



Ordinary meeting business paper

Wednesday, 15 February 2023

commencing 10.00 am

Rous Administration Centre (L4), 218-232 Molesworth Street, Lismore

In accordance with clause 5.21 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, attendees at today's Council meeting are advised that this meeting is being 'live' streamed (except for the confidential session).

- All speakers should refrain from making any defamatory comments or releasing any personal information about another individual without their consent.
- Council accepts no liability for any damage that may result from defamatory comments made by persons attending meetings. All liability will rest with the individual who made the comments.
- This meeting must not be recorded by others without the prior written consent of the Council in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice.

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting

2. Acknowledgement of Country

Rous County Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which we work and live. We pay our respects to the Elders of the past, present and emerging and acknowledge their continuing connection to Country who will guide us on our shared journey to the future.

3. Apologies and applications for a leave of absence or attendance by audio-visual link by councillors

4. Confirmation of Minutes of previous meeting

Ordinary Council meeting 15 December 2022..... 1 - 8

5. Disclosure of Interest

6. Chair's Minute

Nil.

7. Notices of Motion

Nil.

8. General Manager reports

Nil.

9. Group Manager Corporate and Commercial reports

9.1 Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the quarter ending 31 December 2022 9 - 29

9.2 Retail water customer account assistance 30 - 31

10.	Group Manager Planning and Delivery reports	
10.1	Finalisation of the Scoping Study for the Richmond River Coastal Management Program	32 - 93
10.2	Adoption of the Bulk Water Supply and Retail Water Supply Development Servicing Plans	94
11.	Policies	
11.1	Policies for revocation	95 - 97
12.	Information reports (cover report)	98
12.1	Investments - January 2023	99 - 106
12.2	Water production and usage - December 2022	107 - 120
12.3	Debt Write-off Information Summary	121 - 122
12.4	Delivery program/Operational plan update - 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022	123 - 128
12.5	Reports/actions pending	129 - 130
12.6	Supply of Industrial Control and Integration Support - Contract # RCC1122-0014	131 - 134
13.	Confidential matters (cover report)	135
13.1	Supply of Industrial Control and Integration Support - Contract # RCC1122-0014	136 - 140
14.	Matters of urgency	
15.	Questions without notice	
16.	Close of business	

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF ROUS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD
WEDNESDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2022 AT COUNCIL'S ADMINISTRATION OFFICE,
218-232 MOLESWORTH STREET, LISMORE**

1 OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Chair opened the meeting at 10.03 am.

In attendance:

Councillors:

- Cr Robert Mustow, Richmond Valley Council
- Cr Sandra Humphrys, Richmond Valley Council
- Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Ballina Shire Council (Deputy Chair)
- Cr Rod Bruem, Ballina Shire Council
- Cr Michael Lyon, Byron Shire Council
- Cr Andrew Gordon, Lismore City Council
- Cr Big Rob, Lismore City Council

Council Officers:

- Phillip Rudd, General Manager
- Helen McNeil, Group Manager People and Performance
- Andrew Logan, Group Manager Planning and Delivery
- Geoff Ward, A/Group Manager Corporate and Commercial
- Jonathan Patino, Finance Manager
- John Nasser, Health Safety and Environment Coordinator
- Michael McKenzie, Future Water Planning Manager (from 10.11am)
- Emma Hunter, Future Water Project Manager (from 10.11am)
- Jeremy Wilson, Recycled Water Project Manager (from 10.11am to 10.25am)
- Joe Yeadon, ICT Manager (10.02am to 10.20am)

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Rous County Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which we work and live. We pay our respects to the Elders of the past, present and emerging and acknowledge their continuing connection to Country who will guide us on our shared journey to the future.

**3 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE OR
ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK BY COUNCILLORS**

RESOLVED [74/22] (Cadwallader/Humphries) that an apology be received and accepted for Cr Sarah Ndiaye.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED [75/22] (Cadwallader/Bruem) that the Minutes of the meeting held 19 October 2022 be confirmed as presented.

Confirmation of Minutes of previous meeting 19 October 2022 (Resolution)		
For	Cr Rod Bruem, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Andrew Gordon, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Big Rob	7
Against	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

5 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil.

6 CHAIR'S MINUTE (LATE ITEM)

6.1 Rous County Council Recognised at The Ministers' Awards for Women in Local Government

RESOLVED [76/22] (Mustow/Rob) that Council receive and note the Chair's Minute.

7 MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil.

8 NOTICES OF MOTION / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil.

9 GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Nil.

10 GROUP MANAGER CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL REPORTS

10.1 Retail Water Customer Account Assistance

RESOLVED [77/22] (Humphries/Cadwallader) that Council in accordance with section 356 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* and its 'Retail Water Customer Account Assistance' policy, approve financial assistance as listed in Table 1 of the report.

Retail Water Customer Account Assistance (Resolution)		
For	Cr Rod Bruem, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Andrew Gordon, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Big Rob	7
Against	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

10.2 Retail Water Bad Debt Write-Off

RESOLVED [78/22] (Cadwallader/Humphries) that Council approve a request for the write-off of \$18,240.79 in water charges from the SES Capital Pty Ltd water account in relation to the property at 61 Caniaba Road, Loftville due to the reasons outlined in the report.

Retail Water Bad Debt Write-off (Resolution)		
For	Cr Rod Bruem, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Andrew Gordon, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Big Rob	7
Against	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

10.3 Digital Strategy and Digital Transformation

RESOLVED [79/22] (Rob/Cadwallader) that Council:

1. Endorse the Digital Strategy attached to the report, and
2. Note the commencement of the Digital Transformation program of work.

Digital Strategy and Digital Transformation (Resolution)		
For	Cr Rod Bruem, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Andrew Gordon, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Big Rob	7
Against	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

10.4 Annual Financial Reports and Auditor's Report for the Year Ending 30 June 2022

RESOLVED [80/22] (Rob/Cadwallader) that Council acknowledge that the audited 2021/22 Financial Reports were presented to the public and no submissions were received.

Annual Financial Reports and Auditor's report for the year ending 30 June 2022 (Resolution)		
For	Cr Rod Bruem, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Andrew Gordon, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Big Rob	7
Against	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

11 GROUP MANAGER PLANNING AND DELIVERY REPORTS

11.1 Development Servicing Plan 2022

RESOLVED [81/22] (Gordon/Bruem) that Council:

1. Endorses the draft Bulk Water Supply Development Servicing Plan attached to the report for public exhibition for the period 19 December 2022 to 2 February 2023.
2. Write to the constituent councils advising of the proposed changes to the Bulk Water Supply developer charge and requesting the Constituent Councils consider providing this notification of change to existing unpaid development applicants.
3. Endorses the draft Retail Water Supply Development Servicing Plan attached to the report for public exhibition for the period 19 December 2022 to 2 February 2023.

Development Servicing Plan 2022 (Resolution)		
For	Cr Rod Bruem, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Andrew Gordon, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Big Rob	7
Against	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

11.2 Purified Recycled Water Pilot Plant

RESOLVED [82/22] (Rob/Bruem) that Council:

- (a) Take no further action to progress a pilot purified recycled water scheme at the Perradenya Estate as part of the Future Water Project 2060.
- (b) Continue to investigate the possibility of implementing a Purified Recycled Water pilot at the most advantageous location to meet strategic objectives of the Future Water Project 2060.
- (c) Delay any significant investigations into a Purified Recycled Water pilot until such time as the *Purified Recycled Water for Drinking Investigations – Option Assessment of Indirect and Direct Potable Reuse Schemes* has been completed.
- (d) Consider the comparative viability of Purified Recycled Water as a potential Stage 3 option when assessing whether to proceed with additional pilot investigations.

Purified Recycled Water Pilot Plant (Resolution)		
For	Cr Rod Bruem, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Andrew Gordon, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Big Rob	7
Against	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

11.3 Future Water Project Stage 1 - Alstonville Groundwater Scheme Land Matters

RESOLVED [83/22] (Gordon/Bruem):

1. That based on the contents of the report, Council authorises the General Manager to:
 - a) Finalise negotiations for the purchase of The Russellton Property identified in the report at the agreed price, and
 - b) Execute all relevant documents required for the purchase, including any heads of agreement, planning documents and the Contract for Sale.
2. That upon settlement of the purchase, the land be classified as Operational Land for the purposes of Part 2 Division 1 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Future Water Project Stage 1 - Alstonville Groundwater Scheme Land Matters (Resolution)		
For	Cr Rod Bruem, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Andrew Gordon, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Big Rob	7
Against	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

12 GROUP MANAGER PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCE REPORTS

12.1 Strategic Options and Management of Risk: Flood Mitigation

RESOLVED [84/22] (Rob/Gordon) that Council:

1. Endorse the following actions to be taken concurrently:
 - (a) Progress action 1.2.2 of the Delivery Program, being a strategic review of flood mitigation function, incorporating data arising from 2022 flood events, and report back with recommendations in relation to Rous's future role in the region; and
 - (b) Authorise the General Manager to negotiate an interim solution to effectively manage risk associated with Rous's function and operation in urban flood mitigation with respect to the Lismore Levee Scheme (to have effect pending finalisation of (1a)).
2. Reaffirm action 1.2.2 of the Delivery Program and endorse writing to Ballina Shire Council, Lismore City Council and Richmond Valley Council to advise of the strategic review of Flood Mitigation and that it is expected to be completed by June 2024.

Strategic options and management of risk: flood mitigation (Resolution)		
For	Cr Rod Bruem, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Andrew Gordon, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Big Rob	7
Against	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

13 POLICIES

13.1 Policy: Customer Feedback, Complaints and Unreasonable Conduct

RESOLVED [85/22] (Cadwallader/Humphries) that Council:

1. Revoke the policy titled 'Feedback and Complaints Handling' dated 19 December 2018 attached to the report, and any policy revived as a result of that revocation; and
2. Adopt the draft policy titled 'Customer feedback, complaints and unreasonable conduct' attached to the report.

14 INFORMATION REPORTS

RESOLVED [86/22] (Bruem/Cadwallader) that the following information reports be received and noted:

1. Investments - November 2022.
2. Water consumption - October 2022.
3. Reports/actions pending.
4. Annual 'Model Code of Complaint Statistics'.
5. Audit Risk and Improvement Committee 28 November 2022 - meeting update.
6. Licence Agreement: Ngulingah Local Aboriginal Land Council – Level 2, 218-232 Molesworth Street, Lismore.
7. Disclosure of Interest Returns.
8. Draft North Coast Regional Water Strategy - shortlisted actions - consultation paper - Council submission.

Information reports (cover report) (Resolution)		
For	Cr Rod Bruem, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Andrew Gordon, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Big Rob	7
Against	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

15 CONFIDENTIAL COVER REPORT

Refer below.

16 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

MOVED TO CLOSED COUNCIL

RESOLVED [87/22] (Gordon/Humphries) that Council move into Closed Council with the press and public excluded from the meeting based on the grounds detailed below:

Report	Future Water Project 2060 Stage 1 – Woodburn Groundwater Scheme land matters
Grounds for closure	Section 10A(2)(d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed: (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council.

The meeting moved to Closed Council at 10.41am.

RESUME TO OPEN COUNCIL

RESOLVED [88/22] (Cadwallader/Lyon) that the meeting resume to Open Council.

The meeting moved to Open Council at 10.56am.

The General Manager read to the meeting the following resolution of Council:

16.1 Future Water Project Stage 1 - Woodburn Groundwater Scheme Land Matters

RESOLVED [89/22] (Gordon/Rob) that Council:

1. As part of implementation of the Future Water Project 2060 in relation to the Woodburn Groundwater Scheme, authorise:
 - (a) The General Manager to progress negotiations for access to and purchase of land identified in the report and establishment of easements.
 - (b) The General Manager to sign any documents including options, agreements, contracts or other documents required to secure access to the land identified.
 - (c) The Chair and General Manager to sign necessary documentation under seal to effect the purchase of land required for the Woodburn Groundwater Scheme.
2. In the event agreement cannot be reached with the landowners, then the General Manager is authorised to:
 - (a) Apply to the Minister for approval to commence the Compulsory Acquisition process in accordance with the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*.
 - (b) Issue a Proposed Acquisition Notice to each affected landowner, following the Minister's approval being granted, for the portions of land identified in this report, along with any easements for access as required.
3. That upon acquisition of land by agreement or acquisition, the land to be classified as Operational Land for the purposes of s25 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Future Water Project Stage 1 - Woodburn Groundwater Scheme Land Matters (Resolution)		
For	Cr Rod Bruem, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Andrew Gordon, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Michael Lyon, Cr Robert Mustow and Cr Big Rob	7
Against	None	0
Conflict of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

17 CLOSE OF BUSINESS

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.58 am.

Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the quarter ending 31 December 2022

Responsible Officer: Finance Manager (Jonathan Patino)

Recommendation

That Council note the results presented in the Quarterly Budget Review Statement as at 31 December 2022 and authorise the variations to the amounts from those previously estimated.

Background

The Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework sets out minimum standards of reporting that will assist Council in adequately disclosing its overall financial position and to provide sufficient additional information to enable informed decision-making and enhance transparency.

The Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) is made up of a minimum of six key statements:

- (QBRs1) Statement by the Responsible Accounting Officer on Council's financial position
- (QBRs2) Budget Review Income and Expenses Statement
- (QBRs3) Budget Review Capital Budget
- (QBRs4) Budget Review Cash and Investments Position
- (QBRs5) Budget Review Contracts and Other Expenses
- (QBRs6) Budget Review Key Performance Indicators

For the information of Council, the original 2022/23 budget was adopted on 15 June 2022 as part of the 2022/23 Operational plan and the 2022/26 Delivery program.

Finance

(QBRs1) Report by Responsible Accounting Officer

The following statement is made in accordance with clause 203(2) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*.

"It is my opinion that the Quarterly Budget Review Statement of Rous County Council for the quarter ended 31 December 2022 indicates that Council's projected financial position at 30 June 2023 will be satisfactory at year end, having regard to the projected estimates of income and expenditure, the original budgeted income and expenditure and Council's short-term liquidity position."



Jonathan Patino
Responsible Accounting Officer

Commentary on Proposed Adjustments – December 2022 (Table 1 - see over)

The following table details proposed budget variations as compared to the original budget and quarterly adjustments. The tables that follow summarise the changes on a reporting unit basis. For reporting purposes, only changes over \$5,000 are individually referenced.

Operating income has increased by \$1.1M, operating expenditure has been reduced by \$669K and capital expenditure has increased by \$680K resulting in an overall change of \$1.1M to be transferred back to reserves.

Operating expenditure particularly salaries and the capital works program will be high priorities for adjustments in the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the quarter ending 31 March 2023.

Significant Adjustments

March 2022 Floods

Rous' insurance policy with Statewide Mutual includes flood cover with a sub-limit of \$2M that applies for property loss and business interruptions. The claim is ongoing and budget estimates have been provided for claims received and expenses to 31 December 2022 including commitments.

In addition to the insurance claim Disaster Recovery Funding has been claimed. The works associated with this claim continue and will be in addition to the insurance claim which is concurrently being prepared to fund the replacement/renewal of eligible affected assets. Once a formal agreement is in place with NSW Public Works budget estimates will be provided. At present no changes have been made to the budget regarding these works, an update to budget will be presented through the QBRS process when details are available.

Impact on Reserves as a Whole

The required changes this quarter will result in an additional \$1,099,400 being transferred to reserves in the 2022/23 financial year. The projected balance as at 30 June 2023 will increase to \$16,137,300 which is short of the internal reserves policy target of 6 months operating expenditure or \$17,470,000. This is an internal policy, rather than one mandated.

It should be noted that the loan covenant that exists between Rous County Council and New South Wales Treasury Corporation requires reserves to held that equal 6 months of the next financial year's operating expenditure less depreciation. The projected balance above of \$16,137,300 exceeds this reserve target of 6 months operating expenditure less depreciation or \$14,887,000.

At present Council is unable to meet the internal reserves policy targets for the Bulk, Retail and Flood reporting units based on budget forecasts. It is important to note that this policy is an internal document adopted by Council, not an external requirement. There is a level of inconsistency between the internal policy and the requirements from regulations and external loan caveats. It is proposed that a revised policy will be presented to a Council meeting in the near future to better align the internal document with these requirements.

(QBR2) Table 1: Summary of Proposed Changes Whole Organisation – December 2022

BUDGET ITEMS	Original Budget 2022/23	2021/22 Carryovers	September	December	Ref	Projected Year End Result 2022/23
			30-Sep-22	31-Dec-22		
			Quarter	Quarter		
Operating Income						
Bulk	20,767,100	0	575,700	654,700	A1	21,997,500
Retail	3,099,200	0	0	0		3,099,200
Flood	1,061,600	0	(5,400)	0		1,056,200
Weeds	1,618,400	0	293,600	280,800	L1	2,192,800
RWL	868,300	0	0	0		868,300
Commercial Property	163,500	0	0	0		163,500
Fleet	75,000	0	0	174,900	M1	249,900
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	27,653,100	0	863,900	1,110,400		29,627,400
Operating Expenses						
Bulk	25,617,200	1,176,600	(195,000)	(689,500)	A2, B1, B2, C1, D1, E1, F1, N1, N2	25,909,300
Retail	3,176,500	0	60,000	5,700	A3	3,242,200
Flood	1,679,500	79,400	118,600	10,800	A4	1,888,300
Weeds	1,735,400	0	929,100	0		2,664,500
RWL	843,800	0	0	0		843,800
Commercial Property	312,600	0	0	0		312,600
Fleet	75,200	0	0	4,200	A5	79,400
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	33,440,200	1,256,000	912,700	(668,800)		34,940,100
OPERATING RESULT	(5,787,100)	(1,256,000)	(48,800)	1,779,200		(5,312,700)
Exclude Depreciation	7,813,800	0	0	0		7,813,800
Cash Result	2,026,700	(1,256,000)	(48,800)	1,779,200		2,501,100
Add: Capital Income	32,595,800	0	(25,000,000)	0		7,595,800
Less: Capital Expense	26,236,800	10,472,000	(6,479,300)	679,800	A6, A7, A8, G1, G1, H1, I1, J1, K1, M2, N3, N4	30,909,300
Less: Loan Repayments	4,488,600	0	(884,000)	0		3,604,600
Add: From/Less: (To) Reserve	(3,897,100)	11,728,000	17,685,500	(1,099,400)		24,417,000
Estimated Cash Movement	0	0	0	0		0

Budget adjustments required this quarter

New / Existing	Description	Reporting Unit	Category	Ref	Adjustment Amount		Notes
					Current Budget (2022/23)	LTFP (2023/24-2031/32)	
New	Insurance Claims - 2022 Flood Events	BULK	Operating Income	A1	654,700	0	Two insurance claims totalling \$654,700 have been received from Rous' insurer Statewide Mutual for damages from the February/March 2022 flood events. Expenditure has been incurred across several areas of Rous' business. The expenditure adjustments represent the actual spending that has occurred this financial year including known commitments. Further updates will be provided in the Quarterly Budget Review for the quarter ending 31 March 2023.
		BULK	Operating Expenditure	A2	(106,900)	0	
		RETAIL	Operating Expenditure	A3	(5,700)	0	
		FLOOD	Operating Expenditure	A4	(10,800)	0	
		FLEET	Operating Expenditure	A5	(4,200)	0	
		BULK	Capital Expenditure	A6	(56,900)	0	
		RETAIL	Capital Expenditure	A7	(4,100)	0	
		FLOOD	Capital Expenditure	A8	(9,500)	0	
Existing	Demand Management Project	BULK	Operating Expenditure	B1	80,000	(60,000)	Several projects within this plan have been identified for deferral until the 2023/2024 financial year. Resourcing issues, site investigations and concerns about the appropriateness of specific projects in light of the February/March 2022 flood events have led to this request. \$30,000 is to be reallocated from contractor expenses to salaries and wages for the Regional Education Officer role. Additionally, a duplication was discovered in the Long-Term Financial Plan and is to be returned to reserve.
		BULK	Operating Expenditure	B2	339,400	0	
Existing	OP-DT Tools Budget	BULK	Operating Expenditure	C1	(5,000)	0	Required to fit out a new vehicle with tools and equipment for the Technical Team Leader.
New	Expense Management Software	BULK	Operating Expenditure	D1	(3,000)	(89,000)	An additional software program is required to enable Rous staff to more efficiently manage corporate credit cards. At present 41 cards are available for use with approximately 26 of these cards being used on a regular basis. Each card is processed via a purchase order and tax invoices/receipts are collated manually. The new system will align to Rous' Digital Strategy. The required budget is \$8,000 per annum + CPI.

New / Existing	Description	Reporting Unit	Category	Ref	Adjustment Amount		Notes
					Current Budget (2022/23)	LTFP (2023/24-2031/32)	
New	Renewable Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan	BULK	Operating Expenditure	E1	(70,000)		<p>The objective of this plan is to review the 2018 Greenhouse Gas Abatement Strategy actions, re-confirm the renewable energy and emissions reduction targets and determine actions to achieve these targets. The progress made since 2018 and the viability of some proposed actions and the application of new technologies will be explored in this plan development.</p> <p>This project will be funded from the reserve which has sufficient funds available.</p>
Existing	Australian Research Council Linkage	BULK	Operating Expenditure	F1	30,000	55,000	<p>In August 2019, Council resolved to support a research application to the Australian Research Council Linkage Program for research on natural flood mitigation (NFM) measures – a key plank of the Northern Rivers Watershed Initiative (NRWI).</p> <p>Rous has worked with researchers at Southern Cross University and University of NSW and other stakeholders to develop an ARC grant application to assess and guide the roll out of such NFM measures in the Richmond River – it was submitted in December 2021. Unfortunately, the ARC has determined not to fund this application. Despite, a strong response to the ARC's initial assessment, there has been no change in the ARC decision.</p> <p>As such these funds will be returned to reserve. RCC shall continue to seek funding and support for the NRWI through other opportunities at the State and Federal level.</p>
Existing	Emigrant Service Water and Safety Shower Upgrade	BULK	Capital Expenditure	G1	(25,000)	0	<p>The original \$35,000 budget was for the installation of a new service water booster pump skid. Additional funds are required to implement pipework modifications and install backflow devices through the plant to separate process water from potable water for the safety showers.</p>
New	Internal Micro-Testing Equipment	BULK	Capital Expenditure	H1	(37,000)	0	<p>With the closure of Richmond Water Laboratories (RWL), Rous will be sampling and analysing the quality of the water supply internally. This equipment is required to be able to perform this function.</p>
New	CO2, Cl2 dosing system for the Lower River	BULK	Capital Expenditure	I1	(30,000)	0	<p>The Lower River pH is frequently outside of Australian Drinking Water Guideline (ADWG) limits. Studies have been undertaken to understand the mechanism behind this complex pH condition. Various Water Treatment Plant trials have been undertaken to mitigate the issue with limited success. To ensure pH is always within ADWG limits, a Carbon Dioxide dosing plant will be installed at the Woodburn Bore Site. The current budget will be used to complete the scoping study, specifications and cost estimates for final construction in the 23/24 FYR.</p>

New / Existing	Description	Reporting Unit	Category	Ref	Adjustment Amount		Notes
					Current Budget (2022/23)	LTFP (2023/24-2031/32)	
New	Install Drain at Rocky Creek Dam	BULK	Capital Expenditure	J1	(12,000)	0	This project is to divert water away from the southern wall groin at Rocky Creek Dam. It was identified as part of the risk assessment process post the recent floods.
Existing	Nightcap WTP Sludge Storage and Handling Upgrade Options	BULK	Capital Expenditure	K1	(30,000)	0	Additional funds will be used to engage a consultant to investigate sludge storage and handling options.
New	2 Way Radios	BULK	Capital Expenditure	L1	(70,000)		This project is to replace a temporary 2-way repeater station at Dorroughby and install a new 2-way repeater at Knockrow Reservoir to improve dam safety emergency communications. Note: Enhancing our 2 way radio network is a recommendation from our dam safety consultants.
Existing	Grant Funding - Early Needs Weed Management Project	WEEDS	Operating Income	M1	280,800	(280,800)	The remaining grant funds were originally expected to be received in the 2023/2024 financial year but have already been received.
New	Fleet Insurance Claims - 2022 Flood Events	FLEET FLEET	Operating Income Capital Expenditure	N1 N2	174,900 (421,600)	0	Several insurance claims have been received from Rous' fleet insurer for vehicles that were lost in the February/March 2022 flood events. The replacement costs for these vehicles have been added to the capital works program.
Existing	Budget Savings Identified:						
	Compliance Project Role	BULK	Operating Expenditure	O1	80,000	0	This role is no longer required and will be returned to reserve.
	Disposal of Waste Treatment Solids (Sludge) from the Nightcap Water Treatment Plant	BULK	Operating Expenditure	O2	345,000	0	This project was originally expected to begin earlier and as such the portion of funding that is no longer required will be returned to reserve.
	Emigrant Creek Water Treatment Plant Membrane Project	BULK	Capital Expenditure	O3	6,300	0	This project is complete, and the remaining funds are to be returned to reserve.
	Emigrant Creek Instruments Project	BULK	Capital Expenditure	O4	10,000	0	This project is complete, and the remaining funds are to be returned to reserve.
					1,099,400	(374,800)	

Bulk Water Reporting Unit

(QBR2) Income & Expenses - Bulk							
	Original Budget 2022/23	2021/22 Carryovers	Approved Changes Sept Review	Recommend Changes for Council Resolution	Ref	Projected Year End Result 2022/23	Actual YTD
Operating Income							
Water Sales	20,591,900	0	0	0		20,591,900	10,295,900
Interest Income / Sundry	154,800	0	575,700	654,700	A1	1,385,200	1,209,300
Property Income	20,400	0	0	0		20,400	10,200
Operating Grants and Contributions	0	0	0	0		0	3,000
Profit on Sale	0	0	0	0		0	0
Total Operating Income	20,767,100	0	575,700	654,700		21,997,500	11,518,400
Operating Expense							
Administration Expenses	585,500	0	0	0		585,500	592,700
Administration - Retail Water Cost	(1,896,500)	0	0	0		(1,896,500)	(948,500)
Finance Costs	2,305,100	0	(875,000)	0		1,430,100	702,000
Building/Depot Expenses	561,300	0	0	0		561,300	211,400
Fleet Hire Expense	548,600	0	0	0		548,600	272,460
Training & Staff	367,500	0	0	0		367,500	165,200
Insurance	385,700	0	0	0		385,700	334,300
Members Expenses	168,500	0	0	0		168,500	62,800
Salaries & Wages	8,294,100	50,000	(25,000)	30,000	B1	8,349,100	3,964,800
Operations Purchases	7,956,900	1,126,600	705,000	(719,500)	A2, B1, B2, C1, D1, E1, F1, O1, O2	9,069,000	2,051,200
Depreciation	6,340,500	0	0	0		6,340,500	3,220,000
Total Operating Expense	25,617,200	1,176,600	(195,000)	(689,500)		25,909,300	10,628,360
Operating Result	(4,850,100)	(1,176,600)	770,700	1,344,200		(3,911,800)	890,040
Less: Depreciation	6,340,500	0	0	0		6,340,500	3,220,000
Operating Result Excl. Non Cash	1,490,400	(1,176,600)	770,700	1,344,200		2,428,700	4,110,040
Add: Capital Income	29,223,000	0	(25,000,000)	0		4,223,000	2,210,600
Less: Capital Expenses	21,545,500	9,070,100	(5,703,800)	244,600	A6, G1, H1, I1, J1, K1, L1, O3, O4	25,156,400	3,899,200
Less: Loan Repayments	4,488,600	0	(884,000)	0		3,604,600	1,776,000
Transfer from/(to) Reserve	(4,679,300)	10,246,700	17,641,500	(1,099,600)		22,109,300	(645,440)
Net Cash Movement	0	0	0	0		0	0

Impact on Bulk Water Reserve

The required changes above will result in \$1,099,600 being transferred to the Bulk Water reserve in the 2022/23 financial year. The projected balance as at 30 June 2023 will increase to \$8,033,900 which is short of the internal reserves policy target of 6 months operating expenditure or \$12,954,600.

Retail Water Reporting Unit

(QBR52) Income & Expenses - Retail							
	Original Budget 2022/23	2021/22 Carryovers	Approved Changes Sept Review	Recommend Changes for Council Resolution	Ref	Projected Year End Result 2022/23	Actual YTD
Operating Income							
Water Sales	3,088,000	0	0	0		3,088,000	1,504,500
Interest Income / Sundry	11,200	0	0	0		11,200	8,000
Total Operating Income	3,099,200	0	0	0		3,099,200	1,512,500
Operating Expense							
Administration Expenses	2,144,100	0	60,000	0		2,204,100	1,111,600
Fleet Hire Expenses	86,400	0	0	0		86,400	43,200
Salaries and Wages	495,600	0	0	0		495,600	248,300
Operations Purchases	155,800	0	0	5,700	A3	161,500	91,700
Depreciation and Amortisation	294,600	0	0	0		294,600	134,300
Total Operating Expense	3,176,500	0	60,000	5,700		3,242,200	1,629,100
Operating Result	(77,300)	0	(60,000)	(5,700)		(143,000)	(116,600)
Less Depreciation	294,600	0	0	0		294,600	134,300
Operating Result Excl. Non Cash	217,300	0	(60,000)	(5,700)		151,600	17,700
Add: Capital Income	0	0	0	0		0	200
Less: Capital Expenses	1,628,100	1,260,100	(853,000)	4,100	A7	2,039,300	58,200
Transfer from/(to) Reserve	1,410,800	1,260,100	(793,000)	9,800		1,887,700	40,300
Net Cash Movement	0	0	0	0		0	0

Impact on Retail Water Reserve

These required changes above will result in a \$9,800 transfer from the Retail Water reserve in the 2022/23 financial year. The projected balance as at 30 June 2023 will decrease to \$1,126,300 which is short of the internal reserves policy target of 8 months operating expenditure or \$2,161,500.

Flood Mitigation Reporting Unit

(QBR2) Income & Expenses - Flood							
	Original Budget 2022/23	2021/22 Carryovers	Approved Changes Sept Review	Recommend Changes for Council Resolution	Ref	Projected Year End Result 2022/23	Actual YTD
Operating Income							
Grants and Contributions	1,052,700	0	(5,400)	0		1,047,300	455,100
Interest Income / Sundry	8,900	0	0	0		8,900	6,800
Total Operating Income	1,061,600	0	(5,400)	0		1,056,200	461,900
Operating Expense							
Administration Expenses	211,400	0	0	0		211,400	105,700
Building/Depot Expenses	9,800	0	0	0		9,800	4,000
Fleet Hire Expenses	74,100	0	0	0		74,100	37,000
Insurance	4,700	0	0	0		4,700	0
Salaries and Wages	453,700	0	0	0		453,700	240,300
Operations Purchases	230,500	79,400	118,600	10,800	A4	439,300	73,900
Depreciation and Amortisation	695,300	0	0	0		695,300	365,200
Total Operating Expense	1,679,500	79,400	118,600	10,800		1,888,300	826,100
Operating Result	(617,900)	(79,400)	(124,000)	(10,800)		(832,100)	(364,200)
Less Depreciation	695,300	0	0	0		695,300	365,200
Operating Result Excl. Non Cash	77,400	(79,400)	(124,000)	(10,800)		(136,800)	1,000
Add: Capital Income	0	0	0	0		0	0
Less: Capital Expenses	182,700	0	0	9,500	A8	192,200	111,800
Transfer from/(to) Reserve	105,300	79,400	124,000	20,300		329,000	110,800
Net Cash Movement	0	0	0	0		0	0

Impact on Flood Mitigation Reserve

These required changes above will result in a \$20,300 transfer from the Flood Mitigation reserve in the 2022/23 financial year. The projected balance as at 30 June 2023 will decrease to \$782,900 which is short of the internal reserves policy target of 5 months operating expenditure or \$786,800.

Weed Biosecurity Reporting Unit

(QBR2) Income & Expenses - Weeds							
	Original Budget 2022/23	2021/22 Carryovers	Approved Changes Sept Review	Recommend Changes for Council Resolution	Ref	Projected Year End Result 2022/23	Actual YTD
Operating Income							
Grants and Contributions	1,607,300	0	293,600	280,800	M1	2,181,700	1,023,700
Interest Income / Sundry	11,100	0	0	0		11,100	8,400
Total Operating Income	1,618,400	0	293,600	280,800		2,192,800	1,032,100
Operating Expense							
Administration Expenses	338,700	0	0	0		338,700	172,800
Building/Depot Expenses	13,900	0	0	0		13,900	10,200
Fleet Hire Expenses	176,900	0	85,000	0		261,900	95,800
Salaries and Wages	1,105,600	0	631,700	0		1,737,300	616,000
Operations Purchases	69,800	0	212,400	0		282,200	182,100
Depreciation and Amortisation	30,500	0	0	0		30,500	12,800
Total Operating Expense	1,735,400	0	929,100	0		2,664,500	1,089,700
Operating Result	(117,000)	0	(635,500)	280,800		(471,700)	(57,600)
Less Depreciation	30,500	0	0	0		30,500	12,800
Operating Result Excl. Non Cash	(86,500)	0	(635,500)	280,800		(441,200)	(44,800)
Add: Capital Income	0	0	0	0		0	0
Less: Capital Expenses	43,000	0	27,500	0		70,500	5,100
Transfer from/(to) Reserve	129,500	0	663,000	(280,800)		511,700	49,900
Net Cash Movement	0	0	0	0		0	0

Impact on Weed Biosecurity Reserve

These required changes above will result in a \$280,800 transfer to the Weed Biosecurity reserve in the 2022/23 financial year. The projected balance as at 30 June 2023 will increase to \$2,092,100 which is beyond the internal reserves policy target of 4 months operating expenditure or \$888,200.

Richmond Water Laboratory (RWL) Reporting Unit

(QBR2) Income & Expenses - Richmond Water Laboratory							
	Original Budget 2022/23	2021/22 Carryovers	Approved Changes Sept Review	Recommend Changes for Council Resolution	Ref	Projected Year End Result 2022/23	Actual YTD
Operating Income							
Water Testing	866,000	0	0	0		866,000	270,600
Interest Income / Sundry	2,300	0	0	0		2,300	900
Total Operating Income	868,300	0	0	0		868,300	271,500
Operating Expense							
Administration Expenses	74,200	0	0	0		74,200	22,400
Building/Depot Expenses	45,800	0	0	0		45,800	21,200
Fleet Hire Expenses	16,000	0	0	0		16,000	5,340
Salaries and Wages	516,100	0	0	0		516,100	224,400
Operations Purchases	171,400	0	0	0		171,400	207,500
Depreciation and Amortisation	20,300	0	0	0		20,300	3,600
Total Operating Expense	843,800	0	0	0		843,800	484,440
Operating Result	24,500	0	0	0		24,500	(212,940)
Less Depreciation	20,300	0	0	0		20,300	3,600
Operating Result Excl. Non Cash	44,800	0	0	0		44,800	(209,340)
Less: Capital Expenses	50,000	0	0	0		50,000	0
Transfer from/(to) Reserve	5,200	0	0	0		5,200	209,340
Net Cash Movement	0	0	0	0		0	0

The RWL was officially closed on 31 October 2022 as per the decision made at the August 2022 Council meeting [Resolution 60/22] and operations ceased on 30 November 2022. Council staff are in the process of re-allocating assets and finalising expenditure related to this activity. The budget forecasts will be updated and finalised in the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the quarter ending 31 March 2023.

Impact on RWL Reserve

Nil.

Property Reporting Unit

(QBR2) Income & Expenses - Property							
	Original Budget 2022/23	2021/22 Carryovers	Approved Changes Sept Review	Recommend Changes for Council Resolution	Ref	Projected Year End Result 2022/23	Actual YTD
Operating Income							
Interest Income / Sundry	12,700	0	0	0		12,700	6,100
Property Income	150,800	0	0	0		150,800	56,200
Total Operating Income	163,500	0	0	0		163,500	62,300
Operating Expense							
Administration Expenses	55,600	0	0	0		55,600	28,000
Building/Depot Expenses	187,600	0	0	0		187,600	95,700
Salaries and Wages	10,500	0	0	0		10,500	31,300
Operations Purchases	16,300	0	0	0		16,300	24,900
Depreciation and Amortisation	42,600	0	0	0		42,600	24,900
Total Operating Expense	312,600	0	0	0		312,600	204,800
Operating Result	(149,100)	0	0	0		(149,100)	(142,500)
Less Depreciation	42,600	0	0	0		42,600	24,900
Operating Result Excl. Non Cash	(106,500)	0	0	0		(106,500)	(117,600)
Add: Capital Income	3,372,800	0	0	0		3,372,800	0
Less: Capital Expenses	2,351,200	141,800	0	0		2,493,000	190,300
Transfer from/(to) Reserve	(915,100)	141,800	0	0		(773,300)	307,900
Net Cash Movement	0	0	0	0		0	0

No budget adjustments are required this quarter.

Impact on Property Reserve

Nil.

Fleet Reporting Unit

(QBR2) Income & Expenses - Fleet							
	Original Budget 2022/23	2021/22 Carryovers	Approved Changes Sept Review	Recommend Changes for Council Resolution	Ref	Projected Year End Result 2022/23	Actual YTD
Operating Income							
Interest Income / Sundry	75,000	0	0	174,900	N1	249,900	203,200
Total Operating Income	75,000	0	0	174,900		249,900	203,200
Operating Expense							
Fleet Operations	492,900	0	85,000	4,200	A5	582,100	289,700
Fleet Hire Income	(926,000)	0	(85,000)	0		(1,011,000)	(453,500)
Salaries and Wages	118,300	0	0	0		118,300	55,200
Depreciation and Amortisation	390,000	0	0	0		390,000	148,500
Total Operating Expense	75,200	0	0	4,200		79,400	39,900
Operating Result	(200)	0	0	170,700		170,500	163,300
Less Depreciation	390,000	0	0	0		390,000	148,500
Operating Result Excl. Non Cash	389,800	0	0	170,700		560,500	311,800
Add: Capital Income	0	0	0	0		0	0
Less: Capital Expenses	436,300	0	50,000	421,600	N2	907,900	167,000
Transfer from/(to) Reserve	46,500	0	50,000	250,900		347,400	(144,800)
Net Cash Movement	0	0	0	0		0	0

Impact on Fleet Reserve

These required changes above will result in a \$250,900 transfer from the Fleet reserve in the 2022/23 financial year. The projected balance as at 30 June 2023 will decrease to \$1,160,800 which is beyond the internal reserves policy target of 4 months operating expenditure or \$363,500.

Budget Review for the Quarter Ended 31 December 2022							
(QBR3) Capital Budget							
	Original Budget 2022/23	2021/22 Carryovers	Approved Changes Sept Review	Recommend Changes for Council Resolution	Ref	Projected Year End Result 2022/23	Actual YTD
Capital Funding:							
Capital Grants & Contributions	0	0	0	0		0	0
Internal Restrictions							
- Renewals	5,228,200	4,565,400	(698,800)	84,200		9,179,000	1,818,000
- New Assets	14,434,400	5,906,600	(5,780,500)	595,600		15,156,100	2,613,600
External Restrictions							
- Infrastructure	0	0	0	0		0	0
Other Capital Funding Sources							
- Operating Revenue	0	0	0	0		0	0
- S64 Contributions	4,223,000	0	0	0		4,223,000	0
Income from Sale of Assets							
- Plant and Equipment	0	0	0	0		0	0
- Land and Buildings	2,351,200	0	0	0		2,351,200	0
Total Capital Funding	26,236,800	10,472,000	(6,479,300)	679,800		30,909,300	4,431,600
Capital Expenditure:							
New Assets							
- Plant and Equipment	486,300	0	50,000	421,600	N2	957,900	167,000
- Office Equipment	21,000	82,600	47,500	107,000	H1, L1	258,100	93,300
- Inventory (Land)	2,290,000	106,800	0	0		2,396,800	141,600
- Land and Buildings	1,087,500	550,300	0	0		1,637,800	349,600
- Infrastructure	17,123,800	5,166,900	(5,878,000)	67,000	G1, I1, J1	16,479,700	1,862,100
Renewals (Replacement)							
- Plant and Equipment	0	0	0	46,100	A6	46,100	0
- Office Equipment	373,300	274,000	0	0		647,300	0
- Land and Buildings	61,200	0	0	0		61,200	48,700
- Infrastructure	4,793,700	4,291,400	(698,800)	38,100	A6, A8, A7, K1, O3, O4	8,424,400	1,769,300
Total Capital Expenditure	26,236,800	10,472,000	(6,479,300)	679,800		30,909,300	4,431,600

Impact on Capital Works Program

The required adjustments above will result in additional capital works of \$679,800 being funded from reserves bringing the total capital works program for 2022/23 to \$30,909,300. As at 31 December, \$4,431,600 or 14.3% of these works have been completed. The completion of these capital works will be a high priority for adjustments in the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the quarter ending 31 March 2023.

Budget Review for the Quarter Ended 31 December 2022 (QBR54) Cash & Investments						
	Opening Balances 2022/23	Original Budget 2022/23	2021/22 Carryovers	Approved Changes Sept Review	Recommend Changes for Council Resolution	Projected Year End Result 2022/23
Unrestricted:						
Flood Mitigation	99,000	0	0	0	0	99,000
Weeds Biosecurity	25,800	0	0	0	0	25,800
Retail Water	100,000	0	0	0	0	100,000
Richmond Water Laboratories	10,000	0	0	0	0	10,000
Property	100,000	0	0	0	0	100,000
Fleet	50,000	0	0	0	0	50,000
Bulk Water	1,688,900	0	0	0	0	1,688,900
Total Unrestricted	2,073,700	0	0	0	0	2,073,700
Externally Restricted:						
Flood Grants	424,800	0	0	(124,000)	0	300,800
Weeds Grants	437,400	0	0	(135,500)	280,800	582,700
Weeds Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bulk Water Grants	1,616,500	0	0	(895,200)	0	721,300
Bulk Water Other	2,950,000	(2,154,000)	0	0	0	796,000
Total Externally Restricted	5,428,700	(2,154,000)	0	(1,154,700)	280,800	2,400,800
Internally Restricted:						
Flood Mitigation	588,000	(105,300)	(79,400)	0	(20,300)	383,000
Weeds Biosecurity	2,140,500	(129,500)	0	(500,000)	0	1,511,000
Retail Water	2,914,000	(497,900)	(1,260,100)	(60,000)	(9,800)	1,086,200
Richmond Water Laboratories	252,300	(5,200)	0	0	0	247,100
Property	1,810,900	915,100	(141,800)	0	0	2,584,200
Fleet	1,458,200	(46,500)	0	(50,000)	(250,900)	1,110,800
Bulk Water				0	0	
- Buildings & Structures	738,000	0	0	(738,000)	0	0
- Assets & Programs	16,440,700	6,448,500	(10,136,700)	(12,544,900)	1,169,600	1,377,200
- Employee Leave Entitlement	2,339,500	0	0	0	0	2,339,500
- Electricity	2,610,400	0	0	(2,610,400)	0	0
- Office Equipment & Computer	1,473,400	(373,300)	(110,000)	(27,500)	0	962,600
- Greenhouse Gas Abatement	285,800	(154,600)	0	0	(70,000)	61,200
Total Internally Restricted	33,051,700	6,051,300	(11,728,000)	(16,530,800)	818,600	11,662,800
Total Restricted	38,480,400	3,897,300	(11,728,000)	(17,685,500)	1,099,400	14,063,600

Investment and Cash Bank Statement

The Responsible Accounting Officer certifies that all funds including those under restriction have been invested in accordance with section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* and Council's 'Investment' policy. Council's bank statement has been reconciled up to and including 31 December 2022.

Reconciliation

The YTD cash and investment figure reconciles to the actual balances held as follows:

Cash at Bank (as per bank statements)	3,633,452
Investments on Hand	36,000,000
Reconciled Cash at Bank & Investments	<u>39,633,452</u>

A comparison of the actual cash and investment balance above of \$39,633,452 as at 31 December 2022 to the forecast cash and investment balance of \$16,137,300 as at 30 June 2023, indicates significant spending will need to occur before 30 June 2023 if all forecast works are to be completed

(QBR5) Contractors

Contractor	Contract Details & Purpose	Contract Value (\$) Excluding GST	Contract Date	Duration of Contract	Budgeted (Y/N)
Kingfisher Environmental Consultancy Pty LTd	Coraki Riparian Revegetation Project	78,400	12/10/2022	21 mths	Y
The Comms Team Pty Ltd	Development of Communication and Marketing Plan	68,500	14/10/2022	3 mths	Y
Stantec Australia Pty Ltd	Emigrant Creek Dam Risk Rating Assessment	213,800	21/10/2022	12 mths	Y
MDA Consulting Engineers Pty Ltd	Design for Gallan's Road Worksite	63,900	26/10/2022	5 mths	Y
James Ralph T/as Ralph's Garden Maintenance	Grounds and Garden Maintenance for Gallan's Road Worksite	114,200	15/11/2022	12 mths	Y
Safe@Heights Pty Ltd	Installation of Roof Height Safety Measures	66,000	24/11/2022	5 mths	Y
Net Communications Pty Ltd	Replacement of IT Server	130,000	24/11/2022	4 mths	Y
SAF Australia Pty Ltd	Microwave Bridges Upgrade	87,100	5/12/2022	5 mths	Y
ACS Equip Pty Ltd	Alstonville Groundwater Bores	91,700	21/12/2022	12 mths	Y

Note: Minimum reporting level is 1% of estimated income from continuing operations or \$50,000 whichever is the lesser.

(QBR5) Consultancy and Legal Expenses**Definition of 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.

Expense	Expenditure YTD \$	Budgeted (Y/N)
Consultancies	\$152,400	Y
Legal Fees	\$1,900	Y

Comment: All consultancies and legal expenses incurred to date are within budget allocations. All figures exclude GST.

Consultancies		
	Corporate & Commercial - RAP Advisory	\$5,800
	Corporate & Commercial - Information Systems Strategy Review	\$7,900
	Corporate & Commercial - Debt Advisory Services	\$200
	Corporate & Commercial - Revaluation of Land and Buildings	\$1,500
	Planning & Delivery – Catchment Monitoring Review	\$12,700
	Planning & Delivery – Update Rocky Creek Dam Drawings	\$1,500
	Planning & Delivery – Bulk Water Distribution Modelling	\$40,700
	Planning & Delivery – Dam Safety Management System	\$60,800
	Planning & Delivery – Geotechnical Investigations Coraki Landslip	\$3,000
	Planning & Delivery – Emigrant Creek Reach Property Site Actions	\$7,300
	Planning & Delivery – Emigrant Creek Causeway Construction Estimate	\$11,000
Legal Fees		
	Planning & Delivery – Developer Contributions	\$1,000
	Relocation & Properties - Registration of Lease	\$900

Statement of Expenses for Councillors
Councillor Expenses for the Quarter Ending 31/12/2022 (Q2)

Quarter 2	Other Expenses	Official Business of Council - Travel	Official Business of Council - Professional Development/Training	Total by Councillor (Q2)
Councillor Bruem	0	0	0	0
Councillor Cadwallader	0	0	1,080	1,080
Councillor Gordon	0	0	0	0
Councillor Humphrys	0	112	0	112
Councillor Lyon	1,085	0	0	1,085
Councillor Mustow	0	0	0	0
Councillor Ndiaye	0	0	0	0
Councillor Rob	0	0	1,080	1,080
Total Per Expense Type	1,085	112	2,160	3,357

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total by Councillor YTD
Councillor Bruem	0	0	0	0	0
Councillor Cadwallader	1,326	1,080	0	0	2,406
Councillor Gordon	0	0	0	0	0
Councillor Humphrys	59	112	0	0	172
Councillor Lyon	0	1,085	0	0	1,085
Councillor Mustow	0	0	0	0	0
Councillor Ndiaye	615	0	0	0	615
Councillor Rob	1,095	1,080	0	0	2,175
Total Per Expense Type	3,096	3,357	0	0	6,453

Budget 2022/23 FY 48,600

This information is provided in accordance with paragraph 6.2 of the 'Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities for Chairperson and Councillors' policy.

(QBR56) Key Performance Indicators

In assessing an organisation's financial position, there are several performance indicators that can assist to easily identify whether an organisation is financially sound. These indicators and their associated benchmarks, as stipulated by Office of Local Government, are set out below:

	# Performance Indicator		Flood	Weeds	Retail	RWL	Property	Fleet	Bulk	Consolidated (Whole Organisation)	Local Government Bench Mark
1	Operating Performance	2022/23 Budget Review	(832,100)	(471,700)	(143,000)	24,500	(149,100)	170,500	(3,911,800)	(5,312,700)	Surplus
		2021/22 Actual	(1,940,000)	421,300	(11,300)	(313,700)	(179,400)	116,500	4,120,800	2,214,200	
2	Current Ratio	2022/23 Budget Review	5.10	5.84	32.59	2.34	4.65	26.20	1.14	2.03	> 1.5
		2021/22 Actual	8.98	6.12	83.31	4.00	3.35	34.04	3.49	4.08	
3	Debt Service Cover Ratio	2022/23 Budget Review	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.77	2.08	> 2
		2021/22 Actual	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.68	2.60	
4	Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio	2022/23 Budget Review	1%	1%	100%	100%	100%	100%	84%	78%	> 60%
		2021/22 Actual	0%	2%	100%	100%	100%	100%	77%	75%	
5	Building and Infrastructure Renewals Ratio	2022/23 Budget Review	0.22 : 1	-	-	-	1.24 : 1	-	1.66 : 1	1.45 : 1	> 1:1
		2021/22 Actual	0.02 : 1	-	-	-	0.00 : 1	-	0.68 : 1	0.62 : 1	

Comments on Key Performance Indicators

Please note that comments relate to the consolidated financial indicators.

1. Operating Result Before Capital Contributions

The operating result is the surplus or deficit that Council makes from normal operations (including depreciation) excluding expenditure on capital items. A surplus is a positive financial indicator.

Comment: Council's operating result (deficit) before capital items has decreased compared with the original budgeted deficit of \$5,787,100. Due to the existing reserve balances Council has, a conscious decision has been made not to adhere to this benchmark.

Original Budgeted Deficit	(\$5,787,100)
Projected Year End Result 2022/23	(\$5,312,700)
	\$474,400

The decrease can be attributed to carry over works (\$1.256M) reinstated from 2021/22, operating expenses (\$393K), salaries (\$637K) and fleet expenses (\$89K) offset by an increase in interest on investments (\$576K), grant revenue (\$569K), insurance claims (\$829K) and loan financing costs (\$875K).

Carryovers / Reinstatements	(\$1,256,000)
Expenses	(\$243,900)
Revenue	\$1,974,300
	\$474,400

Note: Operating results include depreciation of \$7,813,800 which is non-cash.

2. Current Ratio Liquidity

The current ratio measures Council's ability to pay existing liabilities in the next 12 months. A ratio greater than one is a positive financial indicator.

Comment: The above ratio means that for every dollar Council owes in the short term, it has \$2.03 available in assets that can be converted to cash.

3. Debt Service Cover Ratio

This ratio demonstrates the cost of servicing Council's annual debt obligations (loan repayments, both principal and interest) as a portion of available revenue from ordinary activities. A higher ratio is a positive financial indicator.

Comment: Ratio, as a percentage of ordinary revenue, is consistent with the Long-Term Financial Plan.

4. Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio

This ratio measures fiscal flexibility. It is the degree of reliance on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions. A Council's financial flexibility improves the higher the level of its own source revenue. A higher ratio is a positive financial indicator.

Comment: The above percentage demonstrates that the majority of Council's income is generated from user fees and charges, i.e. water sales.

5. Building and Infrastructure Renewal Ratio

This ratio indicates the rate of renewal/replacement of existing assets against the depreciation of the same category of assets. A ratio greater than one is a positive financial indicator.

Comment: The current ratio reflects an above benchmark forecast.

Grant application information

This table provides information on grant applications that have been approved or submitted up to time of preparation of the QBRS. Any grants that may have been approved after that date or that have been applied for, will be covered in future reports. The details of new grants, including grants awaiting a determination, are provided below. A financial update on existing grants has also been provided.

Note: all totals are GST exclusive

Grant Name	Reporting Unit	Synopsis	Funding Body	Program	Project Length	Total Project Value	Grant Funding	Council Funding	Total Expenditure to Date	Balance of Approved Funds to Spend
2022/23 New Grant Applications Awaiting Determination										
Rous Regional Water Supply Drought Readiness Project Stage 1 - Woodburn Bore 3 Drought Readiness	Bulk	FWP 2060 - Drought contingency water supply at existng Woodburn groundwater bore.	DITRDC	Building Better Regions Fund - Infrastructure Projects Stream Round 6	6 mths	481,300	240,650	240,650		
Langs Hill to Broadwater Water Main Augmentation	Bulk	Replacement of drinking water supply to Broadwater with a larger main.	DITRDC	Building Better Regions Fund - Infrastructure Projects Stream Round 6	6 mths	1,942,700	971,350	971,350		
Active Grants That Have Been Previously Reported										
Voluntary House Raising	Flood	Facilitate the voluntary house raising of 2 homes in the Lismore area.	DPIE	Floodplain Management Grants Scheme	12 mths	187,800	187,800	-	60,228	127,551
Coastal Management Plan	Flood	Stage one of the Richmond River Coastal Management program scoping study	DPIE	Floodplain Management Grants Scheme	18 mths	149,997	100,594	49,999	145,528	4,469
Water Quality Monitoring 2019-22	Flood	Richmond River water quality monitoring project	DPIE	Coastal & Estuary Grants Program	36 mths	199,768	99,884	99,884	145,832	53,936
Flood Maintenance 2018-22	Flood	Fourth year of a four year grant. Each year Council approves spending on this project in excess of the required 1:2 (funding per the agreement \$169,200).	DPIE	Floodplain Management Grants Scheme	48 mths	676,800	84,600 p.a.	84,600 p.a.	125,708	158,292
Coraki Riparian Project	Flood	Richmond River coastal riparian project at Coraki	DPIE	Fish Habitat Action Grant	12 mths	112,160	40,000	72,160	344	111,816
Weeds Action Program 2020-25	Weeds	Funding allocated annually	DPIE	North Coast Weeds Action Program 2020-25	12 mths	1,267,500	642,500	625,000	736,323	531,177
WAP New Weed Incursion – Parthenium Weed Rapid Response	Weeds	Rapid response to control prohibited Matter species – parthenium weed	NSW DPI	New Weed Incursion	12 mths	25,000	15,000	10,000	19,902	5,098
North Coast Bushfire Recovery – Delivery of – W1 Tropical Soda Apple Landholder Engagement Project in the North Coast (5 years)	Weeds	Tropical Soda Apple Landholder Engagement and Compliance Program – delivery of 210 property inspections	LLS & DPI	NSW Bushfire Recovery Stimulus	60 mths	236,000	214,000	22,000	161,654	74,346
Tropical Soda Apple (Riparian/High Risk Pathways)	Weeds	Tropical Soda Apple - strategic and ongoing control in high-risk pathways.	LLS	Small Grants Funding	8 mths	47,750	42,750	5,000	24,996	22,754
Richmond and Wilsons Rivers NSW Flood Mitigation Planning	Flood	This planning project is anticipated to reduce the risk and improve resilience of the community to floods in the natural environment by conducting a comprehensive scan of strategic disaster risks and mitigation options for the Richmond River Catchment.	DISER	Preparing Australian Communities – Local Stream Program	3 years	250,000	250,000	-	-	250,000
High Risk Site Surveillance for Frogbit and Parthenium	Weeds	Flood modelling, surveillance and control works at identified high risk sites for Frogbit and Parthenium weeds.	DPE	NSW Weeds Action Program – State Priority Weeds Coordination and Response	-	16,000	15,000	1,000	11,907	4,093
Miconia 2022-2024	Weeds	Miconia weed surveillance and control services in Northern NSW	QLD DAF	Miconia Weed Surveillance 2022-2024	36 mths	298,000	298,000	-	62,646	235,354
Early Needs Weed Management	Weeds	Early Needs Weed Management Project	LLS	Early Needs Weed Management Program	24 mths	710,000	710,000	0	59,512	650,488
Natural Resource Management Flood Water Sustainability Project Grant	Water	Emergency Repairs Claim	Public Works Advisory	Northern Rivers March 2022 Flood/Water Sewerage Program	-	1,600,000	1,600,000	0	192,219	1,407,781

Legal

In accordance with clause 203 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, Council's financial position is satisfactory having regard to the original estimate of income and expenditure and Council's projected short-term liquidity position.

Consultation

This report was prepared in consultation with the General Manager and relevant staff.

Conclusion

In summary, all budget items other than those identified in the report have performed within the parameters set by Council in adopting the 2022/23 Operational Plan.

An update will be provided at a future Council meeting regarding a revision of the current internal reserves policy.

Retail water customer account assistance

Responsible Officer: Group Manager Corporate and Commercial (Geoff Ward)

Recommendation

That Council:

- a) In accordance with section 356(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* and its 'Retail Water Customer Account Assistance' policy, approve financial assistance as listed in Table 1 of this report.
- b) Receive and note the 'Retail Water Customer Account Assistance Report' will cease to be presented to Council.
- c) Receive and note that a bi-annual financial assistance information report will instead be presented to Council.

Background

One application for financial assistance in accordance with Council's '*Retail Water Customer Account Assistance*' policy has been received. Details of the application are set out in 'Table 1' below.

With the addition of section 377 (1A) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the General Manager can now approve the granting of financial assistance without a resolution from Council. Therefore, our previous practice of presenting the applications for financial assistance for Council approval will be ceasing after this report.

Future applications for financial assistance will be determined by the General Manager under delegation dated 17 August 2022. An information report will be provided to Council bi-annually to provide the details of financial assistance granted during the periods 1 January to 30 June and 1 July to 31 December each year.

Table 1

Section 356 (non pensioner)					
Account	Date application received	Nature of leak	Original water charges due	S356 financial assistance to be approved	Adjusted water charges due after approval
11698-11000-1	25-Nov-22	Burst pipe underground between meter and roadway 30 meters downstream of water meter	\$8,516.02	\$5,345.48	\$3,170.54
Total			\$8,516.02	\$5,345.48	\$3,170.54

Finance

The 2022/23 financial year budget allocation for applications made in accordance with the '*Retail Water Customer Account Assistance*' policy is \$25,000.

2022/23 financial year budget	\$25,000.00	<u>No. of applications</u>
S356 assistance approved financial year to date	\$18,728.90	6
S582 assistance approved financial year to date	\$0.00	
S582 assistance approved since last Council meeting	\$0.00	
Proposed S356 assistance approval this Council meeting	\$5,345.48	1
Proposed S582 assistance approval this Council meeting	\$0.00	
Budget remaining 2022/23 financial year	\$925.62	

Legal

Section 356 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) allows Council to 'contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance'. Section 377(1A) allows Council to delegate to the General Manager authority to grant financial assistance provided it is (a) part of a specified program (b) included in the Operational Plan (c) the program budget does not exceed 5% of Council's income for that year, and (d) the program applies to all persons uniformly.

Conclusion

The total value of the section 356 financial assistance equates to \$ 5,345.48 by application of Council's '*Retail Water Customer Account Assistance*' policy. It is recommended that Council grant the recommended financial assistance.

Finalisation of the Scoping Study for the Richmond River Coastal Management Program

Responsible Officer: Group Manager Planning and Delivery (Andrew Logan)

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receive and note the submissions report outlining the public exhibition process and outcomes associated with the Scoping Study (Stage 1 of the *Richmond River Coastal Management Program*).
2. Endorse finalisation of the Scoping Study as outlined in the submissions report.

Background

Under the NSW coastal management framework, local councils are to prepare Coastal Management Programs (CMPs) that set the long-term strategy for the coordinated management of the coast, consistent with the objectives of the *Coastal Management Act 2016*. A CMP is prepared in five stages:

Stage 1: Identify the scope of a CMP

Stage 2: Determine risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities

Stage 3: Identify and evaluate options

Stage 4: Prepare, exhibit, finalise, certify and adopt the CMP

Stage 5: Implement, monitor, evaluate and report.

This report relates to Stage 1 of this process.

At the ordinary meeting of Rous County Council (RCC) on 17 April 2019, Council resolved *inter alia* (Resolution No. 16/19) to “Proceed to commence development of a Coastal Management Program (CMP) for the Richmond River estuary in 2019/20 through the conduct of a Stage 1 Scoping Study.”

The Richmond River estuary is situated within three local government areas: Ballina Shire Council, (BSC); Lismore City Council, (LCC); and Richmond Valley Council, (RVC). RCC is responsible for flood mitigation activities and related natural resource management issues on behalf of these local councils within this zone. In accordance with our service level agreement with these councils, over the past 18 months RCC (and consultants *Hydrosphere Consulting*) – in partnership with key stakeholders have prepared the *Scoping Study for the Richmond River Coastal Management Program*. The Scoping Study has been undertaken on a whole-of-catchment basis so as to understand all of the pressures on the coastal zone. Given this whole-of-catchment focus, the Scoping Study has also been prepared in partnership with Byron Shire Council and Kyogle Council.

The purpose of this report is to summarise the public exhibition process conducted for the Scoping Study, and to secure endorsement for finalisation of the report.

Governance

- **Integrated Planning and Reporting**

Strategic objective 1.1.2 under the *Sustainable delivery* key theme contained within the *Business Activity Strategic Plan 2022-2032* involves “Development of the Coastal Management Program for the Richmond River Estuary”.

- **Finance**

Inclusive of critical tasks and associated project management, the Forward Program included in the Scoping Study identifies a 3 year investment required (for completion of Stages 2-4 of the CMP preparation) of \$1,038,000. Grant funding is available through the *Coastal and Estuary Grants Program* at a 2:1 ratio.

For RCC, the following funding contributions to this grant application process would be required to complete the subsequent stages of the CMP preparation:

2023/24:	\$34,500
2024/25:	\$27,000
2025/26	\$15,200

RCC’s Long Term Financial Plan for the Flood Mitigation service delivery function includes an annual allocation for coastal management implementation/actions. This 3 year total of \$76,700 would be sourced through this allocation and incorporated into the Long Term Financial Plan.

- **Legal**

Under the *Coastal Management Act 2016* there is no legal requirement for a Scoping Study to be placed on public exhibition.

Consultation

Preparation of the Scoping Study involved a community input/consultation phase, extensive engagement with catchment stakeholders and a series of workshops with all catchment councils.

The Final Draft Scoping Study was placed on public exhibition for a 3 week period (from 21 November to 16 December 2022) providing the invited stakeholders and the broader community the opportunity to review the Final Draft Scoping Study. The Scoping Study has also been reviewed by internal stakeholders.

A Submissions Report has been prepared that summarises the details of the submissions received, the comments made and how the comments have been addressed. A copy of the Submissions Report is attached.

Conclusion

RCC and its consultants – in partnership with catchment councils - have completed all requirements of the NSW Coastal Management Manual in relation to the conduct of a Stage 1 Scoping Study. Subject to adoption of the recommendations by RCC, the Scoping Study shall be finalised as outlined in the submissions report. RCC staff shall then proceed to lodge the Stage 2 grant application and commence preparation of the technical specification for the Stage 2 initiatives.

Attachment

1. Richmond River Estuary Coastal Management Program Scoping Study: Public Exhibition – Submissions Report



Richmond River Estuary Coastal Management Program Scoping Study

Public Exhibition – Submissions Report

Final Report

January 2023

Disclaimer:

This report has been prepared on behalf of and for the exclusive use of Rous County Council and is subject to and issued in accordance with the agreement between Rous County Council and Hydrosphere Consulting. Hydrosphere Consulting accepts no liability or responsibility whatsoever for it in respect of any use of or reliance upon this report by any third party.

Copying this report without the permission of Rous County Council or Hydrosphere Consulting is not permitted.

Hydrosphere Consulting Pty Ltd
Suite 6, 26-54 River Street
PO Box 7059, BALLINA NSW 2478
hydrosphere.com.au

© Copyright 2023 Hydrosphere Consulting

**21-016 RICHMOND RIVER ESTUARY CMP SCOPING STUDY
PUBLIC EXHIBITION SUBMISSIONS REPORT**

REV	DESCRIPTION	AUTHORS	REVIEW	APPROVAL	DATE
0	Report for Client review	K. Pratt	M. Howland	M. Howland	12 Jan 2023
1	Final	K. Pratt	R. Campbell	M. Howland	23 Jan 2023

CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.	EXHIBITION PROCESS	1
3.	SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED.....	1
APPENDIX 1	SUBMISSIONS.....	25

TABLES

Table 1: Summary of submissions received by type.....	2
Table 2: Summary of formal submissions, responses, and proposed amendments to draft CMP	3

1. INTRODUCTION

Hydrosphere Consulting has prepared a draft *Richmond River Estuary Coastal Management Program Scoping Study* (Hydrosphere Consulting, 2022) on behalf of Rous County Council (RCC). The draft CMP has been developed in accordance with the *Coastal Management Act 2016* and the *Coastal Management Manual* (OEH, 2018).

The draft *Scoping Study* (Hydrosphere Consulting, 2022) presents the outcomes of Stage 1 in the Coastal Management Program planning process. The Scoping Study reviewed the status of current issues and management and identifies the focus of the new CMP.

2. EXHIBITION PROCESS

The draft CMP Scoping Study was placed on public exhibition between 21st November 2022 and 16th December 2022 (25 days). Public exhibition of the Scoping Study was promoted widely through various media and social media platforms as well as direct contact with stakeholders. Public promotion included:

- Direct email notification and reminders to stakeholders who had previously registered an interest and/or been involved with project development;
- Media and advertising including media releases and newspaper notices (e.g., The Echo 21/11/2022 <https://www.echo.net.au/2022/11/community-input-sought-on-richmond-river-estuary-plan/>)
- Social media posts on Council Facebook pages.
- Information on Ballina, Lismore, Byron, Kyogle, Richmond Valley, and Rous County Council webpages.
- Information and downloads on the project webpage: www.hydrosphere.com.au/richmondrivercmp

Written submissions were made either through the online communication portal on the project website or direct to the Project Team via email or post. The mailbox was monitored after the official exhibition period to allow for mail transit times and in case of last-minute submissions. Written confirmation was sent to all those who provided a submission, including a link to the project website for further updates.

3. SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

A total of eight formal submissions were received during the public exhibition period for the draft CMP Scoping Study. An additional submission from DPE (Department of Planning and Environment) - Crown Lands was received on 22nd December 2022, four business days after the end of the public exhibition period and has been incorporated into this submissions report. Submissions were provided by individual members of the community, community groups and government agencies. A summary of submission types is provided as Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of submissions received by type

Submission type	Total no. of submissions
Individual community member	3
Community group / organisation	2
Government agency	3
Education Sector	1
TOTALS	9

Formal submissions received during public exhibition are summarised in Table 2 together with a response to the points raised in the submissions and proposed amendments to be made to the draft CMP Scoping Study. In some cases, comments have been paraphrased/summarised to fit the table format. The original submissions are attached in full as Appendix 1 (note that the personal details of individual community members have been removed).

The majority of submissions received were in support of the CMP Scoping Study and recognised the need for actions to improve waterway and coastal environment health. Waterway health was the key issue discussed. Other topics raised included recreational uses (e.g. sailing, fishing), cultural fishing, benefits of oyster reefs, the need for a whole-of-catchment approach, socio-economic factors, barriers to change and flooding. One submission focussed on catchment flooding issues and provided flood mitigation options for the Richmond River. Flood mitigation is not discussed in the CMP Scoping Study and this issue is currently being investigated by the Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative (CSIRO). Over half of the respondents expressed willingness to be included in future stages of the CMP. Three submissions provided editorial suggestions including text changes and the update of government agency names since the draft Scoping Study was prepared. Four submissions suggested additional information be considered by the Scoping Study.

The Department of Planning and Environment – Biodiversity Conservation Division (DPE – BCD) has been a key partner in the development of the CMP Scoping Study along with RCC and the estuary and catchment councils. DPE – BCD representatives have provided input into the Stage 1 CMP documentation which has already been incorporated in the draft Scoping Study. On 13th January 2023, four weeks after the end of the public exhibition period, additional comments on the Scoping Study were provided to RCC by DPE – BCD. As discussed with DPE, these comments have not been incorporated into this submission report and are not proposed to be included in the final Stage 1 CMP Scoping Study but will be used to inform stages 2, 3 and 4 of the CMP development.

On 31st January 2023, six weeks after the end of the public exhibition period, an additional submission was provided by a local Fisheries/Veterinary Researcher. These comments have not been incorporated into this submission report and are not proposed to be included in the final Stage 1 CMP Scoping Study but will be used to inform stages 2, 3 and 4 of the CMP development.

Table 2: Summary of formal submissions, responses, and proposed amendments to draft CMP

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
1	Respondent #1	1.1	Provided a 360° panorama drone image over the Bagotville Barrage.	Noted	No change
		1.2	Information provided on historical drainage modifications in Tuckean Swamp and ongoing impacts on water quality.	Noted. Information provided is consistent with the Scoping Study.	No change
2	Respondent #2	2.1	Provided the paper: <i>Mitigation of Future Flooding of Ballina Township and its surrounds</i> (Loughrey, 2022, unpublished). The submission noted that the paper was submitted to the project in previous consultation phase of the CMP. The paper had been revised since previous submission, updated version dated Nov 2022.	There is no record of previous contact or submissions from Respondent #2 for this project. It is possible the paper was previously provided to another project such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ballina Coastline CMP Scoping Study (Water Technology, 2022), or Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative (CSIRO) aimed at identifying options to reduce flood risk (first phase completed in Nov 2022). 	No change
		2.3	The paper includes recommendations for flood mitigation including: dredging of the Richmond River, opening the Tuckombil Canal, real-time rain gauges and construction of flood gates/diversionary canals from the Richmond River directly to the ocean, investigation into hydrological impact on Pacific Motorway upgrade, construct the Dunoon Dam and diversion of water inland.	The Richmond River Estuary CMP Scoping Study does not discuss flood mitigation options. In terms of flooding issues, the CMP Scoping Study focusses on discussion of impacts of flooding on estuary health. The NSW Floodplain Management Program is the primary program implemented by state and local government to manage flood risk. In addition, flood mitigation options in the Northern Rivers are currently being assessed by Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative in response to the Northern Rivers major flooding events in Feb/Mar 2022.	No change

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		2.4	<p>The paper includes analysis of flooding factors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build Dams in the Catchment Areas 2. Real Time Reporting of Rainfall 3. Webpage for Flood Information 4. Divert Surplus Water Inland 5. Dredge the Mouth of the Richmond River 6. Open the Tuckombil Canal 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Richmond River Estuary CMP Scoping Study focusses on factors affecting estuary health. Scoping Study Section 4.3.4 <i>Waterway modifications and water extraction</i>, discusses the construction of dams, weirs and floodplain drainage in the catchment. The Literature Review Section 8.6 discusses water extraction in more detail. Water supply/ dams/ water regulation and planning is outside the scope of the CMP. Refer 2. Not relevant to the CMP 3. Not relevant to the CMP 4. Not relevant to the CMP 5. Any dredging options have potential implications for estuary health. The mouth of the Richmond River is outside the study area of the Richmond River estuary CMP. The river mouth is within the study area of the Ballina Coastline CMP. 6. The Tuckombil Canal is discussed in Section 8.1.8 of the Literature Review. 	No change

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		2.3	<p>The submission included a request for advice as follows:</p> <p>“Could you please advise me on the flow that could be expected to be carried in a diversion (a “Circuit Breaker”), in the form of a 6 metre wide, 3 metre deep canal, cut in sand, with flood gates at each end, constructed through the cane farms, from the Richmond River to the Ocean (a distance of approximately 2km) as shown in this concept plan.</p> <p>Note: the exact location and number of these diversions would be the subject of further studies and discussions with the owners of these cane farms.</p> <p>My interest is to gain some idea of the flow which a channel such as this would provide in time of flood.”</p>	<p>As above (2.2).</p> <p>Not within the scope of the CMP Scoping Study</p> <p>RCC to consider responding to this request or referring to other relevant organisation (e.g., Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative or Ballina Council) as appropriate.</p>	No change
3	Richmond River Sailing and Rowing Club	3.1	<p>“The Richmond River Sailing and Rowing Club has been sailing on the lower reaches of the Richmond River since 1937. We have a clubhouse on the banks of the river just East of the town of Ballina and we have an active membership of around 60 sailors. The health of the river is of vital concern to us as we often get immersed in it during our sailing adventures.”</p>	Noted	No change
		3.3	<p>“Debris, pollution and toxins in the river water are of major concern to us all as sailors.”</p>	Noted	No change

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		3.4	Expressed interest in becoming a stakeholder of the project and outlined details and activities of club.	Noted. Include Richmond River Sailing and Rowing Club in future stages of CMP consultation.	No change
		3.5	Provided photos to illustrate connection with and use of the river.	Noted (see attached)	No change

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
4	Respondent #4	4.1	<p>“Quick scan only – lack of strongly stated comments around the need for whole of catchment management – as the estuary is where all the issues collide”</p>	<p>A whole-of-catchment approach is recommended by the Scoping Study (see Section 1.2, Page 4, Richmond River Catchment, Section 1.2 Vision “<i>Working together with a whole-of-catchment approach to improve the health of the Richmond River estuary</i>” and repeatedly throughout document)</p> <p>Also note Section 2.1 of the Scoping Study that discusses the DPE formal guidelines/advice about the inclusion of catchment issues and actions in a CMP (DPE, 2022a). The advice states that the principal focus of any implementation actions included in a CMP (Stage 4) should be directed towards areas included in the coastal zone. The coastal zone is defined as four distinct coastal management areas mapped in the CM SEPP generally in direct vicinity of estuaries, coastal wetlands, littoral rainforest and the coastline. Councils can apply for Coast and Estuary Grant funding for actions outside the coastal zone providing that it can be demonstrated that the action will significantly benefit the coastal zone and satisfy the program criteria. The Scoping Study includes discussion of catchment-based drivers and their impacts on the coastal zone and estuary which is considered appropriate and in line with the recent DPE advice.</p>	No change

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		4.2	“Whilst Border Ranges and Nightcap are identified Gondwana properties, Richmond Range, Toonumbar World Heritage areas not seen.”	Agreed	Add Richmond Range and Toonumbar National Parks to list of World Heritage properties in Section 4.3.1.
		4.3	“Comment that stewardship only applies to govt land?”	Threat T51 of the Risk Assessment is <i>“Insufficient public land available to establish stewardship sites to offset loss of native vegetation through land development”</i> . This refers specifically to issues associated with the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme. Stage 2 of the CMP will consider options for establishment of stewardship sites on all land (not restricted to government land).	No change
		4.4	“Comment that demo site locations are Council land?”	Yes – demonstration sites are proposed for Council owned land.	No change
		4.5	“Comments re socio economic status correct, inadequately connected to potential for private landholders to address on site issues (that they have largely inherited).”	Noted. The Scoping Study discussed the issues associated with a catchment under private ownership (73% of catchment land area) and barriers to change including lack of financial incentive and social barriers.	No change

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		4.6	"Need to discuss land and river stewardship and environmental market opportunities that could be made available to private landholders."	Recommended CMP Stage 2 Study 2.4 is <i>"Establish community priorities for waterway health, willingness to pay and potential funding options"</i> . This study will assess market opportunities and funding options.	No change
		4.7	"The real issue is in our heads and paradigms – need to explore societal change options for renewed paradigms and development of motivation to change – with technical and financial support."	Noted. As above (Ref # 4.5)	No change
5	Sophie Pryor – OzFish	5.1	"Overall, this is a well-presented scoping study, and its implementation will positively impact the Richmond's health and our community. On behalf of OzFish, I believe the following considerations will strengthen the final Richmond River Estuary CMP Stage 1 Scoping Study."	Noted	No change

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		5.2	<p>“4.3.2 Geology, soils and geomorphology</p> <p>It could be worthwhile noting here that there are substantial soil inputs from top soil runoff and erosion into the Richmond, which impacts water quality.”</p>	<p>Section 4.3.2. discusses “<i>highly erodible soils in the mid and upper catchment</i>” as a key issue. More details about sediment runoff and pollution are provided in Section 4.3.5 Nutrient and sediment pollution* and Literature review (supporting doc). *Noted ‘Nutrient and sediment pollution’ heading not formatted correctly in document.</p>	<p>Section 4.3.2 – add reference to topsoil runoff and water quality decline because of erosion.</p> <p>Section 4.3.5 Format to correct heading – “Nutrient and sediment pollution “</p>
		5.3	<p>“4.3.5 Waterway health</p> <p>Diffuse source pollution - Monosulfidic Black Ooze is only mentioned in the glossary and should be incorporated into the waterway health section, given it’s a driving water quality issue in areas such as Keith Hall.”</p>	<p>MBO is discussed in detail in the Literature review (supporting doc).</p>	<p>Section 4.3.5 – add summary of MBO issue from Literature Review.</p>

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		5.4	<p>“4.4.2 Bank erosion</p> <p>Sedimentation in the main river channel is not considered to be a significant issue as most of this sediment is thought to be transported to the ocean during major events, with very little evidence of sedimentation or infilling of the river channel detected in 2007 river surveys documented in ABER (2007) was not the case following flooding in early 2022, where large quantities of sediment were deposited.”</p>	<p>The Draft Scoping Study was finalised prior to the 2022 major flooding events. Amendments would require further work to obtain and review available data on sediment deposition following 2022 floods.</p>	<p>Section 4.4.2 – amend section if information readily available.</p>
		5.5	<p>“4.6.2 Fishing</p> <p>Here, you mention that oysters were once grown for aquaculture. It is also worth noting that oyster reefs were once spread throughout the lower estuary—these reefs were an important cultural food source and provided fish habitat and water filtration. Oyster reef loss can be attributed to poor water quality and over-harvesting.”</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>Section 4.6.2 - add discussion of naturally occurring oyster reefs.</p>

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		5.6	<p>“4.7.2 Climate change</p> <p>Ocean acidification will pose a risk in the estuary. Additionally, both aquatic and terrestrial range shifts will be seen, impacting species composition. In some instances, exotic pest species (e.g., tilapia) could invade the Richmond. Increased temperatures and competition will cause stress or even localised extinctions for some species.”</p>	Agreed	Section 4.7.2 – add discussion of additional climate change risks.
		5.7	<p>“Table 10, 2.1- OzFish has undertaken substantial habitat restoration projects throughout the Richmond River Catchment and could be listed here as a support agency.”</p>	We have avoided naming specific non-government organisations. OzFish is captured as industry, and community groups.	No change
		5.8	<p>“Table 10, 2.9 - NSW DPE is looking to develop a similar tool”</p>	This action is to be developed in collaboration with DPE who were part of the Steering Committee for the Scoping Study.	No change
6	Louise Orr – General Manager North Coast Local Land Services (NC LLS)	6.1	<p>“North Coast Local Land Services (North Coast LLS) offers in principle support for the directions set by the Study, Literature Review and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and how they will inform Stages 2-5 of the CMP development.”</p>	Noted	No change

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		6.2	"The Study broadly aligns with the directions and priorities set by the North Coast Local Strategic Plan 2021-2026 and the recently completed North Coast LLS Natural Resource Management Plan 2022-2026."	Noted	No change

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		6.3	<p>“The Study is relevant to our current and future contribution to the management of Richmond waterway health, whereby:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It identifies land management issues we consider significant, in particular, the need for catchment based flood and bushfire recovery and the need to build the capacity of community and landholders to better cope with natural disaster events int the future. • It captures the background that justifies delivery of our existing and new projects including those funded by our Australian Government River Restoration Program, NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy (MEMS) Program and the soon to be released Australian Government National Landcare Program Funding Program. • It recognises our role and the potential we have to support the future implementation of the CMP.” 	Noted	No change

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		6.4	<p>“Provide updated reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The directions and priorities set by the Draft Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy • The directions and priorities set by the recently completed North Coast Local Land Services Natural Resource Management Plan 2022-2026 • The outcomes of the recently completed Catchment Governance and Waterway Health (Richmond River) Project • The achievements of organisations (including North Coast LLS) currently delivering projects that are addressing river recovery, flood recovery, bushfire recovery, and improvements in community capacity to cope with natural disasters.” 	<p>Several new / updated plans have become available since completion of Draft Scoping Study.</p>	<p>Add / update details for new plans where available to Scoping Study. Do not propose to revisit / modify Literature Review.</p>
		6.5	<p>“On page 15 of the Scoping Study Document, change the names on Figure 5 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Coast Local Land Services Local Strategic Plan 2021-2026 • Add the newly completed North Coast Local Land Services Natural Resource Management Plan 2022-2026” 	<p>These new / updated plans have become available since completion of Draft Scoping Study.</p>	<p>Figure 5 – update with new/ updated plans</p>

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		6.6	<p>“On page 63 of the Scoping Study Document, change North Coast Local Land Services text to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North Coast LLS plays a key role in supporting adoption of best practice land management by landholders and partnering with key stakeholders to deliver waterway and coastal environment health outcomes. - North Coast LLS provides a certification and advisory role in relation to vegetation management/ clearing in non-urban areas with NSW DPIE - EES providing a compliance role. - LLS is also responsible for approval and extension services for private native forestry with the EPA responsible for compliance and enforcement. - North Coast LLS also is a current Regional Service Provider on behalf of the Federal Government to meet their legislative and programmatic requirements and aspirations in the North Coast region - The North Coast LLS region extends from Tweed Shire Council in the north to Port Macquarie-Hastings Council in the south.” 	Agreed	Table 4 - Replace with text provided

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		6.7	"North Coast LLS looks forward to participating in the remaining stages of the CMP's development. We anticipate providing actions during Stage 2-3 consultation that will ultimately contribute to improvements in waterway and coastal environment health.	Noted Add contact details provided to stakeholder register for future stages of the CMP.	No change
7	Brendan Cox – Southern Cross University	7.1	Provided PhD thesis and copy of a published paper titled ' <i>Comparative analysis of macroinvertebrate based-indices for assessment and monitoring of river health in the sub-tropical Richmond River Catchment, northeast NSW.</i> ' Suggested data from the river health assessment included in the study from 2016/2017 across 40 sites in the Richmond River catchment may be useful to include.	Will include research paper for consideration in Stage 2 Studies.	No change Do not propose to revisit / modify Literature Review.
		7.2	The paper concluded the river health within the Richmond River catchment was poor, with elevated nutrients, high suspended solids and lower dissolved oxygen. The condition decreased from upper to lower catchment sites.	This is consistent with the Scoping Study.	No change

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
8	Malcom Robertson – DPE Crown Lands	8.1	<p>“Richmond River CMP Scoping Study – Literature Review</p> <p>The literature review references Crown Lands in DPIE. References to Crown Lands should be. as follows: Department of Planning and Environment – Crown Lands, thereafter DPE – Crown Lands.”</p>	Naming conventions were correct at the time of writing the Literature Review mid-2021.	n/a Do not propose to revisit / modify Literature Review.
		8.2	<p>“Section 5.4, Table 4 Management roles and responsibilities</p> <p>Under Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) or DPE – Crown Lands consider including the following: There are areas of Crown land within the study area, subject to outstanding claims lodged under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983.”</p>	Agreed	Section 5.4, Table 4 - Include suggested text
		8.3	<p>“Section 5.4, Table 4 Management roles and responsibilities</p> <p>Scoping study didn't seem to address non-Council Crown Land Managers. Perhaps the scoping study could acknowledge that non-council CLMs may exist within the study area. Update Table 4 under the DPE - Crown Lands section to include that there are non-Council Crown Land Managers within the study area.”</p>	Agreed	Section 5.4, Table 4 - Include suggested text

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		8.4	<p>“The Maritime Infrastructure Delivery Office (MIDO), has now transferred to Transport for NSW. MIDO are responsible for state owned coastal infrastructure such as river entrance break walls, regional harbours, the NSW Coastal Dredging Strategy, ‘NSW Boating Now’ and the ‘NSW Boating Access Dredging program’. This is not a joint program with DPE - Crown Lands. Please amend text accordingly.”</p>	Agreed	Section 5.4, Table 4 – amend text
		8.5	<p>“Section 7.2 Funding Page 83. Other funding opportunities include the NSW Environment Trust, DPE - Crown Lands funding. Please remove Crown Lands funding and replace with Crown Reserves Improvement Fund (CRIF). This funding program supports Crown land managers (CLMs) by providing funding for repairs, maintenance and improvements on Crown reserves.”</p>	Agreed	Section 7.2, amend text

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		8.6	<p>“Section 7.5 CMP Development, Table 10. Forward Plan</p> <p>Could stage 2 of the CMP investigate and identify existing foreshore coastal assets within the study area. This process could identify 'orphaned' coastal assets and assess risk / condition of these assets. This could lead to better management and the consideration of ownership and governance of 'orphaned' coastal assets within the study area.”</p>	<p>Unclear what coastal assets are being referred to. Requires further consultation with DPE Crown Lands.</p> <p>Consider a possible additional Stage 2 study subject to further discussion with Crown Lands.</p>	TBA

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
9	Jonathan Yantsch – DPI - Fisheries	9.1	<p>DPI Fisheries administers the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> (FM Act) and is responsible for ensuring that fish stocks are conserved and that there is “no net loss” of key fish habitats upon which they depend.</p> <p>Consistent with those objectives, DPI Fisheries is also responsible for promoting viable commercial fishing and aquaculture industries, quality recreational fishing opportunities and the continuation of Aboriginal cultural fishing. DPI Fisheries also administers the Marine Estate Management Act (MEMA) 2014. This act provides for the strategic and integrated management of the whole marine estate which includes marine waters, coasts and estuaries. It does this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of the marine estate consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development; • Facilitating the maintenance of ecological integrity, and economic, social, cultural and scientific opportunities; and • Providing for a comprehensive system of marine parks and aquatic reserves. 	Noted	No change

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		9.2	<p>Finally, DPI Fisheries partners with other agencies in working toward achieving the NSW State Government’s vision for the NSW marine estate, that being “A healthy coast and sea, managed for the greatest wellbeing of the community, now and into the future.” To achieve this, the NSW Government released the NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy 2018-2028 (MEMS) (https://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/marine-estate-programs/marine-estate-management-strategy). DPI Fisheries and other government agencies are currently working on a range of projects, under the nine initiatives of MEMS, to address priority threats and risks to the environmental assets and the social, cultural and economic benefits that are derived from the marine estate.</p>	Noted	No change
		9.3	<p>DPI Fisheries is satisfied that the draft Richmond River CMP Scoping study captures the key values of the study area and the main threats and risks to these values.</p>	Noted	No change

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		9.4	DPI Fisheries highlights that floodplain issues including acid and black water generation and discharge into the river in addition to other diffuse source water quality issues continue to be the most severe threats to the values of the study area and therefore should be prioritised as focus areas of the CMP. These issues are well addressed in the draft CMP scoping study and should continue to be focal points of the CMP development.	Noted	No change
		9.5	DPI Fisheries looks forward to working with Hydrosphere, Rous County Council and other integral Councils on the development of the CMP.	Noted	No change

APPENDIX 1 SUBMISSIONS

From: Respondent #1
To: [Richmond River CMP](#)
Subject: Submission on RRCMP Scoping Study
Date: Monday, 21 November 2022 1:02:07 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Hello

Recently took this 360degree panorama over the Bagotville Barrage and thought this may be of interest - <https://kuula.co/share/N2FpS?logo=1&card=1&info=0&logosize=120&fs=1&vr=1&zoom=1&sd=1&thumbs=1>

I am a certified CASA Drone Pilot and can provide other 360degree images if required.

In the past I have worked with DPI Marine Estate in reference to the impact from Macadamia and Blueberry farming in the northern rivers region.

Please contact me if you require additional information.

Kind regards



Real Property Photography Northern Rivers

M | T

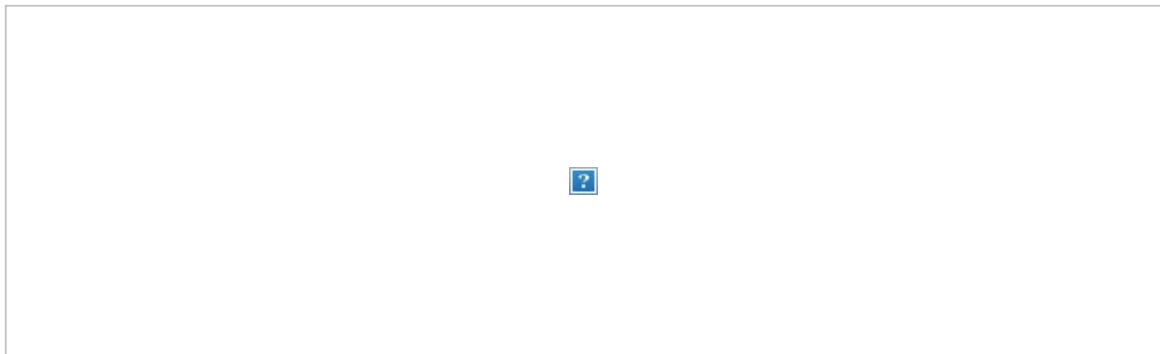
[Northern Rivers Page](#)

[Corporate Website](#)

[Email](#)

| [PHOTOGRAPHY](#) | [DRONE](#) | [FLOOR PLANS](#) | [VIRTUAL SERVICES](#) | [VIRTUAL VIEWINGS](#) |

Get Social! Jump onto our [Facebook](#) , [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#) pages.

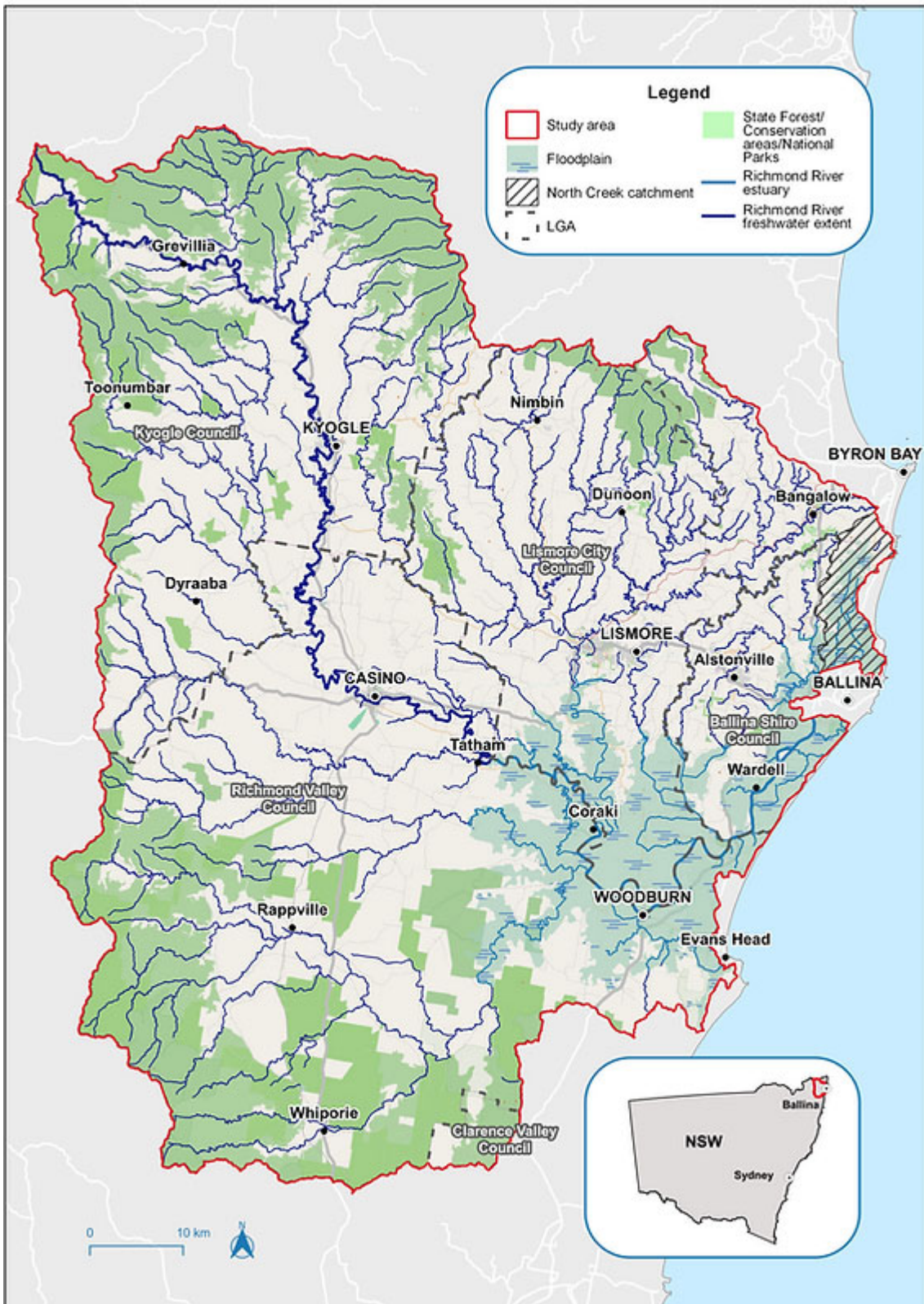




From: Respondent #2
Sent: Thursday, 24 November 2022 9:28 AM
To: Richmond River CMP
Subject: Submission on Richmond River Estuary Coastal Management Program Scoping Study
Attachments: FloodMitigation-BallinaCoastalArea.pdf

Dear Sir/Madam

The attached paper on Flood Mitigation in the Ballina Coastal Area has already been submitted to you but has been recently revised as a consequence of input from various sources.



Could you please advise me of the flow that could be expected to be carried in a diversion (a "Circuit Breaker"), in the form of a 6 metre wide, 3 metre deep canal, cut in sand, with flood gates at each end, constructed through the cane farms, from the Richmond River to the Ocean (a distance of approximately 2km) as shown in this concept plan. Note: the exact location and number of these diversions would be the subject of further studies and discussions with the owners of these cane farms.

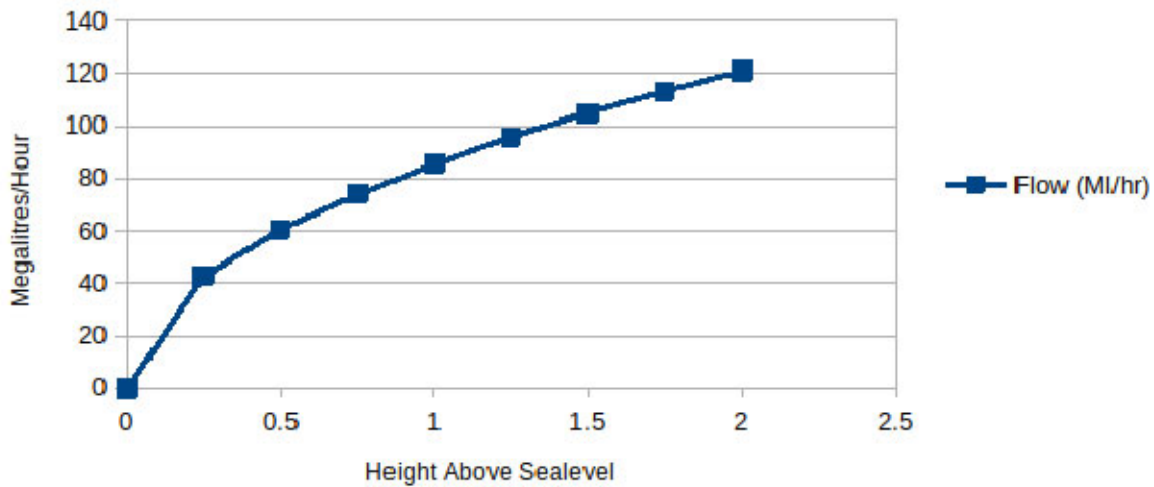
My interest is to gain some idea of the flow which a channel such as this would provide in time of flood.



The flow in such a channel is dependent on the gradient from the river to the ocean, that is, the height of the floodwaters in the river above sea-level, so the flow estimation should be presented in this form:

Estimated Flow in a Channel

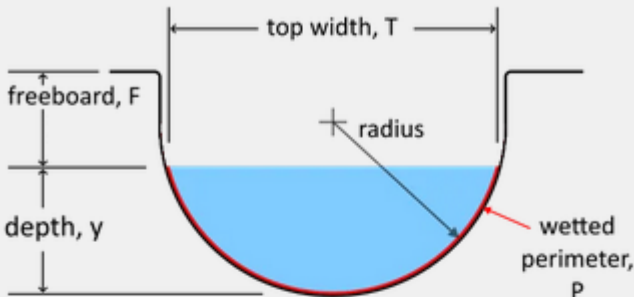
6 metre wide 3 metres deep natural sand bottom profile



This may be calculated using something like this (where unfinished concrete approximates to a sandy surface):

Channel specifications

Cross section [Semi-circular ▼](#)



Design [Custom design ▼](#)

Channel slope (s)	0.0119 %	🔒
Manning's coeff. (n)	Unfinished concrete (0.017) ▼	🔒
Radius	3 m ▼	
Water flow depth (y)	3 m ▼	
Top width (T)	6 m ▼	

Channel water flow output values

Cross-sectional area (A)	14.137 m² ▼
Wetted perimeter (P)	9.425 m ▼
Hydraulic radius (R)	1.5 m ▼
Freeboard (F)	0.3 m ▼
Mass flow rate (V)	0.8409 m/s ▼
Volumetric flow rate (Q)	11.887 m³/s ▼

This field is calculated automatically, you cannot change its value manually.

I look forward to your advice on this matter.

With best wishes

MITIGATION OF FUTURE FLOODING OF BALLINA TOWNSHIP AND ITS SURROUNDS

By: Kevin Loughrey BE Mech (hons)

Date: 1 April 2022 (first commenced)



Figure 1: Recent Flooding of the Ballina Coastal Area

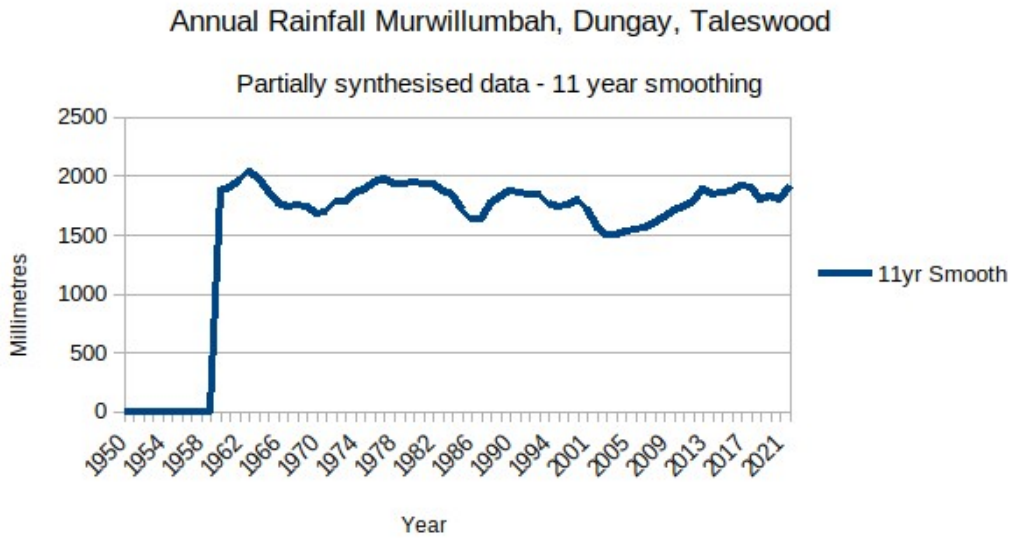


Figure 2: Annual Rainfall pattern 11 year smoothed - Murwillumbah, Dungay, Taleswood

There were a number of factors that contributed to the significant flooding in the coastal areas of the Ballina Shire which occurred around 2 March 2022. All of them point to very poor management by Government. Here is a list of those things that could be done and should have been done a long time ago to mitigate or even obviate the likelihood of severe flooding as a consequence of heavy rainfall:

1. **Build Dams in the Catchment Areas.** No significant dams have been built in catchment areas throughout Australia for well over 70 years yet the need for these dams has been well appreciated. (Mayor Sharon Cadwallader’s petition in 2021 showed a strong level of public support for the construction of Dunoon Creek Dam.) Not only are these dams needed for flood mitigation but also for water security for a growing population in the Northern Rivers. Dunoon is but one of a number of dams that need to be constructed in the catchment areas of the Northern Rivers generally. If these dams had been constructed, it would have been possible, with proper management¹, to mitigate the effects of the heavy rainfall. Large-scale flooding has always been a feature of life in the Northern Rivers. There is always a lot of talk but nothing ever gets done to remedy this.

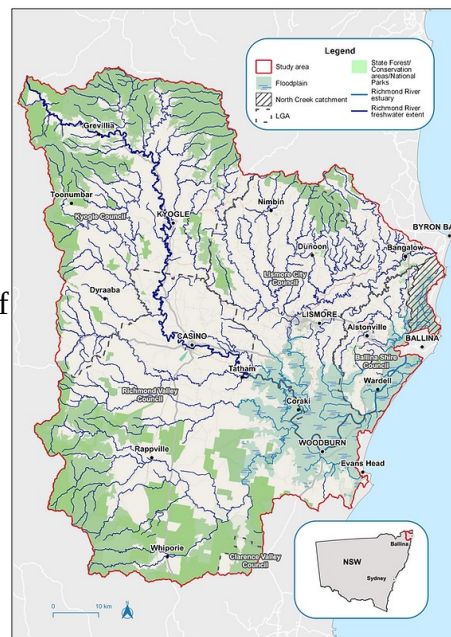


Figure 3: General Area of Concern for Flooding

2. **Real Time Reporting of Rainfall.** If the Bureau of Meteorology installed real time rain gauges in the catchment area, it would be possible to accurately compute the amount of rain that had fallen and the amount that was falling in real time. By measuring the height of reference creeks and rivers as this rain falls, it would be possible, over time to construct an accurate relationship between the amount of water that falls and the amount of flooding that results. The present hydrological models are believed to be of doubtful accuracy. Real data would remedy this and put matters beyond doubt. This includes quantifying the characteristic where, after a long period of rain, the earth becomes saturated so that additional rain has a stronger flooding effect.
3. **Webpage for Flood Information.** This system could be linked to a web page where information is provided graphically, in an easily understood form, to alert locals as to the present and likely future flooding in real time. This would significantly reduce losses sustained by the farmers and local people. People could have moved valuable items to higher ground and made better preparations for what was to come if there was in place an effective, accurate early warning system.
4. **Divert Surplus Water Inland.** Australia has a modest mountain range running down its entire East Coast. It is called “The Great Dividing Range”; “Great”, not because it is high but because it runs for many thousands of kilometres. Indeed, Australia is the flattest, driest continent on earth with the thinnest covering of topsoil. On the Eastern side of this range there is often plentiful rain whereas on the Western side it is comparatively dry with deserts being a common feature of inland Australia. In the 1930’s, a scheme was conceived and was completed in the early 1970’s. It is called, “The Snowy Mountain Scheme”. It was a scheme designed to provide low cost electricity to satisfy peak demand on the East coast, largely through a process known as “pumped hydro”, as well as taking water from the Australian Alps in the Southern part of the Great Dividing Range and sending it inland where it provides water to the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Scheme; an area that provides a great deal of

¹ Proper management requires that rainfall be accurately predicted and water be released preemptively from the dams well before flooding becomes a problem in the local area.

primary produce to the population of Australia. The produce from this area is also exported, sometimes as a finished product as is the case with wine. It was envisaged there would be similar schemes up the Eastern coast of Australia but because of incompetence, dim-wittedness and environmentalists, these schemes have never been executed. In Northern New South Wales, there is frequent heavy rainfall. The recent flooding could have been avoided if the floodwaters were diverted inland to the other side of the Great Dividing Range. Given advances in tunnelling technology, this scheme would not be prohibitively expensive but would, over, say, 100 years, easily pay for itself in terms of increased agricultural output plus provide primary producers some level of protection against the effects of extended drought.

5. **Dredge the Mouth of the Richmond River.** The mouth of the Richmond River hasn't been dredged since 1998. As a consequence, floodwaters coming down the Richmond cannot easily escape out to sea. Some people, not understanding basic hydrology, have wrongly asserted that the water could not flow out because of king tides. That is incorrect. Regardless of tides, any obstruction in the River will slow down flow and result in a banking up of water upstream. The tailings from this dredging operation could be used to build up river bank on the Southern side of the river and the area inland from that. This would then facilitate the construction of a track to allow people to travel to South Ballina Beach for recreation. At the moment that road/track is closed because of subsidence.
6. **Open the Tuckombil Canal.** The Tuckombil canal was constructed to redirect floodwater coming down the Wilson River into the Evans River where it would then go directly to Evans Head and out to sea. This canal was closed off by environmentalists. The consequence of this has been largescale flooding of Ballina and the surrounding areas. It is should be of concern to all who have an interest in this matter that the NSW Government commissioned a report on the Tuckombil Canal and *that report with its associated data is not freely available to the public. Why would this be the case?!* (See Figures 4 & 5) Those persons who were responsible for the obstruction of the Tuckombil Canal should be the subject of a class action initiated by those who have sustained largescale property losses because of this thoughtless decision. It's time people were made to be responsible for their actions and policies.

The screenshot shows the 'Tuckombil Canal - Report' page on the Richmond Valley Council website. On the left, the 'Organisation' section features the council's logo and a brief description: 'Richmond Valley Council is a local government area in the Northern Rivers region of north-eastern New South Wales. Richmond Valley Council was formed in February 2000 as a...'. The main content area is titled 'Tuckombil Canal - Report' and includes a 'Complete report' section. Below this is the 'Data and Resources' section, which lists two PDF documents: 'Tuckombil Canal - Report (670.4 kB)' and 'Tuckombil Canal - Appendix (13.1 MB)'. Each document has a 'More info' button (orange) and a 'Download' button (grey). At the bottom of the page, there is a grid of buttons for different locations: Bungawalbin Creek, Evans River, Moonem, New Italy, Oaky Flat, Rocky Mouth Creek, Sandy Creek, Swan Bay, and Woodburn.

Figure 4: SES Page showing there are actually two large sets of information on Tuckombil Canal

Need an Account?

Access to all unrestricted information is available without needing a user account. Approval processes are undertaken to ensure only appropriate individuals have access to the restricted information in the portal.

[Create an Account](#)

Login

Username:

Password:

Remember me

[Login](#)

Forgotten your password?

No problem, use our password recovery form to reset it.

[Forgot your password?](#)

Figure 5: Requirement to obtain authorisation to obtain report on Tuckombil Canal.

7. **Construct “Circuit Breakers” – Diverting Flood Waters Directly to Ocean.** Figure 6 provides an estimate of the flow that could be expected in an open channel cut through the sand in a canefield. Figure 7 shows a map of the Ballina area. At the top right hand corner is the Ballina township. In the middle bottom is the town of Broadwater with the Richmond River flowing almost parallel to the coast line from Broadwater to Ballina. From the River at opportune points, where culverts exist under River Drive, it would be possible to bulldoze & dredge sizeable canals running directly to the sea. On the coastline, these canals could terminate in concrete pipes which would lead out into the ocean. At the termination points could be position flood gates and sumps with trash-grates for maintenance. These flood gates would allow, as the present gates in that area already do, a means for draining the land for the benefit of agriculture (and hence the farmers that own that land). Circuit Breaker # 1 (CB#1) builds on an existing creek, “Boundary Gully Creek”. Likewise CB#2 is in the area of “Swampy Creek” and so it goes. If these flooding circuit breakers were installed, not only would it be to the benefit of landowners, it would also allow flood waters to escape to the ocean before reaching Ballina township.

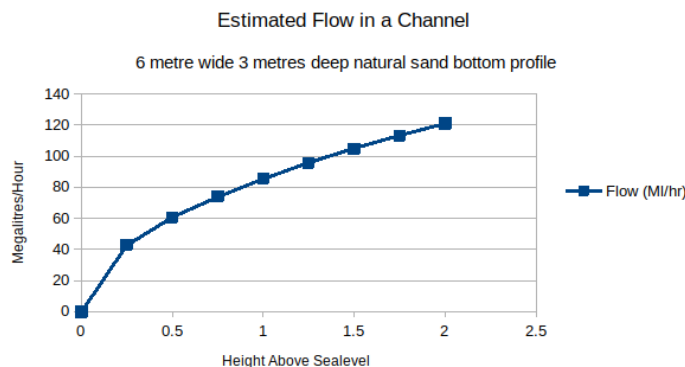


Figure 6: Estimated Flow in Open Channel in Megalitres/Hour



Figure 7: The Concept of "Circuit Breakers", Diversion of Floodwaters

Additional Influences

There is one other possible factor that may have influenced the degree of flooding in the area from Broadwater to Ballina and that is the construction of the new highway. Some people are of the opinion that there is the possibility that water flowing off the Eastern slopes may have been held up by the new highway acting as a levee. The highway does have a number of culverts to allow water to escape but some people are of the opinion that these culverts were either insufficient or clogged with vegetable matter that impeded the flow of the water. The result of this obstruction was that water from the Eastern slopes, which would have otherwise been dissipated, arrived in the Ballina area, between Wardell and Ballina CBD, at same time as the flood waters from Lismore; in which case there was an amplification of the flooding. This needs to be investigated by civil engineers responsible for main roads design and construction.

Automated, real time Rain Gauges

In general there was insufficient, timely and accurate information available to local residents such that they were not given sufficient warning to move valuable items, such as cars, tractors and caravans, to high ground; nor to evacuate their house of personal items such as photo albums. There is a need for a network of rain-gauges and water level gauges to be installed throughout the flood prone and catchment areas with the data coming from those collated into a useful form on a webpage that everyone can access. This would go a long way to reducing the losses and distress caused by flooding.



BROADWATER: Our own automated river gauge would ease flood anxiety

April 1, 2022

Conclusion

It is concluded that the recent flooding resulted from years of inaction and dithering by State and Local Governments. Development in the Northern Rivers is inevitable. Up to now conservationists and those that wish to maintain Ballina and surrounding environs as a rural out of the way place have contributed to the losses that these same people and their fellow citizens have now incurred. I believe these persons should be the subject of a class action so that people come to realise their stupidity and selfishness has consequences. It is time for some positive action. There have been countless reviews and studies of the situation in this area but instead of action the public have been subjected to secrecy and the political manoeuvring of self-serving interest groups.

It is time for a change. The above suggestions are self-evident and obvious. Each of these suggestions would reduce flooding and reduce the losses people are likely to suffer in the future. There have been enough reviews and studies. It is time for action.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. **Dredging of the Richmond River.** Various parts of the Richmond River should be continuously dredged to ensure that floodwaters are not obstructed when travelling to the Ocean. This is particularly the case with the mouth of the river.
2. **Tuckombil Canal.** The report on the Tuckombil Canal should be freely available to the public. There is no excuse for this secrecy. The canal should either be permanently open or have in place a means where it can be opened so as to allow unimpeded flow of water in the event of heavy rain and flooding of the Wilson River.
3. **Real Time Rain Gauges and Flood Website.** A network of rain-gauges and water-level gauges should be installed in the catchment areas such that it is possible to accurately quantify and predict the flooding that will occur as a consequence of this rainfall. A website should be constructed and notified to all residents so that early warning can be given and people may make timely preparations. This necessary infrastructure would also provide very accurate data for future flood mitigation planning.
4. **Construction of “Circuit Breaker”/Diversionary Canals.** There should be constructed a series of diversion canals leading from the Richmond River directly to the Ocean. Given the flat, sandy nature of the terrain, this would be an ideal task for a bulldozer/excavator and large floating dredge.

5. **Investigate Effect of Highway and make Changes as deemed Necessary.** Civil engineers, expert in design and construction of main roads, should perform an investigation to ascertain if the road delayed the exit of flood waters from the Eastern slopes thereby adding to the floodwaters arriving from Lismore. If this is the case, then engineering works should be undertaken to improve the flow of water from the Eastern slopes to the ocean.
6. **Construction of the Dunoon Dam,** The construction of this dam should start immediately and other dams in the catchment area should be planned now; not put off for another day.
7. **Diversion of Water Inland.** This is a much more ambitious project but it is now, because of advances in tunnelling technology, far easier and more affordable than ever before. It should be given urgent consideration when building the dams. Such a project may also be able to provide hydroelectricity to satisfy peak power demands; thereby reducing the cost of electricity to residents in the Northern Rivers.

- End of Paper -

From: [Respondent #3](#)
To: [Richmond River CMP](#)
Subject: Submission on RRCMP Scoping Study
Date: Saturday, 3 December 2022 5:36:56 PM
Attachments: [4.jpg](#)
[20180512_135217\[22369\].jpg](#)
[273858755_4736361459734878_6874743666757767561_n.jpg](#)
[Top mark.jpg](#)

Hello Hydrosphere,

The Richmond River Sailing and Rowing Club has been sailing on the lower reaches of the Richmond River since 1937. We have a clubhouse on the banks of the river just East of the town of Ballina and we have an active membership of around 60 sailors. The health of the river is of vital concern to us as we often get immersed in it during our sailing adventures. Competitive sailing each Sunday is a major form of exercise for many of our members, and they have close contact with the water of the Richmond river during that time.

We are currently training young kids to sail on the river and they love to capsized their small boats and play in the water. We encourage this as part of their learning.

Debris, pollution and toxins in the river water are of major concern to us all as sailors.

We consider ourselves an important stakeholder in the health of the Richmond River. We appear to have missed out on Stage 1 Consultations and would like to be now included as a stakeholder in the river and your Richmond River CMP.

I have included some photos to illustrate our connection with and use of the river.

Yours sincerely

Commodore RRSRC



Images provided by Richmond River Sailing and Rowing Club



Images provided by Richmond River Sailing and Rowing Club

RR CMP SS Contact Form

First Name: Respondent #4

Last Name:

Email:

Write a message: Quick scan only - lack of strongly stated comments around the need for whole of catchment management - as the estuary is where all the issues collide. Whilst Border Ranges and Nightcap are identified Gondwana properties, Richmond Range, Toonumbar World Heritage areas not seen. Comment that stewardship only applies to govt land? Comment that demo site locations are Council land? Comments re socio economic status correct, inadequately connected to potential for private landholders to address on site issues (that they have largely inherited). Need to discuss land and river stewardship and environmental market opportunities that could be made available to private landholders. The real issue is in our heads and paradigms - need to explore societal change options for renewed paradigms and development of motivation to change - with technical and financial support.

From: Sophie Pryor <sophiepryor@ozfish.org.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 14 December 2022 10:29 AM
To: Richmond River CMP
Subject: Draft Richmond River Estuary CMP Stage 1 Scoping Study submission

Dear Hydrosphere Consulting,

Thank you for the opportunity for OzFish to make a written submission regarding the Draft Richmond River Estuary CMP Stage 1 Scoping Study. Overall, this is a well-presented scoping study, and its implementation will positively impact the Richmond's health and our community. On behalf of OzFish, I believe the following considerations will strengthen the final Richmond River Estuary CMP Stage 1 Scoping Study.

4.3.2 Geology, soils and geomorphology

It could be worthwhile noting here that there are substantial soil inputs from top soil runoff and erosion into the Richmond, which impacts water quality.

4.3.5 Waterway health

Diffuse source pollution

Monosulfidic Black Ooze is only mentioned in the glossary and should be incorporated into the waterway health section, given it's a driving water quality issue in areas such as Keith Hall.

4.4.2 Bank erosion

'Sedimentation in the main river channel is not considered to be a significant issue as most of this sediment is thought to be transported to the ocean during major events, with very little evidence of sedimentation or infilling of the river channel detected in 2007 river surveys documented in ABER (2007)' was not the case following flooding in early 2022, where large quantities of sediment were deposited.

4.6.2 Fishing

Here, you mention that oysters were once grown for aquaculture. It is also worth noting that oyster reefs were once spread throughout the lower estuary—these reefs were an important cultural food source and provided fish habitat and water filtration. Oyster reef loss can be attributed to poor water quality and over-harvesting.

4.7.2 Climate change

Ocean acidification will pose a risk in the estuary. Additionally, both aquatic and terrestrial range shifts will be seen, impacting species composition. In some instances, exotic pest species (e.g. tilapia) could invade the Richmond. Increased temperatures and competition will cause stress or even localised extinctions for some species.

Table 10

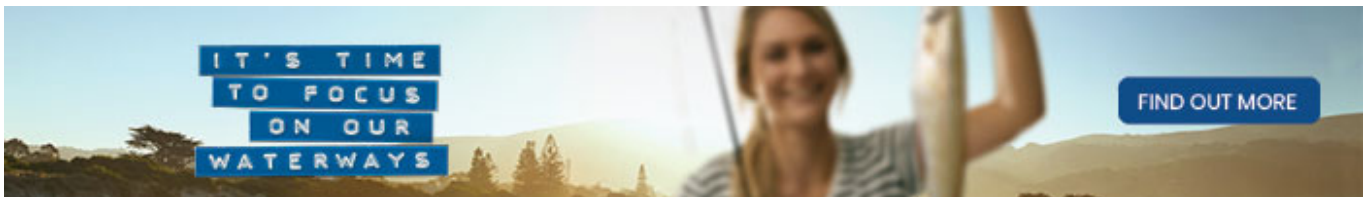
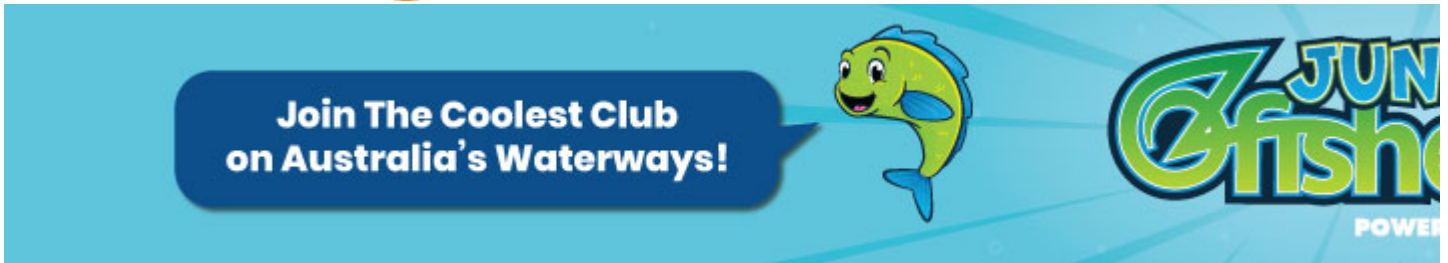
2.1

OzFish has undertaken substantial habitat restoration projects throughout the Richmond River Catchment and could be listed here as a support agency.

2.9

NSW DPE is looking to develop a similar tool.

Kind regards,



I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work and their continuing connection to land, sea and sky. I pay my respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

From: LLS Admin NorthCoast Mailbox <admin.northcoast@lls.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 14 December 2022 10:41 AM
To: Richmond River CMP
Subject: Support for Richmond River Estuary Coastal Management Program Stage 1 Scoping Study
Attachments: Richmond CMP Scoping Study consultation NCLLS feedback.pdf

Good Morning Richmond River CMP Project Team
Please find attached correspondence regarding the above matter.

Kind Regards
Leonie

Leonie Williamson
Executive Support Officer
DRNSW Local Land Services Agency | North Coast
Local Land Services

P 02 6623 3900 E admin.northcoast@lls.nsw.gov.au
lls.nsw.gov.au
24-26 Mulgi Drive
South Grafton NSW 2460



Local Land Services

We stand on Country that always was and always will be Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters, and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging. We are committed to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work.

How would you rate my service today?



Your opinion is valuable and will help us improve our service

The Richmond River CMP Project Team
Hydrosphere Consulting
PO Box 7059
East Ballina NSW 2478
[\[email letter to richmondrivercmp@hydrosphere.com.au\]](mailto:richmondrivercmp@hydrosphere.com.au).

Support for Richmond River Estuary Coastal Management Program Stage 1 Scoping Study

Dear Project Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Richmond River Coastal Management Program (CMP) Scoping Study (the Study).

North Coast Local Land Services (North Coast LLS) offers in principle support for the directions set by the Study, Literature Review and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and how they will inform Stages 2-5 of the CMP development.

The Study broadly aligns with the directions and priorities set by the North Coast Local Strategic Plan 2021-2026 and the recently completed North Coast LLS Natural Resource Management Plan 2022-2026.

The Study is relevant to our current and future contribution to the management of Richmond waterway health, whereby:

- It identifies land management issues we consider significant, in particular, the need for catchment based flood and bushfire recovery and the need to build the capacity of community and landholders to better cope with natural disaster events in the future.
- It captures the background that justifies delivery of our existing and new projects including those funded by our Australian Government River Restoration Program, NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy (MEMS) Program and the soon to be released Australian Government National Landcare Program Funding Program.
- It recognises our role and the potential we have to support the future implementation of the CMP.

We suggest the following be considered as options for improving the Study:

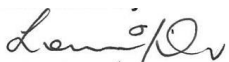
- Provide updated reference to:
 - The directions and priorities set by the Draft Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy

- The directions and priorities set by the recently completed North Coast Local Land Services Natural Resource Management Plan 2022-2026
- The outcomes of the recently completed Catchment Governance and Waterway Health (Richmond River) Project
- The achievements of organisations (including North Coast LLS) currently delivering projects that are addressing river recovery, flood recovery, bushfire recovery, and improvements in community capacity to cope with natural disasters.
- On page 15 of the Scoping Study Document, change the names on Figure 5 to:
 - North Coast Local Land Services Local Strategic Plan 2021-2026
 - Add the newly completed North Coast Local Land Services Natural Resource Management Plan 2022-2026
- On page 63 of the Scoping Study Document, change North Coast Local Land Services text to the following:
 - *North Coast LLS plays a key role in supporting adoption of best practice land management by landholders and partnering with key stakeholders to deliver waterway and coastal environment health outcomes.*
 - *North Coast LLS provides a certification and advisory role in relation to vegetation management/ clearing in non-urban areas with NSW DPIE - EES providing a compliance role.*
 - *LLS is also responsible for approval and extension services for private native forestry with the EPA responsible for compliance and enforcement.*
 - *North Coast LLS also is a current Regional Service Provider on behalf of the Federal Government to meet their legislative and programmatic requirements and aspirations in the North Coast region*
 - *The North Coast LLS region extends from Tweed Shire Council in the north to Port Macquarie-Hastings Council in the south.*

North Coast LLS looks forward to participating in the remaining stages of the CMP's development. We anticipate providing actions during Stage 2-3 consultation that will ultimately contribute to improvements in waterway and coastal environment health.

For further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact Graeme Moss on ph: 0401 028 565 or graeme.moss@lls.nsw.gov.au

Sincerely,



Louise Orr
General Manager
North Coast Local Land Services

From: Brendan Cox <b.cox.25@student.scu.edu.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 14 December 2022 11:16 AM
To: Richmond River CMP
Subject: Submission on RRCMP Scoping Study
Attachments: Cox_Brendan_Honours_Thesis.pdf; Cox-2019-A-comparison-of-macroinvertebrate-b.pdf

Dear Hydrosphere,

I have attached two documents that may be useful for the scoping study that includes a significant river health assessment conducted in 2016/17 across 40 sites in the Richmond River catchment.

Regards

Brendan

Brendan Cox

PhD Candidate – Freshwater Science and Macroinvertebrate Taxonomy

Faculty of Science and Engineering

Office location G1.02

T 0405409670

E Brendan.cox@scu.edu.au / b.cox.25@student.scu.edu.au



LISMORE CAMPUS

Military Road, PO Box 157, Lismore NSW 2480

www.scu.edu.au

CRICOS Provider: 01241G

SCU respects our environment. Please be green and read from the screen.

From: Malcolm Robertson <malcolm.robertson@crowland.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 22 December 2022 3:42 PM
To: Richmond River CMP
Cc: Alexis Flipo
Subject: Richmond River estuary Coastal Management Program Scoping Study
Attachments: Letter Richmond River Estuary Coastal Management Program Draft Stage 1 Scoping Study.pdf

Dear Katie,

Please find attached letter from Crown Lands relating to Richmond River estuary Coastal Management Program Scoping Study.

Malcolm Robertson
A / Manager – Coastal Unit
Land & Asset Management

Crown Lands | Department of Planning and Environment
M 0409 310 449 | **E** malcolm.robertson@crowland.nsw.gov.au
30 Park Avenue, Coffs Harbour 2450
www.dpie.nsw.gov.au

The Department of Planning and Environment acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and we show our respect for elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

Department of Planning and Environment

Our ref: DOC22/283833

Attn: Katie Pratt

Senior Environmental Scientist

Hydrosphere Consulting

22 December 2022

By email: richmondrivercmp@hydrosphere.com.au

Richmond River Estuary Coastal Management Program Draft - Stage 1: Scoping Study

Dear Ms Pratt

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Crown Lands (DPE - Crown Lands) has reviewed the Richmond River Estuary Coastal Management Program – Stage 1 Scoping Study, dated September 2022, where relevant to the administration of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.

Feedback on the draft CMP is documented in the attached Table. This includes a number of suggested amendments, which are intended to clarify the role of DPE - Crown Lands in terms of the management of the coastal zone within the study area.

Should you wish to discuss this feedback or our suggested amendments, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Malcolm Robertson, Senior Project Officer, by email at malcolm.robertson@crowland.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



Malcolm Robertson

A / Manager, Coastal Unit
Crown Lands

Table Richmond River Estuary Coastal Management Program Draft - Stage 1: Scoping Study (September 2022)

No.	Section / Text from CMP	Comment	Suggested action
1.	Richmond River CMP Scoping Study – Literature Review	The literature review references Crown Lands in DPIE. References to Crown Lands should be. as follows: Department of Planning and Environment – Crown Lands, thereafter DPE – Crown Lands.	Amend text accordingly.
2.	Section 5.4 Management Roles and Responsibilities Table 4 Management roles and responsibilities	Under Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) or DPE – Crown Lands consider including the following: There are areas of Crown land within the study area, subject to outstanding claims lodged under the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983</i> .	For Councils consideration.
3.	Section 5.4 Management Roles and Responsibilities Table 4 Management roles and responsibilities	Scoping study didn't seem to address non-Council Crown Land Managers. Perhaps the scoping study could acknowledge that non-council CLMs may exist within the study area. Update Table 4 under the DPE - Crown Lands section to include that there are non-Council Crown Land Managers within the study area.	Amend table.
4.	Section 5.4 Management Roles and Responsibilities Table 4 Management roles and responsibilities	The Maritime Infrastructure Delivery Office (MIDO), has now transferred to Transport for NSW. MIDO are responsible for state owned coastal infrastructure such as river entrance break walls, regional harbours, the NSW Coastal Dredging Strategy, 'NSW Boating Now' and the 'NSW Boating Access Dredging program'.	This is not a joint program with DPE - Crown Lands. Please amend text accordingly.

5.	Section 7.2 Funding Page 83.	Other funding opportunities include the NSW Environment Trust, DPE - Crown Lands funding. Please remove Crown Lands funding and replace with Crown Reserves Improvement Fund (CRIF). This funding program supports Crown land managers (CLMs) by providing funding for repairs, maintenance and improvements on Crown reserves.	Amend text accordingly.
6.	Section 7.5 CMP Development Table 10. Forward Plan for the CMP for Rich River estuary – stage 2	Could stage 2 of the CMP investigate and identify existing foreshore coastal assets within the study area. This process could identify 'orphaned' coastal assets and assess risk / condition of these assets. This could lead to better management and the consideration of ownership and governance of 'orphaned' coastal assets within the study area.	For consideration.

From: Jonathan Yantsch <jonathan.yantsch@dpi.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 16 December 2022 9:03 AM
To: Robyn Campbell <robyn@hydrosphere.com.au>
Cc: Kylie Russell <kylie.russell@dpi.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Richmond River estuary Coastal Management Program Scoping Study - DPI Fisheries comments

Hi Robyn

I refer to your email of 9 November 2022 (below) seeking comment from DPI Fisheries on the draft Richmond River Coastal Management Program (CMP) Scoping Study.

DPI Fisheries administers the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (FM Act) and is responsible for ensuring that fish stocks are conserved and that there is “no net loss” of key fish habitats upon which they depend. Consistent with those objectives, DPI Fisheries is also responsible for promoting viable of commercial fishing and aquaculture industries, quality recreational fishing opportunities and the continuation of Aboriginal cultural fishing.

DPI Fisheries also administers the *Marine Estate Management Act (MEMA) 2014*. The act provides for the strategic and integrated management of the whole marine estate which includes marine waters, coasts and estuaries. It does this by:

- Management of the marine estate consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development;
- Facilitating the maintenance of ecological integrity, and economic, social, cultural and scientific opportunities; and
- Providing for a comprehensive system of marine parks and aquatic reserves.

Finally, DPI Fisheries partners with other agencies in working toward achieving the NSW State Government’s vision for the NSW marine estate, that being “*A healthy coast and sea, managed for the greatest wellbeing of the community, now and into the future.*” To achieve this, the NSW Government released the NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy 2018-2028 (MEMS) (<https://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/marine-estate-programs/marine-estate-management-strategy>). DPI Fisheries and other government agencies are currently working on a range of projects, under the nine initiatives of MEMS, to address priority threats and risks to the environmental assets and the social, cultural and economic benefits that are derived from the marine estate.

DPI Fisheries is satisfied that the draft Richmond River CMP Scoping study captures the key values of the study area and the main threats and risks to these values. DPI Fisheries highlights that floodplain issues including acid and black water generation and discharge into the river in addition to other diffuse source water quality issues continue to be the most severe threats to the values of the study area and therefore should be prioritised as focus areas of the CMP. These issues are well addressed in the draft CMP scoping study and should continue to be focal points of the CMP development.

DPI Fisheries looks forward to working with Hydrosphere, Rous County Council and other integral Councils on the development of the CMP.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Regards

Jonathan

Jonathan Yantsch

Senior Fisheries Manager, Coastal Systems (North Coast)
Aboriginal Fishing & Marine & Coastal Environment
Department of Regional NSW

P 02 6626 1375 E jonathan.yantsch@dpi.nsw.gov.au

regional.nsw.gov.au

Wollongbar Agricultural Institute



Department of Regional NSW

We stand on Country that always was and always will be Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters, and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging. We are committed to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work.

Adoption of the Bulk Water Supply and Retail Water Supply Development Servicing Plans

Responsible Officer: Group Manager Planning and Delivery (Andrew Logan)

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Note there were no public submissions lodged during the public exhibition period.
2. Adopt the '*Bulk Water Supply Development Servicing Plan*' as tabled at the Council meeting held on 14 December 2022 with implementation of the updated charge from 1 July 2023.
3. Adopt the '*Retail Water Supply Development Servicing Plan*' as tabled at the Council meeting held on 14 December 2022 with implementation of the charge from 1 July 2023.

Background

Following consideration of the draft Bulk Water Supply and Retail Water Supply Development Servicing Plans (DSP) at the 14 December 2022 Council meeting, the two (2) draft DSPs were placed on public exhibit via Council's website from 19 December 2022 to 2 February 2023.

The exhibition of the documents was promoted through Council's social media channels and website. Council did not receive any submissions on the draft DSPs during the exhibition period.

Conclusion

The '*Bulk Water Supply Development Servicing Plan*' and '*Retail Water Supply Development Servicing Plan*' are recommended to Council for adoption without alteration.

The developer charges as presented in the DSPs are proposed to be implemented from 1 July 2023 and indexed in accordance with Council's 'Revenue' policy.

Should Council adopt the DSPs, staff will write to the constituent councils advising of the updated developer charges and request the constituent councils consider notifying existing unpaid development applicants of the updated charge.

Attachments:

1. [Bulk Water Supply Development Servicing Plan](#)
2. [Retail Water Development Servicing Plan](#)

Policies for revocation

Responsible Officer: Group Manager People and Performance (Helen McNeil)

Recommendation

That Council revoke the 'Community Sponsorship and Donations' policy dated 19 May 2004 attached to this report and any policy revived as a result of the revocation.

Background

Council's policies are continually reviewed for suitability and currency to promote and deliver against Council's commitment to continuous improvement and legislative compliance.

An objective of the on-going policy review is to ensure that Council policies are current, effective and address organisation needs.

In furtherance of this objective, the 'Community Sponsorship and Donations' policy adopted by Council (trading as Rous Water) on 19 May 2004 has been identified for revocation for the reasons outlined below.

Rationale for revocation

The purpose of the 'Community Sponsorship and Donations' policy is to identify the Council fund available for the drawdown of expenditure or financial assistance in connection with promoting Council's adopted programs for water demand management.

This policy was adopted prior to the merger of the three county councils (Rous County Council (t/as Rous Water), Far North Coast County Council and Richmond River County Council) in 2016.

Water supply demand management initiatives and the associated funding of these activities are now detailed and approved by Council through the adoption of a Regional Demand Management Plan ('RDMP').

Council's 2023-2026 RDMP was adopted by Council at its 19 October 2022 meeting and the association budget adopted at the 15 June 2022 Council meeting. Any additional funding of RDMP activities will be processed through Council's regular Quarterly Budget Review System.

Finance

Outlined in the body of the report.

Legal

There is no legislative requirement to maintain a policy for the funding and sponsorship of water demand management activities. Some parameters for the granting of financial assistance are set out in the *Local Government Act 1993* and due regard will be given to those provisions should any application for financial assistance be received in the future.

Consultation

Consultation was undertaken internally between Governance, Finance and Water Sustainability staff to ensure the proposed revocation is appropriate.

Conclusion

Relevant content contained in the above policy has been captured within the Regional Demand Management Plan (2023-2026) and there is no longer a business need for the policy in its current form. As a result, it is proposed that the policy be revoked.

Attachment

1. 'Community Sponsorship and Donations' policy dated 19 May 2004 (for revocation)
2. [Regional Demand Management Plan 2023-2026](#) (via website)

Rous Water			
POLICY 1.4	Community Sponsorship and Donations		
AREA	Administration and Finance		
OVERVIEW	To provide criteria for granting sponsorships or donations		
AUTHORISED COUNCIL	ROUS	RRCC	FNCW
	19/5/2004		
REVIEW DATE	2 years		
FILE	172	843	1294

POLICY

Principles

Rous Water's Demand Management programs are to be funded from the Tax Equivalent Restricted Asset where insufficient funds are available from the Category 1 business activity of Water supply. No other expenditure is to be funded from this Restricted Asset.

To discharge its community service obligations, Sponsorships and Donations will be supported when the request can be clearly identified as contributing to the objectives of the adopted programs for Demand Management.

POLICY CRITERIA: SPONSORSHIP/DONATIONS

Water supply/management activities supporting the Rous Water Mission Statement:

(Definition: Activities which have direct relevance to:

- Managing demand through consumer education and pricing policies that reflect the real value and limits of the resource.
- Promoting water conservation, reclamation and reuse.

Cash Requests

Applications for support shall be referred to Council for approval.

Non cash Requests

Application for support shall be determined by the General Manager based on availability of resources to meet the request.

PROCEDURES

LEGISLATION

RELATED DOCUMENTS

CONTACT OFFICER

Secretarial use only	Policy History	Version 4.0 17/05/2006
Rous Policy No: 1.4	RRCC Policy No:	FNCW Policy No:
Authorised Council: 19/05/2004; 16/06/2004; 18/08/2004	Authorised Council: N/A	Authorised Council: N/A

Information reports

Responsible Officer: General Manager and Group Managers

Recommendation

That the following information reports be received and noted:

1. Investments – January 2023
2. Water production and consumption – December 2022
3. Debt write-off information summary
4. Delivery program update - 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022
5. Reports/actions pending
6. Supply of Industrial Control and Integration Support Contract # RCC1122-0014

Background

Copies of the abovementioned reports are attached for information.

Consultation

The reports have been prepared in consultation with the General Manager, relevant Group Managers and staff.

Attachments

1. Information reports 1-6

Investments - January 2023

Responsible Officer: Group Manager Corporate and Commercial (Geoff Ward)

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Investments for January 2023.

Background

Clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* and Council's 'Investments' policy require that a report detailing Council's investments be provided. This report has been prepared as at 31 January 2023.

Finance Report

The RBA cash rate is 3.1%

At the RBA's 6th December 2022 meeting, it was decided to increase the cash rate by 25 basis points to 3.1%. The Board expects to increase interest rates further over the period ahead, but it is not on a pre-set path. Members noted that there was considerable uncertainty about the outlook. While household spending was expected to slow over the period ahead, the timing and extent of this slowdown was uncertain. Another source of uncertainty was the outlook for the global economy, which had deteriorated. The Board would also continue to play close attention to the price-setting behaviour of firms and the evolution of labour costs, given the importance of avoiding a price-wage spiral.

The 90-day average bank bill swap rate (BBSW) is 3.37%.

Total funds invested is \$38,708,151

This includes term investments and cheque account balance.

Weighted Average Return is 3.11%

This represents an increase of 14 basis points compared to the December 2022 result (2.97%) and is 26 basis points below Council's benchmark (the average 90-day BBSW rate of 3.37%) (Refer: Graph D2 - Attachment D).

Interest earned for January 2023 is \$105,411

Total interest earned compared to the original budget is \$214,045 above the pro-rata budget. (Refer: Attachment A).

Cheque account balance is \$176,970

Ethical holdings is \$8,000,975 (20.67% of current holdings)

The assessment of Ethical Financial Institutions is undertaken using www.marketforces.org.au which is an affiliate project of the Friends of the Earth Australia (Refer: Graph D4 - Attachment D).

Legal

Investments are to be made in accordance with section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993* ('Act') and Council's 'Investments' policy and reported to Council in accordance with clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* ('Regulation').

Conclusion

A report on investments is required to be submitted to Council. As at 31 January 2023, investments total \$38,708,151 and the average rate of return is estimated at 3.11%.

Attachments

- A. Investment analysis
- B. Investment by type
- C. Investment by Institution
- D. Total funds invested - comparisons
- E. Summary of indebtedness

Funds Invested With	S & P Local Long Term Rating	Product Name	Ethical ADIs	Lodgement Date	Maturity Date	% of Portfolio	31 Jan 23 Balance	Rate of Return	Monthly Interest	Year-to-Date Interest
CBA Business Online Saver	AA-	CBA-BOS	No	At call		10.87	4,208,151.18	1.95	11,602.65	57,743.79
Westpac Banking Corporation	AA-	TD	No	16/2/2022	16/2/2023	2.58	1,000,000.00	0.95	806.85	5,595.89
Westpac Banking Corporation	AA-	TD	Yes	22/2/2022	22/2/2023	2.58	1,000,000.00	0.88	747.40	5,183.56
Westpac Banking Corporation	AA-	TD	Yes	23/2/2022	7/3/2023	2.58	1,000,000.00	0.94	798.36	5,536.99
Westpac Banking Corporation	AA-	TD	Yes	23/2/2022	14/3/2023	2.58	1,000,000.00	0.94	798.36	5,536.99
Westpac Banking Corporation	AA-	TD	No	23/2/2022	28/3/2023	1.29	500,000.00	0.94	399.18	2,768.49
ING Bank Aust Ltd	A	TD	No	1/3/2022	28/2/2023	2.58	1,000,000.00	0.80	679.45	4,712.33
Westpac Banking Corporation	AA-	TD	No	8/3/2022	8/3/2023	2.58	1,000,000.00	1.00	849.32	5,890.41
ING Bank Aust Ltd	A	TD	No	5/4/2022	4/4/2023	2.58	1,000,000.00	1.68	1,426.85	9,895.89
Bank of Queensland	BBB+	TD	Yes	19/4/2022	19/4/2023	2.58	1,000,000.00	1.90	1,613.70	11,191.78
MyState Bank Limited	BBB+	TD	Yes	29/4/2022	2/5/2023	2.58	1,000,000.00	2.60	2,208.22	15,315.07
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	AA-	TD	No	29/4/2022	2/5/2023	2.58	1,000,000.00	2.72	2,310.14	16,021.92
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	AA-	TD	No	3/5/2022	2/5/2023	2.58	1,000,000.00	2.74	2,327.12	16,139.73
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	AA-	TD	No	10/5/2022	10/5/2023	2.58	1,000,000.00	3.01	2,556.44	17,730.14
Bank Of Queensland	BBB+	TD	Yes	31/5/2022	6/6/2023	2.58	1,000,000.00	3.20	2,717.81	18,849.32
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	AA-	TD	No	14/6/2022	13/6/2023	2.58	1,000,000.00	3.89	3,303.84	22,913.70
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	AA-	TD	No	28/6/2022	28/6/2023	2.58	1,000,000.00	3.95	3,354.79	23,267.12
ING Bank Aust Ltd	A	TD	No	29/6/2022	4/7/2023	3.88	1,500,000.00	4.00	5,095.89	35,342.47
ING Bank Aust Ltd	A	TD	No	30/6/2022	30/6/2023	3.88	1,500,000.00	4.05	5,159.59	35,784.25
Bank of Queensland	BBB+	TD	Yes	2/8/2022	1/8/2023	1.29	500,000.00	3.85	1,634.93	9,651.37
Westpac Banking Corporation	AA-	TD	No	23/8/2022	23/8/2023	5.17	2,000,000.00	4.13	7,015.34	36,660.82
AMP Bank	BBB	TD	No	13/9/2022	13/9/2023	1.29	500,000.00	4.30	1,826.03	8,305.48
AMP Bank	BBB	TD	No	20/9/2022	19/9/2023	2.58	1,000,000.00	4.50	3,821.92	16,520.55
MyState Bank Limited	BBB+	TD	Yes	27/9/2022	26/9/2023	1.29	500,000.00	4.62	1,961.92	8,037.53

Westpac Banking Corporation	AA-	TD	No	11/10/2022	10/10/2023	2.58	1,000,000.00	4.30	3,652.05	13,312.33	
National Australia Bank Limited	AA-	TD	No	18/10/2022	18/4/2023	1.29	500,000.00	3.82	1,622.19	5,546.85	
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	AA-	TD	No	18/10/2022	17/10/2023	2.58	1,000,000.00	4.42	3,753.97	12,836.16	
Westpac Banking Corporation	AA-	TD	No	25/10/2022	24/10/2023	1.29	500,000.00	4.57	1,940.68	6,197.67	
Westpac Banking Corporation	AA-	TD	No	3/11/2022	9/5/2023	2.58	1,000,000.00	4.04	3,431.23	9,961.64	
National Australia Bank Limited	AA-	TD	No	10/11/2022	14/11/2023	1.29	500,000.00	4.42	1,876.99	5,025.48	
National Australia Bank Limited	AA-	TD	No	15/11/2022	16/5/2023	1.29	500,000.00	4.02	1,707.12	4,295.34	
National Australia Bank Limited	AA-	TD	No	22/11/2022	23/5/2023	1.29	500,000.00	4.07	1,728.36	3,958.49	
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	AA-	TD	No	22/11/2022	21/11/2023	2.58	1,000,000.00	4.52	3,838.90	8,792.33	
Westpac Banking Corporation	AA-	TD	No	29/11/2022	28/11/2023	3.88	1,500,000.00	4.39	5,592.74	11,546.30	
Westpac Banking Corporation	AA-	TD	No	6/12/2022	5/12/2023	2.58	1,000,000.00	4.29	3,643.56	6,699.45	
National Australia Bank Limited	AA-	TD	No	6/12/2022	6/6/2023	1.29	500,000.00	4.08	1,732.60	3,185.75	
Summerland Credit Union	UNRATED	TD	No	13/12/2022	13/6/2023	2.58	1,000,000.00	4.47	3,796.44	6,123.29	
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	AA-	TD	Yes	18/1/2023	25/7/2023	2.58	1,000,000.00	4.32	1,656.99	1,656.99	
MATURED TDs									421.10	39,625.75	
							100.00	38,708,151.18	3.11	105,411.01	533,359.41

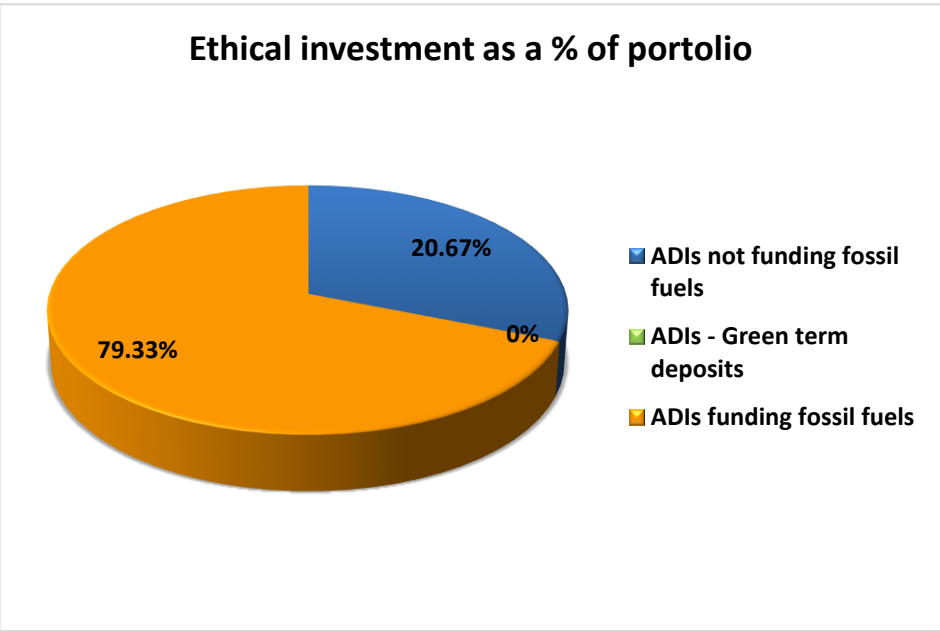
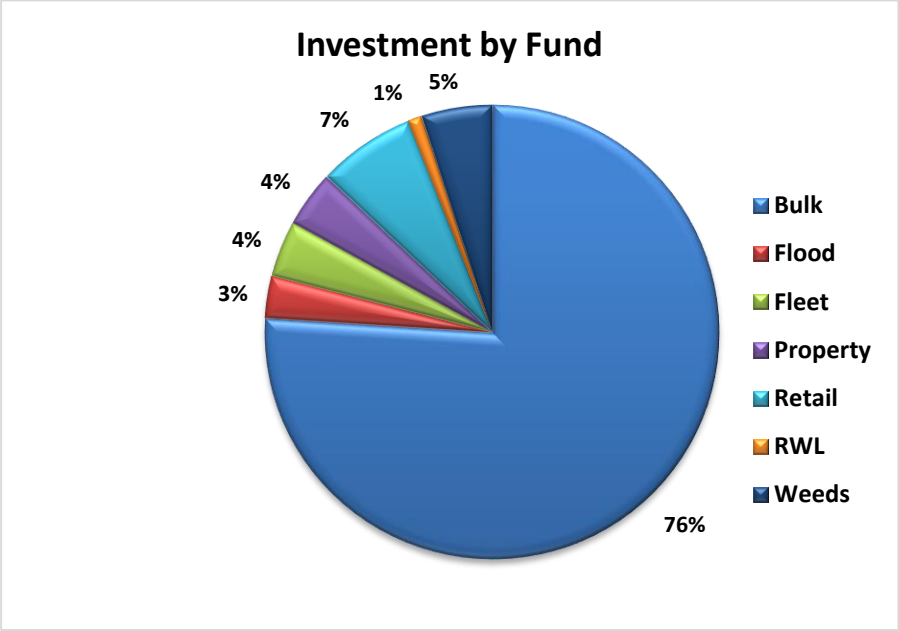
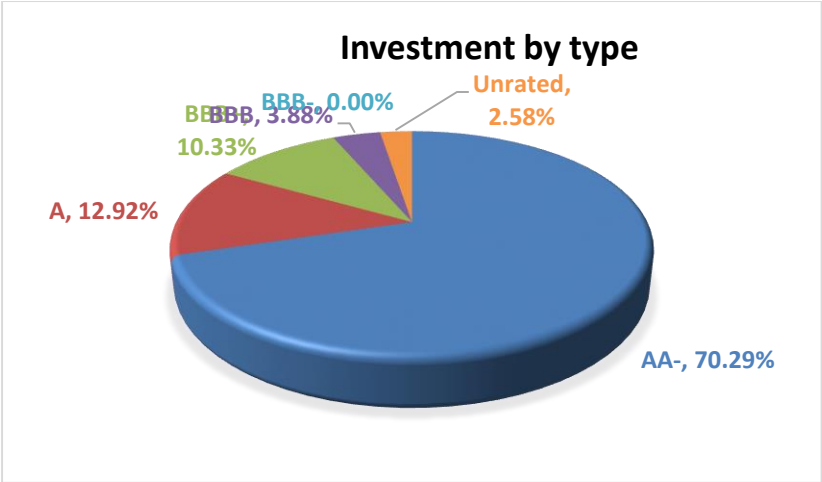
Total Investment Holdings**100.00 38,708,151.18****105,411.01 533,359.41**Total YTD Interest **533,359.41**

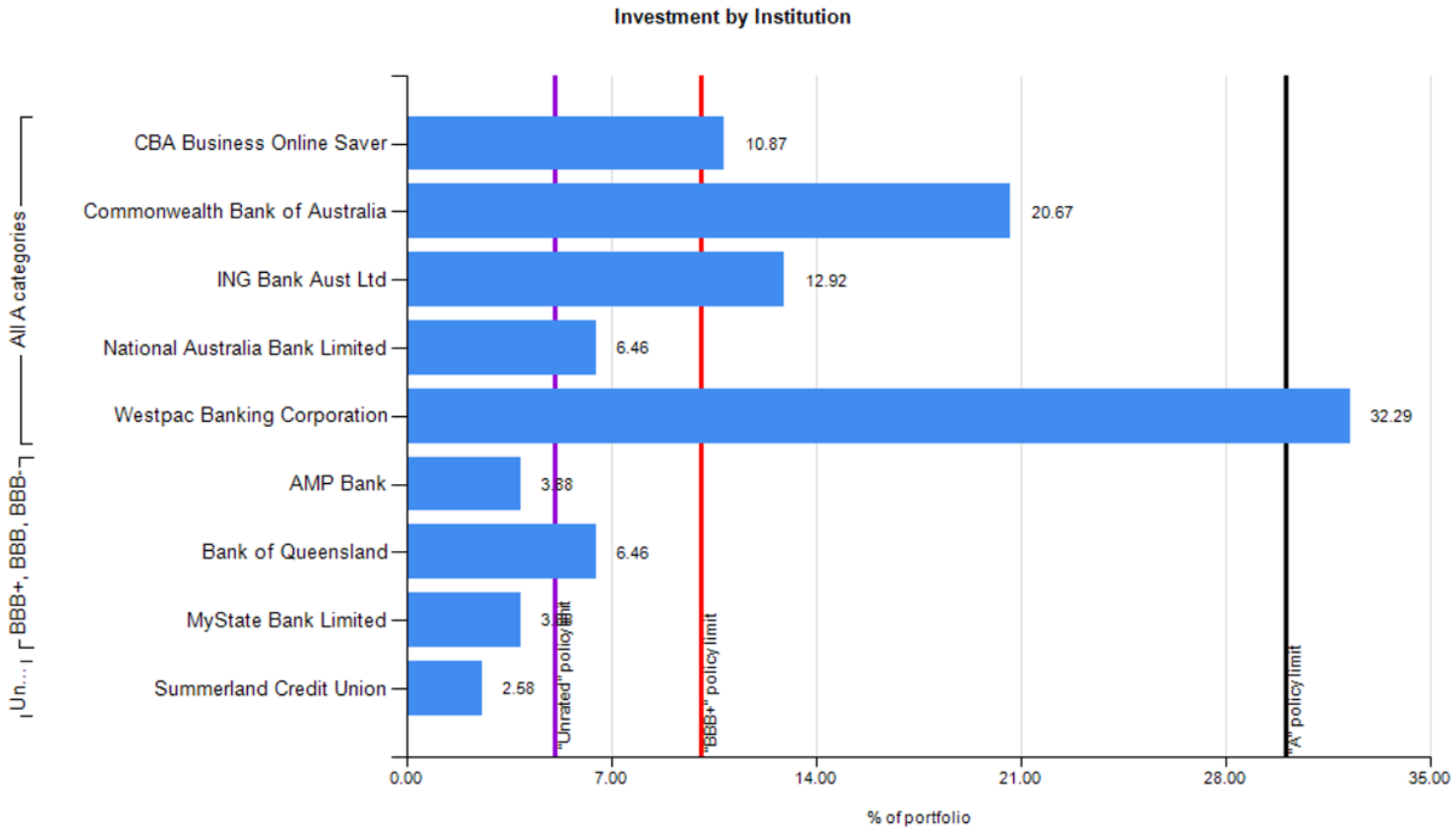
Deposits with Australian Deposit-taking institutions (ADI) are Government.

Budget Interest @ 31 January 2023 **319,313.89**

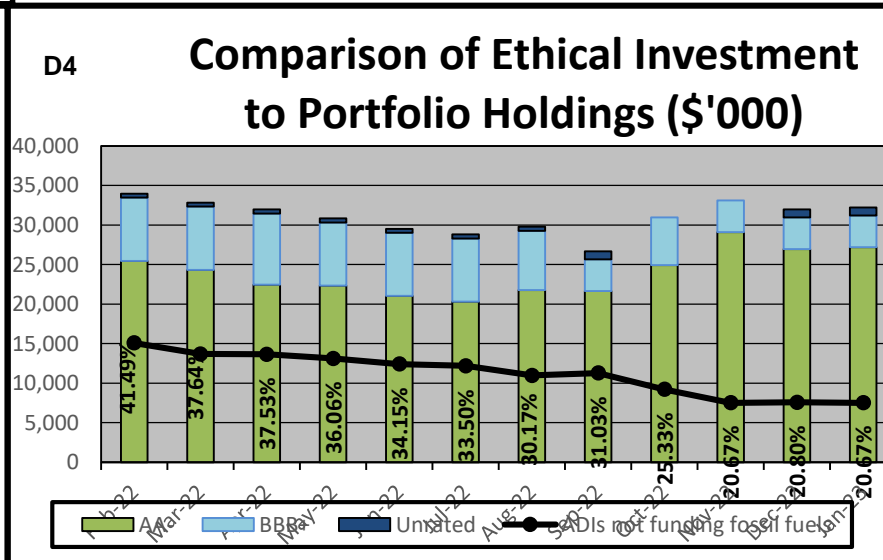
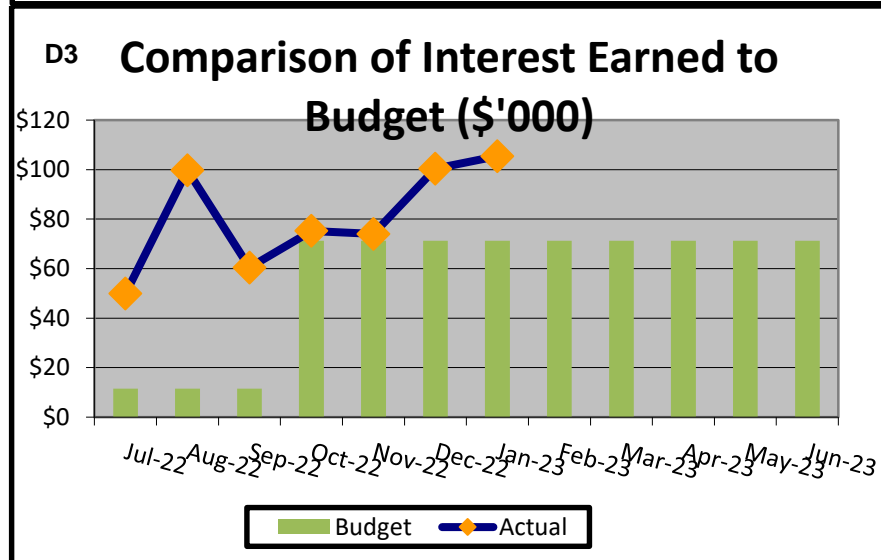
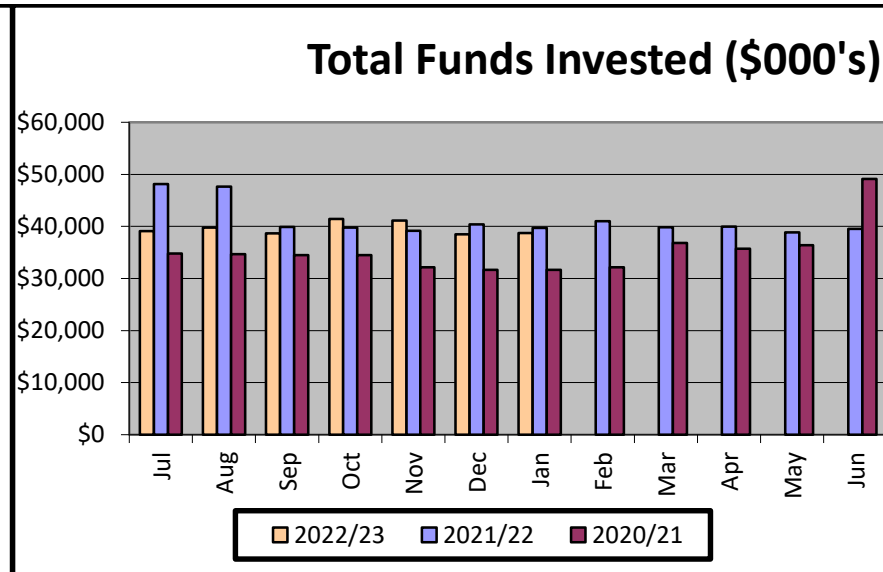
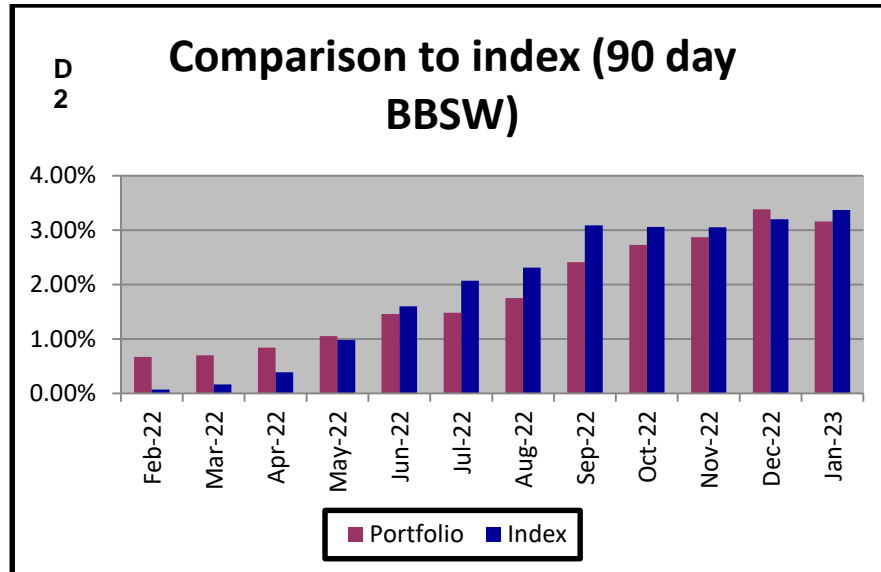
Guaranteed for balances totalling up to \$250,000 per customer, per institution.

Budget variance **214,045.52**





Note: Institutions shown with "****" and in red are in breach of council policy.



Summary of indebtedness

Information	Loan #1	Loan #2	Loan #3	Loan #4	Loan #5	Loan #6	Loan #7	Total
Institution	CBA	CBA	CBA	Dexia	NAB	NAB	Tcorp	
Principal Borrowed	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 13,500,000	\$ 58,500,000
Date Obtained	9-Jun-04	31-May-05	31-May-06	21-Feb-07	31-May-07	25-Sep-07	7-Jun-21	
Term (Years)	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	
Interest Rate	6.82%	6.25%	6.37%	6.40%	6.74%	6.85%	2.68%	
Date Due	10-Jun-24	31-May-25	31-May-26	21-Feb-27	31-May-27	25-Sep-27	7-Jun-41	
Annual Commitment	\$ 184,785	\$ 264,921	\$ 891,595	\$ 893,507	\$ 917,390	\$ 925,933	\$ 876,390	\$ 4,954,520
Principal Repaid LTD	\$ 1,740,750	\$ 2,395,519	\$ 7,241,630	\$ 6,889,553	\$ 6,474,331	\$ 6,126,457	\$ 782,275	\$ 31,650,514
Interest Incurred LTD	\$ 1,677,774	\$ 2,240,593	\$ 7,469,690	\$ 7,408,975	\$ 7,745,208	\$ 7,762,533	\$ 532,311	\$ 34,837,084
Principal Outstanding	\$ 259,250	\$ 604,481	\$ 2,758,370	\$ 3,110,447	\$ 3,525,669	\$ 3,873,544	\$ 12,717,725	\$ 26,849,487
Interest Outstanding	\$ 17,927	\$ 57,821	\$ 362,213	\$ 464,185	\$ 623,282	\$ 768,009	\$ 3,495,494	\$ 5,788,930

Water production and usage - December 2022

Responsible Officer: Group Manager Operations (Adam Nesbitt)

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Background

The table below is the December 2022 bulk water sales to the constituent councils in kilolitres compared to the corresponding December sales for 2021 and 2020.

Council	Dec 2020 (kL)	Dec 2021 (kL)	Dec 2022	% of Total Sales
Ballina Shire Council	341,693	320,883	321,759	37.6%
Byron Shire Council	248,302	211,504	229,497	26.82%
Lismore City Council	273,373	255,149	246,528	28.81%
Richmond Valley Council	58,252	58,421	57,889	6.77%
Total monthly consumption by constituent councils	921,620	845,957	855,673	

Water usage - all constituent councils

Figure 1 shows the combined monthly bulk water consumption and rainfall at Rocky Creek Dam for the previous two years.

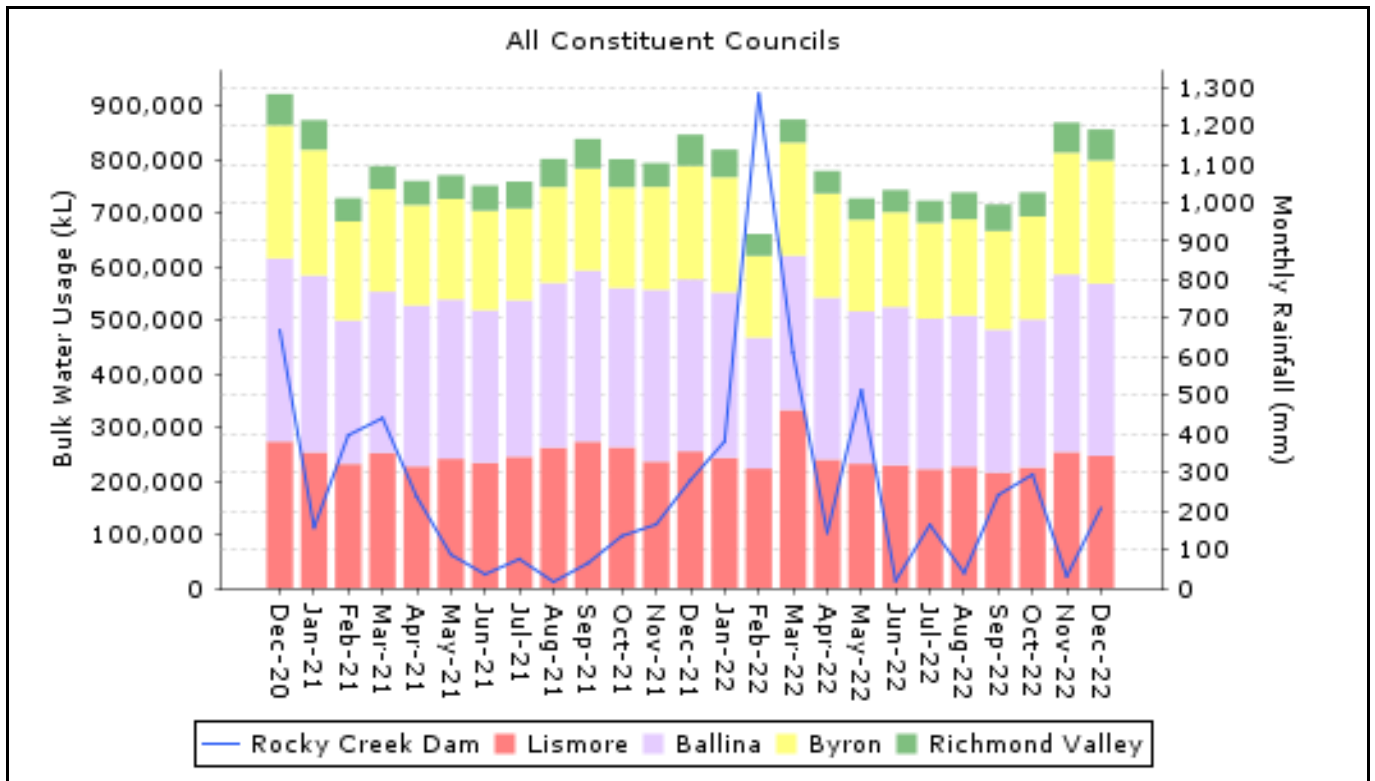


Figure 1: Total monthly consumption by constituent council and rainfall

Figure 2 shows the total bulk water sales for the financial year to date compared with the previous two years.

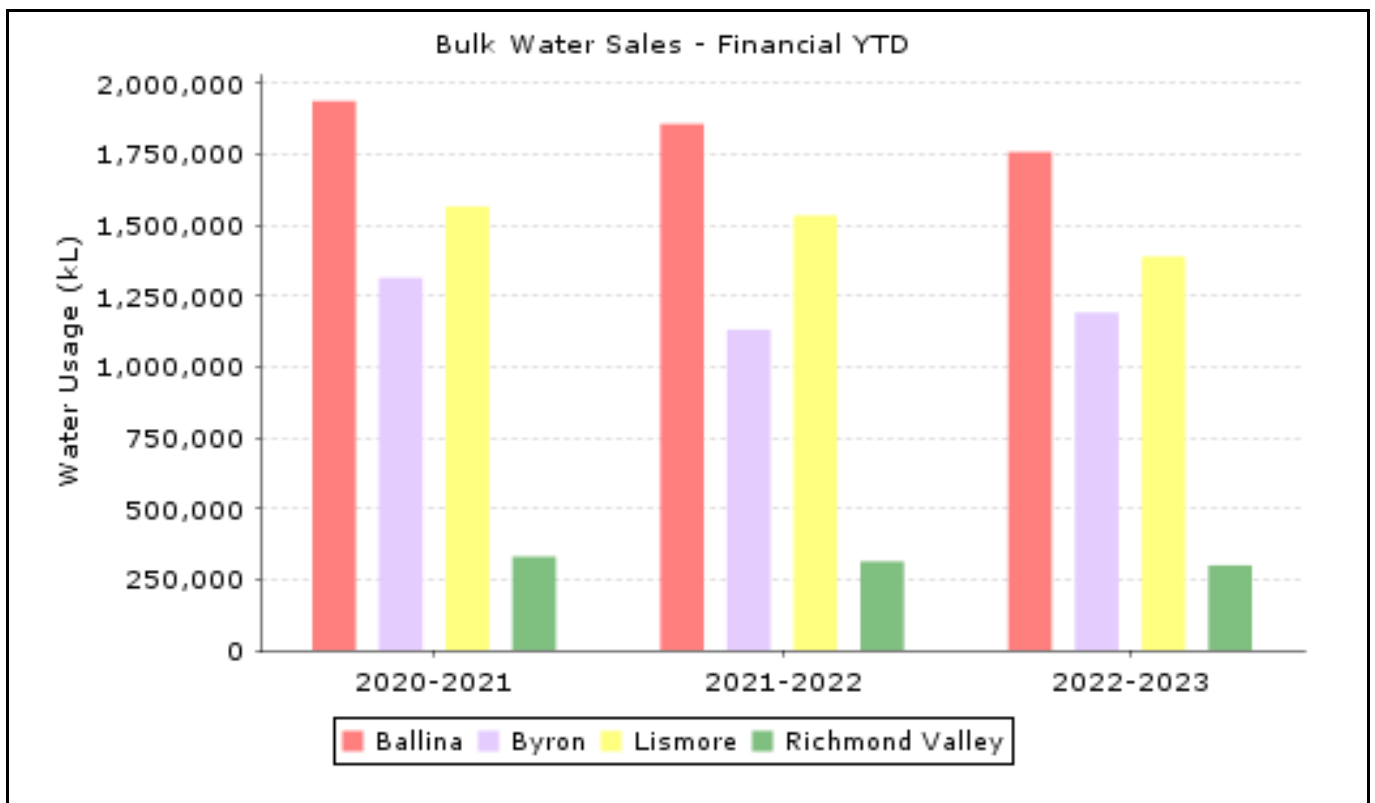


Figure 2: Bulk water sales by constituent council - 1 July to 31 December

Figure 3 and 4 shows the total usage of individual commercial water fill stations for the financial year to date compared with the previous two years.

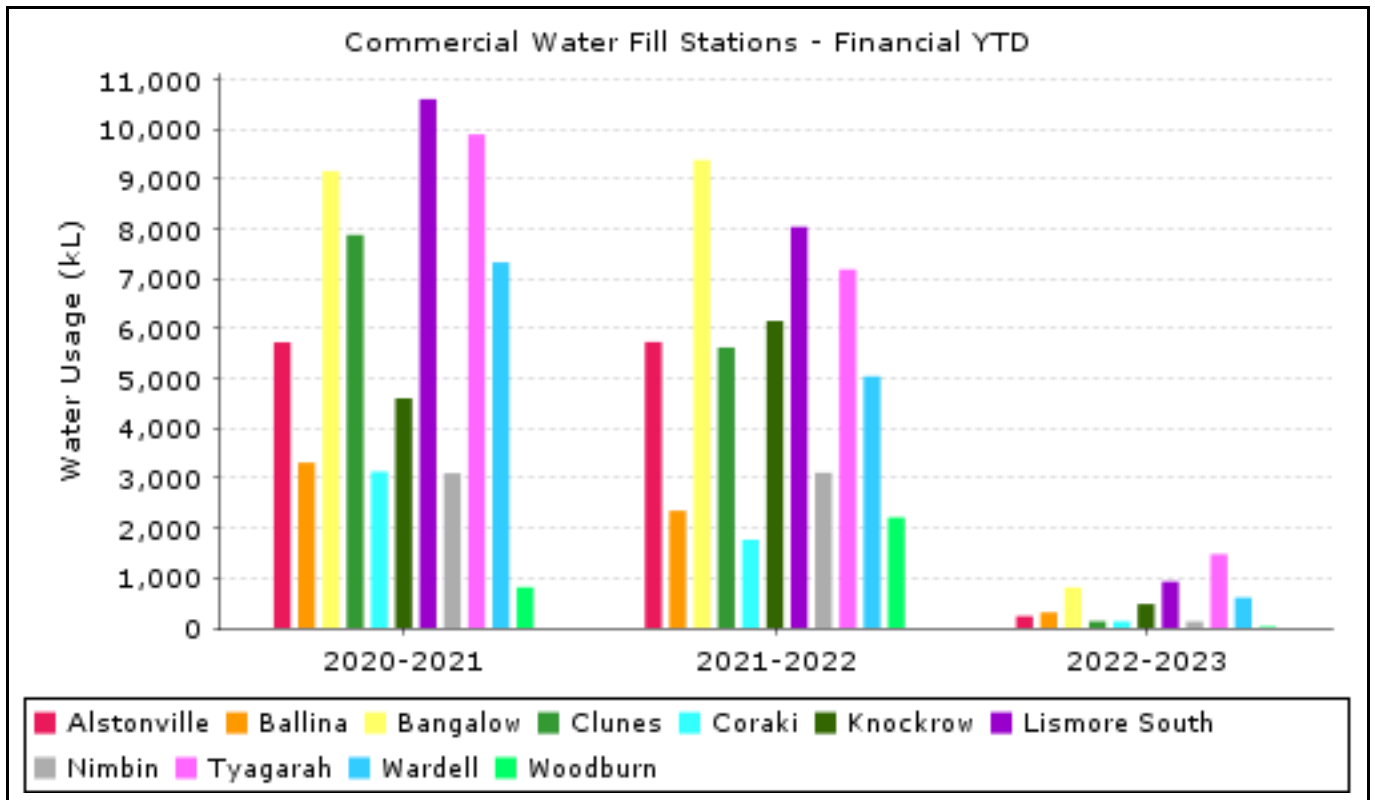


Figure 3: Comparison of commercial water fill stations total consumption - 1 July to 31 December

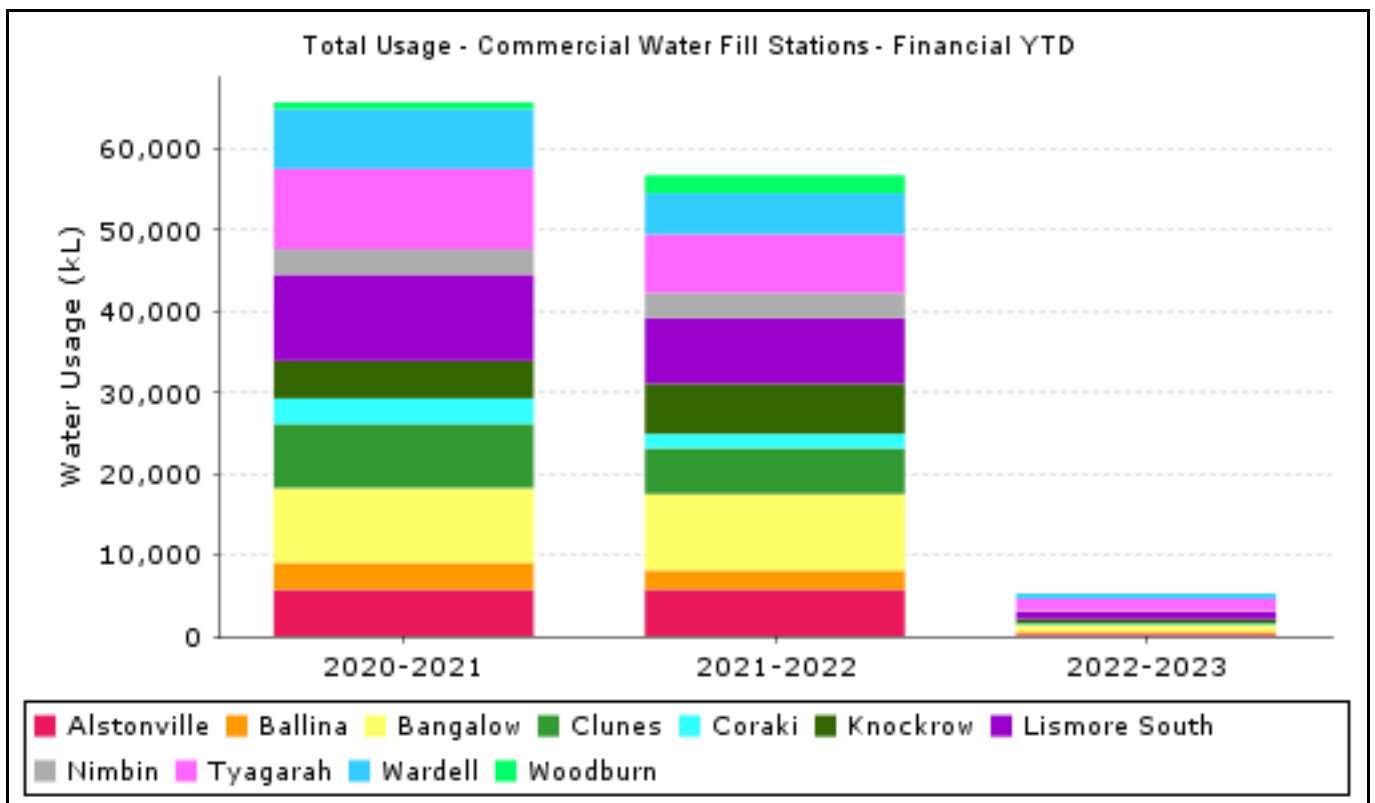


Figure 4: Total usage of commercial water fill stations - 1 July to 31 December

Figure 5 shows the combined water fill station monthly consumption for the previous two years. Rainfall data is from the rain gauge at Rocky Creek Dam.

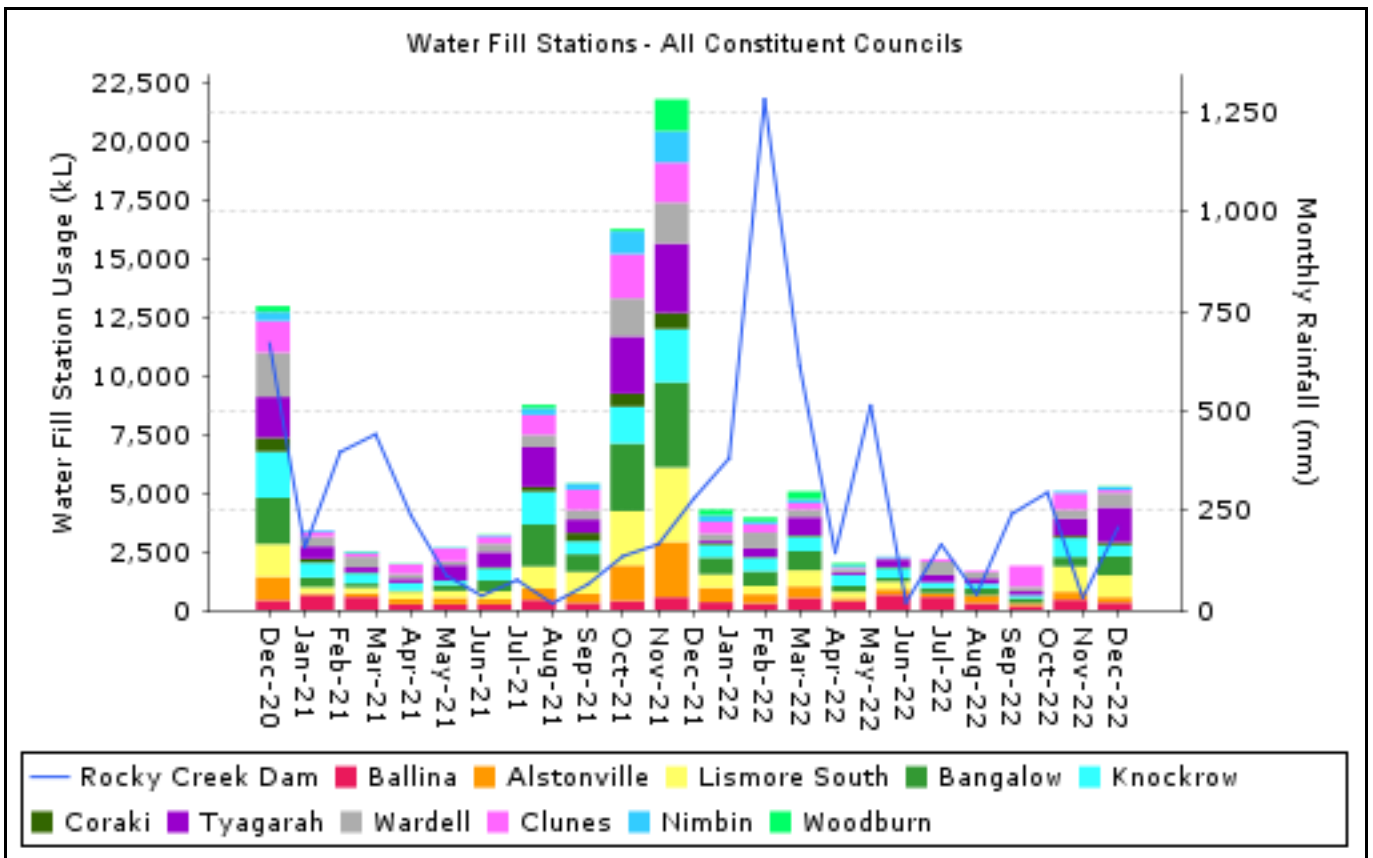


Figure 5: Total monthly consumption for commercial water fill stations and rainfall

Source contribution

Rocky Creek Dam capacity as of 31 December 2022 was 98.8%
 Emigrant Creek Dam capacity as of 31 December 2022 was 102.4%

Source	December 2022 (kL)		Cumulative total 2022-2023 (kL)	
	Usage	Capacity %	Usage	Capacity %
Rocky Creek Dam	926,322	96.71%	5,112,596	99.36%
Wilson River	2	0.00%	11	0.00%
Emigrant Creek Dam	31,539	3.29%	33,147	0.64%
Alstonville Plateau Bores	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Coastal Sands	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
	957,863		5,145,754	

Rocky Creek Dam

Figure 6 show Rocky Creek dam current water level and compares to previous years when levels reached lowest recorded dam level. Rainfall data is for the current financial year only.

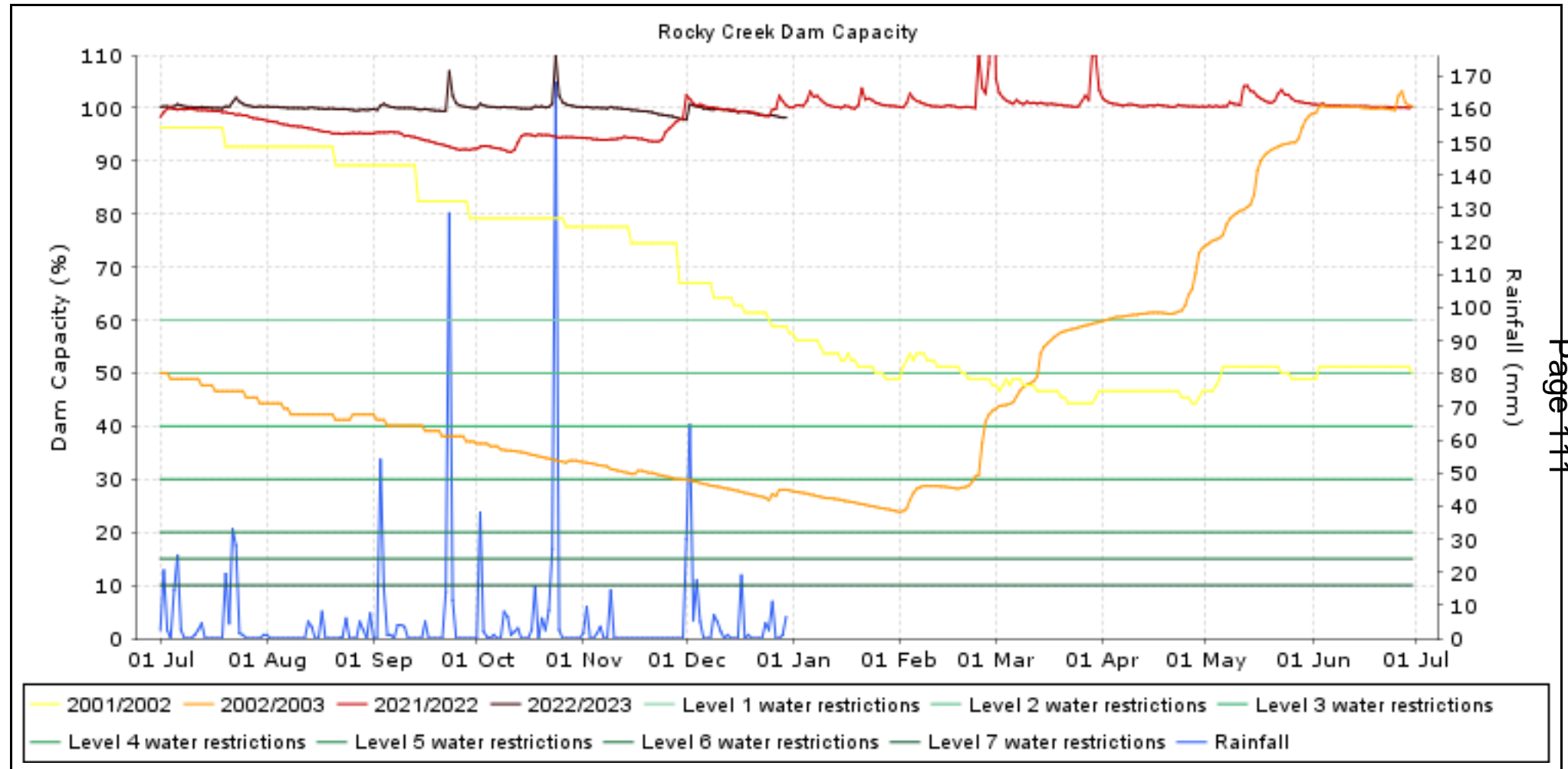


Figure 6: Rocky Creek Dam capacity and rainfall

Emigrant Creek Dam

[Figure 7](#) show Emigrant Creek dam current water level and compares to previous two years. Rainfall data is for the current financial year only.

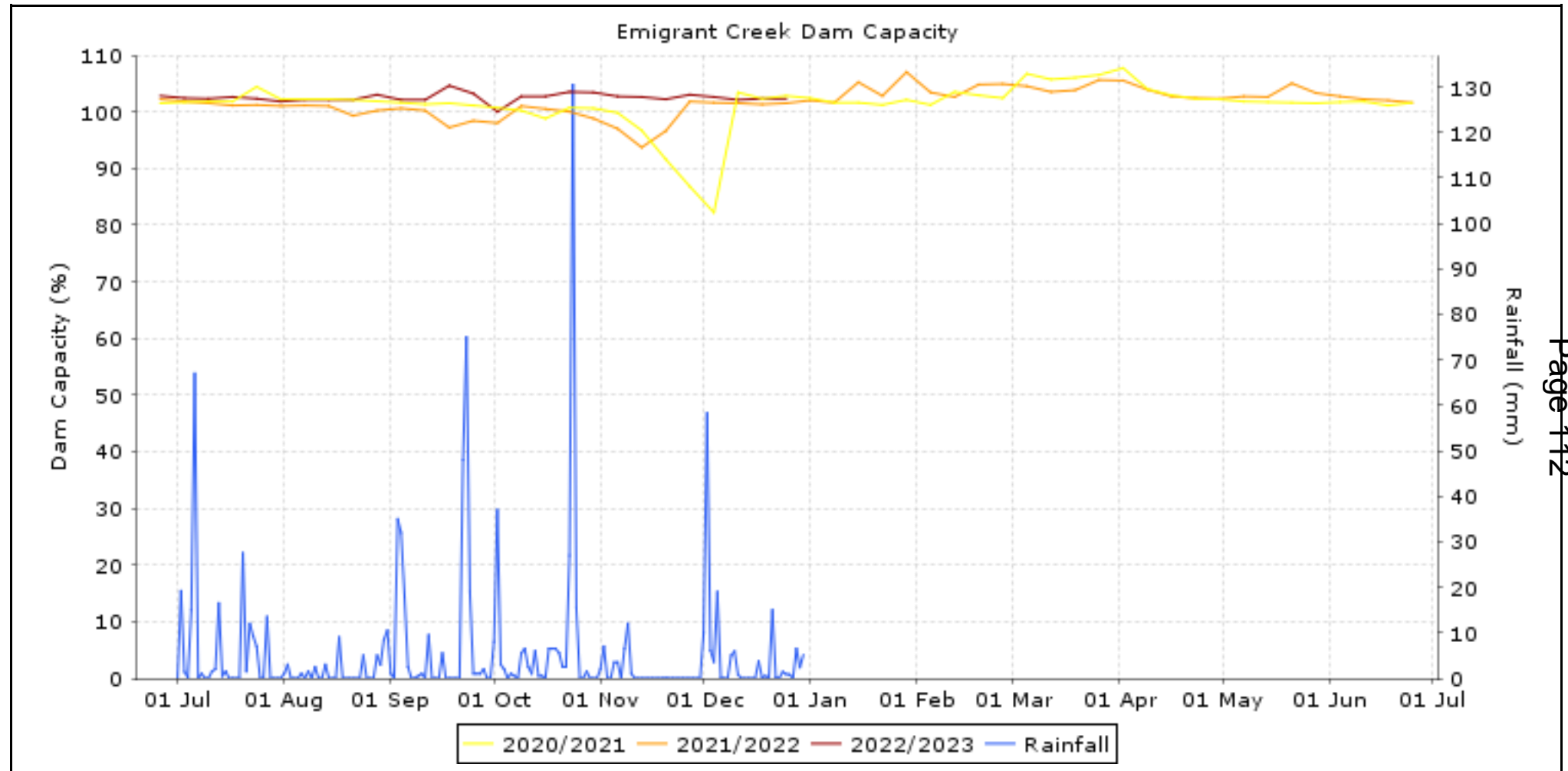


Figure 7: Emigrant Creek Dam capacity and rainfall

Monthly consumption by constituents - Ballina Shire Council

Figure 8 shows the monthly consumption for Ballina Shire Council area for the previous two years. Rainfall data is from the Bureau of Meteorology rainfall station Ballina Airport.

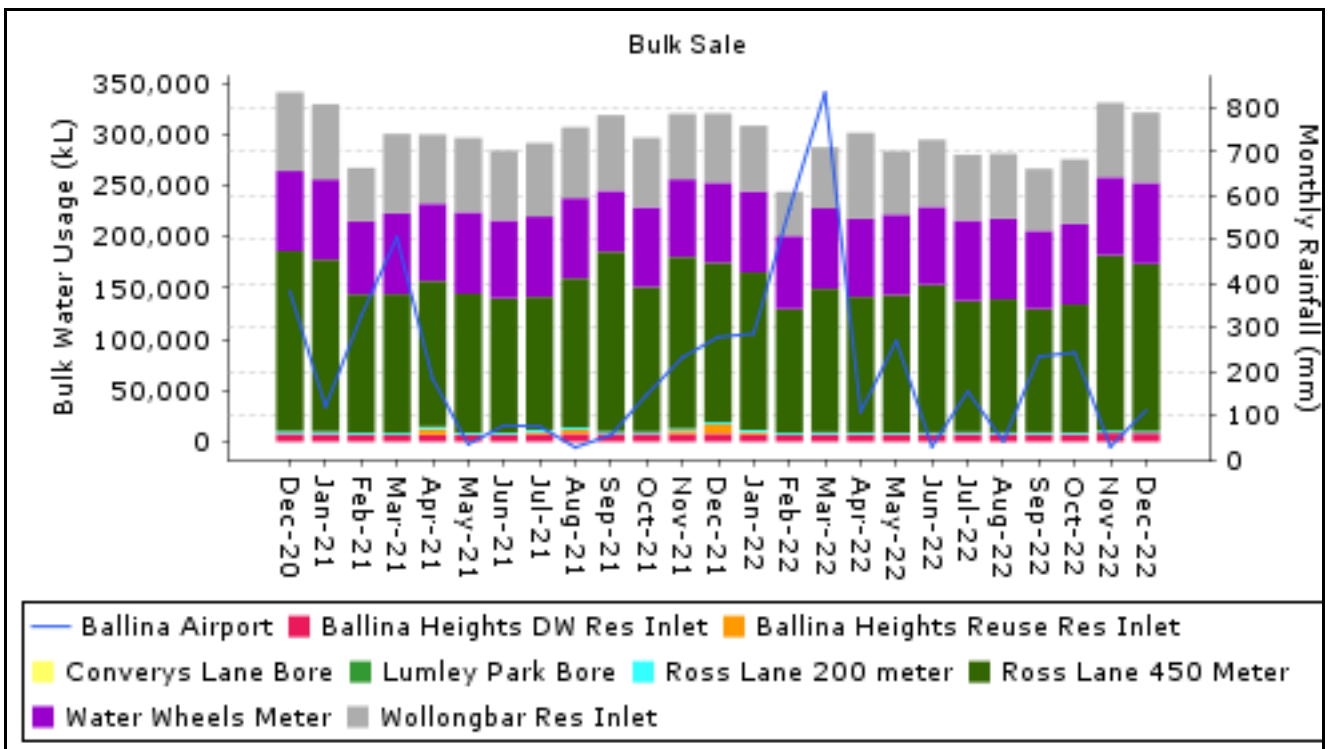


Figure 8: Monthly consumption and rainfall - Ballina Shire Council

Figure 9 shows the monthly consumption for water fill stations for Ballina Shire Council and the rainfall for the previous two years.

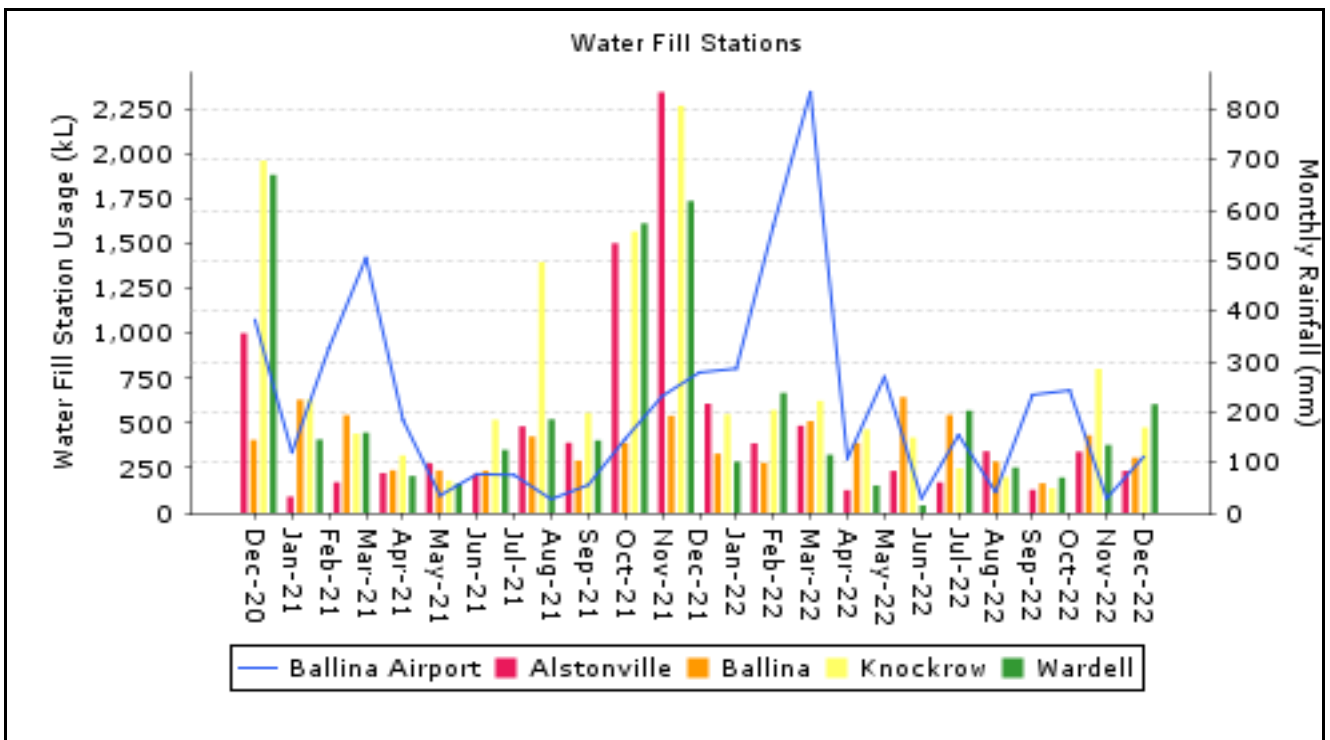


Figure 9: Monthly consumption commercial water fill station and rainfall

Figure 10 shows the total usage of individual commercial water fill stations for the financial year to date compared with the previous two years.

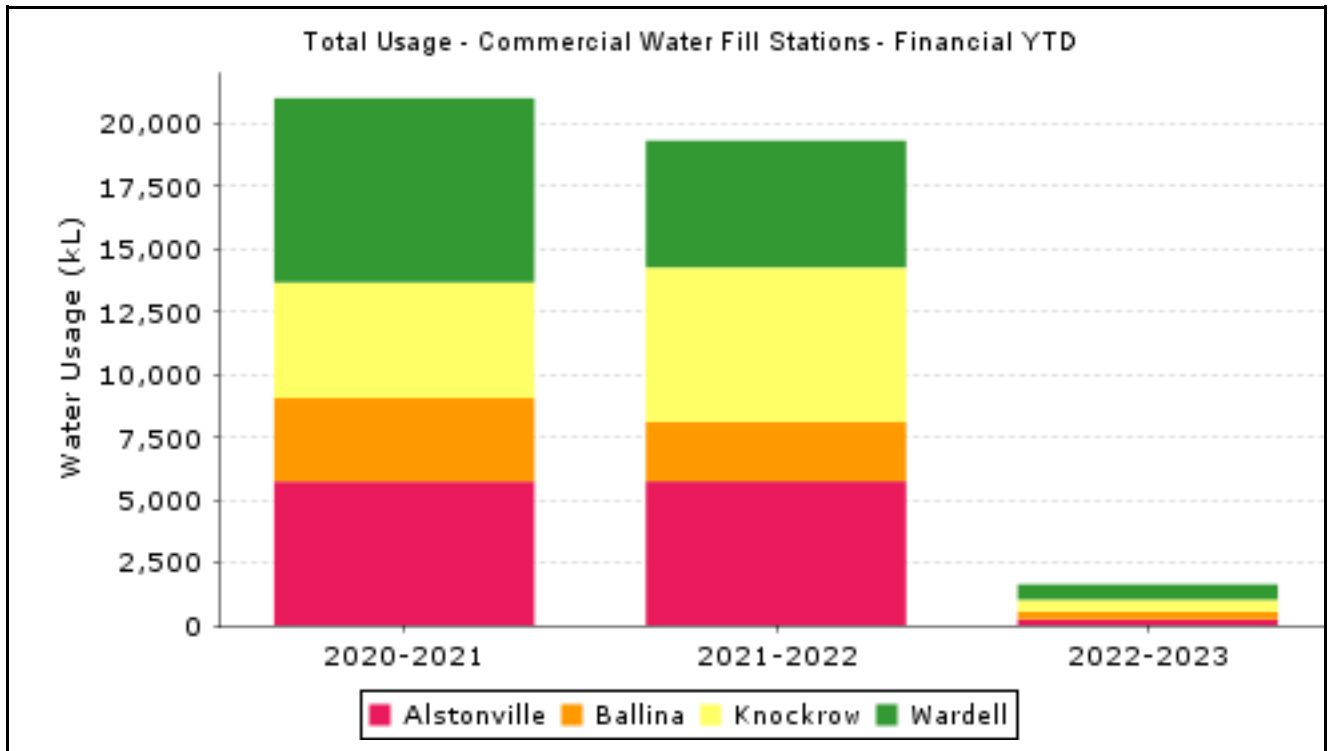


Figure 10: Total usage of commercial water fill stations. 1 July to 31 December

Monthly consumption by constituents - Byron Shire Council

Figure 11 shows the monthly consumption for Byron Shire Council area for the previous two years. Rainfall data is from the Bureau of Meteorology rainfall station Cape Byron.

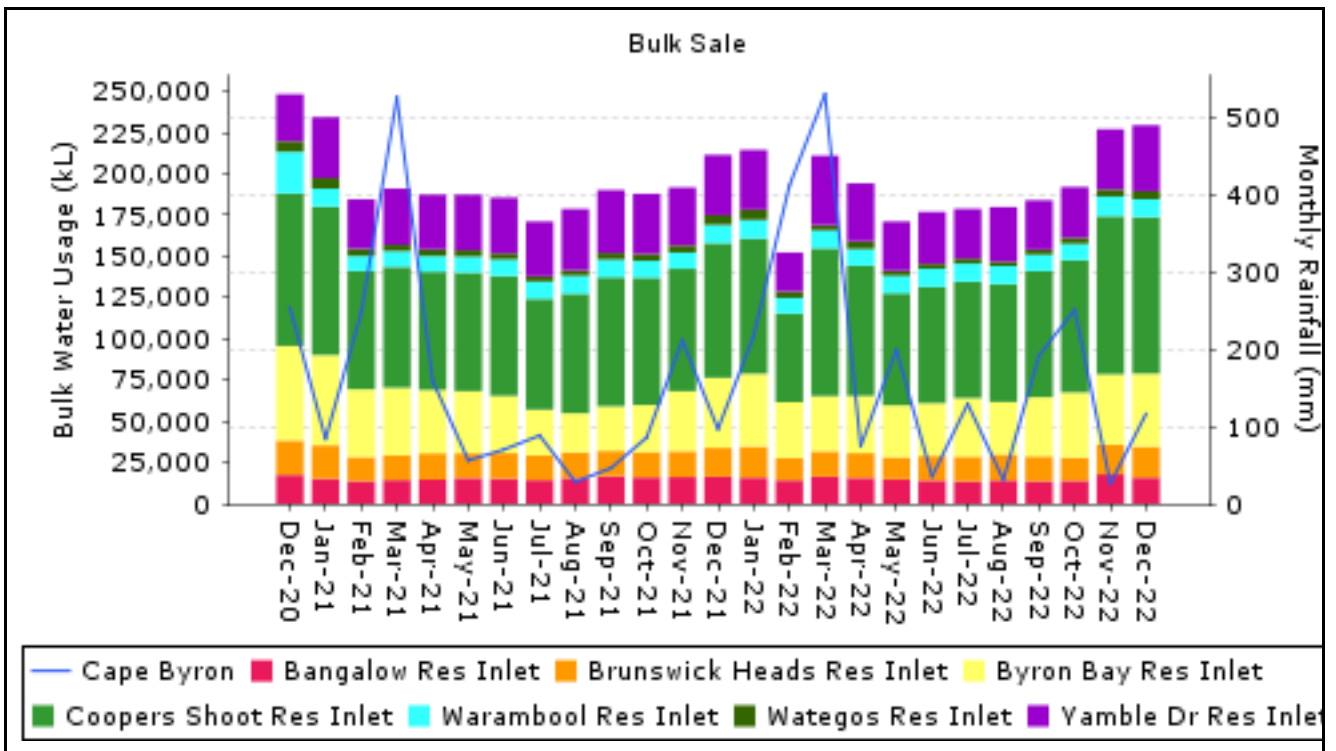


Figure 11: Monthly consumption and rainfall - Byron Shire Council

Figure 12 shows the monthly consumption for water fill stations for Byron Shire Council and the rainfall for the previous two years.

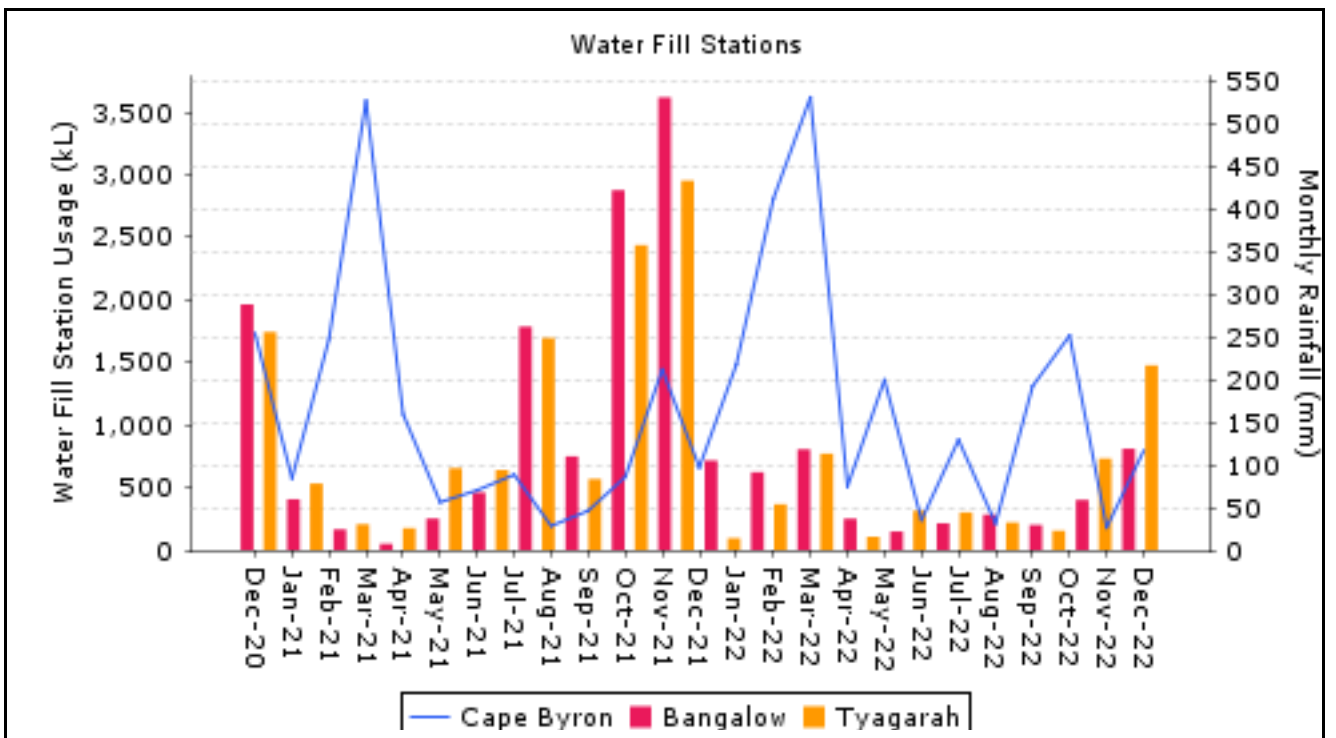


Figure 12: Monthly consumption commercial water fill station and rainfall

Figure 13 shows the total usage of individual commercial water fill stations for the financial year to date compared with the previous two years.

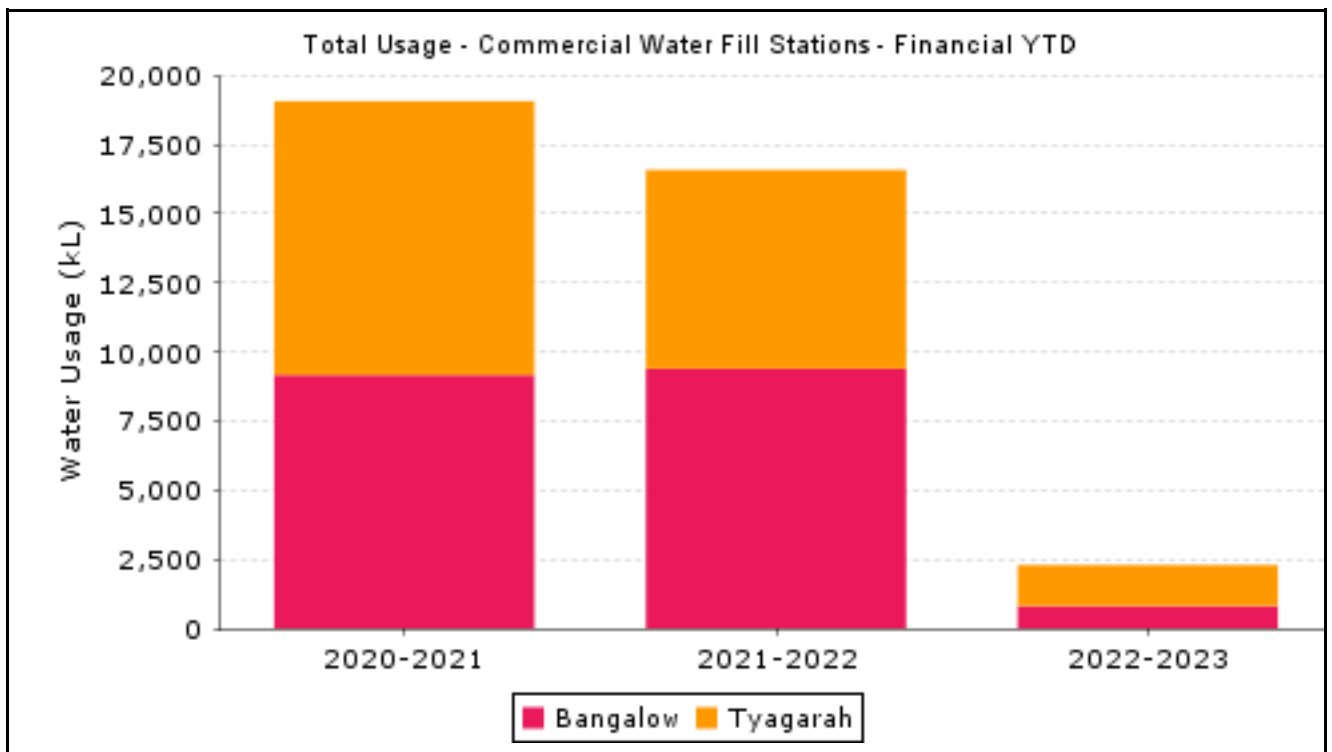


Figure 13: Total usage of commercial water fill stations. 1 July to 31 December

Monthly consumption by constituents - Lismore City Council

Figure 14 shows the monthly consumption for Lismore City Council area for the previous two years. Rainfall data is from the Bureau of Meteorology rainfall station Lismore Airport.

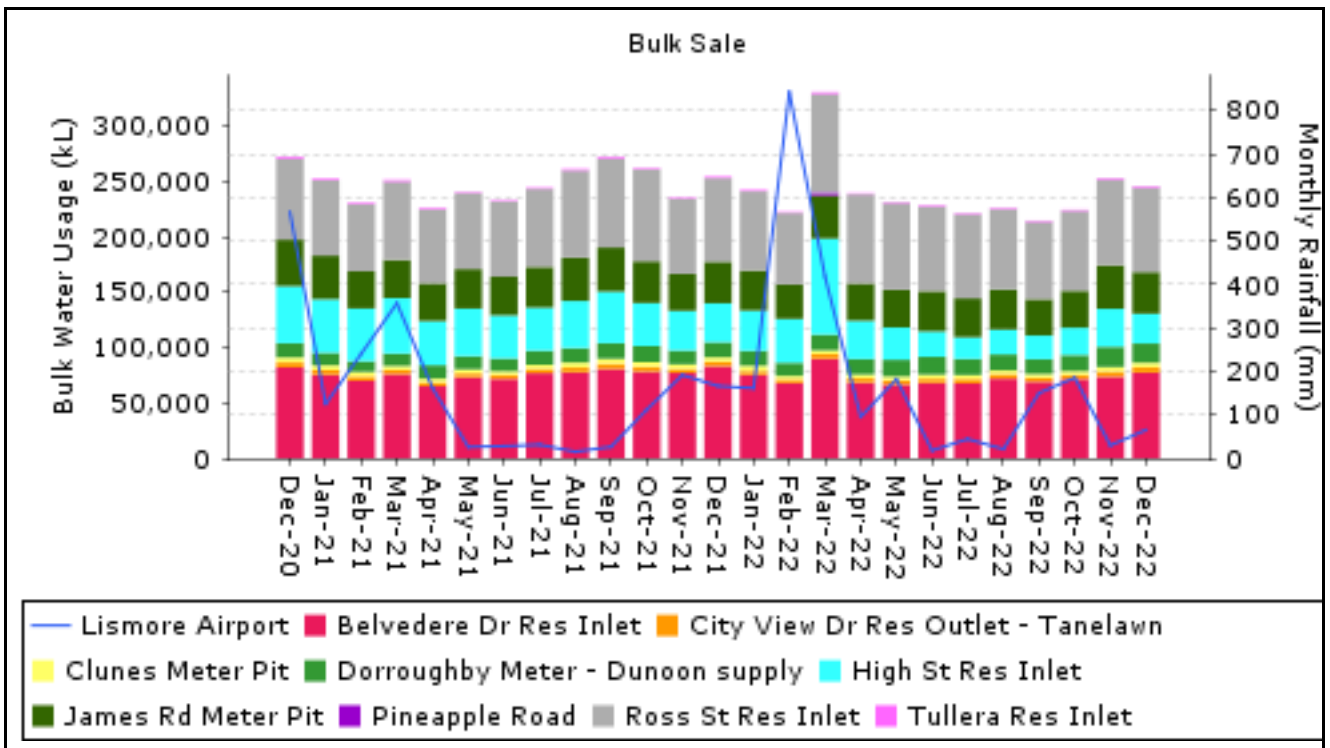


Figure 14: Monthly consumption and rainfall - Lismore City Council

Figure 15 shows the monthly consumption for water fill stations for Lismore City Council and the rainfall for the previous two years.

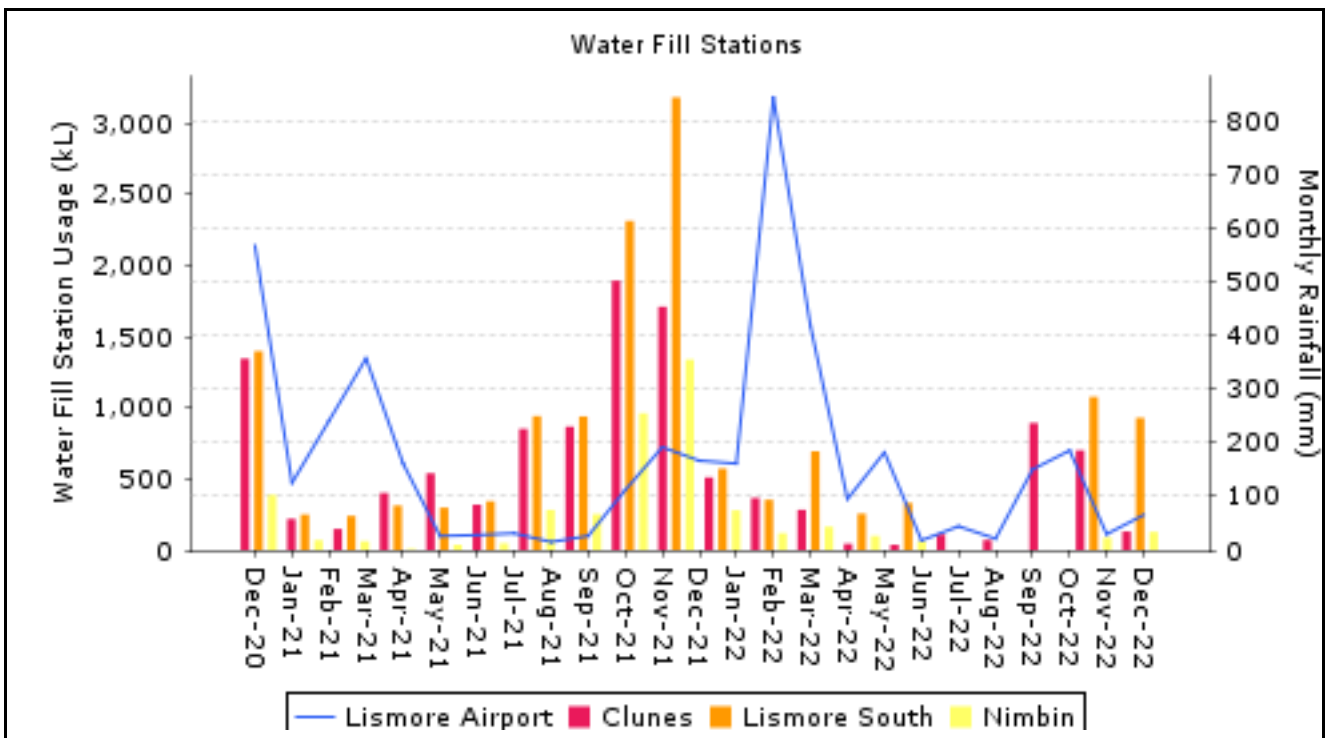


Figure 15: Monthly consumption commercial water fill station and rainfall

Figure 16 shows the total usage of individual commercial water fill stations for the financial year to date compared with the previous two years.

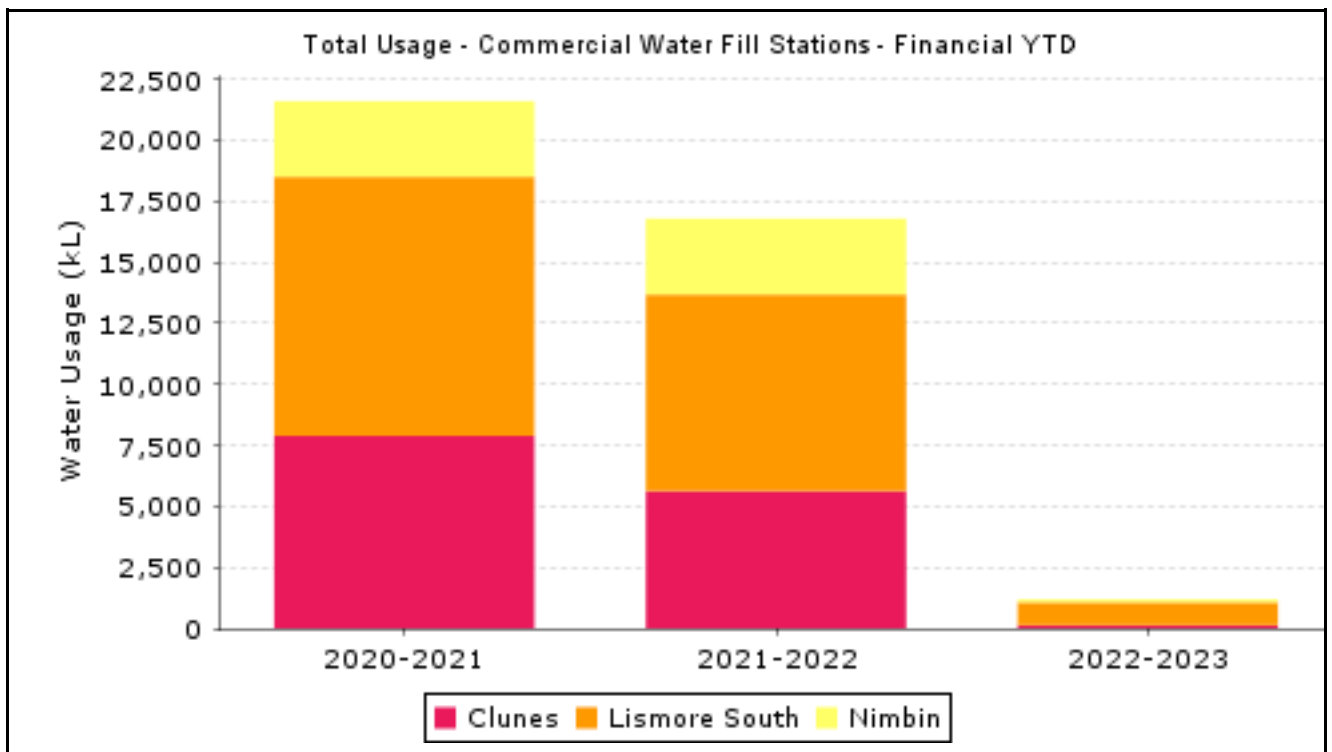


Figure 16: Total usage of commercial water fill stations. 1 July to 31 December

Monthly consumption by constituents - Richmond Valley Council

Figure 17 shows the monthly consumption for Richmond Valley Council area for the previous two years. Rainfall data is from the Bureau of Meteorology rainfall station Evans Head.

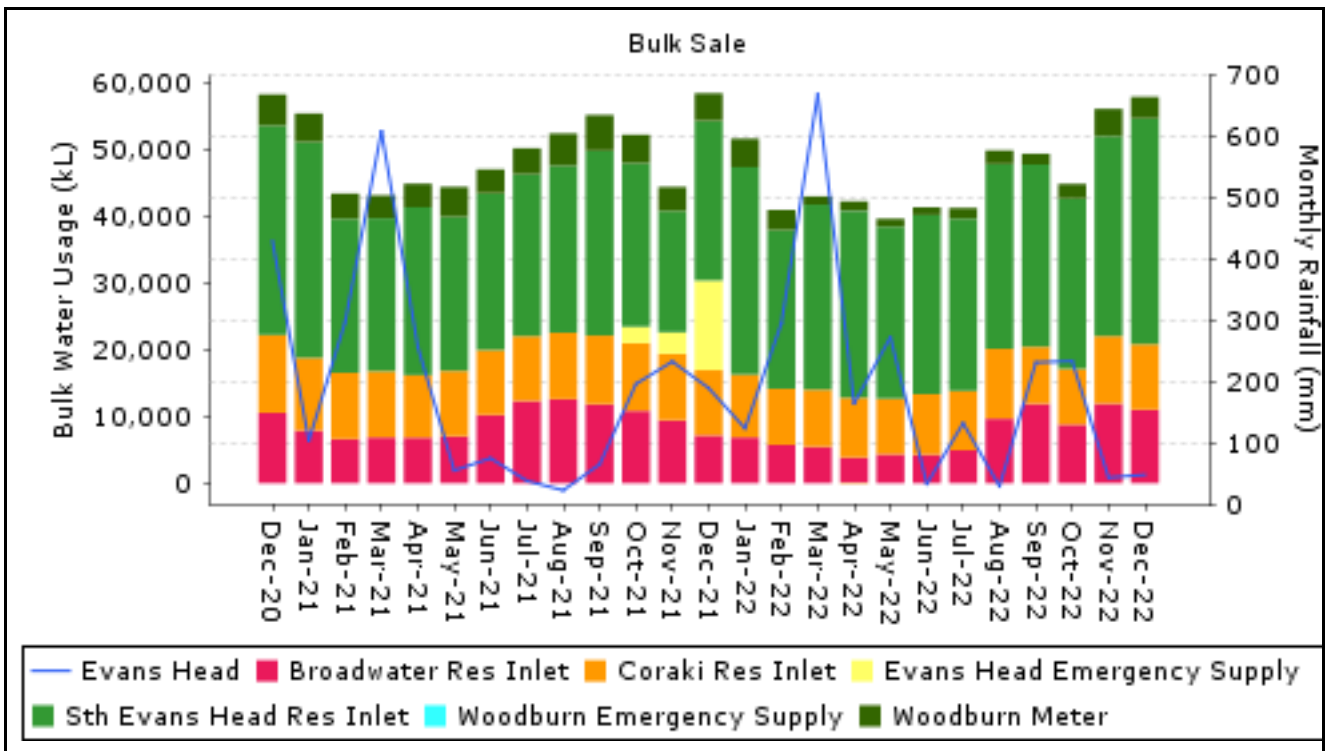


Figure 17: Monthly consumption and rainfall - Richmond Valley Council

Figure 18 shows the monthly consumption for water fill stations for Richmond Valley Council and the rainfall for the previous two years.

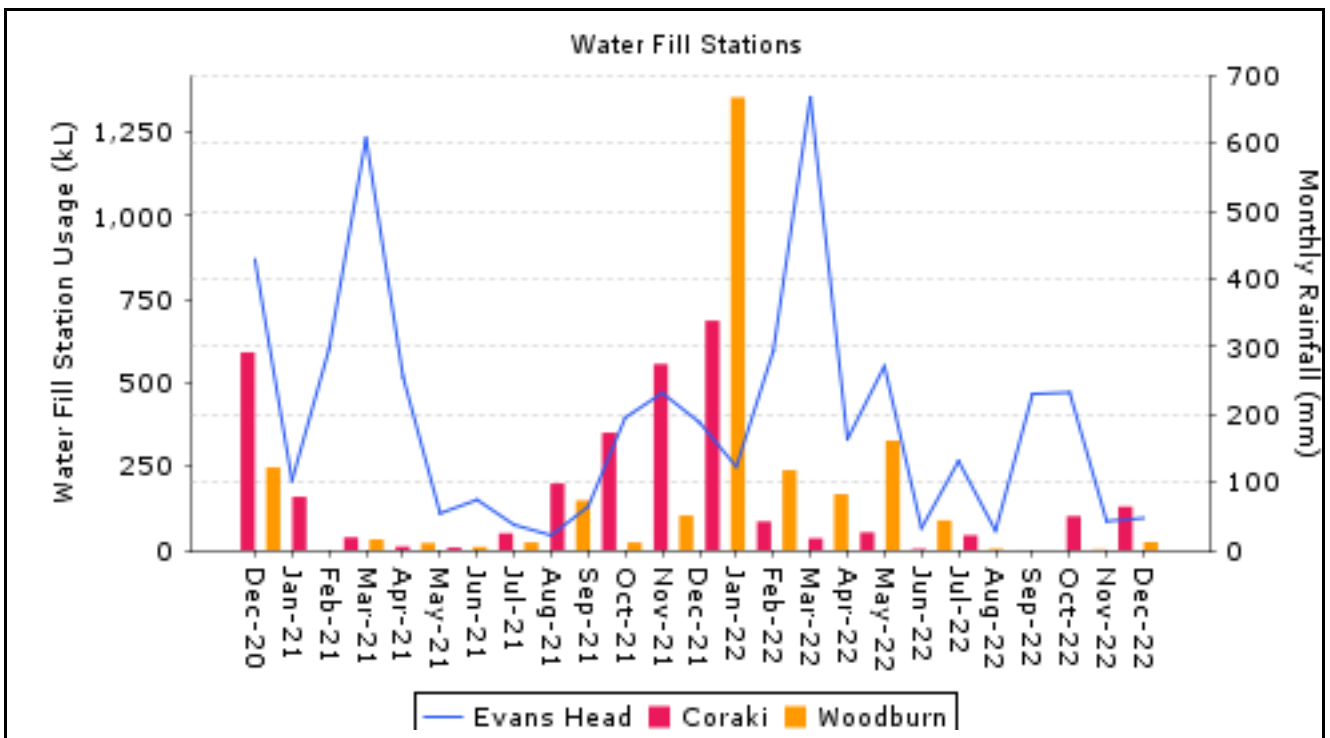


Figure 18: Monthly consumption commercial water fill station and rainfall

Figure 19 shows the total usage of individual commercial water fill stations for the financial year to date compared with the previous two years.

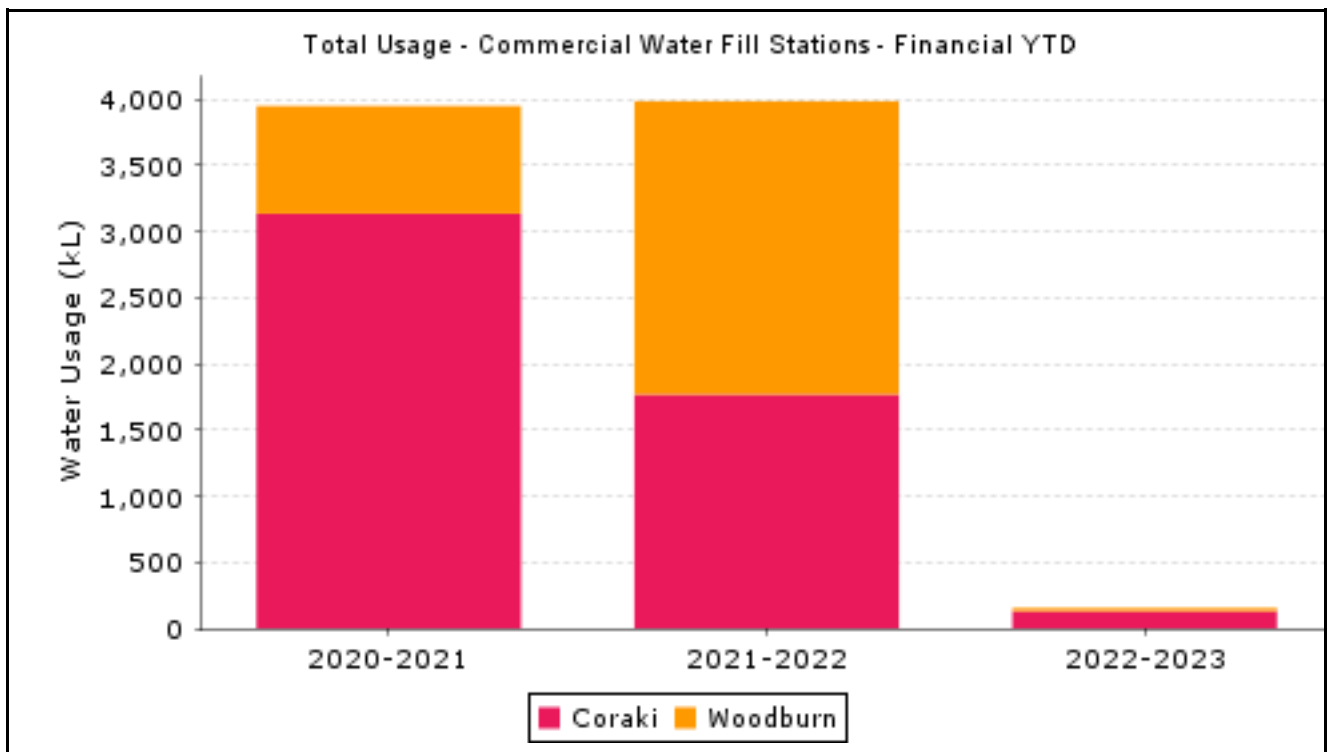


Figure 19: Total usage of commercial water fill stations. 1 July to 31 December

Debt write-off information summary

Responsible Officer: Group Manager Corporate and Commercial (Geoff Ward)

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the debt write-off information summary with debts written-off totalling \$18,304.79 for the period 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022.

Background

Council's 'Debt Management and Financial Hardship' policy provides that an information summary report be submitted to Council on a bi-annual basis.

As per Council resolution [50/22] made 17 August 2022:

- All debts above \$5,000.00 (ex-GST) may be written off only by resolution of Council.
- Council has delegated to the General Manager the power to write-off debts equal to or below the \$5,000.00 threshold.

The General Manager has delegated authority for the write-off of debts equal to or below:

- \$500.00 to the Group Manager Corporate and Commercial
- \$250.00 to the Finance Manager
- Debts written-off equal to or below \$5,000

Debts approved for write-off by Council staff were done so under delegation and in accordance with clauses 131 or 213 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*.

Debts approved for write-off during the period 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022 are tabled below:

Table 1:

Customer type	Ref. number	Write-off amount	Background	Reason	Approved by
Retail water account	12212	\$19.98	The replaced meter was recording the usage correctly however the cyble unit was not collecting the data correctly. The account was reviewed and charges re-calculated based on actual usage.	Debt not lawfully recoverable	Finance Manager
Retail water account	12288	\$27.46	Meter was recording the usage correctly, however the cyble unit was not collecting the data correctly. The account was reviewed and charges re-calculated based on actual usage. This meter was one of the meters that was identified by Itron as the one of the 300 meters that had cyble unit issue.	Debt not lawfully recoverable	Finance Manager

Customer type	Ref. number	Write-off amount	Background	Reason	Approved by
Retail water account	10461	\$16.56	The replaced meter was recording the usage correctly however the cyble unit was not collecting the data correctly. The account was reviewed, and charges re-calculated based on actual usage.	Debt not lawfully recoverable	Finance Manager
TOTAL: \$64.00					

Debts written-off above \$5,000

Customer type	Ref. number	Write-off amount	Background	Reason	Resolution
Retail water account	11743-10000-7	\$18,240.79	Meter cyble unit had stopped working between 07/04/21 to 20/07/21 and therefore a nil read was recorded in the October 2021 read. The January 2022 read recorded another nil read. Following this nil read check, it was discovered that the cyble unit was not working. During this time, the ownership of the caravan park had changed. Therefore, part of the usage belonged to the previous owner, but there is no way to prove their usage. Estimated usage was calculated based on the ADU for the same period from the previous year. Credit adjustment was the difference between the actual charge and the estimated charge.	Debt not lawfully recoverable	50/22
TOTAL: \$18,240.79					

Finance

Charges written-off during the period 1 July 2022 and 31 December 2022 total \$18,304.79 and this amount will be included in Council's Annual Report.

Legal

Clause 131(6) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* requires the General Manager to inform Council of any amounts written off under delegated authority.

Conclusion

Charges totalling \$18,304.79 were written-off under Council resolution and delegated authority pursuant to clauses 131 or 213 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*. The next debt write-off information summary report will be included in the August 2023 business paper.

Delivery program/Operational plan update 1 July 2022 to 1 December 2022

Responsible Officer: General Manager (Phillip Rudd)

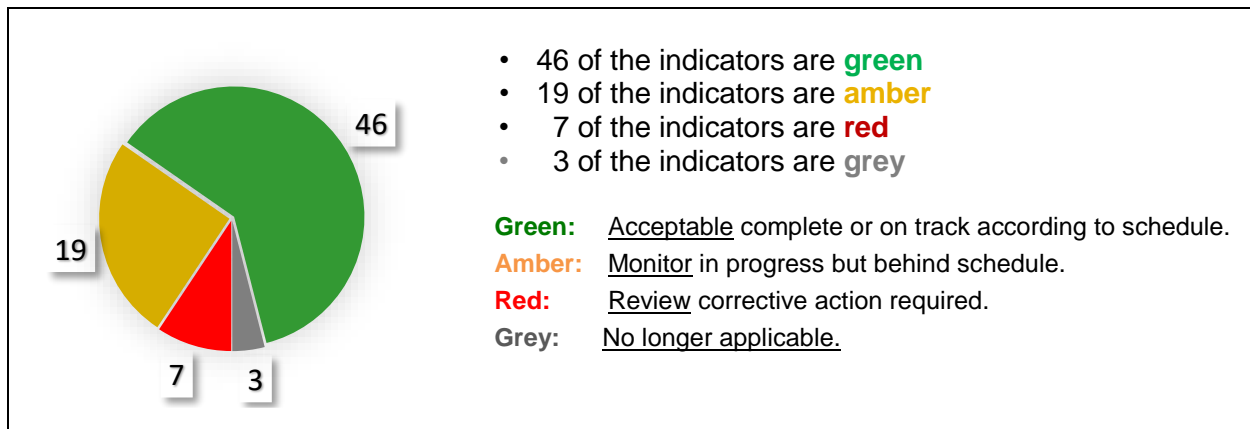
Recommendation

That Council receive and note this report and attachment regarding performance against delivery of the actions of the Delivery program/Operational plan for the period 01 July 2022 to 31 December 2022.

Background

This report relates to and provides information about Council's achievement of the performance targets in the Integrated Planning and Reporting Delivery program/Operational plan for Y1.

• Overview of performance – 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022



Refer to the Attachment for a traffic light indicator performance report based on exception reporting.

Legal

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, the General Manager must ensure that regular reports (at least every six months) are provided to Council outlining progress against delivery of the activities detailed in the Delivery program.

Consultation

This report and the information in the attachment has been compiled in consultation with management and staff.

Conclusion

This report provides an update on the status of the actions delivered between 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022 as set out in the Delivery program/Operational plan.

Attachment:

1. Performance against delivery of actions 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022

IP&R Delivery program/Operational plan

Reporting period: 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022

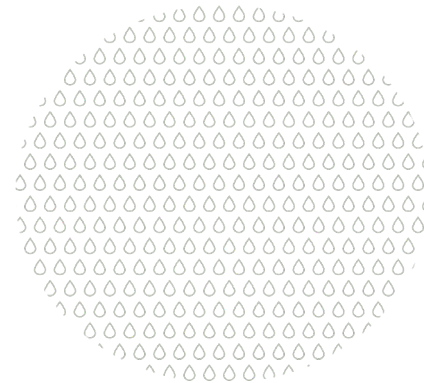
Sustainable delivery

Our priorities include:

- Contributing to the protection and enhancement of our region's environment and natural resources.
- Taking steps to strengthen our response to climate change impacts and reducing our carbon emissions.
- Planning for future demands as our region's population grows.
- Sustainably using our available resources.
- Sound business planning and ongoing improvement.

Objectives:

- 1.1 A healthy environment.
- 1.2 Responding to climate change.
- 1.3 Water security, quality and sustainable consumption.
- 1.4 A sustainable Council.



Legend:

Green: Acceptable. Complete or on track according to schedule.

Amber: Monitor. In progress but behind schedule.

Red: Review. Corrective action required.

Grey: Not required however, comment included.

Delivery objectives	2022-2023 Actions	What is being measured	Target	Responsibility	UPDATE	STATUS
1.1.1 Environmentally responsible procurement.	1.1.1.1 Develop a procurement strategy and review existing policy to focus on waste minimisation and environmental impact.	Revised strategy and policy adopted.	By June 2023	GRM		●
	1.1.1.2 Review local supplier relationships and resourcing of specialist procurement arrangements.		By June 2023	GRM	Some planning has been undertaken into establishing local supplier panels for services such as mowing, fire safety etc. Specialist procurement arrangements are currently being established for projects such as Future Water.	●
1.1.2 Sustainable river system health through natural resource management.	1.1.2.1 Undertake scheduled 2022-23 actions of the Catchment and Coastal Zone Management plans.	% of scheduled actions completed.	At least 90%	CCAM		●
	1.1.2.2 Continue to deliver the Active Floodgate Management Program – highlighting the expected improvement to water quality.	All required training of landowner volunteers completed. All required plans reviewed and updated.	By June 2023 By June 2023	FO FO		● ●
1.1.3 Enhance the region's biosecurity through combatting the spread of targeted weeds.	1.1.3.1 Deliver scheduled 2022-23 actions of the Weed Action Plan.	% of scheduled actions completed.	At least 95%	WBRRM		●
	1.1.3.2 Liaise with constituent councils about possible Rous role in fee for service weed control in local parks, reserves and roadsides.	Explore opportunities, cost options and discuss with constituents.	By June 2023	WBRRM		●
1.2.1 Achieve carbon neutrality -Performance planning and management processes include discussion of individual staff member alignment with Council Values.	1.2.1.1 Prepare Renewable Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan.	Plan development phase completed.	By June 2023	SPE		●
	1.2.1.2 Install solar panels at Nightcap Water Treatment Plant.	Panels installed and operational.	By June 2023	GMO		●
	1.2.1.3 Plant trees to contribute to offsetting our carbon emissions.	# of trees planted.	Subject to Plan outcomes	CCAM WBRRM	On-ground work for River Reach Plans will commence following completion of planning phase.	●
1.2.2 We are prepared and able to respond to climate change impacts.	1.2.2.1 Collate and analyse data to inform the Strategic Review of Flood Mitigation.	Collation and analysis complete.	By June 2023	SPE	Proposing to work with CSIRO on synergies between projects.	●
	1.2.2.2 Review and identify the challenges to reducing the natural resource impact of flood mitigation assets in a changing climate.	Discussion paper prepared.	By June 2023	FO		●
1.3.1 Short-term (to 2040) water supply demands are able to be met.	1.3.1.1 Undertake scheduled 2022-23 actions of the Future Water Project.	% of scheduled actions completed.	At least 90%	FWPM	Some planning, investigation and design activities delayed. Awaiting outcome of state government grant funding to support these activities.	●
	1.3.1.2 Administer residential rainwater tank rebates.	# of rebates processed.	Report by	WSO		●
	1.3.1.3 Monitor water quality to ensure compliance with Australian Drinking Water Standards.	# of occasions of non-compliance.	Zero	DTM OEM		●
	1.3.1.4 Prepare and implement a Future Water stakeholder engagement strategy.	Engagement strategy endorsed by Leadership Team and ready for implementation.	December 2022	FWPM	In progress. Expected to be completed in Feb 2023.	●
	1.3.1.5 Prepare and implement a project plan for the planning and investigations of a groundwater scheme at Tyagarah.	Plan drafted for internal consultation.	By June 2023	FWPM	Delayed commencement. Awaiting outcome of state government grant funding to support planning, investigation and design.	●
1.3.2 Source options to meet long-term (beyond 2040) water supply demands are better understood.	1.3.2.1 Undertake further investigations of Stage 3 source options to support future decision making	Study commenced in accordance with project plans	By June 2023	FWPM	Delayed commencement. Awaiting outcome of state government grant funding to support planning, investigation and design.	●

1.3.3 Our water supply is valued and used responsibly.	1.3.3.1 Undertake scheduled 2022-23 actions for the Regional Demand Management Plan.	% of scheduled actions completed.	At least 90%	WSO	In progress. Some program areas are on track whereas others have experienced delays due to shifting stakeholder priorities following Covid and floods. This work is ongoing.	●
	1.3.3.2 Design a behaviour-change pilot program to understand community attitudes to responsible water use.	Consultant engaged and initial program designed.	By June 2023	WSO	Delayed commencement due to late start date and resourcing. Extension recommended to June 2024.	●
	1.3.3.3 Implement the Water Loss Management Plan.	% of scheduled 2022-23 actions completed.	At least 90%	IPM	Due to current long lead times on metering and monitoring equipment, 90% of field installations will not be able to be completed this financial year, however are expected to be completed early in 2023/24.	●
	1.3.3.4 Continue implementation of smart metering and backflow prevention program for retail customers.	Contractors engaged and on ground works commenced.	By March 2023	SMPM		●
1.3.4 The region's water supply capacity is enhanced.	1.3.4.1 Identify a preferred location and concept for a purified recycled water plant.	Preferred location identified with an associated concept.	June 2023	RWPM		●
1.4.1 Our resources are planned, prioritised and implemented to ensure Rous's sustainability	1.4.1.1 Undertake scheduled actions within the 2022-23 Resourcing Strategy (financial, asset and human resources).	% of scheduled actions completed.	At least 90%	FM AMSO PCM	LTFP on track.	●
	1.4.1.2 Deliver the 2022-23 Capital Works program.	% of program completed.	At least 80%	IPM DTEM OEM	Flood Mitigation capital projects delayed due to ongoing flood disaster repairs.	●
% of spending achieved.		At least 80% of funds committed or spent		IPM DTEM OEM	Flood Mitigation capital projects delayed due to ongoing flood disaster repairs.	●
1.4.2 Rous's revenue stream is strengthened.	1.4.2.1 Prepare Development Servicing Plan for Bulk Water Supply, including a review of water charges.	Plan adopted.	By December 2022	PDE	Draft DSP currently on public exhibition and will be seeking formal adoption in February 2023.	●
	1.4.2.2 Update the Business Plan for Richmond Water Laboratories.	Plan completed and endorsed.	By December	RWLBM	RWL has ceased operations	●
1.4.3 A positive risk management culture is embedded and sustained.	1.4.3.1 Review the currency and operability of Emergency Response plans following recent major flood events.	Review complete.	By June 2023	ERC	Due the ERC position becoming vacant, this activity will need to be reviewed and potentially carried over into Y2 of the Delivery Program.	●
	1.4.3.2 Update Council's Risk Management Plan and review the Risk Register to respond to outcomes of recent major flood events.	Plan and Register closed.	By June 2023	ERC	Due the ERC position becoming vacant, this activity will need to be reviewed and potentially carried over into Y2 of the Delivery Program.	●
1.4.4 Ongoing service reviews, audits and business improvements achieve enhanced organisational outcomes.	1.4.4.1 Complete prioritised service reviews based on recommended focus areas identified by Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.	# of service reviews completed.	At least 1	GRM		●
		% of review recommendations implemented.	At least 50% within 12 months of date of	GRM		●
	1.4.1.2 Embed a business process management framework to drive continuous improvement.	Process taxonomy completed with clear ownership.	By mid 2023	ICTL		●
		Key process improvement opportunities identified.	By end 2023	ICTL		●
	1.4.4.3 Participate in Performance Audits conducted by the NSW Audit Office.	# of audits participated in.	Report by occurrence and		FM	No audits participated in to date, and no requests to participate received.
1.4.4.4 Review and align all proactive operational maintenance plans for water and flood assets as part of ongoing improvements to service.	All operational maintenance plans reviewed, updated and implemented.	By June 2023		OEM DTEM		●

External relationships

Our priorities include:

- Building community understanding of the breadth of functions and results that Council delivers across the region.
- Being well positioned to respond to the diversity of our communities' needs and aspirations.
- Ensuring we proactively and positively engage with our constituent councils so that they understand and support our future direction.
- Maintaining strong relationships with others to promote positive business, environment and community outcomes.
- Being well positioned to win State Government funding opportunities.
- Sound business planning and ongoing improvement.

Objectives:

- 2.1 Strong and mutually respectful relationships with our constituent councils.
- 2.2 People across our region understand the work that we do.
- 2.3 Our working relationships with political, regulatory and industry stakeholders are effective and achieve results.

Delivery objectives	2022-2023 Actions	What is being measured	Target	Responsibility	UPDATE	STATUS	
2.1.1 Effective collaboration and communication with our constituent councils.	2.1.1.1 Undertake a survey with our constituent councils to best understand points of engagement for planning, collaboration and delivery.	Survey completed.	By March 2023	CCM		●	
2.2.1 Communities across our region are kept informed of Rous's work and have opportunities to engage with us.	2.2.1.1 Develop and implement a Communications and Engagement Strategy.	Strategy adopted.	By August 2022	CCM		●	
	2.2.1.2 Identify target businesses for the Sustainable Water Partnership pilot program.	% of scheduled actions completed.	At least 90%	CCM		●	
	2.2.1.3 Provide opportunities for engagement through face-to-face activities, social media, website and customer service offerings.	Spread across target groups.	At least 2 target groups	WSO	Continuing new program design before businesses can be identified and onboarded.	●	
	2.2.1.4 Monitor Rous website to ensure content complies with WCAG level AA standards.	Increase in social media followers.	At least 200	CCM		●	
	2.2.1.5 Provide timely and accurate information using appropriate media.	Compliance.	100%	CCM		●	
	2.2.1.6 Support Rous projects and activities through the development and implementation of communication and marketing campaigns.	Number of media releases. Number of social media posts.	No target Report by	CCM		●	
2.3.1 Our positive working relationships support the achievement of regional outcomes.	2.3.1.1 Pursue funding opportunities that support agreed regional objectives where delivery is primarily Rous's responsibility.	Number of projects and activities supported.	No target Report by	CCM		●	
	2.3.1.2 Actively participate in the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation.	\$ value of funding received.	At least \$100,000	GM		●	
2.3.2 Water consuming businesses and industry are engaged to promote sustainable water consumption.	2.3.2.1 Undertake scheduled 2022-23 actions of the Regional Demand Management Plan.	% of scheduled meetings attended.	100%	GM		●	
2.3.3 Local Aboriginal history and culture is respected, and we positively engage with our First Nations communities.	2.3.3.1 Review and update Rous's Reconciliation Action Plan.	% of scheduled Rous's actions completed.	At least 90%	WSO	Continuing new program design before businesses can be identified and onboarded.	●	
2.3.4 Local community groups are positively engaged to support the achievement of shared objectives.	2.3.4.1 Review and update Rous's Reconciliation Action Plan.	Review completed and revised RAP adopted.	By June 2023	CCAM		●	
2.3.5 Regional collaboration informs policy and innovative approaches to priority issues.	2.3.5.1 Actively contribute to the Weeds and Pest Advisory Committees as part of our flood and water policy contribution.	2.3.5.1 Undertake scheduled 2022-23 actions of the Communications and Engagement Strategy.	% of scheduled actions completed.	At least 90%	CCM		●
		# of meetings participated in.	At least 90%	WBBRM		●	
	2.3.5.2 Collaborate with State and other agencies including Health, Local Land Services, Dept of Primary Industries and Water Services Association of Australia.	Nature of outcomes achieved.	Report by	WBBRM		●	
		Nature of collaboration outcomes.	Report by occurrence	WBBRM DTEM		●	

Our people

Our priorities include:

- Forecasting future workforce skill needs.
- Being an employer our employees are proud to work for.
- Creating opportunities for our staff to learn and develop skills that are needed for achieving our organisational objectives.

Objectives:

- 3.1 Our future workforce requirements are confirmed.
- 3.2 Innovative solutions are applied to addressing skills gaps.
- 3.3 Leaders at all levels.
- 3.4 We are recognised as an employer of choice.



Delivery objectives	2022-2023 Actions	What is being measured	Target	Responsibility	UPDATE	STATUS	
3.1.1 We know our workforce and skills requirements to achieve our Delivery Program commitments.	3.1.1.1 Review and redesign recruitment strategies and techniques to target hard-to-recruit roles.	Recruitment strategy designed and implemented.	By 31 March 2023	PCM	Talent acquisition training completed 11-01-2023 for P&C team. Still more recruitment strategies to implement.	●	
3.2.1 Specialist and hard-to-recruit skills are available to Rous when needed.	3.2.1.1 Implement Workforce Management Plan actions related to filling hard-to-recruit roles.	% of positions advertised and filled following recruitment process.	At least 90%	PCM	Target on the way to be met.	●	
	3.2.1.2 Complete staff skills and interests inventory through annual performance appraisal process.	Inventory completed.	By 31 January 2023	PCM	Annual Performance Checkins completed. Inventory to be completed Jan 2024	●	
	3.2.1.3 In collaboration with constituent councils, identify and implement talent sharing opportunities.	In collaboration with constituent councils, identify and implement talent sharing opportunities.	Report by occurrence	PCM	To be removed. It is currently a very difficult labour market.	●	
3.3.1 Our leaders and emerging leaders are provided with development opportunities.	3.3.1.1 Implement leadership development actions of the Workforce Management Plan.	% of scheduled actions completed.	At least 90%	PCM		●	
3.4.1 Our staff are proud to work for Rous.	3.4.1.1 Recognise and celebrate achievements and staff contributions through regular staff communications.	% of staff who report being proud to work for Rous.	At least 90%	CCM		●	
3.4.2 Our workplace is accessible, inclusive and safe.	3.4.2.1 Develop new Disability Inclusion Action Plan.	Plan finalised and approved.	30 June 2023	PCM	Target moved to 31 December 2023	●	
	3.4.2.2 Review the Work Health and Safety Management System.	Review completed.	By December	HSEC		●	
	3.4.2.3 Implement Council's Health Safety and Environment policy and systems.	Employee days lost.	0 lost time injuries		HSEC		●
		Incident and hazard reporting.	Upward trend		HSEC		●
		% of Vault modules implemented.	100%		HSEC		●
		No paper-based business		HSEC		●	

Leadership and innovation

Our priorities include:

- Confirming our role as a regional leader.
- Expanding Rous's role in the region to provide a more consistent and cohesive service delivery model on behalf of our constituent councils.
- Exploring new technologies and approaches to addressing regional issues where Council may contribute to the solution.
- Responding proactively to a changing regulatory environment.

Objectives:

- 4.1 Be recognised for leadership in what we do.
- 4.2 Effective use of technology supports the achievement of organisational objectives.
- 4.3 We embrace innovation and continually improve the way we do business.

Delivery objectives	2022-2023 Actions	What is being measured	Target	Responsibility	UPDATE	STATUS
4.1.1 Embed reconciliation in Rous's culture through its people and partners.	4.1.1.1 Undertake scheduled 2022-23 actions of the Reconciliation Action Plan.	% of scheduled actions completed.	At least 90%	CCAM		●
4.1.2 Demonstrate effective leadership through the delivery of our commitments and reporting on our progress and results.	4.1.2.1 Prepare an annual Operational Plan, Budget and Annual Report to demonstrate Council's progress in achieving its Delivery Program commitments.	2023-24 Operational Plan and Budget adopted.	By June 2023	GMPP FBP	On track.	●
		2021-22 Annual Report published.	By 30 November 2022	CCM		●
	4.1.2.2 Report on Service Level Agreement implementation and performance.	Reports provided to constituent councils.	6-monthly	GMO		●
4.2.1 Our business systems and data support us to achieve organisational results.	4.2.1.1 Undertake scheduled 2022-23 actions of the Information and Communications Technology Plan.	% of scheduled actions completed.	At least 90%	ICTM	ICT are progressing initiatives to schedule	●
	4.2.1.2 Introduce a streamlined timesheet process for 70hr per fortnight staff.	Time spent on timesheet preparation.	At least 50% reduction in time spent by staff	PCM		●
4.2.2 Finding and promoting opportunities for technology alignment and compatibility across our region's councils.	4.2.2.1 Establish a joint Technology Register with constituent councils to support achievement of procurement savings and efficiencies.	Register in place.	By June 2023	ICTM DTEM	In progress. ICT Register has been populated in conjunction with constituents	●
4.3.1 Successful consolidation of Rous administration and depots to achieve business improvements and optimisation.	4.3.1.1 Finalise consolidation plan and commence relocation to Gallans Road site.	Staff relocation commenced.	By September 2022	RC	Operational staff are operating from Gallans Road.	●
4.3.2 Continuous improvement in our delivery of a bulk water supply.	4.3.2.1 Review and update all operational maintenance plans for bulk water assets.	Number of scheduled actions completed.	All maintenance plans reviewed and updated.	GMO		●
4.3.3 Proactive contribution as part of a regional response to flood mitigation.	4.3.3.1 Actively participate and respond to formal inquiries and other studies into the regional floods of 2022.	Responses provided to public inquiries and where invited for non-public inquiries.	At every opportunity	GMPD		●
	4.3.3.2 Progress discussions with Lismore City Council regarding the long-term arrangements for the Lismore Levee.	Revised draft MOU available for discussion.	By June 2023	GM		●

Reports/actions pending

Responsible Officer: Rous General Manager (Phillip Rudd)

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Background

Following is a list of pending resolutions with individual comments provided on current position and expected completion date.

COUNCIL MEETING	COUNCIL RESOLUTION
20/02/19	Report (confidential): Development Servicing Plan for Bulk Water Supply 2016 – request for deferred payment arrangement
	RESOLVED [13/19] (Mustow/Cadwallader) that Council: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Receive and note this report. 2. Approve the request for deferred payment arrangements as set out in the report. 3. Receive a subsequent report on policy options for deferred payment arrangements having regard to the Development Servicing Plan for Bulk Water Supply and the policy positions of constituent councils. 4. Reject any further consideration of similar requests until point 3. is complete and a policy position is determined.
STATUS	<p>Scheduled for review before the expiry of the current Development Servicing Plan in 2021.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> The scope of work for the development of the new Development Servicing Plan is complete and quotes are being called for the new Plan.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> A consultant was appointed in mid-March 2022 to prepare a new Development Servicing Plan. The new Plan is substantially progressed. A draft Plan will be presented to Council in December 2022.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> Please refer to report in Council meeting agenda 14-12-2022 regarding DSP.</p> <p><u>UPDATE:</u> Draft Bulk Water and Retail Water Development Servicing Plans were placed on public exhibition on 19 December 2022 to 2 February 2023, following endorsement by Council on 14 December 2022. The recommended position for Rous on deferred payment arrangements is to permit deferred payment plans for non-residential developments with forecast or actual demand >2ET, at the discretion of the General Manager. Deferred payment plans are to be offered for a maximum term of 12 months and require provision of a security bond (generally in the form of a bank guarantee) equal to the developer charge payable. Only Rous has the authority to approve deferred payment arrangements for Rous developer contributions including those assessed and collected by the Constituent Councils.</p>
COUNCIL MEETING	COUNCIL RESOLUTION
11/12/19	Report: Perradenya cycleway
	RESOLVED A future report be provided to Council.
STATUS	IN PROGRESS: Workshop presented at September 2020 workshop. Report to Council scheduled for April 2021.

COUNCIL MEETING	COUNCIL RESOLUTION
	<p>DEFERRED: Deferred to new term of Council subject to adoption of the FWP2060 and incorporation into the Long-Term Financial Plan. Target December 2021 — June 2022.</p> <p>UPDATE: February 2022 — June 2022.</p> <p>UPDATE: Council site visit and workshop scheduled September 2022.</p> <p>UPDATE: Staff are working with town planning consultants and preparing a report for Council in April 2023.</p>

COUNCIL MEETING	COUNCIL RESOLUTION
11/12/19	<p>Richmond River Cane Growers' Association submission: Review of Tuckombil Canal fixed weir (Letters 118585 / 53238)</p>
<p>STATUS</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS: Staff engaged with RVC staff around their grant application for a Study to update their Richmond River Flood Model (2010). Their grant was successful, and they have commenced procurement of a modelling consultant. Rous has contributed \$10,000 towards the project. One secondary goal for their Study is to consolidate these models along the mid to lower Richmond, including the Evans River Model, the W2B Pacific Highway Upgrades and collect high resolution flood modelling information around the Tuckombil Canal/ upstream.</p> <p>The updated model information will contribute to a future Rous led options study for the Tuckombil Canal. The Cane Growers' Association was advised in April 2020 of the intentions with regards to Richmond Valley Council, and will be updated during December 2020 with the latest information.</p> <p>UPDATE: The work by Richmond Valley Council to update their flood model is progressing well, with modelling expected to be completed within the first quarter of the 21/22 FY. RCC's requirements for the flood modelling around the Tuckombil Canal are expected to be met and reported back during the same period.</p> <p>UPDATE: Council staff received an update on the project from the consultants in early September 2021. The model development is nearing its conclusion and work will commence on modelling scenarios soon.</p> <p>UPDATE: Richmond Valley Council (RVC) staff have advised that the consultants have finalised the flood model and are now in the reporting phase. A draft Study report will go to RVC in the first quarter of 2022.</p> <p>When the flood model is finalised, Rous will be able to consider the results and how a review of the Tuckombil Canal fixed weir would be financed.</p> <p>UPDATE: The February 2022 floods since the last update have meant that the flood model finalisation and reporting to Richmond Valley Council (RVC) have been delayed. A new date for its finalisation is not yet available from RVC. Once the flood model is finalised, Rous will be able to consider the results and how a review of the Tuckombil Canal fixed weir would be financed.</p> <p>UPDATE: The RVC flood model continues to be finalised following the floods. In the meantime, Rous staff continue to discuss the scope of work and funding options, whilst keeping stakeholders informed.</p>

Supply of Industrial Control and Integration Support Contract # RCC1122-0014

Responsible Officer: Group Manager Operations (Adam Nesbitt)

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Accept the schedule of rates tender submitted by SAFEgroup Automation Pty Ltd for a period of up to 5 years.
2. Approve an upper limit contract value of up to \$750,000 ex GST per year.

Background

As part of Rous County Council's (Rous) commitment to future planning and the effective delivery of services, we are seeking to enter a support contract with a suitably qualified control system integration provider who can demonstrate proven capability in the areas of design, configuration, implementation, and provision of emergency on-call support services for Council's SCADA, telemetry and industrial control systems.

Council has undertaken an open tender process for the procurement of industrial control system integration support services under a schedule of rates contract. The contract term is for one (1) year with an option to extend a further two (2) periods of two (2) years each period. Should the contract continue for the full term of five (5) years the upper limit for the contract value will be \$3.75M ex GST and as such an open tender process was deemed to match the needs of the tender.

Examination of tenders

Pre-evaluation actions

The tendering process, including the advertisement, receipt and consideration of tenders, was conducted in accordance with the requirements of Part 7 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (the 'Regulation').

A Tender Evaluation Plan was utilised by the Tender Evaluation Committee (consisting of three (3) Council staff from its Operations business unit) that was consistent with the evaluation criteria advertised in the Request for Tender ('RFT') documents, being weighted price and non-price evaluation criteria based on a **50:50** ratio.

Evaluation of non-price

The information submitted by the Tenderers was evaluated against the specified non-price criteria. The Tender document nominated specific input that tenderers were required to submit for each Non-Price Criterion to demonstrate their understanding and capability to deliver the scope of services required. The following table shows a high-level summary of non-price criteria used for the evaluation of this RFT:

Non-price criterion	Weighting
Confirm / Tenderers demonstrated capability and previous experience and ability to value add (including relevant experience for similar projects)	15%
Tenderers proposed team including organisational structure, proposed key personnel, skills and expertise including qualifications and experience of the proposed team	15%

Non-price criterion	Weighting
Confirm / Tenderers availability and depth of local servicing/technical support	15%
Tenderers quality and safety management	5%

The non-price scores were weighted, totalled, and normalised and are summarised below.

Tenderer	Total normalised non-price score	Rank
SAFEgroup Automation Pty Ltd	50	1
Australian Control Engineering Pty Ltd	47	2
Parasyn Controls Pty Ltd	46	3
360 Engineering Pty Ltd	46	3
R & D Technology Pty Ltd	45	4

Evaluation of price

The rates tendered from each Tenderer were evaluated through a benchmarking process to enable an evaluation of the price criteria. Local content weightings were applied where applicable in accordance with Council's 'Procurement' policy.

Omissions in Tender Proposals

Tenders submitted by Australian Control Engineering and R & D Technology advised no local engineers located within Rous LGAs. Insufficient details were provided as to where staff will need to travel for onsite support. As a result, the panel was unable to determine whether the rates tendered by these suppliers included travel costs to and from site or include accommodation expenses. However, this would be unlikely to change the outcome of the preferred tenderer and, therefore, no further clarification was sought from these suppliers.

Normalised price scores

The tenders were compared based on the Assessed Tender Amounts, calculated by adding the assessed values of qualifications and departures to the original Tender Amounts.

The Assessed Tender Amounts were used to calculate the weighted and normalised price scores using the method set out in the Tender Evaluation Plan. The price scores are summarised below.

Tenderer	Weighted price score	Ranking
SAFEgroup Automation Pty Ltd	50	1
Australian Control Engineering Pty Ltd	47	2
R & D Technology Pty Ltd	44	3
360 Engineering Pty Ltd	34	4
Parasyn Controls Pty Ltd	20	5

Assessment of qualifications and departures

There were several minor qualifications and departures with the Tender submitted by SAFEgroup Automation Pty Ltd. The majority of these were in relation to commonly negotiated contract terms contained in the template *Deed of Standing Services Offer* provided as an annexure to the RFT. These qualifications and departures will be negotiated and resolved prior to contract award.

Selection of the most advantageous tender

Total scores were obtained for each of the tenders by adding the normalised total non-price score and weighted price score. The total overall scores are summarised below.

Tenderer	Total normalised non-price score	Weighted price score	Total score	Ranking
SAFEgroup Automation Pty Ltd	50	50	100	1
Australian Control Engineering Pty Ltd	47	47	94	2
R & D Technology Pty Ltd	45	44	89	3
360 Engineering Pty Ltd	46	34	80	4
Parasyn Controls Pty Ltd	46	20	64	5

The Tenderer has confirmed understanding of scope, contractual obligations and that the Tender Amount reflects all contractual obligations.

The Tender Evaluation Committee is in full agreement that the Tenderer with the highest total score, therefore representing the best value for money, was SAFEgroup Automation Pty Ltd.

Commentary on the Tenderer's capability

SAFEgroup Automation Pty Ltd submission indicates a thorough understanding of scope and have demonstrated the capability to provide the range of services required.

The Tender Evaluation Committee considers SAFEgroup Automation Pty Ltd is capable of completing the required services under this contract satisfactorily.

Estimation of upper limit for the annual contract value

The scope of services to be supplied under this contract includes, design, configuration, and implementation of a range of services related to operating, maintaining and upgrading Council's SCADA, telemetry and industrial control systems.

Below is a summary of estimated price breakdowns for determining the annual upper fee limit:

Service description	Upper Limit of Annual Expenditure
Operations and Maintenance Support	\$55,000
System Integration for Planned Capital Works	\$550,000
Data Analytics Development	\$20,000
<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>\$625,000</i>
Contingency (20%)	\$ 125,000
Total Annual Upper Limit Fee	\$750,000

Finance

It should be noted that the \$750,000 per annum limit represents that maximum expenditure required across several different projects for works undertaken by this supplier. The required funds are already available within Council's Long-Term Financial Plan forecasts and no additional funds are required at this stage.

Legal

As the value of the contract was expected to exceed \$250,000 (incl GST), an open tender process was undertaken in conformance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*.

Should Council resolve to accept the tender submitted by SAFEgroup Automation Pty Ltd, the details of the contract will be recorded in Council's contracts register available on its website in accordance with legislative requirements.

Conclusion

Open tenders for the proposed 'Contract RCC1122-0014 Industrial Control Integration Support 2023, were called through an open Request for Tender process via Councils eTendering platform.

At the conclusion of the evaluation process, the preferred Tenderer is SAFEgroup Automation Pty Ltd for an upper limit contract value of \$750,000 per annum.

Confidential matters

Responsible Officer: General Manager (Phillip Rudd)

Recommendation

That Council move into Closed Council to consider the following matter and the meeting be closed to members of the public and press based on the grounds detailed below:

Report

**Supply of Industrial Control and Integration Support
Contract # RCC1122-0014**

Grounds for closure

Section 10A(2)(d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:
i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

Section 10A, Local Government Act, 1993:

A Council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of any of the following:

Section 10A(2):

- (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.

Section 10A(4):

Council may allow members of the public to make representations to or at a meeting before any part of the meeting is closed to the public, as to whether that part of the meeting should be closed.

Document is Restricted

Document is Restricted