



BUSINESS PAPER
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

To be held on

Wednesday, 27 October 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: 27 October 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, 27 October 2021** commencing at **3:00pm**.

Yours sincerely

Barry Omundson
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.

INDEX

1. Leave of Absence
2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes
 - 2.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 29 September 2021 at Walcha Council Chambers. WO/2021/03995
3. Business Arising
4. Declarations of Interest
5. Mayoral Minute
 - 5.1 A Confidential Mayoral Minute will be tabled at the Closed Council Meeting.
6. Senior Officers' Reports
 - 6.1 Reclassification of Thunderbolts Way and Topdale Road from Regional Roads to State Roads Request WO/2021/04245
 - 6.2 Draft Amendment to Walcha Development Control Plan WINT/2021/08887
 - 6.3 Part Day Public Holiday 2022 & 2023 Survey Results WO/2021/04247
 - 6.4 Council December 2021 Meeting – Plan 2 WO/2021/04239
 - 6.5 Regional Meetings 2021 WO/2021/04179



7. Notice of Motion

7.1 Nil

8. Matters of Urgency

(Resolution to admit matters of urgency before being further considered by Council).

9. Management Review Reports

9.1 Office of the General Manager	WO/2021/04236
9.2 Infrastructure	WO/2021/04189
9.3 Environment & Development	WO/2021/04036
9.4 Community & Tourism	WO/2021/04168

10. Committee Reports

10.1 Minutes of the Walcha Council Community Gym Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20 October 2021 in the Council Chambers, Hamilton Street, Walcha. WO/2021/04

11. Delegate Reports

11.1 Nil.

12. Questions with Notice

Nil.

13. Reports to be Considered in Closed Council

13A Referral to Closed Council – Procurement AND Confidential Mayoral Minute
WO/2021/04238

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.

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, 29 September 2021:

Matters arising from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 29 September 2021:



Item 2: Previous Minutes



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 29 September 2021

at

03:05pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

The Audio Statement and Acknowledgement of Country were ready by the Chairman.

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

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

1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

31 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Kealey that the Leave of Absence received from Clr Heazlett, due to illness, be **ACCEPTED**.

MINUTES



2. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 01 SEPTEMBER 2021:

32 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Wellings that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 01 September 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

Item 6.2 Request for Waiver of Excess Water Charges – Walcha Bowling Club

Clr Ferrier declared a Pecuniary Interest in this matter due him being an Executive Member of the Walcha Bowling Club.

5. MAYORAL MINUTE

Nil.

6. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT

33 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Wellings that the Senior Officers' Reports be **RECEIVED** for further consideration.

6.1 Refer 2020 – 2021 Financial Statements to Audit WINT/2021/08397

34 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Lyon that Council:

1. **REFER** the 2020 - 2021 Financial Reports for Audit; and
2. **ENDORSE** the Statement in accordance with Section 413(2) (c) of the Local Government Act 1993 to be completed and signed by the appropriate signatories.

**6.2 Request for Waiver of Excess Water Charges – Walcha Bowling Club
WO/2021/03933**

Clr Ferrier left the Chambers and took no part in the debate. (3:12pm)

35 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Lyon that Council **REIMBURSE** Walcha Bowling Club the amount of \$2,101.09 being that they have already paid the excess water charges.

Clr Ferrier returned to the Chambers and was informed of the decision. (3:15pm)

**6.3 Heritage Listing Removal from Walcha LEP Request – 2N Middle Street Walcha – Mrs L Green
WINT/2021/08363**

36 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Ferrier that Council:

1. Remove heritage listing (I017 – being Lot A DP 159627 known as 2N Middle Street Walcha) from Schedule 5 of the *Walcha Local Environmental Planning*



Plan 2012, and

2. Advise the land owner that:
 - a. The removal of the heritage listing will be included within the next House Keeping Planning Proposal as prepared by Council when there are enough matters to warrant the expense of a Planning Proposal, alternatively
 - b. They are welcome to submit their own Planning Proposal for Council consideration along with \$4,500 deposit towards the cost of processing the Planning Proposal, as this will expediate the processing time.

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

For: Councillors: Ferrier, Kermode, Kealey, Lyon, Wellings and Noakes

Against: Blomfield

Absent: Heazlett

Declared Interest: Nil.

6.4 Local Government Elections and Council Meetings in December 2021 & January 2022 **WO/2021/03864**

- 37 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Wellings that Council:
1. **HOLD** the first Council Meeting post elections on Wednesday, 22 December 2021 to comply with Section 290 (1)(a) of the Local Government Act 1993 to elect the Mayor within three weeks of the Election;
 2. **CANCEL** the January 2022 Ordinary Meeting of Council.

6.5 Heavy Vehicle Access Improvements to Bridge on Brackendale Road near Lowanna Road Update **WO/2021/03705**

- 38 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Kermode that Council **NOTES** the report detailing the actual expenditure on this Bushfire Recover grant funded project.

6.6 Unreasonable Customer Complaints Policy AND Domestic & Family Violence Policy **WO/2021/03915**

- 39 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Blomfield that Council:
1. **APPROVE** the Unreasonable Customer Complaints Policy AND the Domestic & Family Violence Policy;
 2. **PLACE** both policies on public exhibition for a period of 28 days inviting submissions;
 3. **ADOPT** the policies as presented if no submissions are received by Council.



6.7 Bushfire Recovery Funding Program Update **WO/2021/03692**

40 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Blomfield that Council:

1. **NOTES** the report detailing the status of Bushfire Recover grant funded projects.
2. **NOTES** that there will be some minor budget amendments tabled at a future Quarterly Budget Review to ensure program does not exceed the approved grant amount of \$1,275,000

6.8 Request to Waive Development Application Fees for Walcha & District Historical Society Inc – New Display Shed at Historical Museum

WO/2021/03662

It was **MOVED** Councillor Kealey **Seconded** Councillor Blomfield that Council waive development application fees, excluding non-Council statutory fees, for the Walcha & District Historical Society Inc project to build a display shed at the Historical Museum, Derby Street, Walcha.

An **Amendment** was **MOVED** Councillor Lyon **Seconded** Councillor Wellings that Council waive the other Council fees relevant to the construction of the Display Shed, as listed in the report, with the Construction Certificate only to be waived if they engage Council to issue it.

The **Amendment** was **WITHDRAWN**.

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

6.9 Pecuniary Interest Annual Return from Staff & Councillors as at 30 June 2021 **WO/2021/03694**

42 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Wellings and Kermode that Council formally records that the Ordinary Returns of Pecuniary Interest required to be submitted by Councillors, the General Manager and Designated Staff, for the period 01 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 have been submitted as required and have been tabled in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.21 and 4.25 of the Walcha Council Model Code of Conduct 2020.

6.10 Namoi Unlimited Member Value Report **WO/2021/03723**

43 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Lyon that Council **NOTE** the 2020 – 2021 Namoi Unlimited Member Value Report.

7. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

8. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil.



9. MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS

9.1 Office of the General Manager

WO/2021/03696

44 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Wellings and Ferrier that items included in the Office of General Manager Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

9.2 Infrastructure

WINT/2021/08030

45 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Wellings that items included in the Infrastructure Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

9.3 Environment & Development

WO/2021/03699

46 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Kealey that items included in the Environment & Development Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

9.4 Community & Tourism

WO/2021/03781

47 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Wellings that items included in the Community & Tourism Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

48 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Lyon that Council **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the following Committee Minutes.

10.1 Minutes of the Walcha Council Capital Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 16 September 2021 at the Council Chambers. WO/2021/03842

11. DELEGATE REPORTS

49 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Kealey that Council **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the following Delegate Minutes.

11.1 Minutes of the Australia Day Committee Annual General Meeting held on 05 July 2021. WI/2021/13226

11.2 Minutes of the New England Renewable Energy Zone Regional Reference Group Meeting held virtually on Tuesday, 24 August 2021.

WI/2021/13781

11.3 Minutes of the Namoi Unlimited Board Meeting held virtually on Tuesday, 07 September 2021. WI/2021/14005

12. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil.



13. CLOSED COUNCIL

**13A Referral to Closed Council – Request for Reduction of Water Charges
WO/2021/03931**

50 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Wellings that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Local Government Act, 1993, the matter of Request for Reduction on Water Charges BE referred to be discussed in Closed Council and close the meeting to the public for the reason that the report relates to personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors).

13B Referral to Closed Council – Off Creek Water Storage WO/2021/03907

51 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Wellings that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10A (2)(c) of the *Local Government Act, 1993*, the matters of Off-Creek Water Storage be referred to be discussed in Closed Council and close the meeting to the public for the reason that the reports 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.

52 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Kealey 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 the reports relate to personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors). AND to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

53 The Meeting resumed in **OPEN** Council on the Motion of Kealey and Lyon.

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 following Closed Council resolutions.

13.1 Request for Reduction of Water Charges

D2021/00694

CC6/20212022 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Kermode that Council:

1. **DECLINE** the request to waive excess water and sewer charges of \$4,714.60 and
2. **AGREE** to enter into a payment plan for the property owners to make payment of the Water charges of \$5,714.60.

13.2 Off Creek Water Storage

WINT/2021/08353

CC7/20212022 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Wellings and Ferrier that Council **APPROVE** the General Manager to complete the negotiations with the land owners



on suitable commercial terms as advised and within budget to secure the land for construction of the Walcha Off Creek Storage.

Winner of Rate Incentive Scheme 2021

The drawing of the Winner of the Rate Incentive Scheme was completed at the end of the Meeting with the winner being Noel & Janet Goodwin. Congratulations!

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4:07PM.



Item 3:
Business
Arising from
Previous
Minutes



Item 4:

Declarations of Interest



Item 5: Mayoral Minute



A Confidential Mayoral Minute will be tabled at the Meeting in CLOSED Council session.



Item 6:

Senior Officers' Reports



Item: 6.1 **Ref:** WO/2021/04245
Title: Request to Reclassification of Thunderbolts Way and Topdale Road from Regional Roads to State Roads
Author: General Manager
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: No

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Goal 1.1: Walcha will be serviced by an integrated and efficient transport network.

Goal 8.2: Council rate funding for Local Government projects will be supplemented by income generated from other sources.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- 1. ENDORSE the nominations of Thunderbolts Way and Topdale Road for reclassification from Regional Roads to State Roads; and**
 - 2. Attached letters of support to accompany the applications for the reclassification.**
-

Introduction:

The purpose of this report is to detail the implication and potential benefits of pursuing the reclassification of Thunderbolts Way and Topdale Road from a Regional Road to a State Road. Council endorsement of these nominations is required as part of the application process.

Report:

In February 2019, the NSW Government announced the initiation of a Road Classification Review to ensure the road classification framework is still fit for purpose and that roads across NSW are appropriately classified.

Future Transport 2056 identifies the NSW Road Classification Review (Classification Review) as a key initiative for adjusting the classification policy framework and update the road network to align with the 'Hub and Spoke' Transport Network Model and the 'Movement and Place' Framework.

The State Government announced that up to 15,000km of council owned roads would be transferred to State management as part of a broader package of support for local councils to better manage and maintain the NSW rural and regional road network.

Combining the transfer of council owned regional roads with the Classification Review will ensure equity and transparency in all changes and support the development of an integrated road transport network.

An Independent Panel, chaired by Ms Wendy Machin, has been established to offer recommendations to the NSW Government for road reclassification and transfer. The Independent Panel members are:



- Ms Wendy Machin (Chair)
- Mr Peter Duncan AM
- Ms Jillian Kilby
- Mr Peter Tegart
- Mr John Roydhouse
- Mr Michael Kilgariff.

On 27 September 2021 Walcha Council received an invitation to submit applications under this program.

Council with the backing of Tamworth Regional Council wish to nominate Topdale Rd for reclassification to a State Road and Thunderbolts Way with the backing of Uralla, Mid-Coast and Port Stephens Councils. A separate application is made for each road.

Council have reached out to Port Stephens, Mid-Coast, Uralla, Gwydir and Tamworth Councils to gauge appetite to reclassify Thunderbolts Way and Topdale Rd. The feedback received so far has all been positive.

Where the road being nominated crosses local government area (LGA) boundaries a 'Lead Council' is responsible for collating data and submitting the application. Letters of support from each respective Council must also be submitted as part of the application process.

Policy Implications

As noted above, such an application is in line with Council goals in the currently adopted *Community Strategic Plan*.

Financial Implications

Should the nominations be recommended by the *Panel* and adopted by the NSW Government it is anticipated that similar contractual arrangement will be adopted for Thunderbolts Way to the RMCC agreement Council currently holds with Transport for NSW for the maintenance and upgrade of the Oxley Highway. This would result in further employment opportunities at Council and a potential revenue stream.

The upgrade and proper maintenance of these roads will stimulate greater connectivity between the Northern Tablelands and the Manning Valley regions further stimulating the local economy.

Legal Implications

Obtaining letters of support from all Councils involved, including Walcha, and maintaining clear communications with neighbouring Councils will be vital. If successful, the proposed nominations will have the legal implications related to the transfer of ownership of Topdale Road and Thunderbolts Way to the NSW Government and potentially creating a maintenance contract for these two roads



similar to that already in use on the Oxley Highway. Council are very familiar with these sorts of arrangements.

Social Implications

If the nomination is successful the ensuing maintenance and upgrades on Thunderbolts Way would greatly improve the connectivity and ease of travel to, from and within the Walcha LGA.

Environment Implications

There are no environmental implications arising from this report. Council has always actively maintained environment safeguards on its classified roads. No extra or unfamiliar environment hazards are expected on upgrade works should these nominations be successful.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Social Implications:

There are no social implications arising from this report.

Policy Implications:

There are no policy implications arising from this report.



Item: 6.2 **Ref:** WINT/2021/08887
Title: Draft Amendment to Walcha Development Control Plan 2019
Author: Contract Town Planner
Previous Items: Draft Amendment to Walcha Development Control Plan 2019 (WO/21/3202)
Attachments **UNDER SEPARATE COVER:**
Draft Walcha Development Control Plan 2019 (WINT/2021/08886)
Submission 1 – King (WI/21/15148)
Submission 2 – Berry (WI/21/15126)
Submission 3 – McDonald (WI/21/15167)
Submission 4 – ReD4NE (WI/2021/15809)

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**

1. **Adopt the *Draft Amended Walcha Development Control Plan 2019* which includes the following amendments:**
 - a. **Minimal editing and word changes to correct grammar, identification of development controls and to ensure state agency referencing is correct**
 - b. **Clause 14.6 – Visual Amenity Impacts– Replace the reference to the Australian Wind Energy Association and Australian Council of National Trust’s *Wind Farms and Landscape Values: Stage 1 Report – Identifying Issues, March 2005, Appendix B: Wind Farms and Landscape Values: Final Issues Paper* has been changed to the current guideline being NSW Planning, Industry & Environment *Wind Energy Visual Assessment Bulletin For State significant wind energy development December 2016.***
 - c. **Clause 41.6(1) - Replace the reference of axis with sector.**
 - d. **Clause 14.4 - Inclusion of a stated position for State Significant Development in the objectives.**
 - e. **Clause 14.6(b)(iii) – Extend the wording to include damage, degradation or disruption to groundwater.**
 - f. **Clause 14.6(u) – Extend the wording to state that Decommissioning Bonds will be considered based on the individual merits of the development.**
 - g. **Inclusion of Clause 14.5(n) regarding cumulative impact assessment including power line construction.**
 2. **Prepare a further amendment to the *Amended Walcha Development Control Plan 2019* in regards to all renewable energy development.**
 3. **Include provision in any future Section 7.11 Development Contribution Plan for a contribution for renewable energy development.**
 4. **Amend the Walcha Local Environmental Plan 2012 by ensuring all Land Use Tables reflect the provisions of all relevant State Environmental Planning Policies**
-



Introduction:

This report is to consider the submissions received by Council during the exhibition of the *Draft Walcha Development Control Plan 2019*. There were 4 submissions received.

Report:

Council adopted the Walcha Development Control Plan 2019 in July 2019 whereby it absorbed:

- *DCP 1 – Rural Residential Subdivision Adopted 3 December 1997*
- *DCP 2 – Guidelines for the Erection of Advertisements and Advertising Structures – Adopted 28 September 2005*

with Council's Development Controls being expanded.

At Council's Ordinary meeting held 1 September 2021, Council resolved to place the *Draft Walcha Development Control Plan 2019* on public exhibition. This exhibition was carried out over the period 8 September 2021 until 6 October 2021 and was in accordance with the provisions of the *Walcha Community Participation Plan 2020*. There were 4 submissions received which are attached to this report.

A summary of the proposed amendments to the *Draft Walcha Development Control Plan 2019* as exhibited was:

- Housekeeping alterations not marked in red.
 - ✓ All State Agency names and reference have been updated, eg Roads & Maritime Service (RMS) changed to Traffic for NSW (TfNSW)
 - ✓ All weblinks checked and updated
 - ✓ All current legislation referenced
- Acronyms table created at the front of the document
- Chapter 1 – General Provisions
The *New England North West Regional Plan 2036*, *Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036* and the *Community Strategic Plan Walcha – 2027* and its linkage to the Walcha Development Control Plan 2019 is now referenced.
- Chapter 2 – Notification Procedures
The provisions contained within this chapter have been incorporated into the *Walcha Community Participation Plan 2020* adopted 14 February 2020. This was a legislative requirement under the *Environmental Planning Assessment Act 1979*.
- Chapter 3 – Residential Development
Corrected the Minimum Site Area Per Dwelling controls for R5 land to reflect WLEP provisions.
- Chapter 4 – Rural Development
Removal of Clause 4.4(b) – This clause contains drafting errors and does not relate to Clause 4.2D of the *Walcha Local Environmental Plan 2012* as it states.
- Chapter 5 – Ancillary Development & Shed Conversion
Removal of Clause 5.7(f) – This clause requires consideration by Council when garage/shed doors are more than 50% of the width of the front elevation. This control has



been wieldy and hard to implement and found not to be a suitable control for the Walcha LGA.

- Chapter 14 – Wind Power Generation
Inclusion of new chapter -this chapter considers the issues relating to wind farms. Attached to this report is the assessment pathways for wind energy projects as highlighted within the NSW Planning & Environment *Wind Energy Guideline: For State significant energy development*, December 2016. This provides the current categories of wind energy projects and their planning assessment pathways.

Submissions

The submissions received raise the following points:

Submission 1 - Peter King

- Supports the proposed changes particularly in respect to Chapter 14.1 to 14.7.

Submission 2 - Mark Berry

- Congratulates and supports the Wind Power Generation inclusion.
- Solar Farms should be included under the same plan
- Wind or solar developments should not damage, impeded or use any groundwater for construction and dust suppression.
- Any land used for quarrying must be approved by the Environment Protection Authority.

Solar farms, or other renewable energy development are covered within the *Walcha Development Control Plan 2019* nor this draft, however Council should give consideration to its inclusion in a future amendment. To include in this document at this time would involve another round of community consultation. As Council is about to go into Caretaker Mode, it is suitable to include in a future amendment.

The use of groundwater, and the impact of the development on groundwater is a matter that would be considered at the time of development assessment, with the appropriate specialist state agency advice if required. As each development should be considered on its individual merits, to have a blanket control such as this in a DCP would lead to variation requests. A variation such as this to a development control plan is acceptable as development control plans contain controls that are not legally binding on decision makers, unlike local environmental plans.

If quarrying was required as part of the development, this would be included in the development application, and the impact considered. Normally, quarries would be considered as an individual land use via a separate application. The Environment Protection Authority are required to issue an Environment Protection Licence if a certain extraction threshold is reached. The legislative controls or thresholds relating to quarries are:

Local Development – The approval authority is Council and a Statement of Environmental Effects is required to support the application. State Agency consultation is only undertaken if Council feels there is a requirement, and wind farm development require agency concurrence from Transport for NSW if the quarry is accessed from a highway, and Essential Energy for the high voltage powerline construction.

Designated Development – The approval authority is Council and an Environmental Impact Statement is required to support the development application. Designated Development is



defined in Schedule 3 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulations 2000*. Preliminary consultation with NSW Planning, Industry & Environment who consults on the developers behalf as to the relevant State Agency requirement for the development application inclusion. State Agency consultation is undertaken through the NSW Planning Portal at time of lodgement of the development application. The minimum threshold requirement for this type of development is:

- Extraction of 30,000 cubic metres per annum
- Disturbance of more than 2 ha surface area
- Located:
 - in or within 40 metres of a waterbody,
 - on contaminated or acid sulphate soil,
 - on land that slopes more than 18 degrees
 - if blasting involved, 1,000 metres of a residential zone or within 500 metres of a dwelling not associated with the development
 - within 500 metres of another extractive industry that has operated during the last 5 years.

Regional Significant Development – This type of development will need to be notified and assessed by Council and then determined by the Northern Joint Regional Planning Panel. Regional development is defined in Schedule 7 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011* and includes:

- development with a capital investment value (CIV) over \$30 million
- development with a CIV over \$5 million which is:
 - council related
 - lodged by or on behalf of the Crown (State of NSW)
 - private infrastructure and community facilities
 - eco-tourist facilities.
- extractive industries, waste facilities and marinas that are designated development
- certain coastal subdivisions
- development with a CIV between \$10 million and \$30 million which is referred to the Planning Panel by the applicant after 120 days

Sydney and Regional Planning Panels were introduced to NSW in 2009 to strengthen decision making on regionally significant development applications and other planning matters. They are made up of 3 State appointed members and 2 Council appointed members. Current Council representatives are Andrew Locke and Cameron Greig with Sophie Thomson being an alternative representative. These members are appointed for the term of each Council, and this representation will need to be considered by the newly elected Council. A future report will be presented to Council regarding this issue once the newly appointed Councillors have been elected.

State Significant Development – The approval authority is the State Government. This type of development is assessed by NSW Planning, Industry & Environment. It is defined in Schedules 1 & 2 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011*. A proposal is also considered state significant development if it:

- is over a certain size
- is located in a sensitive environmental area
- will exceed a capital investment value mostly of \$30 million or in certain cases \$50 million.



and includes:

- new educational establishments, hospitals and correctional centres
- chemical and other manufacturing
- mining and extraction operations
- tourist and recreation facilities
- some port facilities
- waste management facilities
- energy generating facilities.

The Minister for Planning may also 'call in' development proposals if a proposal is considered to be of state significance.

Environment Protection Licence - The Environment Protection Authority issues environment protection licences to the owners or operators of various industrial premises under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act). Licence conditions relate to pollution prevention and monitoring, and cleaner production through recycling and reuse and the implementation of best practice. This is only applicable when an extractive industry extracts more than 30,000 tonnes per annum. As the Environment Protection Authority involvement is legislated, it is not appropriate to include their involvement within the DCP controls.

Submission 3 - Ian McDonald

- Walcha is the wrong location for wind farms.
- Ground water protection should be incorporated to ensure no damage, degradation or disruption occurs to any aquifer. More detail should be included under clause 14.6(b)(iii).
- Decommissioning bonds should be imposed on developers prior to granting construction approval.
- Development contributions should be applied to protect Council's long-term viability.
- Provision for controls have been represented within the DCP for road, but not water, sewage or waste management.
- There is no mention of the sensitive Gorge Country, and Winterbourne Wind Farm will border the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park where a large population of Wedge Tailed Eagles live and will be impacted. Other fauna will be impacted as well.
- Any fire created by the turbines would spread quickly to the Gorge country, and firefighting aircraft need to be aware of high turbulence created by the turbine blades. This has implications with respect to emergency aircraft and commercial aerial applicators.
- The visual impact and the noise generated from the turbines located on the rim of the gorge will deprive visitors and locals alike the serenity of the current Gorge country.
- The high voltage power lines required to be constructed to service the wind farms will deface the rural landscape.
- Any determination issued by Council will be subject to significant litigation and court time.
- The draft amendments to the DCP need to be expanded to address local issues in more detail.
- Council should also tighten its LEP in consultation with NSW Planning, Industry & Environment.

The NSW Wind Atlas prepared by the Sustainable Energy Development Authority and the NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment identifies areas in NSW where wind is a potential resource for wind energy generation from harvesting the wind with turbines and connection to the electricity grid and the Walcha LGA has been identified due to it containing a large area which sits on the Great Dividing Range of NSW.



In regards to ground water, please see comment above. The wording has been extended in clause 14.6(b)(iii) to include damage, degradation or disruption to groundwater.

Clause 14.6(u) has been extended to state that Decommissioning Bonds will be considered based on the individual merits of the development.

Currently Council does not have a 7.11 Development Contribution Plan which covers wind power generation. It will be recommended this be included in any future Contribution Plan.

It is considered that Clause 14.6(r) adequately covers water, sewage or waste management, as any approval issued would be based on the assessment of the individual merits of the development. In regards to community infrastructure, again this would form part of the impact assessment undertaken and would be based on the impact and mitigation measure proposed.

Clause 14.5(g) - A full biodiversity (includes flora and fauna) study would be required as part of the application preparation. If the application is designated, regional or state significant, all state agencies would give their requirements for what was to be included within the study prior to its preparation. The study itself would then be submitted as part of the development application and reviewed by the relevant state agencies as part of the assessment itself. If the application submitted was local development, Council would require state agency comment of the submitted study quality and proposed impact and recommended mitigation measures.

Clause 14.5(j) requires all state agencies issues to be addressed – CASA and the NSW Rural Fire Service are both included. Further Clause 14.6(b)(v) requires bushfire hazard risk to be minimised.

It is recognised that the Gorge Country is an important recreation reserve, and any application submitted would need to address any social or recreational impact on the community. This would then be assessed based on the individual merits of each development.

The NSW Planning, Industry & Environment *Wind Energy Noise Assessment Bulletin For State significant wind energy development December 2016* and *Wind Energy Visual Assessment Bulletin For State significant wind energy development December 2016* set out the criteria for each assessment. Clause 14.5 required both documents to be considered during the application preparation and assessment.

High voltage power line construction and its location is considered as part of the assessment. It's impact and the cumulative impact new lines may create is considered. Essential Energy needs to give its concurrence to the actual construction requirement, connection to the existing electricity grid and standard of construction. However, they also give consideration to impact of the line and cumulative impact, and advise the determining authority during their consideration. Clause 14.5 (n) has been added for an assessment of cumulative impact including power line construction.

The veiled threat of litigation on Council if a wind farm development is approved cannot be considered as part of this report. Council as does any other determining authority has a legislative process that must be undertaken in regards to assessment. Emotive threats such as litigation are always a possibility, but only if the assessment has not been carried out as per the relevant legislated process.



A DCP provides detailed planning and design guidelines to support the planning controls in an environmental planning instrument (LEP) which is heavily mandated. The DCP provides support to the local context. It is considered that by addressing wind generation within the Walcha DCP, Council is addressing the local context without emotion, to enable an assessment based on the individual merits of any development.

Electricity generating works is defined in the Walcha LEP as a building or place used for the purpose of making or generating electricity, or electricity storage. Currently the land use tables for the majority of zones within the Walcha LEP prohibit electricity generating works except for IN1 General Industrial. However, the State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007 overrides the Walcha LEP and includes zones R1 General Residential, RU1 Primary Production and RU4 Primary Production Small Lots. Therefore, wind turbines and solar energy systems are permissible development within these zones based on certain provisions. Any amendment to the Walcha LEP to specifically make wind generation prohibited development would not be accepted by NSW Planning, Industry and Environment.

However, at some stage Council will need to review the land use table definitions and amend to ensure they reflect current mandated zone land uses within State Environmental Planning Policies.

Submission 4 – ReD4NE

- Chapter 14 only concentrates on wind generation and should also look at all renewable energy development being wind, solar, biomass, hydro, pump storage (PHES), Battery Energy Storage Systems, Transmission and Distribution and Distributed Energy Resources roof top solar etc.
- ReD4NE advocate that the energy transition should be about **responsible development** – to assist in that objective -it has developed *core protocols*. They believe these are very much in the interests of the community and the landowners which are of course also the Councils key stakeholders
- Would like to see less reliance on outdated Development Guidelines.
- All of the key energy planning messages as suggested within this submission should be projected from the WDCP and should translate into measurable merit assessment on the State Significant Project planning pathway. A set of Developer Condition with accompanying Merit assessment consent condition commentary has been provided on:
 - Introduce into the planning pathway increased early Developer interest and disclosure
 - Project scaping and SEAR
 - Community Consultation
 - Noise
 - Wind Turbine Setbacks
 - Cumulative Impact Assessment
 - Economic opportunity – local employment content
 - Participation and benefit sharing
 - Decommissioning planning
 - Waste management
 - Pollution land and river catchment management



See comment above regarding a future amendment to the Walcha Development Control Plan 2019 regarding the inclusion of controls for all renewable energy.

The objectives as suggested by ReD4NE are better suited for consideration as objectives/strategies in Council's Community Strategic Planning Statement. The *Walcha Development Control Plan 2019* directly supports the *Walcha Local Environmental Plan 2012* and the *Walcha Local Strategic Planning Strategy 2036*. The *Walcha Local Strategic Planning Strategy 2036* sets short, medium and long-term actions to deliver our community priorities and vision as referenced in the *New England North West Regional Plan 2036* and *Community Strategic Plan Walcha – 2027*. The statement will shape how the land use zones and development standards in the *Walcha Local Environmental Plan 2012* and *Walcha Development Control Plan 2019* evolve over time to meet the community's future economic, social and environmental needs.

The Development Guidelines referenced within the Draft Plan are the most current documents containing measurable planning merit, and are strongly supported by NSW Planning, Industry & Environment and relevant state agencies. Clause 14.6(i) requires the applicant to address in their application all relevant issues in the NSW Planning, Industry & Environment's Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines and the NSW Wind Energy Guidelines current at the time of the application submission.

The State Significant Project planning pathway is not reflected within the Walcha DCP as Council does not undertake the assessment of the project. Council may only make a submission regarding the project to the State Government who are the approval authority, therefore the Walcha DCP will set out the framework for the grounds of the submission. It is not appropriate for a DCP to indicate or mandate State Significant planning pathways. In regards to the suggested planning pathways for State Significant development:

- *Introduce into the planning pathway increased early Developer interest and disclosure* – The matters outlined in the DCP are given consideration by the proponent when making a development application, or by the relevant consent authority when assessing a proposal, it is not appropriate for a DCP to mandate earlier developer disclosures. The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* requires the public disclosure of donations or gifts when lodging or commenting on development proposals. This law is designed to improve the transparency of the planning system. These disclosure requirements apply at the time of lodgment to councils or the NSW Government; where an inconsistency exists between our DCP and the Act, the Act would prevail.
- *Project scoping and SEAR* – As part of the request by a developer for a SEAR's, a detailed project scope is provided to NSW Planning, Industry and Environment. This is then provided to all state agencies and Council who make comment which will often be used to "flesh" out the development in full. The SEAR's process is legislated and it is not appropriate that the DCP require full transparency from the developer as to their intention prior to SEARs and the full development proposal being completed. In fact, in some instances it may lead to perceived "commercial in confidence" implications.
- *Community Consultation* – The issued SEAR's always indicates the level of community consultation and any particular stakeholders that must be undertaken. This is then reported within the EIS and during the assessment of State Significant Development, it will be assessed if the consultation undertaken has been adequate, or if more is to be undertaken before further assessment is completed.



- *Noise* – This is covered within Clause 14.6 where the noise assessment must be undertaken in accordance with the NSW Planning, Industry & Environment *Wind Energy Noise Assessment Bulletin For State significant wind energy development December 2016*.
- *Wind Turbine Setbacks* – An assessment is completed on the impact created by the proposed setback by the state. All raised issues are considered, along with recommended mitigation measures.
- *Cumulative Impact Assessment* - An assessment is completed on the cumulative impact, and it is a requirement of any SEAR's that this be discussed within the EIS. However, Clause 14.5(n) has been included to requesting an assessment of cumulative impact be included within the EIS.
- *Economic opportunity – local employment content* – Council has the ability to consider this as a strategy along with the development of suitable actions within the *Walcha Local Strategic Planning Strategy 2036*. This is not a suitable control within the Walcha DCP, as it cannot be mandated where employment resourcing is sourced from, as there are many skilled technical specialists required.
- *Participation and benefit sharing* – This would form a major section of any submission Council would make on a State Significant Development. It would also be dependent on any provisions contained within a Council Section 7.11 development contribution plan, of which Council does not currently have.
- *Decommissioning planning* – This would form part of any submission made on any State Significant Development. See Clauses 14.5 (h) and 14.6(u).
- *Waste management* - This would form part of any submission made on any State Significant Development. See Clauses 14.5 (g) and 14.6(r).
- *Pollution land and river catchment management* - This would form part of any submission made on any State Significant Development. See Clauses 14.5 (a) (f) (l) (m) and 14.6(b).

Additional Changes to Draft *Walcha Development Control Plan 2019* after Public Exhibition

- Minimal editing and word change to correct grammar and identification of development controls and to ensure state agency referencing is correct.
- The reference to the Australian Wind Energy Association and Australian Council of National Trust's *Wind Farms and Landscape Values: Stage 1 Report – Identifying Issues, March 2005, Appendix B: Wind Farms and Landscape Values: Final Issues Paper* has been changed to the current guideline being NSW Planning, Industry & Environment *Wind Energy Visual Assessment Bulletin For State significant wind energy development December 2016*.
- Replace the reference of axis with sector in clause 14.6(l)
- Inclusion of a stated position for State Significant Development in the objectives under Clause 14.4
- The wording has been extended in clause 14.6(b)(iii) to include damage, degradation or disruption to groundwater.



- Clause 14.6(u) has been extended to state that Decommissioning Bonds will be considered based on the individual merits of the development.
- Inclusion of Clause 14.5(n) regarding cumulative impact assessment including power line construction.

To complete the amendment

1. All submissions and the draft amended plan is considered and adopted by Council.
2. The plan comes into force after public notice of its adoption.
3. Upload the adopted Plan to the NSW Planning Portal

Please Note: Council is not required to consult with any State Agencies including NSW Planning, Industry & Environment. Council will provide them an updated copy of the final amended *Walcha Development Control Plan 2019* once uploaded to the NSW Planning Portal.

Legal Implications:

The Walcha Development Control Plan is prepared as per the provisions of Division 3.6 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. It is a guideline however must be considered in the evaluation and assessment of development proposals pursuant to Section 4.15 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Consideration under the provisions of *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, *Walcha Local Environmental Plan 2012*, and the *Walcha Development Control Plan 2019* have been undertaken throughout the preparation of the proposed draft amendment.

Consideration of the *Walcha Community Participation Plan 2020* was undertaken throughout the public consultation process.

Financial Implications:

Cost of undertaking Community Consultation

Environmental Implications:

Nil

Social Implications:

Nil

Policy Implications:

Revised Development Controls contained within the *Walcha Development Control Plan 2019* which supports the *Walcha Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036*



Item: 6.3 **Ref:** WO/2021/04247
Title: Part Day Public Holiday 2022 & 2023 Survey Results
Author: General Manager
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment:

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

1. **ENDORSE** the application for a Part Day Public Holiday for the Walcha Council Local Government Area from 12 noon until 6pm on Friday, 4 February 2022 and Friday, 3 February 2023 for the Walcha Races;
2. **SURVEY** the community and key stakeholders directly after the 2022 & 2023 Part Day Public Holiday to ascertain their success.

Introduction:

This Report is to review the Part Day Public Holiday Survey which closed on Monday, 11 October 2021, and to endorse the application for the Part Day Public Holiday 2022 & 2023.

Report:

The Act permits the Minister for Industrial Relations to declare a local public holiday or a local event day for the whole or part of the Council's local government area. This may be limited to a particular location in the Council's area, such as the boundaries of a particular town or a police district in an area nominated by the Council.

As in the previous few years, Council must carry out public consultation before applying. Council must consider and be aware of the potential impact the application will have upon businesses and communities located within the designated public holiday areas. This means that all employees whose place of work is within a local public holiday area will be entitled to be absent from work on the day or half day or part day that is the local public holiday or half holiday or part holiday. In addition, employees who work on the day or part day may then have an entitlement to penalty rates.

The NSW Industrial Relations expects Council to consider the impact on local schools and on the transport of school students who attend school on this day. In this regard it is expected that the consultation process with local schools will take account of the transportation arrangements for students who attend school on the day.

Council ran a survey which was sent to members of the community through our local newspaper businesses within the CBD.

Submitted to Council: 30 October 2019

..... General Manager Mayor



The results were:

Q1: In favour of Part Day Public Holiday or not?

For: **63**

Against: **0**

Q2: Advise how the Part Day Public Holiday affect your business in 2021.

We received 15 comments. All comments were positive.

Q3: Positive experience?

Yes: **24**

No: **1**

Council have consulted extensively over the last few years with the majority of business houses and the community fully supporting the part day public holiday.

Council sent a letter to both Walcha Central School and St Patrick's Primary School but only received a reply from St Patrick's Primary School which was:

"St Patrick's School does not have any concerns with the part day public holiday for the races. It is an important community event in the Walcha calendar.

To ensure our morning runs smoothly at school and we get all children home, we communicate with the local bus company - The Oxley Explorer for changes to bus times for that day and inform our parents in advance."

The following extract is from a letter sent to Council explaining the process and matters to be considered.



Declaration of a Local Public Holiday

In circumstances where a local public holiday is declared by the Minister, a bank located in the designated holiday area will be required to close during the declared public holiday hours unless the bank is exempted from the requirement to close under Part 3A of the *Retail Trading Act 2008*. Shops located within the designated holiday area are free to open without restriction.

Where it is proposed to request a half-day public holiday, consideration should be given to the effect that the half day holiday will have on local schools and on the transport of students who attend school on the day. **In this regard, it is expected that the consultation process with local schools will take account of the transport arrangements for students on the half day.**

Implications for Employers

The public holiday provisions contained in the National Employment Standards of the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth) apply to local public holidays declared under the *Public Holidays Act 2010*. This means that all employees irrespective of their former entitlements and whose place of work is within a local public holiday area will be entitled to be absent from work for the day or part day declared to be a public holiday. In addition, employees who work on the day or part day may have an entitlement to penalty rates under a relevant award or enterprise agreement.

In considering an application to the Minister for a public holiday or part-day holiday, it is expected that the Council will consult with the affected community and other relevant stakeholders as to the impact of a local public holiday or part-holiday on businesses located in the local government area.

Declaration of a Local Event Day

The Minister may declare a local event day or part day at the request of a council under section 8 of the *Public Holidays Act 2010*. However, the Minister must be satisfied from the information provided by the Council that the day or part day is, and will be observed as, a day of special significance in the area concerned.

Submitted to Council: 30 October 2019

..... General Manager Mayor



The declaration of a local event day or part day does **not preclude banks or shops located within the designated holiday area from opening or trading on the day.**
Implications for Employers

A declared local event day does not automatically mean that employers in the particular locality are compelled to treat the day as a public holiday. Entitlements to paid leave or penalty rates on a local event day will only arise where agreed to at the workplace level, usually in the form of an enterprise agreement or by contract. This goes some way to restoring the industrial arrangements that existed prior to changes in the Commonwealth workplace laws.

The application process

An application for the declaration of a local public holiday or local event day (including a part-day holiday or event day) must be made in writing to the Executive Director, NSW Industrial Relations, and contain the following information:

1. a statement regarding the history of the event and whether the event day has traditionally been observed as a full or half-day public holiday.
2. the date, the designated area and, if relevant, the hours during which the public holiday or local event day is to be observed;
3. the extent of community consultation undertaken in respect of the proposal;
4. copies of advertisements seeking public comment and a summary of the responses from the local community;
5. a summary of correspondence to, and responses from, relevant stakeholders, including bank managers; school principals; and chambers of commerce regarding the Council's proposal.
6. internal reports or information prepared for consideration by the Council and a copy of the Council's resolution authorising the making of the application;
7. where an application is made for a public holiday or part-day holiday, details of:
 - alternatives considered by the Council including the declaration a local event day; and
 - transport arrangements for school students.

In 2015 legislation changed so that applications could be made for local public holiday and local event days over a consecutive two year period for the holding or celebration of annual events, such as a local show day, race day or carnival. It is now expected that Council provide additional information focused on the economic and social importance of the event for the designated holiday area. Council must conduct a consultation process as to the proposed application and provide information indicating:

- ◆ The level of support for and against the application from local businesses and stakeholders
- ◆ The economic benefits to the local community in terms of employment, business activity, tourism and industry promotion of the region

Submitted to Council: 30 October 2019

..... General Manager Mayor



- The importance of the event from a social and community prospective.

The Survey that was conducted this year shows that all replies were in favour of having the Part Day Public Holiday. It is therefore recommended that Council apply for a Part Day Public Holiday from 12 noon to 6pm on Friday, 4 February 2022 and Friday 3 February 2023.

Each application to the Minister must state if the request was approved by Council resolution, if other options were considered, e.g. local event day, and to what extent the community consultation was taken in respect of the request.

As per previous years, Council would apply for a part day public holiday from 12 noon to 6pm which would assist the hospitality employers in not paying penalty rates after 6pm.

Submitted to Council: 30 October 2019

..... General Manager Mayor



Item: 6.4 **Ref:** WO/2021/04239
Title: Council December 2021 Meeting – Plan B
Author: General Manager
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: No

Community Strategic Plan Reference:

Goal 8.1.2: Provide a framework for the efficient and effective administration of Council.

RECOMMENDATION: That if the Declaration of Poll has not been declared for Walcha Council by the 22 December 2021 then Council HOLD their first Council Meeting post elections on Friday 24 December 2021 to ensure Council complies with Section 290(1) (a) of the Local Government Act, 1993, to elect the Mayor within three weeks of the Election.

Purpose:

This Report is to ensure Council will comply with Section 290 (1)(a) of the Local Government Act 1993, to elect a Mayor within three weeks of the declaration of electoral results of a Local Government Election by changing Council Meeting dates.

Report:

December 2021 Meeting – Change of Date – Plan B:

Council, at its September 2021 Ordinary Meeting changed its December 2021 Ordinary Meeting date to Wednesday, 22 December 2021. The Declaration of Results from the Local Government Elections 2021 are scheduled from 21 December 2021 to 23 December 2021. To ensure that Council complies with the Local Government Act, 1993 Section 290 (1)(a) this report is to ensure Council have a Plan B if Walcha Council Declaration of Results do not become public until Thursday 23 December 2021.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Social Implications:

There are no social implications arising from this report.

Policy Implications:

There are no policy implications arising from this report.



Item: 6.5 **Ref:** WO/2021/04179
Title: 2021 Regional Meetings
Author: General Manager
Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: No

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 Council RECEIVE and NOTE the Report as presented.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the items raised at the 2021 Regional Meetings.

Report:

Council Presentation

In addition to community members raising issues, Council presented updates on the following items at each meeting:

1. Mayor welcomed everyone and introduced the new General Manager, Barry Omundson and spoke on the following items:
 - a. Elections – being held on 04 December 2021. Advised that four (4) Councillors were not seeking re-election – Heazlett, Blomfield, Kealey & Wellings. Encouraged people to consider becoming a candidate and advised that registrations commence on 25 October.
 - b. Referendum – Council are conducting a Referendum on the abolition of Wards – handed out FAQ and Yes or No information flyers.
 - c. Off Creek Water Storage – spoke about the journey to where we are now, not far off tendering for the construction of the dam. Should be commencing February / March 2022 and hope for it to be completed by mid 2023.
 - d. Updated on Regional Meetings 2020 issues as well as the current Works Program.

2. The General Manager introduced himself and spoke about his family life, previous working experience and what brought him to Walcha. Other subjects covered were:
 - a. Strategic Planning – priorities and directions for the next five years. Utilised the experience of current Council setting the priorities, then will present to the new elected Council and refine them, engage the community before adopting by June 2022.
 - b. What is Council’s role? Think globally act locally.
 - c. Better Services using client service and business principles.
 - d. Communication – needs to improve.
 - e. Hopes to introduce a 3 year rolling plan for Works Program.
 - f. Ensure accountability in everything we do.
 - g. Introduced a Capital Advisory Committee – Staff will submit projects to this Committee, following templates, for consideration and approval to submit to



- Council and then to apply for grants (if applicable). This is to ensure projects are scoped and budgeted correctly.
3. The Director Environment & Development gave an overview of what services are in her Directorate: Animal Control, Town Planning – including Development Applications and future Planning with Local Environment Plan, Development Control Plans, Building Inspections, Food Inspections, Onsite Sewerage Inspections, Council Building & Facilities Maintenance; Health and Cemeteries. Other subjects covered were:
 - a. Online Planning Portal – NSW Planning have created an online portal to submit ALL development applications from 01 July 2021. Advised that Council would still assist people to lodge their DA's if they required it.
 - b. Development Control Plan – recently updated the DCP and advertised requesting submissions on it. The main change is to include guidelines on Wind Power Generation so the State Government are aware of what Council requires within the development guidelines.
 - c. Part Day Public Holiday – Council are in the process of applying for the part day public holiday in February 2022 & 2023 and as per the requirements from Industrial Relations, need to consult with the community on whether the public holiday affects the community and if they are in favour or against the application.
 4. The Director Community & Tourism gave an overview of what services are within her directorate: Library, Tourism, Preschool – State Government funded, Community Care – Federal funded, over 65 year olds, purpose is to give low level support and Meals on Wheels, Early Intervention – for children under 12 diagnosed with a disability or needs help, Community Transport – State Government funded and Community Recovery Officer – State Government funded position.
 5. The Manager Corporate & Finance gave an overview of previous employment and personal information. Explained how balance of cash in bank account is usually earmarked for certain things eg: grants, and therefore does not show the real position of Council.

Community feedback

The following table details issues raised at the Regional Meetings held October 2021.



Monday, 11 October 2021:

11:30pm – Europambela’s Shearers Quarters

5 people

Identified Concern/Request:	Response by Council:
Moona Plains Bridge – when will it be finished?	
Windfarms and Road damage – what do we have to do?	All roads assessed before and must be returned to same state when they are finished.
Grading of Winterbourne Road – mainly rock and water cannot get off the road. Request an engineer onsite to speak to and show where problems occur	Advised that GM & Engineer would organise time and date.
Road Grading on Winterbourne Road – Burgh Blomfield – Council carting water 20km away to put on their road when dam available right next to road – happy to give the water to gravel and grade road.	Note to Staff that they ask the landholder in first instance before carting water.
Weeds at Summervale Aboriginal settlement are out of control	Need to mention to NEWA
DCP – why did Council change the plan?	DED explained to guide the development the way Council would like, to control roads, noise, effects on the environment to people and property.
Weeds need spraying along the roads – haven’t been done for ages	We will notify NEWA

2:30pm – Ingleba Hall

11 people

Identified Concern/Request:	Response by Council:
Englefield Bridge – Ian Olrich – letter drop from Council was not received by him – found out from neighbours of replacement of bridge. Could Council advise through Advocate when this is actually going to happen?	Apologised to Ian & Julie Olrich – Council will advertise when work is happening.
How long will the Englefield bridge be out when it gets replaced?	No answer at this stage.
Macdonald River Bridge has no signs on it – need it to assist with directions	New signs will be ordered.
Hurricane Gully Road – vegetation on the sides of the road is growing back and needs to be sprayed	Factor into works program.
Gravel Pits – why aren’t we using our quarries locally for gravel? Heard you are carting it from Ebor. What are the issues with our quarries?	Standard of gravel is different – rated – however this is something we are addressing with updated Quarry Management Plans
Planning Portal – does this mean it will take months to process?	Quicker process by reducing referral times to RFS, RMS etc.
Congratulations on tarring and grading of Geraldine Road	
Cobrabald Bridge approaches need attention	
Sunken second ramp on Geraldine Road	
Roads are deteriorating quickly – does anyone inspect the roads after contractors have tarred them? Contractors should not be paid until the road is completed satisfactory - accountability	
Old Hospital – any update? Is it still at a standstill?	No update and progress is stymied due to a Land Claim.



6:00pm – Council Chambers, Walcha

7 people

Identified Concern/Request:	Response by Council:
Gardens in streets – credit to the town	
Old Hospital – what is happening with it	Nothing further to report – spoken to Ministers with no action due to Land Claim.
Are we replacing the old heating for the swimming pool?	Yes it should be done within the next month.
Thank you for fixing Toilets at Nivison Park – Captain Cook – Garden staff are superb – Walcha has beautiful gardens.	
Heard a rumour about security lights for this area	CCTV Cameras – to be placed at certain Council assets.
Maybe Council could put in stainless steel toilets to stop vandalism.	Council will put in CCTV cameras to cover the Skate Park and this area that has been heavily vandalised. We have also locked the toilets at night now and we are hoping that this is something we don't have to do.
Waste Depot – are we charging normal household waste at the tip?	No Council pickup should cover the waste. Waste Strategy is being reviewed. The Waste Depot is strongly controlled by the EPA and it needs to be compliant and has to fit into tight parameters. Waste is critical for the future.
Green Waste -huge pile at the tip – what happens to it? Why can't Council sell it to the public? Put the green waste somewhere else if you can't sell it so people can utilise it. Happy to purchase it.	Use it to cover tip. Unable to sell it due to EPA regulations.

Wednesday, 13 October 2020:

9:00am – Yarrowitch Hall

14 people

Identified Concern/Request:	Response by Council:
Potholes on Hall Road	
Illegal boosters on Mobiles interfere with the Mobile Phone Service – specifically the towers. Who is policing this?	
Turning off 3G will have a huge impact on this area	
Write to Telstra with Council providing a letter of support re: towers need to be improved	Brooke Jeffery to coordinate.
Do local contractors have machinery big enough to tender for the off creek storage dam	They have the opportunity to tender if they have the capacity to complete the job.
3 rd ramp in on Kangaroo Flat Road needs lifting and a stainless steel box put underneath it. Only 2.8m wide ramp – need to replace it.	
On behalf of the community we need two things from Council: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mobile Phone Communication – was non-existent during bushfires. 2. Roads Maintenance 	
2 ramps in on Oaklands Road – Council advised they were going to take it out. Everyone is driving around the ramp and the paddocks are fenced. When are they taking them out?	Mayor advised your responsibility. Public advised that Council wrote a letter saying they would take out. GM to follow up.



11:30am – “Brockley Park” Shed

12 people

Identified Concern/Request:	Response by Council:
Tia Diggings Road – remove trees on blind bend	GM to talk to Supervisor Rural Roads and liaise with Mark Morawitz.
Wind Power Energy – what are the future plans?	A public meeting will need to be held, must be organised and remain civil so information is relayed and questions are answered.
Tia Diggings Road – can't get up the road, no mail for 4 days, can't get livestock out	
Pruning of trees on Lakes Road – hitting it with trucks. Hot spot near Girrahween – 5 black ash trees – have to drive truck on wrong side of road with a blind crest approaching.	
Council staff need guidance on excavation – need to learn how to clean pipes -work ethic is pretty poor – need to drive your staff as contractors cost more but do a better job as they are quicker and more effective.	
Gravel issues – are they resolved yet? Its been 2 years since gravel has come from local quarries.	
Any chance can tar from Brockley Park, Brackendale Road, to Joe Mansfields?	Council have no money to tar this section.
Wards – how did that come about as we don't want to lose them in case Councillors are all town centric.	GM – solution to this would be Portfolio Councillors. Clr Kealey advised that the relevance of Wards has passed.
Vandalism in town near Peter Fenwicke Oval on facilities are we getting CCTV cameras?	Yes we have a grant for CCTV's. We also close the toilets at night now to stop the vandalism.

2:30pm – Nowendoc Hall

18 people

Identified Concern/Request:	Response by Council:
Nowendoc Cemetery – renovation of columbarium	Council will come to clean them
Roads funding depleted from maintenance – isn't there a budget allocation maintenance portion for each specific road	Usually more roads need grading than there is funding – backlog of roads due to drought. Levels of service – love to grade every road twice a year however the cost burden on the community would be very high.
Who looks after Thunderbolts Way? Council?	Yes however it is classed as a Regional Road and all funding for Regional Roads can only be spent on Regional Roads.
Quality of asphalt put down on Gloucester side of Thunderbolts Way is like driving on marshmallows. When Council put it down it is rough as guts – why?	Asphalt extremely expensive but is better to drive on. Grading probably wasn't done well before tar is put down.
Do you communicate with Tamworth Regional Council re: Topdale Road and the cutting down to Dungowan? It is disgraceful. Lot of produce – wool, stock, etc – utilise this road.	Liaise with them through Roads Strategy Group with Namoi Unlimited and will bring it up with new Council and Mayor.
Lowanna Bridge was suppose to be a temporary fix and it has been 4 years	Not seeing this changing any time soon. Council have no money to put into this at this stage.
Gravel from cutting to Dungowan Dam which needs dirt and gravel for the banks of the dam. Simple and obvious	We can't tell TRC what and how to do their roads. But will bring up priorities with them as mentioned above.
Need your assistance in lobbying to get another Police officer here. Our volunteer Fire Brigade are attending accidents as there is no	Need to make the job more interesting and sell the opportunity. Have spoken to new Sergeant



police presence.	of Police as well as Kevin Anderson MP. No school also limits applicants.
Quarries – still closed. Person advised they hauled gravel from far away to gravel her road when a gravel pit is on her property. Costs make more efficiencies.	On our radar to change these things. Costs to cart gravel are too high – in process of looking at local quarries and getting them back in use.
Bridge over Nowendoc River – left hand side – old nuts on railing will rust away – studs coming up out of concrete – needs a paint as well	Will have our Outdoor Staff look and replace bolts and nuts. Schedule painting

06:00pm – Woolbrook Sportsground

23 people

Identified Concern/Request:	Response by Council:
Mirror for Walcha Road Railway Station Road – very hard to see traffic coming from Wollun etc. Accident waiting to happen.	Will buy mirror and place it there.
Common Road – any chance of getting it sealed?	Not at this stage.
Grading of Roads – Campfire Road – should bring a backhoe with them as the culverts are clogged. Also no where to go at the top of Foggerty Hill if a B-Double truck comes from the other direction. TRC area but have reported with no action	GM will talk to Supervisor
Town Boundary Adjustment – community still wants to move into Walcha Council area – had a gutful of TRC with no service.	Is something that Council will be continuing with however it does take time – no quick fix at the moment.
Closing the Tip? Put in CCTV's – new locks and community members are happy to pay for new lock and keys. Put up signage for CCTV – give something a chance before closing the tip. Annual Fee for tip keyholders – sign in – pick up key then there is a record and take a picture of the person as they go into the tip. Fob gives a record of when attended and picture of attendance if CCTV's are installed.	There have been discussions on closing it – or changing it to a Transfer Station. It has to start paying for itself. It will be reviewed with Waste Strategy. An interim measure of changing locks will be trialled.
Niangala Road from Marinka to Surveyors Creek – can't get a table top truck in there after rain. Am moving stock between properties it makes it hard – lack of gravel on road. Can't have a new bridge go in on a bad road.	
Boxley – Scrubby Gully Road and Niangala Road need more gravel on them. Staff do a good job of cleaning up the road after the flood but don't clean the pipes out that go under the roads.	
Gravel Pits – heard a story that the certification on them expired? Is this true?	Quarry Management Plans are required and are being done now. Something that Council is keen to get going again to save costs.
Stray Dogs – killed three calves in August and Sheep on another property.	Ranger to attend location

Attendance

In addition to each of the community guests at each location, the following elected members and Council staff attended the events.

Attendance – Monday 11 October 2021

- Mayor – Clr Eric Noakes
- Deputy Mayor – Clr Jennifer Kealey – Ingleba & Council Chambers
- Clr Peter Blomfield
- Clr Bill Heazlett – “Europambela” only
- Clr Scott Kermod – Ingleba Hall only



- General Manager – Barry Omundson
- Director Environment and Development – Lacey Latham
- Director Community and Tourism – Karen Kermode
- Manager Corporate & Finance – Christian Martin
- Executive Assistant – Liz Hobbs

Attendance – Wednesday 13 October 2021

- Mayor – Clr Eric Noakes
- Deputy Mayor – Clr Jennifer Kealey
- Clr Peter Blomfield
- Clr Bill Heazlett – all except Woolbrook Sportsground
- Clr Scott Kermode
- Clr Clint Lyon – all except Woolbrook Sportsground
- General Manager – Barry Omundson
- Director Environment & Development – Lacey Latham
- Director Community & Tourism – Karen Kermode
- Manager Corporate & Finance – Christian Martin
- Executive Assistant – Liz Hobbs



Item 7:

Notice of Motions



There are no Notice of Motions for
October 2021



Item 8:

Matters of Urgency



This page has been intentionally left blank.



Item 9: Management Review Reports



9.1 OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

Ref: WO/2021/04236

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 30 September 2021

Report for the investments held in September 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.



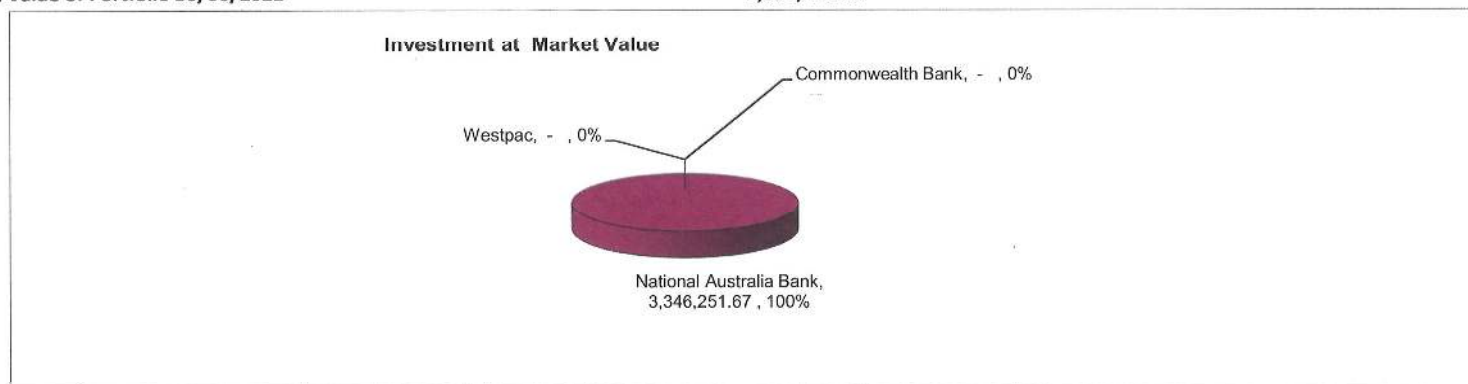
REGISTER OF INVESTMENTS TO 30/09/2021

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	15/03/2021	210	11/10/2021	0.31%	530,006.33	945.30	530,951.63		-	15.84%	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		-	18.79%	91-831-7642
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	6/09/2021	91	6/12/2021	0.25%	621,307.53	387.25	621,694.78	928.02	-	18.57%	416873585
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	10/06/2021	180	7/12/2021	0.30%	252,839.04	374.06	253,213.10		-	7.56%	91-951-2554
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	19/03/2021	270	14/12/2021	0.32%	552,804.19	1,308.56	554,112.74		-	16.52%	
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	25/03/2021	300	19/01/2022	0.32%	253,347.53	666.34	254,013.87		-	7.57%	
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	9/07/2021	210	4/02/2022	0.30%	253,291.09	437.19	253,728.28	363.80	-	7.57%	917202309
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	22/04/2021	300	16/02/2022	0.32%	253,950.25	667.93	254,618.18		-	7.59%	
Commonwealth Bank	Term Deposit					-	-	-	871.45	502,095.53	0.00%	37844807/01
						3,346,251.67	6,367.88	3,352,619.55	2,163.27	502,095.53	100%	

PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR COMPARATIVE DATA: 30/09/2020

Interest Earned YTD **2,165.49**
 Market Value of Portfolio **4,344,963.28**

Interest Earned YTD 30/06/2021 **28,257.85**
 Market Value of Portfolio 30/06/2021 **3,854,757.28**



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 Christian Martin (Responsible Accounting Officer)



9.2 INFRASTRUCTURE:

Ref: WO/2021/04189

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
	On Track – Project meeting expectations with regard time, cost and quality.
	At Risk – Unforeseen issue(s) that may result in either time, cost or quality requirements not being met of a non-significant nature.
	Off Track – Project will not meet expectations with significant implications for Council. These implications 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
Forest Way – Cement stabilise and bitumen seal 2.0km of existing gravel road	Oct 2020	November 2021	60%	Initial works completed, rectification works still to be completed by November.

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
Glen Morrison Road – Rehabilitate and widen existing sealed road to ease curve	March 2021	December 2021	0%	Pavement works scheduled for late 2021.
Moona Plains Road – Rehabilitation of existing sealed road from “Romavilla” towards Rowleys Creek Road	October 2020	June 2022	90%	Drainage and pavement works have been completed. Resealing works will be completed in late 2021 or early 2022 when the weather is best for bitumen works.



Funding Source: 50% Federal Bridge Renewal Program & 50% Roads to Recovery – 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	10%	Moona Plains Bridge to be completed early November. Works have restarted on the bypass track on the Glen Morrison Bridge.
Englefield Road Bridge Replacement				Whilst wet weather has delayed commencement at the other bridges, all bridges are expected to be completed by early 2022.
Glen Morrison Road Bridge Replacement (Stephens)				All bridges except Englefield will have bypass tracks provided during the construction works.

Funding Source: 100% Fixing Local Roads (Walsh Street) and 75% Fixing Local Roads & 25% Roads to Recovery (Middle Street) – Grant agreement requires all works to be completed by December 2022				
Project	Project Start	Planned Completion Date	Tracking Status	Comments
Middle Street Rehabilitation	May 2021	December 2022	0%	COVID-19 travel restrictions of engineering consultancy have delayed commencement of survey and design works.
Walsh Street Rehabilitation	May 2021	December 2022	0%	COVID-19 travel restrictions of engineering consultancy have delayed commencement of survey and design works.



Funding Source: 95% Fixing Country Bridges & 5% Roads to Recovery – Grant agreement requires all work to be completed by December 2023				
Project	Project Start	Planned Completion Date	Tracking Status	Comments
Army Bridge	March 2021	December 2023	10%	Engineering designs have been completed for Mooraback and Winterbourne Bridges. Preliminary designs completed for Army Bridge.
Winterbourne Bridge	March 2021	December 2023	10%	
Mooraback Bridge	March 2021	December 2023	10%	
Tia Diggings Bridge 1	March 2021	December 2023	10%	Four tenders have been received, all well over the budgeted values. This matter will be discussed at the November Capital Advisory Committee Meeting.
Tia Diggings Bridge 2	March 2021	December 2023	10%	
Niangala Bridge	March 2021	December 2023	10%	



2. State Roads

Funding Source: Transport for NSW – Road Maintenance Council Contract (RMCC) – Annual Program				
Project	Project Start	Planned Completion	Tracking Status	Comments
Oxley Highway – 2021/2022 Routine Maintenance	July 2021	June 2022	24%	Routine road maintenance works continue. Shoulder grading, pothole patching and incident response works undertaken. Tree removal/trimming in Surveyors Creek to be completed in November depending on the availability of workers.
Oxley Highway – Segment 2670 near Hartford Road – Additional works	March 2021	July 2021	100%	Backfilling behind headwall completed. Project completed.
Oxley Highway Safety Project 2602 – Segments 2700 to 2720	January 2021	August 2021	100%	Pit grates has been installed. Project completed.
Oxley Highway – Resealing Program	August 2021	March 2022	10%	Resealing of 12 segments started on 19/10/2021. Project due to be completed by end of November.
Oxley Highway – Reseal Preparation	August 2021	March 2022	5%	Shoulder grading works completed. Weed spray is planned for November 2021. Heavy patching and crack sealing scope yet to be finalised.
Oxley Highway – Heavy Patching	September 2021	June 2022	0%	Scope finalisation is in progress.
Oxley Highway – Safety Barrier Upgrade Works	September 2021	June 2022	10%	Work Proposal submitted to Transport for NSW for approval.
Oxley Highway – Fatality Site Safety Upgrade Works	September 2021	June 2022	0%	Scope finalisation is in progress.
Oxley Highway Safety Project 2606 – Segments 2150 to 2140 – Pavement Widening	February 2022	March 2022	0%	Preliminary scope received from Transport for NSW to inform Work Proposal.



3. Regional Roads

Funding Source: REPAIR grant, part of Block grant & Thunderbolts Way Corridor Strategy - Grant agreement requires all work completed by May 2022)				
Project	Project Start	Planned Completion	Tracking Status	Comments
Rehabilitation of Walcha Township Approaches - Derby Street – (Segments 4710 and 4720)	July 2018	May 2022	12%	Project tender closed on 12 Oct and the tender value received was 60% higher than expected. Further to be discussed in the Capital Advisory Committee. The cost of providing an asphalt surface will be detailed in the business paper report.
Project 5.5 Rehabilitation of Segment 4580 near Glen Morrison Road	July 2021	May 2022	100%	Stabilisation, sealing and line marking works completed. Project complete.
Project 5.4 Rehabilitation of Segment 4570 at Lake Road intersection	August 2021	May 2022	70%	Stabilisation, sealing and line marking works completed for 900m. Survey and design of improvements to Lakes Road intersection commenced. Construction works to improve Lakes road intersection will commence in Mar 2022.
Project 5.3 Rehabilitation of Segment 4560 near Lake Road	October 2021	May 2022	5%	Culvert replacement & tree removal works completed. Rehabilitation works to commence in December 2021.
Project 5.2 Rehabilitation of Segment 4550 near Lake Road	November 2021	May 2022	5%	Culvert replacement & tree removal works completed. Works to commence in November 2021.
Project 5.1 Rehabilitation of Segment 4540 near Hicks Bridge	February 2022	March 2022	15%	Culvert replacement & tree removal works completed. Stabilisation works commenced and will be completed by November 2021.
Project 10 Rehabilitation of Segment 4370 near Smith Ck Bridge	October 2021	October 2021	0%	Preliminary pavement investigation completed and overlay design finalised. Works to commence in November 2021, depending on the availability of contractors.
Thunderbolts Way Road –Shoulder Grading & top up	October 2021	April 2022	0%	Shoulder widening and top up gravel works to be started in November and the segments will be resealed in March/April 2022.
Thunderbolts Way – Resealing Program – 2021/22	1 October 2021	30 April 2022	0%	Scope yet to be finalised.



Funding Source: Transport for NSW – Regional Roads Block, Traffic Facilities & Supplementary Grant Programs - Annual				
Project	Project Start	Planned Completion	Tracking Status	Comments
Thunderbolts Way and Topdale Road – Routine works	July 2021	June 2022	25%	Routine road maintenance works underway. Pothole and sign repairs works completed.
Thunderbolts Way – Heavy Patching	Sept 2021	Nov 2022	10%	Scope finalised. Heavy patching commenced and to be completed by November 2021.

4. Water, Sewer & Waste

Funding Source: Restart NSW Grant – with supplementary funding by Local Roads & Community Infrastructure grant				
Project	Project Start	Planned Completion	Tracking Status	Comments
Walcha Truck Wash Bay Upgrade	Early 2019	June 2021	95%	Truckwash soft opening was completed on 21/10/21. Formal opening next month

Funding Source: Restart NSW Grant				
Project	Project Start	Planned Completion	Tracking Status	Comments
Walcha Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade	2019	Dec 2021	97%	Improved telemetry and site fencing to be completed in December, COVID restrictions permitting Scope of work funded still to be determined to allow final works to be complete. Fence at the WwTP is not requiring replacement, fence at the pumping station does.
Walcha Off Creek Storage	March 2020	Late 2022	15%	Hunter H20 are now Council’s sole project managers with another management layer removed. A Project Leadership Group with the Mayor included has been formed. So to a Project Group and an Assurance Group. A briefing session for local contractors is planned for early November.



Funding Source: Restart NSW Grant				
Project	Project Start	Planned Completion	Tracking Status	Comments
Walcha Waste Strategy 2025	August 2020	Jan 2022	60%	Project delayed extensively due to departure of original project team. Draft strategy now expected to be finalised in Jan 2022.
Watermain Renewals	July 2021	June 2022	0%	Program commencement subject to sourcing loan. Renewal program to be developed and tendered.
Water Meter Replacement	July 2020	June 2022	0%	Original 2020/21 program delayed due to inadequate resourcing and has been carried over. CAC report prepared for smart metering.
Sewer Relining Program	July 2021	June 2022	0%	Program commencement subject to sourcing loan. Renewal program to be developed and tendered. Sewer relining project needs to be reprioritised with Sewer Inflow Infiltration investigation and survey works (condition on varied EPL)

5. Community Projects

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	Sept 2021	Completed	Extension to Mill Hole shared path will be completed as part of the adjoining roadworks due to a likely change in footpath levels occurring.

Funding Source: Stronger Country Communities – Grant agreement requires all work to be completed by March 2023				
Project	Project Start	Planned Completion	Tracking Status	Comments
Levee Bank Walk Lighting	2020	July 2022	5%	Revised quote has been received, subject to October Council meeting report.
Walcha Men's Shed Relocation	2020	November 2021	75%	Construction in progress.



Funding Source: Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund				
Project	Project Start	Planned Completion Date	Tracking Status	Comments
Walcha Swimming Pool Refurbishment	May 2021	October 2022	5%	Concrete coring has been conducted on areas of the pool to determine condition. Pool set to open November 13 th
Renew Walcha Skate Park	August 2021	June 2023	5%	Awaiting on funding agreement details from Department. Until a Project Manager is appointed, Constructive Solutions have been engaged to assist in design and tendering.
Upgrade Walcha Lions Park	August 2021	June 2023	0%	Awaiting on funding agreement details from Department.

Funding Source: Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Phase 3 - Grant agreement requires all work completed by June 2023				
Project	Start Date	Planned Completion	Tracking Status	Comments
To be determined	January 2022	June 2023	0%	Projects to be workshopped and included in a future Quarterly Budget Review

Funding Source: Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Phase 1 Grant agreement requires all work completed by June 2021				
Project	Start Date	Planned Completion	Tracking Status	Comments
McHattan Park Works to Improve Access and Facilities	Oct 2020	June 2021	90%	Reassembly of the Weather Signs sculpture delayed. However is due to be completed prior to the Motorcycle Rally.
Improve Pedestrian Safety on Blue Hogan Bridge	Oct 2020	June 2021	10%	Project on hold. Transport for NSW now actively considering the need for vehicle barriers on the bridge. Awaiting confirmation of proposal approval and possible request for Council contribution to costs



Funding Source: Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Phase 2 Grant agreement requires all work completed by June 2022				
Project	Start Date	Planned Completion	Tracking Status	Comments
Walcha Community Gym – equipment, signage and security	July 2021	June 2022	2%	3 Quotes obtained with 1 recommended by the Advisory Committee.
Electrical Assessment Upgrades	July 2021	June 2022	5%	No formal tenders received on time. The work required is now being validated before breaking into similar packages, such as water/sewer.

6. Proposed Works for the Coming Period

6.1 Rural Roads:

Two maintenance grading crews are currently operating on our local road network at the following areas:

Winterbourne Area – Maintenance grading works continuing in this area, with the following roads remaining: Blue Mountain Road Hazeldean Road and Uruga Road.

Niangala Area – Maintenance grading works continuing in this area, with the following roads remaining: Niangala Road and Scrubby Gully Road.



9.3 ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT:

Ref: WO/2021/04036

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:

Development & Construction	<i>The regulation of the way land is used and developed and certification of safe construction practices. (CSP References 6.1.2, 6.1.7, 6.5.1, 6.6.1, 6.6.3)</i>
Strategic Planning	<i>Land use management through a range of state and local strategies, plans and policies (CSP References 2.1.9, 5.3.1, 5.3.4, 6.1.6, 6.6.2)</i>
Environmental Management	<i>Environmental monitoring, programs and investigations to maintain the health of our natural and built environments. (CSP References 6.1.1, 6.1.3, 6.1.4, 6.1.5, 6.4.1)</i>
Regulatory Services	<i>Monitoring of activities, premises and systems to protect public health. (CSP References 3.2.3, 3.2.4)</i>
Animal Control	<i>Responsible pet ownership through policy and regulation of keeping of animals. (CSP Reference 7.2.2)</i>
Building & Amenity Maintenance	<i>Building infrastructure asset management of Council facilities to continue services to the community. (CSP References 2.1.7, 3.2.5, 5.2.3, 5.6.1, 8.2.3, 8.2.4)</i>

1. Development & Construction

Development Statistics 2021-22	DAs	CCs	CDCs
Total Number Approved	15	10	4
Approved under Delegated Authority	14		
Approved by Council Registered Certifier		8	2
Approved by Council	1		
Approved by Private Certifier		2	2
Value	\$1,414,745	\$766,646	\$903,512
Number Withdrawn / Cancelled	1	-	-
Number Rejected	-	-	-
Number Refused	-	-	-



1.1 Determinations Issued

September 2021			
Development Application's			
Number	Description	Address	Determination
10.2020.26	Alterations and additions to clubhouse	Walcha Golf Club 238 Oxley Highway Walcha	Withdrawn
10.2021.22	Subdivision of rural land	982 Aberbaldie Road Walcha	Approved under delegated authority
10.2021.29	Farm building & detached dual occupancy dwelling	14292 Thunderbolts Way Walcha	Approved under delegated authority
10.2021.31	Machinery shed	3820 Niangala Road Walcha	Approved under delegated authority
10.2021.32	Shed	172W Croudace Street Walcha	Approved under delegated authority
10.2021.34	New dwelling	216N Uralla Road Walcha	Approved under delegated authority
10.2021.35	Installation of a manufactured home	133 Oxley Drive Walcha	Approved under delegated authority
Construction Certificate's			
Number	Description	Address	Determination
11.2021.36	Farm building & detached dual occupancy dwelling	14292 Thunderbolts Way Walcha	Approved under delegated authority
11.2021.37	Machinery shed	3820 Niangala Road Walcha	Approved under delegated authority
Complying Development Certificate's			
Number	Description	Address	Determination
18.2021.13	Demolition of old RFS building	156E Fitzroy Street Walcha	Approved by private certifier
18.2021.14	Dwelling alterations and additions	65W Hill Street Walcha	Approved under delegated authority

1.1A Development Applications Outstanding

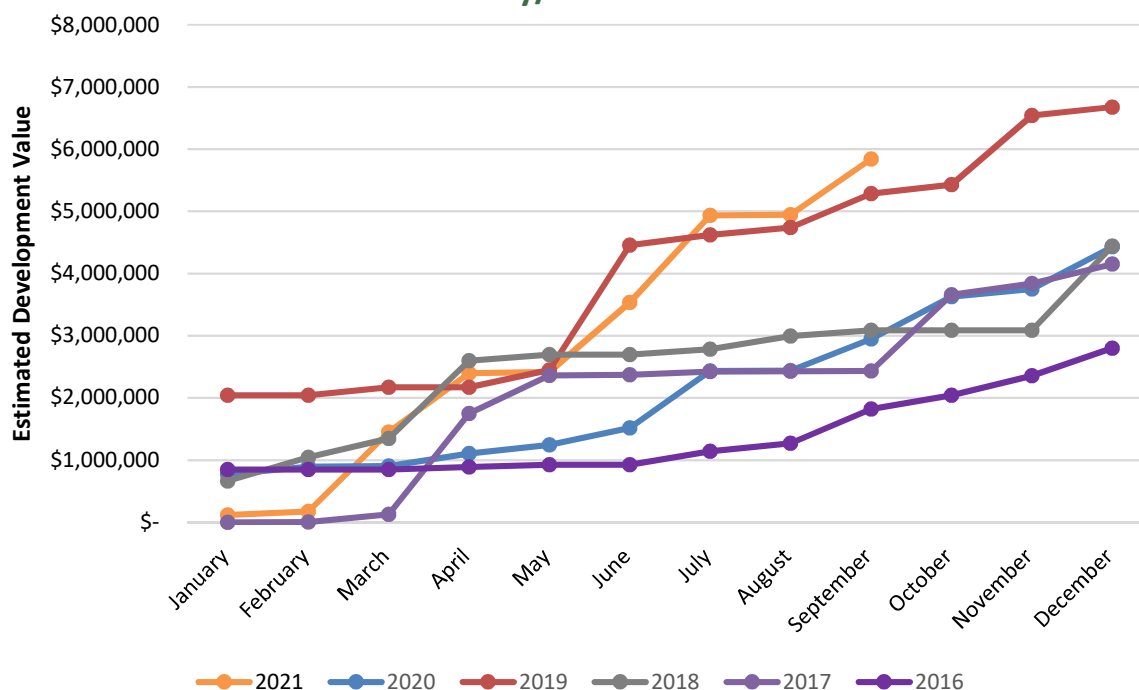
Development Applications Outstanding as at 1/10/2021				
Number	Description	Address	Date Lodged	Status
10.2020.31	Truck wash bay with shed cover	305 Darjeeling Road Walcha	24/12/2020	Waiting on Additional Information
10.2021.33	Subdivision of rural land	369 Brackendale Road Walcha	28/07/2021	Waiting on Additional Information
10.2021.36	Alterations and additions to a commercial premises	IGA/Home Hardware	02/09/2021	Waiting on Additional Information



10.2021.37	Boundary Adjustment	17S Middle Street Walcha	17/09/2021	Under Assessment
------------	---------------------	-----------------------------	------------	---------------------

For Councillor information, following is a graph published on Council's website each month showing the combined (DA & CDC) approved development value for the LGA. It highlights the monthly and annual trend for the calendar years of 2016 until present.

**Approved Estimated Development Value Comparison
 Monthly/Calendar Year**



1.2 Occupation Certificates

September 2021

Nil Issued

1.3 Subdivision Certificates

September 2021

Subdivision Certificates Issued

Number	Description	Address
15.2021.6	Subdivision	272 Aberbaldie Road Walcha

1.4 Planning Certificates

Planning Certificates	2020-21	2021-22	Current Period
Number Issued	154	25	2



1.5 Building Information Certificates

Building Information Certificates	2020-21	2021-22	Current Period
Number Issued	1	1	0

1.6 Outstanding Notices and Orders Certificates

Outstanding Notices & Orders Certificates	2020-21	2021-22	Current Period
Number Issued	27	5	1

1.7 Critical Stage Inspections for DAs, CCs and CDCs

Compliance Inspections	2020-21	2021-22	Current period
Site inspections	37	14	3
Footings & slab inspections	14	6	4
Framework inspections	6	1	-
Waterproofing inspections	3	1	-
Stormwater inspections	-	1	1
Final inspections	7	2	-
Food premises fitout inspections	2	1	-
Complaints	-	1	1

1.8 Bushfire Attack Level Certificates

BAL Certificates	2020-21	2021-22	Current Period
Number Issued	1	-	-
Number Not Issued		-	-

1.9 Dwelling Entitlement Information Advice

Dwelling Entitlement Advice	2020-21	2021-22	Current Period
Number Issued	11	4	1

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	1	\$110.00	\$110.00
		TOTAL	\$110.00



2. Environment & Regulation

2.1 Section 68 Activities

Section 68 Activity Data	2020-21	2021-22	Current Period
Number Issued	24	9	3

S68 Compliance Inspections	2021-22	Current period
Site inspections	-	-
Internal drainage inspections	2	2
External drainage inspections	2	1
Water supply work inspections	-	-
Final inspections	-	-

2.2 Public Health Activities

Public Health Activity Data – Compliance Inspections & Reports Issued	2020-21	2021-22	Current Period
On-Site Sewage Management Systems	3	1	-
Food Premises	23	1	-
Private Swimming Pools	1	-	-
Fire Safety Schedules	-	1	-
Skin Penetration Procedure Premises	-	-	-
Advertisements / Advertising Structures (incl. sandwich boards)	1	1	-

3. Animal Control

Companion Animal Registrations 2021-22								
	Desexed	Non desexed	Pensioner (desexed)	Pound Purchase (desexed)	Cat Desexed	Under 6 Months	Working	Value
Jul	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aug	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	\$580.00
Sep	4	4						\$1160.00

Companion Animal Seizures 2021-22						
	Seized	Surrendered	Released	Rehomed	Euthanised	Stolen/Escaped
Jul	-	2	-	2	-	-
Aug	1	2	1	2	-	-
Sep	-	-	-	-	-	-

Companion Animal Ranger Services 2021-22				
	Dog attack investigation	Roaming dogs	Roaming cats	Barking dogs
Jul	-	2	1	4
Aug	-	4	3	3
Sep	-	6	2	3



9.4 COMMUNITY AND TOURISM

Ref: WO/2021/04168

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 September 2021

1.1 Groups

Programs resumed in full in September, with masks required by staff and clients when indoors and when utilizing any of our Community Transport options. Clients have taken this with good grace and have expressed that they are more than happy to follow these guidelines if it means to be safe while also allowing them to see their peers again. WCCC have been assisting with the process of getting everyone out and about by helping them to access QR cards for scanning when entering businesses. This is particularly helpful for our clients who do not own a mobile phone.

While programs were getting underway again, it was a slow start as there were still new guidelines to follow and limitations on the activities we could offer. As such we focused on having a movie day, resuming our card group, a mixed morning tea and scenic drives around our LGA. The drives in particular were very well received and continue to be a popular part of our program.

We showed the Johnny Cash biopic, Walk the Line and had a great group of women come in to watch. They enjoyed popcorn and an ice cream and sang along with all of the great music.

A mixed group morning tea was an opportunity for everyone to have a chat and see how they had gotten through their isolation period. It was fantastic to see the rooms full of people again and to hear them engage in conversation with each other.

Excursions are now starting to be planned, regular programming will recommence in October and all of the clients are focusing on getting themselves vaccinated and ensuring they are safe when they return to our rooms.

We have also said goodbye to Denise who has decided to retire as our Meals on Wheels operator in order to focus on her family. We wish her all of the best and are grateful for the 9 years she committed to WCCC. This now leaves us looking to add a staff member and the decision was to offer a full time position as a trainee. This recruitment process is ongoing.

New Clients for the month- 3

N/A

Exited Clients- 0

Wanderer's Group

Women's Group

N/A



Men's Group

N/A

Craft Group

N/A

Art Group

N/A

Card Group

7 September- (still in isolation)

14 September- 4

21 September- 5

28 September- 4

Community Café

N/A

Joint Excursion

No excursion planned this month.

Scenic Drives

6 September- (still in isolation)

13 September- 9

20 September- (cancelled due to lack of staff)

27 September- 6

Movie Day

22 September- 5

Art Group-

22 September- 4

1.2 Transport – 2020

Medical drives – 41 trips were delivered during the month, including local trips as well as to Tamworth and Armidale.

Walcha Access bus (every Monday)

6 September- (still in isolation)

13 September- 2

20 September- 4

27 September- 3

Bus to Armidale (every Thursday)

2 September- (still in isolation)

9 September- (still in isolation)

16 September- 7

23 September- 6

30 September- 3

Bus to Tamworth (monthly)

24 September- 2

Taxi Vouchers – 23 clients used the service, with 196 trips being provided.

1.3 Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels volunteers are back in place and we now have a completed monthly roster for this. All security check ups (including police checks) are being maintained to ensure they are up to date.

This month 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: 629

- 327 hot meals
- 142 frozen meals and
- 160 desserts.

1.5 Feedback and Complaints

There have been no complaints received this month.

Jess Goodwin

Community Care Coordinator



2. LIBRARY AND YOUTH

September 2021

Stats:

- Loans: 627
- Returns: 503
- Reservations placed & issued: 178
- New members: 8
- Door count: 460
- Wi-fi use: 27
- Computer use: 29
- Housebound: 9

Other statistics:

- Borrow Box E-audio & e-book not available for September

The library experienced another unique month, given that it was closed until 13 September, due to the COVID-19 stay at home orders. However, the number of loans, returns and reservations managed to remain average due to the delivery service that was on offer. The door count was low for the month, but standard when considering the library doors were only open for two-thirds of the month. The average daily door count for the days the library was open was 41 people per day. The Wifi usage and public access computer usage remained slightly lower than usual as our community slowly returned to 'normal' after lockdown. New memberships doubled the usual average of 4 this month. There were 8 new members signed up. This is likely in response to the increase in social media engagement with the wider community during the lockdown, ties with the youth school holiday program and outreach to the wider community through the newspaper article about the library published in the local paper this month.

The delivery service set up during the COVID-19 closure in August continued until 13 September. Staff continued to service online orders with stock available in Walcha, as deliveries from headquarters in Tamworth remained postponed until 17 September. Items were selected for people making phone orders, and scheduled deliveries with a Council vehicle multiple times each week. Staff continued to check on members through the outbound call program, contacting regular and vulnerable members to organise a library service but scaled this back when re-opening date was announced. COVID-safe contactless delivery, and collection of returned items was conducted by library staff within town, and local Australia Post continued to offer a reduced rate to deliver items to out-of-town Walcha members through the mail run.

Re-opening after the August-September COVID-19 closure saw the library change its COVID sign in process to eliminate the double handling of the written sign in sheets. Staff set up a designated tablet device with the library Covid-19 webform, to sign in people with COVID sign in cards and those without access to Service NSW on a smartphone. This change of process is more efficient and a better use of staff time. It allows sign in data to go directly to the NSW Government, and staff no longer have to enter it manually to the electronic spreadsheet each day.

Outreach & Promotion

Outreach and library promotion have been affected by COVID-19 closures again throughout September, however easing of restrictions have provided staff with more options to re-engage with the community.



- The notice board in the library window has been updated this month, since the wider community are able to access it again.
- An article was written in the Apsley Advocate about the newest library services, programs and facilities.
- Staff have continued to use a systematic and measured approach to the use of social media to engage with the community and library members this month since in person interaction was impossible for a portion of the month.

Social media

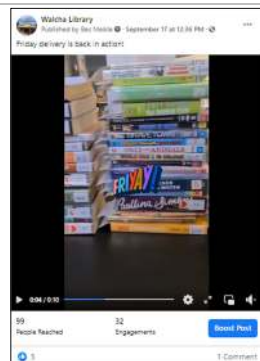
The popularity of the Walcha Library Facebook page increased again this month and now 214 people have liked our page (increasing by a further 6 this month) and 235 followers (6 new followers). In the first weeks of September, Council staff still relied on social media to engage with members, and promote activities and services. A high number of posts were shared and engaged with this month, and staff continued to use the systematic approach to ensure the high volume was engaging, useful and an effective use of staff time. The library shared 33 posts (only 1 less than last month) on the Facebook page reaching 1152 different people (this is a 40% increase to last month). The 18 Instagram posts shared throughout August received 167 ‘likes’ (increase from 141 likes on 15 posts in the previous month). Library and Youth Instagram posts are now followed by 179 people, with 3 new followers this month.

The programs, activities and information shared via Facebook and Instagram this month have been broken into two categories below, Engagement & Service content:

Engagement content: fun and interactive posts shared to engage with the library community and/or acknowledge events/themes being celebrated in wider community	# people reached on Facebook	People engaging on Instagram
Total 18 engagement posts	1186	66
• Indigenous Literacy Day video ‘Celebrating stories and Language’	34	
• ‘Welcome Back’ post announcing re-opening and reminding of Covid restrictions to visit the library	82	11
• Share of Adam Marshall MP’s lockdown mental health tips	58	
• Share of John Heffernan’s new Youtube channel videos & workshops	55	
• State Library of NSW HSC Help zoom session info	439	
• 7 x Library “Joke & trivia of the Day” posts: The last 1.5 weeks of the 3 week mental health strategy. Posts were scheduled for each workday at 11am (to coincide with governments Covid-19 update) on Facebook & Instagram. The bright and branded posts each had a library themed joke, riddle or trivia question, and the answer provided on the following day.	341 Average of reaching 48 people per post	36
• Promotion of ‘Young persons playlist’ comp	67	



run by the Office of Advocate for Young People		
• “Finding Calm In the Chaos” program promotion – sharing the event	48	
• Photos and wrap up of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Storytime ○ Lego Club ○ CNRL sphero workshop 	585 437 154	
• Share of community event at Walcha Caravan Park targeting young people		13
• ‘Your brain on books’ Scholastic post about how reading can help our mental health (including help phone numbers)		6
Service content: informative posts about the library services, facilities and programs (including important updates or changes to them)	# people reached on Facebook	People engaging on Instagram
Total 15 service posts	1644	30
• September school holiday related posts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Council program ○ Updates & reminders for activities ○ State Library online school holiday link ○ CNRL ‘FAST’ online workshop link ○ Walcha CNRL robotics workshop promotion 	1305 588 302, 114, 93 64 63 81	
• eLibrary promotions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Borrow Box Andy Griffith & Adult Fiction collection ○ Libby magazines ○ Indyreads Clive Cussler collection ○ National Geographic Kids database 	144 46 39 26 33	4
• 2 x Author talks available by Zoom through CNRL	96	
• #Fridaydeliveryday post celebrating the return of Tamworth library deliveries or returns and exchanged items	99	
• Puzzle Library launch with photo of collection		15
• Baby’s first library bag program preparation post		11





This month the State Library advised that there were remaining funds to spend from the Public Library Infrastructure grant received in 2020. This grant was used to fit a new door, making the library entrance more accessible. Staff have spent some time considering and costing additions to the entrance and library facilities that will improve accessibility. Staff investigated costs for signage, glass frosting, furniture, shelving and resources to facilitate library programs. A proposal and a series of quotes were gathered and sent to the State Library for approval this month, before purchases are finalised.

The NSW Governments Power Save Kit was checked by CNRL staff and re-acquisitioned to be available for loan again in July. This resource allows members of the community to borrow the devices and access the information required to check their household electricity usage. The kit was promoted in the Apsley Advocate article about the Walcha Library this month, and was borrowed just days after publication.

The new Lenovo tablet devices purchased and set up at the Walcha Library were made available this month with the library re-opened. This new service offered to those who are using the library public access computers and seeking assistance with technology was promoted in the article written about the library in the Apsley Advocate this month.

Programs

This month we received our first 'New Beginnings' Reading Challenge entry for the year. This means that one of our members has completed all 12 reading challenges and submitted her entry to be in the draw for a prize. This program has sparked some interest amongst members, and aims to engage and challenge members to read outside of their usual genre.

The library has continued to support those learning in the community this month. In addition to providing a space, free wifi, computers and printing for study purposes (for both school & tertiary students), the library has also provided information about State Library of NSW resources to assist HSC students – including a zoom HSC Help session. Four local home-school families have once again used the Walcha Library to access resources to support their learning modules. A number of teachers from local Walcha schools are also using the Council library to supplement their classroom supplies, including one teacher who loaned all of the CNRL copies of a book this month to trial a 'kids bookclub' extracurricular activity in the school lunch break. The library will continue to support these teachers and learners.

Some housebound services were unable to run again in September due to the COVID-19 stay-at-home restrictions. The Riverview Nursing Home bulk delivery and some individual housebound members in care facilities were unable to receive their delivery from the Quota volunteers, however most housebound individuals outside of care facilities received their deliveries from Walcha Library staff despite the closures this month.

The Walcha Library Bookclub and the 'Taphouse' bookclubs all decided to skip their September bookclub meeting due to the Covid-19 stay-at-home orders. Book kits were arranged by staff in preparation for the October meetings once the library delivery service recommenced.



Storytime and Baby Book Time was run within the September School Holiday Program this month. The library staff took Storytime outside for a 'Teddy Bears picnic' themed event – and the weather couldn't have been more perfect. 16 local children aged from 10 months to 12 years old participated in the stories, songs, games and craft at the Lions Park, with



their favourite teddy bears by their side. They also read the Hungry Caterpillar, and enjoyed related games and craft activities. This outdoor Storytime concept will be used throughout the warmer months.

Baby's First Library Bag program continued preparations this month. Library staff spent time collating the handmade bags, baby board books and information flyers for families. The flyers included membership and service information about the library, and programs like Storytime & Baby Booktime, and resources to help them understand the importance of reading to babies. 40 packs were boxed up ready to be collected by Walcha Hospital staff in early October.



Plans for a virtual September school holiday program were tossed when the stay-at-home orders were lifted in Walcha the week before the holidays started. Council Youth & Library staff quickly set to organise a variety of physical activities to allow Walcha youth to be entertained, and catch up with their friends again, in a COVID-safe way over the break from school. This holiday program included a number of packs and events, being collected or taking place at the library. The program targeted all age groups (from 0 – 18 years) and a range of interests including reading, craft & the arts, STEM and sport.

- There were 20 families who collected 'Holiday fun packs' from the Library, filled with craft activities, and materials, and a number of inspirational challenges to keep everyone busy.
- Council also sponsored 20 vouchers to visit the Walcha Handmade Kids Craft Corner for free during the holidays.
- The new jigsaw puzzle library was launched, and has proven to be a hit, with 10 loans and a number of donations into this great new collection. There are puzzles for all ages, and this collection will continue to be available after the holidays.
- The library staff took Storytime outside for a 'Teddy Bears picnic' themed event at the Lions Park.
- The Central Northern Regional Library team, from the Tamworth Library visited for a workshop too – where 10 children were able to build chariots to race Sphero robots around a makeshift racetrack set up in the library.
- Lego Club saw a group of 13 children designing and creating cars capable of being propelled by balloons, amongst other interesting 'freestyle' challenges. They also filled a terrarium with Lego insects and reptiles, which remains on display at the library.
- A touch football clinic was planned for this break but was unfortunately postponed. This decision to postpone was partly due to forecasted rain & storm activity, and also a result of the volunteer coaches from the Walcha Touch Football Club going into a COVID-19 lockdown order, having recently visited Port Macquarie. Staff have purchased 4 touch footballs for the clinic, and plan to donate the balls to the Touch Football club after the clinic, due to be rescheduled for a mutually appropriate upcoming date.





50 'packs' were collected from the Library & 39 participants attended the planned events – only 1 event was postponed. The Walcha Library staff shared photos and stories from the holiday activities on Facebook & Instagram, and with the local Aspley Advocate paper. They also asked the wider community to get in touch if they have any ideas or suggestions for future holiday activities.

After receiving notification of the successful application for Tech Savvy Senior funding, sessions have been scheduled for five weeks from 9 November to the 7 December. Based on feedback from the sessions held earlier in 2021, this program will include introductions to internet, cyber safety, video calling, social media and sharing (and organising) photos. Promotion of these sessions will occur throughout October.

Cassie McKenna
Library Coordinator

3. Preschool

September 2021

Book fair

After been postponed until term 4, finally the preschool children were able to celebrate book week. Because of restrictions we were unable to invite our families in for our usual morning tea and dress up parade. The children dressed up and purchase books during the week. Our families have been very creative this year organising a variety of costumes for their children.



The Penguin room children have been busy creating a cook book which will be part of their farewell / Christmas present to their families. Each child has contributed a favourite family recipe from home which will be added to the preschool cook book. These recipes are then



cooked as part of the weekly program. The children have enjoyed the variety of cooking experiences.

Last term the school transition program had been postpone at both local schools. But children and families were thrilled that updated guidelines from NSW Department of Education, in line with NSW Health allowed transition to kindergarten programs to commence. School transition is an important milestone in our Pre-schooler's journey to big school.

As an extension from book week, our Polar bear room children have been working on a project about "old Macdonald's farm. The children have been retelling the story and song using creative arts and felt board pieces. A wall display, of a variety of farm animals as well as, old Macdonald, tractors and a barn yard have been made to display. Lots of literacy learning to extend the children's knowledge through drama, craft and visuals. Our Polar bear class currently have 44 children enrolled.

Outdoor area

Caring for our environment! Spring has arrived and the beautiful weather has encouraged gardening. Our top garden needed some care after winter, the children love getting their hands dirty gardening and we are so lucky to have tanks full of water at the moment.

Gardening teaches the children responsibility of preserving the environment. Gardening provides children skills to help their development, it's a great physical activity, improves motor skills, enhances cognitive abilities and social skills. It engages all their senses when they touch, feel, and take care of plants. Our preschool environments are looking beautiful thanks to our wonderful educators, children and gardener Layleigh.





Professional Development:

Emma, Debbie and Sakulsri are enrolled in a Child Protection refresher webinar these will be completed over the next couple of weeks. Emma, Mary, Elly, Alice and Sakulsri will be updating their Senior First Aid in the upcoming weeks.

Staffing:

This term saw Emma return from maternity leave, and we farewelled Emily to start her maternity leave. We also welcomed Lacie Slater to our preschool team. Lacie has commenced a two-year traineeship. Over this time Lacie will complete a certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care. Lacie has settled well into our preschool team and is enjoying her time working at Walcha preschool.

Debbie Williamson
 (Acting) Nominated Supervisor

4. Tourism

September 2021

Number of visitors to VIC

SEPTEMBER	2021 Road closures from 21 March – 12 July flood damage VIC Closed 9/8/21 – 11/9/21 COVID Lockdown	2020 closed VIC 19 March	2019	2018
Walk in's		444	331	484
Phone enquiries		15	45	67
Email enquiries		4	2	7
WEBSITE 2021	September	August	July	June
Unique Visits	8,542	9,542	9,682	10,643
Visits	23,461	25,866	20,584	20,406
No of Hits	488,342	552,843	743,848	869,516

Soundtrail Metrics – September

Website Visits:		Sound Walk Data:		
		Name	Downloads	Opens
-	Aboriginal Diggers	Apsley Falls	5	6
59	Apsley Falls	Bald Rock	9	14
13	Armidale Catholic Precinct	Bingara	9	7
30	Bald Rock	Catholic Precinct	2	2
4	Bingara	Washpool NP	27	78
7	Freedom Rides Moree Baths	Goonoowigall	9	16
55	Goonoowigall	Living	3	3
19	Myall Creek	Classroom	1	1
19	Nambour			



27	Nanango	Moree Baths	1	1
25	Nimbin	Moree Cemetery	7	9
8	Scu Cubewalk	Myall Creek	14	27
18	Tenterfield	Nambour	5	10
8	The Living Classroom (Bingara)	Nanango	2	2
13	Uralla	Heritage	4	9
27	Walcha Sculpture	Nimbin	3	8
3	Walgett	Tenterfield	3	7
11	Warialda	Uralla	1	1
101	Washpool NP	Walcha	3	1
63	Wollomombi Falls	Sculpture	4	13
		Walgett		
		Warialda		
		Wollomombi		
		Falls		
	**New NEHC NPWS Soundtrails	Total	112	215

Walcha Motorcycle Rally

Organisation in full swing. COVID regulations are causing headaches with a few micro events having to pull out.

Cycling Tourism – Walcha

Cycling video done by David Waugh and posted on socials. Call to action page is our walchansw.com.au/cycling where several mapped rides can be found.

Susie Crawford

Tourism Manager

5. Community Recovery Officer

September 2021

Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grant (BSBR) applications

During the month I have worked on assisting the Yarrowitch Recreation and Reserve Land Managers with their BSBR grant application to improve infrastructure and maintenance at the hall. I have also worked on Councils project applications to the grant. This was a great learning curve in project management, community collaboration and stakeholder engagement in getting these projects scoped and the applications completed.

Another stand out project grant application was working with Nowendoc Memorial Hall Managers, another directly Bushfire affected area from 2019/2020. Council will partner with the Nowendoc Memorial Hall if successful with this grant application, to increase and improve their water security for the future with two new water tanks on the hall, concrete a disabled car space, kerb and guttering for around the hall and to complete landscaping around the adjacent public toilets.

Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP) collaboration for with online photo event “findingcalminchaos#”

This month we released “findingcalminchaos” photography event with our local Rural Adversity Mental Health Program coordinators in Tamworth and Armidale. The theme is finding calm, what is your calm/happy place? How do you find a calm place in all the chaos of daily life? The online photography event is supported by Council and DPI Rural



Recovery Support and is being promoted through local creative arts studio Walcha Handmade, Walcha photography club, Tourism and Library departments within Council. Further plans have been made to run photography workshops for both kids and adults around the calm in photography. This event aims to engage the community and promote local support services and connectivity for people who may going through difficult times either from bushfire, COVID-19, drought or other personal events in their life.

Rebuilding with Disaster Welfare Services

This month saw our one resident in Yarrowitch who is proceeding through Disaster Welfare Services, have their re-build quote approved. Due to the cost of the re-build (as per previous reports) this had to go through to the Commissioner for approval. Through the past 12 months, CRO and DPI have maintained open lines of communication and collaboration to see progress with this rebuild. This month, the Council planning department requested an estimated cost of the dwelling in order to estimate DA fees as funds may be reallocated to other projects where there has been an underspend of this grant funding. Frustratingly, Disaster Welfare Services would not supply the total cost of the building to Council due to privacy reasons.

Assisting Community Groups with grant applications

As the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery (BSBR) Grant application closing date nears, the Community Recovery Officer was approached by several community organizations to discuss their project ideas and suitability in applying for this grant funding. A few of the community organisations were grateful for the time and support the CRO provided, although did not complete applications as their community group did not have the capacity to do the application and meet the requirements of the funding body.

Planning of local community events

During this month, there have been short although productive conversations around the planning of future events in the Walcha LGA with stakeholders. These events include a "Ladies tradie day" The Wholesome Collective visit and a Rural Womens Day high tea. These events include stakeholders from Healthwise, Hunter New England Health Bushfire Recovery Clinician, Red Cross and TAFE NSW.

Community resilience training program (through Bushfire Community Resilience and Recovery Fund (BCRRF))

This month, our chainsaw trainer was able to flexibly deliver the practical training of the chainsaw course in a one-one capacity to finish off a partially delivered course, and then complete our second chainsaw course for basic tree felling for eight participants. This course received positive feedback from all those who attended. Future training to be delivered is chemical accreditation on 5-6 October and first aid on 20 October.

Community Recovery Officer assistance response to Emergency Operations Centre COVID Response

The Emergency Operations Centre LEMC continues to meet weekly in a virtual capacity in response to COVID-19. I sit in these meeting as representative of Walcha Council in an observing capacity. During this last month, we have had a one-on-one with the Regional Emergency Management Officer for our region, Tony Byrnes to update our Local Emergency Management Plan (EMPlan) to the correct format.

Ladies Tradie day



After speaking with Snowy Monaro Community Recovery Officer, the event of a “ladies tradie day” themed with “Get ready” is a great way to prepare our local women and build their confidence to be able to assist in times of need on their farm or at home with hand tools, vehicle basics and small machinery. Planning has commenced on having local business and a trainer/small engine mechanic support the one-day event.

Brooke Jeffery
Community Recovery Officer



Item 10: Committee Reports

That Council RECEIVE and NOTE the following Committee Minutes

Walcha Council Community Gym Advisory Committee Meeting

held on

Wednesday, 20 October 2021

at

3:45pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

PRESENT:

Lacey Latham (Director Environment & Development, Councillor Eric Noakes (Chairperson), Janessa Sherrin, Jaimie Fenwicke, Penny King, and Sally Rutherford (Community Representatives)

1. APOLOGIES:

Ruth Fletcher and Dave Healey

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 21 JUNE 2021

The Committee **RESOLVED** on the motion of King and Fenwicke that the minutes of the meeting of the Walcha Council Community Gym Advisory Committee held at Walcha Council Chambers, 21 June 2021, copies of which were distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

3.1. Pre-exercise questionnaire

Questionnaire being prepared by staff WB 18/10/21, will be complete and added to membership form by weeks end.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Financial Statement for FY22 as at 20 October 2021 was tabled by the Director Environment & Development (DED):

Revenue:	\$9,988
Expenditure:	\$8,069
Operating Result:	\$1,919

A summary of the General Ledger (since commencement in April 2021) as at 20 October 2021 was presented:

Revenue: \$61,140
Expenditure: \$32,491
Operating Result: \$28,649

Details of current active memberships as at 20 October 2021 were tabled:

PAYG	Week	Month	6 Month	Annual
7	0	9	11	53

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1. Usage by persons under 16

The DED presented advice received from Council's insurer, Statewide Mutual, who advised that this decision is really a question of risk appetite, what level of risk Council is willing to pursue or retain in providing this asset for use by persons under 16 years of age.

The DED also undertook a search of other gym age policies and found that most often the minimum age was 14, where the children are allowed access to the cardio room if accompanied by an adult during staffed hours of the gym, and allowed access to classes e.g. yoga, pilates, body attack. Additional forms required include parental consent, fighting fit, exercise readiness and orientation (with the completion of an initial pre-exercise assessment and club orientation)

Group discussion around our gyms personal circumstance around not having trained staff on site at any time to perform orientation or exercise readiness assessments, or supervision available to ensure children are accompanied by an adult and restricting use to cardio equipment only. The Committee feels that whilst it is important to attract young persons to the gym and to live an active lifestyle, the risk is too great at this time to reduce the age limit to below 16.

The Committee RECOMMENDED on the motion of Sherrin and Rutherford that Council continue to restrict the age limit for Walcha Community Gym membership to persons aged 16 years and over.

5.2. Grant update and equipment quotes

The DED presented quotes received for the provision of gym equipment thanks to funding received under the LRCI Phase 2 grant program to the sum of \$80,000

Provider	Quote	Comments
Quote 1	\$64,412.39+ GST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All equipment requested included in the quote - Warranty and service satisfactory - Supplier in the region - Reputation good
Quote 2	\$49,778.42 + GST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not all equipment included in the quote - Warranty and service

		satisfactory - Unknown region supplier or reputation
Quote 3	\$41,113.75 + GST	- Not all equipment included in the quote - No warranty or service information included - Unknown region supplier or reputation - Delayed delivery on some items

Other items to be included in the project:

- a) Dumbbell racks
- b) Brackets and hanging of punching bags
- c) Water station
- d) TV's power point and aerial connection
- e) Staff wages / project management

Committee discussed the three quotes and were unanimous in their confidence with the supplier of quote 1, being: familiar with their equipment, attending gyms in the region that already have their equipment (including ours), resulting in one manufacturer and supplier and dealing with one technician coming to service equipment, who have had a good reputation for being responsive to calls and supplying quality equipment. A copy of the gym equipment is presented in Attachment 1 of these Minutes.

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Fenwicke and Sherrin that Council accept Quote 1 for the supply and delivery of gym equipment.

5.3. Other business

a) CCTV

Request for update on whether the gym will have CCTV installed. The DED advised the Committee that as part of the LRCI Phase 2 funding received by Council, a component of that includes installation of a CCTV security system

b) Excess donated equipment

King and Rutherford advised that there is some excess old, donated and unused equipment that was transferred from the old gym that needs to be disposed of; they will make a collection and set it aside.

ACTION: DED to arrange the equipment to be removed.

c) Housekeeping issues

- i) Putting equipment away after use
- ii) Windows left open
- iii) Lights left on

ACTION: DED will arrange for a member email to be sent detailing housekeeping requirements to be upheld.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday 18 January 2022 at 3:30pm in the Walcha Council Chambers

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4:30PM.

CONFIRMED _____ (Signed)

Date: ___ / ___ / ___ Chairperson

ATTACHMENT 1

Quote breakdown - Walcha Community Gym Equipment				
Product	Amount required	Quote 1	Quote 2	Quote 3
Treadmill	1	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 11,319.00	\$ 3,650.00
Group Exercise Cycle	10	\$ 20,500.00	\$ 16,990.00	\$ 12,500.00
Concept 2 Ski Erg	1	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,199.00	\$ 2,095.00
Concept 2 Ski Erg Floor stand	1	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ 1,789.00
Concept 2 Row Erg with standard legs	1	\$ 1,625.00	\$ -	\$ -
Axiom series adjustable bench	2	\$ 2,295.00	\$ 1,665.00	\$ 1,398.00
Axiom series dual adjustable pulley	1	\$ 5,380.00	\$ 6,420.00	\$ 3,950.00
HD Athletics Series half rack	1	\$ 4,620.00	\$ 3,355.00	\$ 1,950.00
Olympic Power Bar	4	\$ 1,160.00	\$ 1,404.40	\$ 1,076.00
ABC Olympic Trap/Hex Barbell	1	\$ 337.46	\$ 337.50	\$ 289.00
Olympic Clamp Collar Pair - Red	4	\$ 220.00	\$ 99.97	\$ 116.00
Pro Active Black Rubber Dumbbell 2.5kg pair	1	\$ 33.00		
Pro Active Black Rubber Dumbbell 5kg pair	1	\$ 66.00		
Pro Active Black Rubber Dumbbell 7.5kg pair	1	\$ 100.00		
Pro Active Black Rubber Dumbbell 10kg pair	1	\$ 132.00		
Pro Active Black Rubber Dumbbell 12.5kg pair	1	\$ 165.00		
Pro Active Black Rubber Dumbbell 15kg pair	1	\$ 200.00		
Pro Active Black Rubber Dumbbell 17.5kg pair	1	\$ 231.00		
Pro Active Black Rubber Dumbbell 20kg pair	1	\$ 265.00	\$ 5,999.00	\$ 6,220.00
Pro Active Black Rubber Dumbbell 22.5kg pair	1	\$ 298.00		
Pro Active Black Rubber Dumbbell 25kg pair	1	\$ 330.00		
Pro Active Black Rubber Dumbbell 30kg pair	1	\$ 396.00		
Pro Active Black Rubber Dumbbell 35kg pair	1	\$ 463.00		
Pro Active Black Rubber Dumbbell 40kg pair	1	\$ 529.00		
Pro Active Black Rubber Dumbbell 45kg pair	1	\$ 595.00		
Pro Active Black Rubber Dumbbell 50kg pair	1	\$ 661.00		
ABC Black Premium Bumper Plate 5kg	8	\$ 603.20	\$ 211.96	
ABC Black Premium Bumper Plate 10kg	8	\$ 742.40	\$ 423.98	
ABC Black Premium Bumper Plate 15kg	4	\$ 464.00	\$ 317.99	\$ 2,500.00
ABC Black Premium Bumper Plate 20kg	6	\$ 790.86	\$ 636.01	
ABC Black Premium Bumper Plate 25kg	4	\$ 649.60	\$ 530.00	
Lift Platform 2.4x1.2	2	\$ 2,760.00	\$ 4,398.00	\$ 1,500.00
Lift insert	1	\$ 1,015.00	\$ 330.00	\$ 795.00
ABC Kettlebell Pro Style 6kg	2	\$ 137.08	\$ 62.44	
ABC Kettlebell Pro Style 8kg	2	\$ 147.64	\$ 100.85	
ABC Kettlebell Pro Style 10kg	2	\$ 158.18	\$ 104.06	\$ 959.00
ABC Kettlebell Pro Style 12kg	2	\$ 168.74	\$ 151.27	
ABC Kettlebell Pro Style 16kg	2	\$ 221.44	\$ 201.70	
ABC Kettlebell Pro Style 20kg	2	\$ 284.74	\$ 252.12	
Signature Series B&R - Olympic Flat Bench Press	1	\$ 1,395.00	\$ 1,530.00	\$ 849.00
Hammer Olympic Plate 2.5kg rubber	2	\$ 54.00	\$ 53.02	
Hammer Olympic Plate 5kg rubber	4	\$ 172.00	\$ 101.20	\$ 519.75
Hammer Olympic Plate 10kg rubber	4	\$ 312.00	\$ 212.08	
Hammer Olympic Plate 20kg rubber	2	\$ 292.00	\$ 212.08	
Escape Urethane Dumbbell 1-10kg set with X rack	1	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 1,099.00	\$ 979.00
HD Athletic Series - Power Pivot	1	\$ 276.25	\$ -	\$ -
Signature Series B&R - Chin Dip Leg Raise	1	\$ 1,960.00	\$ -	\$ -
ABC Olympic Core Trainer - Stands alone	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79.00
3 in 1 Plyo Box	2	\$ 556.80	\$ -	\$ -
Freight on reconditioned Cardio		\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ -
Package discount		\$ 6,991.93	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,100.00
TOTAL	106	\$ 64,412.39	\$ 49,778.42	\$ 41,113.75
Services provided - Quote 1				
Certified Field service technicians				
Customer support specialists				
Global diagnostics service centre				
Efficiency and expertise				
Availability of genuine Life Fitness replacement parts				
Warranty - between 5 years and 12 months depending on construction or parts				
Services provided - Quote 2				
Free delivery and installation to the value of \$3500				
Address problems diagnose, and find solution within 24 hours				
Service technicians in every state who are all trained on machinery including answering questions, repair, service and upholster				
Assigned technicians to Walcha Council				
Services provided - Quote 3				
Warranty - between 5 years and 12 months depending on construction or parts				
Delayed delivery on some items				



Item 11:

Delegate Reports

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



There are no Delegate Reports for October 2021



Item 12:

Questions with Notice



There are no Questions with Notice items for
October 2021



Item 13:

Referral to Closed Council Meeting



Item: 13A **Ref:** WO/2021/04238
Title: Referral to Closed Meeting – Procurement AND Confidential
Mayoral Minute
Author: General Manager
Previous Items: Nil.
Attachment: Nil.

RECOMMENDATION: That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Local Government Act, 1993, the matters of Procurement AND Confidential Mayoral Minute BE discussed in Closed Council and close the meeting to the public for the reason that the reports relate to personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors).

Introduction:

Council approval is sought for matters to be discussed in Closed Council.

Report:

Council approval is requested to refer matters for discussion in Closed Council and close the Meeting to the public in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Local Government Act, 1993.

Approval to refer the matter to Closed Council is sought because the reports relate to personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors).