



## NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that an **Ordinary Meeting of Gwydir Shire Council** will be held in the Roxy Conference Room, on **Thursday 30 September 2021** (commencing at **9am**) to discuss the items listed in the Agenda.

Your attendance is respectfully requested.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Max Eastcott", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Max Eastcott  
General Manager

<b>Content</b>	<b>Page No</b>
<b>COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>OFFICERS REPORTS</b>	
1. <b>Election of Deputy Mayor .....</b>	<b>5</b>
2. <b>Committee Memberships .....</b>	<b>8</b>
3. <b>Executive Services Monthly Report.....</b>	<b>10</b>
4. <b>Organisation and Community Services Monthly Report.....</b>	<b>39</b>
5. <b>Draft Policies for Bingara Preschool and Tharawonga Mobile Resource Unit (MRU).....</b>	<b>61</b>
6. <b>Attract, Connect, Stay, Program .....</b>	<b>62</b>
7. <b>Gwydir Shire Vaccination Hubs .....</b>	<b>66</b>

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# **GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL**

## **B U S I N E S S   P A P E R**

### **AGENDA**

#### **ORDINARY MEETING September 30, 2021 9am**

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**OFFICIAL OPENING AND WELCOME – MAYOR**

**APOLOGIES**

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary and Confidential Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday, August 26, 2021 as circulated be taken as read and CONFIRMED.**

**PRESENTATION**

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

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

**1. August Confidential Organisation And Community Services 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. Sale of property**

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) (c) of the Local Government Act, 1993, on the

grounds that the report contains personal matters concerning particular individuals; AND the report contains information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

**3. Purchase of a Grader**

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) (c) of the Local Government Act, 1993, on the grounds that the report contains information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

**MAYORAL MINUTE (If any)**

**DEFERRED ITEMS – Nil**

**OFFICERS' REPORTS (As listed)**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – OPEN**

**Councillors' Reports**

**Item 1 Election of Deputy Mayor****FILE REFERENCE** 21/22908**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 recommends the election of a Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the current Mayoral Term until a general local government election is held.

**TABLED ITEMS** Nil**BACKGROUND**

1. Section 231 of the *Local Government Act, 1993* provides that Council may elect a Deputy Mayor. If Council wishes to do so it should resolve accordingly
2. The same provisions apply for the election as for the Mayor except that the Term of Office may be determined by Council to be either the Mayoral Term or a shorter period. This has always been nominated as the Mayoral term of one year, which has now been increased to a two year term. It is recommended that the term of the Deputy Mayor remains as the same as the Mayoral term.

A nomination form is enclosed with this Agenda. Nominations may be received up until the election on the day of the Council's Meeting.

**RETURNING OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Council elects a Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the Council term to 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021 or the date of the next Local Government elections, whichever is the later.**

**(If an election is required) either:**

**(Only 2 candidates nominating)**

**FURTHER that the election for the Deputy Mayor be held with an ordinary ballot.**

**OR**

**(3 or more candidates nominating)**

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**FURTHER** that the election for the Deputy Mayor be held with a preferential ballot.

**AND**

**FURTHER** that the ballot papers are destroyed immediately following the declaration of the poll.

**ATTACHMENTS**

**AT-** Deputy Mayor Nomination Form

**GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL  
NOMINATION FOR DEPUTY MAYOR**

**We hereby nominate:**

Cr. \_\_\_\_\_ for  
the position of Deputy Mayor

Cr. \_\_\_\_\_

Cr. \_\_\_\_\_

**I consent to the above nomination**

Cr. \_\_\_\_\_





Committee Memberships Adopted	Cr Smith	Cr Moore	Cr Egan	Cr Young	Cr Dick	Cr Dixon	Cr D Coulton	Cr J Coulton	Cr Galvin
Organisational Strategy and Policy	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Community Services and Planning	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Public Infrastructure	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Heavy Plant	1	1			1		1	1	
Central Northern Regional Library Committee			1						1 (Alt)
Local RTA Traffic Committee	1 (Alt)				1		1	1	
Warialda and District Chamber		1						1	
Bingara and District Vision 20/20			1						
Bush Fire Liaison (Service Level Agreement) Committee	1	1			1		1		
Local Emergency Management Committee				1	1		1 Chair		
Border Regional Organisation of Councils				1 (Alt)				1	
Arts North West				1					
Namoi JOC			1 (Alt)					1	
New England JO			1 (Alt)					1	
Northwest Regional Community Care Project Advisory Committee			1						1 (Alt)
Bingara District Historical Society						1			
Warialda Historical Society		1			1				
CHSP and Disability Services Advisory Committee			1						1
Gwydir Learning Region Committee			1	1			1	1	1
Bingara Showground Advisory Committee			1 Chair			1			
Disabled Access Committee				1		1			1
Naroo Hostel Advisory Committee	1 (Alt)							1	
Northern Slopes Landcare Association		1 (Alt)		1					
Bingara Special Events Committee			1			1			1
Internal Audit Committee			1 (Alt)					1	
Transport, Water and Sewerage Assets	1			1	1		1	1	
Information Technology & Office Equipment and Buildings Assets		1	1			1		1	1
The Living Classroom Committee	1			1					1
Bingara Men's Shed						1			
Whole of Community Integrated Service Delivery Northern Group of Councils (NENW)				1					1 (Alt)
Murray Darling Association Inc.				1			1 (Alt)		
Warialda Cultural Community Centre Craft Shop (Carinda House)					1				
Circular Economy Committee	1	1	1					1	
Gwydir Community Health Alliance			1 Chair	1					1
Northern Planning Panel			1					1	
Bingara Community Op Shop Management Committee									

**Item 3 Executive Services Monthly Report****FILE REFERENCE** 21/23593**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 recommends reception.

**TABLED ITEMS** Nil**BACKGROUND****PLANNING**

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

Number	Property Description	Development/Work	\$	D/A	S96
6/2021	S A Donaldson Lot 95 DP 751101 161 Ashton Road Yallaroi	29,000 tonne/year quarry	\$20,000	✓	-
26/2021	Meader Constructions / P B Goodwin Lot 7 Section 57 DP 758111 67 Maitland Street Bingara	Additions and alterations to existing dwelling	\$207,642	✓	-
27/2021	A Lee, P J Kemp Lot 355 FP 44038 40 Roger Moore Crescent Warialda	Additions and alteration to existing commercial premise	\$18,000	✓	-
28/2021	A D Dawes Lot 379 DP 727877 3261 Gragin Road Warialda	Storage Shed	\$20,000	✓	-

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

Number	Property Description & Description of Work	Reason	D/A	S96
28/2013	Johnstone Concrete & Quarries Pty Ltd	Being referred, advertised, notified and	-	✓

	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	exhibited for 21 days		
49/2016	Ceres Ag 'Gunyerwarildi' 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	✓	-
11/2021	P R Tonkins 671 Kirton Road Pallamallawa - Minor modification of existing development approval for a 29,000 tonne/year quarry	Being assess	-	✓
25/2021	S R Standerwick / Gwydir Shire Council Warialda Road Warialda - Animal Impounding Facility	Request for additional information	✓	-
30/2021	D A Coulson 226 Mt Jerrybang Road Gravesend - Garage / storage shed	Being exhibited and notified for a period of 14 days	✓	-
31/2021	N T Wearne 3 Ridley Street Bingara - Garage	Being exhibited and notified for a period of 14 days	✓	-
32/2021	K R Turner 14 Kelly's Gully Road Warialda Rail - Garage	Being exhibited and notified for a period of 14 days	✓	-
33/2021	C L & D Barwick 20 Water Street Warialda - Garage	Being exhibited and notified for a period of 14 days	✓	-
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	Pending payment of fees	✓	-

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

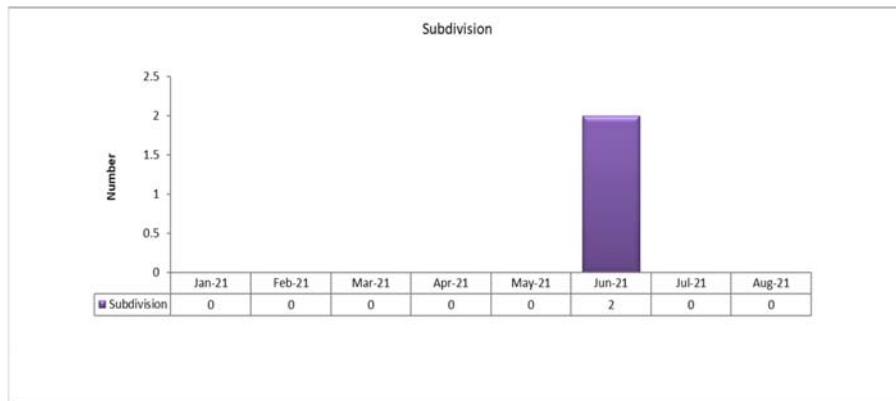
There were no Development (D/A) or Development Modification (s96) application/s refused(R)/ withdrawn (W)/ Cancelled (C) during the month of August 2021.

Number	Property Description	Development /Work	\$	D/A	S96	Type
29/2021	Gwydir Shire Council Lot 379 DP 727877 152 Long Street Warialda	Shed	\$12,000	✓	-	W

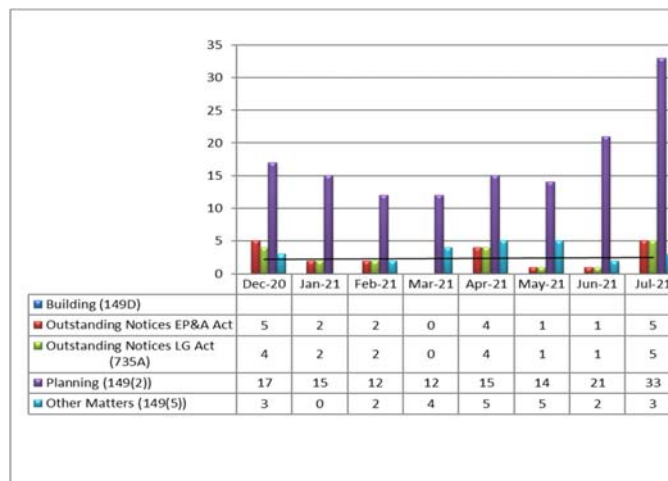
There were no Development (D/A) applications determined where there has been a variation in standards under clause 4.6 of the Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013 during the month of August 2021.

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

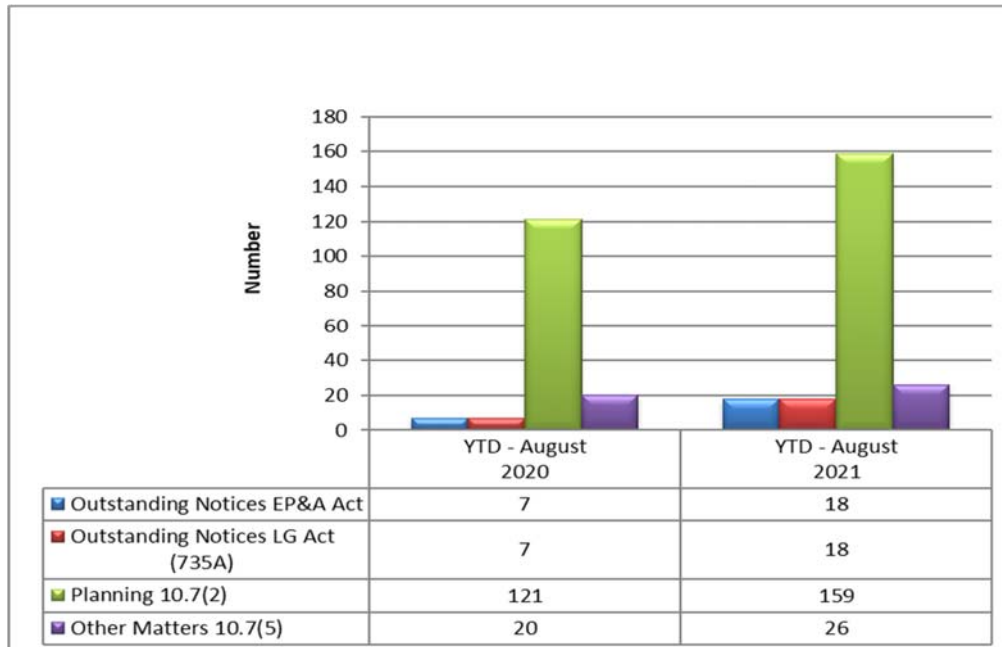
YTD August 2021 (includes private certifier lodged applications)



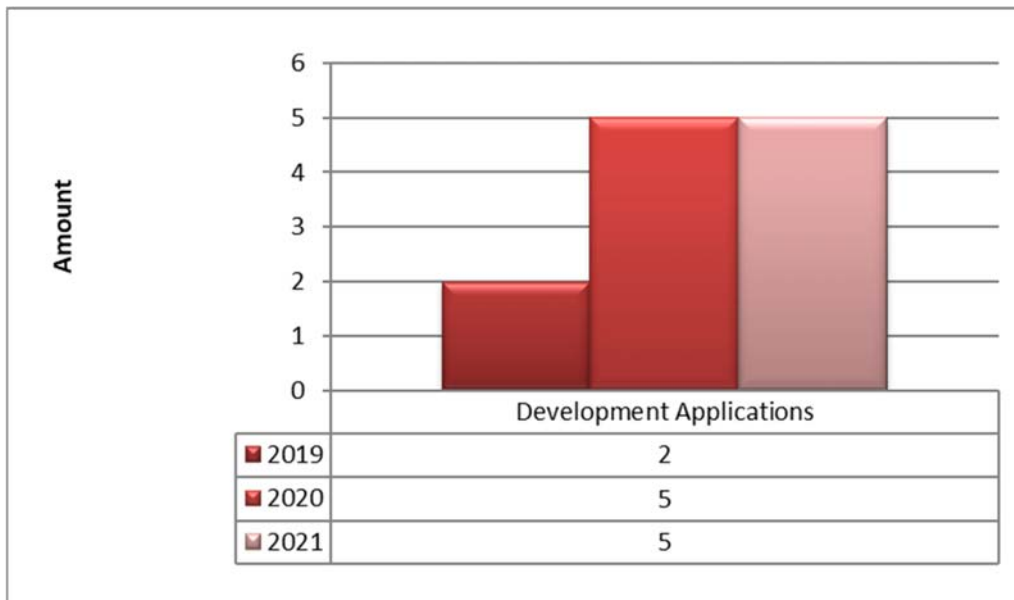
The following graph shows Conveyancing Certificates were issued during the month of August 2021 compared to the previous seven (7) months.



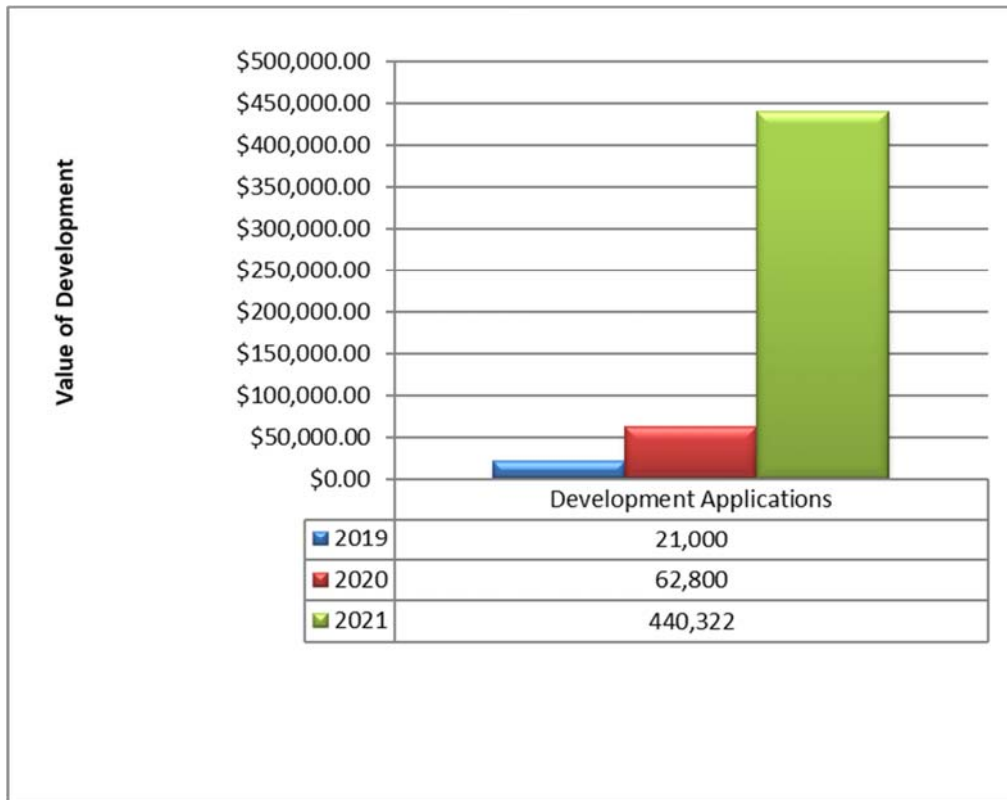
The following graph shows the number of Conveyancing Certificates issued up to and including the month of August 2021 compared with the same period in 2020.



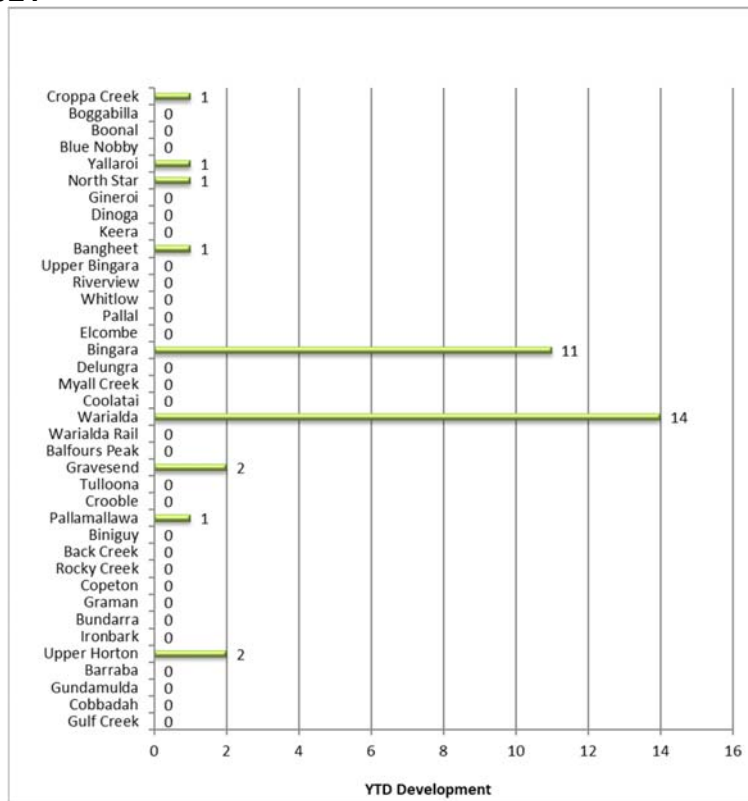
The table below shows a comparison between total applications lodged during the month of August 2021 compared to the same period in the previous two years.



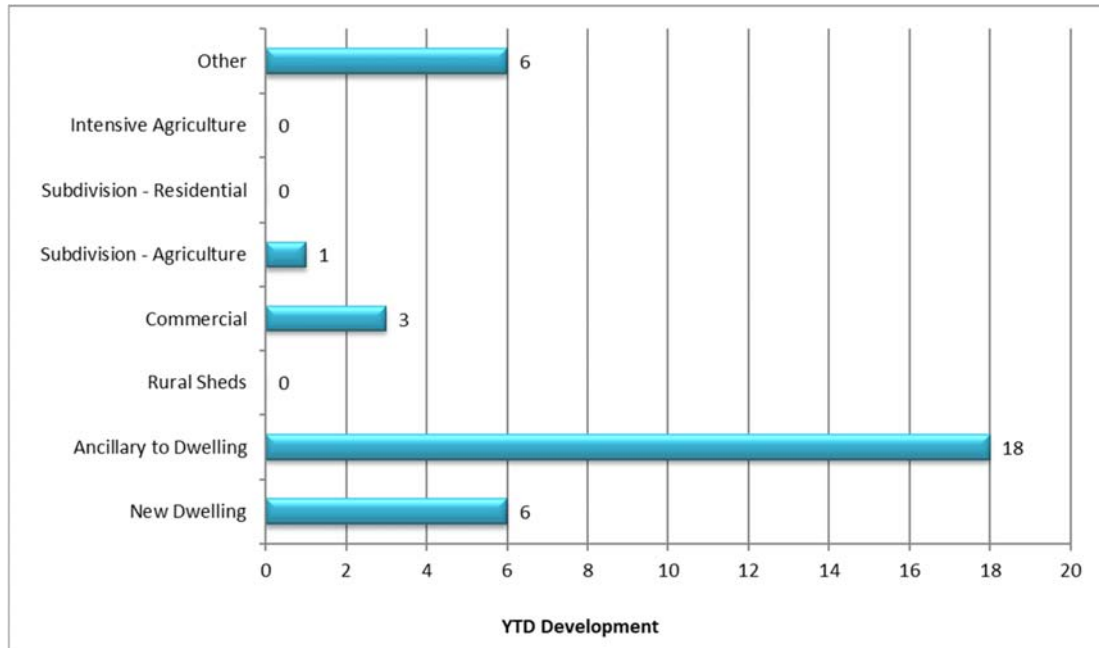
The table below shows a comparison between total value of applications lodged during the month of August 2021 compared to the same period in the previous two years.



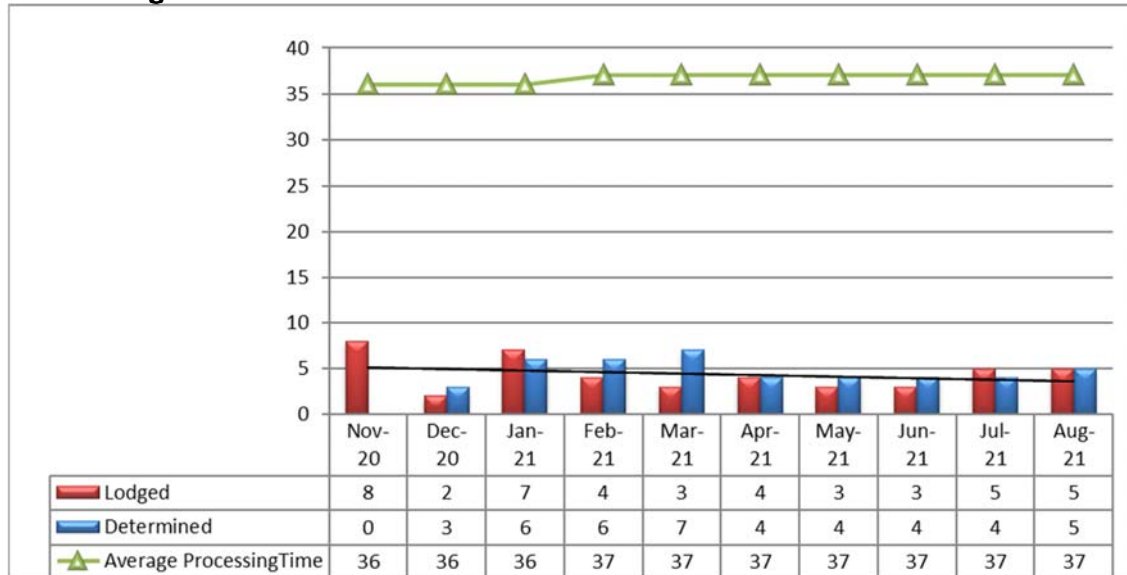
**Development Applications Received for the year by locality – YTD August 2021**



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



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



**BUILDING SERVICES**

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

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

- Stormwater
- Licensing and owner builder requirements
- Fees and charges

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

Number	Property Description	Development/Work	\$	C/C	CDC	BIC	S68
16/2021	10 Gwydir Terrace Bingara NSW 2404	Conversion of existing garage into a secondary dwelling and addition of verandah onto main dwelling	\$38,000	✓			
20/2021	8 Brigalow Street Bingara NSW 2404	Garage/Shed	\$15,650.00	✓			
23/2021	93 Bingara Street Warialda Rail NSW 2402	Garage/Shed	\$9,850.00	✓			
18/2021	Bingara Showground 26 Bowen Street Bingara NSW 2404	New amenities building – major sewerage and water supply works					✓

### 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	NA	NA	NA	NA

### Number Of Complaints/Inspections August 2021

Type	Number	Year to Date	Actioned	Pending
Building	30	59	56	3

### 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 August 2021:

- Refurbishment of 47 Hope Street, Soil Conservation Building has been completed by the Contractor – Meader Constructions
- Cunningham Park Amenities Building has been completed
- Fit out of Gineroi RFS Shed has been completed
- Bingara Showground Amenities – commenced
- Living Classroom BBQ Shelter has been completed



*47 Hope Street Warialda*



*Rear view at 47 Hope Street Warialda*



*47 Hope Street Warialda – upstairs office space*



*Living Classroom - awning over BBQ area*



*Bingara Showground Amenities – footings and slab framework*



*Cunningham Park Amenities*

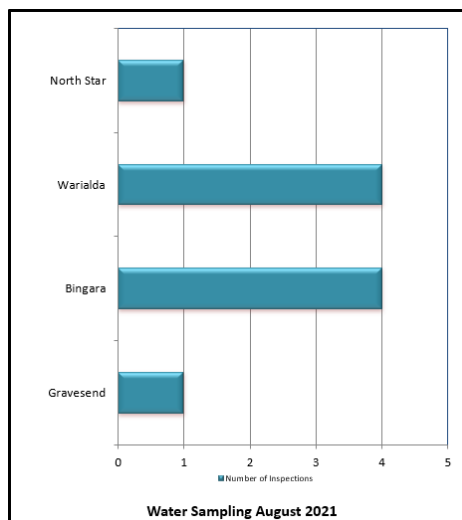
## ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

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

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

### Water Surveillance

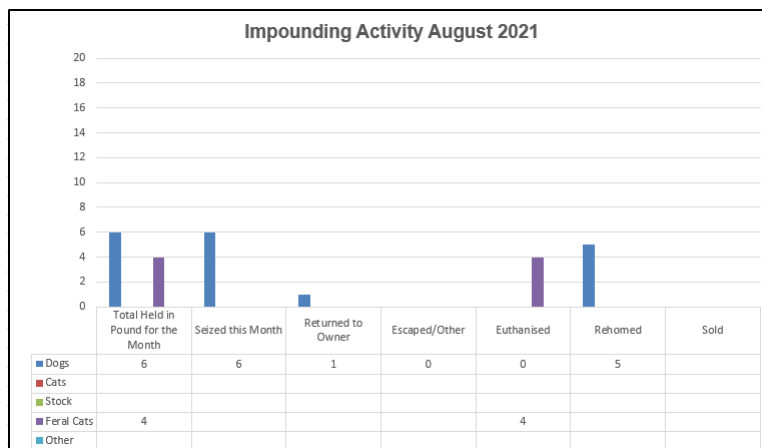
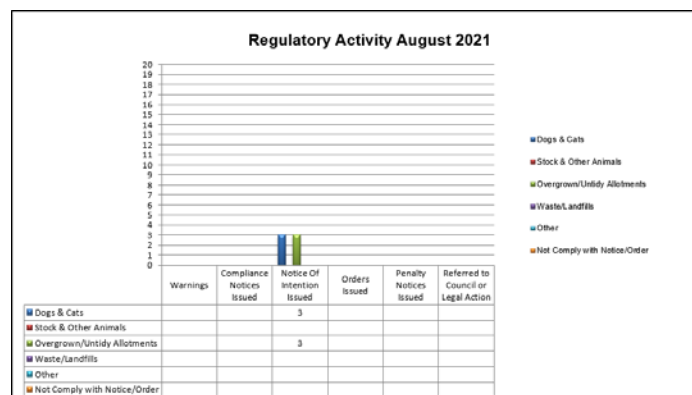
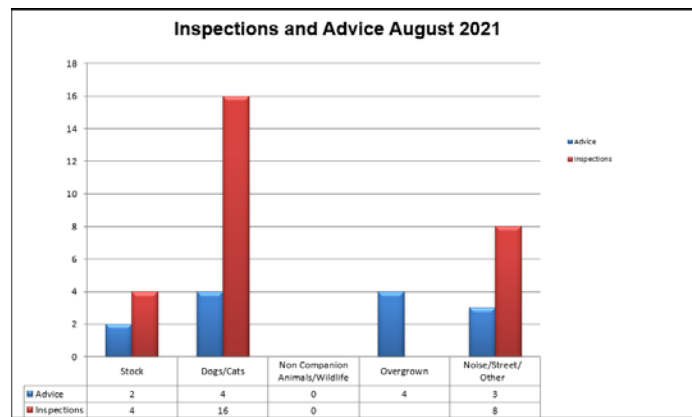
The Department continues to carry out routine sample collection for microbiological and chemical testing of the water supplies in the towns of Warialda and Bingara, fortnightly sampling of Gravesend and monthly sampling at North Star.



### Compliance and Regulatory Control

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

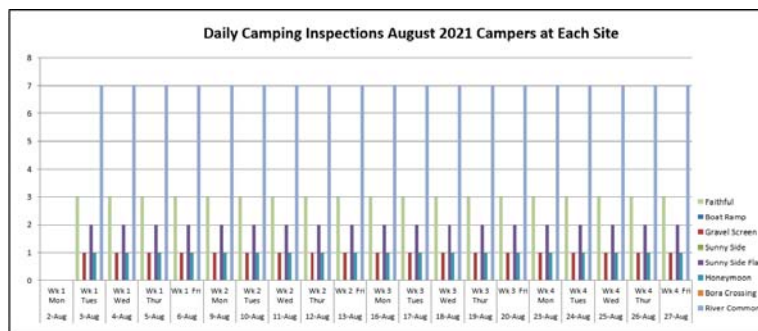
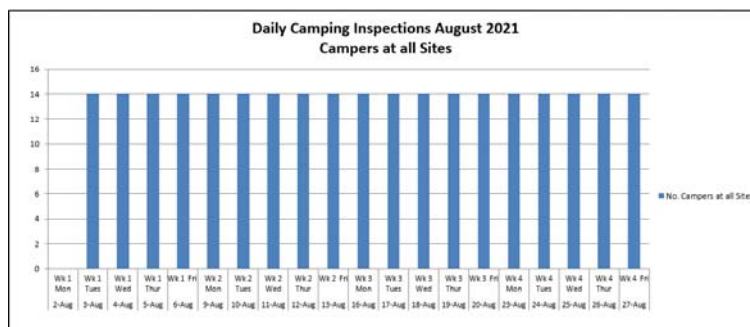
The staff have been working consistently on the fencing and improvements to the off-leash dog exercise areas, particularly Triangle Park at Warialda. Due to the continuing downpours the pouring of the concrete for the posts was delayed numerous times. The ground eventually dried out and the concreting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



### Riverside Camping

Council’s Compliance Officer aims to carry out daily checks along the river to ensure that camping is being conducted in a safe and hygienic manner. Flyers promoting local events and services are distributed to campers and enquires from campers are addressed as necessary. The graphs below show total numbers of campers and the distribution of campers at the different campsites.

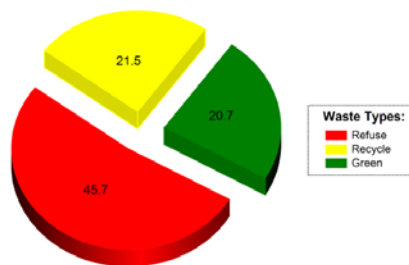
Caravaner/Camping numbers have remained steady during the month due to COVID-19 Stay at Home Orders. Campgrounds were closed to new campers when the order came into effect, any campers already on site were permitted to stay on site for the duration of the public health order.



### Waste Contract Services – July 2021

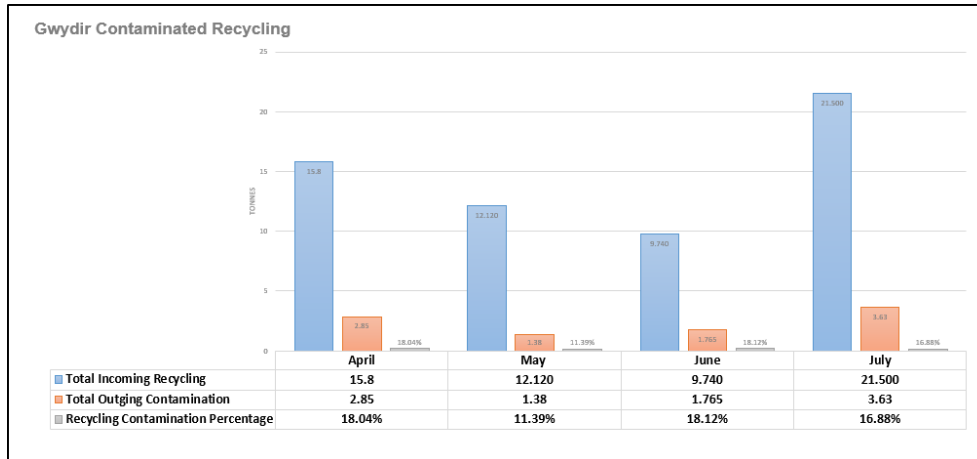
Gwydir Shire Council  
Transaction Date Range: 28 JUN 2021 to 01 AUG 2021

Breakdown of Tipping for the Period

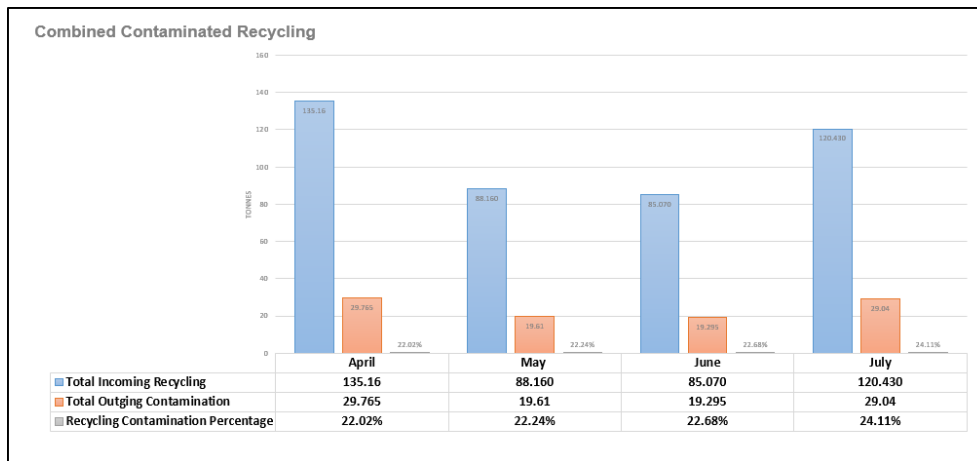


Total Tipping Tonnes: 87.86

Recycling Contamination

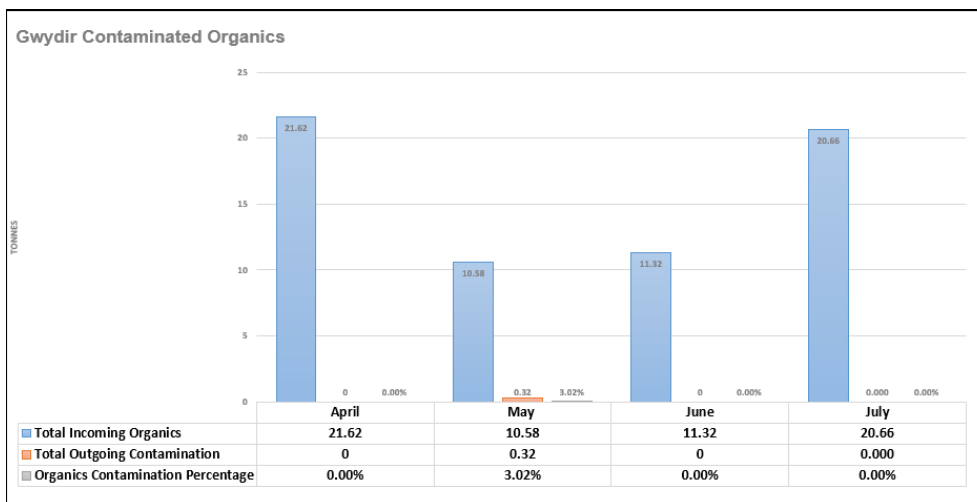


Gwydir Shire

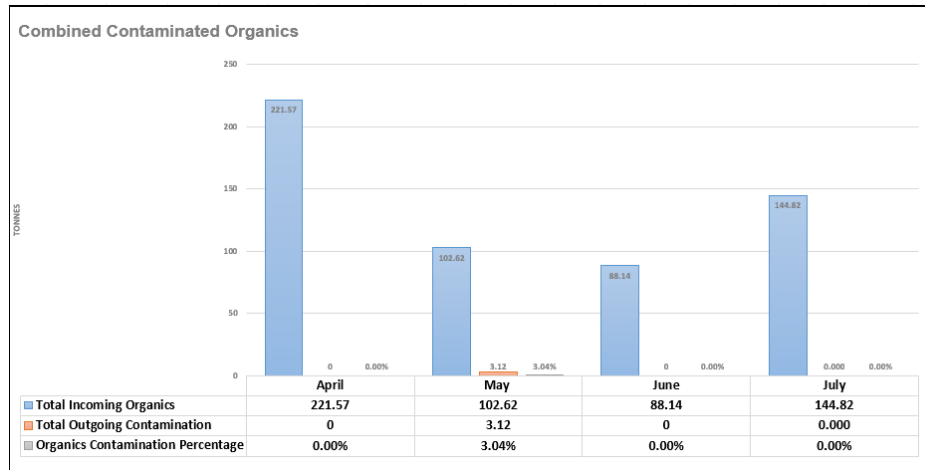


Combined rates for Gwydir Shire, Moree Plains Shire and Narrabri Shire

Organics Contamination



Gwydir Shire



Combined rates for Gwydir Shire, Moree Plains Shire and Narrabri Shire

### Comment from Cleanaway

No comments were provided by the contractor this month. *The department noted though that recycling contamination remains high for the Shire and across the contract. The Combined Councils have requested more detailed reporting and a consistent methodology for determining recycling contamination. The figures may not be an accurate representation of the actual contamination for the month.*

### 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

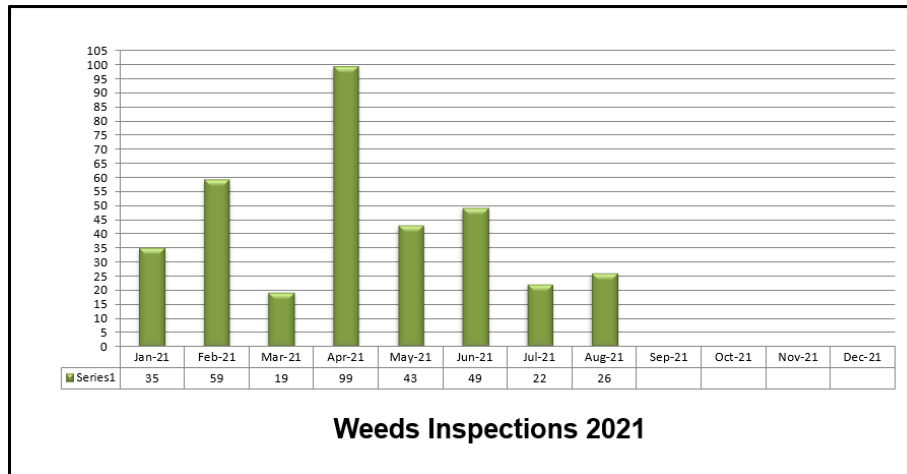
#### Section 28 Noxious Weeds Certificates

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

#### 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 August 2021

<i>Areas Inspected</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Ha</i>	<i>Rd km</i>	<i>Weeds Present</i>
Roadside – High Risk Pathways	7	863.2	172.64	Pattersons Curse, Tiger Pear, Sweet Briar, African Boxthorn, Mother of Millions, Mimosa Bush, Tree Pear, Common Pear, Rope Pear
Roadside	10	653.8	130.76	Tree Pear, Tiger Pear, Common Pear, Mimosa Bush, Sweet Briar, African Boxthorn, Honey Locust, Mother of Millions, Blackberry
Private Property – High Risk Re-Inspection	3	2532	-	Parthenium
Waterways – High Risk Pathways	5	1987	-	Parthenium, Pattersons Curse, Blackberry, Green Cestrum, Cats Claw Creeper
Recreational Areas	1	939		Common Pear, Tree Pear

Noxious Weeds Control Works for August 2021

<i>Road/Property</i>	<i>Weed Code</i>	<i>Area Ha</i>	<i>Road km</i>	<i>High Risk Road</i>	<i>Council Road</i>	<i>Other</i>
Minilya Rd	Mother of Millions	29.8	5.96		1	
Buckie Rd	Mother of Millions	50.35	10.7	1		
County Boundary Rd	Mother of Millions	130.5	26.1	1		



I B Bore Rd	Mother of Millions	110.35	22.07	1		
County Boundary Rd	Mother of Millions	130.5	26.1	1		
Mungle Rd	Mother of Millions	76.8	15.36	1		
I B Bore Rd	Mother of Millions	110.35	22.07	1		
Goat Rd	Mother of Millions	87.8	17.56		1	
Forest Creek Rd	Mother of Millions	95.7	19.14	1		
Forest Creek Rd	Mother of Millions	95.7	19.14	1		
Thornleigh Rd	Pattersons Curse	87.05	14.71	1		
Bells Creek Rd	Pattersons Curse	8.25	1.65		1	
Campbell Lane	Pattersons Curse	21.75	4.35		1	
Caroda Rd	Pattersons Curse	192.65	38.53	1		
Towarra Rd	Pattersons Curse	135.25	27.05	1		
Bingara Common	Pattersons Curse	10	-			1
Bingara Sewerage Treatment Works	All Weeds	10	-			1
Moreena Mail Rd	Mother of Millions	59.35	11.87	1		
Forest Creek Rd	Mother of Millions	95.7	19.14	1		
Forest Creek Rd	Mother of Millions	95.17	19.14	1		
Reserve Creek Rd	Mother of Millions	51.6	10.32			
Caroda Rd	Mother of Millions	192.65	38.53	1		
Whitlow Rd	African Boxthorn, Blackberry, Mother of Millions	116.9	23.38		1	
Copeton Dam Rd	African Boxthorn, Blackberry, Mother of Millions	261.7	52.34	1		

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

### **TOWN UTILITIES – Monthly report for August, 2021**

#### Water and Sewer

Bingara water supply was placed on a Boiled Water Alert on 09 July 2021 and the alert was lifted on 17 August 2021. Heavy rainfall in the catchment caused high turbidity in the Gwydir River and Council's water treatment plant was unable to produce water quality to the target parameters set by NSW Health, known as "Critical Control Points". An inspector from DPIE spent three days onsite undertaking water testing with Council's water operators. Water samples were collected from the river and sent away for testing. The results indicated that the river contained high quantities of aluminium silica (clay) which has a neutral charge and is very difficult to remove at the water treatment plant with the current coagulant used - Aluminium Sulphate - which is a negatively charged compound.

During August, Water and Sewerage operators replaced 36m of water main at North Star, attended 11 service line repairs, repaired or replaced 4 water mains, 2 water meters and repaired 19 sewer blockages.

Council is currently working through a replacement water meter program and replacing old meters with new.

Other work was undertaken at the Bingara Showground, where a sewerage pump station was installed for the new amenity building, Bingara Caravan Park, Bingara works depot, Warialda truckwash and the Aged Care units in Plunkett Street, Warialda.

Solar panels were placed on the Sewerage Treatment Plant in Bingara during the reporting period under the Capital Works program.



*New solar panels on the roof of the Sewerage Treatment Plant, Bingara*

#### Truckwash data for August

The truckwash facility was used by 77 trucks during August with an average wash down time of 49 minutes and total water used was 338KL. The estimated income for August is \$3,780 less monitoring fees.

#### **Grant Projects**

##### Federal Drought Program

The terracing of All Abilities Park has been delayed due to the wet weather. The shade sail installation is scheduled for the first week of September.

##### State Drought Program

Work continues on the upgrade of the carpark at Cunningham Park.



*New barrier at car park, Cunningham Park*

### Bingara Showground

The refurbishment of the Bingara Showground Grandstand commenced in July, with the external cladding with colourbond being completed. The internal asbestos removal and cladding is scheduled to be completed during September.



*Work on Showground Grandstand is expected to be completed in September*

Works to be completed with funding received in Round 2B of the Showground Stimulus package include the installation of a new amenities block on the eastern side of the Bingara Showground and LED arena lights. The light tower poles for all three lighting upgrade projects (Nicholson and Gwydir Oval and Bingara Showground) were delivered and unloaded at the Bingara

Showground during August. The galvanised structure poles were imported from England.



*The pump station at the new amenities block at Bingara Showground*



*Container of LED light poles arriving at the Showground*



*Unloading the light pole towers, Bingara Showground*

New footings for signage were installed at the entrance to Batterham's Lookout, Bingara during August.

A path was constructed to the new BBQ and tables in Captain Cook Park.



*A new path to new shelter, BBQ and tables at Captain Cook Park*

Parks and Gardens

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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 August. Council continues to mark and maintain the fields for the community groups using Council's ovals. Tree guards are being installed around the recently planted street trees in both Warialda and Bingara. Myall Creek and the glacial area are inspected on a weekly basis.

The new sign for Junction Park was erected during August. A sign indicating Cunningham's crossing will be erected on the Gwydir River at the point known to be where Cunningham crossed the river.



*New sign installed in Junction Park*

Fay's Park in Bingara looks refreshing with new tables and seats installed during the reporting period.



*New tables and seating in Fay's Park*



*New garden planted at the northern entrance to Bingara*

Parks and Gardens staff pruned the orange trees in Bingara during August.



*Orange trees in Finch Street Bingara*

Workshops and Depots

Total number of services in Workshops for August	28
Total number of jobs in Workshops for August	134

Major repairs and maintenance undertaken during August included:

- P1783 – utility – new timing belt
- P1474 – roller – electrical fault
- P1713 – jet master – conveyor system repairs
- P1140 – grid roller – bearing repairs
- P1916 – grader – 3,000 hour service
- P1690 – grader – circle drive repairs
- P1992 – slasher – repairs to skids
- P1950 – Kubota – broom repair
- P1725 – tractor – electrical repairs
- P1722 – tractor – steering repairs

**COMMUNITY ASSETS - August 2021****Caravan Parks**

Council staff tested and tagged all electrical items at the Bingara and Warialda Caravan Parks this month. Additional frypans and kettles were purchased to replace items that failed testing.

Electricity power boxes were tested and checked at the Bingara Caravan Park during the reporting period.

As per government stay at home orders issued, both the Bingara and Warialda Caravan Parks closed to the public at 5:00pm on Saturday 14 August. This lockdown was then subsequently extended to 10 September. Council staff are continuing to maintain the parks and gardens and have used the opportunity to do maintenance and deep cleaning of the facilities.

**Swimming Pools**

Council staff tested and tagged all electrical items at the Bingara and Warialda swimming pools during the reporting period.

**Cranky Rock**

Cranky Rock closed to the public on Saturday 14 August due to the latest NSW lockdown.

Month	Powered sites	Unpowered sites	Total
June 2021	93	42	135
July 2021	76	16	92
August 2021	55	18	73



**Myall Creek**

A new Telstra cell tower was installed at Myall Creek to improve mobile coverage around the site.

The amenities at Myall Creek were also closed to the public from Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

Parks and Gardens staff are now cleaning the amenities, emptying bins and doing general grounds maintenance works at Myall Creek.

**Gwydir Libraries**

The Bingara Library had carpets steam cleaned on Saturday 7 August. Council staff tested and tagged all electrical items at the Bingara and Warialda libraries during the reporting period.

Both the Bingara and Warialda libraries closed to the public the week commencing 16 August due to the current NSW lockdown. Staff are servicing the community via home deliveries, phone, and email. Library iPads have been loaned to school children to assist with home schooling.

Home deliveries are now available to all residents of the Shire. Staff deliver to mailboxes in towns and seek assistance from the rural mail delivery drivers for rural residents.

Library staff are in contact with members and checking in as to whether resources are required and ensuring they are coping with the lockdown. Bingara Branch activities.

Be Connected face-to-face tutorials have paused. The twice weekly Zoom sessions are proving to be very successful. Some topics of discussions have included *Previous Travels*, *Cooking with Maureen* (one of our participants) and *My School Days*.

Bingara Library launched a jigsaw program. Residents request a jigsaw to be delivered. To date 15 people are participating in the project.

Staff continue to supervise HSC trials and student study.

Warialda Branch activities:

After school programs have paused.

Be Connected sessions have been postponed due to the restrictions as participants had not covered Zoom sessions.

Both staff members are completing training recommended by the Central Northern Library including:

- Inclusivity

- Librarians guide to homelessness
- Burn Out
- Unattended children
- Prejudice
- State Library sites
- E-resources.

Additional tasks such as:

- Collection development and identifying gaps in the non-fiction section.
- General tidy of the library space.
- Preparing craft activities for both branches and outreach services.
- Updating social media, posters, and information regarding library resources available during lockdown.

Statistics	Bingara	Warialda	Gwydir
Door Count	662	512	
Loans	643	385	
New Members	6	2	
E-resource Users			32
Downloads			131
PC usage	122	41	
WIFI usage	260	104	
Programs	10	5	
Adult Program	16	6	
Children Program	85	29	
Home Delivery	40	22	
Institution Delivery	4	3	
Seniors Be Connected	14	0	

### Property Management

Two potential tenants were interviewed and offered Unit 3, Plunkett Street unfortunately, due to unforeseen family circumstances, both have declined. Unit 4, Plunkett Street has been leased and the tenant has moved in. Country Dust Café's rent has been waived until the end of the calendar year due to the current economic climate. The café will limit its operating hours. Council staff contacted aged care units and caravan park permanent residents during the reporting period.



*The electrical infrastructure is being completely installed at the Bingara residential subdivisions.*

Council has leased 34 Maitland Street Bingara to provide temporary accommodation for Council staff funded under the Council's insurance.

### **Cleaning**

Staff have adapted to changes in their work schedules due to lockdown and the sudden closure of the Bingara Office and continue to deliver a high standard of cleaning.

### **THE LIVING CLASSROOM**

Once again, all bookings at TLC have had to be cancelled or postponed due to Covid 19. They mainly involved large numbers of people and or visitors from outside Gwydir Shire. Even casual drive-in visitors have ceased in August.

The Firebird Sculpture by Bingara sculptor Tony Gomez was commissioned for the Pulse of the Earth 2021 Spring Festival. Even though the event was postponed due to Covid the artwork will still be mounted on a concrete plinth in the grounds of TLC. Based on the Greek/Egyptian legend of the Phoenix and forming part of Australian indigenous lore of the *wherret-wherret* bird, the 'firebird' is a symbol of regeneration.

The sculpture will be 'feathered' with sticks, reeds and grasses by children and annually form part of Pulse and/or the Spring Equinox and be an attraction for those events. Tony Gomez has constructed an elevated cauldron of steel that the feathered sculpture will stand above. As the flames reach the feathers the firebird will ignite. After the 'firing' night, the firebird will return to its pedestal.

The ashes that remain at the base of the cauldron will become a talking point about carbon and Bio-char and its importance in soil amelioration, once the fire has cooled.



*The Firebird Sculpture by Tony Gomez.*



*The Building Crew have completed the extension on the eastern side of the Classroom to provide a cover over the BBQ area.*

A Flower Meadow Path has been commenced at the northeast walkway into TLC from Killarney Gap Road. Intending show showcase meadow flowers, create a floral edge to the Olive Grove and attract pollinating insects. The pathway will be a colourful entrance to TLC and an eye-stopper from the roadway.



*Flower Meadow Path.*

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Executive Services Monthly report be received**

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

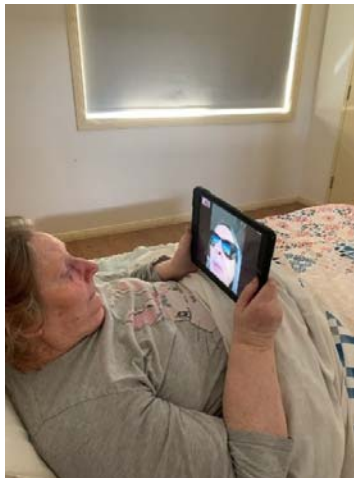
**Item 4 Organisation and Community Services Monthly Report****FILE REFERENCE** 21/23604**DELIVERY PROGRAM****GOAL:** 5. Organisational Management**OUTCOME:** 5.1 CORPORATE MANAGEMENT**STRATEGY:** 5.1.3 Administrative functions - GM - internal**AUTHOR** Organisational and Community Services Director**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST** Nil**IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

This report recommends reception.

**TABLED ITEMS** Nil**BACKGROUND****NAROO FRAIL AGED HOSTEL****Resident News and Outings**

The Residents have been busy rock painting for when lockdown is over, we are going to hide these colorful rocks in the all abilities park for the children in the community to find.

Residents are also enjoying other activities such as indoor armchair exercises, walks to the all abilities park, Coloring in, Carpet bowls, Bingo, Quizzes, Puzzles, Brain Training and speed scrabble. We have also celebrated resident's birthdays, International Beer day with a BBQ lunch and different beers from around the world. Our Residents have been keeping in touch with their loved ones via phone/FaceTime calls regularly.











**COMMONWEALTH HOME SUPPORT PROGRAM - Warialda/Delungra  
Advisory Committee Meeting**

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All Advisory Committee meetings have been postponed due to the COVID lockdown.

Next meeting is scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021

### Volunteers

Volunteers are still providing transport for client's medical appointments; drivers are informed to wear masks and to wait in the vehicle until the client has finished their appointment.

### Transport and Trips

Inverell community bus made one trip to Inverell for the month of August, all clients and driver always had masks on.

### Social Support

During the month of August clients had two morning teas provided, these were dropped off by the Coordinator and a volunteer. This was all so good to check on client's wellbeing.

This was a great success. Clients thought it was a great gesture.

### Food Service

Currently there are 6 Meals on Wheels clients. Hospital recently had a few changes to their menus. Clients will get a few more choices.

<b>Warialda/Delungra CHSP Monthly Report August 2021</b>		
	<b>Delungra</b>	<b>Warialda</b>
<b>Day Centre</b>		
Total active clients	24	83
Clients receiving service		26
Total Meals		
Hours Clients Receive in Centre		75
<b>Social Support</b>		
Number of Clients		26
Individual Hours		75
Group Hours		
Total Hours Received		75
<b>Food Service - Meals on Wheels</b>		
Clients		6

Meals		272
<b>Transport</b>		
Number of Clients		9
Number of Trips		18
<b>Transport - Youth</b>		
Number of Clients	0	0
Number of Trips	0	0
<b>Access Bus - Inverell</b>		
Number of Clients	1	3
Number of Trips per month	2	2
<b>Volunteers</b>		
Number Volunteers August		6
Monthly Volunteer Hours		75

## **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.

### **Centrelink**

*Funding body – Services Australia*

Centrelink continued with normal operational hours throughout August. However, some changes were made when COVID-19 restrictions were put in place on Saturday 14 August 2021. Centrelink has temporarily changed to a self-service access point.

### **Youth Service**

*Funding body – NSW Department of Communities and Justice*

The Youth Service is working closely with the “Social Worker in School” from Bingara Central to deliver a program for girls aimed at students from Year 7 to Year 11. The will focus on developing supportive peer relationships and enhancing skills of self-awareness, confidence and resilience. Activities such as fine art, dancing, etiquette skills and Pilate’s sessions will be carried out throughout the term.

This will be an opportunity for these students to participate in enjoyable after-school activities which are tailored to their strengths and interests, as well as being a chance to develop new skills and friendships. With COVID-19 restrictions coming into place on Saturday 14 August 2021, this workshop is currently being held via Zoom.

### Youth Council

During August 2021, the Youth Council communicated with each other via phones as the majority of students were preparing for HSC Trials. This is when restrictions were brought in, so we were unable to meet face-to-face. One of the Youth Council members created a survey for Youth in the Gwydir Shire to participate in. The survey questioned what young people would like to see happen within their community. The Youth Council members will collate this information and bring it to Council in September. The group has also decided that during the current lockdown, they will conduct a competition via social media, with hopes to make the lockdown a little more fun.

### Youth Mentoring Program

Month	Number Of Participants
June	4
July	3
August	3

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	July	August
Total Daily Attendance (for the month)	156	61
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	4	3
Toys Returned	6	3
Toys Borrowed	3	0
Groups Using The Service (FDC carer, Pharmacy)	2	2
<b>Monday</b> - 1 session	38	10
<b>Tuesday</b> - 1 session	36	12
<b>Thursday</b> - 2 sessions	45	18
<b>Friday</b> 2 sessions	37	21

Unfortunately, during August 2021, the toy library was sent back into lockdown due to Covid19. This meant only 6 sessions were able to be held at the start of the month. Although brief, the month catered for sensory play

experiences, cooking, story time and an in-service visit from our local Child and Family Health Nurse.

On Monday 2 August a sensory play experience consisting of slime and sea creatures was provided for encouraging sensory exploration.



On Tuesday 3 August, members attended the service session engaged in a literacy and storytelling morning, followed by then working together as a group to create their own toy library story.

Cooking was provided for the children on Friday 6 August. Children were given with the opportunity to discuss the different ingredients and engage in discussions regarding healthy food choices as they made fruit kebabs.

On Thursday 12 August, a fine motor activity provided the children with an opportunity to practice their eye, hand coordination skills as well as strengthen the fine muscles in their hands and fingers, as they utilised small hammers and tacks to hammer wooden shapes into a cork board.



On Friday 13 August, the new Hunter New England Area Health Child and Family Nurse, was able to attend the service session. A connection to the services that The Child and Family Nurse can offer families is valued by the toy library and its members. The Child and Family Nurse was introduced to the service and attending families and was able to perform blue book checks as requested by parents during this visit. The toy library looks forward to welcoming her into the service once each month moving forward.

### **Bingara Toy Library**

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*Funding body – NSW Department of Education and Communities*

Particulars	June	July	August
Total Daily Attendance (For The Month)	101	105	67
Full Borrowing Memberships (New/Renew)	0	1	0
Non-Borrowing Memberships (New/Renew)	3	1	0
Casual Borrowing Memberships (New/Renew)	0	1	0
Commemorative Birth Certificate - Voucher Memberships	0	0	0
Toys Returned	2	1	0
Toys Borrowed	3	3	1
Children And Groups Using Toys	3	2	1
<b>Tuesday</b> – 2 play sessions	20	37	12
<b>Wednesday</b> – 2 play sessions	33	40	19
<b>Thursday</b> – 2 play sessions	2	2	0
<b>KSK program</b> – 4 sessions	46	60	48

This month was certainly a trying one for families and staff.

On Tuesday 3 August 2021, a meet and greet with the new Child and Family Health Nurse from the Bingara Multipurpose Service was organised. Families were able to have their child weighed and measured on this visit. The children enjoyed free play, Olympic Games colouring in pages and stories during this session.

The Library Kool Skool group enjoyed giant foam dominos game, cardboard cutout tracing, drawing, find a shape or object page, puzzles, memory matching games, I spy, guessing game by feel of object, patterned domino snake, find a word page, and odds n sods craft box until Saturday 14 August 2021.

Morning session activities the children engaged in this month, up until the lockdown included shave foam/animals, ball/wade pool, forte made over two tables, puzzles of all different levels, outside play equipment, dropper painting, whiteboard drawing and free play which all included strategies to help the children thrive.



As a result of the NSW Government orders to lockdown from Saturday 14 August 2021 the service is currently closed to the public. The following week,

staff created Home Craft packs for the families to collect from the front of the service.

Staff contacted families via email to express support and concern. Families were encouraged to call, text or email if they needed help or simply to chat. An email a day was sent out with attachments of support, ideas or links and posts were placed on Facebook each day with resources, links, and activities.

**Bingara Preschool**

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

Days	August
Tuesday	24
Wednesday	27
Thursday	27
Friday	25

**Educator Training**

All educators attended an online training facilitated by Children’s First Training. The training discussed how to introduce, create, and implement a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) at the service. The educators have since discussed the importance of implementing a Reconciliation Action Plan and have placed this onto the services goals.

As part of the Director’s study of the Bachelor of Education, she had to complete a week practicum focusing on the creative arts in early childhood. From the children’s current interests in birds, she completed a project focusing on facilitating creative art experiences. There were four experiences implemented.





*The children created their own bird sculptures.*



*The children then used their bird sculptures to make a puppet show.*





*The children explored the musical instruments to create bird sounds. The children also learnt to clap to the beat of a song about birds.*



*The children listened to a Dreamtime story and then created their own masks. The masks were then used to retell the story and to discuss further the roles of the characters in the story.*

### **Transition to BCS**

The transition excursions were held as per normal on Friday 6 August and Friday 13 August. The children and educators travelled by bus to the school. The Kindergarten Teacher at Bingara Central School facilitated the lessons on listening to a story and then providing a creative arts experience related to the book. Whilst travelling on the bus to and from the excursion, the children and educators spoke about what shops and buildings they could see.

Unfortunately, the weekly transition excursions have been put on hold during the statewide lockdown.

### **Support Services**

The Director of Bingara Preschool and the Capacity Building Facilitator at PEDAL collaboratively updated and revised the Bingara Preschool's service profile. The service profile identifies the services strengths and identifying areas of support requested from the Capacity Building Facilitator in relation to inclusion and supporting children with exceptional development.

### **COVID-19 Updated Action Plan**

Due to the current statewide lockdown, Bingara Preschool remains open for essential worker children only. The Director and the educators are providing support to all other families through phone calls, the services social media platforms and by mailing weekly learning from packs out. All educators have either received their first vaccine or are booked in to receive one by the middle of September.

### **Tharawonga Mobile Resource Unit**

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

<b>Days and Venues</b>	<b>July</b>
Monday at Yetman	8
Tuesday at North Star	10
Wednesday at Yallaroi	4 (2 casual)
Thursday at Gravesend	8
Friday at Crooble	6

### **Staff Training and Development**

Staff have participated in an online training opportunity 'Positive Behaviour Management'. The Tharawonga Director has informed all educators via email about a training opportunity for Critical Reflection.

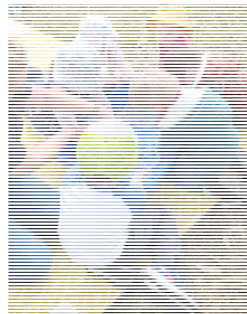
### **COVID-19**

For the last few weeks due to the current COVID-19 lockdown and restrictions our learning has been remote and digitally sent to the families. We are in the

process of putting learning packages together for families and these will be mailed out. We have ensured that effective communication with families has been continued. We do have an essential working family attending the Gravesend venue.



**Yetman** - The children at Yetman have been focusing on engaging in group experiences to promote their sense of belonging and turn taking including ball games. Sensory exploration has been incorporated for the children's interests and individual needs including painting with various items and exploring split peas. School transition experiences have focused on practising the children's fine motor skills by participating in opportunities that promote cutting with scissors.



**North Star** - The children at North Star have been engaged in different experiences which are promoting the children's sense of belonging including group craft experiences to display on the venue wall, a camping area, and a pizza shop. Children's learning has been further extended and they have been learning about experimenting and exploring by making different sensory recipes. School transition children are focusing on learning to draw basic shapes, straight line and shape cutting and matching animals with their babies.



**Yallaroi** – The children at Yallaroi have been learning about the sea and sea creatures. To further extend upon this, the educators have started with the children participation in making a sea themed area at the venue. The children have been focusing on promoting their fine motor skills by using the maze boards to manoeuvre the magnetic pieces. The school transition children have been practising their names, the ABC and counting.



**Gravesend** – At Gravesend the children participate in group activities often. These experiences are requested by the children and this month the children had us playing a game of Musical Chairs and What's the Time Mr. Wolf. Group participation promotes the children's ability to follow direction, cooperate as a group, learn, and demonstrate fairness while building their sense of belonging to their preschool. Also, as a group this month the Educators again responded to the children idea's and implemented a cooking experience making Pikelets, cooking is a life skill but also builds and understanding of measurements, math's and science concepts whilst also engaging the children in turn taking and following direction all of which are great examples of learning through play.



**Crooble** – At Crooble we have welcomed some new enrolments this month and to establish the sense of belonging and comfort within their new environment the children are engaging in group experiences such as Yoga. The children have their Yoga mats in front of the instructor of Cosmic Yoga and are asked to imitate her actions, the children were very engaged and actively participated in Yoga which is great for mind, body, and soul. We have also worked on creating a sound routine to enable the children to predict what is happening next and the educators have developed a song and a gathering circle, so the children know when and where it is time for a story further building on the routine and sense of belonging.

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

### **Communications**

#### Community Newsletter

The Gwydir News is ticking along, and staff are working hard to continually bring fresh and relevant content to subscribers.

#### Website

Staff have been taking the time to look at the functionality and presentation of the website now that it has been live for a few months. We are working towards making it as relevant, fresh and informative as possible, whilst remaining user friendly and appealing.

Working with OpenCities has been trying at times as there has been some resistance to what we would like to do regarding the website, but staff are working with them to either resolve or find alternatives.

**Tourism**

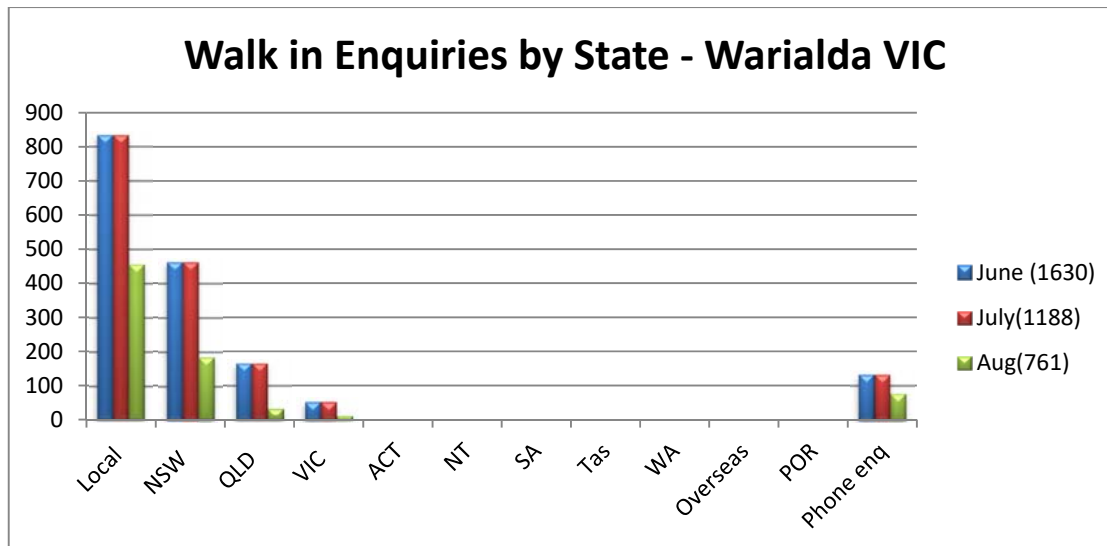
Warialda Visitor Information Centre

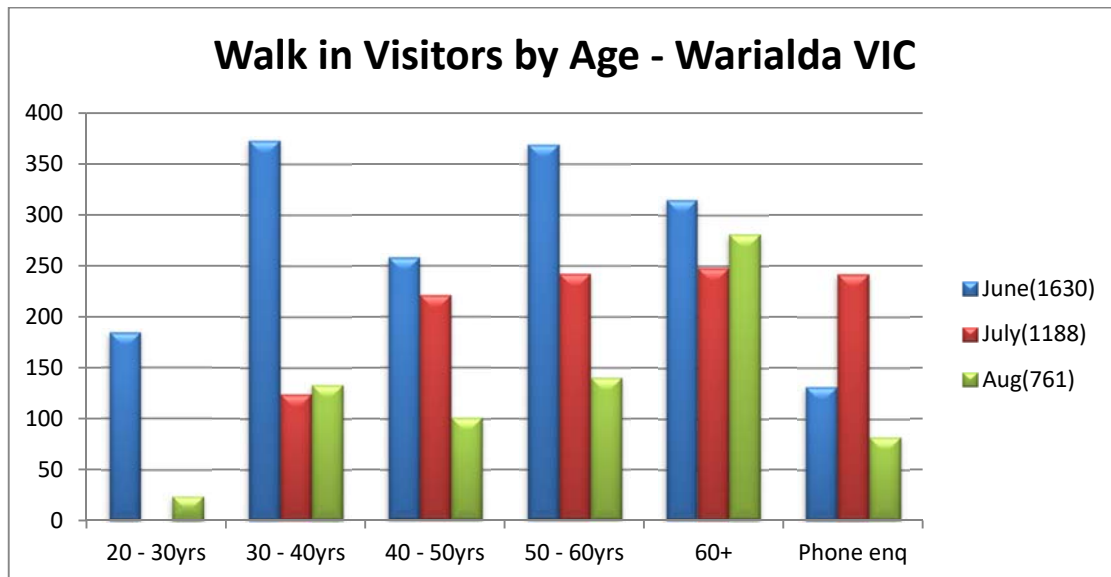
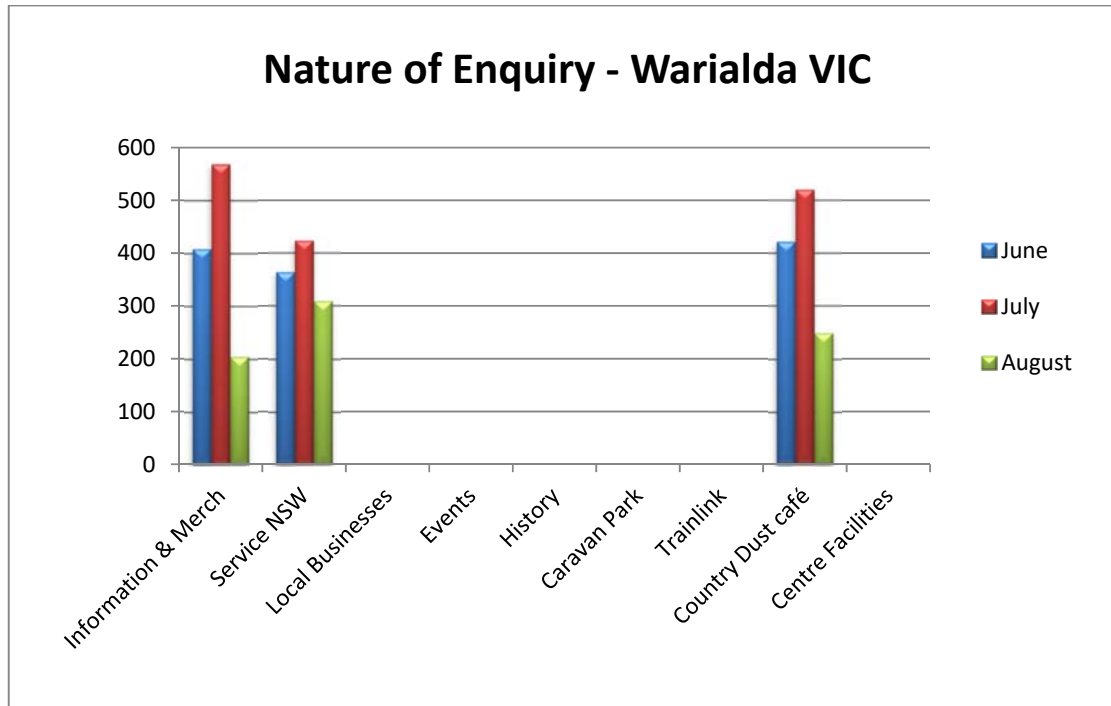
	June 2021	July 2021	August 2021
Opening Hours	165	157.5	109.5
Volunteer Hours	30.5	19	8

Income	June	July	August
Centre Hire	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$0.00
Merchandise sales	\$1773.00	\$1013.01	\$1133.00
<b>Total Monthly Income</b>	<b>\$1773.00</b>	<b>\$1073.01</b>	<b>\$1133.00</b>

Visitors at Warialda VIC	June	July	August
Visitors	568	308	185
RMS	423	340	261
Cafe	520	421	243
Phone Visitor /Service NSW enquires	131	119	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>1642</b>	<b>1188</b>	<b>761</b>

Sales and visitor numbers dramatically reduced in August due to the NSW statewide lockdown orders that were introduced on 14 August.





Bingara Visitor Information Centre

	June 2021	July 2021	August 2021
Opening Hours	165.5	174.5	77
Volunteer Hours	29	31.5	12

Hours dramatically reduced in August due to the NSW statewide lockdown orders that were introduced on 14 August.

Income – Bingara VIC	June	July	August
Products on Consignment	\$12.00	\$81.00	\$3.00

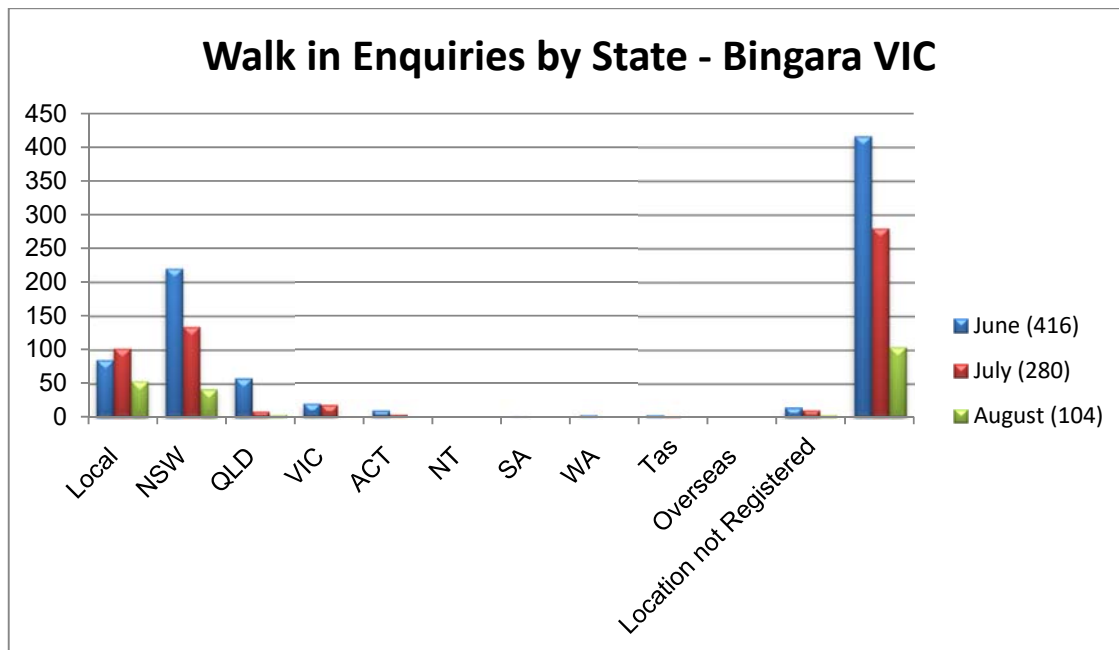


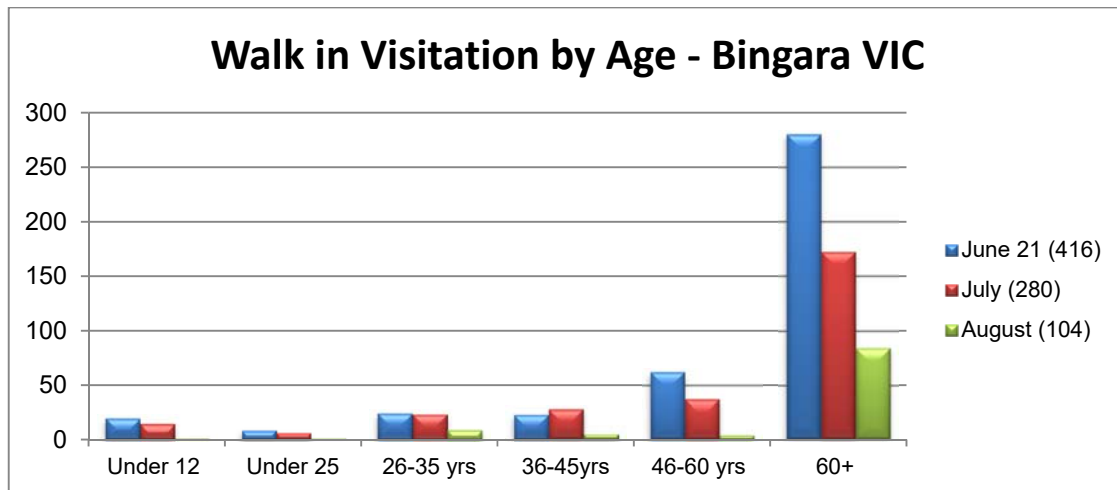
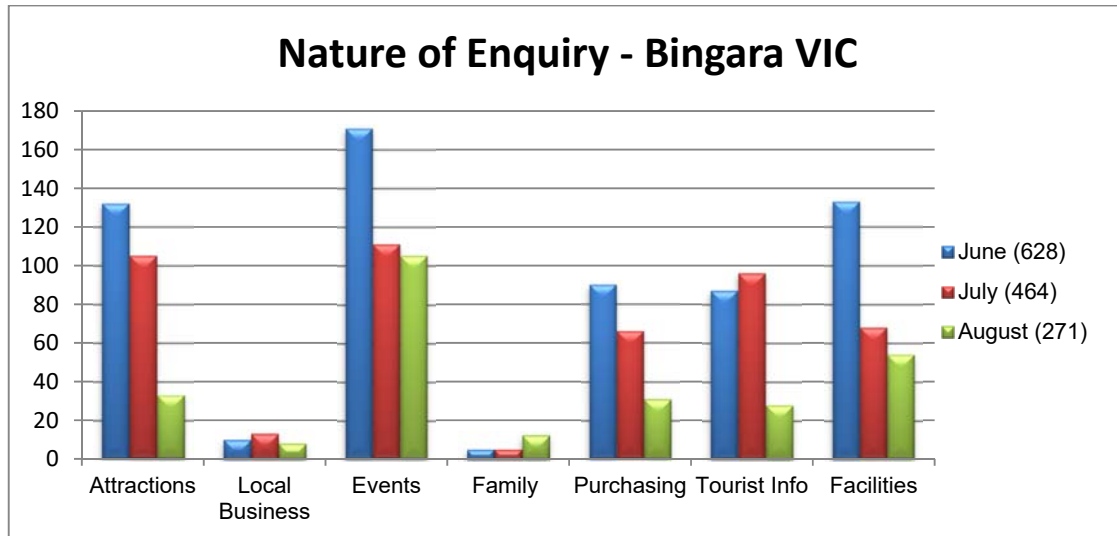
Merchandise	\$835.00	\$588.50	\$326.40
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$847.00</b>	<b>\$669.50</b>	<b>\$329.40</b>
Less payments to consignees	\$8.40	\$56.70	\$2.10
<b>Total Merchandise sales</b>	<b>\$838.60</b>	<b>\$612.80</b>	<b>\$327.30</b>
VIC Commission received on Event bookings undertaking on behalf of Community Groups – sub total			
<b>Total Monthly Income Bingara VIC</b>	<b>\$838.60</b>	<b>\$612.50</b>	<b>\$327.30</b>
Roxy Tour Income	\$534.65	00.00	\$00.00
<b>Visitors at Bingara VIC</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>104</b>

Sales and visitor numbers dramatically reduced in August due to the NSW statewide lockdown orders that were introduced on 14 August.

Although the VIC's have been closed, staff in Bingara have not been idle. The Information Centre was relocated to the Bingara Courthouse during lockdown to allow for the Finance department to relocate to the existing information centre. Due to the mould contamination in the main Council office, staff have had to find alternative locations to work until restoration works are completed.

Staff have also been taking phone calls and handling email requests whilst in the process of relocating.





#### Roxy Theatre Complex

Date	Purpose	Numbers
August 1, 8	NWTC – Performance Rehearsals	Approximately 20
August 5, 12	NWTC – Performance Rehearsals	Approximately 20

**Conference Room** – 4 bookings for August

**Roxy Trade Training Kitchen** – no bookings for August

**Roxy Theatre Green Room** - no bookings for August

**Roxy Café** – no bookings for August

Unfortunately, due to the NSW lockdown restrictions, various functions that were booked for the Roxy Theatre in August have had to be cancelled or postponed. The NWTC production of Oliver Twist being the most notable.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE REQUESTS (CRMs)**

CRMs carried forward from:

Department	Outstanding as at 1 August 2021	Completed since 1 August 2021	Outstanding as at 1 September 2021
Technical Services	24	12	12
Environment and Sustainability	23	13	10
Town Utilities Parks and Gardens	8	3	5
Building Services	8	5	3
<b>Total Outstanding</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>30</b>

CRM's - 1 August to 1 September 2021:

Department	Received during August 2021	Completed during August 2021	Outstanding as at 1 September 2021
Technical Services	30	13	17
Environment and Sustainability	12	1	11
Town Utilities Parks and Gardens	10	5	5
Building Services	4	2	2
Executive	0	0	0
Organisation and Community Services	1	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>36</b>

CRMs received since 1 August 2021 and still outstanding as at 1 September 2021:

Department	Open
Technical Services	29
Environment and Sustainability	21

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Town Utilities Parks and Gardens	10
Building Services	5
Executive	0
Organisation and Community Services	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Organisation and Community Services Monthly report be received**

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

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**Item 5 Draft Policies for Bingara Preschool and Tharawonga  
Mobile Resource Unit (MRU)****FILE REFERENCE** 21/22610**DELIVERY PROGRAM****GOAL:** 1. A healthy and cohesive community**OUTCOME:** 1.2 OUR COMMUNITY IS AN INVITING AND VIBRANT  
PLACE TO LIVE**STRATEGY:** 1.2.1 Enable accessible and affordable lifestyle options -  
OCD -external**AUTHOR** Social Services Manager**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST** Nil**IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

This report recommends that the policy documents tabled at this meeting be adopted.

**TABLED ITEMS** 14/14002 Bingara Preschool Policy Manual 2021  
14/14013 Tharawonga Mobile Policy Manual 2021  
21/22567 Additional Policies Bingara Preschool 2021  
21/22742 Additional Policies Tharawonga MRU 2021**BACKGROUND**

In order to maintain the Council's accreditation for the Bingara Preschool and Tharawonga MRU the relevant policies for these services must be reviewed and updated regularly.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the following policies are adopted:**

**Bingara Preschool Policy Manual 2021**

**Tharawonga Mobile Policy Manual 2021**

**Policies Bingara Preschool 2021**

**Additional Policies Tharawonga MRU 2021**

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

**Item 6 Attract, Connect, Stay, Program**

FILE REFERENCE 21/23092

**DELIVERY PROGRAM**

GOAL: 1. A healthy and cohesive community

OUTCOME: 1.2 OUR COMMUNITY IS AN INVITING AND VIBRANT PLACE TO LIVE

STRATEGY: 1.1.1 Improve local access to health services - OCD - external

AUTHOR General Manager

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

**IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

This report recommends the formation of a coordinating Committee to oversee the introduction and monitoring of this program.

TABLED ITEMS Nil

**BACKGROUND**

Gwydir Shire Council, along with Glen Innes Severn and Narrabri Shires, has been selected to participate in a two year trial to assist in solving the health workforce shortage. The New England Joint Organisation, Gwydir is an Associate Member, has allocated \$15,000 to each participating Council to assist in defraying the first cost to each of the three Councils.

More details of this program are outlined in the attached press release.

The Council's staff have been liaising with Dr Cosgrave, the head of the research team and the attached draft Attract, Connect, Stay, Coordinating Committee is the initial outcome from these discussions.

It is proposed to hold a stakeholder meeting to confirm the Charter prior to the Council Meeting.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the report be received.**

**FURTHER that the attached Charter for the Attract, Connect, Stay, Coordinating Committee be adopted and the Committee be formed.**

**ATTACHMENTS**

AT- Press Release

T- Draft Committee Charter



**Media Release**

10 August 2021

**Attract, Connect, Stay: Rural communities are leading the way in solving their own health workforce shortages**

Three local government areas (LGAs) in north-western NSW have been selected to participate in a research project to address their long-standing health workforce shortages. **Glen Innes, Gwydir Shire and Narrabri LGAs** will work with a research team headed by Dr Cath Cosgrave to establish, fund and manage a Health Workforce Recruiter & Connector (HWRC) position.

*"We have had a fantastic response from interested communities to establish the Health Workforce Recruiter & Connector positions" said Dr Cosgrave. "The successful towns should be congratulated for their commitment to ensuring their residents have access to a range of health professionals needed to keep people healthy."*

The purpose of the HWRC is to build networks to better identify and successfully attract health professionals (allied health, doctors and nurses) who are a 'strong fit' for the local community. A core focus of the role is to provide tailored support to newly recruited health workers and their family members with settling in, making connections and thriving- in-place (including employment support for partners).

**Attract, Connect, Stay** is a two-year project funded by the **Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR)** and auspiced by **Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health (SARRAH)** - the peak body representing rural and remote allied health professionals.

*"It is essential that rural and remote communities get better access to health services," said Cath Maloney, CEO of SARRAH. "We are seeing more people moving from the city to rural communities because of the many benefits of a rural lifestyle. To support this movement we also need to see comparable growth in the health services available in regional Australia. We need to see more community-led and innovative projects like **Attract Connect Stay** to ensure rural and remote communities have access to health professionals to the same extent as their city-based counterparts."*

The HWRC model was originally developed ten years ago in the Canadian township of Marathon, a small rural town with approximately 3,300 residents. A consortium of local health, local government and business stakeholders created the position to address a chronic shortage of GPs at the time and since then has continued to fund, govern and manage the position. Outcomes from having this dedicated health workforce role for over a decade include no health staffing shortages and the successful attraction and retention of a broad range of health professionals.

The **Attract, Connect, Stay** research project is headed by Dr Cath Cosgrave, supported by a team of researchers (Drs Malatzky, Waller, Boyce, Moran) all with experience in the creation and implementation of innovative rural health workforce solutions. The project is assisted by an Advisory Group, chaired by SARRAH, and including representatives from: NSW Rural Doctors Network, Primary Health Network (Hunter New England and Central Coast), Regional Australia Institute and the University of New England.

With the assistance of Project Advisory Group members, Dr Cosgrave identified communities in north-western NSW as potential pilot sites based on their having health workforce shortages and a strong track-record of community collaboration. Dr Cosgrave worked with local





**SARRAH**  
Services for Australian  
Rural and Remote Allied Health

**Media Release**

10 August 2021

governments in several communities to run a community workshop to explain the project, after which a number of communities submitted Expressions of Interest to be pilot sites.

Community members from the Glen Innes, Gwydir Shire and Narrabri LGAs (including local government, business and health service representatives) will now work closely with Dr Cosgrave by participating in series of co-design workshops and learning from each other to establish their own HWRC. It is expected that the three HWRC positions will be in place before the end of this year.

Other rural communities stand to benefit from the research project, as the **Attract, Connect, Stay** team will produce a suite of resources that others can utilise to create and sustain their own HWRC position. While working with the three NSW communities, the research team will be developing resources that are best suited to Australian rural communities. In 2022 the project will be extended into Victoria and potentially some other NSW sites to test the applicability of the resources developed for a broad range of rural communities.

*"We've seen great success in other rural communities adopting this approach in strengthening health workforce. I'm looking forward to working closely with the Glen Innes, Gwydir Shire and Narrabri communities to support them to develop their own self-funded and locally managed Health Workforce Recruiter & Connector. I genuinely believe these positions are essential rural healthcare infrastructure and are a significant missing piece for effectively addressing rural health workforce shortages"* said Dr Cosgrave.

**Please direct interviews and media enquiries to:**

**Dr Cath Cosgrave**  
Founder - Cath Cosgrave Consulting

[cathcosgraveconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:cathcosgraveconsulting@gmail.com)  
0405110897





**ATTRACT, CONNECT, STAY COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

(A sub-committee of the Gwydir Community Health Alliance)

**Committee Membership and quorum**

The membership of this Committee is:

A Gwydir Shire Councillor Representatives on the Gwydir Community Health Alliance: Crs Egan; Galvin; and; Young

The Bingara and Warialda Medical Practice Managers;

An Allied Health Representative: Suggestion – Physiotherapist Suzie Billsborough;

The Managers of both the Bingara and Warialda MPS;

A representative of the Aged Care Sector; Suggestion – Touriandi Lodge Manager, Jennifer Brown

The four current Community Representatives on the Gwydir Community Health Alliance: At the moment Lenore Kennedy; Paul Moulton; David Conway and Robbie Burge; and;

Gwydir Shire General Manager or nominee.

The quorum is 7, which must include at least 2 of the community representatives.

**Committee Chairman and Deputy Chairman**

The Chair is the current Chair of the Gwydir Community Health Alliance;

Deputy Chair and Secretary/Treasurer (if required) are determined by a vote at the Committee.

Whenever the voting on a motion put to this Committee is equal, the Chairperson is to have a casting vote as well as an original vote.

**Committee Delegation**

This committee has no formal delegations.

**Committee Function**

The role of this Committee is to provide oversight on the introduction and continuing activities of the Attract, Connect, Stay, Program.

**Item 7            Gwydir Shire Vaccination Hubs****FILE REFERENCE**                          21/23621**DELIVERY PROGRAM****GOAL:**                        1. A healthy and cohesive community**OUTCOME:**            1.1 WE HAVE HEALTHY AND INVITING SPACES AND PLACES**STRATEGY:**        1.1.1 Improve local access to health services - OCD - external**AUTHOR**                General Manager**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**   Nil**IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

This report is for information only.

**TABLED ITEMS**                          Nil**BACKGROUND**

One of the Shire's local Federal Members, The Hon. Mark Coulton MP, organised a meeting between the Royal Flying Doctors Service (RFDS) to arrange for Gwydir Shire to host three vaccination hubs:

North Star Sporting Club Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021;

Warialda Showground Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021; and;

Bingara Showground Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

A request has also been submitted for a vaccination hub at Upper Horton following a request from that community that this has not been approved as yet and is still under consideration.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the report be received**

**ATTACHMENTS**

**AT-** Promotional Flyers



Royal Flying Doctor Service  
SOUTH EASTERN SECTION

## Pop-Up vaccination clinic

Warialda

Saturday 25 September, 2021

Warialda Showground, Gwydir Highway

10.30am-3.30pm

This is a Pfizer vaccination clinic only and is for everyone aged 12 years and above.

Either first or second dose.

The RFDSSE will return for the 2nd dose in 3 weeks.

Ensure you have your medicare card on the day.  
Remember to socially distance, wear a mask and follow all NSW Government's rules and regulations at all times.

Bring a hat and water. No bookings necessary.



Royal Flying Doctor Service  
SOUTH EASTERN SECTION

## Pop-Up vaccination clinic

Bingara

Sunday 26 September, 2021

Bingara Showground, Bowen Street

10.30am-3.30pm

This is a Pfizer vaccination clinic only and is for everyone aged 12 years and above.

Either first or second dose.

The RFDSSE will return for the 2nd dose in 3 weeks.

Ensure you have your medicare card on the day.  
Remember to socially distance, wear a mask and follow all NSW Government's rules and regulations at all times.

Bring a hat and water. No bookings necessary.



Royal Flying Doctor Service  
SOUTH EASTERN SECTION

## Pop-Up vaccination clinic

North Star

Friday 24 September, 2021

North Star Sporting Club, Yetman Road

10.30am-3.30pm

This is a Pfizer vaccination clinic only and is for everyone aged 12 years and above.

Either first or second dose.

The RFDSSE will return for the 2nd dose in 3 weeks.

Ensure you have your medicare card on the day.  
Remember to socially distance, wear a mask and follow all NSW Government's rules and regulations at all times.

Bring a hat and water. No bookings necessary.