

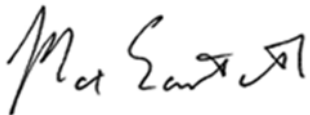


NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that an **Ordinary Meeting of Gwydir Shire Council** will be held in the Roxy Meeting Room, on **Thursday 25 November 2021** (commencing at **9am**) to discuss the items listed in the Agenda.

Your attendance is respectfully requested.

Yours faithfully,



Max Eastcott
General Manager

Following the meeting a luncheon will be held to acknowledge the Service Awards for various staff members in the Roxy Complex Courtyard

This meeting is being held subject to Clause 393B Exercise of council functions during caretaker period

- (1) The following functions of a council must not be exercised by the council, or the general manager or any other delegate of the council (other than a Joint Regional Planning Panel, the Central Sydney Planning Committee or a local planning panel), during a caretaker period--
 - (a) entering a contract or undertaking involving the expenditure or receipt by the council of an amount equal to or greater than \$150,000 or 1% of the council's revenue from rates in the preceding financial year (whichever is the larger),
 - (b) determining a controversial development application, except where--
 - (i) a failure to make such a determination would give rise to a deemed refusal under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 , section 8.11(1), or
 - (ii) such a deemed refusal arose before the commencement of the caretaker period,
 - (c) the appointment or reappointment of a person as the council's general manager (or the removal of a person from that position), other than--
 - (i) an appointment of a person to act as general manager under section 336(1) of the Act, or
 - (ii) a temporary appointment of a person as general manager under section 351(1) of the Act.
- (2) Despite subsection (1), such a function may be exercised in a particular case with the consent of the Minister.
- (3) In this section--

"caretaker period" means the period of 4 weeks preceding the date of an ordinary election.

"controversial development application" means a development application for designated development for which at least 25 persons have made a submission during community consultation.

"designated development" means designated development within the meaning of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 , section 4.10.

"local planning panel" has the same meaning as in the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 .

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There will be at least one additional late report delivered next week.

GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL

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

AGENDA

ORDINARY MEETING DURING THE CARETAKER PERIOD

**25 November 2021
9am**

OFFICIAL OPENING AND WELCOME – MAYOR

APOLOGIES Cr Galvin

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Minutes of the Confidential and Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday, October 28, 2021 as circulated be taken as read and CONFIRMED.

PRESENTATION

The Mayor will be conducting a Citizenship Ceremony for Ms. Marlina Farriss during the morning tea break between 10 and 10.30 am.

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

1. Organisation & Community Development Monthly Report

It is recommended that the Council resolve into Committee of the Whole with the press and public excluded to allow consideration of this item, as provided for under Section

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

2. GLR Country Education Fund

It is recommended that the Council resolve into Committee of the Whole with the press and public excluded to allow consideration of this item, as provided for under Section 10A(2) (a) of the Local Government Act, 1993, on the grounds that the report contains personal matters concerning particular individuals.

MAYORAL MINUTE (If any)

DEFERRED ITEMS – Nil

OFFICERS' REPORTS (As listed)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – OPEN

Councillors' Reports

Following the meeting a luncheon will be held to celebrate the long service milestones for the following staff members

10 years

Sarah Jane Turner
Carl Tooley
Graham Phillipott
Steven Apthorpe

15 years

Carol Bussell
Darryl McManus
Terry Rowleson
Tania Brennan
David Sullivan

20 years

Vincent McTaggart

25 years

Peter Kennedy – Warialda

35 years

Tim Smith

40 years

Kevin Johnson

Item 1 Organisation & Community Development**FILE REFERENCE** 21/29211**DELIVERY PROGRAM****GOAL:** 5. Organisational Management**OUTCOME:** 5.1 CORPORATE MANAGEMENT**STRATEGY:** 5.1.4 Workforce planning - OCD - internal**AUTHOR** Organisational and Community Services Director**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST** Nil**IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

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

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**NAROO FRAIL AGED HOSTEL WARIALDA****Resident News and Outings**

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





COMMONWEALTH HOME SUPPORT PROGRAM WARIALDA/DELUNGRA**Budget**

Sharon Baker

Meetings

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

Volunteers

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

Transport and Trips

Inverell community bus is making fortnightly shopping trips.

Transport still operating taking clients to appointments.

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

Social Support

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

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

Day Centres

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

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

Delungra Day Centre also had a stick vacuum purchased.

Food Service

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

October 2021 Report		
Day Centre	Delungra	Warialda
Total active clients	21	93
Clients receiving service	11	52
Total Meals	50	169
Hours Clients Receive in Centre	221	385
Social Support		
Number of Clients	11	52
Individual Hours	2	72
Group Hours	119	314
Total Hours Received	121	386
Food Service (Meals on Wheels)		
Clients	0	5
Meals	0	122

Transport		
Number of Clients	2	20
Number of Trips	8	80
Transport Youth		
Number of Clients	0	0
Number of Trips	0	0
Access Bus Inverell		
Number of Clients	1	6
Number of Trips (per month)	4	4
Volunteers		
Number of Volunteers for the Month	3	35
Monthly Volunteer Hours	16	490

TOURISM AND EVENTS

October 2021

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

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

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

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

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

Visitor Information Centres

Warialda Visitor Information Centre

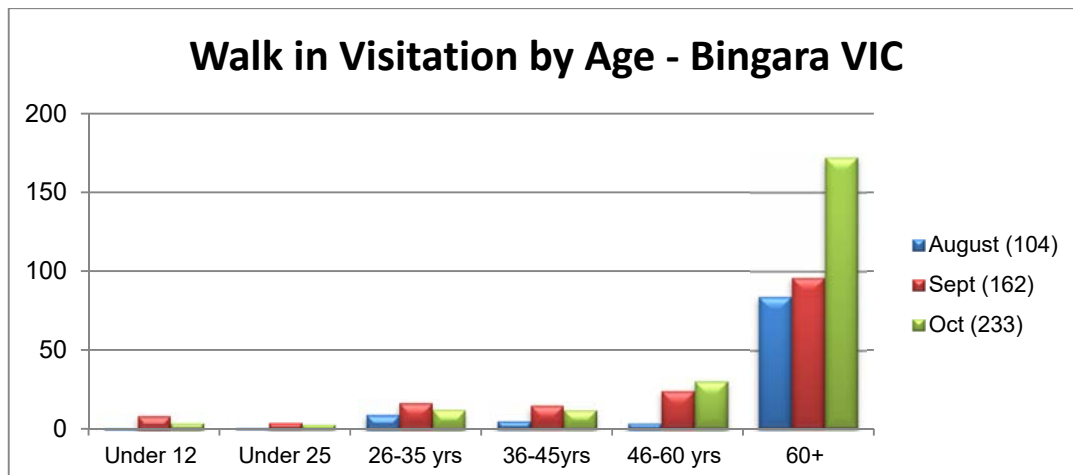
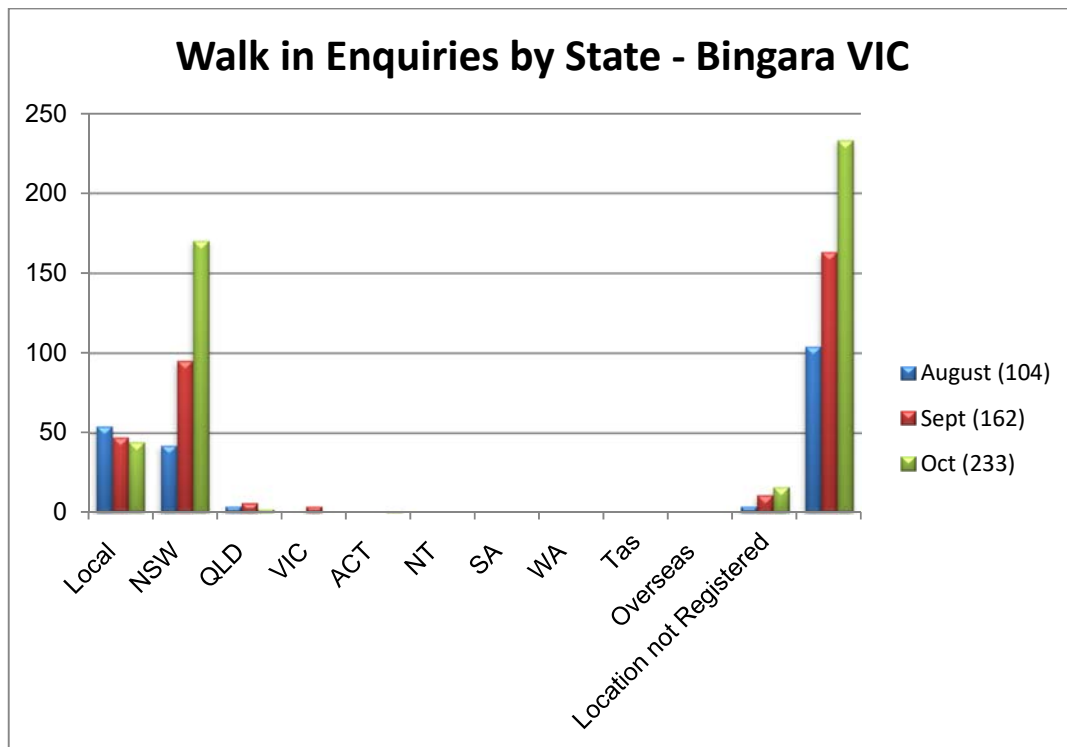
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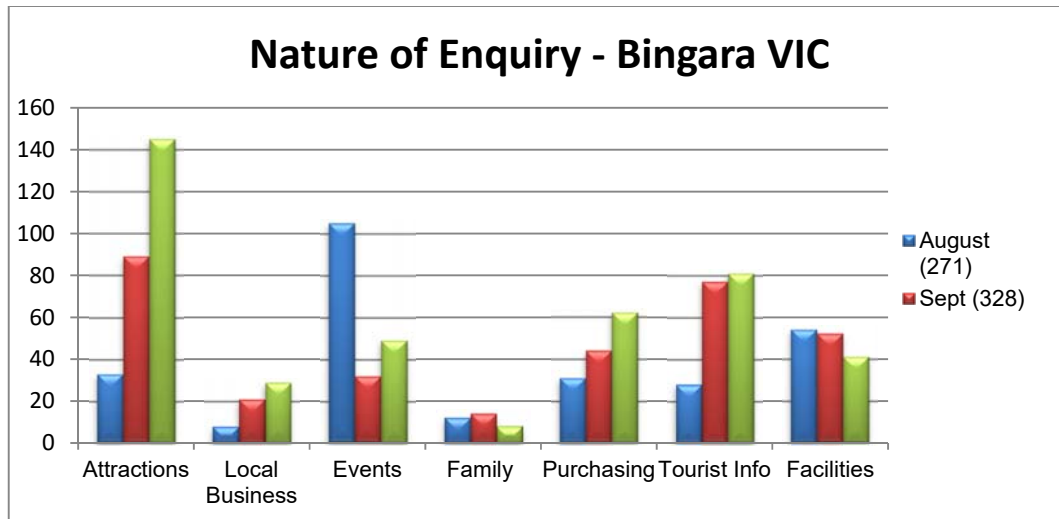
Bingara Visitor Information Centre

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

Income Bingara VIC	August	September	October
Products on Consignment	\$3.00	\$9.00	\$9.00
Merchandise	\$326.40	\$397.00	\$541.30

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





SOCIAL SERVICES

Bingara Neighbourhood Centre

Funding body – NSW Department of Communities and Justice

Bingara Neighbourhood Centre continues to assist community groups with grant applications and attend to the needs of the public through advocacy and referral to other services. North Star Hall Committee were successful in their application for funding through the neighbourhood centre for the addition on ceiling fans to the facility.

Centrelink

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

Youth Service

Funding body – NSW Department of Communities and Justice

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

Youth Council

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

Youth Mentoring Program

Month	Number of participants
August	3
September	2
October	6

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

Supported Playgroup Development Worker

Funding body – Dep of Community and Justice

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

Bingara Toy Library

Funding body – NSW Department of Education and Communities

Particulars	August	September	October
Total daily attendance count for children who utilised the service each month	67	69	38
Full borrowing memberships New/renew	0	1	1

Non borrowing memberships New/renew	0	0	0
Casual borrowing memberships. New/renew	0	0	0
Commemorative Birth Certificate - voucher memberships	0	0	0
Toys returned	0	6	0
Toys borrowed	1	1	0
Children and Groups using toys	1	1	0
Tuesday 4 play sessions	12	6	10
Wednesday 4 play sessions	19	35	42
Thursday 4 play sessions	0	4	11
KSK Program 8 sessions	48	41	93

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

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

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



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

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

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

Bingara Preschool

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

Days	September
Tuesday	24
Wednesday	27
Thursday	27
Friday	28

Educator Training

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

COVID-19

Bingara Preschool is still working under a strict COVID safe plan, where visitors and family access to the service is restricted. Communication is still

readily accessible through the service's social media platforms, telephone, and email.

Halloween Day Dress Up

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



Transition to Bingara Central School

In October the transition to school program resumed and the children who attend on Friday were given the opportunity to spend an hour each Friday at "Big School". The children were transported from Bingara Preschool by bus, which is always an exciting journey.

Virtual Community Visit



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



Nutrition Week

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



Children's Week

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

Tharawonga Mobile Resource Unit

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

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

New Venue

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

Staff Training and Development

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

Community Visits

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

National Nutrition Week

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

World Space Week

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

Aussie Backyard Bird Week

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



Grandparents Day

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



Yetman

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

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

North Star

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



Yallaroi

At Yallaroi we have welcomed a new enrolment this month. At Yallaroi the educators are providing the children with opportunities and responsibilities

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



Gravesend

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



Croppa Creek

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



CONSULTATION

Consultation has occurred within the Organisation and Community Development Directorate.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

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

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

Item 2 Technical Services October Report**FILE REFERENCE** 21/30105**DELIVERY PROGRAM****GOAL:** 5. Organisational Management**OUTCOME:** 5.1 CORPORATE MANAGEMENT**STRATEGY:** 5.1.3 Administrative functions - GM - internal**AUTHOR** Manager, Engineering Services**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST** Nil**IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

That the report be received.

TABLED ITEMS Nil**BACKGROUND**

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

COMMENT**ENGINEERING SERVICES**

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

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

Warialda High Productivity Vehicle Route

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

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

County Boundary Road

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

IB Bore Road

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

Sealed Road Construction

North

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



Churches Plain section of RR7705 North Star Road

South

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

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



Horton Road Earthworks

Gravel Resheeting

North

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

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



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

South

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

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



SR54 Pinecliff Rd Resheeting



SR45 Bereen Rd Resheeting

Maintenance Grading

Maintenance grading has been completed on the following roads:

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

Seal Maintenance

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

ENGINEERING ASSETS**Grants projects**

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

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

Local Emergency Management Committee

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

Landfill Operations

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

CONCLUSION

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

CONSULTATION

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

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item 3 Executive Services Monthly Report**FILE REFERENCE** 21/29212**DELIVERY PROGRAM****GOAL:** 5. Organisational Management**OUTCOME:** 5.1 CORPORATE MANAGEMENT**STRATEGY:** 5.1.3 Administrative functions - GM - internal**AUTHOR** General Manager**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST** Nil**IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

This report is tabled for reception.

TABLED ITEMS Nil**COMMENT****PLANNING**

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

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

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

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

No	Property Description and Description of Work	Reason	D/A	S96
28/2013	Johnstone Concrete & Quarries Pty Ltd 530 Gil Gil Creek Road Pallamallawa - Modification of existing approved 300,000 tonnes per year quarry to a 499,000 tonnes per year for a period of 5 years and to extend the haulage route north along Gil Gil Creek Road	Being referred, advertised, notified and exhibited for 21 days	-	✓
49/2016	Ceres Ag 'Gunyaerwarildi' 1470 North Star Road Warialda - Continued occupation/use of rural worker accommodation being the installation of a number of premanufactured cabins	Approved in principal awaiting compliance certification or engineering certification for the cabins	✓	-
39/2019	DJ Bull Fairford Road Warialda - 2 Lot Large Lot Subdivision	Request for additional information from applicant in relation to requirements under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016	✓	-
34/2021	Regional Quarries Australia Pty Ltd / Ground Works Plus / Doolin Minilya Pty Ltd 427 Minilya Road North Star - 490,000 tonne/ year quarry for 5 years and then a 150,000 tonne/year quarry for a further 10 years	Being referred, advertised, notified and exhibited for 28 days	✓	-

41/2021	Rural Plan Consultants / G A Norman 11 Salter Street Bingara - Garage	Being notified and exhibited for 14 days	✓	-
42/2021	B J Craddock / M M Stratford 23 Copeton Dam Road Bingara - Garage	Being notified and exhibited for 14 days	✓	-
43/2021	M A Anderson / B N Anderson 3949 Elcombe Road Bingara - Garage	Being notified and exhibited for 14 days	✓	-
44/2021	A G Anderson 943 Moreena Mail Road Bangheet - Dwelling	Being notified and exhibited for 14 days	✓	-

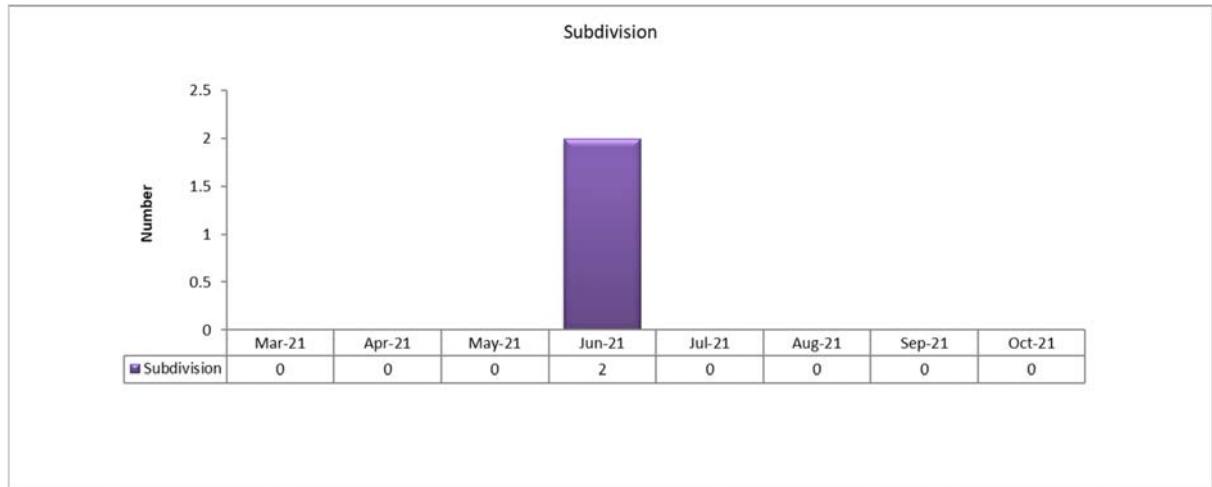
There were no Development (D/A) or Development Modification (s96) applications approved and not previously reported to Council for the month of October 2021.

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

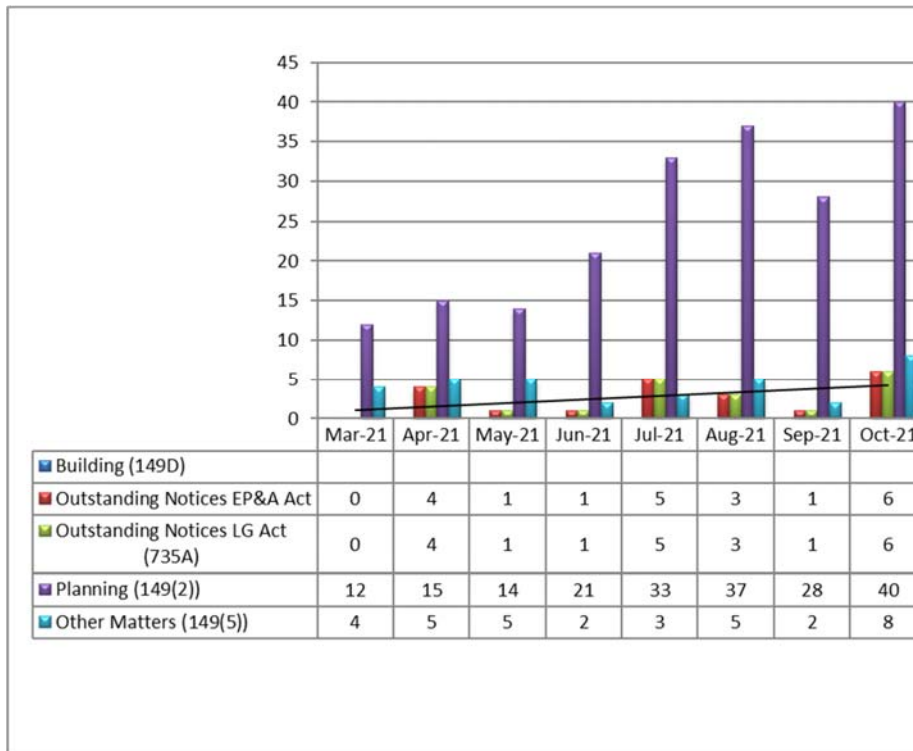
There were no Development (D/A) applications determined where there has been a variation in standards under clause 4.6 of the Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013 during the month of October 2021.

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

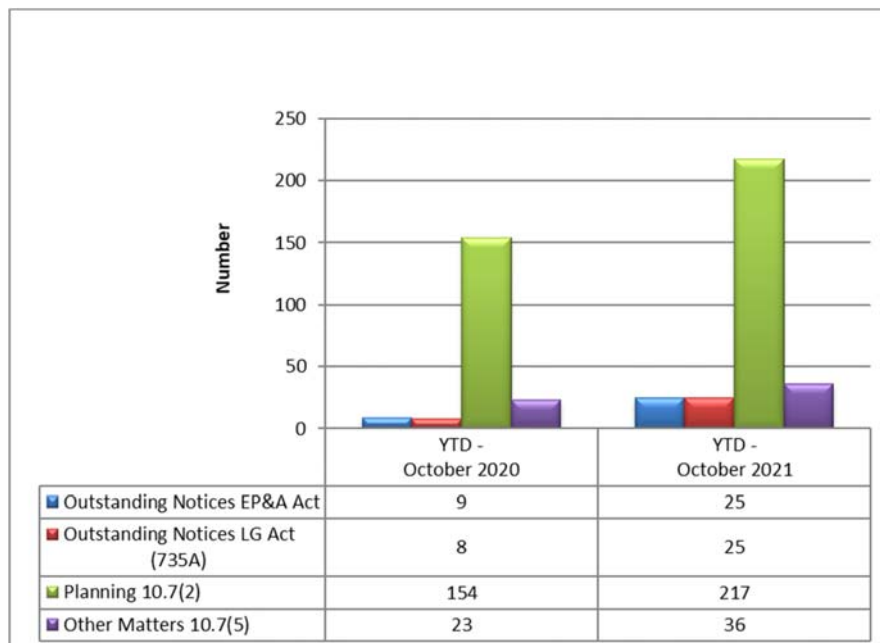
YTD August 2021 (includes private certifier lodged applications)



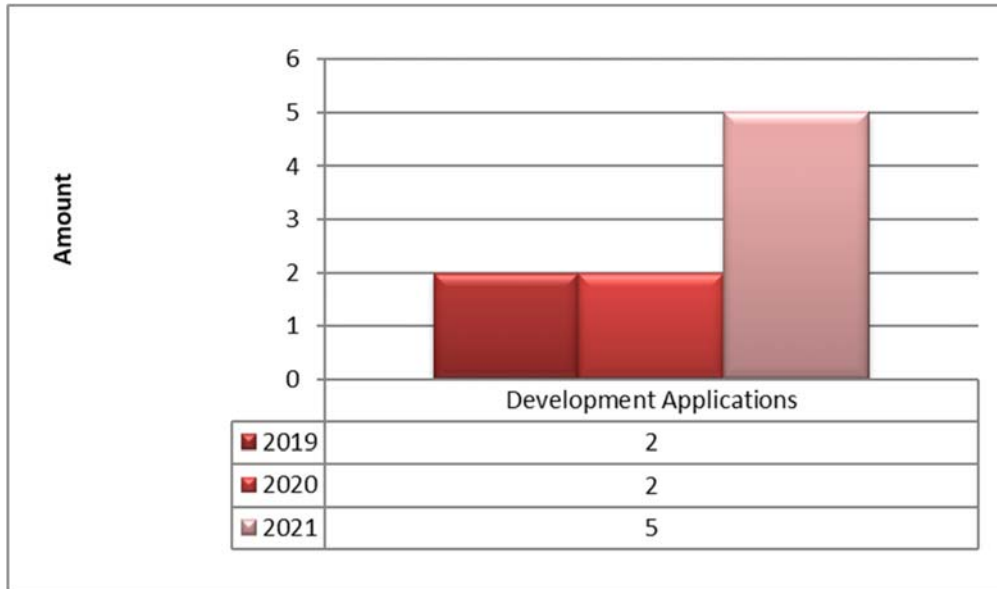
The following graph shows Conveyancing Certificates were issued during the month of October 2021 compared to the previous seven (7) months.



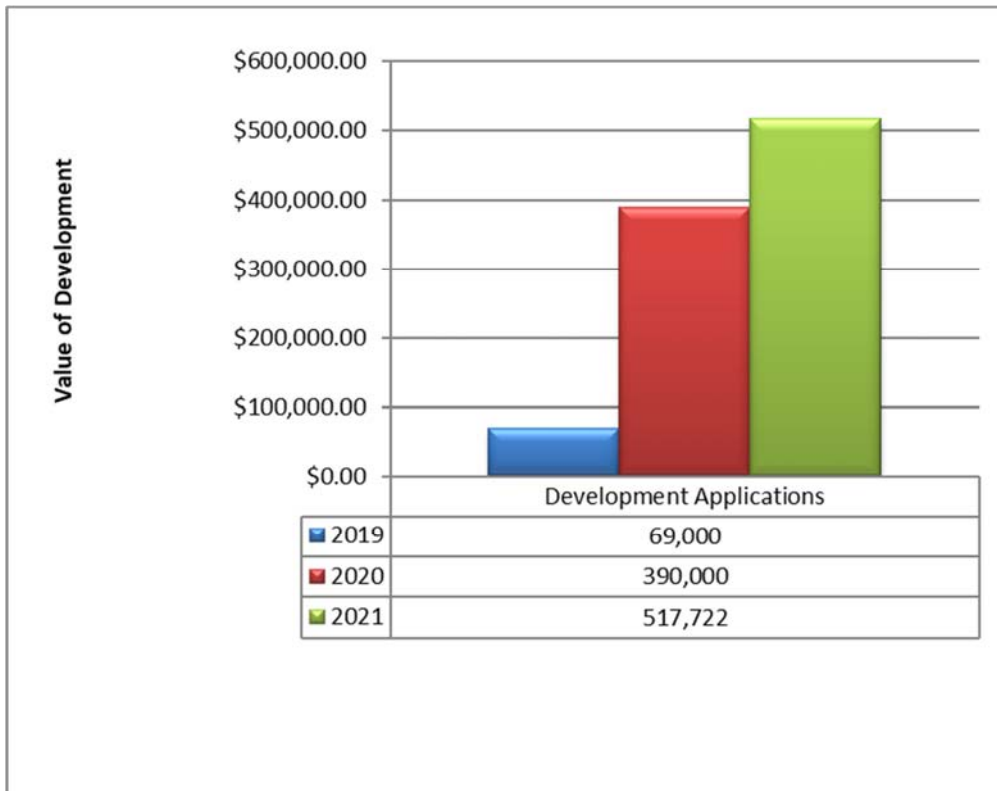
The following graph shows the number of Conveyancing Certificates issued up to and including the month of October 2021 compared with the same period in 2020.



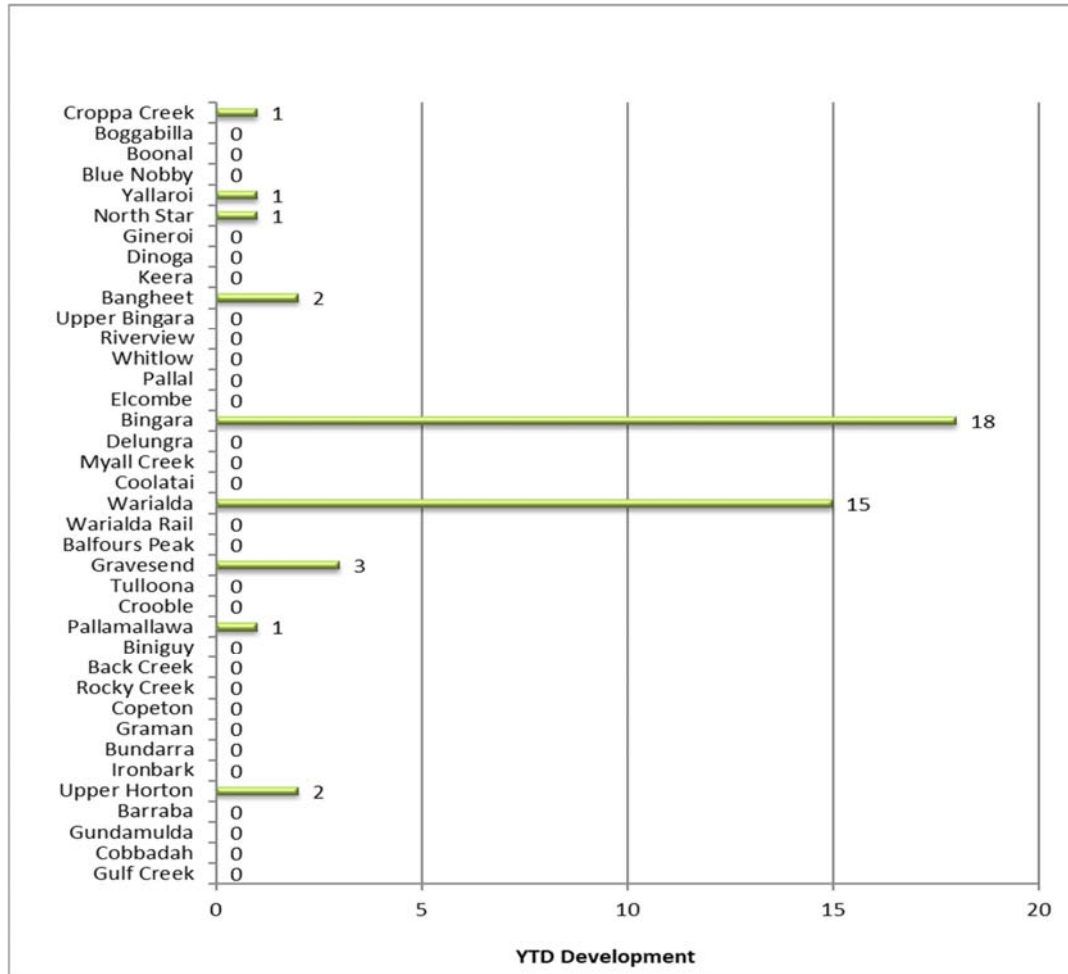
The table below shows a comparison between total applications lodged during the month of October 2021 compared to the same period in the previous two years.



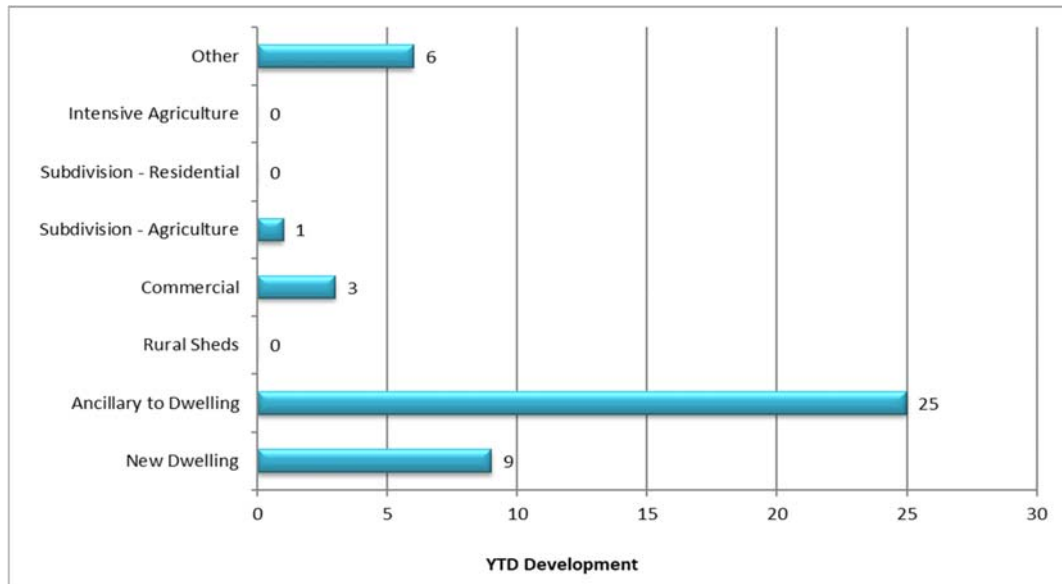
The table below shows a comparison between total value of applications lodged during the month of October 2021 compared to the same period in the previous two years.



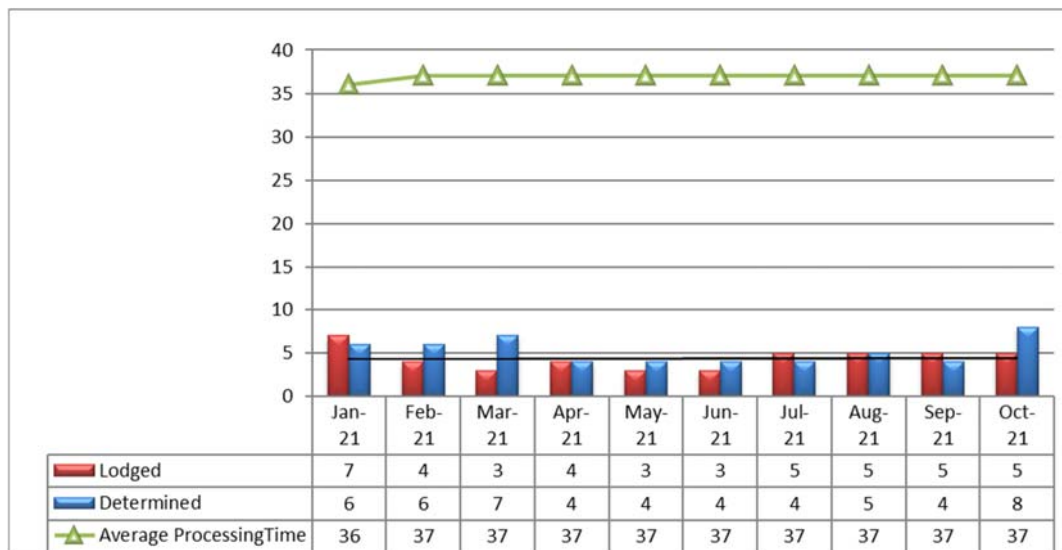
Development Applications Received for the year by locality – YTD October 2021



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



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



BUILDING SERVICES – September/October 2021

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

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

- Fees and charges

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

Number	Property Description	Development/Work	\$	C/C	CDC	BIC	S68
4/2021	19 Cobbadah Street Upper Horton	18m x 9m Garage/Shed	\$19,500.00	✓			
26/2021	67 Maitland Street Bingara	Additions & alterations to the existing dwelling	\$207,642.00	✓			
27/2021	40 Roger Moore Crescent Warialda	Attached awning over existing cement slab	\$18,000.00	✓			
28/2021	3261 Gragin Road Warialda	17.5m x 7m x 3.3m shed with WC	\$20,000.00	✓			
30/2021	226 Mt Jerrybang Road Gravesend	12m x 18m x 6m shed with attached 18m x 6m awning	\$114,240.00	✓			
31/2021	3 Ridley Street Bingara	12m x 7m x 3.12m 3-bay garage with workshop	\$27,000.00	✓			
32/2021	14 Kellys Gully Road Warialda Rail	12m x 18m x 6.16m garage/shed	\$84,210.00	✓			
35/2021	10-12 Narrabri Road Bingara	61.34m ² covered deck attached to the rear of the existing dwelling & 3-bay detached garage	\$49,500.00	✓			
19/2021	43 Adams Scrub Road Delungra	New OSSM system					✓
20/2021	67 Maitland Street Bingara	Demolition of existing bathroom and new ensuite, bathroom/laundry					✓
4/2021	82 Hope Street Warialda	Legalise Building Works Part of Building – enclosure of verandah attached to dwelling and removal of an internal wall	\$18,040.00			✓	

Illegal Activity

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

Number Of Complaints/Inspections September & October 2021

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

Building Maintenance

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

Projects Worked On

Staff worked on the following projects during September and October 2021:

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



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



Bingara Showground Amenities Building

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

September and October

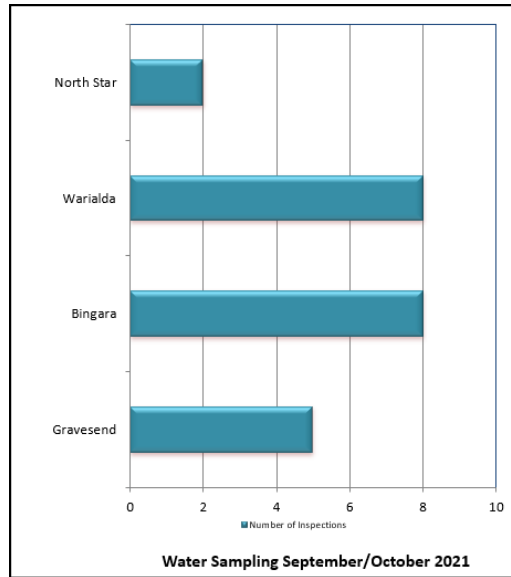
The Department continues to receive enquiries and provide advice on a range of health matters including

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

- Pet Ownership

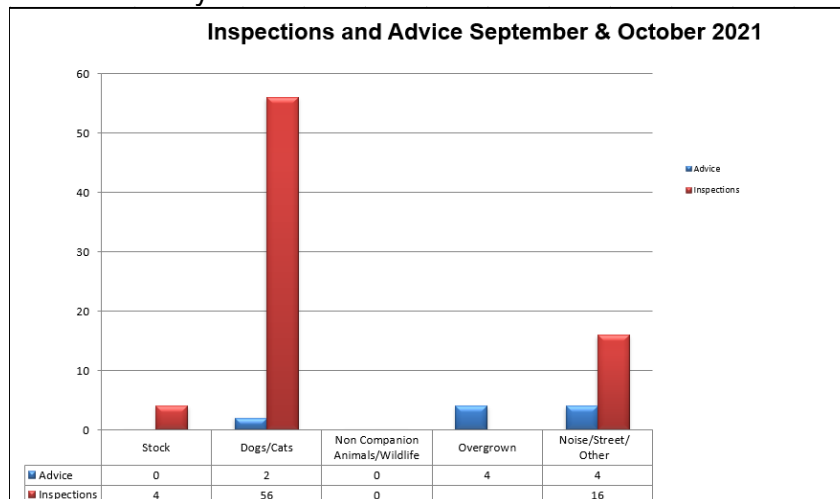
Water Surveillance

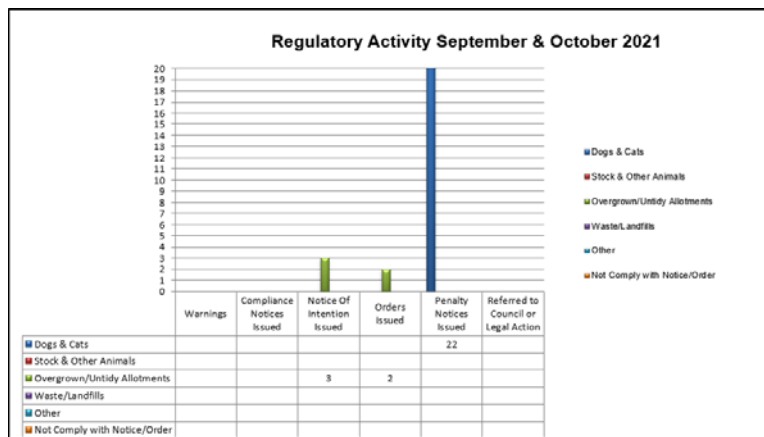
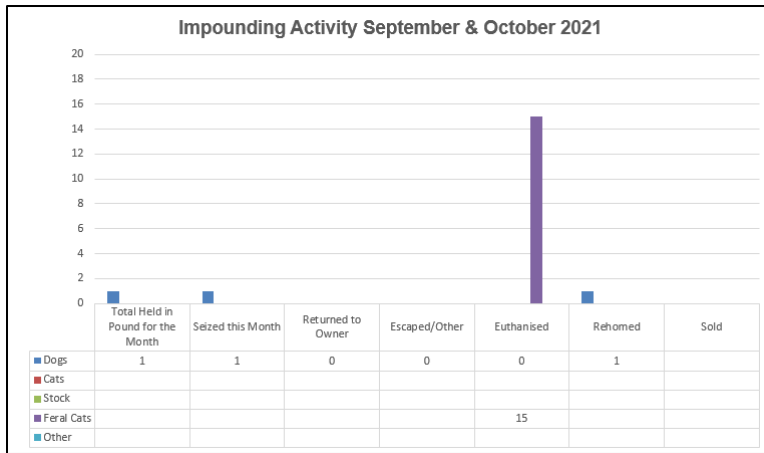
The Department continues to carry out routine sample collection for microbiological and chemical testing of the water supplies in the towns of Warialda and Bingara, fortnightly sampling of Gravesend and monthly sampling at North Star.



Compliance and Regulatory Control

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

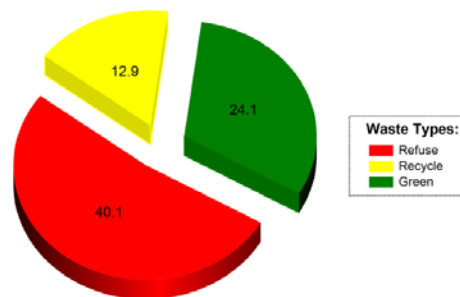




Waste Contract Services – September 2021

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

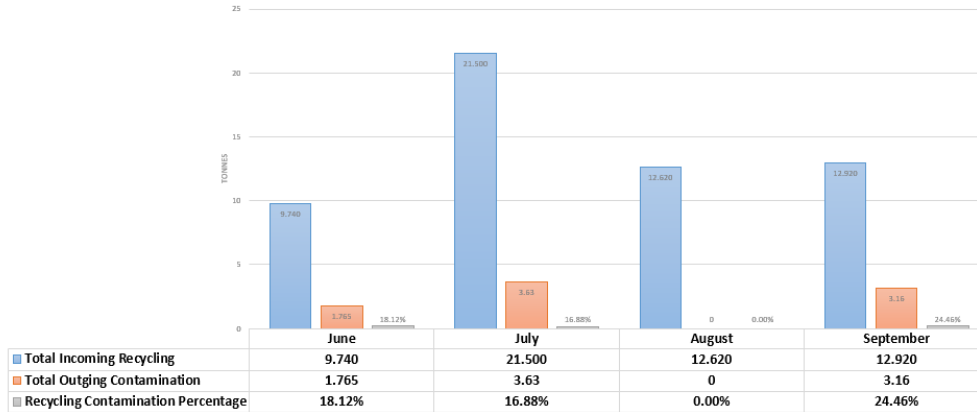
Breakdown of Tipping for the Period



Total Tipping Tonnes: 77.08

Recycling Contamination

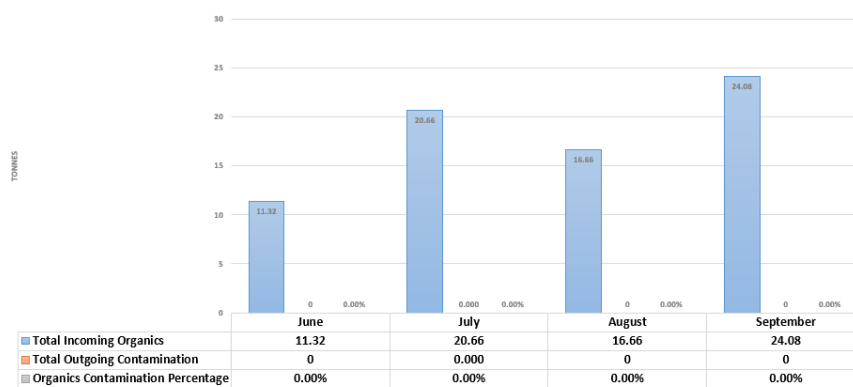
Gwydir Contaminated Recycling



Rates for Gwydir Shire

Organics Contamination

Gwydir Contaminated Organics



Rates for Gwydir Shire

Priority Weed Control

Property Inspection Program

Staff continue to assist farmers and the community with:

- Funding advice
- Noxious weeds advice
- Property inspections
- Spraying of noxious weeds
- Property inspections are currently being undertaken in Section E.
- Authorised Officers are participating in Rapid Response Task Force in response to Parthenium Weed incursions

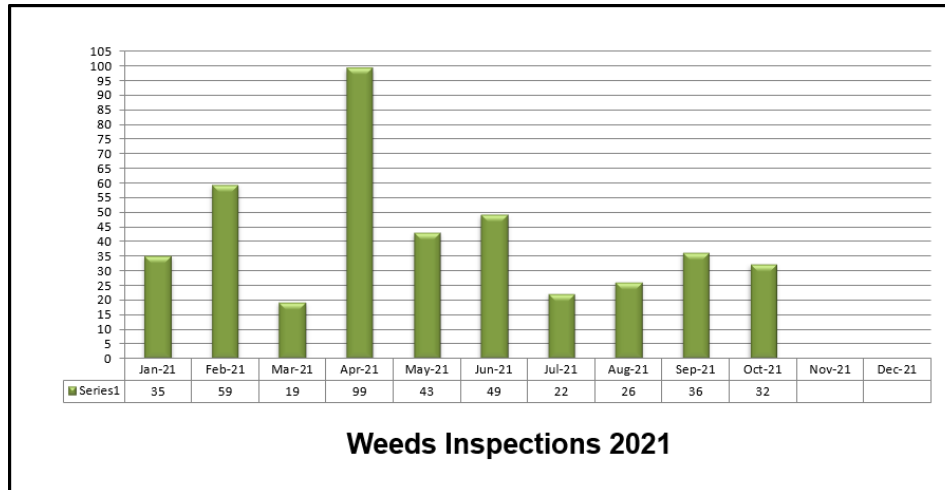
Section 28 Noxious Weeds Certificates

No Section 28 Certificates were issued for the month of September or October.

Weeds Inspections

Property inspections are being undertaken in Section E during 2021 with property owners being offered support and advice on managing weeds. Due to COVID-19 public health orders coming into effect during the month, private property inspections have been postponed until the restrictions are lifted. The parthenium outbreak at Croppa Creek continues to be inspected and monitored to ensure it is contained and then eliminated.

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



Noxious Weeds Inspections for the Month of September & October 2021

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

Other Council Lands	4	61	-	African Boxthorn, Pattersons Curse, Hemlock
Dept of Lands	2	52	-	St Johns Wort, Sweet Briar, General Weeds
NWLLS	1	6	-	Parthenium Weed
National Parks	1	10	-	St Johns Worts

Noxious Weeds Control Works for September & October 2021

Road/Property	Weed Code	Area Ha	Road km	High Risk Road	Council Road	Other
Towarra Rd	Pattersons Curse		27.1	1		
Junction Park	Marshmallow	5				1
Gineroi Rd	African Boxthorn		31.7		1	
Roadsides - Forest Creek Rd & Peates Rd	Mimosa Bush		47.9	1	1	
Bingara Common Camping Area	African Boxthorn, Pattersons Curse	20				1
Camp Sites - Bingara Common & Gravel Screen	African Boxthorn, Pattersons Curse	40				2
Roadsides - Blue Nobby Rd & Yallaroi Rd	Mother of Millions		54.4	2		
Roadside - Bells Creek & Campbell Ln	Pattersons Curse		5.97		2	
Roadside - Racecourse & Airstrip	Mother of Millions		3.14		2	
Warialda Forest	Mother of Millions	200				1
Crown Land Reserve	African Boxthorn	10			1	
Roadside - North Star	African Boxthorn		81.72	1		
Camp sites -						
Honeymoon/Bora Crossing	Pattersons Curse, Hemlock	20				2
Roadside - North Star	African Boxthorn		81.72	1		
Camp sites -						
Sunnyside/Sunnyside Beach/Gravel Screen	Pattersons Curse -Hemlock	45				3
Roadside - Oregon	African Boxthorn		47.3	1		
Camp Site - Bingara Common	Pattersons Curse	20				1
Roadside - Thornleigh	Pattersons Curse		17.2		1	
Cranky Rock Reserve	General Weeds	5				1
Roadside -						
Gragin/Langley/Glen						
Esk/Warragundi	African Boxthorn		51.61	1	3	
Roadsides - Moreena Mail & Eulourie	Pattersons Curse		47.1		2	
Roadside - Gournama	African Boxthorn		17.4	1		
Private Works - 11 Killarney						
Gap Road Bingara	General Weeds	0.2				1
Roadside - Croppa Moree	African Boxthorn		12.57	1		
Roadsides - Baroma						
Downs	African Boxthorn		20.51	1		
Roadsides - Baroma						
Downs	African Boxthorn		20.51	1		
Camp Site - Bingara	Pattersons Curse	36				2

Common & Faithful					
Roadside - Old Bora	Mother of Millions	5.44		1	
Roadsides - Eulourie	African Boxthorn	35.3		1	
Camp Sites - Faithful	African Boxthorn	16			1
Camp Sites - Faithful & Sunnyside	Hemlock	21			2
Roadside - Buckie	African Boxthorn	50.15	10.03	1	
Camp Site - Gravel Screen	Pattersons Curse -Hemlock	20			1
Camp Site - Bingara					
Common	Pattersons Curse	20			1
Roadside - Gulf Creek/Woodburn					
Emello/Cobbadah	Sweet Briar	418.65	83.73		3
Roadside - Croppa Moree	African Boxthorn	61.6	12.32	1	
Roadside - Croppa Moree - Croppa Creek	African Boxthorn	177.35	35.47	2	
Private Works –					
6 East Street Bingara	Green Cestrum	0.7			1
Roadside - Riverview/Whitlow	Sweet Briar	182.5	36.5		2
Roadside - Michells/Upper Whitlow/Reseve Creek	Sweet Briar	144.95	28.99		3
Roadside - Fairfield	African Boxthorn	64	12.8		1
Roadside - Back Creek - Terry Hie Hie - Killarney Gap	St Johns Wort	449.65	89.93		3
Roadside - Delungra	Sweet Briar	100.65	20.13	1	
Roadside - Cobbadah	St Johns Wort	246.65	49.33	1	
Roadside - Croppa Creek	African Boxthorn	115.75	23.15	1	
Roadside - Towarra - Thornleigh - Woodburn					
Emello	St Johns Wort, Sweet Briar	307.05	61.41		3
Roadside - Killarney Gap	St Johns Wort, Sweet Briar	332.5	66.5	1	
Road Side - Duftys	St Johns Wort, Sweet Briar	7.5	1.5		1

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

TOWN UTILITIES Monthly Report for October 2021

Water and Sewer

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

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

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



New sewer trench at Bingara Showground and Racetrack

Solar panels have been fitted at the Bingara Sewerage Treatment Works to run a new aerator in the ponds. The aerator purpose is to minimise the algae blooms that are causing elevated suspended solids in monthly discharge samples and non-conformance with EPA licence parameters.



New solar panels at Bingara Sewerage Treatment Plant



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

Warialda Truckwash

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

Grant Projects

Federal Drought Program

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

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

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

State Drought Program

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

Covid Stimulus Funding

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

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

Showground Stimulus funding

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

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



New amenities block at Bingara Showground

Parks and Gardens

All parks and gardens continue to be maintained. Council undertakes weekly inspections of playgrounds and cleaning of handrails and touch areas. Mowing, weed control, irrigation, hedging, and trimming were routinely undertaken during October. Council continues to mark and maintain the fields for the community groups using Council's ovals. Myall Creek and the Glacial area are inspected on a weekly basis.

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



Seedlings at The Living Classroom

Workshops and Depots – October 2021

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

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



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

Repairs and maintenance undertaken in the workshops during October included:

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

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



Replacement of worn-out turning circle in grader P1788



New 'grab' for 13T excavator P1986

Plant replacement

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



Side tipper and P1887



Side tipper

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



Delivery of the new Hino

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



P2009 – Toyota Hilux

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

COMMUNITY ASSETS**Caravan Parks**Bingara Caravan Park

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

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

Swimming Pools

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

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

Cranky Rock

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

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

Myall Creek

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

Gwydir Libraries

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

Branch activities:

- Medicare Express App assistance is offered daily this includes downloading and printing the digital COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate, and Check In Card.
- Library home deliveries and front door collections continue.
- After school programs have been well attended with children enjoying set activities.
- Be Connected and Tech Savvy Seniors' programs continue, and more people have sought assistance with their devices.

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

Staff

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

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

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

Property Management

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

Blue Hills and Jacaranda Estate – Bingara Residential Land Sales

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

Cleaning

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

NSW Blue Plaque Program

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

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

Attract, Connect and Stay

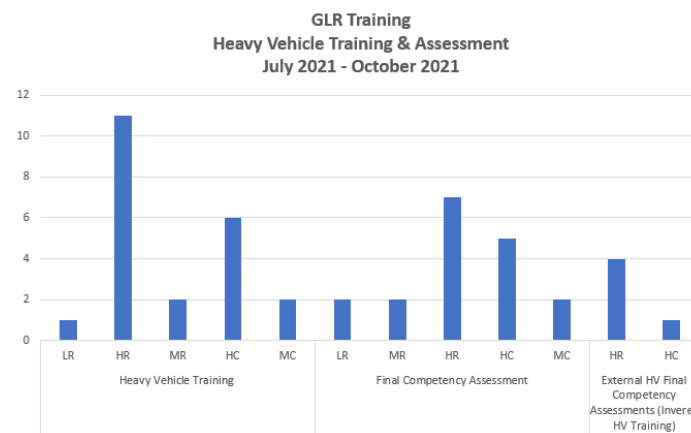
Representatives from Council and members of the Gwydir Health Alliance committee met with Dr Cath Cosgrave on Tuesday 26 October 2021 in Warialda. Following this meeting, the Gwydir Shire Council met on Thursday 28 October and considered a presentation from members of the Gwydir Health Alliance Sub-Committee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

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

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

GWYDIR LEARNING REGION

GLR Automotive Trade Training Centre (ATTC)



Heavy Vehicle Training and Assessment

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

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

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

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

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

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

Private Driver Tuition (Car) in October 2021 – 15

Staff Training in October 2021

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

2021 Gwydir Career Start Program

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

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

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

Position	Number of applications received	Interviews	Outcome
School Based Trainee Mechanic	2	To be arranged	
School Based Trainee Water and Sewer	2	Applicants to undertake a week's work experience with Water and Sewer Team prior to interviews being arranged	
Planning and Building Administration Trainee	4	Interviews held Wednesday 20 October 2021	Successful applicant to commence Monday 29 November 2021
Trainee Works Supervisor	Nil	N/A	N/A
Apprentice Gardener	3	To be arranged	
School Based Trainee Tourism	Nil	N/A	N/A
Trainee Care Service Employee (Narool Hostel)	3	Interviews held 26 October 2021	Successful applicants will commence Monday 15 November 2021
Trainee Environmental Planning Officer	1	Interview held on Wednesday 20 October 2021	Successful applicant appointed
Trainee Plant Operator	2	Interviews held	Successful applicants appointed
Apprentice Water and Sewer Operator	3	One application withdrawn. Interviews to be arranged the week commencing Monday 15 November	

Media and Communications

Gwydir Newsletter

The Media and Communications team have developed a website to complement the existing monthly publication. The website will be used to house current and changing information such as sporting and local political news, and any other timely events and information that cannot be reported on in the monthly publication. The website will also assist with the drive for new subscribers by providing a portal for a new subscriber form and managing the electronic subscription database. In the future it is anticipated that the website

may also help generate income through online web ads. Moreover, it will act as a platform to distribute the electronic newsletter subscriptions and other relevant news items, such as a fortnightly mini edition and urgent alerts and notices.



Charlotte Celebrates Rural Women

Warraldia High School student, Charlotte Lockyer, can add the title of *Country to Canberra 2021 Leadership Competition* finalist to her list of achievements after making the cut in the prestigious annual competition. In a pool of thousands of entries, Charlotte's piece was one of forty national finalists, just seven of which were from New South Wales.

Asked to respond to the topic *Courage to Challenge: what is the role of rural women in driving change in their communities?*, Charlotte took on the task with ease by exemplifying the strong examples of women surrounding her.

"I hope people start thinking more about the people in smaller jobs and behind the scenes and the way everyone contributes to make the community better," said Charlotte.

"Drawing from the inspirational figures in the Warraldia community and acknowledging those quiet heroes who just get on with helping others and expecting nothing in return, Charlotte's writing captures the women whose work and legacy is the heart of our region," said Warraldia High School English teacher, Kathryn Latham, "Well done, Charlotte."

The competitive program was judged by *Country to Canberra* volunteers and a selection panel, with Charlotte found to have demonstrated an excellent understanding of the topic and to have delivered them in an inspiring and powerful way.

Country to Canberra aims to empower young rural women (between 13-18) living in regional, rural and remote Australia to pursue leadership opportunities at school and within their community, by providing skill-building, networking and education opportunities, and by inspiring self-belief.



Charlotte Lockyer with mother and inspiration, Terri Hickman

The role of rural women in driving change within their communities by Charlotte Lockyer

When thinking about rural communities, the first thing that comes to mind are the men who sustain their communities.

This is because society is conditioned to view men in primary roles, but what about the people that support those men? What about the women? The wives, the mothers, the girlfriends, the sisters, the daughters, and the friends? They are the people who become the mothers, health-care workers, business owners and the fundraisers everyone's biggest support. They are the people who, not only support the men,

but their whole community. These women are the backbone of their communities. These women are the backbone of my community.

There are many inspirational women within my community, so many that it would be impossible to name them all. However, the most inspiring to me is my mother, Terri. She is not just inspiring because she is my mother (although I am biased), she is inspirational because of her spirit. The way she can single-handedly run two businesses, a farm, while simultaneously

raising myself and my two sisters, just leaves me in awe.

Why should just one moment make a person inspiring? Sure, one moment can stand out, but to me, a person is inspiring for the little things that they do. It's all the long-distance sport trainings, going above and beyond for students and waving and saying hello when they feel like doing anything but. All these things might not seem like much, but they can be everything. It's all the little things that can have the most impact.

...continued page 2

To receive your monthly digital copy of The Gwydir News delivered FREE to your inbox every month contact us at: editor@thegwydirnews.com.au or phone 0436 934 099.



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

Gwydir Shire Tourism Website Redesign

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

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

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

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

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

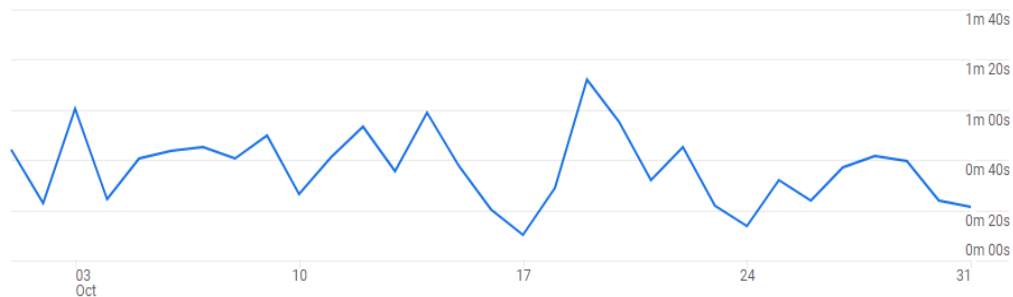
Users and new users

Users New users
 2.5K 1.5K



Engagement

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



THE LIVING CLASSROOM

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

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

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



Seedlings propagated at The Living Classroom

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

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

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

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

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

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

A koala drinking system has been set up against a Yellow Box tree at the South Eastern section of the Koala Tree area. Members of the Gwydir Ark Group obtained and installed the unit. In recent months a koala was seen crossing the Narrabri Road near the waste depot.



Koala drinking system at The Living Classroom

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

Item 4 Joint Organisation Membership

FILE REFERENCE 21/29984

DELIVERY PROGRAM

GOAL: 4. Proactive Regional and Local Leadership

OUTCOME: 4.1 WE ARE AN ENGAGED & CONNECTED COMMUNITY

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

AUTHOR General Manager

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

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

TABLED ITEMS Nil

BACKGROUND

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

The Minister's response is attached.

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

THAT the Minister for Local Government be advised:

- that the Council's preferred position remains that it is in the best interests of Gwydir Shire and its residents to become a full voting member of the New England Joint Organisation.
- that Gwydir Shire Council does not believe that any further delay until after the September 2021 elections will alter the basis for the Council's previous well considered resolution to leave Namoi Unlimited and join the New England Joint Organisation.
- that it be noted that the prior endorsement from both Namoi Unlimited and the New England Joint Organisation was obtained in support of Gwydir Shire's resolution prior to

making the formal approach to the Minister for Local Government.

(Moved Cr Egan, seconded Cr D Coulton)

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

Cr Galvin was an apology for the meeting.

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

COMMENT

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

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

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

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

ATTACHMENTS

AT- Previous Report

Ordinary Meeting - 25 February 2021

Gwydir Shire
Council

Item 1 Joint Organisation Membership

FILE REFERENCE 21/3622

DELIVERY PROGRAM

GOAL: 4. Proactive Regional and Local Leadership

OUTCOME: 4.2 WE WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS

STRATEGY: 4.2.2 Work in partnership to plan for the future - GM - external

AUTHOR General Manager

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

This report is for the information of Councillors.

TABLED ITEMS Nil

BACKGROUND

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

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION:
MINUTE 294/20**

THAT the report be received.

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

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

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

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

Ordinary Meeting - 25 February 2021

Gwydir Shire
Council

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

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

COMMENT

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

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

For determination

ATTACHMENTS

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

Ordinary Meeting - 17 December 2020	Gwydir Shire Council
Item 3	Joint Organisation Membership
FILE REFERENCE	20/30103
DELIVERY PROGRAM	
GOAL:	4. Proactive Regional and Local Leadership
OUTCOME:	4.2 WE WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS
STRATEGY:	4.2.1 Build strong relationships and shared responsibilities - GM - external
AUTHOR	General Manager
STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil	
IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION	
This report is for information.	
TABLED ITEMS	Nil
BACKGROUND	
At the last Council Meeting it was resolved:	
COUNCIL RESOLUTION: MINUTE 294/20	
<i>THAT the report be received.</i>	
<i>FURTHER that both Namoi Unlimited and the New England Joint Organisations be formally advised of the Council's decision to transfer this Council's membership from Namoi Unlimited to the New England Joint Organisation.</i>	
<i>FURTHER once the concurrence of the Boards of both Joint Organisations has been received to the transfer of this Council's membership from Namoi Unlimited to the New England Joint Organisation that the Minister for Local Government and the Council's State Member be advised seeking their support for the transfer.</i>	
COMMENT	
Following this resolution the Executive Officers of both Namoi Unlimited and the New England Joint Organisation were requested to place Gwydir's request as outlined in the Council's recent resolution.	
The New England Joint Organisation held its normal quarterly meeting at Moree Plains Shire Council Chambers on 30 th November 2020. At this meeting the Mayor successfully piloted the following motion through the meeting:	
Gwydir Shire Council	Page 1

Ordinary Meeting - 17 December 2020

Gwydir Shire
Council

41/20 RESOLUTION:

That the NEJO Board:

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

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

CONCLUSION

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

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

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

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

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

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the update report be received

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.



18th December 2020

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

Dear Minister

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

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

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



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

Gwydir Shire Council resolved at its November 2020 Ordinary Meeting:

THAT the report be received.

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

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

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

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

Ordinary Meeting - 25 February 2021
Joint Organisation Membership

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

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

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

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

That the NEJO Board:

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

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


RESOLVED That

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

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

Your positive consideration of this request would be appreciated.

Yours faithfully



Max Eastcott
General Manager

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

Ordinary Meeting - 25 February 2021
Joint Organisation Membership

Attachment 3
Response from Minister for
Local Government

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The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP
Minister for Local Government

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



Ref: A757044

Dear Mr Eastcott

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely

The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP
Minister for Local Government

10 FEB 2021

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

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

