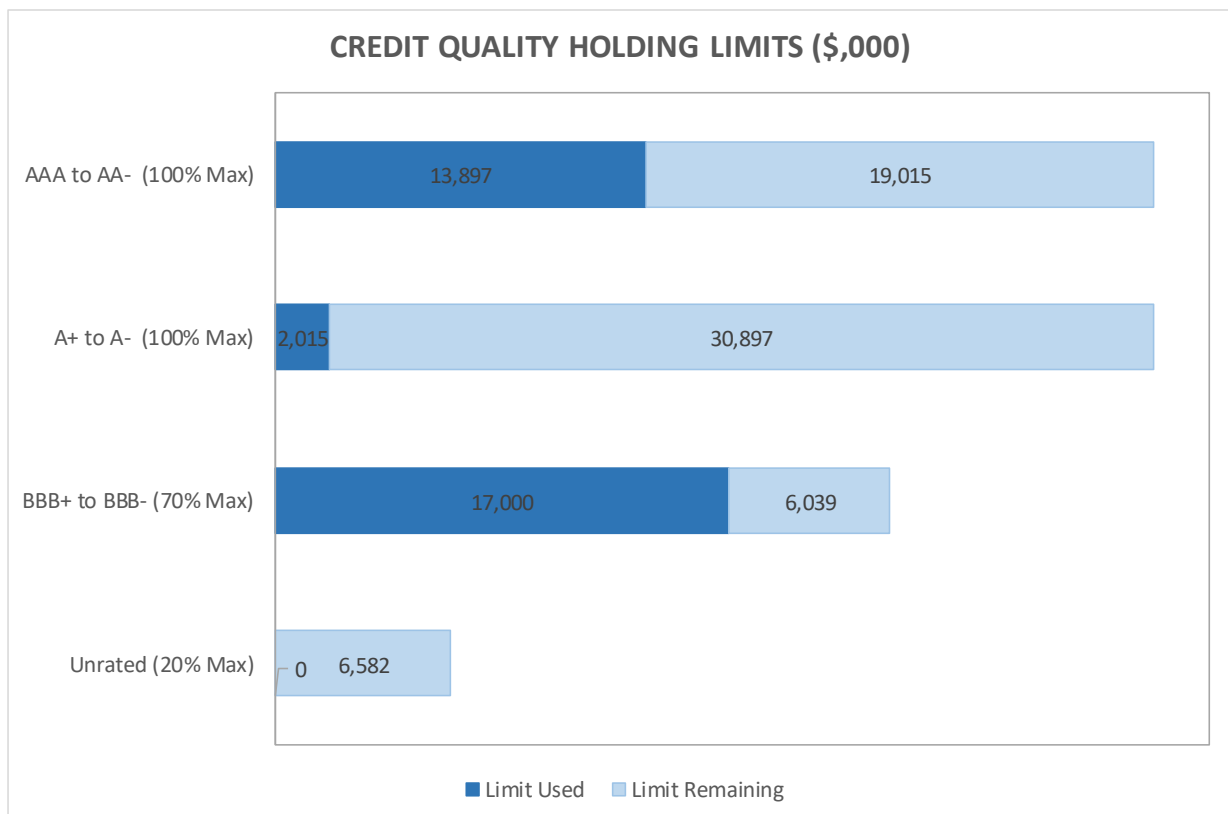
Performance

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council’s investment portfolio outperformed the relevant BBSW Index benchmark by 20.06%. The average weighted yield for December was 4.98%, over an average weighted term of 78 days, with a benchmark of 4.15%.

Total Cost 32,912,187	Monthly Interest Received 104,691	Weighted Average Term 78 Days
Total Value 32,912,187	Yearly Interest Received 722,541	Weighted Average Yield 4.83%

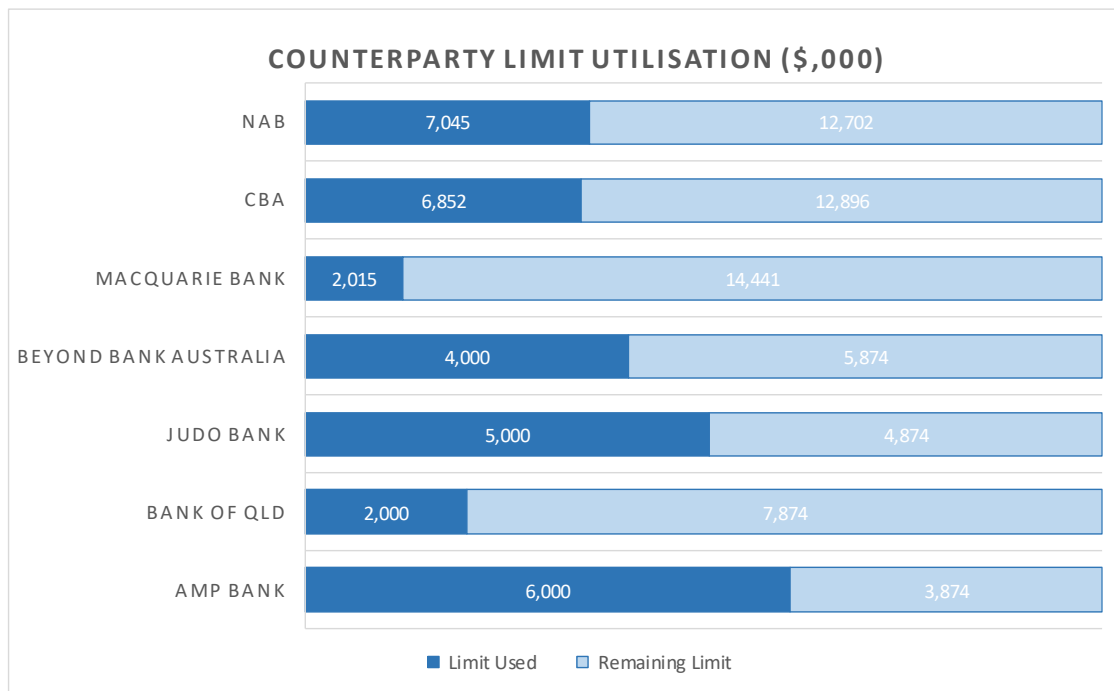
Credit Quality Compliance

Council’s investment portfolio was compliant with policy in terms of S&P long term rating credit quality limits, as displayed below.



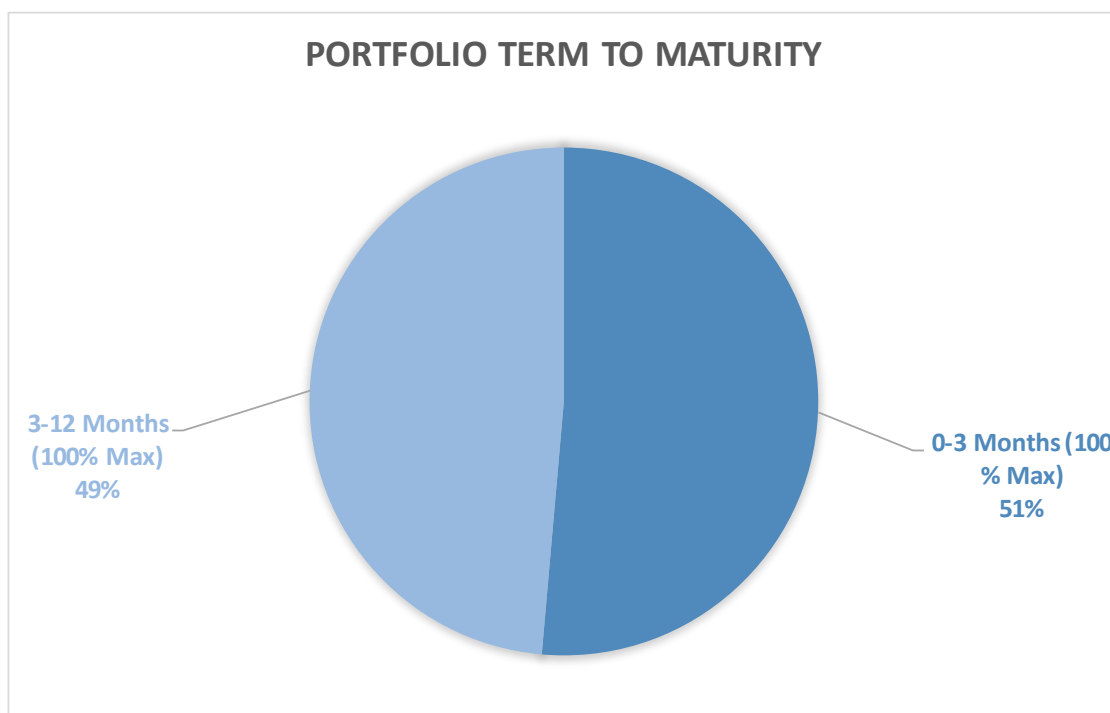
Counter Party Compliance

As at the end of December, Council was compliant with policy. It is worth noting that capacity limits are affected by changes in the on-call account balance compared to the total portfolio balance.



Term to Maturity

Council’s investment portfolio maturities shown graphically below were also compliant with policy requirements. All of the investments are short term to deal with liquidity and to be prepared for the demerger split.



Declaration

I hereby certify that investments listed in the report have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 and Council's Investment Policy.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zac Mahon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Zac Mahon
Responsible Accounting Officer

8.4 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Nil

8.5 ENGINEERING COOTAMUNDRA

8.5.1 COOTAMUNDRA ENGINEERING REPORT - JANUARY 2024

DOCUMENT NUMBER	405892
REPORTING OFFICER	Julie Buckley, Operations Support Officer
AUTHORISING OFFICER	Matt Stubbs, Deputy General Manager - Operations
RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN	5. Integrated and accessible region 5.2 Easily accessible from major cities and other regional towns
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	There are no Financial implications associated with this report.
LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS	There are no Legislative implications associated with this report.
POLICY IMPLICATIONS	There are no Policy implications associated with this report.
ATTACHMENTS	Nil

RECOMMENDATION

The Cootamundra Engineering Report for the month of January 2024 be noted.

Introduction

The Cootamundra Engineering Report for the month of January 2024 is submitted for the information of Council and the community.

Discussion

Fixing Local Roads

Stage two of Brawlin Road construction was sealed prior to Christmas with guideposts and other delineation works being completed during January.

Water and Sewer

Water and sewer crews have attended to requests dealing with blockages and breaks across the Cootamundra Township, as required.

Consultants are working on the Betts Street Rising Main design and Cootamundra Sewer Treatment Plant refurbishment design. Hydraulic modelling of the Cootamundra Water and Sewer networks has also commenced. Tenders have been received and are being assessed for Telemetry systems for both the Cootamundra and Gundagai water and sewer networks as well as tenders for the Cootamundra Water Mains replacement program.

General Works

During the last month all activities have been limited due to the Christmas New Year shut down however, prior to Christmas and with a skeleton crew over the break the following works were undertaken.

Maintenance grading has been undertaken on Brawlin Road, Sheepstation Creek, and Rawilla Roads.

Grass slashing was completed at the Cootamundra Aerodrome in preparation of for the annual visit by the Southern Cross Glider Club. Other slashing has been undertaken around the Cootamundra Township.

Pothole patching is being undertaken as required with the recent rains causing some seal deterioration.

Council's resealing contractor has completed several reseals on Frampton Road and North Berthong Roads.

Financial

Projects funded from various funding sources, as noted above.

Maintenance works funded from the General Fund.

OLG 23a Guideline consideration

Report purpose does not conflict with guidelines.

8.6 ENGINEERING GUNDAGAI

8.6.1 GUNDAGAI ENGINEERING REPORT - JANUARY 2024

DOCUMENT NUMBER	405890
REPORTING OFFICER	Belle Mooney, Operations Support Officer
AUTHORISING OFFICER	Matt Stubbs, Deputy General Manager - Operations
RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN	5. Integrated and accessible region 5.2 Easily accessible from major cities and other regional towns
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	There are no Financial implications associated with this report.
LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS	There are no Legislative implications associated with this report.
POLICY IMPLICATIONS	There are no Policy implications associated with this report.
ATTACHMENTS	Nil

RECOMMENDATION

The Gundagai Engineering Report for the month of January 2024 be noted.

Introduction

The Gundagai Engineering Report for the month of January 2024 is submitted for the information of Council and the community.

Discussion

Regional Roads REPAIR Program

West Street (Gundagai) Rehabilitation is substantially complete. Council is procuring a line marking contractor to complete the line marking of the site. Once line marking is complete then the project will be complete.

Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCI)

Sheridan Street Stage 3 will commence construction in January. This will bring stage 3 up to a similar standard as previous sections of Sheridan Street.

Gundagai Works

Gobarralong Road 2km rehabilitation works has been completed. Heavy Patching is continuing on Adjungbilly Road and Darbalara Road.

Rural & Regional Roads

Council is currently working with the contractor to assist them to establish on site to commence the Annie Pyers Drive Reconstruction. Council is liaising with local business owners and stakeholders to ensure that the project has as small of an impact as possible.

Water and Sewer

The Royal well project has been completed by the contractors. The Caravan Park pump station is currently under construction with the pumps expected to be installed early January. The project is expected to be online late January with remediation and defect repairs to occur shortly afterwards.

The Gundagai STP tertiary ponds have been substantially backfilled. Topsoil and revegetation of the site is expected to occur over the next month.

General Works

Bitumen road patching is being undertaken as required across the whole Council area as well as surface preparations for reseals on Adjungbilly Road, Tarrabandra Road, Darbalara Road, Threeways Road, Wee Jasper Road and Gobarralong Road.

Gravel road maintenance has been completed on Bundarbo Road, Hopewood Road, Hoares Lane and Annie Pyers Drive and is continuing on Cooinnee Road.

Culvert maintenance and cleaning is being undertaken across various locations as required.

Financial

Projects funded from various funding sources, as noted above.

Maintenance works funded from the General Fund.

OLG 23a Guideline consideration

Report purpose does not conflict with guidelines.

8.7 REGIONAL SERVICES GUNDAGAI

8.7.1 REGIONAL SERVICES GUNDAGAI WORKS REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2023

DOCUMENT NUMBER	405963
REPORTING OFFICER	Donna Britton, Operations Support Officer - Facilities
AUTHORISING OFFICER	Matt Stubbs, Deputy General Manager - Operations
RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN	3. Protected and enhanced environment 3.2 We have attractive towns and villages
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	There are no financial implications associated with this report.
LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS	There are no Legislative implications associated with this report.
POLICY IMPLICATIONS	There are no Policy implications associated with this report.
ATTACHMENTS	Nil

RECOMMENDATION

The Regional Services Gundagai Report for December 2023, be received and noted.

Introduction

The report for December 2023, is a snapshot of the diverse works Gundagai Regional Services performed over the previous month and intends to give an update on the ongoing works being conducted.

Discussion

This report focuses on the divisions projects as we progress through to completion, details our operational activities, informs, and updates the continued routine duties of this division.

1. Gundagai Parks & Gardens Section – Parks, Reserves, Sporting Fields, and Playgrounds.

Achievements for the month of October include:

- Spraying and mowing at all cemeteries and parks in preparation for the Christmas period.
- Irrigation repairs at the North Gundagai Lawn cemetery and Carberry Park.
- Storm damage clean up after the Christmas day storms.
- Installation of Christmas decorations in the parks, library, Mirrabooka, and main street.
- Removal of dangerous limbs from Carberry Park.

2. Cemeteries

Cemetery achievements include:

- There have been 2 funerals in December.
- Ongoing maintenance of all 10 cemeteries continues.

3. Biosecurity Section:

News and Achievements include:

- Normal weed control continues to be a priority with qualified staff carrying out successful spot/general spraying.
- WAP funding inspections/interaction with land holders Brungle Road, Hume Highway, Nurse Murray St
- Spray activity areas for the month are Old Hume Highway, Tumut Road, Jessop’s Lagoon Road, Ferry St, parks, and cemeteries.

Below are the spray records for the spraying completed for December 2023.

Spray Records for the month of December 2023				
Date	Chemical	Quantity	Location	Weeds
4/12/2023	Glyphosate	8L	Old Hume Highway	All Weeds
	Metsulfuron	80g		
5/12/2023	Glyphosate	3L	Cemeteries	All Weeds
	Metsulfuron	40g		
8/12/2023	Glyphosate	8L	Old Hume Highway	All Weeds
	Metsulfuron	80g		
10/12/2023	Glyphosate	8L	Old Hume Highway	All Weeds
	Metsulfuron	120g		
15/12/2023	Glyphosate	8L	Ferry St	Various
	Metasulfuron	120g		
27/12/2023	Glyphosate	8L	Tumut Road, Jessop's Lagoon	Various
	Metsulfuron	120g		

4. Gundagai Public & Council Facilities:

Carberry Park Public Toilet block with lift & change accessible bathroom slab has been laid and service run with the next stage of the project due to commence in the coming week.



Gundagai Visitor information Centre renovations have started with the relocation to the library toolbox room.



Signage has been installed on the Carberry Park toilet block directing people to the location of the interim site for the Visitor Information Centre.



Demolition works to start on the VIC in the coming weeks.

5. Gundagai RV Park Income Dec 23

01/12/23 – 31/12/23

Total Income \$253.30

6. Gundagai Waste:

Landfill/Transfer Station Operations

- Drum muster collect took place with approximately 3500 drums being removed and recycled.
- Regional services staff attended the REROC Waste Forum.
- Transfer stations were continually clean up by staff over the holiday period due to large number of people dumping rubbish. Transfer station gates at Muttama, Nangus and Coolac had to be repaired due to electrical interruption due to seasonal storms and vandalism.

**Gundagai Landfill/ Transfer Station Dec 2023****01/12/23 – 31/12/23****General Income \$3376.88****Income from metal recycling \$29080.63****7. Compliance:**

Compliance with the Companion Animals Act 1998

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Reg 217(1)(f)

- One dog was collected and held until it was rehomed.
- Stock on Nangus Road, stock returned to paddock by staff and owner contacted.
- Goats on the road at Tumblong were put back in the paddock by staff and owner contacted.
- Unattended vehicles park in public spaces in Eagle Street, South Gundagai were instructed to be removed, with notices attached to windscreens. Majority of vehicles have since been moved. Council staff will continue to follow up.
- Abandoned vehicle on Tumut Road was removed with owner contacted.

8. Gundagai Saleyards:

Water leak at the saleyards was repaired.

Financial

There are no further financial implications as all work has been carried out as per the approved 23/24 budget allocations.

OLG 23a Guideline consideration

There are no implications to the guidelines.

8.8 REGIONAL SERVICES COOTAMUNDRA

8.8.1 REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT MONTHLY WORKS REPORT

DOCUMENT NUMBER	406248
REPORTING OFFICER	Wayne Bennett, Manager Regional Services Cootamundra
AUTHORISING OFFICER	Matt Stubbs, Deputy General Manager - Operations
RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN	2. A region for the future 2.2 A thriving region that attracts people to live, work and visit
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	There are no financial implications associated with this report.
LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS	There are no Legislative implications associated with this report.
POLICY IMPLICATIONS	There are no Policy implications associated with this report.
ATTACHMENTS	Nil

RECOMMENDATION

The Cootamundra Regional Services Department, Monthly Works Report be received and noted.

Introduction

This report has been prepared to inform Council of the activities undertaken by the Cootamundra Regional Services Department over the month of December 2023.

Discussion

1. Cootamundra Parks & Gardens & Sportfields Section

Works have consisted in most part of mowing and maintaining the sport fields, urban and village public open spaces and associated facilities. The regular rainfall is maintaining strong grass growth.

2. Cootamundra Urban Street Tree Unit

Staff continue to work through the substantial back log of customer requests, with actions based on priorities. Due to recent storms there has been an increase in cleaning up trees damaged due to storm damaged.

3. Cootamundra Public Facilities Unit

Staff are carrying out the routine maintenance of Council’s open space facilities e.g., public toilets, BBQ’s, playgrounds etc. This Unit also carries out Council’s regulated safety inspection of all Cootamundra playgrounds, Sportfields and carries out minor repairs to local street and park furniture, vandalism, litter bins etc.

Due to the holiday season there has been a substantial increase in visitor usage of town and village public facilities and the need for additional maintenance and cleaning.

4. Landfill/Transfer Station Operations Unit

Council/Management will continue to seek opportunities that will both improve the level of waste reduction, reuse and increase cost recovery.

There has been an increase in landfill visitation due to residents undertaking extra clean up works in preparation for the holiday season. Also, substantial additional green waste coming in due to storm damage clean up works.

5. Rangers Report

Companion Animals

1 dog seized and returned to owner.

6 dogs seized and released to owner.

1 cat seized rehomed to rescue.

3 dogs surrendered, and rehomed.

Total registrations paid \$1,580.00.

Council Rangers attended 1 barking dog issues.

Council Rangers reported 5 illegal dumping incidents.

Council Rangers attended 1 straying Stock.

Education programs running for Cleaning up after your dog and keeping dogs on leash.

Poo bag stations regularly being filled up.

Council Rangers attended 1 dog incident.

3 PINS issued.

Sheep Sales

06/12 – 1013 yarded - high price \$160 Avg \$74.14

WEED SPRAYING FOR DECEMBER 2023.

Date	Location	Application	Land Use	Weed	Chemical/s	Quantity	Amount of Spray Mix	Operator
1/12/2023	Burley Griffin Way/ Milvale Road	Spot Spray	Roadside	St John's Wort//Briar	Triclophy & Picloram	3l	600l	Jabe Polsen
					Metsulfuron	60g		
					Wetter	600ml		
4/12/2023	Hillbank Lane	Spot Spray	Roadside	St John's Wort//Briar/Scotch Thistle	Triclophy & Picloram	3l	600l	Jabe Polsen
					Metsulfuron	60g		
					Wetter	600ml		
	Bouloora Lane	Spot Spray	Roadside	St John's Wort	Metsulfuron	120g	600l	Jabe Polsen
					Wetter			
5/12/2023	Olympic Highway	Spot Spray	Roadside	St John's Wort/Briar	Triclophy & Picloram	3l	600l	Jabe Polsen
					Metsulfuron	60g		
					Wetter	600ml		
7/12/2023	Stockinbingal Cemetery	Spot Spray	Reserve	Various Weeds	Glyphosate	1l	100l	Jabe Polsen
					Metsulfuron	10g		
					Wetter	100ml		
	Olympic Highway	Spot Spray	Roadside	St John's Wort/Briar	Triclophy & Picloram	3l	600l	Jabe Polsen
					Metsulfuron	60g		
					Wetter	600ml		
8/12/2023	Silo Road, Back Nubba, Black springs	Spot Spray	Roadside	St John's Wort/Briar	Triclophy & Picloram	3l	600l	Jabe Polsen
					Metsulfuron	60g		
					Wetter	600ml		
12/12/2023	North Jindalee Road	Spot Spray	Roadside	St John's Wort	Metsulfuron	60g	600l	Jabe Polsen
					Triclophy & Picloram	3l		

					Wetter	600ml		
13/12/2023	Burley Griffin Way	Spot Spray	Roadside	St John's Wort/Blackberry	Metsulfuron	120g	600l	Jabe Polsen
					Wetter	600ml		
	Sale Yards	Spot Spray	Roadside	Various Weeds	Glyphosate	6l	600l	Jabe Polsen
					Metsulfuron	60g		
					Wetter	600ml		
15/12/2023	Muttama Road	Spot Spray	Roadside	St John's Wort	Triclophy & Picloram	3l	600l	Jabe Polsen
					Metsulfuron	60g		
					Wetter	600ml		
18/12/2023	Old Gundagai Road	Spot Spray	Roadside	St John's Wort/ Briar	Triclophy & Picloram	3l	600l	Jabe Polsen
					Metsulfuron	60g		
					Wetter	600ml		
19/12/2023	Old Gundagai Road	Spot Spray	Roadside	St John's Wort/Briar	Triclophy & Picloram	3l	600l	Jabe Polsen
					Metsulfuron	60g		
					Wetter	600ml		
20/12/2023	Rosehill Road	Spot Spray	Roadside	St John's Wort/ Blackberry	Triclophy & Picloram	3l	600l	Jabe Polsen
					Metsulfuron	60g		
					Wetter	600ml		
21/12/2023	Beggan Beggan/Rosehill Road	Spot Spray	Roadside	St John's Wort/ Bathurst Burr	Triclophy & Picloram	1l	200l	Jabe Polsen
					Metsulfuron	20g		
					Wetter	200ml		
22/12/2023	Olympic Hwy/Muttama Road	Spot Spray	Roadside	African Love Grass/Johnson Grass	Glyphosate	6l	600l	Jabe Polsen
					Metsulfuron	60g		
					Gly-assist	1.2l		

Financial

Currently there are no negative financial consequence to Councils adopted operational or capital budgets and approved programs.

OLG 23a Guideline consideration

All works and budgets detailed within this report align with the OLG 23a guidelines and Councils 2022/2023 Financial and Operational Plans.

9 MOTION OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

9.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - CHRISTMAS IN COOTAMUNDRA

DOCUMENT NUMBER	405986
REPORTING OFFICER	Leigh Bowden, Councillor
AUTHORISING OFFICER	Matt Stubbs, Deputy General Manager - Operations

The following Notice of Motion signed by Councillor Cr Bowen was submitted on 16 January, 2024.

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Council meeting of Tuesday, 23 January, 2024:

MOTION

That a report be prepared and submitted to Council recommending that; Council considers funding and organising the Christmas celebration in Cootamundra until such time as an appropriate organisation has the capacity to manage it.

With the demise of Business Cootamundra, the organisation that had traditionally organized the Cootamundra Christmas Street Party, there was no body in place to organise the event in Cootamundra. Expressions of interest were called for and, at the Council Meeting in October 2023, The Coota District Co-op was awarded the event.

The Christmas celebration, called “Christmas in Coota”, was scheduled for Thursday 14, December. In the seven weeks prior to the event, a voluntary committee was able to pull together a very successful event and within the \$10,000 budget, allocated by Council.

However, the members of the voluntary committee suffered significant stress taking on the extra work, especially with such a short time frame. To some extent the additional work impacted on their own businesses. The committee was unanimous in its decision not to undertake it again.

The town Christmas celebration is a community event, which promotes social cohesion, economic development and tourism opportunities. As such, it is well within the Council’s purview. To pass this resolution now would enable Council staff time to plan for the event and for funds to be allocated in next year’s budget.

10 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil

11 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil