



G W Y D I R
SHIRE COUNCIL

ORDINARY MEETING

AGENDA

Thursday 24 February 2022

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that an **Ordinary Meeting of Gwydir Shire Council** will be held in the Roxy Conference Room on **Thursday 24 February 2022**, commencing at **9:00 am** to discuss the items listed in the Agenda.

Your attendance is respectfully requested.

Yours faithfully,

Max Eastcott
General Manager

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

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1 OFFICIAL OPENING AND WELCOME - MAYOR

2 APOLOGIES

3 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary and Confidential Meeting held on Tuesday 11th January 2022 as circulated be taken as read and CONFIRMED.

4 PRESENTATION

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

6 ADDITIONAL/LATE ITEMS

Recommendation

THAT the following items, namely:

- 1. Mayoral Minute – Warialda Fire Break**
- 2. January Monthly Investment and Rates Collection Report**
- 3. December Quarterly Budget Review**
- 4. The additional information relating to Item 10.7 Draft New England North West Regional Plan 2041 and Confidential Item 7.5 Spring Valley Road.**

are accepted as late items onto this Agenda for discussion.

7 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

It is recommended that the Council resolve into Committee of the Whole with the press and public excluded to allow consideration of the following Items, as provided for under Section 10A (2) (a and c) of the Local Government Act, 1993:

- Organisation and Community Services Monthly Report
- Moore Street Development Site
- Potential Residential Development Sites
- Tender for IB Bore Road Drainage Works
- Spring Valley Road Closure.

8 MAYORAL MINUTE

8.1 Warialda Fire Break

COMMENT

On Monday 21st February 2022 I along with the General Manager and the Engineering Manager attended the launch of fire mitigation program around Warialda.



This work will upgrade more than 28 kilometres of fire trails and create 49 hectares of fire breaks, known as Asset Protection Zones (APZs). The Council has been advocating for this type of asset protection around Warialda for many years at the instigation of Cr Smith with the enthusiastic support of his fellow Councillors. The proposal received the strong endorsement of the Warialda residents.

The combined efforts of the Rural Fire Service, driven by Shellie Smyth, Local Land Services, Crown Lands, in particular Vicky Lyons, Anaiwan Aboriginal Local Lands Council and Soil Conservation Service working with the Council has secured this outcome.

The outcome does not achieve all the Council had hoped but is still an excellent result.

I would like to acknowledge the wonderful support that the Council received from Shellie Smyth, the Manager Community Risk with the Rural Fire Service, who tirelessly has worked on this project and steered the project through the many layers of approval required.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council writes to the RFS Commissioner, Rob Rogers AFSM, commending the efforts of his employee Shellie Smyth and the excellent work she has undertaken to make Warialda a safer community.

FURTHER that Council notes the co-operative effort from all the State Government Agencies and Departments in securing the positive outcome.

ATTACHMENTS Nil

9 DEFERRED ITEMS

10 OFFICERS' REPORTS

10.1 Executive Services Monthly Report

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| File Reference: | NA |
|------------------------|----|

Delivery Program

Goal: 5. Organisational management
Outcome: 5.1 Corporate management
Strategy: 5.1.5 Provision of responsible internal governance
Author: General Manager

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST NIL

IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

This report is for reception and notation of the Council’s Organisation Structure.

TABLED ITEMS Nil

COMMENT

TOWN UTILITIES Monthly Report for November 2021

Water and Sewer

Water and Sewerage operators attended 22 service line repairs, 2 water main breaks, installed 3 new service lines (Bingara) and repaired 10 sewer blockages during November.

Other work was undertaken at the Bingara Showground, Bingara Caravan Park, The Living Classroom, Gwydir Oval, Warialda Caravan Park, Warialda truckwash, Nicholson Oval Warialda, Cunningham Park Bingara, Off leash dog park in Warialda, Yallaroi Hall, Bingara and Warialda cemeteries.

A water bubbler to provide water for use by people and dogs was installed in the new off leash dog park in Warialda during November.



Bubbler in triangular park, Warialda

Staff applied a Disabled Parking stencil at the Bingara Sporting Club during November.



Bingara Sporting Club disabled parking

Warialda Truck wash

The truck wash facility was used by 68 trucks during November with an average wash down time of 51 minutes and total water used was 273KL. The estimated income for November is \$2,520 less monitoring fees.

Grant Projects

Federal Drought Program

Upper Horton water upgrade is complete except for the drilling and construction of a new bore. The delay has been caused by the drilling contractor not committing to the project in a timely manner.

The laying of turf during November completed the improvements to Cunningham Park, Bingara.

All Abilities Park - the shade sails were erected in time to provide shelter from the summer heat. Constant wet weather is preventing the contractor finishing the terracing of All Abilities Park; however work will be resumed as soon as possible.



New shade sails in All Abilities Park, Warialda

State Drought Program

Cunningham Park toilet block – complete
Cunningham Park BBQ and shelter – complete

Covid Stimulus Funding

Batterham's Lookout - road shoulder work commenced in November and replacement of the guard rail will follow.

Showground Stimulus funding

Phase 2 funding included the refurbishment of the Bingara Showground Grandstand. This included replacement of the external cladding with Colorbond, removal of the internal asbestos, internal cladding and replacement of the external stairs.

Phase 2b Showground Stimulus funding provided for the erection of a new amenities block on the eastern side of Bingara Showground. This project is 90% complete and

will be finished mid- December.

The installation of four lights at the Bingara Showground as part of the Crown Lands Round 2 Stimulus funding commenced during November.

This funding allows for installation of 13 LED Sports Lights with dimming and zoning features. Lights will also be installed at Gwydir Oval and Nicholson Oval as part of this funding.



Commencing installation of lights at the Bingara Showground

The truck delivering concrete became bogged in the soft ground after all the wet weather.



Wet weather impacting on work at the Bingara Showground

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 November. Council continues to mark and maintain the fields for the community

groups using Council's ovals. Myall Creek and the Glacial area are inspected on a weekly basis.

Council took delivery of 16 large trees for planting in the Bingara streets.



New trees purchased for Bingara streets – Tristaniopsis laurina - water gum

While Council works hard to keep our streets and towns inviting, it can be a struggle when people think the plants in public places are available for them to remove. A number of photinias under one of the Bingara entry signs have been removed by persons unknown.



Empty garden bed on the approaches to Bingara

| | |
|--|-----|
| Total number of services in Workshops for November | 16 |
| Total number of jobs in Workshops for November | 145 |

Repairs and maintenance undertaken in the workshops during November included:

- P1938 – loader – fitted new bucket
- P1690 – grader – repairs to articulation rams
- P1917 – truck – fitted new clutch slave cylinder
- P1950 – loader - repairs to broom frame
- P1788 – grader – air conditioning and gas
- P1713 – Jetmaster – repairs and adjustments
- P1941 – utility – repairs to diesel fuel pump
- P1476 – roller – fit new rubbers to drum
- P1786 – water cart – rebuild hydraulic motor
- P1692 – backhoe – fit new fuel line
- P1841 – excavator – new water pump
- P2010 – side tipper – fit new roll over tarp



P1938 – new bucket fitted



P1476 – new rubbers to drum



Roll over tarp fitted to side tipper P2010



New tag trailer

Plant replacement

Council took delivery of a new tag trailer from Midland Trailers (Parkes) during November. This trailer will be based at the Warialda depot.

Plant Disposal

Council donated Toro mower 7210 to the Warialda Jockey Club after a replacement was purchased for Cranky Rock Reserve. The Jockey Club requested Council's assistance with a trade in mower in February 2020. Council accepts no responsibility for ongoing maintenance of mowers donated to Community organisations and clubs.



Handing over mower to Warialda Jockey Club member Leon Cross

BUILDING SERVICES – JANUARY 2022

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

- Minor structure construction e.g. sheds
- Commercial opportunities and construction
- Basix (Building Sustainability Index)
- Bushfire requirements
- Building construction standards and requirements
- Stormwater
- Licensing and owner builder requirements
- Fees and charges

The following Construction Certificate (C/C), Complying Development Certificate (CDC), Building Information Certificate (BIC) and S68 applications have been approved for the months of November/December 2021 and January 2022.

| No. | Property Description | Development/Work | \$ | C/ C | CD C | BIC | S68 |
|---------|--------------------------------|--|-----------|---------|---------|-----|-----|
| 22/2021 | 21 Keera Street Bingara | New Dwelling | \$500,000 | ✓ | | | |
| 25/2021 | Warialda Road Warialda | New Council Animal Pound | \$150,000 | ✓ | | | |
| 33/2021 | 20 Water Street Warialda | Double Garage | \$15,000 | ✓ | | | |
| 36/2021 | 1 Yagobie Street Gravesend | New Dwelling | \$40,000 | ✓ | | | |
| 38/2021 | 22 Frazer Street Bingara | Attached Deck | \$35,000 | ✓ | | | |
| 39/2021 | 8 Hill Street Bingara | Dwelling Additions – extension to sunroom | \$9,500 | ✓ | | | |
| 40/2021 | 19 Crane Street Warialda | Garage/Shed | \$25,686 | ✓ | | | |
| 41/2021 | 11 Salter Street Bingara | Garage/Shed | \$30,000 | ✓ | | | |
| 42/2021 | 23 Copeton Dam Road Bingara | Garage/Shed | \$19,827 | ✓ | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------|--------------------------------------|---|----------|---|---|---|---|
| 51/2021 | 2941 Elcombe Road Bangheet | Agricultural Shed (54m x 18m) | \$94,074 | ✓ | | | |
| 21/2021 | 3261 Gragin Road Warialda | New Onsite Sewerage Management System | | | | | ✓ |
| 22/2021 | 6 Railway Avenue Gravesend | New Aerated Water Treatment System | | | | | ✓ |
| 23/2021 | 4 Hope Street Warialda | Install WC in shed | | | | | ✓ |
| 2/2022 | 1 Mornington Street Warialda Rail | New Onsite Sewerage Management System | | | | | ✓ |
| 5/2021 | 4 Hope Street Warialda | 6m x 9m Shed | | | ✓ | | |
| 6/2021 | 92 Lewis Road Gineroi | Attached Carport | | | ✓ | | |
| 5/2021 | 3747 Warialda Road Coolatai | Part of House – Alterations & Additions to existing dwelling | | | | ✓ | |
| 6/2021 | 8 East Street Bingara | Whole of House – No Occupation Certificate issued | | | | ✓ | |
| 7/2021 | 2 Thomson Lane Warialda | Whole of House – for purpose of sale where no prior approval available (house built prior to 1960) | | | | ✓ | |

NO. OF COMPLAINTS/INSPECTIONS November 2021 to January 2022

| Type | No. | Yr. to Date | Actioned | Pending |
|----------|-----|-------------|----------|---------|
| Building | 95 | 209 | 203 | 6 |

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

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

Projects Worked On

Staff worked on the following projects during November/December 2021 and January 2022:

- Bingara Showground Amenities Building has been completed
- Construction has commenced on the new Animal Impounding Facility



Bingara Showground Amenities



Animal Impounding Facility – preparation of the slab and foundations

PLANNING Monthly Report for November and December 2021

The following Development (D/A) and Development Modification (s96) applications were approved during November and December 2021.

| No. | Property Description | Development/ Work | \$ | D/A | S96 |
|---------|---|-------------------|----------|-----|-----|
| 41/2021 | G A Norman & L M Gordon Lot 2 DP 1186734 11 Salter Street Bingara | Garage | \$30,000 | ✓ | - |
| 42/2021 | M M Stratford Lot 2 DP 856345 23 Copeton Dam Road Bingara | Garage | \$19,827 | ✓ | - |
| 43/2021 | B N & M A Anderson Lot 1 DP 1166982 3949 Elcombe Road Bingara | Garage | \$20,000 | ✓ | - |
| 51/2021 | R J & D M Mack Lot 68 DP 754818 2941 Elcombe Road Bingara | Farm Building | \$94,074 | ✓ | - |

The following Development (D/A) and Development Modification (s96) applications remain outstanding at the end of December 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 | Under Assessment Now approved. | - | P |
| 49/2016 | Ceres Ag 'Gunyaerwarildi' 1470 North Star Road Warialda - Continued occupation/use of rural worker accommodation being the installation of a number of premanufactured cabins | Approved in principle awaiting compliance certification or engineering certification for the cabins. This has been followed up with the new owners. No response yet. | P | - |
| 39/2019 | DJ Bull Fairford Road Warialda - 2 Lot Large Lot Subdivision | Request for additional information from applicant in relation to requirements under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 | P | - |
| 34/2021 | Regional Quarries Australia Pty Ltd / Ground Works Plus / Doolin Minilya Pty Ltd 427 Minilya Road North Star - 490,000 tonne/ year quarry for 5 years and then a 150,000 tonne/year quarry for a further 10 years | Preparing report for Regional Planning Panel | P | - |
| 44/2021 | A G Anderson 943 Moreena Mail Road Bangheet - Dwelling | Under Assessment | P | - |
| 45/2021 | B K Coulton 1767 Getta Getta Road North Star - Feedlot | Request for Additional Information | P | - |
| 46/2021 | D A Marquette 894 Whitlow Road Whitlow - Shed | Being notified and exhibited for 14 days | P | - |
| 47/2021 | N R Hardy Bora Link Road Dinoga - Dwelling | Being notified and exhibited for 14 days | P | - |
| 48/2021 | B E Leadbeatter 56 Finch Street Bingara - Additions and Alterations to existing Service Station | Being notified and exhibited for 14 days | P | - |
| 49/2021 | R Karr 9 Bowen Street Bingara - Demolition of existing sheds and construction of new garage | Being notified and exhibited for 14 days | P | - |
| 50/2021 | P E Cupitt 2838 Eulourie Road Pallal - Private Cemetery / Burial on Private Land | Being notified and exhibited for 14 days | P | - |
| 52/2021 | I S Thomson 6 Railway Avenue Gravesend - Garage | Being notified and exhibited for 14 days | P | - |
| 53/2021 | C T & K Gilkison 82 High Street Warialda - Carport attached to dwelling | Being notified and exhibited for 14 days | P | - |

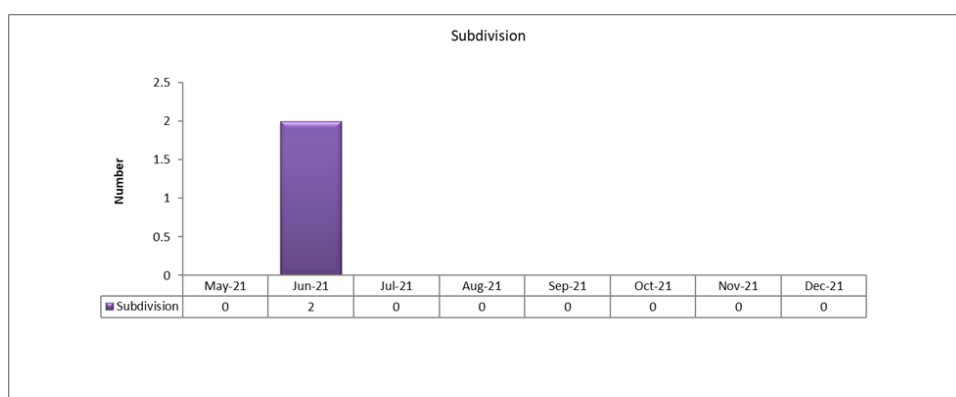
There were no Development (D/A) or Development Modification (s96) applications approved and not previously reported to Council for the months of November and December 2021.

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

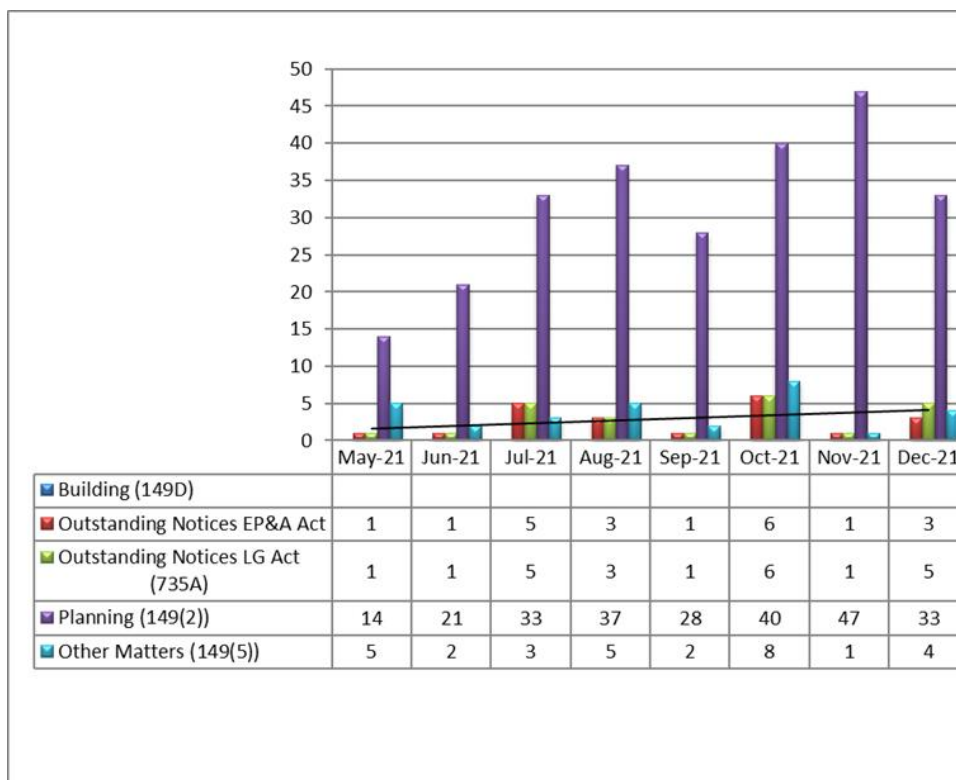
There were no Development (D/A) applications determined where there has been a variation in standards under clause 4.6 of the Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013 during the months of November and December 2021.

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

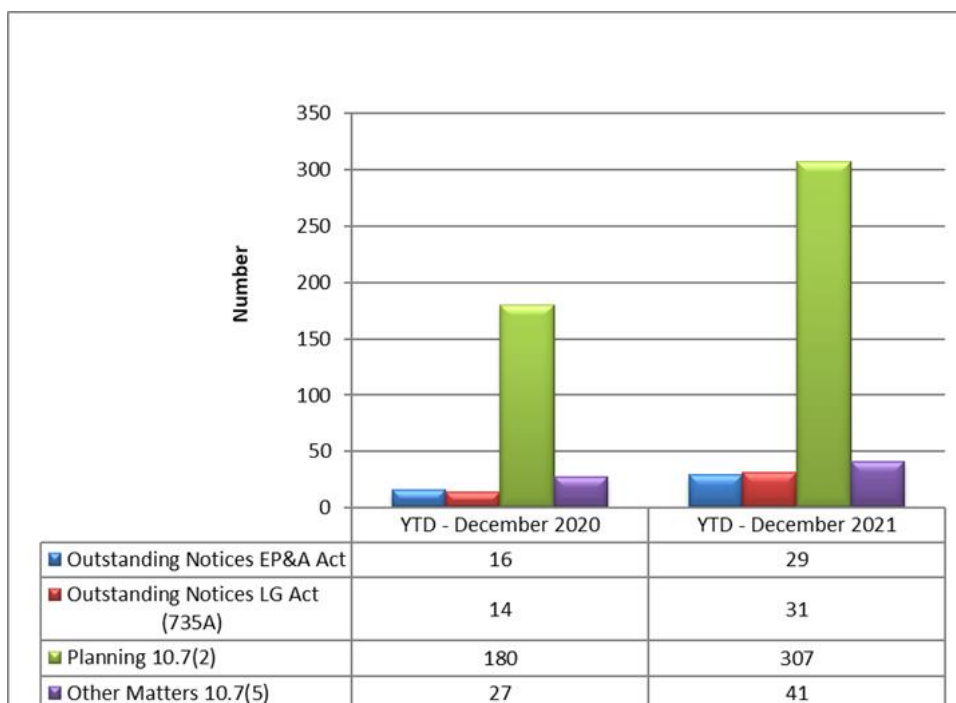
YTD December 2021 (includes private certifier lodged applications)



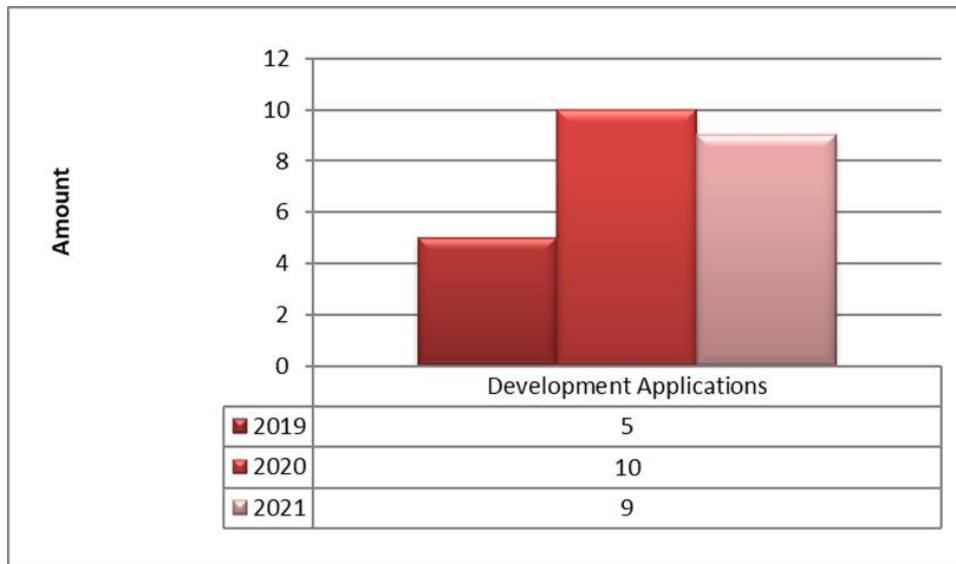
The following graph shows Conveyancing Certificates issued during the months of November and December 2021 compared to the previous six (6) months



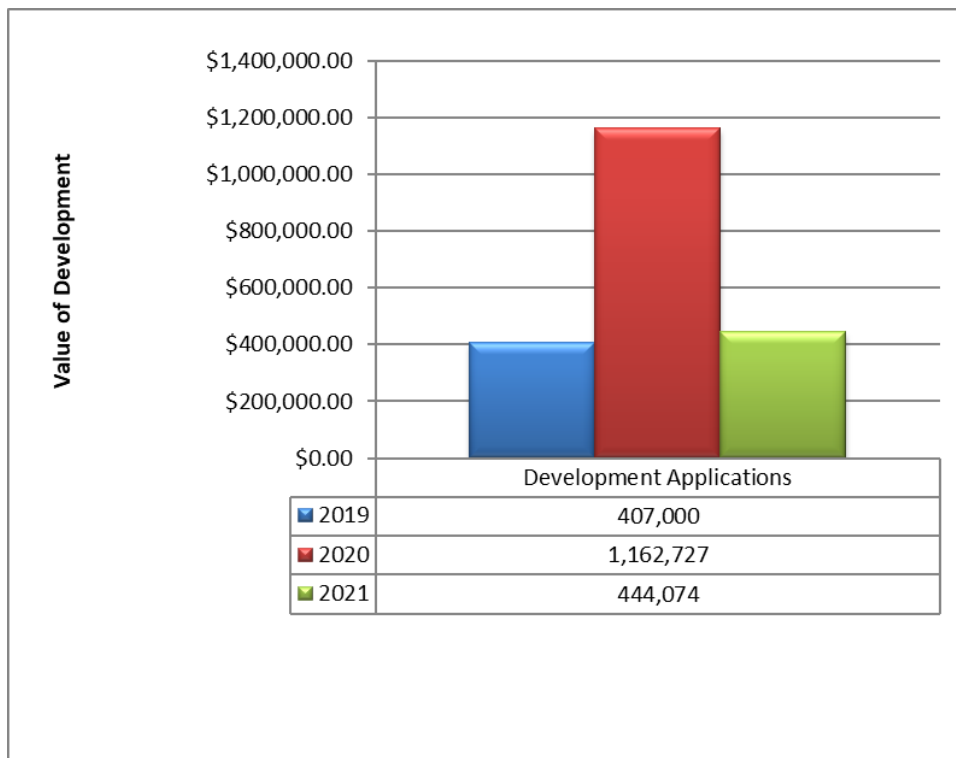
The following graph shows the number of Conveyancing Certificates issued up to and including the months of November and December 2021 compared with the same period in 2020.



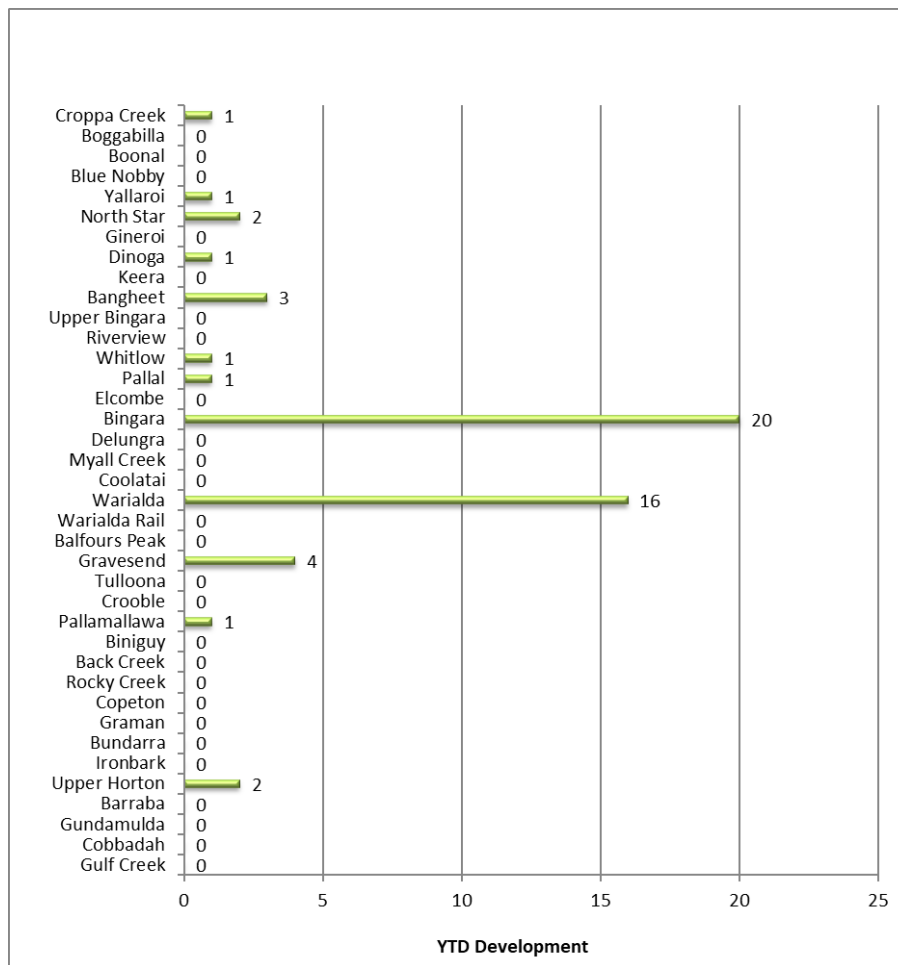
The table below shows a comparison between total applications lodged during the months of November and December 2021 compared to the same period in the previous two years.



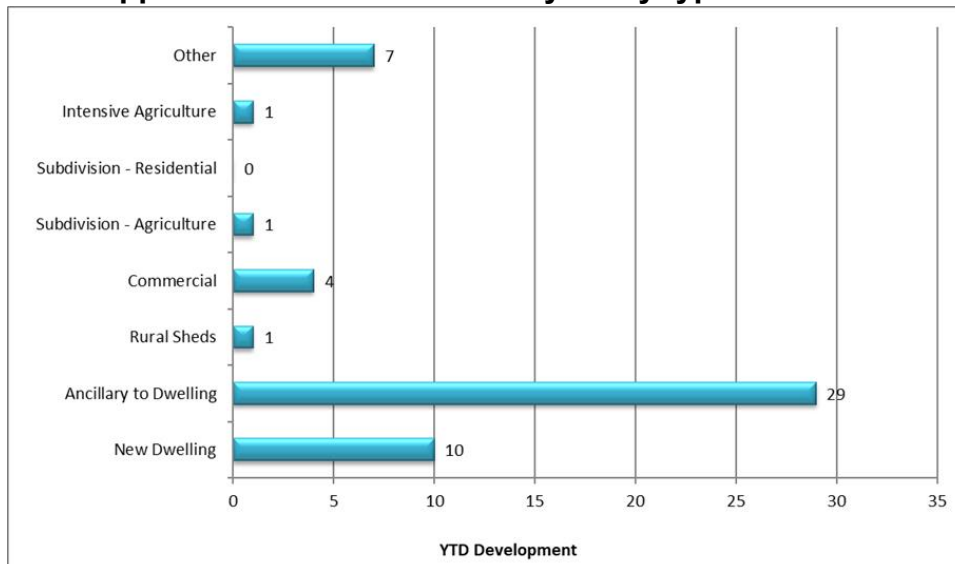
The table below shows a comparison between total value of applications lodged during the months of November and December 2021 compared to the same period in the previous two years.



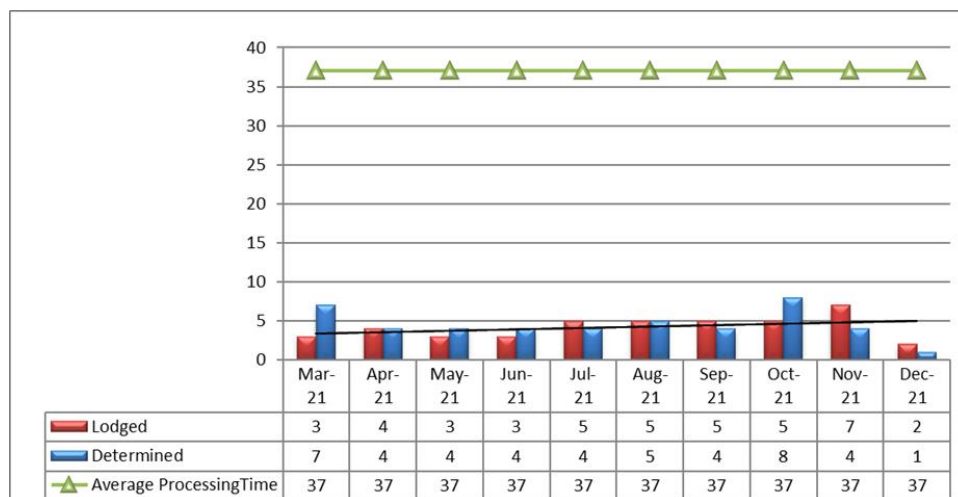
Development Applications Received for the year by locality – YTD December 2021



Development Applications received for the year by type – YTD December 2021



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



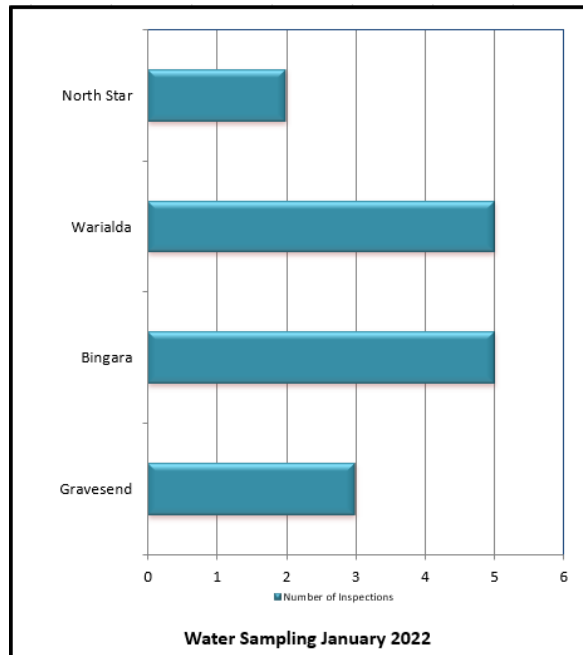
Environment & Sustainability Department 26 December 2021 to 29 January 2022

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

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

Water Surveillance

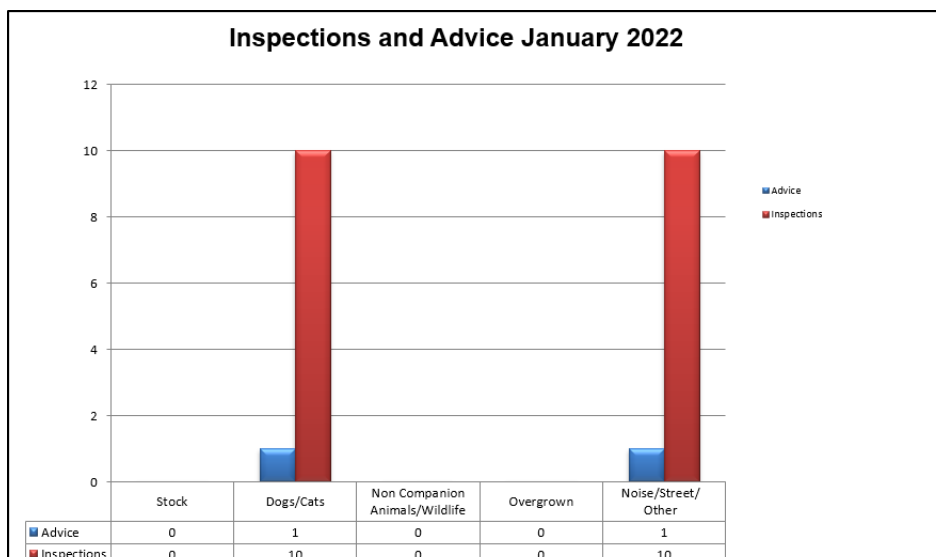
The Department continues to carry out routine sample collection for microbiological and chemical testing of the water supplies in the towns of Warialda and Bingara, fortnightly sampling of Gravesend and monthly sampling at North Star.

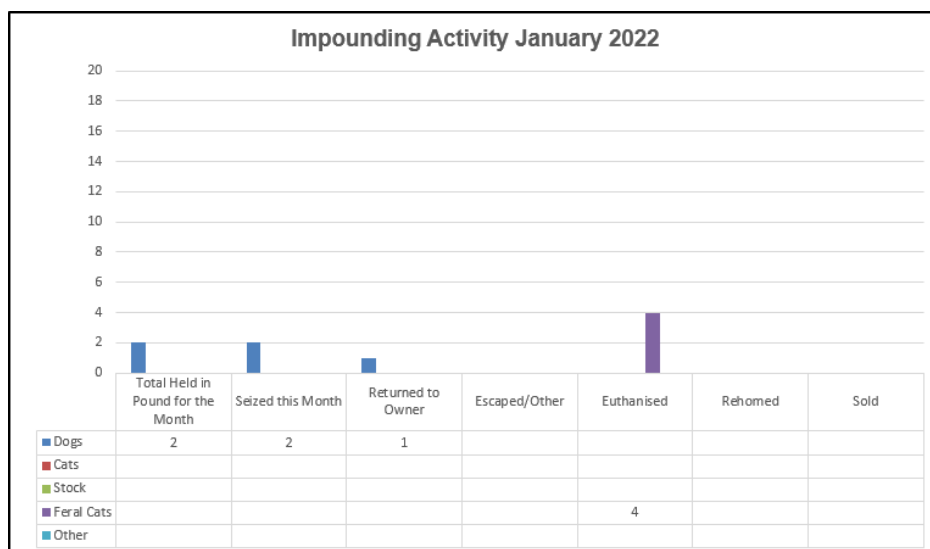
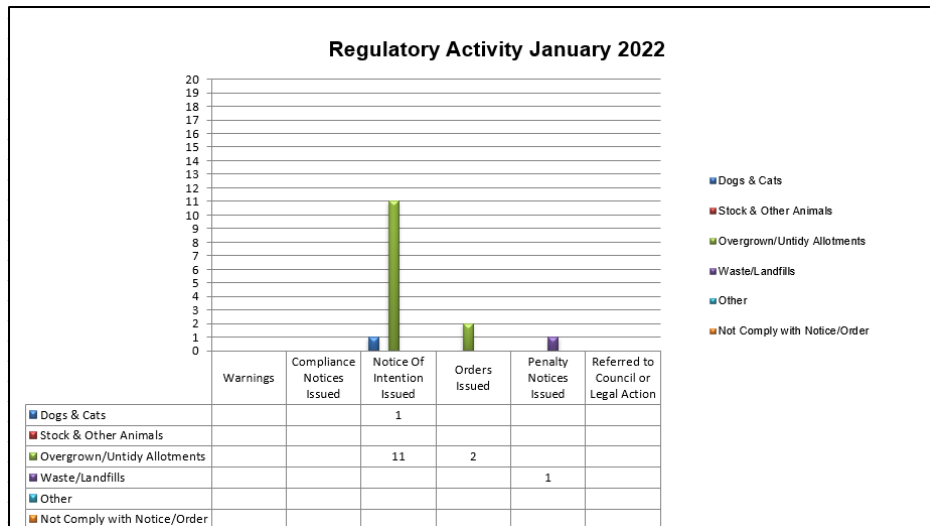


Compliance and Regulatory Control

Council received customer requests regarding overgrown block, roaming dogs, roaming stock, noise, the keeping of animals and other concerns during the month of January 2022. These are investigated and actioned as necessary.

The staff have been working consistently on the fencing and improvements to the off-leash dog exercise areas, particularly Triangle Park at Warialda. Due to the continuing downpours the pouring of the concrete for the posts was delayed numerous times. The ground eventually dried out and the concreting was finish in the final week of the month.

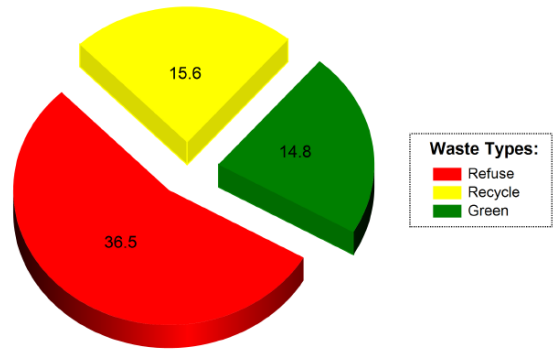




Waste Contract Services – January 2022

Gwydir Shire Council
Transaction Date Range: 01 JAN 2022 to 28 JAN 2022

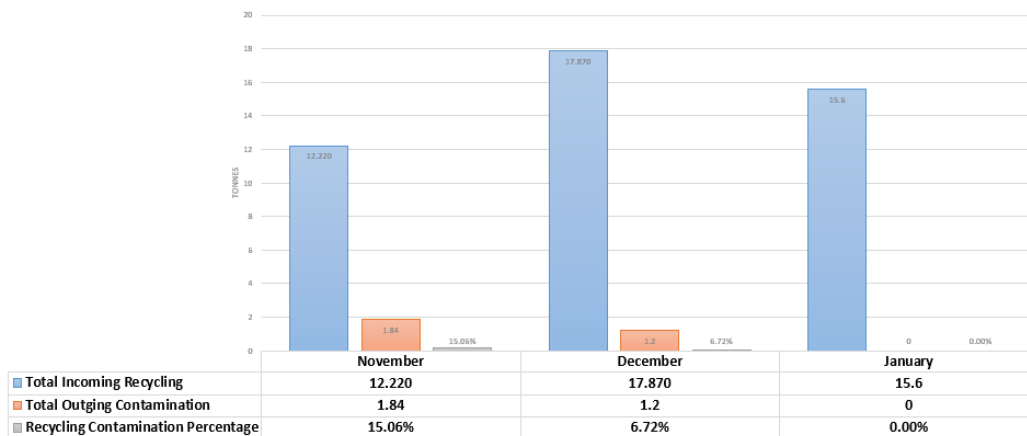
Breakdown of Tipping for the Period



Total Tipping Tonnes: 66.85

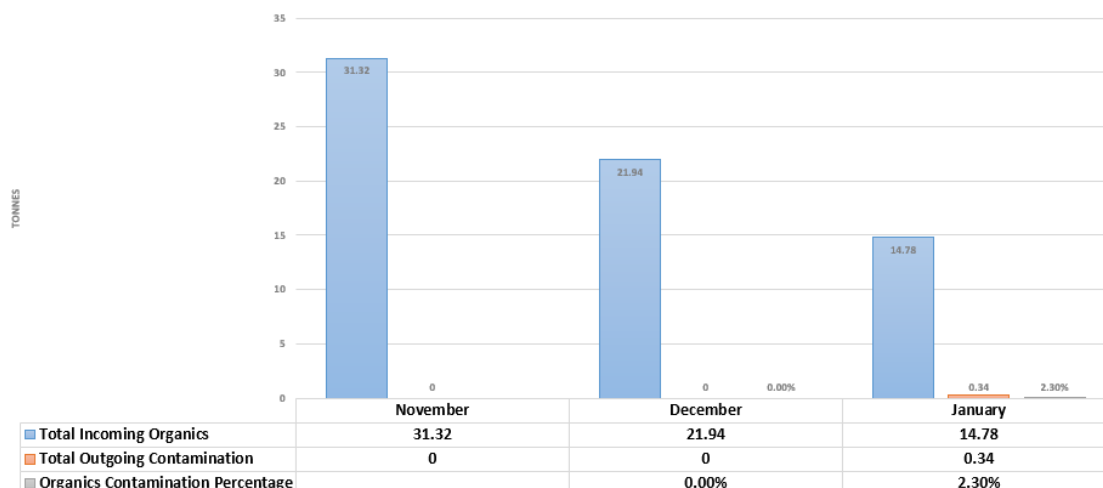
Recycling Contamination

Gwydir Contaminated Recycling



Organics Contamination

Gwydir Contaminated Organics



Comment from Cleanaway

Both recycles & organics contamination for the tri council group is somewhat skewed in December figures due to localised flooding in Narrabri, MRF operational breakdowns and COVID staffing issues sustained at the MRF.

The ability to transfer all material for the month of December has been affected by the operational issues outlined. Cleanaway have been working with the the MRF operators to catchup and this process still continues. Access was completely closed to the MRF for a period of a week, due to localised flooding, this was followed by a MRF machine breakdown & then both Challenge and Cleanaway have worked through staffing shortages due to covid cases & close contacts.

Whilst we have remained fully operational, we have seen a decline in regular loads to the MRF to allow continued operations. Cleanaway have worked closely with the MRF operators to get through this period and will ensure we continue to work together to get back into a regular rhythm.

Priority Weed Control

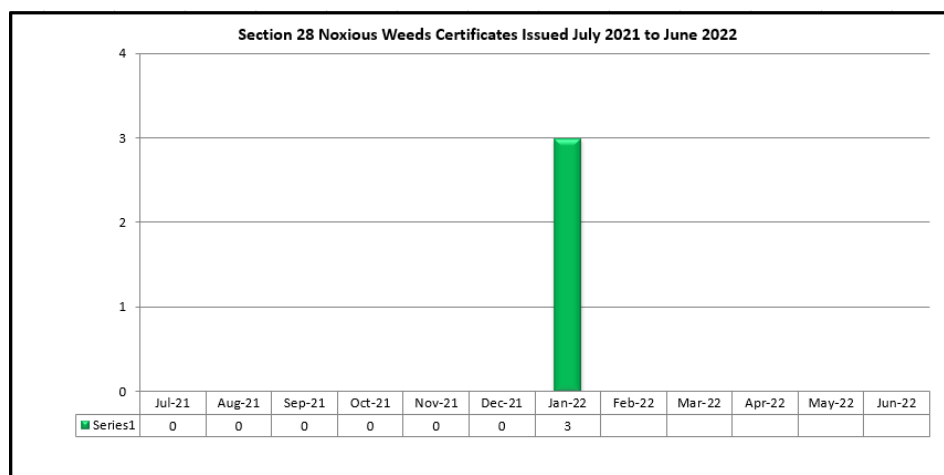
Property Inspection Program

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

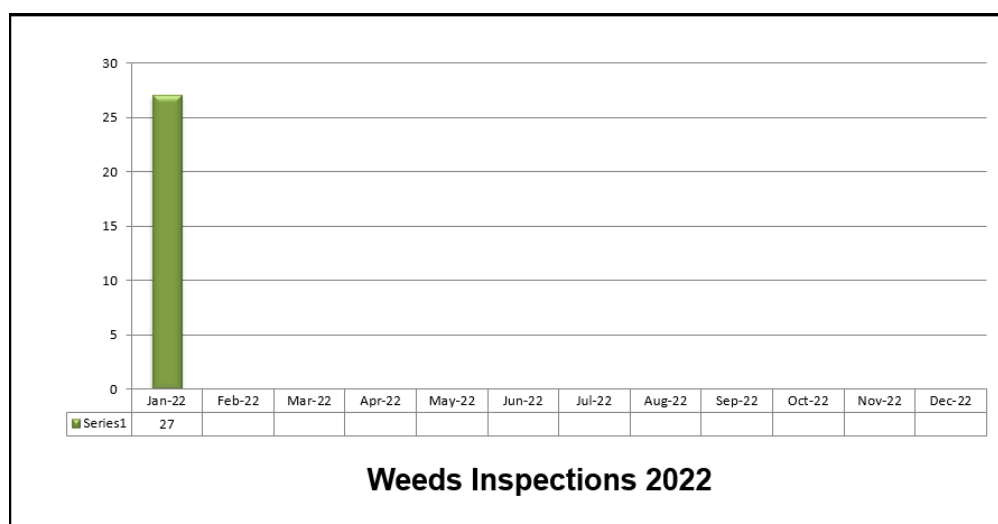
Three Section 28 Certificates was issued for the month of January 2022. The graph below shows the Section 28 Certificates issued for the current financial year.



Weeds Inspections

Property inspections are being undertaken in Section E during January 2022 with property owners being offered support and advice on managing weeds. Due to COVID-19 public health orders coming into effect during the month, private property inspections have been postponed until the restrictions are lifted. The parthenium outbreak at Croppa Creek continues to be inspected and monitored to ensure it is contained and then eliminated.

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



Priority Weeds Inspections for the Month of January 2022

| <i>Areas Inspected</i> | <i>No.</i> | <i>Ha</i> | <i>Rd km</i> | <i>Weeds Present</i> |
|------------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| Roadside – High Risk | 4 | 751.25 | 150.25 | African Boxthorn, Mother of Millions, |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--------|------|--|
| Pathways | | | | Tree Pear, Harissa Cactus, St Johns Wort |
| Roadside | 7 | 383.13 | 71.3 | African Boxthorn, Harissa Cactus, Mother of Millions |
| Private Property | 7 | 1200.4 | | Nothing Found |
| Private Property – High Risk | 1 | 1660 | | Nothing Found |
| Waterways – High Risk Pathways | 1 | 5 | 1 | Nothing Found |
| NWLLS High Risk Pathways | 1 | 6 | | Parthenium Weed |
| Council Lands | 5 | 65 | | Green Cestum, Galvanised Burr, African Boxthorn, Blackberry, Cats Claw Creeper |

Noxious Weeds Control Works for January 2022

| Road/Property | Weed Code | Area Ha | Road km | High Risk Road | Council Road | Other |
|------------------------------------|------------|---------|---------|----------------|--------------|-------|
| Bingara Common | sj | 20 | | | | 1 |
| Roadsides - Gulf Creek - MacIntyre | sj, b | | 18.48 | | 1 | |
| Bingara Common | thornapple | 20 | | | | 1 |
| Bingara Common | thornapple | 20 | | | | 1 |
| Bingara Common | gb, gc | 20 | | | | 1 |
| Faithful Camping Area | gc | 20 | | | | 1 |

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

Community Assets – November, December, January 2022

Caravan Parks

Bingara Caravan Park

During the months of December and January the new residence/office was installed. By the end of March, the building will be connected to water, sewage and electricity.



The new Bingara Caravan Park residence being built onsite at Uniplan in Armidale.



The new residence being transported to the Bingara Caravan Park.



New decking being painted at the Bingara Caravan Park residence

The caravan park caretakers took leave during December and January. In addition, the regular casual staff member took extended leave during December, January, and part February. To address this gap an additional casual staff member was appointed, inducted and trained.

Warialda Caravan Park

Over the three-month period the caravan park was busy, well maintained and presented. The caravan staff provide exceptional service at this park.

Swimming Pools

Both pools have been busy with the commencement of school-based and private learn to swim programs, as well as lifestyle and health programs.

The first of the season's community evening pool parties was held at Warialda on Friday 3 December. Over 100 people enjoyed the evening.

Bingara's pool party was held on Thursday 9 December with over 60 people in attendance.

Both pools conducted another community evening pool party on Australia Day. Unfortunately, numbers were down due to the wet and cool weather.

The General Manager and Finance Manager relocated their office to the recently completed Activities Room at the Bingara Pool.

One of the Bingara Pool pumps was repaired (under warranty).



Cranky Rock

| Month | Powered sites | Unpowered sites | Total |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-------|
| November 2021 | 49 | 28 | 77 |
| December 2021 | 53 | 21 | 74 |
| January 2022 | 63 | 14 | 77 |

Cranky Rock continues to be a popular destination for caravanners travelling through and to the Gwydir Shire. It is well maintained and presented.



Cranky Rock - Photo courtesy of Anthony Francis

Myall Creek

A Council representative attended the Friends of Myall Creek Committee meeting on Saturday 20 November

The vandalism at the Site seems to be an isolated incident.

Gwydir Libraries

| Statistics | Bingara November | Warialda November | Bingara December | Warialda December | Bingara January | Warialda January |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Door Count | 2060 | 1602 | 1972 | 1422 | 1481 | 182 |
| Loans | 946 | 519 | 1446 | 299 | 1609 | 320 |
| New Members | 12 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 1 |
| PC Usage | 190 | 80 | 193 | 66 | 205 | 28 |
| WIFI Usage | 420 | 166 | 428 | 188 | 342 | 88 |
| Programs | 45 | 39 | 41 | 35 | 15 | 1 |
| Adult Program | 118 | 69 | 263 | 39 | 57 | 0 |
| Children Program | 317 | 118 | 633 | 95 | 95 | 4 |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|----|-----|---|-----|---|
| Home Delivery | 36 | 8 | 34 | 8 | 22 | 6 |
| Institution Delivery | 8 | 3 | 12 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Seniors Be Connected | 5 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 7 |
| Community Support Hub | 36 | 12 | 28 | 4 | 14 | 0 |
| E-resource Users (Gwydir) | 75 | | 85 | | 135 | |
| Downloads (Gwydir) | 338 | | 450 | | 620 | |

Staff members reviewed the library collections and are ready to recommend purchases and changes at the next Regional Library meeting. By reviewing and monitoring the borrowings randomly, staff gain a better perspective of members' needs.

Community Support Hub has been added to the statistics. Support includes assistance to complete forms and documentation and connecting people with support services.

Both libraries are being well utilised for online meetings.

Residents and visitors to both libraries utilise the venues to catch up and have a chat, with the comfy chairs often filled with people relaxing and catching up. One comment received recently was made of the Bingara library, "We have travelled extensively through QLD, VIC and NSW over the past years, and this is the most relaxing library we have visited. We are shocked to see such a beautiful library in a small country town. We are telling our friends and suggest it be placed into your tourist brochures because you provide everything we need and a beautiful place to relax for a few hours. Let the grey nomads know".

Bingara Library

The Bingara Library launched the speech pathology collection on December 1. Staff from headquarters attended along with members of the community, children from preschool and educators. Following the launch, attendees enjoyed a light luncheon prepared by Friends of Touriandi group. The preschool and story time children enjoyed a picnic lunch in the foyer. Cr Catherine Egan acknowledged the generous donation of \$3000 received from the Bingara Opportunity Shop.

Bingara Library hard floors have been cleaned and sealed this month.

Bingara Branch activities:

- Digital assistance daily.
- Library home deliveries weekly.
- After school programs have been well attended. Projects completed include craft, murder mystery, digital awareness, Book Club, and readers theatre.
- Be Connected and Tech Savvy Seniors; the majority registered have completed their modules and feel more confident with the internet. The devices are a great resource with many borrowing them to take home.
- Touriandi Lodge residents enjoy their monthly visits to the library, staff visit the Lodge to host sessions for individuals.
- Golden Oldie programs for seniors resumed mid-January with morning tea and a discussion, pooling activity ideas.
- The library hosted several holidays activities such as crazy craft mornings, movie afternoons and Lego.
- Staff from headquarters hosted the activity 'The Ultimate Cubby House' on Thursday January 27. The children built a cubby from PVC pipe and sponge rubber bricks. This was loads of fun as it was aimed at 5–7-year-olds.
- Be Connected internet tutorials recommenced with eight participants happy to be back practicing their skills.
- All senior programs and book groups participants celebrated Christmas in the library with a morning tea.
- Touriandi Lodge invited the Librarian for morning tea on December 24 as a thank you for all the programs and assistance.
- TAFE Outreach teachers met for the last time in 2021 in the activity space of the library. They wish to continue using the space in 2022, meeting monthly.
- Be Connected Digital Devices Round 2 funding report for the purchase of devices was submitted successfully on December 10, as required.
- Kool Skool Kids enjoyed an end of year 'Fancy Schmancy' (Black Tie) party on December 21 at the Roxy Theatre. The afternoon featured a demonstration of ballroom dancing by six special guests. Thank you to Francis and Geoffrey Bilsborough, David and Jenny Coulton, and Ian and Betsy Grieve for giving their time to demonstrate two dances.

Warialda Library

Residents of Warialda library are extremely pleased with the recent changes to the layout of the library.

Warialda Branch activities:

- After School program projects completed include several crochet and craft items, pen pal program with the residents of Naroo Aged Care hostel which has been highly successful.
- Home deliveries weekly.
- Library programs, including Meet and Greet and Golden Oldie Craft, continue to grow each fortnight.
- Outreach services: staff visited Naroo Aged Care hostel for a special Christmas craft session.
- Warialda Library annual party.
- All library programs ceased for the year in late December.
- The After School program children enjoyed a party in the backyard of the library hosted by the Librarian and a volunteer. The children celebrated 'Hallochristmas', celebrating Halloween and Christmas together.
- The Golden Oldie Craft Group ended the year with a lovely morning tea held in the CHSP rooms.
- Community assistance with devices continues to be a necessary service in the Warialda Library.
- Naroo Aged Care Hostel residents enjoyed morning tea and Christmas craft hosted by the Librarian.
- All library programs ceased for the month of January except for an activity hosted by headquarters staff, 'The Ultimate Cubby House'.
- Home delivery to residents and Naroo Aged Care hostel continued.

Staff Update

Both Gwydir staff members completed training requirements set by Central Northern Regional Libraries:

- Disability awareness
- Fights: how to prevent and stop them; safely
- Homelessness
- LGBTQ training
- Too many bags: how to address someone bringing too much stuff.

Staff Leave

The Warialda Library Assistant was on leave for the month of January 2022. A casual staff member operated the Warialda Library in her absence.



The Bingara Library

Property Management

A new tenant moved into a Plunkett Street unit in November.

The Nandewar Animal Services vacated the Maitland Street property on 16 January and it is intended to redevelop this property as the Council's Customer Service Hub.

Leanne's Sewing's lease has been renewed for another term. This business operates from 44 Hope Street, Warialda.

Council staff contacted residents from the Bingara Caravan Park and aged care units prior to Christmas for a regular wellbeing check and any maintenance requests.

Blue Hills and Jacaranda Estate – Bingara Residential Land Sales

During the reporting period the sale of 16 land parcels settled.

Cleaning

Cleaning staff took the opportunity to undertake deep cleans of the Council's sites during the period between Christmas and New Year.

Cleaning rosters were reviewed, and some staff have changed their cleaning venues.

One of the Council's casual cleaning staff members secured a full-time position with Technical Services and, therefore, finished working in Community Assets. We wish him well. A casual cleaning staff member was appointed, inducted, and trained to cover this position.

The council's primary cleaner in Warialda went on leave at the end of January for one month. Casual staff were engaged to complete cleaning tasks at the Council's Warialda sites.

Bush Bursary Program

Gwydir Shire Council hosted and sponsored two students for the NSW Rural Doctors Network's Bush Bursary Program. Gwydir Shire is only one of eleven rural Councils that support this important program. These medical students experienced a range of clinical settings servicing rural communities and providing them with a positive vision of rural life. Gwydir Shire Council was mentioned in the NSW Rural Doctors Network Annual Report, thanking the Council for their continued support of the program.

Gwydir Learning Region Training - Heavy Vehicle Training and Assessment

The following heavy vehicle training and assessment sessions were carried out during the reporting period:

- Heavy Rigid (HR) Truck Driver Training and Assessment – 8
- Medium Rigid (HR) Truck Driver Training and Assessment – 1
- Heavy Combination (HC) Truck Driver Training and Assessment – 2

There are currently 18 clients with funding approval waiting for training dates. Five new enquiries were received, of which three have funding approvals pending and two are paying clients of Jobs Australia.

Private Learner Driver Tuition (Car)

Private Learner Driver Tuition (Car) – 10

Staff Training

| Training | Provider | Venue | Number of Participants |
|----------------------------|----------|----------|------------------------|
| Traffic Control (Combined) | ATAC | Warialda | 11 |
| Excel – Level 2 | NextTech | Online | 1 |




Traffic Control Training provided by ATAC

2021 Gwydir Career Start Program

The following Gwydir Shire Council trainees have recently signed their training contracts with Australian Business Limited Apprenticeship Centre:

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>Benjamin Perry Information Services Trainee Although not a new face in the organisation, Ben has completed his HSC at Warialda High School and accepted the position of Information Services Trainee. He will be studying a Diploma of Information Technology Networking via TAFE whilst assisting Justin Helmut and the IT team to ensure the organisations digital technology requirements are running smoothly.</p> |
| | <p>Rachel Coulton Planning and Building Administration Trainee Rachel has recently completed her HSC at Warialda High School and is keen to continue her studies. She will commence a Certificate III Business Administration via TAFE in conjunction with gaining valuable work experience in a Local Government Office environment assisting the Council's Building Services Department.</p> |

|  | | <p>Berenice Leehy Trainee Plant Operator</p> <p>Berry will be familiar to you all from both the Bingara and Warialda Office where she has been undertaking the role of Finance Office.</p> <p>Berry has opted for a ‘tree change’ and commenced a Plant Operation Traineeship under the mentorship of the Warialda Road Construction Crew. She will study Certificate III Civil Construction.</p> | |
|---|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Position | Number of applications received | Interviews | Outcome |
| School Based Trainee Mechanic | 2 | To be arranged | |
| School Based Trainee Water and Sewer | 2 | Interviews held on Thursday 2 December | SBT offered to both applicants |
| Apprentice Gardener | 3 | To be arranged | |
| School Based Trainee Tourism | 1 | Interviews held Friday 3 December | Appointment made |
| Trainee Care Service Employee (Naroo Hostel) | 3 | Interviews held 26 October 2021 | 2 appointments made |
| Apprentice Water and Sewer Operator | 3 | One application withdrawn. Interviews held Thursday 2 December 2021 | Appointment made |

Gwydir Media and Communications

Gwydir Publicity

The Gwydir Media and Communications team secured a significant amount of publicity for the Shire during the reporting period.

Property Boom

The media release regarding the property boom taking place in the Shire was picked up by Prime, NBN, and ABC New England with stories broadcast on their networks

as well as on their social media pages. The Northern Daily Leader published the story on 22 November in print and on their Facebook page.

Tourism

Prime News covered a story on tourism and camping in the Shire.



Tree Planting Initiative

A media release regarding the Council’s tree planting initiative was developed and sent to all local and regional media outlets. The story was picked up on ABC radio who interviewed Georgia Standerwick about the initiative. The story was also covered by the Northern Daily Leader and the Moree Champion.

Home / News / Home
JANUARY 22 2022 - 11:30AM

Gwydir Council planting more than 300 trees as part of drought-proofing efforts

Newsroom

Rural

f t m A A A



NEW TREES: Banjo Riley from Warialda outdoor staff was part of the major new tree-planting effort. Photo: supplied

GWYDIR Shire Council isn't waiting around for the next drought to take action, with efforts already being made to make the town greener.

More than 300 trees have recently been planted at multiple locations across the local government area, including parks, median strips, and central road reservations.

Many different species have been planted to ensure a diverse and healthy environment in the future, with Golden Ash, Chinese Pistachio and Tristaniopsis Laurina - or Water Gum as it is more commonly known - among the new additions.

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LOCAL NEWS

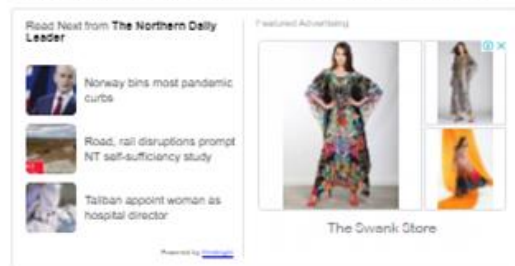
- 1 Double the flavour with Fiesta La Peri set to return twice this year
- 2 Kootingal undergoes makeover as community launches inclusive project
- 3 Driver killed after car left road, crashed into tree at intersection
- 4 NSW records 11,807 new COVID cases as hospitalisations drop
- 5 Woman left trapped after car and bus crashed in South Tamworth
- 6 Tamworth local dies with COVID amid three in health district

Given the unique conditions in the region, the selected trees have been chosen because they can withstand both frost and long periods of drought.

Council's town utilities and plant manager, Andrew Cooper, said one day the trees will play a major role in combatting the effects of drought.

"The trees will create shade and help to cool roads around homes and public spaces where we gather together as a community," he said.

"They will also help to improve the visual appeal of our urban streets, making a significant contribution to the character of our neighborhoods."



He said there would be health benefits for locals too.

READ ALSO:

- [Woman accused of multiple break-ins won't have case escalated](#)
- [Council gives plan to convert historic Buttercup bakery green light](#)
- [Building boom continues in Tarnworth, eastern suburbs rule the roost](#)

"The trees clean the air we breathe, improve social cohesion, and improve the health and wellbeing of residents."

Gwydir was hit hard by the last drought, with council having to resort to measures such as carting in potable water as the temperature regularly rose above 35 degrees.

Waiving fees for locals to use the pool as part of the 'heat and dry' scheme was also introduced when the mercury climbed above that level.

It has been looking for solutions ever since, and planting more trees was a key priority from its Climate Change Adaption Plan.


Council has stated trees provide a number of benefits, as they are well known to provide an evaporative cooling effect that can decrease local air temperatures by several degrees and can increase water retention and topsoil erosion.

Australia Day Citizens

A media release regarding the Bingara and Warialda Citizenship of the Year award recipients was sent to local and regional media outlets. The story was picked up by 2NZ and NOW FM. An interview with Gail Phillipott and David Conway followed at 6.50am on Thursday 3 February 2022 with ABC radio.

Social Media

This success extended to the Council's social media channels. The council's three main Facebook platforms Bingara NSW, Gwydir Shire Council and Warialda Place of Wild Honey all received strong visitation. Engagement on these platforms is up significantly on last year for the month of November (Warialda up 207%, GSC up 234%, Bingara up 23,986%). The Bingara Facebook page received the most interest, with the top performing post on this page relating to Copeton Dam at 100% capacity, reached 147,848 people and was shared 962 times. Of the 441 comments on this post, the majority were regarding future visitation to the area which will hopefully convert to tourism dollars for the Shire.



Bingara, NSW


Published by Georgia Koumoundourou ·
November 24 at 8:07 AM · 🌐

...

COPETON DAM at 100% CAPACITY!!

With 1,364,000 megalitres of water, nearly three times that of Sydney Harbour, Copeton Dam is now full.

It hasn't been this full since 2000. Only coming close in 2012 when it reached 98%.



147,848

People reached

17,160

Engagements

↑ +3.9x higher

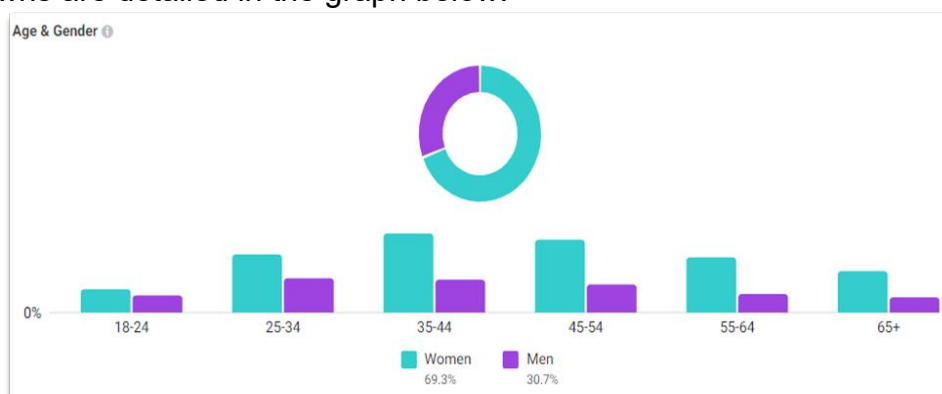
Distribution score

Boost post

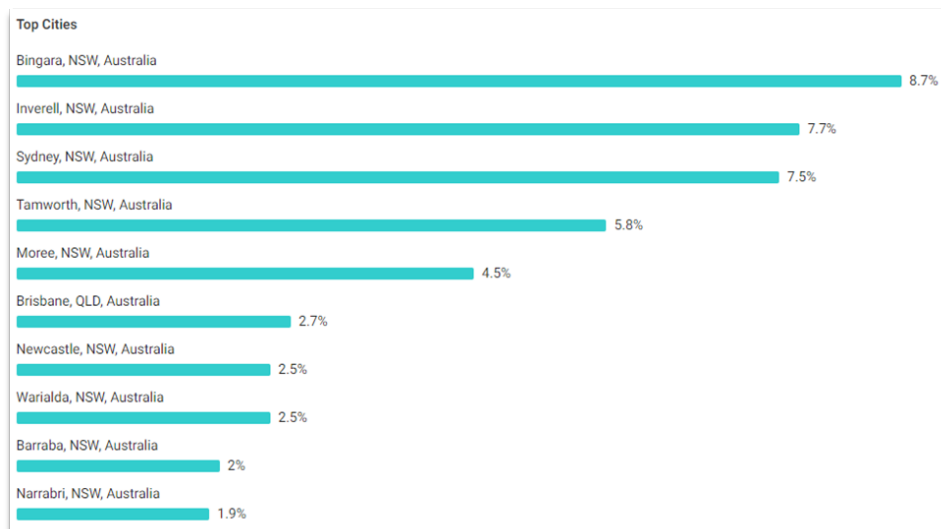
👍❤️😂
645

441 Comments 962 Shares

Each month the Gwydir Media and Communications team will deliver some interesting statistics about the Council’s social media platforms. Statistics for the Bingara Facebook page for November reveal some interesting data relating to its audience. 69.3% of the audience are women and 30.7% are men. The age breakdowns are detailed in the graph below.



Data on the location of the audience is also interesting with many residing outside of the Shire. Details of audience location is detailed below.



Instagram

The Gwydir Media and Communications (GMC) team have now created a Gwydir Shire Council Instagram page. The aim of this platform is to capture audiences who are not on Facebook and users in a younger demographic who tend to favor this platform over Facebook. The content created for Facebook is automatically shared to Instagram using a third-party scheduling programs so no additional work is required to service this new platform.

Events

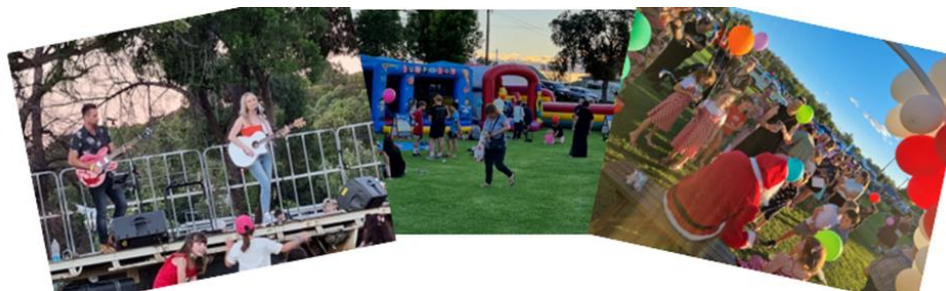
Gwydir Media and Communications team members worked hard assisting with the Warialda and Bingara Christmas Carnivals. Unfortunately, the Bingara Carnival was relocated to the Bingara RSL due to the wet conditions of the Gwydir Oval.

The Warialda Christmas Carnival Committee and Gwydir Shire Council successfully hosted the Warialda Christmas Carnival on Saturday 11 December at the Warialda Recreation Ground, and this was enjoyed by an estimated 500 attendees. There was something for everyone at the Christmas Carnival. The kids enjoyed the inflatable amusement devices provided by the Salvation Army and the Petting Zoo that Ashley Gooda had set up was extremely popular.

An array of market and food stall holders were in attendance with patrons able to get a hold of some last-minute gifts. Melanie Dyer, Jackson James, Kyla Bell, and Warialda Preschool entertained the crowd for the duration of the evening. Thank you to Dave Conway for coming onboard again this year to be the MC and for ensuring everything ran to schedule. Even Santa managed to take time out of his busy roster to meet and greet the kids with a bag of lollies. He even had time for photos! COVID-19 regulations were in force so a big thank goes out to members of the Youth Council who assisted attendees with check-in.

An incredibly special mention also goes to the Warialda Christmas Carnival Committee, Natasha Price, Elisha Hayes, Chloe Rose and Abby Fenton. Without this

group of ladies and their months of prior hard work, the Christmas Carnival would not have been the success it was.



Other Activities

Over the past four months, the Gwydir Media and Communications Officer has been assisting other departments within Council and has been seconded to cover the Warialda front desk one day a week, the Warialda Visitor Information Centre once a fortnight and pre-polling for the 2021 Council elections as well as assisting with events.

The GMC department have been working with Technical Services to promote two important projects for Council, the first being Council’s Stormwater Consultation process to develop a portal on Council’s website to notify the community of the consultation process, and to capture details of interested participants and feedback regarding community members’ experience with stormwater. This portal was supported and promoted through Council’s Facebook pages www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au/Council/Stormwater.

The second project involved the promotion of the Warialda bypass which is being featured in instalments on the GSC Facebook each week as well as the GSC YouTube channel. Both initiatives have been well received and the GMC Department is pleased to support this department achieve their goals.

Design Work

The Gwydir Media and Communications team assisted other departments within the Council develop a range of communications material.

| |
|---|
| Bingara Library party invitation |
| Tharawonga Enrolments flyer |
| Camping flyer and fb post |
| Vacation Care Christmas poster |
| Service NSW fb post and flyer |
| Library Event Tickets |
| Library Concert poster |
| Gwydir Pool Parties posters x 2 events and social media posts |
| Warialda Toy Library flyer |
| Vacation Care summer poster |

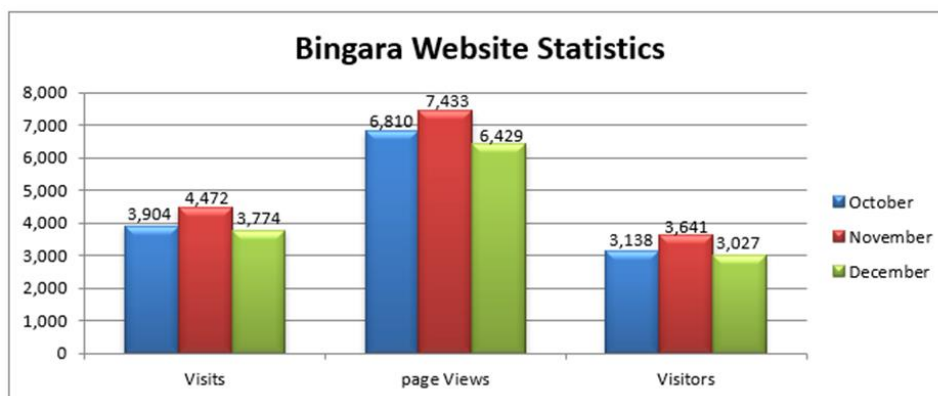
| |
|---|
| Australia Day ad and poster |
| Bingara Toy Library Program |
| Gwydir Active Schools Youth Program poster and website registration |
| Gwydir Good News Staff Newsletter |
| 2022 Australia Day nominations |
| Bingara Toy Library flyers and social media posts |
| Warialda Office relocation flyer and social media posts |
| Gwydir Australia Day Ceremonies flyers and social media posts |

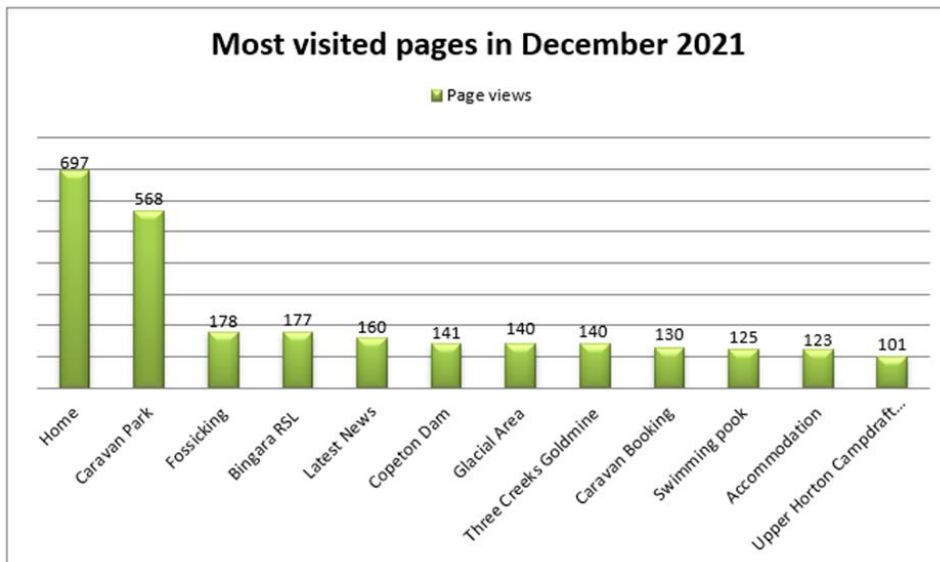
Website

The council’s website now has the functionality to accept online payments for rates and water notices. The Gwydir Media and Communications (GMC) department are currently working with the Finance department to extend these services to eventually accept debtor payments.

The GMC department are working with Council’s IP&R and Governance Officer to promote Council’s community survey ‘Join the Conversation.’ Working closely with the Officer, GMC have developed a community engagement portal on the Council’s website designed to educate community members on the community engagement process. The website hosts the survey and provides community members with the opportunity to provide suggestions and feedback on the programs, services, events, and works that they would like to see implemented in our shire via an online form. A series of social media posts have been developed to promote the survey and drive traffic to the website.

Bingara Website Statistics





Staff Newsletter

The GMC staff were pleased to present a fresh look staff newsletter. The newsletter which has changed its name from the Gwydir Grapevine to the Gwydir Good News is now completely produced in house, with GMC staff carrying out all aspects of the production from story writing to desktop publishing. For some of the GMC team, this is a newly acquired skill and they have done extremely well to take on this new challenge. The GMC team are looking forward to making the next issue even better and would love any feedback, ideas, or story contributions.



The Gwydir News

While many indoor staff enjoyed a much-needed break, The Gwydir News staff have worked through the Christmas break to ensure the January issue was ready for print in the first week in January.

Bingara Fire Station Recruitment

The Bingara Fires Station is currently under threat due to the lack of retained firefighters. The NSW Fire and Rescue have contacted Gwydir Shire Council for assistance with the coordination of a recruitment drive, to secure new recruits and ensure the station remains open.

A series of social media posts, letter box drops and a meet and greet evening at the Bingara OZ tag competition on Thursday 17 February have been coordinated in response. The evening will consist of a BBQ and a visit by Superintendent Tom Cooper, the zone commander for the New England and North-West Regional Office and members of neighboring fire stations, who will hand out flyers and answer questions. As a sweetener, NSW Fire and Rescue will be offering above average retainers and call out fees for all new recruits.

The Living Classroom (TLC)

Cattle Club

All the cattle raised in the Bingara Central School's livestock program have gone to market. The students plan to re-stock the yards in 2022.

U3A

Bingara U3A held an "Armchair Travel" evening at TLC. The destination for this event was Peru, in South America.

Drought Casual

Mark Everett, the part-time maintenance worker at TLC finished at the end of last year. He was employed as a drought casual over two years ago and has assisted in the maintenance of the grounds. He remains on the Council's records as a casual employee. His enthusiasm and reliability were appreciated.

Cherry Trees

This Spring, for the first time, the cherry trees at TLC have not just flowered but have produced fruit. Though few in number, the cherries were plump and delicious and, with careful pruning and feeding, suggest that the next few seasons will be even better.



Ripening cherries.

Weather Event

On Saturday November 28, 52mm of rain fell on TLC in less than an hour. The fall, on the already saturated site, meant that the banks and swales were brought into full function to deal with the massive amount of runoff.



The swales upslope from the Classroom.

Produce Garden

The Produce Garden at TLC is flourishing with fresh produce from the site being supplied to the Bingara IGA and sold through the nursery.



Olive Trees

The mature olive trees were relocated to TLC about five years ago. A substantial number of trees have become stressed and are failing. Council engaged some expert advice and both advised that the combination of prolonged drought, followed by too much water and having been planted in heavy clay soils has caused fungal rot and olive lace bug infestations. The affected trees may not survive.



Stressed olive trees at The Living Classroom

NSLA Garden

The Bush Tucker Garden funded by Northern Slopes Landcare Association (NSLA) has been completed. The garden project lies in front of the Cochineal Cactus Nursery.



The garden bed is edged by old bridge timbers and has a meandering path of red and green jasper stones through the garden.

Nursery

The lovely petunias that graced the Maitland Street flower beds in Bingara were planted and tended to by the Parks and Gardens crew using plants propagated and raised at TLC's Nursery.

TLC Nursery sourced bulk potting mix and 17 varieties of native trees and shrubs from Mole River Nursery, Tenterfield. The trees and shrubs are in 40 plug Hiko containers and will be potted up and matured at TLC to supply the Council and the public.

The 6.5m X 3.0m steel frames for TLC shade houses have been erected with black plastic covered by blue metal placed over a sand base. Three of them have been set up with spray irrigation. These will be used for 'potted up' trees and shrubs raised in the Nursery. Tony Gomez is fabricating steel benches for the new shade houses.



TLC Nursery

Southern Cross University

During the reporting period Melissa Gulbin, Knowledge Exchange Officer, Regenerative Agriculture Alliance, Southern Cross University visited the site.



Melissa Gulbin with Amber Hall and Rick Hutton and the Sothern Cross University (SCU) Regenerative Agriculture Alliance sign at TLC. SCU is engaged with a research project with The Carbon Farm at TLC.

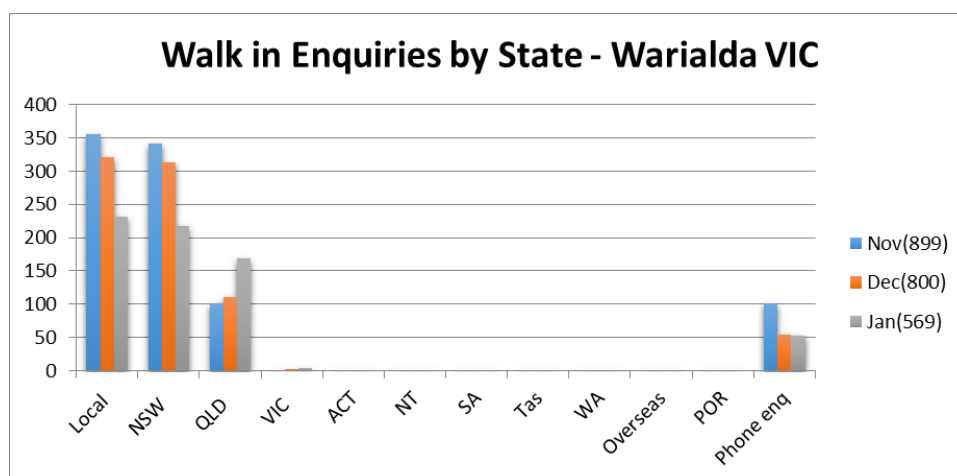
Tourism and Events

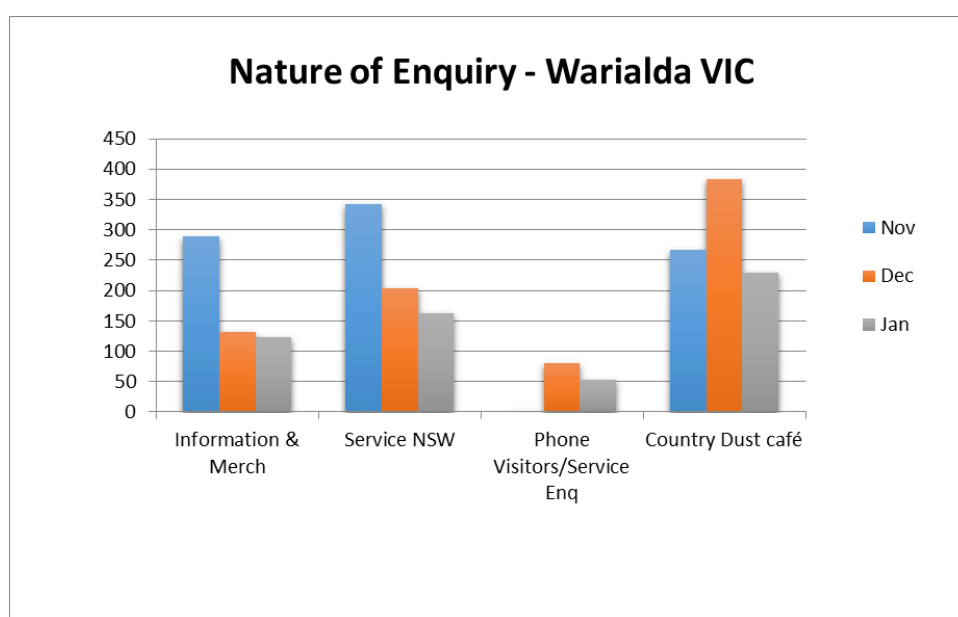
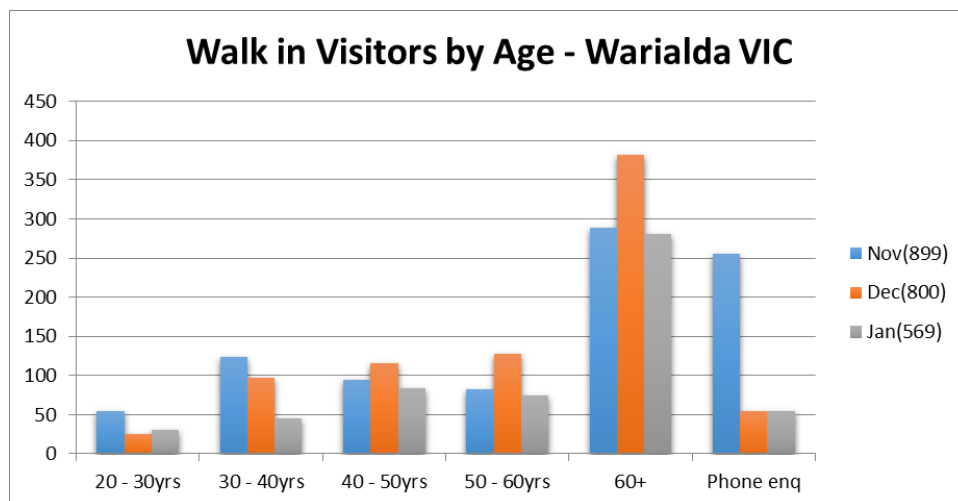
Warialda Visitor Information Centre (VIC)

| November 2021 | December 2021 | January 2022 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Opening Hours = 165 | Opening Hours = 131.5 | Opening Hours = 150 |
| Volunteering Hours = 20 | Volunteering Hours = 13.5 | Volunteering Hours = 10 |

| Income: | November | December | January |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Centre Hire | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Merchandise sales | \$618.01 | \$1774.50 | \$854.52 |
| Total Monthly Income | \$618.01 | \$1774.50 | \$854.52 |

| Visitors at Warialda VIC | November | December | January |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Visitors | 191 | 132 | 124 |
| RMS | 301 | 203 | 163 |
| Cafe | 331 | 384 | 229 |
| Phone Visitor/Service NSW enquires | 76 | 81 | 53 |
| Total | 899 | 800 | 569 |

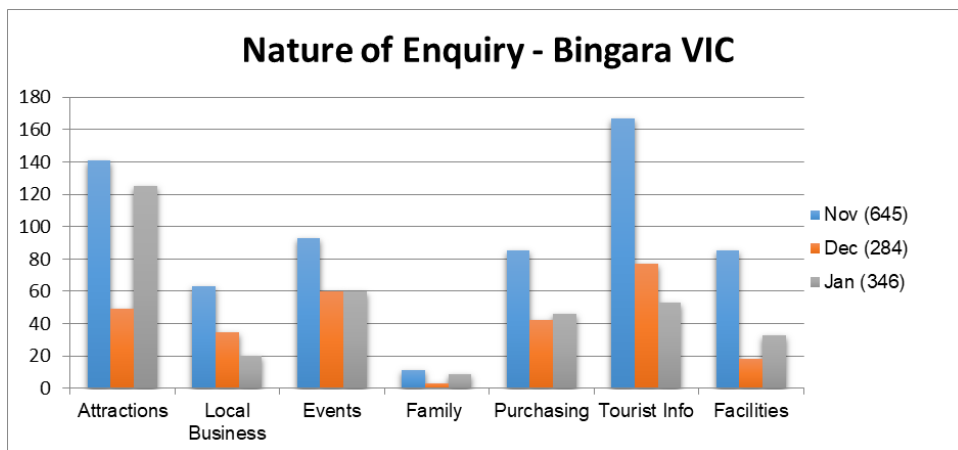
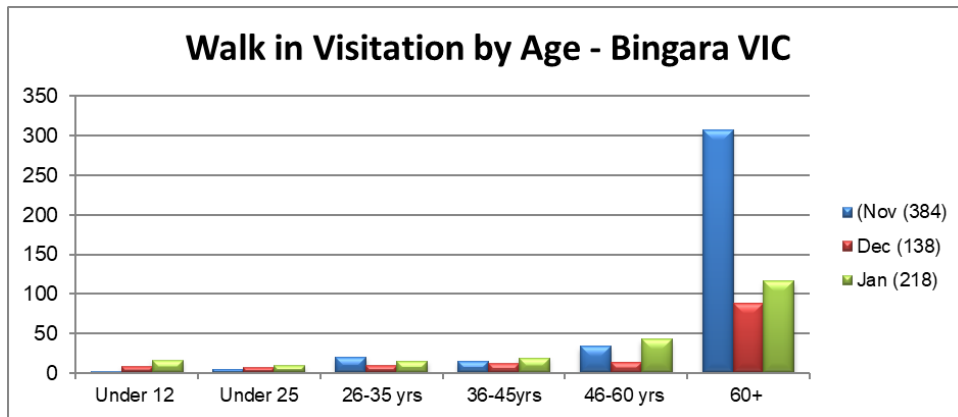
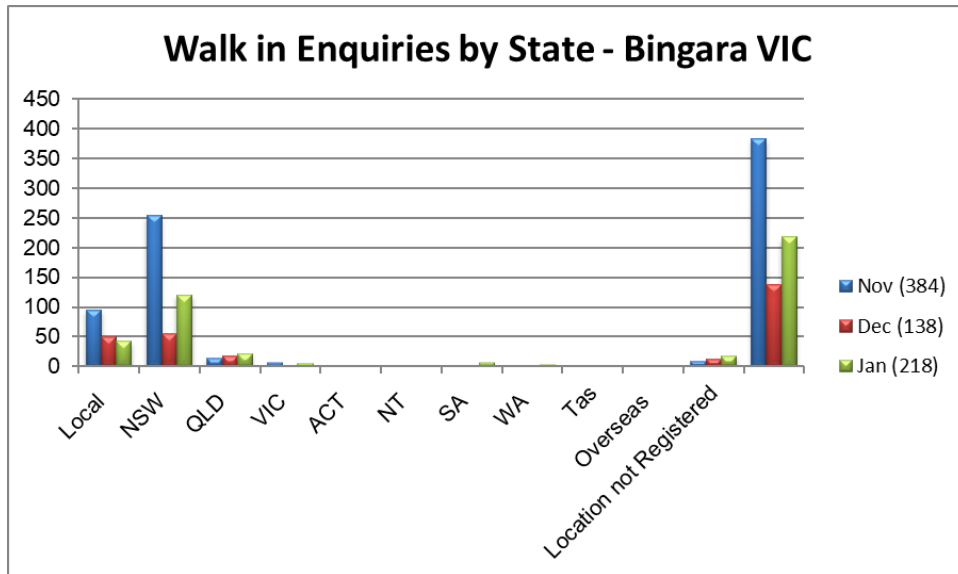




Bingara Visitor Information Centre (VIC)

| November 2021 | December 2021 | January 2022 |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Opening Hours = 173 | Opening Hours = 146.5 | Opening Hours = 147.5 |
| Volunteer Hours = 30 | Volunteer Hours = 22 | Volunteer Hours = 30.5 |

| Income – Bingara VIC | November | December | January |
|---|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Products on Consignment | \$ 12.00 | \$ 12.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| Merchandise | \$ 1033.30 | \$ 574.00 | \$ 811.00 |
| Subtotal | \$1045.30 | \$ 586.00 | \$ 811.00 |
| Less payments to consignees | \$ 8.40 | \$ 8.40 | \$ 0.00 |
| Total Merchandise sales | \$ 1036.90 | \$ 577.60 | \$ 811.00 |
| Total Monthly Income Bingara VIC | \$ 1036.90 | \$ 577.60 | \$ 811.00 |
| Roxy Tour Income | \$ 175.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| Visitors at Bingara VIC | 384 | 138 | 218 |



Events

The Roxy hosted the Amber Lawrence concert on Saturday 20 November. The theatre was hired at a reduced rate of \$500. The Northwest Theatre Company (NWTC) took over \$800 at the bar. It was a great night.

Bingara Christmas Carnival

The Bingara Christmas Carnival was held Friday, December 3, at the town's Returned Services Club. A decision was made by the Bingara Special Events Committee earlier in the week to relocate the event from the Gwydir Oval due to persistent soggy ground of the grounds underfoot. Unfortunately, stallholders were unable to attend, however, entertainment went ahead in the RSL function room. Despite not being able to be held outdoors, the evening was a success thanks to the RSL team making a fantastic effort to accommodate the many attendees and families. Around 250 - 300 people joined in the celebrations over the course of the evening. Children went wild at the arrival of Santa, who, from his Christmas chair, joined the children in singing some carols before it was time for photos to be taken and lollies to be handed out. Santa then got up to do some boot-scooting with the local Line Dancers during their demonstration. After a short pause for raffles, the remainder of the evening kicked on with Moree band *The Contingency Plan* entertaining many late into the night.

Many thanks to the Special Events Committee members for making the most of an unfortunate situation and putting on a winning evening. Thanks also to the RSL Board and Vanessa's team for stepping up to look after the silly season crowd, and to Santa of course. Not exactly the Christmas Carnival that was planned but the contingency was still a wonderful, festive night out.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

FURTHER that the Council's Organisation Structure as of February 2022 is noted.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Organisation Structure February 2022 [10.1.1 - 1 page]

10.2 Councillor Committee Memberships

File Reference: na

Delivery Program

Goal: 5. Organisational management

Outcome: 5.1 Corporate management

Strategy: 5.1.3 Administrative and support functions

Author: General Manager

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

For the final determination of Committees' representation.

TABLED ITEMS Nil

BACKGROUND

Each September or following the Local Government Elections the appointments to the various Committees of Council are determined.

COMMENT

The attached matrix is the current situation. The Councillors with an '**' next to their name have responded to the request to list their Committee Membership preferences.

The continuing Councillors who have not responded simply have their existing memberships outlined.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

TBD

ATTACHMENTS

1. Committee Memberships [10.2.1 - 1 page]

10.3 Joint Organisation Membership

File Reference: Nil

Delivery Program

Goal: 4. Proactive regional and local leadership

Outcome: 4.1 We are an engaged and connected community

Strategy: 4.2.1 Build strong relationships and shared responsibilities

Author: General Manager

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

THAT Minister for Local Government be advised that the Council's preferred position remains that it is in the best interests of Gwydir Shire and its residents to become a full voting member of the New England Joint Organisation.

TABLED ITEMS Nil

BACKGROUND

At the last Meeting of the previous Council the following resolution was passed:

THAT the report be received.

THAT this matter be referred to the newly elected Council to consider whether it supports the resolution from the February 2021 Ordinary Meeting of the Council as representing the corporate position:

Minister for Local Government be advised that the Council's preferred position remains that it is in the best interests of Gwydir Shire and its residents to become a full voting member of the New England Joint Organisation.

The background to this issue is outlined fully outlined in the attached reports.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT Minister for Local Government be advised that the Council's preferred position remains that it is in the best interests of Gwydir Shire and its residents to become a full voting member of the New England Joint Organisation.

ATTACHMENTS

1. November 2021 Report [10.3.1 - 2 pages]
2. Attachments to November 2021 Report [10.3.2 - 7 pages]

10.4 Planning Panels Council Nominated Members**File Reference:** NA**Delivery Program****Goal:** 5. Organisational management**Outcome:** 5.1 Corporate management**Strategy:** 5.1.5 Provision of responsible internal governance**Author:** General Manager**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST NIL****IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

That the council nominate 2 alternate members for the panel for an appointment term of 3 years.

TABLED ITEMS Nil**BACKGROUND**

The standard term for nominated members is 3 years unless otherwise advised by council.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor have been nominated as the Council's permanent representatives and the Council needs to determine two alternate representatives for the panel in the instance their delegated permanent representatives are not.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**TBD****ATTACHMENTS**

1. Planning Panel Council Nominated Members Form [**10.4.1** - 1 page]
2. Sydney & Regional Planning Panels Operational Procedures [**10.4.2** - 46 pages]

10.5 IPart Rating Determinations

File Reference: NA

Delivery Program

Goal: 4. Proactive regional and local leadership

Outcome: 4.2 We work together to achieve our goals

Strategy: 4.2.2 Work in partnership to plan for the future

Author: General Manager

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

This report recommends that the Council conveys its disappointment at the proposed rate peg of 0.7% to its local State Member, The Hon. Adam Marshall MP.

Further that the issue be referred to the Namoi Unlimited JO and New England JO along with LGNSW requesting the support of each group for the Council's position.

Further that each Council receiving the minimum rate increase of 0.7% be requested to also make representations condemning the inadequate increase to each of the Council's State Representatives.

TABLED ITEMS Nil

BACKGROUND

The new President of LGNSW (Local Government NSW), Cr Darriea Turley AM, has forwarded the following email concerning the lowest rate cap handed down in 20 years, which she believes will put councils and communities at risk, I agree strongly:

Like me, I am sure you were shocked to hear IPART's announcement today that the baseline rate peg for 2022/23 has been set at 0.7%.

This is the lowest rate peg in two decades and less than half the previous record low of 1.5%, applied in 2017/18.

It is devastating news for councils already struggling with financial sustainability issues in the wake of drought, bushfire, floods and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The baseline rate peg is based on the costs of goods last year when the economy was in a pandemic-induced slump.

It fails to recognise the skyrocketing cost of commodities, as supply chain delays continue to bite and NSW begins to emerge from the COVID pandemic.

Most notable are fuel costs, which have almost doubled during the latter half of 2021, while IPART has decided to apply the public service wage increase of 1.2% instead of the 2% guaranteed to councils' workers for 2022.

Both will have a significant impact on council budgets for 2022/23.

And while IPART has applied the new growth rate formula, boosting the rate cap for some councils in recognition of rising populations, a full 78 of the state's 128 councils miss out.

What that means is a lot of planned work, intended to drive a locally led recovery from COVID, will now simply be out of financial reach.

The last thing NSW needs as we emerge from the pandemic is to send our regional and rural councils into a spiral from which they cannot recover.

LGNSW will be working on your behalf, to raise the ever-growing gap between financial sustainability of councils and the squeeze being applied as a result of cost shifting and an unrealistic rate cap such as the one handed down today.

This decision defies belief and highlights the complete lack of any empathy regarding regional and rural local government. The NSW State Government cannot refuse ownership of this decision by referring to IPart as an independent body. The final decision rests with the Minister for Local Government under Section 506 (1) of the *Local Government Act, 1993*.

I was disappointed to find while reviewing the IPart website that the Tribunal Members and senior staff have little or no direct experience of working directly in rural local government.

Their competence is not being challenged just their full understanding of the local government industry, especially in rural and regional areas where the local Council is often the linchpin that provides the social cohesion that binds the community together. These rural local authorities are also usually the biggest employer and a significant part of the local economy.

In rural areas the focus of local government is aimed at maintaining its populations and this often means endeavouring to meet the service shortfalls as the other levels of government rationalise and relocate their services into the larger regional centres.

Bean counter government does not meet the reasonable expectations of rural communities.

Population growth is only one of the determining factors that creates cost pressures on local government yet judging by the IPart documents attached to this report you could be mistaken into believing it was the only criteria worthy of evaluation.

The Council's current wages/salaries, which includes the additional employees for flood damage work, is approximately \$14,000,000 so the 2% Local Government Award increase plus the 2.5% Award increase for Aged Care Workers (23% of the Council's workforce) equates to at least \$295,000 and possibly more. The rate pegged increase for 2022/23 is approximately \$58,000. The shortfall in this wages/salaries area of Council's operations is significant, without all the other cost increases due to inflationary pressures.

The CPI movement for 2021 was 3.3 percentage points. The annual increases in road making and building materials are usually greater than the CPI movement.

The issue here is not one of inefficient operations it is simply the economic reality of maintaining an effective delivery of services.

Attachment 3 outlines that Gwydir Shire issues are shared amongst the members of both the New England JO and Namoi Unlimited JO.

COMMENT

By any reasonable measure the IPart decision is unrealistic and needs to be challenged.

Not surprisingly the concerns outlined in this report are shared by the United Services Union, see correspondence attached from the General Secretary Mr Graham Kelly, which includes a report from UNE Emeritus Professor Brian Dollery entitled 'Rate Capping in New South Wales Local Government: Conceptual Foundations, Empirical Evidence and Policy Recommendations'. This report recommends that the Council collaborates with the USU in its campaign.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council conveys its disappointment at the proposed rate peg of only 0.7% to its local State Member, The Hon. Adam Marshall MP.

FURTHER that LGNSW, the Namoi Unlimited JO, New England JO, Country Mayors Association of NSW, Local Government Professionals and the United Services Union be advised of the Council's position and its commitment to collaborate with any organised objection to the proposed rate pegged limit.

FURTHER that each of the 78 Councils receiving the minimum rate increase of 0.7% be requested to also make strong representations condemning the inadequate increase to each of the Councils' elected State Representatives.

ATTACHMENTS

1. IPart Final Report - Review of the rate peg to include population growth September 2021 [**10.5.1** - 87 pages]
2. IPart Information Paper - Rate peg information paper 2022-23 -13 December-2021 [**10.5.2** - 11 pages]
3. NEJO and Namoi Unlimited - Summary from attached reports [**10.5.3** - 1 page]
4. 140222 - Ltr to Council G M- CEO & Mayor - Rate Capping in NSW Local Government [**10.5.4** - 1 page]
5. Attachment - Rate Capping in NSW Local Government Dollery 2 February 2022 [**10.5.5** - 34 pages]

10.6 2020/2021 Annual Report and End of Term Report

File Reference: NA

Delivery Program

Goal: 5. Organisational management

Outcome: 5.1 Corporate management

Strategy: 5.1.3 Administrative and support functions

Author: General Manager

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST NIL

IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information only.

TABLED ITEMS Nil

BACKGROUND

Attached are copies of the Council's 2020/21 Annual Report together with the End of Term Report for the last Council.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the reports are noted.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Gwydir Shire Council Annual report 2020-2021 [**10.6.1** - 112 pages]
2. 2017-2021 Gwydir Shire Council End of Term Report - Extended Term [**10.6.2** - 34 pages]

10.7 Council submission to Draft New England North West Regional Plan 2041**File Reference:** NA**Delivery Program****Goal:** 4. Proactive regional and local leadership**Outcome:** 4.2 We work together to achieve our goals**Strategy:** 4.2.2 Work in partnership to plan for the future**Author:** Environmental And Sustainability**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil****IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

The Department of Planning Industry and Environment is seeking submissions and feedback on the Draft New England Northwest Regional Plan 2041 from the regional Councils. This document is being distributed under separate cover.

Each council has a photo and text under the local government narratives section.

A draft Gwydir narrative text is attached together with a range of photograph options for inclusion.

TABLED ITEMS Nil**BACKGROUND**

The New England Northwest Regional Plan is updated every five years.

COMMENT

The Council's draft submission is attached for approval. The Cranky Rock photo is recommended as the Shire's photo.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council endorses the Council's draft submission.

FURTHER that the Cranky Rock photograph be used in the Gwydir Shire Narrative page.

ATTACHMENTS

Draft New England North West Regional Plan 2041 – Local Government Narratives
Gwydir – Gwydir draft submission
Photo Cranky Rock Photo Roxy Photo Truck and Roxy Photo Warialda Show copy

10.8 Community Meetings**File Reference:** NA**Delivery Program****Goal:** 4. Proactive regional and local leadership**Outcome:** 4.1 We are an engaged and connected community**Strategy:** 4.1.3 Build on our sense of community**Author:** General Manager**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil****IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

This report recommends the following schedule of meetings:

| Date | Locality | Venue |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 7 th March 2022 6 pm | Bingara | Roxy |
| 8 th March 2022 6 pm | Gravesend | 'RSL' Hall |
| 9 th March 2022 6 pm | Warialda | Memorial Town Hall |
| 10 th March 2022 6 pm | Coolatai | Coolatai Hall |
| 14 th March 2022 6 pm | Upper Horton | Sporting Club |
| 15 th March 2022 6 pm | Croppa Creek | Bowling Club |
| 21 st March 2022 6 pm | North Star | Sporting Club |

COMMENT

Preliminary bookings have been made for the locations and catering, which may be altered if the dates are not acceptable.

The dates have been selected to work around the existing commitments of the Mayor and General Manager.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the schedule of Community Meeting dates is adopted.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

10.9 January Monthly Investment and Rates Collection Report

File Reference: NA
Delivery Program
Goal: 5. Organisational management
Outcome: 5.1 Corporate management
Strategy: 5.1.1 Financial Management and accountability systems
Author: CFO

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

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

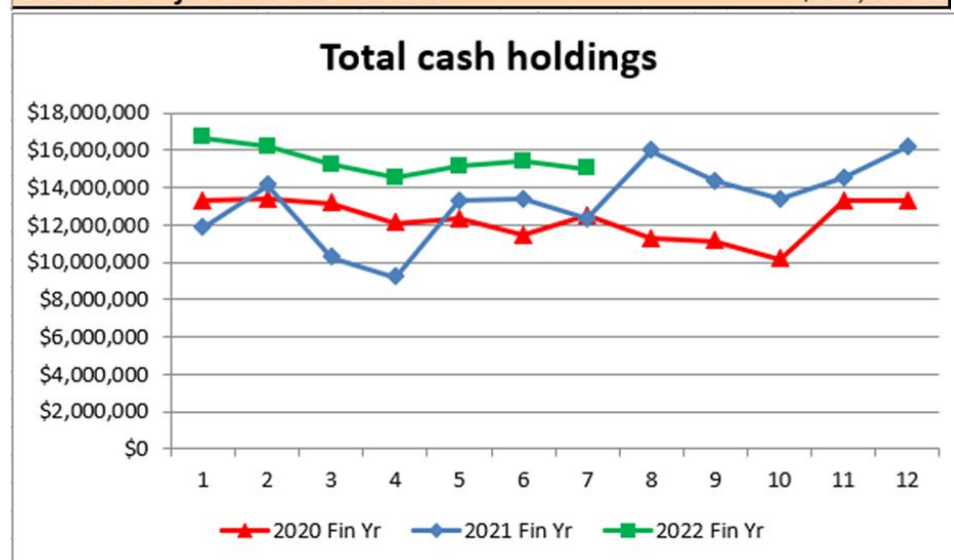
TABLED ITEMS Nil

BACKGROUND

In accordance with Clause 19(3) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 1993, the following information provides details of Council's funds invested as of 31 January 2022.

| Direct Investments | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-------|------------------------|
| Broker | ID | Investment Name | Rating | Type | Next Rollover | Yield | Current Value |
| NAB | 2021.10 | NAB | AA | TD | 31/05/2022 | 0.38% | \$1,000,000.00 |
| NAB | 2021.2 | NAB | AA | TD | 31/05/2022 | 0.38% | \$1,000,000.00 |
| NAB | 2021.3 | NAB | AA | TD | 31/05/2022 | 0.38% | \$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 | \$406,849.48 | | | |
| Tcorp Cash Fund | At Call | Cash | See report | \$ 9,797,687.29 | | | |
| Tcorp Medium Term Fund | At Call | Cash | See report | \$ 1,470,968.48 | | | |
| Grand Total | | | | | | | \$11,675,505.25 |
| Total Investments | | | | | | | |
| Direct Investments | | | | | | | \$3,000,000.00 |
| Managed Funds | | | | | | | \$11,675,505.25 |
| Grand Total | | | | | | | \$14,675,505.25 |

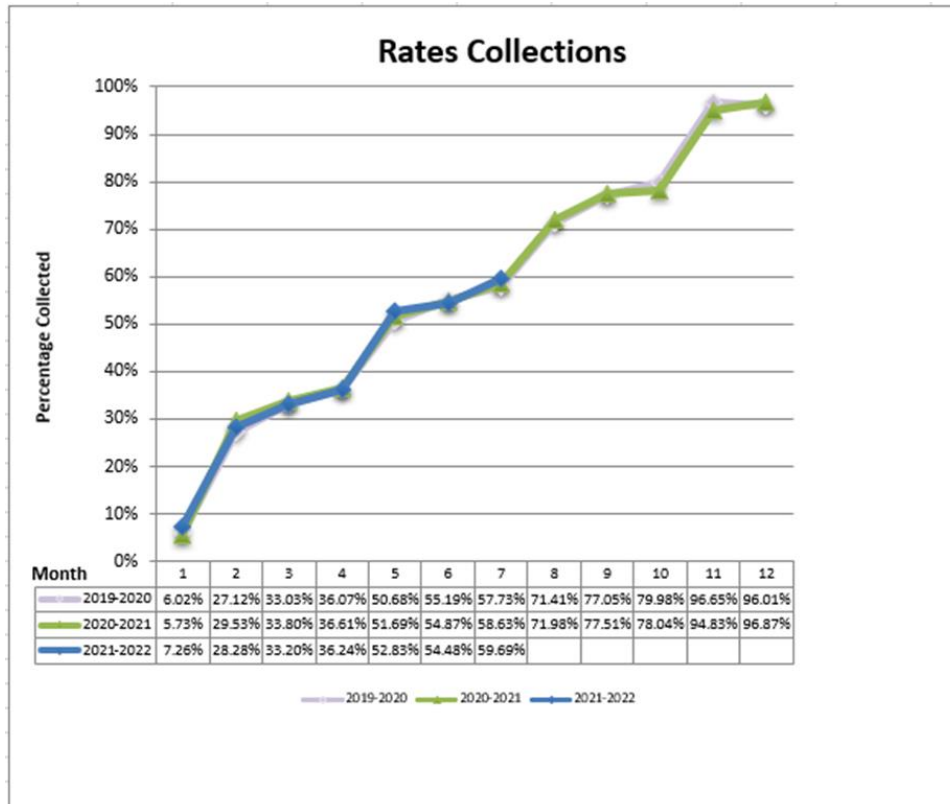
| Cash and Investments | |
|---|------------------------|
| Total Investments | |
| Direct Investments | \$3,000,000.00 |
| Managed Funds | \$11,675,505.25 |
| Grand Total Investments | \$14,675,505.25 |
| Total Cash and Investments | |
| Investments | \$14,675,505.25 |
| Cash at bank | \$705,964.48 |
| Grand Total Cash and Investments | \$15,381,469.73 |
| General Fund Cash | |
| Total cash and investments | \$15,381,469.73 |
| LESS: | |
| Water fund* | -\$1,066,799.87 |
| Sewer fund* | -\$2,905,249.25 |
| Waste fund* | -\$3,939,908.26 |
| Other restrictions: | |
| Employee leave entitlements* | -\$900,000.00 |
| Carry over works in progress* | -\$4,024,250.00 |
| Asset replacement* | -\$923,245.00 |
| Bonds and deposits | -\$1,182,486.12 |
| Developer contributions | -\$200,000.00 |
| *These figures may change with end of year processing | |
| Discretionary General Fund Cash | \$239,531.23 |



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

RATES COLLECTIONS

The graph below represents a comparative of the percentage collections for the current year against the two previous rating years. The current years collections are up to 31st January 2022.



OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the January Monthly Investment and Rates Collection report be received.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

10.10 December Quarterly Budget Review Statement

File Reference: NA

Delivery Program

Goal: 5. Organisational management

Outcome: 5.1 Corporate management

Strategy: 5.1.1 Financial Management and accountability systems

Author: CFO

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST NIL**IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

This report recommends that the December Quarter Budget Review Statement be noted and that the December Quarter budget adjustments be approved.

TABLED ITEMS Nil**BACKGROUND**

This report is required under the Local Government Act and associated Regulations.

COMMENT

The commentary in this report is directed at overall results. The impact on individual business units and by implication the associated service levels has not been assessed - this is the responsibility of individual directors and managers.

There have been significant adjustments to both the Income and Expenditure sides of the budget. Many of these changes related to the large scale of Technical Services work that is currently being performed. Once again it will be hard to determine End of Financial Year Position with most works being funded by grant monies and the timing of this income to reach Council.

Adjustments to this quarter do have a positive impact on Councils projected bottom line at end of year. COVID impacts have required adjustments to Tourism and sites with reduced income being predicted.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1993 and associated regulations. A quarterly budget review is due within 2 months of the end of each quarter under the requirements of Clause 203 of the Local Government (General)

Regulation 2005:

203 Budget review statements and revision of estimates

1. Not later than 2 months after the end of each quarter, the responsible accounting officer of a council must prepare and submit to the council a budget review statement that shows, by reference to the estimate of income and expenditure set out in the management plan that the council has adopted for the relevant year, a revised estimate of the income and expenditure for that year.
2. A budget review statement must include or be accompanied by:
 1. a report as to whether or not the responsible accounting officer believes that the statement indicates that the financial position of the council is satisfactory, having regard to the original estimate of income and expenditure, and
 2. if that position is unsatisfactory, recommendations for remedial action.
3. A budget review statement must also include any information required by the Code to be included in such a statement.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the December Quarter Budget Review Statement be noted.

FURTHER that the December Quarter budget adjustments be approved.

ATTACHMENTS

1. December QBRS [**10.10.1** - 9 pages]

11 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

| January & February 2022 | | |
|--|--|---|
| Councillor | Event | Date |
| Cr J Coulton (Mayor) | Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room Bingara | 11 th Jan. |
| | Citizenship Ceremony – Warialda Memorial Hall | 10 th Feb. |
| | BROC Meeting – The Living Classroom Bingara | 11 th Feb. |
| | Councillor Inductions – The Living Classroom Bingara | 14 th & 15 th Feb. |
| | LGNSW Mayoral Meeting – Teams Meeting | 16 th Feb. |
| | Namoi Roads and Transport Network Meeting Transport for NSW Conference room - Tamworth | 18 th Feb. |
| | Media Event – Warialda Bushfire Resilience | 21 st Feb. |
| | Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room Bingara | 24 th Feb. |
| | LG NSW Special Conference – The Hyatt Regency - Sydney | 28 th Feb – 2 nd Mar. |
| | Cr Catherine Egan (Deputy Mayor) | Ordinary Council Meeting - Roxy Conference Room Bingara |
| Australia Day Judging – The Roxy Green room, Bingara | | 18 th Jan. |
| Australia Day Awards – The Roxy Theatre | | 26 th Jan. |
| Bingara Showground User Group Meeting | | 8 th Feb. |
| CNRL AGM | | 9 th Feb. |
| Citizenship Ceremony – Warialda Memorial Hall | | 10 th Feb. |
| Councillor Inductions – The Living Classroom Bingara | | 14 & 15 th Feb. |
| Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Rom | | 24 th Feb. |
| LG NSW Special Conference – The Hyatt Regency - Sydney | | 28 th Feb – 2 nd Mar |
| Cr David Coulton | Ordinary Council Meeting - The Roxy Conference room | 11 th Jan. |
| | Australia Day Awards - Warialda | 26 th Jan. |
| | Gwydir LEMC Teams Meeting | 3 rd Feb. |
| | BFMC Meeting | 7 th Feb. |
| | Citizenship Ceremony – Warialda Memorial Hall | 10 th Feb. |
| | Councillor Inductions – The Living Classroom Bingara | 14 th & 15 th Feb. |
| | LEMO Teams Meeting | 22 nd Feb. |
| | Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference room. | 24 th Feb. |
| | LG NSW Special Conference – The Hyatt Regency - Sydney | 28 th Feb – 2 nd Mar |
| Cr Geoff Smith | Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room | 11 th Jan. |

| | | |
|--------------------|--|---|
| | Councillor Inductions – The Living Classroom Bingara | 14 th & 15 th Feb. |
| | Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room Bingara | 24 th Feb. |
| Cr Chris Matthews | Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room | 11 th Jan. |
| | Councillor Inductions – The Living Classroom Bingara | 14 th & 15 th Feb. |
| Cr Dixon OAM | Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room Bingara | 11 th Jan. |
| | Australia Day judging – Imperial Hotel Conference Room | 18 th Jan. |
| | Australia Day Awards – The Roxy Theatre | 26 th Jan. |
| | Councillor Inductions – The Living Classroom Bingara | 14 th & 15 th Feb. |
| | Warialda Disability Access Meeting – Warialda Council Chambers | 17 th Feb. |
| | Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room Bingara | 24 th Feb. |
| Cr T Galvin | Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room Bingara | 11 th Jan. |
| | Photo Opportunity – Adam Marshall Bingara Gwydir Oval Netball Courts | 25 th Jan. |
| | Zoom Meeting – Namoi Unlimited Industry Steering Committee | 19 th Feb. |
| | Councillor Inductions – The Living Classroom Bingara | 14 th & 15 th Feb. |
| | Warialda Disability Access Meeting – Warialda Chambers | 17 th Feb. |
| | Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room Bingara | 24 th Feb. |
| | LG NSW Special Conference – The Hyatt Regency - Sydney | 28 th Feb – 2 nd Mar. |
| Cr J Moore | Ordinary Council Meeting - The Roxy Conference Room Bingara | 11 th Jan. |
| | Citizenship Ceremony – Warialda Town Hall | 10 th Feb. |
| Cr J Moore | Councillor Inductions – The Living Classroom Bingara | 14 th & 15 th Feb. |
| | Warialda Historical Society Meeting | 17 th Feb. |
| | Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Theatre Bingara | 24 th Feb. |
| Cr Lyndon Mulligan | Ordinary Council Meeting - The Roxy Conference Room Bingara | 11 th Jan. |
| | Councillors Inductions – The Living Classroom Bingara | 14 th & 15 th Feb. |
| | Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room Bingara | 24 th Feb. |

12 CLOSURE