



MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING

GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL

THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER 2017

COMMENCING AT 3:02 PM

WARIALDA OFFICE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Present:

Councillors: Cr. John Coulton (Mayor), Cr. Catherine Egan (Deputy Mayor), Cr. Stuart Dick, Cr Marilyn Dixon OAM, Cr. Jim Moore, Cr. Geoff Smith, Cr. David Coulton, Cr Tiffany Galvin and Cr Frances Young

Staff: Max Eastcott (General Manager), Leeah Daley (Deputy General Manager), Richard Jane (Director Technical Services), Helen Thomas (Manager, Finance), Patsy Cox (Planning Officer)

Public: Ms L Carroll (Warialda Standard)

Visitors: Mr Peter Jarrett (Inverell Community Radio) and the proponent and objector to DA for 1,000 head cattle Feedlot at 'Clevecourt'

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Chairman

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OFFICIAL OPENING AND WELCOME – MAYOR

APOLOGIES All present

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION:
MINUTE 397/17**

THAT the Minutes of the previous Council Meeting held on Thursday 23 November 2017 as circulated be taken as read and CONFIRMED.

(Moved Cr Egan, seconded Cr Smith)

PRESENTATION

Mr. Peter Jarrett – Inverell Community Radio

Mr. Jarrett addressed council on behalf of Inverell Community Radio (ICR) outlining how ICR could provide an emergency broadcast capability to the shire. Other issues discussed included the provision of a local news service and the ability for Gwydir locals to input information to the station. The address sought the support of the Council for ICR to be able to expand into Gwydir Shire for the retransmission of the signal to cover the Bingara and Warialda townships.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION:
MINUTE 398/17**

THAT the Council supports Inverell Community Radio's attempt to gain approval to expand its radio coverage into Gwydir Shire.

(Moved Cr Young, seconded Cr Dixon OAM)

Development of a 1,000 head cattle feedlot on "Clevecourt" Bingara

The proponent, Mr. Jason Lewis, and an Objector, Mr. Peter Mack, addressed the Council meeting regarding the proposed development.

(Note Crs. Young and Dick absented themselves from the Chamber during the presentations relating to the Feedlot Development Application.)

CALL FOR THE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Crs. Young and Dick declared a conflict of interest regarding the proposed Development of a 1,000 head cattle feedlot on "Clevecourt" Bingara.

**ADDITIONAL/LATE ITEMS
COUNCIL RESOLUTION:
MINUTE 399/17**

THAT the following items, namely:

- 1. Monthly Executive Report - November 2017**
- 2. Tourism in Warialda - Koorilgur Nature Reserve and Lookout**
- 3. Development of a 1,000 head cattle feedlot on "Clevecourt" Bingara**
- 4. Joint Organisations**
- 5. LGNSW Annual Conference**
- 6. Formation of the Warialda Rail Community S355 Committee**

are accepted as late items onto this Agenda for discussion.

(Moved Cr D Coulton, seconded Cr Egan)

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS
COUNCIL RESOLUTION:
MINUTE 400/17**

THAT the Council resolve into Confidential Session, Committee of the Whole and that in the public interest and in accordance with Section 10A(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act, 1993*, the public and press be excluded from the meeting to consider the items listed on the agenda.

(Moved Cr Galvin, seconded Cr Moore)

ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION:
MINUTE 401/17**

THAT the recommendations of the Confidential Session, namely:

Confidential - Monthly Organisation and Community Development Report - November 2017 (Ref: 402/17)

THAT the monthly Confidential Organisation and Community Development report for November 2017 be received.

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Gwydir Biomass Power Station Proposal (Ref: 403/17)

THAT the Council support an application to Crown Lands for change of usage for the closed Bingara quarry.

FURTHER that Council provide assistance with facilitation of the project via the Circular Economy Manager.

Heavy Plant Committee Recommendations:

Consideration of Tenders - Replacement of Prime Mover P1438

THAT Council accept the tender from North Star Motors for the supply of a Western Star 4864 FS2 prime mover for the price of \$247,119.00 (GST excl) (Ref: 404/17).

Purchase of New Pulvi-mixer

THAT the staff call for tenders for the supply of a Puli-mixer for the Council's consideration.

FURTHER that a report be prepared for consideration along with the tenders received outlining the impact that the Pulvi-mixer will have on the Council's workforce and works' program (Ref: 405/17).

are adopted.

(Moved Cr Smith, seconded Cr Dick)

Item 1 Councillor Activity Report - December 2017

DELIVERY PROGRAM

GOAL: 4. Proactive Regional and Local Leadership

OUTCOME: 4.1 WE ARE AN ENGAGED & CONNECTED COMMUNITY

STRATEGY: 4.1.2 Enable broad, rich and meaningful engagement to occur - GM - external

The Councillors' activity schedule for December 2017 is outlined below:

December 2017		
Councillor	Event	Date
Cr J Coulton (Mayor)	King of Bingera Ceremony	1 st December
	LG NSW Conference Sydney	4 – 6 December
	Greenhouse meeting 291 Cobbitty Rd Cobbitty	5 th December
	Warialda High School Presentation night – 6pm	7 th December
	Warialda Public School Presentation – 9.30am	8 th December
	Warialda HPV Route preliminary contractors meeting – 2pm	8 th December
	Bingara Central School Kindergarten – Yr 2 presentation – 12:30pm	12 th December
	JOLT Board Meeting & Xmas lunch	14 th December
	Heavy Plant Committee Meeting Ordinary Council Meeting - Warialda	14 th December
	End of Year BBQ for outdoor staff – 12:30pm	21 st December
Cr Catherine Egan (Deputy Mayor)	LG NSW Conference – Sydney	4- 6 December
	Greenhouse Meeting 291 Cobbitty Rd Cobbitty	5 th December
	Xmas Carnival - Bingara	7 th December
	Gwydir Health Alliance Meeting	12 th December
	Heavy Plant Committee Meeting Ordinary Council Meeting - Warialda	14 th December

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Cr D Coulton	WOL AGM & Ordinary Meeting	1 st December
	LG NSW Conference – Sydney	4 – 6 December
	Greenhouse meeting 291 Cobbitty Rd Cobbitty	5 th December
	Warialda HPV Route preliminary contractors meeting – 2pm	8 th December
	Heavy Plant Committee Meeting Ordinary Council Meeting	14 th December
	Joint Gwydir, Moree & Narrabri Service Level Agreement & SMT Meetings – Moree End of Year BBQ for outdoor staff	19 th December 21 st December
Cr S Dick	REDS Meeting - Bingara	11 th December
	Heavy Plant Committee Meeting Ordinary Council Meeting – Warialda	14 th December
	Joint Gwydir, Moree & Narrabri Service Level Agreement & SMT Meeting - Moree	19 th December
Cr M Dixon OAM	LG NSW Conference – Sydney	4 – 6 December
	Greenhouse meeting 291 Cobbitty Rd Cobbitty	5 th December
	Heavy Plant Committee Meeting Ordinary Council Meeting – Warialda	14 th December
	End of Year BBQ for outdoor staff – 12:30pm	21 st December
Cr T Galvin	LG NSW Conference	4 – 6 December
	Greenhouse meeting 291 Cobbitty Rd Cobbitty	5 th December
	Gwydir Health Alliance meeting	12 th December
	Heavy Plant Committee Meeting Ordinary Council Meeting	14 th December
Cr J Moore	Gravesend Public School Presentation Night – 6pm	7 th December
	Warialda HPV Route preliminary contractors meeting	8 th December
	North Star Public School Presentation 9:30am	13 th December
	Heavy Plant Committee Meeting Ordinary Council Meeting	14 th December

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Cr G Smith	St Joseph's Presentation Night – 6pm	6 th December
	Warialda HPV Route preliminary Contractors Meeting – 2pm	8 th December
	Croppa Creek Presentation - 6pm	12 th December
	Heavy Plant Committee Meeting Ordinary Council Meeting - Warialda	14 th December
Cr F Young	LG NSW Conference	4 – 6 December
	Greenhouse Meeting 291 Cobbitty Rd, Cobbitty	5 th December
	RED meeting - Bingara	11 th December
	Gwydir Health Alliance Meeting	12 th December
	Heavy Plant Committee Meeting Ordinary Council Meeting	14 th December

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the monthly Councillor Activity report for December 2017 be received

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION:
MINUTE 406/17**

THAT the monthly Councillor Activity report for December 2017 be received noting that Cr D Coulton didn't attend the HPV preliminary contractor meeting and Cr Dixon OAM will not be attending the outdoor staff BBQ.

(Moved Cr Egan, seconded Cr D Coulton)

Item 2 Monthly Executive Report - November 2017

FILE REFERENCE

DELIVERY PROGRAM

GOAL: 5. Organisational Management

OUTCOME: 5.1 CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

STRATEGY: 5.1.3 Administrative functions - GM - internal

AUTHOR General Manager

DATE 4 December 2017

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

This report outlines the activities undertaken within the Executive Division of Council for the month of November 2017.

PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT

The following Development (D/A)/Complying Development (CDC) and Development Modification (s96) applications have been approved for the month of November 2017.

No.	Property Description	Development/ Work	\$	D/A	S96	CDC
23/2013	Lot 38 DP 754853 508 Whitlow Road Bingara	Modification of Consent – Dwelling Additions being a premanufactured detached room with ensuite for use as a bedroom/office/sewing room	\$46,300	-	✓	-
31/2017	Lot 44 DP 751114 2199 Buckie Road Croppa Creek	Erect new main dwelling and convert existing to a rural workers cottage	\$345,418	✓	-	-
39/2017	Lot 278 DP 754819 Old Bora Road Bingara	Shipping Container for storage	\$8,300	✓	-	-
41/2017	Lot 3 DP 773977 19 Kulaba Avenue Warialda	Garage/Shed	\$24,000	✓	-	-
42/2017	Lot 1 DP 1166982 3949 Elcombe Road Bingara	3 Bay Garage with Toilet	\$22,000	✓	-	-
43/2017	Lot 1 DP 1117061 16378 Gwydir Highway Gravesend	Transportable premanufactured building – Granny Flat	\$145,000	✓	-	-
45/2017	Lot 1 DP 865821 35 Queen Street Warialda	Garage/Shed	\$12,000	✓	-	-
47/2017	Lot 2 DP 1143606 39 Bombelli Street Bingara	Carport	\$12,000	✓	-	-
3/2017	Lot 2 DP 1143606 39 Bombelli Street Bingara	Roof over existing deck & detached carport	\$19,800	-	-	✓
4/2017	Lot 2 DP 613642 20 Byrnes Street Bingara	Carport	\$3,900	-	-	✓

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The following Development (D/A)/Complying Development (CDC) and Development Modification (s96) applications remain outstanding for the month of November 2017.

No	Property Description and Description of Work	Reason	D/A	S96	CDC
35/2015	3533 Copeton Dam Road Copeton - Extension of existing Caravan & Camping Facilities	Request Additional Information from Applicant	✓	-	-
49/2016	1470 North Star Road Warialda - Continued Occupation/Use of Worker Accommodation	Approved in Principal awaiting additional information	✓	-	-
24/2017	1004 Adams Scrub Road Delungra - Quarry	Being Assessed	✓	-	-
33/2017	Oregon Road Warialda - Operate 4 Wheel Drive & Motorcycle Off-road Business	Request Additional Information from Applicant	✓	-	-
38/2017	756 Ginerol Road Ginerol - 1000 Head Feedlot	Report to Council being prepared	✓	-	-

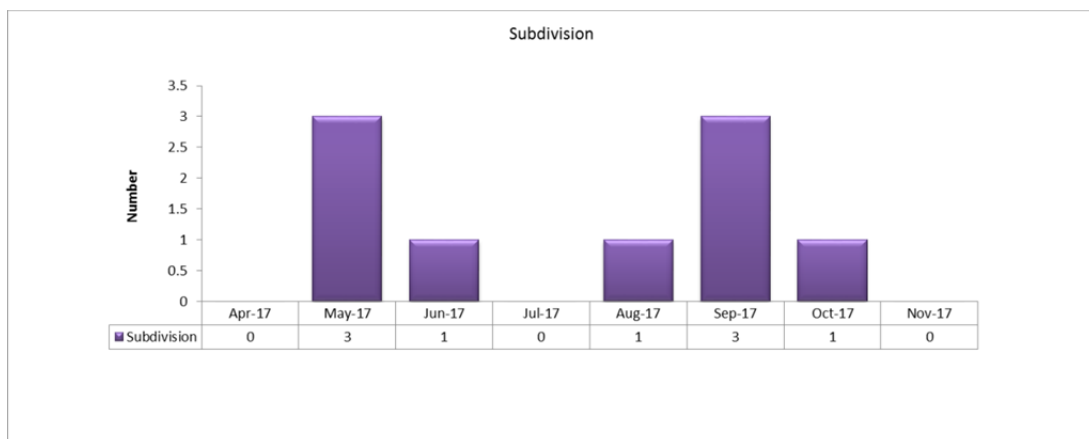
There were no Development (D/A)/Complying Development (CDC) or Development Modification (s96) applications approved and not previously reported to Council for the month of November 2017.

There were no Development (D/A)/Complying Development (CDC) and Development Modification (s96) applications were refused(R)/ withdrawn (W)/ Cancelled (C) for the month of November 2017.

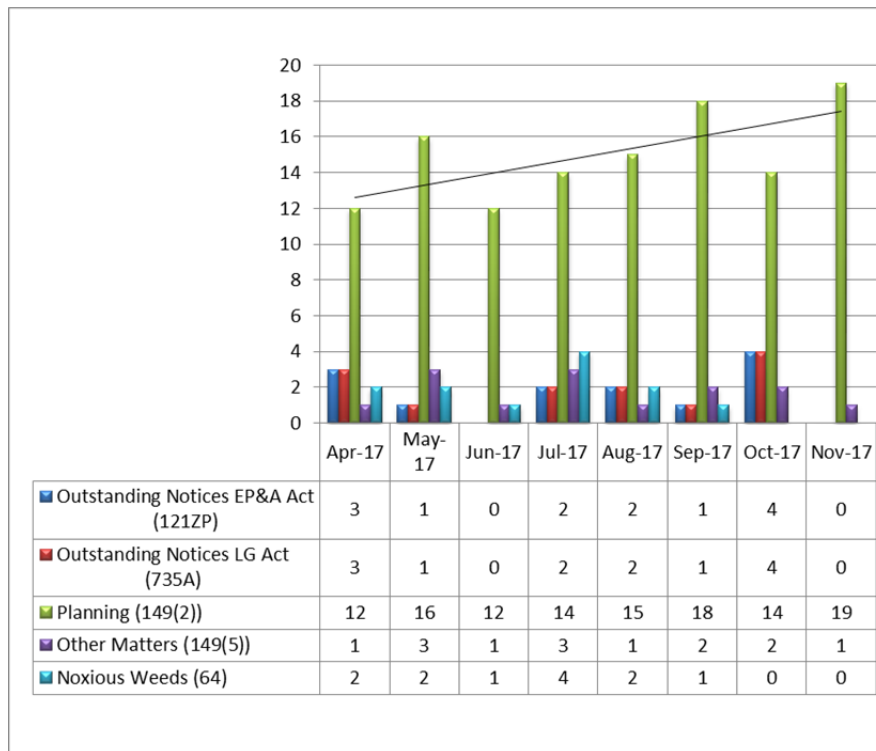
There were no Complying Development (CDC) applications approved by Private Certifiers and lodged with Council for the month of November 2017.

There were no Development (D/A) and Complying Development (CDC) applications determined where there has been a variation in standards under SEPP 1 or clause 4.6 of Gwydir Local Environmental Plan 2013 for the month of November 2017.

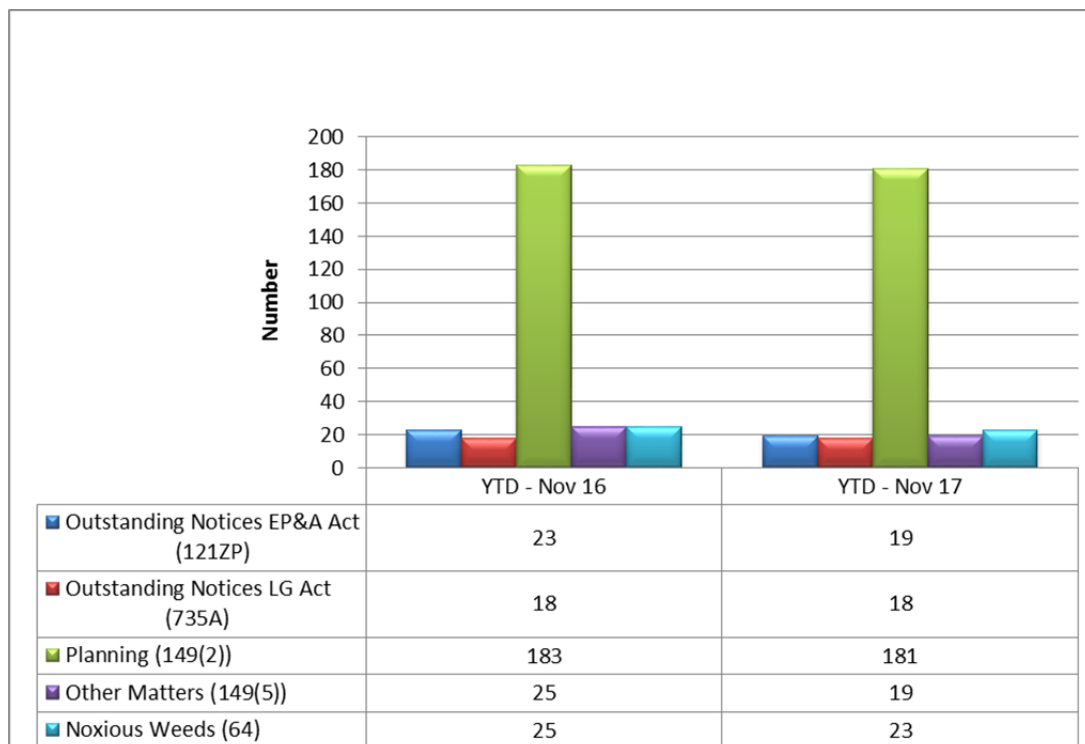
The following graph shows Subdivision Certificates issued for November compared to the previous four (4) months.



The following graph shows Conveyancing Certificates issued for November compared to the previous four (4) months.



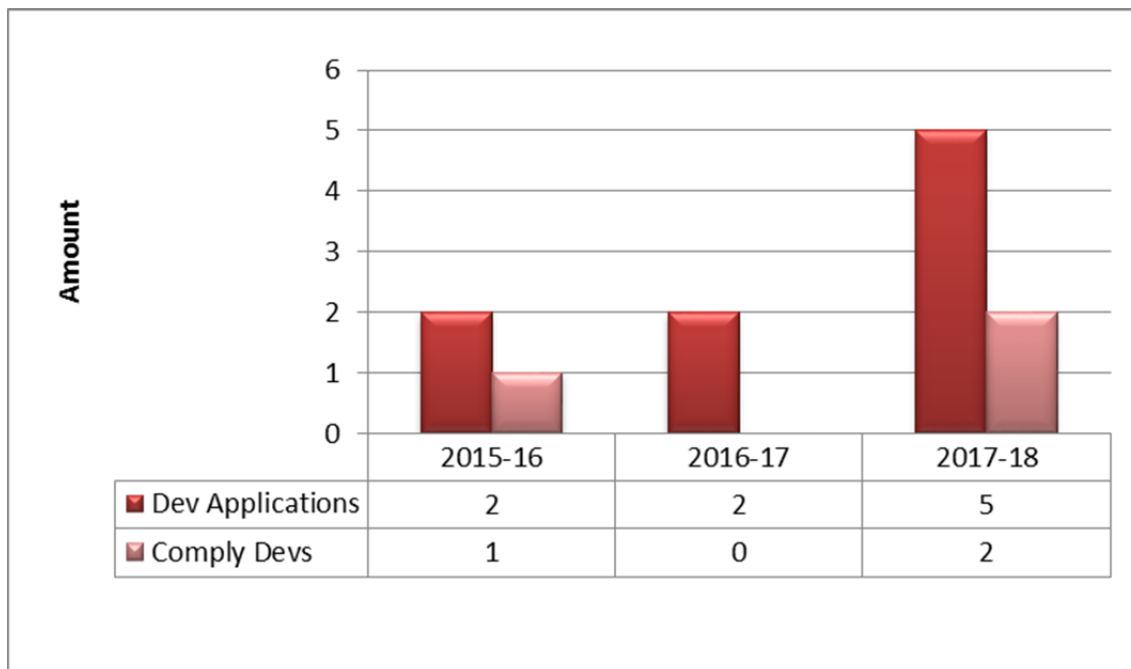
The following graph shows the number of Conveyancing Certificates issued up to and including the month of November 2017 compared with the same period in 2016.



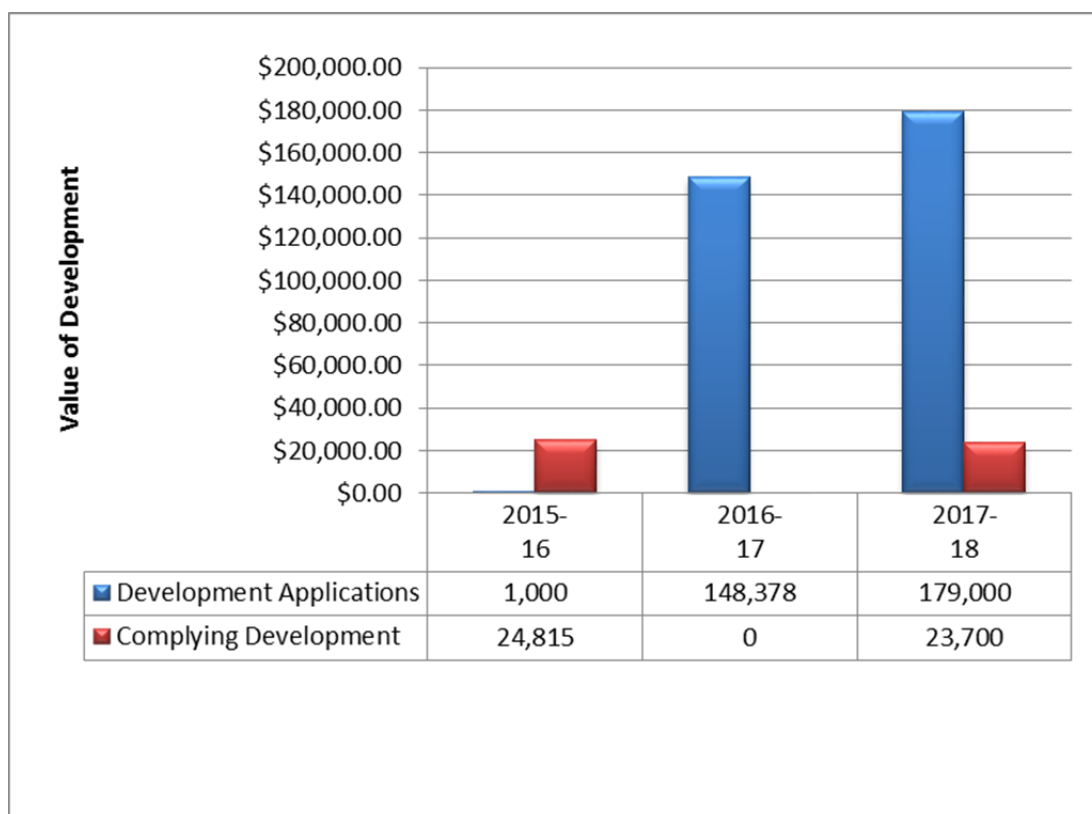
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The table below shows a comparison between total applications lodged for the month of November 2017 compared to the last two years (excluding private certifier lodged applications).



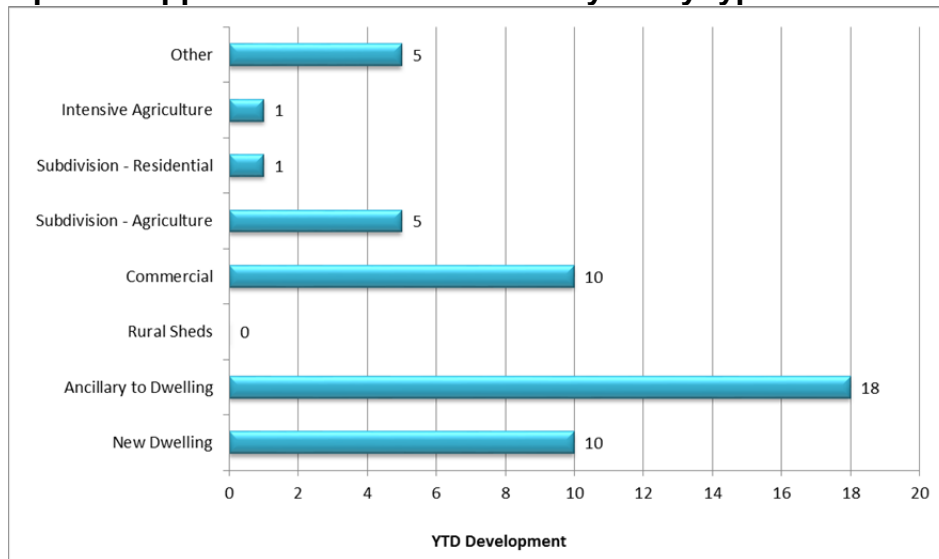
The table below shows a comparison between total applications lodged for the month of November 2017 compared to the last two years (excluding private certifier lodged applications).



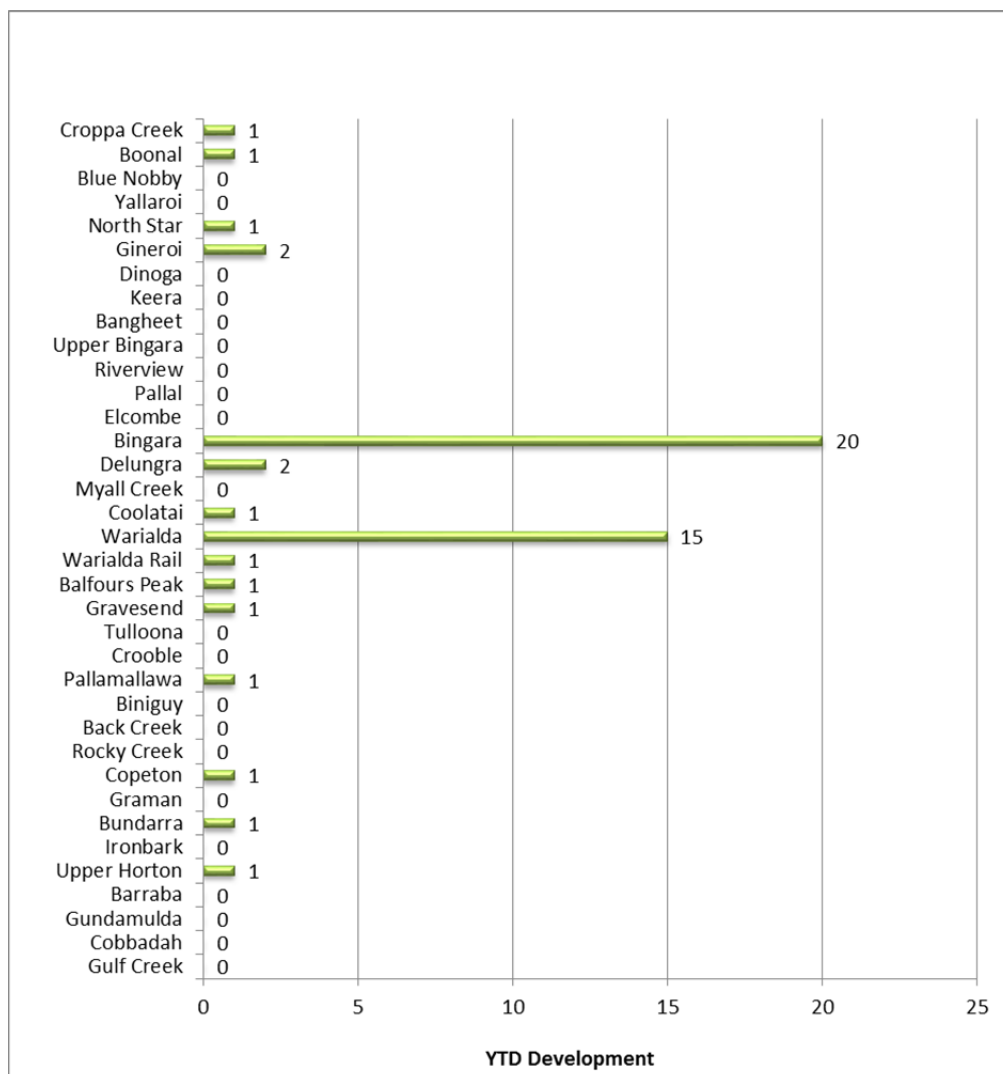
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Development Applications received for the year by type - November 2017



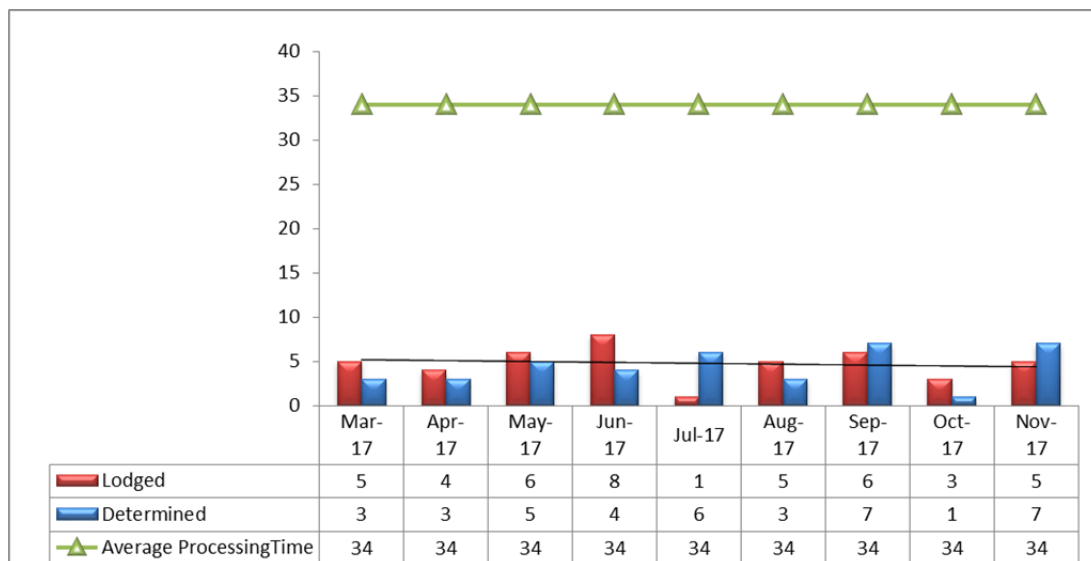
Development Applications Received for the year by locality - November 2017 (includes private certifier lodged applications)



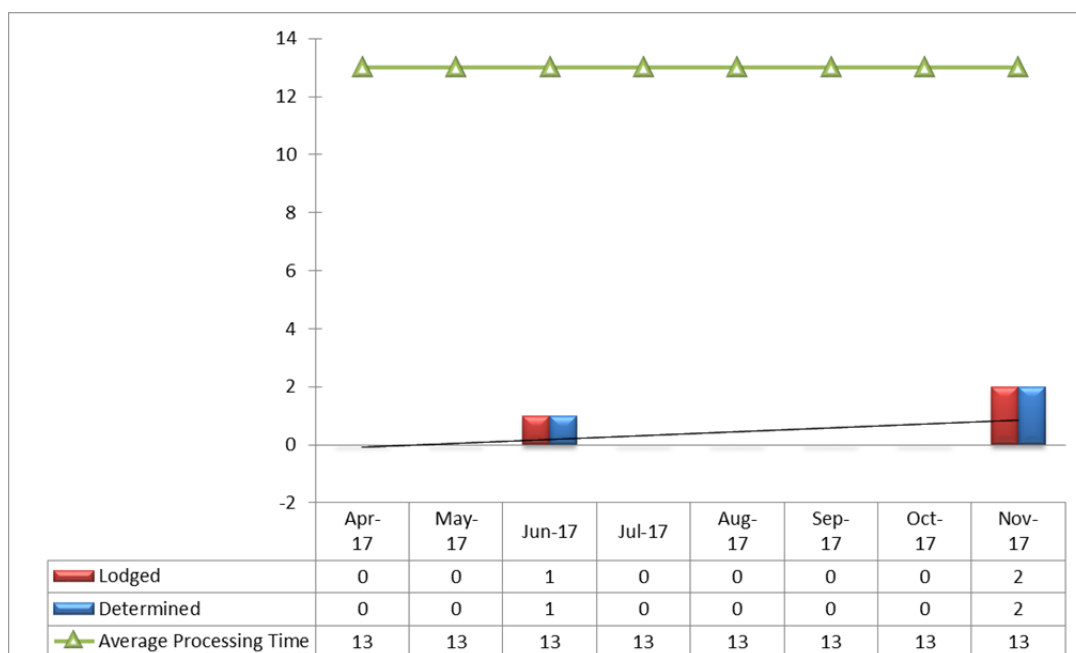
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Development Applications – nine (9) months



Complying Development Applications – nine (9) months (excludes private certifier lodged and approved applications)



CRM – Planning and Development

Older	Current	Actioned	Unactioned
2	-	1	1

CARAVAN PARKS

Bingara

From 1 July 2017 to 30 November 2017, the Bingara Caravan Park recorded a net operating loss of \$7,934.00. The operating income and expenses for the months of September, October and November are shown in Attachment 1.

These figures do not include depreciation, journalled amounts or oncosts.

During the month of October, many dangerous trees were removed from the site by Council staff. These costings are highlighted in green. Technical services staff undertook this project during wet weather. These costs will need to be adjusted in the next budget review.

Electricity is one of the highest expenses in this budget area. Council staff have engaged a consultant to provide quotations for a solar system to establish if savings can be made in this area. In addition, a review is being undertaken of the contributions the permanent residents make for their use of electricity.

During this period the caretakers took four weeks leave and their workload was covered by casual staff.

Technical Services staff are still undertaking the park signage design works.

A staff review is to be undertaken as a matter of priority for the Bingara Caravan Park.

Warialda

From 1 July 2017 to 30 November 2017, the Warialda Caravan Park recorded a net operating surplus of \$3,681.00. Please note that the credit amount of \$3,446.00 for rates is an adjustment for an overpayment which occurred in August.

The operating income and expenses for the months of September, October and November are shown in Attachment 1. These figures do not include depreciation, journalled amounts or oncosts.

Please note that these figures include the amount recorded in the Warialda Visitor Information Centre monthly report.

North Star

From 1 July 2017 to 30 November 2017, the North Star Caravan Park recorded a net operating loss of \$6,296.00. However this amount is to be adjusted as the annual rates are \$2,764.33 and not \$5,730 which was the amount debited to the North Star Caravan Park budget in August.

The operating expenses for the months of September, October and November are shown in the diagram below. These figures do not include depreciation, journalled amounts or oncosts.

A review of the current North Star Caravan Park lease arrangements will be undertaken before the end of February 2018.

KING OF BINGERA

The King of Bingera, Cobbara Ball, was laid to rest at the junction of Halls Creek and the Gwydir River, Bingara on Friday, 1 December 2017.

The ancestral man's remains have been released from the Australian Museum, Sydney. The ancestral man is said to have been known as Cobbara Ball, King of Bingera. He is believed to have been killed in a fight with one of his tribe in 1848 and was 60 years of age when killed.

A copy of the 10 page scientific report by Mr. Richard Wright associated with the ancestral man removed from, and to be repatriated back to Bingara, is included at Attachment 2. However, please note there are images of the ancestral man's cranium in the document that may not be suited for everyone's viewing.

Over 230 people attended the repatriation ceremony. It was a very positive day of celebration and respect.

Following the ceremony, everyone was treated to a performance by the Bambeera Dancers and enjoyed a barbeque provided by members of the Bingara Lions Club.

The return of the King of Bingara was a project in which Council assisted the Office of Environment and Heritage and the Anaiwan Aboriginal Local Land Council.

The schools in Gwydir Shire Council attended the day.

NATIONAL LOCAL ROADS AND TRANSPORT CONGRESS

A delegation from Gwydir attended this Congress and the notes from the Congress are attached.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the monthly Executive report for November 2017 be received.

FURTHER that the ceremony returning the remains of the King of Bingara is noted.

FURTHER that the notes on the National Local Roads and Transport Congress are noted and that the Congress Communique is endorsed by Gwydir Shire Council.

ATTACHMENTS

AT- Warialda and Bingara Caravan Park Financial Statement

AT- Report on Human Skeletal Remains from Bingara

AT- Congress Notes

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Chairman

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION:
MINUTE 407/17**

THAT the monthly Executive report for November 2017 be received.

FURTHER that the ceremony returning the remains of the King of Bingara is noted.

FURTHER that the notes on the National Local Roads and Transport Congress are noted and that the Congress Communique is endorsed by Gwydir Shire Council.

(Moved Cr Young, seconded Cr D Coulton)

Bingara Caravan Park - Operating Income and Expenses			
Income	September	October	November
Camping Fees Collected : On Site Cabins Income	-\$6,877	-\$11,527	-\$5,430
Camping Fees Collected : Site Hire Income	-\$8,991	-\$6,204	-\$4,870
Camping Fees Collected : Washing Machine Income	-\$434	-\$557	-\$353
Lease/Rent Fees Received : Long Term Rental (5.5%) Income	-\$6,093	-\$5,816	-\$5,816
Reimbursements Other : Long Term Electricity Reimbursement Inc	-\$328	-\$395	-\$395
Other Sundry Income : Other Revenues Income	\$0	-\$18	\$0
Total Income	-\$22,723	-\$24,517	-\$16,864
Expenses			
Salaries & Wages : Cleaning	\$8,083	\$1,780	\$6,421
Salaries & Wages : Grounds Maintenance	\$1,198	\$6,035	\$1,001
Salaries & Wages : Repairs & Maintenance (R&M)	\$995	\$3,639	\$1,852
Overtime : Repairs & Maintenance (R&M)	\$0	\$463	\$0
Casual Wages : Repairs & Maintenance (R&M)	\$0	\$1,598	\$949
Contractors : Repairs & Maintenance (R&M)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contractors : Cleaning	\$0	\$0	\$522
Stationery & Office Consumables : Administration	\$0	\$0	\$58
Food & Catering Costs : Administration	\$0	\$0	\$265
Contractors : Contractors	\$0	\$0	\$108
Contractors : Pest Control - External	\$693	\$0	\$0
Materials Purchased : Cleaning	\$0	\$0	\$650
Materials Purchased : Other Works	\$0	\$46	\$0
Materials Purchased : Repairs & Maintenance (R&M)	\$0	\$16	\$0
Electricity : Electricity	\$0	\$3,380	\$8,844
Gas Charges : Gas	\$0	\$0	\$0
Plant Hire - Internal Usage : Cleaning	\$651	\$201	\$489
Plant Hire - Internal Usage : Grounds Maintenance	\$382	\$3,472	\$401
Plant Hire - Internal Usage : Repairs & Maintenance (R&M)	\$0	\$10	\$0
Internal Rates : Gwydir Rates	\$0	\$0	\$0
Internal Water Charges : Gwydir Water	\$0	\$944	\$0
Total Expenses	\$12,002	\$21,584	\$21,560
TOTAL	-\$10,721	-\$2,933	\$4,696

Warialda Caravan Park - Operating Income and Expenses		September	October	November
Income				
Camping Fees Collected : On Site Cabins Income		-\$7,274	-\$6,078	-\$4,864
Camping Fees Collected : Site Hire Income		-\$5,524	-\$2,712	-\$3,305
Sales - Other General : Site Hire Income		\$0	\$0	\$0
Sales - Other General : Washing Machine Income		-\$200	-\$400	\$0
Total Income		-\$12,998	-\$9,190	-\$8,169
Expenses				
Salaries & Wages : Cleaning		\$1,929	\$1,219	\$2,487
Overtime : Cleaning		\$527	\$769	\$567
Contractors Cleaning (W17)		\$0	\$648	\$0
Contractors : Cleaning (W16)		\$43	\$456	\$341
Inventory Issued From Store : Cleaning		\$3	\$16	\$0
Electricity		\$0	\$3,961	\$0
Gas Charges : Gas		\$0	\$0	\$0
Plant Hire - Internal Usage : Cleaning		\$120	\$105	\$0
Internal Rates : Gwydir Rates		\$0	-\$3,445	\$0
Salaries & Wages : Cleaning		\$1,631	\$2,535	\$0
Salaries & Wages : Grounds Maintenance		\$120	\$164	\$80
Contractors : Cleaning		\$0	\$129	\$0
Contractors : Pest Control - External		\$346	\$0	\$0
Contractors : Repairs & Maintenance (R&M)		\$0	\$81	\$0
Contractors : Administration		\$0	\$0	\$0
Consultants Other : Administration		\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials Purchased : Cleaning		\$78	\$173	\$0
Materials Purchased : Repairs & Maintenance (R&M)		\$46	\$0	\$0
Materials Purchased : Asset Purchase - Expensed		\$0	\$216	\$0
Inventory Issued From Store : Cleaning		\$60	\$26	\$72
Other Sundry Expenses : Administration		\$103	\$509	\$20
Food & Catering Costs : Consumables		\$0	\$0	\$269
Plant Hire - Internal Usage : Cleaning		\$14	\$120	\$220
Internal Water Charges : Gwydir Water		\$0	\$914	\$0
Plant Hire - Internal Usage : Grounds Maintenance		\$18	\$34	\$0
Total Expenses		\$5,038	\$8,629	\$4,056
Net Monthly Losses		\$7,960	\$561	-\$4,113

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Chairman

**REPORT ON HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS FROM
BINGARA
E17195**

by

Richard Wright

*This report contains illustrations of the bones of an
Aboriginal person*

Report prepared for the Australian Museum Sydney

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Report on Human Skeletal Remains From Bingara
E17195

Richard Wright¹
24th November 2006

Summary

This is a report on the skull of a named and initiated male Aboriginal person who died in 1848 at the age of 60 years. All osteological indicators agree with the documents that go with the skull.

In April 2006 Phil Gordon of the Australian Museum asked me to write a report on several sets of human skeletal remains. These remains are in safe keeping at the Australian Museum in Sydney.

The purpose of these reports is to inform the appropriate Aboriginal communities about the bones prior to repatriation.

One of the sets is numbered E17195, and labeled as being from Bingara. This report describes this particular set.

Origin of the skeletal remains

On the skull is written the label E17195.

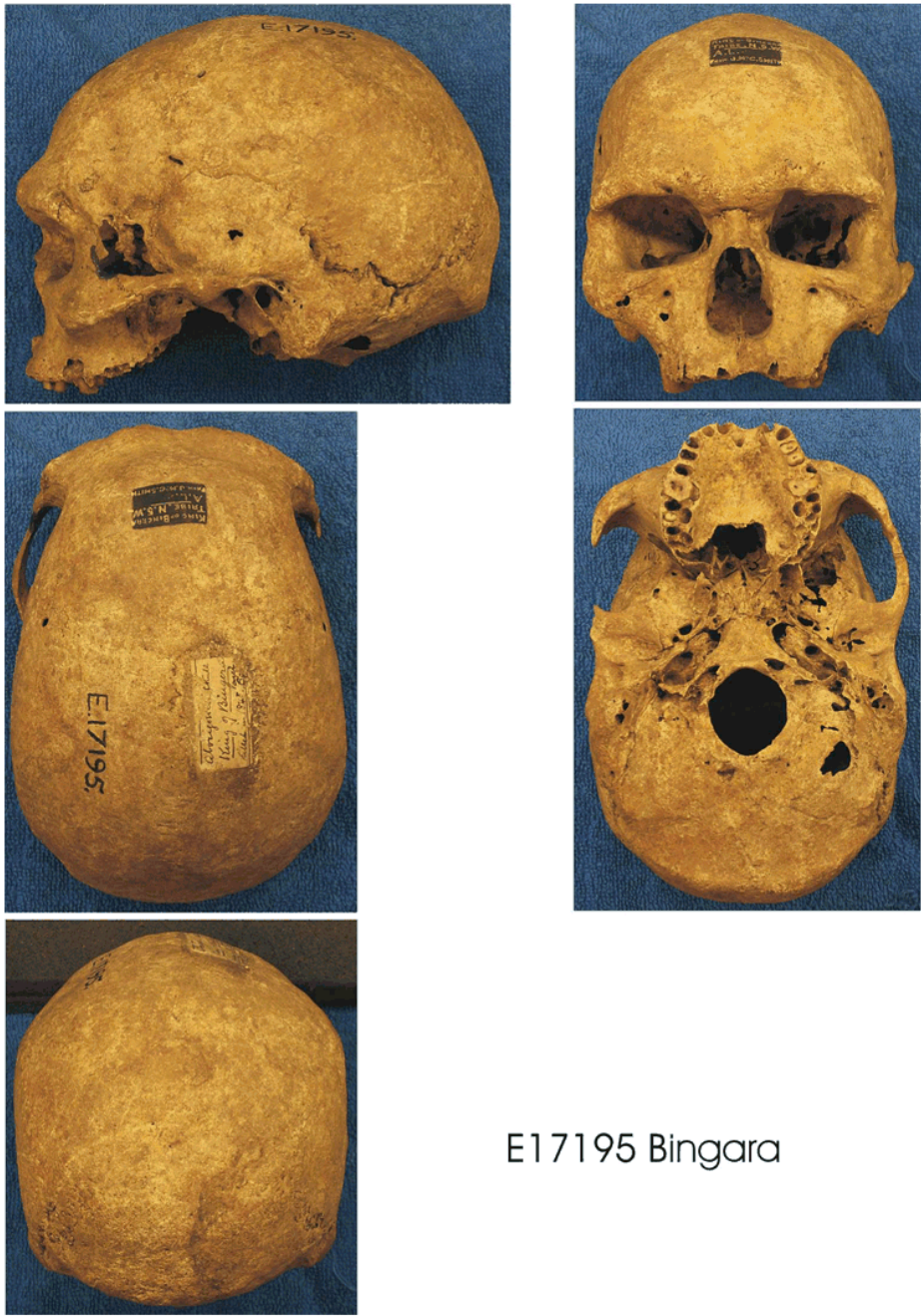
In white ink on a black ink background is written: "King of Bingera tribe. N.S.W. A.L. From J. Mc C. [or G.] Smith."

There is a paper label stuck to the skull. It reads "Aborigine [illegible end to word] skull King of Bingera killed 1848. Aged 60".²



¹ Emeritus Professor Richard Wright, 72 Campbell Street, Balmain, NSW 2041. Phone: 02 98181037. Fax: 02 94754421. Email: richwrig@tig.com.au.

² Bingera in NSW had its name changed to Bingara in 1889.



E17195 Bingara

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A card in the box adds to the information. The skull is said to be that of "Cobbara Ball", King of Bingera. It states there was no mandible. In quotation marks, but with no sources given, is the following sentence: "Killed in a fight with one of his tribe in 1848, he was 60 years of age when he was killed". The card states that the skull was presented by Professor A. Liversidge in July 1907.

The museum's accession card refers to the archives, with the reference L.45/1907. The name of the person is spelled on this card as "Cabbara Ball".

There is reference to Dr Donlon having examined the skull on 22 April 1991.

Bones and teeth present

At the back of this report is a diagram showing what bones and teeth are present.

As the diagram shows, only a skull is present and without its mandible (lower jaw).

State of preservation

The bones are in solid condition, though showing some porosity, and therefore fragility, due to the age of the person at death.

The surface of the skull accords with McKinley's Grade 1, where there is slight and patchy surface erosion.

A reddish clay soil adheres everywhere on the skull, indicating that it was for a time buried.

Individual's age at death

We can easily estimate the age at death of juveniles by looking at how many teeth they have (the state of dental eruption). Ageing adults is much more difficult. All the teeth of this individual have erupted, so we are looking at an adult.

Teeth get more worn down in older people. We can therefore look at what is known as the degree of attrition in the teeth. The teeth of E17195 are exceptionally worn - the surviving teeth being worn down to the roots and exposing the pulp cavities. This is an elderly individual.



The extreme state of wear. Teeth have been worn down to the roots and pulp cavities exposed, allowing infection.

As people get older they develop arthritic outgrowths at some joints in the body. These are known as osteophytes. No osteophytes are to be seen where the mandible joins the skull. The occipital condyles, where the skull joins the vertebral column, are broken due to fragility caused by age-related (senile) osteoporosis.

The plates of the skull have a sort of jig-saw pattern that holds them together (known as sutures). A young adult has bones that show the pattern clearly. In older individuals bone grows over, and can even obliterate, these sutures. The sutures of E17195 show a high degree of fusion.

I therefore conclude that E17195 died as an old adult, at over the age of 50 years. This osteological conclusion accords with the documentary evidence.

Sex

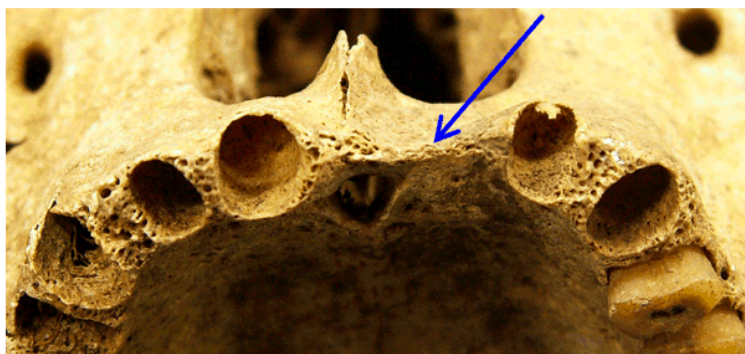
Some bones in the body (particularly the pelvis) give good indications of the sex of an individual. A woman's pelvis is shaped to allow for childbirth. Without the pelvis it can be difficult for an anthropologist to determine sex. There are no post-cranial bones with E17195.

Female teeth tend to be smaller than male teeth. However the surviving teeth of E17195 are so worn down that their crown diameters cannot be measured.

The general appearance of the skull is rugged, and the mastoid processes are large. These are male characteristics.

The CRANID analysis of ancestry finds that E17195 is most like Aboriginal samples that are male.

A cultural indicator of sex is the fact that the upper left central incisor tooth has been evulsed. This aspect of initiation ceremony is characteristically male.



Healed and flattened socket of an evulsed upper left central incisor.
This is a sign of male initiation.

The osteological observations therefore give no reason to question the documentary evidence that E17195 is a male individual.

Race/ancestry

These bones are assumed to be Aboriginal. However in my experience mistakes have been made in the past, with the result that European and Asian bones have been wrongly classified as Aboriginal.

I have therefore not taken the Aboriginal ancestry of these remains for granted and have taken my own look for clues.

The best clues for racial determination in the Australian context lie in the basal part of the nose and in the teeth.

The bone at the base of the nose is smooth in Aborigines, and sharp in Europeans. In this individual the condition is smooth, which is a male characteristic.

Aboriginal teeth tend to be larger than European, but the size of the teeth of E17195 cannot be measured. The state of wear accords with that of an Aboriginal person on a traditional and abrasive diet. Furthermore the upper central incisor tooth has been evulsed, which is characteristic of Aboriginal initiation ceremonies in eastern Australia.

I have been able to assemble enough measurements to use a version of my program CRANID. This program compares the size and shape of a skull with samples from around the world. It attempts to deduce a person's ancestry.

Using 29 variables this program determines that the skull is most like male Australian Aboriginal samples on a worldwide comparison. There is no reason, therefore, to think that the original classification as Aboriginal was mistaken.

Stature

There being no post-cranial bones, it is not possible to estimate the stature of E17195.

Teeth

The presence and condition of the teeth are recorded on the diagram at the back of this report.

Most teeth have fallen out after death. Those that are left are in an extreme state of wear, such that the pulp cavities are exposed. This has led to infection around the roots and resulting chronic apical abscesses in places.

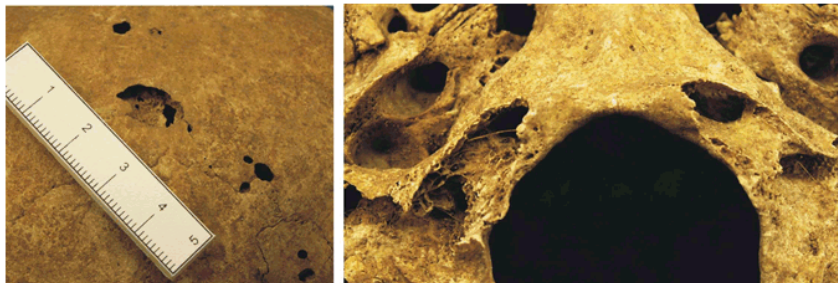
Indications of health and stress

Bones and teeth often show signs of stress suffered by individuals during their lifetime. This stress can be due to illness, diet or injury.

The individual shows signs of age-related (senile) osteoporosis, particularly on the outer table of bone of the skull and the occipital condyles.

There are no indications of what actually caused the death of this individual. In the associated documents his

death is attributed to being killed in a fight. However his death was caused, there are no signs of injury to the skull.



Age-related (senile) osteoporosis has weakened the bone of the skull of E17195. On the left is shown osteoporosis of the outer table of the skull. On the right the occipital condyles (the pivots of the skull on the neck bones) have been so weakened that the bone has crumbled after death.

How old are the bones?

There are techniques such as radiocarbon dating that can be used to estimate the time since the death of the individual, i.e. how old the bones are. I have not used such techniques on these bones.

The state of preservation of the bones can give only a very approximate idea of how old the bones are. These bones appear relatively fresh, in the sense that they have not suffered much leaching of their original proteins.

Without radiocarbon dating it is not possible to say any more about how old these bones are. However there are no osteological reasons to disagree with the identification in the documents of somebody who died in 1848.

Further information

The methods of analysis I have used are described and discussed in two technical books:

Buikstra, J. E. and D. H. Ubelaker (1994) *Standards for Data Collection from Human Skeletal Remains*. Research Series, no. 44. Arkansas Archaeological Survey, Fayetteville.

Brickley, M. and J. I. McKinley (2004) *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains*. BABAO, Southampton.

I am not including an additional list of references for each of the methods used. My reason is that this is not a

technical scientific report. Also my report is not dealing with a forensic case for which I am attempting personal identification from bones. In such a case much more intensive observation and referencing of methods would have been required.

However I am happy to give to anybody reading this report more information on how I arrived at a particular conclusion.

* * * * *

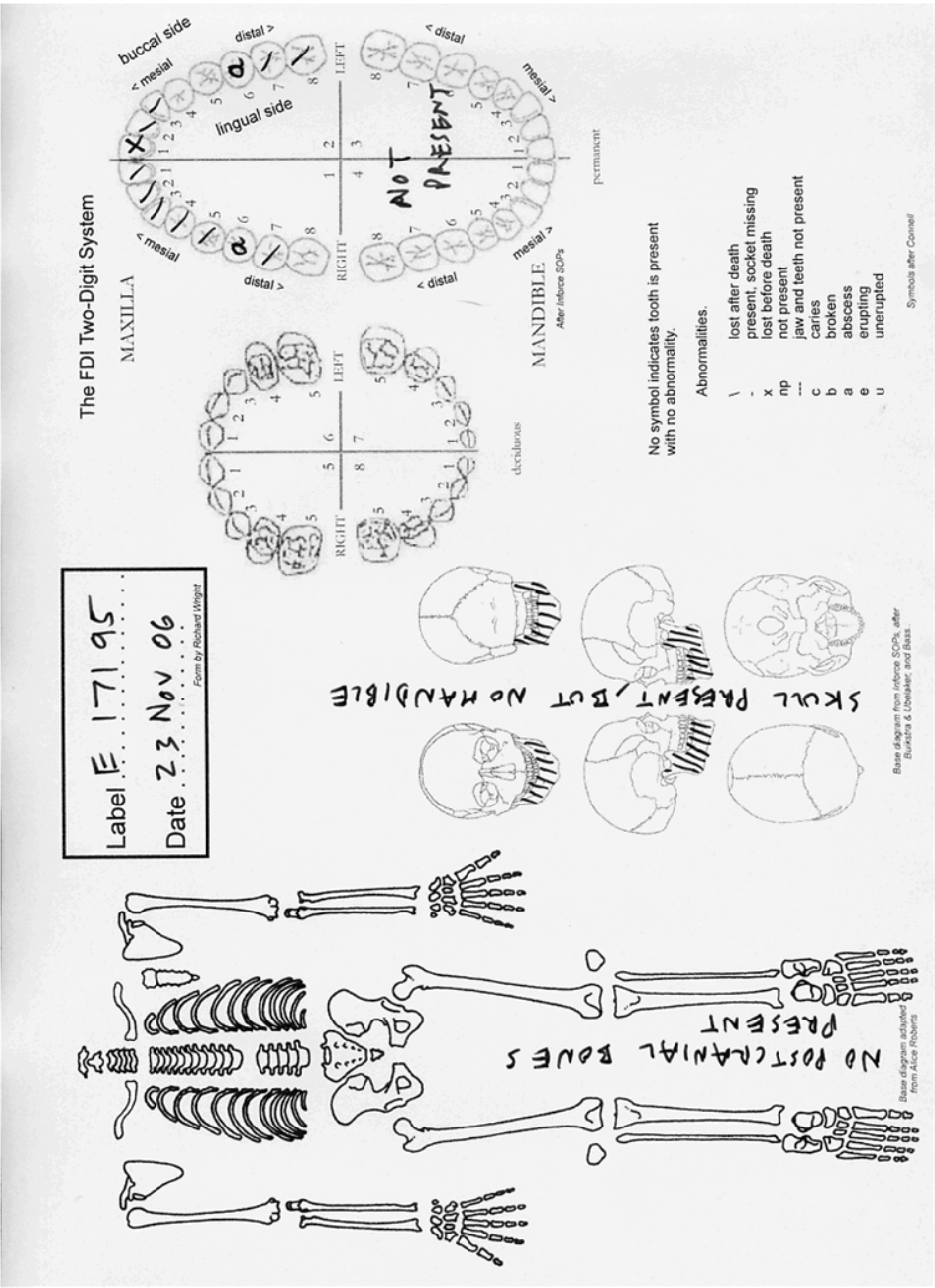


Chart showing bones present.

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Chairman

National Roads and Transport Congress

Albany WA - 6th to 8th November 2017

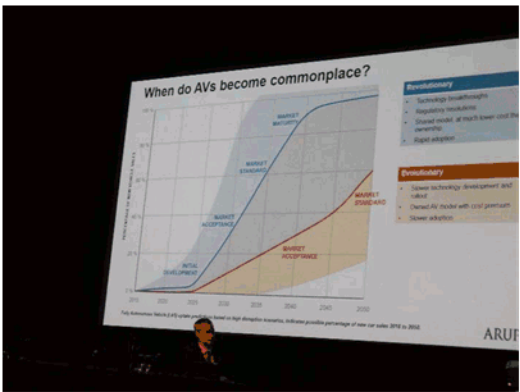
Crs. J Coulton and D Coulton attended this event together with the General Manager and Technical Services Director.



The theme of the Congress was *Shaping Transport's Future*. The Congress program is attached, which outlines the range of speakers who presented at the event.

Three particular issues of importance were reinforced during the Congress:

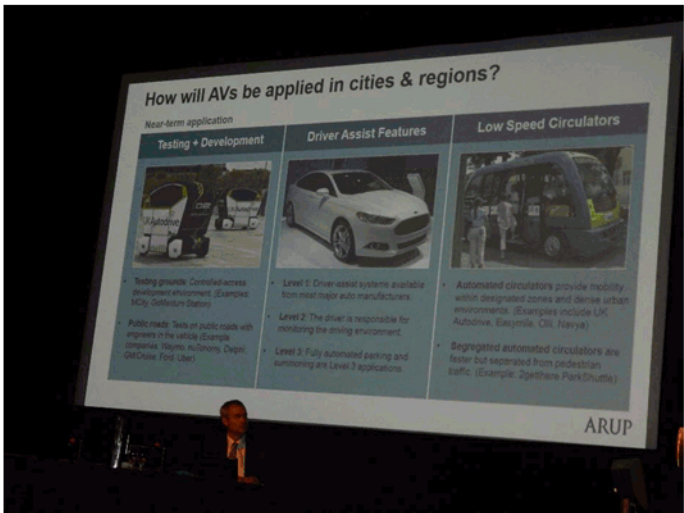
Firstly that the changes that will occur as a result of fully and partially autonomous vehicles will be profound but more so in urban areas initially. However rural areas will need to plan for these changes as the tide of technological change cannot be turned back;



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Chairman

Secondly the National road toll is again increasing and autonomous vehicles are seen as the next big step in reducing the death toll towards zero. It is seen in the same light as mandatory seat belt wearing or random alcohol and drug testing as a potential circuit breaker to address the issue of vehicle collisions; and;



Finally the absolute acceptance of the work undertaken by the Australian Rural Roads Group through the research papers it produced to put the focus for road funding linking into productivity improvements by working on freight corridors. Gwydir and Moree Plains Shires can certainly be pleased that the work of the ARRG has definitely had a positive impact on the development of State and Federal policies in the area of transport funding.



The attached Congress Communique was adopted at the close of the Congress.

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Chairman

Prior to returning to NSW the Councillors and General Manager took the opportunity to visit a local government authority in WA and meet with former Mayors and current and former Councillors to get a feel for what local government is like in a politically dominated Council. The Councillors seemed quite content with the political environment at Gwydir compared to the area visited.

One thing that did hit home, and this was raised with the NSW Deputy Premier in our recent meeting, was the extent of work that has been undertaken in almost every small and large community visited, during the trip, through the *Royalties for Regions* program, which was the price that Liberal Party had to pay to get the support of the WA Nationals to form government. Unfortunately the recent election of a Labor Government in WA will probably result in a substantial change to this program according to our hosts to the detriment of the WA rural and regional communities.

Cr John Coulton, Cr D Coulton, Richard Jane and Max Eastcott thank the Council for the opportunity to attend and all Councillors should consider attending the future events. It certainly introduces you to exactly what is happening now and the trends moving forward in the transport industry and the potential impacts on the local government sector.

The 2018 Congress is being held at Uluru in the Northern Territory.

National Local Roads & Transport Congress 2017

6-8 NOVEMBER 2017
ALBANY • WA

CONGRESS PROGRAM

Shaping Transport's Future

MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER

11:00 am–4:00 pm **Albany Showcase and Tour**

5:00 pm–7:00 pm **WELCOME RECEPTION**
VENUE NATIONAL ANZAC CENTRE

TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER

8:45 am OPENING ADDRESS
ALGA President, **Mayor David O'Loughlin**

9:00 am KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Transport Challenges and Opportunities for Tomorrow
Russell Whale, Associate Principal, ARUP

9:30 am STATE GOVERNMENT ADDRESS
Richard Sellers, Director General, WA Department of Transport

10:00 am **MORNING TEA**
PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY 

10:30 am GOVERNMENT ADDRESS
The Hon Darren Chester MP, Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport,

11:00 am **Shaping Australia's Transport Future through Road Reform**
Adrian Kemp, Partner HoustonKemp Economists

11:45 am **MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH**
VENUE KALYENUP STUDIO

12:30 pm PANEL SESSION
Improving Freight Productivity
Nicole Lockwood, National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy Inquiry
Cr Rick Storer, Chair North Regional Road Group
Andrew Higgins, CSIRO

1:30 pm PANEL SESSION
Local Roads and Bridges – Fit for Purpose
Peter Damen, Australian Road Research Board
Mike Brady, Toowoomba Regional Council
Adrian Kemp, HoustonKemp Economists

2:30 pm **AFTERNOON TEA**
PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY 

3:00 pm **Albany Case Study**
Andrew Sharpe, Albany City Council
Andrew Duffield, WA Main Roads
Nicholas Fertin, Southern Port Authority
Greg Thornton, CBH Albany

4:00 pm PANEL SESSION
Intelligent Transport Infrastructure
Donna Wieland, General Manager, Transport Technology Futures Branch, Federal Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development
Russell Whale, ARUP
Adrian Kemp, HoustonKemp Economists

6:30 pm – 10:30 pm **CONGRESS DINNER**
VENUE CENTENNIAL STADIUM

WEDNESDAY 8 NOVEMBER

9:00 am **Stormwater – New Approaches to Funding**
Andrew Reese, Principal, The Wood Group

9:30 am Local Government Infrastructure: The Building Blocks of Communities

10:30 am **MORNING TEA**

11:00 am PANEL SESSION
Improving Safety on Local Roads
Natalie Lockwood, Austroads Program Manager
Dr Dan Sullivan, Austroads Project Manager

11:45 am PANEL SESSION
Regional Airports
Guy Thompson, Chairman of Australian Airports Association and Chief Operating Officer at Perth Airport
Andrew Sharpe, City of Albany

12:30 pm **LUNCH**

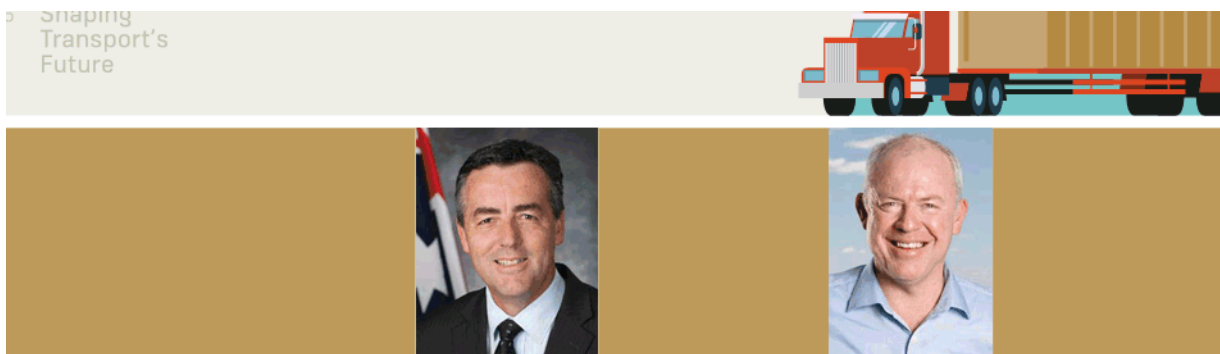
1:30 pm **Congress Policy Sprint**
– Review the Agenda
– Refine the Priorities
– Recommend the Future Directions

2:15 pm Communicate and the plan for the 2018 Election

2:30 pm **ALGA PRESIDENT'S CLOSE**

This is page number 33 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 14 December 2017

Chairman



KEYNOTE
SPEAKERS

The Hon Darren Chester MP

Minister for Infrastructure
and Transport

Darren Chester was elected to Federal Parliament as the Member for Gippsland on June 26, 2008, following the retirement of the Hon Peter McGauran.

He was re-elected in 2010, and again in 2013, when he was appointed as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence in the Abbott-Truss Government. He continued in that role under the Turnbull Government, until his appointment to Cabinet in February 2016 as the Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. He also currently serves as Deputy Leader of the House.

He continues in these roles in the 46th Parliament.

Darren was born and educated in Sale and now lives in Lakes Entrance with his family. Prior to entering Federal Parliament, he worked as a newspaper and television journalist throughout Gippsland and then became Chief of Staff to the Leader of The Nationals in Victoria, Peter Ryan.

Mike Brady

General Manager – Infrastructure
Services, Toowoomba Regional
Council

Mike has over 35 years of engineering, management, design and construction experience in government and the private sector. He holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil), a Masters of Local Government Management, and a Graduate Diploma of Local Government Engineering from the University of Technology, Sydney.

Most of his career has been spent in local government in New South Wales and Queensland, as well as senior roles with Queensland Main Roads. He currently leads the Infrastructure Services Group within Toowoomba Regional Council, responsible for delivering the group's operational and capital programs.

Prior to joining Toowoomba Regional Council in August 2011, Mike was employed with Brisbane City Council in a number of senior roles. Mike is an active member of Engineers Australia, having served as the President of Engineers Australia (Queensland) in 2010 and on the Board of Professional Engineers Queensland from 2012 to 2016. He is also an active member of the Institute of Public Works Engineers Association of Queensland.



Peter Damen

CEO, Australian Road Research Board

Peter Damen is the Chief Operating Officer at the Australian Road Research Board, which conducts applied research in the national interest to achieve an adaptable connected future for all Australians.

Peter is a qualified civil engineer with over 25 years' experience in the transport industry and has a solid background in research, innovation and emerging technologies. Peter works closely with all levels of government and has chaired or participated in numerous industry associations, state advisory committees, accreditation panels, and learned societies. Amongst other responsibilities he is currently a Board member of the Global Road Safety Partnership based in Geneva, the Chair of the Executive Steering Committee of the Australia and New Zealand Driverless Vehicle Initiative, and an International Vice President of the Road Engineering Association of Asia and Australasia. Peter is also responsible for other major national initiatives including the National Road Safety Partnership Program and the National Assets Centre for Excellence.

Nicolas Fertin

CEO, Southern Ports Authority

Nicolas Fertin was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Southern Ports Authority (SPA) in February 2015.

Over the past 10 years Nicolas has led international teams in the ports and property management industries and, more recently, within Australia in the rail industry.

Nicolas enjoys leading multiple business units balancing the need to preserve local priorities with the need to address the regional or global opportunities and challenges.

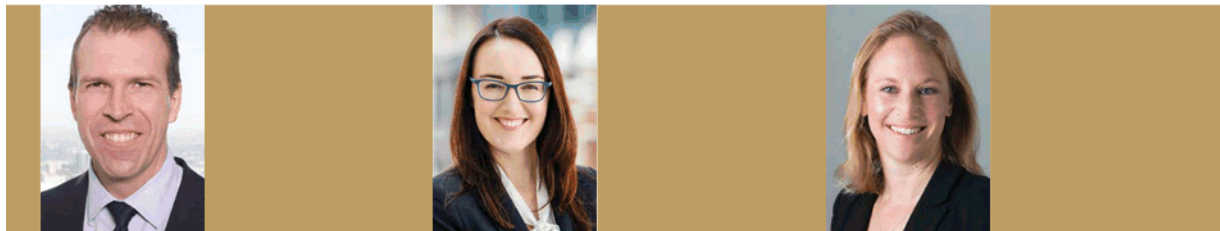
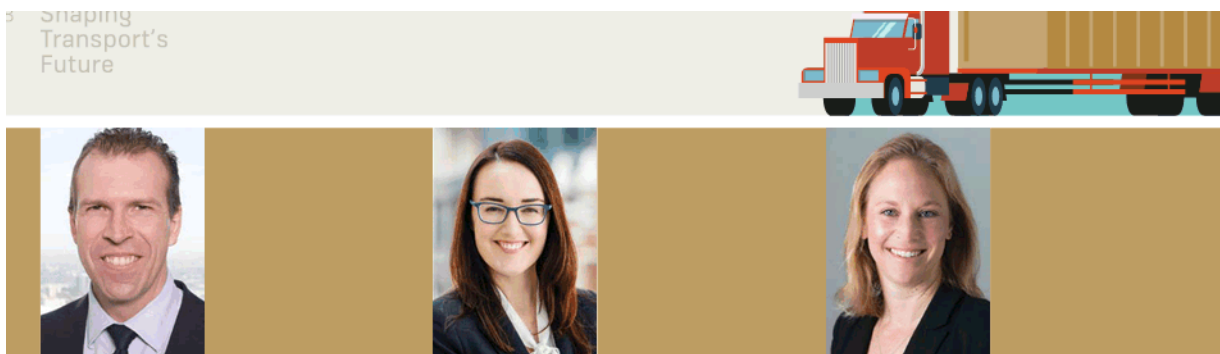
Nicolas has been actively engaged with significant supply chain transformations in Europe, the US and Australia. At Asciano, Nicolas was instrumental in delivering the Western Australia Kewdale Rail Customer precinct which saw significant private investment delivering a transformation of the freight terminal, extracting supply chain costs, reducing transit time and trucks on the road.

Dr Andrew Higgins

Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO Land and Water

Andrew is a Principal Research Scientist at the CSIRO Land and Water business unit, based in Brisbane. He joined CSIRO in 1996, with a passion in developing novel methods to optimise agriculture transport and logistics to increase profitability across the supply chains. Andrew worked closely with various Australian agriculture industries (including sugar and beef) for over 15 years, improving strategic and operational planning across all segments between farming and marketing.

From 2012, Andrew led the development of the Transport Network Strategic Investment Tool (TRANSIT), which is a state-of-the-art model for assessing and optimising infrastructure investments (road upgrades, use of rail versus road, processing and storage facilities) and policy interventions in agriculture logistics. It holistically estimates the transport benefits across the freight network, by analysing every possible vehicle and rail trip each year, and optimising routes between all enterprises in the supply network. Recent applications to northern Australia have shown significant transport cost savings at some locations.



Adrian Kemp

Partner, HoustonKemp

Adrian Kemp is an economist and founding partner of HoustonKemp, a firm dedicated to the application of economics and data analytics to complex problems arising in public policy and business.

He has a particular interest in the role that technology and emerging data can play to improve transport infrastructure policy and practices within Australia and regionally, and so delivering better outcomes for the community through improved productivity and effectiveness of the transport industry.

This interest stems from having spent much of the last ten years at the forefront of debates surrounding road reform, road infrastructure funding and financing, heavy vehicle regulation, public transport policy, and the regulation of ports. Highlights of this work include shaping current road reform proposals through numerous projects on road infrastructure pricing, investment and funding, and being the principal regulatory advisor to the Victorian government on the Port of Melbourne lease, which involved redesigning the regulatory framework applying to port fees.

Natalie Lockwood

Austroroads

Natalie Lockwood has worked as a Civil Engineer for Main Roads Western Australia for 13 years and has held Program Coordination and Project Management roles in Austroroads since 2009.

Natalie has experience in Program Management, Stakeholder Management, Asset Management, Road Safety and Materials Engineering and in 2013 managed the development of the Travel Wellbeing stream of the Main Roads WA 2020 Strategic Plan.

Natalie was also awarded the Main Roads Managing Director's Professional Excellence Award in 2013.

Nicole Lockwood

Principal, Lockwood Advisory

Nicole is the Principal of Lockwood Advisory providing strategic advice to government and the private sector in the areas of urban renewal, infrastructure and digital enablement.

Nicole is a member of the Boards of the Water Corporation, Tourism WA and Infrastructure Australia, Internet of Things Alliance Australia, Chair of the Freight and Logistics Council, MNG Surveying and the Deputy Chair of Leadership WA and Pilbara for Purpose.

Nicole was recently appointed to the Expert Panel to lead the Inquiry into National Freight and Supply Chain Priorities and as Independent Chair of the Westport Taskforce.

Previously Nicole was a Director at KPMG leading the government team in Management Consulting. She resided in the Pilbara for seven years until 2012 holding numerous governance roles including Shire President at the Shire of Roebourne. Nicole is a lawyer having worked in private and public practice.



Andrew Reese

Principal, The Wood Group

Andrew Reese is a principal with The Wood Group and has over 38 years' experience in a wide range of stormwater management and surface water assignments from research and teaching at Vanderbilt University to stormwater program and policy development.

Andrew holds Master's degrees from Colorado State University and Boston University and an undergraduate degree from Cornell University.

Andrew has been instrumental in the development of stormwater program funding using a user fee approach and is seen as an international leader in stormwater program development.

Andrew has published over fifty articles and papers including the bestselling textbook Municipal Stormwater Management and is a popular speaker having delivered over 35 keynote addresses on various topics.

Richard Sellers

Director General, Department of Transport, Government of Western Australia

Mr Sellers was appointed Director General of the Department of Transport in Western Australia in September 2016. He came to the position from the Department of Mines and Petroleum where he held the position of Director General.

Mr Sellers holds a Bachelor of Applied Science Biology, a Graduate Diploma in Education and Master of Public Policy and Management.

Mr Sellers has extensive experience in the public sector. His work on reform is widely recognised and in his previous position he took a lead role in improving WA's approval process and encouraging exploration to ensure WA's ongoing development.

His stewardship of DMP during the busiest growth period of Western Australia's resources industry was marked by innovations and significant reforms in a number of areas, including safety, the environment, approvals and administration.

Andrew Sharpe

CEO, City of Albany

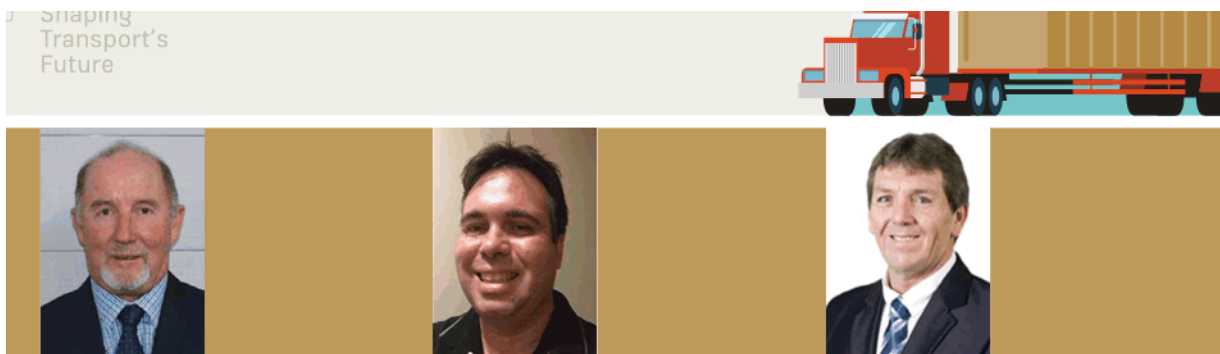
Andrew Sharpe was appointed Chief Executive Officer with the City of Albany in August 2015 and brings a wealth of experience and local knowledge to the position.

His skill set and leadership style is focused on ensuring the Organisation's objectives are achieved by understanding the importance of people, stakeholder relationships and building stronger Communities.

Andrew grew up in the Great Southern region and has over twenty years' experience in Local Government management.

He has worked in both the private and public sector, predominantly in the areas of taxation, small business (agriculture), financial management, administration and leadership.

His tertiary qualifications include a Bachelor of Business, Diploma of Project Management and he is a Certified Practising Accountant. He has also held various Board positions with organisations specialising in Local Government Insurance, Small Business service delivery and Community Services.



Cr Rick Storer

Shire President, Shire of Koorda

Ricky Storer manages an 8,000 ha mixed farming enterprise in Koorda WA.

Elected to the shire of Koorda in 2005, Ricky held the position of deputy president four years before being elected as shire president in 2011, a position he has just been re-elected to in the recent LG elections.

In his role as chair of the Wheatbelt North Regional Road Group, Ricky led 42 local governments from regional WA in the coordinated development of the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Routes Strategy, which also includes Main Roads WA, WALGA and Regional Development Australia. Ricky has presented this strategy to both Infrastructure Australia and the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development to secure federal government support for the innovative project.

Dr Dan Sullivan

Principal, Solutions in Transport

Dan Sullivan is principal and owner of "Solutions in Transport", and is the Project Manager for the Austroads' Safety at Road Worksites project. He is responsible for the new Austroads Guide to Temporary Traffic Management Practice, nationally harmonised training, and is working with industry on national registration schemes for individuals and companies.

Dan has also been working with the Transport and Main Roads QLD in improving safety at works on roads, developing training for traffic management design, documenting QLD practice and guidance, and assisting in a culture change to raise the professionalism and safety outcomes at road worksites.

Guy Thompson

COO, Perth Airport Pty Ltd

Mr Guy Thompson is the Chief Operating Officer of Perth Airport Pty Ltd. As the gateway to Western Australia, Perth Airport is one of the State's most important elements of public infrastructure and plays a significant role in the State's economic, social and cultural activities.

The airport currently caters for just under 14 million passengers per year in four terminals, with over 135,000 aircraft movements each year within the 24/7 operational period.

Guy leads the team that is responsible for Security & Emergency Planning, Terminal Operations, Airfield Operations, and Asset Maintenance of all infrastructure owned and operated on the Perth Airport estate.

Guy has a Bachelor of Civil Engineering, a Graduate Certificate of Management and is a Member of the Institution of Engineers. He is also a Member of the Institute of Company Directors and is currently the National Chairman of the Australian Airports Association.



Greg Thornton

Albany Zone Manager, CBH Group

Greg Thornton is the Albany Zone Manager for the CBH Group, Australia's largest co-operative and leader in the Australian grain industry, with operations extending along the value chain from grain storage, handling, transport, marketing and processing.

Greg manages a team which delivers handling and storage services for approximately 1,100 growers based in the South West, Great Southern, Upper Great Southern and South Coast regions.

He has held the position of Zone Manager since 2011 following a diverse career within CBH and over the past seven years has overseen record harvests, road, rail and shipping movements. He is a passionate advocate for the grower and as such his focus is on returning value through supply chain and storage efficiencies.

Dennis Wellington

Mayor, City of Albany

Dennis Wellington has 16 years' experience in Local Government and is passionate about the Albany community and leading it into a sustainable and prosperous future.

Dennis was born in Albany and attended school in Albany until year 10, before going on to further study.

A talented cricketer, Dennis enjoyed a successful sporting career, playing for the WA Country XI and competing in international matches.

As well as enjoying success on the cricket pitch, Dennis carved a 16-year career in real estate, before spending three years in tourism and finally 22 years as a small business owner.

Dennis retired from business in 2014 to focus on his position as Mayor of Albany.

He was first elected to Council in May 2001, and spent four years as Deputy Mayor of the City of Albany, before being elected to Mayor in 2011.

Russell Whale

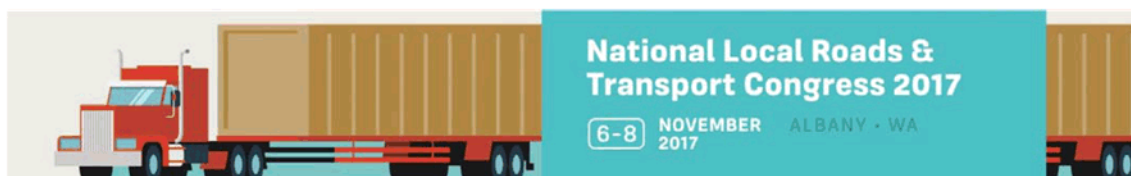
Associate Principal, SMART Mobility & Connected Infrastructure, ARUP

Russell has more than 25 years of experience in the field of transportation with a specialist knowledge of transport planning, highway/rail design and transport operations.

This includes, SMART Roads/ Motorways, bus, rail and ferry services as well as cooperative intelligent transport systems. This includes autonomous vehicles within Australia and internationally.

Russell has also worked extensively in both public and private sectors gaining experience from both a client and consultant and service provider (main contractors/ maintenance contractors) perspective. Russell has also had interaction with local government and councils.

Russell is skilled in several areas including civil and electrical engineering, together with a background in spatial and transport planning.



2017 National Local Roads and Transport Congress Communique

Over 200 delegates from councils across Australia met in Albany, Western Australia on 6-8 November 2017 at the eighteenth National Local Roads and Transport Congress.

The Congress focused on transport challenges and opportunities of today and tomorrow including the expected growth in freight transport, urban congestion, the adoption of new technologies, further efforts in road safety and the need for significant transport funding reform.

Delegates called on states, territories and the Commonwealth to recognize that local government is responsible for more than 73 percent of Australia's road network estimated to be worth more than \$180 billion, and that local roads and bridges are critical to the mobility of all Australian communities. These roads provide access to property, homes, local business, schools, hospitals and provide essential links between local communities, regional and state roads and major national freight routes and must be fit for purpose, delivering an appropriate level of service, if they are to adequately support the social, economic and environmental outcomes of every community across Australia.

The Congress noted however, that local government collects just over 3.6 percent of national taxation and spends more than \$7 billion annually, or more than 20 percent in every dollar of local government revenue raised, on maintaining and renewing local roads and transport. Research shows that around 60 percent of local governments roads and transport assets are generally in good condition, but despite local government efforts, it is estimated that more than 11 percent of local road and transport assets are in poor to very poor condition. Without additional funding this situation will continue to deteriorate.

Delegates welcomed the Commonwealth Minister for Transport the Hon Darren Chester who acknowledged the important role that local government plays in managing local roads across the country. Minister Chester also stressed the importance of working together on improving the productive capacity of our nations freight transport, the importance of addressing urban transport challenges and improving safety on our roads. He also announced the opening of Round 2 of the Building Better Regions Fund.

The Congress noted Minister Chester's desire to redouble efforts to improve road safety outcomes, particularly on regional, rural and remote roads and his request that safety be given greater priority in road projects. The Congress shares the Minister's concerns about reducing the trauma of road crashes which have such a significant impact on local communities.

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Chairman

The Congress welcomed the Government's continued commitment to the Roads to Recovery Program which is set at around \$350 million per annum and is expected to increase to \$400m in 2019–20. The Congress also applauded the Government's commitment to the Bridges Renewal Program and Road Safety Black Spots funding and called for the Black Spot funding to be doubled and made permanent. However, recognising the extent of the backlog in infrastructure spending, delegates urged the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) to advocate for an increase in R2R program funding to \$800 million per annum, indexed to maintain its real value.

The Congress welcomed a presentation on the Government's Inquiry to develop a National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy noting that the national freight task is expected to grow by 50 percent over the next two decades as our nation's population increases. Delegates also discussed the work on road user charging and noted the importance of ALGA work in the area.

The Congress noted the critical importance of improving the nation's road freight routes and the excellent work done by CSIRO and many regional groups of councils in the development of detailed Regional Transport Plans. The Congress urged the ALGA to continue to advocate for a Local Government Freight Strategy starting at \$200 million per annum over 5 years to invest in reducing bottlenecks and capacity constraints and other first and last-mile solutions that will improve heavy vehicle access on local roads.

Delegates welcome a presentation on intelligent transport infrastructure and its role in transforming mobility in the future. Delegates asked ALGA to more fully explore the implications of technology and intelligent transport on local governments and communities and supported council participation in national trials.

Delegates discussed the challenges facing regional airports and airstrips, many of which are owned by councils. The Congress acknowledges the importance of regional airports as essential infrastructure assets that help keep communities connected and facilitate the delivery of essential services and drive economic growth. The Congress supported continued work by ALGA with the Australian Airports Association on strategies to secure the future of important regional airports.

The Congress noted that the 2018–19 Federal Budget was an opportunity for the Government to focus on addressing some of the long term structural challenges facing local communities, particularly in managing community assets such as buildings, sport and recreation facilities, stormwater and waste water assets. Delegates expressed their support for continued ALGA advocacy for a Community Infrastructure program of \$300 million per annum.

Delegates expressed support for ALGA in its ongoing advocacy on behalf of the sector and welcomed the ALGA President's outline of the Association's Federal Budget Submission and priorities in the lead-up to the next Federal election.

**Item 3 Minutes of the Border Regional Organisation of Councils
AGM and Ordinary Meeting held 17 November 2017**

FILE REFERENCE

DELIVERY PROGRAM

GOAL: 5. Organisational Management

OUTCOME: 5.1 CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

STRATEGY: 5.1.3 Administrative functions - GM - internal

AUTHOR General Manager

DATE 29 November 2017

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

This report is for notation of the minutes of the Border Regional Organisation of Council's (BROC) Annual General Meeting and ordinary meeting held at Moree Plains Shire Council on 17 November 2017.

Copies of the presentations made at the ordinary meeting can be provided upon request.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the minutes of the Border Regional Organisation of Councils' AGM and Ordinary meeting of 17 November 2017 be received

ATTACHMENTS

AT- Minutes BROC AGM - 17 November 2017

AT- Minutes Ordinary BROC Meeting - 17 November 2017 (less attachments)

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION:
MINUTE 408/17**

THAT the minutes of the Border Regional Organisation of Councils' AGM and Ordinary meeting of 17 November 2017 be received.

(Moved Cr Young, seconded Cr Dick)

BROC

Border Regional Organisation of Councils



MINUTES

Annual General Meeting

17 November 2017 – Moree Plains

Venue:	Council Chambers, Moree Plains Shire Council	Date:	17 November 2017
Chair:	Cr John Coulton, Gwydir Shire Council	Time:	10am QLD time 11am NSW
Attendees:	Cr K Dight (Inverell), Cr Frances Young, Richard Jane [Director Technical Services], Alex Eddy [Manager Design and Assets], R Phillips (Gwydir), Cr J McNally (SDRC), M Magin [CEO] (Balonne), Cr Ian Woodcock, D Ramsland [GM] (Walgett), Cr Joan White (Goondiwindi RC), Cr B Murray, Cr D Forbes (Tenterfield), Cr S Ritchie, Cr G Chiu, Angus Witherby [Director Planning and Community Dev] (MPSC)		
File ref:	S1242		

Item	Agenda Item
1	Meeting Opened With all member Councils present, the meeting opened at 10.55am
2	Apologies M Eastcott, Gwydir Shire Council Cr Peter Petty, Tenterfield Shire Council Cr Richard Marsh, Balonne Shire Council D Keenan Sthn Downs Regional Council Paul Henry, Inverell Shire Council Lester Rodgers, Moree Plains Shire Council Moved that apologies be accepted: MPSC Seconded: Tenterfield Carried
3	Minutes of AGM held 17 February 2017 (Inverell) tabled Nil Matters arising from the Minutes Moved minutes be accepted: Goondiwindi Seconded: MPSC Carried
4	Chairperson's report – presented by Cr J Coulton Moved this report be accepted: MPSC Seconded: Inverell Carried
5	Financial Report as at 30 September 2017 Audited Financial operating statement was presented showing total equity of \$32,680.49

This is page number 43 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 14 December 2017

Chairman

<u>Warwick Credit Union</u>	
Term Deposit due 22 January 2018 – 100005924-I2	
Balance as at 31 July 2017	\$26,908.64
Nil transactions	
Closing balance as at 30 September 2017	\$26,908.64
Account 400379187 – S6	
Opening balance 31 July 2017	0.18
Nil transactions	
Closing balance as at 30 September 2017	0.18
<u>National Australia Bank</u>	
Opening balance 12 August 2017	\$5,895.00
06 September 2017 – Chq 00036 (accommodation Prof Martin UNE)	124.00
Balance as at 11 September 2017	\$5,771.45
5.3	Moved that the Audited Financial Statement and financial report be accepted: Balonne Seconded: MPSC Carried
6	Items listed
6.1	Returning Officer Angus Witherby (MPSC) stepped in as Returning Officer.
6.2	Election of Chairperson: Cr John Coulton nominated by MPSC, seconded Inverell No further nominations, Cr Coulton accepted the nomination and was duly elected.
6.3	Election of Deputy Chairperson Cr Peter Petty nominated by Tenterfield, seconded Balonne No further nominations, Cr Petty (accepted by Proxy) was duly elected.
6.4	Election of Secretary/Treasurer Automatically Gwydir Shire Council as outlined in the Constitution.
6.5	Setting of Annual Membership Fees: It was agreed that the annual fees for the 2017-18 financial year remain at \$500.
6.6	Meeting dates for 2018: It was agreed that the meetings would be scheduled for the second Friday of the nominated months being: Friday 09 February, 11 May, 10 August and 09 November 2018.
7	Meeting Closed – 11.10am

2017 BROC ANNUAL REPORT.

Moree 17th November, 2017.

In order to operate within the constitution we are holding two AGM's in the one year.

My second year as your chairman commenced at the AGM in Inverell on the 17th February 2017. We have held three meetings for the year and hosted many guest speakers delivering a wealth of knowledge.

We have enjoyed a good relationship with RDANI and the chair of that organisation Mr Russel Stewart has addressed most meetings. Another friend of BROC is the Cross B order Commissioner Mr James McTavish.

During the year we have been informed about the Sapphire Wind Farm, the proposed dam on the Mole River, Murray/Darling Basin issues, Cr Kelly from the Southern Downs Regional council, David Littleproud the member for Maranoa, Annalisa Haskell CEO of LG Professionals, RDA of Darling Downs and SW Qld., Professor Paul Martin, Director Australian Centre for Agriculture and Law, UNE., Peter Dawson, Snr Lands Services officer LLS NSW., and Mick Savage the Roads and Transport Directorate Manager for IPWEA NSW.

Along with the above speakers each hosting council has provided a topic and speaker at their home meetings.

It has been the aim of this organisation to keep the members informed on matters pertaining to the area we represent. I acknowledge the tremendous effort Mrs Robyn Phillips has displayed in finding speakers of interest and then organising them to attend. Thank you Robyn. I also acknowledge the effort that member councils have made in attending meetings and thank you for that.

The influx of capital from the Border Rivers Organisation of Councils fund was most welcome and you will see in the Annual Statement that BROC is in a very healthy position financially.

I thank Mr Max Eastcott for his contribution as Treasurer and Mrs Helen Thomas for the audit.

Finally I wish to express my gratitude to be elected as your Chairman and can say that I have enjoyed your company and stimulating input to our meetings.

John Coulton Chairman.

BROC

Border Regional Organisation of Councils



Border Regional Organisation of Councils	
Operating Statement for the the period 31 January 2017 to 30 September 2017	
	\$
INCOME	
Membership fees	\$4,000.00
Interest	\$91.78
Other income	
Total Income	\$4,091.78
EXPENDITURE	
Other expenses - Accommodation for guest speaker	\$124.00
Total Expenditure	\$124.00
SURPLUS	\$3,967.78
Balance Sheet for the the period 01/02/17 to 30/09/17	
	\$
CURRENT ASSETS	
Choice account 400379187-S6 Warwick Cr Union	\$0.18
NAB Transaction Account	\$5,771.67
NON CURRENT ASSETS	
Fixed TD 100005924-I2 Warwick Cr Union	\$26,908.64
Total Assets	\$32,680.49
TOTAL EQUITY	\$32,680.49

This is page number 46 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 14 December 2017

Chairman



To Whom it May Concern

16 October 2017

I confirm that I have perused the accounts of Border Regional Organisation of Councils and the books appear to be in order.

Helen Thomas
Manager, Finance
Gwydir Shire Council

This is page number 47 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 14 December 2017

Chairman



MINUTES – Ordinary BROCC Meeting 17 November 2017 – Moree

Venue:	Council Chambers, Level 2, 30 Heber St Moree	Date:	17 November 2017
Chair:	Cr John Coulton, Gwydir	Time:	11.30am DST (10.30am Qld)
Attendees:	Cr K Dight (Inverell), Cr Frances Young, Richard Jane [Director Technical Services], Alex Eddy [Manager Design and Assets], R Phillips (Gwydir), Cr J McNally (SDRC), M Magin [CEO] (Balonne), Cr Ian Woodcock, D Ramsland [GM] (Walgett), Cr Joan White (Goondiwindi RC), Cr B Murray, Cr D Forbes (Tenterfield), Cr S Ritchie, Cr G Chiu, Angus Witherby [Director Planning and Community Development] and Libby Carter [A/GM] (MPSC), guest speakers		
File ref:	S1242		

1	Meeting Opened at 11.20am following conclusion of the AGM	
2	Apologies	
	Max Eastcott	Gwydir Shire Council
	Cr Peter Petty	Tenterfield Shire Council
	Cr Richard Marsh	Balonne Shire Council
	Paul Henry	Inverell Shire Council
	David Keenan CEO	Sthn Downs Regional Council
	Lester Rodgers	Moree Plains Shire Council
	Bryan Gray	RDA Darling Downs and SW
	Damon Meadows and Jim Grassick	QLD Dept of Infrastructure, LG and Planning
	James McTavish	Cross Border Commissioner
3	Minutes of Meeting 25 August 2017 (Walgett)	
3.1	Matters arising from the Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairman reiterated the offer from Prof Paul Martin at UNE – collaboration with UNE - ideas for review of Murray Darling Basin Plan Cr Ritchie noted he had not received maps of land leases as discussed with Peter Dawson, LLS Tamworth. RP will follow up with LLS 	

This is page number 48 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 14 December 2017

Chairman

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cr Dight noted that the response from QLD Minister for Agriculture regarding 'Mimosa' was referred to Local Land Services when dealing with the mimosa problem in the regeneration of the riverbank at Yetman 										
	Moved that the minutes of meeting 25 August be accepted: Moree Seconded: Tenterfield Carried										
4	Correspondence										
4.1	Inwards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Murray Darling Basin Authority Fact Sheet, Basin Plan Evaluation sent by Prof Paul Martin, UNE Request from the Committee on Community Services for BROOC to make submission by 17 November – inquiry into support for new parents and babies Invitation to attend Recover Natural Disaster Management Solution Information days in October/November 2017 Warwick Credit Union statements 31 August, 30 Sept and 31 Oct 2017 NAB statements 11 August, 11 September and 11 October 2017 Response from QLD Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (Mimosa) 										
4.2	Outwards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter to Federal Minister Environment and Energy (request to declare Vachellia Farnesiana [Mimosa] noxious or priority weed) + copies to NSW and QLD Ministers for environment Invitation to Tim Hansen, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator to attend as guest presenter Invitation to ARTC Inland Rail to attend next meeting Notice of BROOC attendance Recover Natural Disaster Management Solution information day in Dubbo 21 November 2017 (Walgett and Moree Plains Shire Councils) 										
4.3	Correspondence received since Agenda sent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for letter of support for Russell Stewart, re-application for Chairperson of RDANI 										
	Moved that the correspondence be accepted: Inverell Seconded: Moree Carried										
5	Financial Report as at November 2017										
	<u>Warwick Credit Union</u> Term Deposit due 22 January 2018 – 100005924-I2 <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Balance as at 31 July 2017</td><td>\$26,908.64</td></tr> <tr> <td>Reinvested for 6 months at 2.6%</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Closing balance as at 31 October 2017</td><td>\$26,908.64</td></tr> </table> Account 400379187 – S6 <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Opening balance 31 July 2017</td><td>\$0.18</td></tr> <tr> <td>Nil transactions</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Balance as at 31 July 2017	\$26,908.64	Reinvested for 6 months at 2.6%		Closing balance as at 31 October 2017	\$26,908.64	Opening balance 31 July 2017	\$0.18	Nil transactions	
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Nil transactions											

	Balance as at 31 October 2017	\$0.18
	<u>National Australia Bank</u>	
	Opening balance 12 August 2017	\$5,895.45
	Less chq 00036 (Accommodation Prof Martin UNE)	\$124.00
	Balance as at 06 September 2017	\$5,771.45
	Interest paid 29 September 2017	0.22
	Balance as at 10 November 2017	\$5,771.67
	Moved that the financial report be accepted: Inverell Seconded: Moree Carried	
6	Guest Speakers	
11.20am	Tim Hansen, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator	
	<p>Tim gave a presentation (attached) that shows the changes to Safety Management Systems and Chain of Responsibility that will come into effect in mid-2018.</p> <p>Discussed the recently launched portal for road managers to process heavy vehicle access permit applications and gave an overview of how the NHVR operates in the BROC area.</p> <p>Tim also distributed information on funding initiatives.</p> <p><u>Questions:</u></p> <p>Cr Dight (Inverell) asked about road train access on the Bruxner Highway</p> <p>RJ (Gwydir) noted that the Bruxner Hwy from Boggabilla to Ottley Creek was one of the first five roads approved in Gwydir for road train access – the section east of Ottley Creek is in Inverell Shire Council and therefore requires approval by Inverell Shire Council.</p>	
11.50am	<p>Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall briefly discussed funding opportunities that will be available between now and March 2019 across all categories including arts, infrastructure, culture, sporting.</p> <p><u>Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (IW Walgett) – what's happening with tourism in regional NSW? <p>AM - major tourism reform about to occur with a review of the NSW Tourism Strategic Plan currently being undertaken. Specific regional targets will be set to drive further investment.</p> <p>Need to address dispersal of overseas visitors, a campaign has been started to attract overseas visitors. Expect announcement of initiatives in early 2018 – currently Dubbo and Mudgee are pilot areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (BM Tenterfield) - how can TAFE courses retain integrity? <p>AM – all courses need to be accredited by ASQA (Australian Skills Quality Authority) for delivery by any Registered Training Organisation (RTO). There is also a check that all finance is delivered by Training Services NSW – contracts need to be signed to ensure RTOs are delivering KPIs in order to retain funding.</p> <p>Both federal and state checks are carried out and some private RTOs have</p>	

	<p>been deregistered as a result of not meeting requirements.</p> <p>TAFE is competing with private RTOs and is paid on enrolments so works very closely with business and industry to ensure the courses reflect the skills needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (FY Gwydir) – how does one go about requesting transfer of land between state and local government/community <p>AM – there is a process to follow with other government agencies being consulted; once land is declared surplus it is advertised, there may be an opportunity for councils to obtain a peppercorn rent arrangement, or the land may become available for community use.</p>
12.00pm	<p>ARTC (inland Rail) - Mitch Carr, Michael Clancy, Simon Eldridge, Naomi Cavanagh and Helena Orel</p> <p>Overview was given of the (ARTC) Melbourne to Brisbane inland rail project – presentation attached.</p> <p>A pilot program exists to study commodity flows through NSW including road and rail; where do councils want freight corridors; consideration will be given to industrial zones</p> <p>Currently fast moving consumer goods are predominately road based</p> <p>From regional perspective 80% of imports into Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney are consumed in that region; whereas it is the opposite in export with 80% of export items coming from regional areas</p> <p>EIS for Narrabri to North Star went on exhibition on 15 November (close 15 December)</p> <p><u>Questions:</u></p> <p>(JC Gwydir) – how do grain trains slot into the plan for Melbourne to Brisbane rail?</p> <p>MC – schedule needs to be flexible, specifications can mean a sudden change, rule of thumb for preferences is “two legs, four legs, no legs, coal” – therefore wheat trains have precedence over coal trains.</p> <p>(SR Moree) – where will the intermodal hubs be located?</p> <p>ARTC – demand will determine.</p> <p>(JW Goondiwindi) – where is the track going to cross the QLD border?</p> <p>MC – recommendations have been made, expect an announcement from the Minister soon. North Star to border State Significant Infrastructure Application is ready to be submitted to NSW Govnt in Feb/March with study area determined – the line will cross the border somewhere within the study area which is currently east of Boggabilla.</p> <p>(MM Balonne) – how will ARTC handle the difference in track gauge?</p> <p>SE – QLD section will be dual gauge providing standard gauge connectivity.</p> <p>(AW Moree) – the inland rail project and associated ‘gate to plate’ logistics will have substantial impacts on local governments. In particular a complete re-think of local road networks will be required as they re-orientate to take best advantage of inland rail, and also the need for local roads to provide the missing “last mile” link. This is a particular issue for black soil shires.</p>
12.30pm	<p>Duncan Taylor from Country Universities Centre (CUC) gave a presentation (attached).</p>

	<p>Duncan is from Cooma and has been involved in developing a model to address the delivery of higher education in regional areas.</p> <p>Higher education is a regional problem and therefore requires a regional solution</p> <p>74% of regional students remain in cities after graduation</p> <p>University Centre Model was set up in Cooma in 2013 with great success – fee share arrangements with Uni</p> <p>Centres on track for Goulburn and Broken Hill in 2018 with another five potential regional locations for CUC</p> <p>Currently negotiating with University of Southern Queensland, University of New England and Seek for partnerships in other areas/centres</p> <p>Online education students miss out on networks – these centres provide tutorials in every subject every week by local teachers with Masters qualifications</p> <p>Looking at combining Moree and Narrabri as a location for CUC</p> <p><u>Questions:</u></p> <p>(MM Balonne) – is there a minimum size demographic?</p> <p>DT – want to provide the best opportunities in different sized towns – keen to explore opportunities</p> <p>Website www.cuc.org.au</p>
7	General Business
7.1	<p>AW, MPSC spoke of Transport NSW Regional NSW Services and Infrastructure Plan Future Transport 2056 – providing a transport strategy for next 40 yrs</p> <p>This Plan is seeking an explicit focus on regional and cross border transport issues. Individual councils should be encouraged to make submissions – due 03 December 2017 – website https://future.transport.nsw.gov.au/</p>
7.2	<p>RS RDANI sought support of BROOC in his quest for reapplication for position of Chairperson of RDANI – the Committee agreed to provide a letter of support</p>
7.3	<p>RJ Gwydir noted that he was on a Transport Advisory Group that produced a BROOC Transport Plan. Suggested that now would be an ideal time to liaise with ARTC and review/update the BROOC Transport Plan.</p> <p>Need to develop evidence based objective plan on future BROOC Transport Plan considering impacts of inland rail on roads.</p> <p>(Noted that quote for CSIRO to prepare a model transport plan for Namoi JO was K\$48 and could take 6 months.)</p> <p>AW and RJ will liaise and come back to BROOC with suggestions.</p> <p>BROOC Secretary to distribute to members prior to 09 Feb meeting for discussion at that meeting.</p> <p>JMcN SDRC advised that Southern Downs Regional Council is currently working with neighbouring councils to develop a transport plan.</p>
7.4	<p>MPSC sought clarification on protocol regarding obtaining speakers for BROOC meetings. Was advised that current executive council arranges 2</p>

	speakers with host council to provide 1 presentation/speaker.
7.5	Cr McN (SDRC) noted that should the Liberal/NP win the Queensland elections they have announced they will establish a Queensland Cross Border Commissioner.
7.6	It was agreed that members meet on the eve of meetings where possible providing a networking opportunity; this may also allow earlier commencement of meeting. Secretary to send reminder 2 weeks prior to meeting.
8	Next Meeting – 09 February 2018 - Balonne (followed by Gwydir, Goondiwindi, Tenterfield)
9	Meeting Closed – 2.30pm

Action Item Log:			
Officer	Item	Listed	Outcome
All Members	Consider UNE offer – provide ideas for next BROCC meeting	25/08/17	Closed
Exec	Letter to Minister for Environment and Energy - mimosa	25/08/17	Completed
Exec	3.1 - LLS to liaise with MPSC re provision of land lease maps	25/08/16	
Exec	Letter of Support for RDANI	17/11/17	
RJ & AW	Suggestions for review of BROCC Transport Plan	17/11/17	
Exec	Distribute suggestions for Transport Plan prior to 09 Feb 2018 meeting	17/11/17	
Exec	Notify members 2 weeks prior re accommodation arrangements	17/11/17	

Item 4 Minutes of the New England Group of Councils' meetings

DELIVERY PROGRAM

GOAL: 5. Organisational Management

OUTCOME: 5.1 CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

STRATEGY: 5.1.3 Administrative functions - GM - internal

COMMENT

This report is for notation of the minutes of the New England Group of Councils (NEGOC) meetings held on 26 May and 25 August 2017.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Minutes from the New England Group of Councils meetings held in May and August 2017 be received

AT- NEGOC Minutes 26 May 2017

AT- NEGOC Minutes 25 August 2017

COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

MINUTE 409/17

THAT the Minutes from the New England Group of Councils meetings held in May and August 2017 be received.

(Moved Cr Egan, seconded Cr Young)

New England Group of Councils Meeting
26 MAY 2017

Minutes

This is page number 55 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 14
December 2017

Chairman

NEW ENGLAND GROUP OF COUNCILS

ORDINARY MEETING

MINUTES

From the meeting held at the Tenterfield Shire Council Chambers on:

Friday, 26 May 2017 at 10.00am

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7.4 Z-Net Project: Electric Car Friendly New England Highway 8
9.05/17 RESOLUTION 8

MINUTES

PRESENT: Cr Michael Pearce and Mr Andrew Hopkins (Uralla Shire Council), Dr Ian Tiley and Mr Lindsay Woodland (Armidale Regional Council), Cr Peter Petty and Mr Dave Walker (Tenterfield Shire Council), Cr Kate Dight (Inverell Shire Council), Cr Carol Sparks and Mr Hein Basson (Glen Innes Severn Council), Mr Lester Rodgers (Moree Plains Shire Council).

OPENED: 10.05am.

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

The Mayor of Tenterfield, Cr P Petty, read the following "Acknowledgement to Country":

"I acknowledge the Kamilaroi and Bundjalun people as the traditional custodians of this land and pay my respect to the Elders both past and present. I also extend that respect to Aboriginal people here today."

2 APOLOGIES

Moved Cr C Sparks

Seconded Dr I Tiley

1.05/17 RESOLUTION

That the apologies received from Cr Steve Toms (Glen Innes Severn Council), Cr Paul Harmon (Inverell Shire Council), Cr Katrina Humphries (Moree Plains Shire Council), Cr John Coulton (Gwydir Shire Council), Mr Damien Connor (Tenterfield Shire Council), Mr Paul Henry (Inverell Shire Council) and Mr Peter Dennis (Armidale Regional Council) be accepted and that leave of absence be granted to these members and members-to-be.

CARRIED

3 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS / PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no disclosures made.

4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING - 24 FEBRUARY 2017 TO BE CONFIRMED

Moved Dr I Tiley

Seconded Cr P Petty

2.05/17 RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the New England Group of Councils held on 24 February 2017, copies of which were circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings of the Meeting.

CARRIED

5 REPORTS

5.1 Joint Application from Moree Plains and Gwydir Shire Councils to join NEGOC / NEJO

REPORT FROM: NEGOC SECRETARIAT
Author: Hein Basson

Mr Lester Rodgers conveyed to the meeting that the Moree Plains Shire Council holds the opinion that its alignment is better suited to the New England Region and that there is no ill will between this Council and the Namoi Joint Organisation. Moree is looking forward to working with the other Councils within the New England Region through this strategic alliance for the benefit of this region.

Moved Cr P Petty Seconded Cr K Dight

3.05/17 RESOLUTION

1. That the New England Group of Councils (NEGOC) favourably considers the joint application received from Moree Plains and Gwydir Shire Councils, and warmly welcomes these Councils as new members to this Group.
2. That NEGOC's current constitution be amended to include both Moree Plains and Gwydir Shire Councils as member Councils.
3. That a letter be sent to the Minister of Local Government advising her of NEGOC's resolution, and strongly requesting that the boundary for the proposed New England Joint Organisation (NEJO) be set to incorporate both Moree Plains and Gwydir Shire Councils within this Joint Organisation's region.
4. That the Chair of NEGOC be requested to lobby The Hon. Adam Marshall MP (Member for Northern Tablelands) and The Hon. Thomas George MP (Member for Lismore) to ensure that NEGOC's boundary is extended to include the aforementioned two (2) Councils.

CARRIED

5.2 NEGOC / NEJO Strategic Direction

REPORT FROM: NEGOC SECRETARIAT
Author: Hein Basson

A fairly lengthy discussion was held on point 8 of the recommendation. The sentiment was expressed that this particular recommendation was probably too strongly worded by using the term “rejects”, and that NEGOC/NEJO needed to keep its options open in regards to potentially pursuing a shared service model into the future. However, it was agreed that a potential shared services platform should be residing with NEGOC/NEJO and not with an individual member Council, as all Councils have equal membership and rights.

Moved Cr P Petty Seconded Cr C Sparks

4.05/17 RESOLUTION

1. That the Board authorises the preparation of a Strategic Plan for the New England Group of Councils (NEGOC) by the General Managers' Advisory Committee (GMAC).
2. That the Board authorises the preparation of an inventory by GMAC of all existing reports pertaining to the region that could inform the advocacy role of NEGOC/NEJO.
3. That the Board identifies those reports from this above-mentioned inventory that the Board believes will be of tangible strategic benefit to the region and require updating.
4. That the Board requests the Minister for Local Government to release the \$300,000 earmarked for each individual Joint Organisation (JO) to enable the updating of any of the above-mentioned reports deemed “Strategic” by the Board.
5. That the Board requests GMAC to consider the applicability/adaptability of the CENTROC-Matrix for determining NEGOC/NEJO's regional priorities as part of the development of a Strategic Plan.
6. That the Board reconsiders those priority areas that should ultimately be the key advocacy areas for the New England Joint Organisation, e.g. Transportation, Agricultural Competitiveness, Health, Economic Development, Water Security and Community Safety, once the draft Strategic Plan had been developed.
7. That NEGOC keeps on inviting the Regional Coordinator from the Department of Premier and Cabinet to attend Board Meetings into the future.
8. That NEGOC further reviews future shared services models based on the equality principle of all member Councils enjoying equivalent benefits and rights within this regional joint organisation.
9. That no changes to the NEGOC-Constitution regarding the establishment of the Board are considered. The key features therefore remain to be the following:
 - One vote per Council, exercised by the Mayor of the member Council;
 - Four (4) meetings per year are held;
 - One (1) sub-committee is established, being GMAC;

- GMAC oversees the administrative function of the JO until an Executive Officer is appointed.
11. That the Administrative Arrangements of NEGOC/NEJO evolve as the range of activities approved by the Board expands. The stages envisaged in this regard are as follows:
- Start up: The JO is to be serviced by a member Council. When the Board authorises a project to be undertaken, then GMAC nominates one of their group as a "Sponsor General Manager" to oversee/undertake/project manage the allocated task.
 - Expansion and/or legislative formalisation of a JO: An "Executive Officer" is appointed for a three (3) year period for a number of days commensurate with the tasks required (expected to be two (2) days per week). This stage would be determined by a number of factors including the legislative framework and workload approved by the Board.
12. That the NEJO Chair and a member from GMAC, or the Executive Officer once appointed, attend one (1) Board Meeting of the Namoi JO per year in order to facilitate an open line of communication between the two (2) JOs within the larger New England North West Region and potentially identify projects that should/could be pursued by both the JOs within this larger Region.
13. That The Hon. Adam Marshall MP be lobbied to advocate for the ongoing funding of the remuneration package of the Executive Officer of NEGOC/NEJO by the State Government into the future.

CARRIED

5.3 Mole River Dam Investigation

REPORT FROM: NEGOC SECRETARIAT
Author: Hein Basson

Cr Peter Petty provided all members with a copy of a document prepared by the Tenterfield Shire Council pertaining to the construction of a dam within the Mole River.

Dr Ian Tiley stated that it would take time for a project of this nature to come to fruition; citing his experience with the building of a new dam within the Clarence Valley which provides water security for 150,000 people. The Meeting agreed that it is important for NEGOC/NEJO to support this particular project which would have a positive impact on the region.

Moved Cr P Petty Seconded Cr K Dight

5.05/17 RESOLUTION

1. That the New England Group of Councils (NEGOC) provides its strong in-principle support for the investigation of water security options in the Border River catchment, including and specifically for the construction of a dam in the Mole River.

2. That the Chair of NEGOC be requested to forward support letters in the above-mentioned regard to both The Hon. Adam Marshall MP and the Tenterfield Shire Council.

CARRIED

6 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence received.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Federal Budget Announcements

Moved Dr I Tiley

Seconded Cr M Pearce

6.05/17 RESOLUTION

That NEGOC extends its sincere thanks and appreciation to the Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP (Federal Member for New England) and Mr Mark Coulton MP (Federal Member for Parkes) for the recently announced budgetary measures to restore the indexation of the Financial Assistance Grants, the continuation and extension of the Roads to Recovery Funding, as well as other actions benefitting the Local Government sector as an important sphere of government.

CARRIED

7.2 Joint Organisations Enabling Legislation

Dr Ian Tiley stated that he is anxious to see the legislation passed by Parliament to officially get the Joint Organisations implemented.

Moved Dr I Tiley

Seconded Cr M Pearce

7.05/17 RESOLUTION

That NEGOC urges the Minister of Local Government, The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP to finalise the enabling legislation for Joint Organisations to be formally implemented.

CARRIED

7.3 Review into Improving the impact of Financial Assistance Grants on Local Government Financial Sustainability

Moved Dr I Tiley

Seconded Cr M Pearce

8.05/17 RESOLUTION

That NEGOC requests the Federal Minister of Local Government, Senator the Hon. Fiona Nash, to please finish the review report on the impact of Financial Assistance Grants on Local Government financial sustainability; which process had been started in November 2012 by the issuing of an Issues Paper titled "Review Into Improving the Impact of Financial Assistance Grants on Local Government Financial Sustainability".

CARRIED

7.4 Z-Net Project: Electric Car Friendly New England Highway

Moved Cr M Pearce

Seconded Cr C Sparks

9.05/17 RESOLUTION

That NEGOC supports the Z-Net Project driven by the Uralla Shire Council to make the New England Highway user friendly to electric car owners and that individual member Councils link into this network as far is possible and practicable for them.

CARRIED

The Meeting closed at 11.47am.

New England Group of Councils Meeting
25 AUGUST 2017

Notes

This is page number 64 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 14 December 2017

Chairman

NEW ENGLAND GROUP OF COUNCILS

ORDINARY MEETING

NOTES

From the meeting held at Uralla on:
Friday, 25 August 2017 at 10.00am

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PRESENT: Cr Steve Toms (Chair) and Mr Hein Basson (Glen Innes Severn Council), Cr Paul Harmon and Mr Paul Henry (Inverell Shire Council), Cr Michael Pearce, Cr Isabel Strutt, Cr Mark Dusting and Mr Andrew Hopkins (Uralla Shire Council), Mr Peter Dennis (Armidale Regional Council), Messrs Lester Rodgers and John Carleton (Moree Plains Shire Council), Prof Brian Dollery (UNE).

OPENED: Approximately 10.20am.

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

The Mayor of Uralla, Cr Michael Pearce, read the following "Acknowledgement to Country":

"I acknowledge the Anaiwan people as the traditional custodians of this land and pay my respect to the Elders both past and present. I also extend that respect to Aboriginal people here today."

2 APOLOGIES

Formal apologies were received from Cr Katrina Humphries (Mayor of Moree Plains Shire Council), and Dr Ian Tiley (Administrator of Armidale Regional Council).

No apologies were received from Tenterfield and Gwydir Shire Councils. It was relayed to the meeting that a Border Regional Organisation of Councils Meeting was also scheduled for that day and that the representatives from these mentioned Councils were probably attending this meeting.

It was raised by the Chair that only three (3) voting delegates were present (i.e. Cr Toms, Cr Pearce and Cr Harmon); leaving the meeting without a quorum. It was decided for the meeting to progress without the ability to formally adopt resolutions, and for the recommendations discussed and formulated at this meeting to be referred for adoption to the next properly constituted NEGOC Meeting that is to be held on 24 November 2017 at Inverell.

3 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS / PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no disclosures made.

4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING - 26 MAY 2017 TO BE CONFIRMED

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the New England Group of Councils held on 26 May 2017, copies of which were circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings of the Meeting.

Cr Pearce and Mr Hopkins raised Item 7.4 and conveyed to the meeting that the Z-Net terminology ideally should not be used going forward, and for it to be substituted by NEGOC. This project, seeking to provide electrical charging points for electric vehicles on the New England Highway all the way from Tenterfield southwards, could potentially be pursued by NEGOC as a project.

5 REPORTS

5.1 Australian Research Council: Linkage Application: Presentation by Prof Brian Dollery of UNE's Centre of Local Government

REPORT FROM: NEGOC SECRETARIAT

Authors: Peter Dennis, Chief Executive Officer, Armidale Regional Council and Hein Basson, Secretariat

Professor Dollery addressed the meeting, explaining that a funding application has been completed and lodged. He will provide Hein with a copy in order for it to be distributed to all members with the meeting notes. However, he mentioned that the possibility of success for getting the funding with the Australian Research Council would be around 30%. He also made mention of Ron Sanderson's "Common Service Model" which has been implemented with success in Tasmania. He opined the possibility of NEGOC selling services into the future to Local Government Areas in Western NSW. He conveyed to the meeting that he has recently been appointed as coordinator/consultant to the NSW Audit Office to be involved in the Local Government shared services audit. He suggested for NEGOC to consider an alternative proposal, where he would be doing the research on a pro-bono basis, and where Councils only reimburse him for his travel, accommodation and subsistence costs, as well as the cost of someone to fill in for him at UNE whilst he is away. He estimates that the ball-park cost in this regard would be in the order of \$5,000 to \$6,000.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the Board notes the address of Professor Brian Dollery from the Centre of Local Government at UNE on the benefits of his proposed research work on the functions of Joint Organisations, potentially making use of a funding opportunity with the Australian Research Council.***
- 2. That the Board considers the proposal of Professor Brian Dollery, and if considered favourably, confirms the objectives of the proposed research***

work to be done through UNE's Centre of Local Government to be as follows:

- *To determine functions/services that could be provided through a JO;*
 - *To determine through which mechanisms these functions/services could be provided;*
 - *To determine which functions/services could be provided to organisations outside of NEGOC on a commercial basis.*
3. *That, in the event of the project being favourably considered by the Board, it considers the following broad parameters to be implemented as guiding principles for the above-mentioned research study to be undertaken:*
- *The study focusses on an objective analysis of the experiences of other Regional Organisations of Councils (ROCs) or Joint Organisations (JOs) and the lessons learnt from these experiences;*
 - *The development of potential operational and delivery models tailored for NEGOC/NEJO.*
4. *That, in the event of the project being favourably considered by the Board, individual member Councils commit themselves to make the necessary financial contribution of around \$4,000 for this project – subject to the funding submission by the University of New England's Centre of Local Government to the Australian research Council being successful.*

5.2 Presentation on the Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail Project: Moree Plains Shire Council

REPORT FROM: GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE
Author: Hein Basson - General Manager

Mr Carleton did his PowerPoint presentation to the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

1. *That the Board notes the contents of the report and presentation on the Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail Project.*
2. *That the Moree Plains Shire Council provides member Councils with media releases and information material on the Inland Rail Project for further distribution within their areas.*
3. *That NEGOC recognises Moree Plains as the gateway to the Inland Rail for the region; providing opportunities for all member Councils.*

5.3 Update: NEGOC Strategic Plan: Priority Areas for the Board to Pursue

REPORT FROM: GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE
Author: Hein Basson - General Manager

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Board determines the key policy areas that would form the basic framework for a Regional Strategic Plan for the New England Group of Councils (NEGOC), using the following interim recommendation from the General Managers' Advisory Committee (GMAC) as a guideline, as well as the further information provided in the body of the report:
 - Infrastructure Development: (1) Asset Management (Renewal, Maintenance and Enhancement) and Associated Funding; (2) Transport Planning for the Region;
 - Economic Development: (1) Visitor Experience Development / Tourism; (2) Inland Rail Project; (3) Agricultural Competitiveness; (4) Water Security;
 - Social Development: (1) Domestic Violence and Drug Use; (2) Safe Communities; (3) Excellent Health Services; (4) Excellent Public Education System.
2. That a literature review be undertaken by GMAC to further identify particular projects and/or action steps that could be pursued into the future with regards to those key policy areas determined by the Board.
3. That the proposed University of New England's Centre of Local Government's Report on Joint Organisations (under leadership of Professor Brian Dollery) be viewed as an integral step in the development of a Strategic Plan for NEGOC, as the particular approach eventually adopted by NEGOC (based on the recommendations coming out of this report) could potentially influence the final identification of key policy areas and project priorities to be pursued by this organisation into the future.
4. That the Board notes the recommendation from GMAC that the consideration of the applicability/adaptability of the CENTROC-Matrix for determining NEGOC's regional priorities as part of the development of a Strategic Plan be held in abeyance, as the organisation is currently not ready for the implementation of this higher level instrument.

6 CORRESPONDENCE, MINUTES, PRESS RELEASES

6.1 Correspondence

REPORT FROM: GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE
Author: Hein Basson - General Manager

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board notes the contents of the following letters:

- Letter dated 8 August 2017 from Mayor Katrina Humphries, confirming Moree Plains Shire Council's membership of NEGOC. A copy of this letter is attached to the Business Paper as Annexure A relating to this report.
- Letter dated 10 August 2017 from The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP, in response to the Board's letter extending its appreciation in relation to the restoration of the indexation of the Financial Assistance Grants. A copy of this letter is attached to the Business Paper as Annexure B relating to this report.
- Letter from The Hon Adam Marshall MP, in response to the Board's letter of support for the investigation of water security options in the Border River catchment, including the construction of a dam in the Mole River. A copy of this letter is attached to the Business Paper as Annexure C relating to this report.
- Letter dated 15 August 2017 from The Hon Adam Marshall MP, in response to the Board's letter of request for him to support the proposal to expand the proposed New England Region to include the LGAs of Gwydir and Moree Plains Shire Councils, as well as for him to encourage the Minister of Local Government to finalise the legislation for JOs to be formally implemented and for the \$300,000 earmarked for individual JOs to be released.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 New England Weeds Council

Cr Dusting gave an overview of the operations of the New England Weeds Council as a County Council. He foreshadows the possibility that this organisation might like to increase its footprint and apply for associate membership of NEGOC in the foreseeable future.

7.2 NEGOC Meeting Dates

The Secretary is requested to include an item for the next NEGOC Meeting pertaining to future meeting dates – to ensure that there are no clashes with other important regional or other meetings, e.g. the scheduled Border Regional Organisation of Councils meeting dates.

7.3 Next GMAC Meeting

The next GMAC Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 7 November 2017 will be held at the Moree Plains Shire Council (and not at the Inverell Shire Council) to coincide with an ICAC presentation on Corruption and Fraud.

7.4 New England Rail Trail

Discussion was held about both Glen Innes and Guyra pursuing this project, as well as the possibility that it could go all the way through to Wallangarra. The possibility of NEGOC formally supporting this project was raised, and Peter Dennis confirmed Armidale Regional Council's strong support for this initiative.

The Meeting closed at 12.20pm.

MINUTES

Item 5 Monthly Organisation and Community Development Report - November 2017

FILE REFERENCE

DELIVERY PROGRAM

GOAL: 5. Organisational Management

OUTCOME: 5.1 CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

STRATEGY: 5.1.3 Administrative functions - GM - internal

AUTHOR Organisation Development Director

DATE 4 December 2017

IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

The monthly Organisation and Community Development report details the activities carried out by the Department during the month of September 2017.

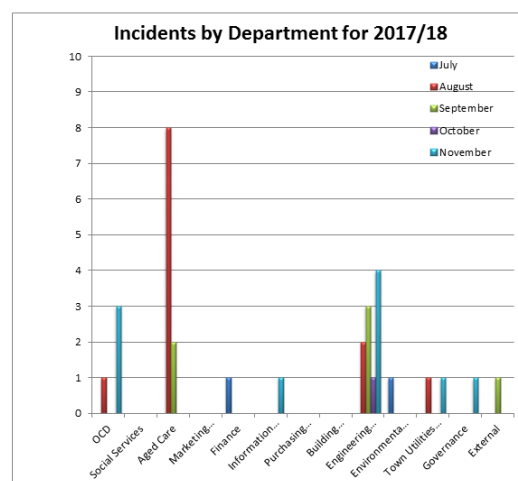
BACKGROUND

The monthly Organisation and Community Development report forms part of a regular reporting regime. The purpose of the report is to inform Council of the activities carried out within the Department.

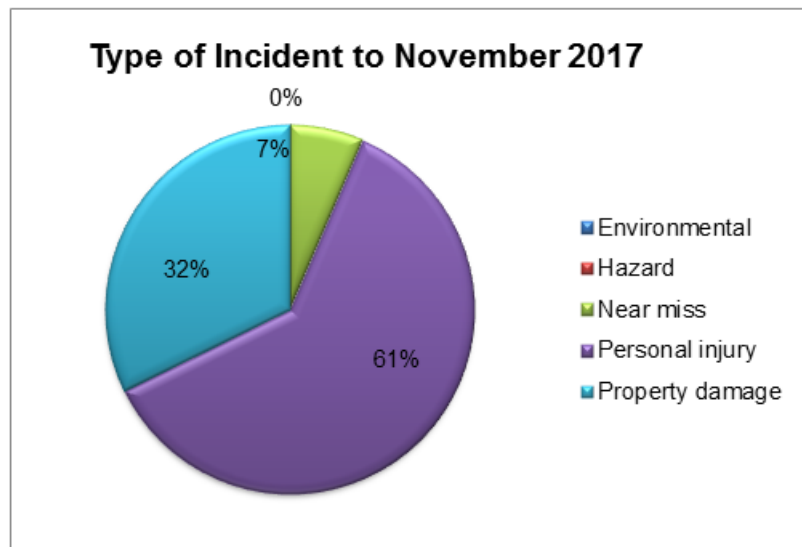
INCIDENT REPORTING - November 2017

There were 10 incidents reported during November 2017:

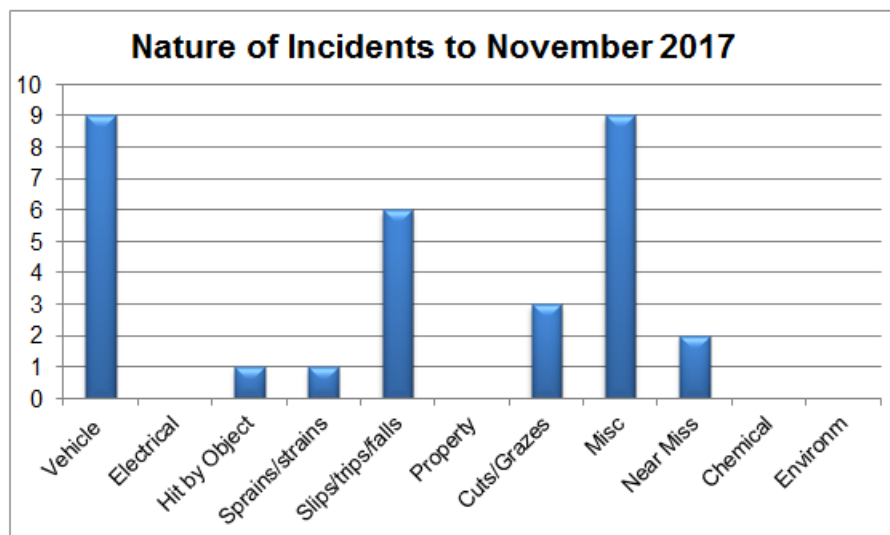
- 8 in Warialda, 2 in Bingara
- all incidents were internal
- 5 incidents related to property damage, 4 personal injury and one near miss
- there is no explanation for the unusually high number of incidents in November



Council's Incident/Accident report form breaks up the type of incident into five categories:



The nature of incidents reported has been broken down into 11 categories:



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Gwydir Community Education and Business Awards

The achievements of local Gwydir students and businesses were celebrated at the 20th annual Gwydir and Community Education and Business Awards in Warialda during November.

Over 170 guests enjoyed speeches presented by Wayne Squires, one of the founding members of the awards, and businessman Josh McGregor who has taken over from his grandfather as manager of McGregor Gourlay. Entertainment was provided by Louisa Gilmour from Warialda High School while Dan Gilmour did a fantastic job as MC with his quick wit and humour.

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The winners of the awards were:

Junior Employee - Nikki Adams, Gwydir Shire Council

Senior Employee - Sharon Baker, Naroo Aged Care Facility

Small Business - Bingara Wattle Arts and Craft

Small Business - Runners up – Ray White Bingara, Leanne's Sewing Shop
Warialda

Large Business - Bingara Sporting Club



*A good crowd attended the evening
humour*



MC Dan Gilmour kept guests entertained with his



*Students of the of the year Lauchlan Butler Bingara Central School, James Gilmour Warialda High with
Wayne Squires and Gwydir Shire's Leeah Daley*



*Nikki Adams, Peter Houlahan, Jill Carmody, Judy Adams, Tim Cox, Sharon Baker, Judy
Adams, Gail List, Pam Holland.*

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Good Space Suicide Prevention Workshop

Gwydir Shire Council recently partnered with Good Space and Northern Slopes Landcare to present 2 one-day workshops on suicide awareness and prevention. The workshops were made possible through funds raised by the Black Dog Ball. Unfortunately, the workshop scheduled for Bingara did not proceed due to lack of numbers, however, the workshop in Wyallda more than made up for it with 18 registered participants. The feedback from all those who attended was extremely positive.

Council partnered with Good Space back in 2014 to offer similar courses as part of the Quirky Creative and Wellness Festival.



Shelley McDouall from Northern Slopes Landcare, Carmel O'Sullivan from Good Space with two of the course participants.

Regional Tourism Update

It has been a busy month for regional tourism with the New England North West Tourism Committee Annual General Meeting, the Destination NSW taskforce forum which was held in Bingara, and the reformation of the Rural Getaway Network and the Destination NSW taskforce.

Big changes are on the horizon for New England North West Tourism. Currently a small amount of funds are still held by the committee with these funds expected to see the committee through to the end of the financial year and cover the costs of the upcoming Caravan and Camping shows (Sydney in November and Newcastle in February). Following the expenditure of the money the committee will reconvene to discuss the future of the committee. Possible options discussed for the committee include continuing as normal, end the committee, or New England and North West forming two separate committees.

In early November the Rural Getaway reconvened after a long hiatus. The group agreed to merge the organisations under a new body called Drive Inland Promotions Association (DIPA).

This was done for a number of reasons:

- To do away with duplication of efforts

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- To ensure all member councils received a good return on investment through a new energetic and efficient organisation
- To gain efficiencies through a common website, brochure, consumer advertisements, digital marketing and attendance at Caravan and Camping Shows in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne
- To harness our efforts to attract the drive touring market to inland highways and deliver economic benefits to the communities along those highways
- To give consumers a one-stop-shop for information on the inland highways with a common call to action.

Finally, a Destination NSW (DNSW) Tourism Taskforce Forum was held in Bingara to discuss the shortfalls of Destination NSW. Currently rural NSW gets little attention in regard to funding or promotion and the new taskforce was held to discuss ways in which this could be improved. Tourism managers and officers came from around the region to voice their concerns. It is now hoped that DNSW will take this feedback on-board and look at some of the issues identified as listed below:

Grant funding

- Lack of small grants for small communities, particularly for event program development or tourism product development
- Funding eligibility is often restrictive for regional areas, new events, dollar matches, large amounts, funds for marketing rather than program development
- Support for regional events – time frames of funding
- Grant funding process is onerous compared to many other departments
- Very few grant recipients within our region
- Region has not received major funding for at least two years, like most areas west of the Great Dividing Range.

Tourism

- Lack of focus on rural NSW e.g. Expedia/DNSW campaign promoting NSW doesn't even include our area
- National Parks are great assets for rural NSW however, the maintenance of these areas has been neglected
- Size of the regions especially Country Outback; it did not work as Inland and is now even bigger.

The Roxy Complex Usage – November 2017

Theatre

Wednesday 7th November – Bingara Central School Presentation - 230 people

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Saturday 18th November – North West Theatre Co (NWTC) performance – 60 people

Tuesday 26th November – NWTC Film Club - The Silver Linings Playbook – 25 people

Roxy Conference Room

Wednesday 15th November – Northern Slopes Landcare – 15 people

Wednesday 22nd November – Catholic Schools – 5 people

Thursday 23rd November – FACS – 15 people

Friday 24th November – Rural Outreach Services – 5 people

Thursday 30th November – Bingara Vision 2020 – 15 people

Roxy Café

Saturday 18th November – NWTC Play Supper – 60 people

Thursday 23rd November – Private Function – 40 people

Friday 24th November – CWA Morning Tea – 50 people

Friday 24th November – Private Function – 60 people

Wednesday 29th November – Ray White – 20 people

TOURISM

Warialda Visitor Information Centre

September 2017	October 2017	November 2017
Opening hrs = 157.5	Opening hrs = 165	Opening hrs = 165
Volunteer hrs = 29.5	Volunteer hrs = 29.75	Volunteer hrs = 15.5

Bingara Visitor Information Centre

September 2017	October 2017	November 2017
Opening hrs = 164.5	Opening hrs = 136.5	Opening hrs = 168.5
Volunteer hrs = 28	Volunteer hrs = 36	Volunteer hrs = 32

Income – Warialda VIC	\$ Sept	\$ Oct	\$ Nov
Caravan Park	2,390.00	2,217.00	3,201.00
Plants of Gwydir Shire / Cunningham's Track	30.00	0.00	0.00
NSW Trainlink sales	448.51	535.05	0.00
Centre hire	140.00	10.00	20.00
Merchandise sales	2498.65	2,210.20	2,073.25
Goods on Consignment sales	35.00	115.00	130.50
2017 Warialda Honey Festival – Stall/Sponsor	50.00	490.00	100.00
2017 Gwydir Business Awards	-	650.00	500.00
Subtotal	\$5,592.16	\$6,227.25	\$6,054.75
Less Caravan Park money banked	2,390.00	2,217.00	3,201.00

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Less Payment to NSW Trainlink	448.51	535.05	0.00
Total Monthly Income Warialda VIC	\$2,753.65	\$3,475.20	\$2,853.75

Income – Bingara VIC	\$ Sept	\$ Oct	\$ Nov
Products on consignment	67.00	50.00	9.00
Merchandise	826.35	1,337.05	491.50
Subtotal	\$893.35	\$1,387.05	\$500.50
Less payments to consignees	40.80	35.03	6.01
Total Merchandise sales/income	\$852.55	\$1,352.02	\$494.49
Roxy tour income	\$385.00	\$1,575.00	\$130.00

Cranky Rock Sites	Sept	Oct	Nov
Powered sites	48	45	n/a
Unpowered sites	27	13	n/a
Camping sites	1	0	n/a
Total	76	58	n/a

Due to changeover of caretaker staff there are no Cranky Rock records available for Nov 2017

Visitors at Bingara VIC	Sept	Oct	Nov
	672	967	466

The increase in Visitors and Roxy Tours during October was due to the large number of visitors to Bingara for the Caravan Rally.

Visitors at Warialda VIC	Sept	Oct	Nov
Visitors	352	479	338
RMS clients	298	263	332
Cafe	432	457	401
Total Warialda VIC	1,272	1,199	1,071

Facebook Statistics Gwydir	Sept	Oct	Nov
New Likes	n/a	n/a	27
Overall Reach			15,799
Post Reactions/Comments/Shares			151
Post Clicks			1,441

Facebook Statistics Warialda	Sept	Oct	Nov
New Likes	23	2	10
Overall Reach	20,083	10,461	13,773

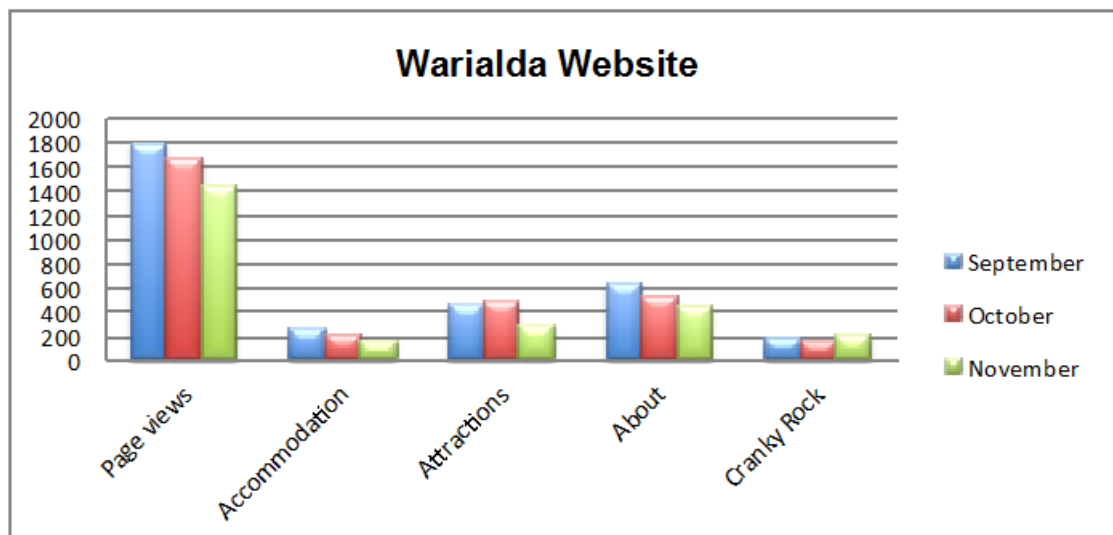
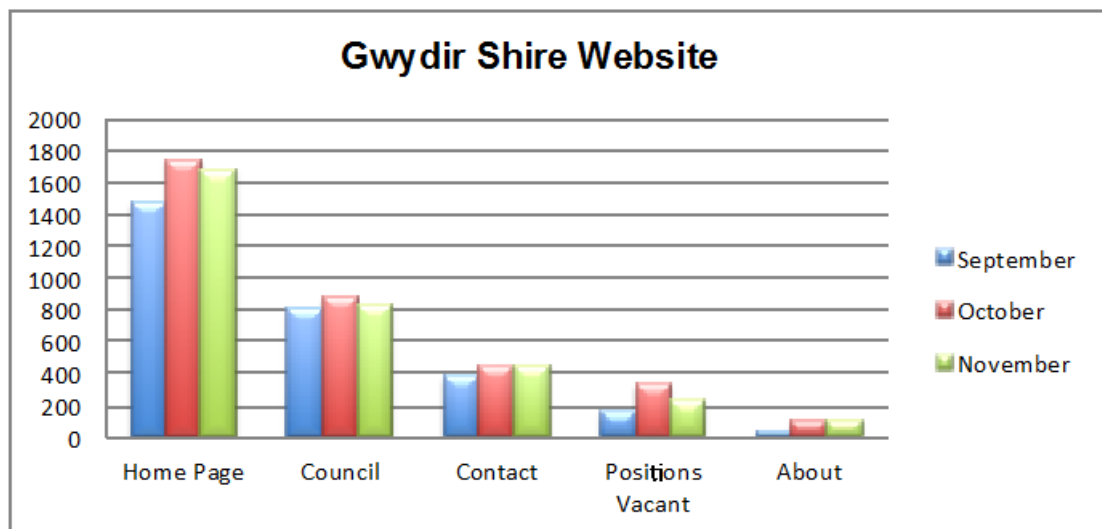
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Post Reactions/Comments/Shares	353	135	516
Post Clicks	933	294	1,241

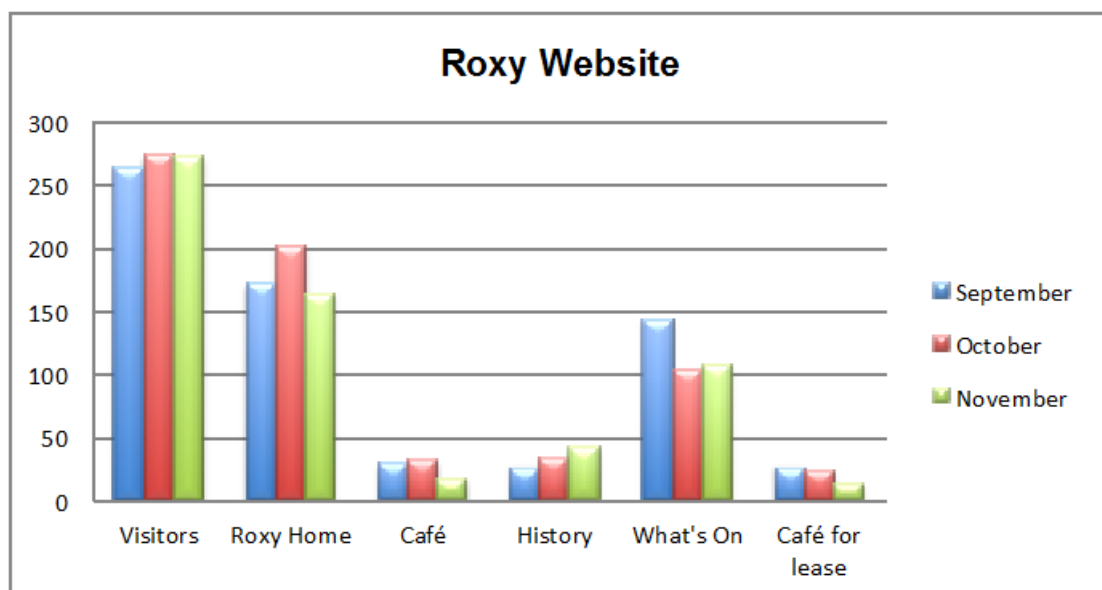
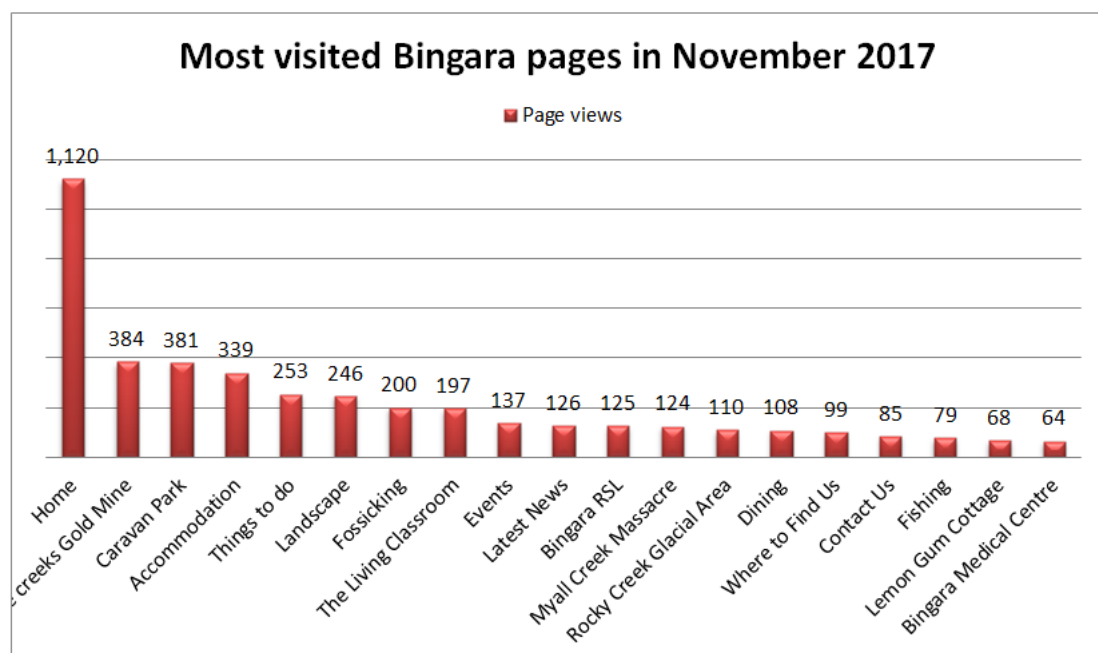
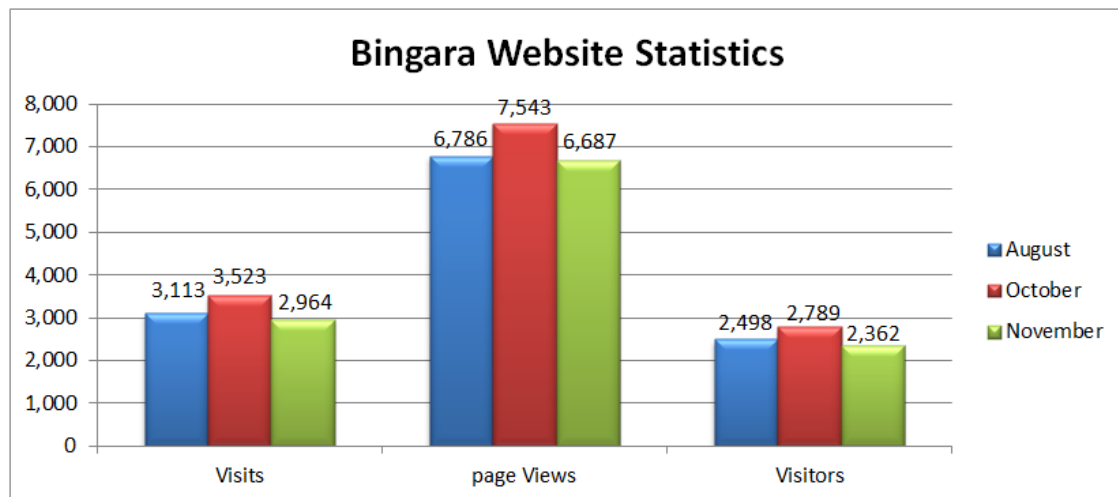
Facebook Statistics Bingara	Sept	Oct	Nov
New Likes	23	10	10
Overall Reach	27,931	15,573	42,895
Post Reactions/Comments/Shares	1,236	1,418	362
Post Clicks	2,655	340	1,600

Websites



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SOCIAL SERVICES

Bingara Neighbourhood Centre

Funding body - Family and Community Services

Broadband for Seniors now runs on Monday and Wednesday mornings from the Bingara Toy Library. Senior members of the community were invited to morning tea and an introductory session. There has been good participation and numbers continue to increase in this valuable service.

Month	Number of participants
September	2
October	8
November	4

Bingara Toy Library

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

Particulars	September	October	November
Toy Library members-children utilising the service	48 Children 63 After school	66 Children 76 After school	49 Children 75 After school
Toy Library members - Parents/Adults attending	36	51	39
Total memberships at Bingara Toy Library	23 Borrowing 18 Non borrow 2 Birth	24 Borrowing 19 Non borrow 4 Birth	23 Borrowing 18 Non borrow 3 Birth
Toys returned	15	27	15
Toys borrowed	19	19	14
Children/ Group using toys (members)	14 + Drs	16	11+ Drs
Craft/singsong/ story time	37 Children 24 adults	41 children 26 adults	35 Children 23 adults

Supported Playgroup Development Worker

Funding body – Families NSW

Gwydir Toy Library – Warialda

Attachment 1 shows the Annual report of statistics for the Playgroup/ Toy Library (Families NSW funded) services in both Warialda and Bingara. The services have achieved excellent results and have been able to offer a much needed service to the community.

A new playgroup will commence in Warialda Rail in 2018 as there is an identified need due to the number of children in the village.

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Playgroup Location	Nov 2017 Attendance no	Total no. of new families enrolled
Warialda - Mon morning	22	1
Gravesend - Wed morning,	38	1
Bingara - Thurs morning	40	4
Total	100	6

Warialda Toy Library	Numbers November
Total daily attendance count for children, (no. of children having utilised the service calculating each day over the month)	171
Full borrowing members (new)	0
Non borrowing members (new and/or renew)	0
Casual borrowing members (new or renew)	1
Toys returned	13
Toys borrowed	13
Groups using the service (FDC carers, Church and Pharmacy)	8
Monday group activity morning (due to school holiday break)	22
Tuesday group activity morning – just 2 sessions	44
Thursday group activity morning –just 2 sessions	57
Friday group activity morning –just 2 sessions	48

Mums and Bubs Splash and Play

Mums and Bubs resumed on the 22nd November and will continue into the New Year.

Total Points Of Contact for 6 Sessions held in February 2017	16
Number of children and families enrolled of Splash and Play Bingara	9 Families 10 Children



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Vacation Care

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

October School Holiday Activities Statistics

Total Points of contact 3rd – 6th October 2017	68
Number of children & families enrolled for Holiday Activities	18 Families 27 Children 17 Girls 10 Boys

Youth Service

On Thursday 31st of August, eight (8) young people from the Gwydir Shire travelled down to Sydney for the second part of the Gwydir/Willoughby Exchange Program.

Referrals continue to come in from Bingara Central School as a soft entry point into the service. Allowing young people to access other services through advocacy and referral as a result of this initial contact. 13 young people have engaged with the service participating in driver training, suspension workshops, pregnancy advice and generic counselling sessions.

Bingara Preschool

*Funding body - Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate
NSW Department of Education and Communities*

With the introduction of the new Start Strong Funding model for NSW preschools we have had a very busy few months with many new enrolments. The preschool has just about reached capacity after extending the number of licenced places from 20 to 28. The additional funding received from the State Government had conditions attached and meant that fees were removed for the remainder of the year. The new fees for 2018 will remain minimal to ensure that all eligible families have access to 600hrs at preschool for the year before school. As a result of this the preschool already has a healthy number of enrolments for the New Year with more expected.

DAYS	November 2016	November 2017	2018 Enrolments
Tuesday	17	26	21
Wednesday	21	28	21
Thursday	13	27	13
Friday	18	23	15

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Chairman

Tharawonga Mobile Resource Unit

*Funding body – Department of Education | Department of Employment
Australian Government*

Tharawonga is going through some very big changes with the introduction of the “Jobs for Families” Legislation that is being implemented in July 2018. The application for the CCCF has been submitted with the Business Plan and financial tool. This has taken many months to prepare with the assistance of Price Waterhouse Coopers. The addition of a two day service to be offered at Gravesend next year has been included in the funding application and has been supported by the Federal Member for Parkes Mark Coulton MP.

The new timetable for Tharawonga is as follows:

Tharawonga Revised Venue Days and Times 2018				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Yetman 9.00am - 3.00pm	North Star 9.00am - 3.30pm	Yallaroi 9.00am - 3.00pm	Tulloona 9.00am - 2.30pm	Crooble 9.00am - 2.30pm
			Gravesend 9.00am - 3.30pm	Gravesend 9.00am - 3.30pm

The new model will allow for the expansion of the service to accept younger children and provide longer hours of care. The service will move towards a Long Day Care Model in the coming years and provide much needed before and after school care for working families.

COMMONWEALTH HOME SUPPORT PROGRAM - November

NOVEMBER 2017	BINGARA	DELUNGRA	WARIALDA
DAY CENTRE			
Total active clients	100	25	108
Clients receiving service	46	16	48
Meals	29	50	176
Hours Clients Receive in Centre	209	233	582
SOCIAL SUPPORT			
No of Clients	46	16	48
Individual Hrs	97	8	18
Group Hrs	112	225	564
Total Hours Received	209	233	582
FOOD SERVICE (Meals on Wheels)			
Clients	2	0	5
Meals	51	0	64

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Chairman

TRANSPORT			
Number of Clients	37	9	14
Number of Trips	121	38	92
TRANSPORT - YOUTH			
Number of Clients	0	0	0
Number of Trips	0	0	0
ACCESS BUS - INVERELL			
Number of Clients	7	1	8
Number of Trips (per month)	14	2	16
VOLUNTEERS			
No. of Volunteers	9	5	10
Hours	209	25	306
ACCOMMODATION UNITS FOR AGED			
Occupancy	6/6	0/0	12/13

CONCLUSION

The activities carried out by the Organisation and Community Development Department are in line with the 2017/2018 Operational Plan and otherwise as directed.

CONSULTATION

Consultation has occurred within the Organisation and Community Development Directorate.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Policy implications are those relating to the 2017/2018 Operational Plan and the Policies of Gwydir Shire Council.

FINANCIAL, ECONOMIC and RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The activities carried out by the Organisation and Community Development Department are in line with the 2017/2018 Operational Plan.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social and Environment)

The activities undertaken by the Organisation and Community Development Department regarding social and environmental factors are targeted in line with the 2017/2018 Operational Plan.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the monthly Organisation and Community Development report for November 2017 be received

ATTACHMENTS

This is page number 85 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 14 December 2017

Chairman

AT- Supported Playgroup Data Summary to June 2017

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION:
MINUTE 410/17**

**THAT the monthly Organisation and Community Development
report for November 2017 be received.**

(Moved Cr Young, seconded Cr Egan)

Families NSW - Supported Playgroup Data Summary

District: Hunter New England

1 July 2016 - 30 June 2017

Project: Supported Playgroup Development Worker

PLA_ID: 1-5051623543

How to use this report

This report shows key data for your project as well as district and state levels. You can use the report to look at your data alongside the district/state level and for service planning to develop continuous improvement strategies. Please note that the specifics of projects can vary considerably, such as funding, location and priority group focus, so the report should be used as a guide only.

	This Project	District	State
Families			
Number of total families supported	276	-	-
Number of new families	37	-	-
Number of families finished with service	0	-	-
Number of children (0-8 years) supported	463	-	-

Families by Outlet / location

Outlet/location	No. of Families	Number of children (0-8 years)
Bingara Baby Support Group Outlet	52	74
Bingara Outlet	84	135
Gravesend	34	60
Marialda	106	194

Reason families left the project

Completed services	0%	47%	57%
Discontinued - unsatisfied	0%	0%	0%
Discontinued - no reason given	0%	23%	21%
Discontinued - left area or other change in circumstances	0%	31%	22%

Regular parent/carer who attends the service

Number of Mothers	227	-	-
Number of Fathers	5	-	-
Number of Step Parents	1	-	-
Number of Carers	35	-	-
Number of Grandparents	17	-	-
Number of Other Carers	0	-	-

% of families identified in specific population groups

	n(b)			
Aboriginal families	23	9%	26%	13%
Language other than English spoken at home	11	4%	9%	44%
Young parents (25 years or less)	53	20%	27%	16%
Mothers who were pregnant within the reporting period	43	25%	18%	16%
Sole parents	22	9%	19%	16%
Socio-economically disadvantaged families	16	7%	22%	44%
Rural/remote families	249	95%	52%	17%
Disability/special needs	4	2%	4%	5%

Referrals

Number of referrals to other services	615	-	-
% families receiving one or more referrals to other services	207	92%	74% 77%
Number of family surveys returned	15	-	-

Family satisfaction^(a)

% families who reported they were happy with services received	100%	100%	100%
--	------	------	------

(a) families agreeing or mostly agreeing, excluding non-responses and 'na' responses

(b) n is the number of families identified in the specific population groups. Please note that some of the data may be missing for some families.

ndp No data provided

Families NSW - Supported Playgroup Data Summary

District: Hunter New England

1 July 2016 - 30 June 2017

Project: Supported Playgroup Development Worker

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How to use this report

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	This Project	District	State
% families who reported they would recommend this service to a friend	100%	100%	100%
Community connectedness (a)			
% families who reported they are more likely to share feelings or seek advice	100%	92%	94%
% families who reported increased knowledge of local services	100%	97%	97%
% families who reported increased use of local services	100%	81%	82%
Results for parents and/or children (a)			
% families who reported that child(ren) and parent get on better	100%	98%	99%
% families who reported improvement in parent empathy and warmth toward child(ren)	100%	96%	96%
% families who reported they have learnt new ways to play with child(ren)	100%	98%	98%
% families who reported they play more often with child(ren)	100%	98%	97%
% families who reported improvement in parents positive affirmation of child(ren)	100%	98%	98%
% families who reported they are more able to set limits with child(ren)	100%	96%	95%
% families who reported they are more likely to do something straight away when child(ren) misbehaves	100%	97%	94%
% families who reported they are more likely to speak calmly with child(ren) when they misbehave	100%	95%	93%
% families who reported child(ren) uses parent as source of comfort, praise, support and security	100%	97%	97%
% families who reported that child(ren) interacts better with other children	100%	99%	97%
% families who reported that child(ren) enjoys playing with a wide range of children	100%	98%	96%
% families who reported that child(ren) is more active in playing	100%	99%	97%
% families who reported that child(ren) is more confident	100%	98%	97%

Project Activities

		Sessions/ initiatives		Families who attended	
Outlet/location	Activity	Number Agreed on SDS*	Number held	Number Agreed on SDS*	Number attended
Bingara Baby Support Group Outlet					
	Outlet	40	10	24	59
	Parenting skills/child development initiatives	40	6	24	39
Bingara Outlet					
	Outlet	40	40	24	169
Gravesend					
	Outlet	40	34	8	112
	Healthy living initiatives	30	15	8	80
	Parenting skills/child development initiatives	20	21	8	100
	Early literacy and/or numeracy support	20	16	8	96
Marialda					
	Outlet	40	160	18	331
	Healthy living initiatives	40	32	18	166
	Parenting skills/child development initiatives	40	37	18	217
	Early literacy and/or numeracy support	40	21	18	122
	Transition to school	2	4	5	71

(a) families agreeing or mostly agreeing, excluding non-responses and 'na' responses

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ndp No data provided

Families NSW - Supported Playgroup Data Summary

District: Hunter New England

1 July 2016 - 30 June 2017

Project: Supported Playgroup Development Worker

PLA_ID: 1-5051623543

How to use this report

This report shows key data for your project as well as district and state levels. You can use the report to look at your data alongside the district/state level and for service planning to develop continuous improvement strategies. Please note that the specifics of projects can vary considerably, such as funding, location and priority group focus, so the report should be used as a guide only.

	This Project	District	State
Service Delivery Schedule attached to Program Level Agreement			

Project success stories

If the project recorded a significant positive outcome for a family and/or the service system during this reporting period, this is detailed below.

Outlet/location	Success Story
Bingara Baby Support Group Outlet	This baby support group provided sessions, offering education on topics such as; preschool readiness, Triple P- Family routines, women's natural health and Immunisation. A significant positive outcome noted for this reporting period, is that, in a community that demonstrates a growing interest in beliefs of non vaccination, a session was provided relating to immunisation, promoting education and awareness for families. This presentation was presented by local Hunter New England Area Health's, Child and Family Health Nurse. This session prompted discussions, raising awareness and answering many questions regarding immunisation not only for babies, infants and children but also for the elderly, grandparents, parents and teenagers. Families were provided with resources in the form of supporting literature, web links etc, and a take home pack to explore at their own leisure to further enhance awareness and education when considering their choices regarding this very important, highly debated and sometimes confusing topic.
Bingara Outlet	<p>Bingara Playgroup continues to be run from the toy library building, which allows for both indoor and outdoor play experiences to be readily catered for. A significant positive outcome for this service system included, the newly structured shade shelter and sandpit area being erected. This area is a second play area within the outdoor play zone that now provides a safe, shaded and productive play environment for all families accessing this service. Families experienced positive outcomes utilising this service by gathering on a weekly basis, often travelling from out of town, bringing their children together to access a safe play zone at leisure. This service for some families, is the only social outing that both the child/ren and parents/carers attend each week. Being free from the risk of dams, snakes and burs etc, (common play hazards within a rural community) to play in a safe play setting that facilitates play, supporting early childhood development and education, alone, provides significant positive outcomes for these families.</p> <p>Bingara playgroup also established a routine preschool excursion for families. Children and their parents/carers were provided with an opportunity to visit the preschool once a term throughout this reporting period. This is of significant positive outcome for all families attending as families were able to transition into an environment that will later be, (or currently is being) utilised by families throughout the exploration of their children's early learning years. Such excursions were successful in promoting the opportunity for families to become familiar with preschool routines, grounds, children and educators within the service.</p>

(a) families agreeing or mostly agreeing, excluding non-responses and 'na' responses

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ndp No data provided

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Chairman

Families NSW - Supported Playgroup Data Summary

District: Hunter New England

1 July 2016 - 30 June 2017

Project: Supported Playgroup Development Worker

PLA_ID: 1-5051623543

How to use this report

This report shows key data for your project as well as district and state levels. You can use the report to look at your data alongside the district/state level and for service planning to develop continuous improvement strategies. Please note that the specifics of projects can vary considerably, such as funding, location and priority group focus, so the report should be used as a guide only.

	This Project	District	State
Outlet/location	Success Story		
Gravesend	<p>Gravesend playgroup continues to provide a high quality service for local families to attend, emerging their child's skills across all facets, whilst establishing wonderful networks amongst families. Significant positive outcomes achieved during this reporting period include; school transition, parent/carer education and regular Child and Family Health Nurse visits. This playgroup is held at the local primary school and positive outcomes are consistently achieved for the children and parents/carers attending by way of being able to familiarise themselves with the school grounds, children and teachers, in which they will encounter during their upcoming schooling years. This playgroup session is a wonderful stepping stone when considering transition to school for the children attending playgroup sessions. Families of Gravesend playgroup are noted as being very engaged and interested in developing their own skills as parents/carers, in the areas of engaging in and creating play experiences for their children. Regularly, families sought information regarding how best to 'play' with their child, demonstrating an interest in learning about play experiences that can be catered for at home, to best emerge their child's developing skills. As such, families were provided with professional guest speakers where possible, in addition to informative handouts to support their queries regarding play, and developmental areas. The provision of education and awareness for these families, had a significant positive impact on the ways in which parents/carers were then able to, provide for and engage in play, continuing to enhance their child's emergent skills through play, outside of service session times. Finally, regular monthly visits were made by the local Child & Family Health Nurse. The Child & Family Health Nurse provided services such as, the completion of any schedule clinical checks or health record book updates and was able, if requested, to perform to the immunisation schedule during these visits. Families being provided with the opportunity, (in addition to, yet during playgroup sessions) to have clinical and immunisation requirements completed, without the need to have to attend a Dr's appointment and travel to have such health checks and schedules completed is to be noted as a significant positive outcome for all families having utilised this service during the reporting period.</p>		

(a) families agreeing or mostly agreeing, excluding non-responses and 'na' responses

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ndp No data provided

Page

This is page number 90 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 14 December 2017

Chairman

Families NSW - Supported Playgroup Data Summary

District: Hunter New England

1 July 2016 - 30 June 2017

Project: Supported Playgroup Development Worker

PLA_ID: 1-5051623543

How to use this report

This report shows key data for your project as well as district and state levels. You can use the report to look at your data alongside the district/state level and for service planning to develop continuous improvement strategies. Please note that the specifics of projects can vary considerably, such as funding, location and priority group focus, so the report should be used as a guide only.

	This Project	District	State
Outlet/location	Success Story		
Warialda	<p>Significant positive outcomes to report this reporting period include; parent and or family networking, family referral where requested and the consistent promotion of parent/carer education and awareness through presentations, special guest speakers, literature handouts etc.</p> <p>Warialda playgroup continues to provide a high quality service offering, engaging play based learning experiences and family support for any family of interest, with morning sessions operating for 4 days of the week. Family networking opportunities were created through these sessions, with families being provided with a regular service where they could gather to support one another and engage in discussions relating to child development, general family routines or practises, family meal ideas, budgeting or any areas of concern relating to their children, e.g., sleep, fussy feeding, tantrums etc. Ideas and experiences were then commonly shared by the groups of families in attendance. Furthermore, any requests by families to gain further education or awareness on any given topic area or discussion, were catered for accordingly, on an individual and as per need basis. Warialda playgroup was active in facilitating families seeking referral services in relation to parenting support/skills development and healthy relationships and communication. As a result, in home support visits were made possible, followed by the establishment of routine playgroup visits being made for a number of these families. Early intervention education and awareness for families was encouraged where necessary, from this, one child was able to gain support after accessing contact details during one session and is now attending regular EI sessions. The speech pathology session provided to families proved successful with families later indicating they had approached Speech pathology available locally, and were either receiving speech pathology sessions for their child or had been placed on the waiting list for sessions to commence. 'Fresh is best', when considering nutrition for children and lunchbox snacks also played an important role in achieving significant positive outcomes for families of Warialda Playgroup. A number of families attended these sessions and later continued to approach the service provider for guidance and suggestions. Playgroup sessions incorporated 'fruit bat', whereby all children presented their fruit of choice to the group of children, with all children stopping play to listen to some fun fruit facts before than sitting to eat together for this break. One family reported this was the only time their child would eat and try new fruit. Having such a service available to families is of a significant positive outcome, for many families and for many different reasons, often, these sessions are relied upon by families for support, socialisation, education, reassurance and guidance when considering child development, parenting and play.</p>		

Family survey comments

If families provided comments in the family survey, these are listed below. They should be interpreted together with the ratings provided by families as further evidence of what families like about the service and what their needs are.

The toy library is run wonderfully

Very helpful service - single mum stuck at home. Love learning new ideas for play with my little one. Thanks

Great service for play and mum time

My apologies when my son contacted hand/foot/and mouth disease/ Kirks cousins have had it too, it went through all the kids in my family. But I should come every week

Great service, we love visiting the toy library on a regular basis

Approachable and kind library. Friendly with lots on offer. Great community resource.

The service is wonderful and good to have available

Wonderful

(a) families agreeing or mostly agreeing, excluding non-responses and 'na' responses

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ndp No data provided

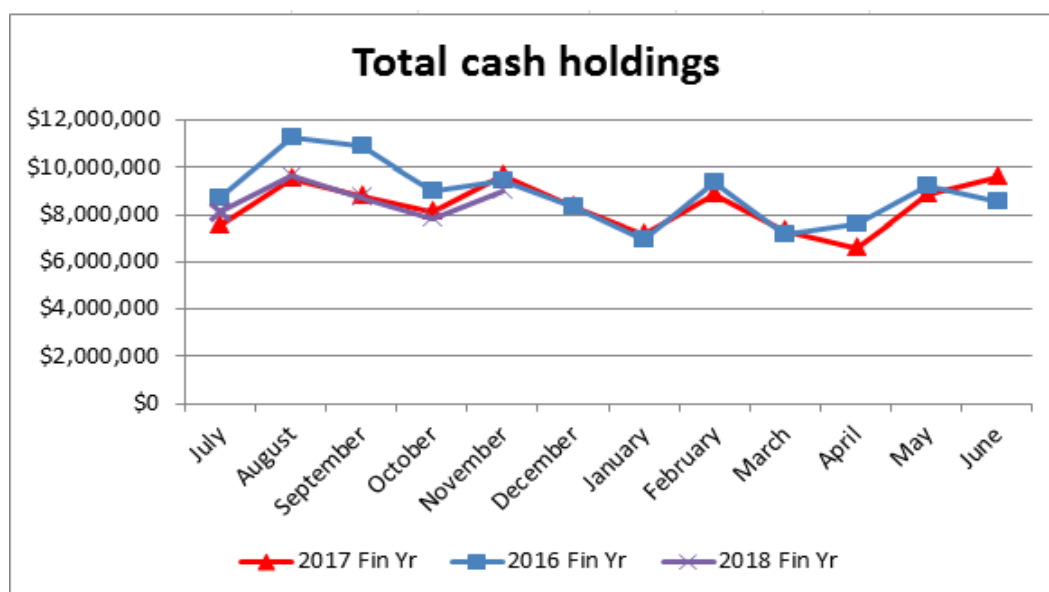
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Chairman

Chairman

Cash and Investments	
Total Investments	
Direct Investments	\$3,000,000.00
Managed Funds	\$4,917,068.98
Grand Total Investments	\$7,917,068.98
Total Cash and Investments	
Investments	\$7,917,068.98
Cash at bank	\$1,084,373.91
Grand Total Cash and Investments	\$9,001,442.89
General Fund Cash	
Total cash and investments	\$9,001,442.89
LESS:	
Water fund*	-\$1,040,870.54
Sewer fund*	-\$3,218,490.06
Waste fund*	-\$2,265,549.10
Other restrictions:	
Employee leave entitlements*	-\$420,000.00
Carry over works in progress*	\$0.00
Asset replacement*	\$0.00
Bonds and deposits	-\$391,000.00
Unexpended grants*	-\$387,000.00
Developer contributions	-\$316,000.00
*These figures may change with end of year processing	
Discretionary General Fund Cash	\$962,533.19



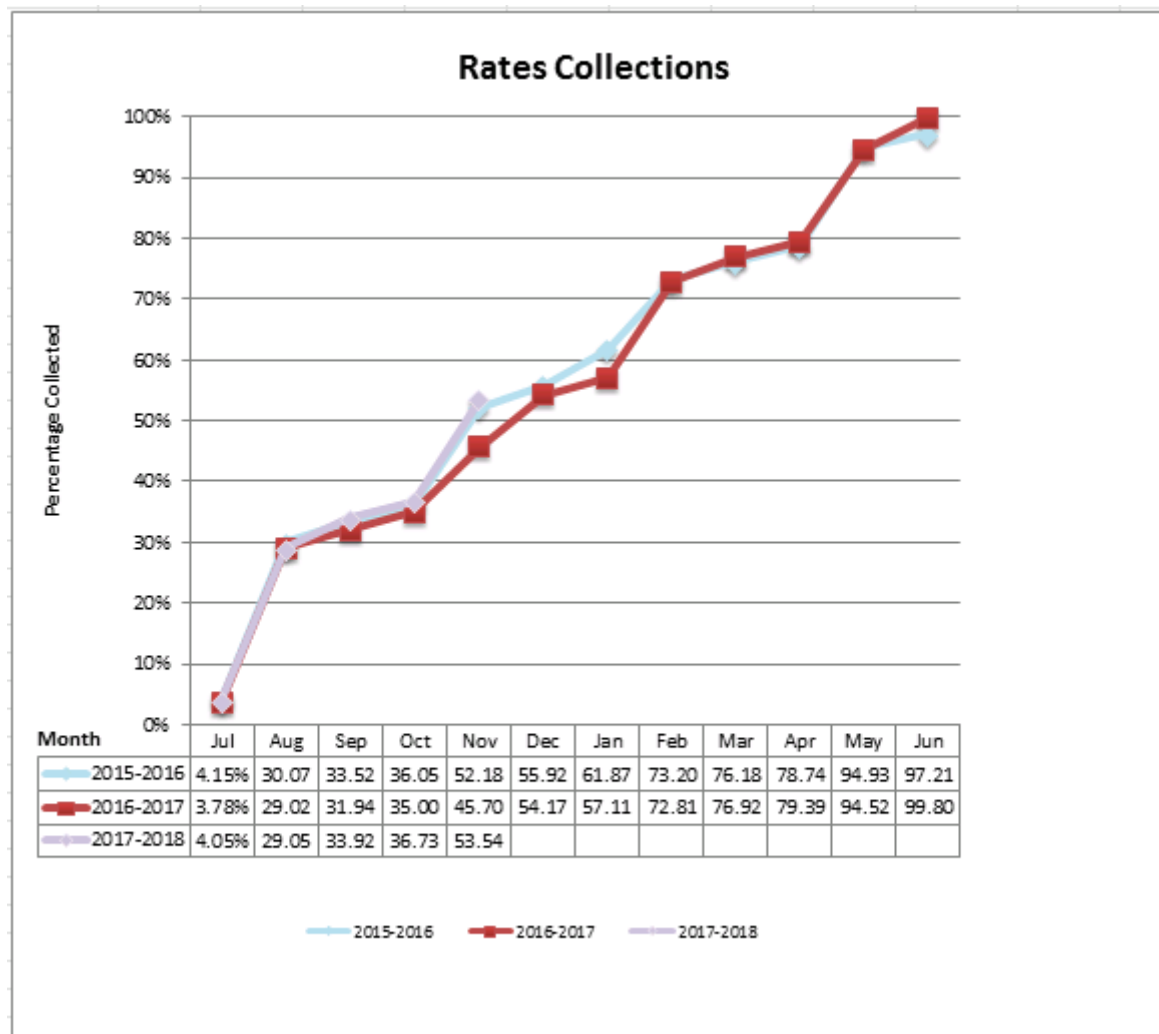
This is page number 93 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 14 December 2017

Chairman

I, Helen Thomas, Finance Manager and Responsible Accounting Officer for Gwydir Shire Council, certify that the Council's investments have been made in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 and Council's Investment Policy (F.01.03), as amended.

RATES COLLECTIONS

The graph below represents a comparative of the percentage collections for the current year against the two previous rating years. The current years collections are up to 31st October 2017.



OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the November 2017 Investment and Rates Collection report be received

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

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Chairman

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION:
MINUTE 411/17**

**THAT the November 2017 Investment and Rates Collection report
be received.**

(Moved Cr D Coulton, seconded Cr Dixon OAM)

Item 7 Notice of Office Closure over Christmas / New Year

FILE REFERENCE

DELIVERY PROGRAM

GOAL: 5. Organisational Management

OUTCOME: 5.1 CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

STRATEGY: 5.1.3 Administrative functions - GM - internal

AUTHOR General Manager

DATE 5 December 2017

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

IN BRIEF/ SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

This report is for notation regarding the Christmas New Year closure of the Council's offices.

TABLED ITEMS	Nil
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BACKGROUND

The Council's offices will be closed from 12 noon Friday 22nd December 2017 until Tuesday 2nd January 2018.

The advertisement outlining emergency contacts during this period and the range of services available is attached.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the arrangements for the Christmas / New Year closure of the Council's offices is noted.

ATTACHMENTS

AT- Advertisement - Christmas / New Year office closure

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION:
MINUTE 412/17**

THAT the arrangements for the Christmas / New Year closure of the Council's offices are noted.

(Moved Cr Moore, seconded Cr Smith)



OFFICE HOURS AND SERVICE PROVISIONS
FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

NOTICE is hereby given that Gwydir Shire Council will operate on reduced services during the Christmas / New Year period from **Friday 22nd December 2017 to Tuesday 2nd January 2018**. All administration offices will **CLOSE** at 12.00noon Friday 22nd December 2017 and will reopen at 9.00am Tuesday 2nd January 2018.

Garbage Collections

All waste collections services will be collected as usual on scheduled days **INCLUDING PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**

Waste Centres

Bingara and Wialda landfills will be **CLOSED** from 12.00 noon Thursday 21st December for the afternoon and will reopen 8.30am Friday 22nd December for normal operating hours.

Bingara and Wialda landfills will be **CLOSED** on Public Holidays: Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Tuesday 26th December, New Year's Day, Monday 1st January and Australia Day 26th January 2018.

Normal operating hours will apply on all other days - 8.30am to 12.00pm and 1.30pm to 5.30pm daily.

Service NSW

Wialda Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) will **CLOSE** at 12.00pm Friday 22nd December 2017 and will return to usual operating days from Tuesday 2nd January 2018 (Bingara - Mon and Thurs; Wialda - Tues, Wed and Fri)

After Hours Emergency Services

Impounding		Mobile 0417 792 650
Roads and Bridges	- Wialda	Mobile 0428 291 951
	- Bingara	Mobile 0427 241 511
Water and Sewerage	- Wialda/Gravesend	Mobile 0428 291 206
	- Bingara	Mobile 0458 241 414
	- North Star	Mobile 0427 291 274
Bushfire Emergency		Phone 000
Flood or Storm Emergency		SES 132500

Commonwealth Home Support Program (formerly HACC) Offices

The Bingara and Wialda Commonwealth Home Support Program Offices will be **CLOSED** 12.00pm Friday 22nd December 2017 and will reopen on Tuesday 2nd January 2018.

Tourist Offices

Wialda and Bingara Tourist Information Centres will be **CLOSED** on Public Holidays (Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day). Centres will be open on all other days during the Christmas period on reduced hours and offering some limited services levels.

Centrelink (Bingara)

The Bingara Centrelink Office will **CLOSE** at 12.00pm Friday 22nd December 2017 and will return to usual operating hours from Tuesday 2nd January 2018.

Libraries

Bingara and Wialda Libraries will **CLOSE** at 12.00pm Friday 22nd December 2017 and will return to usual operating hours from Tuesday 2nd January 2018.

Toy Libraries

Wialda Toy Library will **CLOSE** from 3.00pm Thursday 21st December 2017 and will reopen on Monday the 8th January 2018.

Bingara Toy Library will **CLOSE** from 12.30pm Wednesday 20th December 2017 and will reopen on Monday 8th January 2018.

Vacation Care

Vacation care programs will be delivered for Wialda and Bingara at Bingara Civic Centre on 18th – 21st December 2017 and from the Bingara Preschool on

8th – 12th January 2018

15th – 19th January 2018

The 3 day Circus Workshop on 16th – 18th January will be held at The Roxy in Bingara.

Pending bookings there will be a bus running from Wialda to Bingara daily to attend these events.

Contact Alyse Steiger on 0408 454 813 for further information. Bookings are essential.

Bingara Preschool - will return on 31st January 2018

Max Eastcott
General Manager

2. ENGINEERING SERVICES

2.1 Construction/ Rehabilitation – Regional and Local Roads



Elcombe Road



North Star Road Heavy Patching



Withers Lane Bingara – Reformation and Seal

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Chairman

2.2 Works – Local, Regional and State Roads

Maintenance Grading

SR10 Yallaroi Rd Patch Grade
SR36 Baroma Downs Road
SR63 Gil Gil Creek Road
SR31 Eulourie Road
SR38 Adams Scrub Road

SR70 Ashton Rd
SR74 Kurrajong Hills Road
SR11 Horton Road
SR68 Reserve Creek Road



Maintenance Grading on Baroma Road

Gravel Resheeting

SR65 Munsie Road
SR16 Trevallyn Road
SR19 Whitlow Road
SR16 Trevallyn Road

SR39 Allandale Road
SR117 Bundaleer Road
Stockpiling material

Heavy Patching

RR7705 Heavy Patching

Bitumen Patching

RR7705 North Star Road
HW12 Gwydir Highway

RR63 Warialda Road
Warialda Cemetery

Vegetation Control

MR63 Cobbadah Road

MR462 Bruxner Way

Miscellaneous Work

Warialda Hope Street Arcade
Maintenance to Kia Ora Crossing
Pipes maintenance on SR82 Kirewa Road
Repair pipe culvert on MR133 Killarney Gap Road
SR23 Wearnes Road - Replace pipe culvert.



Gravel Resheeting on Allandale Road



Michael Ford, Dan Hall, Kevin Trotter and Ben Kennedy are doing an outstanding job working on the Hope Street Arcade. Works will hopefully be complete by week ending the 16th December.

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Chairman

Slashing

SR14 Mosquito Creek Road
MR63 Allan Cunningham Road
RR63 Warialda Road
SR2 Bundarra Road

Warialda Airstrip
SR13 Oregon Road
SR1 Copeton Dam Road



Private Works for Councillors and Staff

Nil Report

Self Help Program

Nil Report

2.3 Roads Maintenance Council Contract – Works Orders issued by RMS

All Work Orders issued by Roads and Maritime Services are quality assurance schedule of rates projects carried out by Council staff under the Roads Maintenance Council Contract with Roads and Maritime Services (RMS).

Seal designs for reseal segments have now been completed and proposals are currently being processed by the RMS. Resealing works will be a full service bitumen spray sealing contract programmed to be completed by Fulton Hogan during December. Early in December will also see NSW Spray Seal complete remedial resealing works and fixing seals from last year that had failed within the contractor's warranty period.

Minor reseal preparation has also been underway throughout November within Council's reseal segments, repairing edge breaks and preparing stockpile sites for aggregate. Routine maintenance continues each week undertaking inspections, rest area services, vegetation control and bitumen repairs.

2.4 Rural Roads 2017-2018 Capital Works Program

Attached

This is page number 102 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 14 December 2017

Chairman

2.5 Other Services

2.5.1 Street services continued to be maintained for vehicular, pedestrian and public conveniences.

2.5.2 Storm water drainage facilities continue to be maintained.

2.5.3 Aerodromes at Warialda and Bingara continue to be maintained and inspections are done monthly.

2.5.4 Existing quarry sources are continually being utilised and future sources are being investigated as time permits with other competing projects.

2.5.5 The radio and television towers continue to be maintained.

3. DESIGN AND ASSET SERVICES

Survey, design and soil testing is continuing for the 2017-2018 works programs. Progress is as follows:

Warialda HPV Route

Plan sets are being finalised, all design has been completed with just some minor drafting issues to amend. The amended artefact scatter area, which was provided to Council by SMK consultants, was surveyed and loaded into the working bypass file.

North Star Road – Gardiners

The centreline has been marked, ready for the road to be sealed. Soil tests were also completed on the new pavement.

Boundary Gully – Culvert Design

A detailed steel design is being completed for the headwall and wing walls for the culvert.

Elcombe Road – Lovers Lane

The centreline was spotted, ready for the spray seal.

Spring Street – Drainage

Different options are being investigated for the drainage issue occurring on Spring Street in Bingara. Survey has been completed and multiple different design options are being investigated.

4. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Nil Report

5. TOWN SERVICES

Water and Sewerage

Water and sewerage systems are being maintained. During November three (3) water main breaks, 13 service line repairs and five (5) sewer blocks were attended. One new sewer connection was installed in Bingara. The effluent flow meter was replaced at the Warialda sewerage plant. Irrigation work was undertaken on the Maitland Street, Bingara gardens.

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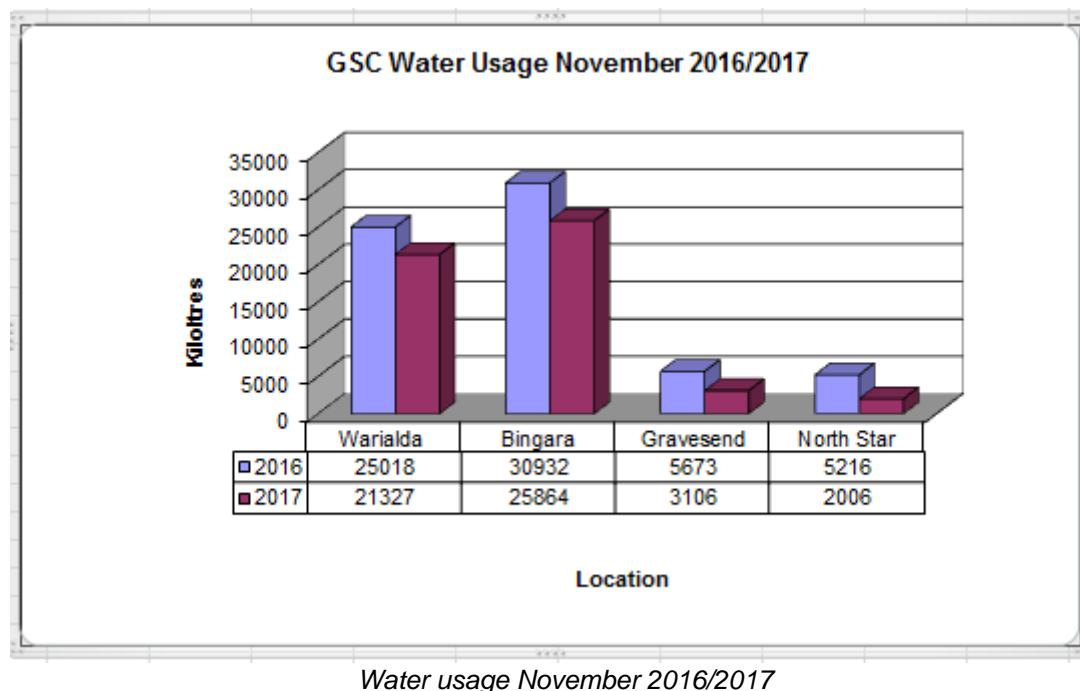
Chairman

Expression of Interest was submitted to Water NSW for funding of Concept Design of Bingara sewer extension under the Safe and Secure Water Program. This phase is estimated at \$240,000 with 50% requested from the Program.

October 31st was the end of the reporting period for the two sewerage treatment works. Council is required to submit annual returns and annual reports for the two licences prior to 22nd December 2017.

A process Engineer from Hunter Water attended the Bingara Water treatment plant (WTP) for 3 days during October with the aim of optimising the treatment process. The Engineer made several short term and long term recommendations for the WTP. The key recommendation for rectifying the main issue with the water quality (turbidity) is to trial a cationic polymer such as LT22S on the WTP. A temporary dosing system (500L tank with slow speed mixer and a manual pump on top) is being arranged so a trial of the polymer dosing can be carried out at the WTP for a few days.

Water meters will be read first and second week of December 2017.



Plant and Workshop

Major items repaired in the workshop during November:

- Plant 1466 – Grader major service
- Plant 1783 – ute windscreen replacement
- Plant 1446 – Jet Patcher – radiator and viscous fan replacement
- Plant 1684 – compactor major service
- Plant 1065 – Loader – rebuild engine
- Plant 1859 – Grader major service

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- Plant 1463 – Grader cylinder head
- Fabrication of fence panel for Warialda arcade
- Registration checks for February renewal date



Warialda arcade fence before painting

Parks and Gardens

Parks and Gardens staff carried out routine maintenance jobs during November: mowing, weeding, watering of Bingara, Warialda, Warialda Rail, Gravesend, Coolatai, Myall Creek, Glacial area and Upper Horton. Gwydir Oval main field was aerated during November.

Bingara Showground

The Bingara Showground is being maintained. The main straight was aerated in November while there was moisture in the ground.



Aerating the Bingara Showground main straight

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6. DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING SERVICES

DEVELOPMENT

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

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

The following Construction Certificate (C/C), Building Certificate (B/C) and S68 applications have been approved for the month.

No.	Property Description	Development/ Work	\$	C/C	B/C	S68
35/2017	34 Keera Street Bingara	Dwelling Additions	90,000	✓		
47/2017	39 Bombelli Street Bingara	Shed	12,000	✓		

The following Construction Certificate (C/C) applications were approved by a Private Certifier and lodged with Council during the month.

No.	Property Description	Development/ Work	\$	C/C
Nil				

ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY	No	ACTION TAKEN					
		Inspected	Notice Sent	Application/ Certificate Lodged	Penalty Notice	Legal Action	Refer to Council
Building/Plumbing/ Drainage	Nil						

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

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

Projects Worked on during November 2017

Staff worked on the following projects during November:

- Plunkett St Warialda Water Reservoir – repairs and maintenance
- Bingara Landfill – fencing

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- Carinda House – external painting
- Bingara Civic Centre – paint windows and doors
- Rivercare Shed Warialda – solar structural modifications
- Bingara Rural Fire Service – replace fence panels and gate
- Whitfield Place Aged Units – 4 bay carport
- Whitfield Place Aged Units – Erect Colourbond fence on northern side
- Unit 2 Holden Street Aged Unit – repairs and maintenance
- Wilby Street North Star Residence – install fittings to new rainwater tank
- Queen Street Residence – repairs to TV aerial

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY	No	ACTION TAKEN					
		Inspected	Notice Sent	Application/ Certificate Lodged	Penalty Notice	Legal Action	Refer to Council
Health/Animals	7	7	7		0		
Environment	1	1	1		1		

HEALTH

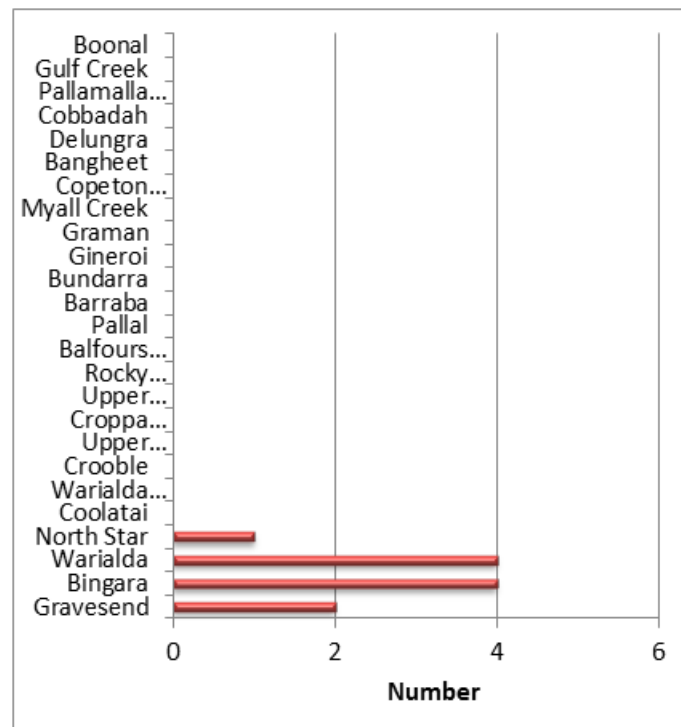
The Department continues to receive enquiries and provide advice on a range of health matters including:

- Design and installation of on-site sewerage management systems
- Overgrown properties
- Food premises design and fit-out
- Food handling practices
- Mobile food vendors
- Licensing
- Water carting
- Plumbing and drainage - design and installation

Water Surveillance

The Department continues to carry out routine weekly microbiological sampling of the water supply in the towns of Warialda and Bingara, fortnightly sampling of Gravesend and monthly sampling at North Star.

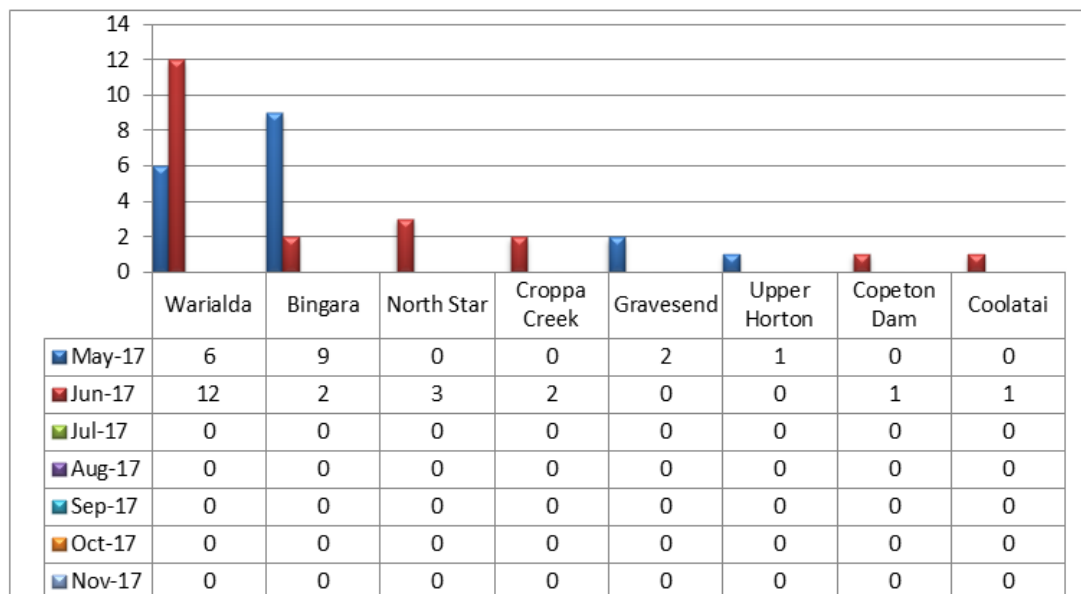
Health Related Inspections for November 2017



Cemeteries

Both Warialda and Bingara Cemeteries continued to be maintained.

Food Premise Inspections/Re-inspections

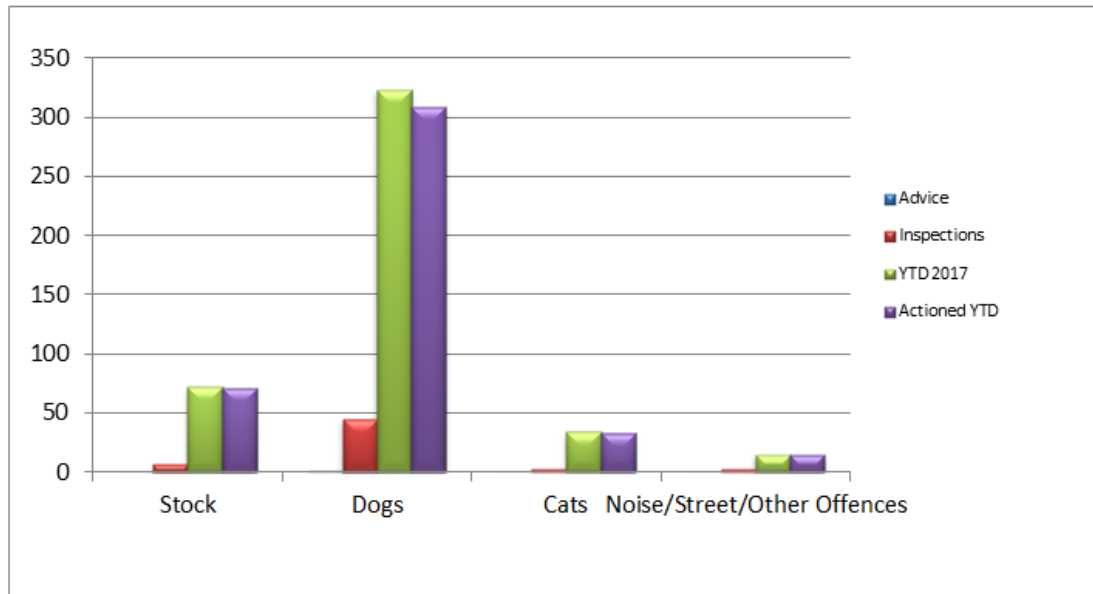


Compliance and Regulatory Control

Council received complaints regarding roaming stock and dogs, noise, the keeping of animals and other concerns during the month of November 2017. These are investigated and actioned as necessary and are detailed in the following table including year to date and actioned totals:

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ENVIRONMENTAL

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

- Air and water pollution
- Noise pollution
- Littering
- Legislation

Waste Services

Scheduled kerbside collection of waste, recycling and green waste was carried out throughout the Shire. There were no incidents or complaints for this period.

All Waste Recovery Centres in the Shire continue to be supervised/monitored and maintained. Staff continues to make changes to the site layout and signage to improve onsite operation and access for residents unloading waste and recyclable materials.

There was no in house chipping for the month.

Council is continuing to supply mulch from chipped green waste to residents.

Steel continues to be stockpiled for collection at the Bingara and Warialda Waste Recovery Centre.

Breakdown of Waste Collection for November 2017

NOTE: at the time of report no data available for waste and recycling

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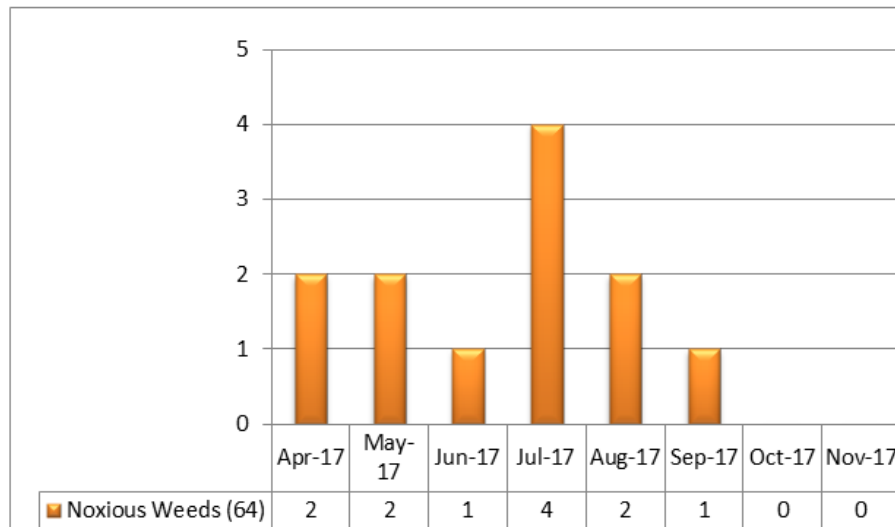
NOXIOUS WEEDS CONTROL

Property Inspection Program

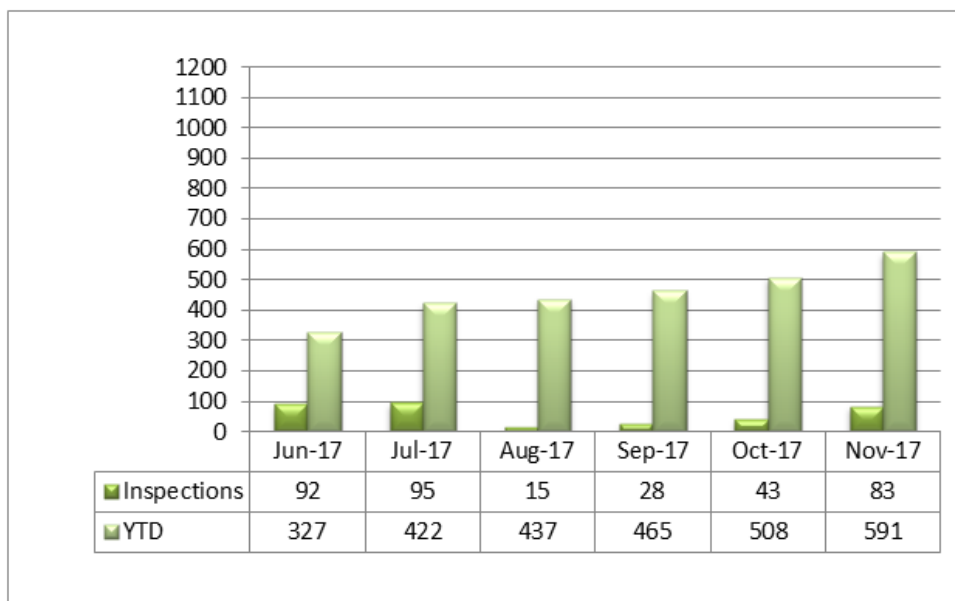
Staff continues to assist farmers and the community with:

- Funding advice
- Noxious weeds advice
- Property inspections
- Spraying of noxious weeds

The following noxious weeds certificates were issued during November 2017 compared to the previous eight (8) months.



The following graph shows the noxious weeds inspections carried out in November 2017 compared to the previous five (5) months.



Noxious weeds - Inspections during November 2017

<i>Areas Inspected</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Ha</i>	<i>Rd km</i>	<i>Weeds Present</i>
Private Property High Risk areas	3	3608.33	-	African Boxthorn
Private Property High Risk Re-inspection	15	1233	-	St Johs Wort, Patersons Curse, African Boxthorn
Roadside Inspections High Risk	-	-	-	-
Waterways High Risk	-	-	-	-
Private Property	3	481.755	-	Sweet Briar, St Johns Wort
Private Property Re-inspections	11	1641.56	-	St John's Wort, Tree Pear, Mother of Millions
Private Property Waterways	-	-	-	-
Roadside Inspections	14	534	267	St Johns Wort, Patersons Curse
Other Council Lands	11	300.55	-	St Johns Wort, Patersons Curse, Rope Pear, Johnsons Grass, African Boxthorn, Mimosa Bush, Tree Pear, Green Cestrum
Other Weekend Markets	-	-	-	-
Dept of Lands	3	15.162	-	Patersons Curse, Galvanised Burr, African Boxthorn, Tiger Pear, St Johns Wort
National Parks/ Nature Reserves	-	-	-	-
NWLLS Reserves	23	118.89	-	St Johns Wort
Gravel Quarries	-	-	-	-
Machinery Dealers	-	-	-	-
Grain Handling Sites	-	-	-	-
Recreational Areas	-	-	-	-
Saleyards	-	-	-	-
Machinery wash down bays	-	-	-	-
Truck Stops	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-

Noxious weeds control works for November 2017

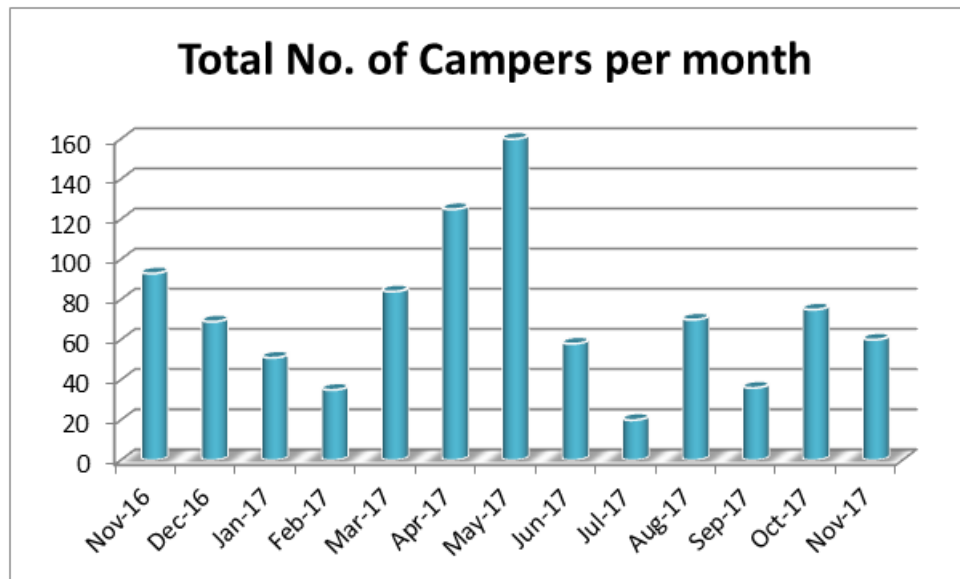
Road/Property	Locality	Weed Code	Area Ha	Road km	High Risk Road	Council Road	Other
Adams Scrub Rd	Bingara	SB		22.91		1	
Yammacoona Estate Rd	Bingara	SB		3.83		1	
Mitchells Lane	Bingara	SB		10.92		1	
Flemmings Rd	Bingara	SB		2.12		1	
Upper Whitlow Rd	Bingara	SB		7.96		1	
Whitlow Rd	Bingara	SB		23.38		1	
Travelling Stock Route	Bingara	SB	5			-	1
Copeton Dam Rd	Bingara	SB		52.34		1	
Ravenscraig Rd	Bingara	SB		8.4		1	
Bingara Rd	Bingara	SB		13.75		1	
Wearnes Rd	Bingara	SB		19.9		1	
Cracknells Rd	Bingara	SB		3.67		1	
Glenelg Rd	Bingara	SB		3.5		1	
All Nations Hill	Bingara	SJ	8.89			-	1
TSR (All Nations Hill)	Bingara	SJ	5			-	1
Bingara Showground	Bingara	SJ	39.84			-	1
Cobbadah Rd	Bingara	SJ		51.82		1	
Cobbadah Rd	Bingara	SJ		51.82		1	
Gulf Creek Rd	Gulf Creek	SJ		17.67		1	
Horton Road	Upper Horton	SJ		35.89		1	
Terry Hie Hie Rd	Upper Horton	SJ		6.15		1	

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RIVERSIDE CAMPING

Council's Compliance Officer carries out weekly checks along the Gwydir River to ensure that camping is being conducted in a safe and hygienic manner. The number of campers is detailed in the following graph.



Swimming Centres

The Warialda and Bingara Swimming Pool are open for the summer season.

CONCLUSION

The activities carried out by the Technical Services Department are in line with the 2017/2018 Management Plan and otherwise as directed.

CONSULTATION

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS Policy implications are those relating to the 2017/2018 Management Plan and the Technical Services Policies of Gwydir Shire Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS The activities carried out by the Technical Services Department are in line with the 2017/2018 Management Plan.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the monthly Technical Services report for November 2017 be received

ATTACHMENTS

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Chairman

AT- Capital Works Program Rural Roads - 2017/18

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION:
MINUTE 413/17**

THAT the monthly Technical Services report for November 2017 be received.

(Moved Cr Dick, seconded Cr Moore)

2017-18 Shire Roads Capital Works Program 5th Dec 2017

Income :	FAGS	\$1,789,591
	Internal	\$1,339,988
	R2R	\$1,840,877
	S94	\$0
	Total	\$ 4,970,456
	HVSPP	\$2,998,350
	FCR	\$3,043,200
	FCTW	\$364,900
	Total	\$ 6,406,450

Target %age 46.2%

Normal R2R Reference Rate
\$1,071,990

	Budget	YTD Expenditure
Administration	139960	\$ 64,597
Shire Roads Maintenance Budget	1572205	\$ 743,253 47.3%
Shire Roads Capital Works Budget	3398251	\$ 2,070,792 60.9%
	5110416	\$ 2,878,641 56.3%

Work Order	Job Description	Road Name	Road Class	Length (km)	BUDGET	YTD EXPENDITURE	PROGRESS STATUS
5732	R2R	Resheeting	Adams Scrub Road	Collector	7.0	\$116,000	15874 Preliminary Works
5733	R2R	Resheeting	Eulourie Road	Local	4.8	\$91,118	91118 Complete
5735	R2R	Resheeting	Trevallyn Road	Collector	4.7	\$84,600	43594 40% Complete
5736	R2R	Resheeting	Getta Getta Road	Arterial	2.2	\$37,388	37388 Complete
5737	R2R	Resheeting	Peates Road	Minor	3.0	\$56,554	56554 Complete
5738	R2R	Resheeting	I B Bore Road	Arterial	12.7	\$279,988	279988 Complete
5739	R2R	Resheeting	Kirewa Road	Minor	7.0	\$117,252	13725 Preliminary Works
5740	R2R	Resheeting	County Boundary Road	Arterial	4.3	\$103,600	Not Started
5741	R2R	Resheeting	Gil Gil Creek Road	Collector	5.6	\$95,653	Not Started
5747	R2R	Resheeting	Killarney Road	Minor	5.1	\$95,551	5795 Preliminary Works
5742	R2R	Rehab Program	Elcombe Road	Arterial	0.9	\$356,291	356291 Complete
5743	R2R	Rehab Program	Elcombe Road	Arterial	1.1	\$270,882	270882 Complete
5744	R2R	Rehab Program	Horton Road	Arterial	0.7	\$136,000	0 Not Started
				0.0	\$1,840,877	\$1,171,208	

					Estimate (\$)		
4972		Resheeting	- Oakey Creek Road - Segment 020 - USRR2015/		492	492	Complete
5146	Internal	Resheeting	T - Roads to Recovery BUDGET and INCOME for 2		131	131	Complete
5299	Internal	Resheeting	Collector - SR038 - Adams Scrub Rd - 0.6		9407	9407	Complete
5316	Internal	Heavy Patching	ial - SR004 - Baroma Downs Road - 6.8km to 9		1246	1246	Complete
5329	Internal	Resealing	SED . . . Urban - Faithful Street & Bingara - Bo		-3480	-3480	Complete
5354	Internal	Resealing	lrbn - Laneways Bingara - URBAN 2016/20		14042	14062	Complete
5623		Rehab Program	1 - Bingara - Cunningham Street - Road Shoulde		15900	15900	Complete
5745	Internal	Rehab Program	Arterial - SR4 - Baroma Downs Road - Hea		43048	43048	Complete
5436	Internal	Urban	an - Bingara - White Street - Realignment from		16796	16796	Complete
5895	Internal	Resheeting	Minor - SR223 - Dunollie Road - SELF HEL		9697	9697	Preliminary Works
5746	Internal	Resheeting	Bundaleer Road	Minor	1.9	\$42,696	42696 20% Complete
5734	Internal	Resheeting	Whitlow Road	Local	1.6	\$28,800	1494 Not Started
5748	Internal	Resheeting	Towarra Road	Local	5.1	\$71,709	33261 40% Complete
5749	Internal	Resheeting	Back Creek Road	Local	2.0	\$36,000	4516 Not Started

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5750	Internal	Resheeting	Kywarra Road	Local	1.3	\$20,714	20714	Complete
5751	Internal	Resheeting	Kellys Gully Road	Local	1.1	\$27,120		Not Started
5752	Internal	Resheeting	Munsies Road	Local	4.5	\$106,800		Not Started
5753	Internal	Resheeting	Allandale Road	Local	7.9	\$189,840	62375	20% Complete
5865	Internal	Resheeting	Bingara Airstrip Road			\$12,696	12696	Complete
5730	Internal	Resheeting	Kywarra Road			\$5,458	5458	Not Started
5881	Internal	Resheeting	Cracknells Road			\$11,939	11939	Complete
5754	Internal	Rehab Program	Baroma Downs Road	Arterial	1.9	\$420,773	420773	Complete
5755	Internal	Rural Resealing	Copeton Dam Road	Arterial	7.2	\$249,168		Not Started
5756	Internal	Urban Reseal	West Street, Bingara	Urban	0.6	\$33,147		Not Started
5757	Internal	Urban Reseal	Frazer St	Urban	0.2	\$16,639		Not Started
5758	Internal	Urban Reseal	Nicholson St, Warialda	Urban	0.2	\$5,481		Not Started
5759	Internal	Urban Reseal	Water Street, Warialda	Urban	0.2	\$8,178		Not Started
							\$722,727	
5011	Internal	Rehab Program	Warialda High Productivity Vehicle Route			\$112,937	166648	Preliminary Works
5860	Internal	Rehab Program	Truck Wash			\$50,000	9718	
						\$1,450,095	176365	
						\$3,398,251	2070792	

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Item 9 **Tourism in Warialda - Koorilgur Nature Reserve and Lookout**

FILE REFERENCE

DELIVERY PROGRAM

GOAL: 1. A healthy and cohesive community

OUTCOME: 1.1 WE HAVE HEALTHY SPACES AND PLACE

STRATEGY: 1.1.3 Provide the right places, spaces and activities - OCD
- external

AUTHOR General Manager

DATE 6 December 2017

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Nil

BACKGROUND

Koorilgur Nature Reserve Walk in Warialda was established over 10 years ago for locals and bush walking enthusiasts to enjoy the bushland, bird life and the abundant flora that Warialda has to offer. The full walk which commences at either Apex Park or Rotary Park is 3600m long and takes approximately 1hr 30mins at a comfortable pace. There are also shorter walks to choose. All walks are graded at a Level 2 which means no prior bushwalking experience is required to walk the track.

These walks have now fallen into disrepair, with vandals destroying signage and burning the seating, and locals using the area for dirt bike riding and fire wood collection, turning the walk into an eyesore.

Pictures below demonstrate the current condition of Koorilgur Walk:



The current condition of Koorilgur Walk

COMMENT

For many years the Warialda Tourism Committee has discussed a possible upgrade to the walks, however, with the conflicting usage of the site by locals, an upgrade of the site seemed futile with it destined to be destroyed once again.

The Warialda Visitor Centre has also received a number of complaints regarding the walk. An example of one of these complaints is below.

From: Name withheld

Sent: Tuesday, 5 September 2017 6:53 AM

To: Gwydir Mail; Warialda Tourism

Subject: Koorilgur Nature Reserve Walk

Dear Council

I write as an experienced bushwalker and Registered Atlasser for Birdlife Australia, although I do not speak for that Organisation. When I first discovered the Koorilgur Nature Reserve Walk in 2000 it was delightful, with a well-designated walking track. Over the years improvements were made, including improved signage, and more recently, a larger network of tracks.

Unfortunately over the last three or four years the track has deteriorated severely. The first hundred metres or so from Rotary Park has almost disappeared, so much so that a newcomer will not be able to find it. The second section, through the fenced area, though more obvious, is becoming rapidly overgrown, with numerous fallen trees over the track.

However, that is easily remediable and not a major undertaking. The remaining 95 per cent of the Koorilgur Nature Reserve Walk is a disgrace, and remediation would be expensive. I refer of course to the fact that the track has been ruined by off-road vehicles: four-wheel-drives and motorcycles. Almost the whole network of tracks has been converted to a sandy race-track. The sand is deep and makes walking a hard slog. It is obvious that the vehicles have travelled along the tracks at excessive speeds, churning up the sand and throwing it out into the bush at every bend and corner. There is also a large amount of litter in the bush along both sides of the tracks.

Walking the Koorilgur Nature Reserve Walk is no longer a pleasure, and I would caution staff at Council and the Warialda Visitor Information Centre from recommending the walk to visitors, as it reflects very badly on Council. If it is not feasible to return the track to a proper walking track, I suggest the track be renamed Koorilgur Off-Road Vehicle Recreation Circuit, so as to more accurately reflect the current use of the track, and discourage walkers from going there.

What a pity to have allowed this damage to occur.

(Name and address withheld)

NSW

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Attached is a letter from Warialda Tourism Committee suggesting an alternate Bush Walk, west from Warialda from behind the Sunflower Motel, ultimately linking up with a proposed new Warialda Lookout (*Attachment 1*).

The suggested alternate track along the ridge west from Warialda is only accessible on foot. This walk takes in stunning views of the valley below as well as the site of the old sandstone quarry. Not only is this site far more beautiful than the original Koorilgur Walk, it also has restricted vehicle access, which means it will not be accessed by people collecting wood or riding dirt bikes, ensuring that the walk remains intact and free from vandals.

In addition to the walk, it has been proposed to have an eye-catching entry to the track with an avenue of giant boulders which would not only lead walkers to the start of the walking trail, but would also showcase Warialda's rich geology. Samples of different types of rock would be relocated from properties throughout the Warialda district and placed at the site with plaques identifying each rock and how they are formed.

Recently a group of Council staff, community members, and the Mayor walked the proposed track and found the new trail to be a much more appealing option. The Committee would like to propose that the existing promotional material, such as brochures and signage, be upgraded to include this walk with less emphasis on the current trails.

The Committee is now seeking Council's support for this project and would appreciate a commitment of in-kind assistance to clean up the existing track by removing damaged signage, defining the new track by clearing dead trees and erecting small arrow signage, as well as assistance to place boulders at the entry way. The committee would also appreciate an allocation of funds of around \$2,000 to update the brochures and signage.



Proposed new walking track

See Attachment 2 - map of the proposed new walking track.

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Warialda Lookout

In addition to the Koorilgur project, the Tourism Committee has discussed options for the establishment of a new Warialda Lookout.

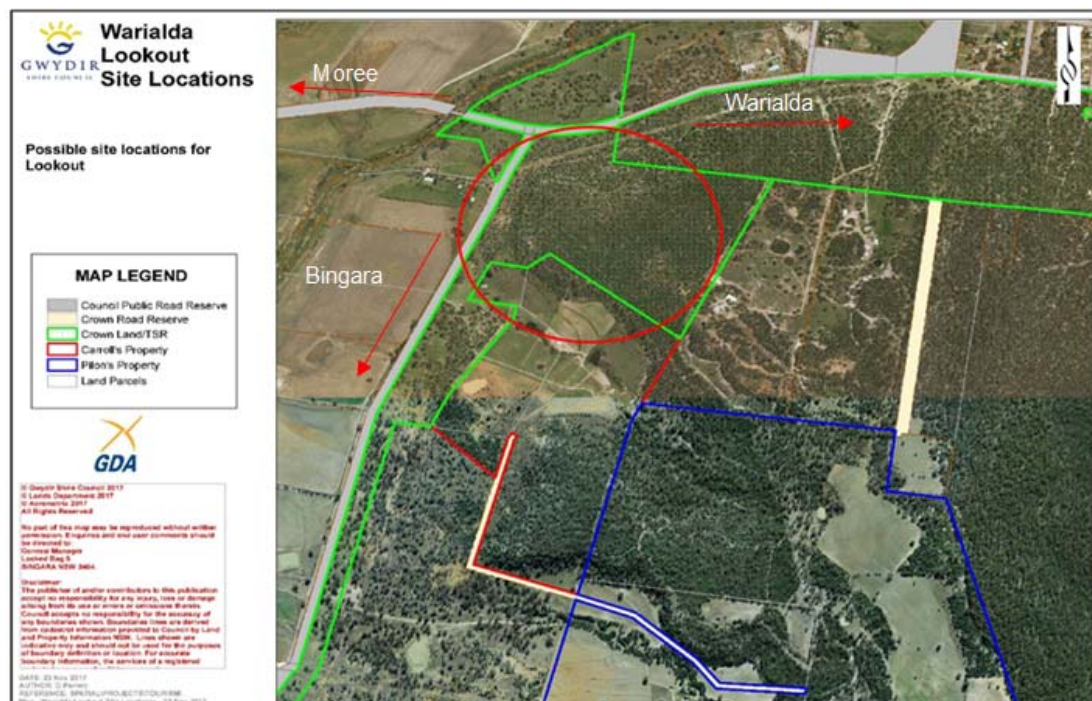
Many years ago, the Audrey Hill Lookout was established 6km north of Warialda on the Warialda Road. The lookout was dedicated to the memory of Audrey Hill and her 27 years of devoted service to tourism through her work at Yallaroi Shire Council, as well as her extensive voluntary efforts in the Warialda Community.

The Lookout was an ideal location and provided stunning 180 degree views of the Warialda district. Unfortunately the access road for the lookout is through private property and after a number of adverse incidents, the owners of the property requested that the road access be closed.

The Tourism Committee would like to identify a new location for a Warialda Lookout and work towards establishing this as a new tourist attraction. To save on costs, it is proposed that the infrastructure at the existing Audrey Hill Lookout be removed and relocated to the new site.

The Committee understands that this project may be costly and take time to establish however, would like to work with Council firstly to identify a suitable location, and then work through the steps to see this project to fruition.

To date the most popular and seemingly viable location for the lookout is on the corner of Gwydir Highway and Alan Cunningham Road as identified in the map below. This area is located within Crown Land/TSR and has an elevation that would take in a picturesque view of the valley.



Access to this area may pose problems as currently there are no existing roads on this site and much of the terrain is rocky and steep.

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It has been suggested that some of the initial clearing to make way for a road could be done by the RFS as part of their fire track works.

The Committee is seeking Council's feedback on the suitability of this location or other suggested sites for a Warialda Lookout.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council support the development of an alternate Bush Walk west from Warialda

FURTHER that Council make provision for the allocation of \$2,000 for upgrade of signage and brochures

FURTHER that Council provide in-kind support to clean up existing Koorilgur Nature Walk and develop new walking track

FURTHER that Council support the establishment of an alternate Lookout in Warialda

FURTHER that the existing infrastructure at the Warialda Lookout be relocated to the new Lookout once a site has been determined.

ATTACHMENTS

AT- Warialda Tourism letter to Council

AT- Map of Proposed Walking Track

COUNCIL RESOLUTION: MINUTE 414/17

THAT the Council support the development of an alternate Bush Walk west from Warialda

FURTHER that Council make provision for the allocation of \$2,000 for upgrade of signage and brochures

FURTHER that Council provide in-kind support to clean up existing Koorilgur Nature Walk and develop new walking track

FURTHER that Council support the establishment of an alternate Lookout in Warialda

FURTHER that the existing infrastructure at the Warialda Lookout be relocated to the new Lookout once a site has been determined.

(Moved Cr Dixon OAM, seconded Cr Moore)

Max Eastcott & Gwydir Shire Councillors

Gwydir Shire Council

Locked Bag 5

Bingara NSW 2404

To Mr Eastcott and Councillors

It has been put forward by members of the community to promote the geological diversity of the Gwydir Shire to locals and visitors.

Found in the Gwydir Directory, the head of UNE School of Geology once described the area within a 50 mile (80km) radius of Bingara as being "the most diverse geological area in Australia and one of the most diverse in the world!", yet we do not actively promote this diversity to our best ability.

Dave Conway has approached the committee with an enthusiastic team to create a display of four or five large rocks, possibly at the Apex Park, next to/behind the Sunflower Motel. A plaque to explain the different kind of rocks would be ideal and this display would lead into the alternate nature walk (rather than the Koorilgur Nature Walk, mentioned later in the letter).

We are in full support of Dave Conway's suggestion and we are interested in nominating a piece of land to the project with the support of the Council.

If this project proves to be popular, there is consideration to in the future, expand and have multiple sites throughout the town.

We would also appreciate the council's support in an alternate bush walk to the Koorilgur Nature Walk. Unfortunately, we have received complaints regarding the state of the track due to the mistreatment of the walk by residents as it is being used for off road purposes and maintenance neglect.

We are suggesting an alternate walk from behind the Sunflower Motel that extends west along the rocky ridge running parallel to the existing Koorilgur walk. Along this walk, there is also evidence of Sandstone mining from Warialda's early days, and as this walk is less accessible by vehicles, it is less likely to be misused by residents.

We look forward to hearing your response and hope to have your support. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

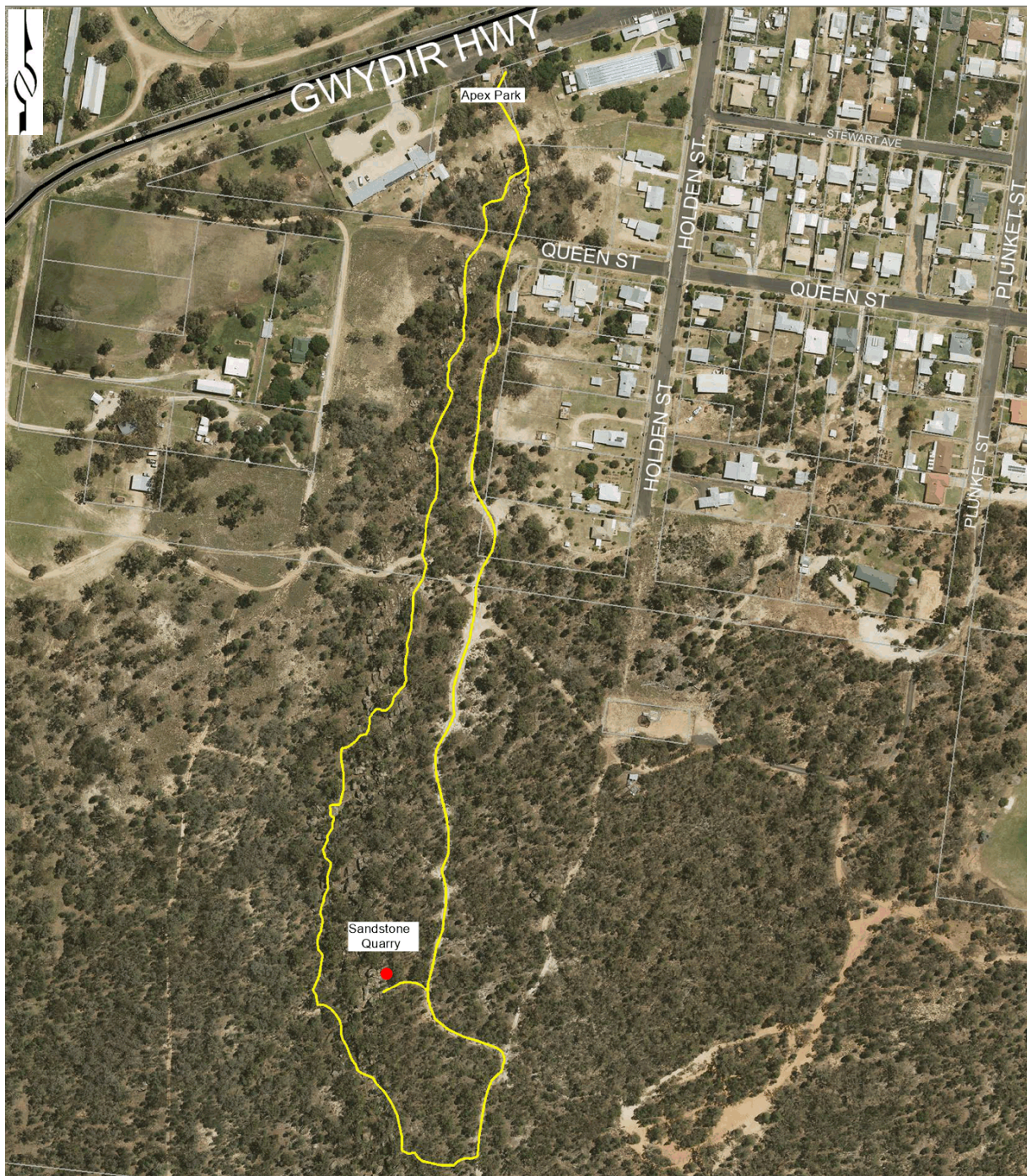
Kind Regards,

Warialda Tourism Committee

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This is page number 121 of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 14 December 2017

Chairman



New Koorilgur Track
Proposed Track for Koorilgur Walk.



Date: 11 Dec 2017
Author: D Perrett
File: E:\PROJECT\TOURISM\Map - New Koorilgur Track - 11 Dec 2017

MAP LEGEND

- Proposed Walk Track
- Gwydir Highway
- Region

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