



**G W Y D I R**  
SHIRE COUNCIL

**ORDINARY MEETING**

**AGENDA**

**Thursday 28 November 2024**

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that an **Ordinary Meeting of Gwydir Shire Council** will be held in the The Living Classroom on **Thursday 28 November 2024**, commencing at **10:00 am** to discuss the items listed in the Agenda.

Your attendance is respectfully requested.

Yours faithfully,

Max Eastcott  
General Manager

## **DISCLAIMER**

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Members of the public should note that no action should be taken on any item discussed at a Council or Committee meeting prior to written advice on the resolution of Council being received.

**Agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website:**

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

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY**

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



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## 1 OFFICIAL OPENING AND WELCOME - MAYOR

## 2 APOLOGIES

## 3 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024 as circulated be taken as read and CONFIRMED.**

## 4 PRESENTATION

At 10:00 am the Council's Auditors will present the Audited Financial Statements for the Financial Year 2023/2024

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

## 6 MAYORAL MINUTE

### 6.1 Willoughby-Gwydir Student Exchange Program

The following correspondence was received recently from one of the Willoughby students who visited Gwydir on the exchange program.:

*Dear Gwydir Councilors and Kiddos,*

*It is not everyday that one gets to leave the bounds of their natural comfort zone and into novel environments however when one does, treasured experiences and memories are formed. This was the case for us Willoughby and Gwydir Kiddies and Councilors embracing one a journey of self-enrichment that has allowed us to form bonds that stretch across highway & expanse regions. The feeling I had as I entered into Bingara was absolutely surreal and a bit frightening since I had no idea whether a kangaroo might knock on my door thank God it was Ben. From the valleys and vast plains of farmland at north star to the top of the Sydney Harbor Bridge, I would like to thank the Gwydir Councilors and Kidstars offering me and all my friends and peers at Willoughby such a stupendous experience that will forever be ingrained with the trenches of all our souls. The Smilies, the Laughter, the Enjoyment. This is what life is supposed to be. I would like to leave yall a final message to everybody. No matter what, always be your true self and embrace all your opportunities; as if I didn't embrace mine, I wouldn't have met all use amazing and funtabulous human beings.*

*This is your friendly neighborhood Cowboy from Willoughby signing off*

*Yours Truly  
Warren Nam*

Sometimes it is easy to forget just what a positive impact this exchange program can make for its participants, from both communities.

The Sister-City Relationship between Willoughby and Gwydir is a wonderful initiative, which is now in its 30<sup>th</sup> year! The exchange program started in December 1994 when more than 250 Christmas gifts left Willoughby by truck, for the drought-stricken district on Bingara. Cr John Squire, then Mayor of Willoughby, flew to Bingara on Australia Day 1995 to present a drought relief cheque and sign the Inter-Council agreement which formalised the Gwydir and Willoughby Friendly City Relationship.

The working relationship between our two Councils is also very strong and has been supported positively by the Mayors, Councillors and staff of both Councils during the 30 years.

The actual student exchanged commenced in 1997.

I look forward very much to Gwydir Shire continuing this relationship with Mayor Taylor and her fellow Councillors into the future.

### **MAYORAL RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Council writes a letter of congratulations to Willoughby City Council Mayor, Tanya Taylor, on her re-election as Mayor and all the Councillors of Willoughby City Council.**

**FURTHER that Gwydir's staff members, Tori McDougall and Ben Perry be thanked for their excellent supervision of the Gwydir Shire students while they were visiting Sydney.**

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Thank You - Warialda High School Students - Willoughby Exchange Program - Jacob Hodge [6.1.1 - 1 page]
2. Gwydir- Willoughby EXCHANGE 2022 ( FINAL ) [6.1.2 - 11 pages]

Scanned By: mfwren On: 18/09/2015 11:02:15 AM 00001

Jacob Hodge  
23 Gragin Road  
Warialda NSW 2402

Mitchell Bell  
Warialda Newsagency  
Hope Street  
Warialda NSW 2402

16<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Mr Max Eastcott  
General Manager  
Gwydir Shire Council  
33 Maitland Street  
BINGARA NSW 2404

Dear Mr Eastcott

On behalf of Mitchell and Myself, as students representing Warialda High School, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Gwydir Shire Council for choosing us both to participate in the Gwydir Shire Council & Willoughby Exchange Program.

The experiences we had both in Bingara and Sydney are something we will have for our whole lives, the friendships we have made in both the country and city hopefully we be lifelong as well.

We had some extraordinary fun times and created fantastic memories. We shared and experienced cultural differences, including an interesting trip to Chinatown. The Sydney Harbour Bridge climb was absolutely awesome; we would recommend this experience to anyone heading to the city.

Once again thank you to the Gwydir Shire Council for allowing us to participate, sponsoring and supporting this tremendous program.

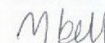
Many Thanks

Yours Sincerely

Jacob Hodge



Mitchell Bell



**WYAG**  
**GWYDIR**  
**EXCHANGE**  
**2022**

# DAY ONE

Sydney to Gwydir Youth  
Exchange trip 2022! Super  
excited to visit our friends in  
the countryside for 4 days of  
fun and new experiences!



We arrived in Bingara at 6pm- via  
bus coach. We enjoyed a team  
dinner after a long day of travel.



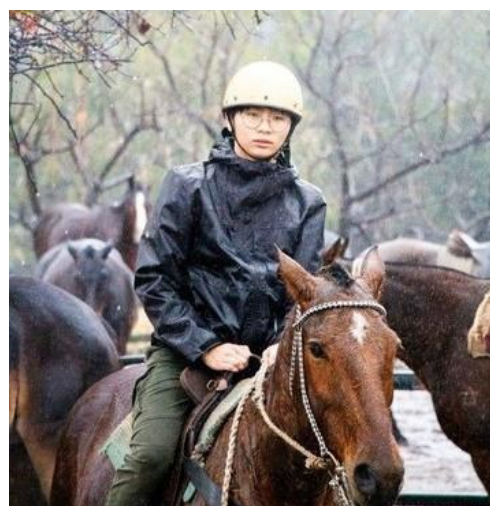
# DAY TWO

We woke up bright and early to visit the Myall Creek Massacre memorial today and the Willoughby Friendship plaque.



Along the way, we went orange picking! It started raining, but this did not stop our fun!

Horse riding was next on our agenda. Some got more wet than others...



That evening, we enjoyed a movie night altogether...

# DAY THREE

Today was the Bingara  
Orange festival.



We stopped by the  
Bingara dirt bike show  
and rodeo.

We ended our evening with a team camp  
fire. It was the perfect way to end the  
last night of our trip.



# DAY FOUR

We said goodbye to our friends from Gwydir and flew back to Sydney.



Until next time  
Gwydir

# TESTIMONIALS

"I was about to cancel the trip, but everyone seemed so excited so I got rid of that mindset. To be honest, I loved going to nature where there weren't many people. It's so chill and relaxing while we stayed there. It's really fun when I can forget about all the restrictions and be by myself. I can't wait until next exchange in September!"

- **David Cao, 16**

"The exchange was really nice because it brought both the Willoughby and Gwydir kids together. Though I was worried about breaking the ice initially, the several intense uno games made us all more comfortable with each other. The bunk arrangements also gave us opportunities to talk to each other and bond, which was essential for this kind of exchange. Additionally, I had never felt so welcomed by people I hadn't met before. The hard work that was put into planning everything and making sure it happened, ensured that everything ran smoothly. Overall, I loved being there and meeting everyone, and I will massively look forward to seeing everyone again later in the year."

- **Lucy Pereira, 16**

I'm glad I listened to David and came, it was an amazing experience, and now I look back to the past few days, I've never been this happy in a long time, nothing to worry about and just chill out.

- **Bosco Chiu, 16**

# TESTIMONIALS

"To most of us, travelling is a way to explore the world. During the Gwydir exchange trip, I experienced a new side of travel; making new friends that will forever be a big part of my life. A lifetime of adventures with kind and welcoming people, a way to relax and recharge myself for the expectations that the city and high school life has was an experience that I never knew I genuinely needed, until I experienced it. I made friendships from both Gwydir and Sydney during this trip, we all bonded on the first night. At first, I was worried about if they would like me or if I would become overwhelmed by going from living alone and being used to the quiet to sharing a room with so many girls at once! One thing for sure though, I loved every moment of it.

The best part of the trip must have been the friendships I made along the way. The first day I met the girls and other locals in Bingara that accepted me with smiles and hugs, I will be forever grateful to the never-ending kindness they have all showed me. That day, I also decided it might be an amazing idea to one day move there. This was supported even more when one of the elderly ladies that prepared us dinner for the party that night, was actually from my high school and lived in my neighborhood until they decided to move there. I asked her feelings about it and found out she never regretted nor questioned that decision, preferring to enjoy the 'Bingara life' to this day. When we are used to the city life, our values change accordingly. We mainly try to work hard to cover our living costs and focus on education. Along the way we also seem to start valuing friendships and family less. On the other hand, we could see a strong bond between all the locals in Bingara. This was especially visible during the Orange Picking Ceremony where they talked about the historical meaning, how all students in every generation try to protect the trees, the locals coming together every year on this beautiful day to honor the lives that were lost in the war and lastly, how everyone tried to help each other pick the best oranges. I was told by at least six of the locals where I can pick the best ones, leading me to the trees themselves. It showed me a value I thought I had buried deep away a long time ago. The bond and kindness of all the people living in Bingara taught me many things I will always cherish.

Another part of the trip I loved was the Orange Festival. Amazing displays of antique items, the stunning parade, kind words of the mayor while handing over my certificate (motivating me to visit every year) and the dance shows were all a joy to experience. Additionally, the bonfire was a fun way to share our stories, enjoy all types of music and dance, enjoy delicious marshmallows and wish our farewell to the town. It was honestly very sad for me to end that night and go to sleep as I wanted to stay more, continue sharing the same room with the girls (I don't remember the last time I actually had a great sleep knowing I am not all alone) and I genuinely did not want to leave the relaxing lifestyle filled with nature behind.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have joined this exchange event. I experienced many new things, made many new friends, learned new values and have set a new goal in life which is to try and have a rural life after I am done with my dream career. I never would have imagined wanting to live in a rural town after spending my whole life in several large cities such as New York, Istanbul, Batumi and Sydney. Thank you for everything and I am looking forward to the September exchange event to reunite with all my friends and make more memories together!"

- **Hazel Basaran, 17**

# TESTIMONIALS

"I was always a city girl. As someone who was raised in one of the most crowded cities in the world (Hong Kong), the constant hustle and bustle of people was a common sight to me. Queuing in front of restaurants for hours, watching the night sky illuminated by neon signs- I thought that I already experienced the best that life had to offer.

That was until I packed my bags and set off for Bingara. Although it was a short trip, this trip was the best interruption that I've ever had in my life. During those 4 days, thoughts of studying, social media and stress never once crossed my mind. I got to know amazing friends, real (and delicious) country cooking and wildlife that I never would have otherwise set my sights on. I had a lot of first-time experiences- such as horse-riding in the rain and participating in the orange-picking festival.

As an immigrant, the Gwydir exchange trip truly opened my eyes to what kind of place Australia really is. Although crowded cities and noisy roads make up a part of Australian life, nothing will ever be on par with countryside sunsets and bonfires. Through the soft crackles of firewood and hearty conversations between locals, I felt truly welcomed in not only the tightly-interwoven town of Bingara, but also Australia as a whole. Words cannot express how grateful I am for the organisers, the participants and the locals that made up such unforgettable and euphoric memories. I completely fell in love with the countryside, and I cannot wait for the next exchange trip between Willoughby and Gwydir"

- **Kimmy Kwok, 16**



## WILLOUGHBY AND BINGARA EXCHANGE

*“True friends are never apart, maybe in distance but never in heart.”*



To say that visiting Bingara was a once-in-a-lifetime experience would be the understatement of the century. From horse riding in the rain to watching rodeos, the Willoughby Youth Action Group got to experience true country life in Bingara and make bonds that will follow us for a lifetime. As we grow accustomed to concrete jungles and neon nights, the hectic city life can sometimes make us forget that Australia has a lot more to offer outside bustling metropolises.

Out of all the memorable experiences, the most impactful one has to be visiting Myall Creek and learning about the massacre of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders on this site. Although recent Australian history has seen massive steps and achievements towards reconciliation between Koori and non-Koori people, one must never forget that countless Aboriginal people have suffered at the hands of discrimination and cruelty. Myall Creek is a path crafted in the shape of the 'Rainbow Serpent' (a famous Aboriginal art concept) and seeks to educate all those who walk on it about the killing of twenty-eight unarmed Indigenous people on 10 June 1838.

As the group walked in silence, we are truly grateful to learn that Indigenous history is weaved not only with pain and discrimination but also with the idea of forgiveness and opportunity. The story of Myall Creek is truly a heartbreaking one, and yet it is one that every Australian should know about. Apart from learning stories fundamental to Aboriginal history, we also discovered a completely new part of Australia-country life. Having the chance to eat authentic country cooking was an incredible delight, and it still amazes me how every meal was cooked perfectly for us.

The group will never forget the time when we went horse-riding in the rain, and even though our fingers were freezing to the point where they might fall off, our hearts were full and our smiles were bright. Sometimes, a refreshing (and cold!) horse ride is all you need to feel truly at peace. Although city life is what the WYAG was accustomed to, words cannot express how appreciative we are for this exchange trip. We extend our thanks to the participants, the organizers, as well the boundless amounts of hospitality that the town of Bingara showed us.

During the trip, the bonds between our groups continued to strengthen, and it almost feels like the WYAG group has gained a new family- halfway across Australia. We are thrilled to have gone on this exchange trip, and we hope that such opportunities can present themselves to us in the near future, for there is no doubt that we will be snatching them up in a heartbeat.





## VISITING WILLOUGHBY

Building on the friendships formed while staying in Bingara, many of us paired up with a friend for the trip. Settling into our rooms, we chatted and got ready to go out for dinner near our hotel. We all shared different Japanese dishes, many of which the Gwydir kids had never even tried or heard of before. It was a lovely opportunity to give them a taste of the many different Asian cuisines that we take for granted in Sydney. Friday was especially busy as our day was jam-packed with activities. In the morning we visited Taronga zoo, saw a seal show, saw lots of animals and got to ride in the cable cars, which gave us a great view of the zoo in the water.

The highlight of the day was the harbour bridge climb. Even living in Sydney, I had never had the chance to do it, so it was a first for me as well. We all persevered through the wind on the climb, and in turn, received an amazing view of the harbour when we reached the top. To pair with the view, was commentary from our bridge guide who shared the intriguing history of the bridge and its surroundings. After a short rest, we headed into Chatswood and all ate dinner together at Guzman y Gomez, a staple for lots of people in the area. It was nice for us Gwydir and Willoughby kids to once again be able to sit and eat together.

Saturday gave us a chance to relax in the morning, and after breakfast, we headed back to Chatswood to go to Strike bowling, and explore the local area. We were initially supposed to take part in the Emerge festival, which was unfortunately interrupted by the rain. Nevertheless, we all had fun playing arcade games, shopping for each other, and trying new things. After exploring Westfield, we had to set up the youth Center for afternoon tea with the mayors and councillors of both Willoughby and Gwydir councils. The setting presented everyone with an opportunity to share their story with the councils and some great advice, which was invaluable to all of us. In the evening, we all piled into the minibus and drove to see the Dragons vs Broncos game. Despite the rain, it was still really entertaining, with some great playing on the Dragons' side. We stopped under the harbour bridge on the way back, getting to soak in the views the city boasts at night. Exhausted, but still in the mood for some fun, some of us played card games together and ordered in food, joking around and making the most of our last night together in Sydney.

Sunday morning was bittersweet, as we both looked forward to getting some rest, but were also upset to say goodbye to the Gwydir guys. We all said our goodbyes and waved as they headed home, marking the official end of the exchange.

## 7 OFFICERS' REPORTS

### 7.1 Adoption of Committee Recommendations

**File Reference:** NA

**Delivery Program**

**Goal:** 5. Organisational management

**Outcome:** 5.1 Corporate management

**Strategy:** 5.1.3 Administrative and support functions

**Author:** General Manager

**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST** Nil

#### IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

This report is recommending the adoption of the recommendations for the Public Infrastructure and Community Services and Planning Committee Meetings held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

**TABLED ITEMS** Nil

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

##### Public Infrastructure Committee

##### Technical Services Report

**THAT the Monthly Technical Services Report for October 2024 be received.**

**FURTHER that maintenance on The Gap Road is offered to affected residents using the Council's Self-Help Program, where 50% of associated costs are covered by ratepayers participating in the program.**

##### Community Services and Planning Committee

##### Organisation & Community Services Report

**THAT the report be received.**

##### Executive Services Report

**THAT the report be received.**

##### Confidential Organisation & Community Services

**THAT the report be received.**

#### ATTACHMENTS



Nil

## 7.2 Council Meeting Process

**File Reference:** NA

### Delivery Program

**Goal:** 5. Organisational management

**Outcome:** 5.1 Corporate management

**Strategy:** 5.1.3 Administrative and support functions

**Author:** General Manager

### STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

### IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

For discussion with a suggested amendment to the *Order of Business for Ordinary Council Meetings*.

### TABLED ITEMS Nil

### BACKGROUND

The the Councillor Induction Days discussed the possibility of modifying the Council's operations at its Ordinary Meetings.

The Councillors present were advised that a discussion paper would be tabled at this Council Meeting for discussion.

Those Councillors present at the training supported the more relaxed style of meeting procedure that has been a feature of the Council's Ordinary Meetings.

However, it may be beneficial to modify the Order of Business to allow for more relaxed debate on certain matters. The possibility of introducing dealing with items by exception was also discussed to streamline Ordinary Meetings.

By introducing these changes, the Council may possibly dispense with the current regular committee meetings. Now the Committee Meetings are very informal meetings where discussion is promoted. However, the Committees (Community Services & Planning and Public Infrastructure) have not been granted any delegation to make decisions, so matters are referred to the Ordinary Meeting for confirmation of the Committees' recommendations.

There would be no time delay in the decision-making process of the Council due to any of the changes suggested.

The usual day scheduled for Committee Meetings, usually the second Thursday of each month, could be available for any special workshops that may be required.

To achieve the change suggested the following Order of Business could be introduced and included in the Council's Code of Meeting Practice. Please note that bolded italic words are extracted from the relevant Clause of the Code of Meeting

Practice. This information is included so that you get a feeling for the procedure followed at many Councils due to the adversarial nature when different political parties occupy seats at the table:

Opening meeting – Chair usually the Mayor

### **WEBCASTING OF MEETING**

***This meeting will be recorded for placement on Council's website.***

***All speakers must ensure their comments are relevant to the issue at hand and to refrain from making personal comments or criticisms or mentioning any private information.***

***No other persons are permitted to record the meeting, unless specifically authorised by Council to do so.***

Apologies and applications for a leave of absence by councillors

Confirmation of minutes

Disclosures of interests

Presentations/Public Forum (***See attached Policy***)

- 4.1 The council may adopt to hold a public forum prior to each ordinary meeting of the council for the purpose of hearing oral submissions from members of the public on items of business to be considered at the meeting. Public forums may also be held prior to extraordinary council meetings and meetings of committees of the council.***
- 4.2 Public forums are to be chaired by the mayor or their nominee.***
- 4.3 To speak at a public forum, a person must first make an application to the council in the approved form. Applications to speak at the public forum must be received by 4 pm three days before the date on which the public forum is to be held and must identify the item of business on the agenda of the council meeting the person wishes to speak on, and whether they wish to speak 'for' or 'against' the item.***
- 4.4 A person may apply to speak on no more than one item of business on the agenda of the council meeting.***
- 4.5 Legal representatives acting on behalf of others are not to be permitted to speak at a public forum unless they identify their status as a legal representative when applying to speak at the public forum.***

- 4.6** *The general manager or their delegate may refuse an application to speak at a public forum. The general manager or their delegate must give reasons in writing for a decision to refuse an application.*
- 4.7** *No more than two speakers are to be permitted to speak 'for' or 'against' each item of business on the agenda for the council meeting.*
- 4.8** *If more than the permitted number of speakers apply to speak 'for' or 'against' any item of business, the general manager or their delegate may request the speakers to nominate from among themselves the persons who are to address the council on the item of business. If the speakers are not able to agree on whom to nominate to address the council, the general manager or their delegate is to determine who will address the council at the public forum.*
- 4.9** *If more than the permitted number of speakers apply to speak 'for' or 'against' any item of business, the general manager or their delegate may, in consultation with the mayor or the mayor's nominated chairperson, increase the number of speakers permitted to speak on an item of business, where they are satisfied that it is necessary to do so to allow the council to hear a fuller range of views on the relevant item of business.*
- 4.10** *Approved speakers at the public forum are to register with the council any written, visual, or audio material to be presented in support of their address to the council at the public forum, and to identify any equipment needs no more than three days before the public forum. The general manager or their delegate may refuse to allow such material to be presented.*
- 4.11** *The general manager or their delegate is to determine the order of speakers at the public forum.*
- 4.12** *Each speaker will be allowed five minutes to address the council. This time is to be strictly enforced by the chairperson.*
- 4.13** *Speakers at public forums must not digress from the item on the agenda of the council meeting they have applied to address the council on. If a speaker digresses to irrelevant matters, the chairperson is to direct the speaker not to do so. If a speaker fails to observe a direction from the chairperson, the speaker will not be further heard.*
- 4.14** *A councillor (including the chairperson) may, through the chairperson, ask questions of a speaker following their address at a public forum. Questions put to a speaker must be direct, succinct and without argument.*

- 4.15** *Speakers are under no obligation to answer a question put under clause 4.14. Answers by the speaker, to each question are to be limited to two minutes.*
- 4.16** *Speakers at public forums cannot ask questions of the council, councillors, or council staff.*
- 4.17** *The general manager or their nominee may, with the concurrence of the chairperson, address the council for up to five minutes in response to an address to the council at a public forum after the address and any subsequent questions and answers have been finalised.*
- 4.18** *Where an address made at a public forum raises matters that require further consideration by council staff, the general manager may recommend that the council defer consideration of the matter pending the preparation of a further report on the matters.*
- 4.19** *When addressing the council, speakers at public forums must comply with this code and all other relevant council codes, policies, and procedures. Speakers must refrain from engaging in disorderly conduct, publicly alleging breaches of the council's code of conduct or making other potentially defamatory statements.*
- 4.20** *If the chairperson considers that a speaker at a public forum has engaged in conduct of the type referred to in clause 4.19, the chairperson may request the person to refrain from the inappropriate behaviour and to withdraw and unreservedly apologise for any inappropriate comments. Where the speaker fails to comply with the chairperson's request, the chairperson may immediately require the person to stop speaking.*
- 4.21** *Clause 4.20 does not limit the ability of the chairperson to deal with disorderly conduct by speakers at public forums in accordance with the provisions of Part 15 of this code.*
- 4.22** *Where a speaker engages in conduct of the type referred to in clause 4.19, the general manager or their delegate may refuse further applications from that person to speak at public forums for such a period as the general manager or their delegate considers appropriate.*
- 4.23** *Councillors (including the mayor) must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in relation to any item of business that is the subject of an address at a public forum, in the same way that they are required to do so at a council or committee meeting. The council is to maintain a written record of all conflict-of-interest*

***declarations made at public forums and how the conflict of interest was managed by the councillor who made the declaration.***

Mayoral minute(s)

- 9.6** ***Subject to clause 9.9, if the mayor is the chairperson at a meeting of the council, the mayor may, by minute signed by the mayor, put to the meeting without notice any matter or topic that is within the jurisdiction of the council, or of which the council has official knowledge.***
- 9.7** ***A mayoral minute, when put to a meeting, takes precedence over all business on the council's agenda for the meeting. The chairperson (but only if the chairperson is the mayor) may move the adoption of a mayoral minute without the motion being seconded.***
- 9.8** ***A recommendation made in a mayoral minute put by the mayor is, so far as it is adopted by the council, a resolution of the council.***
- 9.9** ***A mayoral minute must not be used to put without notice matters that are routine and not urgent or matters for which proper notice should be given because of their complexity. For the purpose of this clause, a matter will be urgent where it requires a decision by the council before the next scheduled ordinary meeting of the council.***
- 9.10** ***Where a mayoral minute makes a recommendation which, if adopted, would require the expenditure of funds on works and/or services other than those already provided for in the council's current adopted operational plan, it must identify the source of funding for the expenditure that is the subject of the recommendation. If the mayoral minute does not identify a funding source, the council must defer consideration of the matter, pending a report from the general manager on the availability of funds for implementing the recommendation if adopted.***

Notices of motions/Recission Motions

- 3.10** ***A councillor may give notice of any business they wish to be considered by the council at its next ordinary meeting by way of a notice of motion. To be included on the agenda of the meeting, the notice of motion must be in writing and must be submitted 8 business days before the meeting is to be held.***
- 3.11** ***A councillor may, in writing to the general manager, request the withdrawal of a notice of motion submitted by***

*them prior to its inclusion in the agenda and business paper for the meeting at which it is to be considered.*

- 3.12** *If the general manager considers that a notice of motion submitted by a councillor for consideration at an ordinary meeting of the council has legal, strategic, financial or policy implications which should be taken into consideration by the meeting, the general manager may prepare a report in relation to the notice of motion for inclusion with the business papers for the meeting at which the notice of motion is to be considered by the council.*
- 3.13** *A notice of motion for the expenditure of funds on works and/or services other than those already provided for in the council's current adopted operational plan must identify the source of funding for the expenditure that is the subject of the notice of motion. If the notice of motion does not identify a funding source, the general manager must either:*
- (a) prepare a report on the availability of funds for implementing the motion if adopted for inclusion in the business papers for the meeting at which the notice of motion is to be considered by the council, or*
  - (b) by written notice sent to all councillors with the business papers for the meeting for which the notice of motion has been submitted, defer consideration of the matter by the council to such a date specified in the notice, pending the preparation of such a report.*
- 10.2** *A councillor who has submitted a notice of motion under clause 3.10 is to move the motion the subject of the notice of motion at the meeting at which it is to be considered.*
- 10.3** *If a councillor who has submitted a notice of motion under clause 3.10 wishes to withdraw it after the agenda and business paper for the meeting at which it is to be considered have been sent to councillors, the councillor may request the withdrawal of the motion when it is before the council.*
- 10.4** *In the absence of a councillor who has placed a notice of motion on the agenda for a meeting of the council:*
- (a) any other councillor may, with the leave of the chairperson, move the motion at the meeting, or*
  - (b) the chairperson may defer consideration of the motion until the next meeting of the council.*

**Rescinding or altering council decisions**

- 17.3** *A resolution passed by the council may not be altered or rescinded except by a motion to that effect of which notice has been given under clause 3.10.*
- 17.4** *If a notice of motion to rescind a resolution is given at the meeting at which the resolution is carried, the resolution must not be carried into effect until the motion of rescission has been dealt with.*
- 17.5** *If a motion has been lost, a motion having the same effect must not be considered unless notice of it has been duly given in accordance with clause 3.10.*
- 17.6** *A notice of motion to alter or rescind a resolution, and a notice of motion which has the same effect as a motion which has been lost, must be signed by three (3) councillors if less than three (3) months has elapsed since the resolution was passed, or the motion was lost.*
- 17.7** *If a motion to alter or rescind a resolution has been lost, or if a motion which has the same effect as a previously lost motion is lost, no similar motion may be brought forward within three (3) months of the meeting at which it was lost. This clause may not be evaded by substituting a motion differently worded, but in principle the same.*
- 17.8** *The provisions of clauses 17.5–17.7 concerning lost motions do not apply to motions of adjournment.*
- 17.9** *A notice of motion submitted in accordance with clause 17.6 may only be withdrawn under clause 3.11 with the consent of all signatories to the notice of motion.*
- 17.10** *A notice of motion to alter or rescind a resolution relating to a development application must be submitted to the general manager no later than 4 pm two working days after the meeting at which the resolution was adopted.*
- 17.11** *A motion to alter or rescind a resolution of the council may be moved on the report of a committee of the council and any such report must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the council.*
- 17.12** *Subject to clause 17.7, in cases of urgency, a motion to alter or rescind a resolution of the council may be moved at the same meeting at which the resolution was adopted, where:*
- (a)** *a notice of motion signed by three councillors is submitted to the chairperson, and*



- (b) a motion to have the motion considered at the meeting is passed, and**
- (c) the chairperson rules the business that is the subject of the motion is of great urgency on the grounds that it requires a decision by the council before the next scheduled ordinary meeting of the council.**

**17.13 A motion moved under clause 17.12 (b) can be moved without notice. Despite clauses 10.20–10.30, only the mover of a motion referred to in clause 17.12 (b) can speak to the motion before it is put.**

**17.14 A motion of dissent cannot be moved against a ruling by the chairperson under clause 17.12 (c).**

Supplementary Late Items

Officer Reports

Dealing with items by exception

- 13.1 The council or a committee of council may, at any time, resolve to adopt multiple items of business on the agenda together by way of a single resolution.**
- 13.2 Before the council or committee resolves to adopt multiple items of business on the agenda together under clause 13.1, the chairperson must list the items of business to be adopted and ask councillors to identify any individual items of business listed by the chairperson that they intend to vote against the recommendation made in the business paper or that they wish to speak on.**
- 13.3 The council or committee must not resolve to adopt any item of business under clause 13.1 that a councillor has identified as being one they intend to vote against the recommendation made in the business paper or to speak on.**
- 13.4 Where the consideration of multiple items of business together under clause 13.1 involves a variation to the order of business for the meeting, the council or committee must resolve to alter the order of business in accordance with clause 8.2.**
- 13.5 A motion to adopt multiple items of business together under clause 13.1 must identify each of the items of business to be adopted and state that they are to be adopted as recommended in the business paper.**

- 13.6** *Items of business adopted under clause 13.1 are to be taken to have been adopted unanimously.*
- 13.7** *Councillors must ensure that they declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in relation to items of business considered together under clause 13.1 in accordance with the requirements of the council's code of conduct.*

Committee of the Whole to discuss non-expected items – Open to the public

- 12.1** *The council may resolve itself into a committee to consider any matter before the council.*
- 12.2** *All the provisions of this code relating to meetings of the council, so far as they are applicable, extend to and govern the proceedings of the council when in committee of the whole, except the provisions limiting the number and duration of speeches.*
- 12.3** *The general manager or, in the absence of the general manager, an employee of the council designated by the general manager, is responsible for reporting to the council the proceedings of the committee of the whole. It is not necessary to report the proceedings in full, but any recommendations of the committee must be reported.*
- 12.4** *The council must ensure that a report of the proceedings (including any recommendations of the committee) is recorded in the council's minutes. However, the council is not taken to have adopted the report until a motion for adoption has been made and passed.*

Adoption of the recommendations from the Open Committee of the Whole

Questions with notice

- 3.10** *A councillor may give notice of any business they wish to be considered by the council at its next ordinary meeting by way of a notice of motion. To be included on the agenda of the meeting, the notice of motion must be in writing and must be submitted 8 business days before the meeting is to be held.*
- 3.14** *A councillor may, by way of a notice submitted under clause 3.10, ask a question for response by the general manager about the performance or operations of the council.*
- 3.15** *A councillor is not permitted to ask a question with notice under clause 3.14 that comprises a complaint against the general manager or a member of staff of the council, or a*

***question that implies wrongdoing by the general manager or a member of staff of the council.***

- 3.16** ***The general manager or their nominee may respond to a question with notice submitted under clause 3.14 by way of a report included in the business papers for the relevant meeting of the council or orally at the meeting.***

Councillor Reports (***Noting restrictions on Questions without notice***)

- 9.14** ***A question must not be asked at a meeting of the council unless it concerns a matter on the agenda of the meeting or notice has been given of the question in accordance with clauses 3.10 and 3.14.***
- 9.15** ***A councillor may, through the chairperson, put a question to another councillor about a matter on the agenda.***
- 9.16** ***A councillor may, through the general manager, put a question to a council employee about a matter on the agenda. Council employees are only obliged to answer a question put to them through the general manager at the direction of the general manager.***
- 9.17** ***A councillor or council employee to whom a question is put is entitled to be given reasonable notice of the question and, in particular, sufficient notice to enable reference to be made to other persons or to documents. Where a councillor or council employee to whom a question is put is unable to respond to the question at the meeting at which it is put, they may take it on notice and report the response to the next meeting of the council.***
- 9.18** ***Councillors must put questions directly, succinctly, respectfully and without argument.***
- 9.19** ***The chairperson must not permit discussion on any reply to, or refusal to reply to, a question put to a councillor or council employee.***

Confidential Matters

Committee of the Whole with the Press and Public Excluded

***Grounds on which meetings can be closed to the public***

- 14.1** ***The council or a committee of the council may close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises the discussion or the receipt of any of the following types of matters:***
- (a)** ***personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors),***

- (b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer,**
- (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business,**
- (d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:**
  - (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or**
  - (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council, or**
  - (iii) reveal a trade secret,**
- (e) information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law,**
- (f) matters affecting the security of the council, councillors, council staff or council property,**
- (g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege,**
- (h) information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on community land,**
- (i) alleged contraventions of the council's code of conduct.**

**14.2 The council or a committee of the council may also close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises a motion to close another part of the meeting to the public. Matters to be considered when closing meetings to the public**

**14.3 A meeting is not to remain closed during the discussion of anything referred to in clause 14.1:**

- (a) except for so much of the discussion as is necessary to preserve the relevant confidentiality, privilege or security, and**
- (b) if the matter concerned is a matter other than a personnel matter concerning particular individuals, the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer or a trade secret – unless the council or committee**

**concerned is satisfied that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.**

**14.4 A meeting is not to be closed during the receipt and consideration of information or advice referred to in clause 14.1(g) unless the advice concerns legal matters that:**

- (a) are substantial issues relating to a matter in which the council or committee is involved, and**
- (b) are clearly identified in the advice, and**
- (c) are fully discussed in that advice.**

**14.5 If a meeting is closed during the discussion of a motion to close another part of the meeting to the public (as referred to in clause 14.2), the consideration of the motion must not include any consideration of the matter or information to be discussed in that other part of the meeting other than consideration of whether the matter concerned is a matter referred to in clause 14.1.**

**14.6 For the purpose of determining whether the discussion of a matter in an open meeting would be contrary to the public interest, it is irrelevant that:**

- (a) a person may misinterpret or misunderstand the discussion, or**
- (b) the discussion of the matter may:**
  - (i) cause embarrassment to the council or committee concerned, or to councillors or to employees of the council, or**
  - (ii) cause a loss of confidence in the council or committee.**

**14.7 In deciding whether part of a meeting is to be closed to the public, the council or committee concerned must consider any relevant guidelines issued by the Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government.**

#### **Expulsion of non-councillors from meetings closed to the public**

**14.18 If a meeting or part of a meeting of the council or a committee of the council is closed to the public in accordance with section 10A of the Act and this code, any person who is not a councillor and who fails to leave the meeting when requested, may be expelled from the meeting as provided by section 10 (2) (a) or (b) of the Act.**

**14.19** *If any such person, after being notified of a resolution or direction expelling them from the meeting, fails to leave the place where the meeting is being held, a police officer, or any person authorised for the purpose by the council or person presiding, may, by using only such force as is necessary, remove the first-mentioned person from that place and, if necessary restrain that person from re-entering that place for the remainder of the meeting.*

***Information to be disclosed in resolutions closing meetings to the public***

**14.20** *The grounds on which part of a meeting is closed must be stated in the decision to close that part of the meeting and must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The grounds must specify the following:*

- (a)** *the relevant provision of section 10A (2) of the Act,*
- (b)** *the matter that is to be discussed during the closed part of the meeting,*
- (c)** *the reasons why the part of the meeting is being closed, including (if the matter concerned is a matter other than a personnel matter concerning particular individuals, the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer or a trade secret) an explanation of the way in which discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest. Resolutions passed at closed meetings to be made public*

**14.21** *If the council passes a resolution during a meeting, or a part of a meeting, that is closed to the public, the chairperson must make the resolution public as soon as practicable after the meeting, or the relevant part of the meeting, has ended, and the resolution must be recorded in the publicly available minutes of the meeting.*

**14.22** *Resolutions passed during a meeting, or a part of a meeting, that is closed to the public must be made public by the chairperson under clause 14.21 during a part of the meeting that is webcast.*

Conclusion of the meeting

## **COMMENT**

Advantages with the proposed structure of the Business Paper

- The operation of the Council Meetings will be streamlined.

- There is increase in the timeframe for decisions as all Committee recommendations had to be confirmed by the Council
- It will substantially reduce staff time in preparing for two meeting usually every moth.
- If required Extraordinary Council Meetings can be held with the appropriate notice.
- It would allow for more special interest workshops such as Budget discussion, Integrated Planning and Reporting updates, major strategy discussions such as the Shire's Housing Strategy.

#### Disadvantages

- It is a change, and this may possibly cause anxiety amongst the returning Councillors.
- The general Community know the cycle and they will need to adjust to the change although the Council very rarely has any interested visitors in the gallery for its Meetings both committees and Ordinary Meetings.

It is unlikely that any of the proposed changes indicated by the Minister for Local Government to the Code of Meeting Practice will impact on the suggestions outlined in this report.

#### COMMENT

Also attached is a mock agenda outlining what the agenda would look like if this process outlined is adopted for a 6-month trial. The actual reports' content and attachments have been removed for clarity.

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the Gwydir Shire Council's Code of Meeting Practice be modified in Clause 8 to reflect the order outlined in this report for a 6-month trial.**

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. Addressing a Council Meeting Policy (10) [7.2.1 - 5 pages]
2. Mock Up Agenda [7.2.2 - 9 pages]

### **Addressing a Council Meeting**

Thank you for your request to address a council meeting.

Please find attached:

1. Procedure for Addressing Council Meetings
2. Blank Declaration Form (*please fill out*)
3. Addressing the Meeting form (*please fill out*)

Please complete the Addressing the Meeting form with the points you wish to make in your address and return to [mail@gwydir.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mail@gwydir.nsw.gov.au) or in person to either the Warialda or Bingara Council Offices, before midday on the day preceding the meeting that you are requesting to address.

Please bring the signed Declaration Form with you to the meeting and give it to the General Manager.

Thank you.



### Procedure for Addressing Meetings

Anyone can request permission to address a meeting, providing that the number of speakers is limited to three in support of any proposal and three against. Any request must be approved by the Chair of the meeting that you want to address.

Any request about an issue or matter on the Agenda for the meeting can be lodged with the General Manager or Public Officer up until 12 noon on the day preceding the meeting.

Prior to the meeting the person who has requested permission to address the meeting will need to provide the Public Officer with a written statement of the points to be covered during the address in sufficient detail so as to inform the Councillors of the substance of the address and a written copy of any questions to be asked of the Council in order that responses to those questions can be provided in due course.

In addition, prior to addressing the meeting a person addressing Council or Committee will be informed that they do not enjoy any privilege and that permission to speak may be withdrawn should they make inappropriate comments.

It should be noted that speakers at meetings of the Council or Committee do not have absolute privilege (parliamentary privilege). A speaker who makes any potentially offensive or defamatory remarks about any other person may render themselves open to legal action.

Prior to addressing the meeting the person will be required to sign the following statement:

**“I (name) understand that the meeting I intend to address on (date) is a public meeting. I also understand that should I say or present any material that is inappropriate, I may be subject to legal action. I also acknowledge that I have been informed to obtain my own legal advice about the appropriateness of the material that I intend to present at the above mentioned meeting”.**

Should a person fail to sign the above statement then permission to address either the Council or Committee will not be granted.

Where permission is to be granted the Council or Committee, at the appropriate time, will suspend only so much of the Standing Orders to allow the address to occur.

The Chairperson will then call the person up to the speaking area.

The person addressing the meeting needs to clearly indicate:

- His or her name;
- The organisation or group they are representing (if applicable);
- Details of the issue to be addressed and the item number of the report in the Business Paper;
- Whether they are opposing or supporting the issue or matter (if applicable) and/or the action they would like the meeting to take;
- The interest of the speaker (e.g. affected person, neighbour, applicant, applicants spokesperson, interested citizen etc).

Each person then has five minutes to make his or her address. Those addressing the Council will be required to speak to the written statement they have submitted.

Permission to address Council is not to be taken as an opportunity to refute or otherwise the points made by previous speakers on the same issue.

The Council or Committee can extend this time if they consider if appropriate, however, everyone needs to work on the basis that the address will be for five minutes only.

Councillors may have questions about the address so people are asked to remain in the speaking area until the Chairperson has thanked them. When this occurs, they should then return to their seat.

**DECLARATION**

**Addressing Gwydir Shire Meetings**

**Note:**

**This declaration must be signed and witnessed and given to Council's General Manager (or his representative) prior to the meeting you wish to address**

ATTENTION:

Mayor  
General Manager

I.....understand that the meeting I intend to address on.....20... is a public meeting. I also understand that should I say or present any material that is inappropriate, I may be subject to legal action. I also acknowledge that I have been informed to obtain my own legal advice about the appropriateness of the material that I intend to present at the above-mentioned meeting.

Dated ...../...../.....

Signed .....  
Speaker's signature

Signed.....  
Witness' signature

.....  
Name of Witness

**Addressing Gwydir Shire Meetings**

You must provide the following details to address council:

**Name:** .....

**Organisation or group Represented:** .....

**Your Address:** .....

**Contact Details: Telephone** .....**Fax:** .....

**Email** .....

**Title of the Item in the Business Paper:** .....

**Your interest in this matter** .....

(eg. Affected person, neighbour, applicant, applicant’s spokesperson, interested citizen)

**If you will be asking any questions during your address, please provide below along with the main points you want to raise?** (in order that responses to those questions can be provided)

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## ORDINARY MEETING

### AGENDA

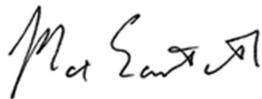
**Thursday 27 June 2024**

## NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that an **Ordinary Meeting of Gwydir Shire Council** will be held in the Warialda Office Council Chambers on **Thursday 27 June 2024**, commencing at **9:00 am** to discuss the items listed in the Agenda.

Your attendance is respectfully requested.

Yours faithfully,



Max Eastcott  
General Manager

## DISCLAIMER

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Gwydir Shire Council for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council or Committee meetings.

The Council disclaims any liability for any loss whatsoever and howsoever caused arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council or Committee meetings.

Any person or legal entity who acts or fails to act in reliance upon any statement, act or omission made in a Council or Committee meeting does so at that person's or legal entity's own risk.

In particular and without derogating in any way from the broad disclaimer above, in any discussion regarding any planning application or application for a licence, any statement or intimation of approval made by any member or officer of the Council during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not taken as notice of approval from the Council.

Gwydir Shire Council wishes to advise that any plans or documents contained within this Agenda may be subject to copyright law provisions and that the express permission of the copyright owner(s) should be sought prior to their reproduction.

Members of the public should note that no action should be taken on any item discussed at a Council or Committee meeting prior to written advice on the resolution of Council being received.

**Agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website:**

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

## WEBCASTING OF MEETING

**This meeting will be recorded for placement on Council's website.**

**All speakers must ensure their comments are relevant to the issue at hand and to refrain from making personal comments or criticisms or mentioning any private information.**

**No other persons are permitted to record the meeting, unless specifically authorised by Council to do so.**

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**1 OFFICIAL OPENING AND WELCOME - MAYOR**

**2 APOLOGIES**

**3 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting and Confidential Ordinary Meeting held on 30 May 2024 as circulated be taken as read and CONFIRMED.**

**4 PRESENTATION**

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

**6 SUPPLEMENTARY LATE ITEMS**

**Open Meeting**

- 7.9 Public Grates and Grids Policy
- 7.10 Grazing Stock on Roads Policy
- 7.11 Dust Seal Policy

**Confidential Ordinary Meeting**

- 7.4 Tender GWY\_2024\_T06 – Croppa Creek Road Pavement Upgrade

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the following items are included for discussion on the Agenda:**

**Open Meeting**

- 7.9 Public Grates and Grids Policy
- 7.10 Grazing Stock on Roads Policy
- 7.11 Dust Seal Policy

**Confidential Ordinary Meeting**

- 7.4 Tender GWY\_2024\_T06 – Croppa Creek Road Pavement Upgrade

**6.1 DEALING WITH ITEMS BY EXCEPTION**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the recommendations contained in the items listed below that have not been withdrawn for debate are adopted:**



Item Number	Title	Withdrawn for debate
7.1	Technical Services Report	
7.2	Executive Services	
7.3	May Investment and Rates Collection Report	
7.4	Organisation and Community Services Report	
7.5	The Living Classroom Business Plan	
7.6	Warialda Pool Signage	
7.7	Adoption of the Council's draft IP&R Documentation	
7.8	Monthly Action Progress Report	
7.9	Public Gates and Grids Policy	
7.10	Grazing Stock on Public Roads Policy	
7.11	Dust Seal Policy	

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council resolve into Committee of the Whole to discuss the items selected for debate from the agenda.

**7 OFFICERS' REPORTS**

**7.1 Technical Services Report May 2024**

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Monthly Technical Services report for May 2024 be received.

**7.2 Executive Services**

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the report be received.

**7.3 May 2024 Investment and Rates Collection Report**

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the May Monthly Investment and Rates Collection report be received.

**7.4 Organisation and Community Services Report**

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the report be received.**

**7.5 The Living Classroom Business Plan**

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT The Living Classroom Business Plan be received.**

**FURTHER THAT The Living Classroom Business Plan be placed on public display for 28 days for submissions.**

**7.6 Warialda Pool Signage**

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the proposed beautification of the Warialda Swimming Pool, consisting of the installation of composite panels displaying the images below, is approved.**



**7.7 Adoption of the Council's draft Integrated Planning and Reporting Documentation**

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the 2024-2025 Operational Plan, as advertised, be adopted by Council, including, noting the addition of the Workforce Management Plan:**

- ✓ **The Operational Plan;**
- ✓ **The Fees and Charges;**
- ✓ **The Donations List;**
- ✓ **Workforce Management Plan; and;**
- ✓ **The Budget details with amendments to acknowledge the additional R2R Funding.**

**FURTHER that in relation to ordinary rates; Council adopts the 4.5% annual maximum rate peg, as approved by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, and in accordance with Section 494 of the Local Government Act**

1993, Council make and levy the ordinary rates for the year 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, as below.

**Notional Yield**

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

Diff	Category	Sub-Category	# Prop	Ad Valorem	Cents In \$	Base Amount	Percentage of Revenue raised form Base Levy	Estimated Total Yield
10	Farmland	Intensive	2	0.0038958	0.38958	\$ 750	3.67%	\$40,925.98
1	Farmland	Ordinary	1169	0.0023812	0.23812	\$ 300	4.79%	\$7,318,230.39
4	Business	Ordinary	76	0.0449204	4.49204	\$ 300	17.51%	\$128,465.31
8	Business	Business Bingara Urban	53	0.0380920	3.80920	\$ 300	12.16%	\$130,777.87
3	Business	Business Warialda Urban	66	0.0442323	4.2323	\$ 300	19.00%	\$105,804.10
11	Business	Business Special	1	0.0027393	0.27393	\$ 300	10.31%	\$2,910.53
6	Residential	Rural Residential S/H	195	0.0089380	0.89380	\$ 225	21.83%	\$201,017.11
5	Residential	Residential Village	259	0.0648664	6.48664	\$ 150	31.39%	\$123,760.07
9	Residential	Ordinary-Rural Res	54	0.0171057	1.71057	\$ 150	29.55%	\$27,412.68
7	Residential	Bingara Residential Urban	700	0.0132563	1.32563	\$ 225	22.47%	\$700,685.68
2	Residential	Warialda Residential Urban	552	0.0199308	1.99308	\$ 225	29.66%	\$418,775.73
			3,127					\$ 9,198,945.46

Estimated General Ordinary Rate Income \$9,198,945.46 - Less Pension Rebates (Council 45%) **-\$38,573.31** giving Net General Rates Income of \$9,160,372.15  
 All rates are to be levied on land valuations with a base date of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022

**FURTHER that in relation to water supply charges; in accordance with Section 501 and Section 502 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council make and levy the charges for Water Supply Services in 2024/2025 as stated in the 2024/2025 Operational Plan.**

**FURTHER that in relation to sewerage services charges; in accordance with Section 501 and Section 502 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council make and levy the charges for Sewerage Services in 2024/2025 as stated in the 2024/2025 Operational Plan.**

**FURTHER that in relation to waste management charges; in accordance with Section 496 and Section 501 and Section 502 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council make and levy the annual charges for Waste Management Services in 2024/2025 as stated in the 2024/2025 Operational Plan.**

**FURTHER that in relation to storm water management services charges; in accordance with Section 496A of the Local Government Act 1993, Council make and impose the charges for Stormwater Management Services in 2024/2025 as stated in the 2024/2025 Operational Plan.**

**FURTHER that in relation to interest on overdue rates and charges, Council make and impose the following maximum charge for interest from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 being 10.5% as determined by the Minister for Local Government, in accordance with Section 566 (3) of the Local Government Act 1993.**

**7.8 Monthly Action Progress Report May 2024**

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

Ordinary Meeting 27 June 2024

Gwydir Shire Council

---

**THAT the report be received.**

**7.9 Public Gates and Grids Policy**

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Public Gates and Grids Policy is adopted.**

**7.10 Grazing Stock on Roads Policy**

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Grazing Stock on Roads Policy is adopted.**

**7.11 Dust Seal Policy**

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Dust Seal Policy is adopted.**

**ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATION FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the recommendations of the Committee of the Whole listed below are adopted:**

**As Listed**

**QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

**COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**9 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

**Bingara Administration Building**

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 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.

**Confidential Organisation & 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 the report contains personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

**General Manager's 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) (c) of the Local Government Act, 1993, on the grounds that the report contains (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors) and (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

**Tender GWY\_2024\_T06 - Croppa Creek Road Pavement Upgrade**

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 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.

**9.1 ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
- CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the recommendations as listed below from the CotW Confidential Session are adopted:**

**As Listed**

**10 CLOSURE**

### 7.3 Proposed Borrowing

<b>File Reference:</b>	NA
------------------------	----

#### Delivery Program

**Goal:** 5. Organisational management  
**Outcome:** 5.1 Corporate management  
**Strategy:** 5.1.5 Provision of responsible internal governance  
**Author:** Helen Thomas, Chief Financial Officer

#### STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

#### IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

Council continues to have a significant level of Capital Works to be completed over the coming year. Unfortunately, these projects are having a negative impact on Council's cash reserves as the projects are paid in arrears.

#### TABLED ITEMS Nil

#### BACKGROUND

Council has been proactively applying for Capital grants and have been very successful. While these grants allow for completion and upgrades of Council's vital assets it has a negative impact on cash flow while the projects are being completed, with payments being made in arrears, these significant timing issues can last for several months, and large amounts of Council's general fund monies being utilized to cover these projects. The council has forecast projection for cash flow over the next 12 months and there are months where there is potentially up to \$3.5 million outstanding in funding. This greatly impacts Council's unrestricted cash balance each month.

To ensure these issues do not impact on the Council's ability to complete or apply for funded projects a 10-year loan for \$5 million at 5.91% is the recommended best option. There is an ability for this loan to be repaid early when the Council has the ability to do so. The council is also increasing its overdraft facility from \$500 000 to \$1 million as an added measure for a more secure cash flow.

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

**THAT a loan of \$5 million be secured to ensure Council's cash flow is sustainable with the ongoing Capital Works program and funding being paid in arrears.**

#### ATTACHMENTS

Nil

## 7.4 Road asset management in local government

**File Reference:** NA

**Delivery Program**

**Goal:** 5. Organisational management

**Outcome:** 5.1 Corporate management

**Strategy:** 5.1.3 Administrative and support functions

**Author:** General Manager

**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST** Nil

**IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

This report is for the information of Councillors.

**TABLED ITEMS** The Final Tabled Report when available.

**BACKGROUND**

The Auditor-General for New South Wales, Mr Bola Oyetunji, is tabling a report on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024 titled 'Road asset management in local government'.

This report assessed whether three councils (Clarence Valley Council, Gwydir Shire Council and Wollondilly Shire Council) was effectively managing their road assets to meet the needs of their communities.

The report was unavailable before this agenda was prepared but will be tabled at the Council Meeting. However, attached is the Council's response to the draft Final Report which was quarantined until tabled in NSW Parliament.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the information is noted.**

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Gwydir Shire Council - Reply to Audit Office NSW Final Report [7.4.1 - 2 pages]



14 November 2024

Bola Oyetunji  
Auditor General for New South Wales  
Level 19, Darling Park Tower 2  
201 Sussex Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Oyetunji,

**Performance Audit – Road Asset Management in Local Government**

Thank you for your letter dated 18 October 2024 and final report of your performance audit of Road Asset Management in Local Government.

The recommendations made by the Audit Office for Gwydir Shire in the report have been largely adopted and those remaining are being implemented.

I thank the Audit Office for its work on this issue and hope lessons learnt can be used to inform and improve roads managed by all councils in NSW.

While the Audit Office staff were cognisant of the unique conditions that Gwydir Shire and other council's subject to the audit were facing during the audit period, it is the view of this Council that a more accurate depiction of asset management in Local Government could have been obtained by conducting this important audit in a period that was not rife with back-to-back natural disasters and unprecedented grant funding.

As a shire with a large road network, and a relatively small population and rate base, grants are the lifeblood of this Council. This is a fact amongst all rural and remote NSW local government authorities.

Amid the challenges caused by natural disaster flooding, Gwydir Shire Council chose to continue to seek grant funding for crucial upgrades (such as the sealing of 80km of unsealed key freight routes). It was the view of the Council that the opportunity should not be missed while generous funding was being offered by the NSW and Federal Governments.

Gwydir Shire was only one of many other rural councils which elected to do the same.

The result of this was a choke in the supply of all resources, including staffing. Council was ultimately forced to weigh up the benefits of long-term planning in a period when project delivery became a major priority.

The audit's stated objective was to determine whether the three councils reviewed are managing their road assets to meet the needs of their communities.

This was done by assessing each council's compliance with a somewhat arbitrary system of asset management. Gwydir Shire recognises that there were some deficiencies in its Integrated Planning and Reporting documents during the audit period and these deficiencies are being addressed.

GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL ABN 11 636 419 850

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It is disappointing that the audit focused only on compliance within a prescribed system, rather than on the outcome of the systems being used. Had the audit scope been broad enough to evaluate issues such as cost effectiveness of roadworks carried out and the overall change in a council's road infrastructure, a truer determination of the audit's objective could have been made. Factors such as this arguably have a much greater impact on a road authority's ability to meet the needs of its community.

Council believes that the report indicates that better resourced councils are able to comply more easily with the Office of Local Government's Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements. If the same one size fits all standard is to be applied to councils as different as Wollondilly, Clarence Valley and Gwydir, funding to assist with the administrative burden associated with creation of the documents should be provided to councils where needed.

It is this Council's hope that the findings of the report can be used to leverage greater funding across the Local Government sector, and more importantly to equitably fund more sparsely populated rural councils.

Your final report noted that Clarence Valley and Gwydir have identical local road lengths (2,062 kilometres). However, Clarence Valley's 5 year Roads to Recovery allocation from the Federal Government is \$18,052,078 while Gwydir's allocation was \$10,403,606.

A similar disparity is found in the roads' component of the Financial Assistance Grant. While Clarence Valley's population is some 11 times higher than Gwydir's population, yet Gwydir has some of the most productive agricultural land in the country. Seemingly, when the Federal Government provides funding to councils, population is a key factor, but productivity is not.

These types of funding disparities create a paradox whereby there is a greater need for detailed asset management, but a decreased ability to fund it.

Council thanks the Audit Office for its professionalism demonstrated throughout the audit period.

Yours faithfully

Max Eastcott  
General Manager

## 7.5 Draft Plan of Management – Gwydir Riverside, Bingara - Adoption

**File Reference:** NA

### Delivery Program

**Goal:** 1. A healthy and cohesive community

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

**Strategy:** 1.1.3 Provide the right places, spaces and activities

**Author:** General Manager

**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST** Nil

### IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to adopt the draft Plan of Management (PoM) for Gwydir Riverside, Bingara (see **AT-1**).

**TABLED ITEMS** Nil

### BACKGROUND

Council is appointed as Crown land manager under the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (CLM Act) to manage a number of Crown reserves.

The CLM Act authorises Council to manage Crown land, where Council is appointed as Crown land manager, as if it were *public land* under the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act). Management of the land includes categorising the land and preparing a PoM under the LG Act.

In May 2022 the then Department of Planning and Environment – Crown lands provided instruction relating to the categorisation of land where Council is Crown land manager. This instruction provided that part of Reserve R1014368, the Reserve including part of Gwydir Riverside, Bingara, be categorised as an *Area of Cultural Significance*.

Under Section 36D(2) of the LG Act a PoM, adopted in respect of an area of land, all or part of which is land categorised as *Area of Cultural Significance*, is to apply to that land only, and not to other areas. This required Council to prepare the draft PoM which is the subject of this paper.

In 2022, Council engaged Lands Advisory Services Pty Ltd to prepare this PoM, as well as PoMs covering other land in the Shire.

### COMMENT:

This PoM covers part of Gwydir Riverside Reserve, Bingara being the area on the southern bank of the Gwydir River between the northerly extension of Maitland Street and the area opposite Bingara Riverside Caravan Park.

On December 1, 2017, an historically notable ceremony was held near the banks of the Gwydir River at Bingara township and within part of the Gwydir Riverside Reserve. Representatives of the Aniwana Local Aboriginal Land Council, Gwydir Shire Council, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and the Australian Museum, presided over a repatriation of ancestral remains.

The return and interment of the ancestral remains of Cobbara Ball, the “*King of the Bingera Tribe*” was not only a significant cultural event but also a strong expression of reconciliation.

The skull of “*Cobbara Ball, King of the Bingera Tribe*” believed to be an important Wirrayaraay man, was donated to the Australian Museum in 1907. Born between 1785 and 1790, it is believed that Cobbara Ball was killed in a fight with a tribe member in 1848.

To adopt a PoM, containing an *Area of Cultural Significance*, the LG Act requires that Council must:

1. forward a copy of the draft PoM to the person who owns or controls the land if the land is not owned by the council and include in the draft plan any provisions that may properly be required by the person who owns or controls the land. (s.39)
2. give public notice of a draft PoM and exhibit for a period of not less than 28 days. (s.38)
3. forward a copy of the draft PoM to the Chief Executive of the Office of Environment and Heritage, and incorporate any matter specified by the Chief Executive of the Office of Environment and Heritage in relation to the land, or the relevant part. (s.36D(3)(d))
4. consider all submissions received by it concerning the draft PoM. (s.40)

To adopt a PoM the CLM Act requires that Council must:

5. obtain native title manager’s advice that the draft PoM complies with any applicable provisions of the native title legislation. (s.8.7)
6. obtain consent of the Minister for Lands and Property to adopt the PoM under clause 70B of the *Crown Land Management Regulation 2018*.

### **Public Exhibition and Notification**

A copy of the draft PoM was sent to the Minister for Lands and Property as owner and consent to adopt the PoM was received 29 January 2024.

A copy of the draft PoM was sent to the Chief Executive of the Office of Environment and Heritage on 13 February 2024. No response was received.

The draft PoM was publicly exhibited from 22 April 2024 to 20 May 2024.

The draft PoM was available for viewing on Council's website with hard copies available at Council's Administration Services Centres and Libraries.

No submissions were received.

### **Native Title Manager's Advice**

The Native Title Manager's Advice attached at **AT-2** indicates that the draft PoM complies with the applicable provisions of the native title legislation. The advice notes that there are restrictions on future acts to be undertaken on the land unless certain conditions are met in relation to native title.

### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Council declares that, because of the interment of the ancestral remains of Cobbara Ball on the land, which Council considers to be of aboriginal, historical and cultural significance, the land is an area of cultural significance for the purposes of Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.**

**FURTHER that Council adopt the Gwydir Riverside Plan of Management attached as AT-1, in accordance with Section 40 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and in accordance with Section 3.23(6) of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.**

**FURTHER that Council authorises the General Manager to make minor editorial modifications in the finalisation of the draft Gwydir Riverside Plan of Management, if necessary.**

**FURTHER that Council forwards the adopted Gwydir Riverside Plan of Management to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure – Crown lands for information.**

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Gwydir Riverside Bingara Plan Of Management [7.5.1 - 84 pages]
2. 23.245 - Native Title Advice - Gwydir Riverside [7.5.2 - 18 pages]



## PLAN OF MANAGEMENT Gwydir Riverside Bingara



November 2022





**Version Control**

Date	Comment
30 / 11 / 2022	Initial Draft (v0.4)
26 / 06 / 2023	Minor amendments following NTM advice (v0.5)
18 / 12 / 2023	Amendments following DPHI – CL review (v1.0)
21 / 02 / 2024	Change of Department’s name (v1.1) Exhibition version
14 / 11 / 2024	Version for Council’s Adoption (v2)

Plan of Management Report prepared by  
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The Gwydir Shire Council acknowledges the strength, resilience and capacity of the Gomeroi people of this land.






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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Plan of Management (POM) is required to be prepared for public land which is owned and/or managed by a Council and classified as *community land* under the *Local Government Act 1993*. A POM on community land is a document that provides for and directs the use and management of that land. It describes the current purposes and uses of the community lands and their values, assigns them to one or more categories and sets out objectives and performance targets for active land management and use.

The Gwydir Riverside Reserve (GRR) at Bingara consists of Crown land which is owned by the State of New South Wales for the benefit of all persons. Local Government Authorities manage Crown land on behalf of the State, as Crown Land Managers, under Division 3.4 of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (CLM Act).

The GRR is classified as *community land* under the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act). Gwydir Shire Council (Council) now manages all community land (Crown or Council-owned land), under one portfolio.

*Community land* is categorised under the LG Act as either park, sportsground, general community use, natural area or area of cultural significance. The land at the GRR has been categorised in this POM, as:

- Area of Cultural Significance
- Park

The intention of this POM is to provide Council with a framework that enables decisions in regard to the GRR to be made on an informed, consistent and equitable basis. The POM meets all of the requirements of the LG Act.

A description of this land as it exists on the GRR is provided. The current use, the built and natural assets and their condition, emerging trends, constraints and influences have been considered in this POM. Appropriate management objectives and actions, as well as an effective management structure and communication strategy for successful implementation are key outcomes provided by the POM.

In terms of the GRR's development into the future, this POM draws on general directions of Council's existing plans and strategies, including its Community Strategic Plan<sup>1</sup> and Bingara Town Strategy<sup>2</sup> as well as the directions of statutory planning processes such as the Gwydir Shire Local Environmental Plan<sup>3</sup> and other relevant state policies and legislation.

This POM foreshadows a stronger embracement of the GRR on the Gwydir River close to town, as an important component of the heart and soul of Bingara which capitalises on the opportunities of a modest growth in local population growth, but more significantly, increasing regional and state populations and commensurate visitations by people interested in experiencing the social, environmental and unique cultural values of the town, river and area.

The moderate changes to the management of the GRR proposed by this POM are also based on physical information gathered on site during the drafting of the plan, and from a communication process involving nominated community members and Council staff.

---

<sup>1</sup> Michelle Carpenter, *Macquarie University student number 43601723*.

<sup>2</sup> Bingara Town Strategy (2011): *Gwydir Shire Council July 2011*.

<sup>3</sup> *Gwydir Local Environmental Plan (2013): NSW Legislation*.



The future functions and management of the GRR are captured by the following proposed vision statement:

**“Gwydir Riverside Reserve - Growing the Heart of the Bingara,  
for Community, Culture, History and the Environment”**

The POM is presented in two principal sections being:

- The site description (A) covering the physical attributes, the legal framework, and the constraints of the site.
- The fundamental components of the Plan (B) which describes what is planned for the site’s future.



---

## PART A – THE SITE

### 1 INTRODUCTION

Bingara is a town on the Gwydir River in the New England Region of northern New South Wales. The town is the administrative centre for the Gwydir Shire Council, which was created in 2003. The Gwydir River passes the northern section of Bingara, flowing westward to the town of Moree, and forming one of the major catchments of the Murray Darling Basin.

The land comprising the GRR is located on Crown land, along a section of the southern bank of the Gwydir River and is bisected by Campbell Bridge on East Street Bingara. On its southern boundary, and upstream of the bridge the GRR adjoins the Bingara Riverside Caravan Park on Copeton Dam Road. Below the bridge, it adjoins the northern bank of Halls Creek flowing from the south-east into the Gwydir, and Keera Street with residences further downstream.

The upstream (western) boundary of the GRR approximates a line north from the junction of the Copeton Dam Road and Old Keera Road. Its downstream (western) extremity occurs below the junction of the Gwydir River and Halls Creek, generally in line with Bingara's main thoroughfare, Maitland Street (Figure 1).

This POM has been prepared for the GRR in three distinct sections (see Figure 2) being:

1. **Riverside Picnic Area** – upstream of the Campbell Bridge between the Copeton Dam Road, and the Gwydir riverbank.
2. **The River Flats Area** – downstream of the Campbell Bridge and bound by the converging Gwydir River and Halls Creek.
3. **The Junction** – an area which also contains Cunninghams Camp, located below the bridge and south of the junction of the Gwydir River and Halls Creek.

#### 1.1 History

##### The First Inhabitants

Prior to the arrival of Europeans in the Bingara area, the local Aboriginal people had hunted, fished and camped in the area for thousands of years. Small and large marsupials provided an easy and plentiful food source, complemented by birds, fish and vegetative food such as fruits, berries, grasses and yams. To facilitate hunting and food supply, the Aboriginal people used fire to create new growth and open forest and grassland.<sup>4</sup> Distinct male and female roles were evident in society, males being the hunters of larger animals, while women gathered vegetable of yams and fruit, and raised the children.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Page 16 "Bingera Run" by Bert Howard 2009.

<sup>5</sup> Kamillaroi – A National Identity website by Michelle Carpenter, *Macquarie University student number 43601723*.

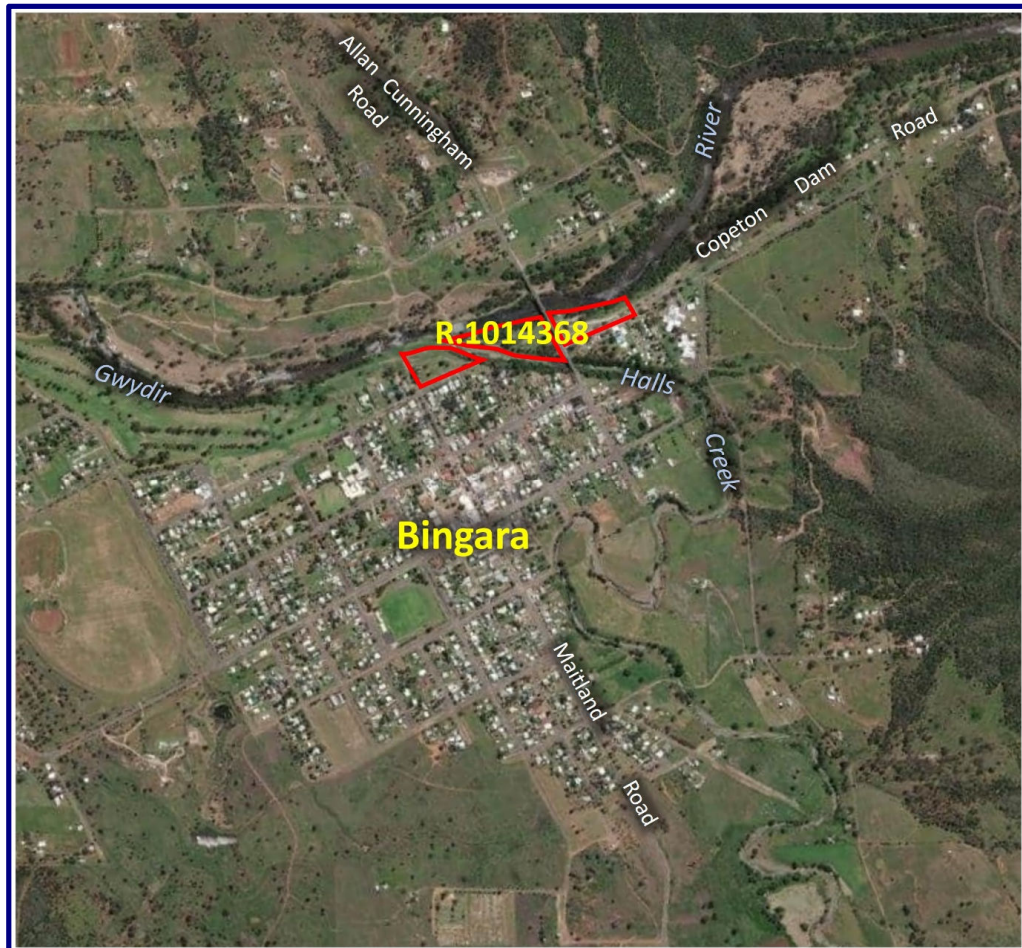


Figure 1 – Location

The Gwydir River in the area of Bingara, formed a natural boundary between two Aboriginal groups, the Kamillaroi<sup>6</sup> on the Halls Creek (southern) side, and the Wirrayaraay<sup>7</sup> on the Myall Creek (northern) side. The Kamillaroi lands occupied the area from the Hunter River catchment northward into southern Queensland, and west of the Great Divide and upper northern NSW slopes to the western plains and Warrumbungle Mountains. As such, the Kamillaroi nation included or surrounded a smaller area occupied by the Wirrayaraay people who lived across the north-west slopes and plains from the Gwydir River northward including much of the Macintyre River catchment from Inverell to the east to Garah in the west.

<sup>6</sup> Also known as *Kamilaroi*, *Gamilaraay*, *Gomerai* and *Gamilaroay*.

<sup>7</sup> Also known as *Wirraayaraay* and *Weraerai*.





Figure 2 – Land subject to this Plan of Management  
The land included in this Plan of Management is edged in red.

It is understood that the customs, traditions and language of both groups were very similar. A common cultural linkage between both groups was the ancestor or patron god *Baiame* who came from the sky to create rivers, mountains and forests, giving the people the laws of life, traditions and song.<sup>8</sup>

The history of the Wirrayaraay people is much maligned due to the infamous Myall Creek Massacre which occurred just north of Bingara in 1838. Here, on the evening of 10 June, twenty-eight aborigines were killed by white stockman. After two court cases, seven of those charged were sentenced to death, being the first and only multiple hanging of individuals of European origin, for the murder of aboriginal people.<sup>9</sup>

On December 1, 2017, an historically notable ceremony was held near the banks of the Gwydir River at Bingara township. Representatives of the Aniwan Local Aboriginal Land Council, Gwydir Shire Council, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and the Australian Museum, presided over a repatriation of ancestral remains. The skull of “*Cobbara Ball, King of the Bingera Tribe*”<sup>10</sup> believed to be an important Wirrayaraay man, was donated to the Australian Museum in 1907. Born between 1785 and 1790, it is believed that Cobbara Ball was killed in a fight with a tribe member in 1848. The language interpretation of the “King of Bingera Tribe” suggests he was a man of important cultural standing, a ceremonial leader and teacher of teenage boys at initiation ceremonies. As such, Cobbara Ball lived through a vast period of flux and transition, including the introduction of European diseases, dispossession, competition with the new incumbents for food and resources, and survival of surrounding events such as the Myall Creek Massacre.

### European Settlement

On May 20, 1827, Explorer and Botanist Allan Cunningham (1791-1839), leading a party of six convicts, reached the Gwydir River where Bingara now stands. Cunningham was therefore the first officially recorded European to visit the area, although it is likely that some white occupation had preceded his visit.<sup>11</sup>

Camping near the west flowing river’s junction with Halls Creek, he named it after his benefactor, Lord Gwydir of Wales. Although his diary indicates that he thought he had reached a downstream section of the previously discovered Peel River, the earliest description of the Gwydir River at that point was provided by Cunningham:

***The channel of the river at the part we had forded it, exhibited a bed of gravel 250 yards in breadth, which in seasons of great rains, is entirely occupied to the depth of 12 and 15 feet, as we gathered from the flood marks on its banks...***

After Cunningham completed his trip to the Darling Downs in Queensland, his favourable reports on the area saw an influx of pastoralists, and by 1850, over a dozen properties had been settled in the Bingara district. These pioneers mainly came from the Hunter Valley, first generation Australian born,

<sup>8</sup> Gamilaraay from *Wikipedia: Gamilaraay - Wikipedia*

<sup>9</sup> 1. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myall\\_Creek\\_massacre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myall_Creek_massacre)

2. Myall Creek Massacre and Memorial – Our Shared History Myall Creek Memorial Committee Bingara, 2008.

<sup>10</sup> From a yellow museum card of Professor A. Liversidge which accompanied the remains.

<sup>11</sup> Cunningham’s diary did note evidence of cattle, and a roughly constructed hut in the vicinity, possibly by convicts who had escaped the established coastal settlements of the colony.





and had the reputation of being smart rural based businessmen with good bush skills.<sup>12</sup> An example is the Hall family who took up and developed “Bingera Run” as a cattle station.

However, it was the discovery of gold between 1851<sup>13</sup> and 1852, which saw settlements commence at Bingara and Upper Bingara. Prospectors flocked to the area, interest in mining growing when copper and then diamonds were discovered in the 1880s. At that time, Bingara was the largest producer of diamonds in Australia.

Bingara became a municipality in 1890 just after the spelling of “Bingera” changed to “Bingara” to avoid confusion with the small Queensland town of the same name.<sup>14</sup> The advent of the motor car, better roads and a demise in the economics of mining, saw a downsizing of Bingara township by the mid-1930s. To the present day, the town remains roughly the same size from that era in terms of population and commerce.



Figure 3 – Notable historical events at the Gwydir Riverside Reserve  
Cobbara Ball - 2017 repatriation of ancestral remains (left) and Allan Cunningham’s camp on the Gwydir River (1827).

### Gwydir Riverside Reserve

The GRR is the site of at least two significant historical events which characterise the site in a unique, powerful, and contrasting way:

<sup>12</sup> In “Bingera Run” by Bert Howard, 2009.  
<sup>13</sup> On July 30, 1851, the *Maitland Mercury* newspaper reported that gold had been discovered by A. Williams at *Keera Station* near Bingara. Subsequent discoveries also occurred at Cobbada on *Bingera Run*.  
<sup>14</sup> Page 21, “Bingera Run” by Bert Howard, 2009.

1. The return and interment of the ancestral remains of Cobbara Ball, the “*King of the Bingera Tribe*” (on December 1, 2017) which was not only a significant cultural event but also a strong expression of reconciliation. (See information sign erected at the GRR just downstream from the Campbell and Halls Creek bridges, Figure 3 (left)).
2. The Gwydir River crossing point and camp site of early explorer Allan Cunningham on 20 May 1827, which was the catalyst to the subsequent white occupation of the area lured by the pastoral potential, shortly followed by the mining industry and its riches. The camping spot at or near the GRR is acknowledged by a sign placed above the shallow rapids on the river,<sup>15</sup> in a section of the GRR referred to as The Junction of the Gwydir River and Halls Creek. (See Figure 3 (right), and Figure 4).



Figure 4 – Allan Cunningham’s 1827 camp spot  
Acknowledged at The Junction, GRR.

The Junction was initially reserved from sale on 24 December 1861. The River Flats and the Riverside Picnic Area were within the Bingara Gold Fields proclaimed 31 August 1865.

On 17 May 1902, the whole of the GRR was reserved for Travelling Stock as Reserve No’s 34448 and 34449 were created on this land for the purposes of Travelling Stock. They were placed under the control of the Pastures Protection Board on 24 March 1922.

An extract of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the Town plan of Bingara is shown in Figure 5.

<sup>15</sup> Described as the “bed of gravel” in Cunningham’s diary written at that camp spot on May 20, 1827.





Figure 5 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Town of Bingara.

## 1.2 The Site

The site of the GRR is dominated by the riverine channel of the westward flowing Gwydir River. The topographical elements of the river are largely the product of the actions of the river itself.

These consist of the immediate riverbed, bank and levee, a higher alluvial terrace commencing near the Riverside Picnic Area, and several flattish benches immediately downstream of Campbell Bridge. Along the downstream sections, flood action has cyclically aggraded and eroded the main terrace to produce remnant hillocks, a truncated braided channel system of sands, silts and gravels, and the gravelly riffle zone of the Gwydir Riverbed, below its confluence with Halls Creek.

The landform near The Junction section of the GRR grades from a gravelly foot slope near the river into a slightly undulating terrain sloping uniformly towards the residential area beyond the southern boundary. This section is open and has a pleasant northerly to westerly aspect.

The main riverbank and levee, the benches and hillocks, are well endowed with diverse vegetation species belonging to the riparian zone<sup>16</sup> - a haven for biodiversity which also enhances the aesthetic values enjoyed by those who visit the river precinct.

### Access

Vehicular and pedestrian access is provided via Copeton Dam Road<sup>17</sup> from East Street and the Campbell Bridge. Vehicles access the Riverside Picnic Area (upstream of the bridge) via a sealed

<sup>16</sup> The transition zone between terrestrial and aquatic environments performing a range of significant functions such as protection and maintenance of ecological function.

<sup>17</sup> The Copeton Dam Road at this point is located within the boundary of the GRR.



track to the shaded riverbank. A pedestrian concrete pathway for pedestrians provides access to the picnic area from Copeton Dam Road. This completes a pedestrian link between the town's Memorial Baths, and the riverside.

The Junction section of the GRR (downstream from the bridge) is accessed from Keera Street along its southwestern boundary, and also an enclosed section of Maitland Street (with cattle grid) on its western boundary.

### Activities and Uses

The Gwydir riverside at Bingara provides an important social and recreational focus for the town. At the GRR, recreational pursuits include walking for exercise as well as nature spotting within a significant riparian area with unique vegetation, aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity. Education and reflecting on the history of the area also provide a significant focus and attraction to the GRR.

Shelters and seating provide locations for picnicking and a pontoon supports boating, canoeing/kayaking, fishing, swimming and other water sports. A boat ramp is available slightly upstream of the eastern boundary of the GRR.

A signposted walking track (mainly unconstructed) approximately 800 m in length is a feature of the GRR following the river from the upstream GRR boundary, past the Riverside Picnic Area and pontoon, crossing under the Campbell Bridge, through the undulating and channelised alluvial areas, downstream to the Fishpond at The Junction. Throughout, there are educational and informative signs which feature stories and explanations for the observer, including Cobbara Ball ("King of the Bingera Tribe"), an on-site geological transect modelled across the district, and well compiled educational text on the landscape, history and biodiversity.

Some iconic trees located near the Gwydir riverbank, several of significant age and character, combine with the GRR's aesthetically pleasant and peaceful riparian environment. Over the decades, these have provided the people of Bingara with a strong community focus for many events, both casual and organised. Wedding photography, local children visiting the "Fairy Tree",<sup>18</sup> Christmas themes, filming and small gatherings and celebrations all feature to create special memories in the minds of those who live in Bingara and those who visit.

The GRR is well fenced for strategic management of the main separate sections.

Camping is not permitted at any section of the GRR, although it shares a boundary with the Bingara Riverside Caravan Park, Memorial Baths and playground, just off the Copeton Dam Road and beyond its southern boundary. Event camping is also available near the GRR on Crown land upstream from the Campbell Bridge on the northern bank of the Gwydir River, and also on Crown land on the southern bank and upstream of the boat ramp and the eastern boundary of the GRR.

This POM has been prepared in order to achieve a balanced, responsible and ecologically sustainable use of the land and to ensure that it addresses the needs of the local neighbourhood, the broader community and the environment. It has been prepared to meet the requirements of the LG Act.

<sup>18</sup> During the drafting of this POM, sadly, significant flooding removed one of two iconic river red gum trees referred to as the *Fairy Tree*, *Hobbit Tree*, or the *Tip Toe Tree*. This tree was often decorated with lights during Christmas and provided a significant community focus of the Riverside Picnic Area, adjacent to the pontoon on the Gwydir River.

## 2 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

### 2.1 Public Land

The GRR is on Crown land, owned by the State of New South Wales, managed by Council for the benefit of all persons. Local Government Authorities manage Crown land on behalf of the State, as Crown Land Manager, under Division 3.4 of the CLM Act, which provides that Council should manage the land under the LG Act.

Under the LG Act, all public lands must be classified as either Community or Operational land. The GRR, shown in Figure 2, has been previously classified 'Community' land, with the initial categorisation being for Area of Cultural Significance and Park.<sup>19</sup>

The purpose of the classification of Public land is to clearly delineate which land should be kept for use by the general public (Community) and which land need not be kept for that purpose (Operational). The major consequence of the classification is that it determines the ease or difficulty by which the land may be alienated by sale, lease or other means. Community land would ordinarily comprise land such as a sportsground, hall, public park etc.,<sup>20</sup> Operational land would consist of land which facilitates carrying out of a public service, such as works depots, or land held as a temporary asset or investment.

Community land:

- cannot be sold.
- cannot be leased, licensed or any other estate granted over the land for more than 21 years.
- must have a POM prepared for it.

### 2.2 What is a Plan of Management?

The LG Act requires that in the development of a POM, Council consider the views of the community in identifying the important features of the land and determining how the land will be managed, used, or developed. Until a POM for Community Land is adopted, the nature and use of the land cannot be changed. Otherwise, the POM must be revised.

In its management of the Crown land of the GRR, Council will also undertake the required process as per Section 36 of the LG Act and Section 3.23 of the CLM Act.

Specifically, the LG Act requires that a POM must identify the:

- category of the land.
- objectives and performance targets with respect to the land.
- means by which the council proposes to achieve the Plan's objectives and performance targets.

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<sup>19</sup> Council resolution of 14 October, 2021 and as endorsed by the then Department of Planning and Environment 10 May, 2022.

<sup>20</sup> See the note to Chapter 6, Part 2 of the LG Act.

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- manner in which the council proposes to assess the objectives and performance targets.
- condition of the land, and any buildings or other improvements on the land, as at the adoption of the Plan.
- use of the land and any such buildings or improvements as at adoption.
- purposes for which the land, and any such buildings or improvements, will be allowed to be used.
- purposes for which any further development of the land will be permitted, whether under lease or licence or otherwise.
- scale and intensity of any such permitted use or development.

Similarly, the CLM Act requires that Crown land be managed to meet the Crown Management Principles. This includes:

- environmental protection principles be observed in relation to the management and administration of Crown land.
- the natural resources of Crown land (including water, soil, flora, fauna and scenic quality) be conserved wherever possible.
- public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown land be encouraged.
- where appropriate, multiple use of Crown land be encouraged.
- where appropriate, Crown land should be used and managed in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained in perpetuity.
- Crown land be occupied, used, sold, leased, licensed or otherwise dealt with in the best interests of the State consistent with the above principles.

### 2.3 Types of Plans

The LG Act allows a POM to cover one or multiple parcels of land.

Where multiple parcels of land are covered in one plan (Generic Plans), the LG Act specifically states what needs to be included. Where a POM covers one parcel or related parcels of land (Specific Plans), like this plan, there is greater detail on what has to be prescribed in the Plan. A Generic Plan sets the framework of how the land is to be managed. A Specific Plan clearly outlines precise management proposals.

POMs for community land are periodically reviewed to enable changing social, economic and ecological conditions to be taken into account and consequently amendments to the plan may occur. This will be



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the first POM for the GRR completed in accordance with the requirements of the LG Act.<sup>21</sup>

## 2.4 Relationship with Other Plans

The majority of Community land within the Gwydir Shire Local Government Area will be subject to the *Community Land Plan of Management* which provides an overarching strategy and consistent management approach for community land parcels.

This POM is one of a set of specific POMs for Council which will include:

- Myall Creek Memorial Site
- One Nation Hill

## 2.5 Categorisation and Objectives

As required by legislation for the purposes of the POM, community land is categorised as one of the following:

- Natural Area
  - Bushland
  - Wetland
  - Watercourse
  - Escarpment
  - Foreshore
- Sportsground
- Park
- Area of Cultural Significance
- General Community Use

Once categorised, community land is also subject to specified objectives which are outlined in the LG Act and in **Appendix 1**.

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<sup>21</sup> The area of the GRR was included in Council's earlier plan of management which also included crown land reserves upstream and downstream of the GRR. That plan (*Gwydir River Crown Land Reserves Plan of Management 2020* – by Council's Development and Environmental Services branch) was completed consistent with the requirements of the Crown Lands Act and is referenced in this POM where relevant.

### 3 SITE DESCRIPTION

#### 3.1 Land Parcels

The land subject to this POM, is Reserve 1014368 and is located on the south bank of the Gwydir River adjacent to the township of Bingara near the north bound Warialda/Bingara Road (East Street).

It includes:

- Lot 701 DP 96133
- Lot 7026 DP 1019618
- Lot 7027 DP 1019618

The total planning area covered by this POM is 6.59 hectares.

Figure 2 shows the land subject to this POM.

#### 3.2 Ownership and Management

The GRR is Crown land owned by the State of New South Wales. On 25 January 2008, the current Reservation R.1014368 was created for Public Recreation and Community Purposes. Gwydir Shire Council was appointed as reserve trust manager *Crown Lands Act 1989* on the same day. Following the introduction of the CLM Act Council is now Crown land manager of the GRR.

All assets on the GRR are owned by the State of New South Wales.

##### Native Title

Crown land in Australia is subject to Native title under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth). On Crown land Native title rights and interests must be considered unless:

- Native title has been extinguished; or
- Native title has been surrendered; or
- Determined by a court to no longer exist.

Some examples of acts<sup>22</sup> which may affect Native title on Crown land or Crown reserves managed by Council include:

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<sup>22</sup> An *act* is defined in Section 226 of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth). An *act affecting native title* is defined in Section 227 of the Native title Act 1993 (Cwlth).



- the construction of new buildings and other facilities such as toilet blocks, walking tracks, picnic shelters, barbecues and pontoons etc.
- the construction of extensions to existing buildings.
- the construction of new roads or tracks.
- installation of infrastructure such as powerlines, sewerage pipes, etc.
- the issue of a lease or licence.
- the undertaking of major earthworks.

When proposing any act that may affect Native title on Crown land or Crown reserves the act must be authorised through Part 2 Division 3 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)*.

The GRR is subject to Native Title Claim (NSD 37/2019) filed by the Gomeroi People with the Federal Court of Australia on 20 December 2011.

No future acts will be undertaken on the GRR unless:

- the lands become *excluded land* for the purposes of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*, or
- the act is a tenure which satisfies the requirements of Section 24HA (Management of Water and Airspace) of the *Native Title Act 1993*.
- the act is, or permits, a public work which satisfies the requirements of Section 24KA of the *Native Title Act 1993*.
- the act is a low *impact* act and satisfies the requirements of Section 24LA of the *Native Title Act 1993*.<sup>23</sup>

### Aboriginal Land Rights

The *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (ALRA) seeks to compensate Aboriginal peoples for past dispossession, dislocation and loss of land in NSW. The lodgment of an aboriginal land claim (ALC) under Section 36 of the ALRA, over Crown land creates an inchoate interest in the land for the claimant pending determination of the claim. The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure – Crown lands advises that, if the land is subject to an undetermined ALC, any works, development or tenures authorised by the POM should not go ahead if:

<sup>23</sup> Any act authorised by this plan of management, excepting those permitted under subdivision H,I & K or on *excluded land*, terminates following an approved determination of native title, if the determination is that native title exists.





- the proposed activity could prevent the land being transferred to an ALC claimant in the event that an undetermined claim is granted.
- the proposed activity could impact or change the physical/environmental condition of the land, unless:
  - the council manager has obtained written consent from the claimant Aboriginal Land Council to carry out the proposed work or activity, and/or
  - the council manager has obtained a written statement from the Aboriginal Land Council confirming that the subject land is withdrawn (in whole or partial) from the land claim.
- the proposed activity is a lease to be registered on title unless the council manager has obtained written consent from the claimant Aboriginal Land Council.

The GRR is subject to Aboriginal Land Claims (ALC)s under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* lodged by New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council being:

- ALC 34741 over Lot 7026 DP 1019618 on behalf of Anaiwan Local Aboriginal Land Council.
- ALC 48940 over Lot 7027 DP 1019618 in their own right.



## 4 PLANNING INSTRUMENTS AND POLICIES

### 4.1 Land Zoning

Under the *Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013*<sup>24</sup> (LEP), the whole of the GRR is zoned RE1 – Public Recreation (See Figure 6).

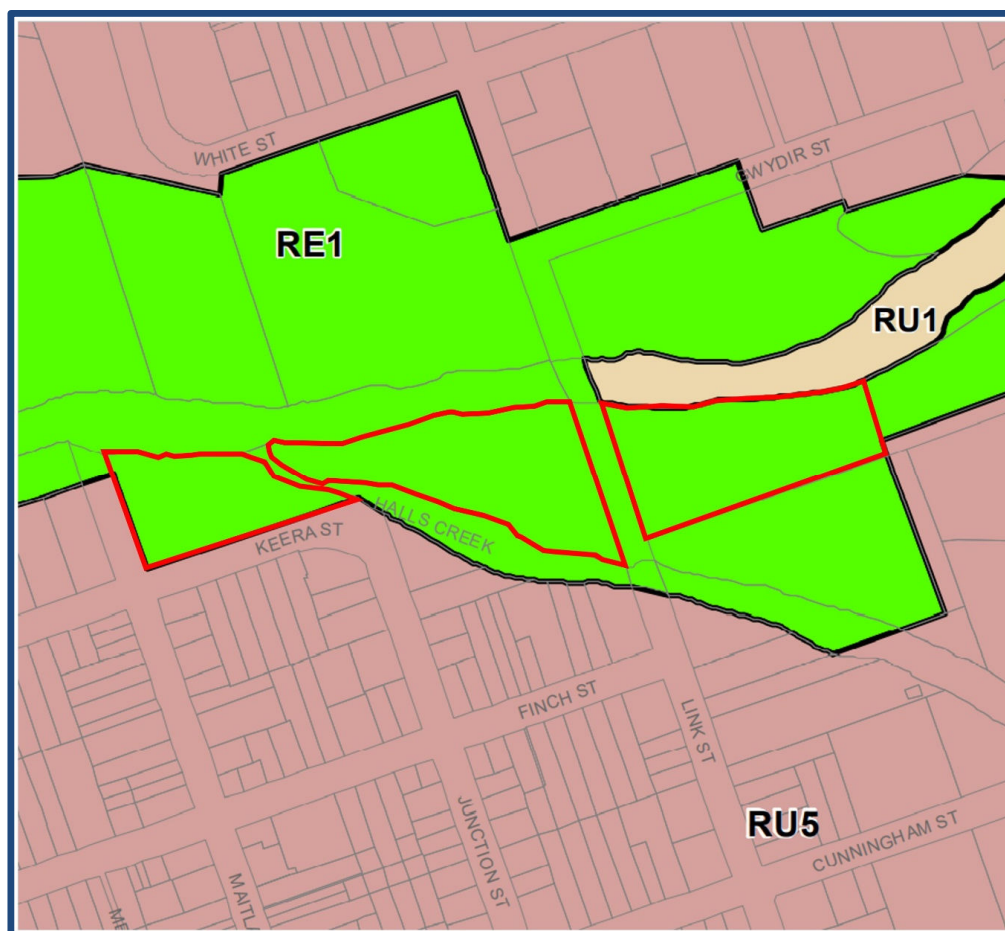


Figure 6 – Planning Zones

With the following exceptions, the GRR is entirely bounded by neighbouring land also zoned RE1 (See Figure 6):

- the main river channel upstream of the Campbell Bridge across the Gwydir River, which is zoned RU1 - Primary Production.
- the land immediately beyond the western boundary on Maitland Street, zoned RU5 - Village.

<sup>24</sup> *Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013* - NSW Legislation.



- the land immediately beyond the southern boundary on Keera Street, zoned RU5 - Village.
- a small section beyond the boundary at the GRR's southeastern corner near the Bingara Riverside Caravan Park and the Bingara Multipurpose Service Hospital near Copeton Dam Road, which is zoned RU5 - Village.

The upstream (eastern) section of the GRR is accessed via Copeton Dam Road (off Link Street), and the downstream (western) section, by Keera Street and Maitland Street.

The Objectives for RE1 land described within the LEP, are:

- to enable land to be used for public open space or recreational purposes.
- to provide a range of recreational settings and activities and compatible land uses.
- to protect and enhance the natural environment for recreational purposes.

Activities permitted without consent for land zoned RE1 are shown as:

- building Identification signs
- environmental protection works
- roads

Activities permitted with consent for land zoned RE1 are shown as:

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| • aquaculture                   | • information and education facilities |
| • boat launching ramps          | • kiosks                               |
| • business identification signs | • markets                              |
| • camping grounds               | • recreation areas                     |
| • car parks                     | • recreation facilities (indoor)       |
| • caravan parks                 | • recreation facilities (major)        |
| • community facilities          | • recreation facilities (outdoor)      |
| • eco-tourist facilities        | • take-away food and drink premises    |
| • entertainment facilities      | • water recreation structures          |
| • environmental facilities      | • water supply systems                 |
| • function centres              |  |
| • heliports                     |  |

The following activities are prohibited:

- any developments other than those permitted with consent are prohibited on this land.



## 4.2 State Environmental Planning Policies

The GRR is subject to the State Environmental Planning Policies. Important amongst these in the development of the GRR is the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021* or the T&I SEPP.

Section 2.74 of the T&I SEPP provides that development for any purpose may be carried out without consent on Crown managed land, by or on behalf of a Crown land manager of the land if the development is for the purposes of implementing a POM adopted for the land in accordance with the LG Act.

All other impacting State Environmental Planning Policies are listed below. Those that are considered more relevant to the future of the GRR and this POM are underlined below and briefly described in **Appendix 2**:

- *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021*
- *State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021*
- *State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021*
- *State Environmental Planning Policy (Building Sustainability Index: BASIX) 2004*
- *State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021*
- *State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021*
- *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008*
- *State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources & Energy) 2021*
- *State Environmental Planning Policy (Primary Production) 2021*
- *State Environmental Planning Policy (Industry and Employment) 2021*
- *State Environmental Planning Policy No 65—Design Quality of Residential Apartment Development*

## 4.3 Council Policies, Strategies and Plans

In addition to state planning policies and the directions of the LEP, Council has developed a number of plans and general policies which have either direct or indirect relevance to planning, management and maintenance of community land, more specifically, the GRR. Of particular relevance are the:

- ***Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027*** – Spanning a period of ten years, the Community Strategic Plan is the highest level of plan prepared by Gwydir Shire Council and the community. As a living document and a roadmap to the future, it belongs to the community, and reflects the community's main priorities and future aspirations. As well as capturing Council's vision and



mission, it also promotes the vision and goals created by the community through the consultation process. This strategy also summarises an evolving listing of aspirations and achievements within the Shire.

- **Community Engagement Strategy 2015** – Any process that involves the community in problem solving or decision making, uses the community input to make better decisions. This strategy matches Council’s goals to capture input and provide information back to the community. It identifies all stakeholders including external partners, and sets out the methods for engagement.
- **Bingara Town Strategy 2010** – This Strategy aims to provide vision and direction for Bingara for both the long and short term. The strategy aims to future-proof Bingara from changes affecting both the local and the global neighbourhood. It achieves this through the acknowledgment of the town’s unique history, its agriculture, culture, and its warm and creative community. Of particular relevance to the GRR are the community proposals within the *Riverscape* component of the Strategy, which highlight the values of the Gwydir River as a scenic asset and build upon those values. Combined with gradual improvement of the river area especially at The Junction, an economic and social link with the commercial area of Bingara is strengthened.
- **Gwydir River Crown Land Reserves Plan of Management 2020** – This Plan applies to contiguous parcels of Crown reserves beginning within the town limits (e.g., the GRR) and includes land made available for camping and recreation along the Gwydir River beyond the town limits towards Copeton Dam. It provides a framework and operational procedure for this land - the Riverside Crown Reserves - and was completed in accordance with the requirements of the CLM Act, thus provides some valuable context for this POM.
- **Long Term Financial Plan 2015/2016 – 2024-2025** – As a decision-making tool, this Financial Plan is an important part of council’s strategic planning process. This is the point where long-term community aspirations and goals are tested against financial realities.
- **Workforce Management Plan 2017-2021** – Gwydir Shire Council Workforce Management Plan is part of the planning and reporting framework for local government. It forms part of the Resourcing Strategy, which aims to meet the priorities in the Gwydir Shire Council Community Strategic Plan. The Plan enables the ongoing recruitment and retention of staff with the appropriate values, attitudes and knowledge to support the changing work environment while strengthening relationships with businesses and other community partners to deliver services efficiently and to a high standard.
- **Asset Management Plan 2011** - The programs and services the Council selects must be carefully designed and delivered to equitably and cost effectively advance the well-being of the Shire’s people. This asset management plan covers the infrastructure assets that serve the Gwydir Shire Council Plant and Equipment needs via a comprehensive process to ensure delivery of services from infrastructure is provided in a financially sustainable manner.

Full details of Council’s relevant policies and plans as listed above can be found at Council’s website at [www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au).



#### 4.4 Biodiversity

Under the LG Act, Council has obligations for conservation issues as determined by the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*. There are no areas of outstanding biodiversity value, biodiversity certified land or biobanking agreement land associated with the GRR as per the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. The LEP does not contain any references to significant biodiversity issues present at the GRR. This may be a consequence of a paucity of biodiversity investigation and knowledge rather than an absence of such features. Any proposed impacts to biodiversity values, including threatened species and ecological communities and their habitats requires proper consideration in accordance with the applying legislation.

#### 4.5 Native Vegetation

Land zoned RE1 is covered by the State Government's native vegetation laws aimed at protecting the biodiversity values of trees and other vegetation in non-rural areas of NSW and is included within the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021*<sup>25</sup> and also considered within the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. Any clearing of native vegetation requires consideration and possible authorisation under these policies.

#### 4.6 Flood Planning

The objectives of flood management as described in the LEP are to:

- minimise the flood risk to life and property associated with the use of land.
- allow development on land that is compatible with the flood function and behaviour on the land, taking into account projected changes as a result of climate change.
- avoid adverse or cumulative impacts on flood behaviour and the environment.
- enable the safe occupation and efficient evacuation of people in the event of a flood.

The LEP contains no map of flood prone land which impacts on the GRR. Although the Gwydir is a regulated river with Copeton Dam upstream, there yet exists considerable flooding risk especially when the dam is full and spilling as occurred during the latter months of 2022. During the writing of this POM flooding had resulted in significant damage to the infrastructure, native vegetation and riverbanks of the GRR.

A 1981 flood map for the GRR section of the Gwydir River has been extracted from a report prepared for the (then) NSW Water Resources Commission<sup>26</sup> (see Figure 7). This Atlas provides the most comprehensive investigation into flood plain management issues available for the Gwydir Valley. Although produced at a relatively small scale (1:100,000), it shows an expectation that the majority of the GRR would be covered by floodwater at an average 25-year interval.

<sup>25</sup> Part 2.3(1)(b) of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021*.

<sup>26</sup> *Gwydir Floodplain Atlas: Prepared by Cameron McNamara Pty Ltd Consulting Engineers June 1981*.

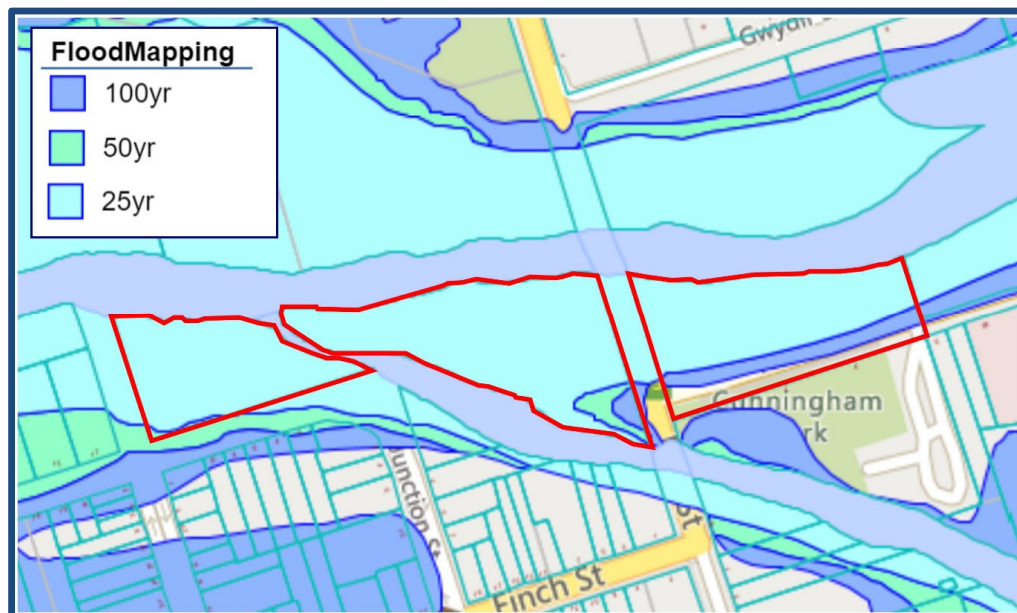


Figure 7 – Flood Planning

#### 4.7 Aboriginal Significance

The GRR is subject to a Native Title Application under the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993* by the Gomerioi People. It is also subject to ALCs under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* lodged by New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council being:

- ALC 34741 over Lot 7026 DP 1019618 on behalf of Anaiwan Local Aboriginal Land Council.
- ALC 48940 over Lot 7027 DP 1019618 in their own right.

A search of the *NSW Government’s Office of Environment and Heritage AHIMS Web Services* did not reveal that:

- aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the GRR.
- aboriginal places have been declared in or near the GRR.

The GRR does not contain any items listed in the LEP as being of known aboriginal archaeological sites, nor places of indigenous heritage significance.

Any construction undertaken by Council will need to meet the cultural heritage requirements of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. As such, proposed disturbance or modification of the undeveloped areas of the GRR may require a site-specific assessment of Aboriginal cultural features or values.



#### 4.8 Heritage Significance

The objectives of heritage designations in the LEP are:

- to conserve the environmental heritage of Gwydir.
- to conserve the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas, including associated fabric, settings and views.
- to conserve archaeological sites.
- to conserve Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance.

The LEP indicates that there are no items of heritage significance present at the GRR.<sup>27</sup>

Previously discussed aspects of historical and cultural heritage separately acknowledged by Council and previously discussed here, will influence the directions of this POM.

#### 4.9 Bush Fire Planning

Bushfire prone is defined as an area of land that supports a bush fire or is likely to be subject to bush fire attack, as designated on a bush fire prone land map.<sup>28</sup>

The LEP indicates that the GRR contains no Bushfire prone land.

#### 4.10 Operating Approvals

The GRR has no operating approvals issued under the LG Act.

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<sup>27</sup> It is noted that both bridges (Campbell Bridge over the Gwydir River, and the bridge over Halls Creek) are shown on the Heritage Map of the LEP as being of significant heritage value (items 1004 and 1005 respectively). Both bridges occupy the narrow strip (not included in the GRR) which bisects the GRR in a north south direction. Campbell Bridge is 135 years old and is of significant heritage value for its social and economic relevance to the town of Bingara, and its unique construction. Although not included within the GRR, the proximity of Campbell Bridge will influence management in that vicinity. For example, a walking track passes beneath the bridge structure, linking the upstream and downstream sections of the GRR, and the Gwydir riverbank also passes the excluded easement.

<sup>28</sup> Guide for Bush Fire Prone Land Mapping Version 5b November 2015: *NSW Rural Fire Services*.



## 5 THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

### 5.1 Topography, Hydrology and Ecological Considerations

#### Landform

The topography, drainage and hydrology of the GRR are dominantly impacted by the landforms created by the episodic scouring and alluvial deposition actions of the Gwydir River during flood flows, such as occurred during the period of the drafting of this POM.<sup>29</sup>

Above the main Gwydir River channel, bank and levee, a higher alluvial terrace<sup>30</sup> forms near the Riverside Picnic Area and extends towards and beyond Campbell Bridge. Several flattish benches rising above this terrace to the south and immediately downstream of the Campbell Bridge, separate Halls Creek channel from the landscape components of the main river channel.



*Figure 8 – Transect of landscape types from upstream to downstream at the GRR: The elevated alluvial terrace commences from the Riverside Picnic Area above Campbell Bridge and continues downstream beyond the bridge (top left); Fresh silt overlying gravel and sand beds (top right); The hillock is an elevated floodplain remnant, is well covered with trees (bottom left); Looking across Halls creek towards The Junction, showing a foot slope of alluvial silt on gravel, rising to a gently sloping higher levee.*

The alluvial terrace continues downstream towards the confluence of the Gwydir River with Halls Creek, where it has eroded to produce a series of elevated remnant and well vegetated silt hillocks. Where erosion of the terrace is more complete, towards the confluence, a series of partially formed

<sup>29</sup> This POM was compiled September - November 2022, during which time two flood peaks were recorded at Bingara and the GRR.

<sup>30</sup> Former flood plain on which erosion and aggradation by channeled and overbank stream flow is rare because of active widening, deepening or enlarging stream channel. Ref: Australian Soil and Land Survey Handbook, Third Ed. The *National Committee on Soil and Land Terrain, CSIRO Print (2009)*.



braided sandy/gravelly beds<sup>31</sup> finally merge into a riffle zone<sup>32</sup> which commences at the junction of river and creek, extending as the bed of the main Gwydir River for approximately 350m downstream of the confluence.

The downstream or western section of the GRR known as *The Junction*, consists of a gentle footslope of silt covered gravel bed above the river, rising to a higher and older levee, which is more steeply sloping and slightly undulating, quite open, and with a pleasant northerly to westerly aspect across the river (Figure 8).

### Soils

The majority of soils at the GRR have been river deposited, and as such are of alluvial origin, relatively young, and mainly lack any significant profile development (Figure 9). Soil types vary from rudimentary sands and gravels exposed on the lower topographical sections such as the braided stream area closer to the junction of the Gwydir River and Halls Creek, and the river and creek bed. These are of the *Rudosol* soil order.<sup>33</sup>



Figure 9 – Soils at the Gwydir Riverside Bingara  
(Left to right): Silty clay loam (*Tenosol*) of the elevated flood levee; Silty soil of the riverbank levee (*Tenosol*); Sands and gravels above the junction of Halls Creek and Gwydir River (*Rudosols*).

Fresh silts and loams form the riverbanks and levee, terrace, and hillocks, mostly overlaying the gravel and sands of the *Rudosols*. Older silts and loams, and more heavily textured silty clay loams and silty clays exist on the higher levees and benches, and their slopes and crests. These soils are described within the various suborders of the *Tenosol* soil order. Apart from a surface soil horizon which is variably conditioned by organic matter, the range of *Tenosols* on the site exhibit minimal pedological development at depth. However, those older soils in the more elevated terrains (and

<sup>31</sup> The channel at this point is divided into several shallow interconnected (smaller) channels divided by a higher area of deposited silts.

<sup>32</sup> Refers to the rapids below the Junction of the Gwydir River and Halls Creek, described by Cunningham as “ford” and “bed of gravel”.

<sup>33</sup> Isbell R.F 1996: The Australian Soil Classification, Revised Edition.

therefore less frequently impacted by flooding) will show degrees of soil profile differentiation in terms of colour, structure and texture which reflects increases in clay content with depth.

### Vegetation

The Gwydir River at the GRR is endowed with well-established and diverse riparian vegetation - a haven for biodiversity - which also enhances the aesthetic values enjoyed by those who visit the river precinct. This vegetation is dominated by the River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) community<sup>34</sup> (Figure 10). River Red Gum is a most widely distributed eucalypt in Australia and commonly forms ecotonal associations with other watercourse species such as River Oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*), Black Tea Tree (*Melaleuca bracteata*) and Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*) although not all of these species are evident at the GRR (Figure 11).



Figure 10 – River Red Gum  
River Red Gum vegetation association dominates the landscape components at the GRR,

In ecological terms, the Gwydir River at Bingara belongs to the Endangered Aquatic Ecological Community in the Natural Drainage Systems of the Lower Catchment of the Darling River.<sup>35</sup> This community has been declared vulnerable to a range of Key Threatening Processes,<sup>36</sup> including degradation of native vegetation (clearing, destruction), installation and operation of instream structures and other mechanisms that alter natural flow regimes, overfishing, removal of woody debris and snags, sedimentation, and insecticides in runoff.

<sup>34</sup> J. T. Hunter (2013): Flora, Vegetation & Management Considerations: Gwydir River -Bingara. Prepared for Gwydir Shire Council March 2013.

<sup>35</sup> NSW Fisheries Management Act 1994: Schedule 4 Endangered species, populations and ecological communities, Part 3 Endangered ecological communities.

Aquatic Ecological Community in the Natural Drainage System of the Lowland Catchment of the Darling River – Final Recommendation of Fisheries Scientific Committee (2010). Ref. Nos. FR 22, File No. FSC 01/10.

<sup>36</sup> NSW Fisheries Management Act 1994: Schedule 6 Key threatening processes.





*Figure 11 – River Oak*  
*River Oak and a range of other trees, complete the species spectrum in the River Red Gum association along the Gwydir River. Here, River Oaks one of the species in the association, grow on the gravel beds and banks upstream of the junction of the Gwydir River and Halls Creek.*

Implicit in this determination is the need for appropriate management of key threats to the associated vegetation at the GRR– the River Red Gum community - as well as dead timber, floodplain banks, channels, terraces, and levees - to enable the persistence of the aquatic community that depends on it.

It is also noted that there is a good range of tree ages within the River Red Gum community at the GRR which increases biodiversity values. Some very old specimens not only provide well developed hollows for biodiversity, but also add to the visual attraction of the river precinct (Figure 12).

During a 2013 study of an upstream stretch of Gwydir River between Bingara and Little Bora Creek encompassing the Crown Land Reserves managed by Council (including the GRR), of 13 threatened flora species which may have occurred, none were found.<sup>37</sup>

#### Further Ecological Considerations

Other ecological considerations for the GRR include:

- Copeton Dam on the Gwydir River, around 50km upstream of the GRR, has a major disruptive effect on water quality immediately downstream. The release of cold water from the base of the water column in the dam, especially during the summer months when water is being supplied to western irrigators, can interrupt important biological cues such as fish spawning and other fauna and can reduce the growth rate of fish and increase fish mortality. Copeton

<sup>37</sup> J. T. Hunter (2013): Flora, Vegetation & Management Considerations: Gwydir River -Bingara. Prepared for Gwydir Shire Council March 2013.

Dam is estimated to impact in this way as far as 200 kilometers downstream from its source.<sup>38</sup> Whilst the cause of this phenomenon is beyond the control and management of the riparian area of the GRR, it does provide an extra land management consideration for aquatic ecology at the site.



Figure 12 – The age distribution of the River Red Gums  
The age distribution of the River Red Gums provides for a diversity of habitat, especially the older trees which have significant hollows, valuable for wildlife.

- Eel Tailed Catfish and Purple Spotted Gudgeon are species of fish which have threatened status, and likely to be found in the stretch of the Gwydir River in and around Bingara, including the GRR.<sup>39</sup>
- A *River Styles* recovery potential framework<sup>40</sup> is related to geomorphic condition. The framework gives an indication of the capacity of a stream to return to good condition or to a realistic rehabilitated condition. Streams rated as having conservation or rapid recovery potential are likely to be most stable and in a good condition, whereas streams with low recovery potential may never recover to a natural condition or may continue to decline quickly without intervention. For the section of the Gwydir River which encompasses the GRR, the riparian and geomorphic condition is nominated as having “Conservation” to “Rapid” recovery potential.<sup>41</sup> As such, and despite the detriments to the aquatic system of thermal

<sup>38</sup> Gwydir Water Resources Plan: Surface Water Description (2018): *NSW Department of Primary Industries* (page 25).

<sup>39</sup> Gwydir Water Resources Plan: Surface Water Description (2018): *NSW Department of Primary Industries* (page 21 map).

<sup>40</sup> Developed at Macquarie University by Professor Kirstie Fryirs and Professor Gary Brierly. See: *Geomorphology and river management: application of the river styles framework* (2005), Brierly G and Fryirs K 2005. *Blackwell Publications, Oxford, UK*.

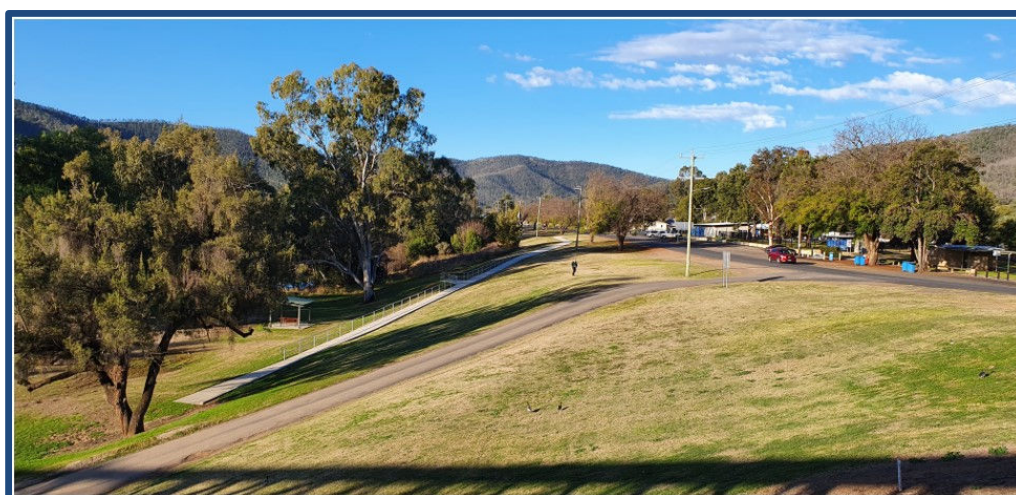
<sup>41</sup> Gwydir Water Resources Plan: Surface Water Description (2018): *NSW Department of Primary Industries* (page 27 and map page 28).



pollution discussed above, the Gwydir River at the GRR remains generally in good condition, due to its valuable riparian vegetation, and the protection it offers to both the aquatic and terrestrial environment.

### Landscape Modifications

The era of the status of the land being unallocated Crown land until 1902 and then Travelling Stock Reserve until 2008 was a period within which most river precincts were considered as resources to be utilised, rather than of social significance and environmentally beneficial. At the GRR, this has most likely seen levels of historical overutilisation. The removal of significant quantities of silt, sand and gravel, timber and firewood, and at times, heavy grazing, all facilitated by ease of access from the close-by growing township, were pressures that modified the landscape in various ways.



*Figure 13 – Landscape modifications upstream of Campbell Bridge  
The slope below the Copeton Dam Road and the Riverside Picnic Area has been mechanically modified to improve access, views and management.*

Currently, signs of more contemporary landscape modification are evident, mainly to facilitate enjoyment and use of the site by people, and improve the environment, consistent with the current reservation purpose - *Public Recreation and Community Purposes*. For instance:

- upstream of the Campbell Bridge, the high slope above the alluvial terrace from the Copeton Dam Road down to the Riverside Picnic Area has been mechanically shaped to an even and improved grade to facilitate human access (road, pathway etc), site management and visibility (Figure 13).
- the section of terrace through which the pedestrian track passes between the bridge and the fenceline, has also been cleared and modified (Figure 14). The slopes of the higher flattish benches which separate the main terrace from Halls Creek have been shaped aesthetically, and now feature well established native trees (Figure 15).



Figure 14 – Landscape modifications in the River Flats Area  
The elevated alluvial terrace between the Campbell Bridge and the subdivision fence. With the exception of the higher bounds, the terrace is devoid of natural vegetation, and has been shaped to facilitate access.

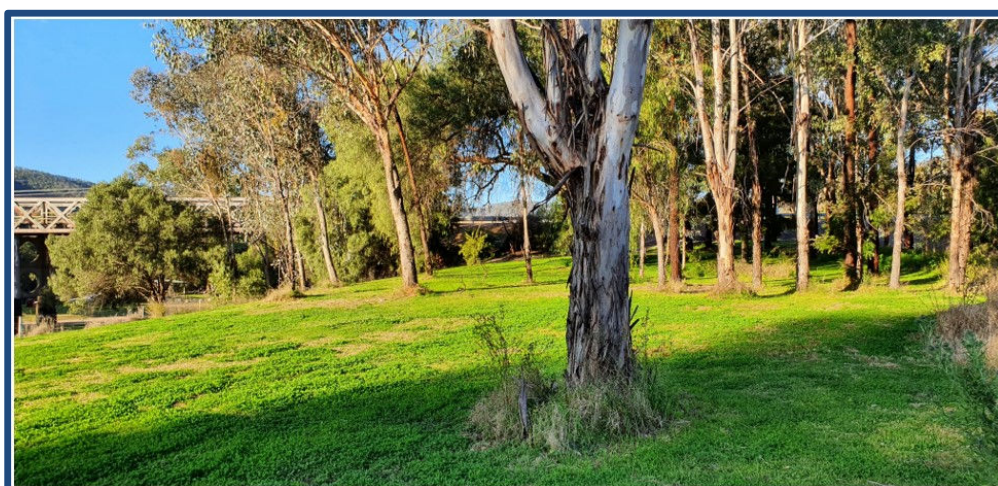


Figure 15 – Landscape modifications in the River Flats Area  
The higher bench downstream of Campbell Bridge has been shaped and planted to native trees.

- the hillocks, and the braided stream area further downstream towards the junction remain in a reasonably naturally vegetated state with irregular morphology which is more conditioned by natural river flow events (Figure 16).
- the area of the GRR known as *The Junction*, has also been shaped to facilitate implementation of infrastructure (fences, tracks, shelters etc) and human access and use. A vegetated graded diversion structure (also referred to as a Water Absorbing Drainage Swale<sup>42</sup>) has been strategically placed above the timber fence line at The Junction (Figure 17).

<sup>42</sup> From Bingara Town Strategy (2011): *Gwydir Shire Council*.





*Figure 16 – Landform in the River flats Area  
The braided stream area: An area of erosion and aggregation of gravels, sands and alluvial silts, caused by the flooding actions of the Gwydir River and Halls Creek.*



*Figure 17 – Landscape modifications at The Junction  
At The Junction works have shaped the gentle slope to improve site drainage, access and management.*





## 6 CURRENT USES

The GRR is a popular and valuable venue for the community and visitors to the Bingara district. It is used in the following ways:

- walking and exercising
- boating/canoeing/kayaking
- fishing and swimming
- educational purposes including history and the natural environment
- picnicking
- organised events, concerts etc
- weddings and other family celebrations
- cultural celebrations important to the community
- filming and photography
- horse riding
- environmental works (tree planting, weed control etc.,)

It is noted that camping is not permitted on the GRR.

Refer Figures 18, 19.



Figure 18 – Public recreation and community use.



Figure 19 – Public recreation and community use



## 7 ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

### 7.1 Assessment of Infrastructure

The range of built assets within the GRR are shown in Figures 20- 28, and include:

- picnic shelters and tables
- instream structure – floating pontoon
- sealed vehicular roads and tracks
- concrete pedestrian pathways
- walking tracks - unformed
- fences
- signage
- educational precinct at The Junction
- sundry assets



*Figure 20 – Assets - Picnic Shelters*

*There are five picnic shelters located across the Gwydir Riverside Bingara, most of which are located at or near the Riverside Picnic Area and the Campbell Bridge.*



Figure 21 – Assets - Instream Structure: Floating Pontoon, located at Riverside Picnic Area



Figure 22 – Assets - Sealed Roads and Tracks  
Copeton Dam Road is enclosed within the GRR (left); Road down to Riverside Picnic Area from Copeton Dam Road (right).





Figure 23 – Assets - Concrete Pedestrian Pathways  
Access to Riverside Picnic Area from Copeton Dam Road and Campbell Bridge (left and centre); Pathway to car parking area and neighbouring Caravan Park.

Table 1 provides a listing of the GRR’s assets, each with an indicative condition rating (1-5) which guides maintenance requirements.

Table 1 - Condition of Assets at Gwydir Riverside Bingara (GRR) July 2022.

ASSET	Cond.	ASSET	Cond.
Picnic Shelters (5)	2	Educational/directional signage	1 #
Pontoon	1 #	Educational precinct	2
Sealed vehicular roads and access	2	Sculptures/art	2
Pedestrian concrete pathways	1	Bench seating (timber/stone)	1
Fences	1/3 #	Dump site and car park	1
Walking tracks-unformed ##	2 #	Landscaping/tree plantings	2 #

# Varying levels of reconstruction of these items is now required due to damage caused by significant flooding September-November 2022.

- 1. **Very Good** - Excellent overall condition
- 2. **Good** - Very good overall – early stages of deterioration – normal maintenance, minor repairs
- 3. **Fair** - Condition deterioration obvious, serviceability affected, significant maintenance required
- 4. **Poor** - Serviceability heavily impacted, maintenance cost high and significant renewal/major maintenance
- 5. **Very Poor** - Severe serviceability problems, immediate rehabilitation, requires over 50% asset renewal



Figure 24 – Assets - Fences



Figure 25 – Assets - Walking Tracks





Figure 26 – Assets - Signage



Figure 27 – Assets - Covered educational signage area at The Junction  
Includes educational signage and shelter, rest area, model geological transect with shelter and benches, and constructed Fishpond (Stormwater Billabong).<sup>43</sup>

<sup>43</sup> As referred to in the Bingara Town Strategy (2011): Gwydir Shire Council July 2011.





Figure 28 – Assets – Sundries  
Sculpture of “The Fish” at the Fishpond – The Junction (left); Dump Site for Caravan travelers located on Copeton Dam Road next to Caravan Park, and general landscaping.

## 7.2 Assessment of Management Requirements

The majority of built assets of the GRR as noted and photographed at the time of initial inspection (July 2022) in preparation for this POM, were in a fair to very good condition. Subsequently, significant flooding of the Gwydir River at Bingara occurred, with two separate and damaging flood peaks during September and October 2022.

Formal assessment of damage to infrastructure at the GRR was not available at the time of drafting (November 2022), although it is understood that significant damage has occurred to the lesser items of **signage** and **fences**. The **pontoon** was also destroyed from the riverbank and drifted downstream, however the other main built assets including the picnic shelters and masonry pathways, held well.

A major natural asset feature tree (the **Fairy Tree** as discussed in 1.2) was completely washed into the main river channel from its precarious position on the riverbank at the Riverside Picnic Area, by the flooding. The second of those unique trees at that position, remains intact (Figure 29).

Where they have been flood-damaged, built assets will require resurrection to original condition as a priority.



*Figure 29 – Assets - Unique trees  
The old River Red Gums present at the Riverside Picnic Area prior to significant flooding in September-October 2022. Of the two, only the specimen in the foreground remains.*

Ongoing maintenance of all built assets will occur in accordance with Council’s maintenance schedules. Grounds activities will involve the usual tasks of mowing, slashing, gardening, replanting, fence maintenance and weed control.<sup>44</sup>

In order to meet the demands of increased visitation and utilisation of the GRR, new developments will be required into the future. These will adhere to all plans previously considered by Council, including the Bingara Town Strategy<sup>45</sup> developed by Council and the community which aims to provide vision and direction for Bingara in both the short and long term. Within that Strategy, the *Riverscapes Project* is of particular interest and relevance to the GRR and this POM.

### A New Future for the GRR

In addition to slight increases in the population of Bingara in recent years, a general growth in visitations to the township and area are now being experienced. This has occurred post the Covid hiatus, and as a result of population growth of our cities and larger towns combined with a desire especially by retirees, to travel the bush, explore, learn and enjoy. Capitalising on this business opportunity, and to meet the lifestyle needs of not only visitors but also the residents of Bingara and district, a stronger acknowledgement of the river (and the GRR) as the heart of Bingara, is justified.<sup>46</sup> An active Business Support Group, as well as a Special Events Committee of Council therefore visualise a stronger social, economic and geographical link between the town’s CBD, and the GRR.

With the correct balance of new facilities at the GRR and commensurate promotion initiated by

<sup>44</sup> In order to maintain the ambience consistent with a relatively natural area, this would not require a major construction and expense, rather a reshaping of the natural surfaces to enable sitting and viewing, all grassed-based.

<sup>45</sup> Bingara Town Strategy (2011): *Gwydir Shire Council* July 2011.

<sup>46</sup> Referred to as the *Riverscapes Project* in Bingara Town Strategy (see pages 17 and 61). It is acknowledged that many of the initiatives from this Strategy have been completed, such as interpretive signage at the GRR, tree planning, walking tracks, the Stormwater Billabong (Fishpond) etc.

Council, people who enjoy the shopping, eating, refueling etc, especially during times of markets and other special events at the town centre, may be attracted to the river terminus (easy walking distance along Maitland Street). This attraction may be elevated by the staging of additional events at the river, especially at The Junction, such as concerts, more markets, art and theatre.

Given the potential social and economic bounty which has the potential to emerge for the Bingara community, the plan for the future of the GRR must also continue to embrace the important acknowledgement and exhibition of significant cultural and historical heritage values present at the site.

### 7.3 Community Consultation and Future Use Options

This POM was drafted following consultation with:

- key Council staff
- members of the business community
- users of the Reserve at the time of inspection.

This consultation together with prior plans for the future of Bingara, and on-site research, identified the following additional requirements for new works and services:

- construction of a simple “amphitheater” at The Junction for attendees at organised performances.
- power supply at The Junction will increase flexibility of use of that section of the GRR,<sup>47</sup> such as providing for concerts, markets, art displays etc.
- although the educational signage (e.g., at The Junction) provides an informative and well considered coverage of local nature and white history, there is little material available on-site about the life and culture of the original Aboriginal inhabitants of the area. The GRR would benefit from a more complete story being presented by appropriate signage and on occasions, orally, to visitors and in particular, students.
- BBQs at the Riverside Picnic Area and The Junction.
- a weatherproof carpark foundation constructed from flood proof materials, in the vicinity of the Riverside Picnic Area.
- formalise arrangements for riding trail in conjunction with the existing walking track along the river from The Junction.
- enhance the park area at The Junction by strategic tree planting of suitable species that adds to the aesthetic appeal and ecosystem services yet maintains an attractive openness and vista.

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<sup>47</sup> *The Junction* is the most proximate section of the GRR.



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- install combination of grassed angle and parallel parking for vehicles using The Junction section, near the GRR boundary at Keera Street.
  - install public amenities with biofilter toilet at The Junction.
  - secure the last of the iconic River Red Gums at the Riverside Picnic Area by seeking the appropriate fluvial/geomorphological advice and design of ecofriendly river works (preferably using soft materials) which will create stability around the root system and avoid the full pressures of further flood flow and damage.
  - consider establishment of a Sister City Flora Memorial Garden at the Educational Precinct below the Fishpond (at The Junction).<sup>48</sup>
  - commencing with existing organisations (Business Support Committee, Special Events Committee, Rivercare, Local Land Services and Willoughby City Council, and the original Riverscapes Steering Group from 2008),<sup>49</sup> to convene a Focus Group to develop a new energised direction of the proposed uses of the GRR including a communication strategy, in particular at The Junction.

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<sup>48</sup> Bingara's current arrangement with Willoughby City Council, which has assisted with implementation of a range of environmental projects within and surrounding Bingara township.

<sup>49</sup> Page 63 Bingara Town Strategy (2011): *Gwydir Shire Council* July 2011.





## PART B – THE PLAN

### 8 A VISION FOR THE GWYDIR RIVERSIDE BINGARA

Consideration of an appropriate vision statement for the GRR first requires review of those previously derived from other processes, commencing initially at a broad level. For instance, the vision of the wider geographical region of the New England North-West of New South Wales<sup>50</sup> is for:

**Nationally valued landscapes and strong, successful communities from the Great Dividing Range to the rich black soil plains**

This statement draws on the region's diverse landscapes, rich natural resources and strong communities which make up the New England North-West as a dynamic and prosperous region that capitalises on its past and future.

A series of planning statements developed by Council build the directions for the future of the Gwydir Local Government Area. For instance, Council's own vision is,<sup>51</sup>

**“To be the recognised leader in Local Government through continuous learning and sustainability”**

And Council's mission is:

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

Council worked towards this Mission during the process of developing its Community Strategic Plan which invites input from the community. The Gwydir Shire community vision is simple, yet embracing:

**“Many Hands Make a Community”**

This community vision is an acknowledgement that help and support across the shire is at least in-part, derived from a collaborative approach to the future. In particular, this has been the case in the development of the Bingara Town Strategy<sup>52</sup> which impacts on the future of Bingara, and the Crown land of the GRR. The Bingara Town Strategy, articulates its own vision, which:

**“seeks to build on the strengths of the town and district..... and to preserve and enhance those things our community values”**

These visions, each created for varying purposes across the region, are linked by the area's nature and environment, its landscape, its history, its seasons, its economic capability and opportunity, its people, and through Council, the governance that prevails to guide the future.

<sup>50</sup> New England North-West Regional Plan 2036: NSW Department of Planning: [www.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au)

<sup>51</sup> Gwydir Shire Council *Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027*.

<sup>52</sup> Bingara Town Strategy (2011): *Gwydir Shire Council* July 2011.



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At the base of this visionary hierarchy, this POM acknowledges that the Gwydir River at Bingara and its attractions, are the *heart of the town*. The future of the town may more strongly embrace the river and the GRR to provide a wider range of recreational and social activities and in this way, gently improve Bingara's most proximate riverbank open space. Additionally, the important historical and cultural significance as well as environmental values exhibited at the GRR, generate a commitment to acknowledgment, preservation and education.

The vision statement for the management of the GRR embraced by this POM, is therefore proposed:

**“Gwydir Riverside Reserve - Growing the Heart of the Bingara,  
for Community, Culture, History and the Environment”**

## 9 OBJECTIVES, CLASSIFICATION AND CATEGORY OF LAND

The GRR is classified as Community Land under the LG Act as amended by the *Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998*.

Under Section 36(4), all Community Land must be categorised as one of the following categories:

- Natural Area - (further categorised as either Bushland, Wetland, Escarpment, Foreshore, Watercourse)
- Sportsground
- Park
- Area of Cultural Significance; or
- General Community Use.

The Core Objectives for all community land categories vary according to the categorisation of the land. All objectives are defined in Sections 36E to 36N of the LG Act and also appear in **Appendix 1**, of this POM.

In accordance with the guidelines set out in the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* and Practice Note 1: Public Land Management (Department of Local Government Amended 2000) and the derived management directions and planning principles presented above, land at the GRR should be categorised (see Figure 30) as:

- **Area of Cultural Significance, and**
- **Park**

### 9.1 Area of Cultural Significance

Relevant Core Objectives for management of community land categorised as **Area of Cultural Significance** are to retain and enhance the cultural significance of the area (namely its Aboriginal, aesthetic, archaeological, historical, technical, research or social significance) for past, present or future generations by the active use of conservation methods.

Those conservation methods may include any or all of the following methods:

- a. the continuous protective care and maintenance of the physical material of the land, buildings or of the context and setting of the area of cultural significance.
- b. the restoration of the land and buildings, that is, the returning of the existing physical material of the land and buildings to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.





Figure 30 – Land Categories

- c. the reconstruction of the land and buildings, that is, the returning of the land and buildings as nearly as possible to a known earlier state.
- d. the adaptive reuse of the land and buildings, that is, the enhancement or reinforcement of the cultural significance of the land and buildings by the introduction of sympathetic alterations or additions to allow compatible uses (that is, uses that involve no changes to the cultural significance of the physical material of the area, or uses that involve changes that are substantially reversible or changes that require a minimum impact).
- e. the preservation of the land and buildings, that is, the maintenance of the physical material of the land or buildings in its existing state and the retardation of deterioration of the land and buildings.

This categorisation acknowledges the return and interment of the ancestral remains of Cobbara Ball, the “*King of the Bingera Tribe*” on 1 December 2017.

#### Description and Location

The Area of Cultural Significance category occupies part of Lot 7026, the area from the Campbell Bridge down to and including the junction of the Gwydir River and Halls Creek.

#### Management Objective

Management will focus on respectful acknowledgement of the significance of the noted events, including continuation of current education points explaining this important history. This includes development of this respect, by supporting those who visit the site to absorb these messages of learning. Management interventions will therefore:

- be generally passive
- aimed at maintenance of existing signage, the environmental values and culture
- encourage access by pedestrians via the walking track, and
- facilitate an informative indigenous cultural educational site focusing on the original inhabitants of the Bingara area.

Consistent with the Gwydir River at Bingara being determined as belonging to the *Endangered Aquatic Ecological Community in the Natural Drainage Systems of the Lower Catchment of the Darling River*, appropriate management of the Area of Cultural Significance (including various key threatening processes) is required to sustain the environmental values of the river and its precinct. Key threatening processes include the degradation of native vegetation (clearing, destruction), installation and operation of instream structures and other mechanisms that alter natural flow regimes, soil erosion sedimentation, overfishing, removal of woody debris and snags which provide aquatic habitat, and insecticides in runoff.

Tree management through replacement and new plantings fence maintenance and weed control will be ongoing management requirements.

All environmental values will require management in accordance with policy and legislation. No works are to occur without obtaining the required approvals under all applying biodiversity and environmental legislation which may require appropriate creation of environmental impact offsets.

## 9.2 Park

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a **Park** are:

- to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities, and
- to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and
- to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.

### Description and Location

The area categorised as Park occupies Lots 701 and 7027 in their entirety and part of Lot 7026. This is the total land component of GRR above (upstream of) the Campbell Bridge incorporating the Riverside Picnic Area, part of the River Flats Area and the area downstream of the junction of the Gwydir River and Halls Creek, in the area referred to in this POM as The Junction.

### Management Objective

Management of the areas categorised as Park will maintain current developments including works (e.g., assets such as picnic facilities, roads and pathways, signage, the education precinct at The Junction, fencing, tracks, and seating etc.). Management will also embrace new and advanced directions which will facilitate the greater usage and enjoyment of the GRR by people who live at or visit Bingara and district. This will require some modifications to existing developments, and in some cases, new works in terms of facilities designed to encourage greater usage and meet the demands of increases in visitation.

Consistent with the Gwydir River at Bingara being determined as belonging to the *Endangered Aquatic Ecological Community in the Natural Drainage Systems of the Lower Catchment of the Darling River* appropriate management of the area categorised as Park (including various key threatening processes) is required to sustain the environmental values of the river and its precinct. Key threatening processes include the degradation of native vegetation (clearing, destruction), installation and operation of instream structures and other mechanisms that alter natural flow regimes, soil erosion sedimentation, overfishing, removal of woody debris and snags which provide aquatic habitat, and insecticides in runoff.



Tree management through replacement and new plantings as required, fence maintenance and weed control will be ongoing management requirements.

All environmental values will require management in accordance with policy and legislation. No works are to occur without obtaining the required approvals under all applying biodiversity and environmental legislation which may require appropriate creation of environmental impact offsets.



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## 10 DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF THE GRR

### 10.1 GRR Management

Council reserves the right to control the use of community land including the GRR.

Council intends to:

- create opportunities for community consultation and participation in the planning and development as required.
- consider and attempt to balance the need for community recreation facilities with the impact development that such sites will have on local residents.
- provide an efficient method and process for approval of all agreed improvements and developments which meet the needs of a growing community.
- consider access to recreational facilities for all users.
- ensure all formal use of the GRR is authorised through appropriate documentation.
- allow casual informal use consistent with Council's policies and procedures.
- consider how use of the site can provide funding for the maintenance of facilities for the GRR.
- recognise that the ongoing viability of the GRR is dependent on the ongoing viability of the GRR users.
- facilitate a system whereby enquiries and complaints from the public can be efficiently and promptly dealt with.

Council will issue leases and licences as described in Section 10.3

#### **Restrictions on Use and Development**

Restrictions on use and development of the GRR are described in Section 3.2 under the subheading "Native Title".

#### **Management Structure**

Council manages the GRR directly.



## 10.2 Permitted Uses and Activities at the GRR

Access by the public will be permitted and encouraged at the GRR, subject to signage and usage protocols established by Council.

### Permissible Uses

Table 2 lists the permissible uses on the land, across all categories considered in this POM, subject to Council assessment, approvals and booking/hire systems, with their scale and intensity.

*Table 2 - Permissible Uses*

Use	Scale	Intensity
Access roads	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility and/or to the requirements of the activity	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Amenities	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility and/or to the requirements of the activity	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Alternate energy technology	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Art and cultural classes and events	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility and/or to the requirements of the activity	24 hours a day, 7 days a week subject to any Hire Agreement, Tenure and/or Development Application conditions for a specific event
Business Operations	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	24 hours a day, 7 days a week subject to Tenure or Hire Agreement
Café, Canteen or Kiosk	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	Operating hours of the establishment subject to Tenure or hire agreement
Car parking	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility and/or to the requirements of the activity	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Playing of games	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	8.00am – 10.00 pm, 7 days a week subject to Tenure or Hire Agreement
Children’s programs and events	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility and/or to the requirements of the activity	8.00am – 10.00 pm, 7 days a week subject to Tenure or Hire Agreement
Community events (fundraising/charity events, special events)	Limited to the hours the facility is booked Agreement via tenure or hire agreement	7 days a week, 8.00am – 10.00pm
Community Services	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	24 hours a day, 7 days a week subject to any Hire Agreement, Tenure
Dog training and exercise	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility and/or to the requirements of the activity	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Drainage and irrigation	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Education Services	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	24 hours a day, 7 days a week subject to Tenure or Hire Agreement
Emergency use	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility and/or to the requirements of the activity	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Filming and photography (commercial, amateur)	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility and/or to the requirements of the activity	24 hours a day, 7 days a week subject to Tenure





Use	Scale	Intensity
Fitness and wellbeing programs	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility and/or to the requirements of the activity	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Landscaping	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Maintenance buildings and infrastructure	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Markets	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	Operating hours subject to Tenure or Hire Agreement
Marquees, tents, stages and jumping castles	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	24 hours a day, 7 days a week subject to any Hire Agreement, Tenure
Mobile food vendors	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	Operating hours subject to Tenure or Hire Agreement
Outdoor film screening	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	Operating hours subject to Tenure or Hire Agreement
Passive recreation	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility and/or to the requirements of the activity	7 days a week, sunrise – 10.00pm
Paths	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Personal training	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	Operating hours subject to Tenure or Hire Agreement
Playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	Operating hours subject to Tenure or Hire Agreement
Private events (i.e., weddings, birthdays)	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility and/or to the requirements of the activity	Operating hours subject to Tenure or Hire Agreement
Public performance or education	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility and/or to the requirements of the activity	Operating hours subject to Tenure or Hire Agreement
Public utility infrastructure	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Remediation works	Subject to noise, workplace health and safety and relevant legislation	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Shade structures	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility and/or to the requirements of the activity	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Sponsorship signage (temporary)	As per section 11.12	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Storage facilities	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	24 hours a day, 7 days a week subject to Tenure or Hire Agreement
Telecommunication facilities	Subject to relevant legislation	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Temporary structures (i.e., marquees, tents, stages)	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	Temporary structures (no pegs, weighted only)
Youth programs and events	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility and/or to the requirements of the activity	8.00am – 10.00 pm, 7 days a week subject to Tenure or Hire Agreement

It is an express provision of this POM that Council shall provide from time to time as circumstances may require the construction and maintenance of utility services, provision and maintenance of floodways, vehicular access ways and the granting of easements.





### 10.3 Leases, Licences and other Estates

For this section, please see the Explanation of Terms<sup>53</sup> set out below.

Council may allow use of community land by a casual user for any permissible use (see Section 11.2). However, Council may require a form of authorisation for a permissible use to be undertaken.

The authorisation in a POM gives ‘in principle’ support for activities, uses and developments consistent with the objectives for land categorisation to proceed to development assessment under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, if required.

This POM does not in itself imply or grant consent for activities, uses or developments. Any proposed uses and developments which are consistent with this POM must still be referred for development consent and where required, be advertised widely for information and invitation to comment. Any subsequent application for development consent would be supported by and assessed against this POM.

The LG Act provides that tenures (leases, licences, or any other estates) or easements may be granted over all or part of community land.

Tenures may be held by:

- community organisations and sporting clubs, or
- by private/commercial organisations, or
- Government agencies
- individuals providing facilities and/or services for public use.

The maximum period for leases and licences on community land allowable under the LG Act is 30 years (with the consent of the Minister for a period over 21 years) for purposes consistent with the categorisation and core objectives of the particular area of community land.

Community land may only be leased or licensed for periods of more than 5 years if public notice is given according to the requirements of Sections 47 and 47A of the LG Act.

#### <sup>53</sup> Explanation of Terms

<b>Tenure</b>	A lease, licence or other estate issued by Council in accordance with Section 46 of the LG Act or Section 2.20 of the CLM Act.
<b>Hire Agreement</b>	An estate issued by Council.
<b>Holder</b>	The company, organisation, individual or group of individuals who have been issued with a Tenure.
<b>Hirer</b>	The company, organisation, individual or group of individuals who have been issued with a Hire Agreement.
<b>Regular hirer</b>	A hirer who regularly uses the GRR through a Hire Agreement or has an ongoing Hire Agreement.
<b>Singular hirer</b>	A Hirer who has a Hire Agreement as a once off or irregularly.
<b>Casual user</b>	A person or group of people using the GRR for passive recreation, non-commercial purposes without a Tenure or Hire Agreement.
<b>User</b>	The collective term for a holder, hirer and casual user.



### Leases

A lease will be generally required where exclusive use or control of all or part of community land is desirable for effective management. A lease may also be required when the scale of investment in facilities, necessity for security measures, or where the relationship between a holder and facilities on community land justifies such security of tenure.

Leases issued by Council will require:

- that subleases or any other supplementary tenures can only be issued by the Holders with the approval of Council, and consistent with Section 47C of the LG Act.
- responsibilities for maintenance of the facility will be as indicated in the lease.
- all leases will be negotiated in a manner that provides quality outcomes to the community.

### Licences

Licences allow multiple and non-exclusive use of an area. A licence may be required where intermittent or short-term use or control of all or part of the community land is proposed. A number of licences for different holders can apply to the same area at the same time, provided there is no conflict of interest.

### Hire Agreements

An agreement for use of the land subject to this POM may be issued by Council for any purpose listed below, subject to the approval of Council. A hire agreement may be issued to a regular hirer or a singular hirer for formal use. Any legal requirements as determined by Council will include the requirement for adequate public liability insurance cover.

### Purposes for which Tenures may be issued

In accordance with Section 46A of the LG Act, a Plan of Management for community land is to specify and authorise any purpose for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted over community land during the life of a POM.

This POM authorises a tenure to be issued:

- for any permissible use in Table 2
- for purposes consistent with the GRR's:
  - categorisation (see Section 10.1), and
  - zoning (see Section 4.1) under Section 46 of the LG Act, and



- reserve purpose of Public Recreation and Community Purposes as required under the CLM Act.

However, the CLM Act allows that Council may also issue short term licences (for a period of less than one year) consistent with Section 2.20 of the CLM Act. This section provides that licences may be issued, inconsistent with the reservation purpose, for prescribed purposes currently being:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| a. access through a reserve  | m. grazing   |
| b. advertising   | n. hiring of equipment                             |
| c. camping using a tent, caravan or otherwise                                    | o. holiday accommodation                           |
| d. catering  | p. markets   |
| e. community, training or education  | q. meetings  |
| f. emergency occupation  | r. military exercises                              |
| g. entertainment   | s. mooring of boats to wharves or other structures |
| h. environmental protection conservation or restoration or environmental studies | t. sales   |
| i. equestrian events   | u. shows   |
| j. exhibitions   | v. site investigations                             |
| k. filming (as defined in the LG Act)  | w. sporting and organised recreational activities  |
| l. functions   | x. stabling of horses                              |
|  | y. storage.  |

This POM expressly authorises<sup>54</sup> the following tenures:

- a. a nonexclusive licence to the riding school - *Jackaroo Jillaroo Downunder* over part of Lot 701 in DP 96133.

Council may grant a lease, licence or other estate in respect of Community Land for:

- a purpose prescribed by Section 36I as a core objective of the categorisation of the land and subject to being consistent with the GRR purpose; or
- for the provision of goods, services and facilities, and the carrying out of activities, appropriate to the current and future needs within the local community and of the wider public in relation to Public Recreation and Community Purposes.

A tenure or hire agreement on Crown land may impact native title rights and interests. Any use agreement issued on Crown land must be issued in accordance with the future act provisions of the *Native Title Act 1993* and in accordance with Part 8 of the CLM Act unless native title is extinguished. For Crown land which is not *excluded land* this will require written advice from one of Council's native title managers that it complies with any applicable provisions of the native title legislation.

Council at any time in the future, reserves the right to prohibit the taking or consumption of alcohol

<sup>54</sup> Express Authorisation in Section 46 (1)(b) of the LG Act permits tenures to be granted in accordance with and subject to such provisions of a Plan of Management.



on the GRR. This will be indicated by conspicuously displayed signs in accordance with Section 632 and Section 670 of the *Local Government Act, 1993* (as amended).

#### **Direction of Funds**

Income produced from will be retained for use on GRR.

#### **10.4 Other Approvals**

An approval to occupy land or facilities for a specific purpose does not remove the need to obtain approval under other legislation. These approvals may include:

- a liquor licence
- to engage in a trade or business
- to direct or procure a theatrical, musical or other entertainment for the public
- to construct a temporary enclosure for the purpose of entertainment
- to play a musical instrument or sing for fee or reward
- to set up, operate or use a loudspeaker or sound amplifying device
- to deliver a public address or hold a religious service or public meeting with the use of a loudspeaker
- to install or operate amusement devices
- to operate a caravan park or camping ground
- to use a standing vehicle or any article for the purpose of selling any article in a public place.

#### **10.5 Allocation**

The GRR will continue to be used by a variety of user groups and individuals for purposes previously noted. Council will endeavor to generate greater utilisation of the GRR for community purpose and other activities consistent with the GRR's purpose.



## 10.6 Fees

Council applies fees for the use of Council reserves.

The fees associated with the hiring of Council reserves for major events, concerts, functions etc., are detailed in Council's Fees and Charges Policy on Council's website. Council's fee structure is reviewed on an annual basis.

Where the GRR is to be hired for a purpose not within Council's Fees and Charges Policy, the fee will be set by Council.

## 10.7 Communication in the Management of the GRR

Communication between Council, Holders, Hirers and Casual users is important to the success of this POM. Council will establish and maintain clear lines of communication with Tenure holders and across all Reserve users, especially relating to the operations of and responsibilities within (proposed) tenure operations.

This will include:

- regular meetings between Council, Tenure Holders and regular hirers, and
- the establishment of the clear understanding that the GRR will be occupied on the basis of formal agreement.

## 10.8 Easements

Council reserves the right to grant easements as required for utilities and access, bearing in mind the impact of such easements on the site.

The granting of easements over Crown land will be subject to the provisions of the Native Title Act 1993 and Division 8.7 of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.

## 10.9 Development at the GRR

Under this POM, Council reserves the right to control the use of all land categorised at the GRR as Area of Cultural Significance and Park.

Council approval is required prior to any development or improvement made to community land.<sup>55</sup>

All major developments and improvements to be funded (solely or partially) by Council will be subject

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<sup>55</sup> Section 2.74 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021* provides that development for any purpose may be carried out without consent on Crown managed land, by or on behalf of a Crown land manager of the land if the development is for the purposes of implementing a plan of management adopted for the land in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (see Appendix 2).





to Council approval.<sup>56</sup>

To facilitate the establishment of the new and restored infrastructure, Council may issue tenders to design and establish new facilities, additional car parks, access roads, land development and landscaping, and installation of associated and required facilities at the GRR.

Council will also:

- consider how use of the site can provide funding for the maintenance of the facilities at the GRR to reduce costs to Council and employ human services as required.
- issue leases and licences for appropriate activities at the GRR, as described in Section 10.3.
- create opportunities for community consultation and participation in the planning and development at the GRR as required.

#### Native Title

Where it is proposed to construct or establish a public work<sup>57</sup> on reserved or dedicated Crown land, where Native title is not extinguished, prior to approval Council will notify and give an opportunity for comment from any representative Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander bodies, registered Native title bodies corporate and registered Native title claimants in relation to the land or waters covered by the reservation or lease as required under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

Where a proposed update of a Capital Works Program, Facilities Asset Management Plan or any other plan is the approving documentation for a public work on Crown land, that approval will not be given unless the requirements of the *Native Title Act 1993* have been addressed including the notification and opportunity to comment noted above.

Restrictions of use and development of the GRR are described in Section 3.2 under the subheading "Native Title".

<sup>56</sup> The term approval refers to approval as Crown land manager of the land rather than consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

<sup>57</sup> A public work is defined as:

- (a) any of the following that is constructed or established by or on behalf of the Crown, or a local government body or other statutory authority of the Crown, in any of its capacities:
- (i) a building, or other structure (including a memorial), that is a fixture; or
  - (ii) a road, railway or bridge; or
  - (iia) where the expression is used in or for the purposes of Division 2 or 2A of Part 2--a stock-route; or
  - (iii) a well, or bore, for obtaining water; or
  - (iv) any major earthworks; or
- (b) a building that is constructed with the authority of the Crown, other than on a lease.

Major earthworks are defined as:

*earthworks (other than in the course of mining) whose construction causes major disturbance to the land, or to the bed or subsoil under waters.*

### 10.10 Development of New and Improvement of Existing Facilities

It is proposed to install new and improved facilities (see Figure 31) including the following:

- construct simple amphitheater on mid slopes of The Junction, for performances, concerts, recitals etc. which uses the existing elevated water drainage swale (roll-over bank) as a stage area, and natural turfed grades for seating.<sup>58</sup>
- install power supply at The Junction to increase flexibility of use of that section of the GRR, in providing for concerts, markets, art displays etc.
- near the Cobbara Ball signage, construct a simple yarning circle with resilient seating, and educational signage which tells the story of the original inhabitants of the Bingara area.<sup>59</sup>
- BBQs at The Junction and Riverside Picnic Area.
- all-weather car park at the Riverside Picnic Area, to improve access to that area from Copeton Dam Road.
- strategic native tree planting where necessary and possible to improve aesthetics, amenity and enhance the riverine ecosystem.
- install combination of grassed angle and parallel parking for vehicles using The Junction section, near the GRR boundary at Keera Street.
- install a biofilter toilet amenities facility at The Junction.
- secure the second of the iconic River Red Gums at the Riverside Picnic Area by seeking the appropriate geomorphological advice and design of ecofriendly river works (preferably using soft materials) which will create stability around the root system and avoid the full pressures of further flood flow and damage.
- establish a Sister City Flora Memorial Garden at the Educational Precinct below the Fishpond (at The Junction).

Council approval is required prior to any development or improvement made to Community Land.

All major developments and improvements to be funded (solely or partially) by Council will be subject to Council approval.

<sup>58</sup> In order to maintain the ambience consistent with a relatively natural area, this would not require major construction and expense, rather a reshaping of the natural surfaces to enable sitting and viewing, all grassed-based.

<sup>59</sup> In conjunction with discussions with relevant local aboriginal organisations. Suggest use of flood resistant sandstone blocks for seating.

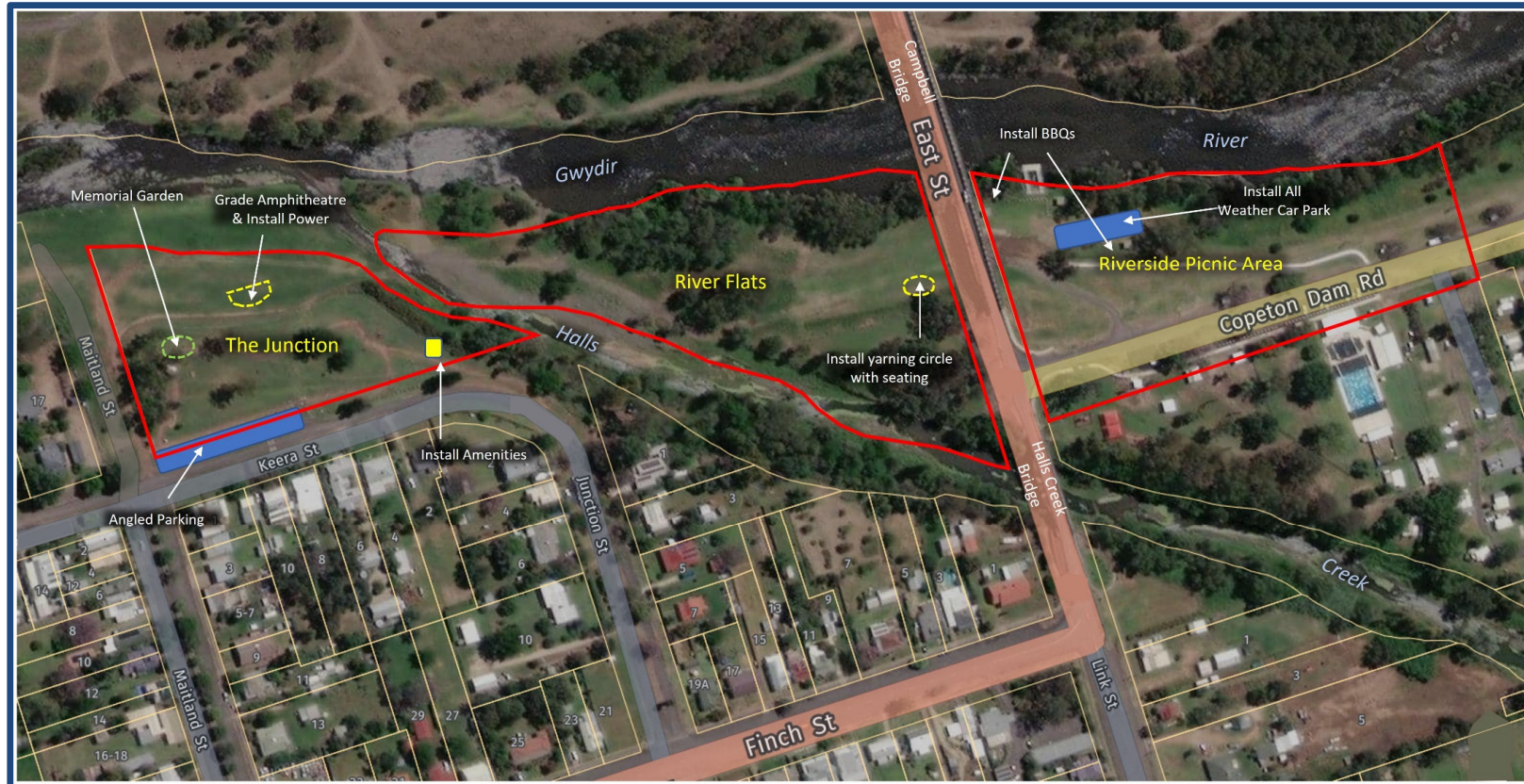


Figure 31 – New Works



### 10.11 Maintenance of Facilities

In accordance with the maintenance schedule of its asset management plans, building management plans and grounds management plans, and to measured targets within available resources, Council will ensure the facilities on the GRR are maintained to an appropriate standard.

Council will:

- conduct essential repairs and maintenance to all facilities.<sup>60</sup>
- oversee lease maintenance responsibilities of tenure holders.
- monitor the condition of structures on the GRR and ensure effective maintenance procedures are in place through tenure conditions.
- prepare a safety audit of the site and repair or replace any areas that may impact on public safety.
- ensure the efficient and conservative use of water, pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers across the GRR where required.
- ensure regular collection of rubbish and elevate compliance activities against illegal dumping of rubbish.
- council officers to continue monitoring for issues of compliance and general site amenity.
- maintain existing drainage systems across the GRR to minimise impact of local flooding and waterlogging.

### 10.12 Signage

Council uses signs to regulate the activities carried out on community land and to provide educational information so as to provide a safe and enjoyable place for passive and active recreational pursuits.

Whilst signs are a crucial source of information, they have a significant impact on the aesthetics of a reserve such the GRR. All signs must:

- meet a design standard and be approved by Council.
- be sympathetic to their environment in their design, construction and location.
- be placed in accordance with *State Environmental Planning Policy (Industry and Employment) 2021* or *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008*.

Note that for issues of safety signage, Council uses the *Statewide Mutual Best Practice Manual – Signs*

<sup>60</sup> Includes restitution of all assets which suffered flood damage during the floods of September-October 2022. Also essential landscape repairs including desilting, key stream bank repairs, de- snagging in accordance with legislation, etc.



*as Remote Supervision.*

Where a sign requires development consent,<sup>61</sup> Council must approve as owner, the lodging of a Development Application prior to assessment by Council in accordance with Schedule 5 Assessment Criteria of the I&E SEPP.

Where a sign does not require development consent, Council must approve the sign before erection.

All Council signs erected under Section 632 of the *Local Government Act*, plus reserve name signs and traffic and safety signs, are permissible.

#### Proposed Signage

Council will ensure the following signage is on the GRR:

- directional signage for the purposes of guiding the community to required infrastructure and services.
- signage for safety purposes including speed limitations and evacuation procedures.

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<sup>61</sup> Development consent is not required if the sign is to be erected for the purposes of implementing this POM.



## 11 FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Income may be sourced from the following:

- **Council's General Revenue Fund (in accordance with annual operational budgets):** Where the GRR is being used for informal casual use, Council will contribute to the maintenance and development of Infrastructure.
- **Section 7.11 (Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979) contributions specifically collected for community land:** This component occurs as developer's contributions for the general use of community land for community well-being.
- **User pays for minor infrastructure works associated with nominated facilities:** This occurs through fund raising by the relevant body including entry fees and sales.
- **Community contributions by way of sponsorships and community group projects** (eg., service clubs such as Rotary, Lions Club, Willoughby City Council etc): This occurs through grants either sourced externally, and/or contributed locally by the group (eg., for the purposes of environmental works, landscaping works, facilities such as shelters and seating, social and intellectual well-being etc. and other improvements).
- **Grant and loan funding from either Commonwealth or State Governments:** The implementation of the management structure will allow primary users to apply for funds from a number of government bodies with the concurrence of Council. Council may also apply for these funds. Funding opportunities exist from government programs including the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund managed by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure – Crown lands.
- **Income from commercial operations:** Where tenures are involved, ticket and product sales etc., income will arise as per details in the revenue-split in the corresponding agreement.

In order to address the outstanding and future maintenance requirements at the GRR, and permit any required new developments as proposed in this POM, it is important that all income which is generated from the GRR be returned to the GRR, and that this should be clearly demonstrated in Council's financial statements. Ensuring appropriate rental and fees for formal use of the site will assist in the maintenance of specialised infrastructure.



## 12 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Table 3 sets out a number of actions which enable the identified Management Strategies and Performance Targets within the GRR. These actions are the means of achieving the objectives of the POM. A clear indication of how the completion of the aims will be assessed is also provided in the table under Performance Evaluation.

Table 3 - Implementation Table

Management Objectives	Management Strategies	Actions	Performance Evaluation (how they will be assessed)
<b>AREA OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE</b>			
To retain and enhance the cultural significance of the area (including its historical, technical, research or social significance) for past, present or future generations by the active use of conservation methods.	<p>A. Implement the required continuous protective care and maintenance of the physical material of the land, namely its Aboriginal, aesthetic, archeological, historical, technical or research of social significance for past, present or future generations by the active use of conservation methods.</p> <p>B. Complete the required restoration of the land, that is, the returning of the existing physical material of the land to a known earlier state.</p> <p>C. Complete required reconstruction of the land that is, the returning of the land as nearly as possible to a known earlier state.</p> <p>D. Implement adaptive reuse of the land, that is, the enhancement or reinforcement of the cultural significance of the land by the introduction of sympathetic alterations or additions to allow compatible uses that involve no change to the land’s cultural</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Near the Cobbara Ball signage, construct a yarning circle with simple and resilient seating, and educational signage which tells the story of the original inhabitants of the Bingara area.</li> <li>2. Consider the declared Endangered Aquatic Ecological Community of the Gwydir River at the GRR by appropriately considering all Key Threatening Processes such as management and operation of in-stream structures, de-snagging operations, required vegetation modifications, use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizer.</li> <li>3. Conduct essential repairs and maintenance to all facilities, including restitution of all assets which suffered flood damage during the floods of September-October 2022 including desilting, key stream bank erosion, de-snagging in accordance with legislation.</li> <li>4. Continue to monitor the condition of all structures and ensure effective maintenance procedures are in place.</li> <li>5. Prepare a safety audit of the site and repair or replace any areas that may impact on public safety.</li> <li>6. Ensure appropriate management of all vegetated land in accordance with Council’s work schedules.</li> <li>7. Council officers to continue monitoring for issues of compliance and general site amenity.</li> <li>8. Ensure regular collection of rubbish and elevate compliance</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adaptive reuse of land includes a functioning yarning circle and informative signage which tells the local indigenous story, and is well utilised.</li> <li>• Land areas appropriately tidy and well managed, aesthetics maintained.</li> <li>• Threatening processes to Endangered Aquatic Ecological Community well considered through appropriate land management.</li> <li>• Maintenance conducted in timely fashion, no outstanding maintenance issues.</li> <li>• No issues caused by poor safety standards involving public use of the Area of Cultural Significance.</li> <li>• Rubbish removed in timely fashion.</li> <li>• Aesthetic and environmental qualities improved through strategic establishment of trees and shrubs.</li> <li>• No major issues of damage through</li> </ul>



Management Objectives	Management Strategies	Actions	Performance Evaluation (how they will be assessed)
	significance. E. Preserve the land, that is, the maintenance of the physical material of the land in its existing state and the retardation of deterioration of the land. NOTE: "land" includes a reference to any buildings erected on the land.	activities against illegal dumping of rubbish. 9. Manage invasive plant species (e.g., African Box Thorn, Willow, Nagoora Bur) to enhance native species and habitat values, where present. 10. Conduct strategic native tree planting where necessary and appropriate to improve aesthetics, amenity and enhance the riverine ecosystem. 11. Manage Bushfire Hazard in accordance with local Bushfire Management Plan. 12. Install appropriate signage as required.	vandalism of park amenity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invasive weeds well controlled.</li> <li>• Bushfire plan implemented.</li> <li>• Signage is clear and unobtrusive.</li> </ul>



Management Objectives	Management Strategies	Actions	Performance Evaluation (how they will be assessed)
<b>PARK</b>			
To encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities, and	A. Ensure the management of the Park category land allows for ready access by people and visual connectivity to open space.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Erect signage in accordance with Schedule 5 I&amp;E SEPP and approved by Council.</li> <li>2. Ensure appropriate slashing/mowing of all grounds in the Park area.</li> <li>3. Oversee lease maintenance responsibilities of tenure holders.</li> <li>4. Prepare a safety audit of the site and repair or replace any areas that may impact on public safety.</li> <li>5. Convene discussion with relevant business and community representatives to develop communication and marketing protocols regarding an elevated usage of The Junction component of the GRR.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park area managed in accordance with stipulated legislative requirements.</li> <li>• Signage is clear and unobtrusive.</li> <li>• Park is well used by a range of user groups.</li> <li>• Council staff monitor implementation of plans regularly.</li> <li>• No issues caused by poor safety standards involving public use of the Park area.</li> <li>• Leases/licences running smoothly.</li> <li>• Active community group facilitated by Council has input into events at the Park, in particular The Junction section.</li> </ul>
To provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and	B. Maintain the amenity and quality of the existing Park settings and facilities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Secure the second of the iconic River Red Gums at the Riverside Picnic Area by seeking the appropriate geomorphological advice and design of ecofriendly river works (preferably using soft materials) which will create stability around the root system and avoid the full pressures of further flood flow and damage.</li> <li>7. Consider the declared Endangered Aquatic Ecological Community of the Gwydir River at the GRR by appropriately considering all Key Threatening Processes such as management and operation of in-stream structures, de-snagging operations, and required vegetation modifications, use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizer.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iconic River Red Gum secured at Riverside Picnic Area.</li> <li>• Threatening processes to Endangered Aquatic Ecological Community well considered through appropriate land management.</li> <li>• Sister City Flora Memorial established.</li> <li>• Park users comment favorably, no negative reports.</li> <li>• Maintenance conducted in timely fashion, no outstanding</li> </ul>



Management Objectives	Management Strategies	Actions	Performance Evaluation (how they will be assessed)
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Conduct strategic native tree planting where necessary and possible to improve aesthetics, amenity and enhance the riverine ecosystem.</li> <li>9. Establish a Sister City Flora Memorial Garden at the Educational Precinct below the Fishpond (at The Junction).</li> <li>10. Monitor the condition of structures and ensure effective maintenance procedures are in place through tenure conditions.</li> <li>11. Council officers to continue monitoring for issues of compliance and general site amenity.</li> <li>12. Conduct essential repairs and maintenance to all facilities, including restitution of all assets which suffered flood damage during the floods of September-October 2022 including desilting, key stream bank erosion, de-snagging in accordance with legislation.</li> <li>13. Maintain existing drainage systems across the GRR to minimise impact of local flooding and waterlogging.</li> <li>14. Manage Bushfire Hazard in accordance with local Bushfire Management Plan.</li> <li>15. Ensure appropriate slashing/mowing of open areas.</li> <li>16. Ensure regular collection of rubbish.</li> <li>17. Manage invasive plant species (e.g., African Box Thorn, Willow, Nagoora Bur) to enhance native species and habitat values, where present.</li> </ol>	<p>maintenance issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rubbish removed in timely fashion.</li> <li>• Aesthetic and environmental qualities improved through strategic establishment of trees and shrubs.</li> <li>• No major issues of damage and abuse to park amenity.</li> <li>• Invasive weeds well controlled.</li> </ul>
<p>To improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.</p>	<p>C. Upgrade and improve the existing Park infrastructure.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18. Construct simple amphitheater on mid slopes of The Junction, for performances, concerts, recitals etc. which use the existing elevated water drainage swale (roll-over bank) as a stage area, and natural turfed grades for seating.</li> <li>19. Install power supply at The Junction to increase flexibility</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amphitheatre constructed and well utilised.</li> <li>• Public Amenities constructed and well used by visitors to The Junction.</li> <li>• Power installed and servicing needs</li> </ul>





Management Objectives	Management Strategies	Actions	Performance Evaluation (how they will be assessed)
		<p>of use of that section of the GRR, such as providing for concerts, markets, art displays etc.</p> <p>20. Install BBQs at The Junction and Riverside Picnic Area.</p> <p>21. Construct all-weather car park at the Riverside Picnic Area, to improve access to that area from Copeton Dam Road.</p> <p>22. Install combination of grassed angle and parallel parking for vehicles using The Junction, near the GRR boundary at Keera Street.</p> <p>23. Install Public Amenities with biofilter toilet at The Junction.</p>	<p>generated by usage increase at The Junction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BBQs installed and well used and maintained.</li> <li>• Park is landscaped, attractive and well maintained.</li> <li>• New parking facility is constructed and utilised at Riverside Picnic Area.</li> <li>• Parallel and angle parking established off Keera Street.</li> </ul>



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## 13 CONSULTATION DURING THE PREPARATION OF THIS PLAN

Community consultation is an important source of information necessary to provide an effective POM for Community Land and is a requirement under Section 38 of the LG Act. As such, Council is committed to the principles and activities within the participating community which guide Council's decision-making processes. Such participation creates the opportunity for interested parties to become actively involved in the development of a plan which reflects the needs, opinions and priorities of people using the GRR.

Section 38 of the LG Act requires that:

- Council must give public notice of a draft POM.
- The period of public exhibition of the draft plan must be not less than 28 days.
- The public notice must also specify a period of not less than 42 days after the date on which the draft plan is placed on public exhibition during which submissions may be made to Council.
- Council must, in accordance with its notice, publicly exhibit the draft plan together with any other matter which it considers appropriate or necessary to better enable the draft plan and its implications to be understood.

This POM was placed on public exhibition from 22 April 2024 until 20 May 2024, in accordance with the requirements of Section 38 of the LGA.

No submissions were received. In accordance with Section 39 of the LGA, prior to being placed on public exhibition, the draft POM was referred to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure – Crown lands, as representative of the State of New South Wales, which is the owner of the Reserve. Council has included in the plan any provisions that have been required by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure – Crown lands.

In accordance with Section 70B of the *Crown Land Management Regulation 2018* Council obtained consent of the Minister administering the CLM Act to adopt this POM.

Prior to adoption, notice was given to the Chief Executive of the Office of Environment and Heritage as required under Section 36D(3)(d) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.



## 14 APPENDICES

1. Core Objectives for Categories of Community Land
2. Relevant State Environmental Planning Policies



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## 15 REFERENCES

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## Appendix 1

### CORE OBJECTIVES FOR CATEGORIES OF COMMUNITY LAND (*Local Government Act 1993*):

#### **36E Core objectives for management of community land categorised as a natural area**

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a natural area are:

- a. to conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised as a natural area, and
- b. to maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting, and
- c. to provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land, and
- d. to provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and
- e. to assist in and facilitate the implementation of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* or the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

#### **36F Core objectives for management of community land categorised as a sportsground**

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a sportsground are:

- a. to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and
- b. to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.

#### **36G Core objectives for management of community land categorised as a park**

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a park are:

- a. to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities, and
- b. to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and
- c. to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.

#### **36H Core objectives for management of community land categorised as an area of cultural significance**

1. The core objectives for management of community land categorised as an area of cultural significance are to retain and enhance the cultural significance of the area (namely its Aboriginal,





aesthetic, archaeological, historical, technical or research or social significance) for past, present or future generations by the active use of conservation methods.

2. Those conservation methods may include any or all of the following methods:
  - a. the continuous protective care and maintenance of the physical material of the land or of the context and setting of the area of cultural significance.
  - b. the restoration of the land, that is, the returning of the existing physical material of the land to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.
  - c. the reconstruction of the land, that is, the returning of the land as nearly as possible to a known earlier state.
  - d. the adaptive reuse of the land, that is, the enhancement or reinforcement of the cultural significance of the land by the introduction of sympathetic alterations or additions to allow compatible uses (that is, uses that involve no changes to the cultural significance of the physical material of the area, or uses that involve changes that are substantially reversible or changes that require a minimum impact).
  - e. the preservation of the land, that is, the maintenance of the physical material of the land in its existing state and the retardation of deterioration of the land.
3. A reference in subsection (2) to land includes a reference to any buildings erected on the land.

### **36I Core objectives for management of community land categorised as general community use**

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as general community use are to promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public:

- a. in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public, and
- b. in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).

### **36J Core objectives for management of community land categorised as bushland**

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as bushland are:

- a. to ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land, and
- b. to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and
- c. to promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed



- d. to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and
- e. to restore degraded bushland, and
- f. to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and
- g. to retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and
- h. to protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.

### **36K Core objectives for management of community land categorised as wetland**

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as wetland are:

- a. to protect the biodiversity and ecological values of wetlands, with particular reference to their hydrological environment (including water quality and water flow), and to the flora, fauna and habitat values of the wetlands, and
- b. to restore and regenerate degraded wetlands, and
- c. to facilitate community education in relation to wetlands, and the community use of wetlands, without compromising the ecological values of wetlands.

### **36L Core objectives for management of community land categorised as an escarpment**

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as an escarpment are:

- a. to protect any important geological, geomorphological or scenic features of the escarpment, and
- b. to facilitate safe community use and enjoyment of the escarpment.

### **36M Core objectives for management of community land categorised as a watercourse**

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a watercourse are:

- a. to manage watercourses so as to protect the biodiversity and ecological values of the instream environment, particularly in relation to water quality and water flows, and
- b. to manage watercourses so as to protect the riparian environment, particularly in relation to riparian vegetation and habitats and bank stability, and
- c. to restore degraded watercourses, and
- d. to promote community education, and community access to and use of the watercourse, without compromising the other core objectives of the category.

### **36N Core objectives for management of community land categorised as foreshore**

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as foreshore are:

- a. to maintain the foreshore as a transition area between the aquatic and the terrestrial environment,



- and to protect and enhance all functions associated with the foreshore's role as a transition area, and
- b. to facilitate the ecologically sustainable use of the foreshore, and to mitigate impact on the foreshore by community use.



## Appendix 2

### STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICIES WHICH ARE RELEVANT TO THE GRR

#### State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021

The *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021* (T&I SEPP) commenced in New South Wales on 1 March 2022 consolidating 4 earlier SEPPs focused on employment and advertising. The T&I SEPP focuses on:

- Infrastructure containing planning rules and controls for infrastructure in NSW, such as for hospitals, roads, railways, emergency services, water supply and electricity delivery.

The T&I SEPP provides that certain types of works do not require development consent under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Section 2.20 of the T&I SEPP provides that a range of works are “exempt development” when carried out for or on behalf of a public authority (including MidCoast Council). These works are itemised in Schedule 1 of the SEPP and include paths and ramps for disabled access, fencing, firefighting emergency equipment, small decks, prefabricated sheds of up to 30m<sup>2</sup> in area, retaining walls up to 2m in height, landscaping including paving and access tracks, minor external and internal alterations to buildings, open car parks (size is not specified) and demolition of buildings covering an area of up to 100m<sup>2</sup>.

Section 2.74 of the T&I SEPP further provides that Development for any purpose may be carried out without consent on Crown managed land, by or on behalf of a Crown land manager of the land if the development is for the purposes of implementing a plan of management adopted for the land in accordance with the LG Act. Further, any of the following development may be carried out by or on behalf of a council without consent on a public reserve under the control of or vested in the council:

- a. development for any of the following purposes:
  - i. roads, pedestrian pathways, cycleways, single storey car parks, ticketing facilities, viewing platforms and pedestrian bridges
  - ii. recreation areas and recreation facilities (outdoor), but not including grandstands
  - iii. visitor information centres, information boards and other information facilities
  - iv. lighting, if light spill and artificial sky glow is minimised in accordance with the lighting for roads and public spaces standard
  - v. landscaping, including landscape structures or features (such as artwork) and irrigation systems
  - vi. amenities for people using the reserve, including toilets and change rooms
  - vii. food preparation and related facilities for people using the reserve
  - viii. maintenance depot
  - ix. portable lifeguard towers.
- b. environmental management works



- 
- c. demolition of buildings (other than any building that is, or is part of, a State or local heritage item or is within a heritage conservation area).
  - Educational establishments and childcare facilities containing planning for child-care centres, schools, TAFEs and Universities.
  - Major infrastructure corridors containing planning controls and reserve land for the protection of the three North South Rail Line, South West Rail Link extension and Western Sydney Freight Line corridors.
  - Three Ports containing the land-use planning and assessment framework for Port Botany, Port Kembla and the Port of Newcastle.

#### **State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008**

*State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008* (SEPP Exempt) provides that certain types of works do not require development consent under Part 4 of the EP&A Act. The General Exempt Development Code is set out in Division 1 of the SEPP Exempt, providing the limitations and conditions of the exemptions. They include:

- access Ramps
- advertising and signage
- aerials, antennae and communication dishes
- air-conditioning units
- animal shelters
- aviaries
- awnings, blinds and canopies
- balconies, decks, patios, rotundas, terraces and verandahs
- barbecues and other outdoor cooking structures
- bollards
- charity bins and recycling bins
- earthworks, retaining walls and structural support
- fences
- flagpoles
- footpaths, pathways and paving
- fowl and poultry houses
- garbage bin storage enclosure
- hot water systems
- landscaping structures
- minor building alterations
- mobile food and drink outlets
- playground equipment
- screen enclosures
- sculptures and artworks
- temporary uses and structures
- waste storage containers

Section 1-16 of Division 2 of the SEPP Exempt provides the General Requirements for exempt development.



### State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021

The *State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021* (R&H SEPP) commenced in New South Wales on 1 March 2022 consolidating three earlier SEPPs focused on employment and advertising. The R&H SEPP focuses on:

- Coastal management for land use planning within the coastal zone consistent with the *Coastal Management Act 2016* and defines the coastal zone and establishes state-level planning priorities and development controls to guide decision-making for development within the coastal zone.

The aim of this Policy is to promote an integrated and co-ordinated approach to land use planning in the coastal zone in a manner consistent with the objects of the *Coastal Management Act 2016*, including the management objectives for each coastal management area, by:

- a. managing development in the coastal zone and protecting the environmental assets of the coast, and
  - b. establishing a framework for land use planning to guide decision-making in the coastal zone, and
  - c. mapping the four coastal management areas that comprise the NSW coastal zone for the purpose of the definitions in the *Coastal Management Act 2016*.
- the management of Hazardous and offensive development.
  - the provision of a state-wide planning framework for the remediation of contaminated land and to minimise the risk of harm.

### State Environmental Planning Policy (Industry and Employment) 2021

The *State Environmental Planning Policy (Industry and Employment) 2021* (I&E SEPP) commenced in New South Wales on 1 March 2022 consolidating two earlier SEPPs focused on employment and advertising. The I&E SEPP focuses on:

- Western Sydney employment area' contains planning rules and controls for the employment land within the Western Sydney
- Advertising and signage ensuring that signage (including advertising):
  - (i) is compatible with the desired amenity and visual character of an area, and
  - (ii) provides effective communication in suitable locations, and
  - (iii) is of high-quality design and finish.
  - to regulate signage (but not content) under Part 4 of the Act, and
  - to provide time-limited consents for the display of certain advertisements, and





- to regulate the display of advertisements in transport corridors, and
- to ensure that public benefits may be derived from advertising in and adjacent to transport corridors.

This Policy does not regulate the content of signage and does not require consent for a change in the content of signage.

### **State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021**

The *State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021* (B&C SEPP) commenced in New South Wales on 1 March 2022 consolidating 11 earlier SEPPs focused on biodiversity and conservation. The B&C SEPP focuses on:

- Vegetation in non-rural areas containing planning rules and controls relating to the clearing of native vegetation in NSW on land zoned for urban and environmental purposes.
- Koala habitat protection:
  - across NSW core rural zones of RU1, RU2 and RU3 except within the Greater Sydney and Central Coast areas, and
  - within Metropolitan Sydney and the Central Coast and applies to all zones except RU1, RU2 and RU3.
- Environmental planning and assessment along the Murray River.
- Bushland in urban areas containing provisions to protect and preserve bushland within public open space zones and reservations.
- Prohibition of canal estate development.
- Water quality objectives in the Sydney drinking water catchment.
- Protect the environment of the Hawkesbury–Nepean River system.
- Management and improvement of environmental outcomes for Sydney Harbour and its tributaries.
- Management and promotion of integrated catchment management policies along the Georges River and its tributaries.
- Protection, conservation and management of the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Property.



ABN : 11 607 533 862

Ms Carmen Southwell  
Gwydir Shire Council  
Locked Bag 5  
Bingara NSW 2404

Our Ref: 23.245  
14 November 2024

Via email: [csouthwell@nambuccamidcoast.nsw.gov.au](mailto:csouthwell@nambuccamidcoast.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Ms Southwell

**Native Title Advice – Gwydir Riverside Bingara**

Lands Advisory Services (Landsas) has reviewed Gwydir Shire Council's Plan of Management for Gwydir Riverside Bingara provided to me on 13 November 2024.

Please find my advice attached.

It is noted that the Plan of Management requires that no future acts will be undertaken on the land unless:

- the lands become *excluded land* for the purposes of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*, or
- the act is a tenure which satisfies the requirements of Section 24HA (Management of Water and Airspace) of the *Native Title Act 1993*.
- the act is, or permits, a public work which satisfies the requirements of Section 24KA of the *Native Title Act 1993*.
- the act is a *low impact* act and satisfies the requirements of Section 24LA of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

Some of the works proposed will be valid under Section 24KA of the *Native Title Act 1993* as noted in Table 2 of my report. Prior to constructing these works Council is required to notify and give the opportunity to comment to the Gomerioi People as native title claimants and to NTSCORP as the representative aboriginal body for New South Wales under Section 24KA(7) of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

In my opinion Gwydir Shire Council's Plan of Management for Gwydir Riverside Bingara provided to me on 13 November 2024 complies with the applicable provisions of the native title legislation.

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Lands Advisory Services Pty Ltd  
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23.245

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Please feel free to contact me should any further advice be required.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Barnes'.

Craig Barnes  
Native Title Manager  
Managing Director - Lands Advisory Services Pty Ltd



2

## Native Title Advice

### A. Proposed Act

This report considers the adoption of Gwydir Shire Council's Plan of Management for Gwydir Riverside Bingara (GRBPoM) provided to me on 13 November 2024 (see **Tag A** for cover).

### B. Summary

The adoption of Gwydir Shire Council's Plan of Management for Gwydir Riverside Bingara authorises acts which will or may impact native title. However, no future acts will be undertaken on the GRR unless:

- the lands become *excluded land* for the purposes of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*, or
- the act is a tenure which satisfies the requirements of Section 24HA (Management of Water and Airspace) of the *Native Title Act 1993*.
- the act is, or permits, a public work which satisfies the requirements of Section 24KA of the *Native Title Act 1993*.
- the act is a low *impact* act and satisfies the requirements of Section 24LA of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

The GRBPoM requires that prior to any public work or easement being approved the requirements of the *Native Title Act 1993*, and in particular to the notification and opportunity to comment requirements under Section 24KA, are addressed. This notice has not been given at the time of this advice.

In my opinion Gwydir Shire Council's Plan of Management for Gwydir Riverside Bingara provided to me on 13 November 2024 complies with the applicable provisions of the native title legislation, subject to the requirements and restrictions noted in in the GRBPoM.

Should native title not prove to be extinguished by a prior act, any native title holders may be entitled to compensation for the act, in the event of a determination that native exists in the land, and Council may be liable to indemnify the State in the payment of any compensation.

### C. Basis of Advice

The land, subject to the proposed act (the Land), is held by the State of New South Wales is Crown land under the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (CLMA) (see **Tag B**).<sup>1</sup> The Land is listed in Table 1 showing the purpose for which the land is reserved with the legislation employed in the reservation process.

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<sup>1</sup> **Tag B** includes title to Lot 701 DP 96133 and Lot 7026 DP 1019618. Title to Lot 7027 DP 1019618 can be purchased if required.

Table 1 - Crown land affected

Reserve Name	Lot / DPs	Reserve / Purpose / Gazette Date	Legislative Base
Gwydir Riverside Bingara	701 / 96133, 7026-7027 / 1019618 <sup>2</sup>	R.1014368 - Public Recreation and Community Purposes – 25 Jan 2008 (see <b>Tag D</b> ) (see <b>Tag C</b> for Reserve diagram)	Section 87 <i>Crown Lands Act 1989</i>

### Crown Land Management Act

1. Reserve 1014368 For Public Recreation & Community Purposes was established as the Reserve Trust of Reserve R.1014368 under Section 92(1) of the *Crown Lands Act 1989* on 25 January 2008 (see **Tag D**).

Gwydir Shire Council was appointed as corporate trust manager of Reserve 1014368 For Public Recreation & Community Purposes on 25 January 2008 under Section 95 of the *Crown Lands Act 1989* (see **Tag D**).

Following various legislative changes in the management of Crown land, and changes in the areas and names of local government authorities Gwydir Shire Council is now Crown land manager of Reserve R.1014368 for the purposes of the CLMA.

2. A search of the National Native Title Tribunal Registers on 26 June 2023 indicates:
  - there is a current native title application (claim) over the subject Land by the Gomeri People registered as NC2011/006 by the National Native Title Tribunal on 20 December 2011.
  - no determination of native title has yet been made, and
  - no Indigenous Land Use Agreements have been registered
3. We are not aware of any compulsory acquisitions of native title or future act protection determinations which would impact the Reserve R.1014368.
4. We are not aware of the any native title certificates under the CLMA having been issued.
5. For the purposes of Section 8.7(1) of the CLMA:
  - Reserve R.1014368 is *relevant land*,
  - none of Reserve R.1014368 is *excluded land*,
  - Gwydir Shire Council is the *responsible person* for Reserve R.1014368.

### D. Does the proposed act affect native title?

The relevant act, the adoption of the GRBPoM, may occur at some further stage and authorises further acts which may affect native title.

<sup>2</sup> See **Tag C** for DP 96133 and DP 1019618.

1. The GRBPoM authorises use for the following purposes:

- Access roads
- Amenities
- Alternate energy technology
- Art and cultural classes and events
- Business Operations
- Café, Canteen or Kiosk
- Car parking
- Playing of games
- Children’s programs and events
- Community events (fundraising/charity events, special events)
- Community Services
- Dog training and exercise
- Drainage and irrigation
- Education Services
- Emergency use
- Filming and photography (commercial, amateur)
- Fitness and wellbeing programs
- Landscaping
- Maintenance buildings and infrastructure
- Markets
- Marquees, tents, stages and jumping castles
- Mobile food vendors
- Outdoor film screening
- Passive recreation
- Paths
- Personal training
- Playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward
- Private events (i.e., weddings, birthdays)
- Public performance or education
- Public utility infrastructure
- Remediation works
- Shade structures
- Sponsorship signage (temporary)
- Storage facilities
- Telecommunication facilities
- Temporary structures (i.e., marquees, tents, stages)
- Youth programs and events

2. The GRBPoM authorises impacting acts for development being works to facilitate the use and activities listed in Table 3 of the GRBPoM, consistent with the requirements of the LG Act and the CLM Act.

The GRBPoM also authorises impacting acts for development being:

- construct simple amphitheater on mid slopes of The Junction,
- near the Cobbara Ball signage, construct a simple yarning circle with resilient seating, and educational signage which tells the story of the original inhabitants of the Bingara area.
- BBQs at The Junction and Riverside Picnic Area.
- strategic native tree planting where necessary and possible to improve aesthetics, amenity and enhance the riverine ecosystem.
- install a biofilter toilet amenities facility at The Junction. establish a Sister City Flora Memorial Garden at the Educational Precinct below the Fishpond (at The Junction).
- secure the second of the iconic River Red Gums at the Riverside Picnic Area by seeking the appropriate geomorphological advice and design of ecofriendly river works.

3. The GRBPoM also authorises impacting acts for development being:

- install power supply at The Junction to increase flexibility of use of that section of the GRR, in providing for concerts, markets, art displays etc.
- all-weather car park at the Riverside Picnic Area, to improve access to that area from Copeton Dam Road.



- install combination of grassed angle and parallel parking for vehicles using The Junction section, near the GRR boundary at Keera Street.

4. The GRBPoM also authorises further impacting acts being leases, licenses, permits or other estates for:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access roads</li> <li>• Amenities</li> <li>• Alternate energy technology</li> <li>• Art and cultural classes and events</li> <li>• Business Operations</li> <li>• Café, Canteen or Kiosk</li> <li>• Car parking</li> <li>• Playing of games</li> <li>• Children’s programs and events</li> <li>• Community events (fundraising/charity events, special events)</li> <li>• Community Services</li> <li>• Dog training and exercise</li> <li>• Drainage and irrigation</li> <li>• Education Services</li> <li>• Emergency use</li> <li>• Filming and photography (commercial, amateur)</li> <li>• Fitness and wellbeing programs</li> <li>• Landscaping</li> <li>• Maintenance buildings and infrastructure</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Markets</li> <li>• Marquees, tents, stages and jumping castles</li> <li>• Mobile food vendors</li> <li>• Outdoor film screening</li> <li>• Passive recreation</li> <li>• Paths</li> <li>• Personal training</li> <li>• Playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward</li> <li>• Private events (i.e., weddings, birthdays)</li> <li>• Public performance or education</li> <li>• Public utility infrastructure</li> <li>• Remediation works</li> <li>• Shade structures</li> <li>• Sponsorship signage (temporary)</li> <li>• Storage facilities</li> <li>• Telecommunication facilities</li> <li>• Temporary structures (i.e., marquees, tents, stages)</li> <li>• Youth programs and events</li> </ul> |
|---|--|
- for purposes consistent with the Gwydir Riverside Bingara;
    - categorisation, and
    - land zoning under Section 46 of the LG Act, and
    - reserve purpose of Public Recreation, Communication Facilities or a relevant interest as required under the CLM Act.
  - and for purposes under the *Crown Land Management Regulation 2018*

The GRBPoM also specifically authorises further impacting acts being leases, licenses, permits or other estates as follows:

- a. A licence to the riding school – Jackaroo Jillaroo Downunder
- b. Short term licenses or permits for:
 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternate energy technology</li> <li>• Art and cultural classes and events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Café, canteen or kiosk in existing facilities</li> <li>• Car parking</li> <li>• Playing of games</li> </ul>
--	--

- 
- Children’s programs and events
  - Community events (fundraising/charity events, special events)
  - Community Services
  - Dog training and exercise
  - Emergency use
  - Filming and photography (commercial, amateur)
  - Fitness and wellbeing programs
  - Markets
  - Marina berths
  - Marquees, tents, stages and jumping castles
  - Mobile food vendors
  - Organised playing of games
  - Outdoor film screening
  - Passive recreation
  - Personal training
  - Playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward
  - Private events (i.e., weddings, birthdays)
  - Public performance or education
  - Remediation works
  - School sport and recreation
  - Sponsorship signage (temporary)
  - Telecommunication facilities
  - Temporary structures (i.e., marquees, tents, stages)
  - Youth programs and events

**E. Land Status**

Table 1 shows the current reserve status of the land.

The relevant acts listed in Section A of this report, being acts defined in Section 226 of the *Native Title Act 1993*, may affect native title.

The relevant acts are not past acts which would extinguish native title for the purposes of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

**F. Future Act Regime**

1. Subdivisions B – E do not apply. There are no existing Indigenous Land Use Agreements in place over any of the affected land.
2. Subdivision F does not apply. No non-claimant application has been previously made.
3. Subdivision G does not apply. The relevant act is unrelated to primary production.
4. Subdivision H does not apply. The relevant act does not relate to the management or regulation of surface and subterranean water, living aquatic resources or airspace.
5. Subdivision I does not apply. We have found no evidence that the relevant act is part of a continuance of tenures issued consecutively from prior to 23 December 1996.
6. Subdivision JA does not apply. The relevant act does not relate to public housing.
7. Subdivision J does not apply. The land within GRBPoM is not subject to a Reserve established prior to 23 December 1996.

8. Subdivision K applies in part as regards D(3). Table 2 shows the requirements to satisfy Subdivision J and how that requirement is satisfied.

*Table 2 - Requirements for an Act to be valid under Subdivision K*

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Comment</b>
The act relates, to any extent, to an onshore place.	24KA(1)(a)	<u>Requirement satisfied</u> The subject land is within the limits of New South Wales.
The act either: (i) permits or requires the construction, operation, use, maintenance or repair, by or on behalf of any person, of any of the things listed in subsection (2) that is to be operated, or is operated, for the general public; or (ii) consists of the construction, operation, use, maintenance or repair, by or on behalf of the Crown, or a local government body or other statutory authority of the Crown, in any of its capacities, of any of the things listed in subsection (2) that is to be operated, or is operated, for the general public.  Subsection (2) (a) a road, railway, bridge or other transport facility (other than an airport or port); (b) a jetty or wharf; (c) a navigation marker or other navigational facility; (d) an electricity transmission or distribution facility; (e) lighting of streets or other public places; (f) a gas transmission or distribution facility; (g) a well, or a bore, for obtaining water; (h) a pipeline or other water supply or reticulation facility; (i) a drainage facility, or a levee or other device for management of water flows; (j) an irrigation channel or other irrigation facility; (k) a sewerage facility, other than a treatment facility; (l) a cable, antenna, tower or other communication facility; (la) an automatic weather station; (m) any other thing that is similar to any one or more of the things mentioned in the paragraphs above.	24KA(1)(b) and 24KA(2)  <u>Requirement satisfied.</u> Th proposed acts will be constructed by or on behalf of Council.  The proposed installation of power infrastructure meets the requirements of 2(d) or alternately 2(m).  The proposed car parks meets the requirements of 2(a) or alternately 2(m).	
The act does not prevent native title holders in relation to land or waters on which the thing is located or to be located from having reasonable access to such land or waters in the vicinity of the thing, except: (i) while the thing is being constructed; or (ii) for reasons of health and safety;	24KA(1)(c)	<u>Requirement satisfied.</u> When construction is complete the native title holders will have access to the area.
A law of the Commonwealth, a State or a Territory makes provision in relation to the preservation or protection of areas, or sites, that may be: (i) in the area in which the act is done; and (ii) of particular significance to Aboriginal peoples or Torres Strait Islanders in accordance with their traditions.	24KA(1)(d)	<u>Requirement satisfied.</u> The New South Wales <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> provides for the preservation or protection of aboriginal areas or sites.

Requirement	Section	Comment
The Act is not a future act that is the compulsory acquisition of the whole or part of any native title rights and interests.	24KA(1A)	<u>Requirement satisfied.</u> The act does not consist of the compulsory acquisition of native title rights and interests.

Prior to undertaking works noted in Table 2, Council will be required to issue notification consistent with Section 24KA(7).

Acts which do not satisfy Section 24KA – Uses and Tenures

9. Subdivision L for some of the acts proposed within the GRBPoM as regards parts D(1) and D(4) to the extent tenures are issued for nonexclusive use. Table 3 describes why these lands and acts satisfy the requirements of Subdivision L.

*Table 3 - Requirements for an Act to be Valid under Subdivision L*

Requirement	Section	Comment
The act takes place before, and does not continue after, an approved determination of Native title is made in relation to the land or waters, if the determination is that Native title exists.	24LA(1)(a)	<u>Requirement satisfied.</u> No determination of Native title has occurred. Section 3.2 of the GRBPoM provides that any act authorised by the GRBPoM excepting those permitted under subdivision H,I & K or on <i>excluded land</i> , terminates following an approved determination of native title, if the determination is that native title exists.
The act does not consist of, authorise or otherwise involve: (i) the grant of a freehold estate in any of the land or waters; or (ii) the grant of a lease over any of the land or waters; or (iii) the conferral of a right of exclusive possession over any of the land or waters; or (iv) the excavation or clearing of any of the land or waters; or (v) mining (other than fossicking by using hand-held implements); or (vi) the construction or placing on the land, or in the waters, of any building, structure, or other thing (other than fencing or a gate), that is a fixture; or (vii) the disposal or storing, on the land or in the waters, of any garbage or any poisonous, toxic or hazardous substance.	24LA(1)(b)	<u>Requirement satisfied.</u> Section 3.2 requires the act must be a low impact act if not satisfying other earlier subdivisions

Requirement	Section	Comment
<p><u>Requirement Exclusion</u>                      Subparagraph (1)(b)(iv) does not apply to:                      (a) excavation or clearing that is reasonably necessary for the protection of public health or public safety; or                      (b) tree lopping, clearing of noxious or introduced animal or plant species, foreshore reclamation, regeneration or environmental assessment or protection activities.</p>	24LA(2)	

**G. No Future Act**

The GRBPoM provides that no future acts will be undertaken on the GRR unless:

- the lands become *excluded land* for the purposes of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*, or
- the act is a tenure which satisfies the requirements of Section 24HA (Management of Water and Airspace) of the *Native Title Act 1993*.
- the act is, or permits, a public work which satisfies the requirements of Section 24KA of the *Native Title Act 1993*.
- the act is a *low impact* act and satisfies the requirements of Section 24LA of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

**H. Consequences**

1. The act is valid.
2. The GRBPoM provides that no future acts will be undertaken on the GRR unless:
  - the lands become *excluded land* for the purposes of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*, or
  - the act is a tenure which satisfies the requirements of Section 24HA (Management of Water and Airspace) of the *Native Title Act 1993*.
  - the act is, or permits, a public work which satisfies the requirements of Section 24KA of the *Native Title Act 1993*.
  - the act is a *low impact* act and satisfies the requirements of Section 24LA of the *Native Title Act 1993*.
3. Unless the land becomes *excluded land* the non-extinguishment principle applies

23.245

- 
4. In the event of a future native title determination where native title is found to exist native title holders may be entitled to compensation. Compensation will be payable by the State. Council may be liable to indemnify the State for such compensation.
  5. Under Subdivision H and K of the future act provisions of the *Native Title Act 1993*, Council is required to provide the same procedural rights to native title holders and any native title claimants as they would have in relation to the action on the assumption, they instead held ordinary title to the land concerned or covering the land adjoining or surrounding waters concerned. We interpret this to be a right of notification and comment where the relevant act consists of the construction or establishment of a public work. The GRBPoM provides that these procedural rights will be provided prior to any construction.

11





Tag A

## PLAN OF MANAGEMENT Gwydir Riverside Bingara



November 2022



**LAND  
REGISTRY  
SERVICES**

Title Search

Information Provided Through  
triSearch (Website)  
Ph. 1300 064 452 Fax.

**Tag B**

NEW SOUTH WALES LAND REGISTRY SERVICES - TITLE SEARCH

FOLIO: 701/96133

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SEARCH DATE	TIME	EDITION NO	DATE
-----	----	-----	----
26/6/2023	11:36 AM	-	-

LAND

----

LOT 701 IN DEPOSITED PLAN 96133  
AT BINGARA  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA GWYDIR  
PARISH OF BINGARA COUNTY OF MURCHISON  
TITLE DIAGRAM DP96133

FIRST SCHEDULE

-----

THE STATE OF NEW SOUTH WALES (CA135224)

SECOND SCHEDULE (3 NOTIFICATIONS)

-----

- \* 1 THE LAND IS A RESERVE WITHIN THE MEANING OF PART 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS ACT 1989 AND THERE ARE RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSFER AND OTHER DEALINGS IN THE LAND UNDER THAT ACT, WHICH MAY REQUIRE CONSENT OF THE MINISTER.
- \* 2 LIMITED TITLE. LIMITATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 28T(4) OF THE REAL PROPERTY ACT, 1900. THE BOUNDARIES OF THE LAND COMPRISED HEREIN HAVE NOT BEEN INVESTIGATED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL.
- \* 3 THE PLAN DEFINING THE LAND IN THIS FOLIO WHICH WAS PREPARED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES IS NOW SUITABLE FOR TITLE ISSUE. IT IS NOT A CURRENT PLAN IN TERMS OF SECTION 7A OF THE CONVEYANCING ACT 1919.

NOTATIONS

-----

UNREGISTERED DEALINGS: NIL

\*\*\* END OF SEARCH \*\*\*

18.1113

PRINTED ON 26/6/2023

\* Any entries preceded by an asterisk do not appear on the current edition of the Certificate of Title. Warning: the information appearing under notations has not been formally recorded in the Register. InfoTrack an approved NSW Information Broker hereby certifies that the information contained in this document has been provided electronically by the Registrar General in accordance with Section 96B(2) of the Real Property Act 1900.



**LAND  
REGISTRY  
SERVICES**

Title Search

Information Provided Through  
triSearch (Website)  
Ph. 1300 064 452 Fax.

NEW SOUTH WALES LAND REGISTRY SERVICES - TITLE SEARCH

FOLIO: 7026/1019618

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SEARCH DATE	TIME	EDITION NO	DATE
-----	----	-----	----
26/6/2023	11:36 AM	-	-

LAND

----

LOT 7026 IN DEPOSITED PLAN 1019618  
AT BINGARA  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA GWYDIR  
PARISH OF BINGARA COUNTY OF MURCHISON  
TITLE DIAGRAM DP1019618

FIRST SCHEDULE

-----

THE STATE OF NEW SOUTH WALES (CA105465)

SECOND SCHEDULE (3 NOTIFICATIONS)

-----

- \* 1 THE LAND IS A RESERVE WITHIN THE MEANING OF PART 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS ACT 1989 AND THERE ARE RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSFER AND OTHER DEALINGS IN THE LAND UNDER THAT ACT, WHICH MAY REQUIRE CONSENT OF THE MINISTER.
- \* 2 LIMITED TITLE. LIMITATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 28T(4) OF THE REAL PROPERTY ACT, 1900. THE BOUNDARIES OF THE LAND COMPRISED HEREIN HAVE NOT BEEN INVESTIGATED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL.
- \* 3 THE PLAN DEFINING THE LAND IN THIS FOLIO WHICH WAS PREPARED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES IS NOW SUITABLE FOR TITLE ISSUE. IT IS NOT A CURRENT PLAN IN TERMS OF SECTION 7A OF THE CONVEYANCING ACT 1919.

NOTATIONS

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AD730592 NOTE: REVOCATION OF RESERVATION OF CROWN LAND RESERVE NO. 34449 & RESERVATION OF CROWN LAND RESERVE NO. 1014368 VIDE GAZ. 25.1.2008 FOL 177

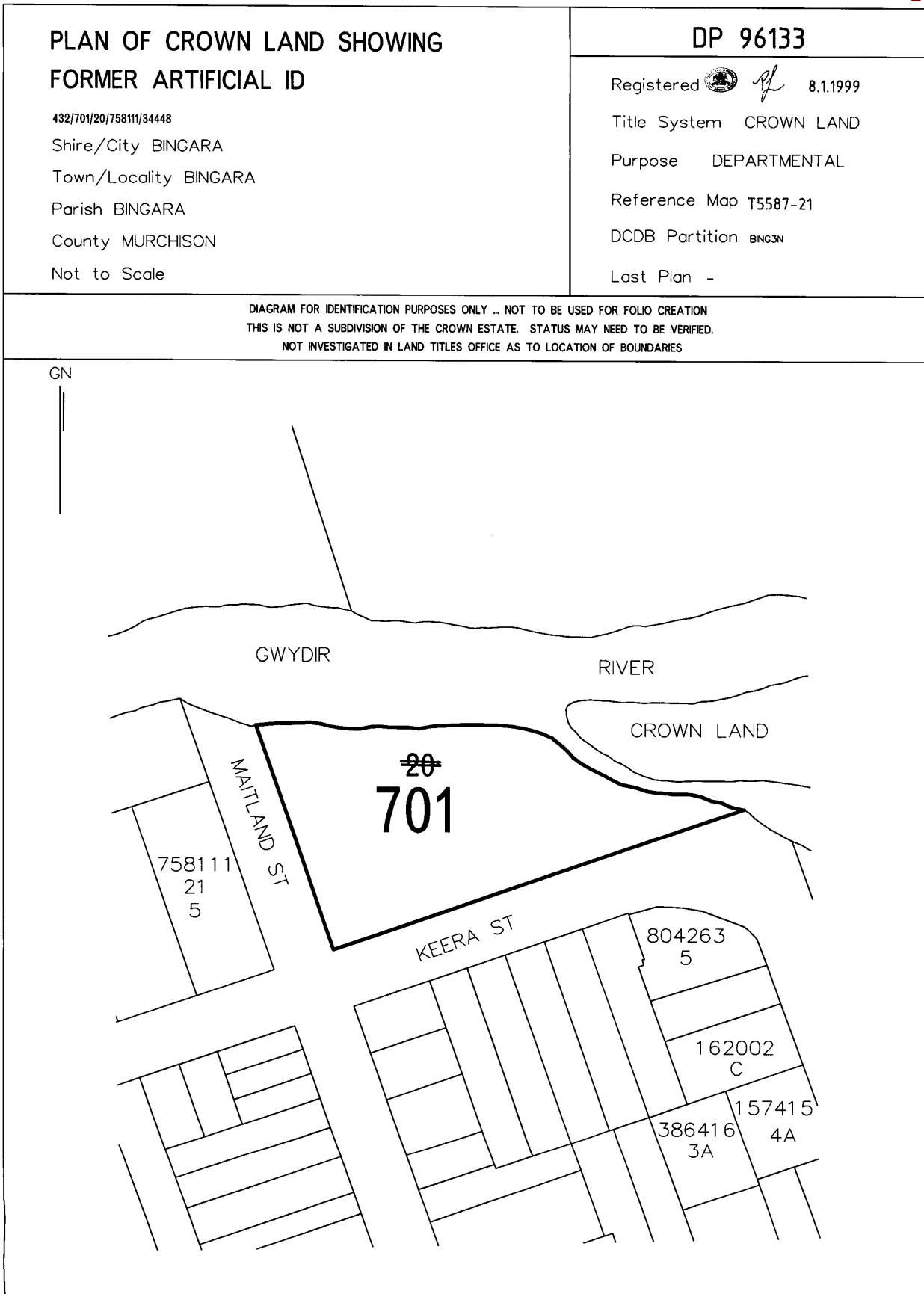
UNREGISTERED DEALINGS: NIL

\*\*\* END OF SEARCH \*\*\*

18.1113

PRINTED ON 26/6/2023

\* Any entries preceded by an asterisk do not appear on the current edition of the Certificate of Title. Warning: the information appearing under notations has not been formally recorded in the Register. InfoTrack an approved NSW Information Broker hereby certifies that the information contained in this document has been provided electronically by the Registrar General in accordance with Section 96B(2) of the Real Property Act 1900.



PLAN AMENDED IN L.T.O. 8.1.1999

Req:R781446 /Doc:DP 1019618 P /Rev:21-Nov-2000 /NSW LRS /Pgs:ALL /Prt:26-Jun-2023 11:39 /Seq:1 of 1  
© Office of the Registrar-General /Src:TRISearch /Ref:18.1113


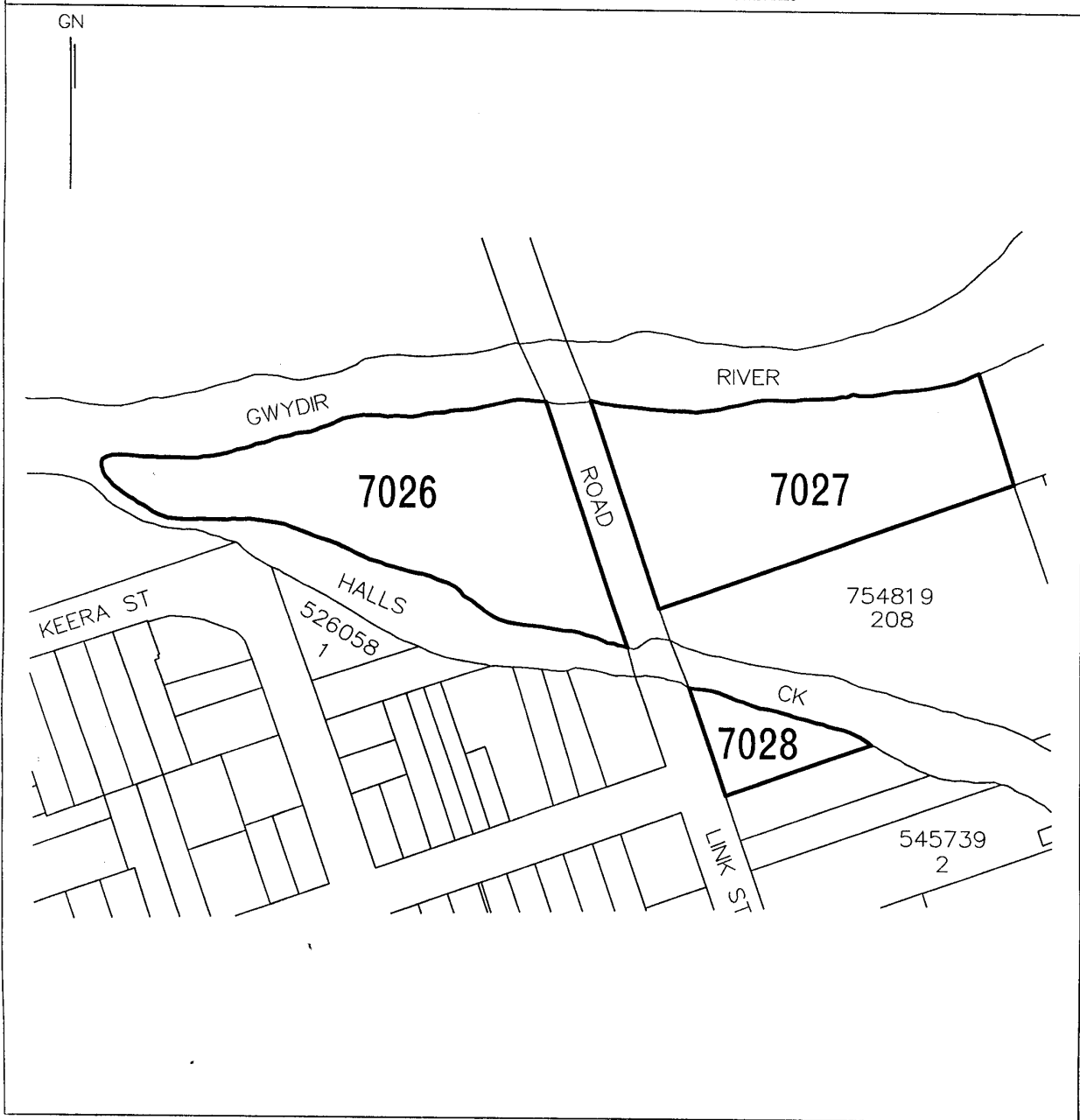
<b>PLAN OF CROWN LAND SHOWING FORMER ARTIFICIAL ID</b>  410/7028//754819/51158 432/7026//754819/34449 432/7027//754819/34449 Shire/City BINGARA Town/Locality BINGARA Parish BINGARA County MURCHISON Not to Scale	<b>DP1019618</b>  Registered  10.11.2000 Title System CROWN LAND Purpose DEPARTMENTAL Reference Map T 5587 - 21 DCDB Partition BING3N Last Plan -
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DIAGRAM FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES ONLY ... NOT TO BE USED FOR FOLIO CREATION  
THIS IS NOT A SUBDIVISION OF THE CROWN ESTATE. STATUS MAY NEED TO BE VERIFIED.  
NOT INVESTIGATED IN LAND TITLES OFFICE AS TO LOCATION OF BOUNDARIES



**MOREE OFFICE**

**Frome Street (PO Box 388), Moree NSW 2400**

**Phone: (02) 6752 5055 Fax: (02) 6752 1707**

**REVOCAION OF RESERVATION OF CROWN LAND**

PURSUANT to section 90 of the Crown Lands Act 1989, the reservation of Crown land specified in Column 1 of the Schedule hereunder is revoked to the extent specified opposite thereto in Column 2 of the Schedule.

TONY KELLY, M.L.C.,  
Minister for Lands

SCHEDULE

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
Land District: Bingara	The whole being
Local Government Area: Gwydir Shire Council	Lot 701, DP 96133,
Locality: Bingara	Parish Bingara,
Reserve No. 34448	County Murchison
Public Purpose: Travelling Stock	of an area of 1.5ha
Notified: 17 May 1902	
File Reference: ME81 R 96	

Notes: Upon revocation, it is intended to re-reserve the land for public recreation and community purposes and appoint Gwydir Shire Council as trust managers.

SCHEDULE

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
Land District: Bingara	The whole being
Local Government Area: Gwydir Shire Council	Lot 7026, DP 1019618,
Locality: Bingara	Parish Bingara,
Reserve No. 34449	County Murchison
Public Purpose: Travelling Stock	Lot 7027, DP 1019618,
Notified: 17 May 1902	Parish Bingara,
File Reference: ME81 R 96	County Murchison
	of an area of 5.09ha

Notes: Upon revocation, it is intended to re-reserve the land for public recreation and community purposes and appoint Gwydir Shire Council as trust managers.

SCHEDULE

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
Land District: Bingara	The whole being
Local Government Area: Gwydir Shire Council	Lot 7008, DP 1016562,
Locality: Bingara	Parish Bingara,
Reserve No. 1001370	County Murchison
Public Purpose: Environmental Protection	
Notified: 7 May 1999	
File Reference: ME81 R 96	

Notes: Upon revocation, it is intended to re-reserve the land for the purpose of travelling stock and appoint the Northern Slopes Rural Lands Protection Board as trust managers.

**DISSOLUTION OF RESERVE TRUST**

PURSUANT to section 92 (3) of the Crown Lands Act 1989, the reserve trust specified in Column 1 of the Schedule hereunder, which was established in respect of the reserve specified opposite thereto in Column 2 of the Schedule, is dissolved.

TONY KELLY, M.L.C.,  
Minister for Lands

SCHEDULE

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
Reserve 1001370 For Environmental Protection	Reserve No. 1001370
	Public Purpose: Environmental Protection
	Notified: 7 May 1999
	File Reference: ME81 R 96

**RESERVATION OF CROWN LAND**

PURSUANT to section 87 of the Crown Lands Act 1989, the Crown land specified in Column 1 of the schedule hereunder is reserved as specified opposite thereto in Column 2 of the Schedule.

TONY KELLY, M.L.C.,  
Minister for Lands

SCHEDULE

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
Land District: Bingara	Reserve No. 1014368
Local Government Area: Gwydir Shire Council	Public Purpose: Public Recreation
Locality: Bingara	Community Purposes
Lot 701, DP 96133, Parish Bingara, County Murchison	
Lot 7026, DP 1019618, Parish Bingara, County Murchison	
Lot 7027, DP 1019618, Parish Bingara, County Murchison	
Area: About 6.586ha	
File Reference: ME81 R 96	

Notes: This reservation automatically revokes Reserves 34448 and 34449.

SCHEDULE

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
Land District: Bingara	Reserve No. 1014369
Local Government Area: Gwydir Shire Council	Public Purpose: Travelling Stock
Locality: Bingara	
Lot 7008, DP 1016562, Parish Bingara, County Murchison	
Area: About 2.2ha	
File Reference: ME81 R 96	

Notes: This reservation automatically revokes Reserve 1001370.



**ESTABLISHMENT OF RESERVE TRUST**

PURSUANT to section 92 (1) of the Crown Lands Act 1989, the reserve trust specified in Column 1 of the Schedule hereunder is established under the name stated in that Column and is appointed as trustee of the reserve specified opposite thereto in Column 2 of the Schedule.

TONY KELLY, M.L.C.,  
Minister for Lands

SCHEDULE

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
Reserve 1014368 For Public Recreation & Community Purposes	Reserve No. 1014368 Public Purpose: Public Recreation Community Purposes Notified: This Day File Reference: ME81 R 96

**APPOINTMENT OF CORPORATION TO MANAGE RESERVE TRUST**

PURSUANT to section 95 of the Crown Lands Act 1989, the corporation specified in Column 1 of the Schedule hereunder is appointed to manage the affairs of the reserve trust specified opposite thereto in Column 2, which is trustee of the reserve referred to in Column 3 of the Schedule.

TONY KELLY, M.L.C.,  
Minister for Lands

SCHEDULE

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>	<i>Column 3</i>
Gwydir Shire Council	Reserve 1014368 For Public Recreation & Community Purposes	Reserve No. 1014368 Public Purpose: Public Recreation Community Purposes Notified: This Day File Reference: ME81 R 96

SCHEDULE

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
Reserve 1014369 For Travelling Stock	Reserve No. 1014369 Public Purpose: Travelling Stock Notified: This Day File Reference: ME81 R 96

SCHEDULE

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>	<i>Column 3</i>
Northern Slopes Rural Lands Protection Board	Reserve 1014369 For Travelling Stock	Reserve No. 1014369 Public Purpose: Travelling Stock Notified: This Day File Reference: ME81 R 96

**ORANGE OFFICE**

**92 Kite Street (PO Box 2146), Orange NSW 2800**  
**Phone: (02) 6391 4300 Fax: (02) 6362 3896**

**APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEE**

PURSUANT to section 14(4) of the Trustees of Schools of Arts Enabling Act 1902, the corporation specified in Column 1 of the Schedule hereunder, is appointed as sole trustee of the lands specified opposite thereto in Column 2 of the Schedule.

TONY KELLY, M.L.C.,  
Minister for Lands

SCHEDULE

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
Trundle War Memorial School of Arts Incorporated.	Lot 1 in DP 191659 comprised in Certificate of Title Vol. 3910, Fol. 142, and Lot 1 in DP 724890 being the residue of land comprised in Certificate of Title Vol. 2101, Fol. 146, Parish and Town of Trundle, County of Cunningham.

## 7.6 Quarterly Financial Report (Budget Review)

<b>File Reference:</b>	NA
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### Delivery Program

<b>Goal:</b>	5. Organisational management
<b>Outcome:</b>	5.1 Corporate management
<b>Strategy:</b>	5.1.1 Financial Management and accountability systems
<b>Author:</b>	Helen Thomas, Chief Financial Officer

### STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

### IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

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

### TABLED ITEMS Nil

### BACKGROUND

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

### COMMENT

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

The material items that have been adjusted through quarterly review are largely to accommodate the change to the grant funded programs. When original budgets are being compiled in February and March, it is difficult to estimate where programs and projects will be up to at 30<sup>th</sup> June. This review allows for those projects to be correctly recorded in Council's budgets.

The adjustments being included have a positive impact on Council's bottom line and do not affect Council's financial position.

### STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

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

Regulation 2005:

203 Budget review statements and revision of estimates

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

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the September Quarter Budget Review Statement be noted.**

**FURTHER that the September Quarter budget adjustments be approved.**

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Quarterly Review Sept 2024 [7.6.1 - 9 pages]

Gwydir Shire Council

**Quarterly Budget Review Statement**  
for the period 01/07/24 to 30/09/24

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Gwydir Shire Council

**Quarterly Budget Review Statement**  
for the period 01/07/24 to 30/09/24

**Report by Responsible Accounting Officer**

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

**30 September 2024**

It is my opinion that the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for Gwydir Shire Council for the quarter ended 30/09/23 indicates that Council's projected financial position at 30/6/24 will be satisfactory at year end, having regard to the projected estimates of income and expenditure and the original budgeted income and expenditure.

Signed:                         Thomas                        

date: 20/11/2024

Helen Thomas  
Responsible Accounting Officer

Gwydir Shire Council

Income & Expenses Budget Review Statement

Budget review for the quarter ended 30 September 2024

Income & Expenses - Council Consolidated

Quarterly Budget Review Statement  
for the period 01/07/24 to 30/09/24

	Original Budget 2023/24	Approved Changes			Carry Forwards	Other than QBRs	Variations for this Sep Qtr			Projected Year End Result	Actual YTD figures
		QBRs	Sep QBRs	Dec QBRs			Mar QBRs	Revised Budget 2023/24	Notes		
<b>Income</b>											
Rates and Annual Charges	(12,542,870)	-	-	-	-	(12,542,870)	(27,400)	(12,570,270)	(12,715,559)		
User Charges and Fees	(3,228,700)	-	-	-	-	(3,228,700)	(172,519)	(3,401,219)	(1,217,308)		
Interest and Investment Revenues	(520,559)	-	-	-	-	(520,559)	(305,081)	(825,640)	(332,911)		
Other Revenues	(5,619,232)	-	-	-	-	(5,619,232)	8,587	(5,610,645)	(545,862)		
Grants & Contributions - Operating	(14,154,700)	-	-	-	-	(14,154,700)	(700,057)	(14,854,757)	(2,389,819)		
Grants & Contributions - Capital	(22,761,257)	-	-	-	-	(22,761,257)	(3,420,040)	(26,181,297)	(3,456,599)		
Net gain from disposal of assets	(700,000)	-	-	-	-	(700,000)	-	(700,000)	-		
Transfer from Reserves	(750,000)	-	-	-	-	(750,000)	(1,293,678)	(2,043,678)	-		
<b>Total Income from Continuing Operations</b>	<b>(60,277,318)</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>(60,277,318)</b>	<b>(5,910,188)</b>	<b>(66,187,506)</b>	<b>(20,658,058)</b>		
<b>Expenses</b>											
Employee Costs	17,126,252	-	-	-	-	17,126,252	1,150,678	18,276,930	4,469,802		
Borrowing Costs	612,477	-	-	-	-	612,477	-	612,477	216,337		
Materials & Contracts	42,889,473	-	-	-	-	42,889,473	4,345,985	47,235,458	12,811,088		
Depreciation	10,373,591	-	-	-	-	10,373,591	-	10,373,591	2,593,398		
Legal Costs	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	10,000	-		
Consultants	281,500	-	-	-	-	281,500	130,113	411,613	165,281		
Other Expenses	3,665,453	-	-	-	-	3,665,453	(12,770)	3,652,683	1,802,054		
Net Loss from disposal of assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<b>Total Expenses from Continuing Operations</b>	<b>74,958,746</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>74,958,746</b>	<b>5,614,006</b>	<b>80,572,752</b>	<b>22,057,960</b>		
<b>Net Operating Result from Continuing Operator</b>	<b>14,681,428</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>14,681,428</b>	<b>(296,182)</b>	<b>14,385,246</b>	<b>1,399,902</b>		
Discontinued Operations - Surplus/(Deficit)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<b>Net Operating Result from All Operations</b>	<b>14,681,428</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>14,681,428</b>	<b>(296,182)</b>	<b>14,385,246</b>	<b>1,399,902</b>		
<b>Net Operating Result before Capital Items</b>	<b>37,442,685</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>37,442,685</b>	<b>3,123,858</b>	<b>40,566,543</b>	<b>4,856,501</b>		



Gwydir Shire Council

**Quarterly Budget Review Statement**  
for the period 01/07/24 to 30/09/24

**Income & Expenses Budget Review Statement**  
**Recommended changes to revised budget**

Budget Variations being recommended include the following material items:

<b>Notes</b>	<b>Details</b>
Rates and Annual Charges	Adjustment in line with expected EOY results
User Fees	Increase in Fees for Naroo
Interest and Investment	Change in banking structure to increase interest income
Other Revenue	Reduction in Council property rental income
Operating Grants	Stronger Country Community Fund Projects
Capital Grants	Disaster Recovery Fund (DRFA) and Community Local Infrastructure Recovery Package (CLIRP) funding for IB Bore, Roxy, Gwydir Foreshore projects

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**Quarterly Budget Review Statement**  
for the period 01/07/24 to 30/09/24

Gwydir Shire Council  
**Capital Budget Review Statement**

Budget review for the quarter ended 30 September 2024  
**Capital Budget - Council Consolidated**

	Original Budget 2023/24	Approved Changes			Revised Budget 2023/24	Variations for this Sep Qtr	Notes	Projected Year End Result
		Carry Forwards	Other than by QBRs	Sep QBRs				
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>								
New Assets								
- Plant & Equipment	1,500,000			1,500,000			1,500,000	
- Land & Buildings	5,600,000			5,600,000			5,600,000	
- Other								
Renewal Assets (Replacement)								
- Plant & Equipment					902,689		902,689	
- Land & Buildings					982,719		982,719	
- Roads, Bridges, Footpaths	16,852,362			16,852,362	1,444,707		18,297,069	
Materials								
Loan Repayments (Principal)								
Waste								
Water supply	3,040,000			3,040,000			3,040,000	
Sewerage services	140,000			140,000			140,000	
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>27,132,362</b>			<b>27,132,362</b>	<b>3,330,115</b>		<b>30,462,477</b>	
<b>Capital Funding</b>								
Rates & Other Untied Funding	600,000			600,000	69,799		669,799	
Capital Grants & Contributions	17,852,362			17,852,362	3,260,316		21,112,678	
Reserves:								
- External Restrictions/Reserves								
- Internal Restrictions/Reserves	5,000,000			5,000,000			5,000,000	
New Loans								
Receipts from Sale of Assets								
- Plant & Equipment	500,000			500,000			500,000	
Waste								
Water supply	3,040,000			3,040,000			3,040,000	
Sewerage services	140,000			140,000			140,000	
<b>Total Capital Funding</b>	<b>27,132,362</b>			<b>27,132,362</b>	<b>3,330,115</b>		<b>30,462,477</b>	
<b>Net Capital Funding - Surplus/(Deficit)</b>								

Gwydir Shire Council

**Quarterly Budget Review Statement**  
for the period 01/07/24 to 30/09/24

**Capital Budget Review Statement**  
**Recommended changes to revised budget**

Budget Variations being recommended include the following material items:

Notes	Details
	Capital Budget adjustments include projects that are all funded through grants. These include Roads, Warialda CBD park, Warialda and Bingara Swimming pools etc.

**Quarterly Budget Review Statement**  
for the period 01/07/23 to 30/09/23

Gwydir Shire Council  
**Cash & Investments Budget Review Statement**

**Budget review for the quarter ended 30 September 2023**  
**Cash & Investments - Council Consolidated**

(\$000's)	Original Budget 2023/24	Approved Changes			Carry Forwards	Other than QBRs	Mar QBRs	Dec QBRs	Sep QBRs	Revised Budget 2023/24	Variations for this Sep Qtr	Notes	Projected Year End Result	Actual YTD figures
		By QBRs	By QBRs	By QBRs										
<b>Externally Restricted <sup>(1)</sup></b>														
Aged Care Bonds	515,000									515,000			515,000	1,565,280
Developer Contributions	856,000								856,000				856,000	514,426
Water	1,300,000								1,300,000				1,300,000	1,589,732
Sewer	1,500,000								1,500,000				1,500,000	1,411,805
Domestic Waste Management	4,400,000								4,400,000				4,400,000	4,709,126
Contracted Liabilities	15,000,000								15,000,000				15,000,000	14,708,834
<b>Total Externally Restricted</b>	<b>23,571,000</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>23,571,000</b>	-			<b>23,571,000</b>	<b>24,499,203</b>
<sup>(1)</sup> Funds that must be spent for a specific purpose														
<b>Internally Restricted <sup>(2)</sup></b>														
Employee Leave Entitlement	900,000									900,000			900,000	1,000,000
Trust Accounts	70,000								70,000				70,000	64,000
<b>Total Internally Restricted</b>	<b>970,000</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>970,000</b>	-			<b>970,000</b>	<b>1,064,000</b>
<sup>(2)</sup> Funds that Council has earmarked for a specific purpose														
<b>Unrestricted (ie. available after the above Restrictic</b>	<b>4,459,000</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>4,459,000</b>	-			<b>4,459,000</b>	<b>4,032,492</b>
<b>Total Cash &amp; Investments</b>	<b>29,000,000</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>29,000,000</b>	-			<b>29,000,000</b>	<b>29,595,695</b>

**Quarterly Budget Review Statement**  
for the period 01/07/24 to 30/09/24

Gwydir Shire Council

**Contracts Budget Review Statement**

Budget review for the quarter ended 30 September 2023

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

<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Contract detail &amp; purpose</b>	<b>Contract Value to date</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Duration of Contract</b>	<b>Budgeted (Y/N)</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Roger Moore Pty Ltd	GWY_2024_T01 Supply and Delivery of Bulk Fuels (Warialdia, North Star)	\$700,000 Annually	1-Oct-24	5 Years + 1 Year	Y	
Northwest Petroleum Pty Ltd	GWY_2024_T01 Supply and Delivery of Bulk Fuels (Bingara)	\$500,000 Annually	1-Oct-24	5 Years + 1 Year	Y	
Red Energy	LGP006 Electricity supply to Large Sites and Street Lighting	TBA	1-Jan-25	7 Years	Y	
				40 weeks from date of possession	Y	
Shay Brennan Constructive Struxi	231967 Construction of Bingara Administration Centre	6,037,630	7-Aug-24		Y	
AGL	LGP Contract Small Sites Electricity	\$350k - \$450k	1-Jan-23	24 Months	Y	
JR Richards	Waste collection and processing	\$350k - \$450k P/A	1-Oct-23	120 Months	Y	

Gwydir Shire Council

**Quarterly Budget Review Statement**

for the period 01/07/24 to 30/09/24

**Consultancy & Legal Expenses Budget Review Statement**

Consultancy & Legal Expenses Overview

<b>Expense</b>	<b>YTD Expenditure (Actual Dollars)</b>	<b>Budgeted (Y/N)</b>
Consultancies	165 281	y
Legal Fees	-	y

**Definition of a consultant:**

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

**Comments**

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



## 7.7 Review of the current Staff Delegations

**File Reference:** NA

### **Delivery Program**

**Goal:** 5. Organisational management

**Outcome:** 5.1 Corporate management

**Strategy:** 5.1.3 Administrative and support functions

**Author:** General Manager

**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST** Nil

### **IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

This report recommends confirmation of the existing delegation structure.

**TABLED ITEMS** Nil

### **BACKGROUND**

The Council determines the level and extent of delegation that is exercised by the staff and other groups such as the Management Committees that control some of the Council's facilities.

It would be difficult to envision an organisation such as Gwydir, which is quite complex in the range of services it offers, without some degree of delegation.

The position of General Manager has a certain degree of legislated functions and unless the Local Government Act is amended these functions cannot be curtailed:

*Functions of general manager – [Section 335](#) Local Government Act (Act)*

*The general manager of a council has the following functions--*

- (a) to conduct the day-to-day management of the council in accordance with the strategic plans, programs, strategies and policies of the council,*
- (b) to implement, without undue delay, lawful decisions of the council,*
- (c) to advise the mayor and the governing body on the development and implementation of the strategic plans, programs, strategies and policies of the council,*
- (d) to advise the mayor and the governing body on the appropriate form of community consultation on the strategic plans, programs, strategies and policies of the council and other matters related to the council,*
- (e) to prepare, in consultation with the mayor and the governing body, the*

*council's community strategic plan, community engagement strategy, resourcing strategy, delivery program, operational plan and annual report,*

- (f) to ensure that the mayor and other councillors are given timely information and advice and the administrative and professional support necessary to effectively discharge their functions,*
- (g) to exercise any of the functions of the council that are delegated by the council to the general manager,*
- (h) to appoint staff in accordance with the organisation structure determined under this Chapter and the resources approved by the council,*
- (i) to direct and dismiss staff,*
- (j) to implement the council's workforce management strategy,*
- (k) any other functions that are conferred or imposed on the general manager by or under this or any other Act.*

This report addresses the delegations extended under Section 335 (g) of the Act.

These functions are performed as a component of the relationship that exists between the organisational arm of the Council and the elected arm. The aim should be to arrive at the ideal mix that results in a maximisation of the organisations efficiency and effectiveness.

The respective roles of the Mayor and elected Councillors are also defined in the Act:

*The role of the mayor is as follows ([Section 226](#))--*

- (a) to be the leader of the council and a leader in the local community,*
- (b) to advance community cohesion and promote civic awareness,*
- (c) to be the principal member and spokesperson of the governing body, including representing the views of the council as to its local priorities,*
- (d) to exercise, in cases of necessity, the policy-making functions of the governing body of the council between meetings of the council,*
- (e) to preside at meetings of the council,*
- (f) to ensure that meetings of the council are conducted efficiently, effectively and in accordance with this Act,*
- (g) to ensure the timely development and adoption of the strategic plans, programs and policies of the council,*

- (h) *to promote the effective and consistent implementation of the strategic plans, programs and policies of the council,*
- (i) *to promote partnerships between the council and key stakeholders,*
- (j) *to advise, consult with and provide strategic direction to the general manager in relation to the implementation of the strategic plans and policies of the council,*
- (k) *in conjunction with the general manager, to ensure adequate opportunities and mechanisms for engagement between the council and the local community,*
- (l) *to carry out the civic and ceremonial functions of the mayoral office,*
- (m) *to represent the council on regional organisations and at intergovernmental forums at regional, State and Commonwealth level,*
- (n) *in consultation with the councillors, to lead performance appraisals of the general manager,*
- (o) *to exercise any other functions of the council that the council determines.*

The role of a councillor ([Section 232](#)):

- (1) *The role of a councillor is as follows--*
  - (a) *to be an active and contributing member of the governing body,*
  - (b) *to make considered and well informed decisions as a member of the governing body,*
  - (c) *to participate in the development of the integrated planning and reporting framework,*
  - (d) *to represent the collective interests of residents, ratepayers and the local community,*
  - (e) *to facilitate communication between the local community and the governing body,*
  - (f) *to uphold and represent accurately the policies and decisions of the governing body,*
  - (g) *to make all reasonable efforts to acquire and maintain the skills necessary to perform the role of a councillor.*
- (2) *A councillor is accountable to the local community for the performance of the council.*

These respective roles are designed to develop the accountability mechanisms

required to ensure a high degree of probity in the way things work. Indeed, the system works very effectively when each component exercises their respective role with integrity and enthusiasm.

Underpinning the system is the policy regime that the Council operates within. Gwydir has an extensive policy structure, and these policies form the basis for most of the decisions exercised by the staff. Most of these policies were recently reviewed and will table at a Council Meeting for endorsement or amendment at a future Council Meeting.

The current specific delegations to staff (see attached list), from the General Manager, are designed to remove any unreasonable impediment to the employee being able to efficiently and effectively carry out their respective functions. This list is modified as circumstances dictate.

The delegations cascade down through the organisation and each individual delegation reflects in large part the ability level of the employee to carry out the specific delegated tasks and/or decision-making responsibility that they must Exercise.

The use of delegations is recorded in a great number of ways through, for example, determination of application registers, cheque voucher books, etc.

The Council does not have the power to extend any delegations beyond the General Manager. The extension of delegations to staff other than the General Manager is at the prerogative of the General Manager. From a management point of view this is quite sound because the Council holds the General Manager responsible for the overall performance of the organisation. Any bypassing of the General Manager dilutes the ability to clearly hold that position accountable.

## **COMMENT**

The current delegation to the position of General Manager, outlined below, is designed to be a general enabling delegation with specific exclusions detailed in the Schedule.

This is certainly my preferred model as it quite clearly details the limit to the extent of the delegations.

The current delegation has been in place since the formation of Gwydir Shire Council in 2004 and was last reviewed following the 2021 election:

THAT Gwydir Shire Council by motion adopted this day, delegates to the General Manager, any and all of its powers and duties in accordance with Section 377 of the Local Government Act 1993, as amended, and all other associated legislation, that it is by law authorised or permitted to delegate save and except those powers and duties set out in Schedule 1 or that Gwydir Shire Council shall by motion from time to time passed by Council exclude from this general delegation or until this general delegation is revoked by Council motion.

## **SCHEDULE 1**

The following items are explicitly excluded from the delegation by legislation or resolution of Council;

Legislated Restrictions [subject to [Section 377](#) see also Section 377 (1A)]

- (a) the appointment of a general manager,
- (b) the making of a rate,
- (c) a determination under [section 549](#) as to the levying of a rate,
- (d) the making of a charge,
- (e) the fixing of a fee,
- (f) the borrowing of money,
- (g) the voting of money for expenditure on its works, services or operations,
- (h) the compulsory acquisition, purchase, sale, exchange or surrender of any land or other property (but not including the sale of items of plant or equipment),
- (i) the acceptance of tenders to provide services currently provided by members of staff of the council,
- (j) the adoption of an operational plan under [section 405](#),
- (k) the adoption of a financial statement included in an annual financial report,
- (l) a decision to classify or reclassify public land under Division 1 of Part 2 of Chapter 6,
- (m) the fixing of an amount or rate for the carrying out by the council of work on private land,
- (n) the decision to carry out work on private land for an amount that is less than the amount or rate fixed by the council for the carrying out of any such work,
- (o) the review of a determination made by the council, and not by a delegate of the council, of an application for approval or an application that may be reviewed under [section 8.2](#) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979,
- (p) the power of the council to authorise the use of reasonable force for the purpose of gaining entry to premises under section 194,
- (q) a decision under [section 356](#) to contribute money or otherwise grant

financial assistance to persons,

- (r) a decision under [section 234](#) to grant leave of absence to the Ordinary holder of a civic office,
- (s) the making of an application, or the giving of a notice, to the Governor or Minister,
- (t) this power of delegation,
- (u) any function under this or any other Act that is expressly required to be exercised by resolution of the council.

#### Past Council Resolutions

To amend the agreed merger conditions adopted by Yallaroi and Bingara Shire Councils mutually adopted during the merger discussion Stage.

To vary any expenditure or income estimate without consequently advising the elected Council and seeking its agreement.

To determine any development application that has substantial local Opposition

Any function delegated to the Council by the Director-General of Local Government where the instrument of delegation does not allow the Council to delegate the function.

That the amount fixed under the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 for the writing off of debts under delegation be adjusted to \$5,000 from the previous limit of \$1,000.

The previous Council also conferred the following delegations to the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor:

*The Mayor may expend funds up to \$500 for minor donations without reference to Council.*

*The Mayor has the delegated authority to register for any event that he or she considers to be relevant. However, he or she is to inform the Council at the earliest opportunity of his or her decision.*

*The Mayor is delegated the authority to approve attendance at events for the General Manager in accordance with policy.*

*Authority for the Mayor, and in the Mayor's absence the Deputy Mayor, to act as Gwydir Shire Council's Namoi Councils Joint Organisation representative. THAT, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 and the regulations made under the Act, and with any express policy of the Council, or regulations of any public authority, the Mayor or Deputy Mayor is authorised to record a vote for or against motions submitted to duly*



*convened meetings of the Namoi Councils Joint Organisation.  
Any vote recorded by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor will be binding on Gwydir Shire Council.*

*FURTHER, that the Mayor and General Manager are authorised under delegation to approve the affixing of the Common Seal to legal documents which require execution before the next available Ordinary Meeting of Council to implement a previous Council decision whether made by Council or under delegation*

## **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the current delegations to the General Manager, Mayor and Deputy Mayor are confirmed**

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Delegations List Pulse [7.7.1 - 42 pages]



## Delegations By Category

Assets

Code	Name	Description	Officers
60	Asset Disposal	Major Assets (\$10,000 and above) Determine the method of sale or disposal of major assets; * by public tender * auction, or * direct sale (after Council has resolved to dispose of the asset as part of the Management Plan).	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley
61	Asset Disposal	Heavy Plant disposal by public tender and auction only, up to the value of \$50,000.	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley
62	Asset Disposal	Fleet Vehicle disposal by trade-in, public tender and auction only, up to a net changeover value of \$10,000.	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley
63	Asset Disposal	Certification of the need for sale or disposal of minor assets (up to a value of \$10,000) as: surplus to requirements the asset is in a state of disrepair, unserviceable, unusable or obsolete.	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Colin Cuell Justin Hellmuth Sharon Baker Saul Standerwick Helen Thomas
64	Asset Disposal	Determine the method of sale or disposal of minor assets: by public tender, auction; or direct sale	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Helen Thomas

Development

Code	Name	Description	Officers
9	Building Classifications	To classify or change the classification of buildings and prepare and issue statements of classification.	Patsy Cox Colin Cuell
10	Building Certification	To determine applications for, and issue, Building Certificates.	Colin Cuell
17	Subdivision	To execute council 'linen plans', section 88B Instruments and issue 88G Certificates, (Conveyancing Act) on behalf of the Council.	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Patsy Cox
21	Development Applications	To determine either refuse or approve development applications and part V assessments under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1997 and the Local Government Act 1993 not being applications by Council staff, Councillors or on Council's property (except Part V assessments) where there is no substantial objection to the proposal from the surrounding area and the proposal is not contrary to the objective of a policy; not of Regional or Local significance, complexity or inimical to the public interest subject to: - adequate notification being given to property owners and others in accordance with the Council's requirements and Policies relating to consultation. - adequate consideration being given to submissions in relation to applications for consent. - notice of the determination of the application being given to any objectors.	Leeah Daley Patsy Cox
22	Development Applications	To determine applications relating to sites that have been previously reported to Council, where the application does not substantially alter Council's decision or relate to the issue previously determined by Council.	Leeah Daley
23	Development Applications	To determine all modification, amendment, renewal, review and extension of approval applications within the terms of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1997 and the Local Government Act 1993.	Leeah Daley Patsy Cox Colin Cuell
27	Development Applications	To give notice of determination of development applications and to give notice of proposed modification of an approval.	Leeah Daley Kelli-Anne Gilkison Patsy Cox

Code	Name	Description	Officers
33	Development Applications	To obtain the concurrence of persons or Authorities required under any Act or regulation before the granting of any approval. To approve the inclusion of conditions of concurrence. To accept certification by qualified persons.	Leeah Daley
34	Correspondence	To give notice of determination of Planning and Building Applications. NOTE: All communications must comply with the Council's Visual Standards Guide	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Kelli-Anne Gilkison Patsy Cox Colin Cuell
35	Correspondence	To give notice of proposed modification of an approval. NOTE: All communications must comply with the Council's Visual Standards Guide	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Kelli-Anne Gilkison Patsy Cox Colin Cuell
98	Owner's (Council's) consent	To sign on behalf of Council as the owner or applicant of land any application for approval under the Local Government Act, 1993, or the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Amendment) Act, 1997 subject to the Council having endorsed the project.	Leeah Daley Colin Cuell
197	Subdivision	To sign off on approved subdivisions (Forms 2 and 6)	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Patsy Cox

Environmental

Code	Name	Description	Officers
12	10.7 Certificates - EPA	(a) To sign certificates under section 10.7 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, as amended.  (b) To attach appropriate notations to 10.7 Certificates.	Leeah Daley Kelli-Anne Gilkison Patsy Cox Helen Thomas
13	10.8 Certificates - EPA	To sign Section 10.8 Certificates under EPA Act, 1979, as amended (evidence) in relation to extracts from the LEP.	Leeah Daley Kelli-Anne Gilkison Patsy Cox Helen Thomas
24	Part V (EPA) Assessments	Part V (see Section 112) assessments of activities reviewed on the appropriate form not being of a prescribed kind or likely to significantly affect the environment.	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley
30	Environmental Control	Implement the functions of the following:  1. prevention of the emission of pollutants to the atmosphere pursuant to the Protection of the Environment Operations Act, 1997 and all other ancillary functions.  2. preventing the emission of pollutants to the stormwater system and rivers pursuant to the Protection of the Environment Operations Act, 1997 and all other ancillary functions.  3. prevention of offensive noise pursuant to the Protection of the Environment Operations Act, 1997 and all other ancillary functions.  4. enforcement of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act, 1997 and all other ancillary functions.  5. control of declared noxious weeds on public and private property pursuant to the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 and all other ancillary functions.	Andrew Cooper Aaron Brooks Patsy Cox Colin Cuell Adrian Wood Saul Standerwick Philippe Whalan



Code	Name	Description	Officers
		6. Enforcement of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act, 2001.	
75	Health	Implement the primary functions of ensuring that food for sale meets the required standard of quality and that commercial food premises are constructed and maintained in a hygienic manner, pursuant to the Food Act, 2003 and all other ancillary functions.	Rhiannon O'Brien Saul Standerwick
82	Animals	To implement all the functions under the Impounding Act, 1993 in particular:  (a) To make all reasonable enquiries to find the owner of impounded items in accordance with section 20;  (b) To impound items;  (c) To care for impounded animals;  (d) To destroy animals impounded;  (e) To sell items impounded;  (f) To recover the cost of impounding;  (g) To keep record of impounded items;  (h) To appoint impounding officers.	Saul Standerwick Philippe Whalan
83	Animals	To implement all the functions under the Impounding Act, 1993 in particular:  (a) To make all reasonable enquiries to find the owner of impounded items in accordance with section 20;  (b) To impound items;	Wayne Andrews Aaron Brooks Philippe Whalan

Code	Name	Description	Officers
		<p>(c) To care for impounded animals;</p> <p>(d) To destroy animals impounded;</p> <p>(e) To sell items impounded;</p> <p>(f) To recover the cost of impounding;</p> <p>(g) To keep record of impounded items</p>	
91	Noxious Weeds	<p>Subject to the exclusion of any delegation to authorise the use of force pursuant to section 46 of the Noxious Weeds Act, 1993: To exercise the powers of entry prescribed under Division I of Part V of the Act. To exercise the Noxious Weeds control functions of Council (section 36). To appoint inspectors for the purposes of the Noxious Weeds Act, 1993 (section 4). To carry out inspection and investigations and for this purpose to:</p> <p>(a) inspect the premises;</p> <p>(b) search the premises;</p> <p>(c) examine, seize, detain or remove any noxious weed material in or about those premises;</p> <p>(d) require the production of and inspect any records in or about those premises;</p> <p>(e) take copies of, or extracts or notes from, any such records;</p> <p>(f) require any person in or about those premises to answer questions or otherwise furnish information;</p> <p>(g) require the occupier of those premises to provide the inspector or authorised</p>	<p>Luke Creighton                      Scott Revell                      Saul Standerwick</p>

Code	Name	Description	Officers
		<p>officer with such assistance and facilities as is or are reasonably necessary to enable the inspector or authorised officer to exercise his or her functions;</p> <p>(h) remove or destroy or cause to be removed or destroyed any noxious weed material found in or about those premises;</p> <p>(i) break open and search any box, container, package or receptacle (including any place that could be used as a receptacle) in or about those premises.</p>	
92	Noxious Weeds	To issue certificates of authority to enter premises (in a form approved by the Director General of the Department of Agriculture) to persons exercising powers of entry (section 50).	Saul Standerwick
93	Noxious Weeds	To issue notices requiring occupiers of land to take noxious weed control measures (section 18).	Saul Standerwick
94	Noxious Weeds	To control noxious weeds on land where weed control notices have not been complied with (section 20).	Luke Creighton Scott Revell Saul Standerwick
141	Unlawful use of land	<p>1. Issue notices under the relevant provisions of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Amendment) Act, 1997 to prevent or prohibit the unauthorised use of land and to enforce compliance with the requirements and conditions of a development consent or building approval and do all things necessary to initiate proceedings for any offences in the Act.</p> <p>2. Commence legal actions and issue solicitor instructions</p>	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Patsy Cox
171	Use of recycled products.	Authority to take the action required to ensure that any activity conducted within your area of responsibility complies with the intent of Council's Policy noting that the Council's Environmental Officer has the lead responsibility for the implementation of this policy and that you must work co-operatively with the Environmental Officer.	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Rhiannon O'Brien Todd Doney

Code	Name	Description	Officers
			Charmaine Reading Patsy Cox Carl Tooley Colin Cuell Sharon Baker Adrian Wood Saul Standerwick Suzanne Webber Helen Thomas
181	Personnel	To ensure that the Council's Standard Operating Procedures for any work related to the disposal of asbestos is carried out in accordance with the current relevant Australian Standards.	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Wayne Andrews Aaron Brooks Todd Doney Stanley Fletcher Colin Cuell Adrian Wood Saul Standerwick
186	Asbestos and hazardous materials handling	To conduct random but routine work process checks across the organisation as directed by the General Manager or Deputy General Manager. To issue stop work notices if the observed work practice being inspected does not comply with the Council adopted procedures.	
196	Biodiversity	Act as the liaison person for the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 regarding land tenure issues.	Carmen Southwell
198	Local Environment Plans	(Resolution 398/12) Minister for Planning delegates all his functions under Section 59 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for the making of Local Environmental Plans in respect of draft LEPs for local matters where Gwydir Shire Council receives authorisation following a gateway determination.	Maxwell Eastcott
202	Cemetery Interments	To authorise the following:	Kelli-Anne Gilkison

Code	Name	Description	Officers
		<p>Issue of burial rights</p> <p>Issue of interments</p> <p>Approval to erect monuments and headstones that comply with Council's policies.</p>	

Financial

Code	Name	Description	Officers
31	Finance	To exercise and perform the duties, responsibilities and functions under Chapter 15, excepting Parts 1, 2 and 4 of the Local Government Act, 1993 relating to the making and fixing of rates and charges	Helen Thomas
41	Expenditure Control	Authorise expenditure on the following specific items included in the Council's budget as adopted by the Council in its annual Management Plan even if they exceed the general authorised limit: Payroll Deductions, Tax Installments, Superannuation, FBT Installments, Workers' Compensation Insurance Premiums, General Insurance Premiums, Payments related to the provision of waste services, Electricity and Telephone Charges, State Government Levies and authorise expenditure on loan repayments as and when payments are required in accordance with the loan repayment schedule as adopted by the Council in its annual Management Plan. See Policies F.01.04 and F.01.07.	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Carl Tooley Helen Thomas
42	Finance	Authorise investments on behalf of Council to approved investment bodies in accordance with Department of Local Government circulars and subject to the Council's Investment Policy. Investments to be subsequently reported to the Council via the monthly investment Balances Report.	Leeah Daley Helen Thomas
43	Finance	Authorise payment of expenses incurred by staff at approved conferences, seminars, meetings, courses and other Council business.	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Helen Thomas
44	Expenditure Control	Petty Cash Certify petty cash dockets to the value of \$100.	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Graham Cutmore Helen Thomas
46	Expenditure Control	Certify contract progress payments to the value of \$75,000.	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley
47	Expenditure Control	Certify contract progress payments to the value of \$50,000.	Colin Cuell

Code	Name	Description	Officers
48	Expenditure Control	Certify final payment contract vouchers to the value of \$75,000.	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley
50	Expenditure Control	Certify accounts vouchers	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Helen Thomas
54	Expenditure Control	Approve extras (rise and fall, contingency allocations, etc) regarding consultants and contractors up to 10% of the original sum (maximum of \$20,000)	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Carl Tooley Colin Cuell Helen Thomas
55	Expenditure Control	Approve the engagement of consultants and contractors to the value of \$50,000.	Leeah Daley
56	Expenditure Control	Approve the engagement of consultants and contractors to the value of \$5,000.	Andrew Cooper Aaron Brooks Patsy Cox Carl Tooley Colin Cuell Adrian Wood Saul Standerwick Suzanne Webber Helen Thomas
68	Debt Recovery	Extensions of Time - To give consideration to applications for extensions of time to settle amounts due to Council and where deemed necessary approve variations to repayment agreements.	
69	Debt Recovery	Authority to write off debts (other than charges against property) to a maximum of \$500 in any one instance that are either not recoverable or uneconomical to recover with notation in a report to Council.	Leeah Daley Helen Thomas



Code	Name	Description	Officers
70	Refunds	To approve of refunds being made in respect of all overpayments or credit adjustments for rates, extra charges, garbage fees, water and sewage charges, road opening and footpath crossing fees and miscellaneous charges as recommended and vouched by the appropriate staff member.	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Graham Cutmore Helen Thomas
71	Refunds	To approve refunds from Trust Fund deposits or restricted funds on the recommendation and certification of the appropriate staff member.	Leeah Daley Helen Thomas
72	Refunds	To approve the refund of fees or part fees paid in accordance with Council's adopted scale of charges in respect of rejected applications to build, to subdivide or for development consent.	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Colin Cuell Graham Cutmore Helen Thomas
73	Refunds	To approve the refund of fees or part fees paid in accordance with Council's adopted scale of charges in the delegates area of responsibility where the circumstances warrant the refund.	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Helen Thomas
106	Debt Recovery - Rates	<p>1. Arrangements; Authorise arrangements for the payment of rates and charges by rate payers under section 564.</p> <p>2. Interest Charges Write Off; Approve write off or reduction of interest charges, for a rate payer who has entered into an arrangement, where the current rates are paid in full in the current year.</p> <p>3. External Recovery Action; Authorise the necessary legal action or employ a debt recovery agency to take appropriate action against all rate payers who have not made payment or made satisfactory payment arrangements.</p>	Graham Cutmore Helen Thomas
107	Debt Recovery - Rates	Pensioners Under Hardship Approve the suspension of recovery action and accrual of rates, charges and interest against the estate of eligible pensioners, after rebate, where such payment would cause hardship. Note: All owners of the property must be eligible pensioners.	Helen Thomas

Code	Name	Description	Officers
144	Expenditure Control	Certify petty cash docket to the value of \$50.	Robyn Phillips Suzanne Webber
145	Expenditure Control	Authorise general expenditure up to \$2,000 where funds are available in the budget and subject to all relevant policies.	Maree Dawson Charmaine Reading Stanley Fletcher
154	Expenditure Control	To incur expenditure against Gwydir Shire Council's Corporate Credit Card at your discretion but generally restricted to items within your existing expenditure delegations and subject to available budget, expenditure policies and in compliance with the Council's Credit Card Use Policy	Alexander Eddy Robyn Phillips Leeah Daley Justin Hellmuth Suzanne Webber Helen Thomas
155	Expenditure Control	To ensure that any goods or services purchases that you authorise are: appropriately costed to a budget item in the approved estimates for which you have budgetary responsibility, and in respect of which funds have been voted by the Council; in accordance with any details of proposed expenditure on specific goods and services shown in the approved estimates or supporting documentation, and in respect of which funds have been voted by the Council; and otherwise are clearly within the scope of the approved estimates.	Andrew Cooper Pulse Permissions Testing Test Alexander Eddy Wayne Andrews Leeah Daley Todd Doney Charmaine Reading Stanley Fletcher Patsy Cox Carl Tooley Colin Cuell Darryl McManus Justin Hellmuth Sharon Baker Saul Standerwick Suzanne Webber Helen Thomas
176	Expenditure Control	Authorise the general expenditure to the value of \$30,000 where funds are available in the budget and subject to all relevant policies	Joel Daley Carl Tooley

Code	Name	Description	Officers
177	Expenditure Control	Authorise the general expenditure to the value of \$75,000 where funds are available in the budget and subject to all relevant policies.	Alexander Eddy
178	Expenditure Control	Authorise the general expenditure to the value of \$5,000 where funds are available in the budget and subject to all relevant policies.	Wayne Andrews Robyn Phillips Cherisse Amer Sharon Baker
179	Finance	To sign bank documents on behalf of Council	Leeah Daley Helen Thomas
184	Expenditure Control	Authorise the general expenditure to an unlimited value where funds are available in the budget and subject to all relevant policies.	Maxwell Eastcott
200	Finance	(Resolution 198/18)FURTHER that the amount fixed under the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 for the writing off of debts under delegation be adjusted to \$5,000 from the current limit of \$1,000 set in 2006.	Maxwell Eastcott
FIN-DON-MAYOR	Donations	The Mayor may expend funds up to \$500 for minor donations without reference to Council.	Cr Tiffany Galvin
FIN-GE-0K	Create Authority Requisitions	Authorisation to create requisitions in the Authority System.	All Delegation Users
FIN-GE-1K	General Expenditure - \$1,000 Limit	Authorise the general expenditure to the value of \$1,000 where funds are available in the budget and subject to all relevant policies.	Tania Brennan Jennifer Mead Melissa Frewen
FIN-GE-2K	General Expenditure - \$2,000 Limit	Authorise the general expenditure to the value of \$2,000 where funds are available in the budget and subject to all relevant policies.	Maree Dawson Charmaine Reading Clarissa Barwick Adrian Wood

Code	Name	Description	Officers
FIN-GE-5K	General Expenditure - \$5,000 Limit	Authorise the general expenditure to the value of \$5,000 where funds are available in the budget and subject to all relevant policies.	Gemma Dillon Wayne Andrews Robyn Phillips Kaylea Perry Cherisse Amer Sharon Baker Casey McClymont
FIN-GE-10K	General Expenditure - \$10,000 Limit	Authorise the general expenditure to the value of \$10,000 where funds are available in the budget and subject to all relevant policies.	Carmen Southwell Todd Doney Patsy Cox Graham Cutmore Suzanne Webber
FIN-GE-25K	General Expenditure - \$25,000 Limit	Authorise the general expenditure to the value of \$25,000 where funds are available in the budget and subject to all relevant policies.	Andrew Cooper Colin Cuell Justin Hellmuth Saul Standerwick
FIN-GE-30K	General Expenditure - \$30,000 Limit	Authorise the general expenditure to the value of \$30,000 where funds are available in the budget and subject to all relevant policies.	Joel Daley Carl Tooley
FIN-GE-50K	General Expenditure - \$50,000 Limit	Authorise the general expenditure to the value of \$50,000 where funds are available in the budget and subject to all relevant policies.	Helen Thomas
FIN-GE-75K	General Expenditure - \$75,000 Limit	Authorise the general expenditure to the value of \$75,000 where funds are available in the budget and subject to all relevant policies.	Alexander Eddy
FIN-GE-UNL	General Expenditure - No Limit	Authorise the general expenditure with no limit where funds are available in the budget and subject to all relevant policies.	Leeah Daley Maxwell Eastcott

Code	Name	Description	Officers
FIN-SIGN-CHQ	Banking Signatories - Cheques	To sign or counter-sign cheques on behalf of Council.	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Maxwell Eastcott Justin Hellmuth Graham Cutmore Helen Thomas
FIN-SIGN-EFT	Banking Signatories - EFTs	To authorise Electronic Fund Transfers (EFTs) on behalf of Council.	Tracy Newby Leeah Daley Graham Cutmore Rebecca Collins Cherylalee Tooley Casey McClymont Helen Thomas

General

Code	Name	Description	Officers
1	Advertising Signs	To demolish or remove unauthorised advertisements or advertising under the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Amendment) Act, 1997 and section 124 of the Local Government Act, 1993.	Aaron Brooks Todd Doney Stanley Fletcher Patsy Cox Colin Cuell Saul Standerwick Philippe Whalan
2	Alcohol Consumption - Prohibition	To authorise and enforce the prohibition of alcohol consumption and possession of alcohol in parks, reserves and other public land in the Gwydir local government area which are under Council's care, control and management, where the need arises.	Aaron Brooks Colin Cuell Saul Standerwick Philippe Whalan
3	Alcohol Licences	To determine applications referred to Council for Spirit Merchants, Licences or variations to trading hours of Spirit Merchants providing the licensed premises complies with the relevant Environmental Planning instrument, and with the conditions of any consent granted for the premises noting that Council as a matter of policy not raise objection to the licence or to the variation of trading hours.	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Patsy Cox
6	Approvals - General	The granting of an approval or approval subject to conditions or the refusal to carry out an activity under section 68 of the Local Government Act, 1993.	Leeah Daley Patsy Cox Colin Cuell Saul Standerwick
7	Authorisation of Action	<p>1. To authorise action to be taken by the responsible officer of Council to comply with any policy or code of the Council or any provision of the Local Government Act, 1993, the regulations thereunder or any other law, statutory or otherwise, rule or regulation, affecting his or her area of responsibility on behalf of the Council.</p> <p>2. To carry on the regular services and operations affecting his or her area of responsibility on behalf of the Council within the sums voted by the Council for</p>	Luke Creighton Alexander Eddy Scott Revell Aaron Brooks Leeah Daley Patsy Cox Colin Cuell Justin Hellmuth

Code	Name	Description	Officers
		expenditure thereon and in accordance with any resolution of the Council.	Saul Standerwick Suzanne Webber Helen Thomas Philippe Whalan
8	Authorised, Designated or Prescribed Persons	To appoint any employee or other person under the delegate's control as an 'authorised, designated or prescribed person or officer' for the purposes of any Act or regulation subject to such qualifications as may be required of the individual to be authorised; within the area of responsibility of the delegate.	Leeah Daley
14	Certificates - 603 LGA	To sign section 603 certificates under the Local Government Act 1993.	Cherisse Amer Patsy Cox Casey McClymont Helen Thomas
15	Certificates - 54 LGA	To sign and issue Certificates of Classification for public land under section 54 of the Local Government Act, 1993.	Leeah Daley
16	Certificates - Occupation	To issue Occupation Certificates	Leeah Daley Colin Cuell
19	Conferences and Seminars	To RECOMMEND ONLY to the Deputy General Manager, the attendance of staff within his or her area of responsibility at conferences and seminars provided initially that the cost is within the sums voted by the Council for expenditure thereon.	Alexander Eddy Patsy Cox Justin Hellmuth Sharon Baker Saul Standerwick Suzanne Webber Helen Thomas
26	Emergency Situations	<p>1. To make available Council's plant equipment and personnel, in emergency situations, in response to any lawful direction given under the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act, 1989, or in response to any reasonable request made under any emergency situation.</p> <p>2. To take any other action pursuant to the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act, 1989.</p>	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Todd Doney Patsy Cox Colin Cuell Saul Standerwick



Code	Name	Description	Officers
		3. To approve any work which, in the Delegate's opinion, is urgent and in the public interest at a total cost not exceeding \$20,001.	
28	Entry and Inspection	Subject to the exclusion of any delegation to authorise the use of force pursuant to section 194 of the Local Government Act, 1993, to enter upon any land or building at all reasonable hours and to make any inspections of premises	Luke Creighton Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Scott Revell Aaron Brooks Todd Doney Stanley Fletcher Patsy Cox Colin Cuell Saul Standerwick Philippe Whalan
29	Entry and Inspection	To authorise any member of staff or any other person to enter upon any land or building at all reasonable hours and to make any inspections of premises, matter or thing, in accordance with the provisions of Part 2 of Chapter 8 of the Local Government Act,	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Patsy Cox Angus Witherby Saul Standerwick Helen Thomas
32	Correspondence	To give written acknowledgment of the receipt of an application for an approval. NOTE: All communications must comply with the Council's Visual Standards Guide	Patsy Cox
57	Contractors/Consultants	Approve deductions on consultant's brief and contractors.	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Helen Thomas

Code	Name	Description	Officers
58	Contractors/Consultants	Approve extensions of time on consultant's brief and contract where there is no material disadvantage to Council's interests.	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Colin Cuell Saul Standerwick Helen Thomas
59	Contractors/Consultants	Approve the deduction of damages from contract payments.	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Colin Cuell Helen Thomas
74	Insurances	To accept proof of appropriate insurance cover required in connection with Council's policies, procedures and conditions.	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Carmen Southwell Aaron Brooks Patsy Cox Carl Tooley Colin Cuell Adrian Wood Saul Standerwick Helen Thomas Philippe Whalan
85	Departmental (Local Government) Requirements	Take all necessary action to comply with the requirements of Chapter 13, Part 5 of the Act and any regulations thereto relating to the conduct of any inquiry or review of the Council.	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Helen Thomas
86	Insurances	Make arrangement for adequate insurance against public liability and professional liability of the Council in accordance with the Act and any regulations thereto.	Leeah Daley Carl Tooley
95	Orders	Subject to the prior authorisation of the General Manager to give notice of proposed orders (Section 124 LGA).	Alexander Eddy Aaron Brooks Leeah Daley Colin Cuell

Code	Name	Description	Officers
			Saul Standerwick Philippe Whalan
96	Orders	<p>Subject to the prior authorisation of the General Manager to give orders number 1 to 30 (Section 124 LGA). The delegate must also undertake the following tasks:</p> <p>(a) To consider criteria before giving orders, and to modify or revoke orders.</p> <p>(b) To hear and consider representations.</p> <p>(c) To determine procedure after representations.</p> <p>(d) To give reasons for an Order.</p> <p>(e) To respond to the submission of particulars of work by an owner.</p> <p>(f) To revoke an order.</p> <p>(g) To order an occupier to permit an owner to carry out work.</p> <p>(h) To modify an order under.</p>	Aaron Brooks Leeah Daley Colin Cuell Saul Standerwick Philippe Whalan
97	Orders	To issue orders under the Swimming Pool Act.	Aaron Brooks Colin Cuell Philippe Whalan
99	Owner's (Council's) consent	To determine and sign on behalf of Council as owner, leases or licenses or agreements in relation to Council properties, including public roads.	Leeah Daley
100	Public Reserves	<p>The control and the use of public reserves or public land under section 48 of the Local Government Act, 1993 and regulations.</p> <p>(a) Film Permits</p>	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Carmen Southwell Leeah Daley

Code	Name	Description	Officers
		(b) Reserve Bookings (c) Helicopter Landings (d) Noise Control - To grant permission for the use of amplifying equipment. (e) Temporary Storage on Councils Reserves	
102	Private Works	Carry out, by agreement with the owner or occupier of any private land, any work that may lawfully be carried out where the cost of the work is fixed and the completion of the work is reported to Council under section 67 of the Local Government Act, 1993 and Regulations.	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Todd Doney Stanley Fletcher
103	Public Health	Implement the primary function of control of communicable disease pursuant to the Public Health Act, 1991 and the Skin Penetration Guidelines issued by the NSW Health Department and all other ancillary functions.	Saul Standerwick
105	Publicity	To authorise the production and release of Council's publicity material including report to ratepayers, brochures, information sheets and other printed matter by checking final proofs prior to printing.	Leeah Daley
136	Bush Fire	1. Section 63(2) of the Rural Fires Act 1997, requires that 'It is the duty of the owner or occupier of land to take the notified steps and any other practicable steps to prevent the occurrence of bush fires on, and to minimise the danger of the spread of bush fires on or from, that land.'  2. To issue permits in order to meet the above duty, a notice pursuant to Section 66 of the Rural Fires Act 1997.	
137	Street Lighting	Subject to budgetary provision:  (1) To authorise work to proceed and for the Council to bear the additional	Alexander Eddy

Code	Name	Description	Officers
		<p>annual charge where Country Energy has agreed to a scheme of street lighting improvement</p> <p>(2) To approve replacement of street lamps or variation in wattage or type of street lamps in accordance with proposals submitted by Country Energy.</p> <p>(3) To approve of the installation of street lights in areas where it is considered that street lighting is required and for the Council to bear the additional annual charges.</p>	
138	Swimming Pools	<p>To exercise or perform on behalf of the Council any or all powers, authorities, duties and functions pertinent to the Swimming Pools Act, 1992 including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appointment as inspector.</li> <li>2. Form opinions required in relation to adequacy of fencing.</li> <li>3. To serve any Notices on the owner or occupier.</li> <li>4. Revoke any directions.</li> <li>5. Affix Seal of Council to authorise officers whose position includes a requirement to enforce the provision of the Swimming Pools Act, 1992</li> </ol>	<p>Aaron Brooks Colin Cuell Saul Standerwick Philippe Whalan</p>
140	Public Health	The carrying out of functions under the Public Health Amendment (Tobacco Advertising) Act 1997 and its Regulations.	Saul Standerwick
147	Correspondence	<p>Sign all correspondence (includes E-mails).</p> <p>NOTE: All communications must comply with the Council's Visual Standards Guide</p>	<p>Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley</p>
148	Correspondence	To sign all routine, standard and work related correspondence (includes E-mails) in respect of the functions that you have responsibility for except any	<p>Andrew Cooper Robyn Phillips</p>

Code	Name	Description	Officers
		<p>correspondence to: The Ombudsman; Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC); Federal or State Government Ministers; General Managers or Mayors of other Councils; Correspondence that may commit the Council to future unbudgeted expenditure.</p> <p>NOTE: All communications must comply with the Council's Visual Standards Guide</p>	<p>Carmen Southwell                      Charmaine Reading                      Jennifer Mead                      Patsy Cox                      Carl Tooley                      Colin Cuell                      Sharon Baker                      Saul Standerwick                      Suzanne Webber                      Helen Thomas</p>
149	Correspondence	<p>To sign previously authorised standard letters and routine correspondence (includes E-mails but does not include correspondence to The Ombudsman; Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC); Federal or State Government Ministers; General Managers or Mayors of other Councils; Correspondence that may commit the Council to future unbudgeted expenditure)</p> <p>NOTE: All communications must comply with the Council's Visual Standards Guide</p>	<p>Aaron Brooks                      Cherylalee Tooley</p>
150	Correspondence	<p>Sign acknowledgment or similar types of letters.                      NOTE: All communications must comply with the Council's Visual Standards Guide</p>	
163	Authority	<p>To control and direct employees engaged in your area of responsibility generally and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, as to the procedure to be followed in and about the exercise of any delegated authority conferred upon them by the General Manager</p>	<p>Andrew Cooper                      Alexander Eddy                      Leeah Daley                      Stanley Fletcher                      Patsy Cox                      Colin Cuell                      Justin Hellmuth                      Saul Standerwick                      Suzanne Webber                      Helen Thomas</p>

Code	Name	Description	Officers
168	Media Contact	To operate in accordance with the Council's Media Contact Policy.	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Robyn Phillips Carmen Southwell Leeah Daley Jennifer Mead Graham Cutmore Sharon Baker Suzanne Webber Helen Thomas
169	Privacy Management Plan	To implement and oversee the Council's compliance with its Privacy Management Plan.	
170	Community Consultation	Authority to take the action required to ensure that any activity conducted within your area of responsibility complies with the notification and consultation requirements set out within Council's Policy documents, especially A.01.01.	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Carmen Southwell Leeah Daley Patsy Cox Colin Cuell Justin Hellmuth Saul Standerwick Suzanne Webber Helen Thomas
173	Inverell/Gwydir Shire Councils Weeds Liaison Committee	To act as the Council's representative on the Inverell / Gwydir Shire Councils Weeds Liaison Committee	
174	Consultative Committee	To act as a Management representative on the Consultative Committee, if required	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Carl Tooley Suzanne Webber



Code	Name	Description	Officers
175	Occupational Health and Safety Committee	To act as a Management representative on the Occupational Health and Safety Committee, if required	Leeah Daley Carl Tooley
182	Customer Requests	To supervise the Customer Requests System and ensure that every effort is made to respond to all requests in a timely manner.	Melissa Frewen
183	Customer Requests	To ensure that all the staff within your span of control respond to each Customer Request allocated to them for action in a timely manner and keep the Public Officer informed of the reasons for any outstanding requests beyond one month.	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Patsy Cox Carl Tooley Colin Cuell Justin Hellmuth Saul Standerwick Suzanne Webber Helen Thomas
189	Namoi Joint Councils	<p>Authority for the Mayor, and in the Mayor's absence the Deputy Mayor, to act as Gwydir Shire Council's Namoi Councils Joint Organisation representative.</p> <p>THAT, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 and the regulations made under the Act, and with any express policy of the Council, or regulations of any public authority, the Mayor or Deputy Mayor is authorised to record a vote for or against motions submitted to duly convened meetings of the Namoi Councils Joint Organisation.</p> <p>Any vote recorded by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor will be binding on Gwydir Shire Council.</p>	
191	Relieving Position	To assume the delegations relevant to the position of Ranger when acting in that position	
192	Relieving Position	To assume the delegations relevant to the position of Technical Services Director when acting in that position	

Code	Name	Description	Officers
193	Relieving Position	To assume the delegations relevant to the position of Chief Financial Officer when acting in that position	Graham Cutmore
194	Expenditure Control	To assume the delegations relevant to the position of General Manager when acting in that position	Leeah Daley

Governance

Code	Name	Description	Officers
4	Annual Report	To prepare an Annual Report in accordance with the provisions of Part 4 of Chapter 13 of the Local Government Act, 1993	Leeah Daley
5	Annual Report - SOE	To prepare an Annual Report as to the State of the Environment in accordance with Section s428A of the Local Government Act, 1993 as amended.	Rhiannon O'Brien Patsy Cox Saul Standerwick
11	Business Papers	<p>To determine whether matters are to be included in the business papers of the Council or its Committees subject always to the inclusion of the following items when they arise, namely;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. reports on matters which cannot be determined under delegated authority;</li> <li>2. reports required to be submitted under any Act or regulation;</li> <li>3. matters requiring a determination of Policy;</li> <li>4. reports directed by the Council or the responsible Committee to be submitted;</li> <li>5. matters essential for the Council's or Committee's information;</li> <li>6. matters requiring voting of funds.</li> <li>7. Give notice to the public of the times and places of Council meetings and meeting of Council Committees of which all members are Councillors.</li> </ol>	Leeah Daley
18	Code of Conduct	Prepare and update as required a code of conduct for submission to Council in accordance with the requirements of chapter 14 part 1 of the Act and any regulations thereto.	

Code	Name	Description	Officers
88	Integrated Planning and Reporting	Take all necessary action relating to the preparation of a draft I P & R Plan in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act and any regulations thereto.	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Suzanne Webber Helen Thomas
101	Councillors	To approve payment and/or reimbursement of expenses and provision of facilities for Councillors in accordance with Council's Policy adopted under section 252 of the Local Government Act 1993.	Leeah Daley Cherisse Amer Helen Thomas
104	Public Officer	To undertake the functions of the Public Officer as specified in section 343 of the Local Government Act 1993	
166	Governance	As per Council resolution 399/12 29th November 2012	Maxwell Eastcott
167	Common Seal of Council	To ensure the security of the Common Seal and to allow it to be affixed to documents only in accordance with Section 48 of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MEETINGS) REGULATION 1999	Leeah Daley Cherisse Amer Helen Thomas
188	Governance	FURTHER, that the Mayor and General Manager are authorised under delegation to approve the affixing of the Common Seal to legal documents which require execution before the next available Ordinary Meeting of Council to implement a previous Council decision whether made by Council or under delegation (Ref: 204/13).	Maxwell Eastcott
201	Rural Addressing	To sign correspondence relating to rural addressing matters	Justin Hellmuth
GOV-CONF-MAYOR1	Conferences	The Mayor has the delegated authority to register for any event that he or she considers to be relevant. However, he or she is to inform the Council at the earliest opportunity of his or her decision.	Cr Tiffany Galvin
GOV-CONF-MAYOR2	Conferences	The Mayor is delegated the authority to approve attendance at events for the General Manager in accordance with policy.	Cr Tiffany Galvin

Human Resources

Code	Name	Description	Officers
142	Workcover Authority Licences	To deal with letters of notifications submitted by the WorkCover Authority for the issue of licences under the Factories, Shops and Industries Act.	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley
151	Personnel	To authorise and approve a subordinate's request for Time in Lieu; Overtime (if authorised prior to the event); Annual, Long Service and Sick Leave - (after verifying the employee's sick leave record and compliance within the Award), but excluding approval of Leave Without Pay applications.	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Aaron Brooks Leeah Daley Todd Doney Patsy Cox Colin Cuell Justin Hellmuth Sharon Baker Adrian Wood Saul Standerwick Suzanne Webber Helen Thomas
152	Personnel	To authorise and approve a subordinate's Annual Leave provided that the leave entitlement has been accrued.	Justin Hellmuth
153	Personnel	To authorise the payment of the salaries and wages of the employees within your area of control within the sums voted by the Council for expenditure thereon	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Wayne Andrews Leeah Daley Patsy Cox Colin Cuell Justin Hellmuth Sharon Baker Adrian Wood Saul Standerwick Suzanne Webber Helen Thomas

Code	Name	Description	Officers
156	Personnel	Implement or carry out the functions detailed in the Council's Selection Procedures Guidelines	Leeah Daley
157	Personnel	To approve private employment applications (for second jobs) in relation to subordinate staff	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley
158	Personnel	To approve corporate-wide learning programs	Leeah Daley
159	Personnel	To investigate, manage, follow-up and take corrective action on employee grievances in consultation with your Director or if a Director the Deputy General Manager	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Patsy Cox Colin Cuell Justin Hellmuth Sharon Baker Saul Standerwick Suzanne Webber Helen Thomas
160	Personnel	To formally accept a resignation	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Helen Thomas
161	Personnel	To approve work breaks.	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Wayne Andrews Leeah Daley Todd Doney Stanley Fletcher Colin Cuell Justin Hellmuth Saul Standerwick Suzanne Webber

Code	Name	Description	Officers
162	Personnel	To advertise and fill vacant established positions within budget and your area of responsibility in consultation with the Deputy General Manager and in compliance with the Council's Selection Procedures Guidelines	Alexander Eddy Helen Thomas
164	Personnel	To suspend any employee in your area of responsibility (after consultation with and the written agreement of the Deputy General Manager) other than a direct subordinate, and appoint some person to carry on the work until such time as the formal recruitment procedures can be implemented	Alexander Eddy
165	Personnel	To conduct the performance appraisal, at least annually, for the employees in your area of responsibility.	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Todd Doney Charmaine Reading Patsy Cox Colin Cuell Justin Hellmuth Sharon Baker Saul Standerwick Suzanne Webber Helen Thomas
180	Personnel	To suspend any employee in your area of responsibility (after consultation with General Manager) other than a direct subordinate, and appoint some person to carry on the work until such time as the formal recruitment procedures can be implemented	
195	Personnel	To suspend any employee after consultation with the General Manager	Leeah Daley



Information Management

Code	Name	Description	Officers
66	Information Access	Access to Tax File Number for employees within your area of responsibility and related information	Leeah Daley Helen Thomas
67	Information Access	Authorise certification and access to employee information for processing of Council's payroll.	Leeah Daley Clarissa Barwick Suzanne Webber Helen Thomas
76	Information Access	To manage Council's responsibilities under the GIPA legislation.	
77	Records Management	To manage Council's responsibilities under the State Records Act 1998	Justin Hellmuth
78	Information Access	Conduct Internal Reviews of Determinations under the GIPA legislation by Council officers.	
79	Information Access	Give reasonable access to any person to inspect correspondence and reports laid on the table, or  submitted to a Council meeting or a Committee meeting of which all the members are Councillors. This access may be during the meeting or at the close of the meeting or during the business day following the meeting. This access does not apply however, to correspondence or reports that- relate to a matter that was received or discussed; or were laid on the table at, or submitted to the meeting when the meeting was closed to the public.	Cherisse Amer Helen Thomas
80	Information Access	Permit inspection of the documents listed in the repealed Section 12 of the LG Act free of charge and have copies of the documents available for taking away by anyone who asks for a copy.	Leeah Daley Cherisse Amer Helen Thomas
81	Information Access	Allow inspection of versions of the documents other than current and immediately preceding versions if those other versions are reasonably accessible.	Leeah Daley Helen Thomas

Code	Name	Description	Officers
108	Records Management	To carry out the destruction of records of the Council, following prior approval from your supervisor, in accordance with the provisions of the State Records Act 1998 and the Local Government Act 1993, and Regulations thereunder and Local Government Records Disposal Schedule.	Leeah Daley Justin Hellmuth Melissa Frewen

Legal

Code	Name	Description	Officers
20	Crown Land	To serve notices and erect and display regulatory notices in accordance with provisions of section 156 of the Crown Lands Act 1989.	Aaron Brooks Leeah Daley Adrian Wood Saul Standerwick Philippe Whalan
25	Dog Control	Implement the primary functions of registration, impounding and control of dogs and all other ancillary functions pursuant to the Companion Animals Act, 1998.	Aaron Brooks Saul Standerwick Philippe Whalan
84	Offences	Subject to the prior authorisation of the General Manager to issue all penalty and infringement notices pursuant to: Section 679 of the Local Government Act, 1993; Section 15 of the Road Transport General Act, 1999; Section 224 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act, 1997; Section 127A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979; Section 131 of the Rural Fires Act, 1997; Section 92 of the Companion Animals Act, 1998; The Crown Lands Act 1989.	Alexander Eddy Aaron Brooks Leeah Daley Patsy Cox Saul Standerwick Philippe Whalan
87	Legal Issues	Subject to reporting to Council:-  (a) The authorisation of legal proceedings in respect of any legal matter under the Local Government Act, under any regulation made thereunder or under any Act now or at any time hereafter administered by the Council.  (b) Obtain legal advice from Council's Solicitors or Counsel where necessary.  (c) To represent the Council in all respects in any Court or Commission proceedings.  (d) Enforce and institute Legal Proceedings against persons for breaches of section 626 to 635 inclusive, 638, 650, 651, 653, to 658 inclusive, 660 to 669 inclusive, 680 681 and 684 of the Local Government Act, 1993.	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Helen Thomas

Code	Name	Description	Officers
		(e) engagement of professional consultants  (f) the approving of amendments, compromise proposals and imposition of conditions of approval of applications being considered by the Land and Environment Court under Part 5, Division 1, of the Local Government Act, 1993 and Regulations.	
89	Legal Issues	Subject to the prior authorisation of the General Manager to issue or serve notices, lay information, and complaints in respect of proper proceedings, actions and prosecutions against persons who have committed an offence under a relevant Act, Regulation or Ordinance lawfully given and which may be dealt with by the Council.	Alexander Eddy Aaron Brooks Leeah Daley Patsy Cox Colin Cuell Saul Standerwick Helen Thomas Philippe Whalan
90	Legal Issues	Subject to the exclusion of any delegation to authorise the use of force pursuant to section 194 of the Local Government Act, 1993 to enter upon any land or building at all reasonable hours and to make any inspections of premises, matter or thing, in accordance with the provisions of Part 2 of Chapter 8 of the Local Government Act, 1993.	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Colin Cuell Saul Standerwick

Procurement

Code	Name	Description	Officers
51	Tenders/Quotations	To prepare and call for the submission of tenders, quotations and expressions of interest for the provision/ sale of goods, works and services in accordance with Policy.	Michael Bone Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Maxwell Eastcott Patsy Cox Carl Tooley Colin Cuell Graham Cutmore Saul Standerwick Helen Thomas
52	Tenders/Quotations	To accept quotations for the provision of goods, works and services for under \$75,000 (Subject to the provisions of section 55 of the Local Government Act, 1993)	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley Maxwell Eastcott Helen Thomas
53	Tenders/Quotations	To accept quotations for the provision of goods, works and services for under \$50,000 (Subject to the provisions of section 55 of the Local Government Act, 1993)	
139	Tendering	To be a 'designated person' pursuant to clause 15 and 16 of the Local Government (Tendering) Regulation, 1993.	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Carmen Southwell Leeah Daley Carl Tooley Helen Thomas
185	Tenders/Quotations	To prepare and call for the submission of tenders, quotations and expressions of interest for the provision/ sale of Heavy Vehicles in accordance with adopted Plant Replacement Program and Policy.	Andrew Cooper

Roads & Drainage

Code	Name	Description	Officers
109	Roads and Drainage	To exercise, and perform the duties, responsibilities and functions under the Roads Act 1993, and associated regulations	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Todd Doney Stanley Fletcher
110	Roads and Drainage	Stormwater Drainage; The granting of an approval or approval subject to conditions or the refusal to carry out an activity in connection with stormwater drainage works, community land, public roads or other activities as prescribed in section 68 of the Local Government Act, 1993 and regulations.	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy
111	Roads and Drainage	Road Works; The carrying out of road works on a public road which is under the control of Council under the provisions of Sections 71, 78, 92, 93, 94, 98 and 103 of the Roads Act 1993.	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Todd Doney Stanley Fletcher
112	Roads and Drainage	Properties Adjoining Public Roads;  (1) The direction of adjoining owners of public roads to carry out drainage works or remove obstructions from a public road under the provisions of sections 95 and 96 Roads Act 1993;  (2) The direction of adjoining owners of public roads to remove obstructions from a public road under the provisions of Sections 95 & 96	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy
113	Roads and Drainage	Service Conduits; The direction of the placement of utility service conduits in, on or over a road under the provisions of sections 85 and 97 Roads Act 1993	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy
114	Roads and Drainage	Contribution to Road Works; The obtaining of a contribution towards the cost incurred by Council in construction or paving any kerb, gutter or footway on a public road from an adjoining land owner under the provisions of section 217 and 218 of the Roads Act 1993.	Alexander Eddy

Code	Name	Description	Officers
115	Roads and Drainage	Private Roads - The direction of an owner of a private road to carry out work or for Council to carry out work on the private road to prevent the road from becoming unsafe or unsightly under the provisions of section 86.	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley
116	Roads and Drainage	Recovery of Costs of Damage to Public Roads; The recovery of costs or repair of damage caused to a public road under the provisions of section 102.	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley
117	Roads and Drainage	Naming of Public Roads; The naming of public roads under the provisions of section 162.	
118	Roads and Drainage	Erection of Gates Public Roads - The erection of a gate across a public road under the provisions of section 128 Roads Act 1993, subject to the Council's Policy position.	Alexander Eddy
119	Roads and Drainage	Widening of Public Roads - The widening of public roads under the provisions of section 22.	Alexander Eddy
120	Roads and Drainage	Encroachments or Obstructions - The removal of encroachments or obstructions to a public road under the provisions of section 107.	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Todd Doney Stanley Fletcher
121	Roads and Drainage	Traffic Regulation - The regulation of traffic on a public road under the provisions of section 108 and 115	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Todd Doney Stanley Fletcher
122	Roads and Drainage	Extension of Powers - The application to the RMS for additional powers in regard to roads under section 116.	Alexander Eddy
123	Roads and Drainage	Private Service Repairs - The direction of a private body to repair and maintain services in a roadway under the provisions of sections 99 and 100.	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy
124	Roads and Drainage	Restoration of Public Roads - The direction of a person to restore a public road under the provisions of section 101.	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Stanley Fletcher



Code	Name	Description	Officers
125	Roads and Drainage	Joint Works Public Roads - The joint construction and maintenance of roads across land controlled by a public authority under the provisions of section 176.	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy
126	Roads and Drainage	Closing of Public Roads - The application to the Minister for closing of roads under the provisions of section 33.	Alexander Eddy
127	Roads and Drainage	Lease of Public Roads - The short term lease and issuing of section 139 consents of unused public roads/road reserves under the provisions of section 139, 153 and 157 of the Roads Act.	Alexander Eddy Leeah Daley
128	Roads and Drainage	Weight Restrictions Public Roads - The imposing of weight restrictions under the provisions of section 108.	Alexander Eddy
129	Roads and Drainage	Temporary Closure Public Roads - The closure of temporary roads under provisions of section 39.	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy
130	Roads and Drainage	Temporary Regulation of Traffic - The temporary regulation of traffic under provisions of section 122.	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Todd Doney Stanley Fletcher
131	Roads and Drainage	Enforcement of Weight Limits - The enforcement of excess weight limits under the provisions of section 230.	Alexander Eddy
132	Roads and Drainage	Levels of Public Roads - The fixing of levels on a public road under the provisions of section 29.	Alexander Eddy
133	Roads and Drainage - Town Planning	Use of Footpaths - The approval of the footpath of a public road for the purpose of a restaurant under the provisions of section 125.	
134	Roads and Drainage	Erection of Structures Public Roads - Issue consents to carry out works or erect structures on or under or over a public road under the provisions of section 138.	Andrew Cooper Alexander Eddy Colin Cuell Saul Standerwick

Code	Name	Description	Officers
135	Roads and Drainage - Town Planning	Plans and Construction - Approve road and drainage plans and construction associated with subdivision and building development in accordance with Council's policies and usual requirements.	Alexander Eddy Colin Cuell
187	Roads and Drainage	That the General Manager be delegated to determine future road closure applications. (Ref: 280/06)	Maxwell Eastcott

## 7.8 Draft Plan of Management – All Nations Hill, Bingara - Adoption

**File Reference:** NA

### Delivery Program

**Goal:** 1. A healthy and cohesive community

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

**Strategy:** 1.1.3 Provide the right places, spaces and activities

**Author:** General Manager

### STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

### IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to adopt the draft Plan of Management (PoM) for All Nations Hill, Bingara (see **AT-1**).

### TABLED ITEMS Nil

### BACKGROUND

Council is appointed as Crown land manager under the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (CLM Act) to manage a number of Crown reserves.

The CLM Act authorises Council to manage Crown land, where Council is appointed as Crown land manager, as if it were *public land* under the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act). Management of the land includes categorising the land and preparing a PoM under the LG Act.

In May 2022 the then Department of Planning and Environment – Crown lands provided instruction relating to the categorisation of land where Council is Crown land manager. This instruction provided that part of Reserve R94632, the Reserve including part of All Nations Hill, be categorised as an *Area of Cultural Significance*.

Under Section 36D(2) of the LG Act a PoM, adopted in respect of an area of land, all or part of which is land categorised as *Area of Cultural Significance*, is to apply to that land only, and not to other areas. This required Council to prepare the draft PoM which is the subject of this paper.

In 2022, Council engaged Lands Advisory Services Pty Ltd to prepare this PoM, as well as PoMs covering other land in the Shire.

### COMMENT:

This PoM covers a small section of All Nations Hill, being the section containing the stamper battery and picnic area. The area is listed as being of Local Heritage Significance under the *Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013* being item Number 1006: *Bingara Stamper*.

To adopt a PoM, containing an *Area of Cultural Significance*, the LG Act requires that Council must:

1. forward a copy of the draft PoM to the person who owns or controls the land if the land is not owned by the council and include in the draft plan any provisions that may properly be required by the person who owns or controls the land. (s.39)
2. give public notice of a draft PoM and exhibit for a period of not less than 28 days. (s.38)
3. forward a copy of the draft PoM to the Chief Executive of the Office of Environment and Heritage, and incorporate any matter specified by the Chief Executive of the Office of Environment and Heritage in relation to the land, or the relevant part. (s.36D(3)(d))
4. consider all submissions received by it concerning the draft PoM. (s.40)

To adopt a PoM the CLM Act requires that Council must:

5. obtain native title manager's advice that the draft PoM complies with any applicable provisions of the native title legislation. (s.8.7)
6. obtain consent of the Minister for Lands and Property to adopt the PoM under clause 70B of the *Crown Land Management Regulation 2018*.

### **Public Exhibition and Notification**

A copy of the draft PoM was sent to the Minister for Lands and Property as owner and consent to adopt the PoM was received 8 February 2024.

A copy of the draft PoM was sent to the Chief Executive of the Office of Environment and Heritage on 13 February 2024. No response was received.

The draft PoM was publicly exhibited from 22 April 2024 to 20 May 2024.

The draft PoM was available for viewing on Council's website with hard copies available at Council's Administration Services Centres and Libraries.

No submissions were received.

### **Native Title Managers Advice**

The Native Title Managers Advice attached at **AT-2** indicates that the draft PoM complies with the applicable provisions of the native title legislation, in this case being valid future acts under s24JA of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

In preparing this advice, notification with the opportunity to comment, was sent to the Gomeri People as native title claimants and to NTSCORP as the representative aboriginal body for New South Wales under Section 24JB(6) of the *Native Title Act 1993*. No comments were received.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Council declares that, because of the presence on the land of the Bingara Stamper, which Council considers to be of historical significance, the land is an area of cultural significance for the purposes of Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.**

**FURTHER that Council adopt the All Nations Hill Plan of Management attached as AT-1, in accordance with Section 40 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and in accordance with Section 3.23(6) of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.**

**FURTHER that Council authorises the General Manager to make minor editorial modifications in the finalisation of the draft All Nations Hill Plan of Management, if necessary.**

**FURTHER that Council forwards the adopted All Nations Hill Plan of Management to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure – Crown lands for information.**

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. All Nations Hill Plan Of Management [7.8.1 - 70 pages]
2. 23.246 - Native Title Advice - All Nations Hill [7.8.2 - 30 pages]



## PLAN OF MANAGEMENT ALL NATIONS HILL BINGARA



March 2023



**Version Control**

Date	Comment
28 / 03 / 2023	Initial Draft (v1.2)
27 / 06 / 2023	Minor amendments following NTM Advice (v1.3)
18 / 12 / 2023	Minor amendments following DPHI – CL Review (v1.4)
21 / 02 / 2024	Amendment of name of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure. Exhibition version (v1.5)
14 / 11 / 2024	Version for Council's adoption (v2)

Plan of Management Report prepared by  
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Drawings, figures, analysis, forecasts and other details in this report have been prepared in good faith based on data and information supplied to Lands Advisory Services Pty Ltd by others. The data is believed to be correct at the time of publication of this report. However, it is noted that predictions, forecasts and calculations are subject to assumptions which may or may not turn out to be accurate. Lands Advisory Services Pty Ltd expressly disclaims all and any liability to any person or persons in reliance on the report and its contents in part or in whole.





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The Gwydir Shire Council acknowledges the strength, resilience and capacity of the Gomeroi people of this land.



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Plan of Management (POM) is required to be prepared for public land which is owned and/or managed by a Council and classified as *community land* under the *Local Government Act 1993*. A POM on community land is a document that provides for and directs the use and management of that land. It describes the current purposes and uses of the community lands and their values, assigns them to one or more categories and sets out objectives and performance targets for active land management and use.

All Nations Hill (ANH) at Bingara consists of Crown land which is owned by the State of New South Wales for the benefit of all persons. Local Government Authorities manage Crown land on behalf of the State, as Crown Land Managers, under Division 3.4 of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (CLM Act).

ANH is classified as *community land* under the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act). Gwydir Shire Council (Council) now manages all community land (Crown or Council-owned land), under one portfolio.

*Community land* is categorised under the LG Act as either park, sportsground, general community use, natural area or area of cultural significance. The land at ANH has been categorised in this POM, as:

- Area of Cultural Significance
- Park

The intention of this POM is to provide Council with a framework that enables decisions in regard to ANH to be made on an informed, consistent and equitable basis. The POM meets all of the requirements of the LG Act.

A description of this land as it exists on ANH is provided. The history, past and current uses, the built and natural assets and their condition, emerging trends, constraints and influences have been considered in this POM. Appropriate management objectives and actions, as well as an effective management structure and communication strategy for successful implementation are key outcomes provided by the POM.

In terms of ANH's development into the future, this POM draws on general directions of Council's existing plans and strategies, including its Community Strategic Plan<sup>1</sup> and Bingara Town Strategy<sup>2</sup> as well as the directions of statutory planning processes such as the Gwydir Shire Local Environmental Plan<sup>3</sup> and other relevant state policies and legislation.

This POM foreshadows a stronger embracement of ANH at the southern section of Bingara township, as an important component of the foundation and settlement of Bingara, acknowledging the important mining history of the area as well as the recreational, educational, and environmental services it provides. The POM also capitalises on the opportunities of a modest growth in local population, matched by the trend of increased visitation by people from other areas, interested in experiencing the historical, social, environmental and unique cultural values of the Bingara township and its area.

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<sup>1</sup> Michelle Carpenter, *Macquarie University student number 43601723*.

<sup>2</sup> Bingara Town Strategy (2011): *Gwydir Shire Council July 2011*.

<sup>3</sup> *Gwydir Local Environmental Plan (2013): NSW Legislation*.



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The moderate changes to the management of ANH proposed by this POM are also supported by physical information gathered on site during the drafting of the plan, from a communication process involving nominated community members and Council staff, and from a review of extensive historical documentation of the history of ANH.

The future functions and management of ANH are captured by the following proposed vision statement:

**“All Nations Hill – A Showcase of  
Bingara’s Gold Mining Past”**

The POM is presented in two principal sections being:

- The site description (A) covering the physical attributes, the legal framework, and the constraints of the site.
- The fundamental components of the Plan (B) which describes what is planned for the site’s future.

## PART A – THE SITE

### 1 INTRODUCTION

Bingara is a town on the Gwydir River in the New England Region of northern New South Wales, 449 kilometers from Sydney and 141 kilometers north of Tamworth. The town is the administrative centre for the Gwydir Shire Council, which was created in 2003.

Commencing in the Northern Tablelands, the Gwydir River passes through the Bingara township, before flowing westward to the plains and the township of Moree, forming one of the major catchments of the Murray Darling Basin. A renowned mixed farming area, Bingara and district also has a rich mining history.



Figure 1 – Location

The land comprising ANH, an abandoned gold mine with historical significance to the Bingara area, is located on Crown land near the southern boundaries of the residential area of the town. The site of ANH is a hill, accessed off Maitland Street (Bingara’s main street, also the road south to Barraba),



turning into Brainard Street to the west, then into Hill Street to the south. Figure 1 shows the location of ANH.

## 1.1 History

### The First Inhabitants

Prior to the arrival of Europeans in the Bingara area, the local Aboriginal people (the Kamillaroi<sup>4</sup>) had hunted, fished and camped in the area for thousands of years. The Kamillaroi lands occupied the area from the Hunter River catchment northward into southern Queensland, and west of the Great Divide and upper northern NSW slopes to the western plains and Warrumbungle Mountains. The ancestor or patron god of the Kamillaroi people, was *Baiame* who came from the sky to create rivers, mountains and forests, giving the people the laws of life, traditions and song.<sup>5</sup>

Small and large marsupials provided an easy and plentiful food source for the Kamillaroi, complemented by birds, fish and vegetative food such as fruits, berries, grasses and yams. To facilitate hunting and food supply, they used fire to create new growth and open forest and grassland.<sup>6</sup> Distinct male and female roles were evident in society, males being the hunters of larger animals, while women gathered yams and fruit, and raised the children.<sup>7</sup>

### European Settlement

On May 20, 1827, Explorer and Botanist Allan Cunningham (1791-1839), leading a party of six convicts, reached the Gwydir River where Bingara now stands. Cunningham was therefore the first officially recorded European to visit the area, although it is likely that some white occupation had preceded his visit.<sup>8</sup>

After Cunningham completed his trip to the Darling Downs in Queensland, his favourable reports on the area saw an influx of pastoralists, and by 1850, over a dozen properties had been settled in the Bingara district. These pioneers mainly came from the Hunter Valley, first generation Australian born, and had the reputation of being smart rural based businessmen with good bush skills.<sup>9</sup> An example is the Hall family who took up and developed "Bingera Run" as a cattle station between 1836 and 1873.

However, it was the discovery of gold between 1851<sup>10</sup> and 1852, which saw settlements commence at Bingara<sup>11</sup> and Upper Bingara. Prospectors flocked to the area, interest in mining growing when

<sup>4</sup> Also known as *Kamillaroi*, *Gamilaraay*, *Gomeroi* and *Gamilaroay*.

<sup>5</sup> Gamilaraay from *Wikipedia: Gamilaraay - Wikipedia*

<sup>6</sup> Page 16 "Bingera Run" by Bert Howard 2009.

<sup>7</sup> Kamillaroi – A National Identity website by Michelle Carpenter, *Macquarie University student number 43601723*.

<sup>8</sup> Cunningham's diary did note evidence of cattle, and a roughly constructed hut in the vicinity, possibly by convicts who had escaped the established coastal settlements of the colony.

<sup>9</sup> In "Bingera Run" by Bert Howard, 2009.

<sup>10</sup> On July 30, 1851, the *Maitland Mercury* newspaper reported that gold had been discovered by A. Williams at *Keera Station* near Bingara. Subsequent discoveries also occurred at Cobbada on *Bingera Run*.

<sup>11</sup> Bingara became a municipality in 1890 just after the spelling of "Bingera" changed to "Bingara" to avoid confusion with the small Queensland town of the same name.





copper and then diamonds were discovered in the 1880s. At that time, Bingara was the largest producer of diamonds in Australia.

### Gold Prospecting in the Area

Although the Bingara Gold Fields are these days the preserve of the casual fossicker, Bingara and its people owe much to the influence of gold mining over the past 170 years both in monetary and cultural terms.<sup>12</sup> Gold mining commenced with the exploration of alluvial materials of the creeks and flats, which then extended to include reef mining. Both sources resulted in some early and handsome pays, but the Bingara Gold Fields were also marred by many disappointments for the early prospectors.

The first report of gold made to the Maitland Gold Committee was made by Ebenezer Hall (from the same Hall family mentioned above) in August 1851. He claimed to have found a nugget in Cobidah (now *Cobbadah*) Creek.<sup>13</sup> This find was first investigated with negative results by the then Crown Lands Commissioner (Warialda based) Richard Bligh, who initially considered the wrong creek. Bligh finally got it right in a follow-up investigation the following year, as evidenced in his letter to the Chief Commissioner of Crown Lands:

*Sir*

*I do myself the honour to appraise you, that having returned to my district I have at once proceeded to examine into an alleged discovery of gold on Bingera Creek, in this district, and am happy to be able to report that no doubt now remains on my mind as to the fact of a remunerative Gold Field having been at length discovered in the district of Gwydir.*

Under the authority of the Chief Commissioner, the issuing of licences commenced with the issuing to Bligh of a Gold Licence book to use at his discretion, with the stipulation that commensurate fees should be strictly enforced. The Bingara Gold Field was officially acknowledged as an open field, in subsequent correspondence between the Commissioners on 19 July 1852 by which time “forty persons including women and children” were working the ground. However, the Bingara Gold Field was officially proclaimed on 2 February 1853. This proclamation further energised one of New England region’s richest gold fields, as prospectors quickly established numerous other rich alluvial deposits ranging from Gouron Gouron Creek, Upper Bingara to Bobby Whitlow northwards of the Bingara township.

In the 1870’s, reef mining also commenced in earnest, with mixed results. The first arose from an alluvial digging which ended up as a shaft below a gully in the Upper Bingara area. It was called *Bendigo* and although having a rich early life, did not continue for too long afterwards. The *Black Reef* shaft was worked in a similar time, but little information can be found as to the precise locations of both Bendigo Reef, and Black Reef, except that the latter was located on Black Reef Creek.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Extract from the Foreword by Bob Brown Geologist New South Wales Department of Mineral Resources, to the book: *Bingara’s Golden Past: A Brief History of Gold Mining in Bingara (1995)* authored by John A. Hume and reprinted by Bingara District Historical Society in 2022.

<sup>13</sup> From *Bingara’s Golden Past: A Brief History of Gold Mining in Bingara (1995)* authored by John A. Hume and reprinted by Bingara District Historical Society in 2022 (page 7).

<sup>14</sup> From *Bingara’s Golden Past: A Brief History of Gold Mining in Bingara (1995)* authored by John A. Hume and reprinted by Bingara District Historical Society in 2022 (page 22).





Further gold bearing reefs were discovered in the area, and as many mine shafts were dug. These included *The Star of Bingera* (located at the head of Baldwins Gully southeast of Bingara township), *The Doctors Reef* (at the head of Spring Creek, southeast of the township), *The Golden Gate* (on the western slope of the main Bingara Range) and *The Caledonian Reef* (north of the township and the Gwydir River). The gold in these claims was associated with quartz which, with the appropriate equipment, could be relatively easily raised and crushed for its ore, although the absence of such mechanisation was often found to be a significant constraint to successful reef mining. Mining of the quartz-based materials therefore, was generally of mixed success and short term.

*The Ballarat*, associated with different geology, a serpentinite ridge running down off the tablelands near Upper Bingara, provided that area's most highly productive series of shafts all commencing operations in the early 1880s. Production there had peaked by the mid-1880s, after which yields declined significantly, although several low scale claims were held and worked there up until 1948.<sup>15</sup>

However, because it was worked commercially well into the middle of last century, its visually prominent location, and its impact on the shaping of Bingara township, the most commonly acknowledged and significant reef mine in the Bingara area was the *All Nations* gold mine - the subject of this POM.

#### All Nations Hill

The All Nations Gold Mine was named in acknowledgement of the multicultural spectrum of miners who worked there, inspired by the potential riches it offered. Overlooking the Bingara township from the south, the mine and the reef on which it was established, traverses quartz infused slate beds and has a general north and south strike.

The All Nations Gold Mine was first worked in about 1860 by Goldring and party, then abandoned shortly afterwards as being unpayable, after being sunk to 21 metres. The ore body was considered large although the grade was low, and by 1881 it was considered that the reef would pay well if adequate crushing equipment were available. Wearne and party by 1887 had sunk the shaft on the All Nations reef to about 40 metres, although lack of equipment again marred progress of successful gold extraction from the low yielding ore. For instance, the proprietors at the time had not succeeded in establishing a stamper battery on site, machinery which would otherwise crush the ore bearing materials enabling separation of the gold component.

The following history of a continued effort by a range of syndicates and companies in striving for success at All Nations Hill is made available from the 1888 report by William Anderson: "*The Geology of the Bingara and Barraba Gold-Field*"<sup>16</sup>

- 1889 – The Bingara Gold Mining Company (Limited) purchased and reopened all of the *All Nations* reef by sinking an additional shaft to over 40 m, striking the reef in several places, and showing a fair gold yield.
- 1890 – The reef was extended to 60 m following the sloping quartz, with tunnels on two levels.

<sup>15</sup> From *Bingara's Golden Past: A Brief History of Gold Mining in Bingara (1995)* authored by John A. Hume and reprinted by Bingara District Historical Society in 2022 (pages 22-30).

<sup>16</sup> As reported in the publication, *From Bingara's Golden Past: A Brief History of Gold Mining in Bingara (1995)* authored by John A. Hume and reprinted by Bingara District Historical Society in 2022 (page 31- 33).

A 10-Stamper Battery was obtained and placed nearby and was in full swing.<sup>17</sup>

- 1891 – Returns did not clear expenses, and work was again suspended.
- 1899 – Innuendos of gross mismanagement were made as the mine passed into the hands of a local syndicate buoyed by the notion that if the mine became profitable, it would find permanent employment for many people and prove beneficial to the Bingara township.
- 1900 – Yield assessments conducted at Cockle Creek (near Lake Macquarie) were not encouraging enough to justify continuation of mining by the current lessee.
- 1906 – A syndicate from Scone acquired the mine with an improved vision for future mechanisation and therefore minimising losses during the crushing process. Improved yield from a small reef provided some encouragement. However, following further assessment, the lode was found not sufficiently rich to warrant installation of extensive new plant, and operations were abandoned by mid-1907.
- The *All Nations* mine sat abandoned until 1935, when it was dewatered by another local syndicate and at 75 m depth, a drive was continued in a southerly direction along the reef. Gold assays from that point appeared somewhat favourable.
- 1938 – The Bingara Gold Mines Ltd. conducted further explorations and assays at depth, revealing a potential yield of 30,000 tons of ore, yielding 23 grams per ton. Then, in 1940, 1,000 tons of ore were raised actually yielding approximately 4,500 grams.
- 1948 – Development work failed to locate a continuation of the ore bodies and operations ceased in July of that year, as the company wound up. The period 1938 to 1948, considered to be the Golden Era of the All Nations Gold Mine, yielded a total of 13,027 grams of gold. Although some interests in the mine have been maintained, it has not been mined since the 1948 closure. A 1965 NSW Department of Mines report on the All Nations mine site, concluded:
 

*“Due to the narrow patchy nature of the gold mineralisation, further exploration is not considered to be warranted until the price of gold rises substantially.”*
- The legacy of the All Nations Gold Mine to the town of Bingara is now expressed through the history and opportunities provided to the town of Bingara and its community. ANH is an ever-present reminder of the old boom days of gold mining in the district. The site specifically, has significant tourist benefits, especially considering the very good condition of the Stamper Battery installed on site in 1890 and used up until 1948. Most similar pieces of equipment on historic Australian gold fields have been destroyed for their value in metal, particularly during the last world war.

Figure 2 shows historical images depicting periods within the Golden Era of the ANH gold mine.

<sup>17</sup> The battery was a double-bank Californian type stamper made in Castlemaine Victoria by Thompson and Company. The stamper battery remains on-site today.



Figure 2 - Early images of activity on All Nations Gold Mine  
The Stamper Battery was located within the housing building on the right of the left photo.

### All Nations Hill Reserve

The administrative history impacted on the site of ANH Reserve at Bingara:

- Part of Reserve No:381 on account of Gold and other Public Purposes notified 21 August 1874.
- Part of Traveling Stock Reserves notified in 5 Jan 1875 (TSR 352b) and 9 February 1875 (TSR 546).
- ANH was part of 10 acres surveyed as Portion 46 and proposed to be dedicated as a site for Hospital on 28 January 1880. This proposal was later abandoned when a more suitable site was measured.
- The Bingara Gold Field which includes ANH proclaimed on 12 March 1892.
- Portion GL 156 of eight acres was created and a Gold Lease was applied for in 1895 by Miller and Co. By 1896 the Gold Lease was held by John Ewan Palmer with the requirement to employ four men for the first 3 years of the lease and eight men for the remainder of the term. This lease was cancelled in April 1899 for non-fulfillment of these labour requirements.
- Travelling Stock Reserve which includes the area of ANH was notified 15 July 1899. On 21 December 1900, the same area was notified under the *Mining Act* (see Figure 4).
- The area was shown to be Reserved from Alienation for Mining or Mining Purposes on 5 May 1926.



- Special lease 1951 -3 Bingara was issued by the then Department of Lands to the Council of the Shire of Bingara over Portion 288 for the Purpose of Grazing and Sheep and Cattle Yards, effective for the period 19 November 1953 to 21 December 1960.

On 1 May 1981, part of Portion 288 was reserved by the Crown for the purpose of *the Preservation of Historical Sites and Buildings*. On that day, the Government Gazette depicts an area of 4,760 square metres as being reserved for that purpose. The Council of the Shire of Bingara was appointed trustee of the Crown Reserve 94632. This appointment is current. For the purposes of the CLM Act Gwydir Shire Council is Crown land manager for R.94632.

The current identifier, Lot 15 DP 821211 was created as part of the road acquisition process for the relocation of Cobbadah Road in 1991.

## 1.2 The Site

The site of ANH is located on a small rise at the end of Hill Street on the southern outskirts of Bingara township, one kilometre from its central business district. Elevation is 325 metres ASL, a maximum of some 50 metres higher than the township providing a good vantage for viewing of the town to the north as well as all other directions. The site occupies a crest with slopes mainly to the west and north.

### Access

Vehicular and pedestrian access is provided mainly via Hill Street. An unsealed section of Hill Street extends past the site to the south exiting back onto the Barraba Road, mainly used for service vehicles and pedestrians. Informal (also unsealed) access to ANH, is also provided from the west via Riddell Street which turns eastward at the western foot slope of the hill.

### Activities and Uses

Visitors are attracted to ANH initially by its well promoted Historical Gold Mine theme, however on arrival, the expansive vistas of the unique northwestern slope landscapes, particularly to the west and north, are a bonus for the visitor. A sheltered picnic area with benches and a nearby water supply enable the focus spot for tourists and as a walking and exercising destination for local residents and a place to chat and recover. ANH is also one of only two areas in or near the town where dogs may be walked unleashed, with conditions.

However, the key attraction to ANH is the well maintained and presented historical Stamper Battery. In conjunction with its historical surrounds, the Stamper Battery represents a unique example of working machinery in hard rock mines of the day. It is a must-see for visitors who leave the site with an enhanced knowledge of the history of gold mining in the area, complete with its successes and disappointments.

Camping/overnighting is not permitted on site and night visitations are not encouraged.

This POM has been prepared to meet the requirements of the LG Act. In doing so, it achieves a balanced, responsible and ecologically sustainable use of the land at the site of ANH, ensuring that it addresses the needs of the local neighbourhood, the broader community and the environment.



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## 2 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

### 2.1 Public Land

ANH is on Crown land, owned by the State of New South Wales, managed by Council for the benefit of all persons. Local Government Authorities manage Crown land on behalf of the State, as Crown Land Manager, under Division 3.4 of the CLM Act, which provides that Council should manage the land under the LG Act.

Under the LG Act, all public lands must be classified as either community or operational land.

The purpose of the classification of Public land is to clearly delineate which land should be kept for use by the general public (community) and which land need not be kept for that purpose (operational). The major consequence of the classification is that it determines the ease or difficulty by which the land may be alienated by sale, lease or other means. Community land would ordinarily comprise land such as a sportsground, hall, public park, historical site etc.<sup>18</sup> Operational land would consist of land which facilitates carrying out of a public service, such as works depots, or land held as a temporary asset or investment.

Community land:

- cannot be sold.
- cannot be leased, licensed or any other estate granted over the land for more than 21 years.
- must have a POM prepared for it.

### 2.2 What is a Plan of Management?

The LG Act requires that in the development of a POM, Council consider the views of the community in identifying the important features of the land and determining how the land will be managed, used, or developed. Until a POM for community land is adopted, the nature and use of the land cannot be changed. Otherwise, the POM must be revised.

In its management of the Crown land of ANH, Council will also undertake the required process as per Section 36 of the LG Act and Section 3.23 of the CLM Act.

Specifically, the LG Act requires that a POM must identify the:

- category of the land.
- objectives and performance targets with respect to the land.
- means by which the council proposes to achieve the Plan's objectives and performance targets.
- manner in which the council proposes to assess the objectives and performance targets.

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<sup>18</sup> See the note to Chapter 6, Part 2 of the LG Act.



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- condition of the land, and any buildings or other improvements on the land, as at the adoption of the Plan.
  - use of the land and any such buildings or improvements as at adoption.
  - purposes for which the land, and any such buildings or improvements, will be allowed to be used.
  - purposes for which any further development of the land will be permitted, whether under lease or licence or otherwise.
  - scale and intensity of any such permitted use or development.

Similarly, the CLM Act requires that Crown land be managed to meet the Crown Management Principles. This includes:

- environmental protection principles be observed in relation to the management and administration of Crown land.
- the natural resources of Crown land (including water, soil, flora, fauna and scenic quality) be conserved wherever possible.
- public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown land be encouraged.
- where appropriate, multiple use of Crown land be encouraged.
- where appropriate, Crown land should be used and managed in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained in perpetuity.
- Crown land be occupied, used, sold, leased, licensed or otherwise dealt with in the best interests of the State consistent with the above principles.

### 2.3 Types of Plans

The LG Act allows a POM to cover one or multiple parcels of land.

Where multiple parcels of land are covered in one plan (Generic Plans), the LG Act specifically states what needs to be included. Where a POM covers one parcel or related parcels of land (Specific Plans), like this plan, there is greater detail on what has to be prescribed in the Plan. A Generic Plan sets the framework of how the land is to be managed. A Specific Plan clearly outlines precise management proposals.

POMs for community land are periodically reviewed to enable changing social, economic and ecological conditions to be taken into account and consequently amendments to the plan may occur. This will be the first POM for ANH completed in accordance with the requirements of the LG Act.



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## 2.4 Relationship with Other Plans

The majority of community land within the Gwydir Shire Local Government Area will be subject to the *Community Land Plan of Management* which provides an overarching strategy and consistent management approach for community land parcels.

This POM is one of a set of specific POMs for Council which will include:

- Myall Creek Memorial Site
- Bingara Riverside Reserve

## 2.5 Categorisation and Objectives

As required by legislation for the purposes of the POM, community land is categorised as one of the following:

- Natural Area
  - Bushland
  - Wetland
  - Watercourse
  - Escarpment
  - Foreshore
- Sportsground
- Park
- Area of Cultural Significance
- General Community Use

Once categorised, community land is also subject to specified objectives which are outlined in the LG Act and in **Appendix 1**.

ANH, shown in Figure 3, has been previously classified community land, with the initial categorisation being for Area of Cultural Significance and Park.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Council resolution of 14 October 2021 and as endorsed by the then Department of Planning and Environment 10 May, 2022.



### 3 SITE DESCRIPTION

#### 3.1 Land Parcels

The land subject to this POM, is Reserve 94632, being part Lot 15 in Deposited Plan (DP) 821211, and is located on a ridge adjacent to the southern outskirts of the township of Bingara, immediately west of Hill Street at its highest point.

The total planning area covered by this POM is 4,760 square metres.

Figure 3 shows the land subject to this POM (edged in red).



Figure 3 - Land subject to this Plan of Management

#### 3.2 Ownership and Management

ANH is Crown land owned by the State of New South Wales. On 1 May 1981, the current Reservation R. 94632 was created for the purpose of *the Preservation of Historical Sites and Buildings*. Gwydir Shire Council was appointed as reserve trust manager *Crown Lands Act 1989* on the same day. Following the introduction of the CLM Act Council is now Crown land manager of ANH.



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All assets on ANH are owned by the State of New South Wales.

### Native Title

Crown land in Australia is subject to Native title under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth). On Crown land Native title rights and interests must be considered unless:

- Native title has been extinguished; or
- Native title has been surrendered; or
- Determined by a court to no longer exist.

Some examples of acts<sup>20</sup> which may affect Native title on Crown land or Crown reserves managed by Council include:

- the construction of new buildings and other facilities such as toilet blocks, walking tracks, picnic shelters, barbecues and pontoons etc.
- the construction of extensions to existing buildings.
- the construction of new roads or tracks.
- installation of infrastructure such as powerlines, sewerage pipes, etc.
- the issue of a lease or licence.
- the undertaking of major earthworks.

When proposing any act that may affect Native title on Crown land or Crown reserves the act must be authorised through Part 2 Division 3 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)*.

ANH is subject to Native Title Claim (NSD 37/2019) filed by the Gomeri People with the Federal Court of Australia on 20 December 2011.

### Aboriginal Land Rights

The *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (ALRA) seeks to compensate Aboriginal peoples for past dispossession, dislocation and loss of land in NSW. The lodgment of an aboriginal land claim (ALC) under Section 36 of the ALRA, over Crown land creates an inchoate interest in the land for the claimant pending determination of the claim. The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure – Crown lands advises that, if the land is subject to an undetermined ALC, any works, development or tenures authorised by the POM should not go ahead if:

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<sup>20</sup> An *act* is defined in Section 226 of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth). An *act affecting native title* is defined in Section 227 of the Native title Act 1993 (Cwlth).



- 
- the proposed activity could prevent the land being transferred to an ALC claimant in the event that an undetermined claim is granted.
  - the proposed activity could impact or change the physical/environmental condition of the land, unless:
    - the council manager has obtained written consent from the claimant Aboriginal Land Council to carry out the proposed work or activity, and/or
    - the council manager has obtained a written statement from the Aboriginal Land Council confirming that the subject land is withdrawn (in whole or partial) from the land claim.
  - the proposed activity is a lease to be registered on title unless the council manager has obtained written consent from the claimant Aboriginal Land Council.

## 4 PLANNING INSTRUMENTS AND POLICIES

### 4.1 Land Zoning

Under the *Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013*<sup>21</sup> (LEP), the whole of ANH is zoned RE1 – Public Recreation (See Figure 4).

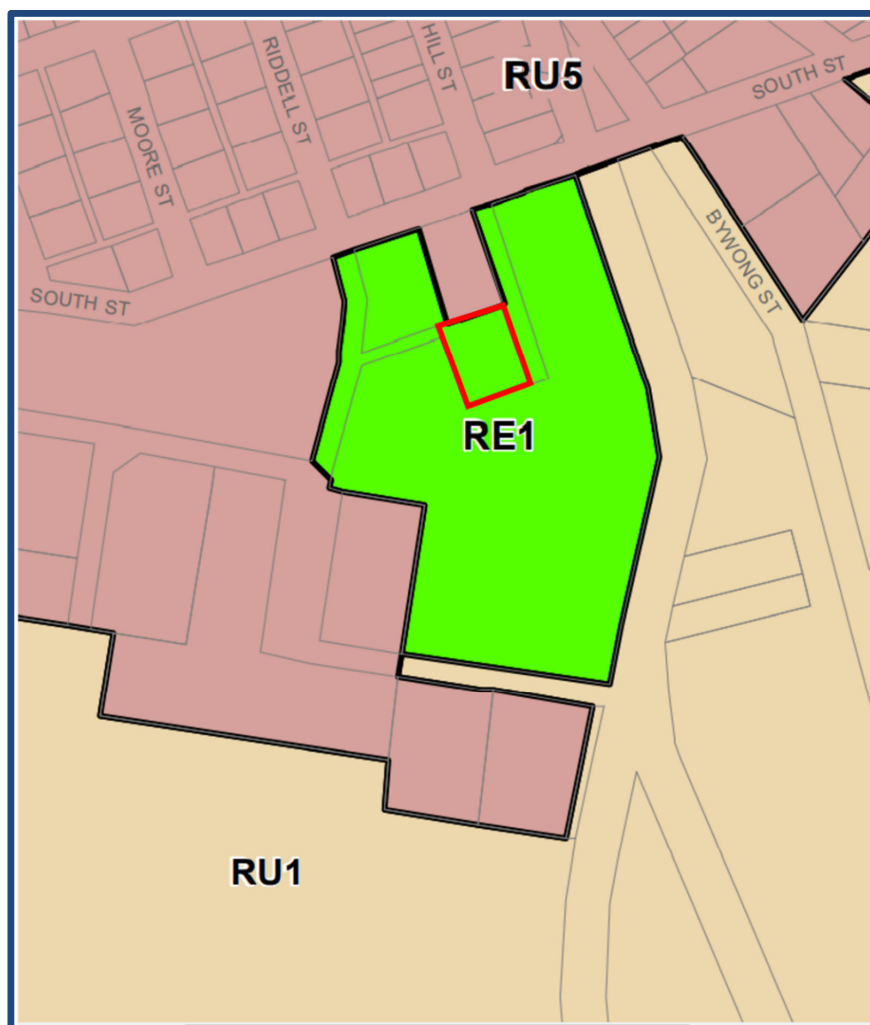


Figure 4 - Planning Zones

ANH is surrounded by the following zoned areas:

- RU5 – Village (to the north, and west)

<sup>21</sup> *Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013* - NSW Legislation.



- RU1 - Primary Production (to the south and east)

The Objectives for RE1 land described within the LEP, are:

- to enable land to be used for public open space or recreational purposes.
- to provide a range of recreational settings and activities and compatible land uses.
- to protect and enhance the natural environment for recreational purposes.

Activities permitted without consent for land zoned RE1 are shown as:

- building Identification signs
- environmental protection works
- roads

Activities permitted with consent for land zoned RE1 are shown as:

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| • aquaculture                   | • heliports                            |
| • boat launching ramps          | • information and education facilities |
| • business identification signs | • kiosks                               |
| • camping grounds               | • markets                              |
| • car parks                     | • recreation areas                     |
| • caravan parks                 | • recreation facilities (indoor)       |
| • community facilities          | • recreation facilities (major)        |
| • eco-tourist facilities        | • recreation facilities (outdoor)      |
| • entertainment facilities      | • take-away food and drink premises    |
| • environmental facilities      | • water recreation structures          |
| • function centres              | • water supply systems                 |

The following activities are prohibited:

- any developments other than those permitted with consent are prohibited on this land.

#### 4.2 State Environmental Planning Policies

ANH is subject to the State Environmental Planning Policies. Important amongst these in the development of ANH is the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021* or the T&I SEPP.

Section 2.74 of the T&I SEPP provides that development for any purpose may be carried out without consent on Crown managed land, by or on behalf of a Crown land manager of the land if the development is for the purposes of implementing a POM adopted for the land in accordance with the LG Act.



All other impacting State Environmental Planning Policies are listed below. Those that are considered more relevant to the future of ANH and this POM are underlined and briefly described in **Appendix 2**:

- State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Building Sustainability Index: BASIX) 2004
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources & Energy) 2021
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Primary Production) 2021
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Industry and Employment) 2021
- State Environmental Planning Policy No 65—Design Quality of Residential Apartment Development

### 4.3 Council Policies, Strategies and Plans

In addition to state planning policies and the directions of the LEP, Council has developed a number of plans and general policies which have either direct or indirect relevance to planning, management and maintenance of community land, more specifically, ANH.<sup>22</sup> Of particular relevance:

- **Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027** – Spanning a period of ten years, the Community Strategic Plan is the highest level of plan prepared by Gwydir Shire Council and the community. As a living document and a roadmap to the future, it belongs to the community, and reflects the community's main priorities and future aspirations. As well as capturing Council's vision and mission, it also promotes the vision and goals created by the community through the consultation process. This strategy also summarises an evolving listing of aspirations and achievements within the Shire.
- **Community Engagement Strategy 2015** – Any process that involves the community in problem solving or decision making, uses community input to make better decisions. This strategy matches Council's goals to capture input and provide information back to the community. It identifies all stakeholders including external partners and sets out the methods for engagement.

<sup>22</sup> Full details of Council's relevant policies and plans as listed above can be found at Council's website at [www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au).



- **Bingara Town Strategy 2010** – This strategy aims to provide vision and direction for Bingara for both the long and short term. The strategy aims to future-proof Bingara from changes affecting both the local and the global neighbourhood. It achieves this through the acknowledgment of the town’s unique history, its agriculture, culture, and its warm and creative community.
- **Long Term Financial Plan 2015/2016 – 2024-2025** – As a decision-making tool, this financial plan is an important part of council’s strategic planning process. This is the point where long-term community aspirations and goals are tested against financial realities.
- **Workforce Management Plan 2017-2021** – Gwydir Shire Council Workforce Management Plan is part of the planning and reporting framework for local government. It forms part of the Resourcing Strategy, which aims to meet the priorities in the Gwydir Shire Council Community Strategic Plan. The plan enables the ongoing recruitment and retention of staff with the appropriate values, attitudes and knowledge to support the changing work environment while strengthening relationships with businesses and other community partners to deliver services efficiently and to a high standard.
- **Asset Management Plan 2011** – The programs and services the Council selects must be carefully designed and delivered to equitably and cost effectively advance the well-being of the Shire’s people. This asset management plan covers the infrastructure assets that serve the Gwydir Shire Council plant and equipment needs via a comprehensive process to ensure delivery of services from infrastructure is provided in a financially sustainable manner.

#### 4.4 Biodiversity

Under the LG Act, Council has obligations for conservation issues as determined by the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*. There are no areas of outstanding biodiversity value, biodiversity certified land or biobanking agreement land associated with ANH as per the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. The LEP does not contain any references to significant biodiversity issues present at ANH. This may be a consequence of a paucity of biodiversity investigation and knowledge rather than an absence of such features. Any proposed impacts to biodiversity values, including threatened species and ecological communities and their habitats requires proper consideration in accordance with the applying legislation.

#### 4.5 Native Vegetation

Land zoned RE1 is covered by the State Government’s native vegetation laws aimed at protecting the biodiversity values of trees and other vegetation in non-rural areas of NSW and is included within the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021*<sup>23</sup> and also considered within the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. Any clearing of native vegetation requires consideration and possible authorisation under these policies.

<sup>23</sup> Part 2.3(1)(b) of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021*.





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#### 4.6 Flood Planning

The site of ANH is not impacted by flooding.

#### 4.7 Aboriginal Significance

ANH is subject to a Native Title Application under the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993* by the Gomeri People.

A search of the *NSW Government's Office of Environment and Heritage AHIMS Web Services* did not reveal that:

- aboriginal sites are recorded in or near ANH.
- aboriginal places have been declared in or near ANH.

ANH does not contain any items listed in the LEP as being of known aboriginal archaeological sites, nor places of indigenous heritage significance.

Any construction undertaken by Council will need to meet the cultural heritage requirements of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. As such, proposed disturbance or modification of the undeveloped areas of ANH may require a site-specific assessment of Aboriginal cultural features or values.

#### 4.8 Heritage Significance

The objectives of heritage designations in the LEP are:

- to conserve the environmental heritage of Gwydir.
- to conserve the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas, including associated fabric, settings and views.
- to conserve archaeological sites.
- to conserve Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance.

The LEP indicates that the area which includes the All Nations Hill is of Local Heritage Significance (Item Number 1006: *Bingara Stamper*, gazetted 30 August 2013). See Figure 6.

Any developments or alterations on or to this item, will require advice from the consent authority, Council, and may require consent.

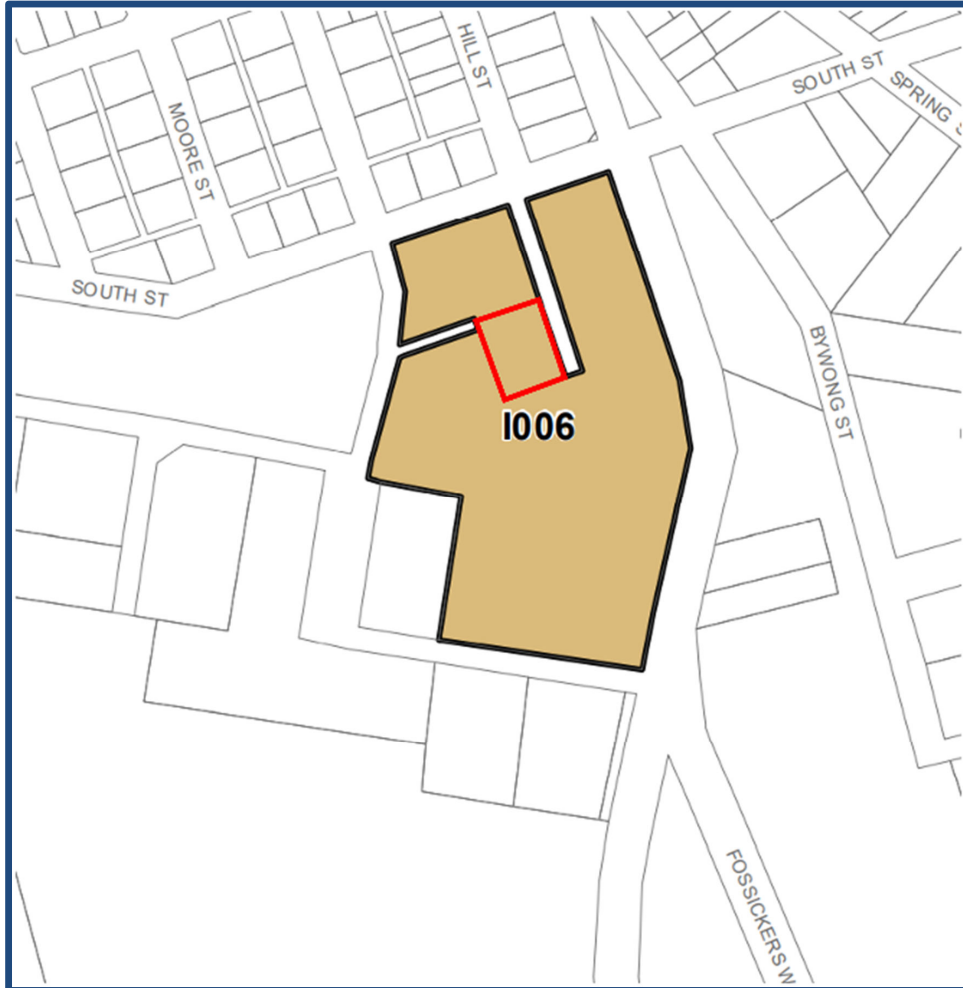


Figure 5 - LEP Heritage Plan  
Heritage significance Item Number 1006 (fawn shading) includes Lot 15, All Nations Hill (red boundary).

#### 4.9 Bush Fire Planning

Bushfire prone is defined as an area of land that supports a bush fire or is likely to be subject to bush fire attack, as designated on a bush fire prone land map.<sup>24</sup>

The LEP indicates that ANH contains a small area of Category 1 Bushfire Hazard just within the southern boundary (shown in pink on Figure 6). Category 1 is considered the highest risk for bushfire (red on map), likely to be highly combustible vegetative materials and capable of forming fully developed fires including heavy ember production, and its management requires a 100 m buffer. The remainder of the site is Category 2 (yellow on map), considered a lower bushfire risk than Category 1, and should be provided a 30 m buffer.

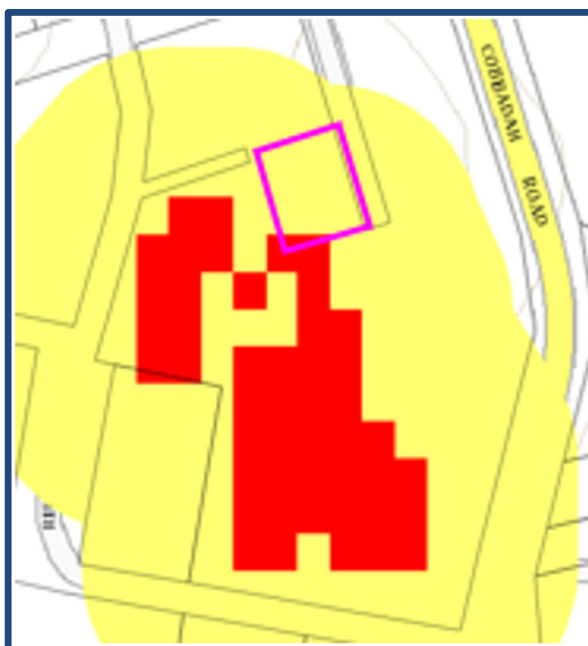


Figure 6 - Bushfire Hazard Plan

#### 4.10 Operating Approvals

ANH has no operating approvals issued under the LG Act.

<sup>24</sup> Guide for Bush Fire Prone Land Mapping Version 5b November 2015: *NSW Rural Fire Services*.

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## 5 THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

### 5.1 Topography, Geology and Soils

#### Landform

The landform at the site of ANH is the crest of a long ridge which generally runs from the south, northwards towards Hill Street. It has mainly a northerly and westerly aspect with views typical of NSW North Western Slopes. The slopes and distant mountain views beyond the Bingara Lookout to the north east and east, step up into the higher terrains of the Northern Tablelands.

Drainage from the site of ANH is south west towards Riddell Street and then crossing the Barraba Road towards Halls Creek (approximately 20 metres lower). Towards the northwest, runoff follows diffuse pathways towards the western extremities of the town where it crosses the Narrabri Road, the western streetscape of Bingara, Racecourse, Golf Course, and finally exiting into the Gwydir River some two kilometres distant.

#### Geology and Soils

The surface geology at ANH consists mainly of well weathered metamorphosed siltstones, mudstones, slates and shales (See Figure 7). Veins of quartz may also be evident in the weathered materials.



Figure 7 - All Nations Hill Surface Geology

This geology has produced a range of generally shallow gravelly skeletal soils. An early surveyor's plan (1953) covering the site of ANH refers to the area as "Gravelly Ridge" (Figure 8).

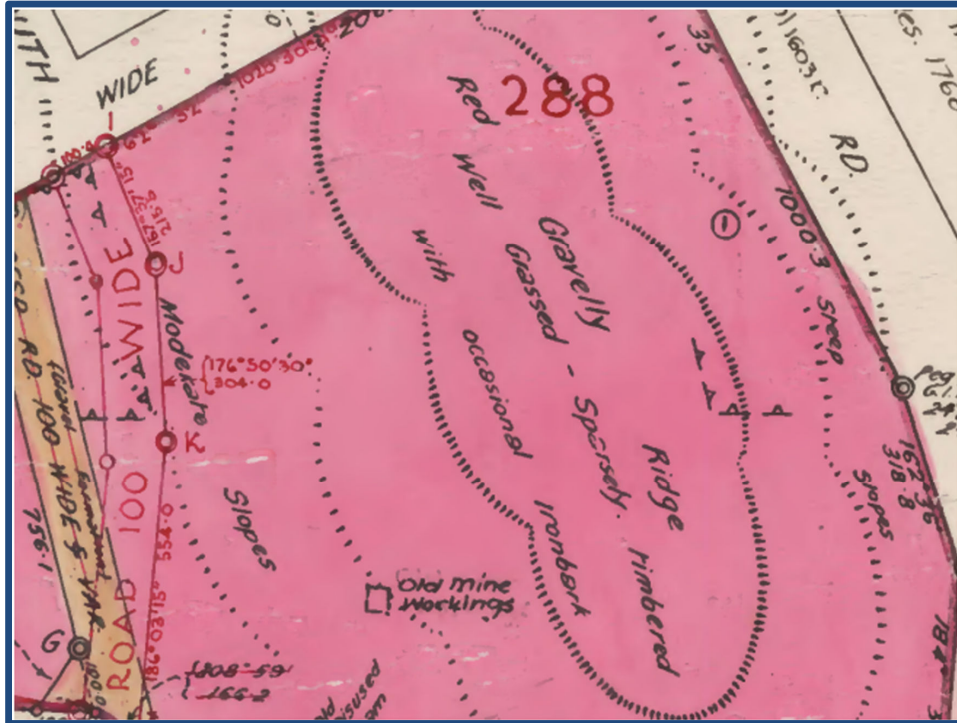


Figure 8 - Extract from Plan of Portion 288  
The plan describes the physiography of the ridge which supports the All Nations Hill.

Where slopes are gentle to gradual (less than three percent) and some weathering depths are maintained in-situ, soils are clayey at depth with loamy to clay loam topsoils (0-15 cm). These are referred to as *Dermosols*.<sup>25</sup> They generally have reddish/brownish/yellowish clayey subsoils and at ANH, because of their gravel content and open porous structure, are reasonably well drained, with a slightly acid to neutral soils reaction trend.

Where slopes are steeper, they tend to be eroded either geologically, or from man induced disturbance which has occurred over the ANH site. Here soils are shallow (less than 30 cm to weathered rock), lacking textures contrast characteristics. These soils mainly occur as *Rudosols*.

Figure 9 shows two images of shallow soils (*Dermosols*) typical of ANH. (Note the gravelly skeletal nature with some evidence of reddish clay formation at depth.)

<sup>25</sup> Isbell R.F 1996: The Australian Soil Classification, Revised Edition.





Figure 9 - Exposed Soil Profiles

Exposed soil profiles (typical range) are shallow stony, with various degrees of profile differentiation with depth.

Overall, the site of ANH has experienced much disturbance in the past mainly due to the destructive nature of the mining which occurred there, and it is rare to find examples of natural soil profiles.

## 5.2 Native Vegetation

The natural vegetation of ANH has been greatly disturbed over the past 170 years, however the remnants which still exist, at least partially depict the original vegetation form belonging to the Grassy Woodlands structure of the Nandewar Bioregion<sup>26</sup> of northwestern NSW. The note on the early surveyor's plan (Figure 8) states the ridge which includes the area of ANH is: "... well grassed-sparsely timbered with occasional ironbark".

Figure 10 shows a recent strong recruitment of Silver Leaved Ironbark (*Eucalyptus melanophloia*) growing within a small section of ANH (within its western and southwestern boundary, beyond the mowed section). Isolated Wilga (*Geijera parviflora*) also occurs there in the understory, as does a thick ground cover of native grass species.

<sup>26</sup> The Nandewar Bioregion lies in northern NSW and across the Queensland border, bounded by the North Coast, New England and Brigalow bioregions. This bioregion is characterised by box woodlands. In addition to the range of box species (including White Box -*E. albens*), other species in Nandewar Bioregion include a range of Ironbark species, native pine species (*Callitris sp*) and understory species including Wilga (*Geijera parviflora*).



Figure 10 - Native vegetation at All Nations Hill

Plantings of a range of native trees, many endemic, have been part of general site enhancement in recent years (see foreground of left photo, Figure 11), which extends into the park-like setting (beyond the eastern boundary), providing improved aesthetics and shade for visitors to ANH as well as some habitat for biodiversity.



Figure 11 - Native tree plantings

*Native trees have been planted on the grounds of ANH, extending into the rest area beyond the eastern boundary.*

In ecological terms, the remnant native vegetation of ANH makes a moderate contribution to the ecological significance of the immediate area by providing habitat for native fauna, especially bird species. Its ecological significance, however, is elevated in that the ridge on which ANH is located,



represents a small yet important node close to a managed corridor of existing remnant and recently planted native vegetation which connects biodiversity values across the Bingara town and beyond. An enhancement of these values is being nurtured by Council<sup>27</sup>, responding to the objectives of the Living Classroom initiative (see Bingara Town Strategy<sup>28</sup>) and its extension, the Bingara Gardens Interpretative Agricultural Park. Through education and demonstration, natural on-farm values are integrated with food production in a future model for agriculture. The role of remnant vegetation is valued and enhanced, within this model.



Figure 12 - Assets  
The reconditioned Stamper Battery installed in 1890.

<sup>27</sup> This project is also being assisted by contributions from Willoughby Council, and the North West Local Land Services (Warialda).

<sup>28</sup> Bingara Town Strategy (2011): *Gwydir Shire Council*.

## 6 CURRENT USES

ANH is a popular and valuable venue for the community and visitors to the Bingara district. It is used in the following ways:

- historical reflection and education
- viewing unique landscapes including rural and natural features
- resting, relaxation in the shade – a good stopover for the weary traveler
- picnicking
- walking and exercising
- dog leash-free area for exercising pets
- filming and photography

It is noted that camping is not permitted on ANH.



*Figure 13 - Assets  
Metal enclosure fencing erected on the perimeter of the Stamper Battery site.*

There are no current leases or licences on ANH.

## 7 ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

### 7.1 Assessment of Infrastructure

The range of constructed assets within the boundary of ANH are shown in Figures 12-18, and include:

- the reconditioned historic Stamper Battery installed in 1890, with metal enclosure fencing
- the picnic shelter with seating and benches
- a water supply (underground poly pipe) and tap
- unsealed vehicular roads<sup>29</sup>
- concrete shaft cappings, foundations for infrastructure
- signage
- landscaping including lawn and established native trees
- single waste station



Figure 14 - Assets  
Sheltered picnic area with seating, benches and concrete slab floor.

<sup>29</sup> A small area of the sealed extension of Hall Street (the turning circle) protrudes into the (north-eastern) boundary of ANH.





Figure 15 - Assets  
Inside the sheltered picnic area.



Figure 16 - Assets - Signage



Figure 17 - Assets  
Various concrete mine shaft cappings or pads for infrastructure demonstrate the history of mining at All Nations Hill.



Figure 18 - Assets  
A water supply system has been installed at All Nations Hill and Waste station (right).

Table 1 provides a listing of ANH’s assets, each with an indicative condition rating (1-5) which guides maintenance requirements.





Table 1 - Condition of Assets at All Nations Hill Gwydir (July 2022)

ASSET	Cond.	ASSET	Cond.
Stamper Battery	2	Vehicular access (gravel)	3
Picnic Shelter	2	Educational/directional signage	2
Fences (stamper battery enclosure)	1	Waste station	2
Landscaping/lawn/trees	3	Water supply/tap	2

1. **Very Good** - Excellent overall condition
2. **Good** - Very good overall – early stages of deterioration – normal maintenance, minor repairs
3. **Fair** - Condition deterioration obvious, serviceability affected, significant maintenance required
4. **Poor** - Serviceability heavily impacted, maintenance cost high and significant renewal/major maintenance
5. **Very Poor** - Severe serviceability problems, immediate rehabilitation, requires over 50% asset renewal

## 7.2 Assessment of Management Requirements

The assets of ANH are basic, responding to the reserve size, location and function. There are no major maintenance issues other than routine, and overall, condition is fair to good.

The major asset is the majestically poised Stamper Battery which has been well restored with the support of the NSW Government, Council and Bingara Lions Club. Fencing around the Stamper Battery is adequate ensuring it remains secure and in good condition, however, normal weathering processes will require vigilance regarding regular maintenance. A permanent shelter by way of a skillion over the stamper may be an appropriate consideration to reduce maintenance requirements.

The other major asset, the picnic shelter, provides for visitors, requiring routine maintenance, particularly relating to its wooden components (painting and replacement as required).

The gravel vehicular track is used by visitors to gain close access to the well signposted stamper battery, and as a turning circle (between the shelter and the stamper) particularly for vehicles with vans and campers in tow. This track also permits access to the site from the west via Riddell Street. Moderate to steep slopes on this unsealed road surface requires consideration of the impacts of drainage during wet conditions, and erosion and general damage to the track.

## 7.3 Consultation and Future Use Options

This POM was drafted following consultation with:

- key Council staff
- members of the business community and local residents



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Consultation identified the following additional requirements for new works and services:

- consider sealing gravel road component to avoid bogginess, washouts<sup>30</sup> or alternatively remove vehicular access beyond the current bitumen cul-de-sac.
- parking area to be allocated and designated with signage.
- redesign components within the picnic shelter to allow easy access and use by disabled visitors (eg. benches). Also, a “lip” between the concrete slab and the ground surface has developed, making it difficult for wheelchair access.
- solar lighting for casual use of shelter.
- road from the west (via Riddell Street) to the site in need of repairs due to erosion.<sup>31</sup>
- requires improved signage which actually tells the history/story of the mine and the stamper (1860-1948) – an information board, improved marketing of the site.
- hand washing facilities are absent - could be installed in conjunction with the new plumbing and water supply.

During the discussion regarding extra major facilities such as a BBQ setting, permanent night lighting and an amenities block, it was considered that the addition of such facilities were **not necessary or desirable** as the encouragement of visitations to ANH should consider the comfort and privacy of local residents as a priority. Night usage of ANH, for example, would be inconsistent with the prime attraction of the learning experience the site provides, based on sight lines and views, and reading and interpreting educational signage in daylight hours. After hours usage of ANH should generally be discouraged. It is noted that camping is not currently permitted at ANH.

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<sup>30</sup> The main access to ANH from the Bingara side, is Hill Street which adjoins the eastern boundary. Access from the west via Riddell Street is located mainly outside the ANH northern boundary.

<sup>31</sup> This area is outside the boundary of the ANH site.






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## PART B – THE PLAN

### 8 A VISION FOR THE ALL NATIONS HILL

A series of planning statements developed by Council build the directions for the future of the Gwydir Local Government Area. For instance, Council's own vision is,<sup>32</sup>

**“To be the recognised leader in Local Government through continuous learning and sustainability”**

And Council's mission is:

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

Council worked towards this Mission during the process of developing its Community Strategic Plan which invites input from the community. The Gwydir Shire community vision is simple, yet embracing:

**“Many Hands Make a Community”**

This community vision is an acknowledgement that help and support across the shire is at least in-part, derived from a collaborative approach to the future. In particular, this has been the case in the development of the Bingara Town Strategy<sup>33</sup> which impacts on the future of Bingara, and the Crown land of ANH. The Bingara Town Strategy, articulates its own vision, which:

**“seeks to build on the strengths of the town and district..... and to preserve and enhance those things our community values”**

These statements, each created for varying purposes across the region, are linked by the area's nature and environment, its landscape, its history, its economic capability and opportunity, its people, and through Council, the governance that prevails to guide the future. Flow-on economics and the value of tourism to the town and district, stimulated by a unique environment and history such as that demonstrated at ANH, is very much part of the future of Bingara.

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<sup>32</sup> Gwydir Shire Council *Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027*.

<sup>33</sup> Bingara Town Strategy (2011): *Gwydir Shire Council* July 2011.

The proposed vision statement for the management of ANH, capitalises on the area’s environment, community and history, and the economic opportunity brought to the town by tourism:

### “All Nations Hill – A Showcase of Bingara’s Gold Mining Past”



Figure 19 - Land Categories



## 9 OBJECTIVES, CLASSIFICATION AND CATEGORY OF LAND

ANH is classified as community land under the LG Act as amended by the *Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998*.

Under Section 36 (4), all community land must be categorised as one of the following categories:

- Natural Area - (further categorised as either Bushland, Wetland, Escarpment, Foreshore, Watercourse)
- Sportsground
- Park
- Area of Cultural Significance; or
- General Community Use.

The Core Objectives for all community land categories vary according to the categorisation of the land. All objectives are defined in Sections 36E to 36N of the LG Act and also appear in **Appendix 1**, of this POM.

In accordance with the guidelines set out in the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* and Practice Note 1: Public Land Management (Department of Local Government Amended 2000) and the derived management directions and planning principles presented above, land at ANH should be categorised (see Figure 19) as:

- **Area of Cultural Significance, and**
- **Park**

### 9.1 Area of Cultural Significance

Relevant Core Objectives for management of community land categorised as an **Area of Cultural Significance** are to retain and enhance the cultural significance of the area (namely its Aboriginal, aesthetic, archaeological, historical, technical, research or social significance) for past, present or future generations by the active use of conservation methods.

Those conservation methods may include any or all of the following methods:

- a. the continuous protective care and maintenance of the physical material of the land, buildings or of the context and setting of the area of cultural significance.
- b. the restoration of the land and buildings, that is, the returning of the existing physical material of the land and buildings to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.



- 
- c. the reconstruction of the land and buildings, that is, the returning of the land and buildings as nearly as possible to a known earlier state.
  - d. the adaptive reuse of the land and buildings, that is, the enhancement or reinforcement of the cultural significance of the land and buildings by the introduction of sympathetic alterations or additions to allow compatible uses (that is, uses that involve no changes to the cultural significance of the physical material of the area, or uses that involve changes that are substantially reversible or changes that require a minimum impact).
  - e. the preservation of the land and buildings, that is, the maintenance of the physical material of the land or buildings in its existing state and the retardation of deterioration of the land and buildings.

This categorisation acknowledges heritage value of gold mining in the district, well demonstrated near the Bingara township, at ANH.

#### Description and Location

The Area of Cultural Significance category occupies a section in the centre of R.94632 (shaded yellow on Figure 19), including the site of the Stamper Battery and associated works, and signage.

#### Management Objective

Management of the historical precinct within the Area of Cultural Significance Category (the Stamper Battery and immediate surrounds) will focus on acknowledgement of the significance and the historical events which occurred at the site of ANH, by demonstration through appropriate signage and access. This will consider the maintenance and where possible, improvements of all historical assets as appropriate.

## 9.2 Park

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a **Park** are:

- to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities, and
- to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and
- to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.



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### Description and Location

The area categorised as Park occupies the remainder of R.94632, (shaded blue on Figure 19), consisting of the area of the picnic shelter, lawns and landscaping (including tree planting), driveways, tracks/parking area, waste station, watering system and signage.

### Management Objective

Management of the area categorised as Park will embrace modifications to existing assets designed to encourage greater usage and also meet the demands of increases in visitation, as well as an additional work designed to improve protection against weathering of the Stamper Battery asset.

The management of the area of native vegetation nearby will include standard practices for maintaining and enhancing natural values. This will generally be passive management, precluding any major intervention other than management of ground cover levels, protection of tree regrowth where it occurs, weed control and bushfire protection works.

All environmental values will require management in accordance with policy and legislation. No works are to occur without obtaining the required approvals under all applying biodiversity and environmental legislation which may require appropriate creation of environmental impact offsets.



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## 10 DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ANH

### 10.1 ANH Management

Council reserves the right to control the use of community land including ANH.

Council intends to:

- create opportunities for community consultation and participation in the planning and development as required.
- consider and attempt to balance the need for community recreation facilities with the impact development that such sites will have on local residents.
- provide an efficient method and process for approval of all agreed improvements and developments which meet the needs of a growing community.
- consider access to recreational facilities for all users.
- ensure all formal use of ANH is authorised through appropriate documentation.
- allow casual informal use consistent with Council's policies and procedures.
- consider how use of the site can provide funding for the maintenance of facilities for ANH.
- recognise that the ongoing viability of ANH is dependent on the ongoing viability for ANH visitors.
- facilitate a system whereby enquiries and complaints from the public can be efficiently and promptly dealt with.

Council will issue leases and licences as described in Section 10.3

#### Restrictions on Use and Development

When proposing any act that may affect Native title on Crown land the act must be authorised through Part 2 Division 3 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)*.

#### Management Structure

Council manages ANH directly.



## 10.2 Permitted Uses and Activities at ANH

Access by the public will be permitted and encouraged at ANH, subject to signage and usage protocols established by Council.

### Permissible Uses

Table 2 lists the permissible uses on the land, across all categories considered in this POM, subject to Council assessment, approvals and booking/hire systems, with their scale and intensity.

*Table 2 - Permissible Uses*

Use	Scale	Intensity
Access roads	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility and/or to the requirements of the activity	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Amenities	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility and/or to the requirements of the activity	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Alternate energy technology	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Art and cultural classes and events	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility and/or to the requirements of the activity	24 hours a day, 7 days a week subject to any Hire Agreement, Tenure and/or Development Application conditions for a specific event
Business Operations related to reserve purpose	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	24 hours a day, 7 days a week subject to Tenure or Hire Agreement
Car parking	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility and/or to the requirements of the activity	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Children's programs and events	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility and/or to the requirements of the activity	8.00am – 10.00 pm, 7 days a week subject to Tenure or Hire Agreement
Community events (fundraising/charity events, special events)	Limited to the hours the facility is booked Agreement via tenure or hire agreement	7 days a week, 8.00am – 10.00pm
Drainage and irrigation	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Education Services	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	24 hours a day, 7 days a week subject to Tenure or Hire Agreement
Emergency use	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility and/or to the requirements of the activity	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Filming and photography (commercial, amateur)	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility and/or to the requirements of the activity	24 hours a day, 7 days a week subject to Tenure
Landscaping	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Maintenance buildings and infrastructure	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Mobile food vendors	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	Operating hours subject to Tenure or Hire Agreement
Passive recreation	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility and/or to the requirements of the activity	7 days a week, sunrise – 10.00pm
Paths	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	Operating hours subject to Tenure or Hire Agreement





Use	Scale	Intensity
Private events (i.e., weddings, birthdays)	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility and/or to the requirements of the activity	Operating hours subject to Tenure or Hire Agreement
Public performance or education	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility and/or to the requirements of the activity	Operating hours subject to Tenure or Hire Agreement
Public utility infrastructure	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Remediation works	Subject to noise, workplace health and safety and relevant legislation	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Shade structures	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility and/or to the requirements of the activity	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Sponsorship signage (temporary)	As per Section 11.12	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Telecommunication facilities	Subject to relevant legislation	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Temporary structures (i.e., marquees, tents, stages)	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility	Temporary structures (no pegs, weighted only)
Youth programs and events	Limited to the physical constraints of the facility and/or to the requirements of the activity	8.00am – 10.00 pm, 7 days a week subject to Tenure or Hire Agreement

It is an express provision of this POM that Council shall provide from time to time as circumstances may require the construction and maintenance of utility services, provision and maintenance of vehicular access ways and the granting of easements.



### 10.3 Leases, Licences and other Estates

For this section, please see the Explanation of Terms<sup>34</sup> set out below.

Council may allow use of community land by a casual user for any permissible use (see Section 11.2). However, Council may require a form of authorisation for a permissible use to be undertaken.

The authorisation in a POM gives ‘in principle’ support for activities, uses and developments consistent with the objectives for land categorisation to proceed to development assessment under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, if required.

This POM does not in itself imply or grant consent for activities, uses or developments. Any proposed uses and developments which are consistent with this POM must still be referred for development consent and where required, be advertised widely for information and invitation to comment. Any subsequent application for development consent would be supported by and assessed against this POM.

The LG Act provides that tenures (leases, licences, or any other estates) or easements may be granted over all or part of community land.

Tenures may be held by:

- community organisations and sporting clubs, or
- by private/commercial organisations or
- individuals providing facilities and/or services for public use.

The maximum period for leases and licences on community land allowable under the LG Act is 30 years (with the consent of the Minister for a period over 21 years) for purposes consistent with the categorisation and core objectives of the particular area of community land.

Community land may only be leased or licensed for periods of more than five years if public notice is given according to the requirements of Sections 47 and 47A of the LG Act.

#### <sup>34</sup> Explanation of Terms

<b>Tenure</b>	A lease, licence or other estate issued by Council in accordance with Section 46 of the LG Act or Section 2.20 of the CLM Act.
<b>Hire Agreement</b>	An estate issued by Council.
<b>Holder</b>	The company, organisation, individual or group of individuals who have been issued with a Tenure.
<b>Hirer</b>	The company, organisation, individual or group of individuals who have been issued with a Hire Agreement.
<b>Regular hirer</b>	A hirer who regularly uses the GRR through a Hire Agreement or has an ongoing Hire Agreement.
<b>Singular hirer</b>	A Hirer who has a Hire Agreement as a once off or irregularly.
<b>Casual user</b>	A person or group of people using the GRR for passive recreation, non-commercial purposes without a Tenure or Hire Agreement.
<b>User</b>	The collective term for a holder, hirer and casual user.



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### Leases

A lease will be generally required where exclusive use or control of all or part of community land is desirable for effective management. A lease may also be required when the scale of investment in facilities, necessity for security measures, or where the relationship between a holder and facilities on community land justifies such security of tenure.

Leases issued by Council will require:

- that subleases or any other supplementary tenures can only be issued by the Holders with the approval of Council, and consistent with Section 47C of the LG Act.
- responsibilities for maintenance of the facility will be as indicated in the lease.
- all leases will be negotiated in a manner that provides quality outcomes to the community.

### Licences

Licences allow multiple and non-exclusive use of an area. A licence may be required where intermittent or short-term use or control of all or part of the community land is proposed. A number of licences for different holders can apply to the same area at the same time, provided there is no conflict of interest.

### Hire Agreements

An agreement for use of the land subject to this POM may be issued by Council for any purpose listed below, subject to the approval of Council. A hire agreement may be issued to a regular hirer or a singular hirer for formal use. Any legal requirements as determined by Council will include the requirement for adequate public liability insurance cover.

### Purposes for which Tenures may be issued

In accordance with Section 46A of the LG Act, a Plan of Management for community land is to specify and authorise any purpose for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted over community land during the life of a POM.

This POM authorises a tenure to be issued:

- for any permissible use in Table 2
- for purposes consistent with ANH's:
  - categorisation (see Section 10.1), and
  - zoning (see Section 4.1) under Section 46 of the LG Act, and



- reserve purpose of Preservation of Historical Sites and Buildings as required under the CLM Act.

However, the CLM Act allows that Council may also issue short term licences (for a period of less than one year) consistent with Section 2.20 of the CLM Act. This section provides that licences may be issued, inconsistent with the reservation purpose, for prescribed purposes currently being:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| a. access through a reserve  | n. hiring of equipment                             |
| b. advertising   | o. holiday accommodation                           |
| c. camping using a tent, caravan or otherwise                                    | p. markets   |
| d. catering  | q. meetings  |
| e. community, training or education  | r. military exercises                              |
| f. emergency occupation  | s. mooring of boats to wharves or other structures |
| g. entertainment   | t. sales   |
| h. environmental protection conservation or restoration or environmental studies | u. shows   |
| i. equestrian events   | v. site investigations                             |
| j. exhibitions   | w. sporting and organised recreational activities  |
| k. filming (as defined in the LG Act)  | x. stabling of horses                              |
| l. functions   | y. storage.  |
| m. grazing   |  |

Council may grant a lease, licence or other estate in respect of community land for:

- a purpose prescribed by Section 36I as
  - a core objective of the categorisation of the land and subject to being consistent with ANH purpose; or
  - for the provision of goods, services and facilities, and the carrying out of activities, appropriate to the current and future needs within the local community and of the wider public in relation to Public Recreation and Community Purposes.

A tenure or hire agreement on Crown land may impact native title rights and interests. Apart from the tenure/hire agreements authorised above<sup>35</sup>, which are valid acts under Section 24JA of the *Native Title Act 1993*, any use agreement issued on Crown land must be issued in accordance with the future act provisions of the *Native Title Act 1993* and in accordance with Part 8 of the CLM Act unless native title is extinguished. For Crown land which is not *excluded land* this will require written advice from one of Council's native title managers that it complies with any applicable provisions of the native title legislation.

Council at any time in the future, reserves the right to prohibit the taking or consumption of alcohol on ANH. This will be indicated by conspicuously displayed signs in accordance with Section 632 and Section 670 of the *Local Government Act, 1993* (as amended).

<sup>35</sup> This does not include Business Operations, Commercial Premises, Advertising (Business) or Storage (Business).



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### Direction of Funds

Income produced from ANH will be retained for use on ANH.

### 10.4 Other Approvals

An approval to occupy land or facilities for a specific purpose does not remove the need to obtain approval under other legislation. These approvals may include:

- a liquor licence
- to engage in a trade or business
- to direct or procure a theatrical, musical or other entertainment for the public
- to construct a temporary enclosure for the purpose of entertainment
- to play a musical instrument or sing for fee or reward
- to set up, operate or use a loudspeaker or sound amplifying device
- to deliver a public address or hold a religious service or public meeting with the use of a loudspeaker
- to install or operate amusement devices
- to operate a caravan park or camping ground
- to use a standing vehicle or any article for the purpose of selling any article in a public place.

### 10.5 Allocation

ANH will continue to be used by a variety of user groups and individuals for purposes previously noted. Council will endeavor to generate greater utilisation of ANH for community purpose and other activities consistent with ANH's purpose.

### 10.6 Fees

Council applies fees for the use of Council reserves.

The fees associated with the hiring of Council reserves for major events, concerts, functions etc., are detailed in Council's Fees and Charges Policy on Council's website. Council's fee structure is reviewed on an annual basis.



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Where ANH is to be hired for a purpose not within Council's Fees and Charges Policy, the fee will be set by Council.

### 10.7 Communication in the Management of ANH

Communication between Council and users is important for the success of this POM. Council will establish and maintain clear lines of communication with reserve users through appropriate signage.

### 10.8 Easements

Council reserves the right to grant easements as required for utilities and access, bearing in mind the impact of such easements on the site.

The granting of easements over Crown land will be subject to the provisions of the Native Title Act 1993 and Division 8.7 of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.

### 10.9 Development at ANH

Under this POM, Council reserves the right to control the use of all land categorised at ANH as Area of Cultural Significance and Park.

Council approval is required prior to any development or improvement made to community land.<sup>36</sup>

All major developments and improvements to be funded (solely or partially) by Council will be subject to Council approval.<sup>37</sup>

To facilitate the establishment of the new and restored infrastructure, Council may issue tenders to design and establish new facilities, additional car parks, access roads, land development and landscaping, and installation of associated and required facilities at ANH.

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<sup>36</sup> Section 2.74 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021* provides that development for any purpose may be carried out without consent on Crown managed land, by or on behalf of a Crown land manager of the land if the development is for the purposes of implementing a plan of management adopted for the land in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (see Appendix 2).

<sup>37</sup> The term approval refers to approval as Crown land manager of the land rather than consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.



Council will also:

- consider how use of the site can provide funding for the maintenance of the facilities at ANH to reduce costs to Council and employ human services as required.
- issue leases and licences for appropriate activities at ANH as described in Section 10.3.
- create opportunities for community consultation and participation in the planning and development at ANH as required.

### Native Title

Where it is proposed to construct or establish a public work<sup>38</sup> on reserved or dedicated Crown land, where Native title is not extinguished, prior to approval Council will notify and give an opportunity for comment from any representative Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander bodies, registered Native title bodies corporate and registered Native title claimants in relation to the land or waters covered by the reservation or lease as required under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

Where a proposed update of a Capital Works Program, Facilities Asset Management Plan or any other plan is the approving documentation for a public work on Crown land, that approval will not be given unless the requirements of the *Native Title Act 1993* have been addressed including the notification and opportunity to comment noted above.

## 10.10 Development of New and Improvement of Existing Facilities

It is proposed to install new and improved facilities (see Figure 20) including the following:

- Install skillion roof to further protect the historic Stamper Battery asset.
- Install hand washing facility in conjunction with installed water supply.
- Close off the gravel/earth access from Riddell Street.<sup>39</sup> Restore /revegetate area and apply rock bollards to restrict further vehicular access.

<sup>38</sup> A public work is defined as:

- (a) any of the following that is constructed or established by or on behalf of the Crown, or a local government body or other statutory authority of the Crown, in any of its capacities:
- a building, or other structure (including a memorial), that is a fixture; or
  - a road, railway or bridge; or
  - where the expression is used in or for the purposes of Division 2 or 2A of Part 2--a stock-route; or
  - a well, or bore, for obtaining water; or
  - any major earthworks; or
- (b) a building that is constructed with the authority of the Crown, other than on a lease.

Major earthworks are defined as:

*earthworks (other than in the course of mining) whose construction causes major disturbance to the land, or to the bed or subsoil under waters.*

<sup>39</sup> Only the far extension of Riddell Street is located within the boundary of ANH. Suggest seal whole upper section of Riddell Street.





Figure 20 - Development at ANH

- Rehabilitate and revegetate the turning circle section of gravel track which extends between the Stamper Battery and picnic shelter. Place rock bollard to avoid further vehicular use of that section.<sup>40</sup>
- Rehabilitate and revegetate any further areas which are currently bare and void of vegetation, especially the area immediately north and west of the picnic shelter.
- Redesign components of the picnic shelter to allow easier access and use by disabled visitors, avoiding any benches and other blockages to easy use by wheelchairs.
- Level and seal ground surface around the slab of the picnic shelter also allowing easy wheelchair access.
- Install solar lighting for casual use of shelter to enable some illumination around shelter early evening hours only.

<sup>40</sup> Note that if a turning area for vehicles in tow of vans/trailer is required, suggest this occur outside the area of ANH site as a sealed extension of Hill Street, possibly utilising the area between the planted trees near the ridge to the east.



- Install new signage which tells the history/story of the mine and the Stamper Battery (1860-1948) – an information board.

Council approval is required prior to any development or improvement made to community land.

All major developments and improvements to be funded (solely or partially) by Council will be subject to Council approval.

### 10.11 Maintenance of Facilities

In accordance with the maintenance schedule of its asset management plans, building management plans and grounds management plans, and to measured targets within available resources, Council will ensure the facilities on ANH are maintained to an appropriate standard.

Council will:

- conduct essential repairs and maintenance to all facilities.<sup>41</sup>
- undertake monitoring of the condition of structures on ANH by appropriately qualified monitors<sup>42</sup> and ensure effective maintenance procedures are in place.
- prepare a safety audit of the site and repair or replace any areas that may impact on public safety.
- ensure the efficient and conservative use of water, pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers across ANH where required.
- ensure regular collection of rubbish and elevate compliance activities against illegal dumping of rubbish.
- continue monitoring for issues of compliance and general site amenity.
- maintain existing track network within (and surrounding) ANH.
- ensure site is managed in accordance with relevant approved Bushfire Management Plan.

### 10.12 Signage

Council uses signs to regulate the activities carried out on community land and to provide educational information so as to provide a safe and enjoyable place for passive and active recreational pursuits.

Whilst signs are a crucial source of information, they have a significant impact on the aesthetics of a reserve such ANH. All signs must:

<sup>41</sup> Includes restitution of all assets which suffered flood damage during the floods of September-October 2022. Also, essential landscape repairs including desilting, key stream bank repairs, de- snagging in accordance with legislation, etc.

<sup>42</sup> In the case of the Stamper this may require an engineer experienced in maintenance of heritage structures.



- meet a design standard and be approved by Council.
- be sympathetic to their environment in their design, construction and location.
- be placed in accordance with *State Environmental Planning Policy (Industry and Employment) 2021* or *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008*.

Note that for issues of safety signage, Council uses the *Statewide Mutual Best Practice Manual – Signs as Remote Supervision*.

Where a sign requires development consent,<sup>43</sup> Council must approve as owner, the lodging of a Development Application prior to assessment by Council in accordance with Schedule 5 Assessment Criteria of the I&E SEPP.

Where a sign does not require development consent, Council must approve the sign before erection.

All Council signs erected under Section 632 of the *Local Government Act*, plus reserve name signs and traffic and safety signs, are permissible.

#### Proposed Signage

Council will ensure the following signage is on ANH:

- directional signage for the purposes of guiding the community to required infrastructure and services.
- signage for safety purposes including speed limitations and evacuation procedures.

<sup>43</sup> Development consent is not required if the sign is to be erected for the purposes of implementing this POM.



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## 11 FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Income may be sourced from the following:

- **Council's General Revenue Fund (in accordance with annual operational budgets):** Where ANH is being used for informal casual use, Council will contribute to the maintenance and development of Infrastructure.
- **Section 7.11 (Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979) contributions specifically collected for community land:** This component occurs as developer's contributions for the general use of community land for community well-being.
- **User pays for minor infrastructure works associated with nominated facilities:** This occurs through fund raising by the relevant body including entry fees and sales.
- **Community contributions by way of sponsorships and community group projects** (eg., service clubs such as Rotary, Lions Club, Local Land Services, Willoughby City Council etc): This occurs through grants either sourced externally, and/or contributed locally by the group (eg., for the purposes of environmental works, landscaping works, facilities such as shelters and seating, social and intellectual well-being etc. and other improvements).
- **Grant and loan funding from either Commonwealth or State Governments:** The implementation of the management structure will allow primary users to apply for funds from a number of government bodies with the concurrence of Council. Council may also apply for these funds. Funding opportunities exist from government programs including the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund managed by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure – Crown lands.
- **Income from commercial operations:** Where tenures are involved, ticket and product sales etc., income will arise as per details in the revenue-split in the corresponding agreement.

In order to address the outstanding and future maintenance requirements at ANH, and permit any required new developments as proposed in this POM, it is important that all income which is generated from ANH be returned to ANH, and that this should be clearly demonstrated in Council's financial statements. Ensuring appropriate rental and fees for formal use of the site will assist in the maintenance of specialised infrastructure.



## 12 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Table 3 sets out a number of actions which enable the identified Management Strategies and Performance Targets within ANH. These actions are the means of achieving the objectives of the POM. A clear indication of how the completion of the aims will be assessed is also provided in the table under Performance Evaluation.

Table 3 - Implementation Table

Management Objectives	Management Strategies	Actions	Performance Evaluation (how they will be assessed)
<b>AREA OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE</b>			
To retain and enhance the cultural significance of the area (including its historical, technical, research or social significance) for past, present or future generations by the active use of conservation methods.	<p>A. Implement the required continuous protective care and maintenance of the physical material of the land, namely its aesthetic, historical, technical or research of social significance for past, present or future generations by the active use of conservation methods.</p> <p>B. Complete the required restoration of the land, that is, the returning of the existing physical material of the land to a known earlier state.</p> <p>C. Complete required reconstruction of the land that is, the returning of the land as nearly as possible to a known earlier state.</p> <p>D. Implement adaptive reuse of the land, that is, the enhancement or reinforcement of the cultural significance of the land by the introduction of sympathetic alterations or additions to allow compatible uses that involve no change to the land’s cultural significance.</p> <p>E. Preserve the land, that is, the maintenance of the physical material of the land in its existing state and the retardation of deterioration of the land.</p> <p>NOTE: “land” includes a reference to any buildings erected on the land.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Install skillion roof to further protect the historic Stamper Battery asset.</li> <li>2. Install new signage which tells the history/story of the mine and the stamper (1860-1948) – an information board.</li> <li>3. Conduct essential repairs and maintenance to all assets.</li> <li>4. undertake monitoring of the condition of structures on ANH by appropriately qualified monitors and ensure effective maintenance procedures are in place.</li> <li>5. Prepare a safety audit of the site and repair or replace any areas that may impact on public safety.</li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure appropriate management of all vegetated land in accordance with Council’s work schedules.</li> <li>2. Council officers to continue monitoring for issues of compliance and general site amenity.</li> <li>3. Ensure regular collection of rubbish and elevate compliance activities against illegal dumping of rubbish.</li> <li>4. Install (further) appropriate signage as required.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New works installed effectively and appropriately (skillion, signage).</li> <li>• Historical structures show no significant deterioration.</li> <li>• Land areas appropriately tidy and well managed, aesthetics maintained.</li> <li>• Maintenance conducted in timely fashion, no outstanding maintenance issues.</li> <li>• No issues caused by poor safety standards involving public use of the Area of Cultural Significance.</li> <li>• Rubbish removed in timely fashion.</li> <li>• Aesthetic and environmental qualities improved through strategic establishment of trees and shrubs.</li> <li>• No major issues of damage through vandalism of park amenity.</li> <li>• Invasive weeds well controlled.</li> <li>• Signage is clear, appropriately designed and unobtrusive.</li> </ul>



Management Objectives	Management Strategies	Actions	Performance Evaluation (how they will be assessed)
<b>PARK</b>			
To encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities, and	A. Ensure the management of the Park category land allows for ready access by people and visual connectivity to open space.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Erect signage in accordance with Schedule 5 I&amp;E SEPP and approved by Council.</li> <li>2. Ensure appropriate slashing/mowing of all grounds in the Park area.</li> <li>3. Prepare a safety audit of the site and repair or replace any areas that may impact on public safety.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park area managed in accordance with stipulated legislative requirements.</li> <li>• Signage is clear and unobtrusive.</li> <li>• Park is well used by a range of user groups.</li> <li>• No issues caused by poor safety standards involving public use of the Park area.</li> </ul>
To provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and	B. Maintain the amenity and quality of the existing Park settings and facilities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Monitor the condition of structures and ensure effective maintenance procedures are in place.</li> <li>5. Council officers to continue monitoring for issues of compliance and general site amenity.</li> <li>6. Conduct essential repairs and maintenance to all facilities, as required.</li> <li>7. Conduct further strategic native tree planting where necessary and possible to improve aesthetics, amenity.</li> <li>8. Manage Bushfire Hazard in accordance with local Bushfire Management Plan.</li> <li>9. Ensure appropriate slashing/mowing of open areas.</li> <li>10. Ensure regular collection of rubbish.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park users comment favorably, no negative reports.</li> <li>• Grounds well managed, landscaped.</li> <li>• Maintenance conducted in timely fashion, no outstanding maintenance issues.</li> <li>• Rubbish removed in timely fashion.</li> <li>• Aesthetic and environmental qualities improved through strategic establishment of trees and shrubs.</li> <li>• No major issues of damage and abuse to park amenity.</li> <li>• Invasive weeds well controlled.</li> </ul>



Management Objectives	Management Strategies	Actions	Performance Evaluation (how they will be assessed)
<p>To improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.</p>	<p>C. Upgrade and improve the existing Park infrastructure.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Install hand washing facility in conjunction with installed water supply.</li> <li>12. Close off the gravel/earth access from Riddell Street. Restore /revegetate area and apply rock bollards to restrict further vehicular access.</li> <li>13. Rehabilitate and revegetate the turning circle section of gravel track which extends between the Stamper Battery and picnic shelter. Place rock bollard to avoid further vehicular use of that section.<sup>44</sup></li> <li>14. Rehabilitate and revegetate any further areas which are currently bare and void of vegetation, especially the area immediately north and west of the picnic shelter.</li> <li>15. Redesign the picnic shelter to allow easy access and use by disabled visitors, avoiding any benches and other blockages which may impede wheelchair access.</li> <li>16. Level and seal around the slab of the picnic shelter also allowing easy wheelchair access.</li> <li>17. Install solar lighting for casual use of shelter.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilities upgraded according to works plans, to cost, and are well utilised by visitors.</li> <li>• Park is landscaped, attractive and well maintained.</li> <li>• Disabled access issues addressed and working.</li> <li>• Road and track maintenance issues reduced.</li> </ul>

<sup>44</sup> Note that if a turning area for vehicles in tow of vans/trailers is required, this can occur outside the area of ANH site as a sealed extension of Hill Street, possibly utilising the area between the planted trees near the ridge to the east.





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## 13 CONSULTATION DURING THE PREPARATION OF THIS PLAN

Community consultation is an important source of information necessary to provide an effective POM for community land and is a requirement under Section 38 of the LG Act. As such, Council is committed to the principles and activities within the participating community which guide Council's decision-making processes. Such participation creates the opportunity for interested parties to become actively involved in the development of a plan which reflects the needs, opinions and priorities of people using ANH.

Section 38 of the LG Act requires that:

- Council must give public notice of a draft POM.
- The period of public exhibition of the draft plan must be not less than 28 days.
- The public notice must also specify a period of not less than 42 days after the date on which the draft plan is placed on public exhibition during which submissions may be made to Council.
- Council must, in accordance with its notice, publicly exhibit the draft plan together with any other matter which it considers appropriate or necessary to better enable the draft plan and its implications to be understood.

This POM was placed on public exhibition from 22 April 2024 until 20 May 2024, in accordance with the requirements of Section 38 of the *LGA*.

No submissions were received. Council considered these submissions before adopting the POM. In accordance with Section 39 of the *LGA*, prior to being placed on public exhibition, the draft POM was referred to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure – Crown lands, as representative of the State of New South Wales, which is the owner of the Reserve. Council has included in the plan any provisions that have been required by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure – Crown lands.

In accordance with Section 70B of the *Crown Land Management Regulation 2018* Council obtained consent of the Minister administering the CLM Act to adopt this POM (see **Appendix 3**).

Prior to adoption, notice was given to the Chief Executive of the Office of Environment and Heritage as required under Section 36D(3)(d) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.



## 14 APPENDICES

1. Core Objectives for Categories of Community Land
2. Relevant State Environmental Planning Policies
3. Key steps in preparing the first POM for Crown Reserves.



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## 15 REFERENCES

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## Appendix 1

### CORE OBJECTIVES FOR CATEGORIES OF COMMUNITY LAND (*Local Government Act 1993*):

#### **36E Core objectives for management of community land categorised as a natural area**

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a natural area are:

- a. to conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised as a natural area, and
- b. to maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting, and
- c. to provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land, and
- d. to provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and
- e. to assist in and facilitate the implementation of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* or the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

#### **36F Core objectives for management of community land categorised as a sportsground**

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a sportsground are:

- a. to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and
- b. to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.

#### **36G Core objectives for management of community land categorised as a park**

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a park are:

- a. to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities, and
- b. to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and
- c. to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.

#### **36H Core objectives for management of community land categorised as an area of cultural significance**

1. The core objectives for management of community land categorised as an area of cultural significance are to retain and enhance the cultural significance of the area (namely its Aboriginal,



aesthetic, archaeological, historical, technical or research or social significance) for past, present or future generations by the active use of conservation methods.

2. Those conservation methods may include any or all of the following methods:
  - a. the continuous protective care and maintenance of the physical material of the land or of the context and setting of the area of cultural significance.
  - b. the restoration of the land, that is, the returning of the existing physical material of the land to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.
  - c. the reconstruction of the land, that is, the returning of the land as nearly as possible to a known earlier state.
  - d. the adaptive reuse of the land, that is, the enhancement or reinforcement of the cultural significance of the land by the introduction of sympathetic alterations or additions to allow compatible uses (that is, uses that involve no changes to the cultural significance of the physical material of the area, or uses that involve changes that are substantially reversible or changes that require a minimum impact).
  - e. the preservation of the land, that is, the maintenance of the physical material of the land in its existing state and the retardation of deterioration of the land.
3. A reference in subsection (2) to land includes a reference to any buildings erected on the land.

### **36I Core objectives for management of community land categorised as general community use**

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as general community use are to promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public:

- a. in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public, and
- b. in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).

### **36J Core objectives for management of community land categorised as bushland**

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as bushland are:

- a. to ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land, and
- b. to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and
- c. to promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed



- d. to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and
- e. to restore degraded bushland, and
- f. to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and
- g. to retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and
- h. to protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.

### **36K Core objectives for management of community land categorised as wetland**

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as wetland are:

- a. to protect the biodiversity and ecological values of wetlands, with particular reference to their hydrological environment (including water quality and water flow), and to the flora, fauna and habitat values of the wetlands, and
- b. to restore and regenerate degraded wetlands, and
- c. to facilitate community education in relation to wetlands, and the community use of wetlands, without compromising the ecological values of wetlands.

### **36L Core objectives for management of community land categorised as an escarpment**

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as an escarpment are:

- a. to protect any important geological, geomorphological or scenic features of the escarpment, and
- b. to facilitate safe community use and enjoyment of the escarpment.

### **36M Core objectives for management of community land categorised as a watercourse**

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a watercourse are:

- a. to manage watercourses so as to protect the biodiversity and ecological values of the instream environment, particularly in relation to water quality and water flows, and
- b. to manage watercourses so as to protect the riparian environment, particularly in relation to riparian vegetation and habitats and bank stability, and
- c. to restore degraded watercourses, and
- d. to promote community education, and community access to and use of the watercourse, without compromising the other core objectives of the category.

### **36N Core objectives for management of community land categorised as foreshore**

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as foreshore are:

- a. to maintain the foreshore as a transition area between the aquatic and the terrestrial environment,



- and to protect and enhance all functions associated with the foreshore's role as a transition area, and
- b. to facilitate the ecologically sustainable use of the foreshore, and to mitigate impact on the foreshore by community use.





## Appendix 2

### STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICIES WHICH ARE RELEVANT TO ANH

#### State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021

The *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021* (T&I SEPP) commenced in New South Wales on 1 March 2022 consolidating 4 earlier SEPPs focused on employment and advertising. The T&I SEPP focuses on:

- Infrastructure containing planning rules and controls for infrastructure in NSW, such as for hospitals, roads, railways, emergency services, water supply and electricity delivery.

The T&I SEPP provides that certain types of works do not require development consent under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Section 2.20 of the T&I SEPP provides that a range of works are “exempt development” when carried out for or on behalf of a public authority (including Gwydir Shire Council). These works are itemised in Schedule 1 of the SEPP and include paths and ramps for disabled access, fencing, firefighting emergency equipment, small decks, prefabricated sheds of up to 30m<sup>2</sup> in area, retaining walls up to 2m in height, landscaping including paving and access tracks, minor external and internal alterations to buildings, open car parks (size is not specified) and demolition of buildings covering an area of up to 100m<sup>2</sup>.

Section 2.74 of the T&I SEPP further provides that Development for any purpose may be carried out without consent on Crown managed land, by or on behalf of a Crown land manager of the land if the development is for the purposes of implementing a plan of management adopted for the land in accordance with the LG Act. Further, any of the following development may be carried out by or on behalf of a council without consent on a public reserve under the control of or vested in the council:

- a. development for any of the following purposes:
  - i. roads, pedestrian pathways, cycleways, single storey car parks, ticketing facilities, viewing platforms and pedestrian bridges
  - ii. recreation areas and recreation facilities (outdoor), but not including grandstands
  - iii. visitor information centres, information boards and other information facilities
  - iv. lighting, if light spill and artificial sky glow is minimised in accordance with the lighting for roads and public spaces standard
  - v. landscaping, including landscape structures or features (such as artwork) and irrigation systems
  - vi. amenities for people using the reserve, including toilets and change rooms
  - vii. food preparation and related facilities for people using the reserve
  - viii. maintenance depot
  - ix. portable lifeguard towers.
- b. environmental management works



- 
- c. demolition of buildings (other than any building that is, or is part of, a State or local heritage item or is within a heritage conservation area).
  - Educational establishments and childcare facilities containing planning for child-care centres, schools, TAFEs and Universities.
  - Major infrastructure corridors containing planning controls and reserve land for the protection of the three North South Rail Line, South West Rail Link extension and Western Sydney Freight Line corridors.
  - Three Ports containing the land-use planning and assessment framework for Port Botany, Port Kembla and the Port of Newcastle.

#### **State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008**

*State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008* (SEPP Exempt) provides that certain types of works do not require development consent under Part 4 of the EP&A Act. The General Exempt Development Code is set out in Division 1 of the SEPP Exempt, providing the limitations and conditions of the exemptions. They include:

- access ramps
- advertising and signage
- aerials, antennae and communication dishes
- air-conditioning units
- animal shelters
- aviaries
- awnings, blinds and canopies
- balconies, decks, patios, rotundas, terraces and verandahs
- barbecues and other outdoor cooking structures
- bollards
- charity bins and recycling bins
- earthworks, retaining walls and structural support
- fences
- flagpoles
- footpaths, pathways and paving
- fowl and poultry houses
- garbage bin storage enclosure
- hot water systems
- landscaping structures
- minor building alterations
- mobile food and drink outlets
- playground equipment
- screen enclosures
- sculptures and artworks
- temporary uses and structures
- waste storage containers

Section 1-16 of Division 2 of the SEPP Exempt provides the General Requirements for exempt development.



### State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021

The *State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021* (R&H SEPP) commenced in New South Wales on 1 March 2022 consolidating three earlier SEPPs focused on employment and advertising. The R&H SEPP focuses on:

- Coastal management for land use planning within the coastal zone consistent with the *Coastal Management Act 2016* and defines the coastal zone and establishes state-level planning priorities and development controls to guide decision-making for development within the coastal zone.

The aim of this Policy is to promote an integrated and co-ordinated approach to land use planning in the coastal zone in a manner consistent with the objects of the *Coastal Management Act 2016*, including the management objectives for each coastal management area, by:

- a. managing development in the coastal zone and protecting the environmental assets of the coast, and
  - b. establishing a framework for land use planning to guide decision-making in the coastal zone, and
  - c. mapping the four coastal management areas that comprise the NSW coastal zone for the purpose of the definitions in the *Coastal Management Act 2016*.
- the management of Hazardous and offensive development.
  - the provision of a state-wide planning framework for the remediation of contaminated land and to minimise the risk of harm.

### State Environmental Planning Policy (Industry and Employment) 2021

The *State Environmental Planning Policy (Industry and Employment) 2021* (I&E SEPP) commenced in New South Wales on 1 March 2022 consolidating two earlier SEPPs focused on employment and advertising. The I&E SEPP focuses on:

- Western Sydney employment area' contains planning rules and controls for the employment land within the Western Sydney
- Advertising and signage ensuring that signage (including advertising):
  - (i) is compatible with the desired amenity and visual character of an area, and
  - (ii) provides effective communication in suitable locations, and
  - (iii) is of high-quality design and finish.
  - to regulate signage (but not content) under Part 4 of the Act, and
  - to provide time-limited consents for the display of certain advertisements, and



- to regulate the display of advertisements in transport corridors, and
- to ensure that public benefits may be derived from advertising in and adjacent to transport corridors.

This Policy does not regulate the content of signage and does not require consent for a change in the content of signage.

### **State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021**

The *State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021* (B&C SEPP) commenced in New South Wales on 1 March 2022 consolidating 11 earlier SEPPs focused on biodiversity and conservation. The B&C SEPP focuses on:

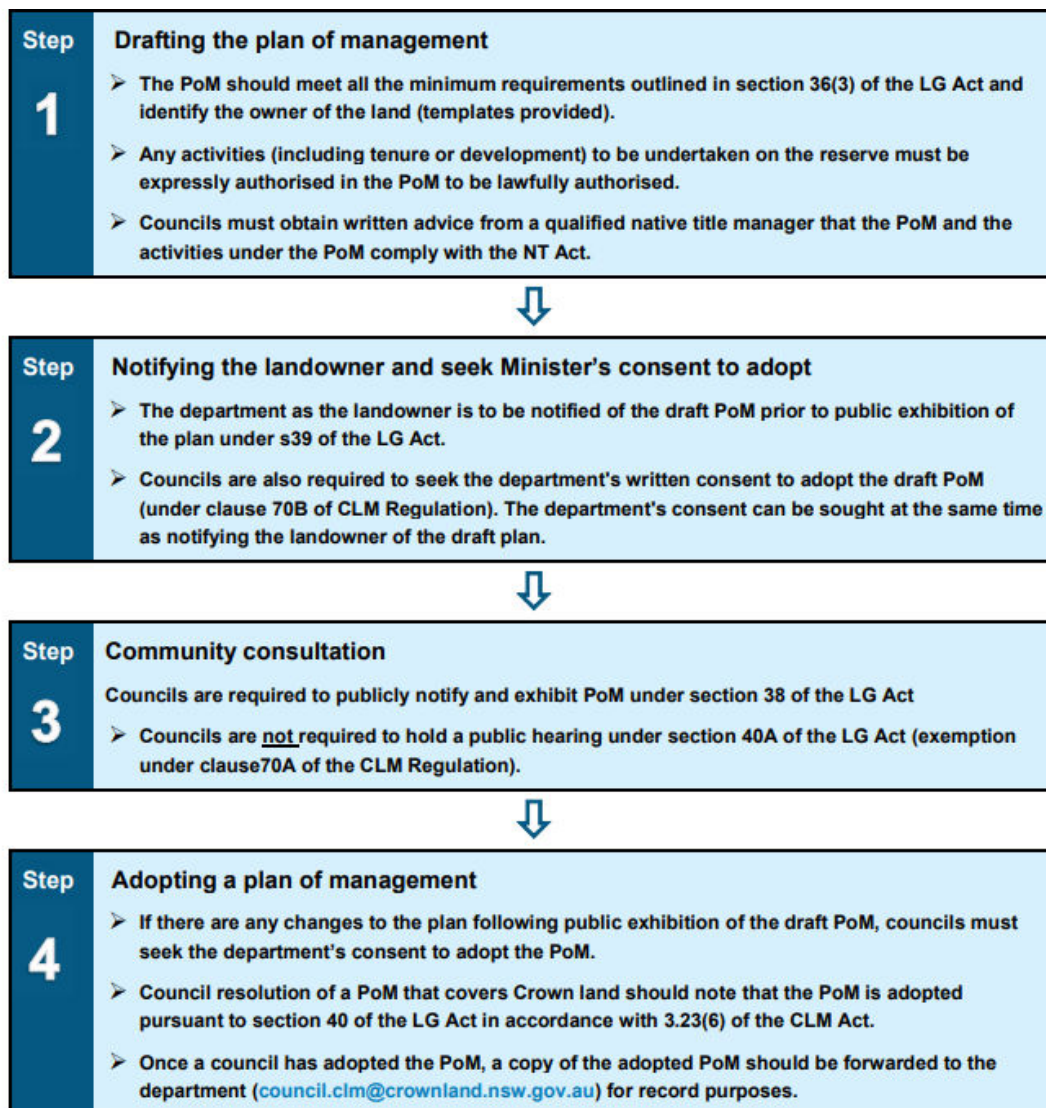
- Vegetation in non-rural areas containing planning rules and controls relating to the clearing of native vegetation in NSW on land zoned for urban and environmental purposes.
- Koala habitat protection:
  - across NSW core rural zones of RU1, RU2 and RU3 except within the Greater Sydney and Central Coast areas, and
  - within Metropolitan Sydney and the Central Coast and applies to all zones except RU1, RU2 and RU3.
- Environmental planning and assessment along the Murray River.
- Bushland in urban areas containing provisions to protect and preserve bushland within public open space zones and reservations.
- Prohibition of canal estate development.
- Water quality objectives in the Sydney drinking water catchment.
- Protect the environment of the Hawkesbury–Nepean River system.
- Management and improvement of environmental outcomes for Sydney Harbour and its tributaries.
- Management and promotion of integrated catchment management policies along the Georges River and its tributaries.
- Protection, conservation and management of the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Property.



## Appendix 3

### KEY STEPS IN PREPARING THE FIRST POM FOR CROWN RESERVES.

(From Page 5 – Developing plans of management for community land Crown reserves - NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.)





ABN : 11 607 533 862

Ms Carmen Southwell  
Gwydir Shire Council  
Locked Bag 5  
Bingara NSW 2404

Our Ref: 23.246v2  
13 November 2024

Via email: csouthwell@nambuccamidcoast.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Southwell

**Native Title Advice – All Nations Hill, Bingara - Plan of Management**

Lands Advisory Services (Landsas) has reviewed Gwydir Shire Council's (Council) draft Plan of Management for All Nations Hill, Bingara which was provided to me on 13 November 2024.

Please find my advice attached.

As the All Nations Hill Plan of Management involves the construction or establishment of a public work (noted in Section D3 of my report) Council is required to notify and give the opportunity to the Gomeri People as native title claimants and to NTSCORP as the representative aboriginal body for New South Wales under Section 24JB(6) of the *Native Title Act 1993*. In this regard notification was given on 27 June 2023 and the notification period expired on 25 July 2023. No comments were received.

In my opinion Gwydir Shire Council's Plan of Management for All Nations Hill, Bingara provided to me on 13 November 2024 complies with the applicable provisions of the native title legislation.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Barnes".

Craig Barnes  
Native Title Manager  
Managing Director - Lands Advisory Services Pty Ltd

---

Lands Advisory Services Pty Ltd  
PO Box 2317 Dangar NSW 2309  
E : craig.barnes@landsas.com.au T : 0428 474 542

## Native Title Advice

### A. Proposed Act

This report considers the adoption of Gwydir Shire Council's Plan of Management for All Nations Hill, Bingara (ANHPoM) provided to me on 13 November 2024 (see **Tag A** for cover).

### B. Summary

The adoption of Gwydir Shire Council's Plan of Management for All Nations Hill, Bingara authorises acts which will or may impact native title.

#### Future acts requiring further advice

However, the ANHPoM requires that prior to final individual approval some of those acts require further native title manager advice, being the issuing of leases, licences and permits other than those listed in Section D4 of this report and development other than is listed in Section D2.

The ANHPoM also requires that prior to any public work or easement being approved the requirements of the *Native Title Act 1993*, and in particular to the notification and opportunity to comment requirements under Section 24JB, are addressed.

#### Future acts not requiring further advice

As the ANHPoM involves the construction or establishment of a public work (noted in Section D3) Council is required to notify and give the opportunity to comment to the Gomeroi People as native title claimants and to NTSCORP as the representative aboriginal body for New South Wales under Section 24JB(6) of the *Native Title Act 1993*. In this regard notification was given on 27 June 2023 and the notification period expired on 25 July 2023 (see **Tag G**). No comments were received.

The development listed in Section D3 of this report is a valid future act under Section 24JA of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

Leases and licences listed in Section D4 of this report are valid future acts under Section 24JA of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

Other uses set out in the ANHPoM (see Section D1), are valid future acts under Section 24JA of the *Native Title Act 1993* or do not impact native title.

In my opinion the **Gwydir Shire Council's ANHPoM** provided to me on 13 November 2024 **complies with the applicable provisions of the native title legislation.**

Should native title not prove to be extinguished by a prior act, any native title holders may be entitled to compensation for the act, in the event of a determination that native title exists in the land, and Council may be liable to indemnify the State in the payment of any compensation.



**C. Basis of Advice**

The land, subject to the proposed act (the Land), is held by the State of New South Wales is Crown land under the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (CLMA) (see **Tag B**).<sup>1</sup> The Land is listed in Table 1 showing the purpose for which the land is reserved with the legislation employed in the reservation process.

*Table 1 - Crown land affected*

Reserve Name	Lot / DPs	Reserve / Purpose / Gazette Date	Legislative Base
All Nations Hill	Pt 15 / 821211 <sup>2</sup>	R.94632 – Preservation of Historical Sites and Buildings – 1 May 1981 (see <b>Tag D</b> )	Section 28 <i>Crown Lands Consolidation Act 1913</i>

**Crown Land Management Act**

1. The Council of the Shire of Bingara was appointed trustee of R.94632 on 1 May 1981 under Section 37P of the *Crown Lands Consolidation Act 1913* (see **Tag E**).

Salter's Inn Museum (R94632) Reserve Trust was the corporate name assigned to the reserve trust under Clause 4(3) of Schedule 8 of the *Crown Lands Act 1989* on 23 November 1990 (see **Tag F**).

Following various legislative changes in the management of Crown land, and changes in the areas and names of local government authorities Gwydir Shire Council is now Crown land manager of R.94632 for the purposes of the CLMA.

2. A search of the National Native Title Tribunal Registers on 26 June 2023 indicates:
  - there is a current native title application (claim) over the subject Land by the Gomeri People registered as NC2011/006 by the National Native Title Tribunal on 20 December 2011.
  - no determination of native title has yet been made, and
  - no Indigenous Land Use Agreements have been registered
3. We are not aware of any compulsory acquisitions of native title or future act protection determinations which would impact the R.94632.
4. We are not aware of the any native title certificates under the CLMA having been issued.
5. For the purposes of Section 8.7(1) of the CLMA:
  - R.94632 is *relevant land*,
  - none of R.94632 is *excluded land*,
  - Gwydir Shire Council is the *responsible person* for R.94632.

<sup>1</sup> **Tag B** includes title to Lot 15 DP 821211.

<sup>2</sup> See **Tag C** for DP 821211.

**D. Does the proposed act affect native title?**

The relevant act, the adoption of the ANHPoM, may occur at some further stage and authorises further acts which may affect native title.

**1. The ANHPoM authorises use for the following purposes:**

- Access roads
- Amenities
- Alternate energy technology
- Art and cultural classes and events
- Business Operations
- Car parking
- Children's programs and events
- Community events (fundraising/charity events, special events)
- Community Services
- Dog training and exercise
- Drainage and irrigation
- Education Services
- Emergency use
- Filming and photography (commercial, amateur)
- Landscaping
- Maintenance buildings and infrastructure
- Mobile food vendors
- Passive recreation
- Paths
- Playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward
- Private events (i.e., weddings, birthdays)
- Public performance or education
- Public utility infrastructure
- Remediation works
- Shade structures
- Sponsorship signage (temporary)
- Telecommunication facilities
- Temporary structures (i.e., marquees, tents, stages)
- Youth programs and events

**2. The ANHPoM also authorises impacting acts for development being to:**

- install skillion roof.
- install hand washing facility in conjunction with installed water supply.
- apply rock bollards to restrict further vehicular access.
- rehabilitate and revegetate the turning circle section of gravel track which extends between the Stamper Battery and picnic shelter. Place rock bollard to avoid further vehicular use of that section.
- redesign components of the picnic shelter to allow easier access and use by disabled visitors, avoiding any benches and other blockages to easy use by wheelchairs.
- level and seal ground surface around the slab of the picnic shelter also allowing easy wheelchair access.
- install solar lighting for casual use of shelter to enable some illumination around shelter.
- install new signage which tells the history/story of the mine and the Stamper Battery (1860-1948) – an information board.

3. The ANHPoM also authorises further impacting acts being leases, licenses, permits or other estates for:

- Access roads
- Amenities
- Alternate energy technology
- Art and cultural classes and events
- Business Operations
- Car parking
- Children’s programs and events
- Community events (fundraising/charity events, special events)
- Community Services
- Dog training and exercise
- Drainage and irrigation
- Education Services
- Emergency use
- Filming and photography (commercial, amateur)
- Landscaping
- Maintenance buildings and infrastructure
- Mobile food vendors
- Passive recreation
- Paths
- Playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward
- Private events (i.e., weddings, birthdays)
- Public performance or education
- Public utility infrastructure
- Remediation works
- Shade structures
- Sponsorship signage (temporary)
- Telecommunication facilities
- Temporary structures (i.e., marquees, tents, stages)
- Youth programs and events
- for purposes consistent with the Gwydir Riverside Bingara;
  - categorisation, and
  - land zoning under Section 46 of the LG Act, and
  - reserve purpose of Preservation of Historical Sites and Buildings or a relevant interest as required under the CLM Act.
- and for purposes under the *Crown Land Management Regulation 2018*

4. The ANHPoM also specifically authorises further impacting acts being leases, licenses, permits or other estates as follows:

- a. Short term licenses or permits for:
- access roads
  - access through a reserve
  - advertising
  - alternate energy technology
  - amenities
  - art and cultural classes and events
  - car parking
  - catering
  - children’s programs and events
  - community events (fundraising/charity events, special events)
  - community services
  - drainage and irrigation
  - education services
  - emergency use
  - entertainment
  - environmental protection conservation or restoration or environmental studies
  - filming (as defined in the LG Act)
  - filming and photography (commercial, amateur)
  - landscaping

- maintenance buildings and infrastructure
- mobile food vendors
- passive recreation
- paths
- playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward
- private events (i.e., weddings, birthdays)
- public performance or education
- public utility infrastructure
- remediation works
- shade structures
- site investigations
- sponsorship signage (temporary)
- storage.
- telecommunication facilities
- temporary structures (i.e., marquees, tents, stages)
- youth programs and events

**E. Land Status**

Table 1 shows the current reserve status of the land.

The relevant acts listed in Section A of this report, being acts defined in Section 226 of the *Native Title Act 1993*, may affect native title.

The relevant acts are not past acts which would extinguish native title for the purposes of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

**F. Future Act Regime**

1. Subdivisions B – E do not apply. There are no existing Indigenous Land Use Agreements in place over any of the affected land.
2. Subdivision F does not apply. No non-claimant application has been previously made.
3. Subdivision G does not apply. The relevant act is unrelated to primary production.
4. Subdivision H does not apply. The relevant act does not relate to the management or regulation of surface and subterranean water, living aquatic resources or airspace.
5. Subdivision I does not apply. We have found no evidence that the relevant act is part of a continuance of tenures issued consecutively from prior to 23 December 1996.
6. Subdivision JA does not apply. The relevant act does not relate to public housing.
7. Subdivision J applies. Table 2 shows the requirements to satisfy Subdivision J and how that requirement is satisfied.

*Table 2 - Requirements for an Act to be valid under Subdivision J*

Requirement	Section	Comment
The earlier act took place before the later act and on or before 23 December 1996.	24JA(1)(a)	<u>Requirement satisfied.</u> The gazette date for R.94632 took place before 23 December 1996 (see Table 1).

Requirement	Section	Comment
The earlier act was valid.	24JA(1)(b)	<u>Requirement satisfied.</u> The reservation of R.94632 was valid. (See Table 1 notations for earlier act legislative base).  A reservation under Section 28 of the <i>Crown Land Consolidation Act 1913</i> was valid if the Minister notified the reservation in the Gazette.
The earlier act was done by the Crown in right of the Commonwealth, a State or Territory; or consisted of the making, amendment or repeal of legislation.	24JA(1)(c)	<u>Requirement satisfied.</u> The earlier act was undertaken by the responsible State Minister.
The earlier act contained, made or conferred a reservation, proclamation, dedication, condition, permission or authority (the reservation) under which the whole or part of any land or waters was to be used for a particular purpose.	24JA(1)(d)	<u>Requirement satisfied.</u> R.94632 was for a particular purpose of Preservation of Historical Sites and Buildings.
The later act is done in good faith: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. under or in accordance with the reservation; or</li> <li>ii. in the area covered by the reservation, so long as the act's impact on native title is no greater than the impact that any act that could have been done under or in accordance with the reservation would have had.</li> </ol>	24JA(1)(e)	<u>Requirement satisfied.</u> In my opinion the proposed acts will be undertaken in accordance with the reservation purpose or have no greater impact on native title than the impact that any act that could have been done under or in accordance with R.94632 would have had.

**G. Further Native Title Manager Advice**

Further native title manager advice will be required prior to issuing approval for future acts listed in D(3) but not specified in D(4).

Any public works proposed but not listed in D(2) will require that notification and opportunity to comment be given to NTSCORP as the representative Aboriginal /Torres Strait Islander body and the Gomeri People being native title claimants.

**H. Consequences**

1. The acts are valid.
2. Apart from that noted in Section (G) any uses, developments and tenures authorised by the ANHPoM and not requiring further native title manager advice will either have no impact on native title or be valid under Section 24JA of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

See Section D of this report for this list of uses etc.

3. Where the proposed act is the establishment or construction of a public work, Native title will be extinguished over the footprint and curtilage of the works. A public work is defined as:
- (a) *any of the following that is constructed or established by or on behalf of the Crown, or a local government body or other statutory authority of the Crown, in any of its capacities:*
    - (i) *a building, or other structure (including a memorial), that is a fixture; or*
    - (ii) *a road, railway or bridge; or*
    - (ia) *where the expression is used in or for the purposes of Division 2 or 2A of Part 2--a stock-route; or*
    - (iii) *a well, or bore, for obtaining water; or*
    - (iv) *any major earthworks; or*
  - (b) *a building that is constructed with the authority of the Crown, other than on a lease.*

Major earthworks are defined as:

*earthworks (other than in the course of mining) whose construction causes major disturbance to the land, or to the bed or subsoil under waters.*

4. Under Subdivision J of the future act provisions of the *Native Title Act 1993*, notification and the right to comment is required if the relevant act consists of the construction or establishment of a public work.

As ANHoM involves the construction or establishment of a public work (noted in Section D3) Council is required to notify and give the opportunity to comment to the Gomeroi People being native title claimants and to NTSCORP as the representative aboriginal body for New South Wales under Section 24JB(6) of the *Native Title Act 1993*. In this regard notification was given on 27 June 2023 (see **Tag G**) and the notification period expired on 25 July 2023. No comments were received.

5. In the event of a future native title determination where native title is found to exist, native title holders may be entitled to compensation. Compensation will be payable by the State. Council may be liable to indemnify the State for such compensation.



## PLAN OF MANAGEMENT ALL NATIONS HILL BINGARA



March 2023





**LAND  
REGISTRY  
SERVICES**

Title Search

Information Provided Through  
triSearch (Website)  
Ph. 1300 064 452 Fax.

NEW SOUTH WALES LAND REGISTRY SERVICES - TITLE SEARCH

FOLIO: 15/821211

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SEARCH DATE	TIME	EDITION NO	DATE
27/6/2023	11:13 AM	-	-

LAND

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LOT 15 IN DEPOSITED PLAN 821211  
AT BINGARA  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA GWYDIR  
PARISH OF BINGARA COUNTY OF MURCHISON  
TITLE DIAGRAM DP821211

FIRST SCHEDULE

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THE STATE OF NEW SOUTH WALES (CA163689)

SECOND SCHEDULE (1 NOTIFICATION)

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- \* 1 LIMITED TITLE. LIMITATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 28T(4) OF THE REAL PROPERTY ACT, 1900. THE BOUNDARIES OF THE LAND COMPRISED HEREIN HAVE NOT BEEN INVESTIGATED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL.

NOTATIONS

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UNREGISTERED DEALINGS: NIL

\*\*\* END OF SEARCH \*\*\*

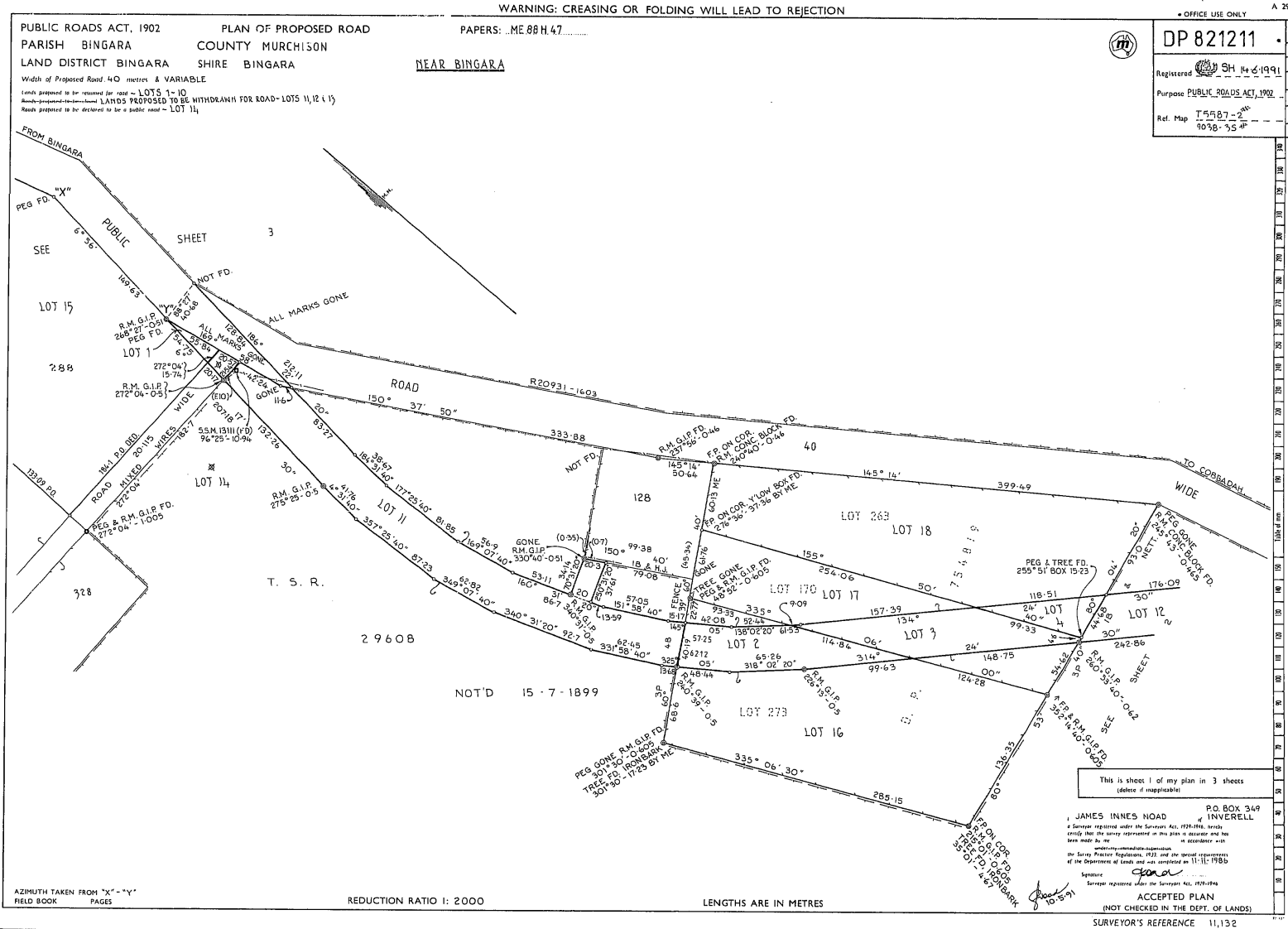
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PRINTED ON 27/6/2023

\* Any entries preceded by an asterisk do not appear on the current edition of the Certificate of Title. Warning: the information appearing under notations has not been formally recorded in the Register. InfoTrack an approved NSW Information Broker hereby certifies that the information contained in this document has been provided electronically by the Registrar General in accordance with Section 96B(2) of the Real Property Act 1900.

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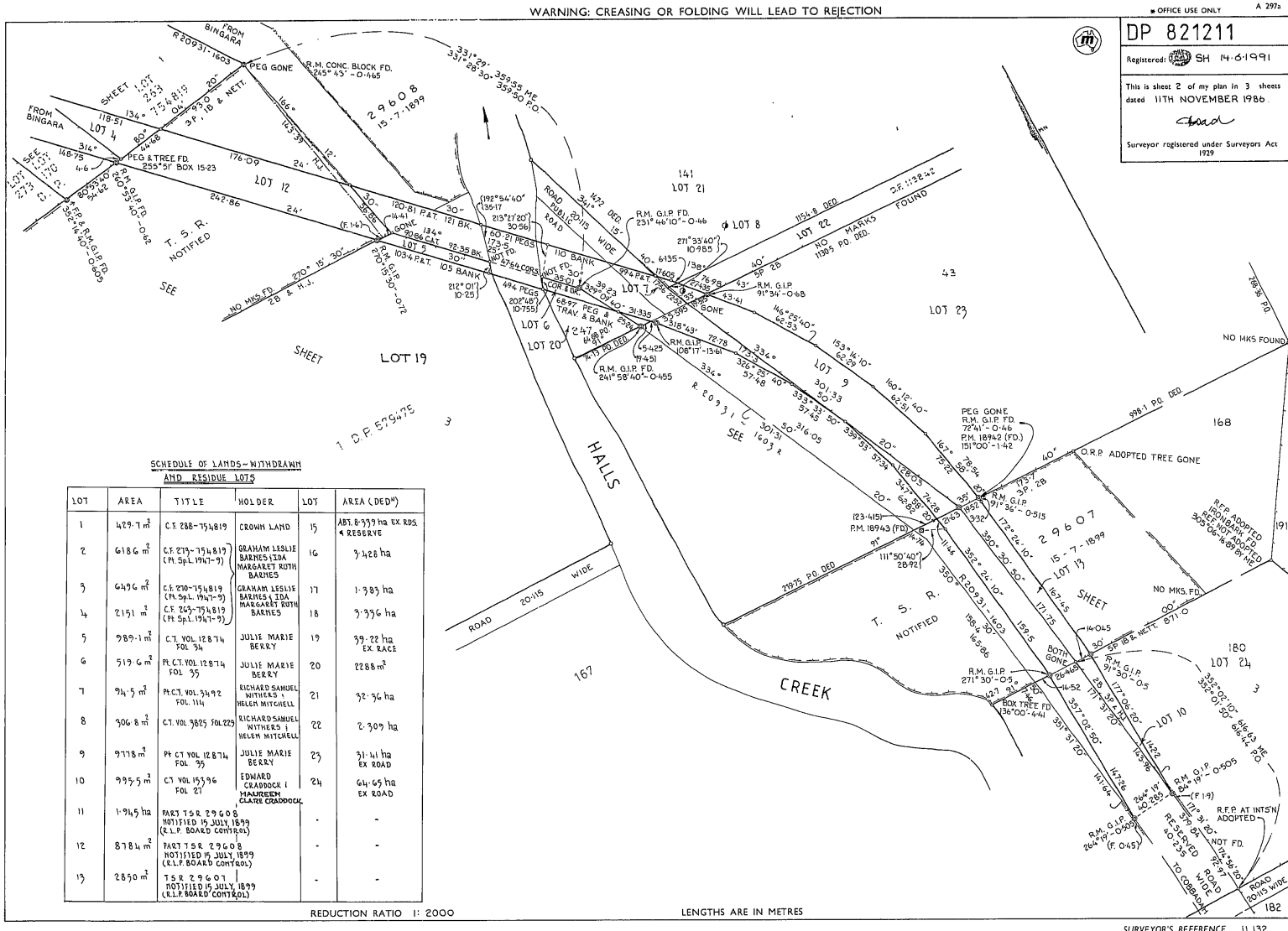


Reg: R222794 /Doc: DP 821211 P /Rev: 10-Nov-1992 /NSW LRS /Egs: ALL /Prt: 27-Mar-2023 09:08 /Seq: 1 of 3  
© Office of the Registrar-General /Sec: Infotrack /Ref: 18.1112



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17th June, 1991

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WARNING: CREASING OR FOLDING WILL LEAD TO REJECTION

OFFICE USE ONLY A 297a

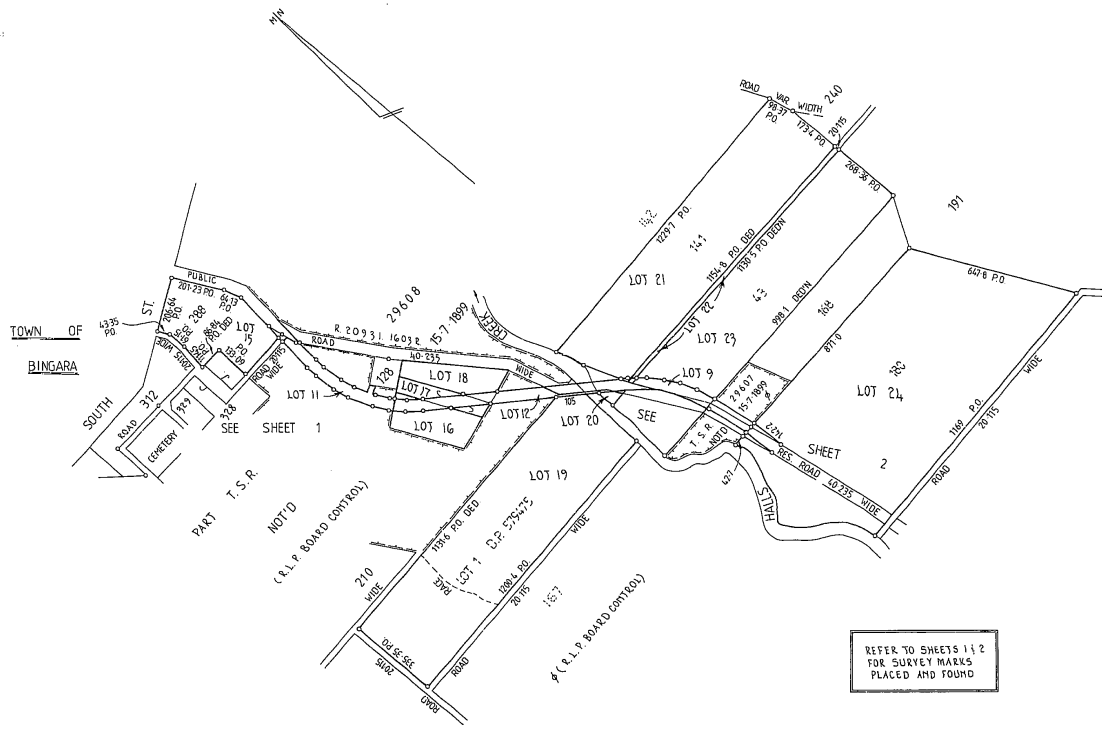


DP 821211

Registered SH 14-6-1991

This is sheet 3 of my plan in 3 sheets dated 11th NOVEMBER, 1989

Surveyor registered under Surveyors Act 1929



REFER TO SHEETS 1 & 2 FOR SURVEY MARKS PLACED AND FOUND

REDUCTION RATIO 1:10,000

LENGTHS ARE IN METRES

SURVEYOR'S REFERENCE 11,132

Req:R322794 /Doc:DP 821211.P /Rev:10-Nov-1992 /NSW LRS /Egs:ALL /Prt:27-Mar-2023 09:08 /Seq:3 of 3  
© Office of the Registrar-General /Sec:Infotrack /Ref:16.1112

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Tag D

1 MAY, 1981]

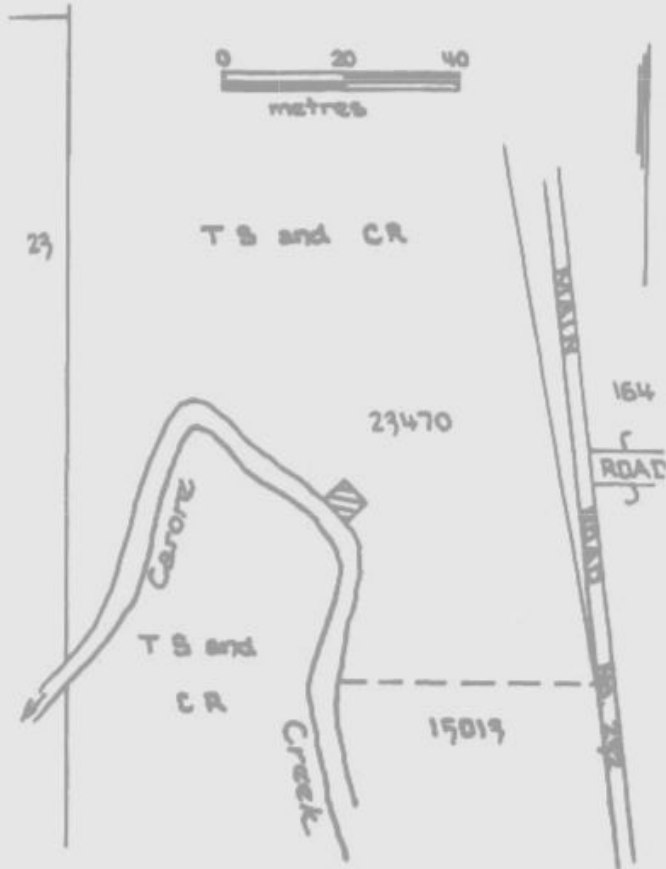
NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT GAZETTE No. 64

2487

*Land Board District and Pastures Protection District—Moree*

Parish Bogree, County Courallie, Reserve No. 23470 for Travelling Stock and Camping.

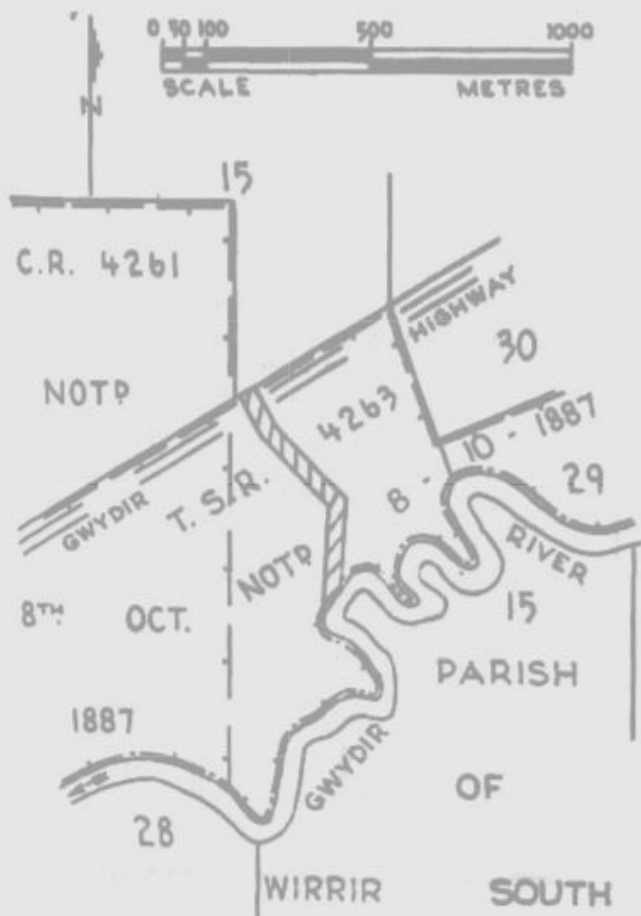
Part withdrawn—Area shown by hatching on diagram hereunder. ME79 H 40.



(Placed under control, Gazette, 9th September, 1932.)

Parish Wirra North, County Benarba, Reserve No. 4263 for Travelling Stock.

Part withdrawn—About 2.75 hectares shown by hatching on diagram hereunder. ME79 H 226.

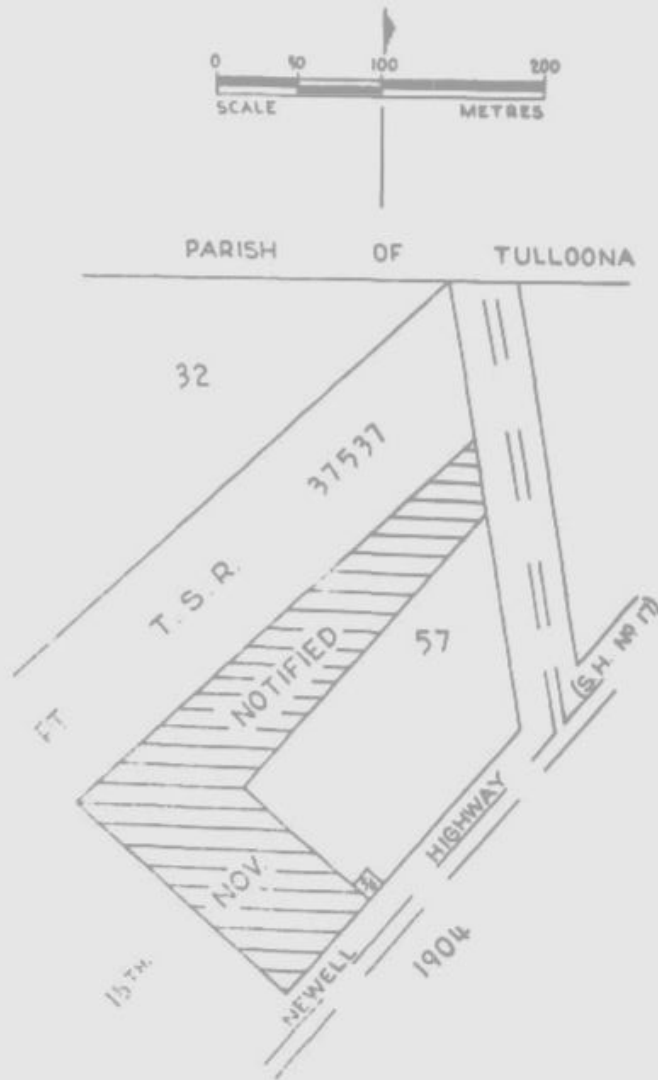


(Placed under control, Gazette, 1st September, 1933.)

*Land Board District—Moree; Pastures Protection District—Wyallda*

Parish Warra Warrama, County Stapylton, Reserve No. 37537 for Travelling Stock.

Part withdrawn—About 2.3 hectares shown by hatching on diagram hereunder. ME80 H 826.



(Placed under control, Gazette, 29th May, 1936.)

(9720) Sydney, 1st May, 1981.

**RESERVE FROM AFTER AUCTION PURCHASE**

IN pursuance of the provisions of section 29, Crown Lands Consolidation Act, 1913, I declare that the land described hereunder shall be reserved from sale in the manner specified.

A. R. L. GORDON, Minister for Lands.

*Land District—Lithgow; City—Greater Lithgow*

No. 94730, Parish Cullen Bullen, County Roxburgh, at Portland, 2 023 square metres, being portion 135. OE80 H 2131.

(9718) Sydney, 1st May, 1981.

**RESERVES FROM SALE**

IN pursuance of the provisions of section 28, Crown Lands Consolidation Act, 1913, I declare that the Crown lands described hereunder shall be reserved from sale for the public purposes specified and such lands are reserved accordingly.

A. R. L. GORDON, Minister for Lands.

**FOR ACCESS**

*Land District and Shire—Gloucester*

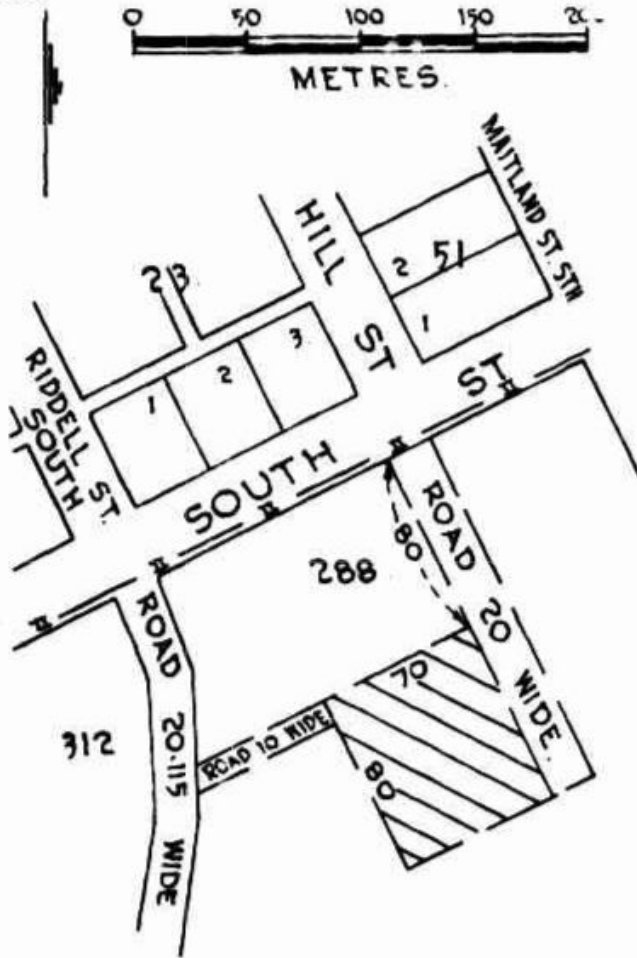
No. 94636, Parish Craven, County Gloucester, 3.53 hectares, being lot 126, D.P. 43056 and portion 118. TE80 H 2461.

No. 94637, Parish Verulam, County Gloucester, 4.255 hectares, being lot 131, D.P. 41176, lots 134 and 135, D.P. 41177 and lot 136, D.P. 41178. TE79 H 305.



**FOR PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL SITES AND BUILDINGS**

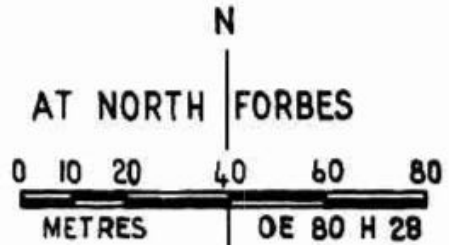
*Land District and Shire—Bingara*  
 No. 94632, Parish Bingara, County Murchison, 5 600 square metres, shown by hatching on diagram hereunder. L.B. 77-85. Morec.



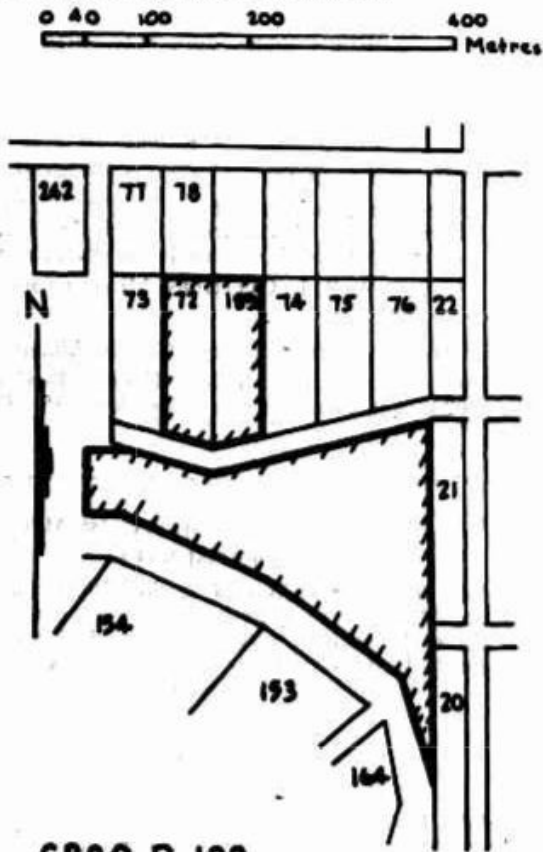
*Land District—Metropolitan; Shire—Warringah*  
 No. 94634, Parish Manly Cove, County Cumberland, 6 569 square metres, being lot 1, D.P. 40426, at Pound Avenue, Kambora Avenue and Aranda Drive, Davidson. HO80 R 408.

**FOR WATER SUPPLY**

*Land District and Shire—Forbes*  
 No. 94635, Parish Forbes, County Ashburnham, 4 281 square metres at North Forbes, shown by hatching on diagram hereunder. OE80 H 28.



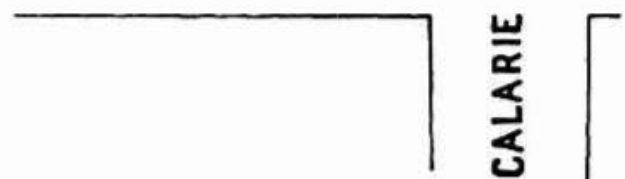
**FOR PUBLIC RECREATION**  
*Land District—Braidwood; Shire—Tallaganda*  
 No. 94633, Parish Boyle, County St Vincent, about 7.5 hectares, in two parts, being the land shown by hatched edging on diagram hereunder. GB80 R 128.



**GB80 R 128**

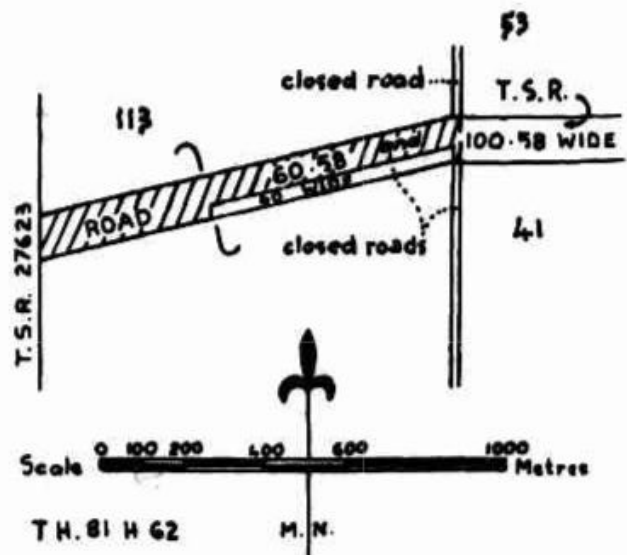
NOTE: Reserves 85652 and 89752 for Future Public Requirements, notified 11th February, 1960 and 19th March, 1976, respectively, are hereby revoked.

**WYNDHAM AVENUE**



**FOR TRAVELLING STOCK**

*Land District and Shire—Gunnedah*  
 No. 94638, Parish Wallala, County Buckland, about 8.4 hectares, shown by hatching on diagram hereunder. TH81 H 62.



(9698) Department of Mineral Resources,  
Sydney, 10th April, 1981.

COAL MINES REGULATION ACT, 1912.—NOTICE

Paper No.: M. 81-1230

Approval No.: MDA PD 116

IN accordance with the provisions of section 79A and General Rule 49, section 54, under the above Act, approval is hereby given for the protective device shown on Horwood Bagshaw Ltd drawings listed below:

- 9000415 dated 12th January, 1981 Issue A.
- 9090236 dated 21st January, 1981.
- 9090237 & 8 not dated.
- 9090244 dated 23rd January, 1981.

9090245 dated 30th January, 1981.

9090246 dated 27th January, 1981.

9090251 dated 23rd January, 1981.

under approval number MDA PD 116 as a type of device in respect of Model 3KM Loader class of vehicle, that should prevent any person being carried in any part of the vehicle which is designed to carry a person from being injured if any of the supports of the mine were to fall in the vicinity of that part of the vehicle while it is in operation in a coal mine, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The approval number shall be clearly and permanently displayed on the device.
- (b) There shall be no variation in the design, construction or material of the device without my prior approval.

M. J. MUIR, Chief Inspector of Coal Mines.

LANDS DEPARTMENT NOTICES

(9724) Sydney, 1st May, 1981.  
APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES OF COMMONS

IN pursuance of the provisions of the Commons Regulation Act, 1898, the undermentioned persons are appointed as trustees of the Commons hereinafter particularized and will hold office until the next general election of trustees.

A. R. L. GORDON, Minister for Lands.

*Breeza Common:* Norman Bruce King, Noel Douglas Mills, Donald Douglas Dunning, Bruce Allan Rootes and Ernest John Barnes. TH79 H 105.

*Wallabadah Common:* Frederick Charles Taylor, Lionel Clem Barnett, Stephen Graham Webber, Claude Charles Lobsey and Ewen Roy McLean. TH79 H 389.

(9715) Sydney, 1st May, 1981.  
APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

IN pursuance of the provisions of section 370, Crown Lands Consolidation Act, 1913, the undermentioned persons are appointed to be trustees of the reserves particularized hereunder.

A. R. L. GORDON, Minister for Lands.

*Land District—Blayney; Shire—Evans  
Parish—Jeremy; County—Georgiana*

Reserve 4212 for Public Recreation at Burruga, notified 29th October, 1887: Kevin John Pearce, William Edward Klower and Roger James Booth. OE80 R 347.

*Land District and City—Goulburn  
Parish—Towrang; County—Argyle*

Reserve 72087 for Public Recreation at Goulburn, notified 13th December, 1946: Patrick Leslie Dixon in place of Keith William Sharp. GB81 R 17.

*Land District and Shire—Inverell  
Parish—Clive; County—Gough*

Reserves 37860 and 77683 for Public Recreation, notified 25th June, 1904, and 10th June, 1955, and Reserve 89717 for Public Recreation and Public Hall, notified 30th January, 1976, at Gilgai: Robert Tootell in place of James Cook. AE80 R 84.

*Land District—Inverell; Shire—Guyra  
Parish—Swinton; County—Hardinge*

Reserve 82618 for Public Baths at Tingha, notified 10th June, 1960: William John Mallise in place of Thomas Arthur Orchard. AE81 R 28.

*Land District and Shire—Scone  
Parish—Chalmers; County—Durham*

Reserve 50023 for Public Recreation at Woolooma, notified 24th June, 1914: Earle Thomas Cone, Robin Carlyle Carter and Norman John Cone in place of E. J. C. Carter, A. R. Cone, A. A. Cone, P. J. Campbell and R. M. Cone. MD79 R 88.

*Land District—Windsor; City—Blue Mountains  
Parishes—Irvine, Bilpin and Bowen; County—Cook*

Reserve 85173 for Public Recreation at Mt Wilson, notified 8th January, 1965: John Seymour Teulon in place of T. H. Vidler. MN80 R 184.

(9713) Sydney, 1st May, 1981.  
APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

IN pursuance of the provisions of section 37P, Crown Lands Consolidation Act, 1913, the undermentioned corporations are appointed to be sole trustees of the reserves particularized hereunder.

A. R. L. GORDON, Minister for Lands.

*Land District and Shire—Bingara  
Parish—Bingara; County—Murchison*

Reserve 94632 for Preservation of Historical Sites and Buildings at Bingara, notified this day: *The Council of the Shire of Bingara.* L.B. 77-85, Moree.

*Land District—Braidwood; Shire—Tallaganda  
Parish—Boyle; County—St Vincent*

Reserve 94633 for Public Recreation at Braidwood, notified this day: *The Council of the Shire of Tallaganda.* GB80 R 128.

*Land District and Shire—Forbes  
Parish—Forbes; County—Ashburnham*

Reserve 94635 for Water Supply at North Forbes, notified this day: *Central Tablelands County Council.* OE80 H 28.

*Land District—Picton; Shire—Wollondilly  
Parish—Courldjah; County—Camden*

The area dedicated for Public Recreation on 21st August, 1897, being part of the area known as Thirlmere Sports Ground: *The Council of the Shire of Wollondilly.* MN80 R 100.

*Land District and Shire—Urana  
Parish—Mahonga; County—Hume*

Reserve 94639 for Public Hall at Rand, notified this day: *The Council of the Shire of Urana.* WA80 R 159.

*Land District and City—Wagga Wagga  
Parish—Tywong; County—Wynyard*

Reserve 94640 for Bush Fire Brigade Purposes at Ladysmith, notified this day: *The Council of the City of Wagga Wagga.* WA80 R 213.

*Land District and Shire—Walcha  
Parish—Enfield; County—Vernon*

Reserve 94641 for Bush Fire Brigade Purposes at Yarrawitch, notified this day: *The Council of the Shire of Uralla.* AE81 R 2.

(9726) Sydney, 1st May, 1981.  
FORFEITURE OF HOLDINGS

IN pursuance of the provisions of the Crown Lands Consolidation Act, 1913, I declare the undermentioned holdings forfeited. The forfeitures shall not take effect until the expiration of thirty clear days after this notification.

A. R. L. GORDON, Minister for Lands.

*Land District—Balranald South; Shire—Wakool*

Parish and Village Tooleybuc, County Wakool, Special Lease 1945-2, portion 63 of 5.66 hectares; holder, Mary Catherine Haeusler. HY80 H 415.

Parish Tooleybuc, County Wakool, Special Lease 1947-2, portion 47 of 8.094 hectares; holder, Mary Catherine Haeusler. HY80 H 580.



**ASSIGNMENT OF CORPORATE NAMES TO RESERVE TRUSTS**

Pursuant to Clause 4(3) of Schedule 8 of the Crown Lands Act, 1989 the corporate name in Column C is assigned to the reserve trust constituted for the reserve or dedication specified opposite thereto in Columns A and B.

GARRY WEST, M.P.,  
MINISTER FOR TOURISM, LANDS AND FORESTS

DUBBO LANDS OFFICE

**PART 1. RESERVES**

COLUMN A NUMBER	COLUMN B LOCATION	COLUMN C CORPORATE NAME	COLUMN D TRUST MANAGER
11	COOLAH	QUEENSBOROUGH PARK WEST (R11) RESERVE TRUST	COOLAH SHIRE COUNCIL
1592	MENDOORAN	BRAMBIL PARK (R1592) RESERVE TRUST	COOLAH SHIRE COUNCIL
1995	GIRILAMBONE	GIRILAMBONE RECREATION (R1995) RESERVE TRUST	BOGAN SHIRE COUNCIL
2100	NEVERTIRE	NEVERTIRE PARK (R2100) RESERVE TRUST	WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL
5890	DUBBO	DUBBO RIVERBANK (R5890) RESERVE TRUST	DUBBO CITY COUNCIL
16121	WARREN	VICTORIA OVAL (R16121) RESERVE TRUST	WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL
19729	EUCHAREENA	EUCHAREENA RECREATION (R19729) RESERVE TRUST	WELLINGTON SHIRE COUNCIL
20772	HOLLAR	HARRY HARVEY MEMORIAL PARK (R20772) RESERVE TRUST	MUDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
24311	DUBBO	DUBBO GAOL (R24311) RESERVE TRUST	DUBBO CITY COUNCIL
24511	COONAMBLE	WARRENA WEIR RECREATION (R24511) RESERVE TRUST	COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL
34976	COLLARENEBRI	COLLARENEBRI CARAVAN PARK (R34976) RESERVE TRUST	WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL
36399	BARADINE	BARADINE SPORTS OVAL (R36399) RESERVE TRUST	COONABARABRAN SHIRE COUNCIL
40891	MUDGE	VICTORIA PARK (R40891) RESERVE TRUST	MUDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
42238	GEURIE	TOM CULKIN OVAL (R42238) RESERVE TRUST	WELLINGTON SHIRE COUNCIL
42933	DRIPSTONE	DRIPSTONE RECREATION (R42933) RESERVE TRUST	WELLINGTON SHIRE COUNCIL
45013	QUAMBONE	QUAMBONE RACECOURSE (R45013) RESERVE TRUST	COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL
46099	DUBBO	DUBBO RECREATION (R46099) RESERVE TRUST	DUBBO CITY COUNCIL
46646	COONABARABRAN	COONABARABRAN RACECOURSE (R46646) RESERVE TRUST	COONABARABRAN SHIRE COUNCIL
46722	DUNEDOO	LIONS CARAVAN PARK (R46722) RESERVE TRUST	COOLAH SHIRE COUNCIL

23 November 1990

OFFICIAL NOTICES

10211

COLUMN A NUMBER	COLUMN B LOCATION	COLUMN C CORPORATE NAME	COLUMN D TRUST MANAGER
94493	NARRABRI	COOMA OVAL (R94493) RESERVE TRUST	NARRABRI SHIRE COUNCIL
94622	NARRABRI	GATELY FIELD (R94622) RESERVE TRUST	NARRABRI SHIRE COUNCIL
94632	BINGARA	SALTERS INN MUSEUM (R94632) RESERVE TRUST	BINGARA SHIRE COUNCIL
95523	MOREE	JELLCOE PARK (R95523) RESERVE TRUST	MOREE PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL
95528	MUNGINDI	MUNGINDI RUBBISH DEPOT (R95528) RESERVE TRUST	MOREE PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL
95529	MUNGINDI	MUNGINDI RUBBISH DEPOT (R95529) RESERVE TRUST	MOREE PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL
95763	WARIALDA	WARIALDA LOCAL GOVERNMENT (R95763) RESERVE TRUST	YALLAROI SHIRE COUNCIL
96798	GRAVESEND	GRAVESEND (R96798) RESERVE TRUST	YALLAROI SHIRE COUNCIL
96808	NARRABRI	NARRABRI SEWERAGE (R96808) RESERVE TRUST	NARRABRI SHIRE COUNCIL
96869	MOREE	ASHLEY RUBBISH DEPOT (R96869) RESERVE TRUST	MOREE PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL
97298	WARIALDA	WARIALDA POUND (R97298) RESERVE TRUST	YALLAROI SHIRE COUNCIL
97683	MUNGINDI	MUNGINDI RECREATION (R97683) RESERVE TRUST	MOREE PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL
97769	GRAVESEND	GRAVESEND BUSH FIRE BRIGADE (R97769) RESERVE TRUST	YALLAROI SHIRE COUNCIL
98032	ROMENA	ROMENA RECREATION (R98032) RESERVE TRUST	WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL
98171	NARRABRI	OLD NARRABRI GAOL (R98171) RESERVE TRUST	NARRABRI SHIRE COUNCIL
160009	MOREE	MOREE COUNCIL DEPOT (R160009) RESERVE TRUST	MOREE PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL
160014	MOREE	BOOBERA LAGOON (R160014) RESERVE TRUST	MOREE PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL
160028	BOGGABILLA	BOGGABILLA WATER SUPPLY (R160028) RESERVE TRUST	MOREE PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL
160031	WEE WAA	WEE WAA SCHOOL FOR SUB-NORMAL CHILDREN (R160031) RESERVE TRUST	THE WEE WAA DISTRICT HOSPITAL



ABN : 11 607 533 862

The Notifications Officer  
 NTSCORP  
 PO Box 2105  
**STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012**

Our Ref : 23.248  
 27 June 2023

via email: notifications@ntscorp.com.au

**Notice under the Native Title Act 1993**

To: NTSCORP Pty Ltd	
Date of Issue	27 June 2023
Section of the Native Title Act	Section 24JB (6)
Council	Gwydir Shire Council
Contact Name	Craig Barnes Director – Lands Advisory Services Pty Ltd
Email	craig.barnes@landsas.com.au
Telephone Number	0428 474 542
Project Number	18.1112

Gwydir Shire Council in its role as a crown land manager has proposed the following for approval:

Type of Approval	Adoption of the All Nations Hill Plan of Management which will facilitate the establishment or construction of public works being: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• install skillion roof.</li> <li>• install hand washing facility in conjunction with installed water supply.</li> <li>• Install rock bollards.</li> <li>• rehabilitate and revegetate the turning circle section of gravel track which extends between the Stamper Battery and picnic shelter. Place rock bollards to avoid further vehicular use of that section.</li> <li>• redesign components of the picnic shelter to allow easier access and use by disabled visitors, avoiding any benches and other blockages to easy use by wheelchairs.</li> <li>• level and seal ground surface around the slab of the picnic shelter also allowing easy wheelchair access.</li> <li>• install solar lighting for casual use of shelter to enable some illumination around shelter.</li> <li>• install new signage which tells the history/story of the mine and the Stamper Battery – an information board.</li> </ul>
Under what State act	<i>Local Government Act 1993</i> <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>

Lands Advisory Services Pty Ltd  
 PO Box 2317, Dangar, NSW, 2309  
 E : craig.barnes@landsas.com.au T : 0428 474 542



The approval, if granted, will permit the following activity to happen:

Nature of Activity	Installation or construction of the facilities noted in "Type of Approval"
Location of Activity	Reservation 94632 at Hill Street, Bingara (being part Lot 15 DP 821211)
Maps / Plans	Please see diagrams of planned works attached ( <b>Annexure A</b> ).
Name of registered native title claimant group	Gomerioi People
Name of native title representative body	NTSCORP

The activity, if approved, will commence only after notification and consideration of all comments. In addition, if approved, the activity will be approved on an ongoing basis. You are invited to comment upon the proposed future act outlined above.

Any comments must be in writing and must be received no later than **25 July 2023**.

Please send your comments to:

Craig Barnes  
 Director - Lands Advisory Services Pty Ltd  
 PO Box 2317  
 DANGAR NSW 2309

Or by email to [craig.barnes@landsas.com.au](mailto:craig.barnes@landsas.com.au)

Kind Regards

Craig Barnes  
 Managing Director





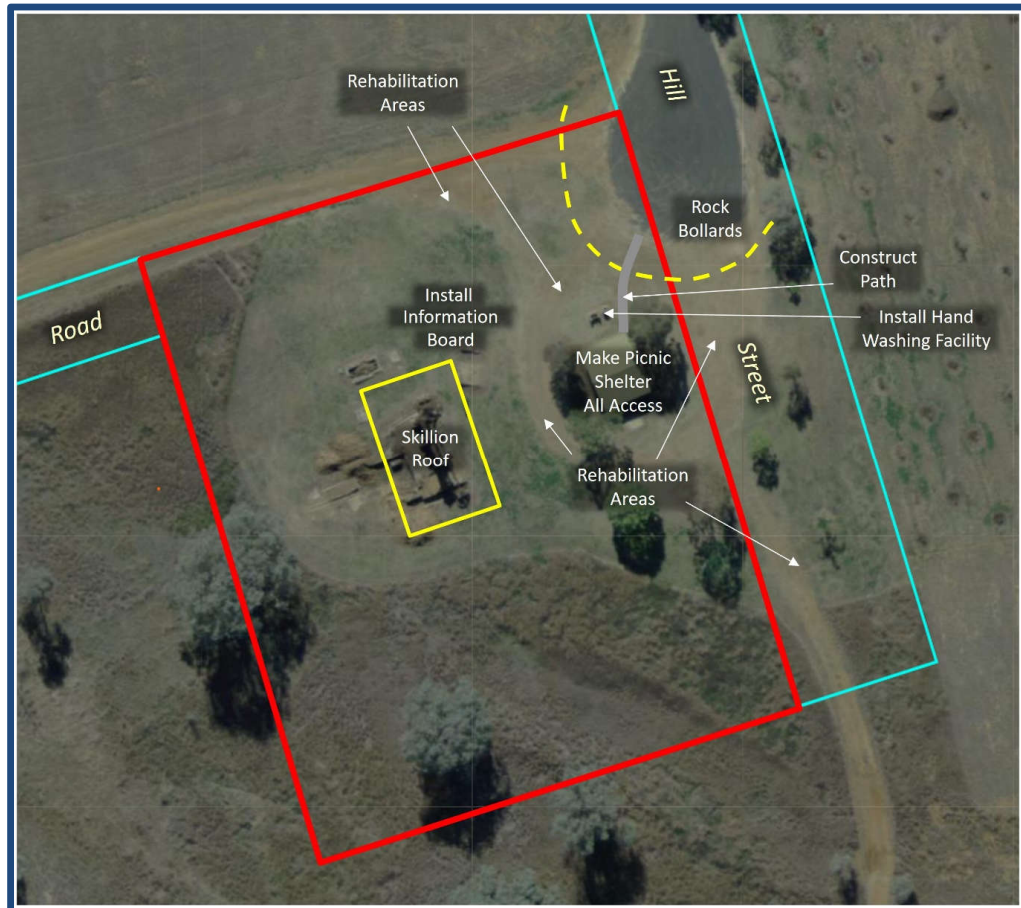
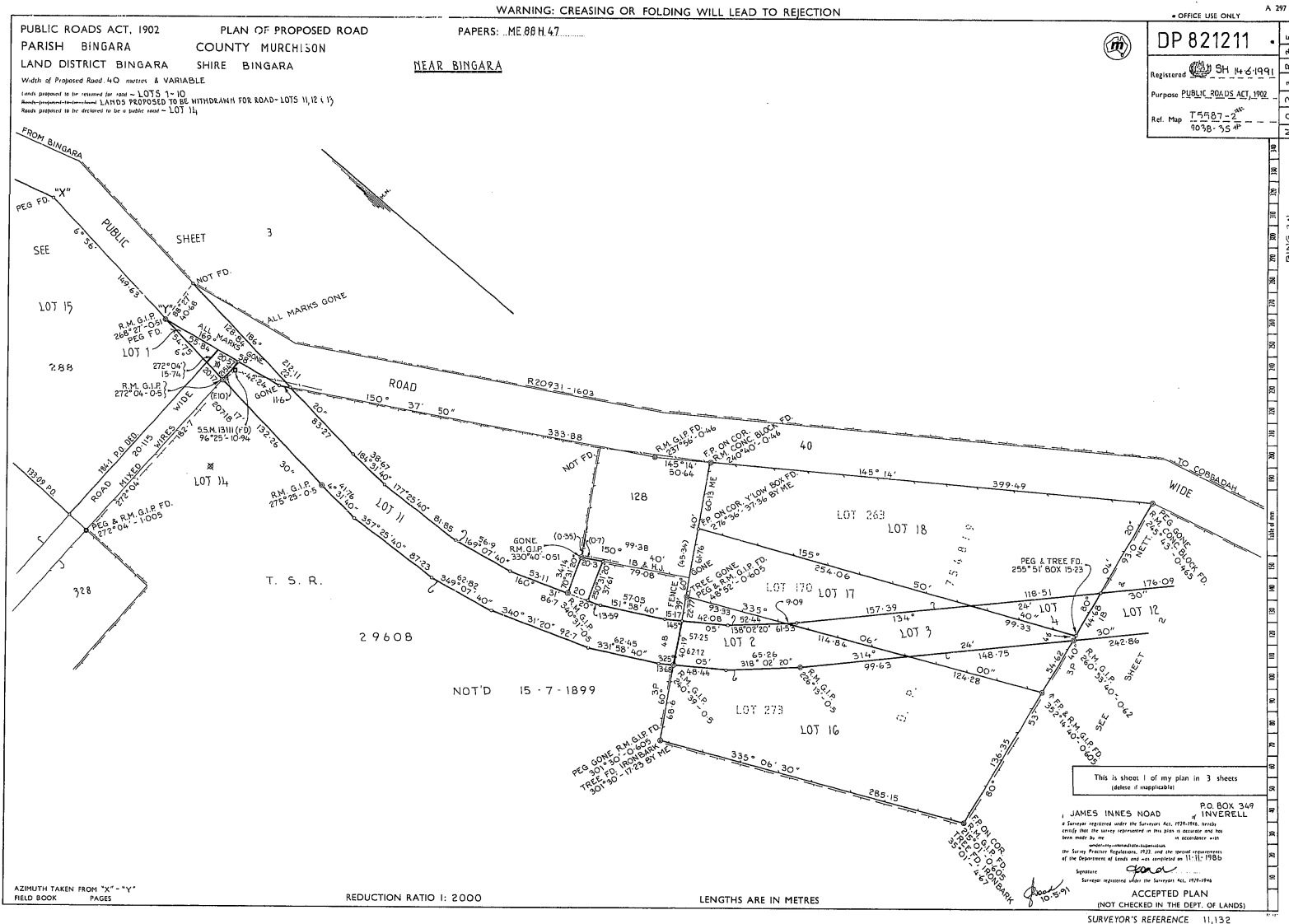
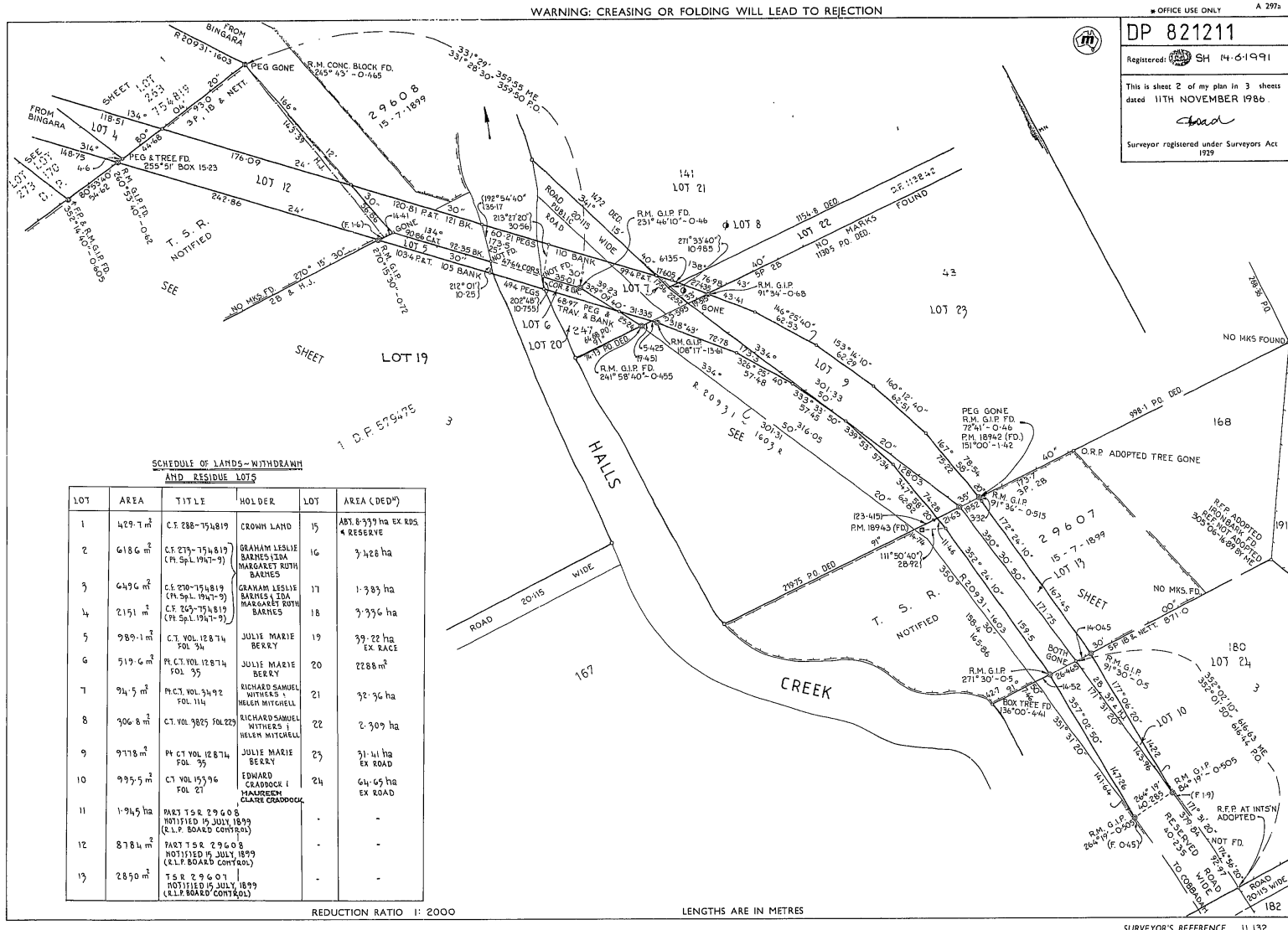


Figure 20 - Development at ANH



Reg: R322794 /Doc: DP 821211 P /Rev: 10-Nov-1992 /NSW LRS /Egs: ALL /Prt: 27-Mar-2023 09:08 /Seq: 1 of 3  
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17th June, 1991

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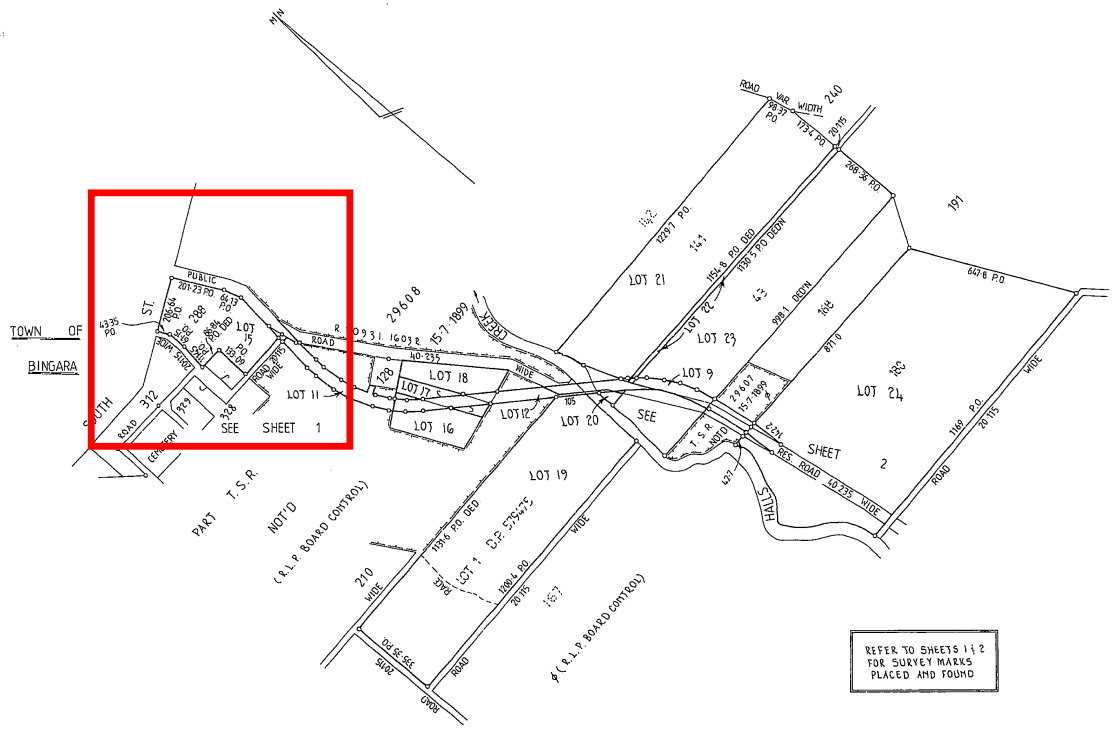
**DP 821211**

Registered SH 14-6-1991

This is sheet 3 of my plan in 3 sheets dated 11th NOVEMBER, 1989

*[Signature]*

Surveyor registered under Surveyors Act 1929



REDUCTION RATIO 1:10,000

LENGTHS ARE IN METRES

SURVEYOR'S REFERENCE 11,132

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This negative is a photograph made as a permanent record of a document in the custody of the Registrar General this day.

17th June, 1991



ABN : 11 607 533 862

The Gomerai People  
 C/O NTSCORP Pty Ltd  
 PO Box 2105  
**STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012**

Our Ref : 23.249  
 27 June 2023

via email: notifications@ntscorp.com.au

**Notice under the Native Title Act 1993**

To: The South Coast People	
Date of Issue	27 June 2023
Section of the Native Title Act	Section 24JB (6)
Council	Gwydir Shire Council
Contact Name	Craig Barnes Director – Lands Advisory Services Pty Ltd
Email	craig.barnes@landsas.com.au
Telephone Number	0428 474 542
Project Number	18.1112

Gwydir Shire Council in its role as a crown land manager has proposed the following for approval:

Type of Approval	<p>Adoption of the All Nations Hill Plan of Management which will facilitate the establishment or construction of public works being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• install skillion roof.</li> <li>• install hand washing facility in conjunction with installed water supply.</li> <li>• Install rock bollards.</li> <li>• rehabilitate and revegetate the turning circle section of gravel track which extends between the Stamper Battery and picnic shelter. Place rock bollards to avoid further vehicular use of that section.</li> <li>• redesign components of the picnic shelter to allow easier access and use by disabled visitors, avoiding any benches and other blockages to easy use by wheelchairs.</li> <li>• level and seal ground surface around the slab of the picnic shelter also allowing easy wheelchair access.</li> <li>• install solar lighting for casual use of shelter to enable some illumination around shelter.</li> <li>• install new signage which tells the history/story of the mine and the Stamper Battery – an information board.</li> </ul>
Under what State act	<p><i>Local Government Act 1993</i>  <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i></p>

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Name of native title representative body	NTSCORP

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Any comments must be in writing and must be received no later than **25 July 2023**.

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Craig Barnes  
 Director - Lands Advisory Services Pty Ltd  
 PO Box 2317  
 DANGAR NSW 2309

Or by email to [craig.barnes@landsas.com.au](mailto:craig.barnes@landsas.com.au)

Kind Regards

Craig Barnes  
 Managing Director



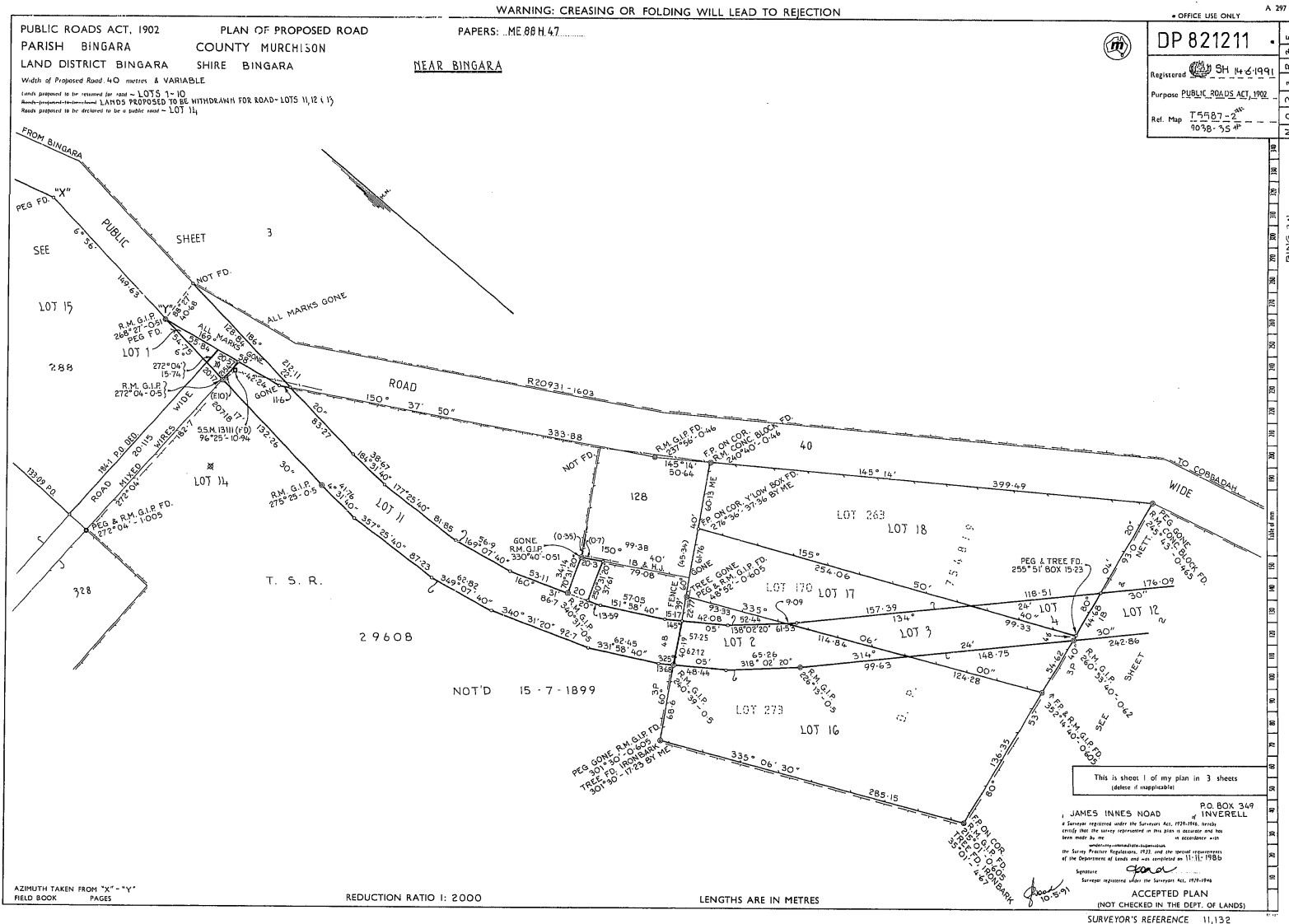


Annexure A

Plan of Management  
All Nations Hill Bingara



Figure 20 - Development at ANH

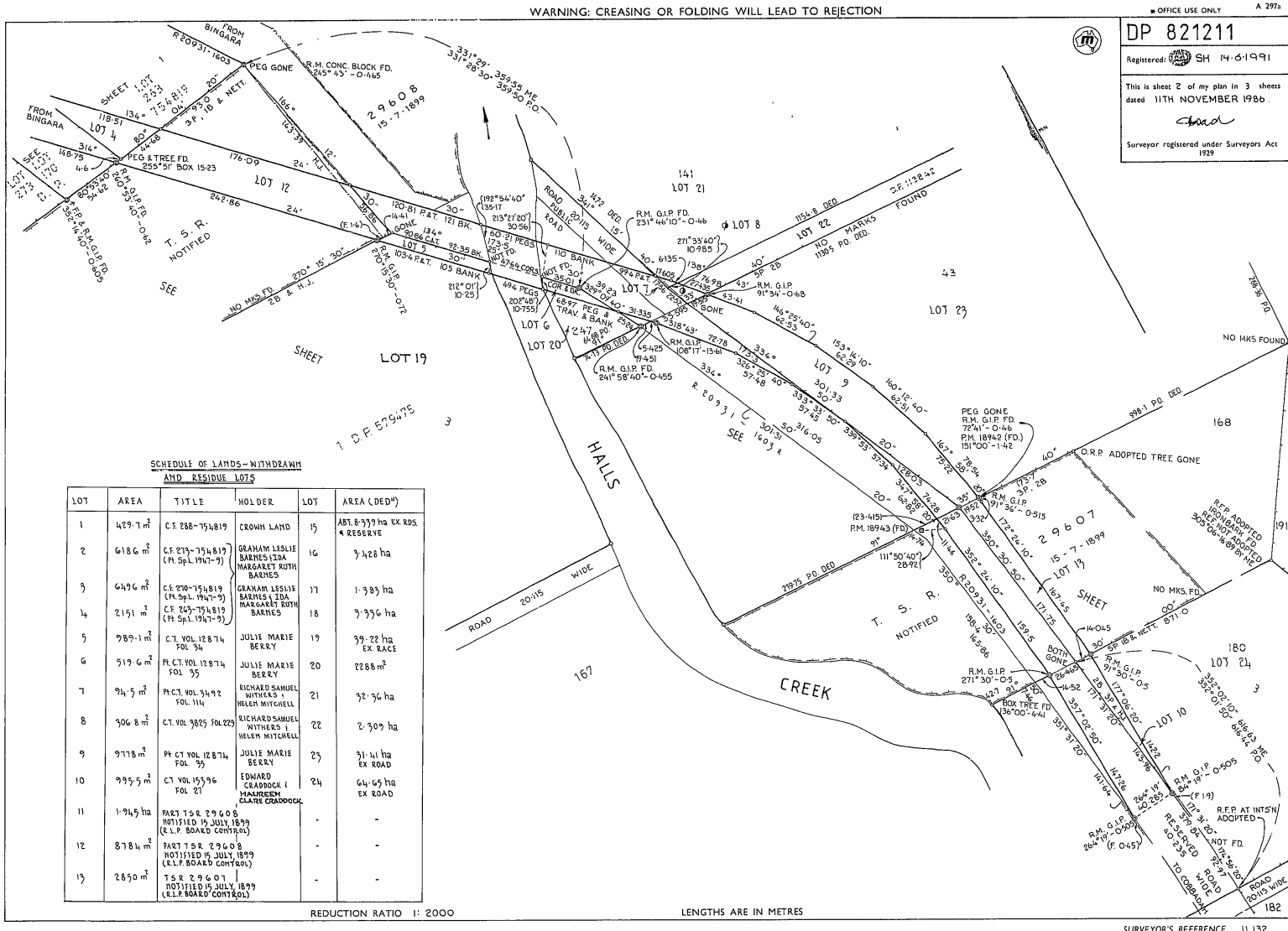


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OFFICE USE ONLY A 297a



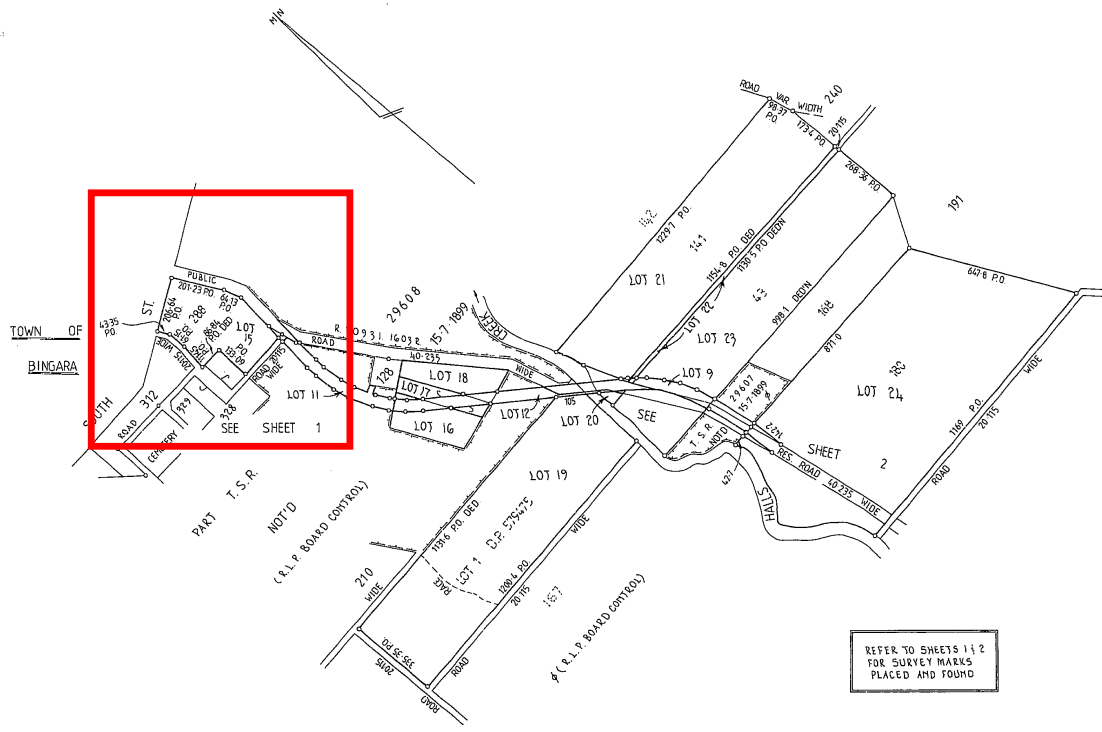
**DP 821211**

Registered SH 14-6-1991

This is sheet 3 of my plan in 3 sheets dated 11th NOVEMBER, 1989

*[Signature]*

Surveyor registered under Surveyors Act 1929



REDUCTION RATIO 1:10,000

LENGTHS ARE IN METRES

SURVEYOR'S REFERENCE 11,132

Req:R322794 /Doc:DP 821211.P /Rev:10-Nov-1992 /NSW LRS /Egs:ALL /Prt:27-Mar-2023 09:08 /Seq:3 of 3  
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10	20	30	40	50	60	70	Table of mm	110	120	130	140
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17th June, 1991



## 7.9 Integrated Planning and Reporting Documents

<b>File Reference:</b>	NA
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### Delivery Program

<b>Goal:</b>	5. Organisational management
<b>Outcome:</b>	5.1 Corporate management
<b>Strategy:</b>	5.1.5 Provision of responsible internal governance
<b>Author:</b>	Casey McClymont, IP&R and Governance Officer

### STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

### IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

This report recommends the noting of the October Delivery Plan Progress Report together with the endorsement of the following IP&R Documents:

2024 Annual Report; and;

2022-2024 State of our Shire Report

### TABLED ITEMS Nil

### BACKGROUND

These attached reports form part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework that are a requirement of the Local Government legislation.

The Office of Local Government requires that the delivery plan progress reports are presented at each monthly Council meeting relating to the implementation of the 2024-2025 Operational Plan.

### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the October 2024 Delivery Plan Progress Report is noted and the following IP&R Documents:**

**2024 Annual Report; and;**

**2022-2024 State of our Shire Report**

**are endorsed.**

### ATTACHMENTS

1. October 2024 Monthly Action Progress Report [7.9.1 - 27 pages]
2. 2024 Annual Report - Final Draft for Endorsement [7.9.2 - 102 pages]
3. State of our Shire Report [7.9.3 - 31 pages]



## Monthly Action Progress Report October 2024/2025







### Goal 1: A healthy and cohesive community

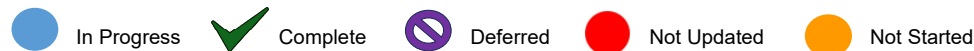
A liveable community has pride of place, ease of access, community harmony, a mobile and healthy population that participates in community life, a feeling of safety and security, a strong vibrant cultural base and places to relax, study and play.



#### 1.1: We have healthy and inviting spaces and places

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




##### 1.1.2: Encourage and enable healthy lifestyle choices

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
1.1.1.2	Support Gwydir Shire's health initiatives	Community Assets Manager	In Progress	20%		
1.1.2.1	Oversee the operation of Council's Aquatic Centres	Community Assets Manager	In Progress	15%	Both pools are leased. Bingara pool is operational and Warialda scheduled to open Sunday 3 November 2024.	
1.1.2.2	Annual swimming pool inspection program	Building Services Manager	Not Started	0%		
1.1.2.3	Conduct Council's Category B Enforcement agency functions under the Food Act 2003 (NSW) by the specified due dates	Planning & Environment Team Leader	In Progress	41%	Inspection program is being implemented	












Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
1.1.2.4	Implement a strong Wellness and Enablement plan within the Gwydir Shire Council through the CHSP program	Manager of Aged Care	In Progress	50%	Ongoing as core business	
1.1.2.7	Warialda Memorial Swimming Pool Improvements - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCl)	GLR & Communications Team Leader	In Progress	60%	The external mural is scheduled to be completed by end November. Council Technical Services staff are undertaking this project.	








**1.1.3: Provide the right places, spaces and activities**






Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
1.1.3.1	Big River Dreaming - Finalise the construction of the Wellness and Interpretive Centre	General Manager	In Progress	50%		
1.1.3.2	Be a centre of leadership in child development, education and care as well as support for families and community	Social Services Manager	In Progress	35%		
1.1.3.3	Annual Tree Planting Program	Leading Hand Maintenance	In Progress	50%		




Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
1.1.3.6	Build our reputation as 'best choice' for families, children and young people to discover their abilities and reach their potential in life	Social Services Manager	In Progress	30%		
1.1.3.7	Enhance the overall Resident experience at Naroo Frail Aged Hostel by embedding an active Leisure and Lifestyle program with residents focusing on wellness	Manager of Aged Care	In Progress	75%	New staff members x 2 have been recruited to the position and are working extremely well. Resident feedback is very positive.	
1.1.3.8	Hope Street Warialda CBD Park Construction - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI)	Engineering Services Director	In Progress	90%		
1.1.3.9	Landscaping Improvements - Warialda Street Tree Upgrade - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI)	Engineering Assets Coordinator	In Progress	30%	Works in design stage	
1.1.3.11	Progress Gwydir Shire Council Disability Action plan with committee.	Integrated Planning Reporting & Governance Officer	In Progress	35%		

 In Progress
  Complete
  Deferred
  Not Updated
  Not Started

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
1.1.3.12	Provide exceptional care, embracing authentic partnerships with families and ensuring the 'voice of the child' is central to our service processes.	Social Services Manager	In Progress	45%		
1.1.3.13	Provide high levels of hygiene to councils community assets and facilities	Community Assets Manager	In Progress	15%	Council facilities continue to be well presented and maintained.	
1.1.3.14	State Drought Stimulus Package - CBD Improvements - Warialda footpath upgrades	Engineering Assets Coordinator	Completed	100%		
1.1.3.15	COVID-19 Economic Stimulus Package - Phase 1 - Batterham Lookout Makeover	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	In Progress	85%		
1.1.3.18	Warialda Footpath Program - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI) - Construction/replacement of non-compliant cycle/walking paths	Engineering Services Director	Completed	0%		
1.1.3.20	Implement Council's library programs and initiatives	Community Assets Manager	In Progress	15%	Ongoing	
1.1.3.22	Warialda GYM (Squash Courts) - Re-roofing of lower roof	Building Services Manager	Not Started	0%		


 In Progress
  Complete
  Deferred
  Not Updated
  Not Started

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
1.1.3.23	Bingara Arts Centre (Toy Library) - Painting & R&M	Building Services Manager	Not Started	0%		



**1.2: Our community is an inviting and vibrant place to live**

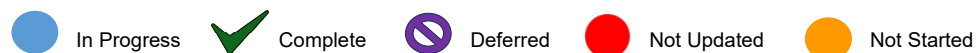
Our community is strong, safe and connected with equal access to the services and facilities that ensure a great quality of life for all ages. Community pride and a sense of belonging are fostered through having a caring and connected community, with suitable programs and activities for all ages and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

**1.2.1: Enable accessible and affordable lifestyle options**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
1.2.1.1	Meet Council's property management obligations	GLR & Communications Team Leader	In Progress	15%	8 Olive Pyrke Terrace is vacant and advertised for rental.	


**1.2.2: A shared responsibility for community safety**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
1.2.2.1	Comply with and report on Council's Companion Animal Management requirements	Planning & Environment Team Leader	In Progress	25%	information is being compiled during the reporting period	
1.2.2.2	Implement Child Safe Standards as per legislative requirements	Integrated Planning Reporting & Governance Officer	In Progress	95%		





1.2.3: Celebrate our creativity and cultural expression

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
1.2.3.1	Roll out the planned schedule of events reviewing the concept, target audience and success of each event	Media and Communications Officer	In Progress	15%	Complete for Honey Festival. Upcoming events Bingara and Warialda Christmas Carnivals.	








## Goal 2: Building the business base




A productive community provides people with positive choices for investment, employment and study. An innovative, diverse and resilient economy requires collaboration between local people and other levels of government to ensure that funding for infrastructure and economic development exists to support market strength and diversity.










### 2.1: Our economy is growing and supported






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








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






Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
2.1.1.2	Annual water meter replacement program	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	In Progress	20%	20 meters replaced after September reads were undertaken.	
2.1.1.3	Annual Pump replacement program	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	In Progress	75%		
2.1.1.6	2024/2025 Building Services Repairs and Maintenance Program	Building Maintenance Supervisor	Not Updated	0%		
2.1.1.7	December 2020 Flood Disaster works program	Engineering Assets Coordinator	Completed	100%	Works are complete	
2.1.1.10	North Star Hall Improvements - Restumping - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRCI)	Building Services Manager	In Progress	10%		





 In Progress
  Complete
  Deferred
  Not Updated
  Not Started




Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
2.1.1.14	November 2021 Flood Disaster works program	Engineering Assets Coordinator	In Progress	50%	Work currently underway.	
2.1.1.15	Provide accommodation options to our community and visitors	Community Assets Manager	In Progress	15%		
2.1.1.16	Annual Renewals Program - Sewer mains relining/replacement	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	In Progress	5%		
2.1.1.16	Bingara Court House - Re-Roofing	Building Services Manager	Not Started	0%		
2.1.1.16	Plunkett Street Aged Units - Refurbishment	Building Services Manager	Not Started	0%		
2.1.1.16	Warialda Memorial Hall - Investigation, underpinning & repairs	Building Services Manager	In Progress	10%		
2.1.1.16	Warialda Office - Kitchen & Courtyard Refurbishment	Building Services Manager	In Progress	10%		
2.1.1.17	Annual Heavey Plant Replacement Program	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	In Progress	40%		
2.1.1.18	Annual Light Plant Replacement Program	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	In Progress	20%	4 Utilities have been purchased and 2 delivered in early October 2024.	




 In Progress
  Complete
  Deferred
  Not Updated
  Not Started

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
2.1.1.23	Town Streets - kerb replacement and pavement enhancement program	Leading Hand Maintenance	In Progress	10%		
2.1.1.25	Resheeting and bitumen sealing of entire length of Wearnes Road, Bundarra	Engineering Services Director	In Progress	70%		
2.1.1.32	Heavy Vehicle Safety & Productivity Program Round 7 and Fixing Local Roads Program Sealing of IB Bore Road from North Star to Moree Plains Shire	Engineering Services Director	In Progress	70%		
2.1.1.34	Develop 10 year stormwater plan	Road Maintenance Council Contracts Project Manager	In Progress	90%		
2.1.1.36	Deliver RMCC annual works program	Road Maintenance Council Contracts Project Manager	In Progress	5%		
2.1.1.38	March 2021 Flood disaster works program	Engineering Assets Coordinator	In Progress	90%	Works underway.	
2.1.1.39	Bingara Administration Centre - Furniture & Furnishings (including blinds)	Building Services Manager	Not Started	0%		


 In Progress
  Complete
  Deferred
  Not Updated
  Not Started





Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
2.1.1.40	Croppa Creek Road Upgrade Super Patch of entire length of road with 50mm nominal corrector and new bitumen seal	Engineering Services Director	In Progress	0%		
2.1.1.41	Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund Assorted maintenance and capital renewal activities across the shire	Engineering Services Director	In Progress	20%		
2.1.1.42	Federal Government - Roads of Strategic Importance Program - Sealing of 12.3km of County Boundary Road from end of existing seal to Croppa Moree Road.	Engineering Services Director	In Progress	60%		
2.1.1.43	Sealed Rural Roads Capital Works Program Heavy patching and bitumen resealing of sealed roads at various locations across the LGA	Engineering Services Director	Deferred	0%		


 In Progress
  Complete
  Deferred
  Not Updated
  Not Started

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
2.1.1.44	Road Infrastructure Disaster Recovery - Events AGRN960, 987, 1034 Heavy patching, pothole repairs, gravel resheeting and drainage structure replacements across the LGA	Engineering Assets Coordinator	In Progress	30%	Awaiting approval from TfNSW for AGRN1034 Claims. Consultants have nearly completed preparing a claim for damages for AGRN1119 from April 2024	
2.1.1.45	Resheeting of gravel roads at various location across the LGA Unsealed Roads Capital Works Program	Engineering Services Director	In Progress	0%		
2.1.1.46	Heavy patching and bitumen resealing of streets in Warialda and Bingara Urban Roads Rehabilitation - local Roads and Community Infrastructure Phase 4 Part B	Engineering Assets Coordinator	In Progress	10%	Project currently in scoping and design phase.	



**2.1.2: Support the growth of our business community**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
2.1.2.1	Develop links and implement programs to improve the local economy	Community Assets Manager	In Progress	15%		

 In Progress
  Complete
  Deferred
  Not Updated
  Not Started

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
2.1.2.3	Finalise the strategy for small scale industrial land development.	General Manager	In Progress	70%		

**2.1.3: Promote our community as the place to visit, live, work and invest**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
2.1.3.1	Build on key relationships with stakeholders to enhance the Gwydir Shire tourism profile	Organisation & Community Services Director	In Progress	15%		
2.1.3.2	Assist in the creation of an environment in which a sustainable level of population and economic growth can occur to benefit local business and tourism	Integrated Planning Reporting & Governance Officer	In Progress	35%		







**2.2: We are skilled and have access to excellent educational opportunities**

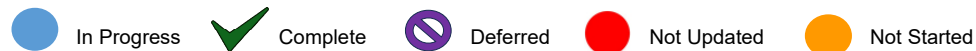
Our lives are enriched through access to quality education which enables the development of a skilled workforce and the uptake of local job opportunities.

**2.2.1: Increase the range of opportunities to work locally**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
2.2.1.1	Continue to be proactive in attracting skilled staff, especially Registered Nurses into the Aged Care sector and work towards 24-hour Registered Nurses on site at Naroo Frail Aged Hostel	Integrated Planning Reporting & Governance Officer	In Progress	80%		

**2.2.2: Build on our quality education and training opportunities (including through the GLR)**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
2.2.2.1	Implement and manage the Gwydir Learning Region program	Community Assets Manager	In Progress	15%	Ongoing	






### Goal 3: An environmentally responsible Shire

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


#### 3.1: Our community understands and embraces environmental change

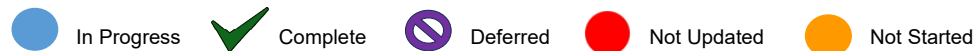
We respect and value our natural environment, understand the effects of our actions and make wise decisions to retain balance. We endeavour to use all our natural resources wisely with a view to minimising the impact on our natural environment.


##### 3.1.1: Encourage respectful planning, balanced growth and good design

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
3.1.1.1	Implement Development Control Plan based on the Department of Planning NSW standard format including report to Council and Community Consultation	Planning Officer	In Progress	50%		
3.1.1.2	Local Environment Plan review to be completed and implemented	Planning Officer	In Progress	95%		
3.1.1.3	Conduct/Monitor/Review Gwydir Shire Housing Study	Planning Officer	Not Updated	0%		




##### 3.1.2: Respond to our changing environment

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
3.1.2.1	Annual Telemetry & Technology upgrades	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	In Progress	10%		



Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
3.1.2.2	Implement Gwydir and Inverell Shire's Regional Drought Resilience Plan	Planning & Environment Team Leader	Deferred	0%		


**3.1.3: Value, protect and enhance our natural environment**






Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
3.1.3.1	North West Weed Action Program -Gwydir Shire	Planning & Environment Team Leader	In Progress	80%	Report has been submitted	
3.1.3.2	Gwydir River Foreshore - Management Action Plan	Planning & Environment Team Leader	In Progress	25%	inspections are being conducted and materials distributed as supplied	
3.2.2.1	Annual Water Main Replacement Program	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	Not Started	0%		

**3.2: We use & manage our natural resources wisely**



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

**3.2.1: Develop a clean energy future**


Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
3.2.1.1	Audit Streetlighting coverage across the local networks throughout the Shire	Planning & Environment Team Leader	In Progress	10%	Data has been received from Essential Energy	






 In Progress 
  Complete 
  Deferred 
  Not Updated 
  Not Started

**3.2.2: Use our water wisely**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
3.2.2.3	Water treatment plant improvements	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	In Progress	20%	pneumatic valves refurbishment will be undertaken in November 2024	
3.2.2.4	Gravesend Water Treatment Plant - Stage 2 - Department of Primary Industries and Environment (DPIE)	Town Utilities and Plant Manager	In Progress	20%		

**3.2.3: Reduce, reuse and recover waste**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
3.2.3.1	Implement Gwydir Shire Council's Waste Management Strategy	Planning & Environment Team Leader	In Progress	25%	Strategy is being implemented	

 In Progress
  Complete
  Deferred
  Not Updated
  Not Started


### Goal 4: Proactive regional and local leadership

A collaborative community is informed, has responsible decision making and a sound financial position supported by capable leaders, functional assets and efficient operations to meet the changing needs of the community.


#### 4.1: We are an engaged & connected community

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


##### 4.1.1: Encourage an informed community

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Progress Key
4.1.1.1	Provide effective communication initiatives to service the community	Media and Communications Officer	In Progress	15%	Council continues to collaborate with Gwydir News. Council is also working with TRAX FM and STA FM to set up repeater stations in Gwydir Shire to enable residents and visitors to receive more information and entertainment.	



##### 4.1.2: Enable broad, rich and meaningful engagement to occur

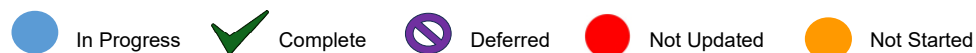
Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Progress Key
4.1.2.1	Consistently engage with communities, moving from transactional to transformational relationships	Integrated Planning Reporting & Governance Officer	In Progress	65%	Surveys have been drafted and approved. Will be distributed to the community late Nov/Dec.	




Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Progress Key
4.1.2.2	Conduct a review of the effectiveness of communication channels use throughout Gwydir Shire to the wider community. And identify improvements on how Gwydir Shire communicate events and happenings within the community	Media and Communications Officer	In Progress	0%	Council staff are currently reviewing its Media Policy and Strategy. This review will be completed by end December 2024 and presented to Council at its Ordinary Meeting for comment.	

**4.1.3: Build on our sense of community**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Progress Key
4.1.3.2	Grow relationships with governments, the corporate sector, community organisations and volunteers to enhance the educational experience	Social Services Manager	In Progress	40%		
4.1.3.3	Value and embrace the knowledge and experience of our families as they grow through our services	Social Services Manager	In Progress	50%	Rural Outreach visited to offer support to families regarding healthy relationships, Child protection week and RUOK Day were recognised, Another orientation to preschool was held and Childrens week was celebrated.	




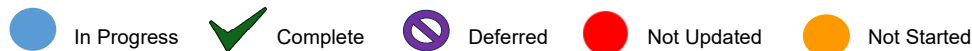
Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Progress Key
4.1.3.4	Enhance the value of hope, achievement and aspiration for our young people, children and their families	Social Services Manager	In Progress	45%	The Bingara Preschool School Based Trainee completed the Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care. The School Based Trainee completed the last work placement this month, with an Assessor visit and then submitted all the remaining written tasks required. The School Based Trainee was congratulated on this achievement by all team members. The Bingara Preschool also supported a TAFE work placement student. The TAFE assessor visited, and this student was able to complete the final work placement criteria for her Certificate111 in Early Childhood Education and Care. The Bingara Preschool supports and mentors the Trainees and work placement students to be involved in the Bingara Preschool Curriculum during the work placement hours and Assessor visits.	

**4.2: We work together to achieve our goals**

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




**4.2.1: Build strong relationships and shared responsibilities**






Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Progress Key
4.2.1.1	Review and manage programs and initiatives to connect with, and value other cultures	Community Assets Manager	In Progress	15%	Ongoing	





4.2.2: Work in partnership to plan for the future

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Progress Key
4.2.2.1	Acquire, disseminate and apply new knowledge to grow evidence informed practice	Social Services Manager	In Progress	40%	Social Services Assistant attended training in Strengthening Children and Teens against Anxiety - the information gained will be disseminated to all of our other Social Services.	
4.2.2.2	Create comprehensive and collaborative models of care and support services that drive successful, responsive and individualised outcomes for families	Social Services Manager	In Progress	40%		
4.2.2.3	Implement emerging technologies and best practice processes to improve efficiency	Social Services Manager	In Progress	50%		

 In Progress
  Complete
  Deferred
  Not Updated
  Not Started





### Goal 5: Organisational management



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



#### 5.1: Corporate management

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


##### 5.1.1: Financial management and accountability systems




Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
5.1.1.1	Complete all legislative reporting requirements for Community Home Support Program (CHSP)	Manager of Aged Care	In Progress	90%	Reports are due for CHSP/CT and Aged Care by 31st October and will be submitted on time awaiting full auditors report to attach to financials for CHSP/CT.	
5.1.1.2	Complete all legislative reporting requirements for NSW Transport (CHSP)	Manager of Aged Care	Completed	100%		
5.1.1.3	Complete all Naroo Aged Care Prudential reporting and Quality Indicator reporting within the set timeframes	Manager of Aged Care	In Progress	70%	Quality Indicator report has been submitted. Prudential letters will be sent to Residents and Family when auditors report available.	
5.1.1.4	Complete the works for the Aged Care Approvals Round grant monies as per the grant agreement	Manager of Aged Care	In Progress	40%	Works are progressing. Progress to Date: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site establishment - 12 July 2024</li> <li>• Demolition completed - 18 September 2024</li> <li>• Ground work complete - 25 September 2024</li> <li>• Concrete slab pour - 11 October 2024</li> </ul>	



 In Progress
  Complete
  Deferred
  Not Updated
  Not Started

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
5.1.1.14	Review policies and procedures associated with contracts and procurement in line with LG Procurement regulations, including staff training.	Chief Financial Officer	In Progress	30%		
5.1.1.15	Review and maintain existing corporate accounting practices within the organisation to ensure regulatory compliance and promote responsible financial management.	Chief Financial Officer	Not Updated	0%		



**5.1.2: Information management systems**






Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
5.1.2.1	Administer and support Council corporate applications, networks and systems.	Business Improvement & IT Manager	In Progress	30%		



 In Progress
  Complete
  Deferred
  Not Updated
  Not Started

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
5.1.2.4	Manage Council's GIS systems and data in accordance with legislative requirement, with a focus to improve the delivery and use of information	Business Improvement & IT Manager	In Progress	30%		
5.1.2.5	Manage Council's corporate Records and Archive Facilities and Record Management Framework in accordance with legislative requirements.	Business Improvement & IT Manager	In Progress	30%		




**5.1.3: Administrative and support functions**






Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
5.1.3.1	Assess and implement solutions that increase efficiencies and quality, whilst reducing costs, to improve processes and systems within Council.	Business Improvement & IT Manager	In Progress	30%		
5.1.3.2	Develop, monitor and maintain Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements	Integrated Planning Reporting & Governance Officer	In Progress	25%		






 In Progress
  Complete
  Deferred
  Not Updated
  Not Started






Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
5.1.3.4	Undertake Service Reviews as outlined in the Delivery Program for the financial year.	Business Improvement & IT Manager	In Progress	30%		
5.1.3.5	Review mandatory training requirements to maintain operational effectiveness and compliance.	Org Services Admin & Training Coordinator	Not Started	0%		

**5.1.4: Workforce planning**






Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
5.1.4.1	Build a culture that empowers staff to learn, teach, lead and succeed	Social Services Manager	In Progress	50%	Two staff are now studying the Diploma in Early Childhood Education. Two staff have completed traineeships in Early childhood and three staff are progressing through their bachelor's degree in early childhood teaching.	
5.1.4.2	Implement and report on the actions included in the 2022-2026 Workforce Plan	Integrated Planning Reporting & Governance Officer	In Progress	65%		
5.1.4.3	Development of Human Resources Development processes to manage change and meet individual and organisational needs	Human Resource Officer	In Progress	20%		



 In Progress
  Complete
  Deferred
  Not Updated
  Not Started

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
5.1.4.4	Provide and support Naroo Aged care staff with necessary training and education	Manager of Aged Care	In Progress	80%	Education plan in place. Clinical Educator delivers education modules on a weekly basis. Altura Learning is available for staff to access for learning opportunities.	
5.1.4.5	Undertake Workforce Planning to ensure that there is an appropriately skilled workforce to meet future challenges and opportunities.	Human Resource Officer	In Progress	65%		
5.1.4.6	Build on key internal relations with staff wellbeing and engagement	Integrated Planning Reporting & Governance Officer	Deferred	10%		
5.1.4.7	Registered Nurse 24/7 to meet Royal Commission into Aged Care recommendations	Manager of Aged Care	In Progress	40%	Work continues with Labour Agreement and The Placing Company to attract overseas nurses to Warialda.	
5.1.5.9	Conduct Council Salary System Review	Human Resource Officer	In Progress	25%		

 In Progress
  Complete
  Deferred
  Not Updated
  Not Started

5.1.5: Provide responsible internal governance

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Position	Status	Progress	Comments	Traffic Lights
5.1.5.1	Embed Workplace Health & Safety into business as usual practice throughout the organisation.	Business Improvement & IT Manager	In Progress	30%		
5.1.5.6	Embed the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aged Care in both CHSP and Naroo Frail Aged Care Hostel	Manager of Aged Care	In Progress	38%	Actions are implemented as Department progresses.	
5.1.5.10	Develop relationships with key stakeholders to ensure council has access to relevant and effective training opportunities.	Org Services Admin & Training Coordinator	Not Started	0%		
5.1.5.11	Integrate and ensure Council's operations and practices align with the risk management framework.	Business Improvement & IT Manager	In Progress	25%		
LCR	Meet all of Councils Legislative Compliance & Reporting requirements as set by the Office of Local Government (OLG)	Integrated Planning Reporting & Governance Officer	In Progress	50%	Annual report and State of our Shire report will go to November council meeting for endorsement.	

 In Progress
  Complete
  Deferred
  Not Updated
  Not Started





GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2023 - 2024**





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## VISION

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

## MISSION

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

## COUNCIL CORE VALUES

### 1. For Our Community and Visitors

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

### 2. For Our Community Committees

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

### 3. For Our Staff

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

### 4. For Our Councillors

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



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

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



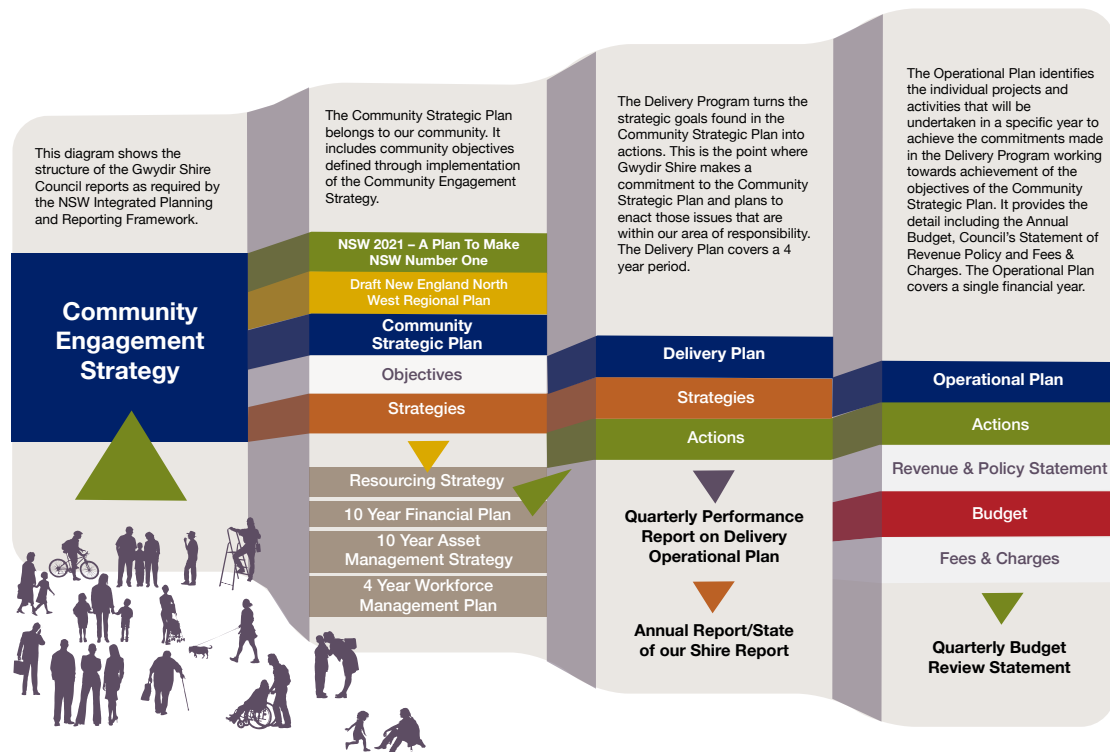
### OUR PLANNING FRAMEWORK

#### How it all fits together

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

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

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





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

## GWYDIR COUNTRY–FRESH AIR, INNOVATION, OPPORTUNITY & RESILIENCE

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



All NSW Councils provide different services. Some of these services are the traditional services such as infrastructure renewal and waste management or 'roads, rates and rubbish.' Gwydir Shire Council is committed to meeting its commitments under the Local Government Act 1993 – Sections 8A, 8B and 8C and to be transparent in reporting to our community and stakeholders. This Annual Report 2023-2024 is the primary means of sharing our performance in the last financial year.

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

### Visit Council's website

24/7 access to council is provided through our website [www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au). On our website you will find information on our operations by viewing the Integrated Planning & Reporting documentation (IP&R), agendas and minutes and other key documents. Policies and guidelines are also available on the website [www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au)

### Social Media

We are on Facebook and Instagram. Look for us on Facebook or Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/gwydirshirecouncil>. Enquiries, suggestions and comments can be posted here for consideration by the Administrator. Please 'like' and 'follow' us to make sure you get regular updates.

### Council & Committee Meetings

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

### Community Public Meetings

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



## MAYOR'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Gwydir Shire Council's Annual Report.

The past 12 months have been both busy and highly productive for Council.

We have been fortunate to receive a substantial road budget, supported by stimulus funding and natural disaster assistance from both the State and Federal Governments. This has enabled us to make considerable progress on repairing roads across the Shire damaged by the five major flooding events experienced in our region.

Plans for the new administration office in Bingara are well underway, with contracts signed and construction set to commence in the upcoming reporting period. The project is expected to take approximately 44 weeks to complete. I would like to commend the indoor staff at Bingara for their resilience in managing the challenges posed by the condemned building, and the disruption it has caused. Despite being spread across multiple locations; the Council has continued to function effectively.

We are also continuing to face a housing shortage throughout the Shire. The recent land release in Bingara has been very well received, and it is encouraging to see new dwellings being constructed. In addition, Warialda residents can look forward to more building blocks becoming available soon.

I am pleased to report that the strong relationship between staff and elected members remains a key factor in our success, with everyone working toward common goals and sharing a passion for serving our community. I extend my gratitude to the Gwydir team for their hard work and dedication over the past year. I trust you will find this Annual Report informative and that it will provide you with a deeper appreciation of the vital services a rural Shire delivers to its communities.

As this will be my final Annual Report message as Mayor of Gwydir Shire, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community and staff of Gwydir for their support throughout my term as Mayor. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve this community and I am proud of all that we have achieved together.

I offer my congratulations to the incoming council and wish you the best for your term in local government. I look forward to following your progress.

*Mayor  
John Coulton.*



## MESSAGE FROM **GENERAL MANAGER**

The 2023/2024 Financial Year has been a challenging period for the Shire as it recovers from severe storm and flooding events. This resulted in major damage to the Council's Road and related infrastructure.

Major damage occurred along the banks of the Gwydir River at Bingara to many recreational assets as well.

It will take many months to complete the repairs to the Shire's Road network. In many cases the roads were already under repair from previous storm events.

Six of the Council's elected members; Mayor Cr John Coulton (15 years), Deputy Mayor Cr Catherine Egan (20 years), Cr David Coulton (8 years), Cr Chris Matthews (4 years), Cr Jim Moore (11 years) and Cr Geoff Smith (12 years), have decided to not seek re-election at the September 2024 Local Government Elections. 70 years of experience!

All these Councillors certainly deserve to be remembered for their collective service to the Gwydir Shire Community.

Cr Catherine Egan was elected to the very first Gwydir Shire elected Council following the amalgamation of the former Bingara, Yallaroi and 40% of Barraba Shires.

Cr John Coulton was elected to the position of Mayor in September 2009 following a rather unsettled period within the elected Council. He along with his fellow Councillors returned stability to the Council.

Even allowing for the damage inflicted by storm activity this year has been positive with significant road and facility improvements being undertaken.

*Max Eastcott*  
*General Manager*





GWYDIR SHIRE  
COUNCIL



WHERE ARE WE NOW?

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

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

Much of Gwydir Shire lies between the 29°S and 30°S latitudes, placing it mid-way in the realm of arable lands within the Southern Hemisphere. It has a temperate climate with warm to hot summers (25°C – 35°C) and cool to mild winters (10°C – 20°C). The average elevation across the shire is approximately 350m above sea level. The Gwydir Shire lies about 300kms from the Tasman Sea and the north coast of NSW.

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



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

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

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

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

Broadacre cropping is undertaken in the northern part of the Shire, with the main crops being wheat, sorghum and barley. Other crops include dryland cotton, other grains (oats, maize, triticale), hay and pasture seeds, pulses (chickpeas, field beans, mung beans, faba beans, lentils)

and oilseeds (canola, soybeans and sunflowers).

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

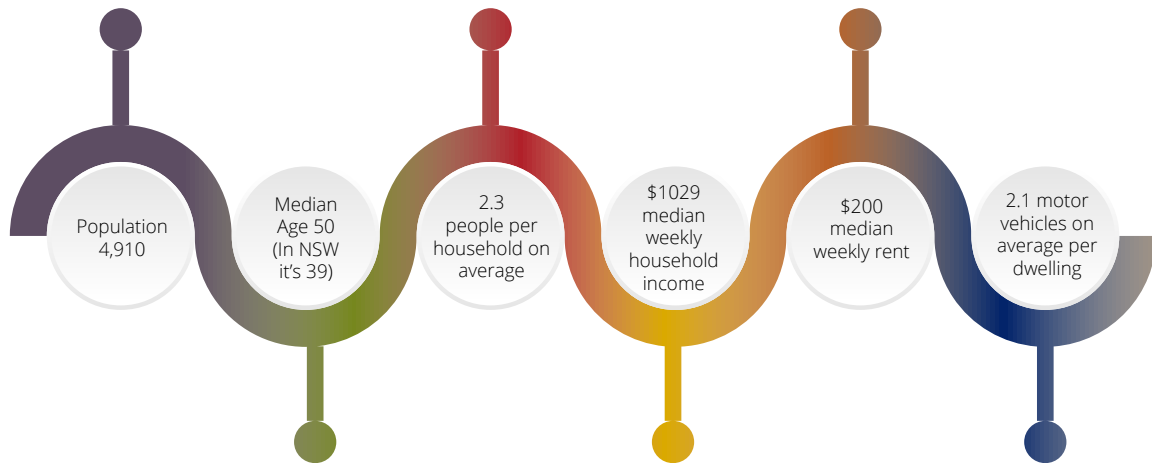
Warialda is located on the Gwydir Highway, midway between Inverell and Moree. The town is a service centre for both the surrounding rural area and Highway travellers.

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

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



## SOME OF GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL STATISTICS



There are 50.4% people in the labour force in Gwydir Shire. Of these, 60.6% were employed full-time, 29.7% were employed part-time, and 4.2% were unemployed.



The most common occupations in the Shire are, 30.8% Managers, 14.2% Labourers, 12.3% Professionals, and 9.6% Clerical/Administrative workers.

References for statistical information are: ABS - Census 2021



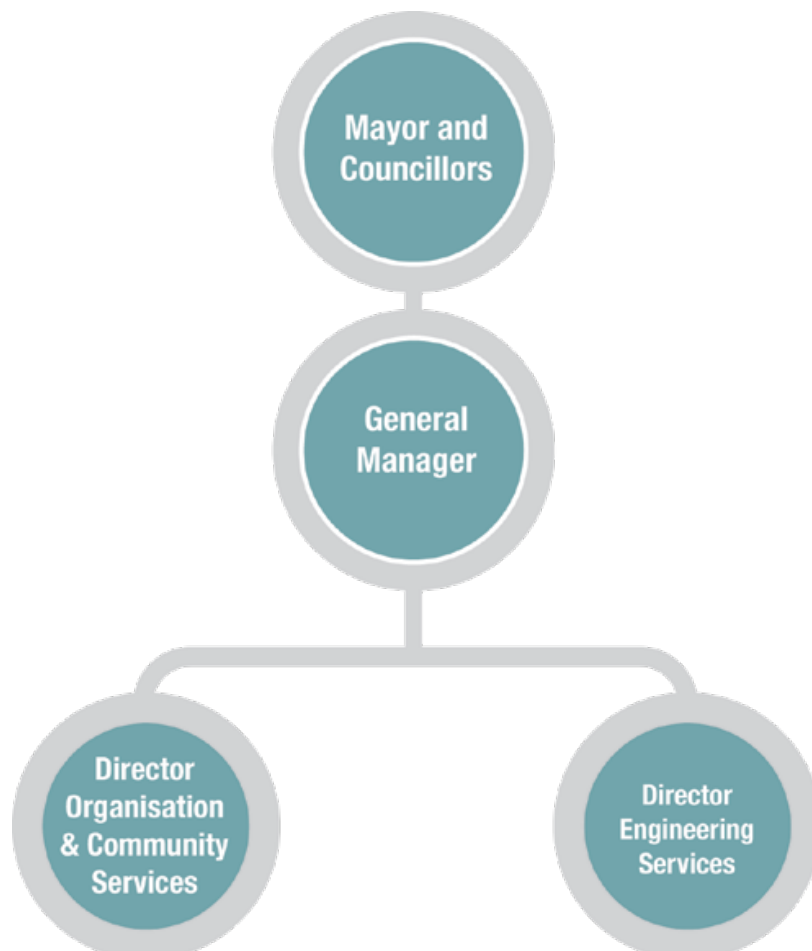
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## SOME OF GWYDIR SHIRE **ORGANISATION STRUCTURE**

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Below is the organisation structure in place during this reporting period.

### Our Structure





OUR ELECTED  
COUNCIL

**CR. JOHN COULTON – MAYOR**



3575 Allan Cunningham Rd  
Warialda NSW 2402  
Mobile: 0427 297 082  
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jcoulton@gwydir.nsw.gov.au

**CR. CATHERINE EGAN – DEPUTY MAYOR**



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cegan@gwydir.nsw.gov.au

**CR. CHRISTOPHER MATTHEWS**



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**CR. DAVID COULTON**



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**CR. LYNDON MULLIGAN**



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**CR. MARILYN DIXON (OAM)**



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**CR. TIFFANY GALVIN**



“Damehill”  
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tgalvin@gwydir.nsw.gov.au



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## HOW THE ANNUAL REPORT IS STRUCTURED

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This Annual Report is divided into three sections:

### Section 1 – Gwydir Shire Council Achievements

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

### Section 2 – Statutory Reporting Requirements

This section includes the Statutory reporting requirements prescribed by the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

### Section 3 – Financial Statements

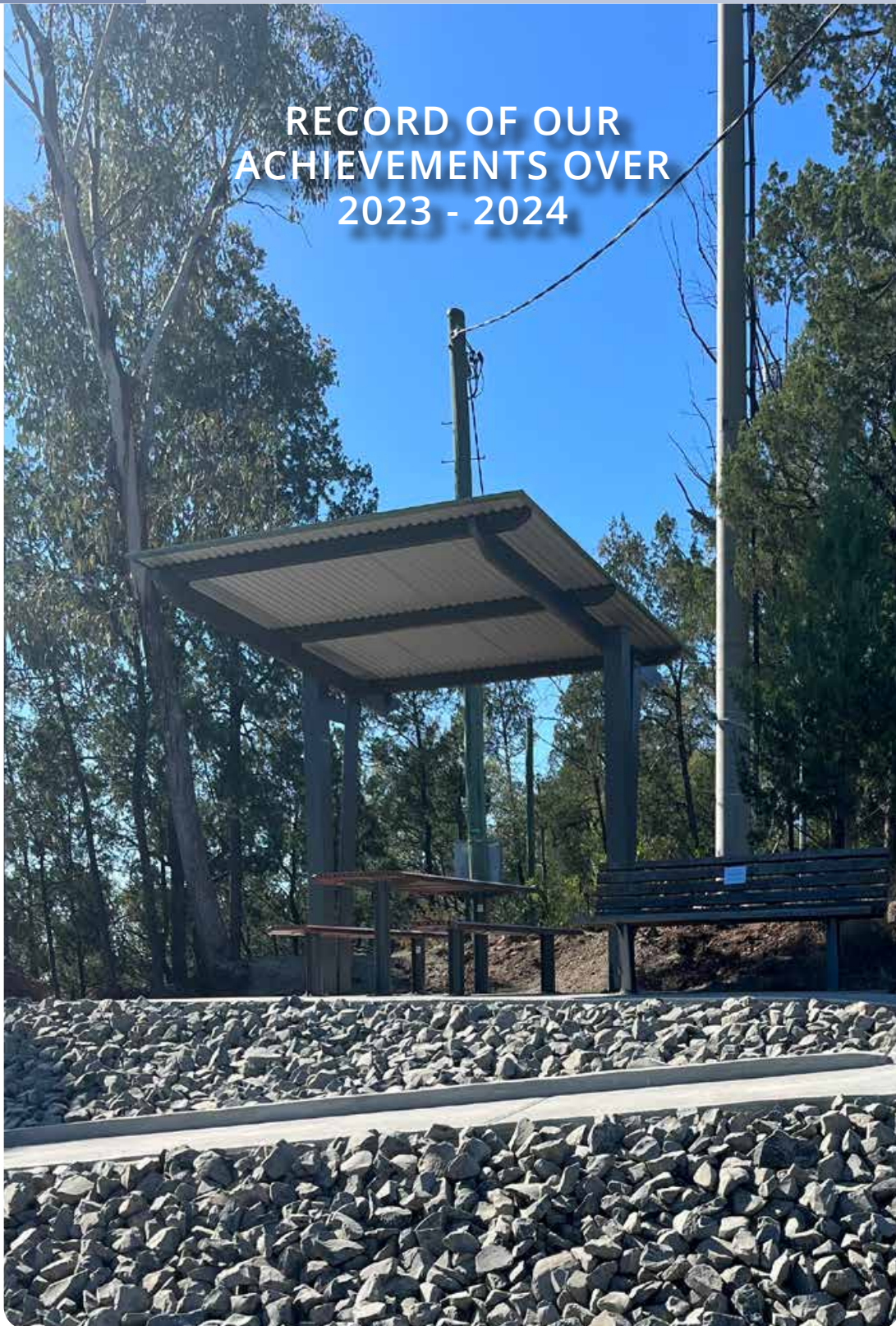
This section includes Gwydir Shire Council's General Purpose Financial Statements for the Financial Year Ending 30 June, including an Income Statement, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows.







# RECORD OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS OVER 2023 - 2024







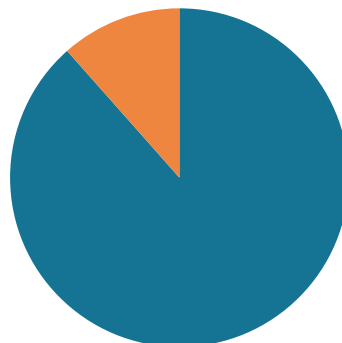
The first key theme identified by our Community through the consultative process was a social objective that we titled 'A healthy and cohesive community'.

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

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



A healthy and cohesive environment



■ In Progress ■ Not Updated



BUILDING THE  
BUSINESS  
BASE  
(ECONOMIC)

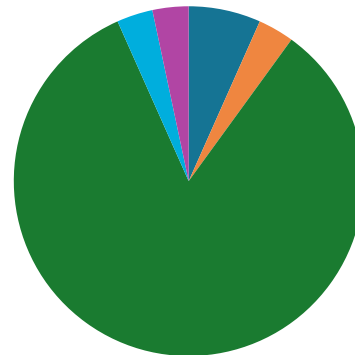
The second key theme identified by our Community through the consultative process was an economic objective that we titled 'Building the business base'.

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

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



Building the business base



- Completed
- Deferred
- In Progress
- Not Started
- Not Updated



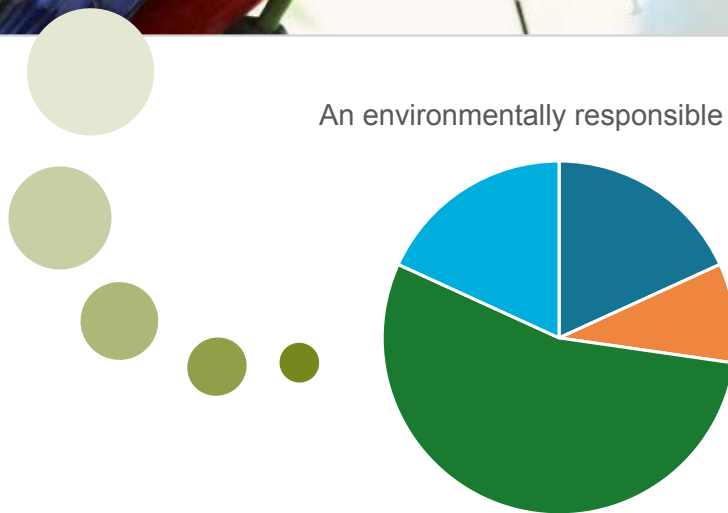
The third key theme identified by our Community through the consultative process was an Environment objective that we titled 'an environmentally responsible shire'.

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

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



An environmentally responsible Shire



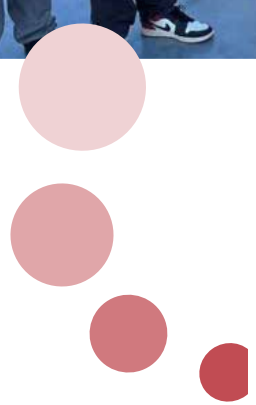
• Completed • Deferred • In Progress • Not Updated



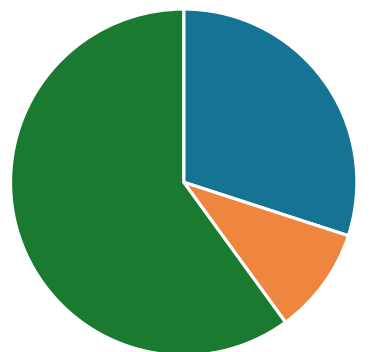
The fourth and final key theme identified by our Community through the consultative process was a civic leadership objective that we titled 'Proactive regional and local leadership'.

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

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



Proactive regional and local leadership



■ In Progress ■ Not Started ■ Not Updated



## OUR FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

The 2024 Financial Year has seen Gwydir Shire Council extremely busy completing a large amount of grant funded capital works projects along with ensuring the vital services our communities need continue to be provided and operating.

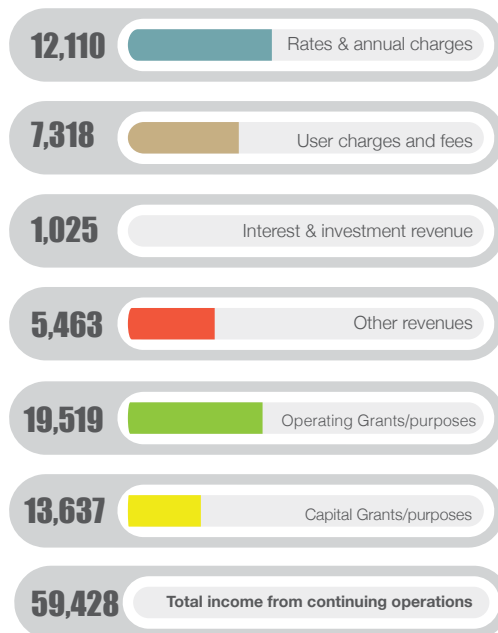
The breakdown of monies that Council receives and expends are tabled below:

<b>Income Statement</b>	<b>(\$'000)</b>
Total Income from Continuing Operations	\$ 59,428
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	\$ 49,164
Net Operating Result from Continuing Operations	\$ 10,264
Net Operating Result before Capital Grants and Contributions	-\$ 3,373
<b>Balance Sheet</b>	<b>(\$'000)</b>
Total Current Assets	\$ 36,859
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 17,152
Net Current Assets	\$ 19,707
Total Non-Current Assets	\$ 535,575
Total Non-Current Liabilities	\$ 13,082
Total Equity	\$ 542,200

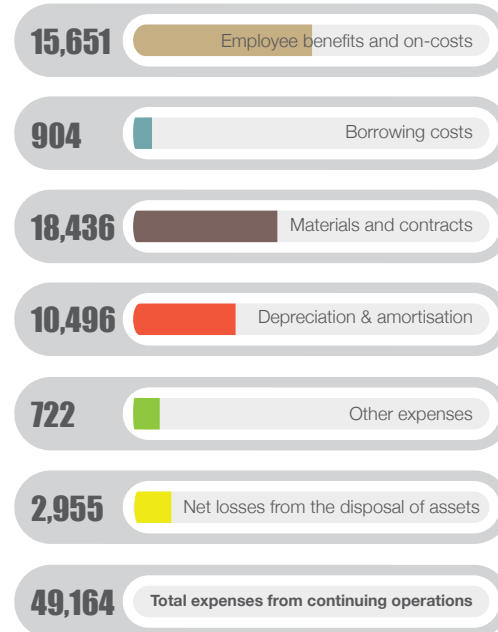


## Gwydir Shire Finances at a Glance

Council Income - where our money comes from (\$'000)



Council Income - where our money goes (\$'000)





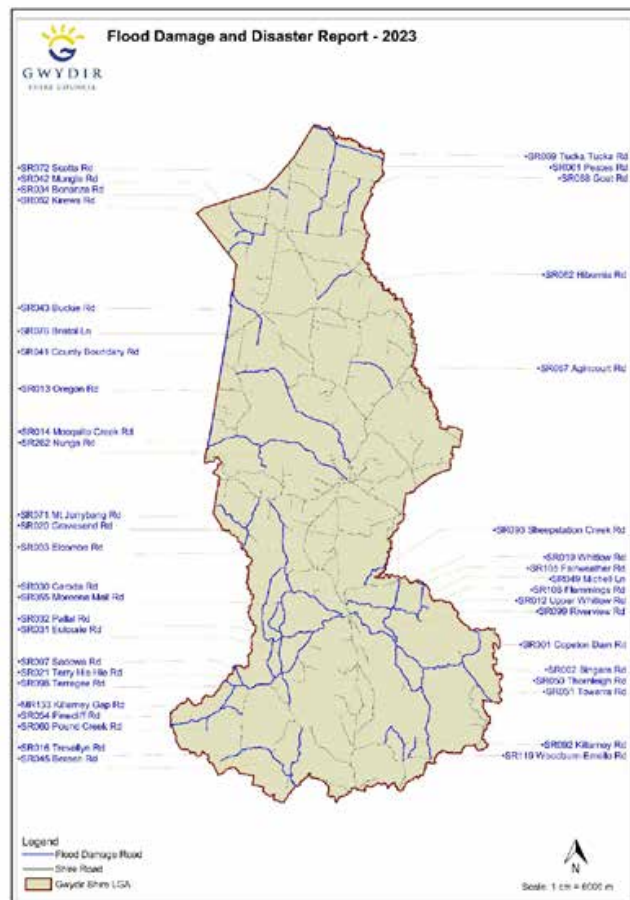


## GWYDIR SHIRE FLOOD DAMAGE REPORT

In the 2023-2024 financial year, Council experienced its fifth natural disaster declared flooding event since 2020. The damage ranges from gravel loss on unsealed roads to failed drainage structures, to complete, widespread pavement failures.

During the reporting period, council staff averaged an expenditure of \$13,000 per day addressing flood damaged roads, and this work will continue for some time. Councils' current priority is to continue working on any remaining damage. At present all the roads consisting of long sections of damage have been repaired. Council is now working on the roads with small sections of damage throughout the length.

As a result of the four flooding events, Council has a dedicated Flood Damage Response Team. This includes a Flood Damage Project Manager, two Council Construction Crews and contractors from Council's earthmoving panel contract.





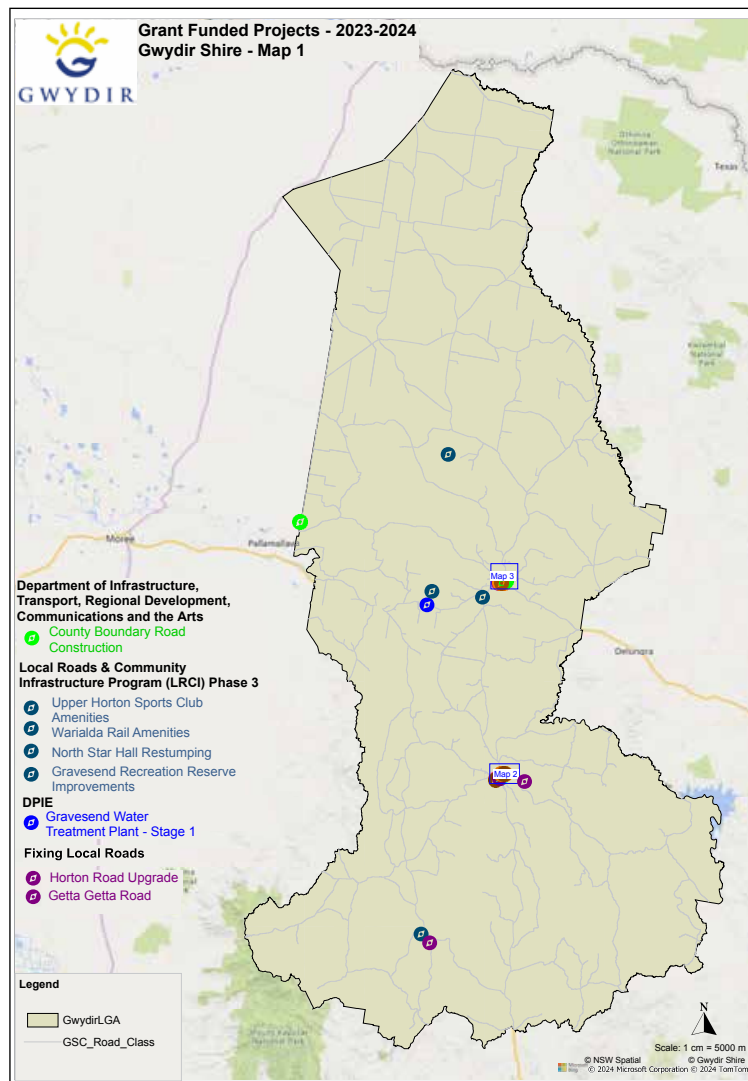


## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGH OUR GRANT FUNDED WORKS

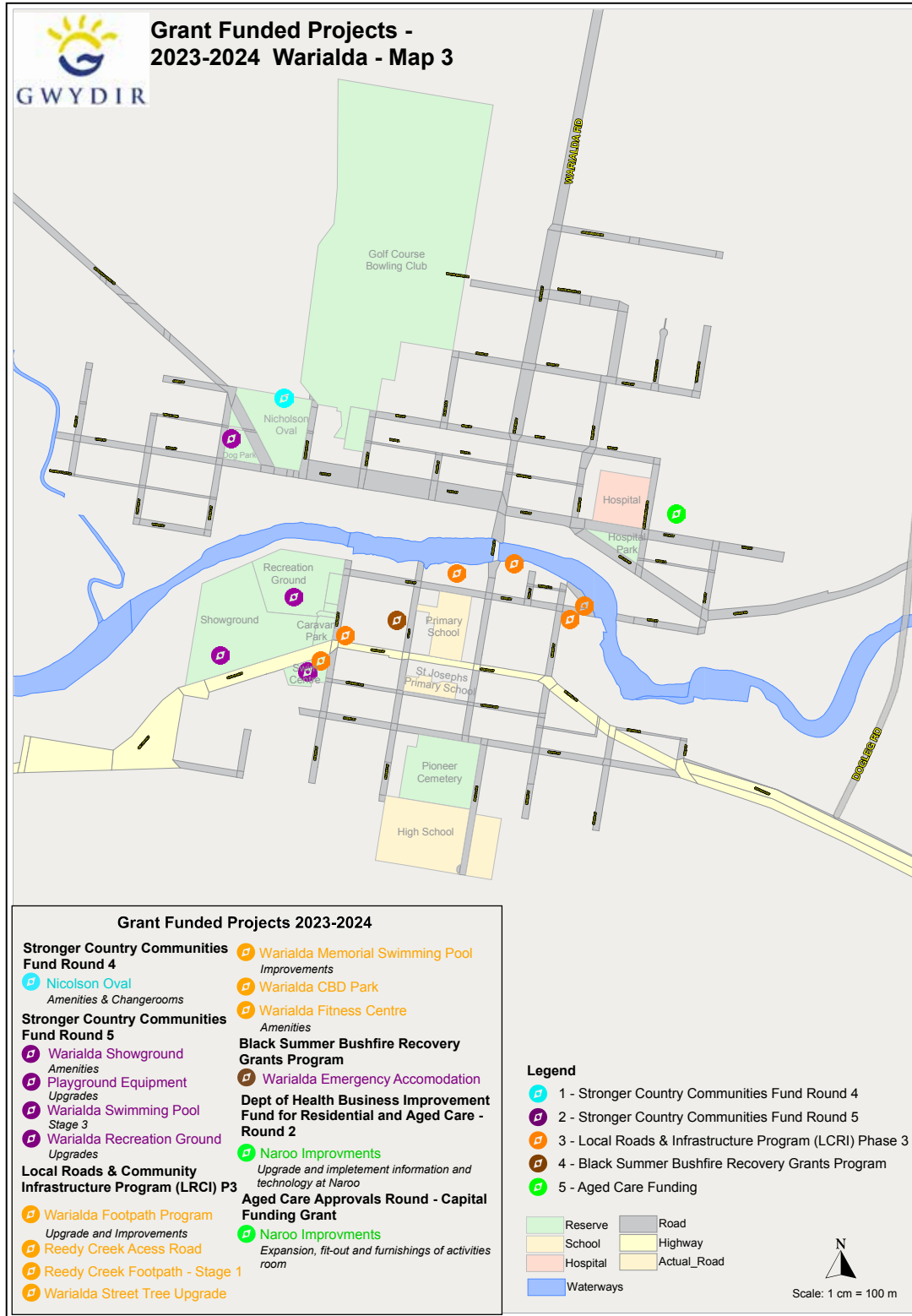
In recent times there has been unprecedented, once in a generation, access to both State and Federal Grants to meet the challenges that the natural disasters presented to the Shire's communities. Through this access to funding Gwydir Shire and various community groups have successfully upgraded or installed infrastructure

and provided events for and to the community that is going to benefit both locals and visitors for many years to come.

Below are some maps of the grant funded projects that have been completed or are in the process of being completed in 2023-24.










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## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGH OUR SECTION 355 COMMITTEES

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### Bingara Anglers Club

This year, at the Bingara Anglers Club and Native Fish Hatchery, we have seen the completion of the Hatchery upgrades and renovations, as well as a record year for registrations at the Easterfish. With a complete makeover of the Hatchery building and fish breeding area still under renovation until early 2024, the planned Murray Cod and Golden Perch breeding and restocking was put on hold for another year. With grants now available, funding has been sourced through the \$2-for-\$1 Native Fish Stocking Program for next year to breed, grow and/or purchase fingerlings for stocking the Gwydir River. Further funding has also been sourced to hold a Gone Fishing Day in the first half of next financial year, where kids and keen ‘fishos’ can come and learn the secrets to becoming a great angler, with a free sausage sizzle and the chance to win some fabulous prizes.

This year’s three-day Easterfish event on the banks of the Gwydir River and Copeton Dam saw a record number of registrations, with over 310 applicants signing up for the tournament. The conclusion of the event, again, saw a massive crowd show up to the Hatchery for a BBQ, some drinks, entertainment and great prizes. The committee looks forward to hopefully seeing more applicants and sponsorship next year, with the opportunity to get back into restocking our beautiful Gwydir River and the vision of holding some additional tournaments and events throughout the year. Happy fishing



### Warialda Cultural Community Centre (WCCC) - Carinda

Warialda Cultural Community Centre (WCCC - Carinda) continues to enjoy local and visitor patronage with sales in the Shop continuing to do well.

WCCC has now managed Carinda for 45 years with the maintenance of the 1880s building being the main priority of members.





The Tuesday Craft Group continues to be a great social outlet for patrons and a place to share craft skills. The group meets in the Stump Room between 10.00am and 12 noon every Tuesday. There is also a Thursday Night craft group for those who are unable to attend the day meeting.

The Thursday group also meets in the Stump Room between 6.00pm and 8.00pm.

WCCC continues to be an integral part of the Warialda community providing monetary support to local organisations and as a place for social contact.

WCCC meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month [except January] at 10.00am and the Carinda shop is open Monday to Friday 10.00am to 2.00pm and Saturdays 9.00 am to 12.00 noon.

All members are volunteers who are dedicated to maintaining the beautiful old building and providing a service to the Warialda and district.

Thank you to Gwydir Shire Council for their support.

### Warialda Historical Society

Once again, we have had a productive year promoting Family and General History for Warialda and District.

It is very pleasing to have some new faces join our Society and already they have become very valuable members of our small group.

With the small grants from Be Connected we have been able to pay for internet and worldwide Ancestry. We hope that this facility will be used more widely by our members.

A huge thank you to the executive and all volunteers for the cooperation and dedication they provided to the Society and its many activities that were conducted throughout the year. Many volunteer hours are given to not only open the Museum but to fundraise, coordinate activities and maintain facilities.



Bingara District Historical Society

The group participated at the Australia Day Awards by selling drinks where the Society was nominated for 'Special Event of the Year' for the opening of our Military Museum. Although we did not win, we were honoured to receive a certificate of recognition. Two other major events were held which were a great opportunity to foster community spirit. The Community Support and Volunteer Groups Information Day "Bingara's Heart Beats" on 16 March 2024 was a mammoth task. This event aimed to highlight the diverse range of community and volunteer organisations in Bingara that locals can be a part of. The next event that followed was 'Our Golden Past: The Way We Were', which was a storytelling event held on 22 May this year. This showcased stories and family histories from the Bingara area.



Warialda Men's Shed

The Gwydir Shire Council initiated the formation of the Warialda Men's Shed in 2008 by providing a large shed, some equipment and some projects to start us off.

Council has continued their generous support each year and have helped us apply for Government grants to purchase equipment.

We currently have 12 members with an average of 6 or 7 meeting each Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30am until midday – with an all-important morning tea being held at 9:30am.



Since its inception there has not been a day when we have had no jobs awaiting attentions, so besides the fellowship it is also fulfilling a vital, practical role in the community. Projects for this year include a football passing practice target, restoring a set of outdoor table and seats, reframing and repainting bench seats for St Joseph’s Convent School, converting a round wooden table to a larger oval table, constructing a set of timber outside steps, 5 Camphor Laurel timber tables, sitting castors on a BBW, 2 routed timber signs, and many other repair jobs in timber or steel.

Five times each year we prepare the shed for use by the Roads and Maritime Services to carry out checks for registration for local trucks and buses.

### Warialda Driver Reviver

Warialda Driver Reviver recognises the importance of road safety with offering travellers a place to stop, have a break and enjoy refreshment before continuing to their destination. Local volunteers help keep this initiative going with operating at peak holiday periods including long weekends and during the school holidays.

### Warialda Sports Council (WSC)

In its 44th year, Warialda Sports Council continues to make significant contributions to the sporting community in Warialda.

WSC currently has 11 affiliate sporting bodies. Affiliation covers junior and senior rugby league, touch football, cricket, netball, golf, swimming, pony club, jockey club, little athletics, and three local schools.

Our local sports people have once again achieved outstanding results over the past 12 months with representatives competing at local, zone, regional and state level. Warialda Sports Council continues to recognize these achievements at an annual presentation evening where awards are presented for sub-Junior girl or boy of the year, junior girl or boy of the year, senior sports person of the year, sporting team of the year, sporting event of the year and service to sport.

Mini Numbers is the primary fundraising activity for the WSC and is still a big success.







## S355 HALL COMMITTEES

### Yallaroi Hall

The Yallaroi Hall Committee is an active committee who work collaboratively with Council to provide facilities that are safe and fit for purpose for residents of Gwydir Shire and visitors alike.

### North Star Memorial Hall

The North Star Hall continues to provide a facility for community events on both a regular and casual basis.

### Gravesend Hall

The Gravesend Hall Committee continued working towards restoration of the hall. The builder who had previously been working on the hall has relocated and the committee are working on securing a new builder to progress works.

Future works yet to be completed include:

- New lining boards the old dining room section.
- Replacement of some exterior lining boards and around the doorway and fireplace in the dining section finished off to the outside.
- Electrical installation to be completed when the wall linings have been installed.
- Painting inside and out.
- Timber floors to be sanded and refinished.

Our annual Christmas light competition is always a hit and is sponsored by the Regional Australia Bank. And our colouring in competition is sponsored by the Committee.

We extend our gratitude to the Council for taking over the Christmas Carnival.



### The Bingara Community Op Shop

The Bingara Community Op Shop has had a very successful year with a few changes in operating hours and procedures. There are six sections of the operation with a group leader and volunteers allocated to these areas. This gives ownership to the volunteers who work hard to make the shop so successful. The volunteers give their time freely and make an amazing contribution to the community.

The Bingara Community Op Shop opened the “Food Pantry” this year to assist those in need. Six volunteers have recently completed the Hygienic Food Practices Course. There is one Food Supervisor but that will be increased within the near future.

The Op Shop team is very excited with the Council gift of the nearby office/shed once the new council building has been built. Furniture donations continue to increase, and this will provide a space for expansion to accommodate the larger pieces when they arrive at the shop.



The Poppy Project within the community was a great success. The display in the library was appreciated by many and there are still poppies adorning the back gate.

The inaugural Biggest Morning Tea was a beautiful day. The group raised over a thousand dollars for the Cancer Council.

The Bingara Community Op Shop continues to be a vibrant group within the community. The group was involved in the Orange Festival, the Share your story activity still occurs, the group joined the Businesses Bowling competition, and they continue to donate to the community, the shop is a social hub for the town and those in need know that the shop is a place of inclusivity and will render help.

There is a huge range of talent within the volunteer pool, and this results in a growing and vibrant business for the town.

A comment which encapsulates the business came from a local customer, “You can never leave this place without feeling happy.” This of course says a great deal about the team of volunteers, and thanks must go to them.



Bingara Community Op Shop Annual Financial Report 2023-2024	
Opening Balance	\$28,703.37
Closing Balance	\$28,211.50
Difference	-\$491.87

Income and expenditure for the Bingara Community Op Shop, with details of donations made during the year.	
Income	\$76,295.55
Disbursements	\$61,483.05

Donations	Total (\$)
Bingara Community Practice	\$8,820.00
Bingara Central School	\$5,600.00
Northern NSW Rescue Helicopter	\$5,000.00
Gwydir Shire - Country Comfort	\$3,500.00
Lions Club of Bingara	\$2,000.00
Emma Wilkins	\$2,000.00
Bingara Historical Society	\$1,500.00
Cancer Council	\$1,261.16
Big bash tennis	\$300.00
Touriandi	\$200.00
St Johns Anglican Women	\$100.00
Bingara and district cancer action group	\$40.00
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>\$30,321.16</b>

Note: REPAYMENTS denotes equipment, material and supplies purchased by volunteers and subsequently reimbursed





## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN SOCIAL SERVICES

### Targeted Early Intervention Reform Program

- Supported Playgroups
- Toy Libraries
- Youth Service
- Neighbourhood Centre

### Children's Services

- Bingara Preschool
- Tharawonga Mobile Resource Unit

### Contracted Services and 355 Committees of Council

- Centrelink
- The Bingara Community Op Shop



## TARGETED EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

### Supported Playgroups

In Bingara and Warialda families enjoyed a range of outdoor activities including, obstacle courses, ball games, and pretend play. Indoor play involved craft, building with blocks, book reading and pretend play in the home corner. Different styles of play and experiences were created for families catering for different ages and stages of development. This encourages the children to develop skills through the activities provided.

Toy Libraries are exceptional facilities that our families use for borrowing toys as well as providing a meeting place and support service. They are a place for families to come and experience playgroup, catch up with friends, meet new locals, be supported, and provide a great social interaction experience for our little people to enjoy and learn.

### Toy Libraries

#### Festive Events and Celebrations

Each Year special events are celebrated like Mother's Day, Father's Day, International Women's Day, Anzac Day, Christmas, Easter, Dental Health Week, National Families Week, Birth Certificate Ceremonies, Grandparents' Day, and Children's week, all these special events are celebrated at the toy libraries.



### Children's and Families Week

On Tuesday, 24 October the Bingara Toy Library held the annual Children's Week event. The event was celebrated in the back yard with a picnic morning tea, which families helped provide. The children were able to experience free play using the outdoor equipment, water table experiences, story time, chasing bubbles and eating an array of yummy fruit.

In Warialda on Wednesday, 15 May Toy Library Celebrated Families Week. A morning tea was enjoyed by the families, children, and staff for this occasion.

### Gwydir Shire Birth Certificate Presentations

A birth certificate ceremony was celebrated in November 2023 with nine (9) new babies being welcomed to our shire. Cr. Catherine Egan once again presented each child with their certificate and gift bag.

### Guest / Guest Speakers

Each month our toy libraries provide information sessions for families on a wide range of topics. This year we had staff from Rural Outreach Service and the Moree Women's Refugee engage with families and offer support.

The Dietician from Hunter New England Health, Sally Lavery provided information to all families who may have had new babies, were expecting, or had older children and had questions regarding challenges they may have been experiencing.

Physiotherapist from Warialda Family Practice, Ellen Gordon presented information to mums about their pelvic floor, and ways to improve their pelvic health before and after birth.





Speech Pathologist from Hunter New England Health, Sandy Scotton discussed when to see a speech pathologist, where you can access this and books and information to help also.

Child and Family Health Nurse from Hunter New England Health, Sarah Frater was available at the Toy Library to support and provide information for families and to facilitate checkups on newborns, Continance Nurse from Hunter New England Health, Lavinia Hill discussed bed wetting, bowel issues, toilet training, and provided tips and tricks to help families.

Gwydir Librarians read stories and provided craft activities throughout the year.



### Kool Skool Kids

The Kool Skool Kids Program Continued to run Each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon during the school term. This service provides children from kindergarten to year three (3) a safe space for after school activities. The afternoon sessions include craft, games, Lego, reading, movie afternoons, outside play and giving the children a safe environment until their parents collect them at 4.30pm.

Over the 2023-2024 financial year our toy libraries facilitated 1,822 points of contact with children and families in Gwydir Shire.





## YOUTH SERVICES

### Youth Programs

The Youth Space Program ran in Warialda from June 2023 to December 2023 and provided an opportunity for students to participate in after school activities which were tailored to their strengths and interests, as well as having a chance to develop new skills and friendships. The program consisted of physical exercise, card and board games, music jam sessions and conversations made around areas of bullying and choice making.

The Gwydir Youth Peer Tutoring Program started last year at the instigation of Rebecca Ju, a student who participated in the Gwydir/Willoughby Youth Exchange program. Rebecca identified a lack of access to opportunities for tutoring when she was here and set about rectifying this discrepancy by submitting a proposal to Willoughby Council. The proposal was approved, and funding allocated. Willoughby Youth Action Group now promote the program to students who are interested in teaching, education, and similar careers. The program caters to year 7 – 12 students from Gwydir shire who participate in online tutoring with the support from students in the Youth Action Group Program.

Youth Services teamed with Warialda Little Athletics to hold a colour run as a fundraiser for the Little Athletics Club. Over twenty runners ran around the Warialda High School oval as twelve volunteers, at different stations attempted to ‘colour’ them with coloured powder and coloured water. A sausage sizzle, cooked by volunteers, and drinks were available after the run at a small cost. The Youth Mentoring Program has been assisting young people with Centrelink, Medicare, job applications, behaviour management and resumes.







### Youth Week

The Department of Regional NSW supplied activities for Youth Week. Eco Dyeing and Weaving Workshops were held at Ceramic Break Sculpture Park, providing an opportunity for the Youth of our shire to get creative.

### Youth Exchange

The 2023 Gwydir/Willoughby Youth Exchange Program saw a record number of students participate, with ten students from Willoughby and nine from Gwydir. Students, supervisors, councillors, and senior staff from both councils met at The Living Classroom on Thursday 29th of June, for a country style welcome dinner prepared by the Friends of Touriandi.

Early Friday saw a visit to the Myall Creek Memorial site, with many appearing to show significant interest in the information available. Then back for the Orange Picking Ceremony. The youth enthusiastically participated in Adam Marshall's challenge to find the largest Orange. After a picnic lunch by the Gwydir River and a photo opportunity at the Gwydir/Willoughby plaque, the group was joined by Willoughby Council staff and councillors for a Gwydir River trail ride. After a change of clothes, some took a quick look at the Bingara Community Op Shop to check the handmade lanterns, browse for bargains, and grab a cup of homemade soup before rejoining the group for a diner dinner and "Grease", at the Roxy Theatre.

A full day Saturday, saw a visit to Bingara Museum, Orange Festival (where Mayor, John Coulton presented students with Certificates of Participation, they had free time before walking in the parade), a trip to Ceramic Break Sculpture Park, then more free time, and karaoke at The Living Classroom.

Another big day on Sunday with a trip to Croppa Creek, where the group met Councillor Lyndon Mulligan who shared his knowledge of farming in a section of an area known as the Golden Triangle, where meat, grains and cotton are grown. A detour on the return trip provided an opportunity to look at Cranky Rock. Back to The Living Classroom for a farewell dinner and bonfire.





On Thursday, 31 August the Gwydir youth and supervisors travelled by car, bus and train to join the Willoughby folk at Chatswood. A ten-hour trip for some. Check-in at Silkari Apartments and off to Lilong Chinese Restaurant for dinner.

On Friday the group took the train and ferry to Taronga Zoo. Some left early and headed back for some free time, whilst others continued to explore. A train trip to an NRL game topped off a long day.

The Emerge Festival on Saturday provided a chance to experience the multiculturalism of the Willoughby Council area and an opportunity to shop. The participants of the Exchange walked in the parade and visited the Chatswood Youth Centre where Willoughby Councillors shared information about their area and about being a city councillor. The group explored the Love Bites Respectful Relationships Exhibition at Chatswood Library. A few stayed on for the optional Consent Training whilst others took advantage of some free time. An evening meal and activities at the Youth Centre rounded off the day.

The first activity on Sunday was the Sydney Harbour Bridge Climb, followed by a trip to Lane Cove for adventures on the water with kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, power boating and swimming on offer. The day was finished with a large group dinner and the exchange finished with a long trip home on Monday.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

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



## CHILDREN'S SERVICES

### Bingara Preschool

It has been another year of accomplishments for Bingara Preschool, with the much-anticipated opening of the new front classroom. The new classroom has been an aspiration of the service for years, and finally, in September 2023 it was completed and fully licensed. The last twelve months have seen the service continue to strive to meet the best outcomes for each child within the context of the National Quality Framework.



### Educational Curriculum

Bingara Preschool facilitated a play-based curriculum, focusing on encouraging each child to feel safe, secure, and supported. The team of Educators have embraced the updated Early Years Learning Framework (Version 2) and have implemented the subtle changes into the curriculum. One of the main goals this year was for all Educators to broaden their ability to embed multicultural perspectives within the services environment. The team often discussed ways to increase and facilitate various aspects of culture to encourage the children's knowledge, thoughts, and acceptance.

The service celebrated a range of cultural events during the year including:

- NAIDOC Week.
- Father's Day.
- Remembrance Day.
- Christmas.
- Lunar New Year.
- St Patrick's Day.
- Pancake Day.
- Easter.
- ANZAC Day.
- Mother's Day.
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Day.
- Harmony Day.

Another focus of the Educational Curriculum is to extend and investigate the children's interests and home culture. Over the past year, the children and Educators have explored and learnt about the following topics including pirates, football, volcanoes, holidays, fishing, role play, family events, occupations, dinosaurs and colours.

This year, the service has implemented a school readiness program after lunch each day. During this session the children participate in a range of experiences that promote the skills that will assist them next year when they attend formal schooling. The Educator facilitates a variety of experiences including listening to an entire story, learning about the features of a book, being able to create their own ending to a story, extending on social skills and identifying and writing their own name. The Educator also focuses on concepts such as numbers, colours, shapes and initial sounds.

### Educational Leader

The Educational Leader has continued to study for the Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood Teaching). The Educational Leader has mentored and supported the work placement students and the service trainees while undertaking their practical components. The Educational Leader organised the group training for all Social Services staff to complete the updated Child Protection Unit. She also monitored the required documentation for the planning cycle and provided support and suggestions to other educators when required. The Educational Leader liaised with other service professionals in relation to training that is available and is currently planning the next group training.



### Quality Improvement Plan

There are two main goals identified in the services Quality Improvement Plan in 2023 - 2024. The first goal was to update the soft fall forte play area as it has become outdated. The team is actively researching natural based play environments, that feature sustainable materials. The service is also currently waiting for the next round of grants to be released, so an application can be submitted to fund this project. The second main goal is for the team to extend the loose parts collection for the children, this adds to the sustainable practices of the service.

### Graduation and End of Year Celebration

In December 2023, the Preschool welcomed families and community members to the end of year celebration and formal opening of the new classroom. Together the children, their families, community members and the educators celebrated the opening of the new classroom and each child's time at the service. Each child received their special folder full of memories reflecting on their time at Preschool. Each family also received a copy of their child's completed observations and related documentation. The service organised a photographer to take photos at the event and provided each family with a copy. All that attended enjoyed a shared picnic morning tea, and then together explored the Bingara Preschool.

### Excursions and Events

Bingara Preschool has continued to build strong reciprocal relationships within the wider community. Over the past year the children have attended the following excursions and community events: The Orange Picking Ceremony (Community Event), The Easter Hat Parade (Bingara Central School - Excursion), The Orange Festival (Community Event), The Bingara Show (Community Event), The Bingara Library (Excursion), The Infants Sports Day (Bingara Central School - Excursion), The Infants Frolic (Bingara Central School - Excursion), The Little Bit of Blue (Excursion - The Roxy), The Bingara Multipurpose Service (Teddy Bears Picnic Excursion), Gwydir Shire Christmas T-Shirt Day Challenge (Community Event), Gwydir Shire 'Wear Your Boots to Preschool' (Community Fundraiser), and the Gwydir Shire 'Wear Pink to Work' (Fundraiser).

### Bingara Preschool Has also celebrated the following events

Book Week was celebrated in August. Preschool held a dress up day, where the children were encouraged to dress up in their favourite costume. There were a wide variety of costumes including princesses, superheroes, and fairy tale characters. The Educators dressed up too in their favourite costumes. When the children arrived, the Educators took the children's photos on the boardwalk, and this was placed on the services social media page to share with their families. For the children who were absent, the families were invited to send a photo of their child dressed up at home. These photos were also added to the Book Week social media post.

On Wednesday, 21 May, Preschool facilitated National Simultaneous Storytime. National Simultaneous Storytime is held in May each year and is organised by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA). Each year ALIA chooses a book written by an Australian author and illustrator. This book is then read simultaneously in a range of places around Australia including schools, preschools, childcare services, bookshops and within family homes. This year marks the events 24th year. The children enjoyed exploring outdoors in the morning, and then at 12pm the children grouped together to enjoy the 'Bowerbird Blues' story on the Smartboard, which was read by Aura Parker, the author.

We celebrated Australia's Biggest Morning Tea with all families invited into the service to share a picnic styled morning tea. Each family brought in a plate of food to share. The children showed their families around the preschool, with the yard being the preferred place to explore. The Preschool raised \$237 for the Cancer Council, and this will help people who have been affected by cancer.



On Thursday, 27 June, 'Reptiles on the Go' visited Preschool. The show presented a wide range of reptiles including a turtle, a crocodile, a blue tongue, and a python. The presenter spoke to the audience about important facts regarding each of the animals. The preschool also welcomed the Toy Library Facilitator and the Toy Library families, as they too watched and enjoyed the show. This show was at no cost to the families, as this was funded by the Gwydir Shire Council.

Other events that were celebrated at Bingara Preschool during the last year included:

- Pyjama Day
- Mother's Day

#### Visitors, Family and Community Involvement:

Bingara Preschool has welcomed a variety of visitors to the service during the last year. This included the residents and employees from Touriandi, on multiple occasions during the year they visited us. Touriandi visitors, children and educators enjoyed a shared morning tea, craft activities, dancing and exploring the yard together.

Preschool also welcomed the Library Officer from the Bingara Library. The Library Officer visited the service several times throughout the year, reading the children their favourite stories and facilitated craft activities for the children to engage in.

To extend on the children's current interests, Preschool arranged for Rural Fire Service and NSW Fire & Rescue to visit during the month of March. Both fire services were very interactive with the children, encouraging them to use the fire hose and other fire equipment. The firefighters discussed fire safety with the children and the importance of knowing when to call 000.

Other visitors to Bingara Preschool included:

- The Stage 5 students from Bingara Central School prepared and cooked meals with the Bingara Preschool children.
- Bingara Central School kindergarten teacher for a series of visits.
- Family members shared a recipe, provided collage, provided seedlings and planted vegetables.
- The Inclusion Support Teacher from Early Links.
- The Early Intervention Teacher from Ross Hill Public School.
- The Speech Pathologist from Moree Community Health.
- The Steps Vision Screener from Inverell Community Health.
- The Occupational Therapist from Vital Health.
- The Speech Therapist from Vital Health.
- Two university students completed some of their allocated practical requirements.
- Two work placement students from Bingara Central School.
- A Tafe student who completed some of their allocated practical requirements.
- Tafe trainer and assessor.
- International Child Care college trainer and assessor.

## THARAWONGA MOBILE RESOURCE UNIT

Tharawonga Mobile Resource Unit has had a very successful year with the addition of a new venue in Warialda. Tharawonga operated at Croppa Creek on Monday, North Star on Tuesday, Yallaroi on Wednesday, Yetman on Thursday, and Warialda on Friday from term 2, 2024. Over the course of the year, enrolment of children has increased significantly in most of these venues. There are now 44 children attending Tharawonga.



We have a fresh new team of educators this year thanks to the Gwydir Shire Council funded Certificate III in Early Childhood Education.





These same educators are now enrolled in the Diploma of Early Childhood Education. Educators have undertaken training in CPR, First Aid, Asthma, Anaphylaxis and the most current Child Protection unit. The Service Director is also engaged in additional whole day training as a part of the CCCFR (Community Child Care Fund Restricted) project focusing on CCCFR sleep and rest risk assessment community of practice. The service Director is actively working towards her 4th year Early Childhood teaching degree, Bachelor of Education (Birth to 5 Years).

The Tharawonga Parent Fundraising Committee has been proactively involved, continuing to work with the service to fundraise for required resources for the service. The committee organised a raffle and held a ladies brunch on Sunday, 23 June 2024. These were very well supported events that raised funds for the service.

### Educational Program

This year educators have critically reflected on the program structure and made changes to this document to enable the programmed opportunities and planned learning experiences to be one document across the service. The service program is still offered by a lead educator for each of the venues to ensure that all educators are collaboratively providing an educational program for the service.

The program outlines the planned learning activities and program opportunities, such as group time including language, and music and movement, community, and family partnerships and collaboration. It also includes intentional teaching. Children's voices, interests, strengths, and needs are reflected in the program, which also incorporates spontaneous and child-directed activities. The new Early Years Learning Framework (Version 2) and childhood theorists are the emphasis of our programs, which are tailored to the locations that Tharawonga visits.

### Transition to School Program

Tharawonga strives to build good rapport with the isolated schools. We operate on three school premises, which makes transition to the school program an easy and effective transition for the children attending formal school next year. Seven children transitioned from Tharawonga to schools for the 2024 year and six children will transition into school in 2025. Educators completed seven online NSW Department of Education Transition to School Statements for the children attending school in 2024. These forms went to two different schools to support the teachers to get to know the children's interests, strengths, needs, and share successful strategies. The educational program is incorporating a school readiness session for the children attending formal schooling in 2025. The children are engaged in intentional learning to promote school readiness.

### Compliance Visit and Assessment & Rating

The service has implemented some of the feedback provided from our previous assessment and rating visit. The service is working collaboratively to continue reviewing and updating the self-assessment documentation in line with current practices and areas that require improvements.

### Excursions and events

The rural and remote locations of venues can at times impact what events and excursions are available to the service, where possible, many opportunities are facilitated.

The service has had an annual visit from the STEPs screening program conducted by the representative from the Inverell Community Health Facility. A representative contacts the service and arranges to conduct the vision screening across our venues on all children who are four years old and attending formal school the following year.

The following learning was shared with the children through celebrating significant events and dates.



Farm Safety Week was highlighted as this is reflected in the communities and is a major part of the family's home culture. The children have been expressing to the educators what they believe is not safe on the farm. The children have participated in creative experiences identifying the unsafe pictures and the younger children have been learning to identify the animals in the pictures. Educators have read the story "Boo's Farm adventure" which explains being safe on the farm and what's not safe especially focusing on water concepts and the danger this poses to farming communities.

The children at Croppa Creek participated in National Tree Day. This involved a creative experience of decorating a tree, consisting of gluing coloured tissue paper that the children tore into small bits and glued on the tree shapes that the educators drew. This activity allows the children to refine their fine motor control, experiment with colour and pasting. The children were able to plant a mandarin tree with the teachers and the school children at Croppa creek as a part of building a collaborative partnership with the school. The preschoolers and the school children are going to take shared responsibilities for the tree, ensuring that it is watered and well cared for.

During Dental Week we looked at what good teeth brushing looks like and how to brush our teeth, and talked about how brushing our teeth helps get rid of food that builds up on our teeth as well. All the children received a toothbrush kit.

Other events that were celebrated at Tharawonga during the last year included:

- R U OK? Day
- Grandparents Day
- Remembrance Day
- End of year performance
- Christmas
- Chinese New Year
- Easter
- Mother's Day
- Reconciliation week
- National Simultaneous story time
- Butterfly education and awareness week
- Insect week
- World Environment Day

### Graduation

Families were welcomed to the Vicarage Café at North Star to participate in a Preschool graduation ceremony for children attending school in 2024. The children were presented with their portfolios and certificate of graduation from Tharawonga. The children had opportunities to have photographs with families to celebrate this milestone. Educators also presented children returning to Tharawonga in 2024 with their portfolios and certificate of appreciation.





This event allowed for valuable conversation and community engagement with our service in relation to providing feedback for 2023 and ideas for 2024.

The Tharawonga educators promote art and craft as a part of the children's learning. This experience provides the children opportunities to engage with senses such as touch, sight, and sound, and helps develop fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. It also encourages them to explore their creativity, imagination, and self-expression. This learning experience incorporated digital technologies which was child instigated when they wanted to discover how to create their own butterfly.

The educators at Tharawonga promote group time experiences by providing music and movement which reflect on learning about following instructions, spatial awareness, self-regulation, listening skills, social and problem-solving skills, learning about music, rhythm and about quick decision making.



Collaborative partnerships are an important aspect of our mobile service as we service a variety of different rural communities. The service strives to build collaborative partnerships in each of the communities it visits. The service has developed a collaborative partnership with the Croppa Creek and North Star Schools through the school children reading stories in small groups to the children attending Tharawonga.

## CONTRACTED SERVICES

### Centrelink

Staff provided support in arranging a visit from Inverell Services Australia staff to assist Bingara residents connect to sign up for and access online services again this year. The service received a very successful service audit, with ongoing changeover of Services Australia branding – signage and promotional materials. The agency managed numerous in-house staffing changes and a new Centrelink Supervisor during the year. The office continues to be well utilised.



## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

During the 2023/24 financial year Council received 45 Development Applications and 8 s4.55 Modifications with a total value of \$14,127,329.00. The types of development applied for were 8 new dwellings/residential accommodation types, 22 applications for residential ancillary developments (such as dwelling additions and alterations, garages, carports verandahs, pergolas, patios, shipping containers and swimming pools), 3 rural and 1 urban subdivision, 1 farm buildings, 2 telecommunication towers, a quarry, 2 cattle feedlots, 2 commercial, a solar installation on an aged care facility, the continued operation of a community event and the construction of the new Bingara Council Administration building.

Development Locations:

Locality	No	Locality	No	Locality	No	Locality	No
Barraba	1	Bingara	15	Boonal	1	Gravesend	2
Upper Horton	2	Warialda	20	Warialda Rail	3	Whitlow	1

The total number of development applications determined for the year was 60 as seen in the below table which also includes various other applications and approvals issued under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

	Development Application		S4.55 Modification Application		Subdivision Certificate	
	22/23	23/24	22/23	23/24	22/23	23/24
Applications Received	47	45	11	8	4	2
Applications Refused	1	0	0	0	0	0
Applications Withdrawn/Closed	1	2	1	0	0	0
Total Applications Approved	60	43	10	8	4	2
Applications Approved by Delegation	59	39	10	8	4	2
Applications Approved by Council	0	4	0	0	0	0
Application Approved by Regional Planning Panel (RPP)	1	0	0	0	0	0
Applications Approved by Private Certifier	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0



## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN AGED CARE

### NAROO FRAIL AGED CARE FACILITY



Naroo Frail Aged Hostel continues to be a vibrant and caring facility for the elderly community members of the Gwydir Shire. Bed occupancy remains high and there is an active waiting list.

Naroo is a 36-bed single room residential facility. All rooms have their own ensuite attached.

The facility is set on beautifully landscaped grounds with a bushland backdrop. Naroo includes a 10-bed secure dementia wing comprising of an ambient indoor/outdoor courtyard with an automatic roof. Staffed 24/7 by a combination of care staff and registered nurses, Naroo offers residents the individual care that they need.

Naroo Frail Aged Hostel provides support to older people who can no longer live at home. It can include:

- help with everyday living
- assistive equipment
- personal care and health care
- accommodation.


Naroo Frail Aged Hostel can help you to:

- stay connected to your community
- be more independent
- take care of your health and safety
- meet your cultural and social needs.

We are proud of our Resident experience external survey results:

**Residents' Experience**

★★★★★ Excellent



The Residents' Experience Rating shows what current residents think of Naroo Frail Aged Hostel. This rating was most recently updated on 21 September 2023.

Following a site audit conducted on 10 January 2023 to 12 January 2023, the Commission made a decision on 13 February 2023 to re-accredit the Service.

The period of accreditation of the Service will expire on 13 February 2026.



Improvements:

Purchase of Aboriginal artwork

The objective of this was to enrich the environment of the lounge room at Naroo by incorporating indigenous artwork, promoting cultural appreciation and diversity among residents.



Bed Replacements

Thirty-one (31) new king single beds and mattresses were purchased at a cost of \$160,697.00 during the reporting period. This will ensure that residents have access to top quality and comfortable sleeping arrangements. The purchase also included 8 mattresses and pumps for management of residents with high risk of developing pressure injuries.

New generator

A new generator has been installed at the Facility. The generator will act as a reliable backup power source during unforeseen outages. This not only guarantees power supply but also plays a crucial role for essential equipment such as power for residents requiring Oxygen supplementation and kitchen fridges and freezers, ensuring they stay operational, preventing defrosting and contamination.

Purchase of Contiplan wipes

The use of IAD (Incontinent Acquired Dermatitis) wipes at Naroo have effectiveness in preventing and managing incontinence associated dermatitis among residents. IAD wipes are specially formulated to clean, protect and soothe the skin. Helping maintains skin integrity and prevents skin breakdown. This has reduced the number of residents with this condition and improved care and comfort.

Rhapsody Spa Bath

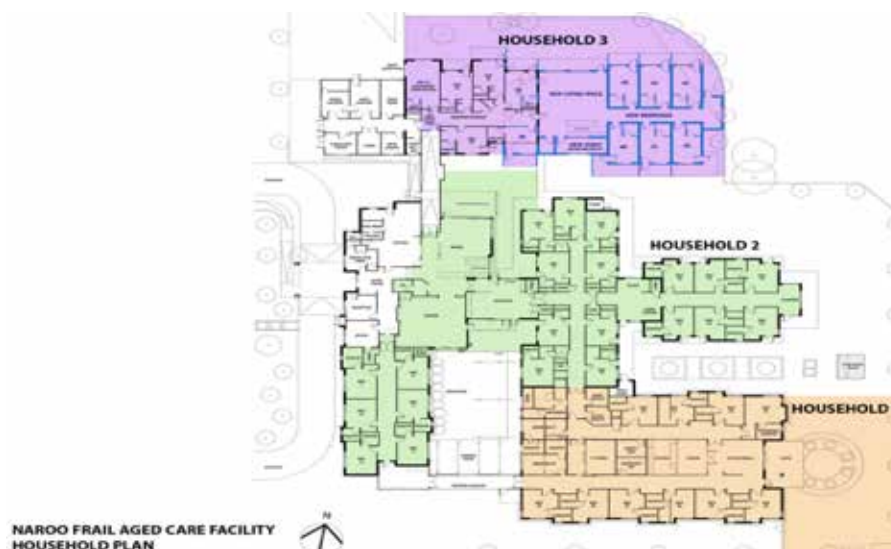
The purchase and installation of the Rhapsody Bathing system was funded through the successful Business Improvement Grant Round 2. The use of the spa and bathing system is in sequence with the current renovations. The system will improve skin integrity for residents and provide pain management for palliative care residents reaching the end of life.



### Renovations

Building works for the Aged Care Approvals Round (ACAR) grant build in High Care and the internal courtyard have commenced with Nathan Cobb being the successful tender. This new round of construction works is part of a masterplan to change the existing model of care at Naroo from Ageing in Place to a Household Model of Care.

Backed by the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety's support, the small household model of care is becoming more common across Australia's aged care landscape. Small scale living is seen to deinstitutionalize aged care, breaking apart the expectations of residents living alongside dozens of strangers in large communal spaces. There are shared living spaces, including a kitchen and dining area, but residents can always retreat to their bedrooms which are not located off busy hallways.



### Palliative Trolley Initiative

The Palliative Trolley initiative was established to provide families with essential resources and information concerning end-of-life care. The aim is to offer support, guidance, and comfort to families during challenging times.

Components of the Trolley include information resources like:

- brochures on end-of-life care options
- contact details for support services
- aromatherapy kits
- essential oils and instructions for relaxation
- aromatherapy diffusers for a calming environment
- activities for Families
- coloring books and puzzles for relaxation
- reading materials on coping strategies





### Staffing and Learning and Development

The recent recruitment of an additional Registered Nurse (RN) to the Facility has proven to be an invaluable addition to the Naroo team. Assuming the role of weekend RN, this role has significantly alleviated the workload and reduced stress for both management and other RN staff members. The proactive approach and readiness to undertake various responsibilities demonstrated by staff have been crucial in maintaining seamless operations and ensuring the delivery of high-quality care to all Naroo residents.

With the support of Council, two existing staff members are pursuing their Registered Nurse qualifications at the University of New England as part of their own professional development. These staff members have embarked on this challenging, educational journey with the support of Council and their colleagues at Naroo, reflecting both their commitment to advancing their professional careers and the supportive framework provided by the community.

Furthermore, three staff members have successfully completed their Certificate III in Individual Support. Notably, one of these individuals began their career at Naroo as a school-based trainee and has now transitioned to a Permanent Part-Time (PPT) role. This progression highlights not only the dedication and hard work of our trainees, but also Council and Naroo's commitment to fostering the "grow our own initiative," providing our community with a pathway to professional development and career advancement within their local community.

### Staff Training and Certification

Naroo has achieved a 100% completion rate for staff training in First Aid and CPR. This accomplishment underscores the organisation's dedication to maintaining a safe work environment and ensuring that all staff members are well-prepared to handle emergencies by providing the relevant training opportunities.

### Approval of Vaccinations

This has been a process in the waiting since receiving the vaccine fridge. Naroo has been approved by the Board of Vaccine Government to hold Influenza vaccines etc. and Registered Nurses who are accredited immunizers are able to administer vaccinations in-house being a benefit to Naroo residents. This removes added pressure from our local GP (general practitioners) and ensures vaccines are administered in a timely manner.





### Naroo Advisory Committee

The Naroo Advisory Committee continues to support the residents and staff at Naroo Frail Aged Hostel, and has recently purchased new linen, bedding and six recliners for the residents. These items enhance comfort for residents providing what Naroo is all about, a homely comfortable and caring space for everyone.

### Leisure and Lifestyle

Leisure activities offer a number of important benefits for aged care residents and are a key part of wellbeing to help promote a healthy lifestyle. Gentle exercise, for example, is important for maintaining good physical health and assists in the reduction of falls, especially for seniors. Lifestyle activities can also improve resident well-being and mental health outcomes by providing a sense of purpose, friendship, and community. Instead of living alone with minimal social interaction, an aged care resident has access to regular social activities that help reduce isolation and increase connection.

Naroo has a robust Leisure and Lifestyle program. A calendar is completed monthly by our Leisure and Lifestyle coordinator offering an array of activities. The residents are also encouraged to be involved in suggestions for activities and can do this by completing a 6 monthly activities survey as well as the resident satisfaction survey that is completed quarterly and reported to the Department.

Examples of Activities offered at Naroo include:

- Regular group outings to local areas and clubs.
- Carpet bowls
- BBQ's
- Cultural days celebrating diversity
- Carpet bowls
- Art lessons
- Exercise classes and regular walks
- Celebration of Carers week, Demetia week and RUOK
- Pet visits
- School visits
- Music therapy







## COMMONWEALTH HOME SUPPORT PROGRAMME (CHSP)



### BINGARA, DELUNGRA & WARIALDA

#### Learning and Development

CHSP staff attended safe food handling courses and completed CPR and First Aid accreditation requirements during the period, as well as attending the Transport for NSW Forums which are always very informative and keep staff up to date with relevant information and resources available.

#### Activities and Programs

The past year has been positive for CHSP services. We visited new locations as well as returning to some familiar favourites and undertook new activities within the Service. Supported by volunteers who are keen to keep minds and bodies active, clients seem to thrive on the group activities offered to them.

During the year, we visited Molly May's café in Manilla for lunch. Other popular outings included a BBQ on the banks of the Gwydir River, a picnic on the Bingara Golf Course and trips to Delungra and Inverell. Lunches were also held at the Imperial Hotel and the Sportsman's Hotel. Our Bingara ladies also visited the Sporting Club for lunch at the Chinese restaurant. The centres also provide weekly morning teas and lunches for clients.

Bingara CHSP staff entertain and amuse clients by dressing up for special events such as Halloween, Melbourne Cup, Christmas, Australia Day, St Patrick's Day, Anzac Day, Easter and Mother's Day. All services hold monthly birthday parties for everyone who celebrated their birthday during that month, and Warialda CHSP provide the birthday person with a free lunch. We had the pleasure of hosting several 90th birthday celebrations for some of our regular clients during the period.

Warialda & Delungra CHSP have held bingo sessions followed by a two course lunch, along with card games and outdoor outings to local parks, weather permitting. Thanks to some funding received, the Bingara CHSP Lingerlonger room and Warialda CHSP





centre has again been host to free chair exercise classes conducted by Dale Hartin from ReHealth in Moree. Two six-week blocks of classes have been held during this year and have become increasingly popular with our clients.

While attending morning tea and/or lunches at the centre, the Bingara ladies have continued their knitting activities. The ladies received very generous donations of wool which have been and still are keeping them very busy. These donations have allowed them to contribute to some very worthwhile causes while doing something they love and keep their joints mobile. The many squares knitted by the ladies were sent to "Wrapped with Love" and made into blankets. The finished products are provided to more than 30,000 people in Australia and around the world to supply them with love and warmth each year. Baby Jackets, beanies and booties knitted were sent to "Life's Little Treasures" for premature babies.

### Statistics

Transport to medical appointments outside of the local area has continued to be very busy. During 2023/2024, for CHSP offices more than 2,020 trips were made to medical appointments in Inverell, Tamworth, Armidale, and Moree by CHSP clients. For Bingara, there were 463 trips made by 18 CTP clients and 7 Department Veteran Affairs (DVA) clients had 149 trips during this time. Bingara CHSP was supported by 15 volunteers who have remained devoted to the cause and looking after our clients in an exceptional manner. Warialda and Delungra volunteers contributed more than 7,500 hours of care and support to the CHSP clientele. This support from volunteers is appreciated and valued as the centres would simply not be able to function without them.

The CHSP Access Buses travelled to Inverell regularly during the period, also making trips to Tamworth for our clients. The bus was also utilised as an alternative mode of transport for medical appointments when other CHSP vehicles were in use, and Naroo utilized the Warialda CHSP bus when needing additional transport for residents.

During the period it was identified that further outings for the under 65 category of the Bingara client base were needed, as a result two social outings specifically for CTP clients (under 65) saw us travel to the Pally pub and Delungra pub for a delicious lunch and plenty of laughs.

Local transport has remained in demand this year, many clients using the service for medical appointments, physiotherapy appointments and the optometrist who visits monthly, along with appointments at the Bingara Multi-Purpose Centre with the Podiatrist, Dietician and other specialists who visit the facility regularly.

The Meals on Wheels service has serviced up to twenty clients in Bingara with 2,984 meals being provided, and Warialda volunteers delivered 2,590 meals to client homes during the year.

In Bingara, social support of over 5,895 hours was provided to 115 clients by staff and volunteers by way of community transport, group and individual social support, meals on wheels, and local transport. There were 358 meals served in the centre to 16 clients with many laughs shared during Centre Based Day Care that is held every Tuesday.

In Delungra and Warialda 7,540 hours of support was provided to clients, that support being both individual and group support. There were 2,163 meals provided in the Warialda Day Centre and 688 in the Delungra Centre. These services provide a vital source of socialisation for our clients, many of whom do not have that regular contact with anyone.

The Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) continues to be a vital service for our community, with staff and volunteers providing services to our clients that allow them to access entry-level support services to live independently and safely at home but also providing a space to come to that gives our clients a sense of community and belonging with the in-centre programs offered.



## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN **BUILDING SERVICES**

### Our Achievements in Building Services

Council's Building Services Business Unit comprises five (5) full time, one (1) part time (shared resource), and two (2) apprentice staff members and is responsible for, but not limited to providing the following services to the community:

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

### Building Certification and inspections

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

Our Business Unit also provides information and advice to members of our community in relation to various building related issues, including lodgment of applications on the NSW Planning Portal.

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

### Sanitary plumbing and drainage approvals and inspections

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

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

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

### Building Repairs and Maintenance

Building Services continues to carry out planned maintenance activities and responded to reactive repairs and maintenance requests across approximately 200 Council owned building assets. Staff also responded to after-hours security calls and emergency repairs to Council buildings.





### Capital Works

The majority of our regular Capital Works program for 2023-2024 was again deferred to allow Building Services staff to undertake projects under the Stronger Country Communities, Local Roads & Infrastructure and other grant funding programs.

Capital works projects completed included:

- Nicholson Oval – Construction of new amenities building (including dressing sheds & canteen)
- Warialda Rail Recreation Ground – Construction of amenities building (additional works to be completed 2024/25)
- Holden Street Aged Units – Refurbishment of Unit
- Warialda RFS HQ – Removal of loading dock and raised decking & conversion to vehicle bay
- Warialda Showground – Renovation of existing amenities
- Bingara Toy Library – Internal and external painting.

### Training

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

- Safe working within proximity of power lines training
- First aid training
- Asbestos removal
- Working at heights.

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

### Summary

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

Our major Capital Works project for the 2024-2025 financial year will be the completion of the Wellness & Interpretive Centre at the Bingara Living Classroom. This project will present a new challenge for our Building Services crew due to its uniqueness in architectural design. We look forward to delivering this project to the community!





## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

### Biosecurity Priority Weeds

This year has been challenging for council's Biosecurity team due to wet conditions and staffing changes. Despite these hurdles, significant progress has been made in weed control, community education, and regulatory compliance.

The year began with the appointment of two new Biosecurity Officers. However, one officer's departure after a few months necessitated an internal search to fill the position. Two candidates were selected for a three-month trial period, during which they inspected Croppa Creek properties for Parthenium, conducted weed control and identification, and attended regional weed meetings. Both candidates performed admirably, with one ultimately being offered the position.

Extensive training has been completed and continues to ensure our officers perform to the highest standards and in line with relevant industry regulations. This includes Department of Primary Industry (DPI) Officer induction training and a Certificate IV in Government Investigations.

### Educational and Community Activities

The team actively engaged with the community through various events including but not limited to:

- Attending Warialda and Bingara Shows, providing information to landowners and residents about priority weeds.
- Participating in AG Quip field day with the weeds trailer.
- Attending an Ag retailer's information evening.
- Distributing booklets during the Hay Runners event in Bingara.

### Parthenium Outbreak

The major Parthenium outbreak at Croppa Creek remains a high priority, with monthly inspections ongoing. A significant achievement this year is Yallaroi Station being declared Parthenium-free for five years, allowing it to be removed from our list. Rapid response efforts continue in collaboration with the Department of Primary Industry (DPI) and Local Lands Services (LLS), ensuring effective inspection and eradication.







Efforts to map and control Harissa cactus have ramped up this year. Council has strengthened its collaboration with Local Land Services (LLS) and Landcare, resulting in more detailed mapping and targeted control measures. These joint initiatives focus on managing current infestations and preventing the spread of Harissa cactus, thereby protecting local biodiversity and agricultural lands.

Despite the challenges, Council's Biosecurity team remains committed to managing and controlling priority weeds, ensuring the health and biodiversity of our region.

### Private Works

Private works were undertaken at one property during the reporting period:

- Residential landholder in Bangheet: African Boxthorn & Green Cestrum control, \$1,333.92 (September 2023)

### Riverside Camping

The compliance team carries out regular camping inspections along the Gwydir River to ensure that camping is conducted in a safe and environmentally sustainable manner. Inspections of camping areas are undertaken daily through the workweek, with compliance officers providing a friendly presence and answering enquiries from campers about the area. The Shire collected \$8,232.30 from the four donation boxes across the camping grounds, an increase from \$5,830 the previous year.

Throughout the year, there was a daily average of 19 caravans and motorhomes visiting the Gwydir River campgrounds, a rise of about 15 percent from the previous year.

After the 2022-2023 flood, consultation took place with emergency services and the council. Following discussions with all stakeholders, council rangers erected lockable gates at all entrances to the free camping areas. In the event of further flooding, procedures have been put in place to evacuate and direct campers from the riverside. Emergency services and council will continue to work together in this process.

There were no other major incidents in the camping areas. There have been minimal camps set up outside the designated areas, with three camping complaints received. The general behaviour of campers was compliant, and there were no public order or safety issues.

Below: Lockable gates erected at entrances of free camping areas.





### Animal Management

Regulatory officers seized nine (9) dogs that were microchipped and registered with current owner contact information. This enabled their canine friends to be successfully reunited with their owners rather than going to the pound. A further seventeen (17) dogs were seized and transferred to the impounding facility. Four (4) dogs were successfully rehomed within the area, and the other thirteen went to rehoming organisations. The staff have networked with several rehoming organisations across the state to ensure that the maximum number of unclaimed suitable pets find new homes. The council is pleased to report that it has successfully met all the new rehoming requirements introduced in the Companion Animals Act.

During the year, twelve (12) dog barking noise complaints were reported and investigated. There were three (3) dog roaming reports, four (4) nuisance dog reports, and four (4) reports about cats that were investigated and actioned. Regulatory officers seized one (1) domestic cat, which was returned to the owner. Feral cat control continued at the landfills, with cat traps set and monitored throughout the shire.

### Vehicles and property

Routine surveillance was conducted at rest stops for litter and truck effluent release. The Council received two (2) abandoned vehicle reports. These unclaimed vehicles did not reach the required value threshold and were taken to the landfill for scrap as provided for under the Impounding Act and the Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act, which came into force on 1 November 2022. Three (3) vehicles were also impounded at the Council's impounding facility.

During the period, there were no non-companion animals impounded. Eleven (11) grazing permit concurrences were processed for the period, compared to two (2) from the previous year. Thirteen (13) nuisance animal reports were investigated, comprising four (4) cattle roaming complaints, two (2) involving horses, two (2) for roosters, one (1) for goats, two (2) for chickens, and two (2) for sheep. Council also issued notices of intention requiring fencing to prevent stock from escaping, which both went to order.

Council received eleven (11) overgrown and untidy block reports during the reporting period. These were inspected along with proactive patrols of the villages, resulting in six (6) notices of intention being issued, one of which went to order. Council also issued one notice of intention requiring fencing to prevent stock from escaping, which went to order.

### Dog Attack Statistics

Known dog attacks reported and investigated by council's Regulatory Officers are entered into the Companion Animals Database, in accordance with the requirements of the Companion Animals Act 1998. During 2023-2024 there were eight (8) incidents during the period. All incidents were investigated and reported through the Companion Animals Database portal. All incidents were resolved.

Council rangers attended the Ranger's Conference in Parramatta. At the conference, rangers receive up to date legislative developments and participate in professional development workshops.

### Penalty Notices

#### Companion Animals Act

- Four notices for "Owner of dog which rushes at or attacks a person/animal."
- Three notices for "In charge of dog which rushes at or attacks a person/animal."
- One notice for "Fail to prevent dog from escaping – not dangerous/menacing/restricted dog."
- One notice for "Owner of dog not under control in a public place."
- One notice for "Failure to immediately remove dog faeces from a public place."





Local Government Act

- One notice for “Leaving in a public place bottle/glass/syringe causing damage to property.”
- One notice for “Failure to comply with order number 21 (health/safety of land/premises).”
- One notice for “Failure to comply with order number 18 (keeping birds/animals).”

Protection of the Environment Operations Act

- One notice for “Disposal of asbestos waste at a place not lawful to receive it.”

Legal Proceedings

There were no legal court proceedings for this period.

Water Sampling

Weekly water sampling was conducted for Bingara and Warialda, fortnightly for Gravesend and monthly for North Star as per the NSW Health requirements. The sampling is undertaken by the Council's Compliance team.

Public Health (Food)

All 27 high-risk food businesses underwent their annual inspection, except for school canteens. Inspections were also carried out for mobile food vans and stalls operating within the shire. The annual food inspection survey was completed and submitted to the Food Authority.

Information, including fact sheets from the Food Authority and a regional food safety calendar, were distributed to food businesses. Individuals seeking information about starting a food retail business, as well as mobile and home food businesses, were provided with the necessary details. One complaint was received during this period, which was investigated and addressed appropriately. Staff participated in regional meetings and training sessions with the Food Authority.

Financial Year	Usage (kWh)	YoY Change (%)	Cost (\$)	YoY Cost Change (%)
2023-2024	1,576,842.0	5 ↑	612,497	33 ↑
2022-2023	1,499,661.0	4 ↑	460,286	22 ↑
2021-2022	1,440,565.0	-6 ↓	377,908	-10 ↓
2020-2021	1,533,212.0	-6 ↓	421,568	-4 ↓

Council's three major sites—Bingara Water Treatment Plant, Naroo Hostel, and the Warialda Sale Yard Bore—along with street lighting, are contracted through Shell. All smaller user sites are contracted through AGL. These contracts are arranged via Local Government Procurement, which negotiates for the best price and stability in the volatile energy market. The top five sites for power costs are Binara Water Treatment Plant, Naroo Hostel, the Sale Yard Bore for Warialda water supply, Council Offices Warialda, and Bingara Caravan Park.

Solar systems are operational at Naroo Hostel, Warialda Council Chambers, Warialda Works Depot, Warialda Sewerage Treatment Works, the Roxy Theatre Complex, The Living Classroom, and Bingara Wastewater Treatment Plant.





### Electricity

Electricity consumption continues to be monitored through the Azility portal. The total usage reached 1,576,842 kWh, marking a 5% increase. However, the expenditure rose by 33%, totalling \$612,497, which is \$152,211 more than last year. Despite securing the best market price through Local Government Procurement, the overall increase in electricity costs was unavoidable.

### Cemeteries

Annual cemetery reporting was completed for all nine cemeteries under the council's control. During the reporting period, there were 53 interments in the active cemeteries within the local government area (LGA), with 28 at Warialda cemetery and 25 at Bingara cemetery. No activity was recorded at private cemeteries.

The NSW Government introduced the Interment Industry Scheme as part of the Cemeteries and Crematoria Regulation 2022, licensing all cemetery and crematorium operators and setting clear standards. This helps families make informed choices.

Key licence conditions include:

- Clear consumer contracts
- Minimum cemetery maintenance standards
- Pricing transparency
- Quality customer service
- Respect for religious and cultural principles.

From 1 July 2024, the interment services levy will apply to all cemetery and crematoria operators, excluding inactive cemeteries. This ensures Cemeteries & Crematoria NSW (CCNSW) is properly funded to improve customer protections and maintain standards. Gwydir Shire Council now holds a Group 3 license and has updated forms and processes to align with the new regulations.

### Waste Collection

The recent period marked the beginning of a new waste management contract with J.R. Richards & Son. To commemorate this milestone, a Truck Art Competition was held, inviting students from schools in Gwydir Shire to create artworks inspired by the theme "Let's get it sorted – Be a waste warrior." The winning entry is now featured on the side of a waste collection truck, where it will remain for the lifetime of the contract.

*Right: Winning entry for Truck Art competition.*



There were minimal changes to the collection per service over the period:

- **Red bin:** An average of 349 kg per service was collected over 1,568 services, up from 340 kg (+2.6%).
- **Yellow bin:** An average of 112 kg per service was collected over 1,566 services, up from 108 kg (+3.7%).
- **Green bin:** An average of 146 kg per service was collected over 1,377 services, up from 141 kg (+3.5%).

Collection data shows an increase in all waste streams, possibly due to new services being added as the local population grows. There have been some instances of contamination in all waste streams, but with continued and improved education, this is expected to decrease. Council's waste app, Gwydir Waste, offers users information and education on which items go in each bin. It also includes a calendar to show which collection is scheduled for the week. Council has initiated a recycling bin swap project in Bingara, allowing rural landholders without access to curb side collection to participate in recycling.



### Landfills and Transfer Stations

Warialda and Bingara landfills have been enhanced with new security cameras, water tanks for firefighting, and upgraded signage. Both sites now also feature tyre cages to aid in tyre recycling. Additionally, an awning has been installed at the Bingara office to provide protection from wet weather and sun.

Below: Tyre cages for tyre recycling. New awning installed at Bingara Landfill office. Warialda Rail landfill has also seen infrastructure upgrades and new signage. New gate codes have been issued to residents in the Warialda Rail area.



### Community Consultation - Streetlight Recommendations

Council has submitted twenty streetlight recommendations to Essential Energy, focusing on high-priority areas such as Bingara and Warialda hospitals, Touriandi Lodge, and several locations across North Star. Essential Energy will assess these recommendations and the existing poles in those areas to determine their suitability for upgrades. This initiative aims to enhance safety and visibility in crucial locations.

### Part 5 Assessments

Throughout the year, several Part 5 - Review of Environmental Factors assessments were completed and are now awaiting approval. These assessments evaluate the potential environmental impacts arising from construction activities.

### Koala Park Wildlife Reserve

The Koala Park Wildlife Reserve was officially opened by Mayor John Coulton on June 7, 2023. The park features interpretative signage detailing the creation of the reserve, its features, and Koala ecology, making it a must-visit for families and tourists.

Council has recently held discussions with several key stakeholders, including Landcare, North West Koala ARKS, and other specialists, to develop a management plan. This plan will define project goals, management procedures, and mitigation of threats such as feral animals (cats, foxes, cane toads, plant species), and highlight further improvements needed for the area.

Additionally, a donation box is available at the park this year, with all funds going to the North West Koala ARKS. A sign will be erected above the donation box, featuring a QR code to allow for cashless donations.





## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN TOWN UTILITIES

Gwydir Shire Council provides water supply to Bingara, Warialda, Gravesend, and North Star.

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

Warialda's water supply is sourced from groundwater from five (5) bores. The water is aerated and disinfected with sodium hypochlorite before being delivered to residents.

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

North Star's water supply is sourced from sub-artesian ground water. The water is aerated and then treated using a Reverse Osmosis process and disinfection with sodium hypochlorite before being delivered to users.

### Water Operations and Maintenance

A total of 807ML of water was treated and delivered across Gwydir Shire during the 2023-2024 year.

- 19 new water connections were installed during 2023-2024
- 14 water service lines were replaced from main to meter
- 244 service lines repaired
- 66 water meters replaced
- 59 water main break repairs
- 34 water meter isolating taps replaced
- 300m of water main replaced
- All plumbing and drainage work at Plunkett Street units.



Council's four (4) water supplies operate under a Drinking Water Quality Management System which involves placement of multiple barriers of protection to ensure water quality is maintained. Inspection and testing of water quality occurs daily and protocols are followed. As an independent check, Council's Environmental Department collects water samples from the reticulation system of the four (4) supplies and these samples are provided to the NSW Health Laboratory for analysis.

There were no emergency water quality events during the reporting period.

### Water Charges

Water charges have an access and a usage component with a two-part tariff. The residential 20mm water access charge was \$515.00 and the Water usage charge \$1.70 /kL less than 600 kL over 600 kL is charged at \$2.40 / kL.

Water meter reading and billing are undertaken on a quarterly basis.



### Grant Funding

Council received funding from NSW Department of Planning and Environment (NSW DPE) to undertake a Bulk Water Metering Project, which involved calibration of Bingara Water treatment plant raw and clear water meters. The reservoir meters at Gravesend, Bingara, Warialda South, Warialda North, and North Star were replaced. The Project total was \$165,000 with \$148,950.00 funded by NSW DPE. The aim of the project is to monitor water usage and identify water losses.

Council received funding from NSW Department of Planning and Environment (NSW DPE) to undertake Gravesend Water treatment Plant options assessment study, with the aim of the study to recommend a suitable water treatment process and concept design to enable Council to go to tender for design and construction of water treatment plant in 2024.

#### Water Supply Capital Improvements in 2023-2024 included:

- Water meter replacement program
- Installation of water monitoring system at Gravesend and The Living Classroom. This is a remote water monitoring system that provides alerts to a mobile phone when the water levels in tanks and bores drop below an acceptable (nominated) level
- Installation of solar panels at Bingara Water Treatment Plant
- Secure yield groundwater report
- Pump replacement program at Queen Street booster, saleyard bore
- Mains replacement in West Street Bingara – 200m
- Mains replacement in Bandalong Street Bingara 100m.

### Sewerage Systems

Gwydir Shire Council operates two (2) sewerage systems. Warialda’s sewerage system was built in 1969-1970 with a design size of 1500 EP (equivalent population). Warialda operates under Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Licence L584 for small treatment plants with an allowable discharge of 250mL per year into Reedy Creek. The yearly inflow into the sewerage treatment was 171mL with 38mL of treated effluent being recycled and used on the local golf course to irrigate fairways and tees.

Bingara sewerage system was commissioned in 1971 and has a design capacity of 2000 EP. The Bingara system operates under EPA Licence L586 for small treatment plants with an allowable discharge of 250 mL per year into the Gwydir River. The inflow for Bingara sewerage treatment plant for 2023-2024 was 46ML and 8ML of treated effluent was recycled and used onsite.



Solar at Bingara Water Treatment Plant





Council undertakes monthly testing of samples from both Warialda and Bingara sewerage discharge to comply with the EPA standards. These results are published on Council’s website. Council’s residential sewer access charge is \$625 per annum and the non-residential sewer access charge is \$555 per annum. Non-residential sewer customers also pay a usage charge based on their water consumption and a sewer discharge factor. Non-residential customers have a trade waste charge levied each year.

### Sewer Operation and Maintenance

Council water and sewer operators undertook the following repairs in 2023-2024.

- 112 sewer blocks
- 14 sewer pump blockages in sewer pump stations
- 21 sewer main repairs.

New switchboard was installed at sewer pump station No. 3 and the old switchboard was de-commissioned.

#### Capital Works Sewer during 2023-2024

- North and East Bingara Pressure sewer project completed with just under 10km of pipelines installed and 86 residents connected.
- Warialda – STP inlet pipe relined
- Bingara – STP inlet pipe relined
- Electrical switchboard replacement sewerage pump station No. 3 Bingara
- Warialda sewerage treatment plant – trickle filter refurbishment
- Bingara sewerage treatment plant - trickle filter refurbishment
- Warialda sewerage pump station No. 3 pump replacement
- Warialda truck wash pond installation of solar aeration unit

*Below: Horizontal drill installing pressure sewer pipes. Right: New electrical switchboard at pump station 3, Bingara*



### Warialda Truck Wash Facility

The Warialda truck wash facility was used by 1,403 trucks between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024, averaging 116 trucks per month with an average wash down time of 59 minutes. An average of 744kL of water was used per month.

The income from the truck wash for the reporting period was \$105,733, less monitoring fees and expenses.

The truck wash hours of operation are from 6am to 11pm with the amenities building open 24 hours a day accessed using the AVDATA fob. This appears to have minimal effect on the truck wash facility. A new solar aerator was installed at the truck wash ponds in June 2024. The aerator oxygenates the water to prevent the pond from turning anaerobic.



### Parks and Gardens

Gwydir Shire Council operates and maintains fifteen (15) parks, four (4) sporting fields, eleven (11) playgrounds, twelve (12) reserves, two (2) cemeteries and numerous gardens.

Two (2) separate work crews have operated in the north and south of the shire during the reporting period. The northern crew maintains parks and gardens in the Warialda, Warialda Rail, Gravesend, Coolatai, and North Star areas. The southern crew maintains parks and gardens in Bingara, Upper Horton, the Glacial Area, and Myall Creek Memorial site. Facilities in these areas are frequented by numerous visitors and Council aims to keep these areas in prime condition.

During the cooler months gardeners undertake tree trimming, stump grinding and maintenance activities.



Above: Street gardens. Right: New shelter in Apex Park, Warialda

### CWA Park Bingara

A request was made by several residents of Bingara to have a blue tree painted as part of the Blue Tree Project. The Blue Tree Project is a mental health initiative created by Kendall Whyte as a legacy for her brother Jayden serves as a reminder that there are always people around to listen to and help those suffering from mental illness. Refurbishment of the playground commenced and will be completed October 2024.

### All Abilities Park, Warialda

Retaining walls were erected and trees were planted at All Abilities in Warialda, finishing the project.





### Sportsgrounds

New goalposts were installed at Warialda Recreation Ground in March 2024.

New electronic scoreboards were installed at both Warialda Recreation Ground and Gwydir Oval in Bingara in time for the 2024 football season.

### Bingara Showground

Gwydir Shire Council is the trustee for Crown Land Reserve D560019 Bingara Showground. The showground is maintained by Council in consultation with six main user groups: Bingara Show Society, Bingara Pony Club, Bingara Polocrosse, Bingara Jockey Club, Gwydir River Run and Bingara Camp draft. The showground is popular for holding large regional equestrian events due to the size and excellent facilities available onsite. Several scheduled events were held during the 2023-2024 year:

- Inaugural cattle working dog trials
- Bingara Races
- Bingara 2023 pony camp
- Auction sale
- Pony Club 2024 mini camp
- 2024 Bingara Show
- Bingara camp draft
- Stockman's challenge
- Numerous one day equestrian events.

A swabbing stall was installed at the Bingara Showground prior to the August 2023 Bingara Races meeting to accommodate mandatory random testing as required by Racing NSW. Racing NSW and the Bingara Jockey Club met the cost of construction.

Aussie Hay Runners coordinated the delivery of 71 trailer loads of donated hay to the Bingara Showground in August 2023 and again in June 2024. The hay was distributed to local farmers.

In December 2023 a country music festival was held at the Bingara Showground attracting over 300 campers.

Bingara Showground was booked for camping during the local RSM Club's country music weekend in April.

Bingara Showground was also host to a Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) rally in May 2024 hosting approximately 30 caravans.

Replacement of the shade sail at showground was undertaken before the annual races. Bird proofing of the grandstand by the council building crew was undertaken in May 2024.



### Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Grant (LRCI)

#### Gravesend Recreation Ground

Local Roads and Community Infrastructure funding provided an underground irrigation system for Gravesend Recreation Ground including the installation of the Rhino tank and pressure pump to complete the project.

#### Batterham’s Lookout, Bingara

Improvements at the Bingara Lookout were completed under Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Phase 1. These improvements included a new guard rail, car park fencing, signage and a picnic shelter, tables and chairs. The work was completed in August 2023 with the landscaping of a path to the picnic table. Visitor information signage and a seat halfway to the lookout will be installed to complete the project.

#### Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Phase 3

A new amenity building purchased for Upper Horton, was set up on piers and an access ramp installed during May. A new septic tank and plumbing is required to complete the project.

#### Stronger Country Communities Round 5

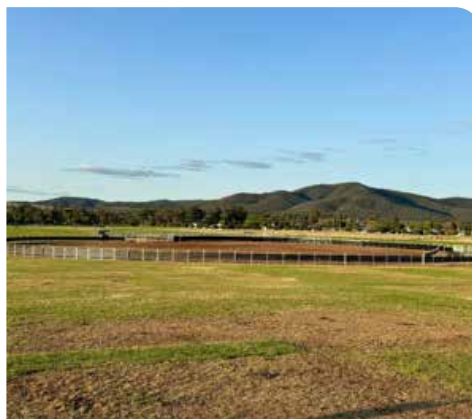
Construction of the new campdraft facility at Bingara Showground was undertaken as part of Stronger Country Communities funding. The council constructed the access road for the new facility in April 2024. As part of this project the old campdraft arena was dismantled by the user groups during various working bees. Additional lighting was installed at the northern end of the main arena 2024.

#### Regional Sports Facility Program

A covered netball court next to Gwydir Oval was installed in 2023 and was officially opened by the Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall on 19 July 2023. The facility is a great asset for the community and can be utilised for multiple functions in addition to netball.

#### Skate Park:

Council obtained funding under NSW Open Spaces Program to construct a skate park in Cunningham Park, Bingara. The project was completed in June 2024 with the official opening held on 12 June 2024. The skate park has proven to be a popular attraction for the youth of Bingara and surrounds.





**Council Depots:**

A new 20,000 litre emulsion tank was installed at the Bingara sewerage treatment works depot in November 2023. The new storage tank is large enough to handle semi-trailer loads of emulsion. The tank is provided under contract from Downer EDI locking Council into a five-year contract with Downer for the supply of emulsion at Bingara and Warialda depots.

**Workshop and Plant**

Council operates two workshops. Warialda workshop staff include Workshop Supervisor, two fulltime mechanics, one fabricator/welder, one apprentice mechanic and one school-based trainee mechanic.

The Bingara workshop consists of a Workshop Supervisor, trades assistant and one school-based trainee mechanic.

During 2023-2024 the workshops completed 325 services and carried out a total of 1875 repairs to individual items of plant.

Council’s fabrication section undertakes repairs to councils’ plant and equipment along with fabrication of various building maintenance task for example, handrails for access ramp at Naroo Aged Care facility. The picture below shows the frame for placement of skid steer attachments.

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

- New guillotine
- Truck stands
- Bench grinder
- Welding helmet with ventilation
- Mig welder

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

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

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

Road crews are open to new methods of road maintenance the ecombi roller below has been purchased for maintenance of gravel roads towed behind grader.



Plant replacement Program

The following new items of plant were purchased in 2023-2024:

- Secondhand pig trailer for use in driver training
- Broons eCombie flat drum and rubber tyred roller
- Hire to buy CAT 289D skid steer with road profiler, mulcher and attachments
- Skid Steer roller attachment
- Hire to buy CAT Grader 150
- Isuzu FXZ water truck P2096 – replacement
- UD 8 tonne tipper
- utilities – replacements x 8
- 8.5 KVA Generator for work crew
- Solar traffic lights
- Flexidrive pump
- 72” zereturn Kubota mower
- 72” zereturn Ferris mower
- 2 x Tipping trailer for depot rubbish
- Skid steer slasher attachment
- Mower trailer 11 x 7 galvanised tilt trailer
- Stick rake for landfill excavator
- Vermeer vacuum excavator truck

Heavy Plant Disposal:

- P1721 Cat 12M grader - sold
- P1786 – Isuzu water truck – sold
- P1886 – Isuzu crew cab maintenance truck

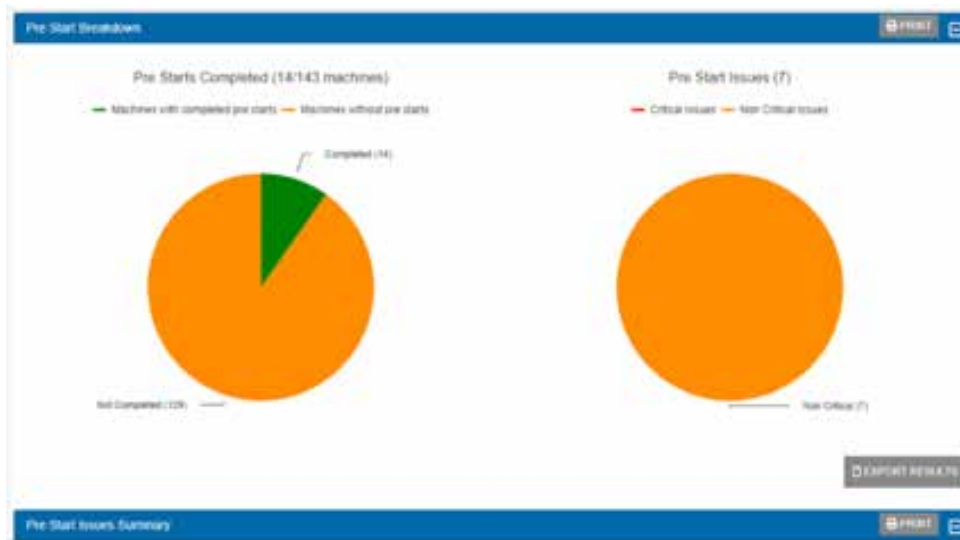




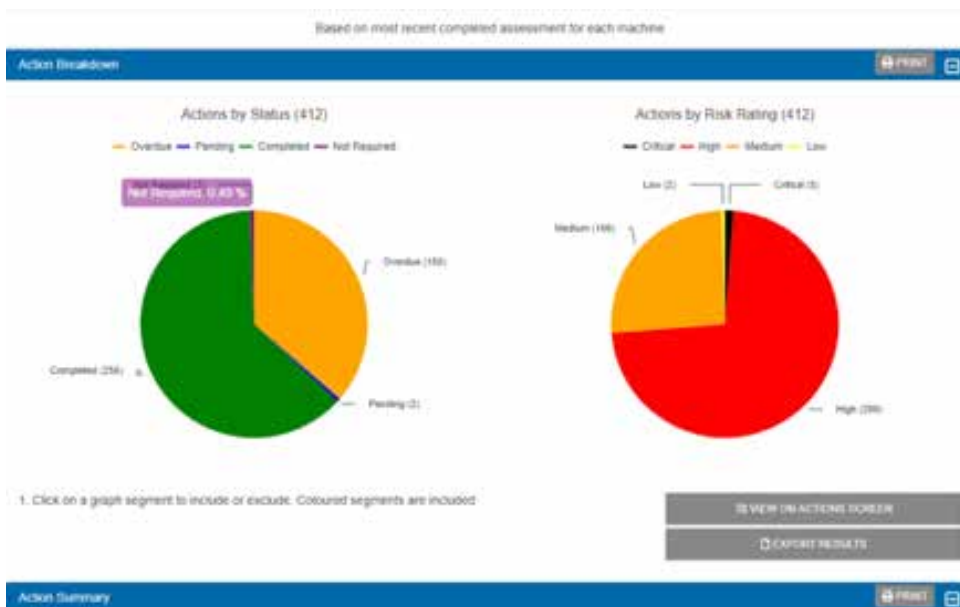
Plant

Council moved to electronic daily inspections for plant. This can be undertaken in the field via an App on mobile phones. Staff have undertaken training, and it is expected that this new procedure will enable better efficiency and accuracy with reporting of plant and aid with workshop planning. The picture below is an example of the reporting function.

Prestart



Action Summary







### Portable toilets

Council has four portable toilets available for use on road works and private hire.

The use of the toilets was donated to several community events during the year including:

- Model aeroplanes fly in
- Anglers club fishing competition
- Upper Horton Rodeo
- Upper Horton trail ride
- Gravesend fishing competition
- Gravesend campdraft
- Coolatai campdraft
- Landcare field days
- Coolatai Tractor Pull
- Warialda Offroad race
- Warialda Show
- Warialda Races
- Nicholson Oval junior league – during the construction of their new facilities
- Several private rentals.





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## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN ENGINEERING SERVICES

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Council delivered an extensive infrastructure maintenance and construction program in the 2023-2024 financial year, with a total expenditure of over \$24million. This represents a fourfold increase over a typical year. Works were carried across all infrastructure asset classes, with a focus on major grant funded works and disaster recovery.

### Sealed Road Network Expansion

In the 2023-2024 financial year, Council continued its multi-year program to upgrade 86km of gravel road to bitumen sealed formation. The program will see the transformation of a number of key freight routes that currently experience wet weather access issues and reduced road safety due to poor gravel pavements.

2023-2024 saw the completion of the laying of new pavement and sealing of the entire length of Getta Getta Road, while over 10km of IB Bore Road and 6km of County Boundary Road were also completed. Further, the entire length of Wearnes Road was sealed, with the exception of approaches to causeways that are to be reconstructed in the 2024-2025 financial year.

The above projects were funded from a number of Federal and State Government income streams, including the Fixing Local Roads Program, Fixing Country Roads Program and the Roads of Strategic Importance Program. Additionally, co-contributions from Council have been made across most projects.

### Heavy Patching Program

Over 120,000m<sup>2</sup> of Council's sealed road network was heavy patched in 2023-2024. Works included the entire length of the Croppa Moree Road and selected segments of Warialda Road and Delungra Road.

### Disaster Recovery

In the 2023-2024 financial year, Council experienced its fifth natural disaster declared flooding event since 2020. The cumulative damage from all five events is expected to exceed \$30million. Throughout the year, Council staff averaged an expenditure of \$13,000 per day addressing flood damaged roads and this work will continue for some time.

### Routine Maintenance

Council undertook an extensive maintenance program in 2023-2024 maintenance grading over 1500km of gravel roads.

### Gulf Creek Road Timber Bridge Replacement

Utilising NSW Government funding under the Fixing Country Bridges Program, Council successfully replaced the last timber drainage structure in the shire, that being Gulf Creek Road. The new structure was opened to traffic in March 2024 and included pavement and sealing works of the structure's approaches.

To see the full impact of the works completed in the 2023-2024 reporting period see the map earlier in this report that highlights all roads within Gwydir Shire.





## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN CORPORATE SERVICES



During the 2023-2024 reporting period, Gwydir Shire Council continued the operation and maintenance of its two community fitness centres. Both facilities, located in Warialda at 38 Hope Street and Bingara at 8 Bombelli Street, remained open 24 hours a day for public membership. The centres feature secure electronic entry systems and security cameras to ensure the safety of members. The gyms offer a variety of workout spaces, including separate areas for weight training, cardio, aerobics, and boxing. Membership options continue to be available on a casual, monthly, or six-monthly basis.

The aim of the Gwydir Fitness Centres remains to provide the community with resources to promote healthy and active lifestyles. The facilities also serve individuals focused on rehabilitation or maintaining mobility.

This year saw no major grant funding or upgrades, however normal operations continued without disruption, and both fitness centres remained self-sustaining. Membership numbers remained stable, with each facility maintaining a consistent membership base of over 50 individuals. Despite the absence of new funding or significant renovations, the gyms have continued to generate sufficient revenue to remain sustainable.

Free workout programs are still available on the Gwydir Fitness Centre website, and a free fitness journal is offered at both fitness centres to support members in tracking their progress.

The Gwydir Fitness Centres continue to provide valuable services to the community, fostering health, well-being, and fitness for all.

## BINGARA AND WARIALDA VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES

### Bingara Visitor Information Centre (VIC)

Housed in the historic Bingara Court House, the Bingara Visitor Information Centre continues to play a vital role as a hub for tourists and locals alike. Throughout the 2023-2024 reporting period, the centre has not only provided information but has also expanded its offering of unique merchandise, including locally sourced products such as honey, jams, relishes, cards, and spice mixes. Popular souvenir items like Roxy milkshake containers and Roxy-branded wine and spirit glasses remain best-sellers, offering visitors a tangible connection to the rich history of Bingara and the iconic Roxy Theatre.

In addition to merchandise, the Bingara VIC serves as the central booking office for performances and events at the Roxy Theatre, which continues to host a variety of functions including balls, fundraising dinners, workshops, and community events. Regular theatre tours, which are available through the VIC, have remained popular, offering visitors insight into the heritage and culture of the region.



Accommodation at The Living Classroom, a unique venue offering modern amenities for individuals, families, schools, and corporate groups, continues to be a valuable offering through the VIC. This year, bookings have remained steady, supporting the region's tourism economy.

Over the past three decades, the staff and volunteers at the Bingara VIC have witnessed the transformation of the town from a curiosity to a sought-after tourist destination. Their dedication to providing a welcoming atmosphere and expert local knowledge continues to enhance the visitor experience, and 2023-2024 has been no exception. Whether greeting locals or travellers, the VIC staff remain committed to ensuring that all who visit leave with a positive impression of Bingara and the surrounding areas.

*Below: Warialda Visitor Information Centre. Right: Bingara Visitor Information Centre*



### Warialda Visitor Information Centre (VIC)

The Warialda Visitor Information Centre has continued to provide essential services to visitors throughout the 2023-2024 reporting period. As an important resource for tourists and locals alike, the VIC helps with accommodation bookings, information on local attractions, and general inquiries to make each stay in Warialda memorable.

The centre features a well-maintained retail section, offering local produce and artwork, supporting the community's artisans and producers. In particular, the Wells Gem and Mineral Collection remains a highlight for visitors, attracting significant interest and providing a unique insight into the region's geological history.

Warialda itself offers a wide array of activities for visitors with varying interests, from scenic natural attractions to cultural experiences. The VIC staff and volunteers remain dedicated to helping visitors discover the best of what Warialda has to offer, ensuring their stay is enjoyable.

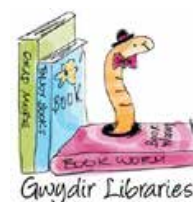
As the year drew to a close, the Warialda VIC embarked on a new phase of renovations. These renovations focused on creating a more open and inviting space for visitors, enhancing the overall experience. In addition, significant improvements were made to the customer service area to enhance both its practicality and safety for staff, ensuring a more secure and efficient workspace. These upgrades are expected to further improve the visitor experience and solidify Warialda's status as a tourist destination. These renovations are due to be completed in August, with visitors being welcomed to see our newly refurbished centre.



## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN COMMUNITY ASSETS

### GWYDIR LIBRARIES

The Bingara and Warialda libraries are very busy places with many happenings. These include a writers' group, home schooling and after school programs, a community support hub, story time, holiday activities, Lego challenges, The Great Gwydir Book Hunt, teenage movie sessions, senior film afternoons, kanopy tutorials, A walk among the tombstones, preschool and school visits, children's sculpture challenge, library lovers' month, scavenger hunts, Be Connected tutorials, book club, STEM craft sessions, teenage quiet room, visit to and by the residents of local Aged Hostels and hospitals, visits to the Toy Libraries. There are also senior craft sessions, exam supervision, external study assistance, and home deliveries.



Visitors to the community enjoy spending time in the library reading, using the computers and WIFI. More and more people are requesting assistance with their iPhone, iPad, and laptops so a booking system between 2pm and 3pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday have been allocated, this allows staff one to one time to assist without disruption. Staff as always are readily available to assist people each morning unless they prefer to book a spot for one-to-one assistance.

Library staff are supported by three passionate volunteers. Staff and volunteers attended the community information day, 'Bingara's Heartbeats' at Gwydir Oval on 16 March 2024. This was a great morning highlighting what the library offers along with residents being able to speak to our volunteers.

Central Northern Regional Library (CNRL) Tamworth staff visited both libraries and delivered children's secret agent mission and Virtual Reality (VR) escape room activities.

Council Building staff meet in the study space with clients for development and compliance approvals and assistance.

Teenagers are visiting the library after school to chill out in the quiet room. Teenagers have their own devices (BYOD) and visit the library with parental permission, device use is strictly under the BYOD policy, all teenagers are aware of the policy and use of their device while in the library. Bingara Community Op Shop held their fashion parade in the Bingara Library on 9 March 2024. Author Patsy Kemp visited both libraries in October to chat about her new novel, The Drover's Daughter Rides Again. Many people attended these events and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The library promoted Families Week, National Stroke Week, and National Child Protection Week and supplied resources to community members.



## GWYDIR LEARNING REGION TRAINING (GLR)

### Heavy Vehicle Training and Assessment

With the Smart and Skilled Drought Package being discontinued the income stream from Heavy Vehicle Training and Assessment fell dramatically during the reporting period. Council staff made an application to access an alternate funding source via Smart and Skilled, being the Agskilled Program. Unfortunately this application was extremely slow and had greater limitations than the drought package. Under the AgSkilled program eligible participants must work, or be actively seeking work, in on-farm operations from one of the following industries:

- Production Horticulture
- Livestock
- Grains
- Fibre



Training Needs Identification's (TNI's) applications under this program needed to include a letter of support from the employer. The letter of support needed to outline the industry the participant belongs to, and the training need identified to enable eligibility for funding to be determined. In an effort to provide clients with greater opportunity, an application was submitted to Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) to include additional Units of Competence (UoC) to GLR Training's scope. ASQA confirmed approval of the application and GLR Training now has the following UoC's on scope:

- TLIC3004 – Drive Heavy Rigid Vehicle
- TLIC3005 – Drive Heavy Combination Vehicle
- TLIC4006 – Drive Multi-Combination Vehicle
- TLILIC2014 – Licence to drive a light rigid vehicle
- TLILIC2015 - Licence to drive a medium rigid vehicle
- TLILIC2016 - Licence to drive a heavy rigid vehicle
- TLILIC3017 - Licence to drive a heavy combination vehicle
- TLILIC3018 – Licence to drive a multi-combination vehicle

### Gwydir Country Education Fund (GLR CEF)

On Saturday, 18 November 2023, Country Education Foundation Australia (CEFA) celebrated 30 years of supporting rural and regional students to access further education.

Warialda Public School, St Joseph's Catholic School, Warialda High School, Bingara Central School, and Bingara Preschool took part in the Gwydir CEF 'Bootbash' fundraiser on Friday 15th March 2024 where students, teachers and volunteers were encouraged to 'wear their boots to school' and make a gold coin donation. Total funds raised \$492.00.

During the reporting period there were 13 local students receiving financial assistance through GLR CEF. Reimbursements continue to roll in. Recipients have claimed reimbursement for education related expenses including laptops, computer accessories, textbooks, uniforms and work boots, fuel, and accommodation.

### Gwydir Career Start Program

The following table outlines the subsidies claimed by Gwydir Shire Council for current trainees and apprentices. These figures include *Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidy*, *Completing Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidy*, *Priority Wage Subsidy*. The Priority Wage Subsidy is a wage subsidy for employers of Australian apprentices training towards an occupation listed on the Australian Apprenticeships Priority List. Employers can claim 10% of wages paid to the Australian Apprentice for the first and second 12-month period (up to \$1,500



per quarter) and 5% of the wages paid to the Australian Apprentice for the third 12-month period (up to \$750 per quarter) and Hiring Incentive. The Hiring Incentive supports Australian Apprentices undertaking a Certificate II or above qualification that is not listed on the Australian Apprenticeships Priority List. A payment of \$1,750, for a full-time Australian Apprentice and \$875 for part-time Australian Apprentice is made at 6 and 12 months.

Period	No. of Employees	Claimed/Paid
01/07/2023 – 30/09/2023	13	\$15,272.76
1/10/2023 – 31/12/2023	5	\$ 3,343.94
1/01/2024 – 31/03/2024	16	\$25,292.70
01/04/2024 – 30/06/2024	1	\$ 2,500.00
<b>Total Claimed for 2023/4</b>	<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>\$46,409.40</b>

School Based Trainee Water Operation Showcase



Gwydir Shire Council again proved it is the recognised leader in Local Government through continuous learning and sustainability by employing the only School Based Trainee in Water Operations in the State. Training Services NSW acknowledged this achievement by highlighting Council's Career Start Program, and more specifically our Water Operations team. A film crew visited Warialda on Thursday, 10 August 2023 to capture footage of the trainees' daily operations and then interviewed Council staff including Elijah Lane (School Based Trainee), Rhyllie Marle (Trainee), Mick Todd (Water & Sewerage Supervisor), Andrew Cooper (Manager, Town Utilities) and, Clarissa Barwick (Gwydir Career Start Program Coordinator).

Above: *Elijah Lane (School Based Trainee) being interviewed*  
 Click on this link to view the video:  
<https://youtu.be/kSWIbRyo3eE>

Learner Driver Lessons

In an effort to increase participation, GLR Training launched a campaign offering students at both Warialda High School and Bingara Central School two learner driver sessions for the price of one special.





## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Council manages over fifty properties throughout the Shire, including units for the aged, commercial premises, caravan park permanent residents and service outlets.

### Aged Units

During the year Council staff continue to regularly visit every resident (or their delegated family member) to check in and connect with them, inspect their units, and attend to maintenance requests.

### 44 Hope Street, Warialda

44 Hope Street, Warialda was sold, and the transfer of the property was finalised on 25 January 2024. Following the sale, the retail outlets continued to be leased as a condition of the sale contract.

### 8 Olive Pyrke Terrace, Warialda

Over the year the premises at 8 Olive Pyrke Terrace, Warialda, was occupied by the Medical Registrar and rented to Warialda Family Practice. When the Registrar vacated the premises in February it was leased to Ambulance Officers. The Officers have now also vacated, and the premises is up for sale and rent.

### Northern Slopes Landcare Association (NSLA) – leased premises

Due to the demolition of the Maitland Street Council Offices Council has assisted NSLA move to 65 Maitland Street.

### Public Amenities – Cnr Hope and Stephen Streets

The public amenities situated on the Cnr Hope and Stephen Streets were closed to the public on 31 March 2024. Due notice was given to the public through signage and social media posts.

### Plunkett Place Units – Kenny Cottages

During the reporting period Council made available two cottages which are rented by visiting medical practitioners, nursing staff, and allied health providers.

## CARAVAN PARKS

During the reporting period renovation works has been undertaken by an external contractor at both Bingara and Warialda caravan parks. These works have included relevening the cabins, fitting subfloor skirting boards to each 'deluxe' cabin, trimming trees, and removing trees, fitting gutter guard to the cabins at Warialda, and general minor repairs such as repainting post and rails on cabin verandahs, refasten loose cross bracing and rails, and replacing missing tie down chains and shackles.

### Warialda

From 1 May 2024 Council has granted a one-year short term licence to an external party to run the park. This partnership has proved successful to date with greatly enhanced park lawns and gardens, and increased presence onsite.

### North Star

This park is leased to the owners of the Vicarage Café, North Star.





### Bingara

The new amenity was made operational during the year and has been well received. This asset is a positive impact on the usability and presentation of the park.

The eastern internal road (which runs through the cabins) has been sealed. The rest of the internal roads were repaired.

At the end of April, a family moved into the onsite residence. They leased the residence for a five-month period. During this period, the tenants managed after hours enquiries and bookings.

## CRANKY ROCK RECREATION RESERVE

The Reserve continues to be well presented and an immensely popular spot. An onsite caretaker maintains the Reserve.

New signage has been installed onsite.

## SWIMMING POOLS

Entry to both pools was again free to Gwydir Shire residents and ratepayers.

### Lifeguard Course

Council invited expressions of interest from community members to undertake a Pool Lifeguard Course provided by Royal Lifesaving NSW. Fifteen expressions of interest were received with only seven of those applicants enrolling and completing the course. The seven participants Bingara (2), Delungra, Moree and Warialda (2), joined the trainer at the Warialda Swimming Pool on 25 and 26 November.

### Warialda Swimming Pool

The Warialda Swimming Pool opening was delayed due to the pools needing to be sandblasted and repainted. In 2022 a contractor repainted the pools, but the application proved faulty. This work was at the expense of the contractor.

Thursday, 28 March 2024 marked the end of an era with Allan Colley announcing he was hanging his towel up for the last time after 16 years as Pool Manager with his wife, Danni.

Allan's skill, knowledge and passion has helped hundreds of children over his 16 years at Warialda, with not only local swimmers taking advantage of his ability, but also families travelling from surrounding areas to join his daily training sessions.

*Right: Allan Colley – managed the Warialda Swimming Pool for 16 years*

Upgrades at the Warialda swimming pool began in April with the installation of a six-coat hyper flake epoxy system to the kiosk, office and kitchen floor. New cabinets and benches were also installed in the kiosk. Other works include repainting the kiosk, and installation of doors on changerooms in female amenities.

The upgrades are funded from the State Governments Stronger Country Communities Program and the Federal Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program.







## NSW RURAL DOCTORS BUSH BURSARY 2023

Gwydir Shire Council again took part in the NSW Rural Doctors Network Bush Bursary Program. The program provides selected medical, nursing and midwifery students with funding to undertake a two-week placement in Country NSW.

Placements at the Warialda Family Practice and Bingara Community Practice took place between Monday 4 and Friday 15 December 2023.



Above: Bush Bursary recipients with Dr Di Coote and Dr Clem Gordon

## EVENTS

Council runs and supports many community events including:

- Bingara's Heartbeats – Volunteer Day – 16 March 2024 – hosted by the Bingara Historical Society
- Bingara Angler's Club Easterfish
- Warialda Anzac Day March
- Gravesend Anzac Day March
- Bingara History Story Telling
- Coolatai Tractor Pull
- Warialda Christmas Carnival
- Warialda Rail Christmas Carnival
- Crooble Christmas Carols
- Orange Festival

### Honey Festival

Kerry McDonald was presented the 2023 Debbie Ford and Fay Honour Memorial - Busy Bee Working Award. Kerry has and continues to work tirelessly for our community including serving as a Gwydir Shire Council and Warialda P&A stalwart.

### Aladdin and his Magic Smartwatch

Aladdin visited the Warialda Memorial Hall and shared his magical story with 296 students. There were two shows Aladdin and his Magic Smartwatch which were both very well received.

### Websites

Council manages two websites - Visit Gwydir, and the Council website. The launch of the Visit Gwydir website occurred on the 13 September 2023.



A public launch took place at the Justin Herald evening at The Roxy on 30 October 2023. Both websites were upgraded in 2024 to include accessibility widgets.

### Social Media

Council uses social media to convey information to the public in real time. Gwydir Shire Council has both an Instagram and Facebook account, and there is a Bingara and Warialda, Place of Wild Honey Facebook page. These outlets are the current main forms of communication that Council has with the community. The advantage of these platforms is not only the reach it has but the ability to reschedule the same messaging (posts) multiple times.

Social media is a valuable tool in providing urgent information, like road closures and boil water alerts to the public. Generally, users tend to share or tag people who may be affected by road closures or boil water alerts which increases the chances of people obtaining the information that they need, as it is a direct link to the user's notifications.

Council also shares posts from other accounts which may be of interest or relevant to the residents and ratepayers in the Gwydir Shire. This includes but is not limited to surveys, workshops, training, achievements of community members and announcements by Member of Parliament. Social media is a fantastic tool for keeping people aware of what is happening locally within the community.

Examples include:

- on 25 January 2024, an emergency water alert was issued for Bingara. A post was scheduled on the Gwydir Shire Council's Facebook page to tell residents that water use was restricted to household only as an issue had occurred with the plant. This post had over 94 shares and reached 9,207 people.
- On 4 May 2024, a roads update video of IB Bore Road and County Boundary Road was published to the Gwydir Shire Council Facebook page. The post reached 3,783 people and the post engagement score was 266.
- A post was published to the Gwydir Shire Council Facebook page on 10 May 2024 to promote Council's Heavy Vehicle Driver courses and training. The post reached 4,112 people and had an engagement rating of 101.
- The Orange Festival poster published to the Gwydir Shire Council Facebook page on the 27 June 2024 was a paid boosted post. Council committed \$50.00 to the post which directly resulted in the post reaching 6,417 people.

### Design Work

Council staff continue to design eye catching and effective flyers, posters, and social media posts. Such work includes assisting community groups promote their services and events.

### The Gwydir News

Following the resignation of The News Editor, in August 2023 Council advertised to fill the vacated position and at the same time sought Expressions of Interest (EOI) from organisations or groups who may seek to coordinate and manage a community newspaper or newsletter.

When the advertisement and EOI period closed Council received two applications for the Editor position and one EOI.

The Deputy Mayor and council staff analysed, negotiated, and finalised an agreement with Northern Inland Community College (NICC). This agreement saw NICC produce the Gwydir News with its first issue published in February 2024.



## MYALL CREEK MASSACRE MEMORIAL SITE

On 10 October 2023 members of the Australian Water Association visited the site as part of their On Country Experience – National Water Week. Council staff hosted the visit and shared with attendees the history of the site, highlighted Council's partnership with Friends of Myall Creek Massacre Memorial Committee, (FOMCMMC) and provided detail on the development of the site as an ecological showcase.

Throughout 2023-2024 Council staff attended the FOMCMMC quarterly meetings. During the reported period, the trees along the Memorial Path were assessed by an arborist and trimmed as needed as a safety measure.

During March and April Council's staff, received a letter of appreciation from Friends of Myall Creek Memorial Inc. This letter conveyed the Committee's gratitude to Council as to how the site is continually well presented.

The annual memorial ceremony was held on Sunday 9 June with over 700 people attending. Council staff helped the Friends of Myall Creek Committee with the event. Such help included traffic control, set up and clearing the site.

Stringybark Ecological together with Armidale Tree Group undertook wide spaced plantings of white box, silver leaved ironbark, wilga, kurrajong, white cypress pine, hop bush, weeping Myall, western golden wattle, native olive, and yellow box. This work is part of the ecological restoration of the woodland surrounding the Massacre Site. This is funded by the Federal Government under its Murray Darling Basin Healthy Rivers funding program.



*Myall Creek Massacre Memorial Site – Ecological Restoration – 550 plantings*

## THE LIVING CLASSROOM (TLC)

TLC has become a true community asset with many choosing to celebrate family events and happenings. It is also a hub for regional meetings. The use will continue to grow especially due to installation of a fully integrated sound and video conference system. A community nursery was formed in July 2023 and is a collaboration between Council and the Northern Slopes Landcare Association (NSLA).

The relationship with the University of Southern Cross (USC) continues to be a success with the onsite USC Officer running many workshops available to the public. Such workshops aim to assist regional agriculturists and small business owner to prepare and be ready for future droughts. Building works have commenced on the Interpretive Centre and will be completed in the next reporting period.



## THE ROXY COMPLEX

### The Roxy Theatre

The Roxy is a multi-function venue, as is proven through the wide variety of functions and events that occurred during the period.

Pink took over the complex with a screening of the Barbie Movie as a fundraiser for Bingara’s Breast Cancer Squad in October 2023. Over \$2,000 was raised for Community Comfort.

Gravesend, Pallamallawa and Croppa Creek Public Schools held their first film festival at The Roxy in November 2023. Council staff made a presentation of the Roxy’s history and created a real cinema vibe for the 60 plus students by providing popcorn and a drink.

Bingara Central School utilised the venue many times during the year for a whole school awards presentation night, regional financial officer workshops, and its Year 12 Formal.

It has been used for the Australia Day celebrations, a Citizenship Ceremony, a Wedding, a Funeral and many Christmas and birthday parties. It is the place for community meetings, workshops, information nights and conferences.

Roxy performances included Whalebone, Paris After Dark, and A Little Bit of Blue. The town choir met Monday afternoons in The Roxy.

The North West Theatre Company held screenings for their Film Club members on the last Sunday of each month, and produced and performed the play It’s My Party and I Will Die If I Want To. NWTC also hosted a trivia night and a Poetry and Pancakes event.

The theatre was also the home for free stretch and physical wellbeing classes.

The trade training centre kitchen was used by a local food vendor to prepare her goods for sale, caterers, and community groups.

### Roxy Café

Council leased the Café to the owners of Fresh Finds on 8 January 2024. The tenants are incredibly happy in the Café and are positive advocates for the community and Council.





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## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN WORK HEALTH & SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT

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The Council remains committed to fostering a proactive approach to risk management and ensuring a safe and healthy working environment for all staff, contractors, and community members. In the 2023-2024 reporting period, Council has undertaken several key initiatives to enhance our risk and WHS systems in line with legislative requirements and best practices.

### Risk Management

Council recognises that effective risk management is integral to achieving our strategic goals and ensuring the sustainability of our operations. Over the past year, we have strengthened our risk management framework through:

- **Risk Management Framework:** We have reviewed our risk tolerances and objectives to establish clear governance roles and define Council's risk appetite to guide decision-making and integrates risk management into all key business processes to ensure consistency and accountability across departments.
- **Business Continuity Planning:** Reviewing our business continuity and disaster recovery plans to ensure resilience in the face of potential disruptions, including natural disasters and cyber threats.
- **Insurance and Risk Transfer:** Working closely with our insurers to assess and optimise coverage for key operational and asset-related risks, focused on issues that are relevant to our Council.
- **Northern Inland Risk Management Group (NIRMG):** Council continues to host the NIRMG meetings, facilitating regional collaboration on risk management strategies.

### Work Health and Safety

The council remains dedicated to ensuring compliance with the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (NSW) and fostering a safe working environment. This year, key WHS initiatives included:

- **Establishment of the WHS Committee:** Formed to enhance consultation and collaboration on safety matters across Council.
- **Self-Audits:** Council conducted the WHS self-audit and public liability audit, in partnership with insurers StateCover and StateWide Mutual, to evaluate and enhance WHS performance, aiming to reduce Council's insurance premiums and receive rebates.
- **Health Initiatives:** Council offers free staff skin checks and flu vaccinations to promote overall health and wellbeing.



Insurance Costs

Insurance Class	2023 / 2024	2022 / 2023	2021 / 2022
Accumulated Sick Leave	\$9,551.50	\$11,116.29	-
Carriers Liability	\$787.60	\$750.75	\$715.00
Casual Hirers Liability	\$6,891.95	\$6,411.12	\$5,698.77
Councillors and Officers Liability	\$49,670.13	\$46,204.77	\$42,004.34
Crime	\$19,382.69	\$17,036.83	\$14,487.79
Environmental Impairment Liability	\$61,030.01	\$59,423.60	\$56,772.10
Motor Vehicle	\$222,777.81	\$190,764.26	\$176,453.24
Motor Vehicle Adjustment	\$19,748.03	-\$4,840.28	-
Personal Accident	\$4,307.28	\$3,993.28	\$3,962.48
Property	\$502,378.44	\$399,384.03	\$352,766.17
Property Adjustment	\$51,497.20	-	-
Public & Products Liability	\$1,696.89	\$1,552.32	\$1,552.32
Public Liability - Professional Indemnity	\$282,906.16	\$263,168.53	\$233,927.58
Workers Compensation	\$546,599.87	\$740,351.15	\$718,734.37
Workers Compensation Top Up	\$7,073.68	\$5,970.11	\$3,156.98
<b>Total inc. GST</b>	<b>\$1,786,299.24</b>	<b>\$1,741,286.76</b>	<b>\$1,610,231.14</b>

## BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT

In line with the obligations set out by the Office of Local Government (OLG), Council is required to undertake regular service reviews with the establishment of the next Council to ensure that services are delivered efficiently, effectively, and in alignment with community needs and strategic objectives. These reviews are essential for ensuring value for money, optimising resource allocation, and improving service outcomes across all Council departments.

In the 2023-2024 reporting period, the Business Improvement Department developed and implemented a Service Review Framework to systematically evaluate council services. This framework ensures that all reviews are conducted with consistency and thoroughness, supporting Council in meeting its obligations under the OLG guidelines.

As part of its obligations and in line with the new framework, the department successfully tested and implemented the service reviews for the Parks and Gardens Department and the Stores Department.

### Parks and Gardens Department

The review identified 17 areas for improved resource allocation and maintenance scheduling, resulting in better management of public spaces and enhanced service delivery to the community. Recommendations from the review are being implemented, with a focus on establishing more effective service levels to align better with Council resources.

### Stores Department

The service review highlighted 20 opportunities for streamlining inventory management and procurement processes. As a result, the department is adopting improved stock control and procurement systems, expected to enhance operational efficiency and reduce costs.





## INFORMATION SERVICES

The Information Services Department encompasses the areas of Information Technology (IT), Records, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

### Information Technology (IT)

The IT department has continued to provide essential support and innovation to ensure the Council's technological infrastructure is robust, secure, and scalable to meet future demands. Key achievements during the 2023-2024 period include:

- **Digital Transformation:** IT led the implementation of our payroll system to a digital platform, improving accessibility, useability, and processing times. This digital transformation is part of the long-term strategy to modernise Council's IT services and provide our staff with data no matter their location.
- **Infrastructure Upgrades:** The department completed critical upgrades to Council's network infrastructure, increasing bandwidth and system reliability to better support remote work and cloud-based services. These upgrades are designed to enhance operational continuity and performance.
- **Cybersecurity Enhancements:** In response to growing cyber threats, the department continues to progress our maturity in cybersecurity best practices. This is particularly aligned with the ASD Essential 8 and the guidelines to Cyber Security as outlined by the Office of Local Government (OLG). As a result, we continue with our impeccable record of having 0 major cyber security incidents.
- **Support Services:** The IT helpdesk has seen a marked increase in support requests, responding to 2,353 tickets during the reporting period. The department is focused on streamlining helpdesk processes to improve response times and resolution rates.

### Records Management

The Records Department has played a vital role in ensuring compliance with statutory obligations regarding the management, retention, and disposal of Council's records. During the 2023-2024 period, key initiatives included:

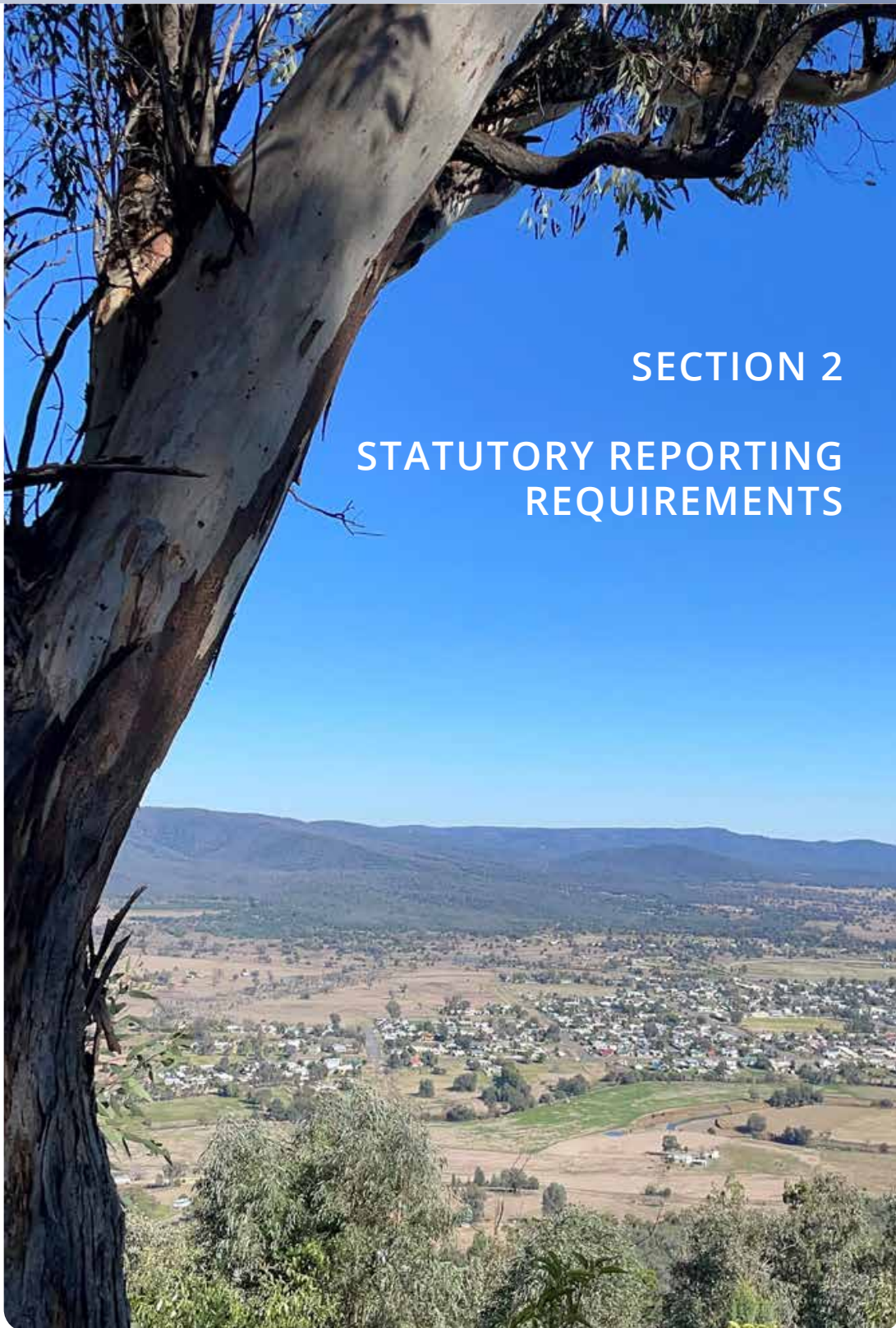
- **Digitisation of Records:** In an effort to improve accessibility and reduce paper usage, the department has completed digitisation of key historical documents, such as Council minutes that pre-date amalgamation, as well as historical maps of the Gwydir area. This project has improved retrieval times and streamlined records management processes.
- **Records Management Assessment:** The Council undertook initiatives to improve Council's records management self-assessment from under a baseline score of 3.0, to exceeding the baseline score to 3.27, according to the Records Management Assessment Tool provided by State Records NSW.

### Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

The GIS department has been instrumental in supporting data-driven decision-making across Council, particularly in asset management, town planning, and rural addressing. Key initiatives and accomplishments in 2023-2024 include:

- **Cemetery Mapping:** A significant achievement this year was the progress of the Cemetery Mapping Project, which involved capturing and mapping burial plots across Council-managed cemeteries. This project provides an accurate and easily accessible database for cemetery management, assisting both Council staff and the public with plot locations and historical records.
- **Asset Mapping and Management:** GIS have updated equipment to ensure that assets are better captured, updated, and more accurate for critical infrastructure. This information will be pivotal in budgeting, planning, and locating our assets in the future.







## AMOUNT OF RATES & CHARGES WRITTEN OFF DURING THE YEAR

Pension Rebate Breakdown Claim 128		Pension Rebate		
Rate Classification	Rebate Given	Council	Govt	Total (\$)
General Rates	Pensioner Farmland	-\$6,050.61	<b>-\$4,950.50</b>	-\$11,001.11
	Pensioner General	-\$39,316.73	<b>-\$32,167.90</b>	-\$71,484.63
		-\$45,367.34	<b>-\$37,118.40</b>	-\$82,485.74
Water & Sewer Rates	Pensioner Water	-\$22,079.63	<b>-\$18,061.00</b>	-\$40,140.63
	Pensioner Sewerage	-\$20,202.56	<b>-\$16,525.57</b>	-\$36,728.13
Waste Charges	Pensioner Domestic Waste & Disposal	-\$18,195.89	<b>-\$14,887.66</b>	-\$33,083.55
	Pensioner Waste Management	-\$14,222.25	<b>-\$11,636.60</b>	-\$25,858.85
		-\$32,418.14	<b>-\$26,524.26</b>	-\$58,942.40
	Total Claim	-\$120,067.67	<b>-\$98,229.23</b>	-\$218,296.90
			<b>-\$98,229.23</b>	
<b>Conservation Agreements Base Date 01/07/2022</b>				
	Farmland Ordinary	General Rates	<b>-\$4,206.00</b>	
	Farmland Ordinary	Base Amounts	<b>-\$581.80</b>	
	<b>Total</b>		<b>-\$4,787.80</b>	
	<b>Total Council Write Off</b>		<b>-\$103,017.03</b>	

### Councillor Expenses

Total cost during the year of the payment of expenses of, and the provision of facilities to councillors in relation to their civic functions.

**Provision of dedicated office equipment and telephone calls allocated to Councillors.** Provision of dedicated office equipment and telephone costs during the reporting period totalled \$4,297.12

**Provision of induction training and professional development for Mayor and other Councillors**

There was additional \$9,290 induction training or additional expenditure incurred for professional development for Mayor and other Councillors during the reporting period.

**Expenses of any spouse, partner or other person who accompanied a councillor in the performance of his or her civic functions.** The expenses incurred for any spouse, partner or other person who accompanied a councillor in the performance of his or her civic function during the reporting period.

**Expense involved in the provision of care for a child of, or an immediate family member of a Councillor.** There were no expenses involved in the provision of care relating to a Councillor during the reporting period.

**Details of overseas visits by Councillors, Council staff or other persons representing Council (including visits sponsored by other organisations).** There were no overseas visits by Councillors, Council staff or other persons representing Council during this reporting period.



Attendance of Councillors at conferences and seminars. Training of Councillors and provision of skill development (including interstate visits) A breakup of these costs is provided in the table below left:

Details	Amount (\$)
Air Travel	\$8,979.07
Course Seminar & Conference Registration	\$9,289.98
Other Travel Related Costs	\$5,067.87
Overnight Travel Expenses	\$13,752.84
Plant Hire for travel to Seminars & Conferences	\$17,849.34
Travel Accommodation	\$33,327.37
Civic Events	\$195.87
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$88,462.34</b>

List of interstate visits and number attending in table below:

State	Purpose	Attending
ACT	LG National General Assembly	6

Councillor induction training and Ongoing Professional Development in table below:

Professional Development & Ongoing Training	Sessions	Name of Councillors in Attendance
TfNSW Executive Safety Leadership Summit	1	Cr. John Coulton
Councillor Workshops (Budget)	1	Cr John Coulton, Cr Catherine Egan, Cr David Coulton, Cr Geoff Smith, Cr James Moore, Cr Tiffany Galvin, Cr M Dixon (OAM), Cr Christopher Matthews, Cr Lyndon Mulligan,
Crime Prevention and Community Safety Conference	1	Cr. Catherine Egan

Summary of resolutions made under Section 67 concerning work carried out on private land.

Summary	Description	Amount
2	Weed Control	\$1,115.50
4	Earthworks/Construction	\$23,902.43
0	Miscellaneous	\$0.00
12	Plant Hire	\$12,208.58
0	Sale of Gravel	\$0.00
0	Slashing	\$0.00
2	Water Delivery	\$665.61
2	Grading access road	\$576.15
<b>22</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$38,468.27</b>



Details of contracts awarded by Council

Gwydir Shire Council had 15 active contracts during the reporting period exceeding \$150,000, 4 of these contracts were awarded during 2023-2024.

Project, Goods or Services to be Provided Under the Contract	Name of Contractor	Any Related Company/Sub-Contractor involved with the contract	Estimated Amount of Contract Ex GST	How may the amount payable be varied	Actual Expenditure Ex GST
Demolition of Bingara Administration Building	Crawford Constructions	Smiths Excavation and Earthmoving	\$350,000	Extra work required	\$359,239.00
Supply of Fuel	Roger Moore PTY Ltd				
Naroo Bed Replacement Program	Arjo	N/A	\$148,723.11		\$145,796.27
Bitumen Resurfacing Program	Roadwork Industries	N/A	\$1.5M	Bitumen rise and fall, additional projects, estimated lengths and areas.	\$118,024.06 (In progress)
Footpath and Concreting Works	Engineering & Civil Contractors	N/A	\$730K	Additional works required, unexpected underlying issues.	\$1,233,149.40
Guardrail and Terminal Upgrades	Irwin Fencing	N/A	\$650K	Additional works required, unexpected underlying issues.	\$656,422.75 (In progress)
Waste collection and processing	JR Richards 2-94 Manning Street Tuncurry NSW 2428 (PO Box 500 Tuncurry NSW 2428) 10/01/2023		\$350k - \$450k P/A	Contracted rise and fall formula	\$106,209.52 (in progress)
Small Sites Electricity	AGL		\$350k - \$450k	As per tendered rate increase	410,700.54
Large Sites Electricity	Shell Energy Retail Pty Ltd		\$150K estimated	As per tendered rate increase	\$178,034.41 (in progress)
Street Light Electricity	Shell Energy Retail Pty Ltd		\$77K estimated	As per tendered rate increase	\$67,015 (in progress)
Bingara Pressure Sewer System Product Supply and Service Tender	Enviro One Services and Installations Pty Ltd		\$500K	Additional quantities required due to missed properties or different size tank if Rock struck in excavations	In progress
Bingara North and East Pressure Sewer Construction	Ledonne Constructions Pty Ltd		\$3,000,000.00	Additional quantities required due to missed properties or variations due to Rock struck in excavations, electrical or plumbing variations	In progress
Long Run Skate Park Construction	Precision Skate Parks Pty Ltd	NA	\$274,000.00	additional works such as footpaths and slabs	\$274,000.00
Supply and Delivery of Granite Road Base Materials	ATJS Earthworks Pty Ltd		\$650,000.00	Increased requirement for material due to site factors	
Renovation of the customer service and SNSW at the Warialda information centre	Randall Group	NA	\$189,735.00	Any additional unforeseen works not included in the contract.	



## MODERN SLAVERY ACT

### Modern Slavery Act 2018

There were no issues raised by the Anti-Slavery Commissioner during the reporting period concerning the operations of the Council. This Modern Slavery Statement is provided by Gwydir Shire Council in accordance with Section 428 (4) of the NSW Local Government Act 1993.

This statement outlines Gwydir Shire Council's commitment to upholding human rights and ensuring that modern slavery does not occur within its operations or supply chain. Council recognises the importance of taking proactive measures to address and prevent modern slavery, including forced labour, human trafficking, and other forms of exploitation.

### Organisation

The Gwydir Shire is located on the northwestern slopes and plains of the New England region in NSW, approximately 560km north of Sydney and 430km southwest of Brisbane. The Shire has two small towns - Bingara and Warialda. The Council is responsible for delivering a range of local government services to the community including infrastructure development, public health, and community engagement.

Our significant expenditure areas include bulk fuel, road base materials, and plant equipment. Additionally, Council depends on the administrative frameworks established by entities such as Local Government Procurement to source goods and services.

To combat modern slavery, the Council has implemented the following steps.

### Policies and Procedures

- **Code of Conduct:** Our Code of Conduct establishes comprehensive ethical standards that all employees, contractors, and suppliers must adhere to. This code outlines our commitment to integrity, respect, and compliance with legal and ethical obligations. It serves as a fundamental framework for behaviour and decision-making within the organisation.
- **Procurement Policy:** Our Procurement Policy mandates that all suppliers and contractors comply with fair labour practices and adhere to stringent anti-modern slavery requirements. This policy requires that suppliers demonstrate their commitment to ethical labour practices. It ensures that all procurement activities align with our values and legal obligations regarding modern slavery.
- **Due Diligence:** We perform thorough due diligence on our supply chain to assess and mitigate risks associated with modern slavery. This process includes a detailed evaluation of each supplier's practices, policies, and compliance with our anti-modern slavery standards. We require suppliers to provide evidence of their adherence to these standards and implement corrective actions if any issues are identified.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** The Council routinely reviews and updates its policies and practices to ensure their effectiveness in addressing and mitigating modern slavery risks. This includes periodic audits, stakeholder consultations, and policy revisions. We also encourage and facilitate the internal reporting of any concerns related to modern slavery, ensuring that there are clear and accessible channels for reporting and addressing such issues in a timely and effective manner.

### Actions Taken

- **Training and Awareness:** The Council is actively developing a training program aimed at educating targeted staff members about modern slavery issues. This training will cover the identification of potential exploitation scenarios, the reporting process for suspected cases, and the broader impact of modern slavery. The training will include ongoing education to ensure staff are well-equipped to recognise and respond to modern slavery concerns.





- **Supplier Engagement:** We are enhancing our engagement with suppliers to ensure that they consistently adhere to our stringent ethical standards and practices. This involves more frequent communication and collaborative efforts to improve transparency and compliance with our anti-modern slavery requirements. Our goal is to foster a responsible supply chain where ethical practices are upheld.
- **Enhanced Risk Assessment:** We are advancing our risk assessment procedures to more effectively identify and manage potential modern slavery risks within our supply chain. This involves refining our risk assessment frameworks and incorporating feedback from stakeholders to better understand and mitigate risks associated with our suppliers and their operations.
- **Tender Criteria:** Modern slavery considerations are now a mandatory component of all tender requests. Respondents must provide information of how they manage and mitigate modern slavery risks within their operations. This integration ensures that all potential suppliers are evaluated based on their commitment to ethical practices and compliance with modern slavery regulations.
- **Contract Clause:** All new contracts entered into by the Council now include specific clauses that address modern slavery issues. These clauses outline clear expectations for compliance, detail the consequences for breaches, and ensure that all parties involved are accountable for upholding our anti-modern slavery standards. This contractual requirement reinforces our commitment to preventing modern slavery in all aspects of our operations.

#### Future Commitments

- **Boosting Awareness:** Council aims to significantly raise awareness about Modern Slavery risks among all employees across the organisation. This includes further training and informational materials to ensure that every staff member understands how to recognise and address these risks effectively.
- **Expanded Supplier Engagement:** Integrate a detailed supplier self-assessment questionnaire into every procurement request. This questionnaire should cover various aspects of modern slavery and human trafficking, enabling suppliers to disclose their practices and ensure compliance with our ethical standards.
- **Procurement Practices:** Establish and enforce a rigorous pre-purchase checklist for all procurement activities. This checklist should include specific criteria related to modern slavery risks, ensuring that all potential suppliers are vetted thoroughly before any purchasing decisions are made.
- **Enhanced Risk Assessment:** Implement robust and comprehensive risk assessment protocols for evaluating all prospective suppliers. This process should involve a detailed analysis of each supplier's practices, supply chain transparency, and adherence to modern slavery prevention measures to mitigate potential risks effectively.
- **Improved Reporting Mechanisms:** Develop and reinforce secure and confidential reporting channels for employees, contractors, and the wider community to report any concerns or suspicions related to modern slavery. Ensure these mechanisms are easily accessible, well-publicised, and supported by a clear process for addressing and investigating reported issues.

#### Conclusion

In conclusion, our council remains committed to combatting modern slavery and upholding the highest standards of ethical conduct. We recognise that addressing modern slavery is an ongoing responsibility that extends beyond compliance to embodying a proactive and vigilant approach. By continuing to engage with stakeholders, review our policies, and enhance our practices, we aim to ensure that our operations and supply chains are free from any form of exploitation.

## DONATIONS PAID FOR 2023-2024

Total amount contributed or otherwise granted under section 356 (financially assist others). There was a total of \$158,789 donated under Section 356. The table over the page includes information on the donations granted:



Donation Summary

Classification	Definite Donation Allocations	Potential Donations <sup>1</sup>
Donations less than \$1,000	\$13,757	\$28,606
Donations greater than \$1,000	\$31,853	\$55,752
Foregone Income	\$69,421	\$60,978
Internal allocation	\$16,935	\$38,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$131,966</b>	<b>\$183,336</b>
In-Kind contributions allocated across other expenditure areas	\$33,823	\$45,250

Foregone Income

Organisation	Donation requested	Recommended donation	Actual donation
All junior and school sports plus community groups	Waiving of all hire fees	\$5,000	\$1,080
Anglican Church, North Star	Waiving water & waste charges	\$807	\$635
Bingara Bullets Rugby League Club (If participating)	Use of oval and training lights	\$800	\$3,500
Warialda Wombats Rugby League Club (If participating)	Use of oval and training lights	\$800	\$3,500
Bingara Radiance Club	Rates and other charges subsidy	\$3,796	\$4,136
Catholic Church, Presbytery, St Joseph's Primary School and Convent	Water, sewerage and waste charges	\$10,219	\$11,195
CWA North Star	Rates and other charges subsidy	\$1,375	\$1,510
CWA Warialda	Rates and other charges subsidy	\$1,924	\$2,736
Gravesend Showground	Waste charges	\$998	\$1,127
Gwydir Rugby Club (If participating)	Use of oval and training facilities	\$1,000	\$0
Presbyterian Church Warialda	Water, sewerage and waste charges	\$1,743	\$1,994
Scots Presbyterian Church, Bingara	Water, sewerage and waste charges	\$1,274	\$1,468
St Johns Anglican Church, Bingara	Water, sewerage and waste charges	\$2,954	\$3,422
St Mary's Catholic Church, Bingara	Water, sewerage and waste charges	\$3,821	\$4,805
St Simon and Jude's Anglican Church, Warialda	Water, sewerage and waste charges	\$2,283	\$2,538
Uniting Church, Bingara	Water, sewerage and waste charges	\$1,274	\$1,495
Unleash The Black Dog Ball (If held)	Waive hire fees of Roxy and kitchen	\$1,000	\$0
Bingara Central School	Partial waiving of water charges	\$5,000	\$6,981
Waiving Development Applications and other fees	For community group activities requiring a development application	\$3,000	\$1,556
Carinda House	Water, sewerage and waste charges	\$3,418	\$3,628
Warialda P & A Association	Rates, water, sewerage & waste charges	\$7,601	\$8,278
Boggabilla Anglican Parish	Rates and other chages subsidy	0	686
Bingara Historical Society	Network Charges	2000	2197
Warialda Rail Recreation Reserve	Waste charges	\$891	\$954
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$60,978</b>	<b>\$69,421</b>
<b>*Subject to sporting teams participating or events being held</b>		<b>\$3,600</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Definite</b>		<b>\$57,378</b>	<b>\$69,421</b>





Donations < \$1,000

Organisation	Donation Type	Proposed Donation Requested*	Actual Donation
Upper Horton Rodeo and Campdraft (if held)	Annual sponsorship	\$500	\$0.00
Warialda Sports Council Awards (if held)	Annual sponsorship	\$350	\$324.00
Bingara Sporting Club Awards (if held)	Annual sponsorship	\$350	\$0.00
Warialda Wombats Rugby League Football Club (if participating)	Annual sponsorship	\$500	\$540.00
Bingara Bullets Rugby League Football Club (if participating)	Annual sponsorship	\$500	\$0.00
Bingara Missiles League Tag (if participating)	Annual sponsorship	\$325	\$0.00
Warialda Ladies League Tag (if participating)	Annual sponsorship	\$325	\$0.00
Warialda High School	Annual academic prizes	\$550	\$594.00
Bingara Central School	Annual academic prizes	\$950	\$1,026.00
Warialda Primary School	Annual academic prizes	\$550	\$594.00
St Josephs Primary School	Annual academic prizes	\$550	\$594.00
Gravesend Primary School	Annual academic prizes	\$550	\$594.00
North Star Primary School	Annual academic prizes	\$550	\$0.00
Croppa Creek Primary School	Annual academic prizes	\$550	\$594.00
Bingara Angler's Club	Annual sponsorship	\$500	\$540.00
Unallocated	Donations requests received during the year	\$21,006	\$8,357.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$28,606.00</b>	<b>\$13,757.00</b>
<b>*Subject to sporting teams participating or events being held</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Definite</b>		<b>\$28,606.00</b>	<b>\$13,757.00</b>

'Council Internal 'Donations'

Organisation	Donation Type	Recommended Donation*	Actual Donation
Willoughby\Gwydir exchange program (if held)	Annual allocation	\$10,000	\$11,534.59
Gwydir Learning Region	Annual allocation	\$20,000	\$0.00
Gwydir Learning Region's Country Education Foundation Committee	Annual allocation	\$5,000	\$5,400.00
Industry awards	Prizes and assistance during annual business award event	\$3,000	\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$38,000</b>	<b>\$16,934.59</b>
<b>*Subject to event or activity being held</b>		<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Definite</b>		<b>\$28,000</b>	<b>\$16,934.59</b>



Donations > \$1,000

Organisation	Donation Type	Proposed Donation Requested*	Actual Donation
Barraba PA & H Association (if held)	Annual donation	\$1,750	\$0.00
Warialda P & A Association (if held)	Annual donation	\$1,750	\$0.00
Bingara Show Society (if held)	Annual donation	\$1,750	\$0.00
Bingara Orange Festival (if held)	Annual sponsorship	\$15,000	\$0.00
Warialda Honey Festival (if held)	Annual sponsorship	\$15,000	\$0.00
Warialda Historical Society (Previous commitment by Council to 5 year project)	Who, when, where Cemetery Project (5 Year Project - Year 4)	\$5,000	\$5,400.00
Bush Bursary NSW Doctors' Network	Annual sponsorship	\$3,000	\$3,240.00
Warialda Rotary	Australia Day Celebrations & Flag Donation	\$1,750	\$13,306.00
Barwon Medical Scholarship	Annual sponsorship	\$3,000	\$0.00
Bingara Australia Day	Annual Donation	\$1,000	\$1,019.00
Gwydir Learning Region	Donation	\$0	\$3,888.00
Bingara Community Practice	Start up Loan	\$4,752	\$5,000.00
Warialda Motor Sports Club (if held)	Warialda Off Road event	\$2,000	\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$55,752</b>	<b>\$31,853.00</b>
<b>*Subject to event or activity being held</b>		<b>\$37,250</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Definite</b>		<b>\$12,750</b>	<b>\$31,853.00</b>

In Kind Support

Organisation	Donation Type	Recommended Allocation	Actual Donation
Bingara events unallocated (if held)	Support for community events	\$10,000	\$216.00
Bingara Jockey Club (if held)	Preparation for annual race day	\$2,000	\$3,000.00
Bingara RSL Club and Sub Branch	Upkeep of memorial gardens in Bingara	\$1,000	\$2,751.00
Bingara Show Society	Maintenance of showground	\$3,000	\$3,000.00
Carinda House Committee	Maintenance requests	\$1,000	\$1,958.00
Myall Creek Memorial Committee	Ground maintenance for annual commemoration	\$7,000	\$7,154.93
Warialda Apex Committee (if held)	Support during events	\$500	\$0.00
Warialda Events unallocated (if held)	Support for community events	\$10,000	\$1,153.60
Warialda Jockey Club (if held)	Preparation for annual race day	\$2,000	\$2,324.00
Warialda Preschool	Building Maintenance	\$2,000	\$5,536.30
Warialda P&A Association (if held)	Support during events	\$3,000	\$3,101.00
Warialda Tennis Club	Ground maintenance	\$750	\$0.00
Community Groups	Printing and photocopy	\$3,000	\$3,628.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$45,250</b>	<b>\$33,822.83</b>
<b>*Subject to event or activity being held</b>		<b>\$27,500</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Definite</b>		<b>\$17,750</b>	<b>\$33,822.83</b>



**Statements of all corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies in which council held a controlling interest**

Gwydir Shire Council did not hold a controlling interest in any corporation, private company, partnership, trust, joint venture, syndicate or any other body in the year ending June 30, 2024.

**Statements of all corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies (whether or not incorporated) in which council participated during the year**

The council is involved in several arrangements with a non-controlling interest in the following entities:

- Fossickers' Way Promotion Committee
- Local Government NSW
- Local RTA Traffic Committee
- Regional Tourism Committee
- Bush Fire Liaison (Service Level Agreement) Committee
- Border Regional Organisations of Councils
- Arts North West
- Namoi Joint Organisation
- New England Join Organisation (Association Membership)
- New England North West Regional Advisory Committee
- Country Mayor's Association
- StateCover Mutual
- Statewide Mutual
- Central Northern Regional Library and Information Service
- Warialda and District Chamber
- Bingara and District Vision 20/20
- Northwest Regional Community Care Project Advisory Committee
- CHSP and Disability Services Advisory Committee
- Northern Slopes Landcare Association
- Murray Darling Association Inc.

**Statement of all external bodies that exercised functions delegated by Council**

To better engage the community and reflect local community views and needs, Gwydir Shire Council delegates a range of its functions to volunteer committees:

- Bingara District Historical Society
- Gravesend Community Group
- Naroo Hostel Advisory Committee
- Disability Inclusion Advisory Committee
- Bingara Angler's Club
- Bingara Showground Advisory Committee
- Bingara Special Events Committee
- Warialda Tourism Committee
- Warialda Historical Society
- Coolatai Sportsground Committee
- North Star Hall Committee
- Croppa Creek Hall Committee
- Yallaroi Hall Committee
- Crooble Hall Committee
- Warialda Rail Community Committee
- Warialda Cultural Community Centre – Carinda House
- Warialda Sports Council
- Warialda Preschool
- Gwydir Community Health Alliance
- Gwydir Learning Region Committee
- Bingara Op Shop

**Equal Employment Management (EEO)**

EEO objectives as outlined in S344 of the Local Government Act 1993:

Eliminate and ensure the absence of discrimination in employment on the grounds of race, sex, marital or domestic status and disability in councils, and promote equal employment opportunities for women, members of racial minorities and persons with disabilities in councils.

Gwydir Shire Council are committed to the following EEO objectives.

- Ensure communication and awareness of EEO plans and initiatives
- Create a discrimination-free workplace
- Ensure robust and compliant policies, practices, evaluation and reporting
- Enhance diversity in the workplace and provide flexible personnel practices
- Develop strategies to attract and retain a workforce reflective of the diversity of the Gwydir Shire Council.

These objectives have underpinned all of Council operations.



**Statement of the total remuneration comprised in the remuneration package of the General Manager** table right.

General Manager Remuneration Package	
Item	Amount (\$)
Salary	323,253
Superannuation	35,557
Non-Cash Benefits	28,600
FBT	0.00
<b>Total Package</b>	<b>384,710</b>

**Senior Staff Members Remuneration Package**  
Not applicable. The only staff member classified as Senior Staff is the General Manager.

**Statement of the total number of persons who performed paid work on 14 February 2024 for Gwydir Shire Council** table below.

Description	Total no.
Total number of persons who performed paid work for Council on <b>Wednesday 14th February 2024</b>	176
Number of persons directly employed by the council on a <b>permanent full-time basis</b>	138
On a <b>permanent part-time basis</b>	63
On a <b>casual basis</b>	36
Under a <b>fixed-term contract</b>	0
Number of persons employed by the council who are <b>“senior staff” for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1993</b>	1
Number of persons <b>engaged by the council, under a contract or other arrangement with the person’s employer, that is wholly or principally for the labour of the person</b>	0
The number of <b>persons supplied to the council, under a contract or other arrangement with the person’s employer, as an apprentice or trainee.</b>	0

**Coastal Protection Services Provided**

Not applicable. Council did not levy any charges for coastal protection services.

**Summary of the amounts incurred by the Council in relation to legal proceedings.**

There were no legal proceedings during the reporting period.

**Swimming Pool Inspections**

Building Services have a private swimming pool inspection program in place where all known swimming pools in Gwydir Shire are inspected once every three years. The program is designed to ensure that owners of private swimming pools maintain their pools and pool barriers in an effective manner to ensure the safety of all pool users.

Council continues to carry out its inspection program and in the 2023-2024 financial year council inspectors carried out 53 pool inspections. Of those 53 inspections, 48 pools were found to be compliant on the 1st inspection. Of the 5 non-compliant pools, 2 were decommissioned, 2 were unable to be inspected due to restricted access to the property (despite unsuccessfully attempting to contact the owner), and the owner of the remaining pool is in the process of working towards compliance.

**Government Information Public Access (GIPA) activity**

In 2023-2024 reporting period Council received 8 requests under the Government Information (Public Access) Act, 2009. All were dealt with and the information requested was provided where it was possible to do so.



### Public Interest Disclosure (PID) Act 1994 and Regulation

No disclosures were made during the reporting period. Council's Privacy Management Plan is available at [www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gwydir.nsw.gov.au) to view or download.

### Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and Regulation 2000 Information

#### **Planning agreements**

There were no Planning Agreements in force during this reporting period.

#### **Developer Contributions**

No development contributions and development levies have been used or expended for projects during the reporting period. Each contribution is to go to expenditure on the particular roads identified in the specific Development Consents.

Value of all contributions and levies received during the reporting period totaled \$134,797.

### Fisheries Management Act 1994

Gwydir Shire Council has not been identified as responsible for the implementation of measures in any Recovery Threat Abatement Plan.

### Environmental Upgrade Agreements

There were no environmental upgrade agreements entered into during the 2022-23 reporting period.

### Stormwater Management Services

Council levied a Stormwater Management Service Charge (SWSC) of \$25 per residential property, \$12.50 for residential strata lots and \$25 per 350sqm for business properties. The total received funds for the 2023/24 financial year was \$39,760.37. Council's stormwater works program for the financial year included routine repairs, cleaning of gross pollutant traps and removal of debris from grates and inlets, along with the upgrade of stormwater facilities in Plunkett Street Warialda, identified during community consultation in the 2022-2023 financial year.

### Capital Works Projects

Council submitted a Capital Expenditure Report to the OLG during the reporting period as a measure of 'best practice' for the demolition and construction of the new council building in Bingara. Although Gwydir Shire Council is the applicant, both the planning assessments and development applications were prepared by consultants independent of council during the reporting period. One being for the demolition of the remaining structure which was approved. The successful tenderer for the demolition commenced works onsite in February 2024. The construction application is likely to take us into the next reporting period with a projected commencement date for the construction being September 2024. Full details on the assessment report can be found in the September 2023 council meeting minutes.



## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES COMPANION ANIMALS ACT 1998 AND REGULATION 2008

### Companion Animals management

Gwydir Shire Council employs two Regulatory Officers who are responsible for administering the Companion Animals Act 1998. The officers patrol the region to provide companion animal owners with support, education and regulation. A summary of the activities undertaken in 2023/24 are listed below.

### Animal Enclosure (Pound)

Council's animal enclosure facility is located on the industrial estate in Warialda, situated behind the Essential Energy Depot. It consists of 5 large kennels with runs that can be reconfigured into 10 separate kennels with the closing of internal doors. It also features a multipurpose veterinary/ laundry/storage room, an office with a foyer for receiving the public, and an enclosed outdoor animal exercise area. Council's regulatory officers commenced working from the building after its completion in 2023.

### Pound data / Collection returns

Council reports annually on impounded animals in the Gwydir Shire region. This information is provided to the Office of Local Government, and forms part of the Survey of Council Seizures of Cats and Dogs. Council lodged its pound data collection return in July 2024. A brief summary of the pound data collections for the year and comparison to the previous period is presented in the table below.

ACTIVITY	CATS			DOGS		
	2023	2024	% change	2023	2024	% change
Total Animals Seized	32	36	13%	21	28	24%
Returned to Owner	2	1	-50%	14	9	-36%
Impounded	0	0	-	7	17	143%
Surrendered	0	0	-	0	0	-
Released to Owners	0	0	-	0	0	-
Rehoming within Gwydir Shire	0	0	-	4	4	0%
Released to rehoming organisation	0	0	-	3	13	333%
Euthanised unsuitable for rehoming	0	0	-	0	0	-
Euthanised unable to be rehomed	0	0	-	0	0	-
Euthanised feral	30	35	17%	0	0	-

### Nuisance, Menacing and Dangerous Dog Orders

- **Nuisance Orders:** One dog was placed on a nuisance order this year.
- **Menacing Dog Declarations:** Five dogs were newly declared as menacing, while eight dogs remain under menacing dog declarations from previous years.
- **Dangerous Dog Declarations:** Two dogs were newly declared as dangerous, with seven dogs remaining under dangerous dog declarations from previous years.

### Microchipping and Registrations

- **Microchipping:** 78 dogs and 10 cats were microchipped during the period.
- **Registrations:** 63 dogs and 9 cats were registered, generating a total of \$7,469.





Microchipping and Registration Totals

	ID Microchip Only			Registered			Total		
	2023	2024	%	2023	2024	%	2023	2024	%
<b>Cat</b>	334	524	57%	180	201	12%	514	725	41%
<b>Dog</b>	4222	5989	42%	1553	1767	14%	5775	7756	34%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>4556</b>	<b>6513</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>1733</b>	<b>1968</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>6289</b>	<b>8481</b>	<b>35%</b>

The top ten identified registered breeds in Gwydir Shire

The top ten identified registered **Dog** breeds in The Shire

BREED	2023	BREED	2024
Australian Kelpie	314	Australian Kelpie	320
Jack Russell Terrier	292	Jack Russell Terrier	297
Labrador Retriever	176	Labrador Retriever	185
Border Collie	153	Border Collie	164
Australian Cattle Dog ( Blue)	147	Australian Cattle Dog ( Blue)	157
Cavoodle	130	Cavoodle	126
Maltese	111	Golden Retriever	115
Daschund (miniture)	111	Maltese	114
Unknown	100	Daschund (miniture)	112
Cocker Spaniel	98	Cocker Spaniel	109

The top ten identified registered **Cat** breeds in The Shire

BREED	2023	BREED	2024
Domestic	319	Domestic	328
Ragdoll	50	Ragdoll	47
Birman	29	Birman	28
(Other)	15	(Other)	14
Burmese	10	Burmese	10
Domestic	10	Domestic (other)	9
Russian Blue	9	Russian Blue	8
Ragdoll	8	Siamese	8
Siamese	7	Ragdoll cross	8
Unknown	7	Persian	7

Dog Attack Statistics

Reports of known dog attacks investigated by the Council's Regulatory officers are recorded in the Companion Animals Database, as required by the Companion Animals Act 1998. In 2023-2024, six incidents involving nine dogs were reported to the Council, investigated, and documented in the database. All incidents were resolved.



### Funds spent on Companion Animal management and activities:

In 2023-2024, the Council spent a total of \$129,145 on companion animal management. This amount covers the employment of Regulatory officers, the operation and maintenance of the Council's Companion Animal Impounding facility, and its associated administrative functions. These functions include rehoming companion animals, microchipping and registration, maintaining the companion animals register, and conducting educational and awareness activities.

### Educational activities

The Strategic Companion Animal Management Plan (SCAMP) outlines objectives for raising awareness and educating the community about companion animals. This year, social media continued to play a key role in various Companion Animal Management Activities, including education, reuniting lost pets, and rehoming.

The Shire also produces a range of factsheets for companion animal owners, available both physically and online on the Council's website. These resources include strategies to promote the desexing and permanent identification of companion animals. Desexing cats and dogs is recognized for reducing nuisance behaviours such as roaming, aggression, and unwanted litters. We actively promote desexing to our customers, highlighting its social and financial benefits.

### Strategies to reduce euthanasia rates

An amendment to the Companion Animals Act, effective from March 4, 2022, requires rehoming organizations like the Council to follow specific steps for rehoming seized and surrendered dogs. Fortunately, the Council's existing processes were already aimed at minimizing euthanasia, ensuring compliance with the new requirements.

Gwydir Shire Council uses a Facebook page to advertise eligible impounded animals for rehoming, allowing the community to view and share this information widely. Council has also developed partnerships with regional rehoming organizations such as Lucky Paws, PetRescue, and Macintyre Pet and Animal Rescue in Goondiwindi. Animals not rehomed locally are shared with these organizations, reaching a broader audience.

Thanks to the efforts of the Regulatory Officers and the systems and relationships they have developed, no dogs were euthanized this year. All euthanized cats were feral.

### Off leash areas

The Council has four off-leash areas within the Shire, each clearly marked with regulatory signage outlining permitted and prohibited behaviours. These areas are regularly maintained by the Council's Regulatory and Parks and Gardens staff, including mowing, tree watering, and general upkeep.

The four off-leash areas are:

1. **Bicentennial Park:** This area includes part of the Bingara River Common Crown Reserve under council management and is unfenced.
2. **All Nations Hill, Hill Street, Bingara:** This fenced area features a dog bubbler, dog obstacles, and seating.
3. **Long Street Triangle Park, Warialda:** Located at the corner of Long and Mosquito Creek Road, this fenced area includes a dog bubbler, dog obstacles, litter bags, a bin, and seating.
4. **Off-leash Reserve, Gwydir Street, Gravesend:** This fenced area offers dog obstacles and seating.



## COMPLIANCE WITH THE NSW CARERS (RECOGNITION) ACT 2010

The inclusion and support to Carers of Aged Care residents is a high priority within the Gwydir Shire Council. Planning and assessment of our aged care residents always involves carers, if applicable taking into consideration the supports of the carer and their perception of the caring relationship. Irrespective of the age, function and place of residence such as a Residential Aged Care Facility, carers are often heavily involved in decision making with regards to the resident's needs, assessment and support planning. The ongoing involvement of carers is often essential to the wellbeing of residents residing in residential aged care and this is promoted and supported at Naroo Frail Aged Care. Allowing and supporting Carers to be involved reduces depression, provides continuity of relationships, and sustains connection to home and family to the resident. It also enables the carer to feel needed, useful, and appreciated.

The new Aged Care Standards incorporate the importance of Carers in the industry, and it is expected that organisations partner with the consumer and their carer/s. Consumers Dignity and Choice is supported by allowing consumers to make decisions about when family, friend's carers or others should be involved in their care. Consumers often continue to receive care and support from unpaid carers when entering residential care such as family and friends. These people have been supporting the consumer over a period before they accessed care and services and continue to be recognised by the Gwydir Shire Council. Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) services celebrate Carers Week annually. Carers Week is about recognising and celebrating the outstanding contribution family, friends and carers make to our Shire.

Naroo Aged Care Hostel Facility also continues to recognise family and carers monthly, holding a BBQ each month to celebrate the resident's birthdays and inviting them to attend.

Carers are also involved in our Disability Inclusion Committee undertaking a consultative role.

### Educational Strategies

Staff awareness and education is available through various programs such as Dementia Australia and Golden Carers. Staff also have access to webinars providing information and education on programs such as the Integrated Carer Support Service Model.

A copy of the NSW Carers charter is displayed in the Gwydir Shire Council units within the Shire. Carers play an integral role within the Gwydir Shire Council and are recognised and involved in the day-to-day care of resident residing in the Naroo

Aged Care Hostel Facility owned by Gwydir Shire Council, as well as services provided through Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) and NSW Transport.

### Consultation and liaison with Carers

Consultation and liaison with Carers occur within Naroo Aged Care Hostel Facility and Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) services on a daily basis. Carers are identified and kept informed with any changes or deterioration of their loved ones.

Gwydir Shire seeks input and feedback from consumers and their carers and has access to various methods for raising and resolving complaints in a timely manner. This feedback is actively reviewed, and the services are improved where appropriate.

The Disability Inclusion Access Committee is made up of people in the community who are interested in helping to make their community or town more disability and dementia friendly. Work continues on the implementation of Dementia Friendly communities within the Shire.



Staff who are Carers

Carers leave is available to all staff working for Gwydir Shire Council and is supported by the Gwydir Shire Council Sick and Carers Leave Policy.

Disability Inclusion Act 2014 – including information on the implementation of council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan

The Gwydir Shire Council recognises that people with a disability have the right to exercise choice and control in the pursuit of their goals and the planning and delivery of their support and services. The aim is to provide people with disability opportunities for access and participation, consistent with that provided to other community members.

The Gwydir Shire Council has an active Disability Inclusions Advisory Committee that meets regularly. The committee includes both carers and persons living with a disability and Council representatives and medical professionals. The Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) went to the June 2023 Council meeting and was displayed for 28 days before being adopted and publicly available to the community as of July 1st, 2023. Actions from this Plan will continue to be integrated into Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting documents. Council continues to plan and work toward addressing the issues that we need to as an organisation to ensure that people with a disability in our community are not disadvantaged and can live comfortably in their chosen community.

During the reporting period sections of footpath in Bingara and Warialda have been upgraded or installed to allow for easier access for people with mobility issues.

The current disabled parking spaces in Bingara and Warialda have been reviewed and determined as the most practical spaces available that do not compromise safety to those using them. The Committee and staff will continue to monitor these spaces along with the opportunity to add more if the need arises.





**SECTION 3**

**COPY OF AUDITED  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**SEE SEPARATE  
ATTACHMENT**

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The community vision "Gwydir Country  
A Circular Economy, Fresh Air, Innovation & Opportunity."



**STATE OF OUR SHIRE**  
**REPORT**  
**| 2022 - 2024 |**



STATE OF OUR SHIRE REPORT

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

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



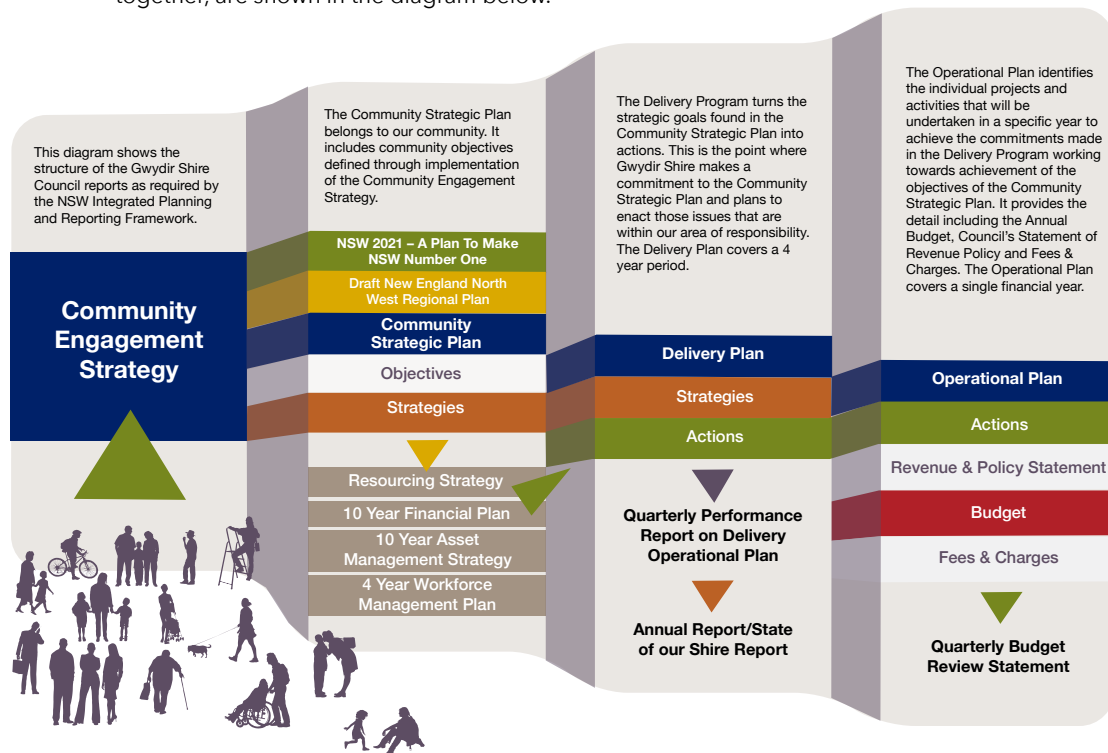
## OUR PLANNING FRAMEWORK

### How it all fits together

The Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework impacting all NSW councils was introduced by the NSW State Government in 2009. The reforms replaced the former Social and Management Plan structures. All NSW Councils are required to develop a Community Strategic Plan spanning 10 years, a Delivery Program spanning the four-year period of the elected council and Operational Plans covering each financial year. The framework allows Gwydir Shire Council to link their plans together and plan holistically for the future.

The State of our Shire Report (this report) focuses on how effective council has been in delivering social, environmental, economic and civic leadership objectives over the term of the previous council. It reports against the high-level strategies and priorities of the Community Strategic Plan and has a community focus rather than a council one.

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



2 The community vision "Gwydir Country - A Circular Economy, Fresh Air, Innovation & Opportunity."

## MAYOR'S REFLECTION



### Cr John Coulton – Mayor

This State of our Shire Report concludes the three-year term which commenced after the Local Government election held Saturday, December 4, 2021. The 3-year term is unusual and was the result of the anomaly caused by COVID-19 preventing an election in 2020, when it would normally have been held.

This will be my final report as Mayor of Gwydir Shire Council as I decided not to contest the 2024 local government election. Five other incumbent Councillors have also announced their retirement. I wish them well and thank

them for the contribution they have made to our community in Gwydir Shire.

I have been fortunate to lead such a harmonious and dedicated team who have worked together to bring many improvements to the Gwydir Shire. I believe we will look back on our term in local government with immense pride and remain friends for life, including the senior staff, with whom we worked closely with.

During this term Council has been able to deliver more sealed roads in the shire thanks to generous funding from both the State and Federal Governments before they departed from power. My sincere thanks go to our State local Member Adam Marshall and the Federal member Mark Coulton for the massive support they gave to Gwydir in our efforts to secure funding for the many projects we have completed.

The road into Upper Horton from the Narrabri Road has been sealed and I acknowledge the efforts of the late David McDouall for his persistent lobbying on behalf of the local community to get this project done. A portion of David's ashes was placed beneath the bitumen by David's family.

Further major works during the period included the almost complete sealing of the IB Bore Road which connects North Star with the Newell Highway, the partially completed sealing of the County Boundary Road and the complete overhaul and sealing of the Croppa North Star Road. We were also able to squeeze the budget a little more to get the Getta Getta Road sealed for our community living in this area.

The comment made to me by several northern ratepayers is they never believed in their wildest dreams that such road improvements would ever take place. This dream has come true due to the dedication of the highly skilled crews who worked on the various projects. Their efforts here must be commended and do not go unnoticed.

The leadership of Engineering Services Director Alex Eddy has been exemplary. He has inclusively discussed with the crews the budget for the job and provided periodic updates to the teams on projected outcomes. This communication gives crews working on these projects greater meaning and understanding of projects in their entirety and how their roles play a pivotal part in the achievement of these outcomes. Many times, jobs have come in under budget because of this.

The massive spend on roads has been supported by our indoor staff. The Chief Financial Officer, Helen Thomas, for example has influenced the council on wise spending and I am sure at times been quite frustrated with the somewhat challenging optimism of the Councillors

*The Community vision by a member of our community "Gwydir Country - A Circular Economy, Fresh Air, Innovation & Opportunity" 3*

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**STATE OF OUR SHIRE REPORT**

with the urging of the purchase of equipment such as graders and other expensive heavy equipment. I acknowledge the efforts of all the indoor staff for the role they play in this organisation and for the support they have given to the direction the Councillors have chosen. I also want to make mention of the support I have received as Mayor. Without this support and dedication our organisation would simply not achieve all that it has for a small regional council.

The towns and villages have all received some of the "pie." If I try and list all of them, I will surely miss some, but of note I must mention the efforts of the Deputy Mayor, Mrs. Catherine Egan, in gaining support for, and a grant to, construct a very elaborate skate and bike park in Bingara. The park project has received praise from many quarters and is a significant attraction for the community, young and old.

The construction of a green space in Warialda is well under way and should be a welcome addition to the community there. This project will provide lawn, shade and some caravan parking space and will soften the look and feel of the town especially on sweltering summer days.

The contract for the construction of a new council chambers in Bingara has been signed. The build is expected to be completed in 2025 and will bring all the staff who are currently scattered over town, back under the one roof. The Warialda chambers will continue to house the engineering and building staff.

Council meetings are and will continue to be rotated between the two towns.

I would like to pay a special tribute to both the Deputy General Manager Mrs. Leeah Daley and the General Manager Mr. Max Eastcott for their dedication to Gwydir and the massive support they have shown to me. We have worked well together, and I thank you.

I have been privileged to meet with the senior staff monthly which has been greatly beneficial to me, ensuring I stay informed. This has assisted me in leading and making educated decisions with my team.

I know our council has been the envy of others. We are a close-knit team with respect for each other and have achieved some enviable results. I thank my team for firstly electing me as their mayor and then supporting me over a fifteen-year term. While quite junior to my Deputy Mayor, Mrs. Catherine Egan, who has been a Gwydir Councillors for 20 years. A top effort Cr Egan, congratulations.

The General Manager, Mr. Eastcott has announced his retirement, being July 4, 2025. I thank you Max for your dedicated service to the Gwydir Shire community.

In closing I offer my congratulations to the incoming council. All the best for your term in local government. I look forward to following your progress.

I trust you enjoy reading the following report.

*Cr John Coulton.*  
*Mayor.*

## COUNCILLOR REFLECTIONS



### Cr Catherine Egan – Deputy Mayor

The current Council term has been an extremely challenging time for our Shire residents. I am proud of Council's and the community's resilience throughout some momentous events in recent history.

The drought, fires and floods have shown the resilience and strength of our community, everyone pulling together and helping one another. I was particularly proud of our council and the way it offered job opportunities (keeping families in our towns and villages) and the delivery of free potable to households in need, during the worst drought in living memory. Whilst I was proud of council's efforts, I was just as proud of the community when it reciprocated and fundraised for Bangalow when it experienced a significant flooding event of its own.

Gwydir Health Alliance (GHA) - this Alliance, formed in 2017 to seek to address the issue of attracting and retaining doctors to our local government area. Gwydir Shire Council has been selected as part of a NSW trial through the University of New England known as the Attract, Connect and Stay Project seeking to improve health outcomes for rural communities. Doctor retention continues to be a driving issue for the management and directors of the Bingara Community Practice.

I have long been an advocate of the library, attending and participating in library activities and attending the Central Northern Regional Library meetings. Whilst not your traditional library, I have also enjoyed attending Bubs Biz at the Bingara Toy Library, including presenting our newest residents with their Gwydir birth certificates.

The Bingara Showground/Racecourse User Group Committee of which I have served as Chair, has been instrumental in managing grant applications and upgrades during my term. Some of these improvements include but are not limited to, new lighting and new campdraft facilities. Council worked with the Campdraft Volunteer Group to construct the facilities which will enable more equine events to be held in our local community, attracting more visitors to the area. Seeing Bingara's new pool precinct open was a significant achievement during this term. Being part of earlier discussion regarding the Bingara Swimming Pool precinct I was happy to see this project come to fruition as it was suggested at one time that the Bingara pool be closed and Bingara residents either travel to Warialda to use their pool or use the river, neither suggestion being good for residents of Bingara and surrounds.

On Wednesday, 12 June 2024, I had the pleasure of opening the Long Run Skate Park at Cunningham Park. This makes a great come and stay holiday entertainment precinct, with the skate park and pool being next door to the Bingara Caravan Park, which has also recently received some significant upgrades.

The Special Events Committee are finding it increasingly challenging when hosting events which are very necessary for the promotion of tourism in Gwydir Shire and the promotion of business houses within the community. These events are necessary for the social fabric of our local community. Australia Day was always a special event and something I was extremely proud to be a part of, recognising the local people who deserve recognition for their hard work and dedication to their community.

*The Community vision by a member of our community "Gwydir Country - A Circular Economy, Fresh Air, Innovation & Opportunity" 5*

STATE OF OUR SHIRE REPORT

One of my final goals was to secure the commitment of council to build the new Council Administration Centre in Bingara. Being Chair of the project committee I was able to turn the first sod on the site in September 2024. This allows me to depart knowing that the amazing staff and the community will benefit from this development for decades to come (hopefully the project will be completed before Christmas 2025).

It has been a privilege and the greatest honour to represent the good people of Gwydir and I am proud of our achievements. I wish the new Councillors and staff every success as they embark upon the coming term of council and hope that they enjoy serving their community as much as I have over the past 20 years.



**Cr Tiffany Galvin**

In Gwydir Shire we have so many volunteers who contribute their time and energy to our community. Council alone has many volunteers who are involved in the preservation of our natural environment, aged and disability services, community events, the Youth Council, section 355 committee network and many more working alongside other community and sporting groups. I would like to thank each of you who contributes to making Gwydir Shire a better place for all of us.

My passions continue to be the health and wellbeing of our diverse community and ensuring that we have accessible services for community needs, along with a focus on our local and wider regional tourism industry. It is my goal to make Gwydir the best place to live and a destination of choice for both first time and regular visitors.

I would like to say a large thank you to the Council staff, the community groups, volunteers, and every member of the Gwydir community that have made this term on Council an absolute pleasure. As long as I am on Council, I will endeavour to put the priorities of the community first and to ensure that Gwydir Shire remains a viable, vibrant and resilient community that is teeming with innovation and opportunities.

**Cr James Moore**

I would like to thank the Residents who have placed their faith and trust in me to represent their views and concerns, at a local level over the past 12 years as an elected Councillor. I can assure you I have not taken this responsibility lightly. I believe being selected as a Councillor is a privilege and a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in our community, not only in Council matters but also within the local organisations I am involved with. Throughout my time as Councillor of Gwydir Shire, I have been involved with many significant decisions and changes associated with community projects, road infrastructure and community events that have been successful and benefited all our community. I am proud of the strength of our Council and our established community organisations working together as a cohesive unit representing all residents, moving forward through the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.



STATE OF OUR SHIRE REPORT



**Cr David Coulton**

At the completion of my second term as a Gwydir Shire councillor, I wish to thank the Gwydir community for giving me the opportunity to serve our extensive and diverse community.

In the last eight years we have witnessed the completion and almost completion of many important roads and infrastructure projects. These projects have been carried out in a very professional manner by the fantastic and highly skilled staff of the Shire and they are something everyone can be immensely proud of.

It has given me great satisfaction and pride to serve and represent this wonderful Shire of ours, a Shire that “punches well above its weight”. In not seeking re-election for another term, I wish the newly elected Council all the very best for the next four years and with the dedicated and efficient staff working together with you, this Shire will continue to prosper and grow under your stewardship. Thank you

**Cr Marilyn Dixon OAM**

Reflecting on my 12 years as a councillor, I have witnessed many changes occurring within Gwydir Shire. I have learnt a lot from the conversations I have had with many residents and gained an appreciation of the things about Gwydir that the community values. I am reminded that first and foremost my obligation as an elected representative, is to represent the community and I am honoured that I get the opportunity to do this.



My focus has always been to make sure what council commits to is achieved. For example, the new council office in Bingara, the Gwydir River Foreshore Pontoon area that was devastated by significant flooding events, and the green space in Warialda.

During my next term, these projects and many more will continue to remain a focus of mine so that we can deliver these projects to our community for them to benefit from for many years to come.



**Cr Lyndon Mulligan**

This term of council has maintained the successful track record of making Gwydir Shire a great place to be in, with great facilities, including preschools and aged care and excellent parks for all to enjoy.

It is particularly pleasing to see the progress made upgrading roads and telecommunications within the shire. Good roads and good communications are so important for our community, particularly those living in rural areas.

Gwydir Shire is very fortunate to have good cooperation between Councillors and the excellent staff. The results are on show when you look around the Shire. Thank you to the Gwydir Shire community for your support.

*The Community vision by a member of our community "Gwydir Country - A Circular Economy, Fresh Air, Innovation & Opportunity" 7*



STATE OF OUR SHIRE REPORT

**Cr Geoffrey Smith**

Reflecting on my last term on Council, as well as the last 12 years that I have served as a Councillor of Gwydir Shire Council, it has been very satisfying to see the commencement and in a lot of cases, completion of many projects that were put forward during my time in council. The Warialda by-pass, the truck wash facility and the vast number of parks and gardens projects which make our towns and villages more pleasant to live in, are just a few of these projects to mention.



Roads have always been my main interest on council, as they carry the produce of the whole area and are generally what the council gets judged on most. I would like to thank the entire Engineering staff for their great work on our roads.

I would also like to thank the whole of the Council staff and my fellow Councillors for their dedicated work in keeping Gwydir Shire in good condition.

**Cr Christopher Matthews**



I nominated for Councillor in late 2021, my hope being that I could take issues that arose in my job as a GP and speak for those issues at Shire meetings. As I was a novice to local council matters, and nearly all of the re-elected Councillors were not, I felt a bit at sea at first. Quite a few of the Councillors came from a farming background, so I was happy to add a new perspective to the mix.

I quickly learned that I had a different philosophical background when I suggested that the acknowledgement of country should be included in the meeting protocol. The idea was opposed by the other

members and that taught me a lesson about the local tolerance of other cultures.

I was keen to draw attention to the needs of the less fortunate, particularly in relation to housing, once again I felt that some of the Councillors, perhaps coming from a more fortunate background, were at odds with my ideas.

However, I found that the senior employees of the Shire to be great to work with. Complete gems!

Overall, it was a great experience. I learned a lot about the machinations of local government, especially the need to balance community expectations with financial reality.

STATE OF OUR SHIRE REPORT

COUNCIL  
STATEMENTS & VALUES

OUR VISION

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

OUR MISSION

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

Council Core Values

1. **For Our Community and Visitors**  
We will provide a safe, clean and healthy environment in which all people have the opportunity to participate in and share in the Council's services and facilities.
2. **For Our Community Committees**  
We will seek their opinion in relation to the services in which they assist us, offer relevant and timely support, and recognise their valuable contribution.
3. **For Our Staff**  
We will create an atmosphere of team support, which encourages frank and honest communication, and the use of common sense and innovation in a safe and friendly working environment with the aim of efficiency.
4. **For Our Councillors**  
We will treat all Councillors equally and ensure that they are provided with accurate and timely advice and expect that they will treat each other and the staff with due respect.

*The Community vision by a member of our community "Gwydir Country - A Circular Economy, Fresh Air, Innovation & Opportunity"* 9

STATE OF OUR SHIRE REPORT

## WHERE ARE WE?

### Gwydir Shire

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

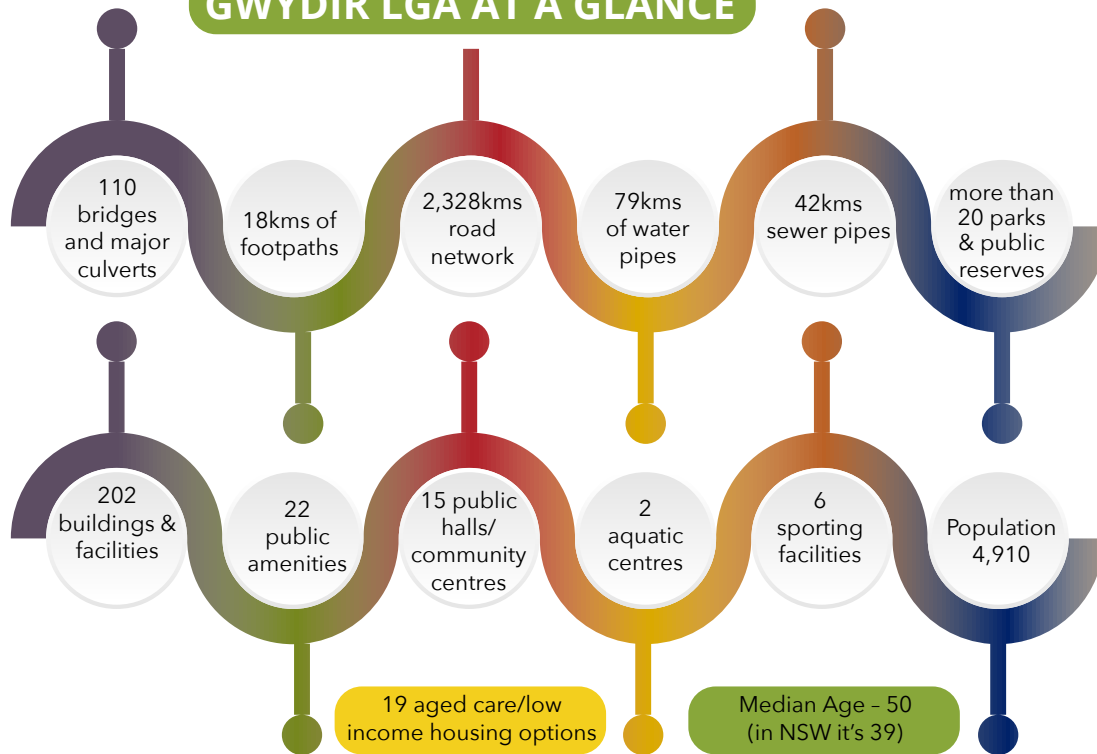
The Shire sits at the crossroads of the Fossickers Way, a popular north-south touring route, the Gwydir Highway, a significant east-west route linking the NSW North Coast to Outback NSW and on Nature's Way (State Touring Route 3), which links Narrabri to Inverell via Gwydir Shire. The Bruxner Highway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

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

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



## GWYDIR LGA AT A GLANCE





## WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?

### The Vision of the Gwydir Community

Many hands make a community



**STATE OF OUR SHIRE REPORT**

On assessment of the community aspirations (wants and needs) it was determined that the already defined strategic direction outlined in the Community Strategic Plan reviewed in June 2022 was still applicable. The broad categories of feedback included roads and other assets, the appearances of our towns and villages, tourism, economic development, specifically increasing our population. It was recognised that we could improve on our previous consultation process during the production of the last Community Strategic Plan. With this in mind, we will be conducting a more expansive consultation program for our next Community Strategic Plan.

**Bike shed Gravesend • Water refilling stations • Vacant land for development • Friends of Naroo • Naroo Sustainability • Improve medical services • North Bingara sewerage expansion • Communication • More volunteers • Strategic relationships • Circular Economy • Population growth • Expanded tourism • Economic Development • Gwydir Learning Region • The Living Classroom • Fit For The Future • Domestic Waste Collection • Financial stability • Review of service levels**

**Warialda Rail Water Supply • Two Pools? • Naroo development • Extension of Gravesend Club • Independent living units Naroo • Roxy Theatre - events/shows • Vacant land for sale • Foreshore Management • Optimum Road Network • Asset Management Plans • Petition Other Levels of Government • Behind the Meter Scheme • Park Irrigation systems**

**Cranky Rock • Focus on Arts • Cost savings - Community Halls • Review standard of ramps • Self Help (Roads) • Greenhouse & Poultry • Redevelopment Bingara Civic Centre • Roxy Café • Reduce levels of service for parks and gardens • Fossickers' Paradise • Attract more Grey Nomads to stay longer • Regional conferencing • Biolinks projects • North Star water upgrade • Gravesend water supply • Sewerage treatment - pipe relining programs • Development of town water bore Croppa Creek • Warialda water supply • Friends of Myall Creek Committee • Regular welcome new residents/visitors • Development of Myall Creek Massacre Memorial Site • ePlanning • Directional signage improved • Mongard's town strategy roll out • Review of staff salaries and numbers • Small community events • Review our staff literacy and numeracy levels**

**Upper Horton - mobile phone tower • Inland Rail project • Improve mobile coverage • Museums • Biodigester • Sand mine opportunities • Divert tourist traffic • Warialda geological walks • Redevelopment Bingara Council Depot • Gwydir River cold water pollution • Noxious weeds programs • Recognition of local heroes • Gwydir - geological centre of excellence • Coolatai Rock • Migrant resettlement • Bingara - bypass • Coolatai - RV friendly accreditation**

**"Riley the Hairy One" • Warialda Pop up Gallery • Expand visitor accommodation • NBN Opportunities • Warialda Food Bank • Biodegradable coffins • Winding down in Warialda Festival • Warialda Amateur Dramatic Society • GSC plastic free zone • Find fee free pathway for ESL students • Warialda Triathlon • Diner en Blanc Warialda • Warialda - Bingara marathon • Gwydir Shire - Centre for Adventure • Public Art • Reedy Creek - mud run • Companion Animals' Welfare • Warialda Community Garden • Quirky Festival • Wellness Centre of the North West • Discos for kids at Gravesend • Develop Reedy Creek • Paint Bingara bridge • Coolatai Art Show • Coolatai - improved RV sites ie dump sites**

## **GWYDIR SHIRE GOALS**

### Council Achievements

The Gwydir Shire Council goals and their link with the quadruple bottom line principles and the additional Governance goal are outlined below:



The following section is consistent with our Community Strategic Plan where you can clearly identify Council's achievements and how they have linked back to the goals above.

*The Community vision by a member of our community "Gwydir Country - A Circular Economy, Fresh Air, Innovation & Opportunity"* 13





## A HEALTHY AND COHESIVE COMMUNITY (SOCIAL)

During the term you told us it was important to you that the shire is...

A liveable community has pride of place, ease of access, community harmony, a mobile and healthy population that participates in community life, a feeling of safety and security, a strong vibrant cultural base and places to relax, study and play.

Council has done this by....

### AGED CARE SERVICES

- Staffing levels reviewed to align with industry benchmarks
- Implementation of lifestyle and leisure programs to meet aged care industry standards
- Upgrade of security system at Naroo Frail Aged Care Facility.
- Progression of Gwydir Shire Council Disability Action plan with committee
- Continue to support Gwydir Shire's health initiatives through the extension of accessible footpaths, the construction of the All-Abilities Park in Warialda, education and resources for the community on living healthy and active lives
- Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) has continued to provide exceptional service and transport to our local communities

### COMMUNITY ASSETS - INCLUDES EVENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, RECREATION FACILITIES, GWYDIR LEARNING REGION (GLR), AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Library services and programs have been consistently delivered to the community and visitors to the Shire with outreach programs proving very successful.
- Council has spent time reviewing and updating literature within both libraries to ensure a diverse range of literature across contemporary media is accessible to the community and meets their educational and recreational needs
- Council continues to provide and maintain the Bingara and Warialda medical centres. Both facilities are leased to local GP's who provide essential services for our community
- Council continues to operate and maintain both Bingara and Warialda Swimming pools, with lessees taking over the day-to-day operations during each swim season.
- Free pool entry for Gwydir Shire residents has been offered during the reporting period to assist residents.
- Additional storage and display cabinets were constructed at the Bingara Historical Society Museum. This was achieved via a successful grant application
- Warialda Fitness Centre Amenities Improvements - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (LRICI)
- Welcome evenings for new residents within the LGA were hosted throughout the reporting period
- Council's property management obligations have been adhered to throughout the reporting period, ensuring safe and secure facilities for tenants.
- Annual Events programs successfully delivered to the local community, with staff also assisting various committees with their own events and activities throughout the reporting period.
- Accommodation for visiting doctors is provided and maintained in Bingara and Warialda

STATE OF OUR SHIRE REPORT

**BUILDING SERVICES**

- Crooble War Memorial Hall Upgrade
- Warialda Golf & Bowling Club upgrades
- Warialda Golf & Bowling Club installation of secure kids play area
- Swimming pool inspection program is conducted annually to ensure safety and compliance measures are met by community members with pools located at their homes
- Construction of new amenities building at Nicholson Oval, Warialda



**TOWN UTILITIES – INCLUDES COUNCIL WORKSHOPS, PARKS, OVALS AND SHOWGROUNDS**

- All Abilities Park - shade sails and western end landscaping (retaining walls and trees)
- Bingara Central School - sandstone block circle - donation
- Bingara street trees - Chines Pistachio's Brisband box, Golden Ash, claret ash
- Captain Cook Park - shelters and BBQ
- Cunningham Park shelters and BBQ
- Fays Park pergola roof and table and chairs
- Warialda Koala Park tree planting
- Nicholson Oval shelters x 3
- Installation of sports field lighting at Nicholson Oval, Warialda
- North Star blue tree
- Gwydir Oval covered netball court - Regional Sports facility Program
- Cunningham Park - Town Signage - You are Here!
- Warialda showground - water upgrade
- Batterham lookout - guard rail, carpark fencing picnic shelters and signage
- Bingara showground - East side new amenities building (Showground stimulus phase 2)

- Bingara Showground - Grandstand refurbishment (Showground stimulus phase 2)
- Bingara showground - ring lighting (showground stimulus phase 2b)
- Bingara dog park - drinking fountain
- Gravesend recreation ground irrigation system
- \$10,000 grant for Bingara bush bash tennis competition
- SCCF - Rd5 - Bingara showground campdraft arena
- CWA park upgrade
- Warialda recreation ground - kitchen upgrade, new goal posts, new score board
- Gwydir oval new score board
- Town Street trees - planting of advanced trees at Bingara and Warialda
- Gwydir Oval lighting upgrade
- Bingara skate park
- Cunningham Park - shelters x 2
- CWA Park - playground refurbishment - completion in 2024
- Fishing grant for - Solar LED Lights at the Bingara boat ramp - not installed are sitting in Bingara depot
- Gwydir river foreshore - golf course repairs
- CWA Park Upgrade

The Community vision by a member of our community "Gwydir Country - A Circular Economy, Fresh Air, Innovation & Opportunity" 15

STATE OF OUR SHIRE REPORT

**SOCIAL SERVICES**

- Holiday programs for young people within Gwydir Shire
- Continued revenue sourcing for the extension of Toy Library services
- Continued revenue sourcing for the implementation of long day care services in Bingara and Warialda
- Be a centre of leadership in child development, education and care as well as support for families and community
- Build our reputation as 'best choice' for families, children and young people to discover their abilities and reach their potential in life
- Provide exceptional care, embracing authentic partnerships with families and ensuring the 'voice of the child' is central to our service processes.

**PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT**

- Robust food inspection program to comply with relevant Food Authority compliance
- Off Leash Dog Exercise Areas Bingara - Gravesend - Warialda - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program

**ENGINEERING SERVICES**

- Construction of bicycle/walking path along Reedy Creek, Warialda
- Construction and replacement of non-compliant walking/cycle paths within the Warialda township
- Construction and replacement of non-compliant walking/cycle paths within Bingara township



STATE OF OUR SHIRE REPORT

**BUILDING THE BUSINESS BASE (ECONOMIC)**

During the term you told us that it was important to you that the Shire is...

A productive community, provides people with positive choices for investment, employment and study. An innovative, diverse and resilient economy requires collaboration between local people and other levels of government to ensure that funding for infrastructure and economic development exists to support market strength and diversity

Council has done this by....

**AGED CARE**

- The upgrade of existing equipment to ensure that it continues to be safe, operational and hygienically appropriate for residents and staff

**COMMUNITY ASSETS – INCLUDES EVENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, RECREATION FACILITIES, GWYDIR LEARNING REGION (GLR), AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- Council continues to support the development of Chambers of Commerce; B2B networks and collaborations; and develop relationships between Council and local businesses
- Strategic use of small grants program to encourage economic and business growth
- Implementation of a SMS system for communication to the community
- The Growing Economy - Expand nature-based adventure & cultural tourism, this has been implemented through the continued partnership with various committees and advisory

groups throughout the Shire by offering support and in-kind services with various functions and events that promote our natural environment and cultural tourism development

- Planning Priority 5 - Thriving Localities - Promote business and lifestyle opportunities for people of all ages
- Shire wide marketing plan to attract visitors, businesses and residents - the introduction of Gwydir Gift Cards is a part of this program
- Construction of amenities block at Bingara Caravan Park completed



**BUILDING SERVICES**

- Continued improvement of council and community infrastructure to encourage new industries to the Shire
- Regular building services repairs and maintenance programs continue to be undertaken
- The Living Classroom Bingara - Bunkhouse deck expansion project completed
- Emergency accommodation construction project at Bingara and Warialda facilitated through Black Summer Bushfire grant, Warialda accommodation project finished during reporting period. Bingara will be completed in 24/25 period.
- Warialda Works Depot - lunchroom extension project completed
- Upper Horton new amenities building

The Community vision by a member of our community "Gwydir Country - A Circular Economy, Fresh Air, Innovation & Opportunity" 17



STATE OF OUR SHIRE REPORT

**TOWN UTILITIES – INCLUDES COUNCIL WORKSHOPS, PARKS, OVALS AND SHOWGROUNDS**

- Light and Heavy plant replacement programs continue to ensure councils fleet remains viable
- 200m sewer main extension – Ridley Street Bingara
- New Bingara office – water and sewerage connections
- Power pole defect rectification works – Bingara showground, Bingara depot and Bingara sewerage treatment works
- Nicholson oval irrigation
- The living classroom – interpretative centre sewer connection
- Hope Street Warialda – water and sewer extension for 7 lot subdivision.
- Bingara workshop switchboard upgrade
- Bingara sewerage treatment plant – solar aerator
- Gwydir oval irrigation on field 2
- Bingara water treatment plant – chemical shed north wall cladding with 2 roller doors
- New emulsion tank – BSTP depot
- Moffet Park Gravesend – septic rumble drain refurbishment
- Water main replacement – Long Street – Market Street – Gragin Road intersection (150m of 100mm)

- Drainage pipes at the Living Classroom
- The living classroom – sewer extension for cabins
- Bingara sewerage pump station no 3 – switchboard replacement
- Establishment of Carvan dump point at Old Keera Road – ongoing
- Water main extension 200m – Dunrobyn Road Gravesend
- Plunkett Street cabins – plumbing, gas fitting and stormwater drainage
- 100m water main extension – Bandalong Street
- 200m water main replacement West Street Bingara – Heber to Cunningham St
- Warialda truck wash solar aerator
- Bingara water treatment plant 78kw solar system
- Bingara depot relocation – includes Selling the saleyards, survey and design

**PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT**

- Council continues to investigate options for suitable residential land and premises available to facilitate growth
- Planning Priority 4 - Thriving Localities - Deliver housing that reinforces our villages' unique character

**ENGINEERING SERVICES**

- Resheeting of SR45 – Beren Road
- Delivery of scheduled RMCC works programs
- Horton Road from Horton Village to MR133 Killarney Gap Road sealed
- Getta Getta Road from North Star to Inverell Shire was resheeted during the reporting period
- Kerb replacement and pavement enhancement programs completed
- Construction of accessible footpaths throughout the Bingara and Warialda townships





**AN ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE SHIRE (ENVIRONMENT)**

During the term you told us that it was important to you that...

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

Council has done this by....

**PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT**

- Development of Community Participation Plan
- Planning Priority 1 - Growing Economy - Grow our agriculture, horticulture & agribusiness sectors
- Planning Priority 2 - Growing Economy - Foster resilience in the agricultural industry
- Planning Priority 8 - Sustainable Living - Embrace renewable energy, water security and sustainable development
- Report Council weed activity to Regional weeds Funding Body in a timely manner
- Development and implementation of Gwydir River Foreshore management plan will be an ongoing plan
- Street lighting coverage across the local networks throughout the shire

**TOWN UTILITIES - INCLUDES COUNCIL WORKSHOPS, PARKS, OVALS AND SHOWGROUNDS**

- Telemetry and technology upgrade programs continue to be rolled out



*The Community vision by a member of our community "Gwydir Country - A Circular Economy, Fresh Air, Innovation & Opportunity" 19*



STATE OF OUR SHIRE REPORT



**PROACTIVE REGIONAL & LOCAL LEADERSHIP (CIVIC LEADERSHIP)**

During the term you told us that it was important to you that ...

A collaborative community is informed, has responsible decision making and a sound financial position supported by capable leaders, functional assets and efficient operations to meet the changing needs of the community

Council has done this by....

**COMMUNITY ASSETS  
- INCLUDES EVENTS,  
COMMUNICATIONS,  
RECREATION FACILITIES,  
GWYDIR LEARNING REGION  
(GLR), AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**

- Development of Gwydir Shire Council Communication plan
- Provision of varied and effective communication initiatives to the community - Gwydir News, digital media, social media channels are all used to communicate
- Council continues to support the Friends of Myall Creek Committee offering support and in-kind services when required
- Council continues to engage with and consult its community to further develop meaningful and transparent relationships with its community

**SOCIAL SERVICES**

- Achieve positive connections with organisations central to child development, social inclusion, health and education.
- Grow relationships with governments, the corporate sector, community organisations and volunteers to enhance the educational experience
- Value and embrace the knowledge and experiences of our families as they grow through our services.
- Enhance the value of hope, achievement and aspiration for our young people, children and their families.
- Create comprehensive and collaborative models of care and support services that drive successful, responsive and individualised outcomes for families.
- Implement emerging technologies and best processes to improve efficiency.



STATE OF OUR SHIRE REPORT

**ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT (GOVERNANCE)**

During the term you told us that it was important to you that...

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

Council has done this by....

**AGED CARE SERVICES**

- CHSP Commonwealth Grant Funding - Annual Statements and reporting complete on time and within guidelines.

**COMMUNITY ASSETS - INCLUDES EVENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, RECREATION FACILITIES, GWYDIR LEARNING REGION (GLR), AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- Completion and lodgement of Local Priority Funding Acquittal to NSW State Library by the due dates

**PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT**

- Completion and returns of Statutory waste reporting (Waste Collection) to the Environmental Protection Agency by the due dates
- Completion and lodgement of State of the Environment Report by the due date
- Submission of statutory activity report for cemeteries for reporting period to NSW Cemeteries & Crematoria

**INTERNAL SERVICES - INCLUDING CUSTOMER SERVICE, CORPORATE SERVICES, INFORMATION SERVICES, ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EXECUTIVE SERVICES**

- Completion of Annual Financial Statements - including Pensioner Rebate, Financial Data Returns, Roads to Recovery Returns and all other reporting and compliance obligations
- Year End Audit obligations have been adhered to - Audit Office
- Completion Quarterly Budget Review on time each quarter
- Establishment of an online payment system for Shire residents as another alternative payment method.
- Incident Response Plan / Policy adopted
- Various internal audit and compliance checks were conducted as internal control measures for Council systems
- Information technology replacement programs implemented within budget and timeframes allocated



The Community vision by a member of our community "Gwydir Country - A Circular Economy, Fresh Air, Innovation & Opportunity" 21

STATE OF OUR SHIRE REPORT

- Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) obligations have been met during the reporting period
- All relevant compliance and reporting requirements have been met according to the Legislative Compliance Register issued by the OLG during the reporting period
- All Centrelink and Service NSW agency reporting obligations have been met and compliance adhered to
- All elected member training and compliance and reporting obligations have been met
- Development of comprehensive Training Database for all new and existing employees
- Provide platform for strategic grant applications, management and reporting.
- Administration and support of Council corporate applications, networks and systems.

- Management of Council's corporate Records and Archive Facilities and Record Management Framework in accordance with legislative requirements.
- Assess and implement solutions that increase efficiencies and quality, whilst reducing costs, to improve processes and systems within Council via Council Service Review processes

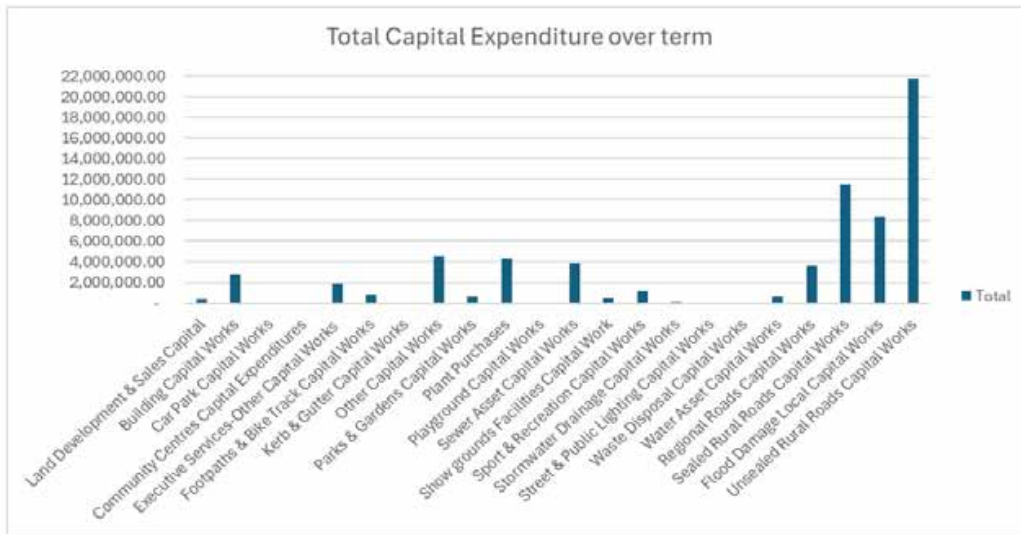
SOCIAL SERVICES

- Tharawonga end of year reporting and compliance - Complete on time and within reporting guidelines
- Completion and return of Financial and Performance accountability for Bingara Preschool



# LIVEABLE REGION CAPITAL EXPENDITURE SPENDING OVERVIEW

## CAPITAL EXPENDITURE OVER COUNCIL'S TERM



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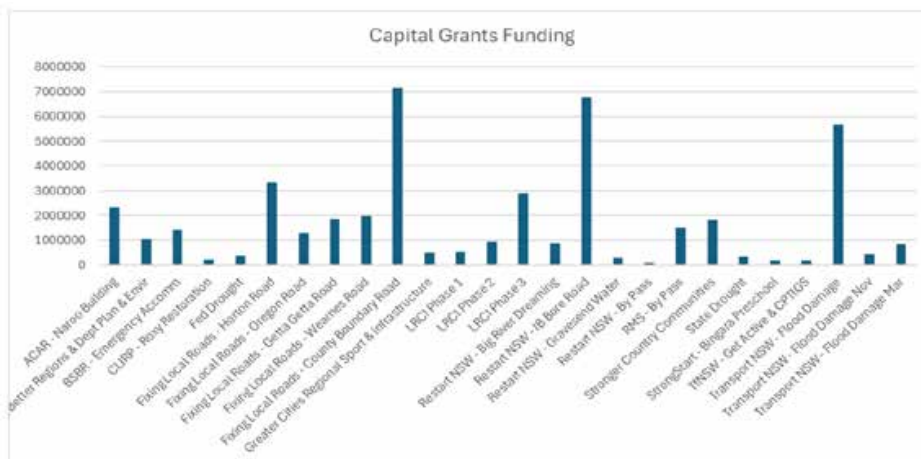
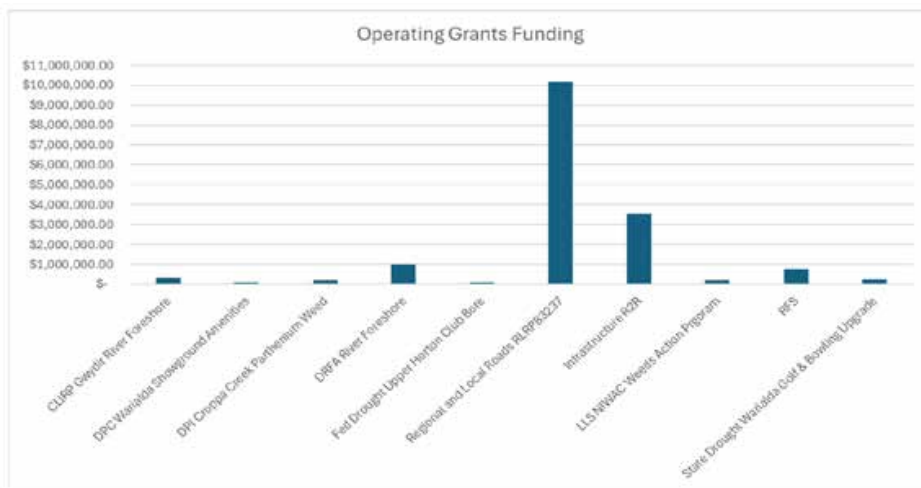
## GRANT FUNDING DURING TERM

There is no doubt that our Shire has endured some very trying times, drought, bush fire, floods, the mouse plague of 2020/2021 and COVID-19. However, from these unfortunate events there have been positives that have benefited the entire community one of which is the access to a phenomenal amount of grant funding.

This grant funding afforded council the opportunity to be able provide the community of Gwydir Shire with many of the aspirations identified in the Community Strategic Plan, along with significant upgrades to our road network, with much of this work to continue across multiple reporting periods.

The worst drought in 100 years and the COVID-19 pandemic afforded us many opportunities to apply for grant funding that would not normally be open to a Shire of this size.

Grant funding, particularly since 2021 has been widely available via many streams, and Council has received in excess of \$15 million in Operating grants and in excess of \$40 million in capital grant funding.





STATE OF OUR SHIRE REPORT

**PROJECTS THAT HAVE BEEN COMPLETED HAVE BEEN SPREAD ACROSS THE SHIRE VARYING IN PROJECT SIZE.**

Note: Some projects will be completed over several years.

Nicholson Oval new amenities building and change rooms construction	Gwydir Shire parks and playgrounds - installation of tables, shelters and BBQ's at various locations
Nicholson Oval Sports Field Lighting Installation	Bingara Showground improvements - new amenities building, grandstand refurbishment, ring lighting installation
Gwydir Oval Sports Field Lighting replacement	Bingara Showground campdraft arena improvements
Gwydir Oval Covered Netball/Basketball court	Bingara CWA Park upgrade - new park equipment
Gwydir Oval digital scoreboard installation	Bingara Skate Park Precinct
Warialda Recreation Ground - kitchen upgrade, new goal posts and new digital scoreboard installation	Batterham Lookout improvements - new guard rails, carpark fencing, picnic shelters and signage
Warialda Swimming Pool Improvements	Bingara Historical Centre Additional Building & display & storage areas
Installation of solar LED lights at Bingara boat ramp	Bingara Emergency Accommodation
Warialda Emergency & Respite Accommodation	Reedy Creek Warialda footpath construction
Gravesend Recreation Ground irrigation system installation	Reedy Creek Warialda - new access road constructed
Bingara Caravan Park new amenities building	North Star Hall restumping
Upper Horton Sports Club amenities upgrades	Gwydir Shire Footpath program - replacement and construction of new or non-compliant footpaths
Bingara Sporting Club tennis court refurbishment	Warialda Bypass Construction
Naroo - Building upgrades and extensions	Warialda Youth Hub
Roxy Theatre Bingara Restoration Program	Warialda CBD Park
Drought Resilience Plan - collaboration with Inverell Shire	Warialda Rail Amenities upgrades
Bingara Swimming Pool - power upgrade, new sports lighting, PA system installation	Warialda Fitness Centre amenities upgrades
Croppa Creek Bowling Club improvements	Bingara Preschool Room Addition
Gravesend Water Treatment Plant - stage 1	Long Street Warialda, Rehabilitation
Warialda Showground amenities upgrades	Naroo Department of Health - Business Improvement Project
Warialda Children's Bicycle Safety Park	Big River Dreaming - Interpretive Centre



STATE OF OUR SHIRE REPORT

Big River Dreaming - Trails and Rest Stops	Funding received for various events throughout the Shire - Christmas Carnivals, Honey Festival, Orange Festival
Big River Dreaming - Gwydir River Ghats	Regional and local Roads Repair Program
North Bingara and Old Keera Road Bingara sewer investigation study	New Weed Incursion - Parthenium Weed - Croppa Creek
NSW Weeds Action Program Funding	Regional NSW Planning Portal installation project
Myall Creek Memorial Site upgrades	Removal of Willow Trees in Gwydir River
Croppa Creek Road upgrades	Big River Dreaming - Information Signage
Big River Dreaming - Trail Markers	Bingara Memorial Swimming Pool Complex
DRFA funding NSW Flooding AGRN1030-1034 River Foreshore	Cunningham Park Bingara - New Amenities
Warialda Dog Compound and Dog Exercise Area	Oregon Road upgrade

Resheeting - SR67 Agincourt Road, SR64 Gournama Road
Resheeting - SR54 Pinecliff Road, SR21 Terry Hie Hie Road, SR116 The Forest Road
Wearnes Road sealing and resealing
Horton Road to Killarney Gap Road
IB Bore Road sealing
Getta Getta Road Resheeting
County Boundary Road Construction
Replacement of timber structure at Gulf Creek Road - Bridges program

Transport NSW Flood Damage - AGRN1034
Transport NSW Flood Damage - AGRN987 November
Transport NSW Flood Damage - AGRN960 March
Flood Damage Emergent Works - AGRN960

# OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The last 8 years has seen significant, highly impactful events including Drought, COVID Pandemic, mouse plague, bushfires (2 declarations) and continued flooding events (5 significant events). These have brought considerable challenges that have impacted on the economic and social health of community and staff.

As noted in a study by the Bureau of Rural Sciences rural Australia is experiencing overarching social demographic trends in which the impacts of the drought have been significant. This includes population loss, ageing population and loss of youth to larger population centres. All this is occurring while introduction of new technology and new agricultural business models is seeing a decline in employment in the agricultural industry.

Council has been aware of these changes and the impact on the local economy and has taken the following measures with a view to reducing the impact on the local economy. These measures have included the Drought Employment Program, and the facilitation of other social support initiatives concentrated on supporting individuals during this time.

Working with the University of New England, Council participated in a joint initiative with Inverell Shire Council to develop a Drought Resilience Plan. This initiative was jointly funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the NSW Government's Regional Growth Fund. The Plan was developed drawing on local knowledge and the experience of those who live and work in the region. It is anticipated that this Plan will be enacted in a future drought event.

The purpose of this Plan is to:

- Create stronger connections and greater social capital within communities, contributing to well-being and security.
- Empower communities to implement adaptive and transformative activities that improve their resilience to drought.
- Support farmers to understand their assets and resources, to adopt whole-ofsystem approaches to improve sustainability and utilise information, data and tools combined with forward planning to prepare for and to make decisions during drought.

STATE OF OUR SHIRE REPORT

The first table below show the rainfall figures well into the drought and highlighting the recent rainfall that led to 5 declared flooding events in the Shire area.

The second table highlights how rainfall impacts water usage within the community. During the period clearly shows water usage significantly increasing when rainfall is low.

The Council have been fortunate to receive both State and Federal funding for the natural disasters that should provide for the return of the council road infrastructure to the pre-disaster state. Funding has been forthcoming from the State and Federal Disaster Recovery Arrangements however the works required are significant with the expected works to be continued to be undertaken over the next three years.

To demonstrate the impact of these remediation works Council has spent \$75,319,030 during the last 3-year period, this equates to \$96,562 per day. In contrast the last 'normal' year the average spend was \$41,953 per day. As the reader could appreciate this has put strain on existing resources as the availability of additional staff, materials and plant has been difficult to source. During this time the Council has been able to seal 80kms of road which represents an investment of approximately \$30M achieved primarily through external grant funding.

The tables below show the rainfall during the reporting period and clearly show the impact of such significant rainfall amounts. It was during these events that the damage to our entire road network resulted in significant funding to initiate a rigorous repair program that will span several years. It was also during this period that the Gwydir River Foreshore suffered insurmountable damage resulting in the loss of the beloved 'fairy tree' and the very popular pontoon.

The repairs to the Foreshore will take quite a significant number of resources to bring back to its former glory and once again become a welcome attraction for locals and visitors to come and enjoy the natural environment along the Gwydir River.

The Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program which is now part of the National Bushfire Recovery Program provided Council with the opportunity to add to the building assets. This saw the introduction of five cabins at The Living Classroom in Bingara and the development of

the Plunkett Street Precinct in Warialda. These developments were funded to provide emergency accommodation for residents needing assistance in the event of future declared disasters. The receipt of this funding provided the resources to develop these areas that were in Community Strategic Plan as a desire of the community.

It can not be understated that the grant funding received by Gwydir Shire Council during this period has been unprecedented. It is known that the opportunities for future funding will be limited. Future challenges for the new Council will include;

- Realignment of 'normal' financial conditions, including the winding back of staffing and contractor engagement.
- Management of the community expectations as to what is possible with the return of a 'normal' budget.
- Maintenance of existing assets, including the new road and building assets, and the impact that they have on future budgets.

Along with the Gwydir Shire Council Housing Needs Assessment and Local Housing Strategy the below information in relation to Development Application (DA) and Complying Development Certificate (CDC) Approvals help to showcase the macro and micro trends that have the potential to influence housing provision and assessment within the Shire. Some key themes that have been identified in these Plans and Strategies include demographic and social change, internal migration, rising construction costs, labour shortages, growth in tourism, water insecurity, and diversification of the economy. These themes all work to provide context for Council when planning and making decisions for future housing needs in the Shire.

HOUSING VISION

*'The People of Gwydir Shire will have access to a diverse range of quality, accessible and affordable housing types, which reflect the changing needs and lifestyles of people living in the Shire, as well as help attract future residents to Gwydir Shire.'*

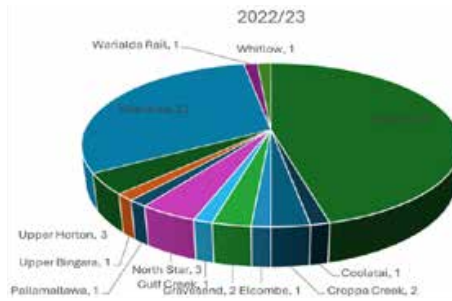
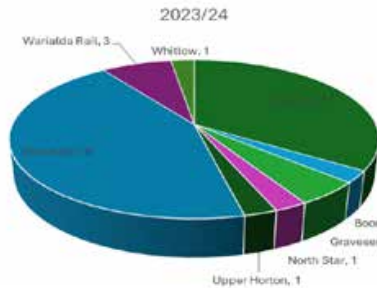
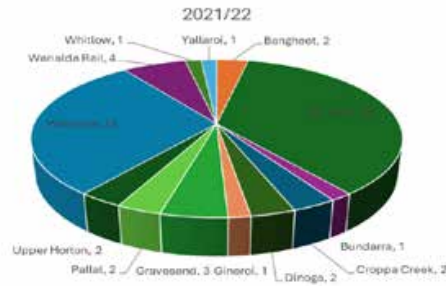
*People will choose to live in Gwydir because they will want to live the "Gwydir Good Life"*

Below you will find some information relating to the development applications and complying development certificate approvals that occurred during the reporting period.

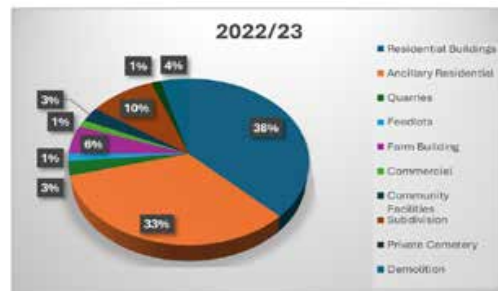
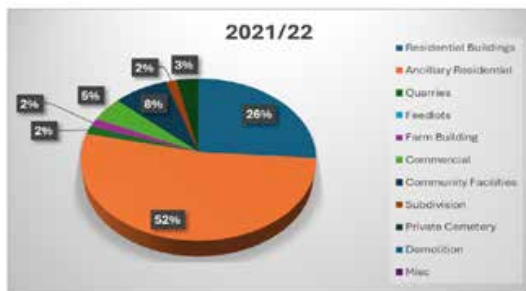
STATE OF OUR SHIRE REPORT

COMPARISON OF THE NUMBER AND VALUE OF THE DEVELOPMENT (DA) AND COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE (CDC) APPROVALS

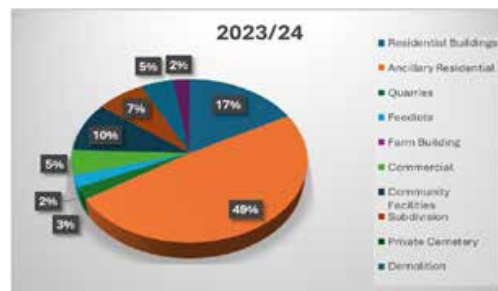
As can be seen in the above graphs the number and value of development approvals increased considerably for the 2022/2023 financial year. This has been attributed to several factors including the relaxing of covid restrictions, the movement of people from metropolitan and coastal areas settling in regional area due to cost of living, real estate prices, the rise of working from home and a change in lifestyle priorities.



COMPARISON OF WHERE ALL APPROVED DEVELOPMENT IS BEING UNDERTAKEN WITHIN THE GWYDIR SHIRE AREA



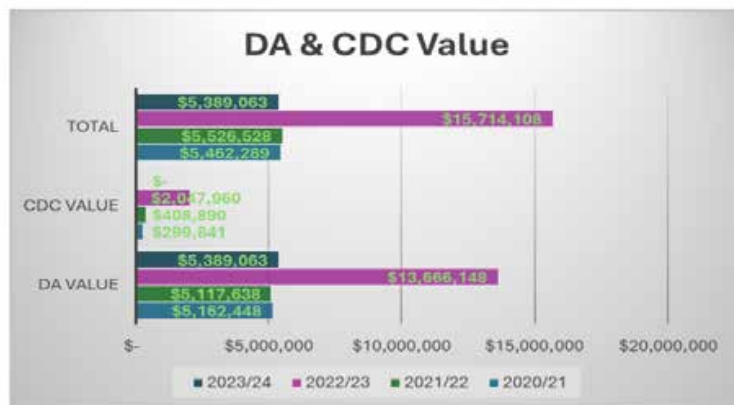
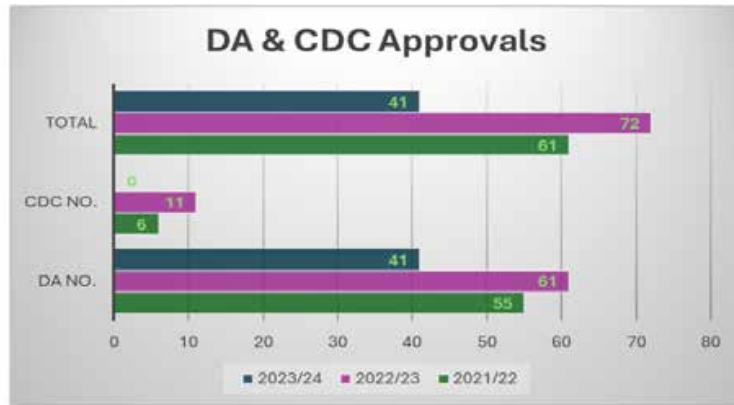
These graphs provide a yearly snapshot of the where the Gwydir Shire’s development hotspots are and shows that consistently there are two main areas, being Bingara and Warialda. As is shown, Bingara has been the dominant location for development in 2022/2023 with approximately 46% of all development approvals for the year. This is believed to be due to the release of vacant residential land within the village of Bingara which consisted of 32 lots.





STATE OF OUR SHIRE REPORT

COMPARISON OF THE TYPES OF DEVELOPMENT BEING UNDERTAKEN WITHIN THE GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL AREA



The graphs above provide a yearly snapshot of the types of development being undertaken throughout the Gwydir Shire during the reporting period. Ancillary residential development takes up a large portion of each year's development assessments and approvals. Ancillary residential development includes swimming pools, garages, carports, verandahs, decks, fencing, shipping containers, home business and general dwelling additions and alterations. It is noted that, during the 2022/2023 financial year, development approvals for residential buildings were the biggest section eclipsing ancillary residential development approvals with approximately 53% of the total approvals issued. Although the types of residential buildings approved included granny flats, dual occupancies, rural worker dwellings, boarding houses and rental accommodation, the data shows that the standalone medium to large dwelling type make up the largest component of residential building approvals in all years.

The increase in residential building in the 2022/2023 year is attributed to a combination of factors, including, the release of vacant residential land within the village of Bingara, the general trend of resettlement away from metropolitan and coastal areas due to housing availability and real estate prices, increased flexibility around employment and the capacity to work remotely, and the reprioritization of lifestyle choices as a consequence of the Covid epidemic.

Considering all the aspects for development approvals it is noted that there has been a substantial cooling off shown for the 2023/2024 financial year in comparison to the previous three years which show a steady increase, reaching its peak in the 2022/2023 financial year. It is expected the number of development approvals shall stabilise in the coming years but with an emphasis on residential buildings.

## GENERAL MANAGER'S END OF PERIOD CLOSE

This end of period report also represents the end of many long-term Councillor careers.

The 2022/2024 Council has been a very cohesive and productive Council and always addressed issues with one aim, to do what was best for the Shire and its residents.

Wherever possible the Council value added onto available grant funds to maximise the utility value to the Community.

As with the previous Council, this Council also faced down droughts, floods, bush fires and COVID!

The Community said goodbye to the following long serving Councillors, with 10 or more years of service: Catherine Egan (20 years), John Coulton (15 years), Geoff Smith (10 years) and James (Curly) Moore (10 years). The other Councillors to depart, David Coulton (8 years), Chris Matthews and Lyndon Mulligan, although serving less time, all participated positively during their period as Councillors.

Although experience is hard to replace, I am sure that this changing of the guard will produce a new crop of dedicated community minded Councillors as worthy replacements.

To quote Jack Gibson 'you did good'.



### 7.10 Council's Investment Report September to October 2024

<b>File Reference:</b>	NA
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#### Delivery Program

<b>Goal:</b>	5. Organisational management
<b>Outcome:</b>	5.1 Corporate management
<b>Strategy:</b>	5.1.5 Provision of responsible internal governance
<b>Author:</b>	Helen Thomas, Chief Financial Officer

#### STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

#### IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

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

#### TABLED ITEMS Nil

#### BACKGROUND

In accordance with Clause 19(3) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 1993, the following information provides details of Council's funds invested as 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024.

As at 30 September 2024

Cash and Investments	
<b>Total Investments</b>	
Managed Funds	\$3,444,007.70
<b>Grand Total Investments</b>	<b>\$3,444,007.70</b>

Total Cash and Investments	
Investments	\$3,444,007.70
Cash at bank	\$26,151,687.27
<b>Grand Total Cash and Investments</b>	<b>\$29,595,694.97</b>

General Fund Cash	
<b>Total cash and investments</b>	<b>\$29,595,694.97</b>
<b>LESS:</b>	
Water fund*	-\$1,589,732.00
Sewer fund*	-\$1,411,805.00
Waste fund*	-\$4,709,126.00
<b>Other restrictions:</b>	
Employee leave entitlements*	-\$1,000,000.00
Financial Assistance Grant	-\$1,529,429.00
Bonds and deposits	-\$1,565,280.00
Unexpended grants*	-\$7,900,358.00
Developer contributions	-\$514,426.00
Asset Replacement Program	-\$1,500,000.00
Internal Restrictions*	-\$6,809,759.00
<b>Discretionary General Fund Cash</b>	<b>\$1,065,779.97</b>

As at 31 October 2024

**Cash and Investments**

Total Investments	
Managed Funds	\$3,455,536.00
<b>Grand Total Investments</b>	<b>\$3,455,536.00</b>

Total Cash and Investments	
Investments	\$3,455,536.00
Cash at bank	\$21,683,581.00
<b>Grand Total Cash and Investments</b>	<b>\$25,139,117.00</b>

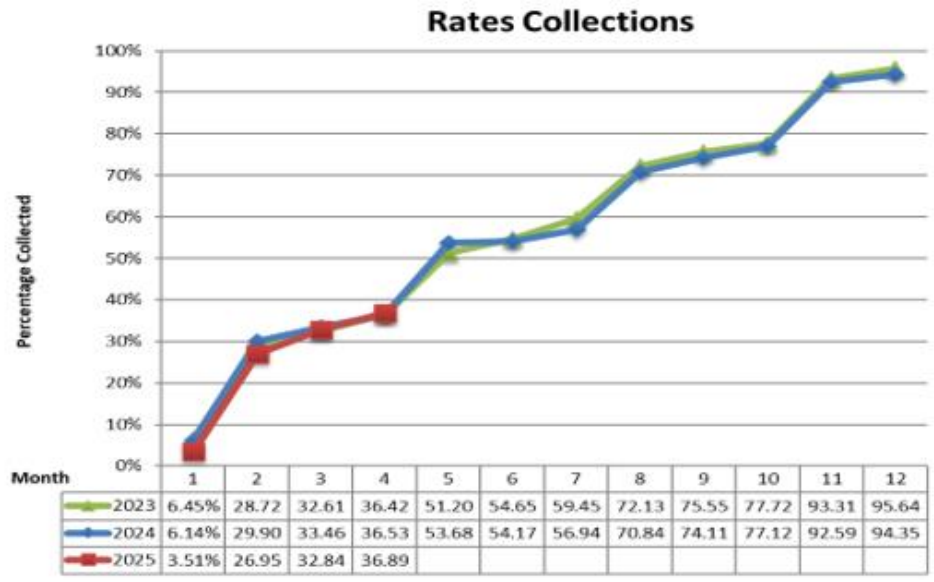
General Fund Cash	
Total cash and investments	\$25,139,117.00
<b>LESS:</b>	
Water fund*	-\$1,544,915.00
Sewer fund*	-\$1,387,593.00
Waste fund*	-\$4,608,775.00
<b>Other restrictions:</b>	
Employee leave entitlements*	-\$700,000.00
Financial Assistance Grant	\$0.00
Bonds and deposits	-\$1,565,280.00
Unexpended grants*	-\$7,185,724.00
Developer contributions	-\$514,426.00
Asset Replacement Program	-\$231,000.00
Internal Restrictions*	-\$6,639,722.00
<b>Discretionary General Fund Cash</b>	<b>\$761,682.00</b>



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

**RATES COLLECTIONS**

The graph below represents a comparative of the percentage collections for the current year against the two previous rating years. The current years collections are up to 31st October 2024.



**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the September and October Monthly Investment and Rates Collection reports be received.**

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

## 7.11 The Hon. Mark Coulton MP

**File Reference:** NA

### Delivery Program

**Goal:** 4. Proactive regional and local leadership

**Outcome:** 4.2 We work together to achieve our goals

**Strategy:** 4.2.1 Build strong relationships and shared responsibilities

**Author:** General Manager

### STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

### IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

This report recommends acknowledging the service provided to the residents of the Parkes' Electorate over 17 years by Mark and his wife Robyn.

### TABLED ITEMS Nil

### BACKGROUND

The Hon. Mark Coulton has indicated that he does not intend to seek re-election at the next Federal Election. Mark made his Valedictory Speech to Federal Parliament on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

The transcript of the speech is reproduced below.

The actual *video of the valedictory speech can be viewed online at [https://www.aph.gov.au/News\\_and\\_Events/Watch\\_Read\\_Listen/ParlView/video/3014248](https://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Read_Listen/ParlView/video/3014248), with timestamp 16:24:23.*

### COMMENT

#### Valedictory speech transcript



*Thank you, Mr Speaker. I'd like to start by acknowledging you and the job you're doing, particularly your outreach that you are taking out all over Australia. The five small schools that you visited in my electorate were very grateful. It was a two-way conversation. I'm really pleased that you're now much more aware of the finer points of catching wild pigs, and the roles that the dogs do and the various parts of the pig's anatomy that they grab hold of!*

*But I can say, Mr Speaker, that in 17 years in this place I have never been asked to leave under 94(a).*

*Opposition members: There's still time!*

*Mr Coulton: I don't believe it's because of my behaviour. This is as close as I've ever sat to the Speaker in 17 years. You'd have to have a Speaker with ears like an African elephant to actually hear any interjection from this far back. So, except for the two years I was Deputy Speaker and happened to sit in that chair, it's been fairly uneventful in here for me, apart from misleading the House as a minister during question time. That's a very interesting thing to do! That walk from down there up to the dispatch box, not knowing what you're going to say when you leave down there is a feeling all of its own. And, on my second day as Deputy Speaker, having a motion of no confidence in the chair is also something that I will remember fondly!*

*It is, next week, 17 years since I was elected. It's appropriate that the Member for Forrest and the Member for Grey are doing these speeches today - three farmers from different parts of the country. The member for Grey's my next-door neighbour. We've got about a 500-kilometre boundary fence between South Australia and New South Wales. Indeed, I've got one of my offices on South Australian time. So we have a lot in common.*

*I'd like to acknowledge that I've got some very special people in the gallery. I'd like to acknowledge my family. I've got my sister Joy and her husband, Jim, my much older brother, John, and his wife, Kerry. My brother Bob is sitting up in the back row. Two years ago Bob was in the intensive care ward at John Hunter Hospital after being within seconds of death from a very, very severe farm accident, so we're really pleased that Bob's with us. There is someone missing, though—our older sister, Viv. When I got involved in politics, she took to it like a duck to water. She was my strongest supporter in Moree, Gravesend and Warialda, and God help anyone that was critical of the National Party or me, because Viv would track them down, and she took no prisoners. Sadly, we lost Viv to cancer about seven years ago, and her husband, John, lost his long battle with dementia earlier this year. So they've left a big hole in our family, and I wanted to acknowledge them.*

*To my children, Claire, Sally and Matt. They were young adults just starting out in life when I was elected 17 years ago. Matt's now got Anna with him, and, our youngest grandson, Sandy, is sitting up there - there he is - and Claire's son Will, who's managed to wag school today, and Sally's daughter Charlotte, who's just about finished her first year at school. Their husbands, Dan and Bob, had to stay home and look after the other grandchildren and keep the home fires burning. I could speak about the accomplishments of my children, but today's all about me! I wouldn't have enough time to mention - just to say that I'm incredibly proud of the lives that you've built for yourselves.*

*I've got in capital letters 'Robyn'. I do not want to forget Robyn! He's not here today, but for some reason I can remember the Member for Moreton's speech 17 years ago. I was going to sledge him, but he's not here, so I can't really do that. But he said, 'Behind every successful man is a very surprised woman.' I remembered that. But it's not really relevant in our case because Robyn's never been behind me; she's always been beside me. I like to coordinate events in our relationship with celebrations, so it kills two birds with one stone. I believe today could be the 44th anniversary of our fifth date, which involved Robyn riding around the header while I was harvesting wheat. Mind you, that level of attention didn't last that long, but, 44 years ago, it was pretty exciting to have a pretty young schoolteacher riding around the paddock with you.*

*But Robyn has been with me - we had fairly separate lives. She was a schoolteacher most of her working life. And so we decided to do this as a team. So for the last 18 years - we spent a year campaigning beforehand - we've travelled together, and in a big year we've probably spent the equivalent of 20 40-hour weeks in the front of a car, Robyn reading the emails and me dictating messages back to the office. With an electorate the size that I've got, you don't have a budget to have staff with you all the time; you just cannot do that. So we've travelled, and we've done that. She's had very sage advice and no issues as to when I've said the wrong or silly thing, because it gets pointed out! Robyn is very well regarded in the Parkes electorate, and, quite frankly, many people would be quite pleased if she was the member. Mind you, things would be a bit tougher if she was!*

*There's only been one incident where we've had a complaint to the Electoral Commission. Peter Bartley is up there; he received that because he was my campaign manager. Robyn and a senior adviser, who's sitting over in the adviser's box and shall remain nameless, were manning the pre-poll at Cobar and they got involved in a ruckus with a hippie that had got off the bus from Wilcannia. They forget the basic law of politics: you should never argue with a fool. Anyone that argued with Robyn and that said unnamed adviser clearly was a fool because they came off second best. That's the only blemish in her 17-year record.*

*But also, for a long time, pretty well the whole time the coalition was in government, Robyn was the chair of Parliamentary Partners and Teresa Ramsey was the secretary. They ran that very important organisation for a lot of years and provided support to the partners of all political persuasions for that time. Indeed, a very exuberant reporter once said the Parliamentary Partners was the most powerful organisation in Canberra; I wouldn't be one to disagree with that!*

*I also want to acknowledge my staff, past and present. There are a lot of them here; a lot of them have travelled over lots of distances, and there are too many to name. They are the true heroes in this. They are the true servants of the people. The reason I've been able to do this job for so long is because everyone that rings either my electorate office or, when I was a minister, my ministerial office, their issue was treated as the most important issue my staff were dealing with at that time. They gave exemplary service. We've had a lot of people that have come through, and many of them have gone on to other careers and other occupations. I'm incredibly grateful to all of you that have come back, and to my current staff as well, for the job you've done.*



*We did have a big incident in Dubbo some years ago where a suspicious package happened to turn up. It was seeping. One thing led to another, and the Hazmat team was called and the centre of Dubbo was locked off for a couple of hours - only to find it was two bottles of organic prune juice. The constituent was coming to complain about Australia Post, and things got a bit out of hand.*

*I'd also like to acknowledge my National Party supporters and friends who have come from a long way; some have got off headers to come down here. It's a very effective political organisation. I think we've got nearly a thousand members. They're not zealots; they are just good people who want to be involved in the representation of their area. It's not a room of parties. One of my executive in the Parkes electorate has a lineage going back 60,000 years, and another one is a Bangladeshi migrant that's been in Dubbo for 10 years. They come from all occupations and all towns across the electorate. The Parkes electorate council reflects the people that we represent. They mightn't realise it - the general public don't think about these things, but they should be very grateful for the work that these people do in the background, not seeking any public acclaim for the work they do. I think I joined the party 28 years ago, and I think in that time I haven't missed either a Gwydir or a Parkes FEC meeting in that time. I'm grateful because these people from across a big area have become my friends. And I'm very grateful that they're here today. And there's not one beneficial billionaire amongst them. If we did have a beneficial billionaire that wanted to join the Parkes FEC, they'd be welcome! But mostly it's just good, hardworking people that are doing their bit for democracy in their area.*

*I'd like to acknowledge my party room and the opportunity that it has given me. For the second time I'm the Chief Nationals Whip. What a lot of people don't know about being the Nationals Whip is that one word of command from me and everyone does as they please! But a lot of people don't understand why we have political parties. It's the division of labour. I'll talk about the Coalition in a minute because I am a strong coalitionist, but we've got people that have different backgrounds and different skillsets. The job is too big for one person. You need to rely on your colleagues to actually do some of the work so you're best prepared. Our party room - I've seen it at the best - but there was only 13 members when I was elected. There was a report written suggesting that we should just fold up the kit, disappear and become members of the Liberal Party. I'm glad we didn't. I'm glad we didn't. We have a role for a group of people who only focus on regional Australia. I know we've got regional Libs, but we're different in the fact that that's all we are concerned about. I thank the Nats party room for their support and I wish them well. I've served under four leaders, and those leaders in different ways have given me different opportunities to work at a different level.*

*The Coalition party room - I couldn't believe the first time I sat in there and the people that I'd only ever seen on TV. As a new member, you've got to very quickly say: 'Hang on a minute. I'm not here as an observer. The people that put me here don't want me to come here goggle-eyed and watch on.' As quickly as you can, you've got to know your way around so you can effectively represent those people.' Because of the 'Rudd-slide' when we came in, I actually ended up being in the shadow ministry before I got sworn in. I was a fairly lowly rank. For those in the gallery, in shearing shed terms, I was the tarboy in the shadow ministry, but it did give me an insight in the early days and a great opportunity. So I am proud, very proud. I believe in the Coalition and I'm proud to have served in it for this time.*

*I'm also a parliamentarian and I actually believe that, if you want to have a say in this country, you get yourself elected and you sit in here or with our Senate mates over there - and I acknowledge my Senate colleagues behind me. There's no truth in the rumour that I said my retirement plan was to sit in the Senate for two terms! That's being a bit facetious, because the Senate plays a valuable role, and I appreciate very much the work that you do. But, if you want to be running this country, you sit in here, not up there. A degree in communications at a university does not give you the right to run this country. You've got to sit in here. You've got to use this seat. That is how I'm proud to be in this place. Not many people have got to do it, and I'm pleased that I have.*

*My constituents in Parkes - half of New South Wales. It's an economy underpinned with agriculture and mining, and that's very important. We are just seeing probably one of the biggest grain harvests in the history of the electorate being harvested at the moment. Massive crops – crops out in Western New South Wales, averaging six tonnes to the hectare - unheard of a few years ago. Largely because of the techniques and the efficiency and the professionalism of the farmers, that we're now growing crops in places like Walgett and Coonamble and out west of Moree. There are also the miners. We've got coal. We've got silver, lead, zinc, copper, magnetite, but also gold - massive reserves of gold - but also the new minerals: the cobalt, the lithium, the magnetite, the scandium and the rare earths that will be dug near Dubbo. All these minerals that people are talking about with our new economy, our technology, they're all in the Parkes electorate.*

*But it's more than miners and farmers; it is all the people who serve those industries. I get very frustrated when we talk about a health crisis in the west. Sure, we need more doctors, we need more nurses, we need more aged-care workers, but don't forget the ones who are out there. You can get good service. Those people - our teachers, all of those people - are out there doing their bit. And I say to my staff: 'Our job is to represent the people who aren't thinking about us, they are just going about their daily work.' If I'm doing my job, I'm not on the front page of the paper. You should be largely invisible if you're doing your job properly, because people then are settled. And sometimes your successes with issues become invisible, because if you fix the problem people stop talking about it.*

*And so, innovation. A lot of people wouldn't realise that you could be in one of the top hospitals in Europe or America and getting a heart valve inserted, not through open heart surgery but through an artery in your leg, a biomedical device that started its life in a lab in Dubbo. The Coalition Government put money into developing that lab. Biomedical pieces that are saving lives all over the world are coming out of Dubbo.*

*There's been a lot of talk in the last term of parliament about our Aboriginal people. I represent, by percentage, the second highest Aboriginal population in this parliament, I believe, after Lingjari. And the way it's been portrayed - and I don't want to be too negative - but the Voice in Canberra - I just want to remind people that at the last election, local government election in the Parkes electorate we've got a mayor, a deputy mayor, general manager. Most of the councils that have Indigenous populations have Aboriginal councillors on them. You go to our schools - we've got teachers and we've got healthcare workers. We've even got a young bloke from Goodooga who, at 18, went to New Zealand and beat the Kiwis at shearing. The Aboriginal constituents in the Parkes electorate are just people. Sure, we've got*

*some disadvantage, sure we've got some disadvantage, but your DNA doesn't predict your disadvantage. We should be addressing disadvantage at the individual, not making assumptions about an entire cohort of people from here. I'm not being a Pollyanna; we do have some issues at the moment and we need to be addressing these issues of disadvantage. But we need to deal with them at an individual level.*

*I mentioned in my first speech here education. The Clontarf Foundation is in my electorate, and I was actually one of the first people to be involved with Clontarf. I think we've got 11 or 12 academies, maybe 13. In that time there would be more than a thousand young Aboriginal boys who have finished school and gone on to employment. We've got girls academies. We've got SistaSpeak. I was at the senior college graduation in Dubbo a couple of weeks ago. Seventy-seven of the graduating class were Aboriginal students doing year 12. So when we talk about some of the things that go on here, we mustn't forget about our successes, because these young people are really cracking on. And I'm incredibly proud of what they've done.*

*The temptation in this job is to point to shiny things as to your worth. That's a pretty good thing to do, but my job wasn't to go home on weekends with beads and blankets and curry favour with my constituents. I think it's deeper than that. But there are some examples of shiny things that I'm very proud of. The Western Cancer Centre in Dubbo now is world class. It's the only PET scanner west of the range in New South Wales. It's treating people who formerly would not have taken treatment. They would have chosen to die rather than go through the trauma of going to a capital city. They're now getting that treatment in Dubbo, and we've had medical professionals come from all over the country to work there.*

*The Inland Rail - just build it, for God's sake. I'll say this one more time: the Inland Rail is not a train; the Inland Rail is a railway line 1,700 kilometres from Melbourne to Brisbane. It will give cheaper freight, it will make items on the shelves in those two cities cheaper for those people to buy. It will take trucks off the road. It will lower emissions. But it will mean that western New South Wales through the Parkes electorate will have the benefit of being connected to every capital city in Australia and the opportunities for our grain farmers and our cotton farmers but also for other businesses to be established on rail. History shows us that, wherever rail is built, prosperity follows. We had a report by Kerry Schott last year. It did not say to halt construction. If I'm not here next time and I don't see a bit of action, I'm going to park at Aussie's every sitting day and harass whoever's in charge of infrastructure, okay?*

*The Australian Opal Centre - it's a big hole at Lightning Ridge that's going to have this magnificent building that's being constructed now. The Baaka Cultural Centre at Wilcannia - I chaired the first meeting of what can be quite disparate groups in that town, and they decided that this was going to be a game changer. So, instead of a burnt-out old shop when you cross over the Darling River now, there will be the Baaka Cultural Centre, a magnificent building. It will be open by Christmas time.*

*There's the library in Broken Hill - and even smaller ones. I see the former Mayor of Gunnedah and the best damn candidate for the next election, Jamie Chaffey, sitting up there. Don't worry folks; he's been doorknocking for eight weeks, and he's allowed to come down here today! We had a road, the Grain Valley Way - it was dangerous, there was a lot of production on it; the school bus and all that. The local*

government, the federal government, the state government - it's fixed. No-one talks about it now because it's a good road.

We talk about pork barrelling in the bush - \$10 million to the Bourke council to help with the infrastructure for a small animals abattoir. So now there's 150 people working - it's now owned by Thomas Foods - 150 people working in that abattoir in a town that had shocking unemployment levels. Not only that; it's brought more workers in. The people that have come with those workers have now opened businesses. There's not an empty shop in the main street of Bourke, because of that. Now tell me if that's not a good investment by the Australian people into a disadvantaged community. And so, they're the shiny things - some of the ones I can point to.

But some of the things I'm probably most proud of, I just want to premise this by saying I did this as part of a team. We had wonderful ministerial staff. We had public servants. We had our party room, we had backbench committees. Everyone worked towards these things. But a lot of the things that are achieved here are done without recognition. If you're only seeking recognition, it's not going to go particularly well. The generalist pathway, which is training doctors with more skills to work in rural areas - general practice is still languishing with the number of young doctors wanting to go into it. The generalist pathway, on which I worked with ACCRM and RACGP and we significantly increased the numbers with the rural health commissioner of the time, Associate Professor Ruth Stewart - is now oversubscribed. The medical school at Dubbo had over 520 applicants for the 30 places, so we're training local doctors in the area. People don't talk about that now, but it's just happening. The single-employer model, for which I set up five trial sites, where we are getting a better cooperation between the federal government and the state government with funding medical practitioners in small regional areas, has now been taken up by New South Wales as a broader policy. We did the trial work on that. We transitioned the training of doctors from the RTOs to the colleges, ACCRM and RACGP.

And so, these longer-term ones, it's difficult because when someone comes to you and says, 'We haven't got a doctor in town,' and you say, 'Don't worry; it's under control, and, in 10 years' time, it's all sorted,' that's not the answer people want to hear. But, in an attempt to fix that in the short term, we've made bigger problems. We're now paying doctors twice the salary to go and work in a town part time as a locum than the doctor that wants to go there and hang up their shingle and work full time. So, we've created a bigger problem. We're seeing that now in aged care, where we've got agency nurses that are getting paid more than the local nurses to fill in the gaps in aged care.

Decisions here make a difference. When the distribution priority area changed straight after the last election - and the doctors could now declare Wollongong, Geelong and Newcastle as regional - western New South Wales lost six doctors that week. Six that week from some of the most disadvantaged communities in the country. So decisions here can make a difference.

I graduated the rebate for Medicare. I don't know that anybody here even knows that if you're a doctor working in the higher MM areas you get a higher rebate for every patient you see than the ones in the cities. Frankly, when the current government increased Medicare, that exponentially increased, and it's made a huge difference.

*In trade - that was an amazing thing to do. And I see my trade adviser sitting up there. I was involved in, I think, six rounds of the RCEP, Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, negotiations in the ASEAN region, forming a trade relationship with our emerging nations to the north. I represented the country a couple of times at APEC on tourism and trade. I was at the first ministerial meeting of the TPP-11, which was the biggest trade deal done in the history of the world. I was fortunate. I don't know where the trade minister was. Clearly, it was fortuitous that I got sent there. But what people wouldn't realise now, when the farmers are going to the silo and looking at the price of barley, that one of the buyers now is Mexico. They're buying barley to make beer in Mexico because of that agreement that we made. They're not thinking about that. When they're having their big crop now and they're filling up the grain storages that they got off their tax in one year, as a policy to prepare farmers for drought so that they can store their grain and manage it better, they're probably not thinking that that was a decision and a discussion that came out of our party room - or a backbench committee in the first place. But those sorts of decisions are making big changes for people. So going to Tokyo and signing that agreement in a room chaired by Shinzo Abe was a pretty good thing to do for a bloke that had stepped off a tractor to come to parliament.*

*Local government - I was previously a mayor. With my colleague in front of me, when he was Infrastructure Minister, the Member for Riverina, the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure fund during the pandemic using local government—the 527 local governments across the country - to deliver that money into those communities quickly, without bureaucracy, was a masterstroke. We should keep doing that. This government has stopped it. I think we did six rounds of LRCI. I wanted to reform the Federal Assistance Grants. I was not so successful there, mainly because of the reluctance of some of the larger regional local governments. But, thankfully, the grants commission in Queensland took that on, and now those smaller councils in western Queensland are getting a much fairer cut of the pie because of that change.*

*I was minister for regional communications for a while. The Regional Tech Hub is now helping people with this transition. Communications is no longer a static thing. You can no longer sit at home and expect the government is going to supply all of your needs. You need to be out there and understanding that it's evolving. Our need for data and communications in the regions is growing exponentially. It's actually growing faster than the way to deliver it. We are seeing innovations - I think the low-orbiting satellites, I once said rather flippantly that in 10 years time our Telstra towers will just be used at Christmas time to put lights on, because that's evolving. You can drive around Australia now with a thing on your roof and get connectivity in every square inch of the country. That's all changing.*

*I just want to leave with maybe a little bit of a message. I think we've lost our way. As a country we've been very successful, but I think that sometimes we've forgotten some of the basics. When we were in school we learnt the three basic needs of human beings: food, clothing and shelter. I spoke, in my first speech 17 years ago, of my concern that we had lost the ability with the shelter bit, because we'd lost the timber industry out of the Pilliga forest—incidentally it now burns nearly every summer since it's stopped being managed. But the food and clothing bit's important. Since the day I turned up here, emissions reduction has been the undercurrent. It has seen prime ministers come and go, and it has seen governments come and go. I've been called a denier across the chamber; I'm not. But we talk about 2035 and*

*2050 - what about 2100? What about 2200 and 2500? We've got to remember what developed this country. Our forebears cleared land to grow crops. They went out and found mineral resources and developed them, at considerable effort and expense, and we seem to be taking that for granted.*

*So, when you take your family to Disneyland and you tick the box that you want to offset your carbon emissions and pay a bit more money, and that money goes to plant trees on a productive farm, you are then sending a future generation to have to worry about food security. And if you want to put solar panels all over farmland it's the same thing. My electorate was adopting solar before anyone was talking about it. Three-quarters of the houses in Dubbo have got it on their roof. Every farmer in my electorate would be pumping water with a solar array and shearing their sheep with solar, but they don't want to see the whole of their countryside covered up.*

*We've got some environmental champions in this place. I do get into trouble sometimes, but I once did say that a certain member of a certain minor political party - that might sit over there - that my dung beetles had actually done more for the environment than he had. And it's true. It's true. These words have consequences, and if we're going to treat regional Australia as a magic pudding, that every time we want to do something we just pinch a bit away, and every time you lock up a western New South Wales sheep farm and turn it into a national park or you buy productive water out of the Murray Darling Basin, then you are subjecting future generations to have to worry about food security. And it's not just us. We feed 50 million people outside of Australia, so we've just got to keep that in mind. We need to have a more holistic, broader approach to what our future generations need - not this narrow approach at the moment of trying to meet targets on emissions, because it will be a problem.*

*The other thing that I've noticed is we're making our children fearful of their future. Every generation of mankind, humankind, has had issues. And quite frankly I don't think the issues that we're facing today compare to what our forebears did when they dealt with the Depression or the world wars, or even before that. Encouraging our kids to superglue themselves to a railway line is not going to create the future for this country. We need to be telling them that this country will offer them all the opportunities - they need to work hard, they need to study hard, they need to apply themselves, and they can do whatever they want. We shouldn't be making them fearful about their future. And I've seen speech, after speech, after speech in this place that have done nothing but scare the life out of our young people, and it's got to stop.*

*I said in my first speech that I have a deep and unshakeable belief in inland Australia; and I still believe that today. It holds the keys to the future prosperity of our country. There would be no better place to live in the world than Australia, and no better place in Australia to live than in western New South Wales. It's been an honour and a privilege to serve as the 1029th member - I beat Nola by a few - elected to the Australian parliament. But it's time to move on, and I thank you very much.*

## **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**



**THAT Gwydir Shire Council convey its sincere thanks to both The Hon. Mark Coulton MP and his wife Robyn for their wonderful service to the residents of the Federal Parkes' Electorate over the past 17 years, wishing them both well in their retirement.**

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

## 7.12 Country Mayors' Association AGM

**File Reference:** NA

### Delivery Program

**Goal:** 4. Proactive regional and local leadership

**Outcome:** 4.2 We work together to achieve our goals

**Strategy:** 4.2.1 Build strong relationships and shared responsibilities

**Author:** General Manager

**STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST** Nil

### IN BRIEF/SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

<insert text here>

**TABLED ITEMS** Nil

### BACKGROUND

Country Mayors Association (CMA) of NSW held its Annual General Meeting at NSW Parliament on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

The Mayor of Temora Shire Council, Cr. Rick Firman OAM was endorsed as Chairman of the CMA, unopposed, while Bega Valley Shire Mayor, Cr. Russell Fitzpatrick narrowly won the vote for Deputy Chairman over Armidale Regional Council Mayor, Cr. Sam Coupland.

Over 130 eligible voters selected seven candidates from a field of 13 for the Executive Board. The elected Mayors were:

Cr. Phyllis Miller OAM (Forbes Shire Council)  
Cr. Sam Coupland (Armidale Regional Council)  
Cr. John Medcalf OAM (Lachlan Shire Council)  
Cr. Sue Moore (Singleton Council)  
Cr. Josh Black (Dubbo Regional Council)  
Cr. Russell Webb (Tamworth Regional Council) and  
Cr. Sharon Cadwallader (Ballina Shire Council).

The team will serve for a two-year term

### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

**THAT Gwydir Shire Council passes on its congratulations to all the recently elected Councillors holding executive positions with the County Mayors Association as listed below:**

**Cr. Rick Firman OAM, Chairman (Temora Shire Council)**  
**Cr. Russell Fitzpatrick, Deputy Chairman (Bega Valley Shire)**

**Executive Board**

**Cr. Phyllis Miller OAM (Forbes Shire Council)**

**Cr. Sam Coupland (Armidale Regional Council)**

**Cr. John Medcalf OAM (Lachlan Shire Council)**

**Cr. Sue Moore (Singleton Council)**

**Cr. Josh Black (Dubbo Regional Council)**

**Cr. Russell Webb (Tamworth Regional Council) and**

**Cr. Sharon Cadwallader (Ballina Shire Council).**

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

## **8 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

## **9 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

### **Cross Street Warialda**

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 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.

## **10 CLOSURE**