



MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING
GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL
THURSDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2021
COMMENCING AT 9AM

Present:

Councillors: Cr. John Coulton (Mayor), Cr. Catherine Egan (Deputy Mayor), Cr Marilyn Dixon OAM, Cr. Jim Moore, Cr. Geoff Smith, Cr. David Coulton, Cr Stuart Dick and Cr Frances Young

Staff: Max Eastcott (General Manager), Alex Eddy (Manager, Engineering Services), Graham Cutmore (Team Leader, Finance) and Thaiis Simpson (Administration Assistant)

Public: Kim Miller (Gwydir News)

Visitor: Nil

This is page number 1 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

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OFFICIAL OPENING AND WELCOME – MAYOR

APOLOGIES Cr Tiffany Galvin, Leeah Daley (Deputy General Manager), Helen Thomas (Manager, Finance) and Ruby Mitchell (Information Services Records Trainee)

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION:
MINUTE 296/21**

THAT the apology of Cr Tiffany Galvin is accepted.

(Moved Cr Egan, seconded Cr Young)

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION:
MINUTE 297/21**

THAT the Minutes of the previous Council Meeting held on Thursday 28 October 2021 as circulated be taken as read and **CONFIRMED**.

(Moved Cr Dick, seconded Cr Coulton)

PRESENTATION

A citizenship ceremony for Mrs Marlina Farriss was held during the morning tea break.



Andrew and Marlina Farriss

CALL FOR THE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

This is page number 3 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

**ADDITIONAL/LATE ITEMS
COUNCIL RESOLUTION:
MINUTE 298/21**

THAT the following items, namely:

- 1. Thrive by Five Campaign Early Learning Reform**
- 2. October Monthly Investment and Rates Collection Report**

are accepted as late items onto this Agenda for discussion.

(Moved Cr D Coulton, seconded Cr Moore)

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS
COUNCIL RESOLUTION:
MINUTE 299/21**

THAT the Council resolve into Confidential Session, Committee of the Whole and that in the public interest and in accordance with Section 10A(2)(a) 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 Dick, seconded Cr Smith)

ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION:
MINUTE 300/21**

THAT the recommendations of the Confidential Session, namely:

Organisation & Community Development Monthly Report (Ref: 301/21)

THAT the report be received.

GLR Country Education Fund (Ref: 302/21)

THAT the report be received and the draft Minutes noted.

are adopted.

(Moved Cr Dick, seconded Cr Moore)

Item 1 Thrive by Five Campaign Early Learning Reform

FILE REFERENCE 21/30359

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 - GM - external

AUTHOR Mayor

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

This report recommends that the Council supports the Thrive by Five campaign

TABLED ITEMS Nil

BACKGROUND

I am requesting the Council’s support for the Thrive by Five campaign.

During the first five years of life, the human brain develops to 90 per cent of an adult’s size. This makes the early years critical for lifelong learning and wellbeing. Early learning can help give children the best start in life, impacting on their future health, wellbeing, working potential and social participation.

Every child should start school ready to learn, with the opportunity to fulfil their potential. But Australia’s early learning and childcare system has become outdated and expensive.

Although it’s an essential service, Federal Government funding has failed to keep pace, leaving families out-of-pocket with expenses and creating unequal access to appropriate, high-quality early learning and childcare. Parents, educators, experts, people from all sides of politics and all walks of life have come together to support this campaign which aims to ensure every Australian child can benefit from high quality, universally accessible and affordable early learning and childcare.

Reform of the early learning and childcare system will drive workforce participation, particularly for women, boost productivity and GDP, boost our nation’s education performance, and give children the best possible start in life. Reducing out-of-pocket costs for working families will flow directly into increased household spending. A high quality, universally accessible and

This is page number 5 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

affordable early learning system will allow an extra 98,800 parents, mainly women, to get back into the workforce, boosting productivity and the economy.

Many Australian women don't work more than three days a week because that is the tipping point where the cost of care becomes unreasonably expensive when compared with earning potential. As a result, these women experience difficulty when they try to increase the amount they work and face lifelong challenges through lost earnings and low superannuation. Many women drop out of the workforce because of the cost of early learning and childcare.

Local Government runs hundreds of centres around Australia. This is not a party-political issue: the campaign calls on all sides of politics to commit to supporting early learning and childcare.

I am recommending that we support this campaign and call on all parties to commit to support a high quality, universally accessible and affordable early learning system that creates a brighter future for our children.

Gwydir is well served by its existing preschools but better resourcing would always be welcomed.

MAYORAL RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the Thrive by Five campaign to support high-quality, universally accessible and affordable early learning and childcare.

FURTHER that the Council formally advise LGNSW and Australian Local Government Association, that Council has endorsed the Thrive by Five campaign and supports the Associations in their involvement in the campaign.

FURTHER that the Council write to Prime Minister The Hon. Scott Morrison, the Leader of the Opposition The Hon. Anthony Albanese, the Minister for Education and Youth The Hon. Alan Tudge, the Shadow Minister for Early Childhood Education and Youth The Hon. Amanda Rishworth and the Shire's local Federal Members of Parliament, seeking bipartisan support for the campaigns objectives.

FURTHER that the Council endorse the distribution and display of the Thrive by Five information on Council premises, primarily in childcare centres, as well as involvement in any relevant actions arising from the initiative.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

This is page number 6 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION:
MINUTE 303/21**

THAT Council endorse the Thrive by Five campaign to support high-quality, universally accessible and affordable early learning and childcare.

FURTHER that the Council formally advise LGNSW and Australian Local Government Association, that Council has endorsed the Thrive by Five campaign and supports the Associations in their involvement in the campaign.

FURTHER that the Council write to Prime Minister The Hon. Scott Morrison, the Leader of the Opposition The Hon. Anthony Albanese, the Minister for Education and Youth The Hon. Alan Tudge, the Shadow Minister for Early Childhood Education and Youth the Hon. Amanda Rishworth and the Shire's local Federal Members of Parliament, seeking bipartisan support for the campaigns objectives.

FURTHER that the Council endorse the distribution and display of the Thrive by Five information on Council premises, primarily in childcare centres, as well as involvement in any relevant actions arising from the initiative.

(Moved Cr D Coulton, seconded Cr Dixon OAM)

Item 2 Organisation & Community Development

FILE REFERENCE 21/29211

DELIVERY PROGRAM

GOAL: 5. Organisational Management

OUTCOME: 5.1 CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

STRATEGY: 5.1.4 Workforce planning - OCD - internal

AUTHOR Organisational and Community Services Director

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

This report details the activities carried out in the month of October 2021.

BACKGROUND

The monthly Organisation and Community Services 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

NAROO FRAIL AGED HOSTEL WARIALDA

Resident News and Outings

The Residents have been busy this month with outings. They have enjoyed several lunch outings with a day at The Bowling Club for Chinese and a lovely pub lunch at The Local. Goldie even took on Lara in a game of pool. Boss's Day was celebrated with an afternoon of nibbles and drinks. Minister Steve come for a courtyard chapel service with the residents soaking up some sunshine and words of wisdom. They have also enjoyed carpet bowls and cooking with Alison. Marg McKinney and Al made a yummy cherry ripe slice.



This is page number 8 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman



This is page number 9 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman



COMMONWEALTH HOME SUPPORT PROGRAM WARIALDA/DELUNGRA

Budget

Sharon Baker

Meetings

Next Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for 16 November 2021,
Community Health meetings have been cancelled since April 2021.

Volunteers

Warialda/Delungra CHSP have approximately forty-three volunteers.
Volunteers are still doing transports and delivering Meals on Wheels.

Transport and Trips

Inverell community bus is making fortnightly shopping trips.
Transport still operating taking clients to appointments.

This is page number 10 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25
November 2021

Chairman

Naroo Hostel using CHSP bus for outings, this is at no cost.

Social Support

Delungra day trip to Pally pub this month had to be cancelled due to clients not having COVID Vax identification.

Warialda clients attended a day trip to Copeton Dam this Month.

Day Centres

Warialda/Delungra Day Centres have recommenced services, clients are all very happy with this.

Warialda Day Centre had some items purchased, stick vacuum, trolley and a replacement table.

Delungra Day Centre also had a stick vacuum purchased.

Food Service

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

October 2021 Report		
Day Centre	Delungra	Warialda
Total active clients	21	93
Clients receiving service	11	52
Total Meals	50	169
Hours Clients Receive in Centre	221	385
Social Support		
Number of Clients	11	52
Individual Hours	2	72
Group Hours	119	314
Total Hours Received	121	386
Food Service (Meals on Wheels)		
Clients	0	5
Meals	0	122
Transport		
Number of Clients	2	20
Number of Trips	8	80
Transport Youth		
Number of Clients	0	0
Number of Trips	0	0
Access Bus Inverell		
Number of Clients	1	6
Number of Trips (per month)	4	4
Volunteers		
Number of Volunteers for the Month	3	35
Monthly Volunteer Hours	16	490

TOURISM AND EVENTS

This is page number 11 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

October 2021

The slump in visitors from the end of winter appears to be over with visitations and purchases returning to pre-lockdown levels.

This can certainly be seen in the Bingara VIC data and, although unavailable for submission, the Warialda VIC is similar. (See Appendix

Events are starting back up too with ticket sales for Amber Lawrence and Ashleigh Dallas' performance at the Roxy on November 20th surpassing 150 patrons at present.

Both Bingara and Warialda are preparing Christmas Carnivals for December. The Be Creative Challenge by Warialda High School and sponsored by GSC is also coming up, and the Roxy and The Living Classrooms have Christmas parties and conferences, (as well as family gatherings in the case of TLC), booked through to the new year.

It has been a tough road with COVID but not only is 2022 looking like a return to normality but as far as tourism and events in the Gwydir Shire there's the support and potential for massive growth, well into the next decade.

Visitor Information Centres

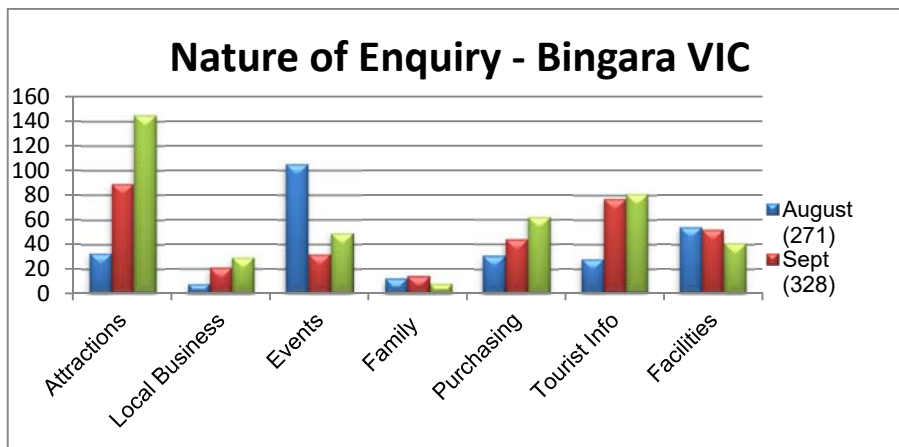
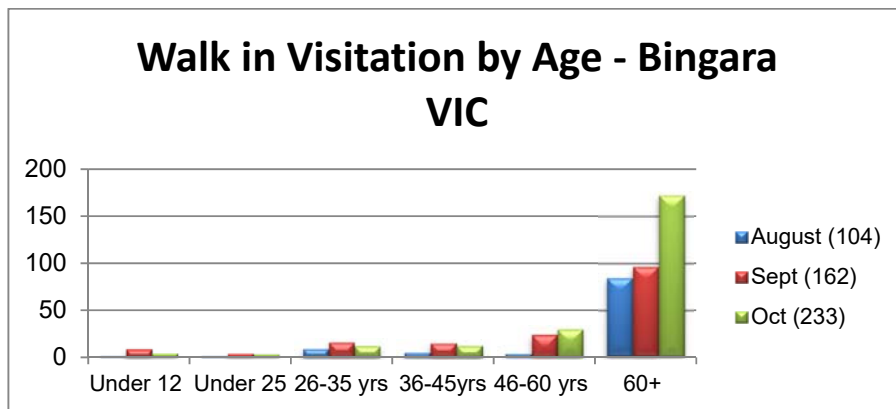
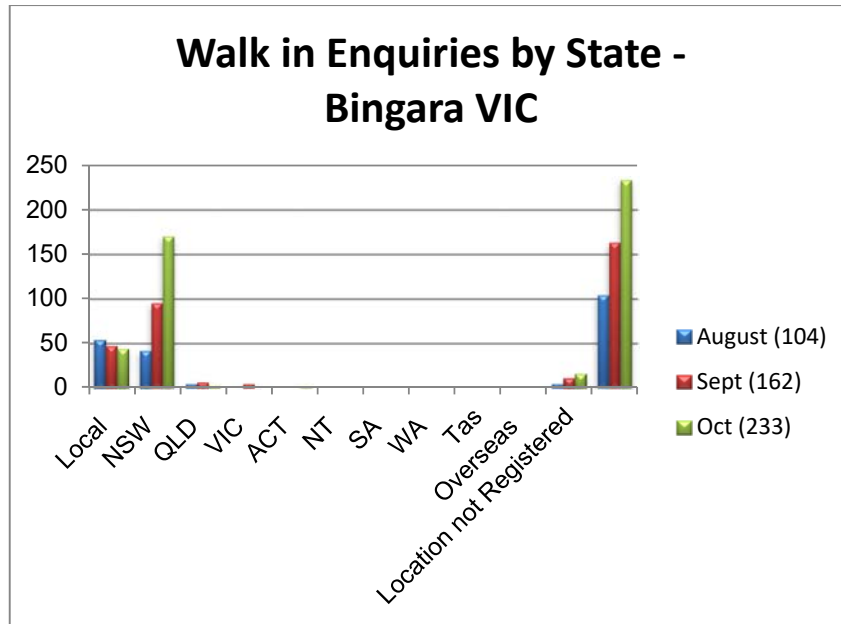
Warialda Visitor Information Centre

Statistics currently unavailable.

Bingara Visitor Information Centre

August 2021	September 2021	October 2021
Opening Hours 77	Opening Hours 175	Opening Hours 174.75
Volunteer Hours 12	Volunteer Hours 32	Volunteer Hours 38.25

Income Bingara VIC	August	September	October
Products on Consignment	\$3.00	\$9.00	\$9.00
Merchandise	\$326.40	\$397.00	\$541.30
Subtotal	\$329.40	\$406.00	\$550.30
Less payments to consignees	\$2.10	\$6.30	\$6.30
Total Merchandise sales	\$327.30	\$399.70	\$544.00
VIC Commission received on Event bookings undertaking on behalf of Community Groups – sub total			
Total Monthly Income Bingara VIC	\$327.30	\$399.70	\$544.00
Roxy Tour Income	\$00.00	\$00.00	\$00.00
Visitors at Bingara VIC	104	163	233



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 public through advocacy and referral to other services. North Star Hall Committee were successful in their application for funding through the neighbourhood centre for the addition on ceiling fans to the facility.

Centrelink

Centrelink continued normal operating hours throughout October. Assisting many people within the community and visitors to add the Covid Vac certificate to their mobile devices.

Youth Service

Funding body – NSW Department of Communities and Justice

The “Girl Glow” program in conjunction with Bingara Central School has been well attended and is continuing to expand. There will be further programs developed for to include young men. These programs will then be rolled out in Warialda also.

Youth Council

During October the Youth Council have been working hard to understand what the young people of the Gwydir Shire want to see in their towns. Some members of the Youth Council were able to attend the opening of the new “Youth Hub” located on Hope Street in Warialda for a photo opportunity with The Hon. Adam Marshall. There has been an overwhelming number of voices heard through the survey that has been conducted, the data is being collated and will be presented to Council in the new year.

Youth Mentoring Program

Month	Number of participants
August	3
September	2
October	6

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

Supported Playgroup Development Worker

Funding body – Dep of Community and Justice

Warialda Toy Library	September	October
Total daily attendance count for children	116	104
Full borrowing members (new)	0	0
Non borrowing members (new and/or renew)	1	0
Casual borrowing members (new or renew)	0	0
Commemorative Birth Certificate applications received	2	5
Toys returned	0	0
Toys borrowed	0	0
Groups using the service (FDC carer, Pharmacy)	2	2
Monday group activity morning 4 sessions	23	18
Tuesday group activity morning 4 sessions	27	25
Thursday group activity morning 4 sessions	35	35
Friday group activity morning 4 sessions	31	26

Throughout the month of October the Warialda Toy Library promoted Children’s Week, regularly providing parents/carers with information surrounding the right of all children to be free to enjoy childhood. On Thursday 28 October families joined to celebrate with an outdoor water play, picnic, and sausage sizzle morning session.

Tuesday 5 October sensory play encouraged the children to defy sensory defiance as they used their hands to explore the various textures being provided. Slime, goop, and rice were provided at a table station for the children’s exploration.



This is page number 15 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

On Friday 8 October, cognition was encouraged as the children engaged in a memory recall game using toy props from around the room. Expressive and receptive language skills were also exhausted as the children listened and engaged in discussing the game concepts.

On Monday 11 October, music and movement encouraged the children to explore their spatial awareness while also promoting their gross motor skills as they used their body to hold instructed stances.

On Tuesday 12 October, the children discovered water and vinegar creating mini volcanos. This experience prompted much discussion around the reaction of the two ingredients and provoked children's curiosity, encouraging discussion utilising expressive and receptive communication skills throughout the activity.

Literacy skills were promoted on Friday 15 October as children attending the session were provided with story time. At this session parents/carers were provided with speech pathology approved book lists for children aged 0-6yrs.



Weight and measurement were explored on Tuesday 19 October as children were provided with scales and various materials to weigh. This experience encouraged cognitive skills as the children considered what was heavy, light, heavier and or lighter. Valuable discussions from this experience were had amongst the children prompting curiosity and wonder, while facilitating problem solving skills.



This is page number 16 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

On Thursday 21 October, children were encouraged to utilise their creative play skills, being provided with various free craft materials to explore. Paints, glue, cardboard, feathers, patty pans, ribbon and coloured sand provided the children with various creative props to utilise in their creations.

On Monday 25 October, a cutting experience was provided for the children, encouraging fine motor skills, as the children attempted to manipulate their hands and fingers to cut along the lines on the template.

Cars, boxes, and paint were provided for the children on Friday 29 October. Children utilised their creative play skills while also being exposed to a sensory concept as they painted the boxes and drove the cars through the paints and up along the boxes. A race was explored at the 'mud pit' with the children referring to the boxes as big mountains.

Bingara Toy Library

Funding body – NSW Department of Education and Communities

Particulars	August	September	October
Total daily attendance count for children who utilised the service each month	67	69	38
Full borrowing memberships New/renew	0	1	1
Non borrowing memberships New/renew	0	0	0
Casual borrowing memberships. New/renew	0	0	0
Commemorative Birth Certificate - voucher memberships	0	0	0
Toys returned	0	6	0
Toys borrowed	1	1	0
Children and Groups using toys	1	1	0
Tuesday 4 play sessions	12	6	10
Wednesday 4 play sessions	19	35	42
Thursday 4 play sessions	0	4	11
KSK Program 8 sessions	48	41	93

This month the Bingara Toy Library saw new laws requiring staff and attending adults having to be double vaccinated to be able to attend work or play sessions. This new regulation was implemented by the NSW government from 11 October. Families were notified verbally from the beginning of the term on each visit that this regulation was coming into play followed by an official flyer stating the rules of entry and distributed by email and Facebook. Consequently, due to this law the numbers for this month were very affected.

Discussion and or handouts this month included mask wearing, new covid regulations, guide to teaching life skills age by age, behaviours in children, smacking verses telling child multiple times, toilet training and sun exposure hat policy whilst here at play session.

The children were provided with both inside and outside play experiences this month with activities including gluing, drawing, puzzles, matching shapes, painting with wooden blocks, throwing, or kicking a ball, steppingstones, fabric tunnel, sensory goop bowl, sensory shave crème bowl, water with paint brushes, whiteboard drawing, story times, singing and action songs; not to mention all the toys inside and the outdoor equipment in the burr free green grassed backyard.



Kool Skool children have enjoyed such things as playdough, Halloween craft, colouring in, headbands guessing game, “what is this item” game, eye spy, Lego, go fish card game, loom bands, puzzles, making a bookmark and connect four games, just to name a few. Names are already being taken for enrolments for next year.

The 23rd to 31st October was Children’s Week and was celebrated in a COVID safe way by speaking about Children’s Week during each morning session. A poster of the rights of the child was on display all week for families to view.

Contact was made with the local Child and Family Health Nurse along with Inverell Rural Outreach Service, to return to the Bingara Toy Library for support sessions and a birth certificate ceremony with Deputy Mayor Catherine Egan presenting new families with packs. Events were booked for future months.

Bingara Preschool

This is page number 18 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

Funding Body – Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate
NSW Department of Education and Communities.

Days	September
Tuesday	24
Wednesday	27
Thursday	27
Friday	28

Educator Training

On Monday 25 October all Social Services staff attended CPR and First Aid training at Bingara Preschool.

COVID-19

Bingara Preschool is still working under a strict COVID safe plan, where visitors and family access to the service is restricted. Communication is still readily accessible through the service’s social media platforms, telephone, and email.

Halloween Day Dress Up

The children enjoyed a fun filled day of dress ups and play. They were given the option to come to Preschool in whatever outfit made them happy.



Transition to Bingara Central School

In October the transition to school program resumed and the children who attend on Friday were given the opportunity to spend an hour each Friday at

This is page number 19 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

“Big School”. The children were transported from Bingara Preschool by bus, which is always an exciting journey.

Virtual Community Visit



On Wednesday 13 October, each child brought their favourite teddy bear to Preschool to participate in a special bear hunt in the preschool yard. The children then exchanged photos of this with the residents of the Bingara MPS who held their own special “Teddy Bears Picnic”. This was a suggested activity from a parent who works at the MPS and the reports from the day were extremely positive. All those who participated enjoyed the interaction all be it in a virtual way.



Nutrition Week

During October Bingara Preschool celebrated “Nutrition Week” we did this in a variety of ways including, making yoghurt bowls with fruit donated by families, we read lots of books about healthy eating and treated the children to lots of healthy choices of food and beverages during this time.

This is page number 20 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman



Children’s Week

Bingara Preschool celebrated Children’s Week in October. Children’s Week is when our nation celebrates our children rights, capabilities, and talents. Each year a different children’s right is celebrated and acknowledged. The children’s right that is celebrated this year is article 15. Children have the right to meet together and join groups and organisations. Identified children’s right links to the Early Years Learning Framework as each child is encouraged to feel respected and able to join in at Bingara Preschool.

Tharawonga Mobile Resource Unit

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

Days and Venues	October 2021
Monday at Yetman	7
Tuesday at North Star	14
Wednesday at Yallaroi	7 (1 casual)
Thursday at Gravesend	8
Friday at Croppa Creek	8 (1 casual)

New Venue

The service has relocated to Croppa Creek and will be operational from the local school on Friday’s.

Staff Training and Development

The Director at Tharawonga participated in an online webinar “Supporting Children’s Mental Health” (13 October, 2021) 3.30pm-4.30pm.



Community Visits

The North Star service had a visit from Monique Wynter who conducted the STEPs screening. Lauren Marer visited the service at North Star to take a picture with the children and hall representative Kylie Perlman for the funding on the installation of the reserve cycle air-conditioning systems.

National Nutrition Week

At North Star the children made their own fruit kebabs and tasted these at morning tea.

World Space Week

At Gravesend and Croppa Creek the children learnt about planet recognition and participated in Mick the Space Monkey Yoga for world space week.

Aussie Backyard Bird Week

At Yetman and Yallaroi the children made their own bird feeders to take home and hang out to for the birds and read the story "How the birds got their colours".



Grandparents Day

The children at Gravesend and Croppa Creek are singing two familiar songs that they have been practising and we are recording these to send to families to share with their grandparents to recognise this special day.

This is page number 22 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman



Yetman

At Yetman we have welcomed a new enrolment this month. We have had a new family complete an enrolment and orientation process and will start at the service.

Since the children have returned, we have been focusing on engaging in planting vegetables in the garden at the service and planting their own vegetables to take home and take responsibility for caring for these and watching them grow. The children will be taking care of the vegetables in the garden at the service. We are using our transitional learning times for number ordering and recognition as well as gaining the ability to count on. The children transitioning to school have been learning and focusing on letter recognition opportunities.

North Star

At North Star we have welcomed some new enrolments this month. To establish the sense of belonging and comfort within their environment the children at North Star have been introduced to cosmic Yoga. The children are in front of the instructor of Cosmic Yoga and are asked to imitate her actions, the children were very engaged and actively participated in farm-based Yoga which is great for mind, body, and soul. The children and educators have been preparing the garden beds and have planted some vegetable seedlings and sunflower seeds. The children created their own North Star Sunflower wall display before they planted the seeds, and this will be displayed on our walls.



Yallaroi

At Yallaroi we have welcomed a new enrolment this month. At Yallaroi the educators are providing the children with opportunities and responsibilities within their learning environments for example the children organizing the obstacle course resources the way they wanted it set up. The children transitioning to school have been participating in memory games. The educators are focusing on promoting and encouraging manners by reading stories that empathies this such as "Thank you" and "Sorry". The children are demonstrating a sense of belonging within their learning environments and responding positively to respecting diversity and growing their confidence and sense of self by confidently reciting our daily acknowledgment of country.



This is page number 24 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

Gravesend

At Gravesend we have had a new family complete an enrolment and orientation process and will start at the service. Since the children have returned in term four, we have introduced school news to promote language skills and to continue growing the children’s sense of belonging to their Preschool. Sharing news is a group goal for our Preschool it builds the children’s language skills and ability to express themselves to their peers, it is an interactive experience that involves all the children as there are those that tell the story and all children listening are able to ask questions. Sharing news builds the children’s confidence and self-identity strengthening and building reciprocal relationships between the children and further develops their sense of belonging to their Preschool. The children and families have taken this introduced experience on board and are even contributing by a child bringing their very own pet rabbit into share with his peers and educators.



Croppa Creek

At Croppa Creek we have welcomed a new enrolment this month. The children are settling in well to the new environment. They are exploring the school play equipment with confidence and using their gross motor skills and engaging in risk and resilience when using the monkey bars, the rock-climbing wall, and the fire pole. Additional resources are added for the children and this month they engaged in making music, exploring loud and quiet and some of the children made their very own marching band using the triangles. Through intentional teaching the children have been learning about their feelings through stories and games, letter and object recognition, memory games and shape drawing provocations.



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.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION:
MINUTE 304/21**

THAT the report be received.

(Moved Cr Young, seconded Cr Egan)

Item 3 Technical Services October Report

FILE REFERENCE 21/30105

DELIVERY PROGRAM

GOAL: 5. Organisational Management

OUTCOME: 5.1 CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

STRATEGY: 5.1.3 Administrative functions - GM - internal

AUTHOR Manager, Engineering Services

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received.

TABLED ITEMS Nil

BACKGROUND

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

COMMENT

ENGINEERING SERVICES

Recent regular rainfall has resulted in an exacerbation of poor road conditions which started following the March 2021 flood event. It is expected that following harvest, Council's network will suffer further damages, which may necessitate the standing down of major grant funded works to address safety issues and pavement failures. Council has been in discussions with Resilience NSW and it is expected that a third natural disaster declaration will be made for storm events in early November. Very preliminary figures suggest damage of approximately \$500,000 to the southeastern and northern areas of the LGA.

Flood damage rectification works carried out to date are tracking within budget.

Warialda High Productivity Vehicle Route

Works continues on the project with subsurface drainage being laid out to prevent moisture ingress into the new pavement. Maintenance staff continue laying pipe culverts to direct surface water. Bulk earthworks have slowed due poor response by contractors. Materials have been ordered to rectify erosion issues experienced as a result of the March 2021 flood event. It is intended to stand down a number of projects in the new year, in order to dedicate three

This is page number 27 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

individual construction crews to the project and meet the February 2022 deadline.

County Boundary Road

Staff continue to work with Local Government Engineering Services to finalise the detailed design of the project. A tender will be advertised towards the end of 2021 for the construction of this project, with the expectation that it will be awarded by the newly elected council in January 2022.

IB Bore Road

In early November, a tender on the Local Government Procurement Portal for drainage works on IB Bore Road closed. No responses were received. Engineering staff have since directly contacted several contractors in order to seek a suitably qualified contractor to carry out the works. It is unclear how much impact the recent construction boom will have on the delivery of Council's major projects, however future tenders will be for significantly larger projects, which are expected to have more appeal to contractors from outside the area.

Sealed Road Construction

North

This month has seen construction staff finalise the rehabilitation of a 1.3km section of RR7705 North Star Road. This segment of road has been subject to two other remediation efforts in the last 10 years due to its low lying, flood prone location. The recent treatment included the incorporation of four distinct pavement layers, resulting in a 650mm thick pavement with a lime stabilised subgrade. These works were funded via the Resilience NSW Flood Damage claim for the March 2021 event, with additional funds provided by the TfNSW Block Grant.



Churches Plain section of RR7705 North Star Road

This is page number 28 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

South

Work is progressing well on another 3km section on the Horton Rd upgrade. Earthworks and drainage have been completed and the construction crew are working on bringing the sub-base up to 200mm below the finished level.

The extension / replacement and headwall repairs to the culverts is ongoing ahead of the construction crew.



Horton Road Earthworks

Gravel Resheeting

North

October has seen crews working together to complete the pavement upgrade works on SR13 Oregon Road. New material has been laid for the entire project, with a second crew incorporating polymer binder. The project is on track to be completed by the end of 2021.

A second resheeting crew continues a resheeting project on SR62 Hibernia Road that was commenced last financial year but suspended due to wet weather.



Material with Polycom being re-laid for SR13 Oregon Road pavement upgrade.

South

A 3km section of resheeting has been completed on SR45 Bereen Rd, which included a 1km section of flood damage.

Flood damage work has commenced on SR54 Pinecliff Rd, which will be done in conjunction with resheeting a 4km section of the road under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.



SR54 Pinecliff Rd Resheeting



SR45 Bereen Rd Resheeting

Maintenance Grading

This is page number 30 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

Maintenance grading has been completed on the following roads:

High Haven Road, Gravesend Road, Mt Jerrybang Road, Mungle Road, Fairford Road, Woodburn Emello Road, Gulf Creek Road, Wearnes Road, Cracknells Road, Back Creek Road, Pinecliff Road.

Seal Maintenance

Seal maintenance is ongoing on all State, Regional, Local and Urban Roads.

ENGINEERING ASSETS

Grants projects

The Hope Street Rest Area and Loop Road project in Warialda on the banks of Warialda Creek is nearly complete with signposting and drainage work remaining. The project is expected to be completed by the end of November 2021 at an estimated cost is \$110,000 and is funded from a Drought Relief Grant. There has been a recent additional \$30,000 allocated for extra shelters and park furniture and this is expected to be completed by March 2022.

The Nicholson Oval sports field lighting project has been significantly affected over last few months by Queensland border restriction issues affecting contractor movements and more recently by poor weather. Most materials are now on site, and it is hoped that workers can get over the border by the end of November 2021 to start work. Expected completion of the project is now February 2022. The project estimated cost is \$481,000 and is funded by the Stronger Country Communities Fund - Round 3 and Covid-19 Stimulus funding.

Local Emergency Management Committee

There have been weekly REMC and LEMC TEAMS meetings in recent weeks to assist Hunter New England Health manage the significant challenges of COVID-19. The meetings continue to be well attended and effective. Fortunately, the Gwydir LGA continues to remain one of the few LGAs to remain free of COVID-19 cases through the current outbreak despite significant cases in neighbouring areas.

Landfill Operations

All landfills continue to be operating as normal. New site offices for the Warialda and Bingara landfills have been ordered and will be installed in December.

CONCLUSION

The activities carried out by the Technical Services Department are in line with the 2020/21 Management Plan and otherwise directed.

CONSULTATION

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

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION:
MINUTE 305/21**

THAT the report be received

(Moved Cr Coulton, seconded Cr Moore)

Item 4 Executive Services Monthly Report

FILE REFERENCE 21/29212

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 tabled for reception.

TABLED ITEMS Nil

COMMENT

PLANNING

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

No.	Property Description	Development/ Work	\$	D/A	S96
25/2021	Gwydir Shire Council Lot 2 DP 1222620 Warialda Road Warialda	Animal Impounding Facility	\$150,000	✓	-
33/2021	D K & C L Barwick Lot 20 Section 14 DP 759052 20 Water Street Warialda	72m ² detached garage and 84m ² detached storage shed	\$15,000	✓	-
35/2021	R D & C A Smyth Lot 1 & 2 DP 28059 10.-12 Narrabri Road Bingara	58.2m ² attached deck & 96m ² detached Garage/Storage Shed	\$49,500	✓	-
36/2021	J N Delaforce Lot 2 Section 2 DP 758471 14 Kelly's Gully Road Warialda Rail	Small Dwelling	\$40,000	✓	-
37/2021	J L Goldsmith Lot 324 DP 705431 4186 Elcombe Road Bingara	Barn Styled Building divided into a small dwelling, garage, workshop and	\$200,000	✓	-

This is page number 33 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

		storage areas			
38/2021	K B & G Butler Lot 3 Section 41 DP 758111 22 Frazer Street Bingara	20.4m ² attached rear deck	\$35,000	✓	-
39/2021	W & M J Grover Lot 2 DP 336916 8 Hill Street Bingara	Dwelling additions & alterations – extension of front sunroom & addition of a small deck	\$9,500	✓	-
40/2021	R J Sinclair & S C Frost Lot 1 DP 519731 19 Crane Street Warialda	97.5m ² garage	\$25,868	✓	-

The following Development (D/A) and Development Modification (s96) applications remain outstanding at the end of October 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 'Gunyaerwarildi' 1470 North Star Road Warialda - 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 Warialda - 2 Lot Large Lot Subdivision	Request for additional information from applicant in relation to requirements under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016	✓	-
34/2021	Regional Quarries Australia Pty Ltd / Ground Works Plus / Doolin Minilya Pty Ltd 427 Minilya Road North Star - 490,000 tonne/ year quarry	Being referred, advertised, notified and exhibited for 28 days	✓	-

This is page number 34 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

	for 5 years and then a 150,000 tonne/year quarry for a further 10 years			
41/2021	Rural Plan Consultants / G A Norman 11 Salter Street Bingara - Garage	Being notified and exhibited for 14 days	✓	-
42/2021	B J Craddock / M M Stratford 23 Copeton Dam Road Bingara - Garage	Being notified and exhibited for 14 days	✓	-
43/2021	M A Anderson / B N Anderson 3949 Elcombe Road Bingara - Garage	Being notified and exhibited for 14 days	✓	-
44/2021	A G Anderson 943 Moreena Mail Road Bangheet - Dwelling	Being notified and exhibited for 14 days	✓	-

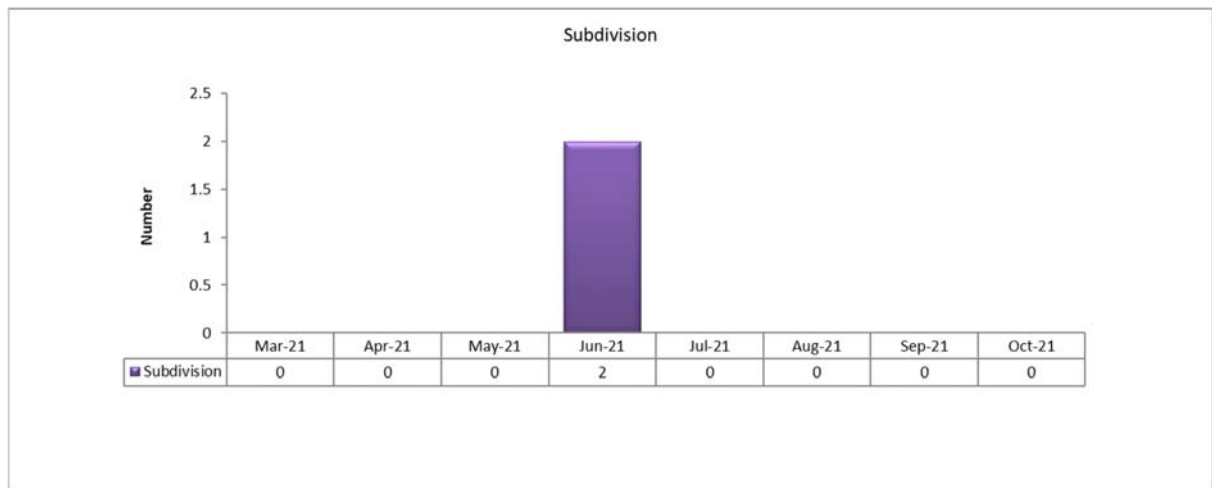
There were no Development (D/A) or Development Modification (s96) applications approved and not previously reported to Council for the month of October 2021.

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

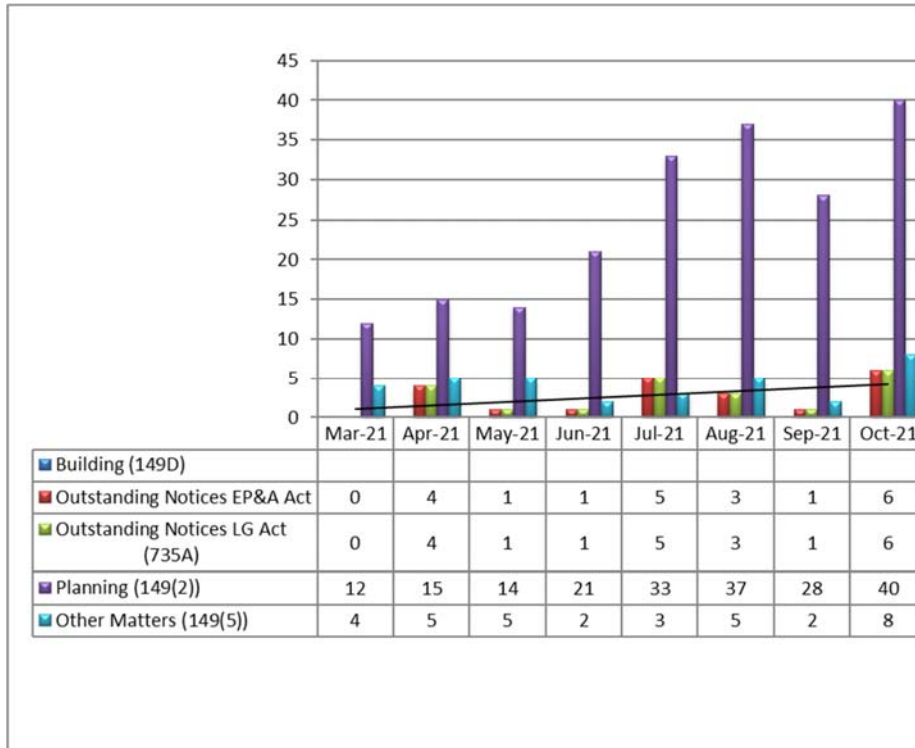
There were no Development (D/A) applications determined where there has been a variation in standards under clause 4.6 of the Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013 during the month of October 2021.

The following Subdivision Certificates were issued during the month of October 2021 and in the previous seven (7) months.

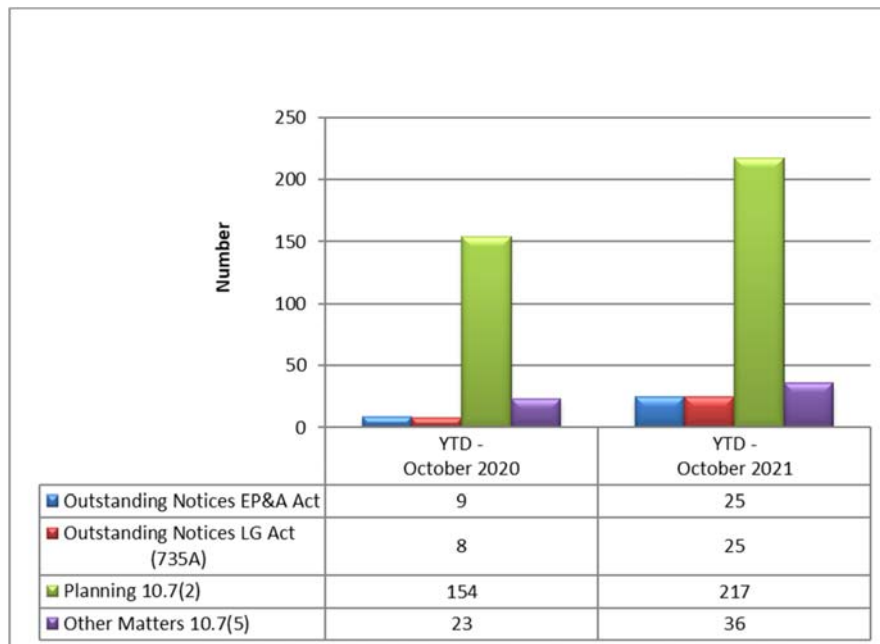
YTD August 2021 (includes private certifier lodged applications)



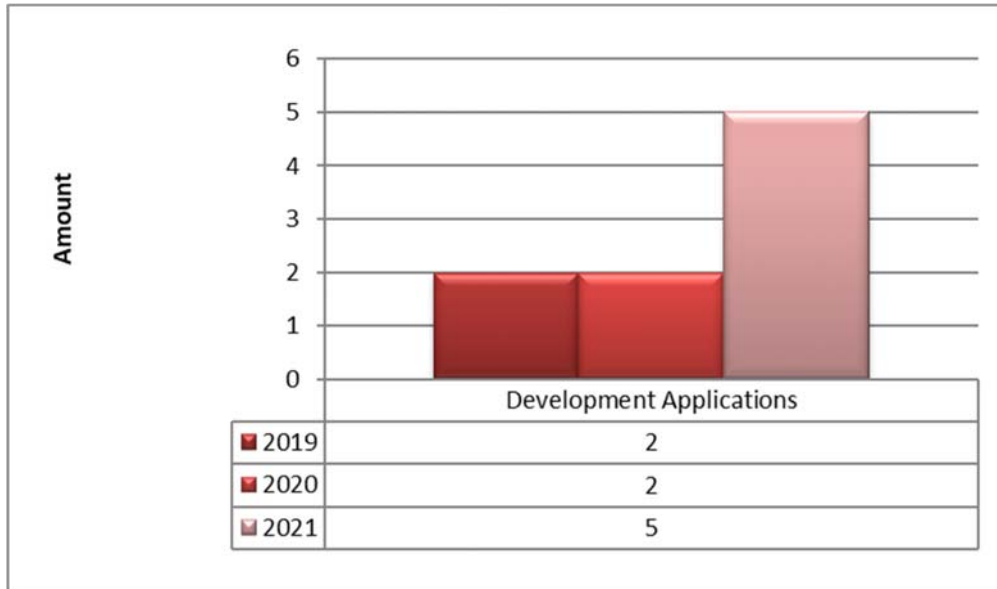
The following graph shows Conveyancing Certificates were issued during the month of October 2021 compared to the previous seven (7) months.



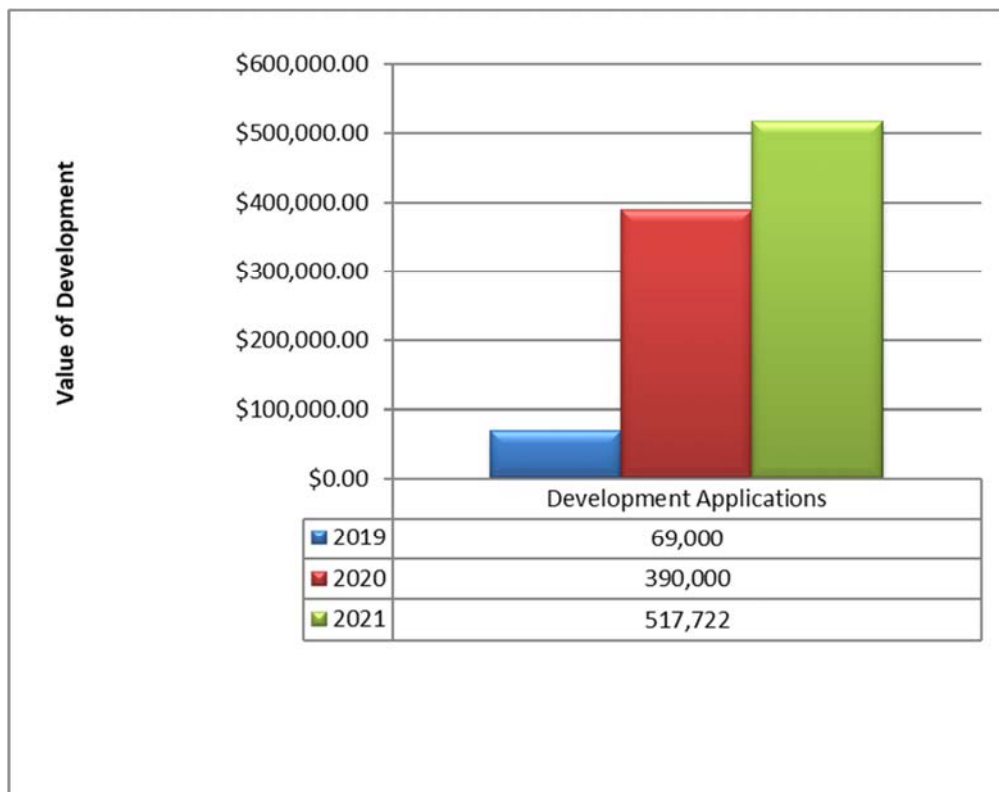
The following graph shows the number of Conveyancing Certificates issued up to and including the month of October 2021 compared with the same period in 2020.



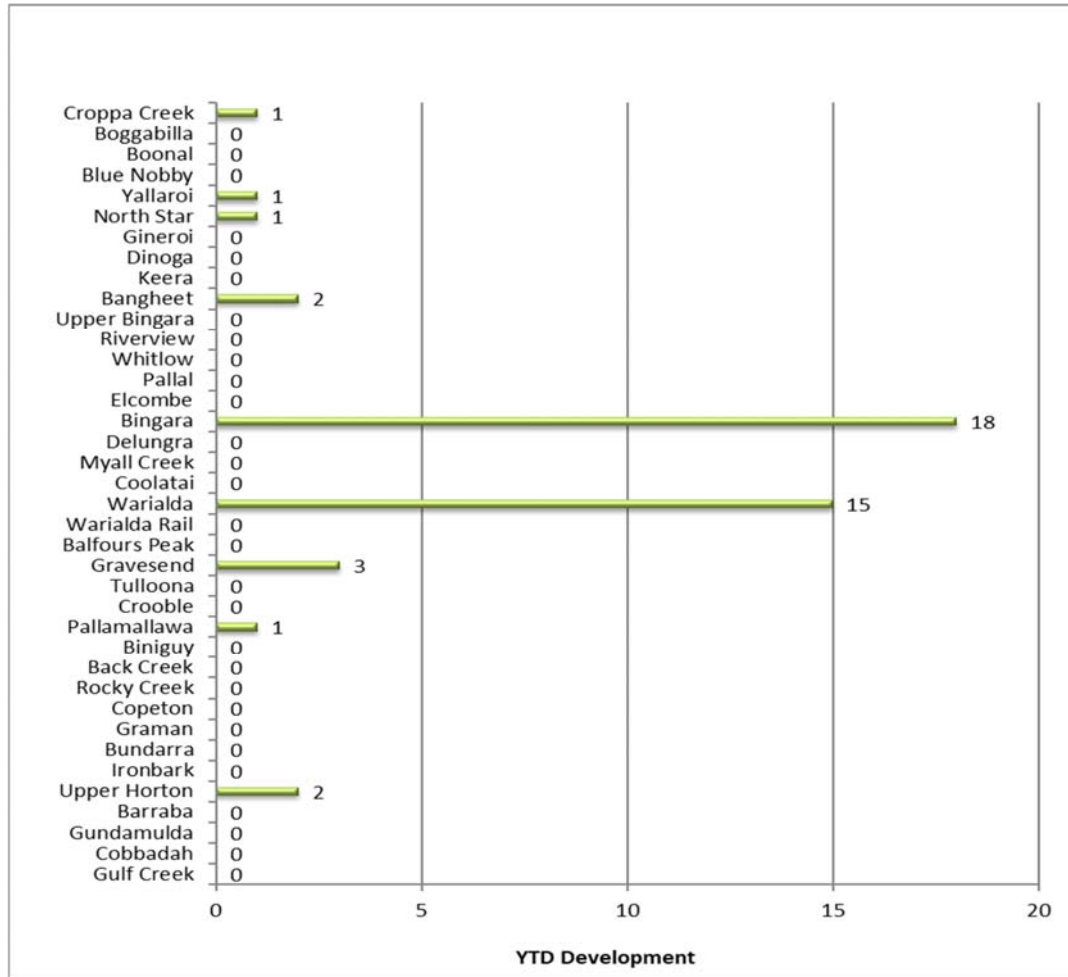
The table below shows a comparison between total applications lodged during the month of October 2021 compared to the same period in the previous two years.



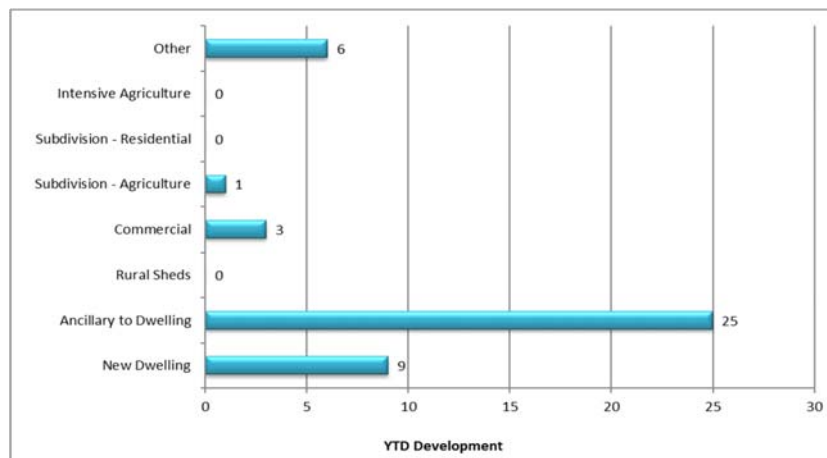
The table below shows a comparison between total value of applications lodged during the month of October 2021 compared to the same period in the previous two years.



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



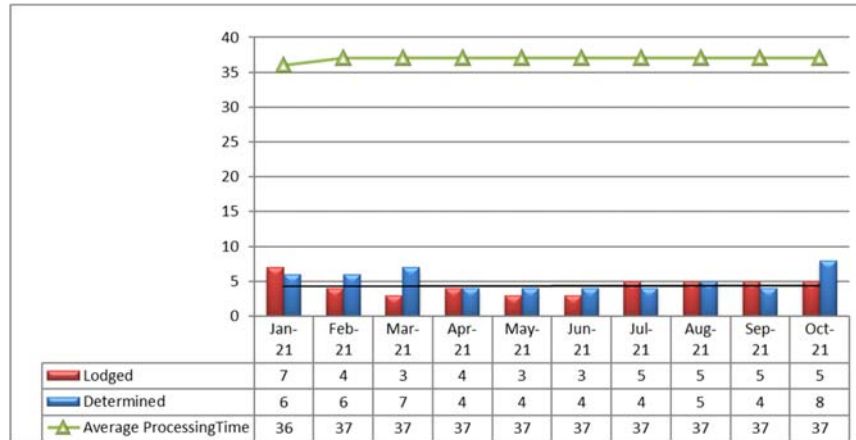
Development Applications received for the year by type – YTD October 2021



This is page number 38 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

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



BUILDING SERVICES – September/October 2021

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 September and October 2021.

Number	Property Description	Development/Work	\$	C/C	CDC	BIC	S68
4/2021	19 Cobbadah Street Upper Horton	18m x 9m Garage/Shed	\$19,500.00	✓			
26/2021	67 Maitland Street Bingara	Additions & alterations to the existing dwelling	\$207,642.00	✓			
27/2021	40 Roger Moore Crescent Warialda	Attached awning over existing cement slab	\$18,000.00	✓			

28/2021	3261 Gragin Road Warialda	17.5m x 7m x 3.3m shed with WC	\$20,000.00	✓			
30/2021	226 Mt Jerrybang Road Gravesend	12m x 18m x 6m shed with attached 18m x 6m awning	\$114,240.00	✓			
31/2021	3 Ridley Street Bingara	12m x 7m x 3.12m 3-bay garage with workshop	\$27,000.00	✓			
32/2021	14 Kellys Gully Road Warialda Rail	12m x 18m x 6.16m garage/shed	\$84,210.00	✓			
35/2021	10-12 Narrabri Road Bingara	61.34m ² covered deck attached to the rear of the existing dwelling & 3-bay detached garage	\$49,500.00	✓			
19/2021	43 Adams Scrub Road Delungra	New OSSM system					✓
20/2021	67 Maitland Street Bingara	Demolition of existing bathroom and new ensuite, bathroom/laundry					✓
4/2021	82 Hope Street Warialda	Legalise Building Works Part of Building – enclosure of verandah attached to dwelling and removal of an internal wall	\$18,040.00			✓	

Illegal Activity

ACTIVITY	ACTION TAKEN				
	Inspected/Action Taken	Application Lodged	Penalty Notice	Legal Action	Refer to Council
Illegal habitation of shed and unapproved OSSM	Letter sent to property owner asking them to contact council by 31 August 2021 Advised to seek Building Information Certificate	Yes 20/09/2021 Approved 26/10/2021	NA	NA	NA

Number Of Complaints/Inspections September & October 2021

Type	Number	Year. to Date	Actioned	Pending
Building	55	114	110	4

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 September and October 2021:

- Repairs to the amenities at Warialda Saleyards after a being damaged when a large tree adjacent to the building was uprooted by excessive winds and fell on the building.
- Bingara Showground Amenities – contractors and staff have been working on the new build which is nearing completion.



Warialda Saleyards amenities – repairs being undertaken after a tree fell on the building



Bingara Showground Amenities Building

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

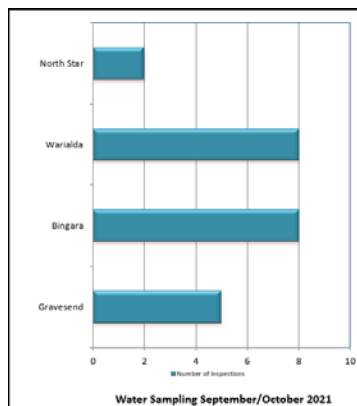
September and October

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.

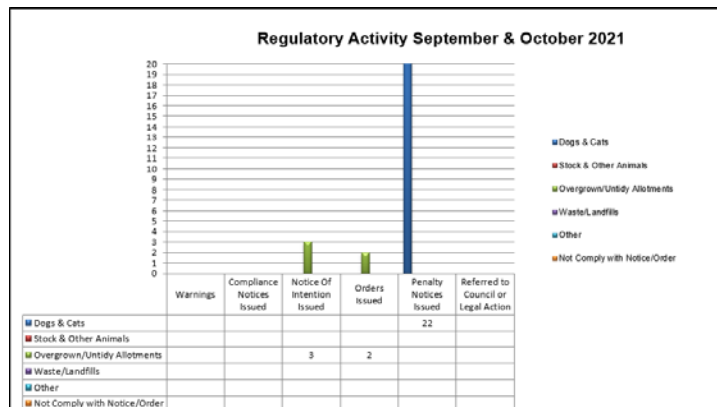
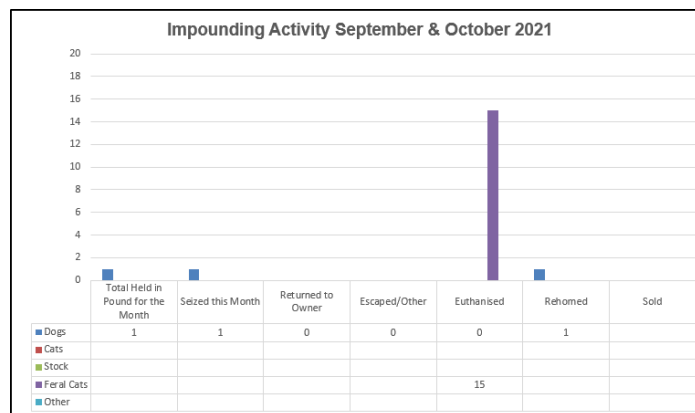
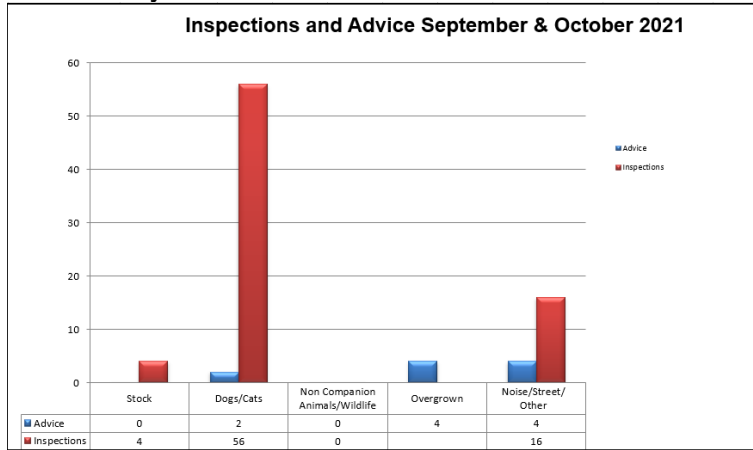


This is page number 42 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

Compliance and Regulatory Control

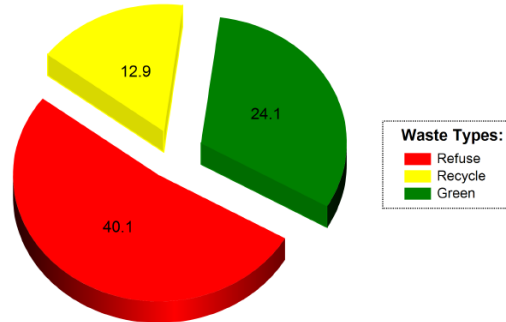
Council received customer requests regarding overgrown block, roaming dogs, roaming stock, noise, the keeping of animals and other concerns during the months of September & October 2021. These are investigated and actioned as necessary.



Waste Contract Services – September 2021

Gwydir Shire Council
Transaction Date Range: 30 AUG 2021 to 26 SEP 2021

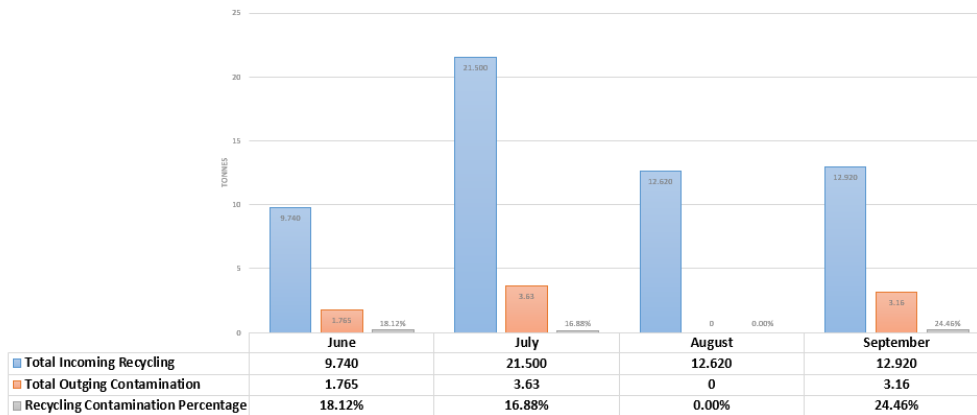
Breakdown of Tipping for the Period



Total Tipping Tonnes: 77.08

Recycling Contamination

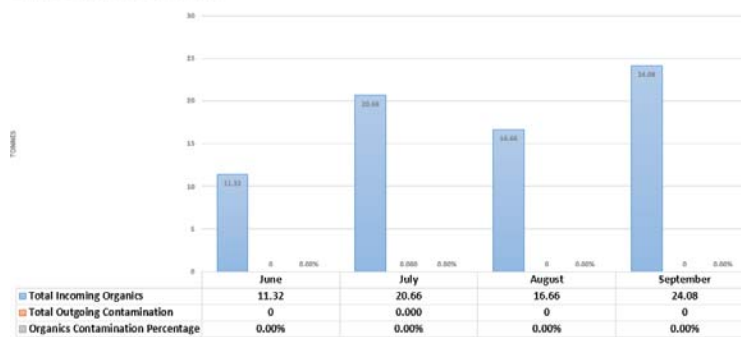
Gwydir Contaminated Recycling



Rates for Gwydir Shire

Organics Contamination

Gwydir Contaminated Organics



Rates for Gwydir Shire

This is page number 44 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

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 September or October.

Weeds Inspections

Property inspections are being undertaken in Section E during 2021 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 2021.



Noxious Weeds Inspections for the Month of September & October 2021

<i>Areas Inspected</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Ha</i>	<i>Rd km</i>	<i>Weeds Present</i>
Roadside – High Risk Pathways	22	2090	418	Mimosa Bush, Common Pear, Pattersons Curse, Rope Pear, Tree Pear, African Boxthorn, Sweet Briar, St Johns Wort, Blackberry, Tiger Pear, Feral Fruit Trees, Harissa Cactus, Cats Claw Creeper, Madeira Vine
Roadside	25	321	65	Pattersons Curse, Mimosa Bush, Common Pear, African Boxthorn, Tree Pear, Green Cestrum, Mother of Millions, Tiger Pear, Mimosa Bush, Sweet Briar, St Johns Wort, Feral Fruit Trees, Rope Pear, Blackberry
Private Property	2	202	-	African Boxthorn, Sweet Briar
Private Property – High Risk	1	444	-	Tiger Pear, Mimosa Bush
Private Property – High Risk re-inspection	6	4523	-	Parthenium Weed
Waterways – High Risk Pathways	4	15.8	79	Tiger Pear, Mimosa Bush, Parthenium Weed
Other Council Lands	4	61	-	African Boxthorn, Pattersons Curse, Hemlock
Dept of Lands	2	52	-	St Johns Wort, Sweet Briar, General Weeds
NWLLS	1	6	-	Parthenium Weed
National Parks	1	10	-	St Johns Worts

Noxious Weeds Control Works for September & October 2021

Road/Property	Weed Code	Area Ha	Road km	High Risk Road	Council Road	Other
Towarra Rd	Pattersons Curse		27.1	1		
Junction Park	Marshmallow	5				1
Gineroi Rd	African Boxthorn		31.7		1	
Roadsides - Forest Creek Rd & Peates Rd	Mimosa Bush		47.9	1	1	
Bingara Common Camping Area	African Boxthorn, Pattersons Curse	20				1
Camp Sites - Bingara Common & Gravel Screen	African Boxthorn, Pattersons Curse	40				2
Roadsides - Blue Nobby Rd & Yallaroi Rd	Mother of Millions		54.4	2		
Roadside - Bells Creek &	Pattersons Curse		5.97		2	

This is page number 46 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

Campbell Ln					
Roadside - Racecourse & Airstrip	Mother of Millions		3.14		2
Warialda Forest	Mother of Millions	200			1
Crown Land Reserve	African Boxthorn	10			1
Roadside - North Star	African Boxthorn		81.72	1	
Camp sites -					
Honeymoon/Bora Crossing	Pattersons Curse, Hemlock	20			2
Roadside - North Star	African Boxthorn		81.72	1	
Camp sites -					
Sunnyside/Sunnyside Beach/Gravel Screen	Pattersons Curse -Hemlock	45			3
Roadside - Oregon	African Boxthorn		47.3	1	
Camp Site - Bingara Common	Pattersons Curse	20			1
Roadside - Thornleigh	Pattersons Curse		17.2		1
Cranky Rock Reserve	General Weeds	5			1
Roadside -					
Gragin/Langley/Glen					
Esk/Warragundi	African Boxthorn		51.61	1	3
Roadsides - Moreena Mail & Eulourie	Pattersons Curse		47.1		2
Roadside - Gournama	African Boxthorn		17.4	1	
Private Works - 11 Killarney					
Gap Road Bingara	General Weeds	0.2			1
Roadside - Croppa Moree	African Boxthorn		12.57	1	
Roadsides - Baroma Downs	African Boxthorn		20.51	1	
Roadsides - Baroma Downs	African Boxthorn		20.51	1	
Camp Site - Bingara					
Common & Faithful	Pattersons Curse	36			2
Roadside - Old Bora	Mother of Millions		5.44		1
Roadsides - Eulourie	African Boxthorn		35.3		1
Camp Sites - Faithful	African Boxthorn	16			1
Camp Sites - Faithful & Sunnyside	Hemlock	21			2
Roadside - Buckie	African Boxthorn	50.15	10.03	1	
Camp Site - Gravel Screen	Pattersons Curse -Hemlock	20			1
Camp Site - Bingara					
Common	Pattersons Curse	20			1
Roadside - Gulf Creek/Woodburn					
Emello/Cobbadah	Sweet Briar	418.65	83.73		3
Roadside - Croppa Moree	African Boxthorn	61.6	12.32	1	
Roadside - Croppa Moree - Croppa Creek	African Boxthorn	177.35	35.47	2	
Private Works -					
6 East Street Bingara	Green Cestrum	0.7			1
Roadside -					
Riverview/Whitlow	Sweet Briar	182.5	36.5		2
Roadside - Michells/Upper					
Whitlow/Reseve Creek	Sweet Briar	144.95	28.99		3
Roadside - Fairford	African Boxthorn	64	12.8		1
Roadside - Back Creek - Terry Hie Hie - Killarney					
Gap	St Johns Wort	449.65	89.93		3
Roadside - Delungra	Sweet Briar	100.65	20.13	1	
Roadside - Cobbadah	St Johns Wort	246.65	49.33	1	

This is page number 47 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

Roadside - Croppa Creek	African Boxthorn	115.75	23.15	1
Roadside - Towarra - Thornleigh - Woodburn Emello	St Johns Wort, Sweet Briar	307.05	61.41	3
Roadside - Killarney Gap	St Johns Wort, Sweet Briar	332.5	66.5	1
Road Side - Duftys	St Johns Wort, Sweet Briar	7.5	1.5	1

The Planning & Environment Department report for September & October 2021 was compiled with information available at the time of preparing the report.

TOWN UTILITIES Monthly Report for October 2021

Water and Sewer

Water and Sewerage operators attended 18 service line repairs, one water main break, replaced one water meter and repaired 10 sewer blockages during the month.

Other work was undertaken at the Bingara Showground, Bingara Caravan Park, Warialda Caravan Park, Warialda truckwash, Nicholson Oval Warialda, Cunningham Park Bingara, Moffatt Park Gravesend, Gravesend standpipe, Bingara cemetery, Bingara RSL Park, Bingara Depot, Warialda cemetery and Bingara Preschool.

A new pressure sewer pipeline was installed at the Bingara Showground to service the new amenities block on the eastern side of the showground.



New sewer trench at Bingara Showground and Racetrack

Solar panels have been fitted at the Bingara Sewerage Treatment Works to run a new aerator in the ponds. The aerator purpose is to minimise the algae blooms that are causing elevated suspended solids in monthly discharge

This is page number 48 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

samples and non-conformance with EPA licence parameters.



New solar panels at Bingara Sewerage Treatment Plant



Aerator at work in Pond 2 at the Sewerage Treatment Works, Bingara

Warialda Truckwash

The truckwash facility was used by 76 trucks during October with an average wash down time of 52 minutes and total water used was 355KL. The estimated income for October is \$4,022.00 less monitoring fees.

This is page number 49 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

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.

Cunningham Park improvements will be complete with the laying of turf during November.

The shade sails for All Abilities Park are under construction and will be erected when received providing relief from the summer heat. The terracing of All Abilities Park has been delayed by wet weather and availability of the local contractor.

State Drought Program

BBQ and shelter have been completed in Cunningham Park under State Drought Program.

Covid Stimulus Funding

As part of the Batterham’s Lookout improvements a new sign frame was fabricated and installed during October. Road shoulder work and guard rail replacement is scheduled to start in November.

Captain Cook Park BBQ and shelters along with Nicholson Oval shelters were completed as part of the stimulus funding.

Showground Stimulus funding

Phase 2 funding included the refurbishment of the Bingara Showground Grandstand with the external cladding with Colorbond now completed. The internal asbestos removal was completed in October; the internal cladding is scheduled to be undertaken in November along with the replacement of the original stairs which were non-compliant.

Phase 2b Showground Stimulus funding is the erection of a new amenities block on the eastern side of Bingara Showground. This project is 70% complete and will be finished mid- December.



New amenities block at 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 October. 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.

The Nursery section of The Living Classroom have propagated seedlings for Parks and Gardens staff to use in the town gardens.



Seedlings at The Living Classroom

Workshops and Depots – October 2021

A senior mechanic commenced duties in the Warialda workshop on 11 October. This position was a replacement for the mechanic who left in June 2021.

Total number of services in Workshops for October	30
Total number of jobs in Workshops for October	124



The two AED (defibrillators) have been mounted in a safe and obvious position at the Warialda and Bingara Depots

Repairs and maintenance undertaken in the workshops during October included:

- P1724 – tractor – transmission repairs
- P1788 – grader – repairs to blade lift rams
- P1684 – compactor – air conditioner repairs
- P1662 – water cart – repairs to springs
- P1028 – water cart - fit new exhaust section
- P1887 – truck – modify to allow for new side tipper
- P1722 – tractor – oil leak and exhaust repairs
- P1700 – woodchipper – fit new safety curtain

The Fabrication team completed work on the roof of Gwydir Oval commentary box and a new gate and bin stand at the Warialda truckwash during October.



Replacement of worn-out turning circle in grader P1788



New 'grab' for 13T excavator P1986

This is page number 52 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

Plant replacement

Council had the opportunity to purchase a side-tipper during October. This equipment will greatly assist with the flood damage work currently being carried out. The side tipper will be used with Council's P1887 Western Star prime mover which has been modified to suit.



Side tipper and P1887



This is page number 53 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

Side tipper

A new Hino truck was purchased during October. This vehicle has replaced the P1437 used by Bingara Parks and Gardens staff.



Delivery of the new Hino

A new Hyundai Kona has been purchased as a replacement pool car for Bingara and a new Toyota Hilux utility has been purchased for use in operational areas.



P2009 – Toyota Hilux

This is page number 54 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

Plant Disposal – Council will donate the replaced Toro zero turn mower from Cranky Rock to the Gravesend recreation ground committee.

COMMUNITY ASSETS

Caravan Parks

Bingara Caravan Park

The contractor has advised that the residence/office will be delivered to the site around 15 December 2021.

Both parks continue to welcome patrons and operate in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines.

Swimming Pools

Both swimming pools opened to the public on Saturday 2 October. Temperatures were cool but the pool blankets have been utilised to warm the water. Pools experienced a steady influx of local patrons taking advantage of the free entry for Gwydir Shire residents and rate payers.

On Monday 11 October, as per new NSW public health orders, only double vaccinated patrons were permitted entry to the pools.

Cranky Rock

New defib pads have been installed to the defibrillator at Cranky Rock.

Month	Powered sites	Unpowered sites	Total
August 2021	55	18	73
September 2021	58	24	82
October 2021	95	29	124

Myall Creek

Following the recent vandalism, Council completed restoration and repair works. There have been no further incidents.

Gwydir Libraries

On Monday 11 October, as per new NSW public health orders, only double vaccinated patrons were permitted entry to the libraries.

Branch activities:

- Medicare Express App assistance is offered daily this includes downloading and printing the digital COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate, and Check In Card.
- Library home deliveries and front door collections continue.
- After school programs have been well attended with children enjoying set activities.

- Be Connected and Tech Savvy Seniors' programs continue, and more people have sought assistance with their devices.
- A street library trolley has been placed at the front of the Bingara library for those who may be reluctant or unable to come inside due to current COVID-19 restrictions. The stock has been replenished numerous times with numbers being added to the library loan statistics.
- Outreach services saw staff visit several residents at Touriandi Lodge and Naroo Aged Care Hostel to present e-resource tutorials. Five residents are enjoying listening to talking books, three by CD player and two on iPads.

Staff

The new library casual staff member has embraced the position and performing well.

The Library Services Coordinator will take the opportunity to take a few days leave as well as provide Outreach services across the community.

Statistics	Bingara	Warialda	Gwydir
Door count	1760	128	
Loans	865	467	
New members	1	1	
E-resource users			63
Downloads			330
PC usage	239	59	
WIFI usage	238	112	
Programs	49	27	
Adult program	85	56	
Children program	340	134	
Home delivery	42	8	
Institution delivery	9	3	
Seniors Be Connected	4	8	
Online assistance	58	6	

Property Management

This is page number 56 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

The vacant Plunkett Street unit was advertised in the Gwydir News with applications closing on Friday 29 October. The new tenant will move in early in November.

Blue Hills and Jacaranda Estate – Bingara Residential Land Sales

At the beginning of October, Council listed twenty-two Bingara residential blocks for sale. During the month, contracts were entered into for 14 of these blocks.

Cleaning

During the reporting period, a new casual employee has joined Council's cleaning and caravan park team.

NSW Blue Plaque Program

The NSW Blue Plaques program is part of a \$5 million heritage engagement program funded by the NSW Government. Heritage NSW administers this program. The Blue Plaques will recognise key sites and encourage people to explore their neighbourhood and other parts of NSW, connecting with the amazing stories that have shaped our state. The plaques will bring many of these histories and stories alive and engender a shared sense of belonging, identity and connection.

Council received two nominations which were submitted to this program on Friday 15 October: Myall Creek Massacre Memorial Site and Gravesend Town Hall.

Attract, Connect and Stay

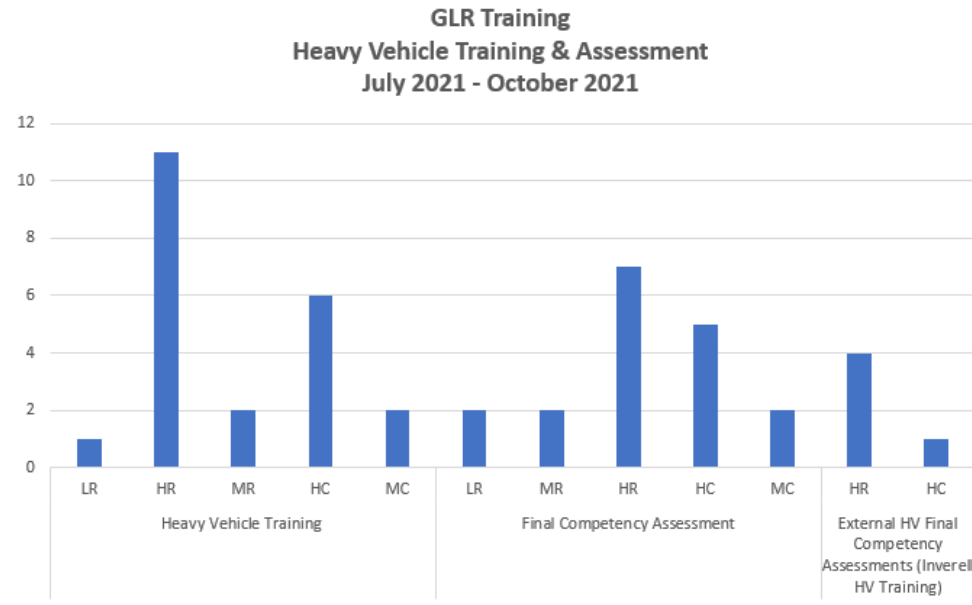
Representatives from Council and members of the Gwydir Health Alliance committee met with Dr Cath Cosgrave on Tuesday 26 October 2021 in Warialda. Following this meeting, the Gwydir Shire Council met on Thursday 28 October and considered a presentation from members of the Gwydir Health Alliance Sub-Committee and then resolved that the Council supported the decision of the Gwydir Health Alliance Sub-Committee to withdraw from the Attract, Connect, Stay Research Program.

On Thursday afternoon, Max Eastcott emailed Dr Cosgrave and advised her of the Sub-Committee's decision.

The next meeting of the Gwydir Health Alliance will be held on Wednesday 17 November to discuss how to move forward with the implementation of attracting a Health Workforce Connector.

GWYDIR LEARNING REGION

GLR Automotive Trade Training Centre (ATTC)



Heavy Vehicle Training and Assessment

October has been another busy month for heavy vehicle training and assessment. As illustrated in the graph above, the following sessions were carried out in October:

Heavy Rigid (HR) Truck Driver Training and Assessment – 2

Heavy Combination (HC) Truck Driver Training and Assessment – 2

Enquiries continue to roll in with the average waiting period for training extending into next year. There are currently seven clients with funding approval waiting for training dates.

GLR Training’s arrangement with ACTM Training and Consulting to facilitate Council staff accreditation requirements under the Heavy Vehicle Competency Based Assessment program with Transport for NSW is working well.

Last month, due to the significant increase in demand and participant numbers, an advertisement inviting expressions of interest from current staff interested in becoming accredited heavy vehicle trainers and assessors was posted on Council’s Staff Facebook page. Interest received was encouraging and arrangements have been made for three of Council’s staff to commence the Certificate IV – Training and Assessment (TAE40116) next month.

Private Driver Tuition (Car) in October 2021 – 15

Staff Training in October 2021

Training	Provider	Venue	Number of Participants
Forklift	Gwydir Community College	Bingara	5

2021 Gwydir Career Start Program

Council recently advertised the following positions as part of its 2021 Gwydir Career Start Program:

- School Based Trainee Mechanic
- School Based Trainee Tourism
- School Based Trainee Water and Sewer
- Trainee Care Service Employee (Naroo Hostel)
- Planning and Building Administration Trainee
- Trainee Environmental Planning Officer
- Trainee Works Supervisor
- Trainee Plant Operator
- Apprentice Gardener
- Apprentice Water and Sewer Operator

Applications closed on Friday 1 October 2021 and response has been varied.

Position	Number of applications received	Interviews	Outcome
School Based Trainee Mechanic	2	To be arranged	
School Based Trainee Water and Sewer	2	Applicants to undertake a week's work experience with Water and Sewer Team prior to interviews being arranged	
Planning and Building Administration Trainee	4	Interviews held Wednesday 20 October 2021	Successful applicant to commence Monday 29 November 2021
Trainee Works Supervisor	Nil	N/A	N/A
Apprentice Gardener	3	To be arranged	
School Based Trainee Tourism	Nil	N/A	N/A
Trainee Care Service Employee (Naroo)	3	Interviews held 26 October 2021	Successful applicants will commence

This is page number 59 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

Hostel)			Monday 15 November 2021
Trainee Environmental Planning Officer	1	Interview held on Wednesday 20 October 2021	Successful applicant appointed
Trainee Plant Operator	2	Interviews held	Successful applicants appointed
Apprentice Water and Sewer Operator	3	One application withdrawn. Interviews to be arranged the week commencing Monday 15 November	

Media and Communications
Gwydir Newsletter

The Media and Communications team have developed a website to complement the existing monthly publication. The website will be used to house current and changing information such sporting and local political news, and any other timely events and information that cannot be reported on in the monthly publication. The website will also assist with the drive for new subscribers by providing a portal for a new subscriber form and managing the electronic subscription database. In the future it is anticipated that the website may also help generate income through online web ads. Moreover, it will act as a platform to distribute the electronic newsletter subscriptions and other relevant news items, such as a fortnightly mini edition and urgent alerts and notices.



The website can be found by visiting www.gwydirnews.com

Gwydir Shire Tourism Website Redesign

The Media and Communications team have appointed Interactivink for the redesign of the new Gwydir Tourism Website.

This is page number 60 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

Based out of Brisbane, Interactivink is highly experienced in the areas of digital and tourism. Interactivink has worked with Gwydir Shire on the most recent Gwydir Tourism brochure as well as rebranding for the Bingara Orange Festival. The services is professional, efficient and well-priced. Clients include The Whitsundays Tourism, Outback Winton Festival, Longreach Tourism, The Frazer Coast, Rydges Hotels, and Queensland Tourism.

Interactivink was selected based on their competitive price, calibre of the past work portfolio and their previous work on the Gwydir Tourism brochure where we found the Interactivink team to be efficient, professional and detail oriented.

The Media and Communications team will be working with the tourism department over the coming weeks to plan and design the content for the new site. It is estimated the site will be operation in February 2022.

Gwydir Shire Council Website Google Analytics - 1 October - 30 October 2021

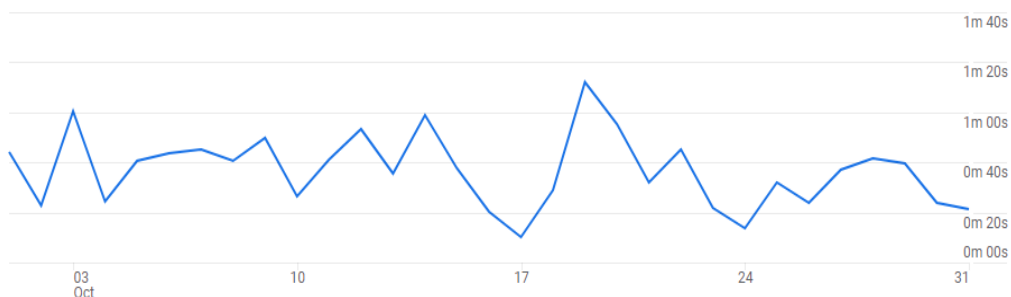
Users and new users

Users	New users
2.5K	1.5K



Engagement

Average engagement time [?]	Engaged sessions per user [?]	Average engagement time per session [?]
0m 44s	0.64	0m 43s



This is page number 61 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

THE LIVING CLASSROOM

The first cattle raised in the Bingara Central School's livestock program have been sold.

The propagation and sales of seedlings and plants from the nursery continues. The retail value of current propagated stocks is estimated to be \$10,000.

Four hundred petunia plants were supplied and planted in the Maitland Street, Bingara garden beds.



Seedlings propagated at The Living Classroom

Six 6.5m X 3.0m steel frames were delivered and assembled by a contractor. The frames will be clad in 50% heavy duty white shade-cloth and used to 'grow-out' trees and shrubs that have been propagated in the nursery.

A Sunday morning working bee was carried out by 12 members of the Bingara U3A Group. These working bees are provided several times each year. The members concentrated on removing water-shoots from the mature olive trees.

A Bush Food Garden has been planned for construction in the area fronting the Cochineal Cactus Nursery. The garden project will be undertaken by a contractor and is part funded by the Northern Slopes Landcare Association.

Senior students from Bingara Central School spent two days at TLC to conduct a 'life-skills' course.

Representatives of Southern Cross University, Lismore - Regenerative Agriculture Faculty, met with Council staff and The Carbon Farm board members. A Memorandum of Understanding between the University, Council and The Carbon Farm is currently being drafted with regard to a pasture and soil amelioration trial.

Bingara Garden Club members visited TLC for a tour of the Nursery and surrounding gardens.

A koala drinking system has been set up against a Yellow Box tree at the South Eastern section of the Koala Tree area. Members of the Gwydir Ark

This is page number 62 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

Group obtained and installed the unit. In recent months a koala was seen crossing the Narrabri Road near the waste depot.



Koala drinking system at The Living Classroom

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION:
MINUTE 306/21**

THAT the report be received

(Moved Cr Egan, seconded Cr Young)

This is page number 63 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

Item 5 Joint Organisation Membership

FILE REFERENCE 21/29984

DELIVERY PROGRAM

GOAL: 4. Proactive Regional and Local Leadership

OUTCOME: 4.1 WE ARE AN ENGAGED & CONNECTED COMMUNITY

STRATEGY: 4.2.1 Build strong relationships and shared responsibilities – GM – external

AUTHOR General Manager

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

This report recommends a suggested course of action to be conveyed to the incoming Council.

TABLED ITEMS Nil

BACKGROUND

Gwydir Shire Council resolved at its December 2020 Ordinary Meeting to seek the Minister for Local Government’s approval to leave the Namoi JO and join the New England JO.

The Minister’s response is attached.

When considering the Minister’s response to reconsider the matter following the local government elections the Council resolved at its February 2021 Ordinary Meeting:

THAT the 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.
- that Gwydir Shire Council does not believe that any further delay until after the September 2021 elections will alter the basis for the Council’s previous well considered resolution to leave Namoi Unlimited and join the New England Joint Organisation.
- that it be noted that the prior endorsement from both Namoi Unlimited and the New England Joint Organisation was

This is page number 64 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

obtained in support of Gwydir Shire's resolution prior to making the formal approach to the Minister for Local Government.

(Moved Cr Egan, seconded Cr D Coulton)

Upon being put to the meeting, the motion was declared carried. For the Motion were Crs Dick, Dixon OAM, Egan, J Coulton, Moore, Smith, D Coulton and Young Total (8). Against the Motion was Nil.

Cr Galvin was an apology for the meeting.

This resolution was conveyed to the Office of Local Government but no response has been received.

COMMENT

It is reasonable that the current Council passes on its suggested course of action to the incoming Council for its consideration at the earliest opportunity.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

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.

ATTACHMENTS

AT- Previous Report

COUNCIL RESOLUTION: MINUTE 307/21

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

This is page number 65 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

Shire and its residents to become a full voting member of the New England Joint Organisation.

(Moved Cr Young, seconded Cr Egan)

Ordinary Meeting - 25 February 2021

Gwydir Shire
Council

Item 1 Joint Organisation Membership

FILE REFERENCE 21/3622

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 - GM - external

AUTHOR General Manager

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

This report is for the information of Councillors.

TABLED ITEMS Nil

BACKGROUND

At the November 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting the following resolution was passed:

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION:
MINUTE 294/20**

THAT the report be received.

FURTHER that both Namoi Unlimited and the New England Joint Organisations be formally advised of the Council's decision to transfer this Council's membership from Namoi Unlimited to the New England Joint Organisation.

FURTHER once the concurrence of the Boards of both Joint Organisations has been received to the transfer of this Council's membership from Namoi Unlimited to the New England Joint Organisation that the Minister for Local Government and the Council's State Member be advised seeking their support for the transfer.

Following this resolution the appropriate steps were taken to seek the supporting resolutions from both the Namoi and New England Joint Organisations – see the attached December 2020 Meeting report.

The Minister for Local Government and the Shire's Local State Member were advised of the Council's decision on 18th December 2020. A copy of this letter is attached for the information of Councillors. This letter was 'cc'ed' to the Shire's Local State Member, The Hon. Adam Marshall, as well as both Joint Organisations.

Ordinary Meeting - 25 February 2021

Gwydir Shire
Council

The Minister for Local Government has now responded to the Council's request with a request of her own (letter attached):

I request that council consider postponing its request to move membership from the Namoi Joint Organisation to the New England Joint Organisation until after the 2021 local government elections. By that time the JO evaluation will be completed and an incoming council will have an opportunity to consider its involvement with the Namoi and New England Joint Organisations.

COMMENT

The Council will now need to resolve whether it is willing to accede to the Minister's request for a delay in pursuing the transfer between the Joint Organisations or seek the continuation of the transfer in a timely manner at this time.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

For determination

ATTACHMENTS

- AT- December 2020 Council Report
- AT- Letter to Minister for Local Government dated 18th December 2020
- AT- Response from Minister for Local Government

Ordinary Meeting - 17 December 2020	Gwydir Shire Council
Item 3	Joint Organisation Membership
FILE REFERENCE	20/30103
DELIVERY PROGRAM	
GOAL:	4. Proactive Regional and Local Leadership
OUTCOME:	4.2 WE WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS
STRATEGY:	4.2.1 Build strong relationships and shared responsibilities - GM - external
AUTHOR	General Manager
STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil	
IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION	
This report is for information.	
TABLED ITEMS	Nil
BACKGROUND	
At the last Council Meeting it was resolved:	
COUNCIL RESOLUTION: MINUTE 294/20	
<i>THAT the report be received.</i>	
<i>FURTHER that both Namoi Unlimited and the New England Joint Organisations be formally advised of the Council's decision to transfer this Council's membership from Namoi Unlimited to the New England Joint Organisation.</i>	
<i>FURTHER once the concurrence of the Boards of both Joint Organisations has been received to the transfer of this Council's membership from Namoi Unlimited to the New England Joint Organisation that the Minister for Local Government and the Council's State Member be advised seeking their support for the transfer.</i>	
COMMENT	
Following this resolution the Executive Officers of both Namoi Unlimited and the New England Joint Organisation were requested to place Gwydir's request as outlined in the Council's recent resolution.	
The New England Joint Organisation held its normal quarterly meeting at Moree Plains Shire Council Chambers on 30 th November 2020. At this meeting the Mayor successfully piloted the following motion through the meeting:	

This is page number 69 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

Ordinary Meeting - 17 December 2020

Gwydir Shire
Council

41/20 RESOLUTION:

That the NEJO Board:

- i) *Accept the request for Gwydir to become a member of the New England Joint Organisation.*
- ii) *Authorise the Executive Officer to complete any required paperwork to facilitate the membership.*

The Namoi Unlimited Board Meeting was held on Tuesday 8th December 2020. A similar supportive resolution was carried at the Namoi meeting as well but the Meeting's Minutes have not been issued yet. Once the Namoi Unlimited Minutes are received the Minister for Local Government will be requested to make the necessary Gazettal notifications.

CONCLUSION

The General Manager is attending the Namoi General Managers' meeting this week and will be confirming that Gwydir Shire Council is happy to continue its involvement in the following activities, if possible:

- Namoi Water Alliance Smart Watermark Agreement and Namoi Water Alliance;
- Namoi Regional Town Water Supply Strategy
- VendorPanel; and;
- Contaminated Lands Capacity and Capability Building Program.

These programs are included in the annual fee that has already been paid for the 2020/21 year. Any contributing payments beyond 2020/21 would be on the basis of perceived benefit directly to Gwydir. An example is the annual payment for vendor panel and the benefit that accrues to Gwydir as a result of its continuing involvement.

However Gwydir has not committed itself to the Namoi Economic and Industry Super Cluster project and, indeed, has expressed its concerns about the benefit that would be derived to Gwydir from this project.

Any ongoing support for the Namoi Unlimited Executive Officer position beyond 2020/21 is the subject of requested legal advice, which hasn't, as yet, been received.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the update report be received

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

This is page number 70 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman



18th December 2020

The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP
Minister for Local Government
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Minister

Currently Gwydir Shire Council is a member of the Namoi Joint Organisation (NJO). Gwydir has been a member of the NJO since the creation of Joint Organisations.

Recently Gwydir became an Associate Member of the New England Joint Organisation (NEJO).

It has become more and more clear that Gwydir's transport interests are much more closely aligned to those of the other Councils in the NEJO with both interstate (NSW-Queensland) and east-west transport links being the main focus.



Gwydir Shire Council has always been the missing link in NEJO.

Gwydir Shire Council resolved at its November 2020 Ordinary Meeting:

THAT the report be received.

FURTHER that both Namoi Unlimited and the New England Joint Organisations be formally advised of the Council's decision to transfer this Council's membership from Namoi Unlimited to the New England Joint Organisation.

FURTHER once the concurrence of the Boards of both Joint Organisations has been received to the transfer of this Council's

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BINGARA OFFICE 33 Maitland Street, Bingara NSW 2404 TELEPHONE 02 6724 2000 FACSIMILE 02 6724 1771
WARRIALDA OFFICE 54 Hope Street, Warialda NSW 2402 TELEPHONE 02 6729 3000 FACSIMILE 02 6729 1400

WINNER OF THE A R BLUETT MEMORIAL AWARD • WINNER OF THE NSW TRAINING INITIATIVE AWARD

Ordinary Meeting - 25 February 2021
Joint Organisation Membership

Attachment 2
Letter to Minister for Local
Government dated 18th
December 2020

membership from Namoi Unlimited to the New England Joint Organisation that the Minister for Local Government and the Council's State Member be advised seeking their support for the transfer.

As a result of this resolution both the New England Joint Organisation and the Namoi Joint Organisation were requested to place the matter on the next Board Meeting agenda at each organisation for discussion.

The NEJO Board met on 1st December 2020 and resolved:

That the NEJO Board:

- i) Accept the request for Gwydir to become a member of the New England Joint Organisation.
- ii) Authorise the Executive Officer to complete any required paperwork to facilitate the membership.

The NJO Board met on 8th December 2020 and resolved:


RESOLVED That

- I. Namoi Unlimited seeks urgent advice from the NSW Office of Local Government through the Minister to clarify the process for Section 400ZC 2(b) 'amendment to a joint organisation'.
- II. Namoi Unlimited endorses the request from Gwydir Shire Council to leave and join the New England Joint Organisation.

Gwydir Shire Council is now seeking your support to make the necessary submission to the Governor, under Section 400ZC (1) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, to alter the memberships of both the New England Joint Organisation and Namoi Joint Organisation to reflect the movement of Gwydir Shire Council from the Namoi Joint Organisation to the New England Joint Organisation.

Your positive consideration of this request would be appreciated.

Yours faithfully



Max Eastcott
General Manager

cc: The Hon Adam Marshall MP
Namoi Unlimited Executive Officer
New England Executive Officer

Ordinary Meeting - 25 February 2021
Joint Organisation Membership

Attachment 3
Response from Minister for
Local Government

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The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP
Minister for Local Government

Ref: A757044

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



Dear Mr Eastcott

Thank you for your correspondence of 18 December 2020 regarding Gwydir Shire Council's Joint Organisation (JO) membership.

Firstly may I thank you for your ongoing commitment to regional collaboration and to pursuing strategic regional priorities for the New England region. Gwydir Shire Council has made a positive contribution to the Namoi Joint Organisation over the past years, and I understand the council has now resolved to withdraw from the Namoi Joint Organisation and join the New England Joint Organisation.

I request that council consider postponing its request to move membership from the Namoi Joint Organisation to the New England Joint Organisation until after the 2021 local government elections. By that time the JO evaluation will be completed and an incoming council will have an opportunity to consider its involvement with the Namoi and New England Joint Organisations.

I note the synergies your council has recognised with the New England Joint Organisation over the east-west transport routes and I understand the council sees its long term future resting with the New England JO. My preference at this time, however, would be for Gwydir Shire Council to continue to participate in the New England JO and its various projects as an associate member. The JO model facilitates councils such as Gwydir Shire wishing to participate in more than one JO, and I encourage all JOs to work cooperatively with each other to further their objectives.

The NSW Government remains committed to the success of the Joint Organisation model and looks forward to the results of the review.

Yours sincerely

The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP
Minister for Local Government

10 FEB 2021

CC: The Hon. Adam Marshall, Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales
CC: Cllr Jamie Chaffey - NAMOI Joint Organisation Chairperson
CC: Ms Rebel Thomson - NAMOI Executive Officer

GPO Box 5341 Sydney NSW 2001 • P: (02) 8574 5400 • W: nsw.gov.au/ministerhancock

This is page number 73 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

Item 6 End of Term and Annual Reports

FILE REFERENCE 21/30082

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

Documents attached for the information of the Community and Councillors.

TABLED ITEMS End of Term and Annual Reports

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council's Annual Report for 2020/2021 and the End of Term Reports be received

ATTACHMENTS

- AT- Annual Report
- AT- End of Term Report

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION:
MINUTE 308/21**

THAT the Council's Annual Report for 2020/2021 and the End of Term Reports be received.

(Moved Cr Egan, seconded Cr Young)



Gwydir Shire Council
Annual Report 2020/2021

This is page number 75 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman



Table of Contents

Council Statements and Values	3
Welcome	4
Mayor Introduction	6
General Manager Report	7
Our Council Area	8
Gwydir Shire Council at a Glance	10
Gwydir Shire Council Organisation Structure	11
Our Elected Council	12
How the Annual Report is Structured	14
Section 1: Record of our Achievements Over 2020/2021	15
Our Financial Achievements	20
Our achievements through Grant Funded Works Programs	22
Our achievements through our Section 355 Committees	27
Our achievements in Planning and Development	28
Our achievements in Technical Services	29
Our achievements in Social Services	37
Our achievements in Aged Care	47
Our achievements in Building Services	54
Our achievements in Environmental and Sustainability	57
Our achievements in Waste	61
Our achievements in Town Utilities	62
Our achievements in Marketing and Promotions	71
Our achievements in Economic Development	74
Our achievements in Community Assets	80
Our achievements in GLR	88
Our achievements in The Living Classroom	92
Our achievements in Gwydir Fitness Centre	96
Our achievements in Work Health and Safety and Risk Management	97
Section 2: Statutory Reporting Requirements	99
Amount of Rates and Charges Written off in 2020/2021	100
Total Cost of Councillor Expenses in Relation to Civic Functions	100
Summary of Legal Proceedings	102
Summary of Resolutions Made Under Section 67 – Private Land	102
Financial Assistance to Others – Section 356	103
External Bodies who Exercised Functions Delegated by Council	105
Statement of all entities in which Council participated	105
Equal Employment Management	105
General Manager Review Package	106
Senior Staff Members Remuneration Package	106
Statement of Stormwater Management Services Provided	106
Statement of Activities Companion Animals Act 1998 and Reg 2008	108
Statement of Government Information Act 2009 and Reg	110
Planning Agreements Under The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act	110
Public Interest Disclosure Action 1994 and Regulation	110
Statement of Carers Recognition Act 2010	111
Disability Inclusion Act 2014	112
Fisheries Management Act 1994	113
Section 3: Copy of Audited Financial Statements	114



Council Statements and Values

Our Vision

To be the recognised leader in Local Government through continuous learning and sustainability.

Our Mission

To ensure that the Council's long term role is viable and sustainable by meeting the needs of our residents in a responsible caring way, attract sustainable development while maintaining the traditional rural values, character and culture of our people.

Council Core Values

1. For Our Community and Visitors

We will provide a safe, clean and healthy environment in which all people have the opportunity to participate in and share in the Council's services and facilities.

2 For Our Community Committees

We will seek their opinion in relation to the services in which they assist us, offer relevant and timely support, and recognise their valuable contribution.

3 For Our Staff

We will create an atmosphere of team support, which encourages frank and honest communication, and the use of common sense and innovation in a safe and friendly working environment with the aim of efficiency.

4 For Our Councillors

We will treat all Councillors equally and ensure that they are provided with accurate and timely advice and expect that they will treat each other and the staff with due respect.

Council acknowledges the traditional owners
of the land, the Kamilaroi People and pays
its respect to Elders both past and present.



Welcome

Welcome to Gwydir Shire Council's Annual Report for 2020/2021. It is important to both Council and the community that we measure and report on our progress.

The plans are all interconnected. Progress toward the Operational Plan contributes to the implementation of the Delivery Program, which contributes to achieving our community's goals and objectives as outlined in the Community Strategic Plan. Measures are designed to inform each other and tell a story about Council's progress towards achieving the Community Strategic Plan, both day to day and over longer periods.

The diagram below identifies the types of reports we are required to provide and what reporting periods will be covered.



This Annual Report has been produced for the benefit of our community and stakeholders. It is designed to keep them informed about our activities during the 2020/2021 Financial Year. It is reporting on our performance against the 2020/2021 Operational Plan. The Operational Plan links directly to the Community Strategic Plan, Council's Delivery Program and Resourcing Strategy.

All the plans will be able to be viewed on the Council's website www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au



Community Consultation resulted in four key themes;



All NSW Councils provide different services. Some of these services are the traditional services such as infrastructure renewal and waste management or 'roads, rates and rubbish'. Others are not so traditional like some of the services we are required to provide including Residential Aged Care, Medical Centres, Children's and Youth Services.

Gwydir Shire Council is committed to meeting its commitments under the *Local Government Act 1993* – Sections 8A, 8B and 8C and to be transparent in reporting to our community and stakeholders. This Annual Report 2020-2021 is the primary means of sharing our performance in the last financial year.

If you would like to find out more about Gwydir Shire Council or contribute, through feedback, to the running of the Council you can do the following;

Visit Council's Website

24/7 access to council is provided through our website www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au. On our website you will find information on our operations by viewing the IP & R Documentation, Agendas and Minutes along with key documents. Policies and guidelines are also available on the website. www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au

Facebook

We are on Facebook. Look for us on Facebook Gwydir Shire Council (Government Organisation). Enquiries, suggestions and comments can be posted here for consideration by the Administrator. Please 'like' us to make sure you get regular updates. www.facebook.com/GwydirShireCouncil

Council & Committee Meetings

Council Meetings are held on the last Thursday of every month commencing at 9am. Committee Meetings (involving the whole Council) are held on the second Thursday of every month commencing at 9am. Although this is not the forum to contribute, members of the public are encouraged to come along and sit in the gallery to view the business of the council. Information on the location and time of these meetings are published in the local media and on the website.

Community Public Meetings

Public Meetings in outlying centres are held once a year or when there are topical issues concerning certain areas. Residents are involved to attend these meetings and have their say on the future planning and current operation of the Council. Information on the location and time of these meetings are published in the local media and on the website.





Mayor's Introduction

This report concludes a 5 1/4 year for the elected councillors.

COVID-19 prevented the scheduled Local Government elections to be held in September 2020.

The election will now be held on December 4th, 2021. No other level of government in Australia has exceeded the legislated term.

The term of Local Government just completed will be recorded in history as one with an outstanding number of significant events.

The term began in September 2016. Gwydir Shire is predominately an agricultural shire and towards the end of 2016 it was noticeably dry. A four year drought followed which proved to be the driest period in recorded history. This impacted heavily on our community and in response Gwydir Shire Council commenced an employment scheme for those out of work due to the drought. Water cartage of potable water was also implemented to households free of charge.

Our sister council Willoughby donated a slide on poly tank to assist this programme and we appreciate this help from our city cousins.

The State and Federal governments responded by supplying drought stimulus funding in the form of increased road funding and civic infrastructure grants.

The next major event was a big one. COVID-19 arrived in Australia.

Travel was restricted, and all of NSW was locked down for four weeks at one stage.

The Federal and State governments provided aid once again as a stimulus to maintain the economy. Gwydir has received large sums of grant funding for road works and civic infrastructure once again.

As you drive the shire you see a distinct face lift in the towns and villages and the road network is improving with some roads to go from gravel to bitumen.

Other events worth noting are the mice plague and the March 2021 floods. Council has received funding to repair the flood damage.

During the period we have built a state of the art truck wash facility, installed solar panels on many Council owned buildings and half completed the Warialda Heavy Vehicle Bypass.

My congratulations go to all staff of Gwydir Shire Council. It has been a testing time with working from home for some, the wearing of face masks and added to that the Bingara indoor staff have had to abandon their offices and relocate to other facilities due to a build up of mould in the main Council building.

Thank you also to the elected members who have served for an extended term. Councillors and staff have worked well together.

The morale in the organisation is high.

As a team we have achieved an enormous amount, most of which is recorded in the following report.

In conclusion it has been a wonderful time to be in Local Government. We have achieved great things for the community we serve.

Thank you to all concerned.

Cr. John Coulton
Mayor



General Manager's Report

What a momentous term of Council over the last four plus years for those Councillors elected in 2016.

This Council has had to deal with Droughts, Floods, Bushfires and COVID-19.

On the plus side there has been unprecedented, once in a generation, access to both State and Federal Grants to meet the challenges that these natural disasters presented to the Shire's communities.

This term has reminded me of the often quoted Chinese proverb about living in interesting times, which has been both a blessing and a curse at different times.

Overall, I believe the Council met all these challenges head on and achieved great things in spite of the many obstacles thrown its way.

The 2016/2021 Councillors can be rightfully proud of their collective achievements during their term in office.

M Eastcott
General Manager

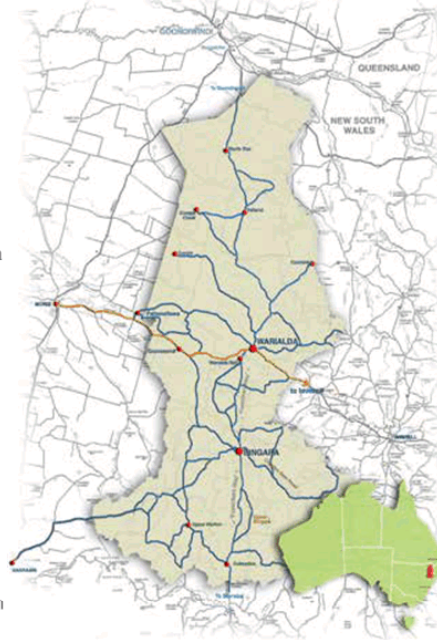


Our Council Area

Gwydir Shire is located on the North West Slopes and Plains of NSW, approximately 400kms north of Sydney, 120kms north of Tamworth, 300kms south west of Brisbane, 40kms west of Inverell and 40kms east of Moree.

The Shire sits at the crossroads of the Fossickers Way, a popular north-south touring route, the Gwydir Highway, a significant east-west route linking the NSW North Coast to Outback NSW and on Nature's Way (State Touring Route 3), which links Narrabri to Inverell via Gwydir Shire. The Bruxner Highway (east-west route) traverses the northern edge of the Shire with links into southern Queensland.

Much of Gwydir Shire lies between the 29°S and 30°S latitudes, placing it mid-way in the realm of arable lands within the Southern Hemisphere. It has a temperate climate with warm to hot summers (25°C – 35°C) and cool to mild winters (10°C – 20°C). The average elevation across the shire is approximately 350m above sea level.



The Gwydir Shire lies about 300kms from the Tasman Sea and the north coast of NSW.

The Shire is part of the New England – North West Region of NSW (also known as the Northern Inland Region) and is bounded by Tamworth Regional Council to the south, Narrabri Shire to the south west, Moree Plains Shire to the west, Inverell Shire to the east and Uralla and Guyra Shires to the south east.

Incorporating an area of 9,122 square kilometres, Gwydir Shire extends from the Nandewar Range in the south and north to close to the Queensland border. The landscapes of the Shire are diverse, and in places, breathtaking.

The southern and central areas of the Shire are located within the Gwydir River catchment area with the Gwydir River flowing through Bingara and Gravesend. The southern areas of the Shire are hilly with pockets of highly fertile river flats along the Gwydir River and its main tributaries.

Mt Kaputar National Park forms the western edge of the Shire, with rugged remnant volcanic peaks and landforms rising above the Gwydir Valley. The northern part of the Shire lies within the 'Golden Triangle'. Built on the black soils from basalt outflows of the New England, it is one of the most productive agricultural areas in Australia.

Agriculture is the primary land use and economic activity within Gwydir Shire. Livestock production dominates in the southern and central areas of the Shire, with the Shire producing prime beef, lamb, and pork. The Shire has a collection of beef cattle and sheep properties with a number of renowned beef studs. Broadacre cropping is undertaken in the northern part of the Shire, with the main crops being wheat,



sorghum and barley. Other crops include dryland cotton, other grains (oats, maize, triticale), hay and pasture seeds, pulses (chickpeas, field beans, mung beans, faba beans, lentils) and oilseeds (canola, soybeans and sunflowers).

In June 2015, Gwydir Shire had an estimated population of 5,068. The Shire has two small towns, Bingara and Warialda, located approximately 40km apart. Bingara services the southern part of the Shire. Located on the Gwydir River at the intersection of the Fossickers Way and Nature's Way (State Touring Route 3), Bingara is a popular stop for travellers.

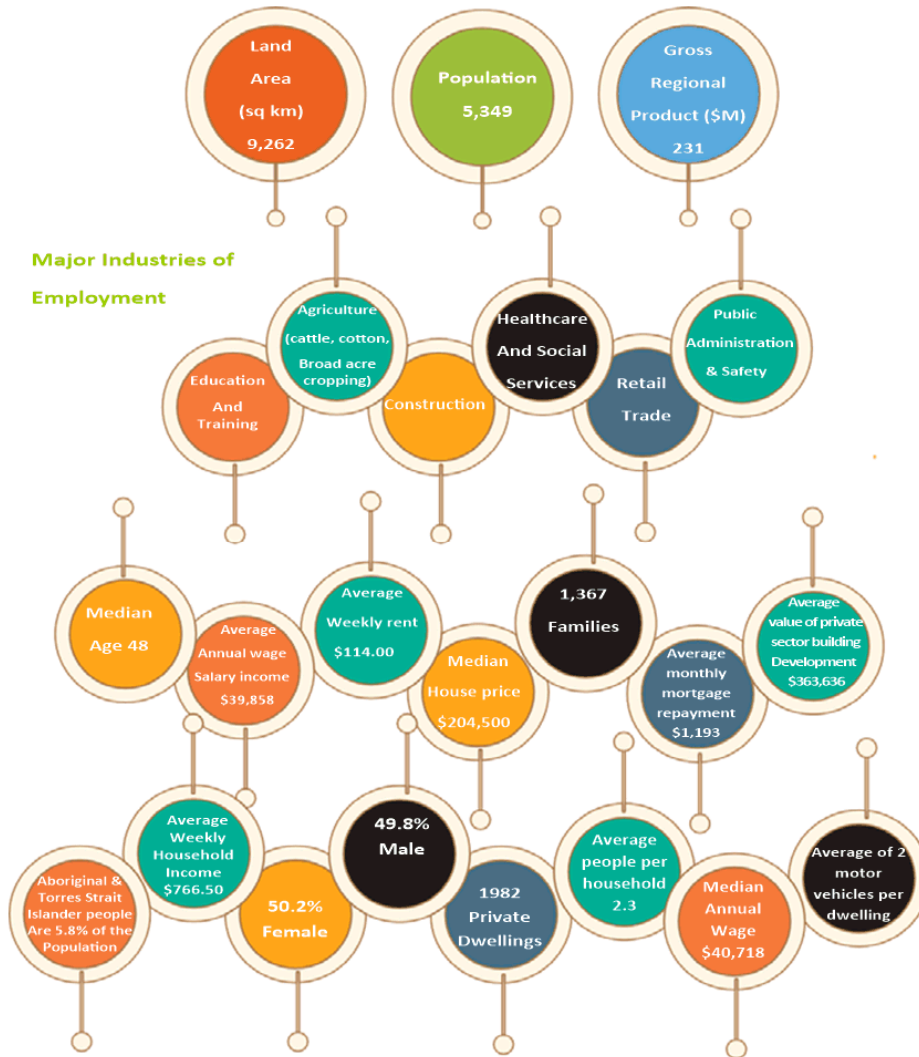
Warialda is located on the Gwydir Highway, midway between Inverell and Moree. The town is a service centre for both the surrounding rural area and Highway travellers.

Both towns have small, vibrant shopping centres, with IGA supermarkets, historic hotels, eateries and shops that meet the day-to-day needs of the community. There are also a few boutiques and some lifestyle and 'quirky' retailers that are always popular with visitors. Both towns are ideal to use as a stop-over base for exploring the Gwydir Shire and surrounding regions.

The Shire has five rural villages – North Star, Croppa Creek, Coolatai and Gravesend in the northern part of the Shire, and Upper Horton in the south. The Shire has 21 rural localities – Boonal, Blue Nobby, Yallaro, Crooble, (part of) Pallamallawa and Balfours Peak in the northern half of the Shire, and Warialda Rail, Gineroi, Bangheet, Riverview, Elcombe, Pallal, Rocky Creek, Back Creek, Cobbadah, Gundamulda, Dinoga, Gulf Creek, Upper Bingara, Keera and Copeton in the southern half.



Gwydir Shire Council At A Glance



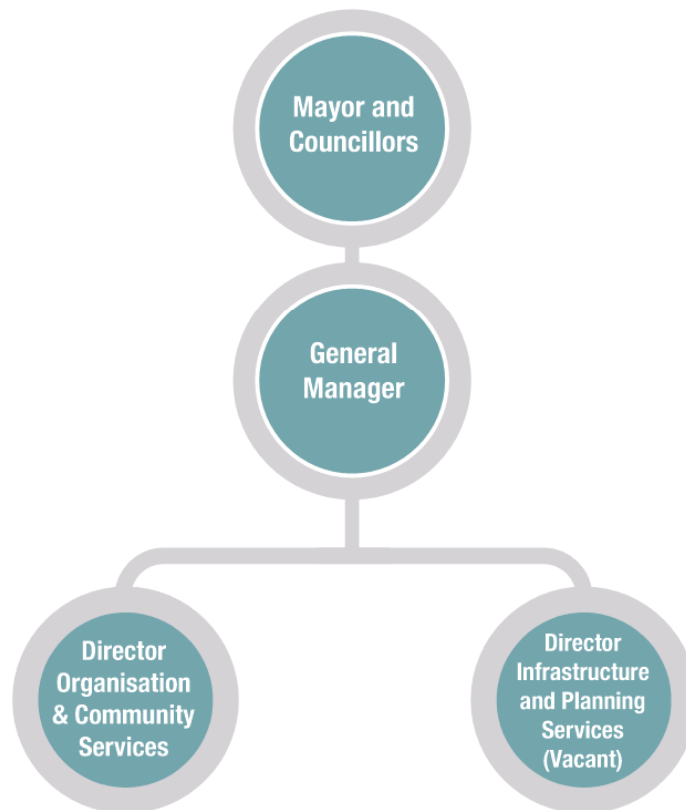
References: Australian Bureau of Statistics www.abs.gov.au, Regional Development Australia - Gwydir Shire Local Government Area



Gwydir Shire Council Organisation Structure

Below is the organisation structure in place during this reporting period. This structure was reviewed and changed in the first quarter of the 2020/2021 financial year.

Our Structure





Our Elected Council

Gwydir Shire Council elections were held on Saturday 10 September 2016. Outgoing Councillors who did not seek re-election were Crs Peter Pankhurst, Kerry McDonald, and Angela Doering.

Councillors John Coulton, Catherine Egan, Stuart Dick, James Moore, Marilyn Dixon, and Geoff Smith were all re-elected. Welcomed to Council were new Councillors Tiffany Galvin, David Coulton and Frances Young.

During the five* years of their term John Coulton has been re-elected Mayor and Catherine Egan has been re-elected Deputy Mayor.

**5 year term due to postponment of elections during COVID-19 pandemic*



Cr. John Coulton - Mayor
3575 Allan Cunningham Road Warialda NSW 2402
Mobile: 0427 297 082
Email: jcoulton@gwydir.nsw.gov.au



Cr Catherine Egan - Deputy Mayor
4 Keera Street Bingara NSW 2404
Email: cegan@gwydir.nsw.gov.au



Cr. Tiffany Galvin
" Damehill" 167 Whitlow Road
Bingara NSW 2404
Email: tgalvin@gwydir.nsw.gov.au



Cr. Jim Moore
"Pepperbox" 90 Oregon Road Warialda NSW 2402
Email: jmoore@gwydir.nsw.gov.au



Cr Frances Young
10 Junction Street Bingara NSW 2404
Email: fyoung@gwydir.nsw.gov.au



Cr. David Coulton
112 High Street
Warialda NSW 2402
Email: dcoulton@gwydir.nsw.gov.au



Cr Geoff Smith
"Dalkeith" Warialda NSW 2402
Email: gsmith@gwydir.nsw.gov.au



Cr. Stuart Dick
6 Saleyards Road Bingara NSW 2404
Mobile Number: 0427 663 264
Email: sdick@gwydir.nsw.gov.au



Cr Marilyn Dixon OAM
55 Cunningham Street
Bingara NSW 2404
Email: mdixon@gwydir.nsw.gov.au



This is page number 87 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman



How the Annual Report is structured

This Annual Report is divided into three sections:

Section 1 – Gwydir Shire Council Achievements

This section provides an outline of Gwydir Shire Council's progress against the actions set out in the Delivery Program 2017-2021 and Operational Plan 2020/2021.

Section 2 – Statutory Reporting Requirements

This section includes the Statutory reporting requirements prescribed by the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

Section 3 – Financial Statements

This section includes Gwydir Shire Council's General Purpose Financial Statements for the Financial Year Ending 30 June 2021, including an Income Statement, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows.



This is page number 89 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman



A healthy and cohesive community

The first key theme identified by our Community through the consultative process was a social objective that we titled 'A healthy and cohesive community'.

Council utilises a software program called Interplan to track progress against actions. Progress reports on the actions during the period of the Operational Plan are reported to Council quarterly.

This section of the report outlines the progress we have made during this reporting period in implementing the adopted Delivery Program 2017/2021. This section contains a summary list of the actions. Additional information on the achievements for Council Business Units is included following this summary information.

The Delivery Program identified a total of 122 actions to be completed over the period 2017/2021.

Other Actions have been introduced with the grant funding received by Council via Stronger Country Communities and Drought Communities Program. See grant-funding achievements for further details

Some of the achievements have included.

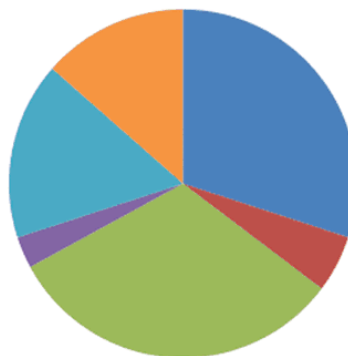
Gwydir Oval new amenities & dressing sheds

Warialda CBD Improvements Project - Shade structures and tables for Captain Cook Park & Nicholson Oval.

Gravesend Sportsground - New amenities and tennis court facility.

Development & implementation of a positive ageing strategy.

A healthy and cohesive environment



■ Completed ■ Deferred ■ In Progress ■ Not approved ■ Not Started ■ Ongoing



Building the business base

The second key theme identified by our Community through the consultative process was an economic objective that we titled 'Building the business base'.

Council utilises a software program called Interplan to track progress against actions. Progress reports on the actions during the period of the Operational Plan are reported to Council quarterly.

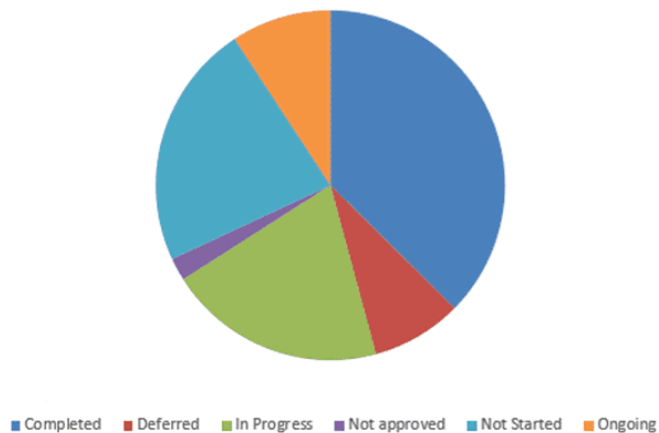
This section of the report outlines the progress we have made during this reporting period in implementing the adopted Delivery Program 2017/2021. This section contains a summary list of the actions. Additional information on the achievements for Council Business Units is included following this summary information.

The Delivery Program identified a total of 178 actions to be completed over the period 2017/2021.

Some of the achievements have included.

- Wanaldra Medical Centre internal works
- Water Meter Replacement Program
- Mains replacement - Copeton Road
- Go live with new Gwydir Shire website
- Refurbish kitchen facility at Naroo Aged Hostel
- Plan & Coordinate Bingara Happy Days Orange Festival
- Implement SMS alert system

Building the business base





An environmentally responsible shire

The third key theme identified by our Community through the consultative process was an Environment objective that we titled ‘an environmentally responsible shire’.

Council utilises a software program called Interplan to track progress against actions. Progress reports on the actions during the period of the Operational Plan are reported to Council quarterly.

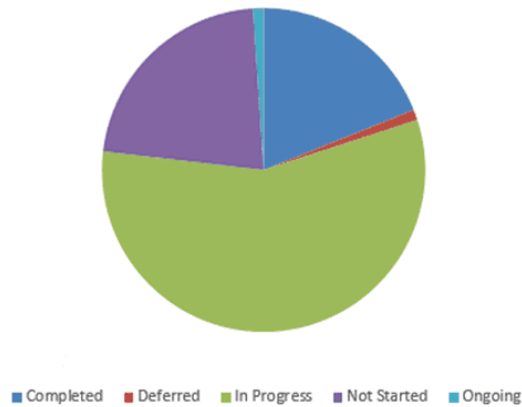
This section of the report outlines the progress we have made during this reporting period in implementing the adopted Delivery Program 2017/2021. This section contains a summary list of the actions. Additional information on the achievements for Council Business Units is included following this summary information.

The Delivery Program identified a total of 81 actions to be completed over the period 2017/2021.

Some of the achievements have included.

- Gwydir River Foreshore Management Plan – in progress and will continue to be rolled out over coming years.
- Manage Noxious Weeds
- Incorporate Vegetation Clearing Plan as a part of the Development Control Plan (DCP).
- Implement Gwydir Shire Council's Waste Management Strategy
- Installation of shaded seating - Gwydir River

An environmentally responsible Shire





Proactive regional and local leadership

The fourth and final key theme identified by our Community through the consultative process was a civic leadership objective that we titled 'Proactive regional and local leadership'.

Council utilises a software program called Interplan to track progress against actions. Progress reports on the actions during the period of the Operational Plan are reported to Council quarterly.

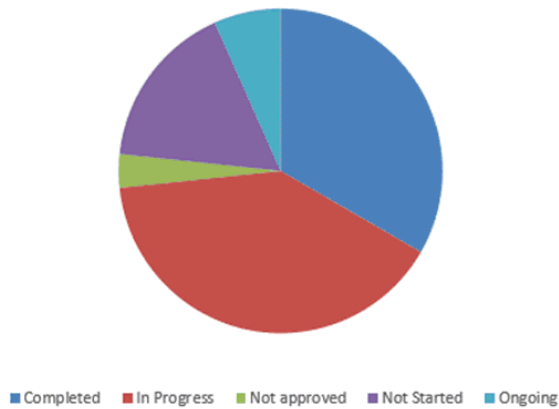
This section of the report outlines the progress we have made during this reporting period in implementing the adopted Delivery Program 2017/2021. This section contains a summary list of the actions. Additional information on the achievements for Council Business Units is included following this summary information.

The Delivery Program identified a total of 27 actions to be completed over the period 2017/2021.

Some of the achievements have included.

- Develop Gwydir Shire Council communications plan.
- Undertake volunteering initiatives during the reporting period.
- Support the Myall Creek Memorial committee
- A review of the effectiveness of communication channels used throughout Gwydir Shire to the wider community.

Proactive regional & local leadership





Our Financial Achievements

Gwydir Shire Council has generated a profit for the 2021 Financial Year. A large number of grant funded projects have been completed over the year to the benefit of our communities. Council continues to work hard to ensure financial sustainability and securing future funding for major projects.

The breakdown of monies that Council receives and expends are tabled below.

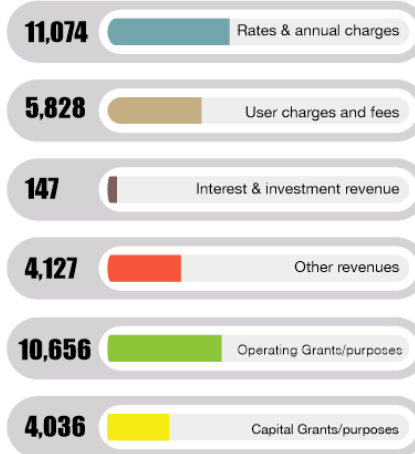
Income Statement	(\$'000)
Total Income from Continuing Operations	\$35,868
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	\$33,283
Net Operating Result from Continuing Operations	\$2,585
Net Operating Result before Capital Grants and Contributions	(\$1,451)

Balance Sheet	(\$'000)
Total Current Assets	\$19,633
Total Current Liabilities	\$13,280
Net Current Assets	\$6,353
Total Non-Current Assets	\$407,213
Total Non-Current Liabilities	\$9,952
Total Equity	\$403,614

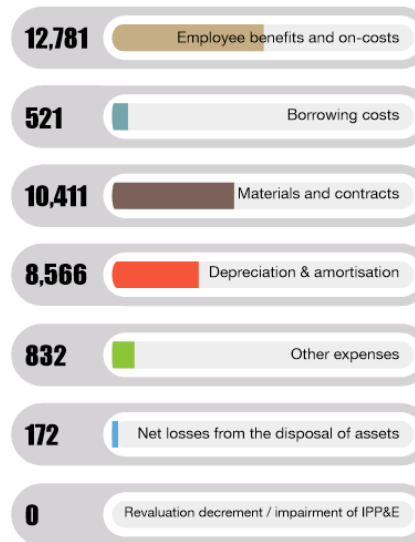


Gwydir Shire Finances at a Glance

Council Income - where our money comes from



Council Expenses - where our money goes





Our achievements through our grant funded works programs

Stronger Country Communities

The Stronger Country Communities Fund was established in 2017 by the NSW Government to help deliver local projects to regional communities

The objective of the fund is to provide projects that improve the lives of people who live in regional areas and since 2017, the Stronger Country Communities Fund has invested \$400 million to assist regional NSW Local Government Areas deliver over 1500 projects.

Round 2 & 3 projects will be completed over multiple years and include:

- Gwydir Oval Grandstand Upgrade
- Warialda Recreation Ground Improvements - amenities
- Warialda Recreation Ground Improvements - function centre
- Gwydir Oval Amenities Building
- Warialda Swimming Pool Improvements
- Bingara Showground Stables
- Warialda Showground Kitchen Upgrade
- Warialda Rail Sports Ground Improvements - club additions
- Warialda Rail Sports Ground Improvements - playground
- Bingara Sporting Club Improvements
- Bingara Historical Centre Additional Building
- Carinda Community Centre Improvements
- Bingara Library - Civic Centre Redevelopment
- Gravesend Sports Ground Amenities Building
- Croppa Creek Hall Improvements
- CWA Park Playground Improvements
- Captain Cook Park Playground Improvements
- Cunningham Park Playground Improvements
- Gravesend Recreation Ground tennis court upgrade
- Nicholson Oval Warialda sports field lighting
- Warialda Building Maintenance
- Warialda Swimming Pool amenities upgrade
- Bingara Historical Society additional display and storage areas
- Crooble Hall upgrade
- Gwydir Oval Sports Field Lighting

Everyone Can Play – All Abilities Park Warialda

The creation of inclusive playspaces requires a new way of thinking about the way playspaces are planned, designed and managed. The three principles of Everyone Can Play will guide thinking around how to create more inclusive playspaces across NSW. When it comes to determining if a playspace is truly inclusive, it is important to consider the wider context. Look outside, around and through the playspaces and ask: Can I get there? Can I play? Can I stay?

The 2020/2021 Everyone Can Play program focused on funding inclusive playspaces across NSW by partnering with councils to design and construct new playspaces and upgrade existing playspaces in line



with the Everyone Can Play Guideline. This allowed the NSW Government and councils to immediately deliver on-ground benefits to the community. Gwydir Shire was successful in obtaining funding to convert the park space across from the Warialda hospital and Naroo into a wonderful all-inclusive park facility for all members of the community to be able to enjoy together.

Restart NSW – Big River Dreaming

In April 2018, the NSW Government announced Council secured \$2 million for a visionary Bingara tourism project – Big River Dreaming, Water Weaving Way. The Restart NSW Fund was established by the NSW Government in 2011 to improve the economic growth and productivity of the state. As at the 2020/2021 NSW Budget, more than \$33.3 billion has been deposited into Restart NSW since 2011. Under the Restart NSW Fund Act 2011, Infrastructure NSW is responsible for providing independent funding recommendations to the NSW Government on all infrastructure projects to be funded from Restart NSW. These include:

- Major NSW government-led projects.
- Local and community infrastructure projects being delivered by councils, non-government organisations and other entities.

Restart NSW local and community infrastructure projects include vital upgrades to rural and regional road and rail networks, the development of infrastructure to boost tourism, projects which address infrastructure constraints in mining communities, the provision of safe and reliable water services, and infrastructure which drives economic growth and productivity. There are currently more than 600 projects which have been allocated more than \$1.6 billion through the Restart NSW local and community infrastructure funding programs. The total project budget for these is approximately \$2.8 billion. Many of these projects are currently active and in various stages of delivery. Projects within Gwydir Shire that has successfully obtained funding from the Big River Dreaming – Water Weaving Way project scheme are below. Council is contributing \$700,000 in labour and plant for these projects.

Projects include:

- Big River Dreaming - Walking Track
- Big River Dreaming - Trails and Rest Stops - RFS1
- Big River Dreaming - Trails and Rest Stops - RFS2
- Big River Dreaming - Trails and Rest Stops - RNS3 Sheep St Creek
- Big River Dreaming - Interpretive Centre – The Living Classroom
- Big River Dreaming - Gwydir River Ghats aka Pontoon
- Big River Dreaming - Trail Markers
- Big River Dreaming - Splash Park – Bingara Pool Precinct
- Big River Dreaming - Activity Centre – Bingara Pool Precinct
- Big River Dreaming - Information Station Signage

State Drought Stimulus Package

The main objective of the \$170 million NSW Drought Stimulus Package is to mitigate the employment and income effects of the current drought in regional NSW by delivering economic stimulus. The first focus will be on fast-tracking existing local infrastructure projects that will boost local economies, with a number of projects already announced. Other initiatives will be rolled out and these will keep money flowing and people working in local towns and villages.

All projects and initiatives will focus on putting dollars into local pay packets. Tradespeople, suppliers and project workers will receive new work and spend money in local businesses such as cafes, retail stores and with service providers.



Projects include:

- Warialda Golf and Bowling
- Bingara Swimming Pool Improvements
- Cunningham Park new toilet block
- Cunningham Park BBQ and Shelter
- Warialda footpath Naroo to Stephen Street
- Bingara footpath Pool to Bridge

COVID-19 Economic Stimulus Package – Phase 1 & 2

On 22 May 2020 the Australian Government announced a new \$500 million Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCI Program).

Through the 2020/2021 Budget, the Australian Government announced a \$1 billion extension of the LRCI Program, following strong community and local government support.

This program supports local councils to deliver priority local road and community infrastructure projects across Australia, supporting jobs and the resilience of local economies to help communities bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The LRCI Program aims to assist a community-led recovery from COVID-19 by supporting local jobs, firms, and procurement. It is expected that councils will use local businesses and workforces to deliver projects under the LRCI Program where possible to ensure stimulus funding flows into local communities. The scope of the LRCI Program supports a broad range of Eligible Projects so communities can fund the infrastructure that they need, support businesses, and create employment opportunities across their communities.

- Projects under this funding include the below and will all be completed in 2022.
- Batterham Lookout
- Warialda dog Pound
- Warialda Medical Centre
- Dog Parks - Warialda and Bingara
- 50K Warialda - shade structure in New green space area - Commercial
- 50K Bingara - shelter and picnic tables - Gwydir River foreshore
- Nicholson Oval Warialda sports field lighting
- Selected gravel re-sheeting, North Star NSW 2408
Sheeting / Re-sheeting
SR61 Peates Rd Import gravel, crush on situ and lay new 6m wide pavement.
SR68 Goat Rd Import gravel, crush on situ and lay new 6m wide pavement.
SR40 Blue Knobby Rd Import gravel, crush on situ and lay new 6m wide pavement.
Drainage
SR62 Hibernia Rd construct 2 new causeway structures with all-weather approaches.
- Selected gravel re-sheeting Pallal NSW 2404
Sheeting / Re-sheeting
SR31 Eulourie Rd import local shale, lay new 6m wide pavement.
SR17 Back Creek Rd import local shale, lay new 6m wide pavement.
- Cunningham Street, Bingara
Traffic improvement
Junction Street to Riddell Street, construction new centre media with semi advanced trees.



Drought Communities Programme

The objectives of the program are to deliver support to targeted drought-affected regions of Australia by funding:

- local community infrastructure and
- other drought relief projects.

The intended outcomes of the program are to:

- increase employment in regions by providing work for locals and/or farmers and farm labourers/ staff/contractors whose employment opportunities have been affected by drought
- improve levels of economic activity in regions
- increase productivity in regions
- enable better retention of businesses, services, and facilities.

With Council being successful in 2 rounds of funding between 2019 & 2021, projects under this programme include:

- ReRoofing of Gravesend Community Hall
- Installation of Solar Panels and Outdoor Lighting to the North Star Sports Club
- Renovation of Upper Horton Tennis Courts and Upgrading to Multi-Sports Courts
- Installation of Solar Panels & Battery to Warialda Rail Sportsground Clubhouse
- Installation of Flag Poles & Flags x 24 to Warialda & Gravesend
- Development of an All Abilities Recreation Area at Warialda Hospital Park
- Warialda All Abilities Park - outdoor music equipment
- Installation of Toilet at Warialda Cemetery
- Installation of Fence at Warialda Airstrip
- Installation of Toilet at Warialda Airstrip
- Reedy Creek Foreshore Improvements - Litter removal, weed control re-vegetation
- Installation of Flag Poles & Flags at Bingara
- Installation of Fairy Lights at Bingara
- Gwydir Foreshore Improvements - Access Way Sealing, Weed Control & Signage
- Purchase of a commemorative CWA Statue leading upto the 100th Anniversary in 2022
- Co-contribution for resurfacing at Maitland St Bingara Intersection
- Gravesend Recreation Ground cricket nets
- Upper Horton Water Augmentation
- Bingara Swimming Pool Improvements
- Koorilgur Walking Trail Improvements
- Warialda Youth Hub
- Reedy Creek- Hope Street Rest Area
- All Abilities Park - Turfing and Shade Shelters
- Landscaping and fencing at Cunningham Park / Pool and Footpaths
- Tree Planting – Warialda

Other grants that Council have been successful in obtaining are:

Restart NSW – Warialda HPV Route & Warialda HPV Truck Washing Facility

RMS – Warialda HPV Route & Warialda HPV Truck Washing Facility

- BBRF – Gwydir Oval Bingara, Sports Field Lighting upgrade
- DPIIS – Bingara Hatchery Facility upgrades
- Bushfire Resilience – Small Business Grants, SMS alert burst, Why Leave Town gift card promotion & Business advertising
- OLG – Crown Lands Plans of Management
- DPI CRIF – Bingara Caravan Park amenities upgrade



- Sports Australia – Aus Sport – Bingara Pool Precinct
- Showground Stimulus – Bingara showground amenities & grandstand
- Dept of Health – Naroo kitchen upgrade
- FRRR – Gwydir Fitness Centres equipment upgrade
- Fixing Local Roads – Horton Road upgrade

The volume of grant funding accessible to Council has meant that we have been able to deliver a great many projects from 2019 to date with many more still to be completed in 2022.

This is page number 100 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman



Our achievements through our Section 355 Committees

Bingara Community Op Shop

Council staff assisted in the set up and establishment of the Bingara Community Op Shop committee. This included providing advice regarding finances, lease, governance, risk management, induction of volunteers, and the provision of Council's music license.

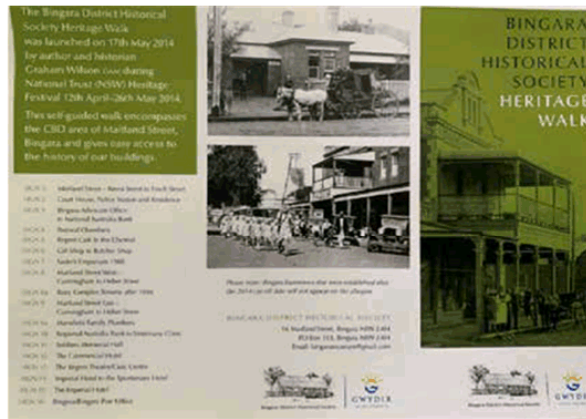
Bingara Anglers' Club

Council staff attended the Bingara Anglers' Club Annual General Meeting and again committed to the role of Secretary. At this meeting, the Committee decided to organise and host Easterfish 2021 which, once again was extremely successful.

Bingara District Historical Society

The Bingara Historical Society Heritage Walk was launched at the opening of the Orange Festival Carnival on Saturday 26 June. A presentation was made to Ted Sparke for his tireless research into the history of the buildings in Maitland Street. Council staff has assisted the Historical Society complete this project and compiled a tourist brochure to provide guidance of the location of these signs.

Right: The Bingara District Historical Society Heritage Walk brochure.



North Star Hall

Over the term the Hall has been used by the Tharawonga Mobile Present and adjacent Primary School.

The Hall Committee was in recess for much of the reporting period but now boasts an active and positive group who have successfully gained external funding for air conditioning, and hardwood floor renovations. The group is now making the Hall available for hire again and is an essential community hub.

Coolatai Sportsground Committee

The Committee is a champion and has collaborated with Council to develop the grounds and its infrastructure.

Coolatai is renowned for its annual Tractor Pull and horse sporting events which should be back and bigger than ever in 2022



Our achievements in Planning and Development

During the 2020/2021 financial year Council received 49 Development Applications and 4 s4.55 Modifications with a total value of \$5,438,298.00. The types of development applied for were 12 new dwellings, 22 applications for residential ancillary developments (such as dwelling additions and alterations, garages, carports verandahs, pergolas, patios, shipping containers and swimming pools), 3 commercial applications, 2 rural subdivision, 2 Feedlots, 5 quarries and 3 miscellaneous applications (including an RFS Shed, extensions to the Bingara Pre-school and an Inland Rail Crib facility at Croppa Creek).

Development Locations:

Locality	No	Locality	No	Locality	No	Locality	No
Baflours Peak	1	Crooble	1	Gravesend	3	Upper Horton	3
Bangheet	1	Croppa Creek	1	North Star	2	Warialda	13
Bingara	19	Delungra	1	Pallamallawa	1	Yallaroi	1
Copeton	1	Gineroi	1				

The total number of development applications approved for the year was 49 as seen in the below table which also includes various other applications and approvals issued under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

	Development Applications	S4.55 Modification Applications	Subdivision Certificates
Applications Received	49	4	3
Applications Refused	0	0	0
Applications Withdrawn/Closed	3	0	0
Total Applications Approved	49	3	4
Applications Approved by Delegation	44	2	4
Applications Approved by Council	5	1	0
Application Approved by Regional Planning Panel (RPP)	0	0	0
Applications Approved by Private Certifier	-	-	0

Throughout the 2020/2021 year Council also issued one hundred and ninety 10.7(2) Certificates (formerly known as 149(2) Certificates), thirty three 10.7(5) Certificates (formerly known as 149(2) Certificates), twenty four Outstanding Notices Certificates under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (formerly known as s735A Certificates) and twenty eight s121ZP Certificates (Outstanding Notice under the Local Government Act 1993). In addition, Council replied to seventy four requests for Drainage Diagrams.



Our Achievements in Technical Services

Major Grant Funding Works

During the 2020/2021 financial year, Council was successful in securing \$26.5 million of grant funding through various State and Federal grant programs for road upgrades over the next two-year period. The grant funds will be matched by \$2.36 million of Council funds from its recurrent road funding budgets. The grants will see 48.3km of gravel road upgraded to sealed formation and 27km of road re-sheeted with a dust suppressant binder.

Oregon Road Re-sheeting – Fixing Local Roads Round 2

\$1.79 million has been secured from Round 2 of the Fixing Local Roads Program to upgrade 27km of Oregon Road. The funds will be matched with \$315,975 of council funds and will see significant re-sheeting take place with the incorporation of a dust suppressing binder. The project commenced late in the 2020/2021 financial year and is expected to be completed by December 2021.

IB Bore Road Sealing - Fixing Country Roads Program and Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program

19.987km of IB Bore Road (the entire unsealed section within Gwydir Shire) will be upgraded to a sealed formation suitable for road train traffic. \$9.54 million has been granted to Council via the state government's Fixing Local Roads Program and a further \$2.00 million granted from the federal government's Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program. Construction is expected to commence in October 2021.

Sealing – Roads of Strategic Importance

In January 2021, Hon Michael McCormack MP and Hon Mark Coulton MP announced \$8.18 million of funding under the Roads of Strategic Importance Program to seal 12.3km of County Boundary Road. The allocation will be matched by \$2.05 million of Council funding. The project will commence in late 2021 and is expected to take up to 18 months.

Horton Road Sealing – Fixing Local Roads Program Round 1

Works on this \$5.88 million project commenced in May, which will see 16km of gravel road from Upper Horton to Killarney Gap Road sealed. \$5 million was granted to Council under the Fixing Local Roads Program. \$800,000 will be spent from Council's recurrent roads budget on the project, with a further \$80,000 in kind donation of gravel made by local landholders.





Gravel Resheeting

In a massive turnaround from last financial year's challenging drought conditions, this financial year saw challenging conditions of an opposing nature, where extreme weather events caused flooding through the Shire. Continuous rain then put a hold on much of the years gravel resheeting program, some of which had to be delayed into next financial year.

The following table gives the details of gravel resheeting that was completed throughout the Gwydir Shire during the 2020/2021 Financial Year. Council resheeting works were funded largely by the Federal Government's Roads to Recovery program.

Road Name	Location	Length (km)
Trevallyn Road	5.00km to 6.50km from Tamworth Regional LGA Boundary	1.50
Back Creek Road	9.00km to 11.40km south of Killarney Gap Road and 1.58km to 3.08km north of Killarney Gap Road	3.90
Gineroi Road	10.00km to 11.00km from Fossickers Way	1.00
Eulourie Road	5.61km to 9.79km from Killarney Gap Road	4.18
Blue Nobby Road	20.90km to 22.90km from North Star Road	5.20
Oregon Road	12.3km to 16.3km and 17.0km to 20.0km from Warialda Road	7.00
Kurrajong Hills Road	0.0km to 4.0 km and 11.0km to 12.27km from North Star Road	5.27
Mosquito Creek Road	25.18km to 30.18km from Stephen Street Warialda	5.00
Peates Road	25.0km to 28.0km from Bruxner Way	3.0
Reserve Creek Road	0.0km to 3.0km from Adams Scrub Road	3.0

In total, Council resheeted 39.05km of unsealed roads. Crushed rock has been used extensively in the north of the Shire for its excellent performance in wet conditions during normal climatic conditions. The crushing process, undertaken using a tractor mounted implement, produces additional binding fines and reduces overall rock size. In the southern end of the Shire, shale and ridge gravel materials are predominantly used, which can be broken down easily using grid rollers. *Right: Completed gravel resheet on SR40 Blue Nobby Road.*



Regional Roads Roadworks

All works carried out by Council on Regional Roads during the 2020/2021, including all maintenance, heavy patching, resealing, rehabilitation and new works, were funded entirely with grant funds from the Transport for New South Wales' (TfNSW) Block and REPAIR Program grants.

Rehabilitation



North Star Road received 1.60km of full rehabilitation, 9.40km to 11.00km from RR63 Warialda Road. The unsuitable shoulder material was first boxed out and the existing pavement was then spread to a 9m formation and stabilised 300mm deep with hydrated lime. A new 150mm thick crushed rock sub-base layer was imported and compacted, followed by a 150mm DGB20 base course. Works were then completed with the application of an 8m wide 14/7 double/double C170 bitumen seal.

Resealing

6km of North Star Road, from its intersection with Warialda Road was resealed and linemarked using TfNSW's Block Grant funding. This section of road was shoulder widened in previous years using drought stimulus funding.

State Roads (TfNSW)

Within our Shire, Council maintains and completes ordered works on two state roads, MR63 Fossickers Way and HW12 Gwydir Highway. For these particular works, Council is bound by the Roads Maintenance Council Contract (RMCC) with Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW). All Work Orders issued by TfNSW are quality assurance, schedule of rates projects carried out by Council staff under the RMCC.

During the 2020/2021 financial year, Council staff undertook general maintenance activities throughout the year such as drainage/culvert maintenance, guardrail repairs, vegetation control (weed spraying, slashing, sucker bashing etc.), rest area servicing, fortnightly routine inspections, sign replacement and maintenance and bitumen repairs (potholes, edge breaks etc.). Ordered works this financial year included heavy patching works, reseal preparation, several rehabilitation projects and survey and design for several rehabilitation projects proposed for next financial year.

Heavy patching works undertaken on our State roads involves a stringent process that is pre-approved by the TfNSW before works commence to conform to their specifications. The patch extents are marked out and a stabilising additive (75:25 cement/flyash blend) is spread at a rate of 2.5% over the patch. Council's pavement reclaimer (pulvi-mixer) is then used to mill and incorporate the failed material with the additive and the new material is then re-compacting to form a new pavement. Once compacted, the patch is sealed with a double coat 7 mm emulsion seal using Council's Jetpatcher(s) and the line marking is reinstated, where required, by the TfNSW line marking crew. This year saw 3,300m² of heavy patching completed on MR63 Fossickers Way and 1,942m² on HW12 Gwydir Highway.

During the year TfNSW provided funding for the rehabilitation of pavement and drainage within segment 5255 on MR63 Fossickers Way, segment 8270 on HW12 Gwydir Highway and a safety upgrade project within segment 8265 on HW12 Gwydir Highway. The project within segment 5255 involved extending a culvert, ripping and recompacting 150mm of the existing pavement, including any shape correction, to form a new sub-base layer. A final 150mm DGB20 base layer was then laid and compacted to form a 10m wide pavement.

The project within segment 8270 involved boxing out the existing shoulders and replacing them with a suitable material, adding 60mm of fine crushed rock to the existing pavement and ripping and recompacting 150mm deep, including any shape correction, to form a new sub-base layer. A final 150mm DGB20 base layer was then laid and compacted to form a 10m wide pavement. The safety project within segment 8265 involved widening the existing shoulders with DGB20, to achieve 3.7m lanes and pavement widths around corners up to 11.9m. Guardrail was then placed around the outside of both corners and direction chevron signs installed around the worst of the two. Each pavement layer for the projects have been tested for material density and compaction prior to laying the following course to ensure that they conform to TfNSW specifications. A cutback bitumen primer seal with 7mm stone has been placed on each of the projects by Fulton Hogan to provide a 9m wide (or greater) wearing surface and line marking has been undertaken by



the TfNSW line marking crew. Table drains and mitre drains were all cleaned out and re-established and the disturbed areas of each work site were revegetated.
Right: Safety upgrade project within segment 8265 on HW12 Gwydir Highway.



Further to this, TfNSW also provided funding for the resealing of five segments (4310, 5270, 6125, 6185 and 6190) on MR63 Fossickers way, totalling 43,044m², and ten segments (8050, 8055, 8060, 8075, 8080, 8137, 8156, 8160, 8235 and 8237) on HW12 Gwydir Highway, totalling 95,916.5m², as well as funding for the preparation of these reseal segments. Survey and design projects included segments 4420, 5150 and 6120 on MR063 Fossickers Way. Works also started ahead of time, at the end of this financial year, on a rehabilitation project, segments 8140, 8145 and 8150 on HW12 Gwydir Highway, that will continue into next financial year.

Big River Dreaming Rest Stops

This financial year saw the construction of several rest stops throughout the southern end of the Shire, as part of the Big River Dreaming project, part funded by Restart NSW. Each of the constructed rest stops also forms part of the Myall Creek Memorial and will also include detailed artwork and signage.



The Two Mile Hill rest stop is located at the intersection of MR63 Fossickers Way and MR134 Delungra Road and has included the installation of a 6m x 6m shade shelter with two picnic tables and a park platform, the installation of a waterless toilet cubical and the construction of a new carpark area. The Sheep Station Creek rest stop is of a similar calibre, with two 6m x 6m shelters with two picnic tables and a park platform under each, as well as a walking trail down to a creek plateau. The rest stop also features a large bitumen turn around area to accommodate large vehicles such as trucks and coaches.

The remaining rest stops are of a smaller nature and are both located on SR19 Whitlow Road. The first is located at the Bobby Whitlow fossicking area and includes a large walking trail along the creek, a bitumen turn around area and a single picnic table with seating. The second is located at the SR12 Upper Whitlow Road intersection and includes a large hardstand area on the edge of the creek with another picnic table and seating. Further to this, most of the rest stops incorporated sandstone blocks to complete their attire and link them to similar projects around the Bingara area.

Above: Completed rest stops at Two Mile Hill and Sheep Station Creek, respectively.

Cunningham Park Footpath

This project was funded through the State Drought Program Funding. The scope of works was to replace the existing footpath between the Cunningham Bridge and the new pool entrance with an all accessible pathway. The total length for the pathway was 160m and the new path is 1.8m wide, allowing for all abilities access along the walkway. This path has significantly improved the aesthetics of Cunningham Park while also improving access to the park and Bingara Pool precinct.



This project involved numerous departments and employees throughout the process. The project would not have been the success it was without the significant input of all parties involved. This addition is a wonderful new asset for the community.

Stronger Country Communities – Round 3 Grant Funded Works

Warialda Street Tree Planting

Street tree plantings in Warialda on Stephen St, Hope St and Geddes St have been completed at a cost of \$60,000, funded from the Stronger Country Communities Fund - Round 3. The trees are advanced Chanticleer Pears and it is hoped that a wet winter has given the trees time to acclimatize and get ready for spring. The trees will provide summer shade and enhance amenity in the village for many years to come.





Left and below:
During the process



Left and below:
Completed work.





The Gravesend Recreation Ground Tennis court upgrade has been completed with the old sand court upgraded with new base and a synthetic grass multi sports surface with a new net. The project was completed at a cost of \$61,000 and was funded by the Stronger Country Communities Fund - Round 3.

Nicholson Oval Lighting

The Nicholson Oval sports field lighting project is underway with the dedicated new power supply commissioned. The project will provide sports field lighting that is designed to meet the standards of a number of sports including cricket, rugby league, touch football, league tag and athletics.

Installation of the four light towers have been significantly delayed by wet weather and COVID-19 supply/ border shutdown issues. Most materials are now on site and work is expected to start by early October 2021. The project estimated cost is \$481,000 and is funded by the Stronger Country Communities Fund - Round 3 and COVID-19 Stimulus funding

Hope Street Warialda Rest Area

The Hope Street Rest Area project on the banks of Warialda Creek is well underway however has been significantly affected by poor weather and is now expected to be completed by the end of September 2021. The rest area will provide a sealed parking area for caravans with access to covered seating. The first stage of a link path along the edge of Warialda Creek has also been incorporated into the project, which will provide a path from the rest area to Market St. The project estimated cost is \$110,000 and is funded from a Drought Relief Grant.



TfNSW Natural disaster claims

Council's road network suffered significant damage from two flood events in the 2020/2021 year that were declared Natural Disasters by the State Government. Ongoing wet weather during winter has hampered Council's ability to carry out repairs and attend to emergency works on many roads.

Staff have successfully submitted natural disaster claims to TfNSW for the December 2020 Horton Flood Event and the March 2021 Shire event to the value of \$13.094 million. Council completed dozens of emergency works to open up our road network and the majority of restoration works will be completed over the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 financial years. This will require a significant sustained effort by our outdoor staff and significant planning and coordination is required to complete these works efficiently and on time.

Local Emergency Management Committee

The Committee continues to hold regular meetings that are well attended. A desktop training exercise was recently carried out where the recent flood event in Moree and a possible similar event in Bingara were discussed. These discussions were considering the COVID-19 supplement to the Evacuation Management Guidelines developed by Resilience NSW. Fortunately an Emergency Operations Centre for flooding or COVID-19 was not required in the 2020/2021 year.

Warialda Truck Wash

January 2021 saw the \$1.3 million Warialda Truck Wash facility opened. Co-funded by Council, the state government and the federal government, the state of the art facility features two wash bays for removing stock effluent from trucks as large as 36.5m road trains. In addition to the wash bays, the facility includes a



number of effluent dump points for on board effluent tanks, an amenities block with showers and toilets and a small truck parking area.

The opening of the facility has seen an elimination of illegal roadside dumping of effluent and a dramatic reduction in effluent spillage on roads within the Gwydir Shire.

Primary effluent treatment takes place onsite, where solids are removed from waste in a 3 stage filtration bunker. Waste water is then pumped offsite to two nearby dewatering lagoons which allow for settling of residual suspended solids and recycling of water back into the facility, if required.

The truckwash has seen excellent take up by the stock carting industry, with approximately 70 trucks washing down per month.

This is page number 110 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman



Our Achievements in Social Services

Gwydir Toy Libraries



Both Toy Library services strived to ensure all attending children were engaged in developmentally appropriate exploration of play. Each month, the Toy Library's provided enriched play and learning experiences. Produced intentionally, these experiences encouraged the children's emergent skills in; childhood communication, literacy and numeracy, personal, social and emotional development, cognition, physical, fine and gross motor progression, creative skills and developing an understanding of their world.

Bingara Toy Library remained operational each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday with the routine services sessions between 10am and 12noon. In May 2021, operation on a Monday ceased.

Warialda Toy library remained operational each Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday between the hours of 8.30am – 3pm, with routine service sessions being catered for between 10am and 12noon.

Furthermore, parents and carers were provided with information or feedback regarding their developing child. Support services are sought via referral where required. The Toy Library promoted an inclusive service for all, encouraging family engagement and play exploration in a safe, confidential and supported play environment. The Toy Library actively promoted and acknowledged the value and impact of providing support to families, facilitating family networking opportunities and successfully promoted positive mental health for parents and carers alike.

Finally, during 2020/2021, families were not only provided with literature and brochures regarding childhood development, health and wellbeing, but were provided also, with opportunities to engage with professional service providers such as, family and parenting support services, dietetics, speech pathology, dental care, early intervention support services, financial management, first aid education, baby massage/chiropractic services and baby wearing mentorship. Access being made possible while visiting routine play sessions sets out to accommodate the busy schedules of families while ensuring services are accessible for all.

Festive Events/ celebrations

The Toy Library's continued to appreciate festive celebrations through service promotion and celebration of all mainstream festive events such as, Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Grandparents Day, NAIDOC week, Anzac Day and Remembrance Day. These celebratory days were catered for with special morning teas/ parties, whereby families accompanied their children to the service, engaging in specified festive craft activities, egg hunt, cooking, story and music times. Special celebratory guests in 2020/2021 included Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny and grandparents of some of the children attending the service in celebration of Grandparents Day.



Children's and Families Week 2020/2021

In November of 2020, Warialda Toy Library promoted the rights of all children, celebrating Children's week in the park. Children's Week is a national celebration of children's rights, talents, and citizenship. Families were extended invitations through the preschool, primary school and toy library service memberships to attend this event, recognising and collaboratively celebrating the rights of all children. The Bingara Toy Library Celebrated Children's Week and promoted the rights of Children in October 2020.



Families Week promoting the diversity of families, was an event whereby all families were encouraged to attend the service to participate in a teddy bears picnic morning tea, craft and dance session. Each child was invited to bring along a plate of food and their special teddy from home for this event. Literature for families about supporting family relationships, and the importance of embracing various family cultures and groups within our community and the country was promoted throughout this event.



Birth Certificate Applications/ presentations

Expecting parents or parents/carers, residing in the Gwydir Shire with a child born on or after March 17, 2004, (The date in which the Gwydir Shire was formed) are eligible to receive a certificate. Applications are issued upon request by Erin Hall, Supported Playgroup Development Worker, Tania Brennan, Bingara Toy Library coordinator, or handed out by the local Child and Family Health Nurse during the initial point of contact the family have shortly after the birth of their child. Presentation ceremonies are then organised as required, and an invitation extended to either the Mayor or a Councillor to present the certificates to families.

In 2020/2021, Warialda Toy Library held their ceremony on Monday 7 September with Councillor Marylin Dixon (OAM) presenting the certificates to the Families. Bingara Toy Library held their ceremony on Wednesday 5 August 2020 and Thursday 6 August 2020 with Councillor Catherine Egan presenting the Families with their certificates. Families are provided with a gold certificate, a parent pack including a six-month Toy Library membership voucher. A light morning tea and play session follow the presentation.



Application Recordings 2020/2021	
Bingara	10
Warialda	18



Future projections

Warialda Toy Library is committed to supporting families within the area, facilitating the emergent development of all children having access to the services. A focus for the 2021/2022 financial year, is to ensure adequate promotion creating an inclusive service for all is achieved. A letterbox drop is being arranged, to secure broad contact, making certain that all families have equal access to information and ensuring families are made aware of the services provided at the Toy Library. The information received in this mail out, will directly invite all families of children aged 0-6yrs within the area to become members, facilitating family support, and ensuring continued and further growth of active memberships and service participation.





Hunter New England Area Health Service has recently appointed a new Child and Family Health nurse in Melissa Toms. Correspondence with Melissa has already taken place, to ensure information is being provided to all parents during Melissa's first point of contact with these families, after welcoming a newborn into their home. Melissa will commence attending service sessions this August 2021, to support families requiring blue book screenings or checks. Melissa will also be available during these service visits to answer any health or baby development queries any parents may have. It is anticipated that Melissa will do in service visits each month. Melissa aims to be able to provide immunisations as required to attending members in the very near future.

Family referral services will remain a priority in service delivery and continue to be provided for where required. Education and awareness of service providers, and the services they offer to families within our local area, will remain a significant area of professional interest and continued development moving forward.

Kool Skool Kids Program

The program continued this year on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons with great success and due to demand for care from working families but unfortunately Monday afternoons were cancelled once numbers reduced to only one child attending.



The children were given the opportunity to help with the planning of the activities that they would be involved in this year during the Kool Skool Kids Program. During the program the children were about to do participate in cooking experiences: puff pastry scrolls, mini pizzas and hot chocolates, ranges of craft, sensory guessing games, ball skill games both inside and outside, watching movies with popcorn, thread pulled placemat with Hessian, the children also created a hanging bird feeder out of paddle pop sticks. The children also celebrating special occasions such as Children's week, Mother's Day Craft, Father's Day Craft, Christmas Craft & Halloween Craft.

The children also participated in conversations about fire safety routines, addresses and road safety. Conversations also arose about the things, people and opportunities they have and how they are grateful and thankful for those.

Each afternoon during the program, the children also had access to Lego, board games, puzzles, loom bands, listening to songs on Spotify which they have chosen themselves for the staff to pick out, and books. Homework help is also available during the program for those who need it.



Bingara Preschool

Bingara Preschool has enjoyed another successful year, even with the added challenges of being COVID safe. The team of educators have implemented a child led and child focused curriculum involving all educators, children, their families and the wider community.

Educational Program:

Bingara Preschool facilitated a wide range of educational experiences during the year, with the focus being on delivering a play-based curriculum. Learning through play is one of the important, underpinning philosophical values of Bingara Preschool as the children learn so many skills through this practice.



Skills include problem solving, learning from others, conflict resolution, language, cognitive awareness, friendship building and creating/abiding by a set of rules. The team of educators liaised with the children and their families when reviewing the Bingara Preschool Philosophy. The new look service Philosophy showcases the underpinning practices and values of Bingara Preschool, it is also easy to read and understand for all stakeholders. The Philosophy articulates the services underpinning values which are:

- Learning through play.
- Children are encouraged to make their own choices.
- Developing respectful, reciprocal relationships with families and the wider community.
- Consistent and effective health and hygiene.
- Respect for diversity and inclusion.
- Sustainability.



The new look and revised Philosophy have been shared with other early childhood services and inclusion support services. The feedback from all stakeholders has been extremely positive and feel that this is a user-friendly resource for all involved.

Transition to School Program:

The transition to school program is implemented in terms two, three and four of each year.

2021: Bingara Preschool and Bingara Central School has extended their comprehensive transition to school program. The Kindergarten Teacher from Bingara Central School visited Bingara Preschool each Friday, for the first four weeks of term two (2021). From week five of term two, the Bingara Preschool children (who attend school in 2022) visited Bingara Central School each Friday from 9am – 10am to attend a transition lesson.



At the end of term one, Bingara Central School invited the preschool families and educators to attend a 'Meet and Greet' session. The preschool educators attended this event and found it very useful in extending their knowledge in relation to school readiness skills that are recommended for preschool children. During term two of this year, Bingara Preschool and Bingara Central school discussed the importance of a holding a meeting with each family who has a child who is commencing school in 2022. Bingara Preschool helped to organise these meetings with the preschool families.

2020: During term three the children attended regular transition excursions to Bingara Central each Friday and continued this into term four. To complete the transition program for the children who commenced school in 2021, two full days of transition at Bingara Central School were facilitated. The preschool educators and staff at Bingara Central have also developed an individual transition statement, outlining the children's individual strengths, interests,





fears and concerns. The feedback that has been received from the school and their families is very positive and it has been identified that this comprehensive transition program benefits the children, their families, the educators and the teachers.

Excursions and Events:

Bingara Preschool has continued to build, strong positive relationships with the community and its surrounds. Over the past year the children have attended the following excursions and events: The Infants Frolic (Bingara Central School), The Orange Picking Ceremony (Community event), The Easter Hat Parade (Bingara Central School), The Orange Festival (Community event), Infants Sports Day (Bingara Central School), excursion to the local Bingara Library (multiple excursions), the Bingara Multi-Purpose Service and the Cultural Day (Bingara Central School). Bingara Preschool also celebrated Children's Week by celebrating and discussing similarities and differences. Also, the children voiced their opinions on what makes them happy whilst at Bingara Preschool.

Due to the restrictions in place with COVID-19, the Bingara Preschool was unable to attend the community Christmas Carnival or hold a presentation evening, where families are usually invited. The Bingara Preschool educators did however facilitate a special graduation ceremony where the board walk area at the Bingara Preschool was transformed into a 'High Tea'. The local Gwydir News Journalist attended and took a photo of each of the graduating children for their families. These graduating photos were also printed in the local edition of the Gwydir News for December (2020).

Visitors:

Bingara Preschool has welcomed a variety of visitors to the service during the last year. This included the Project Manager from The Living Classroom. The Project Manager spoke to the children about how to grow vegetables and how to look after the plants. He also brought in some plants for the children to explore through using their senses: taste, touch and smell.



Bingara Preschool celebrated 'National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Day' by inviting two local Indigenous artists to the service. The two local artists spent two days with the children teaching them about the Indigenous Culture. The children were able to explore a wide variety of culturally based experiences including dancing, storytelling and the creative arts. The children brought items from their home environment to create their own meaningful artworks to share with their families.

Bingara Preschool also welcomed the Library Officer from the Bingara Library. The Library Officer visited the service several times throughout the year, reading the children their favourite stories. She also incorporated the Bingara Preschool service into 'The Great Gwydir Book Hunt'.

Bingara Preschool during term two invited the local Family Day Care educators to visit every Tuesday. The Family Day Care educators facilitated weekly excursions with their children in care to Bingara Preschool where they engaged with the curriculum on offer. These excursions provide an excellent opportunity for the early childhood educators within the community to network, and for the younger Family Day Care children to start their transition to Bingara Preschool. Other visitors to Bingara Preschool included a local community member who came in and cooked with the children. She shared her cooking expertise and told the children stories about living in Bingara as a child.



Grants:

Capital Works Grant: In November 2020, Bingara Preschool secured a Capital Works Grant for the amount of \$157,000. The funds will be used to build an extra room onto the facility. This room will add thirteen extra places each day, to the Bingara Preschool's capacity.

Landcare/ Woolworths Grant: In June 2021, the Bingara Preschool was successful in their application for the Landcare/Woolworths Grant. This was for the amount of \$1,300. The funds will be used to create an Indigenous Bush Tucker Garden, with a Yarning Circle as the focal point of the area.

Fundraising Events:

Bingara Preschool have supported three charities within the last financial year. They are as following:

The first event was 'Talk Like a Pirate Day' which was held on Friday 21 September 2020. The children and educators dressed up as Pirates and explored the Pirate Day experiences. They also enjoyed the game of 'walking the plank'. The service set up an online donations page which received a total of \$353.88. This amount was donated to the Children's Cancer Foundation.



The second fundraising event was 'Pink Day' which raised funds for the Breast Cancer Foundation. This event was founded by three school aged children at Bingara Central School. The school children invited the Preschool children to be part of the event. On Wednesday 28 October 2020, the children and educators showed their support by wearing pink to Preschool. There was a donation tin placed near the sign in sheet and by the end of the day, the service had raised \$125. This donation was given to the three school children who added it to their community total.

'National Hamburger Day' was celebrated on Friday 28 May 2021. The children were able to enjoy a hamburger and donate to the Asthma Foundation. All the ingredients for the hamburgers were donated by the educators and the service's families. The service raised a total of \$155.75 for the Asthma Foundation. We look forward to another year full of fun at Bingara Preschool.





Tharawonga Mobile Resource Unit

Tharawonga has seen many changes this year particularly in relation to educators resigning from the service to pursue their careers and future adventures. Tharawonga has also welcomed another two educators. There has been a change in

Directors and the service has a new appointed Director from Term 2 2021. With the limited educators available we have had to adjust the days of operation at Gravesend and North Star.



Gravesend

no longer operates on Friday and North Star no longer operates on Thursday. Staff have received training in updating their CPR, First Aid, Child Protection and Behavior guidance. We have allocated additional resources to each venue for the purpose of further meeting the children's needs and interests giving educators other resources or options readily available at all venues. We have had some challenges with our rural and remote venues due to weather conditions however other venues such as Yetman and North Star have seen positive connections built with the schools and working in collaboration to build positive community connections.



Educational Program

The Educational leader has been working collaboratively with the educators to implement a sound pedagogical program. We have further extended and improved the current curriculum. With the focus being implementing meaningful and educational transitions to promote individual connections with children during the daily routine at each of the venues, we are focusing on building our respect for diversity and our communities through our daily acknowledgment of country which the children are encouraged to participate in and each term program and planning for specific national days of significance. The daily program is evaluated and critically reflected to facilitate improvements and changes required for the children's needs and interests. This year we have incorporated experiences to allow for periods of self-selected play, group times to build our sense of belongings and purposeful intentional teaching that focuses on specific developmental needs of all children. Sound and flexible routines have been implemented at each venue which assists the children in becoming familiar with the daily routine enabling them to further develop their sense of belonging, being and becoming. Sustainability practices have now been deeply embedded in the service throughout every venue to further develop the children's understanding about being responsible for and caring for their environment. To gain a board perspective of teaching styles in the service each educator is allocated a teaching day at every different venue.

Transition to School Program

Tharawonga builds connections with the remote schools where possible. At our Gravesend venue the school and Preschool were actively involved in meetings, visits and discussions for the children attending formal schooling. Through effective communication and collaboration, the North Star school has commenced a transition program for the children Term 3, 2021. Yetman school collaboratively networks with the service to plan their school transition for Term 4. Nineteen children are transitioning to school in 2021.



Compliance Visit

In July 2021, the service had a visit by a Department of Education representative. This visit was to provide support and assistance to the service for preparation for the Assessment and rating process. Each venue that the service operates at will have one visit in Term 3 to enable the representative to discuss our venue management plans and other appropriate and relevant service practice and information. As a result of our first visit to the North Star venue the representative provided us with informative and positive feedback on our plans and practices.



Excursions and Events

The public Librarian visited the Gravesend service they provided craft related activities from the stories that were read to the children. A local Healthwise representative visited the Gravesend and North Star venues to provide the children with education about nose blowing, hand washing and dental health. All venues held their own presentation and graduation day at the end of term 4 2020. In term 4, 2020 the Gravesend, North Star and Yetman services participated in an excursion to the local post offices to post cards to other children attending the service or family members to build on their interest of letters and posting and building the concept of how the mail works by sending to community members. The Gravesend service participated in many excursions in term 4, 2020 to the local school to build the children's understanding about attending formal school, further develop their sense of belonging and actively participate in their own community to develop an understand and reciprocal relationships while understanding responsibilities necessary for community participation and to develop a collaborative partnership.



The Gravesend service visited the local rural fire brigade to develop a collaborative partnership with community organisations and to further extend the children understanding about fire safety and what to do in emergencies. This is embedded into the service practice as the children and educators regularly are involved in practicing emergency evacuation procedures.

The educators at North Star implemented an extension opportunity of a significant community event for the children to participate in as part of clean up Australia day.

This opportunity was offered to the children through a recorded observation and the child's interest. The Gravesend service had a visit from Cleanaway to educate the children about rubbish sorting, actively engaging the children in taking turns of sorting the rubbish, providing the children with activities of sticking the rubbish onto the truck template for the correct bins. This is a daily practice that is embedded within our service. This organisation was scheduled to visit other venues, but these were postponed until further notice.



COVID-19

The reinstatement of the COVID-19 restrictions in Term 3 2021 saw the service need to make changes to be in line with the current public health orders. The service has a QR code for each of the venues that we operate from or a hard copy



form for the families to sign in on, temperature testing for children, educators and visitors, social distancing between adults, ensuring that hands are sanitised as required particularly at arrival to the service, frequently washing hands, regularly cleaning surfaces and wearing masks.

Vacation Care

Vacation Care was held during the September/October, December, January, and April school holidays. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Vacation Care did not run through the 2020 July School Holidays. The program covers several key developmental areas for children, including gross motor development, creative skills, social development, and fine motor skills.

Bingara Vacation Care	Warialda Vacation Care
12 Families	16 Families
20 Children	24 Children
11 Girls	11 Girls
9 Boys	13 Boys
Points of Contact: 63	Points of Contact: 111

Each Vacation Care program was held at Bingara Preschool and Warialda Sport and Recreation Ground or Warialda Town Hall, this gave children from both towns an opportunity to attend the activities. During the January school holidays, Vacation Care only ran in Warialda.

Some of the day's activities included sand craft, beading, team challenges, minute to win it challenges, pie face, cooking, lineman, stuck in the mud, wink murder, bon bon making, Mr. squiggle, sardines, hide & seek, and various ball games.

All facilities used were perfect for the children, as they had the opportunity to be outside and active using their gross motor skills, and were also perfect for weather conditions, whether it be hot or cold, raining, or sunny.

Youth Services

During 2020/2021 the Gwydir Shire Youth Officer has been working with the schools and assisting young people who have been having trouble with school and out of school. This also involved helping some with resumes, or Centrelink claims.

Youth Council

Young people from Bingara Central School and Warialda High school have combined to form the 2020/2021 Gwydir Shire Youth Council. Ben Perry, Rachel Coulton, Jackie Woodward, Alex Smith, Abbie-Jewel Kent, Anthony Francis, Emily-Kate Rattray, Sarah Dennis, Marshall Bond, and Andrew Bancroft are the 2020 Youth Council. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the original event scheduled for the end of 2020 to celebrate Nation Youth Week had to be changed into an online event. The Youth Council hosted a Trivia Night via Kahoot, which enabled participants to join in the comfort of their own home. For the latest National Youth Week event, the Youth Council held a colour run in Warialda. Participants had a lot of fun, and it was great to see participants from both Bingara and Warialda.





Youth Council – My Life, My Town Photo Competition

Throughout the June/July school holidays “My Life, My Town” Photo Competition took place. It was open for all ages. This event was perfect for the COVID-19 restrictions that were in place, as this activity could be done individually, without a mass grouping of people. It worked in well as some entrants had planned to be away, but these plans were cancelled last minute so they then participated in the event. As there were only around 10 participants, plenty more were viewing the photos. We also found this was a great opportunity to provide feedback to see what people would like to change in their towns.



Above: Aiden Price “Add a Splash Park”



Above: Emma Elizabeth “Winter”

Youth Council – Treasure Hunt

Throughout the June/July school holidays, the Gwydir Youth Council held a Treasure Hunt. The Treasure hunt was conducted around 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 via social media, of which places they had found. They were given clues to help also 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 of what a great activity it was to do with the family, and COVID safe.



Youth Exchange

In previous years, the Gwydir Shire Youth Council have participated in the Willoughby Gwydir Youth Exchange. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, during 2020/2021 the Youth Exchange could not go ahead. We are hoping next year we will see minimal interruptions and it is able to go ahead.

Youth Council Conference

In previous years, the Gwydir Shire Youth Council have attended the Youth Council Conference in Goulbourn. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the 2020/2021 Youth Council Conference could not go ahead. We look forward to attending the next Youth Council Conference.



Naroo Frail Aged Hostel

Refurbishment of the Naroo Kitchen

Under the Commonwealth Government's Aged Care Regional Rural & Remote Infrastructure Grant commenced in June 2020. There was a delay in works due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Work was completed in August 2020 and the new kitchen is now operational delivering meals to our Residents that reside in Naroo. The kitchen has greatly improved the working conditions of staff working in the kitchen and has allowed for meals to residents suffering from Dementia to be delivered to the unit and remain in a temperature controlled box until they are ready to eat thereby complying with all food safety regulations.

Quality Indicators

Naroo continues to submit Quality Indicator data quarterly to the Department of Health. The Quality Indicators have expanded to include:

- pressure injuries
- physical restraint
- unplanned weight loss
- falls and major injury (new)
- Medication management (new) including polypharmacy and anti-psychotics.



Lounge room and Dining area renovations

The Naroo committee generously donated monies to upgrade the furniture in both the lounge and dining area. Naroo purchased new blinds for both areas and new flooring. Naroo is very fortunate to have a committee invested in improving the lives and living environment of our residents.



Person Centred Software

A new electronic documentation system was purchased and implemented for Naroo. This system allows staff to document in real time on a device that they carry with them at all times. This has allowed for an improvement in documentation and more time being spent with the residents rather than sitting at a computer documenting at the end of each shift. The system also allows for a Carer gateway in which families and carers can log in and see what their loved one has been doing for the day and what cares have been given.



Royal Commission

There is a total of 148 recommendations that have already commenced with changes such as SIRS reporting and management of residents requiring chemical and/or physical restraint.

There is a much greater emphasis on the Boards understanding and input into aged care for the clinical delivery of services.



The SIRS requires every residential aged care service to have in place an effective incident management system – a set of protocols, processes, and standard operating procedures that staff are trained to use.

This means adopting a systematic approach to minimise the risk of and response to incidents that occur in a residential care setting. An incident management system is vital in supporting residential age care services to effectively manage risks to their consumers, visitors and staff.

Under the SIRS, there are 8 types of reportable incidents:

- Unreasonable use of force – *for example, hitting, pushing, shoving, or rough handling.*
- Unlawful sexual contact or inappropriate sexual conduct – *such as sexual threats or stalking, or sexual activities without consent.*
- Psychological or emotional abuse – *such as yelling, name calling, ignoring a consumer, threatening gestures, or refusing a consumer access to care or services as a means of punishment.*
- Unexpected death – *where poor quality clinical care is provided to a consumer resulting in their death, or where the actions of a consumer result in the death of another consumer.*
- Stealing or financial coercion by a staff member – *for example, where a staff member coerces a consumer to change their will to their advantage or steals valuables from the consumer.*
- Neglect – *for example, withholding personal care, untreated wounds, or insufficient assistance during meals.*
- Inappropriate physical or chemical restraint – *where physical or chemical restraint is used without prior consent or without notifying the consumer’s representative as soon as practicable; where physical restraint is used in a non-emergency situation; or when a provider issues a drug to a consumer to influence their behaviour as a form of chemical restraint.*
- Unexplained absence from care – *where the consumer is absent from the service without explanation and there are reasonable grounds to report the absence to the police.*

The Commission must be notified of all reportable incidents. This includes incidents that occur, or are alleged or suspected to have occurred, and includes incidents involving a care recipient with cognitive or mental impairment (such as dementia).

Restraint – please see letter on the following page received from the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner. [A printable version of this letter can be downloaded from our website.](#)

Call bell Security System

With advancements in technology and an outdated nurse call system, a tender was sought to supply and install a more advanced system that was capable of providing a solution to meet our resident needs, making safety and high-quality care a priority.

Naroo now has a state of the art system that notifies staff when a resident gets out of bed or falls through the night via Optical Sensors in the ceiling of rooms. Duress pendants worn by staff and residents increases safety providing faster response times.

Security cameras installed in communal areas providing further surveillance and assistance to support resident and staff and review of incidents by management. Reports for accreditation purposes can also be downloaded such as response to call times.

Bed Occupancy

Naroo’s bed occupancy has remained above average throughout the year and is indicative of the quality care given to residents and the good name it has in the area.





Australian Government
Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission

Engage
Empower
Safeguard

28 June 2021

Dear Board Chair and CEO

Re: Important changes relating to the use of restrictive practices

I am writing to advise all Board Chairs and CEOs of residential aged care approved providers of important changes regarding the use of restrictive practices. These changes have been introduced by the Australian Government in response to the findings and recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

From 1 July 2021, approved providers have more specific responsibilities under the Aged Care Act 1997 and the Quality of Care Principles 2014 relating to the use of any restrictive practice in residential aged care and short-term restorative care in a residential care setting.

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (the Commission) has issued a [Regulatory Bulletin](#) which sets out your new responsibilities and provides important information for you and your staff to help you ensure that your care and services accord with the changed requirements.

The [Regulatory Bulletin](#) outlines the requirements that must be met before and during the use of any restrictive practice and the resources to support providers to meet these requirements. It also outlines how the Commission will monitor compliance and manage any identified non-compliance with these requirements, as well as a provider's performance against the Aged Care Quality Standards.

The Commission will continue to monitor providers' use of restrictive practices through complaint handling processes, responding to notifications made under the Serious Incident Response Scheme, and as part of quality assessment and monitoring activities, including accreditation audits.

Providers who are currently compliant with their legal obligations with respect to restrictive practices are well placed to address the new requirements. In other words, if you already have in place systems, procedures, staff training and care practices that are aimed at minimising restraint, this is the best starting point for your implementation of the new arrangements.

I strongly encourage you to review and carefully consider the changed requirements, and to support your staff in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the older people in your care.

Yours sincerely,

J. M. Anderson

Janet Anderson PSM
Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner

1800 951 822
agedcarequality.gov.au





Retention Bonus

The Australian Government announced a \$234.9 million COVID-19 Aged Care Workforce Retention Payment on 20 March 2020. Payments of up to \$800 per quarter of 2 quarters to be directly paid to care workers to reinforce the workforce which has been facing staffing challenges due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Naroo Management successfully applied ensuring that staff receive this bonus in accordance with the guidelines.

Audrey Finney turns 100

Residents at Naroo celebrated Audrey's birthday with a beautiful high tea. Audrey grew up on the property between Warialda and Gravesend. Later married and lived in the Sydney area to work as telephonist/clerical worker at Essential Services. After retirement Audrey and her husband moved to back to the area and called Inverell home.

Funding

Joblink Plus upskilling existing staff. Naroo has applied for a grant to support upskill training for existing staff for improvement and enhancements of knowledge and education which supports the facilities direct needs in conjunction with Joblink Plus. Management have identified specific training opportunities, such as First Aid Certificates, CPR Training, Medication and Palliative care. The funding was successful, and training provided to staff in April 2021.

Grant Application

The Aged Care Manager is currently working on 2 grant applications:

- ACFR- Aged Care Approvals Round. This year's application is around building a new room for Activities and Leisure and to cover in the internal courtyard so it can be used all year round for activities and special events.
- BIF – Business Improvement Fund – to assist Aged Care facilities that are financially struggling but not considering closure. A separate audit was required which has been completed by PwC. Application completed and still awaiting confirmation.



Leisure and Lifestyle program

Naroo has a robust Lifestyle and leisure program in place lead by a fulltime Activities coordinator. This program has been invaluable during the COVID pandemic and lock downs to continue supporting our resident's mental health, socialisation and overall wellbeing. Carers and families are much happier seeing their loved ones being engaged and happy and having quality of life.





All Care staff are empowered and encouraged to be involved in activities with residents to provide a flexible and varied program including over the weekends. We feel it is very important to be able to integrate those residents with decreased cognitive ability into the daily activities. Too often residents suffering from Dementia and other illnesses that reduce cognitive ability are under stimulated and unengaged in their life. Meaningful activities for people suffering from Dementia provides mental stimulation and has been demonstrated to improve cognitive function.

Impact of COVID-19

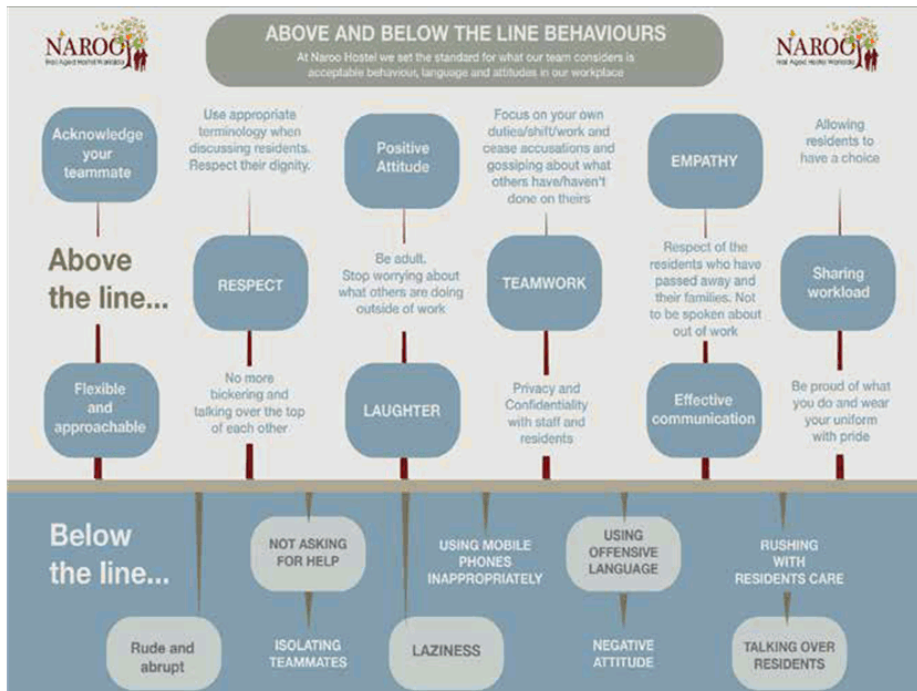
All residential aged care facilities are required to engage an onsite clinical lead to provide leadership and increase capacity in relation to infection prevention and control. The Australian Government is providing a second payment of the COVID-19 supplement to assist facilities in meeting the additional costs of preparing for and responding to COVID-19.

Outbreak plans are in place for the management of general outbreaks and a COVID-19 outbreak and are kept up to date by the Aged Care Manager.

Naroo Team Standards

Naroo staff developed “Above and Below Behaviours” in 2018 and these are reviewed annually. At the last staff meeting on the 17th February the behaviours were revisited and discussed with all staff and changes made accordingly.

The “Above and Below Behaviours” promotes acceptable behaviour, language and attitudes in our workplace and encourages staff to speak up in a respectable manner.





Bingara Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP)

The past year has been greatly affected by COVID-19 interrupting our services, particularly Group Social Support Activities. Looking back through our photos it is amazing the things we did manage to do.

In the months we weren't locked down or services not operating, we visited Copeton Dam and had lunch in the kiosk area. Clients also enjoyed a BBQ on the Bingara Golf Course. We had planned a lunch at the Bingara Sporting Club Chinese Restaurant, a trip to Maggie Mays in Manilla and a visit to the Library for a Movie and finger food lunch but all outings unfortunately had to be cancelled. These outings will be on our agenda for this year as soon as it is possible.

While we could hold our Tuesday Morning Tea/lunches, we celebrated special events such as Melbourne Cup, Christmas, Australia Day, St Patrick's Day, Easter, Mother's Day and we introduced a monthly Birthday party for everyone who celebrated their Birthdays during that month. The Ladies are missing their Tuesdays in the Lingalonger room and until the lockdown in August we have been delivering morning teas and keeping a check on our clients making sure everyone is Ok and has everything they need. We are currently ringing clients regularly to keep in contact particularly with those who have no family in Bingara.

While attending morning tea/lunch, the Ladies have been knitting. They have contributed to some very worthwhile causes while doing something they love. The many squares Knitted by the Ladies were sent to "Wrapped with Love" and made into blankets. The finished products are distributed to homeless people. Baby Jackets, beanies and booties knitted were sent to "Life's Little Treasures" for premature babies. The knitting continues at home.

Transport to out of town Medical Appointments has continued through the pandemic with very few appointments being cancelled. Volunteers have remained devoted to the cause looking after our clients in an exceptional manner.

The Access Bus travelled to Inverell twice a month when possible. The bus was also utilised for medical appointments when both other vehicles were in use or when several clients had appointments booked and Social Distancing rules needed to be adhered to.

Bingara's elderly population have been supporting the COVID-19 vaccination program with many of our clients using our local transport to the Bingara Medical centre for their vaccines. Most of our Clients and volunteers have had both of their AstraZeneca shots. Staff have one shot due in October.

An unusually wet year has also contributed to an increase in the use of local transport.

Bingara CHSP centre	Data
No. clients receiving services	215
Transport trips provided	2070
Meals on Wheels provided (in home)	2301
Meals provided in centre	357
Group social support hours provided	1620 hrs
Individual social support hours provided	3902 hrs

Meals on Wheels service has serviced up to eighteen clients during the past twelve months, levelling at twelve clients at the end of the financial year. Salads were very popular during summer months. Volunteers all underwent online training with help from staff. Volunteers remain at around twenty for the Meals on Wheels deliveries.



Warialda/Delungra Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP)

Commonwealth Home Support Program provides services to clients in and around our Local Shire areas. Providing Meals on Wheels (fresh/frozen) Day Centre meals, activities and transport local and out of town, social support (group and individual), including monthly outings, organising Day Centre groups and annual Christmas parties.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions brought in, our facility had to cease all services for a few months. Clients, volunteers, and staff were all impacted by this closure. Volunteers were unable to offer their time to drive clients to appointments etc. nor were they able to come into the centre to help with functions. Clients were greatly affected as they were not allowed to visit the centre at all, and during the statewide lockdown many were unable to leave their homes. This time was particularly horrific for our clients as often, visiting our CHSP offices is the only social outing that they have. Bus trips to Inverell also ceased and staff had to take over the delivery of Meals On Wheels, and some transport trips. CHSP staff also attended Naroo to assist with afternoon activities. Warialda CHSP are doing their bit to keep our community safe and are following regulatory standards with PPE, sanitising, hand washing, use of mask, sign in sheet, and temperature checks.

During the COVID-19 pandemic all day trips were suspended, greatly impacting on the social and mental welfare of centre clients. To help combat this, staff took the time to do weekly "welfare checks" on clients, by making time to speak to them individually on the phone. Staff also made contactless deliveries of morning and afternoon teas to try and lift the spirits of clients.

During the year the centre, when COVID-19 has allowed and with the help of volunteers, the CHSP bus takes clients to Inverell for their fortnightly jobs, shopping and other appointments. This service has a regular stream of clients that utilize the opportunity to spend the day out of town once a fortnight.

Client care plans are continuously updated, and all other relevant reporting requirements are adhered to in a timely manner, including police checks.

Newsletters are distributed to clients monthly to keep them informed of what is happening at the CHSP office and birthdays are celebrated monthly for our special clients and volunteers. These celebrations give everyone something to look forward to and bring joy to our clients.

Warialda CHSP staff would like to take this opportunity to say our services would not survive without our volunteers who help daily.

Warialda/Delungra Day Centres	Warialda Data	Delungra Data
Clients receiving service	87	16
Transport trips provided	886	160
Meals on Wheels provided in home	711	-
Meals provided at centers	1567	601
Group social support	2621 hrs	1277 hrs
Individual social support	702 hrs	31 hrs
Volunteers	44	1
Outings	1	1
	Salt Cave Bingara	Bingara RSL Club Bingo & Luncheon



Our Achievements in Building Services

Council's Building Services Business Unit comprises six full time, 1 part time and school-based trainee staff members and is responsible for, but not limited to providing the following services to the community:

- Building approvals, certification, and inspections
- Swimming pool compliance and inspections
- Sanitary plumbing and drainage approvals and inspections
- Building repairs and maintenance
- Capital works construction

Building Certification and inspections

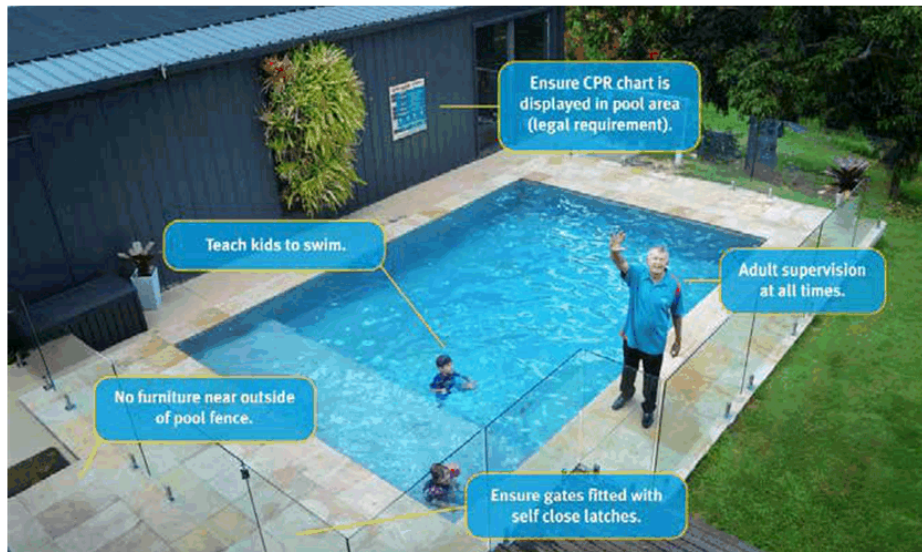
Building Services staff provide an effective and affordable building approval, certification, and inspection service to the community. Services extend to the assessment and issuing of construction certificates, building certificates and occupation certificates. Staff also carry out critical stage mandatory building inspections during the building process to ensure that buildings and structures are compliant, safe, and fit for purpose.

Our Business Unit also provides information and advice to members of our community in relation to various building related issues.

Building Services staff respond to complaints received in relation to illegal development, building safety and other matters and carry out investigations and enforcement action where necessary.

Swimming Pool Inspections

Building Services have a private swimming pool inspection program in place where all known swimming pools in Gwydir Shire are inspected once every three years. The program is designed to ensure that owners



Above: Swimming Pool inspections aim to protect our young children from accidental drowning



of private swimming pools maintain their pools and pool barriers in an effective manner to ensure the safety of all pool users. We are now into our 4th year of the swimming pool inspections with every known swimming pool within Gwydir Shire having been inspected at least once. In the 2020/21 financial year Council inspectors carried out 51 pool inspections. Of those 51 inspections, 47 pools were found to be compliant on the first inspection, with 2 pools being compliant on reinspection. There were 2 swimming pools which remained non-compliant at the end of the 2020/2021 financial year and Council inspectors are working with those pool owners to ensure compliance. Gwydir Shire Council issued 49 swimming pool compliance certificates.

Sanitary plumbing and drainage approvals and inspections

Gwydir Shire Council is the delegated authority by Fair Trading NSW to issue approvals for and inspections of sanitary plumbing and drainage within the Gwydir Shire Local Government Area. This includes the installation of all sanitary plumbing and drainage and includes the installation of on-site sewerage management systems (OSSM) where there is no access to a reticulated sewer system.

Council regularly conducts inspections on OSSM systems for the sale of properties to ensure that systems have been installed properly and are operating effectively to ensure health of the occupants, adjoining properties, and the environment.

All sanitary plumbing and drainage work must be carried out by an appropriately licensed plumber.

Building Repairs and Maintenance

Building Services carried out over 50 planned maintenance activities and responded to in excess of 100 reactive repairs and maintenance requests across approximately 200 Council owned building assets. Staff also responded to after-hours security calls and emergency repairs to Council buildings.

Staff carried out refurbishments to our aged units at Whitfeld Place, Holden Street & Plunkett Street.

Capital Works

Our regular Capital Works program for 2020/2021 was again deferred to allow Building Services staff to undertake projects under the Stronger Country Communities Grant Funding program and other Grant funded projects.

These projects included the following:

- Bingara Pool Complex – Construction of new entry/kiosk building
- Cunningham Park – Construction of new amenities building
- The Living Classroom – Construction of new livestock shed
- Warialda Recreation Ground – Bar/BBQ Function Centre



Right: Warialda Recreation Ground Bar/BBQ Function Centre



Project Management

There were a number of projects which were carried out by external contractors which were project managed by Building Services staff under a number of different grant funding streams. These included:

- Warialda Medical Centre refurbishments
- Warialda Golf & Bowling Club improvements
- 47 Hope Street alterations, repairs & maintenance
- CWA Hall improvements
- Crooble Hall improvements
- Warialda Catholic Convent painting
- Warialda Anglican Church Hall improvements



Above: Warialda Golf & Bowling Club – Renovated commercial kitchen

Training

Council’s Building Services staff continue to undergo mandatory training to ensure their ability to maintain a safe and compliant workforce which includes:

- Safe working within proximity of power lines training
- First aid training
- Asbestos removal

Staff also participated in CPD training to ensure their ability to maintain accreditation where required under relevant legislation.

Summary

The Building Services Business Unit continues to work collaboratively and cooperatively with other Business Units within Gwydir Shire Council to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of our goals for our community.

There are a number of exciting Capital Works projects that are in the advanced planning stages which will be delivered in the 2021/2022 financial year and we look forward to reporting on these in the next annual report.



Our Achievements in Environment and Sustainability

Noxious Weeds

This year marked the first year of the new 5 year Weed Action Plan. The plan ranks noxious weeds according to their impact and prevalence in the region, with the highest ranked referred to as Priority Weeds. The Shire is divided into 5 areas with section A starting at the southernmost area of the Shire. Properties in Section E and A were inspected and control information and advice given to landholders regarding their biosecurity duties. Routine inspections, reinspection's, education, weed control and identification was completed for the period.

The weeds team purchased a trailer for the Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV). This will allow staff to take the UTV to sites across the Shire that is difficult to access by motor vehicle.

The department is running Chartis software for GPS capturing and reporting weeds data to the standards required by the Department of Primary Industry (DPI).

Priority weeds were successfully controlled in hotspots identified around the Shire and across our road network. Working closely with the Local Lands Service, Landcare, North West Weeds and bordering Shires. The Harissia Cactus containment line at North Star was held, with control works done across the area. Staff continue to attend the Harrisia working group meetings.

The weeds unit in partnership with Landcare, run cochineal bug propagation in the purpose-built greenhouse at The Living Classroom. Bugs are available for landholders to control tiger pear, rope pear and prickly pear. The weeds unit renovated the site to replace the shade cloth roof with alsynite. Biological control continues to be monitored on cat's claw creeper on the Gwydir River in Gravesend. The department also coordinated weed control across the Gwydir River camping areas in Bingara, including the expanded Faithful camping areas.

A major Parthenium outbreak was detected at Croppa Creek. A regional rapid response team inspected and immediately undertook control. The Department of Primary Industries provided funding and a response was coordinated with the Weeds Unit and the Local Land Services. This included expanded inspection areas to identify the extent of any spread and ongoing control of any weeds detected. The other parthenium weed hot spots were routinely checked and plants were detected, destroyed and reported.

A project to remove willows was coordinated by the weeds team. Technical services mechanically removed willows from the middle of the Gwydir River. This improves river flow, improves habitat and removes competition for native species. The project attracted a lot of attention on social media. The council responded to these inquiries by providing information about willow's detrimental effects on river systems.

Educational activities

The weeds officers attended two parthenium and one harrisia cactus field days. The usual display occurred at the Bingara and Warialda show. There was a great response to the stall at the Bingara show this year with a line up occurring. Information was provided to residents and landholders about priority weeds.

Private works

The following are part of funded regional activities for intensive weed control and eradication and containment.



New England Weeds authority Macleay Valley tropical soda apple and Bingara general.
August and September 2020 \$4511.00 + GST

Compliance

The department conducted camping inspections along the Gwydir River. Inspections of camping areas is done daily through the working week and staff attending call out after hours as required. Across the year there was a daily average of 19 caravans and motorhomes visiting the Gwydir River campgrounds. There were no major incidents in the camping areas. There have been minimal camps set up outside the designated areas. There were six camping complaints received. Sandstone blocks were also installed to prevent vehicles driving along the riverbank at speed towing persons on the water.

Staff distributed brochures to campers promoting local goods and services. The general behaviour of campers was compliant and there were no public order or safety issues. However, small amounts of rubbish were left at camp sites and verbal warnings were given to not cut firewood.

COVID-19 public health orders saw the camping areas shut to new arrivals for times during the period. During the closures temporary signage and barriers were erected and staff monitored the areas. There were no reported incidents related to the pandemic. A very small number of permanent travellers were effectively stranded without a residence to return to. Their status was verified and there were no issues with them remaining on site until they could continue to other destinations as they were opened.

The Regulatory officers seized 13 dogs that were microchipped and registered with current owner contact information. This enabled them to be reunited with their owners with a warning instead of going to the pound.

A further five dogs were seized and transferred to the impounding facility. Three were rehomed within the area and to rehoming organisations. The staff have networked with several rehoming organisations across the state ensure that the maximum number of unclaimed suitable pets find a new home.

The Regulatory officers seized seven domestic cats in the period. Three were rehomed within the area and to rehoming organisations. Feral cat control was undertaken at the landfills as well as cat traps set and monitored. The council partnered with the Local Land Service in two programs. A feral cat monitoring program at the landfill at Warialda and Warialda Rail. This saw the deployment of monitoring equipment to determine numbers at these sites. As well as a wild dog baiting program covering part of the Warialda region. The baiting occurred along Mosquito Creek Road Warialda through to Gravesend.

Routine surveillance was conducted at rest stops for litter and truck effluent release. Staff also regularly monitor unauthorised access to the remote landfills.

During the period 5 goats were impounded and released back to their owners after the impounding fees were paid. Council received seven abandoned vehicles reports and identified owners who were notified to remove them. The remaining unclaimed vehicles did not reach the value threshold so were taken to the landfill for scrap as provided for under the Impounding Act.

In the period 17 dog barking and two other noise complaints were reported and investigated. Six dog roaming reports and eight nuisance animal reports were investigated.

Staff dealt with ten non-companion Animal matters. Including requests concerning horses, cows, chickens, roosters and a duck. One smoke and burning and two public health requests about septic issues were also investigated and one notice of intention was issued. All matters were resolved.



Council received 31 overgrown and untidy block reports in the reporting period. These were inspected along with proactive patrol of the villages and 46 notices of intention were issued. 14 of these went to order.

With the higher rainfall and more available feed there was a steep decline in the number of grazing permit concurrences processed. Three grazing permit concurrences were processed for the period compared to 42 for the proceeding period. The better condition also led to a decline in 'stock on road' calls for the period.

Dog Attack Statistics

Known dog attacks reported and investigated by Council's Regulatory officers are entered into the Companion Animals Database, in accordance with the requirements of the Companion Animals Act 1998. During 2020/2021 there were 6 incidents involving 8 dogs reported to Council. All incidents were investigated and reported through the Companion Animals Database portal. All incidents were resolved.

In the villages backyard burning is only permissible with a permit. Council undertook an 'approval to burn' promotion. Materials were produced and distributed. Three approvals to burn applications were assessed and approved.

Staff undertook the required inspection of the approved breeding facility in the shire. Compliance staff also undertook native animal spotting during bypass construction. The Ranger's Conference was cancelled this period due to COVID-19.

Penalty Notices

Companion animal (dog) 7 penalties issued
fail to comply with order 5 penalties issued
Animal Unattended in a public place 1 penalty issued

Food

COVID-19 restrictions again meant that the inspection program was suspended for times during the reporting period. This also meant that a number of events were also cancelled. All 27 medium and high-risk food businesses had an annual inspection, except for the school canteens. Mobile food vans and stalls that did make it to the shire were also inspected. The yearly food inspection survey was completed and submitted to the Food Authority.

Information was distributed to food businesses including food authority fact sheets and a regional food safety calendar. People seeking information about starting a food retail business, mobile and home food businesses were given the relevant information. Three complaints were received for the period. They were investigated and the appropriate actions were taken. Staff attended remote regional meetings and training sessions with the Food Authority.

Water sampling

Weekly water sampling was conducted for Bingara and Warialda, fortnightly for Gravesend and monthly for North Star as per the NSW Health requirements.

Electricity

Electricity consumption continues to be monitored through the Azility portal. The total electricity expenditure was \$447,604. Down 21% from last year for a saving of \$93,298. Usage also dropped from 7,643GJ for the previous period to 5,881Gj.

Council's 3 large sites (Naroo, Bingara Water Treatment Plant and the Warialda Sale Yard Bore) are contracted through Origin, Street lighting is through ERM, and all the small user sites are through AGL. The



contracts are made through Local Government Procurement who negotiate for the best price and stability in the volatile energy market. All three contracts are up for renewal at the end of 2022.

Solar systems are operational at Naroo, the Bingara Council Chambers, Warialda Council Chambers, Warialda Works Depot, Warialda Sewerage Treatment Works and the Roxy theatre.

Building services continued to roll out LED lighting which significantly reduces power consumption.

Cemeteries

Annual cemetery reporting was completed for the period for the operating cemeteries. The total interments were 28 for the period, 13 at Warialda and 15 at Bingara.

Seven inurnments were made. In Warialda, two were made in grave sites and one in columbarium. In Bingara, one was made in a grave site and two in the columbarium.



Our achievements in Waste

Through the hierarchy of Avoid, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle the Gwydir Shire Council aims to achieve sustainability and the responsible use and disposal of resources within the region.

The Shire provides Landfill and Transfer sites services at 7 facilities across the Shire. Warialda and Bingara have a fully staffed landfill operating 7 days a week. There are remote landfills at Coolatai, Croppa Creek, Gravesend, Warialda Rail and Upper Horton, and a transfer station facility at North Star. All residents and ratepayers across the Gwydir Shire have access to a landfill or transfer station.

Gwydir Shire Council provides households with a 3 bin system consisting of general waste, recycling and food and kitchen organics (FOGO). Commercial and Non Rateable properties have a general waste, recycling service and food and kitchen organics upon request as needed.

There are Public Place Bins in parks, ovals, and rest areas all across the Shire. Commercial and domestic 'Cardboard cage' recycling services are located at Bingara, Croppa Creek, Gravesend, Warialda and Upper Horton. The Gwydir Shire Council also provides a range of specialised recycling and disposal services such as Asbestos, DrumMuster, Mobile Muster, Printer Cartridge, E-Waste, Petroleum and Cooking Oil and Household Chemical Collections.

Council is a member of the Northern Inland Regional Waste Group. This group was formed in 1998. Northern Inland Regional Waste (NIRW) is a collaboration of Councils from the New England and North West region of New South Wales who are focused on delivering cost effective and sustainable waste management options for the regional community. Armidale Regional Council hosts the positions of the NIRW Executive Officer and Program Coordinator. Current member councils are Armidale Regional Council, Glen Innes Severn Shire, Gunnedah Shire, Gwydir Shire, Inverell Shire, Liverpool Plains Shire, Moree Plains Shire, Narrabri Shire, Tamworth Regional, Uralla Shire, Tenterfield Shire and Walcha Shire.

Waste Collection

Collection reminders and education have been sent via push notification through the waste app. The education campaign targets improvement of recycling habits and increased use of FOGO bin (Food Organics Garden Organics Bin).

- An average of 329 kg per service was collected in the Red bin over 1563 services down from 263 kg up, +25%.
- An average of 112 kg per service was collected in the Yellow bin over 1563 services down from 126 kg, -11%.
- An average of 147 kg per service was collected in the Green bin over 1373 services up from 129 kg, +14%.

The continued drop in recycling was expected with better diversion through the container deposit scheme. There is a good incline in green bin mass which may be due to education and promotion. Leading to a better uptake of use as well as more people spending time at home and in the garden due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Landfills and Transfer Stations

Landfills and Transfer Stations were operated successfully during 2020/2021. Due to a restructure Landfill staff were moved to Engineering Services and staff from this area have been successfully providing relief staff to cover annual leave and sick leave of the rostered Landfill Operators. The two manned Landfills continue to provide services 7 days a week and there is 24 hour access to all of the unmanned Landfills.



Our Achievements in Town Utilities

Water

Gwydir Shire Council provides water supply to Wialda, Bingara, Gravesend and North Star. Wialda's water supply is sourced from groundwater from five bores. The water is aerated and disinfected with sodium hypochlorite before being delivered to residents.

Bingara's water supply is sourced from the Gwydir River via bank infiltration chamber; the water is then treated using dissolved air floatation/filtration process and disinfected with chlorine before delivery to reservoirs where the water gravitates to users.

Gravesend water supply is sourced from the Gwydir River via bank infiltration bores located north-east of Gravesend. Water is disinfected with sodium hypochlorite before being delivered to residents. North Star's water supply is sourced from sub artesian



ground water. The water is aerated and then treated using Reverse Osmosis and disinfection with sodium hypochlorite before being delivered to residents. *Above: Bingara water treatment plant laboratory*

Water Operations and Maintenance

In 2020/2021 a total of 701ML of water was treated and delivered to users in the Shire.

Two new water connections were installed during 2020/2021. Fourteen water service lines were replaced from main to meter and 136 service lines repaired.

A total of 38 water meters were replaced due to age limit or faults and 38 water main breaks were repaired. A new drinking fountain was installed in Fays Park in Bingara.

Council's four water supplies operate under a Drinking Water Quality Management system which involves placement of multiple barriers of protection to ensure water quality is maintained. Inspection and testing of water quality occurs on a daily basis and protocols are followed. As an independent check, Council's Environmental Department collects water samples from the reticulation system of the four supplies and these samples are provided to NSW Health laboratory for analysis. In 2020/2021 there were two water quality incidents at Gravesend due to rainfall in the catchment area causing high turbidity in the Gwydir River. Water quality parameters could not be maintained and as a result Gravesend was placed on a Boiled Water Alert from 18 December 2020 to 28 January 2021 and 23 March to 23 April 2021.

Water Restrictions

During the 2020/2021 Financial Year Level 1 water restrictions remained in place to encourage the efficient use of water.



Water charges

Water charges have an access component and a usage component with a two-part tariff. Water usage less than 600KL is charged at \$1.50/KL and water usage over 600KL incurs a charge of \$2.10/KL. Water billing is undertaken on a quarterly basis.

Warialda Rail Water

During the reporting period, Council undertook a survey and community consultation of residents and ratepayers of Warialda Rail to determine the level of support for a reticulated water supply to the village of Warialda Rail. The results highlighted that the majority of residents and ratepayers of Warialda Rail are self-sufficient with their water supply with either bores or rainwater tanks and are happy with the current situation. No further investigation to extend Warialda's water supply to service Warialda Rail will be undertaken.

Grant Funding

Council received a grant from NSW Department of Industry and Environment (DPIE) under Safe and Secure Water Program (SSWP) for \$45,000 for the investigation of Gravesend water quality. The study was undertaken by Hunter H20, and the report has been submitted to Council for review. The report will be used for future funding applications for the improvement of Gravesend water quality.

Council received a second grant from DPIE under SSWP for \$57,750 for Automation, Monitoring and Telemetry. The main objective of this project is to determine the requirements to improve water treatment instrumentation, monitoring and automation at the four water supplies and two sewerage plants. Council has received the draft report which will be used for future funding applications.

Water Supply Capital improvements 2020/2021 included:

- Water Meter replacement program
- Bingara Swimming Pool – water installation
- Bingara raw water pump station footbridge replacement
- Upper Horton Water Supply Improvements – grant funded
- Replacement of submersible bore pump at Gravesend
- Bingara water treatment plant eastern side skillion construction
- Telemetry upgrade – including backup server and remote monitor
- Water main replacement Copeton Dam Road 475m of 150mm



Bingara water pump station footbridge replacement

Upper Horton

Upper Horton's water supply was greatly enhanced with the installation of a new 350KL storage tank and pipework. The work included installation of the storage tank, construction of a new bore, connecting pipework and diesel generator. The project was funded by the Federal Government's Community Drought Program.



Upper Horton storage tank



Sewerage Systems

Gwydir Shire Council operates two sewerage systems. Warialda's sewerage system was built in 1969/1970 with a design size of 1500EP (equivalent population). Warialda operates under Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Licence L584 for small treatment plants with an allowable discharge of 250ML/year into Reedy Creek. The yearly inflow into the sewerage treatment was 180ML; 55ML of treated effluent was recycled and used at the local Golf Course to irrigate the fairways and tees. Bingara sewerage system was commissioned in 1971 and has a design capacity of 2000EP. The Bingara system operates under EPA licence L586 for small treatment plants with an allowable discharge of 250ML/year into the Gwydir River. The inflow for Bingara sewerage treatment plant was 45ML and 5ML of treated effluent was recycled and used on site.

Council's residential sewer access charge is \$500/annum, non-residential sewer access charge is \$425/annum, non-residential sewer customers also pay a usage charge based on their water consumption and a sewer discharge factor. Non-residential customers have a trade waste charge levied each year.

The extension of Bingara's sewerage service is in progress with property audits completed, geotechnical investigations completed, costings obtained, a business case developed, and a submission prepared for funding from Safe and Secure Water Program.

Annual Returns for both Warialda and Bingara sewerage treatment plants were submitted in December 2020.

The EPA licences for both sewerage treatment plants require monthly water testing to be undertaken at the discharge to the Gwydir River and Reedy Creek. These results are published on Council's website every month.

Capital Works Sewer during 2020/2021 included:

- Truckwash ponds at Warialda
- Telemetry Alarms at Warialda truckwash
- Bingara sewerage extension – design report and business case
- Installation of a sewerage pump station at Bingara pool precinct
- Renewal of sewerage and water lines at Warialda Memorial pool
- Installation of 10Kw solar system at Bingara Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP)
- Refurbishment of Bingara STP trickle filter distributor



10Kw solar system at Bingara sewerage treatment plant

Warialda Truckwash

The construction of lagoons adjacent to the Warialda truckwash was completed during the reporting period.

Council installed a decanter chamber at the Warialda truckwash which allows for drainage of the ponds for recycling the effluent.



Construction of the truckwash ponds, Warialda



The Warialda truckwash facility opened in January and is proving to be well utilised with an average of 45 trucks washed per month. The average wash time is 72 minutes using an average of 5KL water per wash.



Parks and Gardens

Gwydir Shire Council operates and maintains 15 parks, 3 sports fields, 11 playgrounds, 12 reserves and numerous gardens. Two separate work crews operate in the north and south of the shire. The northern crew maintains parks and gardens in the Warialda, Gravesend, Warialda Rail, Coolatai and North Star regions. The southern crew maintain parks and gardens in Bingara, Upper Horton, the Glacial Area and Myall Creek memorial site. Facilities in these areas are frequented by numerous visitors and Council aims to keep these areas in prime condition.

Council purchased two defibrillators for Gwydir Oval and Warialda Recreation Ground during the reporting period. Part funding for one defibrillator was obtained through the NSW Office of Sport.

As part of Council's ongoing maintenance program, Gwydir Oval was top dressed with soil in September 2020, repairs were carried out to the drainage system at Warialda Recreation Ground and the irrigation system at Nicholson Oval.

All Abilities Park, Warialda

All Abilities Park in Warialda is very popular and well used. Ongoing improvements made available through the Federal Drought Program funding include shade sails, turf and irrigation. The landscaping of the western end of the park with rock terrace had some delays caused by wet weather and is scheduled to be completed in August 2021.

Right: All Abilities Park Warialda





Cunningham Park, Bingara

In 2020/2021 Cunningham Park in Bingara underwent major improvements including installation of a new amenities block and picnic shelters and a BBQ and tables. The existing footpath was replaced from Campbell's bridge to the Pool precinct. In addition to these works, the fencing around the pool was replaced. This project was funded by NSW State Drought Program and has greatly improved the aesthetics of the area. The original toilets in Cunningham Park that were built in the 1960s will be removed from the site in 2021/2022 and replaced with new amenities.

Right: Cunningham Park Bingara picnic shelter



Captain Cook Park, Warialda

Two shelters, picnic tables, barbeque and bench seats were installed in Captain Cook Park during June 2021 with funding provided through the COVID-19 stimulus program.

Right: Captain Cook Park, Warialda



Nicholson Oval, Warialda

Two picnic shelters and tables were installed at Nicholson Oval during June 2021 with funding provided through the COVID-19 stimulus program.

Bicentennial Park, Bingara

An entrance to Bicentennial Park off White Street and an access road were constructed during the reporting period as Stage 1 of proposed improvements. Future works in Bicentennial Park will include footpaths, shelters and tables.

Right: Access road into Bicentennial Park, Bingara



CWA Park, Bingara

Additional shelters were installed at CWA Park in Bingara during 2020/2021. A grant application was submitted to the State Government's "Everyone Can Play" funding program for upgrades, with specific access and inclusive play spaces for the park. The outcome will be announced in October 2021.



Gwydir Oval, Bingara

The new amenities at Gwydir Oval were officially opened on 28 November 2020. Further improvements include a concrete footpath linking the grandstand and amenities and replacement of the surface in the carpark.

*Right: New amenities at Gwydir Oval
Below right: Car Park at Gwydir Oval*





Junction Park, Bingara

A new picnic table and shelter were installed in Junction Park during the reporting period.

Railway Park, North Star

North Star community group has established a blue tree in Railway Park for mental health awareness. Council provided assistance with tree trimming and cherry picker hire to paint the tree. *Right: North Star blue tree for mental health awareness*



Town Beautification Program

During the reporting period, trees have been planted in Warialda and Bingara to maintain the towns' beautification program. Sturdy tree guards made from recycled plastic were installed to protect the trees. Trees were planted in West, Riddell and Junction Streets in Bingara. In Warialda, advanced street trees were planted in Geddes, Stephen and Hope Streets. Over 100 native Callistemon trees have been planted in Riddell Street, Bingara leading to the cemetery. *Right: Tree guards, West Street Bingara*



Gwydir River Foreshore Developments

Under the Big River Dreaming Funding Program, Council installed a floating pontoon for access to the Gwydir River for fishing and kayaking in 2020. Following on from this project a pathway with handrail and seat was constructed to link the Gwydir River foreshore area to the Pool precinct. *Right: Gwydir River Foreshore pathway*



Further improvements on the foreshore included the construction of picnic tables and shelters near the pontoon. Sandstone blocks were strategically placed to ensure safe parking. These improvements to the foreshore have ensured a continual high usage of the area.

Batterham's Lookout Bingara

Major works are being carried out at Batterham's Lookout under the COVID-19 Stimulus Funding Program. These works include guard rails, barrier fencing, improvement of walkways and signage, along with the installation of new tables and chairs. The works will be completed by December 2021. *Right: Gwydir River Foreshore picnic shelters*





Right: Construction of track on eastern side of Batterham's Lookout



Bingara Showground

Gwydir Shire Council is the trustee for Crown Land Reserve D560019 Bingara Showground. The showground is maintained by Council in consultation with four main user groups: Bingara Show Society, Bingara Pony Club, Bingara Polocrosse and Bingara Jockey Club. The showground is popular for holding large regional equestrian events due to the size and excellent facilities available onsite. While some events were cancelled due to COVID-19, a number of scheduled events were able to proceed during the 2020/2021 year:

- Bingara 2020 Pony Camp
- Pony Club 2021 mini camp
- 2021 Bingara Show
- Numerous one day equestrian events

Council was successful with Phase 1 Showground Stimulus Funding from the NSW State Government in June 2020, enabling five small projects to be undertaken at the showground. The total project funding amount was \$25,340.66. These projects included:

- Replacement of a motor and repairs to the cool room motor located underneath the Grandstand at Bingara Showground.
- Construction of a 3m x 3m awning over the cool room located at the Polocrosse canteen.
- Supply and installation of LED spotlights and energy efficient lighting in the main pavilion at the showground for display items.
- Electrical lighting and power points in the general purpose shed.
- Repairs and maintenance identified from Aurecon inspection in October 2019.

Phase 2 Showground Stimulus Program was released in October 2020 and Council secured funding of \$85,378.25 to refurbish the Bingara Showground Grandstand. The project was under construction by 30 June 2021 and will be completed in August 2021.

Right: Grandstand refurbishment under construction



Phase 2B Showground Stimulus Program was released in March 2021 and Council secured funding of \$380,158.14 for two projects:

- Extension and refurbishment of existing amenity building (\$152,348.26)
- Supply and installation of LED Lighting to the show arena (\$227,809.88).

Community Assistance

Council constructed a Yarning Circle at Bingara Central School for use by the school prior to the annual Myall Creek Memorial Service.



Yarning circle at Bingara Central School



Bingara Fish Hatchery

Council purchased a new bogey axle trailer for the Bingara fish hatchery with funds from the Native Fish grant program. The trailer will be used to transport fingerlings to Gwydir River.
Right: New trailer for Bingara Fish Hatchery



Workshop and Plant

Council operates two workshops. Warialda workshop operates from the Warialda Depot with a Workshop Supervisor, one fulltime mechanic, one fabricator/welder, two apprentice mechanics and one school-based trainee mechanic.

The Bingara workshop consists of a Workshop Supervisor and one apprentice mechanic.

During 2020/2021 the workshops completed 285 services and carried out a total of 1,181 repairs to individual items of plant.

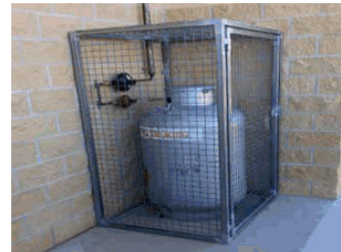
Council's fabrication section constructed a new gate for Anzac Park in North Star, frames for signs in Junction Park, Bingara, mesh cages for gas bottles at Gwydir Oval, a decanter chamber for use at the Warialda truckwash, handrail for Gwydir River foreshore and regular plant welding repairs.



Right: Fabrication of frames and cages

New workshop tools and equipment purchased during the reporting period included:

- Hydraulic pipe bender
- G-Scan diagnostic tool
- Bingara Workshop switchboard was replaced in the 2020/2021



Council's heavy plant fleet consists of the following equipment:

Description	Number		
Graders	7	Rock Crusher	1
Excavators	4	Zipper	1
Front end Loaders	3	Road Reclaimer	1
Backhoes	3		
Skid Steer Loader/sweeper	2	Trucks	Number
Rollers – smooth drum	3	Primemover/lowloader	1
Roller – padfoot	2	Tipper and pig trailer	2
Roller – rubber tyred	1	Jetpatcher	2
Tractor – Grid roller combination	3	Watercarts	5
Tractor – Slasher combinations	5	Lime Spreader	1
Compactor – Landfill	1	Medium tipper trucks	5
		Light trucks	5



Three of Council's graders are equipped with grade control equipment introducing technology into the road construction process, leading to more accurate road construction and design and minimising material wastage. *Right: Council's graders*



Plant replacement Program

The following new items of plant were purchased in 2020/2021:

- P1986 – Caterpillar 313 excavator
- P1989 – Hustler zero turn mower (Cranky Rock)
- P1995 – Toro 6000 series zero turn mower (North Star)
- P1994 – Agrifarm 180 ACS slashers x 3
- P1981 – Toro – 7210 zero turn mower
- P1980 – Flextool sludge pump
- P1974 – Tandem axle ATV trailer



Right: P1986 – new Caterpillar 313 excavator – based in Warialda. Council purchased a second-hand Versatile tractor and rock crusher on a hire to purchase plan due to the limited availability of this type of machinery.

Right: P1963 Versatile2210 with Kirpy rock crusher
 Council continues to assist local service clubs with the donation of replaced mowers as they are upgraded. During the 2020/2021 year Council donated mowers to Warialda Rotary, Warialda Jockey Club and the Warialda Aeroclub.



A sale of excess goods and equipment was held in November 2020 to move plant and equipment and items no longer required.

During the reporting period, the following Council equipment was disposed of via private sale, sold through Grays online or Pickles auctions:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| P1470 - Case MX155 tractor | P1702 - Holden Caprice |
| P1697 - VW Multivan | P1660 - Ford Ranger |

Portable toilets: Council has three portable toilets available for use on road works and private hire. The use of the toilets was donated to several community events during the previous year including:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Model aeroplane fly in | Pulse of the Earth festival |
| Anglers club fishing competition | Upper Horton Rodeo |
| Copeton Fresh Water swim | Upper Horton trail ride |
| Coolatai campdraft | Landcare field days |
| Coolatai tractor pull | Warialda Show |
| Warialda Races | A number of private rentals |



Our Achievement in Marketing and Promotions

Events

The Gwydir Shire Council Events team were able to deliver a small number of community events during the 2020/2021 reporting period, striving to achieve Gwydir Shire Council's strategic outcome of a healthy and cohesive community by nurturing a community which is an inviting and vibrant place to live.

These events included the Bingara Orange Festival, Bingara and Warialda Christmas events and the Bingara Australia Day Celebrations, Unfortunately, due to poor weather conditions the March Honey Festival had to be postponed to September and then COVID-19 restrictions in September meant that the festival had to once again be abandoned. Committee and staff are looking forward to being able to bring the community their annual festival again in 2022.

This year's Bingara Orange Festival was hailed a resounding success with record crowds and extensive media coverage including, TV, Radio, Facebook, and print. The theme of Rock n Roll/ 50's 60's was continued from 2017, and a bumper crowd turned up to celebrate in their costumes.

A change of location of the main stage and children's rides were trialled this year, and feedback regarding the change was very positively received. Organisers will take this feedback on board for next year's festival. The Festival on the Saturday saw record crowds and the support of sub-events such as the Saturday evening dance hall at the Bingara RSL Club were all well attended even though COVID-19 restrictions were brought in with just 2hrs notice. Unfortunately, dancing was not allowed, and masks became mandatory, however club patrons were happy to sit and enjoy the music.

Due to be held in October 2021 was the Caravan and Motor Home Club of Australia's rally. Planning was busily being undertaken in the reporting period due to the size and nature of the rally, however CMCA organisers made the heartbreaking decision to postpone the rally due to the uncertainty of COVID-19. The rally will return to Bingara in 2022 and the community and rally goers, are eagerly awaiting this.

Staff and event committees are looking forward to a more positive 2022 and being able to bring back all the events that we look forward to throughout the Shire.

Gwydir Newspaper

A difficult decision was made by Council late 2020 to close the Gwydir Newspaper after it failed to find someone to purchase the business and the current staff were not able to continue running the paper.

After community feedback, it was clear that something was needed to keep the community informed about goings on within their local community. From this, the Gwydir Newsletter was born, staff have worked tirelessly to produce this newly formatted version which is offered both digitally and in hard copy form. The paper-based version attracts a small fee to cover printing and postage costs, however the digital subscription is available to all for free.

Feedback for the newsletter has been extremely positive and locals have been eagerly contributing information and imagery from around the Shire.

A massive congratulations must go out to staff who have worked extremely hard and within tight deadlines to create and regularly produce this monthly newsletter.



Communications

The communications team spent a lot of time during the reporting period building the Shire's new website, this website is now live and can be found at www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au this website is just the beginning of what is to come regarding the Shire's digital presence. Staff are to be commended on their hard work in building this website from scratch.

Throughout the reporting staff have also been working on building Council's social media presence to ensure that they are able to reach a broader demographic within the community.

Council's use of relevant and up to date communication channels are important in being able to provide information to its community within a timely manner. This is of even greater importance now that the weekly newspaper has transformed into a monthly newsletter publication.

Visitor Information Centres/Tourism

Our Visitor Information Centres were once again significantly impacted by the restrictions of COVID-19. Visitor numbers were reduced as ongoing lockdowns, travel restrictions and border closures continue to impact services. During the reporting period the Bingara Visitor Information Centre had 6232 visitors and Warialda saw 13990 (this includes Café and Service NSW customers) come through the doors. COVID-19 saw doors close in March, April & May, and staff were kept busy with phone calls, emails and ensuring that both centres were clean and well stocked ready for when doors were able to open again.

Gwydir Shire is widely considered as the go to place for many RV's, many who return regularly to enjoy one of the many pristine camping spots on offer throughout the Shire. Travel restrictions and the forced closure of many camping sites have meant that travellers have been unable to enjoy the beautiful Gwydir Shire, and the flow on affect to other services within Council plus local businesses is evident throughout.

Staff are looking forward to a more positive 2022 which will see the return of travellers and preparations for the upcoming CMCA rally, where they will assist with organising tours, merchandise and providing local information.

All VIC staff provide exceptional customer service, and their local knowledge is widely regarded by anyone who enters our centres.

Services NSW

Services NSW continues to operate out of two main centres, Bingara on Monday and Thursday and Warialda on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday.

During this reporting period the Bingara branch undertook 3138 transactions, which is significantly up on last year and Warialda 5119, another significant increase on last year's transactions.

The services on offer through these branches include driver licence transactions, vehicle registration transactions, driver testing, boating licences and vessel registrations, contractor licence applications, applications for birth, death and marriage certificates, Seniors card applications, birth registrations, form lodgements for Fair Trading, owner builder permits, Working With Children Check, National Heavy Vehicle work diary and photographic advice for Firearm licence.

COVID-19 required several changes to be made to the service to ensure the safety of customers and staff. Staff continued to service the public uninterrupted despite the challenges of COVID-19, consistently going above and beyond to assist the community, particularly our elderly customers who were at times extremely overwhelmed with all of the changes occurring and the need for use of technology.



Agency operators are very well suited to the delivery of an excellent customer experience and consistently provide such service within the regulatory operating parameters and should be congratulated on the continued quality of service.

Roxy Theatre

Our beloved Roxy Theatre endured a lengthy period of shutdown during the reporting period. Shows and other planned functions had to be either postponed or cancelled entirely.

Staff did manage to bring Margaret Fulton the Musical to the Roxy Theatre in May 2021, and theatre goers thoroughly enjoyed seeing the centre alive with music again. Theatre goers were able to use the Service NSW Discovery vouchers issued by the NSW Government to subsidise the purchase of their tickets and enjoy an afternoon/evening at the theatre.

The Northwest Theatre Company's Film Club held various movie nights throughout the reporting period when restrictions allowed, club members were stringent in adhering to any COVID-19 restrictions that were in place at the time.

Throughout the reporting period, Council and The Northwest Theatre Company also formed a partnership, which will see NWTC assist Council in the purchase of future productions and shows for the Roxy. They will also offer assistance and training when required for the use of sound and lighting in the Theatre, particularly when functions and events are on.

Council looks forward to working with NWTC to ensure the Roxy Theatre complex is used to its full potential.

During the reporting period Council have also engaged a consultant to undertake a conservation management plan for the theatre. This plan will provide some extra controls over the work that needs to be carried out at the complex to ensure that it complies with the State Heritage requirements. As the Roxy Theatre is now a heritage listed building, it is hoped that this plan will assist Council when applying for grant funding for the complex.

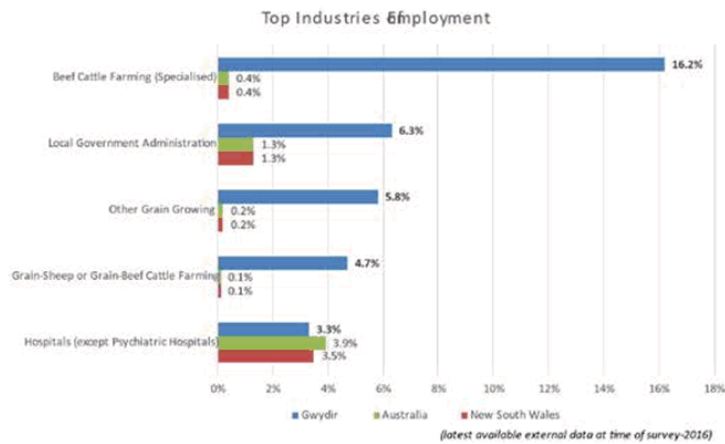
The Roxy Theatre is looking forward to welcoming back some big productions, concerts and other various functions and events in 2022. One notable concert occurring in November 2021 is an Amber Lawrence concert and tickets are already being eagerly snapped up by locals and others throughout the region.



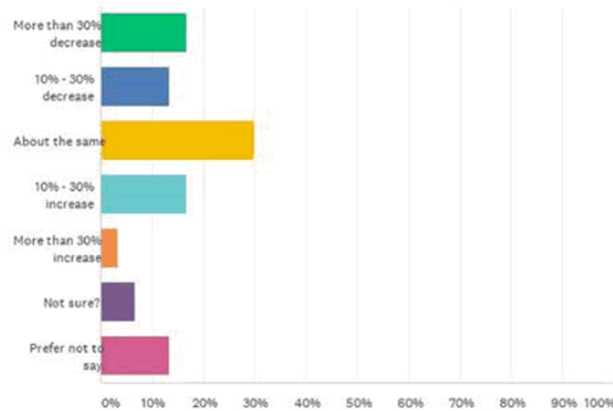
Economic Development

In order to maintain an accurate understanding of the Gwydir Shire Economy, identify key Economic Development Strategies and provide effective support to local businesses, Council conducted a high-level review of the economy, including research into the impact of COVID-19 and the drought.

Gwydir Economy Sectors



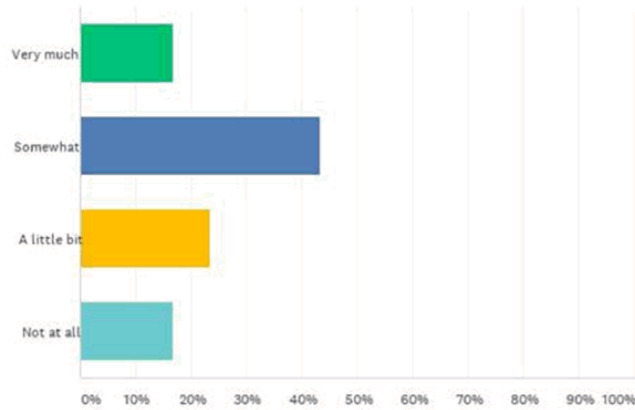
Covid-19 impact on sales (as at March 2021)



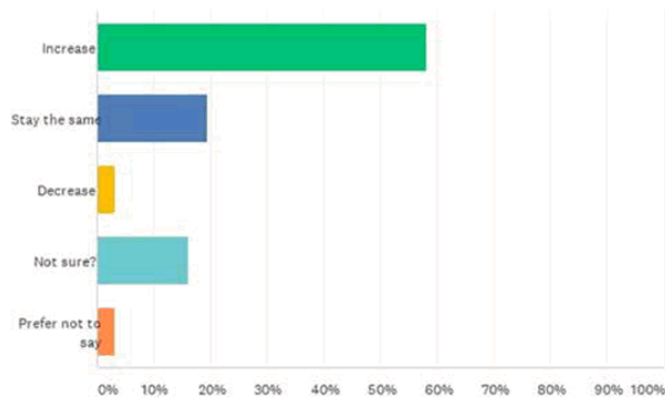


"[It has been] very varied. Incredibly discriminatory in its affect. Some doing quite well and some doing poorly...." Participant quote regarding COVID-19 Impact.

Perceived continued Drought Impact (as at March 2021)

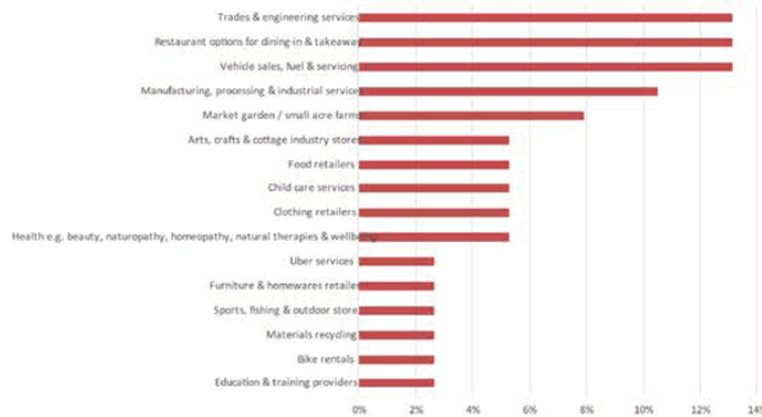


Business sentiment regarding sales and economic growth over the coming 12 months





Businesses people want to see more of



Perceived barriers to further business growth

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Attracting people to the area	42% 10
Telecommunications network	33% 8
Finding suitable local staff	29% 7
Availability of housing	29% 7
Insufficient child care services	29% 7
Cost and provision of utilities (i.e. water, energy, gas, internet)	25% 6
Council development application processes and cost	25% 6
Local training and education opportunities	25% 6
Availability of suitable industrial land	21% 5
Access to markets / customer base	21% 5
Access to suitable premises (e.g. retail)	13% 3
Proximity to larger centres	13% 3
Total Respondents: 24	

As a result of the Economic review and ongoing partnerships with local businesses and business networks several initiatives to grow the economy have been undertaken.



Shire wide marketing

Already facing the challenges of a small and somewhat dispersed population and following anecdotal evidence that the drought had negatively impacted population, increasing the Digital Presence and exposure of Gwydir Shire in order to attract new residents and further increase tourism was identified as a priority to drive population growth. Bushfire Community Economic Recovery Funds from the NSW State Government were directed towards a Shire Wide digital and print marketing campaign.

unlock the secrets of the Gwydir Shire

PLACES TO VISIT

- Warialda/Bingara Museums
- Visitor Information Centres
- Copeton Dam
- Rocky Creek Glacial Area
- Myall Creek Memorial
- The Living Classroom
- Ceramic Break Sculpture Park
- Cranky Rock
- The Roxy Theatre Tours and Greek Museum Tours

THINGS TO DO

- Fossicking
- Bird watching
- Fishing
- Walking trails
- Golf/Tennis/Bowls
- Cycling
- Horse riding

Bingara Office
02 6724 0066
Warialda Office
02 6729 3037
gwydir.nsw.gov.au

G W Y D I R
SHIRE COUNCIL

This is page number 151 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman



Print and online advertisements inviting people to “Discover the Secrets” of the Gwydir Shire were run to targeted demographics with the goal of securing 2500 subscribers to a monthly newsletter promoting the benefits of living in the Gwydir Shire.

Outcome: 3400 subscribers to the “Gwydir Tree Change Newsletter”

The newsletter introduced subscribers and invited them to request a call back from the Gwydir Shire “Concierge” – the Concierge then qualified these leads, identified strong prospects and worked with them to secure accommodation, employment and social connection to make their Tree Change a success.



Outcome: 59 engaged with the Concierge to explore a Tree Change to the Gwydir Shire.

Subscribers received engaging monthly newsletters highlighting what was on, lifestyle benefits, opportunities and importantly – where to go for more information and support to transition

DO WE HAVE WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR?


4 Reasons why you should live here:

- 1. Lifestyle**
Here, commutes are a thing of the past. Spend that time doing things that you love! From fishing and camping spots to top-notch restaurants and relaxed cafes – the Region can provide all manner of lifestyle delight.
- 2. Job Opportunities**
There are jobs and business opportunities in Retail trade, education, health, business service, the building sector, agriculture and information technology.
- 3. Affordable housing**
There are local incentives for you to buy land and build in the Region. This may be the land you need to start a new life in the country.
- 4. World-class education at your doorstep**
Exceptional educational facilities are available within the Region, catering from preschool, primary, secondary, special needs to tertiary VET or university.

DISCOVER MORE OPPORTUNITIES


[Click here to request a callback.](#)



Chris Turner
PL 02 6224 3000
 E. chris@shire.gwydir.nsw.gov.au

HOUSE & LAND PACKAGES


Take a tour of the land and property options and find out how affordable housing in our area is made possible for you.



FEATURED BUSINESS

Wade Horse Riding

Wade Horses Bingara is not only renowned for the quality of their horses and horsemanship, but for the scenic beauty of Bingara's natural environment. Riders don't just take in the scenery, they become part of it.



767824* • Ad Impressions on Facebook

18946* • Link Clicks / CTR 2.46%

Our advertisements were seen by 767,824 people

- 18,946 people clicked on the ads to find out more about the Shire
- Discover the secrets of the Gwydir performance
- Subscriber Numbers
- Goal: 2500
- Status: 3,400
- Performance: 136%
- Responsive Lead Generation
- Goal: 24 in 6 months
- Status: 59
- Performance: 246%
- Engaged Lead Generation (people seeking to make a Tree Change to Gwydir Shire)
- Goal: 12 in 2 years
- Status: 14 in 6 months
- Performance: 117%



Two families have already moved to the Shire and taken up “hard to fill” employment opportunities across aged care and hospitality, a third is in the process of moving and will seek to establish a Market Garden business on their arrival. The three families represent five adults and seven children joining our community. A further nine families continue to work closely with the Tree Change Concierge.

Support existing and attract new business

Council has partnered with the Warialda District Chamber of Commerce and the Bingara Business Support Group to enhance business opportunities across the Shire, including in, but not limited to the Warialda and Bingara Central Business Districts.

This has included:

- Utilising funds from the NSW Bushfire Community Economic Recovery Fund to provide \$20,000 in small grants to businesses houses in Bingara, Croppa Creek, and Warialda to beautify and promote their businesses.

Securing funding from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to underwrite and launch the “Grazing on the Gwydir” Street Fair and Music Festival. The festival aims to profile food and other produce from across the Shire as well as provide a platform for local and visiting performers and groups to join in with the community in a fun and relaxed environment that focusses on the great lifestyle benefits of living in the Gwydir Shire.

Partnering with the Warialda District Chamber of Commerce on the “Empty Shop Front Project” – through which seven new businesses opened and continue to trade in the Warialda CBD. The project has seen the re-opening of the Commercial Hotel along with the White Sage Coffee and Juice Bar, Ooh laa laa lashes, Bliss beauty lounge, Gwydir freight and storage, Anthony’s Mowing Service and Eyes by Elisha.

“I feel the empty shop project was a success, with 7 new businesses opening in Warialda in 10 months”.
Tom Smith, President Warialda District Chamber of Commerce

Residential land supply

The Blue Hills and Jacaranda residential land subdivisions have been brought to market, with local real estate agents reporting this highly needed development is already attracting a lot of interest both locally and outside of the Shire. Thanks to the hard work of Council’s Community Asset’s Manager, Carmen Southwell finalisation of electricity to the blocks has allowed the blocks to come to market at a time when moving to regional NSW from the cities and the coast is at an all time high.

Small scale industrial land development

Participants in the review of the Gwydir Shire Economy identified the need for spade ready industrial land. With land already secured, Council remains highly committed to the proposed Industrial Estate in Warialda (which forms part of the broader Circular Economy Proposal, including the Bio-Char power generation and Green House Project). To date funding for the full scale development of the site has not been secured.

Gwydir Grant Finder

In an effort to assist local businesses, community groups and individuals to seek and apply for grant funding the “Gwydir Grant Finder” has been developed and added to the Council Website:
<https://gwydir.grantguru.com.au/>

The site lists virtually every grant available in Australia and is searchable across sectors (Industry, Arts, Business etc.) and includes grant writing tips and support as well as links to professional grant writers.



Our Achievements in Community Assets

Swimming Pools

The 2020/2021 swimming season was very busy and, thankfully, safe. The free pool entry for Gwydir Shire residents proved to be exceptionally well received by the community with continued positive feedback. Warialda also hosted many paying visitors from Moree as its 50-metre pool remained closed over the season.

Warialda recorded a total of 9270 patrons, and following its opening on 25 November, Bingara saw 6717 patrons check in. Both pools attracting both local and visitors from outside the Shire. COVID-19 Safety Plans and QR codes have been utilised as required.

Bingara and Warialda pools hosted many swimming programs/schools for local and surrounding district schools throughout the season. The pools also conducted learn to swim intensive programs over the school holiday period with good numbers in attendance. The Warialda lessee also delivered regular water exercise classes throughout the season.

Staff from the Bingara Multi-Purpose Service delivered the 'Breaking the Drought, using water to reduce falls in Rural Communities'. It was very worthwhile and won the 2021 HNE Health Excellence Awards - Keeping People Healthy category.

Bingara Pool

Construction of a new 25 metre pool, splash program pool, kiosk and activities room, all access amenity, and upgrade to the existing amenities continued throughout winter and spring. The project also included the demolition of the existing pools, and plant room; the construction of new pump and plant rooms; the installation of a skillion, privacy screens, concourse, shade sails, starting blocks, fencing, bench seating, gardens and turf.

In accordance with the Big River Dreaming NSW Government Tourism Grant, an artist and zoologist were commissioned to create artworks and interpretive signage for the Bingara Pool Precinct site. The installations tell the story of the animals which live on, near and above the Gwydir River. The commissioned artist value added to her project by collaborating with Bingara's children and youth through workshops held at the preschool, library, and school.

Community consultation for the project included staff presentations at playgroup, liaising with swimming club members, the pool lessee, swimming instructors and community members. Engagement was through media releases and a social media messenger group.





Four sets of the tables and chairs, plus the two barbecues, were relocated to Cranky Rock Reserve. The Reserve's caretakers have agreed to renovate them for use at the reserve.

Representatives from the Department of Regional NSW interviewed stakeholders, regarding the Bingara Pool Precinct grant applications, onsite during November as part of its Drought Stimulus Package online promotion. The project was chosen to showcase the success and effectiveness of the funding program.

The upgraded Bingara War Memorial Baths were officially opened by The Hon Adam Marshall, MP on Saturday 28 November 2020. He then joined the winners of a local children's competition in being the first to jump into the pool.

A water wheelchair is available for adult and child use due to the generosity of the Bingara Lions' Club and the Lions' Club NSW/ACT Public Healthcare Foundation.



Warialda Pool

Renovations of the amenities block at the Warialda Swimming Pool were completed in October. Works included installation of a hot water system, construction of two all access amenity areas, installation of new privacy partitions, installation of new toilets and sinks, installation of new guttering in the female internal amenity area, floor tiling, painting, installation of benches, and replacement of external stormwater and sewage systems.

The pool opened on Saturday 24 October, a little later than normal due to the extended renovation works. The new renovated upgraded amenities at the Warialda Swimming Pool were officially opened on 25 January 2021 by The Hon Adam Marshall, MP.

Moree Diggers Club and Moree Swimming Club used the Warialda Pool during the 2020/2021 season due to the temporary closure of the Moree Pool.



Caravan Parks

Council staff continued to enact its COVID-19 Safety Plans throughout the year. QR codes are being used at both caravan parks for checking in visitors as per government regulations. Both caravan parks experienced a steady influx of visitors especially when the state borders were closed. Bingara and Warialda Caravan Parks hosted two university medical students in December as part of the Bush Bursary Program, whilst they did their practicums in Bingara and Warialda hospitals/medical centres. The park accommodation was also used by university students studying nursing, education, social services, medicine, and physiotherapy.

Bingara Riverside Caravan Park

Council staff continue to be in regular contact with caravan park permanent residents. This contact has proven to be mutually beneficial, as not only do they receive a regular friendly call, but Council obtains requests so that assistance can be given in a timely and effective manner. During the term, permanent residential lease agreements were renewed, along with Park Rules for Long-Term Residents and Site Condition Report template.

Two new Speed Queen washing machines were purchased and installed in July. One cabin was sold and removed from site during August.

Pool construction workers stayed at the caravan park during the construction of the Bingara Pool Precinct project. The accommodation income was offset against construction costs.

New kitchen items were purchased for the Bingara Caravan Park's cabins in September.

Casual caretaker positions were advertised, interviewed, and offered in December.

The land where the Bingara Caravan Park cabins lie was transferred from the NSW Government to Council. As a cost saving measure, the caravan park caretakers have expanded their work tasks to include mowing designated park and roadside areas, cleaning the Bingara public amenities every second weekend and maintaining the adjacent pool's front garden bed. These changes were made in consultation with Council's Town Utilities and Plant Manager and will be ongoing.

Responses to Council's request for quotation for the supply and installation of the new residence and office were received, assessed, and determined during April. Plans for the new building have been finalised and it is expected that it will be installed in February 2022.

A grant application under the Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Program (Round 3) was submitted on 12 April 2021. This successful application of \$300,000 was approved for an overhaul and upgrade of the electricity supply to the caravan park and adjacent pool, and the installation of overhead sporting lights.

Warialda Caravan Park

Council staff assisted a young family who were required to self-quarantine. They arrived at the park on 28 July and stayed until 7 August. Assistance included organising delivery of groceries and liaising with the Warialda Medical Centre.

New linens were purchased for the Warialda Caravan Park in July.



Cranky Rock

On 29 July 2020, the reserve was partially closed due to the commencement of repair works to the lookout track and footbridge. Footbridge works included replacement of girders and treads, and painting. A pathway was constructed to the lookout. The area is now much safer for visitors to the area.



The Reserve and its facilities are always very well presented and clean. The Reserve Caretaker, and her family, are providing a fantastic service with high bookings and many repeat visitations. The positive feedback is continually being recorded on camping websites and application such as WikiCamps Australia.

Myall Creek Massacre Memorial Site

Council continues to maintain amenities, gardens, Amphitheatre, and pathways at the Memorial site. A native garden was planted by members of the Friends of Myall Creek committee on 17 September 2020. This also included the installation of plant identification signage.

The Deputy Mayor, Cr Catherine Egan and Council staff attended the official opening by The Hon Adam Marshall, Member for Northern Tablelands, of the Myall Creek Massacre Memorial Cultural Precinct on Saturday 6 February 2021. This project was the initiative of the Friends of Myall Creek Memorial Committee of which Council supported. Council also contracted to undertake the civil works. Over this weekend Council staff also attended a Friends' two-day governance workshop.

Council staff attended another Friends of Myall Creek Memorial Committee governance workshop on 24 April 2021.

Council was successful in obtaining a Federal Government grant of \$30,000 to assist in the running of this year's annual Myall Creek Memorial Ceremony and the hosting of the Sounds of Country concert at Gwydir Oval. The grant was through the Bushfire Tourism Recovery Initiatives Program.



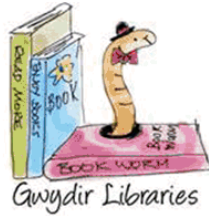


Over the long weekend in June the Friends of Myall Creek Committee organised and held a Sounds of Country concert at the Gwydir Oval, Bingara, and the annual Memorial Ceremony onsite. Over 400 people attended the concert on a very bleak and cold Saturday afternoon, and over 600 attended the ceremony on Sunday.

The annual Myall Creek Memorial Ceremony was held at the new amphitheater on site.

The Sounds of Country concert was moved to the Gwydir Oval on Saturday 12 June due to the wet conditions.

A new shelter was installed during June to provide protection and preservation from the weather of the comments left by visitors.



Libraries

During the year, Gwydir public libraries services changed to deal with the implications of COVID-19 including loan limits and periods, online delivery of reference services and public programs, significantly boosting eBook collections, implementing direct communication channels with library users and communities, and implementing home delivery and/or click and collect access to collections. Unfortunately outreach visits had to be suspended.

Bingara Library has a screen and projector, and Warialda a large computer screen both of which are used for multiple purposes including highlighting the Shire, library website, exhibitions, and events.

Some in branch highlights of 2020/2021 include:

- Crocheting and knitting with Teens at Warialda Library
- Bingara Library Story Circle: older members of the community gather to chat about old days
- Gwydir Libraries Oral History Project "Remember When" collecting the voices and memories of seniors
- Be Connected – internet tutorials for the over 60s along with Zoom chat sessions
- Old Days Old Ways; older residents chat with the Book Club children about their childhood
- Toddler Maker Space; games, puzzles, and stories
- Bingara Lego Challenge
- Baby Book Time; 1000 Books Before School
- Golden Oldie craft sessions with aged care residents in both communities
- After school programs include digital learning, library catalogue tutorials, craft, Book Club, murder mystery, and research
- Home delivery service
- Click and Collect service



- Street Libraries (trolleys with free books) were setup outside both libraries and at information centres
- Facebook pages used for promotion and online CNRL activities
- Partnership with Bingara School to support students
- Steady usage of wi-fi both in and outside the library buildings
- University and external students' study in the Bingara Library study spaces and quiet room
- Residents of Touriandi Lodge visit the Bingara Library each month as a social outing. Morning tea is provided followed by a chat with residents of the community
- Bingara Opportunity Shop volunteers meet in the library each month
- Gwydir Ark meet in the Bingara Library monthly
- Bingara Library Book Group meet monthly
- Bingara Library hosts ability sessions each fortnight for people with disabilities
- Bingara Library hosted the film "Looby" which was touring Australia to mark 100 years of the Archibald Art Prize
- Warialda Library hosted the Innovation Studio for a Robot Soccer School Holiday workshop and Secret Agent workshop.

Outreach:

- Visits by staff to outer villages for story time and craft sessions were suspended due to COVID-19
- Be Connected tutorials for seniors offered across the Shire via Zoom, email, and phone tutorials
- Bingara Library Zoom weekly topic chat sessions ensuring residents remain connected and not feel isolated
- Pen Pal relationship between Warialda Book Club children and residents of Naroo
- Visits to Bingara MPS nursing home, Touriandi Lodge and Naroo hosting on-line newspaper tutorials and e-resources
- Promotions at toy libraries and preschools
- Storytime visits to local schools and preschools
- Home delivery to residents in both communities. The criteria for delivery were relaxed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Funding Grant applications:

- Bingara Library successfully gained \$7,500 funding from Good Things Foundation for their Be Connected program. \$5,000 was spent on iPads and prepaid sim cards to be used in tutorials and to lend to seniors enrolled in tutorials. \$2,500 assisted with costs associated with hosting sessions in the villages.
- Gwydir Shire Council successfully gained \$10,000 funding from the NSW Government's Regional School Holiday Activities Fund to assist with school holiday and youth programs across the Shire. The funding enabled Council to purchase 9 iPads and 2 gaming laptops which will be used in both branch libraries and youth spaces.

Training:

- Branch staff meetings were postponed due to COVID-19. Both staff members participated in several on-line training courses recommended by Central Northern Regional Libraries and Gwydir Shire Council.
- Bingara staff member completed several on-line training modules with e-safety, Be Connected and State Library NSW databases.
- Bingara staff member participated in several webinars, Zoom sessions and one full day on-line conference.



Achievements:

- Warialda Library staff member received a community recognition statement from The Hon Adam Marshall, MP. Part of which states "I congratulate her for her inspiration and creativity that has made Warialda Library a popular learning centre for the community".

Both libraries continue to adhere to the strict COVID-19 Safety Plans and Protocols, including the use of Service NSW QR codes, sterilisation of books, computers, surfaces, and equipment.

Council's Community Assets administration staff member has been trained in the basics of the library systems and works at each library when required.

The Bingara Library had new safety signage, plaques, street flag and ceiling vent installed.

The Warialda Library received a sewing machine for public use.

The generous donation of shelving from Willoughby City Council arrived in August. This has enabled Council to provide shelving for book exchange in its outer villages, caravan parks and tourist spots, schools and the historical societies in Warialda and Bingara.

A household recycling station has been installed at the Bingara Library. In this, residents can deposit old batteries, smoke detectors, ink cartridges and fluro globes.

During the reporting period Cr Catherine Egan, Deputy Mayor and Council staff attended the Central Northern Regional Library meetings.

Statistics	Bingara 2020-2021	Warialda 2020-2021	Outreach
Door Count	17608	11597	454
Loans	9989	5753	
PC usage	2506	880	
WIFI usage	3560	1709	
Programs	327	246	63
Adult Program attendees	1051	413	
Children Program attendees	2919	1017	
Home Delivery	152	113	
Institution Delivery	41	66	
Registered Be Connected seniors	18	8	6

Cleaning

OneScope terminated the contract with Gwydir Shire Council effective 15 November 2020. Council is now employing six casual cleaning staff to ensure cleaning is carried out at Council's sites. This transition of moving from contract to employee cleaning has proved positive with Council facilities being kept to a high standard.

Council's cleaning staff have received an induction and training including first aid, white card, and chemical course. Probation interviews were also conducted. Council staff have purchased cleaning items and products and utilised a space for safe storage of these.



The past twelve months has been a challenging one for cleaning seeing many changes throughout the reporting period. Extra cleaning was undertaken during the height of the pandemic. Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) staff commenced cleaning their own buildings.

Changes to council office cleaning work practices were trialed and changed so that indoor staff now empty their bins and clean/disinfect their work area/desk. This reduced contracted cleaning times significantly. Parks and Gardens staff are now cleaning the public amenities with caravan park caretakers doing them every second weekend.

Most Council sites were professionally cleaned (e.g., carpets and hard floors) throughout the reporting period.

Property Management

Council leases and manages 52 properties.

Council staff continued to be in regular contact with aged unit residents throughout the year. This contact has proven to be mutually beneficial, as not only do they receive a regular friendly call, but Council obtains information and requests so that assistance and any necessary repairs can be given in a timely and effective manner.

Rental increase notices were issued to Council's residential and commercial tenants in March, which will come into effect from July 2021.

Medical Services

Council again provided \$3,000 sponsorship for the Bush Bursary Scholarship Program through the NSW Rural Doctors Network. Students stayed at the Bingara and Warialda Caravan Parks in December during their internships at the local hospitals and medical centres.

The Bingara Medical Centre had all new floor coverings installed in September 2020.

123 High Street, Warialda was converted and occupied by the Warialda Medical Centre for several months whilst renovations took place at their usual premises. Investigations took place for the house to be used as a long daycare centre, but this was deemed financially unsustainable. It has now been placed back up for sale with local real estate agents.

Warialda Family Practice was formed due to Rural and Remote Medical Services (RaRMS) withdrawing their services in Warialda during the month of April. Council now leases the Warialda Medical Centre to the Practice.

Attract, Connect, Stay Pilot Program

In May Council was approached by Dr Cath Cosgrave (PhD) with an opportunity to address the healthcare challenge of attracting and retaining health professionals.

Council hosted a workshop on 8 June 2021 which was delivered by Dr Cosgrave. Nineteen stakeholders attended and at the end of the evening the room resolved to submit an Expression of Interest to be considered a pilot community for the 'Attract, Connect, Stay' program which is funded through the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal.

The Expression of Interest was lodged on 16 June 2021.



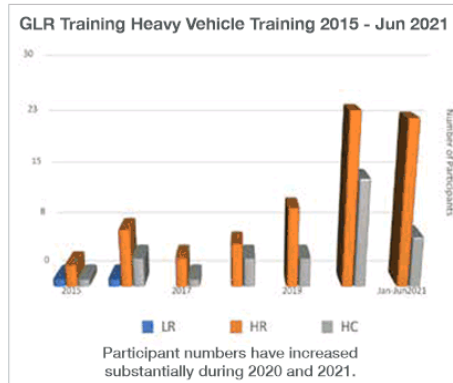
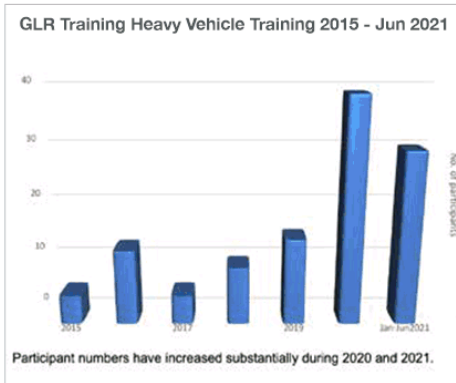


Gwydir Learning Region Training (GLR)

Although COVID-19 restrictions have had a significant effect on our community, it is very encouraging to see the increased number of enquiries and participants undertaking Heavy Vehicle Training and Assessment with Gwydir Learning Region Training.

In December 2019 Gwydir Learning Region Training was successful in applying to become a 'Smart and Skilled' training provider through Training Services NSW. This enables eligible clients to apply for full funding to undertake their heavy vehicle qualification.

- Competencies on GLR Training's scope:
- TLILIC 2014A – Licence to drive a Light Rigid Truck
 - TLILIC 2015A – Licence to drive a Medium Rigid Truck
 - TLILIC 2016A – Licence to drive a Heavy Rigid Truck
 - TLILIC 3017A – Licence to drive a Heavy Combination Truck
 - TLILIC 3018A – Licence to drive a Multi-Combination Truck



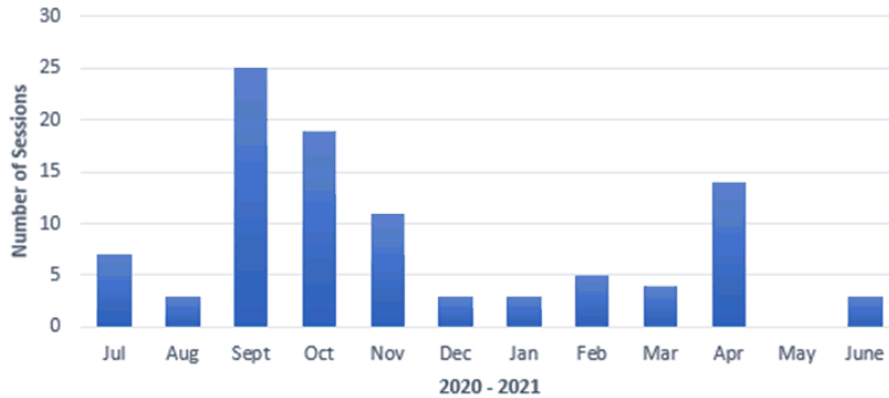
In addition to Heavy Vehicle Training, Gwydir Learning Region Training continues to provide expert tuition to learner drivers.

Learner driver training numbers have declined in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions placed around driver training, particularly for students.





GLR Learner Driver Lessons



Country Education Foundation of Gwydir Learning Region (CEF of GLR)

Gwydir is one of 40 local foundations across the country providing support to school leavers to achieve their study and career goals through the Country Education Foundation (CEF).

We provide much needed financial assistance to enable local youth to achieve their post high school education, training and vocation aspirations.

The cost for rural and regional students to access further education can be very high and at times prohibitive. We want all of the youth in our area to have the opportunity to reach their full potential. It's our way of saying "we believe in you and want to support your goals".

Country Education Foundation of Gwydir Learning Region fundraises throughout the year and accepts donations from local residents and businesses in order to provide financial grants to students who need an extra helping hand to cover accommodation, study and general living expenses. The funds come directly from our local community. *Right: CEF of GLR Committee*
 There are currently nine (9) successful recipients in 2021 of CEF of GLR grants. Grants have been distributed to recipients to assist with educational expenses including Course fees, textbooks and reference materials, accommodation costs, fuel and travel expenses, stationary, clothing, equipment and utilities.



Total Income received (grants, donations, co-funding) 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 - \$23,750.00.
 Unfortunately, it was necessary to cancel fundraising activities planned within this period due to COVID-19 restrictions.



Total Grants distributed 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 - \$32,786.70

CEF has partnered with MH Premium Farms to offer one scholarship to a CEF student undertaking studies in the agricultural field. Chelsea Stevenson is the very deserving recipient of this scholarship in its first year.

Our goal was to find a smart young person with the drive to succeed. Despite some early life setbacks, Chelsea demonstrated to us that she has a strong work ethic and desire to achieve her goals. *Ed Dunn, Chief Executive Officer – MH Premium Farms*



Chelsea displays a level of maturity and responsibility beyond her years and we are delighted to have her as an ambassador of CEF Gwydir. *Robyn Phillips, Secretary & Public Officer – CEF Gwydir Learning Region*

Louisa Gilmore was successful in gaining the Dunmore Lang College scholarship at Macquarie University. Louisa made the big move to Sydney early in 2021 to study her dream course, a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Media and Communications.



"This accommodation scholarship will alleviate so much financial burden. The assistance will allow me to focus on my double degree without financial stress and pressure to also work while I find my feet in Sydney. It will also take the burden off my parents as we sold our family farm and relocated to another property due to the drought in 2020. I am so appreciative for the support."

Gwydir Career Start Program

Council introduced the Gwydir Career Start Initiative, which is providing an exceptional opportunity for local school students and job seekers to gain valuable skills and work experience in a Local Government environment while studying to obtain a nationally recognised qualification.



The program exemplifies Council's corporate vision, to be the recognised leader in Local government through continuous learning and



sustainability, and gives Council the ability to train, develop and mold our trainees and apprentices into valuable and productive employees. Simply, we can 'grow our own'.

GSC's 2020/2021 cluster of Gwydir Career Start recruits include:

- 7 School based trainees
- 3 Trainees
- 5 Apprentices

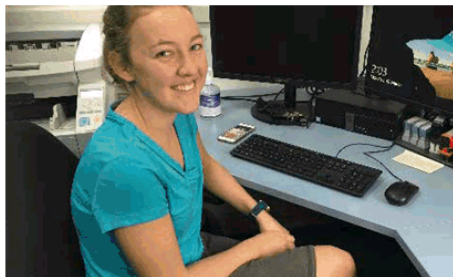
Council's School Based Trainees continue their schooling at the local high Schools, this incorporates the theory component of their chosen TAFE course, as well as gaining vital on-the-job skills and experience while working in one of Council's dynamic teams one day per week and throughout the school holidays. This is a joint effort between school staff, TAFE NSW, Gwydir Shire Council and the student. School based trainees are paid for their on-the-job hours, and performance reviews are carried out regularly.

How does Gwydir Shire Council support their trainees and apprentices?

By providing:

- Mentoring and expert supervision
- Workplace Inductions
- Study Leave approved to attend training blocks
- All training costs covered by Gwydir Shire Council
- Allowances provided for training which requires nights away from home
- Six (6) monthly reviews
- Nominations for Gwydir Learning Region Training Awards
- Recognition at Training NSW – New England Training Awards

Gwydir Shire Council's commitment to staff development and continuous learning ensures they have the right people in the right places with the right skills doing the right jobs at the right time!



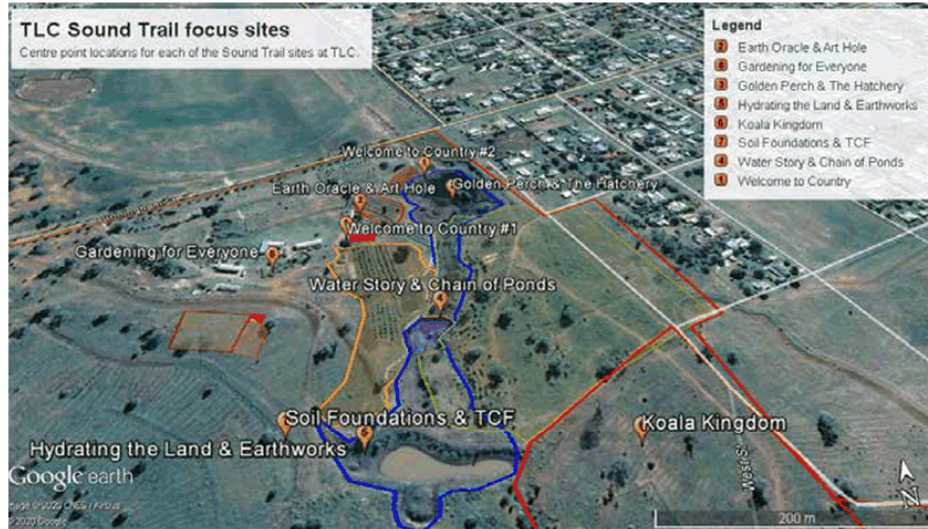
Left: Ruby - 2021 Training Services NSW New England Region - Trainee of the Year Regional finalis

Right: Anthony - 2021 Training Services NSW New England Region - Trainee of the Year Regional finalist



The Living Classroom

Gwydir Shire Council and Vision2020 conducted a review of Sound Trails and the digital technology system for tourism and promotion at The Living Classroom. The supplier was Hamish Sewell. The Sound Trail for The Living Classroom has now been completed with eight storyboards triggered on the phone app by walking through the site from the Great Lake to the Koala Tree plantings.



The pad for the Interpretive Centre at The Living Classroom was laid down.

The availability of the excavator at The Living Classroom presented an opportunity to commence work on the Spiral Hill & Hollow project. This will be a turfed playground area proving a performance area and a sample of spirals, Fibonacci numbers and the 'golden ratio' in nature.

The Livestock 'Red Shed' was completed along with yards, crush and loading ramp. The Bingara Central School Cattle Club's project has commenced with five head of cattle currently residing at the site. An opportunity was taken during the laying of the Interpretive Centre pad and the Cattle Club barn to re-sheet the entrance road into The Living Classroom with the white 'Cranky Rock' gravel.





NBN Co contractors installed fibre optic cable from Killarney Gap Road to the Classroom. Also, during the year, a 6KW Solar system was installed onto the Bunkhouse.



During the year, and prior to the COVID-19 lockdowns, many school groups visited The Living Classroom. They included, Croppa Creek and Gravesend Public, Byron Bay Steiner School, Home Schoolers NE and Bingara Central School. They were provided with a program of activities and studies to suit their needs. In the picture below, some of the students are honing their skills in the Kitchen Garden.

During the year many casual and organised visitor groups attended The Living Classroom. A number of varied activities also took place there. These included Weddings, Wakes, Conferences, Art Classes, Yoga Retreats, Embroidery Groups, and several regular regional Council meetings and Teacher training days.



Several Grant Applications were made during the year. Success was achieved via a co-operative Grant with The Carbon Farm. Several others, while not successful have paved the way for future projects.

Seasonal produce at The Living Classroom – Apricots, Mulberries, Peaches and a single Cherry (in 2020) indicate the future prospects for saleable produce from the site. In February, horticulturalist and photographer Amber Hall became part of the volunteer group at The Living Classroom. Amber is most impressed with the project and has set up a propagation system in the Nursery and a Research Garden near the Red Shed with an arrangement that sees her producing plants and edibles in exchange for a portion of sales.





A 150mm rain event over two days March 22-23 saw the entire The Living Classroom area saturated. All dams and ponds filled and for a few hours there was a spill-over from the Great Lake into the drain through the Showground. Unlike in previous times when that size rain event would have created nuisance flooding in the low-lying areas of the town, the backup of water was short lived. The capture and storage of water on The Living Classroom including the filling of the Main Dam and the Bingara Pool leaky dam of 2ML. Some over-flows took channels not intended so some minor repair and re-design work is required.

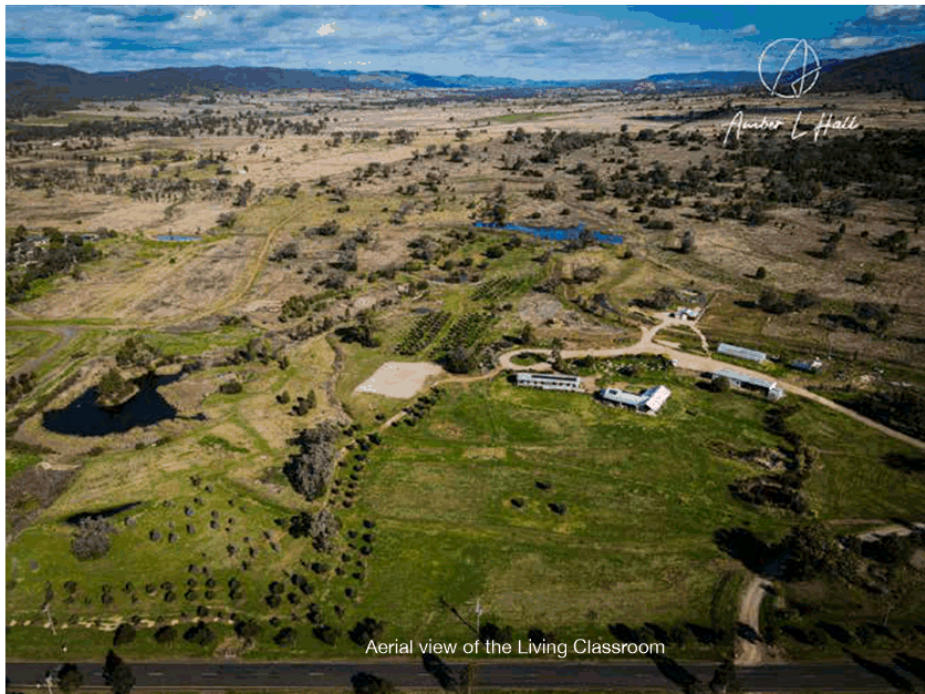


The drone photo below shows a saturated The Living Classroom. Top right is the Main Dam of 13ML, with the new Bingara Pool leaky dam of 2ML below it. The following photo shows the swale through the olive grove at right centre.

The propagation of edible plants and flowers at The Living Classroom Nursery has continued into Autumn 2021. Some were available for sale through the Bingara Op Shop. A large display and sale occurred at 'Grazing on the Gwydir' on the Saturday April 24 event in Bingara.

Several batches of biochar were 'cooked' at The Living Classroom in the ground 'Contiki' oven. The biochar product is used for plant propagation and composting. Pictured below, Mark Everett tending the Contiki Biochar Oven.





This is page number 169 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman



Our Achievements with Gwydir Fitness Centres



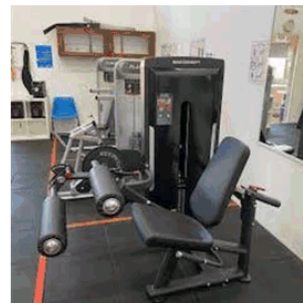
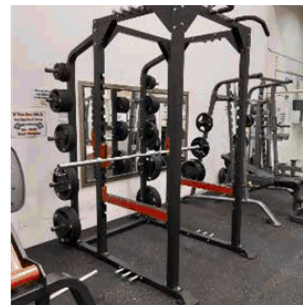
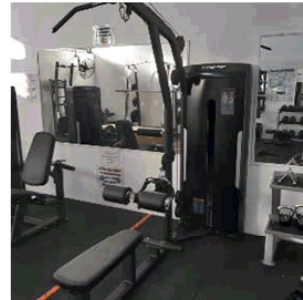
Gwydir Shire Council operates and maintains two community fitness centres. The Gwydir Fitness Centres are 24-hour centres open for public membership. The Warialda centre is located next to the Warialda Library at 38 Hope Street and the Bingara centre is in the Bingara Sporting Club at 8 Bombelli Street. This is a community facility managed by Gwydir Shire Council. There is electronic entry and cameras installed to provide security for members. The Gwydir Fitness Centres contain a separate weight training, cardio, aerobics, and boxing area. These facilities are available to the community and visitors on a casual, monthly, or six-monthly membership.

The aim is to provide the community with a facility to help promote a healthy and active lifestyle, while also having the facility available to those who are working on rehabilitation or just keeping mobile.

In 2020/2021, both facilities were holding steady with 50+ members each at any given time. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the facilities were forced to close their doors in August under the directive of the public health order as they mandated hygiene marshals. Memberships were put on pause and reinstated once operations recommenced. The fitness centres were able to open again in late September.

New/replacement equipment for the financial year was achieved with the Friends of the Gwydir Fitness Centre's successful grant application through FRRR program, along with a Council contribution. The equipment included the introduction of the power rack and straight bar to the Warialda facility, along with a new Stair Master, Exercise Bike, and gym flooring. In the Bingara facility the old lateral pulldown machine was retired and replaced with a new one, along with the Leg Extension/Curl machine. A Stair Master was also introduced to Bingara.

Without the help of The Friends of the Gwydir Fitness Centre's successful grant application this would not have been possible this year, with COVID-19 restrictions having a big impact on income.





Insurance Costs

Insurance Class	2021/2022	2020/2021
Environmental Impairment Liability	\$55,462.00	\$55,599.50
Workers Compensation	\$790,607.75	\$789,976.56
Personal Accident	\$3,993.28	\$3,962.48
Workers Compensation Top up	\$3,294.48	\$2,866.75
Accumulated Sick Leave	Now held within other policies	\$10,159.91
Casual Hirers Liability	\$5,698.77	\$5,065.58
Councillors and Officers Liability	\$42,004.34	\$38,185.76
Crime	\$13,170.42	\$10,914.38
Motor Vehicle	\$176,453.24	\$187,397.93
Motor Vehicle Adjustment	-\$2,847.22	-
Property	\$352,776.17	\$309,632.88
Public Liability - Professional Indemnity	\$233,927.58	\$207,935.63
Total exc. GST	\$1,674,540.81	\$1,621,697.36

Business Improvement Committee

Definition: Business Improvement (BI): Refining or redesigning processes, services, and systems, to improve efficiency, effectiveness and quality, or address compliance matters, in alignment with strategy.

In April 2021 the Business Improvement Committee was formed with representatives from various departments within the organisation. The purpose of the Business Improvement Committee is to identify and prioritise business improvement initiatives which have a cross Council impact on people, process, and systems. This level of prioritisation is intended to improve efficiency, reduce inconsistencies, manage resource availability, and capitalise on opportunities which align with Council strategy. Initiatives will be prioritised based on strategic priority; relative value in relation to other initiatives; the impact of change considering resource requirements and departments impacted; and the benefit to the council and community as a whole.

The committee was formed to assist council in 4 key areas:

- Identify the need for change
- Analyse current processes
- Obtain commitment and support
- Create improvement strategy



This is page number 172 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman



Amount of rates and charges written off during the year

Amount of Rates and Charges Written Off in 2020/2021 Year				
Pension Rebate Breakdown 2021/2022				
Pension Rebate - 2021/2022				
Rate Classification	Rebate Given	Govt	Council	Total (\$)
General Rates	Pensioner Farmland	-7,730.41	-6,324.82	-14,055.23
	Pensioner General	-43,329.55	-35,451.36	-78,780.91
		-51,059.96	-41,776.18	
Water & Sewer Rates	Pensioner Water	-23,843.46	-19,512.79	-43,356.25
	Pensioner Sewerage	-20,426.94	-16,716.81	-37,143.75
Waste Charges	Pensioner Domestic Waste & Disposal	-19,415.99	-15,885.88	-35,301.87
	Pensioner Waste Management	-15,065.26	-12,326.23	-27,391.49
		-34,481.25	-28,212.11	
	Total Claim	-129,811.61	-106,217.89	-236,029.5
			-106,217.89	

Councillor Expenses

Details of overseas visits by Councillors, Council staff or other persons representing Council (including visits sponsored by other organisations)

There were no overseas visits by Councillors, Council staff or other persons representing Council during this reporting period.

Total cost during the year of the payment of expenses of, and the provision of facilities to, Councillors in relation to their civic functions.

There were no expenses in the 2020/2021 reporting period relating to the payment of expenses of and provision of facilities to councillors in relation to the civic functions.

Provision of dedicated office equipment allocated to Councillors

The total amount of expense relating to office equipment was for provision of Mobile Phones and iPads with a total cost of \$6951.79.

Telephone calls made by Councillors

Council does not pay the cost of telephone calls for elected members.

Attendance of Councillors at conferences and seminars. Training of Councillors and provision of skill development (including interstate visits)

The total cost for the 2020/2021 year for Councillor skills development was A break-up of these costs is provided in the table below:

Details	Amount (\$)
Air Travel	\$306.70
Course Seminar & Conference Registration	\$8,113.19
Other Travel Related Costs	\$7,456.01
Overnight Travel Expenses	\$5,086.34
Plant Hire for travel to Seminars & Conferences	\$16,777.80
Travel Accommodation	\$10,374.35
Grand Total	\$48,114.39

List of interstate visits and number attending

There was only one interstate visits made by Councillors in 2020/2021 details are included in the table below:

State	Purpose	No Attending
ACT	LG National General Assembly	3

Expenses involved in the provision of care for a child or an immediate family member of a Councillor.

There were no expenses involved in the provision of care relating to a Councillor during this period.

Details of contracts awarded by Council

Gwydir Shire Council awarded eleven (11) contracts exceeding \$150,000 during 2020/2021. Total value of contracts exceeding \$150,000 during this reporting period is in excess of \$1,493,484.00

Gwydir Shire Council - Class 1 Contracts		
Name of Contractor	Purpose of Contract	Actual Expenditure Ex GST
Cleanaway	Waste Management	\$13,494.26
Roger Moore PTY Ltd	Supply of Fuel	Not yet completed
Johnstone Concrete and Quarries	To supply and deliver manufactured quarry products, as required, to a TfNSW specification	\$41,595.95
ERM	Electricity	Not yet completed
AGL	Electricity	Not yet completed
ORIGIN	Electricity	Not yet completed
Cleanaway	Waste collection and processing	Not yet completed
Fulton Hogan	Full service bitumen resurfacing.	\$1,438,394.19
Smartlux	Supply and install sports field lighting	Not yet completed
Meador Constructions P/L	Improvements to the Warialda Golf & Bowling Club	Not yet completed
Smartlux - Precision Lighting	To upgrade the existing lighting infrastructure to increase efficiency and incorporate more sporting opportunities.	Not yet completed
Total		\$1,493,484.40



Summary of the amounts incurred by the Council in relation to legal proceedings

There was two legal action against Council during the 2020/2021 period. Both have been resolved.
The legal costs during the 2020/2021 are \$45,801.80 including GST.

Summary of resolutions made under Section 67 concerning work carried out on private land.

Description	Number
Earthworks/Construction	13
Grading Access Road	29
Hire of Staff	3
Miscellaneous	2
Plant Hire	22
Private Works for RFS	6
Repair to Hire Plant	2
Reseal Driveway	1
Sale of Emulsion	1
Sale of Gravel	6
Sale of Miscellaneous Materials	2
Sale of Signs	3
Transport Equipment	7
Water Delivery	149

Weed control was part of funded regional activities for intensive weed control and eradication and containment. All projects were full cost recovery.



Total amount contributed or otherwise granted under section 356 (financially assist others)

There was a total of \$108,157 donated under Section 356. The table below includes information on the donations granted:

2020/2021 Donation	
Organisation	Amount
All junior and school sports plus community groups	\$5,000
Anglican Church, North Star	\$707
Bingara Radiance Club	\$2,281
Catholic Church, Presbytery, St Joseph's Primary School and Convent	\$9,945
CWA North Star	\$1,249
CWA Warialda	\$2,998
Gravesend Showground	\$878
Gwydir Rugby Club	\$1,000
Presbyterian Church Warialda	\$1,624
Salvation Army Bingara	\$1,357
Scots Presbyterian Church, Bingara	\$1,107
St Johns Anglican Church, Bingara	\$2,669
St Mary's Catholic Church, Bingara	\$3,802
St Simon and Jude's Anglican Church, Warialda	\$1,899
Uniting Church, Bingara	\$1,132
Bingara Central School	\$5,000
Waiving Development Appln and other fees	\$1,500
Carinda House	\$3,133
Warialda P & A Association	\$6,897
Warialda Rail Recreation Reserve	\$829
Sub Totals	\$55,007



Donations < \$1,000	
Organisation	Amount
Upper Horton Rodeo and Campdraft	\$500
Warialda Sports Council Awards	\$350
Warialda High School	\$475
Bingara Central School	\$650
Warialda Primary School	\$300
St Josephs Primary School	\$300
Gravesend Primary School	\$300
North Star Primary School	\$300
Croppa Creek Primary School	\$300
Unallocated	\$10,575
Totals	\$14,050

Donations > \$1,000	
Organisation	Amount
Barraba PA & H Association	\$1,500.00
Warialda P & A Association	\$1,500.00
Bingara Show Society	\$1,500.00
Gwydir Art Prize (Subject to being held)	\$2,500.00
Friendly Faces Helping Hands Foundation	\$1,000.00
Warialda Historical Society (Previous commitment by Council to 5 year project)	\$5,000.00
Bingara Sporting Club (If grant application is successful)	\$20,000.00
Bush Bursary NSW Doctors' Network	\$2,000
Warialda Rotary	\$1,100.00
Barwon Medical Scholarship	\$3,000.00
Totals	\$39,100.00

Statements of all corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies in which Council held a controlling interest.

Gwydir Shire Council did not hold a controlling interest in any corporation, private company, partnership, trust, joint venture, syndicate or any other body in the year ending 30 June 2021.



Statements of all corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies in which council participated.

The Council is involved in several co-operative arrangements with a non-controlling interest in the following entities:

- Fossickers' Way Promotion Committee
- Local Government NSW
- Traffic Committee
- Regional Tourism Committee
- Bush Fire Liaison (Service Level Agreement) Committee
- Border Regional Organisations of Councils
- Arts North West
- Namoi Joint Organisation
- New England Joint Organisation (Associate Membership)
- New England North West Regional Advisory Committee (Multicultural Advisory Group)
- Country Mayor's Association
- StateCover Mutual
- Statewide Mutual
- Central Northern Regional Library and Information Service

Statement of all external bodies that exercised functions delegated by Council.

To better engage the community and reflect local community views and needs, Gwydir Shire Council delegates a range of its functions to volunteer committees:

- Bingara Historical Society
- Gravesend Community Group
- Naroo Advisory Committee
- Bingara Anglers' Club
- Bingara Showground Committee
- Bingara Special Events
- Warialda Tourism Committee
- Warialda Historical Society
- Coolatai Sportsground Committee
- North Star Hall Committee
- Croppa Creek Hall Committee
- Yallaroi Hall Committee
- Crooble Hall Committee
- Croppa Creek Hall Committee
- Warialda Rail Community Committee
- Warialda Cultural Community Centre – Carinda House
- Warialda Sports Council
- Warialda PreSchool
- Gwydir Health Alliance

Equal Employment Management (EEO)

Gwydir Shire Council is committed to the principles of EEO. It aims to provide a work environment that fosters fairness, equity, respect for social and cultural diversity, and is free from unlawful discrimination, harassment and vilification as determined by the legislation.



In fulfilling this commitment, Council:

- Fosters an organisational culture which recognises and respects the diversity in the social and cultural backgrounds of all staff and customers
- Provides equal opportunity by removing barriers to participation or progression in employment
- Safeguards merit-based systems of transparency so that decisions are made without bias
- Provides training to create an environment that promotes and supports transparent decision making
- Strives to ensure fair outcomes in all areas of employment, including recruitment, training and development, promotion, transfer, supervision and management of staff, access to information and conditions of employment
- Provides a workplace where all staff and customers are treated with respect and courtesy
- Clearly defines what is regarded as acceptable and unacceptable workplace behaviour

Gwydir Shire Council demonstrates its commitment to the principles of EEO through the development of processes to eliminate any potential discrimination, harassment or bullying in the workplace. Existing policies and induction programs highlight the importance of treating all staff and customers with respect and reinforce that discrimination in any form will not be tolerated.

Gwydir Shire Council also demonstrates a commitment to EEO principles through the development of systems and processes for recruitment and promotion. All decisions made regarding recruitment and promotion are based on merit not influenced by gender, disability, race, age, religion or any other attribute.

For existing employees, Gwydir Shire Council is committed to providing a supportive and inclusive workplace where decisions are made equitably without any discrimination.

During this reporting period a Draft EEO Management Plan has been developed through consultation with key stakeholders.

Council has several trained EEO Contact Officers who have been trained by the Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW to assist with the application of EEO policies and procedures and provide support and guidance to staff.

Statement of the total remuneration comprised in the remuneration package of the General Manager

General Manager Remuneration Package

Item	Amount (\$)
Salary	305,178.99
Superannuation	28,992.06
Non-Cash Benefits	20,800.00
FBT	0.00
Total Package	354,971.05

Senior Staff Members Remuneration Package
 Not applicable. The only staff member classified as Senior Staff is the General Manager.

Stormwater Management Services

Council levied a Stormwater Management Service Charge (SWSC) of \$25 per residential property, \$12.50 for residential strata lots, and \$25 per 350sq.m for business properties capped at a maximum charge of \$1,000. The total received funds in the 2020/2021 financial year was \$39,375. Council's stormwater works program for the financial year included routine repairs, cleaning of gross pollutant traps and removal of debris from grates and inlets.



Coastal Protection Services Provided

Not applicable. Council did not levy any charges for coastal protection services.

Report on Capital Works Projects

There were nil capital works project reports submitted during the reporting period.

Swimming Pool Inspections

Building Services have a private swimming pool inspection program in place where all known swimming pools in Gwydir Shire are inspected once every three years. The program is designed to ensure owners of private swimming pools maintain their pools and pool barriers in an effective manner to ensure the safety of all pool users. In the 2019/20 financial year Council inspectors carried out 33 pool inspections and issued 33 swimming pool compliance certificates.

The 2019/20 financial year saw the commencement of the 2nd round of the 3-year rolling program for inspections which means that all known swimming pools within Gwydir Shire have now been inspected at least once. The program will continue to be undertaken on a yearly rolling basis as required by the NSW Government.



Statement Of Activities Companion Animals Act 1998 And Regulation 2008

Companion Animals management

Gwydir Shire Council employs two Regulatory Officers who are responsible for administering the Companion Animals Act 1998. The officers patrol the region to provide companion animal owners with support, education and regulation. A summary of the activities undertaken in 2020/2021 are listed below.

Pound data / Collection returns

Council reports annually on impounded animals in the Gwydir Shire region. This information is provided to the Department of Local Government, and forms part of the Survey of Council Seizures of Cats and Dogs. Council lodged its pound data collection return in August 2021. A summary of the pound data collections for the year is presented in the table below.

ACTIVITY	CATS	% change	DOGS	% change
Total Animals Seized	40	+29%	18	-22%
Returned to owner	0	-200%	13	+260%
Impounded	40	+38%	5	-72%
Surrendered	0	0%	0	-200%
Released to Owners	0	-100%	1	0%
Released to rehoming organisation	4	+400%	3	-73%
Euthanised unsuitable for rehoming	3	+300%	1	-66%
Euthanised unable to rehomed	0	-200%	1	-80%
Euthanised feral	36	+38%	0	0%

Nuisance Orders

Four dogs (two residing at the same property) were put on a 6-month nuisance orders for barking or escaping property issues.

Menacing Dog Declarations

Five dogs (two pairs residing at the same property) were placed on menacing dog declarations. One dog residing at another property remains on a menacing dog declaration from previous years for an attack.

Dangerous Dog Declaration

One dog remains on a dangerous dog declaration from the previous year for an attack.

Microchipping and Registrations

494 Dogs and 14 Cats were microchipped in the period. Of these 11 microchips were implanted by the Regulatory staff. 82 Dogs and 13 Cats were registered in the period for a total of \$15,391.

Microchipping and Registration Totals

	ID Microchip Only	% change	Registered	% change	Total	% change
Cat	322	+14%	177	+14%	499	+14%
Dog	3347	+20%	1671	+7%	5018	+16%
Total:	3669	+20%	1848	+8%	5517	+15%



The top ten registered breeds in The Shire

Dogs

Breed	Registered
Australian Kelpie	301
Jack Russell Terrier	256
Labrador Retriever	174
Border Collie	144
Australian Cattle Dog (Blue)	136
Maltese	101
Unknown	97
Chihuahua (Smooth)	92
Cocker Spaniel	91
Dachshund (miniature)	91

Cats

Breed	Registered
Domestic	309
Ragdoll	43
Birman	26
(Other)	14
Burmese	10
Domestic	10
Russian Blue	9
Unknown	7
Ragdoll	7
Persian	7

Dog Attack Statistics

Known dog attacks reported and investigated by Council's Regulatory officers are entered into the Companion Animals Database, in accordance with the requirements of the Companion Animals Act 1998. During 2020/2021 there was 1 incident involving 2 dogs reported to Council which was investigated and reported on the Companion Animals Database. All incidents were investigated and reported through the Companion Animals Database portal. All incidents were resolved.

Funds spent on Companion Animal management and activities

Funding spent by Council in 2020/2021 totalled \$118,656
 This figure includes the employment of Regulatory officers, the operation and maintenance of Council's Companion Animal Impounding facility, as well as educational and awareness activities.

Educational activities

The Strategic Companion Animal Management Plan (SCAMP) contains objectives for undertaking companion animal awareness and educational activities. This year saw a continuing use of social media for a range of Companion Animal Management Activities including education, reuniting lost pets, and rehoming pets. The free microchipping strategy uses this face-to-face contact to educate people on their roles and responsibilities as a pet owner. The Shire also produces a range of factsheets for companion animal owners which are distributed physically, and the information is available online at Council's website.

Strategies to promote the desexing and permanent identification of companion animals

It is recognised that the desexing of cats and dogs helps to reduce nuisance behaviours such as roaming, aggression and the production of unwanted litters. We promote desexing to our customers highlighting these advantages both socially and financially.

Strategies to reduce euthanasia rates

Council operates a Facebook page and eligible impounded animals are advertised for rehoming. This allows the community to view and share that information and reach a wider audience. Partnerships have been developed across the region with rehoming organisations such as Luck paws, Animal Welfare League



(Moree), PetRescue - Macintyre Pet and Animal Rescue – Goondiwindi. The companion animals that are not rehomed locally are shared with these organisations and available to a wider population for rehoming. A total of eight dogs have been euthanised as they were unable and unsuitable to be rehomed. All the euthanised cats were feral cats.

If companion animals are not able to be rehomed locally, the Compliance officers work with Luck paws, Animal welfare league (Moree) PetRescue - Macintyre Pet and Animal Rescue – Goondiwindi to rehome them further afield.

The dogs that were euthanised were due to behavioural unsuitability.

Off-leash areas

Council provides five designated off leash areas in the region. Council secured funding via the Stronger Country Communities grant program to upgrade the off-leash areas. The upgrades include fencing areas at Triangle Park, All Nations Hill and the Gravesend reserve. The fenced areas will also include seating, a water drinking fountain for dogs and their owners, shade plantings and dog litter bag dispensers and bins. Upgrades have commenced and will be completed in the new year.

Regulatory signage is erected at all the off-leash areas detailing what behaviours are permitted and prohibited.

- Bingara** Bicentennial Park including part Bingara River Common Crown Reserve area under Council management and All Nations Hill, Hill Street, Bingara.
- Warialda** Pioneer Cemetery Park and Long Street Triangle Park corner of Long St and Mosquito Creek Road (triangle reserve).
- Gravesend** Off leash Reserve Gwydir Street Gravesend.



Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 and Regulation Information included on GIPA Activity

During the 2020/2021 period, Council received two requests under the Government Information (Public Access) Act, 2009. Both were dealt with in the period required and the information requested was provided.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

Particular of compliance with and effect of planning agreements in force during the year.

There were no Planning Agreements in force during this reporting period.

PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE ACT 1994 AND REGULATION

No disclosures were made during the reporting period. Council's Privacy Management Plan is available at www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au to view or download. During the reporting period Council had planned to engage NSW Ombudsman staff to undertake training of Council employees. Twice this training was postponed, due to fires and COVID-19. When this training is complete, and employees are appointed as PID officers then Council will review its policies.



Compliance with the NSW Carers (Recognition) Act 2010

The relationship between carers and the persons for whom they care is recognised and respected within the Gwydir Shire. Carers are considered to be partners with all other care providers in the provision of care and are treated with dignity and respect.

Gwydir Shire acknowledges the important role carers play within the community and aims to provide timely and appropriate support. Aged Care within the Gwydir Shire involve carers in the ongoing health management by way of inclusion in Case Conferences and being consulted about new program proposals that are directed to carers or the person they care for.

The new Aged Care Standards incorporate the importance of Carers in the industry, and it is expected that organisations partnership with the consumer and their carer/s. Consumers Dignity and Choice is supported by allowing consumers to make decisions about when family, friend's carers or others should be involved in their care. Consumers often continue to receive care and support from unpaid carers when entering residential care such as family and friends. These people have been supporting the consumer over a period of time, before they accessed care and services and continue to be recognised by the Gwydir Shire Council. Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) services celebrate Carers week. Carers are also involved in our Disability Inclusion Committee undertaking a consultative role.

Naroo Frail Aged Care facility continues to recognise family and carers on a monthly basis by holding a BBQ each month to celebrate the resident's birthdays and inviting them to attend.

National Carers week is celebrated each year and is about recognising and celebrating the outstanding contribution family, friends and carers make to our shire.

Educational Strategies

Staff awareness and education is available through various programs such as Dementia Australia and Golden Carers. Staff also have access to webinars providing information and education on programs such as the new Integrated Carer Support Service Model.

A copy of the NSW Carers charter is displayed in Gwydir Shire Council units within the shire. Carers play an integral part within the Gwydir Shire Council and are recognised and involved in the day-to-day care of residents residing in the Aged Care Facility owned by the Gwydir Shire Council as well as services provided through Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) and NSW Transport.

Consultation and liaison with Carers

Consultation and liaison with Carers occurs within the Residential Aged Care facility and CHSP services on a daily basis. Carers are identified and kept informed with any changes or deterioration of their loved ones. Gwydir Shire seeks input and feedback from consumers and their carers and has access to various methods for raising and resolving complaints. This feedback is actively reviewed, and the service is improved as appropriate.

Work continues on implementation of Dementia Friendly communities within the shire. The Dementia Friendly Committee has been integrated with the Disability Inclusion Committee which has brought strength and increased scope to the combined committee. This committee is made up of people in the community who are interested in helping to make their community or town more disability and dementia friendly.



Staff who are carers

Carers leave is available to all staff working for the Gwydir Shire Council and is supported by the Gwydir Shire Councils Sick and Carers Leave policy adopted on the 17th March 2020. This policy is due for review in March 2022.

Disability Inclusion Act 2014

The Gwydir Shire Council recognises that people with a disability have the right to exercise choice and control in the pursuit of their goals and the planning and delivery of their support and services. The aim is to provide people with disability opportunities for access and participation, consistent with that provided to other community members.

Council has developed its Disability Inclusion Plan and has built the actions in this plan into Delivery Program Actions. We continue to plan to address the issues that we need to as an organisation to ensure that people with a disability in our community are not disadvantaged.

During this reporting period Council was successful in seeking funding for an all abilities recreational area adjacent to the Warialda MPS and Naroo Aged Care Facility. This recreation area will provide an exciting recreational space for people of all abilities. The space was designed utilising the Everyone Can Play Principles developed by the NSW Government.

In developing this park Council has demonstrated its commitment Gwydir Shire to implementing the Act by way of constructing a recreation/play space for people of all abilities. The design includes wide paved walkways, wheelchair friendly, access to raised garden beds and access to a wheelchair swing. This specific equipment has been incorporated with gym equipment and playground equipment ensuring that all community members have the opportunity to access these facilities together.

Also included in the design is varied styles of seating, outdoor music equipment, passive recreation turf spaces and a native plantings of bird attracting plants.

Gwydir Shire Council has also formed a Disability Access Committee and usually meets regularly to discuss the needs of the community. However the impact of COVID-19 has slowed the progression of this committee for 2020/2021 but will be reinstated as restrictions ease.

Fisheries Management Act 1994

Gwydir Shire Council has not been identified as responsible for the implementation of measures in any Recovery Threat Abatement Plan.



The community vision "Gwydir Country
A Circular Economy, Fresh Air, Innovation & Opportunity."



END OF TERM REPORT*

* Council term extended in 2020 due to COVID-19

| 2017 - 2021 |

This is page number 186 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

MAYOR'S REFLECTION



This report concludes a 5 1/4 year for the elected councillors.

COVID-19 prevented the scheduled Local Government elections to be held in September 2020. The election will now be held on December 4th, 2021. No other level of government in Australia has exceeded the legislated term.

The term of Local Government just completed will be recorded in history as one with an outstanding number of significant events.

The term began in September 2016. Gwydir Shire is predominately an agricultural shire and towards the end of 2016 it was noticeably dry. A four year drought followed which proved to be the driest period in recorded history. This impacted heavily on our community and in response Gwydir Shire Council commenced an employment scheme for those out of work due to the drought. Water cartage of potable water was also implemented to households free of charge.

Our sister Council Willoughby donated a slide on poly tank to assist this programme and we appreciate this help from our city cousins.

The State and Federal governments responded by supplying drought stimulus funding in the form of increased road funding and civic infrastructure grants.

The next major event was a big one. COVID-19 arrived in Australia. Travel was restricted, and all of NSW was locked down for four weeks at one stage. The Federal and State governments provided aid once again as a stimulus to maintain the economy. Gwydir has received large sums of grant funding for road works and civic infrastructure once again.

As you drive the Shire you see a distinct face lift in the towns and villages and the road network is improving with some roads to go from gravel to bitumen.

Other events worth noting are the mice plague and the March 2021 floods. Council has received funding to repair the flood damage.

During the period we have built a state of the art truck wash facility, installed solar panels on many Council owned buildings and half completed the Warialda Heavy Vehicle Bypass.

My congratulations go to all staff of Gwydir Shire Council. It has been a testing time with working from home for some, the wearing of face masks and added to that the Bingara indoor staff have had to abandon their offices and relocate to other facilities due to a build up of mould in the main Council building. Thank you also to the elected members who have served for an extended term. Councillors and staff have worked well together.

The morale in the organisation is high. As a team we have achieved an enormous amount, most of which is recorded in the following report.

In conclusion it has been a wonderful time to be in Local Government. We have achieved great things for the community we serve.

Thank you to all concerned.

COUNCILLOR REFLECTIONS



Cr Catherine Egan – Deputy Mayor

The current Council term has been an extremely challenging time for our Shire residents. I am proud of Council's and the community's resilience throughout some significant events in recent history.

Gwydir Health Alliance (GHA) - this Alliance was formed in 2017 to seek to address the issue of attracting and retaining doctors to our local government area. Gwydir Shire Council has now been selected as part of a NSW trial through the University of New England known as the Attract, Connect and Stay Project seeking to improve health outcomes for rural communities.

During the drought the people of Bangalow on the north coast provided drought assistance during the worst drought experienced by rural NSW in over 100 years. Assistance was in the form of livestock fodder and household essentials for families affected by the drought. It took many hours to coordinate the delivery of these supplies, and to see the appreciation from people was well worth the commitment. Council also provided free potable water to households during the drought.

I happily supported the recent relocation and upgrade of Bingara Library which opened in 2020 thanks to successful grant funding. I have long been an advocate of the library, attending and participating in library activities and attending the Central Northern Regional Library meetings.

The Bingara Showground/Racecourse User Group Committee of which I have served as Chair, has been instrumental in managing grant applications and upgrades e.g., new lighting and amenities at the Bingara Showground.

Seeing Bingara's new pool precinct open was a significant achievement during this term. Being part of earlier discussion regarding the Bingara Swimming Pool precinct I was happy to see this project come to fruition as it was suggested at one time that the Bingara pool be closed and Bingara residents either travel to Warialda to use their pool or use the river, neither suggestion being good for residents of Bingara and surrounds.

Community based achievements

As an avid golfer, I was especially invested in ensuring that the upgrade to the Bingara Sporting Club was successful. Being actively involved with the entire project from the initial application to the completion of the works, it was exciting to see the fruits of our labour come together and is something that the entire community and any visitors can enjoy for many years to come.

Through drought, fire, floods, pandemics, and plagues, I am proud of the way that our community have banded together. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on Council and deem it an absolute privilege to serve the community.

The Community vision by a member of our community "Gwydir Country - A Circular Economy, Fresh Air, Innovation & Opportunity" 3

END OF TERM REPORT



Cr Tiffany Galvin

In Gwydir Shire we have so many volunteers who contribute their time and energy to our community. Council alone has many volunteers who are involved in environmental care, aged and disability services, community events, The Youth Council, the section 355 committee network and many more working alongside community and sporting groups. I would like to thank each of you who contributes to making Gwydir Shire a better place for all of us. As we come towards an election, I want to say a large thank you to the Council staff, the community groups, volunteers, and every member of the Gwydir community that have made this term

on Council an absolute pleasure. As long as I am on Council, I will try my absolute best to put the community first and make even some small difference.

Cr James Moore

Over the past 9 years as an elected Councillor, I would like to thank the Residents who have placed their faith and trust in me to represent their views and concerns, at a local level. I can assure you I have not taken this responsibility lightly. I believe being selected as a Councillor is a privilege and a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in our community, not only in Council matters but also within the local Organisations I am involved with. Throughout this time, I have been involved with many significant decisions and changes associated with community projects, road infrastructure and community events that have been successful and benefited all of our community. I am proud of the strength of our Council and our established Community Organisations working together as a cohesive unit representing all residents, moving forward through the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.



Cr Frances Young



Being a Councillor is very interesting and also quite challenging at times. However, this time has been extremely rewarding and has provided me with some valuable learning opportunities. The opportunity to represent our Shire and the community has been an honour and a responsibility that I do not take lightly. I do not regret a minute of it and am proud of the achievements that our Council has made, especially during what has been a very trying time for all.

END OF TERM REPORT



Cr David Coulton

As I near the end of my first term as a Councillor of Gwydir Shire I can reflect on the last 5 years as being an experience that I will never forget in my life. As a previous employee of Local Government, it has been quite a different experience seeing Council operations from another side and it has been thoroughly rewarding in seeing what this Council has been able to achieve over this period of time and more recently throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, I have not seen the achievements, to date, for the increase in industry and population growth throughout the Shire that I had hoped to see, so I will "throw my hat in to the ring"

again and stand for another term in an effort to see these things come to fruition.

Cr Marilyn Dixon OAM

Reflecting on my 9 years as a councillor, I have witnessed many changes occurring within Gwydir Shire. I have learnt a lot from the conversations I have had with many residents and gained an appreciation of the things about Gwydir that the community values. I am reminded that first and foremost my obligation as an elected representative, is to represent the community and I am honoured that I get the opportunity to do this.



Cr Stuart Dick

Looking back on my 9 years on Council, I have seen many changes and challenges occurring in the Gwydir Shire. The last 18 months have been and continue to be very hard for our communities, what with fires, floods, mice and now COVID-19.

My focus has been on population, business growth and the welfare of our communities. I would like to thank our many volunteers for the dedication and commitment they show time and time again.



Cr Geoffrey Smith

My aim at the beginning of last term was to make sure we concentrated on our main agendas (i.e. Roads and infrastructure) and I think this has happened thanks to the good work of many of the Council staff during the last few very challenging years.

Stay well and safe.





END OF TERM REPORT

COUNCIL STATEMENTS & VALUES

OUR VISION

To be the recognised leader in Local Government through continuous learning and sustainability.

OUR MISSION

To ensure that the Council's long term role is viable and sustainable by meeting the needs of our residents in a responsible caring way, attract sustainable development while maintaining the traditional rural values, character and culture of our people.

Council Core Values

- 1. For Our Community and Visitors**
We will provide a safe, clean and healthy environment in which all people have the opportunity to participate in and share in the Council's services and facilities.
- 2. For Our Community Committees**
We will seek their opinion in relation to the services in which they assist us, offer relevant and timely support, and recognise their valuable contribution.
- 3. For Our Staff**
We will create an atmosphere of team support, which encourages frank and honest communication, and the use of common sense and innovation in a safe and friendly working environment with the aim of efficiency.
- 4. For Our Councillors**
We will treat all Councillors equally and ensure that they are provided with accurate and timely advice and expect that they will treat each other and the staff with due respect.

6 The community vision "Gwydir Country - A Circular Economy, Fresh Air, Innovation & Opportunity."

This is page number 191 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE? The Vision of the Gwydir Community

Many hands make a community



The Community vision by a member of our community "Gwydir Country - A Circular Economy, Fresh Air, Innovation & Opportunity" 7

This is page number 192 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

END OF TERM REPORT

On assessment of the community aspirations (wants and needs) it was determined that the already defined strategic direction outlined in the Community Strategic Plan adopted in July 2012 was still applicable. The broad categories of feedback included roads and other assets, the appearances of our towns and villages, tourism, economic development, specifically increasing our population. It was recognised that we could improve on our previous consultation process during the production of the last Community Strategic Plan. With this in mind, we conducted additional consultation with individuals in the Aged and Youth demographics.

- Bike shed Gravesend • Water refilling stations • Vacant land for development
- Friends of Naroo • Naroo Sustainability • Improve medical services
- North Bingara sewerage expansion • Communication • More volunteers
- Strategic relationships • Circular Economy • Population growth
- Expanded tourism • Economic Development • Gwydir Learning Region • The Living Classroom • Fit For The Future • Domestic Waste Collection • Financial stability • Review of service levels

- Warialda Rail Water Supply • Two Pools? • Naroo development
- Extension of Gravesend Club • Independent living units Naroo
- Roxy Theatre - events/shows • Vacant land for sale
- Foreshore Management • Optimum Road Network
- Asset Management Plans • Petition Other Levels of Government
- Behind the Meter Scheme • Park Irrigation systems

- Cranky Rock • Focus on Arts • Cost savings - Community Halls • Review standard of ramps • Self Help (Roads) • Greenhouse & Poultry • Redevelopment Bingara Civic Centre • Roxy Café • Reduce levels of service for parks and gardens • Fossickers' Paradise • Attract more Grey Nomads to stay longer
- Regional conferencing • Biolinks projects • North Star water upgrade
- Gravesend water supply • Sewerage treatment - pipe relining programs
- Development of town water bore Croppa Creek • Warialda water supply
- Friends of Myall Creek Committee • Regular welcome new residents/visitors • Development of Myall Creek Massacre Memorial Site
- ePlanning • Directional signage improved • Mongard's town strategy roll out
- Review of staff salaries and numbers • Small community events
- Review our staff literacy and numeracy levels

- Upper Horton - mobile phone tower • Inland Rail project • Improve mobile coverage
- Museums • Biodegester • Sand mine opportunities • Divert tourist traffic
- Warialda geological walks • Redevelopment Bingara Council Depot • Gwydir River cold water pollution • Noxious weeds programs • Recognition of local heroes
- Gwydir - geological centre of excellence • Coolatai Rock • Migrant resettlement
- Bingara - bypass • Coolatai - RV friendly accreditation

- "Riley the Hairy One" • Warialda Pop up Gallery • Expand visitor accommodation
- NBN Opportunities • Warialda Food Bank • Biodegradable coffins • Winding down in Warialda Festival • Warialda Amateur Dramatic Society • BBQ picnic free zone
- Find fee free pathways for ESL students • Warialda Triathlon • Diner en Blanc Warialda
- Warialda - Bingara marathon • Gwydir Shire - Centre for Adventure • Public Art
- Reedy Creek - mud run • Companion Animals' Welfare • Warialda Community Garden
- Quirky Festival • Wellness Centre of the North West • Discos for Kids at Gravesend
- Develop Reedy Creek • Paint Bingara bridge • Coolatai Art Show
- Coolatai - improved RV sites ie dump sites

This is page number 193 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

END OF TERM REPORT

GWYDIR SHIRE GOALS

Council Achievements

The Gwydir Shire Council goals and their link with the quadruple bottom line principles and the additional Governance goal are outlined below:



A HEALTHY AND COHESIVE COMMUNITY (SOCIAL)



BUILDING THE BUSINESS BASE (ECONOMIC)



AN ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE SHIRE (ENVIRONMENT)



PROACTIVE REGIONAL AND LOCAL LEADERSHIP (CIVIC LEADERSHIP)



ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT (GOVERNANCE)

The following section is consistent with our Community Strategic Plan where you can clearly identify Council's achievements and how they have linked back to the goals above.

The Community vision by a member of our community "Gwydir Country - A Circular Economy, Fresh Air, Innovation & Opportunity" 9

This is page number 194 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman



A HEALTHY AND COHESIVE COMMUNITY (SOCIAL)

During the term you told us it was important to you that the shire is...

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

Council has done this by....

NAROO & CHSP

- Naroo kitchen extensions were completed in November 2020 funded through a Commonwealth ACAR grant.
- New security and call bell system was integrated into the facility which included all rooms having falls sensors in the ceilings to alert staff of any high falls risks residents attempting to get out of bed on their own. This system has greatly reduced the number of falls and the severity of injury from a fall.
- In June 2021 Grant application successful for \$495,000.00 - this will be used to improve the aesthetics of the building and allow social interaction of all residents including those suffering from Dementia.
- New furniture purchased for main Dining room and lounge area funded by the Naroo Committee.
- New flooring and blinds purchased for Dining room and loungeroom.

- Manual Handling equipment purchased.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic CHSP staff continued to deliver services by making personalized phone calls to "check in" on their clients, along with morning & afternoon tea contactless deliveries.
- Warialda CHSP purchased a new bus to transport clients.
- Bingara CHSP purchased a new bus to transport clients.
- Bingara CHSP branch of NSW Transport has been exceptionally busy transporting clients to medical appointments throughout the region.



GWYDIR LEARNING REGION

- The Sound Trail at TLC was created and activated. The focus points and their stories are shown above.
- The Geo-Transect at Junction Park was established - It serves as an educational display and a traffic control barrier representing the Geological Transect from Copeton Dam to Killarney Gap to scale.
- Many school groups attended TLC. Schools from across NSW and southern Queensland attended some staying in the Bunkhouse accommodation.
- Author and historian Bruce Pascoe joined with indigenous artist Karla Dickens, videographer Brendan Blacklock and AFS committee leader Laura Fisher to produce a film about Valuing Country. They had cooperation from Bingara Central School and seven students over two evenings in February 2018.

END OF TERM REPORT

TOURISM, EVENTS, ROXY THEATRE

- Support of local events through in-kind event administration or financial support - Warialda Men's Health Nights, Warialda Off Road, Warialda Sheep Shearing Titles, The Pulse of the Earth Festival, Upper Horton Rodeo, Copeton Fresh Water Swim, The Bingara Races, Bingara and Warialda Agricultural shows, Bingara Historical Society 50th Anniversary Fete
- Annual Warialda Honey Festival - Festival had to be cancelled in 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Bingara and Warialda Christmas Carnivals.
- Development of the Bingara Orange Festival from a small local street carnival to a regional flagship event attracting around 5000 across the weekend.
- Gwydir Shire Drought support for farming businesses in the form of events and outreach support. These events included Farming Families dinners held at the 7 towns and villages across the shire attracting close to 700 attendees; Mental health support training; drought relief concerts in Bingara and event in Warialda in association with Healthwise; family movie night in North Star; family BBQ in Upper Horton.
- Coordination of Annual Gwydir Community and Business Awards.
- Revamp of Bingara Visitor Information Centre including upgrades to carpet, lighting and visitor displays.
- Roxy Theatre recognised as a site of national significance and was listed on the NSW State Heritage list.
- 2017 - over 5,680 visitors - Anglican Youth Muster, Women's Health night, CWA monthly morning teas, NWTC Films, NWTC performances, Gwydir Shire Council Health Forum, Elanor's Story - live show, 'Roxy on Tour' live show at the Warialda town hall 'Fall of the Roman Empire', weddings, GSC community meetings, 'Embrace' movie fundraiser, private parties, Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea, Tour Groups, Melbourne City Ballet 'A Midsummer Night's Dream, 'Aladdin' live show, kids school holiday movies, The Black Dog Ball, Bingara MPS, Pink Breakfast, school presentations, circus workshops, Orange Festival movies and events.
- 2018 - over 4630 visitors - 'Dustier than Ever' live show, Kamahl live in concert, NWTC Films, Biggest Morning Tea, David Scheel concert pianist, Melbourne City Ballet performance of 'Carmen', Myall Creek Concert, Orange Festival movies and events, 'Kookoo Kookaburra' live kids' performance, Governor of NSW cocktail party, Ceramic Break travelling quilt show, 'Stings Attached' live concert, Chatswood band, 'Big Bad Wolf' kids performance, 'Menopause the Musical', Gwydir Business Awards, Movie Fundraiser, Library party, meetings and conferences.
- 2019 - over 5800 visitors - 2019 Gwydir Community Education & Business Awards, 'The Big Country' live show, Northern Slopes Landcare event, Senior's Week, National Youth Week "Neon Social", Gwydir/Willoughby student exchange welcome dinner, CHSP Christmas in July, NWTC Films, NWTC "Shadows" & "Walking on the moon", "Louisiana Ladies", David Scheel 'Mad Maestros' concert pianist, The Stomping Ivories, "You'll never guess where I hid the cheese", & "Sugar, Sugar" live shows.
- 2020 & 2021 - over 8318 visitors - NWTC Films, Travis Collins, The Twits, Margaret Fulton the Musical, many shows in 2020 & 2021 were postponed or cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



The Community vision by a member of our community "Gwydir Country - A Circular Economy, Fresh Air, Innovation & Opportunity" 11

END OF TERM REPORT

**COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA
 & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- Small business workshops including E-commerce, media writing for small business, visual merchandising, web design, RV friendly town workshop, Easy To Do Business Program, Business Germinator Workshop, Warialda Enterprise with Energy initiative, Farm Biz Field Day.



BUILDING SERVICES

- Warialda Memorial Hall upgrade including a new kitchen, amenities & air-conditioning
- Bingara Central School sports court surfacing and erection of COLA.
- Coolatai Sportsground construction of amenities building.
- Warialda Recreation Ground refurbishment of amenities and construction of bar/BBQ function centre.
- Bingara Showground construction of new stables.
- Warialda Rail sportsground improvements.
- Bingara Historical Society construction of new office & storeroom.
- Carinda House refurbishment of kitchen and air-conditioning to stump room.
- Bingara Civic Centre redevelopment for the Bingara library.
- Gravesend Sportsground construction of amenities building.
- Croppa Creek Hall improvements including refurbishment of kitchen and construction of deck.
- Crooble Hall improvements including installation of new windows and air-conditioning.
- Warialda Catholic Convent painting.
- CWA Hall improvements including refurbishment of amenities and air-conditioning.
- Warialda Anglican Church Hall building improvements.
- 47 Hope Street refurbishment and access improvements.
- Warialda Golf & Bowling Club improvements.
- Warialda Medical Centre improvements.
- Naroo Hostel commercial kitchen refurbishment.
- Bingara Living Classroom construction of beef cattle shed.



END OF TERM REPORT

**INFORMATION SERVICES,
 RECORDS & BUSINESS
 IMPROVEMENT**

- Transition to NBN for all Council services (November 2020)
 - Enabled Council to provide faster open and free Wi-Fi to the public at designated Council sites.
- Achieving 99.9% uptime to ensure services are available for efficient delivery to the community.



SOCIAL SERVICES

- Ongoing delivery of resources promoting health, education and wellbeing by Toy Libraries and Playgroups.
- Child, Youth and Family Health Nurse visits to Toy Libraries in both Warialda and Bingara to provide specialised access to health information.
- Kool Skool kids program providing after school care for Toy Library members
- Bingara Preschool underwent National Quality Standards rating and assessment process and passed this assessment.
- Numbers at Bingara Preschool continue to grow.



PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

- Transition to planning portal for all development applications.
- An increase of development applications from farmers who were utilizing the drought feeding exemption transitioned to permanent feed lot operations.
- Water sampling - additional testing requirements came into effect requiring sample site testing by council staff of chlorine, pH, temperature and turbidity.
- COVID-19 saw the temporary closure of ready to eat food retailers and saw some shut down permanently.
- Bin enclosures with litter messaging were installed at the Recreation Ground Park.
- Camping entry signs, Interpretive signs and compliance signs were installed.
- Sealing of entry roads to camping grounds on the Gwydir River.
- Regular inspections were conducted of the Gwydir River camping areas.
- Improvements to pound.
- A solar CCTV system was installed at the Warialda pound.

The Community vision by a member of our community "Gwydir Country - A Circular Economy, Fresh Air, Innovation & Opportunity" 13

END OF TERM REPORT

TOWN UTILITIES AND PLANT OPERATIONS

- Telstra – Lions Park Maitland Street Bingara
- Captain Cook Park upgrade – involved removal of old playground installation of new
- Gwydir River Pontoon and pathway
- Hope Street Arcade construction
- Turfed bottom section of Maitland Street gardens
- CWA Park shelters part donation
- Hospital Park – All Abilities Park construction
- Gwydir Oval – Grandstand refurbishment
- Gwydir Oval – new amenities block
- Bicentennial Park boundary fence/barrier
- Bingara – Maitland Street centre gardens
- Gwydir Oval canteen fridge replacement
- Warialda Rail – Town Entry signs
- Cunningham Park – Shade sails
- Bingara Town Entry Signs
- Captain Cook Park – Shade sails
- Warialda Rail – Playground plus shade sail installation
- Bicentennial Park – installation of CWA monument
- Warialda Koala reserve – including planting numerous native trees and installing irrigation along with the Koala water stands
- All Abilities Park – landscaping
- All Abilities Park – shade sail installation
- Town street trees
- Cunningham Park – BBQ and Shelters
- Fays Park – seats and shelter
- Cunningham park – new toilet block
- North Star Blue tree – support
- New stable block E construction
- New 8 x 15m General Purpose shed
- Showground stimulus phase 1
 - o New cool room refrigeration unit
 - o Polocrosse canteen cool room cover
 - o Pavilion led lighting
 - o New general purpose shed lighting
 - o Stable maintenance
- Showground stimulus phase 2 – Grandstand refurbishment
- Showground stimulus phase 2b
 - o New toilet block
 - o LED Ring Lighting
- Fays Park Bingara – install drinking fountain
- Water refill stations – bubblers
- Coolatai amenities
- Community flagpoles
- Warialda airstrip amenities
- Warialda cemetery toilet
- Bingara cemetery Columbarium Extension and paving
- Bingara Anglers club – shelter and tables
- Bingara cemetery new plinths in lawn cemetery
- Warialda lawn cemetery plinths extensions
- Bingara cemetery toilet and colourbond fence screening
- Warialda cemetery Columbarium extension
- Bingara central School – Sandstone block – yarnning circle.



END OF TERM REPORT

COMMUNITY ASSETS

- The King of Bingera, Cobbara Ball was laid to rest at the junction of Halls Creek and the Gwydir River, Bingara, 1 December 2017. The return of the King of Bingera was a project in which Council assisted the Office of Environment and Heritage and the Anaiwan Aboriginal Local Land Council.
- Defibrillators were purchased and installed at both public pools.
- Council purchased an inflatable obstacle course through the Drought Stimulus - Regional School Holiday Activities grant.
- Bingara War Memorial Baths - Through external Federal and NSW Government funding Construction the Baths were upgraded. The project saw a new 25 metre pool, splash program pool, kiosk and activities room, all access amenity, and an upgrade to the existing amenities continued throughout winter and spring. The project also included the demolition of the existing pools, and plant room; the construction of new pump and plant rooms; the installation of a skillion, privacy screens, concourse, shade sails, starting blocks, fencing, bench seating, gardens, and turf.
- The Bingara Pool project was chosen to showcase the success and effectiveness of the funding program.
- Warialda Swimming Pool - Substantial upgrades were completed at the pool to make the complex aesthetically pleasing and safer.
- Free Entry to our swimming pools - at Council's Special Ordinary Meeting on 24 January 2019, it was resolved that during the period of drought and excessive heatwave conditions that the entry fee to the Council's Warialda and Bingara Pools be waived in consultation with the Pools' Contractors when the predicted temperature at Moree is set to be equal to or exceed 100 Degrees Fahrenheit or 37 Degrees Celsius. This initiative developed into allowing free entry to Gwydir Shire residents and ratepayers everyday of each season. This has proved very successful with increased patronage at both pools and expanded learn to swim, training, and activity programs.
- Gwydir Shire Council successfully gained \$10,000 funding from the NSW Government's Regional School Holiday Activities Fund to assist with school holiday and youth programs across the Shire. The funding enabled Council to purchase 9 iPads and 2 gaming laptops which will be used in both branch libraries and youth spaces.
- Bingara Library successfully gained \$7,500 funding from Good Things Foundation for their Be Connected program. \$5,000 was spent on iPads and prepaid sim cards to be used in tutorials and to lend to seniors enrolled in tutorials. \$2,500 assisted with costs associated with hosting sessions in the villages.
- Council extended the operating hours of the Warialda library which also allowed for the expansion of after school programs.
- In 2021 Council received a generous donation of shelving from Willoughby City Council. This has enabled Council to provide shelving for book exchange in its outer villages, caravan parks and tourist spots, schools and the historical societies in Warialda and Bingara.
- A household recycling station has been installed at the Bingara Library. In this, residents can deposit old batteries, smoke detectors, ink cartridges and fluro globes
- University and external students' study in the Bingara Library study spaces and quiet room.
- Bingara Library hosted the film "Looby" which was touring Australia to mark 100 years of the Archibald Art Prize.
- Warialda Library hosted the Innovation Studio for a Robot Soccer School Holiday workshop and Secret Agent workshop.
- On 14 February 2020, Library Lovers Day, opened the new Bingara Library. Council was successful in gaining \$200,000 through the NSW State Library Development Grants and a further \$300,000 through the NSW Government's Stronger Country Community Funding - Round 2. The new library is purpose built and makes

The Community vision by a member of our community "Gwydir Country - A Circular Economy, Fresh Air, Innovation & Opportunity" 15

END OF TERM REPORT

much more use of the Civic Centre and allowed for the transfer of the local library services from the Neighbourhood Centre which had become an unsuitable space.

- A mobile cell-fi tower and a UHF were installed at the residence at Cranky Rock.
- Obtaining a grant under the Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Program (Round 3) for \$300,000 will provide for an overhaul and upgrade of the electricity supply to

the Bingara Caravan Park and adjacent pool, and the installation of overhead sporting lights.

- Provision of free community access to Caravan Park laundries for drought impacted farmers.
- Initiative with the Caravan Industry of Australia to install Defibrillators at Council's caravan parks.
- Provision of subsidized accommodation at Bingara and Warialda Caravan Park for tertiary students

studying medicine, nursing, education, social services, and physiotherapy.

- Improvement of infrastructure at Bingara Caravan Park to improve the amenity and safety.
- NSW State Government granted \$231,395 to upgrade the Bingara Caravan Park's amenities block and construct a new caretaker's residence. The residence which will be installed in February 2022 will be a three-bedroom kit home with an office.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Acquisitions	Disposals
47 Hope Street Warialda	123 High Street Warialda
43-45 Hope Street Warialda	3 Bowen Street Bingara
20 Maitland Street Bingara	19 Railway Parade Gravesend
5 Warialda Road Coolatai	28 Maitland Street Bingara (National Australia Bank)
Part Bingara Multipurpose Service land (Bingara Caravan Park)	70 Maitland Street Bingara (vacant land)
Part 260 Warialda Road Warialda	Bingara Industrial Area - Lots 336,337 and 338/822887
Part 276 Warialda Road Warialda	



END OF TERM REPORT

S355 COMMITTEES &
COUNCIL

- Each year Council assists the Friends of Myall Creek Massacre Memorial Site Committee with the Annual Ceremony which is held on the June weekend (except 2020 due to COVID-19). Council also maintains the Site.
- Memorial site fenced and grid installed at Myall Creek Memorial.
- The partnership of Council and the Friends of Myall Creek Committee was recognised at the 2019 NSW Local Government Awards by being named finalists in its Excellence in People and Culture category.
- Council's Property and Liaison Manager was invited to speak at the Reconciliation Australia Symposium held at Blacktown on 30 July 2019. The main attendees were from local government as the goal for the event was to inform and encourage Councils to engage with local reconciliation community groups and Indigenous communities to advance reconciliation within the wider community. Reconciliation Australia deems Gwydir Shire Council as a leader in Local Truth Telling and an exemplar of 'best practice'.
- Funding was obtained to construct an amenities block, shelter, and cultural performance space at the Myall Creek Memorial site. These works were funded under a Create NSW funding program of which the Friends of Myall Creek Memorial Committee were the recipients. The Myall Creek Massacre Memorial Cultural Precinct was opened on Saturday 6 February 2021.
- Council was successful in obtaining a Federal Government grant of \$30,000 to assist in the running of this year's annual Myall Creek Memorial Ceremony and the hosting of the Sounds of Country concert at Gwydir Oval. The grant was through the Bushfire Tourism Recovery Initiatives Program.
- Council staff assisted in the set up and establishment of the Bingara Community Op Shop committee. This included providing advice regarding finances, lease, governance, risk management, induction of volunteers, and the provision of Council's music license.
- On 19 October 2019 the management of the Gravesend Public Recreation Reserve was transferred to Council.
- One of the initiatives undertaken during the reporting period was to make representations to and petition the Federal Government regarding changes to its Stronger Rural Health Strategy - Improved Access to Australian Trained General Practitioners (Strategy). Even though the petition to the Federal Government did not affect change, the Strategy was implemented the Gwydir Health Alliance remains resolute in seeking the optimum services for our residents.
- In 2019 the Warialda Rail Community Group was formed, and volunteers inducted. The Group has held several community events including Christmas Carnivals, and a fundraising Mini Debutante Ball at the Warialda Memorial Hall.
- The Gazettal Notice for appointing Gwydir Shire Council as the Crown Land Manager occurred, therefore, Council now manages the Warialda Rail Public Recreation Reserve on a day-to-day basis from the handover date, which was Friday, 6 March 2020. A Reserve Committee has been formed and they now manage the Reserve in collaboration with Council.
- The Gravesend Hall & Club committee formed the Gravesend Community Group with the objective to renovate the Gravesend Hall and optimise the use of the Club. The Group has been successful in obtaining funds and renovations are progressing.
- The Warialda Sports Council participated in the Local Sports Defibrillator Program and donated funding of the purchase of three defibrillators for Nicholson Oval, Warialda Recreation Ground and Warialda Showground totalling \$7,665.00.
- The Warialda Sports Council's main role is raising funds for the development of sporting facilities for the community and the focus has been the development of the Nicholson Oval. This

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END OF TERM REPORT

work has resulted in the project to install sports field lighting through the Stronger Country Communities Grant Round 3 Program. The Sports Council has also committed to donating \$10,000 towards the installation of the lights.

- Warialda Historical Society volunteers obtained a grant to run a "Be Connected" program, which ties in with the regular family history sessions of a Wednesday night.
- Volunteers of Warialda Historical Society have produced a number of resources including the Passing Glimpses series of publications, and a Cemetery Book.
- In 2019 during the prolonged drought Council released five staff who are members of the Bingara Angler's Club to assist the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) - Fisheries staff to rescue native fish from the Horton River, Rocky Creek and Myall Creek.

This project was the first time people other than DPI staff had been authorised to undertake such action. The River and Creeks were identified as hotspots, where fish kill events were extremely likely to occur.

Using vehicles fitted out with temperature and oxygen-controlled tanks, fish were moved to the Bingara Hatchery as well as being released into the Gwydir River. Well over 100 native fish were saved.

- Bingara Angler's Club

submitted an Expression of Interest for funding under the Federal Government's Communities Environment Program. This submission was successful in the sum of \$20,000. The funding was used to purchase a purpose-built transport tank and trailer which enables members to release fingerlings into local rivers and creeks.

- Bingara Angler's Club was successful in gaining funding in the sum of \$175,000 from the NSW Government for a total upgrade of the breeding pods, and tank system.
- In 2018 Council assisted the Bingara Historical Society by printing and installing a directional map with corresponding markers at the Bingara Cemetery.
- In 2021 Council purchased the Salvation Army property for the sole use of the Bingara Historical Society.
- the Bingara Historical Society Heritage Walk was launched at the opening of the Orange Festival Carnival on Saturday 26 June 2021.

• The Council assisted the Warialda Preschool Section 355 Committee to undertake improvement works at their facility. This included installation of the Logan Taylor Memorial Tractor (play equipment).

- In 2018 Croppa Creek Hall Section 355 Committee was formed.
- Gravesend Historical Society Section 355 Committee disbanded March 2018. Monies held by the committee was transferred to the Warialda Historical Society.



BUILDING THE BUSINESS BASE (ECONOMIC)

During the term you told us that it was important to you that the Shire is...

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

Council has done this by....

NAROO & CHSP

- Enrolled Nurse position recruited.

GWYDIR LEARNING REGION

- Gwydir Learning Region programs continued based at the Warialda Automotive Trade Training Centre. Focus has been on: Heavy Vehicle Training, Small vehicle driver training and TAFE - Automotive Vocational Preparation Certificate II.
- Smart and Skilled - Gwydir Shire Council was approved to run specific short courses under the Smart and Skilled program. The funding will allow free or low-cost training for individuals and will place increased demand for training in the GLR Training department.
- Certificate based courses and ticketed qualifications were conducted regularly at The Living Classroom especially pre COVID-19, including Certificate III in Horticulture and tickets in machinery handling and road operation skills.
- The Living Classroom undertook several projects in conjunction with universities including Sydney University (native grasses) and Southern Cross University Lismore (Regenerative Agriculture).
- Multi-Combination (MC) licencing Training and Assessment was added to the scope of the Gwydir Learning Region and there has been a significant increase in the take up of this training.
- An agreement with ACE Community College to provide learner driver lessons to their clients was implemented during the reporting period.
- The Living Classroom was used for several environmental training programs including Honeybees, Environmentally Beneficial Insects, Freshwater Fish, Koalas and Native Bees.
- The Work for Dole crew proceeded with projects at The Living Classroom for nearly three years. The crew of up to six were working under the supervision of an Overseer. They focussed on pathway construction, removal of fencing and storages at TLC as well as welding benches for the Nursery.



The Community vision by a member of our community "Gwydir Country - A Circular Economy, Fresh Air, Innovation & Opportunity" 19

END OF TERM REPORT

- Several major forums were conducted at The Living Classroom. They included 'Carbon: The Diamond in the Rough', 'Pulse of the Earth' 2019 and 'An Artist, A Farmer and A Scientist ... walk into a bar! In conjunction with the Kandos community.
- Some major structures were added to TLC. They included the Nursery, the Cochinneal Cactus Beetle Nursery, the Livestock Barn, and the Bingara Pool Leaky Dam.
- The grant application for 'Big River Dreaming' was submitted in October 2017 and was successful.
- Gwydir Shire Career Start Program launched in January 2019. This program provides an opportunity for job seekers to gain work experience in a Local Government environment whilst studying to obtain a trade qualification
Positions have included:
 - o School Based Trainee Gardener
 - o School Based Trainee Mechanic
 - o School Based Trainee Carpenter
 - o School Based Trainee Water & Sewer Operator
 - o School Based Trainee Tourism Assistant
 - o Information Services (IT) Trainee
 - o Information Services (Records) Trainee
 - o Care Service Employee (Aged Care) Trainee
 - o Trainee Planning & Building Administrative Assistant
 - o Trainee Environmental Planning Officer
 - o Trainee Plant Operator
 - o Apprentice Mechanic
 - o Apprentice Gardener.

TOURISM, EVENTS, ROXY THEATRE

- Engagement with visitors to the Visitor Information Centre and the supply of new residents' packs helping to facilitate the relocation of new residents to the shire.
- New residents' evenings which welcomed 76 new residents to the shire in 2017/2018 alone.
- Design and installation of new town entry signs at towns and villages throughout the shire.
- Secured regular media coverage across TV, radio and print to promote the shire as an attractive holiday destination.
- Secured Gwydir TV promotion on Travel Oz hosted by Greg Grainger.
- Promoted Bingara campgrounds and worked with Environmental department on improvements to the campgrounds which saw Bingara nominated as the number one free campsite in Australia as voted by the readers of The Australian Caravanning and Camping magazine.
- Assisted the Coolatai community with the installation of an ANZAC memorial and monument recognizing the towns founding families.
- Development of shire wide Tourist brochure showcasing the attractions, events and history of the shire and its 7 towns and villages.

- Assisted the Australian Caravanning Clubs with the coordination of their National Muster which saw approximately 180 caravans and 330 participants. \$150,000 was spent by the caravanners on living expenses such as food, alcohol and fuel, and another \$40,000 was raised by local community groups through catering.



END OF TERM REPORT

COMMUNITY ASSETS

- In accordance with the Big River Dreaming NSW Government Tourism Grant, an artist and zoologist were commissioned to create artworks and interpretive signage for the Bingara Pool development. The installations tell the story of the animals which live on, near and above the Gwydir River.
- Bingara residential subdivision - Council developed residential blocks in Bingara. The development included three areas - Blue Hills Estate, Jacaranda Estate and County of Murchison Estate.
- Council manages 52 properties, some of these are leased. Council also leases St Mary's School in Riddell Street, Bingara, and sub leases areas of the building to ensure community and legal services are available locally. Council also leases the Bingara Op Shop, Bingara Fitness Centre properties.
- Warialda Medical Centre - the entire centre has been renovated internally and externally. The centre now enjoys a new layout which was achieved in full consultation with the Doctors and their staff.
- Council continues to provide accommodation for Doctors in Warialda and Bingara.
- New floor coverings and blinds installed throughout the whole of the Bingara Medical Centre. In addition to this, electric doors were fitted to the facility.

- A carport was completed at the Bingara Medical Centre. Council acknowledges the generous donation by Dr Neil Wearne.
- Council has donated \$3,000 to the Bingara Medical Centre for the purchase of new equipment in accordance with Council's current adopted donations budget.
- The council owned home used as a doctor's residence at 84 Finch Street residence was renovated.
- Obtained NSW TDDI Tourism Grant - installation of interpretive signage, pathway upgrade, new fencing, installation of park benches, bollards, and safety guard rail.
- Developed Cranky Rock to improve the amenity, safety and site education.
- Creation and use of promotional video for Cranky Rock.
- Construction of a large open air seating area at Cranky Rock which is used by visitors, particularly groups.
- Arrangements were made with the North Star Sporting Club as to the management of the park.
- New caretakers at Cranky Rock in December 2017.
- NBN News positively featured the Bingara Caravan Park in its news item, Bingara Booms: Tourist town enjoys river upgrades, busy parks.

COMMUNICATION & MEDIA & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Development of 25 small business promotional videos for businesses throughout the shire which were showcased on the Gwydir Shire Facebook pages.
- 62 referrals of local businesses to the NORTEC Small Business Advisory Service.
- Lobbied for a visit to the shire by the NSW Minister for Small Business Damien Tudehope and NSW Small Business Commissioner Robyn Hobbs to assess the impacts of the drought on small business.
- The development of a promotional video for Bingara which helped to secure a doctor for the Bingara Medical Centre.
- Gwydir Treechange initiative which saw three families move to Gwydir Shire 2021.



The Community vision by a member of our community "Gwydir Country - A Circular Economy, Fresh Air, Innovation & Opportunity" 21

END OF TERM REPORT

SOCIAL SERVICES

- Bingara Neighbourhood Centre drought relief and social support program assisted businesses and rural residents.
- Since 2017 Bingara Neighbourhood Centre has provided local families with access to over \$500,000 worth of emergency relief.
- Gwydir Toy Libraries have provided local businesses with space to promote and demonstrate their businesses.
- Small business events were held to promote small business within the Shire.

Our achievements in Roads include:

GRAVEL RESHEETING JULY 2016 TO END JUNE 2021

Location	Sum of Length	Location	Sum of Length
SR37 Oakey Creek Road	4.0km	SR90 Old Bora Road	4.3km
SR51 Towarra Road	15.8km	SR100 Kellys Access Road	1.9km
SR38 Adams Scrub Road	14.5km	SR96 Duftys Road	1.5km
SR44 Boundary Creek Road	4.7km	SR85 Butlers Road	1.0km
SR286 Sonoma Road	1.5km	SR13 Oregon Road	15.6km
SR63 Gil Gil Creek Road	4.8km	SR36 Baroma Road	1.3km
SR41 County Boundary Road	12.5km	SR81 Langley Road	3.9km
SR06 Getta Getta Road	5.2km	SR10 Yallaroi Road	11.1km
SR43 Buckie Road	4.6km	SR65 Munsies Road	10.8km
SR31 Eulourie Road	9.0km	SR16 Trevallyn Road	6.2km
SR61 Peates Road	3.0km	SR09 I.B. Bore Road	12.7km
SR82 Kirewa Road	7.0km	SR92 Killarney Road	5.1km
SR117 Bundaleer Road	1.9km	SR19 Whitlow Road	1.6km
SR17 Back Creek Road	4.4km	SR88 Kywarra Road	1.3km
SR39 Allandale Road	7.9km	SR91 Cracknells Road	0.3km
SR32 Pallal Road	5.2km	SR11 Horton Road	4.2km
SR119 Woodburn Emello Road	6.7km	SR69 Tucka Tucka Road	8.0km
SR68 Goat Road	7.5km	SR255 Crooble Road	2.0km
SR50 Thornleigh Road	3.5km	SR61 Peates Road	7.6km
SR64 Gournama Road	5.1km	SR22 Upper Bingara Road	0.3km
SR66 Reserve Creek Road	5.0km	SR30 Caroda Road	5.2km
SR206 Warragundi Road	6.6km	SR23 Wearnes Road	2.3km
SR08 Gragin Road	4.0km	SR67 Agincourt Road	10.6km
SR80 Ottley Road	4.0km	SR33 Forest Creek Road	3.5km
SR42 Mungle Road	2.6km	SR215 Nooroo Road	1.0km
SR114 Lewis Road	1.0km	SR70 Ashton Road	12.4km
SR18 Gineroi Road	1.0km	SR40 Blue Nobby Road	5.2km
SR62 Hibernia Road	6.0km		

END OF TERM REPORT

BITUMEN RESURFACING JULY 2016 TO END JUNE 2021

Location	Sum of Length	Location	Sum of Length
MR132 Macintyre Road	3.7km	SR22 Upper Bingara Road	4.1km
SR88 Kywarra Road	0.9km	SR11 Horton Road	6.0km
SR20 Gravesend Road	2.0km	SR64 Gournama Road	0.9km
SR04 Baroma Downs Road	2.0km	Pound Street, Bingara	0.2km
Byrnes Street, Bingara	0.2km	Belford Street, Croppa Creek	0.5km
Bowling Club Road, Croppa Creek	0.2km	Cleveland Street, North Star	0.1km
David Street, North Star	0.5km	Dunrobyn Street, Gravesend	0.2km
Gwydir Street, Gravesend	0.2km	Onus Street, Gravesend	0.3km
Warialda Street, Gravesend	0.5km	Yagobie Street, Gravesend	0.8km
Queen Street, Warialda	1.1km	Stewart Avenue, Warialda	0.2km
Riddell Street, Warialda	0.5km	Christie Street, Warialda	0.2km
Cross Street, Warialda	0.3km	Holden Street, Warialda	0.2km
Hope Street, Warialda	0.5km	Market Street, Warialda	0.4km
SR01 Copeton Dam Road	6.0km	SR84 Bingara Airstrip Road	0.1km
West Street, Bingara	0.7km	Frazer Street, Bingara	0.5km
Nicholson Street, Warialda	0.3km	Water Street, Warialda	0.2km
MR462 Bruxner Highway	0.8km	RR63 Warialda Road	1.8km
MR134 Delungra Road	3.2km	RR7705 North Star Road	6.0km
HW12 Gwydir Highway	23.8km	MR63 Fossickers Way	25.6km

CONSTRUCTION WORK JULY 2016 TO END JUNE 2021

Location	Sum of Length	Location	Sum of Length
SR03 Elcombe Road	5.3km	RR7705 North Star Road	11.9km
SR04 Baroma Downs Road	2.5km	SR38 Baroma Road	2.0km
SR11 Horton Road	0.8km	MR134 Delungra Road	3.3km
HW12 Gwydir Highway	0.5km	MR63 Fossickers Way	2.1km

BRIDGES AND STORMWATER JULY 2016 TO END JUNE 2021

Elizabeth Kenny Lane Stormwater Upgrade, Warialda
Bent Street Culvert Replacement, Gravesend
High Productivity Vehicle Route Bridge, Warialda
Brainard/Spring Street Stormwater Upgrade, Bingara
Postmans Gully Causeway Upgrade, North Star Road
Stephen/Market Street Stormwater Upgrade, Warialda

The Community vision by a member of our community "Gwydir Country - A Circular Economy, Fresh Air, Innovation & Opportunity" 23

AN ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE SHIRE (ENVIRONMENT)

During the term you told us that it was important to you that...

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

Council has done this by....

GWYDIR LEARNING REGION

- The 'baselining' of the soils across The Living Classroom and The Carbon Farm was completed as field work. The samples were analysed for their soil components and carbon content providing details on a 15-metre grid.



SOCIAL SERVICES

- Educational demonstrations focused on sustainable practices held at Toy Libraries and Preschool including site visits to The Living Classroom.
- Information sessions and embedded practice throughout entire department to ensure staff and students are aware of the importance of looking after our environment.



PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

- Solar was installed on Naroo, The Bingara office, the Warialda office, the Warialda depot, the Roxy Theatre, the Roxy cafe, the Warialda wastewater treatment plant and the Living Classroom.
- The Shire electricity supply is contracted through Local Government Procurement. Two cycles of contracting occurred for the three types of contracting for: small sites, large sites and street lighting.
- The streetlights underwent a LED replacement program, offering savings for electricity, maintenance and replacement costs.
- Street bin enclosures were installed on the main street in Bingara replacing the older style 55L round bins and allowing them to be collected under the waste collection contract.
- Security fencing with CCTV at Warialda Rail and Gravesend landfills.
- Participation in the Garage Sale Trail program.
- A large number of waste tyres were collected and processed off site.

END OF TERM REPORT

- The Shire ran the drumMUSTER at Bingara Landfill and continued to support the community group operating of drumMUSTER at Warialda Landfill, Coolatai and Croppa Creek.
- Council entered an E-waste and Battery recycling contract for the Bingara and Warialda Landfills. The battery recycling received income proportionate to the traded lead price. The E-waste was collected and processed at no charge to the Shire or users as part of the contract.
- Vegetable oil recycling was introduced at Warialda and Bingara Landfills to complement the Petroleum waste oil collections at those sites.
- Regular scrap metal recycling was conducted earning income for the landfills proportionate to the traded scrap metal price mechanism.
- In partnership with NIRW and the EPA, Chemical collections were conducted alternatively at Warialda and Bingara Landfills for two years and subsequently both Bingara and Warialda Landfills annually.
- Participation in NIRW regional contracts for green waste and timber processing.
- An outbreak of Parthenium weed was found in Croppa Creek on a TSR. A rapid response team formed to inspect and control the incursion. The LLS provided additional funding for the rapid response works.
- The weeds unit participated in biological control programs for Cats Claw Creeper. Releasing the biological control agents on sites on the Gwydir River at Gravesend.
- LLS grant for Privet removal was undertaken at the junction of Halls Creek and the Gwydir River.
- LLS grant for a Sagitaria (Arrowhead) project saw the removal and replanting of the affected site below the golf course.
- The LLS grant for high risk pathways enabled the purchase of a basal bark spray rig mounted on a trailer. This was used to control feral fruit trees along the main transport routes within the Shire.
- The weeds team participated in regional rapid response crew work for Green Cestrum on Slaughterhouse Creek on the border with Moree Plains Shire. Staff also assisted with Tropical soda apple control in the Macleay Valley and with waterway inspections on the Peel River.
- The Shire participated in the cross boarder Harrisia Cactus Containment Project that holds the line on incursions of Harrisia Cactus along the northern are off the shire. Various biological and Chemical control methods are tested for efficacy.
- Thorn apple was mulched on foreshore areas where extensive growth was covering large areas.
- Weeping Willow trees were mechanically removed from in stream in the Gwydir River Bingara. Willows on the bank were treated with the drill and fill method to ensure that the riverbank was not destabilized. The program generated a lot of online discussion about the benefits of willow removal from riparian areas.
- The Giant Cane grass that had taken over large sections of Warialda creek within the town boundaries was removed. The area is monitored and any regrowth is treated.

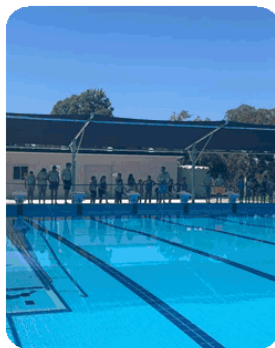


The Community vision by a member of our community "Gwydir Country - A Circular Economy, Fresh Air, Innovation & Opportunity" 25

END OF TERM REPORT

TOWN UTILITIES & PLANT OPERATIONS

- Bingara sewer extension - feasibility study.
- Bingara Dump point relocation from Junction St to Copeton Road.
- Warialda Truck wash construction.
- Warialda Sewer Treatment Plant (STP) pond pump replacement.
- Warialda Sewer Treatment Plant (STP) new supply main from humus tank to ponds.
- New dump point at old Bingara saleyards.
- Warialda Memorial Hall toilets upgrade.
- Warialda Sewer Plant new pumps to Tertiary ponds installed.
- Bingara Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) - removal of overhead power lines and install underground power, including switchboard upgrade.
- Bingara Sewerage Plant - solar system.
- Warialda Truck Wash lagoons.
- Warialda Swimming Pool replacement of sewer mains.
- Bingara Swimming Pool installation of sewer pumps station.
- Water main replacement Copeton dam Road - 450m.
- Upper Horton water supply upgrade.
- Water main extension to Bingara Saleyards 400m.
- Water main replacement Nicholson Street Warialda 200m.
- Water main extension Gragin Road Warialda - 500m.
- Water main extension to Bingara Cemetery 400m.
- Water main installation south street Bingara - 200m ring main Spring and Bywong Street.
- Crane Street Warialda Water main replacement.
- Bingara Hatchery pump replacement.
- High Street Warialda water main replacement - 100m.
- Queen Street Warialda water main replacement - 100m.
- Gwydir Highway Warialda - water main extension - 500m.
- Warialda Caravan Park water upgrade.
- Warialda elevated tower tank replacement.
- Warialda water extension to airstrip - 2km.



PROACTIVE REGIONAL & LOCAL LEADERSHIP (CIVIC LEADERSHIP)

During the term you told us that it was important to you that ...

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

Council has done this by....

GWYDIR LEARNING REGION

- TLC was successful in winning several awards. They included the Government Partnerships in Landcare Award was won by our local collaboration in 2017.
- The Gwydir Ark Group was formed and coordinated the planting of 1000 koala food trees on a four-hectare site within TLC.
- In 2019 Gwydir Shire Trainee Justin Lanesbury was named New England Trainee of the Year at the Training Services NSW Awards.



NAROO & CHSP

- New Education system in place for staff - Altura
- New Policy and Process system in place - Centro assist
- New electronic resident documentation in place - Person Centered Care
- New Wellness and Enablement Program implemented throughout CHSP in 2020.

COMMUNICATION & MEDIA & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Upgrade of the Gwydir Shire Council website which saw improvements in the visual appeal and functionality of the site as well as the ability to provide online payments.
- Upgrade of the Gwydir Shire Council website which saw improvements in the visual appeal and functionality of the site as well as the ability to implement online payments functionality.
- Caretakers of the Gwydir News and now currently publishing the annual Gwydir Newsletter.

COMMUNITY ASSETS

- Council's cleaning contract with Onescope was terminated and Council transitioned from a contract arrangement to the employment of cleaners. This has proved to be positive resulting in a considerable increase in the quality of the cleaning services.
- The land where the Bingara Caravan Park cabins were located was transferred from the NSW Government to Council.

INFORMATION SERVICES, RECORDS & BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT

- The establishment of a business improvement area that focuses on process and cost savings to Council (October 2020).

The Community vision by a member of our community "Gwydir Country - A Circular Economy, Fresh Air, Innovation & Opportunity" 27

END OF TERM REPORT

SOCIAL SERVICES

- In 2019 the Gwydir Shire Youth Council was formed.
- National Youth Week events were held during the term, consisting of a Neon disco, movie nights, colour fun runs, discos, trivia nights and photo challenges.
- Youth Council members attended the Youth Council Conference in Sydney in 2019. Unfortunately, the 2020 & 2021 Conferences were cancelled due to COVID-19.
- Gwydir Shire in collaboration with the Gwydir Youth Council will work together to ensure that our Council is a child safe organisation with a focus on what is important for the future of our youth.



PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

- The weeds unit purchased Utility Terrain Vehicles with a 50L capacity quick spray and a trailer for accessing harder to get to places for weed control and inspection activities.
- The weeds unit went to digital tablets for their mapping and reporting of inspections and control works activities.
- The Noxious Weed Act was replaced by the Biosecurity Act and staff undertook training in the effects the new act would have for operation, compliance and administration for local control authorities.
- Food businesses were inspected annually and supplied with up to date food safety information and calendars.
- Grazing permits referral process was reviewed and streamlined during the drought to make the process straightforward for applicants.
- Personal body camera for Ranger.



TOWN UTILITIES & PLANT OPERATIONS

- Bingara water treatment plant - construction of 8mx 15m skillion.
- Bingara water pump station - footbridge access ramp replacement.
- Relocate the Bingara depot emoleum tank.
- Bingara workshop - roller doors and bird proofing.
- Bingara workshop - mezzanine floor storage space.
- Bingara workshop electrical switchboard upgrade.





ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT (GOVERNANCE)

During the term you told us that it was important to you that...

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

Council has done this by....

NAROO & CHSP

- New Aged Care Standards introduced throughout CHSP in July 2019.

GWYDIR LEARNING REGION

- RMS Self-Assessment and ASQA Report occurred in March of each year.

BUILDING SERVICES

- Swimming pool inspection program which has seen every known swimming pool in Gwydir Shire inspected at least once in the last 3 years as required by NSW legislation.

INFORMATION SERVICES, RECORDS & BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT

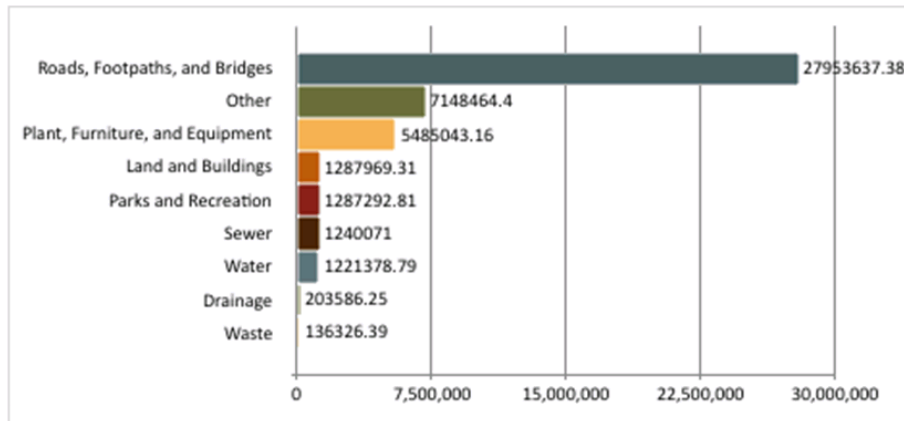
- No cyber security incidents during entire term.
- Staff are able to work from anywhere and access Council resources (June 2019)
- Commenced cyber security assessments to ensure Council data is secure (March 2021).
- Digitisation of legacy paper-based records:
 - o Building and Development Applications (December 2017)
 - o Legacy Council maps (2017-2021)
 - o Bingara Shire, Yallaroi Shire Council Minutes (September 2021).
- 100% compliance of physical storage of records as required by State Archives (April 2021).



The Community vision by a member of our community "Gwydir Country - A Circular Economy, Fresh Air, Innovation & Opportunity" 29

LIVEABLE REGION CAPITAL EXPENDITURE SPENDING OVERVIEW

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE OVER COUNCIL'S TERM



- \$10.869 million Capital Works program delivered against a budgeted \$14.281 million (2020/2021).
- \$8.942 million Capital Works program delivered against a budgeted \$11.361 million (2019/2020).
- \$11.065 million Capital Works program delivered against a budgeted \$14.382 million (2018/2019).
- \$8.139* million Capital Works program delivered against a budgeted \$7.838 million (2017/2018) *excess due to Warialda HPV construction timelines. Expenditure incurred prior to receipt of income.
- \$6.949 million Capital Works program delivered against a budgeted \$7.327 million (2016/2017).

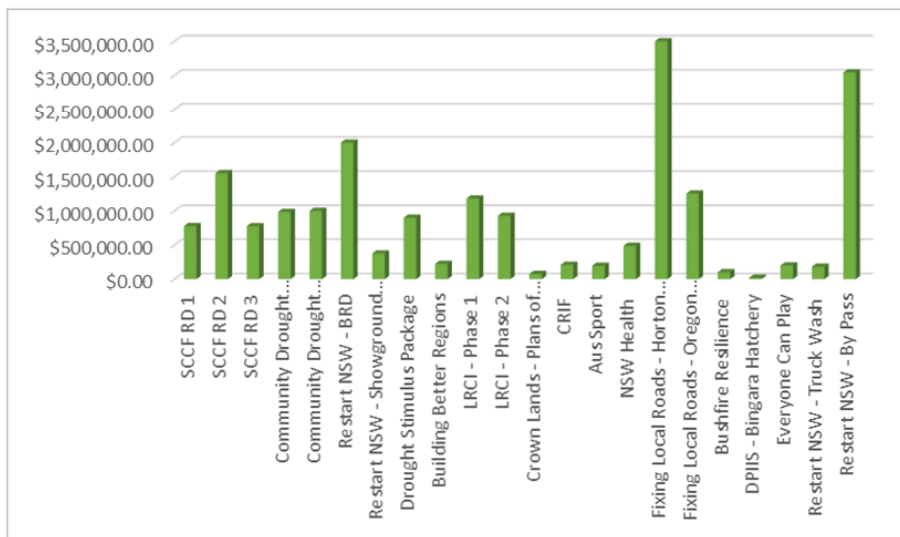
GRANT FUNDING DURING TERM

There is no doubt that our Shire has endured some very trying times, drought, bush fire, floods, the mouse plague of 2020/2021 and COVID-19. However from these unfortunate events there have been positives that have benefited the entire community

The worst drought in 100 years and the COVID-19 pandemic afforded us many opportunities to apply for grant funding that would not normally be open to a Shire of this size.

Grant funding, particularly since 2018 has been widely available via many streams, and Council has received in excess of \$19 million.

GRANT FUNDING



END OF TERM REPORT

PROJECTS THAT HAVE BEEN COMPLETED HAVE BEEN SPREAD ACROSS THE SHIRE VARYING IN PROJECT SIZE.

Note: Some projects will be completed over several years.

Bingara Swimming Pool Precinct	Warialda Showground Kitchen Upgrade
Bingara Central School Court Cover	Carinda Community Centre Improvements
Coolatai Sports Ground Amenities Building	Bingara Library - Civic Centre Redevelopment
Warialda Memorial Hall Upgrade - Kitchen, Amenities, Air Conditioning	Bingara Showground Stables, Toilet Block Extension and Grandstand upgrades
Gwydir Oval Grandstand Upgrade, New Amenities Building & Sports Field Lighting	Warialda Rail Sports Ground Improvements - Club Additions & Playground
Warialda Recreation Ground Improvements Amenities & Function Centre	Bingara Sporting Club Improvements - Upgraded amenities and Air Conditioning to Fitness Centre
Warialda Swimming Pool Improvements including amenities upgrade	Bingara Historical Centre Additional Building & display & storage areas
Gravesend Sports Ground Amenities Building	Captain Cook Park Playground Improvements
Croppa Creek Hall Improvements	Cunningham Park Playground Improvements
CWA Park Playground Improvements	Warialda Building Maintenance
Business Grants, SMS Burst, Why Leave Town gift cards, Business advertising	Gravesend Recreation Ground upgrades including tennis court & cricket nets
Warialda Building Maintenance	Re-Roofing of Gravesend Community Hall
Crooble Hall upgrade	Installation of Toilet at Warialda Cemetery
Bingara Hatchery improvements	Upper Horton Water Augmentation
Installation of Solar Panels and Outdoor Lighting to the North Star Sports Club	Installation of Solar Panels & Battery to Warialda Rail Sportsground Clubhouse
Renovation of Upper Horton Tennis Courts and Upgrading to Multi-Sports Courts	Installation of Flag Poles & Flags x 24 to Warialda & Gravesend
Development of an All Abilities Recreation Area at Warialda Hospital Park including equipment	Installation of Fence and Amenities at Warialda Airstrip
Reedy Creek Foreshore Improvements - Litter removal, weed control re-vegetation	Gwydir Foreshore Improvements - Access Way Sealing, Weed Control & Signage
Installation of Flag Poles, Flags & Fairy Lights at Bingara	Purchase of a commemorative CWA Statue leading up to the 100th Anniversary in 2022

END OF TERM REPORT

Co-contribution for resurfacing at Maitland St Bingara Intersection	Big River Dreaming - Trails and Rest Stops - RFS1, RFS2 & RNS3 Sheep St Creek
Big River Dreaming - Walking Track	Big River Dreaming - Interpretive Centre
Big River Dreaming - Gwydir River Ghats	Big River Dreaming - Splash Park
Big River Dreaming - Trail Markers	Big River Dreaming - Activity Centre
Big River Dreaming - Information Station Signage	Warialda Golf and Bowling improvements including children's play area
Warialda HPV Route	Warialda HPV Truck Wash
Koorilgur Walking Trail Improvements	Warialda Youth Hub
Cunningham Park New Amenities, BBQ and Shelter	Gwydir Fitness Centre - equipment replacement program
Warialda footpath Naroo to Stephen Street	Bingara footpath Pool to Bridge
Batterham Lookout improvements	Warialda Medical Centre improvements
Warialda Dog Pound	Dog Parks - Warialda and Bingara
Shire wide CBD Improvements	Naroo - Kitchen Upgrade
Bingara Caravan Park - CRIF - amenities upgrade	Nicholson Oval Warialda sports field lighting - will be completed in new term
Crown Lands - Plans of Management - will be completed in new term	Bingara Preschool Room Addition - will be completed in new term
Bingara Preschool & Tharawonga Drought & COVID-19 Support.	
Selected gravel re-sheeting, North Star NSW 2408 - Sheeting / Re-sheeting - will be completed in new term SR61 Peates Rd Import gravel, crush on situ and lay new 6m wide pavement SR68 Goat Rd Import gravel, crush on situ and lay new 6m wide pavement SR40 Blue Knobby Rd Import gravel, crush on situ and lay new 6m wide pavement Drainage SR62 Hibernia Rd construct 2 new causeway structures with all-weather approaches.	
Selected gravel re-sheeting Pallal NSW 2404 - Sheeting / Re-sheeting - will be completed in new term SR31 Eulourie Rd import local shale, lay new 6m wide pavement SR17 Back Creek Rd import local shale, lay new 6m wide pavement.	
Cunningham Street, Bingara Traffic improvement - will be completed in new term Junction Street to Riddell Street, construction new centre media with semi advanced trees.	



END OF TERM REPORT

GENERAL MANAGER'S END OF PERIOD CLOSE

What a momentous term of Council over the last four plus years for those Councillors elected in 2016.

This Council has had to deal with droughts, floods, bush fires and COVID-19.

On the plus side there has been unprecedented, once in a generation, access to both State and Federal grants to meet the challenges that these natural disasters presented to the Shire's communities.

This term has reminded me of the often-quoted Chinese proverb about living in interesting times, which has been both a blessing and a curse at different times.

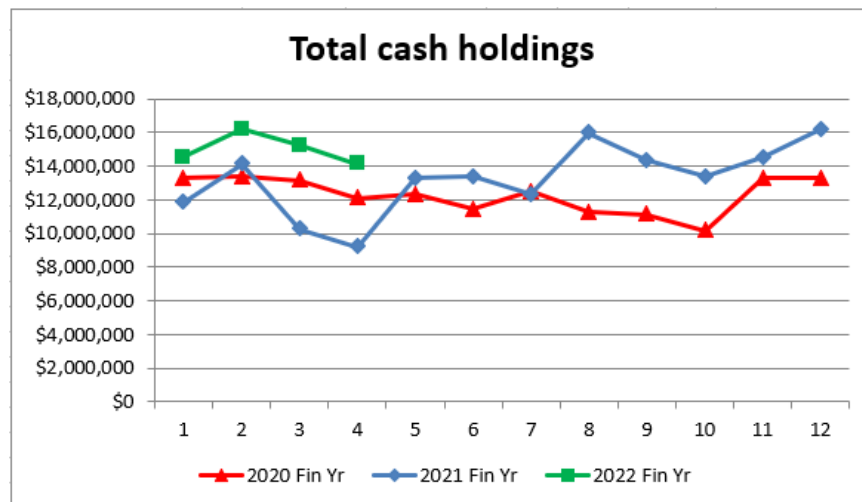
Overall, I believe the Council met all these challenges head on and achieved great things despite the many obstacles thrown its way.

The 2016/2021 Councillors can be rightfully proud of their collective achievements during their term in office.

This is page number 219 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

Cash and Investments	
Total Investments	
Direct Investments	\$3,000,000.00
Managed Funds	\$10,957,171.46
Grand Total Investments	\$13,957,171.46
Total Cash and Investments	
Investments	\$13,957,171.46
Cash at bank	\$ 582,734.32
Grand Total Cash and Investments	\$14,539,905.78
General Fund Cash	
Total cash and investments	\$14,539,905.78
LESS:	
Water fund*	-\$833,049.90
Sewer fund*	-\$2,829,240.86
Waste fund*	-\$3,512,625.05
Other restrictions:	
Employee leave entitlements*	-\$900,000.00
Carry over works in progress*	-\$4,034,350.00
Asset replacement*	-\$904,000.00
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	\$144,153.85



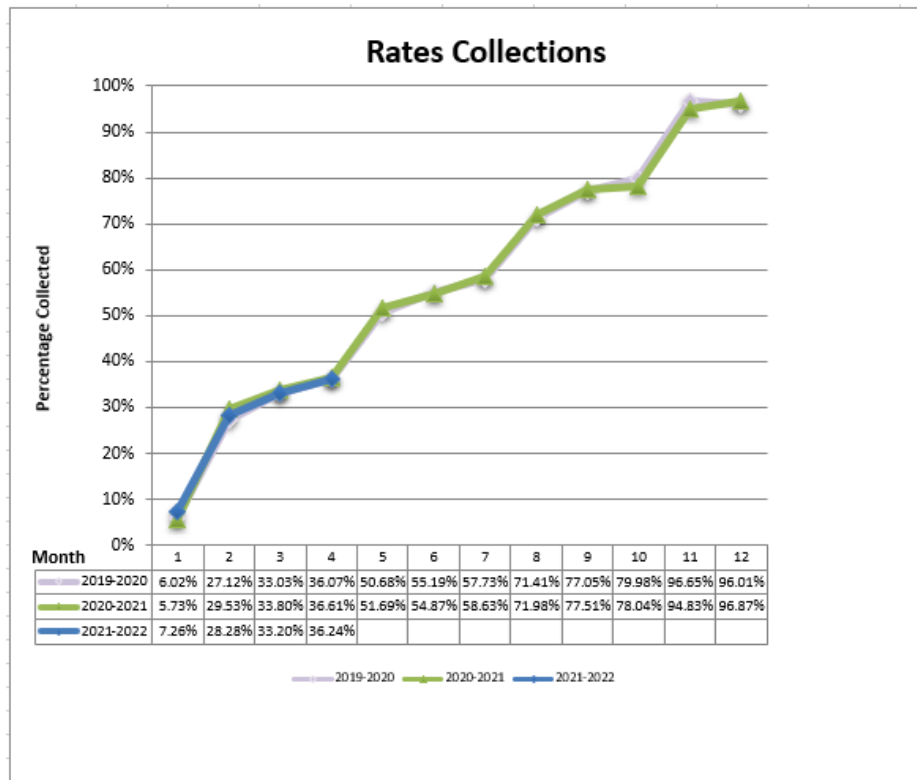
This is page number 221 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

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 October 2021.



OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION:
MINUTE 309/21**

THAT the report be received.

(Moved Cr D Coulton, seconded Cr Dixon OAM)

This is page number 222 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman

Cr Catherine Egan

Various Matters (Ref: 310/21)

Cr Egan advised the meeting that Mrs Joan Bull had passed away at the age of 104 and requested that a letter of condolence be forwarded to the family of Mrs Bull acknowledging the many years of community work within the Bingara Community.

Cr Egan raised several road maintenance items that needed urgent attention and in particular the pot hole on SR 63 about 25 kilometres from Barraba, the generally poor condition of the Long Street/Gragin Road intersection (the Engineer advised that meeting that funding has been allocated to the Long Street intersection) and a pot hole at the entrance to the Bingara MPS car park.

Cr Egan raised the on-going problem of a lack of inter allotment storm water drainage, which hopefully will be addressed in the proposed stormwater management consultations that are about to occur.

Cr Frances Young

Pot Hole Junction Street Bingara (Ref: 311/21)

Cr Young advised the meeting that there is also a significant pot hole in Junction Street towards the Junction Park that requires attention.

Cr Stuart Dick

Potential Flooding Event (Ref: 312/21)

Cr Dick advised the meeting of the preparations that have been put in place in case of the need for evacuations within Bingara if the rain predicted did eventuate.

Cr Jim Moore

Gravel distribution (Ref: 313/21)

Cr Moore advised the meeting that he has been requested to pass on the suggestion that contracted truck drivers should be able to dump gravel at future nominated work sites as an efficiency improvement.

Cr John Coulton

Electric Vehicles (Ref: 314/21)

The Mayor advised the meeting that the NSW State Government is keen to support councils that wish to introduce electric vehicles into its fleet. Gwydir Shire is exploring this option and especially the option of providing charging stations in both Bingara and Warialda.

Cr David Coulton

Long Street Footpath adjacent to the Nurses' Accommodation (Ref: 315/21)

Cr D Coulton requested that the overhanging trees along this section of the footpath please be trimmed to allow better access for elderly residents travelling from Naroo into town.

General Manager

Confirmed Local Covid Cases (Ref: 316/21)

The General Manager informed the meeting that has only just been advised of a confirmed Covid case in Warialda. This is first confirmed case for the Shire. The person has self-isolated and there is little likelihood of any community transmission.

The Mayor thanked all the current Councillors for their dedication and service to the Gwydir Community over the last five plus years. In particular he noted that Cr Dick is not seeking re-election and thanked him for his service. Finally he wished all the current Councillors seeking re-election good luck. The meeting was also advised that the long service awards will be presented at a light luncheon following the conclusion of this meeting.



Award Recipients

Meeting closed 11.12 am

This is page number 224 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2021

Chairman