



G W Y D I R
SHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING

Held on Thursday 18 May 2023

Commencing at 9:0) am

in the Warialda Office Council Chambers

Present

Councillors:	Cr John Coulton (Mayor), Cr Catherine Egan (Deputy Mayor), Cr Jim Moore, Cr Tiffany Galvin, Cr Chris Matthews and Cr Lyndon Mulligan
Staff:	Max Eastcott (General Manager), Helen Thomas (Manager Finance), Alex Eddy (Manager, Engineering Services), Joanna Sangster (Building and Planning Manager), Ben Perry (IT) and Thaiis Simpson (Administrative Assistant)
Public:	
Visitors:	

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

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

Content	Page No.
1 Official Opening and Welcome - Mayor	4
2 Apologies	4
3 Confirmation of the Minutes	4
4 Presentation	4
5 Call for the Declarations of Interests, Gifts Received and Conflicts of Interest	4
6 Additional/Late Items	4
7 Mayoral Minute Nil	5
8 Officers' Reports	6
8.1 Organisation & Community Services	6
8.2 Executive Services	32
8.3 Technical Services Report March.....	39
8.4 Councillors Activity Report April.....	53
8.5 April Rates Collection & Investments.....	56
8.6 Quarterly Budget Review	60
8.7 2023/23 Operational Plan V1 draft	71
9 Councillors' Reports	165
10 Committee of the Whole - Confidential Items	166
10.1 Adoption of the Recommendations of the Confidential Session.....	166
11 Closure	168

1 OFFICIAL OPENING AND WELCOME - MAYOR

The Mayor welcomed all present to the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

Cr Dixon OAM is an apology for the meeting

COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

THAT the apologies received from Cr Egan, Cr Dixon OAM, Cr D Coulton, Cr G Smith and Mrs. Leeah Daley are accepted.

Moved Cr Galvin, Seconded Cr Matthews

CARRIED

For: Cr J Coulton, Cr Galvin, Cr Matthews, Cr Moore and Cr Mulligan

Against: Nil

3 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary and Confidential Meeting held on Thursday 27th April 2023 as circulated be taken as read and CONFIRMED.

(Moved Cr Galvin, Seconded Cr Moore)

CARRIED

For: Cr J Coulton, Cr Galvin, Cr Matthews, Cr Moore and Cr Mulligan

Against: Nil

4 PRESENTATION

At 11am, in the Confidential Session, an update on the Job Activation Project will be provided.

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

Nil declarations

6 ADDITIONAL/LATE ITEMS

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the following Items, namely:

- **Item 8.5 April Rates Collection & Investments (Balance of Report)**
- **Item 8.6 Quarterly Budget Review (Balance of Report)**
- **Item 8.7 2023/23 Operational Plan V1 draft**
- **Confidential Item 7.4 GWY_2023_T07 Supply & Delivery of Roadbase Material**

are accepted as late Items to this Agenda for discussion.

7 MAYORAL MINUTE NIL

8 OFFICERS' REPORTS

8.1 Organisation & Community Services

File Reference:	NA
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Delivery Program

Goal:	5. Organisational management
Outcome:	5.1 Corporate management
Strategy:	5.1.5 Provision of responsible internal governance
Author:	Leeah Daley, OCD Director

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

The monthly Organisation and Community Services Report details the activities carried out by the Department during April 2023.

TABLED ITEMS Nil

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

AGED CARE – NAROO FRAIL AGED HOSTEL

Resident News

The residents had a lovely lunch outing to the Warialda Golf and Bowling Club and enjoyed a lovely Chinese meal this month. The residents also had a road trip to The Gravesend Shop where another fabulous meal was had. There was an Anzac service and had a guest appearance from Charles Allen as well as several residents reading poems and the Ode. Residents from the Hospital were also invited to partake in the service.



Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) – Warialda/Delungra March Budget

Sharon Baker

Meetings

Next meeting with Commonwealth Home Support Program Manager – to be advised.

Volunteers

The Commonwealth Home Support Program has two new volunteers delivering Meals On Wheels. Two of our volunteer drivers have returned after having time off due to being ill.

Transport and trips

Three shopping trips to Inverell shopping this Month, clients look forward to them.

Social support

Social support is always given when attending Day Centers, outings, Meals on Wheels and transport.

Day Centers

Clients are not looking forward to public holidays coming up as they miss coming to the Day Centre. The Commonwealth Home Support Program has three new clients attending and are totally enjoying their day.

Food service

The new winter menu for Meals On Wheels will start on the 1 May 2023. Positive feedback from Meals On Wheels clients with meals supplied by Naroo.

WARIALDA / DELUNGRA CHSP MONTHLY REPORT March 2023		
Day Centre	DELUNGRA	WARIALDA
Total active clients	19	108
Clients receiving service	11	64
Total Meals in Centre	51	128
Hours Clients Receive in Centre	164	398
Social Support		
No of Clients	11	64
Individual Hours	0	108
Group Hours	164	290
Total Hours Received	164	398
Food Service (Meals on Wheels)		
Clients	0	13
Meals	0	268
Transport		
Number of Clients	1	17
Number of Trips (return trips)	4	98
Access Bus - Inverell		
Number of Clients	1	10
Number of Trips (per month)	3	3
Volunteers		
No of Volunteers for the Month	1	38
Monthly Volunteer Hours	20	123
Outings / Functions		
Number of clients	0	0

Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) – Warialda/Delungra April

Budget

See Naroo Report.

Meetings

Next meeting with CHSP Manager, to be advised.

Volunteers

Meals on Wheels volunteers are still low would be great if more come on board.

Transport And Trips

Only one trip to Inverell Shopping this month due to clients having other commitments. Client transport covered Armidale, Tamworth, Moree, and Inverell this Month.

Social Support

Social support always given when attending Day Centres, outing, Meals on Wheels phone calls, clients calling in & transport. Outing to Bingara cancelled due to amount of clients.

Day Centres

Those attending Daycentre Monday, Wednesday & Fridays numbers have been down this Month.

Food Service

Positive feedback from MOW clients with meals supplied by Naroo.

Clients enjoying meals at Daycentre Monday, Wednesday & Friday.

Warialda/Delungra CHSP Monthly Report April 2023		
Day Centre	Delungra	Warialda
Total active clients	19	108
Clients receiving service	10	54
Total Meals in Centre	42	128
Hours Clients Receive in Centre	144	367
Social Support		
No of Clients	10	54
Individual Hrs	36	93
Group Hrs	108	274
Total Hours Received	144	367
Food Service (Meals on Wheels)		
Clients	0	12
Meals	0	146
Transport		
Number of Clients	2	15

Number of Trips (return trips)	4	70
Access Bus-Inverell		
Number of Clients	1	7
Number of Trips (per month)	1	1
Volunteers		
No of Volunteers for the Month	1	21
Monthly Volunteer Hours	16	431
Outings/Functions		
Number of clients	Cancelled due to lack of clients	

Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) – Bingara March

Budget

See Naroo Report

Advisory Committee Meeting

No meetings were held in March.

Volunteers

Bingara Commonwealth Home Support Program was supported by 12 volunteers with 632 hours of services during March by way of Out-of-Town Transport, Centre Based Day Care and local transport.

The hours that volunteers work is determined by the time spent with clients by way of transportation, group social support and individual social support.

Transport and Trips

Out of Town Transport increased in March with 186 trips for the month servicing 42 clients.

The Access Bus made two trips to Inverell in March, servicing 11 clients. The Bus was also used for some out-of-town trips to medical appointments when both other vehicles were fully booked.

Volunteers carry out regular maintenance checks on the vehicles when they are not in use as well as the routine cleaning after every trip.

The Local Transport service has slightly increased numbers again during March.

Social Support

Group Social Support Group held in the Linger longer room on Tuesdays has increased numbers in March, 4 Morning Tea/Lunches being held this month. The Group Social Support outing travelled to the Delungra Pub for lunch which was enjoyed by 16 clients, staff and three volunteers.

Food Service

Meals on Wheels numbers in March increased to 20 clients.

Meals on Wheels is coordinated by the Bingara Commonwealth Home Support Program staff and the meals are provided by the Bingara MPS.

Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) – Bingara April**Budget**

See Naroo Report.

Advisory Committee Meeting

No meetings were held in April.

Volunteers

Bingara CHSP was supported by 12 volunteers with 526 hours of services during April by way of Out-of-Town Transport, Centre Based Day Care, and local transport.

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

Transport and Trips

Out of Town Transport was slightly less due to three public holidays in April with 168 trips for the month servicing 39 clients.

The Access Bus made two trips to Inverell in April, servicing 12 clients. The Bus was also used for some out-of-town trips to medical appointments when both other vehicles were fully booked.

Volunteers carry out regular maintenance checks on the vehicles when they are not in use as well as the routine cleaning after every trip.

The Local Transport service has slightly increased numbers again during April.

Social Support

Group Social Support Group held in the Linger longer room on Tuesdays continued with good numbers in April, three Morning Tea/Lunches being held this month as the ANZAC Public Holiday fell on a Tuesday. The Group Social Support outing ventured across to the Sportsman's Hotel for lunch which was enjoyed by 16 clients, staff and three volunteers. We also celebrated a ninety ninth Birthday this month which was very exciting.

Food Service

Meals on Wheels numbers in April increased to 24 clients.

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

Bingara CHSP Monthly Report April 2023	
Day Centre	
Total active clients	15
Clients receiving service	11
Total meals	24
Hours clients receive in centre	138
Social Support	

Number of clients	51
Individual Hours	388
Group Hours	138
Total Hours received	526
Food Service (Meals on Wheels)	
Clients	24
Meals	305
Transport	
Number of clients	39
Number of trips	168
Transport (Youth)	
Number of clients	0
Number of trips	0
Access Bus - Inverell	
Number of Clients	12
Number of Trips (per month)	2
Volunteers	
Number of volunteers	12
Number of hours	526

SOCIAL SERVICES

March 2023

Bingara Neighbourhood Centre

Funding body – NSW Department of Communities and Justice

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

Centrelink

Centrelink remained normal for operation days and hours during March. Except for Friday 31 March, where all council services and staff participated in the All-Staff Day. This meant that Centrelink was closed for the day.

Youth Service

Funding body – NSW Department of Communities and Justice

Youth services staff have commenced a program using the space at Warialda Commonwealth Home Support room. The program involves musical, physical, and social activities. A small yet enthusiastic group of young males are regular attendees. They have expressed an interest in learning more about bullying, playing musical instruments, boxing, karate, gym exercises and weights. They made a 'challenge wheel' with activities that they could compete in.

Supported Playgroup Development Worker

Funding body – NSW Department of Communities and Justice

This month was seen as a quiet month for Warialda Toy Library.

Warialda Toy Library	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Mar 2023
Total daily attendance count for children, (calculating each child, each day over the month –total points of contact).	0	71	58
Full borrowing memberships (new and/or renew)	0	0	1
Non borrowing memberships (new and/or renew)	0	0	0
Casual borrowing memberships (new and/or renew)	0	0	0
Commemorative Birth Certificate applications received	0	0	0
Toys returned	0	7	6
Toys borrowed	0	6	8
Groups using the service (FDC carer, Pharmacy)	0	1	0
Tuesday group morning session x 3	0	12	11
Wednesday group morning session x 3	0	19	14
Thursday group morning session x 3	0	35	23
Friday group morning session x 2	0	5	10

Although, during the month, 3 guest speakers visited the service and gave information sessions to the families. Our first guest of the month was Rachel Sherman, a Warialda Local who is now a personal trainer and nutrition coach. She provided information to families about what you can be doing at home to improve your physical activity, and ways to start yourself off getting into healthy habits. She provided a demonstration of the exercises you can be doing, and even the children joined in.



The second and third guest speaker of the month was Rural Outreach and the Senior Dietician from Moree Health. Both doing their routine monthly visit, checking on families and answering any questions they may have and providing them with information. We are grateful we have these services visiting our families.

On Wednesday 8 March 2023, the service held a morning tea to recognise International Women's Day. Mums who attended the morning tea were presented with a small gift as a small token of gratitude for all that they do.

Unfortunately, the birth certificate ceremony that was due to be held on Wednesday 29 March was postponed due to families receiving the certificates being unable to attend.

Activities for the children provided throughout the month were painting, dress ups, puzzles, pasting feathers onto birds. Harmony Day was recognised by the children creating their own people.



Bingara Toy Library

Funding body – NSW Department of Education and Communities

This month has been busy with guest speakers, outreach support, visit to another service and celebrating the newest babies to the shire along with International Women's Day.

One of the playgroup mums, is a veterinarian and was happy to give a presentation on pet care and all things pertaining to owning a pet. This was held on Wednesday 1 March 2023 and was well attended. A handout of the talk and information on how to greet a dog were given to each family and they were encouraged to ask any question they had about their pet or pets in general.

Warialda Toy Library	January 2023	February 2023	March 2023
Total daily attendance count for children (calculating each child, each day over the month –total points of contact)	0	116	137
Full borrowing memberships - New/Renew	0	0	0
Non borrowing memberships - New/Renew	0	1	0
Casual borrowing memberships - New/Renew	0	0	0
Commemorative Birth Certificates – Voucher Memberships	0	0	1
Toys returned	0	7	0
Toys borrowed	0	2	10
Children/Groups using to the service (FDC carer and pharmacy)	0	1	6

Warialda Toy Library	January 2023	February 2023	March 2023
Tuesday 1 play session x4	0	13c 10a	22c 23a
Wednesday 3 play sessions x4	0	34c 26a	34c 26a
Thursday 1 play session x5	0	18c 16a	24c 21a
KSK Program 4 sessions x9	0	36b 15g	40b 17g

(c = children, a = adults, b = boys, g = girls)

Wednesday 8 March was International Women's Day and the monthly visit from Inverell Rural Outreach Support Service. Both services presented each mum with a lovely little gift for this special occasion, to take home. The toy librarian cooked honey joys, Anzac biscuits, scones with jam and cream for morning tea along with fruit punch. The families attending commented on how lovely it was to be spoilt with a home cooked morning tea and receiving a gift. Outreach staff had everyone reflecting on being a woman and a mum now a days compared to say their mum, let along their grandmother. Lots of comparisons were shared and even to the extent of how husbands or partners do so much now.



Thursday 16 March 2023 saw Playgroup visit the Bingara Preschool to play, learn and explore their beautiful service. Families signed in at the front gate around 10am then enjoyed watching their children interact with all the preschool children. Preschool staff had an assortment of fun activities to do and everyone loved the outing.

Tuesday 21 March 2023 the local Paramedics arrived in the ambulance to give a presentation on basic first aid. The staff covered snake bite, concussion, cuts, broken bones, poisoning, who to call, what numbers to dial, teaching and know your address and rural road names, apps to use, what should be in a first aid kit and

much more. Once the chatting and question time was over, they then moved to show the children and families the ambulance inside and out.



A birth certificate ceremony was held on the 28 March with Cr Egan in attendance to present the families with their gift pack, voucher, and certificate. Four families were to be presented but unfortunately two were unable to attend on the day due to unforeseen circumstances. The Gwydir News attended to report on this event which saw a beautiful post added to their Facebook page which was then shared on the Toy Library page.

The last week of the month saw Easter crafts being made and the build-up to the last week of the term where there would be a small Easter egg hunt available to each attendee for that week.

During the upcoming school holidays at the beginning of April the carpets and rugs will be shampooed by Tony Gomez. The service will be closed for the second week for this and the use of the building for vacation care.

Thursday 13 March 2023 sees the service closed also, due to essential energy doing line repairs in the area from 9am until 4pm.

Children were offered various activities each playgroup session whether we were inside or outside. Water play was still popular as was the sandpit when outside but of course the room full of toys was always the most popular to all.

On a few occasions it was lovely to see daddy bringing along bub for playgroup and they were made to feel well included for the session.

The Kool Skool program is well attended, and the children continue to enjoy various activities in the front room of the service. Lego, blocks, puzzles, cards, board games, drawing, whiteboard drawing, I spy, what am I, and the occasional hour in the toy room looking and playing with the toys.



Bingara Preschool

Funding Body – Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate

NSW Department of Education and Communities

Days	Month – April 2023
Tuesday	27
Wednesday	27
Thursday	23
Friday	27

Bingara Preschool Training:

Seaman and Slattery (What's changed) - Webinar.

On Tuesday 7 March, the Educational Leader organised this online seminar through Seaman and Slattery for all educators at Bingara Preschool. This was a one-hour online seminar which discussed the updated version of the Learning Framework and what has changed. The online seminar summarised the changes between the previous version and the updated version. One of the most noticeable changes in the Belonging, Being and Becoming document is introducing the three new principles: promoting collaborative leadership and teamwork, focusing on sustainability and one that centres on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives.

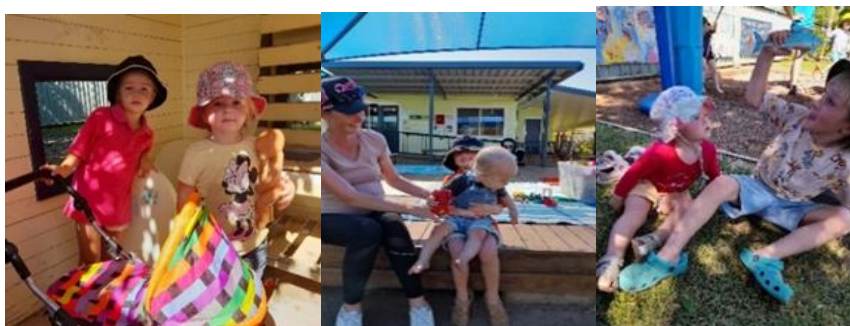
Sensory Processing Training:

On Tuesday 14 March 2023, the Inclusion Support Teacher from Early Links visited to facilitate a group training to the team of Bingara Preschool Educators. The training discussed what Sensory Processing is and discussed the different symptoms that could be evident. The Inclusion Support Teacher talked about the seven different senses and covered different sensory issues.

Toy Library Visits Preschool:

Bingara Preschool welcomed the Toy Library Playgroup families to the service on Thursday 16 March 2023. The older brothers and sisters loved showing their younger siblings around the preschool yard. The children explored the water play, sandpit, duplo and the climbing equipment. This is a wonderful opportunity for the younger children to become familiar with the preschool environment.

EYLF 2.1: Children develop a sense of connectedness to groups and communities and an understanding of their reciprocal rights and responsibilities as active and informed citizens.



Harmony Day 2023.

On Tuesday 21 March 2023, Bingara Preschool celebrated Harmony Day. Harmony Day is a celebration of our cultural diversity - a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home. In the creative corner the children were able to make a representation of themselves. They used a range of resources including markers, feathers, stickers, and pipe cleaners. These creations are displayed on our Preschool Board which is above the home corner area. An educator read a short story about Harmony Day and the children learnt about respecting and celebrating differences and similarities. Each child had the opportunity to share with the group something about them that was special.

EYLF Principle: Diversity (The Educators provide opportunities for the children to learn about similarities and differences and about interdependence and citizenship).



Tharawonga Mobile Resource Unit

Funding Body – Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment

Days and Venues	Month – April 2023
Monday at Croppa Creek	6 (2 extra casual places)
Tuesday at North Star	10 (4 extra casual places)
Wednesday at Yallaroi	9 (7extra casual places)

Thursday at Yetman	4 (0 extra casual places)
Friday at North Star	4 (18 extra casual places)

Staff Update – We have recently welcomed a new casual staff member to the team who is Diploma trained and comes to us with years of experience in Early Childhood Education and Care. Our team is growing, and we are striving to develop working relationships within the service. Children and new educators are learning about each other and developing caring, trusting and respectful relationships. New educators are also building relationships with families to ensure continuity and the best outcomes for children who attend our service. One of our educator's is still on worker's compensation leave, and our Acting Director is working predominantly from the office due to her current doctor's advice, relating to her pregnancy. Our staff attended the Gwydir Shire Staff Day.

Tharawonga Fundraising Committee – Parents have reinvigorated our fundraising committee this year, holding their first meeting and electing official positions. They have placed a shirt, rugby and hat order to raise funds for Tharawonga. Staff are working closely with the president and community representatives to allocate funding where it is needed. The Fundraising Committee has paid for a "Reptiles on the Go" experience to attend three venues next week.

Significant celebrations – As some children only attend one day a week, educators provide experiences and opportunities to learn about special days throughout the entire week. Our service recognised, participated in and celebrated the first day of Autumn by making a collage, Clean Up Schools Day, St. Patrick's Day by learning about the folklore of the leprechaun and crafting rainbows, and Harmony Day by creating a Hands around the World display. Children also began making Easter Hats for the upcoming Easter holiday.

Croppa Creek – Educators have been focusing on settling the children during arrival times at the service, as well as supporting the children to become familiar with the daily routine. Children feel safe and secure when they know what to expect throughout the day and rise to meet high expectations from staff. The children are enjoying exploring sensory processing by playing with the insects in the kinetic sand. They have also been demonstrating their confidence and resilience when playing on the outdoor equipment. Educators plan and design the resources to test children's strength and coordination while developing their climbing skills and abilities.



North Star – As the weather cools down, children and educators have been enjoying the outdoor environment as much as possible. We have been sharing mealtimes outdoors on the picnic rug, providing children with an opportunity to engage in conversations as we are all sitting together. This is important to ensure all our new children attending North Star begin to develop relationships with peers as well as educators. The children are enjoying sensory play, inclusive of painting with their hands and fingers, mixing water with sand and other gathered natural materials in the sand pit and playing with a range of resources in the new kinetic sand. Home corner has been popular, with children sharing their knowledge from home while enacting dramatic play around cooking in the kitchen and caring for babies. Educators are programming structured movement and music session in the afternoons to support children to learn simple rhymes and jingles, move their bodies to the rhythm, and follow simple instructions using their listening skills.



Yallaroi – Educators have been planning and preparing small group activities that focus on school readiness skills, as we have a large cohort of children transitioning to school next year. Children are developing their artistic and creative skills by drawing their own interpretations of stories educators have read aloud to them. Drawing is an essential pre-writing skill and helps children organise their ideas in preparation for writing. The children celebrated Harmony Week by having their hands printed in flags from different countries around the world. This is especially important as we have children with family in Germany, England, and Ireland.

A family donated a set of cardboard cutting utensils and screws. Educators helped children build a castle out of boxes, linking back to the child's visit to castles in Germany.



Yetman – Children have been challenging their skills, strength and confidence by using the school’s outdoor equipment. The children are demonstrating problem solving, gross motor skills such as climbing, strength and balance, whole body coordination, self-help and self-regulation skills and pride in their accomplishments. Children are showing interest in bugs and reptiles, following up from their investigation into bats last month. The Yetman School invited children to join in their Environmental Education Centre visit. Children observed and learned facts about different Australian insects.



SOCIAL SERVICES

April 2023

Bingara Neighbourhood Centre

Funding body – NSW Department of Communities and Justice

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

Centrelink

Centrelink was closed on Friday 7 April and Monday 10 April for the Easter long weekend. It was also closed on Tuesday 25 April for ANZAC Day. A new staff member has been trained and has started in the Bingara Centrelink Agency. Around these dates, Centrelink remained of normal operation hours.

Youth Mentoring Program

Month – April 2023	Number of participants
February	6
March	5
April	5

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

Youth Services

Funding body – NSW Department of Communities and Justice

After school program at Warialda CHSP (Commonwealth Home Support Program) commenced in March, with musical, physical, and social activities. A small enthusiastic group of young men are regular attendees. They have expressed an interest in learning more about bullying, playing musical instruments, boxing, karate, gym exercises and weights. They made a ‘challenge wheel’ which includes activities they can compete in. Participants also had a go at the Football Passing Target that Warialda Men’s Shed constructed.



Youth Week

Funding Body – Department of Communities and Justice

Staff and local artist Larisa Cooper led some keen artists through self-expression sessions during the “Art Splash” workshops during the School Holidays as part of 2023 Youth Week celebrations. NSW Government provided funds to support the Theme of Connect. Participate. Celebrate. The two groups (seven participants at Warialda and eleven at Bingara) created individual and collaborative pieces, which were then on display at an afternoon ‘pop-up’ exhibition at Ceramic Break Sculpture Park. The afternoon gave artists, friends, family, and others from the public a chance to see the works professionally displayed, thanks to Barbara from Ceramic Break Sculpture Park; it also provided an opportunity to connect with each other.



Vacation Care

<p>Total Points of Contact Tuesday 11 April - 12 April 2023 Thursday 20 April - 21 April 2023</p>	<p>41</p>
<p>Number of Children & Families enrolled in Holiday Activities</p>	<p>15 Families 26 Children 13 Boys 13 Girls</p>

Number of Children & Families enrolled in Holiday Activities Bingara	5 Families 10 Children 7 Boys 3 Girls
Number of Children & Families enrolled in Holiday Activities Warialda	10 Families 16 Children 6 Boys 10 Girls

Vacation Care saw eleven children each day at Warialda and eight one day and ten, the following day, at Bingara. Participants were able to take home their individual pieces. Investigations are under way to hold a silent auction, for collaborative works, at the Warialda Show in May. Vacation Care was held on Tuesday 11 April and Wednesday 12 April 2023 at Warialda and

Toy Library and on Thursday 20 April and Friday 21 April at Bingara Toy Library.

Children participated in Talent Shows, with a variety of skills on display, including puppet shows, dancing, singing and joke telling. All worked well to find others to perform with.

Other activities obstacle courses, hide and seek items, “Among Us”, “What’s the time Mr Wolf”, games of UNO, building blocks and railway construction, drawing, colouring in and craft.



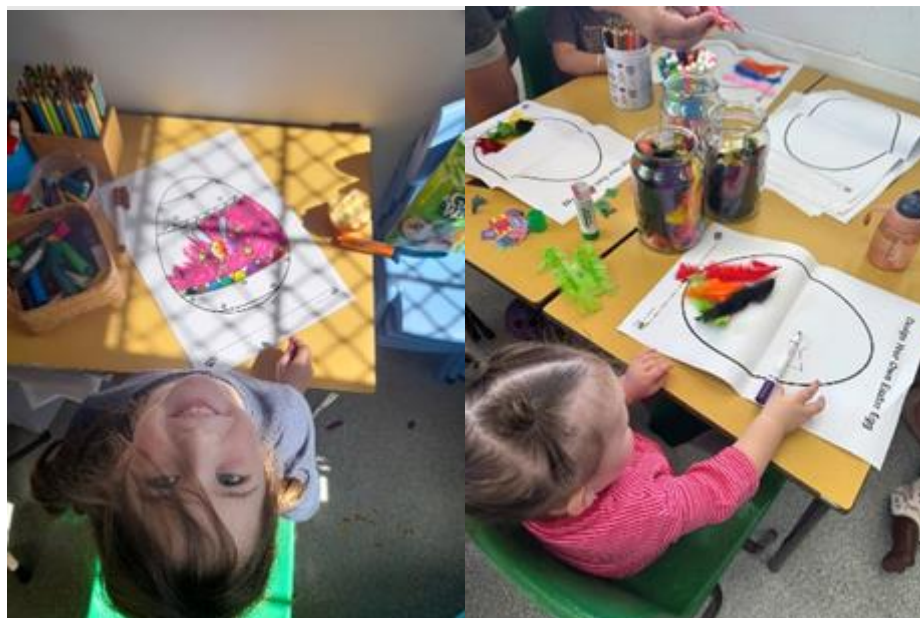
Supported Playgroup Development Worker

Funding body – Department of Communities and Justice

Warialda Toy Library	Feb 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023
Total daily attendance count for children, (calculating each child, each day over the month –total points of contact).	71	58	62
Full borrowing memberships (new and/or renew)	0	1	1
Non borrowing memberships (new and/or renew)	0	0	0
Casual borrowing memberships (new and/or renew)	0	0	0
Commemorative Birth Certificate applications received	0	0	2
Toys returned	7	6	3
Toys borrowed	6	8	5
Groups using the service (FDC carer, Pharmacy)	1	0	0

Tuesday group morning session x 1	12	11	10
Wednesday group morning session x 3	19	14	25
Thursday group morning session x 3	35	23	15
Friday group morning session x 1	5	10	12

We kick started the month off with some Easter Craft, the children decorated eggs, with textas, crayons, feathers, collage pieces.

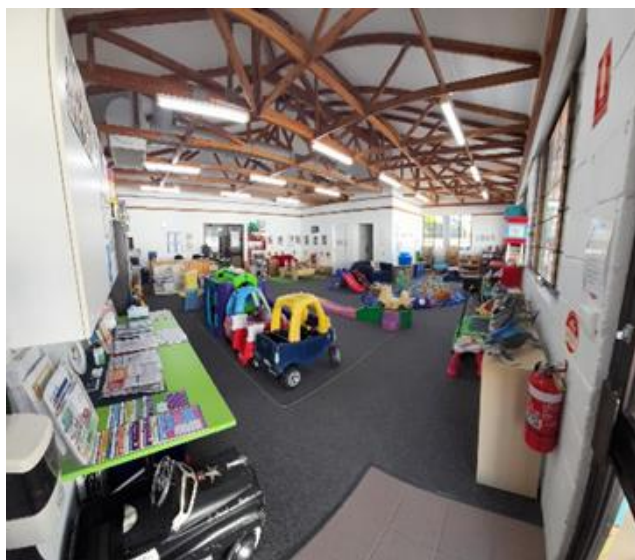


The service was closed for a week due to staffing and vacation care.

Children and families returned after a break and enjoyed the room change around and clean. Children engaged in craft activities, and sensory activities using water, cocoa powder, and corn flour in the sensory tub with farm animals to resemble “muddy animals.” The children always like to get their hands dirty.

On Tuesday 18 April, the Rural Outreach Support person attended the service for her monthly visit and spoke to the families about recipes to make things under budget.

This month also seen a staff change over as the Social Services assistant who was coordinating the Toy Library for the past 12 months goes onto Maternity leave. The new Staff member is a familiar face as she is a parent who would regularly visit the service.



Bingara Toy Library

Funding body – NSW Department of Education and Communities

This month included lots of public holidays and the school holidays. The service was closed due to power line work on 13, carpet cleaning 14-17, Anzac Day 25, vacation care 20 and setting up rooms after carpet cleaned 18-19.

Even with the number of days in which we were closed, staff managed to pack in lots of fun with Easter crafts, egg hunts, games, puzzles, stories, a visit from Rural Outreach and an easy start to Term 2 of the school year.

Rural Outreach Support Service visited on Wednesday 12, in the first week of the school holidays with a cooking demonstration, taste test and recipe ideas for families to use over the school holidays. This recipe was a hit with everyone, and the children enjoyed putting their own special ingredients in their dough then rolling them into a ball and placing them on the oven tray. The smell of them cooking had them all saying, "is mine ready yet"? Each family were able to take home the cookies they made, well what were left of them anyway.



Particulars	FEB 2023	MAR 2023	APRIL 2023
Total daily attendance count for children, (calculating each child, each day over the month –total points of contact).	116	137	40
Full borrowing memberships (new and/or renew)	0	0	0
Non borrowing memberships (new and/or renew)	1	0	0
Casual borrowing memberships (new and/or renew)	0	0	0
Commemorative Birth Certificate – Voucher memberships	0	1	0
Toys returned	7	0	6
Toys borrowed	2	10	8
Children/Group using the service (FDC carer, pharmacy)	1	6	8
Tuesday group morning session x 2	13c 10a	22c 23a	8c 8a
Wednesday group morning session x 3	34c 26a	34c 26a	19c 12a
Thursday group morning session x 2	18c 16a	24c 21a	3c 2a
KSK group afternoon session x 3	36b 15g	40b 17g	7b 3g

(c = children, a = adults, b = boys, g = girls)

Vacation Care ran from this service on the last two days of the school holidays.

The Kool Skool children loved the cooler afternoons this month, which allowed them to draw on the footpath just before home time each day, with the coloured chalks. They also enjoyed making Easter crafts, an Easter egg hunt, games, red rover, and the usual Lego. The Easter eggs were kindly donated for the hunts for both playgroup and KSK by the Webber family.

Staff forwarded information to families regarding a survey on the need for childcare, the Gwydir news, upcoming events at the toy library and links to great websites both in email and on the Bingara Toy Library Facebook page.

Bingara Preschool

Funding Body – Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate

NSW Department of Education and Communities.

Days	April 2023
Tuesday	27
Wednesday	27
Thursday	24
Friday	26

Tourandi's Egg Donation:

On Wednesday 5 April, Bingara Preschool had organised an excursion to the local aged-care facility, Tourandi Lodge. Unfortunately due to sickness, this excursion was not able to go ahead. However, Tourandi dropped the Preschool off, two cartons of Easter Eggs for the children to enjoy as part of their Easter Celebrations. The children were able to still enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt at Preschool, where each child found, and enjoyed one Easter Egg. The Educators spoke to the children about how chocolate eggs are a sometimes food, but also a part of an Easter Celebration. We thank Tourandi for their much enjoyed donation.

**Easter Hat Parade:**

On Thursday 6 April, Bingara Preschool attended the Bingara Central School's annual Easter Hat Parade. The Service invited each family to come and attend this event with their child. The children paraded their Easter Hats that they made whilst at Bingara Preschool. The children also performed the dance: 'Easter Bunny Dance and Freeze'.

**Bingara Preschool Training:****Self-Assessment Tool:**

On Wednesday 12 April, the team of Educators at Bingara Preschool spent the day reviewing and revising the Service's Self-Assessment Document. The aim of this tool was for the team to review current practices and then identify which practices link to which Element of the National Quality Standard. The team collaboratively reviewed and updated this document and now it will be placed on the Service's Quality Improvement Plan board, for all stakeholders to access, view, and share their views on.

Educational Leader – Monthly Report.

The team of Educators have taken part in a webinar to update them on the changes to the Early Years Learning Framework. The Educators have access to the new document and have implemented the updates. During April, the Service's Educational Program was audited to identify strengths and improvements. A more detailed tracking process has been implemented to assist Educators with programming.

Tharawonga Mobile Resource Unit

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

Days and Venues	November 2022
Monday at Croppa Creek	6 (3 extra casual places)
Tuesday at North Star	1 (4 extra casual places)
Wednesday at Yallaroi	3 (7 extra casual places)
Thursday at Yetman	4 (0 extra casual places)
Friday at North Star	4 (2 extra casual places)

Service Closure – Tharawonga was closed to families for public holidays, NSW school holidays and a pupil free day from Friday 7 April through Tuesday 25 April. During this time, staff worked as a team for three days to critically reflect upon practice and policy and collaboratively improve upon our daily routines, programming and documentation and how the service operates to meet the needs of our current children and families, as well as reflect on the strengths and input from our new staff members.

Significant celebrations – Tharawonga educators supported children to engage in Easter celebrations, providing stories and songs to sing, Easter craft and games to play and individual help to make a very special Easter hat. Keeping in line with our nutrition policy, educators filled plastic eggs with Easter stickers, small chicks and pencils to hide for an Easter hunt. In partnership with our Parent Fundraising Community, we were able to bring Reptiles on the Go to most venues. Ben presented a range of Australian animals to the children, asking children about their knowledge and experience with these animals, sharing facts and letting the children touch and hold the animals as appropriate.

Croppa Creek – Children participated in the Reptiles on the Go experience. They learned about all different types of reptiles Ben shared and were given opportunities to touch the reptiles and feel what their scales or skin was like. The Croppa Creek School children and staff joined Tharawonga in this experience, continuing to build our relationship with the school. Some families also attended this event and shared morning tea. The children made Easter hats, craft and went on an Easter hunt where they found Easter goodies hidden by the staff in eggs.



North Star – Children celebrated the upcoming Easter holiday. They worked closely with educators to research Easter Hat ideas on the iPad and then select appropriate materials to make individual hats. Families were invited to attend a North Star Easter Hat Parade and children showcased their beautiful hats. Families joined the children for afternoon tea and the service's Easter hunt. Families engaged in conversations with staff and were able to see what the children have been doing, learning and playing at the service.

Yallaroi – Children experimented with different colours in water tray and enjoyed watching as the colours swirled, mixed and made new colours. The children explored aspects of their home culture, working hard to remove the weeds and tress from the fence. Ben from Reptiles on the Go helped everyone learn about lizards, turtles, a crocodile and even a snake. The children had the opportunity to hold or pat the different reptiles and all the children were very brave to touch the Olive tree python. Children engaged in our Easter celebrations, egg hunt and shared afternoon tea. Upon returning from school holidays, educators supported children to learn about the recent ANZAC holiday.



Yetman – Yetman Public School invited us to join their Easter celebrations. Children participated in the school's Easter Hat Parade, where children showed their individual creativity and hats to the school and families. The school provided biscuits to decorate, Easter craft and games. Children also participated in the Reptiles on the Go experience. Ben provided an interactive show where children asked questions, told stories and could touch the animals. Children's families attended for the morning and lunch, strengthening our relationships with families and partnership with the school.



CUSTOMER SERVICE REQUESTS (CRMs)

CRMs carried forward from:

Department	Outstanding as at 1 April 2023	Completed since 1 April 2023	Outstanding as at 1 May 2023
Technical Services	42	25	17
Environment and Sustainability	22	16	6
Town Utilities Parks and Gardens	4	4	0
Building Services	15	9	6
Total Outstanding	83	54	29

CRM's - 1 April 2023 to 1 May 2023:

Department	Received during April 2023	Completed during April 2023	Outstanding as at 1 May 2023
Technical Services	25	3	22
Environment and Sustainability	20	6	14
Town Utilities Parks and Gardens	38	28	10
Building Services	15	6	9
Executive	0	0	0
Organisation and Community Services	2	1	1
Totals	100	44	56

CRMs received since 1 April 2023 and still outstanding as at 1 May 2023:

Department	Open
Technical Services	39
Environment and Sustainability	20
Town Utilities Parks and Gardens	10
Building Services	15
Executive	0
Organisation and Community Services	1
Total	85

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 Services Department are in line with the 2021/2022 Operational Plan.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

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

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

THAT the report be received.

(Moved Cr Mulligan, Seconded Cr Galvin)

CARRIED

For: Cr J Coulton, Cr Galvin, Cr Matthews, Cr Moore and Cr Mulligan

Against: Nil

8.2 Executive Services

File Reference: NA

Delivery Program

Goal: 5. Organisational management

Outcome: 5.1 Corporate management

Strategy: 5.1.5 Provision of responsible internal governance

Author: Max Eastcott, General Manager

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

This report is for reception.

TABLED ITEMS Nil

COMMENT

Planning

The following Development (D/A) and Development Modification (s96) applications were approved during the month of April 2023:

No.	Property Description	Development/ Work	\$	D/A	s96
20/2022	Garry K Churchland Lot 1 DP 121837 37 Bingara Street Warialda Rail	Modification of dwelling site	\$187,500	-	✓
8/2023	Rhonda M King Lots 1 & 2 DP 456478, Lots 53, 63, 115, 150 & 244 DP 754819, Lots 1, 2 & 3 DP 1046441, Lots 3 & 4 DP 1028928 & Lot 1 DP 1014883 130 Kings Road Bingara	5 Lot Subdivision including the creation of 3 new R5- Large Lot Residential allotments and new 2 RU1- Primary Production allotments	\$10,000	✓	-
11/2023	D J Knevett Lot 1 DP 534961 25 East Street Warialda	Open fronted Extension to front of existing shed	\$9,000	✓	-
12/2023	K R & SM Bell Lot 5 Section 36 DP 759052 73 Hope Street Warialda & M M Kennedy Lot 6 Section 36 DP 759052 75 Hope Street Warialda	Boundary Adjustment	\$8,700	✓	-
13/2023	Brett B Mercer	Demolition of existing front	\$50,000	✓	-

	Lot 3 Section 16 DP 758111 26 Faithful Street Bingara	verandah and rear sunroom and the addition of a living room to the front and a sunroom with full bathroom to the rear. Alteration of existing bathroom to remove shower and change lounge room to dining room			
14/2023	G D & A M Hincksman Lot 5 Section 26 DP 758111 16 Bombelli Street Bingara	2 Lot Residential Subdivision	\$12,000	✓	-
15/2023	K P & M H Lumsdon Lot 10 Section 5 DP 758111 29 Dinoga Street Bingara	Dwelling	\$442,320	✓	-
17/2023	M J Barron & S E Gerrey Lot 19 Section 48 DP 759052 9 Inverell Road Warialda	Install an above ground swimming pool	\$3,000	✓	-

The following Development (D/A) and Development Modification (s96) applications were received during or prior to April 2023 and remain undetermined at the end of April 2023:

No.	Property Description and Description of Work	Reason	D/A	s96
49/2016	Ceres Ag 'Gunyaerwarildi' 1470 North Star Road Warialda - Continued occupation/use of rural worker accommodation being the installation of a number of premanufactured cabins	Approved in principle awaiting compliance certification or engineering certification for the cabins.	✓	-
38/2022	Stahmann Property Pty Ltd 1507 River Road Pallamallawa - Modification of building type & layout of rural workers accommodation	Being notified and exhibited in accordance with the Gwydir Communication Participation Plan	-	✓
57/2022	J D Grabham 39 Yallaroi Road Coolatai - Modification of type of residential accommodation from a rural workers cottage to a single dwelling	Being notified and exhibited in accordance with the Gwydir Communication Participation Plan	-	✓
16/2023	Bramwell Homes Pty Ltd / P G Montuoro & E C O'Grady 20 Ridley Street Bingara - Attached Dual Occupancy being a two bed, single bath dwelling (64.85m ²) & an attached two bed, single bath, granny flat (45.89m ²)	Applied to Regional Housing Fly Squad to assist with this assessment	✓	-
18/2023	Bramwell Homes Pty Ltd / M L Taylor- Holmes	Applied to Regional Housing Fly Squad to	✓	-

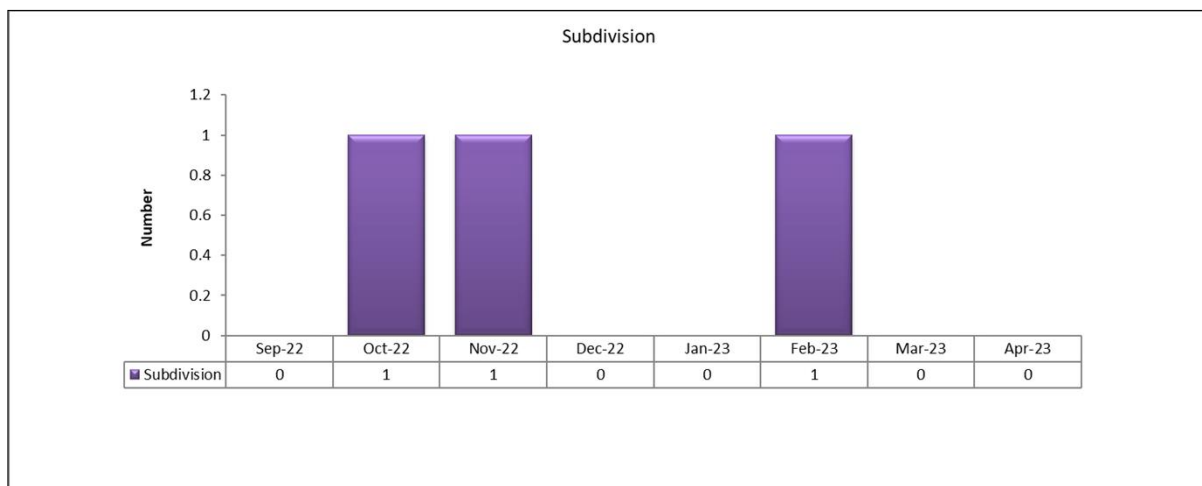
	22 Ridley Street Bingara Attached Dual Occupancy being a two bed, single bath dwelling (64.85m ²) & attached two bed, single bath, granny flat (45.89m ²)	assist with this assessment		
19/2023	Ruralcert Pty Ltd / M R Ritchie 6 Rosehill Drive Bingara Concept Development – Stage 1 Garage with attached awning (Stage 2 is for a dwelling which will be submitted in the future)	Being assessed	✓	-
20/2023	R J Green 8 Pound Street Bingara - 3-bay garage	Being notified and exhibited in accordance with the Gwydir Communication Participation Plan	✓	-
22/2023	Field Solutions Group Pty Ltd & North Star Sporting Club 6226 North Star Road North Star - Telecommunications Tower & Facility	Being notified and exhibited in accordance with the Gwydir Communication Participation Plan	✓	-

There were no Development (D/A) or Development Modifications (s96) applications approved and not previously reported to Council for the month of April 2023.

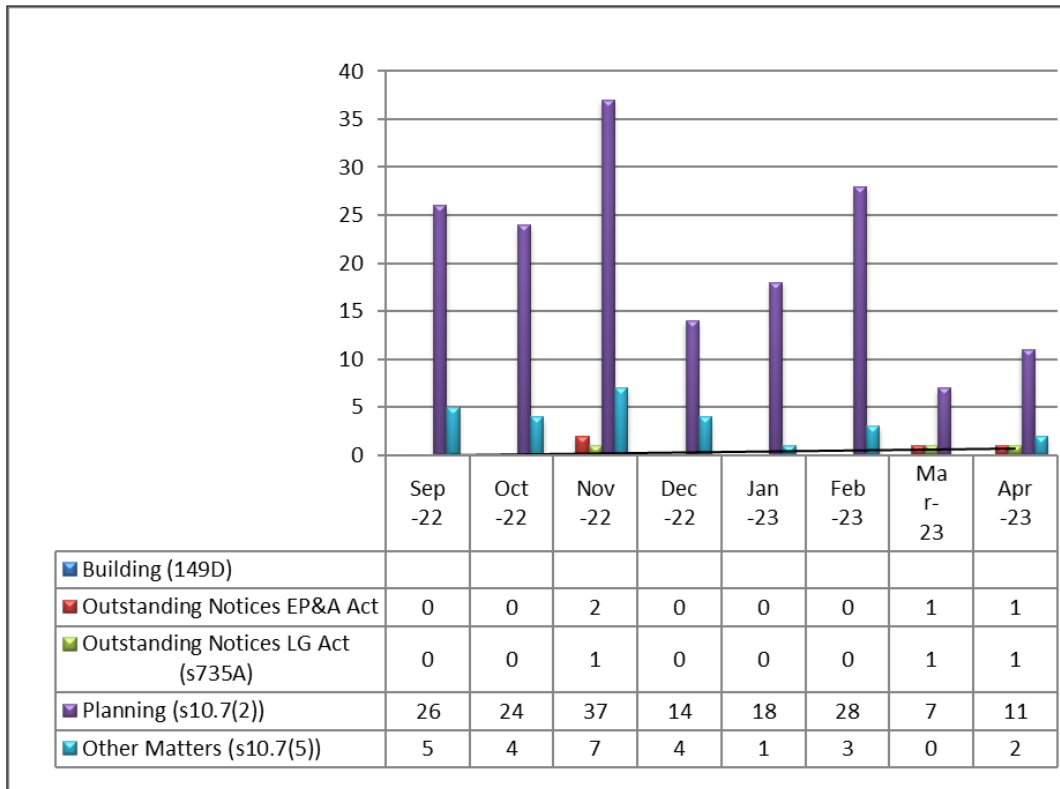
There were no Development (D/A) or Development Modifications (s96) application(s) refused (R), withdrawn (W) or cancelled (C) during the month of April 2023.

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 April 2023.

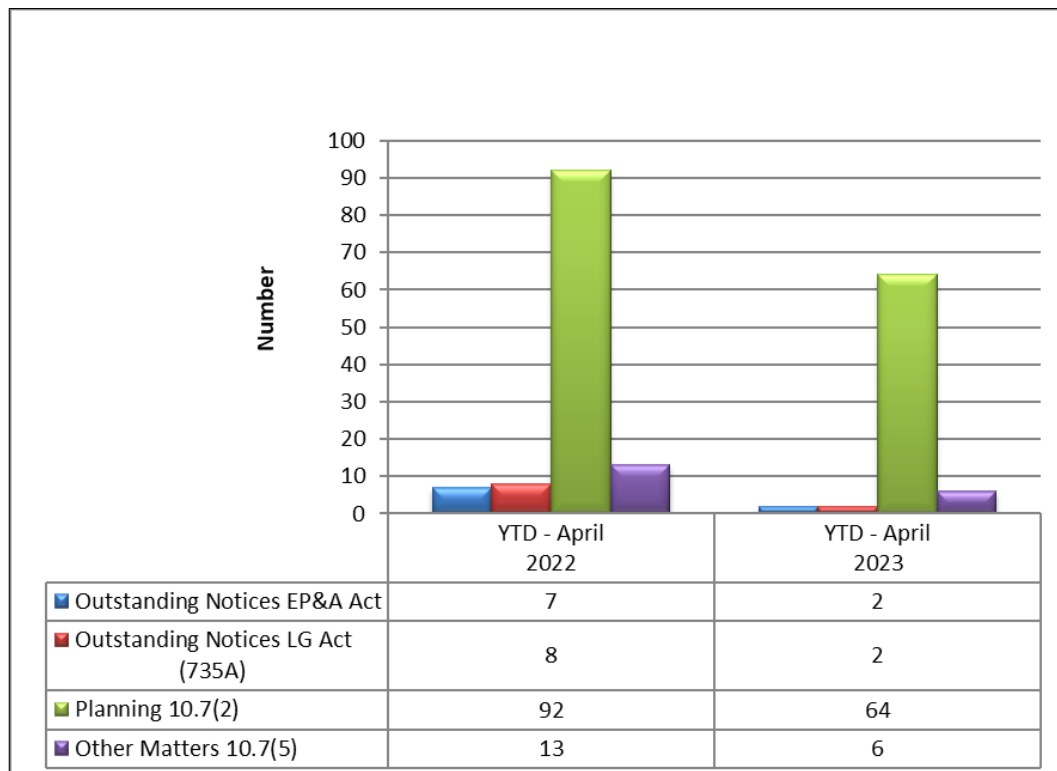
The following graph shows the Subdivision Certificates issued during the month of April 2023.



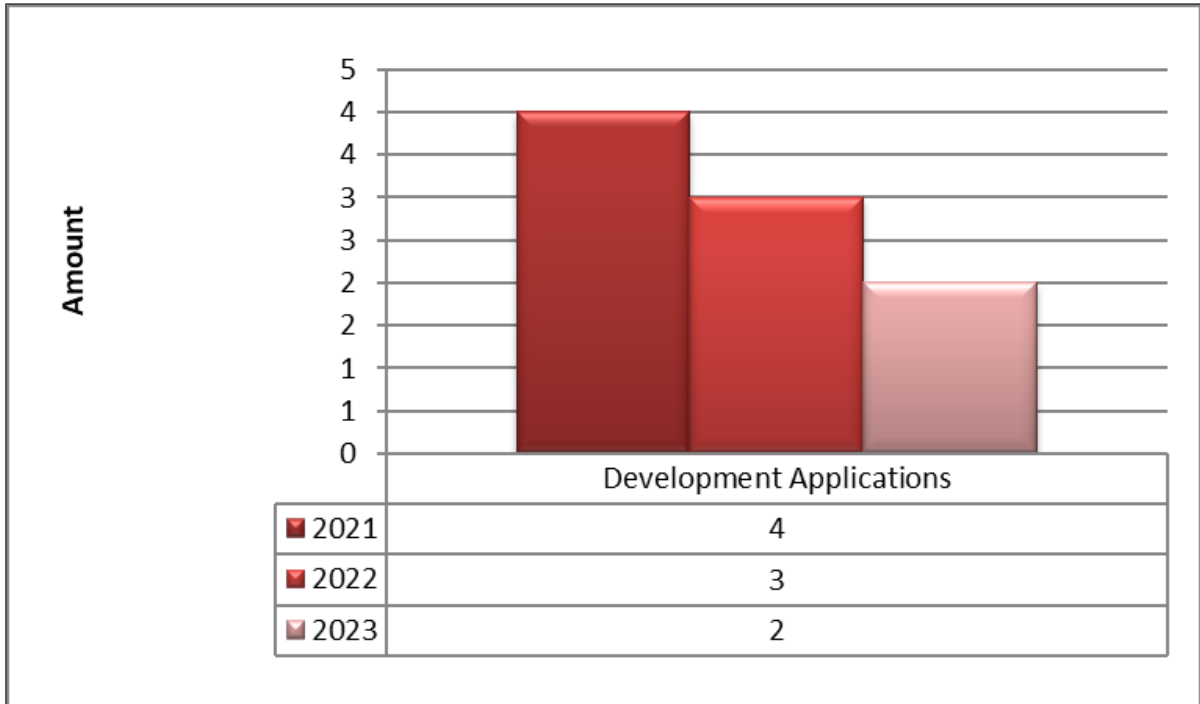
The following graph shows the Conveyancing Certificates issued during month of April 2023 compared to the previous seven months:



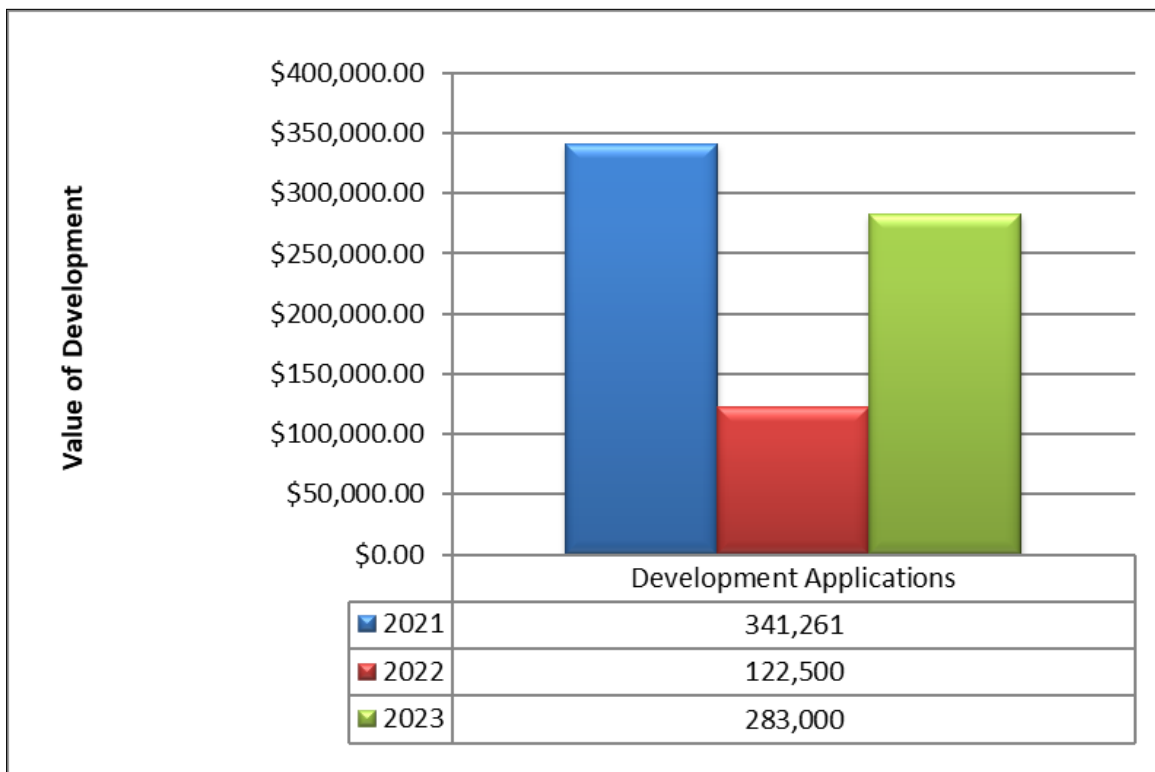
The following graph shows the Conveyancing Certificates issued up to and including the month of April 2023 compared with the same period in 2022:



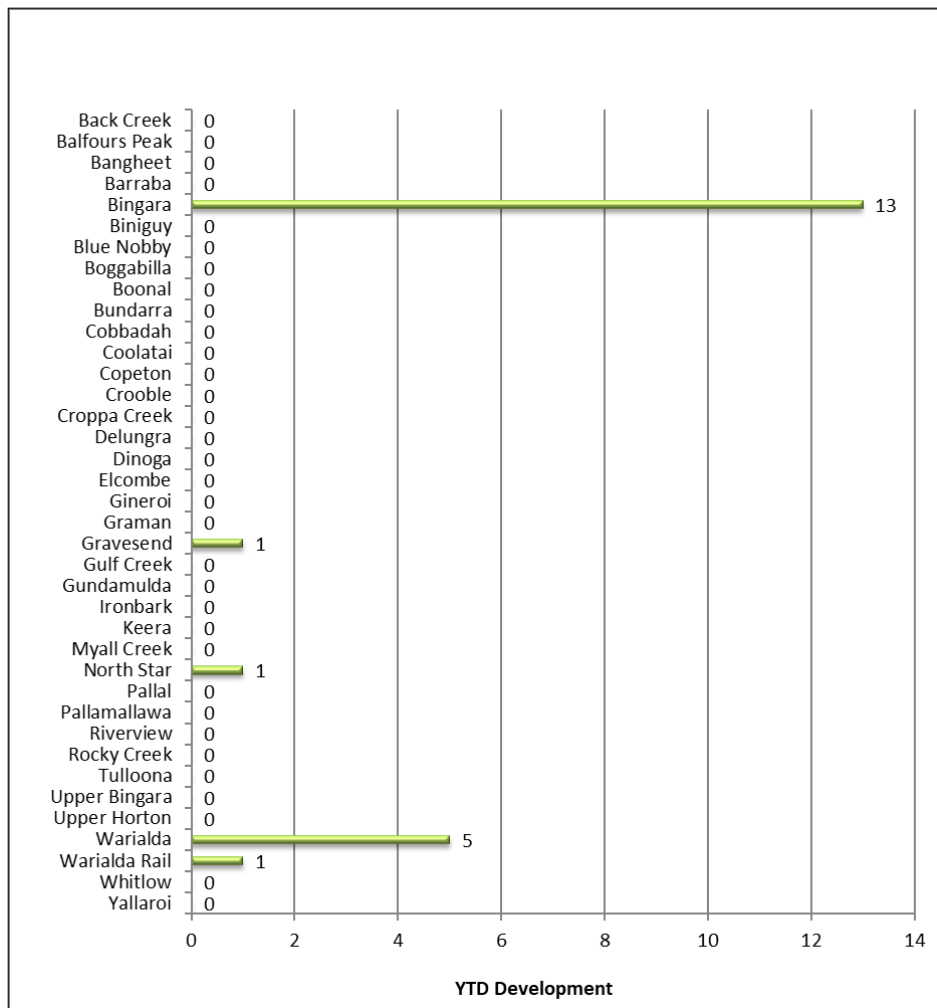
The table below shows a comparison between total development applications (including s4.55 modification applications) lodged during the month of April 2023 compared to the same period in the previous two years:



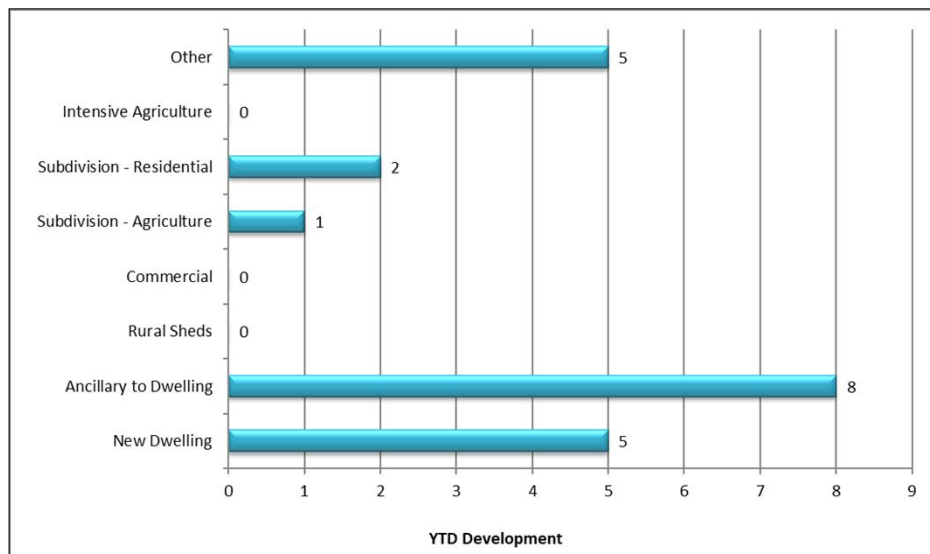
The table below shows a comparison between total value of development applications (including s4.55 modification applications) lodged during the month of April 2023 compared to the same period in the previous two years:



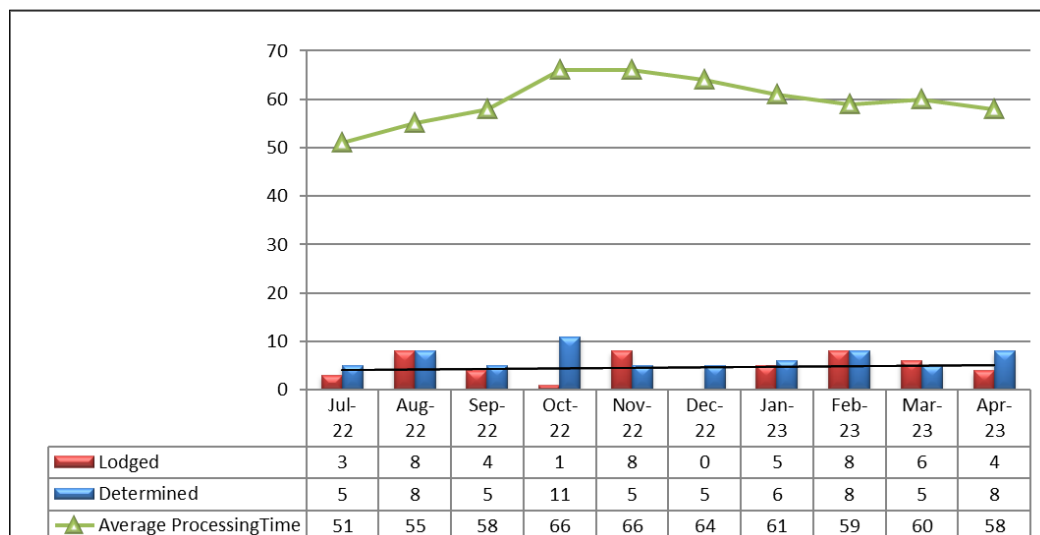
Development Applications (excluding s4.55 modifications) received for the year by locality – YTD April 2023:



Development Applications (excluding s4.55 modifications) received for the year by type – YTD April 2023:



Development Application Analysis (including s4.55 modifications) – for the ten months up to the end of April 2023:



OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

THAT the report be received.

(Moved Cr Galvin, Seconded Cr Matthews)

CARRIED

For: Cr J Coulton, Cr Galvin, Cr Matthews, Cr Moore and Cr Mulligan

Against: Nil

8.3 Technical Services Report March

File Reference: NA

Delivery Program

Goal: 5. Organisational Management

Outcome: 2.1 Our economy is growing and supported

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

Author: Alexander Eddy, Director of Engineering Services

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

This report is for reception.

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

Construction

IB Bore Road Upgrade

Works continue on the SR9 IB Bore Road upgrade near North Star this month. This project is jointly funded by the Fixing Country Roads Program (\$9.54m), and the Federal Government's Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program (\$2m). Continued clear weather has aided progress with 5km of the 20km project bitumen sealed. Simultaneously, drainage works have been undertaken at the intersection of IB Bore Road and Mistake Road. Subgrade stabilisation of the next 1km section is currently underway.



County Boundary Road Upgrade

Works continue on the SR41 County Boundary Road upgrade near Crooble. The project is jointly funded by the Federal Government's Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) Program (\$9,75 million) with Council contributing an additional \$2.44 million.

Council contractors, Fin Valley Civil have made good progress with the first 2 causeway structures. The major box culvert structure at Gil Gil Creek is underway with the main base slab completed ready for the placement of box culvert units. Works are expected to take until December 2023.



SR41 County Boundary Road, Gil Gil Creek

Getta Getta Road Resheeting

The Getta Getta Road resheeting project, funded by the Fixing Local Roads Program, is well underway with 10km of the 20.9km project, carted, crushed and laid with polymer stabilising aid. The project is tracking within available budget and is expected to be completed before December 2023.

Gulf Creek Road Timber Bridge Replacement

This project is funded by the Fixing Country Bridges Program (\$252,500) with a co-contribution from Council (\$30,000). Project planning and procurement has been completed. Structural designs and site plans have been approved for construction. DP Earthmoving Contractors are engaged to carry out the construction with the job scheduled to commence mid-April.

North Star Road Rehabilitation

This project involves rehabilitation of 1.2km of existing road and is funded via Transport for NSW's Regional Road Repair Program. Engineering staff have conducted conditional assessment and survey on the project, 49.615km from North Star Road. The IB Bore Road construction project will be temporarily stood down to ensure this project is completed prior to 30 June 2023.



RR7705 North Star Road

Grant Funded Minor Projects

Footpaths

After the acceptance of a contractor through LGP late in February, works have now started, constructing a new footpath in Junction Park. Engineering and Civil Contractors have now prepared a base for approximately 200m of footpath, ready to be formed up and poured. The team will continue with footpath works now until the end of the financial year, completing works in Junction Street, Link Street and Cunningham Street in Bingara and Reedy Creek, Long Street, All Abilities Park and Naroo in Warialda. All projects combined will see over 2,100m of new concrete footpath and nine new concrete pram ramps.



Footpath base preparation in Junction Park, Bingara.

Maintenance

General maintenance continues on Regional and State roads, including vegetation control, slashing, whipper snipping and spraying of guideposts and guard rails.

Seal maintenance is ongoing on all State, Regional and Local Roads as potholes continue to develop. Heavy Patching has commenced along MR63 starting at Warialda Rail and progressing south. Spraying of Warialda Airstrip and drainage maintenance along Gragin Road and Agincourt Road has also been completed.

Crews have also assisted landholders to replace 2 aging ramps on Michells Land and 1 on Whitlow Road.



Heavy Patching, Fossickers Way

Maintenance Grading

During March maintenance grading was carried out on the following roads

- SR16 Trevallyn Road
- SR17 Back Creek Road
- SR8 Gragin Road
- SR33 Forest Creek Road
- SR13 Oregon Road
- SR47 Glenesk Road

Slashing

During March, roadside slashing was undertaken on

- MR63 Cobbadah Road
- MR462 Bruxner Way
- RR7705 North Star Road
- SR4 Baroma Downs Road

Seal Maintenance

During March, seal maintenance was carried out along

- MR133 Killarney Gap Road
- MR132 Macintyre Road
- Bingara Streets
- MR63 Cobbadah Road

Flood Damage

Throughout March, Flood damage crews completed a 15.6km section of grading and resheeting on SR31 Eulourie Road and have since commenced 9km of grading and resheeting on SR88 Moreena Road. A second crew are currently working on drainage works and grading and resheeting a 16.2km section of SR4 Gravesend Road after completing 14.6km of drainage works and grading and resheeting of SR71 Mt Jerrybang Road.



SR31 Eulourie Road



SR71 Mt Jerrybang Road

Council contractors, Rollers Australia have completed formation grading and drainage on a 4km section on SR49 Michell Lane. Rollers Australia are now currently working on formation grading and drainage on 13.2km of SR93 Sheepstation Creek Road.



SR49 Michells Lane

Contractors ATJ's Earthworks have completed 3.7km of damage repairs on SR50 Thornleigh Road and 2.3km on SR51 Towarra Road. DP Earthmoving have completed repairs to a culvert at Bronco Creek on SR3 Elcombe Road. While Contractors Stabilcorp have completed 14000m2 of sealed pavement repairs on SR4 Baroma Downs Road.



Bronco Creek, Elcombe Road



SR4 Baroma Downs Road

Council is “value adding” to contracted flood damage restoration works wherever possible, by extending works using existing, Council funded maintenance budgets.

Flood damage work has been completed on the following roads:

SR67 Agincourt Road – 3.0km

SR45 Bereen Road – 6.0km

SR62 Hibernia Road – 12.0km

SR54 Pinecliff Road – 4.5km

SR97 Sadowa Road – 0.8km

SR99 Terregee Road – 3.4km (including 0.3km of new seal)

SR14 Mosquito Creek Road at Racecourse Creek

SR21 Terry Hie Hie Road – 1.2km

SR68 Goat Road – 6.0km

SR16 Trevallyn Road – 6.5km

SR34 Bonanza Road – 3.0km

SR82 Kirewa Road – 1.5km

SR69 Tucka Tucka Road – 2.5km

SR72 Scotts Road – 1.7km

SR61 Peates Road – 8km

SR42 Mungle Road – 8km

SR31 Eulourie Road – 2.4km (North of SR32 Pallal Road, 1.2km remaining)

SR32 Pallal Road – 2km

SR55 Moreena Mail Road – 4.2km (0.9km remaining)

SR76 Bristol Lane – 8km

SR92 Killarney Gap Road – 0.5km Resheeting & 6km maintenance grading

SR262 Nunga Road – 3.5km

SR30 Caroda Road – 10.6km

SR71 Mt Jerrybang Road – 2.6km
SR49 Michell Lane – 4km
SR12 Upper Whitlow Road – 2.4km
SR19 Whitlow Road – 2km
SR119 Woodburn/ Emello Road – 2.8km
SR50 Thornleigh Road – 3.7km
SR51 Towarra Road – 2.3km
SR60 Pound Creek Road – 2km
SR76 Bristol Road – 8km
SR13 Oregon Road – Culvert Replaced
SR3 Elcombe Road – Culvert Washout
SR105 Fairweather Road – 0.7km
SR106 Flemmings Road – 0.3km
SR43 Buckie Road – 1.5km

Local Emergency Management

The LEMC had a regular quarterly meeting in March and was well attended. The focus for the committee is now back on updating Council's Emergency Management Plan and Consequence Management Guides. The committee are also pursuing concerns with Telstra regarding limited power backup for the Bingara Telstra tower during periods of extended power outage. The Bingara MPS has expressed particular concerns with communications when there is no Telstra mobile coverage.

Roads Maintenance Council Contract – Works Orders issued by TfNSW

All Work Orders issued by Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) are quality assurance schedule of rates projects carried out by Council staff under the Roads Maintenance Council Contract with TfNSW.

A Works Proposal for \$2.3million is currently under review by TfNSW for the 'Hollymount' Rehabilitation Project, segment 6120 on MR63 Fossickers Way. The project will likely see all drainage works completed this financial year, with the pavement construction started and to be finished next financial year. Drainage works are scheduled to start in mid-April. This year's heavy patching program continues with an internal construction crew now making their way along MR63 Fossickers Way. The remainder of the HW12 Gwydir Highway program was completed this month. A replacement contractor has been secured to undertake additional heavy patching works on MR63 Fossickers Way. Two work orders have now been issued for this year's extensive resealing program with contractors starting reseals on HW12 Gwydir Highway late in the month. Works are still scheduled to be completed by Fulton Hogan by the end of March, weather permitting. A guardrail contractor has been chosen through Local Government Procurement (LGP) to complete works on both state roads, with a view of starting works before the end of March and completion by the end of the financial year.

An additional rehabilitation project on MR63 Fossickers Way, 'Wendouree', has been secured for next financial year after the completion of the 'Hollymount' project.

Discussions are currently taking place in regards to pavement designs for a further rehabilitation project in 2024/25, also located on MR63 Fossickers Way, 'Carisbrook'.

With a maintenance budget almost double that of recent years, routine maintenance continues each week undertaking inspections, rest area services, vegetation control and bitumen repairs, with additional focus on minor patching and drainage works.

Town Utilities and Plant

Water and Sewer

Water and Sewerage operators carried out routine operational tasks and in addition installed 2 new service lines, attended 9 service line repairs, repaired 1 water main break, attended 5 sewer blockages and replaced 8 water meters during the reporting period. Meter reading was undertaken during March.

Regular weekly tasks carried out by Water and Sewerage staff include water testing, grounds maintenance at the water treatment plants, reservoirs, both sewerage treatment plants, sewer pump stations, Warialda truck wash and truck wash ponds.

Work continued on the new sewer extension in Ridley Street during March, allowing for new developments at the southern end of the street.

Other work was undertaken at the Warialda Truckwash, Gravesend and Warialda Recreation Grounds, Gwydir River pontoon area, Roxy Complex, Bingara CWA Park, Showground, Gwydir Oval, Bingara and Warialda Cemeteries.

The shelter near the pontoon area on Gwydir River was relocated as a safety measure. The shelter was relocated to 50m down stream of the bridge, where it will permanently be installed towards the end of April.



Moving the shelter down stream of Bingara Bridge



Repairs to Lighting at Warialda Recreation Oval

North Bingara Sewer Extension

Contractors have been engaged for construction and are aiming to start the project in May 2024.

Warialda Truck wash

The truck wash facility was used by 147 trucks during March, with an average wash down time of 64 minutes and total water used was 905 kL. The estimated income for March is \$12,398.00 less monitoring fees and expenses.

Bingara Showground

The Bingara Showground User Group Committee met in February and agreed on the proposed new layout for the campdraft arena and will require relocation of some existing power outlets.

An external contractor undertook laser levelling of the main arena during March. The Showground 'Cattle' account will fund these works.



Bingara Showground laser levelling

Council called for expressions of interest to remove the old Caretaker's Cottage in March. Seven enquiries resulted in two offers being made. It is anticipated that the successful bidder will have the cottage removed and the site cleaned by 30 June 2023.

Open Spaces Program

Tenders for construction of the Long Run Skate Park have been listed with Local Government Procurement Market Place and close on the 7th March 2023.

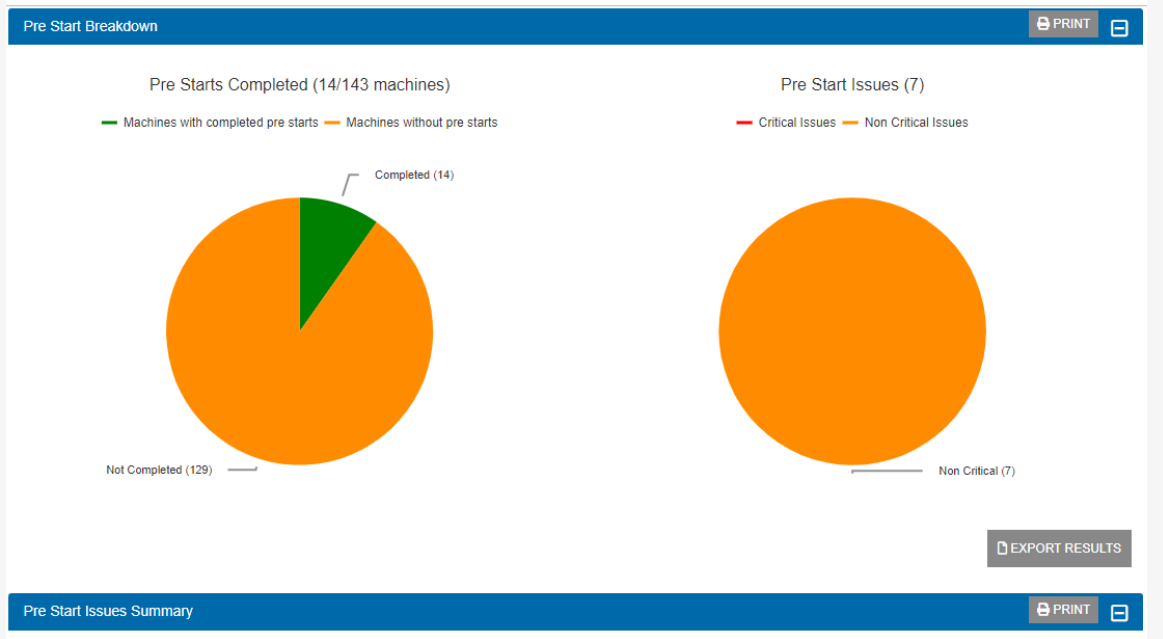
One tender was received, the applicant could not complete the works this year. Council has now called for Request for quotations for the project and details have been sent directly to 8 skatepark contractors.

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 was routinely undertaken during March 2023. 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.

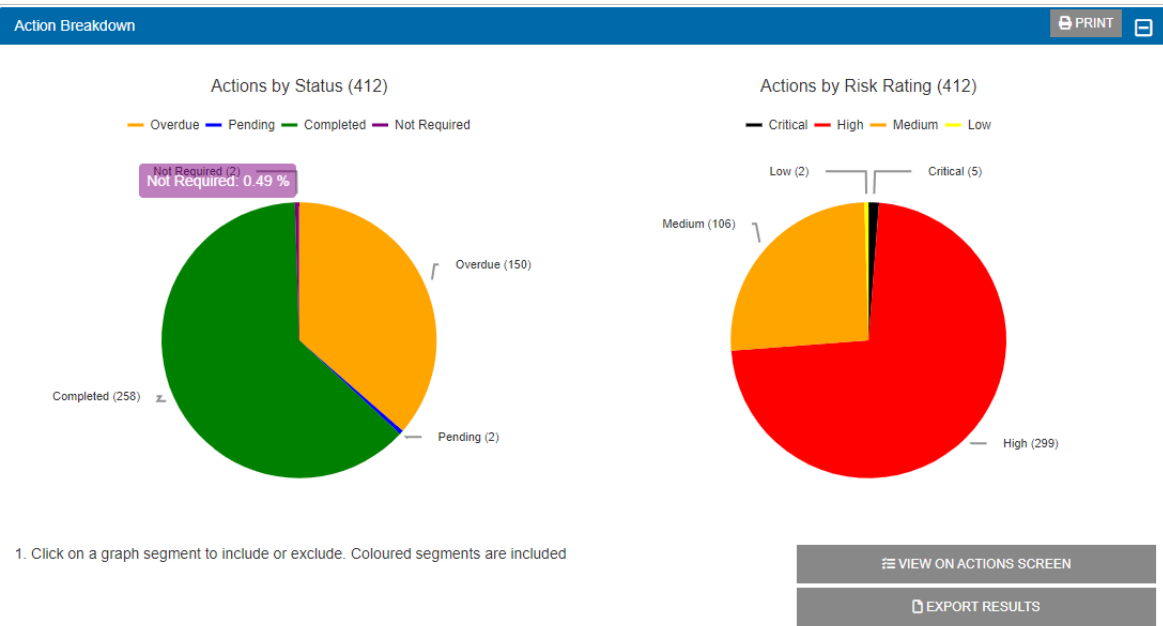
Workshops and Depots – March

Council is moving to electronic daily inspections for plant. This will be undertaken in the field via a mobile based assessment app. Some staff have undertaken the training and Council will be rolling it out to all staff operating plant by the end of March 2023. It is expected that this new procedure will enable better efficiency and accuracy with reporting of plant and aid with workshop planning. The picture below is an example of the reporting function.



Prestart

Based on most recent completed assessment for each machine



Action Summary PRINT

Action Summary

Workshop Services and Jobs	Jan	Feb	Mar
Total number of services in Workshops	24	15	20
Total number of repairs in Workshops	133	107	159

Major Repairs and maintenance undertaken in the workshops during March included:

P2033 – Truck – repairs to brakes and headlights

P1963 – Tractor – 3 point linkage repairs

P1785 – Ute – power steering pump repairs

P1713 – Jetpatcher – repairs

PP1662 – Water cart - repairs

P1741 – Tractor – hydraulic repairs



Ecombi second hand roller for maintenance grading



Council took delivery of new solar traffic lights during March.

CONCLUSION

The activities carried out by the Technical Services Department are in line with the 2021/22 Management Plan and as otherwise directed.

CONSULTATION

Consultation is carried out within the Technical Services Department during the monthly Technical Services Team Meetings and with other relevant persons.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Monthly Technical Services Report for March 2023 be received.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

THAT the Monthly Technical Services Report for March 2023 be received.

(Moved Cr Mulligan, Seconded Cr Moore)

CARRIED

For: Cr J Coulton, Cr Galvin, Cr Matthews, Cr Moore and Cr Mulligan

Against: Nil

8.4 Councillors Activity Report April

File Reference:	NA
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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
Author:	Cherisse Amer, Elected Members Contact

IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received.

TABLED ITEMS Nil

April 2023		
Councillor	Event	Date
Cr John Coulton (Mayor)	Local Council operated Aged Care Network – Virtual meeting with Elizabeth Lynn	4 th April
	Bingara Office Planning Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	5 th April
	Budget Workshop – The Roxy Conference Room	13 th April
	Zoom Meeting – Ken Davey	20 th April
	Perfection Meeting – L1 7 Underwood Rd Homebush – Michael Simonetta	21 st April
	Anzac Day Ceremony - Warialda	25 th April
	Regular NS2B Briefing	26 th April
	Community Meeting – North Star Sporting Club	26 th April
	Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	27 th April
	Community Meeting – Croppa Creek Bowling Club	27 th April
	Transport for NSW online meeting – Luke Farr – Fixing Country Roads	28 th April
Cr Catherine Egan (Deputy Mayor)	Bingara Office Planning Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room Bingara	5 th April
	Budget Workshop – The Roxy Conference Room	13 th April
Cr David Coulton	Budget Workshop – The Roxy Conference Room	13 th April
	Anzac Day Ceremony - Gravesend	25 th April
	Community Meeting – North Star Sporting Club	26 th April
	Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	27 th April
	Community Meeting – Croppa Creek	27 th April
Cr Geoff Smith	Bingara Office Planning Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room Bingara	5 th April
	NSW RFS Meeting & Bush Fire Management	6 th April

	Committee Meeting – Teams Meeting	
	Budget Workshop – The Roxy Conference Room	13 th April
	Community Meeting – North Star Sporting Club	26 th April
	Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference room	27 th April
	Community Meeting – Croppa Creek Bowling Club	27 th April
Cr Lyndon Mulligan	Bingara Office Planning Meeting –The Roxy Conference Room - Bingara	5 th April
	Budget Workshop – The Roxy Conference Room	13 th April
	Anzac Day Ceremonies – Yallaroi and North Star	25 th April
	Community Meeting – North Star Sporting Club	26 th April
	Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	27 th April
	Community Meeting – Croppa Creek Bowling Club	27 th April
Cr Marilyn Dixon	Bingara Office Planning Meeting –The Roxy Conference Room - Bingara	5 th April
	Budget Workshop – The Roxy Conference Room	13 th April
	Bingara Special Events Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	19 th April
	Disability Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting – Warialda Council Chambers	20 th April
	Anzac Day Ceremony – Bingara RSL	25 th April
	Community Meeting North Star Sporting Club	26 th April
	Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	27 th April
	Community Meeting - Croppa Creek Bowling Club	27 th April
Cr Tiffany Galvin	Bingara Office Planning Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	5 th April
	Budget Workshop – The Roxy Conference Room	13 th April
	Bingara Special Events Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	19 th April
	Disability Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting – Warialda Council Chambers	20 th April
	Community Meeting – North Star Sporting Club	26 th April
	Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	27 th April
	Community Meeting – Croppa Creek Bowling Club	27 th April
Cr Jim Moore	Bingara Office Planning Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	5 th April
	NSW RFS AAR Meeting - Narrabri	6 th April
	Budget Workshop – The Roxy Conference Room	13 th April
	Anzac Day Ceremony - Warialda	25 th April

	Community Meeting – North Star Sporting Club	26 th April
	Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	27 th April
	Community Meeting – Croppa Creek Bowling Club	27 th April
Cr (Dr) Chris Matthews	Bingara Office Planning Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	5 th April
	Budget Workshop – The Roxy Conference Room	13 th April
	Ordinary Council Meeting – The Roxy Conference Room	27 th April

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

THAT the report be received.

(Moved Cr Moore, Seconded Cr Galvin)

CARRIED

For: Cr J Coulton, Cr Galvin, Cr Matthews, Cr Moore and Cr Mulligan

Against: Nil

8.5 April Rates Collection & Investments

File Reference:	NA
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Delivery Program

Goal:	5. Organisational management
Outcome:	5.1 Corporate management
Strategy:	5.1.1 Financial Management and accountability systems
Author:	Helen Thomas, CFO

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

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

TABLED ITEMS Nil**BACKGROUND**

In accordance with Clause 19(3) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 1993, the following information provides details of Council's funds invested as at 30th April 2023.

Direct Investments							
Broker	ID	Investment Name	Rating	Type	Next Rollover	Yield	Current Value
NAB	2022.10	NAB	AA	TD	24/05/2023	3.65%	\$1,000,000.00
NAB	2022.11	NAB	AA	TD	24/05/2023	3.65%	\$1,000,000.00
NAB	2202.12	NAB	AA	TD	24/05/2023	3.65%	\$1,000,000.00
Grand Total							\$3,000,000.00

Managed Funds				
Fund	Investment Horizon	Type	Yield	Current Value
Regional Australia Bank	At Call	Cash		\$358,252.08
Regional Australia Bank Medical Centre	At Call	Cash	3.00%	\$50,000.00
Grand Total				\$408,252.08

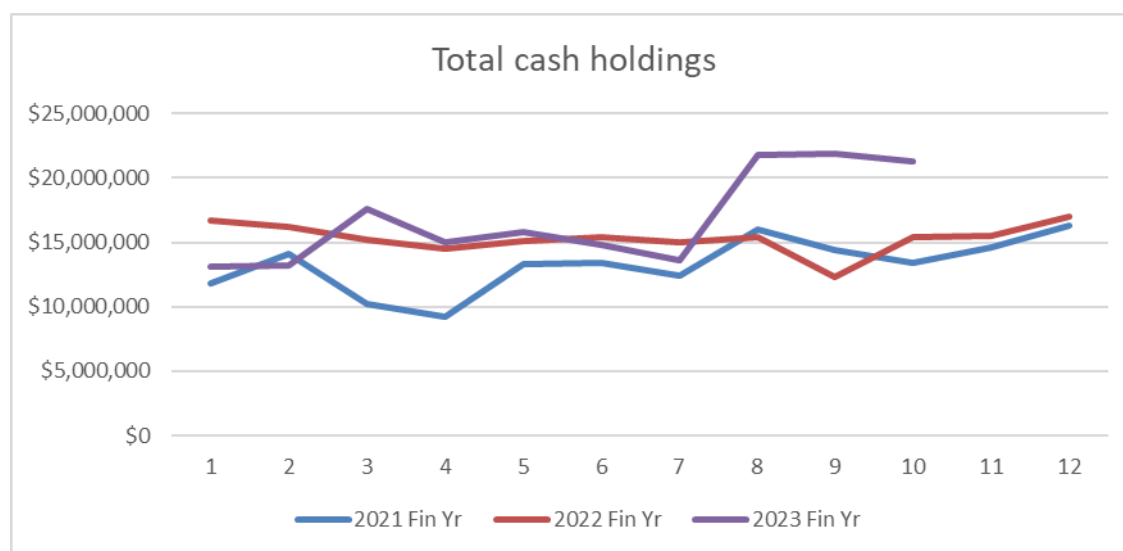
Total Investments	
Direct Investments	\$3,000,000.00
Managed Funds	\$408,252.08
Grand Total	\$3,408,252.08

Cash and Investments

Total Investments	
Direct Investments	\$3,000,000.00
Managed Funds	\$408,252.08
Grand Total Investments	\$3,408,252.08

Total Cash and Investments	
Investments	\$3,408,252.08
Cash at bank	\$17,871,437.17
Grand Total Cash and Investments	\$21,279,689.25

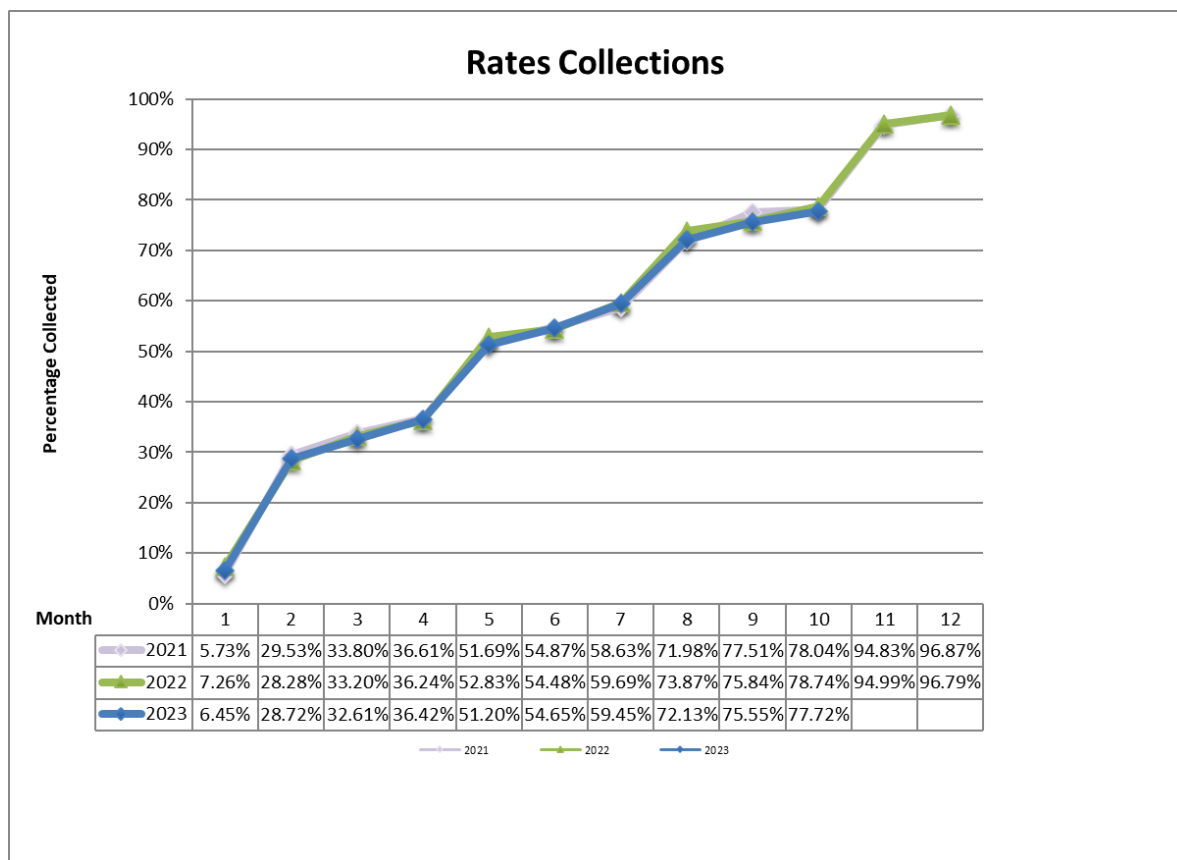
General Fund Cash	
Total cash and investments	\$21,279,689.25
LESS:	
Water fund*	-\$1,291,108.00
Sewer fund*	-\$2,542,908.00
Waste fund*	-\$4,468,673.00
Other restrictions:	
Employee leave entitlements*	-\$800,000.00
Asset replacement*	-\$900,518.00
Bonds and deposits	-\$1,209,549.87
Unexpended grants*	-\$9,216,359.46
Developer contributions	-\$539,000.00
Discretionary General Fund Cash	\$311,572.92



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 30th April 2023.



OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the April 2023 Finance report be received.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

THAT the April 2023 Finance report be received.

(Moved Cr Mulligan, Seconded Cr Galvin)

CARRIED

For: Cr J Coulton, Cr Galvin, Cr Matthews, Cr Moore and Cr Mulligan

Against: Nil

8.6 Quarterly Budget Review

File Reference:	NA
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Delivery Program

Goal:	5. Organisational management
Outcome:	5.1 Corporate management
Strategy:	5.1.1 Financial Management and accountability systems
Author:	Chief Financial Officer

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

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

COMMENT

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

The adjustments made within the March quarterly review are based on the expected work that will be completed by 30th June. As with previous years, Council will endeavor to reduce the amount of outstanding grant funding as much as possible as projects are completed or reach milestones.

The expected bottom line is below total depreciation for the year and staff will continue to work on ensuring income and expenditure is utilized as efficiently as possible.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1993 and associated regulations. A quarterly budget review is due within 2 months of the end of each quarter under the requirements of Clause 203 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005: 203 Budget review statements and revision of estimates

1. Not later than 2 months after the end of each quarter, the responsible accounting officer of a council must prepare and submit to the council a budget review statement that shows, by reference to the estimate of income and expenditure set out in the management plan that the council has adopted for the relevant year, a revised estimate of the income and expenditure for that year.

2. A budget review statement must include or be accompanied by: 1. a report as to whether or not the responsible accounting officer believes that the statement indicates that the financial position of the council is satisfactory, having regard to the original estimate of income and expenditure, and 2. if that position is unsatisfactory,

recommendations for remedial action. 3. A budget review statement must also include any information required by the Code to be included in such a statement.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the March Quarter Budget Review Statement be noted.

FURTHER that the March Quarter budget adjustments be approved.

ATTACHMENTS

1. March 2023 attachment quarterly review [8.6.1 - 9 pages]

COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

THAT the March Quarter Budget Review Statement be noted.

FURTHER that the March Quarter budget adjustments be approved.

(Moved Cr Mulligan, Seconded Cr Moore)

CARRIED

For: Cr J Coulton, Cr Galvin, Cr Matthews, Cr Moore and Cr Mulligan

Against: Nil

Gwydir Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/01/23 to 31/03/23

Table of Contents	page
1. Responsible Accounting Officer's Statement	1
2. Income & Expenses Budget Review Statement's Statement	2
Recommended Changes	3
3. Capital Budget Review Statement Statement	4
Recommended Changes	5
4. Cash & Investments Budget Review Statement Statement	6
5. Contracts & Other Expenses Budget Review Statement	7
6. Consultancy & Legal Expenses Budget Review Statement	8

Gwydir Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement

for the period 01/01/23 to 31/03/23

Report by Responsible Accounting Officer

The following statement is made in accordance with Clause 203(2) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005:

31 March 2023

It is my opinion that the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for Gwydir Shire Council for the quarter ended 31/03/23 indicates that Council's projected financial position at 30/6/23 will be satisfactory at year end, having regard to the projected estimates of income and expenditure and the original budgeted income and expenditure.

Signed:



date:

14/05/2023

Helen Thomas
Responsible Accounting Officer

Gwydir Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/01/23 to 31/03/23

Income & Expenses Budget Review Statement

Budget review for the quarter ended 31 March 2023
Income & Expenses - Council Consolidated

	Original Budget 2022/23	Approved Changes					Revised Budget 2022/23	Variations for this		Projected Year End Result	Actual YTD figures
		Carry Forwards	Other than by QBRs	Sep QBRs	Dec QBRs	Mar QBRs		Mar	Qtr		
Income											
Rates and Annual Charges	(11,249,693)			(9,400)	(24,179)	(11,283,272)	-71600		(11,354,872)	(11,352,872)	
User Charges and Fees	(2,776,790)			(46,800)	(334,682)	(3,158,272)	-777119		(3,935,391)	(3,096,870)	
Interest and Investment Revenues	(29,000)			(18,000)	(36,327)	(83,327)	-41778		(125,105)	(151,366)	
Other Revenues	(3,685,834)			40,164	(75,435)	(3,721,105)	1502651		(2,218,454)	(815,754)	
Grants & Contributions - Operating	(9,310,259)			(828,876)	(263,369)	(10,402,504)	-1610487		(12,012,991)	(18,159,574)	
Grants & Contributions - Capital	(26,196,209)	-		(4,686,651)	(224,430)	(31,107,290)	-79410		(31,186,700)	(11,664,325)	
Net gain from disposal of assets	(600,000)			-		(600,000)	-		(600,000)	(3,222)	
Transfer from reserves	(2,834,000)			(225,000)		(3,059,000)	-		(3,059,000)		
Total Income from Continuing Operations	(56,681,785)	-	-	(5,774,563)	(958,422)	(63,414,770)	(1,077,743)		(64,492,513)	(45,243,983)	
Expenses											
Employee Costs	13,371,663			(1,835)	298,528	13,668,356	174136		13,842,492	10,524,818	
Borrowing Costs	320,961					320,961			320,961	143,510	
Materials & Contracts	38,331,942	-		5,848,390	568,576	44,748,908	1440839		46,189,747	29,719,711	
Depreciation	7,795,526			-		7,795,526	129280		7,924,806	4,174,541	
Legal Costs	14,000					14,000			14,000	7,022	
Consultants	409,000					409,000			409,000	431,931	
Other Expenses	2,942,325			247,207	44,626	3,234,158	-28449		3,205,709	1,853,157	
Net Loss from disposal of assets						-			-	60,767	
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	63,185,417	-	-	6,093,762	911,730	70,190,909	1,715,806		71,906,715	46,915,457	
Net Operating Result from Continuing Operations	6,503,632	-	-	319,199	(46,692)	6,776,139	638,063	-	7,414,202	1,671,474	
Discontinued Operations - Surplus/(Deficit)									-		
Net Operating Result from All Operations	6,503,632	-	-	319,199	(46,692)	6,776,139	638,063		7,414,202	1,671,474	
Net Operating Result before Capital Items	32,699,841	-	-	5,005,850	177,738	37,883,429	862,493		38,600,902	13,335,799	

Gwydir Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/01/23 to 31/03/23

Income & Expenses Budget Review Statement
Recommended changes to revised budget

Budget Variations being recommended include the following material items:

Capital Grants	Details
Rates and Annual Charges	Non domestic waste increase in line with income expected
User charges and fees	DA Fees, RMS Income
Operating Grants	SCCF Income
Capital Grants	s94 contributions
Employee Costs	Increase in staff numbers and overtime
Materials and Contracts	Short term plant hire
Other expenses	Communication increases

Gwydir Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/01/23 to 31/03/23

Capital Budget Review Statement

Budget review for the quarter ended 31 March 2023

Capital Budget - Council Consolidated

	Original Budget 2022/23	Approved Changes					Revised Budget 2022/23	Variations for this Mar Qtr	Notes	Projected Year End Result
		Carry Forwards	Other than by QBRS	Sep QBRS	Dec QBRS	Mar QBRS				
Capital Expenditure										
New Assets										
- Plant & Equipment							-		-	
- Land & Buildings							-		-	
- Other		-					-		-	
Renewal Assets (Replacement)										
- Plant & Equipment	1,612,000					1,612,000			1,612,000	
- Land & Buildings							-		-	
- Roads, Bridges, Footpaths	21,397,924			-		21,397,924	-		21,397,924	
Materials							-		-	
Loan Repayments (Principal)	465,000					465,000			465,000	
Waste	-					-	-		-	
Water supply	410,000			165,500	93,000	668,500			761,500	
Sewerage services	2,660,000				95,000	2,755,000	-145,000		1,305,000	
Total Capital Expenditure	26,544,924	-	-	165,500	188,000	-	26,898,424	(1,450,000)	25,541,424	
Capital Funding										
Rates & Other Untied Funding	-			-		-			-	
Capital Grants & Contributions	21,215,070			-		21,215,070			21,215,070	
Reserves:										
- External Restrictions/Reserves	1,659,854	-				1,659,854			1,659,854	
- Internal Restrictions/Reserves							-		-	
New Loans							-		-	
Receipts from Sale of Assets							-		-	
- Plant & Equipment	600,000					600,000			600,000	
Waste							-		-	
Water supply	410,000			165,500		575,500	93,000		668,500	
Sewerage services	2,660,000					2,660,000	95,000		2,755,000	
Total Capital Funding	26,544,924	-	-	165,500	-	-	26,710,424	188,000	26,898,424	
Net Capital Funding - Surplus/(Deficit)	-	-	-	-	(188,000)	-	(188,000)	1,638,000	1,357,000	

Gwydir Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/01/23 to 31/03/23

Capital Budget Review Statement
Recommended changes to revised budget

Budget Variations being recommended include the following material items:

Notes	Details
Sewerage	Bingar Sewerage Extension - delayed

Gwydir Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/01/23 to 31/03/23

Cash & Investments Budget Review Statement

Budget review for the quarter ended 31 March 2023

Cash & Investments - Council Consolidated

(\$000's)	Original Budget 2022/23	Approved Changes					Revised Budget 2022/23	Variations for this Mar Qtr	Notes	Projected Year End Result	Actual YTD figures
		Carry Forwards	Other than by QBRS	Sep QBRS	Dec QBRS	Mar QBRS					
Externally Restricted ⁽¹⁾											
Aged Care Bonds	700,000					700,000				700,000	625,000
Developer Contributions	539,000					539,000				539,000	539,000
Specific Purpose unexpended Grants	800,000					800,000				800,000	9,400,547
Water	2,500,000					2,500,000				2,500,000	1,104,792
Sewer	3,500,000					3,500,000				3,500,000	2,683,097
Domestic Waste Management	3,000,000					3,000,000				3,000,000	4,428,927
Total Externally Restricted	11,039,000	-	-	-	-	11,039,000	-			11,039,000	18,781,363
<small>(1) Funds that must be spent for a specific purpose</small>											
Internally Restricted ⁽²⁾											
Employee Leave Entitlement	800,000					800,000				800,000	900,000
Trust Accounts	50,000	-				50,000				50,000	1,209,549
Total Internally Restricted	850,000	-	-	-	-	850,000	-			850,000	2,109,549
<small>(2) Funds that Council has earmarked for a specific purpose</small>											
Unrestricted (ie. available after the above Restricti	1,611,000	-	-			1,611,000	-			1,611,000	977,251
Total Cash & Investments	13,500,000	-				13,500,000				13,500,000	21,868,163

Gwydir Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement

for the period 01/01/23 to 31/03/23

Contracts Budget Review Statement

Budget review for the quarter ended 31 March 2023

Part A - Contracts Listing - contracts entered into during the quarter

Contractor	Contract detail & purpose	Contract Value	Start Date	Duration of Contract	Budgeted (Y/N)	Notes
Uniplan	Emergency accomodation	979,998	01/01/23		Y	
Finn Valley Plant and Civil	County Boundary Road GWY-2023-T01	663,752	01/03/23		Y	
Stabil Corp	Baroma Downs GWY-2023-T02	443,979	01/03/23		Y	
Finn Valley Plant and Civil	County Boundary Road GWY-2023-T03	354,248	01/03/23		Y	
Fenworx	MR63	522,500	01/03/23		Y	
Pipeline Water Tech	Sewer main line	220,674	01/03/23		Y	
Fenworx	Pothole repair	275,000	01/03/23		Y	

Gwydir Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement

for the period 01/01/23 to 31/03/23

Consultancy & Legal Expenses Budget Review Statement

Consultancy & Legal Expenses Overview

Expense	YTD Expenditure (Actual Dollars)	Budgeted (Y/N)
Consultancies	431,931	y
Legal Fees	7,022	y

Definition of a consultant:

A consultant is a person or organisation engaged under contract on a temporary basis to provide recommendations or high level specialist or professional advice to assist decision making by management. Generally it is the advisory nature of the work that differentiates a consultant from other contractors.

Comments

Expenditure included in the above YTD figure includes: Project Management and Governance consultants.

8.7 2023/23 Operational Plan V1 draft**File Reference:** NA**Delivery Program****Goal:** 5. Organisational management**Outcome:** 5.1 Corporate management**Strategy:** 5.1.1 Financial Management and accountability systems**Author:** Casey McClymont**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil****IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

This report notes the adjustments required to the attached document prior to its publication due to drafting errors.

TABLED ITEMS Nil**COMMENT**

In the interest of time there are some notable changes for the 2023/2024 Operational Plan. There will be other formatting and grammatical changes, however the following are significant informational changes that will be put into or removed from the document prior to public exhibition which will be from Monday 22nd May 2023 to Wednesday 28th June 2023.

Page 15 - Proposed Borrowings in 2023/2024 Period

Council will look to borrow funds during the reporting period for the construction of the new Council building in Bingara, for grant funded works throughout the Shire, a total of \$5million. And for the expansion of the sewerage network in north Bingara, a total of \$2 million. National Australia Bank (NAB) will be approached to obtain this funding with existing council assets being used to secure the proposed borrowings.

Page 19 – All information will be removed from Page 19 as all projects will be completed by June 30.



Page 23 – Other Grant Funded Projects table will be inserted here (see below table)

Project Name	Funding Body	Funding Amount	Completion Due Date
Horton Road Upgrade	Fixing Local Roads	\$5,000,000	Currently under review due to flooding
Getta Getta Road Resheeting	Fixing Local Roads	\$1,854,071	Currently under review due to flooding
IB Bore Road Sealing	Restart NSW	\$11,544,410	Currently under review due to

			flooding
County Boundary Road Construction	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	\$9,746,195	2025 est.
Gravesend Water Treatment Plant – Stage 1	DPIE	\$373,000	April 2024 est.

Page 33 – Duplicate entry of Actions – will be removed

Page 42 – Addition of Action

Hierarchy information	Action	This Year (Draft Action)	Officers
 5 - Organisational management 5.1 - Corporate management 5.1.3 - Administrative and support functions		 Finalise the process to undertake service reviews and develop a prioritised list to be undertaken for the financial year.	Responsible Officer: Justin Hellmuth Authorising Officer:

Page 48 – Donations

Insert amount \$2,283 for St Simon & Jude’s Anglican Church, Warialda.

Page 57 – Statement of Revenue Policy – Incorrect total – should be \$8,836,418.65

Page 66 – Non-Rateable Land Waste Disposal – Minor – Charge should be \$644.00 not \$624.00

Pages 73-74 Rating Category maps will be updated to new versions created by GIS.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the adjustments are noted.

ATTACHMENTS

- DRAFT V 1 - GSC Operational Plan-2023-24 [8.7.1 - 75 pages]
- draft GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN 2024 [8.7.2 - 16 pages]

COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

THAT the adjustments are noted.

(Moved Cr Galvin, Seconded Cr Matthews)

CARRIED

For: Cr J Coulton, Cr Galvin, Cr Matthews, Cr Moore and Cr Mulligan

Against: Nil



GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL
OPERATIONAL PLAN

2023/2024





OUR ELECTED
COUNCIL

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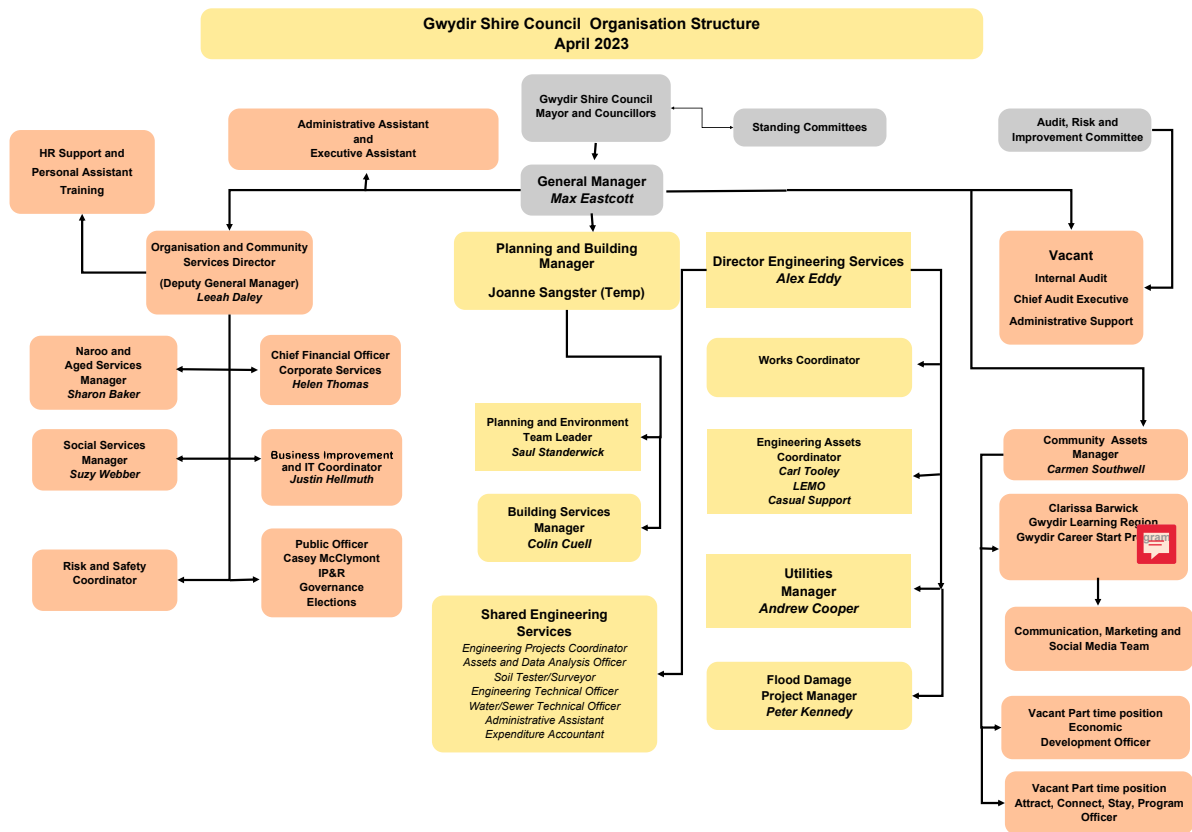


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GWDIR SHIRE COUNCIL ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

The next section of the report outlines the current Organisational Structure of Council. It includes the functional areas under each of the directorates. Each of these functional areas is reported on with the reports including a description of the function, outputs and the four year actions aligned to this functional area.





MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER

Max Eastcott

Each financial year, Gwydir Shire Council provides the community with a detailed outline of the commitments and projects the Council will strive to undertake during the next 12 months to continue the pursuit of our goals outlined in our Integrated Planning and Reporting documents along with the community's vision – 'Gwydir Country – Fresh air, innovation, opportunity and resilience.'

During 2023-2024, we will invest into our community, delivering key services and infrastructure that will bring our community's vision to life. With the support of the elected Council, Staff, and the community we will continue to build on our relationships and growth with a strong focus on the future of Gwydir, its economy, and its people.

We continue to follow the roadmap provided in our Community Strategic Plan by delivering on initiatives and actions set out by the community as key needs and wants throughout the Shire.

Gwydir Shire is not immune to the current levels of inflationary pressures, housing issues and excessive costs of living that is impacting many within our community. However, through prudent economic management we will endeavour to continue to improve our budget and work towards future budget surplus to provide funding for not only the unforeseen, but also savings for future projects within our Shire.

The level of grant funding that Council has received in recent times has been phenomenal and we are grateful for the

opportunities as without them many of the 'wish list' items identified in the Community Strategic Plan would not have been achievable with the resources Council have at its disposal. Whilst the grant funding opportunities have been abundant, we must assume that this level of funding will not continue and create plans and budgets that are responsible and within our means.

Gwydir Shire Council will continue to advocate for grants that support our community and assist in the facilitation of key infrastructure that will help promote our Shire as the place to live, work and invest.

IPART's maximum allowable increase will continue to impact Council's rates income base unless the methodology for determining the allowable increase is improved. The current methodology is currently under review by IPART, and through this review they will hopefully look at innovative approaches to setting the rate peg that reflect changes in inflation and local government costs, while continuing to protect ratepayers from excessive increases.

I take this opportunity to thank the Council's staff for their dedication to creating our strategic plans and delivering its outcomes, as well as our elected Councillors for their willingness to partner with our executive managers and directors. Our Shire is extremely fortunate to be supported by a workforce that is committed to ensuring that Gwydir Shire's liveability continues to make us a place we can be truly proud of, and that people want to continue to visit or move to in the future.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OUR ELECTED COUNCIL	2	OUR ASSETS	16
ORGANISATION STRUCTURE	3	GRANT FUNDING	18
MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER	4	ACTION PLANS	27
OUR VISION	5	REVENUE AND CHARGING	56
WHERE ARE WE NOW?	6	FEES AND CHARGES	58
OUR PLANNING FRAMEWORK	8	DONATIONS	59
THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN	10	STATEMENT OF REVENUE	65
THE DELIVERY PROGRAM	12	RATING CATEGORY MAPS	83
HOW WILL WE REPORT	14	2022/2023 BUDGET	89



VISION

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

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.



GWYDIR SHIRE
COUNCIL



WHERE ARE WE NOW?

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, Yallaroi, 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.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

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



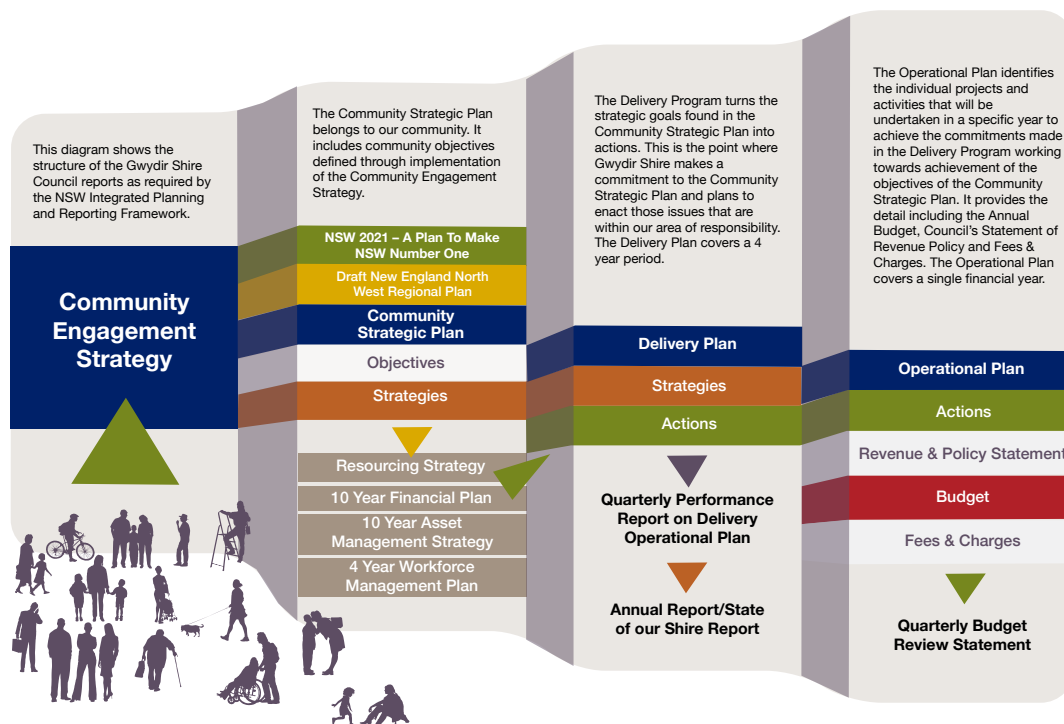
OUR PLANNING FRAMEWORK

How it all fits together

The Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework impacting all NSW Councils was introduced by the NSW State Government in 2009. The reforms replaced the former Social and Management Plan structures. All NSW Councils are required to develop a Community Strategic Plan spanning 10 years, a Delivery Program spanning the four year period of the elected council and Operational Plans covering each financial year.

The framework allows Gwydir Shire Council to link all their plans together to get the maximum leverage by planning holistically for the future. Key changes to the Act in 2021, reinforce the pivotal role of the IP&R framework in guiding all council planning and decision making.

Gwydir Shire Council has been working within the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework since June 2012. The essential elements of the framework, and how they fit together, are shown in the diagram below.



THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The Community Strategic Plan is the highest level plan prepared by Gwydir Shire Council and the community. It spans a period of 10 years. It belongs to the community and reflects the community's main priorities and future aspirations. The Community Strategic Plan is a roadmap for the future. In addition to the community priorities it considers trends, issues and future demands.

The Community Strategic Plan belongs to the Gwydir Shire Community. While Gwydir Shire Council has a custodial role in initiating, preparing and maintaining the Community Strategic Plan on behalf of the Gwydir Shire Council Community it is not wholly responsible for its implementation. The long term objectives of the plan will require other partners such as State and Federal agencies and community organisations to have input.

The Community Strategic Plan is based on the Social Justice Principles of access, equity, participation and rights. Our Community Engagement Strategy has been developed around these principles.





*Photo top left
Creative garden*



*Photo bottom left
Orange Festival*



*Photo right
Gwydir River*

THE DELIVERY PROGRAM

This is the point where the community aspirations identified in the Community Strategic Plan are actioned. This plan is a statement of the commitment to the Gwydir community from its newly elected Council. The creation of the Delivery Program is a statement from the elected members to their community that they will work towards the long term goals included in the Community Strategic Plan.

The Deliver Program is a single point of reference for all principal activities that will be undertaken by the Council during their term of office.

This plan embraces all areas of Council's operations. The community goals and strategies included in the Community Strategic Plan are expanded to include actions for the four year period of the operation of the plan (2022-2026).



While the Delivery Program lists all of the strategies in the Community Strategic Plan, it only focuses on those strategies and actions that can be efficiently achieved by Council. The Delivery Program features all the goals and strategies from the Community Strategic Plan; however, it does not feature actions that cannot be completed within the term of Council.

This document should be read in conjunction with the Community Strategic Plan, Operational Plan and Resourcing Strategy. All of these documents can be found on the Gwydir Shire Council website www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au

OPERATIONAL PLAN 2023-24

(This plan)

The Operational Plan supports the implementation of the Delivery Program and outlines in more detail the individual actions and associated activities that our Council will undertake in the 2023-2024 financial year and those following.

The Operational Plan links directly to the Community Strategic Plan, Council's Delivery Program and Resourcing Strategy. None of the plans should read in isolation. All the plans can be viewed on the Council's website www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au

RESOURCING STRATEGY

The Resourcing Strategy is a suite of plans that ensure that Council has the necessary assets, people and money to deliver the goals in the Community Strategic Plan, and the strategies and actions included in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan. The Resourcing Strategy includes the following:

Workforce Management Plan – 4 years – 2022-2026

Long Term Financial Plan – 10 years – 2017-2027

Asset Management Plans – 10 years – 2017-2027



Our Community Vision established during the community consultation process is...

GWYDIR COUNTRY–FRESH AIR, INNOVATION, OPPORTUNITY AND RESILIENCE

The Community Strategic Plan as developed by the community will be implemented by the Council on behalf of the community. The plans are underpinned by the principles of social justice and are built around the five goals outlined below:



In addition to the social justice principles, the Local Government Act dictates that the Community Strategic Plan must address the social, environmental, economic and civic leadership considerations, which are the quadruple bottom line considerations. In addition to these four considerations, the Council has decided to add an additional consideration of governance, the goal being Organisational Management. This goal specifically applies

to internal management functions that are aligned with the community aspiration of a sustainable council.

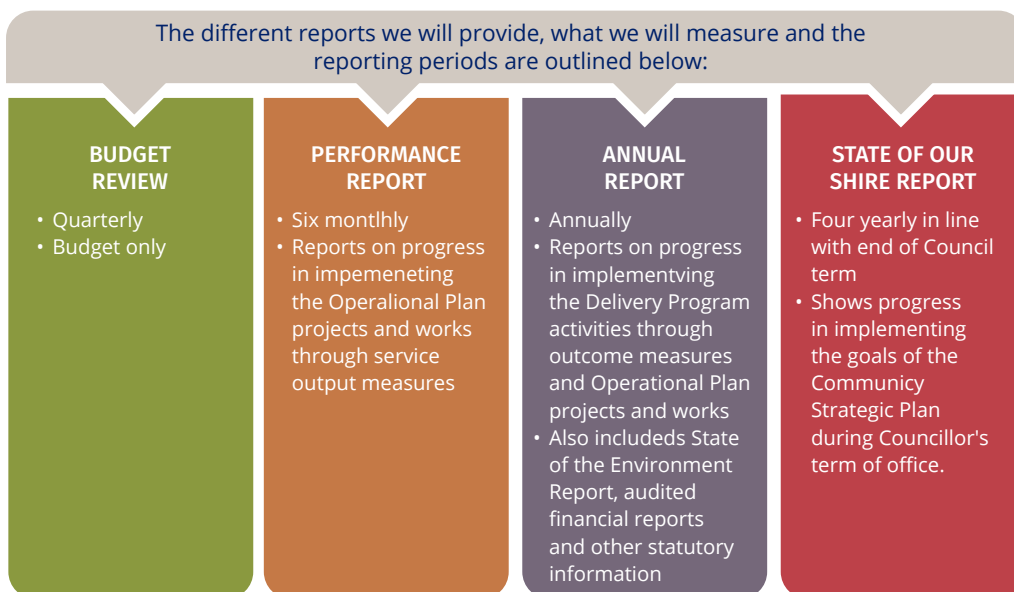
The strategic goals included in the **Community Strategic Plan** are turned into actions in the four year **Delivery Program**. The **Operational Plan** identifies the individual projects and activities that will be undertaken in a specific financial year.



HOW WE WILL REPORT

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 of time. The diagram below identifies the types of reports we will provide, what we will measure and what reporting periods will be covered.





OUR ASSETS

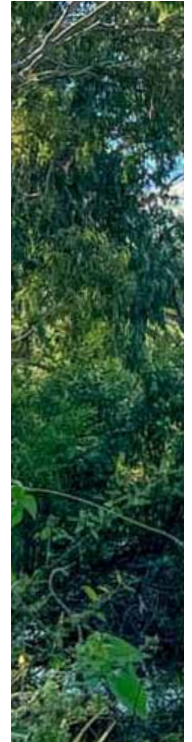
Photo-top-left
Warialda Museum



Photo-bottom-left
Captain Cook Park



Photo-right
Bingara Museum



OUR ASSETS

The total value of Gwydir Shire Council's asset inventory exceeds \$564 million. This includes: water, sewerage, and drainage infrastructure, roads, bridges, land, buildings, and plant and equipment. These assets combine to enhance the quality of life for our residents and those visiting Gwydir Shire.

Buildings and Land

Gwydir Shire Council has a total of 202 buildings recorded in our asset register. We have a wide variance of facilities under our management including:

- 15 public halls and community centres
- 19 aged care/low income units
- 10 residential houses
- 2 medical centres
- Naroo – a 36 bed aged care facility
- 3 learning region complexes – hospitality, automotive, and primary industry trade training centres
- 6 sporting facilities/indoor stadiums/ showgrounds
- 2 caravan parks with 22 cabins for hire
- 23 public amenities
- Over 20 parks and public reserves



Roads

The Gwydir Shire area is 9,122 square kilometres, with a comprehensive road network totalling 2,065 kilometres (not including state owned highways). Our infrastructure is comprised of:

- 1,678km of unsealed roads
- 650km of sealed roads
- 110 bridges (this includes 67 culverts that are defined as bridges)
- 18km of footpaths
- 33km of kerb and guttering
- 42km of sewerage pipes
- 79km of water pipes

Other Assets

In conjunction with the regular Council functions, we also provide services and maintenance for:

- Preschools, including the Tharawonga mobile unit
- Swimming pools
- Tourist centres
- Toy libraries
- Aerodromes
- Museums
- Cemeteries
- The Roxy theatre

Asset Category	Total of At Cost (\$)
■ Roads Structure	141,513,585.44
■ Roads Surface	40,762,857.93
■ Unsealed Roads	44,307,033.28
■ Non-depreciable bulk earthworks	95,041,804.08
■ Bridges	49,334,437.46
■ Footpaths	3,118,258.62
■ Kerb and Gutter	1,829,841.37
■ Buildings	85,563,138.44
■ Land	9,530,908.12
■ Furniture and Fittings	1,311,375.65
■ Office Equipment	1,270,924.43
■ Other Assets	232,913.72
■ Other Structures	9,655,352.19
■ Plant and Equipment	28,178,278.00
■ Swimming Pools	3,694,312.31
■ Water Infrastructure	25,635,555.28
■ Sewerage Infrastructure	14,556,790.26
■ Stormwater Drainage	4,538,368.00
■ Landfills	4,361,781.60
■ Quarries	372,292.42
Total	564,809,808.60





GRANT FUNDING

STRONGER COUNTRY COMMUNITIES FUND – ROUND 4

The Stronger Country Communities Fund was established in 2017 by the NSW Government to deliver local projects that enhance the lives and wellbeing of regional communities. Round Four of the Stronger Country Communities Fund will see a further \$100 million made available for community projects that increase the liveability of regional NSW communities, including up to \$50 million for projects that enhance female sporting facilities and increase female participation in sport.

The objectives of the fund are:

- to boost the liveability of communities in regional areas by providing new or upgraded social and sporting infrastructure or community programs that have strong local support
- to deliver enhanced infrastructure and programs that remove barriers to female participation in sport across regional NSW.

Project Name	Funding Amount \$	Completion Date
Roxy Theatre Maintenance	\$110,000	June 2023 est.
Pingara Sporting Club Tennis Courts	\$496,949	June 2023 est.
Nicholson Oval Warialda Amenities & Change Rooms	\$178,522	June 2023 est.





STRONGER COUNTRY COMMUNITIES FUND – ROUND 4

The Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 5 aims to boost the wellbeing of communities in regional areas by providing new or upgraded social and sporting infrastructure, or community programs that have strong local support.

A total of \$160 million is available, including up to \$50 million for projects delivered by eligible community organisations.

Projects must be for infrastructure or community programs that boost the wellbeing of regional areas through improved amenity and positive social outcomes.

Funding is available for local community and sporting infrastructure, street beautification, projects enhancing accessibility and inclusion for people with disability, projects improving outcomes for Aboriginal people, and community programs and local events.

Council has successfully obtained funding for the below projects.

~~Various community groups within the Shire have also been successful in obtaining Round 5 funding. These include:~~

Project Name	Funding Amount \$	Completion Date
Warialda Swimming Pool – Stage 3	\$358,603	June 2025 est.
Playground Equipment Upgrades	\$284,763	June 2025 est.
Gwydir Oval Bingara & Warialda Recreation Ground Upgrades	\$163,763	June 2025 est.

Community Group	Project Name	Funding Amount \$
Bingara Show Society	Bingara Campdraft Arena Upgrade	\$180,000
Croppa Creek Bowling Club	Croppa Creek Bowling Club Improvements	\$160,000
Warialda Showground Trust	Warialda Showground Amenities Upgrade	\$150,000



BIG RIVER DREAMING – WATER WEAVING WAY – RESTART NSW

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 2019-20 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 have successfully obtained funding from the Big River Dreaming – Water Weaving Way project scheme are tabled below.



Project Name	Funding Amount \$	Completion Date
Walking Track	\$41,000	Complete
Trails & Rest Stops – RFS1	\$184,942 for all T&R Projects under funding Stream	Complete
Trails & Rest Stops – RFS1		Complete
Trails & Rest Stops – RNS3 – Sheep Station Ck		Complete
Interpretive Centre – The Living Classroom	\$1,302,000	June 2024 est.
Gwydir River Ghats (Pontoon)	\$30,000	Complete
Splash Park – Bingara Pool Precinct	\$150,000	Complete
Activity Centre – Bingara Pool Precinct	\$200,000	Complete
Information Station Signage	\$62,058	June 2024 est.



COVID-19 ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE – LOCAL ROADS & COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (LCRI) – PHASE 1

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

Through the 2020–21 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.

Project Name	Funding Amount \$	Completion Date
Batterham Lookout Bingara Makeover	\$240,000	Complete
Warialda Animal Shelter Construction	\$160,000	Complete
Warialda & Bingara CBD Improvements	\$100,000	December 2022
Warialda and Bingara Dog Exercise Area	\$106,000	Complete
Warialda Medical Centre Renovations	\$230,000	Complete



COVID-19 ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE – LOCAL ROADS & COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (LCRI) – PHASE 3

The purpose of the LCRI Program is to support 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.

Phase 3 of the LCRI Program continues a temporary, targeted stimulus measure responding to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The LCRI Program assists a community-led recovery from COVID-19 by supporting local jobs, firms, and procurement.

As with the earlier Phases of the LCRI Program, Eligible Funding Recipients can select a broad range of projects to fund so that communities can continue to be provided with the infrastructure they require. It is expected that Eligible Funding Recipients will use local businesses and workforces to deliver projects wherever possible to ensure stimulus funding flows into local communities.

The intended outcomes of the LCRI Program are to: provide stimulus to protect and create local short-term employment opportunities through funding construction projects following the impacts of COVID-19; and deliver benefits to communities, such as improved road safety, accessibility and visual amenity.

Project Name	Funding Amount \$	Completion Date
Upper Horton Sports Club Amenities	\$110,000	June 2024
Bingara Footpath Program	\$180,000	June 2024
Warialda Footpath Program	\$180,000	June 2024
Reedy Creek Access Road Warialda	\$83,523	June 2024
Reedy Creek Footpath – Stage 1	\$88,139	June 2024
Warialda Street Tree Upgrade	\$83,338	June 2024
Bingara Riverside Caravan Park Amenities	\$490,000	June 2024
Warialda Memorial Pool Improvements	\$260,000	June 2024
North Star Hall – Restumping	\$135,000	June 2024
Gravesend Recreation Reserve Improvements	\$50,000	June 2024
Warialda Rail Amenities	\$110,000	June 2024
Warialda CBD Park	\$514,148	June 2024
Warialda Fitness Centre Amenities	\$80,300	June 2024



BLACK SUMMER BUSHFIRE RECOVERY GRANTS PROGRAM

The Black Summer Bushfire Recovery grants program is part of the now \$2.2 billion National Bushfire Recovery Fund and builds on support already provided through a range of other bushfire recovery measures. The Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program is helping communities address priorities and activities for recovery and resilience after the 2019-20 bushfires.

The grants are supporting medium to long-term recovery for communities to enhance and strengthen their resilience and recovery.

They are funding projects for:

- Social recovery and resilience needs
- Economic recovery and resilience needs, and/or
- Recovery and resilience needs of the built environment.

Project Name	Funding Amount \$	Completion Date
The Living Classroom Emergency Accommodation & Tourism Opportunities	\$850,000	June 2023 est.
Warialda Emergency Accommodation and Respite Centre	\$750,000	June 2023 est.

OPEN SPACE PROGRAM

Places to Play offers \$16.7 million to provide more public open spaces for adventure and play to support the health and wellbeing of the community. Places to Play will support the broadening of the Everyone Can Play program and will focus on the creation of inclusive water, nature and adventure play for people of all ages and abilities in New South Wales.

Play projects funded under this program will be expanded to promote adventure play (such as skate parks, pump tracks and mountain biking), water and nature-based play and will offer new outdoor recreation opportunities for all ages and abilities in NSW. These projects will create more and better places for the community to come together, enjoy the outdoors and play.

The objectives of the Open Space Program are to:

- support community health and wellbeing for NSW residents
- contribute to the post pandemic economic recovery of NSW through the creation of jobs, stimulating businesses and the recreation and visitor economy
- support investment in the creation of high-quality public and open spaces to create a lasting community benefit
- address critical shortfalls in freely accessible public places
- contribute to the delivery of the NSW Government priority for Greener Public Spaces by increasing the proportion of homes in urban areas within 10 minutes' walk of quality green, open and public space by 10% by 2023.

Project Name	Funding Amount \$	Completion Date
Bingara Skate Park	\$450,000	October 2023 est.



AGED CARE APPROVALS ROUND – RURAL, REGIONAL AND OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS BUILDING FUND CAPITAL FUNDING GRANT

This Capital Funding Grant Opportunity was announced as part of the 2020 ACAR, with \$150 million made available for capital grants to fund suitable proposals, which specifically aim to improve access to quality residential aged care in regional, rural and remote locations and/ or improve access to care for any of the Special Needs Groups under the Act, in any areas.

Some residential care providers however, cannot accumulate sufficient reserves, or service the debt required, to meet some, or all, of the necessary capital

works costs. The Rural, Regional and Other Special Needs Building Fund (the Fund), is a capital grants program which addresses this issue. The Fund specifically supports access to residential care and continuity of care in a region or area, or for a Special Needs Group, where access would otherwise be at risk.

The main outcomes delivered by the Fund are new residential care buildings, and the upgrade of existing residential care buildings which, without the assistance of capital grants provided under the Fund, would otherwise not be available. The Fund also supports access to residential care and continuity of care in a region or area, or for a Special Needs Group, where access would otherwise be at risk.

Project Name	Funding Amount \$	Completion Date
Expansion, fit-out and furnishing of activities room and repurposing existing internal courtyard into outdoor recreation area	\$493,215 (original funding) increase in total funding advised Feb 2023 New Funding Amount - \$1,520,000	June 2024 est.



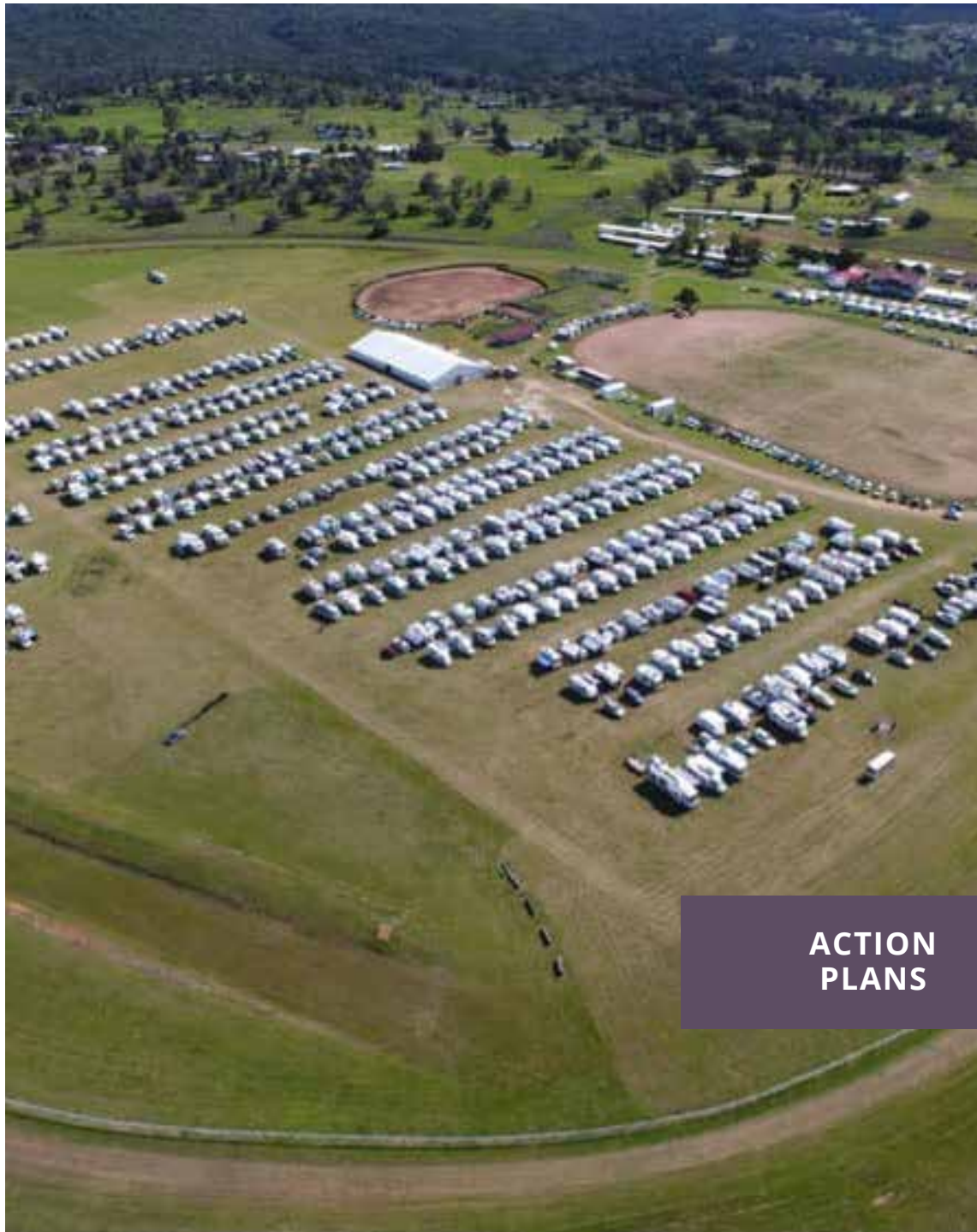
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE ROUND 2

The Business Improvement Fund was originally announced in January 2020 as a program to support residential care providers to improve their business operations, support the sale of an aged care business to another provider, or to support the orderly exit from the sector of providers

where appropriate. BIF – Round 2 is primarily aimed to support small to medium sized residential care providers (with 7 or less facilities) that are facing financial pressures which may impact on their ability to offer quality care to residents in regional, rural and remote locations.

Project Name	Funding Amount \$	Completion Date
Upgrade and implement information and technology applications at Naroo Aged Care Hostel	\$284,100	July 2023 est.





**ACTION
PLANS**



OUR GOALS, OUTCOMES, STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS **FOR 2023/2024**

This section of the plan outlines the details of Council's 2023/2024 Operational Plan. This is the last plan in Gwydir Shire Council's suite of documents. It should be read in conjunction with the Community Strategic Plan and the Delivery Program which clearly demonstrate where the actions included in this plan have originated.

The objectives included in this plan are supported by the Gwydir Shire Council 2022/2026 Resourcing Strategy.

The outcomes, strategies and actions under each of the goal areas for the 2023/2024 Financial Year are outlined below:





**A HEALTHY
AND COHESIVE
COMMUNITY
(SOCIAL)**



SOCIAL

GOAL 1

Outcome 1.1 We have healthy and inviting spaces and places

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

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.

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

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



Goal	Outcome	Strategy	Delivery Program Link	Action		Responsible Officer	Department
1-A healthy and cohesive community	1.1 We have healthy and inviting spaces and places	1.1.1 Improve local access to health services	Promote and implement a range of measures, such as community transport, accommodation opportunities or location of new facilities that improve the access to Health Services for community members.	1.1.1.2	Support Gwydir Shire's health initiatives	Carmen Southwell	Community Assets
		1.1.2 Encourage and enable healthy lifestyle choices	Provision of infrastructure for all aspects of recreation and sport from grass-root participation through to talent development, ranging from children to older people and recognising the needs of our diverse community.	1.1.2.1	Oversee the operation of Council's Aquatic Centres	Carmen Southwell	Community Assets
				1.1.2.2	Annual Swimming Pool Inspection Program	Colin Cuell	Building Services
				1.1.2.3	Conduct Council's Category B Enforcement agency functions under the Food Act 2003 (NSW) by the specified due dates	Saul Standerwick	Planning & Environment
				1.1.2.4	Implement a strong Wellness and Enablement plan within the Gwydir Shire Council through the CHSP program	Sharon Baker	Naroo & Aged Service
				1.1.2.7	Warialda Memorial Swimming Pool Improvements - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI)	Carmen Southwell	Community Assets



Goal	Outcome	Strategy	Delivery Program Link	Action	Responsible Officer	Department	
1 A healthy and cohesive community	1.1 We have healthy and inviting spaces and places	1.1.3 Provide the right places, spaces and activities	Provide for the ongoing provision of parkland and other educational, recreation, social and all access facilities for current and future communities.	1.1.3.1	Big River Dreaming - Wellness and Interpretive Centre	Colin Cuell	Executive Services
				1.1.3.2	Be a centre of leadership in child development, education and care as well as support for families and community	Suzanne Webber	Social Services
				1.1.3.3	Annual Tree Planting program	Andrew Cooper	Utilities
				1.1.3.4	Bingara Footpath Program - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI) - Construction/replacement of non-compliant walking/cycle paths	Alexander Eddy	Engineering Services
				1.1.3.5	Bingara Skate Park project - 2021-2022 Open Spaces Program	Andrew Cooper	Utilities
				1.1.3.6	Build our reputation as 'best choice' for families, children and young people to discover their abilities and reach their potential in life	Suzanne Webber	Social Services
				1.1.3.7	Enhance the overall Resident experience at Naroo Frail Aged Hostel by embedding an active Leisure and Lifestyle program with residents focussing on wellness	Sharon Baker	Naroo & Aged Service
				1.1.3.8	Hope Street Warialda CBD Park Construction - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI)	Leeah Daley	Utilities



Goal	Outcome	Strategy	Delivery Program Link	Action	Responsible Officer	Department	
1 A healthy and cohesive community	1.1 We have healthy and inviting spaces and places	1.1.3 Provide the right places, spaces and activities	Provide for the ongoing provision of parkland and other educational, recreation, social and all access facilities for current and future communities.	1.1.3.9	Landscaping Improvements - Warialda Street Tree Upgrade - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI)	Carl Tooley	Utilities
				1.1.3.11	Progress Gwydir Shire Council Disability Action plan with committee.	Leeah Daley	Naroo & Aged Service
				1.1.3.12	Provide exceptional care, embracing authentic partnerships with families and ensuring the 'voice of the child' is central to our service processes.	Suzanne Webber	Social Services
				1.1.3.13	Provide high levels of hygiene to councils community assets	Carmen Southwell	Community Assets
				1.1.3.14	State Drought Stimulus Package - CBD Improvements - Warialda Footpath upgrades	Carl Tooley	Engineering Services
				1.1.3.15	COVID-19 Economic Stimulus Package - Phase 1 - Batterham Lookout Makeover	Andrew Cooper	Utilities
				1.1.3.16	Stronger Country Communities Funding - Round 4 - Construction of Nicholson Oval amenities	Colin Cuell	Utilities
				1.1.3.18	Warialda Footpath Program - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI) - Construction/replacement of non-compliant cycle/walking paths.	Alexander Eddy	Engineering Services





Goal	Outcome	Strategy	Delivery Program Link	Action		Responsible Officer	Department
1 A healthy and cohesive community	1.2 Our community is an inviting and vibrant place to live	1.2.1 Enable accessible and affordable lifestyle options	Take action to improve housing affordability and diversity, the liveability of our neighbourhoods as well as equity and inclusiveness. Promote sustainability and equitable economic growth.	1.2.1.1	Meet Council's property management obligations	Clarissa Barwick	Community Assets
		1.2.2 A shared responsibility for community safety	Provide a Safe Community where all residents and visitors can work, travel, live and play in a safe and secure environment, free of risk to health and wellbeing	1.2.2.1	Comply with and report on Councils Companion Animal Management requirements	Saul Standerwick	Planning & Environment
				1.2.2.2	Implement Child Safe Standards as per legislative requirements	Casey McCliment	Organisation & Community Services
		1.2.3 Celebrate our creativity and cultural expression	Contribute to community wellbeing by strengthening the Council's cultural identity and harmony making Gwydir Shire Council a more vibrant place to live.	1.2.3.1	Rollout out the planned schedule of events reviewing the concept, target audience and success of each event	Carmen Southwell	Marketing & Tourism



ECONOMY

GOAL 2

Outcome 2.1 Our economy is growing and supported

Outcome 2.2 We are skilled and have access to excellent educational opportunities

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.

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

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



Goal	Outcome	Strategy	Delivery Program Link	Action	Responsible Officer	Department	
2 Building the business base	2.1 Our economy is growing and supported	2.1.1 Plan for and Develop the Right Assets and Infrastructure	Achieve better value from infrastructure spend to improve productivity, drive economic growth and improve public amenity	2.1.1.2	Annual Water Meter replacement program	Andrew Cooper	Utilities
				2.1.1.3	Annual Pump replacement program	Andrew Cooper	Engineering Services
				2.1.1.4	Bingara Riverside Caravan Park Amenities Block Construction - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI)	Carmen Southwell	Community Assets
				2.1.1.6	Building Services Repairs and Maintenance Program for 2023-2024	Colin Cuell	Building Services
				2.1.1.7	December 2020 Flood Disaster works program	Carl Tooley	Engineering Services
				2.1.1.8	Fixing Local Roads Round 3 – Resheeting of Getta Getta Road from North Star Road to Inverell Shire	Alexander Eddy	Engineering Services
				2.1.1.9	Bingara Water Treatment Plant - Solar installation project	Andrew Cooper	Utilities
				2.1.1.10	North Star Hall Improvements - Restumping - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI)	Colin Cuell	Building Services
				2.1.1.11	Water main extension to Warialda Landfill	Andrew Cooper	Utilities
				2.1.1.12	Stage 1 North Bingara sewer extension project	Andrew Cooper	Utilities
				2.1.1.13	Stage 2 North Bingara sewer extension project	Andrew Cooper	Utilities
				2.1.1.14	November 2021 Flood Disaster works program	Carl Tooley	Engineering Services
				2.1.1.15	Provide accommodation options to our community and visitors	Carmen Southwell	Community Assets
				2.1.1.16	Annual Renewals Program - Sewer mains relining/replacement	Andrew Cooper	Utilities
				2.1.1.17	Annual Heavy Plant Replacement Program	Andrew Cooper	Utilities
				2.1.1.18	Annual Light Plant Replacement Program	Andrew Cooper	Utilities
				2.1.1.19	Reedy Creek Access Road Construction - Stage 2 - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI)	Carl Tooley	Engineering Services
				2.1.1.23	Town Streets - kerb replacement and pavement enhancement program	Alexander Eddy	Engineering Services



Goal	Outcome	Strategy	Delivery Program Link	Action	Responsible Officer	Department	
2 Building the business base	2.1 Our economy is growing and supported	2.1.1 Plan for and Develop the Right Assets and Infrastructure	Achieve better value from infrastructure spend to improve productivity, drive economic growth and improve public amenity	2.1.1.17	Annual Heavy Plant Replacement Program	Andrew Cooper	Utilities
				2.1.1.18	Annual Light Plant Replacement Program	Andrew Cooper	Utilities
				2.1.1.19	Reedy Creek Access Road Construction – Stage 2 – Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI)	Carl Tooley	Engineering Services
				2.1.1.23	Town Streets – kerb replacement and pavement enhancement program	Alexander Eddy	Engineering Services
				2.1.1.24	Upper Horton Sports Club Camping Ground Amenities Block - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI)	Colin Cuell	Building Services
				2.1.1.25	Warialda Emergency Accommodation and Respite Centre - Plunkett Street - Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program	Carmen Southwell	Engineering Services
				2.1.1.28	Fixing Local Roads Round 1 Funding - Transport for NSW - Sealing of Horton Road from Horton Village to MR133 Killarney Gap Road	Alexander Eddy	Engineering Services
				2.1.1.32	Heavy Vehicle Safety & Productivity Program Round 7 and Fixing Local Roads Program Sealing of IB Bore Road from North Star to Moree Plains Shire	Alexander Eddy	Engineering Services
				2.1.1.34	Develop 10 year stormwater plan	Alexander Eddy	Engineering Services
				2.1.1.36	Deliver RMCC annual works program	Jamie Wilson	Engineering Works
				2.1.1.37	Construct new disabled access footpaths	Carl Tooley	Engineering Services
				2.1.1.38	March 2021 Flood disaster works program	Carl Tooley	Engineering Services
				2.1.1.40	Warialda Rail Amenities Building Construction - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI)	Colin Cuell	Building Services
				2.1.1.42	Federal Government - Roads of Strategic Importance Program - Sealing of 12.3km of County Boundary Road from end of existing seal to Croppa Moree Road.	Alexander Eddy	Engineering Services



Goal	Outcome	Strategy	Delivery Program Link	Action		Responsible Officer	Department
2 Building the business base	2.1 Our economy is growing and supported	2.1.2 Support the growth of our business community	Establish a strong business and commercial culture identifying opportunities to increase Gwydir Shire's competitiveness and support the development of innovation and entrepreneurship.	2.1.2.1	Develop links and implement programs to improve the local economy	Carmen Southwell	Economic Development
				2.1.2.2	Develop strategy for small scale industrial land development.	Maxwell Eastcott	Development & Land Use Management
				2.1.2.4	Stronger Country Communities Fund - Round 5 - Croppa Creek Bowling Club Improvements	Colin Cuell	Building Services
2 Building the business base	2.1 Our economy is growing and supported	2.1.3 Promote our community as the place to visit, live, work and invest	Audit, package and promote tourism attributes for Gwydir Shire Council	2.1.3.1	Build on key relationships with stakeholders to enhance the Gwydir Shire tourism profile	Leeah Daley	Marketing & Tourism
				2.1.3.2	Assist in the creation of an environment in which a sustainable level of population and economic growth can occur to benefit local business and tourism	Leeah Daley	Marketing & Tourism
2 Building the business base	2.2 We are skilled and have access to excellent educational opportunities	2.2.1 Increase the range of opportunities to work locally	Establish a whole of government approach to workforce issues and facilitate greater labour mobility to increase employment opportunities and support regional employees to access skilled workers - including the adoption of remote digital technology - and remove barriers to relocation for workers	2.2.1.1	To continue to be proactive in attracting skilled staff, especially Registered Nurses into the Aged Care sector and work towards 24-hour Registered Nurses on site at Naroo Frail Aged Hostel	Sharon Baker	Naroo & Aged Services
2 Building the business base	2.2 We are skilled and have access to excellent educational opportunities	2.2.2 Build on our quality education and training opportunities (including through the GLR)	Collaborate closely with industry stakeholders to develop sustainable, high quality education and training opportunities to attract, develop, support and retain a skilled local workforce	2.2.2.1	Implement and manage the Gwydir Learning Region program	Carmen Southwell	Gwydir Learning Region



AN
ENVIRONMENTALLY
RESPONSIBLE SHIRE
(ENVIRONMENT)



ENVIRONMENT

GOAL 3

Outcome 3.1 Our community understands and embraces environment change

Outcome 3.2 We use and manage our natural resources wisely

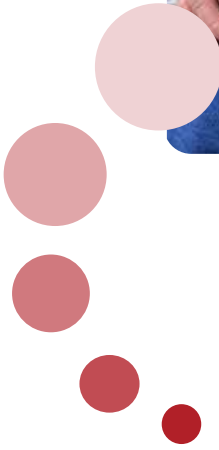
A sustainable community is characterised by our appreciation of natural surroundings and biodiversity. This is supported by responsible planning and management practices and the lifestyle actions we agree to, to reduce our impact on the natural environment and to conserve valuable resources.

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

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



Goal	Outcome	Strategy	Delivery Program Link	Action	Responsible Officer	Department		
3 An environmentally responsible Shire	3.1 Our community understands and embraces environmental change	3.1.1 Encourage respectful planning, balanced growth and good design		3.1.1.1	Implement Development Control Plan based on the Department of Planning NSW standard format including report to Council and Community Consultation	Patsy Cox	Development & Land Use Management	
				3.1.1.2	Local Environment Plan review to be completed and implemented	Patsy Cox	Planning & Environment	
				3.1.1.3	Conduct Gwydir Housing Study	Saul Standerwick	Development & Land Use Management	
		3.1.2	Respond to our changing environment		3.1.2.1	Annual Telemetry & Technology upgrades	Andrew Cooper	Utilities
		3.1.3 Value, protect and enhance our natural		3.1.3.1	North West Weed Action Program - Gwydir Shire	Saul Standerwick	Planning & Environment	
				3.1.3.2	Gwydir River Foreshore - Management Action Plan	Saul Standerwick	Planning & Environment	
	3.2 We use & manage our natural resources wisely	3.2.1 Develop a clean energy future			3.2.1.1	Street lighting coverage across the local networks throughout the shire	Saul Standerwick	Planning & Environment
					3.2.2 Use our water wisely		3.2.2.1	Annual Water Main replacement program
				3.2.2.2	Gravesend Recreation Ground Irrigation System - LRCI Phase 3 Project	Andrew Cooper	Utilities	
				3.2.2.3	Water treatment plant improvements	Andrew Cooper	Utilities	
		3.2.3 Reduce, reuse and recover waste		3.2.3.1	Implement Gwydir Shire Council's Waste Management Strategy	Saul Standerwick	Planning & Environment	



CIVIC LEADERSHIP

GOAL 4

Outcome 4.1 We are an engaged and connected community

Outcome 4.2 We work together to achieve our goals

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.

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

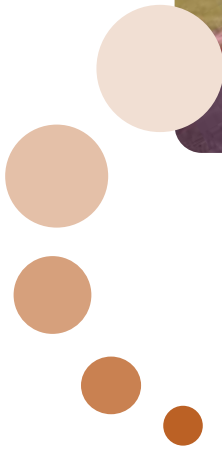
We respect our community leaders who listen to and act on our behalf, and value our community's knowledge, experience and ideas which help us implement our vision for the future together.



Goal	Outcome	Strategy	Delivery Program Link	Action		Responsible Officer	Department	
4 Proactive regional and local leadership	4.1 We are an engaged & connected community	4.1.1 Encourage an informed community	Build on key strategies for the provision of information to our community in a relevant, meaningful and transparent way	4.1.1.1	Provide effective communication initiatives to service the community	Carmen Southwell	Marketing & Tourism	
		4.1.2 Enable broad, rich and meaningful engagement to occur		Provide the right platforms for humanising encounters and constructive conversations to create a reservoir of unity and trust within the community	4.1.2.1	Consistently engage with communities, moving from transactional to transformational relationships	Casey McClymont	Organisation & Community Services
					4.1.2.2	A review of the effectiveness of communication channels used throughout Gwydir Shire to the wider community. And improvements on how Gwydir Shire communicate events and happening within our Community	Carmen Southwell	Marketing & Tourism
		4.1.3 Build on our sense of community	Collaborate and work together with all stakeholders to build connections, understanding and confidence to foster strong, resilient and connected communities.		4.1.3.1	Achieve positive connections with organisations central to child development, social inclusion, health and education.	Suzanne Webber	Social Services
					4.1.3.2	Grow relationships with governments, the corporate sector, community organisations and volunteers to enhance the educational experience	Suzanne Webber	Social Services
					4.1.3.3	Value and embrace the knowledge and experiences of our families as they grow through our services.	Suzanne Webber	Social Services
					4.1.3.4	Enhance the value of hope, achievement and aspiration for our young people, children and their families.	Suzanne Webber	Social Services



Goal	Outcome	Strategy	Delivery Program Link	Action		Responsible Officer	Department
4 Proactive regional and local leadership	4.2 We work together to achieve our goals	4.2.1 Build strong relationships and shared responsibilities	Collaborate with key stakeholders to continue to develop trust, respect, awareness, inclusion and open communication for the purpose of creating shared responsibilities for better outcomes	4.2.1.1	Manage programs and initiatives to connect with, and value other cultures	Carmen Southwell	Community Assets
		4.2.2 Work in partnership to plan for the future	Working collaboratively to align and implement long-term strategic planning objectives	4.2.2.1	Acquire, disseminate and apply new knowledge to grow evidence informed practice.	Suzanne Webber	Social Services
				4.2.2.2	Create comprehensive and collaborative models of care and support services that drive successful, responsive and individualised outcomes for families.	Suzanne Webber	Social Services
				4.2.2.3	Implement emerging technologies and best processes to improve efficiency.	Suzanne Webber	Social Services



GOVERNANCE

GOAL 5

Outcome 5.1 Corporate Management

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

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



Goal	Outcome	Strategy	Delivery Program Link	Action		Responsible Officer	Department
5 Organisational management	5.1 Corporate management	5.1.1 Financial management and accountability systems	Align financial function with business strategy to assist developing long-term growth and financial security	5.1.1.1	Complete all legislative reporting requirements for Community Home Support Program (CHSP)	Sharon Baker	Naroo & Aged Service
				5.1.1.2	Complete all legislative reporting requirements for NSW Transport (CHSP)	Sharon Baker	Naroo & Aged Service
				5.1.1.3	Complete all Naroo Aged Care Prudential reporting and Quality Indicator reporting within the set timeframes	Sharon Baker	Naroo & Aged Service
				5.1.1.4	Complete the works for the Aged Care Approvals Round grant monies as per the grant agreement	Sharon Baker	Naroo & Aged Service
				5.1.1.5	Implement the Business Improvement Fund grant monies as per the Activity Work plan and Indicative Activity Budget	Sharon Baker	Naroo & Aged Service
				5.1.1.13	Develop contract management documentation templates	Helen Thomas	Corporate Services
				5.1.1.14	Review policies and procedures associated with contracts and procurement in line with LG Procurement regulations, including staff training.	Helen Thomas	Corporate Services
		5.1.2 Information management systems	Ensure appropriate planning, implementation and monitoring of information systems to support the mission, goals and objectives of the organisation	5.1.2.1	Administer and support Council corporate applications, networks and systems.	Justin Hellmuth	Business Improvement & Information Services
				5.1.2.2	Review & Audit of locality boundaries	Danielle Perrett	Engineering Services
				5.1.2.3	IT Hardware Renewal program - 23/24 Financial Year	Justin Hellmuth	Business Improvement & Information Services
				5.1.2.4	Manage Council's GIS systems and data in accordance with legislative requirement, with a focus to improve the delivery and use of information	Justin Hellmuth	Business Improvement & Information Services



Goal	Outcome	Strategy	Delivery Program Link	Action		Responsible Officer	Department		
5 Organisational management	5.1 Corporate management			5.1.2.5	Manage Council's corporate Records and Archive Facilities and Record Management Framework in accordance with legislative requirements.	Justin Hellmuth	Business Improvement & Information Services		
				5.1.2.6	Software Renewal Program - 23/24 Financial Year	Justin Hellmuth	Business Improvement & Information Services		
				5.1.3 Administrative and support functions	Create formal structure and support to assist in the facilitation of Council's key functions to achieve core objectives.	5.1.3.1	Assess and implement solutions that increase efficiencies and quality, whilst reducing costs, to improve processes and systems within Council.	Justin Hellmuth	Business Improvement & Information Services
				5.1.3.2		Develop and maintain Councils Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements	Casey McClymont	Organisation & Community Services	
				5.1.3.3		Manage and support Councils Town utilities and depot operations	Andrew Cooper	Utilities 	
				5.1.4 Workforce planning	Plan for the future capabilities that Gwydir Shire Council is likely to need to meet its defined strategic goals and industry challenges	5.1.4.1	Build a culture that empowers staff to learn, teach, lead and succeed	Suzanne Webber	Social Services
		5.1.4.2	Implement and report on the actions included in the 2022-2026 Workforce Plan	Leeah Daley		Organisation & Community Services			
		5.1.4.3	Development of Human Resources Development processes to manage change and meet individual and organisational needs	Leeah Daley		Organisation & Community Services			
		5.1.4.4	Provide and support Naroo Aged care staff with necessary training and education	Sharon Baker		Naroo & Aged Service			
		5.1.4.5	Undertake Workforce Planning to ensure that there is an appropriately skilled workforce to meet future challenges and opportunities.	Sarah Scrivener		Organisation & Community Services			



Goal	Outcome	Strategy	Delivery Program Link	Action		Responsible Officer	Department
5 Organisational management	5.1 Corporate management	5.1.5 Provide responsible internal governance	The development and management of policy and risk for the benefit of the community consisting of processes and systems that promote the good rule of government.	5.1.5.1	Embed Workplace Health & Safety into business as usual practice throughout the organisation	Chris Beard	Risk & Safety
				5.1.5.2	Emergency Planning - implement evacuation plans and emergency manuals for 8 sites	Chris Beard	Risk & Safety
				5.1.5.6	Embed the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aged Care in both CHSP and Naroo Frail Aged Care Hostel	Sharon Baker	Naroo & Aged Service
				5.1.5.7	Council Public Roads	Danielle Perrett	Business Improvement & Information Services
				LCR	Meet all of Councils Legislative Compliance & Reporting requirements as set by the Office of Local Government (OLG)	Casey McClymont	Executive Services



Photo top left
Our Library



Photo bottom left
Golfers



Photo right
Classic cars at
Warialda Honey Festival

SECTION 3 REVENUE AND CHARGING

~~2023/24~~ Council Rates & Charges

Rates and charges are a major source of revenue for Gwydir Shire Council. The revenue is used to meet the costs of providing services to business and residents of the Shire. A number of the programs and initiatives included in Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan are funded by the rates and charges received by the Council.

Each year the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) determines the allowable annual increase in general income for NSW Councils. This is known as rate pegging.

~~Rates are calculated on the NSW Valuer General's assessment of the unimproved capital value of the land. The 2022/2023 rates will be calculated on the Valuer General's base date of 01 July 2019.~~

Ordinary General Rate Structure and Strategy

General Rates are levied using a 'rate in the dollar' (ad valorem) amount applied to each property's Land Value in addition to a base amount payable for each property. The land value information for each property is supplied by the Valuer-General. In using a base rate amount, Council can reduce the spread



between the higher and lower land values and distribute the cost more evenly across the Shire. All properties in the Shire are categorised based upon the use of the land and determined as Residential, Business or Farmland.

- Rates and charges are calculated as follows:
- Land Value x Relevant Ad Valorem = General Rate Amount Plus Base Amount
- Plus Services
- Less Pension Rebate (eligibility criteria apply)
- Equals Total Rates and Charges Levied

Pensioner Rebates

Rebates are available to eligible pensioners who are solely or jointly liable for the payment of rates and charges and who meet the criteria outlined by the Office of Local Government. These rebates are as follows:

- Ordinary rates and domestic waste management charge up to a \$250.00 maximum rebate.
- Up to a maximum of \$87.50 on water availability charges.
- Up to a maximum of \$87.50 on sewer availability charges.

Attachments

1. 2023/2024 Fees and Charges (Attachment)
2. 2023/2024 Donations
3. Statement of Revenue Policy
4. Rating Category Maps
5. 2023/2024 Budget (Attachment)

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the development of the Operational Plan. This document should be read in conjunction with the Community Strategic Plan which belongs to the Gwydir community, and the Delivery Program. Without your dedication, interest and commitment to this planning process, the production of this Operational Plan would not have been possible. It is an exciting time to be living and working in Gwydir Shire Council.

Contact Details

We welcome feedback on the Gwydir Shire Council Operational Plan 2023/2024. This feedback will be considered as part of our review process. Submissions should be made in writing to:

The General Manager Locked Bag 5. BINGARA NSW 2404
Email: mail@gwydir.nsw.gov.au




FEES AND CHARGES
(Separate Attachment)







FOREGONE INCOME		
Organisation	Donation requested	Recommended Donation*
All junior and school sports plus community groups	Waiving of all hire fees	\$5,000
Anglican Church, North Star	Waiving water & waste charges	\$807
Bingara Bullets Rugby League Club (If participating)	Use of oval and training lights	\$800
Warialda Wombats Rugby League Club (If participating)	Use of oval and training lights	\$800
Bingara Radiance Club	Rates and other charges subsidy	\$3,796
Catholic Church, Presbytery, St Joseph's Primary School and Convent	Water, sewerage and waste charges	\$10,219
CWA North Star	Rates and other charges subsidy	\$1,375
CWA Warialda	Rates and other charges subsidy	\$1,924
Gravesend Showground	Waste charges	\$998
Gwydir Rugby Club (If participating)	Use of oval and training facilities	\$1,000
Presbyterian Church Warialda	Water, sewerage and waste charges	\$1,743
Scots Presbyterian Church, Bingara	Water, sewerage and waste charges	\$1,274
St Johns Anglican Church, Bingara	Water, sewerage and waste charges	\$2,954
St Mary's Catholic Church, Bingara	Water, sewerage and waste charges	\$3,821
St Simon and Jude's Anglican Church, Warialda	Water, sewerage and waste charges	
Uniting Church, Bingara	Water, sewerage and waste charges	\$1,274
Unleash The Black Dog Ball (If held)	Waive hire fees of Roxy and kitchen	\$1,000
Bingara Central School	Partial waiving of water charges	\$5,000
Waiving Development Applications and other fees	For community group activities requiring a development application	\$3,000
Carinda House	Water, sewerage and waste charges	\$3,418
Warialda P & A Association	Rates, water, sewerage and waste charges	\$7,601
Warialda Rail Recreation Reserve	Waste charges	\$891
Totals		\$60,978
*Subject to sporting teams participating or events being held		\$3,600
Definite		\$57,378



Donations < \$1,000		
Organisation	Donation requested	Proposed Donation Requested*
Upper Horton Rodeo and Campdraft (if held)	Annual sponsorship	\$500
Warialda Sports Council Awards (if held)	Annual sponsorship	\$350
Bingara Sporting Club Awards (if held)	Annual sponsorship	\$350
Warialda Wombats Rugby League Football Club (if participating)	Annual sponsorship	\$500
Bingara Bullets Rugby League Football Club (if participating)	Annual sponsorship	\$500
Bingara Missiles League Tag (if participating)	Annual sponsorship	\$325
Warialda Ladies League Tag (if participating)	Annual sponsorship	\$325
Warialda High School	Annual academic prizes	\$550
Bingara Central School	Annual academic prizes	\$950
Warialda Primary School	Annual academic prizes	\$550
St Josephs Primary School	Annual academic prizes	\$550
Gravesend Primary School	Annual academic prizes	\$550
North Star Primary School	Annual academic prizes	\$550
Croppa Creek Primary School	Annual academic prizes	\$550
Unallocated	Donations requests received during the year	\$21,006
Totals		\$28,106
*Subject to sporting teams participating or events being held		\$2,850
Definite		\$25,256



Donations > \$1,000		
Organisation	Donation requested	Proposed Donation Requested*
Barraba PA & H Association (if held)	Annual donation	\$1,750
Warialda P & A Association (if held)	Annual donation	\$1,750
Bingara Show Society (if held)	Annual donation	\$1,750
Bingara Orange Festival (if held)	Annual sponsorship	\$15,000
Warialda Honey Festival (if held)	Annual sponsorship	\$15,000
Warialda Historical Society (Previous commitment by Council to 5 year project)	Who, when, where Cemetery Project (5 Year Project - Year 4)	\$5,000
Bush Bursary NSW Doctors' Network	Annual sponsorship	\$3,000
Warialda Rotary	Australia Day Celebrations Warialda	\$1,750
Barwon Medical Scholarship	Annual sponsorship	\$3,000
Warialda Motor Sports Club (if held)	Warialda Off Road event	\$2,000
Totals		\$50,000
Subject to event or activity being held		\$37,250
Definite		\$12,750

'Council Internal 'Donations'		
Organisation	Donation requested	Recommended Donation
Willoughby/Gwydir exchange program (if held)	Annual allocation	\$10,000
Gwydir Learning Region	Annual allocation	\$20,000
Gwydir Learning Region's Country Education Foundation Committee	Annual allocation	\$5,000
Industry awards	Prizes and assistance during annual business award event	\$3,000
Totals		\$38,000
*Subject to event or activity being held		\$10,000
Definite		\$28,000



In-Kind Support (Allocated from within maintenance budgets)

Organisation	Donation requested	Recommended Allocation
Bingara events unallocated (if held)	Support for community events	\$10,000
Bingara Jockey Club (if held)	Preparation for annual race day	\$2,000
Bingara RSL Club and Sub Branch	Upkeep of memorial gardens in Bingara	\$1,000
Bingara Show Society	Maintenance of showground	\$3,000
Carinda House Committee	Maintenance requests	\$1,000
Myall Creek Memorial Committee	Ground maintenance for annual commemoration	\$7,000
Warialda Apex Committee (if held)	Support during events	\$500
Warialda Events unallocated (if held)	Support for community events	\$10,000
Warialda Jockey Club (if held)	Preparation for annual race day	\$2,000
Warialda Preschool	Building Maintenance	\$2,000
Warialda P&A Association (if held)	Support during events	\$3,000
Warialda Tennis Club	Ground maintenance	\$750
Community Groups	Printing and photocopy	\$3,000
Totals		\$45,250
*Subject to event or activity being held		\$27,500
Definite		\$17,750

Summary

Classification	Definite Donation Requests	Potential Donations' Total
Donations less than \$1,000	\$25,256	\$28,106
Donations greater than \$1,000	\$12,750	\$50,000
Foregone Income	\$57,378	\$60,978
Internal allocation	\$28,000	\$38,000
Totals	\$123,384	\$177,084
In-Kind contributions allocated across other expenditure areas	\$17,750	\$45,250



**STATEMENT
OF REVENUE**



STATEMENT OF REVENUE POLICY

Rating Structure

Strategy - Ordinary Rates

IPART has advised that the General Rates-Pegging limit for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 shall be 3.7%, with a calculated growth factor of 0.4%. This increase will be applied in full.

The revenue forecast provided in this policy is based on the notional income projections using Councils rating structure and revenue for the 2022/2023 year, Councils proposed rating structure and revenue for the 2023/2024 year with the 4.1% general increase, plus any catch-up from 2022/2023.

The model projects an increase in general rate revenue of \$351,167.45 which amounts to a total increase in general rates of 4.1%.



Rating Structure

Rating Categories & Sub-Categories

The following is the structure of Council's General Ordinary Rates to be levied under section 494 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Type	Category	Sub-Category	Comments
Ordinary	Farmland	Intensive	Eligibility determined in accordance with Local Government Act 1993 and As defined as 'Intensive Agriculture by the Gwydir Shire Council LEP 2013
Ordinary	Farmland	Nil	Eligibility determined in accordance with Local Government Act 1993
Ordinary	Business	Nil	All business properties within the Gwydir Shire Local Government area other than those defined as Warialda Business Urban or Bingara Business Urban
Ordinary	Business	Business Warialda Urban	All business properties within the Warialda Town Area as determined by the relevant LEP.
Ordinary	Business	Business Bingara Urban	All business properties within the Bingara Town Area as determined by the relevant LEP.
Ordinary	Residential		All residential properties within the Gwydir Shire Area not in a Village as determined by the relevant LEP that do not exceed two (2) hectares.
Ordinary	Residential	Rural Residential	All residential properties within the Gwydir Shire Area not in a Village as determined by the relevant LEP that exceed two (2) hectares but are less than forty (40) hectares.
Ordinary	Residential	Residential Villages	All residential properties within the Gwydir Shire Area within a Village area other than Warialda Urban or Bingara Urban as determined by the relevant LEP.
Ordinary	Residential	Residential Warialda Urban	All residential properties within the Warialda Town Area as determined by the relevant LEP.
Ordinary	Residential	Residential Bingara Urban	All residential properties within the Bingara Town Area as determined by the relevant LEP.



Rating Structure

Rating Categories & Sub-Categories

Categories are defined by Urban, Rural and Village as follows:

Urban Land:

Each parcel of land valued as one assessment whose dominant use is for urban purposes within the Bingara or Warialda Town Area as determined by the relevant LEP.

Village Land:

Each parcel of land valued as one assessment whose dominant use is for urban purposes within a Village area other than the Bingara or Warialda Town Area as determined by the relevant LEP.

Rural Land:

Each parcel of land valued as one assessment whose dominate use is for non-urban purposes that is not within any Village area as determined by the relevant LEP.

Maps showing the location of Rating categories and sub-categories are attached. See Appendix



Rating Structure

Ordinary General Rate Structure & Strategy

The Local Government Act 1993 provides Councils with three alternative methods of levying rates:

- Solely Ad Valorem Rating (i.e. Cents in the dollar on land value).
- Minimum Rate plus Ad Valorem.
- Base Amount of up to 50% of the total yield from a category and applied to all rateable parcels within that category plus an Ad Valorem rate to raise the additional above the base.

Council will continue to levy ordinary rates using a structure comprising a base amount to which an ad valorem component is added. This option ensures higher valued properties contribute a higher amount.

The base amount will vary, depending on rating category/sub-category up to the maximum permissible of 50% of the total yield for each category/sub-category. All rateable properties within each category/sub-category, regardless of their land value, are levied a base amount. The balance of the ordinary rates is derived by multiplying the land value of a property by a rate in the dollar for the relevant category/sub-category, which is determined by Council.

All ordinary general rates for the 2023/2024 period shall be based on land valuations issued by the Valuer-General to individual rate payers with a base date of 1st July 2022. Generally, there has been an estimated rise in rateable land values by \$1,270,639,290.00 to date.

The model used in preparation of the rating revenue is designed to distribute the general rates between the rating categories as follows:

Farmland 80.00%	Residential 16.00%	Business 4.00%
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Rating Structure

Notional Yield

Ordinary General Rates under section 494 of the Local Government Act 1993

Diff	Category	Sub-Category	# Prop	Ad Valorem	Cents In \$	Base Amount	Percentage of Revenue raised form Base Levy	Estimated Total Yield
10	Farmland	Intensive	2	0.0037364	0.37364	\$ 750	3.82%	\$39,267.16
1	Farmland	Ordinary	1160	0.0022837	0.22837	\$ 300	4.95%	\$7,030,303.03
4	Business	Ordinary	76	0.0374495	3.74495	\$ 300	15.46%	\$147,477.36
8	Business	Business Bingara Urban	53	0.0317568	3.17568	\$ 300	14.33%	\$110,956.04
3	Business	Business Warialda Urban	69	0.0368759	3.68759	\$ 300	21.79%	\$94,997.71
6	Residential	Rural Residential S/H	198	0.0084639	0.84639	\$ 225	22.75%	\$195,824.18
5	Residential	Residential Village	259	0.0614254	6.124254	\$ 150	32.83%	\$118,336.89
9	Residential	Ordinary-Rural Res	53	0.0161983	1.61983	\$ 150	30.61%	\$25,971.90
7	Residential	Bingara Residential Urban	695	0.0125531	1.25531	\$ 225	23.35%	\$669,700.21
2	Residential	Warialda Residential Urban	553	0.0188735	1.88735	\$ 225	30.83%	\$403,584.17
			3,118					\$8,485,498.71

**Estimated General Ordinary Rate Income \$8,836,418.65- Less Pension Rebates (Council 45%)
-\$38,888.78 giving Net General Rates Income of \$8,797,529.87**

All rates are to be levied on land valuations with a base date of 1st July 2022



Rating Structure

Payment of Rates

Ratepayers may pay their rates in four (4) instalments being 31 August, 30 November, 28 February, and 31 May. Council is obliged to forward reminder notices one month in advance. Interest is chargeable on each instalment not paid by the due date.

The maximum applicable interest rate is set each year by the Minister for Local Government and Council may adopt that rate or a lower rate.

Extra Charges or Interest on Overdue Rates

In accordance with Section 566 (3) of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council must determine a rate of interest charge, not in excess of that determined by the Minister.

The interest rate for the year 2023/2024 has been set at 9.00% p.a. for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 (inclusive).

Conservation Agreement Rate Exemption

As stated through the provisions of Section 555 (1) (b1) and (3) of the Local Government Act 1993 the land subject to a Conservation Agreement is exempt from rates. The Act States "*Section 555 What land is exempt from all rates?*"

(1.b.) Subject to subsection (3), land that is subject of a conservation agreement (within the meaning of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974*),

(3) If part of a single parcel of land is the subject of a conservation agreement within the meaning of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974* (as referred to in subsection (1) (b1), any rate levied on that whole parcel (for any period after 1 July 2008) is to be reduced by the percentage stated in the Act.

The Conservation Agreement amount to be written off for the year 2023/2024 for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 (inclusive) is \$4,633.68.



Statement of Fees and Charges

Statement of fees and charges to apply to rateable and non-rateable properties

Water and Sewerage Pricing

Council's water and sewerage utilities are required to conform to best practice water and sewerage pricing (pay for use). Such pricing is required to comply with the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's (IPART) Pricing Principles for Local Water Authorities, the COAG Strategic Framework for Water Reform and National Competition Policy.

Best practice water supply pricing involves a cost-reflective two-part tariff or an inclining block tariff with no water allowance, no land value-based charges, an appropriate access charge and water usage charges per kilolitre.

Appropriate pricing is essential to provide relevant pricing signals to customers, enabling them to make informed decisions on their water use. This will encourage each customer to use water efficiently and minimise wastage of our valuable water resources and associated infrastructure.

Water Charges - Strategy

Council has adopted best practice water pricing with a common structure across the entire Shire. The pricing structure has been reviewed and a similar structure adopted for 2023/2024.

The two-part pricing regime includes an access availability charge of \$515.00 for standard connections and an inclining block tariff. In 2023/2024 the water usage charge will be charged quarterly as part of the quarterly water usage billing program. The inclining usage tariff is made up of two (2) tiers being:

1. \$1.70 per kilolitre for the first step of 600 kilolitres per assessment.
2. And a higher block tariff of \$2.40 per kilolitre for usage over 600 kilolitres per assessment.



Statement of Fees and Charges

Water Charges - Strategy

A water access availability charge applies to all parcels of land to which a service is available and connectable.

The water pricing strategy is designed to gain 50% of the water revenue from access charges and 50% from usage charges.

Properties with larger water services pay a higher access charge proportional to the square of the meter size.

Sewer Charges - Strategy

Sewerage services as with water supplies have moved to best practice pricing.

Residential sewerage bills are to be independent of land value and based on a cost-reflective uniform sewerage charge per property of \$625.00 per connectable property.

Non-Residential sewerage bills are to be independent of land value and based on a cost-reflective two-part tariff consisting of an access charge - (\$555.00 based on 20mm water connection) and an appropriate sewer usage charge per kilolitre of water consumption (\$2.75/KL). This charge is then multiplied by the individual properties sewer discharge factor as determined by Council using industry standards.

The sewer access charge must also be proportional to the square of the size of the water supply service connection to reflect the load that can be placed on the sewerage system plus a usage charge based on discharge volume. The volume discharged into the sewer is estimated using the customer's total water consumption and a sewerage discharge factor.



Statement of Fees and Charges

Water & Sewer Charges - Sections 501 & 502 of the Local Government Act 1993

Description	Annual Charge	Services Charged	Total Annual Income	Total Income
20mm Water Meter Service	\$ 515.00	1604	\$ 826,060.00	
25mm Water Meter Service	\$ 804.50	36	\$ 28,692.00	
32mm Water Meter Service	\$ 1,318.40	2	\$ 2,636.80	
40mm Water Meter Service	\$ 2,060.00	4	\$ 8,240.00	
50mm Water Meter Service	\$ 3,218.75	19	\$ 61,156.25	
Less Pension Rebate Expense Water (Council 45%)			-\$ 18,626.74	
TOTAL Annual Water Access Income			908,158.31	\$908,158.31
Annual Water Usage @ \$1.70/KL (Est)	\$ 1.70	330,000KL	\$ 561,000.00	
Annual Water Usage @ \$2.40/KL >600KL (Est)	\$ 2.40	136,371KL	\$ 327,290.40	
TOTAL Annual Water Usage Charges (Est)			\$ 888,290.40	\$ 888,290.40
Total Water Income				\$1,796,448.71
Sewer Charge Residential (20mm)	\$ 625.00	1136	\$ 710,000.00	
Pressure Sewer Residential	\$ 625.00	86	\$ 53,750.00	
Sewer Charge Non-Residential (20mm)	\$ 555.00	133	\$ 73,815.00	
Sewer Charge Non-Residential (25mm)	\$ 710.95	20	\$ 14,219.00	
Sewer Charge Non-Residential (32mm)	\$ 1,180.15	2	\$ 2,360.30	
Sewer Charge Non-Residential (40mm)	\$ 1,820.00	4	\$ 7,280.00	
Sewer Charge Non-Residential (50mm)	\$ 2,843.75	11	\$ 31,281.25	
Less Pension Rebate Expense Sewerage (Council 45%)			-\$ 15,988.28	
TOTAL Annual Sewer Charges			\$ 876,717.27	876,717.27
Sewer Non-Residential Usage Charge At \$2.75/KL	\$ 2.75	21,226	\$ 58,371.50	\$58,371.50
Warialda Truck Wash usage charge \$1.32/minute – estimate				\$70,000.00
Total Sewer Income				\$1,005,088.77



Statement of Fees and Charges

Liquid Trade Waste Charges

Gwydir Shire Council is committed to complying with the Department of Primary Industries and Environment (DPIE) guidelines for the best practice management of water supplies and sewerage services to be eligible for financial assistance towards future Capital works.

For the 2023/2024 financial period council will be charging a liquid trade Waste Charge as part of the sewerage pricing structure for commercial businesses.

Liquid trade wastes exert much greater demands on sewerage systems than domestic sewerage and if uncontrolled can pose serious problems to public health, worker safety, Councils sewerage system and the environment. Liquid trade waste pricing ensures that the discharges bear a fair share of the cost of providing sewerage services and to facilitate appropriate recycling, pre-treatment, waste minimisation and water conservation.

For charging purposes liquid trade waste dischargers are divided into three categories.

1. Liquid trade waste dischargers conducting as activity deemed by Council as requiring nil or only minimal pre-treatment equipment and whose effluent is well defined and of relatively low risk to the sewerage system. For example - retail food outlets with no hot food prepared and or foods that generate an oily/greasy waste.
2. Liquid trade waste dischargers conducting as activity deemed by Council as requiring a prescribed type of liquid trade waste pre-treatment equipment and whose effluent is well characterised. For example - Premises that prepare and or serve hot foods that generate an oily/ greasy waste.
3. Liquid trade waste dischargers conducting an activity which is of an industrial nature and/or which result in discharges of large volumes (over 20kL/d) of liquid trade waste to the sewerage system.



Statement of Fees and Charges

Liquid Trade Waste Charges

Schedule of Annual & Usage Fees – Liquid Waste

Description	# Prop	Services Charged	Estimated Income
Annual Charges			
Annual trade waste Fee (minimum)	83	\$ 105.00	\$ 8,715.00
Annual trade waste Fee (Large discharger)		\$ 430.00	
Reinspection fee		\$ 60.00	
Usage Charges			
with prescribed pre-treatment		\$ 1.50/Kl	
without prescribed pre-treatment		\$ 15.50/Kl	
Tankered Waste		\$ 21.65/Kl	

- These fees are to be charged on top of existing non-residential sewerage charges.



Statement of Fees and Charges

Waste Management Charges Statement

Council must make and levy a charge for domestic waste management services for each parcel of rateable land for which the service is available under Section 496 of the Local Government Act, 1993. The levied charge must fully cover the cost of providing the service. The urban areas of Bingara, Warialda, Gravesend, North Star, Croppa Creek and Warialda Rail and small rural "lifestyle/rural residential" blocks receive a kerbside garbage service. This charge is separately itemised on each rate notice.

The charge is added to standard Council rates and is set aside for the specific purpose of the management of waste collections & disposal facilities within the Local Government area. The charge will allow Council to provide additional resources and meet the requirements of waste disposal and environmental legislation and community expectations.

Previously this was undertaken on Councils Waste Disposal Facilities on a reactionary basis in response to community concerns. As a result of increased pressures from regulatory agencies and ongoing community concerns and the scale of the works required to meet these standards, it has become necessary for council to initiate the provision of a waste disposal management program to control waste disposal and environmental protection measures.

The funds collected will only be spent for works at Council's Waste Disposal facilities and related recycling programs, including:

- Land Rehabilitation
- Improved Environmental Monitoring
- Improved waste disposal techniques
- Recycling
- Chemical disposal
- Site Security



Statement of Fees and Charges

The charge is levied in respect of each separate parcel of rateable land in the Council area. The charge applies whether the service is used in whole or in part. The service is provided on the following basis

Domestic Waste Service and Disposal Charge

A single weekly waste collection service using 1 approved container with a capacity 140-litre for general waste. A single fortnightly green waste collection service using 1 approved container with a capacity 240-litre for green and putrescible waste and a single fortnightly recyclable waste collection service using 1 approved container with a capacity 360-litre for recyclable material.

New premises completed during the year will be charged based on the complete month to the end of the year as a proportion of the annual charge.

In accordance with Section 496 of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council must levy a domestic waste management charge on all occupied rateable properties. This charge reflects the fixed cost component of having the weekly waste collection service accessible to the property. The charge for 2023/2024 is as follows:

Domestic Waste Collection Charge	Number of Services	Charge	Yield
Domestic Residential Collections (140)	1390	\$392.20	\$545,158.00
Wheelie Bin Upgraded (240) / Additional (140)	46	\$161.00	\$ 7,406.00
Domestic Residential – Vacant	176	\$80.50	\$14,168.00
<i>Less Pension Rebate Expense Waste (45% Council)</i>			<i>-\$15,321.02</i>
Total Domestic Waste Management Charges			\$551,410.98



Statement of Fees and Charges

Commercial Waste Disposal

Council shall levy an annual charge under Section 501 of the Local Government Act, 1993 on commercial premises for waste removal and disposal where the owner or occupier has access to that service. The service will be for the removal of one or more garbage containers (wheelie bins) of 240-litre capacity. The service level charge is based on the number of bins available for collection from the premises for which the charge is applicable. The charges for 2023/2024 are as follows:

Charge	Number of Services	Charge	Yield
Commercial Waste Disposal – Minor	69	\$624.00	\$44,436.00
Commercial Waste Disposal – Small	44	\$1,288.00	\$56,672.00
Commercial Waste Disposal - Medium	14	\$2,576.90	\$36,076.60
Commercial Waste Disposal – Large	6	\$3,586.20	\$21,517.20
Total Commercial Waste Management			\$158,701.80



Statement of Fees and Charges

Non-Rateable Land Waste Disposal

In accordance with section 501 of the Local Government Act, 1993, a waste management service charge will be levied on all non-rateable land electing to utilise Council's waste collection and disposal service. The charge for 2023/2024 is as follows:

Non-Rateable Land Waste Disposal Charge	Number of Services	Charge	Yield
Non-Rateable Land Waste Disposal – Minor	26	\$624.00	\$16,744.00
Non-Rateable Land Waste Disposal – Small	12	\$1,288.00	\$15,456.00
Non-Rateable Land Waste Disposal – Medium	5	\$2,576.90	\$12,884.50
Non-Rateable Land Waste Disposal – Large	8	\$3,586.20	\$28,689.60
Total Non-Rateable Land Waste Management			\$73,774.10



Statement of Fees and Charges

Waste Disposal Management

In accordance with Section 501 of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council must levy a waste management disposal charge on all land and in respect of vacant land which are in the catchment for each of Council's waste disposal facilities. These are defined by maps. See appendix. The charge for 2023/2024 is as follows:

Waste Management Charge	Number	Charge	Yield
Properties	3118	\$239.40	\$746,449.20
<i>Less Pension Rebate Expense Waste (45% Council)</i>			<i>-\$11,914.02</i>
Total Waste Disposal Charge			\$734,535.18

Statement of Fees and Charges

Storm Water Charges Statement

In accordance with Section 496A of the Local Government Act, 1993 and clauses 125A, 125AA, 200A and 217 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, Council may make or levy an annual charge for stormwater management services only in respect of urban land that is categorised for rating purposes as residential or business. The urban areas, to which this charge will apply for 2023/2024 (Warialda & Bingara), are defined by maps. (See appendix). The charge for 2023/2024 is as follows:

Storm Water Charge	Number of Services	Charge	Estimated Yield
Residential Properties	1,758	\$25.00 per parcel of land	\$43,950.00
Business Properties	198	\$25.00 per parcel of land plus and additional \$25.00 for each 350sqm or part of 350sqm by which the parcels exceed 350sqm (Estimate based on average of three (3) charges per parcel)	\$4,950.00
Total Estimated Storm Water Yield	1956		\$48,900.00



Statement of Fees and Charges

Statement of fees to be charged and pricing policy of goods and services

Council fees for the 2023/2024 financial year are listed in the Schedule of Fees and Charges as part of Councils Management Plan.

In determining the appropriate fees to be charged for Council services and facilities in 2023/2024, the basic principle applied, is that charges should be considered fair and equitable to the general community. Individual members of the community should not be precluded from essential services because of economic circumstances.

The range of services provided by Council to the community is diverse and requires different considerations when determining the associated fee or charge. The level of the fee or charge was determined having regard to the following categories.

Code	Pricing Category
S	Statutory - Federal or State Government set charges.
FCR	Full Cost Recoverable - Services under this category are such that individual costs can be determined and met by the user of the service.
PCR	Partially Cost Recoverable - Services considered having a level of benefit to the community. Generally, benefits are not solely confined to users. Partially funded by general revenues.
M	Market - Services that Council operates in a competitive market and needs to fix charges like other providers. Calculations may be benchmarked against industry averages

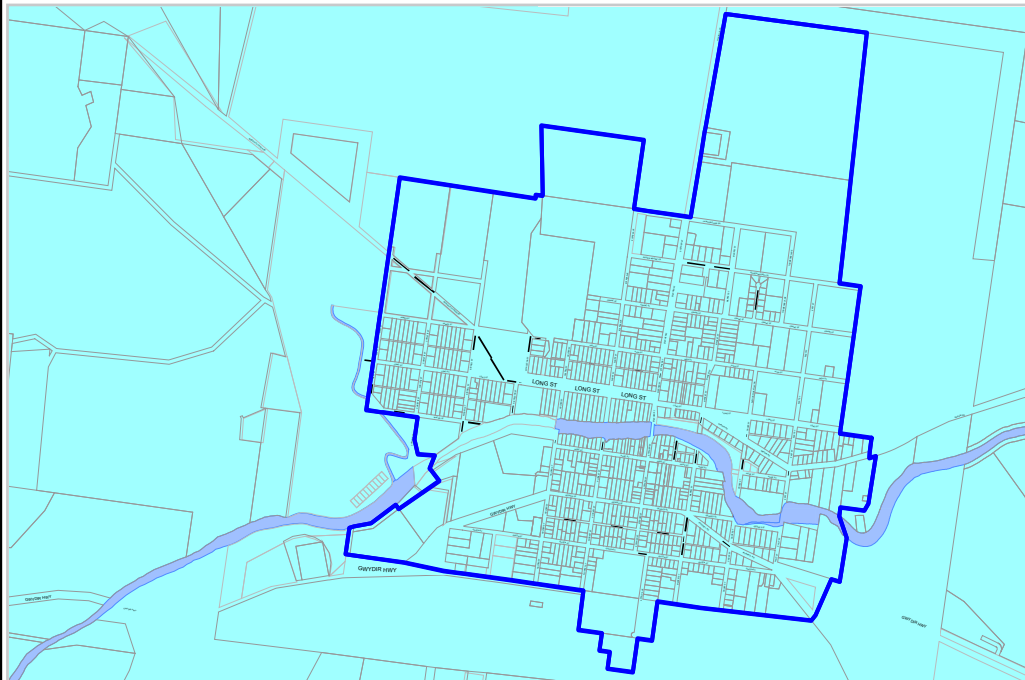


**RATING
CATEGORY MAPS**

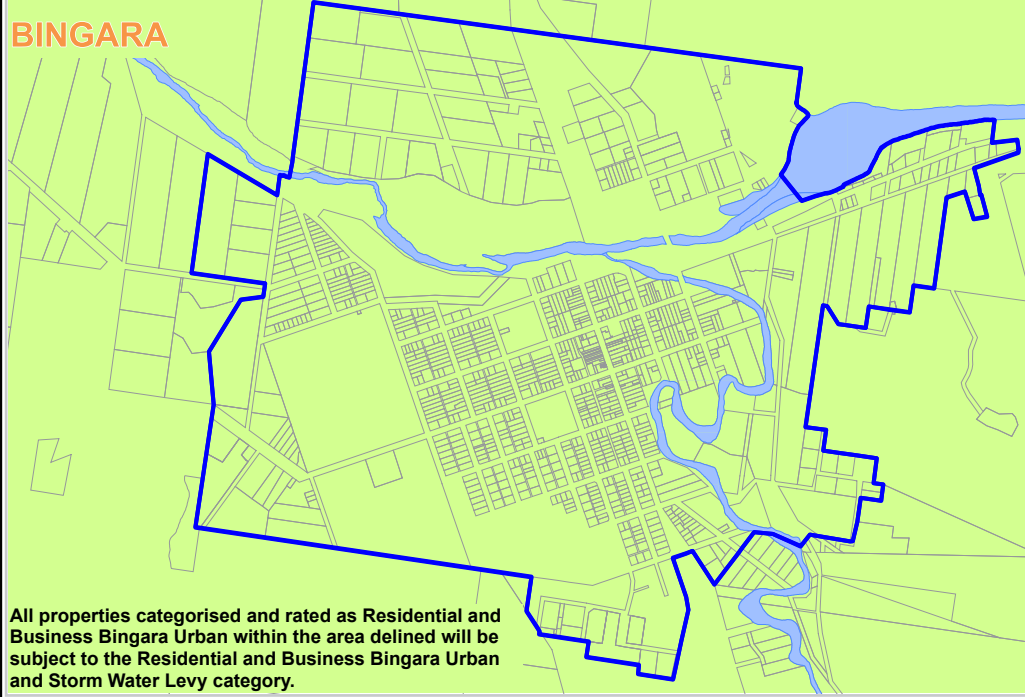


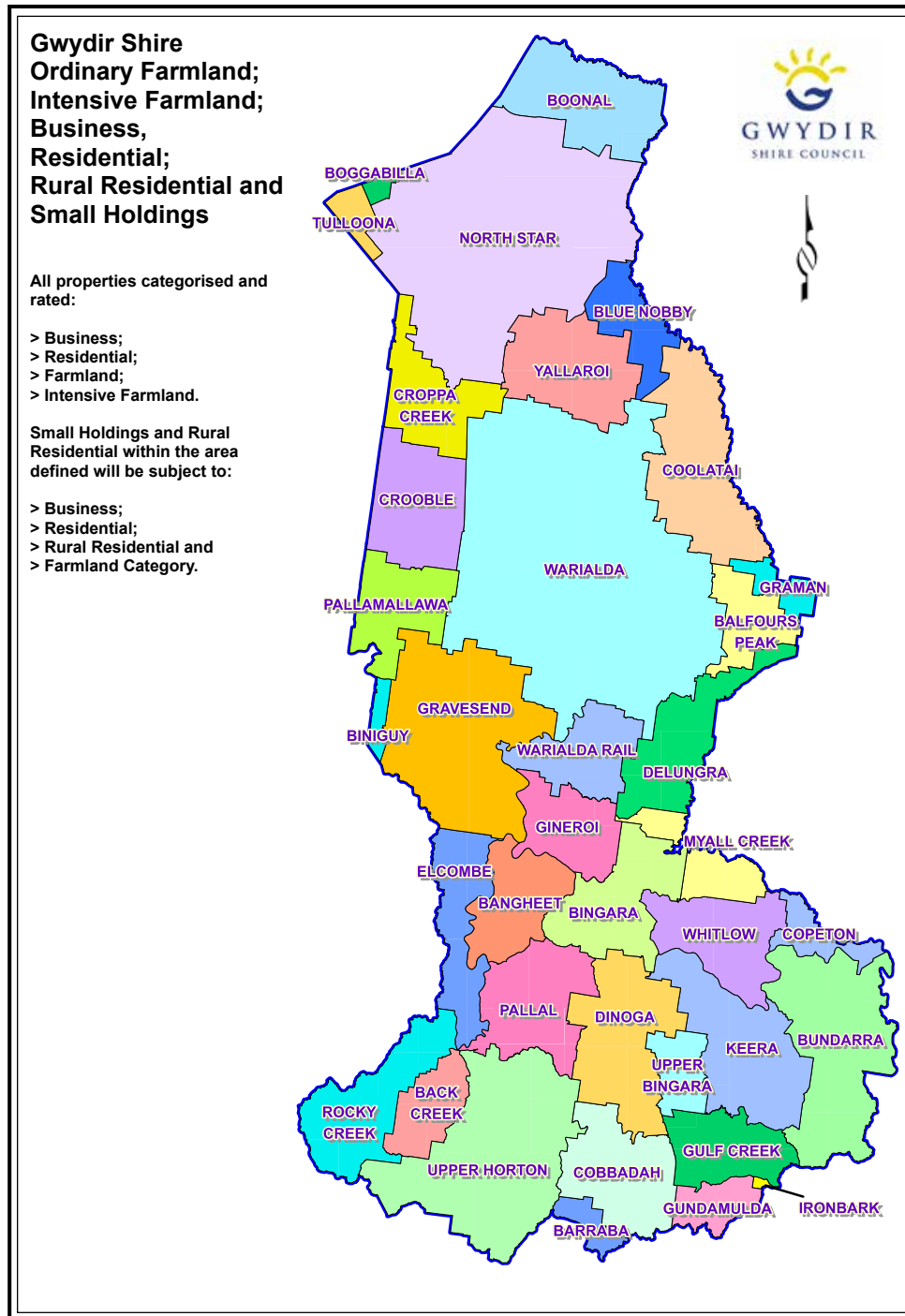
Appendix **Rating Category and Storm Water Levy Maps**

Gwydir Shire Residential and Business Warialda Urban and Storm Water Levy



Gwydir Shire Residential and Business Bingara Urban and Storm Water Levy







**Gwydir Shire
Residential Village and Business
North Star and Gravesend**

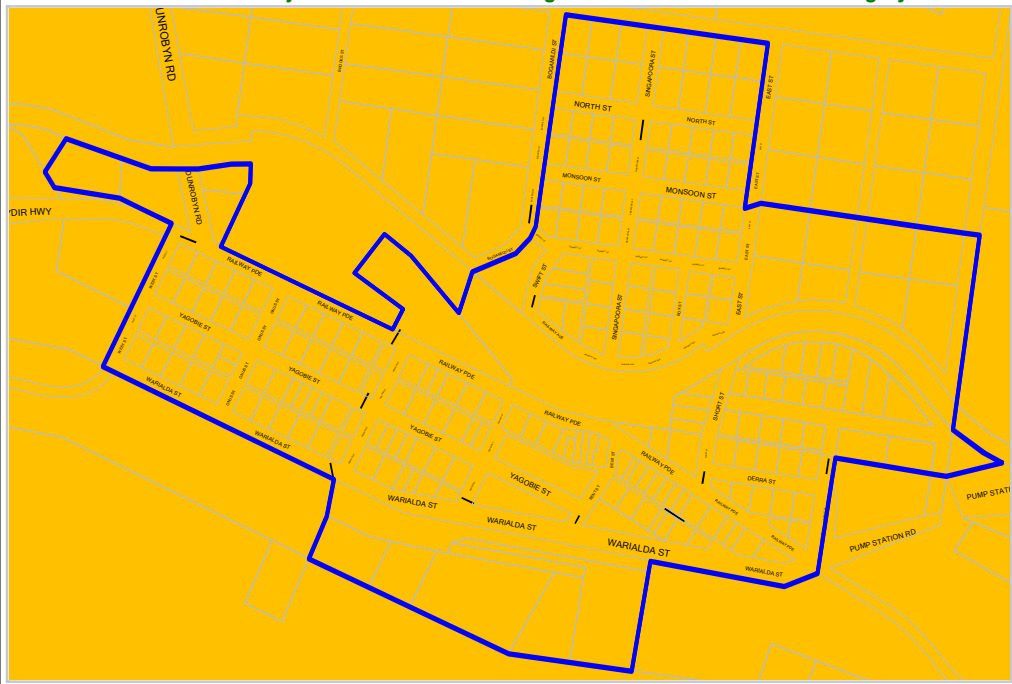
NORTH STAR

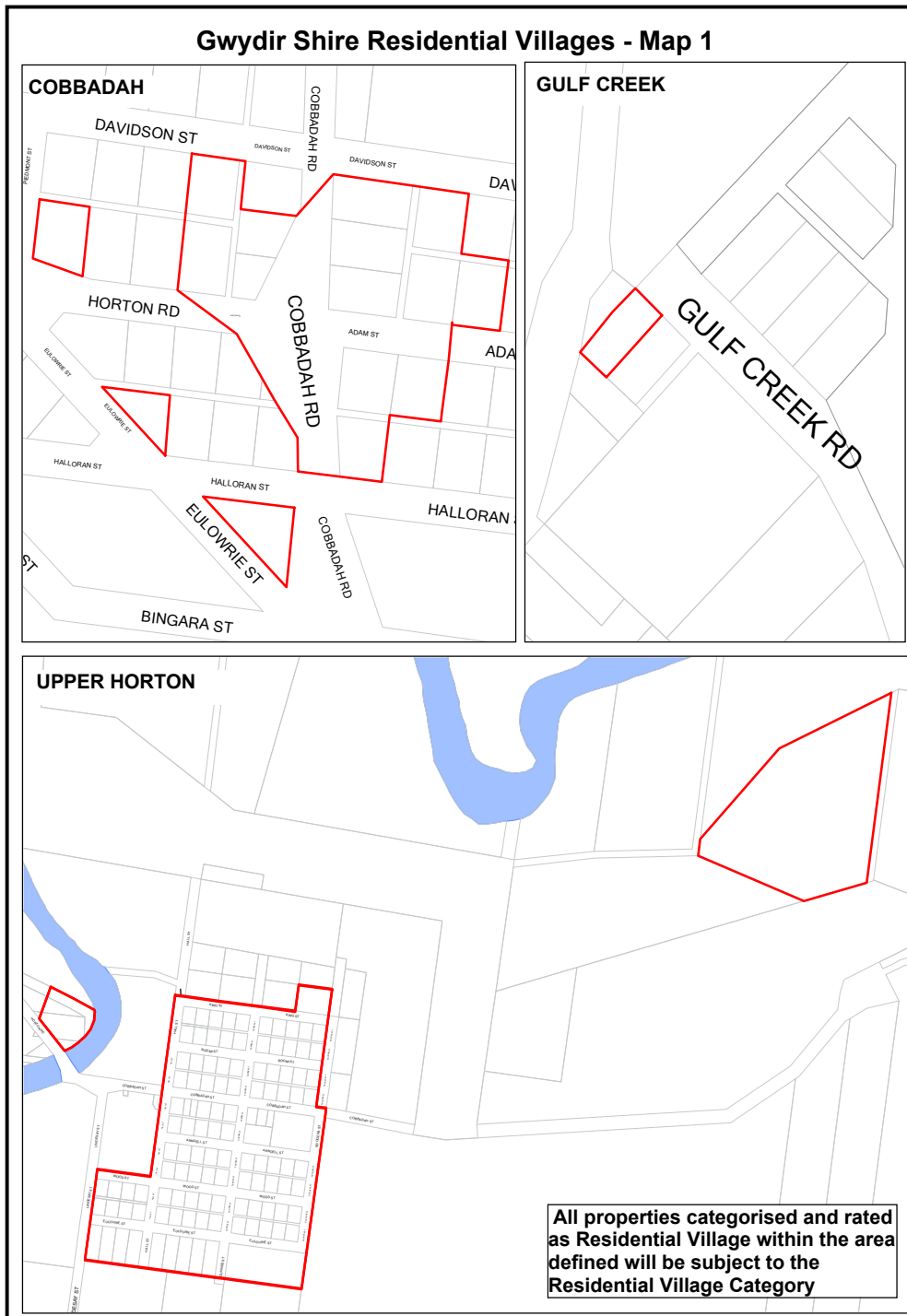
All properties categorised and rated as Residential Village and Business North Star within the area defined will be subject to the Residential Village and Business North Star Category.

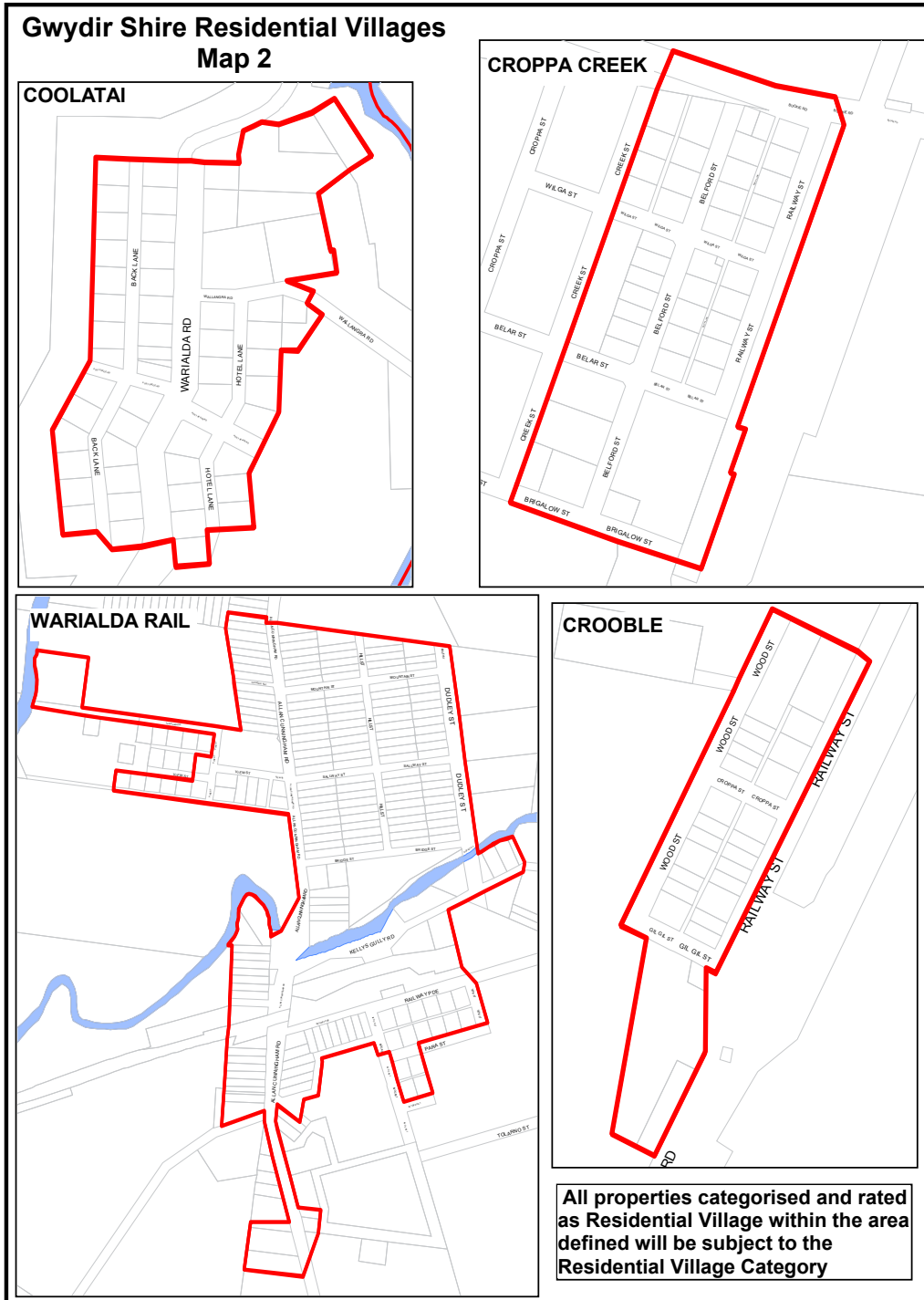


GRAVESEND

All properties categorised and rated as Residential Village and Business Gravesend within the area defined will be subject to the Residential Village and Business Gravesend Category.









2022/2023
BUDGET
(Separate Attachment)

COVER PAGE - GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN 2023 / 2024

ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO COUNTRY

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
TO COUNTRY**

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

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**1. **MESSAGE FROM MAYOR** (and photo of Mayor)

Gwydir Shire Council embraces the inclusion of people with disability in all aspects of community life. We are committed to creating a more inclusive and welcoming community for people with disabilities and it is with pleasure that I present the Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

The Plan demonstrates our commitment to improve the quality of our services, facilities, systems and programs throughout Gwydir Shire. This Plan was developed through consultation with the community and outlines the actions we will take to provide more accessible and inclusive services.

We look forward to hearing about the positive impact the Plan has for people with a disability in our Shire.

Mayor, Councillor John Coulton

2. **MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER** (and photo of General Manager)

Disability Inclusion Planning is about supporting the basic right of choice for people with disability in our community. People with disability have the same right to choose how to live, work and enjoy community life as we all do.

Council's aim is to ensure that our services, programs and facilities are inclusive. The Plan aims to improve conditions for people with a disability who live, work and visit our Shire.

I look forward to working with staff and our community to put the Plan into action.

General Manager, Max Eastcott

Gwydir Shire Profile

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 (Eastwest route) traverses the northern edge of the Shire with links into southern Queensland. 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.

Gwydir 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. There are 21 rural localities – Boonal, Blue Nobby, Yallaroi, 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.

The two small towns within the Shire are Bingara and Warialda, located approximately 40km apart. Bingara services the southern part of the Shire and Warialda services the northern part of the Shire. Both towns have small, vibrant shopping centres, with IGA supermarkets, historic hotels, eateries and shops and services 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.

Age Distribution

The Council amalgamation in 2004 changed the makeup of the social structure of the Shire, particularly in relation to age distribution.

Key findings include:

- The proportion of young people aged 5-14 in the Shire (17.6%) has declined in comparison to the NSW average from (18.2%) the 2016 census.
- A significant difference between the NSW average (11.8%) and Gwydir Shire average (7.7%) of adults aged 15-24 residing in the Shire boundaries.
- A very high proportion of people aged 65+ residing in the Shire (28.4%) compared to the NSW average (17.7%)
- A high median age of 50 years old compared to the NSW average of 39 years old.

Background

According to the 2018 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC)

- There were 4.4 million Australians with disability, 17.7% of the population. A decrease from the 2015 survey (18.3%).

- 5.7% of all Australians had a profound or severe disability.
- There were 2.65 million carers, representing 10.8% of all Australians (down from 11.6% in 2015).
- In 2018, 2.1 million people with disability living in households were of working age (15-64 years) and 47.8% were employed, compared with 80.3% of those without disability.
- Almost one in five young people aged 15-24 years (18.9%) and 25-34 years (18.2%) experienced discrimination, compared with 3.2% of those aged 65 years and over.
- One in ten women (10.3%) and one in eleven men (8.8%) experienced discrimination.
- Of those with disability who experienced discrimination, the most common sources of discrimination were service and hospitality staff (36.3%), family and friends (21.0%) and their employer (20.7%). These rates were similar to 2015.

The International Day of People with Disability, 3 December 2014, marked the commencement of the Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW) (the Act or the DIA).

The Disability Inclusion Regulation 2014 (the Regulation) supports the Act and provides the necessary detail for the Act to work properly.

The DIA (NSW) requires Council to develop a Disability Inclusion Action Plan that will help guide Council and remove barriers and enable people with disability to participate fully in their communities.

The objectives of the Act are:

- (a) To acknowledge that people with disability have the same human rights as other members of the community and that the State and the community have a responsibility to facilitate the exercise of those rights
- (b) To promote the independence and social and economic inclusion of people with disability
- (c) To enable people with disability to exercise choice and control in the pursuit of their goals and the planning and delivery of their supports and services
- (d) To provide safeguards in relation to the delivery of supports and services for people with disability
- (e) To support, to the extent reasonable practicable, the purposes and principles of the United Nations Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities
- (f) To provide for responsibilities of the State during and following the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme

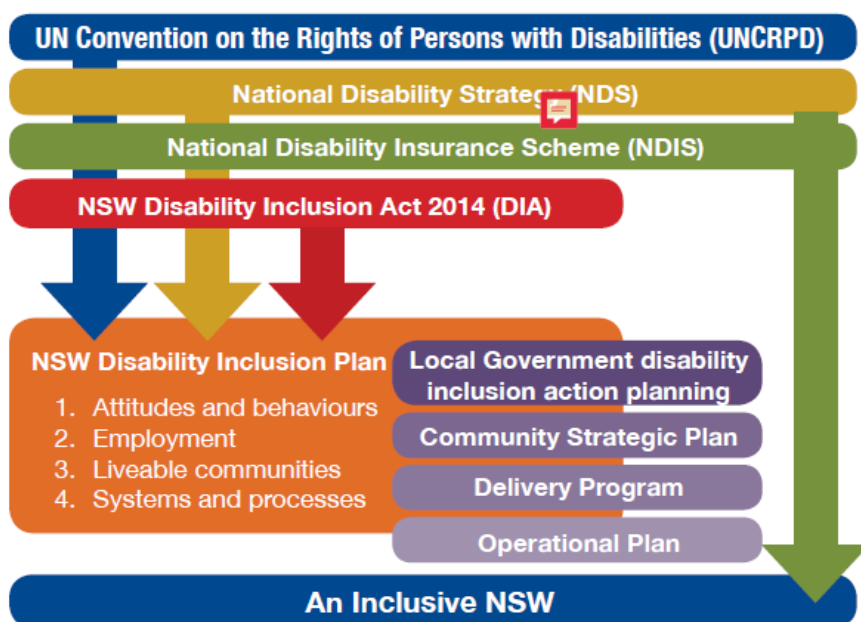
Vision

In its role as a local government authority, Gwydir Shire Council observes the following principles:

- That all residents and visitors to Gwydir Shire have the right of equal access and opportunity to fully participate and contribute to the social, economic and cultural life of the Shire
- That is Council's moral and legal responsibility to ensure equity in provision and access to facilities and services throughout the Gwydir Shire to provide the structure which enable equal opportunities
- That Council has a responsibility under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) to raise awareness through education and consultation in order to adequately provide

access for the whole community and to ensure that barriers to access are addressed appropriately

Gwydir Shire is striving to be a place where people with disability have access to Council information, Council and mainstream services and facilities ensuring people with disabilities can fully participate in their community and feel a part of their community. Council’s Disability Action Plan will aim to provide this.



Source: Disability Inclusion Action Planning Guidelines Local Government

International

The United Nations Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) protects the rights of all people with a disability around the world. Australia was one of the first countries to sign the Convention when it was ratified in 2008. The convention acknowledges that people with disability have the same human rights as those without disability. This commits participating governments to ensure these rights can be exercised and that barriers are removed. The United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities support the social model of disability. This recognises that attitudes, practices and structures are disabling and can create barriers to people with disability from enjoying economic participation, social inclusion and equality which are not an inevitable outcome of their disability.

The convention is guided by the following principles

- Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one’s own choices and independence of persons

- Non-discrimination
- Full and effective participation and inclusion in society
- Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity
- Equality of opportunity accessibility
- Equality between men and women
- Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

National

The National Disability Strategy 2021-2031, developed in partnership by the Commonwealth, State, Territory and Local Governments, sets out a national plan for improving the life for Australians with disability and their families and carers, to support the commitment made to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Actions in the Implementation Plan that involve councils include:

- Urban planning/design of the built environment
- Accessible buildings
- Local development planning
- Local roads, bikeways and footpaths
- Local parks and recreational facilities
- Local sports grounds
- Public toilets
- Playgrounds
- Council-run childcare and aged care centres
- Municipal services
- Parking regulation
- Public libraries and community halls

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a major reform that delivers a national system of disability support focused on the individual needs and choices of people with disability. The NDIS gives participants more choice and control over how, when and where supports are provided.

State

The DIA acknowledges human rights, promoting the independence and social and economic inclusion of people with disability.

The Act requires NSW government departments, local councils and some other public authorities to develop and implement a Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

This Plan must be consistent with the State Disability Inclusion Plan and include strategies to increase access and participation.

Local



Source: Disability Inclusion Action Planning Guidelines Local Government

Gwydir Shire Council’s Community Strategic Plan 2017/2027 was created by the community and provides a long term vision for our Shire. The Community Strategic Plan informs Council’s Delivery Program and Operational Plan which set out Council’s role in achieving the community’s vision. Other Council plans and documents relevant to the Disability Inclusion Action Plan include:

- Bingara and Warialda Town Strategies
- Community Engagement Strategy
- Equal Employment Opportunity Policy
- Motorised Wheelchair Action Plan

Development of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan is supported by the Gwydir Shire Community Strategic Plan goals as follows:

- A healthy and cohesive community (Social)
- Building the business base (Economy)
- An environmentally responsible shire (Environment)
- Proactive regional and local leadership (Organisation)

Organisational management (Governance)

Other legislation and standards informing Council’s work include:

Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act (1992)

National Disability Strategy 2021/2031

Disability Inclusion Act 2014

Disability Inclusion Regulation (2014)

NSW Disability Inclusion Plan 2021/2025

NSW Disability Inclusion Action Planning Guidelines

Web Accessibility national Transition Strategy

National Disability Strategy

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Building Code of Australia

Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002

AS 1428 Standards

AS/NZS 2890 Standards Accessible (Disabled) Car Parking Requirements

Commonwealth Disability (Access to Premises-Buildings) Standards 2010

NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977

Carers Recognition Act 2010

Local Government Act 1993

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Disability Snapshot in Gwydir Shire

The DIA defines disability as:

He long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment which in interaction with various barriers may hinder the full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”

Information about disability in Gwydir Shire is based upon Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census data. The Census records information about people who identify as needing help with mobility, self-care or communication due to disability or long-term health conditions.

Need for Assistance with Core Activities

Has need for Assistance (by age group)	Total
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0-4 years	19
5-14 years	23
15-19 years	18
20-24 years	11
25-34 years	34
35-44 years	46
45-54 years	64
55-64 years	123
65-74 years	167
75-84 years	206
85 years and over	159
Total	870

**As per 2021 ABS census data*

- 17.72% of the population, or 870 people living in Gwydir Shire, identified as needing assistance because of a disability.
- In Gwydir Shire there were 1,130 carers providing unpaid assistance to a person with a disability, long term illness or old age in 2021.
- The number of people who provided unpaid assistance to a person with disability, long term illness or old age in Gwydir Shire increased by 41 since 2016.
- 283 people were receiving a Disability Support Pension in Gwydir Shire in 2021. The Disability Support Pension is provided to people who have a physical, intellectual or psychiatric condition that stops them from working, or people who are permanently blind.

Council Activity

Council works to provide opportunities, education and raise awareness of inclusion and accessibility of and for people with disabilities. Some examples include:

- Council requires all new staff to complete functional assessments to determine additional needs so that any modification required can be made to accommodate staff with disabilities
- Functional assessments are also undertaken after any incident/accident involving existing staff that occur in or out of the workplace to accommodate any changes in their ability to undertake normal duties
- Working with Disability Services to provide workplace volunteer placements in Bingara Library and other Council facilities that are able to accommodate these volunteers
- Provide school work experience placements for high school students with disability
- Development and Implementation of the positive Ageing Strategy
- Developing Gwydir's Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan in line with individual Town Strategies
- Installation of adaptive technologies at Council run public facilities including libraries and toy libraries.

Community Consultation

This Plan was developed through a community consultation process. A review of Council documents and Government policy has also taken place and a Disability Advisory Committee formed that consists of Council staff, Elected Members, disability and inclusion professionals and community members.

Feedback and recommendations from participants have been sought from the community and from service providers, all of whom have played a vital role in the formation of this Plan.

From our consultation process, Council has devised an Action Plan that it will endeavour to achieve for the period to further enhance our Shire and ensure that it is accessible to all who have the right to enjoy it.

Council will continue to actively consult with the community and service providers to ensure that we are providing the most appropriate facilities, services and resources to our community.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES/FOCUS AREAS –

Focus Areas 1 - PROMOTING POSITIVE COMMUNITY ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOURS

Aim – To build community awareness of the rights and capabilities of people with disability and support the development of positive attitudes and behaviour towards people with disability.

WHAT WE HEARD

People with disability told us what would make a difference to their community participation. We also heard from carers and family and friends of people with disability together with community service providers and health workers.

There was positive feedback for Council's Commonwealth Home Support Programme services and programs as well as the library activities and resources.

The majority of challenges identified by participants related to mobility (in terms of navigating the built environment) and access to transport.

Key community responses highlighted the importance of being involved in the local community and having access to appropriate services and recreational and social opportunities. Access to services is difficult and transport is a major issue for travel to other centres for day programs and respite services.

COMMUNITY VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGE

As a whole, Gwydir Shire is a place where people want to live and the response from people with disability and their carers has been positive. Friendly small communities make it easier for people to be a part of events and celebrations as well as participating in every day social activities.

However there are barriers within the built environment which need to be addressed. The issue of isolation and distance to medical services is a common theme and navigating the NDIS features strongly.

WHAT WE WILL DO NEXT

Continue advertising for the community about the range of services available to them and how they can be accessed.

Increase visibility of people with disability in Council and community publications.

Work with volunteer organisations to create awareness about the value of engaging people with disability.

ACTION PLAN FOR THIS FOCUS AREA

Strategic Goal	Action	Measurement	Responsibility	Community Strategic Plan Link	Timeframe
Promote Positive community attitudes and behaviours	Audit Council's websites to ensure that they are promoted inclusively through the use of imagery and language that	Website includes appropriate images and language	Communications and Media	1.2.1 Enable accessible and affordable lifestyle options	30 June 2024
	Utilise International Day of People with Disabilities to promote inclusion to the entire community	Positive media coverage before, during and after event	Communications and Media		30 June 2024
	Develop and facilitate Disability Awareness Training for staff (independent of induction training)	Complete staff training and continue education and awareness	People and Culture		30 June 2024
	Develop website to include resources for Access and Inclusion on Council's website	Website visitors have access to information and resources on accessibility and inclusion	Communications and Media		30 June 2024

Focus Area 2 - CREATING LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

Aim – To increase participation of people with disability in all aspects of community life, through targeted approaches to address barriers in housing, learning, transport, health, social and cultural engagement and wellbeing.

WHAT WE HEARD

It is important that all people can move about easily to access facilities and services and to participate in community life. Pedestrian access featured highly in our community consultation with calls for footpaths that are better maintained and suitable for people with mobility issues.

Suggestions were also made for safety education for pedestrians and mobility aid users. More seating in the main street for aged/people with mobility issues was also raised.

A lack of safe and appropriate access into shops for people with disability, mobility aid users and the elderly continue to be a concern.

COMMUNITY VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGE

It is important to the community that playgrounds include equipment that is accessible for all to enjoy.

Footpaths should be well maintained and built to accommodate those with mobility issues.

Easier access to community events is important, so that everyone can enjoy them and be a part of their community.

Ensuring that all council facilities and future infrastructure projects are accessible for all is important

WHAT WE WILL DO NEXT

Remove barriers to services and facilities for people with disabilities

Raise awareness and provide practical strategies and assistance to local communities and agencies to work toward a safer and inclusive environment

Create solutions to develop and support liveable communities

ACTION PLAN FOR THIS FOCUS AREA

Strategic Goal	Action	Measurement	Responsibility	Community Strategic Plan Link	Timeframe
Creating liveable communities	Develop shared pathways education resources to reduce conflict	Decrease in customer complaints	Town Services & Utilities	1.2.2 A shared responsibility for	30 June 2024

	between pedestrians and mobility users			community safety	
	Provide opportunities for community connection by facilitating and promoting International Day of People with Disability event	Community celebration and participant feedback	Aged and Disability Services	1.2.3 Celebrate our creativity and cultural expression	30 June 2024
	Audit activities and events run by Council for accessibility	Accessibility issues identified and rectified	Events		30 June 2024
	Introduce Accessibility & Inclusion checklist to the Event Management Plan process to create awareness and accountability for event organisers	Assist & Educate event organisers to help create inclusive events	Communication and Media & Aged and Disability Services		30 June 2024
	Audit Council buildings and facilities to ensure compliance with accessibility requirements	Council facilities are accessible to all who need to use them	Building Services	1.2.2 A shared responsibility for community safety	30 June 2024
	Audit Council libraries equipment and resources in terms of height and reach accessibility	Library equipment and resources are to standard	Community Assets		30 June 2024
	Council footpaths are assessed and prioritised for repair/replacement according to compliance standards	All Council footpaths meet compliance standards	Town Services & Utilities	1.2.2 A shared responsibility for community safety	30 June 2024
	Create education and awareness resources for business owners to ensure shops and shop fronts are accessible	Shop owners can access information and tools needed to provide	Communication and Media	1.2.2 A shared responsibility for community safety	30 June 2024

		inclusive spaces for all			
	Add tactiles to public toilets	All Council public amenities have tactiles for vision impaired individuals	Building Services	1.2.2 A shared responsibility for community safety	30 June 2024

Focus Area 3 - SUPPORTING ACCESS TO MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT

Aim – To increase the number of people with disability in meaningful employment, thereby enabling people with disability to plan for their future, exercise choice and control, and increase their economic security.

WHAT WE HEARD

Meaningful employment contributes to independence and feelings of self-worth. Opportunities to work in paid and volunteer roles are important to our community members with disability. Local employment, especially school leavers, is important for the long term future of the community.

COMMUNITY VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGE

Provide more opportunities for meaningful employment for people with a disability

Provide accessible work places

Provide opportunities for work experience for high school students and volunteer opportunities for community members with disability

WHAT WE WILL DO NEXT

Support, educate business owners and internally develop access to meaningful employment opportunities

ACTION PLAN FOR THIS FOCUS AREA

Strategic Goal	Action	Measurement	Responsibility	Community Strategic Plan Link	Timeframe
Enhance the employment opportunities of people with disability	Develop Council’s Workforce Management Strategy to include best practice guidelines for inclusion	Gaps in Workforce Management Strategy identified and addressed	People and Culture	2.2.1 Increase the range of opportunities to work locally	30 June 2024

within Gwydir Shire					
	Review recruitment and selection processes including language, forms, technology and imagery	Recruitment & selection processes are inclusive and accessible	People & Culture	5.1.5 Provide responsible internal governance	30 June 2024
	Provide information and training to managers/supervisors to increase their knowledge, skills and confidence	Increased level of awareness for managers and supervisors on inclusivity	People & Culture	5.1.5 Provide responsible internal governance	30 June 2024
	Continue to work with disability employment agencies and schools to identify opportunities for employment and work experience, both paid and unpaid	Number of opportunities for placement is consistent and utilised	People & Culture		30 June 2024
	Continue to conduct and respond to Staff Disability Inclusion Survey	Survey results collated and actioned via recommendation to executive	People & Culture	5.1.5 Provide responsible internal governance	30 June 2024
	Review current communication methods and mechanisms to ensure compliance with Standards	Councils methods and mechanisms for communication are compliant	Communications & Media and Information Services	5.1.5 Provide responsible internal governance	30 June 2024

Focus Area 4 - IMPROVING ACCESS TO SERVICES THROUGH BETTER SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES

Aim – To ensure that people with disability can make informed choices about available services and to easily and efficiently access mainstream government services and other opportunities in the community.

WHAT WE HEARD

Service information and processes are not always readily available and do not always allow for people with a range of disabilities. Barriers include a lack of accessible information, inflexible processes and limited opportunities for feedback and input.

Council needs to ensure that people with disability have equal access to information and services.

COMMUNITY VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGE

Make information available in more locations to ensure awareness of availability

Ensure information is provided in a variety of formats including the National Relay Service for people with disability

Provide more information about the national Disability Insurance Scheme and where to go for help.

WHAT WE WILL DO NEXT

Provide better processes for information and feedback from the disability community within the scope of Council's available resources.

Streamline and improve systems and processes by which families, children and young people can access timely targeted mainstream support.

ACTION PLAN FOR THIS FOCUS AREA

Strategic Goal	Action	Measurement	Responsibility	Community Strategic Plan Link	Timeframe
Information is provided in a variety of formats	Investigate, develop and implement alternative formats for all Council documents that are publicly available to ensure they are accessible to all	Plain English and other accessible formats are available for the community	Organisation & Community Services	5.1.5 Provide responsible internal governance	30 June 2024
Community Engagement is meaningful and inclusive for all	Ensure that the Community Engagement Strategy is inclusive for all to participate in engagement	Community engagement is accessible to all	Organisation and Community Services	4.1.2 Enable broad, rich and meaningful engagement to occur	30 June 2024
	A variety of consultation methods are used to ensure that	Increase in participation levels of engagement	Organisation and Community Services	4.1.2 Enable broad, rich and meaningful engagement to occur	30 June 2024

	all are able to participate				
	Utilise the knowledge and skills of the Disability Advisory Committee to facilitate engagement	Meaningful engagement occurs through specialised knowledge and processes	Organisation and Community Services	4.1.2 Enable broad, rich and meaningful engagement to occur	30 June 2024

Implementation and Monitoring

This Disability Inclusion Action Plan includes timelines to guide the completion of the actions. The process will be monitored and evaluated through the Integrated Planning and Reporting cycle to ensure compliance.

Implementation of the Plan will be the responsibility of the relevant Business Unit Managers/Supervisors and their staff. Each action will be monitored and reported 6 monthly.

The Director of Organisation and Community Services will monitor the overall progress and implementation of the Plan and the integration of its actions into Council’s Integrated Planning and Reporting documents, in consultation with the Disability Advisory Committee.

Reporting

Outcomes and achievements will be reported through Council’s Annual Report and 6 monthly reports to the community. These reports will be published on Council’s website www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au and available at Council’s customer service centres and libraries.

A report will also be provided to the Department of Communities and Justice and the Minister for Disability Services.

Review

This Plan will be reviewed annually in line with the Integrated Planning and Reporting cycle.

An audit, evaluation and review of the Plan will be conducted at the end of its term.

9 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cr Galvin advised the meeting that she attended the following events:

The Regional Library Meeting held at Bingara, representing Cr Egan; and;

The special performance of The Jungle Book that was held as a fund raiser for the Gwydir Learning Region Country Education Foundation. At the conclusion of the performance, I presented Mrs. Robyn Phillips with the Katie Walker Outstanding Service Award to the Country Education Foundation of NSW.

Cr Mulligan advised the meeting that the power poles at the Croppa Creek rail crossing require raising.

Cr Matthews advised the meeting that Mr. Garry McDouall has requested that the Parade of Stones in Junction Park not be weed controlled with poison and that he will whipper snip them regularly.

Cr Moore raised the following issues:

The northern end of the Warialda By-pass has deteriorated and requires attention. The Director of Engineering advised that the road in that area has a poor sandstone base and will be repaired and asphalted in the near future;

There a number of pot holes in Mosquito Creek Road that require attention; and;

Requested an update on the current public toilets operating in Warialda, which was provided.

Cr J Coulton raised the following issues:

He advised that he and the CFO met with The Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP to catch up on the issues of concern to the Council. Among the matters raised was the perception of a growing rural crime problem. Baraby suggested that Gwydir could get together with other rural Councils experiencing similar problems and arrange for a delegation of Councils to meet with the appropriate Federal Ministers during the Australian Local Government Association Annual National Assembly in Canberra. When the meeting was asked if this course of action is endorsed there was strong agreement;

Cr Coulton gave an update on the progress of the Inland Rail proposal. He advised the meeting that the Federal Government has decided to prioritise the line south of Parkes, which will result in the line north of North Star being deferred until possibly 2027; and;

The 8th June 2023 Committee Meetings will now be held in Warialda rather than Bingara.

10 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

THAT the Council resolve into Confidential Session, Committee of the Whole and that in the public interest and in accordance with Section 10A (2) 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 Mulligan, Seconded Cr Moore)

CARRIED

For: Cr J Coulton, Cr Galvin, Cr Matthews, Cr Moore and Cr Mulligan

Against: Nil

10.1 Adoption of the Recommendations of the Confidential Session

The meeting was re-opened to the public at 11.51 am.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

THAT the recommendations of the Confidential Session, namely:

NAMOI Job Activation Project

THAT the presenters of the Namoi Regional Job Precinct Project, Ms. Jocelyn Cockbain and Ms. Alyssa Wright, are thanked for their presentation.

Confidential Organisation & Community Services

THAT the report be received.

The Living Classroom Land Acquisition

THAT Council proceed with the compulsory acquisition of Lot 2 DP 1156411 as shown at attachment AT-1, for the purpose of Community Centre and Agricultural Education Centre in accordance with sections 186 and 187 of the Local Government Act 1993 and in accordance with the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991.

FURTHER that Council make an application to the Minister and the Governor for approval to acquire Lot 2 DP 1156411, by compulsory process under section 186(1) and 187 of the Local Government Act 1993 for the purpose of Community Centre and Agricultural Education Centre in accordance with the requirements of the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991.

FURTHER that Council makes the said application to confer rights and interests, being the right to develop a Community Centre and Agricultural Education Centre, in relation to the land to be acquired, on Gwydir Shire Council in accordance with section 26(1)(c)(iii)(A) of the Native Title Act 1993.

FURTHER that Council does not acquire the mineral rights over the land to be acquired.

FURTHER that the land is to be classified as operational land in accordance with section 31 (2) of the Local Government Act 1993.

FURTHER that for the purposes of section 30 of the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991, the Council agrees to the land being acquired for compensation, set at the market value of the land, as agreed by the General Manager and the Department of Planning and Environment – Crown Lands.

FURTHER that Council delegate to the General Manager or his delegate the power to do anything further as necessary to give effect to the compulsory acquisition including obtaining any necessary approvals and publishing any necessary notices in the Gazette.

FURTHER that authority be granted to the General Manager to affix the Common Seal of the Council to any documentation required to give effect to this resolution.

FURTHER that Council notes that compensation may become payable to the Gomeri People in accordance with section 24MD of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth), for the compulsory acquisition of native title rights and interests, in the event that the Federal Court of Australia determines that Native title existed in the land prior to acquisition.

GWY_2023_T07 Supply & Delivery of Roadbase Material

THAT Council adopt a list of recognised contractors to be invited to quote for the proposed supply and delivery of roadbase material as a panel contract comprising the following companies, subject to agreement of terms and conditions:

- a. Johnstone Concrete and Quarries Pty Ltd
- b. Regional Quarries Australia Pty Ltd

FURTHER delegated authority is given to the General Manager to conduct all relevant functions under the panel contract

are adopted.

(Moved Cr Galvin, Seconded Cr Mulligan)

CARRIED

For: Cr J Coulton, Cr Galvin, Cr Matthews, Cr Moore and Cr Mulligan

Against: Nil

11 CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 11.55 am.