



BUSINESS PAPER
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

To be held on

Wednesday, 28 April 2021

Commencing at

3:00pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

Members:

Mayor – Councillor Eric Noakes
Deputy Mayor – Councillor Jennifer Kealey
Councillor Peter Blomfield
Councillor Kevin Ferrier
Councillor William Heazlett
Councillor Scott Kermode
Councillor Clinton Lyon
Councillor Rachael Wellings

Quorum – 5 Members to be Present

AGENDA

Submitted to Council: 28 April 2021

..... General Manager Mayor



Dear Mayor & Councillors

You are requested to attend the Ordinary Meeting of the Walcha Council to be held in the Council Chambers, Hamilton Street, Walcha on **Wednesday, 28 April 2021** commencing at **3:00pm**.

Yours sincerely

Chris Weber
Interim General Manager

NOTICE:

The Ordinary, Extra Ordinary and Committee open meetings of Council will be audio recorded for community transparency and minute taking purposes. The audio recording of all Ordinary and Extra-Ordinary Meetings of Council will be uploaded to Council's website.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:

We acknowledge the Dunghutti people as the traditional owners of the land that we meet on. We pay our respects to the Elders, past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and recognise their continuing connection to the land, water and community of which we are a part.

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WO/2021/01438

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(Resolution to admit matters of urgency before being further considered by Council).
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 - 10.1 Minutes of the Walcha Council Motorcycle Rally Committee Meeting held at the Council Chambers on Thursday, 11 March 2021 WO/2021/01156
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 - 11.1 DRAFT Minutes of the New England County Council Meeting held at the Armidale Office on Tuesday 09 March 2021. WI/2021/03552
 - 11.2 Minutes of the Walcha & District Historical Society Inc Meeting held on Saturday, 27 March 2021 at the Caretakers Cottage. WI/2021/05857
 - 11.3 Minutes of the Walcha Community Centre Management Committee (known as the Multi Purpose Centre – MPC) General Meeting held on Tuesday, 30 March 2021. WI/2021/04914
 - 11.4 DRAFT Minutes of the Namoi Unlimited Joint Organisation Board Meeting held at Gunnedah Shire Council Chambers on Tuesday, 06 April 2021. WI/2021/05054
12. Questions with Notice
Nil.
13. Reports to be Considered in Closed Council
Nil.

Resolution to adjourn the Ordinary Meeting and to move into Closed Council Meeting and to exclude the Press and the Public from the entire proceedings of the Closed Meeting.

13.1

Resolution to move into Open Council.

The Mayor publicly declares the Closed Council Meeting Resolution/s.



Present:

Leave of Absence:

Confirmation of the Ordinary Meeting Minutes held on Wednesday, 31 March 2021:

Matters arising from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 31 March 2021:



Item 2: Previous Minutes



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 31 March 2021

at

3:25pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

The Audio Recording Statement was read by Mayor Noakes

Acknowledgement of Country was read by Mayor Noakes

PRESENT: Cllr EH Noakes (Chairman) Mayor together with Councillors PR Blomfield, KW Ferrier, WJ Heazlett, JM Kealey, SJ Kermode, CM Lyon and RL Wellings.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Christopher Weber – Interim General Manager, Mrs LJ Latham – Director Environment & Development, Mr PR Murray – Director Infrastructure and Mrs EL Hobbs – Executive Assistant.

1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Nil.

MINUTES



2. CONFIRMATION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2021:

200 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Kermode that the Minutes of the ExtraOrdinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 10 February 2021, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.

CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2021:

201 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Kermode that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 24 February 2021, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

Nil.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

5. MAYORAL MINUTE

Nil.

6. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT

202 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Ferrier that the Senior Officers' Reports be **RECEIVED** for further consideration.

6.1 Electrical Asset Assessment

WO/2021/00999

203 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Lyon that

1. Council proceed with tendering the program of electrical rectification works.
2. the assessment of the electrical rectification tenders to be subject of a future Council Report.
3. potential funding sources for the rectification works is also to be recommended in this future Council Rreport.

6.2 Development Application 10.2021.1 – Garage – 217 Oxley Drive, Walcha

WO/2021/01065

204 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Lyon that Council approve Development Application 10.2021.1 for the erection of garage on Lot 11 DP 1149080 known as 217 Oxley Drive, Walcha, as per the development conditions listed within the Development Assessment Report.



Being a Planning matter a **Division** was called prior to voting on this matter and the result was as follows:

For: Councillors: Blomfield, Ferrier, Heazlett, Kealey, Kermode, Lyon, Noakes and Wellings.

Against: Nil.

Absent: Nil.

Declared Interest: Nil.

6.3 Communal Dog Water Bowls

WO/2021/01013

Motion:

It was **MOVED** Clr Kermode **Seconded** Clr Ferrier that Council does not provide communal dog water bowls facilities on public drinking fountains.

Amendment

It was **MOVED** Clr Wellings **Seconded** Clr Heazlett that Council does provide a communal dog bowl on the public fountain on the Levee Bank Walk near the Whale sculpture.

The **Amendment** was put to the **VOTE** and **CARRIED**.

205 It then became the Substantive Motion and was put to the **VOTE** and **CARRIED**.

6.4 Development Application 10.2021.9 – Installation of Shipping Container – 16184 Oxley Highway, Walcha

WO/2021/01083

Motion:

It was **MOVED** Clr Kealey **Seconded** Clr Wellings that Council approve the Development Application 10.2021.9 for the installation of a shipping container on Lot 51 DP 1001011 known as 16184 Oxley Highway Walcha, as per the development conditions listed within the Development Assessment Report.

Amendment:

It was **MOVED** Clr Lyon **Seconded** Clr Heazlett that Council approve the Development Application 10.2021.9 for the installation of a shipping container on Lot51 DP 1001011 known as 16184 Oxley Highway Walcha, as per the development conditions listed within the Development Assessment Report with an amendment to Condition 7 that the vegetation screening does not extend past existing shed.

The **Amendment** was put to the **VOTE** and **LOST**.

Being a Planning matter a **Division** was called prior to voting on this matter and the result was as follows:

For: Councillors: Heazlett, Lyon and Wellings.

Against: Blomfield, Ferrier, Kealey, Kermode and Noakes.

Absent: Nil.



Declared Interest: Nil

206 The **Original Motion** was put to the **VOTE** and **CARRIED**.

Being a Planning matter a **Division** was called prior to voting on this matter and the result was as follows:

For: Councillors: Blomfield, Ferrier, Heazlett, Kealey, Kermode, Noakes and Wellings.

Against: Lyon.

Absent: Nil.

Declared Interest: Nil

6.5 Community Gym Fees & Charges 2020 – 2021 **WO/2021/01041**

207 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Wellings that Council

1. **ADOPT** an amendment to the 2020-2021 Fees & Charges to include:

Walcha Community Gym Membership Fees	
PAYG	\$ 10.00
Weekly subscription	\$ 25.00
Month subscription	\$ 60.00
6 month subscription	\$ 250.00
12 month subscription	\$ 350.00
Personal Trainer Annual Registration	\$ 150.00
Group Fitness Room – Booking fee / hr	\$ 15.00
Student and pensioner concession discount	10%
Storage cupboard annual hire	\$ 50.00

2. Community Gym Advisory Committee review and consider how persons under 16 can access and use the equipment in a safe manner.

3. Advertise to ensure public is aware of the refundable fob charges associated with the membership options available.

6.6 Delivery Program Six Monthly Review as at December 2020

WO/2021/01078

208 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Wellings that Council, in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act, 1993*, and the Integrated Planning & Reporting legislation, **ADOPT** the Delivery Program 2017/2018 – 2020/2021 December 2020 six monthly review.

7. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

8. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil.



9. MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS

9.1 Office of the General Manager

WO/2021/01115

209 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Heazlett that the items included in the Office of the General Manager Report be **NOTED** by Council.

9.2 Infrastructure

WO/2021/00898

210 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Kealey that the items included in the Infrastructure Report be **NOTED** by Council.

9.3 Environment & Development

WO/2021/00922

211 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Kermode that the items included in the Environment & Development Report be **NOTED** by Council.

9.4 Community & Tourism

WO/2021/00955

212 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Heazlett that the items included in the Community & Tourism Report be **NOTED** by Council.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Minutes of the Walcha Council Preschool Advisory Committee Meeting held at the Walcha Preschool on Monday, 01 March 2021

WO/2021/00952

213 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Wellings that Council:

1. **RECEIVE & NOTE** the Report;
2. **ADOPT** the following Preschool Policies as presented:
 - Child & Staff Immunisation
 - Priority of Access
 - Payment of Fees (Fees Policy)
 - Participation of Volunteers & Student Policy
 - Back Care and Manual Handling
 - Administrating Medicine
 - Food & Nutrition
 - Water Safety
 - Relationships with Children
 - Enrolment and Orientation
 - Child Protection
 - Family Communication and Involvement
 - Transportation of Children
 - Excursion
 - Child Health
 - Child Protection
 - Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness
 - Infectious Diseases
 - Medical Conditions
 - Sleep and Rest



- Sun Protection
- Supervision of Children
- Equipment
- Indoor Safety
- Outdoor Safety
- Responsible Person
- Ethical Conduct
- Behaviour Guidance
- Orientation for Children
- Confidentiality, Privacy and Dignity
- Collection of Children from Premises
- Governance and Management

10.2 Minutes of the Walcha Council Youth Advisory Committee Meeting held at the Walcha Central School on Tuesday, 02 March 2021 WO/2021/00937

214 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Wellings and Kealey that Council:

1. **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the Report;
2. Undertake investigations regarding the establishment of a Youth Learner Driver Program and a report be prepared;
3. Undertake investigations regarding the establishment of a Gaming Hub at the Library and a report be prepared.

10.3 Minutes of the Walcha Council Community Gym Committee Meeting held at the Walcha Council Chambers on Tuesday, 23 March 2021 WO/2021/01109

215 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Wellings and Kealey that Council **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the Report.

11. DELEGATE REPORTS

11.1 Minutes of the Walcha & District Historical Society Inc held at the Pioneer Museum on Saturday, 27 February 2021 WI/2021/04455

216 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Heazlett that Council **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the Report.

12. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil.

13. CLOSED COUNCIL

217 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Wellings and Kermode that, in accordance with Section 10A (2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the matter of Evaluation of Tender for Thunderbolts Way Heavy Vehicle Rest Area be referred to be discussed in Closed Council and close the meeting to the public for the reason that the report relate to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial



advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

218 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Wellings that Council resolve into Closed Council and that the press and public be excluded from the entire proceedings of the Meeting of the Closed Council for the reason that it relates to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

219 The Meeting resumed in **OPEN** Council on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Ferrier.

PRESENT: Present and IN Attendance were the same as listed in the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting with the exception of the press and the public.

The Chairman publicly declared the Resolutions passed whilst in Closed Council.

13.1 Evaluation of Tender for Thunderbolts Way Heavy Vehicle Rest Area WO/2021/00897

CC: 48/20202021 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Kermode that Council:

1. *Abandon the Thunderbolts Way Heavy Vehicle Rest Area Project and incur the Restart NSW cost of \$10,014;*
2. *Write to Restart NSW and explain the circumstances behind this decision to mitigate our reputation or risk associated with this decision; and*
3. *Reject all tenders stating it is due to cost overruns associated with the project.*

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4:40PM.



Item 3:
Business
Arising from
Previous
Minutes



Item 4:

Declarations of Interest



Item 5: Mayoral Minute



There was no Mayoral Minute available for
April 2021 at time of print.



Item 6:

Senior Officers' Reports



Item: 6.1 **Ref:** WO/2021/01327
Title: Development Application 10.2020.3 – Basalt Rock Quarry – 1643 Oxley Drive, Walcha Road
Author: Contract Town Planner
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: Statement of Environmental Effects, Development Assessment Report, Submissions, State Agency Response

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Goal 6.1 – Walcha’s distinct and diverse natural and built environment will be protected and enhanced.
Goal 6.6 – The character of Walcha and its surrounding villages will be maintained while protecting the productivity of our rural land.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council approve Development Application 10.2020.3 for a basalt rock quarry with and maximum extraction rate of 29,000m³ per annum on Lot 103 DP 753846, Lot 2 DP1173956, Lots 46 and 47 DP 1082562 known as 1643 Oxley Drive, Walcha, as per the development conditions listed within the Development Assessment Report.

Introduction:

Council has received a development application for 1643 Oxley Drive, Walcha Road, for a basalt rock quarry with an extraction rate of 29,000 m³ per annum. This is permissible development under the *Walcha Local Environmental Plan, 2012*.

Consideration by Council is required as there are four submissions containing objections to the development. Additional to this, there are two state agency responses for Council consideration.

Report:

This application is for a basalt rock quarry with an extraction rate of 29,000 m³ per annum. The Statement of Environmental Effects and associated Appendixes are attached to this report.

The proposed development is a production – total resource may consist of 450,000m³. Will be developed further if market demand is founded. This will require additional DA approval.

It is planned to market gravel and aggregate within a radius of about 100 kilometres of the quarry. More distant customers are unlikely given significant transport costs and the availability of alternative sources of quarry products.

Maximum disturbance areas arising from quarry related operations will be 1.9878 hectares.

DOMAIN	DISTURBANCE	DIMENSIONS	AREA (Ha)
Quarry	Quarry void, stockpiles, crushing equipment, office/amenities	Odd shape shown in Figure 3.	1.6455
Access track	Quarry access track from Brooklyn boundary to edge of quarry site.	Existing 928m.3.5m wide	0.3248
Access track passing bays	Passing bays at 185m intervals along quarry access track.	50m long & 3.5m wide. Five bays	0.0175
TOTAL			1.9878



Excavation of the basalt rock will be undertaken using earth-moving machinery such as an excavator, front-end loader and/or bulldozer, on a sporadic basis in response to customer orders. It will be necessary to drill and blast all rock prior to excavation.

The quarry void will reach a maximum:

- Depth of 30 metres.
- Surface extent about 100 metres (east-west) by 160 metres (north-south), with a roughly rectangular shape.

The maximum expected frequency of blasting is once per week. No on site explosives storage is proposed. All explosives will be delivered to the site for immediate, or following day, use. Delivery will be via a dangerous goods licensed, purpose built truck, operated by a commercial explosives supplier.

Initially it is proposed to establish quarry benches about 5 metres high by 5 metres wide, although it is expected that bench height will probably be increased over time to 10 metres. Bench heights will only be changed after consideration of all relevant factors, including:

- Geotechnical issues:- Ground stability is determined by a combination of factors including layering (thickness, composition & strength), jointing (natural crack patterns) and faults/fractures.
- Worker safety.
- Productivity.

Most of the basalt excavated will be subject to processing, including one or more of the following:

- Using grizzly bars to separate over size boulders from soil and rock.
- Splitting over size boulders using hydraulic splitters and/or hydraulic hammers.
- Crushing and screening to produce a range of sized aggregates.

Material that may be stockpiled within the quarry site includes:

- Excavated basalt, gravel, soil and processed aggregate.
- Waste rock that is not suitable for sale. This material may be useful for rehabilitation, such as battering the edges of the quarry.
- Top soil, for future rehabilitation.

Initially staff amenities will consist of a portable toilet and/or ATCO style portable lunch room/amenities building (<25 square metres). If subsequent circumstances warrant, an office area (<25 square metres) may be added (or combined) with the amenities area.

Actual traffic volumes will depend on the demand for quarry products, which is expected to fluctuate significantly from year to year and cannot be reliably predicted at this time.

Estimated quarry traffic at various production levels.

LCM (m3)	TONNES	TRUCKS	STAFF		CONTRCTR	TOTAL VEHICLES	VEHICLES /WRK DAY 261/YR
		(2 way) year	(2 way) FTE	(2 way) year	(2 way) year		
1,000	2,400	130	0.2	100	20	250	1
5,000	12,000	649	1	500	30	1,179	5
10,000	24,000	1,297	2	1,000	50	2,347	9
20,000	48,000	2,595	4	2,000	84	4,679	18
29,000	69,600	3,762	5.8	2,900	118	6,780	26

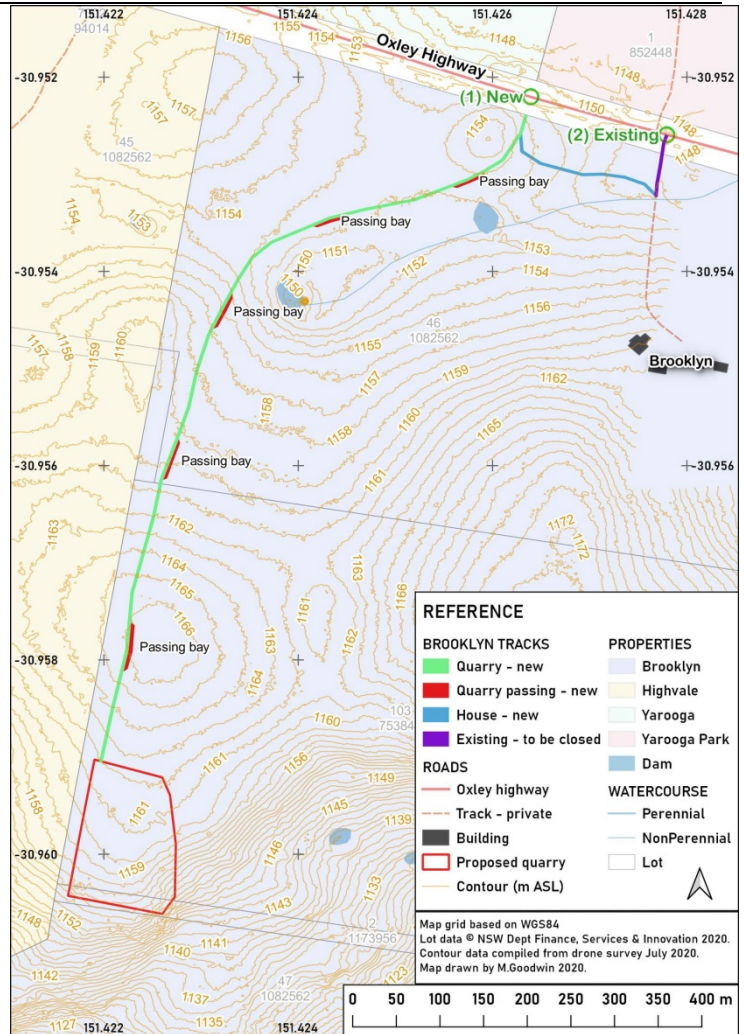


The applicants propose to establish a new access driveway from the Oxley Highway into Brooklyn that will improve vehicle visibility, access and safety. The existing access will be decommissioned and fenced off. The design has been developed to be consistent with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) requirements documented in a letter to Walcha Council dated 26 May 2020.

The proponent is committed to establishing the new highway access consistent with Council and Traffic for NSW requirements within 6 months of the quarry achieving 5,000m³ in commercial sales.

The threshold is proposed on the basis that it would be unreasonable to require compliance with all Traffic for NSW standards prior to significant commercial activity, when:

- The initial impacts of the development on the highway will be relatively minor during the commencement phases of the development.
- Staged compliance will facilitate the viability of the development.



The 5,000m³ threshold is equivalent to about 12,500 tonnes of quarry product at a density of about 2.5 tonnes per cubic metre. If the product is shipped within a year, this equates to about 337 trucks per year (~37 tonnes each) or 1.3 trucks per working day (~250 work days/year). Several trees in the immediate vicinity of the proposed new Oxley Highway access will impair visibility between the access track and Highway.

Clearing of trees for rural infrastructure, such as fences and tracks, is permitted on the “Brooklyn” holding without any other approval under Part 5A and schedule 5A of the Local Land Services Act 2013. Item 31(b) in schedule 5A allows 30m clearing for fence, effectively 15m within “Brooklyn” holding.

Initial activities will be undertaken on a sporadic basis in response to orders, hence there may be significant periods of negligible or relatively small scale activities. If a consistent demand for quarry products can be developed, then activities will be maintained in a manner consistent with the maximum hours in Table below.



Proposed maximum hours of operation.

ACTIVITY	MON TO FRI	SAT & SUN	PUBLIC
Blasting	8:00 to 17:00	No activity	No activity
Drilling, extraction & processing	Daylight hours		
Loading trucks & product shipping			
Maintenance	24 hours per day, when required		

The land is classified as being bushfire prone, however as no residential use of the quarry site will occur, most of the provisions of Planning for Bushfire Protection, published by the NSW Rural Fire Service, are not relevant to this proposal. However those applicable have been complied with.

There are six State Environmental Planning Policies applicable to this development.

State Environmental Planning Policy 33 - Hazardous and Offensive Development (SEPP 33)

The SEPP provides considerations for consent for hazardous & offensive development. A hazardous industry' under SEPP 33 is one which, when all locational, technical, operational and organisational safeguards are employed continues to pose a significant risk. A proposal is 'potentially offensive industry' consent authorities need to determine whether, in the absence of safeguards, the proposal would emit a polluting discharge which would cause a significant level of offence.

This development is not considered to be either offensive all hazardous as all impact can be controlled with mitigation measures.

State Environmental Planning Policy 44 – Koala Habitat (SEPP 44)

This applies to this Walcha Shire as it is listed in Schedule 1 of SEPP 44 and the property is more than 1 ha in area. The site contains remnant mature Red Stringy Bark (*Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*) and woollybutt (*Eucalyptus banksii*) trees. Neither species identified as a koala feed tree in Schedule 2 of SEPP 44. The highly disturbed nature of site means that site is quite unlikely to be used by species in any ongoing manner.

State Environmental Planning Policy 55 – Remediation of Land (SEPP 55)

This SEPP requires consideration of whether there have been any activities carried out on land in the past that may have resulted in contamination. If contamination may be present, the proponent is required to undertake suitable investigation and, if necessary, remediation works.

It is considered that there have been no prior contaminating land uses and the site is suitable for the proposed use.

No significant sources of contamination were observed on the proposed development site or nearby during inspections. A targeted search was made for evidence of issues commonly associated with grazing land, such as:

- *Rubbish & rubbish dumps (eg tyres, lead batteries, wire, glass, car bodies, asbestos building materials, herbicide containers, pesticide containers, etc).*
- *Sheep / cattle dips (contamination from arsenic, organophosphates, etc).*
- *Fuel tanks / workshops (oil and diesel spills).*



State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007(I SEPP)

The Oxley Highway is a Transport F NSW "classified road", hence Council is required to comply with clause 101 of State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007 when considering this Development Application. The assessment has shown that all matters have been addressed adequately.

101(2) states that:

The consent authority must not grant consent to development on land that has a frontage to a classified road unless it is satisfied that—

(a) where practicable and safe, vehicular access to the land is provided by a road other than the classified road, and

(b) the safety, efficiency and ongoing operation of the classified road will not be adversely affected by the development as a result of—

(i) the design of the vehicular access to the land, or

(ii) the emission of smoke or dust from the development, or

(iii) the nature, volume or frequency of vehicles using the classified road to gain access to the land,

State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production & Extractive Industries) 2007 (Mining SEPP)

The SEPP aims to provide proper management of mineral, petroleum and extractive material resources and Ecologically Sustainable Development. The Statement of Environmental Effects addresses this adequately by stating:

.....the consent authority, Walcha Council, to consider the compatibility of the proposed quarry with existing, approved and likely preferred land uses in the vicinity, amongst other things. The proposal is compatible with such uses given that:

- The quarry is located within a RU1 Primary Production zone.*
- Council does not have any publicly available planning proposals or policy documents indicating that it is considering rezoning any land in the vicinity.*
- On a local, regional and state wide basis quarries are predominantly located in RU1 Primary Production zones along with a mix of agricultural, forestry and resource extraction industries.*
- The quarry will provide a source of gravel and aggregate for the local community.*
- The quarry has a substantial buffer of more than 1 kilometre to the nearest unrelated dwelling.*

C

Clause 15 of the SEPP requires the consent authority to consider the efficiency the development in terms of resource recovery. The proposed quarry will extract rock in an orderly manner subject to demand, which is typical of such quarries in similar settings.

Clauses 14, 16 and 17 require the consent authority to consider the imposition of conditions relating to natural resource management, environmental management, transport and rehabilitation.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Primary Production and Rural Development) (R&RD SEPP)

This SEPP facilitates the orderly economic use and development of lands for primary production; reduce land use conflict and sterilisation of rural land. Compliance is met in that this development would meet the aims of this SEPP particularly as the site is located where there will be minimal land use conflict or sterilisation of primary production land.



Neighbour notification was required, as per the provisions of the *Walcha Community Participation Plan 2020*. It was undertaken as with four submissions being received. Additionally, the applicant submitted a further submission of support from a neighbour. These are attached to this report.

The issues raised were:

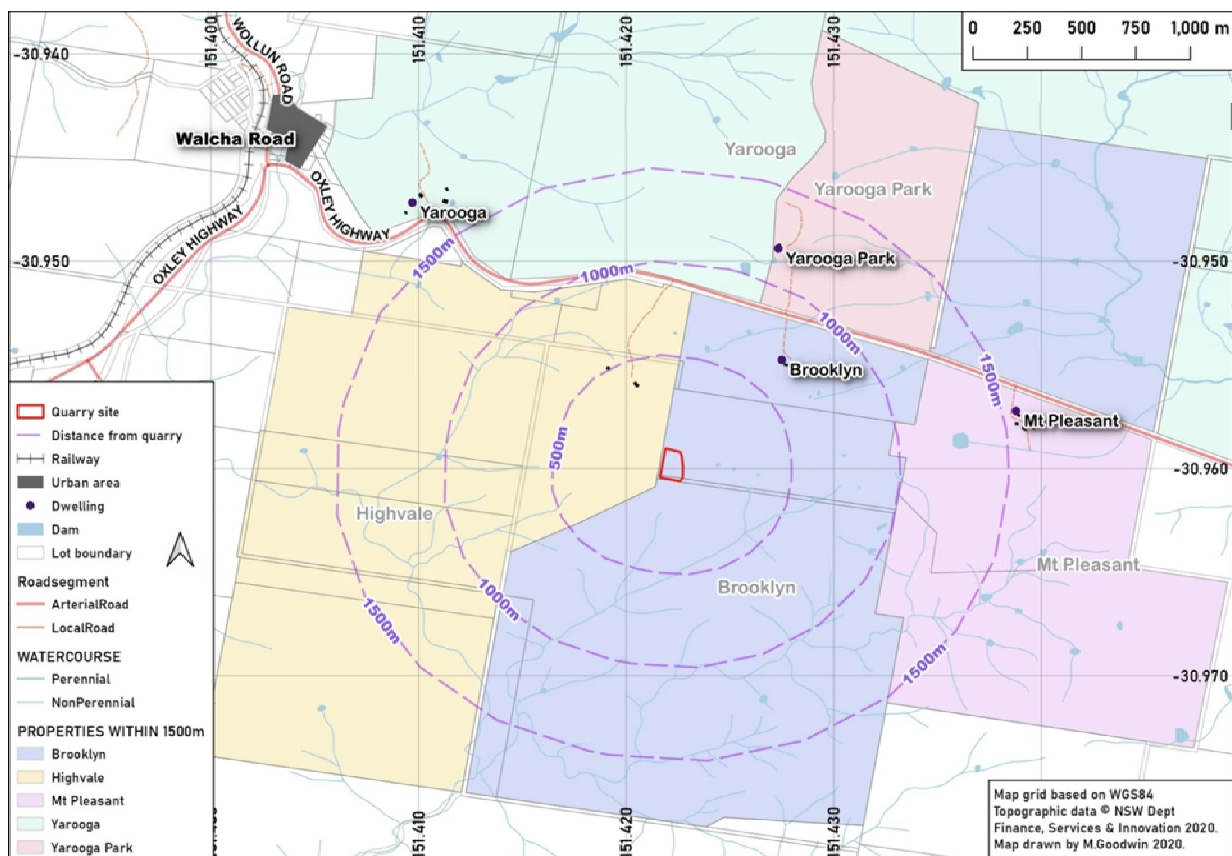
1. Impact on aquifers in the immediate area

The applicant had a detailed Groundwater Impact Assessment undertaken by Ground Doctor Pty Ltd (dated 11 August 2020). This report concluded:

The information presented in this report indicates that the groundwater impacts associated with the proposed development would not exceed the Level 1 “minimum impact consideration” outlined in the NSW Aquifer Interference Policy (NSW DPI, 2012b). Therefore, groundwater impacts associated with the project are acceptable.

2. Noise

This diagram shows the location of neighbouring properties and dwellings located on those properties to the proposed development. This is to give Councillors a sense of location for neighbouring properties.



The applicant had completed digital terrain and surface modelling to assist with the assessment against noise. This was used and compared against the NSW Environmental Protection Authority document *Noise Policy for Industry 2017*. The Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE) states:



Noise associated with new developments is regulated under the A key intent of the policy is to apply all feasible and reasonable measures to reduce predicted noise levels to the “project noise trigger levels” when predicted noise levels are above these levels.

The “project noise trigger level” is the lower (most stringent) value of two different noise levels:

- 1. An “intrusiveness noise level” which limits the extent to which a noise source can exceed the background level (that is, background plus 5 decibels [dB]) above a minimum threshold.*
- 2. A “project amenity noise level” provides an overall noise-level cap for different land uses.*

Noise will be generated by traffic and by quarry machinery arising from excavation, crushing and screening activities. The Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE) states the following mitigation measures:

Noise associated with the operation of quarry machinery will be mitigated by:

- Only using excavating and processing machinery during daylight hours, as outlined in Table 3.*
- Restricting days of operation, as noted previously in Table 3.*
- Ensuring all machinery is fitted and maintained with suitable mufflers.*

Strategies that will be used to minimise potential noise impacts from use of the quarry access track include:

- Only transporting quarry products during daylight hours.*
- Signposting and restricting all quarry truck speeds to a maximum of 20km/h on the track.*
- Ensuring a consistent moderate gradient on the access track and highway access point to minimise the potential need for the use of exhaust braking.*

These strategies can be ensured by the use of conditioning in that the mitigation measures and recommendations as stated in the Statement of Environmental Effects are undertaken.

3. Dust

It is expected that the primary sources of dust associated with the operation of the proposed quarry will be:

- Drilling rock.*
- Blasting rock (see section 4.7 for more information).*
- Crushing & screening rock.*
- Transport trucks accessing the site.*

The following mitigation measures were provided within the Statement of Environmental Effects.

To ensure worker safety a mixture of dust mitigation measures will be applied and amended in response to weather conditions, rock moisture content, plant location, etc. Those measures will be consistent with industry standards and include:

- Application of chemical surfactants.*
- Enclosing conveyor transfer points.*
- Implementation of water truck procedures.*
- Installation of sprays at conveyor transfer points.*
- Operator training and fit testing for respiratory protective equipment.*
- Programmed maintenance of spray nozzles, pumps and plumbing.*



- *Regular inspections of operating dust controls.*

The performance objective will be to ensure that:

- *Quarry operations are conducted in accordance with the NSW Resource Regulator's 2020 workplace safety standards specified in the "Dust Safety in the Metals and Extractives Industries" document.*
- *No significant dust resulting from quarry operations is present more than 500 metres from the site boundary.*

Strategies that will be used to minimise potential dust impacts associated with the quarry access track include:

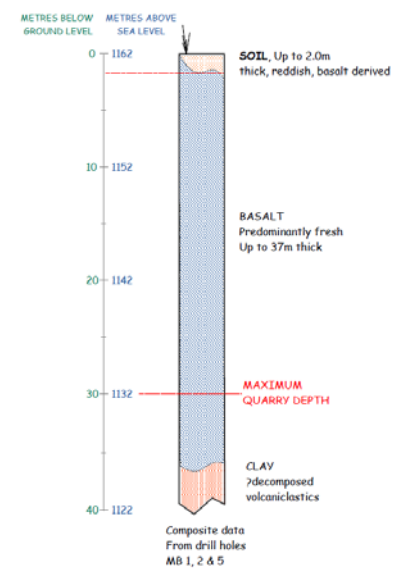
- *Constructing and maintaining the track with a firm all weather surface.*
- *Signposting and restricting quarry truck speeds to a maximum of 20km/h on the track.*
- *Mandatory site induction for all staff which highlights compulsory signposted speed limit for quarry site and access road.*
- *If the above measures become inadequate during dry and/or windy conditions, then additional strategies will be applied, including one or more of the following:*
 - *Reducing quarry truck speeds to a maximum of 10km/h*
 - *Using a water cart to suppress dust along sections of the track which may impact the "Brooklyn" dwelling or neighbours.*
- *Applying a dust suppression coating to the track, such as a polymer or bitumen based emulsion.*

The performance objective will be to ensure that no significant dust resulting from quarry traffic is present more than 500 metres from the quarry access track, or on the site of any dwelling.

4. Soil Profiling

The applicant undertook further investigation by drilling to determine the soil profile. This diagram shows the findings of the applicant's investigations.

Five drill holes were undertaken in the immediate vicinity and showed that the basalt is up to 37m.



5. Traffic & Road Safety

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) was consulted and are a concurrence authority for this development. This is due to the land fronting and accessing off the Oxley High way. A copy of their response is attached to this report.

TfNSW response to Council; in determining the application under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, it is Council's responsibility to consider the environmental impacts of any road works which are ancillary to the development. This includes any works which form part of the proposal and/or any works which are deemed necessary to include as requirements in the conditions of project approval. They had no objection to the development with the following recommendations:

Council:

- should be satisfied that the application has sufficiently explained the impacts of the



development and justified all proposed mitigation measures.

- condition the maximum daily and hourly movements generated by the development.
- request an assessment of turn treatment warrants in accordance with the Austroads Guide to Traffic Management Part 6 and Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4A for the site access, identifying the existence of the minimum basic turn treatments and addressing the need for any warranted higher order treatments.
- condition all redundant accesses to be legally and physically closed prior to commencement of use of the new access.
- prior to determination have strategic (2D) design drawings of all proposed improvements to public roads and the site access to mitigate the traffic and road safety impacts of the development.
- condition that a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) be developed addressing the construction, operation and decommission phases of the proposed development.
- consider the need for any regulatory signage (truck turning signs) and where necessary seek the endorsement of the Local Traffic Committee prior to Council approval the signage.
- any future roadwork on the classified (State) road will need to be designed and constructed in accordance with the current Austroads Guidelines, Australian Standards and TfNSW Supplements. The developer will be required to enter into a Works Authorisation Deed (WAD) with TfNSW for any roadwork deemed necessary on the classified (State) road. The developer will be responsible for all costs associated with the roadwork and administration for the WAD.

The above response was forwarded onto the developer who included additional information to address these issues in the revised Statement of Environmental Effects. Further the Engineering Assessment addressed these recommendations and the recommended conditions of development consent addressing these issues.

6. Project Duration and Size of Development

The applicant believes that there is approximately 450,000m³ of rock that can be extracted. In regards to project duration the Statement of Environmental Effects states:

A specific end date for the operation of the quarry has not been proposed because:

- *Rural quarries tend to have highly variable and sporadic rates of extraction.*
- *The actual end date will depend upon the rate of extraction of gravel/aggregate, which will vary from year to year, depending on demand.*

This is quite normal practice for the majority of quarries.

7. Vague and Conceptual information within the Statement of Environmental Effects

The applicant was given the opportunity to address the issues contained within the submissions. This resulted in an expanded Statement of Environmental Effects.

8. Impact on planned future development on adjoining properties

This cannot be considered as part of this assessment. Development needs to be considered at the time of submission, and this is permissible development. If the developments as stated had been submitted and approved, the impact on that development could be assessed. Assessment cannot be made on proposed future development.

9. Rural land character conflict

A Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment was undertaken by the applicant.



The aim of this Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment (LUCRA) is to identify and assess the potential for land use conflict issues and risk of occurrence before a proposed change in land use proceeds and disputes arise.

LUCRA Process

The approach taken in this LUCRA is based on the NSW DPI Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment Guide published in October 2011. This involved:

- *gathering information about the site and locality;*
- *undertaking a site inspection;*
- *talking to neighbouring landholders within 1.5 kilometres of the proposed development site;*
- *undertaking a land use conflict risk assessment; and*
- *documenting strategies to reduce the risk or consequence of any conflicts.*

Where there may have been conflict, mitigation measures have been proposed. These mitigation measures are achievable and appropriate in each instance. It has been recommended that it be conditioned that these measures be undertaken as part fo the development approval. There is no impact that cannot be mitigated

10. The Development is not designated development

This development meets the thresholds of local development. It in under 2 ha in site area, including access roads, under 30,000m³ extraction per annum and is not within 500m of an existing operating quarry. This development is not designated development.

11. Lack of social and economic benefits

The Statement of Environmental Effects states in regards to:

a) Social Impact

No significant negative social impacts are expected given the:

- *Rural setting of the quarry, within a RU1 Primary Production zone.*
- *Substantial distances between the quarry and residences of neighbouring landholders.*

b) Economical Impact

Initially direct employment levels at the quarry are expected to be in the vicinity of one full time equivalent position, per 5,000 loose cubic metres (LCM) of annual production.

Estimated full time equivalent employees (FTE).

ANNUAL PRODUCTION		QUARRY FTE
LCM	tonnes	
1,000	2,400	0.2
5,000	12,000	1
10,000	24,000	2
20,000	48,000	4
29,000	69,600	5



Estimated contractor days per annum.

ANNUAL PRODUCTION		PLANT MAINTENANCE	EXPLOSIVES USE & TRANSPORT	CRUSHING & SCREENING	TOTAL
3	tonnes				
1,000	2,400	4	1	1	10
5,000	12,000	8	1.5	5	15
10,000	24,000	12	3	10	25
20,000	48,000	16	6	20	42
29,000	69,600	20	9	30	59

A local quarry will substantially reduce freight costs, hence the overall cost of construction for any project requiring significant amounts of aggregate or road base. For example, transport costs for aggregate used to manufacture concrete at Walcha are expected to be reduced by more than 80%.

This adequately addresses the economical and social impacts of the development.

12. Alternative sites

The Statement of Environmental Effects states that:

Several alternative sites were considered on the “Brooklyn” property but were rejected for one or more of the following reasons.

- **Resource deficiency** - *A significant volume of rock (ie >250,000 cubic metres) with suitable engineering properties is required to enable the establishment of a viable aggregate quarry. Geological and geophysical observations indicate that other parts of the “Brooklyn” property lack sufficient volumes of suitable rock.*
- **Higher environmental values** - *Parts of the property with relatively intact vegetation communities and higher vegetation density have been avoided as they have more significant environmental values.*
- **Topography** - *Establishing, operating and rehabilitating a quarry is typically more cost effective on the side of a ridge or hill. Other parts of the “Brooklyn” property were considered and discarded on the basis that they had minimal or excessive slope.*

Consideration was given to establishing a quarry at various other sites within the Shire, but they were rejected for one or more reasons, including:

- *There were unrelated dwellings within 1 kilometre.*
- *A lack of reasonable proximity to Walcha township.*
- *No evidence of a significant volume of basalt rock.*
- *Likely access problems including public roads in poor condition and/or located a significant distance from a public road.*
- *Higher environmental values with significant stands of native vegetation, rock outcrops or other factors.*

A “do nothing” scenario involves the quarry not proceeding which would involve various “opportunity costs”, including losing a chance to:

- *Increase economic diversity via the establishment of a new extractive industry.*
- *Reduce construction costs for local roads, buildings and infrastructure by enabling a local*



source of aggregate supply.

- *Diversify local employment opportunities.*
- *Create new local jobs.*

Enable a relatively isolated extractive industry proposal to proceed within a setting where it is quite unlikely to have any significant adverse impacts on the environment, neighbours, community or public infrastructure.

This comprehensively addresses this issue.

13. Weather data location

It is appropriate for weather data to be gathered from the nearest known weather station. The data for this development was taken from Woolbrook Station which is 7 km away from the development site. This is considered to be adequate for the assessment of this development.

14. “Meaningful” Consultation was not undertaken with neighbours by the applicant

The applicant is not legislatively required to consult with neighbours. Council did undertake neighbour notification as per the Walcha CPP and extended the time period for submissions as requested by this submission writer and Janet Norton.

“Meaningful consultation” with neighbours does not mean they have to give their permission for the development.

15. Mining SEPP assessment is lacking

It is considered that adequate assessment has been undertaken by the applicant within the Statement of Environmental Effects and during the consideration of this SEPP.

16. Legal Opinion – application fails to provide sufficient information for assessment

The applicant has provided a comprehensive reply which addresses all issues as raised within the submissions, and has provided adequate information for an appropriate level of assessment to be undertaken.

Based on the technical component of the objections lodged, and the complicated environmental nature of this development, the relevant State Agency, Department of Geological Survey of NSW – Mining, Exploration and Geoscience (GSNSW) was consulted and requested for an opinion on the development which is attached to this report. Their response after reviewing the application is:

GSNSW has reviewed the Statement of Environmental Effects for the above DA and have no issues or concerns to raise.

They requested that the proponent provide annual production data to the Department for the site as a condition of consent.

A full development assessment was undertaken and appropriate conditioning utilised to address any issues outstanding. All relevant plans and a full assessment report recommending approval subject to the appropriate use of conditioning are attached.



Legal Issues:

Consideration under the provisions of *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, *Walcha Local Environmental Plan 2012*, *Walcha Development Control Plan 2019* and the *Walcha Community Participation Plan 2020* has been undertaken.

Financial Implications:

Nil

Environmental Implications:

There are environmental implications, but the mitigation measures provided within the Statement of Environmental Effects and the use of appropriate conditioning will reduce the environmental impact to a minimum, and can be controlled.

Social Implications:

Nil

Policy Implications:

Nil



Item: 6.2 **Ref:** WO/2021/01375
Title: Request for Donation of Topsoil for Woolbrook Public School Gardens
Author: General Manager
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: No

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Goal: 4.1 – *Education and training opportunities will be provided that deliver the skills and knowledge needed to advance the community.*

Strategy: 4.1.2 – *Ensure access to education for all children in outlying villages.*

RECOMMENDATION: That Council approve to donate a small tipper truck load of topsoil to Woolbrook Public School for their gardens.

Introduction:

Council received a letter from Woolbrook Public School requesting the donation of topsoil for their gardens.

Report:

The Woolbrook Student Representative Council (SRC) held a Meeting and they have written their request in response to the Meeting. Copy of letter attached.

Topsoil is approximately \$102 per metre³ from Bunnings. Council actually no longer sell topsoil to the public due to the fact that we normally only have enough to meet Council's operational requirements. However, noting this, the last advertised price in 2019-2020 for topsoil per tonne was \$61.50/tonne.

Council's Urban Works Supervisor advised that Council will be ordering topsoil in the near future, and would be okay to donate a couple of tonne to the school, providing Council agrees.

The delivery of the topsoil could be completed by a staff member on his way home from work which would require no additional costs to Council.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications for this report.

Financial Implications:

The financial implication is in the vicinity of \$250.

Environmental Implications:

This would assist the school by growing their own vegetables and therefore assisting the environment.

Social Implications:

Educating the children on growing fruit and vegetables is an asset they have for life.

Policy Implications:

Current policies require all donations to be approved by Council.



Student Representative Council
Woolbrook Public School
Church Street
Woolbrook NSW 2354
Monday 22-03-2021

For the General Manager

Re: Request for donation of topsoil

Please find following a letter of persuasion, co-written by the Woolbrook Student Representative Council in response to the SRC meeting.

Ohhhh! I wish we had better soil to grow our vegies in.....

Ohh... Walcha Council! We need topsoil for our gardens at school so we can get our seeds up in better soil. We already have garden beds and a shade shelter built over our garden beds that doesn't let too much of the sun or frost through onto our plants. BUT....

We need new topsoil so our plants can grow because the soil we have now is mostly clay but if you guys could donate some soil we would be very grateful.

At Woolbrook Public School we have a program called 'Kids in the Kitchen' where we all cook different foods and sometimes we get fresh food out of our gardens. Then we create all different foods for us to eat. New topsoil in our gardens will make our plants grow so much faster and taste so much better plus our vegies will be more nutritious!

Just think of how healthy we will be after growing and cooking our food from the best gardens in town!

Hey Walcha Council... we could do you a deal! If you guys would donate some topsoil for our gardens we could cook something for you with vegies from our garden...How about it? Please consider our request.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brayden. G".

Brayden Greenhalgh
President
Woolbrook Public School
Student Representative Council





Item: 6.3 **Ref:** WO/2021/01449
Title: Request for Waiver of Excess Water Charges for Walcha Bowling Club
Author: General Manager
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: No

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Strategy: 8.2.1 – Maintain a stable and secure financial structure for Council.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- 1. Decline the request to waive excess Water Charges of \$2,101.09, and**
 - 2. Agree to enter into a payment plan for the Walcha Bowling Club to make payment of the excess water charges of \$2,101.09.**
-

Introduction:

Council received a letter from Walcha Bowling Club requesting that Council reduce excess charges by \$2,101.09.

Report:

During January 2021 the Walcha Bowling Club experienced a leakage at the Club under the concrete driveway accessing the loading dock. This leakage went unnoticed for a period of time as the water seeped under the footpath and into the gutter some distance from the clubhouse. This leakage has contributed to the club receiving an excess water charge \$2,101.09.

The Walcha Bowling Club are seeking to have this charged waived and have written their request in response to the Meeting. Copy of letter attached.

Whilst it is agreed this is an unfortunate situation, if approved, this would set a precedent that Council would not be able to consistently follow. It is proposed that a suitable alternative would be to enter into a payment plan with the Walcha Bowling Club to allow them to pay off this invoice over a longer than usual timeframe that will reduce the impact of this debt on the business.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications for this report.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications for this report.

Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications for this report.

Social Implications:

With an appropriate payment plan, there are no social implications for this report.

Policy Implications:

There are no policy implications for this report.

General Manager



Walcha Council
2W Hamilton Street
Walcha. NSW. 2354

During the “Shut Down” period in 2020, because of restrictions imposed as a result of the Corona virus epidemic, Walcha Bowling and Recreation Club closed for a period of time. The Club then received an excessive water invoice dated 05/08/2020 for the amount of \$1204.67. This amount was due to a water leakage at the Club at a time when no staff members or administration personnel were in attendance to notice the leakage. This amount was subsequently paid by the Club.

On or around early January 2021 another leakage occurred at the Club under the concrete driveway accessing the loading dock. This leakage went unnoticed for a period of time as the water seeped under the footpath and into the gutter some distance from the clubhouse. Both incidents required a plumber to locate and repair the problems. The amount for the invoice relating to the later incident was \$2101.09.

The Board of Directors of Walcha Bowling and Recreation Club understand that it is the responsibility of the Club to make good the full amount of the invoice, but would greatly appreciate favourable consideration be given by Walcha Council to agree to a reduction to the amount of \$2101.09 for this current invoice. Like others in the local community that are experiencing difficult times and perhaps in future times with changes to Job Keeper and Job Seeker, we depend on all finances available for us to continue to operate.

Kind Regards

Tony Asmus
President
Walcha Bowling and Recreation Club
14E Croudace Street
Walcha. NSW. 2354



Item: 6.4 **Ref:** WO/2021/01141
Title: Grant Program Update
Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Program and Bushfire
Recovery Funding Update.
Author: Director Infrastructure
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: No

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

*Strategy 1.1.2 – Maintain safe and efficient regional and state road links to, from and through the
Walcha Local Government Area.*

Goal 3.2 – The public health and wellbeing of the community will be protected and enhanced.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- 1. Amend the budget allocations to the following Local Roads & Community Infrastructure projects at the next Quarterly Budget Review to ensure all projects are appropriately funded within the total grant of \$1,067,914:**
 - a) McHattan Park works to improve access and facilities - \$58,000**
 - b) Construct Levee Bank Pedestrian Underpass - \$20,000**
 - c) Improve Walcha Preschool Access Road - \$6,000**
 - d) Level Footpath Area at Lions Park - \$25,000**
 - e) Walcha Preschool – Air Conditioning - \$15,000**
 - f) Walcha Gym Security– Install CCTV- \$6,200**
 - g) Walcha Gym – Improve Signage - \$6,000**
 - h) Electrical Safety Upgrades – Complete High Priority Works- \$139,714 or any available under expenditure of the Local Roads & Community Infrastructure program.**
 - 2. Amend the budget allocations to the following Bushfire Recovery Funded projects at the next Quarterly Budget Review to ensure all projects are appropriately funded within the total grant of \$1,275,000:**
 - a) Rebuild Approval Process Subsidy for bushfire impacted properties - \$4,000**
 - b) Kangaroo Flat Road – Removal of fire debris - \$7,500**
 - c) Forest Way Road – Sealing works – \$275,728**
-

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to update on the progress in delivery of the Local Roads & Community Infrastructure and Bushfire Recovery Funding programs and to seek resolution of recommended amendments.

Background:

The current programs have been prepared in response to the Councillor Workshop held on 11 November 2020 and number of subsequent Council resolutions that have been noted on the following funding breakdown tables.



Report:

Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI)

The grant eligibility criteria for this funding requires eligible projects to be additional to what is normally budgeted, be delivered before specified dates and to meet at least one of the following categories:

- a) Improves local roads and/or related facilities;
- b) Improves Council owned assets including natural areas; and/or
- c) Improves accessibility, visual amenity and/or safety such as paths, painting, fencing, landscaping, shelters, BBQ facilities etc.

Whilst the majority of project proposed for the Initial Round funding have been completed, there are a number of projects suffering delays due to unresolved technical challenges (Improve Pedestrian Safety on Blue Hogan Bridge, Construct Levee Bank Pedestrian Underpass and Level Footpath Area at Lions Park) which may result in delays in completing the works and foreseeably making these project ineligible for this funding source.

To address this issue it is proposed that these delayed projects are managed in the following way:

Improve Pedestrian Safety on Blue Hogan Bridge – Project re-scoped to achieved the required outcome without having to complete works on the Transport for NSW controlled bridge structure;

Construct Levee Bank Pedestrian Underpass – Project is deferred due to the expectation that construction costs will far exceed the current budget allocation;

Level Footpath Area at Lions Park – Project construction is funded under both the Initial and Extension rounds to meet funding deadlines.

The current approved program is shown in Table 1:

Item	Description	Initial Round Due: 30 June 2021		Extension Due: 30 June 2022	
		Approved Allocation	Proposed Revised Allocation	Approved Allocation	Proposed Revised Allocation
1	Walcha Pool Fence Replacement	\$45,000	\$45,000		
2	McHattan Park works to improve access and facilities	\$46,000	\$58,000		
3	Improve Pedestrian Access at Walcha Hospital	\$20,000	\$20,000		
4	Construct Levee Bank Pedestrian Underpass	\$40,000	\$20,000		
5	Improve Pedestrian Safety on Blue Hogan Bridge	\$40,000	\$40,000		
6	Gravel Road Resheeting	\$155,000	\$155,000		
7	Local Urban Road Resealing	\$200,000	\$200,000		
8	Improve Walcha Preschool Access Road	\$20,000	\$6,000		
9	Level Footpath Area at Lions Park	\$25,000	\$10,000		\$15,000
10	Walcha Preschool – Air Conditioning		\$15,000		
11	Truck Wash Bay - Contribution			\$252,000	\$252,000
12	Gym Equipment		\$22,000	\$80,000	\$58,000
13	Funds to be Allocated – Extension			\$144,914	\$151,914
Total:		\$591,000	\$591,000	\$476,914	\$476,914

Table 1: Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Funds



Following the Councillor Workshop held on the 25 March 2021 it is recommended the resulting estimated unallocated funds of \$22,000 plus any other resulting under-expenditure from the Initial round be first spent on Gym Equipment in the first instance to ensure this round of funding is fully exhausted by 30 June 2021 and to minimise draw down of the Extension round funds.

Further, with regard to the Extension program, Councillor Workshop discussions identified a number of projects that could be considered for funding from the available \$151,914 “Extension” funds:

Item	Description	Estimate
1	Walcha Gym Security – Install 5 cameras (2 outside & 3 inside) and network video recorder to improve security and reduce potential for vandalism or equipment misuse.	\$6,200
3	Walcha Gym Signage - Estimate to install front and side metal signage to high aesthetic standard.	\$6,000
4	Walcha Gym External Painting – Estimate to improve the external appearance of existing building by painting or rendering. Increase the estimate by \$15,000 if a local artist is engaged to provide graffiti art to the front façade.	\$25,000
5	Walcha Gym Opening Promotion – Local advertising costs	\$500
6	Electrical Safety Upgrades – Address identified risks with regard electrical installations in Council’s building assets. Approximately \$305,000 of work required.	Any available uncommitted amount
7	Forrest Way – Strengthening and sealing the existing unsealed road to improve wet weather access. Additional works may involve culvert replacement where required. This work an extension to works already planned and in-train	Any available uncommitted amount
Total:		\$151,914

To reduce Council’s asset renewal gap and ensure facilities are safe and functional, it is recommended that funds are directed towards completing the remaining essential works at Walcha Gym and directing any spare funds towards electrical safety improvements.

Bushfire Recovery Funding

The grant eligibility criteria for funding require projects to meet at least one of the following:

1. Rebuilding damaged or destroyed Council assets such as key local roads, bridges, and community facilities;
2. Employing additional local staff to take on specialist recovery or planning roles to help coordinate and plan for the rebuilding effort;
3. Hosting new public activities and events to bring communities together and attracts visitors back to affected regions;
4. Activities and measures to support local economic recovery; and
5. Immediate maintenance and repairs to relief and evacuation centres.

All projects must be completed by 30 June 2022.



The current approved program is shown in Table 2:

Item	Description	Approved Allocation	Proposed Revised Allocation
1	Kangaroo Flat Road Sealing	\$620,000	\$620,000
2	Brackendale Road Sealing – near Eastern Hills		
3	Brackendale Road Sealing - MacLeods Creek to Salway		
4	Chinnocks Road Road Widening	\$125,000	\$125,000
5	Nuggety Gully Road Widening		
6	Free Entry to Walcha Races 2020	\$12,000	\$12,000
7	Tulip bulbs for Community 2020	\$7,514	\$7,514
8	Rebuild Approval Process fees for bushfire impacted properties	\$0	\$4,000
9	Replace second bridge at Old Brookmount Bridge	\$180,000	\$180,000
10	Heavy vehicle access improvements to Brackendale Road Bridge	\$30,000	\$30,000
11	Walcha Central School P&C Drive in movie night	\$3,500	\$3,500
12	Kangaroo Flat Road – Removal of Fire Debris	\$10,000	\$7,500
13	Improvements at Yarrowitch Hall	\$6,772	\$6,772
14	Walcha Business Breakfast	\$3,000	\$3,000
15	Forest Way Road – sealing works	\$277,214	\$275,728
Total:		\$1,275,000	\$1,275,000

Table 2: Bushfire Recovery Funds

It is recommended changes to this program are limited to reallocation of some funds towards subsidising building development fees and a minor correction to the Forrest Way and Kangaroo Flat fire debris removal allocations.

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications to Council funds arising from this report. This report provides a proposal for all remaining available funds under this program. However Council's financial position would benefit if funding was directed towards addressing asset renewal.

Legal Implications

All projects satisfy the grant eligibility criteria and do not have any other legislative implications.

Social Implications

All projects are considered to have broad positive social implications and are consistent with community priorities identified in the recent Council Facilities & Youth Survey.

Environment Implications

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.



Item: 6.5 **Ref:** WO/2021/01406
Title: Request for Annual Hall Subsidy Contribution
Author: General Manager
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: No

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Strategy: 5.2.2 – *Encourage and support outlying communities to have their own identity through the development of community infrastructure.*

RECOMMENDATION: That Council approve the Annual Hall Subsidy Contribution of \$500 per Hall to the Ingleba and Tia Public Hall Committees.

Introduction:

Annually Council contribute to the Community Halls within our Local Government area to assist with their running costs.

Report:

The Annual Hall Subsidy Contribution is set in conjunction with the Annual Budget and applies to all the halls within our Local Government Area. In 2017 Council reviewed the amount of the subsidy within the Donations Policy for these Halls and resolved to set the subsidy at \$500 per year to each Hall.

It is noted that the Ingleba and Tia Public Halls are not listed within the Donations Policy, however, historically they have always received the Subsidy. This report is to request that these Halls be paid the Annual Hall Subsidy of \$500 per Hall for the 2020/21 financial year. Woolbrook, Yarrowitch, Nowendoc, Niangala and the Walcha Multipurpose Hall Committees were all paid their subsidy in March.

An updated donations policy will be presented to Council over the next year to address this on an ongoing basis.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications for this report.

Financial Implications:

The annual budget reflects the cost of the Annual Hall Subsidy Contribution and includes provision for the Ingleba and Tia Public Halls, therefore there are no additional costs.

Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications for this report.

Social Implications:

These Halls are considered a meeting place for the smaller communities and assist with social interactions by holding events, such as Christmas in July, Christmas barbeques, etc.

Policy Implications:

It is Council's intention to complete a full review of the Donations Policy which will include the inclusion of both the Tia and Ingleba Hall to Category 5 of the Policy, amongst other updates/considerations.



Item: 6.6 **Ref:** WO/2021/01438
Title: Walcha Preschool Advisory Committee Parent Nominations
Author: Director Community & Tourism
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: No

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Strategy: 4.1.1 – *Provide quality and accessible preschool and early intervention facilities for children in a safe and supportive environment.*

RECOMMENDATION: That Council APPOINT Kate King to the Walcha Preschool Advisory Committee.

Report:

The Preschool Advisory Committee consists of four parent/citizen representatives generally elected for a two year period with half the number changing each year. As per the roles and structures one member has elected to remain on the Committee for a second term.

Applications for the vacant position were called and one application was received. The applicant Kate King has children attending Preschool in 2021.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications for this report.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications for this report.

Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications for this report.

Social Implications:

There are no social implications for this report.

Policy Implications:

This report abides by the Committee Membership terms which states:

“Parent / citizen representatives to be elected for a two year term with half changing each year. They are also restricted to a maximum of three consecutive terms (6 years).”



Item 7:

Notice of Motions



There are no Notice of Motions for
April 2021



Item 8:

Matters of Urgency



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Item 9: Management Review Reports



9.1 OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

Ref: WO/2021/01401

Responsible Executive: General Manager

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Goal 8.1 – Walcha Council will exemplify good leadership, mutual respect and trust by being inclusive, ensuring open information and communication and encouraging active participation at all levels.

RECOMMENDATION: That items included in the Office of the General Manager Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

1. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

1.1 Investment Report Status at 31 March 2021

Report for the investments held in March 2021 is included.

Overdraft Limit

An Overdraft Limit of \$200,000 has been arranged with the National Australia Bank. When utilised an Overdraft Interest Rate of 8.62% applies.



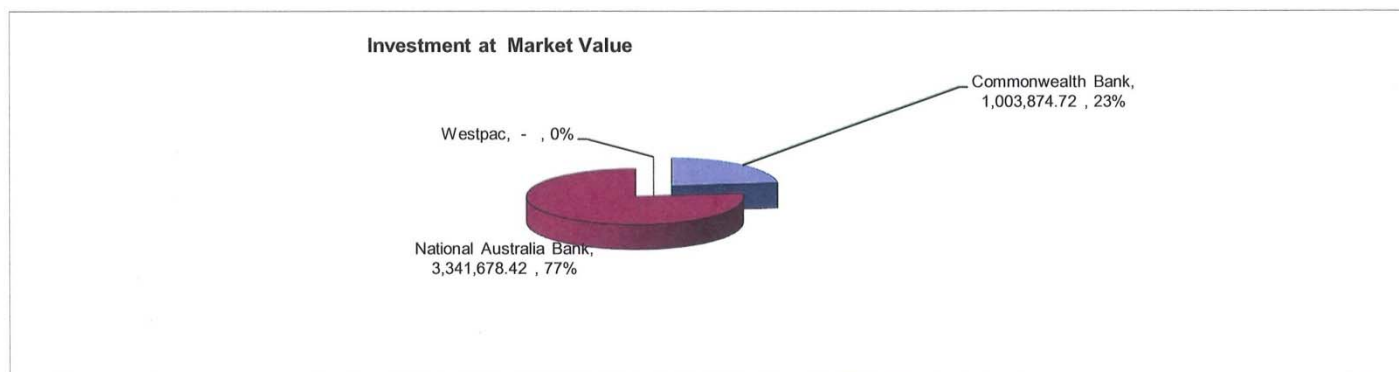
REGISTER OF INVESTMENTS TO 31/03/2021

Institution	Type	Placement Date	Term (Days)	Maturity Date	Interest Rate	Amount Invested	Est. Interest	Est. Market Value At Maturity	YTD Interest	YTD Redemption	MV % of Portfolio	TD Account #
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	22/04/2020	365	22/04/2021	1.15%	251,063.02	2,887.22	253,950.24	0.00	-	5.78%	
Commonwealth Bank	Term Deposit	2/12/2020	180	31/05/2021	0.46%	501,779.19	1,138.28	502,917.47	1779.19	-	11.55%	37844807/02
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	11/01/2021	150	10/06/2021	0.38%	252,444.83	394.25	252,839.08	1151.67	-	5.81%	91-991-2554
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	9/02/2021	150	9/07/2021	0.35%	252,927.29	363.81	253,291.10	1940.98	-	5.82%	91-720-2309
Commonwealth Bank	Term Deposit	9/02/2021	180	8/08/2021	0.35%	502,095.53	866.63	502,962.16	2095.53	-	11.55%	37844807/01
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	8/03/2021	182	6/09/2021	0.30%	620,379.51	928.02	621,307.53	2727.63	-	14.28%	41-6873-585
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	15/03/2021	210	11/10/2021	0.31%	530,006.33	945.30	530,951.63	4334.99	-	12.20%	97-227-2676
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	22/02/2021	270	19/11/2021	0.34%	628,705.71	1,581.25	630,286.96	2250.17	-	14.47%	91-831-7642
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	19/03/2021	270	14/12/2021	0.32%	552,804.19	1,308.56	554,112.74	5492.61	-	12.72%	
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	25/03/2021	300	19/01/2022	0.32%	253,347.53	666.34	254,013.87	2065.34	-	5.83%	
						4,345,553.13	11,079.66	4,356,632.79	23,838.11	-	100%	

PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR COMPARATIVE DATA:

31/03/2020

Interest Earned YTD	115,563.00
Market Value of Portfolio	3,556,740.00
Interest Earned YTD 30/06/2020	131,153.35
Market Value of Portfolio 30/06/2020	4,321,715.04



Responsible Accounting Officer's Certification Local Government (General) Regulation 2005- Paragraph 212
 The investments have been made in accordance with the Act, Regulations and Walcha Council's Investment Policy.

Signed Rosemary Strobel (Responsible Accounting Officer)



9.2 INFRASTRUCTURE:

Ref: WO/2021/01332

Responsible Executive: Director Infrastructure

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Goal 8.1 – Walcha Council will exemplify good leadership, mutual respect and trust by being inclusive, ensuring open information and communication and encouraging active participation at all levels.

RECOMMENDATION: That items included in the Infrastructure Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

To improve project reporting, the reporting on all initiated and budgeted projects has been consolidated into one format.

The “Tracking Status” uses a combination of a % percentage to indicate how progressed the project is and a “traffic light” colour indicator to clearly show at a glance the health of a project:

Indicator Colour	Project Status
Green	On Track – Project meeting expectations with regard time, cost and quality.
Yellow	At Risk – Unforeseen issue(s) that may result in either time, cost or quality requirements not being met. Action to mitigate risk is detailed in “Comments” section of report
Red	Off Track – Project will not meet expectations. Implications, risks and mitigation actions are detailed in the “Comments” section of the report.
100%	Completed – Project completed with no further work required



1. Local Road Projects

Funding Source: Bushfire Recovery Grant – Grant agreement requires all works to be completed by 1 June 2022				
Project	Project Start	Planned Completion Date	Tracking Status	Comments
Kangaroo Flat Road –Sealing gravel road, 1.1km from “Kylie” stockyard to homestead	August 2020	November 2020	100%	Works completed.
Brackendale Road – sealing gravel road, 1.5km near Eastern Hills	September 2020	November 2020	100%	Works completed.
Brackendale Road – sealing gravel road between MacLeod Creek to Salway	August 2020	November 2020	100%	Works completed.
Chinnocks Road – widen formation over 500m	November 2020	December 2020	100%	Works completed.
Nuggety Gully – widen formation over 1km	January 2021	February 2021	90%	Widening work completed but road still to be gravel resheeted and culverts replaced in late April/early May 2021. Whilst project has been delayed beyond planned completion date, it will be still completed well within grant due date.
Replace Old Brookmount Road Bridge located over Emu Creek	February 2021	March 2021	25%	Works have been delayed due to the recent storms. Works will recommence when the flows in the creek have receded.
Heavy Vehicle Access Improvement to Brackendale Road Bridge near Lowanna Road	February 2021	February 2021	80%	Approach works expected to be completed in April 2021. Whilst project has been delayed beyond planned completion date, it will be still completed well within grant due date.
Tree Debris – Remove from Kangaroo Flat Road reserve	December 2020	March 2021	100%	Works completed
Forest Way – Cement stabilise and bitumen seal 2.0km of existing gravel road	Oct 2020	June 2021	0%	Site works scheduled to commence in May 2021



Funding Source: Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Grant agreement requires all Initial round works completed by June 2021				
Project	Start Date	Planned Completion	Tracking Status	Comments
Gravel Road Resheeting – Additional \$155,00 to accelerate program to improve wet weather access	Feb 2021	June 2021	70%	Works commenced in February and have been delayed due to natural disaster declaration.
Local Roads Resealing – Additional \$200,000 to accelerate program to reduce road maintenance costs	Feb 2021	June 2021	100%	Works completed

Funding Source: 95% Fixing Local Roads and 5% Council General Revenue – Grant agreement requires all works to be completed by June 2022				
Project	Project Start	Planned Completion Date	Tracking Status	Comments
Geraldine Road – Improve curve and seal section 2.4 to 2.82km from Niangala Road	May 2021	June 2021	90%	Pavement works have been completed, minor drainage works still required.
Glen Morrison Road – Rehabilitate and widen existing sealed road to ease curve	March 2021	June 2021	0%	Work scheduled to commence in May 2021
Kangaroo Flat Road – Seal section from “Claremont” cattle grid towards Claremont	August 2020	November 2020	100%	Works completed.
Moona Plains Road – Rehabilitation of existing sealed road from “Romavilla” towards Rowleys Creek Road	October 2020	June 2022	5%	Site works scheduled to commence in May 2021 with final bitumen seal to be completed next summer when conditions are favourable.



Funding Source: 50% Federal Bridge Renewal Program & 50% Council General Revenue – All works to be completed by June 2022				
Project	Project Start	Planned Completion Date	Tracking Status	Comments
Moona Plains Road (Moona Plains Station)	January 2020	June 2022	15%	Designs have been completed. Works have been delayed a few weeks due to flooding of the Macdonald River, will commence April 2021.
Englefield Road Bridge Replacement				
Glen Morrison Road Bridge Replacement (Stephens)				

Funding Source: Fixing Country Roads – Grant agreement requires all work to be completed by December 2020				
Project	Project Start	Planned Completion Date	Tracking Status	Comments
Old Brookmount Bridge Replacement at Dog Trap Creek	October 2019	December 2020	25%	Detailed design expected to be issued in late April.
Nowendoc, Tops & Brackendale Road Intersection Upgrade	October 2019	December 2020	95%	Works practically completed. Signage and linemarking to be completed early May 2021.
Lakes Road Bridge Replacement	August 2019	September 2020	100%	Works completed.



2. State Roads

Funding Source: Transport for NSW – Road Maintenance Council Contract (RMCC) - Annual				
Project	Project Start	Planned Completion	Tracking Status	Comments
Oxley Highway – 2020/2021 Routine Maintenance	1 July 2020	30 June 2021	83%	Routine road maintenance works continue. Tree trimming and new signs/repair signs to be completed this month.
Oxley Highway - Pavement Strengthening work at Bundagara	February 2020	31 August 2020	100%	Works completed.
Oxley Highway – Road Rehabilitation of Segment 2670 near Hartford Road	July 2020	May 2021	80%	Construction work commenced. Shaping batter, Stripping top soil, guardrail removal completed. Now placing the final layer of overlay. Sealing, line marking and guardrails installation to be completed by mid-May 2021.
Oxley Highway –Segment 2670 near Hartford Road – Additional works	March 2021	May 2021	5%	Contractor coming to widen culvert#533. Additional guardrails and backfilling behind headwall will be completed by May 2021.
Oxley Highway – Resealing 2020-21	November 2020	December 2020	100%	Works completed.
Oxley Highway – Heavy patching 2020-21	November 2020	May 2021	5%	Work has deferred due to storm disaster. Work planned to commence in late April 2021.
Oxley Highway – Reseal preparation 2021-22	January 2021	June 2021	75%	Crack sealing works completed. Shoulder grading to be completed by June 2021.
Oxley Highway – ARL2 Culvert repair works	January 2021	June 2021	15%	Culvert cleaning has been completed by contractor. Relining to take place in May 2021.
Oxley Highway Safety Project 2602 – Segments 2700 to 2720 –	January 2021	June 2021	5%	Scoping of pavement drainage improvements, installation of curve alignment markers and guardrail underway. Expecting quotes from Contractor. Site works planned to be completed by June 2021.



3. Regional Roads

Funding Source: Roads & Maritime Services – Heavy Vehicle Safety & Productivity Program Grant – Grant agreement requires all work to be completed June 2021				
Project	Project Start	Planned Completion	Tracking Status	Comments
Yalgoo Rest Area – Construct Heavy Vehicle Rest Area.	1 July 2020	30 June 2021	0%	Project cancelled due to forecast costs exceeding available budget

Funding Source: Transport for NSW – Regional Roads Block, Traffic facilities, REPAIR & Supplementary Grants - Annual				
Project	Project Start	Planned Completion	Tracking Status	Comments
Thunderbolts Way and Topdale Road	1 July 2020	30 June 2021	83%	Routine road maintenance works underway. Pothole repairs, slashing, weed spray completed last month.
Thunderbolts Way – Resealing Program – 2020/21	1 October 2020	30 April 2021	95%	Resealing completed. Line marking to be completed in April 2021.
Thunderbolts Way Road – Capital Works	July 2020	July 2021	80%	Shoulder widening, heavy road patching and rehabilitation works have been completed. Line marking to be completed by April 2021.

Funding Source: Black Spot Program Grant – Federal Government				
Project	Project Start	Planned Completion	Tracking Status	Comments
Cobrabald River Rest Area – Widening of Road to Bridge Approaches	Jan 2020	July 2020	100%	Works completed
Smiths Creek - Widening of Road to Bridge Approaches	Jan 2020	August 2020	100%	Works completed.



Funding Source: Thunderbolts Way Strategy – Grant agreement requires all work completed by May 2022				
Project	Project Start	Planned Completion	Tracking Status	Comments
Rehabilitation of Remaining 4.2 km section near of Lakes Road. (Segments 4540 to 4570)	July 2021	May 2022	5%	Pavement investigation, design completed. Site works recommence in July 2021 and completed by May 2022.
Rehabilitation of Walcha Township Approaches - Derby Street – (Segments 4710 and 4720)	July 2018	August 2021	10%	Delays by consultants in finalising the design is delaying the preparation and tendering of this project. Work is now expected to be tendered in late May 2021 with the expectation construction will commence in June.
Rehabilitation of 1 km section near Glen Morrison Road (Segment 4600)	1 July 2019	September 2020	100%	Works completed.
Rehabilitation of 1 km section near Glen Morrison Road (Segment 4590)	1 July 2019	November 2020	100%	Works completed.
Rehabilitation of 1 km section near Glen Morrison Road (Segment 4580)	1 May 2021	June 2021	100%	Works completed.
Rehabilitation of 1km Section at Box Hill (Segments 4760)	July 2020	June 2021	5%	Preconstruction activities are 90% complete. Quote received and contractor selected. Construction scheduled to be completed by June 2021.
Rehabilitation of 1km Section at Bergen (Segment 4810)	July 2020	June 2021	5%	Preconstruction activities are 90% complete. Quote received and contractor selected. Construction scheduled to be completed by June 2021.



4. Water, Sewer & Waste

Funding Source: Restart NSW Grant				
Project	Project Start	Planned Completion	Tracking Status	Comments
Walcha Truck Wash Bay Upgrade	Early 2019	June 2021	50%	Contractor has delayed commencement to late April thereby risking achieving planned completion date.

Funding Source: Restart NSW Grant																										
Project	Project Start	Planned Completion	Tracking Status	Comments																						
Walcha Sewerage Treatment Plant Upgrade	2019	June 2021	65%	New channel screw sieve has been but not yet commissioned, safety grills and other minor work required. Lagoon drying beds are completed, electrical upgrade for running of mixers still required prior to lagoon refurbishment.																						
Walcha Water Security – Off Creek Storage	March 2020	Sept 2022	16%	Milestones: <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>• Concept Design</td> <td>Completed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Review of Environmental Factors</td> <td>Draft completed and will be finalised on receipt of feedback from Natural Resource Access Regulator</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Construction Grant up to 90% or \$9M of Construction Costs</td> <td>Secured</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• 60% Detailed Design</td> <td>Completed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Dedicated Project Manager Engaged</td> <td>Completed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• 90% Detailed Design:</td> <td>On track.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Design and Tender Documents</td> <td>On track for June 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Council's \$1M Funding Co-contribution</td> <td>To be budgeted in 2021/22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Tender</td> <td>On track for July 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Construction Commences</td> <td>Forecasting November 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Commission</td> <td>Forecasting September 2022</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	• Concept Design	Completed	• Review of Environmental Factors	Draft completed and will be finalised on receipt of feedback from Natural Resource Access Regulator	• Construction Grant up to 90% or \$9M of Construction Costs	Secured	• 60% Detailed Design	Completed	• Dedicated Project Manager Engaged	Completed	• 90% Detailed Design:	On track.	• Design and Tender Documents	On track for June 2021	• Council's \$1M Funding Co-contribution	To be budgeted in 2021/22	• Tender	On track for July 2021	• Construction Commences	Forecasting November 2021	• Commission	Forecasting September 2022
• Concept Design	Completed																									
• Review of Environmental Factors	Draft completed and will be finalised on receipt of feedback from Natural Resource Access Regulator																									
• Construction Grant up to 90% or \$9M of Construction Costs	Secured																									
• 60% Detailed Design	Completed																									
• Dedicated Project Manager Engaged	Completed																									
• 90% Detailed Design:	On track.																									
• Design and Tender Documents	On track for June 2021																									
• Council's \$1M Funding Co-contribution	To be budgeted in 2021/22																									
• Tender	On track for July 2021																									
• Construction Commences	Forecasting November 2021																									
• Commission	Forecasting September 2022																									
Walcha Waste Strategy 2025	August 2020	April 2021	60%	Survey results workshopped on 10 February 2021. Service scenarios to be developed and workshopped with Council prior seeking resolution to place on public exhibition. Staff resourcing shortfall is delaying progress. Will be priority project for new Manager - Waste & Water. Recruitment to commence in April 2021																						



5. Community Projects

Funding Source: Stronger Country Communities				
Project	Project Start	Planned Completion	Tracking Status	Comments
Walcha Community Gym Upgrade – SCCF2	2019	March 2021	100%	Completed
Levee Bank Walk Lighting – SCCF3	2020	Dec 2021	5%	Procurement and investigation in progress. Report to be workshopped with Council in the near future to finalise scope details before procurement finalised and physical works proceed.
Youth Hall Renovations – roof and flooring	June 2020	Dec 2021	100%	Completed
Walcha Men’s Shed Relocation	2020	Aug 2021	10%	Demolition at site completed. Construction commenced.

Funding Source: Drought Communities Program				
Project	Project Start	Planned Completion	Tracking Status	Comments
Walcha Water – Chlorine Mixers	Mar 2020	Dec 2020	100%	Completed.
Walcha Water – Back up Power Supply for Treatment Plant	Mar 2020	Dec 2020	100%	Completed.
Ingleba Hall upgrade	Mar 2020	Dec 2020	100%	Completed
Nowendoc Rest Stop	May 2020	Dec 2020	100%	Completed
Public Infrastructure – Bin Surrounds	Mar 2020	Oct 2020	100%	Completed.



Funding Source: Drought Communities Program				
Project	Project Start	Planned Completion	Tracking Status	Comments
Public Infrastructure – Water Fountains	Mar 2020	Dec 2020	80%	First fountain completed in December 2020. Installation of McHattan Park fountain has been delayed to be undertaken as part of the McHattan Park pathway construction project and will be completed before the grant due date.
McHattan Park – Picnic Shelter	Mar 2020	April 2020	100%	Completed
Walcha Showground - Event Centre Disabled Access	Mar 2020	Sept 2020	100%	Completed.
Walcha Showground – Youth Hall toilets	Mar 2020	Oct 2020	100%	Completed
Stampede Ground Woolbrook.	Mar 2020	Nov 2020	100%	Completed.
Yarrowitch Hall Upgrades	May 2020	Dec 2020	100%	Completed
Lions Park Upgrades	Mar 2020	April 2021	95%	Works to be completed April 2021.

Funding Source: Transport for NSW Walking and Cycling Program 2020/21 Grant agreement requires all work completed by June 2021				
Project	Start Date	Planned Completion	Tracking Status	Comments
Improve Walcha Pathways	Oct 2020	June 2021	15%	Project connects existing pathways in Walcha township to Walcha Central School and John Oxley Oval. Internal works commenced but tight timeframe has resulted in the mitigating action of a time extension request. Contractor engaged supplement in-house resources.



Funding Source: Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund – TBA				
Project	Project Start	Planned Completion Date	Tracking Status	Comments
Walcha Swimming Pool Refurbishment	TBA	TBA	5%	Funding Deed received from Department and project planning documents developed. Aquatic engineering assessment scheduled. Procurement for Solar heating of pool in progress.

Funding Source: Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Grant agreement requires all work completed by June 2021				
Project	Start Date	Planned Completion	Tracking Status	Comments
Walcha Pool Fence Replacement- Stage 1	Oct 2020	June 2021	100%	Completed
McHattan Park Works to Improve Access and Facilities	Oct 2020	June 2021	5%	Site works commenced in March 2021.
Walcha Hospital – Improve Street Access	Oct 2020	June 2021	2%	Site works to commence in May 2021.
Construct Levee Bank Pedestrian Underpass	Oct 2020	June 2021	10%	Further investigation has identified the construction cost will greatly exceed available budget and available grant timeframe. Project consequently placed on-hold
Improve Pedestrian Safety on Blue Hogan Bridge	Oct 2020	June 2021	5%	Given TfNSW reluctant to recognise the need for the fence, an alternative solution will be implemented.
Improve Walcha Preschool Access	Dec 2020	June 2021	100%	Completed.
Level Footpath Area and Culvert Works at Lions Park	Dec 2020	June 2021	5%	Whilst the original intention was to pipe the open drain, detailed design indicates that the costs will greatly exceed available budget. Consequently the project will be rescope to complete improved foot paving refurbished toilet block. Work to be completed in May 2021.
Preschool Air Conditioning	April 2021	May 2021	80%	Installation underway.



6. Proposed Works for the Coming Period

6.1 Rural Roads:

Three maintenance grading crews are currently operating on our local road network. :

Yarrowitch Area –Maintenance grading and resheeting works continuing in this area, with the following roads remaining: Kangaroo Flat Road, Mooraback Road and Clonmel Road.

Nowendoc Area– Maintenance grading and resheeting works are scheduled for this area, including; Brackendale Road, Tops Road, Nowendoc Road and Nuggety Gully Road.

Niangala Area – Maintenance grading works will start in this area, and will include the following roads: Ruby's Knob Road, Merlin Downs Road, Quarry Road and Baringa Road.



9.3 ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT:

Ref: WO/21/01404

Responsible Executive: Director Environment & Development

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Goal 8.1 – Walcha Council will exemplify good leadership, mutual respect and trust by being inclusive, ensuring open information and communication and encouraging active participation at all levels.

RECOMMENDATION: That items included in the Environment & Development Management Report be **NOTED** by Council.

The purpose of this report is to provide statistical information in relation to activities of the Environment & Development Department. This Department is responsible for the following key functions:

1. Development
2. Planning
3. Building
4. Environmental management
5. Regulatory services
6. Animal control
7. Building and amenity maintenance

1. Development & Construction

Development Statistics 2020/2021	DAs	CCs	CDCs
Total Number Approved	35	7	6
Approved under Delegated Authority	27		
Approved as a Registered Certifier		5	2
Approved by Council	8		
Approved by Private Certifier		2	2
Value	\$3,181,180.00	\$1,240,500.00	\$807,600.00
Number Withdrawn / Cancelled	2	0	1
Number Rejected	0	0	0
Number Refused	1	0	0



1.1 Determinations Issued

March 2021			
Development Application's			
Number	Description	Address	Determination
10.2021.8	Retaining walls, protection of trees	167W Evans Street Walcha	Approved under delegated authority
10.2018.17.2	Subdivision of land	Carrai Road Walcha	Approved under delegated authority
10.2021.9	Shipping container	16184 Oxley Highway Walcha	Approved by Council
10.2021.7	Erect double carport and shed	2N Middle Street Walcha	Approved under delegated authority
10.2021.6	Garage/Carport/Shed	175W Croudace Street Walcha	Approved under delegated authority
10.2021.4	Dwelling	188W Apsley Street Walcha	Approved under delegated authority
10.2021.3	New dwelling	Tamac 563 Aberbaldie Road Walcha	Approved under delegated authority
10.2021.1	Construct shed	217 Oxley Drive Walcha	Approved by Council
Construction Certificate's			
Number	Description	Address	Determination
Nil			
Complying Development Certificate's			
Number	Description	Address	Determination
18.2021.6	Alterations to single dwelling	1791 Winterbourne Road Walcha	Approved by private certifier
18.2021.5	Replace existing deck	17S Pakington Street Walcha	Approved by registered certifier

1.2 Occupation Certificates

March 2021				
Number	Description	Address	Part / Whole	Determining Authority
Nil				

1.3 Subdivision Certificates

March 2021		
Subdivision Certificates Issued		
Number	Description	Address
15.2020.13	Rural subdivision of land	Carrai Road Walcha
15.2021.1	Rural subdivision of land	10973 Thunderbolts Way Walcha
15.2021.2	Rural subdivision of land	58 Scrubby Gully Road Walcha



1.4 Planning Certificates

Planning Certificates	2019/2020	2020/2021	Current Period
Number Issued	92	110	11

1.5 Building Information Certificates

Building Information Certificates	2019/2020	2020/2021	Current Period
Number Issued	1	-	-

1.6 Outstanding Notices and Orders Certificates

Outstanding Notices & Orders Certificates	2019/2020	2020/2021	Current Period
Number Issued	7	15	1

1.7 Critical Stage Inspections for DAs, CCs and CDCs

Compliance Inspections	2019/2020	2020/2021	Current period
Site inspections	35	30	8
Footings & slab inspections	13	8	2
Framework inspections	6	5	-
Waterproofing inspections	2	3	1
Stormwater inspections	2	-	-
Final inspections	8	4	1
Food premises fitout inspections	2	2	-
Complaints	-	-	-

1.8 Bushfire Attack Level Certificates

BAL Certificates	2019/2020	2020/2021	Current Period
Number Issued		1	-
Number Not Issued	1	-	-

1.9 Dwelling Entitlement Information Advice

Dwelling Entitlement Advice	2019/2020	2020/2021	Current Period
Number Issued	6	8	-



1.10 Bushfire Recovery Grant Funding – Regulatory & Associated Fees Waiver

Information on regulatory and associated fees under the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 and Local Government Act 1993 for repairing and replacing bushfire affected property waived.

Fee Type	No.	\$ each	Total
Dwelling Entitlement Advice		\$110.00	
		TOTAL	

2. Environment & Regulatory

2.1 Section 68 Activities

Section 68 Activity Data			
	2019/2020	2020/2021	Current Period
Number Issued	9	14	5

S68 Compliance Inspections	2020/2021	Current period
Site inspections	9	5
Internal drainage inspections	4	-
External drainage inspections	6	-
Water supply work inspections	3	-
Final inspections	-	-

2.5 Swimming Pool Inspection and Compliance

Swimming Pool Compliance	2019/2020	2020/2021	Current Period
Certificates of Compliance Issued	-	1	1
Certificates of Non-Compliance Issued	-	2	-
Inspections Conducted	-	2	1

3. Animal Control

Companion Animal Registrations 2020/2021								
	Desexed	Non desexed	Pensioner (desexed)	Pound Purchase (desexed)	Cat Desexed	Under 6 Months	Working	Value
Jul*								\$328.00
Aug	2	1		1	2			\$462.50
Sep	4	3						\$826.00
Oct	1	2		1				\$618.00
Nov	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	\$52.00
Dec	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	\$436.00
Jan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



Feb	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	\$268.00
Mar	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	\$86.00

Companion Animal Seizures 2020/2021						
	Seized	Surrendered	Released	Rehomed	Euthanised	Stolen/Escaped
Jul*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aug	-	1	-	-	1	-
Sep	2	8	2	8	-	-
Oct	3	1	3	1	-	-
Nov	1	8	-	9	-	-
Dec	-	5	-	5	-	-
Jan	2	2	-	2	2	-
Feb	2	-	1	-	1	-
Mar	-	-	-	-	-	-

Companion Animal Ranger Services 2020/2021				
	Dog attack investigation	Roaming dogs	Roaming cats	Barking dogs
Jul*	-	-	-	-
Aug	1	5	1	-
Sep	1	2	-	2
Oct	2	6	-	1
Nov	2	4	-	1
Dec	-	2	-	3
Jan	2	2	-	1
Feb	1	6	-	-
Mar	1	2	-	3

	Caution	Dangerous Dog		Nuisance Dog		Menacing Dog		Penalty Notice
		Notice	Order	Notice	Order	Notice	Order	
Jul*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aug	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sep	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oct	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nov	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dec	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jan	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feb	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mar	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



9.4 COMMUNITY AND TOURISM

Ref: WO/2021/01410

Responsible Executive: Director Community & Tourism

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Goal 8.1 – Walcha Council will exemplify good leadership, mutual respect and trust by being inclusive, ensuring open information and communication and encouraging active participation at all levels.

RECOMMENDATION: that items included in the Community & Tourism Management Report be **NOTED** by Council.

1. WALCHA COUNCIL COMMUNITY CARE

March 2021

1.1 Groups

Social group activities for the year recommenced this month. Group numbers are still restricted to a maximum of 23 to operate within the NSW Government guidelines for community halls.

The Men's Group had a great morning tea, with a good number turning up to catch up with old friends and some newer faces joining in for the first time as well. Sadly the weather rained out their planned excursion to Inverell but they all seemed very happy with attending the Centre for meat pies, mash and mushy peas as well as chocolate brownies for dessert and a great movie kept them well entertained into the afternoon. The Inverell trip has been rescheduled for April.

The Women's Group also had a lovely catch up at their morning tea and all expressed how happy they were with the excellent turn out. The excursion for March was a trip to Tamworth to see a live performance of Mamma Mia at the Tamworth Capitol Theatre. All participants said that they had a great time and that they thoroughly enjoyed the show. We will only do matinees in the future though as it was a very late night.

Both Craft and Art classes had diminished numbers this month due to them being at the same time as the Walcha Show and all of our participants being in volunteer positions as well as working on their individual projects at home. Regardless, WCCC submitted a project from the Craft Group and got a first place.

The Community Café only ran for one week in March due to unplanned staffing shortages. The café only had eight participants on the 5th; however this allowed for a more casual, intimate lunch for the group and was enjoyed by all. The meal was honey mustard chicken and apple crumble and there were no left overs!

The Wanderer's Group went for a full day excursion to Glen Innes, where we participated in their Harmony Day celebrations and enjoyed the free lunch provided by the community. We also went to the Gawura Aboriginal Art Gallery and did some Op Shopping.

Our premier event for the month was a joint excursion to 'Cheyenne', the property owned by the Blomfield family that sits on the edge of the gorge. We had a wonderful turnout, beautiful weather and a range of activities enjoyed by all that included tours of the museums that



Burgh has curated on the property himself, a tour of his antique vehicles, gentle walks around the property and a delicious lunch that was catered on site. It was a day to remember and our members have asked for a repeat in the future. We will continue to offer joint excursions to local restaurants and cafes during the colder months and resume visits to local properties when it becomes warmer again.

New Clients for the month- 10

Exited Clients- 1

Women's Group

3 March - 14

17 March - 12

Wanderer's Group

16 March - 5

Men's Group

9 March - 15

23 March - 10

Craft Group

18 March - 2

Art Group

10 March- 1 (show week)

Card Group

2 March- 4

9 March - 5

16 March - 4

23 March - 4

30 March - 4

Community Café

5 March - 8

19 March - cancelled due to staff absences

Joint Excursion

2 March - 17



1.2 Transport – 2020

Medical drives – 33 trips were delivered during the month, including local trips as well as to Tamworth and Armidale.

Walcha Access bus (every Monday)

1 March - 2

8 March - 1

15 March - 2

22 March - 2

Bus to Tamworth (monthly)

26 March - 5



Bus to Armidale (every Thursday)

4 March - 7
11 March - 6
18 March - 4
25 March - 6

Uralla Food Pantry (fortnightly)

8 March – 2

Taxi Vouchers – 26 clients used the service with 256 trips being provided.

1.3 Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels volunteers are back in place as of March. A morning of training in the Community Care rooms was provided in February and all security check ups (including police checks) are being processed to ensure they are up to date.

This month 24 clients received hot main meals with some of those clients also receiving desserts and frozen meals throughout the 7 day week.

The total number of meals this month was:

- 260 Hot meals,
- 112 frozen meals and
- 189 desserts.

1.4 Feedback and Complaints

Clients continue to appreciate the birthday cards that get sent out every week. We have had a number of the clients also let us know that they have been enjoying the activities and are looking forward to our future plans. There have been some concerns about the clothing choices of a particular staff member and appropriate clothing options for work have been addressed with the whole staff as a part of the last staff meeting. The implementation of a uniform is also being assessed as a viable option for WCCC to encourage consistency and meet the expectations of a professional workplace.

2. LIBRARY

March 2021

Stats:

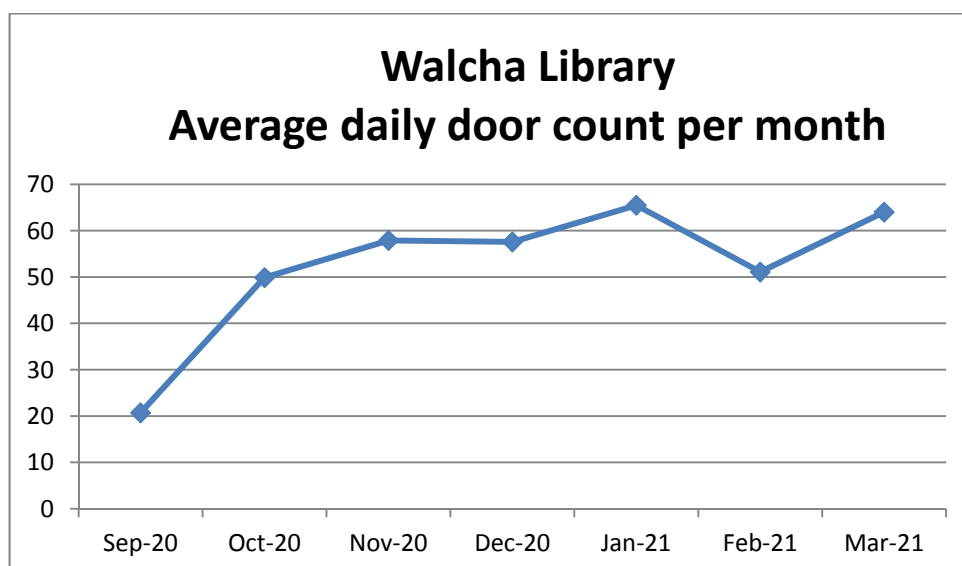
- Loans: 834
- Returns: 800
- Reservations placed & issued: 115
- New members: 12
- Door count: 1152
- Wi-fi use: 47
- Computer use: 91
- Housebound: 7

Other statistics:

- Eaudio: 48 users, 273 downloads
- Ebooks: 22 users, 74 downloads
- Both eAudiobook & eBook usage have increased
- 94% BorrowBox & 6% RBDigital (transfer to new vendor replacement of RB Digital has commenced and March data only includes RBDigital – April data will show new program Libby)



The Walcha Library has been busy again throughout March. The total door count increased significantly this month, bringing the daily average back up to that of a peak period (usually a school holiday average). This high traffic can be attributed to the Tech Savvy Seniors program running each week of March and the Storytime & Baby Book Time sessions returning to Walcha Library this month. Loans, renewals and returns have increased significantly this month, with almost 200 more loans than last month. The Storytime sessions likely generated a high number of these loans. Naturally the WIFI internet and public access computer usage increased in proportion to the boosted door count, given that most of the seniors accessing the Tech Savvy courses this month used the library WIFI on their devices or the library computers to learn and practice their new skills. New member registrations have spiked too with 12 new members signing up this month. New members have included seniors and young families discovering the library through Storytime sessions, in addition to the usual newcomers.



Library promotion and outreach projects

The 'What's New' window display has continued to provide information about library, Council and community programs, events and activities throughout the month. Footpath traffic has been noted, demonstrating the benefits of this display.

The Walcha Library Social Media pages have continued to promote the library and youth programs this month. The popularity of the Library Facebook page increased again this month and 173 people have liked our page (increasing by 3) and 190 followers (3 new followers). Over the month of March, our social media posts reached 440 people. Library and Youth Instagram posts are now followed by 153 people – this has increased by 12 people this month.

The programs, activities and information shared via Instagram this month included:

- Restocking of the CNRL Seed Library at Walcha Library, with seeds donated by Walcha Residents
- New Book Club promotion - encouraging members to join & sharing success of the first meeting
- Thank you post for the Summer Break Program, funding for some movies and excursions provided by the NSW Government for the Summer holidays.



- Invitation for youth to participate in the Youth Week Working Group – an afternoon activity to encourage YAC and wider youth community to be part of the planning for Youth Week 2021 activities.
- Promotion of Walcha Library’s monthly Storytime and Baby Book time session
- Harmony Week display in the library
- Volunteering youth survey link shared
- Walcha Council Youth Week Comedy Workshop information and promotion
- School Holiday Program promotion
- Libby by Overdrive – promotion of new program
- Posts advertising the Easter Storytime & Easter Bonnet Craft session after school in the week before Easter (and further post sharing success of session & photos)



Many of the social media posts overlap, and are shown on both Instagram and Facebook. The following were shared on the Walcha Library Facebook Page this month:

- CNRL/Tamworth library’s new YouTube channel and Baby Booktime online series
- Library display promoting resources held in the library collection to help those entering exhibits for the Walcha Show
- Tamworth Library International Womens Day reading list & NSW public library post on IWD theme which also promoted ‘indyreads’ an electronic book program available to all CNRL members.
- Regional Education Support Network (RESN) that provide free online tutorial services to regional students in years 11 & 12
- Tech Savvy Seniors program promotion
- Share of Walcha Central School post thanking Council for sponsoring a ‘Leadership Academy Australia’ Youth Summit held at the school
- Department of Health Programs – leadership training and inclusive football coaching
- Youth Week promo video from Youth Week NSW Facebook page
- Sharing the CNRL Innovation Studio’s promotional post for the Sphero Bridge Building workshop they are presenting in Walcha in the upcoming April holidays.
- Share of Department of Regional NSW Office of Sort Dads and Daughters events coming up in the area.
- Share of CNRL FAST (Food, Art, Science and Technology) online workshops for the upcoming school holidays.



This month all CNRL libraries have transferred over to a new eLibrary program called Libby (by Overdrive). This new electronic resource is a program taking over from the current program which was showing a decrease in use, RBDigital. The transfer commenced in February, and after



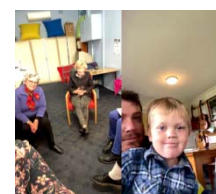


some IT delays transferring library member information over, it was finally launched this month. The new interface seems easier to use once set up, and the promotion of it has seen an uptake in interest from members. Many Walcha borrowers who used RB Digital were regular electronic magazine borrowers, and Libby still offers this resource, however it promises to offer a wider variety of magazines, books and audio books.

The Tech Savvy Seniors program has continued every Monday at the Walcha Library this month. Participants completed the 7th and final session on 29 March. The small groups worked on topics including: accessing the internet, email, tablet and smartphone usage, then moving into topics such as social media use, shopping and banking online. Each 2 hour workshop was repeated each Monday, to allow the groups to remain small, for staff to provide some individual support, and to ensure the group were COVID safe. An average of 7 people participated each week, some attending multiple weeks, and some only attending once. The group will be given a chance to celebrate their learning in Seniors week in April, with a small graduation morning tea at the library, where a webinar on 'scam awareness' will be streamed at the library for the participants. A total of 18 people participated in the program over 14 sessions covering 7 topics over 7 weeks. 56 places were available in these workshops and 52 places were filled with an eager local, which was great to see. There has been great uptake of this program, with healthy attendance, active interaction and positive feedback.



*Coll King & Antony White at the Intro to smart phone session
*Helen Wake and Marg Cross video calling practice with presenters son, Jake McKenna



Tech Savvy Seniors support didn't finish at the end of each workshop. Library staff have noted an increase in library visitors that are seeking assistance with their smartphones and tablets since the program began. The program encouraged participants to seek clarification, ask questions and practice using their devices, and staff have offered support with this beyond the workshop. During March, library staff noted the time spent on these enquiries, and can report that this month they have provided over 4.5 hours of additional support to participants and other locals that couldn't attend the workshop, but still had questions about their device. This support is usually of a drop-in nature, or while they are visiting to borrow, however some have also called ahead to ensure other library activities aren't on and timing is suitable for staff. Much of this support can be linked to new skills learnt at the Tech Savvy workshops, however many visits are related to the ServiceNSW app and smartphone navigation, now required to sign in to all venues in NSW for COVID contact tracing.

The Panorama Project is an Arts North West project which is a visual, written and tactile record of the winter of 2020. People across the New England and North West of NSW created a series of sketchbooks that make up the exhibition. The exhibition has moved

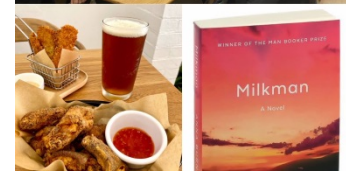




around to 20 libraries in this tour. Walcha Library held the exhibition for two weeks from 19 February to 5 March, and dozens of locals popped in to look at it and appreciate the work that went into each sketchbook.

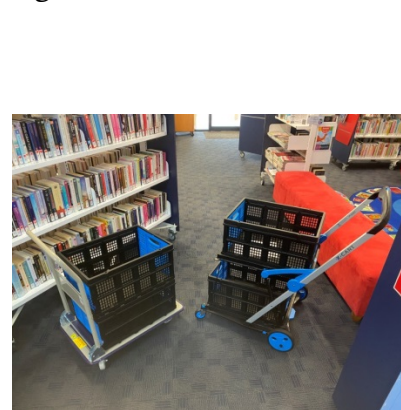
Walcha Bookclub continued at full capacity this month at the Library. Members discussed their latest book over a small morning tea in the Historical Society room adjacent to the library.

The 'New Bookclub' commenced on the 3rd week of March at the Walcha Taphouse. The new group of interested readers included 11 members, who nibbled on drinks and food while they discussed the first book. It wasn't a popular text, but it gave the group plenty to talk about. Being their first meeting they got to know each other, discussed their reading preferences, and the group were given the entire list of CNRL bookclub kits to browse through, and decided on some titles they would like to read this year. The list of preferences has been sent through to CNRL staff who send through the book club kits each month. This bookclub will remain open to new members, and posters and social media posts will advertise it to the public.



Themes for library displays this month have included the Walcha Show preparation and Harmony Week display. Both provided an assortment of resources from the collection to highlight different purposes. The Walcha Show display held books and DVDs on knitting, wool, flowers and photography, in line with the entries locals would have been making for the local show. The Harmony Week display (from 15 March) followed the theme 'Celebrating how all of our differences make Australia a great place to live' with an assortment of books to highlight this theme on display for the week. Both displays were also photographed and promoted on social media.

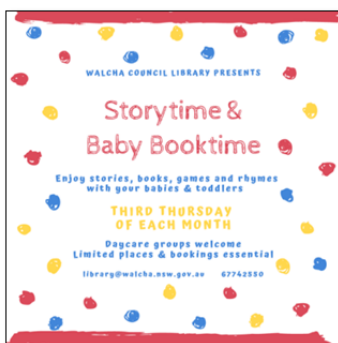
Housebound services have continued in March, and Quota volunteers have continued to assist with the Riverview Nursing home delivery and some housebound individuals. The new trolleys have arrived, and were given the tick of approval from the volunteers. This trolley and new basket system will make the transport and organisation of books at Riverview a lot easier for volunteers, who are an essential part of this programs success.



The Walcha Library has continued to support locals who are studying this month. This month has seen an increase in usage by adults who are remotely studying at TAFE or University. Use of the facilities has included a space to study, a space to have a zoom/video call, WIFI, printing or public access computers. Library have also continued to promote the



Regional Education Support Network (RESN) that provide free online tutorial services to regional students in years 11 & 12 through social media.



Walcha Library Storytime and Baby Book time has returned this month. There were 6 parents and 6 children in attendance in the first session for the year, which complied with COVID regulations for the space. Staff have reconnected with previous parents through the text message program they previously opted into. Due to the success of the Baby Library bag program, there have also been many new

parents enquiring about Storytime during the COVID closure last year, so they were also added to the list to ensure they too would be in the loop once the sessions could recommence. Posters, flyers and social media were also used to promote the return of the sessions to new families. Storytimes will be held on the 3rd Thursday of each month, with additional sessions held in holidays and important dates. This month an additional session was held for Easter, providing an afternoon Storytime so that school age children could also attend. The Easter session, held on 31 March, included Easter bonnet hat making, coinciding with school Easter parades usually held in the last days of the term. Walcha Library have also continued to share Tamworth Library and CNRL Storytime YouTube channel and Baby Booktime video series on social media, as it is a great resources for families who are unable to make it to the physical Walcha events.



The new Walcha Library volunteer program has recruited the first of its volunteers, Leah Riley, and she has commenced her work at the library this month. After completing her Council library volunteer induction and Working With Children Check, she commenced training with library coordinator in March. Staff are grateful for the extra assistance, especially with the maintenance of the library collection, processing of returns and shelving. The volunteer program aims to help build the skills and experience of community members, while also freeing up library staff to work on developing and coordinating programs and activities.

The library collection is 'weeded' each year to enable hand picked outdated material to be moved on. Older items that aren't being loaned regularly anymore are sent to CNRL headquarters for processing. Weeding makes space for new titles purchased each year and makes shelves more accessible. Walcha Library staff were provided with basic training in weeding in February and have commenced the weeding throughout March. This time and labour intensive job commenced in the fiction, thriller and western sections each week and will continue until the entire Walcha collection has been checked.

Walcha Library staff have also started working on the upcoming school holiday program and Youth Week activities for April. There has been a lot of consultation with local youth and they are organising a range of activities in preparation for the upcoming Easter break. The Youth Advisory Committee meeting was held on 2 March, and a Youth Week working group meeting was held at the library on 11 March. These interactions were integral in the consultation with Walcha youth to ensure the activities planned for Youth Week are appropriate and supported by the youth. From the interactions, staff are going ahead with



plans for the Youth Week Comedy Workshop in April, and have sought youth input into the planning and advertising of the event.

Cassie McKenna
Library Coordinator

3. Preschool

March 2021

No report due to staff leave.

Zoe Herbert
Nominated Supervisor

4. Tourism

March 2021

No report due to staff leave.

Susie Crawford
Tourism Manager

5. Community Recovery Officer

March 2021

On Wednesday 3 March 2021, Director Andrew Colvin, Jo Garner and Karen Schlage from National Bushfire Recovery Agency included Walcha in a stop to their fire affected areas tour earlier this month. Ross O'Shea accompanied them as a Resilience NSW representative. The group arrived mid morning and after a quick lunch, headed out to tour the fire affected area of Yarrowitch, Blomfields Road and Kangaroo Flat Road with a quick stop in to Yarrowitch Hall. We returned to Walcha for a Community meeting which included two community members from different areas of Walcha, both suffered loss in the fires, the Mayor, General Manager and Director Community & Tourism. The meeting went for over an hour and Andrew was able to hear some first hand concerns facing land holders and also hear from the Mayor and General Manager on issues for Council.

The Walcha Show Society was recipients of a portion of the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund phase 2 Stream 1 Community Grants Program. The Show Society dedicated a marquee to Bushfire Recovery over the two days (12-13 March) and invited multiple agencies and support services to the event with photos on display. Some agencies were not available for both days, and while on Saturday there was only the CRO and Lucy Gallagher from Farmgate Drought Counsellor at the marquee, there were more people who visited the marquee area. Saturday is traditionally the busier day for the show and I implemented a native tree/seedling giveaway which attracted many people to the marquee.

Please see below pictures and link to NBN news feature:

<https://www.nbnnews.com.au/2021/03/13/walcha-show-expecting-thousands-across-the-three-day-event/>

Council have been able to reach out to the EPA and speak with Jessica Churchill about funding availability and grant application process. Due to the natural disaster storm/floods situation, the EPA has moved their closing date for applications to June 2021.



We currently have one re-build in progress with Disaster Welfare Assistance which is still currently sitting with Public Works Australia at quote stage. There has been no progress on it since last month, and it is still in review stage (this is also hampered by further flooding/disaster assistance during the last month). I have regular contact (fortnightly) with the case manager for the landholder and are keeping them informed.

On Wednesday 17 March 2021, we gathered agencies and services to set up on the outskirts of McHattan Park where the Services Australia van was parked. This was the start of the inclement drizzly rain and subsequent rain event in the following days. There was not much interest from the community due to the weather and some services were also not able to attend.

During the end of January and into February we commenced planning “Get Ready” Preparedness sessions to be held in Walcha in Late February and March. The plan was to involve emergency services, recovery support, DPI and NBRA officers in assisting the community plan for prepare for disaster and recovery. Unfortunately due to low registration numbers/interest, we cancelled the session for 25 February and the session for 25 March was cancelled due to the flooding weather event. A decision will be made in the coming months if it is taken to outer communities in order to reach a larger number of people.

TAFE had funding to support our community with a one day Quad bike course. It was held at Yarrowitch “on farm” on Monday 8 March 2021. Two trainers attended with all equipment required to instruct for the day. The eight participants learnt a lot during the day and enjoyed the social engagement as well.

On 23 March 2021 I participated in a Grant Writing workshop through Non Profit Training. This was a 5 hour on line workshop which was beneficial in assisting community groups with grant writing and sourcing funding.

As Community Recovery Officer, I was able to offer assistance for Nowendoc Ladies Auxiliary and Nowendoc Hall Committee apply for grant funding through FRRR. This month they were advised they have been successful with the funding for:

- A Yoga instructor one day per week for a year and equipment worth \$12,000
- Air conditioning for the heating of the hall \$25,000.

Council has closed and evaluated quotes that were received for delivering the Bushfire Recovery and Resilience Training programs as part of the BCRRF Phase 2 stream 1 funding allocated to Councils. Planning will take place with providers on scheduling course dates to deliver this training to the community.

Walcha LGA was included in the LGA’s to receive Disaster Recovery Assistance announced on 26 March 2021. Within Walcha LGA, main arterial roads have been damaged and also land slides on the main easterly road to Port Macquarie, the Oxley Highway. The CRO position has been useful as a proactive position to provide and share information in the Walcha Community to those friends and family who have relatives in the major flood affected areas and also to other agencies to share to their clients who are in flood areas.

Brooke Jeffery
Community Recovery Officer



Item 10:

Committee Reports

RECOMMENDATION: That Council RECEIVE and NOTE the following Committee Minutes.



Walcha Motorcycle Rally Committee Meeting

held on

Thursday, 11 March 2021

at

8:00am

at

Walcha Council Chambers

PRESENT:

Clr Jennifer Kealey (Chairperson), Susie Crawford (Tourism Manager), Lisa Kirton (Tourism Officer), Karen Kermode (Director Community & Tourism), Brad Keable, Shane Carey, Tracey Hoy, Karen Barnes, Alan Scrivener (invited guest), Andy Burwell (invited guest), Kim Barnett (invited guest).

1. APOLOGIES:

Alan Holmes

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

It was MOVED on the Motion of Kirton and Carey that the Minutes of the Walcha Motorcycle Rally Committee Meeting, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.

3. BUSINESS ARISING:

3.1 Program of Events

Draft program attached (Appendix)

Suggested by Andy Burwell that all cars be parked outside showground and have a bike area to park inside showground. Meet next week to do a walk around showground to look at logistics and think about wet weather plans. Need to find a good MC for the event. Shane Carey suggested Pinky – Shane Carey to send us his details. Do we need things for kids? i.e. jumping castle, mechanical bull, Pee wee 50s. Bike barrel racing – Darren Mackaway. Ask for assistance from Service clubs to do Gate – make a donation to club. Do an Expression of interest in Advocate. This is what we are looking for?

Committee Minutes



3.2 Ticketing

Rally ticket price: \$109. Families from 2354 postcode: \$40 family or \$20 per adult. These would need to be pre-purchased prior to the event. Separate gate price for day entry: \$55. Will need to run the budget on these figures and report back.

3.3 Website

Updated website is coming along well. Planning to go live by mid April, once ticketing is finalised.

3.4 Merchandise

Have received quotes for t-shirts and patches. Requested quote for caps from Tracey Hoy. Look at having a stall for Rally Pack and merchandise at showground. Look at stickers for Rally Pack, instead of patches as patches are of no value to Adventure riders. Andy Burwell suggested including a little garbage bag in the Rally Pack.

3.5 Budget

In process of finalising budget.

3.6 Funding and Sponsorship

Tourism staff to finalise letters seeking sponsorship and sponsorship levels. Bike shops that may be interested in sponsoring include: Vince Strang (Inverell), Western Rangers (Tamworth), Eagle Power sports (Tamworth), Kawasaki place

3.7 Permanent Signage

Final draft of permanent town entry signage has been circulated from Kate Durack.

3.8 Marketing and Promotion

Requested quotes from following publications: Live to Ride, Heavy Duty, Motorcycle Rallies Australia, Just Bikes. Also to contact Adventure Rider publications/circulations: Armidale Adventure Riders, Adventure Rider, Australian Motorcycle news, Australian Motorcyclist. See what sort of packages they could put together for us and invite to the event (wrist band).

3.9 Maps

Megan Scrivener has done a map for Road Riders and Adventure Riders.

3.10 Local businesses / Community groups - update

Organise town meeting to prepare local businesses (August). Suggest bike themed window dressings. Utilising empty shops for bike displays – suggest individuals approach business owners direct.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

Nil

5. DIRECTORS REPORT

Nil

6. COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS FOR 355 COMMITTEES

Nil



7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 355 Policy & Code of Conduct Training

Deferred to next meeting

8. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 25 May 2021 – 8:00am – 10:00am at Walcha Council Chambers.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10:00AM.

Appendix - Draft Program

Thursday 18 November	Friday 19 November	Saturday 20 November	Sunday 21 November
	<p>Guided Rides meet at Showground 9:30 Guided Road Rides (50pax limit/ride) 9:30 -11:00 Guided Adventure Rides (staggered start & sweepers)</p> <p>Alternatively explore Walcha in your own time Find Highlighted routes and loops in the Map provided in your Rally-Pack OR See below for suggestions of things to do in and around Walcha</p> <p>**Breakfast provided at showground? + provide wrapped salad roll for Adventure/Road rides (community group)</p> <p>Lunch at local venues/pubs</p> <p>**Please note you have to be a rally ticket holder to enter guided rides, street procession and show n shine events</p>	<p>Meet at 'The Whale' Sculpture 8:00 Parkrun (or walk the levee bank footpaths) McHattan Park 8:30 Walcha Farmers Market (until 12:30) 9:00 Billy Cart Derby (until 10:30) 11:00 DK Freestyle (burnout stuntman)</p> <p>Guided Rides meet at Showground 9:30 -11:00 Guided Adventure Rides (staggered start & sweepers)</p> <p>Showground 11:00 Meet for Bike & Hot Rod Street procession 11:15 Street procession (departs) 12:00 Set up for Show n Shine Motorbikes Hot Rods Trucks</p> <p>**Please note you have to be a rally ticket holder to enter guided rides, street procession and show n shine events</p>	<p>Breakfast Pack up & leave</p>
<p>Camping Opens 2:00 or 3pm 2 - 8pm 2 - 8pm Give out Rally bags 4- 8pm Music – Local artists</p> <p>Pulled Pork & a Pint ??? Community Club BBQ & Beer Walcha Junior Rugby Pig on Spit WJRU</p>	<p>Showground (afternoon/evening) 1 – 5pm 2:00 DK Freestyle 3:00 Burnout Comp 6:00 Demolition Derby (in between band sets)</p> <p>5 - 9pm Live Music Band</p> <p>DRINK Bar (Community Group) Craft Beer Stalls Gin Truck</p> <p>FOOD BBQ / Pig on a Spit (Community Group) BBQ Smoker – Alan’s friend? Mr Potato Johnno’s Pizza</p>	<p>Showground (afternoon/evening) 1 – 4pm 1:00 New England Truck Show (1-4pm) 1:00 Show 'n Shine (1-4pm) Motorcycles Hot Rods</p> <p>1:00 Wood Chop Demonstration (1-4pm) 3.00 Kids Motocross Ag bike comp (rodeo ring) 4:00 Backtrack Dog Jumping @ the Bar</p> <p>5 - 9pm Live Music Band</p> <p>DRINK Bar (Community Group) Craft Beer Stalls Gin Truck</p> <p>FOOD BBQ / Pig on a Spit (Community Group) BBQ Smoker – Alan’s friend? Mr Potato Johnno’s Pizza</p> <p>**NOT CONFIRMED</p>	

<p>ALL WEEKEND – THINGS TO DO <u>IN TOWN</u> Antipodean Tynker Langford Tours Open Air Gallery - self guided brochure Walcha Sculpture Soundtrail Art Show – WCS P&C? Pioneer Cottage & Museum Complex (Tigermoth aeroplane)</p> <p><u>OUT OF TOWN</u> Apsley Falls – 20km ride, sealed access Tia Falls – further 17km sealed +6km unsealed access</p>	<p>ALL WEEKEND – THINGS TO DO <u>IN TOWN</u> Antipodean Tynker Langford Tours Open Air Gallery - self guided brochure Walcha Sculpture Soundtrail Art Show – WCS P&C? Pioneer Cottage & Museum Complex (Tigermoth aeroplane) Barefoot bowls @ The Bowlo</p> <p><u>OUT OF TOWN</u> Apsley Falls – 20km ride, sealed access Tia Falls – further 17km sealed +6km unsealed access</p>	<p>ALL WEEKEND – THINGS TO DO <u>IN TOWN</u> Antipodean Tynker Langford Tours Open Air Gallery - self guided brochure Walcha Sculpture Soundtrail Art Show – WCS P&C? Pioneer Cottage & Museum Complex (Tigermoth aeroplane)</p> <p><u>OUT OF TOWN</u> Apsley Falls – 20km ride, sealed access Tia Falls – further 17km sealed +6km unsealed access</p>	<p>ALL WEEKEND – THINGS TO DO <u>IN TOWN</u> Antipodean Tynker Langford Tours Open Air Gallery - self guided brochure Walcha Sculpture Soundtrail Art Show – WCS P&C? Pioneer Cottage & Museum Complex (Tigermoth aeroplane)</p> <p><u>OUT OF TOWN</u> Apsley Falls – 20km ride, sealed access Tia Falls – further 17km sealed +6km unsealed access</p>
<p>Atmosphere – Chillout area</p> <p><u>REQUIREMENTS:</u> WVS tent (booked) Chairs / tables Truck stage – OK'd with Betts</p> <p>GATE MANNED – CAMPERS ARRIVING Good signage / directional signage</p>	<p>GATE PRICE - TO SHOWGROUND ONLY? \$20pp / \$40per family – for 2354? \$55 per day for others Hot Rods – entry fee only \$20</p> <p>EXHIBITORS/TRADERS? \$200 SERVICE CLUBS – BBQ?</p>	<p>Coffee van all weekend or tea/coffee in hall? FOOD STALLS? - Coffee van - Potato guy - Dare's Pies - Mak's Gozleme</p>	



Item 11:

Delegate Reports

RECOMMENDATION: That Council RECEIVE and NOTE the following Delegate Reports / Minutes.

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE NEWA COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY, 9 MARCH 2021 COMMENCING AT 8:35AM.

PRESENT: Councillor M. Dusting - Chairperson, Councillor S. Kermode, Councillor A Murat, Councillor M O'Connor, Councillor C Sparks.

IN ATTENDANCE: General Manager, Mr John Duggan, Acting Senior Biosecurity Officer, Mr Matthew Benham

APOLOGIES:

Councillor J Galletly.

51/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and Kermode that the apology of Councillor Galletly be accepted and leave of absence be granted.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The General Manager declared an interest in item 1.1.2 of the Closed Committee Meeting and the subsequent resolution in open Council.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2020.

52/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and O'Connor that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council held on 20 October 2020, copies of which have been distributed to all members, are taken as read and confirmed a true record.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2020.

Nil.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair advised of the following:

Welcome to the first meeting of the New England County Council. We are commencing a new era for this organisation. Welcome also to the representative from Glen Innes Severn Council, Councillor Sparks. We look forward to your input and participation.

We also welcome the return of Councillor O'Connor from Armidale Regional Council. This is also the first meeting since the Armidale Councillors were returned, so welcome back Councillors Murat and Galletly.

As this is the first meeting of the New Year, let me wish all our Councillors and staff a very happy and prosperous 2021.

We have many items in front of us in the current agenda and no doubt going forward. In my history here, we have always supported a team based approach between Councillors and staff.

I think this is a great option to progress the New England County Council.

I recently received advice from the Minister of Local Government (Which is tabled in front of me) regarding the terms of Mayors and Chairs. I provided a written response and received a response from the Office of Local Government. (Both items are also tabled) It seems the legislation will change to remove Chairs on Election Day and elect a new chair at the first meeting of the new Council.

You would also be aware that recent weather and conditions have kept our organisation very busy. We had the opportunity to address a Walcha Council workshop regarding our activities on February 10 this year. I feel that all participants learned something from this session. Maybe we can look forward to workshops in other Councils.

53/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Sparks and O'Connor that the Chairs report be received and noted.

1. NEW COUNCIL (ITEM 7.1.1)

54/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and O'Connor:

That:

- Council welcomes Councillors Sparks and O'Connor to the New England County Council.
- Council endorses the new logo.

PROCEDURAL MOTION:

55/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and O'Connor that standing orders be suspended to deal with Closed Committee

PROCEDURAL MOTION:

56/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Kermode and O'Connor, that in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Local Government Act, 1993, that the matters of organisation review and the appointment of an acting general manager be discussed in confidential matters in Committee of the Whole for the reason that it relates to personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors),

2. ORGANISATION REVIEW (CLOSED ITEM 1.1.1)

57/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and Kermode, that:

- That Council endorse the actions of the General Manager.
- Council supports recommendations 1 to 9 and 11 to 13 as detailed in the independent report dated 2 February 2021.

3. APPOINTMENT OF ACTING GENERAL MANAGER (CLOSED ITEM 1.1.2)

At 9.27 am the General Manager and Acting Senior Weeds Officer left the room.

At 9.33 the General Manager and Acting Senior Weeds Office returned to the meeting.

58/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and O'Connor:

- That Council accepts the resignation of Mr John Duggan and agrees to the requests in his letter including that all information held by NEWA remains with NEWA.
- That Council appoint Mr Glenn Wilcox to the role of Acting General Manager to commence on 15 March 2021.
- The Chair finalise contract negotiations and sign the contract.
- The other applicant be formally advised.

Cr Kermode requested that his vote be recorded against the motion.

59/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and Sparks:

That Council return to the Council meeting

Upon returning to the normal meeting:

PROCEDURAL MOTION:

60/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Dusting and Sparks, that the above motions adopted in closed committee be endorsed in ordinary Council.

4. GRIEVANCE POLICY (ITEM 7.1.2)

61/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Sparks and Murat that the NEWA Grievance Policy No: 01/20, as attached to the report, be adopted.

5. ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY REVIEW (ITEM 7.1.3)

62/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and O'Connor:

1. That the report on the review of the NEWA Risk Management Policy and Strategy, including the updated Risk Register be received and noted.
2. That Council adopt the NEWA Risk Management Policy 02/21, as attached to the report.
3. That Council reaffirm the NEWA Risk Management Strategy, as attached to the report.

6. DELIVERY PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT (ITEM 7.1.4)

63/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Sparks and Kermode that the report on the 6-monthly progress of the Principal Activities under Council's Four Year Delivery Plan 2019 - 2023 to 31 December 2020 be received and noted.

7. PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES REPORT (ITEM 7.1.5)

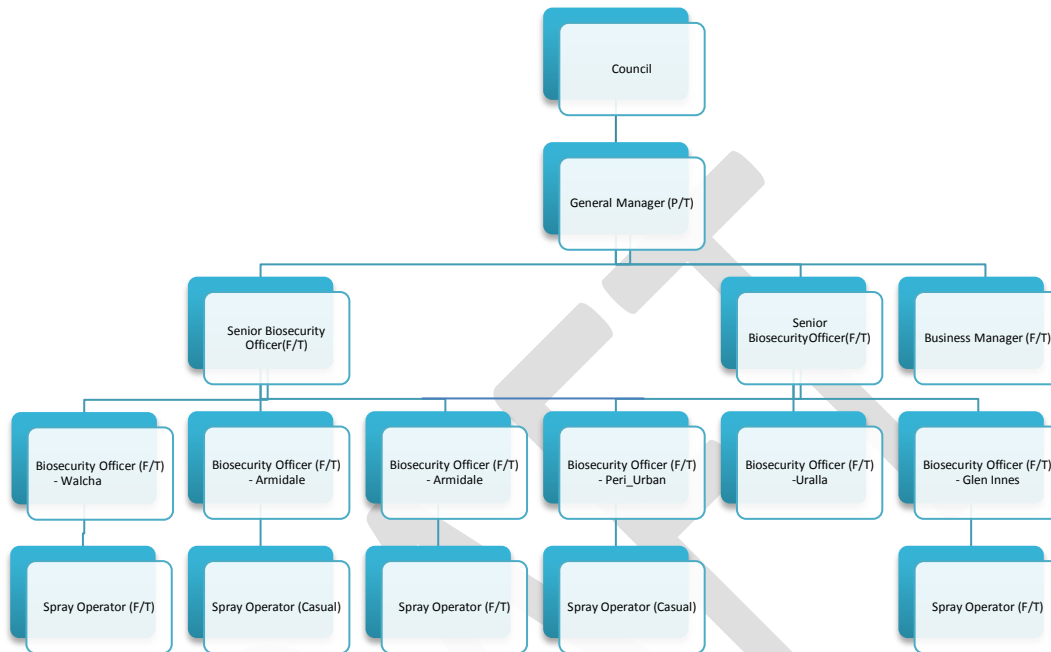
64/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Sparks and Murat:

1. That the six - monthly report on Council's compliance with their obligations under the Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994 be received and noted.
2. That a copy of the report be forwarded to the NSW Ombudsman.

8. ORGANISATION STRUCTURE (ITEM 7.1.6)

65/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors O’Connor and Murat that:

1. Council adopts the new structure as detailed below:



2. Supports the immediate development of appropriate position descriptions, policies and procedures..

9. INVESTED FUNDS REPORT (ITEM 7.2.1)

66/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Sparks and Kermode:

1. That the report indicating Council’s Fund Management position be received and noted.
2. That the Certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted and the report adopted.

10. DECEMBER 2020 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW (ITEM 7.2.2)

67/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors O’Connor and Murat that Council adopt the December 2020 Quarterly Budget Review and approve the Budget variations.

11. 2020/2021 WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM (ITEM 7.3.1)

PRECEDURAL MATTER:

At 10.25 am, the chair adjourned the meeting for 5 minutes to enable a 5 minute break
At 10.32 am, the chair called the meeting back to order.

68/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and O'Connor:

That the report on the 2020/2021 Weeds Action Program be received and noted.

12. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters of urgency.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 21 April 2021 at 9:00 am to be held in Glen Innes.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.37 AM.

Minutes of the WALCHA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc

Held in the Caretaker's Cottage

Saturday 27 March 2021 - 1.00pm

Welcome – Kate welcomed and thanked those who helped with the Bus Tour

PRESENT –Kate Hoy, Kerry Dickson, Jane & Ron Morrison, Pam Dorrington, Lyn Dorrington, Sandra & Vic Galvin, Bob Burnell, Bob & Pam Walsh, Suzanne Hauser (visitor), Lloyd Levingston.

APOLOGIES –Jan Cross, Don Murchie, Pauline Levingston, Ruth Inall, Vicki & Peter McIvor, Dennis Cooke, Nerida and Bevis Hoy, David and Carolyn Salter, Lyn Burnell, Peter and Rosie McNeil, Bill Heazlett

Moved Jane, 2nd Lloyd, that the apologies be accepted c/d

MINUTES – of the February meeting, having been previously circulated were taken as read.

Moved Jane, 2nd Pam Dorrington that the minutes of 27 February 2021 were a true and correct record. c/d

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. The organ to be moved by July. A decision on where to needs to be made.
2. Coach Tour booking have changed a little
3. The guttering is fixed thanks to Ron
4. There has been a price rise on sheds need new quote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Moved Jane & 2nd Pam Walsh that the correspondence be dealt with as read. C/d

1. Letter from google offering advertising for \$150 per month declined.
2. Several emails for new bus groups.

FINANCE:

Income \$1,201.05

Expenditure \$1,231.26

Bank Balance at 27 March 2021 - \$9,001.04

Term Deposit Balances - Ella's Garden - \$ 3,920.33

Insurance - \$ 3,150.39

General \$10,050.68

Council Repayments \$ 3,059.50

Total Term Deposits - \$ 20,180.90

Moved Kerry, 2nd Bob Walsh that the financial statement presented be accepted. C/d

Moved Kerry that the public liability insurance be paid 2nd Lloyd Levingston

REPORTS:

Museum – Door Takings down a little but bus tours will be able to cover some slack

Minutes of the WALCHA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc

Held in the Caretaker's Cottage

Saturday 27 March 2021 - 1.00pm

History Centre – a couple of enquiries:

Virginia Hyde – Re Alice Eileen Maud Anderson, not real name

Ken Turnbull – Re Burgess Family.

Judy Reading – Re John Morrison

Rodney Bath – Maps of Glen Morrison

Jillian Tunnccliffe – Re McGuffog & Fletcher Family

Greg & Pam Brown – Re Carr Family

Narelle Milligan – Re producing a book on Jobling & Fenwicke – any information

Kym Fletcher, Sydney – Re Willian Grieve, ? book of Allen Grieve

Kevin Wadds – Re George Wadds,

Margie Brophy – Re Frazer & Nolan in progress

Monies collected \$145.00

Past Perfect – nothing yet.

General Business:

1. Bus Tour by Expanding Horizons 4 April at 9.45 for Tour and 2.30 for visit
2. Bus Tour for 23 May cancelled
3. Bus Tours left 01 Oct and 15 Oct
4. Bus Tour of 34 + 1 from Tamworth, attended by Nerida, Kate, Kerry and Jane. A Sydney Group all very impressed and had trouble getting them back on the bus.
5. Street Stalls next 10 September:-
6. Open Day will be 1st May and we are doing it thru the National Trust again, who will advertise it for free. Will put 2 writeups in the Advocate (Bob W) to put together and 2 ads. Working bee at April meeting. Need some rakes and check out drain off wool shed
7. Women in Sport – Lori SantaMaura photo for book.
8. Covid Safe – we now have our own QR code at door.
9. Covered Tree – we will get a letter from Eric Noakes about if from his Aboriginal community meeting.
10. Grapling Hook and plaque presented by Vic (accepted) now in Tool Room.
11. Kerry asked could those who have not done the Working with Children please do so.

Meeting closed at 2.10pm Next meeting 24th April with a working bee at 9.30am

**WALCHA COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
GENERAL MEETING**

Tuesday 30 March 2021

Meeting opened: 12:32pm

Present: Barry Spry, Clr Jennifer Kealey, Lisa Kirton, Amanda Cooper.

Apologies: Anthony Bozza, Sheree Lute

Minutes of previous general meeting:

RESOLVED on a motion from Clr Kealey, seconded by Amanda Cooper, that the minutes of the previous general meeting held 22/6/20 are a true and correct record.

Business arising:

1. Sound & lighting upgrade

All agreed that we could not progress this item until we have at least 10% of funds in the bank account. Revisit looking at grants for these projects in second half of year pending financial position and subject to improvement in income flow.

Moved: Amanda Cooper

Seconded: Clr Jen Kealey

Carried

2. MPC kitchen – update

Lisa to email a final copy of MPC Information Booklet to the school so that it can be printed and bound and kept in kitchen for hirers to view when onsite.

All previous items have now been completed, including rangehood surround, roller shutter door and freezer purchase.

The newly created MPC email address is great and will enable all MPC email correspondence to be kept in one place, which will help when MPC committee members change.

3. Additional set of keys

Decided that this is not necessary. School key is transferred to Council in holidays and this works well.

4. Fluro lights

These are now a Principal priority for 2020 - for asset management.

Correspondence:

In:

Out: Advocate editorial

Treasurers Report:

Proof of Balance, Transaction statement and ACNC annual return are attached.

Current balance as at 25 March 2021 is \$14,084.11

Lisa to send letter of thanks to Council for annual hall contribution.

Jen will contact ATO to confirm who is currently listed as the responsible people, then remove historic positions. She will then fill out the appropriate paperwork to have the people removed who are no longer involved in the MPC and have new people added (Amanda Cooper). Consistent ATO registered people are to be current MPC Treasurer, WCS School Admin Manager and WCS Principal. Jen will request GST cancellation forms. Complete these prior to 30.06.21 to lodge 01.07.21.

Moved: Lisa Kirton

Second: Clr Jen Kealey

Carried

Request Utilities of \$800 and General contribution of \$250 be reduced due to lack of usage of MPC with COVID restrictions.

For 2021 financial year, the annual utilities and general contribution will be reduced due to COVID19. The payment for 2021 will be \$250. Utilities is waived and \$250 to be paid. Ensure this is noted at the AGM.

General Business:

1. **Set AGM date** - date to be determined September AGM
2. **Advocate editorial** - We're open for business – COVID restrictions easing.
3. **New members** - Karen Barnes and Sheree Lute (P&C parent reps)
4. **Community Hall grant** – \$200 – keep an eye on this one for next year.
5. **Tubs for cutlery** – Lisa to look into and price for purchase prior to 30 June 2021.
6. **Servery roller doors** – measure up and get a quote to replace as they do not seal

Date of next meeting: TBA

Meeting closed: 1:30pm

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the BOARD OF NAMOI JOINT ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS TRADING AS NAMOI UNLIMITED held TUESDAY 6 APRIL 2021 commencing at 10.30AM in the Council Chambers at Gunnedah Shire Council.

1. WELCOME, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND/OR PRAYER

Councillor Jamie Chaffey, Mayor Gunnedah Shire Council will welcome members and guests to the meeting. Acknowledge the people of the Kamilaroi, Elders and leader's past, present and future

MEMBERS		PRESENT	APOLOGY
Cr Jamie Chaffey	Gunnedah Shire Council	✓	
Cr John Coulton	Gwydir Shire Council		✓
Cr Doug Hawkins	Liverpool Plains Shire Council (Joined at 10.45am)	✓	
Cr Col Murray	Tamworth Regional Council	✓	
Cr Eric Noakes	Walcha Council	✓	
Craig Jenkins	NSW Government (Joined 10.50am)		✓
NON-VOTING REPRESENTATIVES			
Eric Groth	Gunnedah Shire Council	✓	
Max Eastcott	Gwydir Shire Council		✓
Joanne Sangster	Liverpool Plains Shire Council		✓
Paul Bennett	Tamworth Regional Council		✓
Chris Weber	Walcha Council	✓	
Rebel Thomson	Namoi Unlimited	✓	
BY INVITATION			
Cr Rob Hooke (Deputy Mayor)	Gunnedah Shire Council	✓	
Cr John Campbell			
Cr Ron Campbell	Narrabri Shire Council		✓
Stewart Todd			✓
Russell Stewart	Northern Inland RD	✓	
Nathan Axelson			
Jodie Healy	NSW Office of Local Government	✓	

2. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MOTION THAT, applications for a leave of absence and apologies for the 6 April 2021 meeting are accepted.

AMENDED

MOVED: Walcha Council

SECONDED: Tamworth Regional Council

CARRIED

COMMENTARY: Applications for a leave of absence for this meeting, have been received from:

- Cr John Coulton
- Craig Jenkins

Welcome to Councillors Rob Hooke (Deputy Mayor) and Ron Campbell from Gunnedah Shire Council.

Welcome to Russell Stewart from Northern Inland Regional Development Board in the absence of Nathan Axelson.

Apologies for this meeting have been received from:

- Paul Bennett
- Jo Sangster
- Max Eastcott
- Narrabri Shire Council
- Nathan Axelson

3. PUBLIC FORUM AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MOTION That, the minutes of the meeting held 2 February 2020 are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Tamworth Regional Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

5. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Nil.

6. CHAIRPERSON MINUTES

6.1 NSW Joint Organisations Network Meeting

MOTION That,
I. The report is noted;
II. The Executive Officer report on progress and alignment of activities as developments occur.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Gunnedah Shire Council

SECONDED: Tamworth Regional Council

CARRIED

6.2 Ministerial Briefing - Water and role for NSW Joint Organisations

MOTION That the Briefing Paper on collaboration with DPIE – Water and potential future roles for Namoi Unlimited is noted.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Tamworth Regional Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY The Chair reiterated that Joint Organisations were established to pursue better relationships between Local Government and the NSW Government.

Water is critical to the communities in the Namoi and their future.

The alignment of the work of the group to the draft Namoi Regional Water Strategy, this is a key document for strategic planning around the state and the region.

7. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Nil.

8. NOTICE OF MOTION OF RESCISSION

Nil.

9. STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES

9.1 Enabled and Connected Infrastructure - Consultation Paper - Sub-contractor Management Scheme

MOTION That, the discussion paper is endorsed and member Councils are asked to provide a response by 15 April 2021.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Tamworth Regional Council

SECONDED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

CARRIED

ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY: Tamworth Regional Council acknowledged that this is difficult collaboration work and that working with sub-contractors are an arrangement that it seems logical step to work together. A Joint Organisation is a vehicle to facilitate this and also a way forward for Councils.

10. ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP

10.1 Advocacy - Joint Organisation Review

MOTION

That;

- The positions of advocacy detailed in the paper are endorsed;
- The paper is submitted to the review of Joint Organisations.

ENDORSED

MOVED:

Walcha Council

SECONDED:

Tamworth Regional Council

CARRIED

ADDITIONAL
COMMENTARY

The Chair reiterated that it is normal practice for the government to review programs, the Chair acknowledged that the paper provides the basis for consultation.

10.2 Submission – NSW Agricultural Commissioner Options Paper - Agricultural Land Use Strategy

MOTION

THAT, the submission is endorsed.

ENDORSED

MOVED:

Tamworth Regional Council

SECONDED:

Walcha Council

CARRIED

COMMENTARY:

The intent of the Strategy is to address three key issues;

- The long-term availability of productive land
- Reducing land use conflict and supporting dispute resolution
- Support the growth of agriculture and regional economies

Feedback in developing the response at ATTACHMENT E was provided by planners from Gunnedah Shire Council, Liverpool Plains Shire Council and Tamworth Regional Council.

10.3 Additional Briefing Papers

MOTION

That, the Chair write to the Minister for Water and Housing commending her leadership and the advice from her Department in the development of the draft Namoi Regional Water Strategy.

ENDORSED

MOVED:

Tamworth Regional Council

SECONDED:

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

CARRIED

11. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS

11.1 Action List

MOTION That, progress on the current action items across the business of the Joint Organisation is NOTED.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

PURPOSE To provide a list of current actions from previous Board meetings, and provide a report on progress.

11.2 Regional Town Water Risk Reduction Program

MOTION THAT members endorse the representation of the Executive Officer to this stakeholder group on behalf of Namoi Unlimited.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Tamworth Regional Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

11.3 Contaminated Lands Shared Services – Council Consultation

MOTION That,

- the Council Consultation Paper is endorsed;
- Councils provide their feedback on the options proposed by 30 April 2021.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

11.4 VendorPanel Implementation and Actions

MOTION That,

- The reports on progress are noted.
- The agreed actions proposed are endorsed.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

11.5 Contaminated Lands Project – Awareness Campaign

MOTION

That,

- the report is noted,
- the Executive Officer will provide Councils with the resources required to conduct the campaign, and
- the Executive Officer will advise Councils when the campaign is expected to commence.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Tamworth Regional Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

11.6 Calendar of Planned Activities

MOTION

THAT the calendar of activities is noted.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Walcha Council

SECONDED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

CARRIED

ADDITIONAL
COMMENTARY:

The Executive Officer reported that the meeting of the HR Group planned for the 7 April has been deferred to the end of April. The Regional Jobs Precinct announcement is planned for Wednesday 7 April 2021.

12. REPORTS FROM DELEGATES

Nil.

13. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil.

14. CLOSED REPORTS

Nil.

15. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 11.20am.



Item 12:

Questions with Notice



There are no Questions with Notice items for
April 2021



Item 13:

Referral to Closed Council Meeting



There are no Closed Council items for
April 2021