



BUSINESS PAPER

**Economic and Community
Sustainability Committee Meeting
Wednesday, 10 August 2022**

INVERELL SHIRE COUNCIL**NOTICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING**

5 August, 2022

An Economic and Community Sustainability Committee Meeting will be held at the Yetman Memorial Hall, 82 – 84 Warialda Street, Yetman on Wednesday, 10 August, 2022, commencing at **2:00PM**.

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 recorded. The 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

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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 – conflicts 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 practicable 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 Forms can be downloaded at [Disclosure of pecuniary interests form](#) or [non-pecuniary interests form](#)

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 13 July, 2022, 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, 13 JULY 2022 AT 10:30AM**

PRESENT: Cr Paul King OAM (Chairperson), Cr Paul Harmon (Mayor), Cr Kate Dight, Cr Nicky Lavender and Cr Jo Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cr Stewart Berryman, Cr Di Baker, Cr Jacko Ross and Cr Wendy Wilks.
Paul Henry (General Manager), Brett McInnes (Director Civil & Environmental Services) and Paul Pay (Director Corporate and Economic Services).

1 APOLOGIES

Nil

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Nicky Lavender
Seconded: Cr Kate Dight

That the Minutes of the Economic and Community Sustainability Committee Meeting held on 8 June, 2022, 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 REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP - INVERELL'S GOT TALENT - ROTARY CLUB OF INVERELL EAST S12.22.1/15

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Paul Harmon
Seconded: Cr Kate Dight

That the Committee recommend to Council that the request for sponsorship be referred to the Sapphire City Festival Committee for their consideration and a report be presented to Council on their decision.

CARRIED

4.2 HOMES FOR THE AGED - RESEALING INTERNAL ROADS S28.7.4/15**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Nicky Lavender

Seconded: Cr Paul Harmon

That the Committee recommend to Council that:

- i. Council acknowledge there is sufficient benevolent merit for this request from the Homes for the Aged; and*
- ii. that Council donate \$11,666.67 towards the total cost of sealing the internal roads.*

CARRIED

4.3 REFERRAL OF CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS S4.11.17/14**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Kate Dight

Seconded: Cr Nicky Lavender

That the Committee refer the following matters to a Closed (Public excluded) meeting of the Committee and that the press and members of the public be asked to leave the chambers whilst the Committee considers the following items:

Item: #S28.7.4/15 – Request for Reduction in Water Usage Account

Authority: Section 10A (2)(b) The personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer. Local Government Act 1993.

Item: #S5.2.0/15 – Rifle Range Road Subdivision – Expressions to Purchase

Authority: Section 10A (2)(d)(i) “Commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it” Local Government Act 1993.

CARRIED

4.4 REQUEST FOR DONATION - DOWN-TO-EARTH INVERELL GARDEN GROUP S12.22.1/15**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Paul Harmon

Seconded: Cr Kate Dight

That the Committee recommend to Council that:

- i. Council provide a donation to Down-To-Earth Inverell Garden Group of \$405 for the hire of portable toilets; and*
- ii. the request for advertising sponsorship be referred to the Sapphire City Festival Committee for their consideration and a report be presented to Council on their decision.*

CARRIED

5 INFORMATION REPORTS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Paul Harmon

Seconded: Cr Jo Williams

- i. That the following information report be received and noted; and*
- ii. That Council write to the Pioneer Village Committee and thank them for their continued work and dedication shown in maintaining and improving one of Inverell's Tourism attractions.*

CARRIED

5.1 PIONEER VILLAGE UPDATE S26.4.20

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kate Dight

Seconded: Cr Jo Williams

That the following information report be received and noted.

CARRIED

5.2 POLITICAL PARTICIPANTS DISCLOSURE FACT SHEETS S4.11.17/14

6 GOVERNANCE REPORTS

6.1 GOVERNANCE - MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT S12.12.2

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kate Dight

Seconded: Cr Nicky Lavender

That the Committee recommend 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 11.43am, 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 Jo Williams
Seconded: Cr Paul Harmon

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 Kate Dight
Seconded: Cr Jo Williams

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

CARRIED

Upon resuming Open Committee at 12.00pm, 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 A REDUCTION IN A WATER USAGE ACCOUNT S32.10.1**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

- i. That the report be received; and*
- ii. Council issue an amended account for the property known as 77 Darbys Road, Tingha for \$28.08, which is based on the average consumption prior to the leak and write off \$1,793.39.*

CARRIED**7.2 RIFLE RANGE ROAD SUBDIVISION - EXPRESSIONS TO PURCHASE S5.2.0/15****RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Committee recommend to Council that:

- i. Council advise Inverell Fabrication that Council is prepared to negotiate a purchase price for the required land;*
- ii. That Inverell Fabrication be requested to ascertain from Essential Energy the cost of upgrading the electricity supply to the proposed building, and provide this cost to Council;*
- iii. That a further report be prepared for Council on these issues when the required information has been received; and*
- iv. That ATJ's Bobcat n Tipper be offered lot 10 for purchase subject to an incentivised purchase price negotiated by the General Manager, within the parameters agreed by the Committee with a further report to be presented on this matter for confirmation.*

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kate Dight

Seconded: Cr Jo Williams

That the recommendations of Closed Committee be adopted.

CARRIED

The Meeting closed at 12.02pm.

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

4 DESTINATION REPORTS

4.1 REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP - INVERELL DARTS ASSOCIATION - DART COMPETITION - 15-16 OCTOBER, 2022

File Number: S12.22.1/15 / 22/25811

Author: Kristy Paton, Corporate Support Officer - Publishing

SUMMARY:

Council has received a request for sponsorship for a Dart Competition being held by the Inverell Darts Association.

The Committee is requested to consider the request.

RECOMMENDATION:

A matter for the Committee.

COMMENTARY:

Shirley Gleeson, the Secretary of the Inverell Darts Association, has written to Council with a request for sponsorship of a major Darts Competition being held at the Inverell Sporties on the 15th and 16th of October, 2022. The competition is held annually, however due to Covid-19 it has not been held since 2019.

The event attracts people from all around the region and at the time of writing this report, 200 people have registered for the competition, with a nomination fee payable of \$10. Prize money will be awarded to the winners, runners up and best and fairest. Prize money will be dependent on the sponsorship received but it is hoped the prize money will be \$4,500.00 in total. The running costs of the event are estimated to be \$5,767.60 and the breakdown is as follows:

Prize money	\$4,500.00
Dart boards x 12	\$964.80
White boards	\$48.00
Trophies	\$204.80
Flyers and postage	\$50.00
Total	\$5,767.60

Inverell Darts Association have been established for 35 years (approx.) and are run by a small committee. It should be noted this is the first time this organisation has requested any financial support from Council. A copy of the correspondence received from Ms Gleeson is attached. The Committee is asked to determine if it wishes to provide a contribution to Inverell Darts Association, and if so, in what capacity.

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS COMMENT:

The amount of any donation that Council may grant would be funded from the donations vote. The donation vote has available funding of \$22,900.

Management Policy: Donation Policy – ‘The purpose of providing Donations from public funds is to help promote or assist individuals or organisations for which there is a recognized public benefit. Generally the maximum donation provided will be \$200.00.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Request for Sponsorship - Shirley Gleeson - Inverell Darts Association [↓](#)

Inverell Darts Association

11 Inverell
gilgai, 2360. 25/07/2022
Phone. [REDACTED]

Dear Paul Henry/Whom it may concern,

Inverell Darts Association will be holding a Major Dart Competition in October (15th and 16th). The competition will be held at the Inverell Sporties Venue with up to 200 players registering for the event. The event will include major prizes for winner, runners up and best and fairest.

We formally ask Inverell Shire Council to consider this event as a community event and we therefore ask if there is any funding that can be provided by Inverell Shire Council or other parties that can help contribute to the cost of running this event.

Our estimated budget to hold this event is upward of \$10,000.00, with prizes on offer being limited by our available funds.

Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Yours Truly,

Shirley Gleeson – Secretary Inverell Darts Association

Shirley Gleeson

INVERELL SHIRE COUNCIL	
27 JUL 2022	

4.2 REFERRAL OF CONFIDENTIAL REPORT**File Number:** S4.11.17/14 / 22/26729**Author:** Kristy Paton, Corporate Support Officer - Publishing**SUMMARY:**

Referral of Confidential Report

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee move into Closed (Public excluded) meeting of the Committee and that the press and members of the public be asked to leave the chambers whilst the Committee considers the following items:

Item: #7.1 – S32.10.1 – Request for Reduction in Water Usage Account

Authority: Section 10A (2)(b) “The personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer” Local Government Act 1993.

COMMENTARY:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 9 (2A) *Local Government Act 1993*, the General Manager is of the opinion that consideration of the following item(s) is likely to take place when the meeting is closed to the public.

Item: S32.10. – Request for Reduction in Water Usage Account.

Description: Council has received a request for a reduction in a water account under the Council Water Usage Charges - Undetected Leaks Policy.

Reason: Section 10A (2)(b) “The personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer” *Local Government Act 1993*.

5 INFORMATION REPORTS

5.1 LIBRARY STATISTICAL OVERVIEW 2021/22

File Number: S0.0.0 / 22/25774

Author: Sonya Lange, Manager Library Services

SUMMARY:

The following report summarises key statistics for the library in 2021/22, and considers the implications arising from identified trends.

COMMENTARY:

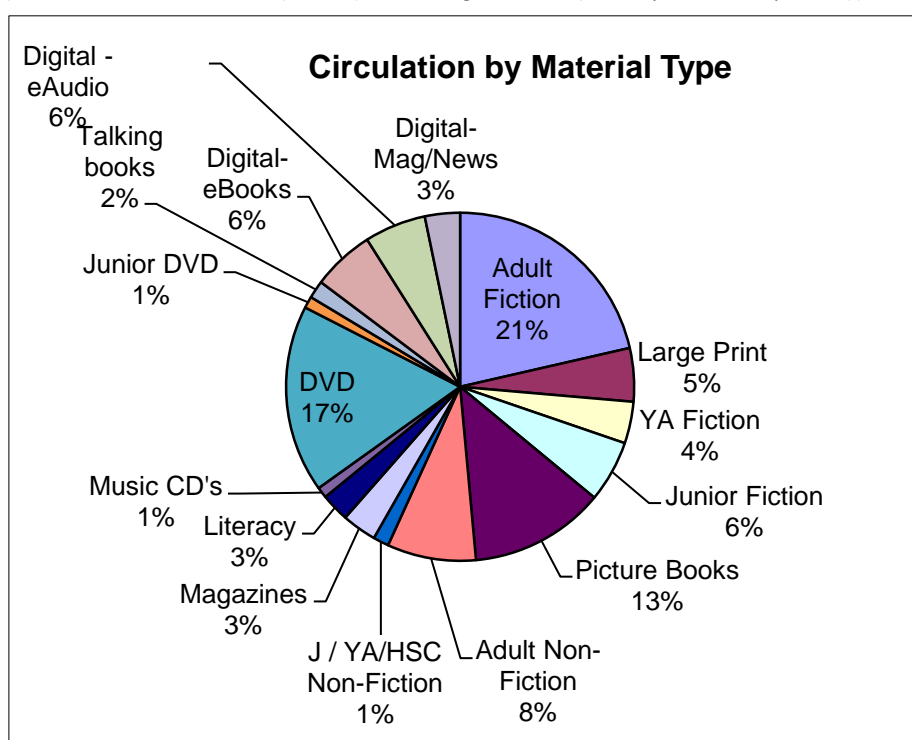
Key measures for library performance are visitor numbers, circulation, program attendance, and collection size. The operations of the library have been heavily impacted by a range of restrictions arising from Covid-19 related Public Health Orders.

Visitors (Door Count): 29,997

Library visitor numbers continue to be heavily impacted by a range of factors arising from Covid-19, including lockdowns, entry restrictions on unvaccinated community members, restricted community activity, and a reduced number of programs offered. An overall reduction of 21% has been recorded from the previous year's figures.

Circulation (Loans): 118,700

Despite the reduction in visitor numbers, and the varying impacts of Covid-19 Public Health Orders, loans remain strong, with only a 3% overall reduction on the previous 12 months. Adult fiction is the strongest performing area of the collection, accounting for 21% of loans, with DVD's at 17%. Strong rebound growth has been achieved in Picture Books (+30%) and Young Adult Fiction/Graphic Novels (+22%), with continuing increases in digital resources (eBook +15% and eAudio +13%). Some areas of decline can be attributed to people's changing modes of media consumption (Music CD collection (-33%), Talking Books (-28%), DVD's (-20%).



Circulation over time						%Change 1 year	%Change 5 years
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022		
Adult Fiction	28961	31282	28993	27479	25412	-8%	-12%
Large Print	4727	6282	6930	5419	5888	9%	25%
Young Adult Fiction	2616	2787	2960	3754	4596	22%	76%
Junior Fiction	5895	5880	5837	6652	6803	2%	15%
Picture Books	13974	16234	13164	11427	14902	30%	7%
Adult Non-Fiction	12782	12656	11966	10855	9795	-10%	-23%
YA Non-Fiction (HSC)	101	139	139	297	205	-31%	103%
Junior Non-Fiction	1567	1545	1651	1633	1525	-7%	-3%
Music CD's	3383	3216	1858	1785	1202	-33%	-64%
DVD's	43669	41087	31500	25840	20664	-20%	-53%
Junior DVD'S	3185	2512	1463	1224	1287	5%	-60%
Talking Books	3343	3518	3604	2698	1954	-28%	-42%
Magazines	4569	4904	4270	4060	3819	-6%	-16%
Literacy Collection	4152	3798	3687	3395	3122	-8%	-25%
Digital (All)	5530	10964	12905	16696	17491	5%	216%
Digital (by type)							
eBook	2862	4883	6006	5958	6850	15%	139%
eAudio	2283	3342	4339	6010	6773	13%	197%
eMagazines/Newspapers	385	2739	2560	4728	3868	-18%	905%

Programs

The Library offered 180 physical programs this year, with 2080 attendees (+50%). The ability to offer most programs was impacted during much of the year, and attendee numbers were often limited by social distancing guidelines. The library is now resuming many programs that have been held in abeyance, and introducing new activities, albeit with some limits in attendee numbers to reflect ongoing community health concerns.

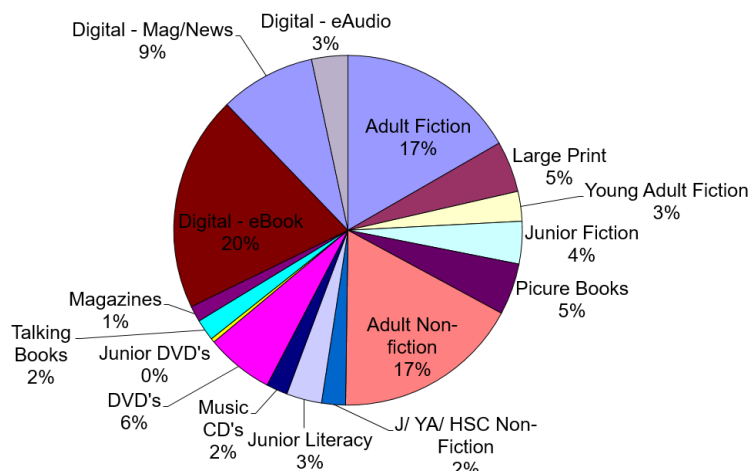
Information Requests

The library completed 6950 information requests (identifying books or information on a specific topic, author or title requests, readers advisory, local history information, and instruction on how to access online information resources) and 16,470 customer service requests (administrative matters such as membership or address updates, simple technical help such as printing or booking on to a computer, and event bookings). These requests are performed both in-house and remotely, with telephone and email enquiries common, and total figures on par with the previous year.

Collection Items: 65,000

The library has conducted a strong collection development program this year, adding over 5,250 new physical items to the collection, and a further 500 eBooks. Our consortia partners for digital collections also increased their collections, benefiting our patrons through access to a larger pool of titles. There are another 19,000 digital items through consortia partners, and 21,000 through State Library NSW. This year the library has also digitised and made available 3000 historical photographs, and is working towards making a range of local historical items available online.

Holdings by Material Type



Computer use: Bookings: 3700 Wi-Fi logins: 2600

Computer usage declined 20% throughout the year, reflecting the increasing prevalence of smart phones and tablets in the community, combined with lower visitor numbers due to the pandemic. Computer usage is now predominately those who need to access the computers occasionally, for a specific purpose – printing documents, visitors to the area, temporary disruption to home computing facilities. The requirement for border passes and vaccination certificates saw a number of people seeking computer access that would not normally need to do so. Often, as these users do not possess strong computer literacy, a high level of staff support is required.

Conclusions

Whilst the impact of Covid-19 related restrictions continued to affect library visitation, it is very pleasing that the library has maintained strong circulation and information request figures, indicating the community continues to use and value the collection and information resources. Library patrons frequently expressed their happiness at being able to access the facility during the re-opening phase in late 2021. Despite these impacts, most of the trends seen in circulation figures are in line with changing consumption of entertainment formats, and the library is adjusting purchasing patterns to reflect the changing needs of the community. The library has received positive feedback about the new online access to digitised Local History resources, and this project will continue for some time. The library continues to adapt to meet the changing needs of the community, and to overcome challenges arising from external factors, by maintaining its focus on providing equitable access to information for the whole community.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

5.2 IMPORTANT UPCOMING CHANGES TO THE AUSTRALIAN FIRE DANGER RATINGS SYSTEM

File Number: S28.9.18 / 22/26345

Author: Peter Caddey, Manager Administrative and Marketing Services

SUMMARY:

The way Fire Danger Ratings are determined and displayed across NSW is changing from 1 September, 2022. Council is asked to receive the following report for information.

COMMENTARY:

Fire danger ratings describe the potential level of danger should a bushfire start. They are important because they provide the community with information so that they can act to protect themselves and others from the potentially dangerous impacts of bushfires.

The Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) Program is redesigning the forecasting of fire danger in Australia. The AFDRS is a project of national significance being developed collaboratively by state, territory, and the Commonwealth government. It aims to improve public safety and reduce the impacts of bushfires by:

- Improving the scientific accuracy behind fire danger predictions.
- Improving the way that fire danger is communicated.
- Providing government and industry with better decision-making tools.
- Reducing the costs associated with bushfire impacts.

As part of a national project, led by the NSW RFS, the new AFDRS will be rolled out from **1 September 2022**.

There are several key changes including:

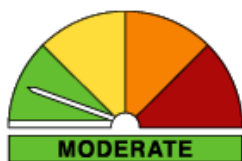
- ✓ There will be four levels of fire danger (instead of six) – Moderate, High, Extreme and Catastrophic.
- ✓ Clear action statements which are displayed to give the community advice about what to do at each level.
- ✓ A new design for roadside signs across NSW.
- ✓ Behind the scenes - the science to determine the daily fire danger rating has also changed.

The science utilised for determining existing fire danger ratings has largely remained unchanged for over fifty years. During that time, the understanding of fire and the behaviour of fire has changed.

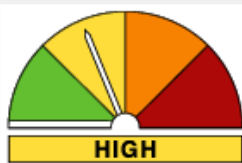
Comprehensive mapping of vegetation has been conducted across the country. The current system uses only bush and grass to determine fire risk. The new system will utilise eight different types of vegetation to make the determination of fire danger more accurate.

This will mean fire agencies such as NSW Rural Fire Service will be able to better assess current fire danger and the consequences, should a fire break out.

The new ratings system and what you need to do.

**Plan and prepare.**

- › Stay up to date and be ready to act if there is a fire.

**Be ready to act.**

- › There's a heightened risk. Be alert for fires in your area.
- › Decide what you will do if a fire starts.
- › If a fire starts, your life and property may be at risk. The safest option is to avoid bush fire risk areas.

**Take action now to protect your life and property.**

- › These are dangerous fire conditions.
- › Check your bush fire plan and ensure that your property is fire ready.
- › If a fire starts, take immediate action. If you and your property are not prepared to the highest level, go to a safer location well before the fire impacts.
- › Reconsider travel through bush fire risk areas.

**For your survival leave bush fire risk areas.**

- › These are the most dangerous conditions for a fire.
- › Your life may depend on the decisions you make, even before there is a fire.
- › Stay safe by going to a safer location early in the morning or the night before.
- › Homes cannot withstand fires in these conditions.
- › You may not be able to leave, and help may not be available.

Inverell Shire Council has been successful in obtaining funding through the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants to install three (3) electronic fire danger ratings signs within the Inverell LGA.

The three signs will be installed on the Eastern and Western entrances to Inverell on the Gwydir Highway and the Southern entrance to Inverell on Bundarra Rd.

NSW RFS will be updating the existing fire danger signage across the Shire and the state.

Daily fire danger ratings can be obtained via the NSW RFS website <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans>

Fire danger information is also available via the Fires Near Me NSW smartphone app.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

5.3 MAYORAL MINUTE - URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL

File Number: S13.1.1 / 22/27006

Author: Paul Henry, General Manager

SUMMARY:

Uralla Shire Council considered a Mayoral Minute at their July 2022 Council meeting. Details are provided for the information of Council.

COMMENTARY:

At the July Meeting of Uralla Shire Council, Cr Robert Bell, submitted a Mayoral Minute on the request from the Bundarra Resident's Association for a boundary adjustment.

The Mayoral Minute is **attached**.

In response, the Council resolved:

**12.2 MAYORAL MINUTE – USC RESPONSE TO BUNDARRA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
REQUEST FOR BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT**

MOTION Moved: Mayor/Seconded: Cr Petrov

That Council advise the President, Bundarra Residents Association that Uralla Shire Council does not support the relocation of Bundarra and surrounds to Inverell Shire Council.

For: Mayor Bell, Crs Bower, Burrows, Crouch, Doran, McMullen, O'Connor, Petrov, Toomey

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

04.07/22 CARRIED

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Uralla Shire Council Mayoral Minute [↓](#)
2. Uralla Shire Council Mayoral Minute Attachments [↓](#)

MAYORAL MINUTE

UINT/22/9603



Mayor's Recommendation:

That Council advise the President, Bundarra Residents Association that Uralla Shire Council does not support the relocation of Bundarra and surrounds to Inverell Shire Council.

Council received a letter dated 23rd June 2021 from Mr Richard Goodall, President Bundarra Residents Association, advising that they wish to initiate formal proceedings to relocate Bundarra and surrounding boundaries to Inverell Shire Council.

This is very disappointing given that Uralla Shire Council has completed an \$8 million sewerage scheme, \$4 million Emu Crossing Bridge, \$2 million sealing of Bingara Road, new playground/ sports area and worked with the Bundarra Hall Committee to upgrade the Bundarra Hall. The Barraba Road (MR132) remains at the top of our regional roads priority list for upgrading including a bridge over Bakers Creek.

The service levels in Bundarra have been maintained with a grading and town maintenance gang, a part time library, community services and the Grace Munro Centre. There is no guarantee from Inverell Shire Council that they would maintain these local services. Council has not received any formal advice from Inverell Shire Council on their resolution 05/22 made at their 23rd February, 2022 meeting.

The Hon. Adam Marshall MP has advised the Bundarra Residents Association of the following:-

- i. Happy to support the majority view of residents in Bundarra as per the process of NSW Government Policy regarding boundary adjustments
- ii. Aware Paul Henry wrote back to Richard Goodall on 30th March 2022 acknowledging request and referred to their Ordinary meeting February 2022 resolution 05/22
- iii. Tingha boundary adjustment took 4 years where both Councils had to agree to move
- iv. Bundarra is unlikely to be successful if one council is not in agreement (ie. Uralla)
- v. Bundarra residents are required to front the Boundary's Commission.

Attachments:

Letter from Richard Goodall, President Bundarra Residents Association dated 5th April, 2002

Letter from Richard Goodall, President Bundarra Residents Association dated 23rd June 2022

Letter sent from Richard Goodall to Inverell Shire Council dated 24th October, 2021

Inverell Shire Council resolution 8.1.4 made at their meeting 23rd February 2022.

BUNDARRA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

RESIDENTS STANDING TOGETHER

14 Burnett Street
Bundarra NSW 2359
21st October 2021

Mr Paul Henry
General Manager
Inverell Shire Council
PO Box 138
INVERELL NSW 2360

Dear Mr Henry

We respectfully ask that you, the Mayor Mr Paul Harmon & Councillors consider the views of Bundarra community to relocate from Uralla Shire Council to Inverell Shire Council LGA.

We understand the process involved in initiating a proposal to merge with another shire LGA as per the Local Government Act and will be consulting with all residents around Bundarra and forming a petition of signatures, we will well exceed the minimum number required.

If you could indicate your willingness to consider our proposal of Bundarra moving to Inverell LGA then we will forward all relevant documentation to you as soon as we collate it, together with an indication of the area, we anticipate it will be Bundarra village extending to shire boundaries and possibly 12km on the southern boundary Bundarra/Uralla Road.

Bundarra residents all agree that Inverell is regarded as our 'natural home town' where all our services are based including but not limited to the following:-

Health/ hospitals, doctors, dentists, physiotherapists, radiologists, ambulance, podiatrists, pharmacies

Education/ Schools, Tafe, Community college, early childhood etc

Banking/ 4 major banks, numerous ATM's

Centrelink

Food/ major supermarkets, grocers/bakers

Restaurants/ cafes/takeaway food venues

Employment opportunities

Veterinarians

Heavy Industry and after sale support for those industries

Shopping, speciality clothing, footwear,

Public Transport

Sporting Venues

Bundarra has no connection with Uralla, we have no reason to travel there, and very few of the above services are available in Uralla.

Bundarra residents have indicated significant interest in moving to Inverell Shire Council LGA where these services are all available **now** – none of these services are available to us at present in Uralla and unlikely to be available any time in the future!

We are also much closer to Inverell 48.3km where Uralla is 72.9km.

3.3 The Vardon Report (P 9) 2010

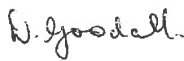
'Proposed that Bundarra together with Tinga & surrounds should be incorporated into Inverell Shire Council.'

That is our wish!

Thank you for your consideration

Regards

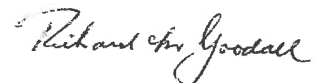
On behalf of Bundarra Residents Association



Denise Goodall



Roz Mason Gaudern



Richard Goodall

8.1.1 Election of Chairperson

In the absence of Cr Paul King, the Mayor elected to defer the Election of Chairperson to the March 2022 meeting.

8.1.2 Expiring Licence Agreements - Mr David Walker**RECOMMENDATION:**

That:

- i) Council renew the agreement with Mr David Walker for Part Council Road Reserve adjacent to Lot 2 DP 216606, Elsmore Road, Elsmore and Part Lot 7301 DP 1139606, Nash's Lane, Long Plain for a five (5) year period with the option of a further five (5) year period;*
- ii) the licence fee be \$75.00 per annum (GST Inclusive) for each site; and*
- iii) the Licence Agreements be subject to any other terms and conditions as negotiated by Council's General Manager.*

8.1.3 Inverell Women's Shed**RECOMMENDATION:**

That:

- a) Council has no suitable land available within the CBD for the erection of the Women's Shed;*
- b) the Inverell Women's Shed Committee be requested to provide information on the outcome of their meeting with the Inverell Showground Trust; and*
- c) the Inverell Women's Shed Committee be requested to provide additional information to Council on their current membership base and long-term sustainability.*

8.1.4 Approach from Bundarra Residents**RECOMMENDATION:**

That:

- a) Council does not dispute the rationale of the Bundarra Community's approach to the proposed boundary adjustment;*
- b) the Bundarra Community be requested to define in more detail the area proposed to be transferred to Inverell Shire Council upon completion of the boundary adjustment and the level of support from the residents in the proposed transfer area; and*
- c) the Bundarra Community ascertain the view of the Local Member, Mr Adam Marshall MP, and Uralla Shire Council on the proposed boundary adjustment.*

8.1.5 Entrance Signs - Ashford Local Aboriginal Land Council (ALALC)

BUNDARRA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC.

2101222

RESIDENTS STANDING TOGETHER

President-Richard Goodall

Vice-President-Roz Mason-Gaudern

Treasurer-Peter Hayman

Secretary-Denise Goodall

14 Burnett Street
Bundarra NSW 2359
5th April 2022

To the General Manager, Kate Jessep
All Councillors

This is to formally notify you that we formed the above association on 9th November 2021, *however the General Manager and those previously elected councillors are well aware of this association as we included USC in notification of our intention to relocate to Inverell LGA on 27th November 2021.*

We would like to ask that if you plan to hold meetings etc that concern residents in Bundarra then please send notifications to bundarra.residents.assn.inc@gmail.com we are as association able to notify residents as we have 248 members at present. As has happened recently with several meetings organised by councillors, lack of communication results in no one or very few residents attending. This was also the case with the letterbox drop organised by council to inform residents of the 'sewerage system event', many of our residents did not receive them.

We will publish anything that is relevant to Bundarra.

We would also like to see more honesty and transparency especially in light of the recent 'Twilight Fun Fest' where an event intended for Bundarra was granted to an entity from Inverell with no explanation on why or how this happened.

Yours Sincerely



Richard Goodall
President

BUNDARRA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC.

2101222

RESIDENTS STANDING TOGETHER

14 Burnett Street
Bundarra NSW 2359
23rd June, 2022

The General Manager & Councillors
Kate Jessep
Uralla shire Council
32 Salisbury Street
Uralla NSW 2358

Dear Ms Jessep & Councillors

On behalf of the Bundarra Residents Association Inc.

Further to our previous notifications of 27th November 2021 & 5th April 2022

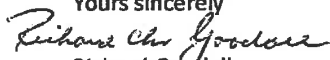
We respectfully confirm our intention to initiate formal proceedings to relocate Bundarra village and surrounding boundaries, as will be determined in future discussions, to Inverell Shire Council LGA.

We have received approval to proceed from both Inverell Shire Council and also Adam Marshall MP.

We agree with the State Government commissioned Vardon report 2010 Section 3.3 (page 14) that states the following:-

"However, Mr Vardon also concluded that sections of Guyra Shire and Uralla Shire shared distinct communities of interest outside of the proposed New England Regional Council area. Accordingly, Mr Vardon proposed that the towns of Bundarra and Tingha and surrounds be incorporated into Inverell Shire Council."

Yours sincerely


Richard Goodall
President

6 GOVERNANCE REPORTS

6.1 GOVERNANCE - MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT

File Number: S12.12.2 / 22/26633

Author: Robert Kimmince, Manager Financial Services

SUMMARY:

To report the balance of investments held as at 31 July, 2022.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee recommend 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, 2022 and an update of the investment environment:

- (a) Council's Investments as at 31 July, 2022;
- (b) Council Investments by Fund as at 31 July, 2022;
- (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, 2022

Term Deposit Investment Group									
Investment	Borrower	FUND	Rating	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Current Yield	Principal Value	Current value	Term (days)
22/02	Bank of Sydney	General	NR	03-Aug-21	03-Aug-22	0.64%	1,000,000	1,000,000	365
20/05	Bank of Queensland	General	BBB+	03-Sep-19	05-Sep-22	1.80%	1,000,000	1,000,000	1098
20/06	Bank of Queensland	General	BBB+	13-Sep-19	13-Sep-22	1.80%	1,000,000	1,000,000	1096
22/04	Bank of Sydney	Water	NR	17-Sep-21	19-Sep-22	0.63%	1,000,000	1,000,000	367
22/06	Bank of Sydney	Sewer	NR	30-Sep-21	30-Sep-22	0.60%	1,500,000	1,500,000	365
22/07	MyState Bank	General	BBB	01-Oct-21	04-Oct-22	0.50%	2,000,000	2,000,000	368
22/08	AMP BANK	General	BBB+	05-Oct-21	05-Oct-22	0.80%	2,000,000	2,000,000	365
22/25	Westpac Bank	General	AA-	19-Apr-22	19-Oct-22	1.31%	2,000,000	2,000,000	183
22/13	AMP BANK	Water	BBB+	25-Nov-21	25-Nov-22	1.00%	1,000,000	1,000,000	365
22/18	AMP BANK	General	BBB+	07-Dec-21	07-Dec-22	1.00%	2,000,000	2,000,000	365
21/10	Warwick Credit Union	General	NR	22-Jan-21	23-Jan-23	1.00%	1,500,000	1,500,000	731
22/29	Bank of Queensland	Sewer	BBB+	27-May-22	27-Feb-23	2.80%	2,000,000	2,000,000	276
22/05	AMP BANK	General	BBB+	20-Sep-21	20-Mar-23	0.80%	1,000,000	1,000,000	546
22/12	AMP BANK	General	BBB+	25-Nov-21	25-May-23	1.00%	1,000,000	1,000,000	546
22/14	AMP BANK	General	BBB+	25-Nov-21	25-Mar-23	1.00%	1,000,000	1,000,000	485
20/32	Auswide Bank	General	BBB	24-Mar-20	24-Mar-23	1.88%	1,000,000	1,000,000	1095
22/22	Westpac Bank	General	AA-	29-Mar-22	29-Mar-23	1.56%	1,950,000	1,950,000	365
22/26	Bank of Sydney	General	NR	16-May-22	16-May-23	3.10%	2,000,000	2,000,000	365
22/28	AMP BANK	General	BBB+	27-May-22	27-Nov-23	3.30%	2,000,000	2,000,000	549
22/23	ING Bank	General	A	19-Apr-22	19-Apr-23	2.21%	2,000,000	2,000,000	365
22/30	Commonwealth Bank	Sewer	A	07-Jun-22	07-Jun-23	3.42%	1,000,000	1,000,000	365
21/16	National Australia Bank	Water	AA-	28-Jun-21	28-Jun-23	0.60%	1,000,000	1,000,000	730
21/17	ICBC - Industrial and Commercial Bank of China	General	A	29-Jun-21	29-Jun-23	0.70%	1,000,000	1,000,000	730
21/18	National Australia Bank	Water	AA-	29-Jun-21	29-Jun-23	0.65%	2,000,000	2,000,000	730
23/01	Commonwealth Bank	General	AA-	27-Jul-22	27-Jul-23	4.06%	2,000,000	2,000,000	365
23/02	Commonwealth Bank	General	AA-	27-Jul-22	27-Jul-23	4.06%	2,000,000	2,000,000	365
22/09	National Australia Bank	General	AA-	06-Oct-21	06-Oct-23	0.64%	1,000,000	1,000,000	730
22/10	Westpac Bank	General	AA-	25-Oct-21	25-Oct-23	0.91%	2,000,000	2,000,000	730
22/11	Westpac Bank	General	AA-	25-Nov-21	25-Nov-23	1.28%	1,000,000	1,000,000	730
22/27	Australian Unity Bank	General	BBB	26-May-22	27-Nov-23	3.50%	1,000,000	1,000,000	550
22/15	ICBC - Industrial and Commercial Bank of China	General	A	02-Dec-21	04-Dec-23	1.36%	2,000,000	2,000,000	732
22/16	ICBC - Industrial and Commercial Bank of China	General	A	02-Dec-21	04-Dec-23	1.36%	2,000,000	2,000,000	732
22/17	ICBC - Industrial and Commercial Bank of China	Water	A	02-Dec-21	04-Dec-23	1.36%	1,000,000	1,000,000	732
22/03	National Australia Bank	General	AA-	27-Aug-21	27-Aug-24	0.85%	2,000,000	2,000,000	1096
22/20	MyState Bank	General	BBB	02-Mar-22	04-Mar-24	1.70%	2,000,000	2,000,000	733
22/21	Bank of Queensland	General	BBB+	02-Mar-22	04-Mar-24	1.70%	1,000,000	1,000,000	733
21/11	ICBC - Industrial and Commercial Bank of China	Water	A	26-Mar-21	26-Mar-24	0.82%	2,000,000	2,000,000	1096
21/13	ICBC - Industrial and Commercial Bank of China	Water	A	27-May-21	27-May-26	1.40%	1,000,000	1,000,000	1826
21/14	ICBC - Industrial and Commercial Bank of China	Sewer	A	27-May-21	27-May-26	1.40%	1,000,000	1,000,000	1826
21/15	ICBC - Industrial and Commercial Bank of China	General	A	27-May-21	27-May-26	1.40%	1,000,000	1,000,000	1826
						TOTALS	58,950,000	58,950,000	

Floating Rate Notes										
As at Date	Borrower	FUND	Rating	Purchase Date	Coupon End Date	Current Yield*	Principal Value	Current value	Coupon Term	Maturity Date
							-	-		

* Yield changes every 3 months and is a margin over the 3 month BBSW (Bank Bill Swap Rate)

180 Day Deposit Accounts									
As at Date	Borrower	FUND	Rating	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Current Yield	Principal Value	Current value	Term
31/7/2022	AMP Bank	General	BBB+	28/6/2021	1/12/2022	1.80%	2,500,000	2,518,514	
Sub Total - Cash Deposits Accounts Investment Group							2,500,000	2,518,514	

Cash Deposit Accounts									
As at Date	Borrower	FUND	Rating	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Current Yield	Value at beg year	Current value	Term
31/07/2022	Commonwealth Bank	General	A	9/11/2020		0.00%		1,194.89	
31/07/2022	Macquarie Bank	General	AA-	9/11/2020		1.00%	4,011,560	2,028,503.74	
31/07/2022	Macquarie Bank	Water	AA-	9/11/2020		1.00%	2,504,313	2,516,480.98	
31/07/2022	Macquarie Bank	Sewer	AA-	9/11/2020		1.00%	1,501,380	1,508,673.97	
Sub Total - Cash Deposit Accounts							-	6,054,854	-

B) Council Investments by Fund 31 July, 2022

Portfolio by Fund	30/06/2022	31/07/2022
General Fund	\$48,498,273	\$48,998,213
Water Fund	\$11,516,481	\$11,516,481
Sewer Fund	\$7,008,674	\$7,008,674
TOTAL	\$67,023,428	\$67,523,368

Council's investment portfolio has increased in July 2022 by \$500K. This was in respect of normal cash flow movements for receipts collected and payments made during July 2022.

Interest – Budgeted verses Actual Result to Date

	Ledger	2022/2023 Budget \$	Actuals to Date \$	Accrued Interest to Date \$	TOTAL \$
General Fund	128820	510,000.00	14,856.72	70,973.69	85,830.41
Water Fund	812350	84,000.00	-	14,206.03	14,206.03
Sewer Fund	906320	60,000.00	-	14,093.22	14,093.22
TOTAL		654,000.00	14,856.72	99,272.94	114,129.66

Term deposit interest rates have improved recently with a 12-month term deposit now yielding 4-4.3%. Given our strong investment balances, Council is expected to exceed interest revenue targets in 2022/2023. This additional interest received during 2022/2023 will be allocated to special projects during 2023/2024.

C) Investment Portfolio Performance

Investment Portfolio Return		Benchmarks		
	% pa	RBA Cash Rate	Aus Bond Bank Bill	11am Cash Rate
Benchmark as at 31/07/2022		1.35%	2.120%	1.35%
Term Deposits	1.55%			
Cash Deposit Accounts	1.00%			
180 Day Call Account	0.70%			
Floating Rate Notes	0.00%			

D) Investment Commentary

Council's investment portfolio exceeded all benchmarking indexes except for Cash accounts. Money is held in cash deposit accounts for liquidity purposes.

Council's investment portfolio of \$67.5M is almost entirely invested in fixed term deposits. Overall, the portfolio is highly liquid, highly rated and short-dated from a counterparty perspective.

The RBA hiked the cash rate target by 50 basis points to 1.35% in its meeting in July, its highest level since May 2019. It is also anticipated that rates will increase by 50-75 basis points at the August RBA Meeting.

Governor Lowe still thinks the nominal neutral interest rate is at least 2.50%, although the Board has hinted it may need to go above neutral to control inflation. This suggests the RBA does not see itself as needing to race into restrictive territory as the market is currently pricing, and the RBA is likely to slow the pace of hikes as it approaches neutral – around 2.5%.

Markets are currently pricing in around eight (8) additional rate rises over the next year (up to 3.25%), against the RBA's neutral setting of around 2.5%. Fears of a looming global recession have actually seen rate cuts start to be priced in towards the second half of 2023.

With recessionary fears being priced in coming years, Council will look to take out an insurance policy by investing a small allocation of funds across 3-5 year fixed deposits and locking in rates between 4%-5% p.a.

Certification – Responsible Accounting Officer

I Paul Pay, 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:

Council's term deposit portfolio was yielding 1.52% p.a. at month-end, with a weighted average duration of around 323 days or 10.8 months. Council is well positioned to take advantage of increasing term deposit rates as investment mature.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

7 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:

7.1 Request for a Reduction in a Water Usage Account