



NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that an **Ordinary Meeting of Gwydir Shire Council** will be held in the Roxy Meeting Room, Bingara, on **Thursday 25 June 2020** (commencing at **9.00am**) to discuss the items listed in the Agenda.

Your attendance is respectfully requested.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Max Eastcott'.

Max Eastcott
General Manager

Content	Page No
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS	3
OFFICERS REPORTS	
1. Gwydir Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036	5
2. Request for donation - Warialda RC Model Aircraft Club	104
3. Councillor Activity Report for April and May 2020	106
4. Monthly Executive Report for May 2020.....	110
5. Monthly Organisation and Community Development Report for May 2020	118
6. Monthly Technical Services Report for May 2020	144
7. Correspondence from Murray Darling Association	169
8. Correspondence from Warialda District Chamber - toilets at Carinda House	187
9. Monthly Investment and Rates Collection Report for May 2020	190
10. Gomeroi Native Title Claim NSD37/2019 Update	193
11. Providence Investment Management Pty Ltd - Memorandum of Understanding	197

GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL

B U S I N E S S P A P E R

AGENDA

**ORDINARY MEETING June 25, 2020
9.00am**

OFFICIAL OPENING AND WELCOME – MAYOR

APOLOGIES

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday, May 28, 2020 as circulated be taken as read and CONFIRMED.

THAT the Minutes of the Confidential Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday, May 28, 2020 as circulated be taken as read and CONFIRMED.

PRESENTATION

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

1. Confidential Organisation and Community Development Report for May 2020

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 10A(2) (a) of the Local Government Act, 1993, on the grounds that the report contains personnel matters concerning particular individuals.

2. Property Purchase

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 10A(2) (c) of the Local Government Act, 1993, on the grounds that 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.

MAYORAL MINUTE (If any)

DEFERRED ITEMS – Nil

OFFICERS' REPORTS (As listed)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – OPEN

Councillors' Reports

Item 1 Gwydir Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036**FILE REFERENCE****DELIVERY PROGRAM****GOAL:** 2. Building the business base**OUTCOME:** 2.1 OUR ECONOMY IS GROWING AND SUPPORTED**STRATEGY:** 2.1.3 Promote our community as the place to visit, live,
work and invest - OCD - external**AUTHOR** General Manager**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST** Nil**IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION****BACKGROUND**

The preparation and making of the Gwydir Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) is a new requirement under s3.9 of the amended *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EPA Act). The LSPS maps out the long-term vision for land use within the Gwydir Shire and is consistent with the priorities of the New England North West Regional Plan and the Gwydir Community Strategic Plan.

Council considered a draft of this Statement at its Community Services and Planning Committee Meeting held in October 2019 and resolved:

THAT the report be received and that prior to the Draft Gwydir Local Strategic Planning Statement being exhibited for public comment a meeting be held with interested stakeholders followed by community meetings in both Warialda and Bingara.

The stakeholder meeting was held on 5 February 2020 with approximately 15 people in attendance.

The draft Local Strategic Planning Statement was modified to reflect the supported comments from the Stakeholders' meeting and at Council's Ordinary Meeting of 27 February it was agreed to hold Community meetings to facilitate consultation. Community meetings were scheduled for 23 March in Bingara and 26 March in Warialda, however, due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions these meetings had to be cancelled.

The draft Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) was placed on exhibition for 28 days from 25 March 2020 until 22 April 2020.

COMMENT

The draft LSPS was widely distributed to the relevant state Agencies and within the Shire and eight submissions were received from:

DPI Fisheries

Cancer Council of NSW (NSW Health)
Department of Planning (Northern Region)
Heritage NSW (Department of Premier and Cabinet)
Transport for NSW
Department of Regional NSW, Mining, Exploration and Geoscience
Rick Hutton and Ted Stubbins, ratepayers within Gwydir Local Government Area

No response was received from NSW Crown Lands or NSW Department of Education.

The eight submissions received were sent to Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for review and incorporation where relevant, into the LSPS.

CONCLUSION

A summary of submissions received is at Attachment 1.

The final Gwydir Local Strategic Planning Statement is at Attachment 2 for consideration.

It is a requirement of the Department of Planning and Environment for the adopted Gwydir Local Strategic Planning Statement to be available on their website by 1 July 2020.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the draft Gwydir Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036 be adopted

FURTHER that the adopted Gwydir Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036 be uploaded to the Department of Planning Industry and Environment portal by 30 June 2020

ATTACHMENTS

AT- Submissions Received

AT- Gwydir LSPS 2036



Department of
Primary Industries

FE20/260 C20/156

27 March 2020
The General Manager
Gwydir Shire Council
Locked bag 5
BINGARA NSW 2404

Dear Sir

Re: Draft Gwydir Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036

Incorporating ecological sustainability principles within the statement and featuring and rehabilitating waterways in the area are essential to ensure the conservation of fish and fish habitat. Planning instruments and associated strategies or planning statements need to identify and proactively protect waterways from inappropriate development. To achieve this protection, it is essential that waterways/watercourses, recognised sensitive aquatic habitats and other key fish habitats such as threatened species habitat mapping are included within land use mapping. The incorporation of maps identifying *key fish habitats* (including riparian buffers) in planning instruments and a set of development controls and restrictions should provide significant gains in the protection of sensitive habitats and consequent maintenance of fisheries productivity.

DPI Fisheries has reviewed the draft Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) in light of the provisions of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* and the departments *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management (Update 2013)* and offers the following comments for the following actions listed under the planning priorities;

7.3. Review the LEP to ensure land zoning in Bingara and Wyallda affords protection for Gwydir River, Wyallda Creek and Hall Creek, and open space along the water's edge;

8.12. Investigate the preparation of a Biodiversity Strategy which includes: land use planning provisions to facilitate additional protection of High Environmental Value lands, threatened species and endangered ecological communities; and guidance for maintaining and enhancing local and regional biodiversity

Many species of fish and other aquatic animals are migratory within freshwater habitats. The *Local Strategic Planning Statement* should recognise that in addition to the main watercourses there are many other freshwater rivers, creeks and streams that require land use planning provisions which in conjunction with riparian buffer zones sustain high biodiversity and possess high environmental values. The main threats to fish movement along these corridors are dams, weirs and vehicular crossings.

Key Fish Habitat maps which have been prepared by DPI Fisheries are maps of high environmental value for which council can utilise the mapping layers to highlight the sensitivity

FISHERIES AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT BRANCH
TAMWORTH AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE
4 Marsden Park Road
CALALA NSW 2340

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

Tel: 02 6763 1255

of waterways and riparian zones for aquatic biodiversity. The aim of these maps is to highlight those habitats that are of most importance for protection and conservation to sustain fish populations.

In addition, *Fish Communities and Threatened Species Distributions of NSW* report <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/threatened-species/legislation-and-approvals/habitat/your-catchment/condition-of-fish-communities-in-nsw> contains more detailed mapping data of the condition of fish communities within the LGA. Threatened species, populations and communities listed under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* which are known or expected to occur within the Gwydir LGA and are available at: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/species-protection/threatened-species-distributions-in-nsw> include the following;

- The Silver Perch, *Bidyanus bidyanus*, listed under schedule 5 as a vulnerable species
- The Southern Purple Spotted Gudgeon *Mogurnda adspersa*, listed under schedule 4 as an endangered species
- The Olive Perchlet, *Ambassis agassizii* is listed under schedule 4 as an endangered Western population.
- The Murray-Darling Basin Population of the Eel Tail Catfish *Tandanus tandanus*, listed under schedule 4 as an endangered population.
- The Endangered Aquatic Ecological Community in the Natural Drainage System of the Lowland Catchment of the Darling River is also listed under schedule 4 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* and includes the major rivers and tributaries below Copeton Dam.

3.2. Focus development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity, and use the 'avoid, minimise, offset' hierarchy for biodiversity and areas of high environmental value.

7.1. Apply appropriate provisions to protect and conserve environmental assets, while permitting a range of land uses to assist in the preservation of the region's important assets

8.10. Include provisions in the LEP and DCP (action 7.5) for the protection of areas of high environmental significance, as well as and enhancement of local and regional biodiversity

The department supports the actions listed above whereby appropriate LEP provisions and the use of 'avoid, minimise, offset' principles can be used to protect and conserve biodiversity and areas of high environmental value. Sensitive waterways that possess a high environmental value have been identified by DPI Fisheries and mapped as *Key Fish Habitats* and should be included in councils mapping as an overlay or be used to provide buffers from development and performance standards or provisions should be placed upon development within the LEP. It is recommended that these provisions include criteria and standards with respect to activities or developments proposed within or adjacent to *Key Fish Habitats* to ensure;

- Maintaining streambank and riparian buffer stability,
- Erosion and sediment control,
- Maintenance of vegetative cover,
- Minimisation of disturbance to in-stream habitats such as gravel beds, snags, aquatic macrophytes etc,
- Water quality protection,
- Rehabilitation and restoration following disturbance

FISHERIES AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT BRANCH
TAMWORTH AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE
4 Marsden Park Road
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www.dpi.nsw.gov.au
Tel: 02 6763 1255

This can be achieved by inserting clauses such as Heads of Consideration which state that Development consent must not be granted to development unless the applicant has submitted a report with the development application that addresses, to the satisfaction of the consent authority, the following matters:

- a) identification of any potential adverse impact on the,
 - i. water quality within the waterway, and
 - ii. aquatic and riparian habitats and ecosystems, and
 - iii. stability of the bed, shore and banks of the waterway, and
 - iv. free passage of fish and other aquatic organisms within or along the waterway, and
 - v. habitat of any threatened species, populations, or ecological communities, and
- b) whether the development will increase water extraction from the waterway for domestic and stock supply and the potential impact of the extraction on the waterway, and
- c) a description of all proposed measures to be undertaken to ameliorate any potential adverse impact.

Where the consent authority is of the opinion that the proposed development is likely to have a potential adverse impact on environmentally sensitive waterways the consent authority must not grant development consent unless it is satisfied that:

- a. the development meets the objectives of this clause; and
- b. the development is designed, sited and managed to avoid the potential adverse environmental impact, or
- c. in circumstances where a potential adverse impact cannot be avoided the development:
 - i. is designed and sited so as to have minimum adverse impact, and
 - ii. incorporates effective measures so as to have minimal adverse impact, or
 - iii. mitigate any significant adverse impact through the restoration of any existing disturbed area on the site.

If you have any queries do not hesitate to call me on 6763 1255 or 0429 908 856.

Yours sincerely

D. Ward

David Ward
Fisheries Manager (Tamworth)

FISHERIES AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT BRANCH
TAMWORTH AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE
4 Marsden Park Road
CALALA NSW 2340

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au
Tel: 02 6763 1255



8 April 2020

The General Manager
Gwydir Shire Council
Locked Bag 5
Bingara NSW 2404

Dear Gwydir Shire Council,

Re: Feedback on the Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft LSPS.

Cancer Council NSW is committed to reducing the impact of cancer on individuals and the community, and to lessening the burden for people affected by cancer. We are community funded and community focused. We believe health is central to urban planning in order to create environments that promote cancer-smart behaviours and reduce exposure to known cancer risks such as solar ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

Cancer Council NSW is a key partner in the implementation of the *NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy* (2017) which defines a comprehensive approach to reducing overexposure to (UV) and ultimately the incidence of skin cancer in NSW. The Strategy is a multidisciplinary initiative lead by Cancer Institute NSW which is an agency of NSW Health.

As part of the delivery of the Strategy, the Shade Working Group is committed to increasing shade across NSW for skin cancer prevention by influencing the planning system and advocating for shade in the local community. Member organisations of the Shade Working Group include: Cancer Institute NSW, Cancer Council NSW, University of New South Wales City Future Research Centre, and a strategic and social impact planner consultant. This submission is being provided by Cancer Council NSW, which also is Chair of the *NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy Shade Working Group*.

Skin cancer in Australia

Australia has the highest levels of UV radiation and the highest incidence rates of skin cancer worldwide, where two out of every three people are likely to be diagnosed with skin cancer by the age of 70. UV radiation causes 95% of melanomas and 99% of non-melanoma skin cancers in Australia. This means skin cancer is highly preventable.

In comparison to another important preventable social issue, nearly twice as many people die from melanoma than they do on our roads in NSW. 354 people died on our roads in 2018; while 624 people died of skin cancer in 2016¹. We wear a seatbelt every time we get in the car, and we should think about UV radiation in the same way.

¹ Cancer incidence and mortality projections 2011 to 2021. Cancer Institute NSW, Sydney, May 2011. Centre for Road Safety, Transport for NSW <https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/downloads/road-toll-progress-2018.pdf>



Council can play an important role in reducing the risk of skin cancer of its residents through planning and designing shade. Good quality shade can reduce UV exposure by up to 75 per cent. Further information including the co-benefits of shade, are attached. They are also accessible via Cancer Council NSW's [website](#), along with the *Cancer Council NSW Guidelines to Shade* and example case studies of well-designed shade.

Response to the Draft LSPS

Cancer Council NSW strongly encourages Council to ensure the value of shade for UV radiation protection and other co-benefits are fully recognised in the vision for the LGA.

We have suggestions to support you with this, and attached to this letter is example text developed to include in your LSPS which supports shade as a planning priority for the LGA. We recommend that council look to include all or part of this text in relevant Themes or Planning Priorities from the Draft LSPS. This text can also be accessed via Cancer Council NSW's [website](#).

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comment on your Draft LSPS. If you would like any further support, please feel free to contact me via Elizabeth.king@nswcc.org.au or ph: (02) 9334 1760.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth King
Chair, NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy Shade Working Group
Skin Cancer Prevention Manager
Cancer Council NSW



Shade provision:

Suggested text for inclusion in Local Strategic Planning Statements*

INTRODUCTION

The text below is example text that could be used by NSW councils in the preparation of their Local Strategic Planning Statements (LSPSs), required to be produced by each council under the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act.¹

The text specifically relates to the provision of well-designed shade, from the perspective of the NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Shade Working Group, under the [NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy](#).²

The text will need to be considered in context with the remainder of the LSPS, particularly its structure, and its inclusion of other items relating to healthy built environments.

The text is designed to be placed under the following headings within the LSPS – headings as provided by the NSW Department of Planning's [Example LSPS, February 2019](#).³

- Theme
- Planning Priority
- Rationale
- Council will
- Actions

Example text is provided in *italics* below.

EXAMPLE TEXT

Theme

Note that the NSW Department of Planning's [Example LSPS, February 2019](#) does not contain an explicit theme relating directly to the design of healthy built environments. The themes provided in the Example LSPS are only suggestions for councils, and the themes most relevant to healthy built environments in that document are 'Thriving Places to Live and Grow' and 'A Sustainable Environment'.

It is suggested that an alternate theme could be:
'Providing Healthy Places to Live, Work and Visit'.

Planning priority

A suggested planning priority that could be placed under one of the above themes is:
'Design and provide places and spaces that are healthy to live in, to work in and to visit'.

This generic planning priority should then incorporate other aspects of the healthy built environment, as explained in the following 'rationale' section.

Rationale

There may be many items included in this section that relate generally to healthy built environments. The following 'rationale' text relates specifically to the provision of shade, written from the perspective of providing well-designed shade for protection from ultraviolet radiation (UV).

* **Shade provision: suggested text for inclusion in Local Strategic Planning Statements**

Prepared by Jan Fallding, Registered Planner, June 2019, on behalf of the NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy Shade Working Group, operating within the auspices of the NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy,² led by Cancer Institute NSW.

Why is shade important?

Australia has the highest rate of melanoma in the world.⁴ Skin cancer is the most common cancer in Australia, with 2 in 3 people diagnosed in their lifetime.⁵ UV causes 95% of melanomas and 99% of non-melanoma skin cancers,⁶ making it a highly preventable cancer.

The incidence rate of melanoma in the [insert name] LGA is [insert age-standardised incidence rate] per 100,000. The NSW average melanoma incidence rate is 51.0 per 100,000.⁷ Go to [Cancer Institute NSW Statistics Portal](#) to find melanoma age-standardised incidence rates by LGA.

Well-designed and correctly positioned shade, both natural and built, can reduce UV exposure by up to 75%.⁸

Shade offers a number of benefits for people and the environment and has an increasingly important role to play in mitigating the effects of climate change and reducing heat in urban areas.

The co-benefits of well-designed shade and green spaces include:

Health benefits:^{9, 10}

- Reduced UV exposure and the prevention of skin cancer.
- Improved thermal comfort in times of heat. Evidence shows that trees can reduce temperatures by 8°C.
- Enhanced childhood development.
- Increased recreation and physical activity, and a reduction in obesity and risk of chronic disease.
- Faster healing times and pain tolerance for hospital patients in a room with a view of trees.
- Improvements in mental health and wellbeing, including stress reduction and relaxation, greater happiness, lower rates of anger and depression and improved mental function and concentration.
- Noise reduction.

Environmental benefits:^{9, 10}

- Reduced build-up of heat in urban areas and consequent 'heat island' effects.
- Reduced air pollution.
- Reduced water evaporation, soil erosion, and storm water run-off.
- Reduced atmospheric carbon.
- Increased animal habitat and maintenance of biodiversity.

Social and economic benefits:^{9, 10}

- Increased social connectivity and sense of community by providing pleasant and aesthetically pleasing places for people to meet, socialise, exercise and rest.
- Reduced neighbourhood aggression, violence and crime.
- Street trees can help define or preserve the culture and history of a place.
- Improved thermal efficiency of buildings through shading and energy savings of up to 12-15%.
- Increased land and property values. Just one tree can increase the value of a property by approximately \$5,000.
- Opportunity to reduce socioeconomic and health inequities, which have been shown to be smaller in green areas.

* **Shade provision: suggested text for inclusion in Local Strategic Planning Statements**

Prepared by Jan Fallding, Registered Planner, June 2019, on behalf of the NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy Shade Working Group, operating within the auspices of the NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy,² led by Cancer Institute NSW.

It is likely that [insert name] LGA will experience more frequent, longer and more extreme periods of uncomfortable summertime heat and heat wave events in the future. The provision of quality shade throughout the LGA will be one of the most cost-effective ways to address this situation in the long term, and has the co-benefit of protecting us from UV exposure.

Natural and built shade can be easily included in planning processes for developments, particularly in urban areas. Well-designed shade, effectively planned and correctly positioned, can also alleviate concerns about needing to remove or modify trees to address engineering, wiring or maintenance issues.

What is well-designed shade?

Well-designed shade uses a combination of natural and built shade to provide protection from UV radiation where it is needed, at the right time of day and at the right time of year.

The latest [Guidelines to Shade](#) from Cancer Council NSW¹¹ is a practical tool to aid LGA's in the design of quality shade.

In a playground setting, the [Everyone Can Play Guideline](#) from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment¹² provides a set of design principals and best practice recommendations to develop inclusive playspaces which provide well-designed shade for the comfort and protection of children and carers.

Good design is NSW Government policy, as described in [Better Placed](#) from the Government Architect NSW¹³, which outlines an integrated design policy for the built environment in NSW.

Council will

Suggested text for this section is:

- 1. Consider the provision of well-designed shade, both natural and built, in the provision of all public infrastructure, from large developments such as major recreation facilities, public buildings and town centre upgrades, to the smallest public domain improvements such as bus shelters.*
- 2. Encourage the provision of well-designed shade in all private developments, particularly recreation facilities and those that adjoin public places, such as commercial developments.*
- 3. Consider the co-benefits of shade in all decisions about infrastructure provision and maintenance.*

Actions

Suggested text for this section is:

- 1. Council's [insert relevant name] Development Control Plan will be reviewed to:*
 - a) incorporate design considerations regarding the provision of well-designed shade, with reference to the latest shade guidelines.⁹;*
 - b) require well-designed shade in any private buildings or developments that adjoin public places that are likely to have significant visitation (e.g. high pedestrian traffic or people visiting or pausing in public spaces);*
 - c) require the provision of well-designed shade in recreation facilities;*
 - d) require the provision of well-designed shade in the design of any public infrastructure;*
 - e) require the consideration of the benefits of shade in any application to remove trees or vegetation currently providing significant shade and communicate to residents the benefits of shade; and*

*** Shade provision: suggested text for inclusion in Local Strategic Planning Statements**

Prepared by Jan Fallding, Registered Planner, June 2019, on behalf of the NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy Shade Working Group, operating within the auspices of the NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy,² led by Cancer Institute NSW.

- f) encourage the provision of well-chosen and well-placed street trees in residential or public domain developments.
2. Council's Engineering Design specifications [insert relevant document name] will be updated to include specifications for the provision of well-designed shade.
 3. Council will prioritise well-designed shade in its provision of new and upgraded public infrastructure and spaces.
 4. Council will consider retrofitting current public infrastructure and spaces to include well-designed shade.

REFERENCES

1. NSW Government Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 No 203
<https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/1979/203>
2. NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy, Cancer Institute NSW. Sydney, 2017.
Available from: <https://www.cancer.nsw.gov.au/nsw-skin-cancer-strategy>
3. NSW Planning Portal, Guide to the updated Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, Part 3 Strategic Planning, Key documents and FAQs
<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Environmental-Planning-and-Assessment-Act-updated/Guide-to-the-updated-Environmental-Planning-and-Assessment-Act-1979/Part-3-Strategic-planning/Key-documents-and-FAQs>
4. International Agency for Research on Cancer. Estimated number of new cases in 2018, melanoma of skin, both sexes, all ages [Internet]. Global Cancer Observatory, Cancer Today 2018 [20 June 2019]. Available from: https://gco.iarc.fr/today/online-analysis-table?v=2018&mode=population&mode_population=countries&population=900&populations=554&key=asr&sex=0&cancer=16&type=0&statistic=5&prevalence=0&population_group=18&ages_group%5B%5D=0&ages_group%5B%5D=17&nb_items=5&group_cancer=1&include_nmsc=1&include_nmsc_other=0#collapse-group-0-5
5. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2016. *Skin cancer in Australia*. Cat. no. CAN 96. Canberra: AIHW.
6. Armstrong BK, Krickler A. 1993. How much melanoma is caused by sun exposure? *Melanoma Research* 3(6):395-401.
7. Cancer Institute NSW Statistics Portal [https://www.cancer.nsw.gov.au/cancer-statistics-nsw#//](https://www.cancer.nsw.gov.au/cancer-statistics-nsw#/)
8. Parsons, P., Neale, R., Wolski, P. & Green, A. 1998, 'The shady side of solar protection', *Medical Journal of Australia*, 168: 327-330.
9. Davern, M., Farrar, A., Kendal, D., and Giles-Corti, B. 2016. *Quality Green Space Supporting Health, Wellbeing and Biodiversity: A Literature Review*. Report prepared for the Heart Foundation, SA Health, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Office for Recreation and Sport, and Local Government Association (SA). University of Melbourne: Victoria. Available from: http://www.healthactivebydesign.com.au/images/uploads/Green_Spaces_Evidence_Review_-_FINAL_website.pdf
10. *Five million trees for Greater Sydney. Local Government Grant Program*. Department of Planning and Environment, Sydney, 2018. Available from: <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Guidelines/Policy-and-legislation/Open-Space-and-Parklands/five-million-trees-for-greater-sydney-guidelines-2018-11-07.pdf>

*** Shade provision: suggested text for inclusion in Local Strategic Planning Statements**

Prepared by Jan Fallding, Registered Planner, June 2019, on behalf of the NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy Shade Working Group, operating within the auspices of the NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy,² led by Cancer Institute NSW.

Shade. A planning and design priority that helps prevent skin cancer.

Shade protects us from harmful ultraviolet radiation (UV)

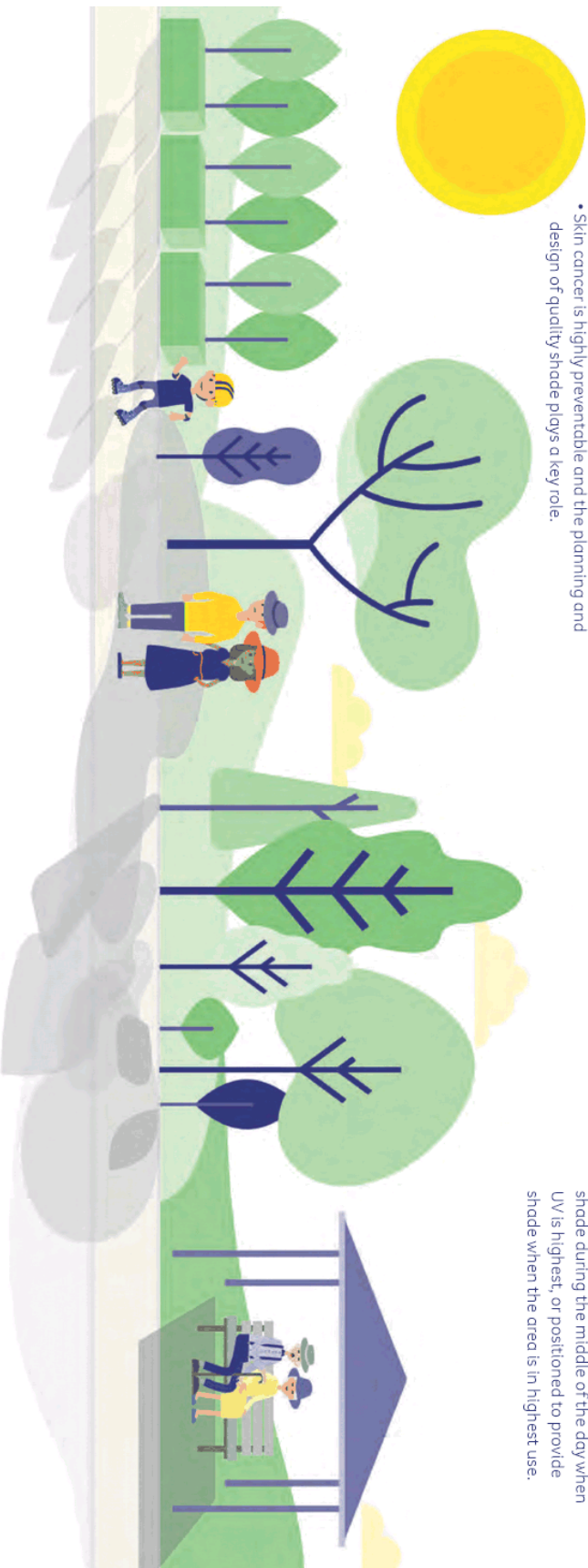
- UV from the sun causes at least 95% of all skin cancers in Australia.
- Skin cancer is the most common cancer in Australia - 2 in 3 people will be diagnosed.
- Skin cancer is highly preventable and the planning and design of quality shade plays a key role.

Quality shade can reduce UV exposure by up to 75%

What is quality shade?

Natural shade: trees with a canopy that is dense and close to the ground.

Built shade: stand-alone, portable or add-on structures positioned to provide shade during the middle of the day when UV is highest, or positioned to provide shade when the area is in highest use.



A combination of **natural** and **built** shade provides the best UV protection.

Benefits of quality shade and green spaces.

Health benefits

- Reduces UV exposure and helps prevent skin cancer
- Improves thermal comfort in times of heat
- Increases recreation and physical activity
- Reduces obesity and risk of chronic disease
- Improves mental health and wellbeing

Environmental benefits

- Reduces build-up of heat in urban areas
- Reduces air pollution
- Reduces water evaporation, soil erosion and storm water run-off
- Reduces atmospheric carbon
- Maintains animal habitat and biodiversity

Social and economic benefits

- Improves social and community connection
- Reduces neighbourhood crime
- Better placemaking
- Reduces socioeconomic and health inequities
- Increases land and property value
- Reduces energy usage and costs



How to plan and design quality shade.

Professional resources are available to support you in planning good shade.

- [Cancer Council NSW Guidelines to Shade](#) including a shade audit tool.
- [Cancer Institute NSW Shade Case Studies](#); and
- Support for local governments to prioritise shade in their planning policies.

For more information and access to the online resources:

- Contact the NSW Shade Working Group via email: CI NSW-SkinCancerPrevention@health.nsw.gov.au
- Visit cancercouncil.com.au/shade and cancer.nsw.gov.au/shade--and-uv



This document was prepared by the NSW Shade Working Group within the auspices of the NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy led by Cancer Institute NSW. Date: 12/2019.

Cancer Institute NSW



11. *Guidelines to Shade*, Cancer Council NSW. Sydney, 2013. Available from: https://www.cancercouncil.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/Guidelines_to_shade_WEB2.pdf
12. *Everyone can play guideline*, Office of Open Space and Parklands, Department of Planning, NSW Government. Sydney, 2019. Available from: <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Guidelines/everyone-can-play-guideline-2019-02-20.pdf>
13. *Better Placed: an integrated design policy for the built environment of New South Wales*. Government Architects NSW. Sydney 2017. Available from: <https://www.governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au/resources/ga/media/files/ga/strategy-documents/better-placed-a-strategic-design-policy-for-the-built-environment-of-new-south-wales-2017.pdf>

OTHER RESOURCES

- <https://www.sunsmart.com.au/communities/local-government> - a range of resources to assist councils in providing well-designed shade. Based on Victorian examples, but can be easily adapted to NSW.
- <https://www.cancer.nsw.gov.au/shade-and-uv> - Shade case study examples by Cancer Institute NSW
- http://www.lowcarbonlivingcrc.com.au/sites/all/files/publications_file_attachments/rp2024_guide_to_urban_cooling_strategies_2017_web.pdf Osmond, P., and Sharifi, E., 2017: *Guide to Urban Cooling Strategies*. Low Carbon Living CRC.

CONTACT DETAILS / MORE INFORMATION

- NSW Shade Working Group email:
CINSW-SkinCancerPrevention@health.nsw.gov.au
- Cancer Council NSW website:
www.cancercouncil.com.au/cancer-prevention/sun-protection/
- Cancer Institute NSW website:
www.cancer.nsw.gov.au/shade-and-uv

This information is based on available evidence at the time of review.
It can be copied for distribution.
Latest update: July 2019

For further information contact the NSW Shade Working Group via email
CINSW-SkinCancerPrevention@health.nsw.gov.au or go to
<https://www.cancercouncil.com.au/cancer-prevention/sun-protection/shade-and-sun-protection/>

*** Shade provision: suggested text for inclusion in Local Strategic Planning Statements**

Prepared by Jan Fallding, Registered Planner, June 2019, on behalf of the NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy Shade Working Group, operating within the auspices of the NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy,² led by Cancer Institute NSW.



Planning,
Industry &
Environment

IRF20/1558

Mr Max Eastcott
General Manager
Gwydir Shire Council
Locked Bag 5
BINGARA NSW 2404

Dear Mr Eastcott

Gwydir Shire Council – Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement

I am writing in response to Council's public exhibition of the draft Gwydir Shire Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS), which has been prepared to meet the requirements of Division 3.1 of the *Environment and Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

I would like to commend Council for the work undertaken to date in the development of the draft LSPS and for the collaborative approach that you have taken. The draft LSPS acknowledges the opportunities and challenges facing the Gwydir local government area and has identified a range of land use planning actions in coming years.

The draft LSPS has been reviewed by the Department's Local and Regional Planning - Northern Region team and specific comments in relation to the draft LSPS are included in the attached schedule.

The aim is that the LSPS will be a key resource to guide the implementation of strategic and statutory planning at the local level, including the assessment of planning proposals.

Please ensure that the content and actions in the final LSPS are consistent with State planning, including the New England North West Regional Plan 2036, State Environmental Planning Policies and section 9.1 Ministerial Directions. Any proposed release areas or planning control changes are only supported for further investigation. These investigations should then be completed to confirm the suitability of the proposed changes prior to any formal changes being sought.

I look forward to working with Council as part of the State Government's commitment to strategic-led planning in NSW.

Should you have any enquiries about this matter, I have arranged for Ms Helen Willis to assist you. Ms Willis can be contacted on 5778 1489.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Gray'.

15-4-2020

Jeremy Gray

**Director, Northern Region
Local and Regional Planning**

Northern Region | 49 Victoria Street Grafton 2460 | Locked Bag 9022 Grafton 2460 | planning.nsw.gov.au

Attachment - DPIE comments on the Gwydir Shire Council Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement

General

- To be consistent with the New England North West Regional Plan 2036 (NENWRP), throughout the LSPS Tamworth should be referred to as a Regional City and Moree, Inverell and Narrabri should be referred to as Strategic Centres.
- Council should ensure that all actions listed throughout the draft LSPS are included as part of the Action Plan.
- Some actions would benefit from additional detail being included about how they are to be achieved (i.e. via LEP or DCP amendments, via preparation of new policy or strategies).
- All actions should have an identified timeframe (i.e. Short Term 0 – 5 years, Medium Term 6 – 10 years, Long Term 11 – 20 year timeframes or ongoing).
- All figures throughout the document are either captioned 'Gwydir Shire location' or they are not provided with a caption. To assist the reader, relevant captions should be included. It could also be considered to list the relevant figures in the table of contents.
- All figures should be relevant to the associated discussion (i.e. maps associated with planning priorities six and seven identify residential investigation areas and town centre control reviews that don't appear relevant or have not been discussed)
- Consistency in referencing Department of Primary Industries – Agriculture.

Planning Priority 1

- The actions associated with planning priority 1 are dealing with protecting agricultural lands, encouraging diversification and increasing opportunities to move produce, however the preamble also states that:
 - 'Water resources, both surface and ground supplies, need to be maintained and utilised in an increasingly environmentally sustainable manner...'; and
 - 'New technology will be leveraged to create a positive change in the agricultural industry via the promotion of intensive agriculture, horticulture, green industries and renewable energy generation.'

Are there associated actions that can outline how Council will be able to achieve these statements?

Planning Priority 2

- Action 2.2 should clarify that farm stay accommodation and eco-tourist resorts will only be supported where agricultural activities will not be compromised and there will be no land use conflict. This action could also mention assessing potential land use conflicts utilising the Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment Guide (LUCRA).
- Climate change mapping included as part of the Enabling Regional Adaptation New England North West Region Report prepared by the former OEH could be included as part of planning priority 2 to visually present anticipated climate change impacts on the LGA.

Attachment - DPIE comments on the Gwydir Shire Council Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement

Planning Priority 3

- The rationale for planning priority 3 could state that enhancement of existing Aboriginal cultural events and sites of interest should only be undertaken if culturally appropriate and supported by the Aboriginal community.
- Action 3.1 add 'value' after 'environmental'.
- Action 3.9 'Supporting development of communal settlements within rural and semi-rural areas in harmony with existing agricultural and biodiversity values' Is this appropriate for planning priority 3 - Nature-based adventure and cultural tourism? Would this action be better aligned with planning priority 4 – Deliver housing that reinforces our unique character. Clarification and further detail on what is envisaged as a 'communal settlement' noting that Gwydir Shire is not identified in Schedule 5 Rural Land Sharing Communities of SEPP (Primary Production and Rural Development) 2019.

Planning Priority 7

- Action 7.7 – Ensure Aboriginal people are engaged during the planning process, where appropriate. Could this be achieved via the Community Participation Plan?

Planning Priority 8

- What is meant by 'industrial ecology'?
- Action 8.4 mentions 'Climate Change Adaptation Plan'. Further clarification is required on whether Council intends to develop a new Climate Change Adaptation Plan or whether this action is linking to an already existing plan.
- The draft LSPS addresses the overarching goals of the Regional Plan, however further detail could be provided regarding the protection of high environmental value lands. It is noted that actions 8.9, 8.10, 8.11 and 8.12 strive to preserve ecosystems and biodiversity – additional discussion could provide context and highlight important assets.

Relevance to New England North West Regional Plan 2036

- To further show how the LSPS will give effect to the Regional Plan, Council could consider adding the following directions to the below planning priorities:
 - PP2 – Foster resilience in the agricultural industry
 - Direction 10 – Sustainably manage and conserve water resources
 - PP3 – Expand nature-based adventure and cultural tourism.
 - Direction 22 – Increase the economic self-determination of Aboriginal communities
 - PP4 – Deliver housing that reinforces our villages' unique character; and
 - Direction 16 – Coordinate infrastructure delivery
 - PP5 – Promote business and lifestyle opportunities for people of all ages
 - Direction 19 – Support healthy, safe, socially engaged and well connected communities
 - PP6 – Support infrastructure that encourages new industries.
 - Direction 16 – Coordinate infrastructure delivery
 - PP8 – Embrace renewable energy, water security and industrial ecology
 - Direction 10 – Sustainably manage and conserve water resources

Northern Region | 49 Victoria Street Grafton 2460 | Locked Bag 9022 Grafton 2460 | planning.nsw.gov.au



Our ref: DOC20/249599

Mr Jeremy Gray
Director, Northern Region
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
jeremy.gray@planning.nsw.gov.au

CC: Mr Max Eastcott
General Manager
Gwydir Shire Council
mail@gwydir.nsw.gov.au

Draft Gwydir Local Strategic Planning Statement

Dear Mr Gray

We write to provide comment on Gwydir Shire Council's draft Local Strategic Planning Statement.

Heritage, culture, history and tradition are fundamental aspects of the identity of a place, and can include Aboriginal, non-Aboriginal, natural, archaeological, movable, maritime and intangible cultural heritage. These aspects define the local character of a place and help create and maintain a sense of meaning for communities.

Local Strategic Planning Statements (LSPS) provide an important opportunity for communities to describe the local character of their places, and what makes them distinctive and different from other places. Through the LSPS, Heritage NSW encourages both Council and the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (Department) to consider how known and potential heritage places and values contribute to the local character and sense of place for their community.

We have prepared some general guidance for councils to consider in the preparation of their LSPS, this is provided at **Attachment 1**.

Heritage NSW supports the following initiatives in Gwydir Shire Council's LSPS:

- supporting local heritage studies in consultation with the local Aboriginal community and adopting measures in planning strategies and local plans to protect Aboriginal heritage
- ensuring that planning provisions in Council's Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP) protect Aboriginal cultural heritage
- reviewing Council's LEP, and listing any additional heritage items identified for protection in the Heritage Schedule, and
- engaging Aboriginal people during the planning process.

While these initiatives are positive, there is an opportunity to provide a greater level information on Gwydir's heritage and how it is considered during planning.

Level 6, 10 Valentine Ave Paramatta NSW 2150 ■ Locked Bag 5020 Paramatta NSW 2124
P: 02 9873 8500 ■ E: heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au

Areas we suggest that Council and the Department consider when finalising the LSPS are:

- if the relevant Aboriginal communities and/or groups have not already been consulted about the content of the LSPS, this should be done prior to the LSPS being finalised
- preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study to inform amendments to Council's LEP to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage and cultural landscapes
- considering the linkages between culture, heritage and tourism, and the opportunities culture and heritage bring for economic growth
- further articulating heritage as it relates to local character, including potentially identifying clusters of places and items which contribute to the significant character of the place, and
- considering the linkages between actions and priorities, e.g. the ways in which heritage and culture contribute to attractive and liveable places, local employment and community wellbeing.

This would help better align Council's local strategic planning with the *New England North West Regional Plan*, specifically:

- Direction 23 – Collaborate with Aboriginal communities to respect and protect Aboriginal culture and heritage, and
- Direction 24 – Protect the region's historic heritage assets.

Our records show that in addition to the items of local heritage significance which are listed under *Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013*, the local government area contains:

- the State Heritage Register listed 'Myall Creek Massacre and Memorial Site' (SHR 01844), and the 'Roxy Theatre and Peters Greek Café Complex' (SHR 01990), and
- 240 Recorded Aboriginal Sites.

Care must be taken to avoid impacts on these items and sites, and consideration needs to be given as to how to mitigate any impacts where they are unavoidable. We can provide specific information and more detailed advice on the State heritage items and Aboriginal sites if required.

Heritage NSW has several publications which may be of assistance when addressing the heritage objectives of the LSPS. These objectives should be incorporated with environmental, social and economic considerations to achieve high quality strategic planning outcomes. These publications are available online at environment.nsw.gov.au/Heritage/publications/index.htm.

Additionally, Government Architect NSW's (GANSW) recent publication *Design Guide for Heritage* may be of use, this can be found at governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au/guidance/heritage. GANSW is also undertaking a project to explore opportunities and approaches for *Designing with Country*, more information on this can be found at governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au/projects/designing-with-country.

If you have any questions regarding this matter please contact James Sellwood, Senior Heritage Programs Officer, Statewide Programs at Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet by phone on 02 9274 6354 or via email at james.sellwood@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Rochelle Johnston
Manager, Statewide Programs
Per **Pauline McKenzie**
Executive Director
Heritage NSW
As delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW

15 April 2020

Attachment 1

Heritage in Local Strategic Planning Statements

Heritage NSW encourages councils to take a strategic approach to developing and implementing the priorities, policy positions and actions in its Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS). To ensure that the LSPS provides strong strategic guidance with regards to both Aboriginal and Historic heritage, we recommend that it should consider the following:

Character Statements

Character Statements which recognise heritage and culture as a fundamental aspect of the identity of the place.

Planning Priorities

Planning Priorities which:

- identify Aboriginal cultural heritage and Historic heritage values and opportunities to protect and celebrate those values
- recognise the contribution which Aboriginal cultural heritage and Historic heritage make to the sense of place and belonging of a local area
- support the protection and celebration of heritage sites and values
- identify and celebrate the diversity and heritage of the many cultural groups in the community, and
- recognise that Aboriginal and Historic heritage and diversity are a cultural asset and potential driver of tourism and economic growth and the opportunities that this can provide.

Actions

Actions which:

- capture the identification, appropriate protection, interpretation and promotion of Aboriginal cultural heritage and Historic heritage
- require meaningful and ongoing consultation with the Aboriginal community to identify important values and potential issues regarding cultural heritage and connection to land
- require meaningful, ongoing and representative community engagement which captures the diversity of the local community
- require consultation with State Government agencies in relation to both Aboriginal cultural heritage and Historic heritage
- support the ongoing identification and documentation of heritage places and context early, to assist more detailed planning actions to avoid or mitigate impact on heritage items and places
- where possible, strategically identify key heritage places and clusters
- support heritage asset revitalisation and adaptive reuse
- provide guidance for sensitive heritage areas subject to major infrastructure or development
- identify funding and resourcing for Aboriginal and Historic heritage priorities
- allow for the development of plans and strategies which interpret, celebrate and promote Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal identity, culture and heritage, and
- develop strategies and programs to tell the story of a local area, and the diversity of its history and culture.

Naming of Public Authorities

Following the 2019 Machinery of Government changes, the names of many public authorities have changed. The Office of Environment and Heritage (Heritage Division) is now Heritage NSW. Council's should update their LSPS to reflect these new public authority names.

Robyn Phillips

From: Regional Strategy <regionalstrategy@transport.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 20 April 2020 3:45 PM
To: Gwydir Shire Council
Cc: Kate.Campbell@planning.nsw.gov.au; Elaine Luu; Amy Stacey; Mark Hannan
Subject: Gwydir LSPS - TfNSW Comments
Attachments: LSPS and FT2056 Regional NSW FINAL.PDF

Thank you for your correspondence requesting Transport for NSW (TfNSW) to provide comments on the Draft Gwydir Shire Council Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS).

TfNSW understands that the LSPS for Gwydir Shire Council is required to be finalised by the 1 July 2020. The comments provided by TfNSW are for consideration for inclusion in the LSPS. TfNSW does not require the LSPS to be revised or amended to include our response. The comments provide the basis for future collaboration with Gwydir Shire on strategic planning matters to fulfil the relevant transport actions of the New England North West Regional Plan 2036 and to work with Council on strategic planning matters that have potential interaction or implications to the classified road network.

TfNSW is guided by our long term strategy *Future Transport 2056*. The Regional NSW Services and Infrastructure Plan is a supporting plan to *Future Transport* and sets a 40 year vision for transport in regional NSW to support liveable communities and productive economies. A full list of initiatives from *Future Transport 2056* is broken down by local government area (LGA) in the attached PDF. Some other policy considerations include the NSW Freight and Ports Plan, the Heavy Vehicle Access Policy Framework and the [NSW Road Safety Plan 2021](#).

TfNSW will be preparing the New England North West Regional Transport Plan, a supporting plan as part of *Future Transport 2056*. This plan will identify initiatives and investigations to support walking, cycling, public transport, road and freight connectivity and will align with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's refresh of the New England North West Plan 2036. Noting the themes in the New England North West Regional Plan 2036 and the key themes identified in the LSPS, we have identified some considerations for Council from an integrated transport perspective.

Growing Economy

We support Council's actions to protect productive lands from land use conflict and fragmentation, however we suggest extending this to the wider agricultural supply chain such as grain receipt sites.

We encourage working with TfNSW to identify and protect key corridors that assist current and future development and capitalise on inter-regional connections and external markets.

We welcome Council's actions to expand tourism and visitor opportunities in the LGA and encourage the provision of active travel (walking and cycling) to and from these locations.

Thriving Localities

We agree with actions to deliver a mix of housing and lot sizes and would like to encourage Council to consider the provision of higher and diversified housing options within key centres and together with Council's actions to promote infrastructure and services that support healthy, active lifestyles. This would provide to better access to health, education and employment for those unable to drive. We encourage collaboration with TfNSW through the Walking and Cycling Program to help achieve this.

We also suggest that any additional land uses in villages such as Croppa Creek and North Star take into consideration the existing freight movements, as well as future movements once Inland Rail is complete.

Improving Infrastructure

We suggest the LSPS makes reference to the Moree Special Activation Precinct (SAP) and how this could change freight flows, and whether improvements are needed to be made to improve connectivity to the Moree SAP.

We encourage Council to consider identifying any constraints on the freight network, such as barriers to higher productivity vehicles as well as actions on the need and location of additional heavy vehicle rest areas along major freight corridors.

We support Council's actions to provide well-located and serviced supplies of industrial and employment lands, however would suggest that industrial and employment lands need to be protected from sensitive land issues.

Finally, we appreciate that Council is acknowledging and seeking to protect the future Inland Rail and Warialda Bypass corridors. We welcome and look forward to working with Council to support the Inland Rail Project, Gwydir Highway improvements and Rural Resilience package and look forward to collaboration with Council to achieve this.

Connecting to Place

We agree that it is important for Gwydir Shire to retain its strong connection to place and maintain the character of the Shire. We would encourage Council to provide some more clarity on what it means to encourage orderly development of the natural and built environment. We encourage Council to consider the movement and place framework when planning for places and corridors within Gwydir Shire. Guidance has been attached for your information. In addition to this guidance, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further.

Road safety considerations

TfNSW encourages Council to consider how the following road safety points can be considered in the LSPS and other strategic planning documents, including:

- Strategic alignment to [NSW Road Safety Plan 2021](#)
- Ensure that areas with identified high risk of run-off-road and fatigue related crashes on the high speed local road and regional road network consider key treatments such as centre and road side flexible safety barrier, audio-tactile line marking (rumble strips), wide centre line and curve improvements as per the Saving Lives on Country Roads initiative of NSW Road Safety Plan 2021.
- Ensure that walking and cycling connections are prioritised and supported by safe facilities aligned with Safe System principles as per the Liveable and Safe Urban Communities initiative of NSW Road Safety Plan 2021. These can include lower operating speeds through towns supported by

gateway treatments at the entry points and traffic calming measures throughout, narrower crossing distances across major roads in places for people and two stage crossing opportunities using pedestrian refuges.

- Austroroads Research Report (AP-R611-20) 'Integrating Safe System with Movement and Place for Vulnerable Road Users' can assist council practitioners with applying Safe System thinking to a Movement and Place context: There is also a webinar to support this report: <https://austroroads.com.au/webinars-and-events/webinar-integrating-safe-system-with-movement-and-place-for-vulnerable-road-users>.
 - Austroroads has published a research report to guide local government on developing and implementing road safety management frameworks according to Safe System principles. The report (and recording of associated webinar) can be downloaded on the Austroroads website here, noting that membership and access to all materials is now free: <https://austroroads.com.au/latest-news/targeted-road-safety-guidance-for-local-government>
- Finally, some general comments
- We support the Priorities and Actions set out in the document, particularly Priorities 6 and 8 which recognise the importance of the transport network for linkages (freight and general transport) throughout the region and into southern Qld.
 - The map of Gwydir Shire on page 14 depicting the protected regional road corridors and inland rail corridors, agribusiness growth areas and biophysical strategic agricultural land could also include freight facilities such as the grain receipt sites at Croppa Creek and North Star.
 - Council should consider how Transport owned land in the Shire can support the placemaking outcomes, enhance transport outcomes and contribute to the economic development and housing opportunities identified in the LSPS including when preparing the employment lands review and the housing delivery strategy; and through the LEP review process

Please do not hesitate to contact Elaine Luu at Elaine.Luu@transport.nsw.gov.au if you have any questions.

Regards,

Elaine Luu
Transport Planner
Regional Strategy
Customer Strategy & Technology
Transport for NSW

M 0434 930 384
Level 26, 477 Pitt St, SYDNEY NSW 2000



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Local Strategic Planning in Regional NSW & Future Transport 2056

Introduction

Future Transport 2056 sets the 40 year vision, directions and outcomes framework for customer mobility in NSW, guiding transport investment over the longer term.

The Regional NSW Services & Infrastructure Plan

Future Transport 2056 is supported by a range of supporting plans, including the *Regional NSW Services and Infrastructure Plan*. This Plan sets the customer outcomes for Regional and Outer Metropolitan NSW for the movement of people and freight to meet customer needs and deliver responsive, innovative services.

The Plan articulates hundreds of initiatives for investigation in the short (0-10 years), medium (10-20 years) and long term (20+ years) to meet customer needs now and into the future, and to support the delivery of responsive, innovative services and infrastructure (see Attachment A).



- 1 Hunter
- 2 Illawarra-Shoalhaven
- 3 Central Coast
- 4 South East and Tablelands
- 5 North Coast
- 6 Central West and Orana
- 7 Riverina Murray
- 8 New England North West
- 9 Far West

Future Transport Regional and Place Plans

A number of supporting detailed issues-based or place-based planning documents are being developed to implement Future Transport 2056 across NSW.

A supporting plan is being developed for each of NSW's nine planning regions building on the high-level content in the *Regional NSW Services & Infrastructure Plan*.

The nine regions identified by the Department of Planning and Industry and Environment in the Regional Plans are supported by key regional cities and centres.

The regional cities will have a supporting place-based plan developed in partnership with councils. Place Plans may also be delivered for a number of smaller centres in regional NSW or led by councils with the support of Transport for NSW.

Key messages

The key messages from Future Transport 2056 for Regional NSW are:

- Ten regional specific Customer Outcomes
- Movement and Place framework
- Hub and Spoke network

Customer outcomes

Future Transport 2056's transport vision for the next 40 years is articulated through six customer outcomes.

These outcomes guide investment, policy and reform and service provision and provide a framework for network planning and investment. They are aimed at harnessing rapid change and innovation to support a modern, innovative transport system.

The customer outcomes are:



The ten customer outcomes for regional NSW are:

Regional NSW Customer Outcomes	
Customer Focused	Successful Places
<p>Customer and responsive to customer needs</p> <p>1. A transport system that enables people to move and access services and opportunities.</p> <p>2. A transport system that enables people to move and access services and opportunities.</p>	<p>Supporting and enhancing the livability of our places</p> <p>3. The transport system enables people to move and access services and opportunities.</p> <p>4. Supporting people to move and access services and opportunities.</p>
Growing the Economy	Safety and Performance
<p>Connecting people and places in the growing city</p> <p>5. Changes in land use, population and demand, including increased mobility, are met by the transport system.</p> <p>6. Economic development is enabled by regional transport services and infrastructure.</p>	<p>Safety, efficiency and reliability moving people and goods</p> <p>7. A safe, efficient and reliable transport system that meets the needs of all users.</p> <p>8. A transport system that is resilient to significant weather events including floods, drought and bushfires.</p>
Accessible Services	Sustainability
<p>Accessibility to transport and services</p> <p>9. Accessibility to transport and services such as health, education and social and cultural activities within Regional NSW.</p>	<p>Reducing the total use of available resources and assets</p> <p>10. Customers enjoy improved connectivity, improved service, and better use of capacity.</p>

Local Strategic Planning in Regional NSW
Future Transport 2056

Movement and Place

Movement and Place is a framework for planning great places. The Movement and Place Framework recognises that streets have different movement functions as well as place functions.



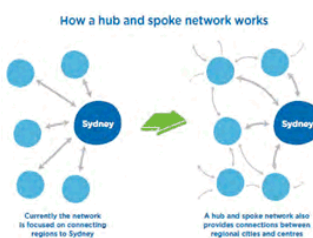
The Movement and Place framework seeks to achieve two main outcomes:

1. road space allocation that enhances the efficiency of movement to support Great and Successful Places.
2. street environments that support streets as destinations that people want to spend time in.

Together these outcomes should be the focus of strategic planning, design, management, operation and performance measurement of streets. The Movement and Place Framework assists in guiding the development of Place Plans to achieve a shared vision across stakeholders.

Hub and Spoke

The most effective way of providing better transport to more customers in regional NSW is through the development of a 'hub and spoke' network model radiating out from regional centres rather than a network just focused on Sydney.



This will capitalise on the role that regional centres and cities play as hubs for employment and services such as retail, health, education and cultural activities for their surrounding catchment areas. It also acknowledges the importance of national and state significant transport links (spokes) that pass through regions.

Whilst connectivity to Sydney remains important, safe and efficient links to regional cities in adjacent regions is considered just as important.

The hub and spoke network will be developed with stakeholders in inform the Regional Future Transport Plans.

Supporting local planning

The Local Strategic Planning Statement offers the opportunity for Councils to consider what this means for both identified regional hubs where employment and services are often concentrated and how better connections (spokes) to these hubs can support smaller centres and towns. Example statements are shown below. Transport for NSW can also offer a range of resources to help with council's planning work. Examples include:

- Data – The Open Data Hub provides transport data including Opal data, freight data, Household Travel Survey information and on demand trial data. Visit: <https://opendata.transport.nsw.gov.au/>
- Discuss and/or meet to apply the Movement and Place Framework to a local context and introduce the Government Architect NSW Toolkit and other resources <https://www.governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au/>
- Support the development of Place Plans through explaining Movement and Place and running workshops
- Provide advice on draft LSPS to include integrated transport and land use advice
- Assist with finding appropriate TfNSW contacts for your community transport, bus servicing related questions etc.

Local Strategic Planning in Regional NSW
Future Transport 2056

Examples of LSPS responses are:

- Council will work with TfNSW and other key stakeholders on implementing the Movement and Place Framework through the development of a Place Plan, integrated transport and land use plan, for key centres and/or the LGA.
- Council will work with TfNSW in the development and implementation of travel demand management policies and actions.
- Council will work with TfNSW to understand catchment areas for key centres and attractors (such as retail, hospitals, airports, universities etc) to develop a hub and spoke transport network.
- Council will work with TfNSW to promote active transport, including opportunities to develop an active transport network.
- Council will work with TfNSW in developing car parking guidelines to support the development and vibrancy of centres and encourage a more sustainable mode share.
- Council will avoid the encroachment of incompatible land uses on major transport corridors within the LGA.
- Council to secure corridor protection for future transport alignments when routes are identified by TfNSW.
- When preparing LSPS responses, Council should be specific to their council area and provide time frames.

Contact

For further information or assistance, please contact regionalstrategy@transport.nsw.gov.au

Attachment A:

Regional NSW Services and Infrastructure Plan initiatives by local government area

Attachment B:

Regional NSW Services and Infrastructure Plan statewide initiatives

Local Strategic Planning in Regional NSW
Future Transport 2056

Attachment A: Initiatives by local government area	
LGA	Initiatives
<p>Key</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committed 0-10 years Initiatives for investigation 0-10 years Initiatives for investigation 10-20 years Visionary initiatives 20+ years <p>All initiatives for investigation are subject to business case development.</p>	
Hunter	
Cessnock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hunter Pinch Points Greater Newcastle Place Plans Hunter Regional Transport Plan Bus headstart for Greater Newcastle Greater Newcastle Rapid Bus Package Dubbo to Newcastle rail connection Outer Metro Roads Program Cessnock to Newcastle rail services via Kurri Kurri
Dungog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hunter Pinch Points Hunter Regional Transport Plan Outer Metro Roads Program
Lake Macquarie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Intercity Fleet (Multi-region) Hunter Pinch Points Sydney-Central Coast-Newcastle Faster Rail Improvement Greater Newcastle Place Plans Hunter Regional Transport Plan Bus headstart for Greater Newcastle Greater Newcastle Rapid Bus Package Outer Metro Roads Program Corridor Preservation for Higher Speed Connections New suburban type rail service for Greater Newcastle Higher Speed Connections (east coast)
Maitland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hunter Pinch Points Greater Newcastle Place Plans Bus headstart for Greater Newcastle Greater Newcastle Rapid Bus Package Maitland Place Plan Hunter Regional Transport Plan Outer Metro Roads Program Dubbo to Newcastle rail connection Main Northern Line - improvements to address pinch points Electrification of the Hunter Line to Telarah Cessnock to Newcastle rail services via Kurri Kurri
Mid-Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hunter Pinch Points Taree Northern Gateway upgrades and roundabout

Local Strategic Planning in Regional NSW
Future Transport 2056

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lakes Way Corridor Improvements Cedar Party Creek Bridge, Wingham Hunter Regional Transport Plan Outer Metro Roads Program Corridor Preservation for Higher Speed Connections Higher Speed Connections (east coast)
Muswellbrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New England Highway, Muswellbrook Bypass (Planning) Golden Highway Safety and Productivity Works (State and Federal Funded) Hunter Pinch Points Golden Highway improvements (continuation) Hunter Regional Transport Plan Outer Metro Roads Program Main Northern Line - improvements to address pinch points Dubbo to Newcastle rail connection Duplication of New England Highway Muswellbrook to Scone
Newcastle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Intercity Fleet (Multi-region) Nelson Bay Road improvements – Fern Bay to Williamtown Newcastle Cruise Terminal Hunter Pinch Points Newcastle Inner City Bypass, Rankin Park to Jesmond M1, Hexham, Raymond Terrace upgrades Lower Hunter Freight Corridor Protection Improvements to Newcastle Port Bus headstart for Greater Newcastle Greater Newcastle Rapid Bus Package Newcastle Light Rail network extension M1, Hexham, Raymond Terrace upgrades Greater Newcastle Place Plans Hunter Regional Transport Plan Sydney-Central Coast-Newcastle Faster Rail Improvement Outer Metro Roads Program Newcastle Ferry Network extension Lower Hunter Freight Corridor Corridor Preservation for Higher Speed Connections Dubbo to Newcastle rail connection Electrification of the Hunter Line to Telarah New suburban type rail service for Greater Newcastle Cessnock to Newcastle rail services via Kurri Kurri Higher Speed Connections (east coast)
Port Stephens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nelson Bay Road improvements – Fern Bay to Williamtown Nelson Bay Road improvements - Williamtown to Bobs Farm M1, Hexham, Raymond Terrace upgrades Hunter Pinch Points Greater Newcastle Place Plans Hunter Regional Transport Plan Bus headstart for Greater Newcastle Greater Newcastle Rapid Bus Package M1, Hexham, Raymond Terrace upgrades Fingal Bay Link Road construction Williamtown Special Activation Precinct Outer Metro Roads Program Tomago Road Improvements - Pacific Highway to Williamtown Corridor Preservation for Higher Speed Connections New rail alignment of North Coast Line between Newcastle and

Local Strategic Planning in Regional NSW
Future Transport 2056

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stroud Road - investigation corridor Higher Speed Connections (east coast)
Singleton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New England Highway, Gowrie Gates, Widen Rail Underpass New England Highway, Belford to Golden Highway Upgrade New England Highway, Singleton Bypass (Planning) Golden Highway Safety and Productivity Works (State and Federal Funded) Hunter Pinch Points New Singleton rail services Golden Highway improvements (continuation) Hunter Regional Transport Plan Outer Metro Roads Program Main Northern Line - improvements to address pinch points Dubbo to Newcastle rail connection
Upper Hunter Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New England Highway, Scone Bypass (State and Federal Funded) Golden Highway Safety and Productivity Works (State and Federal Funded) Hunter Pinch Points Golden Highway improvements (continuation) Hunter Regional Transport Plan Outer Metro Roads Program Main Northern Line - improvements to address pinch points Dubbo to Newcastle rail connection Duplication of New England Highway Muswellbrook to Scone
Central Coast	
Central Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional growth buses Warnervale Link Road, Albert Drive to Pacific Highway (planning) Pacific Highway, Wyong Town Centre (planning) Pacific Motorway Widening and Reconstruction, Wyong Road to Doyalson Link Road (State and Federal funded) Empire Bay Drive, The Scenic Road and Cochrane Street Intersection upgrade Kangy Angy Train Maintenance Facility for New Intercity Fleet Pacific Highway, Parsons Road to Ourimbah Street (Planning) Manns Road, Central Coast Highway to Narara Creek Road (Planning) Pacific Motorway Widening, Kariong Interchange to Somersby Interchange (State to Federal Funded) New Intercity Fleet Sydney-Central Coast-Newcastle Faster Rail Improvement Bus Headstart for Central Coast Central Coast Rapid Bus package Central Coast Place Plans M1 Motorway improvements (Hawkesbury River – Mt White) Gosford Place Plan Central Coast Regional Transport Plan Outer Metro Roads Program M1-Newcastle SMART Motorway Corridor Preservation for Higher Speed Connections Higher Speed Connections (east coast) Outer Sydney Orbital from Great Western Highway to Central Coast

Local Strategic Planning in Regional NSW
Future Transport 2056

Illawarra-Shoalhaven	
Kiama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Intercity Fleet (Multi-region) Rail passing loop between Gerringong and Berry More Trains More Services (Stage 2) Illawarra-Shoalhaven Regional Transport Plan Electrification of intercity to Bomaderry/Nowra Outer Metro Roads Program
Shellharbour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Intercity Fleet (Multi-region) Albion Park Rail Bypass (Planning and Preconstruction) More Trains More Services (Stage 2) Shellharbour Place Plan Illawarra-Shoalhaven Regional Transport Plan Illawarra Hwy/Macquarie Pass improvements Outer Metro Roads Program
Shoalhaven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional growth buses Rail passing loop between Gerringong and Berry Nowra Bridge over Shoalhaven River (Planning) (State and Federal Funded) subject to final business case and Federal funding MR92 Nerriga Road improvements Berry to Bomaderry Upgrade More Trains More Services (Stage 2) Princes Highway Upgrade Program (between Jervis Bay Road and Sussex Inlet Road) Princes Highway Upgrade Program (planning of Milton and Ulladulla Bypass) Princes Highway Upgrade Program (planning for upgrades from Burrill Lake to Batemans Bay) Princes Highway Nowra Bridge replacement Duplication of Princes Highway (Jervis Bay Road Intersection to Moruya) Nowra Place Plan Illawarra-Shoalhaven Regional Transport Plan Electrification of intercity to Bomaderry/Nowra Outer Metro Roads Program
Wollongong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illawarra Growth Buses New Intercity Fleet (Multi-region) Princes Motorway Improvements, Bulli Tops to Picton Road (Planning) (State and Federal Funded) Princes Motorway, Interchange at Base of Mount Ousley (Planning) Sydney-Wollongong Faster Rail Improvement Wollongong Rapid Bus package Wollongong Place Plan Illawarra-Shoalhaven Regional Transport Plan Bus headstart for Wollongong Bus priority measures on Appin Road Picton Rd/Appin Rd Improvements Moss Vale to Unanderra and Coniston Junction rail improvements M1 Princes SMART Motorway Completion of Maldon to Dombarton railway line Outer Metro Roads Program Illawarra Escarpment long term solution Outer Sydney Orbital from Hume Motorway to Illawarra

Local Strategic Planning in Regional NSW
Future Transport 2056

North Coast	
Ballina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade (State and Federal Funded) Bruxner Highway upgrades at Alstonville Bruxner Highway Improvements (Ballina-Casino) North Coast Regional Transport Plan
Bellingen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade (State and Federal Funded) Upgrade Waterfall Way through Dorrigo and Bellingen Waterfall Way corridor improvements North Coast Regional Transport Plan Corridor Preservation for Higher Speed Connections Higher Speed Connections (east coast)
Byron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade of Bangalow Road between Bangalow and Lismore North Coast Regional Transport Plan
Clarence Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway Upgrade (State and Federal Funded) Summerland Way, Additional Clarence River Crossing (Grafton Bridge) Regional growth buses - planning Waterfall Way corridor improvements Gwydir Highway Improvements (between Grafton and Glen Innes, Jackadgerly) North Coast Regional Transport Plan Summerland Way Improvements (Grafton-QLD border) Corridor Preservation for Higher Speed Connections North Coast cruise infrastructure development Higher Speed Connections (east coast)
Coffs Harbour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woolgoolga to Ballina (State and Federal Funded) Coffs Harbour Recreational Boat Ramp Regional growth buses Coffs Harbour Place Plan Coffs Harbour Bypass North Coast Regional Transport Plan North Coast cruise infrastructure development Corridor Preservation for Higher Speed Connections Higher Speed Connections (east coast)
Kempsey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Coast Regional Transport Plan Corridor Preservation for Higher Speed Connections Higher Speed Connections (east coast)
Kyogle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Coast Regional Transport Plan Summerland Way Improvements (Grafton-QLD border) Bruxner Highway Improvements (Casino-Tenterfield) Corridor Preservation for Higher Speed Connections Higher Speed Connections (east coast)
Lismore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bruxner Highway upgrades in Lismore Regional growth buses Upgrade of Bangalow Road between Bangalow and Lismore Bruxner Highway Improvements (Ballina-Casino) Lismore Place Plan North Coast Regional Transport Plan
Nambucca	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warrell Creek to Nambucca Heads Pacific Highway upgrade (State and Federal Funded) (open to traffic in 2017) North Coast Regional Transport Plan

Local Strategic Planning in Regional NSW
Future Transport 2056

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corridor Preservation for Higher Speed Connections Higher Speed Connections (east coast)
Port Macquarie-Hastings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional growth buses - planning Ocean Drive duplication, Port Macquarie Port Macquarie Place Plan North Coast Regional Transport Plan Corridor Preservation for Higher Speed Connections Higher Speed Connections (east coast)
Richmond Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade (State and Federal Funded) Bruxner Highway Improvements (Ballina-Casino) North Coast Regional Transport Plan Summerland Way Improvements (Grafton-QLD border) Bruxner Highway Improvements (Casino-Tenterfield) Corridor Preservation for Higher Speed Connections Higher Speed Connections (east coast)
Tweed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional growth buses Tweed Light Rail Tweed Transport Network Plan (encompassing the potential for light rail extension from Gold Coast Airport to Tweed Heads) Tweed Heads and Gold Coast Place Plan North Coast Regional Transport Plan
South East and Tablelands	
Bega Valley Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eden cruise facilities development Snowy Mountains Highway improvements (including Brown Mountain) South East and Tablelands Regional Transport Plan Duplication of Princes Highway (Moruya to Bega Bridge) Duplication of Princes Highway (Bega to Victoria)
Eurobodalla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Batemans Bay Bridge (planning) Kings Highway, Replacement Clyde River Bridge Princes Highway Upgrade Program – Moruya Bypass Princes Highway Upgrade Program (planning for upgrades from Burrill Lake to Batemans Bay) Kings Highway improvements Duplication of Princes Highway (Jervis Bay Road Intersection to Moruya) South East and Tablelands Regional Transport Plan Duplication of Princes Highway (Moruya to Bega Bridge)
Goulburn Mulwaree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Transport for isolated communities Hume Highway Heavy Duty Pavement (State and Federal Funded) Sydney-Canberra Faster Rail Improvement Hume Highway Improvements South East and Tablelands Regional Transport Plan Preservation for Higher Speed Connections Electrification of intercity to Goulburn Higher Speed Connections (east coast)
Hilltops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Transport for isolated communities Hume Highway Heavy Duty Pavement (State and Federal Funded) Lachlan Valley Way improvements Hume Highway Improvements South East and Tablelands Regional Transport Plan

Local Strategic Planning in Regional NSW
Future Transport 2056

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corridor Preservation for Higher Speed Connections Higher Speed Connections (east coast)
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queanbeyan Bypass (Ellerton Drive Extension) (State, Federal and Local Government Funded) MR92 Nerriga Road improvements Regional growth buses Kings Highway improvements Dunns Creek Road corridor acquisition and design Sydney-Canberra Faster Rail Improvement Investigate extension of light rail from Canberra to Queanbeyan Queanbeyan Place Plan South East and Tablelands Regional Transport Plan Corridor Preservation for Higher Speed Connections Higher Speed Connections (east coast)
Snowy Monaro Regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Transport for isolated communities Kosciuszko Road Overtaking Lanes and Safety Improvements Monaro Highway Overtaking Lanes and Safety Improvements Monaro Highway improvements Sealing Bobeyan Road, Bolaro Snowy Mountains Highway improvements (including Brown Mountain) South East and Tablelands Regional Transport Plan
Upper Lachlan Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Transport for isolated communities Hume Highway Heavy Duty Pavement (State and Federal Funded) Hume Highway Improvements South East and Tablelands Regional Transport Plan Corridor Preservation for Higher Speed Connections Higher Speed Connections (east coast)
Wingecarribee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hume Highway Heavy Duty Pavement (State and Federal Funded) Moss Vale to Unanderra and Coniston Junction rail improvements Sydney-Canberra Faster Rail Improvement Hume Highway Improvements South East and Tablelands Regional Transport Plan Corridor Preservation for Higher Speed Connections Illawarra Hwy/Macquarie Pass improvements M31 Hume SMART motorway Electrification of intercity to Goulburn Higher Speed Connections (east coast)
Yass Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barton Highway Improvements (State and Federal Funded) Hume Highway Heavy Duty Pavement (State and Federal Funded) Lachlan Valley Way improvements Hume Highway Improvements South East and Tablelands Regional Transport Plan Corridor Preservation for Higher Speed Connections Completion of Barton Highway duplication Higher Speed Connections (east coast)
Riverina Murray	
Albury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hume Highway Heavy Duty Pavement (State and Federal Funded) Inland Rail (Federal Funded) Regional growth buses

Local Strategic Planning in Regional NSW
Future Transport 2056

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hume Highway Improvements Main South Freight Rail Capacity Enhancements in collaboration with ARTC Murray River Bridges Program Albury Wodonga Place Plan Riverina Murray Regional Transport Plan Corridor Preservation for Higher Speed Connections Support the delivery of Inland Rail Higher Speed Connections (east coast)
Berrigan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newell Highway Overtaking Lanes (Multi-region) Newell Highway Improvements (in addition to those committed) Murray River Bridges Program Riverina Murray Regional Transport Plan
Bland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newell Highway Overtaking Lanes (Multi-region) Newell Highway flood-proof Newell Highway Improvements (in addition to those committed) Riverina Murray Regional Transport Plan
Carrathool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cobb Highway Seal Extension Kidman Way improvements Cobb Highway sealing missing links Riverina Murray Regional Transport Plan
Coolamon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newell Highway Overtaking Lanes (Multi-region) Newell Highway Improvements (in addition to those committed) Riverina Murray Regional Transport Plan
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hume Highway Heavy Duty Pavement (State and Federal Funded) Inland Rail (Federal Funded) Hume Highway Improvements Riverina Murray Regional Transport Plan Corridor Preservation for Higher Speed Connections Support the delivery of Inland Rail Higher Speed Connections (east coast)
Edward River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Transport for isolated communities Cobb Highway Seal Extension Cobb Highway sealing missing links Riverina Murray Regional Transport Plan
Federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newell Highway Overtaking Lanes (Multi-region) Newell Highway Improvements (in addition to those committed) Murray River Bridges Program Riverina Murray Regional Transport Plan
Greater Hume Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hume Highway Heavy Duty Pavement (State and Federal Funded) Inland Rail (Federal Funded) Hume Highway Improvements Main South Freight Rail Capacity Enhancements in collaboration with ARTC Murray River Bridges Program Riverina Murray Regional Transport Plan Corridor Preservation for Higher Speed Connections Support the delivery of Inland Rail Higher Speed Connections (east coast)
Griffith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional growth buses Kidman Way improvements Griffith Place Plan Riverina Murray Regional Transport Plan

Local Strategic Planning in Regional NSW
Future Transport 2056

Hay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cobb Highway Seal Extension Hay, Main Street upgrade (resurfacing) Cobb Highway sealing missing links Sturt Highway improvements Riverina Murray Regional Transport Plan
Junee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cobb Highway Seal Extension Inland Rail (Federal Funded) Main South Freight Rail Capacity Enhancements in collaboration with ARTC Riverina Murray Regional Transport Plan Corridor Preservation for Higher Speed Connections Support the delivery of Inland Rail Higher Speed Connections (east coast)
Leeton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sturt Highway improvements Riverina Murray Regional Transport Plan
Lockhart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inland Rail (Federal Funded) Main South Freight Rail Capacity Enhancements in collaboration with ARTC Riverina Murray Regional Transport Plan Corridor Preservation for Higher Speed Connections Support the delivery of Inland Rail Higher Speed Connections (east coast)
Murray River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cobb Highway, New Bridge at Echuca - Moama Cobb Highway Seal Extension Cobb Highway sealing missing links Sturt Highway improvements Murray River Bridges Program Riverina Murray Regional Transport Plan
Murrumbidgee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newell Highway Overtaking Lanes (Multi-region) Newell Highway Improvements (in addition to those committed) Kidman Way improvements Sturt Highway improvements Riverina Murray Regional Transport Plan
Narrandera	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newell Highway Overtaking Lanes (Multi-region) Newell Highway Improvements (in addition to those committed) Sturt Highway improvements Riverina Murray Regional Transport Plan
Snowy Valleys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Transport for isolated communities Gocup Road Upgrade Murray River Bridges Program Riverina Murray Regional Transport Plan
Temora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Riverina Murray Regional Transport Plan
Wagga Wagga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hume Highway Heavy Duty Pavement (State and Federal Funded) Inland Rail (Federal Funded) Regional growth buses Inland Rail Intermodal Facility investigations Hume Highway Improvements Main South Freight Rail Capacity Enhancements in collaboration with ARTC Sturt Highway improvements Wagga Wagga Place Plan Riverina Murray Regional Transport Plan Corridor Preservation for Higher Speed Connections

Local Strategic Planning in Regional NSW
Future Transport 2056

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the delivery of Inland Rail Higher Speed Connections (east coast)
New England North West	
Armidale Regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Transport for isolated communities Regional growth buses - planning Waterfall Way corridor improvements New England Highway Improvements (Armidale to border) New England Highway Improvements (Willow Tree to Armidale) Armidale Place Plan New England North West Regional Transport Plan Main Northern Line - improvements to address pinch points
Glen Innes Severn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New England Highway Improvements (Armidale to border) Gwydir Highway Improvements (between Grafton and Glen Innes, Jackadgery) New England North West Regional Transport Plan Gwydir Highway Improvements (Inland)
Gunnedah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Transport for isolated communities Oxley Highway, Gunnedah Bridge over Rail Kamilaroi Highway Improvements New England North West Regional Transport Plan
Gwydir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Transport for isolated communities Inland Rail (Federal Funded) New England North West Regional Transport Plan Gwydir Highway Improvements (Inland) Support the delivery of Inland Rail
Inverell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Transport for isolated communities Inland Rail (Federal Funded) New England North West Regional Transport Plan Gwydir Highway Improvements (Inland) Support the delivery of Inland Rail
Liverpool Plains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Transport for isolated communities New England Highway Improvements (Willow Tree to Armidale) Kamilaroi Highway Improvements New England North West Regional Transport Plan Main Northern Line - improvements to address pinch points
Moree Plains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Transport for isolated communities Newell Highway, Mungle Back Creek to Boggabilla Heavy Duty Pavement (State and Federal Funded) Newell Highway Overtaking Lanes (Multi-region) Newell Highway Heavy Vehicle Pavement Upgrades - Narrabri-Moree, North of Moree (Planning) Inland Rail (Federal Funded) Gwydir Highway washpool causeway Gwydir Highway Improvements (between Grafton and Glen Innes, Jackadgery) Inland Rail Intermodal Facility investigations Newell Highway Improvements (in addition to those committed) New England North West Regional Transport Plan Gwydir Highway Improvements (Inland) Support the delivery of Inland Rail
Narrabri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newell Highway Overtaking Lanes (Multi-region) Newell Highway Heavy Vehicle Pavement Upgrades - Narrabri-Moree, North of Moree (Planning)

Local Strategic Planning in Regional NSW
Future Transport 2056

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inland Rail (Federal Funded) Newell Highway Improvements (in addition to those committed) Kamilaroi Highway Improvements New England North West Regional Transport Plan Support the delivery of Inland Rail
Tamworth Regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Transport for isolated communities Barraba Branch Line Tamworth Rail Freight Centre Upgrade of Goonoo Goonoo Road New England Highway duplication from Calala Lane to Jack Smyth Road, Tamworth Regional growth buses - planning Oxley Highway Improvements New England Highway Improvements (Willow Tree to Armidale) Tamworth Place Plan New England North West Regional Transport Plan Main Northern Line - improvements to address pinch points
Tenterfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New England Highway, Bolivia Hill Upgrade (State and Federal Funded) New England Highway Improvements (Armidale to border) New England North West Regional Transport Plan
Uralla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New England Highway Improvements (Willow Tree to Armidale) New England North West Regional Transport Plan Main Northern Line - improvements to address pinch points
Walcha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New England North West Regional Transport Plan Main Northern Line - improvements to address pinch points
Central West and Orana	
Bathurst Regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Transport for isolated communities Upgrades to Main West Line Regional growth buses Main Road 54 (Goulburn to Bathurst) Initial Sealing Mt Victoria to Orange road corridor improvements to achieve travel time savings and road safety outcomes Bathurst Place Plan Central West and Orana Regional Transport Plan Connecting the Central West and Orana Program Electrification of intercity to Bathurst Mitchell Highway improvements
Blayney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrades to Main West Line Extending Bathurst commuter rail to Orange Central West and Orana Regional Transport Plan Connecting the Central West and Orana Program
Bogan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barrier Highway improvements (Dubbo-Broken Hill) Central West and Orana Regional Transport Plan Connecting the Central West and Orana Program Mitchell Highway improvements
Cabonne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrades to Main West Line Mt Victoria to Orange road corridor improvements to achieve travel time savings and road safety outcomes Henry Parkes Way improvements Central West and Orana Regional Transport Plan Connecting the Central West and Orana Program Mitchell Highway improvements

Local Strategic Planning in Regional NSW
Future Transport 2056

Coonamble	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inland Rail (Federal Funded) Upgrade roads in the Coonamble and Warrumbungle area Central West and Orana Regional Transport Plan Connecting the Central West and Orana Program Support the delivery of Inland Rail
Cowra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Transport for isolated communities Lachlan Valley Way improvements Central West and Orana Regional Transport Plan Connecting the Central West and Orana Program
Dubbo Regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Transport for isolated communities Newell Highway, New Dubbo Bridge (Planning) Newell Highway Overtaking Lanes (Multi-region) Golden Highway Safety and Productivity Works (State and Federal Funded) Regional Rail Maintenance Facility (Dubbo subject to planning approval) Regional growth buses Mitchell Highway overtaking lanes- Dubbo to Narromine Golden Highway improvements (continuation) Newell Highway Improvements (in addition to those committed) Barrier Highway improvements (Dubbo-Broken Hill) Dubbo Place Plan Central West and Orana Regional Transport Plan Connecting the Central West and Orana Program Dubbo to Newcastle rail connection Mitchell Highway improvements
Forbes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newell Highway Overtaking Lanes (Multi-region) Upgrades to Main West Line Inland Rail (Federal Funded) Newell Highway flood-proof Newell Highway Improvements (in addition to those committed) Central West and Orana Regional Transport Plan Connecting the Central West and Orana Program Support the delivery of Inland Rail
Gilgandra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newell Highway Overtaking Lanes (Multi-region) Inland Rail (Federal Funded) Newell Highway Improvements (in addition to those committed) Central West and Orana Regional Transport Plan Connecting the Central West and Orana Program Support the delivery of Inland Rail
Lachlan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Henry Parkes Way improvements Central West and Orana Regional Transport Plan Connecting the Central West and Orana Program
Lithgow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Intercity Fleet (Multi-region) Upgrades to Main West Line New Bathurst Bullet service Bells Line of Road improvements Mt Victoria to Orange road corridor improvements to achieve travel time savings and road safety outcomes Central West and Orana Regional Transport Plan Connecting the Central West and Orana Program Electrification of intercity to Bathurst Castlereagh Highway Improvements (Mudgee-Lithgow)
Mid-Western Regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Transport for isolated communities Central West and Orana Regional Transport Plan

Local Strategic Planning in Regional NSW
Future Transport 2056

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connecting the Central West and Orana Program Dubbo to Newcastle rail connection Castlereagh Highway Improvements (Mudgee-Lithgow)
Narromine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newell Highway Overtaking Lanes (Multi-region) Inland Rail (Federal Funded) Mitchell Highway overtaking lanes – Dubbo to Narromine Inland Rail Intermodal Facility investigations Newell Highway Improvements (in addition to those committed) Barrier Highway improvements (Dubbo-Broken Hill) Central West and Orana Regional Transport Plan Connecting the Central West and Orana Program Support the delivery of Inland Rail Mitchell Highway improvements
Oberon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central West and Orana Regional Transport Plan Connecting the Central West and Orana Program
Orange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrades to Main West Line Regional growth buses Mt Victoria to Orange road corridor improvements to achieve travel time savings and road safety outcomes Extending Bathurst commuter rail to Orange Orange Place Plan Central West and Orana Regional Transport Plan Connecting the Central West and Orana Program Mitchell Highway improvements
Parkes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newell Highway, Parkes Bypass (Planning) Newell Highway Overtaking Lanes (Multi-region) Upgrades to Main West Line Inland Rail (Federal Funded) Henry Parkes Way improvements Newell Highway Improvements (in addition to those committed) Central West and Orana Regional Transport Plan Connecting the Central West and Orana Program Support the delivery of Inland Rail
Warren	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barrier Highway improvements (Dubbo-Broken Hill) Central West and Orana Regional Transport Plan Connecting the Central West and Orana Program Mitchell Highway improvements
Warrumbungle Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newell Highway, Improvements through Coonabarabran (Planning) Newell Highway Overtaking Lanes (Multi-region) Golden Highway Safety and Productivity Works (State and Federal Funded) Inland Rail (Federal Funded) Golden Highway improvements (continuation) Newell Highway Improvements (in addition to those committed) Upgrade roads in the Coonamble and Warrumbungle area Central West and Orana Regional Transport Plan Connecting the Central West and Orana Program Dubbo to Newcastle rail connection Support the delivery of Inland Rail
Weddin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newell Highway Overtaking Lanes (Multi-region) Inland Rail (Federal Funded) Newell Highway flood-proof Newell Highway Improvements (in addition to those committed) Central West and Orana Regional Transport Plan

Local Strategic Planning in Regional NSW
Future Transport 2056

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connecting the Central West and Orana Program Support the delivery of Inland Rail
Far West	
Balranald	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sturt Highway improvements Murray River Bridges Program The Wool Track sealing (Balranald - Ivanhoe -Cobar) Far West Regional Transport Plan
Bourke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kamilaroi Highway Improvements Kidman Way improvements Far West Regional Transport Plan Mitchell Highway improvements
Brewarrina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Transport for isolated communities Kamilaroi Highway Improvements Far West Regional Transport Plan
Broken Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Silver City Highway Seal Extension Silver City Highway sealing missing links Barrier Highway improvements (Dubbo-Broken Hill) Broken Hill Place Plan Far West Regional Transport Plan
Central Darling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cobb Highway Seal Extension Cobb Highway sealing missing links Barrier Highway improvements (Dubbo-Broken Hill) The Wool Track sealing (Balranald - Ivanhoe -Cobar) Far West Regional Transport Plan
Cobar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kidman Way improvements Barrier Highway improvements (Dubbo-Broken Hill) The Wool Track sealing (Balranald - Ivanhoe -Cobar) Far West Regional Transport Plan
Unincorporated Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Silver City Highway Seal Extension Silver City Highway sealing missing links Barrier Highway improvements (Dubbo-Broken Hill) Far West Regional Transport Plan
Walgett	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Transport for isolated communities Kamilaroi Highway Improvements Far West Regional Transport Plan
Wentworth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Silver City Highway Seal Extension Silver City Highway sealing missing links Sturt Highway improvements Murray River Bridges Program Far West Regional Transport Plan

Local Strategic Planning in Regional NSW
Future Transport 2056

Attachment B:

Regional NSW Services and Infrastructure Plan statewide initiatives

Statewide Policy and Planning Initiatives				
	0-10 years committed	0-10 years for investigation	10-20 years for investigation	20+ years visionary
ALL MODES				
Regional Transport Plans		●	○	○
Place plans		●	○	○
Access Prioritisation Plan		●	○	○
Regional Parking Guidelines		●	○	○
Transport Corridor Planning	●		○	○
ROAD				
Road Classification Review	●			
Road network management system		●	○	○
Fleet leasing policy		●	○	○
Fuel vouchers policy		●	○	○
Car share package		●	○	○
Town bypasses, identification of future need		●	○	○
Implementation of traffic incident and information services		●	○	○
PUBLIC TRANSPORT - BOOKING AND TICKETING				
Regional Booking System		●		
Mobility as a Service (MaaS)		●		
Next generation ticketing		●		
Fare alignment		●		
Cross border public transport pricing and regulation MoUs		●		
RAIL				
Rail Network Optimisation Program		●	○	○
Regional Rail Fleet Project	●			
BUS				
Country Passenger Infrastructure Grants Scheme	●		○	○
ON DEMAND				
School Bus and Community Transport Model development		●		
PUBLIC TRANSPORT - OTHER				
First stop Transport	●		○	○
MARITIME				
Maritime Safety Program		●	○	○
ACTIVE TRANSPORT				
Assisted Mobility Device Strategy		●	○	○
ASSET MANAGEMENT				
'Whole of life' Approach Plan		●	○	○
TECHNOLOGY				
CAV, electric vehicle and Intelligent Transport System trials		●		
CAV Readiness Program		●	○	
Electric Vehicle Policy		●	○	○
DATA				
Data collection improvements for Regional NSW	●		○	○

○ For further investigation if initiative is successful and/or required

Local Strategic Planning in Regional NSW
Future Transport 2056

Statewide Infrastructure Initiatives				
	0-10 years committed	0-10 years for investigation	10-20 years for investigation	20+ years visionary
ALL MODES				
Continuation of port efficiency, access and integration initiatives		●	○	○
Deliver Place Plans		●	○	○
Deliver Access Prioritisation Plan		●	○	○
Deliver Transport Corridor Planning	●		○	○
ROAD				
Resilience Package		●	○	○
Towards Zero Infrastructure Program		●	○	○
Local Government Road Safety Program	●	●	○	○
Sealing Country Roads Program		●	○	○
Bridges for the Bush Program	●	●	○	○
Slopes and Culverts Condition Program		●	○	○
Fixing Country Roads	●	●	○	○
Heavy vehicle rest areas	●	●	○	○
Last Mile Productivity Program		●		
Deliver Road Network Management System		●	○	○
Safer Roads Program	●		○	○
Regional Road Freight Corridor Fund	●	●	○	○
Saving Lives on Country Roads Program	●	●	○	○
Implementation of Traffic Incident and Information Services		●	○	○
Deliver Town Bypasses		●	○	○
AVIATION				
Regional Airports Program	●			
RAIL				
Deliver New Intercity Fleet	●			
Fixing Country Rail	●	●	○	○
Rail Network Optimisation Program		●	○	○
Deliver Regional Rail Fleet Project	●			
INTERCHANGES				
Transport Access Program	●		○	○
Deliver Inland Port		●		
MARITIME				
Deliver NSW Boating Now Program	●			
Deliver Maritime Safety Program		●	○	○
ACTIVE TRANSPORT				
Deliver Walking and Cycling Program		●	○	○
TECHNOLOGY				
Intelligent Transport Systems		●	○	○
Deliver CAV Readiness Program		●	○	
Deliver Electric Vehicle Policy		●	○	○
Deliver Regional Booking System		●		

- For further investigation if initiative is successful and/or required
● Continuation of initiative, investigation of program funding

Local Strategic Planning in Regional NSW
Future Transport 2056

Statewide Service Initiatives				
	0-10 years committed	0-10 years for investigation	10-20 years for investigation	20+ years visionary
ALL MODES				
Deliver the Regional Passenger Transport Strategic Framework and Delivery Model	●		○	○
Deliver Hub and Spoke Model	●		○	○
AVIATION				
Increase availability of regional slots at Sydney's airports during peak hours	●		○	○
RAIL				
Rail Network Optimisation Program		●	○	○
Deliver Regional Rail Fleet Project	●			
ON DEMAND				
Demand responsive transport services	●		○	○
ACTIVE TRANSPORT				
Active Transport Sharing Scheme		●	○	○
TECHNOLOGY				
Aerial technology use		●	○	○

○ For further investigation if initiative is successful and/or required

Gwydir Shire Council

DRAFT Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036

To The General Manager Max Eastcott and Mayor John Coulton ... A Review by Rick Hutton 2/4/2020

Overview of the DRAFT Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036.

While the document is an excellent 'broad view' of the present Gwydir Shire and the prospects for its future, I believe it is lacking in a number of key areas.

These are:

1. Forecasting future social values and their opportunities.
2. Identifying trends and prospects in work and employment.
3. Failing to focus on the prospects and plans for our two major assets, SOIL and WATER.
4. Consideration of a future economic system/s which may be very different to what we experience today.

This paper is not a critique of what has already been written, but a commentary on aspects of our environment, community and economy that may lead to a different appreciation of our future and on the 'plan' to get us there.

1. Social Values and their Opportunities;

In his Forward to the Draft Document, Gwydir Mayor John Coulton spoke of the need to 'maintain our lifestyle' and to 'help to adapt to the drivers of change such as climate change, demographic shifts and new technology'. These are aspirational and provide sound purpose.

Currently our Shire population hovers just above 5000 people. We should see this level as an absolute base, and population growth as a necessity for Local Government security. Without Gwydir Shire we all become part of a bigger melting pot and our level of self-determination is greatly diminished. Therefore population growth must be of fundamental concern.

We currently have an aging population (average age 48 years) and the Draft Document acknowledges a problem in the loss of young people. Both can be seen as assets in the future social context.

An aging population can provide a unique social value if used effectively. I commend the program with the Gwydir Libraries to have seniors read stories to young children. This is an excellent example of extending the input of our seniors and valuing their stories. Similarly the Sound Trails project contributed to this.

At the youth end of the spectrum, we should, I believe acknowledge and encourage our young people to 'leave the nest'. Their sense of adventure and need to find their own way in the world makes this essential. What we can do, however, is to encourage their sense of 'home' and ensure that we keep them looking back and considering returning.

To do this we must value them greatly when they are with us and keep them always in our hearts and minds when they leave. A weekly on-line up-date to our young people could be achieved reminding them of home and seeking their ideas, reflections and potentially their return. This was a prime objective during the early years of the VOCED program in Gwydir and should be revisited.

I was delighted to see in the Draft Plan the consideration of 'Large Lot Residential areas'. This should focus on aspects of self-reliance especially in areas of food production. I suggest that there is an existing Australian model for this process and it is 'Permaculture'. I have been interested in Permaculture (PC) for more than 30 years and I am a qualified Permaculture Teacher. I believe PC provides an excellent model to apply to this concept and should be included in the Local Strategic Plan.

Another aspect of future planning that relates to several of the previously mentioned items is affordable housing. I believe that the fabrication of quality, relocatable housing could form the basis of a fabrication industry within Gwydir Shire. I believe that TLC could be a starting point for this project.

Volunteerism is one strong feature of rural communities and it should be encouraged and enhanced. I have produced a paper called 'Valuing and encouraging our community'. It is based on a concept adopted by KPMG Sydney, part of the multi-national professional services group.

My concept enables volunteerism to be measured, valued and encouraged. It is both a barometer of volunteered contributions and a means of encouraging more. I recommend that 'volunteerism' be seen as a fundamental component of the Draft Paper. An effective and measured volunteer program also enhances the learning of new skills and the gaining of broader experiences. I think these will be fundamental in the possible 'pastoral' economy in the future.

2. Identifying trends and prospects in work and employment.

Currently Gwydir Shire is primarily an agricultural economy. Agriculture is the biggest employer and the major industry. However, agriculture in Gwydir Shire has become increasingly narrow over the past 30 years.

In my years as a CRT 'Local Bloke' I not only learnt much about that industry but was part of the system which encouraged an industrial approach to food and fibre production.

It is my contention that, at least in the Bingara end of the Shire, our agricultural system has become focused on Beef Cattle production (90%). I contend that 30 years ago it was more like 60% Beef, 30% Sheep and 10% Cropping and others. This narrowing of the industry has been associated with;

- a) An increase in farm sizes,
- b) A loss of farm families,
- c) An aging of farmers.
- d) An unhealthy dependence on chemicals and machinery.

All of these diminish the population base of our Shire and increase the risks involved in our agriculture. I believe that our Local Strategic Planning should focus on ways and means to create more farm jobs and to achieve this by encouraging the diversification of our agriculture.

A prospective research project in conjunction with the I.A. Watson Grains Research Station in Narrabri, focusing on the production of native grasses for grain, is one example of this happening. TLC has been invited to become a partner in that project.

I do not think the Draft Plan focuses enough on technological change especially in IT. I encourage GSC to consider expanding its IT department and develop a local component to explore broader applications. The NWTC proposed one example in the prospect of utilising the Roxy facility for broadening conferencing and the live-streaming of concerts.

Similarly the proposed Interpretive Centre at TLC has a major opportunity to focus on interactive education concerning world food production. This is a wonderful opportunity for IT to expand and specialise. It can be a commitment to an area of job creation in this field and be at the cutting edge of education.

Tourism is considered as an important element in the Draft Plan. I believe that Gwydir Shire is well behind where it needs to be in this field. We are too focused on the tourism of the past and not looking forward. Day tripper visitation is the logical starting point expanding into short term, and midterm stays as the industry matures.

Identifying and then effective marketing of our tourism prospects must be a priority. I see many prospects within Gwydir Shire and few done well or even examined. Retail taught me to 'sell the sizzle not the sausage' when it comes to marketing and this approach needs to be taken in the future planning for tourism.

3. Failing to focus on the prospects and plans for our two major assets, SOIL and WATER.

I see nothing in the Draft Plan that focuses on soil and water. These are the fundamentals not just of our agriculture but globally. The estimates for global soil loss in the next two decades are staggering. The deterioration of water quantity and quality is well known but few effective actions are being taken to deal with it.

Gwydir Shire is blessed with adequate water resources within its towns and villages. This should be a virtue worth protecting and promoting and should be highlighted with the Draft Plan.

It is my view that the use of biocides within the Gwydir Shire should be discouraged and we should focus on non-toxic options. From water treatment to weed control there are other options and GSC should aspire to be a leader in this transition.

4. Consideration of a future economic system/s which may be very different to what we experience today.

The drought of the past three years and the current COVID-19 are wake up calls for things to be different in the future. I have experienced the distribution of food and goods in a Supermarket system.

The 'food miles' are doubly costly, in that they require a lot of energy to transport, and they result in the nutritional deterioration of the food. Urban dwellers have accepted this, mostly in ignorance, for decades.

I think this will change and GSC needs to anticipate this prospect. Again I congratulate the inclusion of "large lot residential areas" in the Draft Plan, but having listed the proposal, what are the implications and the opportunities?

There is a major opportunity in Local Food Markets, in education and in shared food production. GSC should facilitate these and get on the front foot, to lead the way in this trend.

A community that eats well, shares food and resources and exercises regularly but gently is much better prepared for future shocks. The Draft Plan should consider this.

Our current agriculture is locked into a broad distribution system. Little of our produce is consumed locally or even returns to us after being processed elsewhere. This takes away much of our sense of pride and ownership of the 'fruits of our labour'.

It is counter-productive and counter-intuitive to produce a quality product only to see it tossed into the vast mix from other producers and shuffled around the world. We can only make sense of this need for change by committing to change, if only in small 'bite-sized' pieces to begin with.

Finally, I reflect on the words of futurist Peter Ellyard who the Bingara community had as a guest presenter at one of our Future Forums co-hosted by V2020 and GSC. Peter looked at what prevented rural communities from leading the way into change, and being better prepared for the future;

- A) Tall-poppyism – Is the "she'll be right mate" syndrome and anyone who presents a new idea has their 'head chopped off'. It makes 'nay-saying' an art-form and those suggesting new ideas are considered outliers, ratbags or worse.
- B) Cultural-tingeism – Is the belief that anything new or different is to be avoided because it is not 'the way we do things'. It is the 'fear of the new' rather than the challenge. It means that when faced with two diverging roads we choose to take neither.

- C) Cargo-cultism – Is the belief that we are small and insignificant, and it is the job of State and/or Federal Governments to 'look after us'. The trend is to down play the prospect that 'we can do it' because we are too small or too under-resourced, so we just wait for others to bail us out.

I am very proud of the fact that Gwydir Shire Council has NOT fallen into these three 'traps'. There are many examples of good concepts, developments and assets that have been brought about by our Shire being 'visionary' and pro-active.

Thank you for reading this set of suggestions that might be included in the Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036 in consideration of our future.

Please consider,

Regards,

Rick Hutton
1 Argoon Street, Bingara

Background:

Rick Hutton has been a resident of Bingara and now Gwydir Shire for 32 years. Rick and his young family left Sydney to take a 'tree change', taking on the Management of H.Fay & Sons Department Store. Previously Rick and his wife Susan (nee Fay) were teachers in the NSW Secondary School's system. Susan was a Head Teacher in Home Economics, and Rick had reached Head Teacher status in Social Sciences.

After twelve months in Bingara, Susan and Rick (with three year old twins Lexi and Nic), decided to stay and build their new home there. Their third child Ben was born two years later. Rick took over the Management of H.Fay & Sons from his father-in-law Harry Fay. Rick and Susan then bought into the business.

Fay's traded as "The BIGGEST Little Department Store in the Bush" and Rick gained experience in a wide range of retail areas, from Supermarket (Foodtown) and Liquor (Liquorwise), to Rural Supplies (CRT), Hardware (Mitre 10), Electrical Goods (Betta Electrical) and Fashion & Drapery (Frontline).

Fay's was an inaugural participant in the VET Retail project in conjunction with GSC, Wyallda High School and Bingara Central School. Rick was on the Steering Committee and the inaugural Board of IGA in Australia having input into much of its establishment and structure.

Rick and Susan sold H.Fay & Sons in 2010 to a consortium headed by John and Karen Bishton. In his semi-retirement Rick has been a casual teacher, the GSC Reserve Tourist Officer and is now in part-time employ with GSC as the CEO of the Gwydir Learning Region RTO.

Rick is the present, and was the inaugural President of the North West Theatre Company. He was a founder and the inaugural Secretary of Bingara & District Vision 2020. He created the original vision for The Living Classroom (TLC) and has written several community concepts for Bingara and the Gwydir Shire. Rick is a Patron of the Bingara Central School and is a past Bingara Citizen of the Year.

SUBMISSION TO GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL 14/4/2020

PAGE 1 of 5

This is a personal critique of Gwydir Shire Council's Draft Strategic Planning Statement.

There are good reasons for people to appreciate Gwydir Shire. However, there are also strategic directions, policies and operational practices which need to change.

The new realities facing the economies of New South Wales and Australia make the case for change that much more urgent. There can be little doubt that the Shire will again come under threat as governments desperately seek to make savings.

Ted Stubbins

1. The Golden Triangle

The Statement's use of the descriptor "Golden Triangle" to include an area which includes Gunnedah and Dubbo is perhaps revealing. It may suggest a wish to be part of something much larger, and of wanting to resemble elsewhere, rather than recognising the appeal of this area's special characteristics and protecting them and utilizing them to best effect.

The base of the Golden Triangle is usually thought of, at least locally, as extending from Yallaroi to Moree with the apex at Goondiwindi. The area has enjoyed a reputation for reliable rainfall which is now being tested.

In the drought of the early 1980's, the Golden Triangle received national media attention for continuing to produce grain crops with both high levels of protein and high yields. These same soils induce high costs of constructing and maintaining all weather roads. Efforts to gain fair allowance in grant funding to allow for these extra costs meets with opposition from more populous local government areas, who see their own slice of the pie being reduced.

Therefore, an increasing population would assist road grant funding.

The coming of the Inland Rail will boost the economy of this area but keeping roads, for which Council has responsibility, in good order is essential if full potential is to be realised. Roads in good order are essential for people of all socio-economic levels and to allow easy access for growing tourist interest, including the acclaimed "Faraway Domes".

Initiated and established by the Munsie family, this venture offers escape and serenity in elevated natural surroundings. Expansive views of sparsely populated country that include the dramatic seasonal changes of the cropping cycle can be enthralling to urban and international visitors seeking a short break. [when pandemic restrictions are lifted]

[There is potential for similar development in other parts of Gwydir Shire that could be established by land owners or by joint ventures operated and serviced by people from our towns. The biological and geological diversity contained in the Shire is immense and is open to sensitive, well planned utilization. High points on Cunningham's Track have possibilities.]

2.A Missing Population Policy

Regrettably, Council refuses to provide leadership in promoting the residential appeal of the Shire. It balks at the necessity of increasing population growth if the Shire itself is to survive in the longer term. This stance fails to utilize the potential for residential growth in our communities, that has been developed by previous generations and to its considerable credit, continued by Council itself.

However, while paying lip service to retention of young people, Council plans to create forms of industry with such invidious working conditions that a labour force will need to be recruited from the Pacific Islands or from itinerant visa holders prepared to suffer hardship, while they save for their next holiday. Our towns will become dormitories rather than places of cherished homes and family history and contact and vibrant community life.

The failure to develop a Population Policy aimed at attracting permanent residents is contributing to the diminution of excellent services such as the Warialda High School, where student numbers continue to fall, causing, in turn, reduced viability. This is a school with a proud history of sending graduates out into the wider world where many have achieved great success. These students value the start in life they received in Warialda and some return in later life to raise their own families, enter semi-retirement or simply visit.

Warialda High School's achievements should be part of a promotion of the Shire as a residential destination. A progressive Vocational Educational Program also caters for students who wish to enter the work force direct from school or those undertaking further studies and needing casual employment. A growing population would create employment for students who wish to remain locally.

Again, if a programme was in place to promote residential appeal, Warialda Multi-Purpose Service [the Hospital] would have a better chance of attracting permanent nursing staff for positions that now have to be filled by agencies. Additional incentives to settle should be offered to all staff with families as well as medical practitioners.

And again, if Council reduced the drain on its resources by curtailing such expenses as engagement of consultants, it might be able to reduce the onerous Shire rates paid by businesses. This may help existing enterprises to survive and encourage family groups and early retirees to settle in and near towns. They would contribute to and enjoy community life and build businesses or take employment servicing a wide area. This would include more populous neighbouring centres or, via the internet, the continent of Australia and beyond.

If a fraction of the amount of Council funds expended in recent years in seeking grants of eye watering dimensions was to be used annually to sensitively promote the residential appeal of the Shire, the prospects of the Shire's communities and the Shire itself would have a more certain future.

3. Appropriate Industrial Development

When industry is to be sought, it should not only be viable into the longer term, but it should be compatible with the character and functions of Gwydir's communities. It should bring new permanent residents including family groups. The convenience of access to major roads and assumed abundance of water are not the only considerations to be taken into account. If industries are viable they should be able to attract private enterprise investment without vast amounts of public money having to be invested and without Council continuing to be involved.

Instead of developing a population policy, a series of proposed industrial developments have been announced, with accompanying fanfare, over some years and have not proceeded. Consultants have been engaged at considerable expense, the details of which are not included in announcements of proposals.

Presumably, other Council resources have also been deployed in this quest. 300 jobs have been frequently promised in the media but the nature of the work is not described nor is it made clear who is to be employed.

The last of these proposals, which involved obtaining grant funds in excess of \$40,000,000 to develop a Green House project employing 40 people, did not meet grant application criteria, despite two attempts.

The bulk of employment opportunities were to be visa holders, presumably recruited by Labour Hire firms.

It is to be expected that these employees would repatriate most of their earnings to their island homes or build savings for the next stages of their travels. Their social and shopping activities would likely be combined in excursions to neighbouring larger centres in transport provided by the employer. Being unaccompanied, most will not have family to attend local schools and membership of local organisations would likely be very restricted.

Demands on town water supply and underlying aquifers would have been dramatically increased.

Belatedly, the Draft Statement announces a review of surface water and ground water resources. The Statement also acknowledges changes in patterns of rainfall but does not canvas impacts on re-charge of aquifers if they become depleted.

4. And now, the Bio-Digester

The most recent iteration in the sequence of failed proposals needing huge public investment, is to be a bio-digester which would utilize food waste transported from cities and require substantial water supply. Anerobic bacteria would break down the food waste and produce methane gas which would in turn be used to generate electricity. The electricity would be marketed at a discount rate so as to attract investment in Green House projects.

Page 4 of 5

And so we are back to a familiar merry-go-round.

I trust that Council does not dismiss the following information regarding food waste as being irrelevant. I do not expect a consultant's remuneration. The information was sourced by making one phone call and reading one magazine article.

*Doubts exist as to the suitability of food waste as an input because of the varying nature of the material which in turn affects the efficiency of the anaerobic bacteria and hence the whole operation.

*Reports indicate that an Australian Meat Processing company has investigated disposing of abattoir waste in a bio-digester and decided against proceeding because of the unsuitability of the varying material.

*An extraordinary amount of food is wasted annually. In the US and the UK it approaches 40%. 10% of all greenhouse emissions are linked to food waste.

These statistics are leading to heroic efforts to reduce food waste.

Apeel Sciences, is headquartered in Goleta, California with satellite offices in Mexico, Peru, Netherlands and New Jersey. The company, growing by hundreds of employees per year, is revolutionising entire food systems and economies.

Company founder James Rogers has developed a substance made of plant lipids or fatty acids which increase the shelf life of fruit and vegetables.

Apeel Sciences is just one company making a play for a market worth at least \$218 Billion in the US and several times that world- wide.

Given the amount of capital and energy being deployed and aimed at reducing food waste, it is to be anticipated that advances in technology will bring forth continuing reductions in availability of this source of energy.

This in turn brings into serious question the long term viability of a bio-digester in Gwydir Shire relying on food waste sourced from cities and transported vast distances, even before full consideration is given to environmental factors and impacts on amenity.

When, in previous correspondence, I have questioned the long term viability of growing fruit and vegetables using organic processes in green houses, Council has assured me that premiums will be paid for such produce by people described as Millennials. I replied that these people being under 40 years of age, had no memory of recessions and the household budgeting regimes that are associated with recessions and worse. We are about to find out who is correct.

There is an abundance of good quality food in Australia allowing wide choice. As long as the "clean and green" brand is protected international markets can be accessed by producers handy to international airports.

Page 5 of 5

5. Gwydir's Future

Dangers inherent in Council establishing and owning disposable real assets cannot be dismissed. A \$ 40,000,000 infrastructure could be sold to the highest bidder by potential "merger" partner[s]. This would compensate them for losses incurred in disposing of other Council assets which currently provide valued service. It is likely that such services would not be supplied by potential "merger" partner[s].

6. Myall Creek Memorial

The commercial exploitation of the Myall Creek Memorial will repel at least as many people as it attracts.

Using as a commercial attraction, an example of the worst features of the dispossession of Aboriginal People, will be an anathema to people who have an abhorrence of such insensitivity. Word of mouth reports will reduce attendance. As interest in Australia's true history hopefully develops, visitors will be quick to make judgements about the presentation of the Memorial. An opportunity exists for Council to continue to make an important contribution to the improvement of race relations in Australia and all development at Myall Creek should be passed through this filter.

Developments which involve ongoing administration and staffing costs may be expensive and counter- productive.

Robyn Phillips

From: Shayne Kneen <Shayne.Kneen@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 May 2020 3:40 PM
To: OLG - Gwydir Shire Council
Cc: DRG GSNSW Landuse Minerals Mailbox
Subject: Re- Gwydir Shire Local Strategic Planning Statement - GSNSW Response (DOC20/311565)
Attachments: Re Gwydir Shire Council draft LSPS - GSNSW Response.pdf

To whom it may concern,

Please find attached the submission from the NSW Department of Regional NSW – Mining, Exploration and Geoscience (MEG) – Geological Survey of NSW (GSNSW), regarding the Gwydir Shire LSPS.

Queries regarding the above information should be directed to the GSNSW - Land Use team at landuse.minerals@geoscience.nsw.gov.au.

Kind regards

Shayne Kneen
Geoscientist - Land Use - Geological Survey of NSW

Mining, Exploration and Geoscience |
Department of Regional NSW
E shayne.kneen@planning.nsw.gov.au
516 High St | Maitland NSW 2320
PO Box 344 | Hunter Region MC NSW 2310
nsw.gov.au/regionalnsw



**Regional
NSW**

The Department of Regional New South Wales acknowledges that it stands on Country which always was and always will be Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters, and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging. We are committed to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work.

-----Safe Stamp-----

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For more information regarding this service, please contact your service provider.



Regional
NSW

Gwydir Shire Council – LSPS
Attention: General Manager
Locked Bag 5
Bingara NSW 2404

Our ref: DOC20/311565

Your ref: Gwydir Shire Council Draft LSPS

Emailed: mail@gwydir.nsw.gov.au

18 May 2020

To whom it may concern,

Subject: Gwydir Shire Council - Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide advice on the above matter. This is a response from the Department of Regional NSW – Mining, Exploration and Geoscience (MEG) – Geological Survey of NSW (GSNSW).

MEG has reviewed the Gwydir Shire Council Draft LSPS 2036 and notes mineral and extractive resources have not been specifically addressed in this document. However, the LSPS is aligned with the New England North West Regional Plan, which recognises the importance of extractive industries in future land use planning within the Gwydir Shire Region. MEG can assist in detailing the location and significance of mineral and extractive resources within the Shire.

Accordingly, MEG has no concerns with the draft LSPS

Queries regarding the above information should be directed to the GSNSW - Land Use team at landuse.minerals@geoscience.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Palmer'.

Steven Palmer
Manager, Land Use Assessment
Geological Survey of NSW – Mining, Exploration and Geoscience.

PO Box 344 Hunter Region Mail Centre NSW 2310



Acknowledgement

Gwydir Shire Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land and pays respect to Elders past, present and future. This Plan acknowledges a strong belief amongst Aboriginal people that if we care for country, it will care for us. This is supported by the knowledge that the health of a people and their community is reliant on a strong physical and emotional connection to place.

Conserving Aboriginal heritage and respecting the Aboriginal community's right to determine how it is identified and managed will preserve some of the world's longest standing spiritual, historical, social and educational values.

Photographs on the cover page were taken by various photographers depicting our open agricultural areas, Cranky Rock, Blakey's Tumble Down Gum, Working Dogs, Wheat Crops, Myall Creek Massacre Memorial Ceremonial Dancer, Gwydir River Rapids, Historic Warialda Court House, Sunset and Gravesend Rodeo.



Foreword

There's nothing more exciting than having a good plan for the future.

We know that the Gwydir Shire is a wonderful place to live and work. We've already undertaken valuable planning work, including our Community Strategic Plan, to help maintain our lifestyle and foster new opportunities for our residents and for visitors to the area.

The Gwydir Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036 is an important missing link in our planning system. It looks at the way we are currently planning for land use and identifies areas for improvement.

It identifies where we are now, where we want to be heading and what are the best ways to get us there.

It helps our future homes, jobs and development be more sustainable, attractive and appropriate. It finds ways to help us adapt to drivers of change such as climate change, demographic shifts and new technology. And best of all, it helps protect those places that make the Gwydir special and that enable us to celebrate the unique character and culture of this place that we call home.

Warm regards

Cr. John Coulton
Gwydir Shire Mayor



Contents

Foreword.....	3
Contents.....	4
Introduction	5
Regional Context	6
Community Profile	8
Our Local Advantages	9
Our Local Opportunities.....	10
Our Vision.....	12
Planning Priorities	13
GROWING ECONOMY	15
THRIVING LOCALITIES.....	22
IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE.....	25
CONNECTING TO PLACE	28
SUSTAINABLE LIVING	31
ACTION PLAN	34
GROWING ECONOMY – ACTIONS	35
GROWING ECONOMY – ACTIONS (cont.).....	36
GROWING ECONOMY – ACTIONS (cont.).....	37
GROWING ECONOMY – ACTIONS (cont.).....	38
THRIVING LOCALITIES - ACTIONS	39
THRIVING LOCALITIES – ACTIONS (cont.).....	40
IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE - ACTIONS	41
CONNECTING TO PLACE - ACTIONS	42
SUSTAINABLE LIVING - ACTIONS	43
SUSTAINABLE LIVING – ACTIONS (cont.).....	44
RESOURCES	45



Introduction

The Gwydir Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2036 aims to meet our community's future social, economic and environmental needs through addressing important strategic land-use planning and development issues.

The LSPS will shape our land use over time, and the development standards that we use in the *Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013* and Development Control Plan (DCP). It identifies clear priorities for our local government area (LGA) that support and develop our local identity, values and opportunities. Short, medium and long-term actions have been developed to help deliver on these priorities and our vision for the future.

The LSPS has been informed by local, state and regional policies and plans, including the *New England North West Regional Plan (Regional Plan) 2036* and the Gwydir Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027. Aligning with these plans will allow us to deliver purposeful outcomes, including delivering a variety of housing options, expanding tourism and growing our agricultural industries.

The LSPS has been prepared in accordance with clause 3.9 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, which requires that it identify:

- the basis for strategic planning in the area, having regard to economic, social and environmental matters;
- the planning priorities for the area that are consistent with any strategic plan applying to the area as well as any applicable community strategic plan;
- the actions required for achieving those planning priorities; and
- the basis on which the council is to monitor and report on the implementation of those actions.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS LSPS

- provide a land use vision for the Gwydir LGA
- identify our shared values to be enhanced or maintained
- outline the characteristics that make Gwydir special
- outline our region's advantages and opportunities
- direct how future growth and change will be managed
- identify any required changes to planning provisions in the LEP and DCP
- identify where further strategic planning may be needed
- explain how the strategies and key actions will be implemented



Regional Context

Gwydir Shire covers an area of over 9,000km² and is approximately 460km north of Sydney and 300km south-west of Brisbane. It is situated on the North West Slopes and Plains of NSW and is close to the regional city of Tamworth and the strategic centres of Moree, Inverell and Narrabri.

The LGA is part of the 'Fossickers Way', which traverses one of Australia's richest gem areas. The Gwydir and Bruxner Highways also cross the Shire, providing links with western NSW, the east coast and southern Queensland.

The Shire includes the towns of Wyallda, located towards the centre of the shire and Bingara, located in the south of the shire on the banks of the Gwydir River. Villages in the Shire are North Star, Croppa Creek, Coolatai, Gravesend and Upper Horton. Other rural localities include Boonal, Blue Nobby, Yallaroi, Crooble, Pallamallawa and Balfours Peak in the north and Wyallda Rail, Ginerioi, Bangheet, Riverview, Elcombe, Pallal, Rocky Creek, Back Creek, Cobbadah, Gundamulda, Dinoga, Gulf Creek, Upper Bingara, Keera and Copeton in the south.

Both Bingara and Wyallda have vibrant shopping centres with supermarkets, historic hotels, eateries, hospitals, aged care hostels, medical centres, caravan parks, swimming pools, pre-schools, schools, libraries and tourist information centres. These meet the day-to-day needs of the community. Lifestyle and boutique shops also cater to visitors.



Gwydir Shire Council (Source DPIE)

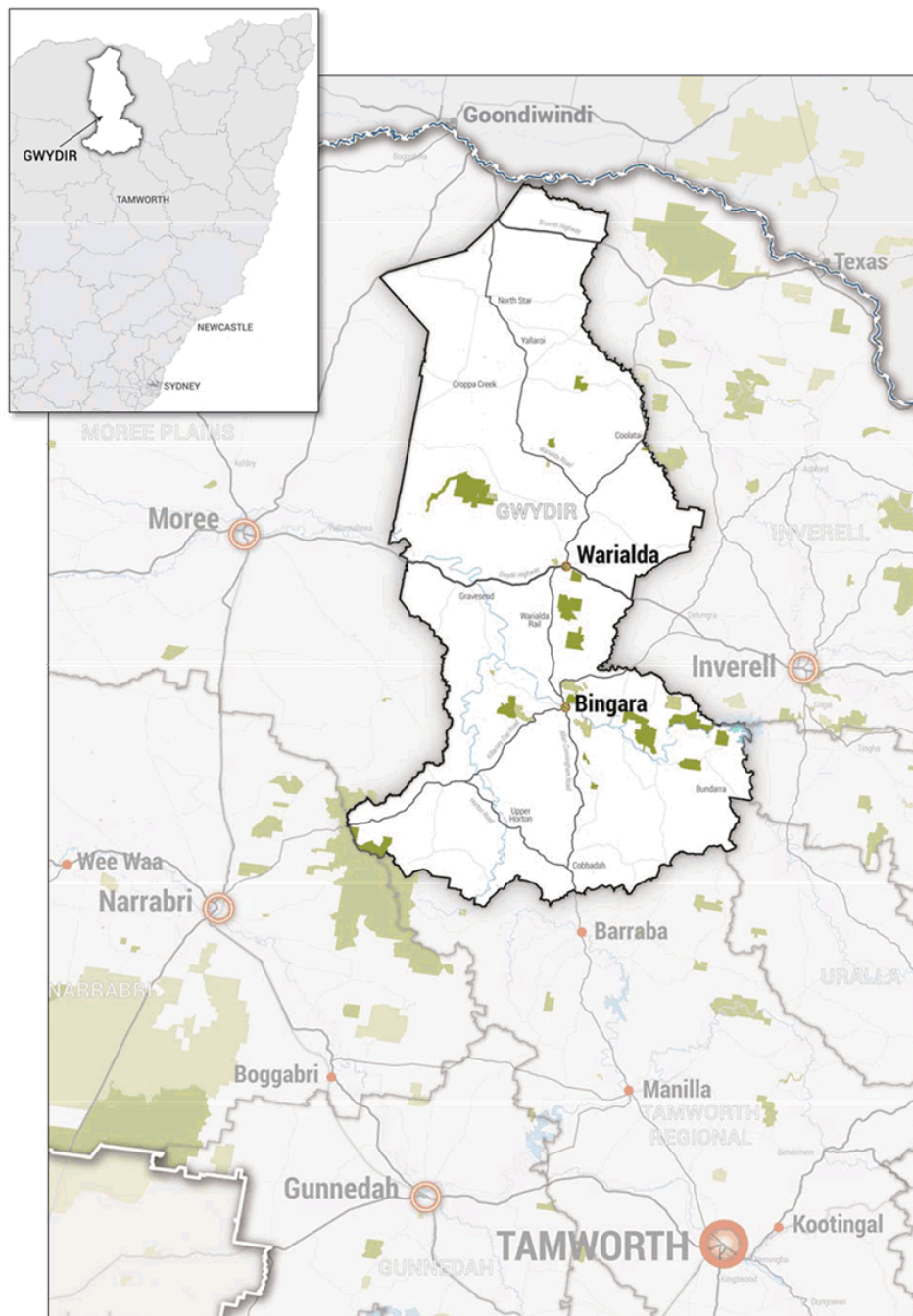


Figure 1 - Gwydir Shire Local Government Area



Community Profile

The traditional owners of our lands are the people of the Gamilaraay Nation. The name Warialda is said to mean 'place of wild honey' and Bingara means 'creek' or 'shallow crossing'.

In 2016 the Gwydir Shire had a population of 5,326. More than 92% of our residents identify as Australian or Anglo-Saxon and approximately 6% identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. In 2016 there were 1367 families in the Gwydir Shire, the median age was 47 years and the median price for a three-bedroom house was \$165,000.

Growth of the population and the retention of young people and families is a challenge for the Shire. Ensuring that adequate and resilient services and employment industries are available, and attract and retain younger people in the Shire, is crucial for our future growth. Likewise, appropriate residential land that will enable ageing in place is vital for supporting our ageing population.

The residents of Gwydir have a strong sense of community pride and have been active in planning for growth in the Shire, including the proposed circular economy project to develop new industries both agricultural and commercial, greenhouse horticulture industry and renewable energy production.

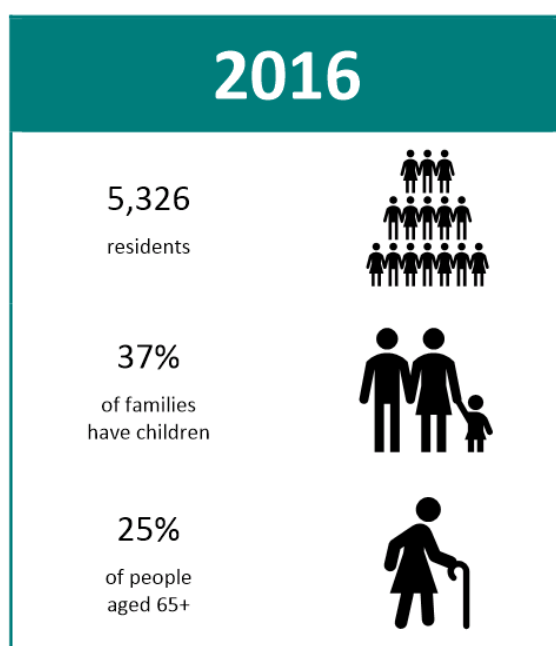


Figure 2- 2016 Demographics for Gwydir Shire (Source: ABS 2016 Census)



Our Local Advantages

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is the major land use and primary economic activity within the Shire.

The black soils in the northern part of the Shire are within the area known as the 'Golden Triangle', which stretches from Goondiwindi to Gunnedah and Dubbo. These are some of the most productive agricultural areas of Australia, and livestock production includes prime beef, lamb, pork and wool production. Broadacre cropping is undertaken in the north (both irrigated and dryland) with important crops such as wheat, sorghum and barley. Other crops include dryland cotton, other grains (oats, maize, and triticale), hay and pasture seeds, pulses (chickpeas, field beans, mung beans, faba beans, lentils) and oilseeds (canola, soybeans and sunflowers). Olives, pecans and freshwater fish farms are also expanding agricultural industries.

Agriculture is the main employer in the area, with over 40% of population being employed in this industry. Gwydir has a range of services that support the agricultural sector. The largest supporting industries are agricultural services, contracting, real estate services and the transportation sector.

TOURISM

The visitor economy is a significant contributor to economic growth in our area and is a core priority for Council.

Visitors to the region are offered a diverse landscape, vibrant and friendly towns, a charming country community and the opportunity to immerse themselves in the heritage and culture of the area.

The Shire ranges from fertile river flats along the Gwydir River to the rugged remnant volcanic peaks in the south. Local geological wonders include the Rocky Creek Glacial Area, Cranky Rock Reserve and the nearby Sawn Rocks. Other natural attractions include Copeton Waters State Park and Gwydir River. Nature-based and outdoor tourism includes camping, horse riding, bushwalking, birdwatching, fossicking and fishing.

The historic townships of Bingara and Wialda, the Three Creeks Tourist Goldmine, Ceramic Break Sculpture Park, Roxy Theatre and the National Heritage listed Myall Creek Memorial Site all contribute to cultural experiences in the area. The Living Classroom development at Bingara provides educational demonstrations and is pioneering sustainable agriculture and alternative farming practises in the area.

The Shire hosts many local events, including the Wialda Off-Road, Bingara Orange Festival, Wialda Honey Festival, Easterfish, North Star Trail Ride, Upper Horton Valley Pony Express, Veterans Week of Golf, the Great Inland Fishing Festival and North Star Show Jumping. The Myall Creek ceremony and commemoration recognises past conflicts and celebrates the reconciliation of indigenous and non-indigenous Australians, this event attracts many visitors to the region. The proposed further development of this site to include an educational and cultural centre will provide a further opportunity to attract year-round visitors.



Our Local Opportunities

The Gwydir Shire offers a laid-back rural lifestyle and is appealing for farmers, new agribusinesses and tree-changers.

The LGA has good access to the regional city of Tamworth and strategic centres of Moree, Inverell, and Narrabri as well as Goondiwindi and Toowoomba in Queensland. The development of the Inland Rail and Wialda bypass will allow improved access and connectivity to markets. The proposed route for the Inland Rail will pass through Milguy, Crooble, Croppa Creek and North Star, in the north of the Shire, and the Wialda Bypass will divert heavy vehicles east of the town, through the industrial area. The Wellcamp airport at Toowoomba caters for transport of regional produce and livestock both domestically and internationally. Tamworth's bid for an international airport, if fruitful, will provide further export opportunities for local businesses.

Agriculture remains the primary driver of Gwydir's economy, and the expansion of this sector can be supported in numerous ways. Council's *Economic Development Strategy 2017-2020* outlines key areas for building the Shire's economy. These initiatives can be supported through appropriate land use planning and development, and relevant actions are referred to in the LSPS.

Projects under consideration, such as the plan to develop a circular economy by integrating industry with greenhouse horticulture and energy generation, are ambitious and strengthen the community's goal to be more sustainable and resilient. Any impediments which can be addressed through the current planning instruments need to be resolved where appropriate.

The 'Living Classroom' is facilitating the growth of agritourism in the area and is a pivotal element for developing agribusiness, education, tourism and conferencing for the area. Linking this site with other key tourist sites will further facilitate growth of the visitor economy. Bingara's "Trade Training Kitchen" and Wialda's "Automotive Trade Training Centre" provide further educational opportunities for local community members, as well as those from outside the shire, and deliver supplementary support to the shire's already established tourism and agribusiness sectors.

Nature-based, adventure and cultural tourism provides opportunities for more innovative economic development and growth in the area. The future development of the Myall Creek cultural and education precinct is expected to enhance visitation to the Shire, as are upgrades to reserves in the Shire and the Fossickers Way touring route. Actions for enhancing the visitor economy are outlined in the *Gwydir Destination Management Plan 2017*. Appropriate land use related actions in the Destination Management Plan are referred to in the LSPS.

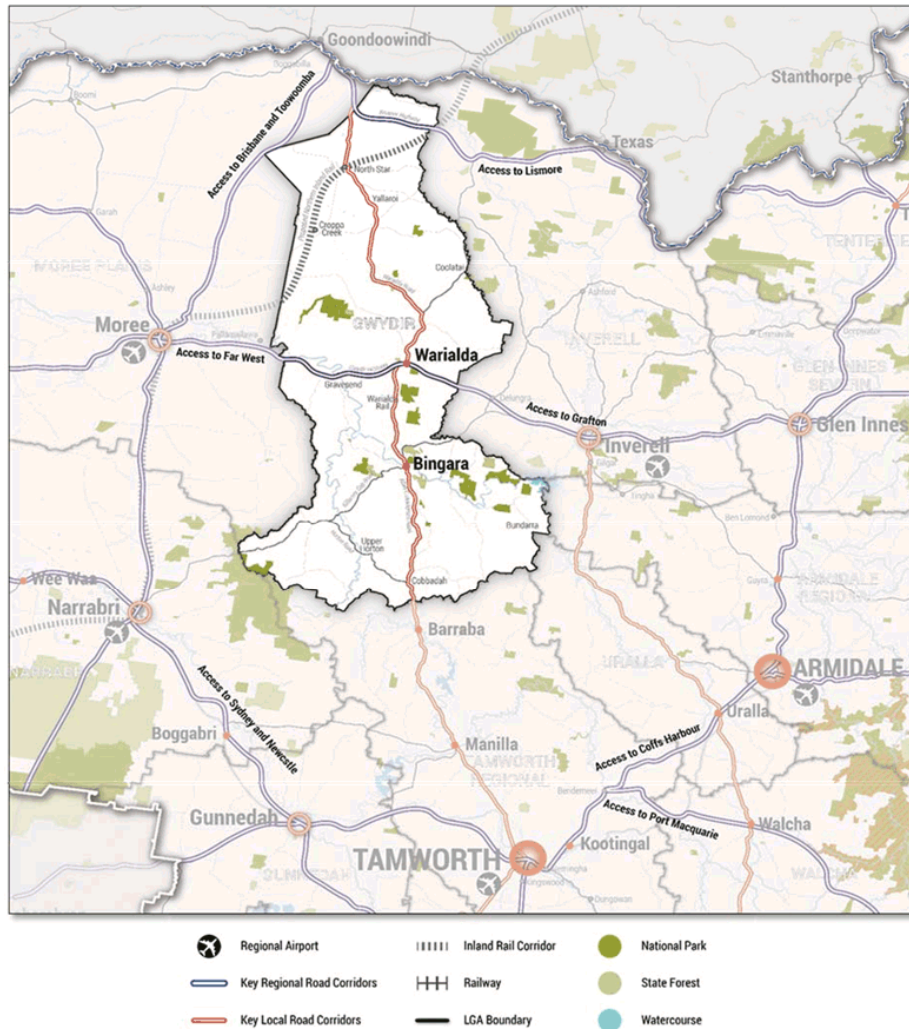


Figure 3 - Regional Connections



Our Vision

We make the most of our strengths in agriculture and tourism; we are well connected to business markets and enrich the lives of visitors that explore the Fossickers Way. We provide a home for all our residents, and we embrace changes and growth in our Shire.

In 2036, the Gwydir Shire is alive and bustling with activity. The northern part of the Shire continues to support innovative and productive agricultural activities and agribusinesses. The historic and cultural centres of Bingara and Wyallda are flourishing with enterprises that provide all the essential services and luxuries that we need within a walkable distance in our towns.

The Living Classroom and the Myall Creek Cultural Precinct are part of a thriving educational and cultural tourism precinct that draw visitors to our area. The natural beauty and rich heritage of our Shire attracts people to our villages who are delighted to be met with country hospitality, cultural wonders and vibrant town centres.

We celebrate our past and welcome any changes that come our way. We have a growing number of residents who embrace our goals of sustainability and resilience. Our people are taken care of and are provided with the services and housing they need. We choose to live in the Gwydir because we want to live the “Gwydir Good Life”.



Agricultural Land (Source DPIE)



Planning Priorities

The LSPS contains five key themes for our area, each with planning priorities which align with our vision.

These planning priorities have been compiled with regard to the provisions of the *New England North West Regional Plan 2036* (Regional Plan) and the *Gwydir Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027* (CSP). The Regional Plan provides the overarching framework to guide subsequent and more detailed land use plans, development proposals and infrastructure funding decisions for the New England North West region. The CSP is the guide for the future of the Gwydir LGA, and represents the broader vision, aspirations, goals, priorities and challenges for the Gwydir community.

As an integrative local plan, the statement is also informed by state-wide and regional policies.

Key Themes and Planning Priorities



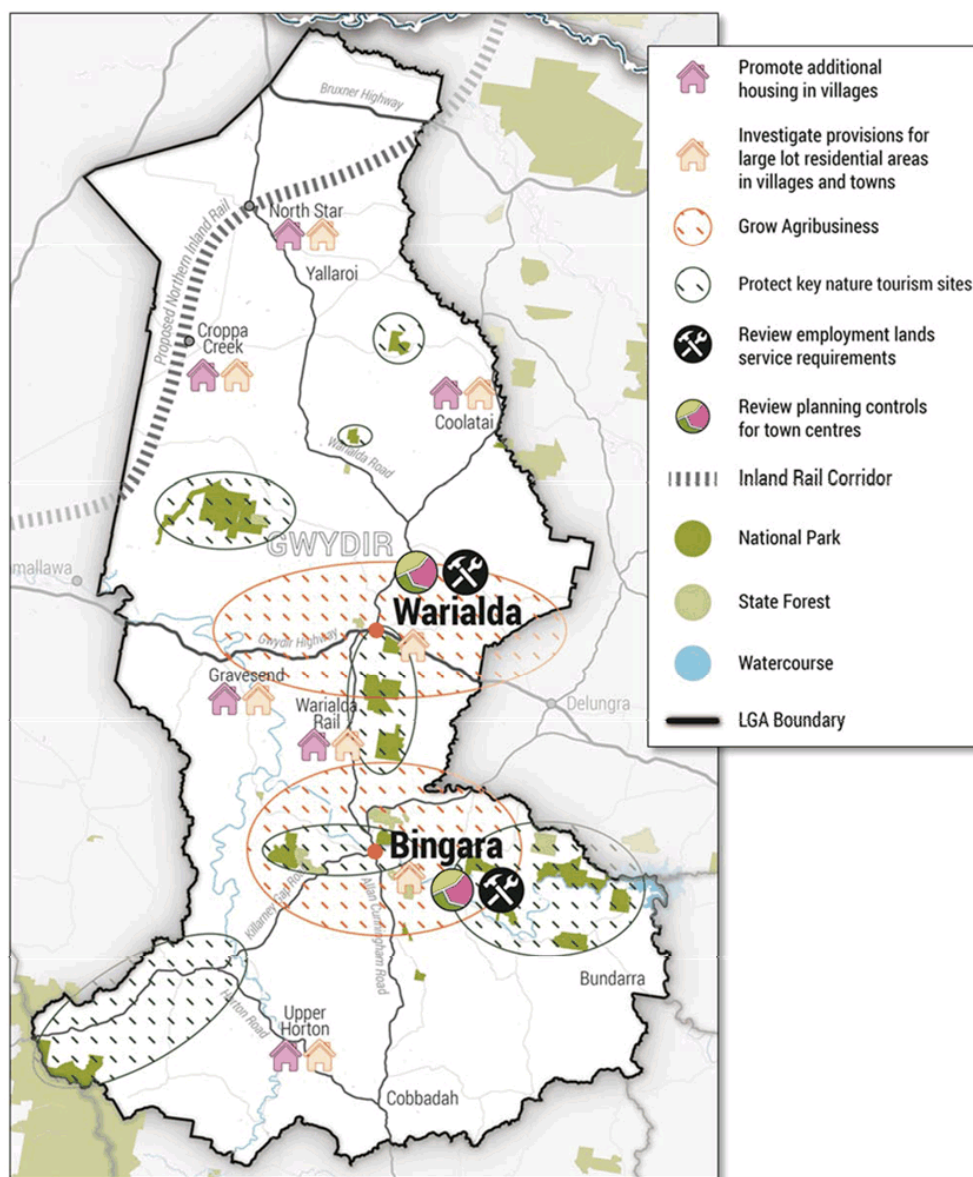


Figure 4 - Planning Priorities



GROWING ECONOMY

PLANNING PRIORITY 1

GROW OUR AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE AND AGRIBUSINESS SECTORS

Gwydir has vast productive agricultural plains in the north, which are part of the famed “Golden Triangle”. The local economy is reliant on agriculture, which is the largest employer in the LGA. The Shire’s Gross Regional Product (GRP) is estimated at over \$239 million and agriculture accounts for 39% of its outputs. The performance of the agriculture sector has flow on effects for many other businesses in the region. Crucial to the continued vitality of the agricultural sector is ensuring that productive agricultural land, particularly in the north, is protected from conflicting or competing land uses. Water resources, both surface and ground supplies, need to be maintained and utilised in an increasingly environmentally sustainable manner as climate change impacts rainfall patterns and ground water recharge rates.

This strong economic agricultural base is expected to underpin new and emerging industries to create a dynamic regional economy. Agricultural enterprises are adopting a range of technologies to grow production including biotechnology, water efficient crop species and cultivars, remote farm monitoring and automation. New technology will be leveraged to create a positive change in the agricultural industry via the promotion of intensive agriculture, horticulture, green industries and renewable energy generation. Appropriate co-location of related industries will also maximise infrastructure, decrease supply chain costs, increase economies of scale and attract investment. Co-locating industries have the potential to use existing by-products and waste materials to create new products and services.

Gwydir is uniquely positioned to develop new supply chains to export produce to Asian markets via existing and emerging opportunities such as the Tamworth Regional Airport and the Inland Rail. Key infrastructure corridors through the Shire connecting to these sites, such as the Bruxner and Gwydir Highways and the Fossickers Way, should be maintained and enhanced.

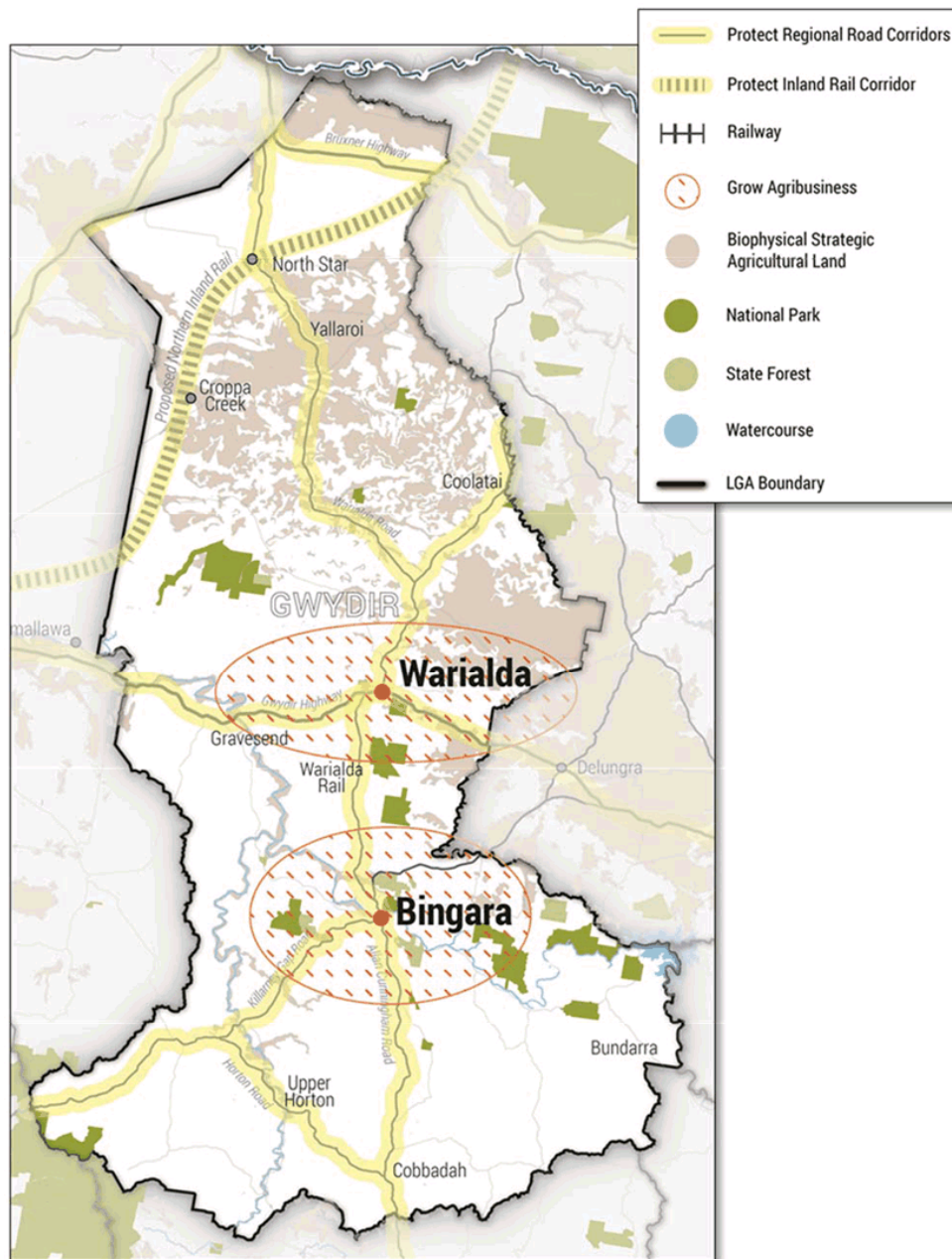


Figure 5 - Growing Agriculture, Horticulture and Agribusiness Sectors



ACTIONS

Protect our valuable resources that support the agricultural sector

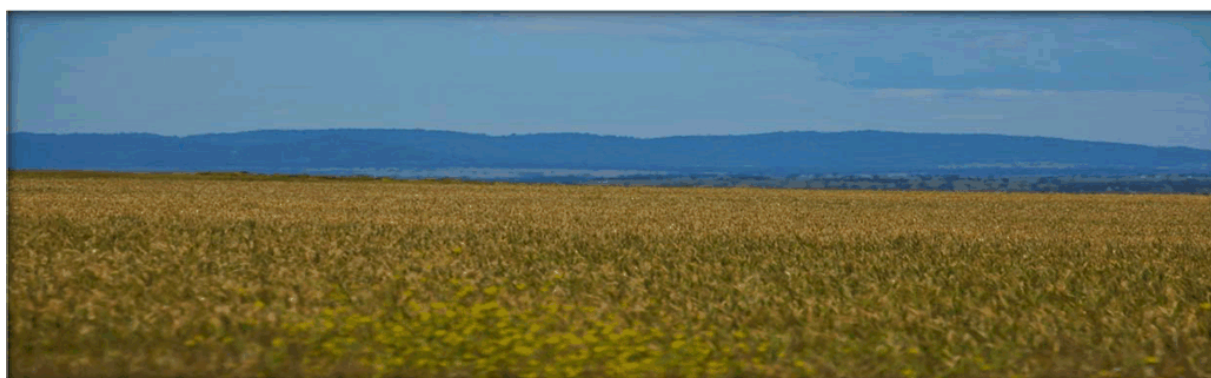
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| 1.1 | Continue implementation of rural land use provisions to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect biophysical strategic agricultural land identified by NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment; • protect any important agricultural land as mapped by NSW Department of Primary Industries – Agriculture; • restrict the encroachment of incompatible land uses; • ensure that land use standards for minimum subdivision sizes in the LEP reflect trends and enable a productive agricultural sector. |
| 1.2 | Continue to maintain and utilise water resources in an environmentally sustainable manner. |
| 1.3 | Implement NSW Department of Primary Industries – Agriculture’s Right to Farm policy. |

Encourage diversification of existing land uses to respond to a changing world

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1.4 | Ensure planning provisions accommodate the changing needs of agriculture as well as the development of intensive agriculture, agri-businesses and associated value-adding activities. |
| 1.5 | Ensure that planning provisions can respond to new technology to facilitate positive change in the agricultural, green and renewable energy sectors. |

Increase opportunities to move produce to domestic and international markets

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1.6 | Identify and protect key infrastructure corridors that assist current and future development in conjunction with Transport for NSW and capitalise on inter-regional connections and external markets. |
| 1.7 | Protect network opportunities and distribution from incompatible land uses or land fragmentation. |
| 1.8 | Continuing to liaise with Namoi Unlimited and Border Regional Organisation of Councils to ensure that strategic infrastructure is included in regional freight and transport infrastructure plans, including plans for high productivity vehicles. |
| 1.9 | Work with stakeholders to update transport network capacity as demand changes, including the Inland Rail and Warialda By-Pass. |



Agricultural Land (Source DPIE)



PLANNING PRIORITY 2 FOSTER RESILIENCE IN THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY

Developing and maintaining a skilled workforce is essential to business growth and diversification and to build resilience within the Gwydir community. Given the cyclical nature of the local and regional economies, our workforce needs to be innovative and adaptable to work across sectors.

It is also important that Council plan for greater resilience to a variable climate. The *Western Enabling Regional Adaptation New England North West region report* prepared by the Office of Environment and Heritage provides a snapshot of the near future (2030) and far future (2070) climate change scenarios. In summary:

- the region is expected to experience increases in all temperature variables (average, maximum and minimum), more hot days, and fewer cold nights for the near and far futures. Heatwaves are projected to increase, be hotter and last longer;
- seasonality of rainfall will change. Autumn rainfall will increase in the near and far future. Most models agree that winter and summer rainfall will decrease in the near future;
- fire risk will increase, with projected increases in average and severe Forest Fire Danger Index values in the near and far future.

These changes will impact on our agricultural systems, particularly crops, stock and the quantity and quality of available water. Strategies and actions related to climate change scenarios need to be developed so that our farmers and farming communities can be more resilient to the impacts.

Water security in the region is a major contributor to the establishment of new industry opportunities, as it is a critical input that creates surety for investment not only for agriculture but also for people and the businesses that compliment agriculture.

ACTIONS

Foster resilience and diversification

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| 2.1 | Identify ways that planning provisions can accommodate the changing needs of agriculture (including the development of intensive agriculture and continued sustainable use of water and other natural resources). |
|-----|---|

Encourage tourist land uses that are complimentary to agriculture

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| 2.2 | Ensure that planning provisions allow for diversification of compatible land uses where potential land use conflicts will be assessed against the Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment Guide (LUCRA). Tourist enterprises such as farm stay accommodation and eco-tourist resorts will only be supported if they do not compromise agricultural activities and do not result in land use conflict. |
|-----|---|

Respond to anticipated impacts of climate change

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 2.3 | Develop appropriate planning policies (such as a Development Control Plan) which manage natural hazard risks and avoid vulnerable areas. |
| 2.4 | Plan for the impacts of climate change outlined in the <i>Western Enabling Regional Adaptation New England North West region report</i> . |

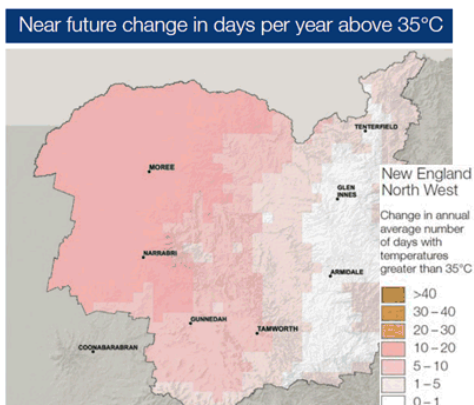


Figure 7 – Near future (2020-2039) projected changes in days per year with maximum temperatures above 35°C
(Source: NENW Climate Change Snapshot Nov 2014, AdaptNSW)

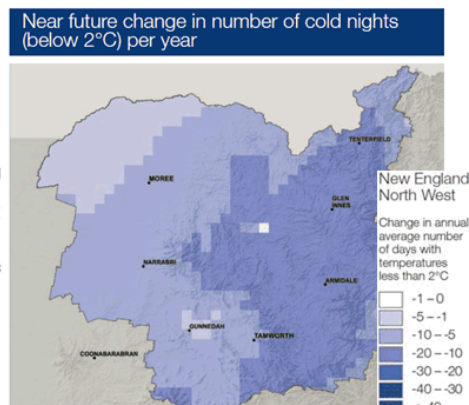


Figure 7 - Near future (2020-2039) change in the number of days per year with minimum temperatures below 2°C, compared to the baseline period (1990-2009)
(Source: NENW Climate Change Snapshot Nov 2014, AdaptNSW)

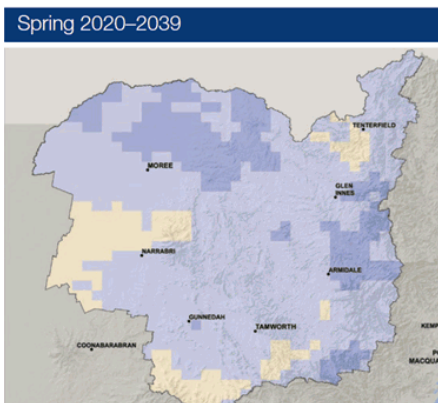
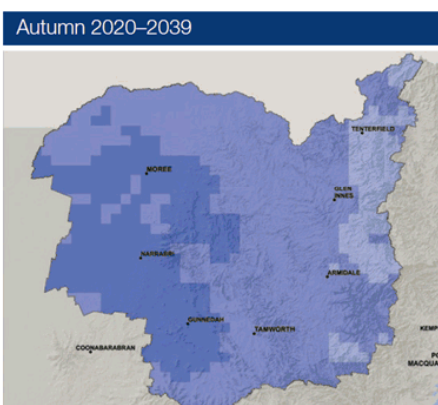
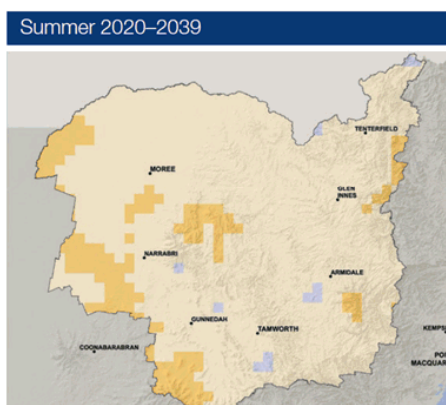


Figure 8 -Near future (2020-2039) projected changes in average rainfall by season
(Source: NENW Climate Change Snapshot Nov 2014, AdaptNSW)



PLANNING PRIORITY 3

EXPAND NATURE-BASED ADVENTURE AND CULTURAL TOURISM

Gwydir's natural environment, cultural features and visitor experiences (events) are expected to continue to attract tourists and offer diversity to the local economy. The LGA offers a range of tourism opportunities including access to nature reserves, geological features and agri-tourism. Nature-based activities such as fossicking, fishing, camping, horse riding and bushwalking contribute to the local economy, as does cultural tourism.

With the emergence of 'new tourism' associated with the millennials, the experience economy and active families, together with existing markets such as baby boomers (including the caravan and RV markets) and touring motorcyclists, the LGA is well located to optimise tourism. Gwydir is particularly well placed to enhance its existing Aboriginal cultural events and sites of interest, such as the Myall Creek Memorial area. Culturally appropriate enhancement of existing Aboriginal cultural events and sites of interest will only be considered in consultation with the local Aboriginal community. Appropriate accommodation options need also to be available for both visitors and itinerant workers in the Shire.

ACTIONS

Protect our natural and cultural resources

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 3.1 | Protect areas of high environmental value, Aboriginal and historic significance. |
| 3.2 | Focus development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity, and use the 'avoid, minimise, offset' hierarchy for biodiversity and areas of high environmental value. |

Expand tourism and visitor opportunities

- | | |
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| 3.3 | Address accommodation issues relating to Croppa Creek, Cranky Rock Reserve, The Living Classroom, North Star Caravan Park and camping options at Warialda. |
| 3.4 | Facilitate the use of Council owned land for community / public events and festivals. This could be achieved by the inclusion of a clause in the LEP to permit temporary events without development consent. |
| 3.5 | Promote visitation to regionally significant nature-based tourism places, including the Cranky Rock Reserve and Rocky Creek Glacial Area, in line with the Destination Management Plan. |
| 3.6 | Encourage opportunities to identify culturally appropriate Aboriginal tourism opportunities through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consultation with the Local Aboriginal Land Council; encouraging tourism development in natural areas that support conservation outcomes; strategically planning for a growing international tourism market; and aligning with the Destination Management Plan 2017 prepared by Council. |
| 3.7 | Continue and strengthen or develop partnerships with TAFE and UNE to provide further educational opportunities which will support and retain the shire's youth by the expansion of existing educational facilities and the development of new educational and tourism facilities. |
| 3.8 | Promote the expansion of adventure-based tourism within traditional agricultural areas, where appropriate, to further support rural resilience. |
| 3.9 | Investigate the provision of active travel options (walking and cycling) to and from key tourist locations. |

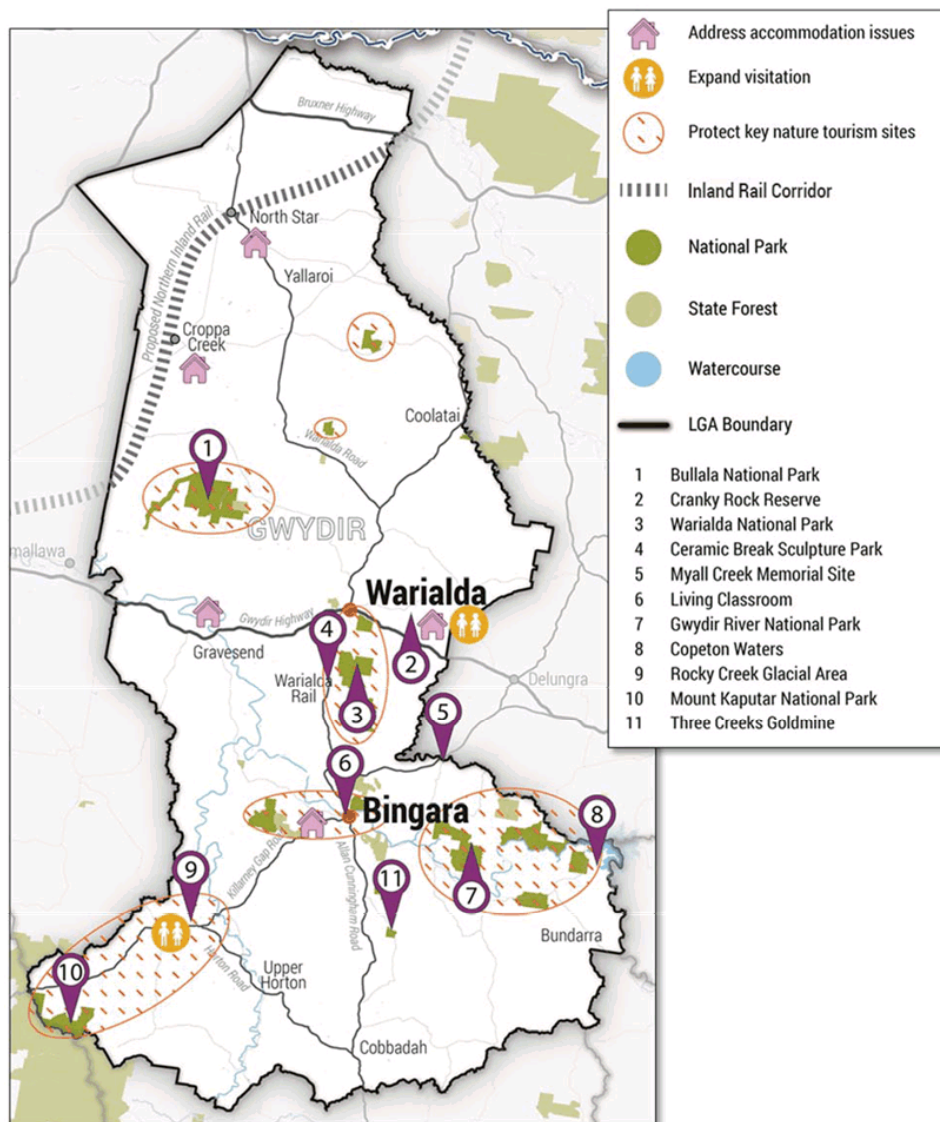


Figure 9 – Tourism areas and opportunities



THRIVING LOCALITIES

PLANNING PRIORITY 4

DELIVER HOUSING THAT REINFORCES OUR UNIQUE CHARACTER

Our ageing population will increase demand for services to facilitate 'ageing in place' as well as supported accommodation and aged care homes. To encourage new residents while also accommodating the existing community, it will be important to deliver a mix of housing types and lot sizes.

Gwydir has an adequate supply of existing zoned residential land, including RU5 Village and R5 Large Lot Residential zoned land, which range from 550 square metres to 10 hectares minimum lot sizes. The smaller lot sizes aim to accommodate residential living in proximity to the towns and villages and associated infrastructure, and the larger lot sizes accommodate rural lifestyle allotments.

The varied land zoning can accommodate a range of housing types and aims to preserve the central business district, residential neighbourhoods, environmental areas and rural landscapes. The flexibility of the LEP contributes to the delivery of housing diversity and choice, assists in affordability, helps meet the needs of an ageing population and creates more walkable, vibrant and accessible places.

Bingara and Warialda will be the main focus for future residential and large lot housing, and additional housing will be concentrated on the villages of North Star, Croppa Creek, Coolatai, Gravesend and Upper Horton. Emphasis will be on supporting development that contributes to the unique character of these towns and villages.

ACTIONS

Plan for housing to meet the needs of a changing population

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| 4.1 | Promote the delivery of housing by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• directing future residential and large lot housing to R5 and RU5 zoned land;• protecting and enhancing the unique aspects of each area;• supporting the availability of an appropriate housing supply by responding to changing housing needs, as well as household and demographic changes (e.g. increased demand for residential aged care facilities); and• assessing any required infrastructure feasibility and its subsequent delivery. |
| 4.2 | Support where appropriate the development of communal settlements within rural and semi-rural areas in harmony with existing agricultural and biodiversity values. |

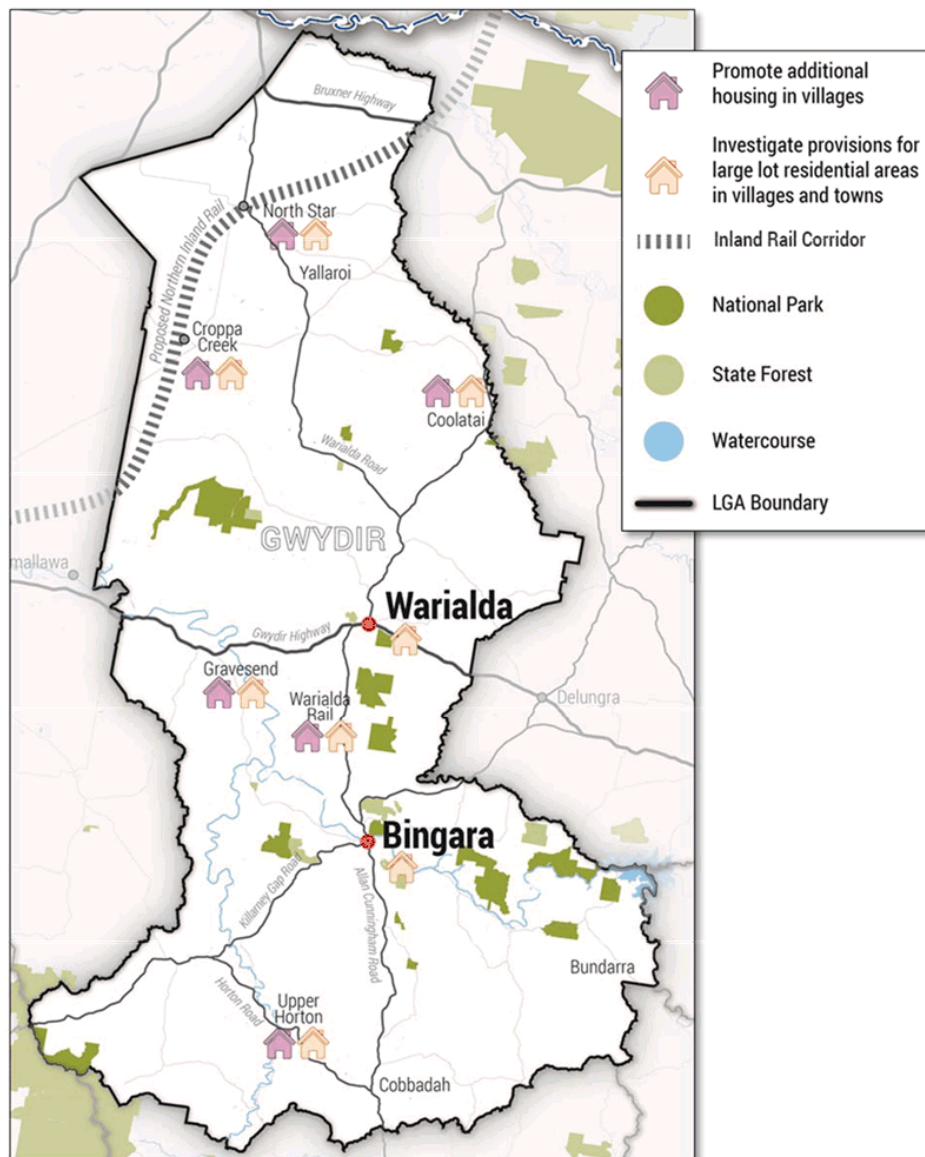


Figure 10 – Housing opportunities



PLANNING PRIORITY 5

PROMOTE BUSINESS AND LIFESTYLE OPPORTUNITIES

It is vital that Gwydir aims to reverse the current out-migration of young people and families, to facilitate population growth and the retention of local businesses and essential services. The *Western Enabling Regional Adaptation – New England North West region* report identifies the following drivers as contributing to the loss of regional youth: declining regional services and support mechanisms, an ageing workforce, education, a lack of employment opportunities and of affordable housing for young people, the school leaving age is increasing and students are not taking up apprenticeships.

The attraction of new industry, workers, residents and visitors through collaborative marketing campaigns and promotions incentives is to be emphasised. This will foster generational change, with younger people bringing new ideas, skills and business practices.

To raise the area's profile, achieve sustainable population growth and regenerate local communities, it is important that we maximise existing zoned employment land, strengths, local businesses and opportunities to attract new residents and economic opportunities. Ensuring that the infrastructure and services needed to support economic development and the existing ageing population is essential.

The delivery of actions under Council's Destination Management and Economic Development Plans will assist this priority.

ACTIONS

Stimulate economic opportunities

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 5.1 | Implement and review the Economic Development Strategy 2017-2020. |
| 5.2 | Implement and review the Destination Management Plan 2017. |

Enrich quality of life and wellbeing of residents

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 5.3 | Promote infrastructure and services that support healthy, active lifestyles for the younger and older population, including activation of the river precinct for passive recreation. |
| 5.4 | Support the delivery of public transport opportunities to isolated communities. |
| 5.5 | Investigate opportunities with Transport for NSW through the Walking and Cycling Program to help achieve better access to health, education and employment for those unable to drive and to support healthy, active lifestyles for our community. |



IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE

PLANNING PRIORITY 6

SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE THAT ENCOURAGES NEW INDUSTRIES

The Bruxner and Gwydir Highways traverse the LGA and provide freight access to Queensland, the east coast and the west of NSW.

The development of the Inland Rail through the north of the Shire (entering the Shire at Milguy, and then travelling through Crooble, Croppa Creek and North Star, before leaving the Shire approximately 10 kilometres south east of Boggabilla) will help improve productivity and facilitate the flow of goods to market. Scheduled improvements to the Gwydir Highway, including the Warialda bypass, will also assist the movement of goods.

Gwydir is in proximity to the NSW Government identified Moree Special Activation Precinct (SAP) that will specialise in agribusiness, logistics and food processing industries. The benefits of freight flowing through this precinct is another opportunity to maximise our connectivity for current and future industries and stakeholders.

Continued investment in local road infrastructure will support these developments. The Namoi Unlimited and Roads and Maritime Services pilot study on pinch points has highlighted the Fossickers Way for future improvement works that may further facilitate growth in the Shire.

Gwydir could be an attractive area for investment in renewable energy generation and transmission, as the LGA has abundant open spaces, is close to the key regional city of Tamworth and strategic centres of Moree and Inverell, and is close to major transport infrastructure including the Inland Rail and Wellcamp airport in Toowoomba.

Future investment in these industries may present infrastructure challenges as well as opportunities requiring further consideration. Reviewing the suitability of existing and future infrastructure to support growth of new industries will assist a smooth transition for new industries. Likewise, a review of servicing requirements for industrial and employment lands will also assist future industries.



ACTIONS

Generate new industry opportunities

- 6.1 Determine the suitability of infrastructure to support growth by reviewing:
- Council's existing water, sewer and stormwater management plans with a focus on land use provisions and policy options;
 - the condition and capability of the road network to support the freight sector, increase connectivity, and accommodate new industry opportunities;
 - the capacity of the region to support renewable electricity infrastructure;
 - existing telecommunication infrastructure with the view increasing mobile phone coverage and the reliability, speed and affordability of the internet.

Provide well-located and serviced supplies of industrial and employment lands

- 6.2 Undertake an employment land review to investigate:
- physical or infrastructure servicing constraints that prevent future land uses, particularly in Warialda;
 - any land suitable for future development; and
 - investigate viability of expanding existing areas dedicated to industrial activities to encourage and accommodate further sustainable and energy efficient industries.
- 6.3 Support and maximise opportunities associated with the Inland Rail Project and the Moree Special Activation Precinct (SAP).
- 6.4 Work with Transport for NSW to support Gwydir Highway improvements, identify any constraints on the freight network (such as barriers to higher productivity vehicles) and identify possible locations of additional heavy vehicle rest areas along major freight corridors.
- 6.5 Support and maximise opportunities associated with the Rural Road Resilience package.

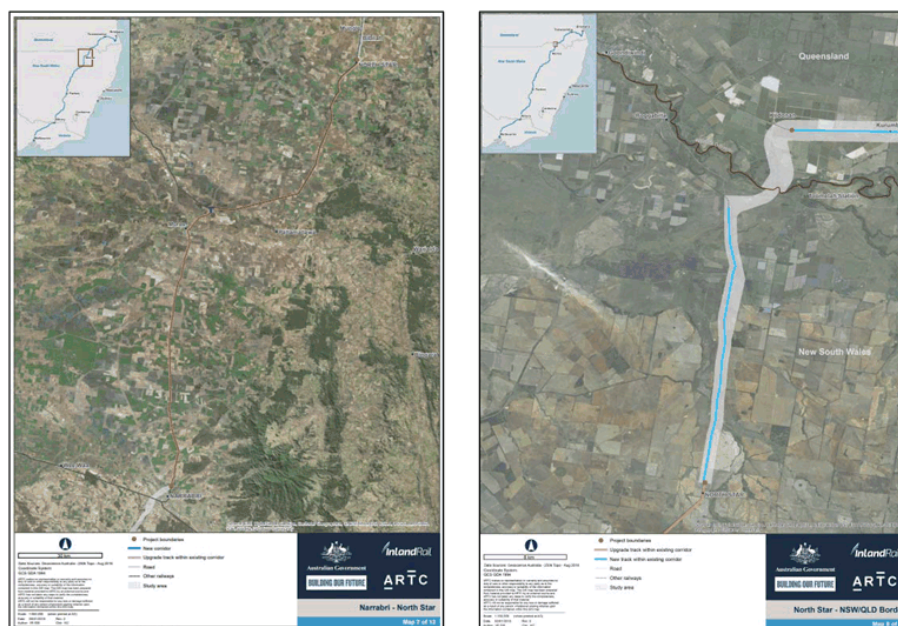


Figure 11 - Inland Rail Corridor – Narrabri to North Star and North Star to Queensland sections
(Source: ARTC)

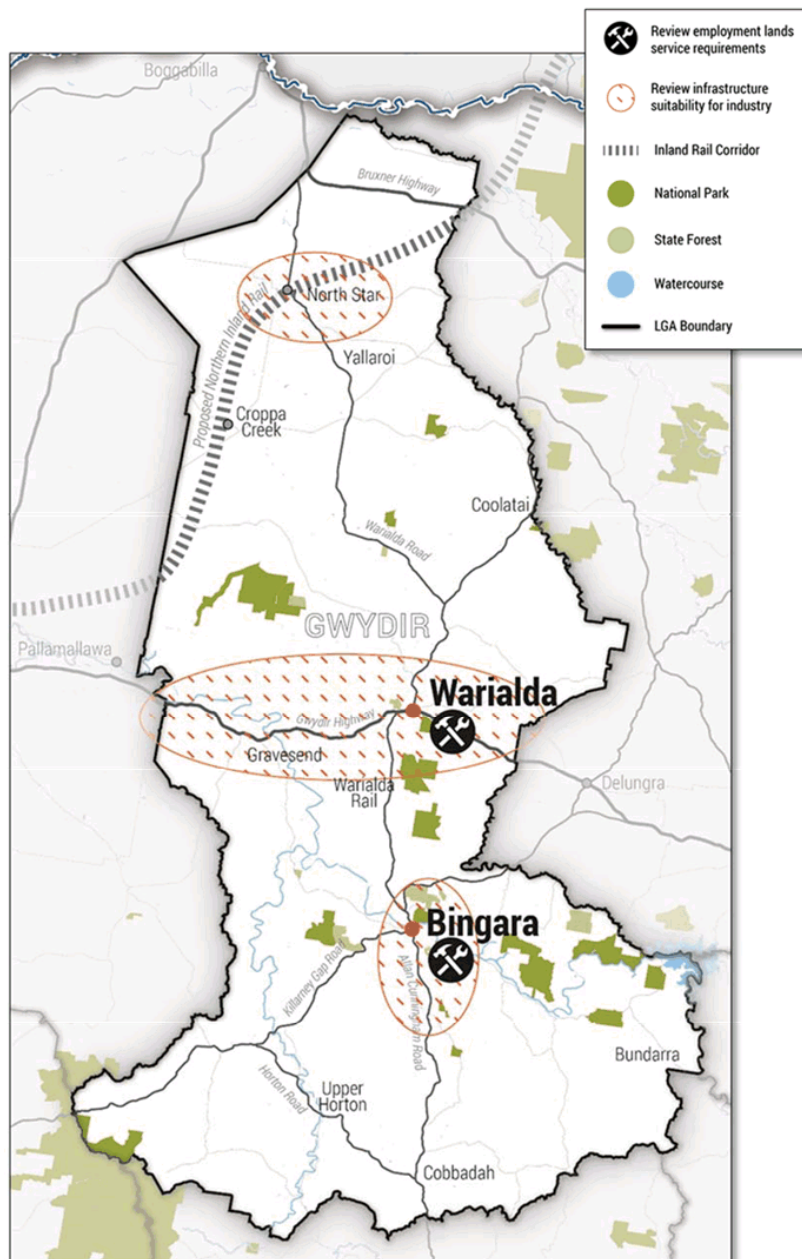


Figure 12 – Infrastructure opportunities



CONNECTING TO PLACE

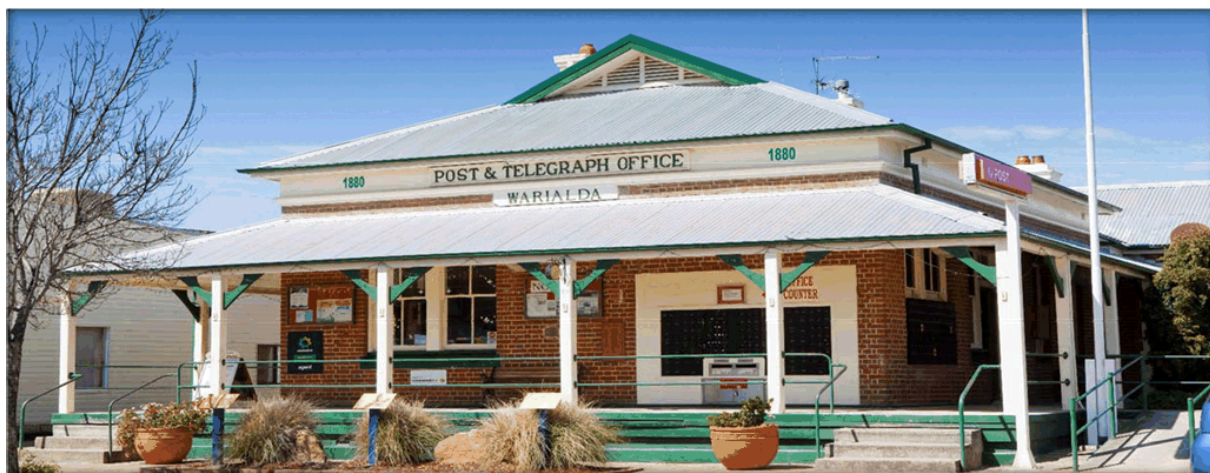
PLANNING PRIORITY 7 **PROTECT AND CELEBRATE OUR UNIQUE SENSE OF PLACE**

Gwydir residents have a strong connection to place, incorporating the natural and built environment and cultural space. Gwydir Shire Council recognises Aboriginal people as custodians of the land and recognises the significance of their spiritual and cultural connection to the land. Evidence of Aboriginal occupation in the North West Slopes and Plains dates back thousands of years. Despite physical modification of the land, many places of significance remain.

Protecting, enhancing and conserving Aboriginal places and relics is important to preserve the unique nature of the Shire, as well as provide cultural tourism opportunities. The State heritage listing of Myall Creek Memorial site has been an historic step in commemorating our Aboriginal people and is developing as a regional base for cultural education and reconciliation. Ensuring adequate provisions are in place in Council's planning instruments will assist the protection of our Aboriginal heritage.

Locally significant heritage buildings, such as the Post Office Hotel, Courthouse, Police Station, Roxy Theatre and Gwydir Hotel in Bingara and the Convent, Courthouse, Carinda House and Museum at Wyallda, make a significant contribution to the area's distinct character. Continued expansion of the Living Classroom also contributes to the creation of a sense of place. These sites are critical to attract new residents and visitors to the area, and a review of Council's planning will ensure adequate protection is afforded for these places.

Nurturing social capital is an important aspect of protecting our connection to the region. The actions detailed in this statement aim to facilitate community cohesion, accommodate shared beliefs of the community and improve the connection to country via preservation of European and Aboriginal culture.



Wyallda Post Office (Source DPIE)

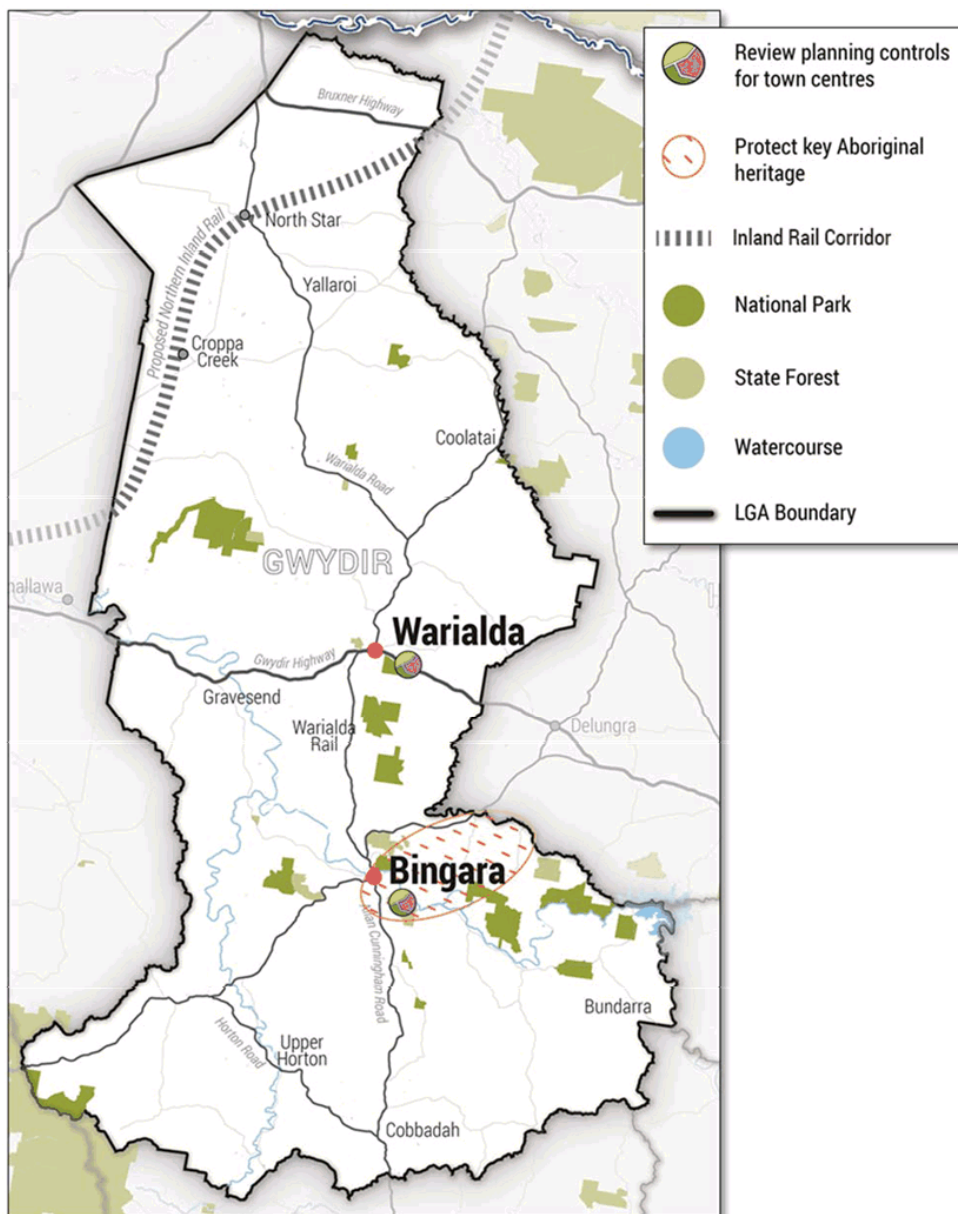


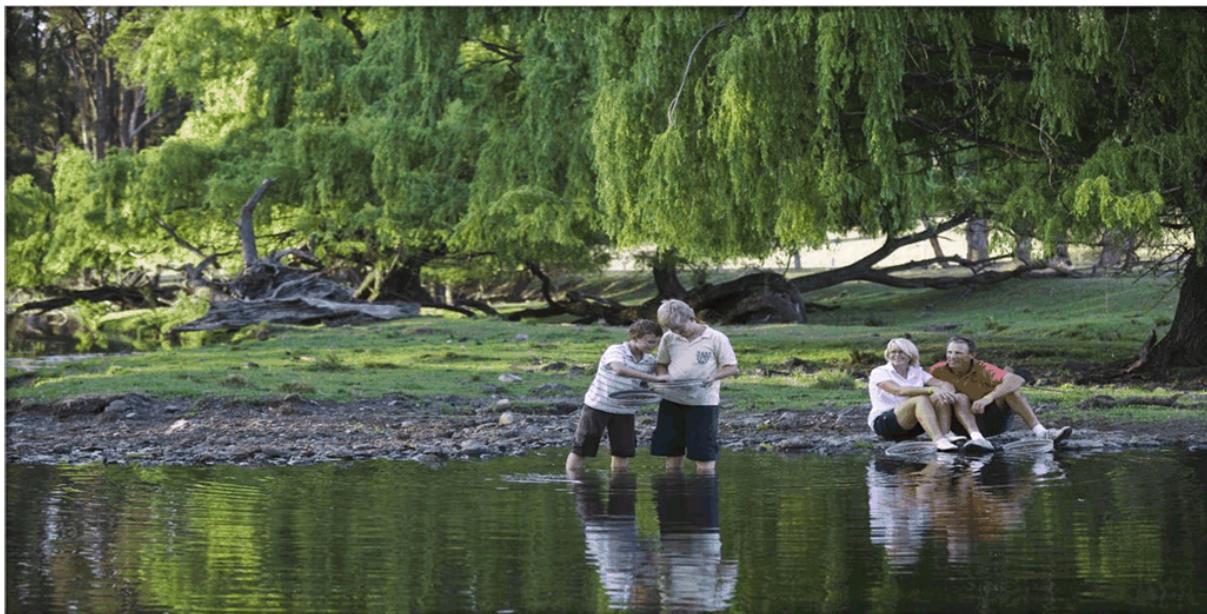
Figure 13 – Connection to Place Opportunities



ACTIONS

Maintain the character of Gwydir Shire through strategic led development of the natural and built environment

7.1	Apply appropriate provisions to protect and conserve environmental assets, while permitting a range of land uses to assist in the preservation of the region's important assets.
7.2	Support local heritage studies in consultation with the local Aboriginal community and adopt appropriate measures in planning strategies and local plans to protect Aboriginal heritage.
7.3	Review the LEP to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect biodiversity by investigating the application of appropriate LEP provisions to high environmental areas including the Gwydir River, Reedy Creek and Halls Creek, as well as other important freshwater rivers, creeks and streams; and list any additional heritage items identified for protection, eg Roxy Theatre and Peter's Greek Café Complex, in Schedule 5.
7.4	Review the Bingara Town Strategy 2011 and Wyallda Community Plan 2008 with the view to incorporating them into future Community Strategic Plans.
7.5	Prepare a Development Control Plan to guide and support appropriate future growth.
7.6	Ensure planning provisions in the LEP and DCP protect Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.
7.7	Ensure Aboriginal people are engaged during the planning process, where appropriate.



Gwydir River (Source DPIE)



PLANNING PRIORITY 8

EMBRACE RENEWABLE ENERGY, WATER SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Climate change will impact on our community's economy, health and wellbeing, infrastructure and water security, as well as the environment.

With the increasing importance of renewable energy, it is fitting that Gwydir proposes to make a circular economy through new sustainable industries, greenhouse horticulture and renewable energy production. This will enable a 'closed-loop' economy, whereby all outputs become either inputs for other activities or are returned to natural systems as benign emissions rather than pollutants. The implementation of this project will likely occur around Warialda and/or Bingara townships.

The North West Slopes is afforded with extensive solar resources, and future sites are likely to be scattered throughout the LGA, subject to physical constraints of the proposed sites.

Council will also need to be proactive in identifying opportunities for increasing water efficiency and water security in the area to assist the transition to a more sustainable and resource-efficient economy. The key area for consideration will be reviewing water infrastructure and services in proximity to Warialda and Bingara.



Gwydir River – Bingara (Source Bingara.com)



ACTIONS	
Explore options for renewable energy generation to encourage a diversified economy	
8.1	Ensure that development for wind and solar farms is appropriately sited and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avoids / manages impacts on the scenic rural landscape and visitor attractions; • has available access to essential infrastructure, such as substations; and • preserves valuable farming land.
8.2	Facilitate appropriate smaller-scale renewable energy projects using biowaste, solar, wind, hydro, geothermal or other innovative storage technologies.
8.3	Progress Council plans to create a circular economy in Gwydir Shire.
Plan for increased water security	
8.4	Review current water infrastructure and services considering climate change projections.
8.5	Work in partnership with other Councils and Namoi Unlimited to implement relevant recommendations of the Water for the Future Report.
8.6	Continue consultation with upstream and downstream users of the Gwydir River to identify and protect water related tourism, supply services and agriculture within the Shire from being undervalued / overlooked during the assessment of developments. This includes development located outside of the shire boundaries, and those with high water needs or unsustainable water use practices.
8.7	Collaborate with and support the development and implementation of NSW Government water sharing and water resource plans, including the Gwydir Regional Water Strategy.
8.8	Encourage energy and sustainable self-sufficiency in large lot residential and rural areas.
8.9	Maintain/increase natural bush and riparian lands to sustain natural ecosystems and habitats while also improving water quality for recreational use.
8.10	Include provisions in the LEP and DCP (action 7.5) for the protection of areas of high environmental significance, as well as and enhancement of local and regional biodiversity.
8.11	Ensure planning compliance with the SEPP (Koala Habitat Protection) 2019 to ensure koala habitat is not negatively impacted by development.
8.12	Investigate the preparation of a Biodiversity Strategy which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • land use planning provisions to facilitate additional protection of High Environment Value lands, threatened species and endangered ecological communities; and • guidance for maintaining and enhancing local and regional biodiversity.

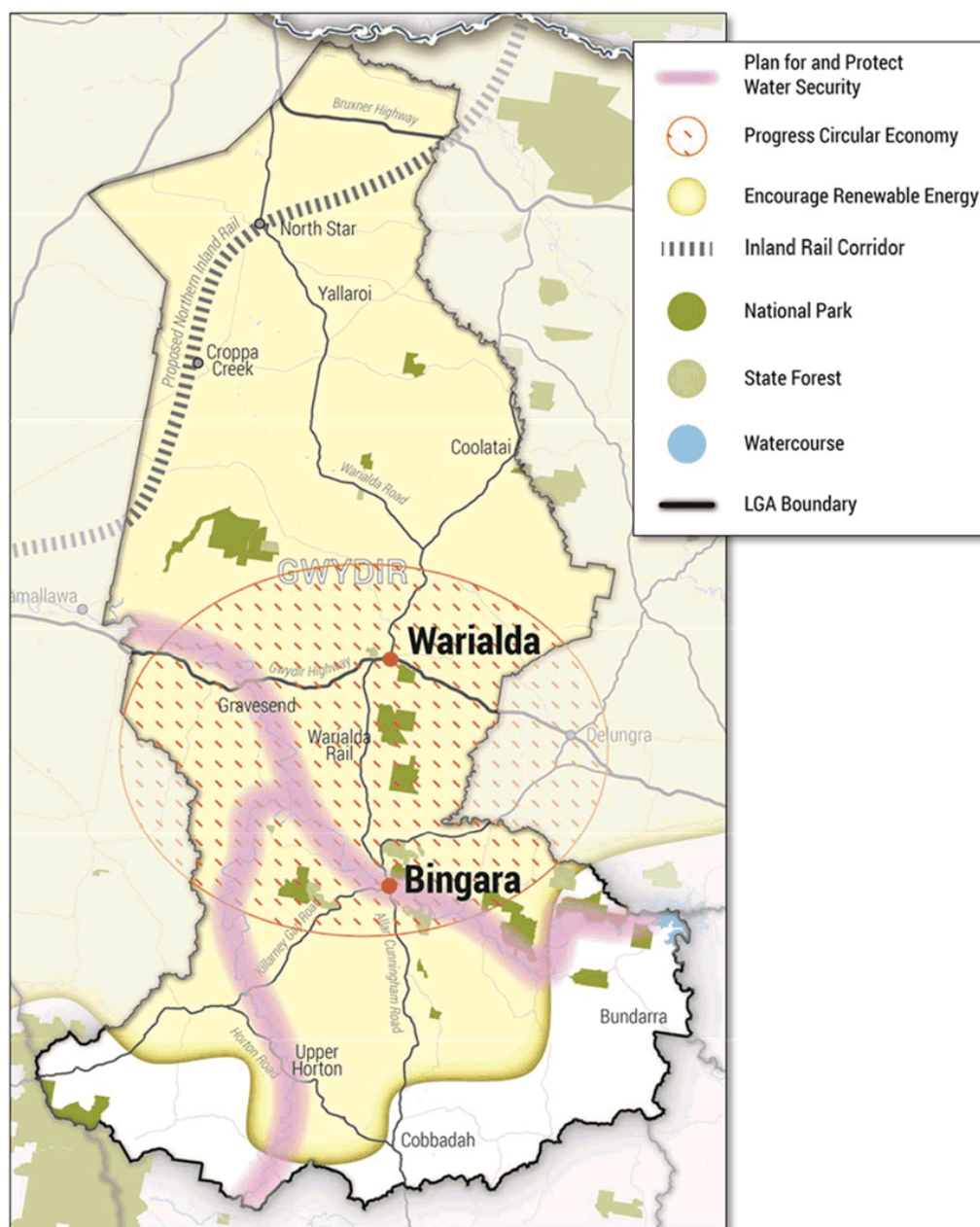


Figure 14 – Sustainable living



ACTION PLAN

This LSPS is a long-term land use strategy for the Gwydir Shire to 2036. It should be revised on an ongoing, as-needs-basis so that it remains responsive and relevant and delivers on our community aspirations.

Community feedback will be regularly sought. It is anticipated that this consultation will identify additional opportunities and will ensure that the LSPS continues to reflect the community's social and economic needs as well as their vision for the future of the area.

COLLABORATION

Collaboration with other councils in the region is strategically important when making decisions regarding critical infrastructure, environmental issues, housing, investment and a range of other topics covered in the LSPS that may impact on the plans of neighbouring communities. This collaboration is also important for achieving the objectives of the *New England North West Regional Plan 2036*.

Existing governance arrangements with Namoi Unlimited and Border Regional Organisation of Councils shall continue to be used to support effective approaches to cross boundary issues. These valued cross boundary partnerships will help deliver Gwydir's vision by driving efficiencies in accessing government funding, attracting inward investment and accessing a wider field of expertise.

FUNDING & INVESTMENT

Strategies and studies required by this statement will primarily be funded in the future 4-year delivery program and annual operational plans of Council, although availability of funding via the Regional Growth fund and other state agency opportunities will also be explored.

MONITORING & REPORTING

Council will monitor, review and report on this LSPS to ensure that the planning priorities, actions and outcomes are being achieved. The existing Integrated Planning & Reporting framework (IP&R) will be used, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Revisions to the LSPS may be required in response to significant changes within the LGA, such as new infrastructure investment and employment opportunities or significant changes in projected population growth. A comprehensive review will be undertaken in 2026, if not earlier, and the LSPS may be incorporated into Council's next Community Strategic Plan.



GROWING ECONOMY – ACTIONS

Planning Priority 1: Grow our agriculture, horticulture and agribusiness sectors			
Enablers	Strategies and Actions		
Community Strategic Plan	2.1.2	Support the growth of our business community	
Economic Development Strategy	Strategy 9	Encourage the development of business skills and expertise	
	Strategy 10	Encourage and facilitate growth	
	Strategy 12	Strengthen and grow key industry sectors	
	Strategy 14	Target and pursue new businesses, investment and economic activities	
Regional Plan	Direction 1	Expand agribusiness and food processing sectors	
	Direction 3	Protect and enhance productive agricultural lands	
	Direction 13	Expand emerging industries through freight and logistics connectivity	
	Direction 14	Enhance transport and infrastructure networks	
LSPS Actions			Timing
Regulation and Policy	1.1	Continue implementation of rural land use provisions to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect biophysical strategic agricultural land identified by NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment; protect any important agricultural land as mapped by NSW Department of Primary Industries – Agriculture; restrict the encroachment of incompatible land uses; ensure that land use standards for minimum subdivision sizes in the LEP reflect trends and enable a productive agricultural sector. 	Ongoing
	1.2	Continue to maintain and utilise water resources in an environmentally sustainable manner.	Ongoing
	1.3	Implement NSW Department of Primary Industries – Agriculture’s Right to Farm policy.	Ongoing
	1.4	Ensure planning provisions accommodate the changing needs of agriculture as well as the development of intensive agriculture, agri-businesses and associated value-adding activities.	Ongoing
	1.5	Ensure that planning provisions can respond to new technology to facilitate positive change in the agricultural, green and renewable energy sectors.	
Infrastructure	1.6	Identify and protect key infrastructure corridors that assist current and future development in conjunction with Transport for NSW and capitalise on inter-regional connections and external markets.	Ongoing
	1.7	Protect network opportunities and distribution from incompatible land uses or land fragmentation.	Ongoing



GROWING ECONOMY – ACTIONS (cont.)

Planning Priority 1: Grow our agriculture, horticulture and agribusiness sectors

LSPS Actions			Timing
Facilities and Institutions	1.8	Continuing to liaise with Namoi Unlimited and Border Regional Organisation of Councils to ensure that strategic infrastructure is included in regional freight and transport infrastructure plans, including plans for high productivity vehicles.	Ongoing
	1.9	Work with stakeholders to update transport network capacity as demand changes, including the Inland Rail and Wyallda By-Pass.	Ongoing

Timing: Short = 0-5 years, Medium = 6-10 years, Long = 11-20 years, Ongoing

Planning Priority 2: Foster resilience in the agricultural industry

Enablers	Strategies and Actions		
Community Strategic Plan	2.2.1	Increase the range of opportunities to work locally	
	2.2.2	Build on our quality education and training opportunities	
Economic Development Strategy	Strategy 2	Build strong partnerships and strategic alliances	
	Strategy 7	Build a strong and skilled local workforce	
Regional Plan	Direction 2	Build agricultural productivity	
	Direction 3	Protect and enhance productive agricultural lands	
	Direction 6	Deliver new industries of the future	
	Direction 10	Sustainably manage and conserve water resources	
	Direction 12	Adapt to natural hazards and climate change	
LSPS Actions			Timing
Regulation and Policy	2.1	Identify ways that planning provisions can accommodate the changing needs of agriculture (including the development of intensive agriculture and continued sustainable use of water and other natural resources).	Ongoing
	2.2	Ensure that planning provisions allow for diversification of compatible land uses where potential land use conflicts will be assessed against the Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment Guide (LUCRA). Tourist enterprises such as farm stay accommodation and eco-tourist resorts will only be supported if they do not compromise agricultural activities and do not result in land use conflict.	Ongoing
	2.3	Develop appropriate planning policies (such as a Development Control Plan) which manage natural hazard risks and avoid vulnerable areas.	Ongoing
	2.4	Plan for the impacts of climate change outlined in the <i>Western Enabling Regional Adaptation New England North West region report</i> .	Ongoing

Timing: Short = 0-5 years, Medium = 6-10 years, Long = 11-20 years, Ongoing



GROWING ECONOMY – ACTIONS (cont.)

Planning Priority 3:

Expand nature-based adventure and cultural tourism

Enablers	Strategies and Actions		
Community Strategic Plan	2.1.3	Promote our community as the place to visit, live, work and invest	
Economic Development Strategy	Strategy 12	Strengthen and grow key industry sectors	
Destination Management Plan	Strategy 1	Enhance, consolidate and strengthen the attraction, experience and activity base of the Shire	
	Strategy 2	Build the events sector	
	Strategy 4	Build and diversify the market base of Gwydir Shire	
Regional Plan	Direction 8	Expand tourism and visitor opportunities	
	Direction 11	Protect areas of potential high environmental value	
	Direction 22	Increase the economic self-determination of aboriginal communities	
LSPS Actions			Timing
Regulation and Policy	3.1	Protect areas of high environmental value, Aboriginal and historic significance.	Ongoing
	3.2	Focus development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity, and use the ‘avoid, minimise, offset’ hierarchy for biodiversity and areas of high environmental value.	Ongoing
	3.4	Facilitate the use of Council owned land for community / public events and festivals. This could be achieved by the inclusion of a clause in the LEP to permit temporary events without development consent.	Short
	3.6	Encourage opportunities to identify culturally appropriate Aboriginal tourism opportunities through: <ul style="list-style-type: none">consultation with the Local Aboriginal Land Council;encouraging tourism development in natural areas that support conservation outcomes;strategically planning for a growing international tourism market; andaligning with the Destination Management Plan 2017 prepared by Council.	Medium
Facilities and Institutions	3.3	Address accommodation issues relating to Croppa Creek, Cranky Rock Reserve, The Living Classroom, North Star Caravan Park and camping options at Warialda.	Medium
	3.5	Promote visitation to regionally significant nature-based tourism places, including the Cranky Rock Reserve and Rocky Creek Glacial Area, in line with the Destination Management Plan.	Ongoing
	3.7	Continue and strengthen or develop partnerships with TAFE and UNE to provide further educational opportunities which will support and retain the shire’s youth by the expansion of existing educational facilities and the development of new educational and tourism facilities.	Ongoing



GROWING ECONOMY – ACTIONS (cont.)

Planning Priority 3:

Expand nature-based adventure and cultural tourism

LSPS Actions			Timing
Facilities and Institutions	3.8	Promote the expansion of adventure-based tourism within traditional agricultural areas, where appropriate, to further support rural resilience.	Ongoing
	3.9	Investigate the provision of active travel options (walking and cycling) to and from key tourist locations.	Ongoing

Timing: Short = 0-5 years, Medium = 6-10 years, Long = 11-20 years, Ongoing



THRIVING LOCALITIES - ACTIONS

Planning Priority 4: Deliver housing that reinforces our villages' unique character			
Enablers		Strategies and Actions	
Community Strategic Plan	3.1.1	Encourage respectful planning, balanced growth and good design	
Economic Development Strategy	Strategy 5	Ensure that there is suitable residential, industrial and commercial land and premises available in the Shire to facilitate growth	
Regional Plan	Direction 16	Coordinate infrastructure delivery	
	Direction 18	Provide great places to live	
	Direction 20	Deliver greater housing diversity to suit changing needs	
	Direction 21	Deliver well planned rural residential housing	
LSPS Actions			Timing
Regulation and Policy	4.1	Promote the delivery of housing by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> directing future residential and large lot housing to R5 and RU5 zoned land; protecting and enhancing the unique aspects of each area; supporting the availability of an appropriate housing supply by responding to changing housing needs, as well as household and demographic changes (e.g. increased demand for residential aged care facilities); and assessing any required infrastructure feasibility and its subsequent delivery. 	Ongoing
Facilities and Institutions	4.2	Support where appropriate the development of communal settlements within rural and semi-rural areas in harmony with existing agricultural and biodiversity values.	Ongoing

Timing: Short = 0-5 years, Medium = 6-10 years, Long = 11-20 years, Ongoing



THRIVING LOCALITIES – ACTIONS (cont.)

Planning Priority 5: Promote business and lifestyle opportunities for people of all ages			
Enablers	Strategies and Actions		
Community Strategic Plan	1.1.1	Improve local access to health services	
	1.1.2	Encourage and enable healthy lifestyle choices	
	1.1.3	Provide the right places, spaces and activities	
	1.2.1	Enable accessible and affordable lifestyle options	
	1.2.2	A share responsibility for community safety	
Economic Development Strategy	Strategy 4	Enhance lifestyle and liveability	
	Strategy 8	Build a strong, positive profile for Gwydir Shire	
	Strategy 11	Build the profile of local businesses	
	Strategy 13	Target new residents	
Destination Management Plan	Strategy 2	Build the events sector	
Regional Plan	Direction 7	Build strong economic centres	
	Direction 17	Strengthen community resilience	
	Direction 19	Support healthy, safe, socially engaged and well connected communities	
LSPS Actions			Timing
Regulation and Policy	5.1	Implement and review the Economic Development Strategy 2017-2020.	Long
	5.2	Implement and review the Destination Management Plan 2017.	Long
Infrastructure	5.3	Promote infrastructure and services that support healthy, active lifestyles for the younger and older population, including activation of the river precinct for passive recreation.	Ongoing
	5.4	Support the delivery of public transport to isolated communities.	Ongoing
Facilities and Institutions	5.5	Investigate opportunities with Transport for NSW through the Walking and Cycling Program to help achieve better access to health, education and employment for those unable to drive and to support healthy, active lifestyles for our community.	Ongoing

Timing: Short = 0-5 years, Medium = 6-10 years, Long = 11-20 years, Ongoing



IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE - ACTIONS

Planning Priority 6:

Support infrastructure that encourages new industries

Enablers		Strategies and Actions	
Community Strategic Plan	2.1.1	Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	
Economic Development Strategy	Strategy 6	Ensure that the utilities and infrastructure needed to support economic development are in place	
Destination Management Plan	Strategy 3	Continue to improve the infrastructure, facilities and services needed to facilitate and support the growth of the visitor economy	
Regional Plan	Direction 7	Build strong economic centres	
	Direction 10	Sustainably manage and conserve water resources	
	Direction 16	Coordinate infrastructure delivery	
LSPS Actions			Timing
Regulation and Policy	6.2	Undertake an employment land review to investigate: physical or infrastructure servicing constraints that prevent future land uses, particularly in Warialda; and any land suitable for future development.	Long
Infrastructure	6.1	Determine the suitability of infrastructure to support growth by reviewing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council’s existing water, sewer and stormwater management plans with a focus on land use provisions and policy options;• the condition and capability of the road network to support the freight sector, increase connectivity, and accommodate new industry opportunities;• the capacity of the region to support renewable electricity infrastructure;• existing telecommunication infrastructure with the view increasing mobile phone coverage and the reliability, speed and affordability of the internet.	Long
	6.3	Support and maximise opportunities associated with the Inland Rail Project and the Moree Special Activation Precinct (SAP).	Ongoing
	6.4	Work with Transport for NSW to support Gwydir Highway improvements, identify any constraints on the freight network (such as barriers to higher productivity vehicles) and identify possible locations of additional heavy vehicle rest areas along major freight corridors.	Ongoing
	6.5	Support the Rural Road Resilience package.	Ongoing
Facilities and Institutions			

Timing: Short = 0-5 years, Medium = 6-10 years, Long = 11-20 years, Ongoing



CONNECTING TO PLACE - ACTIONS

Planning Priority 7: Protect and celebrate our unique sense of place			
Enablers	Strategies and Actions		
Community Strategic Plan	1.2.3	Celebrate our creativity and cultural expression	
	3.1.3	Value, protect and enhance our natural environment	
	3.2.3	Reduce, reuse and recover waste	
	3.2.4	Identify and make best use of our land resource	
Economic Development Strategy	Strategy 4	Enhance lifestyle and liveability	
Destination Management Plan	Strategy 1	Enhance, consolidate and strengthen the attraction, experience and activity base of the Shire	
Regional Plan	Direction 7	Build strong economic centres	
	Direction 22	Increase the economic self-determination of Aboriginal communities	
	Direction 23	Collaborate with Aboriginal communities to respect and protect Aboriginal culture and heritage	
	Direction 24	Protect the region's historic heritage assets	
LSPS Actions			Timing
Regulation and Policy	7.1	Apply appropriate provisions to protect and conserve environmental assets, while permitting a range of land uses to assist in the preservation of the region's important assets.	Ongoing
	7.2	Support local heritage studies in consultation with the local Aboriginal community and adopt appropriate measures in planning strategies and local plans to protect Aboriginal heritage.	Ongoing
	7.3	Review the LEP to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect biodiversity by investigating the application of appropriate LEP provisions to high environmental areas including the Gwydir River, Reedy Creek and Halls Creek, as well as other important freshwater rivers, creeks and streams; and list any additional heritage items identified for protection eg Roxy Theatre and Peter's Greek Café Complex. 	Short
	7.4	Review the Bingara Town Strategy 2011 and Warialda Community Plan 2008 with the view to incorporating them into future Community Strategic Plans.	Long
	7.5	Prepare a Development Control Plan in line with the DPIE standard format.	Short
	7.6	Ensure planning provisions in the LEP and DCP protect Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.	Ongoing
	7.7	Ensure Aboriginal people are engaged during the planning process, where appropriate.	Ongoing

Timing: Short = 0-5 years, Medium = 6-10 years, Long = 11-20 years, Ongoing



SUSTAINABLE LIVING - ACTIONS

Planning Priority 8: Embrace renewable energy, water security and sustainable development

Enablers	Strategies and Actions		
Community Strategic Plan	3.1.2	Respond to our changing environment	
	3.2.1	Develop a clean energy future	
	3.2.2	Use our water wisely	
Economic Development Strategy	Strategy 14	Target and pursue new businesses, investment and economic activities	
Regional Plan	Direction 5	Grow New England North West as the renewable energy hub of NSW	
	Direction 10	Sustainably manage and conserve water resources	
LSPS Actions			Timing
Regulation and Policy	8.7	Collaborate with and support the development and implementation of NSW Government water sharing and water resource plans, including the Gwydir Regional Water Strategy.	Ongoing
	8.10	Include provisions in the LEP and DCP (action 7.5) for the protection of areas of high environmental significance, as well as and enhancement of local and regional biodiversity.	Ongoing
	8.11	Ensure planning compliance with the SEPP (Koala Habitat Protection) 2019 to ensure koala habitat is not negatively impacted by development	Ongoing
	8.12	Investigate the preparation of a Biodiversity Strategy which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">land use planning provisions to facilitate additional protection of High Environment Value lands, threatened species and endangered ecological communities; andguidance for maintaining and enhancing local and regional biodiversity.	Ongoing
Infrastructure	8.4	Review current water infrastructure and services considering climate change projections.	Short
Facilities and Institutions	8.1	Ensure that development for wind and solar farms is appropriately sited and: <ul style="list-style-type: none">avoids / manages impacts on the scenic rural landscape and visitor attractions;has available access to essential infrastructure, such as substations; andpreserves valuable farming land.	Ongoing
	8.2	Facilitate appropriate smaller-scale renewable energy projects using biowaste, solar, wind, hydro, geothermal or other innovative storage technologies.	Ongoing
	8.3	Progress Council plans to create a circular economy in Gwydir Shire.	Ongoing
	8.5	Work in partnership with other Councils and Namoi Unlimited to implement relevant recommendations of the Water for the Future Report.	Ongoing



SUSTAINABLE LIVING – ACTIONS (cont.)

Planning Priority 8: Embrace renewable energy, water security and sustainable development

LSPS Actions			Timing
	8.6	Continue consultation with upstream and downstream users of the Gwydir River to identify and protect water related tourism, supply services and agriculture within the Shire from being undervalued / overlooked during the assessment of developments. This includes development located outside of the shire boundaries, and those with high water needs or unsustainable water use practices.	Ongoing
	8.8	Encourage energy and sustainable self-sufficiency in large lot residential and rural areas.	Ongoing
	8.9	Maintain/increase natural bush and riparian lands to sustain natural ecosystems and habitats while also improving water quality for recreational use.	Ongoing

Timing: Short = 0-5 years, Medium = 6-10 years, Long = 11-20 years, Ongoing



RESOURCES

LOCAL PLANS

Bingara Regeneration Vision 2020
Bingara Town Strategy 2008
Gwydir Community Engagement Strategy
Gwydir Community Strategic Plan 2017
Gwydir Destination Management Plan 2017
Gwydir Economic Development Strategy 2017 – 2020
Gwydir Shire Council Annual Report 2018
Gwydir Shire Council Draft Operational Plan 2019 – 2020
Warialda Community Plan 2011
Wide Gwydir Our Journey to 2030

STATE AND REGIONAL PLANS

Department of Industry – Visitor Economy Industry Action Plan 2030
Department of Planning and Environment – New England North West Regional Plan 2036
Department of Premier and Cabinet – Upper North West Regional Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022
Destination NSW – State wide Destination Management Plan 2019
Government Architect NSW – Draft Urban Design for Regional NSW Guide 2019
Draft Infrastructure NSW – State Infrastructure Strategy 2018-2038
Local Land Services – Local Strategic Plan 2016-2021
Namoi Unlimited – Namoi Region Road Network Strategy 2018
Namoi Unlimited – Water for the Future Strategy 2019
Office of Environment and Heritage – Western Enabling Regional Adaptation New England North West region report
Regional Development Australia – Gwydir Shire Local Government Area
Regional Development Australia – Namoi Investment Prospectus
Regional Development Australia – Northern Inland NSW Regional Plan 2016-2019
Transport for NSW – Future Transport 2056: Regional NSW Services and Infrastructure Plan

All the photographs within this document have been taken by various local photographers, depicting scenes from within the Gwydir Shire area and emphasise the agricultural roots and the natural beauty of our shire. The photograph of Warialda Court House on the cover page, and various other photographs, courtesy of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

Item 2 Request for donation - Warialda RC Model Aircraft Club

FILE REFERENCE

DELIVERY PROGRAM

GOAL: 1. A healthy and cohesive community

OUTCOME: 4.1 WE ARE AN ENGAGED & CONNECTED COMMUNITY

STRATEGY: 4.1.3 Build on our sense of community - OCD - external

AUTHOR General Manager

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

COMMENT

The attached correspondence from the Warialda RC Model Aircraft Club is requesting Council to donate a large zero turn ride-on lawn mower to the club when Council is considering replacing a similar mower.

This is to replace a donated mower received many years ago from the former Yallaro Shire Council.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the correspondence and report be received

FURTHER that the request be approved and that a suitable mower be donated to the Warialda RC Model Aircraft Club on an 'as is' basis when one becomes available noting that no suitable mowers are available at this time.

ATTACHMENTS

AT- Letter from Warialda RC Model Aircraft Club

Warialda RC Model Aircraft Club
107 Long Street
WARIALDA NSW 2402
powerbarry68@gmail.com

21 May 2020

The General Manager
Gwydir Shire Council
Locked Bag 5
BINGARA NSW 2404

Dear Sir

The Warialda RC Model Aircraft Club were fortunate to receive a mower from the Council when the club was first established almost 10 years ago. Over that time the mower has been used to help maintain the airstrip as well as around the hangers out at the Warialda Airstrip.

The mower is quite old now and requires quite a lot of maintenance to keep it running. The Club would like to ask Council if they would consider donating a large zero turn ride on lawn mower to the club when the mowers are due to be replaced. With a newer, larger and more reliable mower the club would be able to mow more of the area around the airstrip including the roadsides.

The club members appreciate the support that Council has given over the years and we hope that you may look favourably upon our request. We look forward to your response.

Kind regards

Barry Power
President
Warialda RC Model Aircraft Club

Item 3 Councillor Activity Report for April and May 2020**FILE REFERENCE****DELIVERY PROGRAM****GOAL:** 4. Proactive Regional and Local Leadership**OUTCOME:** 4.1 WE ARE AN ENGAGED & CONNECTED COMMUNITY**STRATEGY:** 4.1.2 Enable broad, rich and meaningful engagement to occur - GM - external**AUTHOR** General Manager

The Councillors' activity schedule for April and May 2020 is outlined below:

April and May 2020		
Councillor	Event	Date
Cr J Coulton (Mayor)	Meeting with Aionious – Bingara Council Chambers – Postponed COVID 19	2 nd April
	Remote Council Meeting – Teams Test	7 th April
	Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	23 rd April
	Anzac Day – Wreath laying at dawn Warialda	25 th April
	Namoi Unlimited Board Meeting via bluejeans	5 th May
	National Agricultural Workforce Strategy Consultation vis Teleconference	6 th May
	Fuel Tenderer's Presentation – Warialda Memorial Hall	13 th May
	RMCC Workshop with Council's and Transport for NSW	18 th May
	Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	28 th May
Cr Catherine Egan (Deputy Mayor)	Meeting with Aionious – Bingara Council Chambers - Postponed COVID 19	2 nd April
	Remote Council Meeting – Teams Test	7 th April
	Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	23 rd April
	Anzac Day – wreath laying at dawn Bingara	25 th April
	Fuel Tenderer's Presentation – Warialda Memorial Hall	13 th May
	Committee Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	14 th May

	Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	28 th May
Cr David Coulton	Remote Council Meeting – Teams Test	7 th April
	Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	14 th May
	Gwydir Local Emergency Management Committee Teleconference	30 th April
	Fuel Tenderer's Presentation – Warialda Memorial Hall	13 th May
	Committee Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	14 th May
	Gwydir Local emergency Management Committee Meeting – via teams	14 th May
	Nicholson Oval Lights	14 th May
	Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	28 th May
	Gwydir Local Emergency Management Committee Teleconference via teams	28 th May
Cr Stuart Dick	Meeting with Aionious – Bingara Council Chambers - Postponed COVID 19	2 nd April
	Remote Council Meeting – Teams Test	7 th April
	Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	23 rd April
	Gwydir Local emergency Management Committee Teleconference	30 th April
	Committee Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	14 th May
	Gwydir Local Emergency Management Committee Teleconference via teams	14 th May
	Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	28 th May
	Gwydir Local Emergency Management Committee Teleconference via teams	28 th May
Cr Dixon OAM	Remote Council Meeting – Teams Test	7 th April
	Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	23 rd April
	Fuel Tenderer's Presentation – Warialda Memorial Hall	13 th May
	Committee Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	14 th May
	Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	28 th May
Cr T Galvin	Meeting with Aionious – Bingara Council Chambers - Postponed COVID 19	2 nd April
	Remote Council Meeting – Teams Test	7 th April
	Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference	23 rd April

	Room.	13 th May
	Fuel Tenderer's Presentation - Warialda Memorial Hall	13 th May
	Committee Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	14 th May
	Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	28 th May
Cr J Moore	Meeting with Aionious – Bingara Council Chambers - Postponed COVID 19	2 nd April
	Remote Council Meeting – Teams Test	7 th April
	Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	23 rd April
	Fuel Tenderer's Presentation – Warialda Memorial Hall	13 th May
	Committee Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	14 th May
	NSLA Board Meeting via Zoom Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	19 th May 28 th May
Cr G Smith	Meeting with Aionious – Bingara Council Chambers - Postponed COVID 19	2 nd April
	Remote Council Meeting – Teams Test	7 th April
	Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	23 rd April
	Fuel Tenderer's Presentation – Warialda Memorial Hall	13 th May
	Committee Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	14 th May
	Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference room	28 th May
Cr F Young	Arts North West – SAC Zoom Meeting	2 nd April
	Meeting with Aionious – Bingara Council Chambers - Postponed COVID 19	2 nd April
	Remote Council Meeting – Teams Test	7 th April
	Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	23 rd April
	Gwydir Local Emergency Management Committee Teleconference	30 th April
	CCC Steering Committee Meeting	5 th May
	Fuel Tenderer's Presentation – Warialda Memorial Hall	13 th May
	Committee Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	14 th May
	Gwydir Local Emergency Management Committee Teleconference – via teams	14 th May
	Proposed Landcare NSW Meetings via Zoom	20 th May

	Ordinary Council Meeting	28 th May
	Gwydir Local Emergency Management Committee Teleconference via teams	28 th May

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

Item 4 Monthly Executive Report for May 2020**FILE REFERENCE****DELIVERY PROGRAM****GOAL:** 5. Organisational Management**OUTCOME:** 5.1 CORPORATE MANAGEMENT**STRATEGY:** 5.1.3 Administrative functions - GM - internal**AUTHOR** General Manager**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST** Nil**IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

The monthly Executive report details the activities carried out by the Department during the month of May 2020.

BACKGROUND

The monthly Executive report forms part of a regular reporting regime. The purpose of the report is to inform Council of the activities carried out within the Department.

COMMENT**PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT** report unavailable at time of writing**GWYDIR LEARNING REGION****Automotive Trade Training Centre (ATTC), Warialda****Heavy Vehicle Training**

Final Competency Assessments	Light Rigid	Medium Rigid	Heavy Rigid	Heavy Combination
March	1	2	2	
April	-	1	2	
May	-	1	2	4

Seven Final Competency Assessments (FCA's) for licencing were completed during the month of May 2020. Additional training for Statement of Attainment certification courses was provided to four individuals under the Smart and Skilled programme and an additional client was self-funded. These were for one heavy rigid and four heavy combination vehicle training courses.

Learner car

ACE Community College continues to suspend all car tuition until further notice, however there have been a few local lessons during May, with two clients from Warialda and one from Bingara using the service. The number of enquiries regarding lessons is again on the rise.

TAFE - Automotive Vocational Preparation Certificate II

Face to face automotive classes remain suspended by TAFE NSW until further notice. Written work has been sent to students and online sessions are currently being investigated. Students will now complete work at the ATTC under teacher supervision.

Warialda High School regularly uses the Automotive Trade Training Centre to conduct engineering classes however these classes are also currently suspended.

Community College

The ATTC facilities have been utilised by the Warialda Community College who now runs funded welding classes one day a week on Fridays. These classes have recommenced, and the College is practicing 'social distancing' and good hygiene while conducting these classes.

Smart and Skilled

Students continue to be enrolled with a steady stream of applications coming from local and district communities. Truck training and assessment has continued throughout May.

The Living Classroom TLC

The Covid-19 restrictions have prevented most of the formal visitor activities at TLC and resulted in many cancellations during May.

Five young backpackers from Germany have volunteered some work at TLC as a result of being under lockdown in Bingara. They have been working on the removal of water shoots from the mature olive trees.

The gates and fence at the end of Argoon Street have been completed by the Drought Relief work crew. The laneway provides access to the private property to the south of TLC, a Travelling Stock Route (TSR) and controlled access to The Carbon Farm as well as for potential bushfire access.

A proposal has been received from Joblink Plus for two weeks of training in heavy machinery utilising TLC site. The project for 20 students (10 per week) will be conducted by LDO Group – Innovative Mining Specialists based in Newcastle and Gunnedah, in late June. The training is linked to employment on the Inland Rail Moree to North Star section.

This training program is an opportunity for people with experience in operating plant machinery to gain the necessary tickets and accreditation, so they are eligible to work on construction sites, including the Inland Rail Narrabri to North Star Project.

The training program is a joint initiative between Gwydir Shire Council and ARTC Inland Rail with funding provided through Training for NSW and training delivered by LDO Group.

Mark Everett is assisting at TLC under the Drought Relief program as a Horticultural Assistant. Mark has attained his Heavy Combination driver's licence during May at the GLR RTO under the Smart and Skilled program.

Another 'leaky dam' has been commenced on the stream within the 'Aussie Farm Dam Makeover' project. The project utilises the rubble from the demolished Bingara swimming pool to create the wall and to 'key and cap' it with clay to create a crossing path. Pictures below show the works in progress.



Broken concrete from the Bingara swimming pool

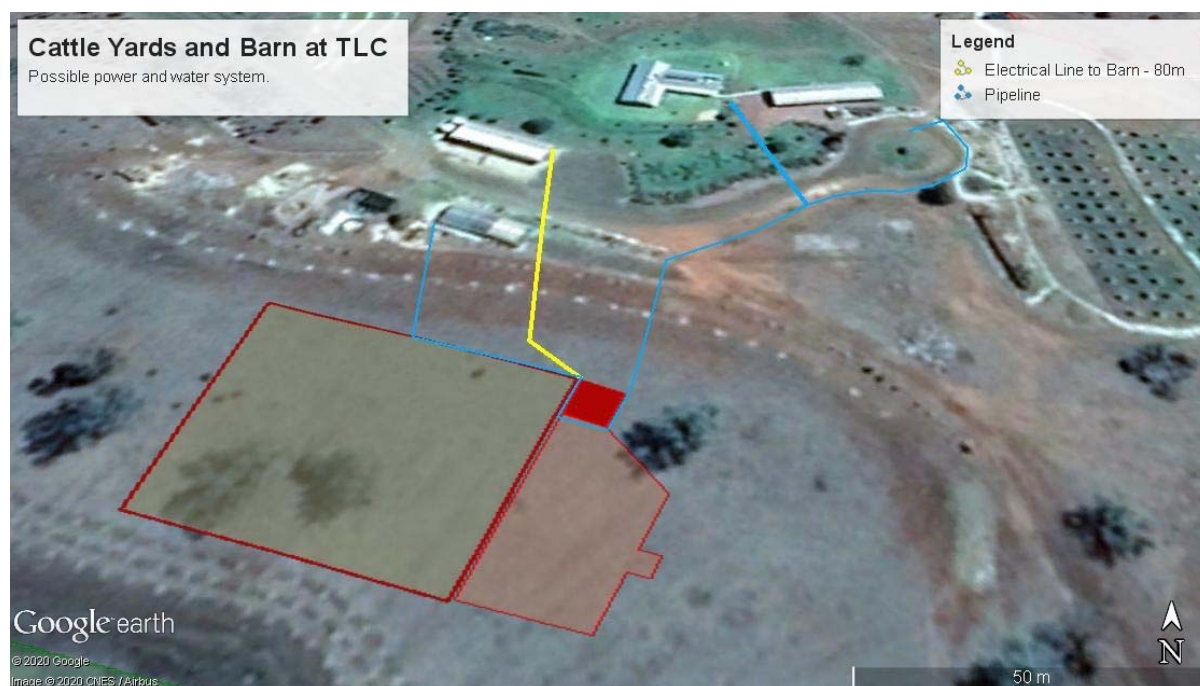


Working on the 'leaky dam' project at TLC

The barn shed for the Bingara Central School's Cattle Club project has been ordered. This project has resulted from meetings between Council and

Bingara Central School to create a 'cattle feeding and grooming' facility within TLC.

The barn will also serve as the base for future livestock projects. Location map below shows the barn and washdown / grooming area in red. The cattle yards with crush and loading ramp are to its south and the two paddocks for the cattle are to the west of the barn.



Site map for the Cattle Club project at TLC

CARAVAN PARKS

Bingara Caravan Park

Three cabins were sold from the Bingara Riverside Caravan Park during May. Two have been transported off site.

Following the sale of cabins, Caravan Park staff have temporarily relocated the office to a cabin near the front of the park.

Staff have continued maintenance and gardening work at the park during closure due to Covid-19 restrictions, including removing turf from the Bingara pool site and replanting it in bare patches at the caravan park and top dressing these areas.

The caretakers have built two entry gardens and at their own expense planted it out, added bark chip and a garden ornament. The caretakers requested permission to undertake the personal project that has enhanced the park's entry.

The Drought Relief work crew has removed the existing eastern boundary fence and constructed a new fence in its place. The Director of Nursing of the Bingara MPS, and the Manager of Touriandi were consulted and gave verbal approval.

Stump grinding was completed at the caravan park during May.

The hot water system was repaired.

While the caravan park has been closed to the general public, the Bingara pool contractors and several work gangs have been staying in the cabins from time to time.

Warialda Caravan Park

The spring clean and maintenance repairs of the amenity block have been completed during May.

While the caravan park has been closed to the general public, visiting contractors have been staying in the cabins from time to time during May.

SWIMMING POOLS

Bingara Pool

Demolition of the Bingara swimming pool commenced on Monday 11 May 2020.

Due to safety reasons, the pool pump house had to be demolished and will be replaced. The estimated contract variation is \$38,000 excl GST.

Councillors inspected the demolition site on Thursday 28 May.



Removing the Bingara pool

Warialda Pool

Request for a quotation for the upgrade to the Warialda swimming pool amenities blocks closed on 17 May. Council received one response from Meader Constructions. The response was acceptable to Council and works will be undertaken and completed before the commencement of the 2020/21 swimming season.

The existing acid room has been removed as it was not compliant with Australian Standards. A new tank has been ordered and will be installed by end June 2020.

Bingara and Warialda 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 season ticket holders received their reimbursements in the form of a Gwydir Gift Card at the end of May. Patrons are required to sign for their cards at Council offices.

CRANKY ROCK

Request for a quotation for the repairs to the footbridge and upgrade to the lookout track closed on 17 May 2020. Three quotes were received. The successful response was received from Meader Constructions due to the costings and completion timeframe set out therein and further that the contractor was local.

MYALL CREEK

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, the 20th Anniversary of the Myall Creek Memorial ceremony will not take place on the long weekend in June 2020, as is customary. Consequently, a virtual ceremony will be held online. The organising committee was very grateful that the Mayor recorded a welcome message as part of the [virtual ceremony](#). Students from Bingara Central School and Warialda High School also contributed to the ceremony.



The building of a low stone wall around the Myall Creek Memorial is nearing completion. It is being carried out by Brian Donnelly who is a long time and passionate volunteer, together with Community Services participants (this program is however currently in recess due to Covid-19). The stones that are being placed in the wall are those which were brought onto Country from across Australia by indigenous groups and families twenty years ago at the first ceremony. These stones had become displaced and covered over the years.

The Myall Creek Memorial Committee's building works' project is starting to take shape. The works include the construction of a new amenities block, a cultural performance Amphitheatre, car park, gardens and bus shelter. Council is the successful contractor to construct the Amphitheatre and carparks.



The Amphitheatre at the Myall Creek Memorial site

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

New carpet has been installed in the living areas at 84 Finch Street, Bingara.

During this period of social distancing and isolation, Council staff continue to telephone each resident (or their carer) living at Whitfeld Place, the Plunkett Street and Holden Street units and the Bingara Caravan Park, to 'check in' and to offer assistance when needed.

Council has donated \$3,000 to the Bingara Medical Centre for the purchase of new equipment in accordance with Council's current adopted donations budget.

Council has purchased sneeze guards for customer service staff and reception areas for Bingara Medical Centre, Wialda and Bingara Council offices, Centrelink and RMS offices to give extra protection during the Covid-19 pandemic. Wialda Medical Centre declined the offer of having sneeze guards installed on the front counter.

Council staff have installed new bench seats in the rotunda at the front of Whitfeld Place, Bingara. The residents have been utilising this area to meet with visitors during this time that requires social distancing.



Why Leave Town Gwydir Gift Card Program

During May, the Gwydir Gift Card program was launched in the Shire. Wialda and Bingara Council offices are "load up" sites for the card where community members can purchase the cards for gifts, prizes etc. To date, twenty local businesses have signed up to the program. Council has used the cards for prizes in the "My Life Through a Lens Challenge" photographic competition and to reimburse pool season ticket holders.

Increasing Resilience to Climate Change Grant

Unfortunately, Council was unsuccessful in obtaining a grant for shade shelters at the Bingara and Warialda pools through the Increasing Resilience to Climate Change program.

Bingara Anglers Club

This month, the Bingara Anglers Club was notified of their Australia Day Award state nomination for the NSW Environmental Citizen of the Year. If successful, the club will receive \$5000 towards their community initiative from the program partner Return and Earn.

Memorial Seat at Batterham's Lookout

Council staff installed a memorial bench seat on behalf of the family of Gordon and Shirley Smith at Batterham's Lookout, at the family's cost. The bench has been popular with local fitness fanatics and visitors to the lookout, who now have somewhere to rest and look at the magnificent view.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Monthly Executive Report for May 2020 be received

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

**Item 5 Monthly Organisation and Community Development
Report for May 2020**
FILE REFERENCE**DELIVERY PROGRAM****GOAL:** **5. Organisational Management****OUTCOME:** **5.1 CORPORATE MANAGEMENT****STRATEGY:** **5.1.3 Administrative functions - GM - internal****AUTHOR** Organisation Development Director**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST** Nil**IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

The monthly Organisation and Community Development report details the activities carried out by the Department during May 2020.

BACKGROUND

The monthly Organisation and Community Development report forms part of a regular reporting regime. The purpose of the report is to inform Council of the activities carried out within the Department.

WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY**WHS Performance**

One incident occurred in May which was a Tractor and Slasher rollover along Mosquito Creek Road, Warialda. No injuries were sustained and SafeWork NSW was notified in accordance with the 'notifiable incident' requirements under the Work Health and Safety Legislation. Investigations into the cause of the incident are ongoing along with the identification of appropriate control measures to prevent a reoccurrence in the future.

A declining Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) and Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) is no safeguard against disaster, however the downward trend over the past four months is a positive move in the right direction.

	Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR)	Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR)
February 2020	92.04	155.31
March 2020	86.29	116.75
April 2020	78.37	106.04
May 2020	70.91	95.93

Insurance and Risk

As the insurance market hardens, Council's 2020/2021 premiums are forecast to increase between 10 – 20%. In anticipation of the increases from the 1st

July 2020, insurance coverage and associated excesses are under review in a bid to minimise the premium impact to Council.

MAY 2020		
Organisational Lead and Lag Indicator Snapshot		
Lead Indicators	Current Month	Total (from 1 July 2019)
Number of Hazards Reported	0	1
Number of Near Misses Reported	0	1
Number of Workplace Verifications	2	46
Number of Tool Box / Safety Meetings / Training	1	120
TOTAL	3	168
Lag Indicators	Current Month	Total (from 1 July 2019)
Number of Incidents	1	49
Number of First Aid Treatments (FAT)	0	5
Number of Medical Treatment Injuries (MTI)	0	6
Number of Lost Time Injuries (LTI)	0	17
Working Days Lost Due to Injuries	0	332
Working Days Restricted Duties	0	87
Number of Employees	203	~228
Total Hours Worked	22,856	239,754
Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR)	0	70.91
Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR)	0	95.93

WHS Statistics for May 2020 are shown in **Attachment 1**.

AGED CARE SERVICES

Naroo Aged Care Facility, Warialda

Occupancy: 35. Naroo currently has one vacant bed that is expected to be filled in June from the waiting list.

Staff: Staff shifts are set as required to meet resident ratios.

Meetings: Resident meeting 12 May
Staff meeting 13 May
Kitchen meeting 15 May
Resident meeting (renovations) 28 May

Training: During May staff participated in training in the following areas:

Clinical Assessment: Head to Toe
Restrictive Practices and Restraints
Outbreak Management and Principles
Dementia: Night time care

National Aged Care Pilot: The National Aged Care Quality Indicator (QI) Program became mandatory from 1st July 2019 for all subsidised residential aged care services.

The objectives of the Qi Program are:

- for providers to have robust, valid data to measure and monitor their performance and support continuous quality improvement; and
- over time, to give consumers transparent, comparable information about quality in aged care to aid decision making.

The first Pilot Cycle reports and comparative performance is shown below:

The tables provide a summary of Naroo reported statistics alongside the national average for each quality indicator.

NAROO Quality Indicator Cycle 1 Report			
QI Domain	QI Reporting Data	Your score	National Average
Pressure Injuries	Percentage of care recipients with one or more pressure injuries	24.24%	6.41%
	Percentage of care recipients with Stage 1 Pressure Injury	9.09%	3.47%
	Percentage of care recipients with Stage 2 Pressure Injury	15.15%	2.28%
	Percentage of care recipients with Stage 3 Pressure Injury	3.03%	0.46%
	Percentage of care recipients with Stage 4 Pressure Injury	3.03%	0.21%
	Percentage of care recipients with Unstageable Pressure Injury	0%	0.14%
	Percentage of care recipients with Suspected Deep-Tissue Injury	0%	0.23%
	Percentage of care recipients who acquired one or more pressure injuries outside of the service in the past 3 months	9.09%	1.06%
	Percentage of care recipients who acquired Stage 1 Pressure Injuries outside of the service in the past 3 months	3.03%	0.44%
	Percentage of care recipients who acquired Stage 2 Pressure Injuries outside of the service in the past 3 months	6.06%	0.42%
	Percentage of care recipients who acquired Stage 3 Pressure Injuries outside of the service in the past 3 months	0%	0.09%
	Percentage of care recipients who acquired Stage 4 Pressure Injuries outside of the service in the past 3 months	3.03%	0.16%
	Percentage of care recipients who acquired Unstageable Pressure Injuries outside of the service in the past 3 months	0%	0.05%
	Percentage of care recipients who acquired Suspected Deep-Tissue Injury outside of the service in the past 3 months	0%	0.02%
Use of Physical Restraint	Percentage of care recipients who were physically restrained	22.22%	29.95%
	Percentage of care recipients who were physically restrained only by the use of a secure area	16.67%	19.12%
Unplanned Weight Loss	Percentage of care recipients who experienced significant unplanned weight loss (5% or more)	2.86%	3.55%
	Percentage of care recipients who experienced consecutive unplanned weight loss	34.29%	6.91%
Falls and Fractures	Percentage of care recipients who experienced one or more falls	8.57%	27.97%
	Percentage of care recipients who experienced one or more falls resulting in major injury	0%	2.04%
Medication Management	Percentage of care recipients who were prescribed nine or more medications	36.11%	44.71%
	Percentage of care recipients who received an antipsychotic medication	30.56%	21.12%
	Percentage of care recipients who received an antipsychotic medication for a diagnosed condition of psychosis	16.67%	13.78%

Naroo Quality Indicator Cycle 2 Report			
QI Domain	QI Reporting Data	Your score	National Average
Pressure Injuries	Percentage of care recipients with one or more pressure injuries	12.12%	4.90%
	Percentage of care recipients with Stage 1 Pressure Injury	0%	2.59%
	Percentage of care recipients with Stage 2 Pressure Injury	6.06%	1.96%
	Percentage of care recipients with Stage 3 Pressure Injury	6.06%	0.42%
	Percentage of care recipients with Stage 4 Pressure Injury	0%	0.20%
	Percentage of care recipients with Unstageable Pressure Injury	0%	0.12%
	Percentage of care recipients with Suspected Deep-Tissue Injury	0%	0.19%
	Percentage of care recipients who acquired one or more pressure injuries outside of the service in the past 3 months	6.06%	0.73%
	Percentage of care recipients who acquired Stage 1 Pressure Injuries outside of the service in the past 3 months	6.06%	0.37%
	Percentage of care recipients who acquired Stage 2 Pressure Injuries outside of the service in the past 3 months	3.03%	0.24%
	Percentage of care recipients who acquired Stage 3 Pressure Injuries outside of the service in the past 3 months	0%	0.07%
	Percentage of care recipients who acquired Stage 4 Pressure Injuries outside of the service in the past 3 months	0%	0.07%
	Percentage of care recipients who acquired Unstageable Pressure Injuries outside of the service in the past 3 months	0%	0.02%
	Percentage of care recipients who acquired Suspected Deep-Tissue Injury outside of the service in the past 3 months	0%	0.02%
Use of Physical Restraint	Percentage of care recipients who were physically restrained	22.22%	27.46%
	Percentage of care recipients who were physically restrained only by the use of a secure area	16.67%	17.78%
Unplanned Weight Loss	Percentage of care recipients who experienced significant unplanned weight loss (5% or more)	3.03%	2.31%
	Percentage of care recipients who experienced consecutive unplanned weight loss	3.03%	5.61%
Falls and Fractures	Percentage of care recipients who experienced one or more falls	16.67%	26.24%
	Percentage of care recipients who experienced one or more falls resulting in major injury	0%	1.60%
Medication Management	Percentage of care recipients who were prescribed nine or more medications	36.11%	43.60%
	Percentage of care recipients who received an antipsychotic medication	30.56%	21.38%
	Percentage of care recipients who received an antipsychotic medication for a diagnosed condition of psychosis	16.67%	13.43%

Activities

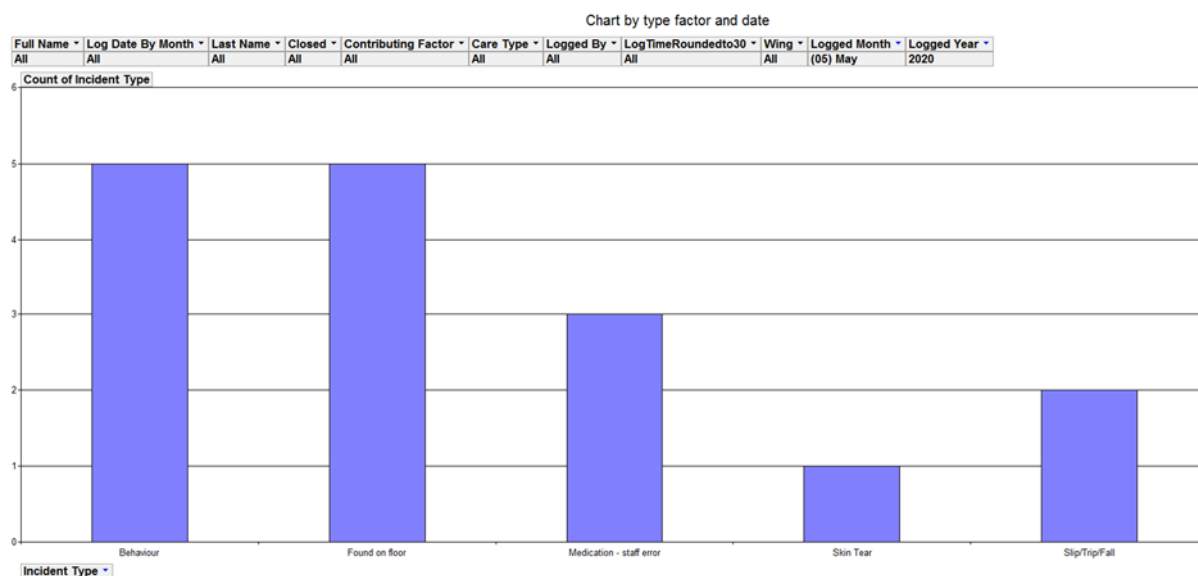
Activities are carried out daily at Naroo.

The Covid-19 Naroo Show came to town in May. Residents enjoyed face painting, the Miss Naroo Show Girl, cake decorating, art gallery, flower

arranging, pet show, clowns, equestrian, horse- shoe toss and many more attractions.

Also during May, Naroo staff were treated to an afternoon tea prepared and served by the residents in recognition of Nurses Day.

Quality Report for Naroo



In collaboration with Live Life Active Solutions, Naroo has commenced a project for the South West Wing of Naroo to create a more homely feel. Refer **Attachment 2**.

Naroo's Bond Report as at 4 June 2020 is **Attachment 3** to this report.

Gwydir Shire Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) Summary

Intertown transport was quiet due to the Covid-19 restrictions during the early part of May, however has gained momentum towards the end of the month. Medical appointments were rescheduled due to the restrictions and availability of specialists.

Clients and volunteers have been issued with Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for use.

Staff and volunteers are delivering medications and some food supplies locally as required.

Group activities are still not possible, although a morning tea delivery to clients was well received.

Meals on Wheels continue to be delivered although volunteers over the age of 70yrs are no longer delivering. Hospital procedures are being followed when collecting meals.

Staff were involved in a Zoom meeting with Transport for NSW on 13 May and found the information helpful.

Warialda CHSP staff member assists with residents' activities at Naroo one afternoon a week.

CHSP Summary – Bingara, Delungra and Warialda

	BINGARA		DELUNGRA		WARIALDA	
	Apr	May	Apr	May	Apr	May
DAY CENTRE						
Total active clients	20		21	22	97	97
Clients receiving service	17		0	0	11	10
Total meals	56		0	0	0	0
Hrs clients receive in Centre	168		0	0	53	
SOCIAL SUPPORT						
No of clients	69	43	0	0	11	10
Individual hrs	348	226	0	0	53	67
Group hrs	168	0	0	0	0	0
Total hours received	516	226	0	0	53	67
FOOD SERVICE (Meals on Wheels)						
Clients	4	13	0	0	5	4
Meals	53	202	0	0	96	74
TRANSPORT						
Number of clients	44	17	0	0	5	4
Number of trips	152	67	0	0	14	20
TRANSPORT - YOUTH						
Number of clients	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of trips	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACCESS BUS - INVERELL						
Number of clients	13	0	0	0	0	0
Number of trips (per month)	2	0	0	0	0	0
VOLUNTEERS						
No of volunteers/ mth	9	17	0	0	5	5
Monthly volunteer hours	264	226	0	0	51	67
ACCOMMODATION UNITS FOR AGED						
Occupancy	n/a	n/a	0	0	13/13	13/13

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Gwydir Shire Website

Contracts have now been signed to commence work on the new Gwydir Shire Council website. This site is due to go live from early August. At this stage upgrades will only be made to the Gwydir Shire Council website, giving Council staff an opportunity to test the new system. If happy with the new site, staff will look at rolling out the platform to the other Gwydir Shire Council websites including tourism and venue sites.

The Gwydir Newspaper

Recent staff changes at the Gwydir News have seen the paper go from strength to strength with an increase in publication size and quality content. A number of compliments have been received about the look and content of the paper and staff are currently working on strategies to increase advertising sales.

The Gwydir News
Incorporating The Bingara Advocate and The Wialalda Standard
Bingara (02) 6724 1127 Wialalda (02) 6729 1450
Vol. 2, No. 18 WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2020 Price \$1.50 incl GST

Covid claims Happy Days

It was with great sadness that the Bingara Central School Committee, the organisers of the 2020 Bingara Happy Days Orange Festival, announced the difficult decision to postpone the festival. The event, which is held annually in the Bingara school grounds, will now be held in 2021.

While it was a disappointment to all, the Committee's decision to postpone the festival was a necessary one. The health and safety of the community is the top priority, and the Committee is confident that the festival will be a success when it returns in 2021.

The event, which is held annually in the Bingara school grounds, will now be held in 2021. The Committee is confident that the festival will be a success when it returns in 2021.

Roadworks begin on Fossickers Way

One of the best roads in the North West Local Land Services area is the Fossickers Way. The road, which runs from the Bingara school to the Wialalda school, is being upgraded by the North West Local Land Services.

The roadworks, which are being carried out by the North West Local Land Services, will involve the resurfacing of the road and the installation of new drainage. The roadworks are expected to be completed by the end of the year.

The roadworks are being carried out by the North West Local Land Services, which is a joint venture between the Bingara and Wialalda schools and the Shire of Gwydir.

The roadworks are being carried out by the North West Local Land Services, which is a joint venture between the Bingara and Wialalda schools and the Shire of Gwydir.

Happy Days Festival
HEAVY 2nd - SUNDAY 1st JULY 2020
POSTPONED
Due to COVID-19 this event has been postponed until 2021.
Save the date for Friday 27th June to Sunday 27th June 2021.

North West Local Land Services
Resident new green for long-term grazing permits on travelling stock reserves.
All existing long-term grazing permits on travelling stock reserves in the North West Local Land Services area expire on the 30 June 2020. Resident submissions are now invited for long-term grazing permits for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. For a further information package including location of available travelling stock reserves, terms and conditions, and further information, please contact the North West Local Land Services on 1800 796 296.

NATIONAL 18-24 MAY 2020 VOLUNTEER CHANGING COMMUNITIES WEEK
WIALALDA / DELUNGRA COMMONWEALTH HOME SUPPORT PROGRAM
We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our volunteers with a big thank you for everything you do. We would not be able to do it without you.
Kind regards, Marie

The Gwydir News
Incorporating The Bingara Advocate and The Wialalda Standard
Bingara (02) 6724 1127 Wialalda (02) 6729 1450
Vol. 2, No. 21 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2020 Price \$1.50 incl GST

IGA opens Community Chest for local groups

Checking out the special in the supermarket aisles each week not only helps you, but it also helps the community. The IGA Community Chest is a special fund that allows local groups to raise money for their projects.

The IGA Community Chest is a special fund that allows local groups to raise money for their projects. The fund is managed by the IGA store and the proceeds are donated to the local groups.

The IGA Community Chest is a special fund that allows local groups to raise money for their projects. The fund is managed by the IGA store and the proceeds are donated to the local groups.

Quiet reflection of Myall Creek Massacre

The story of the Myall Creek Massacre was remembered on Sunday night as a somber reflection on the lives of the people who were killed in the massacre.

The massacre, which took place in 1828, was one of the most notorious of the early colonial period. It was a tragedy that has been remembered for over 180 years.

The massacre, which took place in 1828, was one of the most notorious of the early colonial period. It was a tragedy that has been remembered for over 180 years.

Orange picking to go ahead
Orange picking will go ahead with a different look this year as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions. The festival will be held in a more socially distanced manner, with fewer people allowed to attend.

The festival will be held in a more socially distanced manner, with fewer people allowed to attend. The organizers are confident that the festival will be a success when it returns in 2021.

PRE-STOCKTAKE CLEARANCE SALE
GRAB A BARGAIN FROM OUR CLEARANCE TABLES
* JEWELLERY
* HOMEWARES
* FURNITURE
WIALALDA PHARMACY
HOPE ST | 6729 1511

The 2020 Bingara Happy Days Orange Festival

Due to restrictions in place as a result of Covid-19, it was with great sadness that the Bingara Special Events Committee made the tough call to postpone the festival until 2021.

The committee understands how important the event is for the Bingara community, retailers and businesses, as well as the stallholders, suppliers and performers who partake in the festival; and for this reason have held off making the decision in hopes of a miraculous resolution to the Covid-19 situation.

Following important announcements at a National Cabinet meeting in the second week of May, it became apparent that restrictions would not ease enough to allow for such an event.

A fantastic line-up of performers and attractions had been sourced for this year's festival however; these acts will be rolled over for 2021. Stallholders who had already booked and paid for a stall were contacted to arrange a refund.

Unfortunately this year's festival will fall on the 60th anniversary of the orange picking however organisers will make it special by presenting each of the school children with a commemorative pin, and signage will be erected with imagery of the picking from the last 10 years as was done for the 50th anniversary.

Organisers are working with the Bingara Central School and RSL Sub-branch to develop creative ways of continuing the Orange Picking tradition and paying respect to our fallen soldiers. It will be communicated in due course.

Next year's festival will fall on Friday 25th to Sunday 27th June 2021.



Gwydir Libraries

Despite Covid-19 lockdown the Gwydir Libraries have achieved some impressive borrowing results due to the dedication and commitment of the library staff in engaging the community.

Bingara Library

Issues: 1,474 from library resources and 280 items taken from the street library.

Reservations on behalf of members = 85 from outer branches.

Warialda

Issues: 420 from library resources and 102 taken from the street library.

Reservations on behalf of members = 42 from outer branches.

THE ROXY COMPLEX

Theatre

Date	Purpose	Numbers
12 May	Ben Ransom Music Video Shoot	3 crew
28 May	Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea	Cancelled
30 May	Bingara Show Society Ball	Cancelled
31 May	NWTC Film Club	Cancelled

Roxy Conference Room

Date	Purpose	Numbers
21 May	GSC Management Meeting	14
28 May	Council Meeting	14

Roxy Meeting Room

Date	Purpose	Numbers
No Bookings for May		

Roxy Trade Training Kitchen

Date	Purpose	Numbers
No Bookings for May		

SOCIAL SERVICES – May 2020**Bingara Neighbourhood Centre**

Funding body – Family and Community Services

Due to the Covid-19 lockdown, Bingara Neighbourhood Centre continues to provide support via email and phone services, however there is now some limited face to face service available by appointment.

Grant applications for community groups have continued during May. The Salvation Army has donated blankets, slippers and dressing gowns that are being distributed to those in need during this winter season.

Centrelink

Assistance is now available in a limited capacity maintaining the social distancing guidelines; one person permitted in the office at a time and with extra hygiene precautions in place.

Be Connected (Broadband for Seniors)

The Be Connected service has been terminated as there are two other service opportunities available in the community.

Youth Service

Funding body – Family and Community Services

Youth Council

Due to Covid-19, the Youth Council has not been able to hold a formal meeting during May, however there have been group conversations on the Youth Council chat group to keep in touch. A meeting is planned for June to discuss when the postponed Youth Week event will be held.

Youth Mentoring Program

4 participants availed themselves of the youth mentoring program during May.

The Youth mentoring program has been assisting young people with Centrelink, Medicare, behaviour management, and license applications. With current Covid-19 restrictions, driving tests have been cancelled until further

notice. There has been no face to face service offered during May, all correspondence has been by phone. Now with restrictions starting to lift, face to face sessions will look at resuming in June if allowed.

Bingara Toy Library

*Funding body – Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate
NSW Department of Education and Communities*

This service and building remains closed due to Covid-19.

Staff have continued to send out information via email and Facebook to toy library and playgroup families. During this month families were contacted via phone to see if they needed any resources or extra support. The families that required assistance were contacted and referred to appropriate services for assistance. Families have sent in snapshots of their craft pack creations and these were posted onto Facebook.

Handouts and craft packs have been made available for collection or posted to families who were unable to attend.

Guest speakers have been contacted again to reschedule their talk or presentation which had to be postponed due to Covid-19, to a date in Term 3 or Term 4, providing the restrictions have been removed. Topics being rescheduled include speech therapy, potty training and breast care nurse. The Child and Family Health nurse has indicated that she will continue her service until such time as her property sells.

Staff are looking at how life will be as we slowly resume 'normality'. Ideas and plans are being discussed around numbers allowed, room size, room layout and flyers are being prepared for a return to service.

All memberships have been frozen until the service returns.

Supported Playgroup Development Worker

Funding body – Family and Community Services

Due to Covid-19 restrictions the Warialda Toy Library and Gwydir Shire playgroup services were non-operational for service sessions during May.

Telephone and internet correspondence has taken place to ensure families remain supported during this time. Service sessions are looking forward to commencing as soon as practical and will comply with the NSW Health guidelines to provide a safe and healthy environment for members. The implementation of some changes to library opening hours and services being offered will be catered for accordingly.

Staff have been taking leave throughout this period while continuing to work as required in an administrative, family support and service maintenance role.

Bingara Preschool

*Funding body - Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate
NSW Department of Education and Communities*

May 2020 - At this stage, Bingara Preschool is offering face to face delivery to essential workers' children and to every other child one day a week. The

Service has been providing a distance program to the children who are not attending their normal days at present.

The children have been learning about:

Week 1 – holidays and Covid-19

Week 2 – Mother's Day

Week 3 – colours

Week 4 – family

Week 5 – zoo animals

Fees - due to the 'Free Preschool Funding' as a result of Covid-19, each child will receive two days free at Bingara Preschool (for Term 2 and Term 3). At this stage, fees will recommence as normal in Term 4. Each family will still be charged the equipment and administration fee per term.

New Shed - Bingara Preschool has had a new shed built with funding obtained through the Capital Works grant. This shed is used for storage for the outdoor play equipment at the Service.

National Simultaneous Story Time (Wednesday, 27 May at 11am) - Bingara Preschool participated 'virtually' in the nationwide story time. The simultaneous story time encourages as many children as possible to listen to the same book at the same time. This year the title of the book was: 'Whitney and Brittany. Chicken Divas', written and illustrated by Lucinda Gifford.



Back into the swing of things at Bingara Preschool



The old and new sheds at Bingara Preschool

Tharawonga Mobile Resource Unit

*Funding body – Department of Education | Department of Employment
Australian Government*

Tharawonga staff are back to work at almost full capacity. The online program was popular with families with Houseparty, the closed Facebook page and phone calls ensuring that children remained socially connected and familiar with educators.

Playgroup has been postponed until safer times due to the risk of young children mouthing/sharing toys. There are now five children waiting to participate in Playgroup and parents will be advised when Tharawonga is to resume. Playgroup was offered in the second week of every month at each venue. Unfortunately, only the venues of North Star and Yallaroï have parents interested in utilising the service.

Crooble

Crooble children expressed an interest in dinosaurs and construction. Some very large dinosaurs were taken to Crooble and they had wheels with moving tails and mouths. Children pushed the toys around the hall and chased each other during pretend play. They then used magnetic blocks to make tent like structures to house other dinosaurs, showing creativity and an understanding of the complexities of farming large animals. Many of the children at Crooble come from farming backgrounds.

Yetman

As part of the sustainability/life skills program offered through Tharawonga, Yetman children have been busy gardening. The Yetman School has been assisting Tharawonga staff by watering the carrots, snow peas, climbing peas and cauliflower plants in the greenhouse each day. Children draw what they have grown each week and keep this as a project for the classroom. The gardening has enabled children to ask questions about where food comes from and expand their knowledge of the way in which the world works.

Gravesend

Gravesend venue has received a grant for a badly needed new fence between the two halls and across the concrete between the park and the hall. This will improve safety for the children in attendance. The old fence is not secure, and the gate opens straight onto the busy highway. The fence will be of similar material to the park fence, which is a white aluminum picket, to maintain uniformity across the front of the Gravesend community areas.

North Star

North Star hall has also received a grant for a new fence, and this will be a double top safety fence to enhance the hall appearance. The current North Star hall fence is quite low and faces the main road to the school which is very busy during drop off and pick up times with buses and parents' cars parked along the front of the building.

Yallaroi

The future was looking bleak for Yallaroi which was down to only three children attending. With a new enrolment and the return of a child who had previously left the service, the numbers are back up to five children during June. Two of these children will be transitioning to school in 2021 but there has been interest by two more playgroup children whose parents are keen for them to attend.

Day	Venue	2-3yo	3-5yo	Transition to school	Total In Attendance
Monday	Yetman	0	5	2	5
Tuesday	North Star	3	10	3	13
Wednesday	Yallaroi	0	4	1	4
Thursday	North Star	2	8	3	10
Thursday	Gravesend	4	9	5	13
Friday	Gravesend	4	9	4	13
Friday	Crooble	1	5	1	6

CONSULTATION

Consultation has occurred within the Organisation and Community Development Directorate.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Policy implications are those relating to the 2019/2020 Operational Plan and the Policies of Gwydir Shire Council.

FINANCIAL, ECONOMIC and RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (including Asset Management)

The activities carried out by the Organisation and Community Development Department are in line with the 2019/2020 Operational Plan.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social and Environment)

The activities undertaken by the Organisation and Community Development Department regarding social and environmental factors are targeted in line with the 2019/2020 Operational Plan.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the monthly Organisation and Community Development Report for May 2020 be received

ATTACHMENTS

- AT-** Attach 1 - WHS Statistics for May 2020
- AT-** Attach 2 - Naroo Project 2020
- AT-** Attach 3 - Naroo Bond Report

Attach 1 - WHS REPORT for May 2020



Department	Department Lead Indicators				Total (Financial Year)			
	Current Month							
	Hazards Reported	Near Miss Reported	Workplace Verifications	Toolbox/Safety Meetings/Training	Hazards Reported	Near Miss Reported	Workplace Verifications	Toolbox/Safety Meetings/Training
Social Services								8
Naroom and Aged Services								8
Community Assets							2	8
Finance								8
People and Culture								8
IT and Business Improvement								8
Marketing and Economic Development								8
Safety, Risk & Procurement							2	8
Planning and Environment							3	10
Building Services			1				13	10
Utilities			1	1	1		10	23
Engineering Services						1	16	13
TOTAL	0	0	2	1	1	1	46	120

Department Lag Indicators								
Department	Current Month				Total (Financial Year)			
	Incidents Reported	First Aid Treatments	Medical Treatment Injuries	Lost Time Injuries	Incidents Reported	First Aid Treatments	Medical Treatment Injuries	Lost Time Injuries
Social Services					3	2		1
Narooma and Aged Services					11		1	4
Community Assets					2		2(external)	
Finance					1			
People and Culture					1			
IT and Business Improvement								
Marketing and Economic Development								
Safety, Risk & Procurement								
Planning and Environment					6	1	1	2
Building Services					4		1	1
Utilities					9	1	1	4
Engineering Services	1				16	1		5
TOTAL	1	0	0	0	53	5	6	17

Department Incident Investigation and Action Statistics										
Department	Current Month				Total (Financial Year)					
	Incident Type	Severity	Investigation Status	Corrective Action Status	Investigation Open	Investigation Overdue	Investigations Closed	Actions Scheduled/ In Progress	Actions Overdue	Actions Closed
Social Services							3	1		
Narooma and Aged Services							9	1		4
Community Assets						2		1		
Finance							1	1		
People and Culture							1	1		
IT and Business Improvement								1		
Marketing and Economic Development								1		
Safety, Risk & Procurement								1	2	6
Planning and Environment							6	1		
Building Services							4	1		1
Utilities						1	6	4	3	7
Engineering Services	1 x Tractor Rollover	Severe	1 x Ongoing	TBA	1	1	14	1	5	6
TOTAL	1		1		1	4	44	15	10	24
Commentary										



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CONTACT US

PO Box 274
Moss Vale NSW 2577
Australia

T: +61 (0) 400 672 895
E: hello@ilasolutions.com.au



Naroo Warialda

PROJECTS

MAY 2020

South-West **Wing**

1. Planning Phase
2. Structure
3. Team-Building
4. Fit-Out
5. Implementation



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Dining Room

To create a homey feel to the south-west dining room, we will introduce items such as tablecloths, place mats and serviettes.

The sink area will be set up with a new water tap which has a safety switch, a dishwashing rack, tea towels, and a dinner set. This dinner set will be DECOR ONLY as an infection control measure.

Washing-up will give residents the opportunity to be independent as they continue utilising this important daily-living skill.

Additional decor such as flowers on the table will also provide a homey feel.

Current area:





CONTACT US

PO Box 274
Moss Vale NSW 2577
Australia

T: +61 (0) 400 672 895
E: hello@illasolutions.com.au

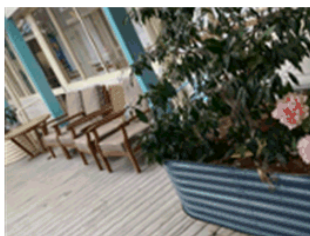
Indoor/Outdoor Area

This area has beautiful raised garden bed which currently hold artificial flowers. To continue with the homey feel it will be ideal to plant a sensory garden, including mint, lavender and other plants with strong aromas. We will also look at planting flowers and incorporating a vegetable patch.

Residents can hone in on their gardening skills as they maintain the garden beds — weeding, picking, watering and planting. Residents will need prompting and some assistance from staff, but should be allowed to be as independent as possible.

A safety tap will be added with a watering can available for use.

Current area:





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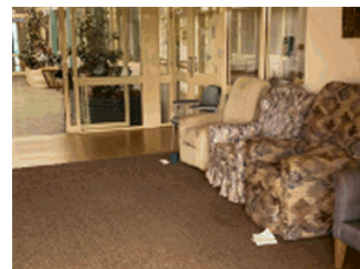
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Lounge

To create a more homey environment, there will be new lounges with cushions and coffee tables with decor.

Activity stations set up around the wing incorporating magazines and books will invite residents to enjoy the space.

Current area:





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Australia

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Outdoor Courtyard


Fences will be covered with bamboo to create a soothing space so residents don't feel locked in.

The bus shelter will be developed into a small workspace with a tool board and work bench so residents can tinker. Partnering with the Men's Shed to create this space will be beneficial for male residents.

A walking track with supervision and guidance is the perfect way for residents to enjoy the outdoors and find activities they can participate in.

Current area:





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Australia

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E: hello@ilasolutions.com.au

Activity Room

To make residents more comfortable installation of an air conditioner in the main activity room is required and the leaking roof fixed. Bi-fold doors in the outdoor area will keep residents protected from adverse weather.

Folding tables are ideal for activities as they can be folded and safely stowed away when not in use and more comfortable chairs are required. Activity trolleys will be set up and made accessible to residents. A desk for the lifestyle staff with a lockable cupboard or filing cabinet will be the place for documentation to be kept.

Utilising the grassy area will expand the activity space and will be achieved by relocating the outdoor settings and umbrellas there. A raised garden bed will add to the feel of an outdoor activity area.

This area is also accessible from the Dementia wing, providing those residents access to other parts of the facility. Lifestyle team members will also be able to assist with the cognitive impaired residents.

Grand re-opening and naming of the new activity room will be set for early October, after the Walk for Dementia.



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PO Box 274
Moss Vale NSW 2577
Australia

T: +61 (0) 400 672 895
E: hello@ilasolutions.com.au

Activity Room

Current area:





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PO Box 274
Moss Vale NSW 2577
Australia

T: +61 (0)400 672 895
E: hello@ilasolutions.com.au

Disability Park

A path and crossing between the tree and garden is required for residents to safely access the park – access is currently through the car park.

Social groups residents can join are a Walking Group (who can schedule day walks around the track) and a Gardening Group (who can maintain the vegetable patch for the community).

Residents can also plan an event around All Horses Birthday on 1 August.

Current area:





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PO Box 274
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Celebrations

Walk for Dementia

17 October 2020

Family of residents and community members are invited to walk around the path in the Disability Park as many times as they can.

- \$2 per lap for residents
- \$1 per lap for family members and the community

To do:

- Check insurance
- Find sponsors
- Lions Club BBQ
- Horses — Sharon
- Markets — TBA
- Invite the Mayor to cut the ribbon and start the walk
- Invite council members
- Extend invitation of participation to schools and Touriandi




Grand Re-Opening

17 October 2020

The grand opening of the new activity room, which will be renamed The Pyke Room in memory of Mr and Mrs Pyke.

The Mayor, prominent members of the community, Pyke family members, council dignitaries and residents will be invited to this cocktail-style event.



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PO Box 274
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Phase 1: Planning

Dates:

Ilasolutions visit
4 May 2020 to 8 May 2020

Walk for Dementia
17 October 2020

Grand Re-Opening
17 October 2020

Updates:

South-West Wing
renamed to The Cognitive Area

Activity Room
renamed to The Pyke Room

Disability Park
to be included in the Lifestyle program

Attachment 3 – Naroo Bond Report as at 4 June 2020

Multi Facility Summary

Printed Date: 4/06/2020, Last Edit: 30/04/2020

Active Accommodation Bonds / Payment Schedule - Summary

As at 4/06/2020

FACILITY NAME	Pre 1 July 2014 Payment Arrangements [Bonds]	Agreed Bond	Part Lump Sum Amount	Total Payment Amount	Lump Sum Amount Outstanding	Total Bond Balance Outstanding	Total Retention Deductions	Total Interest Deductions	Total Other Deductions	Balance
	Post 1 July 2014 Payment Arrangements [RADs/RACs]	Agreed Price	Agreed RAD/RAC Portion	Total RAD/RAC Received	Total RAD/RAC Outstanding	Agreed DAP/DAC Portion	Total DAP/DAC Deductions	Total Care Fee Deductions	Total Other Deductions	Balance
TOTAL										
NAROO AGE CARE FACILITY										
Bonds		\$32,067.73	\$32,067.73	\$32,067.73	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,856.51	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,211.22
RADs/RACs		\$1,428,077.88	\$445,000.00	\$1,340,817.05	-\$660,000.01	\$403,077.88	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,340,817.05
TOTAL		\$1,460,145.71	\$477,067.73	\$1,372,884.78	-\$660,000.01					\$1,362,028.27
SRAND TOTAL										
Bonds		\$32,067.73	\$32,067.73	\$32,067.73	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,856.51	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,211.22
RADs/RACs		\$1,428,077.88	\$445,000.00	\$1,340,817.05	-\$660,000.01	\$403,077.88	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,340,817.05
TOTAL		\$1,460,145.71	\$477,067.73	\$1,372,884.78	-\$660,000.01					\$1,362,028.27

RAD Refunds

- \$290,000 - 26/05/2020 Interest accrued and payable \$5,696

N:/2020/Naroo Reports/May Monthly Report

Item 6 Monthly Technical Services Report for May 2020**FILE REFERENCE****DELIVERY PROGRAM****GOAL:** 5. Organisational Management**OUTCOME:** 5.1 CORPORATE MANAGEMENT**STRATEGY:** 2.1.1 Plan for and develop the right assets and
 infrastructure - TS -external**AUTHOR** Manager, Engineering Services**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST** Nil**IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION****BACKGROUND**

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

COMMENT**1. TECHNICAL SERVICES AND ADMINISTRATION**

Technical Services infrastructure, planning, design and surveys were carried out in-house. The Technical Services staff continue to provide customer service to the Gwydir Shire residents.

2. ENGINEERING SERVICES**Maintenance Grading**

Grading has been carried out on SR99 Riverview Road, SR49 Michell Lane, SR105 Fairweather Road, SR106 Flemmings Road, SR110 Wyanbah Road, SR18 Gineroi Road, SR103 Ravenscraig Road, SR11 Horton Road, SR38 Adams Scrub Road, SR207 Yammacoona Estate Road, SR17 Back Creek Road, SR42 Mungle Road, SR82 Kirewa Road, SR9 IB Bore Road, SR68 Goat Road, SR61 Peates Road and SR69 Tucka Tucka Road.

Seal Maintenance

Seal maintenance is ongoing on all state, regional and local roads.

Slashing

Slashing of the road shoulders has been carried out on MR63 Allan Cunningham and Cobbadah Roads, SR18 Gineroi Road, SR19 Whitlow Road, MR133 Killarney Gap Road, MR134 Delungra Road, SR3 Elcombe Road, SR1 Copeton Dam Road, SR2 Bundarra Road, SR22 Upper Bingara Road, SR11 Horton Road and Upper Horton Village, Bingara Airstrip, MR14 Mosquito Creek Road, Trade Training Centre.

The following roads were resheeted in May:

- Wearnes Road
- Caroda Road
- Mungle Road



Caroda Road - 6.32km section is completed between "Killara" and "Reata"



Wearnes Road - 5klm Section completed in the Beehive Mountain area



Mungle Road - 3.8km to 5.8km, 6.7km to 7.3km from IB Bore Road

Construction

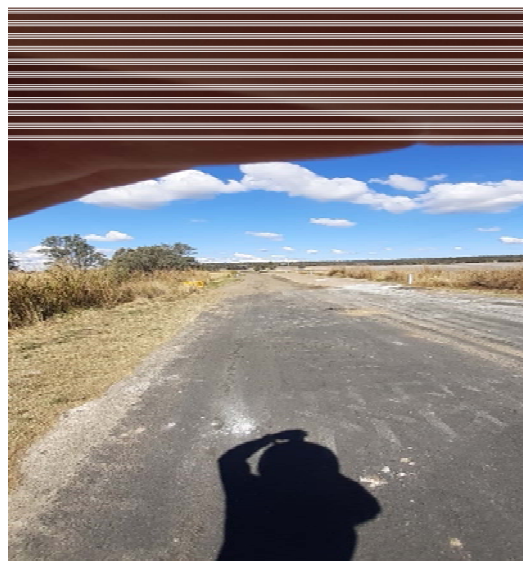
Constuction work has commenced on a 1.3km upgrade on MR63
Cunninghams Way; work is expected to be completed by the end of June.



MR63 Segment 5240 Linwood



Wades Lane - Rehabilitation work on 532m section has been completed



RR7705 – Super patch at 10km south of North Star

A soil stabilising trial was carried out on County Boundary during May. A product called Polycom was blended into the existing road material. The product is non-toxic, environmentally safe and extremely robust, with a unique patented application that physically and chemically bonds soil or pavement particles leading to improved compressive strength, high tensile resilience and water impermeability.



SR41 County Boundy – Trial of Polycom, which is a road stabilising additive

Myall Creek Memorial

Work has commenced on the performance area at the Myall Creek Memorial site. This included excavating the site to design specifications with a “corkscrew” type three level step to the floor area.

Stormwater pits and pipes have also been installed.

The area will then have a compacted base of granite and shale, with sandstone blocks put in place for seating. Work is expected to be completed by the end of June.



Works in progress at the Myall Creek Memorial Site

Bingara Pool Demolition

Council Staff are assisting with the demolition work of the existing Bingara swimming pools. The excavation will then be backfilled and compacted with suitable material to the specifications as requested by the contractor installing the pools.



Reactive Maintenance crews worked on the following throughout May:

- Footpath maintenance
- Service requests
- Water deliveries
- Roadside weed spraying
- Road sign maintenance
- Rest area vegetation maintenance

Roads Maintenance Council Contract – Works Orders issued by RMS

All Work Orders issued by RMS are quality assurance schedule of rates projects carried out by Council staff under the Roads Maintenance Council Contract with Roads and Maritime Services.

Works are well underway in segment 5340 on MR63 Fossickers Way. Widening of the existing pavement, removing the unsuitable material from the shoulders and replacing it with a road base material has now been completed. The ripping and re-compacting of the existing pavement and all culvert extensions and replacements have also been completed. Testing is now ready to be undertaken for the select layer of the pavement and then crew members will start placing the 100mm sub-base layer. Additional works will include a 100mm base layer over the top of the sub-base layer once tested and then a 7mm primer-seal once the base has been laid and tested. Works are expected to continue until the end of the financial year.

Design reviews have now been submitted to the RMS for three segments programmed for rehabilitation next financial year. These segments include 5150 and 5255 on MR63 Fossickers Way and 8270 on HW12 Gwydir Highway. Heavy patching works are now underway and are expected to be completed by the end of the financial year. No reseals are programmed for completion this financial year. Further to the programmed segments of rehabilitation next financial year, RMS is undertaking works at present to see 3-4 additional segments brought forward and completed next financial year also. These segments are currently in the survey and design stage.

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

Other Services

Street services continued to be maintained for vehicular, pedestrian and public conveniences.

Storm water drainage facilities continue to be maintained.

Aerodromes at Warialda and Bingara continue to be maintained and inspections are done monthly.

Existing quarry sources are continually being utilised and future sources are being investigated as time permits with other competing projects.

The radio and television towers continued to be maintained.

3. DESIGN AND ASSET SERVICES

Survey, design and soil testing is continuing for the 2019-2020 works programs. Progress is as follows:

North Star Road – Flaggy Gully Segment

This project, which is located along North Star Road – 9.4km to 11km from Warialda Road, is currently having the design reviewed and all environmental assessments completed ready for work to commence next financial year.

North Star Road – Henry Dangar Segment

This project, which is located along North Star Road – 40.86 to 41.29km from Warialda Road, is currently having the design reviewed and all environmental assessments completed ready for work to commence next financial year.

Copeton Dam Road and Bundarra Road Intersection

This intersection is currently having its signage updated to improve the safety.

Guard Rail Projects

There have been new sections of guard rail installed along Copeton Dam Road and along Delungra Road to help improve the safety for road users.

4. TOWN SERVICES**Water and Sewerage**

During May, water and sewerage operators attended 11 service line repairs, seven water main breaks and seven sewer blockages. Works were undertaken at the Bingara cemetery, Gwydir oval, Roxy, Naroo Aged Care Hostel, public amenities and sewer pump station No 2 and 3 in Warialda.

Level 1 water restrictions continued during May 2020. The restriction has been modified so that no fixed sprinklers are permitted between 10am and 5pm; despite a reduced demand, it is good practice to be water wise.

Bingara sewer system had manholes inspected during May.

Gravesend bore submersible pump was replaced during May, along with repairs to Warialda sewer ponds pump.

Bingara sewer extension project for north and east Bingara has been progressing well with survey, environmental and engineering contractors carrying out various tasks in Bingara during April/May 2020.

Water meters will be read the first two weeks of June to enable account to go out before June 30, 2020.

Parks

All parks and gardens are being maintained. Council's playgrounds that were closed due to Covid-19 restrictions were opened on the 15 May 2020. Council is undertaking a weekly inspection to clean handrails and touched areas.

Routine mowing, weed control, irrigation, hedging and trimming was undertaken during May. The Parks staff removed the shade sails and Building Services staff removed the shade structures at Bingara pool before demolition commenced.

Drought Relief Casuals

During May the Drought Relief crew pressure cleaned the Bingara cemetery columbarium walls, assembled the new Bingara town street bins, installed seats at Whitfeld Place rotunda, undertook fencing removal and installation work at the Bingara caravan park, carried out fencing at The Living Classroom and installed a concrete slab for the Bingara Anglers Club new shelter at the boat ramp.



Seating in the Whitfeld Place rotunda



Bingara Anglers Club shelter slab – near boat ramp

Gwydir Oval

Work continued at the Gwydir oval's new amenities building during May. Internal plumbing was completed, the ceiling gyprocked, doors swung, cladding of the top floor, preliminary electrical rough work and painting commenced. The building is on track to be completed by 30 June, 2020.

Bingara Showground

The Bingara showground is being maintained. The grant proposal for additional lighting at the Bingara Showground through Regional Agricultural Shows grants program was unsuccessful.

The new general purpose shed at the showground had minimal work undertaken during May as staff priority was the Gwydir oval amenities building.

Industry NSW released Phase 1 stimulus package for Showgrounds for small projects that could be completed within three months of the grant funding announcement. Council submitted six small projects and was successful for the five projects listed below:

Description	Estimate
1. Replacement of cool room motor and repairs to cool room located underneath the Grandstand at Bingara	\$5,412.00
2. Construction of 3m x 3m awning over cool room located at polocrosse canteen.	\$3,666.53
3. Supply and installation of LED spot lights and energy efficient lighting in the main pavilion at Bingara	\$6,776.39
4. Electrical lighting and power points in the General purpose shed.	\$4,887.85
5. Repairs and maintenance identified from Aurecom inspection October 2019.	\$4,597.89
TOTAL	\$25,340.66

Phase 2 of the Showground Stimulus funding closed on 12 June 2020 and the following projects were submitted:

Description	Estimate
1. Extension and refurbishment of existing amenity building at Bingara Showground.	\$142,590.76
2. Supply and installation of LED field lighting at the Bingara Showground arena ring.	\$225,309.88
3. Removal of asbestos lining and refurbishment of Bingara showground Grandstand.	\$85,378.25
TOTAL	\$453,278.89

Plant and Workshop

The new Caterpillar grader was delivered on Wednesday 13 May 2020. The new Cat grader replaces the John Deere grader which was sold to Pickles Auctions.



New grader delivery

Major workshop repairs carried out during May included:

- Fabrication of new walkway for Bingara water pump station ready for industrial galvanising
- P 1721 - Grader – tandem seals, wheel bearing
- P1470 – Tractor – transmission sensor
- P1841 – Komatsu excavator – swivel head repairs
- P1788 – Grader – injector repairs
- P1662 – Water truck hydraulic repairs
- P1446 – Jetpatcher -air compressor replacement

5. ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

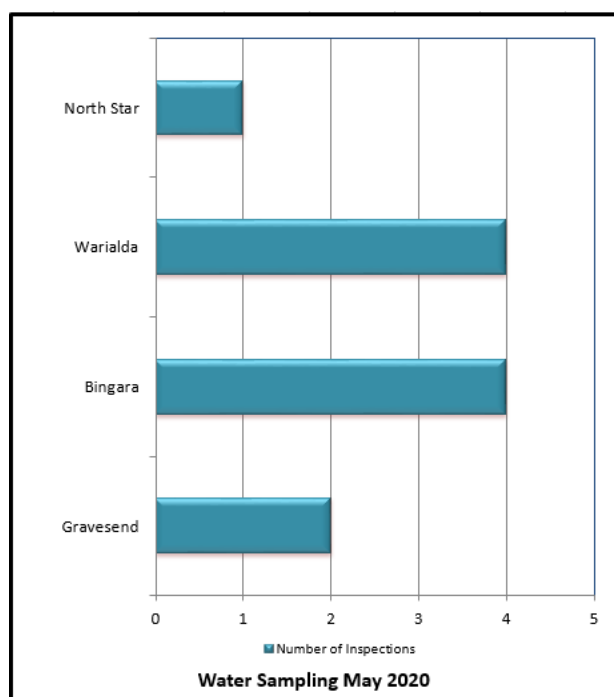
The Department continues to receive enquiries and provide advice on a range of health matters including:

- Overgrown properties
- Food premises design and fit-out
- Food handling practices
- Mobile food vendors
- Licensing
- Water carting
- Pet ownership

Water Surveillance

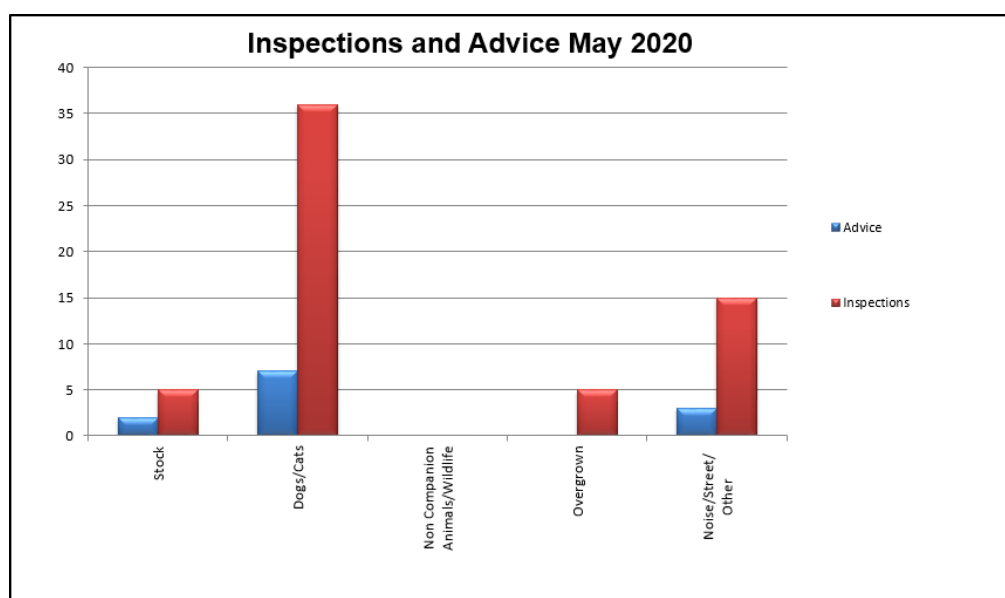
The Department continues to carry out routine weekly microbiological sampling of the water supply in the towns of Warialda and Bingara, fortnightly sampling of Gravesend and monthly sampling at North Star.

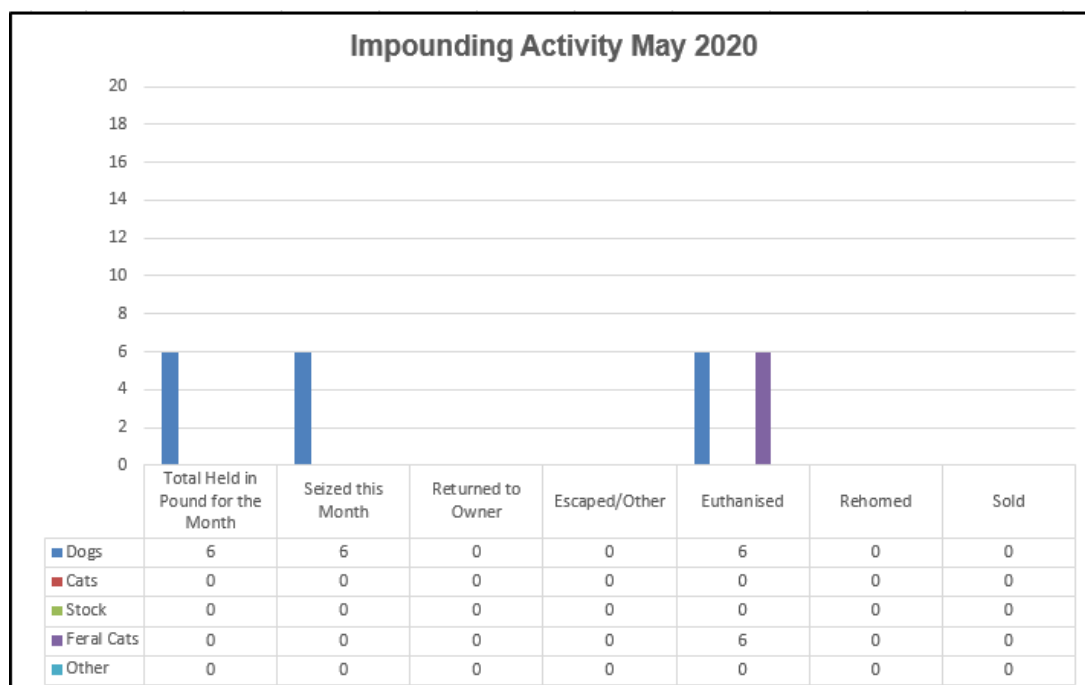
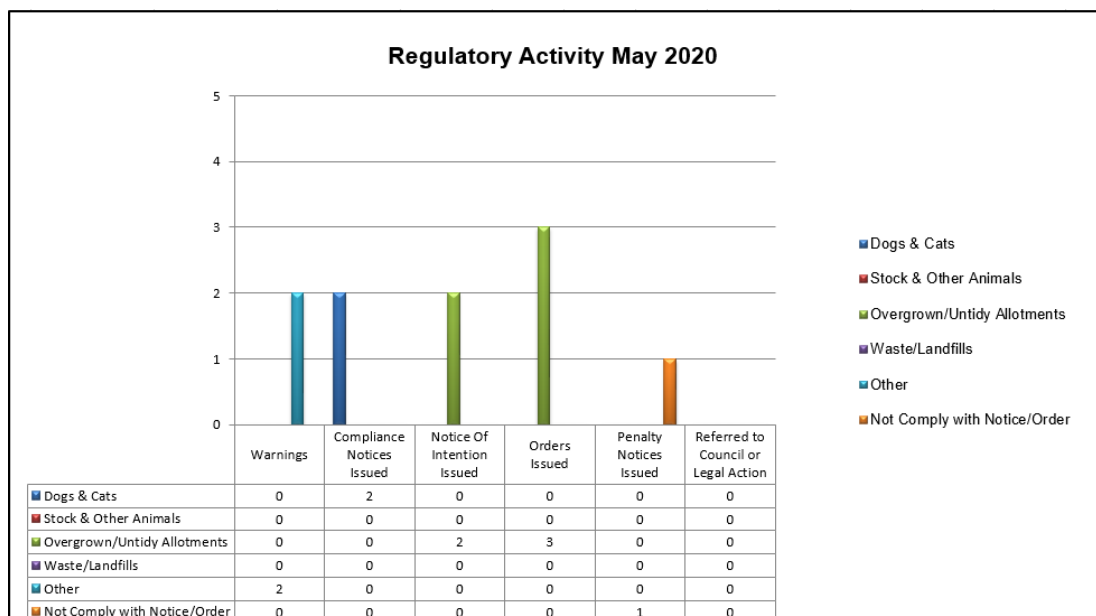
Health Related Inspections



Compliance and Regulatory Control

Council received complaints regarding roaming stock and dogs, noise, the keeping of animals and other concerns during the month of May 2020. These are investigated and actioned as necessary and are detailed in the following tables.



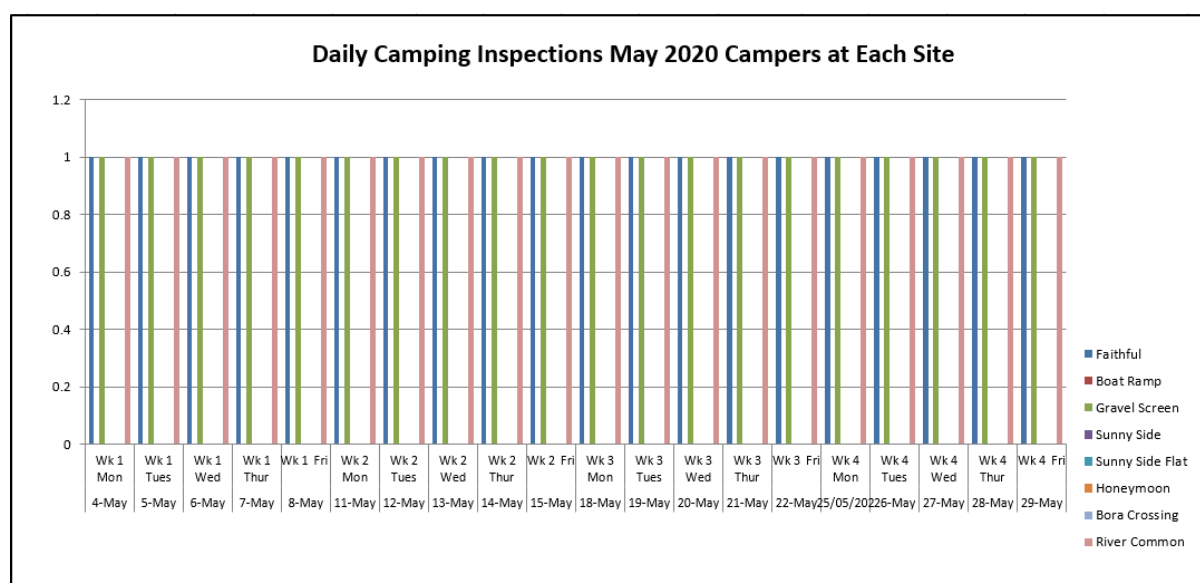
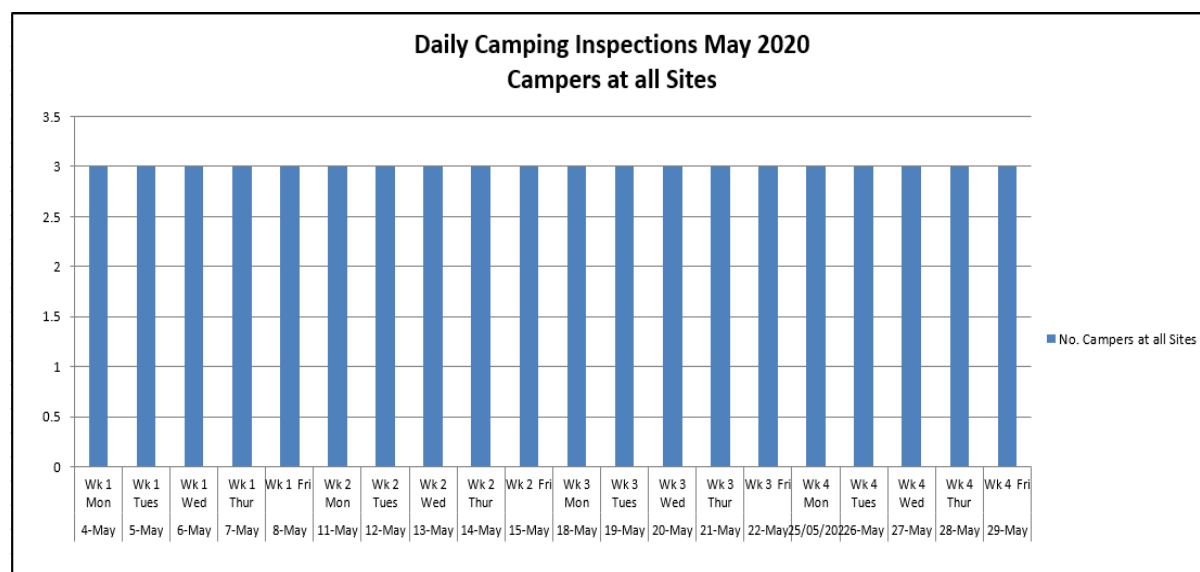


RIVERSIDE CAMPING

Council's Compliance Officer aims to carry out daily checks along the Gwydir 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 enquires from campers are addressed as necessary. The graphs below show total numbers of campers and the distribution of campers at the different campsites.

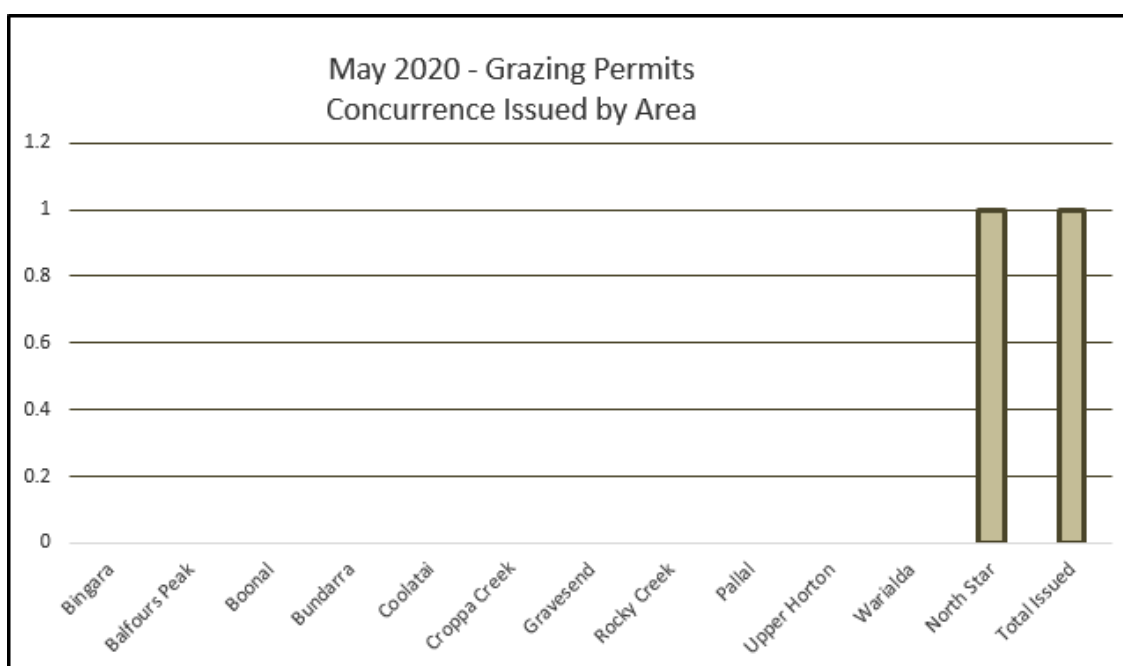
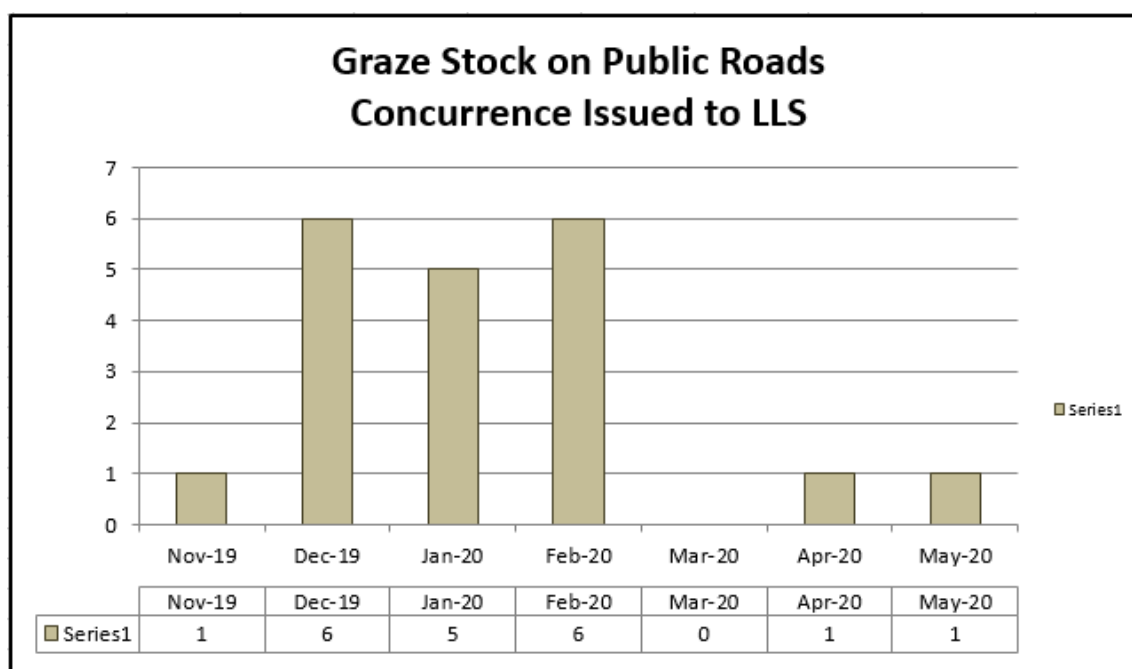
The current restrictions imposed regarding the Covid-19 pandemic have seen bans imposed on all non-essential travel and the subsequent closure of campgrounds. While the campgrounds are officially closed there are some exemptions in place for people who were already set up on the campground on 1 April 2020. Three campers have elected to stay on the campgrounds over the last month.

With campgrounds set to open from the 1st June 2020 and people again allowed to travel it will be interesting to see the impact this has on the number of campers recorded over the coming months.



GRAZING PERMITS

As the Consent Authority for road reserves, Council has issued concurrence to the North West Local Land Services for only one Roadside Grazing Permits during the month of May 2020. Recent favorable conditions have provided welcome relief in the district and the demand for roadside grazing has eased. The following graph shows the applications received May 2020 compared to the previous 6 months.

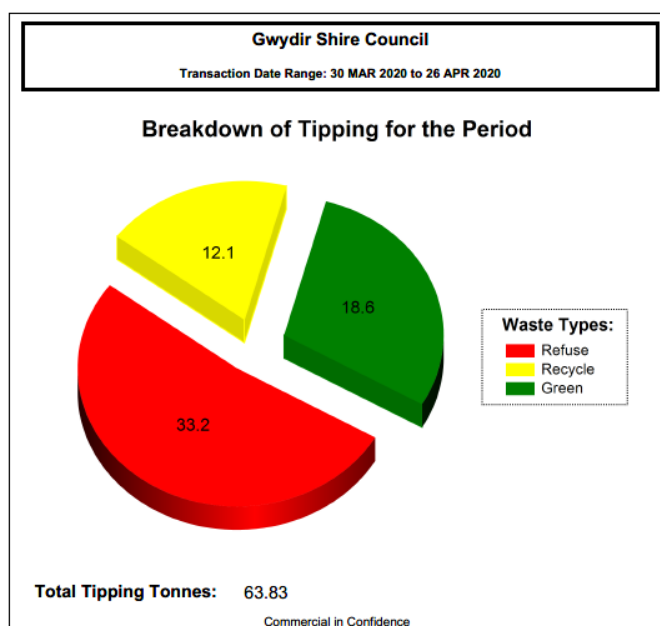


WASTE SERVICES

Scheduled kerbside collection of waste, recycling and green waste was carried out throughout the Shire in May. Customer service requests are processed and actioned as necessary.

All Waste Recovery Centres in the Shire continue to be supervised/monitored and maintained. Staff continue to make changes to the site layout and signage to improve onsite operation and access for residents unloading waste and recyclable materials. Council is continuing to supply mulch from chipped green waste to residents.

Breakdown of Waste Collection

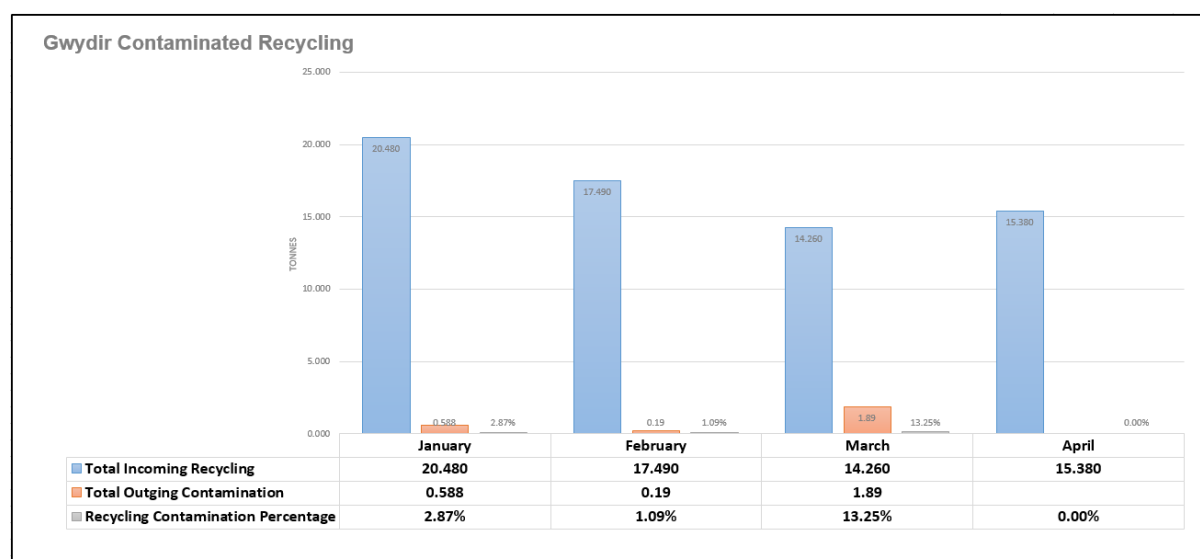


CONTAMINATION REPORTING

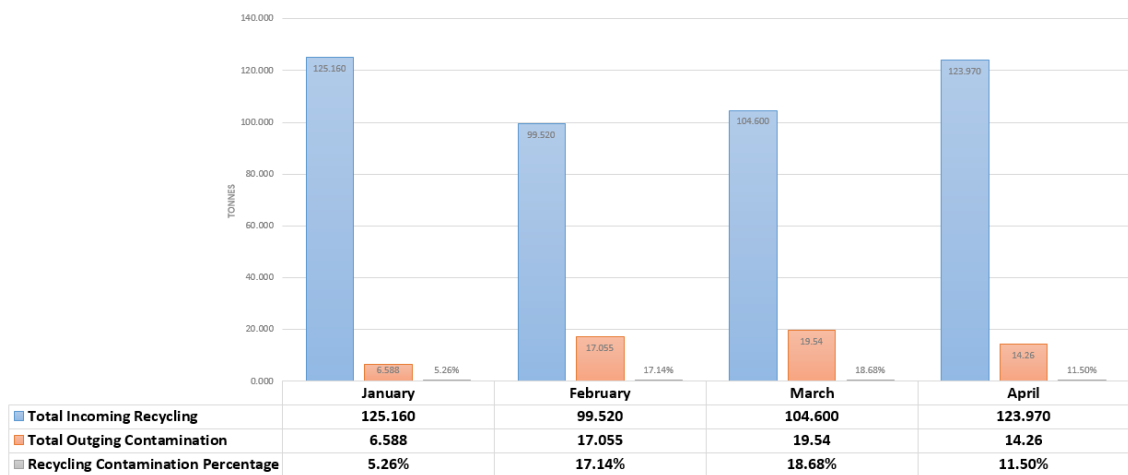
Cleanaway has refined the collection of their contamination data and now reports on contamination rates for each Council area (Moree, Narrabri and Gwydir). This gives an accurate reflection of the contamination rate for waste generated within the Gwydir Shire area, rather than the previously reported statistics which were unable to accurately report which LGA was experiencing problems with contamination in the recycling and organics waste collections.

The graphs below show contamination rates for both the Gwydir Shire and the combined collections area for the month of April compared to the previous three months, noting that there is some overlap of data collected prior to January 2020.

Recycling Contamination

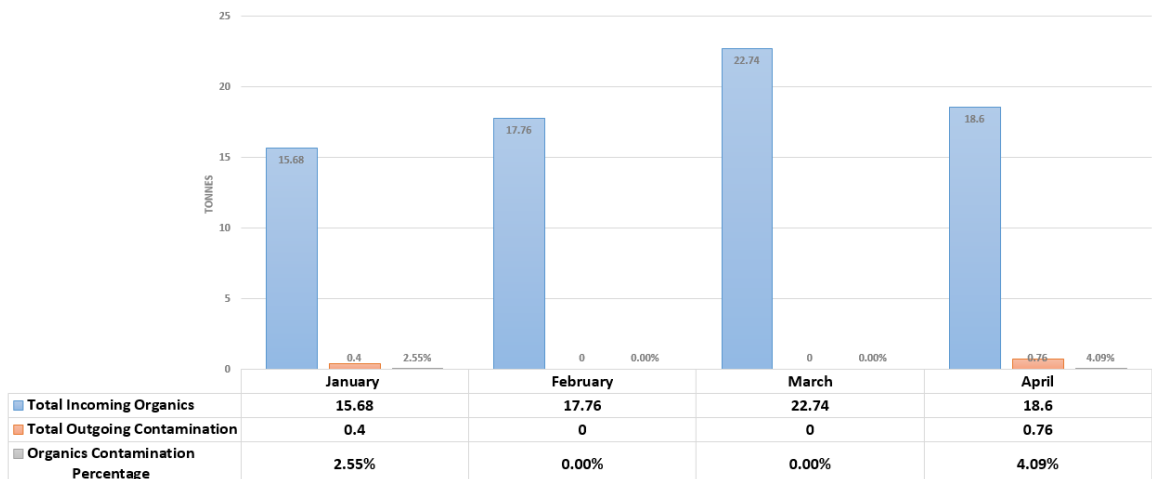


Combined Contaminated Recycling

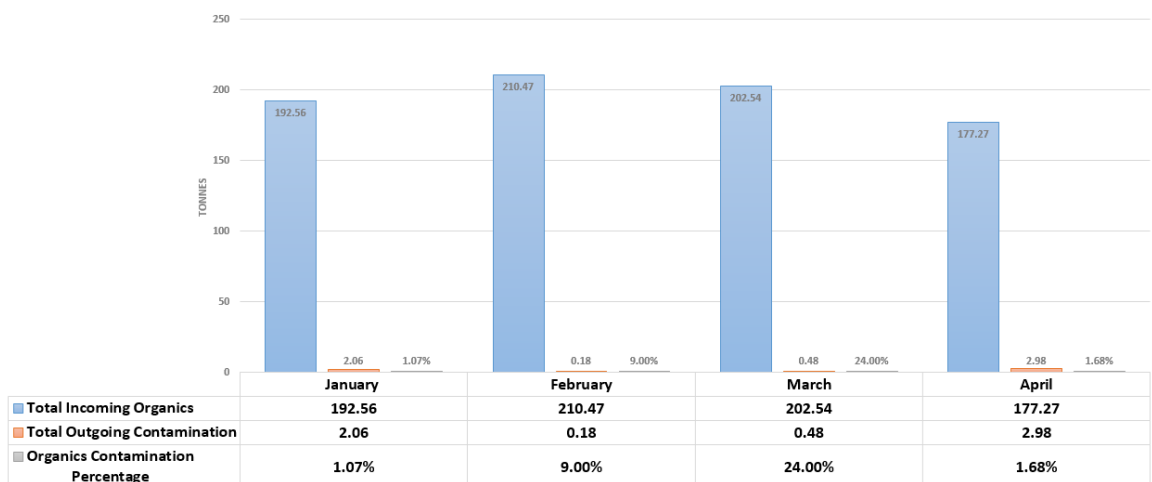


Organics Contamination

Gwydir Contaminated Organics



Combined Contaminated Organics



Comment from Cleanaway

“Combined Recycling Contamination is down this month from 18.68% to 11.50% which is encouraging. Cleanaway is committed to continue following Council procedures on contamination and is actively stickering bins, recording contamination and sending contamination letters to continue to advise & educate residents on allowable recycling products. Jacqui has been in discussion with Matt at Challenge and will continue to work with him on identifying contaminated loads and lines.”

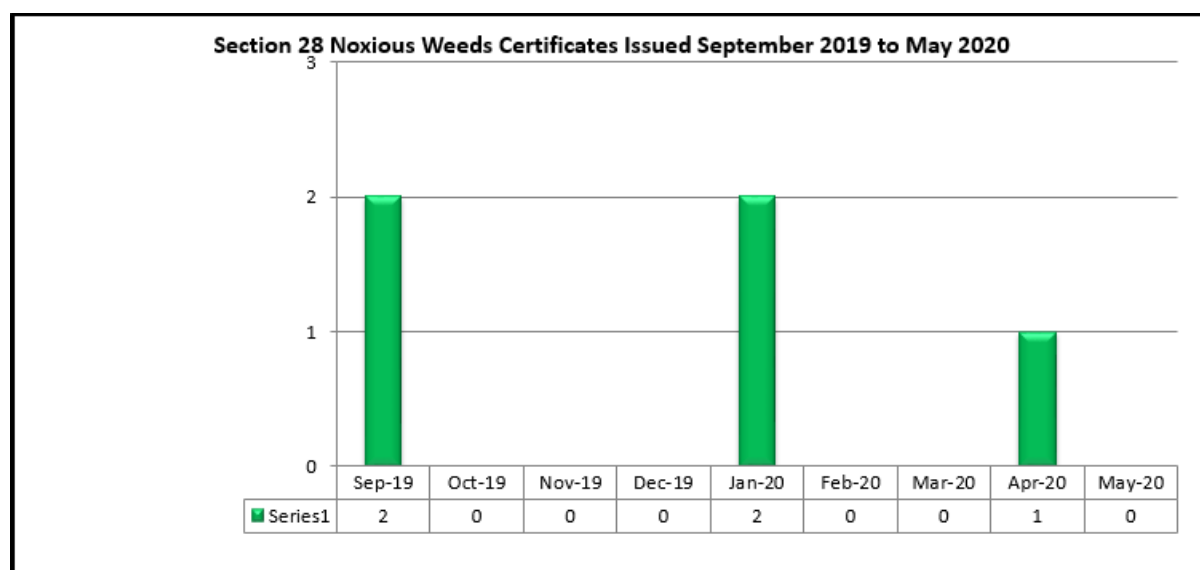
NOXIOUS WEEDS CONTROL**Property Inspection Program**

Staff continue to assist farmers and the community with:

- Funding advice
- Noxious weeds advice
- Property inspections
- Spraying of noxious weeds
- Property inspections are currently being undertaken in Section D.

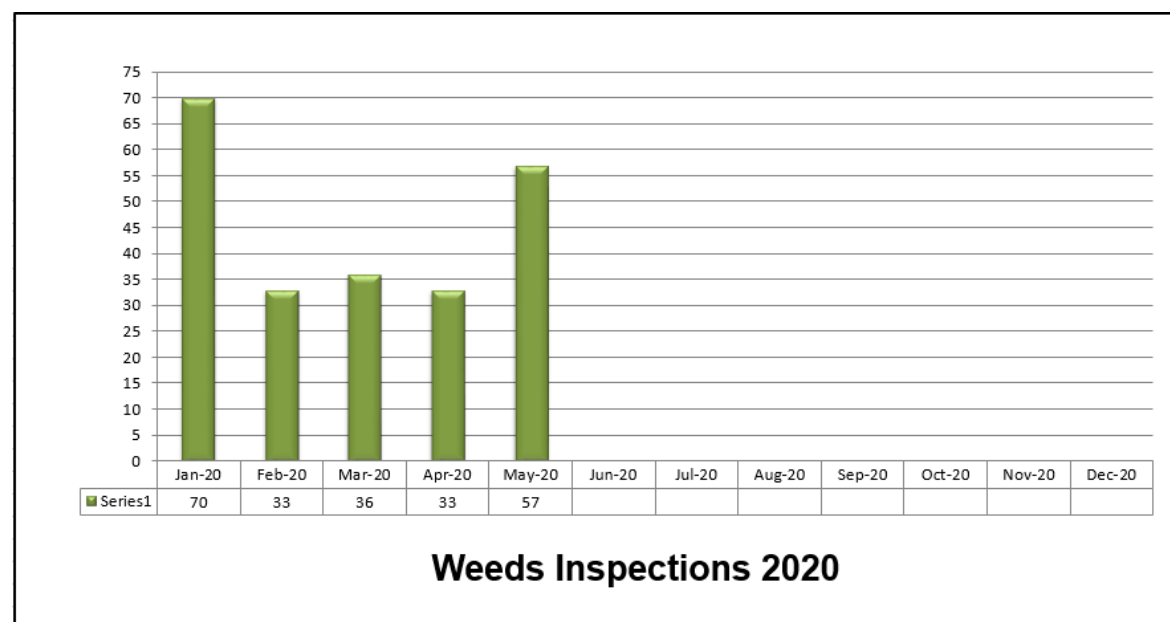
Section 28 Noxious Weeds Certificates

No certificates were issued for the month of May 2020. The graphs below show the noxious weeds certificates issued since September 2019:

**Weeds Inspections**

Property inspections are currently being undertaken in Section D, with property owners being offered support and advice on managing weeds during the current adverse conditions.

The following graphs and charts show the noxious weeds inspections carried out in 2020.



Noxious Weeds Inspections for the Month of May 2020

<i>Areas Inspected</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Ha</i>	<i>Rd km</i>	<i>Weeds Present</i>
Private Property	1	0.2		Tree Pear
Private Property	1	844	-	African Boxthorn, Tree Pear
Private Property – High Risk Re-Inspection	1	3600		Parthenium
Roadside	23	1234.4	246.88	Parkinsonia, Tree Pear, African Boxthorn, Harissa Cactus, Tiger Pear, Mother of Millions, Pattersons Curse
Roadside – High Risk Pathways	15	2101.35	420.27	African Boxthorn, Mimosa Bush, Tree Pear, Harissa Cactus, Mother of Millions, Patersons Curse, Common Pear, Rope Pear
Council Land	1	590		Mother of Millions
Crown Land	2	84	-	Tiger Pear, Harissa Cactus, Mother of Millions
Truckstops	7	35	-	None Found
Waterways – High Risk	1	2		Giant Cane Grass, African Boxthorn, Green Cestrum
Grain Handling Sites	4	38		Tree Pear, African Boxthorn, Mimosa Bush
National Parks/Nature Reserves	1	526		Tree Pear

Noxious Weeds Control Works for May 2020

Road/Property	Locality	Weed Code	Area Ha	Road km	High Risk Road	Council Road	Other
Gravel Storage Depot	Bingara	ab	5				1
Bingara Sewerage Treatment Works	Bingara	ab	10				1
Allan Cunningham Rd	Bingara	ab	50		1		
Whitlow Rd	Whitlow	ab	116.9	23.38		1	
Old Barraba Rd	Bingara	ab	5.05	1.01		1	
Bingara Showground	Bingara	ab	40				1
Bereen Rd	Upper Horton	ab	74.4	14.88		1	
Trevallyn Rd	Upper Horton	ab	90.4	18.08		1	
Currangandi Rd	Upper Horton	ab	61	12.2		1	
Trevallyn Rd	Upper Horton	ab	90.4	18.08		1	
Back Creek Rd	Back Creek	ab	87.55	17.51		1	
Pinecliff Rd	Back Creek	ab	35	7		1	
Moreena Mail Rd	Bangheet	ab	59	11.8		1	
Pallal Rd	Pallal	ab	62.15	12.43		1	
Caroda Rd	Elcombe	ab	184.5	36.9		1	
Bingara River Common East	Bingara	ab	30				1
Bingara River Common West	Bingara	ab	40				1
Copeton Dam Rd	Bingara	ab-cc	261.7	52.34	1		
Bora Rd	Bingara	ab-cc	36.3	7.26		1	
Betts Quarry	Bingara	ab-cc	10				1
Bingara River Common West	Bingara	pc-gc	30				1
6 East Street	Bingara	gc	1				1
Bingara River Common East	Bingara	pc-gc	40				1
Copeton Dam Rd	Bingara	pc	261.7	52.34	1		
Halls Creek	Bingara	ab	10				1
Halls Creek	Bingara	gc-mv	10				1
Betts Quarry	Bingara	pc	10				1
North Star Rd	North Star	tp	408.6	81.72	1		
Gragin Rd	Gragin		124.75	24.95	1		
Ottley Rd	Coolatai	nb-tp	52	10.4		1	
Mosquito Creek Rd	Warialda	tp	224.95	44.99	1		
River Rd	Gravesend	tp	113.9	22.78	1		
Bingara River Common	Bingara	gc	70				1
Mosquito Creek Rd	Warialda	tp	224.95	44.99	1		
Koorilgur Nature Reserve	Warialda	mm	590				1
Allandale Rd	Warialda	ab	39.5	7.9		1	
Munsies Rd	Warialda	ab	62.5	12.5		1	
Lochallan Rd	Warialda	ab	7.5	1.5		1	
Fairford Rd	Warialda	ab	64	12.8		1	
Gragin Rd	Warialda	ab	124.75	24.95	1		
Eden Forest Rd	Gravesend	ab	61	12.2	1		
River Rd	Gravesend	ab	113.9	22.78	1		
River Rd	Gravesend	ab	113.9	22.78	1		
Mosquito Creek Rd	Warialda	tp	224.5	44.9	1		
Mosquito Creek Rd	Warialda	tp-hc	224.95	44.99	1		

6. DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING SERVICES

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

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

No.	Property Description	Development/ Work	\$	C/C	BIC	S68
14/2019	Lot: 7302 DP: 1162328 Res: R30190 Gineroi Road GINEROI NSW 2404	RFS Shed – single bay with amenities and 22,000ltr water tank.	70,000	✓		
5/2020	21 Holden Street WARIALDA NSW 2402	Skillion and deck attached to existing garage.	5000	✓		
7/2020	8 Finch Street BINGARA NSW 2404	Enclosed shed/workshop with attached awning.	17,000	✓		
9/2020	152 Long Street WARIALDA NSW 2402	Extensions and upgrade to existing kitchen and conversion of covered deck to an office space.	419,898	✓		
10/2020	15403 Gwydir Highway GRAVESEND NSW 2401	Swimming Pool.	39,400	✓		
4/2020	5309 Trevallyn Road UPPER HORTON NSW 2347	Install new OSSM system.				✓
5/2020	Lot:22 DP: 754836 Riverview Road BINGARA NSW 2404	Minor alterations to existing septic.				✓
6/2020	54 Bingara Street WARIALDA RAIL NSW 2402	Install new Taylex Aerated Water Treatment System.				✓

The following Construction Certificate (C/C) applications were approved by a Private Certifier and lodged with Council during the month.

No.	Property Description	Development/ Work	\$	C/C
Nil				

ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY	No	ACTION TAKEN					
		Inspected	Letter Sent	Application/ Certificate Lodged	Penalty Notice	Legal Action	Refer to Council
Nil							

NO. OF COMPLAINTS/INSPECTIONS

Type	No.	Yr. to Date	Actioned	Pending
Building	22	147	144	3

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 during May 2020

Staff worked on the following projects during May:

- Gwydir Oval amenities – 80% of work is complete.
- Bingara Museum – 50% of work is complete.
- Warialda Memorial Hall kitchen upgrade – 90% of work is complete.
- Warialda gym asbestos removal, recladding and painting – complete.
- Warialda gym wall cladding removal on outside in preparation for installation of air conditioning – 90% of work complete.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Attachment 1 shows the proposed RFS burn plan for Warialda surrounds. The Warialda Burn Proposals 2020 is a schedule of works that the RFS hopes to commence on the 15 June 2020, weather permitting. The purple hatched areas shown on Attachment 1 are the areas that RFS proposes to burn and in no particular order. The grey hatched area located along Redbank Road is split into three blocks; the first of these blocks closest to the Gwydir Hwy, will be the first of these blocks to be burned.

Attachment 2 shows the Warialda mosaic prescribed burn plan map as a projection of what the RFS plans to burn over the next five to seven years. This is a work in progress which will change as the RFS identifies further areas for hazard reduction. Currently, with the existing legislation, there is a seven-year period in which one must wait before introducing fire again to that area. If the legislation changes at all, it can then be implemented into the program.

BIG RIVER DREAMING PROJECT

One of the projects funded under the Big River Dreaming Grant was the installation of a pontoon on the Gwydir River at Bingara. The installation has been finalised.

**CONCLUSION**

The activities carried out by the Technical Services Department are in line with the 2019/2020 Management Plan and otherwise as directed.

CONSULTATION

Consultation is carried out within the Technical Services Department during the monthly Technical Services team meetings and other relevant persons.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

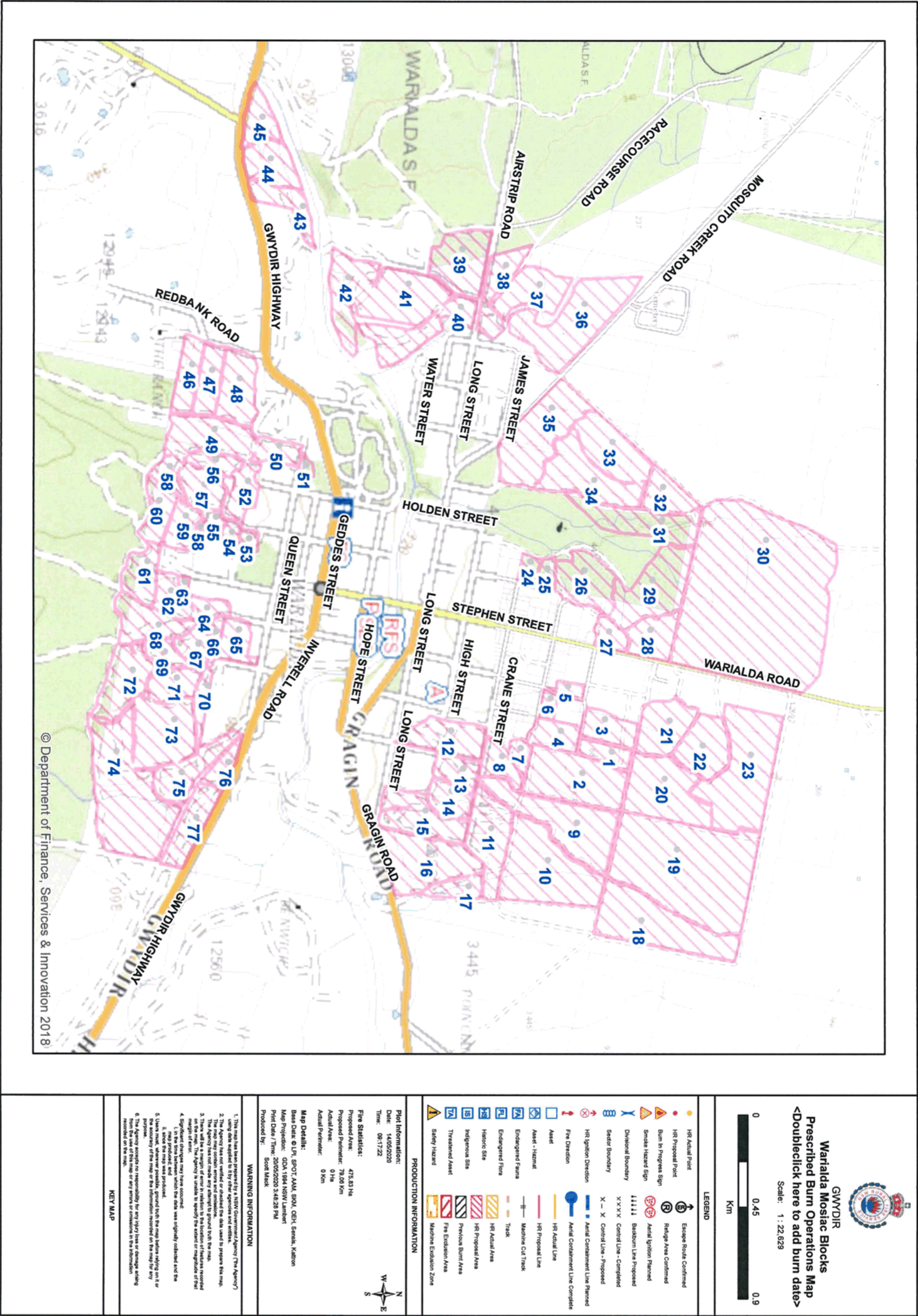
THAT the monthly Technical Services report for May be received

ATTACHMENTS

AT- RFS Prescribed Burn Plan for Warialda

AT- Attach 2 - Warialda Mosaic Burn Plan





Item 7 Correspondence from Murray Darling Association

FILE REFERENCE

DELIVERY PROGRAM

GOAL: 4. Proactive Regional and Local Leadership

OUTCOME: 4.1 WE ARE AN ENGAGED & CONNECTED COMMUNITY

STRATEGY: 4.1.1 Encourage an informed community - GM - external

AUTHOR General Manager

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

COMMENT

The attached Murray Darling Association Delegate's report and attachments are submitted for information.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Murray Darling Association Delegate's report be received

ATTACHMENTS

AT- MDA Delegate's report and attachments

MDA Delegate's Report for tabling at council

April 2020



The Murray Darling Association (MDA) is Australia's peak body representing local government across the Murray-Darling Basin. The following delegate's report provides a detailed report for tabling at council, including a summary of MDA Board Meeting 396, MDA reports, CEO's report, region meetings and the latest edition of the Basin Bulletin.

1. MDA Board Meeting 396

The Murray Darling Association held its Ordinary Meeting of the Board Meeting 396 on Monday 23rd March 2020. The minutes are now available [here](#).

Key motions include:

Motion 5.3: That the Board award Region 4 hosting right for the 2021 National Conference to Wentworth Council on a date to be determined by agreement

J Campbell/ B Lockyer Carried

Carried

Motion 5.4: That the MDA:

1. a) Postpone the 76th National Conference currently scheduled
2. b) Monitor closely Departmental advice around the COVID-19 developments and provide updates
3. c) Notify Stakeholders

J MacAllister / M Rebbeck

Carried

2. Communication reports

The following reports have been prepared for MDA members and the board throughout March.

Date	Report No	Topic	Author	Approved
03/03/2020	03032020	Inquiry into the Management of MDB Water Resources. Shepparton	Gemma Wilson	E. Bradbury
24/02/2020	(TSB024/20)	Basin Community Leadership Program MDBA & Water NSW	Tony Banks	E. Bradbury
16/03/2020	(TSB025/20)	MDA Strategic Planning Workshop Delegates Report	Emma Bradbury	E. Bradbury
18/03/2020	18032020	Floodplain Harvesting Measurement Policy Meeting	James Marshall	E. Bradbury

3. CEO's Report

During the past few months, the MDA's Chief Executive Officer Emma Bradbury has actively engaged with state and federal government representatives on advocacy and information sharing on behalf of the MDA membership. This includes meetings with:

- **The Hon Minister Keith Pitt, Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia and Advisors Craig Bradley & Marcus Finn**
Brief introduction to Minister Keith Pitt. Advised of MDA key message that NSW WRP's need to be completed. Also spoke to looking beyond 2024 to Basin Plan 2. Discussed economic diversification, connecting communities and catchments and invited to attend BCLP.
- **Adam Obeid – Policy Advisor to the Hon Anthony Lynham – Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy David Wiskar - Executive Director – Water Policy Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy**
Teleconference to discuss Queensland's management of current inflows and position regarding feasibility of proposed river diversion scheme.
- **Nicole Emara – CSIRO**
Discussion regarding collaboration with CSIRO on the development of Australia's National Outlook: Murray-Darling Basin and progression of Relationship Agreement
- **Scott Keyworth – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment**
General discussion regarding development and release of measurement policy and how to best support NSW to complete their WRP's.

For more information, a comprehensive CEO's report is available [here](#).

4. Region Meetings

Region meetings are an important platform for Basin communities to collaborate and work together within and across their regions. The following region meetings were held throughout the March – April 2020 period:

Region	Meeting Type	Date	Minutes
Region 4	Ordinary Meeting	10 March 2020	Available here
Region 5	AGM and Ordinary Meeting	16 March 2020	Available here
Region 9	Ordinary Meeting	23 March 2020	Available soon.

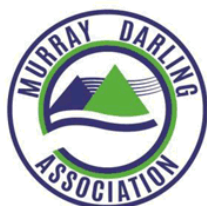
5. Basin Bulletin Issue 32 – March Newsletter

The MDA publishes the Basin Bulletin newsletter monthly. This month's newsletter (Issue 32) included the following stories:

- MDA COVID-19 updates, including postponement of the MDA 76th National Conference and Basin Communities
- An update on the MDA Strategic Workshop and inks to presentations
- Basin News Snapshot – round-up of the latest Basin news

Basin Bulletin Issue 32 can be accessed [here](#).

To receive the next edition of the Basin Bulletin, please register on the MDA website (www.mda.asn.au) or [email](#) MDA Comms and Engagement Officer Jess to request to be added to the distribution list.



Murray Darling Association Inc.

admin@mda.asn.au
www.mda.asn.au
T (03) 5480 3805
ABN: 64 636 490 493
250 Anstruther Street
P.O. Box 1268 Echuca, Vic 3564

Ordinary Meeting of the Board Meeting 396 Monday 23rd March 2020

MINUTES - MEETING No. 396

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

Meeting open at 1.00pm

Cr David Thurley	Albury City Council	Region 1
Cr Dennis Patterson	City of Greater Shepparton	Region 2
Cr Melissa Rebbeck	Alexandrina Council	Region 6
Cr Brian Lockyer	Barunga West Council	Region 8
Cr Paul Maytom	Leeton Shire Council	Region 9
Cr Jane MacAllister	Wentworth Shire Council	Region 4
Cr John Campbell	Gunnedah Council	Region 11
Cr Richard Marsh	Balonne Shire Council	Region 12
Emma Bradbury	MDA	CEO
Tony Banks	MDA	Executive
Jessica Maher	MDA	Minute Taker

1.2 Apologies:

Cr Peter Raison	Mid Murray Council	Region 5
Cr Phyllis Miller	Forbes Shire Council	Region 10
Pete George	M&S Group	Treasurer

Motion: That apologies be accepted and noted.

B Lockyer / D Patterson

Carried

1.3 Declarations

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 [Meeting 395](#) held via Zoom Calendar Monday 17th February 2020

Motion: That the minutes of board meeting 395 are approved as an accurate record of that meeting.

J Campbell / B Lockyer

Carried

3. REPORTS

3.1 [Chairman's report](#)

D Thurley provided a brief summary of the chairman's report, including events such as the recent Region 1 meeting, and his attendance at the Interim Inspector-General's consultation in Albury.

3.2 [Finance Report:](#)

E Bradbury provided a finance report, on behalf of P George, MDA Treasurer.

E Bradbury noted that the financial reports will look different next month given there have been significant adjustments last week due to BCLP reassignments. E Bradbury said that based on the original reports as attached, the balance sheet remains healthy in terms of cash.

E Bradbury also noted that the MDA's new end of financial year is March 31.

3.3 [Chief Executive Officers report](#)

In addition to the CEO's report, E Bradbury provided an update to the board in terms of COVID-19 and its impacts on the MDA.

E Bradbury noted that the staff are working hard to develop and put in place continuity plans, communications and strategies for developments in this situation. E Bradbury emphasised that as a first principle, the MDA's priority is to ensure continuity of service and employment.

E Bradbury also noted that the MDA will be well placed in the recovery process for Basin communities, and assisting the government on supporting communities in the Basin through the MDA's extensive network.

D Patterson noted that one of the impacts of COVID-19 may be that some councils will struggle to pay for the membership fees, and this is something that the MDA needs to be mindful of.

E Bradbury concluded that the MDA's strategy for financial continuity will definitely take into account that membership fees will be impacted

3.4 [Region reports](#)

Region 4

Cr Jane MacAllister: *The water as you may well know has made its way to Menindee, lots of excitement from small towns that haven't seen water for some time. The lower darling remains dry. A lot of irrigators down there have grapes that are just about ready to be harvested and don't want nasty water to get sucked up through their pumps and have irrigation impacted. A lot of concern in the community about whether management of that water was the same as it was last time. The next lot of chatter now is whether sufficient water will arrive via the lower darling and whether it would activate water allocations for general security in the lower basin. We're having weekly water critical advisory group meetings. We had a council meeting and it was probably our last one face to face. Trying to work out what we can continue with council services, and keeping abreast of what is happening in the water space.*

Region 8

Cr Brian Lockyer: *Due to all of the recent announcements, a lot of the events have been cancelled or deferred in our region. At this stage, our next region 8 meeting will be done 3rd or 4th of May but we're not clear yet if it will go ahead or how.*

Motion: That the reports are noted.

J MacAllister / P Maytom

Carried

4. CORRESPONDENCE

4.1 Correspondences Out

- 4.1.1 NSW Water Management [Minister Pavey](#)
- 4.1.2 NSW Water Management [Minister Pavey](#)
- 4.1.3 NSW Water Management [Media Release](#)
- 4.1.4 Canberra Visit 26 – 27 February 2020
 - 4.1.4.1 [Communication report](#)
 - 4.1.4.2 [Correspondences](#) Combined
- 4.1.5 National Conference [Notification of change of date letters](#)

4.2 Correspondences In

- 4.2.1 National Water Infrastructure – feasibility investment [The Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP](#)
- 4.2.2 MDBA Chair [Correspondence](#) Combined Minister Pavey and Minister Neville

M Rebbeck noted that the draft report of the Independent Assessment of Social and Economic Conditions report has been released and expressed that MDA and its regions should do their best to provide feedback and comments on this.

Motion: That the Board received correspondence.

J Campbell / P Maytom

Carried

5 BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 Review of actions table

[MDA Matters in Progress](#) arising from previous Meetings

Board will review the motions arising and actions completed from previous board meetings in more detail at Board Meeting 397.

5.2 Strategic Workshop Priorities

The 3 top priorities identified for the MDA at the Strategic Workshop on 12th & 13th March 2020 in Moama were:

1. Development and production of **Membership Tools and Services**.
2. Implementation of **Strategic Projects, Initiatives and Programs** within the wider MDB Footprint.
3. Establishment of the **Murray-Darling Basin Local Government Centre of Excellence**.

The updated Strategic Plan 2020 – 2024 will be presented to the Board for consideration at the April 2020 Board Meeting.

E Bradbury provided further updates to the board about advice from the MDA's strategic advisory group, which included aligning our strategic plan with our the NSW framework.

M Rebbeck noted her region's concern regarding the strategic priorities, and sought more opportunities to give further feedback.

Page 3 of 5

D Thurley strongly encouraged board members to send any further comments and suggestions to the MDA executive as soon as possible.

J MacAllister reflected on the strategic workshop and recommended that Bob Stewart be approached to join the Strategic Advisory Group.

E Bradbury agreed, and recommended that J MacAllister propose a motion recommending B Stewart.

Motion: That the CEO approach Bob Stewart to join the advisory group.
J MacAllister / D Thurley

Carried

5.3 2021 National Conference and AGM

In 2019 the Greater City Shepparton Council and the Wentworth Council submitted competitive tendered applications to hold the 2020 National Conference, with GCSC awarded with the hosting rights for 2020. There has been growing support for Region 4 to hold the upcoming 2021 National Conference and AGM with Wentworth Council being the ideal host.

Motion: That the Board award Region 4 hosting right for the 2021 National Conference to Wentworth Council on a date to be determined by agreement

J Campbell/ B Lockyer

Carried

5.4 2020 National Conference

Considering the current COVID-19 pandemic crisis and rapidly changing circumstances, we are unable to predict whether we will be able to proceed with the 76th National Conference in Shepparton, July 22nd, 23rd and 24th as initially planned. We are closely monitoring Departmental advice around the COVID-19 developments.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced (18/03/2020)

"Indoor gatherings of more than 100 people are banned but schools, universities, airports, public transport, medical and emergency services facilities, aged care homes, jails, courts, parliaments, supermarkets and many workplaces are exempt"

1. The MDA staff will provide updated communication reports weekly based on the best available advice.
2. A decision to proceed or cancel this event will be made by the Board at the appropriate time.

Motion: That the MDA:

- a) Postpone the 76th National Conference currently scheduled
- b) Monitor closely Departmental advice around the COVID-19 developments and provide updates
- c) Notify Stakeholders

J MacAllister / M Rebbeck

Carried

5.5 The Murray Darling Local Government Association

The Strategic Advisory Committee have considered a range of options for naming conventions of the MDA. Ministerial approval and registration of the name Murray Darling Local Government Association occurred in 2019 pending further consultation prior to use or adoption. General discussion agreed that the entitlement and responsibility afforded as a registered Local Government Association aligns with the priorities identified in consultation for the 2020 - 2024 MDA Strategic Plan.

Motion: That the Murray Darling Association

- i) Maintain registration of the name Murray Darling Local Government Association as approved.
- ii) Continue to trade as the Murray Darling Association.

M Rebbeck / J MacAllister

Carried

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 MDA Communication Reports

Date	Report No	Topic	Author	Approved
03/03/2020	03032020	Inquiry into the Management of MDB Water Resources. Shepparton	Gemma Wilson	E. Bradbury
24/02/2020	TSB024/20	Basin Community Leadership Program MDBA & Water NSW	Tony Banks	E. Bradbury
16/03/2020	TSB025/20	MDA Strategic Planning Workshop Delegates Report	Emma Bradbury	E. Bradbury
18/03/2020	18032020	Floodplain Harvesting Measurement Policy Meeting	James Marshall	E. Bradbury

J MacAllister noted a minor correction for the "Floodplain Harvesting Measurement Policy Meeting" Report and updated the board that she will through her notes for circulation.

M Rebbeck noted that she spoke to T Banks regarding BCLP and the impacts of COVID-19.

T Banks provided an update to the board regarding BCLP and continuity planning.

7. CLOSE at 2.01pm



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MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION

COMMUNICATION REPORT

TOPIC / ISSUE: *Inquiry into management of Murray-Darling Basin water resources*
Town Hall Session - Shepparton RSL

DATE: 3 March 2020

INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION:

- ☒ MDA Board Members
- ☐ Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
- ☐ Internal MDA Officers

EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION: **Confidential – no further release**

ENCLOSURES / ATTACHMENTS: ☒ Yes ☐ No

REPORT OUTCOMES:

- ☒ For Information / Awareness
- ☐ Potential Action Items
- ☐ Guidance Requested
- ☐ Decision Requested
- ☐ Recommendations Included

Purpose

To inform the board members and nominated officers of the **MDA's attendance** at the Interim Inspector-General's **"Inquiry into management of Murray-Darling Basin water resources"** town hall session in Shepparton on the 27th February 2020.

Executive Summary

The Interim Inspector-General Mick Keelty AO is currently undertaking an inquiry into the management of Murray-Darling Basin water resources, at the request of the Hon David Littleproud MP, former Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management.

Consultation is currently in progress. Although the online feedback period has closed, the Interim Inspector General and his office are currently holding a series of Town Hall sessions across the Basin.

Jess Maher, Cathy Keegan and Gemma Wilson attended the Town Hall session in Shepparton on Thursday 27th February 2020.

Background

As per the previous meeting attended by MDA CEO Emma Bradbury on Thursday 23rd January 2020 in Deniliquin (attached), the Inspector-General is consistent in his messaging regarding the inquiry.

(Board Meeting 396) (Inquiry into management of Murray-Darling Basin water resources) Page 1 of 3

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The inquiry is in relation to the water sharing agreement between the basin states – NSW, VIC & SA. It is not about the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. It will look at water inflows, impact on the agreements when the inflows don't match, and the potential opportunities for enhancement.

Inspector General Keelty re-iterated the following questions he is asking.

- Where is the single source of information for the Basin?
- Is the Ministerial Council agile and responsive enough to meet AND act when crisis/events occur e.g. St George flooding?
- How do river operators and the MDBA account for spills? Can it be credited back to the environment?
- Why is there no consistency with laws and licences between the states?

Observations

Around 150 people attended the meeting.

Questions from the floor came from a range of parties – Irrigators, farmers, local MPs, dairy industry.

Concerns/questions:

- Riverbank erosion – caused by environmental water
- Total amount of allocations needs to be recalculated by MDBA
- When will the outcomes of the inquiry be acted on?
- Water needs to be treated like other commodities
- Flood plain harvesting
- Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder – can they release water in critical times?

Gemma Wilson

Grants and Policy Officer
Murray Darling Association Inc.

Attachment:

1. 200123 - Inquiry into management of Murray-Darling Basin water resources - MDA - Communication Report



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MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION

COMMUNICATION REPORT

TOPIC / ISSUE:	Stakeholder Meeting – MDBA & Water NSW Representatives Basin Communities Leadership Program		
DATE:	Monday, 24 FEB 2020		
INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> MDA Board Members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chief Executive Officer (CEO) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal MDA Officers		
EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION:	Nil Identified at time of release. (At CEO discretion thereafter)		
REFERENCES:	A. MDA – BCLP (Water Literacy – Content & Promotional Materials).		
ENCLOSURES / ATTACHMENTS:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
REPORT OUTCOMES:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Information / Awareness <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Potential Action Items <input type="checkbox"/> Guidance Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Decision Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Recommendations Included		

Purpose

To inform internal MDA officers of the agenda / outcomes surrounding the meeting with MDBA representative Digby Jacobs; and Water NSW representative Vince Kelly.

Executive Summary

Key messages relating to the topic:

- MDBA and Water NSW representatives were invited to MDA head office on Mon 24 FEB 20 for:
 - Introduction / meet the XO / BCLP Project Manager;
 - Discuss and promote the BCLP;
 - Seek their support by way of expert review and feedback regarding the MDA's water literacy module (learning content developed by the MDA).

Background

Mr Vince Kelly (Water NSW) and Mr Digby Jacobs (MDBA-Albury) are both experts in the field of water literacy within the Murray-Darling Basin. Previous engagements between the CEO and these officers have proven highly beneficial for the MDA when sourcing expert advice and information in their field.

(TSB024/20)

(Comms Report – BCLP Meeting 24FEB20)

Page 1 of 3

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Meeting Agenda / Outcomes:

Introductions and Role Responsibilities:

- All parties had the opportunity to meet and highlight their roles / responsibilities within the MDB context.
- This enabled the opportunity to discuss the future prospects of MDAs involvement in:
 - Water NSW operations:
 - Enhancing local government representation at Customer Advisory Groups;
 - Enhancing local government education in water for better regional outcomes;
 - Use of the MDA to support Water NSW when seeking further local government engagement / interactions.
 - MDBA:
 - Easily sourcing timely and accurate information relating to current projects, policies and updates relating to constraints / efficiency projects of the MDBP;
 - Reference too / insight into the current discussions / debate of water conveyance and transmission losses falling to the Commonwealth Environmental Holder Office – purely discussion – no credible or tangible agenda had been discussed nor should be further entertained at this point in time.

Basin Communities Leadership Program:

- Provided an overview and promotional materials to the representatives for their information;
- Requested their further dissemination within their realm / remit to those they believe would be suitable candidates;
- Hard copies of the promotional materials provided at the meeting.

MDA Water Literacy Learning Module – Content Review:

- Respecting the two representatives for their expertise and authority on water literacy within the Murray-Darling Basin;
- Presented an overview on the education module under development by the MDA;
- MDA invited their review and feedback on the content given their position, knowledge and authority on the topic;
- Both representatives agreed in principle to the request;
- Hard copies of the product provided at the meeting.

MDA Actions

The following items are for MDA attention / action:

- XO action items:
 - Email electronic version of the products presented at the meeting.
 - Continue to use the representatives for development and as an information source.

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- CEO action items:
 - Explore further opportunities for improved attendance by local government to customer advisory groups (and similar forums);
 - Explore enhanced learning and literacy opportunities of local government representatives attending committees and groups such as the CAGs;
 - Explore opportunities for the MDA to support the coordination / representation of local government at CAGs and associated committees / groups.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: **T.BANKS** Executive Officer / Strategic Leadership & Training Coord



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MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION

COMMUNICATION REPORT

TOPIC:	MDA STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP – MARCH 2020	
DATE:	16 MARCH 2020	
INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MDA Board <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MDA Staff	
EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Member Councils and public	
ENCLOSURES / ATTACHMENTS:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes:	
REPORT OBJECTIVES:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Information / Awareness <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To enable participants to present at council or incorporate in their own council reports	

Purpose

To report on the event and outcomes of the **2020 MDA Strategic Planning Workshop** held in Moama on 12-13 March 2020.

Executive Summary

The MDA held a **Strategic Planning Workshop** (SPW) in Moama NSW over the period **12-13 March 2020**.

The event was well attended and incorporated the perspectives, experience and input from key stakeholders and critical representatives from all States and regions right throughout the Murray-Darling Basin.

The SPW reviewed the **Vision 2024 Strategic Plan**; current and emerging **projects, programs and initiatives**; along with presentations from **strategic partnerships** achieved with key stakeholders such as CSIRO and the MDBA.

The top three priorities for the MDA for the plan period are identified as:

- Development and production of **Membership Tools and Services**.
- Implementation of **Strategic Projects, Initiatives and Programs** within the wider MDB Footprint.
- Establishment of the **Murray-Darling Basin Local Government Centre of Excellence**.

The MDA executive will now incorporate the strategic input received and complete the final draft of the MDA Strategic Plan 2020-2024: **Vision 2024** for consultation and approval.

Background

The MDA's Strategic Plan 2016-19 has now concluded with the achievement of a broad suite of strategic outcomes. The operations and objectives of the MDA have evolved significantly, requiring a step-change in

(TSB025/20)

(Report – 2020 Strategic Planning Workshop)

Page 1 of 3

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the organisation's future plan. Vision 2024 will position the organisation strongly to respond to the emerging needs of the Murray-Darling Basin.

The prospects for the MDA membership and the 12 MDA regions continue to gain support from strategic partners and stakeholders; with many projects emerging which will see the MDA's vision of a healthy, vibrant and thriving Murray-Darling Basin more achievable.

2020 Strategic Planning Workshop

The two-day event saw a gathering of mayors, councillors and senior executives of councils from Albury to Adelaide, Menindee to the Murray Mouth, as far afield as Balonne, Federation, Barunga West and more – reinforcing the perspectives, power and impact which the MDA collectively exercises within the Basin and more broadly within Australia.

Councils discussed a range of issues, including the importance of place-based change and adaptation for local government, the role of science in dealing with big Basin issues, and how the MDA can work with local government to identify and achieve the future they want – not for the future they want back.

The SPW gave opportunity for the MDA Board and Strategic Representatives to:

- Affirm the **Vision, Mission and Values** of the Organisation.
- Review the exciting and promising **projects and initiatives** which the MDA is implementing throughout the Murray-Darling Basin and the broader membership's footprint.
- Experience first-hand the **collaboration and partnerships** which have been achieved by the MDA with strategic partners such as the CSIRO and the MDBA.
- Reinforce the **priorities for the MDA Executives** under the Vision 2024 Plan over the next five years:
 - Membership Services – streamlined, effective and prized products and resources;
 - Projects, Initiatives and Programs with Basin-Wide impact;
 - Establishment of the **Murray-Darling Basin Local Government Centre for Excellence**.

Capacity Building

Projects

The SPW was presented with a list of the current and emerging project, initiatives and programs which included:

- Basin Communities Leadership Program (BCLP 1.0) – 15 Locations, 225 Emerging Leaders;
- BCLP 2.0 – Continuing on from BCLP 1.0 with additional pathways being explored;
- Regional Economic Diversification Program – Supporting local Councils with regional MDA officers;
- Regional Mental Health Program – Supporting membership Councils with additional support.

Each of these projects have received a large amount of planning to see these transition from a concept to a viable program / product; with several having already been submitted for funding under the Murray Darling Economic Development federal funding programs.

Staff

Over the last couple of years, the executive team has grown to a comprehensive team of 7 staff. Workshop participants saw presentations from staff on the newly implemented Customer Relationship Management software, project initiatives, and the emerging corporate plan.

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Membership

The workshop developed a clear set of priorities regarding the development and production of membership tools and services.

Distribution

Participants at the workshop are encouraged to use the information contained in this report to build awareness and update their councils. If further information is required, please don't hesitate to contact the Murray Darling Association team on (03) 5480 3805 or comms@mda.asn.au

REPORT RELEASED BY: E. Bradbury CEO MDA



Murray Darling Association Inc.

admin@mda.asn.au
www.mda.asn.au
T (03) 5480 3805
ABN: 64 636 490 493

L1, 250 Anstruther Street
P.O. Box 1268
Echuca, Vic 3564

Briefing Paper: Floodplain Harvesting Measurement Policy Meeting

Wednesday 18th March 2020

Purpose:

The purpose of the following report is to notify the board of MDA Officer participation in a meeting of peak groups with NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) and NSW Water Access Regulator. The meeting was a stakeholder engagement regarding NSW Floodplain Harvesting Measurement Policy.

The following report is also intended to provide some insight and detail into how the meeting transpired.

Executive Summary:

The meeting was informative a well-planned. The documents provided to the MDA for the purpose of the meeting were **not for further distribution** and therefore cannot be added to this document at this stage. The Department highlighted that a similar meeting would be conducted with the MDBA as well as other stakeholder groups. The Department did receive concerns about the extent to which they had engaged with stakeholders during earlier consultation periods.

Background:

Invitees for this meeting were:

1. Chairperson: Scott Keyworth, Director Healthy Floodplains, DPIE
2. Presenter: Daniel Connor, Project Manager Healthy Floodplains, DPIE
3. Camila Ridoutt-Wolfenden, Principal Project Officer, Healthy Floodplains, DPIE
4. Suzy Lykos, Senior Project Officer, Healthy Floodplains, DPIE
5. Kaia Hodges, A/Group Director Water Renewal Taskforce, DPIE
6. Graeme White, Director Regional Water Reg Ops West, NRAR
7. Annika Lawrence, Project Officer, Healthy Floodplains, DPIE
8. Chris Brooks, Southern Riverina Irrigators
9. Graeme Pyles, Southern Riverina Irrigators
10. Emma Bradbury, Murray Darling Association
11. James Marshall, Murray Darling Association
12. Maryanne Slattery, Slattery and Johnson Consulting
13. Bill Johnson, Slattery and Johnson Consulting/Barwon-Darling Stakeholder Advisory Panel
14. Rod Campbell, The Australian Institute
15. Courtney Dillion, NSW Farmers Association
16. Peter Lalor, NSW Aboriginal Land Council

Page 1 of 2

- 17. Alan Whyte, Menindee SAG/Lower Darling Irrigator
- 18. Rachel Strachan, Lower Darling Horticulture Group
- 19. Optional: DPIE - Daniel Blacker & Marg Duffy

Rachel Strachan had with her two staff members that both contributed significantly.
Cr MacAllister was also online with us and contributed.

The meeting opened with concern expressed by many over the lack of consultation and disregard of existing commitments and undertaking by the department.
There was a considerable amount of questioning directed around the measurement devices for the policy. Of interest was perceived issues around the grandfathering of devices already in existence, how this would be managed and what safeguards were in place to ensure the incentivization to keep grandfathered devices in place. There was also questioning around the relay of information from devices to NRAR especially regarding device faults.

There were also various lines of questioning regarding the accounting for the wetting up of on farm infrastructure including dams, surge areas, channels and irrigation fields.

Highlighted the basic need for system connectivity before any floodplain water can be legally harvested. MDA staff also highlighted that consultation clearly represents a high risk to the success of the FPHMP, and its relationship to the WRPs. The MDA invited the department to work in with the MDA to develop a project communication strategy and consultation standard to align with the balance of the FPHMP, WRPs and dependent projects. MDA staff also noted the potential risk around lack of detail, classification and risk management regarding "buffer storages" in the policy.

In responding to many of the questions the importance of the NRAR was very much highlighted. The NRAR also noted that the current lack of policies was making it difficult to regulate.

Assessment:

The current absence of policies is creating issues for both the management of basin resources and the regulation of basin resources. It is imperative that required policy and plans are completed as soon as possible.

Consultation remains a point of contention between the NSW department of Planning, Industry and Environment and key stakeholders.

Recommendations:

That the board note the following report.

Summary of Key Facts Sourced:

Further Sources of Reading / Updates as Desired:

**Item 8 Correspondence from Warialda District Chamber - toilets
at Carinda House****FILE REFERENCE****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 - OCD
- external****AUTHOR** General Manager**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST** Nil**BACKGROUND**

Some time ago Council investigated the closure of the toilets at Carinda House in Warialda as 'public toilets' as it was considered there were adequate public toilets in the CBD without the Carinda House toilets. This was also considered a viable financial decision with a reduction in cleaning expenses. Members of the Warialda Cultural Community Centre, Carinda House, were notified in December 2014 that it was resolved at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 18 November 2014 that the amenities at Carinda House remain available for use only by members of that committee.

It was also noted that should the members of that committee choose to open the amenities to the public during their operating hours, Council's public liability insurance would apply.

The Carinda House committee was also advised that the Manager of Carlo's IGA, Warialda advised that the IGA amenities were available for the general public to use during their hours of operation.

COMMENT

The Warialda District Chamber has requested the public toilets at Carinda House in Warialda be restored to public facilities during business hours and this could be incorporated into the proposed future planning of the Warialda CBD.

Currently there are two public toilets in the Warialda CBD in Hope Street. A disabled public toilet exists behind the café on the corner of Hope and Stephen Street and the other toilets are adjacent the Council Chambers. Parking facilities for caravans is available close to both these facilities.

Recently, visitors to Warialda were unable to use the public toilets adjacent the Council Chambers as they were closed due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The other public toilets in Warialda are in Captain Cook Park, Apex Park, All Abilities Park and on the eastern approach to Warialda near the old saleyards' site.

There was signage on all the closed public toilets clearly outlining where the nearest opened public toilet was located.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received

FURTHER that the use of the toilets at Carinda House remain closed.

ATTACHMENTS

AT- Correspondence - Carinda Toilets

Warialda District Chamber Inc. or return to email marilyn.stubbins@gmail.com

PO Box 204

Warialda NSW 2402

Mr Max Eastcott

General Manager

Gwydir Shire

Subject :Public Toilets at Carinda House

Yesterday, [10/6/2020] I was approached at about 10.30 am outside Council's Office in Hope Street by a visiting couple, who urgently wanted to access public toilets.

They had driven in from the Highway, parked in Stephen Street and made purchases at the Bakery.

They were very disappointed to find the toilets at Carinda House Community Centre closed and came down to Hope Street where they found the toilets at the rear of the Shire Office also closed.

I request that the toilets at Carinda House be restored to being public facilities in business hours, as they encourage travellers from the Highway to break their journey. The closure of the Commercial Tavern has also reduced facilities in that precinct. I understand a neighbouring business would undertake to open and lock the toilets and that Carinda House members would continue to assist with keeping the toilets clean.

I note that Council is considering upgrades to Warialda's presentation and I hope that the Carinda facilities can be considered as part of that exercise. Carinda House has recently benefited from interior and exterior renovations provided by Council and until the Covid restrictions had been experiencing increased patronage.

The availability of public toilets at Carinda House Community Centre would be of benefit to residents and businesses and would complement the presentation of that historic site.

Ted Stubbins President Warialda District Chamber Inc. 11/6/2020

Item 9 Monthly Investment and Rates Collection Report for May 2020**FILE REFERENCE****DELIVERY PROGRAM****GOAL:** 5. Organisational Management**OUTCOME:** 5.1 CORPORATE MANAGEMENT**STRATEGY:** 5.1.1 Financial management and accountability systems -
CFO - internal**AUTHOR** Manager, Finance**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST** Nil**IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

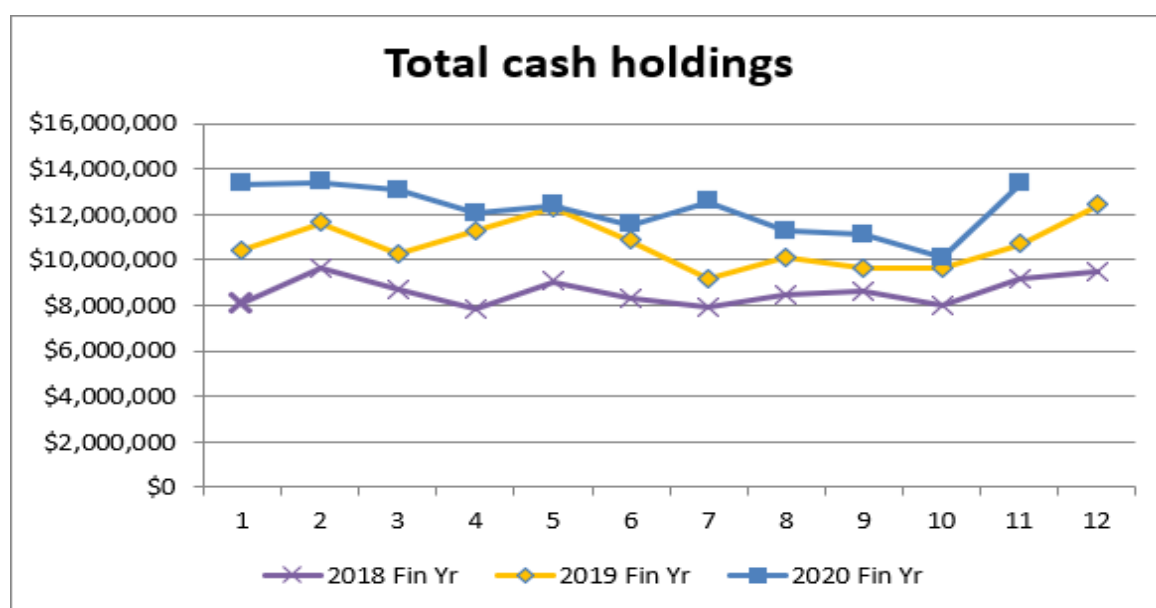
At each monthly Ordinary Meeting, the Council is presented with the schedule relating to Investments, as at the end of the previous month.

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 31 May 2020.

Direct Investments							
Broker	ID	Investment Name	Rating	Type	Next Rollover	Yield	Current Value
NAB	2020.10	NAB	AA	TD	29/06/2020	1.23%	\$1,000,000.00
NAB	2020.11	NAB	AA	TD	29/06/2020	1.23%	\$1,000,000.00
NAB	2020.12	NAB	AA	TD	29/06/2020	0.94%	\$1,000,000.00
Grand Total							\$3,000,000.00
Managed Funds							
Fund	Investment Horizon			Type	3 Mth Avg Yield		Current Value
Regional Australia Bank	At Call			Cash	See report		\$401,183.56
Tcorp Cash Fund	At Call			Cash	See report		\$7,181,751.78
Tcorp Medium Term Fund	At Call			Cash	See report		\$1,041,296.59
Grand Total							\$8,624,231.93
Total Investments							
Direct Investments							\$3,000,000.00
Managed Funds							\$8,624,231.93
Grand Total							\$11,624,231.93

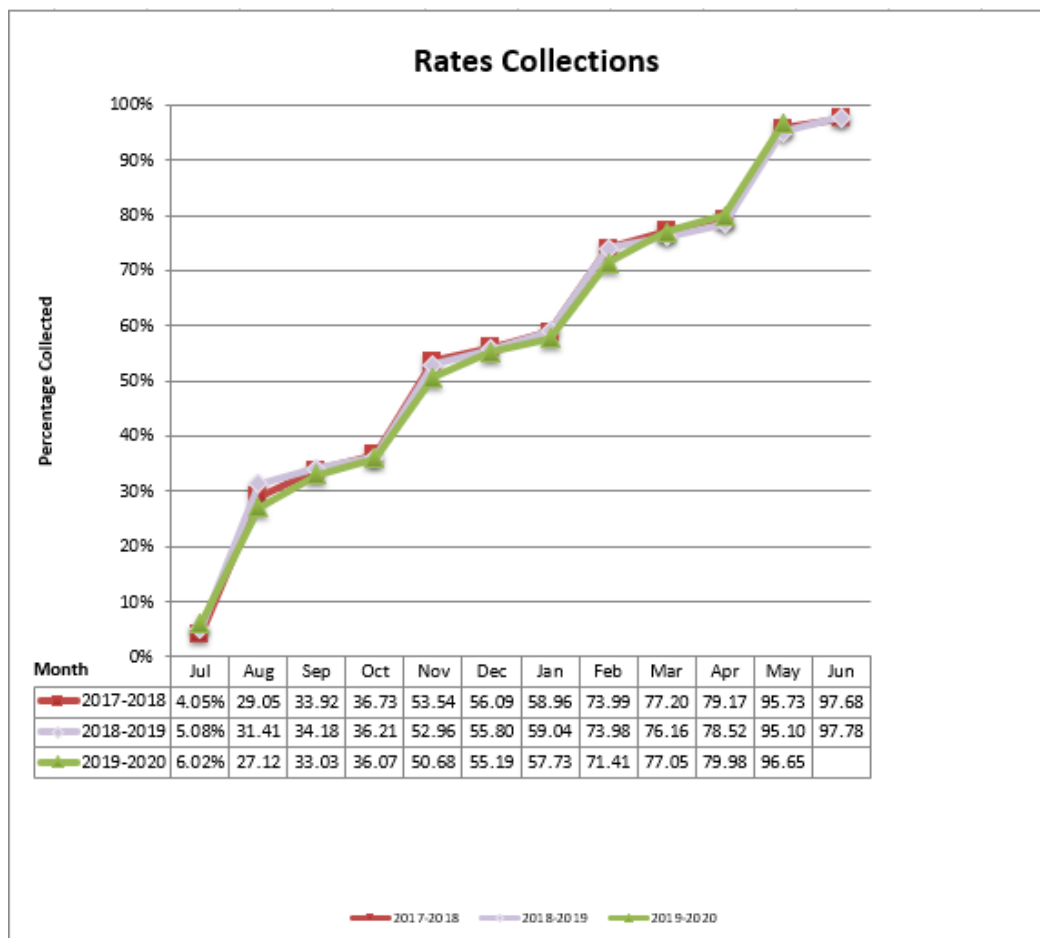
Cash and Investments	
Total Investments	
Direct Investments	\$3,000,000.00
Managed Funds	\$8,624,231.93
Grand Total Investments	\$11,624,231.93
Total Cash and Investments	
Investments	\$11,624,231.93
Cash at bank	\$ 1,690,987.69
Grand Total Cash and Investments	\$13,315,219.62
General Fund Cash	
Total cash and investments	\$13,315,219.62
LESS:	
Water fund*	-\$879,162.96
Sewer fund*	-\$3,221,194.24
Waste fund*	-\$3,256,163.09
Other restrictions:	
Employee leave entitlements*	-\$900,000.00
Carry over works in progress*	-\$950,000.00
Asset replacement*	-\$250,000.00
Bonds and deposits	-\$2,100,000.00
Unexpended grants*	-\$1,246,000.00
Developer contributions	-\$262,000.00
*These figures may change with end of year processing	
Discretionary General Fund Cash	\$250,699.33



I, Helen Thomas, Finance Manager 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 (F.01.03), 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 31 May 2020.



OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the monthly Investment and Rates Collection report for May be received

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

Item 10 Gomeroi Native Title Claim NSD37/2019 Update**FILE REFERENCE****DELIVERY PROGRAM****GOAL:** 5. Organisational Management**OUTCOME:** 5.1 CORPORATE MANAGEMENT**STRATEGY:** 5.1.3 Administrative functions - GM - internal**AUTHOR** General Manager**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST** Nil**IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

This report is to update the Council on the current status of this Claim.

TABLED ITEMS Nil**BACKGROUND**

The orders issued by the Federal Court since 10 January 2019 have basically involved the Gomeroi Applicants and the NSW Attorney General in the process of assessing the connection evidence supplied by the Gomeroi Applicants.

In particular, on 1 August 2019, the Attorney General as First Respondent advised the Gomeroi Applicant and the Federal Court that the State is not satisfied that the Applicant has demonstrated a credible basis for the making of a consent determination recognising the existence of native title.

Since that time, the Applicant has been given the opportunity to address the shortcomings in the evidence provided, and has engaged an expert anthropologist, Jitendra Kumarage. The latest orders made on 1 April 2020 require the Applicant to file and serve a report about their progress in preparing further expert anthropological material and other evidence in support of their claim by 25 September 2020. Compliance with this order will continue to be monitored by a Registrar of the Federal Court.

The timeframe for the Gomeroi Applicant to prepare the material was extended based on a report to the court from NTSCORP Ltd (Native Title Service Provider for Aboriginal Traditional Owners in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory) that the field work to gather the evidence in support of their claim will be delayed due to COVID-19, and in particular, the challenges Mr. Kumarage and NTSCORP will face in obtaining access to elderly indigenous people, and to documentation (with various libraries closed), necessary to complete this work.

While the court has extended the reporting period for NTSCORP regarding progress on the anthropological work to September 2020, NTSCORP had foreshadowed that it anticipated any report would not be finalised until the latter half of 2021.

Approach to preparation of tenure and evidencing of public works

The Council's solicitor in this matter, Ms. Vanessa Field undertook an assessment to check what, if any, orders have been made in relation to the gathering of evidence in respect to tenure and public works to assess the urgency with which such work may need to be undertaken by Gwydir Shire.

Ms. Field contacted Nancy Foster, Senior Solicitor, at the Crown Solicitor's Office who has confirmed that no orders have been made to date in relation to tenure. Ms. Field asked Ms. Foster what work has been commenced by the Department of Planning Industry and Environment's land status branch in anticipation of the need to prepare historical tenure evidence for the court for such a large claim, and the estimated timeframe for its completion. Unfortunately, Ms. Foster has been unable to provide any update. The Department is usually reluctant to provide such information until they are well advanced with their searching. This is unhelpful, but not unexpected.

The response of the Crown Solicitor's Office has not clarified the Department's approach to tenure. However, the Department has commenced search work for this claim, and Ms. Field hopes that notwithstanding the transfer of land to councils under the Crown Land Management Act 2016, that land currently held by councils will be investigated with the same rigour as other land currently held by the Department as Crown land/ reserves. After all, such tenure evidence forms the basis of any future compensation claims (which will still largely be the responsibility of the State to pay), if these proceedings determine that the Gomeroi People in fact hold native title.

However, it is important that the Council is prepared to rationally assess the quality of the tenure searches for Council's land in good time to ensure that this is the case. The Gomeroi claim covers an enormous area and the Department's status branch whether through necessity to meet court timeframes, or fatigue, will be under considerable pressure to find ways to streamline their tenure assessment process across all land searched.

M. Field advises that, unfortunately, unless respondent councils are pro-active they can be required to assess the State's tenure evidence of "Council-managed" land at the last minute with insufficient time to make the required checks and changes, and can be pressured into accepting inaccurate information about their assets which affects their ability to manage those assets once a determination of native title has been made.

What I envisage Council will need to do

Ms. Field recommends the following approach.

If this has not already been undertaken, as a first step, Council should identify a comprehensive list of all the land for which Council has responsibility that falls within the Gomeroi People's claim boundary.

The information obtained should be separated into lists ordered by Lots and Deposited Plan references to the extent possible, or otherwise Reserve Numbers. This information should be on Council's asset register/s for operational and community land.

List 1 should contain all land currently held by Gwydir Shire Council in freehold. This list will be used to check against any list generated by the Department, to ensure that all such land is accounted for and properly classified as tenure that wholly extinguishes native title, in any document to be presented to the court. Ideally, any roads held in freehold will be separately placed in list 3.

List 2 should contain all other land for which Council has responsibility for. It is this list that I will be seeking to ensure that the Department is undertaking a thorough historical tenure investigation of. It may be that within this list there will be particular land that Council may wish to conduct its own targeted assessment of historical tenure, to ensure that all evidence is captured. I do not propose that such work be undertaken immediately, but that thought be given, if this has not yet occurred, to identifying a list of land that is strategically important for a variety of reasons, and may require particular review or attention. Ideally, any roads falling within this list will be separated out and placed in list 3.

List 3 should identify roads for which Council has responsibility as Roads Authority, or on any other basis, if any. This list will need to be split further into List 3 – freehold roads, and List 3 – Crown or other roads.

This separation into lists is a first step to better isolate the treatment of different categories.

Public works

I know that you have been working with Craig Barnes to identify public works on certain reserves that represent significant assets to Council. As the identification of public works is a significant task across many parcels of land, I recommend that it be approached in a systematic way.

The accurate identification of public works is a critical task for Council to ensure that the extent of such areas is properly accounted for, and the Gomeroi People's legal representatives/ or the Court is persuaded, prior to any determination of native title, that such areas have been validly created, were/ are constructed, maintained and operated as public works, and can be accurately described for the purpose of expressly excluding them from the definition of the determination area.

While it may not be possible or necessary to identify every single public work, the most important categories to identify are roads, water and sewerage infrastructure, and any other significant facilities or assets for which Council is responsible for the operation and maintenance of.

For those “public works” that cannot be individually identified and described, there will likely be a generic public works clause inserted into any determination made, that seeks to recognise the existence of any public works that were validly created prior to 23 December 1996, for the purpose of excluding those from the determination area. The difficulty is of course that without specific identification by and agreed description of the nature and extent of an area covered by a public work, it is left for the Gomeroi People and Council to agree to those details after any determination. This is not the preferred situation, particularly, for important Council assets, but may be a pragmatic solution for public works that Council simply does not have the time or resources to identify to the extent required. There will also be assets that Council considers may be “public works”, but which, upon investigation, do not meet the legislative criteria.

COMMENT

The Council is currently following the suggested approach from its legal adviser in this matter and identifying the significant land holdings that the Council either owns in freehold or has a legitimate interest in maintaining the management of the land.

CONCLUSION

The Council is using external assistance, as well as internal resources to complete this task.

The work will need to be produced in a format acceptable to the Court that can be used as the basis for evidence before the Court

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the update report regarding the Gomeroi Native Title claim NSD37/2019 be received

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

Memorandum of Understanding

FOR

Renewable Energy & Microgrid Projects

BETWEEN

Providence Investment Management Pty Ltd
(ABN 89 631 604 129)

AND

Gwydir Shire Council
(ABN 11 636 419 850)

Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is made the day of 2020

BETWEEN: **Providence Investment Management Pty Ltd** ABN 89 631 604 129, whose registered office is at Level 7, 99 Bathurst Street, Sydney NSW 2000 Australia ('Providence')

AND: **Gwydir Shire Council** ABN 11 636 419 850 whose registered office is at 54 Hope Street, Wyallda NSW 2402 ('Gwydir SC')

RECALLS:

- A. Gwydir SC is a local government council developing an industrial park in Wyallda and aims to unlock jobs, technology and investment in their region.
- B. Providence is an Australian innovation led investment firm involved in the financing and managing of multiple assets in renewable energy generation and storage.
- C. Providence and the University of New South Wales (UNSW) have jointly established the Hydrogen Energy Research Centre (HERC) with the aim of HERC becoming a global leader in domestic and international cooperation, delivering renewable energy solutions in an efficient, cost effective and innovative way.
- D. UNSW has developed a solid state hydrogen storage solution known as H2STORE which is now sought to be commercialised by Providence through HERC. As part of its commercialisation strategy, Providence is manufacturing a commercial demonstration solid state hydrogen storage unit.
- E. Providence wishes explore the following project opportunities:
 - a. Solar farm at Wyallda
 - b. Solar farm at Bingara
 - c. Integration of the Wyallda solar farm into a microgrid for the local industry park
 - d. Integration of the Bingara solar farm into a biohub at the adjacent Bingara water treatment plant
 - e. Deployment of hydrogen opportunities within the Gwydir council region
- F. Gwydir SC will make land available under a lease arrangement at Wyallda and Bingara to commence the development of the solar farms and microgrid/biohub/hydrogen solutions.
- G. The parties wish to enter into this non-binding MoU to document the proposed collaboration between them.

Objectives

- 1 The parties wish to investigate and collaborate with the aim of developing a compact and transportable hydrogen storage solution which may involve:
 - (a) in the short term, entering a lease options for solar farm sites to commence the grid connection process and development approval;
 - (b) in the longer term, developing cooperation between parties to explore opportunities around microgrids, biohubs, hydrogen and power supply agreements that reduce electric cost for council and its communities.

Roles of the Parties and Participants

- 2.1 In support of the short term objective of entering a lease option to commence the grid connection process and development approval, it is envisaged that:
 - (a) Providence will:
 - (i) identify suitable target sites; and
 - (ii) key terms of lease.
 - (b) Gwydir SC will:
 - (i) review suitability of land and advise Providence on which land can be utilised
 - (ii) propose the form of the lease agreement
 - (c) a separate commercial agreement will be negotiated and entered into in relation to the terms and condition relating to the testing on terms satisfactory to both parties.
- 2.2 In support of the longer-term objectives outlined in this MoU, Providence and Gwydir SC propose to leverage their respective experience, technology and work together towards the deployment of:
 - (a) Microgrid solution at the Warialda industrial park which will provide sustainable energy to local industry partners at a reduced cost compared to the market electricity;
 - (b) integration of a biohub into the Bingara Waste Treatment plant to improve the benefits from the waste stream through production of biomethane and fertiliser. Energy produced can also be utilised directly by the water treatment plant to reduce electricity costs;
 - (c) explore zero emission transport using hydrogen with a long-term vision of expanding further as a leading clean transport example.

Compliance

- 3.1 The parties each have their own standards, policies, and obligations with which they comply in the operation of their own businesses including in relation to ethical sourcing. Each party agrees to comply with the Ethical Sourcing Statement included in Gwydir's standard supply agreement and with the Code of Conduct, Anti-Bribery and Modern Slavery policies (copies of which Providence acknowledges it has received).
- 3.2 The parties will each comply with all applicable law in relation to activities carried out pursuant to this MoU and any supply/purchase of product or services made in connection with this MoU.
- 3.3 Nothing in this MoU, nor any action taken by either party pursuant to this MoU:
- (a) is intended to create an exclusive relationship between the parties;
 - (b) shall constitute, or be deemed to constitute, a partnership between the parties, or shall constitute either party as the agent, employee or representative of the other; or
 - (c) is intended to create a binding or legal relationship between the parties, except for the obligations between the parties in respect of confidentiality (clause 4) which binds the parties and survives this MoU.
- 3.4 The parties agree that:
- (a) this MoU does not oblige either party to supply or acquire any goods or services unless the parties have entered into a separate goods and services supply agreement;
 - (b) each party has full discretion to elect to participate in the supply of any product with each other or with other parties without reference or communication with the other party.

Confidentiality

- 4.1 Neither of the parties will, without the prior written consent of the other, refer to their relationship in any public broadcast or communication, advertisement or promotional material, nor discuss this MoU with the media.
- 4.2 During and after this MoU, the parties must:
- (a) keep all Confidential Information strictly confidential and not disclose it to any third party without the other party's prior written consent;
 - (b) not copy or make available Confidential Information to any person other than to those of its officers, employees or sub-contractors who need to know and who have been expressly directed to and have agreed to keep that information confidential;
 - (c) only use Confidential Information for the purposes of performing obligations and activities pursuant to this MoU; and
 - (d) on request at any time by the other party, immediately return to the other party or permanently delete or destroy, as the other party directs, all copies

or records of Confidential Information in that party's possession or control.

- 4.3 For the purposes of this MoU, "**Confidential Information**" means all information whether or not in material form (including without limitation information relating to a party and its suppliers, staff, business dealings, contracts, customers, computer operations, marketing, sales, and business plans, notes, information, financial data and other sensitive corporate information) which is treated by that party as confidential, generally known solely to that party's personnel, or which should be regarded as confidential in all the circumstances.
- 4.4 The obligations of confidentiality in clause 4.2 will not apply to information:
- (a) that is or becomes in the public domain (except as a result of breach of this undertaking);
 - (b) that is obtained by the other party from a third party without any restriction of non-disclosure; or
 - (c) required to be disclosed by the party by law.
- 4.5 The parties acknowledge they are bound by the obligations contained in the confidentiality agreement between the parties and H2Store Pty Limited dated 9 April 2020 (**Confidentiality Agreement**). Nothing contained in this MoU shall limit or restrict a party's obligations under the Confidentiality Agreement. To the extent there is any inconsistency between the obligations under this clause, or the Confidentiality Agreement, the terms of the Confidentiality Agreement shall prevail.

Intellectual Property

- 5 Nothing in this MoU affect the intellectual property rights of either party.

Termination

- 6 Either party may terminate this MoU at any time and for any reason by written notice to the other party.

General Provisions

- 7 The parties agree that:
- (a) Neither party shall sell, assign, transfer or pledge its interest or any part thereof in this MoU howsoever without the prior written consent of the other party.
 - (b) This MoU shall be interpreted and construed in accordance with the laws of New South Wales, Australia and the parties submit to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of New South Wales, or where relevant, the Federal Court of Australia.
 - (c) In the interpretation of this MoU, no rule of construction applies to the disadvantage of one party on the basis that that party put forward this MoU

or any part thereof.

- (d) If any of the conditions of this MoU or part thereof becomes void or unenforceable for any reason, then that part shall be severed from these conditions to the intent that all parts that do not become void or unenforceable, shall remain in full force and effect and shall be unaffected by the severance of the other parts, provided that such severance shall not substantially prejudice the rights, interest or liabilities of a party.
- (e) This MoU may consist of a number of counterparts and if so, the counterparts taken together constitute one and the same instrument.
- (f) Each party must pay its own costs and expenses in respect of the negotiation, preparation, execution and delivery of this MoU.

SIGNED AS A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
by representatives of Providence and Gwydir

Llewellyn Owens
CTO
on behalf of Providence

TBC
General Manager
on behalf of Gwydir Shire Council