



BUSINESS PAPER

**Civil and Environmental Services
Committee Meeting
Wednesday, 8 November 2023**

INVERELL SHIRE COUNCIL**NOTICE OF CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**

3 November, 2023

A Civil and Environmental Services Committee Meeting will be held in the Committee Room, Administrative Centre, 144 Otho Street, Inverell on Wednesday, 8 November, 2023, commencing at **9.00am**.

Your attendance at this Civil and Environmental Services 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

B MCINNES

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.

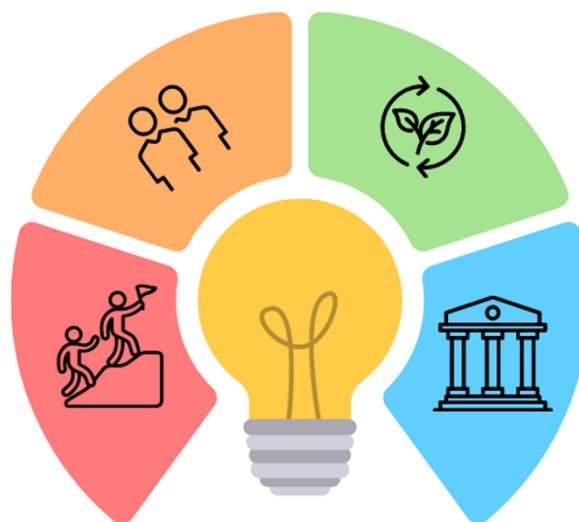
A Declaration form should be completed and handed to the General Manager as soon as practicable once the interest is identified. Declarations are made at Item 3 of the Agenda: Declarations - Pecuniary, Non-Pecuniary and Political Donation Disclosures, and prior to each Item being discussed: The Declaration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

OUR DESTINATIONS



01 LEADERSHIP



We will be an accountable and responsible Council that will be involved with the community and responsibly manage public resources.

02 PROSPERITY



The Shire has a diverse, strong local economy that provides opportunities that contribute to the quality of life for the community.

03 LIVEABILITY



Our community is healthy, safe, educated and offers opportunities for people of all ages and abilities. We value our natural and built environment.

04 SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE



Our community is enhanced by the provision of civic services and infrastructure. These services are planned and financially sustainable.

1 APOLOGIES

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Civil and Environmental Services Committee Meeting held on 11 October, 2023, as circulated to members, be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

**MINUTES OF INVERELL SHIRE COUNCIL
CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE TINGHA TOWN HALL, RUBY STREET, TINGHA
ON WEDNESDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2023 AT 2.05PM**

PRESENT: Cr Stewart Berryman (Chair), Cr Paul Harmon (Mayor), Cr Di Baker, Cr Jacko Ross and Cr Wendy Wilks.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cr Kate Dight, Cr Paul King OAM and Cr Jo Williams.

Paul Henry (General Manager), Brett McInnes (Director Civil & Environmental Services), Paul Pay (Director Corporate and Economic Services) and Justin Pay (Manager Civil Engineering).

1 APOLOGIES

Nil

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Di Baker

Seconded: Cr Wendy Wilks

That the Minutes of the Civil and Environmental Services Committee Meeting held on 13 September, 2023, 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

Cr Jo Williams declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest (insignificant) in relation to Item #5.2 "MR187 Yetman Road – Ring Street to McFertridge Lane – Speed Zone Review S28.10.MR187". The nature of the interest is Cr Williams is a resident within the speed zone area.

4 PUBLIC FORUM

Nil

5 DESTINATION REPORTS

5.1 REGIONAL EMERGENCY ROAD REPAIR FUND \$15.8.140

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Stewart Berryman

Seconded: Cr Jacko Ross

That the Committee recommend to Council that:

1. *The information be received and noted;*
2. *\$544,993 be allocated to the MR73 Bundarra Road Pavement Rehabilitation Racecourse*

project from Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund (RERRF) to replace the now unavailable REPAIR funding allocation; and

3. *A further report be presented to Council to allocate the remaining Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund (RERRF) funding once the funding deeds are completed.*

CARRIED

5.2 MR187 YETMAN ROAD - RING STREET TO MCFERTRIDGE LANE - SPEED ZONE REVIEW S28.10.MR187

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Wendy Wilks

Seconded: Cr Stewart Berryman

That the Committee recommend to Council that:

1. *The information be received and noted; and*
2. *A formal request be forwarded to Transport for NSW to undertake a review of the speed zone environment on Yetman Road between Ring Street to McFertridge Lane in accordance with the NSW Speed Zoning Standard.*

CARRIED

6 INFORMATION REPORTS

6.1 WORKS UPDATE S28.21.1/16

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Di Baker

Seconded: Cr Jacko Ross

That the information report be received and noted.

CARRIED

6.2 STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY (SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS) 2022 - INCREASE TO BASIX STANDARDS AND NEW NON-RESIDENTIAL SUSTAINABILITY REQUIREMENTS S18.3.1

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Stewart Berryman

Seconded: Cr Di Baker

That the information report be received and noted.

CARRIED

6.3 CATTLE GRID REPAIRS - TINGHA COMMON TRUST S28.9.23

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Di Baker

Seconded: Cr Wendy Wilks

That the information report be received and noted.

CARRIED

6.4 ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENT NO. 5 TO THE GUYRA LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2012 - INVERELL LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA S18.6.34

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Wendy Wilks

Seconded: Cr Stewart Berryman

That the information report be received and noted.

CARRIED

The Meeting closed at 2.28pm.

- 3 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS/PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**
- 4 PUBLIC FORUM**

5 DESTINATION REPORTS

5.1 HOLDFAST CROSSING - FISH PASSAGE PROJECT UPDATE

File Number: S28.10.SR17 / 23/36374

Author: Justin Pay, Manager Civil Engineering

SUMMARY:

At its Ordinary meeting in July 2023, Council considered correspondence from the Department of Planning and Environment, Water Infrastructure NSW, which requested Council grant permission for them to carry out construction work on the Holdfast Crossing as part of their Reconnecting the Northern Basin: Fish Passage Project. Since the July meeting the Department has amended their plans for the project and Council is requested to consider the amended proposal.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee recommend to Council that the amended proposal from the Department of Planning and Environment, Water Infrastructure NSW regarding the Reconnecting the Northern Basin: Fish Passage Project at Holdfast Crossing be approved.

COMMENTARY:

At its Ordinary meeting in July 2023, Council considered correspondence from the Department of Planning and Environment, Water Infrastructure NSW (The Department), which requested Council grant permission for them to carry out construction work on the Holdfast Crossing as part of their Reconnecting the Northern Basin: Fish Passage Project. The formal request is attached in **Attachment 1** for the information of the Committee. As a result, Council resolved the following:

That:

- 1) *The information be received and noted;*
- 2) *The proposal be supported in principal;*
- 3) *Council undertake community consultation to determine if there are any likely significant impacts on the community; and*
- 4) *A further report be presented to the Committee on the outcomes of the community consultation so that Council can make a final determination on the request.*

As a result of the above resolution and further discussions with Council staff, the Department have undertaken further community consultation and have amended their plans for the Holdfast Crossing.

The amended proposal is provided in **Attachment 2** for the information of the Committee.

The original proposal was to lower the height of the existing concrete causeway by between 300mm - 500mm. The amended proposal is to lower the height by a maximum of 300mm and to construct a composite concrete/aggregate rock approach slab at the entry and exist point for approximately 5 metres to allow vehicles to gain traction. Also, signage, guideposts and depth gauges are to be installed at the crossing.

The adjoining landowner has indicated that he is comfortable with this amended proposal and Council has not had any negative feedback from the wider community during the consultation period. The Department have also undertaken wider community consultation on the amended plans and report no negative feedback.

The amended proposal provides sufficient improvement to fish passage while maintaining some form of access for the adjoining land owner and for recreational users. The proposed solution will leave 4WD access only during times that flow in the river permits use of the crossing.

The amended proposal appears to be the best solution to balance the needs of the community against the objectives of the Northern Basin: Fish Passage Project. The works will not create any additional maintenance burden for Council and it is therefore recommended that Council accede to the request and approve the amended proposal.

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS COMMENT:

The project is to be fully funded by external sources with no capital or maintenance cost burden to Council.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Formal Request [↓](#)
2. Amended Proposal [↓](#)

Department of Planning and Environment



4 July 2023

Att: Justin Pate
Inverell Shire Council
PO Box 138
Inverell, NSW 2360

Reconnecting the Northern Basin: Fish Passage Project – notice of intention to commence construction work at the MacIntyre River

The Department of Planning and Environment, Water Infrastructure NSW, is proposing to carry out construction work for the Reconnecting the Northern Basin: Fish Passage Project. Part of the Northern Basin Toolkit, this major infrastructure project seeks to improve connectivity and deliver ecological outcomes across the northern part of the Murray-Darling Basin by creating a connected 'highway' for native fish to migrate along the Barwon-Darling and Border Rivers. For more information about the project visit dpie.nsw.gov.au/fish-passage-project

Project funding

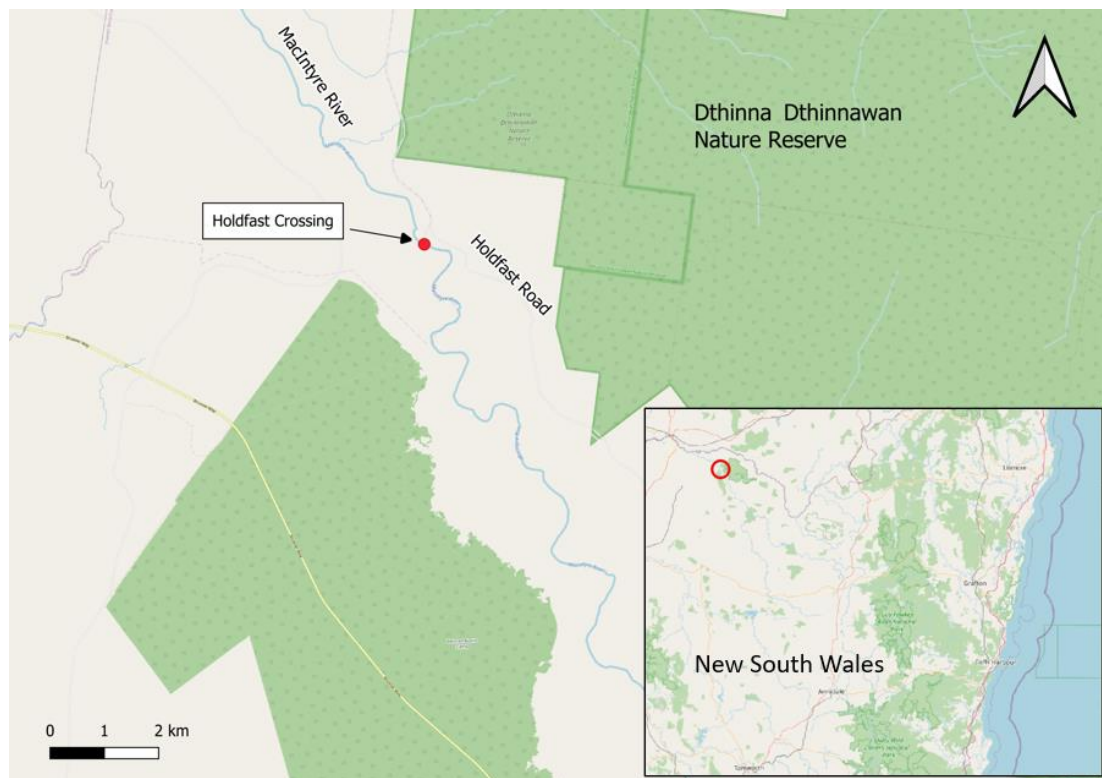
The Commonwealth Government is providing up to \$180 million through to 2024 for the implementation of Northern Basin Toolkit (NBTK) environmental works and policy measures projects to both NSW and Queensland Governments. The Commonwealth Government committed to fund three of the NSW NBTK projects through an accelerated or 'early works' model to enable on-ground works to begin as soon as possible.

Proposed works

As part of the project, Water Infrastructure NSW has been carrying out early investigation activities and will now be proceeding to the next phase of the project which will include removal of material/obstructions from the river to re-establish fish passage. We propose these works take place from September 2023. We expect that work will take approximately four weeks at each site, weather permitting.

The proposed works within Inverell Shire Council are to remove a concrete causeway structure "Holdfast Crossing" located on the MacIntyre River, approximately 14km north of Yetman in New South Wales (refer to figure 1) and to return the riverbed to its natural profile.

Department of Planning and Environment

*Holdfast Crossing location map*

Location details	
Address	Holdfast Road, Yetman NSW 2410
Lot / DP	Lot 5/750118 Crown Land – MacIntyre River
Landownership	Holdfast Crossing is located within the MacIntyre River, on Crown Land. The access track to Holdfast Crossing is located on privately owned land either side of the crossing. The existing causeway is an unauthorised structure and there appears to be no registered asset owner.
Local Government Area	Inverell Shire
Land zoning	RU1 Primary Production
GPS Coordinates	-28.798596000 150.728793000

WINSW understand that Inverell Council has no records of the Holdfast crossing being built or registered as one of Council's assets. The landowner Sam Dight has stated that he uses the crossing for business and recreational purposes up to five (5) times a week when possible, and he has been consulted numerous times

Department of Planning and Environment



by WINSW and our contractors regarding specific information about that section of the river, and the different design alternatives considered.

The project area will be accessed from the public road network surrounding the project. This access would be from Holdfast Road, which is connected to the Bruxner Way in Yetman and the Tarwoona Road in Twin Rivers. Holdfast Road is a Crown owned gravel road.

There is the potential for short term impacts on the environment during the proposed works such as increased noise and dust, visual and traffic impacts however, these impacts will be minor and of a temporary nature. Vegetation clearing will not be required. The proposed works comply with relevant regulations and requirements.

Upon completion of the removal of the Holdfast Crossing and site rehabilitation, no operational or maintenance activities are required.

Initial investigations

Initial investigations completed include:

- Site survey
- Hydraulic model
- Aboriginal Due Diligence survey
- Biodiversity assessment
- Erosion Sediment Control Plan
- Review of Environmental Factors (REF)
- Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment
- Options Assessment Report

A site visit on March 24, 2023, determined that the causeway has undergone significant undermining in the past. This undermining refers to the erosion or weakening of the supporting structure of the crossing, which can compromise its stability and safety.

Department of Planning and Environment

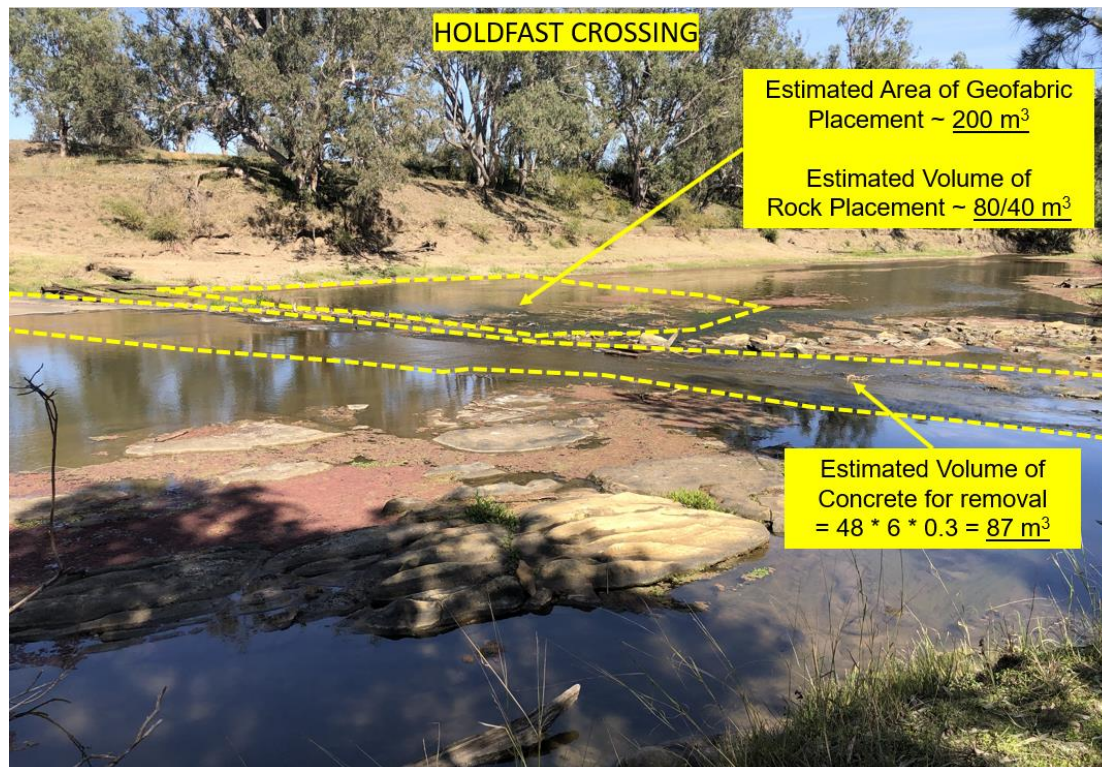


Photograph: Undermining of Holdfast Crossing, 24 March 2023

Based on the information found in our initial investigations, it is concluded that:

- The proposed works are not likely to affect any Aboriginal cultural heritage items and therefore an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit is not required.
- The proposed works are not likely to significantly affect threatened species, populations, ecological communities, or critical habitat. A Species Impact Statement (SIS) is therefore not required.
- The proposed works are not likely to affect any Commonwealth land or significantly affect any Matters of National Environmental Significance.
- The proposed works are not likely to have a significant impact on the environment and therefore an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

Department of Planning and Environment



Construction Works:

The existing concrete causeway is located on rock bar with approximate depth of concrete estimated to be between 200-400mm based on a visual inspection.

Concrete will be carefully excavated to generally expose the underlying rock platform, noting that pockets of concrete within pre-existing rock voids will not be excavated with the aim of maintaining rock foundation integrity and to assist the provision of a suitably even surface able to be trafficked by a suitable vehicle.

The upstream impacts of the proposed rehabilitation of the natural rockbar have been assessed as being minimal.

The weir pool would drop by the amount of concrete excavation in the vicinity of the existing causeway crossing low point of up to around 400mm noting there is no irrigation or pumping from within the weir pool.

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

WINSW has engaged in consultation with the adjoining and impacted landowners, Crown Lands and the Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) to inform them about the scope and timing of the proposed work. WINSW is also planning to engage with NSW Department of Natural Resources Access Regulator, NSW Fisheries, QLD Department of Regional Development Manufacturing and Water, NSW Department of Planning and Environment in July 2023. Regular meetings with WaterNSW, the Border Rivers Commission and Sunwater

Department of Planning and Environment



are also held. Phone consultations with NSW Farmers and NSW Irrigators Council were held as an alternative to face-to-face meetings.

Wider consultation across the Fish Passage project has also occurred with community groups, First Nations groups, landholders and government agencies including face to face consultation in April 2023. Ongoing consultation will continue to occur including regular updates to the relevant stakeholders as required.

13 Local Aboriginal Elders were also consulted, and in person-meetings were held with the below First Nations organisations:

- Toomelah LALC
- Mungindi LALC
- Collarenebri LALC
- Inverell LALC
- BIGAMBUL Native Title Aboriginal Corporation
- Gomeroi Native Title
- Dharriwaa elders
- Kamilaroi representatives
- Boomi Coop

If you have any questions about the project or the upcoming investigations, please contact Mick Slattery on 0408 558 722.

Yours sincerely,

Scott Fletcher
Project Manager
Water Infrastructure NSW
Department of Planning and Environment



Fish Passage Northern Basin



Holdfast Crossing – Fish Passage Proposal

28th September 2023

Fish Passage



Australian native fish migrate along our rivers to spawn, find food and shelter, as well as to avoid threats such as drying habitats. The Barwon-Darling and Border Rivers are the main fish migration pathway in Northern Basin.

The Reconnecting the Northern Basin project seeks to improve connectivity across the northern Basin and deliver ecological outcomes by reinstating the movement and abundance of migratory native fish species by providing a connected 'highway' for native fish to migrate.



Holdfast Crossing Downstream



Project Benefits

The project will generate significant benefits, including:

- Increased movement of native fish species across the northern NSW Murray Darling Basin
- Increased abundance of native fish species in the system
- Enhanced cultural values for First Nations communities (native fish are an important part of First Nations cultures in the region)
- Support for regional economies and the creation of local job opportunities during construction
- Increased regional tourism opportunities as native fish populations increase
- Sustained management of agricultural and water resources with reduced ecological impact.





Existing Structure is based on a natural Rock Bar by constructing a concrete topping



4



Existing Structure is based on a natural Rock Bar by constructing a concrete topping



5



Existing Structure is based on a natural Rock Bar by constructing a concrete topping



6



Existing Structure concrete topping is being undermined



7



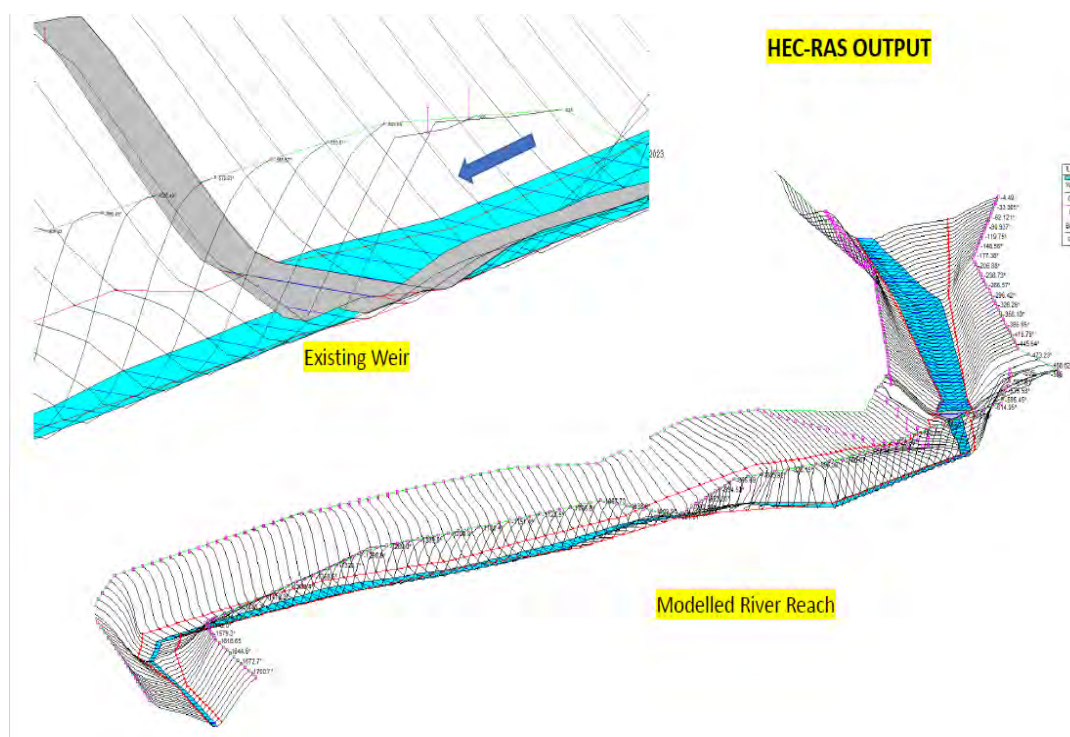
Existing Structure concrete topping is being undermined



8



HEC-RAS Hydraulic Model of causeway, upstream & downstream



2 scenarios were modelled using HEC-RAS modelling to compare the upstream and downstream water surface levels of flows over the existing structure to estimated levels when the flow weir was removed (300 mm lower case).

As a conservative measure, flows with a 500mm lower weir (500mm lower case) were also compared.

The hydraulic model was initially completed using LIDAR, which was then remodelled using on site survey.

Fish passage benefits:

300mm reduction = 62% increase

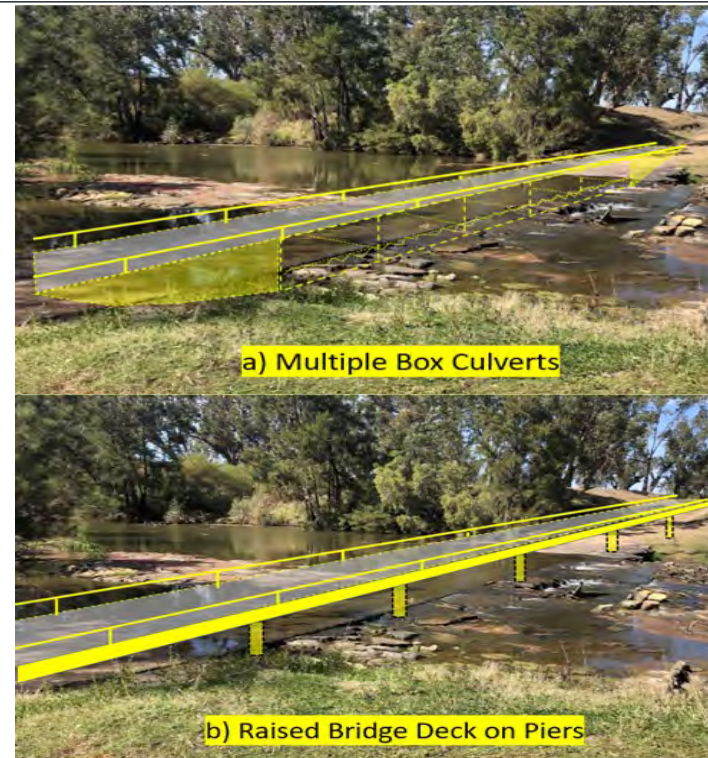
500mm reduction = 98% increase

Work To Date

A Multi Criteria Assessment (MCA) was conducted on a selection of seven (7) options, taking into account a wide range of critical factors. The seven options assessed were:

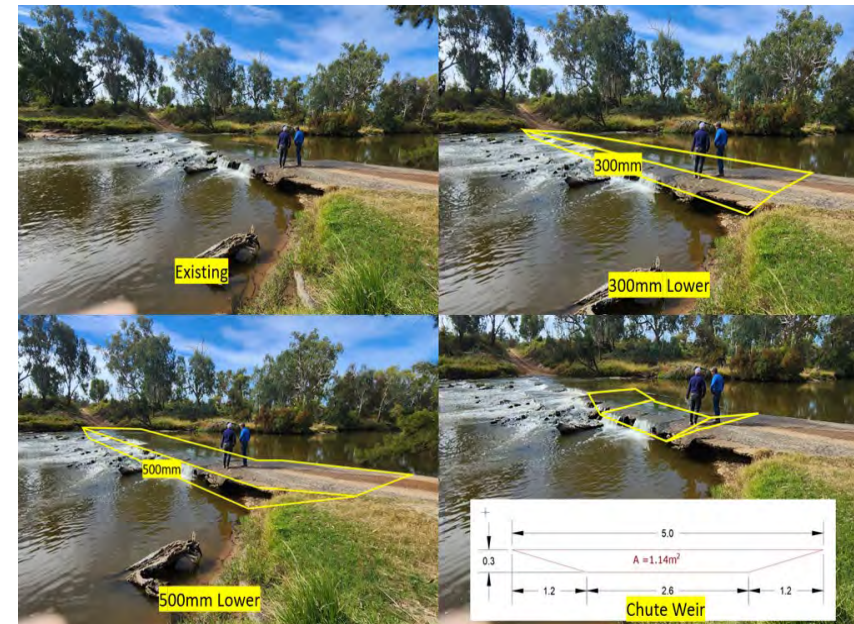
1. Box Culverts
2. Concrete Bridge
3. Fish Ladder
4. Cascading Slots
5. Crossing Removal
6. Rock Ramp
7. Do Nothing

Each option was evaluated based on critical factors to guide our decision-making process.

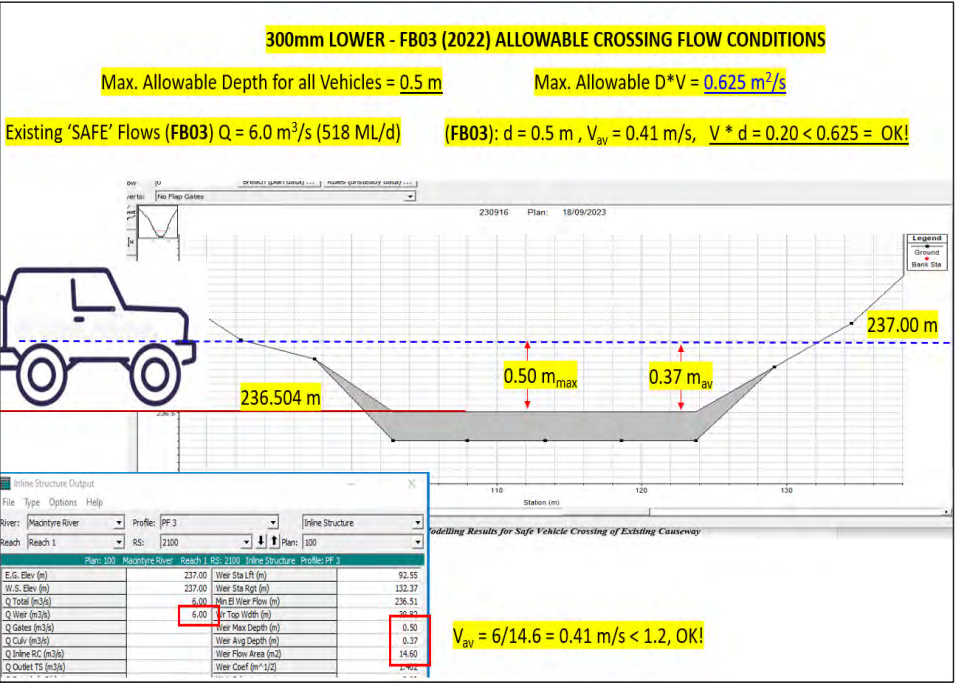


Work To Date

- **Option 5:** Crossing Removal was assessed as the most effective and efficient option.
- Our evaluation involved the examination and comparison of four (4) distinct approaches:
 1. Do Nothing.
 2. Removal by 300 mm.
 3. Removal by 500 mm (point of comparison)
 4. Construction of a 'Chute' opening - Partial Removal
- Hydraulic modelling was undertaken for each of the four options to determine how safety and fish passage opportunities may change when compared to the existing case.
- Removal of 300 mm of concrete provided the most effective and efficient option.



Allowable Crossing Flow Conditions



Causeway Treatment Option	Allow. Vehicle Crossing Flow (m³/s)	Allow. Vehicle Crossing Flow (ML/d)	No. of Safe Crossing Days in 50 years	% of Safe Crossing Days in 50 years	Change in Safe Crossing Days in 50 years (%)
Existing – Do Nothing	10.8	933	14,748	80.9%	0%
300 mm Lower	6	518	12,610	69.1%	11.7%
Chute	5.2	449	12,057	66.1%	14.8%
500 mm Lower	4.8	415	11,753	64.4%	16.4%



Fish Passage Opportunity

The daily flowrates recorded at the Holdfast Crossing gauging station over the last 50 years were plotted (Figure 5-6) and analysed to determine how many days (frequency) would potentially provide fish passage opportunities.

The frequency chart for the existing case in Figure 5-6 shows that fish passage was possible at Holdfast Crossing for 24.1% of days during the last 50 years.

The results show that lowering the weir by 300 mm will potentially improve fish passage opportunities (days) by 62.2%, while lowering the weir by 500 mm will potentially improve fish passage opportunities (days) by 97.4%, based on historical records.

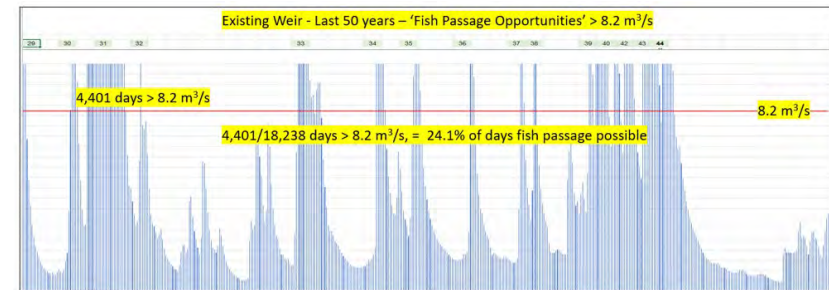


Figure 5-6 Frequency Plot for Fish Passage Opportunities with Existing Causeway

Table 2 Modelling Results for Fish Passage for the Four Treatment Options

Causeway Treatment Option	Minimum Fish Passage Flow (ML/d)	No. of Days above in 50y	No. of Days above in 50y (%)	Potential Improvement in Fish Passage Compared to Existing
Existing – Do Nothing	708	4401	24.1%	0%
300mm Lower	363	7138	39.1%	62.2%
Chute	657	4691	25.7%	6.6%
500mm Lower	259	8687	47.6%	97.4%



Proposal

- DPE Water are proposing to remove the current structure resulting in an increase to fish passage of 62% of time.
- It is assessed that there is approximately 300 mm of concrete on top of the bed rock that will be removed.
- Vehicles will retain the option to cross the riverbed at the location, however it will be at their own discretion and risk.
- Care will be taken to leave a smooth trafficable surface at completion.
- Concrete will be installed at the entry and exit points for approximately 5 metres to allow vehicles to gain traction. This will not form a new structure within the river.
- Signage, guide posts and depth gauges will be installed on the entry points and on the upstream section of the riverbed crossing

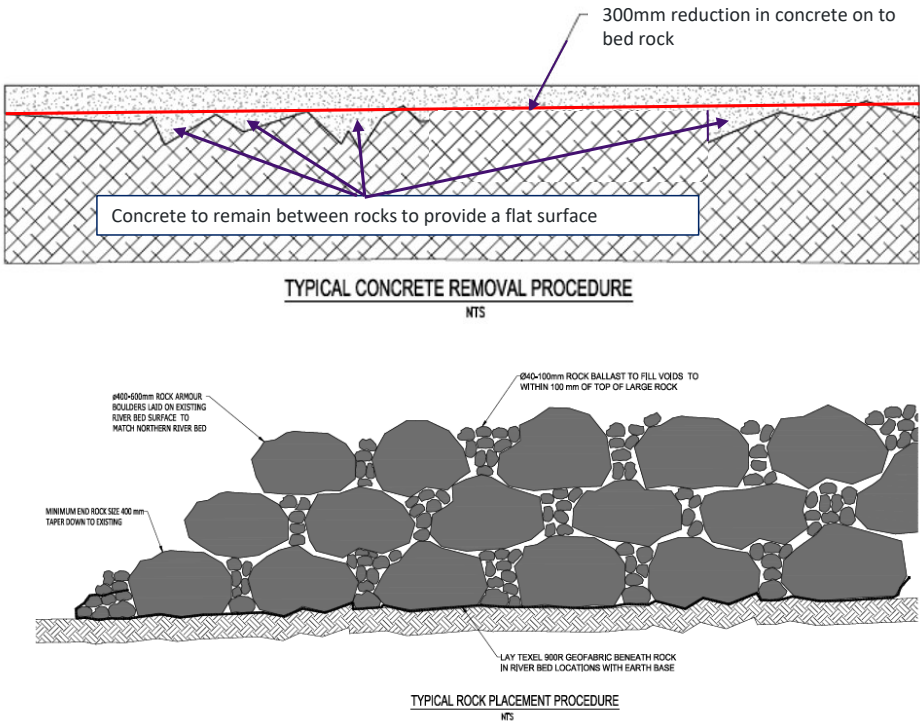
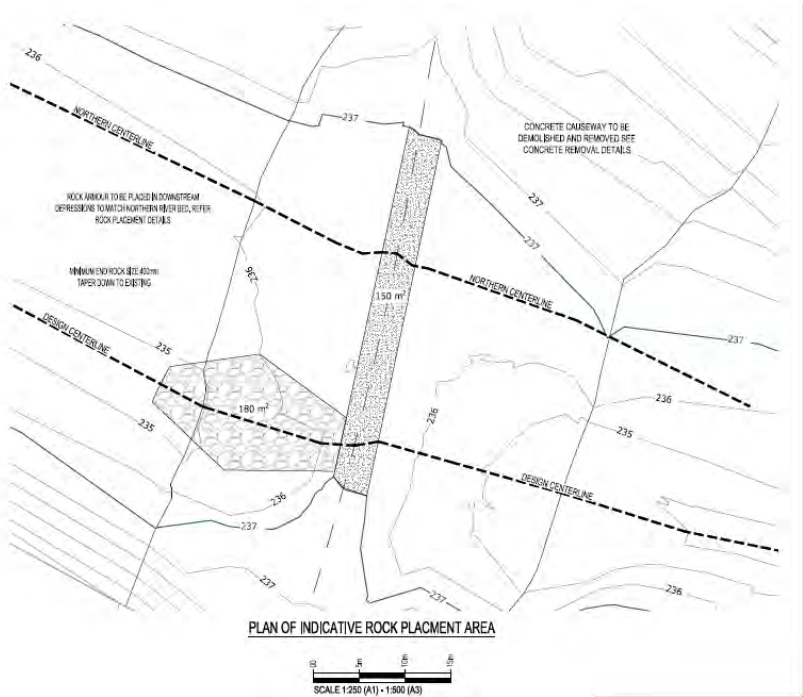


Proposal



15

Design & Construction



Design & Construction

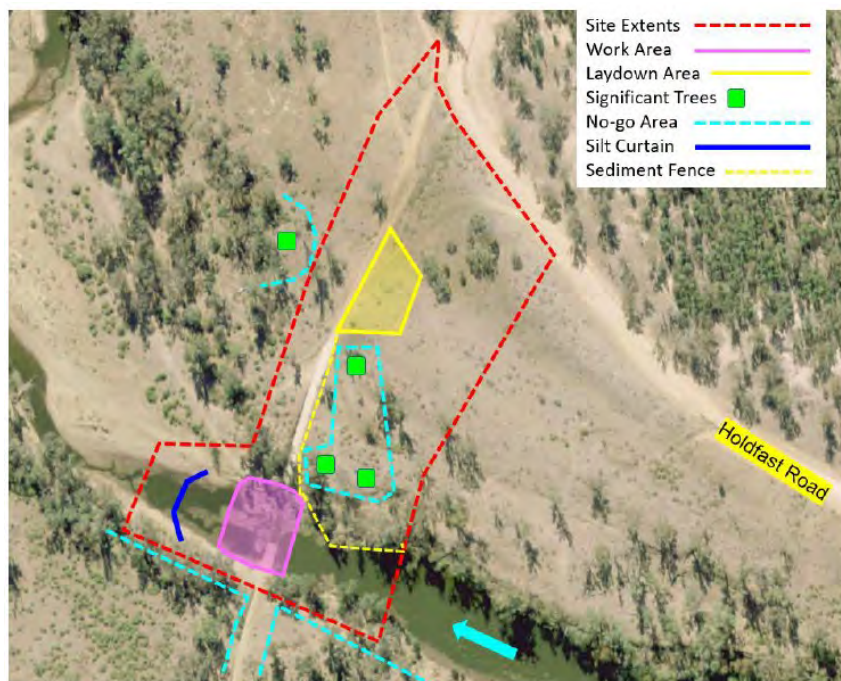


Figure 2-6 Proposed Site ESC Layout Schematic

The following reports and documentation have been completed:

- Biodiversity Assessment Report
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Survey
- Geomorphological Assessment
- Aquatic Biodiversity
- Survey
- Hydraulic Modelling
- Options Assessment Report
- Multi Criteria Analysis (MCA)
- Detailed design
- Demolition Plan
- Erosion Sediment Control Plan

6 INFORMATION REPORTS

6.1 PROTECTING LOCAL WATER UTILITIES FROM PRIVATISATION

File Number: S14.18.6/16 / 23/34103

Author: Keith Hyatt, Manager Water Services

SUMMARY:

A Joint Select Committee of the NSW Parliament is conducting an inquiry into protecting Local Water Utilities from privatisation.

COMMENTARY:

On 1 June 2023, the NSW Parliament passed the Constitution Amendment (Sydney Water and Hunter Water) Bill 2023, which amended the *Constitution Act 1902* to ensure continued public ownership of Sydney Water Corporation and Hunter Water Corporation.

The NSW Parliament will now examine how Local Water Utilities can be secured. The inquiry will focus on the Local Water Utilities that provide safe, clean drinking water and effective sewerage services daily to the 1.8 million people in regional communities.

The Committee will inquire into and report on how the government can prevent and stop the privatisation of local water utilities. The terms of reference are:

- How Local Water Utilities and their assets can be best protected against privatisation, forced amalgamations and sell-offs;
- Reviewing governance and other legislation relating to the potential privatisation of Local Water Utilities; and
- Any other related matters.

The terms of reference for the inquiry can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/ladocs/inquiries/3003/2023-09-21%20Terms%20of%20reference%20-%20Protecting%20Local%20Water%20Utilities%20from%20Privatisation.pdf>

Protecting Local Water Utilities should be a significant concern for Councils outside the Sydney Water and Hunter Water areas. Keeping Council-owned water utilities locally owned is essential for the public good, providing local jobs and community health and well-being. Local Government ownership, management and operation of water supply and sewerage services are most effective in achieving whole-of-community outcomes.

Local Government NSW (LGNSW), has made the protection of Council ownership and management of local water utilities a key advocacy priority and thus will be emphasised in their submission.

Council will continue to support the advocacy provided by LGNSW on the matter. Further update reports will be provided as the matter progresses.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

6.2 PCG MEETING - INVERELL AQUATIC CENTRE REPLACEMENT

File Number: S5.9.27 / 23/34291

Author: Brett McInnes, General Manager

SUMMARY:

A Project Control Group (PCG) has been established for the Inverell Aquatic Centre Replacement. Minutes of the PCG meetings are provided to the Councillors for their information.

COMMENTARY:

A Project Control Group (PCG) meeting was held on the 5 October 2023 for the Inverell Aquatic Centre Replacement.

Attachment 1 contains a copy of the minutes from the meeting held on 5 October 2023 for the information of the Committee.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Inverell Aquatic Centre Replacement - Project Control Group Minutes 5 October 2023 [↓](#)

**MINUTES OF INVERELL SHIRE COUNCIL
INVERELL AQUATIC CENTRE REPLACEMENT - PROJECT CONTROL GROUP MEETING
HELD AT THE COMMITTEE ROOM, ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE, 144 OTHO STREET,
INVERELL
ON THURSDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2023 AT 2.30PM**

PRESENT: Brett McInnes (Director Civil & Environmental Services), Paul Pay (Director Corporate and Economic Services), Greg Doman (Manager Environmental Health), Cr Stewart Berryman and Peter Atkinson (Project Manager).

1 APOLOGIES

Nil

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Stewart Berryman

Seconded: Mr Greg Doman

That the Minutes of the Inverell Aquatic Centre Replacement - Project Control Group Meeting held on 7 September, 2023, 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 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

4.1. Design Plains/ Development Consent

Noted Development Consent for new Aquatic Centre was issued on 18 September 2023.

5 MATTERS FOR DETERMINATION

5.1. 70% Design Construction Meeting

Comprehensive meeting with Contractor, Specialist Advisory Team, Council staff and relevant consultants held on 19 September 2023 as part of 70% review. Minutes and actions from meeting have been circulated.

5.2. Aquatic Centre Inspections

Ashfield Aquatic Centre visited to look at Avco Spiral Lift Technology to be used for moveable floor in warm water pool.

Inverell Aquatic Centre Replacement - Project Control Group Meeting
Minutes

5 October 2023

Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre and Yawa Aquatic Centre inspected to examine Splash Pad/Play Toy, Pool Hall construction, SR Smith moveable boom and solar energy offsets.

5.3. 70% Design Community Consultation

70% Design Community Consultation to commence 10 October and run until 27 October. Consultation will include exhibition displays, website, community drop in session and key stakeholder meetings.

5.4. Construction Certificate and Commencement of Works

Contractor awaiting Construction Certificate from Private Certifier. Site works proposed to recommence around the end of October 2023.

5.5. Moveable Boom Design Sign Off

Sign off for movable boom design provided on the 4 October 2023. Council project management staff had meeting with boom manufacturer representative on the 26 September 2023.

5.6 CONSIDERATION OF PAYMENT CLAIM 7**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

That the PCG unanimously support the payment of progress claim number 7 in the amount of \$486,003.53 GST Exclusive.

CARRIED**6 MATTERS WITHOUT NOTICE****6.1. Design Plan Program**

Project Manager Peter Atkinson sought update on Design Plan Program. Director Civil & Environmental Services advised next plan update release will coincide with issue of Construction Certificate.

6.2. Stakeholder Meetings

Director Corporate and Economic Services requested that formal record of Stakeholder meetings as part of 70% design consultation be provide for grant acquittal process.

7 NEXT MEETING

To be advised.

The Meeting closed at 3.05pm

6.3 S29.5.7 - TENDERS INVERELL SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT (STP) AERATION SYSTEM UPGRADE**File Number: S4.19.32 / 23/34585****Author: Keith Hyatt, Manager Water Services****SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee that Tender S29.5.7 was called for upgrading the aeration system at Inverell Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and that due to time constraints associated with an extension to the tender period, consideration of tenders has been deferred to the November 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting.

COMMENTARY:**Background**

The current Inverell Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) was constructed in the early 1980s and comprises two (2) 6,000 Equivalent Population (EP) intermittent decanted extended aeration tanks with a combined capacity of 12,000 EP.

The aeration tanks have performed well over the past 41 years however, they require refurbishment to cater for the next 40 years.

In 2017, Council constructed a third 6,000 EP aeration tank (Tank 3) to facilitate the temporary withdrawal of Tanks 1 & 2 from service, one at a time, to maintain the STP 12,000 EP capacity.

Councillors undertook a site inspection of the Inverell STP on 9 March 2022, including the recently constructed aeration Tank 3 and aeration Tanks 1 and 2 proposed for refurbishment.

In early 2022 Council called Tender S29.5.6 for the refurbishment of Tanks 1 & 2 comprising the following:

- Remove screenings and grit deposited in the aeration tanks, repair erosion to the floor of each tank and re-caulk joints in the sloping concrete side walls. The tank floors are lined with asphaltic concrete, which has suffered erosion in the vortex areas beneath the three (3) floating mechanical aerators in each tank. The 50mm thick asphaltic concrete floors will be replaced with more durable 120mm thick reinforced concrete.
- Construct a raw sewage inlet pipework manifold along the front end of each aeration tank to improve the distribution and circulation of effluent.
- Replacement of the 'end wall' decanter rubber side curtains and hinge rubbers.
- Replacement of the waste-activated sludge pumps in each aeration tank.
- Replacement of six (6) floating mechanical aerators (three (3) in each aeration tank), including upgrading of walkways. The tender called for designing these components, including ensuring that the specified level of oxygen transfer is achieved for effluent treatment. The aerator motors are not to exceed the current 37kW loading per aerator to ensure the capacity of the existing electrical installation is not exceeded.

After the refurbishment work, Tanks 1 & 2 will continue in service. Tank 3 will be put into permanent operation when the sewage load increases to a level requiring a third tank, increasing the STP capacity from 12,000EP to 18,000 EP. Having a third tank also provides the flexibility of taking one (1) tank offline to undertake maintenance and repairs on Tanks 1 & 2.

During the tender period for the above works in early 2022, the civil construction industry was in flux, emanating from the global supply chain issues and high inflationary pressures associated with the COVID-19 virus outbreak and European unrest from the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In this environment, only one (1) tender was received, deemed non-competitive.

At the May 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting, it was resolved:

1. *Council not accept any tender for Tender S29.5.6 Inverell Sewage Treatment Plant IDEA Tanks 1 & 2 Aeration System Upgrade & Additional Works; and*
2. *Council call tenders for the supply of six (6) new aerators only to ensure that Council can continue operating the Sewage Treatment Plant at 12,000 Equivalent Population capacity, with three (3) aerators temporarily installed in Tank 3 allowing Council to dewater, clean out and refurbish Tanks 1 & 2 in a timely cost-effective manner.*

Recent Call for Tenders

The current Tender S29.5.7 for the supply and installation of six (6) new aerators is currently undergoing detailed consideration. It is intended that a further report be presented to the November 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting.

Civil refurbishment works on Tanks 1 & 2 will be project managed internally by Council involving a mix of Council resources, local sub-contractors and specialist suppliers, which will be more cost-effective in the current inflationary environment. This work will be undertaken in tandem with the tender for the supply and installation of the aerators.

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Nil.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS COMMENT:

Adequate budget allocation exists to facilitate this project.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

6.4 WORKS UPDATE**File Number:** S28.21.1/16 / 23/35699**Author:** Justin Pay, Manager Civil Engineering**SUMMARY:**

This report is intended to keep Council updated on the capital works and maintenance programs.

COMMENTARY:**Fixing Country Bridges Funding Grant**

Council has been successful in obtaining \$4.109M from the Fixing Country Bridges Funding Grant to replace Mathers Bridge on Nullamanna Road. Council has committed to a co-contribution of \$250K to bring the total funding to \$4.359M for the project. This funding is required to be expended by April 2024 as per the funding requirements.

Mathers Bridge is located along Nullamanna Road and crosses Frazers Creek just north of the Nullamanna village. The existing bridge consisting of a timber superstructure and concrete deck was constructed in the late 1950s and is now nearing the end of its useful life. A structural report completed on the bridge in 2019 found the bridge to be in very poor condition. A recommendation to reduce the bridge to single lane use was put forward in the report to allow continued heavy vehicle use until the bridge is replaced. This is an imposition on the efficient movement of freight along this road, hence the need to replace the bridge at the earliest possible time.

The contract for the bridge replacement project has recently been awarded to DavBridge Constructions.

Works that have been completed to date include:

- Bridge Options Report
- Bridge Design Plans
- Geotechnical Investigation
- Environmental Report
- Aboriginal Heritage Report
- Construction of the side track including the installation of a temporary bridge
- Demolition of the existing timber bridge
- Environmental protection works
- Piling works

Piling works are now completed. The geology at the location of the piles was different than what was indicated on the pre-construction geotechnical investigation. This has meant the piles are deeper than previously anticipated. This will impact the budget for the project, further details will be provided once the full impact is known. The schedule for the project has not been impacted and the anticipated completion remains prior to April 2024.



Mathers Bridge Replacement – Piling works underway

Bundarra Road Pavement Rehabilitation and Overlay Racecourse

Council have allocated \$1.090M in funding under the 2023/2024 Repair Program and \$696K from the 2023-2024 Fit for Future Program to undertake this project on the Bundarra Road, adjacent to the Racecourse, a total length of 1.17km, from the Pioneer Village to Cunninghams Hill.

Works are nearing completion with the construction of the base layer completed for the entire project length. A primer seal was placed on the section from Rifle Range Road to Cunninghams Hill on Monday, 9 October 2023. The section from Pioneer Village to Rifle Range Road including the Rifle Range Road Intersection had a primer seal applied on Wednesday 1 November 2023.

The Cimmarron Ash and Crepe Myrtle trees have been delivered to Council's depot. Parks and Garden Crew have commenced planting and will finalise over the coming weeks.

This project is now at practical completion with some heavy patching to be undertaken on Rifle Range Road early November 2023.



Final trimming of the Base layer in preparation for a primer seal
Pioneer Village to Rifle Range Road



Primer Seal and Tree Planting
Rifle Range Road to Cunninghams Hill

Moore Street Upgrade – Hospital Entrance

Council has secured funding to complete upgrade works on Moore Street at the Inverell Hospital entrance. The project cost is \$1.349M funded by the State Government's Fixing Local Roads Program (\$911,654), contribution from NSW Health Infrastructure (\$337,250) and Council contribution (\$100,096).

The recent redevelopment of the Inverell Hospital resulted in the 'main entrance' for this facility being moved to Moore Street. Council has received grant funding from the State Government to undertake upgrade works to Moore Street to meet subsequent demand.

The project includes works along a 1000 metre section of Moore Street and includes pavement rehabilitation, widening, a turning lane into the hospital and drainage upgrades including construction of kerb and gutter. The key aim of the project is to improve sight distance impacting safe access to the new hospital.

The northbound lane remains closed to local traffic only during working hours, with manual traffic control being used at Swanbrook Road while the construction crew is on the road. Emergency vehicles continue to have complete access to the Hospital at all times. Each afternoon the road is made safe and opened to both lanes of traffic.

The construction crew have completed kerb and gutter works on the southern side of the hospital entrance. The roadworks in this section have also been completed, with the road base being stabilised and sealed. Kerb and gutter works have begun on the northern side of the Hospital entrance.

The Hospital, Ambulance Service and Bus Services have been continually updated on the projects progress regularly to ensure there is an open line of communication throughout.



Moore St – Hospital Hill Upgrade – Completed kerb and gutter and sealed southern section



Moore St – Hospital Hill Upgrade – Works continuing on northern section

Playground and Amenities Upgrades and Repairs – Inverell and Delungra

Council has been successful in receiving \$300K under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 to complete upgrade and repair works to Victoria Park, Lions Park, Campbell Park and Lake Inverell Reserve. Council was also successful in receiving \$50K under the 2021/2022 Black Summer Bushfire Grants Program for the replacement of playground equipment at Delungra Park.

The following works are included as part of the grant funding:

Victoria Park

- Drainage works inside the playground
- Repair soft floor
- New ropes on climbing web and cradle swing

Lions Park

- Replace netting inside playground

Campbell Park

- Remove existing climbing frame playground at the end of the amphitheatre
- Install new larger climbing frame with attached covered slide at a new site north of the existing children's fenced playground
- Install new soft fall and fencing
- Install additional play equipment if funds allow

Lake Inverell Reserve

- Install blocks around playground to prevent the soft fall bark chips washing out
- Levelling of the playground area

Delungra Park

- Remove old playground equipment
- Install new playground equipment including dual swing, slide including landing, fire engine rocker and Geo-climber
- Replace soft fall bark chips

Additional funding was also received under the 2021/2022 Black Summer Bushfire Grants Program for works around Ashford including the below playground upgrade.

Walter McRae Park - Ashford

- Remove old playground equipment
- Install new playground equipment and fencing
- Install open air exercise equipment
- New soft fall floor, for both areas
- Two new solar lights to illuminate black spot behind new playground



Completed works at Walter McRae Park Ashford



Completed works at Walter McRae Park Ashford

Works have been completed at Victoria Park, Delungra Park and Lions Park. Campbell Park equipment is still being made by the manufacturer. A recent update from the manufacturer indicated that the equipment will be delivered in December 2023 as some of the parts are sourced from overseas.

Bitumen Reseal Program

Council's contractor, NSW Spray Seal, commenced the Annual Bitumen Resealing Program Monday, 25 September 2023 starting on Council's Rural Road network in the northern area of the Shire. Resealing works were planned to continue for 6 weeks with an expected completion date of early November 2023. The program has continued over this period without delay or any adverse

impacts. Bitumen Resealing works have now been completed on all of Council's road network with works currently being undertaken on the Gwydir Highway. Works on the Gwydir Highway will be finished on Thursday, 2 November 2023 which will complete the program. Once expenditure is finalised a separate report on the outcomes will be presented to Council.

Road Maintenance

Maintenance Grading

The following maintenance grading works were undertaken during October 2023.

Road Number	Road Name	Length Graded (km)
SR 54	Emmaville Road	7km
SR 91	Gunyan Road	17.83km
SR193	Wiltshire Road	2.86km
SR413	Jones Road	2.15km
SR414	Schumans Road	0.83km
SR235	Orchard Place	1.77km
SR277	McLean Road	2.63km
SR153	Brosnans Lane	1.05km
SR72	Coopers Lane	0.6km
SR203	Minnamurra Lane	1.76km
SR181	Havilah Park Road	7.33km
SR201	Penola Lane	0.43km
SR225	Goomerah Lane	8.08km
SR222	Halls Lane	3.94km
SR254	Stannifer Road	10.33km
SR 410	Albion Flat Road	1.75km
SR415	Red Hill Road	4.41km
SR416	Kempton Road	6.36km
SR417	Long Gully Road	2.1km
	TOTAL	83.21 km

Reactive Spot Grading

There were no reactive spot grading works undertaken during October 2023.

Gravel Patching

The following gravel patching works were undertaken during October 2023.

Road Number	Road Name	Area Patched (m2)
SR72	Coopers Road	800m2
	TOTAL	800m2

Gravel Re-sheeting

The following gravel re-sheeting works were completed in October 2023.

Road Number	Road Name	Area Re-sheeted (m2)
SR 41	Karoola Rd	12,000
	TOTAL	12,000m2

Heavy Patching

There were no heavy patching works undertaken during October 2023.

Other Maintenance Activities

Council's State, Regional and Local Roads, Urban and Village Street maintenance activities, such as bitumen patching, drainage and shoulder repairs as well as vegetation control, are continuing as required. Town maintenance will continue as programmed.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

6.5 UPDATE ON THE INVERELL BUNNINGS DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION (DA-1/2023)

File Number: DA-1/2023 / 23/35921

Author: Anthony Alliston, Manager Development Services

SUMMARY:

This report has been prepared to inform the Civil and Environmental Services Committee in regard to the Inverell Bunnings Development Application (DA-1/2023) which was approved on 1 October 2023.

COMMENTARY:

BACKGROUND

On 27 January 2020, Council received a Planning Proposal from Insite Planning Services seeking to rezone approximately 1.8 hectares of RU1 Primary Production and R1 General Residential zoned land to B5 Business Development zone at Jardine Road, Inverell. The aim of the boundary adjustment style rezoning proposal was to supplement the existing B5 Business Development zoned land that had been in place since 2012 for large format bulky goods.

Ultimately the rezoning was to facilitate a new Bunnings store to service Inverell and the North West region at the western gateway to Inverell.

After a two (2) year process the rezoning proposal was finalised in May 2022.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION – DA-1/2023

A Development Application for the construction and operation of a new Bunnings Warehouse store at 60 Jardine Road, Inverell was subsequently lodged on 5 January 2023.

The Development Application also sought consent to subdivide the existing site (Lot 1 DP825894) into 2 lots – one lot containing the proposed Bunnings store, with the remaining lot to be held as a residual rural property north of the Bunnings development site.

The approved Bunnings store will comprise the following key elements:

- **Bunnings Warehouse** comprising a new retail building with a total floor area of 8,497m² and consisting of the following elements:
 - o main warehouse retail area of 3,770m²;
 - o bagged goods canopy of 902m²;
 - o outdoor nursery of 621m²;
 - o timber trade sales area of 1,697m²;
 - o building materials and landscape yard of 1,168m²;
 - o goods inwards area of 285m²;
 - o solar panels on the roof covering an area of some 1,400m²;
 - o children's playground; and
 - o toilets including separate toilets for males and females and a unisex accessible toilet facility.
- **Access, Carparking and Loading Facilities** - 198 car parks including 6 accessible parking spaces and 5 trailer bays; delivery service road; acoustic barrier north-east of the delivery service road turning circle; customer and service access via Jardine Road.
- **Extensive landscaping** throughout the open areas of the site, including bio-retention areas to manage and treat site runoff water; and tanks to capture rainwater from a portion of the roof, for irrigation and reuse in toilets and other non-potable purposes (in separate tanks).

- **Business identification signage** on the building and a 12m high Pylon Sign.
- **Orderly Product Display** areas in the vicinity of the key customer entry points (i.e. main customer entry icon and nursery/timber trade sales entries).

Figure 1 is a graphic representation of the proposed Bunnings development looking in a north-easterly direction from the Gwydir Highway.



Figure 1 – Graphic Representation of the proposed Bunnings development.

The Development Application was prepared by Insite Planning Services on behalf of Bunnings Group. The estimated cost of development was \$15.785M. It is envisaged that the new Bunnings store will employ 90 staff, in a mixture of full-time, part-time and casual roles. This equates to an additional 40 jobs on top of the existing employment level at the existing Bunnings in Oliver Street, Inverell.

The application was advertised (from 19 January, 2023 until 16 February, 2023) in accordance with Council's Community Participation Plan. No submissions were received during the public exhibition and advertising period.

The proposed development was classed as "nominated integrated development" and required referral to the following government agencies:

- Essential Energy;
- Transport for NSW; and
- NSW Department of Planning and Environment - Water.

Council's Development Services Coordinator played a significant role in managing all aspects of the Development Application process including liaising with Government Agencies, coordinating Council's specialist and technical staff, communicating with the Bunnings consultant team and ultimately undertaking the detailed assessment of the application.

CONCLUSION

Development Application (DA-1/2023) for the construction and operation of a new Bunnings warehouse store at 60 Jardine Road, Inverell was approved, subject to conditions, on 1 October 2023.

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Nil.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS COMMENT:

Nil.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

6.6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW EPLANNING SURVEY FINDINGS**File Number:** S18.6.60 / 23/35993**Author:** Anthony Alliston, Manager Development Services**SUMMARY:**

This report has been prepared to provide the Civil and Environmental Services Committee with a brief overview of the results of the recent Local Government NSW's ePlanning survey of NSW Councils.

COMMENTARY:Background

On 1 July 2021, all NSW Councils were mandated to use the Planning Portal (Portal) by the NSW Government despite previous commitments that the use of the Portal would be optional. As referenced in numerous reports the introduction of the Planning Portal has resulted in adverse cost and efficiency impacts to NSW Councils.

Most recently, in a report to the Civil and Environmental Services Committee on 13 September 2023, it was highlighted that the Average Gross Processing Times for Development Applications in Inverell has increased from **31 days** to **43 days** in the last twelve (12) months and almost doubled from **23 days** in 2019/2020 to **43 days** in 2022/2023. The introduction of the NSW Planning Portal was considered the most significant contributing factor to the substantial increase in processing times.

Local Government NSW ePlanning Survey 2023

Local Government NSW (LGNSW) recently conducted the 2023 ePlanning survey of NSW Councils. The purpose of the survey was to help LGNSW to understand the outcomes and impacts of recent initiatives and improvements to the NSW Planning Portal by NSW Department of Planning and Environment. LGNSW sought to identify any issues that remain.

Seventy-one (71) individual Councils responded to the survey. The results show that there are considerable ongoing concerns for many Councils. Common issues raised include:

- unrealistic timeframes for updates and enhancements associated with planning and building reforms;
- poor functionality of the portal;
- lack of a long-term roadmap;
- the need for formal service-level agreements with Councils; and
- ongoing costs and resourcing for Councils.

The matters above generally reflect Council's Development Services staff views on the issues associated with the Planning Portal.

A copy of the 2023 ePlanning Survey can be accessed at:

https://www.lgnsw.org.au/Common/Uploaded%20files/Executive/2023_ePlanning_Results.pdf

Actions from the Survey Results

The survey feedback identified a range of issues and concerns with the functionality, communication and governance of the Planning Portal. As a result, LGNSW have asked the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) to work with Councils to fix these issues as a matter of priority and have made the following recommendations to DPE:

1. DPE establish service-level agreements with Councils in relation to the NSW Planning Portal;

2. DPE establish a Planning Portal Governance Committee with senior representatives from local government to:
 - Oversee and agree on enhanced, longer-term and more detailed Planning Portal Roadmap;
 - Review and endorse strategies for training and communication with key stakeholders; and
 - Monitor ongoing costs and integration.
3. The ePlanning Council Reference Group be retained to focus on improvements to planning portal functionality with capacity for members to add agenda items with meeting outcomes shared with non-member Councils.

At the time of writing this report the NSW Department of Planning and Environment had not provided a formal response to LGNSW.

Conclusion

On 1 July 2021, all NSW Councils were mandated to use the Planning Portal (Portal) by the NSW Government. In 2023 LGNSW undertook an ePlanning survey of NSW Councils. The results of the survey clearly demonstrate a widespread dissatisfaction with the functionality of the NSW Planning Portal.

It is also clear that the NSW Planning Portal continues to adversely impact on Council's costs and efficiencies, particularly in regard to Development Application processing times.

Council staff will continue to monitor the changing situation and keep the Committee informed of any significant developments associated with the NSW Planning Portal.

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Nil.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS COMMENT:

Nil.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

6.7 OPERATING WITH COMPLIANCE AT DELUNGRA SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT**File Number: S29.12.3 / 23/36113****Author: Keith Hyatt, Manager Water Services****SUMMARY:**

A recent review of the Delungra Sewage Treatment Plant was conducted by the NSW Environment Protection Authority. This report is intended to brief the Committee in regards to the outcome of the review.

COMMENTARY:

Established in 1977, the Delungra sewage treatment system services the township of Delungra. The Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) is located on the eastern limits of Delungra, off Burnett Street. Suitable for small communities, the sewage treatment method uses a 'Pasveer Ditch' intermittently decanted aeration channel, and a final effluent pond treats the sewage to a secondary treatment level. The volume licenced at this plant is 245kL per day. With an average daily volume of 32kL, the plant is capably handling and treating the current inflow with capacity for future loads.

The sewage treatment system, which includes the sewerage reticulation, sewage pumping station, and sewage treatment plant, is operated and maintained by Council's Water Services Branch in accordance with Environmental Guidelines and is monitored to ensure compliance with the Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) as set by the regulating authority, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). The sewage assets at Delungra are monitored constantly through digital radio telemetry and a CCTV camera. Our Operators have constant visibility to respond to critical issues and ensure the equipment at the site is functioning as intended.

In August of 2023, the EPA completed a five-yearly licence review of Delungra STP, where the EPA did not identify any changes required to the EPL however, the EPA noted that the premises are operating under the licensing threshold and Council may wish to consider the need to maintain the EPL into the future. The EPA also reviewed the environmental risk assessment for the plant and advised that the risk rating remains unchanged.

Compliance is achieved through effective operations and monitoring at Delungra STP. Across the previous reporting years through routine sampling practices with the licence requirements, the plant achieved 100% overall concentration compliance. Monitoring and recording of concentration data is conducted in accordance with the licence and the monitoring data is made publicly available on the Inverell Shire Council website.

The EPL requires that an Annual Return, comprising a Statement of Compliance and summary of monitoring required, including the recording of complaints, be submitted to the EPA. When looking back at the annual returns to reporting year 2015/16, there have been zero (0) formal complaints received.

Council intends to undertake landscaping works at the perimeter of the STP as part of environmental and aesthetic enhancement to the site. The planting is to occur once the weather conditions for growth are favourable.

The Water Services Branch will continue to ensure the ongoing effective operations, monitoring and compliance of the Delungra STP, including the reticulation system.

ATTACHMENTS:**Nil**

6.8	UPDATE - DELUNGRA AND TINGHA PRECINCT INSPECTIONS AND COMMUNITY FORUMS
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File Number: S2.17.7 / 23/36390

Author: Justin Pay, Manager Civil Engineering

SUMMARY:

On Wednesday, 11 October 2023 Council undertook precinct inspections and community meeting/forums in the villages of Delungra and Tingha. A number of issues were raised during the community forums, this report is intended to update the Committee regarding the issues.

COMMENTARY:

The below table identifies matters raised by the community and gives a brief description of actions taken to date or proposed plans to address these issues/concerns.

Delungra Inspection and Precinct Meeting - October 2023	
Issue raised	Action
3DC desire additional pedestrian crossing on SH 12 near hotel.	Explained at meeting would not likely be supported by TfNSW as would not meet the warrant for installation. TfNSW if approached may also review the need for existing pedestrian crossing. Staff investigating potential to install "HIGH PEDESTRIAN ACTIVITY" signs at the location.
Concerns raised regarding invert drain adjacent to the Church of England and that it may provide a trip hazard.	Council Engineering staff investigating issue. Further detailed information will be provided to the Committee regarding this matter.
Concerns raised around smell coming from sewage treatment works at times and whether it is exceeding its design capacity.	A previous request for trees to be planted as a wind break, has been approved. A separate information report on this matter has been included in the business paper.
3DC would like to see an irrigation system installed in ANZAC Park to lessen the watering burden.	Under investigation.
Council staff allegedly dumped woodchip on plants in gardens near Post Office.	Council's Technical Support Officer, Mr Rory O'Neill is continuing to liaise with the 3DC to avoid any future communication issues.
Some consider the bark chip soft fall below the new play equipment to be 'too hard' and dust may cause asthma problems.	The bark chip in place meets relevant standards. Parks and Gardens staff will monitor performance and take action if required.
Would like a small skate park between ANZAC Park and the Hall.	Under investigation.
Alcohol Free Zone Sign at ANZAC Park requires	The sign was missing a bolt. Has been

repair.	fixed by Jim Townsend.
The invert drainage in Gunnee Street is considered dangerous (worried vehicles might drive into it). 3DC would like to see it piped.	Council Engineering staff investigating issue and a further report regarding Delungra drainage to be provided.
Can the redundant National Parks & Wildlife sign at Railway Park be relocated and used as a Community Notice Board?	Council is providing a new public noticeboard, with the location to be determined.
Burnett Lane has some trees growing in it, can Council have a look and remove.	Under investigation.
Railway reserve land is considered to pose a fire hazard.	Inverell Council does not have authority over this land. The 3DC plan to contact the relevant authority.
The community is requesting help with the control of foxes, rabbits and Indian Myna birds.	Council staff have spoken to the Local Land Services (LLS) for assistance. LLS staff are going to inspect the area to determine appropriate course of action regarding the rabbit and fox issue.
There are three (3) streets with no kerb and gutter. Tends to get very muddy during wet weather. Concerned about water entering properties. Eastern end of Burnett Street considered a problem.	Council's current priority for Urban Drainage upgrade is in Gilgai and Inverell. Once these projects are completed a review into potential future Urban Drainage upgrade projects will be completed and a report to be presented to a future Council meeting for consideration.
Concerns around homelessness and what could be done. Could TSR land be made available for subdividing for new houses. Can Council provide industrial land for manufacture of pre-fab housing.	Under investigation.
Damaged bitumen in front of 51 Inverell Street.	Bitumen has been repaired.
Request to assist Jim Townsend with mowing.	Mr Townsend has been informed that he can call Council when he needs assistance.

Tingha Inspection and Precinct Meeting - October 2023

Issue raised	Action
Footpath on main bridge on Guyra Road.	This issue relates to the footpath on the approaches to the bridge being too narrow/inadequate, matter to be considered when Council prepares the villages PAMP plan.
School Bus drop off to north of village in 100km/h zone and considered dangerous location.	Under Investigation.

Request to consider extension of 60km/h zone north of village to the cattle grid.	Traffic classifiers are currently in place at several locations in the village. Item to be reviewed once traffic data is captured.
Drainage washout in Amethyst Street adjacent to the road.	Council staff have included in maintenance program.
Need shade cloth over play equipment and toilets at Graham Park.	Works programmed to be completed in coming months.
Barb wire fence at Graham Park.	No further action at this point in time as fence recently replaced post flood event.
No toilet at skate park and only wood BBQ.	Under Investigation. Further report to be presented to Council.
Speeding through main street a concern and cars not stopping at stop sign.	Traffic classifiers are currently in place at several locations in the village. Item to be reviewed once traffic data is captured.
No lighting near Country Link bus drop off. Maybe a solar light could be provided.	Under Investigation.

Council will be presented with a future report as the items under investigation progress.

RISK ASSESSMENT:

NIL

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

NIL

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS COMMENT:

NIL

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

NIL

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil