



LEETON
SHIRE COUNCIL

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
AGENDA

26 JUNE 2024
7:00 PM

TO BE HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
23-25 CHELMSFORD PLACE
LEETON NSW 2705

Authorised for release: Jackie Kruger General Manager

**LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL
AGENDA
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
26 June 2024
7:00 PM**

1. CIVIC PRAYER
2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
3. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS
4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND ANY MATTERS ARISING

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 22 May 2024, as circulated, be taken as read and CONFIRMED.

5. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS
6. MAYORAL MINUTES
7. REPORTS TO COUNCIL

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VIDEO RECORDING

Council meetings are now video recorded. Members of the public are advised that their voice and/or image may form part of that recording.

PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

If any member of the public wishes to formally address the Council in relation to a matter in this agenda they are to register to speak for a maximum of three (3) minutes by Tuesday 12 noon preceding the meeting.

Contact Council via 6953 0911 or email council@leeton.nsw.gov.au

OATH OF OFFICE

Councillors' obligations under the Oath or Affirmation of Office are as follows:

I swear that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of Leeton and the Leeton Shire Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the *Local Government Act 1993* or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.

AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

I solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people of Leeton Shire and the Leeton Shire Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the *Local Government Act 1993* or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.

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?
- Could your possible conflict of interest lead to private gain or loss 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 and Division of Local Government and, Non-pecuniary – regulated by Codes of Conduct and policy. ICAC, Ombudsman, Division of Local Government (advice only).

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 interest 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 interest conflict with my official role?

Whilst seeking advice is generally useful, the ultimate decision rests with the person concerned.

AGENCY ADVICE

Officers of the following agencies are available during office hours to discuss the obligations placed on Councillors, Officers and Community Committee members by various pieces of legislation, regulation and Codes.

Contact	Phone	Email	Website
Leeton Shire Council	6953 0911	council@leeton.nsw.gov.au	www.leeton.nsw.gov.au
ICAC	8281 5999 Toll Free 1800 463 909	icac@icac.nsw.gov.au	www.icac.nsw.gov.au
Office of Local Government	4428 4100	olg@olg.nsw.gov.au	www.olg.nsw.gov.au
NSW Ombudsman	9286 1000 Toll Free 1800 451 524	nswombo@ombo.nsw.gov.au	www.ombo.nsw.gov.au

GENERAL MANAGER'S MATTERS

ITEM 7.1 ADOPTION OF THE OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR 2024/25, BUDGET FOR 2024/25 AND REVENUE POLICY (INCLUDING FEES AND CHARGES)

RECORD NUMBER	24/97
RELATED FILE NUMBER	EF24/88
AUTHOR/S	IP&R Coordinator Director Corporate / CFO
APPROVER/S	General Manager

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to enable the Council to

1. review community and staff feedback received on the following documents:
 - a. The DRAFT Operational Plan for the 2024/25 financial year
 - b. The DRAFT Budget for the 2024/25 financial year, including the capital works budget
 - c. The DRAFT Revenue Policy, including the DRAFT Schedule of Fees and Charges for the 2024/25 financial year

And

2. to adopt the final documents as amended having regard to that feedback.
-

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council notes the submissions and adopts the final:

1. Operational Plan for the 2024/25 financial year (**Attachment 1**),
 2. The Budget for the 2024/25 financial year (**Attachment 2**),
 3. The Revenue Policy for the 2024/25 financial year, including the Schedule of Fees and Charges for the 2024/25 financial year (**Attachment 3**).
-

REPORT

(a) Background

At an Ordinary Council Meeting on 24 April 2024, Council resolved (Resolution 23/034) to endorse the following documents for public exhibition for the 28-day period from Monday 29 April until 5:00pm on Tuesday 28 May 2024:

1. The DRAFT Operational Plan for the 2024/25 financial year,
2. The DRAFT Budget for the 2024/25 financial year,
3. The DRAFT Revenue Policy for the 2024/25 financial year, including the Schedule of Fees and Charges for the 2024/25 financial year.

These documents were subsequently placed on public exhibition and submissions were invited.

(b) Discussion

During the submission period, Council received 12 separate submissions from community members. The 'Have your say' page included a survey, which seven (7) persons responded to. Five (5) additional submissions were submitted via email, and some feedback was also collected from Councillor catch up sessions in Whitton and Yanco. A report on the Have Your Say survey responses and emailed submissions on the DRAFT Operational Plan, Draft Budget and DRAFT Revenue Policy 2024/25 are attached to this report (**Attachment 4**).

Responsible Council officers were asked to provide comment on each of the public submissions. Staff also used the period to check all the Council documents for accuracy.

Council values the effort put forth in providing feedback on the draft documents. Invitations were extended to submitters who provided their contact details to discuss their submissions at the Public Forum which was held before the Councillor workshop on Wednesday 12 June 2024.

After the conclusion of the Public Forum, Councillors were briefed on the feedback received which enabled them to consider and propose changes to the documents.

A summary of the submissions received along with Council officer responses and recommendations for amendments in response to the submissions are attached to this report (**Attachment 5**).

OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR 2024/25 (Attachment 1)

The annual Operational Plan supports the Delivery Program. It is Council's action plan for achieving the community priorities outlined in the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and Delivery Program. It details the activities – projects, programs and actions – Council will undertake in the coming year to achieve the Delivery Program strategies. The Operational Plan also details how Council will fund these actions.

Reports are provided to Council and Council's General Manager to track Council's performance against the targets identified in the Operational Plan. These reports include performance against service delivery activities and performance measures.

BUDGET FOR 2024/25 (Attachment 2)

The Budget for 2024/25 provides the funding for Council to achieve the actions identified in the Operational Plan. The following identifies key information, assumptions and guidelines used in the preparation of the 2024/24 Budget.

- Rate Pegging set at 4.5%
- Waste Annual Charges increased by 3%
- Water Charges increased by 7%
- Sewerage Charges increased by 7%
- Salary and wage award increases 3.5% plus award lump sum payments - Full Time Equivalents (FTE) remains consistent at 159.5 (157.7 in 2023/24)
- Insurance Premium increases of 15%
- All other expense items maintained to a 4.5% increase

Operational Budget

The Operational Budget 2024/25 is prepared on a "by fund" basis with the General Fund excluding Domestic Waste Management (DWM), Water Fund and Sewer fund separated where practicable. An analysis of the budgeted consolidated operating result for 2024/2025 shows the following breakdown between the Funds, delivering a deficit overall.

Operating result excluding Capital Grants and Contributions

General Fund	\$(2,410K)
Domestic Waste Management (DWM)	\$ 238K
Water Fund	\$ 311K
Sewerage Fund	<u>\$ (578K)</u>
Consolidated	\$(2,439K)

The Operating Result (before capital grants) provides an indication of the long-term viability of Council. In broad terms, a deficit from operations indicates that Council is not earning sufficient revenue to fund its ongoing operations (services) and to adequately renew existing assets over the longer term.

While this measure is important, it does include timing issues and impacts from specific transactions and operations which make it less accurate in demonstrating current performance. The operating deficit is reconciled back to a cash result as part of the Consolidated Cash Result table in (**Attachment 2**) showing that the forecast General Fund unrestricted Cash position will increase by \$1,489,450 in 2024/25.

Capital Budget

The Capital Budget within (**Attachment 2**) details Council's Capital Works Program for the 2024/25 Financial Year. The proposed Capital Works amount to \$16.88M and is presented across the different asset categories.

BUDGET – KEY CHANGES (Post Public Exhibition Period)

The below table lists all the budget changes post public exhibition period:

Entity	Project/Works Description	Amendment Reason	Reporting Line	Amount (\$)
General	Members of Council Governance Expenses - Subscriptions	RAMJO Subscription increases	Materials and Services	6,231
General	Staff Engagement Voice Survey	Increase to cover staff voice surveys.	Materials and Services	10,000
Waste	Waste Management - Other Income	Contribution from J R Richards towards advertising/education campaigns	Other Revenues	-39,571
Waste	Waste Management - Advertising/Education	Kerbside Collection advertising/education campaigns	Materials and Services	39,571
Waste	Waste Management - Other Income	Reduce wage subsidy from RAMJO Waste Green Team Officer & Materials	Other Revenues	7,286
Waste	Waste fund Wages	Wage decrease for Green waste (part year) – offset by subsidy reduction	Employee Benefits and oncosts	-7,286
General	General Fund wages	Minor movements due to grade changes	Employee Benefits and oncosts	11,085
General	LELC - Cleaning	Expected increase in cleaning service costs (currently out for quotations)	Materials and Services	10,217
General	Event Expenses	Increase to allow for Christmas Decorations for Main Street	Materials and Services	2,000
General	Roads to Recovery Grant income (operating)	Increase in Grant funding advice from Federal Government	Grants - Operating	-485,247
General	Roads to Recovery Grant Expenses	Increase in Grant funding advice from Federal Government	Capital Program	485,247
General	Road Rehabilitation program - DRFA Funded	DRFA Funded works reduced – some recognised in 23/24	Capital Program	-163,912
General	Road Rehabilitation program - DRFA Funded Sealed/Unsealed Roads	DRFA grant income	Grants and Contributions - Capital	163,912

Entity	Project/Works Description	Amendment Reason	Reporting Line	Amount (\$)
General	Road Rehabilitation program - DRFA Funded	DRFA unspent grant being recognised in 23/24 March Review (offset by contract liability adjustment)	Transfer from Unspent Grants	297,000
General	Road Rehabilitation program - DRFA Funded	Contract Liability/Income Movement	Contract Liability Reduction	-297,000
General	Roxy Stage 2 - Grant Funding	Stage 2 Grant Funding request unsuccessful	Grants and Contributions - Capital	2,200,000
General	Roxy Stage 2 Expenditure	Stage 2 Not proceeding due to Grant Funding not received	Capital Program	-2,200,000
General	Vance Estate Expansion (WO2362)	Vance Estate Works	Capital Program	6,221,646
General	Vance - LRCI Stage 4	Vance Estate Works	Grants and Contributions - Capital	-621,004
General	Vance Estate Transfer from Reserve - LRCI Stage 4	Vance Estate Works	Transfer from Unspent Grants	-414,003
General	Vance - Loan Funds	Vance Estate Works	New Loans Drawn	-5,552,993
Water	Vance – Developer contributions (Cash)	Vance Estate Works	Grants and Contributions - Capital	-500,000
Water	Vance – Developer Contributions to Reserve	Vance Estate Works	Transfer to Dev Reserves	500,000
Sewer	Vance – Developer Contributions (In Kind)	Vance Estate Works	Grants and Contributions - Capital	-500,000
Sewer	Vance – Developer Provided Assets	Vance Estate Works – Assets constructed hand over	Capital Program	500,000
General	Disabled Access for Viewing Birds at Fivebough	That a concept and feasibility study be explored in 24/25 and the estimated cost of \$10K be added to the 24/25 budget.	Materials and Services	10,000
General	Waring Park Toilet Upgrade	Council allocates \$5,000 towards the Upgrade Toilet - Waring Park.	Capital Program	5,000
General	Mountford Park Stage Upgrade	Upgrade the stage at Mountford Park	Capital Program	60,000
General	Mountford Park Stage Upgrade	Stage Upgrade funded from S 7.12 Developer contributions.	Transfer from Dev Reserves	-60,000

REVENUE POLICY INCLUDING FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2024/25 (Attachment 3)

The Rate Peg of 4.5% has been applied to Council's General Rates. While this means that Council's total General Rates income increase is capped at 4.5%, it does not necessarily mean that any individual rates obligation will increase by 4.5% - some may be less, some may be more. The following increases are recommended to proceed unchanged from the exhibited fees:

- Waste Annual Charges increased by 3%
- Water Charges increased by 7%
- Sewerage Charges increased by 7%

2024/25 has seen change to several fees and charges with some being removed. While most have increased within 3% to 10%, some fees have increased higher, and others have an added component to "catch up" on inflation in 2023/24 coupled with indexation for 2024/25. There is an overall increase of around 7% in fees and charges.

The maximum interest chargeable on overdue rates and accounts of 10.5% was advised by the Office of Local Government.

Following exhibition, the key changes to the Revenue Policy are as follows:

- Non-Residential Sewerage Charges – 20mm meter (refer page 4 of Revenue Policy)
- FOGO Collection Services Fee (refer page 7 of Revenue Policy)
- Golf Course Fees (refer pages 34-35 of Revenue Policy)
- New Tree Planting Allotment Charge – Subdivision (refer page 22 of revenue policy)
- Private Swimming Instructor Fees – (refer page 31)

Once adopted the shifts in fees & charges and the 2023-24 fees & charges columns will be removed for the final version of the Revenue Policy.

(c) Options

Council has a legislative obligation to adopt an Operational Plan, Budget, and Revenue Policy no later than 30 June for commencement from 1 July. Major amendments to the documents would require that the documents be re-exhibited, which would mean that Council would be unable to meet the prescribed deadline.

THAT Council:

1. Adopts the 2024/25 Operational Plan, Budget, and Revenue Policy as presented. ***This is the recommended option.***
2. Adopts the 2024/25 Operational Plan, Budget and Revenue Policy with minor amendments.

IMPLICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED

(a) Financial

The 2024/25 Budget is in deficit for the General Fund excluding Domestic Waste Management (DWM). While Council does have the cash reserves to remain operational for the next 12 months ("a going concern") the cash reserves are depleting.

The financial implications of the proposed Budget and Revenue Policy are outlined in the body of this report and the attachment.

(b) Policy

Liveable Leeton 2035 Community Strategic Plan
Community Engagement Strategy
Delivery Program 2022–2025
Strategic Asset Management Plan 2022–2032
Workforce Management Strategy 2022–2025

(c) Legislative/Statutory

Council is required, under Section 405 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, to have an Operational Plan adopted before the beginning of each new financial year. This Plan is required to outline the activities in which Council will be engaged during the year towards achieving its Delivery Program commitments, as well as a statement of the Council's budget and revenue policy for the year covered by the Operational Plan.

(d) Risk

As per section 405 of the Act a Council must have an Operational Plan that is adopted before the beginning of each financial year.

Community expectations of Council to deliver facilities and services must also be managed. The level of expectation when not well managed can create reputational risk. This risk has been mitigated through thorough internal consultation with staff and by Council's approach to proactive engagement with the community prior to the adoption of these documents.

Historically Council is heavily reliant on Capital Grants as part of its Capital Works Program, and this is still the case for a good portion of its current capital program utilising \$4.6M in grants.

CONSULTATION

(a) External

The 28-day public exhibition period commenced on Monday 29 April 2024 until Tuesday 28 May 2024. Engagement activities included:

- a double-page spread in *The Irrigator* summarising the major points of the Operational Plan and Budget 2024/25,
- hard copies of the documents being made available at Council's administration building, and in the library and Whitton/Yanco post offices,
- conducting a survey on Council's *Have Your Say Leeton* community engagement website to encourage electronic submissions,
- media releases and Facebook posts to advise the Leeton Shire community that the draft documents were available for review and to encourage feedback.

(b) Internal

Managers and other responsible officers
Senior Management Team
Finance Consultants

LINK/S TO THE DELIVERY PROGRAM/OPERATIONAL PLAN (DPOP)

Under the Key Priority Area THEME 6 - "STRONG LEADERSHIP" within Council's adopted Delivery Program/Operational Plan – 20 - A community that is always on the front foot - 20a is to "Strive to deliver the aspirations of the community through community leadership - Operate an efficient and effective Local Government Administration

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Operational Plan for the 2024/25 financial year - **Attached separately**
- 2 Budget for the 2024/25 financial year - **Attached separately**
- 3 Revenue Policy for the 2024/25 financial year, including the Schedule of Fees and Charges for the 2024/25 financial year - **Attached separately**
- 4 Have Your Say Survey Responses and Emailed Submissions - **Attached separately**
- 5 Submission Summaries - **Attached separately**

ITEM 7.2 MINUTES OF COUNTRY MAYORS MEETING - 22 MARCH 2024

RECORD NUMBER	24/137
RELATED FILE NUMBER	EF24/88
AUTHOR/S	Executive Assistant to the General Manager and Mayor
APPROVER/S	General Manager

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the minutes of the Country Mayors Association Meeting held on 22 March 2024 (**Attachment 1**).

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receives for information the minutes of the Country Mayors Association Meeting held on 22 March 2024.

REPORT

(a) Background

The Country Mayors Association (CMA) allows Local Government (LG) from rural and regional NSW to come together to discuss issues of specific interest to areas outside the major metropolitan centres as well as looking at the bigger picture of the whole LG sector within the State. The CMA represents about three (3) quarters of the state in land mass.

(b) Discussion

The Country Mayors Association held an Ordinary Meeting on 22 March 2024. Presentations included:

- The Hon Yasmin Catley MP, Minister for Police and Counter Terrorism.
 - Mr Peter Achterstraat AM, NSW Productivity Commissioner.
 - The Hon Chris Minns NSW Premier (video message).
 - Mr Dugald Saunders, Leader of the NSW Nationals.
 - The Hon Paul Toole MP, Shadow Minister for Police.
 - Ms Jacki Fitzgerald, Executive Director NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.
 - Deputy Commissioner Paul Pisanos APM, NSW Police Service.
 - Mr Kevin Morton, Representative of the Police Association of NSW.
-

Reports were provided by:

- Linda Scott, President of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA)
- Local Government NSW (LGNSW) – President Darriea Turley AM

CMA members discussed several other matters, with motions passed on:

- That the CMA advocates for the NSW Government to:
 1. honour the agreed / endorsed 5-year WAPs and associated funding commitments for the 23/24 financial year by immediately releasing the funds councils are expecting, and
 2. genuinely consult local Councils fully and early as key partners before introducing new changes to the scheme in future years.
- CMA supports Nationals Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall's call for an independent investigation into Hunter New England Health.
- CMA members collate figures for total (competitive) funding received over time to illustrate the decline in funding to councils across the board.
- CMA invite the Valuer General to a meeting, due to excessively high valuations. Plus, a representative of Crown Lands.

(c) Options

Nil – this report is for information purposes only.

IMPLICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED

(a) Financial

Cost of membership of the CMA and attendance at CMA meetings are budgeted annually.

(b) Policy

Nil

(c) Legislative/Statutory

Nil

(d) Risk

Attending CMA ensures that Leeton Shire Council can present key community issues in and to a forum and network whose collective voice is held in high regard and that has ready access to NSW Government Ministers and industry leaders.

CONSULTATION

(a) External

Members of the Country Mayors Association

(b) Internal

The CMA Annual General Meeting and General Meeting was attended by the Mayor.

[LINK/S TO THE DELIVERY PROGRAM/OPERATIONAL PLAN \(DPOP\)](#)

Under the Key Priority Area FOCUS AREA 5. Strong leadership and civic participation within Council's adopted Delivery Program/Operational Plan – 3 - We work together to achieve our goals - 3.1 - Develop and maintain relationships and partnerships for the benefit of the community – Participate in Country Mayors Association.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 CMA MINUTES 22 MARCH 2024



Country Mayors Association of NEW SOUTH WALES Inc

Chairperson: Cr Jamie Chaffey
PO Box 63 Gunnedah NSW 2380
02 6740 2115
e-mail admin@nswcountrymayors.com.au
ABN 92 803 490 533

MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY, 22 MARCH 2023 THEATRETTE, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY

The meeting opened at 8:20 a.m.

1. ATTENDANCE:

Mark Griffioen	GM	Bellingen
Cr. Steve Allan	Mayor	Bellingen
Jane Stroud	CEO	Kiama Municipal Council
Imogen Draisma	Deputy Mayor	Kiama Municipal Council
Jon Gibbons	GM	Lismore City Council
Steve Krieg	Mayor	Lismore City Council
Craig Davies	Mayor	Narromine Shire Council
Cr Greg Verdon	Mayor	Lockhart Shire Council
Peter Veneris	GM	Lockhart Shire Council
Matt Gould	Mayor	Wollondilly Shire Council
Robert Bell	Mayor	Uralla Shire Council
Craig Milburn	GM	Kempsey Shire Council
Leo Hauville	Mayor	Kempsey Shire Council
Daniel Linklater	Mayor	Wentworth Shire Council
Ken Ross	GM	Wentworth Shire Council
Cr Darriea Turley	President	Local Government NSW
David Reynolds	Chief Executive	Local Government NSW
Damian Thomas	Advocacy Director	Local Government NSW
Bronwen Regan	Manager Public Affairs	Local Government NSW
Des Kennedy	Mayor	Mid-Western Regional Council
Brad Cam	GM	Mid-Western Regional Council
Nuatali Nelmes	Lord Mayor	City of Newcastle
Cr Neville Kschenka	Mayor	Narrandera Shire Council
	Deputy General Manager	
Shane Wilson	Infrastructure	Narrandera Shire Council
Ryan Palmer	Mayor	Port Stephens Council

Tim Crosdale	GM	Port Stephens Council
Cr. Margaret Roles	Mayor	Hilltops Council
Anthony O'Reilly	GM	Hilltops Council
Brett Whitworth	Deputy Secretary, Local Government	Office of Local Government
Cr Doug Hawkins	Mayor	Walcha Shire Council
OAM	GM	Walcha Shire Council
Gary Murphy	Mayor	Glen Innes Severn Council
Cr Rob Banham	GM	Glen Innes Severn Council
Bernard Smith	Mayor	Wagga Wagga
Cr Dallas Tout	Mayor	Narrabri Shire Council
Cr Darrell Tiemens	GM	Narrabri Shire Council
Rob Williams	Acting GM	Warrumbungle Shire Council
Lindsay Mason	Mayor	Warrumbungle Shire Council
Cr. Ambrose Doolan	Mayor	Lachlan Shire Council
Paul Phillips	GM	Lachlan Shire Council
Greg Tory	Mayor	Dungog Shire Council
John Connors	GM	Dungog Shire Council
Gareth Curtis	Mayor	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
Kenrick Winchester	GM	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
Rebecca Ryan	Mayor	Ballina Shire Council
Cr Sharon Cadwallader	Director, Planning and Environment	Goulburn Mulwaree Council
Scott Martin	Mayor	Goulburn Mulwaree Council
Peter Walker	Mayor	Warren Shire Council
Milton Quigley	GM	Warren Shire Council
Gary Woodman	Mayor	Tenterfield Shire Council
Bronwyn Petrie	Mayor	Parkes Shire Council
Neil Westcott	Mayor	Byron Shire Council
Michael Lyon	GM	Byron Shire Council
Mark Arnold	GM	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Greg McDonald	Mayor	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council
Charlie Sheahan	Interim General Manager	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council
Steve McGrath	Mayor	Moree Plains Shire Council
Mark Johnson	General Manager	Moree Plains Shire Council
Kelvin Tytherleigh	Mayor	Glen Innes Severn Council
Rob Banham	GM	Glen Innes Severn Council
Bernard Smith	Mayor	Singleton Council
Sue Moore	Secretariat	Country Mayors Association of NSW
Gary Fry	Chair CMA and Mayor	Gunnedah Shire Council
Jamie Chaffey	Mayor	Orange City Council
Jason Hamling	CEO	Murray River Council
Terry Dodds		

Frank Crawley	Councillor	Murray River Council
Ruth McRae	Mayor	Murrumbidgee Council
John Scarce	GM	Murrumbidgee Council
Murray Wood	CEO	Dubbo Regional Council
Pam Kensit	Mayor	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Alex Waldron	CEO	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Todd Redwood	Deputy Mayor	Armidale Regional Council
Patrick Bourke	Mayor	Federation Council
Joe Gaudiosi	COO	Kiama Municipal Council
Vivian Slack-Smith	Mayor	Brewarrina Council
Fran Carter	Economic Development Manager	Brewarrina Council
Tony Reneker	Mayor	Leeton Shire Council
Jackie Kruger	GM	Leeton Shire Council
Eric Groth	GM	Gunnedah Shire
Tim Horan		Coonamble Shire Council
Paul Gallagher		Coonamble Shire Council
Barbara Deans		Coonamble Shire Council
Glen Neill	Mayor	Bogan Shire Council
Sharon Houlihan	Executive Officer	Canberra Region Joint Organisation
Jay Nankivell		Broken Hill City Council
Jim Hickey		Broken Hill City Council
Viv May		Wingecarribee Shire Council
Anthony McMahon		Bega Valley Shire Council
Russell Fitzpatrick	Mayor	Bega Valley Shire Council
Gregory Hill		Central Darling Shire Council
Robert Stewart		Central Darling Shire Council
Phyllis Miller		Forbes Shire Council
Steve Loane		Forbes Shire Council

APOLOGIES:

Mayor Rick Firman OAM	Temora Shire Council
General Manager Melissa Boxall	Temora Shire Council
Mayor Doug Curran	Griffith City Council
GM Brett Stonestreet	Griffith City Council
General Manager Mr George Cowan	Narrandera Shire Council
Mayor Jay Suvaal	Cessnock City Council
Mayor Brian Monaghan	Bland Shire Council
General Manager Grant Baker	Bland Shire Council
Paul Devery (General Manager)	Cowra Council
Mayor Cr Ruth Fagan	Cowra Council
GM David Webb	Hay Shire Council
Mayor Cr Ruth Fagan	Hay Shire Council
Mayor Clair Pontin	Mid Coast Council

Adrian Panuccio	MidCoast Council
GM Paul Bennet	Tamworth Regional Council
Cr. Ken Keith	Parkes Shire Council
Mayor Scott Ferguson	Blayney Shire Council
General Manager Kark Dicker	Blayney Shire Council
Mayor Jarrod Marsden	Cobar Shire Council
GM Peter Vlatko	Cobar Shire Council
	Walgett Shire Council
Mayor Craig Bembrick	Weddin Shire Council
General Manager Noreen Vu	Weddin Shire Council
Mayor Rick Firman OAM	Temora Shire Council
Ms Melissa Boxall, General Manager	Temora Shire Council
Mayor Chris Homer	Shellharbour Council
Mayor Kylie Webster	Kyogle Shire Council
Mayor Dave McCann	Coolamon Shire Council
General Manager Tony Donoghue	Coolamon Shire Council
Mayor Kylie King	Albury
Mayor Peta Betts	Edward River Council
CEO Phil Stone	Edward River Council
	Tamworth Regional Council
Mayor Russell Webb	Council
Mayor Claire Pontin	Midcoast Council
Mayor Mark Kellam	Oberon Shire Council
General Manager Gary Wallace	Oberon Shire Council

Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 24 November 2023 be accepted as a true and accurate record (Moved by Warren Shire Council / Seconded by Forbes Shire Council).

Matters Arising from the Minutes - Nil

PRESENTATIONS

The Hon Yasmin Catley MP, Minister for Police and Counter Terrorism

Began by describing her personal travels in and contact with the regions and the great work of NSW Police. Said that she will not and never will support an inquiry into policing in NSW, stating that the Police do a great job. The Community Safety inquiry will focus on the entrenched, complex drivers behind crime.

\$26.2mil regional crime package, including Moree but the Government realise that the issues are broad, so Moree is a trial that may be expanded in six months.

Regional Operation Mongoose has been getting real results, YAMS and safe transport of youth at night programs will be expanded.

As leaders in communities, the Minister said Local Government can help in the planning of crime prevention activities, acknowledging the varying capacities of councils. Surveillance (CCTV) and youth events can help.

'We can't arrest our way out of the current situation' was the point she emphasised.

The Minister did not mention the Regional Youth Crime Inquiry.

NSW Productivity Commissioner - Peter Achterstraat AM

Thanked Councils for feedback. Issues paper on funding models for water authority models. Submissions by 28 March 2024.

Some council systems have less than 2000 connections, whereas Sydney Water has two million.

Let's aim for cost recovery but environmental and regulatory factors must be factored in. Collaboration is vital where economies of scale are needed and it is pleasing to see collaboration in Local Government. We will look at why State Government funding is needed. We're hearing there is a lot of work to get grants and it's unpredictable, making planning difficult.

Video message from NSW Premier the Hon Chris Minns.

Reports

Linda Scott, President of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA)

The Federal Government has announced an inquiry into Local Government Financial Sustainability. Compared to local government internationally, Australian Local Government is underfunded. Submissions due by 3 May 2024.

She also covered the \$100 mil. Energy Fund and National Housing Accord.

Page 6

Local Government NSW (LGNSW) – President Darriea Turley AM

Congratulated Chair Jamie and the CMA for the Crime Inquiry announcement and Linda Scott for the Sustainability Inquiry, stating that the 1% funding from the Federal Government fight has been long running.

“We need to make sure the Regional Development Trust works for our members.”

Premier The Hon. Chris Minns Message

CMA Chair Jamie Chaffey introduced new Secretariat Gary Fry.

The Chair went through the CMA Crime, Law and Order report updates, promoting that the updated report is on the CMA website. Youth reoffending rates were highlighted as a major concern, where the regions are far worse than Sydney. This suggests access to more successful programs in Sydney than in the regions.

Chair Chaffey went through the member survey. No comments or questions from membership.

Membership

Shoalhaven moved and Liverpool Plains seconded the motion that Brewarrina Shire Council be accepted as a CMA member and that Wollongong City Council be accepted as an Associate Member. Mayor Vivian Slack-Smith from Brewarrina Shire Council was presented a CMA pin by Narromine Mayor Craig Davies, representing the CMA Executive Committee.

The CMA is now 89 members strong.

Dugald Saunders Leader of the NSW Nationals addressed the meeting.

New bail laws legislation amendment bill debate went all night until 6:45am, prior to the CMA meeting.

He thanked the CMA and Chair Chaffey for the regional crime focus and general advocacy. He said that the Terms of Reference submissions for the regional crime inquiry are due until 31 May, so get your input in. He emphasised the uniqueness of communities and that a blanket approach cannot work.

Q. Make the parents accountable.

A. Complicated pathways but we do need to ensure that kids are not bailed to the same home situations repeatedly.

Q. No deterrent until age 18 because they have no blemish on their record. Many great programs that are underfunded.

A. New bail laws are for ages 14 to 18.

Q. Mark Johnston, MPSC Mayor: Moree is not the crime capital of NSW. We have asked the Premier for a review of the agencies in our town, which is going to happen. A place for kids to go between remand and bail is a positive step.

A. Bail Accommodation facility out of town would be good. We need to identify the problem without scaring people away. Like you I hope to see the Moree funding expanded.

The Hon Paul Toole MP, Shadow Minister for Police

Safe Communities are a common priority. He commended the advocacy and work of regional councils, thanked councillors for their service. He applauded the CMA Crime, Law and Order report and CMA Chair Jamie Chaffey – “The CMA has affected change in this State.”

“Crime in regional NSW is one of the biggest issues in the State. Your organisation led the charge, calling for a parliamentary inquiry. It was finally announced this week. There is a silent epidemic of crime in regional areas and the rates surpass Sydney. There are real people behind the statistics, people who have been stabbed in their own homes. It has never been this widespread. We’ve had 52 front page stories across the State in relation to regional crime. It’s time for action. Time for an inquiry to help our communities feel safe. It shouldn’t be about politics. The previous Government’s work to improve youth crime prevention efforts has stagnated.

After six months of fighting, you have an inquiry announced to identify the drivers for youth crime. We want submissions saying you want us to bring the Inquiry to your town. We also want an interim report, rather than wait 18 months for something to be seen from this regional youth inquiry. I thank our police and you, for what you do in your communities.”

Q. Jamie: could we extend the inquiry?

A. A report to see things happening sooner rather than later is important.

Q. Sue Moore, Police number – I’ve seen more retiring police officers than incoming officers. What can we do to retain them.

A. We are losing more than we are gaining and there are many on leave. It is one of the big issues and we are pushing that.

Chair Chaffey had a majority of members’ hands up, indicating that they would want to see the inquiry in their town.

Jacki Fitzgerald, Executive Director NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

Trends and rates were the presentation focus. They are disproportionate to what we see in the cities.

“We are always keen for more data from members. Property crime rates are 59% worse in our regions than Sydney. Violent crime rates are 57% higher in the regions. Young people are responsible for just over a quarter of (property) crimes. Half of the regional property offenders are Aboriginal.

The high rates of crime illustrate the inequality between regional NSW and Sydney. Car theft is double, for example. Across the board, there has been a 20% rise in car theft in the last five years. Youth offenders have accounted for 82% of the increase. In 2023, 22 percent were combined with a home break-in.

Domestic violence 65% higher than Sydney. It has increased by 20% in five years. Non-domestic violence has been stable in Sydney but increased by 11% in the regions.

Sexual assaults have increased but property crime has reduced at a State level. The rates are much worse in the regions.”

Q. Tim Horan – do you consider unreported crimes?

A. Not what the ABS victims survey suggests.

Q. Jim Hickey, Broken Hill. Is there evidence to suggest theft is in relation to food?

A. There is some cost of living impacts but the youth recreational type crime is different.

Q. Substance abuse relation to violent crimes.

A. Drug and Alcohol are certain factors behind violent crime increases in the region. Lockout laws were a blunt but effective instrument in Sydney.

Q. Domestic violence and assault figures separate?

A. Yes.

Q. Crimes through a carriage advice like a phone increased?

A. Intimidation and stalking crimes have increased. However, those figures tie in with an increase in police activity in that area.

Deputy Commissioner Paul Pisanos, NSW Police Service Paul Pisanos APM

The Deputy Commissioner provided insights into regional policing and crime. He said he would not talk to crime statistics. There is an uptick in regional violent crime and it is concerning. He discussed what we can do together about it.

“We always welcome more police resources. I am proudly representing regional NSW and I am keen to look at recruitment from the regions, to the regions and retention of police in their home towns. HR want to redress people doing three years in a country town then transferring to the city. Accommodation and housing is one challenge.

People who work in special remote positions are multi-roled and do an amazing job.

Law and order has a direct impact on regional economies.

Youth crime; the bail laws legislation from the State Government is important to reduce repeat offenders. It did not go as far as he would like but it was a step forward.

Drugs are destroying our communities.

There has been nothing but support and positive commentary for the police from your organisation and that has put us in a much better position to work together on the non-core policing work, towards prevention of crime and reoffending. “

He said a holistic approach will free up Police time.

Q. Bronwyn – Any progress getting front line police off Corrections responsibilities.

A. The conversations are being had and we should be in the community.

Q. Getting positions filled, cost of housing is a problem, so are there initiatives in place?

A. Nothing is off the table for recruitment and retention. Key worker housing is a key issue.

Q. \$31,000 for student police, how do the dollars progress?

A. Starting salary is close to \$90,000, with incentives, it is genuinely attractive.

Q. Central Darling... childcare is lacking. Government owned housing is controlled by separate Government Departments and they do not coordinate.

A. A need for better coordination between departments was identified in Moree.

Mr. Kevin Morton, Representative of the Police Association of NSW

The Police Association sees the regional crime inquiry as a step in the right direction. He commended the campaigning of the CMA and its Chair.

“Reduced capacity means regional police have a greater workload than ever but the PA is proud of the work of NSW Police. Regional police adore their communities and they are central parts of their communities, holding the line because they are there on the front line when other departments or agencies are not.

PA members do their best to make a difference.”

Q. 573 police left the force in 2023, is that trend going to continue?

A. Policing is a difficult job and it's not for everyone. There is no way to leave the force with dignity other than medical issues. The PA has been pushing for recruiting incentives, such as with housing. More investment in advertising of incentives is need. 21 psychologists in police commands is a big step forward from the Commissioner.

Q. What kind of numbers are coming in and out of the Police Academy?

A. Even the Policy Academy is short-staffed.

Q. What should we Councils do?

A. Keep doing what you're doing. Keep supporting your local police. Ensure we are doing Police work, not the work of other departments (like prisoner transport).

Q The Goulburn Mayor promoted the Police Academy and the Behind the Blue Line program.

A. Agreed.

Q. Is recruitment begun before kids finish school?

A. Kids are influenced more – Black Lives Matter hurt recruitment, for example. However, life experience is important for policing, so recruiting too young is not ideal for retention.

General Business

Motion from the floor

Moved by Mayor Leeton Shire Council Cr. Tony Reneker

That the CMA advocates for the NSW Government to

- 1) honour the agreed / endorsed 5-year WAPs and associated funding commitments for the 23/24 financial year by immediately releasing the funds councils are expecting, and
- 2) genuinely consult local councils fully and early as key partners before introducing new changes to the scheme in future years.

Unanimously passed.

Mayor of Inverell Shire, Cr. Paul Harmon, moved that the CMA supports Nationals Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall's call for an independent investigation into Hunter New England Health.

Cr. Robert Banham, Mayor of Glen Innes Severn Council seconded the motion.

Unanimously passed.

Mayor of Narromine Shire, Cr. Craig Davies, Craig Davies (and CMA Executive member) on behalf of the Western Alliance of Councils, moved that CMA members collate figures for total (competitive) funding received over time to illustrate the decline in funding to councils across the board.

Seconded by Warren Shire.

Unanimously passed.

Mayor of Wentworth Shire Cr. Daniel Linklater moved That the CMA invite the Valuer General to a meeting, due to excessively high valuations. Plus, a representative of Crown Lands.

Chair said he will invite them to the Forbes meeting. No vote required

Business / finances

Moved by Goulburn

Seconded Narromine

CORRESPONDENCE

Outward / Inward

NOTED

Jacqui Emery, Chief Executive Officer at Royal Far West

Royal Far West is excited to be turning 100. They have been growing to try to meet unrelenting demand; they supported 21,000 young people in 2023.

Jackie highlighted the importance of early intervention and helping young people to head in the right direction to reduce youth crime.

Bring country kids to Manly, supporting the access to specialists is often life changing. Mental Health in regions, including among children is a growing concern. We provide assessment, parenting capacity support and connection to health specialists. Most paediatricians in NSW have closed their books to developmentally delayed children, others have wait times of up to five years. There are links between insufficient supports and disruption behaviour in schools and youth crime.

72% of parents who support their children at Royal Far West have their own mental health issues. With NSW Health, Royal Far West is piloting two regional NSW paediatric clinics (at Dubbo and Wagga Wagga). Royal Far West is the only philanthropic assessment service but funding has not increased and they are seeking an additional \$5-6mil. per year.

Called on Country Mayors to support their pre-budget submission.

Bega moved

Wentworth seconded.

Unanimously passed.

CMA Executive member and Mayor of Forbes Shire, Cr. Phyllis Miller OAM promoted the upcoming CMA Housing Conference in Forbes.

There being no further business, the meeting was formally closed at 1:18 pm.

Cr Jamie Chaffey
Chairman Country Mayor's Association of NSW

DRAFT

ITEM 7.3 MINUTES OF RAMJO MEETING - 23 FEBRUARY 2024

RECORD NUMBER	24/136
RELATED FILE NUMBER	EF24/88
AUTHOR/S	Executive Assistant to the General Manager and Mayor
APPROVER/S	General Manager

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the minutes of the RAMJO meeting held on Friday 23 February 2024 (**Attachment 1**).

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receives for information the minutes of the RAMJO meeting held on Friday 23 February 2024.

REPORT

(a) Background

The Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) comprises thirteen (13) Member Councils. The governing board comprises the Mayors and the General Managers of those member Councils and is supported by an Executive Officer. RAMJO comes together to consider common concerns of our communities and to find solutions to address these matters. RAMJO's current strategic regional priorities include:

- Water Security
- Energy Security and Affordability
- Transport Connectivity
- Digital Connectivity
- Better Health Services
- Housing
- Transport

RAMJO also collaborates on:

- Waste Management
- Contaminated Lands Management
- Shared Services
- Disaster/Risk Management

(b) Discussion

RAMJO held a Board Meeting on Friday 23 February 2024 in Albury.

Presentations included:

- Mrs Rose Jackson MLC – NSW Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth and the North Coast.
- Mrs Helen Dalton – Independent Member for Murray.
- Mr Cameron Templeton – Office of Local Government Update.
- Mr Giles Butler – Department of Regional NSW Update.

Discussions also took place regarding several matters including:

- Governance, Finance and Operations – work continues on strengthening RAMJO's internal financial processes. Development continues of a RAMJO risk register and assurance map with the ARIC aiming to keep RAMJO's internal audit workload to a minimum. Tabled draft advocacy, social media and related parties policies for endorsement and suggested renewal of the regional resource recovery model on a month by month basis.
- Strategic Priorities – Water sub-committee, Energy Security sub-committee, Transport sub-committee, Digital Connectivity sub-committee, Health sub-committee, Housing sub-committee and Digital Connectivity sub-committee updates.
- Project Updates – Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration (JONZA), Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (DRRF) Project and Regional Resource Recovery Projects.
- Advocacy updates – Proposal for increased advocacy on water buy-backs.

(c) Options

Nil – this report is for information purposes only.

IMPLICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED

(a) Financial

Costs of membership of RAMJO and attendance at RAMJO meetings are budgeted annually.

(b) Policy

Nil

(c) Legislative/Statutory

Local Government Act 1993, s400(O-Z, ZA-ZH)

(d) Risk

Attending RAMJO ensures that Leeton Shire Council can present key community issues in and to a forum and network whose collective voice is held in high regard and that has ready access to NSW Government Ministers and industry leaders.

CONSULTATION

(a) External

Members of RAMJO Councils

(b) Internal

The RAMJO meeting on Friday 23 February 2024 was attended (in person) by the Mayor and the General Manager.

LINK/S TO THE DELIVERY PROGRAM/OPERATIONAL PLAN (DPOP)

CSP FOCUS AREA 5 - Strong leadership and civic participation – DELIVERY PROGRAM
FUNCTIONAL AREA 9 - Governance and Administration - DELIVERY PROGRAM
ACTIVITY 9.4 - Nurture strong partnerships with Murray Darling Association, RAMJO, MI
Ltd, NSW Government, Commonwealth – Participate in RAMJO.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 MINUTES - RAMJO Board Meeting - 23 February 2024

MINUTES: BOARD MEETING

23 February 2024 – Albury



MEETING:	RAMJO Board Meeting		
DATE:	Friday 23 February 2024		
TIME:	9:30am – 1:00pm		
LOCATION:	Albury City Council – Robert Brown Room		
CHAIR:	Cr. Patrick Bourke		
ZOOM:	Join Zoom Meeting https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81473412851?pwd=b2r4Snbt2e3mZoseHKugdkaV7zIYBL.1 Meeting ID: 814 7341 2851 Passcode: 721608		
ATTENDEES:	Council / Organisation	Voting Member	Non-Voting Member
	Albury City Council	Cr. Kylie King	Mr. Frank Zaknich
	Berrigan Shire Council	Cr. Julia Cornwell McKean	Mrs. Karina Ewer
	Carrathool Shire Council	Cr. Darryl Jardine (apology)	Mr. Rick Warren (online)
	Edward River Council	Cr. Peta Betts	Mr. Philip Stone (apology)
	Federation Council	Cr. Pat Bourke	Mr. Adrian Butler (apology)
	Griffith City Council	Cr. Doug Curran	Mr. Brett Stonestreet
	Hay Shire Council	Cr. Lionel Garner (online)	Mr. David Webb (online)
	Leeton Shire Council	Cr. Tony Reneker (online)	Mrs. Jackie Kruger (online)
	Murray River Council	Cr. Frank Crawley	Mr. Terry Dodds (apology)
	Murrumbidgee Council	Cr. Ruth McRae	Mr. John Scarce
	Narrandera Shire Council	Cr. Neville Kschenka	Mr. George Cowan
	Wentworth Shire Council		Cr. Daniel Linklater (could not join) Mr. Ken Ross (could not join)
	Office of Local Government		Mr. Cameron Templeton
Regional NSW		Mr. Giles Butler	
RAMJO STAFF	Ms. Yvonne Lingua - Executive Officer		
	Ms. Carolyn Clancy - Office Manager		
OTHER ATTENDEES	Name	Role	
	The Hon. Rose Jackson MLC	NSW Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth and the North Coast	
	Mrs. Helen Dalton	Independent Member for Murray	

MINUTES: BOARD MEETING

23 February 2024 – Albury



MEETING AGENDA

Item	Topic	Time
	OPENING	9:30
1	WELCOME Acknowledgement on Country	9:30
2	Apologies and Leave of Absence	9:31
3	Declaration of Items of Pecuniary or Other Interest – Board Members / Designated Persons	9:32
4	MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: 10 November 2023 Board meeting – <i>Attachment A</i>	9:33
5	Matters and action items arising from previous Board meeting	9:34
6	GUEST SPEAKERS 6.1 Mrs. Rose Jackson MLC - NSW Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth and the North Coast – <i>Attachment B</i> 6.2 Mrs. Helen Dalton - Independent Member for Murray	9:35
7	GOVERNANCE, FINANCE AND OPERATIONS 7.1 2023/2024 Q2 Budget Review – <i>Attachment C</i> 7.2 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee – <i>Attachment D</i> 7.3 Tabling of Draft Policies – <i>Attachment E</i> 7.4 Update on Regional Resource Recovery Model – <i>Attachment F</i> 7.5 Terms of Reference for General Managers Advisory Committee – <i>Attachment G</i> 7.6 Draft Minutes - General Managers Advisory Committee 2 Feb - <i>Attachment H</i>	10:30
	BREAK	11:30
8	UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 8.1 Progress and status of Sub-Committee's – <i>Attachment I</i> 8.2 RAMJO Strategic Development – Institute for Sustainable Futures	11:40
9	OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT 9.1 Mr. Cameron Templeton: Office of Local Government Update	11:50
10	REGIONAL NSW 10.1 Mr. Giles Butler: Department of Regional NSW Update	12:00
11	PROJECT UPDATES 11.1 Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration – <i>Attachment J</i> 11.2 Disaster Risk Reduction Fund – <i>Attachment K</i> 11.3 Regional Resource Recovery – <i>Attachment L</i>	12:10
12	ADVOCACY 12.1 Proposal for increased advocacy on water buy-backs - <i>Attachment M</i> 12.2 Quarter 2 and current update on advocacy advancements - <i>Attachment N</i>	12:20
13	GENERAL BUSINESS 13.1 Call for general business by the Chair.	12:30
	Meeting Close	1:00pm

MINUTES: BOARD MEETING

23 February 2024 – Albury



AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Chair to welcome attendees and acknowledgement of country.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Apologies: Cr. Carol Oataway (represented by Deputy Mayor Lionel Garner), Mr. Terry Dodds, Mr. Phil Stone, Mr. Darryl Jardine and Mr. Adrian Butler are apologies.

Recommendation: That apologies be **accepted** and that leave of absence be granted.

Moved: Edward River / Seconded: Murrumbidgee
Carried

AGENDA ITEM 3 – DECLARATION OF ITEMS OF PECUNIARY OR OTHER INTEREST – BOARD MEMBERS / DESIGNATED PERSONS

Attendees to note any declarations.

- Albury noted an interest in Agenda item 7.4 - Renewal of the Regional Resource Recovery Model.

Recommendation: That Albury's interest in Item 7.4 be **noted**.

Moved: Griffith / Seconded: Murrumbidgee
Carried

AGENDA ITEM 4 – MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Tabling of Draft minutes of 10 November Board Meeting – Attachment A

Recommendation: That the minutes of the RAMJO Board Meeting held 10 November 2023 be **received** and the recommendations therein **adopted**.

Moved: Narrandera / Seconded: Edward River
Carried

AGENDA ITEM 5 – MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS RAMJO BOARD MEETINGS

ITEM	STATUS
Invite Water NSW Director to RAMJO Water Security Sub Committee meeting to seek clarity on planned infrastructure changes. Update: This action will be advanced by the Water sub-committee under a new committee chair.	NOT COMPLETED
Board to consider coordinating a regional list of events so councils are not competing with each other for attendances. Update: Events will be noted in the RAMJO E-Bulletin. Councils Events and Communications teams are being liaised with here.	IN PROGRESS
Circulate for the boards review, the final draft of the updated Water Position Paper Update: This Action was discussed at the last Water sub-committee meeting held in December 2023, with required tweaks discussed and drafted.	IN PROGRESS
Item 7.1 - Request a copy of the Regional Digital Connectivity Programs presentation and distribute	IN PROGRESS

MINUTES: BOARD MEETING

23 February 2024 – Albury



Update: Emails and voicemails have been left requesting a copy of the presentation.	
Item 7.2 - Request a copy of and circulate to members, the Annual State of the Region’s Economic Dataset Presentation and query member councils’ access to Profile ID datasets	COMPLETE
Item 10.1 - Invite Wentworth, Balranald and Wagga Councils to join RAMJO as Associate Members Update: Wentworth have accepted the invitation. No response yet from Balranald, EO working with our OLG representative to advance this. EO working with the Chair on progressing Wagga membership.	IN PROGRESS
Item 14.2 - Purchase thank-you gifts from the RAMJO board for Cr. Matt Hannan and Cr. Chris Bilkey.	COMPLETE

Recommendation: That the RAMJO Board **note** the status of matters arising from previous Board meetings.

Carried

AGENDA ITEM 6 – PRESENTATIONS

6.1 The Hon. Rose Jackson MLC - NSW Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth and the North Coast spoke on various topics including social and affordable housing / key worker housing for highly skilled professionals (including police and teacher housing), mental health and water buybacks.

ACTION: Executive Officer to correspond with Rose Jackson’s office regarding inclusion in critical stakeholder meetings

ACTION: RAMJO Councils to assess interest in reviewing ACC’s MOU with Homes NSW

6.2 Mrs. Helen Dalton – Independent Member for Murray spoke on current approach to water buybacks by the Federal Government and water allocation.

Recommendation: That the Board **note** the presentations by Minister Jackson and Helen Dalton.

Moved: Edward River / Seconded: Murrumbidgee

Carried

AGENDA ITEM 7 – GOVERNANCE, FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

7.1 2023/2024 Q2 Budget Review

Attachment C contains the 2023/2024 FY Q2 budget review. Key points include:

Budgeted income for the quarter = \$275,432.00; Actual income for the quarter = \$58,244.06

Budgeted expenses for the quarter = \$237,356.00; Actual expenses for the quarter = \$87,417.53

Work continues on strengthening RAMJO’s internal financial processes, including setting up tracking categories to better differentiate between grant funds tied to projects and operational funds. This is evidenced by the addition of Project Funding streams at the bottom of the Q2 report, however, note that not all projects are listed yet and budgets for each project have not yet been uploaded. The ARIC are aware of and help to oversee the work being undertaken here, and agree that there needs to be a focus on improving our internal system in this space.

Recommendation: That the Board **note** the Q2 budget review update.

Moved: Murrumbidgee / Seconded: Albury

Carried

MINUTES: BOARD MEETING

23 February 2024 – Albury



7.2 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

Attachment D notes the ARIC agenda for the February 2024 meeting and minutes from the November 2023 meeting.

The GMAC moved at its February 2024 meeting to help ensure increased RAMJO board participation at ARIC meetings going forward, with Adrian Butler attending the last meeting held on 14 February.

Work to date includes development of a RAMJO Risk Register and Assurance Map, with the ARIC aiming to keep RAMJO's internal audit workload as minimal as possible by implementing a range of satisfactory oversight mechanisms that feed into to the risk register.

Recommendation: That the Board **note** the update provided regarding RAMJO's ARIC.

**Moved: Leeton / Seconded: Edward River
Carried**

7.3 Tabling of Draft Policies

Attachment E notes three (3) policies for the Boards endorsement and adoption, which have been reviewed by the GMAC. Going forward, more required policies that will help ensure RAMJO's overall compliance will be developed and shared with the GMAC for their review and input, prior to a request for endorsement by the RAMJO board.

The first round of proposed policies are as follows, and are intended to:

1. *Advocacy Policy:* Provide structure for RAMJO Board and staff members, in relation to advancing advocacy priorities
2. *Social Media Policy:* Provide direction to employees and Board members while informing the community, regarding the use of social media by RAMJO
3. *Related Parties Policy:* Provide a framework to report appropriate disclosures in the Joint Organisation's Financial Statements, as required by the Accounting Standard.

Recommendation: That the Board **endorse** and **adopt** the first round of proposed RAMJO policies.

**Moved: Griffith / Seconded: Murrumbidgee
Carried**

Cr. Kylie King and Mr. Frank Zaknich left the meeting

7.4 Renewal of the Regional Resource Recovery Model

Attachment F notes an update to recent discussions had surrounding an assessment of and subsequent renewal of, the current Regional Resource Recovery Model.

Recommendation: That the Board:

- **Acknowledge** the difficulties and challenges with the contract/MoU between RAMJO and AlburyCity in relation to the Regional Resource Recovery Model, and note and appreciate the transparency with which both RAMJO and AlburyCity have navigated these; and
- **Endorse** pursuit of the development Service Level Agreement within the next six months in relation to the Regional Resource Recovery Model, with the current model remaining in place on a month-by-month basis, until a new agreement is reached and finalised.

**Moved: Murrumbidgee / Seconded: Griffith
Carried**

Cr. Kylie King and Mr. Frank Zaknich rejoined the meeting

MINUTES: BOARD MEETING

23 February 2024 – Albury



7.5 Terms of Reference for the General Managers Advisory Committee

Attachment G notes proposed Terms of Reference for effective management of the General Managers Advisory Committee (**GMAC**), for the board's consideration and adoption.

Recommendation: That the Board **endorse** and **adopt** the proposed Terms for Reference for the General Managers Advisory Committee.

**Moved: Murrumbidgee / Seconded: Edward River
Carried**

7.6 Draft Minutes – General Managers Advisory Committee Meeting – 2 February 2024

Attachment H notes the meeting minutes from the GMAC meeting held 2 February 2024.

Recommendation: That the Board **note** the minutes from General Managers Advisory Committee Meeting held 2 Feb. 2024.

**Moved: Leeton / Seconded: Berrigan
Carried**

AGENDA ITEM 8 – STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

8.1 Progress and status of sub-committee's

Attachment I notes the progress made and the current position of RAMJO's sub-committees, which directly link to RAMJO's *Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities*.

Recommendation: That the Board **note** the update provided on the progress and status of RAMJO sub-committees.

**Moved: Narrandera / Seconded: Murray River
Carried**

8.2 RAMJO Strategic Development – Institute for Sustainable Futures – Verbal update

Following discussions had at the November 2023 board meeting around an apparent siloed approach to RAMJO strategy and advancement of the *Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities*, the EO is currently exploring options for the engagement of the University of Technology Sydney's - *Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF)* research and development team, to help review and link RAMJO's *Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP)*.

The ISF is an independent research institute within the University of Technology Sydney who conduct transdisciplinary, project-based research in line with a vision of creating positive change towards sustainable futures. ISF researchers bring together expertise in a wide range of areas including engineering, architecture, economics, science, social science, international studies and political studies, to deliver practical and holistic solutions to complex problems.

Given the complexity and vast interconnectedness of RAMJO's focus areas within its SSRP and the current limited resources of RAMJO, a holistic approach to advancing priorities may prove more effective in advancing RAMJO's objectives. The EO is seeking approval to utilize an underspend in JONZA funds and investigating other funding opportunities available to Joint Organisations, to help fund such work, pending GMAC and Board approval. The EO will continue to advise the GMAC and board of progress and options in this space.

Recommendation: That the Board **note** the update.

**Moved: Berrigan / Seconded: Murrumbidgee
Carried**

MINUTES: BOARD MEETING

23 February 2024 – Albury



AGENDA ITEM 9 – OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE

9.1 Mr Cameron Templeton, Council Engagement Manager - Riverina and Far South-West

Cameron Templeton gave a verbal update on the work of the Office of Local Government and also confirmed that Brett Whitworth will attend the Board meeting held on 17 May 2024 in Corowa.

Councils awaiting on the final approval of the \$1m flood recovery grant, which is being administered by OLG, are encouraged to reach out to Mary-Kate Haigh for progress information. Her contact details are 02 4422 2323 / Email: grants@old.nsw.gov.au.

AGENDA ITEM 10 – REGIONAL NSW UPDATE

10.1 Mr Giles Butler Director - Riverina Murray, Regional Development

Giles Butler gave a verbal update on the work of the Department of Regional NSW and noted that ICAC workshops were taking place within the region between March and May.

Recommendation: That the Board **note** the briefing by the Office of Local Government and the Dept. of Regional NSW.

Moved: Murrumbidgee / Seconded: Berrigan
Carried

AGENDA ITEM 11 – PROJECT UPDATES

11.1 Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration (JONZA)

Attachment J provides an update on the current status of the JONZA project, which is also the vehicle for advancing RAMJO's broader Energy Security and Affordability priorities.

Recommendation: That the Board **note** the update provided on Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration (JONZA).

Moved: Narrandera / Seconded: Leeton
Carried

11.2 Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (DRRF) Project

Attachment K provides an update on the current position of the DRRF project.

Recommendation: That the Board **note** the updates provided on Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (DRRF) Project.

Moved: Murrumbidgee / Seconded: Edward River
Carried

11.3 Regional Resource Recovery Projects

Attachment L provides an update on the current position of the Regional Resource Recovery Projects.

Recommendation: That the Board **note** the updates provided on Regional Resource Recovery Projects.

Moved: Berrigan / Seconded: Edward River
Carried

AGENDA ITEM 12 – ADVOCACY

12.1 Proposal for increased advocacy on water buy-backs

MINUTES: BOARD MEETING

23 February 2024 – Albury



Attachment M contains a motion prepared by Cr. Julia Cornwell McKean of Berrigan Shire Council.

Recommendation: That:

1. RAMJO Councils (or a subset of) seek a meeting with the Premier and Minister on or about 14 March
2. RAMJO issue a media release on water buy-backs with board feedback inclusions

Moved: *Berrigan* / **Seconded:** *Leeton*
Carried

12.2 General update on advocacy

Attachment N notes an update on quarter 2 and current advocacy work.

Recommendation: That the Board note the update provided on Quarter 2 and current advocacy work.

Moved: *Murrumbidgee* / **Seconded:** *Edward River*
Carried

AGENDA ITEM 13 – GENERAL BUSINESS

A call for General Business items will be made by the Chair.

MEETING CLOSE: 12.52pm

ITEM 7.4 ROXY COMMUNITY THEATRE - BUILD AND BUDGET UPDATE

RECORD NUMBER	24/141
RELATED FILE NUMBER	EF24/89
AUTHOR/S	Roxy Project Manager
APPROVER/S	General Manager

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

Council is provided an update on the Roxy Build Project since assuming the role of the Principal as determined on 29 May 2023. The reporting period is mid-February 2024 to mid-June 2024.

Council is also presented with the option of advancing the completion of the project using Section 7.12 developer contributions given Growing Regions funding has not eventuated.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receives the update on the Roxy build project and directs the Roxy PMO (Project Management Office) to:

1. Halt the project once all available funds are expended,
2. Continue to progress the project to a nominated value using Section 7.12 development contribution reserve funds.

REPORT

(a) Background

At the May 2023 Extraordinary Council meeting, Council determined to complete the Roxy Project as Principal following the demise of the Lloyd Group. At that meeting Council confirmed a build project budget of \$6.4M (a value managed figure for Stages 1 and 2) and a funding strategy that includes grants (54%), fund raising (2%) and Council investment (44%). The budget included a contingency of \$430K. Council's voted contribution to the build is \$5.284M with staff approved to seek additional grant funding with a view to ultimately delivering the full project (Stages 1 and 2, with all value managed items reinstated).

In January 2024 Council applied for \$2.2M from Growing Regions (Commonwealth Funding) after a successful expression of interest process in 2023. In May 2024 Council was advised that its project was not selected for funding.

(b) Discussion

Project Summary - Status

Procurement

- 100% of forty-six (46) trade package contracts have been let, with
 - Mechanical (labour only, fixed price)
 - Electrical (open book contract (hourly rates)
 - For both mechanical and electrical, materials are being sourced directly by Council.
- Specialist Equipment contract has been executed and work has commenced on cable runs and fit off.
- Painting contract has been executed and works have commenced.
- Joinery contract executed and off-site fabrication underway.

Construction Progress

- Structural: Structural steel including plant deck and stage piers 100 % complete.
- Mechanical: ducting has been installed internally. All ductwork to new toilets and dressing rooms is complete. Outdoor units have been positioned and remaining external ductwork 50% complete.
- Rough in: Electrical rough in is 50% complete. Specialist cabling, fire and data is progressing at the same time along the designated cable paths created by cable trays. Sprinklers installation in stage and under stage area is complete.
- Hydraulics: Hot and cold complete in kitchen and toilets. Drainage (on site) complete with discharge connection to commence once civil works in Roxy Lane is complete.
- Carpentry: New door jams installed throughout. Stage piers bearers and joists are complete. Sacrificial stage lining installation underway.
- Painting: Painting of Auditorium ceiling is complete. Painting of dress circle walls complete. Painting in foyer has commenced.
- Loading Dock: Prep work for the installation of loading dock complete. Installation to commence on Monday.

Overall build Status at 80% complete. Some trades are still struggling to maintain Program due to their internal labour resources. The Project Management Office (PMO) has had to be flexible with contracting to ensure the project didn't stall entirely. Risks are being actively managed. PMO greatly appreciates all trades who have agreed to help with completing the project. Some trades have been working on weekends to maintain the Program.



Figure 1 Plant room deck.

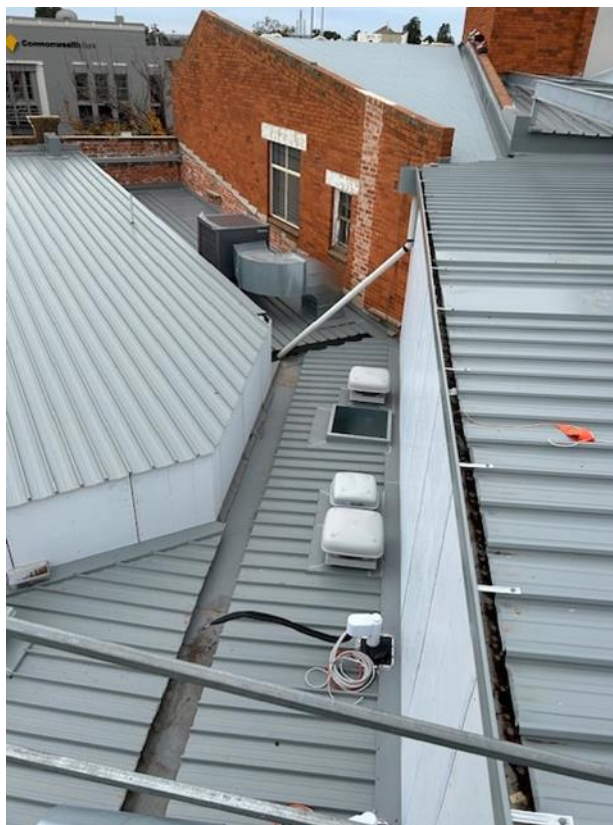


Figure 2 Toilet duct work.



Figure 3 Electrical cable installation.

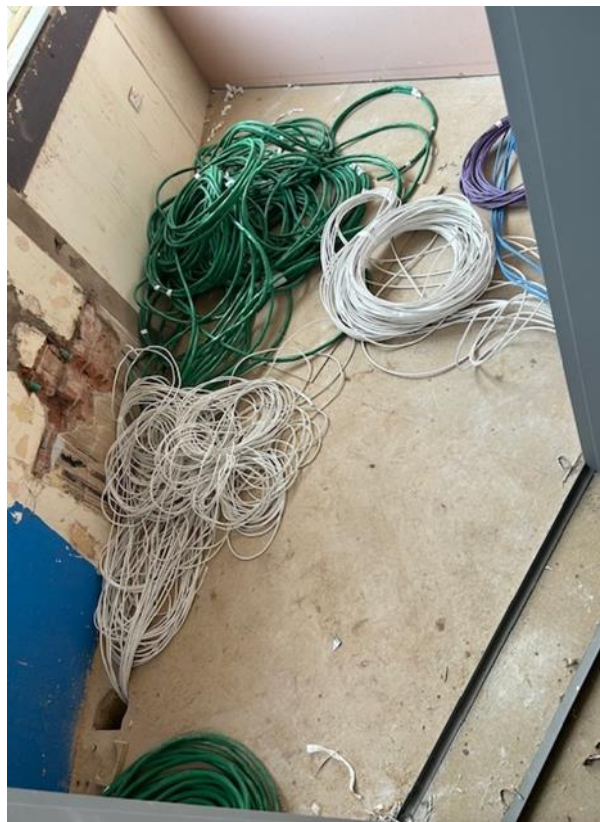


Figure 4 Electrical cable trays and drainage

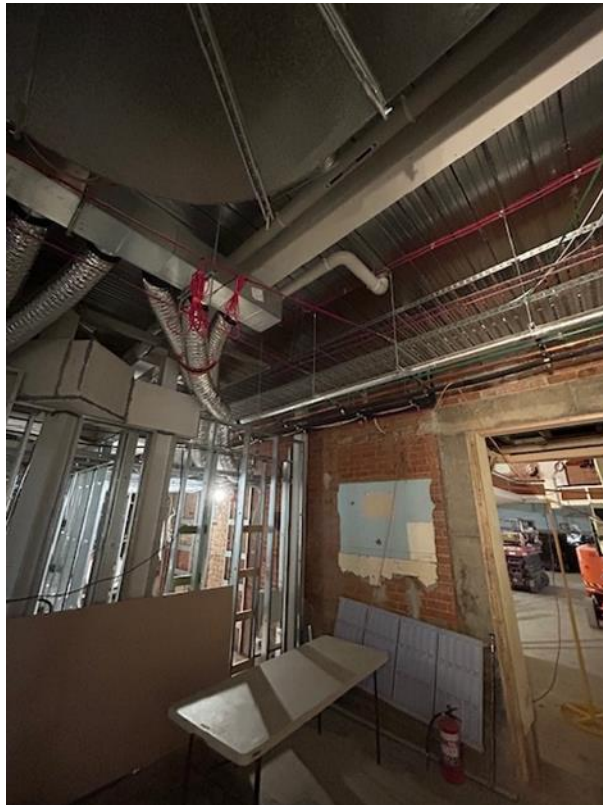


Figure 5 Kitchen Duct work.



Figure 6 Render to walls to match existing pattern.



Figure 7 Painting of ceiling complete.



Figure 8 Rebuilt stage and stage rigging.

Works Program

The Works Program for Stage 1 is currently delayed by eight (8) weeks, with Practical Completion (PC) still on track for 31 July 2024 but tight:

- One (1) week due to inclement weather.
- One (1) week due to some tradie holidays differing from build program.
- Two (2) weeks due to inability to secure a complete mechanical trade package. This has had a flow on effect to other tasks in the stage area.
- Four (4) weeks due to inability to secure a complete electrical trade package, limited labour resources, and the intricate coordination required between electrical, mechanical and fire interfacing.

Stage 2: Currently on hold as the Growing Regions application was unsuccessful. Unless there is an opportunity to complete the works now, stalling the project will have a financial impact on the project due to additional site establishment costs and possible inflation in prices.

The PMO is constantly watching costs and making adjustments where possible to stretch the available funds.

Currently Stage 1 will deliver.

- i. Fully functioning Auditorium & Specialist Infrastructure
- ii. Dressing Room Level 1 – warm shell (walls and plumbing)
- iii. Lift 1 to Stage / Dressing Rooms
- iv. Public Toilets ground floor
- v. Retractable Seating storage
- vi. Extended Foyer Ceilings / Stud walls / Plaster ceilings / Painted foyer
- vii. Bar joinery only (no equipment)
- viii. Specialist Infrastructure and Services rough-in only for Stage 2
- ix. Lift 2 to Balcony and Dress circle
- x. Heritage Interpretation plan (Condition of consent, mentioned in RRC section)
- xi. Roxy 2 'black box' for rehearsals only (no cinema)

Incomplete works will include.

- i. Roxy 2 Cinema and cinema / performance equipment
- ii. Supper room refurbishment
- iii. Theatre Management Space (which will be cold shell)
- iv. Dressing Room Top (which will be cold shell)
- v. Dressing Room Ground (which will be a warm shell)
- vi. Green Room (which will be cold shell)
- vii. Kitchen fixed and loose equipment

In the options section of this report, the PMO is suggesting that Council might like to consider accessing additional funding via Section 7.12 developer contributions to progress the works program further while the trades are on site (avoiding abortive works and enabling community access to / use of more parts of the building). The adopted 7.12 Fixed Levy Plan identifies the Roxy Theatre as a high priority project with \$800K allocated.

Compliance

- WHS – one (1) accident for this reporting period. Stitches were required to a hand injury. Not deemed a notifiable incident under SafeWork guidelines.
- WHS - Weekly, monthly, and quarterly inspections carried out by management.
- Heritage Advisor has done his monthly walk of site and determined works to be satisfactory – Monthly.
- Occupation Certificate requirements are being collated as the build progresses. On track.

Associated Works

- Fire water main installation is complete.
- Electrical cable installation is complete.
- Electrical power pole and transformer upgrade (Roxy Lane) is complete.
- Roxy forecourt works is almost complete. Minor Wade Avenue footpath rectification to be completed.

Roxy Redevelopment Committee (RRC)

- RRC has been kept abreast of progress.
- RRC has signed off on all final finishes.
- RRC has signed off in principle the heritage interpretation concept plan (a condition of consent) which will be installed in the supper room.
- A new hoarding has been installed on Wade Ave wall promoting the re-opening of the Roxy in 2024.
- RRC has developed funding strategies with plans afoot to raise \$300K.

IMPLICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED

(a) Financial

Total redevelopment payments for fourth reporting period as Principal (7 February 2024 to 12 June 2024) is \$3,634,190 summarised below:

Roxy Redevelopment - Financial Report 12th June 2024									
UPDATED ROXY THEATRE COST TO COMPLETE BUDGET 08 JUNE 2023			Council Feb 2023		OPTION 2 June 2023		Construction Phase 12th June 2023		
Roxy Redevelopment Expenses			Approved Budget		Value Managed – Reduced Scope 2023				
	Council Resolved	Contracted To Date	Voted to complete	Paid to date (Up to Feb 2023)	Forecast to Complete	Approved Total Project Cost	Paid since March 2023	Total Paid to Date	
Consultants Various	\$ 1,247,113	\$ 1,522,094	\$ 1,522,094	\$ 1,399,374	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,772,094	\$ 233,107	\$ 1,755,201	
Build / Construction (Includes Prelims)	\$ 7,967,783	\$ 7,136,495	\$ 7,136,495	\$ 2,257,316	\$ 6,040,987	\$ 8,298,313	\$ 3,401,083	\$ 5,658,399	
Power - Additional Supply Required			\$ 146,000	\$ 78,884	\$ 67,116	\$ 146,000	\$ -	\$ 146,000	
Seating	\$ 650,000	\$ 613,610	\$ 650,000	\$ 390,000	\$ 260,000	\$ 650,000	\$ -	\$ 594,400	
Specialist Equipment	\$ 800,000		\$ 886,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 586,000	\$ 886,000	\$ -	\$ 525,674	
Contingency	\$ 461,054		\$ 1,034,059	\$ -	\$ 430,000	\$ 430,000	\$ -	\$ -	
Internal Project Management		\$ 62,500	\$ 62,500			Inc in prelims	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 11,125,950	\$ 9,272,199	\$ 11,437,148	\$ 4,425,574	\$ 7,634,113	\$ 12,182,407	\$ 3,634,190	\$ 8,679,674	

Specialist equipment will require approximately \$50K from the contingency to cover integration with electrical and mechanical services. The full contingency has been allocated in the forecast to complete Stage 1.

Stage 2 is on hold due to Growing Regions funding application being unsuccessful. Other options – including but not limited to further fundraising, value management or accessing Section 7.12 developer contribution reserves – will need to be considered.

Currently Council has \$1,077,970 in section 7.12 reserves with forward commitments in 24/25 of \$545K. This leaves an available balance of \$532K. Council has forecast further section 7.12 income of \$175K in the 2024/25 budget.

(b) Policy

Procurement Policy
Work Health and Safety Policy

(c) Legislative/Statutory

Local Government Act 1993
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
Work Health and Safety Act 2011

(d) Risk

- **Critical Path Delays:**
 - Ensure Council operations led tasks (forecourt, laneway, and fire line) are aligned to Roxy works program as critical for achieving occupation certificate. – Ongoing.
 - Electrical and Mechanical switch board lead times.
 - Specialist equipment continues to be risk due to a limited contractor pool. A combination of specialists and local trades with required skills have been appointed. Critical aspect of the work is integration with base building services and commissioning. Stage 2 specialist equipment is on hold pending funding.
- **Financial:**
 - Where deposits cannot be waived for goods, Council will need transfer ownership from the supplier to Council to mitigate some of the risk.
 - For contingency management, expose all latent and defect work as soon as possible to enable pricing and any further value management, if required. - Ongoing.
 - Undertake further value management if necessary.
 - Keep a tight watch on financials using CAT system to audit expenditure to budget.
 - Seek further funding.
- **Reputational:**
 - To deliver in full and on time the Project Team meet twice weekly and report to the Project Control Group monthly and Council bi-monthly.
 - Council keeps up fortnightly communications with community, including regular virtual tours.

CONSULTATION

(a) External

Regular communications (including social media) to keep community up to date. Videos continue to be well received.

Stakeholder engagement is ongoing with the Roxy Redevelopment Committee developing ways in which to engage the community in soft and grand openings, sponsorship, and broader stakeholder engagement.

An agreement in principle has been reached to host the 2024 Leeton Eisteddfod Dance Groups at the end of October 2024 as part of Roxy Community Theatre soft opening strategy, followed by Outback Band Spectacular and Gralee School. Soft openings help to ensure building defects and equipment is tested for operation, including training requirements. *Note for clarity: This Eisteddfod dance event will run separate to the main Leeton Eisteddfod in August 2024.*

(b) Internal

Project Control Group – includes General Manager (Chairperson), Katherine Herrmann (Project Director), Gideon Vos (Roxy Project Manager), Peter Salisbury (Contract / Construction Manager), Andrew Valenta (Manager WHS, QA and Risk), Simon Bridges (Superintendent) and Avtar Singh (Director Corporate / CFO).

Director Operations
Manager Road and Drainage
Manager Water and Wastewater

LINK/S TO THE DELIVERY PROGRAM/OPERATIONAL PLAN (DPOP)

Under the Key Priority Area CSP FOCUS AREA 1 - A connected, inclusive and enriched community within Council's adopted Delivery Program/Operational Plan – DELIVERY PROGRAM FUNCTIONAL AREA 2 - Museum, Arts and Cultural Services - DELIVERY PROGRAM ACTIVITY 2.5 - Operate the Roxy Theatre, including: Completing the facility redevelopment; Setting up RIPA (Roxy Institute of Performing Arts); Collaborating with NIDA (National Institute of Dramatic Arts) - OPERATIONAL PLAN ACTIVITY 2.5.1 - Complete the refurbishment of the Roxy Theatre both internally and externally".

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report

CORPORATE MATTERS

ITEM 7.5 THE MAKING OF RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR

RECORD NUMBER	24/126
RELATED FILE NUMBER	EF24/88
AUTHOR/S	Senior Rates Officer Manager Finance
APPROVER/S	Director Corporate / CFO

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to make the Rates and Charges for the 2024/25 financial year. Once the Operational Plan 2024/25 and Budget 2024/25 have been adopted by Council, the Rates and Charges can be made in accordance with section 532 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council authorises the General Manager to prepare and serve the following 2024/25 Rate Notices or, in her absence, they may be served by the Director Corporate / CFO:

1. Ordinary Rates

a. Ordinary Rate – Residential

In accordance with section 494 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council makes the Base Amount \$532 for Ordinary Rates for the 2024/25 financial year, which represents 48% of the total revenue for the Residential Rating category and make the Ad Valorem component of the rate at 0.00490036 (0.00462483 in 2023/24) cents in the dollar on all land value of all rateable land within the Residential Rating category.

b. Ordinary Rate – Farmland

In accordance with section 494 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council makes the Base Amount \$771 for Ordinary Rates for the 2024/25 financial year, which represents 20% of the total revenue for the Farmland Rating category and make the Ad Valorem component of the rate at 0.00429114 (0.00429114 in 2023/24) cents in the dollar on all land value of all rateable land within the Farmland Rating category.

c. Ordinary Rate – Business-General

In accordance with section 494 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council makes the Base Amount \$373 for Ordinary Rates for the 2024/25 financial year, which represents 25% of the total revenue for the Business-General Rating category and make the Ad Valorem component of the rate at 0.00839846 (0.00666703 in 2023/24) cents in the dollar on all land value of all rateable land within the Business-General Rating category.

d. Ordinary Rate – Business-Industrial

In accordance with section 494 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council makes the Base Amount \$621 for Ordinary Rates for the 2024/25 financial year, which represents 25% of the total revenue for the Business-Industrial Rating category and make the Ad Valorem component of the rate at 0.00968906 ((0.00666703 in 2023/24) cents in the dollar on all land value of all rateable land within the Business-Industrial Rating category.

2. Interest Rate on Overdue Rates and Charges

That the interest rate to be charged on all overdue Rates and Charges and arrears during the 2024/25 financial year to be set at 10.5% for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

3. Charges – Sewerage Local Funda. Sewerage Annual Charge – Residential

Makes the Sewerage Annual Charge – Residential for the 2024/25 financial year \$771 for each parcel of land categorised as Residential land within the Leeton, Yanco and Whitton Sewerage Local Rate Areas in accordance with section 501 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

b. Sewerage Annual Charge – Non-Residential

The charge is to apply to each water meter attached to the assessment categorised as Non-Residential land within the Leeton, Yanco and Whitton Sewerage Local Rate Areas in accordance with section 501 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The usage charge is proposed to be \$ 1.34 cents per kilolitre with a minimum charge equivalent to the Residential charge of \$ 771.

The Non-Residential Sewer Access charge be as follows:

Meter Size	2024/2025 (\$)
20mm	257.00
25mm	257.00
32mm	420.00
40mm	655.00
50mm	1024.00
80mm	2,620.00
100mm	4,093.00
150mm	9,209.00
200mm	16,371.00

4. Water Charges

Makes the following water charges:

a. Access Charges

Meter Size	2024/2025 (\$)
20mm	341.00
25mm	341.00
32mm	868.00
40mm	1,354.00
50mm	2,176.00
65mm	3,680.00
80mm	5,575.00
100mm	8,332.00
150mm	14,630.00

b. Consumption Charges – Residential

- for the first 300 kilolitres (kL) = \$1.34 per kL
- from 301 kilolitres to 600 kilolitres = \$2.05 per kL
- thereafter = \$3.65 per kL

Strata Properties with single meter \$2.26 per kL for all consumption.

c. Consumption Charges – Non-Residential

- for the first 300 kilolitres (kL) = \$1.34 per kL
- thereafter = \$2.05 per kL

5. Domestic Waste Management Charge (Red Bin)

Makes the Domestic Waste Management Charge under section 496 of the *Local Government Act 1993* of \$205 on all rateable parcels of land for which there is a full waste collection service.

6. Non-Domestic Waste Management Charge (Red Bin)

Makes the Waste Management Charge under section 501 of the *Local Government Act 1993* of \$205 to the non-residential and non-rateable parcels of land in the Leeton Shire Council area being rendered a full waste collection service.

7. Landfill Access Charge

Makes a Landfill Management Charge under section 501 of the *Local Government Act 1993* of \$75 for all rateable assessments and assessments exempt from rating which have requested a domestic waste Kerbside collection service under section 496.

8. Recycling Service Charge (Yellow Bin)

Makes the Recycling Service Charge under section 501 of the *Local Government Act 1993* of \$130 on all parcels of land for which there is a full Domestic Recycling Collection Service.

Recycling Services for non-residential and non-rateable properties will be optional, for those properties wishing to use the service will be charged at the rate of \$130 per annum.

9. Food Organic Green Organic (FOGO) Service (Green Bin)

Council Charges the domestic FOGO service at \$100 for each parcel of rateable land for which there is a full FOGO collection service.

FOGO services for non-residential property and non-rateable property for which the service is available and requested will be charged at the rate of \$100 per annum.

10. Stormwater Management Charge

Makes the Stormwater Management Charge under section 496A of the *Local Government Act 1993* of \$25 for developed residential properties, \$12.50 for each residential strata unit and \$25 for eligible properties within the Business Rating category area and \$12.50 for each business strata title unit.

11. On-site Sewerage Management Service Fee

Makes the annual Administration Service Fee under Section 608 (2) of the *Local Government Act 1993* of \$15 per annum for an approval to operate a system of sewerage management.

12. Fees and Charges

Makes the Fees and Charges for the 2024/25 financial year as per the adopted Operational Plan 2024/25 and Revenue Policy (including the Fees and Charges 2024/25).

REPORT

(a) Background

The proposed rates and charges for the 2024/25 financial year, along with the DRAFT Operational Plan 2024/25 and the DRAFT Budget 2024/25, were endorsed for public exhibition by Council at a Meeting on 24 April 2024. Council consulted on rates increase of 4.5%.

The DRAFT documents were subsequently advertised and placed on public exhibition from Monday 29 April 2024 until Tuesday 28 May 2024.

(b) Discussion

Rates and charges are the primary source of revenue for Council. Such revenue is critical for funding operational expenditure used in service delivery to the community in addition to the funding of the maintenance and renewal of Council's Infrastructure assets.

Section 532 of the *Local Government Act 1993* - Publication of draft operational plan states the following “A Council must not make a rate or charge until it has given public notice (in accordance with section 405) of its draft operational plan for the year for which the rate or charge is to be made and has considered any matters concerning the draft operational plan (in accordance with that section)”.

The rebalanced rating structure is proposed to create a fairer and more equitable distribution between the rating categories. Residential ratepayers will see no change to the proportion of rates paid overall. Farmland ratepayers will not see the rate peg increase for two years, effectively a rate peg “holiday”. Business ratepayers will be split creating two categories; business-general and business-industrial, for two years both the usual rate peg plus the farmland equivalent rate peg will be absorbed by businesses split 25/75 between general and industrial businesses.

FOGO service is being introduced for 2024/2025 waste services. The structure of charging will improve transparency by separately displaying the landfill charge.

(c) Options

THAT Council:

1. Adopts the recommendation. ***This is the recommended option.***
2. Amends the recommendation.

IMPLICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED

(a) Financial

The details of the income raised by rates and charges including how it is spent is as outlined in Council's adopted Operational Plan 2024/25.

(b) Policy

All rates and charges are listed in Council's Revenue Policy (including the Fees and Charges 2024/25).

(c) Legislative/Statutory

Local Government Act 1993

(d) Risk

Without a resolution from Council staff cannot make the rates needed to fund Council's operations. Section 533 of the *Local Government Act 1993* states that the rates need to be made prior to 1 August in the year the rate or charge is made.

There may be a reduced capacity to pay rates from some ratepayers. Council has a Hardship Policy and ratepayers can make application if they are in financial strife.

CONSULTATION

(a) External

The DRAFT Operational Plan 2024/25, DRAFT Budget and DRAFT Revenue Policy 2024/25 (including Fees and Charges for 2024/25) were placed on public exhibition and on Council's website for the period from Monday 29 April 2024 until Tuesday 28 May 2024.

(b) Internal

Senior Rates Officer

LINK/S TO THE DELIVERY PROGRAM/OPERATIONAL PLAN (DPOP)

Under the Key Priority Area THEME 6 - "STRONG LEADERSHIP" within Council's adopted Delivery Program/Operational Plan – 20 - A community that is always on the front foot - 20a is to "Strive to deliver the aspirations of the community through community leadership - Operate an efficient and effective Local Government Administration

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report

ITEM 7.6 INVESTMENTS REPORT FOR MAY 2024

RECORD NUMBER	24/132
RELATED FILE NUMBER	EF24/97
AUTHOR/S	Accountant
APPROVER/S	Manager Finance Director Corporate / CFO

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

This report provides details of the performance of Council's investment portfolio for the period ending 31 May 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council notes the information contained in the Investments Report for May 2024.

REPORT

(a) Background

This report is required to be prepared monthly and presented at the next available Ordinary Council meeting in accordance with Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

(b) Discussion

Council's cash and investment holdings total \$46,804,196.

As at 31 May 2024, Leeton Shire Council has \$43,706,407 invested in Approved Deposit Institutions (ADIs) of which \$524,184 (1.20%) is invested with local bank branches.

Attached to this report is a Statement of Bank Reconciliation (**Attachment 1**) and a Summary of Investments (**Attachment 2**) as at 31 May 2024.

The Statement of Bank Reconciliation reconciles the Bank Statement balances to the General Ledger at 31 May 2024 by taking into account unrepresented cheques, unrepresented deposits, and unrepresented debits.

The Summary of Investments details all the investments held by Leeton Shire Council as at 31 May 2024.

The following table details the total Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investment holdings:

Cash in Transaction Account	\$ 3,097,789
Deposits At Call Accounts	\$ 9,306,407
Investments	\$34,400,000
TOTAL	\$46,804,196

The table below details the monthly movements of investments for May 2024:

Opening Investments Balance	\$ 44,163,280
Less:	
Maturities	\$ 500,000
Transfer to CBA Current Account	\$ 0
Subtotal	\$ 43,663,280
Plus:	
Roll-overs	\$ 0
New Investments	\$ 0
CBA Business Online Saver (BOS) movements	\$ 6,260
AMP Business Saver Account	\$ 1,087
AMP 31 Day Notice Account	\$ 27,220
Macquarie Cash Management Accelerator Account	\$ 8,560
Closing Investments Balance	\$ 43,706,407
Add back Cash in Transaction accounts	3,097,789
Total Cash and Investments	\$ 46,804,196

The following table details the break-up of investments according to the restrictions placed on QBRs March 2024:

Total Cash and Investments	\$ 46,804,196
Less restrictions	
Water Supply (Excl. Unfinished Works)	\$ 18,978,171
Sewerage Services (Excl. Unfinished Works)	\$ 8,513,159
Domestic Waste Management	\$ 5,793,981
*Other external restrictions	\$ 6,434,573
External Restrictions (Excl. Unfinished Works) - Sub Total	\$ 39,719,884
Internal restrictions (Excl. FAG Prepayment)	\$ 2,928,028
Total restrictions	\$ 42,647,912
Operating Capital	\$ 4,156,284

*Includes - Unspent Grants Restrictions, Stormwater Levy Restriction, Deposits, Retentions and Bonds

Externally restricted funds can only be used for the purposes for which they were raised. These include water, sewer, domestic waste operations and unexpended specific purpose grants.

Internally restricted funds are set aside through Council resolution for specific purposes such as plant replacement, infrastructure renewal or funded provisions. Internal restrictions are considered as part of the Budget adoption or the Quarterly Budget Review process.

Operating Capital is used to provide working capital for Council to fund short-term operations, current Capital works program, and fluctuations in payables and receivables.

Water Investments Summary

The Marsden Jacob Report on 22 May 2024 (Water Market Update) is available for Council's consideration at (**Attachment 3**).

There is an estimated 867 ML of allocation remaining available to sell. Prices during the reporting month were about \$12/ML, down from \$15/ML in late March.

Temporary water parcels were placed for sale with two (2) brokers, however no water was sold in May 2024.

Water Entitlements	Entitlement	Allocation (%)	Total Allocation (ML)	Usage to date	Sales this month	Total Volume Sold (ML)	Estimated Remaining Usage** + 10% Safety Margin*	Remaining Allocation (Saleable) (ML)
Town Water High Security	4,097	100%	4,097	2,708	-	500	199	690
Investment Water								
High Security	971	100%	971		-	950		21
General Security	516	100%	516			300		216
Unmetered Usage			(60)					(60)
Total	5,584		5,524		-	1,750		867

For the 23/24 financial year, Council's total volume of temporary trade as at 31 May 2024 is 1750ML, yielding \$195,082 (net of sale brokerage fees). This represents 178.69% of the budgeted earnings for the full year from temporary water sales (\$70K).

Table of Water Sales:

Date	Qty	Price/ML	Water Sales Gross Income	Brokerage	Water Sales Net Income
1/09/2023	60	\$160	\$9,600	-\$338	\$9,262
12/09/2023	440	\$160	\$70,400	-\$2,162	\$68,238
13/09/2023	250	\$160	\$40,000	-\$1,596	\$38,404
2/11/2023	100	\$200	\$20,000	-\$900	\$19,100
28/12/2023	200	\$160	\$32,000	-\$1,260	\$30,740
19/01/2024	100	\$160	\$16,000	-\$530	\$15,470
13/03/2024	100	\$24	\$2,400	-\$122	\$2,278
13/03/2024	500	\$24	\$12,000	-\$410	\$11,590
Total Water Sales (all funds)	1750		\$202,400	-\$7,318	\$195,082

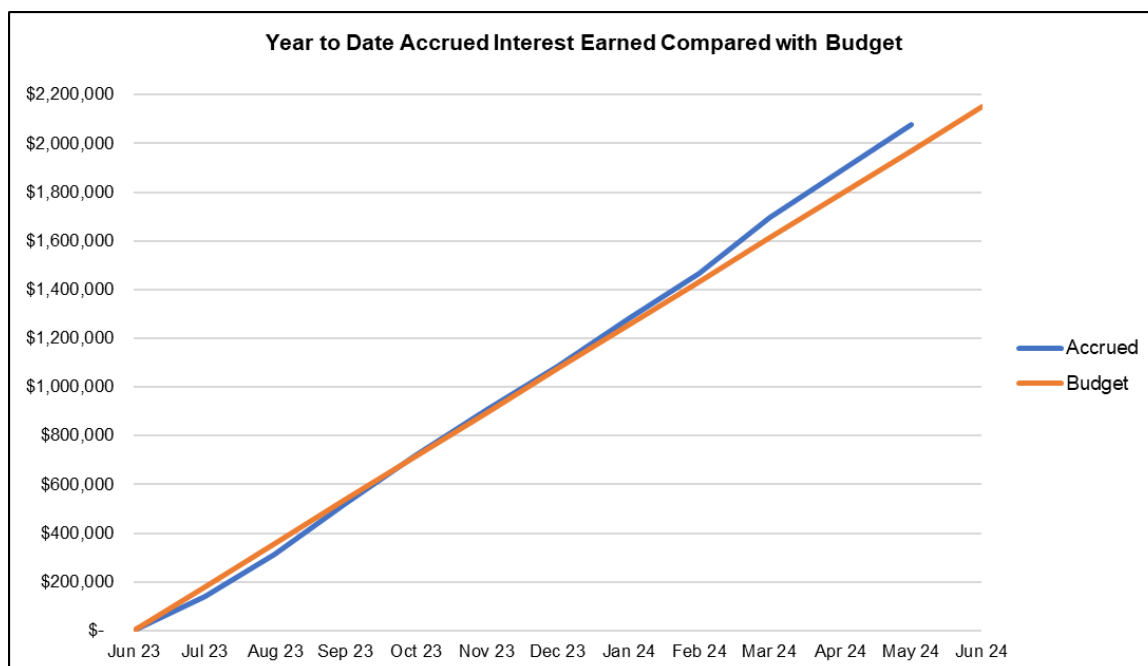
IMPLICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED

(a) Financial

The annualised rate of return across the portfolio is 5.03% for May 2024.

Original Budgeted Interest for FY23/24 was \$700K. It was increased to \$2,150,000 in the December QBRS. The actual \$191,264 in interest earned for May 2024 is higher than the revised budgeted amount of \$179,166 by \$12,098.

The following graph compares year-to-date interest with the revised budgeted interest for the period:



The consolidated actual investment income from 1 July 2023 to 31 May 2024 compared to the revised budgeted investment interest is detailed below:

Actual versus budgeted interest and earnings	May-24	Year To Date
Investments - Interest earned	\$ 144,131	\$ 1,409,381
Deposits at call	\$ 45,784	\$ 653,038
Rebates and Other earnings	\$ 1,349	\$ 17,231
Total Earnings	\$ 191,264	\$ 2,079,650
Budgeted Interest	\$ 179,166	\$ 1,970,826
Variance – Positive	\$ 12,098	\$108,824

Total investment income allocation by fund is detailed below:

Interest Apportionment	May-24	Year to Date
General Fund	\$ 70,813	\$ 941,360
Water Fund	\$ 80,523	\$ 780,666
Sewer Fund	\$ 39,928	\$ 357,624
Total Interest Earned	\$ 191,264	\$ 2,079,650

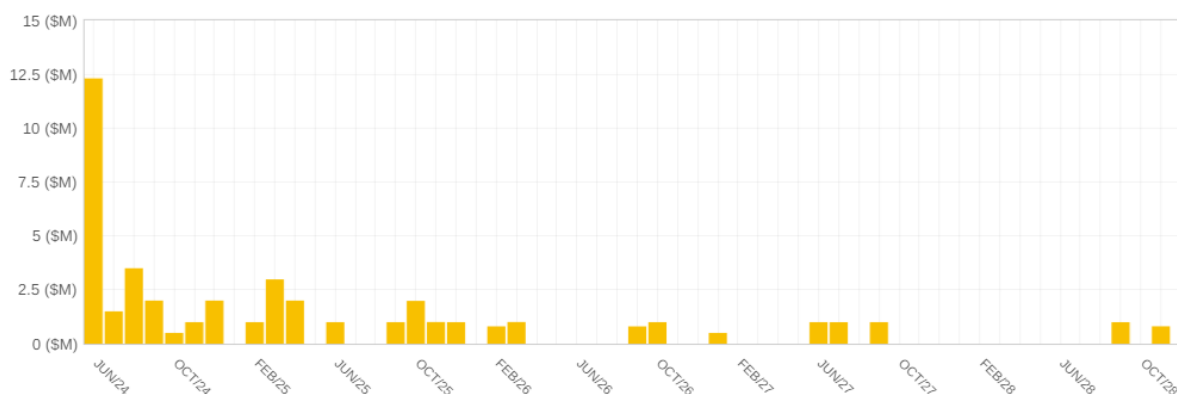
The following tables provide information on investment rates this year compared to last year, as well as a comparison of investment balances from this year to last year:

Performance Measures	Year to Date	Last Year (May)
Portfolio Average Interest Rate (YTD inc. Cash)	4.64%	3.08%
Investment Balances	Year to Date	Last Year
Opening Balance as at 1 May	\$44,163,280	\$47,344,948
Current Balance as at 31 May	\$43,706,407	\$47,250,173

Council Portfolio Compliance

Investment Maturing Profile

The portfolio remains lightly diversified from a maturity perspective with deposits maturing out to 5 years. The graph below shows when Council's current investments mature and the related values:



Financial Asset Allocation

Council's financial assets are invested as per the table below:

Investment Type	Risk Assessment		Investment Face Value	% of Portfolio
	Capital	Interest		
Term Deposits	Low	Low	23,500,000	53.77%
Cash/At Call Deposits	Low	Low	9,306,407	21.29%
Floating Rate Notes	Low	Low	7,400,000	16.93%
Bonds	Low	Low	3,500,000	8.01%
TOTAL			43,706,407	100%

Counterparty

As at the end of May 2024, Council did not have an overweight position to any single Authorised Deposit Taking Institution. The portfolio is well-diversified across the investment grade spectrum (all are rated BBB or higher).

All aggregate ratings categories are within the Investment Policy limits.

Compliant	Issuer	Rating	Invested (\$) ^	Invested (%)	Max. Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✓	RBC Covered	AAA	\$998,208	2.28%	45%	\$18,666,039
✓	Suncorp Covered	AAA	\$502,565	1.15%	45%	\$19,161,682
✓	ANZ Bank	AA-	\$1,999,082	4.57%	45%	\$17,665,165
✓	Commonwealth Bank	AA-	\$3,024,643	6.92%	45%	\$16,639,604
✓	National Australia Bank	AA-	\$6,806,598	15.58%	45%	\$12,857,649
✓	Westpac	AA-	\$8,000,000	18.31%	45%	\$11,664,247
✓	Macquarie	A+	\$4,005,318	9.17%	35%	\$11,289,097
✓	Bendigo and Adelaide	A-	\$983,494	2.25%	35%	\$14,310,920
✓	BoQ	A-	\$3,982,190	9.11%	35%	\$11,312,224
✓	AMP Bank	BBB+	\$9,079,242	20.78%	30%	\$4,030,256
✓	Bank Australia	BBB+	\$1,005,257	2.30%	30%	\$12,104,241
✓	RACQ Bank (Qbank)	BBB+	\$803,463	1.84%	30%	\$12,306,035
✓	Auswide Bank	BBB	\$1,006,143	2.30%	30%	\$12,103,355
✓	MyState Bank	BBB	\$1,502,125	3.44%	30%	\$11,607,373
			\$43,698,326	100.00%		

Credit Quality

The following table details the credit rating of each of the categories in which Council has money invested. The portfolio remains well diversified from a credit ratings perspective with the portfolio spread across the entire credit spectrum. All investments are compliant with Council's Investment Policy.

Compliant	Credit Rating	Invested (\$)	Invested %	Max. Limit (%)
Yes	AAA Category	\$1,500,772	3.43%	100.00%
Yes	AA Category	\$19,830,322	45.38%	100.00%
Yes	A Category	\$8,971,002	20.53%	80.00%
Yes	BBB Category	\$13,396,231	30.66%	70.00%
Yes	Unrated ADI's	\$0	0.00%	30.00%
		\$43,698,326	100.00%	

***Note:** Valuations of Council's senior Floating Rate Notes on the Imperium Markets platform are marked-to-market and priced on a daily basis from an independent third-party provider. Council has recorded its FRNs internally at the purchase price or face value. As such, the total portfolio's balance is likely to differ as at the reporting date. (Arlo Advisory)

Maximum Limit Percentage is based on the Revised Investment Policy for 2022.

(b) Legislative/Statutory

All funds are invested in accordance with section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and the Ministerial Investment Order.

CONSULTATION

(a) External

Council's investment advisors are Arlo Advisory (for financial investment advice) and Marsden Jacobs (for water trading advice). The Marsden Jacobs contract has now ended and will not be renewed.

Advisors were contacted by staff for financial investment advice during the month of May 2024.

(b) Internal

General Manager
Director Operations

LINK/S TO THE DELIVERY PROGRAM/OPERATIONAL PLAN

CSP FOCUS AREA 5 - Strong leadership and civic participation – DELIVERY PROGRAM
FUNCTIONAL AREA 9 - Governance and Administration - DELIVERY PROGRAM
ACTIVITY 9.7 - Deploy reliable and efficient corporate management - financial, asset, property, records, information technology, buildings and plant/fleet - OPERATIONAL PLAN
ACTIVITY 9.7.3 - Foster Council's financial sustainability through maximising investment returns, including cash and water sales".

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Bank Reconciliation May 2024
- 2 Investments May 2024
- 3 Marsden Jacob May 24

MONTH END BANK RECONCILIATION REPORT

Prepared by the Accountant

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of its position in respect of bank balances.

BACKGROUND

This report is prepared monthly and presents movements in the Council's bank account.

BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

as at 31 May 2024

BALANCE AS PER GENERAL LEDGER

Opening Balance:	1/05/2024	\$	2,243,937.63
May Movements:		\$	809,986.65
Closing Balance:	31/05/2024	\$	3,053,924.28
Less Unprocessed Bank Statement Transactions:		\$	43,865.16
Total:		\$	3,097,789.44

BALANCE AS PER BANK STATEMENTS

	\$	3,062,715.59
Less Unpresented Cheques	-\$	561.81
Less Unpresented Debits	\$	-
Plus Unpresented Deposits	\$	35,635.66
Total	\$	3,097,789.44



Responsible Accounting Officer
 13 June 2024

MONTH END BANK RECONCILIATION REPORT

Deposit At Call Accounts
 (Commonwealth Bank, AMP Bank and Macquarie Bank)
 Prepared by the Accountant

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of its position in respect of Deposit at Call Accounts balances.

BACKGROUND

This report is prepared monthly and presents movements in the Council's Deposit at Call accounts.

BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

as at 31 May 2024

BALANCE AS PER GENERAL LEDGER

Opening Balance:	1/05/2024		\$ 9,263,279.84
February Movements :			
Transfer to CBA Working Account		\$	-
Interest Earned		\$	43,126.96
Closing Balance:	31/05/2024	\$	9,306,406.80
Less Unprocessed Bank Statement Transactions:		\$	-
Total:		\$	9,306,406.80

BALANCE AS PER BANK STATEMENTS

Less Unpresented Cheques			
Less Unpresented Debits			
Plus Unpresented Deposits			
Total		\$	9,306,406.80



 Responsible Accounting Officer
 13 June 2024

Leeton Shire Council

Summary of Term Investments as at: 31/05/2024

BBSW 90: 4.35% Average Yield: 5.03%

Inv No	Financial Institution/Broker	Investment	Note Ref No	Investment Date	Investment Term (months)	Remaining Term (months)	Principal	Yield %	Maturity	Type
10-00	Commonwealth Bank Ltd	CBA Business Online Saver - AMP Business Saver	10206481	12/10/09	176	0	524,183.58	4.20%	13/06/24	DAC
20-00	AMP Bank	Account AMP 31 Day Notice	437864762	10/07/20	47	0	1,001,592.59	3.50%	13/06/24	DAC
21-00	AMP Bank	Account Macquarie Cash Management	971165956	17/07/20	47	1	5,577,649.71	5.40%	14/07/24	DAC
22-00	Macquarie Bank	Accelerator Account	940367790	07/11/20	43	0	2,202,980.92	4.65%	13/06/24	DAC
20-11	ANZ Bank	ANZ Bank	AU3FND0049730	29/08/19	60	2	1,000,000.00	5.11%	29/08/24	FRN
23-15	Curve Securities Pty Ltd	Members Banking Group Ltd	AU3FND0075453	24/02/23	36	20	800,000.00	5.84%	24/02/26	FRN
23-16	Laminar Capital	Auswide Bank	AU3FND0076352	17/03/23	36	21	1,000,000.00	5.82%	17/03/26	FRN
22-21	Commonwealth Bank Ltd	Commonwealth Bank	AU3FND0065579	14/01/22	60	31	500,000.00	5.05%	14/01/27	FRN
23-01	Commonwealth Bank Ltd	Royal Bank of Canada	AU3FND0070025	13/07/22	60	37	500,000.00	5.40%	13/07/27	FRN
23-10	Laminar Capital	MyState Bank Ltd	AU3FND0072369	13/10/22	36	16	500,000.00	5.45%	13/10/25	FRN
23-11	Commonwealth Bank Ltd	Suncorp-Metway Ltd	AU3FND0072617	17/10/22	36	16	500,000.00	5.24%	17/10/25	FRN
23-13	Curve Securities Pty Ltd	Bank Australia	AU3FND0073797	24/11/22	36	17	1,000,000.00	5.94%	24/11/25	FRN
24-05	Commonwealth Bank Ltd	Macquarie Bank	AU3FND0081170	14/09/23	36	35	800,000.00	5.19%	14/09/26	FRN
24-11	Commonwealth Bank Ltd	National Aust Bank	AU3FND0082996	16/11/23	36	35	800,000.00	5.38%	16/11/28	FRN
22-23	Commonwealth Bank Ltd	Bendigo and Adelaide Bank	8156149	17/03/22	36	9	1,000,000.00	3.00%	17/03/25	Bond
22-27	Commonwealth Bank Ltd	Bank of Queensland	AU3CB0288843	29/04/22	42	16	1,000,000.00	4.00%	29/10/25	Bond
23-02	Commonwealth Bank Ltd	Royal Bank of Canada	AU3CB0290682	13/07/22	60	37	500,000.00	4.50%	13/07/27	Bond
24-07	Laminar Capital	ANZ Bank	AU3CB0302404	22/09/23	59	51	1,000,000.00	4.95%	11/09/28	Bond
22-17	Westpac Bank	Westpac Bank	9563400	11/11/21	36	5	1,000,000.00	1.60%	11/11/24	LTD
22-31	Bank of Queensland	Bank of Queensland	508507	23/06/22	24	0	1,000,000.00	4.40%	24/06/24	LTD
22-32	Macquarie Bank	Macquarie Bank	232613257	24/06/22	24	0	1,000,000.00	4.43%	24/06/24	LTD
23-07	National Aust Bank	National Aust Bank	97-327-3005	27/09/22	24	3	1,000,000.00	4.90%	27/09/24	LTD
23-21	National Aust Bank	National Aust Bank	36-359-9876	08/06/23	24	12	1,000,000.00	5.17%	08/06/25	LTD
23-22	Bank of Queensland	Bank of Queensland	772448	21/06/23	48	36	1,000,000.00	5.40%	21/06/27	LTD
23-23	MyState Bank	MyState Bank Ltd	30271520	28/06/23	12	0	1,000,000.00	5.65%	28/06/24	LTD
24-01	National Aust Bank	National Aust Bank	26-415-8864	11/07/23	12	1	1,500,000.00	5.55%	11/07/24	LTD
24-02	AMP Bank	AMP Bank	TD528016306	08/08/23	12	2	500,000.00	5.65%	08/08/24	LTD
24-03	Commonwealth Bank Ltd	Commonwealth Bank	38344709	16/08/23	11	2	2,000,000.00	5.57%	15/08/24	LTD
24-04	National Aust Bank	National Aust Bank	42-900-9737	11/09/23	12	3	1,000,000.00	5.20%	11/09/24	LTD
24-06	Westpac Bank	Westpac Bank	11067864	14/09/23	48	39	1,000,000.00	4.94%	14/09/27	LTD
24-08	Bank of Queensland	Bank of Queensland	833891	29/09/23	24	15	1,000,000.00	5.23%	29/09/25	LTD
24-09	National Aust Bank	National Aust Bank	89-130-6344	06/10/23	12	4	500,000.00	5.25%	06/10/24	LTD
24-10	Westpac Bank	Westpac Bank	11154604	26/10/23	36	28	1,000,000.00	5.38%	26/10/26	LTD
24-12	Westpac Bank	Westpac Bank	11256899	11/12/23	12	6	1,000,000.00	5.27%	11/12/24	LTD
24-13	AMP Bank	AMP Bank	TD869330126	15/12/23	24	18	1,000,000.00	5.45%	15/12/25	LTD
24-14	AMP Bank	AMP Bank	TD5186603931	21/12/23	11	6	1,000,000.00	5.40%	19/12/24	LTD

Leeton Shire Council

Summary of Term Investments as at: 31/05/2024		BBSW 90:	4.35%	Average Yield:	5.03%				
24-15	Westpac Bank	11408864	27/02/24	12	8	1,000,000.00	5.14%	27/02/25	LTD
24-16	Westpac Bank	11469068	22/03/24	11	8	1,000,000.00	5.06%	24/02/25	LTD
24-17	National Aust Bank	36-309-4165	22/03/24	11	8	1,000,000.00	5.02%	24/02/25	LTD
24-18	Westpac Bank	11505860	11/04/24	12	10	1,000,000.00	5.13%	11/04/25	LTD
24-19	Westpac Bank	11511980	15/04/24	12	10	1,000,000.00	5.12%	15/04/25	LTD
Total Investments:						\$ 43,706,406.80			

Leeton Shire Council

Summary of Term Investments as at: 31/05/2024

BBSW 90: 4.35% **Average Yield:** 5.03%

Investment by Type		
Investment	Amount	%
AMP Bank	2,500,000	5.7%
Auswide Bank	1,000,000	2.3%
National Aust Bank	6,800,000	15.6%
ANZ Bank	2,000,000	4.6%
CBA Business Online Saver - Cash at Call (C)	524,184	1.2%
AMP 31 Day Notice Account	5,577,650	12.8%
Macquarie Cash Management Accelerate	2,202,981	5.0%
Commonwealth Bank	2,500,000	5.7%
Westpac Bank	8,000,000	18.3%
Bendigo and Adelaide Bank	1,000,000	2.3%
Bank of Queensland	4,000,000	9.2%
Macquarie Bank	1,800,000	4.1%
AMP Business Saver Account	1,001,593	2.3%
Royal Bank of Canada	1,000,000	2.3%
MysState Bank Ltd	1,500,000	3.4%
Suncorp-Metway Ltd	500,000	1.1%
Bank Australia	1,000,000	2.3%
Members Banking Group Ltd	800,000	1.8%
TOTAL	43,706,407	100.0%
Local	524,184	1.20%
Non Local	43,182,223	98.80%

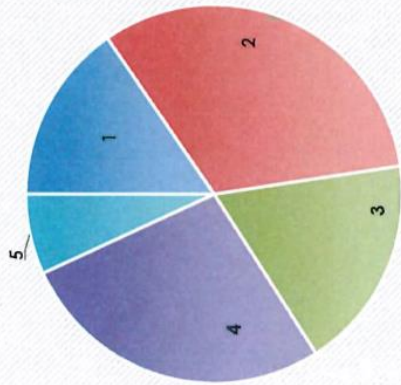
Investments by Age		
Age	Amount	%
1. Less than 30 Days	6,728,757	15%
2. 30 to 180 Days	14,077,650	32%
3. 180 to 365 Days	8,000,000	18%
4. 1 to 3 years	11,900,000	27%
5. 3 to 5 years	3,000,000	7%
TOTAL	43,706,407	100%

Investments by Age and Type		
Sum of Principal		Total
Current	DAC	9,306,407
	LTD	17,500,000
	FRN	1,000,000
	Bond	1,000,000
Current Total		28,806,407
Non Current	LTD	6,000,000
	FRN	6,400,000
	Bond	2,500,000
Non Current Total		14,900,000
Grand Total		43,706,407
DAC	Deposit At Call	
LTD	Long Term Deposit	
FRN	Floating Rate Notes	
Bond	Long Term Bond	

Leeton Shire Council

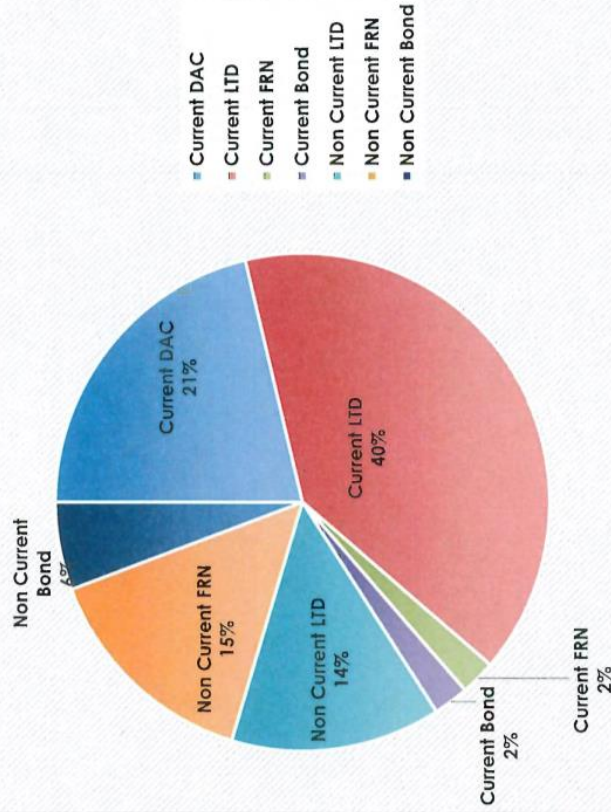
Summary of Term Investments as at: 31/05/2024 BBSW 90: 4.35% Average Yield: 5.03%

Investments by Age



- 1. Less than 30 Days
- 2. 30 to 180 Days
- 3. 180 to 365 Days
- 4. 1 to 3 years
- 5. 3 to 5 years


Investments by Type and Term



- Current DAC
- Current LTD
- Current FRN
- Current Bond
- Non Current LTD
- Non Current FRN
- Non Current Bond

Explanatory notes:

All investments noted above were made in accordance with the Act, the regulations and Council's Investment Policy

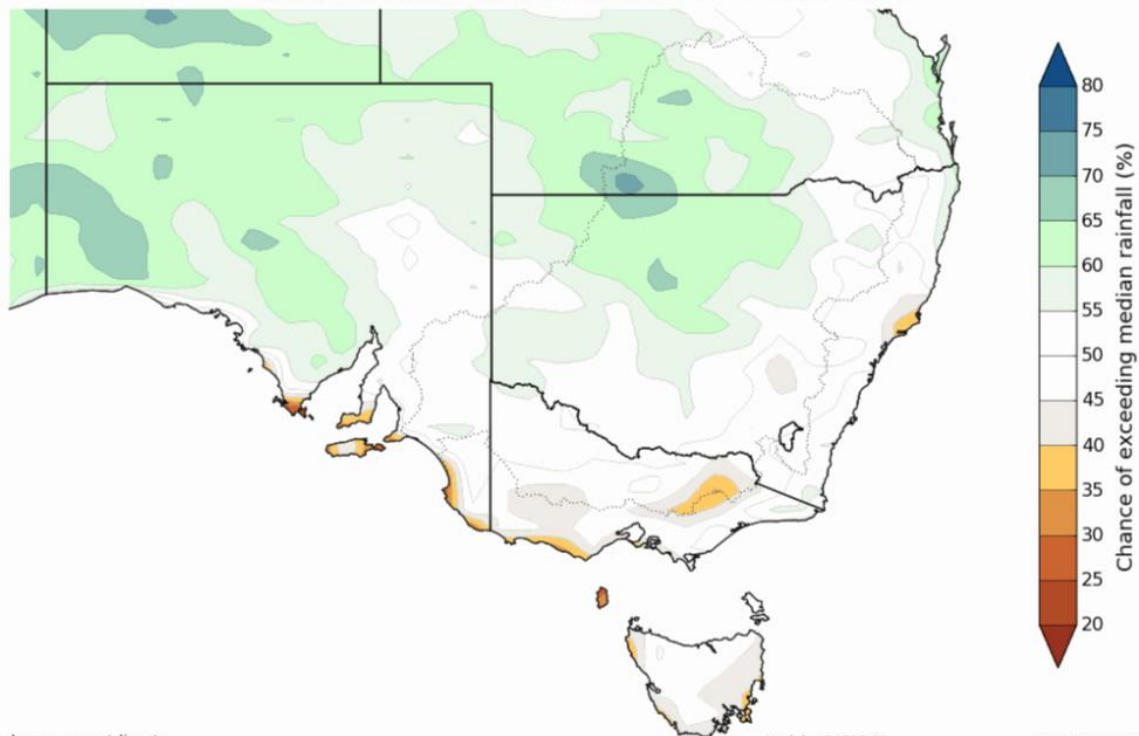

 Responsible Accounting Officer
 13 June, 2024

Water Market Update – May 22nd 2024

Market Summary

- Leeton Shire Council has an estimated **867 ML** of temporary allocation available for trade. Leeton Shire Council should consider trading most of their allocation before the end of the water year. The Council can carryover 155 ML of entitlement as of June 30 2024. **Any water allocation other than this amount will be lost.**
- Therefore, should the Council decide to sell, it should only sell about **710 ML** of allocation to reserve their carryover. Water prices at the start of the water year over the last two years have been significantly higher, and the Council could reserve the carryover and sell it in early July.
- The Council could also consider selling Forward Water. Given its high reliability and town water volume, the Council could consider a 500ML forward trade. The current price for Murrumbidgee Forward Water Trade for delivery in November 2024 is \$130/ML (see next page for Last 5 Trades or <https://www.waterflow.io/overview/forward>).
- Murrumbidgee General and High Security increased to 100% allocation as of February 1 2024.
- The Murrumbidgee to Murray IVT is currently closed, and no water is being traded between the Murrumbidgee and the Murray. This has occurred over the last few water years and generally results in very low prices towards the end of the water year.
- Temporary prices are currently at about **\$12/ML, down from \$15/ML in late April** (see chart below).
- The Murrumbidgee is expected to see below median rainfall for June 2024 (map below).

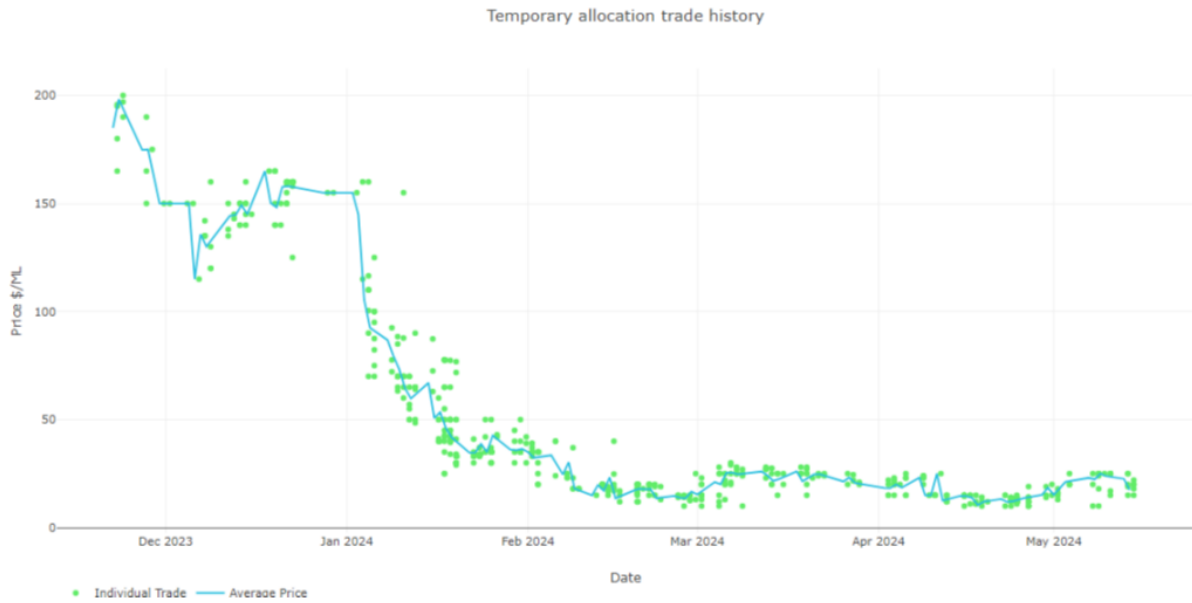
Chance of exceeding the median rainfall for June 2024



MARSDEN JACOB ASSOCIATES

Murrumbidgee market prices as of May 22nd 2024, allocation market

Trade type	Current spot price	Chart description
Temporary Allocation	\$12/ML	Prices have decreased from \$15/ML in April



www.waterflow.io

Last 5 Forward Water Trades

Last traded 20th May

[^ Hide last 5 Trades](#)

Date	Price / ML	Volume	Delivery Date	Broker
20th May 2024	\$135	2,000 ML	Oct 2024	Ruralco Water
20th May 2024	\$130	800 ML	Oct 2024	Ruralco Water
20th May 2024	\$130	500 ML	Oct 2024	Ruralco Water
17th May 2024	\$130	1,000 ML	Oct 2024	Ruralco Water
17th May 2024	\$130	500 ML	Oct 2024	Ruralco Water

Last 5 Temporary Trades

Last traded 21st May

[^ Hide last 5 Trades](#)

Date	Price / ML	Volume	Broker
21st May 2024	\$12	200 ML	Ruralco Water
21st May 2024	\$12	260 ML	Ruralco Water
21st May 2024	\$12	100 ML	Ruralco Water
20th May 2024	\$12	260 ML	Ruralco Water
16th May 2024	\$13	1,000 ML	Ruralco Water

www.marsdenjacob.com.au

www.waterflow.io

MARSDEN JACOB ASSOCIATES

Water Availability	Volumes (ML)
General Security	516
Carryover	0
High Security	971
MI deduction	-60.0
General Security Surplus	0
Total available allocation	1427

A

Town Water	Volumes (ML)
Usage to date	0
Estimated remaining usage	181
Safety	18
Town Water Available for Sale	1190

B

Water Sales	Volumes (ML)
Sales to date	-1750

C

Estimated Water available for sale (ML) A + B + C	867
----------------------------------------------------------	------------

Source: MI Statements and LSC

*The council trade policy states that up to 500 ML of Town Water can be sold at any time after the commencement of the water year up until October 31. From November 1, a 10% safety margin on remaining expected water demand is used.

** Estimated remaining usage is based on information from Leeton Council town water from November 20 2023.

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ITEM 7.7 ANNUAL FEES PAYABLE TO COUNCILLORS AND MAYORAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR 2024/2025 FINANCIAL YEAR

RECORD NUMBER	24/129
RELATED FILE NUMBER	EF24/88
AUTHOR/S	Manager Governance, Corporate & Customer Service
APPROVER/S	Director Corporate / CFO

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

This report outlines the determination made by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal relating to the annual Councillor Fees payable and the annual Mayoral Additional Fee payable from 1 July 2024. The report outlines recommendations in relation to the annual fees payable for Leeton Shire Council elected officials for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

1. Sets the annual Councillor Fee payable for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 at \$18,340 in accordance with the provisions of section 248 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
 2. Sets the annual Mayoral Additional Fee payable for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 at \$39,350 in accordance with the provisions of section 249 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
 3. As of 1 July 2024, continues to make superannuation contributions to Councillors who opted in, based on the superannuation guarantee rate of 11.5%, pursuant to the *Commonwealth Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992*.
-

REPORT

(a) Background

The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal (Tribunal) has made its determination, under section 241 of the *Local Government Act 1993* ('the Act'), in relation to the annual fees to be paid to Mayors and Councillors for the 2024/25 financial year period.

Section 241 of the Act, provides for the Tribunal to determine, not later than 1 May in each year, for each of the categories determined under section 239, the maximum and minimum amount of fees to be paid to Mayors and Councillors of Councils.

The Tribunal's *Annual Report and Determination 2024 (Attachment 1)* provides additional information in the determination that a recommended 3.75% increase in the annual fees payable for Mayors and Councillors, effective from 1 July 2024.

Council resolved (23/057) at the May 2023 Ordinary Council to pay the 2022/23 annual fees plus the 3% determination increase. Resulting in the Councillors Fee and Mayoral Additional Fee payable for the 2023/24 financial year being:

- Councillors annual fee payable at \$11,704,
- Mayoral additional fee payable at \$25,449.

(b) Discussion

Annual Councillor Fees and Mayoral Additional Fee Payable

Pursuant to section 241 of the Local Government Act 1993, the Tribunal's 2024 Annual Determination has set the annual fees to be paid in each of the categories to Mayors and Councillors effective from 1 July 2024.

For the purposes of the remuneration Tribunal's annual report and determination of Mayoral and Councillor annual fees payable, Leeton Shire Council is categorised as a 'Rural Large'.

The Tribunal has determined the band of annual fees for Mayors and Councillors in the 'Rural Large' category from 1 July 2024 as below:

Councillor Annual Fee		Mayoral Additional Fee *	
Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
\$10,220	\$18,340	\$16,330	\$39,350

* The Mayoral additional fee must be paid in addition to the fee paid to the Mayor as a Councillor in accordance with section 249(2) of the Act.

Based on an election year and given this term of Council will not greatly benefit from the fees, it is recommended that the maximum fee is set to increase the availability of candidates for the election and the commitment of future Councillors to attend meetings.

Further information regarding the factors considered by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal (LGRT) to reach the determination of the 3.75% increase can be found within LGRT Annual Report and Determination 2024 (**Attachment 1**).

Superannuation

In 2021, an amendment to the Local Government Act (**Attachment 2**) was implemented. The making of superannuation contribution payments for Councillors is optional and is at each Council's discretion.

Should Council resolve to make superannuation contribution payments to Councillors, the payment is to be the amount that Council would be required to

contribute under the *Commonwealth Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992* as superannuation if the Councillors were staff of Council.

As of 1 July 2024, the superannuation guarantee rate will be 11.5%, pursuant to the *Commonwealth Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992*.

The superannuation contribution payment is to be paid at the same intervals as the annual fee is paid to the Councillors.

Individual Councillors may opt out of receiving superannuation contribution payments or opt to receive reduced payments. Councillors must do so in writing to councillorrequests@leeton.nsw.gov.au

(c) Options

THAT Council:

1. Sets as determined by the Tribunal the maximum annual fee payable for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025; being the Councillors Annual Fee at \$18,340 and the Mayoral Additional Fee at \$39,350 and resolves to make superannuation contribution payments to Councillors. ***This is the recommended option.***
2. Agrees to apply the 2024 determination of the 3.75% increase to the 2023/24 financial year set annual fees payable to Councillors and Mayoral additional fee. For 2024/2025 the annual fees payable for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 would be the Councillor Annual Fee at \$12,143 and the Mayoral Additional Fee at \$26,507 and resolves to make superannuation contribution payments to Councillors.
3. Sets an alternative annual payable fee for Councillors and the Mayoral additional fee for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

IMPLICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED

(a) Financial

if Council endorses the recommended option for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 the total cost for the Councillor Annual Fee and Mayoral Additional Fee payable for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 would be \$204,410.

If Council resolves to make superannuation contribution payments for all Councillors, the total cost of the superannuation contributions would be \$23,507.

The total cost of \$227,917 is within budget for the 2024/2025 financial year.

(b) Policy

Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Mayoral and Councillors Policy

(c) Legislative/Statutory

Local Government Act 1993 (Sections 239, 241, 242A 248 and 249)
Commonwealth Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992
Industrial Relations Act 1996

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal (LGRT) – Annual Report and Determination 2024

(d) Risk

Under the Act, it states that if Council does not fix the fees for the Mayoral and Councillors by resolution, the minimum rate is automatically applied.

CONSULTATION

(a) External

Nil

(b) Internal

General Manager
Finance Consultants
Manager Finance
Accountant

LINK/S TO THE DELIVERY PROGRAM/OPERATIONAL PLAN (DPOP)

Under the Key Priority Area THEME 6 - "STRONG LEADERSHIP" within Council's adopted Delivery Program/Operational Plan – 20 - A community that is always on the front foot – 20a is to "Strive to deliver the aspirations of the community through community leadership – Operate an efficient and effective Local Government Administration

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Local Government Remuneration Tribunal – Annual Report and Determination 2024
- 2 OLG Circular - Commencement of Local Government Amendment Act 2021

**Local Government
Remuneration Tribunal**

Annual Determination

Report and determination under sections
239 and 241 of the Local Government Act
1993

29 April 2024



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Executive Summary

The *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act) requires the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal (the Tribunal) to report to the Minister for Local Government by 1 May each year on its determination of categories of councils and the maximum and minimum amounts of fees to be paid to mayors, councillors, and chairpersons and members of county councils.

Categories

Section 239 of the LG Act requires the Tribunal to determine the categories of councils and mayoral offices at least once every 3 years. A review of categories was last carried out by the Tribunal in 2023.

The Tribunal will next consider the model, criteria for each group, and the allocation of councils in the 2026 review.

The criteria for each category is published in Appendix 1 of the Determination and remains unchanged from 2023.

Two (2) councils have been recategorised from Rural Large to Regional Rural as a result of meeting the criteria at Appendix 1.

Fees

The Tribunal has determined a 3.75 per cent per annum increase in the minimum and maximum fees applicable to each category from 1 July 2024.

Section 1 – Introduction

1. Section 239 of the LG Act requires the Tribunal to determine the categories of councils and mayoral offices at least once every 3 years. The Tribunal last undertook a significant review of the categories and the allocation of councils into each of those categories in 2023.
2. Section 241 of the LG Act provides that the Tribunal determine the maximum and minimum amount of fees to be paid to mayors and councillors of councils, as well as chairpersons and members of county councils for each of the categories determined under section 239.
3. Section 242A(1) of the LG Act requires:

“In making a determination, the Remuneration Tribunal is to give effect to the same policies on increases in remuneration as those that the Industrial Relations Commission is required to give effect to under section 146C of the [Industrial Relations Act 1996](#) when making or varying awards or orders relating to the conditions of employment of public sector employees.”

4. The Industrial Relations Amendment Act 2023, assented on 5 December 2023, repealed section 146C of the *Industrial Relations Act 1996*, resulting in changes to wages policy and removal of the cap on remuneration increases.
5. The Tribunal can also determine that a council can be placed in another existing or new category with a higher range of fees.
6. The Tribunal’s determination takes effect from 1 July each year.

Section 2 – 2023 Determination

7. In 2023, the Tribunal received 18 written submissions.
8. An extensive review of the categories, criteria, and allocation of councils into each of the categories was undertaken by the Tribunal as required by Section 239 of the LG Act.
9. The review resulted in the Tribunal determining the creation of two new categories, being Metropolitan Major and Rural Large.
10. The categories of general purpose councils were determined as follows:

Metropolitan	Non-Metropolitan
Principal CBD	Major Regional City
Major CBD	Major Strategic Area
Metropolitan Major	Regional Strategic Area
Metropolitan Large	Regional Centre
Metropolitan Medium	Regional Rural
Metropolitan Small	Rural Large
	Rural

11. The Tribunal was of the view that improving consistency of criteria in categories was paramount. The Tribunal therefore determined to include the non-resident population criteria in Major Strategic, Regional Strategic, Regional Centre, and Regional Rural categories.
12. A total of 26 councils were recategorised as a result of changes in the 2023 Determination.
13. The Tribunal determined that fees would increase by 3 per cent in the minimum and maximum fees applicable to each category from 1 July 2023.

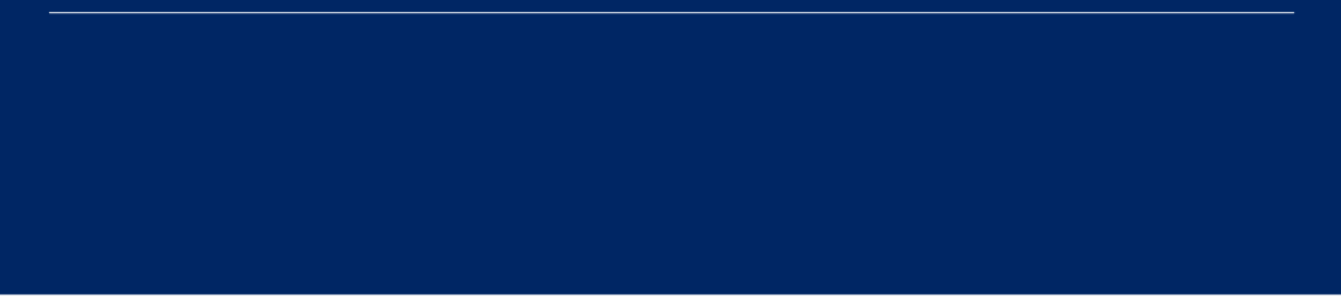
Section 3 – 2024 Review

2024 Process

14. The Tribunal's annual review commenced in October when it wrote to all councils inviting submissions regarding fees. The Tribunal outlined that it is only required to review the categories every three years and will next consider the model, the criteria applicable to each category and the allocation of councils in the 2026 review. The invitation noted that it is expected that submissions are endorsed by respective councils.
15. The Tribunal also wrote to the President of Local Government NSW (LGNSW) inviting a submission.
16. The Tribunal received 19 written submissions, of which 18 were from individual councils and 1 submission from LGNSW.
17. The Tribunal notes that 17 of the 18 council submissions were endorsed by their representative councils.
18. The Tribunal acknowledges and thanks all parties for their submissions.

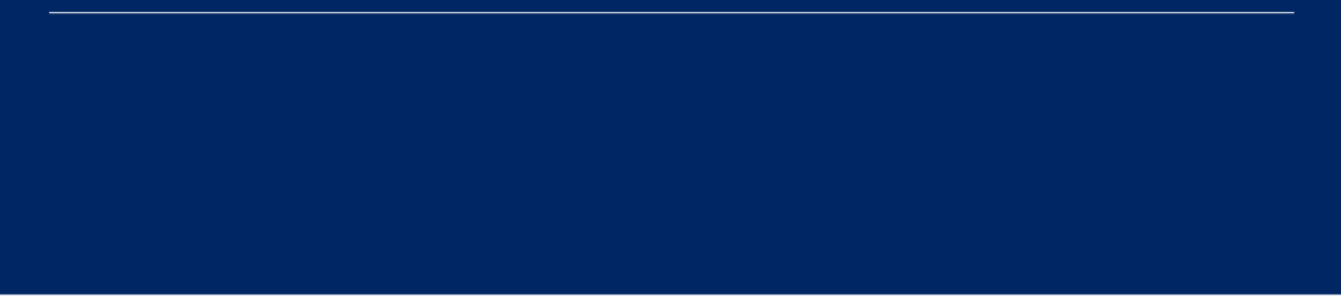
Submissions Received – Request for recategorisation

19. Two council submissions received requested recategorisation, with Paramatta City Council and Lake Macquarie putting forward individual cases for the Tribunal's consideration.

- 
20. Paramatta City Council requested recategorisation from its current classification of Major CBD to Principal CBD. Paramatta City Council's case to be included in Principal CBD category is based on the following:
- Paramatta being critical to the success of the Greater Sydney Region Plan
 - The LGA expecting an estimated 186,000 new residents between 2022 and 2041
 - An increase in the number of government services, corporations, and private enterprises relocating into Paramatta CBD
 - A local economy that generates approximately \$32.88 billion in gross regional product and 33,000 businesses that generated over 202,000 jobs
 - The Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement covers seven priority growth areas and precincts identified by the NSW Government in order to give effect to their Housing strategy
 - Paramatta City Council has a 2023/24 capital works budget of \$613m and it provides a number of significant services within the local government area, including two aquatic centres, redevelopment to key community centres, and funding for local parks, roads, cycleways, and footpaths.
21. The Tribunal last considered the criteria for Principal CBD in the 2023 Annual Determination process. The Tribunal's view at the time was that

the criteria characteristics for Principal CBD category was appropriate, therefore no changes were required.

22. Paramatta City Council does not meet the criteria for Principal CBD. Accordingly, the Tribunal is not persuaded to include Paramatta Council in Principal CBD category.
23. Lake Macquarie City Council requested that it be recategorised from a Regional Strategic Area to a Major Strategic Area. Reasons include:
 - The LGA having a resident population of 216,603, and a non-resident working population of 24,769 (for a total of 241,372)
 - Connection to Greater Sydney via the M1, rail and a regional airport that supports the community
 - 99 towns, villages and nine economic centres across an area of 757 square kilometres
 - An annual economic output of \$26.1 billion (which is approximately 20 per cent of the Hunter economy)
 - 1.3 million tourists per year
 - 14,081 active businesses, 73,233 jobs and a total workforce across the LGA of 102,029
 - Community facilities that include a Regional Gallery – Museum of Art and Culture, one University, two TAFE campuses and a regional centre for health care
 - Operating revenue exceeding \$290 million.

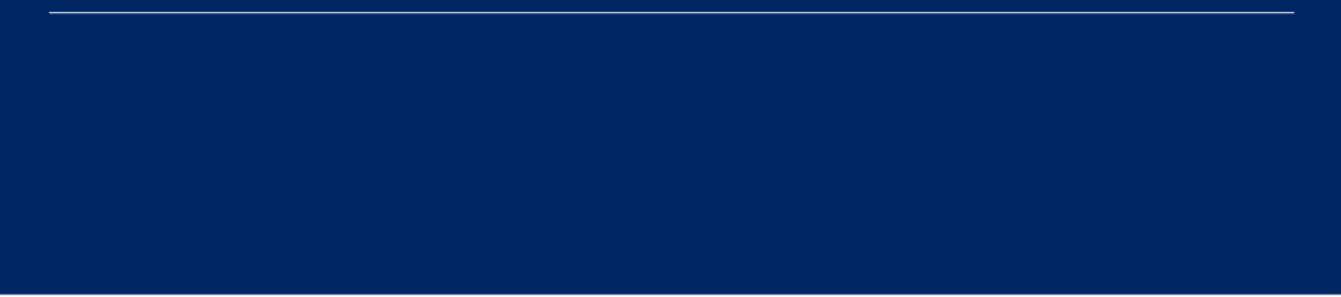
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24. As stated in Council's own submission, currently it does not meet the population threshold criteria for Major Strategic Area. Accordingly, the Tribunal is not persuaded to include Lake Macquarie Council in Major Strategic Area category.
 25. The council also advocated for the population threshold for Major Strategic Area to be reviewed from its current threshold of 300,000 to 200,000 to restore incremental balance between Major Strategic Area and Regional Strategic Area categories.
 26. Lake Macquarie Council provided late supplementary information to support their argument for the population threshold of Regional Strategic Area being adjusted. Council submitted that five precincts in the Lake Macquarie LGA have been identified for inclusion in the New South Wales Government Transport Oriented Development Program, which aims to encourage housing development near transport hubs.
 27. The Council argues this increase in housing will lead to population growth in the selected centres, especially those with a large number of identified precincts.
 28. Consistent with section 239 and 240 of the LG Act, the Tribunal carefully considered the population threshold for all categories, as part of the 2023 Annual Determination. It was determined at that time, on extensive evidence examined and considered by the Tribunal, that the population threshold for Major Strategic Area was appropriate.
 29. The Tribunal is not persuaded at this time to change the population threshold for Major Strategic Area. Should further evidence become available to support a change in the population threshold for this category,

it can be considered by the Tribunal as part of the three yearly review of categories in 2026.

30. The Tribunal will monitor, as data becomes available, the impact of the New South Wales Government Transport Oriented Development Program on population thresholds.
31. One submission received from Wollondilly Shire Council advised that Council resolved to write to the Premier and appropriate Ministers, requesting Wollondilly Shire Council be considered as a regional Council.
32. The Tribunal has previously determined that Wollondilly Shire Council, for the purpose of setting the minimum and maximum fees payable to Councillors and Mayors, be classified as Regional Centre.
33. The Tribunal notes Wollondilly's submission and proposed course of action.

Categories – movement of Councils within the framework

34. The Tribunal reviewed population and data relating to Council operations to determine if the categorisations of Councils was consistent with the current criteria.
35. Population data was sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), released 26 March 2024 for the period 2022 – 2023 financial year, the most recent data available at the time of writing this determination.

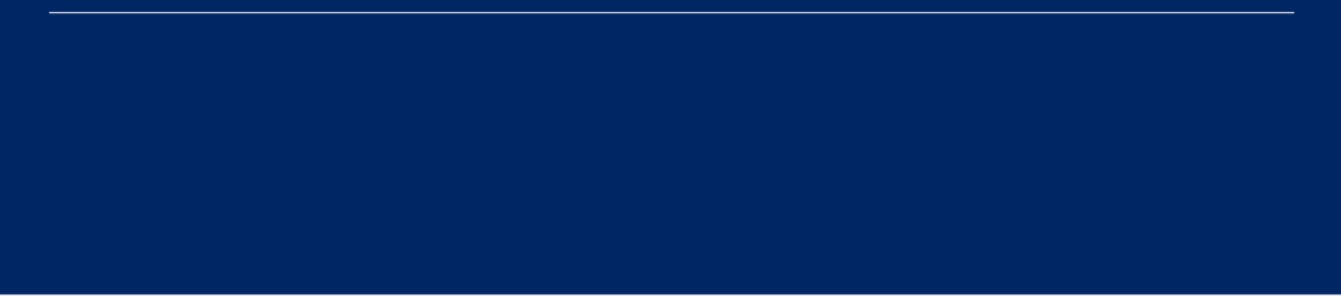
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36. Data relating to Council operations was sourced from the Office of Local Government (OLG).
 37. These sources provide a consistent, and complete overview of all councils in NSW. These data sources are consistent with those used in previous LGRT determinations.
 38. Each Council was also assessed against the relevant criteria at Appendix 1.
 39. As a result, it was identified that two Rural Large councils, Hilltops Council and Muswellbrook Shire Council, each had a combined resident and non-residential working population above 20,000 each. This population figure exceeds the population threshold for a Regional Rural council classification.
 40. For this reason, the Tribunal has reclassified both Hilltops Council and Muswellbrook Shire Council as Regional Rural councils.

Submissions Received – Remuneration Structure

41. A significant number of submissions commented on the remuneration structure, advocating for major changes to be made, including the need for a full comprehensive review. These issues are addressed below.
42. One submission advocated for a new remuneration structure to be established that:
 - Is benchmarked in a more transparent way



- Recognises workload
 - Encourages participation by a cohort that is more representative of the community
 - Recognises skills and experience that is relevant to the roles.
43. Several submissions argued that the current remuneration structure does not adequately compensate elected Councillors and Mayors for the complex requirements of the role, significant workload, time requirements, responsibilities, and changes in the role over recent years.
44. A number of submissions provided comparison data that included remuneration paid to: Queensland and Victorian local government Councillors and Mayors, Federal, State, and Territory Parliamentary Members, Audit Risk and Improvement Committee members, and average remuneration for chairs/directors of not-for-profit organisations.
45. The basis of providing this data was to support arguments that NSW Councillors and Mayors are paid below these organisations and the work of Councillors and Mayors is being undervalued.
46. Some submissions outlined that low levels of remuneration can have a detrimental impact on the quality and diversity of candidates standing for election.
47. The LG Act is clear that Councillors and Mayors receive an annual fee, not a wage, with section 251 clearly stating that fees paid do not constitute a salary.

- 
48. Whilst the Tribunal acknowledges these issues, as previously explained in the 2023 Annual Determination at paragraph 97 they are not currently within the Tribunal's remit.
 49. One submission advocated for fees of rural councils to be commensurate with those of regional and metropolitan councils, arguing that the skills and knowledge required for the role is the same regardless of the council location.
 50. Others advocated for significant increases to rural and regional fees in order to address low candidate numbers while others asserted that the current remuneration fails to take into account significant stressors facing regional and rural councils.
 51. The Act requires that the Tribunal must determine categories at least once every three years and places each council into a category. The determination of categories by the Tribunal is for the purpose of determining the minimum and maximum fees to be paid for councillors and Mayors in each category. When determining categories, the Tribunal is required to take into account matters prescribed in Section 240 of the LG Act:
 - *the size of areas;*
 - *the physical terrain of areas;*
 - *the population of areas and the distribution of the population;*
 - *the nature and volume of business dealt with by each council;*
 - *the nature and extent of the development of areas;*

- *the diversity of communities served;*
- *the regional, national and international significance of the council;*
- *such matters as the Remuneration Tribunal considers relevant to the provision of efficient and effective local government; and*
- *such other matters as may be prescribed by the regulations.*

52. The Determination of minimum and maximum fees for 2024 is dealt with below at section 4.

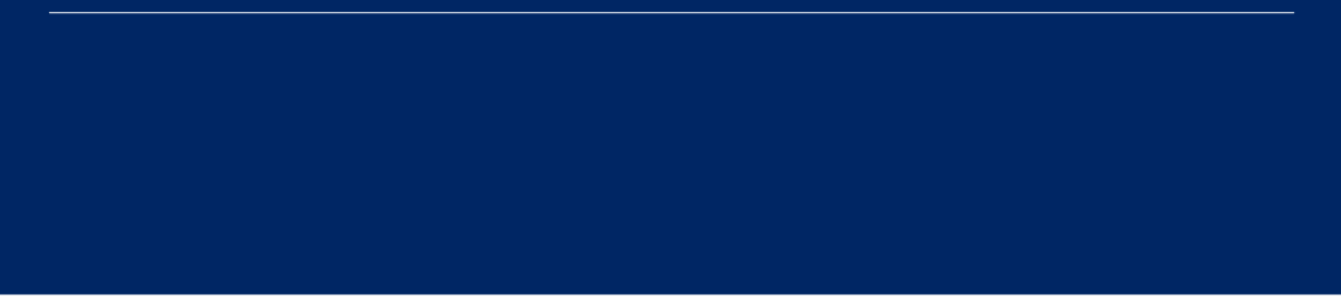
53. Two submissions asserted that the current remuneration structure fails to recognise the role, responsibilities, and contribution of the Deputy Mayor position. It was suggested that a distinct independent fee be included for the position of Deputy Mayor.

54. Section 249 (5) of the LG act states:

“A council may pay the deputy mayor (if there is one) a fee determined by the council for such time as the deputy mayor acts in the office of the mayor. The amount of the fee so paid must be deducted from the mayor’s annual fee.”

55. Accordingly, the Tribunal lacks the power to implement changes to the fee structure that would include a distinct independent fee for the position of Deputy Mayor.

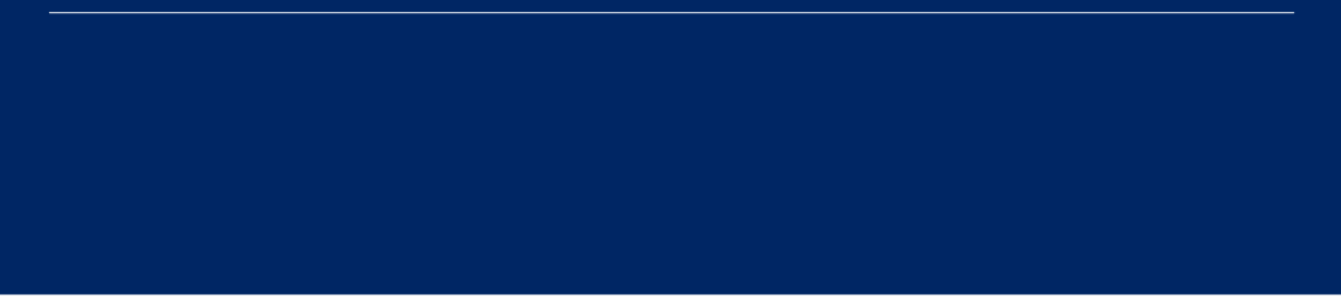
56. One argument put forward is that the impact of the current superannuation arrangements has a negative impact on female participation.

- 
57. Section 254B of the Act sets out the circumstances with respect to the payment of superannuation for Mayors and Councillors. The payment of superannuation is not automatic or mandatory, pursuant to 254B (4)(a) of the Act a council must pass a resolution prior to making superannuation contribution payments.
 58. Any changes to superannuation contribution payments for Councillors and Mayors to assist in eliminating barriers to participation would require changes to the legislation.

Section 4 – 2024 Fees

Submissions - 2024 Fees

59. The LGNSW submission requested the Tribunal increase fees by at least 10% in order to:
- Reverse the fee erosion which occurred under the NSW Public Sector Wages Policy
 - Mitigate economic pressures and the rising cost of living
 - Ensure that Councillors and Mayors receive fair and reasonable remuneration for the work they perform
 - Address the historic undervaluation of the work performed by elected representatives in local government in New South Wales.
60. LGNSW used economic and wage data to support their argument that included:
- Consumer Price Index
 - Wage Price Index
 - National and State Wage cases
 - Market comparability
61. LGNSW in its meeting with the Tribunal and Assessors asserted that fees paid to Councillors and Mayors have reduced in real terms over recent years, further advocating for an increase of 10% being fair and reasonable.

- 
62. In meeting with LGNSW, the question of Government policies (State and Federal) on housing reform was discussed. The Tribunal is mindful of the additional workload associated with policies such as the NSW Government's Transport Oriented Development Program place on affected Councils. Similar considerations arise from the infrastructure requirements related to Renewable Energy Zones.
 63. The role of a Councillor as a member of the governing body of the council is outlined under s232 of the LG Act and the Tribunal has addressed this matter generally in the 2023 Determination at paragraph 97.
 64. Four submissions received from individual councils addressed the issue of fees quantum increase. These submissions sought an increase ranging from 3% to 5.57%.
 65. Other submissions advocated for remuneration to be set at a level to:
 - Reflect the role, commitment required, complexity of the role, workload, and responsibilities required to perform the role successfully
 - Ensure no one is out of pocket for the work they do for council
 - Attract a diverse range of potential candidates.
 66. Five submissions advocated for the Tribunal to change the determination in regard to the remuneration structure. Some submissions suggested setting a fixed mandatory fee for Councillors and Mayors, whilst others argued that individual councils should not determine their own

remuneration, due to potential conflict of interest, instead the decision should be left to State Government or an independent decision maker.

67. It has been suggested that such an approach could:
- Remove potential conflict of interest
 - Facilitate good governance
 - Create equity amongst councils in the same category
 - Assist in fostering good relationships with the community
 - Alleviate public perception that increases are unjust.
68. Currently the Tribunal, consistent with its obligations set out in the LG Act, section 248 and section 249, determines a minimum and maximum remuneration range for Councillors and Mayors. It is then up to individual councils, to fix the annual fee for councillors and Mayors.
69. Furthermore, the tribunal does not have the authority to determine a fixed mandatory fee, section 241 of the LG Act states:

“The Remuneration Tribunal must, not later than 1 May in each year, determine, in each of the categories determined under section 239, the maximum and minimum amounts of fees to be paid during the following year to councillors (other than mayors) and mayors.”

Fee Increase.

70. The Tribunal considered a range of factors in determining the amount to increase minimum and maximum fees payable to Councillors and Mayors. This included economic data, including the Consumer Price Index, Wage Price Index, full-time adult average weekly ordinary time earnings, NSW Public Sector increases, and Local Government State Award increases. It also considered the Base Cost Change model used by IPART in setting the rate peg for 2024-25.
71. On this occasion the Tribunal has determined that a 3.75% per cent increase will apply to the minimum and maximum fees applicable to existing categories.

Conclusion

72. The Tribunal's determination has been made with the assistance of the Assessors, Ms Kylie Yates, Mr Brett Whitworth and Mr Douglas Walther.
73. Determination 1 sets out the allocation of councils into each of the categories as per section 239 of the LG Act.
74. Determination 2 sets out the minimum and maximum fees paid to councillors and mayors and chairpersons of county concills as per section 241 of the LG Act.
75. The Tribunal acknowledges and thanks the secretariat for their excellent research and support in completing the 2024 determination.



Viv May PSM

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

Dated 29 April 2024

Section 5 – Determinations

Determination No. 1 – Allocation of councils into each of the categories as per section 239 of the LG Act effective 1 July 2024

General Purpose Councils – Metropolitan

Principal CBD (1)

- Sydney

Major CBD (1)

- Parramatta

Metropolitan Major (2)

- Blacktown
- Canterbury-Bankstown

Metropolitan Large (10)

- Bayside
- Cumberland
- Fairfield
- Inner West
- Liverpool
- Northern Beaches
- Penrith
- Ryde
- Sutherland
- The Hills

Metropolitan Medium (8)

- Campbelltown
- Camden
- Georges River
- Hornsby
- Ku-ring-gai
- North Sydney
- Randwick
- Willoughby

Metropolitan Small (8)

- Burwood
- Canada Bay
- Hunters Hill
- Lane Cove
- Mosman
- Strathfield
- Waverley
- Woollahra

General Purpose Councils - Non-Metropolitan

Major Regional City (2)

- Newcastle
- Wollongong

Major Strategic Area (1)

- Central Coast

Regional Centre (23)

- Albury
- Armidale
- Ballina
- Bathurst
- Blue Mountains
- Byron
- Cessnock
- Clarence Valley
- Coffs Harbour
- Dubbo
- Eurobodella
- Hawkesbury

Regional Strategic Area(4)

- Lake Macquarie
- Maitland
- Shoalhaven
- Tweed

- Lismore
- Mid-Coast
- Orange
- Port Macquarie-Hastings
- Port Stephens
- Queanbeyan-Palerang
- Shellharbour
- Tamworth
- Wagga Wagga
- Wingecarribee
- Wollondilly

Regional Rural (14)

- Bega
- Broken Hill
- Goulburn Mulwaree
- Griffith
- Hilltops
- Kempsey
- Kiama
- Lithgow
- Mid-Western
- Muswellbrook
- Nambucca
- Richmond Valleys
- Singleton
- Snowy Monaro

Rural Large (16)

- Bellingen
- Cabonne
- Cootamundra-Gundagai
- Cowra
- Federation
- Greater Hume
- Gunnedah
- Inverell
- Leeton
- Moree Plains
- Murray River
- Narrabri
- Parkes
- Snowy Valleys
- Upper Hunter
- Yass

Rural (38)

- Balranald
- Berrigan
- Bland
- Blayney
- Bogan
- Bourke
- Brewarrina
- Carrathool
- Central Darling
- Cobar
- Coolamon
- Coonamble
- Dungog
- Edward River
- Forbes
- Gilgandra

- Glen Innes Severn
- Gwydir
- Hay
- Junee
- Kyogle
- Lachlan
- Liverpool Plains
- Lockhart
- Murrumbidgee
- Narrandera
- Narromine
- Oberon
- Temora
- Tenterfield
- Upper Lachlan
- Uralla
- Walcha
- Walgett
- Warren
- Warrumbungle
- Weddin
- Wentworth

County Councils

Water (4)

- Central Tablelands
- Goldenfields Water
- Riverina Water
- Rous

Other (6)

- Castlereagh-Macquarie
- Central Murray
- Hawkesbury River
- New England Tablelands
- Upper Hunter
- Upper Macquarie

Determination No. 2 - Fees for Councillors and Mayors as per section 241 of the LG Act effective from 1 July 2024

The annual fees to be paid in each of the categories to Councillors, Mayors, Members, and Chairpersons of County Councils effective on and from 1 July 2024 as per section 241 of the *Local Government Act 1993* are determined as follows:

Table 4: Fees for General Purpose and County Councils

General Purpose Councils – Metropolitan

Councillor/Member Annual Fee (\$) effective 1 July 2024

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Principal CBD	30,720	45,070
Major CBD	20,500	37,960
Metropolitan Major	20,500	35,890
Metropolitan Large	20,500	33,810
Metropolitan Medium	15,370	28,690
Metropolitan Small	10,220	22,540

Mayor/Chairperson Additional Fee* (\$) effective 1 July 2024

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Principal CBD	188,010	247,390
Major CBD	43,530	122,640
Metropolitan Major	43,530	110,970
Metropolitan Large	43,530	98,510
Metropolitan Medium	32,650	76,190
Metropolitan Small	21,770	49,170

General Purpose Councils - Non-Metropolitan

Councillor/Member Annual Fee (\$) effective 1 July 2024

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Major Regional City	20,500	35,620
Major Strategic Area	20,500	35,620
Regional Strategic Area	20,500	33,810
Regional Centre	15,370	27,050
Regional Rural	10,220	22,540
Rural Large	10,220	18,340
Rural	10,220	13,520

Mayor/Chairperson Additional Fee* (\$) effective 1 July 2024

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Major Regional City	43,530	110,970
Major Strategic Area	43,530	110,970
Regional Strategic Area	43,530	98,510
Regional Centre	31,980	66,800
Regional Rural	21,770	49,200
Rural Large	16,330	39,350
Rural	10,880	29,500



County Councils

Councillor/Member Annual Fee (\$) effective 1 July 2024

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Water	2,030	11,280
Other	2,030	6,730

Mayor/Chairperson Additional Fee* (\$) effective 1 July 2024

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Water	4,360	18,520
Other	4,360	12,300

*This fee must be paid in addition to the fee paid to the Mayor/Chairperson as a Councillor/Member (s.249(2)).

Viv May PSM

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

Dated 29 April 2024

Appendices

Appendix 1 Criteria that apply to categories

Principal CBD

The Council of the City of Sydney (the City of Sydney) is the principal central business district (CBD) in the Sydney Metropolitan area. The City of Sydney is home to Sydney's primary commercial office district with the largest concentration of businesses and retailers in Sydney. The City of Sydney's sphere of economic influence is the greatest of any local government area in Australia.

The CBD is also host to some of the city's most significant transport infrastructure including Central Station, Circular Quay and International Overseas Passenger Terminal. Sydney is recognised globally with its iconic harbour setting and the City of Sydney is host to the city's historical, cultural and ceremonial precincts. The City of Sydney attracts significant visitor numbers and is home to 60 per cent of metropolitan Sydney's hotels.

The role of Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney has significant prominence reflecting the CBD's importance as home to the country's major business centres and public facilities of state and national importance. The Lord Mayor's responsibilities in developing and maintaining relationships with stakeholders, including other councils, state and federal governments, community and business groups, and the media are considered greater than other mayoral roles in NSW.

Major CBD

The Council of the City of Parramatta (City of Parramatta) is the economic capital of Greater Western Sydney and the geographic and demographic centre of Greater Sydney. Parramatta is the second largest economy in NSW (after Sydney CBD) and the sixth largest in Australia.

As a secondary CBD to metropolitan Sydney the Parramatta local government area is a major provider of business and government services with a significant number of organisations relocating their head offices to Parramatta. Public administration and safety have been a growth sector for Parramatta as the State Government has promoted a policy of moving government agencies westward to support economic development beyond the Sydney CBD.

The City of Parramatta provides a broad range of regional services across the Sydney Metropolitan area with a significant transport hub and hospital and educational facilities. The City of Parramatta is home to the Westmead Health and Medical Research precinct which represents the largest concentration of hospital and health services in Australia, servicing Western Sydney and providing other specialised services for the rest of NSW.

The City of Parramatta is also home to a significant number of cultural and sporting facilities (including Sydney Olympic Park) which draw significant domestic and international visitors to the region.

Metropolitan Major

Councils categorised Metropolitan Major will typically have a minimum residential population of 400,000.

Councils may also be categorised Metropolitan Major if their residential population combined with their non-resident working population exceeds 400,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population must exceed 50,000.

Other features may include:

- total operating revenue exceeding \$300M per annum
- the provision of significant regional services to greater Sydney including, but not limited to, major education, health, retail, sports, other recreation and cultural facilities
- significant industrial, commercial and residential centres and development corridors
- high population growth.

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Major will have a sphere of economic influence and provide regional services considered to be greater than those of other metropolitan councils.

Metropolitan Large

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Large will typically have a minimum residential population of 200,000.

Councils may also be categorised as Metropolitan Large if their residential population combined with their non-resident working population exceeds 200,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population must exceed 50,000.

Other features may include:

- total operating revenue exceeding \$200M per annum
- the provision of significant regional services to greater Sydney including, but not limited to, major education, health, retail, sports, other recreation and cultural facilities
- significant industrial, commercial and residential centres and development corridors
- high population growth.

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Large will have a sphere of economic influence and provide regional services considered to be greater than those of other metropolitan councils.

Metropolitan Medium

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Medium will typically have a minimum residential population of 100,000.

Councils may also be categorised as Metropolitan Medium if their residential population combined with their non-resident working population exceeds 100,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population must exceed 50,000.



Other features may include:

- total operating revenue exceeding \$100M per annum
- services to greater Sydney including, but not limited to, major education, health, retail, sports, other recreation and cultural facilities
- industrial, commercial and residential centres and development corridors
- high population growth.

The sphere of economic influence, the scale of council operations and the extent of regional servicing would be below that of Metropolitan Large councils.

Metropolitan Small

Councils categorised as Metropolitan Small will typically have a residential population less than 100,000.

Other features which distinguish them from other metropolitan councils include:

- total operating revenue less than \$150M per annum.

While these councils may include some of the facilities and characteristics of both Metropolitan Large and Metropolitan Medium councils the overall sphere of economic influence, the scale of council operations and the extent of regional servicing would be below that of Metropolitan Medium councils.

Major Regional City

Newcastle City Council and Wollongong City Councils are categorised as Major Regional City. These councils:

- are metropolitan in nature with major residential, commercial and industrial areas
- typically host government departments, major tertiary education and health facilities and incorporate high density commercial and residential development
- provide a full range of higher order services and activities along with arts, culture, recreation, sporting and entertainment facilities to service the wider community and broader region

- have significant transport and freight infrastructure servicing international markets, the capital city and regional areas
- have significant natural and man-made assets to support diverse economic activity, trade and future investment
- typically contain ventures which have a broader State and national focus which impact upon the operations of the council.

Major Strategic Area

Councils categorised as Major Strategic Area will have a minimum population of 300,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population can be included.

Other features may include:

- health services, tertiary education services and major regional airports which service the surrounding and wider regional community
- a full range of high-order services including business, office and retail uses with arts, culture, recreation and entertainment centres
- total operating revenue exceeding \$250M per annum
- significant visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and major events that attract state and national attention
- a proximity to Sydney which generates economic opportunities.

Currently, only Central Coast Council meets the criteria to be categorised as a Major Strategic Area. Its population, predicted population growth, and scale of the Council's operations warrant that it be differentiated from other non-metropolitan councils. Central Coast Council is also a significant contributor to the regional economy associated with proximity to and connections with Sydney and the Hunter Region.

Regional Strategic Area

Councils categorised as Regional Strategic Area are differentiated from councils in the Regional Centre category on the basis of their significant population and will typically have a residential population above 100,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population can be included.

Other features may include:

- health services, tertiary education services and major regional airports which service the surrounding and wider regional community
- a full range of high-order services including business, office and retail uses with arts, culture, recreation and entertainment centres
- total operating revenue exceeding \$250M per annum
- significant visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and major events that attract state and national attention
- a proximity to Sydney which generates economic opportunities.

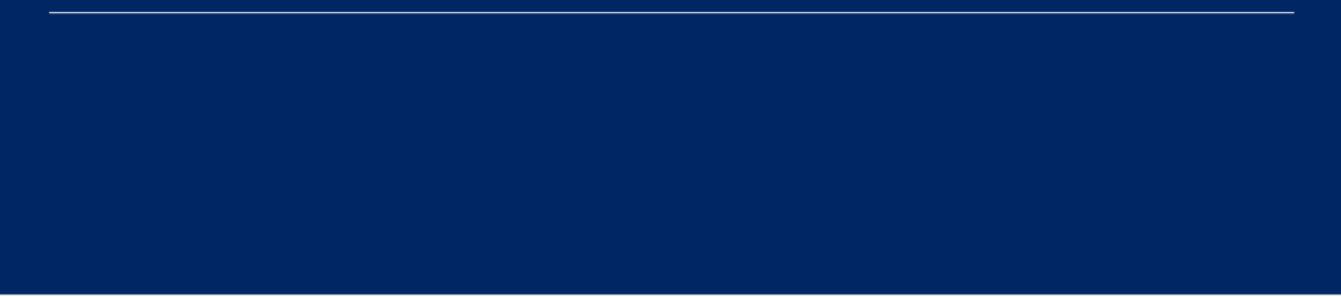
Currently, only Lake Macquarie Council meets the criteria to be categorised as a Regional Strategic Area. Its population and overall scale of council operations will be greater than Regional Centre councils.

Regional Centre

Councils categorised as Regional Centre will typically have a minimum residential population of 40,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population can be included.

Other features may include:

- a large city or town providing a significant proportion of the region's housing and employment
- health services, tertiary education services and major regional airports which service the surrounding and wider regional community
- a full range of high-order services including business, office and retail uses with arts, culture, recreation and entertainment centres
- total operating revenue exceeding \$100M per annum
- the highest rates of population growth in regional NSW
- significant visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and major events that attract state and national attention
- a proximity to Sydney which generates economic opportunities.



Councils in the category of Regional Centre are often considered the geographic centre of the region providing services to their immediate and wider catchment communities.

Regional Rural

Councils categorised as Regional Rural will typically have a minimum residential population of 20,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population can be included.

Other features may include:

- a large urban population existing alongside a traditional farming sector, and are surrounded by smaller towns and villages
- health services, tertiary education services and regional airports which service a regional community
- a broad range of industries including agricultural, educational, health, professional, government and retail services
- large visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and events.

Councils in the category of Regional Rural provide a degree of regional servicing below that of a Regional Centre.

Rural Large

Councils categorised as Rural Large will have a residential population greater than 10,000, and a councillor to resident ratio of at least 1 to 1200.

Other features may include:

- one or two significant townships combined with a considerable dispersed population spread over a large area and a long distance from a major regional centre
- a limited range of services, facilities and employment opportunities compared to Regional Rural councils
- local economies based on agricultural/resource industries.

Rural

Councils categorised as Rural will typically have a residential population less than 10,000.

County Councils - Water

County councils that provide water and/or sewerage functions with a joint approach in planning and installing large water reticulation and sewerage systems.

County Councils - Other

County councils that administer, control and eradicate declared noxious weeds as a specified Local Control Authority under the Biosecurity Act 2015.



Circular Details	22-04/ 15 March 2022/ A811265
Previous Circular	21-07 <i>Commencement of Local Government Amendment Act 2021</i>
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / Council Governance Staff
Contact	Council Governance Team / 02 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Information / Council to Implement

Payment of councillor superannuation

What's new or changing

- Following an amendment to the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) last year, councils may make payments as a contribution to a superannuation account nominated by their councillors, starting from the financial year commencing on **1 July 2022**.
- The making of superannuation contribution payments for councillors is optional and is at each council's discretion.

What this will mean for your council

- To exercise the option of making superannuation contribution payments for their councillors, councils must first resolve at an open meeting to make superannuation contribution payments for the councillors.
- Where a council resolves to make superannuation contribution payments for its councillors, the amount of the payment is to be the amount the council would have been required to contribute under the *Commonwealth Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992* as superannuation if the councillors were employees of the council.
- As of 1 July 2022, the superannuation guarantee rate will be 10.5%. The rate will increase by half a percent each year until 1 July 2025 when it reaches 12%.
- The superannuation contribution payment is to be paid at the same intervals as the annual fee is paid to councillors.
- To receive a superannuation contribution payment, each councillor must first nominate a superannuation account for the payment before the end of the month to which the payment relates. The superannuation account nominated by councillors must be an account for superannuation or retirement benefits from a scheme or fund to which the *Commonwealth Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act* applies.
- Councils **must not** make a superannuation contribution payment for a councillor if the councillor fails to nominate an eligible superannuation account for the payment before the end of the month to which the payment relates.
- Individual councillors may opt out of receiving superannuation contribution payments or opt to receive reduced payments. Councillors must do so in writing.

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- Councils must not make superannuation contribution payments for councillors during any period in which they are suspended from their civic office or their right to be paid any fee or other remuneration, or expense, is suspended under the Act.
- Councillors are also not entitled to receive a superannuation contribution payment during any period in which they are not entitled to receive their fee under section 254A of the Act because they are absent.

Where to go for further information

- For further information please contact the Council Governance Team on 02 4428 4100 or by email at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au.

Melanie Hawyes
Deputy Secretary, Crown Lands and Local Government

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OPERATIONAL MATTERS

ITEM 7.8 MINUTES OF THE LEETON LOCAL AREA TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETINGS - JUNE 2024

RECORD NUMBER	24/88
RELATED FILE NUMBER	EF21/430/02
AUTHOR/S	Road Safety Officer
APPROVER/S	Manager Roads and Drainage

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the outcomes of the Local Area Traffic Committee (LATC) meetings which were held on the 4 and 12 June 2024 and to seek Council's endorsement of the recommendations made by the LATC.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council notes the minutes and endorses the recommendations of the Local Area Traffic Committee meetings which were held on the:

- Tuesday 4 June 2024 at 10:30am.
 - Wednesday 12 June 2024 at 10:30am.
-

REPORT

(a) Background

The Local Area Traffic Committee (LATC) is a technical review committee which advises on matters referred to Council. These matters are related to prescribed traffic control devices and facilities for which Council has delegated authority. The Council must refer all traffic related matters to the LATC prior to exercising its delegated functions. All recommendations of the LATC must be referred to Council for adoption prior to enactment.

Due to the "Lap it Up Leeton" Special Event Request representative being unavailable to attend the 4 June 2024 LATC meeting, an additional LATC meeting was held on Wednesday 12 June 2024.

Note the original LATC meeting which was scheduled for May 2024 had to be postponed to June 2024 due to a quorum not being present on the day of the meeting.

(b) Discussion

The LATC meeting held on Tuesday 4 June 2024 addressed the following agenda items:

1. Outstanding Action Report.
2. Special Event Request – Murrumbidgee Carriage Driving Club Event Traffic Management.
3. Special Event Request – Leeton Outback Band Spectacular Traffic Management.
4. Special Event Request – Art Deco Festival Traffic Management.
5. Roxy Lane – No Stopping Sign Installation.
6. Installation of Load Limit on Boree Road, Robinson Road and Block Road.
7. General Business.

For additional information on the LATC meeting that was held on Tuesday 4 June 2024, please refer to the agenda and minutes (**Attachments 1 and 2**).

The LATC meeting held on Wednesday 12 June 2024 addressed the following agenda item:

1. Special Event Request- Lap it Up Leeton.

For additional information on the LATC meeting that was held on Tuesday 12 June 2024, please refer to the agenda and minutes (**Attachments 3 and 4**).

(c) Options

THAT Council:

1. Endorses the Local Area Traffic Committee recommendations. ***This is the recommended option.***
2. Does not endorse the Local Area Traffic Committee recommendations, noting there is a process that should be followed when such occasions occur.

IMPLICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED

(a) Financial

Road closures associated with the Art Deco Festival Traffic Management are funded through Council's event budget.

The Leeton Outback Band Spectacular has a Council Budget allocation that covers the road closures associated with the marching parade.

The Murrumbidgee Carriage Driving Club and the Lap It Up Leeton Event have no financial costs associated with Council.

The installation of the No Parking Signage and installation of Load limit signage will be funded through the Traffic Facilities budget and are expected to be under \$5K.

(b) Policy

Nil

(c) Legislative/Statutory

Delegation of Authority is passed from Roads and Maritime Services to Local Traffic Committees.

(d) Risk

All risks have been addressed within the Local Area Traffic Committee Report prior to any endorsement from the Local Area Traffic Committee.

CONSULTATION

(a) External

Murrumbidgee Police District
Transport for NSW
Delegate for the Local Member of the Murray Electorate (NSW Government)

(b) Internal

Manager Roads & Drainage
Events Officer

LINK/S TO THE DELIVERY PROGRAM/OPERATIONAL PLAN (DPOP)

Under the Key Priority Area CSP FOCUS AREA 4 - A quality environment within Council's adopted Delivery Program/Operational Plan – DELIVERY PROGRAM FUNCTIONAL AREA 6 - Road and Drainage – DELIVERY PROGRAM ACTIVITY 6.5 - Provide road safety programs, including roadside vegetation management, permitting, traffic management and accident assistance – OPERATIONAL PLAN ACTIVITY 6.5.4 - Implement programs and campaigns that foster and promote road safety.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Agenda of Local Area Traffic Committee - 4 June 2024 - **Attached separately**
- 2 Minutes of the local Area Traffic Committee - Wednesday, 4 June 2024 - **Attached separately**
- 3 Agenda of Extra ordinary Traffic Committee - Wednesday, 12 June 2024 - **Attached separately**
- 4 Minutes of Extra Ordinary Traffic Committee - Wednesday, 12 June 2024 - **Attached separately**

ITEM 7.9 CAPITAL WORKS UPDATE REPORT - MAJOR PROJECTS - JUNE 2024

RECORD NUMBER	24/138
RELATED FILE NUMBER	EF24/88
AUTHOR/S	Director Operations
APPROVER/S	General Manager

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the progress of the major capital works projects that Leeton Shire Council is currently undertaking (excluding the Roxy Theatre that is reported separately).

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council notes for information the Quarterly Capital Works Update Report – Major Projects as of the 13 June 2024.

REPORT

(a) Background

Leeton Shire Council continues to have an extensive program of capital works.

The projects are helping to build or renew critical infrastructure in our towns, upgrade facilities to provide a better standard of living, boost local jobs creation, revitalise the economy and increase the liveability of Leeton Shire.

(b) Discussion

Refer to (**Attachment 1**) – Capital Works Project Status Update Report as of the 13 June 2024.

IMPLICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED

(a) Financial

All financials are included in the attachment for each project.

(b) Policy

Procurement Policy

(c) Legislative/Statutory

Local Government Act 1993
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

(d) Risk

Risks for each project are outlined in the attached Capital Works Update Report "Risk Management" section. Detailed risk assessments form part of the project management process for each project.

CONSULTATION

(a) External

Each capital work report addresses stakeholder engagement.

(b) Internal


Senior Management Team
Manager Roads and Drainage
Manager Water and Wastewater
Manager Open Spaces and Recreation
Manager Governance, Corporate and Customer Service
Project Manager





LINK/S TO THE DELIVERY PROGRAM/OPERATIONAL PLAN (DPOP)


Under the Key Priority Area CSP FOCUS AREA 5 - Strong leadership and civic participation within Council's adopted Delivery Program/Operational Plan – DELIVERY PROGRAM FUNCTIONAL AREA 9 - Governance and Administration – DELIVERY PROGRAM ACTIVITY 9.6 - Deploy reliable and efficient corporate and project governance including audit, risk and improvement – OPERATIONAL PLAN ACTIVITY 9.6.3 - Operate a project management office to support asset managers with major projects.

ATTACHMENTS








- 1 Capital Works - Project Status Update Report - June 2024





	Project Name	W2410 - Canal Street Rehabilitation				Current Phase	Definition		Report Date	June 2024
							Approval			
							Delivery	X	Estimated Completion	July 2024
							Completion			August 2024
Key Project Team Members	PCG (Chair)		Project Manager / Author	Chris Lashbrook (Manager Roads & Drainage)	Asset Owner		Chris Lashbrook (Manager Roads and Drainage)			
Key Project Aspects	Comments									
Project Scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scope of the project is to rehabilitate the current Canal Street from Market Road to Whitton Road. Project scope has reduced following initial concept plans: removal of Concrete Median Barrier, required drainage augmentation, and reduction of vegetation plantings. Following feedback from TfNSW additional intersection treatments were requested and allowed for in updated designs. Removal of road crossing overhead power lines and inadequate power pole clearances requiring movement were included in scope. Design only of concrete footpath along resident side of verge is included in scope, including plantation of approx. 50 verge trees/shrubs. 									
Milestones Achieved / Upcoming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional Asphalt works identified and warranty works completed. Completion of widening works opposite Market Road intersection, with a deep lift heavy patch completed along kerb at Calrose St Intersection. Commencement of plantation of the verge shrubs – Crepe Myrtles Commencement of powerpole installations and underbore works for streetlight augmentation works. modifications agreed to and re-certifications undertaken. 									
Project Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project schedule for streetlight installation works were delayed due to Essential Energy requirements for additional notification periods of 28 Days. This pushed past the certification dates and required the designs to be recertified, even though unchanged. With these works commenced early June, and expected to be completed mid/late June. Discussions held with TfNSW and they recommended an extension of time request. This was completed and they offered extension to 14/08/2024. It is unlikely to be required to the full date extension. Likely completion date early July. 						Current Status	Previous Status		
Stakeholder Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion with TfNSW in monthly meeting was raised at the finish of Canal Street, and that it looks to be completed well and to a high standard. Turning lanes and widening increasing safety. Project update relayed to community with line marking completed. Residents were advised at the commencement of the project that the planned designed footpath would not be constructed under this project. A grant application has been submitted under Get NSW Active which if approved will see works undertaken in future financial years. 									
Risk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key project risks being managed currently are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk for non completion by original approved completion date – this was mitigated through discussion with TfNSW and request of an EOT. This was granted on 30/05/2024. Location of power pole at Brady Way was installed further away from traffic lane due to offset requirements, this has been redesigned and recertified with a longer outreach to light up roadway. 									
Budget	Project Budget	LSC Contribution	Actual Costs (To Date)	Committed Costs	Variations	Forecast Cost				
	\$2.070M	\$307,000	\$1,894,038	\$73,286	\$123,433	\$1.98M				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding (\$1.7M) from Fixing Local Roads has been secured, expecting forecast cost to be below Project Budget. Variations entered for additional Asphalt Areas and widening works. 									

Procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrival of the 50 Crepe Myrtles have prompted the installation of these bushes on the verge. Open Spaces & Rec are aiding the Roads Dept by installing these for us, ensuring their safe plantation and survival rate. 					
Total Project Status	Status	Comments				
						
Legend	On Track		At Risk		Major Concern	

	Project Name	Chelmsford Town Square (Formally CBD Phase 3) including Chelmsford Town Square, Sycamore Carpark Toilet and Roxy Corner			Current Phase	Definition		Report Date	June 2024
						Approval			
						Delivery	x	Estimated Completion	June 2024
						Completion			
Key Project Team Members	PCG (Chair)	Silas Darby (Director Operations)	Project Manager / Author	Josh Clyne (Manager Open Space & Recreation)	Asset Owner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manager Open Space & Recreation • Manager Roads & Drainage (roads and stormwater) • Manager Water & Wastewater (water and sewer services) 			
Key Project Aspects	Comments								
Project Scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an open, continuous, vibrant, and inclusive parkland setting that restores Sir Walter Burley Griffin's vision of a central town square with bold features. Widen Park islands into adjoining traffic lanes and replace a little used traffic crossing. Install a raised pedestrian walkway to provide a safe crossing point and a strong visual connection. • Incorporate mature Canary Island Date palms into concept design and undertake further linear tree plantings up to the historic water towers that will draw pedestrians along the lines of the entire open space. • Develop a staired landing below the water tower with disability access • Reinstate refurbished heritage lights focusing on the heritage band rotunda central to the landscape footprint • Refurbish existing historic band rotunda • Install projection lighting for illuminated art displays on water towers. • Complete Roxy corner works from CBD Stage 2 • Note: adult disabled change facilities and toilet at Sycamore Street carpark have been removed from scope due to cost management. Separate grant funds are being sought; Funder has agreed. • Additional scope – re-instate mosaic tiles in new location. 								
Milestones Achieved / Upcoming since last update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 1 is nearly completion with only three outstanding items. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressure washing and sealing of the concrete and granite pavers • Installation and commissioning of dry fountain (fountain jets have now arrived) • Rendering of Dethridge wheel encasement • Stage 2 works have progressed well with the following works completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigation installed • Turf and trees planted • Concrete works completed • Heritage light poles installed and commissioned • Heritage Rotunda completed • War memorial obelisks installed • Stage 3 stage 3 works are progressing and works include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All electrical and inground services installed • Grass stage area retaining walls poured • Footing for Illuminart projector installed ready for installation on June 14. • Demolition of old kerb extending around the water towers complete. • Preparations for new kerb commenced. 								

	Roxy Corner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roxy corner is nearing completion with gardens and trees to be planted in early June. Minor concrete rectification works being completed. 							
Project Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall project is behind schedule by 3 weeks. Consistent review of program schedules is allowing accurate monitoring of milestone completions; however, progress is slow in stage 3. The head contractor is looking to bring additional resources in to speed up progress. Weekly meetings between Council staff and Boots Civil is closely monitoring progress. 						Current Status	Previous Status
Stakeholder Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media releases and Facebook posts continued, including traffic control arrangements. Pending media release update awaiting funder approval. 							
Risk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Important risks being managed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risks have been managed well. Close monitoring of risks via the PCG has been comprehensive and only minor residual risks remain. Cost overruns will be managed through PCG and careful management of contractor and variations. The project is nearing completion and any cost overruns have managed within the overall budget. Consistent updated program schedules will help to manage time overruns. 							
Budget	Project Budget	LSC Contribution	Actual Costs (To Date)	Committed Costs	Variations	Forecast Cost		
	\$3,207,175 (now includes Roxy Corner works)	-	\$2,075,051.21	\$771,983.80	\$347,494 (includes Roxy Corner works which were added to Contract)	\$3,098,600		
	Legacy Funding - \$2,000,000 grant LRCI - \$738,445 grant SCCF3 - \$268,730 grant (including additional \$6,113 left over funds reallocated from Skate Park expansion). Council (CBD Stage2) \$200,000 – (voted previously for Roxy Corner)							
	The revised Chelmsford Town Square Project Budget is \$3,207,175 and except for Roxy Corner is fully grant funded (NSW Open Spaces Legacy Fund, NSW Stronger Country Communities and Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Phases 3 and 4).							
Procurement	Project staff continue to undertake procurement of items outside of construction contract, being trees, irrigation, furniture, turf. These items are all included in the project budget.							
Total Project Status	Status	Comments						
		The project is progressing well but is now 3 weeks behind original practical completion date. Boots Civil has revised the completion date to 18 June 2024. Council will still have its own final works to complete through the month of June extending to 30 June 2024. Whilst there is no pressing date for completion from a usage perspective, funding bodies have set completion dates and need to be regularly updated on time extensions. The Art Deco Festival opens on 11 July 2024 and this would ideally be complete by then.						

	Project Name	Vance Industrial Estate Expansion			Current Phase	Definition	Report Date	June 2024			
						Approval					
						Delivery			X	Estimated Completion	Oct 2022, Oct 2023 March 2024 October 2024
						Completion					
Key Project Team Members	PCG (Chair)	Michelle Evans (Director Economic & Community Development) The Director is also responsible for marketing the sites.	Project Manager / Author	Silas Darby (Director Operations)	Asset Owner	Various coordinated by Director Operations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manager Roads & Drainage (roads and stormwater) • Manager Water & Wastewater (water and sewer services) • Manager Governance, Corporate and Customer Service (property sales transactions) 					
Key Project Aspects	Comments										
Project Scope	Council has acquired 20ha of land through a land swap and partial purchase. The goal is to develop an expanded industrial estate with roads, services, and energy supply (electricity and possibly gas). The available Council owned area will see 22 lots delivered. The land swap/subdivision was to deliver a usable site for the previous landowner by October 2022 by formal agreement, which has now been extended to October 2024. The project aim is to generate economic activity and aims to eventually break even.										
Milestones Achieved / Upcoming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To date 4 lots have been 'sold' off the plans (pending subdivision approval). Sales contracts have not been exchanged. • Tenders were called and Council has determined at its November 2023 Council meeting to reject all tenders in favour of direct negotiation. • Two companies were selected to reprice the works and Excel Gray Bruni were the lowest price. • Works have commenced on site. 										
Project Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A schedule of works is being developed by Excel Gray Bruni. • Contracted delivery dates have been extended by agreement with relevant landholders and grant funding bodies. The "Drop dead" date for the initial LRCI funding is end June 2024. 					Current Status	Previous Status				
Stakeholder Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original part landowner has been kept up to date with progress and timeframes, with further updates to be provided once direct negotiations are finalised. 										
Risk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk management plan completed and up to date. Risks include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased costs for development impacting business case. Sale price of lots will be reviewed once subdivision goes through. ○ Selling of lots – these will recommence shortly. ○ Completion by due date(s) and acquittal of grants. ○ Further issues with the design drawings (inaccuracies). ○ Availability and suitability of M.I. sourced fill. ○ Availability of level 1 electrical subcontractor. 										
Budget	Project Budget	LSC Contribution	Actual Costs	Committed Costs	Contract Sum	Forecast Cost					
	\$7.83M	\$5.55M (\$4.5M Loan)	\$365,982	\$15,056 (Contract)	\$6,507,247.60	\$7.83M					

		(\$1M Water & Sewer Reserve)						
	Funding has been approved from Local Roads Community Infrastructure funding phases 3 and 4 totalling \$2.277M. The \$1m Disaster Funding earmarked previously may not be eligible and will likely be used on other projects.							
Procurement								
Total Project Status	Status	Comments						
		Anticipated income from sales over 4 years will offset Council's loan.						
	Legend	On Track		At Risk		Major Concern		

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

ITEM 7.10 POST EVENT REPORT - 2024 FIESTA LA LEETON

RECORD NUMBER	24/133
RELATED FILE NUMBER	EF21/438/02
AUTHOR/S	Events Officer Trainee
APPROVER/S	Director Economic & Community Development

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the post-event review for the 2024 Fiesta La Leeton event which was held on 18 May 2024 and seeks support from Council for the 2025 event.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receives for information the 2024 Fiesta La Leeton post-event report and endorses support for the 2025 event.

REPORT

(a) Background

Fiesta la Leeton, was held on 18 May 2024, from 5:00pm to 9:00pm on Wade Avenue South, and is an annual street festival celebrating the diverse cultural heritage of the Leeton community.

Sponsored by JBS Australia, with significant contributions from the Leeton Multicultural Support Group (LMSG), Leeton Shire Council (LSC), and The Irrigator newspaper, the event aimed to foster community spirit, celebrate multiculturalism, and provide economic benefits to local vendors. The festival featured a variety of food vendors and performers organised by Leeton Shire Council in collaboration with LMSG.

Identified in Council's Operational Plan to encourage and support the hosting of community events, the event was organised with the cooperation of the Leeton Multicultural Support Group (LMSG). This collaboration was rooted in the core mission of LMSG which is to enhance community awareness regarding the rich cultural diversity within our region. A primary goal of this partnership was to facilitate cultural events and foster a greater understanding of cultural diversity among the community.

(b) Discussion

The event attracted over 2,500 attendees, showcasing its growing popularity and success in engaging the community. At its inaugural event held in March 2023 it was estimated attendance was 1,200.

Entry to the event was free, with a variety of food stalls representing cuisines from Afghanistan, Malaysia, Italy, the Philippines, Fiji, Indonesia, Indigenous Australia, and China providing a rich culinary experience. Select vendors used JBS Australia beef, adding a unique local touch to the offerings.

The headline act Nadya and the Gypsy Firecrackers (Sydney), did their best to engage the audience with their diverse musical repertoire despite the cold weather. Local cultural groups, especially the Pukapukans (Griffith), added to the vibrant entertainment lineup with their traditional drumming, singing, and dancing.

The event successfully brought together various cultural groups, highlighting the importance of inclusivity and community cohesion. A post-event survey was conducted with feedback from attendees praising the welcoming atmosphere and diverse offerings as described in the attached report. (**Attachment 1**).

Road closures were effectively managed from 6:00am to 12:00am, with minimal disruption to local traffic. Council staff ensured the community safety and smooth flow throughout the event.

Stallholders were coordinated by LMSG, with the setup and pack down completed by Council staff and LMSG volunteer's. All stallholders completed food safety courses before the event, ensuring compliance with health regulations.

JBS Australia's sponsorship was pivotal, providing both financial support and products for vendors. Their commitment to support the event for at least two (2) more years sets it up for continued success.

(c) Options

Nil – this report is for information purposes only.

IMPLICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED

(a) Financial

Total expenditure of Fiesta la Leeton was \$27,394.14.

The 2024 Fiesta La Leeton event was funded by:

- Multicultural NSW Program Stronger Together Festivals and Events Grant (Round 2) of \$15K (GST exclusive), to assist eligible event organisers in supporting multicultural and multifaith community groups to produce Festivals and Events that celebrate and embrace our state's vibrant cultural diversity.
- \$10K JBS Sponsorship (Year 1 of 3-year sponsorship agreement)
- Council's contribution was \$2394.14 including staff wages to facilitate the event.

(b) Policy

Work, Health & Safety – Event Risk Management (including Traffic Management)
Multiculturalism Policy

(c) Legislative/Statutory

Nil

(d) Risk

Each event has a tailored risk management plan, including a Traffic Management Plan.

CONSULTATION

(a) External

Leeton Multicultural Support Group
Traffic Committee
Local businesses
Entertainment providers
Food vendors and stallholders
JBS Australia

(b) Internal

Manager Roads and Drainage
Manager Open Space and Recreation
Events Officer
Community Development Coordinator
Road Safety Officer

LINK/S TO THE DELIVERY PROGRAM/OPERATIONAL PLAN (DPOP)

Under the Key Priority Area CSP FOCUS AREA 1 - A connected, inclusive and enriched community within Council's adopted Delivery Program/Operational Plan – DELIVERY PROGRAM FUNCTIONAL AREA 1 - Community Services and Community Development - DELIVERY PROGRAM ACTIVITY 1.6 - Support a range of local community events, including NAIDOC Week, International Women's Day, Grandparents Day, Australia Day, Light Up Leeton, Harmony Day, Fiesta La Leeton, Reconciliation Day, Sorry Day - OPERATIONAL PLAN ACTIVITY 1.6.1 - Support the hosting of local community events across the Shire including Australia Day, Light Up Leeton, NAIDOC Week, International Women's Day, Harmony Day, Fiesta La Leeton (new), Reconciliation Day, Sorry Day.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 2024 Fiesta La Leeton Post Event Report



POST EVENT REPORT

Compiled by: LSC Events team





ABOUT FIESTA LA LEETON

Saturday 18 May 2024
5pm – 9pm
Wade Avenue South, Leeton

The JBS Fiesta La Leeton, held on Saturday 18 May 2024, is a vibrant celebration designed to highlight and showcase the diverse multicultural composition of the Leeton community. This annual event aims to foster and enhance community cohesion and integration, making it a cornerstone of our local festivities.

Originally inaugurated last year in March to coincide with Harmony Day, the event was moved to May this year to avoid any unseasonably hot weather and prevent clashing with the biennial SunRice Festival, which demands significant community engagement.

This year's Fiesta was once again hosted on Wade Avenue South, utilising the redeveloped precinct to create a unique street festival atmosphere. By relocating stallholders to the footpaths, we improved crowd movement and flow on the roadway, enhancing the overall experience for attendees.

Entry to the event was free, featuring a multitude of stalls offering diverse cuisines, various activities, and performances by local community acts as well as a professional band. The Fiesta proudly showcased at least 11 nationalities through their cuisine, music, and dance, reflecting the rich cultural tapestry of Leeton.

Organised by Leeton Shire Council in collaboration with the Leeton Multicultural Support Group (LMSG), whose core mission is to enhance community awareness regarding cultural diversity, the event's major sponsor was JBS Australia who as a major employer of a broad range of Leeton's multicultural communities was keen to support and showcase their employees. The event also received funding through the NSW Government's Multicultural NSW Stronger Together Program Festivals and Events (Round 2).

Measuring success against our aims to foster community spirit, celebrate multiculturalism, and provide economic benefits to local vendors, this year's JBS Fiesta La Leeton was a resounding success, bringing our community together in a joyful celebration of diversity.

Going forward, the intent is to move the event to activate the newly redeveloped Chelmsford Place precinct, allowing more room for growth. Additionally, shifting the date to April or early May is recommended to ensure more temperate weather, as the frigid conditions experienced in mid-May this year had a similar impact on attendance and enjoyment as the unseasonable heat did in mid-March last year.

(JBS)

Fiesta La Leeton

a showcase of Leeton's diverse
& multicultural character

Saturday 18 May 2024
5pm – 9pm on Wade Avenue

traditional & fusion cuisine energetic dance & music



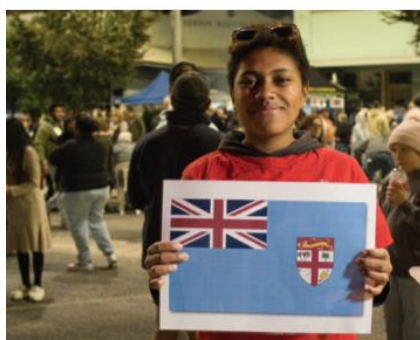
local performers +
Nadya & the Gypsy Firecrackers

 Multicultural NSW   LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL The Irrigator  LMSG
Leeton Multicultural Support Group

QUICK STATS



**1 travelling professional entertainment
19 community stall holders
and
5 local community acts
representing more than 11 nationalities
living and working in the Leeton community**



Presented by



**LEETON
SHIRE COUNCIL**



with funding by



**Multicultural
NSW**

and the support of



The Irrigator

**with approximately 2,500 patrons in attendance¹
a potential \$68,642 value-added to the local economy²**

¹ data collected by Camlytics trailer and nCounter operating at Wade Avenue during event time.
² d. Economic Profile Event Impact Assessment calculation based on average spend of estimated visitor attendance

EVENT PROMOTION



Friday March 08, 2024 THE IRRIGATOR 3 NEWS

Fiesta La Leeton locked in again

BY TALIA PARTISON

A MULTICULTURAL event activating a street space in Leeton will make a big return in 2024.

Fiesta La Leeton is back in 2024, with Leeton Shire Council and the Leeton Multicultural Support Group teaming up again to bring the event to life. A date has now been set for the event, which will be held in Wade Avenue as a big street-style festival gathering on Saturday, May 18. The 2024 event is later in the year compared to its inaugural outing in 2023, which was weather around that time in Leeton.

"We are really excited to be holding the event again this year. It is in May, so we are hoping we won't have to contend with the heat like we did last year," she said. "We'll be closing off Wade Avenue again to host the stalls, music and entertainment for everyone to enjoy. It will again be a community event for everyone. We found last year it was a great way to really activate the Wade Avenue space and we had some great feedback."

Council has also secured some grant funding for the event.

"I think many people in the community are still surprised sometimes by the huge range of cultures we have represented in Leeton, people from all over the world live here, so it's wonderful to be able to bring everyone together and celebrate," Mrs Macdonald said.



Fiesta La Leeton will return for its second outing in 2024, with planning happening to bring the event to life again. Picture by Neil McAlicee

Club aims to add extras to venue

LOCAL LEADER
 Whetton community news

IT HAS been a very busy start to the school year at Whetton-Murrumbidgee Public School.

A meet and greet barbecue dinner was held on the evening of February 13 where food was shared and everyone got to mingle and meet both new and familiar faces.

Whetton-Murrumbidgee School hosted this year's South Island Swimming Carnival. From this, five students went on to compete at the LNPSSA Swimming Championships.

Several students also played on the Smalls School team at the recent LNPSSA touch football gala day held in Leeton.

All students will be participating in a six-week tennis skills program at the school with a qualified tennis coach.

The stage three girls at Whetton, as well as those from Grange, Yarramoon and Yarramoon enjoyed a day learning about valuable trade skills and career paths with the visiting team from S.A.I.T.

The girls had an inspiring day together and created a wooden caddy to take home.

Whetton Bowling Club held the first of its monthly casual music jams sessions last Saturday, which was enjoyed by those who attended.

Anyone is welcome to join in the next one (held on the first Saturday of the month).

Meals are now available on Thursday nights, along with the raffles and super draw.

Everyone is welcome to Friday night bowls, which is followed by a barbecue.

In penant tournaments, Whetton had a home game against Inverell going down 53-48.

This loss means Whetton has dropped to fourth on the ladder.

The 18-strong bowls team has taken on several projects at the club, including the erection of new shade cloth for the bowlers, new steps from the barbecue area using the club and currently aiming to replace the outdoor bowling lighting with more efficient LED lighting, sound-enclosures and grills.

—TRACY CATLIN

Event promotion in *The Irrigator* included editorial in the lead up to the event accompanied by a general advertising campaign

Friday May 03, 2024 THE IRRIGATOR 5 NEWS

'Celebration of humanity'

BY TALIA PARTISON

IF GOOD food, great company and entertainment guaranteed to bring the vibes is your style - look no further than this event.

Fiesta La Leeton is fast approaching, with the event promising to showcase Leeton's diverse multiculturalism through traditional and fusion cuisine, energetic dance and music.

To be held on Saturday, May 18 from 5pm to 9pm in Wade Avenue all of the planning is in place and now all that needs to happen is for everyone to turn out and support the event.

A section of Wade Avenue will be closed off for the evening, meaning the street will be full of wonderful food stalls from a wide-range of cultures offering up some of their best eats for all to enjoy.

A large stage will be set up for the various entertainment acts featuring as part of the line-up, including local performers and Sydney entertainers Nadya and the Gypsy Firecrackers.

Leeton Shire Council events and tourism officer Leigh Houghton said all of the final touches were now being added to ensure an evening to remember.

"We're looking at around 16 food stalls on the night event for everyone to enjoy. It's going to be bigger and even better than last year," he said.



The 2024 Fiesta La Leeton is back for a second time, promising an evening of fun, food and festivities in Wade Avenue. Picture by Talia Partison

"Last year the atmosphere was really that celebratory sort of vibes. There was lots of dancing, all of the kids got involved."

"It's everyone coming together and a real unifying event for everyone in the community to enjoy. It's a great atmosphere that takes over the place, so we're really looking forward to it."

Last year's event was the first Fiesta La Leeton and was held in March on a very hot evening. Organisers hoped by shifting the date it would mean a more pleasant night out.

Entertainment includes performances by members of the local Fijian, Solomon Islands, Filipino and Zambian communities. Fiesta La Leeton will again be a celebration of what brings everyone together as one human.

Entry is free, with the food available to purchase at each stall via cash.

The event is being made possible by Multicultural NSW, JBS, Leeton Shire Council, the Leeton Multicultural Support Group and *The Irrigator*.



Entertainment, fun and food galore will all be part of Fiesta La Leeton on Saturday, May 18. Picture by Neil McAlicee, NDM Photography

Fiesta La Leeton set to shine

JUST one sleep remains before it is time to party Fiesta La Leeton style.

The event promises exciting performances from dance and vocal groups in the shire, food from across the globe and a festival-type atmosphere.

Sydney entertainers Nadya and the Gypsy Firecrackers will take to the stage in Wade Avenue South.

Entry is free, but cash will be essential for the food stalls.

"(Fiesta La Leeton) is real unifying event for everyone in the community to enjoy," Leeton Shire Council's Leigh Houghton said. The event kicks off at from 5pm until 9pm on Saturday evening.

(JBS) **Fiesta La Leeton** Saturday 18 May

a showcase of Leeton's diverse & multicultural character

NSW Multicultural NSW (JBS) LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL The Irrigator LMSG

(JBS) **Fiesta La Leeton**

a showcase of Leeton's diverse & multicultural character

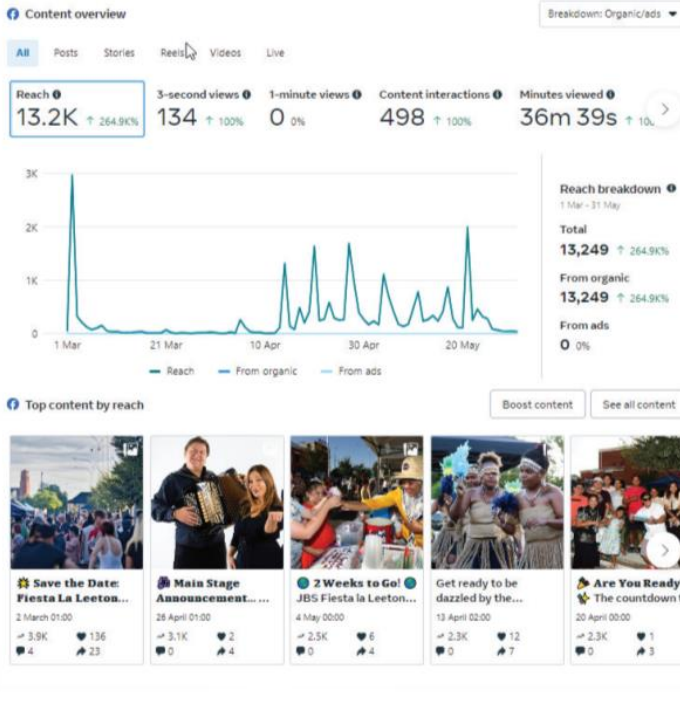
5pm - 9pm **Saturday May 18** on Wade Avenue

traditional & fusion cuisine energetic dance & music

local performers + Nadya & the Gypsy Firecrackers

NSW Multicultural NSW (JBS) LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL The Irrigator LMSG

EVENT PROMOTION



2 THE IRRIGATOR Friday May 24, 2024
NEWS



A night of good fun, company and entertainment was had by all at Fiesta La Leeton. Picture by Neil McAleice, NDM Photography

Embracing culture and fun at Fiesta

FIESTA LA LEETON
By TALIA PATTISON

LEETON'S Wade Avenue was completely transformed to bring to life a multicultural event that brought the entire community together over the weekend.

The second Fiesta La Leeton took place on a cool autumn evening on Saturday, May 18, but it did little to deter the crowd.

Organisers estimated around 2000 people attended the event in Wade Avenue, which had the road closed to traffic, a stage pop up and... all cooking delicious.

home-cooked food.

The bites on offer were all from different countries and cultures from across the globe, with many selling out of their meals throughout the night.

Kicking off just before dark at 5pm, Fiesta La Leeton drew in the crowd right from the get-go with one food stall reporting it had sold-out of items thanks to early bird visitors soon after the event officially started.

Organised by Leeton Shire Council with the assistance of the Leeton Multicultural Support Group, the idea was to bring together the entire

community to celebrate the shire's cultures who live and work in the town.

Entertainment includes performances by members of the local Fijian, Solomon Islander, Cook Islands, Filipino, Zimbabwean communities and many more.

The street food was delicious and the performances had everyone up on their feet dancing.

Council events officer Fran Macdonald said even with the cooler temperatures there was no stopping the fun.

"It was a different vibe to last year where it was so hot

people held off on coming down ... this time we had people coming out early and the stalls were very busy," she said.

"All of our stallholders did well on the night, so it was great."

The music and performances on the night ensured the party atmosphere continued through until 9pm finish and the smiles on all faces were evident that a good time was being had.

"The Cook Islands group was amazing with their performance, the atmosphere really built to this crescendo when they were performing."

and tourism officer Leigh Houghton said.

One of the main aims of Fiesta La Leeton was to showcase the shire's multicultural character and groups.

Organisers have confirmed the event will return again in 2025, with feedback on this year's event welcome by filling out a survey on the Fiesta La Leeton Facebook page.

Mrs Macdonald thanked all of the sponsors of the event, saying without their support and assistance it would not have been the success it was.

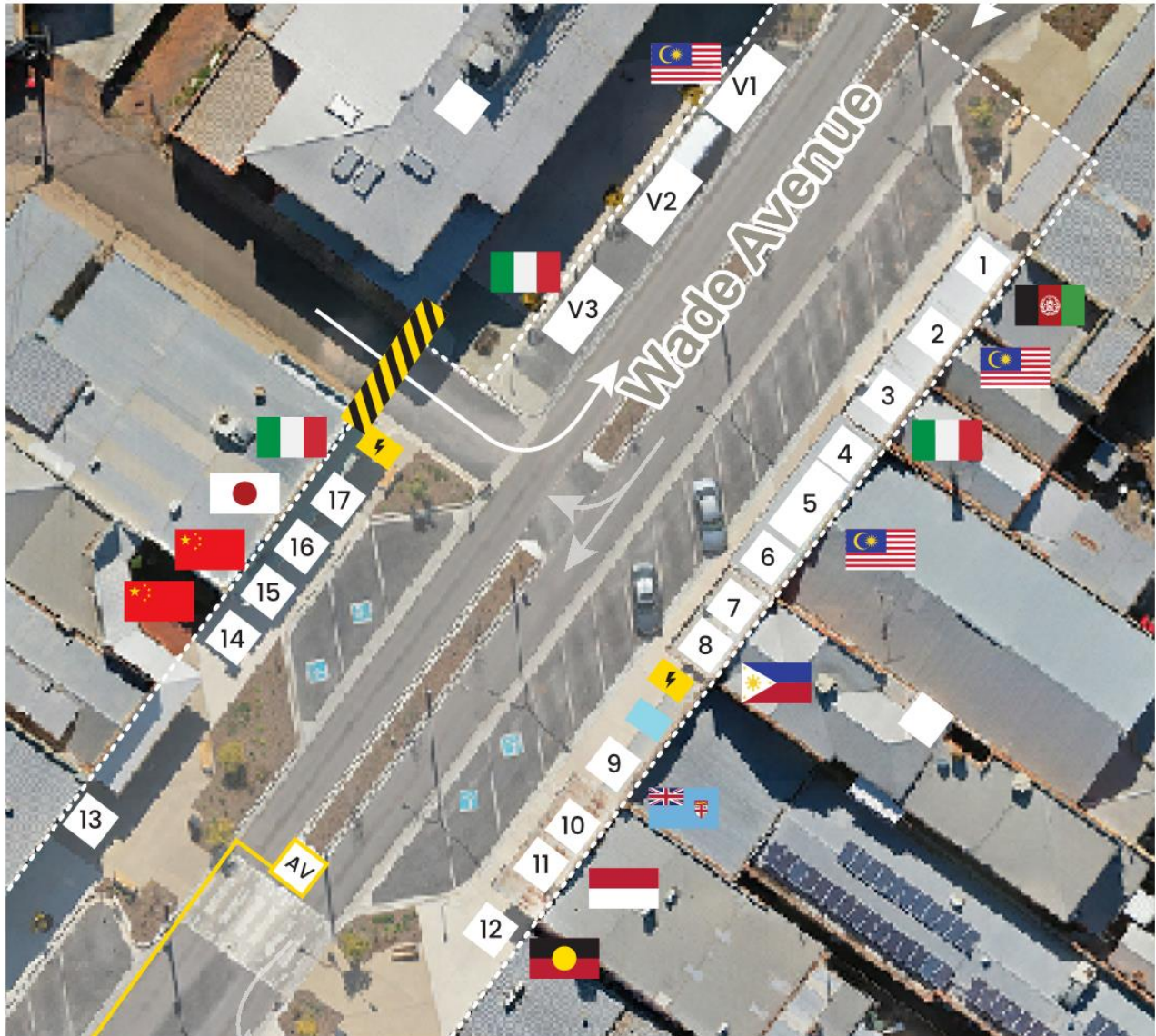
The Fiesta La Leeton event was promoted with a short-run radio and TV advertising campaign hitting the local air waves in the two weeks leading up to May 18.

The majority of content put out via social media reached over 13,000 Facebook users and saw 498 engagements and interactions.

A post-event survey was promoted via Facebook but received minimal response. (15 survey responses were received from a post that was seen by 1524 Facebook users and had 20 interactions.)



EVENT STAKEHOLDERS



Communities represented:

- Malaysian
- Filipino
- Afghani
- Fijian
- Solomon Islander
- Pukapukan - Cook Islander
- Chinese
- Italian
- Indonesian
- Pakistani
- Indigenous Australian




BUDGET BREAKDOWN



REVENUE

FUNDING

 Multicultural NSW	NSW Government – Multicultural NSW Stronger Together Grants Program	\$15,000.00
JBS partnership		\$10,000.00
Council contribution (out of an allocated budget of \$10,000)		\$2,394.14
		\$27,394.14

DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP



LEETON
SHIRE COUNCIL



The Irrigator



EXPENDITURE

ENTERTAINMENT

Performers	\$6,620.00
Welcome to Country	\$560.00

INFRASTRUCTURE

AV Production (including stage & crew)	\$8,800.00
Infrastructure hire (tables, coolrooms, generators)	\$1235.44
Traffic Management	\$220.00
Waste management	\$170.00
Consumables	\$96.25

PERSONNEL

First Aid support	\$500.00
Council staff	\$4,311.80

ADVERTISING & MARKETING (Posters, Radio, Newspaper)	\$4,380.65
PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOGRAPHY	\$500.00

\$27,394.14

PROFIT/LOSS

-



FEEDBACK

SUSTAIN - FIX - IMPROVE

Some comments from the 15 respondents who completed the after-event survey



What was the best thing about the event?



The food and the atmosphere

Shows, food and people coming together

Giving people the opportunity to share their culture

Variety of food stalls and dance performances

Community activation.

Nadia and the Gypsy band ... closely followed by the awesome satay chicken at the Malaysian food stall!

Families all enjoying themselves, food was fantastic, entertainment bloody great!



FEEDBACK

SUSTAIN - **FIX** - IMPROVE



Some comments from the 15 respondents who completed the after-event survey

What elements of the event could be improved?



*More food, and maybe earlier in the day.
May is always cold and the performers looked cold after the sun went down.*

More seating to sit and eat – it's very hard for the elderly or people with disabilities to stand and eat.

*Location and visibility of stage area, signage and prices of food.
More seating or the option to place a rug on a grassed area so you could sit and eat and watch the entertainment.*

*More stall holders.
Dancers within a closer timeframe.*

*Space ... spread out activities more.
Very crowded after 6pm.*

Easier access to food stalls

*Bigger variety - no Indian! With the layout it was hard to see what people were selling and it was very cramped at food stalls.
New Chelmsford Place would be a better layout for next year.*



FEEDBACK

SUSTAIN - FIX - IMPROVE

Some comments from the 15 respondents who completed the after-event survey



Any other feedback or comments?

QQ *I really enjoy the variety of events that are held in our community that are open to everyone.*

Great concept, poor location.

Concept is fantastic, enjoyed last year so much we went again, but left early as we couldn't see the performers.

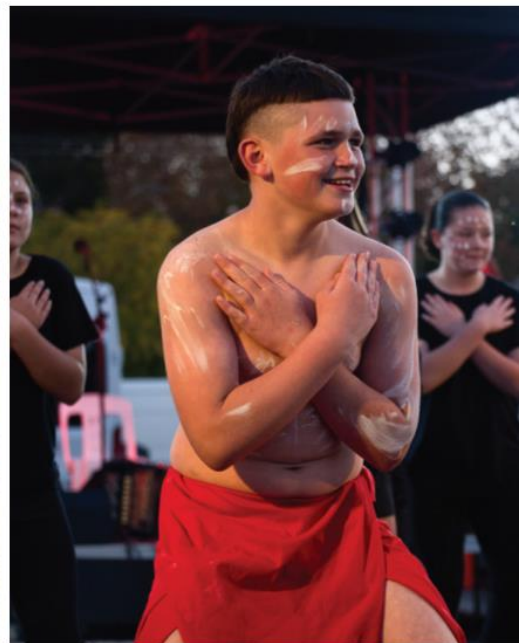
I was so impressed with the crowd cleaning up after themselves and using the bins provided.

I'd shift the event back to late March/early April when it is not too hot or cold.



Photos by Neil McAliece





COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS

ITEM 10.1 COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORT

RECORD NUMBER	24/135
RELATED FILE NUMBER	EF24/88
AUTHOR	Executive Assistant to the General Manager and Mayor

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council notes the Councillor activity reports submitted for the period between 23 May 2024 to 26 June 2024.

Cr Tony Reneker

26 May 2024	Retirement Lunch for William Ingram
27 May 2024	Leeton Living Meeting & WaterNSW Board of Directors Meeting
28 May 2024	Fivebough Tuckerbil Wetlands Advisory Committee Meeting & Leeton Connect Meeting
29 May 2024	National Reconciliation Week - Morning Tea at TAFE NSW Leeton
3 June 2024	Youth Council Meeting
8 June 2024	Borneo Kaamatan Gawai Festival 2024
12-14 June 2024	NSW Country Mayors Conference Kempsey
18 June 2024	Citizenship Ceremony & Leeton Connect Meeting
20 June 2024	Historical Society Meeting & Rotary Club of Leeton Changeover Dinner
21 June 2024	RAMJO Water Sub-committee Meeting
24 June 2024	Whitton Town Improvement Committee Meeting

Cr Tony Ciccia

31 May 2024	Community Strengthening Grants Photo
12 June 2024	Extra Ordinary Traffic Committee Meeting
23 June 2024	Councillor Information Day