



**G W Y D I R**  
SHIRE COUNCIL

**ORDINARY MEETING**

**AGENDA**

**Thursday 15 December 2022**

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that an **Ordinary Meeting of Gwydir Shire Council** will be held in the Warialda Office Council Chambers on **Thursday 15 December 2022**, commencing at **2:00 pm** to discuss the items listed in the Agenda.

Your attendance is respectfully requested.

Yours faithfully,

Max Eastcott  
General Manager

## DISCLAIMER

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Gwydir Shire Council for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council or Committee meetings.

The Council disclaims any liability for any loss whatsoever and howsoever caused arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council or Committee meetings.

Any person or legal entity who acts or fails to act in reliance upon any statement, act or omission made in a Council or Committee meeting does so at that person's or legal entity's own risk.

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Members of the public should note that no action should be taken on any item discussed at a Council or Committee meeting prior to written advice on the resolution of Council being received.

**Agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website:**

<https://www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au/Home>

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

The Gwydir Shire Council acknowledges that this meeting is being held on Aboriginal land and recognise the strength, resilience and capacity of Gomeroi people in this land.

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## **1 OFFICIAL OPENING AND WELCOME - MAYOR**

## **2 APOLOGIES**

Cr David Coulton and Mr Alex Eddy have both submitted their apologies for the meeting.

## **3 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary and Confidential Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022 as circulated be taken as read and CONFIRMED.**

## **4 PRESENTATION**

**Confidential - Gwydir Shire Council Regional Jobs Precinct Update by Jocelyn Cockbain**

**Confidential – Potential Biogas Plant Warialda - Mr Ken Davey**

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

## **6 ADDITIONAL/LATE ITEMS**

## **7 MAYORAL MINUTE**

### **7.1 2022 in review**

### **COMMENT**

This report is still being prepared and will be forwarded out next week.

### **MAYORAL RECOMMENDATION**

**TBA**

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

## 8 OFFICERS' REPORTS

### 8.1 Inclusion Of Gwydir River Run Inc to Bingara Showground User Group

**File Reference:** NA

**Delivery Program**

**Goal:** 1. A healthy and cohesive community

**Outcome:** 1.2 Our community is an inviting and vibrant place to live

**Strategy:** 1.1.3 Provide the right places, spaces and activities

**Author:** Administration Assistant

**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST** Nil

#### BACKGROUND

Council has received correspondence from a new group 'Gwydir River Run Incorporated' seeking to become a part of the existing Bingara Showground User Group.

#### COMMENT

The existing Bingara Showground Advisory group consists of members from the following five user groups of the Bingara showground, being the Bingara Show Society, Bingara Pony Club, Bingara Jockey Club, Bingara Polocrosse and the recently incorporated Bingara Campdraft Committee.

The Gwydir River Run is a new committee consisting of members from the Bingara Stockman's Challenge and Gwydir River Muster dogs:

President: Russell Smyth  
Vice President: Jon Peters  
Secretary: Sharon Edwards  
Treasurer: Betty Peters  
Public Officer: Sharon Edwards  
Publicity Officer: Rebecca Edwards

A request has been received from The Gwydir River Run Inc to become a part of the User Group. They have provided their Certificate of Currency for \$20 million Public Liability and their Incorporation Certificate.

This new group would aim to hold several events per year as well as training days. During 2021 they held events and a successful fund-raising auction for Westpac Rescue Helicopter that proved very popular. They will incorporate the relatively new equine discipline Stockman's Challenge along with working dog trials and sales.

Their events will be scheduled on available dates at the Showground and it could reasonably be expected that these events will bring both competitors and visitors to the township.

As of 2022, each of the User Groups now makes an annual financial contribution of \$1,000 to Council towards the cost of maintenance of the Showground and pays for their electricity usage.

Each User Group donates a large amount of their time towards maintaining the grounds for their events and has members available should assistance be required for any work on the Showground.

They have provided their Certificate of Currency for \$20 million Public Liability and their Incorporation Certificate.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Gwydir River Run Inc be accepted as member of the Bingara Showground User Group**

**FURTHER that the Gwydir River Run Inc completes a Bingara Showground User Group Agreement and abides by the Terms and Conditions of this Agreement**

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Application to join User Group - Gwydir River Run [8.1.1 - 3 pages]
2. Certificate of Incorporation - Gwydir River Run [8.1.2 - 1 page]
3. Certificate of Currency - Gwydir River Run [8.1.3 - 1 page]
4. ABCRA - Membership Gwydir River Run Inc [8.1.4 - 1 page]
5. Bingara Showground User Group Agreement and Conditions - 2022 [8.1.5 - 2 pages]



*Gwydir River Run Inc*  
*Showground User Group*

Dear Mr Eastcott & Council Members,

The Gwydir River Run Inc is a newly formed committee in the Gwydir Shire which is consisting of the previous Bingara Stockman's Challenge and The Gwydir River Muster Dogs.

We have combined these 2 events as we feel they coincide with each other in our community. All our members have previously been a part of both successful events which have held and been able to assist with donations to local charities.

The date for our first Event under the new banner of The Gwydir River Run being held over 3 days at The Bingara Showground is 31st March to 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023. We have a very positive and energetic committee to run this successful weekend. We have also booked the Showground for the 16<sup>th</sup> / 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to hold a Working Cattle Dog Trial and Sale. In addition to these weekends, we will be holding Educational Clinics for both committee and the Public which will be of interest to the local community as there will be Bison used for some of these clinics, as we move forward, we are looking at holding the Australian and NSW Championships events at the Bingara Showground.

Our Facebook Page is expanding with around 2000 followers now.

The Gwydir River Run Inc Committee would like to be a part of the Showground User Group to help where possible to keep this Facility improving for future generations and our community.

Following is a list of our Financial Members

President – Russell Smyth  
Vice President - John Peters  
Secretary – Sharon Edwards  
Treasurer - Betty Peters  
Public Officer – Sharon Edwards  
Publicity Officer - Rebecca Edwards

Committee:

Clayton Daley  
Ian Grieve  
Georgia Birch  
Richard Trigger  
Mark Bradshaw  
Hamish Abra  
Lachlan Starr  
Erin Abra  
John Wade  
Billy Coulton  
Wayne Edwards

We hope you find our enthusiasm and our events suitable to enable us to be part of the Bingara Showground User Group Committee.

Regards  
Gwydir River Run In Committee

Secretary  
Sharon Edwards  
0429623233  
[gwydirriverrun@hotmail.com](mailto:gwydirriverrun@hotmail.com)







## Certificate of Incorporation as an Association

This is to certify

### **GWYDIR RIVER RUN INCORPORATED**

is registered as an incorporated association in New South Wales  
under the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009*

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Registration Number **INC2200897**

Date of Incorporation **7 September 2022**

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Issued by NSW Fair Trading on 7 September 2022.

Natasha Mann  
Fair Trading Commissioner  
NSW Fair Trading

Page 1 of 1



## CERTIFICATE OF CURRENCY

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This Certificate:

- Is issued as a matter of information only and confers no rights upon the holder.
- Does not amend, extend or alter the coverage afforded by the Policy(ies) listed.
- Is only a summary of the cover provided.
- Reference must be made to the current Policy wording for full details.
- Is current at the date of issue only.

**This Certificate confirms that the undermentioned Policy is effective in accordance with the details shown:**

<b>Policy Number:</b>	400492
<b>Insured:</b>	Australian Bushmen's Campdraft & Rodeo Association
<b>Period of Insurance:</b>	From: 30/04/2022 at 4.00pm local standard time To: 30/04/2023 at 4.00pm local standard time
<b>Insured's Business:</b>	Sanctioned events of the Australian Bushmen's Campdraft & Rodeo Association including social functions, meetings, fundraisers, working bees, and property owner and occupier
<b>Limit of Indemnity:</b>	AUD 20,000,000 any one Occurrence in respect of Public liability and in the aggregate during the Period of Insurance in respect of Product Liability

We trust you find the above in order, however, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G Shallard".

---

**Greg Shallard**  
Client Manager

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29 April 2022

Date:

Liberty Specialty Markets is a trading name of Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, Australia Branch (ABN 61 086 083 605) incorporated in Massachusetts, USA (the liability of members is limited)

AFFLIBERTY: COC-GEN-200128  
ABCRA114807



Tax Invoice  
Account Statement

**AUSTRALIAN BUSHMEN'S  
CAMPDRAFT & RODEO  
ASSOCIATION, LTD.**  
ABN: 82 002 967 142  
PO BOX 5313  
TAMWORTH SOUTH NSW 2340

Telephone: (02) 6767 9200  
Fax: (02) 6767 9220  
Email: [general@abcra.com.au](mailto:general@abcra.com.au)  
Website: [www.abcra.com.au](http://www.abcra.com.au)

**GWYDIR RIVER RUN INC**

4093 ELCOMBE ROAD  
BINGARA 2404 NSW

Member ID     **C52826**

ABN  
Date                               03/11/2022  
Invoice #                         271050  
Staff ID                           GE  
Terms                             Payable on Invoice

Date	Description	Type	Total
13/10/2022	2023 Committee Affiliation	Purchase	\$230.00
13/10/2022	2023 Border Zone Affiliation	Purchase	\$100.00
13/10/2022	Admin levy	Purchase	\$5.28
3/11/2022	271050: Direct Deposit Payment	Paid Direct Deposit	(\$335.28)

Note: Items marked \*\* are GST free.

GST	\$21.39
Total Charges	<b>\$335.28</b>
Total Due	<b>\$0.00</b>

**PAID** Thank you

**2023**  
GWYDIR RIVER RUN INC

**Membership No:**                         C52826  
**Membership Type:**                     Committee Member



**GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL**

**ABN 11 636 419 850**

Locked Bag 5, Bingara NSW 2404

**Email:** [mail@gwydir.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mail@gwydir.nsw.gov.au) – **Website:** [www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au)

Bingara Office: 33 Maitland St, Bingara NSW 2404 Telephone: 02 6724 2000 Facsimile: 02 6724 1771

Warialda Office: 54 Hope Street, Warialda NSW 2402 Telephone: 02 6729 3000 Facsimile: 02 6729 1400

Council Reference: S1659

**BINGARA SHOWGROUND USER GROUP AGREEMENT & CONDITIONS**

User Group's Name ..... Phone .....

Address (Street & Postal) .....

Organisation (please tick)  Profit  Non Profit  Social Purpose: .....

**Insurance: \$20,000,000 Public liability cover is required. The User Group needs to provide Council with a Copy of their Certificate of Currency for the event with Gwydir Shire Council listed as an interested party.**

Copy of Certificate of Currency Provided .....

Agreement Signed: ..... (Printed Name) .....

Position held: ..... (e.g. President / Secretary)

Emergency Contacts:

Name	Position	Contact No.	Keyholder

Preferred dates:

Date	Times	Details

**BINGARA SHOWGROUND HIRE CONDITIONS & AGREEMENT FORM**

1. **Keys** – one Universal key will be issued to each User Group and must be signed for at Council Office. A \$50 cash deposit will be charged on collection of key. Loss of key to be reported immediately and replacement key paid for by User Group.
2. **Booking dates** – Please notify Council of your required booking dates for the Showground as early as possible in the year.
3. **Restrictions on Showground Use** - Subject to any special conditions applied by the Council from time to time.
4. **Loss or Damage** - The relevant User Group will be held responsible for and be required to make good any loss or damage to any property, furniture, appliances or fittings on the Showground – failure to do so may result in cancellation of privileges of the particular User Group. The User Group must report details of any breakages. The Council accepts no responsibility for any loss or damages to any property whatsoever belonging either to the User Group or any other person attending the grounds.
5. **Indemnification** - Each User Group shall indemnify the Council and its servants against any claims, costs or penalties whatsoever which may arise from the User Group's negligence during the period of use of the grounds.
6. **Insurance** – each User Group will provide Council with a Certificate of Currency for public liability insurance to the value of \$20,000,000 (\$20m) and ensure Gwydir Shire Council is listed as an interested party.
7. **Contacts** - Each User Group is to provide Council with a list of Emergency Contacts annually.
8. Each User Group will be required to pay \$1,000 per annum towards cost of maintenance of grounds.
9. Each User Group will be responsible for payment of electricity usage. Meters will be read by Council before and after event.
10. User groups may be required to provide assistance at a nominated working bee at Council's request.
11. **Gates** - All gates should be left as found – default position is CLOSED.
12. **Exits and Passageways** - All exits shall be kept clear and unlocked at all times. The User Group shall not permit any person/s to block the passageways or exits.
14. **Alcohol** – User Groups will be responsible for obtaining a Liquor Licence should they wish to sell alcohol on the Showground. All conditions of the Liquor Licence will be the responsibility of the Licensee.
14. **Kitchen Area** - The preparation of food and beverage will be confined to the kitchen/s. User Groups / caterers using the kitchen must leave the premises in a thoroughly clean condition.
15. **Disorderly Conduct and Noise** - The User Group shall take all reasonable steps to prevent disorderly conduct on the grounds, including guests arriving and leaving in vehicles, throughout the period of use. The User Group should notify Police if there is threat of trouble. Noise levels are to be kept to a minimum at all times to avoid disturbances to neighbouring premises and residents. The User Group shall comply with the Protection of the Environment Operations (Noise Control) Regulation 2000. The Council or User Group may terminate any function which has become disorderly.
16. **Building Alterations and Decorations** - No changes shall be made to the Showground without the approval of Council. This includes alterations to the building, affixing decorations or items of equipment, painting or marking any surfaces, and similar activities.
17. **Changes to grounds, arenas and yards** – No changes shall be made to the Showground without the approval of Council.
18. **Fire Extinguishers** - The fire fighting equipment is for fire fighting only and shall not be interfered with under any other circumstances. Any discharge, including accidental, of the extinguishers shall result in the cost of the refill being reimbursed by the relevant User Group.
19. **Condition of Showground at Commencement and Conclusion of Use / Event** - The showground will be left in a condition suitable for immediate use at all times. This includes:
  - Removal of rubbish – this is the responsibility of the User Group and must be removed from the ground and disposed of in the correct manner. Recycle where possible. User Groups should make prior arrangements for Event Bins as required by contacting Bingara Landfill. These bins are to be returned to the Landfill empty.
  - User Groups are responsible for cleaning of facilities prior to and after their event leaving facilities ready for next user. This includes toilets, kitchens, bar areas, cool rooms, pavilions and floors.
  - User Groups are responsible for the supply of consumables for their event such as toilet paper, cleaning products, hand towel etc.
  - Any spills on floors are to be mopped with warm water only. All benches and tables are to be left clean. No items to be left in refrigerators or cool rooms after each event.
  - Tables and chairs are to be left stacked and returned to their area.
  - All grounds of the Showground are to be left free of litter.
  - At the conclusion of any events, all goods, materials and property brought into the showground by the User Group or any person attending the function must be removed.

**8.2 Executive Services**

**File Reference:** NA

**Delivery Program**

**Goal:** 5. Organisational management

**Outcome:** 5.1 Corporate management

**Strategy:** 5.1.3 Administrative and support functions

**Author:** Max Eastcott, General Manager

**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil**

**IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

This report is for reception.

**TABLED ITEMS Nil**

**COMMENT**

**PLANNING**

The following Development (D/A) and Development Modification (s96) applications were approved during the month of November 2022.

Number	Property Description	Development/ Work	\$	D/A	s96
27/2022	G A Norman & L M Gordon Lot 2 DP 1186734 11 Salter Street Bingara	Modification of single storey dwelling with attached carport & 22,500L rainwater storage tank	\$380,000	-	✓
47/2022	G V A Gibson Lot 2 DP 407419 3616 Trevallyn Road Upper Horton	Demolish existing main dwelling and erect a new main single storey 5 bed, 4 bath dwelling & detached 2-bay garage	\$792,000	✓	-
51/2022	R J Barwick Lot 34 DP 751108 228 Campbell Lande Gravesend	10 plot private cemetery	\$6,000	✓	-
53/2022	T R & K A Allen Lot 2 DP 354649 17 Cunningham Street Bingara	Install an inground swimming pool & safety barrier/fence & construct a detached 2 bay garage/shed	\$66,000	✓	-
55/2022	M A Churchland & D M Low Lot 17 Section 24 dP 759052 77 High Street Wariald	2-bay garage/shed	\$20,000	✓	-

The following Development (D/A) and Development Modification (s96) applications remain outstanding at the end of November 2022.

No.	Property Description and Description of Work	Reason	D/A	s96
49/2016	Ceres Ag 'Gunyaerwarildi' 1470 North Star Road Warialda - Continued occupation/use of rural worker accommodation being the installation of a number of premanufactured cabins	Approved in principle awaiting compliance certification or engineering certification for the cabins.	✓	-
50/2017	C L Rice 13 Railway Parade Gravesend - Modification of roof line and floor plan for cabanna/pool pump shed/storage shed on an existing slab	Being exhibited and notified in accordance with the Community Participation Plan	-	✓
39/2019	DJ Bull Fairford Road Warialda - 2 Lot Large Lot Subdivision	Request for applicant to advise whether or not requested information will be provided. 28 deadline govern prior to refusal issue	✓	-
08/2022	D Shepherd 65 Hope Street Warialda - Urban Subdivision	Awaiting Internal referral response for Water, Sewer and Accessways	✓	-
36/2022	J Flu / Gwydir Shire Council 152 Long Street Warialda - Additions and alteration to existing Aged Care Facility	Being Assessed	✓	-
50/2022	M J Keating 12 East Street Bingara - 3 Bedroom Manufactured Dwelling	Being Assessed	✓	-
56/2022	P M Vassallo Horton Road Upper Horton - Main Dwelling and Rural Workers Cottage/Shearers Quarters	Being exhibited and notified in accordance with the Community Participation Plan	✓	-
57/2022	J D Grabahm 39 Yallaroi Road Coolatai - Dwelling & Consolidation of 2 rural allotments	Being exhibited and notified in accordance with the Community Participation Plan	✓	-
58/2022	A J Salter Ironbark Drive Warialda - 14m x 14m Barn Style Shed with a bathroom and attached lean-to	Being exhibited and notified in accordance with the Community Participation Plan	✓	-
59/2022	Westfield Homes / M M Stratford 23 Copeton Dam Road Bingara - Manufactured Dwelling	Being exhibited and notified in accordance with the Community Participation Plan	✓	-
60/2022	M J Bogan Burundah Drive Warialda - Continued Use of building with ablutions constructed without the appropriate approvals	Request for Additional Information prior to formal lodgement of application for exhibition and notification	✓	-
61/2022	A B Hall	Being exhibited and	✓	-



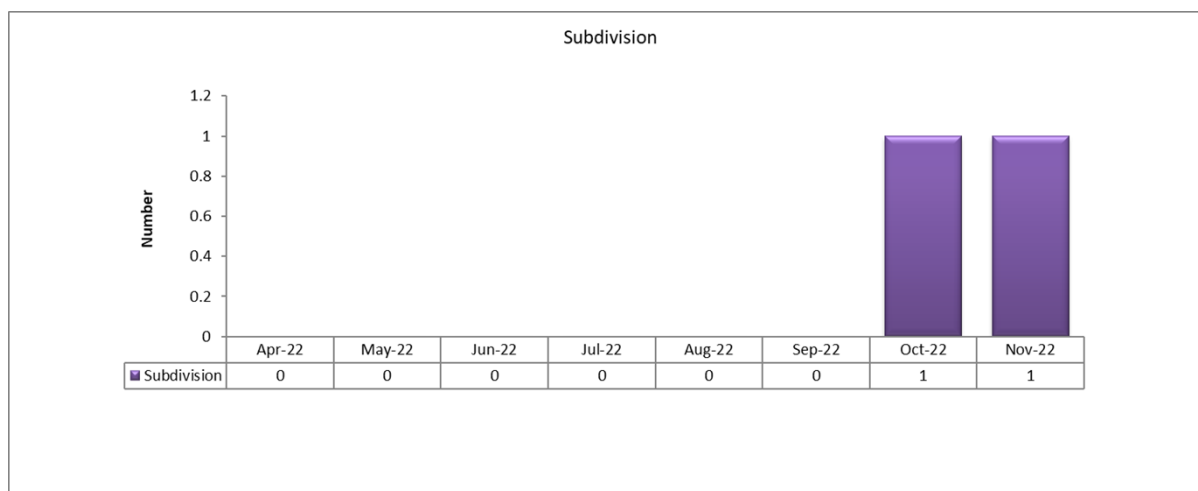
	63 Queen Street Warialda - Continued Use of carport constructed without the appropriate approvals	notified in accordance with the Community Participation Plan		
62/2022	T Bolton / M A Tritton Fairford Road Warialda - Dwelling	Being exhibited and notified in accordance with the Community Participation Plan	✓	-

There were no Development (D/A) or Development Modifications (s96) applications approved and not previously reported to Council for the month of November 2022.

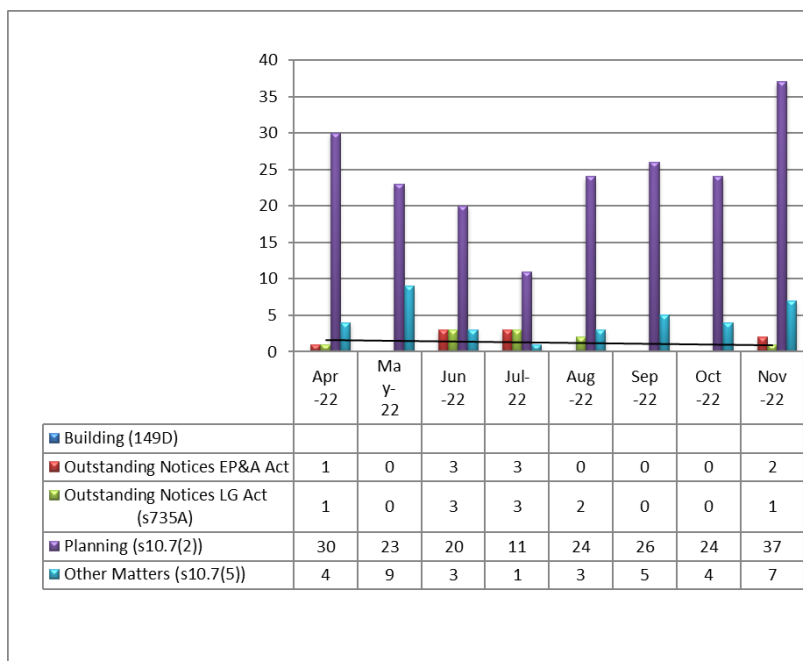
There were no Development (D/A) or Development Modifications (s96) application(s) refused (R) during the month of November 2022.

There were no Development (D/A) applications determined where there has been a variation in standards under clause 4.6 of the Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013 during the month of November 2022.

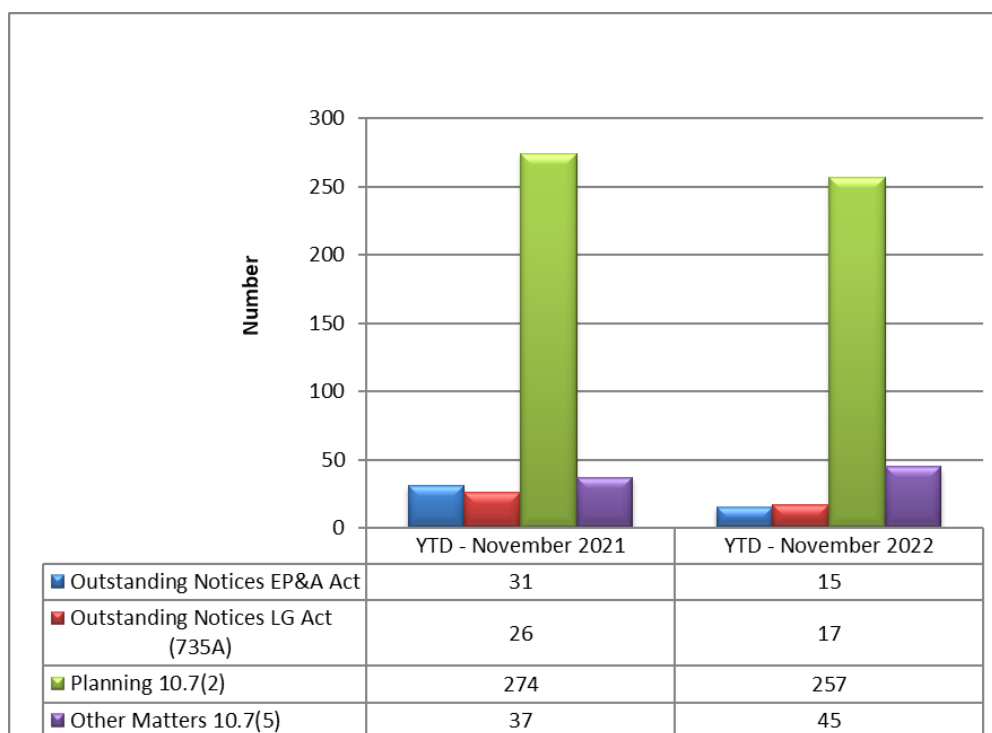
The following graph shows the Subdivision Certificates issued during the month of November 2022.



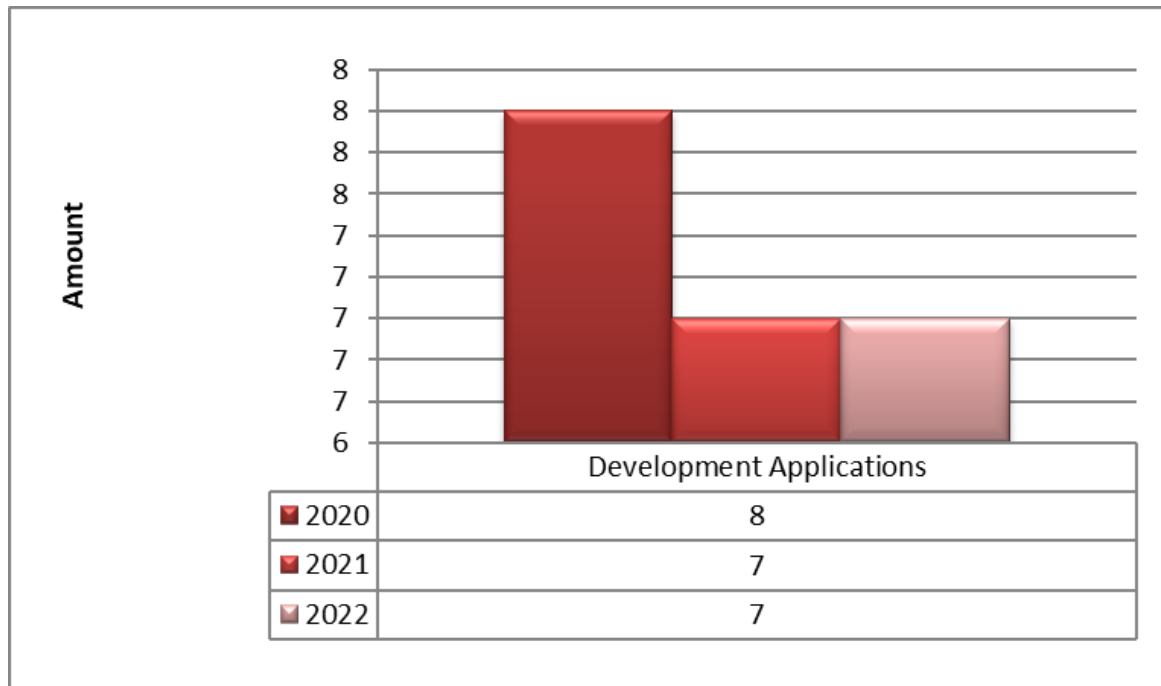
The following graph shows the Conveyancing Certificates issued during the month of November 2022 compared to the previous five months.



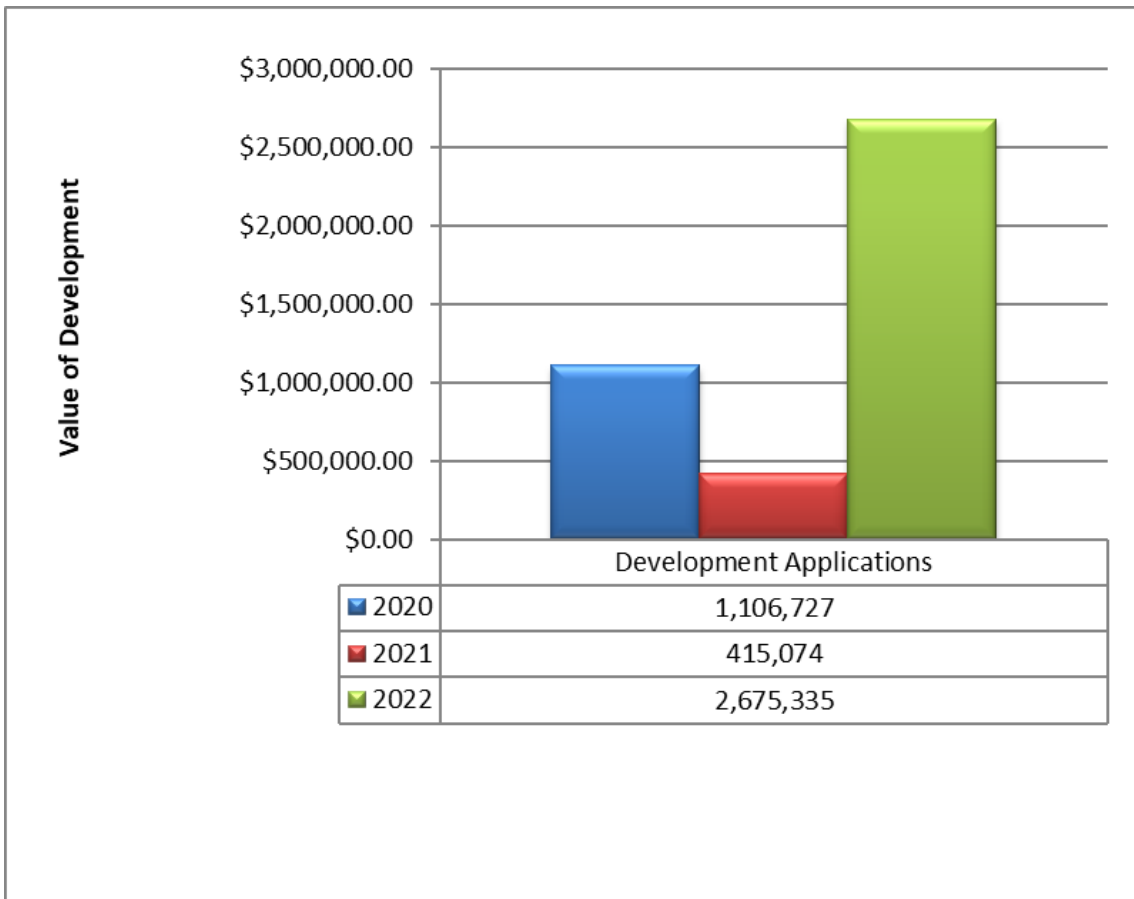
The following graph shows the Conveyancing Certificates issued up to and including the month of November 2022 compared with the same period in 2021.



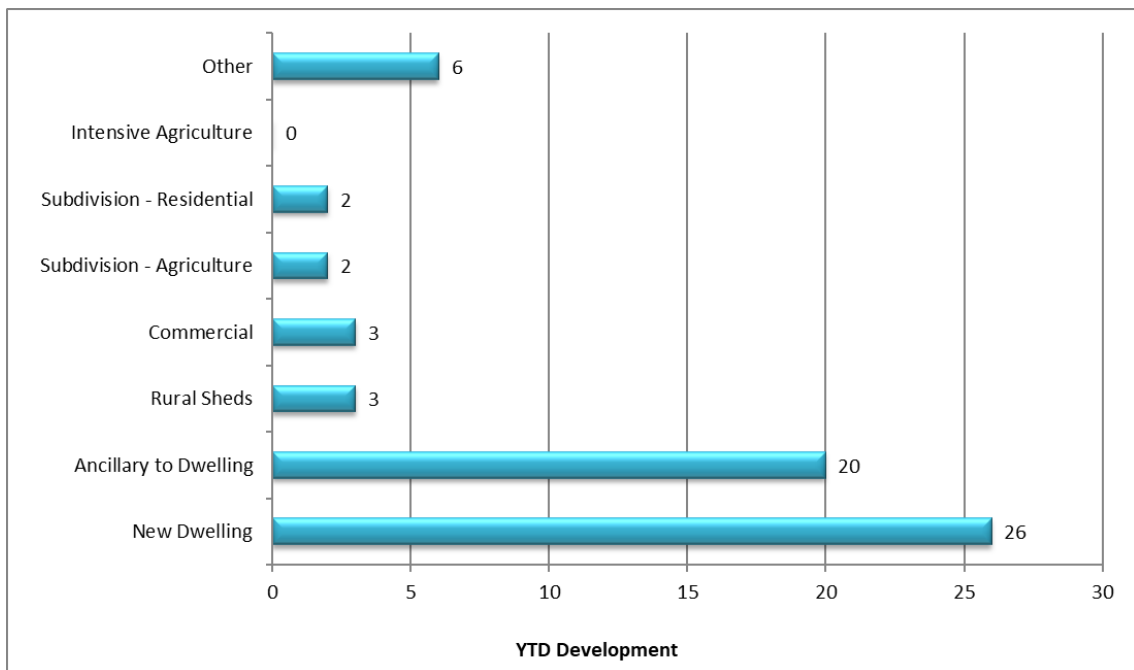
The table below shows a comparison between total development applications (including s4.55 modification applications) lodged during the month of November 2022 compared to the same period in the previous two years.



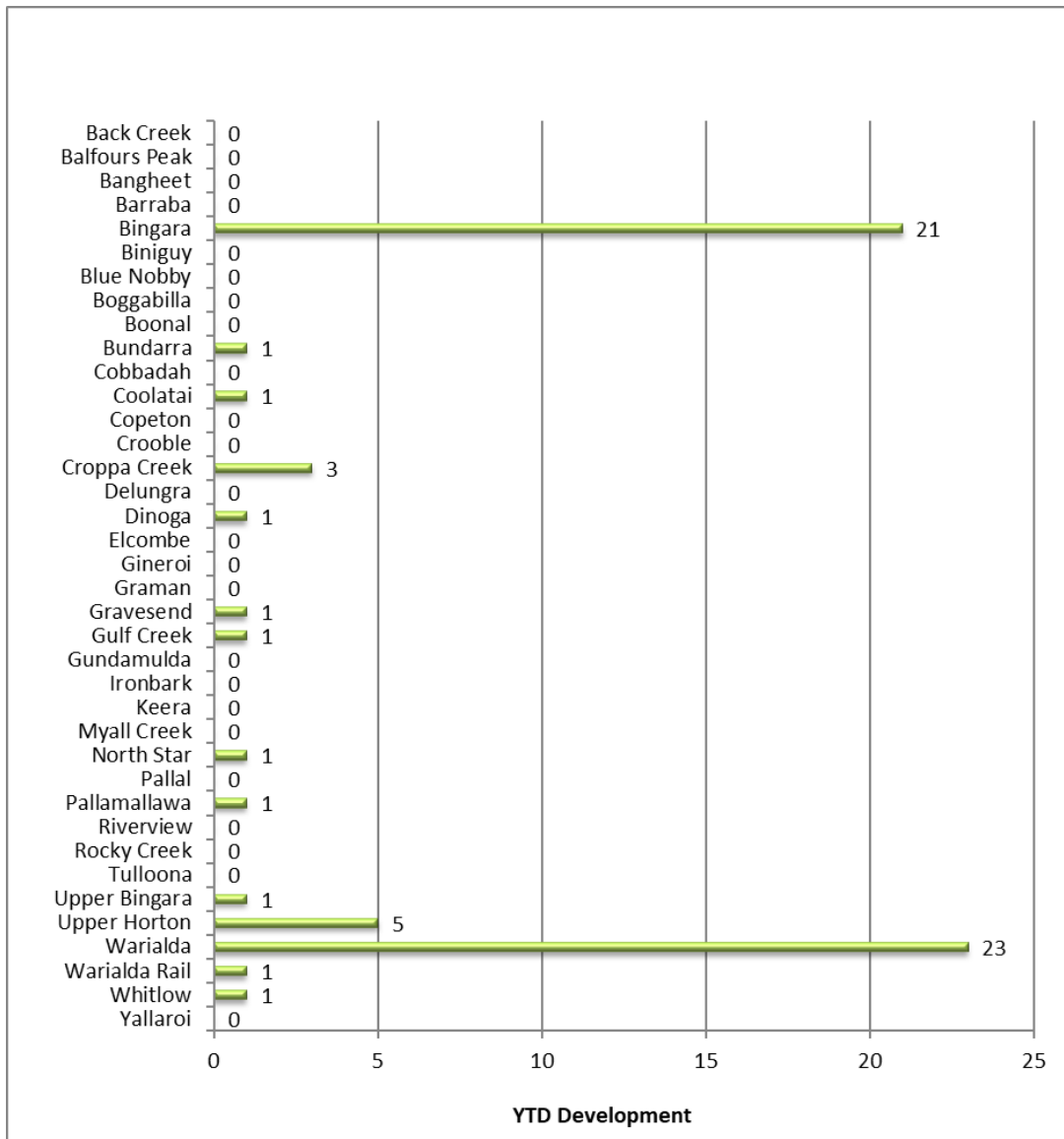
The table below shows a comparison between total value of development applications (including s4.55 modification applications) lodged during the month of November 2022 compared to the same period in the previous two years.



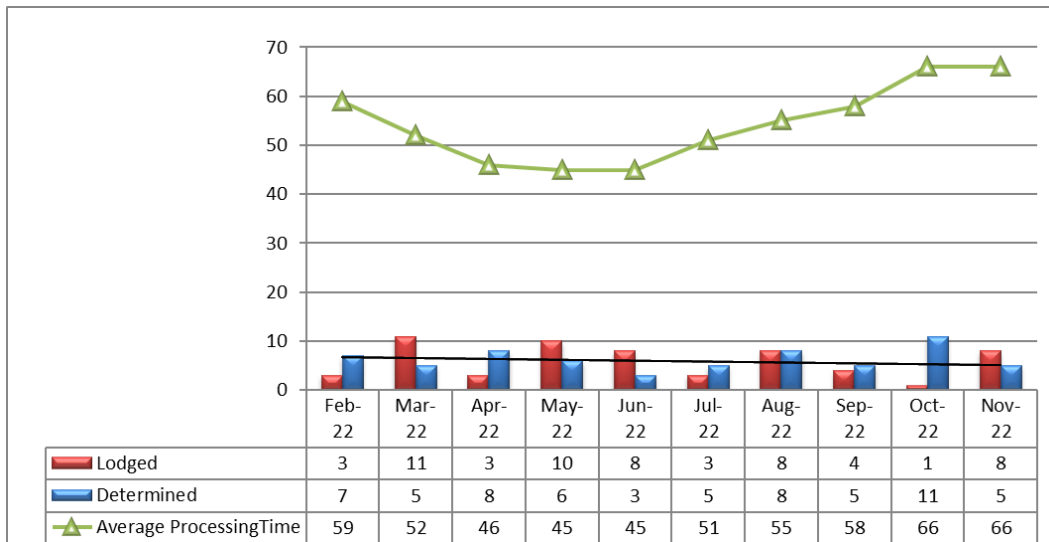
Development Applications (excluding s4.55 modifications) received for the year by type – YTD November 2022.



Development Applications (excluding s4.55 modifications) received for the year by locality – YTD November 2022.



Development Application Analysis (including s4.55 modifications) – for the ten months up to the end of November 2022.



**BUILDING SERVICES – NOVEMBER 2022**

The Department continues to receive enquiries and provide advice on a range of planning and building matters including:

- Minor structure construction e.g., sheds
- Commercial opportunities and construction
- Basix (Building Sustainability Index)
- Bushfire requirements
- Building construction standards and requirements
- Stormwater
- Licensing and owner builder requirements
- Fees and charges
- Advice and assistance with lodgment of applications on the NSW Planning Portal

**Approvals – November 2022**

The following Construction Certificate (C/C), Complying Development Certificate (CDC), Building Information Certificate (BIC) and S68 applications have been approved for the month.

Application Type & No.	Property Description	Development/Work	\$
Construction Certificate 20/2022	1 Jacaranda Drive Warialda Rail	Dwelling	\$187,500
Construction Certificate 32/2022	26 Ridley Street Bingara	Detached 2-bay garage/shed with storeroom and footings for pre-manufactured dwelling	\$114,083
Construction Certificate 35/2022	80 Finch Street Bingara	Garage/Shed	\$15,000
Construction Certificate 43/2022	16 Bombelli Street Bingara	Conversion of existing shed into a secondary dwelling, detached laundry/bathroom and detached partially open shed	\$28,000
Construction Certificate 45/2022	24 Ridley Street Bingara	Garage/shed with internal bathroom	\$25,000
Construction Certificate 46/2022	46 Heber Street Bingara	Garage/Shed with workshop and two attached carports	\$40,000
Construction Certificate 47/2022	3616 Trevallyn Road Upper Horton	Demolition of existing derelict dwelling and construction of new dwelling with detached garage/shed	\$792,000
Construction Certificate 53/2022	17 Cunningham Street Bingara	Swimming Pool and Garage/Shed	\$66,000
Section 68 25/2022	24 Ridley Street Bingara	Installation of pre-manufactured dwelling	NA
Section 68 27/2022	25 Maitland Street Bingara	Carry out water supply, sewerage and stormwater work	NA
Section 68 28/2022	24 Ridley Street Bingara	Carry our water supply, sewerage and stormwater work in association with pre-manufactured dwelling	NA
Section 68 29/2022	3616 Trevallyn Road Upper Horton	Install onsite sewerage management system, carry out water supply, sewerage and stormwater work in association with DA	NA

		47/2022 for a new dwelling	
Section 68 32/2022	3 Avoca Street Warialda Rail	Warialda Rail Christmas Carnival – amusement devices	NA
Section 68 33/2022	Warialda Recreation Ground Holden Street	Warialda Christmas Carnival – amusement devices	NA
Complying Development Certificate 8/2022	4011 Elcombe Road Bingara	Dwelling and 2 x garage/shed	\$530,000
Complying Development Certificate 6/2022	60 Geddes Street Warialda	Extension of the existing deck on the rear of the dwelling	\$25,000
Complying Development Certificate 10/2022	28 Maitland Street Bingara	Attached patio on rear of dwelling	\$20,000

**NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS/INSPECTIONS November 2022**

Type	No.	Year to Date	Actioned	Pending
Building	41	172	157	15

**BUILDING MAINTENANCE**

The Department continues to receive requests to carry out minor maintenance and these are generally dealt with in a timely manner. Otherwise, the works are scheduled into maintenance staff building activities including new works for attention.

**Projects Worked On**

Staff worked on the following projects during November 2022:

- Wellness and Interpretive Centre – construction has commenced and is progressing well but has been hampered by the adverse weather conditions.
- Bingara Showground (old amenities) – Upgrades have commenced on the old amenities building and is nearing completion.
- Nicholson Oval – demolition of the existing clubhouse/amenities and construction of new building is in the planning and demolition stages.

**ENVIRONMENT AND COMPLIANCE 29 October 2022 to 25 November 2022**

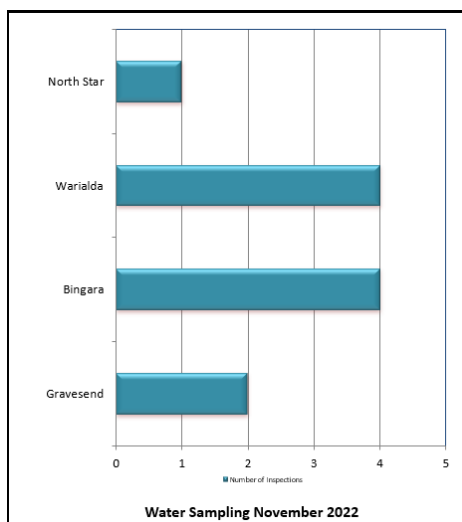
The Department continues to receive enquiries and provide advice on a range of health matters including

- Overgrown properties
- Food premises design and fit-out
- Food handling practices
- Mobile food vendors
- Food business notification

- Pet Ownership

### Water Surveillance

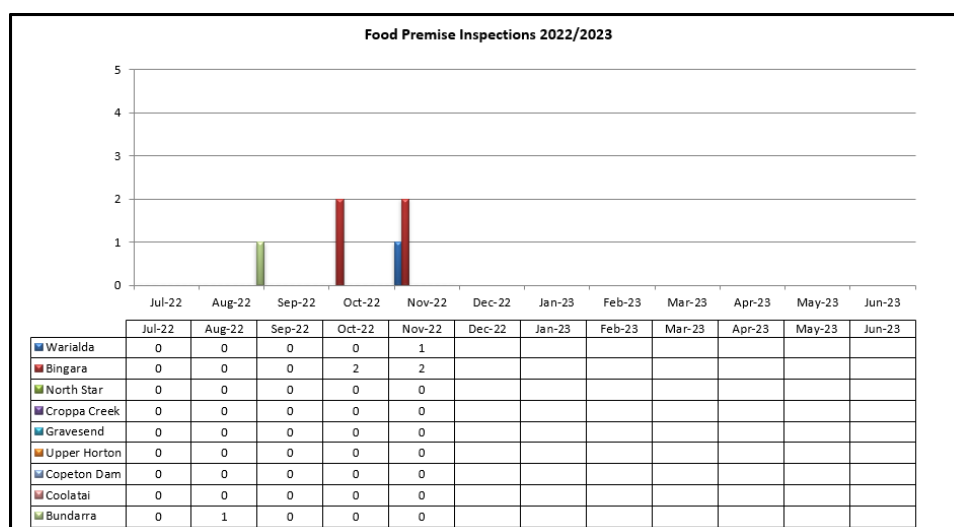
The Department continues to carry out routine sample collection for microbiological and chemical testing of the water supplies in the towns of Warialda and Bingara, fortnightly sampling of Gravesend and monthly sampling at North Star.



### Food Inspections

Food Premise Inspections are carried out on an annual basis for each food business. There are approximately 40 registered food service businesses within the Council area including supermarkets, clubs/pubs, motels, bakeries, cafés and takeaway food shops, mobile food vendors and school canteens. Depending on the nature of the food being served some businesses are exempt from inspection unless a complaint or issue arises.

The graph below shows inspections that have been carried for the current financial year. Enquiries or complaints are actioned as necessary.

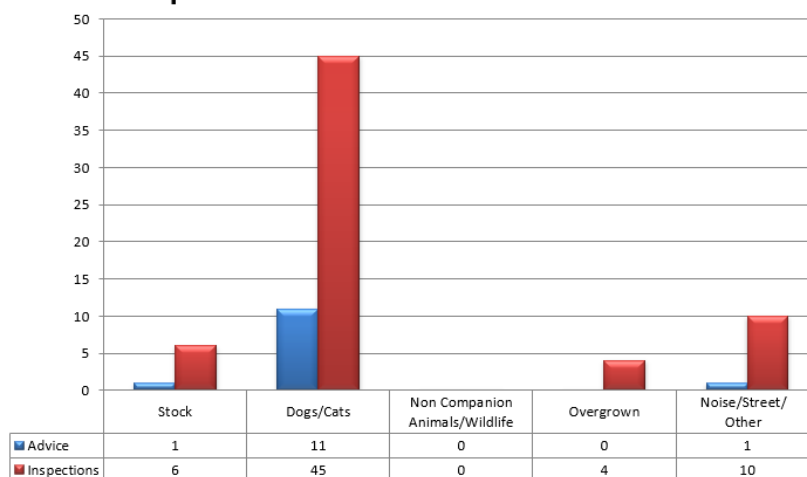


### Compliance and Regulatory Control

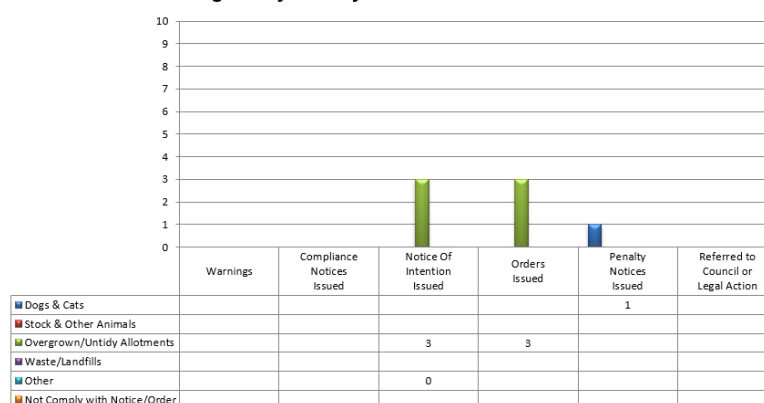
Council receives customer requests regarding overgrown block, roaming dogs, roaming stock, noise, the keeping of animals and other concerns. These are investigated and actioned as necessary.



### Inspections and Advice November 2022



### Regulatory Activity November 2022



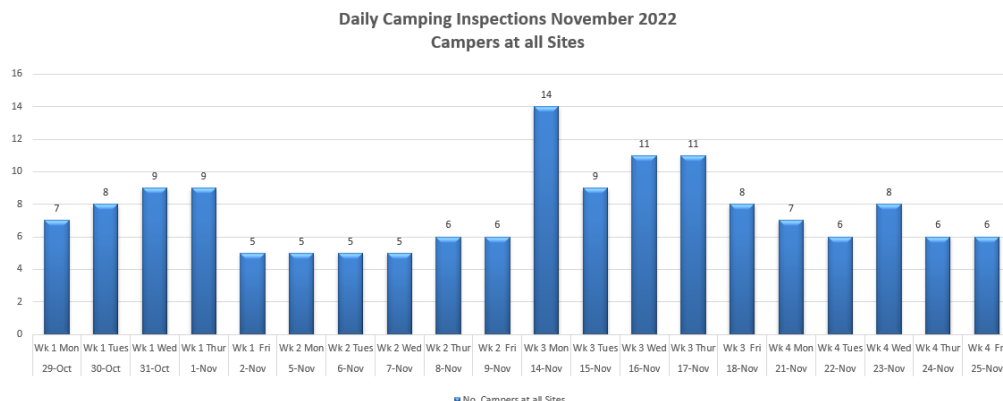
### Impounding Activity November 2022



## Riverside Camping

Council's Compliance Officer aims to carry out daily checks along the river to ensure that camping is being conducted in a safe and hygienic manner. Flyers promoting local events and services are distributed to campers and enquiries from campers are addressed as required. The graphs below show total numbers of campers and the distribution of campers at the different campsites. During September and October there were two major water releases from Copeton Dam that caused flooding along the Gwydir River. All campgrounds were evacuated. Campers were permitted to stay at Bicentennial Park. The majority of those in the park then went onto the CMCA rally at the Bingara Showground, with dwindling numbers staying in the park till the end of

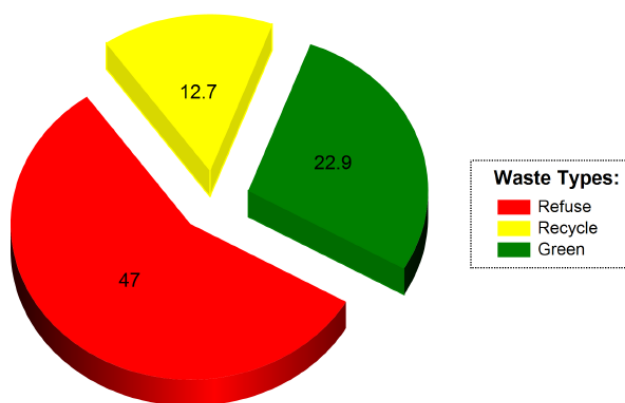
the month. The processes that were put in after the last flooding proved effective with no incidents of loss of life or property recorded.



### Waste Contract Services – October 2022

**Gwydir Shire Council**  
Transaction Date Range: 03 OCT 2022 to 30 OCT 2022

#### Breakdown of Tipping for the Period



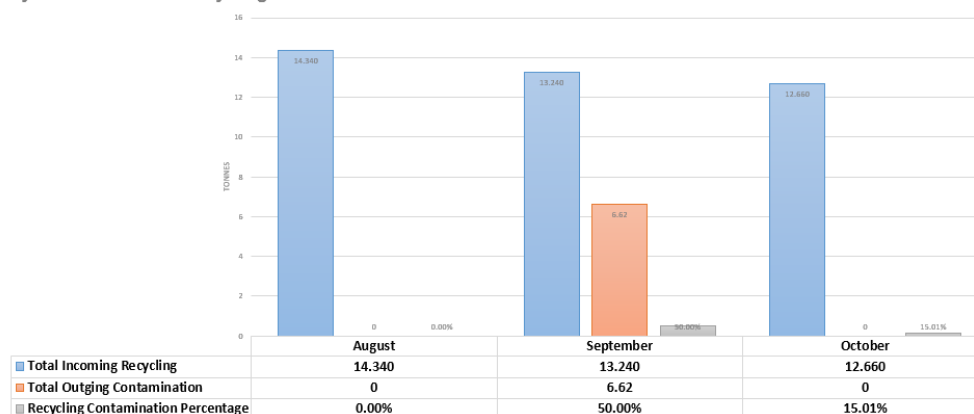
Total Tipping Tonnes: 82.52

### Contaminated Recycling and Organics

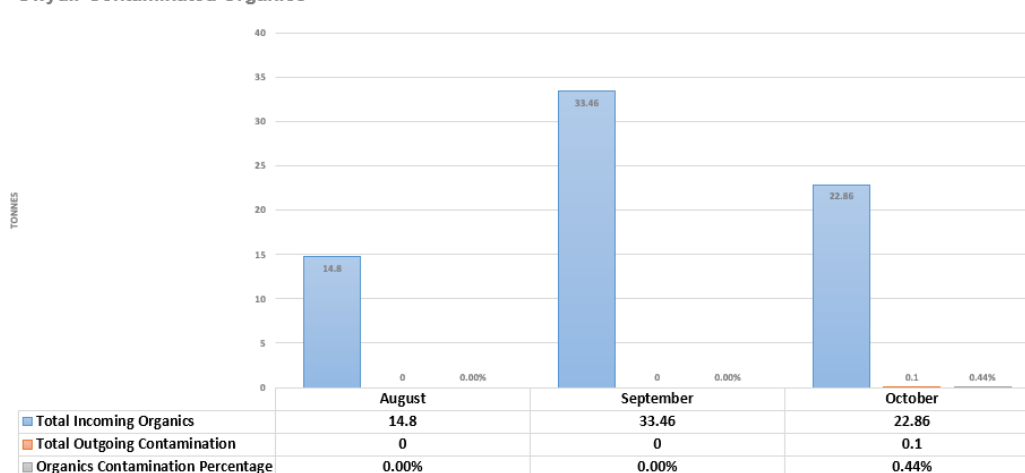
#### Recycling Statistics

Please note that the Cleanaway recycling contamination data may not actually reflect the contamination for that month. The process will sometimes mean that the contamination over multiple months is only reported in a single month which distorts that month's figure. The recycling contamination tonnage taken over a longer time dilutes these figures into an acceptable range. This happens because the contamination is collected in skip bins and only weighed when they are full and taken to the tip, which does not occur each month.

Gwydir Contaminated Recycling



Gwydir Contaminated Organics



## Priority Weed Control

### Property Inspection Program

Staff continue to assist land holders and the community with:

- Advice on the control of Priority Weeds and Biosecurity Duties
- Private and Public Property inspections
- Spraying of priority weeds and emerging weeds
- Authorised Officers are participating in ongoing Rapid Response Task Force in response to Parthenium Weed incursions in the Croppa Creek region and surrounds

### Weeds Inspections

Property inspections are being undertaken in Section E during 2022 with property owners being offered support and advice on managing weeds. The parthenium outbreak at Croppa Creek continues to be inspected and monitored to ensure it is identified, contained and then eliminated.

Weeds Officers are currently targeting St Johns Wort, undertaking property inspections and assisting property owners with advice on control measures.

## St. John's wort

*Hypericum perforatum*



St John's wort has yellow flowers with five petals (Photo: Les Tanner)

### How does this weed affect you?

St John's wort:

- competes with pastures
- poisons livestock
- can downgrade wool with 'vegetable fault'
- can reduce property value.

## Livestock poisoning

St John's wort contains a chemical called hypericin. Livestock that eat it become very sensitive to sunlight. Stock will only eat St John's wort when other feed is scarce. Minor exposure to St John's wort affects animal health as:

- weight loss
- fewer pregnancies
- stillbirths
- weak young
- cows producing less milk
- fewer lambs and calves surviving weaning.

Intense sunlight worsens the effects of hypericin. Access to shade helps protect animals. On sunny days, stock without access to shade can develop signs of acute poisoning in five hours.

Early symptoms of acute hypericin poisoning include:

- agitation
- rubbing the head against posts or trees
- weak hind legs
- panting
- confusion
- depression.

Some animals develop mild diarrhoea.

As poisoning gets worse, animals get a high temperature. The skin around their forehead, eyes and ears swells and turns red. Head rubbing against hard objects causes wounds and bleeding. Animals can die from acute hypericin poisoning.

This information has been sourced from the Department of Primary Industries NSW WeedWise website <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds/details/135>

The following graphs and charts show the noxious weeds inspections carried out in 2022.



**Priority Weeds Inspections for November 2022**

<i>Areas Inspected</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Ha</i>	<i>Rd km</i>	<i>Weeds Present</i>
Private Property	3	140	-	St Johns Wort
Private Property – High Risk	1	50	-	St Johns Wort
Private Property – High Risk Re-inspection	4	43.5	-	None Found
Roadside – High Risk Pathways	24	3272.05	654.41	St Johns Wort, Mimosa Bush, African Boxthorn, Tree Pear, Johnsons Grass, Slender Thistle, Silverleaf Nightshade, Pattersons Curse, Asparagus Fern, Wild Cotton
Roadside	10	590.3	118.06	St Johns Wort, Wild Cotton
Other Council Lands	2	1	-	African Boxthorn, Johnsons Grass, Madeira Vine, Tree Pear
ARTC	1	1	-	African Boxthorn, Pattersons Curse, Johnson Grass
Grain Handling Site	2	1.5	-	African Boxthorn, Pattersons Curse, Mimosa Bush
Dept Lands	2	54	-	St Johns Wort

**Priority Weeds Control Works for November 2022**

<i>Road</i>	<i>Weed Code</i>	<i>Area - Ha</i>	<i>Length of Road</i>	<i>High Risk Pathways</i>	<i>Roadside</i>	<i>Private Works</i>	<i>other</i>
Bruxner Way	Pattersons Curse		25	1	1		
Allan Cunningham Rd	St Johns Wort	10	30	1	1		
Dudley St	African Boxthorn, Pattersons Curse	5					1
Bingara Common	St Johns Wort	25		1			
Crooble Rd	Pattersons Curse		0.35		1		
Killarney Gap Rd	St Johns Wort	15	20	1	1		
Killarney Gap Rd	St Johns Wort	10	15	1	1		
Dufts Rd	St Johns Wort	1	1.5		1		
Terry Hie Rd	St Johns Wort	5	5	1	1		
Back Creek Rd	St Johns Wort	1	2		1		
Terry Hie Rd	St Johns Wort	3	5	1	1		
Gineroi Rd	St Johns Wort	3	8	1	1		
Agincourt Rd	African Boxthorn		17		1		
Mosquito Ck Rd	Pattersons Curse, Tree Pear, African Boxthorn, Silverleaf Nightshade		7.5	1	1		
Mosquito Ck Rd	African Boxthorn, Tree Pear, Silverleaf Nightshade, Thorn Apple		7	1	1		
Mosquito Ck Rd	African Boxthorn, Tree Pear, Silverleaf Nightshade, Thorn Apple		5	1	1		
Cobbadah Rd	St Johns Wort	10	25	1	1		
Cobbadah Rd	St Johns Wort	10	25	1	1		
Allan Cunningham Rd	St Johns Wort	3	10	1	1		
All Nations Hill	St Johns Wort	5					
Delungra Rd	St Johns Wort	1	10	1	1		
Whitlow Rd	St Johns Wort	2	10		1		
Mosquito Ck Rd	African Boxthorn, Tree Pear, Silver Leaf Nightshade		10	1	1		
Gulf Creek Rd	St Johns Wort	5	15	1	1		
Elcombe Rd	St Johns Wort	5	20	1	1		
Keera Rd	General Weeds	0.5				1	
Elcombe Rd	St Johns Wort	2	20	1	1		
Gineroi Rd	St Johns Wort	3	15	1	1		1

The Planning & Environment Department report for November 2022 was compiled with information available at the time of preparing the report.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the report be received and noted.**

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

### 8.3 Organisation & Community Services

<b>File Reference:</b>	NA
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#### Delivery Program

<b>Goal:</b>	5. Organisational management
<b>Outcome:</b>	5.1 Corporate management
<b>Strategy:</b>	5.1.3 Administrative and support functions
<b>Author:</b>	Leeah Daley OCD Director

#### STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

#### IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

This report is for notation.

#### TABLED ITEMS Nil

#### COMMENT

#### CUSTOMER SERVICE REQUESTS (CRMs)

CRMs carried forward from:

Department	Outstanding as at 1 November 2022	Completed since 1 November 2022	Outstanding as at 1 December 2022
Technical Services	64	28	36
Environment and Sustainability	23	11	12
Town Utilities Parks and Gardens	32	23	9
Building Services	9	7	2
<b>Total Outstanding</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>59</b>

CRM's - 1 November 2022 to 1 December 2022:

Department	Received during November 2022	Completed during November 2022	Outstanding as at 1 December 2022
Technical Services	43	13	30
Environment and Sustainability	35	13	22
Town Utilities Parks and Gardens	30	3	27
Building Services	15	5	10



Executive	0	0	0
Organisation and Community Services	3	0	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>92</b>

CRMs received since 1 November 2022 and still outstanding as at 1 December 2022:

Department	Open
Technical Services	66
Environment and Sustainability	34
Town Utilities Parks and Gardens	36
Building Services	12
Executive	0
Organisation and Community Services	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>151</b>

**TOURISM**

***Bingara Visitor Information Centre (VIC)***

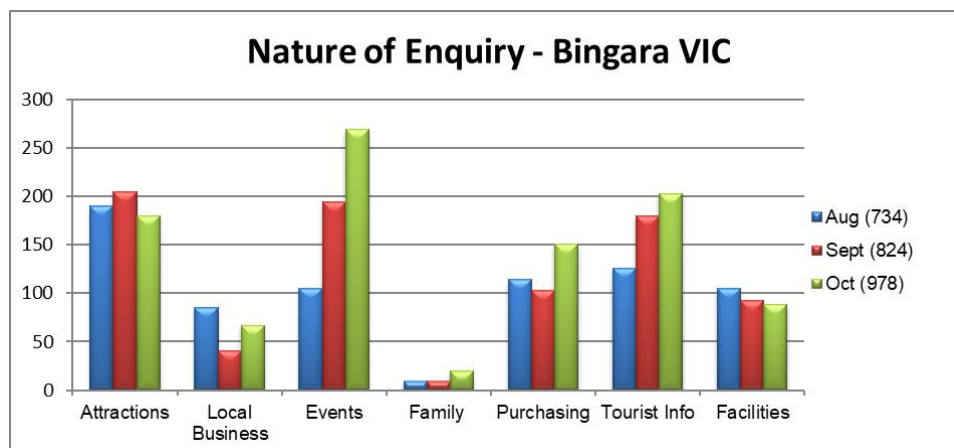
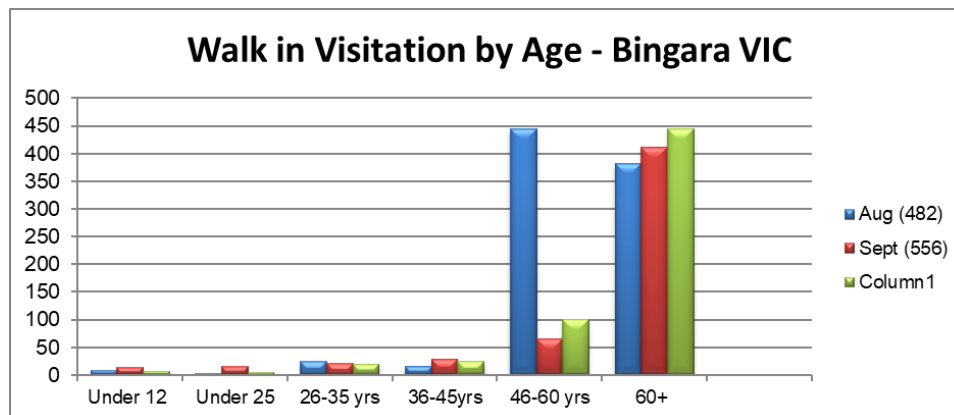
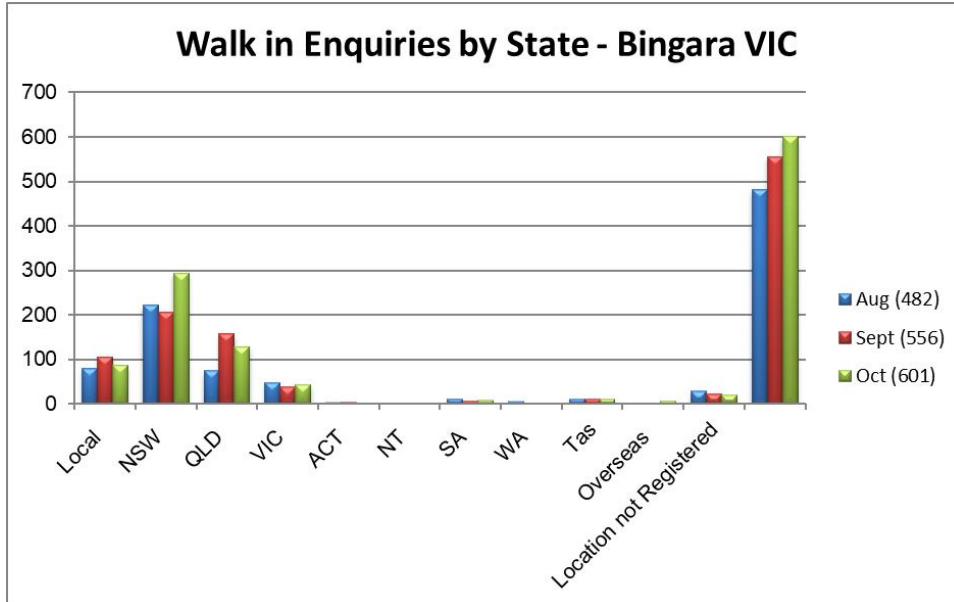
August 2022	September 2022	October 2022
Opening Hours 179.50	Opening Hours 172	Opening Hours 176
Volunteer Hours 30	Volunteer Hours 29	Volunteer Hours 39.5

Income – Bingara VIC	August	Sept	Oct
Products on Consignment	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Merchandise	\$ 1200.00	\$ 1441.16	\$ 1795.96
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 1200.00</b>	<b>\$ 1441.16</b>	<b>\$ 1795.96</b>
Less payments to consignees	\$ 00.00	\$ 00.00	\$ 00.00
<b>Total Merchandise sales</b>	<b>\$ 1200.00</b>	<b>\$ 1441.16</b>	<b>\$ 1795.96</b>
VIC Commission received on Event bookings undertaking on behalf of Community Groups – sub total			
<b>Total Monthly Income Bingara VIC</b>	<b>\$1200.00</b>	<b>\$ 1441.16</b>	<b>\$ 1795.96</b>
Roxy Tour Income	\$ 500.00	\$ 573.64	\$ 256.36
<b>Visitors at Bingara VIC</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>601</b>

Tourist figures are up slightly at 601 due CMCA Rally in October. Not included in this 601, are the more than 320 emails and phone calls received, the majority of which were related to road conditions/closures and camping open/closure questions.

There are approximately 25 people participating in Roxy Theatre day tours.  
TLC and Bunkhouse \$00.00

Campaign Monitor Email Blast send out - Nil  
 Roxy Web Site ticketing/booking design - Nil  
 Community Groups - Assistance - Nil  
 Roxy Conference Room fees generated - Nil  
 Camping Donations - Nil



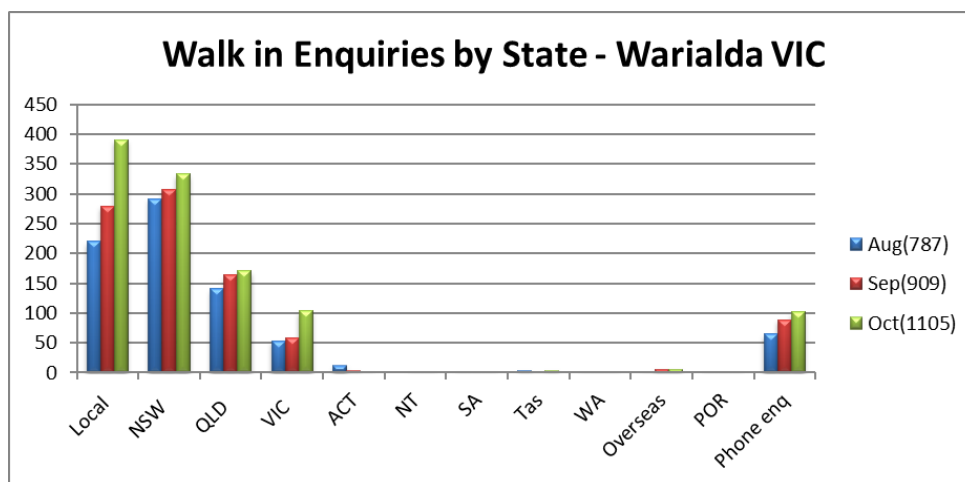
**Warialda Visitor Information Centre (VIC)**

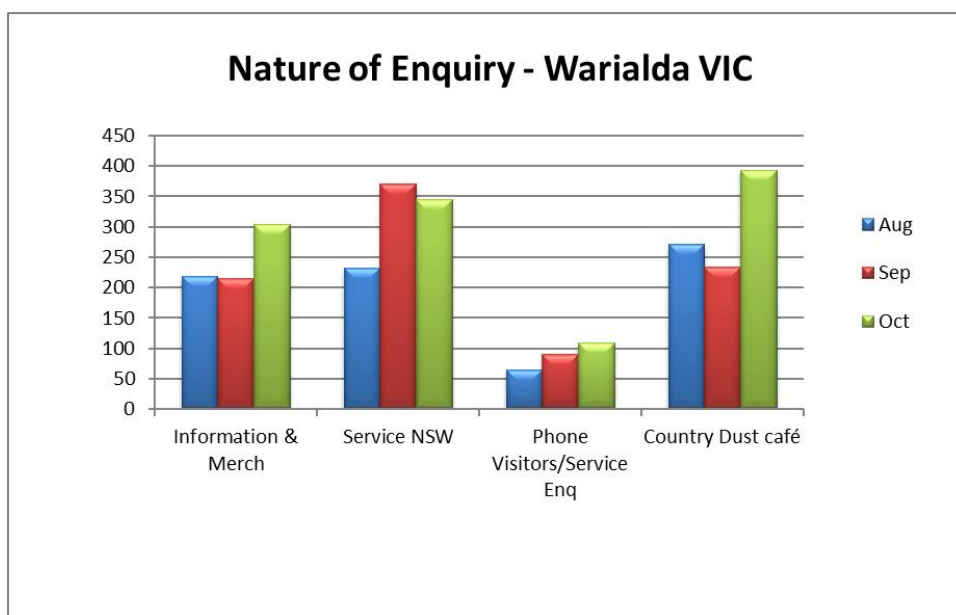
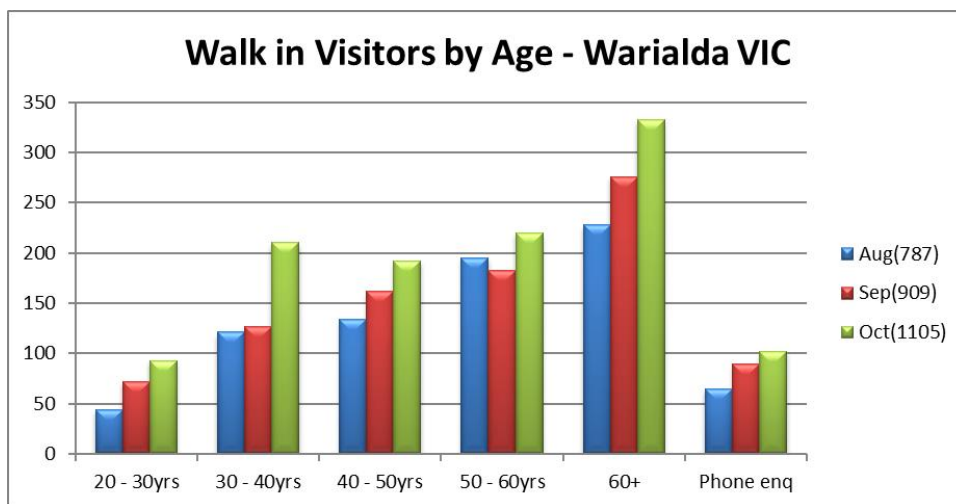
August 2022	September 2022	October 2022
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Opening Hours 161	Opening Hours 154	Opening Hours 147
Volunteering Hours 15.5	Volunteering Hours 16	Volunteering Hours 20

Income	August	September	October
Merchandise sales GST Exclusive	995.21	1294.50	1180.43
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>995.21</b>	<b>1294.50</b>	<b>1180.43</b>
<b>Total Monthly Income</b>	<b>995.21</b>	<b>1294.50</b>	<b>1180.43</b>

Visitors At Warialda VIC	August	September	October
Visitors	219	215	304
RMS	232	371	345
Cafe	271	234	393
Phone Visitor /Service NSW enquires	65	89	108
<b>Total</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>1105</b>





**WARIALDA/DELUNGRA CHSP November 2022**

**Budget**

Sharon Baker

**Meetings**

Next meeting with CHSP Manager will be in the New Year.

**Volunteers**

Short of Volunteer, will advertise again in the new year.

**Transport and trips**

Clients enjoy their fortnightly trip to Inverell, morning tea, shopping & lunch.

**Social support**

Social support always given when attending Day Centres, outing, Meals on Wheels & transport.

Warialda Day Centre clients had a plant swap, it was great to see all our devoted gardeners.

**Day centres**

Client Day Centre numbers are up and down at Warialda & Delungra Day Centres due to clients not well or away.

**Food service**

New Summer menu has started for Meals on Wheels clients, positive comments well done Naroo catering staff.

<b>Warialda / Delungra Chsp Monthly Report</b>		<b>November 2022</b>
<b>Day Centre</b>	<b>Delungra</b>	<b>Warialda</b>
Total active clients	19	100
Clients receiving service	11	53
Total Meals in Centre	52	152
Hours Clients Receive in Centre	144	397
<b>Social Support</b>		
No of Clients	11	53
Individual Hrs	60	100
Group Hrs	84	297
Total Hours Received	144	397
<b>Food Service (Meals On Wheels)</b>		
Clients	0	11
Meals	0	206
<b>Transport</b>		
Number of Clients	1	14
Number of Trips (Per Month)	2	38
<b>Access Bus - Inverell</b>		
Number of Clients	1	7
Number of Trips (Per Month)	2	2
<b>Volunteers</b>		
No of Volunteers for the Month	1	33
Monthly Volunteer Hours	20	129
<b>Outings / Functions</b>		
Number of clients		Plant Swap



*Warialda Plant Swap*

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the report be received and noted.**

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Monthly Action Progress Report November 2022 [8.3.1 - 24 pages]

## Monthly Action Progress Report November 2022


### Goal 1: A healthy and cohesive community

A liveable community has pride of place, ease of access, community harmony, a mobile and healthy population that participates in community life, a feeling of safety and security, a strong vibrant cultural base and places to relax, study and play.



#### 1.1: We have healthy and inviting spaces and places

We have access to a range of high-quality health care services. All residents are supported in living a healthy and active life through the opportunity to participate in recreation activities.





##### 1.1.1: Improve local access to health services

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
1.1.1.2	Support Gwydir Shire's health initiatives	Community Assets Manager	In Progress	20%		



##### 1.1.2: Encourage and enable healthy lifestyle choices









Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
1.1.2.1	Oversee the operation of Council's Aquatic Centres	Community Assets Manager	In Progress	25%		
1.1.2.2	Annual Swimming Pool Inspection Program	Building Services Manager	In Progress	0%		













Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
1.1.2.3	Conduct Council's Category B Enforcement agency functions under the Food Act 2003 (NSW) by the specified due dates	Planning & Environment Manager	In Progress	20%		
1.1.2.4	Implement a strong Wellness and Enablement plan within the Gwydir Shire Council through the CHSP program	Aged Care Manager	In Progress	80%		
1.1.2.6	Reedy Creek Footpath - Stage 1 - Construction of Bicycle/Walking Path - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI)	Engineering Assets Coordinator	Completed	100%		
1.1.2.7	Warialda Memorial Swimming Pool Improvements - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI)	Community Assets Manager	Not Started	0%		

**1.1.3: Provide the right places, spaces and activities**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
1.1.2.5	Implement Council's library programs	Community Assets Manager	In Progress	30%		
1.1.3.1	Big River Dreaming - Wellness and Interpretive Centre	Building Services Manager	In Progress	15%		

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
1.1.3.2	Be a centre of leadership in child development, education and care as well as support for families and community	Social Services Manager	In Progress	50%	All children in early childhood education have received continued information regarding the ongoing development of their children.	
1.1.3.3	Annual Tree Planting program	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	In Progress	45%	Trees have been planted in Riddell Street	
1.1.3.4	Bingara Footpath Program - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI) - Construction/replacement of non-compliant walking/cycle paths	Engineering Services Director	In Progress	5%		
1.1.3.5	Bingara Skate Park project - 2021-2022 Open Spaces Program	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	In Progress	10%		
1.1.3.6	Build our reputation as 'best choice' for families, children and young people to discover their abilities and reach their potential in life	Social Services Manager	In Progress	50%	Holiday programs have been run in both Warialda and Bingara, Well being training workshops were held in Warialda for all high school groups and year 6 primary level students at WSS.	
1.1.3.7	Enhance the overall Resident experience at Naroo Frail Aged Hostel	Aged Care Manager	In Progress	50%		
1.1.3.8	Hope Street Warialda CBD Park Construction - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI)	Organisation & Community Services Director	Not Updated	0%		
1.1.3.9	Landscaping Improvements - Warialda Street Tree Upgrade - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI)	Engineering Assets Coordinator	Not Started	0%	Investigation and design yet to commence	


Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
1.1.3.10	Off Leash Dog Exercise Areas Bingara - Gravesend - Warialda - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program	Planning & Environment Manager	In Progress	95%		
1.1.3.11	Progress Gwydir Shire Council Disability Action plan with committee.	Organisation & Community Services Director	In Progress	70%		
1.1.3.12	Provide exceptional care, embracing authentic partnerships with families and ensuring the 'voice of the child' is central to our service processes.	Social Services Manager	In Progress	70%	Each term our children and families are guided through the process of goal setting to ensure that the child's voice is central to their learning outcomes. These are reflected in the observations and communication with family each term.	
1.1.3.13	Provide high levels of hygiene to councils' community assets	Community Assets Manager	In Progress	20%		
1.1.3.14	State Drought Stimulus Package - CBD Improvements - Warialda Footpath upgrades	Engineering Assets Coordinator	In Progress	90%	Some works yet to be completed.	
1.1.3.15	COVID-19 Economic Stimulus Package - Phase 1 - Batterham Lookout Makeover	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	In Progress	30%		
1.1.3.16	Stronger Country Communities Funding - Round 4 - Construction of Nicholson Oval amenities	Building Services Manager	In Progress	5%		

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
1.1.3.17	Warialda Fitness Centre Amenities Improvements - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI)	Finance Manager	In Progress	10%	I have spoken to Deb at Randall group and the are moving forward, ordering the materials. After pricing for Randall group to remove the asbestos as they are licensed to do so, I have decided to use our own team to do this after talking to Colin, we believe it be a cost saving between \$20-\$15k. Randall group are hoping to start works some time in November. I will be in continual contact with them to get a more accurate date to ensure the gym members are aware as this will require the gym to be closed during periods of construction. The gym members will have the membership put on hold for this period but if they wish they can utilise the Bingara gym during this period.	
1.1.3.18	Warialda Footpath Program - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI) - Construction/replacement of non-compliant cycle/walking paths.	Engineering Services Director	In Progress	5%		
1.1.3.19	Warialda Rail Amenities Building Construction - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI)	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	Deferred	0%		


**1.2: Our community is an inviting and vibrant place to live**

Our community is strong, safe and connected with equal access to the services and facilities that ensure a great quality of life for all ages. Community pride and a sense of belonging are fostered through having a caring and connected community, with suitable programs and activities for all ages and abilities. Our residents' lives are enriched through access to lifelong learning opportunities as well as activities and events that celebrate our culture and encourage participation.


**1.2.1: Enable accessible and affordable lifestyle options**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
1.2.1.1	Meet Council's property management obligations	GLR & Communications Team Leader	In Progress	90%		

**1.2.2: A shared responsibility for community safety**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
	Comply with and report on Councils Companion Animal Management requirements	Planning & Environment Manager	In Progress	20%		

**1.2.3: Celebrate our creativity and cultural expression**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
1.2.3.1	Rollout out the planned schedule of events reviewing the concept, target audience and success of each event	Community Assets Manager	In Progress	20%		








## Goal 2: Building the business base












A productive community provides people with positive choices for investment, employment and study. An innovative, diverse and resilient economy requires collaboration between local people and other levels of government to ensure that funding for infrastructure and economic development exists to support market strength and diversity.








### 2.1: Our economy is growing and supported

Our business community is prepared for future growth and challenges. We welcome new business development opportunities and work with private enterprise to establish strategic partnerships aligned to the creation of employment and industry in our community. Tourism is embraced by all facets of our community and Gwydir Shire Council is seen as a destination of choice for travellers.








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

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
2.1.1.1	Annual Power and Telemetry upgrade program	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	In Progress	15%	Waiting on Switchboard delivery	
2.1.1.2	Annual Water Meter replacement program	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	In Progress	80%		
2.1.1.3	Annual Pump replacement program	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	In Progress	50%	Bingara SPS 3 - 2 pumps sent away for overhaul	
2.1.1.4	Bingara Riverside Caravan Park Amenities Block Construction - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI)	Community Assets Manager	In Progress	25%		
2.1.1.5	Bingara Showground Amenities - Repairs and Maintenance Project	Building Services Manager	In Progress	60%		
2.1.1.6	Building Services Repairs and Maintenance Program for 2022-2023	Building Services Manager	In Progress	20%		
2.1.1.7	December 2020 Flood Disaster works program	Engineering Assets Coordinator	In Progress	95%	Works currently underway.	





Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
2.1.1.8	Fixing Local Roads Round 3 - Resheeting of Getta Getta Road from North Star Road to Inverell Shire	Engineering Services Director	In Progress	5%		
2.1.1.9	Bingara Water Treatment Plant - Solar installation project	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	In Progress	20%		
2.1.1.10	North Star Hall Improvements - Restumping - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI)	Building Services Manager	Deferred	0%		
2.1.1.11	Water main extension to Warialda Landfill	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	Deferred	0%		
2.1.1.12	Stage 1 North Bingara sewer extension project	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	In Progress	10%		
2.1.1.13	Stage 2 North Bingara sewer extension project	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	Deferred	0%		
2.1.1.14	November 2021 Flood Disaster works program	Engineering Assets Coordinator	In Progress	20%	Emergency works completed; claim submitted to TfNSW.	
2.1.1.15	Provide accommodation options to our community and visitors	Community Assets Manager	In Progress	25%		
2.1.1.16	Annual Renewals Program - Sewer mains relining/replacement	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	In Progress	5%	Negotiating with Suppliers to reduce establishment costs - by completing works in conjunction with another council	
2.1.1.17	Annual Heavy Plant Replacement Program	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	In Progress	60%	Backhoe, mini excavator and Broon's ecombi roller for grader have been ordered	
2.1.1.18	Annual Light Plant Replacement Program	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	In Progress	50%	5 items have been delivered out of 12 ordered	

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
2.1.1.19	Reedy Creek Access Road Construction - Stage 2 - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI)	Engineering Assets Coordinator	In Progress	20%	Design and estimate currently underway.	
2.1.1.21	The Living Classroom - Emergency Accommodation and Tourism Opportunities - Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program	General Manager	Not Updated	0%		
2.1.1.22	The Living Classroom Bunkhouse - Deck expansion project	Building Services Manager	Completed	100%		
2.1.1.23	Town Streets - kerb replacement and pavement enhancement program	Engineering Services Director	In Progress	5%		
2.1.1.24	Upper Horton Sports Club Camping Ground Amenities Block - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI)	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	Deferred	0%		
2.1.1.25	Warialda Emergency Accommodation and Respite Centre - Plunkett Street - Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program	Community Assets Manager	In Progress	35%		
2.1.1.26	Warialda Works Depot project- Extend awning off lunch room	Building Services Manager	In Progress	5%		




Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
2.1.1.28	Fixing Local Roads Round 1 Funding - Transport for NSW - Sealing of Horton Road from Horton Village to MR133 Killarney Gap Road	Engineering Services Director	In Progress	45%		
2.1.1.32	Heavy Vehicle Safety & Productivity Program Round 7 and Fixing Local Roads Program Sealing of IB Bore Road from North Star to Moree Plains Shire	Engineering Services Director	In Progress	5%		
2.1.1.34	Develop 10-year stormwater plan	Engineering Services Director	In Progress	40%		
2.1.1.36	Deliver RMCC annual works program	Works Coordinator	In Progress	30%		
2.1.1.37	Construct new disabled access footpaths	Engineering Assets Coordinator	In Progress	30%	RFQ still required for concrete works - staff resourcing issue.	
2.1.1.38	March 2021 Flood disaster works program	Engineering Assets Coordinator	In Progress	50%	Works in progress with crews carrying out repair works on a priority basis.	
2.1.1.42	Federal Government - Roads of Strategic Importance Program - Sealing of 12.3km of County Boundary Road from end of existing seal to Croppa Moree Road.	Engineering Services Director	In Progress	5%		

**2.1.2: Support the growth of our business community**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
2.1.2.1	Develop links and implement programs to improve the local economy	Community Assets Manager	In Progress	20%		
2.1.2.3	Develop strategy for small scale industrial land development.	General Manager	In Progress	70%		
2.1.2.4	Support the development of Chambers of Commerce; B2B networks and collaborations; and develop relationships between Council and local businesses	General Manager	Completed	100%		
DP	Establish a strong business and commercial culture identifying opportunities to increase Gwydir Shire's competitiveness and support the development of innovation and entrepreneurship.	General Manager	Not Updated	0%		


**2.1.3: Promote our community as the place to visit, live, work and invest**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
2.1.3.1	Build on key relationships with stakeholders to enhance the Gwydir Shire tourism profile	Organisation & Community Services Director	Not Updated	0%		

**2.2: We are skilled and have access to excellent educational opportunities**

Our lives are enriched through access to quality education which enables the development of a skilled workforce and the uptake of local job opportunities.

**2.2.2: Build on our quality education and training opportunities (including through the GLR)**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
2.2.2.1	Implement and manage the Gwydir Learning Region program	Community Assets Manager	In Progress	25%		




### Goal 3: An environmentally responsible Shire

A sustainable community is characterised by our appreciation of natural surroundings and biodiversity. This is supported by responsible planning and management practices and the lifestyle actions we agree to, to reduce our impact on the natural environment and to conserve valuable resources.


#### 3.1: Our community understands and embraces environmental change

We respect and value our natural environment, understand the effects of our actions and make wise decisions to retain balance. We endeavour to use all our natural resources wisely with a view to minimising the impact on our natural environment.



##### 3.1.1: Encourage respectful planning, balanced growth and good design

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
3.1.1.1	Implement Development Control Plan based on the Department of Planning NSW standard format including report to Council and Community Consultation	Planning Officer	Deferred	0%		
3.1.1.2	Local Environment Plan review to be completed and implemented	Planning Officer	In Progress	0%		
3.1.1.3	Conduct Gwydir Housing Study	Planning & Environment Manager	In Progress	5%		

##### 3.1.2: Respond to our changing environment

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
3.1.2.1	Annual Telemetry & Technology upgrades	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	In Progress	50%		


**3.1.3: Value, protect and enhance our natural environment**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
3.1.3.1	North West Weed Action Program -Gwydir Shire	Planning & Environment Manager	In Progress	20%		
3.1.3.2	Gwydir River Foreshore - Management Action Plan	Planning & Environment Manager	In Progress	0%		




**3.2: We use & manage our natural resources wisely**

We take responsibility for the management and consumption of our valuable resources and recognise the impact that our actions have both today and on future generations.


**3.2.1: Develop a clean energy future**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
3.2.1.1	Street lighting coverage across the local networks throughout the shire	Planning & Environment Manager	In Progress	20%		


**3.2.2: Use our water wisely**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
3.2.2.1	Annual Water Main replacement program	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	In Progress	5%		
3.2.2.2	Gravesend Recreation Ground Irrigation System - LRCI Phase 3 Project	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	In Progress	50%		
3.2.2.3	Water treatment plant improvements	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	In Progress	50%		

**3.2.3: Reduce, reuse and recover waste**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
3.2.3.1	Implement Gwydir Shire Council's Waste Management Strategy	Planning & Environment Manager	In Progress	20%		

**3.2.4: Identify and make best use of our resource land**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
2.1.2.2	Ensure that there is suitable residential land and premises available to facilitate growth	General Manager	Completed	100%		


**Goal 4: Proactive regional and local leadership**

A collaborative community is informed, has responsible decision making and a sound financial position supported by capable leaders, functional assets and efficient operations to meet the changing needs of the community.



**4.1: We are an engaged & connected community**

Our thoughts and ideas are valued; we are empowered with the knowledge and have the opportunity to participate. The Council provides the community with timely information about local issues and includes opportunities for the community to participate in initiatives. Community consultation continues throughout the period of the Community Strategic Plan to ensure that residents are engaged and connected.






**4.1.1: Encourage an informed community**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
4.1.1.1	Provide effective communication initiatives to service the community	Community Assets Manager	In Progress	25%		

**4.1.2: Enable broad, rich and meaningful engagement to occur**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
4.1.2.1	A review of the effectiveness of communication channels used throughout Gwydir Shire to the wider community. And improvements on how Gwydir Shire communicate events and happening within our Community	Media and Communications Team Leader	In Progress	90%		
4.1.2.1	Consistently engage with communities, moving from transactional to transformational relationships	Integrated Planning Reporting & Governance Officer	In Progress	70%	Community Engagement Strategy approved by Council and on display ready for endorsement by 31 December	

**4.1.3: Build on our sense of community**


Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
4.1.3.1	Achieve positive connections with organisations central to child development, social inclusion, health and education.	Social Services Manager	In Progress	50%	Connections have been made with local health services and early intervention services to provide assistance for families. SHS have made contact regarding homelessness and referrals have been made.	
4.1.3.2	Grow relationships with governments, the corporate sector, community organisations and volunteers to enhance the educational experience	Social Services Manager	In Progress	50%	Education sessions have been held each month at both Bingara and Warialda Toy Libraries to assist families to navigate the complexities of parenthood.	
4.1.3.3	Value and embrace the knowledge and experiences of our families as they grow through our services.	Social Services Manager	In Progress	65%	Families are encouraged to participate in the program at Bingara preschool and Tharawonga. Families are asked to share their cultural practices with the services. This is an inclusive practice and helps children to understand diversity.	
4.1.3.4	Enhance the value of hope, achievement and aspiration for our young people, children and their families.	Social Services Manager	In Progress	55%	The Mayor for a Day program is on hold until 2023, and planning has commenced, the Willoughby Youth Exchange was a great success this year and we look forward to a cracking 2023, The Youth Council has had a few issues and planning is underway in collaboration with the careers advisors at both schools to gain a higher level of applications that are inline with the expectations of the position.	
DP	Collaborate and work together with all stakeholders to build connections, understanding and confidence to foster strong, resilient and connected communities.	Organisation & Community Services Director	Not Updated	0%		






**4.2: We work together to achieve our goals**

We respect our community leaders who listen to and act on our behalf, and value our community's knowledge, experience and ideas which help us implement our vision for the future together.

**4.2.1: Build strong relationships and shared responsibilities**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
4.2.1.1	Manage programs and initiatives to connect with, and value other cultures	Community Assets Manager	In Progress	25%		

**4.2.2: Work in partnership to plan for the future**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
4.2.2.1	Acquire, disseminate and apply new knowledge to grow evidence informed practice.	Social Services Manager	In Progress	55%	Chlid protection training, First aid and CPR including asthma and anaphylaxis training has taken place.	
4.2.2.2	Create comprehensive and collaborative models of care and support services that drive successful, responsive and individualised outcomes for families.	Social Services Manager	In Progress	60%	Meeting with Department of Communities and Justice have been successful in reestablishing a SHS for people experiencing housing stress, assistance with grant applications and associated paperwork has been ongoing and playgroups have been held in both Bingara and Warialda on a regular basis with attendance at a good level.	
4.2.2.3	Implement emerging technologies and best processes to improve efficiency.	Social Services Manager	In Progress	55%	Training is being sourced and will roll out in 2023	

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
DP	Use Councils strategic planning and reporting framework to set priorities, focus energy and resources, strengthen operations, ensure that employees and other stakeholders are working toward common goals, establish agreement around intended outcomes/results, and assess and adjust the organization's direction in response to a changing environment	Integrated Planning Reporting & Governance Officer	In Progress	10%	Council strategies and plans continue to be used to work towards achieving council and community visions	

### Goal 5: Organisational management


The main objective of organisational management is to ensure maximum outputs within minimum resources and effort. Effective organisational management ensures smooth and coordinated functioning of the Council bringing additional benefit to the community, staff and Councillors.

#### 5.1: Corporate management






Good corporate management is about having the right processes for making and implementing strategic decisions.


##### 5.1.1: Financial management and accountability systems

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
5.1.1.1	Complete all legislative reporting requirements for Community Home Support Program (CHSP)	Aged Care Manager	Completed	0%		✓
5.1.1.2	Complete all legislative reporting requirements for NSW Transport (CHSP)	Aged Care Manager	Completed	0%		✓
5.1.1.3	Complete all Naroo Aged Care Prudential reporting and Quality Indicator reporting within the set timeframes	Aged Care Manager	In Progress	75%		●
5.1.1.4	Complete the works for the Aged Care Approvals Round grant monies as per the grant agreement	Aged Care Manager	In Progress	0%		●
5.1.1.5	Implement the Business Improvement Fund grant monies as per the Activity Work plan and Indicative Activity Budget	Aged Care Manager	In Progress	70%		●
5.1.1.13	Develop contract management documentation templates	Chief Financial Officer	In Progress	30%		●




Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
5.1.1.14	Review policies and procedures associated with contracts and procurement in line with LG Procurement regulations, including staff training.	Chief Financial Officer	In Progress	30%		

**5.1.2: Information management systems**


Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
5.1.2.1	Administer and support Council corporate applications, networks and systems.	Business Improvement & IT Coordinator	In Progress	50%	IT have solved 131 reported helpdesk tickets in the last month. The median reply time was 35 minutes and the median solve time was 3 hours. The Authority API is now complete. CIBIS can now be engaged to get the DA portal integrated and result in quicker DA turnover.	
5.1.2.2	Review & Audit of locality boundaries	GIS Officer	In Progress	80%	There have been no objections received from the letter to the owners. The next step is to send a proposal to GNB - Investigating.	
5.1.2.3	IT capital replacement program.	Business Improvement & IT Coordinator	Completed	100%	The replacement program for devices is now complete for the financial year. It went slightly over budget as the procurement of extra ipads were a late edition to the program.	
5.1.2.4	Further the digitisation efforts of Council's records management to ensure the integrity of information for the future.	Business Improvement & IT Coordinator	In Progress	40%	Challenge Services in Tamworth are still digitising our finance assessment files. It is hoped to see the first lot of files in the coming weeks.	
5.1.2.5	Manage Council's corporate Records and Archive Facilities and Record Management Framework in accordance with legislative requirements.	Business Improvement & IT Coordinator	In Progress	45%	The record system, Content Manager, has been recontracted for a further 3 years on the new licencing which is simplified. All features are now enabled, and the user licencing structure is simpler.	





Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
5.1.2.6	Software Renewal Program - 22/23 Financial Year	Business Improvement & IT Coordinator	In Progress	60%	Software renewals have been on budget. Most big-ticket items have been renewed.	

### 5.1.3: Administrative and support functions




Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
5.1.3.1	Assess and implement solutions that increase efficiencies and quality, whilst reducing costs, to improve processes and systems within Council.	Business Improvement & IT Coordinator	In Progress	50%	The service review policy and framework continue in draft. Council was given a useful document that listed another Council's service catalogue that will be a useful boost to get this complete. Further talks have been had with FieldForce4 about a review into our service delivery for multiple departments. Further engagement with committees of Council will be required before going ahead. However, there has been talks about a timesheet system that they have that would be a great alternative to Authority.	
5.1.3.2	Develop and maintain Councils Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements	Integrated Planning Reporting & Governance Officer	In Progress	60%	Annual Report is with graphic designer. Annual report has been delayed due to the delay of the audited financial statements being finalised by the Audit Office.	
5.1.3.3	Manage and support Councils Town utilities and depot operations	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	In Progress	25%		



### 5.1.4: Workforce planning

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
5.1.4.1	Build a culture that empowers staff to learn, teach, lead and succeed	Social Services Manager	In Progress	50%	A training Plan is in place for all social services staff and performance reviews have commenced.	

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
5.1.4.2	Implement and report on the actions included in the 2022-2026 Workforce Plan	Organisation & Community Services Director	In Progress	0%		
5.1.4.3	Development of Human Resources Development processes to manage change and meet individual and organisational needs	Organisation & Community Services Director	Not Updated	0%		
5.1.4.4	Provide and support Naroo Aged care staff with necessary training and education	Aged Care Manager	In Progress	60%		
5.1.4.5	Undertake Workforce Planning to ensure that there is an appropriately skilled workforce to meet future challenges and opportunities.	Human Resource Officer	In Progress	35%	awaiting training information and putting all the information together for Lousie to create a draft	

**5.1.5: Provide responsible internal governance**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
	Council Public Roads	GIS Officer	In Progress	95%	The Public roads have been located and updated. Need to number and name.	
5.1.5.1	Embed Workplace Health & Safety into business-as-usual practice throughout the organisation	Risk & Safety Coordinator	In Progress	5%		
5.1.5.2	Emergency Planning - implement evacuation plans and emergency manuals for 8 sites	Risk & Safety Coordinator	In Progress	20%		

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
5.1.5.6	Embed the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aged Care in both CHSP and Naroo Frail Aged Care Hostel	Aged Care Manager	In Progress	50%		
LCR	Meet all of Councils Legislative Compliance & Reporting requirements as set by the Office of Local Government (OLG)	Integrated Planning Reporting & Governance Officer	In Progress	30%	Tasks are being completed in accordance with OLG compliance and reporting calendar deadlines.	

## 8.4 Investment & Rates Collection

**File Reference:** NA

### Delivery Program

**Goal:** 5. Organisational management

**Outcome:** 5.1 Corporate management

**Strategy:** 5.1.1 Financial Management and accountability systems

**Author:** Helen Thomas, Chief Finance Officer

**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST** Nil

### IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

At each monthly Ordinary Meeting, the Council is presented with the schedule relating to Investments, as at the end of the previous month.

**TABLED ITEMS** Nil

### BACKGROUND

In accordance with Clause 19(3) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 1993, the following information provides details of Council's funds invested as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

#### Direct Investments

Broker	ID	Investment Name	Rating	Type	Next Rollover	Yield	Current Value
NAB	2022.07	NAB	AA	TD	23/12/2022	2.85%	\$1,000,000.00
NAB	2022.08	NAB	AA	TD	23/12/2022	2.85%	\$1,000,000.00
NAB	2202.09	NAB	AA	TD	23/12/2022	2.85%	\$1,000,000.00
<b>Grand Total</b>							<b>\$3,000,000.00</b>

#### Managed Funds

Fund	Investment Horizon	Type	Yield	Current Value
Regional Australia Bank	At Call	Cash		\$355,098.11
Regional Australia Bank Medical Centre	At Call	Cash	3.00%	\$50,000.00
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$405,098.11</b>

#### Total Investments

<b>Direct Investments</b>	<b>\$3,000,000.00</b>
<b>Managed Funds</b>	<b>\$405,098.11</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$3,405,098.11</b>

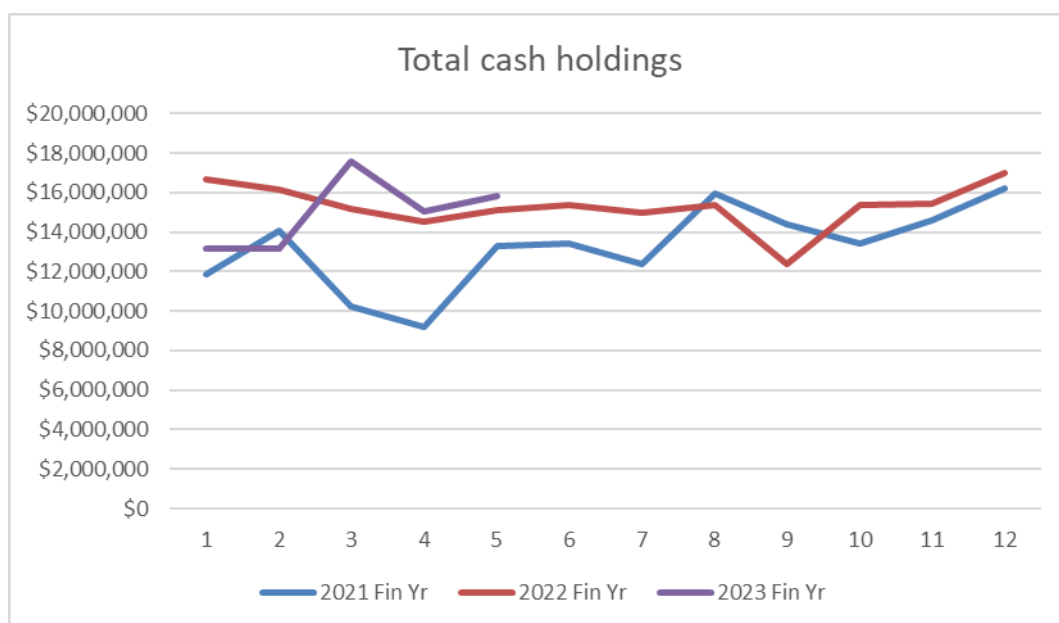


**Cash and Investments**

Total Investments	
Direct Investments	\$3,000,000.00
Managed Funds	\$405,098.11
<b>Grand Total Investments</b>	<b>\$3,405,098.11</b>

Total Cash and Investments	
Investments	\$3,405,098.11
Cash at bank	\$12,403,451.04
<b>Grand Total Cash and Investments</b>	<b>\$15,808,549.15</b>

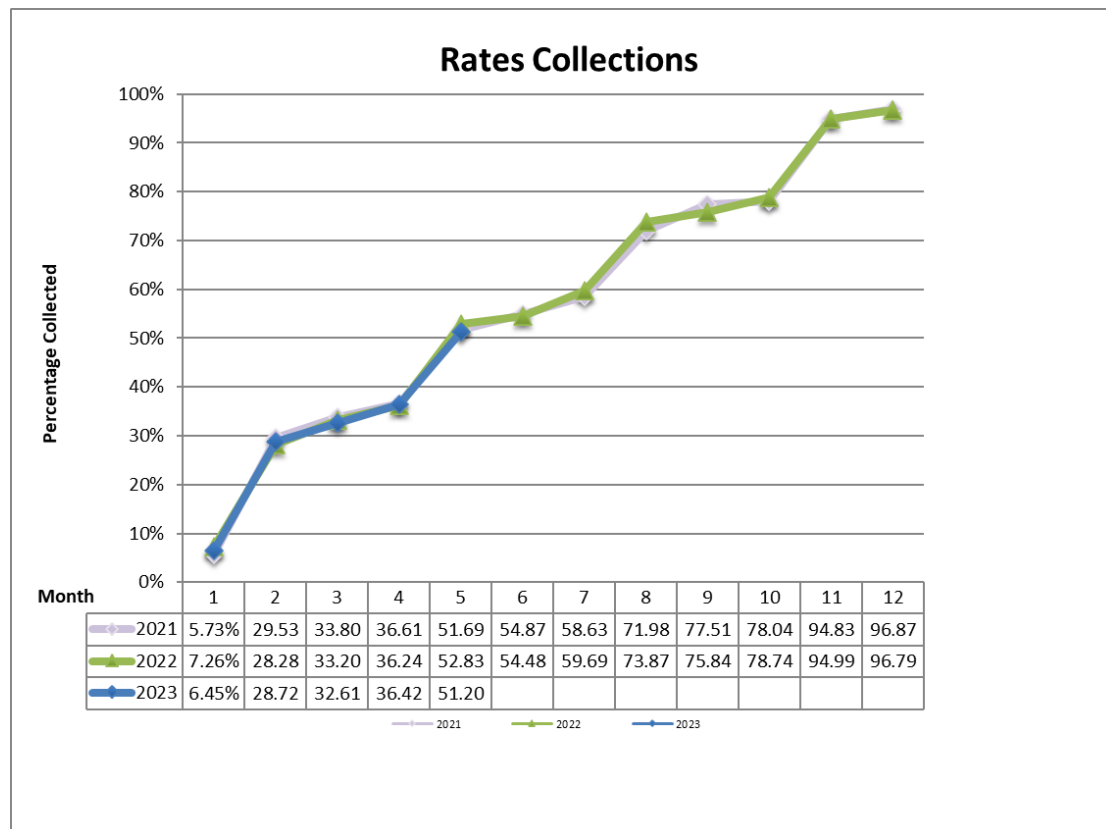
General Fund Cash	
<b>Total cash and investments</b>	<b>\$15,808,549.15</b>
<b>LESS:</b>	
Water fund*	-\$1,638,864.88
Sewer fund*	-\$3,156,142.17
Waste fund*	-\$4,469,707.44
<b>Other restrictions:</b>	
Employee leave entitlements*	-\$400,000.00
Asset replacement*	-\$1,200,000.00
Bonds and deposits	-\$1,052,732.37
Unexpended grants*	-\$2,800,000.00
Developer contributions	-\$539,000.00
<b>Discretionary General Fund Cash</b>	<b>\$552,102.29</b>



I, Helen Thomas, CFO and Responsible Accounting Officer for Gwydir Shire Council, certify that the Council’s investments have been made in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 and Council’s Investment Policy, as amended.

**RATES COLLECTIONS**

The graph below represents a comparative of the percentage collections for the current year against the two previous rating years. The current years collections are up to end November 2022.



**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the November 2022 Monthly Investment and Rates Collection report be received.**

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

## 8.5 Regional Water Strategies (Border Rivers and Gwydir River)

**File Reference:** NA

### Delivery Program

**Goal:** 4. Proactive regional and local leadership

**Outcome:** 4.2 We work together to achieve our goals

**Strategy:** 4.2.2 Work in partnership to plan for the future

**Author:** General Manager

**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST** Nil

### IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

This report is for notation.

**TABLED ITEMS** Nil

### BACKGROUND

The NSW Government has recently released the following Regional Water Strategies and Implementation Plans:

[Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy](#); and;

[Gwydir River Regional Water Strategy](#).

The Implementation Plans for both strategies are attached for your information.

The push by this Council to secure a high security water licence at both Warialda and North Star is supported within the Plans and is being progressed.

The Border Rivers' Implementation Plan also supports the Regional Drought Resilience Plan developed by Inverell and Gwydir Councils. This recognition is important because one of the projects identified was the development of a matrix of standpipes across both Shires for water access during periods of drought.

### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** the report is received and noted.

### ATTACHMENTS

1. final-border-rivers-implementation-plan [8.5.1 - 22 pages]
2. final-gwydir-regional-water-strategy-implementation-plan [8.5.2 - 27 pages]

# Regional Water Strategy

## Border Rivers – Implementation Plan

November 2022



**Published by NSW Department of Planning and Environment**

[dpie.nsw.gov.au](http://dpie.nsw.gov.au)

**Title** Regional Water Strategy

**Subtitle** Border Rivers – Implementation Plan

**First published** November 2022

**Department reference number** PUB22/1079

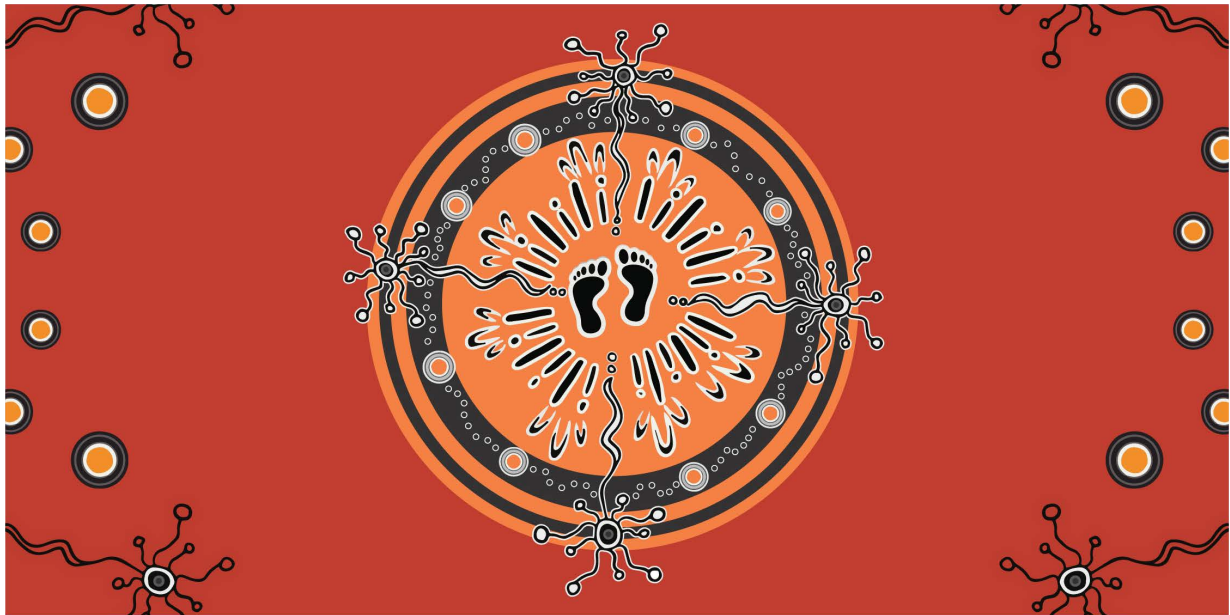
**Cover image** Image courtesy of Floodplain Harvesting Team, Department of Planning and Environment – Water. Barwon River, Mungindi.

**More information** [water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/plans-and-programs/regional-water-strategies](http://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/plans-and-programs/regional-water-strategies)

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# Acknowledging First Nations people

The NSW Government acknowledges First Nations people as its first Australian people and the traditional owners and custodians of the country's lands and water. We recognise that First Nations people have lived in NSW for over 60,000 years and have formed significant spiritual, cultural, and economic connections with its lands and waters.

Today, they practice the oldest living culture on earth.

The NSW Government acknowledges the Bigambul, Githabul, Gomeroi, Kambuwal, Kwiambal and Ngarabal people as having an intrinsic connection with the lands and waters of the Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy area. The landscape and its waters provide First Nations people with essential links to their history and help them to maintain and practice their traditional culture and lifestyle.

We recognise that the Traditional Owners were the first managers of Country and that incorporating their culture and knowledge into management of water in the region is a significant step for closing the gap.

Under this regional water strategy, we seek to establish meaningful and collaborative relationships with First Nations people. We will seek to shift our focus to a Country-centred approach, respecting, recognising and empowering cultural and traditional Aboriginal knowledge in water management processes at a strategic level.

We show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places where First Nations people are included socially, culturally and economically.

As we refine and implement the regional water strategy, we commit to supporting the health and wellbeing of waterways and Country by valuing, respecting and being guided by Traditional Owners/First Nations people, who know that if we care for Country, it will care for us.

We acknowledge that further work is required under this regional water strategy to inform how we care for Country and ensure First Nations people/Traditional Owners hold a strong voice in shaping the future for Indigenous/Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.

Artwork courtesy of Nikita Ridgeway.

# About this Implementation Plan

The Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy charts the NSW Government’s long-term vision and direction for delivering sustainable and resilient water services for the next 20 years. It sets out clear and accountable actions for the NSW Government, local water utilities and industries to tackle the challenges facing the Border Rivers region and maximise opportunities arising from the growing agricultural sector, other emerging and expanding industries, and new investments in transport and community infrastructure.

The Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy has a 20-year timeframe, and the prioritisation and implementation of actions recognises this. Across the strategy’s 20 years, the delivery of actions will span short, medium and longer-term time horizons.

We have already started work on many of the strategy’s actions. For those actions that have not been commenced, some we intend to implement in the short term, and others we intend to implement in the medium to longer term. This recognises, that although all actions are important, we cannot implement all actions immediately.

The Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy has been designed to be adaptive. This means we will update the strategy and our implementation approach to respond to changing priorities. We will review and update the Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy at least every 5 years.

## Immediate priorities for the Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy

Not all of the actions in the Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy will be implemented immediately. The focus of the first stage of implementation will be on:

- **Supporting critical human and environmental needs before we go into the next drought:**
  - Confirming the timing of when additional groundwater bores are needed for Mungindi and Boggabilla to secure critical human needs (Action 4.2).

- Providing clarity for critical environmental needs in droughts by updating the Extreme Events Policy, and developing a WaterNSW operational drought management plan for the Border Rivers (Action 2.4).
- Finalising triggers for implementing temporary water restrictions to improve connectivity and protect the first flush of water after a drought (Action 4.5), and investigate incorporating relevant triggers and connectivity actions into water sharing plans.

- **Improving flows across floodplains:**

- Fully implementing the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy (Action 3.5).
- Remediating unapproved floodplain structures (Action 3.6).
- Continuing investment to improve our understanding and modelling capability of return flows from floodplains. This is an ongoing foundational action needed to support a range of actions in the Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy.

- **Implementing foundational work to do more with less water:**

- Fast tracking the development of regulatory frameworks for town stormwater harvesting (Action 3.1).
- Finalising the climate vulnerability assessment for crops in the Border Rivers to understand how industries may need to adjust under a more variable climate (Action 2.1).
- Setting up ongoing frameworks to support arrangements for participation of local Aboriginal people in water management (Action 1.2) and place-based initiatives to deliver cultural outcomes for Aboriginal people (Action 3.2).

We have prioritised actions based on:

- results of our analyses
- discussions with local councils and other government agencies
- community feedback
- available funding and funding opportunities.

## Responsibilities

The implementation plan also outlines responsibilities for delivery. This will allow us to better:

- monitor the progress of actions
- assess the effectiveness of the strategy
- identify areas for improvement.

## Key implementation partners

Effectively implementing the actions will require involvement of a diverse group of partners that includes the following government agencies, local government, community groups, industry groups and individuals:

- Department of Planning and Environment Water (DPE Water)
- Department of Planning and Environment – Environment and Heritage (DPE Environment and Heritage)
- Department of Primary Industries Agriculture (DPI Agriculture)
- Department of Primary Industries Fisheries (DPI Fisheries)
- Department of Regional NSW
- Local Land Services – Northern Tablelands and North West regions
- Local councils – Tenterfield Shire Council, Gwydir Shire Councils, Glen Innes Severn Shire Council and Moree Plains Shire Council
- First Nations/Aboriginal peak groups and communities
- WaterNSW
- Regional Development Australia
- Destination NSW
- Commonwealth Environmental Water Office
- Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR)
- Non WaterNSW asset owners.

## Monitoring, evaluation and progress reporting

An integrated monitoring and reporting framework has been developed for the various NSW water strategies. We will confirm and apply this to the Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy and regularly report on the progress of implementation.

These progress reports will provide transparency in and accountability for delivering the Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy to the NSW community.

## Reading the Plan

The Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy is the result of significant analysis and community engagement and builds on a range of existing commitments and work already underway. This work and community feedback is the rationale for how implementation of the actions has been prioritised and recorded under the heading **Our starting point**.

There is some work that can commence very soon. Programs planned to start in the next 12 months are recorded under the heading **What we will do next**.

There is some work that will take more time or rely on other actions to be completed first before they can begin. Programs that are not due to commence for more than 12 months are recorded under the heading **What we will do later**. These programs may also be subject to funding approval.

There may be some instances where a column is blank. This is because we cannot begin implementing every action at once. The monitoring framework will help the department and the community assess the progression of implementing the strategy in full.

The NSW Government agency or partner identified as responsible for delivering each program in the strategy is listed as **Lead** under each sub-action.

Agencies or partners that play a supporting role in delivering the program are listed as **Supported by** under each sub-action.



# Priority 1

## Address knowledge gaps and make information easily accessible

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 1.1:</b> <b>Improve public access to climate information and water availability forecasts</b>	WaterNSW have updated the Water Insights and Water Information Dashboards, such as Water Insights, over recent years to provide detailed information to the public.  Stakeholders have suggested that the focus of improved information should be on improved forecasting during flow events (in-event forecasting).	Improve understanding and modelling capability of return flows from floodplains, as a first step to improving in-event forecasting capabilities. This includes looking at methods and data to identify and undertake pilot projects that will test the methodology and suitability for valley-wide application.  <b>This will be a multi-year program.</b>	Publish 6, 12 and 24-month water storage outlooks for Pindari and Glenlyon dams.	DPE Water	
			Develop the Drought Flood Risk Index to provide early warning to water users on whether a regulated valley is at a higher risk of heading into drought, or floods. The Drought Flood Risk Index will be made available on the Water Insights portal.	WaterNSW	

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<p><b>Action 1.2:</b></p> <p><b>Foster ongoing arrangements for participation of local Aboriginal people in water management</b></p>	<p>The Department of Planning and Environment Water is developing a NSW Aboriginal Water Strategy and an engagement framework that describes when and how we engage with First Nations and Aboriginal people and peak organisations in an inclusive and culturally appropriate way.</p>	<p>Finalise the Aboriginal water engagement framework.</p> <p>Set up a program and function to enable the Department of Planning and Environment Water to fund existing and new local Aboriginal organisations to increase their capacity to be involved in water related matters (consistent with the department’s Interim Aboriginal community engagement fee guideline) and incorporate into business-as-usual activities.</p> <p>Work with the Boggabilla/ Toomelah community to progress local governance arrangements.</p>	<p>Incorporate immediate actions from the engagement framework into business-as-usual activities.</p> <p>Finalise the NSW Aboriginal Water Strategy.</p>	DPE Water	First Nations/ Aboriginal peak groups and communities
<p><b>Action 1.3:</b></p> <p><b>Improve understanding of river flows, water use and water quality at priority locations in the Border Rivers</b></p>	<p>The Department of Planning and Environment Water has developed a Hydrometric Network Review and Hydrometric Improvement Plan.</p>	<p>Invest in technologies and monitoring that can provide additional information about water quality and water flows at priority locations that could be used to inform planning and management for these systems. This may include installing new gauges at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Macintyre River between Kanowona and Mungindi (intent operating, water sharing, environmental water)</li> <li>• Dumaresq River downstream of Macintyre Brook Junction (water sharing, environmental water).</li> </ul>	<p>Install gauges in the unregulated upper catchment, with a priority location at Bluff River, near Tenterfield.</p> <p>Identify priority sites to improve telemetered monitoring of water quality parameters in the regulated and unregulated systems.</p> <p>Develop the Reach Water Balance Tool to improve understanding of river flows.</p>	DPE Water	DPE Environment and Heritage

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 1.4: Invest in continuous improvement to water modelling in the Border Rivers region</b>	In collaboration with the Queensland Government the department has developed modelling of the Border Rivers river system within the Source modelling platform.		Recalibrate the Border Rivers river system model with floodplain harvesting data once sufficient floodplain harvesting and unregulated river non-urban water take measurement data are available.  Update water user behaviour (in 2–3 years time) and return flows analysis.	DPE Water	DPE Environment and Heritage  DPI Fisheries
<b>Action 1.5: Improve cross-border collaboration and information sharing</b>	There are existing governance structures and functions set up to support cross border water management collaboration. These include the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Border Rivers Commission</li> <li>• Intergovernmental agreements</li> <li>• Cross Border Commissioner</li> <li>• Border Regional Organisation of Councils.</li> </ul>	Set up regular forums to discuss urban water, strategic and operational cross border issues.  Further develop and finalise a Memorandum of Understanding for Cross Border Collaboration with the Queensland Government and strengthen the capacity of the Border Rivers Commissioner’s office.	Incorporate collaboration and information sharing into business-as-usual practices.	DPE Water	

# Priority 2

Do more with less water					
Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 2.1: Support farm climate adaptation and water efficiency measures</b>	The Department of Primary Industries is undertaking a detailed analysis of the risks and opportunities of a changing climate to support resilience and adaptation in the broadacre cropping sector.	Complete stage 1 of the Department of Primary Industries Climate Vulnerability Assessment which will include publishing summaries of the assessments of climate risk and opportunities for the Border Rivers agricultural commodities including cotton, and extensive livestock.	Implement stage 2 of the Climate Vulnerability Assessment which will include integrating water data from the regional water strategies into the analysis and investigating adaptation responses for cotton.	DPI Agriculture	DPE Water
	The NSW Government has funded an expanded Farms for the Future project to support on-farm digital connectivity and encourage farmers to adopt agtech <sup>1</sup> to boost productivity, including improved water efficiency and drought preparedness.	Continue to roll-out the Farms for the Future project (funded until 2025).	Monitor the outcomes of adoption of digital technologies under the Farms for the Future project to see if any further gaps remain that may support regional adaptation.	DPI Agriculture	
	NSW Government is running a suite of Natural Capital voluntary programs to assist the primary industries sector to undertake sustainable actions to enable improved productivity, drought and climate resilience.	Offer certification through agreed sustainability actions, including improving land management.		DPE Environment and Heritage	

1. Agtech is the collective term for the tools and technologies – sensors, farm management software, imagery and smart farm equipment – that enables best practice agriculture.

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<p><b>Action 2.2:</b></p> <p><b>Coordinate the management of irrigation water releases and water for the environment to improve ecological outcomes</b></p>	<p>This action will be progressed as a medium-term priority. Implementing actions to provide clarity on regulated river drought operations (Action 2.4) and improve connectivity with the Barwon–Darling (Action 4.5) will change the base case analysis for this action and may address some of the current gaps in the flow regime.</p>		<p>Work with environmental water managers and technical experts to scope and commence technical work to improve understanding of the impacts of climate change on the management of water for the environment.</p>	<p>DPE Environment and Heritage</p>	<p>WaterNSW DPE Water</p>
<p><b>Action 2.3:</b></p> <p><b>Identify and address physical barriers to the delivery of water for the environment</b></p>	<p>This action will be progressed after actions around remediating fish passage (Action 3.4) and removing unapproved floodplain structures (Action 3.6) have been completed.</p>		<p>Identify key ecological assets in the upper catchment and constraints to delivering water to those assets.</p> <p>Assess values of wetlands in the lower Macintyre floodplain and the feasibility of delivering water to key assets.</p>	<p>DPE Environment and Heritage Commonwealth Environmental Water Office</p>	<p>WaterNSW DPE Water DPI Fisheries</p>

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 2.4:</b> <b>Provide clarity and certainty for water users, landholders and environmental water managers during drought operations</b>	We have heard that this action needs to be escalated as a priority to ensure we are better prepared before we go into the next drought.	Update the Extreme Events Policy.		DPE Water	DPI Fisheries  DPE Environment and Heritage
	The Border Rivers Incident Response Guide has been updated to reflect lessons learnt from the recent drought.	Develop procedures for the delivery of block releases.		WaterNSW	NRAR  WaterNSW
		Develop and deliver the Border Rivers Regulated River Drought Management Plan.		DPE Environment and Heritage	
		Establish an Environmental Water Advisory Group for the Border Rivers.			



Image courtesy of Therese Hulme, Department of Planning and Environment. Pindari Dam, 16% capacity.

# Priority 3

## Make the region more resilient to climate variability

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 3.1: Modernise the water management framework so it can continue to support sustainable economic diversification</b>	During consultation on the Draft Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy stakeholders identified that the priority for this action should focus on clarifying regulatory arrangements for innovative new water sources such as stormwater harvesting, and that economic diversification needs to be linked to the region's comparative advantages.	Develop a regulatory framework for town stormwater harvesting.  <b>Note this will be a multi-year program.</b>		DPE Water	
			Deliver upfront education and clarity to industry and government on potential water sources, given that the region's surface water sources and some groundwater sources are already fully allocated and there is potential for reduced water availability in the future.	DPE Water	DPI Agriculture
		Consider the findings from the Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy in the update of the Regional Economic Development Strategy for the Upper North West region.  Support Inverell and Gwydir Councils to develop Regional Drought Resilience Plans (by June 2024).	Department of Regional NSW	Local councils  Regional Development Australia  Destination NSW	

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 3.2: Support place-based initiatives to deliver cultural outcomes for Aboriginal people</b>		The Department of Planning and Environment Water will finalise a structure and framework within the department that can support local level place-based initiatives.	Co-design at least one project with Aboriginal people in the Border Rivers region that delivers cultural outcomes from improved access to water.	DPE Water	First Nations/ Aboriginal peak groups and communities  Local Land Services
<b>Action 3.3: Support Aboriginal business opportunities in the Border Rivers region</b>	During consultation on the Draft Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy, we heard that immediate priorities for this action should focus on capability building partnerships.	The NSW Government will work with the Mungindi Local Aboriginal Land Council to develop and build capacity in a range of areas including training, governance and skills.	Work with Aboriginal organisations, businesses, and individuals in the Border Rivers region to identify and support new and existing businesses to explore opportunities and access support or grant funding.	DPE Water	Department of Regional NSW  First Nations/ Aboriginal peak groups and communities  Local councils  Regional Development Australia  Destination NSW



Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 3.4: Mitigate the impact of infrastructure on native fish through infrastructure changes</b>	The Australian Government has provided funding for fish passage, cold water pollution and diversion screens as part of the Northern Basin Toolkit.				
	<b>Native fish passage</b> Funding has been secured through the Northern Basin Toolkit to undertake fish passage works at 9 high priority barriers in the Border Rivers.	Fish passage: Reconnecting the Northern Basin project by addressing the staged remediation of 9 priority barriers in the region by commencing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>project development, feasibility, designs and approvals</li> <li>construction and commissioning.</li> </ul>	Develop a Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting plan for monitoring post construction.	DPE Water DPI Fisheries WaterNSW	Non WaterNSW asset owners
	<b>Cold water pollution</b> Pre-feasibility assessment work has been completed for potential cold water pollution mitigation actions at Pindari Dam.	Develop the cold water pollution monitoring plan within and below Pindari Dam.  This will include the completion of pre-feasibility assessments and demonstration aeration trials of cold water pollution mitigation options to inform the preferred option.	Install and maintain temperature monitoring equipment for Pindari Dam.  Demonstration of aeration to test 'real world' application of this asset solution to assess capability and effectiveness and analyse cost-benefits.  Build on the Northern Basin Toolkit pre-feasibility work and planned demonstration trial, to identify the preferred infrastructure solution for Pindari Dam and develop a business case for the related infrastructure.	DPE Water DPI Fisheries WaterNSW	

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 3.4:</b> <b>Mitigate the impact of infrastructure on native fish through infrastructure changes (continued)</b>	<b>Fish diversion screens</b> Funding has been secured by Queensland agencies through the Northern Basin Toolkit to undertake diversion screening at priority sites in the Border Rivers. Work to define the scope and number of sites is underway.		Identify additional critical pump sites in NSW that could benefit from fish diversion screens.  Build a business case for these sites to be considered in future funding opportunities.	DPI Fisheries	Asset owners
<b>Action 3.5:</b> <b>Fully implement the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy</b>	The NSW Government has created floodplain licences and entitlements for water users in the Border Rivers.	Implement floodplain harvesting water access licences and works approvals, including measurement and monitoring, in the Border Rivers Valley (by June 2023).		DPE Water	
<b>Action 3.6:</b> <b>Remediate unapproved floodplain structures</b>	The Australian Government has funded the Improving Floodplain Connections program.	Commence implementation of the Improving Floodplain Connections program in the Border Rivers.  <b>This will be a multi-year program.</b>		DPE Water	WaterNSW  NRAR  DPE Environment and Heritage  DPI Fisheries

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 3.7:</b> <b>Rehabilitate regionally significant riparian, wetland and floodplain reaches</b>	Local Land Services is implementing a range of programs to improve natural resource management in the Border Rivers region. This includes the Healthy Rivers and Fencing the Northern Basin Riverbanks programs funded by the Australian Government.	Implement the Healthy Rivers Program in the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services region and the Fencing Northern Basin Riverbanks Program in the Northern Tablelands, and North-West Local Land Services regions.	Identify priority sites in the Border Rivers region to focus riparian and floodplain rehabilitation efforts and secure funding to progress the projects.	Local Land Services	DPI Fisheries  DPE Environment and Heritage
	The NSW Government is running a suite of Natural Capital voluntary programs to assist the primary industries sector actions including regenerating local landscapes.	Offer certification for farms that are implementing sustainable actions by protecting remnant vegetation riparian areas, or rocky outcrops via fencing or other means.		DPE Environment and Heritage	



Image courtesy of Simone Cottrell, Department of Planning and Environment. View of Macintyre River and native vegetation.

# Priority 4

## Share water differently to address critical needs of Border Rivers and downstream users

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<p><b>Action 4.1:</b></p> <p><b>Map critical drought refugia</b></p>	<p>The Commonwealth Environmental Water Office, the Department of Primary Industries Fisheries and the Murray–Darling Basin Authority have been undertaking aquatic habitat mapping to inform water management. This mapping covers all of the Barwon River, much of the Darling River and parts of the Dumaresq and Macintyre rivers.</p>		<p>Complete the detailed identification and mapping of critical drought refugia in the Border Rivers including through different technologies. In addition, we will identify critical dry watering requirements for these refugia.</p>	DPI Fisheries	<p>DPE Environment and Heritage</p> <p>DPE Water</p>



Image courtesy of Jane Humphries, Commonwealth Environmental Water Office. Barwon River upstream of Mungindi Weir.

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 4.2:</b> <b>Support towns to understand if groundwater can provide a reliable water supply when surface water availability is limited</b>	<p>The NSW Government provides funding to support councils to complete local water utility strategic planning.</p> <p>The NSW Government’s Town Water Risk Reduction Program is working in partnership with councils, local water utilities, government agencies and the broader sector to address these issues and improve management of town water risks. Around \$12 million has been invested in water security upgrades in the region through the Safe and Secure Water Program.</p>	<p>The Department of Planning and Environment Water will support the completion of the local water utility strategic planning for both Moree and Tenterfield, including assessing if surface water supply shortfalls can be addressed by groundwater.</p> <p>The department will provide technical capability and support to councils to assist them in addressing groundwater quality issues to make it suitable for drinking water.</p>		<p>Tenterfield Shire Council</p> <p>and</p> <p>Moree Shire Council</p> <p>DPE Water</p>	
		<p>Begin investigations of the New England Fold Belt Fractured rocks through a desk top study using all existing data.</p>	<p>Further understand if groundwater is a viable long-term water supply in the east of the catchment through further desktop studies, field investigations and analyses.</p> <p><b>This will be a multi-year project.</b></p>	<p>Department of Regional NSW Geological Survey (groundwater analysis)</p>	
		<p>Gwydir Council will seek to obtain a higher security water licence to supply North Star.</p>			<p>Gwydir Shire Council</p>

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<p><b>Action 4.3:</b></p> <p><b>Investigate innovative water projects to support town water supplies</b></p>			<p>As part of local water utility strategic planning, the Department of Planning and Environment Water will support councils to investigate the use of treated water for non-potable uses in the region and factor bushfire risks into individual town demand and emergency management plans.</p>	<p>Local councils</p> <p>DPE Water</p>	
<p><b>Action 4.4:</b></p> <p><b>Investigate sustainable levels of groundwater extraction in the Border Rivers Alluvial aquifers</b></p>	<p>A numerical model for the alluvial groundwater system has been built jointly with the Queensland Government.</p>		<p>Undertake scientific studies on the impacts of climate change and connectivity between surface water and groundwater to inform sustainable extraction limits.</p> <p>Review the extraction limit for the Basin Plan review in 2026.</p>	<p>DPE Water</p>	

Action	Our starting point	What we will do next	What we will do later	Lead	Supported by
<p><b>Action 4.5:</b></p> <p><b>Investigate ways to improve connectivity with the Barwon–Darling River on a multi-valley scale</b></p>	<p>The NSW Government is developing the Western Regional Water Strategy which will identify priority actions around improving connectivity.</p>	<p>Publish the final Western Regional Water Strategy.</p> <p>Finalise the review of the targets in the North West Unregulated Flow Management Plan.</p> <p>Publish flow targets for the Barwon–Darling to guide embargoes on upstream extraction under drought conditions and investigate implementing relevant targets in the Border Rivers region water sharing plans.</p> <p>Continue to implement the recommendations of the Independent Panel Assessment of the Management of the 2020 Northern Basin First Flush Event, as outlined in the NSW Government response and provide an update report on implementation annually.</p> <p>Re-make the Barwon–Darling Water Sharing Plan.</p>	<p>Continue investigations to understand whether broader reform is needed for improving connectivity during dry periods to inform the review of the Murray–Darling Basin Plan.</p>	<p>DPE Water</p>	<p>DPE Environment and Heritage</p> <p>DPI Fisheries</p>

# Ongoing monitoring, adaptation and reporting

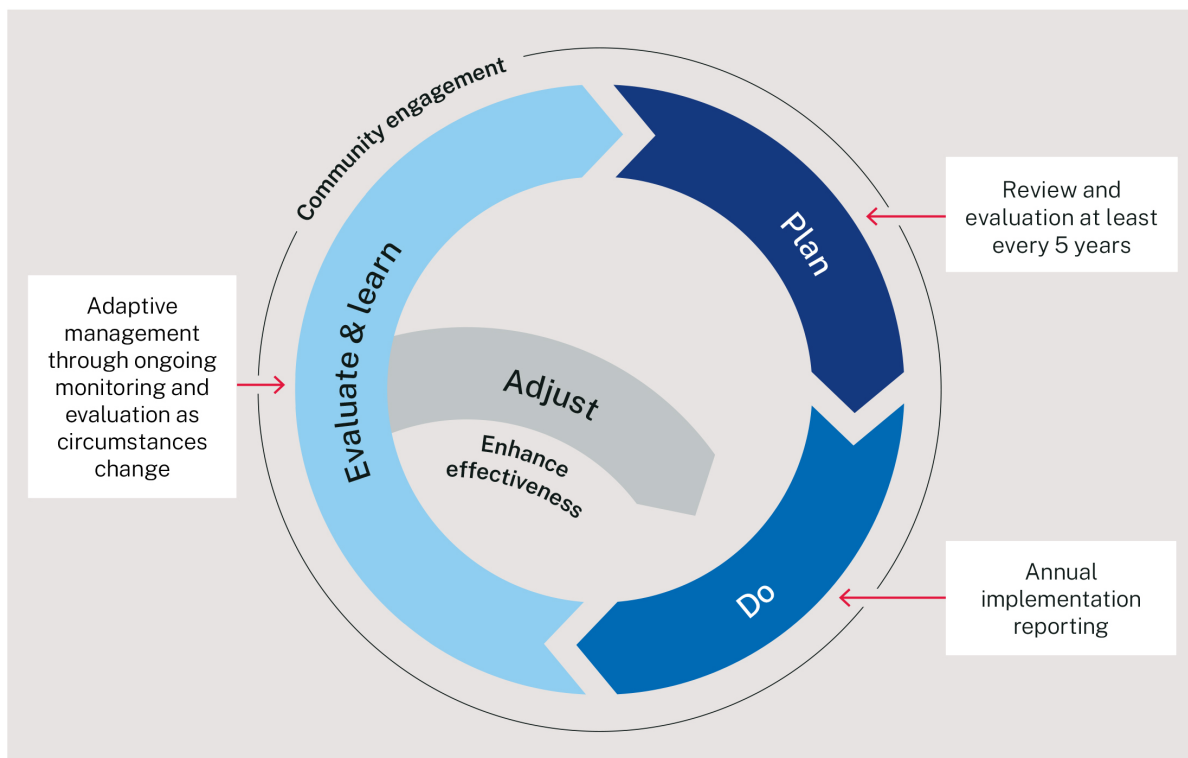
The Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy is designed to respond to changing circumstances. We will undertake a formal review of the strategy at least every 5 years, or in response to significant changing conditions and government priorities. The formal review will ensure that the key assumptions, such as population and demographics, have not significantly changed.

technology, economic conditions, or other events, including how climate change assumptions and responses evolve. These amendments may result in a shift in priorities, and the implementation plan will be updated to reflect this.

Amendments may be made in response to key changes in water demand, social preferences, science and

We will report every year against actions in the implementation plan, so that the community can track our progress and we can demonstrate which actions have been delivered, or continue to be delivered, in that year.

**Figure 1. Regional water strategies process**



**Table 1. Supporting activities**

Action	Lead agency	What we'll deliver in the next 5 years
Reporting	DPE Water	Publish an annual progress update on delivery of the actions in the Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy Implementation Plan so that the community can track progress.
Monitoring and evaluation	DPE Water	Apply the framework developed for the NSW Water Strategy to monitor, review and report against the actions in the Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy.
Review	DPE Water	Undertake a formal review of the strategy at least every 5 years, or in response to changing circumstances. The formal review will ensure that the key assumptions, such as population and demographics, have not significantly changed.



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Department of Planning and Environment



# Regional Water Strategy

## Gwydir – Implementation Plan

November 2022



**Published by NSW Department of Planning and Environment**  
dpi.e.nsw.gov.au

**Title** Regional Water Strategy

**Subtitle** Gwydir – Implementation Plan

**First published** November 2022

**Department reference number** PUB22/1082

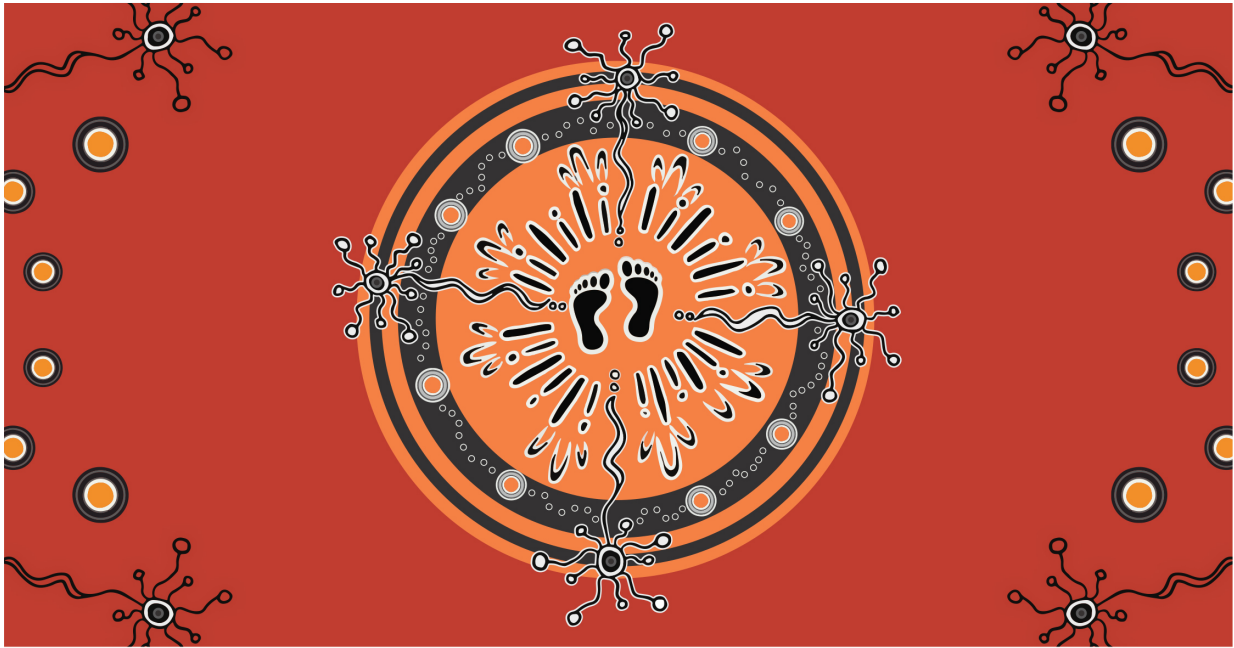
**Cover image** Image courtesy of Belinda Collingburn, Department of Planning and Environment. Gwydir River, Bingara.

**More information** [water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/plans-and-programs/regional-water-strategies](http://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/plans-and-programs/regional-water-strategies)

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# Acknowledging First Nations people

The NSW Government acknowledges First Nations people as its first Australian people and the traditional owners and custodians of the country's lands and water. We recognise that First Nations people have lived in NSW for over 60,000 years and have formed significant spiritual, cultural, and economic connections with its lands and waters.

Today, they practice the oldest living culture on earth.

The NSW Government acknowledges the Gomeroi people as having an intrinsic connection with the lands and waters of Gwydir Regional Water Strategy area. The landscape and its waters provide the Gomeroi people with essential links to their history and help them to maintain and practice their traditional culture and lifestyle.

We recognise that the Traditional Owners were the first managers of Country and that incorporating their culture and knowledge into management of water in the region is a significant step for closing the gap.

Under this regional water strategy, we seek to establish meaningful and collaborative relationships with First Nations people. We will seek to shift our focus to a Country-centred approach, respecting, recognising and empowering cultural and traditional Aboriginal knowledge in water management processes at a strategic level.

We show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places where First Nations people are included socially, culturally and economically.

As we refine and implement the regional water strategy, we commit to supporting the health and wellbeing of waterways and Country by valuing, respecting and being guided by Traditional Owners/First Nations people, who know that if we care for Country, it will care for us.

We acknowledge that further work is required under this regional water strategy to inform how we care for Country and ensure First Nations people/Traditional Owners hold a strong voice in shaping the future for and non-Aboriginal communities.

Artwork courtesy of Nikita Ridgeway.

# About this Implementation Plan

The Gwydir Regional Water Strategy charts the NSW Government’s long-term vision and direction for delivering sustainable and resilient water services for the next 20 years. It sets out clear and accountable actions for the NSW Government, local water utilities and industries to tackle the challenges facing the Gwydir region and maximise opportunities arising from the growing agricultural sector, other emerging and expanding industries, and new investments in transport and community infrastructure.

The Gwydir Regional Water Strategy has a 20-year timeframe, and the prioritisation and implementation of actions recognises this. Across the strategy’s 20 years, the delivery of actions will span short, medium and longer-term time horizons.

We have already started work on many of the strategy’s actions. For those actions that have not been commenced, some we intend to implement in the short term, and others we intend to implement in the medium to longer term. This recognises, that although all actions are important, we cannot implement all actions immediately.

The Gwydir Regional Water Strategy has been designed to be adaptive. This means we will update the strategy and our implementation approach to respond to changing priorities. We will review and update the Gwydir Regional Water Strategy at least every 5 years.

## Immediate priorities for the Gwydir Regional Water Strategy

Not all of the actions in the Gwydir Regional Water Strategy will be implemented immediately. The focus of the first stage of implementation will be on:

- **Supporting critical human and environmental needs before we go into the next drought:**

- Supporting town water needs including finalising Uralla Shire Council’s groundwater investigations (Action 1.1), Moree Shire Council’s demand management strategies (Action 1.2) and securing local water utility groundwater licences for Warialda (Action 1.3).
- Finalising triggers for implementing temporary water restrictions to improve connectivity and protecting the first flush of water after a drought (Action 1.4), and investigate incorporating relevant triggers into water sharing plans.

- Providing clarity for critical environmental needs in droughts by updating the Extreme Events Policy and developing a WaterNSW operational drought management plan for the Gwydir Valley (Action 3.3).

- **Improving delivery of water held for the environment and flows across floodplains:**

- Fully implementing the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy (Action 3.1).
- Remediating unapproved floodplain structures (Action 3.6).
- Continuing investment to improve our understanding and modelling capability of return flows from floodplains. This is an ongoing foundational action needed to support a range of actions in the Gwydir Regional Water Strategy (Action 3.2).
- Implementing the Gwydir Reconnecting Watercourse Country Program (Action 3.7).

- **Implementing foundational work for innovative water sources and future industries:**

- Fast tracking the development of regulatory frameworks for Managed Aquifer Recharge (Action 2.5) and stormwater harvesting (Action 2.4), to enable communities to invest in and take advantage of innovative water sources.
- Finalising the climate vulnerability assessment for crops in the Gwydir Valley (Action 2.2).
- Setting up the framework to support place-based initiatives to deliver cultural outcomes for Aboriginal people (Action 2.7).

We have prioritised actions based on:

- results of our analyses
- discussions with local councils and other government agencies
- community feedback
- available funding and funding opportunities.

## Responsibilities

The implementation plan also outlines responsibilities for delivery. This will allow us to better:

- monitor the progress of actions
- assess the effectiveness of the strategy
- identify areas for improvement.

## Key implementation partners

Effectively implementing the actions will require involvement of a diverse group of partners that includes the following government agencies, local government, community groups, industry groups and individuals:

- Department of Planning and Environment Water (DPE Water)
- Department of Planning and Environment – Environment and Heritage (DPE Environment and Heritage)
- Department of Primary Industries Agriculture (DPI Agriculture)
- Department of Primary Industries Fisheries (DPI Fisheries)
- Department of Regional NSW
- Local Land Services – Northern Tablelands and North West regions
- Local councils – Moree Plains Shire Council, Uralla Shire Council and Gwydir Shire Council
- First Nations/Aboriginal peak groups and communities
- WaterNSW
- Regional Development Australia
- Destination NSW
- Commonwealth Environmental Water Office
- TAFE
- National Parks and Wildlife Services
- Natural Resource Access Regulator (NRAR).

## Monitoring, evaluation and progress reporting

An integrated monitoring and reporting framework has been developed for the various NSW water strategies. We will confirm and apply this to the Gwydir Regional Water Strategy and regularly report on the progress of implementation.

These progress reports will provide transparency in and accountability for, delivering the Gwydir Regional Water Strategy to the NSW community.

## Reading the Plan

The Gwydir Regional Water Strategy is the result of significant analysis and community engagement and builds on a range of existing commitments and work already underway. This work and community feedback is the rationale for how implementation of the actions have been prioritised and is recorded under the heading **Our starting point**.

There is some work that can commence very soon. Programs planned to start in the next 12 months, are recorded under the heading **What we will do next**.

There is some work that will take more time or rely on other actions to be completed first before they can begin. Programs that are not due to commence for more than 12 months are recorded under the heading **What we will do later**. These programs may also be subject to funding approval.

There may be some instances where a column is blank. This is because we cannot begin implementing every action at once. The monitoring framework will help the department and the community assess the progression of implementing the strategy in full.

The NSW Government agency or partner identified as responsible for delivering each program in the strategy is listed as **Lead** under each sub-action.

Agencies or partners who play a supporting role in delivering the program are listed as **Supported by** under each sub-action.

# Priority 1

## Water for critical human and environmental needs

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 1.1: Investigate innovative water solutions for Uralla</b>	Uralla Shire Council is undertaking groundwater investigations.	As part of local water utility strategic planning, the Department of Planning and Environment Water will support Uralla Council to finalise groundwater investigations to determine if it will provide a sufficient backup supply to meet Uralla's long-term water needs.	If groundwater is unsuitable as long-term solution, support Council to identify the preferred water supply security option for Uralla and develop a business case for related infrastructure.	Uralla Shire Council DPE Water	



Image courtesy of iStock. Dangars Lagoon, Uralla.

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
<p><b>Action 1.2: Implement urban water efficiency measures in Moree</b></p>	<p>The NSW Government’s Water Efficiency Program is supporting community adoption of water system efficiency, water conservation and demand management measures.</p> <p>This includes publication of the NSW Water Efficiency Framework. It has been designed for government, water utilities, councils and large businesses to use when implementing water efficiency initiatives.</p>	<p>Moree Plains Shire Council will commence public education and programs that encourage household and commercial water-wise behaviour (ongoing). The Department of Planning and Environment Water will provide support to Council in the form of training for Council staff and help with community-focused water efficiency education campaigns.</p> <p>The department will support Moree Plains Shire Council to manage water demand changes arising from the special activation precinct (links to Action 2.4).</p>	<p>Moree Plains Shire Council will develop a Water Efficiency Management Plan with the support of the NSW Water Efficiency Program.</p>	<p>Moree Plains Shire Council</p> <p>DPE Water</p>	



Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 1.3: Publish guidance on accessing groundwater for high-priority needs</b>	The NSW Government’s Groundwater Strategy identifies state-wide priority actions for how groundwater resources can be managed sustainably into the future.	Finalise the NSW Groundwater Strategy.	Review how critical needs and high priority uses such as local water utility licences are considered when assessing the impacts on the Lower Gwydir aquifer and other users.	DPE Water	DPE Environment and Heritage
			Prepare a guideline with a series of escalating management actions corresponding to stages of groundwater level decline.		
		Gwydir Council will seek to obtain a higher security water licence to supply Warialda.		Gwydir Shire Council	



Image courtesy of Department of Planning and Environment. Groundwater bore pump, NSW.

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
<p><b>Action 1.4:</b>  <b>Investigate ways to improve connectivity with the Barwon–Darling River on a multi-valley scale</b></p>	<p>The NSW Government is developing the Western Regional Water Strategy which will identify the priority actions for improving connectivity.</p>	<p>Publish the final Western Regional Water Strategy.</p> <p>Finalise the review of the targets in the North West Unregulated Flow Management Plan.</p> <p>Publish flow targets for the Barwon–Darling to guide embargoes on upstream extraction under drought conditions and investigate implementing relevant targets in the Gwydir region water sharing plans.</p> <p>Continue to implement the recommendations of the Independent Panel Assessment of the Management of the 2020 Northern Basin First Flush Event, as outlines in the NSW Government response and provide an update report on implementation annually.</p> <p>Re-make the Barwon–Darling Water Sharing Plan.</p>	<p>Continue investigations to understand whether broader reform is needed for improving connectivity during dry periods to inform the review of the Murray–Darling Basin Plan.</p>	<p>DPE Water</p>	<p>DPE Environment and Heritage</p> <p>DPI Fisheries</p>

# Priority 2

Sustainable water resources for new and existing users					
Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 2.1: Improve public access to climate information and water availability forecasts</b>	WaterNSW have updated the Water Information Dashboards, such as Water Insights, over recent years to provide detailed information to the public.	Improve understanding and modelling capability of return flows from floodplains, as a first step to improving in-event forecasting capabilities. This includes looking at methods and data to identify and undertake pilot projects that will test the methodology and suitability for valley-wide application.  <b>This will be a multi-year program.</b>	Publish 6, 12 and 24-month water storage outlooks for Copeton Dam.	DPE Water	
	Stakeholders have suggested that the focus of improved information should be on improved forecasting during flow events (in-event forecasting).		Develop the Drought Flood Risk Index to provide early warning to water users on whether a regulated valley is at a higher risk of heading into drought, or floods. The Drought Flood Risk Index will be made available on the Water Insights portal.	WaterNSW	



Image courtesy of Destination NSW. Township, Moree.

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 2.2: Support farm climate adaptation and water efficiency measures</b>	The Department of Primary Industries is undertaking a detailed analysis of the risks and opportunities of a changing climate to support resilience and adaptation in the primary production sector.	Complete stage 1 of the Department of Primary Climate Vulnerability Assessment which will include publishing summaries of the assessments of climate risk and opportunities for Gwydir agricultural commodities including cotton, and extensive livestock.	Implement stage 2 of the Climate Vulnerability Assessment which will include integrating water data from the regional water strategies into the analysis and investigating adaptation responses for cotton.	DPI Agriculture	DPE Water
	The NSW Government has funded an expanded Farms for the Future project to support on-farm digital connectivity and encourage farmers to adopt agtech <sup>1</sup> to boost productivity, including improved water efficiency and drought preparedness.	Continue to roll-out the Farms of the Future project (funded until 2025).	Monitor outcomes of adoption of digital technologies under Farms for the Future project to see if any further gaps remain that may support regional adaptation.	DPI Agriculture	
	NSW Government is running a suite of Natural Capital voluntary programs to assist the primary industries sector to undertake sustainable actions to enable improved productivity, drought and climate resilience.	Offer certification through agreed sustainability actions, including improving land management.		DPE Environment and Heritage	

1. Agtech is the collective term for the tools and technologies – sensors, farm management software, imagery and smart farm equipment – that enables the best practice agriculture.

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
<p><b>Action 2.3:</b>  <b>Assess the potential costs and benefits of event-based trade of supplementary flows</b></p>	<p>This action relies on foundational activities that need to be completed in Action 2.1 around improvements to in-event flow forecasting capabilities.</p> <p>Improving understanding and modelling capabilities of return flows from floodplains is the first step in improving event-based forecasting and trade.</p> <p>This action also requires ensuring seamless administrative arrangements around trading of licences.</p>	<p>See Action 2.1 around improving in-event forecasting.</p>	<p>Identifying the size of the potential market, the systems needed to ensure compliance with water allocation account rules and support trade approvals.</p> <p>Assessing impacts of supplementary trade on environmental outcomes at a regional and reach by reach scale.</p>	<p>DPE Water</p>	<p>DPE Environment and Heritage</p>

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 2.4: Modernise the water management framework so it can continue to support changing water needs</b>	During consultation on the Draft Gwydir Regional Water Strategy stakeholders identified that the priority for this action should focus on clarifying regulatory arrangements for innovative new water sources such as stormwater harvesting, and that economic diversification needs to be linking to the region's comparative advantages.	Develop a regulatory framework for town stormwater harvesting.  <b>Note this will be a multi-year program.</b>		DPE Water	
			Deliver upfront education and clarity to industry and government on potential water sources, given that the region's surface water sources and some groundwater sources are already fully allocated and there is potential for reduced water availability in the future.	DPE Water	DPI Agriculture
		Consider the findings from the Gwydir Regional Water Strategy in the update of the Regional Economic Development Strategy for Upper North West region.  Support Gwydir Shire Council to develop a Regional Drought Resilience Plan (by June 2024).	Department of Regional NSW	Local councils  Regional Development Australia  Destination NSW	

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
<p><b>Action 2.5:</b>  <b>Investigate managed aquifer recharge in the Gwydir region</b></p>	<p>The CSIRO has undertaken initial research to identify managed aquifer recharge opportunities.</p>	<p>Progress development of a NSW managed aquifer recharge policy framework in consultation with stakeholders.</p> <p><b>This will extend beyond financial year 2022-23.</b></p>	<p>Implement the managed aquifer recharge policy framework, including the necessary water licensing and accounting systems and any legislative changes needed.</p> <p>Explore the feasibility potential of managed aquifer recharge, including its cost effectiveness and how efficiently the stored water can be accessed.</p> <p>Determine public acceptance, particularly the impacts on and benefits for Aboriginal cultural heritage and environmental flows – including specific pilot schemes.</p>	<p>DPE Water</p>	

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 2.6: Foster ongoing arrangements for participation of local Aboriginal people in water management</b>	The Department of Planning and Environment Water is developing a NSW Aboriginal Water Strategy and an engagement framework that describes when and how we engage with First Nations/Aboriginal people and peak organisations in an inclusive and culturally appropriate way, with continued consultation with peak bodies and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.	Finalise the Aboriginal water engagement framework.  Set up a program and function to enable the Department of Planning and Environment Water to fund existing and new local Aboriginal organisations to increase their capacity to be involved in water related matters (consistent with the department’s Interim Aboriginal community engagement fee guideline).	Incorporate immediate actions from the engagement framework into business-as-usual activities.  Finalise the NSW Aboriginal Water Strategy.	DPE Water	First Nations/ Aboriginal peak groups and communities
	The NSW Government has Environmental Water Advisory Groups which provide advice on watering priorities for environmental water in the Gwydir.	Explore how First Nations people can engage with the Gwydir Environmental Water Advisory Group and how their priorities may be represented in annual environmental water planning.		DPE Environment and Heritage	



Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 2.7:</b> <b>Support place-based initiatives to deliver cultural outcomes for Aboriginal people</b>		<p>The Department of Planning and Environment Water will finalise a structure and framework within the department that can support local level place-based initiatives.</p>	<p>Co-design at least one project with Aboriginal people in the Gwydir region that delivers cultural outcomes from improved access to water.</p>	DPE Water	<p>First Nations/ Aboriginal peak groups and communities</p>
		<p>Engage with Gomeroi/ Kamilaroi nation members on how they would like to be involved in place-based actions as part of the Gwydir Reconnecting Watercourses Program and a pilot for a cultural flows program.</p>	<p>Develop and implement a pilot test methodology for cultural flows.</p>	<p>DPE Environment and Heritage</p> <p>DPE Water</p>	<p>Local Land Services</p>



Image courtesy of Belinda Collingburn, Department of Planning and Environment. Gwydir River upstream of Bingara, NSW.

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
<p><b>Action 2.8:</b>  <b>Support Aboriginal business opportunities in the Gwydir region</b></p>	<p>During consultation on the Draft Gwydir Regional Water Strategy, we heard that immediate priorities for this action should focus on capability building partnerships.</p> <p>In addition, the NSW Government is working with other jurisdictions to finalise a target for the ownership of water entitlements under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.</p>	<p>Identify training and capability partnership priorities with TAFE and Gomerioi/ Kamilaroi nation to support the Gwydir Reconnecting Watercourses program.</p>	<p>Work with Aboriginal organisations, businesses, and individuals in the Gwydir River region to identify and support new and existing businesses to explore opportunities and access support or grant funding.</p>	DPE Water	<p>Department of Regional NSW</p> <p>Local councils</p> <p>Regional Development Australia</p> <p>Destination NSW</p> <p>TAFE</p> <p>DPE Environment and Heritage</p>
<p><b>Action 2.9:</b>  <b>Help enable public access to the Gwydir Wetlands</b></p>	<p>Elements of the National Parks and Wildlife Service-managed areas of the Gwydir Wetlands are already open for public access, including Waterbird Lagoon, Gwydir Wetlands State Conservation Area.</p> <p>The National Parks and Wildlife Service support groups accessing other wetland areas of the reserve on request.</p>	<p>Conduct stakeholder engagement on state-wide management arrangement for Aboriginal joint management of all National Parks and Wildlife Service-managed reserves.</p>	<p>Secure funding to improve visitor experience at existing areas of the wetland open to public access.</p> <p>Secure funding and resources to progress a plan of management for the Gwydir Wetlands.</p>	National Parks and Wildlife Service	<p>Traditional Owners</p> <p>Local councils</p>

# Priority 3

Best use of existing water for the environment					
Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 3.1: Fully implement the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy</b>	The NSW Government has created floodplain licences and entitlements for water users in the Gwydir Valley.	Implement floodplain harvesting water access licences and works approvals, including measurement and reporting requirements, in the Gwydir Valley.		DPE Water	
<b>Action 3.2: Invest in continuous improvement to water modelling the Gwydir region</b>			<p>Transition the Gwydir water system model to the Source modelling platform and update environmental watering behaviour in the model.</p> <p>Recalibrate the Gwydir water system model to account for different components of water take once sufficient floodplain harvesting and unregulated river non-urban water take measurement data are available.</p>	DPE Water	<p>DPE Environment and Heritage</p> <p>DPI Fisheries</p>

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 3.3:</b> <b>Provide clarity and certainty for water users, landholders and environmental water managers during drought</b>	We have heard that this action needs to be escalated as a priority to ensure we are better prepared before we go into the next drought.	Update the Extreme Events Policy.  Develop procedures for delivery of block releases.		DPE Water	DPI Fisheries  DPE Environment and Heritage
	The Gwydir Incident Response Guide has been updated to reflect lessons learnt from the recent drought.	Develop and deliver the Gwydir Regulated River Drought Management Plan.		WaterNSW	NRAR  Commonwealth Environmental Water Officer



Image courtesy of Belinda Collingburn, Department of Planning and Environment. Copeton Dam, NSW.

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 3.4: Mitigate the impact of water infrastructure on native fish through infrastructure changes</b>	The Australian Government has provided funding for fish passage, cold water pollution and diversion screens as part of the Northern Basin Toolkit.				
	<p><b>Native fish passage</b></p> <p>Assessment of barriers to fish passage in the Gwydir has been completed, with 26 sites identified as priority for remediation under the NSW Fish Passage Strategy.</p>	<p>Work is proceeding at 4 sites by 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>commence project development, feasibility, designs, and approvals</li> <li>commence construction and commissioning at one site.</li> </ul>	<p>Funding allocated to construction and commissioning of 3 sites for the WaterNSW Dam Safety Upgrade Fishway Offsets Program.</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>Monitoring evaluation and reporting plan developed for monitoring post construction.</p>	<p>DPE Water</p> <p>DPE Fisheries</p> <p>WaterNSW</p>	
	<p><b>Cold water pollution</b></p> <p>Pre-feasibility assessment work completed for potential cold water pollution mitigation actions at Copeton Dam.</p>	<p>Undertake options assessment and preliminary concept design development.</p> <p>Install and maintain temperature monitoring equipment for Copeton Dam.</p>	<p>Identify the preferred infrastructure solution for Copeton Dam and commence a business case for the related infrastructure.</p>	<p>DPE Water</p> <p>DPE Fisheries</p> <p>WaterNSW</p>	
	<p><b>Fish diversion screens</b></p> <p>Funding secured through Northern Basin Toolkit to undertake diversion screening at priority sites in the Gwydir Valley (focus on the Mehi River).</p>	<p>Commence implementation of fish friendly diversion works at priority sites in the Gwydir Valley.</p>		<p>DPE Fisheries</p>	

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
<b>Action 3.5: Rehabilitate regionally significant riparian, wetland, and floodplain areas</b>	The NSW Government is running a suite of Natural Capital voluntary programs to assist the primary industries to undertake sustainable actions including regenerating local landscapes.	Offer certification for farms that are implementing sustainable actions by protecting remnant vegetation riparian, areas, or rocky outcrops via fencing or other means.		DPE Environment and Heritage	
			Identify priority sites in the Gwydir to focus riparian and floodplain rehabilitation efforts, based on the learnings from implementing Action 3.6 and Action 3.7 and secure funding to progress the projects.	Local Land Services	DPI Fisheries  DPE Environment and Heritage
<b>Action 3.6: Remediate unapproved floodplain structures</b>	The Australian Government has funded the Improving Floodplains Connections program.	Commence implementation of the Improving Floodplain Connections program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>field assessments, landholder engagement, functional design, remediation works, evaluate.</li> </ul>		Local Land Services	WaterNSW  NRAR  DPE Environment and Heritage  DPI Fisheries

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
<p><b>Action 3.7:</b>  <b>Modify or remove physical and operational barriers to delivering water for the environment in the western Gwydir catchment</b></p>	<p>The Australian Government has provided funding to implement the Gwydir Reconnecting Watercourse Country Program as part of the Northern Basin Toolkit Measures.</p>	<p>Commence implementation of the Gwydir Reconnecting Watercourse Country Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>engagement, agreements and approvals, construction</li> <li>policy and legislation changes.</li> </ul>		DPE Water	DPE Environment and Heritage



Image courtesy of iStock. Gwydir River, NSW.

Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
<p><b>Action 3.8:</b></p> <p><b>Protect ecosystems that depend on groundwater</b></p>	<p>Baseline conditions of vegetation, wetland and subterranean groundwater dependent ecosystems have been established.</p> <p>Datasets for the identification and assigning of ecological value for vegetation and wetland groundwater dependent ecosystems are available on the Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data (SEED)<sup>2</sup> website.</p> <p>Water sharing plans and water resource plans set objectives and rules for monitoring, evaluating, reporting and management of groundwater dependent ecosystems.</p>	<p>Monitor ongoing conditions of vegetation, wetland and subterranean groundwater dependent ecosystems.</p> <p>Correlate relationships between condition of vegetation, wetland and subterranean groundwater dependent ecosystems.</p> <p>Research methods to assess dependence on groundwater by vegetation groundwater dependent ecosystems.</p> <p>Review available data on springs and assess cultural and ecological value.</p> <p>Implement a risk-based program to regularly improve groundwater dependent ecosystems data, information products, and adaptive management decisions for the benefit of social-cultural and environmental outcomes.</p>	<p>To be informed by the <i>NSW Groundwater Strategy</i> implementation plan.</p>	<p>DPE Water</p>	<p>DPE Environment and Heritage</p>

2. [www.seed.nsw.gov.au](http://www.seed.nsw.gov.au)



Action	Our starting point	What will we do next	What will we do later	Lead	Supported by
<p><b>Action 3.9:</b>  <b>Assess gaps in the flow regime that are preventing achievement of environmental water requirements and identify actions to improve ecological outcomes</b></p>	<p>This will be a medium-term priority. Implementing actions to improve connectivity with the Barwon–Darling (Action 1.4) will change the base case analysis for this action and may address some of the current gaps in the flow regime.</p>		<p>Identify options for improving water deliveries to achieve environmental outcomes where possible.</p> <p>Work with environmental water managers and technical experts to scope and commence work to improve understanding of impacts of climate change on the management of water for the environment.</p>	<p>DPE Water</p> <p>DPE Environment and Heritage</p> <p>Commonwealth Environmental Water Office</p>	<p>WaterNSW</p> <p>DPI Fisheries</p>



Image courtesy of Daryl Albertson, Department of Planning and Environment. Black winged stilt Gwydir Wetlands, Moree.

# Ongoing monitoring, adaptation and reporting

The Gwydir Regional Water Strategy is designed to respond to changing circumstances. We will undertake a formal review of the strategy at least every 5 years or in response to significant changing conditions and government priorities. The formal review will ensure that the key assumptions, such as population and demographics, have not significantly changed.

Amendments may be made in response to key changes in water demand, social preferences, science and technology, economic conditions, or other events,

including how climate change assumptions and responses evolve. These amendments may result in a shift in priorities, and the implementation plan will be updated to reflect this.

We will report every year against actions in the implementation plan, so that the community can track our progress and we can demonstrate which actions have been delivered, or continue to be delivered, in that year.

**Figure 1. Regional water strategies process**

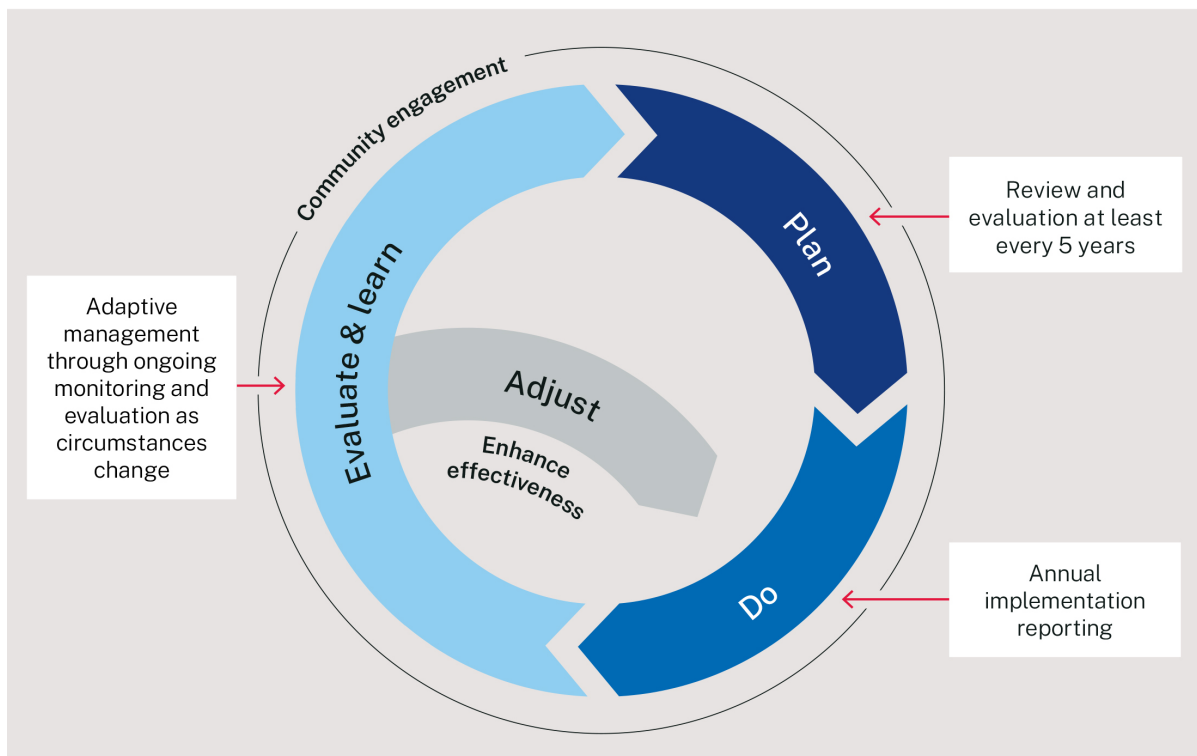


Table 1. Supporting activities

Action	Lead agency	What we'll deliver in the next 5 years
<b>Reporting</b>	DPE Water	Publish an annual progress update on delivery of the actions in the Gwydir Regional Water Strategy Implementation Plan so that the community can track progress.
<b>Monitoring and evaluation</b>	DPE Water	Apply the framework developed for the NSW Water Strategy to monitor, review and report against the actions in the Gwydir Regional Water Strategy.
<b>Review</b>	DPE Water	Undertake a formal review of the strategy at least every 5 years, or in response to changing circumstances. The formal review will ensure that the key assumptions, such as population and demographics, have not significantly changed.



Image courtesy of Destination NSW. Farmer picking cotton on a farm, Moree.

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Department of Planning and Environment



## 8.6 Country Mayors' November Meeting

**File Reference:** NA

### Delivery Program

**Goal:** 4. Proactive regional and local leadership

**Outcome:** 4.2 We work together to achieve our goals

**Strategy:** 4.2.2 Work in partnership to plan for the future

**Author:** General Manager

**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST** Nil

### IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

This report is for notation.

**TABLED ITEMS** Nil

### BACKGROUND

The mayor attended the most recent meeting of the Country Mayors Association held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

Attached are both the minutes of the usual meeting of the Association and the AGM, which was also conducted on the day.

The meeting adopted, in principle, the attached document 'State Election Priorities – 2023 and resolved that the discussion paper be circulated amongst the member Councils for feedback. The feedback was required before 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022. Gwydir Shire has indicated its support for priorities as outlined in the document attached.

### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the report is received and noted.**

### ATTACHMENTS

1. CMA Minutes 2022 18 November [**8.6.1** - 8 pages]
2. CMA AGM Minutes 2022 18 November [**8.6.2** - 5 pages]
3. CMA State Election Priority - March 2023 [**8.6.3** - 16 pages]



# Country Mayors Association Inc of NEW SOUTH WALES

Chairperson: Cr Ken Keith OAM  
PO Box 337 Parkes NSW 2870  
02 6861 2333  
ABN 92 803 490 533

## MINUTES

### GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2022 THEATRETTE, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY

The meeting opened at 8.32 a.m.

#### 1. ATTENDANCE:

Armidale Regional Council, Mayor, Cr Sam Coupland, Mayor  
Ballina Shire Council, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Mayor  
Bathurst Regional Council, Cr Robert Taylor, Mayor  
Bega Valley Shire Council, Cr Russell Fitzpatrick, Mayor  
Bellingen Shire Council, Cr Steve Allan, Mayor  
Berrigan Shire Council, Cr Matthew Hannan, Mayor  
Bland Shire Council, Cr Brian Monaghan, Mayor  
Bland Shire Council, Mr Grant Baker General Manager  
Blayney Shire Council, Cr Scott Ferguson, Mayor  
Blayney Shire Council, Mr Mark Dicker, General Manager  
Byron Shire Council, Cr Michael Lyon, Mayor  
Byron Shire Council, Mr Mark Arnold, General Manager  
Coolamon Shire Council, Cr David McCann, Mayor  
Coolamon Shire Council, Mr Tony Donoghue, General Manager  
Coonamble Shire Council, Cr Tim Horan, Mayor  
Coonamble Shire Council, Mr Ross Earl, Acting General Manager  
Dubbo Regional Council, Cr Mathew Dickerson, Mayor  
Dungog Shire Council, Cr John Connors, Mayor  
Gilgandra Shire Council, Cr Doug Batten, Mayor  
Gilgandra Shire Council, Mr David Neeves, General Manager  
Glen Innes Shire Council, Cr Rod Banham, Mayor  
Glen Innes Shire Council, Cr Troy Arandale, Deputy Mayor  
Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Cr Bob Peter Walker, Mayor  
Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Mr Aaron Johansson, CEO  
Gunnedah Shire Council, Cr Jamie Chaffey, Mayor  
Gunnedah Shire Council, Mr Eric Growth, General Manager  
Gwydir Shire Council, Cr John Coulton, Mayor  
Hilltops Council, Cr Margaret Roles, Mayor  
Inverell Shire Council, Cr Paul Harmon, Mayor

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Kempsey Shire Council, Cr Leo Hauville, Mayor  
Kempsey Shire Council, Mr Craig Milburn, General Manager  
Kiama Municipal Council, Cr Neil Reilly, Mayor  
Kiama Municipal Council, Ms Jane Stroud, General Manager  
Kyogle Council, Cr Kylie Thomas, Mayor  
Lachlan Shire Council, Cr John Medcalf, Mayor  
Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Cr Doug Hawkins, Mayor  
Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Ms Joanna Sangster, General Manager  
Lockhart Shire Council, Cr Greg Verdon, Mayor  
Lockhart Shire Council, Mr Peter Veneris, General Manager  
Mid-Western/Mudgee Regional Council, Cr Des Kennedy, Mayor  
Mid-Western/Mudgee Regional Council, Mr Brad Cam, General Manager  
Murray River Council, Cr Christopher Bilkey, Mayor  
Murray River Council, Mr Terry Dodds, General Manager  
Narrabri Shire Council, Cr Ron Campbell, Mayor  
Narrandera Shire Council, Mr George Cowan, General Manager  
Narromine Shire Council, Cr Craig Davies, Mayor  
Parkes Shire Council, Cr Ken Keith, Mayor  
Port Stephens Council, Cr Ryan Palmer, Mayor  
Port Stephens Council, Mr Tim Crosdale, General Manager  
Shoalhaven City Council, Cr Paul Ell, Deputy Mayor  
Singleton Council, Cr Sue Moore, Mayor  
Snowy Valleys Council, Cr Ian Chaffey, Mayor  
Tamworth Regional Council, Cr Russell Webb, Mayor  
Temora Shire Council, Cr Rick Firman, Mayor  
Temora Shire Council, Mr Gary Lavelle, General Manager  
Tenterfield Shire Council, Cr Bronwyn Petrie, Mayor  
Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Cr Pam Kensit, Mayor  
Uralla Shire Council, Cr Bob Crouch, Deputy Mayor  
Uralla Shire Council, Ms Christine Valencius,, Director Corporate and Community  
Wagga Wagga City Council, Cr Dallas Tout, Mayor  
Walcha Council, Cr Eric Noakes, Mayor  
Walcha Council, Mr Barry Omundson, General Manager  
Warren Shire Council, Cr Milton Quigley, Mayor  
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Cr Ambrose Doolan, Mayor  
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Mr Roger Bailey, General Manager  
Weddin Shire Council, Cr Craig Bembrick, Mayor  
Weddin Shire Council, Ms Noreen Vu, General Manager  
Wingecarribee Shire Council, Mr Viv May, Interim Administrator  
Wingecarribee Shire Council, Ms Lisa Miscamble, General Manager  
LGNSW, Cr Darriea Turley, President  
ALGA, Cr Linda Scott, President  
Office of Local Government, Ms Ally Dench, Executive Director  
Office of Local Government, Ms Karen Purser, Manager Engagement

**APOLOGIES:**

As submitted

**SPECIAL GUESTS**

(a) Cllr Linda Scott, President, ALGA

- (b) Clr Darriea Turley Am, President, LGNSW
- (c) Mr Craig Carmody, CEO, Port of Newcastle
- (d) Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister for Local Government
- (e) Ms Carmel Donnelly PSM, Chair, Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) NSW

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the General Meeting held on 5 August 2022 be accepted as a true and accurate record (Lachlan Shire Council / Kiama Municipal Council).

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

NIL

**4. Mr Craig Carmody, CEO, Port of Newcastle**

Mr Carmody thanked councils for their support which made a historic difference in seeking the removal of the financial penalty to build the container terminal. Newcastle is the largest port on the east side of Australia and the only port to access inland rail. The port currently is only being 50% utilized. Coal is 70% of the ports income and by 2030 50% of income will come from non coal. Special mention was given to the support from the member of Northern Tablelands, Lake Macquarie, Upper Hunter and the Treasurer Matt Kean. The Bill has passed parliament and is awaiting the Governors assent. The container terminal will cost \$2.4billion to build and will be fully automated on 90 hectares and will take 5 years to get to operational status. The northwest and central west are the ports catchment areas and intermodals are planned for Moree, Narrabri, Gunnedah and Tamworth which will result in lower freight costs, use direct rail to the port, an opportunity to establish storage and packing facilities and be a rail heavy port.

**5. Clr Linda Scott, President, ALGA, Update**

Clr Scott reported on wins from the Federal Budget, the replacement of the building Better Regions Fund with Growing Regions Program and the Precincts Partnership Program, the new Housing Accord, the Independent Inquiry into Australia's Response to COVID 19, Regional Banking Closures and new Childcare Legislation, the National State of the Assets Report and the Final Report-SGS-Local Government -Productivity-Research Report

**6. Clr Darriea Turley Am, President, LGNSW, Update**

Clr Turley AM provided a report on the work of LGNSW since the last meeting including the Annual Conference 2022, and Severe Flooding in NSW and gave an advocacy update on Statewide Roads Emergency, the Federal Budget, IPART Rate



Peg 2023/24 and review of Methodology, RFS Assets, and Agritourism Reforms  
 The Association had advocacy wins with Pothole Funding, IPART Review of Domestic Waste Management Charges, Standard Conditions of Consent Implementation, New Cemetery Licensing Scheme and Unlocking Homes Program

**4. Membership**

RESOLVED that Byron Shire Council and Lismore City Council be admitted as members of the Association (Gunnedah Shire Council / Singleton Council)

**5. Immediate Past President**

RESOLVED that notice of 2 months be given to members to change the Associations Constitution to provide for the position of Immediate Past President to be a member of the Executive (Gunnedah Shire Council / Goulburn Mulwaree Council)

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

Outward

- (a) Mr Tom O’Dea, Head of NBN Local NSW, thanking him for his presentation at our meeting held on the 5 August 2022
- (b) Cr Jacob Cass, Centre Manager, Parkes Country Universities Centre, thanking him for his presentation at our Skills Forum on the 4 August 2022
- (c) Cr Rick Firman thanking him for his participation in the Skills Forum held on the 4 August 2022
- (d) The Hon Fiona Hash, National Commissioner for Rural Education, thanking her for her presentation at our Skills Forum held on the 4 August 2022
- (e) The Hon Alister Henskens MP, Minister for Skills and Training, Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology, thanking him for his presentation to our Skills Forum held on the 4 August 2022
- (f) Mr Edward Cavanough, Executive Director and Director Policy, McKell Institute, thanking him for his presentation at our Skills Forum held on the 4 August 2022
- (g) Mr Tim Crakanthorp MP, Shadow Minister for Skills and TAFE and Shadow Minister for Tertiary Education, thanking him for his presentation at our Skills Forum held on the 4 August 2022
- (h) The Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning and Minister for Homes, thanking him for his presentation at our meeting held on the 5 August 2022
- (i) Ms Amy Dumbrell, Acting Director, Biodiversity Offsets Scheme and Dr Louisa Mamouny, Acting Executive Director, Biodiversity Credit Supply Fund and Taskforce, thanking them for their presentation at our meeting held on the 5 August 2022
- (j) Mr Justin Clancy MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Health, thanking him for his presentation at our meeting held on the 5 August 2022
- (k) The Hon Paul Toole MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional NSW and Minister for Police, requesting a meeting to discuss regional and rural policing
- (l) The Hon Dominic Perrottet MP, Premier, extending an invitation to attend and present at our meeting to be held on the 18 November 2022
- (m) Mr Chris Minns MP, Leader of the Opposition, extending an invitation to attend and present at our meeting to be held on the 18 November 2022

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- (n) The Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, extending an invitation to attend and present at our meeting to be held on the 18 November 2022
- (o) The Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning and Minister for Homes, requesting a review of the Biodiversity Offset Scheme to overcome current difficulties being experienced in regional and rural NSW
- (p) The Hon James Griffin MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage, requesting a review of the Biodiversity Offset Scheme to overcome current difficulties being experienced in regional and rural NSW
- (q) Mr Vik Naidoo, Chief Strategy and Commercial Officer, TAFE NSW, outlining the Skills Forum suggestions for positive change and as the officer responsible for emerging market opportunities seeking ways to work together to improve skills acquisition in regional and rural NSW
- (r) The Chief Executive Officer, Australian Local Government Association, seeking a meeting to discuss the overturning by the Board of the adopted resolution to conduct a review of the Financial Assistance Grant Act 1995
- (s) The Hon Alister Henskens MP, Minister for Skills and Training, Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology, seeking a meeting with him to discuss skills issues that affect regional and rural NSW
- (t) The Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories requesting a review of the FAD's ACT
- (u) The Hon Andrew Gee MP, Shadow Minister for Regional Development, local Government and Territories requesting support for a review of the FAG's Act
- (v) The Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister for Local Government advising that the Association does not believe that councils are owners of RFS assets and that councils should maintain their position not to include them in their accounts if they wish to do so
- (w) Clr Linda Scott, President, ALGA forwarding copy of the letter to Minister McBain regarding a review of the FAG's Act

Inward

- (a) The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care regarding the Distribution Priority Area (DPA) changes
- (b) The Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Women, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for Mental Health regarding regional and rural health initiatives
- (c) Cr Darriea Turley AM, President LGNSW, regarding The Building Better Regions Fund
- (d) Craig Carmody, CEO, Port of Newcastle, regarding the development of Newcastle Deepwater Container Terminal
- (e) Julie Briggs, CEO, Riverina JO, forwarding copy of correspondence sent to the Premier regarding construction times for major infrastructure works
- (f) Julie Briggs, CEO, Riverina JO, forwarding correspondence to Minister Roberts regarding introduction of Local Activation Precincts
- (g) Gwydir Shire Council thanking Country Mayors for our continuing efforts in respect of RFS Asset ownership
- (h) Cr Darriea Turley AM, President LGNSW to Clr Ken Keith OAM, on behalf of the LGNSW Board, Executive, our staff and members, thank you for your dedicated and highly respected service leading the CMA, and we look forward to continuing our strong alliance with the association.

NOTED

**7. FINANCIAL REPORT**

RESOLVED That the financial reports for the last quarter were tabled and accepted (Inverell Shire Council / Kiama Municipal Council)

**8. Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister for Local Government**

The Minister thanked the Association for the opportunity to speak to members and advised that major efforts were going into advocacy for the rural roads emergency but current funding is not touching the surface. Approaches are being made to the Commonwealth Government for assistance. Legislation has passed for a Reconstruction Authority and there has been a focus on sustainability and input into the IPART rate increase. Legislation is to be enacted on misconduct after a consultancy period. The Emergency Services Levy will need to be increased

The General Meeting adjourned at 10.45am for the Annual General Meeting and resumed at 11.07am

**9. Ms Carmel Donnelly PSM, Chair, Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) NSW**

IPART have been asked to investigate and make recommendations on:

1. options to set the rate peg methodology to ensure it is reflective of inflation and costs of providing local government goods and services
2. options to stabilise volatility in the rate peg and options for capturing more timely changes in council costs and inflation
3. alternate data sources to measure changes in councils' costs
4. options for capturing changes in councils' costs caused by external factors outside councils' control
5. the effectiveness of current Local Govt Cost index approach
6. the effectiveness of the population growth factor in achieving its intended purpose.

The current rate components are Rate Peg, Change in LGCI, Population Factor, Productivity Factor and Other Adjustments

Key issues so far are reflecting changes in inflation and costs, accuracy and predictability, accounting for new services and responsibilities, is the population factor working as intended, is climate change driving up costs and reducing complexity. The final report is expected to be available in May 2023. Workshops will be held at Wagga Wagga, Sydney, and Tamworth as well as online specifically for regional and rural and metropolitan

The General Meeting was adjourned at 11.52am for Annual General Meeting election results and resumed at 11.54

**10. Presentation**

Clr Jamie Chaffey Chairman, thanked outgoing Chairman Clr Ken Keith for his contribution to the Association and to the Executive Committee and for his

leadership over the past two years and Cllr Rick Firman Vice Chairman, presented a gift to Cllr Keith on behalf of the members of the Association

**11. CMA State Election Priority – March 2023**

The Executive have endorsed a discussion paper on the March 2023 State Election Priorities and Cllr Chaffey Chairman outlined the “Asks” that the Association proposes to put to political leaders in the leadup to the State election in respect to

Skills and Education

Health Services

Roads and Transport

Water Security

Housing

Crime, Law and Order

Telecommunications Blackspot Coverage

Disaster Preparedness and Funding

A number of suggestions were received by members such as comparing Bocsar crime statistics with other states with more police, reviewing why police are not coming to Regional and Rural NSW and to add the Red Fleet

It is important that Country Mayors get the Governments and Oppositions responses to the “Asks”

RESOLVED that the Country Mayors Association adopt the discussion paper in principle and members be asked for feedback to be received by the Secretariat by the 2 December 2022 (Gunnedah Shire Council / Gilgandra Shire Council)

**12. Hon Adam Marshall MP**

Mr Marshall thanked members for their efforts in supporting the Port of Newcastle container terminal. The change was made in a bipartisan way. He stressed that Country Mayors will have a lot of influence in getting changes for the benefit of Regional and Rural NSW. There are a lot of opportunities to get commitment from political parties. Speak to parliamentarians and get change

**13. Bland Shire Council RFS Assets**

A motion was moved by Bland Shire Council / Inverell Shire Council that Country Mayors forward a letter to all NSW MP’s asking for their position on the RFS assets and how the depreciation should be handled

An amendment was moved by Gunnedah Shire Council / Lachlan Shire Council that a letter be written to all political parties asking their position on the RFS assets and how the depreciation should be handled

The amendment was put and was lost. The motion was put and was carried

RESOLVED that a media release be prepared on the RFS assets (Goulburn Mulwaree Council / Bland Shire Council)

**14. Scholarships Sub Committee Report**

RESOLVED that the Scholarships Sub Committee Report on providing a scholarship to an existing CMA member staff be adopted (Temora Shire Council / Gunnedah Shire Council)

**15. Use of Building Better Regions Fund Round 6**

RESOLVED that Due to the removal of the Federal Building Better Regions Fund and the criteria for the new Growing Region Program (yet to be released) members of the Country Mayors Association call on the Federal Government to establish a supplementary round of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund. This supplementary funding will assist Local Councils to fund the renewal and replacement of roads and community infrastructure damaged by weather events over the past two years.(Goulburn Mulwaree Council / Bland Shire Council)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.05pm.

Cr Ken Keith OAM  
Chairman Country Mayor's Association of NSW



# Country Mayors Association of NEW SOUTH WALES Inc

Chairperson: Cr Ken Keith  
PO Box 337 Parkes NSW 2870  
02 6861 2333  
ABN 92 803 490 533

## AGM MINUTES

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2022, THEATRETTE, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY

The meeting opened at 10.45 a.m.

#### 1. ATTENDANCE:

Armidale Regional Council, Mayor, Cr Sam Coupland, Mayor  
Ballina Shire Council, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Mayor  
Bathurst Regional Council, Cr Robert Taylor, Mayor  
Bega Valley Shire Council, Cr Russell Fitzpatrick, Mayor  
Bellingen Shire Council, Cr Steve Allan, Mayor  
Berrigan Shire Council, Cr Matthew Hannan, Mayor  
Bland Shire Council, Cr Brian Monaghan, Mayor  
Bland Shire Council, Mr Grant Baker General Manager  
Blayney Shire Council, Cr Scott Ferguson, Mayor  
Blayney Shire Council, Mr Mark Dicker, General Manager  
Byron Shire Council, Cr Michael Lyon, Mayor  
Byron Shire Council, Mr Mark Arnold, General Manager  
Coolamon Shire Council, Cr David McCann, Mayor  
Coolamon Shire Council, Mr Tony Donoghue, General Manager  
Coonamble Shire Council, Cr Tim Horan, Mayor  
Coonamble Shire Council, Mr Ross Earl, Acting General Manager  
Dubbo Regional Council, Cr Mathew Dickerson, Mayor  
Dungog Shire Council, Cr John Connors, Mayor  
Gilgandra Shire Council, Cr Doug Batten, Mayor  
Gilgandra Shire Council, Mr David Neeves, General Manager  
Glen Innes Shire Council, Cr Rod Banham, Mayor  
Glen Innes Shire Council, Cr Troy Arandale, Deputy Mayor  
Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Cr Bob Peter Walker, Mayor  
Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Mr Aaron Johansson, CEO  
Gunnedah Shire Council, Cr Jamie Chaffey, Mayor  
Gunnedah Shire Council, Mr Eric Growth, General Manager  
Gwydir Shire Council, Cr John Coulton, Mayor  
Hilltops Council, Cr Margaret Roles, Mayor  
Inverell Shire Council, Cr Paul Harmon, Mayor  
Kempsey Shire Council, Cr Leo Hauville, Mayor  
Kempsey Shire Council, Mr Craig Milburn, General Manager  
Kiama Municipal Council, Cr Neil Reilly, Mayor

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Kiama Municipal Council, Ms Jane Stroud, General Manager  
 Kyogle Council, Cr Kylie Thomas, Mayor  
 Lachlan Shire Council, Cr John Medcalf, Mayor  
 Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Cr Doug Hawkins, Mayor  
 Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Ms Joanna Sangster, General Manager  
 Lockhart Shire Council, Cr Greg Verdon, Mayor  
 Lockhart Shire Council, Mr Peter Veneris, General Manager  
 Mid-Western/Mudgee Regional Council, Cr Des Kennedy, Mayor  
 Mid-Western/Mudgee Regional Council, Mr Brad Cam, General Manager  
 Murray River Council, Cr Christopher Bilkey, Mayor  
 Murray River Council, Mr Terry Dodds, General Manager  
 Narrabri Shire Council, Cr Ron Campbell, Mayor  
 Narrandera Shire Council, Mr George Cowan, General Manager  
 Narromine Shire Council, Cr Craig Davies, Mayor  
 Parkes Shire Council, Cr Ken Keith, Mayor  
 Port Stephens Council, Cr Ryan Palmer, Mayor  
 Port Stephens Council, Mr Tim Crosdale, General Manager  
 Shoalhaven City Council, Cr Paul Ell, Deputy Mayor  
 Singleton Council, Cr Sue Moore, Mayor  
 Snowy Valleys Council, Cr Ian Chaffey, Mayor  
 Tamworth Regional Council, Cr Russell Webb, Mayor  
 Temora Shire Council, Cr Rick Firman, Mayor  
 Temora Shire Council, Mr Gary Lavelle, General Manager  
 Tenterfield Shire Council, Cr Bronwyn Petrie, Mayor  
 Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Cr Pam Kensit, Mayor  
 Uralla Shire Council, Cr Bob Crouch, Deputy Mayor  
 Uralla Shire Council, Ms Christine Valencius,, Director Corporate and Community  
 Wagga Wagga City Council, Cr Dallas Tout, Mayor  
 Walcha Council, Cr Eric Noakes, Mayor  
 Walcha Council, Mr Barry Omundson, General Manager  
 Warren Shire Council, Cr Milton Quigley, Mayor  
 Warrumbungle Shire Council, Cr Ambrose Doolan, Mayor  
 Warrumbungle Shire Council, Mr Roger Bailey, General Manager  
 Weddin Shire Council, Cr Craig Bembrick, Mayor  
 Weddin Shire Council, Ms Noreen Vu, General Manager  
 Wingecarribee Shire Council, Mr Viv May, Interim Administrator  
 Wingecarribee Shire Council, Ms Lisa Miscamble, General Manager  
 ALGA, Cr Linda Scott, President  
 Office of Local Government, Ms Ally Dench, Executive Director  
 Office of Local Government, Ms Karen Purser, Manager Engagement

**APOLOGIES**

AS READ

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Adjourned Annual General Meeting held on 11 March 2022 be accepted as a true and accurate record (Temora Shire Council / Bathurst Regional Shire Council).

**3. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Cr Ken Keith outlined the years highlights and thanked everybody for their support during his terms

RESOLVED That the Chairman's report be received and noted (Parkes Shire Council /Bathurst Regional Council)

**4. Secretaries Report – Financial Report**

RESOLVED That the financial reports for the 2021/22 year as tabled be accepted (Narromine Shire Council Council/ Bland Shire Council)

**5. Position of Immediate Past President**

RESOLVED that notice of 2 months be given to members to change the Associations Constitution to provide for the position of Immediate Past President to be a member of the Executive (Singleton Council / Goulburn Mulwaree Council)

**6. Returning Officer**

RESOLVED That the Returning Officer for the conduct of the elections be Mr Allan Burgess (Inverell Shire Council / Bland Shire Council)

**7. Election of Office Bearers**

**7.1 Chairperson**

The Returning Officer advised that nominations closed on the 15 November 2022 and that he had received one nomination in writing for Cr Jamie Chaffey, Gunnedah Shire Council, who was nominated by Temora Shire Council and Narromine Shire Council. As there was only one nomination the Returning Officer declared Cr Jamie Chaffey elected Chairman for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 years

**7.2 Vice Chairperson**

The Returning Officer advised that nominations closed on the 15 November 2022 and that he had received one nomination in writing. for Cr Rick Firman, Mayor, Temora Shire Council who was nominated by Gunnedah Shire Council and Narromine Shire Council As there was only one nomination the Returning Officer declared Cr Rick Firman elected as Vice Chairperson for the 2022/23 years

**7.3 Secretary/Public Officer**

RESOLVED That Mr Eric Growth General Manager Gunnedah Shire Council, be appointed Secretary/Public Officer (Parkes Shire Council / Uralla Shire Council)

**7.4 Executive**

Twelve nominations were received for the eight ordinary members of the Executive Committee. Nominations were received for Clr Sam Coupland Armidale Regional Council, Clr Craig Davies, Narromine Shire Council, Clr Russell Fitzpatrick, Bega Valley Shire Council, Clr Matthew Hannan, Berrigan Shire Council, Clr Paul Harmon, Inverell Shire Council, Clr Pam Kensit, Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Cr Ken Keith, Parkes Shire Council, Clr John Medcalf, Lachlan Shire Council, Clr



Phyllis Miller, Forbes Shire Council, Clr Sue Moore, Singleton Council, Clr Kylie Thomas, Kyogle Council and Clr Russell Webb, Tamworth Regional Council As it was resolved earlier in the meeting that the Immediate Past President shall be a committee member when the constitution is changed Cr Ken Keith withdrew his nomination from the ballot leaving eleven nominations for eight positions. Ballot papers were distributed and a count of the ballot papers was conducted by Clr Linda Scott and Ms Ally Dench. The meeting continued

**8. Signatories to CMA Bank Accounts**

RESOLVED that the signatories to the CMA Bank Accounts No 260210575727 and No 250210246625 be the General Manager, CFO (Accountant), and Director Corporate Services of Gunnedah Shire Council (Gwydir Shire Council / Upper Lachlan Shire Council)

**9. SETTING OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES**

RESOLVED That the fees for the 2022/23 year remain at \$750 for Councils with a population of 10,000 and over, and Councils with a population of less than 10,000 paying 75% \$562.50 (Lockhart Shire Council / Inverell Shire Council)

**8. Secretariat**

RESOLVED That Allan Burgess trading as Alkanat Consulting be appointed the Secretariat (Gwydir Shire Council / Dubbo Lachlan Council)

**9. Meeting dates for 2021**

RESOLVED that the meeting dates for 2023 be 10 March, 26 May, 4 August and 3 November (Coonamble Shire Council / Inverell Shire Council)

**10. Executive**

To allow the counting of votes to continue the AGM was adjourned at 11.07am and resumed at 11.52am

Following the count of the votes the Returning Officer declared the following delegates elected to the Executive for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 years

- Clr Russell Webb Tamworth Regional Council
- Clr Sam Coupland Armidale Regional Council
- Clr Craig Davies Narromine Shire Council
- Clr Russell Fitzpatrick Bega Valley Shire Council
- Cr Kylie Thomas Kyogle Council
- Clr Sue Moore Singleton Council
- Clr John Medcalf Lachlan Shire Council

- Clr Phyllis Miller Forbes Shire Council

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.54 am.

Cr Ken Keith  
Chairman Country Mayor's Association of NSW



2023

# State Election Priorities



*"What we want is nothing more than equity"*

## Introduction

Notes: Brief History of Organisation

NSW Country Mayors Association is an incorporated body with a rich history of standing up for the needs of all residents that choose to live, work, and play within a rural local government area covered by our membership. CMA was established prior to 1980 with a handful of members, and has proudly grown to 76 members councils, representing more than three million residents or 37% of the NSW population.

Our mission is to further the interests of rural and regional councils by advocating and lobbying on relevant State and National issues by working with State and Federal Governments and other appropriate organisations to further the interests of our members, as well as to act as an information sharing forum. People should have the same rights and opportunities, regardless of where they live within the State.

2022 has been a challenging year for local government in NSW and our members have experienced extreme financial pressure. Compounding factors include: Rate pegging determination by lpart; inflation reaching 7%; an increase in operating expenses; delivery of infrastructure and maintenance projects blowouts; energy price increases; shortage of skilled staff; and the list goes on.

The list of election priorities within this document were resolved by consensus on 18 November 2022 and informed by our annual membership survey of highest priorities.





## Skills and Education

**Ask** – The NSW Skills board oversee the department of Skills and Training review of the “Smart and Skilled program” to address the inadequate access to apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship courses in member councils.

**Justification** – CMA member councils are experiencing critical skills shortages among many sectors of their communities. Trades qualified positions are over-represented and the availability to undertake these courses in country communities is extremely low. The requested review must seek out key information to test if equity of service provision through RTOs and the NSW TAFE system is available.

Key information required;

- Availability of apprenticeships courses by LGA
- Course completion rates by LGA
- Courses available that are listed by Infrastructure Australia on their Infrastructure Priority List (IPSL) and the frequency of the course offering
- Time of enquiry to enrolment in five categories - Rural, Regional, Remote, Outer Metro and Metro

Our members are looking for transparency that is not available in TAFE NSW annual reports. It is anticipated this data will prove

### *2023 State Election Priorities*

change is needed to provide equity of service provision.

**Ask** – A commitment to funding a “Building Country Trades Program” to be delivered throughout member councils TAFE facilities or RTOs.

**Justification** – Following on from the review of the “Smart and Skilled program”, change will be needed to provide equity and a program must be developed to ensure funding is delivered to the right location to provide the right courses. The guidelines for this new program must require local community input into the apprenticeship courses that will be available to ensure maximum participation. Council and Chamber of Commerce and Industry or other identified business representative bodies should be invited to participate.

**Ask** – NSW Government agencies commit to funding the training placements to meet 100% of future workforce needs.

**Justification** – During a Rural Skills Forum run by CMA in August 2022, member councils expressed disappointment in the number of trained staff that are being poached for State government positions and therefore adding to the skills shortage in member councils. One of the items on the list of suggestions to see positive change from the forum was to encourage the State government to train their own trainees and apprentices rather than seeking staff from local government and the private sector.



## Health Services

**Ask** – NSW Regional Health Minister commits to a review of the local health districts, including operational performance and boundaries.

**Justification** – CMA held a Rural Health Forum in May 2022, during which many member councils called for a review of the local health districts and their performance.

**Ask** – That the NSW Government increases the incentives to rural generalists (doctors) to encourage greater numbers providing essential services to our member councils' residents.

**Justification** – Country NSW is experiencing critical doctor shortages of all skill sets. Many country hospitals are unable to attract locums to provide care during weekends and holidays and this is adding pressure to facilities in larger regional cities. Increasing the incentive may overcome this critical shortage.

**Ask** – That NSW health commits to training and employing sufficient nurse practitioners to ensure every hospital and medical service in Regional, Rural and Remote NSW can provide timely service to residents

**Justification** - Country NSW is experiencing critical doctor shortages of all skill sets. Training and/or upskilling local experienced registered nursing staff to become nurse practitioners will help ease the pressure on those doctors serving in country communities.



## Roads and Transport

**Ask** – Commit to funding the “Fixing Local Roads Program” from 2023 through to 2027 at the same value plus inflation rate. It is also desirable that this program change to a non-contestable funding stream to allow member councils to plan for future works with certainty.

**Justification** - The \$500 million Fixing Local Roads Program has provided a major funding boost to member councils to carry out vital maintenance and repairs on local roads since 2019. Round four opened in September this year.

**Ask** – The establishment of a \$250 million funding program for Regional, Rural and Remote councils that will allow for reoccurring failure points in local and regional road networks to be removed – a “Fixing Country Pinch Points Program”. It is also desirable that this program be established as a non-contestable funding stream to allow member councils to plan for future works with certainty.

**Justification** – During the past 12 months, 126 out of NSW’s 128 councils have had a natural disaster declaration. The local and regional road networks throughout rural NSW have seen significant damage. Many of these roads have seen extended closure timelines due to isolated locations being affected, such as

### *2023 State Election Priorities*

causeways, creeks, low lying areas, drains etc. Such a program would enable a targeted approach for swift action.

**Ask** – The establishment of a “Country Roads to Recovery Program”. This new State program should mirror the Commonwealth government’s Roads to Recovery Program.

**Justification** – The Commonwealth “Roads to Recovery Program supports the construction and maintenance of the nation’s local road infrastructure assets, which facilitates greater accessibility and improves safety, economic and social outcomes for country Australians. The program provides funding to all local governments, and to state and territory governments in unincorporated areas. Flexibility is built into the program, with funding recipients responsible for choosing road projects on which to spend their Roads to Recovery funding, based on their local priorities.

**Ask** – Acceleration of the Regional Road Reclassification and Transfer Program (15,000km Take Back Program).

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

*Future Transport 2056* identifies the NSW Road Classification Review

*2023 State Election Priorities*

(Classification Review) as a key initiative to make adjustments to the classification policy framework and update the road network to align with the “Hub and Spoke” Transport Network Model and the “Movement and Place” Framework.

Also in February 2019, the NSW Government announced up to 15,000 kilometres of council-owned roads would be returned to state management as part of a broader package of support for local councils to better manage and maintain the rural road network.

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

An Independent Panel, chaired by Ms Wendy Machin, has been established

to make recommendations for consideration by the NSW Government.

The Minister for Regional Transport and Roads has stated the program that was committed during the 2019 election campaign was now scheduled to take up to eight years to deliver.

**Ask** – Increase regional road funding allocation to the Block, Repair and Supplementary grant programs to member councils by 30%.

**Justification** – The current funding allocations are not adequate to maintain the existing network at the Austroads standard for the traffic volumes these roads carry.







## Water Security

**Ask** – Establishment of a funding program to assist our member councils to purchase and install smart water meters throughout residential, commercial and industrial users - the “Smart Country Water User Program”.

**Justification** – Water is a precious resource that enables country communities to thrive. The installation of smart meters allows for real-time monitoring of water use or misuse and excess use. Another significant benefit is early warning leak detection that leads to prompt repair and water conservation.

**Ask** - Simplify the process to enable the reuse of recycled water on the gravel road networks throughout country NSW.

**Justification** – Normal weather cycles will soon return to NSW, and pressure

will return on many member councils to implement water restrictions on residents, therefore reducing the livability in some member council towns and villages. The use of potable water on the gravel road network throughout country NSW is a waste during extreme times of water shortages. A review of the Section 60 approval by NSW health could see barriers removed and the safe use of recycled water replacing the need to use precious potable water.

**Ask** - Increase in funding of the “Safe and Secure Water Program” to allow more availability for member councils to access support to reduce the risks associated with operation of our water and sewer treatment facilities.

**Justification** – Funding currently available is not adequate to address all risk rating five facilities across country NSW.



## Housing

**Ask** – Establishment of a funding program that will support member councils to increase the housing stock available and improve own source revenue. The “Building Country Homes Program” will be a four-year commitment that will deliver \$100 million each year. The program design will allow applications from Regional, Rural and Remote councils only, and should require equal contributions. The purpose of the fund is to encourage the establishment of new residential estates or increase of homes in existing estates. Once the homes are sold, both State and Local governments must share the proceeds equally.

**Justification** – The establishment of the suggested program will assist in closing the gap between the housing that is available and the housing required in country communities. Extra housing will also assist with the under-population concerns in the majority of member council communities and reduce the job vacancy rates. This approach is consistent with priority area 5.1.1, 5.1.2 & 5.1.3 of the NSW Housing Strategy 2041.



*2023 State Election Priorities*

**Ask** – That an adequately funded and suitably qualified taskforce within the department of Department of Planning and Environment (DPIE) – Housing and Property is created to identify suitable land in Regional, Rural and Remote LGAs to escalate the creation of community housing in member councils.

**Justification** - NSW Housing Strategy 2041- Priority Area 3 is maximising the impact of NSW Government-owned land, investment or assets and government-led development projects or funding to achieve the housing vision. Priority 3.1.1 states the NSW Government should support the ongoing growth of the community housing industry through new supply development partnerships that attract low-cost finance, and a new policy to enable community housing provider-led redevelopment of Land and Housing Corporation-owned land through long-term leases.

**Ask** –Establishment of a fund to provide interest-free loans to enable critical head work infrastructure (sewer, water, storm water, communications and power) to be available to developers in identified Regional, Rural and Remote council areas with critical affordable housing shortages.

**Justification** – The housing system is complex, and although the NSW Government can have a significant impact through investment, policy, legislation and regulation, it cannot achieve the Housing 2041 vision alone. Collaboration is at the center of the strategy and will be key to its successful delivery over the next 20 years. This includes collaboration with local Government, community housing providers, the development industry, the finance industry and other private sector partners.

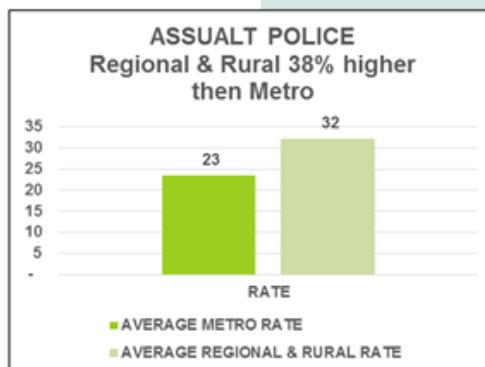
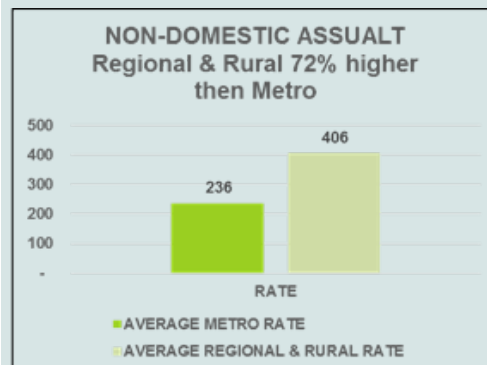
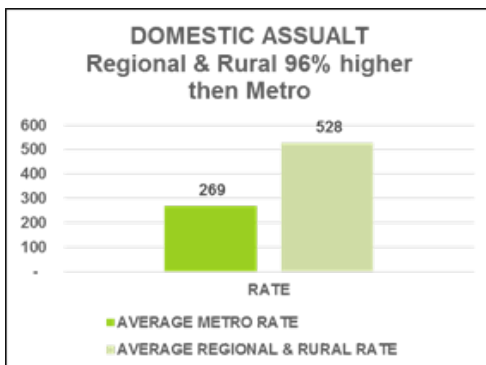


## Crime, Law and Order

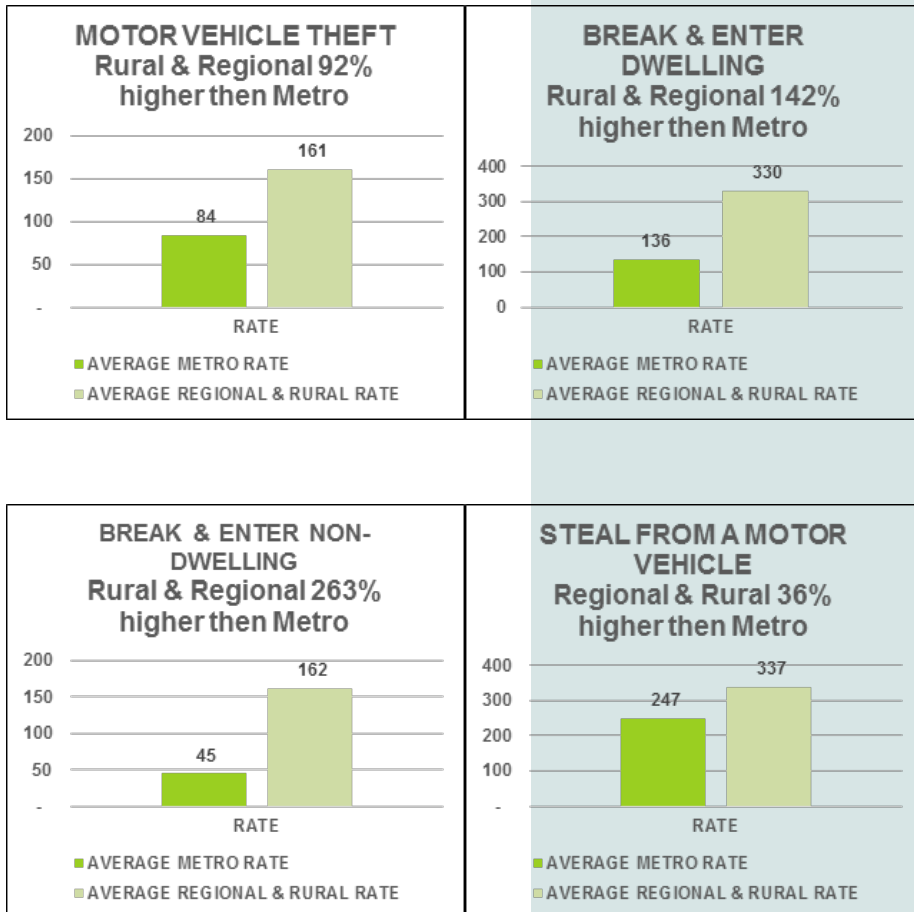
**Ask** – NSW Government conduct a review and redistribution of the policing workforce to ensure equity according to the BOCSAR crime rates between Metropolitan and Regional, Rural and Remote LGAs.

**Justification** – According to the data published on the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) the rates of crime in the majority of reportable categories are substantially higher in regional, rural and remote LGAs than in metropolitan LGAs. It is reasonable to assume that this imbalance or inequity is due to the incorrect distribution of policing resources according to the need. It is not unreasonable that the residents of Regional, Rural and Remote NSW should expect to have crime rates equal to that of metropolitan residents. To achieve this, change is required.

Graphs indicate crime rates year 2021/22 according to BOCSAR data



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**Ask** – The NSW Government increase spending on the NSW police force to increase front line proactive policing numbers in Regional, Rural and Remote LGAs most in need according the BOCSAR data.

**Justification** – According to the 2021 NSW Police Annual Report, NSW had the highest ratio of residents to police officers at 1:466 when compared to Queensland, Victoria and South Australia. Queensland was the next highest at 1:332, followed by Victoria at 1:303 and South Australia at 1:293. NSW also had the lowest spend per resident at \$511, Queensland at \$512, South Australia at \$564 and Victoria at \$622.



## Telecommunications Blackspot Coverage

**Ask** - That the NSW Government commits to funding the "Connecting Country Communities" Mobile Black Spot Program and the "Regional Digital Connectivity" Program at current annual funding levels plus inflation rate until 2027.

**Justification** - This major infrastructure investment will help regional, rural and remote residents and businesses stay connected. In particular, the rollout will improve mobile coverage along major transport routes, in small communities and across locations prone to natural disasters. It will make country NSW an even better place to live and do business.

As part of the Federal 2022-23 Budget, the Commonwealth committed \$300 million to boost multi-carrier mobile coverage on regional roads, and improve mobile coverage in under-served remote communities. This commitment forms a key part of the Government's Better Connectivity Plan for Regional and Rural Australia and CMA is seeking a long-term commitment from the NSW Government to boost the funding available to our member councils.





## Disaster Preparedness and Funding

**Ask** – Commitment to increase disaster recovery funding to councils for the task of assessment, clean-up and building back more resilient infrastructure and services following natural disaster events, and to reduce assessment timeline for category of natural disasters to eliminate financial uncertainty impeding recovery.

**Justification** – Responding to natural disasters, including the provision of relief and recovery assistance to disaster-affected communities, is primarily the responsibility of state and territory governments ('the states'). However, in recognition of the significant cost of natural disasters, the Australian Government established the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) to alleviate the financial burden on the states and to facilitate the early provision of assistance to disaster-affected communities.

Through the NDRRA, the Australian Government provides financial assistance directly to the states to assist them with costs associated with certain disaster relief and recovery assistance measures. The NDRRA makes provisions for state governments to activate relief and recovery assistance immediately following a disaster without seeking approval from the Australian Government.

Under these arrangements, the state or territory government determines which areas receive NDRRA assistance and what assistance is available to individuals and communities, making available whatever assistance deemed necessary regardless of whether it is eligible for cost sharing under the NDRRA. This recognises that states are best placed to identify the type and level of assistance to make available following a disaster, in accordance with their responsibility for disaster management.

The current process of declaring a natural disaster in NSW relies on federal approval of the category (A,B,C or D) and this process can take months before approval is granted enabling member councils to proceed with works.

**Ask** – Commit to policy reform that will see the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) being removed from local government and funded by other means.

### **Justification – Accounting Assessment of Control of Red Fleet Assets**

1. Under Australian Accounting Standard AASB 116 *Property, Plant and Equipment*, issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB), an entity recognises items of property, plant and equipment **in its financial statements**. Therefore, who controls an item is important.

2. AASB 15 (Revenue from Contracts with Customers) defines control as: *"the ability to direct the use of, and obtain substantially all of the remaining benefits from, the asset. **Control includes the ability to prevent other entities from directing the use of, and obtaining the benefits from, an asset**".*

3. AASB 16 also includes in the right to control **the right to direct the use of the identified asset** (paras B24-B30).

4. *Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements* (para Aus49.1) states that *"An asset is a resource controlled by the entity as a result of past*

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events and from which future economic benefits are expected to flow to the entity', and that 'In respect of not-for-profit entities in the public or private sector ... Future economic benefits is synonymous with the notion of service potential'.

5. AASB Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting in para 4.21 states that "An entity has the present ability to direct the use of an economic resource if it has the right to deploy that economic resource in its activities, or to allow another party to deploy the economic resource in that other party's activities".

NSW local government bodies LGNSW and NSW Country Mayors Association have been calling for a reversal of the decision that places a huge financial burden on our members and puts a cloud over the long-term viability of some member councils.

**Ask** – Increase the funding available to councils through the “Floodplain Management Grant Program” to remove the financial burden from local government when flood mitigation studies are conducted.

**Justification** – The NSW Floodplain Management Program provides financial support to local councils and eligible public land managers to help them manage flood risk in their communities. The program supports the implementation of the NSW Government’s Flood Prone Land Policy.

Support provided under the programs usually involves \$2 from government for every \$1 provided by the applicant. Increasing the funding available would eliminate the requirement for councils to contribute.

**Ask** – NSW Government establish a funding program that will lead to an increase the installation of flood gauges and automated warning systems.

**Justification** –Across our member councils, the current amount and condition of flood gauges is unacceptable and swift action is required. Members have raised concerns for the safety of those road users travelling through the network of local and regional roads during flooding events.





## Summary

The NSW Country Mayors Association stands firm in support of the NSW Premier's Priorities and his commitment to making a significant difference to enhance the quality of life of the people of NSW, and that is why we are pleased to offer our list of priorities for consideration and implementation.

CMA requests the establishment of suggested new funding programs to activate regional, rural and remote communities across NSW, these include;

- "Building Country Trades Program"
- "Fixing Country Pinch Points Program"
- "Country Roads to Recovery Program"
- "Smart Country Water User Program"
- "Building Country Homes Program"
- NSW Government establishes a funding program that will lead to an increase in the installation of flood gauges and automated warning systems.

CMA requests that an ongoing funding commitment to existing successful funding programs not mentioned within this document be made, these include;

- "Stronger Country Communities"
- "Fixing Local Road's program" from 2023 through to 2027
- "Resources for Regions"
- Increase regional road funding allocation to the; block, repair and supplementary grant programs to member councils by 30%
- Increase in funding of the "Safe and Secure Water Program"
- That the NSW Government commitments to fund the "Connecting Country Communities" Mobile Black Spot Program and the "Regional Digital Connectivity" Program at current annual funding levels until 2027.
- That the NSW Government increases the incentives to rural generalists (doctors) to encourage greater numbers providing essential services to our member councils' residents.

CMA requests a review of the list of current ministries that are charged with delivering for all residents of NSW equally.

- The NSW Skills Board oversee the department of Skills and Training review of the "Smart and Skilled program"
- That the NSW Government review its forecasting methodology to incorporate localized data that has been proven to provide a more accurate outcome on population.
- Simplify the process to enable the reuse of recycled water on the gravel road networks throughout country NSW.

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- NSW Regional Health Minister commits to a review of the local health districts, their operational performance and boundaries.
- That an adequately funded and suitably qualified taskforce within the department of DPIE – Housing and Property is created to identify suitable land in Regional, Rural and Remote LGAs to escalate the creation of community housing in member councils.
- Establishment of a fund to provide interest-free loans to enable critical head work infrastructure (sewer, water, storm water, communications and power) be available to developers in identified Regionals, Rural and Remote LGAs with critical affordable housing shortages.
- NSW Government conduct a review and redistribution of the policing workforce to ensure equity according the BOCSAR crime rates between Metropolitan and Regional, Rural and Remote LGAs.
- The NSW Government increase spending on the NSW police force to increase front line proactive policing numbers in Regional, Rural and Remote LGAs most in need according to the BOCSAR data.
- Commit to policy reform that will see the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) being removed from local government and funded by other means.
- Commitment to increase disaster recovery funding to councils for the task of assessment, clean-up and building back better post natural disaster events, also to reduce assessment timeline for category of natural disaster to eliminate the burden of financial uncertainty that decreases the speed in which the build back better happens.
- CMA requests that our Chairman or representative have a seat at the table in the NSW Minister for Local Governments advisory panel.

The NSW Country Mayors Association stands united with our members to advocate for residents who choose to call country NSW home. We will continue to work with both State and Commonwealth governments to achieve the best quality of life and provision of services for our residents and we look forward to a prosperous future.



**8.7 Councillors Schedule**

**File Reference:** NA

**Delivery Program**

**Goal:** 4. Proactive regional and local leadership

**Outcome:** 4.1 We are an engaged and connected community

**Strategy:** 4.1.2 Enable broad, rich and meaningful engagement to occur

**Author:** Cherisse Amer (Elected Members Contact)

**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil**

**IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

This report is for notation only.

**TABLED ITEMS Nil**

**COMMENT**

**COUNCILLORS' SCHEDULE**

<b>November, 2022</b>		
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>
Cr John Coulton (Mayor)	National Local Roads & Transport Congress - Hobart	1-6 November
	BCS Secondary/Primary School Presentation – The Roxy Theatre Bingara	9 November
	Gwydir Shire Council LEMC Committee Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room Bingara	10 November
	Remembrance Day - Warialda	11 November
	Warialda High School Year 12 Farewell – Warialda Golf & Bowling Club	11 November
	Regular NS2B Briefing – Teams meeting	16 November
	Country Mayors Meeting - Sydney	18–19 November
	LGNSW Visit Roxy Conference Room Bingara	22 November
	Meeting – Ken Davey – Warialda Council Chambers	23 November
	Leading Roles Meeting – Roxy Conference Room Bingara	23 November
	Citizenship Ceremony followed by Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room Bingara	24 November
	Dinner for Retiring Staff – Warialda Town Hall	25 November

	NEJO Teams Meeting	28 November
Cr Catherine Egan (Deputy Mayor)	Citizenship Ceremony followed by Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room Bingara	24 November
	Dinner for Retiring Staff – Warialda Town Hall	25 November
	Bingara Christmas Carnival – Gwydir Oval	26 November
Cr David Coulton	National Local Roads & Transport Congress - Hobart	1 – 6 November
	Gwydir Shire Council LEMC Committee Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room Bingara	10 November
	Historical Society Committee Meeting - Warialda	17 November
	Citizenship Ceremony followed by Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room Bingara	24 November
	Dinner for Retiring Staff – Warialda Town Hall	25 November
Cr Geoff Smith	Remembrance Day	11 November
	Citizenship Ceremony followed by Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room Bingara	24 November
	Dinner for Retiring Staff – Warialda Town Hall	25 November
Cr Lyndon Mulligan	MDA Region 11 Ordinary Meeting via Teams	25 November
	Dinner for Retiring Staff	25 November
Cr Marilyn Dixon	BCS Secondary/Primary School Presentation – The Roxy Theatre Bingara	9 November
	Remembrance Day	11 November
	Special Events Committee Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	15 November
	Citizenship Ceremony followed by Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room Bingara	24 November
	Dinner for Retiring Staff – Warialda Town Hall	25 November
Cr Tiffany Galvin	Special Events Committee Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	15 November
	Central Northern Regional Library AGM and Ordinary Meeting Quirindi	16 November
	Arts North West Board and SAC Meeting – Zoom Meeting	21 November
	Citizenship Ceremony followed by Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room Bingara	24 November
	Dinner for Retiring Staff – Warialda Town Hall	25 November
Cr Jim Moore	Community Safety Precinct Committee Meeting – New England Police District –	2 November

	Inverell Police Station Conference Room	
	NSLA Board Meeting and Draft Annual Audit Report Review – Update & papers - Bingara	8 November
	Historical Society Committee Meeting - Warialda	17 November
	Citizenship Ceremony followed by Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room Bingara	24 November
	Dinner for Retiring Staff – Warialda Town Hall	25 November
Cr Chris Matthews	NSLA Board Meeting and Draft Annual Audit Report Review – Update & papers - Bingara	8 November
	Citizenship Ceremony followed by Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room Bingara	24 November

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the report be received and noted.**

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

## 8.8 Heritage Park Warialda

**File Reference:** NA

### **Delivery Program**

**Goal:** 1. A healthy and cohesive community

**Outcome:** 1.1 We have healthy and inviting spaces and places

**Strategy:** 1.1.3 Provide the right places, spaces and activities

**Author:** General Manager

**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST** Nil

### **IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

This report is still being prepared and will be circulated next week when finalised.

**TABLED ITEMS** Nil

### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

TBC

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

## 9 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

## 10 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

### **Organisation and Community Services**

It is recommended that the Council resolve into Committee of the Whole with the press and public excluded to allow consideration of this Item, as provided for under Section 10 A (2) (a) of the Local Government Act, 1993, on the grounds the report contains personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

### **Statewide Mutual Board**

It is recommended that the Council resolve into Committee of the Whole with the press and public excluded to allow consideration of this Item, as provided for under Section 10 A (2) (c) of the Local Government Act, 1993, on the grounds the report contains information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

### **Community Assets**

It is recommended that the Council resolve into Committee of the Whole with the press and public excluded to allow consideration of this Item, as provided for under Section 10 A (2) (a) of the Local Government Act, 1993, on the grounds the report contains personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

### **Namoi Regional Jobs' Precinct Presentation**

It is recommended that the Council resolve into Committee of the Whole with the press and public excluded to allow consideration of this Item, as provided for under Section 10 A (2) (c) of the Local Government Act, 1993, on the grounds the report contains information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

### **Potential Biogas Plant in Warialda**

It is recommended that the Council resolve into Committee of the Whole with the press and public excluded to allow consideration of this Item, as provided for under Section 10 A (2) (c) of the Local Government Act, 1993, on the grounds the report contains information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

## 11 CLOSURE