

# **BUSINESS PAPER**

Economic and Community
Sustainability Committee Meeting
Wednesday, 12 August 2020

## **INVERELL SHIRE COUNCIL**

### NOTICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

## 12 August, 2020

An Economic and Community Sustainability Committee Meeting will be held in the Committee Room, Administrative Centre, 144 Otho Street, Inverell on Wednesday, 12 August, 2020, commencing at **10.30 AM**.

Your attendance at this Economic and Community Sustainability Committee Meeting would be appreciated.

Please Note: Under the provisions of the Code of Meeting Practice the proceedings of this meeting (including presentations, deputations and debate) will be webcast. An audio recording of the meeting will be uploaded on the Council's website at a later time. Your attendance at this meeting is taken as consent to the possibility that your voice may be recorded and broadcast to the public.

I would like to remind those present that an audio recording of the meeting will be uploaded on the Council's website at a later time and participants should be mindful not to make any defamatory or offensive statements.

## P J HENRY PSM

## **GENERAL MANAGER**

## **Agenda**

1	Apologies		
2	Confirmation of Minutes		
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## **Ethical Decision Making and Conflicts of Interest**

A guiding checklist for Councillors, officers and community committees

### **Ethical decision making**

- Is the decision or conduct legal?
- Is it consistent with Government policy, Council's objectives and Code of Conduct?
- What will the outcome be for you, your colleagues, the Council, anyone else?
- Does it raise a conflict of interest?
- Do you stand to gain personally at public expense?
- Can the decision be justified in terms of public interest?
- Would it withstand public scrutiny?

#### **Conflict of interest**

A conflict of interest is a clash between private interest and public duty. There are two types of conflict:

- **Pecuniary** regulated by the Local Government Act 1993 and Office of Local Government
- Non-pecuniary regulated by Codes of Conduct and policy. ICAC, Ombudsman, Office of Local Government (advice only). If declaring a Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest, Councillors can choose to either disclose and vote, disclose and not vote or leave the Chamber.

#### The test for conflict of interest

- Is it likely I could be influenced by personal interest in carrying out my public duty?
- Would a fair and reasonable person believe I could be so influenced?
- Conflict of interest is closely tied to the layperson's definition of 'corruption' using public office for private gain.
- Important to consider public perceptions of whether you have a conflict of interest.

#### **Identifying problems**

**1st** Do I have private interests affected by a matter I am officially involved in?

2nd Is my official role one of influence or perceived influence over the matter?

**3rd** Do my private interests conflict with my official role?

## **Local Government Act 1993 and Model Code of Conduct**

For more detailed definitions refer to Sections 442, 448 and 459 or the *Local Government Act 1993* and Model Code of Conduct, Part 4 – conflictions of interest.

## Disclosure of pecuniary interests / non-pecuniary interests

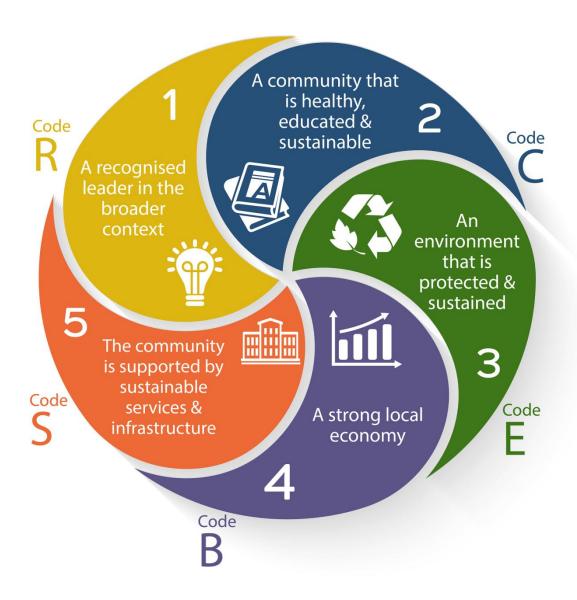
Under the provisions of Section 451(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (pecuniary interests) and Part 4 of the Model Code of Conduct prescribed by the Local Government (Discipline) Regulation (conflict of interests) it is necessary for you to disclose the nature of the interest when making a disclosure of a pecuniary interest or a non-pecuniary conflict of interest at a meeting.

**A Declaration form should be completed and handed to the General Manager** as soon as practible once the interest is identified. Declarations are made at Item 3 of the Agenda: Declarations - Pecuniary, Non-Pecuniary and Political Donation Disclosures, and prior to each Item being discussed: The Declaration Form can be downloaded at <u>Declaration Form</u>

## **Quick Reference Guide**

## Below is a legend that is common between the:

- Inverell Shire Council Strategic Plan;
- Inverell Shire Council Delivery Plan; and
- Inverell Shire Council Operational Plan.



## 1 APOLOGIES

## 2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Minutes of the Economic and Community Sustainability Committee Meeting held on 8 July, 2020, as circulated to members, be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

## MINUTES OF INVERELL SHIRE COUNCIL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE COMMITTEE ROOM, ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE, 144 OTHO STREET, INVERELL

ON WEDNESDAY, 8 JULY 2020 AT 10.30 AM

PRESENT: Cr Jacki Watts (Chair), Cr Paul Harmon (Mayor), Cr Anthony Michael (Deputy

Mayor) and Cr Kate Dight.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cr Stewart Berryman, Cr Neil McCosker via Zoom, and Cr Di Baker.

Paul Henry (General Manager), Brett McInnes (Director Civil & Environmental

Services) and Scott Norman (Director Corporate & Economic Services).

## 1 APOLOGIES

#### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Paul Harmon Seconded: Cr Kate Dight

That the apology for personal reasons received from Cr Paul King OAM be accepted and leave of

absence granted.

CARRIED

## 2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

#### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Anthony Michael Seconded: Cr Kate Dight

That the Minutes of the Economic and Community Sustainability Committee Meeting held on 10 June, 2020, as circulated to members, be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

**CARRIED** 

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

Nil

#### 4 DESTINATION REPORTS

#### 4.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL DETERMINATION \$13.6.4/13

#### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Anthony Michael Seconded: Cr Kate Dight

That the Committee recommend to Council that for the financial year commencing 1 July, 2020, Council fix the annual fee to be paid to Councillors at the maximum allowed for the Rural Council Category as determined by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal; that being an annual

fee paid to Councillors of \$12,160 with the Mayor receiving an additional annual fee of \$26,530.

**CARRIED** 

# 4.2 EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST TO LICENCE LAND - LOT 8 DP 188692 AND LOT 7 DP 1101540 RIFLE RANGE ROAD, INVERELL S5.10.154

#### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Paul Harmon Seconded: Cr Anthony Michael

The Committee recommend to Council that:

- i) Council enter into a Licence Agreement with Mr Deon Beckhouse and Ms Emily Kenny for Lot 8, DP 188692 and Lot 7 DP 1101540 Rifle Range Road, Inverell for a five (5) year period with a further five (5) year option;
- ii) the Licence fee be \$1,820 per annum (GST Inclusive) with a 3% increase per annum; and
- iii) the Licence Agreement be subject to any other terms and conditions as negotiated by Council's General Manager.

**CARRIED** 

## 4.3 CLASSIFICATION OF FREEHOLD TINGHA LANDS S5.19.1

#### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Paul Harmon Seconded: Cr Kate Dight

That the Committee recommend to Council that:

1. Council resolve to give public notice that it is intended the following land is held for operational purposes.

Location	Description	Purpose
35 New Valley Road Tingha	Lot 107 DP 722455	Tingha Depot
29 Diamond Street Tingha	Lot 7 Sect 10 DP 704	Vacant Land
16-18 Ruby Street Tingha	Lot 2 DP 218026	Tingha Town Hall & Fire Shed
14 Ruby Street	Lot 31 DP 1071167; Lot 1 DP 218026;	Wing Hing Long Store Tingha
Tingha	Lot 2 Sect 3 DP 704; Lot 2 DP 587489	
31 Garnet Street	Lot 4 Sect 16 DP704; Lot 4 Sect 17	Vacant Land
Tingha	DP704; Lot 3 Sect 16 DP704; Lot 3	
	Sect 17 DP704; Lot 1 Sect 14 DP704;	
	Lot 6 DP668621; Lot 2 Sect 14 DP704;	
	Lot 3 Sect 14 DP704; Lot 4 Sect 14	
	DP704; Lot 5 Sect 17 DP704; Lot 5	
	DP229966; Lot 6 DP229966	
32 Albion Flat Road	Lot 1 DP 829960	Water Reservoir
Tingha		
14060 Guyra Road Tingha	Lot 1 DP 1120941	Sewer Ponds

2-4 Sapphire Street Tingha	Lot 81 DP753655; Lot 1 Sect 4 DP704	Symes Park & Aged Care Units
156 Kempton Road Tingha	Lot 123 DP42110	Tingha Garbage Tip
23 Garnet Street Tingha	Lot 1 & 2 DP 229966	Tingha Cemetery

2. That Council invite submissions on the classification of the land as operational.

**CARRIED** 

## 4.4 CLASSIFICATION OF CROWN RESERVES INCLUDING TINGHA LANDS S5.19.1

## **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Anthony Michael Seconded: Cr Kate Dight

That the Committee recommend to Council that:

1. For the Crown reserves listed below that Council make application for ministerial consent to classify and manage Crown land as operational land under the Local Government Act 1993 (LG Act) or Crown reserves managed by Council in accordance with the Crown Land Management Act 2016 (CLM Act).

Crown reserves acquired as part of the Tingha boundary realignment.			
Location	Description	Purpose	
209 New Valley Road Tingha	Lot 60 DP 753654 -Crown Reserve 68692	Old Tingha Sanitary Purposes- Vegetable Farm	
2472 Thunderbolts Way Stanborough	Lot 95 DP 753655 - Crown Reserve 97203	Fire Shed - Stanborough	
224 Howell Road Tingha	Lot 97 DP 753655 - Crown Reserve 86389	Tingha Impound Yards	
20-22 Ruby Street Tingha	Lot 6 Sect 3 DP 704 Crown Reserve 88768	Toilets/SES/Fire Shed	
54 Winterwood Road Tingha	Lot 7009 DP 1032560 - Crown Reserve 90984	Old Sanitary Depot	
1434 Howell Road Tingha	Lot 7005 DP 1029803- Crown Reserve 35382; Lot 7001 DP 1029802; - Crown Reserve 35004	Howell Cemetery-Cemetery Extensions Plantation, Preservation of Graves	
21 Garnet Street Tingha	Lot 1,2,3 DP1150694; Lot 11,12 DP105339; Crown Reserve 1024808	Tingha Cemetery	
50 Old Mill Road Tingha	Lot 316 DP 753678, Crown Reserve 46853	Old Rubbish Dump	
2-4 Sapphire Street Tingha	Lot 96 DP753655; Lot 7004 DP 1030577 Crown Reserve 82908	Symes Park & Aged Care Units	
156 Kempton Road Tingha	Lot 77 DP 753655;; Lot 121 DP 42110; Crown Reserve 69395	Tingha Garbage Tip	

Crown reserves transferred to Council as part of the Crow	Crown reserves transferred to Council as part of the Crown land management reforms.				
Description	Purpose				
Lot 7300 DP1150706 Crown Reserve 1026808	Wallangra Cemetery				
Lot 7301 DP1150706 Crown Reserve 29419	Wallangra Cemetery				
Part Lot 7001 DP1150706 Crown Reserve 39656	Connecticut Gravel Pit Coolatai				
Part Lot 7001 DP1150706 Crown Reserve 1026568	Connecticut Gravel Pit Coolatai				

2. For the Crown reserves listed below that as Council Crown land managers Council notify the Minister administering the Crown Land Management Act 2016 of the initial categorisation assigned to Crown land, as referred to in section 36 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Location	cquired as part of the Tingha Description	Purpose	Categorisation
2921 Thunderbolts Way Tingha	Lot 118 DP 1133570 - Crown Reserve 1096	Vacant Land Reserve for Public Purposes	general community use
2 Amethyst Street Tingha	Lot 111 DP 753655 - Crown Reserve 110104	Grahame Park Reserve for Public Recreation	a park
2277 Howell Road Howell	Lot 179 DP 753664 - Crown Reserve 91076	Tingha Copeton Dam Recreation area Reserve for Public Recreation	a park

Crown reserves where Ministerial approval to reclassify to operational has previously been sought and refused.

Purpose	Description	Categorisation
Gilgai Gravel Pit Crown	Part Lot 7001 DP1067907; Lot 7003	general
Reserve 62561	DP1032659	community use
Delungra Homes for the Aged	Part Lot 1 Sect 4 DP758348	general
Crown Reserve 94038		community use
Elsmore Rural Fire Service	Part Lot 38 DP753258	general
Crown Reserve 110026		community use
Gilgai Rubbish Depot Crown	Lot 136 DP753271; Lot 9 DP753271	general
Reserve 78986		community use

Crown reserves transferred to Council as part of the Crown land management reforms.

Purpose	Description	Categorisation
Matherson Public Reserve	Lot 287 DP750076	general
Crown Reserve 73694		community use
Weean Reserve – Nullamanna	Lot 7301 DP1151919	general
Road Crown Reserve 80668		community use
Bonshaw Public Recreation	Lots 7302-7303 DP1152292	general
Reserve Crown Reserve		community use
95856		
Swamp Oak Public Reserve	Lot 218 DP 750121	general
Crown Reserve 84042		community use

**CARRIED** 

#### 4.5 REQUEST FOR REDUCTION ON WATER ACCOUNT \$32.10.1/12

#### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Kate Dight Seconded: Cr Paul Harmon

That the matter be referred to Closed Council for consideration as the matters and information are:

a personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

On balance the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of the information outweighs the public interest in openness and transparency in Council decision-making by discussing the matter in open meeting; and all reports and correspondence relevant to the subject business be withheld from access to the media and public as required by section 11(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993.

**CARRIED** 

## 5 INFORMATION REPORTS

#### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Anthony Michael Seconded: Cr Kate Dight

That the information reports be received and noted.

**CARRIED** 

- 5.1 CCTV EXPANSION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PROJECT S15.8.95
- 5.2 UPDATE OF PROJECTS IN PROGRESS \$15.8.99
- 5.3 INLAND RAIL (IR) NORTHERN NSW REGIONAL INTELLIGENCE REPORT \$30.16.7
- 5.4 LIBRARY SERVICES COVID-19 UPDATE S3.6.1/14
- 5.5 GRANT SUMMARY FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 30 JUNE 2020 S15.8.25/13
- 6 GOVERNANCE REPORTS
- 6.1 GOVERNANCE MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT \$12.12.2/13

#### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Kate Dight Seconded: Cr Paul Harmon

The Committee recommends to Council that:

- i) the report indicating Council's Fund Management position be received and noted; and
- ii) the Certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted.

**CARRIED** 

## 7 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS (COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE)

At 11.16am, the Chairperson noted that no members of the public or press were in attendance at the meeting therefore the Committee proceeded to consider the motion to close the meeting to the press and public.

#### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Paul Harmon Seconded: Cr Anthony Michael

That the Committee proceeds into Closed Committee to discuss the matters referred to it, for the reasons stated in the motions of referral.

**CARRIED** 

#### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Paul Harmon Seconded: Cr Anthony Michael

That the Committee proceeds out of Closed Committee into Open Committee.

**CARRIED** 

Upon resuming Open Committee at 11.18am, the Chairperson verbally reported that the Committee had met in Closed Committee, with the Press and Public excluded, and had resolved to recommend to Council the following:

## 7.1 REQUEST FOR REDUCTION ON WATER ACCOUNT \$32.10.1/12

The Committee recommends to Council that an amended account of \$\\$\frac{4}{2}.78\$ / quarter be issued for the last two quarters based on average consumption of accounts prior to the leak and write off \$\\$526.74.

## ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

## **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Paul Harmon Seconded: Cr Kate Dight

That the recommendations of Closed Committee be adopted.

**CARRIED** 

The Meeting closed at 11.20am.
The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Economic and Community Sustainability Committee held on 12 August 2020.
CHAIRPERSON

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

## 4 ADVOCACY REPORTS

#### 4.1 WATER FORUMS

File Number: S11.15.1 / 20/30057
Author: Kate Dight, Councillor

#### SUMMARY:

Two (2) recent forums were held on water related issues. A summary of these events is shared for Councillors' information.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the report be received and noted.

#### **COMMENTARY:**

## Border Rivers Regional Water Strategy - Presented by the DPIE, 23 July 2020

## Recap of information gathered from discussions with Border Councils in March 2020

- Large impacts due to drought, fire and flood
- Strong demands on water supplies
- Aspirations for growth from tree nuts and abattoirs
- Infrastructure plans & opportunities with Mole River Dam and inland diversion schemes
- Western Councils (Moree & Gwydir) rely more heavily on ground water
- Assessing critical human needs for water is the focus including water uses for industry which need to be a part of this consumption assessment

## Climate Challenges and opportunities

- Challenges
  - Highly variable inflows
  - Pressure on Town water supplies
  - Delivering water to the end
  - Declining ground water
  - Blue green algae
  - Salinity
  - Cross boarder management infrastructure
- Opportunities
  - Improved management of extraction of water resources with the new metering framework monitoring flow in unregulated water and the connectivity between surface and ground water
  - Diversification of industry
  - Opportunities for environmental outcomes

#### Climate Risk Method

 Historic date going back 130 years (back to 1890) is being used to project 10,000 years into the climatic future. The climatic extremes already experienced have been used to predict what might occur. The outcome is fit for purpose climatic modelling

- There are a number of possible outcomes, one of which is the 'Dry Climate Change Scenario'. This is being stress tested for critical human needs so we can have the correct planning measures in place in its eventuality.
- We currently know that we have wet & dry extremes; the second half of last century was relatively wet and then after the turn of the century we faced the millennium drought and have been experiencing prolonged dry periods since, the worst of which came in 2019 which was the most severe dry year on record.
- The disparity is that industry was developed at a time when inflows were large and supplementary allocations were regular.
- In the Dry Climate Scenario, the rainfall events are highly erratic with a significant reduction in winter rainfall and increased summer rainfall events, particularly severe storm activity. We saw this with the 2011 Dumaresq River flood event. This scenario anticipates more of this with a 3-5% likelihood that this will occur again within the next 33 years.
- Current inflows into the Pindari and Glen Lyon Dams are the lowest on record with Pindari inflows just 22GL in the past 24 months. The reality of this scenario is that peak flows will be magnified and less often. These are expected to double and create significant flood events during the summer and autumn months. Seasonality is expected be become more extreme. The sum total is maintaining storage capacities at higher levels are unlikely and it is likely that Pindari storage capacity will fall below 5% again.
- What does this mean for town water supplies? The trigger settings need to be reassessed and reviewed with the view to preserving critical water requirements. The management of dam water needs to reassess water shared between general security and high security licenses. Regional Water Strategies need to be prepared for these dry scenarios and water users need to plan for a much less secure water environment in the future.

## **Draft Strategy Long Term Options**

- Existing
  - o Mole River
- Potential
  - o Raise Pindari Wall
  - o Raise Mungindi Weir
  - Recycling & Reuse Water initiatives
  - Inland Water Diversion
  - Intra & Inter regional pipeline systems
- Potential Investigations
  - o Ground water for town supply usage
  - Aquifer recharge for water storage
- Potential to improve protection
  - Cold water pollution mitigation
  - Environmental restoration works
  - Flood Plain management
  - Fish passage strategy
  - Active management of flows in unregulated systems
  - Protection of environmental water
  - Mandated reuse of water
  - Better flow management from flow events
  - Management of supplementary flows

- There needs to be preparedness for climate extremes with comprehensive water use standards and appropriate water restriction levels.
- The management of unregulated river flows need to be reviewed including a reassessment of water delivery losses and environmental water take.

## <u>Local Government NSW Forum – NSW Water Directorate – 16 July 2020</u>

## **Opening Address; Linda Scott, NSW LG President**

- Welcome highlighting the extreme weather conditions with droughts, bushfires and floods that we have experienced in 2019/20 leading to the need to examine water use for all LG areas in NSW and come up with a coordinated approach to water use management and supply.
- LGNSW advocating for:
  - Comprehensive water supply strategy
  - Fast tracking of water supply infrastructure
  - Review of water sharing plans
  - Funding of drought coordinators
  - o Collaborative approach from the ground up for water supply management

## **Speakers**

## 1) Minister Melinda Pavey; Minister for Water and Housing, NSW State Parliament

- Thanks for the opportunity to address this forum and pleased to see attendance from majority of LGAs across NSW and welcomes the collaborative approach between State & LG.
- La Nina conditions at the moment but still like to see greater falls in our catchments and 'we are not out of strife yet'
- Millions committed to securing water supply in the central west for emergency situations and making our communities resilient the greatest priority. As with many others, the feasibility study for the Mole River Dam is being completed as part of this investment.
- SA are strongly objecting to the policies being implemented and ex Senator McLaughlin organised rally only recently objecting to the NSW dam infrastructure development.
- "We want our productive sector to be productive. I want to wear Australian cotton, eat Australian rice and drink Australian wine and for that we need extra capacity". For those who are objecting she reminds them that the dam infrastructure we currently have in place, kept rivers flowing, kept fish alive and kept towns with water – dams are critical. Equally, their building process enables a huge economic stimulus, providing local jobs and economic development.
- The greatest financial commitment goes towards those LGs who don't have the financial capacity to do themselves.
- She would like to propose to all LGs the idea that we are in a new normal. She questions whether we should have watering permitted during 10am and 4pm and suggests that we are at a point now where these restrictions should be permanently across the board for NSW. She would like us to collaboratively coordinate joint rules and regulations, using the past to model the future and develop and more holistic approach to water management. We have better information systems with new radar technology and imagery and we need to utilise this.
- The management of the Murray Darling Basin is always contentious. The embargo placed on flood plain harvesting in 2020 really worked which is why we now have water in the

Menindee Lakes. NSW gave 1000gl to SA but now it is NSW's turn for water and she wants 'Team NSW' to work together and manage our precious water resource. It doesn't have to be one or the other; it just has to be better managed.

- There are some excellent water technological developments at the moment. Example, large scale atmospheric water generators are coming out of Israel and she met with the Israeli Chamber of Commerce recently to investigate these further. Newcastle University making great inroads here as well.
- There is great opportunity in recycled water. We shouldn't be flushing clean water and new
  tree plantation for housing developments need to be grown with recycled water. Israel
  recycles all agricultural water. NSW will address infrastructure needs for this in the future
  and projects that meet these initiatives with a wide scale community benefit and support will
  be prioritized.
- The 'State Water Strategy' is currently being developed. Councils are a part of the process and need to collaborate with State government for this policy formulation. This is due at the end of 2020.

## 2) Brendan Guiney; CEO, NSW Water Directorate

- The Water Directorate manages water services with a strong focus on water reclamation.
- They are an independent source of water advice for LG NSW.

## 3) Jim Bentley; CEO-Water, DPIE

- The DPIE want much better development in recycled water.
- The leakage issue is extensive with huge extremes in leakage rates, i.e. 120l/person -340lt/person. We need better investment in leakage to get figures below 10%. We need to be able to respond to crisis situations and have a robust capacity to adapt to a breakdown in water services.
- We need to pool our resources with the likes of the work done by James McTavish, the Cross Border Commissioner and officer for Regional Water Supply. We need knowledge, capacity and capability. The DPIE is working with the government to develop the 'State Water Strategy' for Water management.
- DPIE plan to return people to their customers and be on the ground. They want customers
  to retain their infrastructure and foster team work between Councils and DPIE. DPIE won't
  mandate but will rather encourage Councils in their operations.

## 4) Professor Stuart Khan; Professor of Civil and Environment, University of NSW

- As a member of the WHO Water Quality and Advisory, there are many opportunities for better water supply management.
- There is an overwhelming priority to build dam storages to manage supply and security.
- Pipeline development is huge because it reduces transmission loses and seepage.
- Storm water harvesting takes water from urban areas and puts it back into the urban water supply for treatment. Orange Council doing this particularly well.
- Additional opportunities in ground water resources which can be used as a temporary supply to relieve the pressure on rain water supplies. Perth currently uses ground water to supplement their drinking water supply which they offset with their grey water.
- Desalination plants with the ability to be turned on when needed are a huge asset. There are mobile desal plants as well that can be used for regional communities.
- But the future is in opportunities for water recycling for sustainable water management.
   Sewerage plant water is a huge opportunity for watering sports facilities and mining operations so that these operations take the pressure off the potable water supply. SE Qld runs a very effective purified recycled water system in conjunction with Lake Wivenhoe.

The State government is strongly encouraging investment in this area for future water usage.

## Closing Address; Linda Scott, President LG NSW

The State Water Conference is the 6-8 October, 2020 and encourages all to attend.
There is a promotional code for all people attending this forum to register for the
conference –VOF20 which you will be prompted to put in on the last page of
registration.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

Nil

### 5 DESTINATION REPORTS

#### 5.1 REFLECTION GARDEN

File Number: S21.8.31 / 20/30366

Author: Paul Henry, General Manager

#### **SUMMARY:**

The Support Group for the Reflection Garden have provided final design details for the garden. Approval to proceed is sought.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

A matter for the Committee.

## **COMMENTARY:**

Ms Leanne Stokan, on behalf of the Reflection Garden Support Group, has submitted details of the final design for the garden. Council's approval is sought for the garden to be installed.

Details are:

## 1. Design

A 'general design' was previously submitted to Council. The Committee has confirmed that this design is still the favoured design.

The main features are granite rocks (2) for the 'walls', a concrete pathway in an 'infinity like' design, native ornamental grasses at the base of the 'walls' and sandstone block seating (4). Refer to Appendix 1.

## 2. Plaques

A number of plaques are proposed for installation on the two (2) 'walls' of the garden. They are

- An explanatory plaque (refer Appendix 2)
- Memorial plaques examples of positive messaging (refer Appendix 3).

The number of plaques would be determined once the walls are installed, in order that the walls are not overwhelmed by 'messaging'.

#### 3. Garden

The use of native ornamental grass gardens has been chosen to minimise maintenance. The Inverell Lions Club will install the gardens and have agreed to contribute to the cost of the plants.

#### 4. Location

The preferred location of the garden is adjacent to the Rivers Street pathway. The exact location would need to be chosen by Council in order to avoid impacts on Council services (refer Appendix 4).

The Committee is requested to determine if the project is to proceed.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT:**

Nil

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

Nil

## **CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS COMMENT:**

Nil

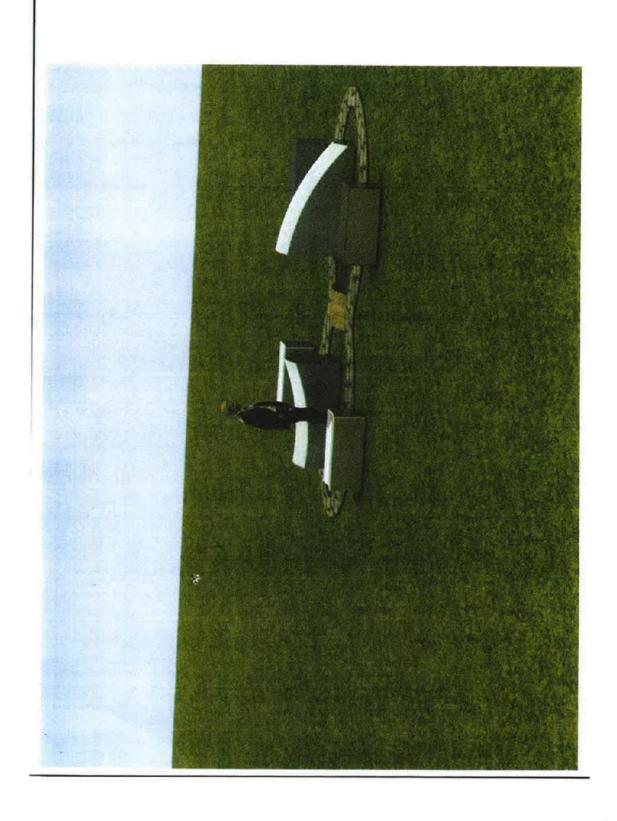
## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Nil

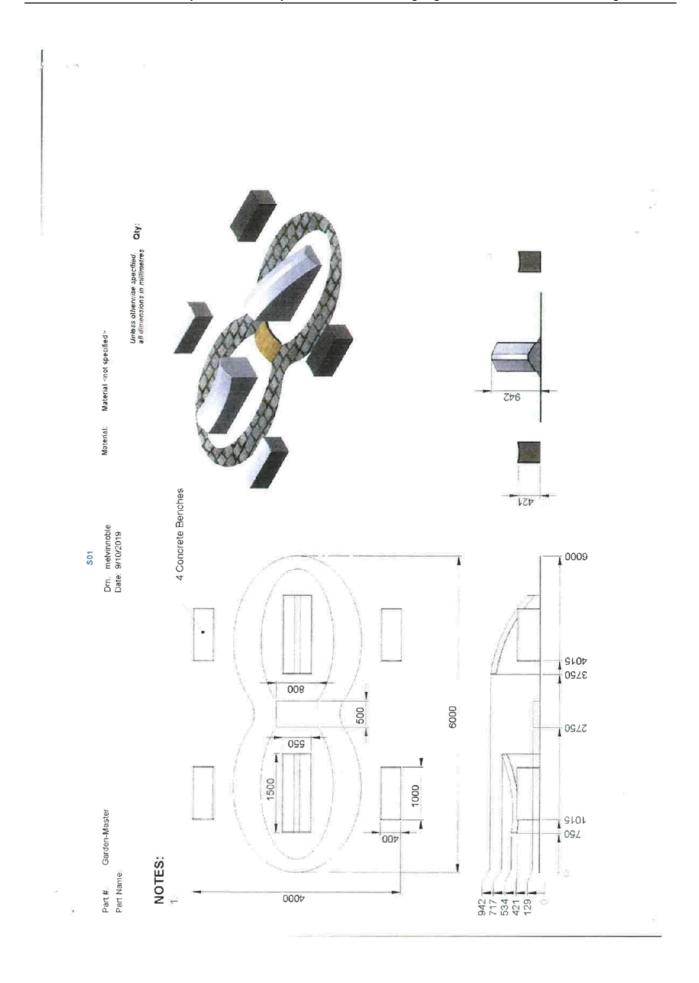
## **ATTACHMENTS:**

- **Reflection Garden Design Concept**
- Reflection Garden Large Plaque Design Detail Reflection Garden Small Plaque Design Detail 2.
- 3.
- Reflection Garden Victoria Park Site Map 4.

Item 5.1 Page 20



Item 5.1 - Attachment 1 Page 21



Item 5.1 - Attachment 1 Page 22

## Design Detail

35359-01 Inverell SC Baby Memorial Signs Revision 1

THIS SPECIAL GARDEN is in
memory of our precious babies whose
lives were taken too soon.

Though their time with us was so short, their memories live on in our hearts forever.

This garden is a place to remember, share, celebrate, embrace, grieve, and heal.

Gain strength and comfort from the spirit
of our precious ones:
miscarriage, stillbirth, neonatal death,
illness or accident.

AND SPECIAL LOVE to families whose cots remain empty, and whose babies are still only a dream,

yet to be created. This garden is also for you.

Danthonia Designs | 4188 Gwydir Highway | Elsmore NSW 2360 | Ph:1800 552 700 | Fax:1800 448 700 | Quote: Q-37562-1 ABN 93 086 857 310 | Church Communities Australia

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# Design Detail

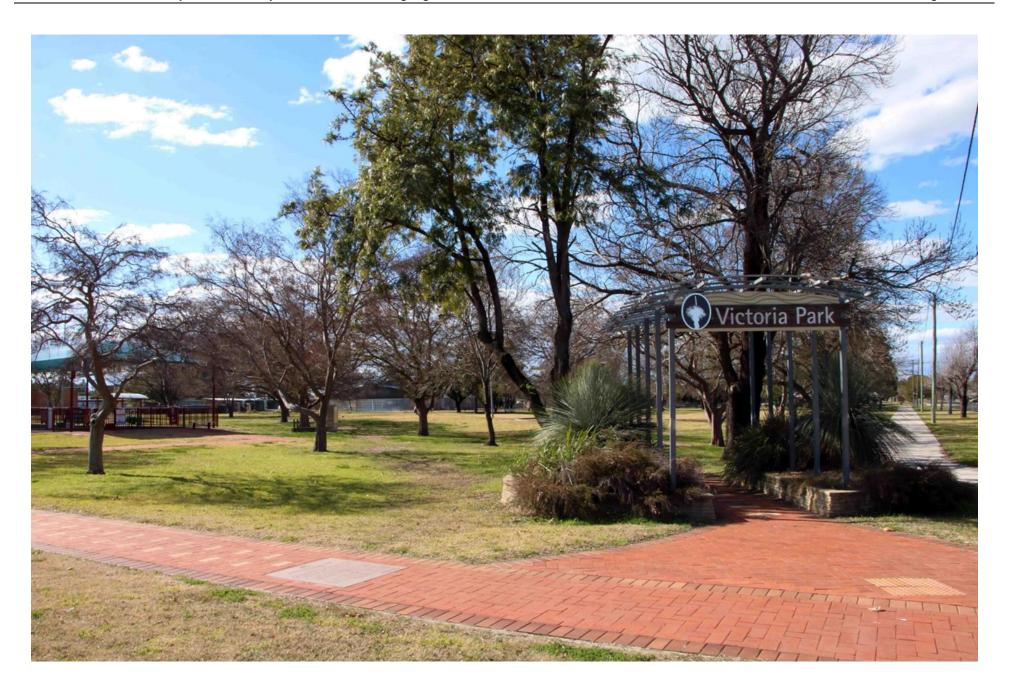
## 35359-03 Inverell SC Baby Memorial Signs Revision 1



Aboriginal text/artwork for placement only

Danthonia Designs | 4188 Gwydir Highway | Elsmore NSW 2360 | Ph:1800 552 700 | Fax:1800 448 700 | Quote: Q-37562-1 ABN 93 086 857 310 | Church Communities Australia

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#### 5.2 COPETON NORTHERN FORESHORES COMMUNAL HALL TENDER

File Number: \$4.19.20 / 20/30641

Author: Emily McCausland, Corporate Support Administration Officer

#### **SUMMARY:**

Tenders have been received for the construction of a Communal Hall at Copeton Northern Foreshores. A report has been prepared on this matter.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the matter be referred to Closed Council for consideration as the matters and information are:

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

On balance the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of the information outweighs the public interest in openness and transparency in Council decision-making by discussing the matter in open meeting; and all reports and correspondence relevant to the subject business be withheld from access to the media and public as required by section 11(2) of the *Local Government Act*, 1993.

#### **COMMENTARY:**

The Local Government Act 1993 (the Act), and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 makes provision for the closure of meetings to the public and media in specified circumstances. In particular s.10A of the Act provides that Council may close to the public and media so much of a meeting as relates to the discussion and consideration of information identified in s.10A(2). The matters which may be closed to the public and media, as stated in the Act, must involve:

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

In considering whether to close a part of a meeting to the public and media, Councillors are also reminded of further provisions of s.10D of the Act which states:

## Grounds for closing part of meeting to be specified

- (1) The grounds on which part of a meeting is closed must be stated in the decision to close that part of the meeting and must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- (2) The grounds must specify the following:
  - (a) the relevant provision of section 10A (2),
  - (b) the matter that is to be discussed during the closed part of the meeting,

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(c) the reasons why the part of the meeting is being closed, including (if the matter concerned is a matter other than a personnel matter concerning particular individuals, the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer or a trade secret) an explanation of the way in which discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest.

It is recommended that, pursuant to Section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993* the matter be referred to Closed Committee for consideration as the matters and information are:

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

On balance the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of the information outweighs the public interest in openness and transparency in Council decision-making by discussing the matter in open meeting; and all reports and correspondence relevant to the subject business be withheld from access to the media and public as required by section 11(2) of the *Local Government Act*, 1993.

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### 6 INFORMATION REPORTS

## 6.1 UPDATE OF PROJECTS IN PROGRESS - AUGUST 2020

File Number: \$15.8.99 / 20/27162

Author: Fiona Adams, Manager Integrated Planning and Reporting

#### SUMMARY:

This report is a summary of works undertaken by Council as part of government grant programs for bushfire and drought recovery. To date, these projects have engaged more than 60 businesses based in the Inverell LGA.

#### **COMMENTARY:**

Council continues to deliver a number of projects across the shire, thanks to funding from both State and Federal grants programs. The projects provide vital infrastructure upgrades and assist many of the shire's smaller communities in drought and bushfire recovery. Importantly, these projects also engage local contractors, suppliers and businesses. A summary of project progress during the period 1 July – 31 July 2020 is provided below.

## 1. Tingha Cricket Ground and practice nets

In partnership with the Tingha Recreation Reserve Land Managers, Council has upgraded the cricket pitch and two (2) practice nets at the Recreation Reserve. Funding for this project was provided through the Australian Government's Drought Communities Programme.



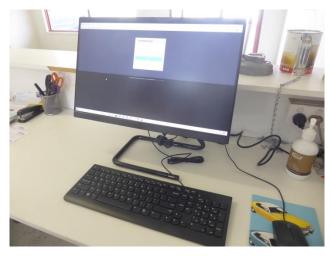
Synthetic grass pitch at Frank Leitinger Oval.



The cricket practice nets adjoin Tingha Public School.

## 2. Small Business Enhancement Program

The small business enhancement program awarded grants to businesses located throughout the shire, including Inverell, Delungra, Mount Russell and Ashford. The program is funded by the Australian Government's Drought Communities Programme. Applications were funded for a total of \$184K. Recipients have until the end of October 2020 to complete their projects. Those who have completed their projects are shown below:



# Shorty's Auto Centre, Sweaney Street, Inverell

New window and reception signage, interior modifications to enhance safety of the workshop and installation of booking software.

Street view before:



Street view after installation of window signage:









# Inverell Mobility Supplies, Vivian Street, Inverell

Vehicle advertising / vinyl wrap of the business's transit van, which is used for deliveries across the region.



# Imperial Hotel, cnr Byron and Otho Street Street, Inverell

Construction of new website to showcase entertainment, meals and accommodation at the hotel, which was established in 1889. The project also involved a professional photographer based in Inverell Shire and an Inverell based web-designer.

3. Installation of Grandstand Seating at Tingha Recreation Reserve

This project has been funded by the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund. Two covered, five-tier steel grandstands have been installed at the rugby league ground. Works have been undertaken by a Tingha based contractor.





## 4. Grahame Park, Tingha

Funding from the NSW Government's Bushfire Community Resilience and Economic Recovery Fund has enabled installation of an electric barbecue and additional covered seating. A new community noticeboard has also been installed near the Post Office.



## **ATTACHMENTS:**

Nil

#### 6.2 TIMING OF 2020 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

File Number: \$12.11.2 / 20/30417

Author: Scott Norman, Director Corporate and Economic Services

#### **SUMMARY:**

The time table for the 2020 External Audit has been pushed back one month, which means the Annual Financial Statements will be presented to the November Council Meeting.

#### **COMMENTARY:**

The External Auditors have requested to move the dates in the Audit Engagement Plan (AEP) back approximately a month. Due to COVID-19, all NSW councils have been given a one-month extension for the preparation of the Financial Statements, with the deadline for the adoption by the elected Council now being 30 November, 2020. Council is willing to accommodate the request and the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee has been asked to reschedule their final 2020 meeting to allow for the Committee to review the Draft Statements.

The proposed revised Audit Plan is below.

7 September 2020 12 October 2020	Draft Annual Financial Statements to External Auditors. Circulated to ARIC members at the same time		
12 September 2020	Local Government Elections - Postponed		
4 September 2021			
14 – 16 September 2020	Proposed final on-site visit External Auditors (Interim audit on-site visit was changed to working remotely)		
19 – 23 October 2020			
23 September 2020	Council Meeting – Council asked to refer Draft Statements to Audit.		
28 October 2020			
20 October 2020	Suggested ARIC Meeting Date - External Auditors to present a conduct		
11 – 13 November 2020	of the Audit of the Financial Statements. ARIC requested to consider recommending the Council adopt the Statements. Statements and Auditor's Closing Reports will be made available to ARIC Members as soon as they are to hand.		
28 October 2020	Council Meeting - Council asked to approve the lodgement of the		
25 November 2020	Financial Statements to OLG (Possible date for ARIC Chair to report to Council.)		
25 November 2020	External Auditor to present his report to Council on the conduct of the		
December 2020 Council meeting	2019-20 Audit.		

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Nil

#### 6.3 COMMBIZ LOCAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: \$8.3.1/13 / 20/30501

Author: Scott Norman, Director Corporate and Economic Services

#### **SUMMARY:**

This report updates previous information on local economic activity, as measured through Commonwealth Bank EFTPOS machines.

#### **COMMENTARY:**

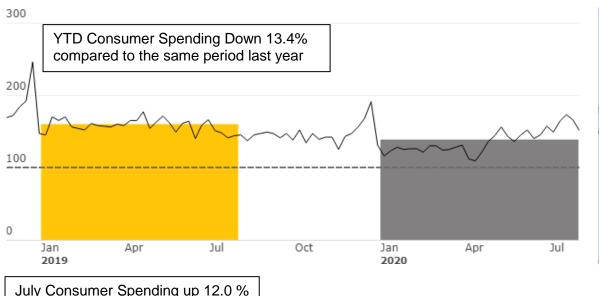
Council has been utilising the CommBiz website which offers a reporting tool to analyse local consumer spending. The analysis is based on all credit and debit card transactions (including EFTPOS) of \$5,000 or less on CommBank merchant terminals. Cash and online sales are not included. The geographic sample can be limited to Inverell Shire and the available data commences from 1 January, 2016. Based on this source data it would seem reasonable to consider the analysis as indicative of the general economic climate however each business's experience will of course be different, particularly as the impacts of COVID are particular to each business sector. It also has to be remembered that the data is limited to those businesses using CommBank merchant terminals, however the sample size is significant and the analysis more substantively based and up to date than other information currently available to Council.

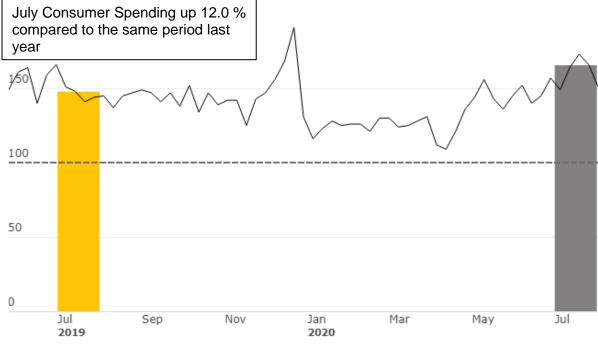
The reporting produces a percentage change in consumer spending when comparing a nominated period to another nominated period. In broad terms, it shows consumer spending rose year on year from 2016 until midway through 2019 when the trend reversed. In an interesting turn of events last month, July was the first time since mid 2019 where the total spend was higher than the same period last year. This is possibly at least partly due to the various COVID 19 stimulus packages being passed through the economy.

Average Daily Sales		
2019	Compared to same month 2018	
Apr	+16.6%	
May	+14.0%	
June	+10.6%	
Jul	+7.5%	
Aug	-7.3%	
Sep	-15.7%	
Oct	-16.0%	
Nov	-18.7%	
Dec	-15.0%	
Jan 20 to Jan 19	-23.8%	
Feb 20 to Feb 19	-19.2%	
Mar 20 to Mar 19	-20.3%	
Apr 20 to Apr 19	-24.9%	
May 20 to May 19	-11.7%	
Jun 20 to Jun 19	-3.5%	

	Jul 20 to Jul 19	+12.0%
Average	e Daily Sales Calender	Years Compared
2020 to 20	119 Jan 1 to 31 July	-13.4%
2019 co	ompared to 2018	-0.2%
2018 compared to 2017		+8.8%
2017 compared to 2016		+10.5%

Year to date to June 2020 was -17.4%, notably the number of transactions were down, but average transaction value was up.





Percentage change in consumer spending - Period B versus Period A Select a metric to view further detail.

Average daily sales ●

Average daily transaction volume ●

Average transaction size ●

4.04%

Average transaction size ●

Period A: \$59.60
Period B: \$69.59

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

## Nil

#### 6.4 BUY FROM THE BUSH AND FACEBOOK AUSTRALIA PARTNERSHIP

File Number: \$8.3.1/13 / 20/30633

Author: Fiona Adams, Manager Integrated Planning and Reporting

#### SUMMARY:

Ms Grace Brennan, founder of Buy From the Bush has approached Council to partner in a small business training opportunity with Facebook Australia. This report, which outlines the program, is provided for the information of Council.

#### **COMMENTARY:**

In early 2020, Buy From the Bush teamed up with Facebook Australia to deliver training for rural businesses in Instagram and Facebook.

As COVID-19 has impacted the ability to deliver face to face training, the campaign has now been transformed to an online platform. These are 'community led' Q&A sessions, which are delivered via Facebook. Viewers may choose to watch the session live, or can watch a recording of the program at their preferred time. The session will be delivered live via Council's Facebook page in a lunchtime session, on Tuesday, 25 August, 2020.

The training session will be facilitated by Ms Brennan and the trainer will be a Facebook Australia small business trainer. The program was recently delivered for Barcaldine Regional Council in Queensland and this is the first time it will be delivered in New South Wales.

Leading up to the event, businesses will be invited to post questions on the use of Instagram and Facebook, which can be lodged through the Council Facebook page or via email.

The Buy From the Bush campaign, first launched to support business in drought-stricken regional Australia, has delivered \$5 million in revenues to small and medium sized enterprises. Their Facebook and Instagram campaigns, first launched by Grace Brennan in October last year, encourage people in metropolitan areas to support, and purchase from, rural and regional businesses.

The Buy From the Bush Instagram account gained more than 50,000 followers in its first nine days. Several Inverell business were showcased by Ms Brennan since October 2019, prompting her to target Inverell for the first online training session for New South Wales.

In June 2020, a report commissioned by Buy From the Bush and Facebook quantified the effect the campaign had on the 275 regional businesses featured in the first four months. The report found one-in-five featured businesses were able to hire new employees, and 38% started shipping interstate for the first time. Also, 19% started shipping internationally.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Nil

## 7 GOVERNANCE REPORTS

## 7.1 GOVERNANCE - MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT

File Number: \$4.11.17/12 / 20/30518

Author: Paul Pay, Manager Financial Services

#### **SUMMARY:**

To report the balance of investments held as at 31 July, 2020.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Committee recommends to Council that:

- i) the report indicating Council's Fund Management position be received and noted; and
- ii) the Certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted.

#### **COMMENTARY:**

Contained within this report are the following items that highlight Council's Investment Portfolio performance for the month to 31 July, 2020 and an update of the investment environment:

- (a) Council's investments as at 31 July, 2020;
- (b) Council Investments by Fund as at 31 July, 2020;
- (c) Interest Budgeted vs Actual;
- (d) Investment Portfolio Performance;
- (e) Investment Commentary; and
- (f) Certification Responsible Accounting Officer.

## A) Council Investments as at 31 July, 2020

nvestment				Purchase	Maturity				Ten
No.	Borrower 🔻	FUND 🔻	Rating 🔻	Date 🔻	Date ▼	Current Yi∈ ▼	Principal Valu	Current valu∈ ▼	(day
20/29	National Australia Bank	Sewer	AA-	20-Feb-20	20-Aug-20	1.54%	2,000,000	2,000,000	
20/14	Bank of Sydney	General	NR	27-Nov-19	27-Aug-20	1.99%	1,000,000	1,000,000	
20/22	BNK Bank	Water	NR	17-Dec-19	17-Sep-20	1.85%	1,000,000	1,000,000	
20/09	St George Bank	General	AA-	03-Oct-19	06-Oct-20	1.70%	1,000,000	1,000,000	
20/23	St George Bank	Water	AA-	17-Dec-19	16-Oct-20	1.70%	1,000,000	1,000,000	
19/09	ING BANK	General	Α	25-Oct-18	26-Oct-20	2.90%	2,000,000	2,000,000	
20/16	AMP BANK	General	A-	27-Nov-19	27-Nov-20	1.85%	2,000,000	2,000,000	
20/27	Warwick Credit Union	General	NR	20-Jan-20	20-Jan-21	1.85%	1,000,000	1,000,000	
21/01	National Australia Bank	General	AA-	20-Jul-20	20-Jan-21	0.83%	1,500,000	1,500,000	
20/42	National Australia Bank	Water	AA-	26-Jun-20	26-Mar-21	0.90%	2,000,000	2,000,000	
19/26	Police Credit Union (SA)	General	NR	28-Mar-19	29-Mar-21	2.90%	2,000,000	2,000,000	
19/30	Rural Bank	General	BBB+	17-Apr-19	19-Apr-21	2.63%	1,000,000	1,000,000	
20/34	Macquarie Bank	General	AA-	17-Apr-20	19-Apr-21	1.74%	2,000,000	2,000,000	
20/39	ING BANK	Sewer	Α	27-May-20	27-May-21	1.10%	1,000,000	1,000,000	
20/40	ING BANK	Water	Α	27-May-20	27-May-21	1.10%	1,000,000	1,000,000	
19/33	Westpac Bank	Water	AA-	27-Jun-19	27-Jun-21	2.30%	2,000,000	2,000,000	
20/43	National Australia Bank	Water	AA-	26-Jun-20	28-Jun-21	0.95%	1,000,000	1,000,000	
20/02	Bank of Queensland	General	BBB+	17-Jul-19	19-Jul-21	2.00%	1,500,000	1,500,000	
21/02	Bank of Sydney	General	NR	31-Jul-20	30-Jul-21	0.95%	1,000,000	1,000,000	
20/03	Bank of Queensland	General	BBB+	27-Aug-19	27-Aug-21	1.75%	2,000,000	2,000,000	
20/33	AMP Bank	General	BBB+	24-Mar-20	24-Sep-21	1.80%	1,000,000	1,000,000	
20/08	AMB - Australian Military Bank	Sewer	BBB+	30-Sep-19	30-Sep-21	1.77%	1,500,000	1,500,000	
19/10	Westpac Bank	General	AA-	25-Oct-18	25-Oct-21	2.97%	2,000,000	2,000,000	
20/35	AMP BANK	General	A-	25-May-20	25-Nov-21	1.65%	1,000,000	1,000,000	
20/36	AMP BANK	Water	A-	25-May-20	25-Nov-21	1.65%	1,000,000	1,000,000	
20/37	AMP BANK	General	A-	25-May-20	25-Nov-21	1.65%	1,000,000	1,000,000	
20/41	AMP BANK	General	A-	10-Jun-20	10-Dec-21	1.60%	2,000,000	2,000,000	
20/30	Auswide Bank	General	BBB	02-Mar-20	02-Mar-22	1.75%	2,000,000	2,000,000	
20/31	Warwick Credit Union	General	NR	02-Mar-20	02-Mar-22	1.90%	1,000,000	1,000,000	
19/29	Newcastle Permanent	General	BBB	17-Apr-19	19-Apr-22	2.70%	1,000,000	1,000,000	
20/38	Bank of Queensland	Sewer	BBB+	27-May-20	27-May-22	1.30%	2,000,000	2,000,000	
19/31	Westpac Bank	Water	AA-	25-Jun-19	25-Jun-22	2.30%	1,000,000	1,000,000	
19/34	Westpac Bank	General	AA-	25-Jun-19	25-Jun-22	2.30%	2,000,000	2,000,000	
19/32	Westpac Bank	General	AA-	27-Jun-19	27-Jun-22	2.30%	2,000,000	2,000,000	
20/05	Bank of Queensland	General	BBB+	03-Sep-19	05-Sep-22	1.80%	1,000,000	1,000,000	
20/06	Bank of Queensland	General	BBB+	13-Sep-19	13-Sep-22	1.80%	1,000,000	1,000,000	
20/32	Auswide Bank	General	BBB	24-Mar-20	24-Mar-23	1.88%	1,000,000	1,000,000	
Total - Te	rm Deposit Investment Group					TOTALS	52,500,000	52,500,000	

Floating Rate Notes Investment Group										
				Purchase	Maturity	Current				
As at Date	Borrower	FUND	Rating	Date	Date	Yield*	Principal Value	Current value		
31/7/20	Commonw ealth Bank	General	A1+	11/1/2019	11/1/2024	1.23%	2,000,000.00	2,039,992.00		
31/7/20	ANZ Bank	General	A1+	08/2/2019	08/2/2024	1.19%	2,000,000.00	2,037,972.00		
31/7/20	ANZ Bank	Water	A1+	08/2/2019	08/2/2024	1.19%	1,000,000.00	1,018,986.00		
Sub Total - Floating Rate Notes Investment Group 5,000,000.00 5,006,950.0							5,096,950.00			
	_									

Cash Deposits Accounts Investment Group										
				Purchase	Maturity					
As at Date	Borrower	FUND	Rating	Date	Date	Current Yield	Principal Value	Current value		
31/7/2020	Commonwealth Bank	General	A1+			0.03%	1,258	1,258		
	Sub Total - Cash Deposits Accounts Investment Group 1.258 1.							1,258		
Sub Total - Ca	Sub Total - Cash Deposits Accounts Investment Group									

## B) Council Investments by Fund 31 July, 2020

Portfolio by Fund	31/07/2020			30/06/2020		
General Fund	\$	40,079,222	\$	41,079,192		
Water Fund	\$	11,018,986	69	11,018,986		
Sewer Fund	\$	6,500,000	69	6,500,000		
TOTAL	\$	57,598,208	\$	58,598,178		

Council's investment portfolio has increased by \$1,008,970 throughout July 2020. This was in respect of normal cash flow movements for receipts collected and payments made during July 2020.

		2020/2021	Actuals	Accrued	TOTAL
	Ledger	Budget	to Date	Interest to Date	
		\$	\$	\$	\$
General Fund	128820	655,405.00	41,152.54	31,187.15	72,339.69
Water Fund	812350	125,000.00		7,897.65	7,897.65
Sewer Fund	906320	58,750.00		4,140.41	4,140.41
TOTAL		839,155.00	41,152.54	43,225.21	84,377.75

Term deposit interest rates have moved to historic lows of approximately 0.7% for a 12 month term deposit. Given our strong investment balances, Council is expected to meet interest revenue targets in 2020/2021. Any additional interest received during 2020/2021 will be allocated to Council's Investment Equalisation Reserves to help fund future budget reductions in interest revenue.

## C) Investment Portfolio Performance

Investment Portfolio Re	turn	Benchmarks				
			Aus Bond	11am Cash		
	% pa	RBA Cash Rate	Bank Bill	Rate		
Benchmark as at 31-7-2020		0.25%	0.83%	0.25%		
Term Deposits	1.83%					
Cash Deposit Accounts	0.25%					
Floating Rate Notes	1.20%					

### D) Investment Commentary

Council's investment portfolio returns exceeded the Australia Bond Bank Bill benchmark in all investment categories except for Council's cash deposit accounts. These accounts are held for liquidity purposes. Term Deposits exceeded all benchmarking indexes.

Council's investment portfolio of \$57.6M is almost entirely invested in fixed term deposits. Overall, the portfolio is highly liquid, highly rated and short-dated from a counterparty perspective.

The domestic bond market continues to suggest a 'lower-for-longer' period of domestic interest rates. Over the months, yields remained relatively flat across the curve, with 10-year government bond yields still being marked under the 0.75% level indicating the low interest rates is here to stay.

## E) Certification – Responsible Accounting Officer

I Scott Norman, hereby certify that the investments listed in this report have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005 and Council's Investment Policy.

#### **RISK ASSESSMENT:**

Nil

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

Nil

### **CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS COMMENT:**

It is noted that the volatility for current financial markets will not impact on Council's rates and charges, its ability to deliver its existing services across the funds, or its medium or long term sustainability. Council's overall Investment Portfolio remains sound.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Nil

**ATTACHMENTS:** 

Nil

## 8 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS (COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE)

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with the reasons stated in the referral reports:

## 8.1 Copeton Northern Foreshores Communal Hall Tender

The following is just about closed meeting reports.

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