



GWYDIR
SHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Held on 16 November 2023

Commencing at 9:00 am

in the Warialda Office Council Chambers

Present

Members: Cr John Coulton (Mayor), Cr Marilyn Dixon OAM, Cr Jim Moore, Cr Geoff Smith, Cr David Coulton and Cr Lyndon Mulligan

Staff: Leeah Daley (Acting General Manager), Mr Alex Eddy (Director of Engineering Services), Helen Thomas (Manager Finance), Bronwyn Wilson (Executive Assistant),

Public:

Visitors: Mr Peter Westerhuis (CEO) Clara Resources Australia Limited and Mr Rick Walker (Exploration Manager) Clara Resources Australia Limited.

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1 OFFICIAL OPENING AND WELCOME - MAYOR

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cr Catherine Egan, Cr Chris Matthews, Cr Tiffany Galvin and Max Eastcott.

3 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

THAT the Minutes of the Public Infrastructure Committee held on 13 July 2023 as circulated be taken as read and CONFIRMED.

(Moved Cr Smith, Seconded Cr Dixon OAM)

CARRIED

For: Cr J Coulton, Cr D Coulton, Cr Moore and Cr Mulligan

Against: Nil

4 PRESENTATION

Ashford Coking Coal Project

Clara Resources Australia Limited

Mr Peter Westerhuis (CEO)

Mr Rick Walton (Exploration Manager)

5 CALL FOR THE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, GIFTS RECEIVED AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

6 ADDITIONAL/LATE ITEMS

File Reference: NA

Delivery Program

Goal: 5. Organisational Management

Outcome: 2.1 Our economy is growing and supported

Strategy: 2.1.1 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

Author: Alexander Eddy, Director of Engineering Services

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

This report recommends the engagement of Morris Piper Consulting to submit an application to the Australian Government's Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program to assist with progressing Council's biodigester, greenhouse and ethanol plant project (Warialda Circular Economy Project).

TABLED ITEMS Nil

BACKGROUND

The Australian Government's \$400 million regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (rPPP) is now open for applications.

The rPPP seeks to support transformative investment in regional, rural and remote Australia based on the principles of unifying regional places, growing economies and serving communities. Unlike traditional grant programs, the rPPP will focus on a partnership approach, bringing together governments and communities to deliver regional precincts that are tailored to local needs and have a shared vision for how that precinct connects to the region.

The rPPP is an always open grants process that will provide funding through two grant streams to support both precinct development proposals and the delivery of construction-ready precinct projects.

- **Stream One: Precinct development and planning.** Grants of between \$500,000 to \$5 million will be available for master planning, consultation, design, business cases and partnership establishment.
- **Stream Two: Precinct delivery.** Grants of between \$5 million and \$50 million will be available to help deliver one or more elements of a precinct. It could be enabling infrastructure (roads, pathways, underground infrastructure), public infrastructure, or open spaces between elements or a particular building that activates other investment.

COMMENT

While significant progress has been made developing the business case for the Circular Economy Project, capital is required to further develop master planning and design, along with fine tuning of the business case for the project to reach a stage where it becomes attractive to external investors, to ultimately raise capital for the construction of the project. This is anticipated to require as much as \$400million.

The Circular Economy Project appears to be a good fit for the rPPP, with the project at a suitable stage to seek funding under Stream One. To provide the best chance of receiving money from this program, it is recommended that a specialist consultancy is engaged to develop the application.

Council staff and elected representatives recently met with Morris Piper Consultants, who have provided a fee proposal for an application amounting to \$7,200 excluding GST.

CONCLUSION

The rPPP appears to be an ideal funding stream to further develop the business case and other elements of the Circular Economy Project. Morris Piper are considered to be suitably skilled and experienced to submit a competitive application to the program, and \$7,200 represents value for money for their services.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council engages Morris Piper Consultants to prepare an application to the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program Stream 1 for the Warialda Circular Economy Project for the sum of \$7,200 excluding GST.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

THAT the following Item namely:

Regional Precincts and Partnership Program is accepted as a late Item to this Agenda for discussion.

(Moved Cr Dixon OAM, Seconded Cr Mulligan)

CARRIED

For: Cr J Coulton, Cr D Coulton, Cr Moore and Cr Smith

Against: Nil

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

THAT Council engages Morris Piper Consultants to prepare an application to the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program Stream 1 for the Warialda Circular Economy Project for the sum of \$7,200 excluding GST.

(Moved Cr Smith, Seconded Cr Dixon OAM)

CARRIED

For: Cr J Coulton, Cr D Coulton, Cr Moore and Cr Mulligan

Against: Nil

216/15 Irving Street
 Phillip, ACT, 2606
 Email: office@morrispiper.com
 ABN: 58646584616



SERVICE QUOTE #GSC001

Prepared For

Gwydir Shire Council (GSC)
 36 Linsley Street
 COBAR NSW 2835

Invoice Details

Prepared Date
 8 November 2023
 Expiry Date
 6 December 2023

The quotation relates to the provision of grant writing services to GSC by Morris Piper (MP) for the preparation and submission of one (1) application under the *Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program - Stream 1: Precinct development and planning*. Services to be provided are outlined below, noting this is not an exhaustive list and additional tasks may be negotiated during the course of the engagement.

Deliverables

Preparation and submission of one (1) application for funding under the rPPP, with works including:

- Project exploration and scoping
- Drafting of submission and supplementary documentation, including stakeholder engagement and information gathering
- Confirmation of submission including any relevant changes with GSC
- Submission to be completed as soon as practicable and as negotiated with GSC

Note: service time quoted is the upper limit, Refer to T&C point 4

Quantity

4 Days

Daily Rate

\$1,800

Sub Total

\$7,200

GST

\$720

Total (GST inc)

\$7,920

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THIS QUOTATION IS SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING T&C'S:

This quotation may be accepted to form a binding contract upon signature below for the items listed in this quote prior to the expiration date.

1. Delivery of our services is subject to access to relevant information from GSC and key project stakeholders (if relevant), for the purpose of completing the required documents. Please note, this will require an active point of contact with access to all relevant information required for the purposes of delivering upon the project scope. Information is required to be provided in a timely manner.
2. Travel, accommodation and specialist advice (such as accounting, legal, etc.) costs may be incurred for specific tasks. These additional costs will be quoted and agreed on a case-by-case basis only.
3. Client requested changes or amendments to the services agreed may result in additional fees. Additional fees will be negotiated as required. Continued pricing for additional days in excess of agreed arrangements will be applied at the rate of \$1,800 (ex GST) per day.
4. MP will only charge for work undertaken and should MP services be delivered under the estimated timeframe; MP will only charge for the time spent on the delivery of the service.
5. Work to commence on written acceptance of this Service Quote and be completed as soon as practicable, noting the program is open on a continual basis until the funding is exhausted.
6. An invoice will be generated at the end of the engagement with standard 14 day payment terms applying unless otherwise agreed.

AGREED AND ACCEPTED:

Signature	Name
Title	Date

Commercial-in-Confidence

Thank you for your business.

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Key Information: regional Precincts and Partnerships Program

September 2023

General

- In the October 2022-23 Budget, the Australian Government announced the regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, which has been allocated \$400 million over three years from 2023-24.
- The regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (the rPPP) opened for applications on [24 August 2023](#), with the Grant Opportunity Guidelines available on the [Department's website](#), [GrantConnect](#) and [business.gov.au](#).
- The rPPP is an open, non-competitive (ie always open) grants process that will support both the development and delivery of precincts across regional, rural and remote Australia.
- The Australian Government also announced the urban Precincts and Partnerships Program (uPPP) as part of the 2023-24 Budget, which is currently in the design phase. Together, the rPPP and uPPP will work to deliver precincts across the nation.
- Queries on the rPPP's application process can be directed to the Business Grants Hub at regionalprecincts@industry.gov.au or 13 28 46.

Types of grants available

- The rPPP has [two grants](#) streams to support both developing and delivering precincts.
 - **Stream One: Precinct development and planning**
Grants between \$500,000 and \$5 million are available for master planning, consultation, design, business cases and partnership establishment.
 - **Stream Two: Precinct delivery**
Grants between \$5 million and \$50 million are available to help deliver one or more elements of a precinct. For example enabling infrastructure (roads, pathways, underground infrastructure), public infrastructure, open spaces between elements, or a particular building that activates other investment.

Eligibility

- Applications can be submitted at any time and are open to state, territory and local governments, regional universities (which may be for-profit), and incorporated not-for-profit organisations.
- The proposed precinct must be located in a regional, rural or remote location, delineated as entirely outside the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Greater Capital City Statistical Areas (GCCSA).
- Applicants are required to demonstrate in the assessment criteria how they will contribute to the successful delivery of the project, including through co-contribution.

Precincts and partnerships

- Regional precincts or 'places of purpose' are user-defined geographic areas with a specific shared need or theme. The program does not limit the type of precinct that can be considered for funding.
- As part of the program, eligible applicants are encouraged to partner with key community groups to jointly deliver the project, including but not limited to First Nations groups, private enterprise, Regional Development Australia committees and community organisations.

Grant assessment

- As an open grants program there are no closure dates for funding rounds, applications can be submitted at any time and will be batched for assessment twice during the financial year.
- An Independent Expert Panel will undertake the merit assessment, assessing applications against assessment criteria. The Panel's assessment, along with policy considerations, will inform the Department's recommendations to the Minister who will then decide which grants to approve.
- Subject to the pace of application submission, we expect that the first tranche of successful grants will be announced in early 2024.

7 OFFICERS' REPORTS

7.1 Technical Services

File Reference: NA

Delivery Program

Goal: 5. Organisational Management

Outcome: 2.1 Our economy is growing and supported

Strategy: 2.1.1 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

Author: Alexander Eddy, Director of Engineering Services

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

This report is for reception.

TABLED ITEMS Nil

BACKGROUND

The Monthly Technical Services report has been identified by Council as the process of reporting the activities carried out monthly by the Technical Services Department.

COMMENT

IB Bore Road Upgrade

Works continue on the SR9 IB Bore Road upgrade near North Star this month. This project is jointly funded by the Fixing Country Roads Program (\$9.54m), and the Federal Government's Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program (\$2m). Work continues with 10.5 km of the 20km project bitumen sealed. Culverts have been installed as low flow structures near a new causeway, where earthworks are underway.



*SR9 IB Bore Road***County Boundary Road Upgrade**

Works continue on the SR41 County Boundary Road upgrade near Crooble. The project is jointly funded by the Federal Government's Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) Program (\$9,75 million) with Council contributing an additional \$2.44 million.

Road construction by Council staff is now well underway with stabilisation of the subgrade on the first 3 km section from the Croppa Moree Road to the south now complete. Base course material is currently being carted on this section.

Getta Getta Road Resheeting

The Getta Getta Road resheeting project, funded by the Fixing Local Roads Program, is well underway with 15km of the 20.9km project sealed, and a further 5km carted. Crushing and stabilising works continue. Plant breakdowns on this project have slowed progress, however the project is expected to be completed before December 30 2023.

Grant Funded Footpaths

Footpath works continued this month after a short break due to contractor staffing issues. Minor works still remain on Long Street, with only one pram ramp to be completed. The Reedy Creek footpath has now been completed and footpath works in Riddell Street, Bingara have commenced. Works have also started with a second contractor, constructing the new access road along Reedy Creek, from Market Street to Hall Street. These works are expected to be completed early in November 2023.



Naroo footpath under construction in Warialda

Maintenance

General maintenance continues on Regional and State roads, including vegetation control, slashing, whipper snipping and spraying of guideposts and guard rails and sign maintenance.

Seal maintenance is ongoing on all State, Regional and Local Roads as potholes continue to develop. Crews continue on Riddell Street stormwater repair/replacement and associated works replacing kerb and guttering.

Maintenance crews have also continued working on extending storm water pipes to the new buildings along Plunkett Street, Warialda. Driveways have been formed up

and poured with driveway to be sealed in the beginning of November. Street sweeping has also been carried out this month.

Through October crews attended two motor vehicle accidents, one on the Bingara Road with the second at the intersection of Finch and East Street, Bingara.

Staff assisted RFS with fires on Pallal, Killarney Gap, Sheep Station Creek and Baroma Roads in October.



Plunkett Street, Warialda

Maintenance Grading

During October maintenance grading was carried out on the following roads

- Trevallyn Road
- Back Creek Road
- Munsies Road
- Mosquito Creek Road
- Gragin Road
- Langley Road
- Glenesk Road
- Innesvale Road
- Toolimbah Road

Flood Damage

Throughout October, Flood damage crews completed work on a 2.7km section of road on SR18 Gineroi Road, 900m on SR286 Sonoma Road and are currently working on SR267 Cumble Road repairing 80m of damage and formation grading and drainage over the 5km. A second crew have completed formation grading and drainage works on SR63 Gil Gil Creek Road and are currently working on table drain

maintenance on SR14 Mosquito Creek Road and formation grading of its unsealed section.



SR63 Gil Gil Creek Road



SR13 Mosquito Creek Road

Contractors ATJ's Earthworks have completed 2.7km of formation grading and 900m of damage repairs on SR103 Ravenscraig Road. They continue to work on SR44 Boundary Creek Road, resheeting a 2.6km section of damaged pavement.



SR103 Ravenscraig Road



SR44 Boundary Creek Road

Council continues to value add to contracted flood damage restoration works wherever possible, by extending works using existing, Council funded maintenance budgets.

Flood damage work has been completed on the following roads:

SR67 Agincourt Road – 3.0km

SR45 Bereen Road – 6.0km

SR62 Hibernia Road – 12.0km

SR54 Pinecliff Road – 4.5km

SR97 Sadowa Road – 0.8km

SR99 Terreege Road – 3.4km (including 0.3km of new seal)

SR14 Mosquito Creek Road at Racecourse Creek

SR21 Terry Hie Hie Road – 1.2km

SR68 Goat Road – 6.0km

SR16 Trevallyn Road – 6.5km

SR34 Bonanza Road – 3.0km
SR82 Kirewa Road – 1.5km
SR69 Tucka Tucka Road – 2.5km
SR72 Scotts Road – 1.7km
SR61 Peates Road – 8km
SR42 Mungle Road – 8km
SR31 Eulourie Road – 2.4km (North of SR32 Pallal Road, 1.2km remaining)
SR32 Pallal Road – 2km
SR55 Moreena Mail Road – 4.2km (0.9km remaining)
SR76 Bristol Lane – 8km
SR92 Killarney Gap Road – 0.5km Resheeting & 6km maintenance grading
SR262 Nunga Road – 3.5km
SR30 Caroda Road – 10.6km
SR71 Mt Jerrybang Road – 2.6km
SR49 Michell Lane – 4km
SR12 Upper Whitlow Road – 2.4km
SR19 Whitlow Road – 2km
SR119 Woodburn/ Emello Road – 2.8km
SR50 Thornleigh Road – 3.7km
SR51 Towarra Road – 2.3km
SR60 Pound Creek Road – 2km
SR76 Bristol Road – 8km
SR13 Oregon Road – Culvert Replaced
SR3 Elcombe Road – Culvert Washout
SR105 Fairweather Road – 0.7km
SR106 Flemmings Road – 0.3km
SR43 Buckie Road – 1.5km
SR93 Sheepstation Creek Road – 6km
SR20 Gravesend Road – 15km
SR41 County Boundary Road – 4.2km
SR1 Copeton Dam Road – 3888m² Heavy Patching
SR2 Bingara Road – 924m² Heavy Patching
MR133 Killarney Gap Road – 5525m² Heavy Patching
SR89 Glenarthur Road – 3.5km
SR34 River Road – 3km
SR57 Currangandi Road – 3.55km

SR205 Singapore Road – 2km
SR102 Nourmea Road – 4km
SR116 Forest Road – 2.7km
SR64 Gournama Road – 1km
SR63 Gil Gil Crk Rd 20.0km Formation grading
SR18 Gineroi Rd 2.7km
SR286 Sonoma Rd 900m
SR103 Ravenscraig Rd New causeway, 2.7km formation grade

Roads Maintenance Council Contract – Works Orders issued by TfNSW

All Work Orders issued by Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) are quality assurance schedule of rates projects carried out by Council staff under the Roads Maintenance Council Contract with TfNSW

The ‘Hollymount’ Rehabilitation Project, segment 6120 on MR63 Fossickers Way continues this month, with the smaller box culvert units now installed and the wingwalls formed up for pouring. All shoulder widening works have now been completed, with 700m of sub-base now mixed and recompacted, ready for testing. Once tested, a 150mm base layer will be spread and compacted, ready for sealing. Works are scheduled for completion by the end of November 2023.

Heavy patching is scheduled to start immediately after the Hollymount rehabilitation project. Roadwork Industries have been selected to complete this year’s bitumen spray sealing program on state roads and are expected to start once heavy patching works have been completed.

Routine maintenance continues each week undertaking inspections, rest area services, vegetation control and bitumen repairs.

Asset Protection Zone Maintenance

Contractors have completed the first round of slashing works for the season on the APZ around Warialda. Extreme fire risk conditions have made progress slow as contractors are not permitted to slash during total fire bans. The next round of works are scheduled for December pending favourable weather and site conditions.

Water and Sewer

Water and Sewerage operators carried out routine operational tasks and attended 19 service line repairs, repaired 3 water main breaks, attended 4 sewer blockages and repaired 1 sewer main during October. Staff also replaced 2 water meters during the reporting period.

Regular weekly tasks carried out by Water and Sewerage staff include water testing, grounds maintenance at the water treatment plants, reservoirs, both sewerage treatment plants, sewer pump stations, Warialda truck wash and truck wash ponds.

Other work was undertaken at Plunkett Street Units, Gravesend Recreation Ground and Moffatt Park, Warialda Caravan Park, Apex Park, Cunningham Park, CWA Park, Bingara and Warialda cemeteries.

A new solar system was installed at the Bingara Water Treatment Plant in October. The system consist of 160 x 455w solar panels generating 72.45kW with a 82kW Inverter. The capital costs of the system was \$78,000.00 estimated energy saving should see this system repaid in 5 years.



New solar panels on Bingara Water Treatment Plant



Solar system at Bingara Water Treatment Plant

North and East Bingara Sewer Extension

Contractors have been operating out of a temporary depot at the Bingara Sewerage Treatment Plant since 1st May 2023.

At 31 October, all street mains in East and North Bingara have been installed, along with 86 pump station units and 91 property connections (including five vacant lots). The Old Keera Road and Copeton Dam Road section will start to be connected to the system during the first week of November. The contractors will bring houses online in the following street order:

- Copeton Dam Road
- Old Keera Road
- Gwydir Street
- Bligh Street
- East Street
- White Street
- Brigalow Street
- Salter Street
- Bassett Street
- Rosehill Drive

All houses in the system were sent notification letters that their septic systems will need to be decommissioned.

The contractor aims to be completed by 22nd December 2023.

Warialda Truck Wash

The truck wash facility was used by 102 trucks during October with an average wash down time of 66 minutes and total water used was 674kL. The estimated income for the reporting period October is \$7,415.10 less monitoring fees and expenses.

Open Spaces Program

Earthworks have commenced on the skate park in Cunningham Park incorporating footpath to BBQ area and toilet block. Shaping of the skate park continued during October with concreters due to arrive in January 2024 for completion in April 2024.



Cunningham Park Earthworks

Parks and Gardens

All parks and gardens continue to be maintained. Council undertakes weekly inspections of playgrounds and cleaning of handrails and touch areas. Mowing, weed control, irrigation, hedging, and trimming were routinely undertaken during August 2023. Council continues to mark and maintain the fields for the community groups using Council's ovals. Myall Creek and the Glacial area are inspected on a weekly basis.

Bingara Showground

The Showground continues to be regularly booked for various horse events and private bookings. A successful inaugural cattle working dog trial was held at the Bingara Showground during October. It is anticipated that this will become an annual event on the working dog trials calendar.

Workshops and Depots

Workshop Services and Jobs	Aug	Sept	Oct
Total number of services in Workshops	34	30	31
Total number of repairs in Workshops	171	225	186

A slab has been installed for a new emulsion tank at the Bingara sewerage treatment plant. The existing tank was not large enough to handle semi-trailer loads of emulsion. The slab will have 600mm concrete wall installed as bunting for tank

overflows and spillage. The tank is provided under contract from Downer EDI which locks council into a competitive five-year contract for the supply of emulsion the at Bingara and Warialda depots.



Slab for New Emulsion Tank at Bingara Sewerage Treatment Plant

Plant Replacement

Plant 1721 Cat 12M Grader was sold at Pickles auction for \$197,500.00 In October. A new water truck to replace P1786 was ordered in October. The replacement truck expected to be delivered in November 2023.

Major Repairs and maintenance undertaken in the workshops during October included:

- P1662 – water cart - repairs to water pump drive
- P1663 – rock crusher – hard face and rebuild
- P1690 – grader – fit reconditioned cylinder head, re-bush all turning circle points
- P1634 – truck – repairs to air leads and fit new air bag to rear suspension



P1663 - Rebuilding Rock Crusher



P1690 Grader – Fit Reconditioned Head

CONCLUSION

The activities carried out by the Technical Services Department are in line with the 2023/24 Management Plan and as otherwise directed.

CONSULTATION

Consultation is carried out within the Technical Services Department during the monthly Technical Services Team Meetings and with other relevant persons.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Monthly Technical Services Report for October 2023 be received.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

THAT the Monthly Technical Services Report for October 2023 be received.

(Moved Cr Mulligan, Seconded Cr Moore)

CARRIED

For: Cr J Coulton, Cr D Coulton, Cr Dixon OAM and Cr Smith

Against: Nil

8 CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 10:45 am.