



**MINUTES COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PLANNING  
COMMITTEE**

**GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL**

**THURSDAY 12 AUGUST 2021**

**COMMENCING AT 9.30 AM**

**ROXY CONFERENCE ROOM**

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**Present:**

**Members:** Cr. John Coulton (Mayor), Cr. Catherine Egan (Deputy Mayor), Cr. Jim Moore, Cr. Geoff Smith, Cr. David Coulton, Cr Stuart Dick, Cr Tiffany Galvin and Cr Frances Young

**Staff:** Max Eastcott (General Manager) and Helen Thomas (Manager, Finance)

**Public:** Nil

**Visitor:** Nil

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**OFFICIAL OPENING AND WELCOME – MAYOR**

**APOLOGIES** Cr Marilyn Dixon OAM, Cr David Coulton, Mr Alex Eddy  
and Mrs Leeah Daley

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION:**

**THAT the apologies of Cr Marilyn Dixon OAM, Cr David Coulton, Mr Alex Eddy and Mrs Leeah Daley are accepted.**

**(Moved Cr Galvin, seconded Cr Smith)**

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION:**

**THAT the Minutes of the previous Community Services and Planning Committee Meeting held on Thursday 8 July 2021 as circulated be taken as read and CONFIRMED.**

**(Moved Cr Egan, seconded Cr Young)**

**PRESENTATION Nil**

**CALL FOR THE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST Nil**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION:**

**THAT the Committee resolve into Confidential Session, Committee of the Whole and that in the public interest and in accordance with Section 10A(2)(a) and (c) of the Local Government Act, 1993, the public and press be excluded from the meeting to consider Item(s) listed on the agenda.**

**(Moved Cr Galvin, seconded Cr Egan)**

**ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFIDENTIAL SESSION**

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:**

**THAT the recommendations of the Confidential Session, namely:**

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**Confidential Organisational And Community Services**

**THAT the Confidential Organisational And Community  
Services report is received and noted.**

**Building Office**

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

**are adopted.**

**(Moved Cr Egan, seconded Cr Smith)**

**Item 1 Executive Services Monthly Reports**

**FILE REFERENCE** 21/19147

**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 for notation. The monthly Executive report details the activities carried out by the Department during the month of July 2021.

**TABLED ITEMS** Nil

**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**

**ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

**Shire Wide Marketing Campaign**

To date three families consisting of five adults and six children in total are in the midst of moving into the Shire. One has taken a lease on a rental property and two are searching for rental properties. The two searching for rental properties have made offers to purchase land with the view to build and are now seeking temporary accommodation.

All three families hope to arrive during August. Two of the adults have accepted "hard to fill" employment opportunities (1 qualified cook and 1 aged care support worker). The third couple will seek to start their own Market Garden business. In addition to these families there are several other families currently considering a move to the Gwydir Shire.

Standardised calculations of the value to the Shires economy of three families over a ten-year period is **\$9,200,000** – a very significant return on an investment of just over \$60,000.

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Amongst the prospects we are still working towards a move with is a Sydney based immigration lawyer (Phillip Silver) who has successfully supported 35 South African farming families to relocate to Ayr (25) and Swan Hill (10) – even during COVID-19. These families are well resourced and often in the market to purchase and or manage large farming operations. In other regions they have both driven economic outcomes and assisted with exit and intergenerational planning.

A further, unexpected benefit of the campaign has been significant interest in employment opportunities both within the Shire boundaries and within Council itself. As funds for the Social Media advertising component of the campaign draw to a close, we will be utilising a host of current employment opportunities to endeavour to reach a new audience of high-quality candidates for these positions. If successful, this new strategy will bring a further return on investment.

To date a \$60,000 investment has achieved the following:

Number of Social Media Advertisement views

**767824\*** ● Ad Impressions on Facebook

Our advertisements have been seen 767,824 times

Number of Clicks

**18946\*** ● Link Clicks / CTR 2.46%.

To date 18,946 people have clicked on one of our Social Media advertisements

Number of subscribers to our monthly Tree Change newsletter

**3010\*** ● New Tree Change Email Subscribers  
**Campaign Target 2400\* within 6 months.**

**Performance against KPI's**

Project	Goal	Status	Performance
Subscriber Numbers	2400	3010	125%

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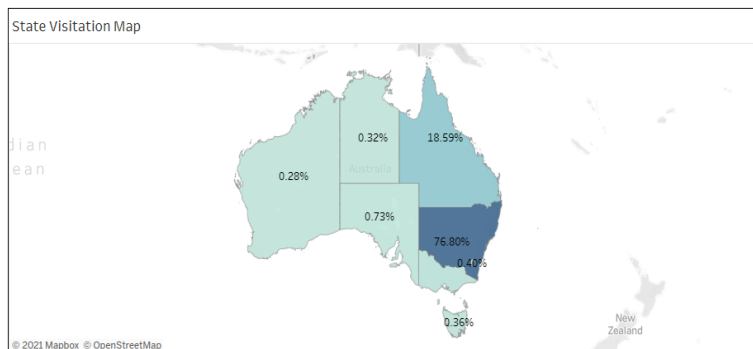
Response Lead Generation	24 in 6 months	33	137%
Engaged Lead Generation	12	14	117%

### Conclusion

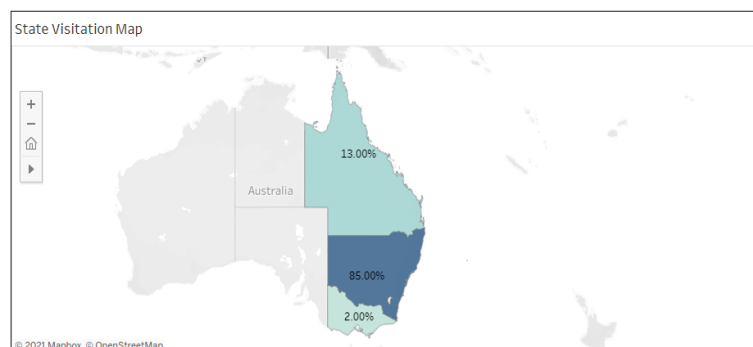
We now have a proven lever that can be pulled in order to drive population growth and significantly increase the Shire's profile. The Return on Investment to date has been beyond expectations and if further resourced will continue to drive population growth, increase tourism and attract new industry. If they don't know about us, they can't come!

### **Understanding who our visitors are; where they are from; and when they come**

#### **2021**



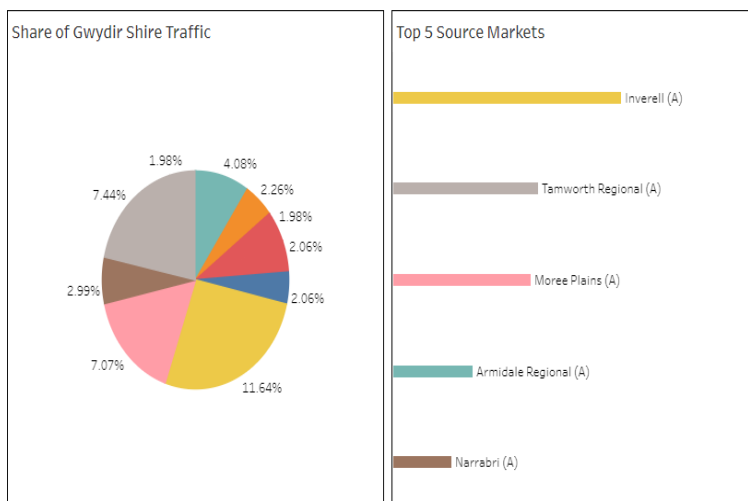
#### **2020**



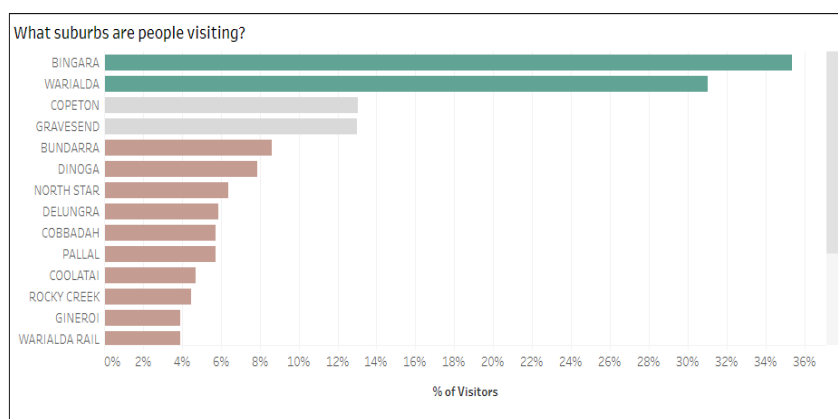
### **Top 5 Markets People are coming from**

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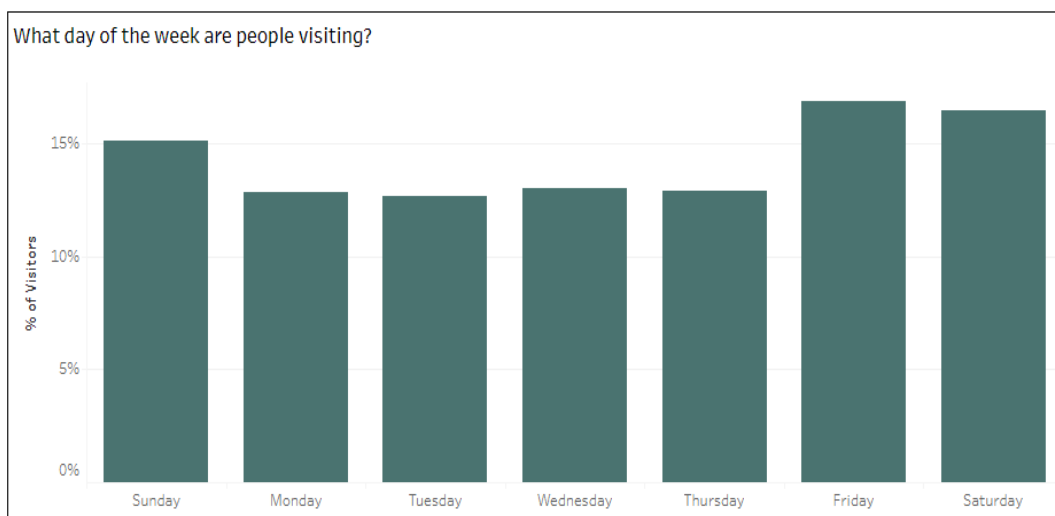
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### Where are People Visiting?



### 48% of all visitation occurs Friday-Sunday

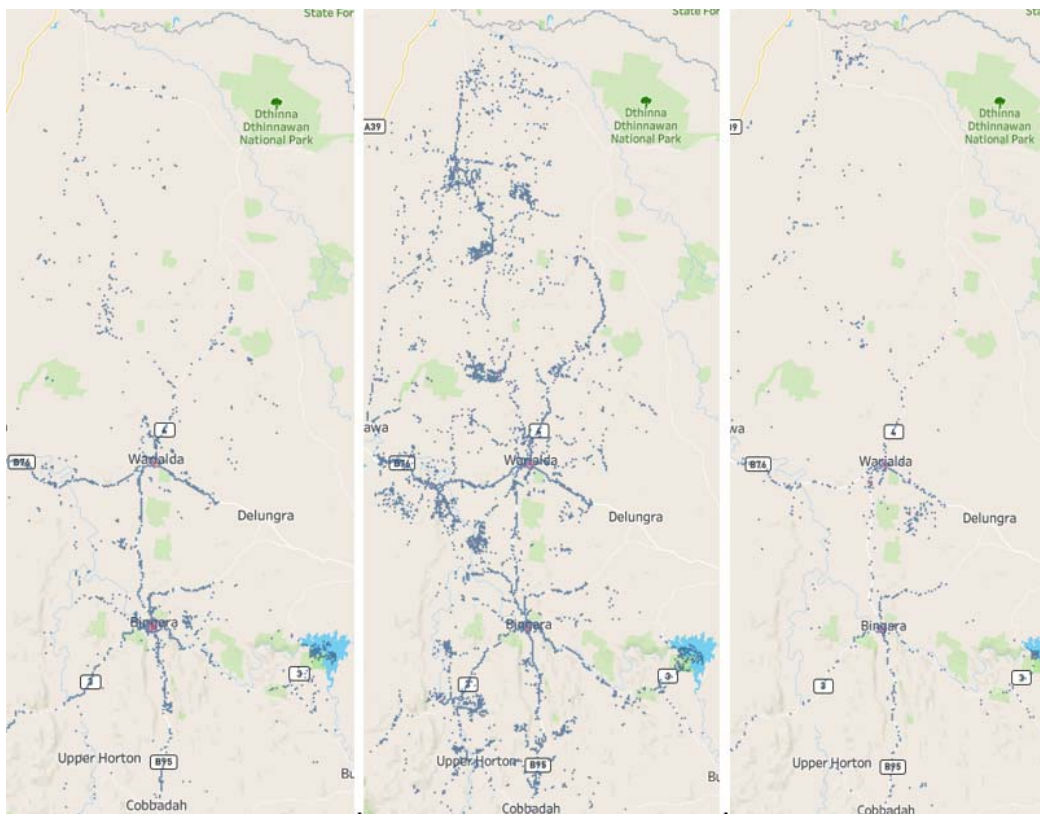
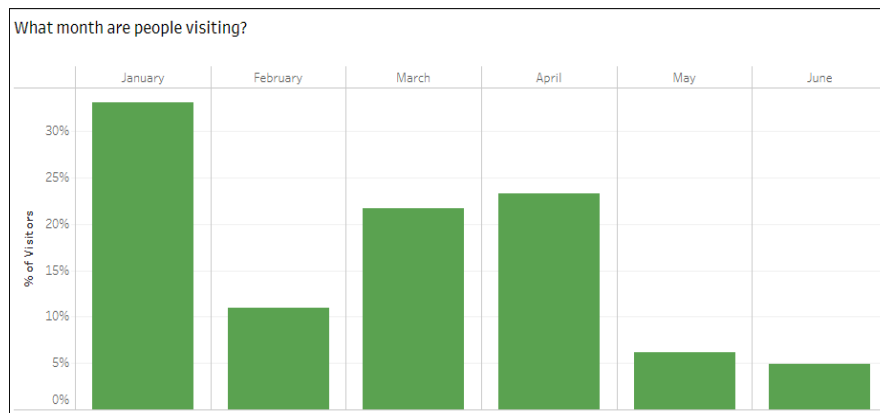


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## Visitation month by Month 2021 YTD



By looking at visitation data we can build a picture of who our most prolific visitors are: we can gain a picture of their wealth; where they come from; and; when they visit, and where they visit.

Presently the data tells us that year to date:

One third of all visitors live in neighbouring Shires, two fifths will come from elsewhere in NSW and one fifth from QLD.

So far this year they were most likely to visit in January or April and will choose Fri, Sat, or Sunday for their visit. They will be of average means with

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their most likely income greater than 20% but lower than 49% of other Australians. 36% will visit Bingara and 32% will visit Warialda, 32% will visit neither.

The three heat maps below show movement in the Shire of three different kinds of visitors. From left to right they show: 1. Low income; 2. Lower to upper middle income; and 3. Higher income.

These heat maps clearly show that most visitors to the Shire have a lower to upper middle income, followed by those with a low income, with the smallest group being those with the highest incomes

### **Building a digital presence**

The digital presence of the Gwydir Shire has increased exponentially due to the Tree Change Marketing campaign with almost 800,000 face book impressions achieved through the campaign. Whilst this was targeted at Tree Changers it will undoubtedly also drive visitors to the Shire.

Construction of the Gwydir Shire “Grant Guru” search engine is complete and can be found by clicking on or visiting the following link:

<https://gwydir.grantguru.com.au/>

### **Support Population Growth**

Local Real Estate Agents report increased sales and concerns they will soon run out of houses to sell. This is likely due to a ripple effect from coastal housing bubbles, COVID-19 knock on effects as well as the significant effect of our current marketing campaign.

### **Bringing Blue Hills and Jacaranda Subdivisions to Market**

Blue Hills and Jacaranda remain on target to be finished prior to the CMCA Rally, if it is held. A request has been made by Real Estate Agents to bring the properties to market now due to their belief we will have a shortage of properties to sell. Real estate agents also believe there is an opportunity for the private sector to build several “spec” homes. There is however a challenge with this as local builders anecdotally report a significant back log of maintenance and renovation work which prevents them from considering this opportunity.

With real estate values escalating along the coast and in larger centres. Opportunities exist for a Marketing Campaign (similar to, but on a smaller scale than the Tree Change campaign) with a goal of generating high levels of interest and sales of this land. The potential for an even greater return than the current Tree Change campaign should not be underestimated.

COVID-19 (including lock downs in capital cities) has driven interest in Tree Changing through (largely established) families evaluating the health and lifestyle benefits of a move to the country.

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Unexpectedly and perhaps counter intuitively real estate values have also escalated rapidly. Consideration should be given to the delivery of a marketing campaign to ensure the land not only sells quickly but meets the dual outcomes of:

- Providing existing residents with opportunities to build, and to be employed in the building of new homes (both to live in and to rent out)
- Attracting still more new residents into the Shire to stimulate the economy, fill hard to recruit for employment opportunities and reduce the average age of the population

### THE LIVING CLASSROOM

(Events and numbers are shown for activities held at TLC in the past month).

Several bookings at TLC for July have had to be cancelled or postponed due to Covid 19. They mainly involved large numbers of people and or visitors from outside Gwydir Shire.

The Cattle Yards constructed for the Bingara Central School cattle project have been completed with teacher and student input. The five steers now housed there have had their first weigh-in. A solar powered hot wire has been added to the system.

The Inverell Group of Home Schoolers spent an outdoor activity day at TLC. They had a tour of the site and then engaged in some garden planting, mulching and composting activities.

A 25mm rain event during the month fell on a saturated catchment at TLC. All ponds, lakes and swales filled, and a small overflow left the system through the Showground drainage system.



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*The flow into a saturated Bingara Pool.*

Some minor building work is being considered to the Bunkhouse verandah and a weather cover to the BBQ area.

A 'Ground Oven' has been built adjoining the Campfire Area at TLC. The Ground Oven is 1.0m long x 0.4m wide x 0.2m deep and is lined with volcanic rocks. It will cater for up to three 9 quart camp ovens and can produce hot foods for up to forty visitors.

Plants from the Nursery continue to be sold through the Bingara Opportunity Shop. Twelve potted small tree stocks have been ordered to be planted at a project in Warialda.

TLC has been featured in a national support program for STEM activities in Secondary Schools. The audio-video units were filmed at TLC earlier this year. The announcement from Jill McCall – Coordinator: Community, Industry,

*The Office of the Chief Scientist and Investment NSW are going to promote the STEM films we created during Science Week 2021 (14 to 22 August). Inspiring Australia <https://www.industry.gov.au/funding-and-incentives/inspiring-australia-science-engagement-in-australia> have been working with the Department of Education to broker this promotion and are keen to include links to each enterprises' website and social media channels if that is something each of you would like. The Office of the Chief Scientist could then tag each enterprise on their posts.*

Education, Training is detailed below.

Council staff have engaged with Sydney University's Kim Berney in a program regarding Native Bush Foods and the business prospects involving them. Kim's approach is shown below.

Among our Visitors to TLC last month were Mark and Elsa Patton. Mark is a Biodynamic Farmer from Coffs Harbour. He also operates Food of the Earth; a food van for festivals. His details were passed on to the organisers of 'Pulse of the Earth'.

*My name is Kim Berney and I'm a fourth-year commerce student at the University of Sydney. I'm currently undertaking the Remote and Rural Enterprise (RARE) program, working alongside Black Duck Foods (<https://blackduckfoods.org/>). As you're an expert in the field, I'd be extremely grateful if we could have a 15minute or so discussion around perennial farming and indigenous communities. Discovering more about these topics has been fascinating. Your thoughts would be very helpful for the project we're working on. You can call me anytime on 0420605484 or respond back via email.*

Other Visitors were Robyn and Barry Wrenford from Bombala NSW. Barry is a lapidarist. He provided some beautiful samples of cut and polished stone from

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the Bingara and Warialda Districts. We discussed various sites for stone and the tourism potential for them.

GSC has been invited to participate in a survey of food systems by Tertiary Institutions:

*We hope this finds you well. We are writing with one last reminder about the opportunity to participate in our survey, which is looking at how local governments are involved in issues related to the food system. We have extended the closing date for the survey and would love to receive a response from your Council by Tuesday 3rd August 2021.*

*This survey is one component of a study exploring the role of local government and civil society organisations in creating healthy, sustainable and equitable food systems. All councils in New South Wales and Victoria are invited to participate. We understand that many demands are made of local governments; however, your Council's participation in this research is essential to the success of the project and we would appreciate your assistance. You will find a link to the survey below.*

*The food system can be understood as encompassing "everything and everybody that influences, and is influenced by, the activities involved in bringing food from farm to fork and beyond". This involves production, processing, distribution and access, consumption (diet and nutrition) and disposal of food. Structures and organisations involved in food governance are important stakeholders that influence the food system and include governmental, community organisations and the business sector.*

*The study is being conducted by researchers from the University of Wollongong, University of Sydney and the William Angliss Institute of TAFE.*

## **TOWN UTILITIES**

### **Water and Sewer**

During June and July, Water and Sewerage operators attended 42 service line repairs, repaired or replaced 15 water mains, 34 water meters, 2 hydrants, repaired 19 sewer blockages and repaired 1 sewer break.

Council is currently working through a replacement water meter program and replacing old meters with new. The figures above include some of these replacements.

Other work was undertaken at the Warialda Truckwash facility, Warialda and Bingara Showgrounds, The Living Classroom, Upper Horton, Captain Cook Park, Cunningham Park, Nicholson and Gwydir Ovals, North Star hall and replacement of the Crane Street booster pump.

Bingara water supply was placed on a Boiled Water Alert on 09 July 2021. The Gwydir River in Bingara has high turbidity due to rainfall in the catchment

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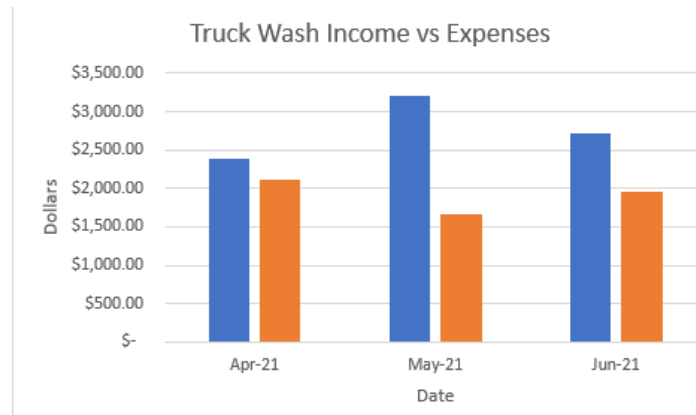


above Bingara. The water treatment process could not meet the NSW Health parameters for turbidity and the Boiled Water Alert was issued. Information was provided via social media, Council's website, local Notice Boards and a Bingara letterbox drop. A Department of Primary Industry and Environment inspector has been onsite assisting with water testing and treatment options. Water quality is improving and Council aims to have the Boiled Water Alert lifted as soon as possible.

#### Truckwash data for July

The truckwash facility was used by 67 trucks during July with an average wash down time of 49 minutes and total water used was 161KL. The estimated income for July is \$3,317.00 less monitoring fees.

The last quarter of financial year has been graphed below showing a positive result of income versus expenditure.



#### **Grant Projects**

##### Federal Drought Program:

Wet weather has delayed the completion of the landscaping and terracing of All Abilities Park. The new shade sails have been delivered and will be installed in August.



*Terracing of the southwestern side of All Abilities Park in Warialda*

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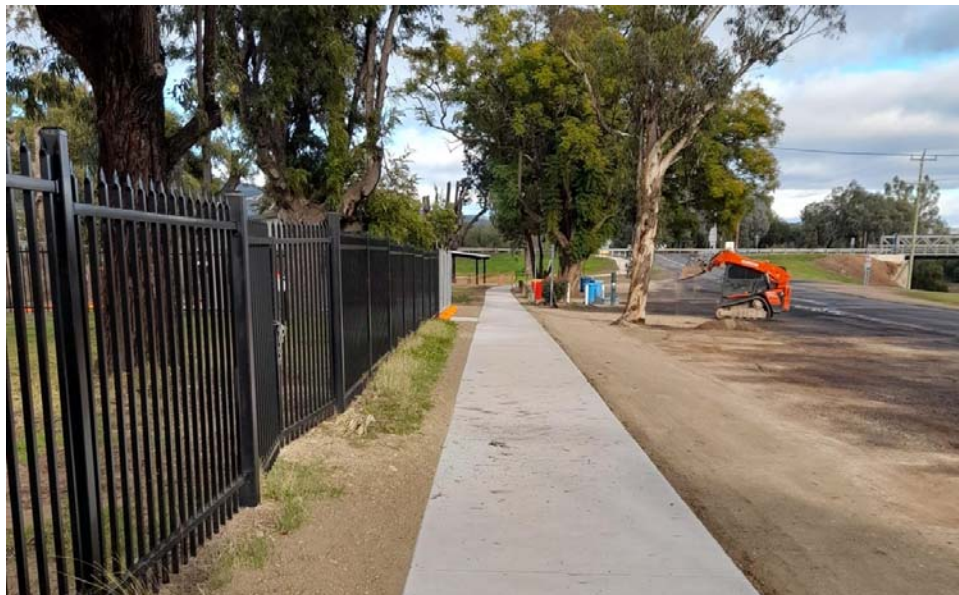
State Drought Program:

Cunningham Park

Work continues on the improvements to Cunningham Park with the footpath linking Campbell Bridge to the Bingara swimming pool completed in July. The shelters have been installed and the BBQ is operational. Some minor landscaping will be finished around the shelters and installation of a barrier fence during August will complete the project.



*Footpath linking Campbell bridge to Bingara swimming pool*



*Extension of footpath from Campbell Bridge to Bingara pool*

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Showground Stimulus funding

The refurbishment of the Bingara Showground Grandstand commenced in July. The external asbestos has been removed with the external works to be completed prior to the Bingara Race Meeting scheduled for 28 August 2021. The internal refurbishment will take place after the race meeting and be completed prior to the annual Pony Camp commencing 18 September.



*The western aspect of the Grandstand at Bingara Showground during refurbishment*

Council received funding for LED lighting and the new amenity building in Round 2B of the Showground Stimulus package. The foundation steel for the LED light towers has been delivered and is expected to be installed during August. The construction of the new amenity building has been delayed due to wet weather events affecting the compaction of the granite pad.

A new shelter and picnic tables were installed in Captain Cook Park, Warialda during July.



*Captain Cook Park, Warialda*

Nicholson Oval picnic shelters and tables have been installed on the eastern side of the oval.

Batterhams Lookout - the walking track to the eastern viewing area has been cleared and the Memorial Signage has been removed during July. The footings for the new signage will be installed in August. There is a delay in the

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delivery of the guardrail material however this is expected to be installed during September.

#### Parks and Gardens

All parks and gardens continue to be maintained. Council undertakes weekly inspections of playgrounds and cleaning of handrails and touch areas. Mowing, weed control, irrigation, hedging, and trimming were routinely undertaken during July. Council continues to mark and maintain the fields for the community groups using Council's ovals. Tree guards are being installed around the recently planted street trees in both Warialda and Bingara. Myall Creek and the glacial area are inspected on a weekly basis.

#### Plant replacement

2020-21 Plant Replacement program included the excavator below which was delivered in July. The excavator will be based in the northern end of the shire and can be transported with the truck and tag trailer.



*P1986 – new Caterpillar 313 excavator – based in Warialda*

#### Workshops and Depots – July 2021

Total number of services in Workshops for July	25
Total number of jobs in Workshops for July	114

Repairs and maintenance undertaken during July included:

P1897 Toyota Kluger –fuel pump repairs

P1081 Tractor – transmission pressure switch repairs

P1950 Kubota skidsteer – fit new brooms

P1690 Grader – fit new gaskets to engine oil cooler

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P1713 Jet Patcher – fit new drive to blower motor  
P1675 Ford Ranger – fit spray boom  
P1915 Mini excavator – welding repairs to bucket  
P1711 Utility – replace differential and fit new rear brakes  
P1914 Kubota loader – repairs to reversing camera  
P1464 grader – fit new isolation switch and fuel stop solenoid  
P1338 concrete grinder – fit new bearings and belt

Repairs carried out in Council workshops included:



*P1859 (Bingara grader) – repairs to timing, oil leak*



*P1859 (Bingara grader) – repairs to ram mount on front blade*

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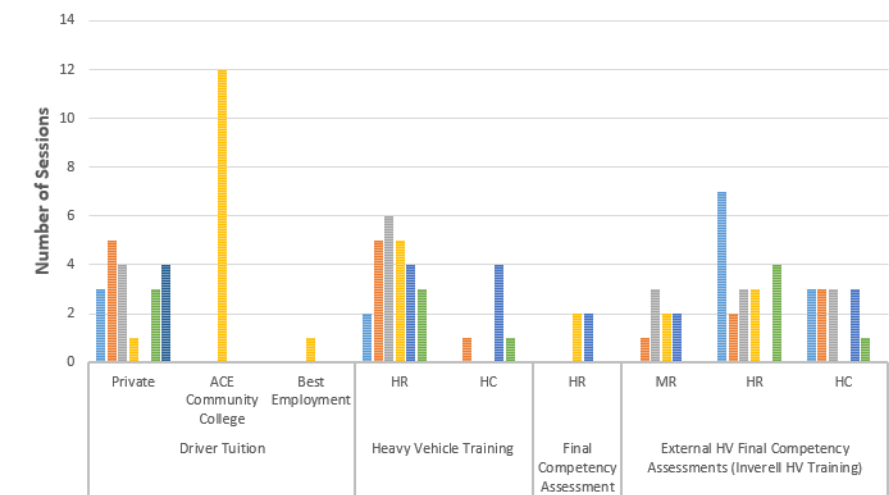


*Watercart P1786 (Bingara) - relocation of toolbox and fire extinguisher*

## GLR AUTOMOTIVE TRADE TRAINING CENTRE (ATTC)

### GLR TRAINING LEARNER DRIVER & HEAVY VEHICLE TRAINING & ASSESSMENT

Jan-21 Feb-21 Mar-21 Apr-21 May-21 Jun-21 Jul-21



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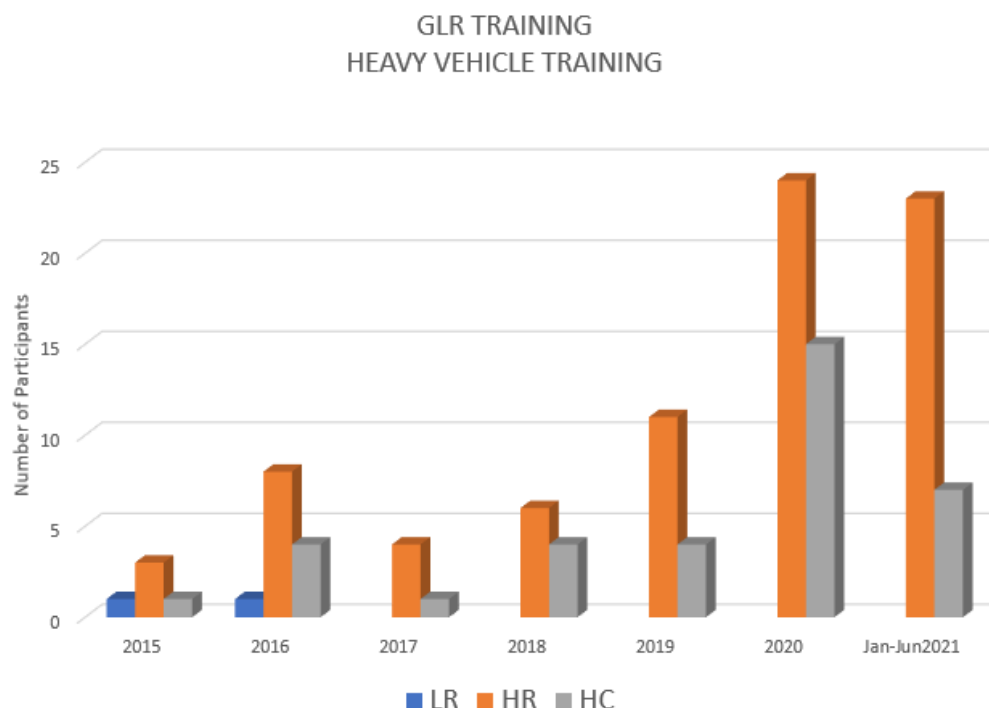
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## Heavy Vehicle Training and Assessment

There was no heavy vehicle training carried out in July, this is contributed to the suspended smart and skilled activity period which has now recommenced, and also GLR Training's discontinued provider accreditation with Transport for NSW.

The commencement of the Training Services NSW Smart and Skilled new activity period has enabled the submission of funding applications for clients and the number of enquiries has been overwhelming. Heavy vehicle training will commence 9<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and already there is a two month waiting list.

GLR Training has entered into an agreement with ACTM Training and Consulting to facilitate Kingsley Grill's accreditation requirements under the Heavy Vehicle Competency Based Assessment program with Transport for NSW.



## Learner Driver Tuition

As illustrated in the graph on the previous page, four (4) learner driver sessions were provided throughout the month July 2021.

## Staff Training in May

Training	Provider	Venue	Number of Participants
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Award History and Interpretation	LGNSW	Online	12
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### Federal Budget Impact on Training and Development

One of the major features of this year's budget is economic recovery through skill development, training and employment.

The primary benefit for Council being the expansion of the *JobTrainer* fund to allow for the continuation of low fee or free training places in areas of skills need, and the \$2.7 billion investment to extend and expand the Boosting Apprenticeship Commencement (BAC) wage subsidy which includes eligibility for existing employees.

Council staff will be asked to consider this professional development opportunity to upskill and acquire additional qualifications in courses including, but not limited to:

- Cert IV Environmental Management and Sustainability
- Cert IV Workplace Health and Safety
- Cert IV Civil Construction (Supervisor or Operations)

Registration cut off for funded training positions is March 2022.

### PLANNING

The following Development (D/A) and Development Modification (s96) applications were approved during the months of June and July 2021.

No.	Property Description	Development/Work	\$	D/A	S96
10/2021	C L & C Mundkowski Lot 23 DP 1202798 Ironbark Drive Warialda	Dwelling	\$168,324	✓	-
16/2021	J D & J N O'Donnell Lot 1 DP 617484 10 Gwydir Terrace Bingara	Convert part of existing garage to a granny flat (secondary dwelling) and the addition of a verandah to part of the front and part of the southern side of the principal dwelling	\$38,000	✓	-
19/2021	J T & L J Lewis Lot 224 DP 754819 12 Bandalong Street Bingara	Garage	\$30,000	✓	-
20/2021	P G Turner Lot 74 and Lot 76 DP 754851 8-14 Brigalow Street Bingara	Garage	\$15,650	✓	-
21/2021	K F & H H Edmondson Lot 77 DP 754851 16-20 Brigalow Street Bingara	Additions and alteration to existing dwelling	\$323,700	✓	-
22/2021	G R & O Stewart Lot 3 Section 21 DP 758111 21 Keera Street Bingara	Dwelling	\$500,000	✓	-

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23/2021	C T McCudden Lot 1C DP 300164 93 Bingara Street Wialda Rail	Garage	\$9,850	✓	-
24/2021	Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd Lot 7010 DP 1030135 LI 620054 Buckie Road Croppa Creek	Establish a temporary office and crib facility including 6 demountable buildings (3 private offices, a cafeteria and equipment storage), develop access road, amenities building, construct employee parking, install a 10KL water tank, install a shade structures and place 3 shipping containers to be used as a visual screen. The facility will be onsite for a period of 12 months and will provide facilities for the employees involved in the Inland Rail Project	\$12,000	✓	-

The following Development (D/A) and Development Modification (s96) applications remain outstanding at the end of July 2021.

No	Property Description and Description of Work	Reason	D/A	S96
28/2013	Johnstone Concrete & Quarries Pty Ltd 530 Gil Gil Creek Road Pallamallawa - Modification of existing approved 300,000 tonnes per year quarry to a 499,000 tonnes per year for a period of 5 years and to extend the haulage route north along Gil Gil Creek Road	Being referred, advertised, notified and exhibited for 21 days	-	✓
49/2016	Ceres Ag 'Gunerwarildi' 1470 North Star Road Wialda - Continued occupation/use of rural worker accommodation being the installation of a number of premanufactured cabins	Approved in principal awaiting compliance certification or engineering certification for the cabins	✓	-
39/2019	DJ Bull Fairford Road Wialda - 2 Lot Large Lot Subdivision	Request for additional information from applicant in relation to requirements under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016	✓	-
6/2021	S A Donaldson 161 Ashton Road Yallaro - 29,000m <sup>3</sup> Quarry	Being assessed	✓	-
25/2021	S R Standerwick / Gwydir Shire Council Wialda Road Wialda - Animal Impounding Facility	14 day exhibition on Council's website and 14 day adjoining neighbours notifications as required by the Gwydir Community Participation Plan and Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979	✓	-
26/2021	Meader Constructions / P B Goodwin 67 Maitland Street Bingara - Additions and alterations to existing dwelling	14 day exhibition on Council's website and 14 day adjoining neighbours notifications as required by the Gwydir Community Participation Plan and Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979	✓	-
27/2021	A Lee, P J Kemp 40 Roger Moore Crescent Wialda - Shed	14 day exhibition on Council's website and 14 day adjoining neighbours notifications as required by the Gwydir Community Participation Plan	✓	-

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		and Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979		
28/2021	A D Dawes 3261 Gragin Road Warialda - Shed	14 day exhibition on Council's website and 14 day adjoining neighbours notifications as required by the Gwydir Community Participation Plan and Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979	✓	-

The following Development (D/A) or Development Modification (s96) applications were approved and not previously reported to Council.

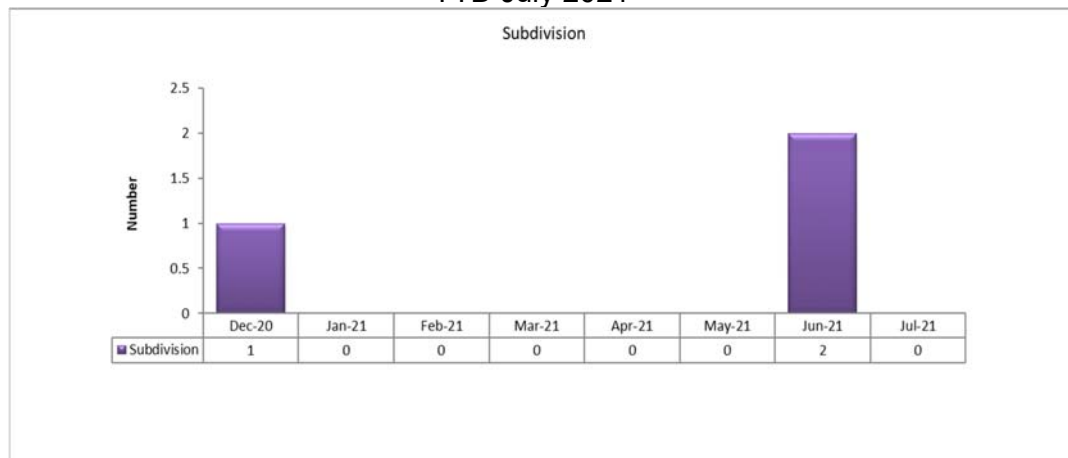
No.	Property Description	Development/ Work	\$	D/A	S96
3/2020	R J Swain & M K Swain Lot 55 DP 751085 1550 Adams Scrub Road Delungra	Quarry	\$4,000	-	✓

There were no Development (D/A) or Development Modification (s96) application/s refused(R)/ withdrawn (W)/ Cancelled (C) during the months of June and July 2021.

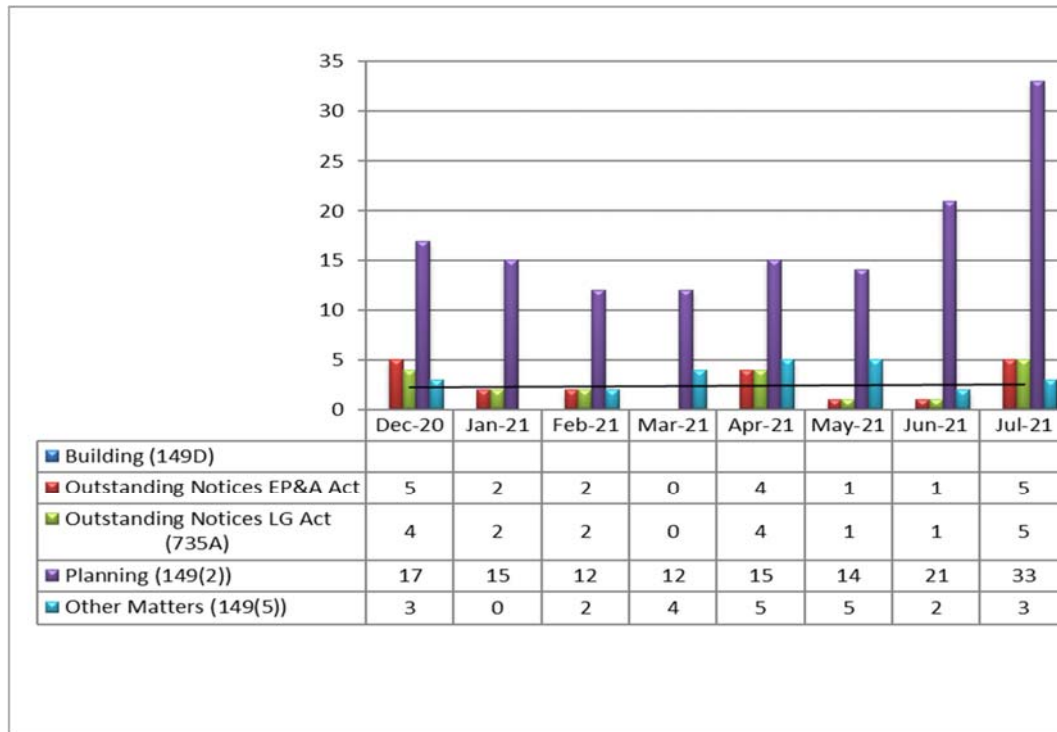
There were no Development (D/A) applications determined where there has been a variation in standards under clause 4.6 of the Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013 during the months of June and July 2021.

The following Subdivision Certificates were issued during the months of June and July 2021 and in the previous six (6) months.

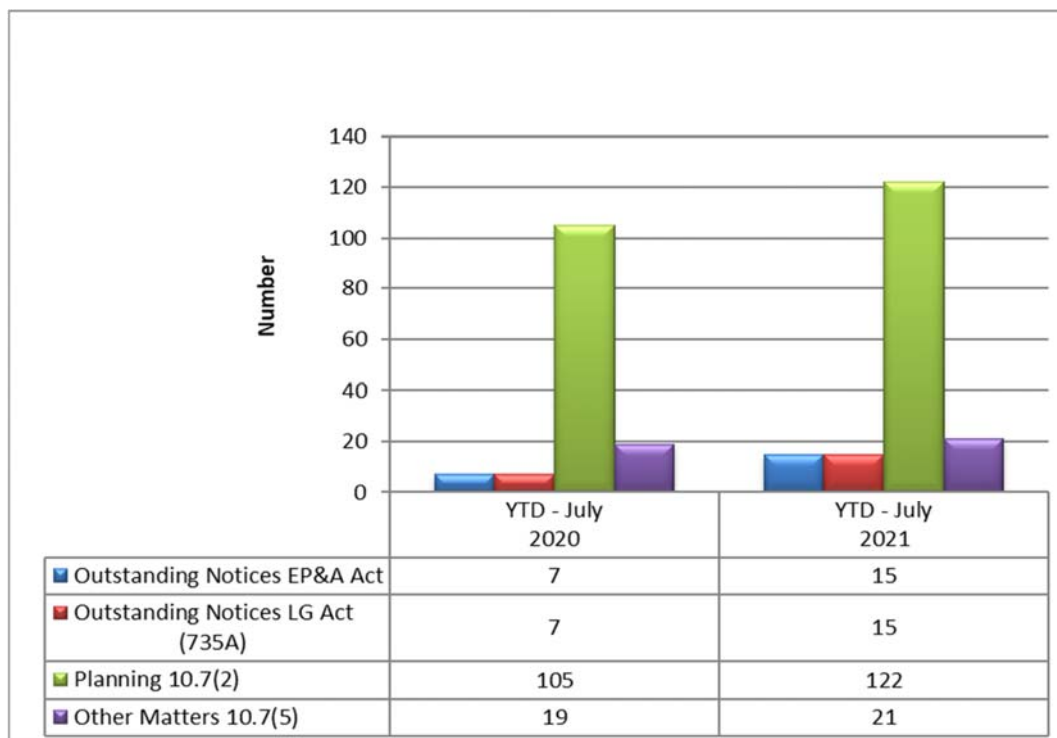
YTD July 2021



The following graph shows Conveyancing Certificates were issued during the months of June and July 2021 compared to the previous six (6) months.



The following graph shows the number of Conveyancing Certificates issued up to and including the months of June and July 2021 compared with the same period in 2020.

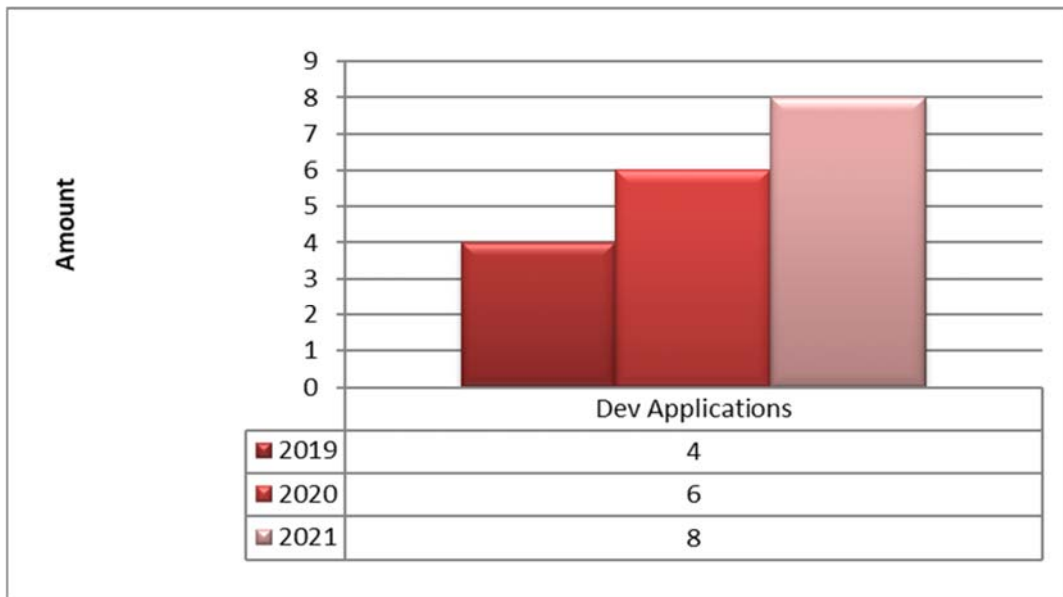


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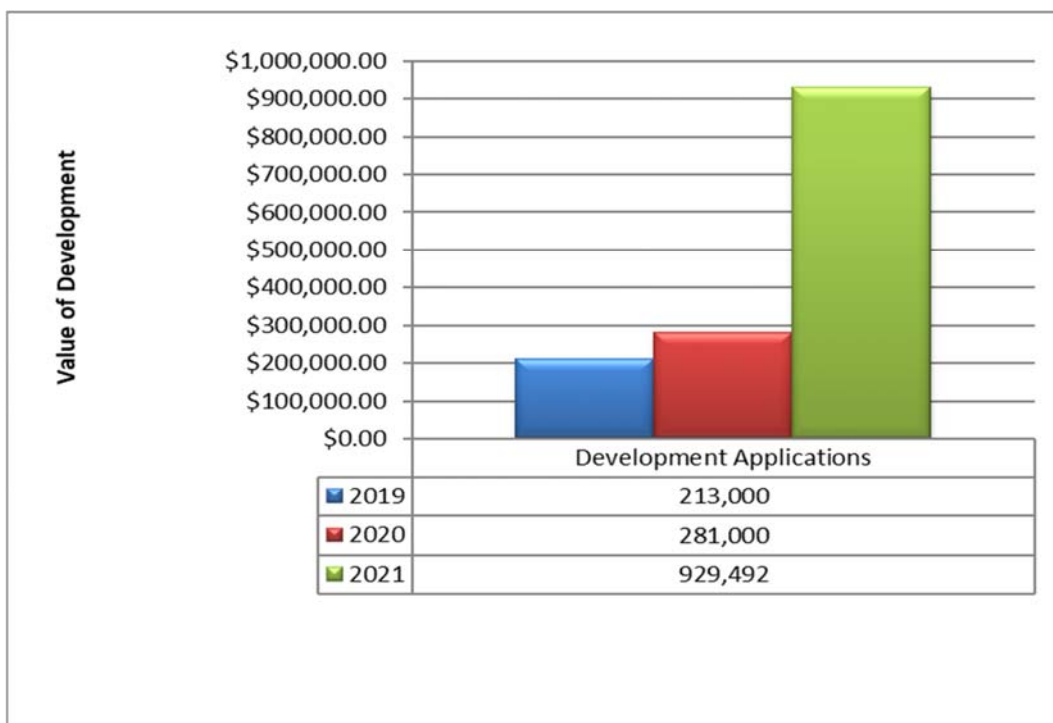
Chairman .....



The table below shows a comparison between total applications lodged during the months of June and July 2021 compared to the same period in the previous two years.



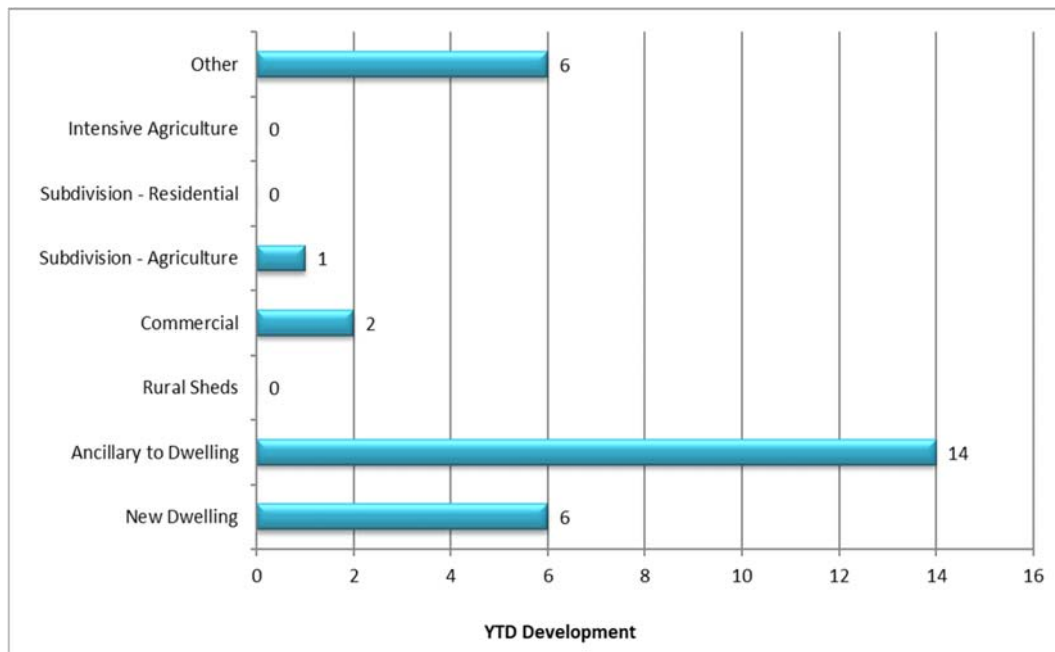
The table below shows a comparison between total value of applications lodged during the months of June and July 2021 compared to the same period in the previous two years.



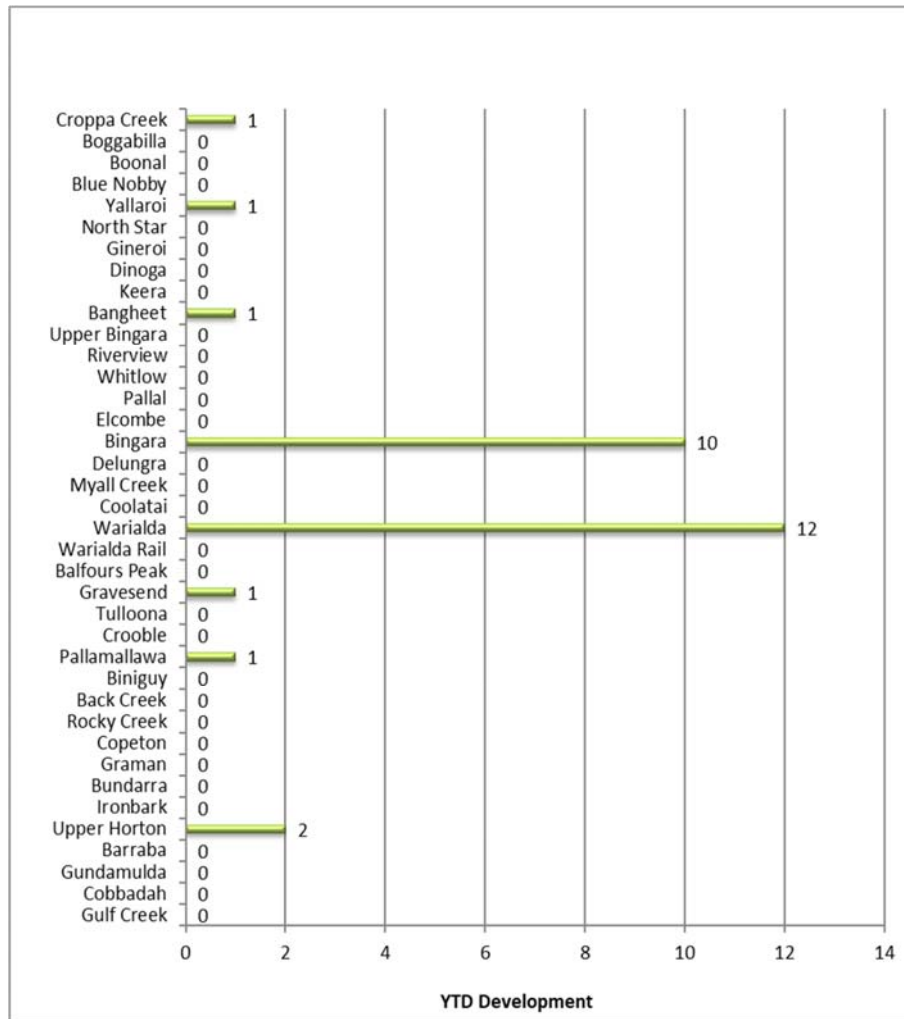
This is page number 25 of the minutes of the Community Services and Planning Committee held on Thursday 12 August 2021

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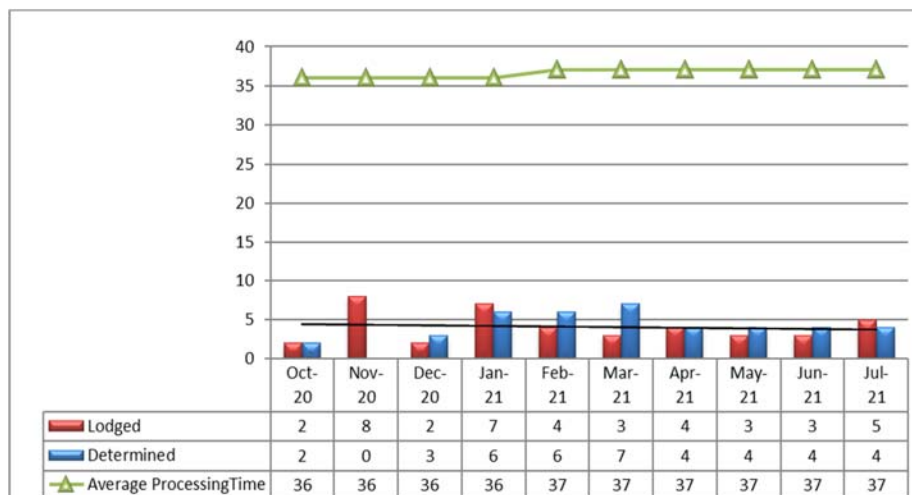
**Development Applications received for the year by type – YTD July 2021**



**Development Applications Received for the year by locality – YTD July 2021**



**Development Application Analysis – for the nine (9) months up to the end of July 2021**



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## **DEVELOPMENT**

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), Complying Development Certificate (CDC), Building Information Certificate (BIC) and S68 applications have been approved for the month of June and July 2021.

Number	Property Description	Development/Work	\$	C/C	CDC		S68
15/2021	12921 Gwydir Hwy Warialda NSW 2402	Additions and Alterations to the existing dwelling, including new master suite, ensuite and study	\$112,261.00	✓			
3/2021	Copeton Waters State Park	Approval to Operate a Caravan Park/Camping Ground					✓
10/2021	49 Railway Parade Gravesend NSW 2401	Modification of the existing OSSM System and installation of a commercial grade grease arrestor					✓
11/2021	12921 Gwydir Hwy Warialda NSW 2402	Modification to the existing OSSM System in association with additions to existing dwelling					✓
12/2021	4093 Elcombe Road Bingara NSW 2404	New OSSM System in association with proposed new dwelling and shed					✓
15/2021	2021 Bingara Orange Festival	Amusement Rides					✓
16/2021	Ironbark Drive Warialda NSW 2402	New Aerated Water Treatment System in association with proposed new dwelling					✓
18/2021	4093 Elcombe Road Bingara NSW 2404	New single dwelling with attached carport and a detached garage/shed	\$190,000.00	✓			
21/2021	16-20 Brigalow Street Bingara NSW 2404	Alterations and additions to the existing dwelling	\$323,700.00	✓			

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17/2021	16-20 Brigalow Street Bingara NSW 2404	Install new aerated water treatment system				✓
4/2021	44 Queen Street Warialda NSW 2402	Construct an attached verandah and awning on the existing dwelling	\$19,800.00		✓	

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

Number	Property Description	Development/ Work	\$	C/C	CDC
NIL					

### Illegal Activity

ACTIVITY	ACTION TAKEN				
	Inspected/Action Taken	Application Lodged	Penalty Notice	Legal Action	Refer to Council
April 2021 – possible illegal development – installation of shipping container	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letter sent to property owner asking them to contact council. Property owner has contacted council</li> <li>Inspected</li> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>	NA	NA	NA	NA
May 2021 – possible illegal building work – construction of shed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letter sent to property owners asking them to contact council within 14 days</li> <li>Inspected</li> <li>Owner has contacted council and is consulting with engineer to have plans drawn for BIC to be lodged</li> <li>Awaiting lodgement of BIC</li> </ul>	NA	NA	NA	NA
May 2021 – possible illegal building work – enclosure of verandah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roadside Inspection</li> <li>Letter sent to property owner asking them to contact Council within 14 days</li> <li>Owner has contacted council and has consulted with engineer to have plans drawn up for BIC to be lodged.</li> <li>Awaiting lodgement of BIC</li> </ul>	NA	NA	NA	NA

### Number of Complaints/Inspections June 2021

Type	Number	Year To Date	Actioned	Pending
Building	35	209	206	3

### Number of Complaints/Inspections July 2021

Type	Number	Year To Date	Actioned	Pending
Building (carried over – 3)	29	29	29	3

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## BUILDING MAINTENANCE

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

### Projects Worked On

Staff worked on the following projects during June and July 2021:

- Refurbishment of 47 Hope Street (Old Soil Conservation Building) has commenced
- Refurbishment of Warialda Golf & Bowling Club is nearing completion
- Cunningham Park Amenities Building is nearing completion
- Fit out of Gineroi RFS Shed



*Council Staff completing the fit out of Gineroi RFS Shed*

### NSW ePlanning Portal

As of 1 July 2021 it became mandatory for all Development Applications and Post Consent Certificates to be submitted to Council via the NSW ePlanning Portal.

Staff have been undertaking training in the processes of accepting and assessing applications and issuing approvals using this new system and are able to assist applicants with their applications when required.

A press release from the Department of Planning on the 2 July 2021 stated the following:

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*The Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Planning Portal) Regulation 2020 came into effect this week.*

*This Regulation has introduced some important changes to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 - many as a result of the implementation of the Premier's mandate.*

*These amendments make the use of the NSW Planning Portal mandatory for the lodgement of certain planning applications (in particular, development applications including modifications, applications for complying development certificates (CDCs) and for certificates under Part 6 of the EP&A Act), the assessment of those applications, as well as the issue of any relevant consents, CDCs and certificates.*

*The NSW Government is committed to delivering effective, efficient and transparent planning services through the NSW Planning Portal and the current ePlanning Program proposes to further drive the digital transformation of all planning services by implementing an expanded digital services platform.*

*The use of the Portal in this manner will make it easier for the public and government agencies to interact with each other and the planning system.*

**About the Premier's Mandate**

*In November 2019 the Premier announced ePlanning Digital Services would become mandatory for certain councils in 2020.*

*In March 2020, Minister Rob Stokes and Minister Victor Dominello outlined how the mandate would be implemented.*

*Councils and registered certifiers in the Sydney Metropolitan, Illawarra, Central Coast and Newcastle areas have been instructed to use the ePlanning Digital Services from 1 July 2020, and to process 100 per cent of planning applications this way from 31 December 2020.*

*More recently, six regional councils and the registered certifiers in these Local Government Areas were added to this list as part of the Department's response to COVID-19.*

*These regions include Coffs Harbour, Maitland, Mid-Coast, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Port Stephens and Tweed Shire.*

*The remaining 80 regional councils, and registered certifiers in those local government areas, are to commence using the ePlanning Digital Services from 1 January 2021, and are to process 100 per cent of planning applications this way from 1 July 2021.*

Information for applicants, councils and private certifiers can be found on the ePlanning Portal at <https://pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/>

**ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY**

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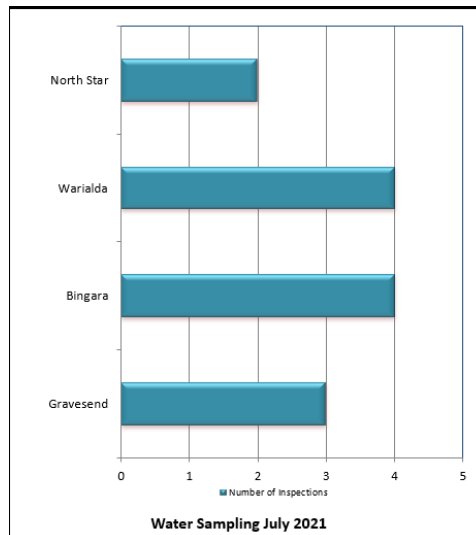
Chairman .....

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

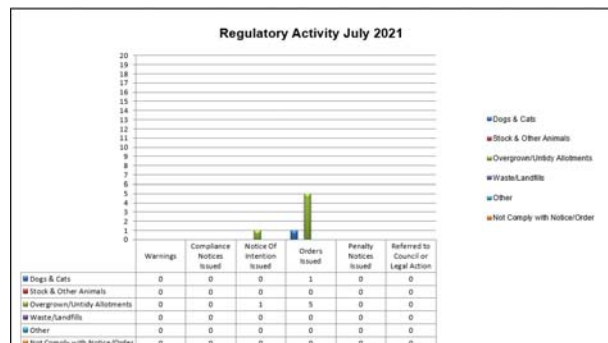
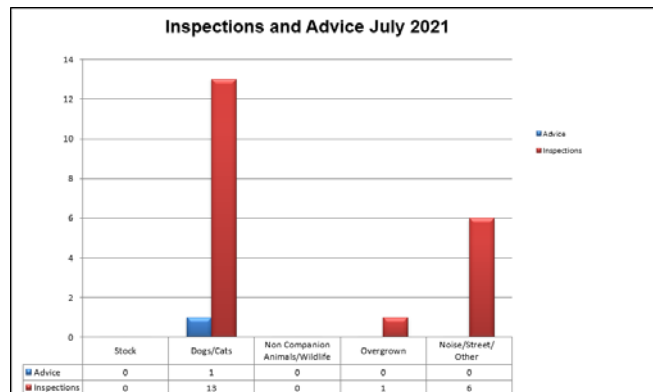
The Department continues to carry out routine weekly microbiological sampling of the water supply in the towns of Warialda and Bingara, fortnightly sampling of Gravesend and monthly sampling at North Star.



### Compliance and Regulatory Control

Council received complaints regarding roaming stock and dogs, noise, the keeping of animals and other concerns during the month of July 2021. These are investigated and actioned as necessary.





## Warialda off Leash Dog Park

Wet weather has delayed the completion of the Warialda off Leash Dog Exercise Area.

Regulatory staff, with some assistance from technical services staff, are fencing 275 lineal meters of Triangle Park. This will create a secure area for residents to take their dogs and let them run around. The area will also feature secure pedestrian entry spaces where leashes can be taken off and put back on without the pets running off.

The site will also include signage, seating, a human and dog watering station, exercise obstacles for the dogs and the landscape planting of native flora.

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Once the Warialda off Leash Area is completed works will commence on the Bingara and Gravesend off Leash Areas.

### Waste Contract Services – June/July 2021

- Data was not available at the time of the report

### Priority Weed 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 E.
- Authorised Officers are participating in Rapid Response Task Force in response to Parthenium Weed incursions

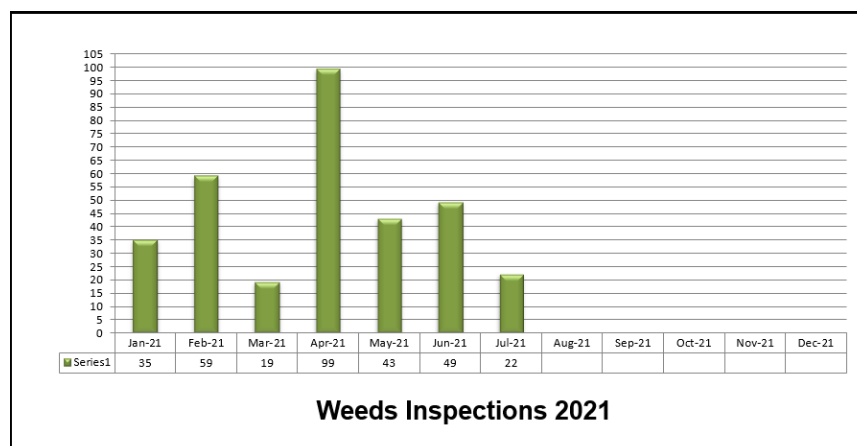
#### Section 28 Noxious Weeds Certificates

No Section 28 Certificates were issued for the month of July 2021.

#### Weeds Inspections

Property inspections are being undertaken in Section E during 2021 with property owners being offered support and advice on managing weeds.

The following graphs and charts show the noxious weeds inspections carried out in 2020/2021.



#### **Noxious Weeds Inspections July 2021**

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<i>Areas Inspected</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Ha</i>	<i>Rd km</i>	<i>Weeds Present</i>
Roadside – High Risk Pathways	9	2091.6	418.32	Sweet Briar, Blackberry, Pattersons Curse, Common Pear, African Boxthorn, Tree Pear, Harissa Cactus, Mother of Millions, Mimosa Bush
Roadside	8	345.75	69.15	Sweet Briar, Common Pear, Pattersons Curse, Green Cestrum, African Boxthorn, Mother of Millions, Blackberry, Harissa Cactus, Tree Pear, Tiger Pear, Mimosa Bush
Private Property – High Risk Re-Inspection	1	3600		Parthenium Weed
Council Lands	4	100		Pattersons Curse, Mother of Millions, Mimosa Bush, Madeira Vine, Green Cestrum, General Weeds , Tiger Pear, Tree Pear, African Boxthorn

<b>Noxious Weeds Control Works July 2021</b>						
<b>Road/Property</b>	<b>Weed Code</b>	<b>Area Ha</b>	<b>Road km</b>	<b>High Risk Road</b>	<b>Council Road</b>	<b>Other</b>
Caroda Rd	Pattersons Curse	192.65	38.53	1		
Gravesend Rd	Pattersons Curse	78.45	15.69	1		
Bells Creek Rd	Pattersons Curse	8.25	1.65		1	
Bingara Common Camping Area	Pattersons Curse	20	-			1
Bingara Common Camping Area	Pattersons Curse	20	-			1
Bingara Common Camping Area	Pattersons Curse	20	-			1
Bingara Common, Boat Ramp, Gravel Screen	Pattersons Curse	10	-			1
Allandale Rd	Pattersons Curse	39.55	7.91		1	
Agincourt Rd	Pattersons Curse	77.3	15.46		1	
University Rd	Pattersons Curse	9.85	1.97		1	
North Star Rd	Pattersons Curse	411.25	82.25	1		
Croppa Creek Rd	Pattersons Curse	115.75	23.15	1		
Faithful Camping Area	Pattersons Curse	10	-			1
Gwydir Hwy	Pattersons Curse	289.5	57.9	1		
Gwydir Hwy	Pattersons Curse	289.5	57.9	1		
Innesvale Rd	Pattersons Curse	29.1	5.82		1	
Gravesend Rec Ground	Pattersons Curse	7.5	-			1
Ezzys Crossing	Pattersons Curse	10	-			1
Gravesend Rd	Mother of Millions	78.45	15.69	1		
Myall Creek Memorial	General Weeds	10	-			1
Tigers Gap	General Weeds	2	-			1
Rotary Park Warialda	General Weeds	2	-			1
Warialda Depot	General Weeds	1	-			1

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North Star Rd	Mother of Millions	411.25	82.25	1		
Boat Ramp	Green Cestrum, Mother of Millions	10	-			1
Boundary Creek Rd	Pattersons Curse	63.95	12.79		1	
Caroda Rd	Pattersons Curse	192.65	38.53	1		

The Environment and Sustainability Department report for July 2021 was compiled with information available at the time of preparing the report.

## **COMMUNITY ASSETS**

### **Caravan Parks**

Council's caravan park caretakers have been on leave this month. Casual staff have done an excellent job of filling in during this time.

Pest Control was carried out at the Bingara Caravan Park on 22 July.

QR Code and manual COVID Safe Sign In sheets have been made available at the caravan parks in accordance with new government regulations.

### **Cranky Rock**

Month	Powered sites	Unpowered sites	Total
May 2021	76	47	123
June 2021	93	42	135
July 2021	76	16	92

### **Gwydir Libraries**

Statistics	Bingara	Warialda	Gwydir
Door Count	1505	1087	
Loans	963	519	
New Members	8	2	
E-resource Users			132
Downloads			390
PC usage	258	68	
WIFI usage	360	140	
Programs	42	29	
Adult Program	53	37	
Children Program	368	82	
Home Delivery	24	4	
Institution Delivery	2	2	
Seniors Be Connected	18	8	

Bingara Library was closed on Thursday 14 July due to an electricity outage. The librarian went to the Warialda Library to do an audit of books.

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Both the Bingara and Warialda libraries were closed on Thursday 29 July for staff training.

#### Bingara Branch Activities

- Home schoolers visit each week to participate in programs and complete their studies, participate in the Lego competition, borrow, and read together.
- University students have booked the study spaces to complete their leaning via zoom. Some students will continue to learn via zoom for the remainder of the year. The library is the perfect place to complete their classes and assignments.
- After school programs have combined with Toy Library Kool School Kids (KSK) program Tuesday and Thursdays and is proving to be very successful. The KSK program, previously held at the Toy Library, has allowed the public library to include students from the program waiting list to attend on Tuesday and Thursdays. Two staff members allows for several working groups across the entire library.
- Programs for library after school children continue to be delivered on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
- On Tuesday and Thursdays, the older children participate in Murder and Mystery Club, code solving, history research, local history, and scrapbooking while the KSK group participate in a craft or game activity.
- Be Connected tutorials are via zoom until restrictions have been lifted.

#### Warialda Branch Activities

- Warialda Library hosts a range of programs for seniors, adults, teenagers, and children.
- Storytime is hosted in the Toy Library every month.
- After school programs continue to be successful. The library can use the Toy Library for some programs after 3:00pm as its closed for the remainder of the day. This allows more space to spread the group out enabling us to adhere to current restrictions.
- Tuesday is the busiest days with Be Connected (currently on hold from the end of July due to COVID restrictions) followed by Meet and Greet which members of the community are invited along to chat or seek assistance. A staff member from Anglicare Moree visits and is available to connect the residents with relevant services.

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- The second and fourth Wednesday of the month the library hosts craft group. Members have a lot of laughs as well as helping and or advising each other on their craft activities.
- Be Connected sessions are held Thursdays (on hold from end of July due to COVID restrictions).

### **Property Management**

The vacant Plunkett Street unit renovations are now complete and ready for the two new tenants to move in.

During the reporting period, Council staff contacted aged care units and caravan park permanent residents to check in.

In accordance with Council's 2021/22 adopted Budget, rentals have now been increased.

### **Myall Creek**

The funding application which was lodged on behalf of the Friends of Myall Creek Memorial Committee for \$186,315 in the Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Grants 2021 was unsuccessful.

### **Museum**

On Tuesday 27 July, volunteers from the Bingara Historical Society hosted morning tea at the Bingara Museum for Councillors Egan and Dixon and The Hon Adam Marshall MP, to inspect the new administration facilities. Funding was gained through the NSW Government Stronger Country Communities Program.



*Members of the Bingara Historical Society with MP Adam Marshall, Cr Marilyn Dixon and Cr Catherine Egan at the Bingara Museum.*

### **Purchase of 20 Maitland Street Bingara**

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Chairman .....

Council's purchase of the Salvation Army building, 20 Maitland Street Bingara, was settled on 14 July. This property will allow the Bingara District Historical Society to better store and display historical items.

Pest control was carried out on 22 July.

### **Cleaning**

Extra COVID cleaning at the Rural Fire Service building has continued throughout July.

### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the report be received

### **ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:**

**THAT the Executive Services Monthly report is received and noted.**

**(Moved Cr Egan, seconded Cr Galvin)**







### Covid Colin



We couldn't resist, lucky Covid Colin is a willing participant and not to mention a gentle companion for the residents.

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### **Commonwealth Home Support Program – Warialda/ Delungra**

#### Meetings

Next Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for 17 August 2021, at this stage this most probable be cancelled due to COVID.

Community Health meetings have been cancelled for April, June, and July 2021.

#### Volunteers

Warialda/Delungra CHSP have approximately forty-three volunteers.

Volunteers are still transporting and delivering Meals on Wheels following COVID regulations.

#### Transport and Trips

Inverell community bus had to be cancelled this Month due to COVID, this is due to social distancing with seating.

Transport still operating taking clients to appointments, masks must be worn.

#### Social Support

Warialda/Delungra Day Centres have cancelled all activities this Month due to COVID. This is due to social distancing within the Day Centres.

Weekly contact with clients ensuring wellbeing.

#### Day Centres

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Day Centres Warialda and Delungra cancelled for this Month due to COVID distancing.

Carpets cleaned at Warialda and Delungra Day Centres 21 July 2021.

Food Service

Meals on Wheels are providing five permanent and two casual clients with meals.

CHSP Coordinator and volunteer took to the kitchen and supplied some of our clients with a yummy morning tea drop off and a catch up.

<b>Warialda/Delungra CHSP July Report</b>		
	<b>Delungra</b>	<b>Warialda</b>
<b>Day Centre</b>		
Total Active Clients	21	92
Clients Receiving Service	9	46
Total Meals	0	0
Hours Clients Receive In Centre	9	99
<b>Social Support</b>		
Number of Clients	9	46
Individual Hours	9	99
Group Hours	0	0
Total Hours Received	9	99
<b>Food Service - Meals on Wheels</b>		
Clients	0	7
Meals	0	106
<b>Transport</b>		
Number Of Clients	0	7
Number Of Trips	0	14
<b>Transport - Youth</b>		
Number Of Clients	0	0
Number Of Trips	0	0
<b>Access Bus To Inverell</b>		
Number Of Clients	0	0
Number Of Trips	0	0
<b>Volunteers</b>		
Number of Volunteers - July	0	30
Monthly Volunteer Hours	0	61



*Warialda CHSP Coordinator giving out yummy morning tea to one of CHSP client, and a catch up.*

## **Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) Bingara**

### Advisory Committee Meeting

No meetings have been held.

### Volunteers

Bingara CHSP was supported by 10 volunteers with 169.5 hours of services during July for Out-Of-Town Transport, and local transport. There was no Centre-Based Care allowed during July due to COVID19 restrictions.

The hours that volunteers work are determined by the time spent with clients; through transportation, group social support and individual social support.

### Transport and Trips

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Out-of-Town Transport made 152 trips for the month, servicing 38 clients.

The Access Bus did not make the usual trips to Inverell in July due to COVID19 restrictions. The Bus, however, was used for some out-of-town trips to medical appointments when both other vehicles were fully booked.

Volunteers carry out regular maintenance checks on the vehicles as well as routine cleaning after every trip.

### Social Support

Group Social Support Group usually held in the Linger longer room has also been put on hold again due to COVID19 restrictions. CHSP staff did deliver morning tea on Tuesdays in July to the group social support clients. Delivery of morning tea to 15 clients was made. This will continue until we can resume normal activities. Clients are aware CHSP can be contacted as normally for transport and meals on wheels. The monthly Group Social Support outings have also been cancelled due to the COVID restrictions.

The Local Transport Service has been busy during July. The Covid19 vaccinations are continuing with many local clients needing transport to and from the Medical Centre.

### Food Service

Meals on Wheels remained the same in July, maintaining 12 clients.

Meals on Wheels is coordinated by the Bingara CHSP Staff and the Meals provided by the Bingara MPS.

July Services	
<b>Day Centre</b>	
Total Active Clients	0
Clients Receiving Service	0
Total Meals	0
Hours Clients Receive In Centre	0
<b>Social Support</b>	
Number Of Clients	56
Individual Hours	269
Group Hours	0
Total Hours Received	269
<b>Food Service (Meals on Wheels)</b>	
Clients	13
Meals	196
<b>Transport</b>	
Number Of Clients	38
Number Of Trips	152
<b>Transport (Youth)</b>	
Number Of Clients	0
Number Of Trips	0

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<b>Access Bus To Inverell</b>	
Number Of Clients	0
Number Of Trips	0
<b>Volunteers</b>	
Number Of Volunteers	10
Number Of Hours	169.5

## **SOCIAL SERVICES**

### **Bingara Neighbourhood Centre**

*Funding body – NSW Department of Communities and Justice*

Bingara Neighbourhood Centre continues to assist community groups with grant applications and attend to the needs of the general public through advocacy and referral to other services.

The Neighbourhood Centre saw an increase in requests for assistance through emergency relief and is investigating the additional assistance of the St Vincent's DePaul Society in providing financial assistance due to COVID 19 restrictions.

### **S355 Committees**

This responsibility has now been transferred to another Council Officer however assistance has been provided to the Bingara Men's Shed and the Bingara Op Shop to create relationships of mutual benefit.

### **Centrelink**

Centrelink remained with normal operation hours throughout July.

### **Youth Service**

*Funding body – NSW Department of Communities and Justice*

### **Youth Council**

Throughout the school holidays, the Youth Council ran two competitions, a treasure hunt and photo challenge. The two competitions were COVID friendly events. The interested participants were able to register and upload their products to the Facebook groups made specifically for each event. These competitions were held for both Bingara and Warialda, and they were an event for all ages. The photo challenge involved the participants producing a photo that suited the category they were given for each day. The topics for the last week were 'Something you love about your town' & 'Something you would like to change about your town'. These categories highlight the needs of the young people and allows the Youth Council to prioritise initiatives that they would like to support.

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Ten young people participated in the challenge. The treasure hunt was conducted in both Bingara and Warialda, with pieces of historical information placed around iconic or historical locations. Each day, the participants had to send in their photos of which places they had found. They were given clues to also help find the locations. There were no participants for Bingara which was unfortunate to see, as we thought this would be a great opportunity for families to go out together in their own time during school holidays. 5 families from Warialda participated and gave great feedback regarding the activity.

The Youth Council held a meeting on Wednesday 14 July 2021. They discussed plans for the remainder of 2021. Towards the next school holidays, a themed Social will be held at the Roxy Theatre in Bingara. This will be an ideal opportunity for the Young People to come together before leaving school and commencing HSC.

### **Youth Mentoring Program**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
May	3
June	4
July	3

The Youth mentoring program has been assisting young people with Centrelink, Medicare, job applications, behaviour management & resumes.

### **Vacation Care**

<b>Total Points of Contact</b>	52
<b>Enrolments for Holiday Activities – 1 July to 2 July 2021</b>	17 Families 35 Children 16 Girls 19 Boys
<b>Enrolments for Holiday Activities - Bingara</b>	6 Families 13 Children 5 Girls 8 Boys 19 Points of Contact
<b>Enrolments for Holiday Activities - Warialda</b>	11 Families 22 Children

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	11 Girls 11 Boys 33 Points of Contact
--	---

Vacation Care was held on Thursday 1 July 2021 at Warialda Town Hall and on Friday 2 July 2021 at Bingara Preschool.

A range of activities and games were provided for the children throughout the program such as board games (cluedo), uno, spot it, free colouring and drawing, sardines, hide and seek, murder wink, and stained-glass scratch cards. The children really enjoyed murder wink as they were all given a go. The children enjoyed learning "Mr. Squiggle" which created many interesting art pieces. This program was focused on team building and communication skills, listening skills and fun games that they would enjoy.



### Supported Playgroup Development Worker

*Funding body – Dep of Community and Justice*

Due to Covid-19 restrictions announced on the Monday 26 June, Warialda Toy Library operated at a minimum capacity for 2.5wks of the month, allowing just 10 patrons on the premises at any one time, including staff, parents and children.

Warialda Toy Library	June 2021	July 2021
Total Daily Attendance	159	156
New Full borrowing members	0	0
New and/or Renew Non-Borrowing Members	2	1
New and/or Renew Casual Borrowing Members	2	0
Commemorative Birth Certificate Applications Received	2	4
Toys Returned	4	6
Toys Borrowed	6	3
Groups Using The Service (FDC carer, Pharmacy)	2	2
<b>Monday</b> Group Activity 3 sessions	14	38
<b>Tuesday</b> Group Activity 4 sessions	40	36
<b>Thursday</b> Group Activity 5 sessions	56	45
<b>Friday</b> Group Activity 5 sessions	49	37

Discussions and information sessions provided for this month included the following topics; cooking with children safely and recipe ideas, early childhood brain development and the importance of fine motor development and activity ideas.

On Thursday 1 July, children engaged in a paint station activity morning. This activity facilitating the development of both sensory and creative play skills.

On Friday the 2 July, children were able to practise their receptive listening skills using a listening activity. This activity also challenged cognition, as children were required to identify sounds being presented and match to pictures on a playing board set out for them on the activity table.

Fine motor skills were encouraged on Tuesday 6 July when playdough was provided for the children. This activity was deliberately set out, aimed at strengthening the muscles in the children's hands and fingers as they worked to manipulate the dough creating various creations.

On Tuesday July 13, Literacy skills were encouraged as children took part in a literacy activity morning. This morning provided children with various stories, followed by a story making activity where children were encouraged to tell their own story and create a book with the help of their parent/ carer. This experience not only supported literacy skills but prompted also imaginative skills as children worked to produce their very own story book.

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Numeracy and counting took place at the Toy Library on Thursday 15 July encouraging children's cognitive skills by number recognition, and activity repetition.

An animal hunt morning and mud play provided for children on Thursday 22 July, encouraged the children's skills associated with imaginative, sensory, and social play, as the children worked together to locate the animals before emerging them in to the slimy 'mud' bath provided for the experience.



On Friday 23 July, children were provided with a bird template, PVA glue and feathers prompting them to utilise their creative and association play skills as they independently created their own bird creation.

On Friday 30 July, children engaged in a musical play morning. Maracas were created, using paper plates and rice. The children then participated in a music session utilising their maracas.



### **Bingara Toy Library**

*Funding body – NSW Department of Education and Communities*

	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>
Total Daily Attendance	89	101	105

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New/Renew Full Borrowing Memberships	0	0	1
New/Renew Non-Borrowing Memberships	2	3	1
New/Renew Casual Borrowing Memberships	0	0	1
Commemorative Birth Certificate	0	0	0
Toys Returned	8	2	1
Toys Borrowed	6	3	3
Children and Groups Using Toys	5	3	2
<b>Tuesday</b> Play session x 4	23	20	37
<b>Wednesday</b> Play session x 4	16	33	40
<b>Thursday</b> Play session x 5	5	2	2
<b>KSK Program</b> Session x 6	45	46	60

This month saw the return of stricter COVID-19 regulations by the NSW government. Once again staff, families and visitors to the service are to book in for their visit, fill in a declaration form, use the service NSW QR code, wear a mask, and abide by the four-square metre rule on each visit.

School holidays covered the first part of the month with various activities offered for the families to enjoy each morning. Unfortunately, the planned cooking event with Rural Outreach, which many families were excited for, had to be postponed due to the tighter COVID 19 restrictions.

Kool Skool Kids program is now running jointly with the Public Library. This allows more opportunities for the children to access the town library and to be under one roof with their peers. This move has also resulted in more attendees. Several things enjoyed by the groups this month were craft, such as making a branch mobile, a dream catcher, decorating a pet rock, a photo holder and as well as some games.



Morning sessions with handouts covered, W-sitting and building scissor skills but incidental conversations with discussions amongst the parents, care givers and grandparents were mask wearing, health as you get older, why we ask everyone to sit down to eat whilst here, different behaviors of children and transitioning to Preschool.



Over the month the children were engaged in numerous activities to build hand eye coordination, use imagination, follow instruction, use gross and fine motor skills, colour recognition and the children were also encouraged to join in for the planned table activity. Craft is not always popular whereas playing pretend games with various toys from around the room, between similar age groups, is. As is expressed frequently by staff, to the families, play is learning but it is nice to add something more to their visit.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Rural Outreach Service visit had to be postponed. An extra session is planned for next month to make up for this.

The fundraising raffle was drawn by one of the local mums during session on Tuesday 27 July. Winners were 1. Susi Hiemer, 2. Fiona Rattray, 3. Caitlin Smith, 4. Chris Hillier, 5. Jacky Lyons, 6. Roman Rafter. Raised \$271.40 and has been banked into W5553.31.174.

### **Bingara Preschool**

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*Funding Body – Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate*

*NSW Department of Education and Communities.*

Days	June
Tuesday	24
Wednesday	27
Thursday	27
Friday	25

### Staff Training

All educators have completed the updated Child Protection Unit. This training was facilitated by the Early Childhood Teacher from TAFE. It was a full day training at the Bingara Preschool. Two other Social Services staff attended this mandatory training.

### NAIDOC Week: 'Healing Country'

The children and educators explored the meaning of the NAIDOC week theme 'Healing Country' during the month of July. The children were provided lots of opportunities to explore, investigate and learn about the Indigenous Culture.



### Transition to BCS

During July the transition program to Bingara Central School has continued successfully. This month the Kindergarten Teacher has focused on extending the children's gross motor, emotional and self-regulation skills. She set up a mini-Olympics and the children each got a certificate, a medal, and a booklet.

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### Support Services

The Occupational Therapist from VITAL Health has visited this month to conduct sessions with two children at Preschool who have current NDIS plans.

### Community Involvement

The Project Officer from Hunter New England Health visited the Preschool on Tuesday 27 July 2021. He spoke to the Educators about the importance of Munch and Move. The Project Officer left a selection of Munch and Move resources for the educators, families, and the children to explore. The Project Officer from the Northern Slopes Landcare Association has been liaising with the Preschool regarding ideas for the Native Bush Tucker Garden. The Preschool secured a Junior Landcare Grant earlier in the year and are in the planning stage of creating the new space.

### **Tharawonga Mobile Resource Unit**

*Funding body – Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment.*

Days and Venues	July 2021
Monday at Yetman	8
Tuesday at North Star	11
Wednesday at Yallaroi	4 (1 casual)
Thursday at Gravesend	7
Friday at Crooble	5

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### Staff Training and Development

The Educators at Tharawonga were booked for Speech and Language training for Early Childhood on Wednesday 7 July 2021 at the Bingara Preschool. However due to the trainer being unavailable on the day it was cancelled. Staff have participated in online training for Positive Behaviour Management.

### Staff

Tharawonga has increased a casual educator's days to four (4) days per week.

### NAIDOC Week

The children at each venue have all participated in special opportunities including crepe paper handprints, dot painting with red, yellow, and black paper, making birds, playdough to make the Aboriginal symbols and Indigenous puzzles. provocations with modelling clay, large and small rocks with pom poms, cotton bud and dot painting, red, yellow, and black paper with pencils, crayons and cutting. Our Intentional experience was cutting an Australian Aboriginal map and sticking to contact. Educators have read the children Aboriginal stories including "Ten Scared Fish", Kangaroos Hop", "A B C of Australian Animals", "W is for Wombat", "1 2 3 of Australian Animals" and "E is for Echidna".



### Farm Safety Week

Children at Yetman, Gravesend and North Star have all participated in opportunities to promote safety on the farm. Educators have read the story "Little Farmer on the farm". Which focused on safe and unsafe things to do on the farm. The children have decorated wall displays from the story and these are going to be displayed at the venues.

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### Yetman

The children at Yetman have been focusing on engaging in role play experiences. The educators provided the children with opportunities within play experiences to imagine and create roles and scenes from the story “The Three little pigs”.



### North Star

The children at North Star have been focusing on number, letter, and shape recognition. The children have been learning new concepts with musical instruments such as introducing loud and quiet concepts.

The vegetable seedlings that the children have planted are flourishing in the garden beds. The children have taken the responsibility of checking these on a weekly basis.

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### Yallaroi

The children have been learning about different textures through engaging in sensory play experiences. The children have been focusing on number recognition and counting. The children have started to create a belonging tree that will be added to over the next two terms. There are (4) four extra children enrolled as casuals at this venue.



### Gravesend

The educators are continuing to implement experiences with the children that focus on building their sense of belonging to the Preschool and community; like "Little Grey Ponies". It also focuses on teaching the children to take turns.

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Weekly intentional teaching is incorporated into the program which is scaffolded by the educators including counting, letter, and number recognition with objects. The award system which enables the children to actively participate in all their designated intentional teaching learning is working successfully with the children. The educators provide the children with planned experiences as well as incorporating the children's voices and implementing their ideas with spontaneous games including duck duck goose.



### Crooble

At Crooble, the weather has been unfavourable, and the conditions have meant that the service has been unable to operate for the first two (2) weeks of this term. The road is impassable and unsafe for educators to travel on in these conditions. The educators have introduced what we refer to as fruit break for the children to have between arrival and morning teatime. The children have put their own label on this time as "crunch and sip". Weekly intentional teaching is incorporated into the program which is scaffolded by the educators including enhancing children's fine motor skills through participating in sorting people with tongs, magnetic numbers and letters for number and letter recognition, and Alphabet Bingo. The educators have introduced 'feeling' books with the children to develop their understanding of emotions. Weekly group experiences are implemented to build the children's sense of belonging to Preschool and the community.



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## COMMUNICATIONS, MARKETING & TOURISM, & ROXY THEATRE COMPLEX

### Communications

#### Community Newsletter

Gwydir News is now being distributed to its digital subscribers and to those who wish to pay to receive it in a hard copy. Staff are to be commended on their work in ensuring a quality print is produced within deadlines.

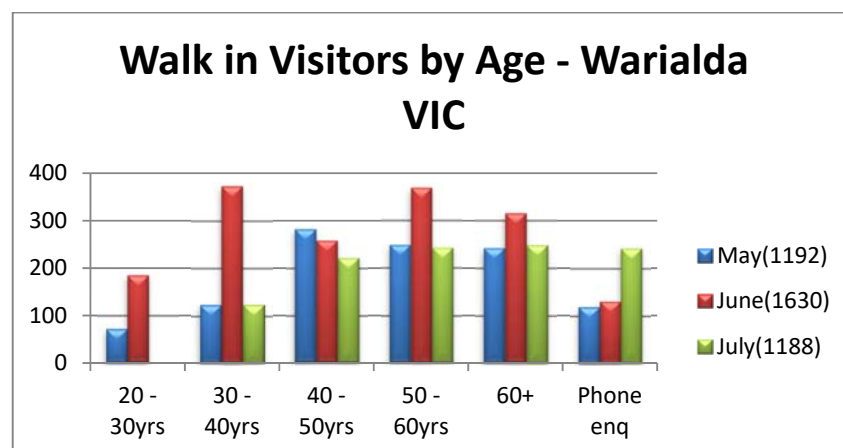
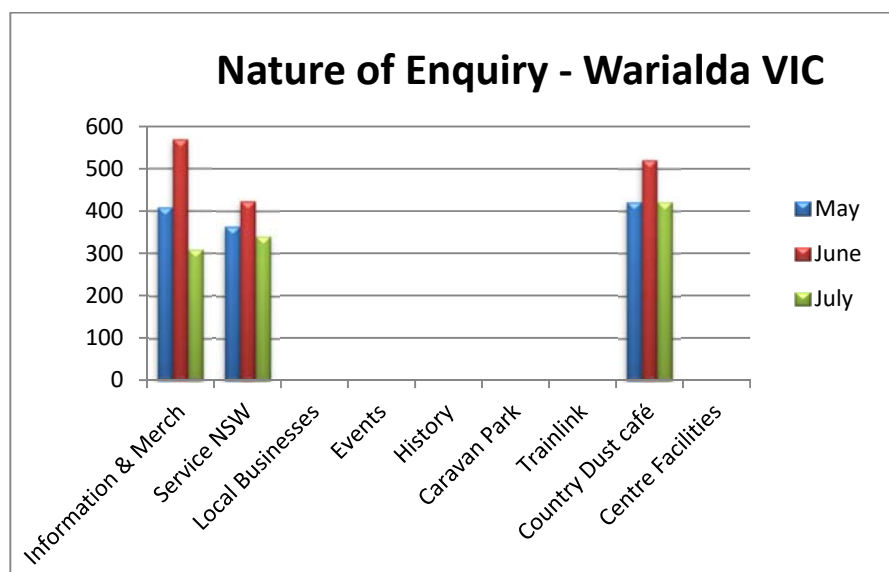
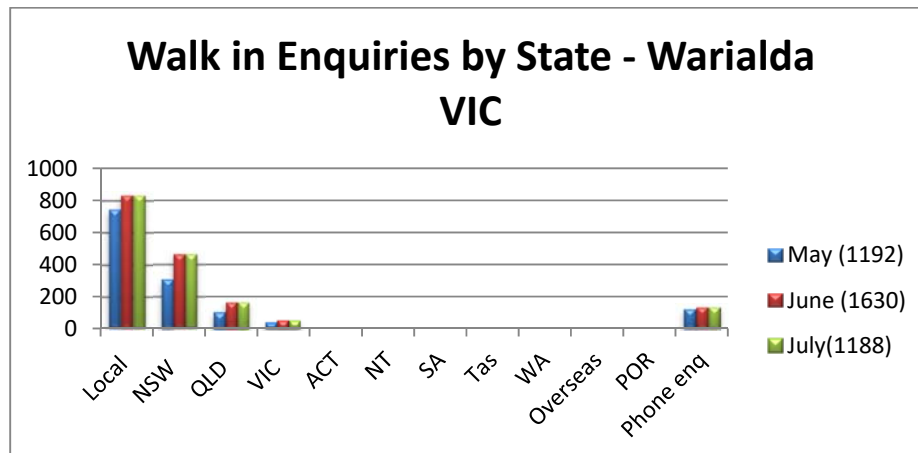
#### Tourism

#### *Warialda Visitor Information Centre*

May 2021	June 2021	July 2021
Opening Hours 165	Opening Hours 165	Opening Hours 157.5
Volunteering Hours 28	Volunteering Hours 30.5	Volunteering Hours 19

Income	May	June	July
Centre Hire	0	0	60.00
Merchandise sales	1558.51	1773.00	1013.01
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1558.51</b>	<b>1773.00</b>	<b>1073.01</b>
<b>Total Monthly Income</b>	<b>1558.51</b>	<b>1773.00</b>	<b>1073.01</b>

Visitors at Warialda VIC	May	June	July
Visitors	408	568	308
RMS	363	423	340
Cafe	421	520	421
Phone Visitor /Service NSW enquires	119	131	119
<b>Total</b>	<b>1311</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>1188</b>



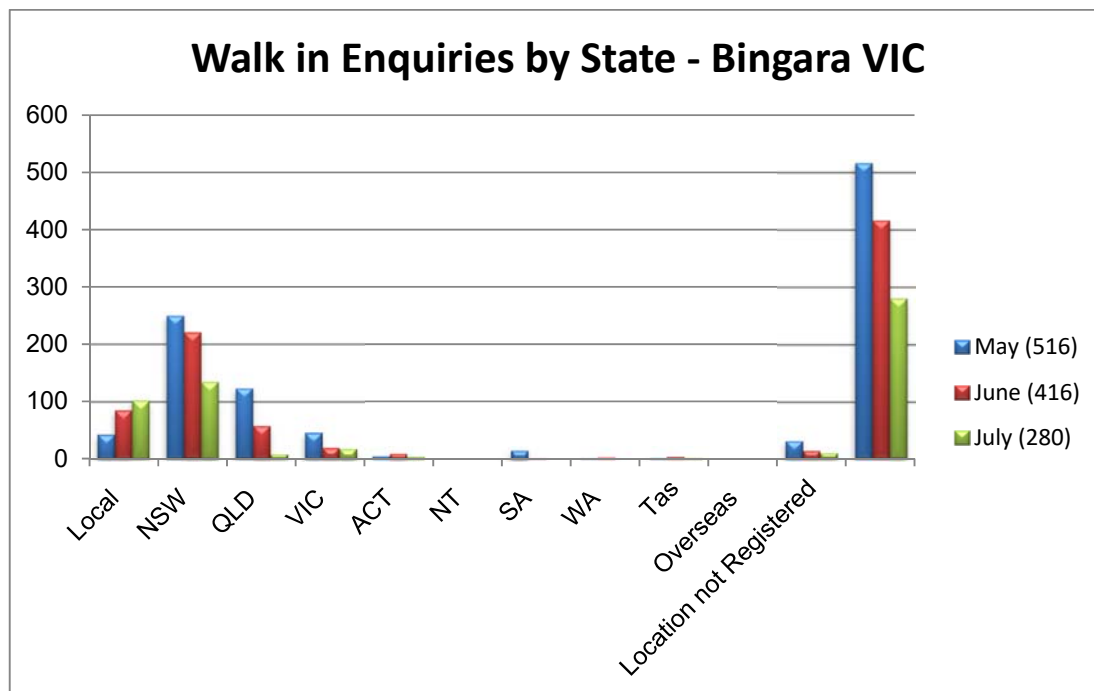
*Bingara Visitor Information Centre*

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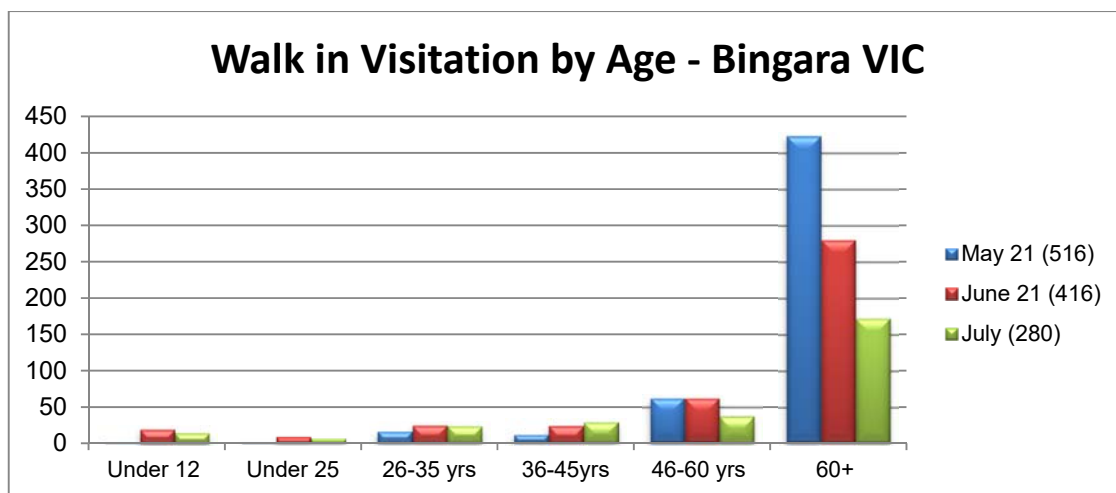
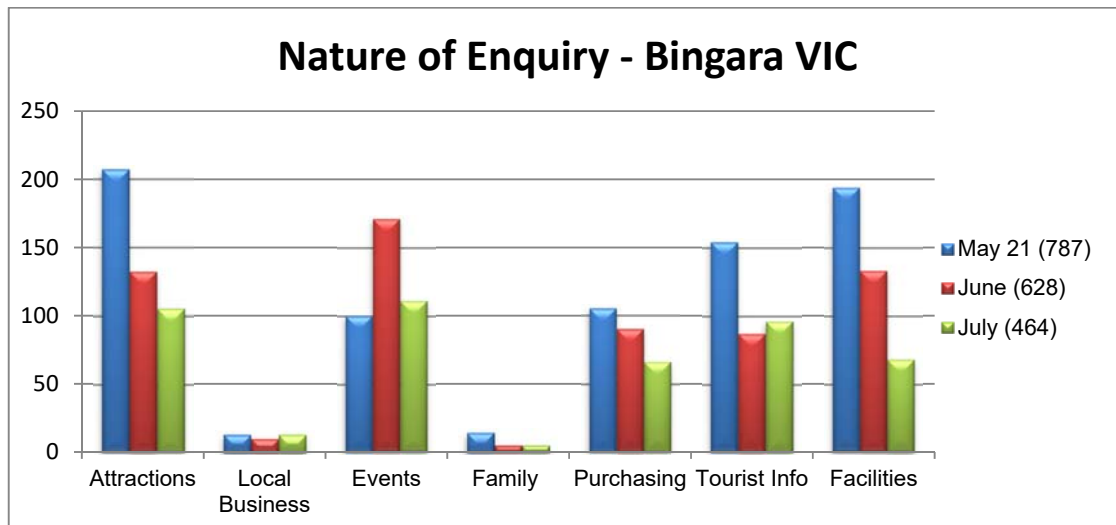
May 2021	June 2021	July 2021
Opening Hours 173.5	Opening Hours 165.5	Opening Hours 174.5
Volunteer Hours 37	Volunteer Hours 29	Volunteer Hours 31.5

Income – Bingara VIC	May	June	July
Products on Consignment	3.00	12.00	81.00
Merchandise	1122.00	835.00	588.50
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1125.00</b>	<b>\$847.00</b>	<b>\$669.50</b>
Less payments to consignees	2.10	8.40	56.70
<b>Total Merchandise sales</b>	<b>\$1122.90</b>	<b>\$ 838.60</b>	<b>\$ 612.80</b>
VIC Commission received on Event bookings undertaking on behalf of Community Groups – sub total			
<b>Total Monthly Income Bingara VIC</b>	<b>\$1122.90</b>	<b>\$ 838.60</b>	<b>\$ 612.80</b>
Roxy Tour Income	\$845.00	\$534.65	\$0
<b>Visitors at Bingara VIC</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>280</b>



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#### Roxy Theatre Complex

Date	Purpose	Numbers
July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	NWTC – Performance Rehearsals	Approximately 20
July 4, 11, 18, 25	NWTC – Performance Rehearsals	Approximately 20
July 13	CMCA – Rally update – Jo Tremain	Approximately 20

Conference Room – 4 booking for July

Roxy Trade Training Kitchen – no bookings for July

Roxy Theatre Green Room - 0 bookings for July

Roxy Café – 1 booking for July

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**CUSTOMER SERVICE REQUESTS (CRMs)**

<b>CRMs Carried Forward</b>			
<b>Department</b>	<b>Outstanding at 1 July 2021</b>	<b>Completed since 1 July 2021</b>	<b>Outstanding at 1 August 2021</b>
Technical Services	22	14	8
Environment and Sustainability	29	7	22
Town Utilities Parks and Gardens	9	6	3
Building Services	12	10	2
<b>Total Outstanding received prior to 1 June 2021</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>35</b>

<b>CRMs 1 July 2021 to 1 August 2021</b>			
<b>Department</b>	<b>Received during July 2021</b>	<b>Completed during July 2021</b>	<b>Outstanding at 1 August 2021</b>
Technical Services	48	32	16
Environment and Sustainability	11	10	1
Town Utilities Parks and Gardens	15	10	5
Building Services	9	3	6
Executive	0	0	0
Organisation and Community Services	3	3	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>28</b>

<b>CRMs Received Since 1 July 2021 &amp; Outstanding At 1 August 2021</b>	
<b>Department</b>	<b>Open</b>
Technical Services	24
Environment and Sustainability	23
Town Utilities Parks and Gardens	8
Building Services	8

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Executive	0
Organisation and Community Services	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>

### CONSULTATION

Consultation has occurred within the Organisation and Community Development Directorate.

### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Policy implications are those relating to the 2021/2022 Operational Plan and the Policies of Gwydir Shire Council.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The activities carried out by the Organisation and Community Development Department are in line with the 2021/2022 Operational Plan.

### STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The activities undertaken by the Organisation and Community Development Department regarding social and environmental factors are targeted in line with the 2021/2022 Operational Plan.

### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received

### ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

**THAT the Monthly Organisational And Community Services report is received and noted.**

**(Moved Cr Smith, seconded Cr Dick)**

**Cr Catherine Egan**

**Ramp Repairs**

Cr Egan noted that she is pleased that the staff will be following up on the ramps that require the ramp owners to make the necessary repairs as a result of the recent wet weather.

**Cr Frances Young**

**LEMC Meeting**

Cr Young advised the meeting that she will be chairing the LEMC Meeting today in the absence of Cr D Coulton.

**Cr Stuart Dick**

**Gravel Road up to the former Bingara Saleyards**

Cr Dick advised the meeting that this access track is in poor condition and caravans have been bogged attempting to use the dump point at the former saleyards. The meeting was advised that the Shire Engineer will be requested to undertake the necessary maintenance required.

**Cr Jim Moore**

**47 Hope Street - Community College Access**

Cr Moore requested an update on when the Community College may be able to access 47 Hope Street. The meeting was advised that all going well the building should be ready for occupation in the week commencing 30/08/21.

**Cr John Coulton**

**Mr Ken Brooks**

The Mayor advised the meeting of the passing of Mr Ken Brooks noting that Ken was a very dedicated community worker in activities like Drum Muster and the Driver Reviver.

**Meeting closed 11.13 am**