



BUSINESS PAPER  
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

To be held on

Wednesday, 29 September 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

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Submitted to Council: 29 September 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, 29 September 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.

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

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.



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**Present:**

**Leave of Absence:**

**Confirmation of the Ordinary Meeting Minutes held on Wednesday, 01 September 2021:**

**Matters arising from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 01 September 2021:**



# Item 2: Previous Minutes



## ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 01 September 2021

at

3.05pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

**The Audio Statement and Acknowledge of Country were read by the Chairman.**

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

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

**1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Nil.

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This is page 1 of 6 of Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes held 01 September 2021

.....General Manager .....Mayor

MINUTES



**2. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28 JULY 2021:**

16 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Heazlett that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 28 July 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 6.1 Draft Amendment to Walcha Development Control Plan 2019**

**WO/2021/03202**

Clr Blomfield declared a pecuniary interest in this matter as he is a Director of Walcha Wind Pty Ltd and is also involved with Winterbourne Wind.

**5. MAYORAL MINUTE**

**5.1 Vale Justin King**

**WO/2021/03535**

From the Mayor: The Walcha community was saddened to hear last week of the passing of long time Walcha pharmacist Justin King. An iconic figure during his 53 years of service and caring to our community, the true depth of Justin's generosity and benevolence to his community may never be fully known. Even after retiring and moving away Justin continued to support Walcha in many areas and that respect and caring for our town never waned. To Justin's extended family Walcha Council offers our condolences and thoughts for a life well lived.

Thank you

Mayor Eric Noakes

17 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Mayor Noakes that the Mayoral Minute as read and submitted be **ADOPTED** by Council.

**6. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT**

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

**6.1 Draft Amendment to Walcha Development Control Plan 2019**

**WO/2021/03202**

Clr Blomfield left the Meeting at 3.11pm and took no part in the debate.

19 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Kermode that Council

1. Place the *Draft Amended Walcha Development Control Plan 2019* on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.
2. If no submissions are received or amendments made, give the General Manager delegation to adopt the *Draft Amended Walcha Development Control*



*Plan 2019.*

Clr Blomfield returned to the Chambers at 3:15pm and was advised of the resolution.

## **6.2 Walcha Central School P & C Request for Funding a Drive In Movie Night** **WO/2021/03510**

It was **MOVED** Clr Ferrier **Seconded** Clr Kealey that Council:

1. **APPROVE** the request of Walcha Central School P & C for a donation of \$2,000 to their Drive-in Movie Night from the existing youth budget.
2. **APPROVE** the use of Council facilities and movie equipment for no cost.
3. The funding be returned to Council if the event does not go ahead.

An **Amendment** was **MOVED** Clr Lyon **Seconded** Clr Wellings that Council:

1. place the Walcha Central School P & C Request for Funding for the Drive In Movie Night on hold as they have deferred the night from September 2021 to April 2022 which gives Council time to investigate alternate grant funding opportunities rather than approving the expenditure of funds from Council's operational budget.
2. Write a letter to Walcha Central School P & C advising that Council supports the application in its entirety however are investigating exhausting grant funding opportunities prior to approving the donation from the existing youth budget.

On being put to the **VOTE** the **Amendment** was **CARRIED**.

Councillor Heazlett recording his vote **AGAINST** this **Amendment**.

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

Councillor Heazlett recorded his vote **AGAINST** this **Motion**.

## **6.3 Referendum & Draft Constitution Program** **WO/2021/03516**

21 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Heazlett that Council **APPROVE** the *Walcha With Wards and Walcha Without Wards* Poster and **AUTHORISE** the General Manager to Register the Poster as Electoral Material for Distribution on Election Day as well as advertised before Election Day.

## **6.4 Service NSW for Business Agreement with Walcha Council**

**WO/2021/03455**

22 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Ferrier that Council **AUTHORISE** the General Manager to enter into the Business Partnership with Service NSW by executing the Agreement.





**6.5 Financial Assistance Grants 2021-2022**

**WO/2021/03534**

23 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Wellings and Kermode that Council:

1. **NOTE** the Report;
2. **REVIEW** disability factors to determine if Walcha Council can provide a submission on the financial impact of potential future reductions in the General Purpose Component (GPC) relating to 2022-2023 Grants.

**6.6 Regional Meetings Schedule 2021**

**WO/2021/03451**

24 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Ferrier that Council **APPROVE** the Regional Meetings Schedule for 2021 as follows:

Monday, 11 October 2021

- 11.30pm Moona/Winterbourne – Europambela Shearers’ Quarters  
2.30pm Ingleba Hall  
6.00pm Walcha Council Chambers

Wednesday, 13 October 2021

- 9.00am Yarrowitch Hall  
11.30am Brackendale – “Brockley Park” Woolshed  
2.30pm Nowendoc Hall  
6:00pm Woolbrook School Library

**7. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**7.1 Notice of Rescission Motion #22 – Grant Project Update April 2021**

**WO/2021/03519**

25 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Noakes and Lyon that Minute No.: 227 passed at 28 April 2021 Council Meeting, copy below, be **RESCINDED**, particularly Part 1(i) Walcha Gym – external painting - \$25,000.:

**6.4 Grant Program Update**

**WO/2021/01141**

227 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Wellings and Blomfield that Council:

1. Amend the budget allocations to the following Local Roads & Community Infrastructure projects at the next Quarterly Budget Review to ensure all projects are appropriately funded within the total grant of \$1,067,914:
  - a) McHattan Park works to improve access and facilities - \$58,000
  - b) Construct Levee Bank Pedestrian Underpass - \$20,000
  - c) Improve Walcha Preschool Access Road - \$6,000
  - d) Level Footpath Area at Lions Park - \$25,000
  - e) Walcha Preschool – Air Conditioning - \$15,000
  - f) Walcha Gym Security– Install CCTV- \$6,200
  - g) Walcha Gym – Improve Signage - \$6,000
  - h) Electrical Safety Upgrades – Complete High Priority Works- \$114,714 or any available under expenditure of the Local Roads & Community



Infrastructure program.

**i) Walcha Gym – external painting - \$25,000**

2. Amend the budget allocations to the following Bushfire Recovery Funded projects at the next Quarterly Budget Review to ensure all projects are appropriately funded within the total grant of \$1,275,000:
  - a) Rebuild Approval Process Subsidy for bushfire impacted properties - \$4,000
  - b) Kangaroo Flat Road – Removal of fire debris - \$7,500
  - c) Forest Way Road – Sealing works – \$275,728

**FURTHER THAT** Council replace Minute No 227 with the following:

1. Amend the budget allocations to the following Local Roads & Community Infrastructure projects at the next Quarterly Budget Review to ensure all projects are appropriately funded within the total grant of \$1,067,914:
  - a) McHattan Park works to improve access and facilities - \$58,000
  - b) Construct Levee Bank Pedestrian Underpass - \$20,000
  - c) Improve Walcha Preschool Access Road - \$6,000
  - d) Level Footpath Area at Lions Park - \$25,000
  - e) Walcha Preschool – Air Conditioning - \$15,000
  - f) Walcha Gym Security– Install CCTV- \$6,200
  - g) Walcha Gym – Improve Signage - \$6,000
  - h) Electrical Safety Upgrades – Complete High Priority Works- \$114,714or any available under expenditure of the Local Roads & Community Infrastructure program.
2. Amend the budget allocations to the following Bushfire Recovery Funded projects at the next Quarterly Budget Review to ensure all projects are appropriately funded within the total grant of \$1,275,000:
  - a) Rebuild Approval Process Subsidy for bushfire impacted properties - \$4,000
  - b) Kangaroo Flat Road – Removal of fire debris - \$7,500
  - c) Forest Way Road – Sealing works – \$275,728

**8. MATTERS OF URGENCY**

Nil.

**9. MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS**

**9.1 Office of the General Manager**

**WO/2021/03526**

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



**9.2 Infrastructure**

**WO/2021/03426**

28 **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/2021/03209**

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

**9.4 Community & Tourism**

**WO/2021/03355**

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

**10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Nil.

**11. DELEGATE REPORTS**

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

**11.1 Minutes of the Namoi Unlimited Board Meeting held in Tamworth on Tuesday, 03 August 2021**

**WI/2021/012272**

**12. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Councillor Lyon requested the following information:

- Roads to Recovery (R2R) it was advised through a Councillor Workshop that \$470,000 was unspent. Request a report to Council advising the reason why and who is responsible for that.
- Development Applications for Bushfire victims from Bushfire Funding – there was \$10,000 left set aside for those victims wishing to re-build. Question is where is that money now; has it been allocated somewhere else?
- Lowanna Bridge unspent funds. Question is where is that money and does Council get to reallocate that money?

**13. CLOSED COUNCIL**

Nil.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 3:43PM.**



Item 3:  
Business  
Arising from  
Previous  
Minutes



# Item 4:

# Declarations of Interest



# Item 5: Mayoral Minute



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



# Item 6:

# Senior Officers' Reports





**Item:** 6.1 **Ref:** WINT/2021/08397  
**Title:** Refer 2020 – 2021 Financial Statements to Audit  
**Author:** General Manager  
**Previous Items:** No  
**Attachment:** Under Separate Cover – General Purpose, Special Purpose & Special Schedules

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**Community Strategic Plan Reference:**  
*Strategy 8.2.1 – Maintain a stable and secure financial structure for Council.*

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**RECOMMENDATION: 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.**

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**Summary:**

Section 413(2) (c) of the Local Government Act 1993 states that a Council must prepare financial reports for each year and refer the Reports for Audit.

**Report:**

Section 413(2) (c) of the Local Government Act stipulates that Council's Financial Reports must include a statement made by Council that indicates the following:

- a) Whether or not the Council's Annual Reports have been drawn up in accordance with:
  - ◆ The Act and Regulations; and
  - ◆ The Statement of Accounting Concepts; and
  - ◆ The Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting; and
- b) Whether or not those Reports represent fairly the Council's Financial Position and operation result for the year; and
- c) Whether or not those Reports accord with the Council's accounting and other records; and
- d) Whether or not the signatories know of anything that would make those Reports false or misleading in any way;

and include such information and explanations as will prevent those Reports from being misleading because of any qualification that is included in the Statement.

The above Statement must:

- a) be made by Resolution of the Council; and
- b) be signed by:
  - ◆ the Mayor; and
  - ◆ at least one other member of Council; and
  - ◆ the Responsible Accounting Officer; and
  - ◆ the General Manager



**WALCHA COUNCIL  
GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

**STATEMENT BY COUNCILLORS AND MANAGEMENT  
MADE PURSUANT TO SECTION 413 (2) (c)  
OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993 (NSW) (as amended)**

The attached General Purpose Financial Statements have been drawn up in accordance with:

- *The Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (as amended) and the Regulations made thereunder,*
- The Australian Accounting Standards and professional pronouncements; and
- *The Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting,*

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these financial statements:

- Present fairly the Council’s financial position and operating result for the year, and
- Accord with Council’s accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render the reports false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 29 September 2021.

.....  
Clr Eric Noakes  
**MAYOR**

.....  
Clr Jennifer Kealey  
**DEPUTY MAYOR**

.....  
Barry Omundson  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

.....  
Christian Martin  
**RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER**



**WALCHA COUNCIL**

**SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

**STATEMENT BY COUNCILLORS AND MANAGEMENT  
MADE PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
CODE OF ACCOUNTING PRACTICE AND FINANCIAL REPORTING**

The attached Special Purpose Financial Statements have been drawn up in accordance with:

- NSW Government Policy Statement *"Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government"*;
- Office of Local Government guidelines *"Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses: A Guide to Competitive Neutrality"*;
- The Local Government *Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting*; and
- The NSW Office of Water *"Best Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage guidelines"*.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- Present fairly the financial position and operating result for each of Council's declared Business Units for the year;
- Accord with Council's accounting and other records; and
- Present overhead reallocation charges to the water and sewerage businesses as fair and reasonable

We are not aware of any matter that would render the reports false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 29 September 2021.

.....

Clr Eric Noakes

**MAYOR**

.....

Barry Omundson

**GENERAL MANAGER**

.....

Clr Jennifer Kealey

**DEPUTY MAYOR**

.....

Christian Martin

**RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER**



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**Item:** 6.2 **Ref:** WO/2021/03933  
**Title:** Walcha Bowling Club – Waive Excess Water Charges  
**Author:** General Manager  
**Previous Items:** May 2021 – Report to Council  
**Attachment:** No

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***Community Strategic Plan Reference:***

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

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**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council REIMBURSE Walcha Bowling Club the amount of \$2,101.09 being that they have already paid the excess water charges.

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**Introduction:**

Council at its Ordinary Meeting passed a resolution to decline a request from the Walcha Bowling Club to waive the excess water charges amounting to \$2,101.09 and further agree to enter in a payment plan with the Club.

**Report:**

Council Staff were unaware of any payment plan and subsequently the Walcha Bowling Club paid the outstanding amount in full on 9 June 2021.

The May 2021 Council report did not provide all the relevant information and background to this matter. There could be no precedent set given the unique circumstances of the request to waive excess water charges. Those circumstances include but are not exclusive of:

In 2018 Walcha Council received grant funds from SCCF to build storage sheds for Walcha's community organisations. The Rotary Club requested an extra bay at their own expense. This was granted. When the foundations were pegged out it was realised that the shed would encroach onto Walcha Bowling Club land. This left 3 options:

1. Abandon the project on that site.
2. Remove one bay.
3. Approach the Bowling Club about purchasing the land.

The decision was made to approach the Bowling Club Manager who took the issue to his Board and the Board agreed in the circumstances to gift the land to Council, and therefore the community. Council then surveyed the block and took over an area of approximately 4 metres by 40metres at no cost to Council.

As part of this process it was realised that Council did not own the access road to this block as was assumed at the time. This road is situated between the bottom bowling green and the Apsley River levee bank. The legal access lies between the Bowling Club and the Rugby Union Club. This land does not lend itself to the



construction of a road and even if it did the cost would be prohibitive. When this was realised the Bowling Club Board agreed to grant the Walcha Council an easement over their land to access the sheds. This was once again at no cost.

Additionally some discussion occurred between both parties whereby there was an understanding that Council would re-surface the road, which was a part of the original grant scope and application. This did not occur.

It is therefore evident that the Bowling Club have been more than generous in their dealings with Council. Their request to waiver excess water charges was based upon a leakage at the Club under the concrete driveway which given its location went unnoticed for some time given it leaked into the gutter some distance from the club house.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications:

The financial implications arising from this report are minimal.

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:** 6.3 **Ref:** WINT/2021/08363  
**Title:** Removal of Heritage listing – 2N Middle Street Walcha  
**Author:** Contract Town Planner  
**Previous Items:** Not Applicable  
**Attachment:** Letter Requesting Removal – 21 July 2020 – WI/20/10588,  
Heritage Assessment – Port Macquarie Hastings Heritage – WI/20/2391  
(under separate cover)

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***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.***

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**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.

**ALTERNATIVELY**

**That Council:**

1. Refuse to 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. Include the Draft Development Guidelines as prepared by Port Macquarie Hastings Heritage within the *Walcha Development Control Plan 2019*.

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**Introduction:**

This report is to consider the removal of the heritage listing as per Schedule 5 the *Walcha Local Environmental Plan 2012* (WLEP) for the property known as 2N Middle Street Walcha which is considered to have local significance. This is considered to be an amendment to the WLEP by way of a planning proposal.

**Report:**

A request was received from the owners of 2N Middle Street Walcha being Lot A DP15967 for the removal of the heritage listing under the WLEP. The reasons for this request are that:

1. Roofline has been altered
2. Chimneys removed
3. Extension added that is not compliant with heritage guidelines
4. The verandah is not original
5. The original windows have been removed and replaced with aluminum.

A copy of the request is attached to this report.



Council had a Heritage Assessment undertaken by Port Macquarie Hastings Heritage which is attached to this report. It concluded:

*The original house, while having been modified, altered and added to, is considered to be of local significance satisfying a number of the criteria. It remains prominent in the streetscape and is a rare example of a traditional style late Victorian single storey unpainted brick house within the Walcha township.*

*From discussions with Mr Warwick Hogan, the owner, the property had been listed for sale and was taken off the market. A prospective purchaser has now come forward and is concerned about the property being heritage listed and should they purchase the property they will not be able to do any alterations or additions because of its listing.*

*To debunk some of the myths surrounding heritage listing:*

- *Listing places no legal restriction on the sale or leasing of properties.*
- *Listing does not exclude changes or additions or new buildings on the site provided that these do not detract from the heritage significance of the listed items. This is consistent with what most owners want for their heritage properties.*
- *Listing does not exclude the adaptive reuse of a heritage item for another use. Sometimes this is a sensible way of ensuring the use of a heritage item. For example, the conversion of a church to residential use or the adaptation of a house to offices.*
- *Other than normal maintenance owners are not expected to take any special care of a heritage property. The best way to ensure that any heritage listed building survives for future generations is for it to be used.*

*The need to upgrade buildings to modern standards is recognised, however, changes should take place in the most sympathetic way possible. The elements that lead to an item being listed should be retained. These are the characteristics that create the heritage significance.*

*To assist the owner or prospective owners to manage the heritage item whether it be to renovate, restore or undertake alterations or additions Draft Development Guidelines have been prepared and are attached to this report.*

Draft Development Guidelines were established specifically for this property. The Guidelines are attached to the Heritage Assessment. The Assessment and Draft Guidelines were funded by Council at a cost of \$300.00. If Council chooses to retain the heritage listing, the Draft Guidelines should be attached as an annexure to the *Walcha Development Control Plan 2019*.

To remove the heritage listing is by way of amendment to the WLEP. This is carried out by preparing a planning proposal. Discussions with the owners of 2N Middle Street, Walcha, was that if Council concurred to the removal, it would be included with other matters in a house keeping planning proposal. Alternatively, they could submit a prepared planning proposal for Council consideration along with the relevant fee. This is a at cost fee with \$4,500 deposit upfront.

### ***The Planning Proposal Process***

1. Planning Proposal - is drafted and consists of the following components:

- Part 1 A statement of the objectives and intended outcomes. This is a statement of what is planned to be achieved, not how it is to be achieved. It should be written in such a way that it can be easily understood by the general community.



- Part 2 An explanation of the provisions. This is a more detailed statement of how the objectives or intended outcomes are to be achieved by means of amending an existing LEP
- Part 3 The justification for those objectives, outcomes and the process for their implementation. This sets out the case for making the proposed LEP.
- Part 4 Maps, where relevant, to identify the intent of the planning proposal and the area to which it applies. Planning proposals should be supported by relevant and accurate mapping where appropriate.
- Part 5 Details of the community consultation that is to be undertaken. This is an indication of any proposed community consultation is required with the planning proposal.
- Part 6 Project timeline. A primary goal of the plan making process is to reduce the overall time taken to produce LEPs. The Gateway determination will confirm the level of information necessary to support a planning proposal and the consultation requirements. This is to ensure that the plan making process will be completed within a reasonable time.
2. Request Council Section 3.36(2) under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* Delegation - This provides that if the planning proposal authority is a council, the Gateway determination may authorise the council to make the proposed instrument and set out any conditions the council is required to comply with before the instrument is made. When this authorisation is given, the council becomes the local plan-making authority.
  3. Gateway Determination - the Minister (or delegate) decides whether the planning proposal can proceed (with or without variation) and subject to other matters including further studies being undertaken, public consultation, public hearings, agency consultation and time frames. A planning proposal does usually not proceed without conditions of this nature. The conditions are then complied with and if necessary, the proposal is changed. A decision on whether the relevant council is able to finalise particular types of LEPs is also determined at this stage.
  4. Consultation – Agency as per gateway determination and public exhibition with written submissions being requested. A person making a submission may also request a public hearing.
  5. Parliamentary Counsel - request to legally draft the legal amendment to the Walcha *Local Environmental Plan 2012*, and to give an Opinion that the Plan may be made.
  6. Make Plan - Use Council Delegation as issued under section 3.36(2) of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*.

**Alternative:**

There are a number of alternatives for consideration:

1. Council concur to remove the heritage listing and:
  - a. It be included along with other identified matters within the next House Keeping Planning Proposal. This will have no identified timeline, or
  - b. If the owners of 2N Middle Street Walcha choose not to wait for the House Keeping Planning Proposal, they submit a separate Planning Proposal for Council consideration along with \$4,500 deposit towards the costs processing the Planning Proposal.
2. Refuse the request to remove the Heritage listing from Schedule 5 of the WLEP.





Legal Implications:

It is Council's responsibility to ensure that the amendment to the Walcha *Local Environmental Plan 2012*, is carried out as per the provisions of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*.

Financial Implications:

Cost of Planning Proposal Preparation and Processing.

Environmental Implications:

Nil

Social Implications:

Community members are asked for written submissions on the proposed amendments.

Policy Implications:

Nil



Attachment 1: Letter Requesting Removal:

2N Middle Street  
Walcha 2354  
21<sup>st</sup> July, 2020

The General Manager  
Walcha Council  
P.O. Box 2  
Walcha 2354  
Attention Lacey Latham

**Re: 2n Middle Street Walcha**

Dear Lacey

As per our conversation today, I wish to formally apply to have the Heritage Listing removed from the above residence on the following grounds.

1. Roofline has been altered
2. Chimneys removed
3. Extension added that is not compliant with heritage guidelines
4. The verandah is not original
5. The original windows have been removed and replaced with aluminium

We would appreciate your earliest attention to this matter and we look forward to hearing from you when this has been actioned.

Yours respectfully,



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**Item:** 6.4 **Ref:** WO/2021/03864  
**Title:** Local Government Elections 2021  
Requirement of Council Meeting within Three Weeks of Declaration  
and Cancellation of January 2022 Council Meeting  
**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 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.**

---

**Purpose:**

This Report is to 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:**

Council usually changes its December Council meeting to the third Wednesday of the month, which would be 15 December 2021, which has been advertised on our website. However, at this time, Council will not technically have a Council as the Declaration of Results from the LG Elections 2021 are scheduled from 21 December 2021. Therefore it is suggested that Council change the date of the December 2021 Council Meeting to Wednesday 22 December 2021.

**Post Elections:**

As mentioned above the Declaration of Results is scheduled to be announced from 21 December 2021 and all Councils must hold a meeting within three (3) weeks after this date to comply with *Section 290* of the *Local Government Act 1993* to elect the Mayor.

The NSW Office of Local Government has also advised that at that first meeting after the election:

- All councillors must take an oath or make of affirmation of office. The Councillors are not permitted to participate in meetings until they have done so
- Councils must, by resolution, declare that casual vacancies occurring in the office of a councillor within 18 months of the election are to be filled by a countback of votes cast at the election if councils want to fill vacancies by these means. Councils that do not resolve to fill vacancies using a countback at their first meeting after the election will be required to fill vacancies using a by-election
- Councils that elect their mayors must hold a mayoral election and an election for deputy mayor where they have one.



To comply with these directives, it is recommended to have the first meeting of the new Council on Wednesday, 22 December 2021.

**January 2022 Meeting:**

It is also recommended that Council do not hold another Council Meeting until February 2022 to enable Councillor Induction days to be held during January and February before the February meeting.

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/2021/03705  
**Title:** Heavy Vehicle Access Improvements to Brackendale Road Bridge near Lowanna Road - Update  
**Author:** Director Infrastructure  
**Previous Items:** Not Applicable  
**Attachment:** No

---

***Community Strategic Plan Reference:***

*Goal 6.1 – Walcha’s distinct and diverse natural and built environment will be protected and enhanced.*

---

**RECOMMENDATION: That Council NOTES the report detailing the actual expenditure on this Bushfire Recover grant funded project.**

---

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the actual expenditure incurred on this project funded from the \$1.275million Bushfire Recovery Funding grant. This report was prepared in response to a Question with Notice from August 2021 Ordinary Meeting.

**Background:**

The existing failing road culvert was replaced with a prefabricated single lane steel bridge structure in 2018. However, it was found that low loader heavy haulage vehicles carrying wide loads such as bulldozers or excavators suffered restricted access due to the bridge’s narrow guardrail width.

Whilst it was initially thought this issue could only be solved by widening or replacing the existing bridge, investigations found the bridge and abutments to be in sound condition and both options prohibitively expensive.

An alternative option to lower the bridge guardrail was identified that would allow wide loads to cross without the load catching the top of the guardrail. The lowering of the guardrail is not dissimilar to castellated kerbs commonly found on other bridges.

It was also identified that the bridge approaches had restricted sight distance that needed to be addressed at the same time.

Council subsequently resolved at the ordinary Council meeting of 28 October 2020 to allocate \$30,000 to improve heavy vehicle access over this bridge by modifying the guardrail and improving the bridge approaches from the Bushfire Recovery Funding grant.

**Report:**

Investigation of expenditure transactions revealed that \$20,071 has been spent to date on improving heavy access across this bridge.

Of this total amount, \$4,642.87 of this expenditure related to replacing the guardrail beams with a lower, steel kerb arrangement. The cost of the guardrail works includes all staff, plant and material costs of providing traffic control, cutting and straightening/replacing



those existing guardrail posts, welding angle iron kerbing to the posts, painting and installing reflectors.

After the completion of this work, local haulage providers advised that the restricted access issue had been resolved.

*Policy Implications*

Nil

*Financial Implications*

Nil.

*Legal Implications*

Nil

*Social Implications*

Nil

*Environment Implications*

Nil



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**Item:** 6.6 **Ref:** WO/2021/03915  
**Title:** Unreasonable Customer Complaints Policy AND Domestic & Family Violence Policy  
**Author:** General Manager  
**Previous Items:** Not Applicable  
**Attachment:** Yes – Policies – WINT/2021/07569 & WINT/2021/07568 under separate cover

---

**Community Strategic Plan Reference:**  
*Goal 8.1.2: Provide a framework for the efficient and effective administration of Council.*

---

**RECOMMENDATION: 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.
- 

**Introduction:**

Council have identified a need to create and adopt an *Unreasonable Customer Complaints Policy* and a *Domestic & Family Violence Policy*.

**Report:**

**Unreasonable Customer Complaints Policy**

This policy is to provide all Staff and customers a framework within which Walcha Council will manage unreasonable complaints and conduct by customers.

Most complainants to Council act reasonably and responsibly in their interactions with Staff, even when they are experiencing high levels of frustration and anger about their complaint. However a small number of people behave in ways that are inappropriate and unacceptable, which can include aggression and verbal abuse towards Staff.

The General Manager will have the responsibility and authority to record, review and monitor all complaints to ensure consistency, transparency and accountability.

**Domestic & Family Violence Policy**

The purpose of this policy is to recognise the impact that domestic and family violence can have on the lives of those who experience such abuse. Employees of Council sometimes face situations of violence or abuse in their personal life that may effect their attendance or performance at work.

Council is committed to providing support to employees that experience domestic and family violence and this Policy outlines the options available to them.

**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:

Should employees become a victim to domestic and family violence this policy will provide assistance and support.

Policy Implications:

This is a new policy and will be added to the Policy Register.





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**Item:** 6.7 **Ref:** WO/2021/03692  
**Title:** Bushfire Recovery Funding – Program Update  
**Author:** Director Infrastructure  
**Previous Items:** Not Applicable  
**Attachment:** No

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***Community Strategic Plan Reference:***

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

*Goal 6.1 – Walcha’s distinct and diverse natural and built environment will be protected and enhanced.*

---

**RECOMMENDATION: 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**
- 

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the current status of projects funded from the \$1.275million Bushfire Recovery Funding grant. This report was prepared in response to a Question with Notice from August 2021 Ordinary Meeting.

**Background:**

This grant program provides funding for projects and activities that they deem essential for the recovery and renewal of the community, including:

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

The funding deed agreement requires all works to be completed by 1 June 2022

**Report:**

The status of each project was assessed and those incomplete projects, an estimate of cost and time frame to conclude the project. The summary outcome is included in Table 1 below.

Completed projects have largely been completed to budget with some minor over-expenditures of less than 2%. However, the cumulative effect of these over expenditures is to reduce funding available for the completion of works on Forest Way. This is not expected to significantly impact the length of sealing works to be completed.

It is also noted the take up of the development consent subsidy has not occurred as expected. As of 1 September 2021, Council’s Community Recovery Officer has advised there is only one bushfire total loss rebuild applied for in our LGA.



The application has been submitted to Resilience NSW (Disaster Welfare Services) and is still with the Commissioner awaiting approval. Since the funding is still available until 1 June 2022, it is recommended that \$2,000 remains available for a possible application.

Table 1

| Ref. | Description  | Category         | Approved Allocation | Actual Expenditure to date | Forecast Final Cost | Status   |
|------|--|------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|
| 1    | Kangaroo Flat Road (traction control and road widening approx. 1.1km, approx. 3.2km completed in total*) | Rural Roads      | \$620,000*          | \$624,316                  | \$624,316           | Complete   |
| 2    | Brackendale Road – near Eastern Hills (traction control approx. 1.5km)                                   | Rural Roads      |                     |                            |                     |  |
| 3    | Brackendale Road MacLeods Creek to Salway  | Rural Roads      |                     |                            |                     |  |
| 4    | Chinnocks Road (road widening bulk earthworks approx. 500m)  | Rural Roads      | \$125,000           | \$62,836                   | \$62,836            | Completed  |
| 5    | Nuggety Gully (road widening bulk earthworks approx. 1km)  |                  |                     | \$62,577                   | \$62,577            |  |
| 6    | Free entry into the Walcha Races 2020  | Events           | \$12,000            | \$12,000                   | \$12,000            | Complete   |
| 7    | Tulip bulbs for community 2020   | Initiative       | \$7,514             | \$7,514                    | \$7,515             | Complete   |
| 8    | Rebuild Approval Process fees for bushfire impacted properties   | Recovery Support | \$10,000            | \$0                        | \$2,000             | Estimate   |
| 9    | Replace second bridge at Old Brookmount Bridge   | Rural Roads      | \$180,000           | \$206,529                  | \$206,529           | Completed  |
| 10   | Heavy vehicle access improvements to Brackendale Road Bridge   | Rural Roads      | \$30,000            | \$20,071                   | \$22,000            | Further warning signage improvements recommended |
| 11   | Walcha Central School P&C Drive in movie night   | Events           | \$3,500             | \$3,700                    | \$3,700             | Completed  |
| 12   | Improvements at Yarrowitch Hall  | Facilities       | \$6,772             | \$6,772                    | \$6,772             | Completed  |
| 13   | Walcha Business Breakfast  | Events           | \$3,000             | \$2,667                    | \$2,667             | Completed  |
| 14   | Forest Way Road – sealing works  | Rural Roads      | \$277,214           | \$68,940                   | \$262,088           | Pavement works to be completed                   |
|      |  | <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>\$1,275,000</b>  | <b>\$1,084,924</b>         | <b>\$1,275,000</b>  |  |

*\*for the Kangaroo Flat Road project, Council's recent application to the State Government under the Fixing Local Roads program was successful. The increased scope completed is due to this additional funding*

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil. The program will be subject to normal end of financial year processes like all other expenditure programs of Council.

Legal Implications

Nil

Social Implications

This program of work delivers positive impacts for community members both directly and indirectly impacted by the bushfires.

Environment Implications

Nil



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**Item:** 6.8 **Ref:** WO/2021/03662  
**Title:** Request to Waive Council Development Application Fees by Walcha & District Historical Society Inc.  
**Author:** Director Environment & Development  
**Previous Items:** Not Applicable  
**Attachment:** No

---

***Community Strategic Plan Reference:***

**Goal: 2.1.1** – Maintain and improve the appearance of the Walcha Local Government Area to increase tourist and commercial activity.

**Goal: 6.6.4** – Enhance the Walcha Local Government Area so that it continues to be an attractive place to live, work and visit.

---

**RECOMMENDATION:** 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.

---

**Introduction:**

Council have received a request from the Walcha & District Historical Society Inc. (the Society) to waive the Council development application fees for a Development Application.

**Report:**

The Historical Society is applying for grant funding to construct a new Display Shed at the Pioneer Cottage Museum Complex on Derby Street, Walcha. This funding requires a Development Application before they can apply.

The Society is a not-for-profit organisation that is run by a dedicated group of volunteers whose aim is to preserve the history of Walcha and surrounding districts.

The construction costs for the display shed are estimated in the vicinity of \$60,000 - \$70,000 which would result in the total waiver fees being \$380.00, as per the detailed estimate provided below. The Society is aware they would still need to pay the non-Council statutory fees associated with the development application.



| FEE ESTIMATE                           |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Applicant Name:</b>                 | <b>Walcha &amp; District Historical Society Inc.</b> |
| <b>Development Address:</b>            | <b>111N Derby Street, WALCHA NSW 2354</b>            |
| <b>Development Description:</b>        | <b>Construct a display shed</b>                      |
| <b>Development Estimated \$:</b>       | <b>\$70,000.00</b>                                   |
| COUNCIL FEES                           |  |
| <b>Development Application</b>         | <b>\$380.00</b>                                      |
| <b>Construction Certificate</b>        | <b>\$460.00</b>                                      |
| <b>Critical Stage Inspections</b>      | <b>\$270.00</b>                                      |
| <b>S68 Stormwater Drainage Work</b>    | <b>\$180.00</b>                                      |
|  | <b>Total fees: \$1,290.00</b>                        |
| NON-COUNCIL STATUTORY FEES             |  |
| <b>Planning Reform Fund (DA stage)</b> | <b>\$44.00</b>                                       |
| <b>Long Service Levy (CC stage)</b>    | <b>\$245.00</b>                                      |

It is recommended to the Society that the remaining Council development related fees identified above be included in the cost of any grant application related to the project, so if they are successful with the grant the remaining applicable fees can be paid to Council.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications:

If the Society proceeds to lodge a development application with Council, a reduction in Town Planning revenue of \$380.00 will result.

Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Social Implications:

Not for profit organisations in the Walcha area are responsible for a range of great activities and projects for the Walcha Community. The open and transparent support of these clubs for projects by Council has a broad range of positive community and social benefits.

Policy Implications:

There are no policy implications arising from this report.



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**Item:** 6.9 **Ref:** WO/2021/03694  
**Title:** Pecuniary Interest Annual Returns from Staff & Councillors for the Period of 01 July 2020 to 30 June 2021  
**Author:** General Manager  
**Previous Items:** Not Applicable  
**Attachment:** No – Folder to be tabled at the Meeting

---

***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 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.

---

**Introduction:**

The General Manager is required to report annually on the receipt of Ordinary Pecuniary Interest Returns.

**Report:**

Section 4.21 of the Walcha Council Model Code of Conduct 2018, requires that Councillors and Designated Persons who hold those positions at the 30 June each year, must lodge a completed Ordinary Pecuniary Interest Return by the following 30 September.

Section 4.25 of the Walcha Council Model Code of Conduct 2018 places specific statutory responsibilities on the General Manager in relation to the submission and recording of Returns.

First, the General Manager must keep a Register of Returns containing the completed and lodged Returns of Councillors and Designated Persons. The Returns must be available for inspection by members of the public.

Second, the General Manager must arrange for the tabling of the Returns lodged, at the first meeting of the Council after the last day of the period of lodgement.

All Returns for the period ended 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 have been lodged with the General Manager within the statutory timeframe and are now tabled as required.

**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.



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**Item:** 6.10 **Ref:** WO/2021/03723  
**Title:** 2020 – 2021 Namoi Unlimited Member Value Report  
**Author:** General Manager  
**Previous Items:**  
**Attachment:** 2020 – 2021 Namoi Unlimited Value Report

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***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 NOTE the 2020 – 2021 Namoi Unlimited Member Value Report.**

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**Report:**

Member Council's of Namoi Unlimited resolved to develop a Value's Report for the Joint Organisation to articulate the value of activity being undertaken by Members. This report was presented to the Namoi Unlimited Board Meeting on Tuesday, 07 September 2021 and it was resolved at that meeting that member's present the 2020-2021 Value Report to their individual Councils.



# NAMOI UNLIMITED

*Premier agricultural region in Australia*

## Member Value Report

2020 - 2021



### **Acknowledgements:**

The input and collaboration of Local Government Areas of Walcha Council, Tamworth Regional Council, Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Gunnedah Shire Council and Gwydir Shire Council is acknowledged.

Namoi Unlimited acknowledges the Kamilaroi Aboriginal people as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waters of the Namoi.

## FOREWORD

The conversation about the value of membership to Namoi Unlimited is underpinned by the requirement that Local Government must demonstrate that any activities - are the best and most efficient use of rate-payers funds.

Our vision for the region is to be a productive, smart and liveable region. A region recognised for its strong leadership, innovation, and excellence in regional collaboration. I am proud that the organisation and its commitment to this vision. This report demonstrates our activities on behalf of Councils to realise this vision.



*IMAGE (left to right) – Mrs Fiona Simson, Chairperson Future Foods Systems Cooperative Research Centre, Cr Jamie Chaffey – Mayor Gunnedah Shire Council and Chairperson of Namoi Unlimited, Cr Eric Noakes – Mayor Walcha Council, Cr Doug Hawkins – Mayor Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Cr Col Murray – Mayor Tamworth Regional Council, The Hon Kevin Anderson – Member for Tamworth. Absent: Cr John Coulton – Mayor Gwydir Shire Council*

Even more than ever - change is occurring, it is a consistent dynamic for Councils and the community this year. COVID is challenging the traditional operations of businesses, communities and also Councils. The impact of such change is that the resources of Local Government continue to be challenged and for the Joint Organisation access to additional revenues outside the sector is critical.

The investment in the Joint Organisation and its collaborative activities is necessary to assist Local Government with trailing and developing new initiatives and approaches. However, without ongoing funding from NSW Government or recognition of the initiative by the Commonwealth Government, any increased contributions of Local Government will be constrained by the impact of COVID and the needs of our communities.

We can be extremely proud of what we have achieved as a group of Councils, I acknowledge and thank our Executive Officer, Rebel Thomson, the members and their staff for their investment and support. I specifically acknowledge the efforts of:

- Tamworth Regional Council and Gunnedah Shire Council in their carriage of the Water for the Future priority;
- Walcha Council and Gwydir Shire Council in the Enabled and Connected Infrastructure priority; and
- Liverpool Plains Shire Council in people and skills, building scale, capacity and capability of the region and its human resources.

With Local Government elections expected to occur at the end of 2021, I also acknowledge that the membership and the composition of Namoi Unlimited may change. I recognise the efforts of Cr Col Murray, Mayor of Tamworth Regional Council who for over a decade has actively supported a regional collaborative approach to Local Government. Our success is partly due to the support and commitment of a regional centre to support and acknowledge the broader region. We have achieved success because we recognise and act regionally.



Cr Jamie Chaffey  
Chairperson, Namoi Unlimited (Mayor, Gunnedah Shire Council)

# 2020-2021 HIGHLIGHTS



Namoi Unlimited projects attracted \$1,616,730 in funding from various sources.

Council Contributions included;

- \$156,670 in Membership Fees
- \$50,000 for compliant procurement software called Vendorpanel
- \$227,012 for the Namoi Regional Town Water Supply Strategy

## PLUS



The Namoi Regional Jobs Precinct declaration > \$1,000,000



The 2018-2022 Namoi Road Network Strategy attracted \$148.7million or 72.5% of priorities have been funded



Identified cost avoidance by VendorPanel \$888,444

## CAPACITY BUILDING

Industry Supply Chain Database for economic development, investment attraction and planning for agribusiness development.

Strategic planning for Local Water Utilities with the NSW Government.

Registers and mapping of contaminated lands and community education.

## STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Namoi Unlimited has three identified Strategic Regional Priorities;

### Water for the Future

Agriculture, agricultural products, commodities and services underpin the economies of the Namoi region. The dynamics of global markets, climate change and changing consumer demand, mean our core industry must evolve and adapt. The availability, security and access to water underpin every facet of agriculture. Water is also critical to the other two priorities identified. Our action will be targeted towards growth and development and water is the critical enabler for industry, business, communities, lifestyle, tourism and the environment.

### Enabled and Connected Infrastructure

The provision of goods and services, connecting people and business, and addressing the perception of remoteness and isolation in regional areas are all dependent on having fully functional and connected infrastructure. Roads, rail, air infrastructure, energy and telecommunications infrastructure are critical for the future growth and the development of the region.

The role of Namoi Unlimited is to understand the capacity and capability of existing infrastructure and networks, and then take a future focussed approach to prioritising, investing and advocating for critical and necessary infrastructure, necessary to enabling and supporting growth.

### Engaged People seeking Skills for the Future

People and their skills are fundamental to the growth of our economies, our communities and lifestyle. Local Government is one of the largest employers in the Namoi region and has an important role to play in the attraction of people to the region, and the development of skills to meet future workforce demands.

The members of Namoi Unlimited will identify, promote and engage in opportunities to address skill shortages within both Councils and across communities.

### Organisational Growth and Sustainability

Acknowledging that financial sustainability and organisational growth are a focus for the Joint Organisation, priorities and actions were added to the Strategic Regional Plan in the 2019-2020 financial year.

## PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ACHIEVING THE PRIORITIES

Funding has been attracted to all four of the Strategic Regional Priorities for the Joint Organisation.

Council also partnered with governments to support the projects and activities of the Joint Organisation with membership fees and contributions to Year 2 of the introduction of Vendorpanel.

It has been a successful year for funding for the Joint Organisation with the following projects funded by project partners;

- **Namoi Regional Jobs Precinct**

Funding of up to \$1million from the NSW Government through Regional NSW will be used to focus on improvements in planning to support the sustainable growth of intensive agriculture and livestock production.

- **Investigations of the potential for shared/centralised services for investment attraction and planning for agribusiness**

Namoi Unlimited has allocated \$30,000 from its capacity building funding from the NSW Office of Local Government to investigate options to increase resources for the implementation of the Regional Jobs Precinct for agribusiness.

Funding of \$50,000 from the NSW Office of Local Government Capacity Building fund has also been allocated to continue to investigate opportunities for shared/centralised services.

- **Industry and Supply Chain Database**

Namoi Unlimited commenced development of an industry database and multi-criteria analysis tool to build capacity and capability of Councils in addressing economic development. Funding of \$60,000 is provided by the NSW Office of Local Government Capacity Building Fund.

Planning commenced to invest a further \$50,000 of the capacity building funding to extend the industry database to incorporate road and transport infrastructure priorities, enabling the Councils to develop the next iteration of road priorities and the Namoi Transport Strategy.

- **Namoi Regional Water Strategy**

Funding of \$685,275 from the NSW Department of Planning, Investment and Environment – Safe and Secure Water Program, and \$216,455 from the member Councils of the Namoi Water Alliance will be used to undertake secure yield analysis for each Council, and assess drought resilience and prepare Councils for Integrated Water Cycle Management plans.

Plans continued to develop the opportunity to use recycled water on gravel roads with \$285,000 funding from the NSW Government Increasing Resilience to Climate Change Program.

- **Namoi Roads Network Strategy**

The Namoi Roads Network Strategy and economic analysis provides Council with a process to prioritise roads of regional significance for freight and productivity as well as safety. The strategy was developed in 2018 concluding at the end of the 2021 -2022 financial year. The Namoi roads Network Strategy identified \$205million in priorities for the member Councils, to date \$148.7million (72.5%) has been provided.

- **Careers with Council**

Funding of \$20,000 has been allocated from the NSW Office of Local Government Capacity Building funding to develop a campaign to attract young people, Aboriginal people, women 35+ and veterans to careers with Council.

- **Procurement Strategy**

An additional \$30,000 from the NSW Government Capacity Building funding will be allocated to enhance the Councils procurement and purchasing capability through the adoption of VendorPanel.

- **Contaminated Lands Capacity Building**

\$140,000 of \$420,000 of this three year program occurred this financial year. Funding was provided by the NSW Department of Planning, Investment and Environment – EPA to build capacity and resources for Councils to manage contaminated lands.

This section of this report describes progress toward the identified outcomes of each strategic priority in the Strategic Regional Plan 2018-2021 and the actions included in the Annual Business Plan.

| Water for the Future  |  |
|---|--|
| Identified Outcomes   | 2020-2021 Activity   |
| <p>Targeted and strategic advice to hone the pursuit of opportunities for regional growth.</p> <p>Identification and pursuit of endowments and drivers for growth.</p> <p>Contribute to and be recognised for, developing better ways for Government to engage and invest in regional Australia.</p> <p>Position Councils with the evidence to build investment in infrastructure including water utilities.</p> <p>Building stronger and more resilient communities.</p> <p>A targeted and accelerated approach to grow exports and investment attraction in the region.</p> <p>Identification and facilitation of supply chain, value add and new market opportunities for regional producers.</p> <p>Pursuit of best practice planning and operations across local water operations.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Namoi Regional Jobs Precinct Declaration</b> to align the planning framework with suitable lands and attributes to attract agriculture investment and economic development.<br/><br/>The Namoi Regional Job Precincts will deliver faster planning approvals to provide local councils, regional communities, industry and businesses with greater confidence around future investment and development in agribusiness development.<br/><br/>The NSW Government will invest is expected to be \$1million.</li> <li>▪ Development of the <b>Namoi Industry and Economic Super Cluster Business Case</b> and Supporting Partnership to the <b>Future Food Systems Cooperative Research Centre</b>.<br/><br/>Part of the Super Cluster business case is the development of an <b>Industry Database and multi-criteria analysis tool</b>. Namoi Unlimited joined the Future Food Systems CRC as a Supporting Participant and commenced project planning. The database will identify SMEs in the agriculture supply chains for beef, lamb, chicken and grain.</li> <li>▪ Development of a workshop with the University of New England to consult broadly on the <b>future opportunities for regional growth</b> with the New England Joint Organisation<sup>1</sup>.</li> <li>▪ Councils commenced investigations and consultations into a collaborative model for the coordination of planning, investment attraction and economic development.</li> <li>▪ Consultation with Councils and DPIE Water to develop the draft Namoi Regional Water Strategy.</li> <li>▪ Approaches to grow exports from the region and a relationship with Ningbo, China was stalled in this period due to COVID.</li> <li>▪ <b>Namoi Water Alliance</b> continued to build capacity in the network of Local Water Utilities, and coordinated projects across water efficiency, training and commenced the <b>Namoi Regional Water Supply Strategy</b>.</li> <li>▪ Namoi Unlimited represents Joint Organisations across NSW on the <b>NSW Town Water Risk Reduction Program Stakeholder Advisory Panel</b>.</li> <li>▪ The <b>Increasing Resilience to Climate Change Project</b> to test the use of recycled water on gravel roads is stalled due to the requirement for a Section 60 approval to undertake the trails across Tamworth Regional Council and Walcha Council.</li> </ul> |

<sup>1</sup> This workshop event was deferred due to COVID and is to be rescheduled in the 2021-2022 financial year.



## Enabled and Connected Infrastructure

### Identified Outcomes

### 2020-2021 Activity

Identified process to highlight, substantiate and promote enabling infrastructure for the region.

Prepare for the next iteration of the Namoi Roads Network Strategy.

Develop relationships, efficiencies and opportunities to work together.

Improved information and service delivery.

Develop the rationale and the forum for collaborating across regions on infrastructure.

Participate and facilitate opportunities to pursue the connectivity of infrastructure within the Namoi region, within NSW and across the Eastern seaboard.

Contribute to and be recognised for, developing better ways for Government to engage and invest.

- The successful **Namoi Roads Network Strategy** attracted \$161million in funding to Councils for priority roads.

The success of this strategy is in the identification of priorities and the economic analysis of these priorities to help Councils build successful applications for funding.

Work commenced on identifying the scope of the next iteration of this strategy, including; priorities and linkages between road, rail and ports, focus on local roads and agricultural supply chain priorities, and resilience in the event of disasters.

- Relationships around enabled and connected infrastructure were built between Transport for NSW and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator.
- Investigations commenced to develop a centralised/shared service for **Contractor Management and Sub-Contractor Management** through the procurement platform VendorPanel.
- The New England Joint Organisation of Councils released is New England Road Network Strategy enabling visibility over collaborating on road priorities and transport infrastructure.
- Namoi Unlimited coordinated the consultations and identification of priorities under the **Commonwealth Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI)** program.

The Joint Organisation has prioritised and submitted proposals into the New England Corridor and the Toowoomba to Seymour Corridor. The identified and funded priorities submitted were; County Boundary Road, and IB Bore Road (Gwydir Shire Council).

Other identified priorities submitted were the New England Highway upgrades on the southern side of Tamworth (Tamworth Regional Council), the intersection of the New England Highway at Willow Tree to Quirindi, (Liverpool Plains Shire Council) and the Chimney Sweep Bridge and Surveyors Creek Bridge (Walcha Council)

## Namoi Roads Network Strategy

### Identified Outcomes

### 2018-2021 Activity

Identified process to highlight, substantiate and promote enabling infrastructure for the region.

The Namoi roads Network Strategy identified \$205million in priorities for the member Councils, to date \$148.7million (72.5%) has been provided.

#### Gunnedah Shire Council

- \$4million RR7785 Bloomfield Street (Gunnedah Shire Council)
- \$8.2million RR7709 Grain Valley Road (Gunnedah Shire Council)
- \$61million Second over rail bridge at Gunnedah on Oxley Hwy connecting to Kamilaroi Hwy and Bloomfield St
- \$6.14million SR37 Clifton Road

#### Gwydir Shire Council

- \$9.5million A39-4 IB Bore Road

#### Liverpool Plains Shire Council

- \$10million RR130 Werris Creek Road Rail Crossing south of Werris Creek
- \$3million SR177 Mystery Road

#### Tamworth Regional Council

- \$9.3million B95-3 Manilla Low Level bridge
- \$3million A15 New England Highway
- \$3.5million Upgrade of Goddard Lane and Oxley Highway Intersection
- \$6.55million RR7744 Jewry Street
- \$4.5million received for the roundabout for the Southern Tamworth Bypass

#### Walcha Council

- \$11.3million Thunderbolts Way

Priorities funded across Local Government boundaries;

- \$8.75million MR357 Rangari Road

## Engaged People and Skills

| Identified Outcomes   | 2020-2021 Activity  |
|---|---|
| <p>Capitalise on strategic and operational opportunities to increase services within Councils.</p> <p>Nurture skills and talent in Local Government sharing experience and expertise.</p> <p>Promote employment opportunities within Local Government.</p> <p>Build stronger communities and build service delivery.</p> <p>Increase the scale and capacity of Member Councils.</p> <p>Increase in the opportunities for learning, apprenticeships, traineeships and careers with Local Government.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Joint Organisation developed a <b>Pathways Program</b> to identify the career opportunities with councils, mapping these pathways with training available at schools, in the VET sector, at universities.</li> </ul> <p>Councils identified key markets to attract to careers in Local Government including; young people, Aboriginal people, women aged 35 years and over, and veterans.</p> <p>Negotiations commenced with a regional Jobnetwork provider to assist Councils in engaging with these identified audiences. The identified provider has key linkages into the communities for these key markets and support programs. A Memorandum of Understanding is proposed with this provider.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Through the <b>Namoi Water Alliance – Training Project</b> analysis commenced to identify training needs after the successful Certificate III program for all staff.</li> </ul> <p>The consultancy agreement for members enables Councils to supplement capacity with water experts and engineers with Hunter H2O.</p> <p>Preliminary investigations were conducted for a shared and centralised service were conducted with Councils keen to develop their capacity to deliver training and assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Namoi Unlimited coordinated the second year of implementing a new procurement software called <b>Vendorpanel</b>. The software system provides Council with compliant procurement practice from purchasing through to tendering. It also supports efforts by the Joint Organisation and Councils to engage with local and regional suppliers with a geo-location function.</li> <li>▪ Regional NSW has decided not to facilitate further development of a regional talent development program and promote the opportunities for careers across government.</li> <li>▪ The <b>Shared/Centralised Services</b> Guideline provides the actions and decision making tool for the investigation and co-design of shared services. The organisation considered is investigating opportunities across; Contaminated Lands administration, the new Audit and Risk Framework, RMCC Sub-contractor Management, Water Operators Training and Agri Planning and Investment Resources.</li> <li>▪ The <b>Contaminated Lands Program</b> is designed to coordinate a building capacity and capability project for the management of Contaminated Lands and UPSS. The project completed the policy and procedure framework for Councils, is delivering registers for Councils, and has conducted a communications campaign.</li> </ul> |

## Advocacy, Organisational Growth and Sustainability

### Identified Outcomes

### 2020-2021 Activity

Build scale and capacity of member Councils.

Build an organisation that will be financial sustainable over the long-term.

An organisation that is able to generate sufficient funds and deliver on the Strategic Regional Priorities agreed with its members and stakeholders.

Strong and commitment membership.

- The **Namoi Unlimited Financial Sustainability Plan** is in place and objectives in that plan are being pursued across; Procurement and Purchasing and aggregation.
- The contribution and support of **Tamworth Regional Council** to additional contributions to the organisation are recognised. Tamworth Regional Council generously provides; HR support, ICT support, financial administration and PID/GIPA roles for Namoi Unlimited.
- Namoi Unlimited undertook some **fee for service** work for Walcha Council to build the capacity and tools of the Council in risk management and business continuity.
- Namoi Unlimited continues to contribute the capacity of the **NSW Joint Organisation network** providing support in the areas of developing strategic partnerships in financial sustainability, the Ministers Advisory Group for Joint Organisations and water.
- The councillors of **Gwydir Shire Council** made the decision to become a Project Participating member of Namoi Unlimited. The structure for fees and charges is applied as per the Revenue Statement.
- The Chair commenced discussions with **Narrabri Shire Council** for greater collaboration and connectivity.



*IMAGE (left to right) – Cr Col Murray – Mayor Tamworth Regional Council, Cr John Coulton – Mayor Gwydir Shire Council, The Hon. Mark Coulton Member for Parkes, The Hon Barnaby Joyce, Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, Member for New England, Cr Jamie Chaffey – Mayor Gunnedah Shire Council and Chairperson of Namoi Unlimited, Cr Eric Noakes – Mayor Walcha Council. Absent: Cr Doug Hawkins – Mayor Liverpool Plains Shire Council.*

## Advocacy and Leadership

### Identified Outcomes

### 2020-2021 Activity

Creditable and evidence based regional advocacy and information that informs Government policy.

Namoi Unlimited is an active contributor to a number of regional and **inter-governmental based projects** including;

- New England North West Regional Leadership Executive
- New England North West Regional Plan Monitoring and Coordination
- New England North West Skills Taskforce
- NSW Town Water Risk Reduction Program
- NSW Joint Organisations Chair's Forum
- Transport for NSW Farmgate Access Program
- New England North West Drought Taskgroup and Resilience Committee
- Northern NSW Renewables Working Group
- New England North West Regional Economic Development Sub-Committee

Namoi Unlimited undertook **collaborative advocacy** for members on;

- Access to accredited training for operators of Local Water Utilities
- A special activation area for the Namoi region
- Decentralisation

The NSW Government commenced a review of Joint Organisations to investigate the barriers and enablers to the regional model.



# NAMOI UNLIMITED

*Premier agricultural region in Australia*

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M: 0490 778 410



# Item 7:

# Notice of Motions



There are no Notice of Motions for  
September 2021





# Item 8:

# Matters of Urgency



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# Item 9: Management Review Reports



## 9.1 OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

Ref: WO/2021/03696

Responsible Executive: General Manager

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*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.*

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

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### 1. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

#### **1.1 Investment Report Status at 31 August 2021**

Report for the investments held in August 2021 is included.

#### **Overdraft Limit**

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



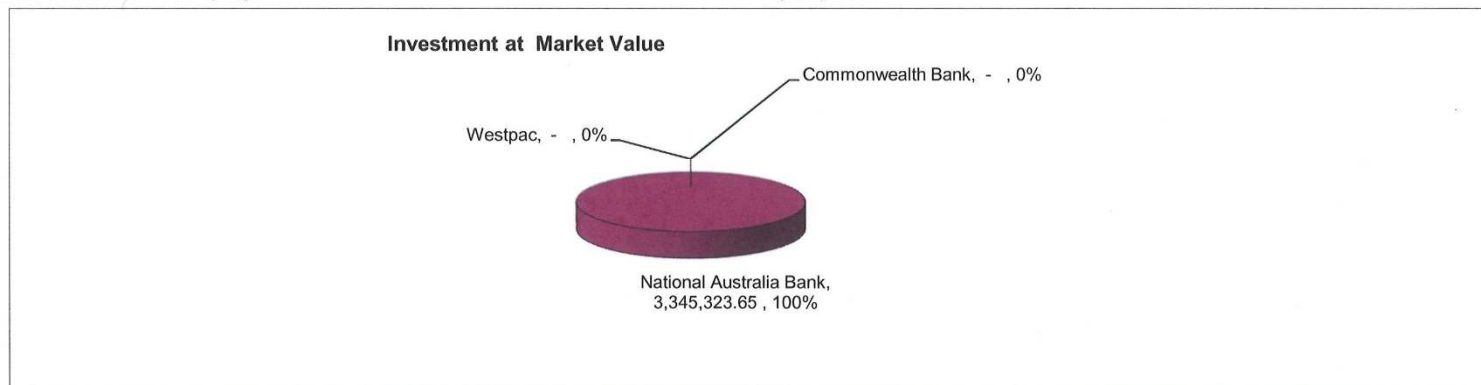
**REGISTER OF INVESTMENTS TO 31/08/2021**

| 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 |
|-------------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Commonwealth Bank       | Term Deposit | 9/02/2021      | 181         | 9/08/2021     | 0.35%         | -                   | -               | -                             | 871.45          | 502,095.53        | 0.00%             |
| National Australia Bank | Term Deposit | 8/03/2021      | 182         | 6/09/2021     | 0.30%         | 620,379.51          | 928.02          | 621,307.53                    |                 | -                 | 18.54%            |
| National Australia Bank | Term Deposit | 15/03/2021     | 210         | 11/10/2021    | 0.31%         | 530,006.33          | 945.30          | 530,951.63                    |                 | -                 | 15.84%            |
| 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%            |
| National Australia Bank | Term Deposit | 10/06/2021     | 180         | 7/12/2021     | 0.30%         | 252,839.04          | 374.06          | 253,213.10                    |                 | -                 | 7.56%             |
| 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%             |
| National Australia Bank | Term Deposit | 22/04/2021     | 300         | 16/02/2022    | 0.32%         | 253,950.25          | 667.93          | 254,618.18                    |                 | -                 | 7.59%             |
|                         |              |                |             |               |               | <b>3,345,323.65</b> | <b>6,908.65</b> | <b>3,352,232.30</b>           | <b>1,235.25</b> | <b>502,095.53</b> | <b>100%</b>       |

**PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR COMPARATIVE DATA: 31/08/2020**

Interest Earned YTD **10,305.27**  
 Market Value of Portfolio **4,746,220.84**

Interest Earned YTD 30/06/2021 **28,257.85**  
 Market Value of Portfolio 30/06/2020 **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: WINT/2021/08030

**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   |
|------------------|--|
|                  | <b>On Track</b> – Project meeting expectations with regard time, cost and quality.   |
|                  | <b>At Risk</b> – Unforeseen issue(s) that may result in either time, cost or quality requirements not being met of a <b><u>non-significant</u></b> nature.   |
|                  | <b>Off Track</b> – Project will not meet expectations with <b><u>significant</u></b> implications for Council. These implications and mitigation actions are detailed in the “Comments” section of the report. |
| 100%             | <b>Completed</b> – Project completed with no further work required   |




## 1. Local Road Projects

| <b>Funding Source: Bushfire Recovery Grant</b> – Grant agreement requires all works to be completed by 1 June 2022 |                      |                                |                        |   |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| <b>Project</b>   | <b>Project Start</b> | <b>Planned Completion Date</b> | <b>Tracking Status</b> | <b>Comments</b>   |
| Forest Way – Cement stabilise and bitumen seal 2.0km of existing gravel road                                       | Oct 2020             | November 2021                  | 20%                    | Culvert replacements have been completed. Pavement stabilisation to be scheduled for November 2021. |

| <b>Funding Source: 95% Fixing Local Roads and 5% Council General Revenue</b> – Grant agreement requires all works to be completed by June 2022 |                      |                                |                        |   |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| <b>Project</b>   | <b>Project Start</b> | <b>Planned Completion Date</b> | <b>Tracking Status</b> | <b>Comments</b>   |
| 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%             | <p>Work commenced on the Moona Plains bridge. Whilst wet weather has delayed commencement at the other bridges, all bridges are expected to be completed by early 2022.</p>  |
| Englefield Road Bridge Replacement  |               |                         |                 |  |
| Glen Morrison Road Bridge Replacement (Stephens)  |               |                         |                 |  |
|   |               |                         |                 | All bridges except Englefield will have bypass tracks provided during the construction works.  |





| <b>Funding Source: 100% Fixing Local Roads (Walsh Street) and 75% Fixing Local Roads &amp; 25% Roads to Recovery (Middle Street) – Grant agreement requires all works to be completed by December 2022</b> |                      |                                |                        |   |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| <b>Project</b>   | <b>Project Start</b> | <b>Planned Completion Date</b> | <b>Tracking Status</b> | <b>Comments</b>   |
| 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. |

| <b>Funding Source: 95% Fixing Country Bridges &amp; 5% Roads to Recovery – Grant agreement requires all work to be completed by December 2023</b> |                      |                                |                        |  |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| <b>Project</b>  | <b>Project Start</b> | <b>Planned Completion Date</b> | <b>Tracking Status</b> | <b>Comments</b>  |
| Army Bridge   | March 2021           | December 2023                  | 10%                    | Survey, geotechnical investigation and Review of Environmental Factors have been completed. Engineering designs have commenced reached 90% completion for Winterbourne and Mooraback bridges.                            |
| Winterbourne Bridge   | March 2021           | December 2023                  | 10%                    |  |
| Mooraback Bridge  | March 2021           | December 2023                  | 10%                    |  |
| Tia Diggings Bridge 1   | March 2021           | December 2023                  | 10%                    | Survey, geotechnical investigation and Review of Environmental Factors have been completed. Tender for design and construction is being advertised. Expect tender to be awarded at the October Ordinary Council Meeting. |
| Tia Diggings Bridge 2   | March 2021           | December 2023                  | 10%                    |  |
| Niangala Bridge   | March 2021           | December 2023                  | 10%                    |  |



## 2. State Roads

| <b>Funding Source: Transport for NSW – Road Maintenance Council Contract (RMCC) – Annual Program</b> |                      |                           |                        |   |
|--|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---|
| <b>Project</b>   | <b>Project Start</b> | <b>Planned Completion</b> | <b>Tracking Status</b> | <b>Comments</b>   |
| Oxley Highway – 2021/2022 Routine Maintenance  | July 2021            | June 2022                 | 19%                    | Routine road maintenance works continue. Tree removal/trimming in Surveyors Creek to be completed in September depending on the availability of workers.  |
| Oxley Highway – Segment 2670 near Hartford Road – Additional works                                   | March 2021           | July 2021                 | 98%                    | Backfilling behind headwall initially delayed due to wet ground conditions. Now awaiting resourcing to complete works. Project completion delayed beyond planned completion date but there are no implications associated with the delay. |
| Oxley Highway Safety Project 2602 – Segments 2700 to 2720  | January 2021         | August 2021               | 99%                    | The delivery of pit grates has been delayed, preventing installation and completion of project. Whilst the delay has extended the completion beyond the planned date of August, there are no implications associated with this delay.     |
| Oxley Highway – Resealing Program  | August 2021          | March 2022                | 5%                     | Resealing 11 segments proposed. Seal design completed and submitted to Transport for NSW for approval.  |
| Oxley Highway – Reseal Preparation   | August 2021          | March 2022                | 0%                     | Shoulder grading & weed spray is planned for September 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

| <b>Funding Source: REPAIR grant, part of Block grant &amp; Thunderbolts Way Corridor Strategy - Grant agreement requires all work completed by May 2022)</b> |                      |                           |                        |  |
|--|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--|
| <b>Project</b>   | <b>Project Start</b> | <b>Planned Completion</b> | <b>Tracking Status</b> | <b>Comments</b>  |
| Rehabilitation of Walcha Township Approaches - Derby Street – (Segments 4710 and 4720)   | July 2018            | May 2022                  | 12%                    | Project tender advertised and expect to award contract at Ordinary Council meeting in October. 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                  | 80%                    | Stabilisation and sealing completed on 975m – remaining to be sealed in September. shoulder grading, culvert replacement and benching of shoulder completed. Stabilisation works in progress and expected to be completed in September 2021. |
| Project 5.4 Rehabilitation of Segment 4570 at Lake Road intersection   | August 2021          | May 2022                  | 50%                    | Survey and design of improvements to Lakes Road intersection commenced. Stabilisation works of 900m completed. Final trim, sealing and line marking to take place in September 2021.   |
| Project 5.3 Rehabilitation of Segment 4560 near Lake Road  | October 2021         | May 2022                  | 0%                     | Culvert replacement & tree removal works commenced. Rehabilitation works to commence in February 2021.   |
| Project 5.2 Rehabilitation of Segment 4550 near Lake Road  | November 2021        | May 2022                  | 0%                     | Works to commence in November 2021.  |
| Project 5.1 Rehabilitation of Segment 4540 near Hicks Bridge   | February 2022        | March 2022                | 0%                     | Works to commence in October 2022.   |
| Project 10 Rehabilitation of Segment 4370 near Smith Ck Bridge   | October 2021         | October 2021              | 0%                     | Works to commence in November 2021.  |
| 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 to be finalised.   |



| <b>Funding Source: Transport for NSW – Regional Roads Block, Traffic Facilities &amp; Supplementary Grant Programs - Annual</b> |                      |                           |                        |  |
|---|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--|
| <b>Project</b>  | <b>Project Start</b> | <b>Planned Completion</b> | <b>Tracking Status</b> | <b>Comments</b>  |
| Thunderbolts Way and Topdale Road – Routine works   | July 2021            | June 2022                 | 25%                    | Routine road maintenance works underway. Pothole and sign repairs to occur this month. |
| Thunderbolts Way – Heavy Patching   | Sept 2021            | Nov 2022                  | 5%                     | Scope finalised. Heavy patching commencing in September and completed by October.      |

#### **4. Water, Sewer & Waste**

| <b>Funding Source: Restart NSW Grant – with supplementary funding by Local Roads &amp; Community Infrastructure grant</b> |                      |                           |                        |  |
|---|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--|
| <b>Project</b>  | <b>Project Start</b> | <b>Planned Completion</b> | <b>Tracking Status</b> | <b>Comments</b>  |
| Walcha Truck Wash Bay Upgrade   | Early 2019           | June 2021                 | 95%                    | Training of staff in the operation and maintenance of the effluent treatment system scheduled for late September due to COVID delays for contractor. Currently awaiting installation of electrical meter. Propose a “soft opening” in early October 2021 |

| <b>Funding Source: Restart NSW Grant</b> |                      |                           |                        |   |
|--|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---|
| <b>Project</b>                           | <b>Project Start</b> | <b>Planned Completion</b> | <b>Tracking Status</b> | <b>Comments</b>   |
| Walcha Sewerage Treatment Plant Upgrade  | 2019                 | Sept 2021                 | 97%                    | Improved telemetry and site fencing to be completed in September, COVID restrictions permitting |



| Funding Source: Restart NSW Grant |               |                    |                 |   |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|---|
| Project                           | Project Start | Planned Completion | Tracking Status | Comments  |
| Walcha Off Creek Storage          | March 2020    | Late 2022          | 15%             | <p>Negotiations regarding the conditions associated with the additional \$2M of Federal funding commenced in September 2021. Expect this funding along with the other \$9M of State funding to be consolidated into one agreement</p> <p>HunterH2O engaged to deliver project on Council's behalf. Negotiations on that agreement commenced in September. The engagement of HunterH2O will provide the resourcing necessary to engage with local contractors, review the river intake structure and run parallel construction contracts to ensure economic stimulus portion of funding is expended by 30 June 2022.</p> <p>Other key milestones to occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of water licence amendments</li> <li>Confirmation of dam structure categorisation by Dam Safety NSW</li> <li>Finalisation of land acquisition.</li> </ul> |
| Walcha Waste Strategy 2025        | August 2020   | Late 2021          | 60%             | Project delayed extensively due to departure of original project team. Draft strategy now expected to be finalized in late 2021.  |
| 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.  |
| Sewer Relining Program            | July 2021     | June 2022          | 0%              | Program commencement subject to sourcing loan. Renewal program to be developed and tendered.  |



## 5. Community Projects

| <b>Funding Source: Transport for NSW Walking and Cycling Program 2020/21</b> Grant agreement requires all work completed by June 2021 |                   |                           |                        |  |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--|
| <b>Project</b>  | <b>Start Date</b> | <b>Planned Completion</b> | <b>Tracking Status</b> | <b>Comments</b>  |
| 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. |

| <b>Funding Source: Stronger Country Communities</b> – Grant agreement requires all work to be completed by March 2023 |                      |                           |                        |  |
|---|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--|
| <b>Project</b>  | <b>Project Start</b> | <b>Planned Completion</b> | <b>Tracking Status</b> | <b>Comments</b>  |
| Levee Bank Walk Lighting  | 2020                 | July 2022                 | 5%                     | Subject to report at the Ordinary Council meeting in September seeking resolution to tender and progress works |
| Walcha Men's Shed Relocation  | 2020                 | November 2021             | 60%                    | Construction in progress.  |

| <b>Funding Source: Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund</b> |                      |                                |                        |  |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| <b>Project</b>   | <b>Project Start</b> | <b>Planned Completion Date</b> | <b>Tracking Status</b> | <b>Comments</b>  |
| Walcha Swimming Pool Refurbishment                           | May 2021             | October 2022                   | 5%                     | Aquatic engineering assessment and installation of solar heating now scheduled for early October, subject to possible changes in COVID health orders. Concerns about the structure condition of the pool structure pose a serious risk to this project as the rate of leakage has increased significantly in early 2021. May need to undertake temporary repairs to permit the facility to reopen in November. |
| Renew Walcha Skate Park                                      | August 2021          | June 2023                      | 0%                     | Awaiting on funding agreement details from Department.   |
| 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 Weatherman sculpture delayed. However, no implications with grant funding is foreseen.   |
| 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%              | Procurement and works yet to commence  |
| Electrical Assessment Upgrades  | July 2021  | June 2022          | 5%              | Tender closes on 5 October. Expect tender to be awarded at the October Ordinary Council Meeting along with recommendation on the funding of this work. |



## **6. Proposed Works for the Coming Period**

### **6.1 Rural Roads:**

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

**Glen Morrison Area** – Maintenance grading works continuing in this area, with the following roads remaining: Glen Morrison Road

**Winterbourne Area** – Maintenance grading works continuing in this area, with the following roads remaining: Ohio Road, Table Top Road, Winterbourne Road, Blue Mountain Road and Mirani Road.





## 9.3 ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT:

Ref: WO/2021/03699

**Responsible Executive:** Director Environment & Development

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**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.*

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

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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

The regulation of the way land is used and developed and certification of safe construction practices.

**CSP Reference:**

- 6.1.2 Promote sustainable development and protection of our natural resources through the planning system.
- 6.1.7 Manage Land Contamination through the planning and development control process.
- 6.5.1 Protect and promote farming practices using the principles of ecologically sustainable development.
- 6.6.1 Maintain the character of the Walcha Local Government Area through orderly development of the natural and built environment.
- 6.6.3 Prevent agricultural land from being developed in ways that reduce its productivity.

### STRATEGIC PLANNING

Land use management through a range of state and local strategies, plans and policies

**CSP Reference:**

- 2.1.9 Encourage the development of additional rental accommodation in Walcha.
- 5.3.1 Promote and support Walcha as the premier agricultural area of New England.
- 5.3.4 Preserve, support and promote the history of Walcha.
- 6.1.6 Provide the framework for improvements in efficiency and liveability of a range of compatible land uses and development types.
- 6.6.2 Ensure that sufficient land is available to meet the demand for appropriate land uses.

### ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Environmental monitoring, programs and investigations to maintain the health of our natural and built environments.



**CSP Reference:**

- 6.1.1 Maintain and strengthen partnerships with organisations responsible for natural resource management.
- 6.1.3 Address the impact of climate change on the community.
- 6.1.4 Protect and enhance biodiversity, native vegetation, river and soil health.
- 6.1.5 Engage and support the community to undertake sustainable natural resource management and protect Walcha's natural environment.
- 6.4.1 Establish (with partners) alternate renewable energy supplies that will exceed the energy needs of our community.

**REGULATORY SERVICES**

Monitoring of activities, premises and systems to protect public health.

**CSP Reference:**

- 3.2.3 Maintain the availability and quality of water for use in rural areas.
- 3.2.4 Ensure that the disposal of liquid waste in rural areas is carried out in a healthy manner without negative environmental impact.

**ANIMAL CONTROL**

Responsible pet ownership through policy and regulation of keeping of animals.

**CSP Reference:**

- 7.2.2 Develop and promote responsible ownership of animals.

**BUILDING AND AMENITY MAINTENANCE**

Building infrastructure asset management of Council facilities to continue services to the community.

**CSP Reference:**

- 2.1.7 Provide the services that appeal to "young" workers e.g. childcare, medical, housing, sporting facilities and parks.
- 3.2.5 Maintain cemeteries in accordance with the community's needs and expectations.
- 5.2.3 Support service, sporting and other community groups.
- 5.6.1 Maintain and improve library, sporting and recreational facilities.
- 8.2.3 Identify surplus Council owned assets for development or possible sale to be invested in infrastructure reserve.
- 8.2.4 Maintain and improve Council owned building and land assets.



## 1. Development & Construction

| Development Statistics 2021-22           | DAs       | CCs       | CDCs      |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total Number Approved                    | 8         | 8         | 4         |
| Approved under Delegated Authority       | 7         |           |           |
| Approved by Council Registered Certifier |           | 7         | 2         |
| Approved by Council                      | 1         |           |           |
| Approved by Private Certifier            |           | 1         | 2         |
| Value                                    | \$613,245 | \$449,146 | \$783,512 |
| Number Withdrawn / Cancelled             | -         | -         | -         |
| Number Rejected                          | -         | -         | -         |
| Number Refused                           | -         | -         | -         |

### 1.1 Determinations Issued

| August 2021                         |                                  |                             |  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Development Application's           |                                  |                             |  |
| Number                              | Description                      | Address                     | Determination                            |
| 10.2021.28                          | Two lot residential subdivision  | 157W Evans Street, Walcha   | Approved under delegated authority       |
| Construction Certificate's          |                                  |                             |  |
| Number                              | Description                      | Address                     | Determination                            |
| 11.2021.38                          | Construction of a plumbing depot | 198W North Street, Walcha   | Approved by Council Registered Certifier |
| 11.2021.32                          | Erect a shed                     | 151W Fitzroy Street, Walcha | Approved by Council Registered Certifier |
| Complying Development Certificate's |                                  |                             |  |
| Number                              | Description                      | Address                     | Determination                            |
| 18.2021.13                          | Demolish building                | 156E Fitzroy Street, Walcha | Approved by Private Certifier            |

### 1.1A Development Applications Outstanding

| Development Applications Outstanding as at 1/09/2021 |                             |                            |             |   |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|---|
| Number   | Description                 | Address                    | Date Lodged | Status  |
| 10.2020.26   | Alterations and additions   | 238 Oxley Highway Walcha   | 01/10/2020  | Awaiting further information                    |
| 10.2020.31   | Truck wash & shed extension | 305 Darjeeling Road Walcha | 24/12/2020  | Awaiting further information                    |
| 10.2021.22   | Subdivision                 | 982 Aberbaldie Road Walcha | 04/05/2021  | RFS comment received 20/08/21, under assessment |



|            |  |                               |            |                  |
|------------|--|-------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| 10.2021.29 | Construct a new farm building and detached dual occupancy dwelling | 14292 Thunderbolts Way Walcha | 30/06/2021 | Under assessment |
| 10.2021.31 | Farm building  | 3820 Niangala Road Walcha     | 28/07/2021 | Under assessment |
| 10.2021.32 | Garage   | 172W Croudace Street Walcha   | 28/07/2021 | Under assessment |
| 10.2021.33 | Rural Subdivision of land - boundary adjustment                    | 369 Brackendale Road Walcha   | 28/07/2021 | Lodged           |
| 10.2021.34 | New dwelling   | 216N Uralla Road Walcha       | 17/08/2021 | On notification  |
| 10.2021.35 | Use of land to erect a manufactured home                           | 133 Oxley Drive Walcha        | 17/08/2021 | Lodged           |

## 1.2 Occupation Certificates

| August 2021 |  |                           |              |                       |
|-------------|--|---------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Number      | Description                                | Address                   | Part / Whole | Determining Authority |
| 13.2021.13  | Alterations & additions to single dwelling | 101W Hill Street, Walcha  | Whole        | Private Certifier     |
| 13.2021.11  | Concrete patio with roof                   | 161 Oxley Drive Walcha    | Whole        | Walcha Council        |
| 13.2021.10  | New single dwelling                        | 157N Middle Street Walcha | Whole        | Private Certifier     |
| 13.2021.7   | Dwelling secondary occupancy               | 28N Towers Street Walcha  | Whole        | Walcha Council        |

## 1.3 Subdivision Certificates

| August 2021                     |             |         |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---------|
| Subdivision Certificates Issued |             |         |
| Number                          | Description | Address |
| Nil                             |             |         |

## 1.4 Planning Certificates

| Planning Certificates | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | Current Period |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|----------------|
| Number Issued         | 154     | 23      | 15             |

## 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      | 4       | 1              |

### 1.7 Critical Stage Inspections for DAs, CCs and CDCs

| Compliance Inspections           | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | Current period |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|----------------|
| Site inspections                 | 37      | 11      | 4              |
| Footings & slab inspections      | 14      | 2       | 2              |
| Framework inspections            | 6       | 1       | 1              |
| Waterproofing inspections        | 3       | 1       | -              |
| Stormwater inspections           | -       | -       | -              |
| Final inspections                | 7       | 2       | 1              |
| Food premises fitout inspections | 2       | 1       | -              |
| Complaints                       | -       | -       | -              |

### 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      | 3       | -              |

### 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 | 3   | \$110.00     | \$330.00        |
|                             |     | <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>\$330.00</b> |



## **2. Environment & Regulation**

### **2.1 Section 68 Activities**

| Section 68 Activity Data | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | Current Period |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|----------------|
| Number Issued            | 24      | 6       | -              |

| S68 Compliance Inspections    | 2021-22 | Current period |
|-------------------------------|---------|----------------|
| Site inspections              | -       | -              |
| Internal drainage inspections | -       | -              |
| External drainage inspections | 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 |

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

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



## 9.4 COMMUNITY AND TOURISM

Ref: WO/2021/03781

**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 August 2021

Walcha Council Community Care had a very limited capacity in August. As the COVID-19 results were coming out in Sydney, our services were receiving daily updates as to what we were authorised to do in terms of social support. We began a full lockdown in the community on 15 August and prior to that were at a very diminished capacity due to masks needing to be worn at all times. Meals on Wheels increased in need even further, as a lot of our clients were unable to leave the house. We were once again restricted to working from home, with one person in the office and covering Meals on Wheels deliveries each day.

We commenced wellbeing checks via telephone with the clients and all of the staff spent a considerable amount of time on the phone, ensuring that our most vulnerable people were well cared for. The Coordinator and staff are staying well informed as to the COVID-19 guidelines throughout this time and decisions around programming will continue to be made on a daily basis.

*New Clients for the month- 3*

*Exited Clients- 1*

*Total Clients- 170*

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Women’s Group</b><br>04/08/2021- 6   | <b>Wanderer’s Group</b><br>N/A                     |
| <b>Men’s Group</b><br>N/A               | <b>Craft Group</b><br>N/A                          |
| <b>Art Group</b><br>N/A                 | <b>Card Group</b><br>4/08/2021- 4<br>10/08/2021- 3 |
| <b>Community Café</b><br>N/A            | <b>Joint Excursion</b><br>N/A                      |
| <b>Scenic Bus Trip</b><br>02/08/2021- 4 |  |



### **1.2 Transport – July 2021**

*Medical drives* – 20 trips were delivered during the month, including local trips as well as to Tamworth and Armidale. These were heavily restricted to Oncology and specialist appointments only during lockdown.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Walcha Access bus (every Monday)</b><br>2/08/2021<br>9/08/2021<br>16/08/2021<br>23/08/2021<br>30/08/2021 | <b>Bus to Armidale (every Thursday)</b><br>5/08/2021<br>12/08/2021<br>19/08/2021<br>26/08/2021 |
| <b>Bus to Tamworth (monthly)</b><br>27/08/2021  | <b>Uralla Food Pantry (fortnightly)</b><br>N/A   |
| <b>Taxi Vouchers</b> – 26 clients used the service with 176 trips being provided.                           |  |

### **1.3 Meals on Wheels**

Meals on Wheels volunteers went back into lockdown and we had staff doing the deliveries. As expected our numbers skyrocketed during this time, with our clients all having to stay home and so taking advantage of the services they could. This was a great way for us to keep close contact with our most vulnerable clients and was further assisted by Barry Omundson and Eric Noakes coming and assisting on Volunteer Appreciation Day.

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: 683

- 362 hot meals
- 152 frozen meals and
- 169 desserts.

### **1.5 Feedback and Complaints**

There have been no complaints received this month.

**Jess Goodwin**  
**Community Care Coordinator**





## **2. LIBRARY AND YOUTH**

**August 2021**

Stats:

- Loans: 406
- Returns: 461
- Reservations placed & issued: 54
- New members: 1
- Door count: 141
- Wi-fi use: 9
- Computer use: 12
- Housebound: 7

Other statistics:

- Borrow Box Eaudio: 40 users & 261 downloads
- Borrow Box Ebooks: 28 users, 103 downloads
- eAudiobook & eBook usage through Borrow Box increased by 6 new users and downloads increased by 27%
- Libby by Overdrive usage has increased slightly, however stats are still CNRL wide rather than branch specific. User numbers rose by 9 to 146, 247 audiobooks, 32 ebooks & 492 magazines were downloaded in August 2021.

August 2021 was unprecedented at the library, as due to the COVID-19 stay at home orders, it was open for 1 week (4 days), closed for 1 week (4 days) & closed with staff available for enquiries & deliveries for 2 weeks (11 days). This meant that the doors were open for only 23% of the month, closed altogether for 23% of the month & only open for online & phone orders and deliveries for 54% of the month. This explains the extremely low loans, returns, reservations, membership and library usage statistics for August. Reservations placed & issued decreased by 80%, and loans and returns by almost 50%. Staff noted that although the official 'new member' figures were down, there was a noticeable increase in members returning to use the library after long periods of time.

It is also worth highlighting the statistics kept for the 5 week period the library was closed, from 9 August to the 10 September. Staff were able to work their normal number of hours at the library, spread over the whole week, Monday to Friday for 4 of the 5 weeks. They were able to organise and provide a delivery service to members. They serviced online orders with stock available in Walcha, as deliveries from headquarters in Tamworth were postponed. They selected items for people making phone orders, and scheduled deliveries with a Council vehicle multiple times each week. Staff also organised an outbound call program, to contact regular and vulnerable members, and organise a library service to suit their individual situation during the lockdown. COVID-safe contactless delivery, and collection of returned items was conducted by library staff within town, and local Australia Post offered a reduced rate to deliver items to out-of-town Walcha members through the mail run. Library staff also volunteered some of their own time to deliver to some members on their way to or from work, especially those at neighbouring properties.





| <b>5 weeks from 9 Aug – 10 Sept 2021</b>                         |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>Outbound call totals</b>                                      | <b>73</b>  |
| <b>Outbound calls resulting in delivery</b>                      | <b>39</b>  |
| <b>Inbound calls to order delivery</b>                           | <b>25</b>  |
| <b>Inbound calls other enquiries</b>                             | <b>36</b>  |
| <b>Emails enquiries &amp; orders</b>                             | <b>8</b>   |
| <b>Messages other (text, FB or Insta) enquiries &amp; orders</b> | <b>15</b>  |
| <b>Returns processed</b>   | <b>365</b> |
| <b>Online eLibrary sign up/assistance</b>                        | <b>6</b>   |



|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| <b>Delivery totals</b>                         | <b>63</b>       |
| <b>Items delivered total</b>                   | <b>293</b>      |
| <b>Total new cloth bags used</b>               | <b>31</b>       |
| <b>Total deliveries with council car</b>       | <b>48</b>       |
| <b>Total deliveries with own car</b>           | <b>15</b>       |
| <b>Total deliveries with returns collected</b> | <b>20</b>       |
| <b>Total deliveries by post</b>                | <b>5</b>        |
| <b>Total delivery by post cost</b>             | <b>\$ 19.50</b> |

Programs, outreach and library promotion have also been affected by COVID-19 closures throughout August. Staff have used a systematic and measured approach to the use of social media and online tools such as Zoom & YouTube to engage with the community and library members this month since in person interaction was impossible for a majority of the month.

### Social media

The popularity of the Walcha Library Facebook page increased again this month and now 208 people have liked our page (increasing by a further 5 this month) and 229 followers (6 new followers). Over the month of August, Council staff relied on social media to engage with members, and promote activities and services. A higher number of posts than usual were shared & engaged with this month due to the stay-at-home orders in the community and staff developed a systematic approach to this to ensure the high volume was engaging and useful. The library shared 34 posts (increased by 20 from last month) on the Facebook page reaching 668 different people. The 15 Instagram posts shared throughout August received 141 'likes' (increase from 54 likes on 6 posts in previous months). Library and Youth Instagram posts are now followed by 176 people, with 5 new followers this month.

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



| <b>Engagement content: fun and interactive posts shared to engage with the library community and/or acknowledge events/themes being celebrated in wider community</b>   | <b># people reached on Facebook</b>   | <b>People engaging on Instagram</b> |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Total 27 engagement posts</b>  | <b>1567</b>   | <b>88</b>                           |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 x National Aboriginal &amp; Torres Strait Islander Childrens Day activity kit promotion</li> </ul>   | 124   | 12                                  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 x CBCA Bookweek posts - Book of the year, Lego challenge competition &amp; Storybox Library app</li> </ul>   | 258   |                                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 x Science Week posts - Share CNRL Youtube video &amp; Storybox app</li> </ul>  | 125   | 9                                   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heywire youth competition and youth survey</li> </ul>  | 120   |                                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 x Library “Joke &amp; trivia of the Day” posts: A mental health strategy run over 3 weeks of the lockdown (ending 10<sup>th</sup> Sept). Posts were scheduled for each workday at 11am (to coincide with governments Covid-19 update) on Facebook &amp; Instagram. The bright and branded posts each had a library themed joke, riddle or trivia question, and the answer provided on the following day.</li> </ul> | 930<br><br>Average of reaching 62 people per post, (reaching 127 people on the first day) | 67                                  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 x Tag a friend posts encouraging community interaction online &amp; sharing of Walcha Library Facebook page</li> </ul>   | 134   |                                     |
| <b>Service content: informative posts about the library services, facilities and programs (including important updates or changes to them)</b>  | <b># people reached on Facebook</b>   | <b>People engaging on Instagram</b> |
| <b>Total 18 service posts</b>   | <b>1911</b>   | <b>53</b>                           |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 x Walcha Library Home Delivery during lockdown advertisements</li> </ul>   | 726   | 7                                   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 x Council &amp; CNRL closure information due to Covid-19 stay-at-home orders</li> </ul>  | 149   |                                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 x Share CNRL Youtube video links for Storytime</li> </ul>  | 134   |                                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 x Tech Savvy Seniors instructional Youtube videos for smartphone and Zoom beginners</li> </ul>   | 329   |                                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “How to” video by Walcha Library staff – instructions how to reserve items online during this closure as reservations limited to Walcha items</li> </ul>   | 50  |                                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 x eLibrary promotions:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kanopy &amp; Beamafilm free online movie streaming apps</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   | 243   | 26                                  |



|  |     |    |
|--|-----|----|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Storybox Library promotion: how to use info</li> <li>○ eLibrary promotion with instructions how to access from CNRL Website</li> <li>○ Borrow Box Ahn Do &amp; Andy Griffith collection</li> <li>○ Libby magazines</li> </ul> |     |    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● One book one region program:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Photo of library staff enjoying the book</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   | 122 | 13 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Author talk available by Zoom through CNRL</li> </ul>   | 34  |    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 'Did you know?' series – how Walcha Library can help with log in to elibrary</li> </ul>   |     | 7  |

Programs

The Walcha Library’s plans to celebrate National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Childrens Day with a Storytime event on 3 August were disrupted by COVID mask wearing regulations. Instead, staff worked with community contacts, schools and social media to promote the distribution of 20 kids activity packs. The packs included craft kits, cultural activities and a free book, while also including Walcha library membership and program information. They were distributed to the wider indigenous community to encourage library membership and inform them of the library facilities and resources.



To wrap up the Library NAIDOC celebrations for 2021, a winner was chosen for the NAIDOC colouring in competition. Eamon Barnes (Year 2) was presented with a small prize for his multiple entries and effort.



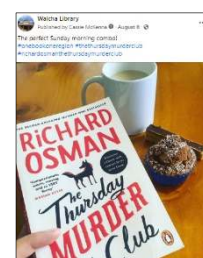
An outreach Storytime was held again this year at the Walcha Preschool to help celebrate NAIDOC on Wednesday 4 August. Indigenous Librarian Cassie McKenna volunteered at the preschool to share her culture through a morning of activities including: reading of the newest local indigenous dreamtime book, nursery rhymes and song in Torres Strait Islander language, colouring in, feather decorating of the traditional head dress (dhari) & playdough rainbow serpent making. 24 preschool students and 5 staff participated in these activities, and positive feedback was received.



PHOTO: Preschool carer Marie & Librarian Cassie in traditional Torres Strait Islander dress



CNRL One Book One Region program has continued throughout August. Staff shared promotional posts on social media using photos and hashtags, continued to rotate the books (loan and giveaway copies) and maintained the physical posters & display at the library.



Some housebound services were unable to run in August due to the 5 week closure. 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 was lucky enough to meet in the first week of August before the stay-at-home orders closed the library. Planned to be a meeting at one of the members homes, COVID-19 restrictions on the number of visitors in private homes saw a change of location to the Walcha Library historical society room. There were 8 members participating in the meeting, however all 12 members collected the new book for the month.

The 'Taphouse' Bookclub group were unable to meet in person this month, however library staff organised an online alternative on 26 August at 6pm. All members were invited, but only four members were able to join and discuss the book of the month. Those that could attend provided positive feedback about being able to meet from the comfort of their homes/offices, and some even snacked on wine and cheese to make it more 'authentic'. Due to the likely continued stay-at-home orders, this group decided to read one of their favourites from their home bookshelf this month, and bring it to the next meeting to discuss.

Storytime and Baby Book Time was unable to run in August due to COVID-19 closure, however online YouTube and Zoom options have been provided to the parents who have registered for updates and/or follow us on social media. Parents have been invited to participate in Zoom Storytime sessions via the text message service and Tamworth library's children's services team have continued to produce weekly Storytime sessions online, that have been shared via the Walcha Library Facebook and Instagram pages.

Baby's First Library Bag program continued to receive donations of bags this month. The library would like to make a special mention of the efforts of volunteer sewers Sue Curtis and Jane Morrison. The 40 bags required for the next year of Walcha newborns are ready, and library staff are just waiting on some online book orders to complete and deliver to Pam Clare at the Walcha Hospital. The child health nurses have received positive feedback throughout the year from new parents about this program, and are keen to continue for another year.

There are a few smaller programs that were due to be launched at the library in August, but due to COVID-19 closures and restrictions, they will be rescheduled for launch in the coming months, where appropriate. These include:

- The 'Save Power' kit – checked and made available to borrow in July
- New electronic tablet devices – set up for public access use in the library
- Jigsaw puzzle library – finalising the process to have them catalogued in Tamworth

These smaller programs will be launched and advertised online through social media, and in-person in the library as soon as it is possible again.



**Cassie McKenna**  
**Library Coordinator**

### **3. Preschool**

**August 2021**

#### **Bus Numbers:**

The bus continues to be busy. Each day 6-9 children are using the bus service each trip. As of early August Tammy MacPherson notified the preschool and families that the preschool children were no longer able to ride the Tia bus (only). This bus is currently full and not all children had been allocated a seat. The bus company is working with the government to rectify the problem and will let us know when the preschool children will again be able to ride on this bus.

#### **Extended Hours:**

The extended hours have picked up this term mornings are up to around 6 children and 4 to 5 children each afternoon.

#### **Events:**

##### **NAIDOC WEEK:**

During week 4 Walcha Preschool celebrated NAIDOC Week. This year's theme was Heal Country. During the week educators read stories, organised craft activities, provided displays to enhance questions and planted a tree in our playground. Jenn organised two family/ community members to teach the children about their culture. Cassie from the local library, happily show cased her culture the



Torres Straight islands, Cassie read stories, organised art and craft activities and we learnt words and a song from the islands.



Mark Davies, from Nyinanhambu Barri café made and cooked a traditional Aboriginal meal of kangaroo. The children thought the kangaroo kebabs were delicious and most went back for seconds. Mark discussed the Aboriginal culture and the colours of the flag.



### SCIENCE WEEK:

In week 5 Preschool celebrated National Science week with the children. All experiments were an easy process and most of the items are found inside the home, so these experiments were shared with our stay at home families on our Preschool face book page.

Some of the experiments the children worked on were floating and sinking, skittles and hot water experiment. We made soda bread using only 4 ingredients. This recipe I seen on the library face book page. This link was also shared on our face book page for our families at home. Volcanoes, using bi carb and red vinegar. A rain cloud experiment were just a few.



### COVID-19

During term 3 week 5 COVID-19 had hit Armidale forcing Armidale LG into lock down. Anyone who had been in Armidale from 29 July to 12 August had to stay at home and get tested. There was a lot of information going out to the public at this time, as four educators had been to Armidale in that time frame, Preschool followed the guidelines. This meant we closed until educators received a negative result. Opening again on the Thursday.

The families that I spoke to about this, were happy that we followed all guidelines and that the Council and educators were putting everyone's safety first.

By Week 6 all of NSW were in lock down and with advice from the NSW Government and the Department of Education, Preschool was only opened to essential working families. The number of children dropped dramatically with families staying at home. Overall our numbers reached an average of around 12 each day. By week three of lock down our numbers reached 18 each day, except for Friday.

Low numbers allowed Educators to do extra cleaning, tidying, work on general maintenance to the playground and oiling the outside furniture.



**Professional Development:**

This lockdown period has allowed educators to work on extra professional development online. Each educator completed “lets count” hosted by The smith family, as well as story park workshops.

**Home Educational Packs:**

With children continuing to stay at home for the last few weeks educators put together and sent out educational packs. These activities included, science experiment, matching games, cutting activities, threading and art and craft.

The preschool kept in contact with our families through our story park app and face book page. NSW Early childhood education sent out online home packages for children 3 years to 6, this link was shared to our families at home.



**Staffing:**

Currently as Zoe continues her leave into term 3 and 4, I will continue to be the responsible person.

Emily has started her maternity leave, we wish her and Josh, all the best with their new baby daughter Elke. Emma has returned from her maternity leave and will be working in the Penguin room until the end of year.

The Preschool has employed a Trainee, Lacie Slater was the successful applicant. Lacie will start in term 4.

**Thumbs up Lock down is over!!** We had some very excited children back at preschool.



**Debbie Williamson  
(Acting) Nominated Supervisor**





## 4. Tourism

August 2021

### 9. Tourism Report

#### Number of visitors to VIC

| AUGUST          | 2021   | 2020                          | 2019 | 2018 |
|-----------------|--|-------------------------------|------|------|
|                 | Road closures from 21 March – 12 July flood damage | closed 19 <sup>th</sup> March | VIC  |      |
|                 | VIC Closed 9/8/21 – 11/9/21 COVID Lockdown         |                               |      |      |
| Walk in's       | 23   | 205                           | 316  | 270  |
| Phone enquiries | 20   | 3                             | 56   | 30   |
| Email enquiries | 0  | 0                             | 3    | 10   |

| WEBSITE 2021  | August  | July    | June    | May     |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Unique Visits | 9,542   | 9,682   | 10,643  | 9,407   |
| Visits        | 25,866  | 20,584  | 20,406  | 19,827  |
| No of Hits    | 552,843 | 743,848 | 869,516 | 831,300 |

#### Soundtrail Metrics - AUGUST

| Website Visits: |                                | Sound Walk Data:  |           |       |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------|
|                 |                                | Name              | Downloads | Opens |
| 9               | Aboriginal Diggers             | Apsley Falls      | 11        | 32    |
| 11              | Apsley Falls                   | Bald Rock         | 2         | 11    |
| 8               | Armidale Catholic Precinct     | Bingara           | 4         | 3     |
| 27              | Bald Rock                      | Catholic Precinct | 5         | 6     |
| 14              | Bingara                        | Goonoowigall      | 7         | 27    |
| 22              | Freedom Rides Moree Baths      | Living            | 2         | 2     |
| 63              | Goonoowigall                   | Classroom         | 4         | 2     |
| 76              | Myall Creek                    | Moree Baths       | 6         | 10    |
| 24              | Nambour                        | Moree Cemetery    | 7         | 14    |
| 14              | Nanango                        | Myall Creek       | 7         | 26    |
| 23              | Nimbin                         | Nambour           | 2         | 2     |
| 1               | Scu Cubewalk                   | Nanango           | 1         | 2     |
| 19              | Tenterfield                    | Heritage          | 9         | 29    |
| 10              | The Living Classroom (Bingara) | Nimbin            | 8         | 9     |
| 43              | Uralla                         | Tenterfield       | 4         | 14    |
| 63              | Walcha Sculpture               | Uralla            | 4         | 4     |
| 9               | Walgett                        | Walcha            | 1         | 1     |
| 10              | Warialda                       | Sculpture         | 13        | 37    |
| 28              | Washpool NP                    | Walgett           | 8         | 23    |
| 27              | Wollomombi Falls               | Warialda          |           |       |



|  |  |                                    |            |            |
|--|--|------------------------------------|------------|------------|
|  |  | Washpool NP<br>Wollomombi<br>Falls |            |            |
|  |  | <b>Total</b>                       | <b>105</b> | <b>254</b> |

### **Soundtrails**

You will notice the new New England High Country National Park Soundtrails are now listed in the statistics in the above table. These are live, but have not been officially launched. So by all means download the Soundtrails App and go out to Apsley Falls to enjoy the Walcha's newest Soundtrail, remember to download in town before you leave as there is no service at Apsley Falls. The Soundtrail is GPS located so once downloaded service is not required. We are hoping to engage with Barnaby Joyce MP's office in the near future, to do a joint media release and announcement through their office as the project was federally funded.

### **New England High Country Soundtrails**

An extension to the grant project finish date has been sought and accepted. We applied for this extension due to the promotional aspect of the project being put on hold due to all of the lockdowns. The project finish date is now 31 May 2022 (extended from February 2022) Signage for each project is also currently being designed.

### **Walcha Motorcycle Rally**

A final call will be made in relation to the possibility of the event going ahead or not at a committee meeting on Monday 27 September.

### **Walcha Mountain Festival**

It has been decided by the committee and Council to cancel the 2021 Walcha Mountain Festival. Work is underway in informing people and cancelling stallholders, exhibits, entertainment and micro events.

### **The Visitor Information Centre Closure**

The Information Centre was closed during the COVID Lockdown period (August 9 2021 – September 11 2021). Looking at the statistics table above Walcha really have had a rocky period over the past few years with bushfires, floods and their subsequent cause of extended road closures, COVID lockdown periods.

### **Cycling Tourism – Walcha**

Work is still ongoing in this area with Jorja Creighton and David Waugh mapping routes for us.

**Susie Crawford**  
**Tourism Manager**



## **5. Community Recovery Officer**

**August 2021**

During the second week of August, positive cases were detected in the Armidale LGA. Subsequently the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was activated. The Community Resilience Network for Walcha met on 10 and 17 August 2021 via virtual means and discussed the COVID pandemic in our local area and what each service was noticing in the community and what supports they had in place. The meetings were hugely valuable for providing on the ground updates that could be fed or addressed into the EOC meeting and vice versa, important messaging from the EOC could be dispersed through partnering agencies in the CRN to spread the positive vaccination and testing message. Next meeting for the CRN is scheduled for 31<sup>st</sup> August which is prior to the regular quarterly Local Emergency Management Committee meeting being held virtually 1 September.

Beth McDonald, CRO from Kempsey Council organised a Community Recovery Officer catch up for surrounding close by LGA's to meet in a central area of Dorrigo and share ideas, discuss issues and supports we can share. The couple of hours during the day was a great change and opportunity to meet face-to-face with Beth from Kempsey, Rhiannon from Nambucca Head, Clare from Belligen, Tom from Armidale and Ally from Tenterfield.

I have been assisting the Yarrowitch Community group and Land Managers apply for the Black Summer Bushfire Grant funding to assist with infrastructure upgrades to their community hall and maintenance items and assets, contacting stakeholders on their behalf for support documentation.

Last month we commenced discussions with our local Rural Adversity Mental Health Program coordinators in Tamworth and Armidale about running an online photography event. The theme is finding calm in chaos. During planning of this event, our regions went into lockdown and we thought more than ever, something to engage the community, promote engagement of our services and access would be fitting. The online photography event is supported by Council and DPI Recovery Support and promoted through local Walcha Handmade, photography club and tourism and library departments within Council. The plans were to run photography workshops for participants to learn photography skills although this is currently awaiting COVID restrictions and advice. Plan are to launch the event by end of September.

I had a brief catch up with Jo Palmer from Pointer Remote on the recent COVID lockdown and engaging community and strategies we can use. We came up with a couple of good community engaging technology ideas and using our Remote work Program platform to touch base with and check in on with those that were in our remote working program.

The first of the two Chainsaw courses planned for our Community Resilience Training program (through Bushfire Community Resilience and Recovery Fund (BCRRF)) was scheduled for early July. COVID restrictions and Public Health orders put in place by the NSW Government have hindered the courses being completed. During August, with regular contact to the Trainers and participants on the continued restrictions in place. This is posing some concerns due to the trainers commitments later in the year as courses get pushed back, although we are hopeful the trainer can fit the delivery of these courses into their schedule. There is a large amount of planning and contacting course participants for date changes and venue cancellations.



Community Recovery Officer assistance response to Emergency Operations Centre COVID Response- During this month from the weekend of the 7 August throughout the month, I have sat in virtual meetings involving the LEMC response to the COVID outbreak in the Armidale LGA and standing up of the EOC. Mostly this was in an observing capacity which was extremely beneficial in a personal development skill building capacity. As Walcha Council's LEMO was on annual leave at this time, I sat in on most meetings in conjunction with our General Manager. As the situation unfolded and given the partnering agencies response commitments, I offered to assist the normal minute taker with taking meeting minutes for each morning meeting for the EOC as Armidale Council ran a response meeting each morning as well. We both took minutes on the second meeting of the day due to unstable internet connections. During the middle of the month, the meetings were scaled back to every second day and then weekly more recently. This has been an invaluable experience and one I have benefited from in being able to gain assistance from our Community Resilience Network and feed information through both committees.

I was also able to assist with drafting and reviewing our "Community Action Plan for COVID-19 Delta" submitted through the REMO and LEMC

Planning is continuing with the Wholesome Collective on attending our area to deliver some cooking and nutrition workshops in the Walcha area and outer communities. The Wholesome Collective are booked for the 25-27 October (COVID restrictions pending) to attend Yarrowitch, Walcha Central School for a small schools gathering cooking workshop, and Walcha Community Care.

Walcha Council agreed to use the Disaster Dashboard software through Demonz to be linked into Councils website. Demonz developer Tom Fisher made time to have a quick virtual meeting in the first week of August to go through the "admin" user capabilities and how to individualize our site. Due to other commitments during this month, we are yet to go into the Admin user status to amend some settings in the dashboard-Work in progress.

Black Summer Bushfire Grants- I attended the workshop for the Black Summer Bushfire Grants on Monday 2 August in Armidale. The workshop was delivered by a consultant and not many questions could be answered by either NRRA staff that were present (3) or the speaker. The workshop did not provide any grant writing assistance or "workshop" activities as indicated in their advertisement of the session. Following on from this, NRRA Recovery Officers have not been able to answer any questions or provide any assistance with the grant and refer enquiries onto the business.gov.au hub or to phone the Business. DPI Rural Recovery Support and Community Recovery Officer have been sharing support information packs on the grant, filtering enquires and general community enquiries on project ideas. Most enquiries I have received locally are around eligibility and extension of the closing date which has been granted to October. I am assisting Council with project proposals for submission to this grant. Work in progress.

The Community Recovery Officer (CRO) position has again been crucial in our small rural community in the changing environment COVID is placing on our community. The CRO has been able to assist with minute taking in Emergency Operations Centre, up lining concerns from the Community Resilience Network who are on the ground and providing support and expertise in recovery and information sharing. The CRO has also assisted the community and business community of Walcha with income support access through Service NSW and the sharing of this information. Any planned events in the coming months



continue to be flexible and dictated by the current Health NSW Public Health Orders and lockdown requirements.

**Brooke Jeffery**  
**Community Recovery Officer**



# Item 10:

# Committee Reports

**That Council RECEIVE and NOTE the following Committee Minutes**



Walcha Council  
Capital Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes

held on

Thursday, 16 September 2021

at

9:02am

at

Walcha Council Chambers

**PRESENT:** General Manager Barry Omundson (Chairperson), Mayor Eric Noakes, Cllr Clint Lyon, Cllr Scott Kermode and Manager Corporate & Finance Christian Martin.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Director Infrastructure – Peter Murray, Works Manager – Classified Roads – Dalim Paul, Works Manager – Local Roads, Recreation & Assets – Matthew Targett and Engineering Services Assistant – Anastasia Haling.

**1. APOLOGIES:**

Nil.

Committee Minutes



## **2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEEING MINUTES HELD:**

Not applicable.

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil.

## **4. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

### **4.1 Welcome and Open by Chair**

The General Manager and Chair welcomed all members and tabled the Terms of Reference, which were accepted by the Committee.

### **4.2 Draft Business Cases/Reports/Strategies**

4.2.1 The Off Creek Storage Project was discussed and Chair updated all in relation to the engagement of Hunter H2O in an EPCM (engineering, procurement, construction and management) style basis.

Committee Member Manager Corporate & Finance presented the new process agreed with the General Manager to be undertaken for ALL projects and commencing immediately. All Committee members considered the detailed and comprehensive process as both necessary and a vast improvement upon current project management practices.

#### 4.2.2 Levee Bank Lighting – Works Manager – Local Roads, Recreation & Assets

1. Chair expressed concern for the report as it had not addressed matters that had been required to be addressed.
2. A Report to Council is to be presented outlining primary purpose of the lighting grant.

#### 4.2.3 Thunderbolts Way Strategy – Works Manager – Classified Roads

1. Chair commented upon a good report that had encapsulated set reporting requirements.
2. Mayor Noakes sought to understand if we had been sealing the road during the weather conditions below 10 degrees. Works Manager explained that on occasions this occurs given time allocated to actually undertake the work.
3. The Advisory Committee noted that Thunderbolts Way was recognised and set as a high priority for year one in the recent Strategic Directions Setting Workshop and as such Staff should prioritise.

### **4.3 Road to Completion**

#### 4.3.1 Truck Wash Facility

1. The Advisory Committee expressed concern for a failure to get value for money in terms of project management of this project and other projects by external service providers. Committee members could not comprehend the actual costs allocated thus far from a project that is not on budget or time.





2. Director Infrastructure indicated that his view was value for money had been obtained on what was a difficult project to be engaged on mid-way through the actual project.

#### 4.3.2 Blue Hogan Bridge

1. The Advisory Committee considered it a failure of the project manager to not have bought an update and or scoping decisions on this project to Councillors, and consequently significant time has elapsed and the safety issue remains.
2. Chairman to write to Transport NSW for installation of safety railing.

### 4.4 Reports on Post Construction Success Against Budget & Other Parameters

#### 4.4.1 Independent Review of Projects

1. The Independent Review on several projects undertaken by Murray Russell was tabled and discussed at length. This included independent review of several recent bridge projects and the Truck Wash Bay project.
2. The review found a '*fundamental project management breakdown*', particularly so for the Truck Wash Bay and Old Brookmount Road bridge over Emu Creek. The latter was described by Mr Russell as a '*very poor engineering outcome*'.
3. The Chair commented that there are many lessons to learn and now having a more comprehensive process up front would provide more assurance of better project delivery.

#### 4.4.2 Lowanna Bridge

1. After significant discussion the Chair suggested that this project like many others could have been improved by regular communication with Councillors in terms of design, scope and project finance, which is now to happen through the Capital Advisory Committee.
2. The Chair also outlined his discussions with Senior Engineers and General Manager of Tamworth Regional Council and the option for Walcha Staff to contact and seek advice on matters outside our experience and or technical ability.

#### 4.4.3 Pathway Projects to date

1. The Chair asked for a detailed workshop with Council with maps so as to outline the overall strategy and timing.

### 4.5 Review Funding Milestones

#### 4.5.1 Cash Flow check

1. Everyone agreed to the new process for financial budgeting and projects.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 1:20PM.**



# Item 11:

# Delegate Reports

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

**MINUTES OF THE WALCHA AUSTRALIA DAY COMMITTEE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE WALCHA COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 5 JULY 2021 COMMENCING AT 7:30PM**

**PRESENT:** Aurora Reilly, James Reilly, Margaret Wellings, Don Murchie

**APOLOGIES:** Lorna Egli, Eric O’Keefe, Pauline Levingston, Anne Modernno, Coral Westfold , Lloyd Levingston, Linda Ballard, Di Bazeley, Anne Young, Barry Omundson

**MINUTES:**

**RESOLVED:** On the motion of Margaret Wellings and Don Murchie that the minutes of the Walcha Australia Day Committee Annual General Meeting held on 6 July 2020 be confirmed as a true record.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Aurora Reilly presented the attached report.

**RESOLVED:** On the motion of Aurora Reilly that the President's report be adopted and published in the Apsley Advocate. Seconded Margaret Wellings. Passed unanimously

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Not tabled

**ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2020/2021**

All positions were declared vacant.

**RESOLVED:** By acclamation that the office bearers for 2021/22 are

|           |                                     |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| President | Aurora Reilly                       |
| Secretary | James Reilly                        |
| Treasurer | Barry Omundson appointed by council |

Meeting was cut short due to COVID 19 restrictions

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7:46 pm.

Aurora Reilly  
President

## New England Renewable Energy Zone Regional Reference Group

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Location:</b>      | MS Teams – virtual due to lockdown requirements                                      |
| <b>Date and time:</b> | Tuesday 24 August 2021 - 9:30am to 12:00pm   |
| <b>Host:</b>          | Energy Corporation of NSW  |
| <b>Chair:</b>         | Mike Young, Executive Director - Planning & Communities<br>Energy Corporation of NSW |

### Actions

| No. | Issue                                     | Action  | Responsible |
|-----|---|---|-------------|
| 1   | Terms of Reference (TOR)                  | Action for note: TOR are now adopted  | Secretariat |
| 2   | Meeting papers                            | Secretariat to distribute presentation slides to the group.   | Secretariat |
| 3   | Communique                                | Secretariat to distribute high level meeting notes to the group (contained at Appendix 1).  | Secretariat |
| 4   | Mapping Description                       | EnergyCo to contact Peter Sniekers to discuss his comments and experience on how mapping is described in the declaration process    | EnergyCo    |
| 5   | Local Government engagement on REZ design | EnergyCo to offer and facilitate sessions with each local council to provide feedback into the REZ geographical location and design | EnergyCo    |
| 6   | Next meeting                              | Secretariat to circulate a placeholder for Meeting 3 in October /November 2021.   | All         |

### Minutes

High level meeting notes have been prepared for circulation to the group and are attached at Appendix 1.

### Summary of group feedback

#### REZ design consideration of potential impacts

The attendees discussed options to refine the New England REZ geographical area to capture additional ROI projects without increasing the potential for impacts to important agricultural land or land with high biodiversity or conservation value.

The attendees broadly endorsed the refined geographical area and accepted an offer for EnergyCo to offer meetings with individual councils to discuss the refined geographical area in further detail.

#### REZ transmission to capture community considerations

The attendees suggested that network infrastructure including transmission lines should be designed to maximise the use of public land, such as Crown Lands, for easements.

The preference to avoid prime agricultural land whenever possible was also voiced as an important concern by multiple attendees, citing the need to consider the cost and angst to the community, when planning transmission line locations.

General feedback from the attendees is that the current mapping considerations for REZ boundary and REZ transmission design are a positive start specifically the BSAL layer, however mapping should be expanded to include consideration of irrigation/ cropping land and soil capability classes.

In terms of transmission design the attendees suggested that lines should run along property boundaries where possible, to avoid property fragmentation and minimise disturbance to property owners. Land use planning should consider other alternatives including the cost of the alternative routes and then make an informed decision on the proposed route.

## Compensation

The attendees discussed compensation values for transmission line host landholders, noting the difference compared to wind turbine payment amounts. The attendees raised that compensation could be structured in line with the structure of annual rental payments by wind farm developers (smaller annual amounts vs one large upfront payment), to provide landholders with ongoing income streams to mitigate drought impacts. Adequate levels of compensation were flagged as being 'really helpful' for community and landholder acceptance of transmission infrastructure.

## Energy Co community presence / ongoing engagement

The attendees highlighted the value of local community consultation and presence (such as a community information centre with dedicated staff in Armidale) within New England REZ. A community presence was cited as a means of improving social license and relieving some of the pressures on local council resources. The attendees also sought clear consultation objectives and timeframes to ensure that communication is open and targeted with a clear end date.

## Benefit Sharing

The attendees requested that benefit sharing fund governance arrangements include representation from local councils, as this ensure that the long-term maintenance of projects/ programs is considered. Additionally, attendees confirmed that any benefit sharing scheme should focus on legacy projects that promote long term business and economic growth in New England REZ, as opposed to previous funds that focused on infrastructure. Attendees discussed how VPA's and the benefit sharing scheme would interact and there was strong sentiment that local governments should have representation. Further, attendees raised that there may be issues with ensuring that consolidated funds maintain nexus between the impacted community and projects generating impacts. This would likely help manage social licence within the community. Additionally, attendees noted issues with project proponents managing community funds.

## Additional Items

The attendees discussed potential community focused policies such as safeguards to prevent corporate entities changing throughout the project development process.

The attendees discussed the importance of First Nations community representation in relation to access fee considerations and the opportunities, implementation and distribution of benefits. Attendees also noted that First Nations communities should be afforded sufficient time to activate their community and match potential jobs with identified positions.

## Next meeting

To be scheduled for late October or November.

## Attendees

### Members of Parliament

- The Hon. Adam Marshall MP, Member for Northern Tablelands, Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW

### Chairperson

- Mike Young, Executive Director, Planning & Communities

### Energy Corporation of NSW

- Mike Young, Executive Director, Planning & Communities
- Andrew Kingsmill, Executive Director, Technical
- Chloe Hicks, Director Energy Infrastructure & Zones
- Matthew Sprott, Director Planning & Policy
- Jade Walden, Senior Project & Policy Officer
- Jamie Fermio, Senior Project Officer & Policy
- Dan Silburn-Evans, Manager Strategic Engagement

### NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment

- Rodney O'Brien, Group Leader, Crown Lands
- Danny Young, Area Manager North West, Crown Lands
- Iwan Davies Team Leader, Energy Resource Assessment

### Uralla Shire Council

- Kate Jessep, General Manager

### Walcha Council

- Eric Noakes, Mayor
- Barry Omundson General Manager

### Inverell Shire Council

- Anthony Alliston, Manager Development Services

### Tamworth Regional Council

- Col Murray, Mayor

### Tenterfield Shire Council

- Tamai Davidson, Manager Planning and Development Services

### Glen Innes Severn Shire Council

- Craig Bennett, General Manager
- Graham Price, Director Development, Regulatory and Sustainability Services
- Keith Appleby, Director Infrastructure Services

### Armidale Regional Council

- James Roncon, General Manager
- Will Winter, Program Leader - Grants, Economic and Business Development

### National Indigenous Australian Agency

- Kathy Rowe, Advisor

### Northern Region, NSW Aboriginal Land Council

- Charles Lynch, Deputy Chairperson
- Sam Gilchrist, Manager Economic Development

### TransGrid

- Brad Hopwood, Project Director – CWO REZ

### Essential Energy

- Chantelle Bramley, General Manager, Strategy, Regulation and Corporate Affairs

### Department of Regional NSW

- Peter Sniekers, Business Development Manager, New England & North West

### NSW Department of Primary Industries

- Tamara Prentice, Manager Agricultural Land Use Planning

## Appendix 1 – Meeting 2 Communique

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting of the **BOARD OF NAMOI JOINT ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS TRADING AS NAMOI UNLIMITED** held on **TUESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2021** commencing at 12.55pm to 2.00pm online.

**1. WELCOME, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND/OR PRAYER**

Councillor Jamie Chaffey, Chairperson and Mayor Gunnedah Shire Council welcomed members and guests to the meeting. The Chairperson also acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the country of the Kamilaroi. The Chairperson paid respects to Elders past, present and future.

| MEMBERS                    |                                | PRESENT | APOLOGY |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Cr Jamie Chaffey           | Gunnedah Shire Council         | ✓       |         |
| Cr John Coulton            | Gwydir Shire Council           |         | ✓       |
| Cr Doug Hawkins            | Liverpool Plains Shire Council | ✓       |         |
| Cr Col Murray              | Tamworth Regional Council      | ✓       |         |
| Cr Eric Noakes             | Walcha Council                 | ✓       |         |
| Craig Jenkins              | NSW Government                 | ✓       |         |
| NON-VOTING REPRESENTATIVES |                                |         |         |
| Eric Groth                 | Gunnedah Shire Council         | ✓       |         |
| Max Eastcott               | Gwydir Shire Council           |         | ✓       |
| Joanne Sangster            | Liverpool Plains Shire Council | ✓       |         |
| Paul Bennett               | Tamworth Regional Council      |         | ✓       |
| Barry Omundson             | Walcha Council                 | ✓       |         |
| Rebel Thomson              | Namoi Unlimited                | ✓       |         |
| BY INVITATION              |                                |         |         |
| Jodie Healy                | NSW Office of Local Government | ✓       |         |

**MOTION** THAT, the meeting commences earlier than advised on the agenda.

AMENDED

MOVED: Tamworth Regional Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED





**NAMOI**  
**UNLIMITED**

*Premier agricultural region in Australia*

## 2. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MOTION THAT, applications for a leave of absence and apologies for the 7 September 2021 Board Meeting are accepted.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Walcha Council

SECONDED: Tamworth Regional Council

CARRIED

COMMENTARY: Apologies for this meeting have been received from:

- Paul Bennett, Tamworth Regional Council

## 3. PUBLIC FORUM AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

## 4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MOTION That, the minutes of the meeting held 3 August 2021 are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Tamworth Regional Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

## 5. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Nil.

## 6. CHAIRPERSON MINUTE

Nil.

## 7. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Nil.

## 8. NOTICE OF MOTION OF RESCISSION

Nil.

## 9. STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES

### 9.1 Member Value Report

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| MOTION | That, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. The Report from Namoi Unlimited for the 2020-2021 financial year is NOTED.</li> <li>II. Member Councils present the report to Councils.</li> <li>III. A copy of the report is provided to Local Members of Parliament in NSW and to the Minister for Local Government.</li> </ol> |
|--------|---|

ENDORSED

MOVED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

SECONDED: Tamworth Regional Council

CARRIED

ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY: The Chair expressed thanks to the Executive Officer for the preparation of the report. The ability to be able to present the activities of the Joint Organisation in a report, and provide that to fellow Councillors and the community is appreciated.

## 10. ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP

### 10.1 Additional Advocacy from Members

Nil.

### 10.2 Section 60 Local Government Act

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| MOTION | That, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Members endorse the briefing for public distribution.</li> <li>II. Correspondence is sent to the Minister for Water and the Minister for Health regarding the future opportunity for recycled water in communities and the outcomes of this project.</li> <li>III. Correspondence is sent to the Minister for Local Government and the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Local Government regarding the process for the use of recycled water for Councils.</li> <li>IV. Correspondence is sent to the President of Local Government NSW and the Chief Executive Officer.</li> <li>V. Correspondence is sent to the Chairperson and Executive Officer of the NSW Water Directorate.</li> </ol> |
|--------|---|

- VI. Copies of correspondence is sent to The Hon Kevin Anderson MP – Minister for Better Regulation.
- VII. Copies of correspondence and advocacy for assistance is sought from local members in the NSW Parliament.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Walcha Council

SECONDED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

CARRIED

### 10.3 Council Compliance Levy's

- MOTION That members endorse the briefing and:
- I. Write to the Hon Rob Stokes, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces and express on behalf of Councils disappointment at the lack of consultation with the sector on this matter;
  - II. Request that the decision be reversed;
  - III. The State Government implement a two (2) year moratorium on the removal of the Compliance levy for all Councils, to enable a transition to any new scheme;
  - IV. Copies of correspondence is sent to NSW Members of Parliament for Tamworth, Upper Hunter and Barwon, and seeking their support to intervene.
  - V. Copies of correspondence are sent to the NSW Minister for Local Government.
  - VI. Copies of correspondence are sent to the President and Chief Executive Officer of Local Government NSW.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Tamworth Regional Council

SECONDED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

CARRIED

### 10.4 Export Issues Advocacy

- RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD: That,
- I. The members support the position of advocacy,

- II. Correspondence is sent to Commonwealth and State Ministers for Regional NSW, agriculture, transport and export,
- III. Copies of the correspondence and the briefing paper are provided to Commonwealth and State Members of Parliament across the Namoi region.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Tamworth Regional Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

### 10.5 NSW Joint Organisation Submission – NSW Regional Housing Taskforce

**MOTION** That, the positions outlined in the NSW Joint Organisation Submission to the NSW Regional Housing Taskforce are endorsed by Namoi Unlimited.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Tamworth Regional Council

SECONDED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

CARRIED

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY:** Tamworth Regional Council strongly supported the positions of advocacy, the issue of housing and availability of housing in regions is an issue that effects all Councils in the Joint Organisation. City residents have an appetite for moving into the regions, and positions are supported by advocacy from individual Councils, Regional Capitals NSW and Regional Capitals Australia.

## 11. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS

### 11.1 Action List

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

ENDORSED

MOVED: Walcha Council

SECONDED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

CARRIED

### 11.2 Calendar of Planned Activities

MOTION THAT the calendar of activities is noted.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Walcha Council

SECONDED: Tamworth Regional Council

CARRIED

ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY: The Chair requested that asked the Executive Officer to schedule a meeting for October to deal with the financial statements and Annual Performance Report for this Board of the Joint Organisation.

### 11.3 Correspondence

MOTION That the correspondence is NOTED.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Tamworth Regional Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

### 11.4 Draft Financial Statement 2020-2021

MOTION That in relation to the report "2020/2021 General Purpose Financial Reports for Audit" for the period ending 30 June 2021, Namoi Unlimited:

- (i) resolve to present the Audited General Purpose Financial Reports, together with the Auditors Reports at a Public Meeting on a date to be determined, in accordance with Section 419 (1) of the Local Government Act 1993;
- (ii) record as an opinion of Namoi Unlimited pursuant to Section 413 (2c) of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (as amended), that the General Purpose Financial Reports for Namoi Joint Organisation for the period ending 30 June 2021:
  - (a) have been prepared in accordance with:
    - the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended) and Regulations made thereafter;
    - the Australian Accounting Standards and professional pronouncements; and

- the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting;
- (b) the General Purpose Financial Report presents fairly Namoi Unlimited’s operating result and financial position for the year;
- (c) the General Purpose Financial Report accords with Tamworth Regional Council’s accounting and other records; and
- (d) the signatories are not aware of anything that would make the General Purpose Financial Report false or misleading in any way;

ENDORSED

MOVED: Tamworth Regional Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

CARRIED

ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY: The members asked that the Executive Officer convey their thanks to Tamworth Regional Council for completing the financial reports.

The members congratulated the Executive Officer, the General Managers and Councils for their support in managing the affairs of the organisation.

The Chair conveyed his thanks to all of the member Councils for the contribution to the organisation, and asked Jodie Healy to pass on thanks to the Local Government Minister and the department for the Capacity Building funding which has enabled the Joint Organisation to undertake some of these initiatives.

**11.5 Annual Budget**

MOTION That the members endorse the annual budget.

ENDORSED

MOVED: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

SECONDED: Walcha Council

**12. REPORTS FROM DELEGATES**

Nil.

**13. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

Nil.



**14. CLOSED REPORTS**

Nil.

**15. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING**

Meeting closed at 1.23pm.



# Item 12:

# Questions with Notice





# Item 13:

# Referral to Closed Council Meeting



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**Item:** 13A **Ref:** WO/2021/03931  
**Title:** Referral to Closed Meeting – Request for Reduction on Water Charges  
**Author:** General Manager  
**Previous Items:** Nil.  
**Attachment:** Nil.

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**RECOMMENDATION:** 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).

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**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).



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**Item:** 13B **Ref:** WO/2021/03907  
**Title:** Referral to Closed Meeting – Off-Creek Water Storage  
**Author:** General Manager  
**Previous Items:** Nil.  
**Attachment:** Nil.

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**RECOMMENDATION:** 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.

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**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 10A (2)(c) of the Local Government Act, 1993.

Approval to refer the matters to Closed Council is sought because 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.