



Media Release

Wednesday, 15 June 2022

For immediate release

Access to Health and Hospital Services in Rural, Regional and Remote NSW

Following the tabling in Parliament on 5 May 2022 of the Legislative Council Inquiry into health outcomes and access to health and hospital services in rural, regional and remote NSW, the Council Mayors Association of NSW organised a Rural Health Forum in Sydney on 26 May 2022.

The forum was well attended and presenters include the Hon Minister Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Regional Health and Minister for Mental Health, Mr Tyan Park Shadow Minister for Health and Mental Health, Mr Richard Colbran, Chief Executive Officer, Rural Doctors Network and Adjunct Professor, Ms Ruth Stewart, National Rural Health Commissioner of Australia.

Mayor Matt Hannan was in attendance and stated that, "It was very refreshing to hear both Minister Taylor and Shadow Minister Ryan agree that the matter of regional and rural health was of the utmost importance and should be approached on a bipartisan basis and brought before parliament as early as possible."

"The Inquiry found that everybody in regional and rural NSW knows health and hospital services in country NSW are below standard when compared to the service levels experienced by those residing in metropolitan areas", said Mayor Hannan.

Mayor Matt Hannan is urging all regional and rural councils to voice their support of the Country Mayors Association of NSW in its efforts to ensure all 44 recommendations of the Inquiry are adopted by Parliament.

"Writing to the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, requesting favourable outcomes and by adopting the Inquiry's recommendations, Council can ensure a marked improvement in the delivery of all aspects of health care to country NSW residents happens sooner rather than later."

"This is our opportunity to redress the deficiencies in regional and rural health delivery. We cannot let our communities continue to be let down." said Mayor Hannan.

ENDS

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Monthly Investment Report

May 2022



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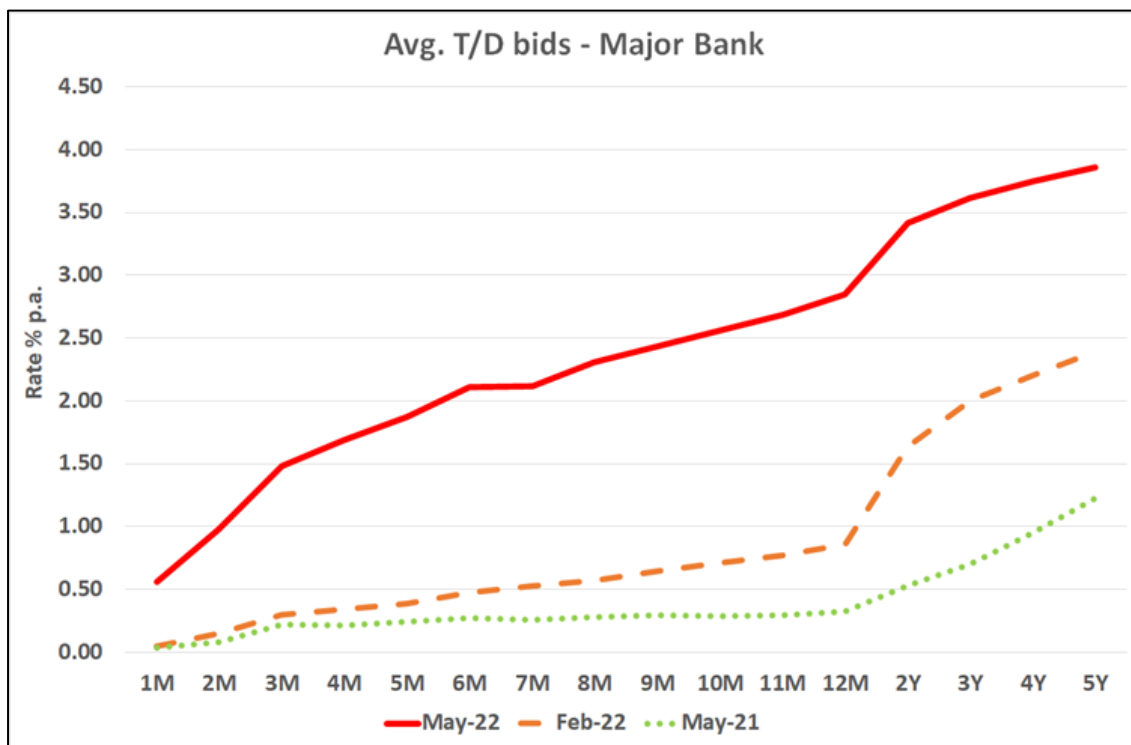
Impact of COVID-19 to Council’s Portfolio

COVID-19 has adversely impacted financial markets, which in turn, has also affected Council’s investment portfolio. We provide a quick summary in this section.

The RBA cut rates to record lows on 3rd November 2020 to 0.10%, consistent with most global central banks resetting their official rates to emergency levels. As global markets transitioned to the recovery phase, supply chain issues has resulted in surging inflationary pressures. Longer-term bond yields have risen significantly in recent months as central banks reverse their easing policy measures (i.e. quantitative easing), whilst also flagging the potential to aggressive hike official interest rates to combat surging inflation. Importantly though when interpreting the stance of monetary policy, it is not just about the cash rate, but how broader financial conditions are influencing the economic outlook, **with markets now factoring the possibility of a recession as official rates move higher. The RBA lifted the official cash rate by 25bp to 0.35% on 4th May 2022 – the first time it has increased rates in over a decade.**

Council’s term deposit portfolio was yielding 0.98% p.a. at month-end, with a weighted average duration of around 188 days or ~6 months. This short average duration will only provide some income protection against the low interest rate environment over the immediate future.

With markets factoring in additional rate hikes over coming months, this has seen a significant shift in longer-term deposit rates:



Source: Imperium Markets

‘New’ investments above 3% p.a. now appears likely if Council can elect to place the majority of its surplus funds for terms of 12 months to 2 years.



Council's Portfolio & Compliance

Fund Allocation

As at the end of May 2022, the portfolio was mainly directed to General Funds:

Code	Number of trades	Invested	Invested (%)
GENERAL	7	29,125,460.75	67.51
WATER	6	12,017,008.19	27.85
SEWER	1	2,000,000.00	4.64
TOTALS	14	43,142,468.94	100.0

Asset Allocation

As at the end of May 2022, the portfolio is mainly directed to fixed term deposits (60%). The remainder of the portfolio is held in low yielding cash accounts with NAB (AA-) and Bendigo-Adelaide (BBB+), which remains at relatively high levels and will cause a drag to performance. We recommend opening the 'accelerator' cash account with Macquarie Bank (A+), which is currently paying an overnight rate of 0.60% p.a. for balances up to \$10m (and 0.40% p.a. for balances greater than \$10m).

Senior FRNs are now becoming more attractive as spreads have widened in recent months – new issuances should now be considered again on a case by case scenario. In the interim, fixed deposits for 12 months to 2 years appear quite appealing following the spike in longer-term rates in recent months.

Asset Class as at 31/05/2022			
Code	Number of Trades	Invested	Invested (%)
TD	12	26,056,542.59	60.40
CASH	2	17,085,926.35	39.60
TOTALS	14	43,142,468.94	100.0

Council's Investment Policy does not specify any limits for Maturity, Counterparty and Credit Quality compliance measures. In the following sections, we have tentatively placed what other NSW councils have adopted as part of their compliance limits. We provided Berrigan Shire Council an Investment Policy review during April 2021.



Term to Maturity

The portfolio is highly liquid with the entire investment portfolio maturing within 12 months. We recommend a more diversified maturity profile to improve the returns of the total investment portfolio.

Where ongoing liquidity requirements permit Council to invest in attractive 1-2 year investments, we recommend this be allocated fixed term deposits, where attractive (refer to respective sections below).

Compliant	Horizon	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Min. Limit (%)	Max. Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✓	0 - 90 days	\$17,085,926	39.60%	10%	100%	\$38,828,222
✓	91 - 365 days	\$26,056,543	60.40%	20%	100%	\$34,513,975
✓	1 - 2 years	\$0	0.00%	0%	70%	\$30,199,728
✓	2 - 5 years	\$0	0.00%	0%	50%	\$21,571,234
		\$43,142,469	100.00%			

Counterparty

As at the end of May 2022, Council had an overweight position to Bendigo-Adelaide, largely driven by the large cash balance. Overall, the portfolio is lightly diversified, with some exposure to the unrated ADIs.

Compliant	Issuer	Rating	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Max. Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✓	NAB	A-1+	\$5,875,590	13.62%	40.00%	\$11,381,397
✓	AMP Bank	A-2	\$7,000,000	16.23%	25.00%	\$3,785,617
X	Bendigo-Adel.	A-2	\$22,266,879	51.61%	25.00%	-\$11,481,262
✓	BoQ	A-2	\$2,000,000	4.64%	25.00%	\$8,785,617
✓	Defence Bank	A-2	\$4,000,000	9.27%	25.00%	\$6,785,617
✓	Central Murray	Unrated	\$2,000,000	4.64%	10.00%	\$2,314,247
			\$43,142,469	100.00%		

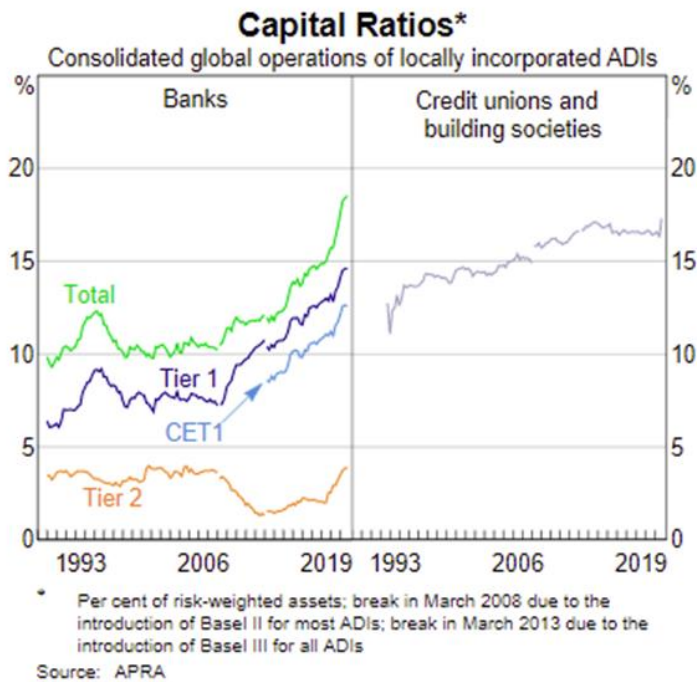
We remain supportive of the regional and unrated ADI sector (and have been even throughout the GFC period). They continue to remain solid, incorporate strong balance sheets, while exhibiting high levels of capital – typically, much higher compared to the higher rated ADIs. Some unrated ADIs have up to 25-40% more capital than the domestic major banks, and well above the Basel III requirements.

RBA Governor Lowe has commented that they have not seen any signs of stress in the financial system and that unlike during the GFC, the banks (all ADIs) now have cash, are well capitalised and are acting as “shock absorbers” in the current crisis.

Overall, the lower rated ADIs (BBB and unrated) are generally now in a better financial position than they have been historically (see the Capital Ratio figure below). We believe that deposit investments with the lower rated ADIs should be continued going forward, particularly when they offer ‘above market’ specials. Not only would it diversify the investment portfolio and reduce credit risk, it would

also improve the portfolio’s overall returns. The lower rated entities are generally deemed to be the more ‘ethical’ ADIs compared to the higher rated ADIs.

In the current environment of high regulation and scrutiny, all domestic (and international) ADIs continue to carry high levels of capital. There is minimal (if any) probability of any ADI defaulting on their deposits going forward – this was stress tested during the GFC. **APRA’s mandate is to “protect depositors” and provide “financial stability”.**





Credit Quality

Council did not have an overweight position to any category as at the end of May. The portfolio remains well diversified from a ratings perspective, with some exposure down to the local credit unions.

From a ratings perspective, the “BBB/A-2” rated banks now generally dominate the number of ADIs issuing deposits within the investment grade space. There has been further signs of appetite developing in the wholesale deposit market as additional lower rated (“BBB/A-2” and unrated) ADIs have come to market to raise ‘new’ money. Over the coming year, we may start to see a more ‘normalised’ environment where the lower rated banks start to offer higher rates compared to the higher rated banks as the competition for deposits grow.

Compliant	Credit Rating	Invested (\$)	Invested (%)	Max. Limit (%)	Available (\$)
✓	A-1+ Category	\$5,875,590	14%	100%	\$37,266,879
✓	A-1 Category	\$0	0%	100%	\$43,142,469
✓	A-2 Category	\$35,266,879	82%	80%	-\$752,904
✓	A-3 Category	\$0	0%	20%	\$8,628,494
✓	Unrated ADI Category	\$2,000,000	5%	15%	\$4,471,370
		\$43,142,469	100.00%		



Performance

Council's performance for the month ending 31 May 2022 is summarised as follows:

Performance (Actual)	1 month	3 months	6 months	FYTD	1 year
Official Cash Rate	0.03%	0.05%	0.07%	0.11%	0.12%
AusBond Bank Bill Index	0.03%	0.02%	0.04%	0.05%	0.05%
Council's T/D Portfolio [^]	0.05%	0.13%	0.23%	0.45%	0.51%
Outperformance	0.01%	0.10%	0.20%	0.41%	0.46%

[^]Total portfolio performance excludes Council's cash account holdings. Overall returns would be lower if cash was included.

Performance (Annualised)	1 month	3 months	6 months	FYTD	1 year
Official Cash Rate	0.35%	0.18%	0.14%	0.12%	0.12%
AusBond Bank Bill Index	0.41%	0.09%	0.07%	0.05%	0.05%
Council's T/D Portfolio [^]	0.56%	0.50%	0.47%	0.49%	0.51%
Outperformance	0.15%	0.41%	0.39%	0.45%	0.46%

[^]Total portfolio performance excludes Council's cash account holdings. Overall returns would be lower if cash was included.

For the month of May 2022, the deposit portfolio provided a reasonable return of +0.05% (actual) or +0.56% p.a. (annualised), easily outperforming the benchmark AusBond Bank Bill Index return of +0.03% (actual) or +0.41% p.a. (annualised). The outperformance continues to be driven by a combination of those deposits originally invested beyond 6 months.

Going forward, with additional rate hikes expected over coming months, Council's interest income can be increased significantly by undertaking a slightly longer duration position (12-24 months), with rates on offer along this part of the curve likely to be offered at nearly double the rate compared to shorter tenors.

If Council is willing to undertake a slightly different strategy and stagger its deposit investments with the likes of the major banks (and Bendigo) across periods ranging from 12-24 months, over the upcoming year, it is likely to see an increase in overall returns by at least 1% p.a. On a \$28m deposit portfolio, that could amount to extra interest income of \$280,000 over the next 12 months should such a strategy be implemented.

Investors using the Imperium Markets platform have reduced the invisible costs associated with brokerage, and thereby lift client portfolio returns as investors are able to deal in deposits directly with the ADIs and execute at the best price possible.



Council’s Term Deposit Portfolio & Recommendation

As at the end of May 2022, Council’s deposit portfolio was yielding 0.98% p.a. (up 48bp from the previous month), with an average duration of around 188 days (~6 months).

We strongly recommend Council extends this average duration. With an upward sloping deposit curve, investors are rewarded if they can continue to maintain a longer average duration.

As the past decade or so has highlighted (post-GFC era), we have seen too many portfolios overpay for liquidity and generally not insured themselves by diversify their funding across various tenors. Those investors that can maintain a weighted average duration of +12-18 months are likely to yield, on average, up to 1% p.a. higher than those investors who maintain a weighted average duration of less than 6-9 months.

At the time of writing, we see value in:

ADI	LT Credit Rating	Term	T/D Rate
ICBC, Sydney	A	3 years	4.24% p.a.
BoQ/ME Bank	BBB+	3 years	4.00% p.a.
ICBC, Sydney	A	2 years	3.95% p.a.
Westpac	AA-	3 years	3.95% p.a.
Australian Unity	BBB+	3 years	3.90% p.a.
BoQ/ME Bank	BBB+	2 years	3.80% p.a.
Westpac	AA-	2 years	3.79% p.a.
CBA	AA-	2 years	3.77% p.a.
NAB	AA-	2 years	3.65% p.a.

The above deposits are suitable for investors looking to maintain diversification and likely to lock-in a premium compared to purely investing short-term.



For terms under 12 months, we believe the strongest value is currently being offered by the following ADIs (dependent on daily funding requirements):

ADI	LT Credit Rating	Term	T/D Rate
BoQ/ME Bank	BBB+	12 months	3.30% p.a.
CBA	AA-	12 months	3.23% p.a.
Westpac	AA-	12 months	3.18% p.a.
Suncorp	AA-	12 months	3.13% p.a.
ICBC	A	12 months	3.08% p.a.
NAB	AA-	12 months	3.05% p.a.

Despite the expectations of further rate rises, we still believe there is better value in slightly longer dated terms of 18 months - 2 years. For those investors that do not require high levels of liquidity and can stagger their investments longer-term, they will be rewarded over coming years if they roll for an average min. term of 18 months - 2 years (this is where we current value), yielding, on average, up to ½%-1% p.a. higher compared to those investors that entirely invest in short-dated deposits.

At-Call Account

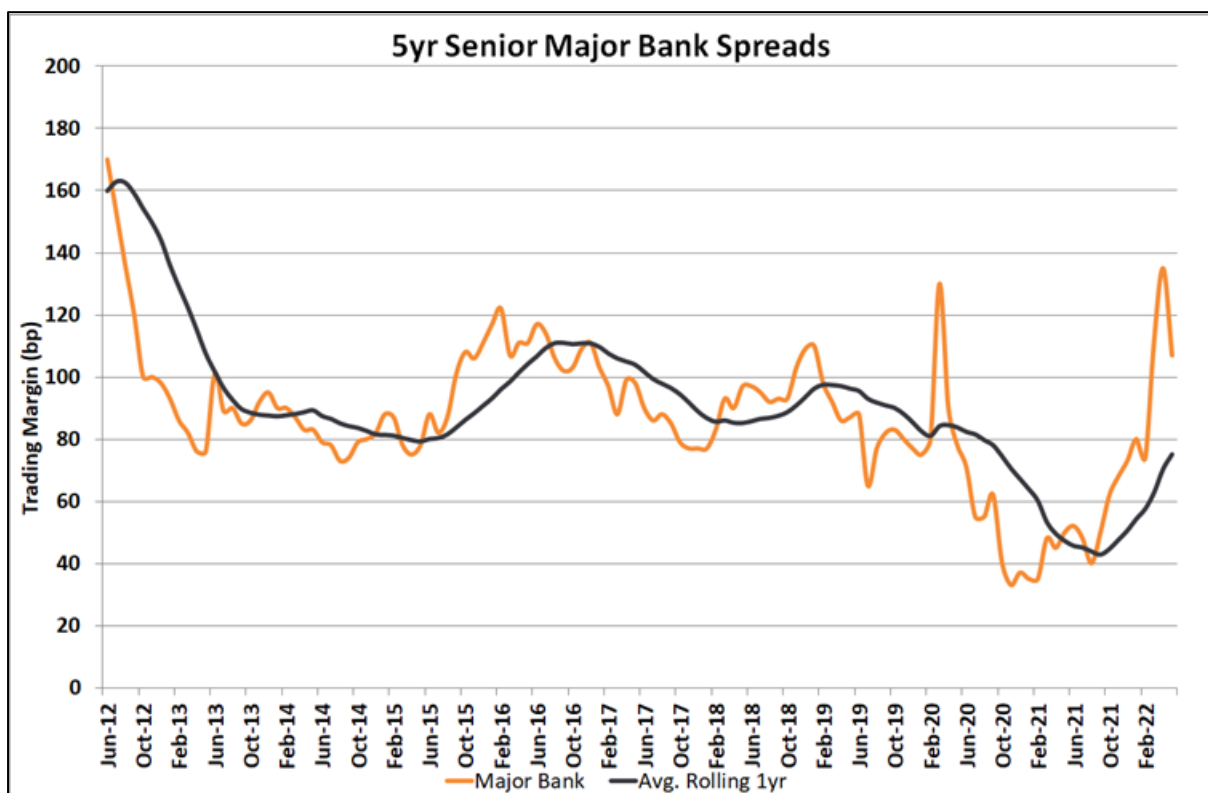
We recommend Council opens the Macquarie Bank (A+) ‘accelerator’ account, currently offering an overnight rate of 0.60% p.a. for balances up to \$10m and 0.40% p.a. for balances greater than \$10m. This account is earning much higher than what Council is currently receiving from both Bendigo (BBB+) and NAB (AA-).

Senior FRNs Review

During May 2022, amongst the senior major bank FRNs, physical credit securities tightened by up to 25-30bp at the long-end of the curve. There was a significant pick-up in primary issuances from the major banks, issuing senior securities as follows:

- ANZ (AA-) 3 year fixed and FRN at +77bp
- ANZ (AA-) 5 year FRN at +97bp
- WBC (AAA) 3 year fixed and floating covered security at +73bp
- WBC (AA-) 5 year FRN at +105bp
- NAB (AA-) 3 year fixed and FRN at +90bp

Major bank senior securities are now looking fairly attractive again in a rising rate environment:



Source: IBS Capital

Outside of the major banks, there were also noticeable senior issuances from:

- RACQ Bank (BBB+) 3 year senior FRN at +125bp
- ING (AAA) 3 year fixed and floating covered security at +78bp
- ING (AAA) 5 year fixed covered bond at 4.50% s.a.

Amongst the “A” and “BBB” rated sector, the securities tightened by around 25bp at the long-end of the curve over May.



Credit securities are looking much more attractive given the widening of spreads in recent months. FRNs will continue to play a role in investor's portfolios mainly on the basis of their liquidity and the ability to roll down the curve and gross up returns over ensuing years (in a relatively stable credit environment).

Senior FRNs (ADIs)	31/05/2022	30/04/2022
"AA" rated – 5yrs	+107bp	+135bp
"AA" rated – 3yrs	+90bp	+115bp
"A" rated – 5yrs	+125bp	+150bp
"A" rated – 3yrs	+100bp	+125bp
"BBB" rated – 3yrs	+115bp	+140bp

Source: IBS Capital

We now generally recommend switches ('benchmark' issues only) into new primary issues, out of the following senior FRNs that are maturing:

- **On or before mid-2024 for the "AA" rated ADIs (domestic major banks);**
- On or before mid-2023 for the "A" rated ADIs; and
- Within 6-9 months for the "BBB" rated ADIs (consider case by case).

Investors holding onto the above senior FRNs ('benchmark' issues only) in their last few years are now generally holding sub-optimal investments and are not maximising returns by foregoing realised capital gains. In the current low interest rate environment, any boost in overall returns should be locked in when it is advantageous to do so, particularly as switch opportunities become available.

Primary (new) FRNs are now looking more appealing and should be considered on a case by case scenario.



Senior Fixed Bonds – ADIs (Secondary Market)

As global inflationary pressures have emerged, this has seen a significant lift in longer-term bond yields (valuations fell) as markets have strongly factored in a tightening of global central bank policy measures (i.e. withdrawal of Quantitative Easing and lifting official interest rates).

This has resulted in some opportunities in the secondary market. We currently see value in the following fixed bond lines, with the majority now being marked at a significant discount to par (please note supply in the secondary market may be limited on any day):

ISIN	Issuer	Rating	Capital Structure	Maturity Date	~Remain. Term (yrs)	Fixed Coupon	Indicative Yield
AU3CB0255776	ING	AAA	Covered	07/09/2023	1.28	3.00%	3.07%
AU3CB0258465	Westpac	AA-	Senior	16/11/2023	1.48	3.25%	3.12%
AU3CB0265403	Suncorp	AA-	Senior	30/07/2024	2.18	1.85%	3.69%
AU3CB0265593	Macquarie	A+	Senior	07/08/2024	2.20	1.75%	3.64%
AU3CB0265718	ING	AAA	Covered	20/08/2024	2.24	1.45%	3.66%
AU3CB0266179	ANZ	AA-	Senior	29/08/2024	2.26	1.55%	3.51%
AU3CB0266377	Bendigo	BBB+	Senior	06/09/2024	2.28	1.70%	3.74%
AU3CB0268027	BoQ	BBB+	Senior	30/10/2024	2.43	2.00%	3.84%
AU3CB0269710	ANZ	AA-	Senior	16/01/2025	2.65	1.65%	3.65%
AU3CB0269892	NAB	AA-	Senior	21/01/2025	2.66	1.65%	3.70%
AU3CB0270387	Macquarie	A+	Senior	12/02/2025	2.72	1.70%	3.84%
AU3CB0287415	Westpac	AA-	Senior	17/03/2025	2.81	2.70%	3.73%
AU3CB0280030	BoQ	BBB+	Senior	06/05/2026	3.95	1.40%	4.38%
AU3CB0282358	ING	AAA	Covered	19/08/2026	4.24	1.10%	4.17%
AU3CB0284149	BoQ	BBB+	Senior	27/10/2026	4.42	2.10%	4.37%
AU3CB0286037	Westpac	AA-	Senior	25/01/2027	4.67	2.40%	4.01%



Senior Bonds - Northern Territory Treasury Corporation (NTTC)

Investors should be aware of the following senior retail bond offering from Northern Territory Treasury Corporation (NTTC) effective 2nd May 2022:

Maturity Date	Rate % p.a. [^]	Interest Paid
15/06/2023	1.10%	Annually
15/06/2024	2.10%	Annually
15/06/2025	2.60%	Annually
15/06/2026	2.80%	Annually
15/06/2027	3.10%	Annually

^{^^}The rates offered in the above table can be reviewed and changed at any time from Treasury. The rate for broker sponsored applications will be dropped by 0.20% p.a. effective 1 October 2020.

Any investor interested in this product should avoid placing through the broker channel and contact Imperium Markets to receive the full commission of 0.25% (plus GST) on the face value of the investment, in the form of an additional rebate. If placed through the brokers, they are likely to keep the 0.25% commission (on the face value of the investment).

Overview	Description
Issuer	Northern Territory Government
Credit Rating	Aa3 (Moody's), which is AA- equivalent (S&P)
Type	Fixed senior (retail) bonds
Program	Territory Bonds Issue 112
Date for applications	01/01/2022 – 31/05/2022
Liquidity	Weekly redemptions available, subject to the prevailing market rate and administration costs ^{^^}

^{^^} Note given this is a retail bond offering (min. parcel size of \$5,000), for wholesale investors, we would not consider this to be a liquid investment (the largest redemptions to date have only been \$200-\$300k).

The product should be viewed as a hold-to-maturity product, noting there are significant penalty costs including admin fees, the prevailing market interest rate, and factors in any associate commissions that were previously paid. Given the longer-term outlook for official interest rates, any investor interested should invest through Imperium Markets to receive an effectively higher rate, once factoring in the rebated commission. *These offers will need to be compared to other complying assets at the time of investment – term deposits are currently a better alternative.*

Economic Commentary

International Market

Market focus continues to be on central banks and the extent of their rate hikes this cycle. Importantly though when talking about the stance of monetary policy, it is not just about the cash rate, but how broader financial conditions are influencing the economic outlook.

In the US, the S&P 500 Index remained flat, while the NASDAQ fell -2.05%. Europe’s main indices were mixed, with France’s CAC falling -0.99%, while Germany’s DAX (+2.06%) and UK’s FTSE (+0.84%) gained.

The US Federal Reserve delivered their expected 50bp rate rise during May, taking the target range to 0.75%- 1.00%. It was the first 50bp hike since 2000 and the first back-to-back rise since 2006. Fed Chair Powell acknowledged that 50bp hikes, “are on the table for the next couple of meetings”.

The US Fed FOMC Minutes revealed a broad consensus for 50bp hikes in June and July and the possibility for a pause later in the year. The US the core PCE inflation dipped to +5.2% from +5.3%, marking the first decline since October 2020.

Europe inflation rose +7.5%/y/y in April, in line with expectations, but the big surprise came from the core reading, jumping from +2.9%/y/y in March to +3.5%/y/y in April. The Eurozone unemployment rate declined to 6.8% in March from an upwardly revised 6.9%.

The ECB is now aligned to start a rate hike process in July, with the market pricing in 3 x 25bp rises to +0.25% by December, but no 50bp moves.

The Bank of England raised its cash rate by 0.25% to 1.00%. Markets had prices some risk of a larger 50bp move, as 3 of 9 members voted in favour of 50bp. The UK's unemployment rate fell to 3.7 % in Q1, the lowest level since 1974. Meanwhile, UK’s headline CPI hit +9.0% y/y, 0.1% less than expected and up from +7.0% y/y in March. Core CPI rose to +6.2% from +5.7%, in line with expectations.

The RBNZ raised interest rates by 50bp to 2.00% as it tries to get a handle on inflation, while signalling the benchmark rate would peak at nearly 4% in the second half of next year and remain there into 2024.

There was ongoing concerns about COVID spreading and the risk of tighter containment measures being stoked by an increase in recorded cases in Beijing, which would exacerbate existing inflationary pressures.

The MSCI World ex-Aus Index fell -0.13% for the month of May:

Index	1m	3m	1yr	3yr	5yr	10yr
S&P 500 Index	+0.01%	-5.53 %	-1.71%	+14.51%	+11.37%	+12.17%
MSCI World ex-AUS	-0.13%	-6.46%	-6.21%	+11.04%	+7.96%	+9.20%
S&P ASX 200 Accum. Index	-2.60%	+3.21%	+4.84%	+7.85%	+8.84%	+10.37%

Source: S&P, MSCI



Domestic Market

The RBA somewhat surprised markets by raising the official cash rate by 25bp to 0.35% (consensus 15bp to 0.25%). The Board commented it was, “committed to doing what is necessary to ensure that inflation in Australia returns to target over time. This will require a further lift in interest rates over the period ahead”. The RBA’s forecast for underlying inflation is to have slowed only to 3% by mid-2024 even with an assumption of further increases in interest rates.

The wage price index (WPI) showed wages rose +0.7% q/q and +2.4% y/y in Q1, below consensus of +0.8% q/q.

The unemployment rate printed in line with expectations at 3.9%. That was a decline of 0.1% to 3.85% from a downwardly revised 3.93% in unrounded terms and is the lowest unemployment rate since 1974. The participation rate unexpectedly declined to 66.3% from 66.4% but remains near its record highs.

Retail sales rose +0.9% m/m in April (consensus +1.0%). Retail sales are now +22% above pre-pandemic levels and at their highest level ever.

Construction Work Done fell -0.9% q/q in Q1, below the +1.0% q/q rise expected.

Residential rents are rising with nationwide rents up +1.4% m/m after having increased by +2.4% in the previous month. Relative to a year ago, asking rents for Sydney houses are up +19.4% y/y and for Melbourne up +9.4% y/y.

Anthony Albanese was sworn as Australia’s 31st prime minister. Federal Labor is reportedly confident of securing enough seats to govern in its own right even though the election delivered an historically large crossbench.

S&P noted the change of government itself had no effect on Australia’s AAA rating, as long as the “fundamentals, such as our projected fiscal recovery, that support the rating remain sound”.

Credit Market

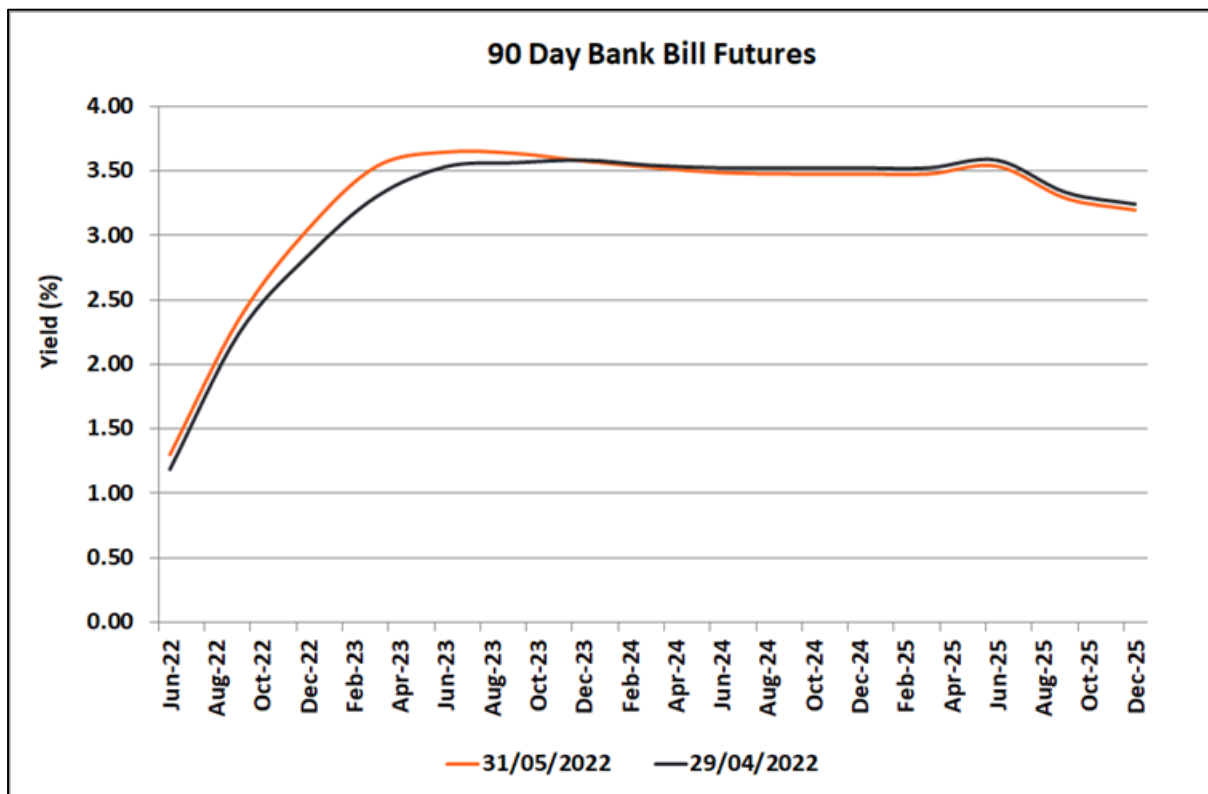
The global credit indices remained flat over the month, although widened significantly in Australia as the market prepares itself for a series of aggressive rate hikes. The indices are back to their levels experienced in mid-2020:

Index	May 2022	April 2022
CDX North American 5yr CDS	81bp	81bp
iTraxx Europe 5yr CDS	89bp	89bp
iTraxx Australia 5yr CDS	108bp	97bp

Source: Markit

90 Day Bill Futures

Over May, bill futures rose sharply at the short-end of the curve as the market prepares itself for the RBA to hike rates aggressively after increasing rates for the first time in over a decade. At the longer-end of the curve, bill futures fell as the markets remain nervous about the pace of the rate hikes, factoring in the possibility of a recession:



Source: ASX

Fixed Interest Outlook

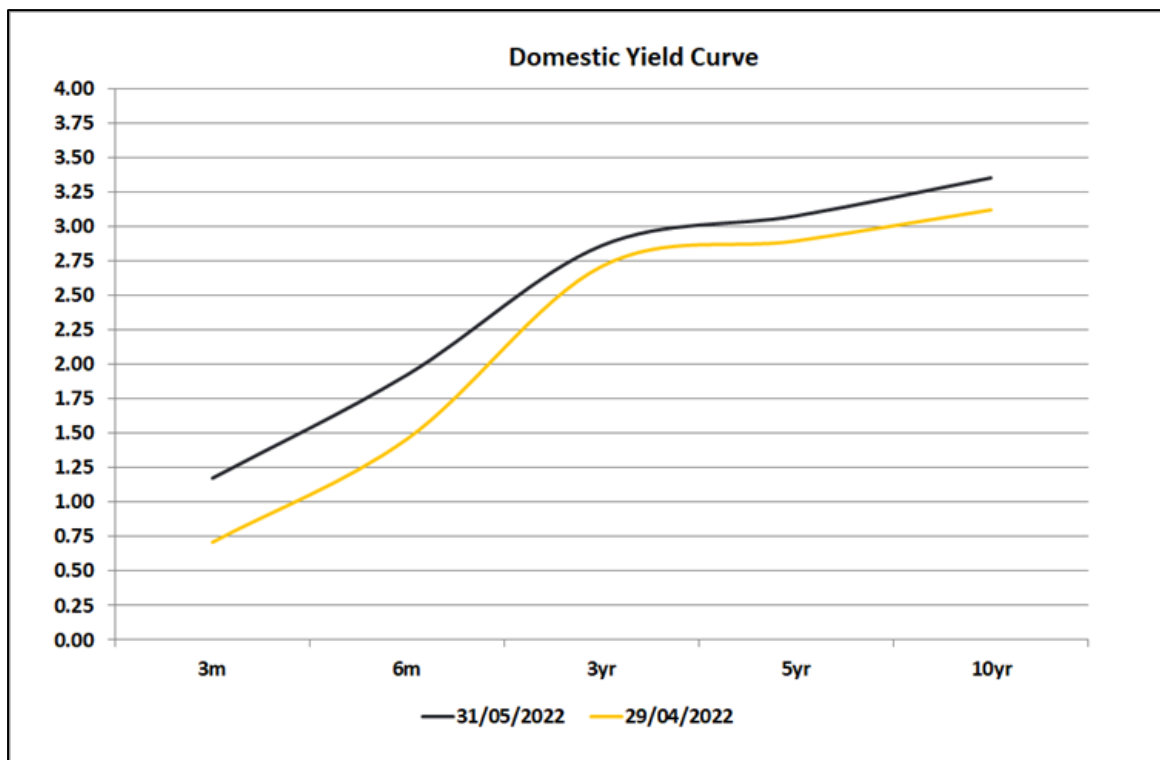
The US Fed meets again on June 15 and a 50bp Fed funds rate hike is all priced in, followed by another 50bp in the July meeting.

Domestically, the RBA's accompanying May Statement of Monetary Policy (SoMP) was broadly in line with the messaging from Governor Lowe previously suggesting *"further increases in interest rates will be necessary over the months ahead"* and of the cash rate lifting to around 2.50% over the next few years. The forecasts in the SoMP though highlights the risk that the RBA front loads its hiking cycle given core inflation is only forecast to get to within the 2-3% band by mid-2024 at +2.9% y/y, at which point wages growth is forecast to be running at +3.7% y/y.

The RBA Minutes from the May meeting contained two key insights:

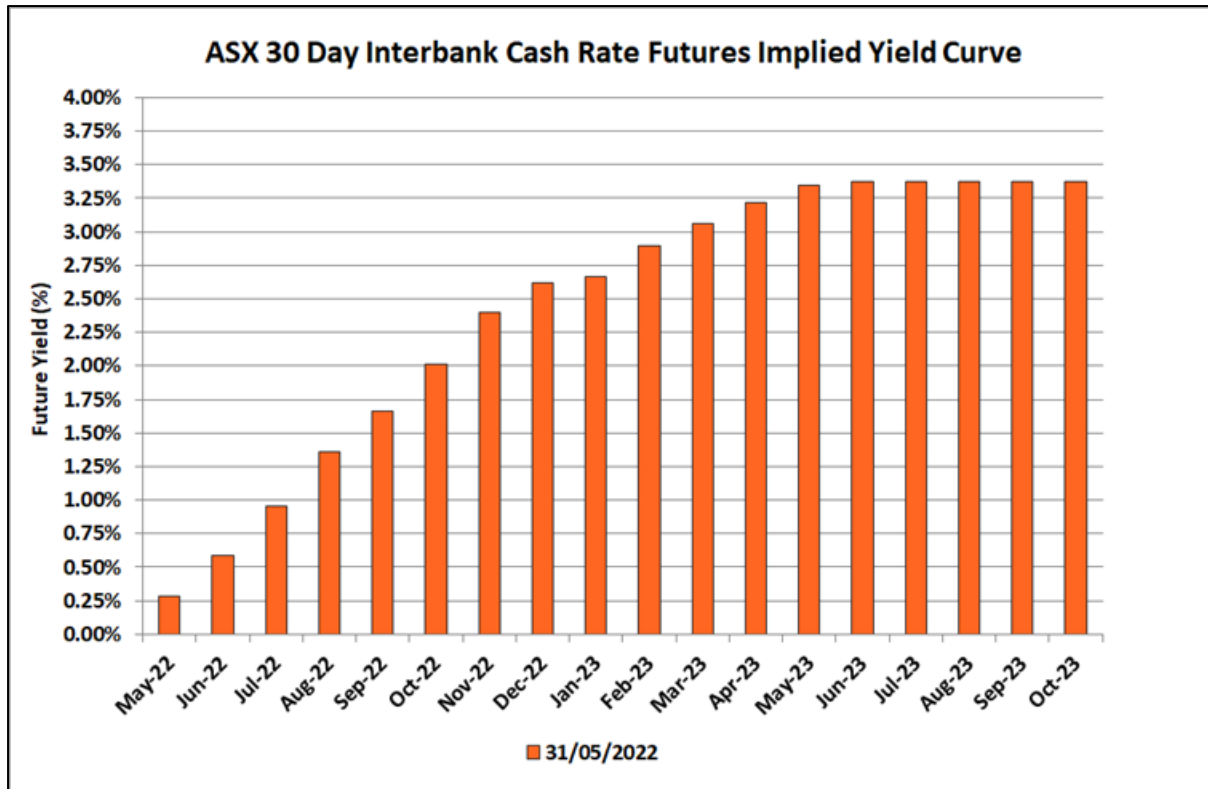
1. The RBA will most likely increase interest rates in June no matter what the WPI prints given *"...the recent evidence on wages growth from the Bank's liaison and business surveys was clear"*; and
2. The RBA is prepared to move in greater than 25bp increments if necessary, noting that May's decision to lift interest rates by 25bp reflected *"the historical practice of changing the cash rate in increments of at least 2bp"* and that *"an argument for an increase of 40bp could be made given the upside risks to inflation and the current very low level of interest rates"*.

The domestic bond market continues to suggest a prolonged low period of interest rates on a historical basis (10-year government bond yields still under 3½%). Over the month, yields rose around 23bp at the long-end of the curve:



Source: AFMA, ASX, RBA

Following the RBA’s rate rise in May, markets are currently pricing in around twelve additional rate rises over the next two years (up to 3.25%), against the RBA’s ‘neutral’ target of 2½%:



Source: ASX

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26 February 2021

Our Ref: DEN275-210226

Jennifer Gaylard
28 Lawson Drive
Barooga NSW 3644

Via email: gaylardjm@bigpond.com

Dear Jennifer,

I have received a response from the Minister for Energy and Environment, the Hon Matt Kean MP, to the representation I made on your behalf.

I have included a copy of his letter for your reference, noting that National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) prepares the park for the summer holiday season and there also a solid fuel fire ban within the park. It is also noted that planned hazard reduction activities should begin in autumn and winter this year weather permitting.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further please do not hesitate to contact our office or alternatively, Mr Mark Peacock, Director West Branch, NPWS on 02 6841 0932 or at mark.peacock@environment.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Dalton'.

Helen Dalton MP
Member for Murray
Encl.



The Honourable Matt Kean MP
Minister for Energy and Environment

MD20/9074

Mrs Helen Dalton MP
Member for Murray
NSW Government Offices
104-110 Banna Avenue
GRIFFITH NSW 2680



By email: murray@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mrs Dalton *Helen*

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Ms Jennifer Gaylard, about the increased risk of fire in the Barooga State Forest. I appreciate you bringing Ms Gaylard's concerns to my attention.

I am informed that the area referred to in Ms Gaylard's letter is likely to be the Barooga precinct of Murray Valley Regional Park, managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

NPWS prepares for the summer holiday season by mowing areas that become popular camping spots for tourists in Murray Valley Regional Park to help reduce fire risk. Solid fuel fire bans are also implemented in the park during summer to reduce the risk of ignition from campfires, and local NPWS staff undertake extra patrols to ensure compliance with fire bans.

The area of Murray Valley Regional Park in the vicinity of Ms Gaylard's residence, and closest to the Barooga township on the southern side of Bullanginya Lagoon, is an asset protection zone. Asset protection zones are areas maintained at low fuel levels. In October and December 2020, this zone was mowed to reduce the grass hazard, due to increased grass growth this season. On 19 December 2020, the area was inspected and the grass hazard was considered low.

In mid-2016, a hazard reduction burn was completed in the area directly south of the Barooga township asset protection zone. This zone has a recommended fire treatment interval of 10-20 years.

I am informed the NPWS is planning to undertake hazard reduction activities in the forested areas west of Barooga township in autumn and winter this year, weather permitting. Further burning is also planned for the following years.

If Ms Gaylard has any further questions on this issue, she can contact Mr Mark Peacock, Director West Branch, NPWS on 6841 0932 or at mark.peacock@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Matt Kean MP
Minister for Energy and Environment

23.2.21



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Jennifer Gaylard
28 Lawson Drive
Barooga, NSW 3644
gaylardjm@bigpond.com

Your reference
Our reference: DOC21/9136

02/02/2021

Jennifer

Dear Ms. Gaylard,

Hazard Reduction works in Barooga area

Thank you for bringing to our attention your concerns regarding the fuel loads for the Barooga area.

I have received your letter addressed to Minister Ley's office late last year and have met with NSW National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) staff in the area to confirm the proposal for a number of hazard reductions in the area.

I believe that late last year, early this year that NPWS Field Officer Robert Smith, has been in touch and discussed the matter with you directly.

I write today to confirm that there are at least five proposed Hazard Reduction burns proposed for the Barooga, Tocumwal and Mulwala areas on National Parks estate. The NSW Rural Fire Service is working closely with NSW NPWS to undertake these burns when the weather conditions are suitable to ensure a safe and effective burn.

For your reference the burns are identified by the following names;

- > 1904 Beach Barooga HR – 230.62Ha
- > Causeway HR, Barooga – 6.38Ha
- > RIVA – Paradise Beach HR – LMZ – 8.64Ha
- > Quicks HR – 7.32Ha
- > Blue Hole Rd, Mulwala HR – 121.4Ha

These burns will be staged over a period of time that allows for appropriate fire regime management and fuel management to be undertaken. It should give you some comfort that these burns are indeed planned and agencies are working together through the Federation Bush Fire Management Committee to complete them. I anticipate that the post summer period will provide suitable conditions to implement some of these burns.

Thank you again for your letter, please feel free to contact me if you have any other enquiries.

Superintendent Patrick Westwood
District Manager, Southern Border Team

NSW Rural Fire Service. 0428 691 625

Executive Officer, Federation Bush Fire Management Committee.

Postal address

NSW Rural Fire Service
Locked Bag 17
GRANVILLE NSW 2142

Street address

NSW Rural Fire Service
4 Murray Rose Ave
SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK NSW 2127

T (02) 8741 5555
F (02) 8741 5550
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au





Melanie Gibbons MP

Parliamentary Secretary for Families, Disability and Emergency Services

IM20/41601
EAP20/19800

Mrs Helen Dalton MP
Member for Murray
228 Cressy Street
DENILIQUN NSW 2710

murray@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mrs Dalton *Helen,*

I refer to your representations to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Hon David Elliott MP, on behalf of Ms Jennifer Gaylard of 28 Lawson Drive, Barooga 3644, concerning a request for hazard reduction burning. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) is the lead agency for bush firefighting and management in New South Wales and is responsible for inspecting bush fire hazards, providing advice and if necessary, issuing notices to all landowners and managers to reduce hazards.

On this occasion, I have referred a copy of your representations to the NSW RFS and asked that they respond to you directly addressing Ms Gaylard's concerns.

Thank you for bringing this matter to the Minister's attention.

Yours sincerely

Melanie Gibbons MP

Parliamentary Secretary for Families, Disability and Emergency Services

4 March 2021

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

Annual Report and
Determination

*Annual report and determination under sections
239 and 241 of the Local Government Act 1993*

**20 April
2022**

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

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Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

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

The Tribunal found the allocation of councils into the current categories appropriate. Criteria for each category is published in Appendix 1. These categories have not changed further to the extensive review undertaken as part of the 2020 review.

Fees

The Tribunal determined a 2 per cent per annum increase in the minimum and maximum fees applicable to each category.

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

Section 1 Introduction

1. Section 239 of the LG Act provides that the Tribunal determine the categories of councils and mayoral offices and to place each council and mayoral office into one of those categories.
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 the Tribunal to give effect to the same policies on increases in remuneration as those of the Industrial Relations Commission.
4. The Tribunal can also determine that a council can be placed in another existing or new category with a higher range of fees without breaching the Government's Wages Policy as per section 242A (3) of the LG Act.
5. The Tribunal's determinations take effect from 1 July each year.

Section 2 2021 Determination

6. The Tribunal received 18 submissions which included 9 requests for re-categorisation. At the time of making its determination, the Tribunal had available to it the Australian Bureau of Statistics 25 March 2020 population data for FY2018-19. The Tribunal noted the requirement of section 239 of the LG Act that it must determine categories for councils and mayoral offices at least once every 3 years. It noted that the Tribunal had conducted an extensive review in 2020 and decided that the categories would next be considered in 2023.
7. The Tribunal found that the current categories and allocation of councils to these categories remained appropriate. The Tribunal's finding had regard to the 2020 review, the current category model and criteria and the evidence put forward in the received submissions.
8. In regard to fees, the Tribunal determined a 2 per cent per annum increase in the minimum and maximum fees applicable to each category.

Section 3 2022 Review

Process

9. In 2020, the categories of general purpose councils were determined as follows:

Metropolitan	Non-Metropolitan
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Principal CBD• Major CBD• Metropolitan Large• Metropolitan Medium• Metropolitan Small	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Major Regional City• Major Strategic Area• Regional Strategic Area• Regional Centre• Regional Rural

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rural
--	---

10. The Tribunal wrote to all mayors or general managers and LGNSW on 14 October 2021 to advise of the commencement of the 2021 review and invited submissions regarding recategorisation, fees and other general matters. The Tribunal's correspondence advised that an extensive review of categories was undertaken in 2020 and, as this was only legislatively required every three years, consideration would be next be given in 2023. The correspondence further advised that submissions requesting to be moved into a different category as part of the 2022 review would require a strong case supported by evidence that substantiates that the criteria for the requested category is met.
11. Seven submissions were received from individual councils and one submission was received from LGNSW. The Tribunal noted that several of the submissions had not been endorsed by their respective councils. The Tribunal also met with the President, Chief Executive and Senior Manager of LGNSW.
12. The Tribunal discussed the submissions at length with the Assessors.
13. The Tribunal acknowledged previous and ongoing difficulties imposed by COVID19 and natural disasters on councils.
14. The Tribunal also acknowledged submissions from councils in regional and remote locations that raised unique challenges, such as travel and connectivity, experienced by mayors and councillors in those areas.
15. A summary of the matters raised in the received submissions and the Tribunal's consideration of those matters is outlined below.

Categorisation

16. Five council submissions requested recategorisation. Three of these requests sought the creation new categories.

Metropolitan Large Councils

17. Penrith City Council acknowledged that categories were not being reviewed until 2023. However, the Council reiterated their previous year's position and contended that their claim for the creation of a new category of "Metropolitan Large – Growth Centre" continues to be enhanced through their leading role in the Western Sydney City Deal. Council's submission further stated that the participation in the Deal demonstrated the exponential growth that will occur in the Penrith Local Government Area.
18. Blacktown City Council requested the creation of a new category "Metropolitan Large – Growth Area". Council stated that the current criteria for "Metropolitan Large" does not reflect the Council's size, rate of growth and economic influence.

Council based its argument for a new category on the following grounds:

- Significant population growth. Current estimated population of 403,000 with an expected population of 640,000 in 2041.
- Blacktown being critical to the success of the Greater Sydney Region Plan while also being part of the fastest growing district for the next 20 years.
- 4th largest economy in NSW – as of 30 June 2020, Gross Regional Product (GRP) was \$21.98 billion, comparatively City of Parramatta was \$31.36 billion.
- Undertaking of several transformational projects to increase economy and services. Examples include the redesign of Riverstone Town Centre, Australian Catholic University establishment of an interim campus for up to 700 undergrads

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

with a permanent campus to open by 2024, the \$1 billion Blacktown Brain and Spinal Institute proposal and Blacktown International Sports Park Masterplan to provide a first-class multi-sport venue.

- Expansion in provision of services such as childcare, aquatic and leisure centres.
- Diversity of population.

Non-Metropolitan Major Regional City Councils

19. Newcastle Council requested clarification regarding City of Newcastle's status as either Metropolitan or Regional, noting that while City of Newcastle is classified as a "Major Regional City", the Newcastle Local Government Area is often exempt from both regional and metropolitan grant funding due to inconsistencies in classification. Council sought review on the following grounds:

- Size of council area 187km² (in comparison of Parramatta Council 84km²).
- Physical terrain.
- Population and distribution of population.
- Nature and volume of business dealt with by Council.
- Nature and extent of development of City of Newcastle.
- Diversity of communities served.
- Regional, national and international significance of City of Newcastle.
- Transport hubs.
- Regional services including health, education, smart city services and public administration.
- Cultural and sporting facilities.
- Matters that the Tribunal consider relevant

Regional Centre

20. Tweed Shire Council requested to be reclassified as a "Regional Strategic Area" on the following grounds:

- Proximity to the Gold Coast City and Brisbane.
- Proximity to Sydney via the Gold Coast airport.
- Tweed being the major population and city centre for the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation.
- Tweed being the largest employer and strongest growth area in the Northern Rivers.

Non-Metropolitan Rural Councils

21. Murrumbidgee Council requested recategorisation to "Regional Rural" as they are a product of the merger of the former Jerilderie Shire Council and the former Murrumbidgee Shire Council. Council also suggested that the criteria for "Regional Rural" is amended to:

- Councils categorised as Regional Rural will typically have a minimum residential population of 20,000 or can demonstrate one of the following features...."
 - the product of the 2016 amalgamation where two or more Rural classified Local Governments Areas merged.

Findings - categorisation

22. The Tribunal assessed each Council's submission and found that the current categories and allocation of councils to these categories remained appropriate. The Tribunal's findings had regard to the 2020 review, the current category model and

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

criteria and the evidence put forward in the received submissions.

23. Having regard to the requirements of sections 239 and 240 of the LG Act, the Tribunal did not find that any council's submission was strong enough for a change in category or for the creation of a new category.
24. The Tribunal did note, however, that some councils may have a better case for recategorisation at the next major review of categories in 2023.
25. The Tribunal was of the view that the 2023 determination and review of categories as required by s239 (1) of the LG Act will see more requests from councils for recategorisation and possible determination of new categories. The Tribunal and Assessors may benefit from visits to meet regional organisations of councils and direct opportunities for input from Mayors and general managers in this regard.

Fees

26. In determining the maximum and minimum fees payable in each of the categories, the Tribunal is required by section 242A of the LG Act, 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* (IR Act), when making or varying awards or orders relating to the conditions of employment of public sector employees.
27. Pursuant to section 146C(1)(a) of the IR Act, the current government policy on wages is expressed in the Industrial Relations (Public Sector Conditions of Employment) Regulation 2014 (IR Reg.). The IR Reg. provides that public sector wages cannot increase by more than 2.5 per cent per annum. The Tribunal therefore has the discretion to determine an increase of up to 2.5 per cent per annum.
28. Submissions that addressed fees sought an increase of a maximum of 2.5 per cent per annum or greater. These submissions raised issues such as comparative remuneration, cost of living and increasing workloads. One submission also suggested that higher fees are required to attract a higher standard of candidates to council roles.
29. The LGNSW submission contained 3 parts. The first part of the submission supported an increase of 2.5 per cent per annum in remuneration, but further argued that the maximum increase is inadequate and does not address the historical undervaluation of work performed by mayors and councillors, and the substantial expansion of their responsibilities and accountability in recently years. LGNSW used the following economic indexes and wage data in support of their argument:
 - Consumer price index (CPI)
 - National and state wages cases
 - Wage increases under the *Local Government (State) Award 2020*.
30. The second part of LGNSW's submission addressed inequity and impacts of low remuneration. It was supported by the research paper "Councillor perspectives on the (in)adequacy of remuneration in NSW local government: Impacts on well-being, diversity and quality of representation" (the "ANU Paper"), written by Associate Professor Jakimow of the Australian National University. A key finding of the ANU Paper was that "current remuneration levels are perceived as inadequately reflecting the extent and nature of council work." The finding was derived from the undertaking of

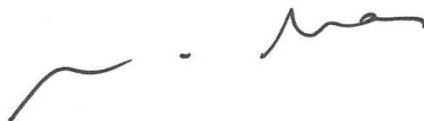
Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

a survey of councillors and mayors. The paper suggests that there is a disconnect between workload and remuneration and this was identified as the most frequent argument for increasing the current rate.

31. The third and final part of LGNSW's submission compared the minimum and maximum rates of NSW mayor and councillor remuneration to the remuneration of directors and chairpersons of comparable government bodies and not-for-profits, mayors and councillors in Queensland and members of the NSW Parliament. The submission contended that NSW mayor and councillor remuneration is below that of their counterparts.
32. Following the most recent review by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) the amount that councils will be able to increase the revenue they can collect from rates will depend on their level of population growth. IPART has set a 2022-23 rate peg for each council, ranging from 0.7 to 5.0 per cent. IPART's rate peg takes into account the annual change in the Local Government Cost Index, which measures the average costs faced by NSW councils, in addition to a population factor based on each council's population growth.
33. Employees under the *Local Government (State) Award 2020* will receive a 2 per cent per annum increase in rates of pay from the first full pay period to commence on or after 1 July 2022.
34. The Tribunal has determined a 2 per cent per annum increase in the minimum and maximum fees applicable to each category.

Conclusion

35. The Tribunal's determinations have been made with the assistance of Assessors Ms Kylie Yates and Ms Melanie Hawyres.
36. It is the expectation of the Tribunal that in the future all submissions have council endorsement.
37. Determination 1 outlines the allocation of councils into each of the categories as per section 239 of the LG Act.
38. Determination 2 outlines the maximum and minimum fees paid to councillors and mayors and members and chairpersons of county councils as per section 241 of the LG Act.



Viv May PSM

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

Dated: 20 April 2022

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

Section 4 2021 Determinations

Determination No. 1 - Allocation of councils into each of the categories as per section 239 of the LG Act effective from 1 July 2021

Table 1: General Purpose Councils - Metropolitan

Principal CBD (1)
Sydney

Major CBD (1)
Parramatta

Metropolitan Large (12)
Bayside
Blacktown
Canterbury-Bankstown
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

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

Table 2: General Purpose Councils - Non-Metropolitan

Major Regional City (2)	Major Strategic Area (1)	Regional Strategic Area (1)
Newcastle	Central Coast	Lake Macquarie
Wollongong		

Regional Centre (24)		Regional Rural (13)
Albury	Mid-Coast	Bega
Armidale	Orange	Broken Hill
Ballina	Port Macquarie-Hastings	Byron
Bathurst	Port Stephens	Eurobodalla
Blue Mountains	Queanbeyan-Palerang	Goulburn Mulwaree
Cessnock	Shellharbour	Griffith
Clarence Valley	Shoalhaven	Kempsey
Coffs Harbour	Tamworth	Kiama
Dubbo	Tweed	Lithgow
Hawkesbury	Wagga Wagga	Mid-Western
Lismore	Wingecarribee	Richmond Valley Council
Maitland	Wollondilly	Singleton
		Snowy Monaro

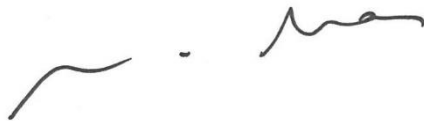
Rural (57)			
Balranald	Cootamundra-Gundagai	Junee	Oberon
Bellingen	Cowra	Kyogle	Parkes
Berrigan	Dungog	Lachlan	Snowy Valleys
Bland	Edward River	Leeton	Temora
Blayney	Federation	Liverpool Plains	Tenterfield
Bogan	Forbes	Lockhart	Upper Hunter
Bourke	Gilgandra	Moree Plains	Upper Lachlan
Brewarrina	Glen Innes Severn	Murray River	Uralla
Cabonne	Greater Hume	Murrumbidgee	Walcha
Carrathool	Gunnedah	Muswellbrook	Walgett
Central Darling	Gwydir	Nambucca	Warren
Cobar	Hay	Narrabri	Warrumbungle
Coolamon	Hilltops	Narrandera	Weddin
Coonamble	Inverell	Narromine	Wentworth

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

Rural (57)	
	Yass

Table 3: County Councils

Water (4)	Other (6)
Central Tablelands	Castlereagh-Macquarie
Goldenfields Water	Central Murray
Riverina Water	Hawkesbury River
Rous	New England Tablelands
	Upper Hunter
	Upper Macquarie



Viv May PSM

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

Dated: 20 April 2022

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

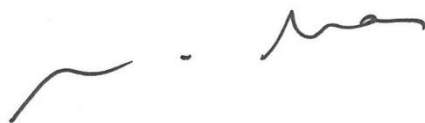
Determination No. 2 - Fees for Councillors and Mayors as per section 241 of the LG Act effective from 1 July 2022

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 2022 as per section 241 of the *Local Government Act 1993* are determined as follows:

Table 4: Fees for General Purpose and County Councils

Category		Councillor/Member Annual Fee (\$) effective 1 July 2022		Mayor/Chairperson Additional Fee* (\$) effective 1 July 2022	
		Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
General Purpose Councils - Metropolitan	Principal CBD	28,750	42,170	175,930	231,500
	Major CBD	19,180	35,520	40,740	114,770
	Metropolitan Large	19,180	31,640	40,740	92,180
	Metropolitan Medium	14,380	26,840	30,550	71,300
	Metropolitan Small	9,560	21,100	20,370	46,010
General Purpose Councils - Non-Metropolitan	Major Regional City	19,180	33,330	40,740	103,840
	Major Strategic Area	19,180	33,330	40,740	103,840
	Regional Strategic Area	19,180	31,640	40,740	92,180
	Regional Centre	14,380	25,310	29,920	62,510
	Regional Rural	9,560	21,100	20,370	46,040
	Rural	9,560	12,650	10,180	27,600
County Councils	Water	1,900	10,550	4,080	17,330
	Other	1,900	6,300	4,080	11,510

*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: 20 April 2021

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

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.

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

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.

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

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.

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

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

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 200,000.

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.

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.

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

Regional Rural

Councils categorised as Regional Rural will typically have a minimum residential population of 20,000.

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

Councils categorised as Rural will typically have a residential population less than 20,000.

Other features may include:

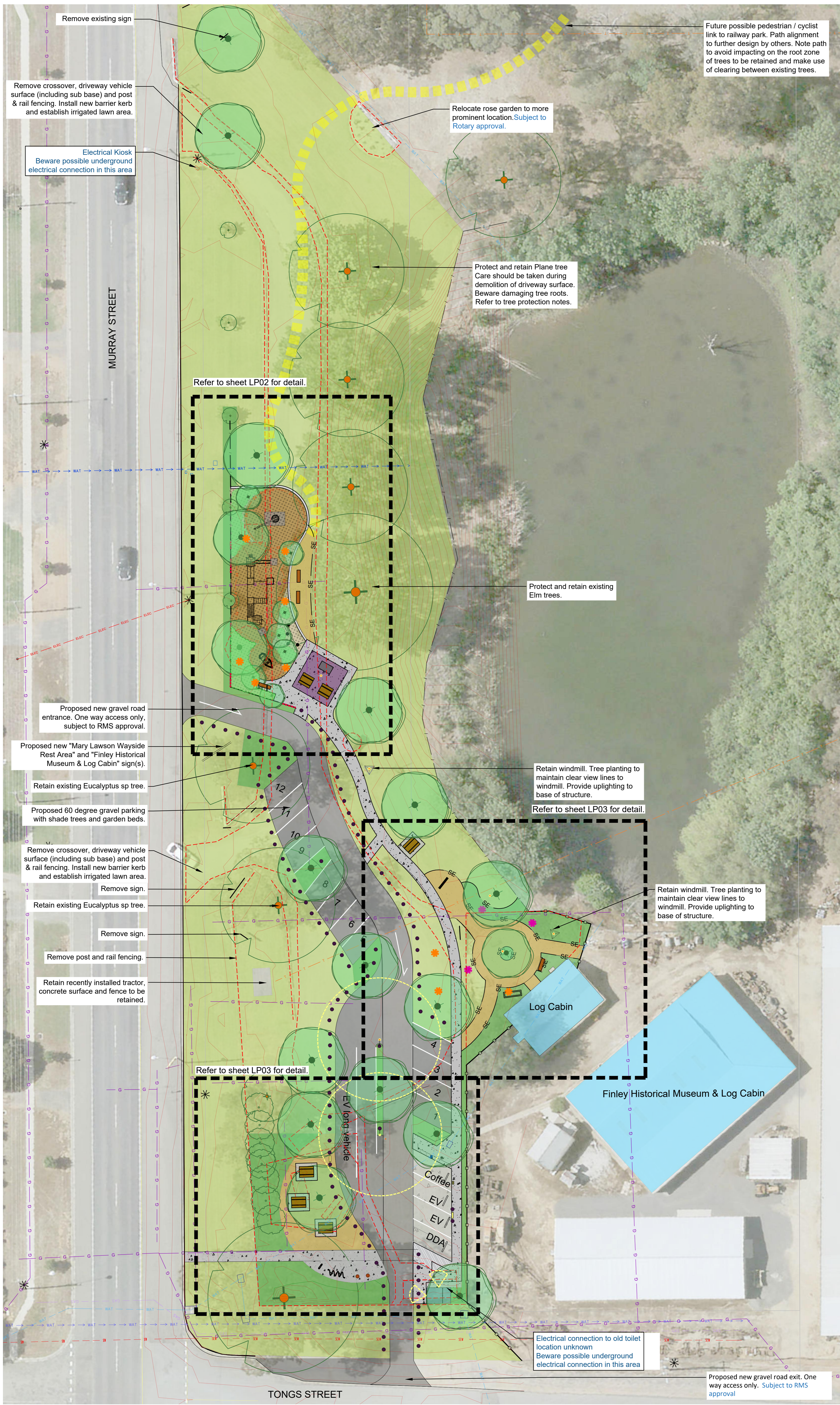
- one or two significant townships combined with a considerable dispersed population spread over a large area and a long distance from a major regional centre
- a limited range of services, facilities and employment opportunities compared to Regional Rural councils
- local economies based on agricultural/resource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

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*.



LEGEND

EXISTING

- Existing building
- Existing contours at 0.1m intervals
- Existing tree to be protected and retained
- Existing shrub to be removed
- Existing fence to be protected and retained
- Item to be removed / demolished including all footings
- Existing windmill

PROPOSED

- Shelter - refer to precedents
- Grey concrete footpath
- Service road - design by others
- Compacted granitic sand surface
- 300mm deep soft fall zone mulch to comply with AS/NZS 4422:2016 (impact attenuating)
- 75mm deep soft fall zone mulch (non-impact attenuating)
- 1.2m high pool style fence
- 1.8m high security fence ie. palisade
- Feature panel ie. laser-cut panel
- Steel edge
- Proposed trees
- Lawn to match existing
- Garden bed with timber mulch
- Picnic table - refer to precedents
- Bench seat with arm and back rest - refer to precedents
- BBQ - refer to precedents
- Timber bollards at 1.8m centres
- Grey concrete edge 200mm wide and deep to provide edging to playspace.
- Proposed location for sculpture / indigenous art - refer to precedents
- Proposed sign location
- Future possible path (design by others)
- Proposed lighting Fittings to be selected by BSC

SERVICES

- Telstra
- Gas
- Water
- Sewer

Electrical note:
No electrical service location data was available at the time of design. Confirm all services on site prior to undertaking any works.

Base information derived from the following sources:
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Note
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Project:
Mary Lawson Wayside Rest Area, Finley

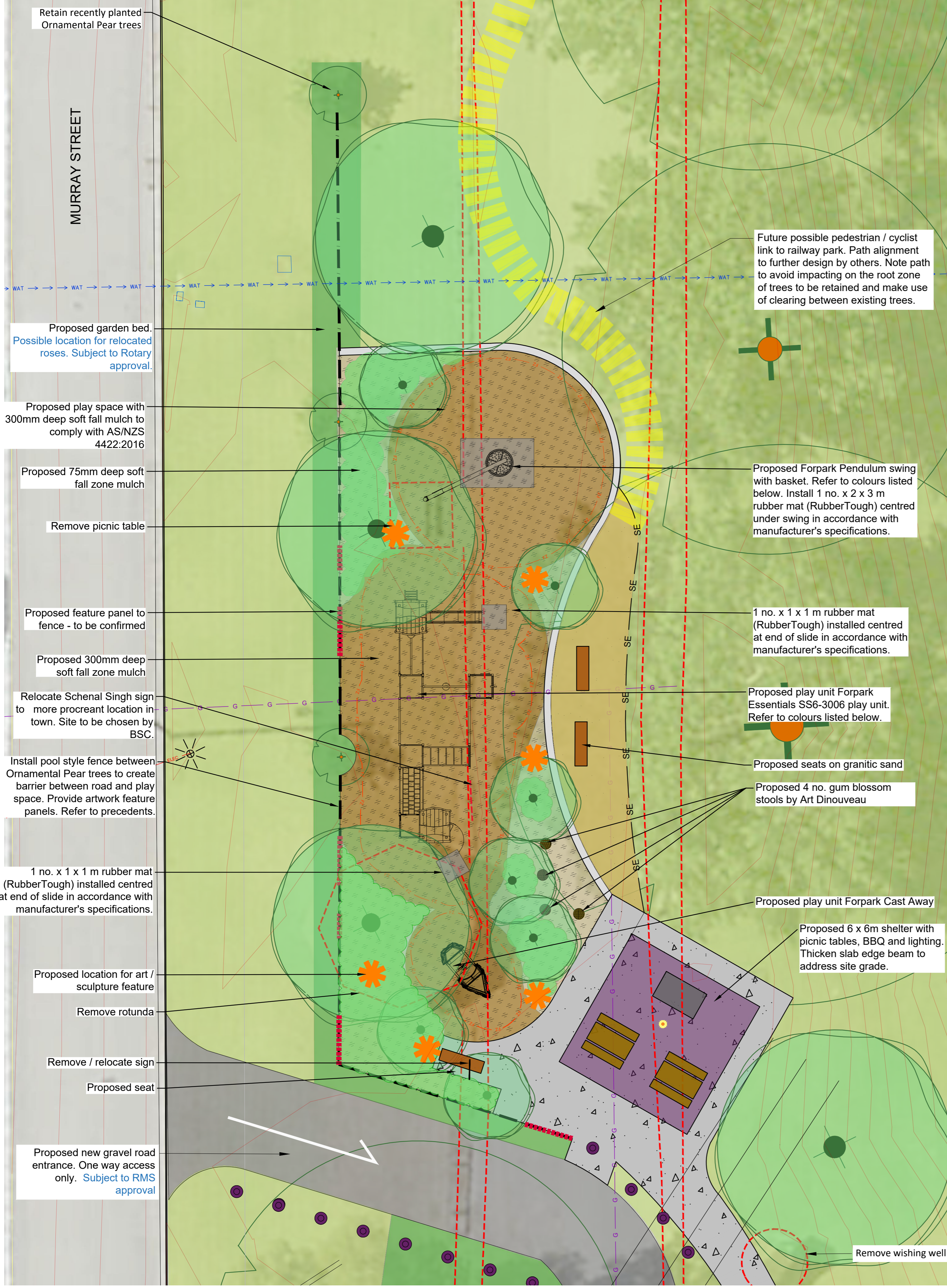
Prepared for:
Berrigan Shire Council

Drawing Title:
Landscape Plan

Date: 23 May 2022
Scale: 1:250 @ A1 sheet size
Drawn: GC / OJ
Checked: CR / DH
Drawing No: 2069- LP01

THOMSON HAY
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

130 Howards Rd, Wattle Flat VIC 3352
T 03 5334 5321 W www.thomsonhay.com



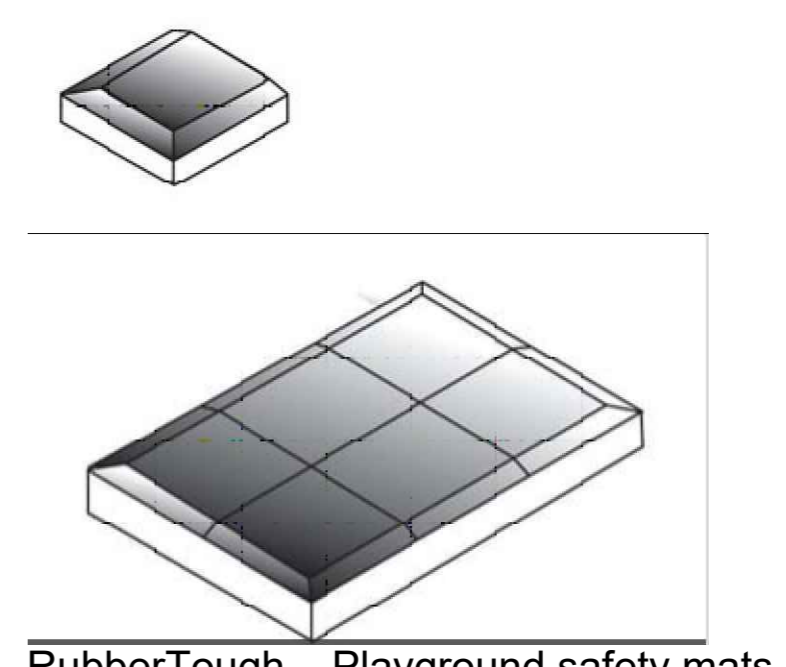
Suppliers

Forpark
NSW/ACT
PO Box 102
Kings Langley NSW 2147
Tel: (02) 8851 7630
Fax: (02) 8851 7638
Email: forparknsw@forparkaust.com.au

SafePlay Australia
Unit 24, 21 Eugene Terrace Ringwood,
Victoria 3134, Australia
03 9870 0233
sales@safeplay.com.au

Raw Boards
Spring Gully, Bendigo
Victoria 3550
Australia
sales@rawboards.com.au
0408773353

RubberTough Industries
Wills Street Warragul victoria 3820
1800 060 072
Telephone: (03) 5622 0693
Email: admin@rubbertough.com.au



LEGEND

EXISTING

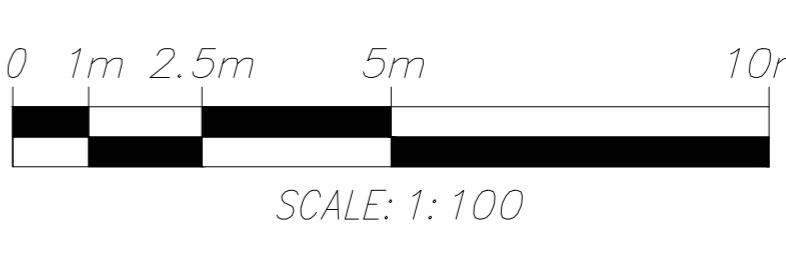
- Existing contours at 0.1m intervals
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- Proposed sign location
- Future possible path (design by others)
- Proposed lighting
Fittings to be selected by BSC

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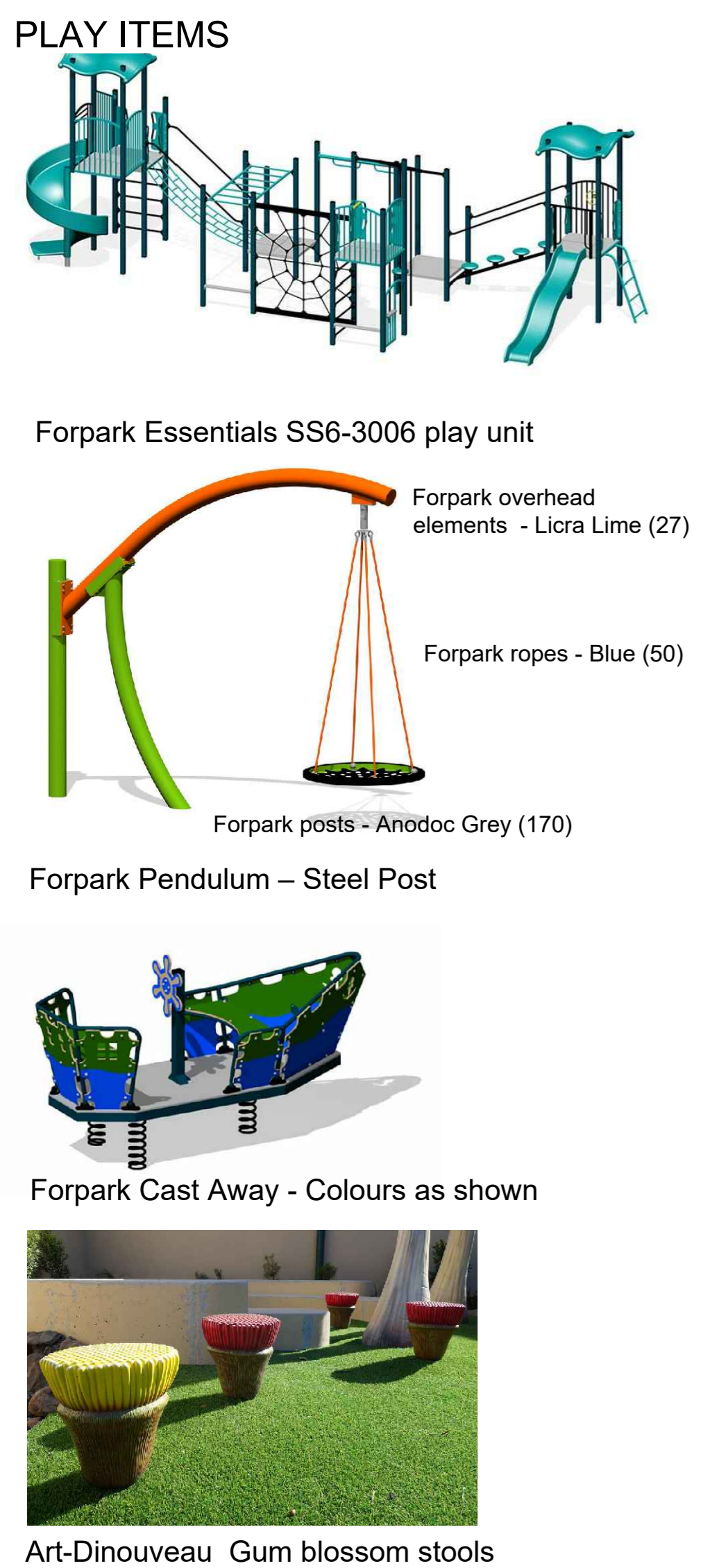
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SERVICES

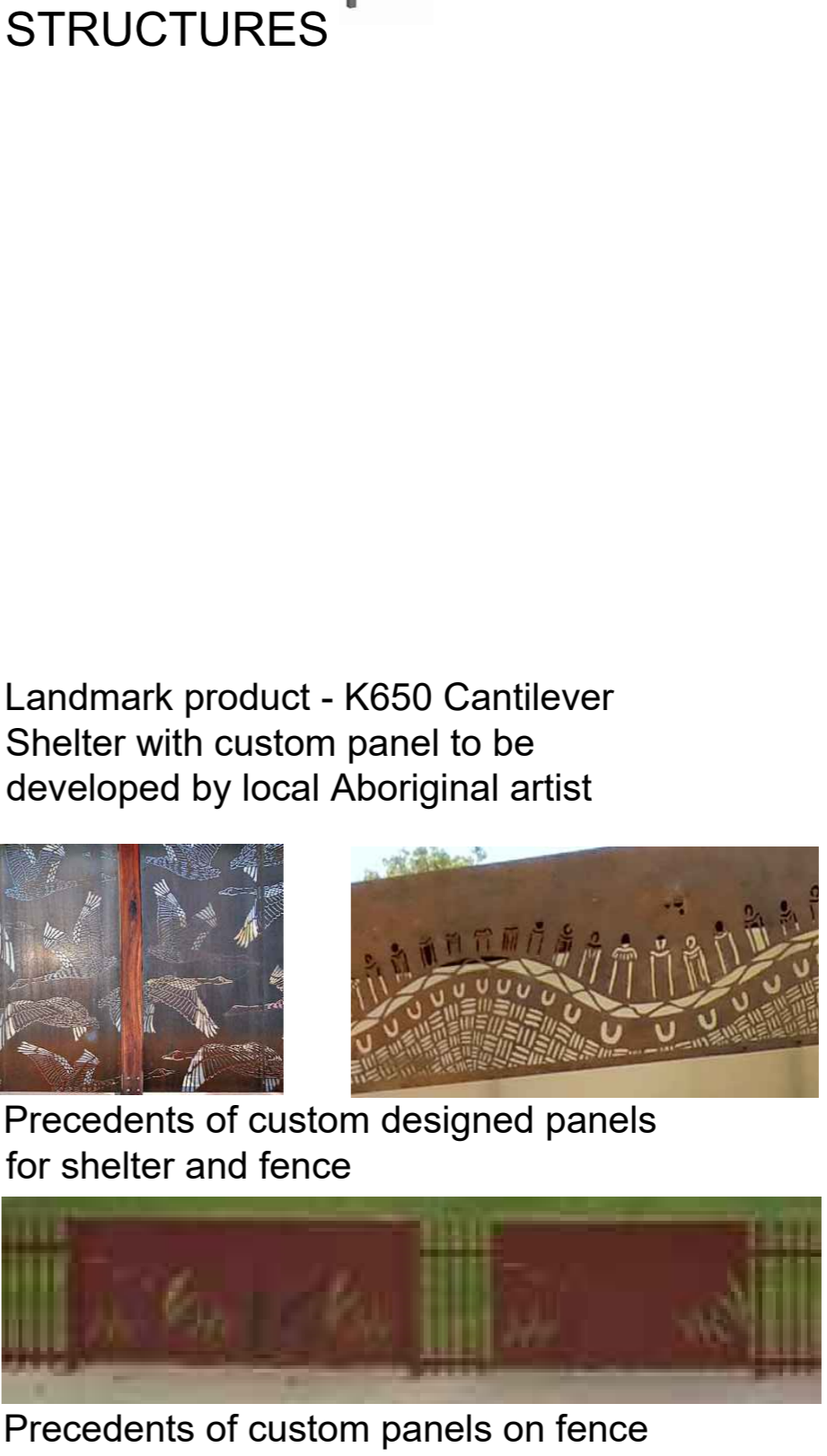
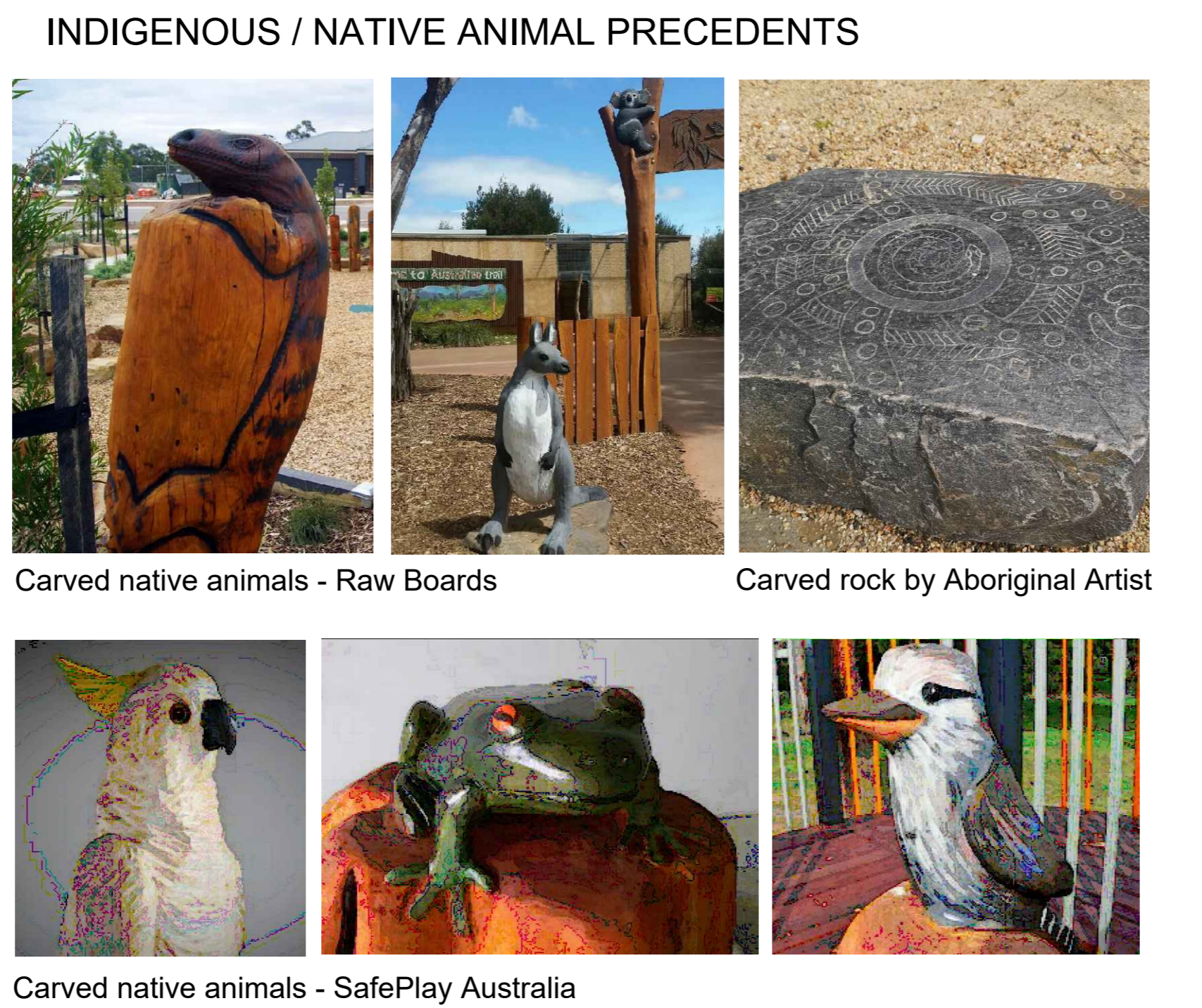
- Telstra
- Gas
- Water
- Sewer

Electrical note:
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PLAY COLOUR PALETTE

Forpark overhead elements Colour A - Licra Lime (27) Colour B - Hawthorn Green (8)	Forpark ropes - Blue (50)	Forpark roof - Light Green (46)
Forpark plastic panels - Dark Green (51)	Forpark ladder - Hawthorn Green (8)	Forpark post caps - Blaze Blue (5)
Forpark Slide - Blue (50)	Forpark posts - Anodoc Grey (170)	Forpark hand grips - Blaze blue (5) with Licra Lime (27)
		Forpark platforms - grey
		Forpark rails - Licra Lime (27)
		Forpark panels - Colour A Plastic - Dark Green (51) Metal - Hawthorn Green (8)
		Colour B Plastic - Light Green (46) Metal - Licra Lime (27)



FINAL DRAFT

Project:
Mary Lawson Wayside Rest Area, Finley

Prepared for:
Berrigan Shire Council

Drawing Title:
Landscape Plan

Date: 23 May 2022
Scale: 1:100 @ A1 sheet size
Drawn: GC / OJ
Checked: CR / DH
Drawing No: 2069- LP02

THOMSON HAY
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

130 Howards Rd, Wattle Flat VIC 3352
T 03 5334 5321 W www.thomsonhay.com



LEGEND

EXISTING

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- Existing shrub to be removed
- Existing fence to be protected and retained
- Item to be removed / demolished including all footings.
- Existing windmill

PROPOSED

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- 1.8m high security fence i.e. palisade
- Steel edge
- Proposed trees
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- Garden bed with timber mulch
- Picnic table - refer to precedents
- Bench seat with arm and back rest - refer to precedents
- Timber bollards at 1.8m centres
- Grey concrete edge 200mm wide and deep to provide edging to playspace.
- Proposed location for sculpture / indigenous art - refer to precedents
- Proposed sign location
- Proposed lighting Fittings to be selected by BSC

SERVICES

- Telstra
- Gas
- Water
- Sewer

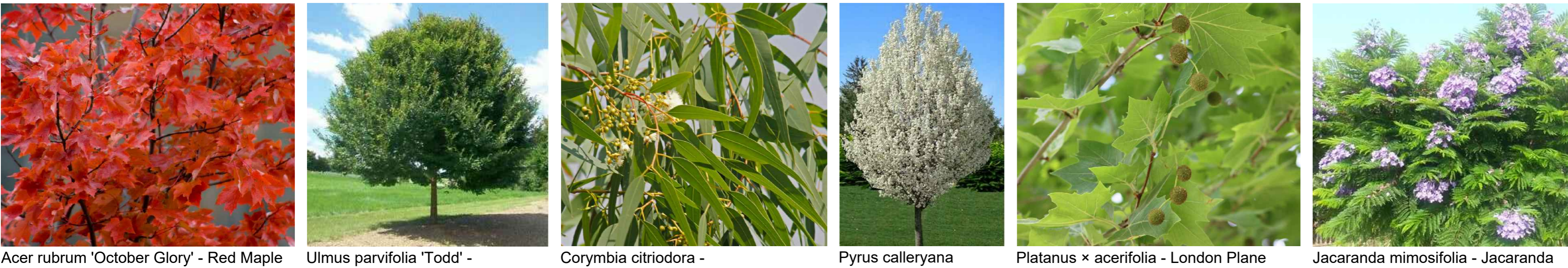
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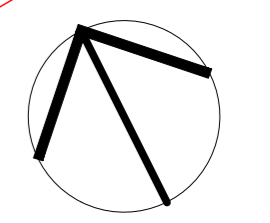
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Planting palette



FINAL DRAFT

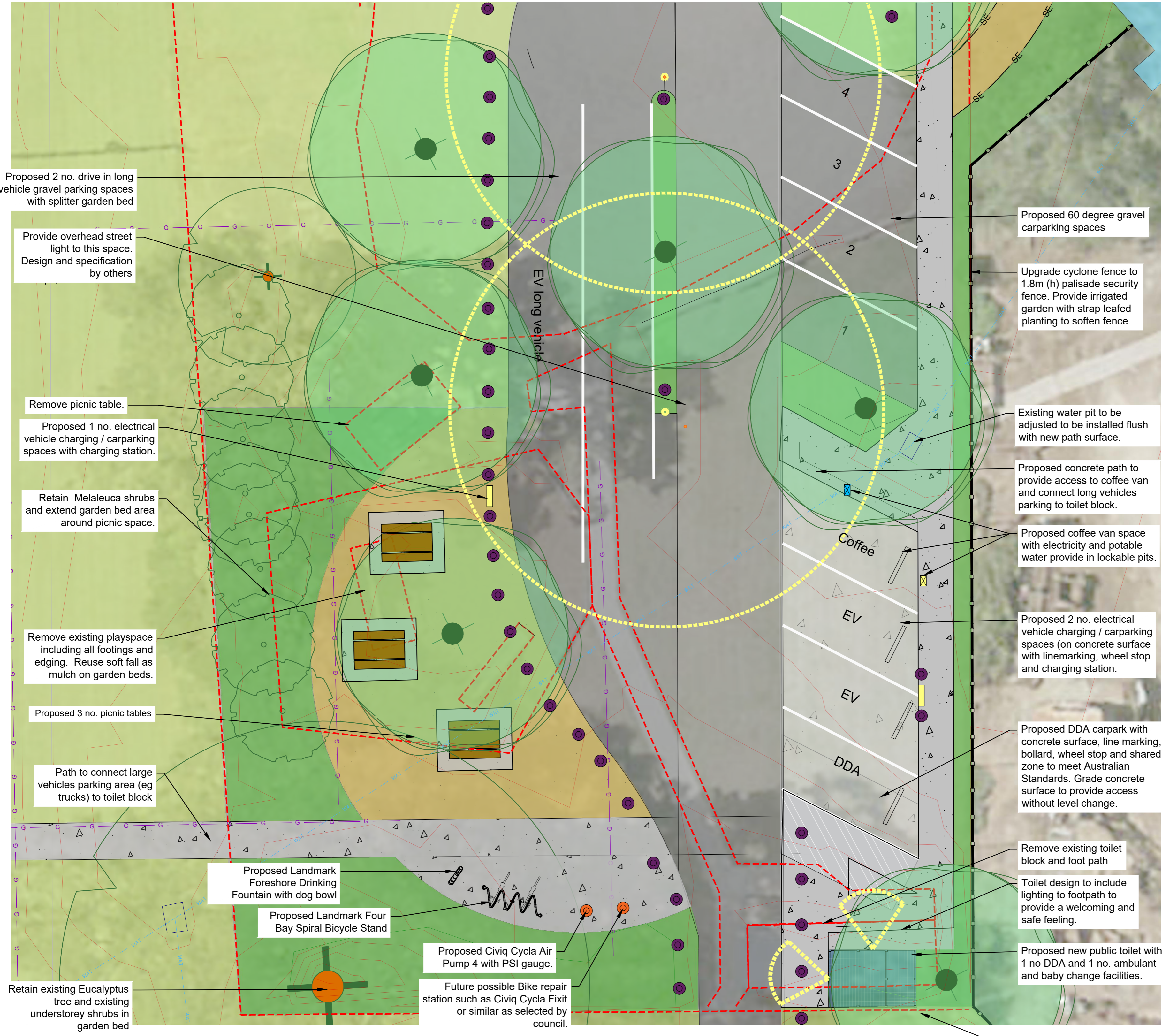


Project:
Mary Lawson Wayside Rest Area, Finley

Prepared for:
Berrigan Shire Council

Drawing Title:
Landscape Plan

Date: **23 May 2022**
Scale: **1:100 @ A1 sheet size**
Drawn: **GC / OJ**
Checked: **CR / DH**
Drawing No: **2069- LP03**



LEGEND

EXISTING

- Existing contours at 0.1m intervals
- Existing tree to be protected and retained
- Existing shrub to be removed
- Existing fence to be protected and retained
- Item to be removed / demolished including all footings.
- Existing windmill

PROPOSED

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- Compacted granitic sand surface
- 1.8m high security fence i.e. palisade
- Steel edge
- Proposed trees
- Lawn to match existing
- Garden bed with timber mulch
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SERVICES

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- Water
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Electrical note:
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Landmark product - Sandford Drinking Fountain with dog bowl



Landmark product - San Remo Picnic Setting with hardwood timber slats



Landmark product - San Marco seat with hardwood timber slats and armrest



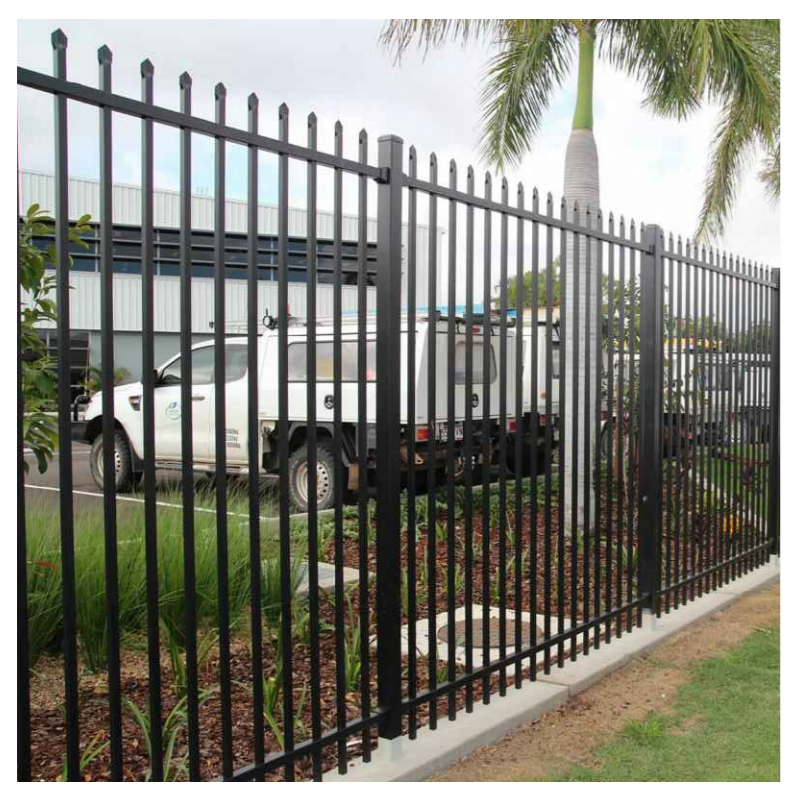
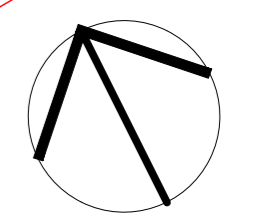
Civiq Cycla - Air Pump 4 with PSI gauge



Future possible Bike repair station such as Civiq Cycla Fixit or similar as selected by council.

Note
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FINAL DRAFT



Palisade fence example



Prefabricated Modus Australian Yarra-3 toilet building with DDA, ambulant and unisex access.



Precedents of kerbless DDA carping



Regional NSW charging stations



Regional NSW charging stations

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Date: 23 May 2022
Scale: 1:100 @ A1 sheet size
Drawn: GC / OJ
Checked: CR / DH
Drawing No: 2069- LP04

THOMSON HAY
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Q1 What elements need upgrading? Are there any parts of the rest that don't work well?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 1

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Toilet block needs an upgrade, not huge, just 1 x more cubicle per side. Perhaps better signage to encourage vehicles to drive in and around. Sometimes people have just no idea and they drive straight into the dead end, making it difficult for others to turn around as intended.	9/2/2021 8:25 PM
2	The children's play equipment, the rotunda shaped shelter birds sit on it's rafters so the seats covered with bird excrement, the dragline is hidden away in the Museum could become an interpretive feature, toilets hmmm, hard stand parking for truck drivers that use facilities in Tongs St, the rose garden is a bit unloved and answer the question who is Mary Lawson	9/2/2021 4:25 PM
3	Needs a clean up some more landscaping to add to the scenery. Possibly fencing	9/1/2021 1:51 PM
4	Upgrade playground to a more modern equipment but not bright colours to keep in with the historical feel. Give the museum more room to add & display. Perhaps a substantial water feature in the water. Car & caravan parking with a walking track that meanders through the nature strip along the railway to connect to Railway Park & shopping centre. Included in the walking track add more history boards to tie in with the ones that are (were?) already there.	9/1/2021 1:14 PM
5	Seems to need a general refresh all over. Children's play area upgrade, possibly with a surrounding fence, as close to busy highway	9/1/2021 11:30 AM
6	pc	9/1/2021 6:20 AM
7	Upgrade toilets & playground	9/1/2021 4:47 AM
8	The whole area needs upgrading.	8/31/2021 8:51 PM
9	Needs curb and guttering, upgrade the driveway, utilised and include the old railway area too, better parking for caravaners and travellers, needs more seating and another gazebo, this is the first rest area and is on the entrance to Finley from Tocumwal on the Newell Highway, display the beauty of Finley	8/31/2021 8:50 PM
10	Nothing much for people to stop for	8/31/2021 8:50 PM
11	Leave it alone, Spend the money where it is needed	8/31/2021 8:44 PM
12	Toilets	8/31/2021 8:36 PM
13	Entry sign	8/31/2021 8:29 PM
14	needs curb and guttering, sealed driveway, needs nice sitting area with table and seats, the gazebo needs bird proofing as they roost & sit in the rafters and poop all over the table,	8/31/2021 8:20 PM
15	Use of space	8/31/2021 6:57 PM
16	remove bats	8/31/2021 6:47 PM
17	The whole layout of the area needs upgrading. Most definitely a nicer toilet facility and better stopping bays for caravans and trucks as Caltex is just across the road	8/31/2021 6:11 PM
18	Great opportunity to purchase vacant land at the back to complete following 1: destination playground and rest area for interstate travellers accomodating intergenerational play elements 2: re landscape area around dam to provide sensory playground and dog walking space	8/31/2021 6:05 PM
19	Better signage about toilets and children's park from the highway. Better seating and room for caravans and cars to park.	8/31/2021 6:00 PM
20	The toilets don't have enough lighting. Looks very dim and scary at night when wanting to use the facility	8/31/2021 5:56 PM

Mary Lawson Wayside Rest Revitalisation

21	It's empty and seating needs replacing it's covered in bird poo	8/31/2021 2:23 PM
22	All of it.	8/31/2021 2:16 PM
23	Not a good place to encourage parents to stop with young children ,right next to the highway better to stop at Memorial Park where it's fenced. Up grade the toilet block but don't put in the horrid tin shed toilets . Use the spot for people traveling with caravans maybe have a sump waste collection point.	8/31/2021 2:09 PM
24	Play equipment	8/31/2021 1:43 PM
25	The whole area needs up dating	8/31/2021 1:20 PM
26	I think it is generally pretty good as it is.	8/31/2021 1:16 PM
27	This whole area need upgrading especially the water area. It used to be fantastic	8/31/2021 12:56 PM
28	More native shade trees. Drinking water.	8/31/2021 11:59 AM
29	It would be nice to have some more seating & upgraded toilets.	8/31/2021 11:52 AM
30	Playground equipment, BBQ and seating.	8/31/2021 11:30 AM
31	Toilet block	8/31/2021 11:30 AM
32	The rotary sign that says "Mary Lawson wayside rest" it's all faded and old.	8/31/2021 10:55 AM
33	The internal roadway needs to have a focus on the lake. The Museum needs to be more of a feature and open more often. It needs color in planting as it looks drab	8/31/2021 10:03 AM
34	The fencing, outdoor settings. Make it tourist friendly with some modern upgrades	8/31/2021 9:56 AM

Q2 What do you like about MLWR? Is there anything you think needs to stay?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 1

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The naturalistic environment	9/4/2021 7:05 PM
2	The long parking bay is the best part. Plenty of room is key. Access to the historical section should stay.	9/2/2021 8:25 PM
3	I like the grassed areas and the story about the Indian trader	9/2/2021 4:25 PM
4	Trees provide nice shade, overall the scenery is nice.	9/1/2021 1:51 PM
5	Beautiful shady trees & pleasant spot to sit & picnic.	9/1/2021 1:14 PM
6	The picnic tables, toilets, trees	9/1/2021 11:30 AM
7	yes	9/1/2021 6:20 AM
8	The trees most definitely	9/1/2021 4:47 AM
9	The whole area needs to be modernised.	8/31/2021 8:51 PM
10	It is a peaceful and beautiful with nice trees, improve the water area with a pier,	8/31/2021 8:50 PM
11	Needs upgrading	8/31/2021 8:50 PM
12	Everything needs to stay, Shire need to stay away, they have built enough white elephants around the shire as it is	8/31/2021 8:44 PM
13	Lovely and shady- trees are lovely	8/31/2021 8:36 PM
14	Toilets of some sort	8/31/2021 8:29 PM
15	it is the entrance and the first rest area to Finley from Tocumwal direction so it needs to be welcoming and inviting for travellers and caravanners, it also would be good to have good parking because of the log cabin is an asset to Finley and the Car Club use this park too.	8/31/2021 8:20 PM
16	Museum	8/31/2021 6:57 PM
17	I think the tree's & play equipment should stay	8/31/2021 6:11 PM
18	I guess the museum?	8/31/2021 6:05 PM
19	Having toilets at the rest stop	8/31/2021 6:00 PM
20	I do like that it has space for caravans to drive in one way and be able to drive out the other end of the park without needing to turn etc. I think this is a great idea. I think the water feature of the park is under utilised! Nothings going to outshine the Finley lake in terms of body of water	8/31/2021 5:56 PM
21	You can't access the water due to snakes and the fencing but it would be a nice picnic area	8/31/2021 2:23 PM
22	Nothing	8/31/2021 2:16 PM
23	The side road entry to the toilets next to Murray Goulburn is good for a quick dash to the toilets	8/31/2021 2:09 PM
24	Great space to park	8/31/2021 1:43 PM
25	Need to start again	8/31/2021 1:20 PM
26	There is a significant sized colony of flying foxes that use the large deciduous trees over summer. Additionally, there are a resident colony of nankeen night-herons (about 20) who have	8/31/2021 1:16 PM

Mary Lawson Wayside Rest Revitalisation

lived in the willow trees hanging over the water for many, many years. Don't cut these trees out.

27	Play equipment is ok and so are the toilets	8/31/2021 12:56 PM
28	Size.	8/31/2021 11:59 AM
29	It's a good rest stop.	8/31/2021 11:52 AM
30	Shady trees, toilet block not far away.	8/31/2021 11:30 AM
31	History of the rest, willow trees and the old windmill	8/31/2021 11:30 AM
32	Tables and chairs, toilets, kids play equipment.	8/31/2021 10:55 AM
33	The little lake/pond. Its size. Playgrond equipment needs upgrading and offer something different to all the other new play equipment in BS.	8/31/2021 10:03 AM
34	The beautiful big trees should stay I love this area meeting my bike friends but needs upgrading definitely (modernising)	8/31/2021 9:56 AM

Q3 We are looking at a potential playground upgrade. Are there any key features or themes which you think should be included?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 1

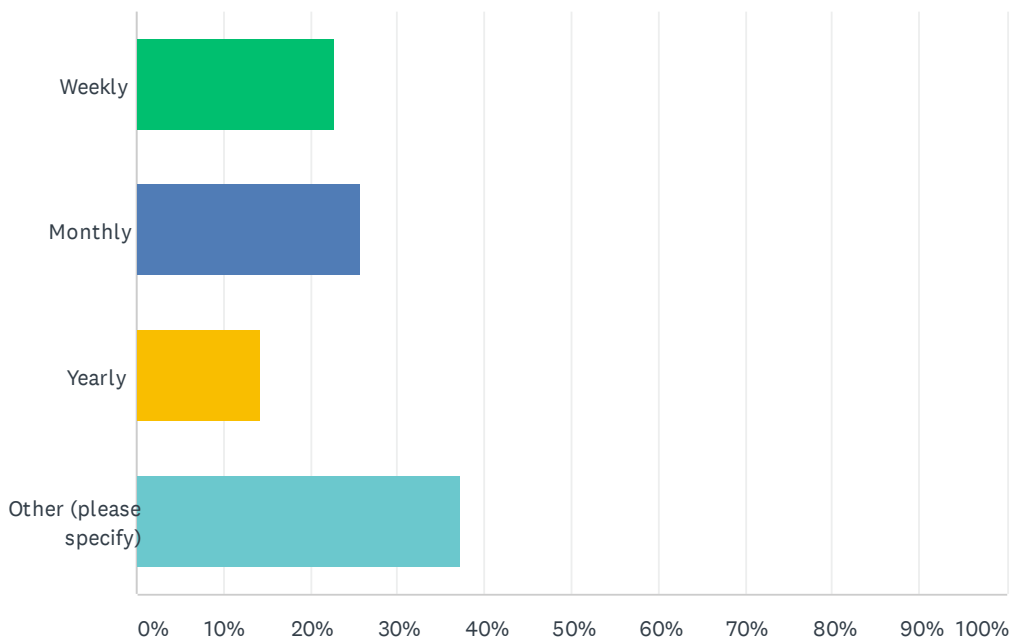
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	EXCLUDE horrible plastic fantastic structures such as the ones put into the TOCUMWAL foreshore. Design toward natural renewable and plastic free materials	9/4/2021 7:05 PM
2	The area relies heavily on irrigation. Perhaps an irrigation wheel could be implemented to not only be part of the playground fun, but also educate users.	9/2/2021 8:25 PM
3	Nature based play	9/2/2021 4:25 PM
4	Swing set and monkey bars	9/1/2021 1:51 PM
5	Keep it in with the historical feel of the park. No bright colours. Use timber & steel	9/1/2021 1:14 PM
6	As I entered above a surrounding fence, equipment suitable for a range of ages.	9/1/2021 11:30 AM
7	new	9/1/2021 6:20 AM
8	slide, swings are a must	9/1/2021 4:47 AM
9	A new playground, new shelter and BBQ area.	8/31/2021 8:51 PM
10	The galleon, Spiderbait heritage to finley, mural	8/31/2021 8:50 PM
11	Splash Park like Tocumwal Flying fox	8/31/2021 8:50 PM
12	Nothing	8/31/2021 8:44 PM
13	Splash park	8/31/2021 8:36 PM
14	N/a	8/31/2021 8:29 PM
15	the playground is not of great interest to me but to make it family orientated would be a great benefit	8/31/2021 8:20 PM
16	Splash Park	8/31/2021 6:57 PM
17	Finley needs a bit more going for it. Toc for example is thriving because they have places people want to explore. If you have something similar for younger families to enjoy I think you would get a lot more attraction. Or even a botanical gardens and the same set up as barooga	8/31/2021 6:11 PM
18	Intergenerational play elements Climbing wall/feature Adventure theme	8/31/2021 6:05 PM
19	big net swing	8/31/2021 6:00 PM
20	More aboriginal art!! I think it's be great to have a history board especially since the established park is next to the museum! Would be great for people to look at when the the museum isn't open!	8/31/2021 5:56 PM
21	Something for older kids instead for toddlers all the time	8/31/2021 2:23 PM
22	More seats	8/31/2021 2:16 PM
23	No play ground not next the the hwy better location is the memorial park it's fenced	8/31/2021 2:09 PM
24	Water park	8/31/2021 1:43 PM
25	I maintain the play area doesn't get used much	8/31/2021 1:20 PM
26	No, maybe some softfall.	8/31/2021 1:16 PM
27	Something a bit more modern	8/31/2021 12:56 PM

Mary Lawson Wayside Rest Revitalisation

28	Shade and seating. Use recycled materials.	8/31/2021 11:59 AM
29	Equipment for smaller children would be good. 3 years to 10 years.	8/31/2021 11:52 AM
30	New swings, water park, sensory garden	8/31/2021 11:30 AM
31	History of the rest an how it's been a part of the Finley community.	8/31/2021 11:30 AM
32	A small flying fox, something tied into the log cabin?	8/31/2021 10:55 AM
33	Let's just make it different. Not sure what is trending but lets be different, colourful and visible	8/31/2021 10:03 AM
34	Bike repair station, bike rack. Time to make areas bike friendly again please	8/31/2021 9:56 AM

Q4 How often do you visit MLWR?

Answered: 35 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Weekly	22.86%	8
Monthly	25.71%	9
Yearly	14.29%	5
Other (please specify)	37.14%	13
TOTAL		35

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Never. I'm from Tocumwal.	9/4/2021 7:05 PM
2	50 plus year of visiting & driving past every day	9/1/2021 1:14 PM
3	Drive past on a regular basis.	9/1/2021 11:30 AM
4	now only as required, my children are older now	9/1/2021 4:47 AM
5	I have lived in Finley since 2007. I have never been there.	8/31/2021 8:51 PM
6	No reason to go there at the moment	8/31/2021 8:50 PM
7	When I visit the museum, I suppose the Shire want to destroy that as well	8/31/2021 8:44 PM
8	only for photo shots	8/31/2021 6:47 PM
9	I don't normally visit this location. I actually go to the Finley lake a lot for walking my dog! But I do drive past a lot	8/31/2021 5:56 PM
10	Never	8/31/2021 2:16 PM
11	Every week when we lived there	8/31/2021 1:43 PM

Mary Lawson Wayside Rest Revitalisation

12	live in town	8/31/2021 11:30 AM
13	Every time I return to Finley, it's full of memories for my family and I, my mum had a nursery across the road.	8/31/2021 11:30 AM

Q5 Any other comments or thoughts around the revitalisation?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 9

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Focus on eco friendly, indigenous and endemic plant design. Not cheap and trend based design that will date. Consider the design of the parkland along the river at Mildura as a design influence. It is a simple yet sophisticated and naturalistic development.	9/4/2021 7:05 PM
2	Access from , and back onto the highway must remain easy as it is now.	9/2/2021 8:25 PM
3	Great to see a long standing park on the list for a facelift.	9/1/2021 1:14 PM
4	This area always has someone there: locals eating lunch, travelers stopping for a cuppa, families having a break and others walking their pets. A big display of what is available in Finley (as there is a lot of history etc) on map of the town, lake, museums, food etc. Even if they are just stopping off this time, may make time next time to look around. A restful, calming, memorable place to stop??	9/1/2021 11:30 AM
5	good	9/1/2021 6:20 AM
6	Put some toilets in at the skatepark. It's ridiculous.	8/31/2021 8:51 PM
7	Make it happy and inviting, highlight the nice big trees	8/31/2021 8:50 PM
8	Splash Park needed for Finley everyone leaves here to go to Tocumwal or Barooga	8/31/2021 8:50 PM
9	If the shire has money to waste, how about some silo art to enhance that area, or is that asking to much	8/31/2021 8:44 PM
10	The big trees did have a big colony of flying foxes which did have a very uninviting smell which made you worry about catching something	8/31/2021 8:20 PM
11	Make museum area bigger, maybe reclaim some waterhole land?	8/31/2021 6:57 PM
12	whats the plan you have	8/31/2021 6:47 PM
13	N/A	8/31/2021 6:11 PM
14	Native floral plantings to bring native bird species back	8/31/2021 6:05 PM
15	I think this area is under-utilised by the locals! I personally would go to the lake rather than this end of town as this parks water feature isn't always the greatest. I think the area should be given a face lift by turning it into a botanical garden! Allow the already existing road/park/museum to stay in place and work around making the current trees and body of water more presentable. There's also the idea of putting a small cage into the plan as I'm sure it's get plenty of coffee buessines from travellers or people enjoying the new garden ☺ ☺ ☺	8/31/2021 5:56 PM
16	Toilets and parking improvements	8/31/2021 2:23 PM
17	It's a waste of land. Keep the playground and toilets and Museum. Get rid of the rest.	8/31/2021 2:16 PM
18	Don't lose the charm of this place by to much generic modification sometimes less is more	8/31/2021 2:09 PM
19	In despert need of up grade splash park my be	8/31/2021 1:20 PM
20	Please leave the big trees as they are. There hardly any trees left in Finley, it's becoming a moonscape. It's unbearably hot in summer. Plant some more native trees if it's landscaped, enough of the ornamental pears.	8/31/2021 1:16 PM
21	No	8/31/2021 12:56 PM
22	Information signage targeted at kids explaining the area.	8/31/2021 11:59 AM
23	Make it practical, yet purposeful for community and travellers alike.	8/31/2021 11:30 AM
24	Would be very good to see it revitalised, especially the rotary sign. Maybe a little plaque	8/31/2021 10:55 AM

Mary Lawson Wayside Rest Revitalisation

regarding the history? Why it's called the Mary Lawson wayside rest (I don't know if there is any particular reason)

25	Create a cool green environment to make it really attractive for a stopover. It can so often be a hot place in the middle of Summer so to create an oasis would be great. Thanks for all the open space upgrade that you have been doing over the past few years.	8/31/2021 10:03 AM
26	I feel the toilets could be removed and rebuilt to more modern clean friendly ones as they get well used.	8/31/2021 9:56 AM

Q6 Do you know any information around who Mary Lawson was?

Answered: 32 Skipped: 3

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Not really	9/4/2021 7:05 PM
2	No.	9/2/2021 8:25 PM
3	No.	9/1/2021 1:51 PM
4	It is named after NSW MP Joe Lawson's wife, Mary. Joe was educated & worked in Deniliquin prior to becoming a politician. As to why the park was named after her, I'm not sure	9/1/2021 1:14 PM
5	Mary Lawson(Meillon) was the daughter of Joe Lawson member for Murray. She replaced her father, was the fourth woman elected to the legislative assembly and a Liberal Party Candidate.	9/1/2021 11:30 AM
6	like	9/1/2021 6:20 AM
7	No idea, but perhaps a board about her would be great	9/1/2021 4:47 AM
8	No.	8/31/2021 8:51 PM
9	No	8/31/2021 8:50 PM
10	Not sure	8/31/2021 8:50 PM
11	No	8/31/2021 8:29 PM
12	no,	8/31/2021 8:20 PM
13	Not really	8/31/2021 6:57 PM
14	she was a local from this area i was told	8/31/2021 6:47 PM
15	N/A	8/31/2021 6:11 PM
16	No	8/31/2021 6:05 PM
17	no	8/31/2021 6:00 PM
18	No	8/31/2021 5:56 PM
19	No enough information on this historic figure	8/31/2021 2:23 PM
20	No	8/31/2021 2:16 PM
21	No	8/31/2021 2:09 PM
22	No	8/31/2021 1:43 PM
23	Nope	8/31/2021 1:20 PM
24	A person who had significant investment in the well-being and health of children. She was a pioneering woman for her time. Playgrounds and outdoor play spaces are a testament to the good work she did.	8/31/2021 1:16 PM
25	Have read the information boards several times	8/31/2021 12:56 PM
26	No	8/31/2021 11:59 AM
27	I have no idea - would love to find out more.	8/31/2021 11:52 AM
28	No, needs signage	8/31/2021 11:30 AM
29	Only what has been told to myself by my family and teachers of Finley public and high.	8/31/2021 11:30 AM
30	Nope, just suggested a plaque in last question for this reason	8/31/2021 10:55 AM

Mary Lawson Wayside Rest Revitalisation

31	None, sorry	8/31/2021 10:03 AM
32	Yes I do This is also a main passing point in our town and will encourage people to stop if driving by as finley does not offer this enough. Great job I hope something good comes from this survey	8/31/2021 9:56 AM



Rotary Club Of Finley

District 9790

Rotary Serves To Change Lives

President: Peter Bourke - Ph 0429 400-085 ³³⁷⁸³³
Secretary: Bert Wulz - Ph 0413 063 632

Po Box 173
Finley NSW 2713

19 November 2021

Berrigan Shire
PO Box 137
Berrigan NSW 2712

Attention: Enterprise Risk Manager

Re; Mary Lawson Wayside Rest Development of Concept Plan

Dear Michelle,

We refer to your letter dated 28. September 2021 and wish to advise that our club members would like to see a possible incorporation of the rose garden, windmill, wishing well and memorial stone into the new design of the area.

We are currently tending to the roses by regular watering and pruning.

We trust that the council will consider our request appropriately

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P. Rourke".

Peter Rourke



TOCUMWAL LIONS COMMUNITY HOSTEL

13th January, 2022

Karina Ewer

Chief Executive Officer

Berrigan Shire

56 Chanter Street

Berrigan NSW 2712

Dear Katrina,

The Tocumwal Lions Community Hostel recently purchased a small bus, we purchased this bus to take our residents on outings which they greatly appreciate and enjoy. This gives them an opportunity to see our beautiful countryside and not have to spend all the time at the hostel.

Our bus has a step which drops down to assist staff to safely get residents off the bus. Unfortunately they are unable to alight at the direct front of the hostel as the step from the bus step to the ground is too high.

Staff park the bus next to the kerb and assist residents across the grass on the nature strip to the pathway. Staff have found that it is very difficult to assist residents to walk across the grass, even though it is only a small area to cross, our residents are aged and many of them have difficulty lifting their feet high enough and there is a high potential risk for a resident to fall, injuring both themselves and a staff member.

Would the Berrigan shire please consider as a goodwill gesture concreting an area outside the hostel to ensure the safety of our frail aged care residents and our very valuable staff. Please advise us if you are able to assist.

Yours Sincerely

Jeff Hay

Manager

21-23 Jerilderie Street | PO Box 260

TOCUMWAL NSW 2714

Ph: (03) 5874 3650 | Fax: (03) 5874 3656 | Email: admin@tochostel.com.au

www.tocumwallionshostel.com.au

ABN: 98 082 499 143

Council Meeting

20 April 2022

8.15 Tocumwal Chamber of Commerce Request

Report by: Chief Executive Officer, Karina Ewer

Strategic Outcome: 2. Good government

Strategic Objective: 2.2 Strengthen strategic relationships and partnerships with community, business and government

Recommendation: The direction of the Council is sought.

Report:

Council has received a request from the Tocumwal Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) for consideration of ongoing support of their activities at the current Tocumwal Visitor Centre site. The letter is attached at "**Appendix 8.15-A**".

At the October 2021 Ordinary Council meeting, Council determined the following:

Karina Ewer (Chief Executive Officer)

– Visitor Information Centre

263 **Resolved** Crs Bruce and Jones that the Council do not pay the rent until it receives formal request to extend the agreement for Council to consider

In reality, Council ceased paying the rent at the end of the Agreement term with the Chamber, as staff did not have delegated authority to continue payments past the cessation date of that Agreement. Payment therefore did cease after the September account was paid.

It should be noted Council continue to pay for the phone and internet connection even though agreement was made between the President of the Tocumwal Chamber of Commerce and the Deputy CEO to cease that payment as at 28 February 2022. Given meetings with the Chamber had not yet occurred regarding the opening of Council's Visitor Centre as requested in the below resolution, those payments are continuing and currently cost Council just under \$100 per month.

7.12 Tocumwal Visitor Information Centre

21

Resolved Crs Cornwell-McKean and Hatty that:

1. the Council operates an accredited Visitor Information Centre (VIC) to represent the whole of the Berrigan Shire area in the Tocumwal Foreshore Building, staffed by Council employees and volunteers;
2. the Council allocates a budget for the employment of a Visitor Services Officer (2x Part-time = 1 FTE) and the initial set-up and ongoing operations and maintenance of a VIC;
3. the CEO with Councillor Paine and Hatty to engage with existing operator as per the ability to continue to operate in partnership rather than in competition.

The first meeting with the Chamber at the Tocumwal Visitor Centre was held on 15 February 2022. The President of the Chamber and a number of others were there, including Cr Ted Hatty and I. It was agreed at that meeting, that Cr Hatty would undertake some further investigations as to whether the research undertaken by Council staff was adequate and represented the views of the businesses, particularly in Tocumwal.

Cr Hatty did go to business in Tocumwal and found support for Council operating an accredited yellow "I" Visitor Centre was in fact at the rates reported in previous discussions as an outcome of the review of the Tourism Strategy (which is currently ongoing).

A second meeting was established with the Chamber on 23 March 2022 at which the new Secretary of the Chamber and a number of other members were present. At that meeting it was agreed Council and Chamber can work together as Council sees the opportunity of the current shop front remaining as it not only provides a different tourism product (the space is operated more as a travel advisory hub) but also provides point of sale space for local produce suppliers that would otherwise not be able to afford their own stand alone shop front.

Whilst the Chamber representatives did support the different focus of Council's centre, they also verbally requested Council consider what supports might be possible to keep the current facility operating at least until the Chamber is also able to recover its operations to full capacity following Covid.

The letter attached is a result of the discussion outlined above.

For Council to continue the funding provided in the past the below outlines the costs involved and impact to Council's budget.

Item	Item Rate	Annual Cost
Rent of the Railway Café	\$2,600 per quarter	\$10,400
Internet and Phone	\$100 per month	\$1,200
Total Current Operating Costs		\$11,600

Council usually also provides each of the Chambers \$1,000 to spend on Christmas activities. The only condition is that the Chambers write to Council to explain how they have spent the money (i.e. decorations, function, activities etc). Tocumwal Chamber did not notify Council of how their 2020 contribution was spent, hence they did not receive a 2021 contribution, though they were reminded on at least two occasions to provide one so Council could provide the 2021 contribution. This was not forthcoming.

Background Information

For Council to pay the rent etc at the current Tocumwal Visitor Centre, Council entered into an agreement with the Tocumwal Chamber of Commerce. At the August 2020 Ordinary Council meeting, the following was moved:

Resolution:¶

188 → Crs Jones and Glanville that the Council advise the Tocumwal Chamber of Commerce & Tourism that it will support the operation of the relocated Visitor Information Centre by providing a rental subsidy of \$200 per week and meeting the current level of internet and mobile phone services for a period of three years and subject to no material business or commercial operations being conducted from the site.¶

189 → **Amendment** Crs Bruce and Reynoldson that the Council advise the Tocumwal Chamber of Commerce & Tourism that it will support the operation of the relocated Information Centre by providing a rental subsidy of \$200 per week and meeting the current level of internet and mobile phone services for a period of one year with a review after that time and subject to no material business or commercial operations being conducted from the site.¶

¶

→ The amendment became the motion and when put as the motion was again carried.¶

¶

The letter subsequently sent to the Tocumwal Chamber of Commerce is attached at "Appendix 8.15-B".

It is believed, the intent of the above resolution was to ensure the Tocumwal Visitor Centre did not go into direct competition with other Tocumwal businesses who were not receiving Council support to operate. No complaints regarding the Visitor Centre practice of selling local produce have been received.

I am unaware of any further negotiations taking place that would have allowed for the selling of produce on the site.

It should be noted the selling of produce has become an integral part of the delivery model for the Tocumwal Visitor Centre and it is believed, an important point of sale for some local producers who would otherwise not have the opportunity to sell their produce through a shop front.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider what might be appropriate support to provide the Tocumwal Chamber of Commerce, remembering the expectation from other Chambers may be that the same level of financial support be offered to them.

Options

At this juncture it is felt Council have a number of options in relation to providing the assistance requested by the Tocumwal Chamber of Commerce to maintain their operations. These options are listed below:

1. That Council do not provide any further support to the Tocumwal Chamber of Commerce to support the operations of the Tocumwal Visitor Centre;
2. That Council continue to pay for only the phone and internet service provision for the next X years.
3. That Council continue to pay for the rent, phone and internet services for a period of x months (it could be that the amount reduces by a percentage over time)
4. That Council continue to pay for the (*services to be specified by Council*) for a period of X months (it could be that the amount reduces by a percentage over time)
5. That Council continue to support the operation of the Tocumwal Visitor Centre under formal agreement with the Tocumwal Chamber of Commerce for (a period set by Council)



Ref: KE:168

7 June 2022

Tocumwal Chamber of Commerce & Tourism
C/- The President, Sergio Redegalli
PO Box 8
TOCUMWAL NSW 2714

Via email: tocumwal.chamber@gmail.com AND elizmrcc@optusnet.com.au

Dear Sergio,

Visitor Information Centre – Request for Rent Relief

As per my letter dated 17 March 2022, Council resolved the following at its April Ordinary meeting.

8.15 Tocumwal Chamber of Commerce Request

103

Resolved Cr Cornwell McKean and Cr Paine that the Council:

1. Request additional information from the Tocumwal Chamber of Commerce and Tourism to support their request, including
 - a. detailed financial information from July 2021 to the present
 - b. information on their business model for their visitor servicing operations
2. Delegate authority to provide rental support to the Tocumwal Chamber of Commerce and Tourism from October 2021 until July 2022, or part thereof, to the Chief Executive Officer and Mayor, with any decision to be made after giving due consideration to the information provided to the Council
3. Advise the Tocumwal Chamber of Commerce and Tourism that rental support provided to the Tocumwal Chamber of Commerce and Tourism will be subject to the following conditions
 - a. Tocumwal Chamber of Commerce and Tourism must provide quarterly reports to the Council in an agreed format on the operation of their visitor services. The report will include information on financial performance of the service, activities undertaken and outcomes achieved against agreed benchmarks
 - b. Tocumwal Chamber of Commerce and Tourism must provide an acquittal for the \$1,000 in funding provided by the Council in December 2020 for Christmas activities
4. Direct the CEO and Mayor to provide a report to the Council on any decision made under the delegation above.

To that end, I have been in contact with Elizabeth Mitchell to gather the information requested. The receipt from the December 2020 Christmas decoration expenditure has since been received and the amount acquitted. Thank you.

I have however been provided with only a Balance Sheet in regard to the request for detailed financial reports in order to assess the Tocumwal Chamber of Commerce and Tourism's financial position. Provision of more in depth financial information was refused by Ms Mitchell on 28 April 2022 via email.

It should be noted, that when ratepayers apply for hardship, they must produce their current bank statements as evidence of that hardship. All other committees, when applying for grant funding through Council, or when requesting the waiving of fees and charges etc, must also produce detailed financial reports. The provision of this information allows Council to make an informed decision as to how Council is spending public money and how their provision of relief will assist the entity into the future.

A balance sheet provides only a third of the information needed to assess a financial position and as a result, a number of assumptions have had to be made and have been applied to this decision.

Based on the information in the balance sheet, it is clear that, without Council's support of the Tocumwal Chamber of Commerce and Tourism would have made a \$6,333 loss in the year to 30 April 2021. Because I have not been afforded the Profit and Loss, nor Cash Flow Statements as requested, I have been forced to assume that the monies paid by Council have been coded against the Toc Flyer Bank Account and rent paid from there. Without the two other financial reports however, I cannot see these transactions and follow their progress through your system. I am also forced to assume that had Council not been paying for the phone and internet service the current year's losses would increase by a further \$1,200, in both reported years.

Further, the Mayor and I have had to consider that there are a significant number of businesses facing similar circumstances and the only thing Council is legislatively able to offer them is hardship (i.e. rate relief – which is deferral and not waiving). That means these businesses will have to pay back their rates once they are able to be viable again.

Finally, I have received minimal information with regards to your business model nor plans for the future to ensure the business will be a viable, self-sustaining business post Council's assistance.

Decision

Mayor Matt Hannan and I, according to the motion noted above, have decided that Council will pay the arrears for your rent from September 2021 through to 30 June 2022. No further assistance can be made in good faith to the community as Council is not able to demonstrate either how previous monies have been spent, nor that the community's assistance of the Visitor Information Centre run by the Tocumwal Chamber of Commerce and Tourism would be able to be viable without Council's continued assistance into the future.



It should be noted, this decision will include the cessation of payments for your internet and phone accounts. The cessation of the phone and internet payments may however take a couple of months into the new financial year to finalise. Deputy CEO, Matt Hansen will contact you shortly with regards to the finalisation dates of those accounts.

I trust the above is of assistance to you. Please contact me on either telephone 0456 802 006 or email karinae@berriganshire.nsw.gov.au should you require further information.

Yours sincerely



Karina Ewer MBA, MCDR, MAHRI, MACID
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Matt Hannan
MAYOR



DISABILITY, ACTIVE AGEING & INCLUSION PLAN (DIAP)



Berrigan Shire 2022 - 2026



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This version of the Berrigan Shire Council’s Active Ageing and Disability Inclusion Plan is designed to provide other agencies, local businesses and residents with a comprehensive overview of the development of the Council’s Active Ageing and Disability Inclusion Plan 2022 – 2026 and the steps our community can take to support the inclusion of all residents irrespective of age or ability.

An [Accessible Version of this Plan](#) is available and can be accessed from the Berrigan Shire Council


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 **131 450**



Introduction

The Berrigan Shire's population is ageing and people over 60 years has increased in the past four years from 31% of the population to 36%. Similarly, the needs of younger residents and older residents requiring assistance with core activities and or assistance with mobility and dressing, based on 2016 Census data, is approximately 6.5%. An increase of 0.5% (2011).

This strategy identifies the steps the Shire and its communities' need to take and are taking to support ageing in-place and the inclusion of people with a disability. In doing so it also considers how the local economy, the amenity of our communities can be sustained and 'add' to all residents and visitors quality of life, health, and sense of inclusion in their local community.

The [New South Wales Disability Inclusion Act 2014](#) defines disability as:

the long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment which in interaction with various barriers may hinder the full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others

This Strategy reflects contemporary approaches toward disability, ageing, diversity and inclusion. It outlines how disability, active ageing, diversity and inclusion will be promoted by the Council through a focus on:

- Changing community and workplace attitudes and behaviours;
- Enhancing the liveability of our communities: represented by the built environment;
- Promotion of diversity, access to employment and inclusion for disabled and older workers; and
- The development of systems and processes that enable and promote inclusion of older residents (65+ years), their carers and younger people (0 – 65 years) with a disability.

This Strategy, in addition to the formal definition of disability described by the [Disability Inclusion Act 2014](#) recognises that a disability may be lifelong, chronic, short-term, age related, acquired, and impact sensory, cognitive, mental as well as physical abilities and mobility. Further, the needs and interests of children, adolescents, young adults, older adults with a disability are diverse.

This Strategy is a road map which aims to:

1. recognise the diversity of people irrespective of age, ability or disability.
2. facilitate and respond to this diversity using universal design principles¹
3. promote the application by the Council of universal access and design principles to the design of new services / assets or facilities and: wherever possible, and it is financially sustainable the Council will consider the application of these principles when it re-develops and or upgrades an existing facility or service
4. Require that these principles particularly the 'equitable use principle' is grounded in the view that design solutions should normalise assistive technologies – e.g.: disabled access at the main entrance to a building: design that is 'useful and marketable to all persons' e.g.: wider footpaths that allow cyclists, scooters and young families to walk two abreast.

¹ Specifically, how we design our, environments, programs and services consider that it is usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialised design. Universal design does not exclude assistive devices for groups of people with disability where this is needed. (Article 2 – Convention on the Rights of People with a Disability)

The review of this Strategy and refreshed [Disability Inclusion Action Plan](#) is informed by four focus groups held in each of our towns, a workshop held with Council staff and a survey of Shire residents.

In four parts this Strategy explores in Part I the policy context. It explores the steps other levels of government and the broader community are taking to influence the development of positive attitudes and behaviours, promote liveability, employment and support the development of systems and processes that promote diversity and inclusion.

Part II answers the question where are we now with respect to prevalence of disability and ageing in the Berrigan Shire and the broader region. Based on the 2016 Census it includes:

- Comparative analysis of social, economic and wellbeing data
- Feedback on the results of a survey and focus group consultation undertaken

Part III describes the current services accessed by and available to residents

Part IV outlines an [Active Ageing and Disability Inclusion Planning Framework](#) that will be used by Council to inform the actions Council will take to enhance in a financially sustainable manner the liveability and inclusion of all residents irrespective of age, disability and or ability.

Part I

Policy Context

In the past two decades significant work has been undertaken by the Commonwealth, State and Local Government throughout Australia and globally on the social and economic impact of an ageing population. According to the Commonwealth Government's 2021 Intergenerational Reportⁱ

Australia's greatest demographic challenge is the ageing population caused by increasing life expectancies and falling fertility rates. As the population ages, there will be fewer people of working age relative to the number of older Australians. This presents long-term economic and fiscal challenges, similar to those faced in most comparable countries.

The trend is attributed to advances in health, education and technology which have transformed how we live, access information, and receive services. There is therefore, from the perspective of the Commonwealth government significant scope for government at all levels to partner with business and local communities and in doing so make informed choices about how we support the continued participation of people of all abilities and during all life stages in the workplace and broader community.

In July 2012 a major reform program saw the

- The Commonwealth Government assume responsibility for the funding of Aged Care Services.
- Increased support for people to stay at home facilitated where practical by the uptake of e-health and adaptive technologies.
- Implementation of consumer directed care models – support package funds allocated directly to the consumer and not the service.
- Increased support to carers including respite and counselling services.
- New arrangements with respect to financing of residential care service.
- Workforce development reforms designed to attract and retain in the sector professional and qualified staff.
- Streamlining service coordination and consumer access to: primary health care, acute care, residential care and palliative care.
- Responding to projected increase in the need for dementia services as our population ages.

Eight years later and after a Royal Commission into Aged Care the government's response² accepted many of the recommendations of the Commission which includes system-wide reform of aged care. Reform that will be informed by consultation with senior Australians and other stakeholders, including members of the new Council of Elders and National Aged Care Advisory Council. Also, recommendations reviewing the funding model for community-based, in-home and nursing home care. Hence, the Royal Commission and its

² Aged Care Royal Commission: The Government's Response [australian-government-response-to-the-final-report-of-the-royal-commission-into-aged-care-quality-and-safety.docx](#)

recommendations will change in the coming years how health and associated aged care services are delivered.

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) scheme has two main elements:

- NDIS plans (individually funded packages) for eligible people with a disability, and
- Information, linkages and capacity building funded by the Community Inclusion and Capacity Development Program (CICD)

Both elements of the scheme are meant to contribute to the overall goal of the NDIS to enable people with disability to live an ordinary life. The first element transitioned the funding model from 'block' funding of organisations to an individual care package model designed to provide disabled people and their carers with the option of purchasing the service specific to their needs and circumstances.

The second element CICD is now concerned with ensuring that people with disability who are not eligible to take part in the NDIS can still live in a community that is inclusive and accessible. It is a grant program for agencies that successfully apply for grants to run a project designed to deliver the streams of the CICD program which include

- Individual Capacity Building Program
- National Information Program
- Economic and Community Participation Program
- Mainstream Capacity Building Program³.

³ Information Linkages and Capacity Building Plain English Program Guidelines 2019–20 to 2021–22
[Information, Linkages and Capacity Building \(ILC\) | NDIS](#)

NSW Government Ageing Strategy & Disability Inclusion Planning

Consistent with the Commonwealth's approach to ageing the New South Wales Government's [Ageing Well in NSW: Seniors Strategy 2021 – 2031](#) has four focus areas:

- Living in age-friendly environments
- Participating in inclusive communities
- Staying safe, active, and healthy
- Being resilient and informed (NSW Government, 2021)

In NSW the [Disability Inclusion Act 2014](#) required that public authorities develop a [Disability Inclusion Action Plan](#). NSW public authorities (government departments) and local councils now need to consider how mainstream services and community facilities can be accessible to people with a disability and in doing so strengthen the inclusiveness of NSW communities'.

The [NSW Disability Inclusion Plan 2021 - 2025](#) outlines the NSW Government's commitment to addressing the barriers which prevent people with disability from enjoying the same opportunities and choices as their friends, family and neighbours. It reflects also and is integrated with the [Australian National Disability Strategy](#) and our obligations under the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#).

The plan has four focus areas:

- Developing positive community attitudes and behaviours.
- Creating liveable communities.
- Supporting access to meaningful employment.
- Improving access to mainstream services through better systems and processes. (NSW Government, 2021a)

Local Government & Ageing NSW

It is the impact on local infrastructure and services, in particular the built environment, roads, pedestrian access, outdoor space, recreation facilities, transport and home care services which, as our population ages adds to the cost and the sustainability of local government and state government service delivery.

This is of particular concern for rural local government hamstrung by rate pegging, cost shifting by other levels of government, limited capacity to increase own source revenues, rising human resource expenditure and a foreseeable decrease in rate revenue: due to demographic shifts and community support for policies that defer rates payable by older residents, yet expect and need higher service levels.

Local Government and Disability Planning NSW

In response to the introduction of the [Disability Inclusion Act 2014](#) and Local Government NSW (LGNSW) in conjunction with the then Dept. Family and Community Services (FACS), the Office of Local Government (OLG), the NSW Disability Council and Council of the Ageing (COTA) developed guidelines to assist NSW Councils plan for and deliver services responsive to the needs of people with a disability. These guidelines provide a road map for Council to align their Disability Inclusion and Access Plans (DIAPs) with:

- A Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework; and in doing so
- Describe how our communities benefit from the inclusion of people with a disability in our communities, measure and evaluate the effectiveness of a Council's Inclusion Action Plan.

Figure 1 Overview Policy & Legislative Framework



Inclusive Communities

Local Government actions that promote an inclusive community

- Present an opportunity for Councils to contribute toward the social justice and inclusion outcomes described in their Community Strategic Plans;
- Establish a pathway for Councils to remove barriers for people with a disability and in doing so include members of their local community who may otherwise not be identified as disadvantaged;
- Present operational and economic benefits – future proofing Shire facilities and services from the costs that can result from retro-fitting facilities to meet changed expectations

In the context of the Berrigan Shire and the impact of the Shire's ageing demographic and relatively high disability prevalence rates investment in improving the accessibility is an action that will retain our population and attract new residents.

Lifelong Communities: Disability, Ageing in Place & Liveability

The notion of life-long communities incorporates disability, ageing in place and liveability. At an operational level it is an approach that looks to the built environment to support ageing in place. **Lifelong communities'** appeal to the young, people who are disabled and older residents. Lifelong communities have safe footpaths, and places of interest connected by a network of paths and trails. All of which support convenient access to shops and basic services.

Lifelong communities aim to:

1. Provide housing and transportation options,
2. Encourage healthy lifestyles, and
3. Seek to expand access to services

And for the most part these aims are achieved by actions which promote:

Connectivity – Providing the most options for getting from one place to another, reducing traffic and creating a viable street network for multiple modes of transportation

Pedestrian Access and Transit – Creating a vibrant streetscape, destinations worth walking to, connected and safe sidewalks and transit, both within the community and to regional hubs

Neighbourhood Retail and Services – Permitted within walking distances of housing to reduce auto travel, increase walkability and provide for sustainable community hubs

Social Interaction – Resulting from the provision of adequate green space, community centers, neighbourhood gardens and more

Diversity of Dwelling Types – Allowing individuals to remain within the community as their needs and preferences change

Healthy Living – Growing out of an environment that promotes physical activity (trails and bike paths), neighbourhood-scale groceries offering fresh fruits and vegetables and health clinics and medical offices within walking distance

Consideration for Existing Residents – Providing options for existing residents to remain in the community as development occurs (Keyes & Berger, 2013).

Closely linked to the notion of life-long community is the concept of liveable communities a focus area for disability inclusion.

Liveability, Universal Design & Age-Friendly Cities

This Disability Inclusion and Action Plan (DIAP) is grounded in a life course (life-long) approach which recognises that the developmental needs and interests of children, adolescents, young adults, older adults at each life stage are diverse irrespective of age, ability, or disability. Universal design principles, as noted previously are a mechanism we can use to respond to this diversity. Namely,

The design of products, environments, programs, and services are to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialised design. Universal design does not exclude assistive

devices for particular groups of people with disability where this is needed.

(United Nations, 2007)

The Council adopts a life-cycle approach to the management of its assets and will as part of this action plan investigate the extent to which it is financially sustainable and appropriate to apply these principles whenever it re-develops and or upgrades an existing facility or service.

Part I Summary

From this brief overview of government policy, legislative frameworks and contemporary perspectives about the social / economic impact of and opportunities associated with promoting disability inclusion and the impact on communities of an ageing population and the development of inclusive and accessible communities' common issues or themes include:

- Change in the delivery of services used by older residents
- Change in delivery of services to disabled and their carers
- The need to ensure our built environments facilitate movement (building access and transport active / passive) and social interaction
- Place based life course support an approach that supports diversity and social inclusion irrespective of disability, age, and level of mobility.

Part II

Demographic Overview

The Berrigan Shire (population 8,810⁴) is situated in the New South Wales' Southern Riverina or Central Murray planning region. It is bound to the south by the Murray River and the Victorian local government area of the Moira. It is a Shire characterised by its efficient and productive irrigation-based agriculture industry: historically rice and dairy, now diversity in annual grain crops, and Murray River based tourism.

Council boundaries encompass the towns of Barooga, Berrigan, Finley and Tocumwal. These towns act as service hubs for the Shire's population (median age 49 years), water-based agri-businesses, and agri-businesses in the neighbouring New South Wales Councils' of Edward River and Murrumbidgee.

The towns of Berrigan, Finley and Tocumwal also provide hospital facilities with acute care beds, emergency facilities and range of allied health services including maternal and child health. Early childhood services include: long-day care facilities in Berrigan, Finley and Barooga, with a soon to be opened long day care centre in Tocumwal.

Primary schools (public and private) are in the Shire's towns; secondary students from the Edward River Council community of Blighty and Murrumbidgee Council community of Jerilderie in addition to Berrigan Shire resident students also attend Finley High School.

A number of families also take advantage of the Shire's proximity to Victorian secondary schools – Cobram Secondary College, Cobram Anglican Grammar School (Cobram), Nathalia's St Marys of the Angels Secondary College; and Goulburn Valley Grammar School – Shepparton with approximately 40% of the Shire's secondary school age residents attending schools in Victoria.

Excellent recreational and sporting facilities e.g.: pools, golf, tennis, netball, equestrian, bowls etc. and licensed clubs are also located in each town.

The following tables provide a high-level snapshot of key social, economic and health indicators and paint a picture of the prevalence of disability and the demographic profile of ageing community. Responsible for higher than state average dependency rates, and contributing the view that Shire communities are relatively socially and economically disadvantaged evidenced also by below national levels of income and above country and state average levels of older and disabled residents.

⁴ id.data <http://profile.id.com.au/berrigan> accessed 24 May 2022

Table 1 Profile Berrigan Shire

LGA	Pop	Median Age	% of Pop. Provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability (last two weeks)	\$ Median Weekly Household Income	Pop 65+ years	% Pop 65+ years
Berrigan	8,462	49	11.9	967	2,425	28.7
NSW	7,480,231	38	11.4	1,237	1,217,646	16.2

Figure 2 Service Age Groups

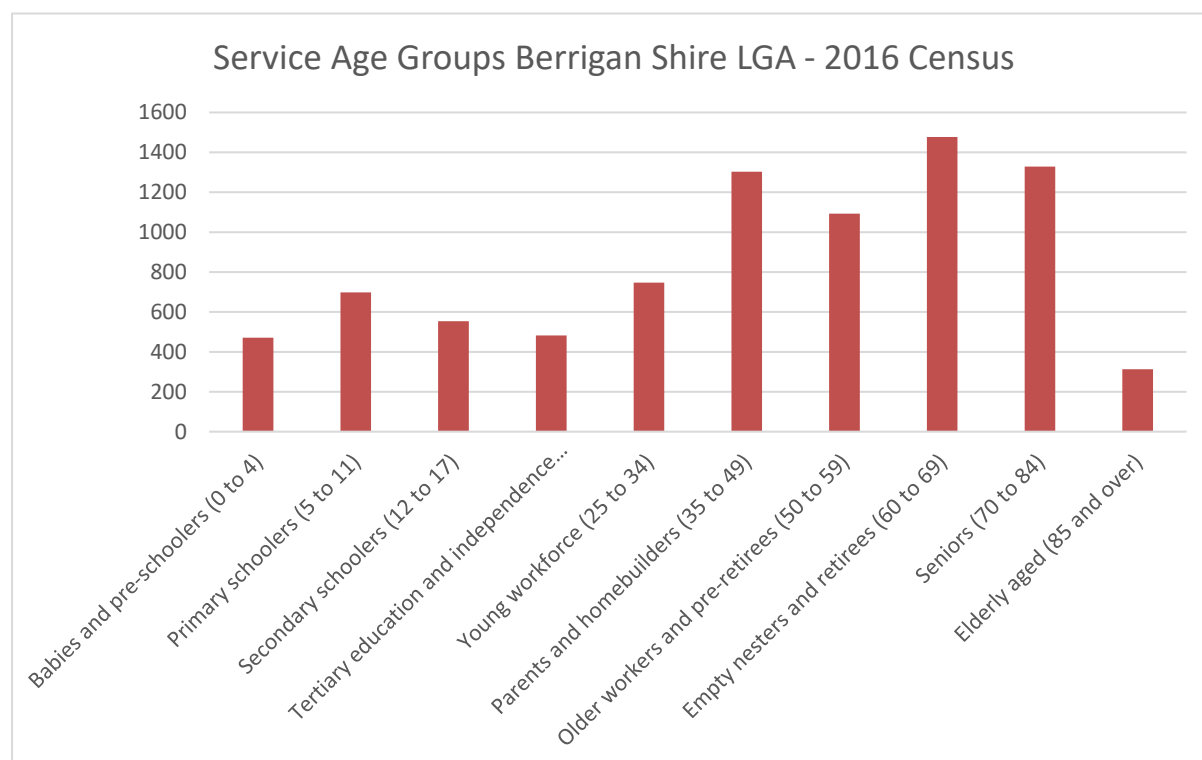


Table 2: SEIFA Index of Relative Advantage / Disadvantage x Postcode

Postcode		2006	2011	2016
Berrigan	2712	907	927	
Finley	2713	926	944	
Tocumwal	2714	946	937	
Cobram Barooga	3644	918	915	

ABS: SEIFA accessed

Table 3: Disability Related Income Support – Centrelink Berrigan To be Updated

Berrigan Shire	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Carers Payment	31	39	46	55	64	85	n/a
Disability Support Pension	300	309	307	330	349	359	378*
Newstart Allowance	168	154	188	171	206	224	268**
Jerilderie (Urban)							
Carers Payment						15	n/a
Disability Support Pension	48	45	50	48	48	68	49*
Newstart Allowance	28	24	28	28	23	34	20**

(Table Developed from: ABS 2010 Regional Profile; **ABS 2011 Regional Profile & *Hume Medicare Local Demographic Profile 2013)

Table 4 Mobility Parking Permits – Berrigan LGA Q1 2022

LGA	Population	TOTAL	MPS permit class		
			Individual	Organisation	Temporary
Berrigan*	8,810	498	410	27	2
Deniliquin	8,972**	369	357	11	1

*does not include Barooga – as it has a Victorian Postcode

**Edward River Council

Source: https://roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au/about/corporate-publications/statistics/registrationandlicensing/tables/table713_2022q1.html

Engagement Strategy

As part of the development of the Council's [Liveability and Healthy Ageing Strategy 2022 – 2026](#) and as part of the Council's rolling program of engaging communities in the review and development of its [Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plans](#), the development of its [Children, Young People and their Families Strategy 2019 – 2023](#), [Library Services Strategy 2020 – 2024](#), and now the development of this the Council's [Active Ageing and Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022 – 2026](#) feedback from residents, service users and local business, and non-government organisations continues to inform all Council planning.

Recognising the extensive program of engagement undertaken by the Council in the development of aforementioned strategies and based on a thematic analysis of narrative comments it is evident that the issues of concern to our communities as residents age have not changed substantively in the past four years. Notable though is distress older residents, persons with a disability and carers experienced due to border restrictions associated with COVID19 – highlighting the dependence of our communities on the services and support families provide even though they may live in Victoria.

Survey and Focus Group Results

The development of this DIAP is informed by the conduct of four separate community focus group sessions held in each of our towns, a survey, and a workshop conducted with Council staff. The focus groups conducted March 2022 were advertised via the Berrigan Jerilderie Community Services Network (BJCN), direct emails to service providers with the dates published on the Council's face book page and advertised as part of the Council's monthly bulletin. Unlike previous consultations undertaken the response was poor. A total of 8 people attended the four sessions. This may have been because older residents are not returning to face to face meetings or it may be a direct result of the withdrawal by specialist agencies from the Berrigan Shire in the past 4-years reducing referral pathways via the BJCN.

Table 5 Focus Group Attendance

Focus Group	Number
Berrigan	2
Finley	1
Tocumwal	0
Barooga	5

At Berrigan focus group the community member expressed their concern about the Council's footpaths and the difficulty they experienced crossing the road using a mobility scooter and the need for the Council to ensure that cars did not block the crossing points for scooters. Also in attendance at the Berrigan session was a local service provider who like the only attendee at the Finley session came to find out more about the services in the LGA. Both service providers highlighted how difficult it was to provide support for their clients.

The withdrawal of local Disability Service providers and the COVID19 shutdowns had led to a situation where there were no visible supports for their clients. COVID19 impacts were

identified by the Librarian at Tocumwal for the poor attendance at Tocumwal which in the past supported community consultations. Barooga reversed what had been a longstanding trend – limited engagement by the Barooga community. Attendees spoke of the difficulties experienced accessing services, information and support highlighting their dependence on Cobram and the profound impact of COVID19 border closures and being cut off from services had on their health and wellbeing. Food security was identified by this group as an issue as was housing, safety and security.

Focus groups attendees when asked what they thought would make the biggest difference if they had the opportunity to prioritise funding. The response to this question is described by Table 8 as is whether this is an action that the Council can take and or whether this action is the responsibility or currently undertaken by:

- Local community/business.
- Community or health services.
- Other levels of government.

Table 6 Disability Focus Group 2022

Q: If responsible for funding and prioritising Council or other services and supports which would you choose? What would make the biggest difference?

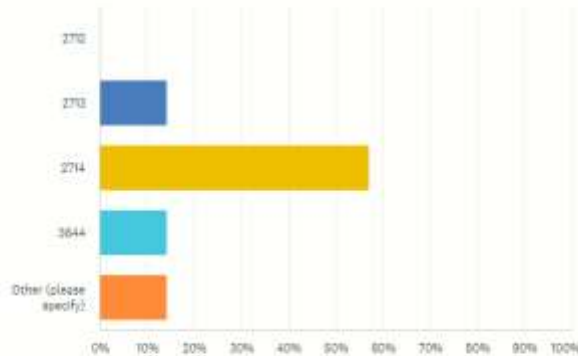
Prioritise or fund	Council Control	Local Community/ Businesses	Community or Health Services	Other Levels of Government
Advocacy – would make the biggest difference – with other levels of government, re: transport, how to access allied health services	✓		✓	✓
Local services – Support Services need to base their Workers in the community. Drive in Drive out does not work – particularly after COVID			✓	✓
Transport for older residents that is flexible and able to be used for social contact: taxi style			✓	✓
Funds should be directed to local services – we have lost too many services in the past four years		✓	✓	✓
Address issues with footpaths and public toilets – footpaths - primarily camber, steepness of some ramps; public toilets – privacy screens that hamper access; grab rails / toilet paper holders etc on only one side – many people experience difficulty if there is paralysis or weakness on one side	✓			
Information about the accessibility and inclusion - more information needs to be available about access at Council or community events	✓	✓	✓	
Disabled parking – width and location. Current parks are not well signed and many exposed to passing traffic: heavy vehicles	✓	✓		
Website and Publications: Information about services in each of our towns is not available. Libraries were a life saver during COVID lockdowns	✓		✓	✓

A follow up survey was open for a four-week period 21 April 2022 to 21 May 2022 was completed by 7 respondents compared to the 227 respondents (2017) when the Council previously reviewed its DIAP. The online link to the survey was advertised as part of the Shire Council’s monthly bulletin in the Cobram Courier and Southern Riverina News newspapers and via its website.

The results of the survey follow:

Postcode (Residential)

Answered: 7 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
2702	0.00% 0
2703	14.29% 1
2714	57.14% 4
3644	14.29% 1
Other (please specify)	14.29% 1
TOTAL	7

Like the focus group session, most respondents were from Cobram-Barooga although Tocumwal residents were represented in the survey results.

In response to the question ‘help us understand your experience’ 4 respondents had the lived experience and identified as a person with a disability, with 3 respondents identifying as a friend or family member of person with a disability. No ‘carers’ completed the survey.

Survey Comments

Not enough disability parking bays No ramps for access with shops with steps Another pedestrian crossing in Denliquin St and Rd

Unless you're on a disability pension, you don't seem to have access to any support services. Also unless you look like you have a disability, you don't get offered any support

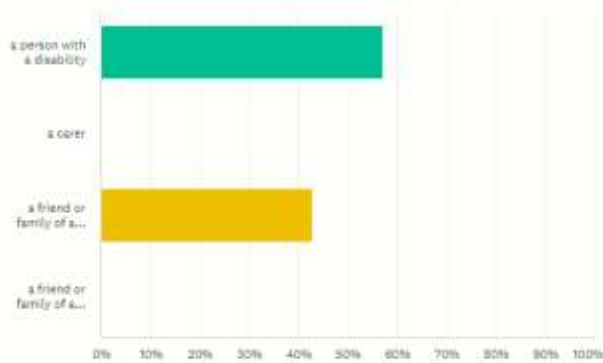
Day to day living e.g dressing, showering, laundry, cooking, groceries attending appointments or accessing medication have all become challenging and I would change all of these things. Don't know how though

Use gardeners and/or maintenance services

More information on Supports available and better access for carer's

To help us understand your experience are you

Answered: 7 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
a person with a disability	57.14% 4
a carer	0.00% 0
a friend or family of a person with a disability	42.86% 3
a friend or family of a person who is a carer	0.00% 0
TOTAL	7

In response to the survey question 'If you were responsible for planning and funding for Council services and supports to residents and visitors with a disability which would you choose (Choose three)' the results are described in the following Table.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Improvements to footpaths	57.14% 4
Assistance with hard waste collection and or assistance with moving bins, tip vouchers	14.29% 1
Information on local services that provide support and assistance for by disabled residents and their carers	42.86% 3
Hearing Loops in council faculties	0.00% 0
Library Services - home delivery of books, resources	0.00% 0
Installation of seats, shading Council parks and alongside footpaths	42.86% 3
Lower counters and or seating at counters in Council facilities	0.00% 0
Improve signage and location of disabled parking	14.29% 1
All events funded by the Council are accessible and inclusive of people with a disability	57.14% 4
Improve the accessibility of Council publications - print and online	14.29% 1
Council establishes a Disability Reference Group to provide advice about Council services used by and needed by disabled residents, visitors and carers	57.14% 4
Total Respondents: 7	

Council Focus Group

A cross-disciplinary focus group attended by the Council's Executive Management Team and operational staff with responsibility for liaising with the Council's Committees' of Management (pools, recreation reserves and halls), Council Libraries, customer service, rates and revenue team was also conducted and this group considered:

1. Council's current program of activities and services; and
2. Their experience of the supports older residents and the disabled residents needed when accessing Council services.

Of the staff in attendance customer service and library staff spoke of the difficulties many older residents experience with shift to online payments – portals promote by other levels of government. In particular, MyGov, Service NSW, MyAged Care and residents who needed to access the new online e-Planning service. All spoke of the time taken and the frustration experienced and that there was no consideration given by these agencies to how older or disabled residents would or could access their services. Issues that were present before COVID19 pandemic were exacerbated during lockdowns with the border permit system a source of significant stress for residents who were older or disabled.

Council services that could be improved included training for new staff – dementia training, mental health first aid and the accessibility of the Council's website as part of the upgrade of the Council's website and a rebranding project.

The issue of the Council's built environment was raised and staff confirmed that more needed to be done to embed the principles of universal design. Most noted that it was budget that often meant that even our new facilities did not always consider fully universal design features – just the cheapest compliant option.

The impact of half cost schemes on the review of the Council's Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plans was noted – as a constraint on their full implementation. The political costs associated with the Council's adherence to State Legislation that allows a Council to levy a charge for the cost of a footpath had negatively impacted one project – that would have increased connectivity and pedestrian access in Finley.

Actions suggested by Council staff by DIAP focus area follow.

Focus Area 1: - Positive Community Attitudes & Behaviours

Actions to be considered for inclusion in the DIAP

- Lead by example
- Use social media to promote positive attitudes
- Publish information about the accessibility of Council services
- Promote what the Council has done re: PAMPs and Public Building Access

Focus Area 2 – Liveable Communities

Actions to be considered for inclusion in the DIAP

- Revisit actions – with focus on Committees management of facilities
- PAMPs- include mapping

- Review the Council's Development Control Plan (DCP) and ensure that all new developments condition the construction of pedestrian access

Focus Area 3 – Access to meaningful employment

Actions to be considered for inclusion in the DIAP

- Accessible worksite where identified/related to JDA
- Pulse Surveys of staff to ask what we can do to support access to meaningful employment

Focus Area 4 – Improving access through better systems and processes

Actions to be considered for inclusion in the DIAP

- Consider change where appropriate or possible re: Plain English for Building, Planning, Bio-Security, Companion Animal, Public Health and Safety Notices
- Public buildings – and new works/upgrades to Council facilities to reflect best practice internal fit-out

Part III

Profile of Aged Care Services and Providers: Berrigan Shires

Noted in Part I, was that the provision of services to disabled residents and their carers and Shire residents as they age, further how they can be supported to remain in their home remains the subject of reform that will be overseen by the Commonwealth Government.

For many navigating and understanding the range of services and facilities and acronyms used to describe disability services, the introduction of NDIS and accessing aged care services is a challenge. The following table provides an overview of the type of service and who it is for. All requests for assistance and support must be directed through the My Aged Care website or call Call My Aged Care on 1800 200 422 or the NDIS website or by phone 1800 800 110.

Table 7: My Aged Care Portal

Type of Assistance	For ...	Accessing the Service
Help at home		
Commonwealth Home Support Programme	The Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) is an entry level home help program for older people who need some help with daily tasks to live independently at home.	Call My Aged Care on 1800 200 422
Home Care Packages Program	The Home Care Packages Program helps you live independently in your own home for as long as you can. The Australian Government provides a subsidy to an approved home care provider towards a package of care, services and case management to meet your individual needs	Call My Aged Care on 1800 200 422
Respite	Carers and family members looking after someone in their own home and who may need to take a short break from time to time.	Call My Aged Care on 1800 200 422
End of Life Care at Home includes nursing care – a qualified nurse domestic assistance – household jobs counselling personal care – help with bathing / dressing	Support for carers and individuals nearing the end of life	Call My Aged Care on 1800 200 422

Type of Assistance	For ...	Accessing the Service
Help at home		
Aged Care Homes		
Aged care homes assist with day-to-day tasks (such as cleaning, cooking, laundry); personal care (such as dressing, grooming, going to the toilet); or 24-hour nursing care (such as wound care, catheter care)	Support and accommodation for individuals and couples requiring varying levels of support with day to day tasks etc.	Call My Aged Care on 1800 200 422
Multi-Purpose Services for small rural and remote communities	Provides integrated health and aged care services for some small rural and remote communities	Call My Aged Care on 1800 200 422

Aged Care Service providers located in the Shire include:

[Amaroo Aged Care](#)

51-53 Davis Street, Berrigan
PH 03 5885 2731

[Finley Regional Care](#)

26 Dawe Avenue
Finley
PH 03 5883 9600

[Tocumwal Lions](#)

[Community Hostel](#)
21 – 23 Jerilderie Street
Tocumwal
PH: 03 5874 3650

Table 9 describes the NSW based funded Disability Service providers that previously provided services to carers and disabled adults and which were once located in the Berrigan Shire. At the time of writing this DIAP only Intereach continue to provide any social services operated from an office based in the Berrigan Shire. Notwithstanding, the maintenance by Intereach of a local presence the number of staff and the hours allocated to the delivery of disability and mental health service in the Berrigan Shire has reduced in the past four years – as the funded agencies balance service provision, staffing and funding across a spatially expanded footprint.

New 'private' service providers now outreach to the Berrigan Shire with one professional who attended a focus group noting that they chose not to disclose their profession at social events because the need for Occupational Therapy and Early Intervention Services was so great that they would be overwhelmed. Because of this they chose to specialize in aged care where there was more support suggesting that allied professionals and disability-focused services do not advertise – or do not need to advertise as local supply cannot meet demand.

Table 8 Past Disability Service Providers (Services withdrawn 2017 – 2021)

[Yallambee - Kurrajong](#)

Lifestyle Choices
Kurrajong Social
Enterprises

[Intereach](#)

Planning and Support Service
New Access – Mental Health
Service
Ability Links

[Centacare SW NSW](#)

Personal Helpers and
Mentors Program
2 Coree Street
Finley

142-144 Napier St,
Deniliquin NSW 2710
03 5881 2624

*Kurrajong had taken on
the provision of Early
Intervention Services –
when this service had been
relinquished by the Council
due to system reform

ROAR – Mental Health Adolescent
Commonwealth Home Support

Riverina Murray Commonwealth
Respite Care Link
Trickett Street, Deniliquin
Ph: Toll free 1300 488 226

Ph:02 6051 0222

Hume Partners in
Recovery
2 Coree Street
Finley
03 58 834 870|
Mobile 0417 247 946

Disability Advocacy & Information Service

132 Melbourne Road, Wodonga

Ph: 02 6056 2420 OR 1300 886 388 (local call cost - NSW and VIC only) Service has
always outreach to Berrigan LGA

Part IV

Active Ageing & Disability Inclusion Framework & Action Plan

Council's [Active Ageing and Disability Inclusion Framework](#) promotes and supports actions that contribute toward

1. Disable residents and older people leading active and rewarding lives as valued members of the community
2. A whole of Council response to liveability and inclusion ensuring that individuals using Council services are supported to do so irrespective of cognitive, physical, or sensory impairment and that all life-stages the economic independence and social wellbeing of disabled and older residents is supported

Active Ageing & Disability Inclusion Plan Themes and Outcomes	...contributes to Berrigan Shire 2032 outcomes	... contributes to NSW Disability Inclusion focus area
Moving: Safe paths, parks, and travel in, around, and between our towns.	Sustainable natural and built landscapes	Liveable Communities
Employment: A workplace where all employees experience meaningful employment	Good Government	Meaningful Employment Systems and processes Attitudes and behaviour
Inclusion: All residents including disabled; older residents and their carers get the services they need to engage with their community	Supported and engaged communities	Liveable Communities Systems and processes Attitudes and behaviour
Growing: A vibrant community that makes Berrigan Shire a great place to live, work, play and grow old	Diverse and resilient business	Attitudes and behaviour Meaningful Employment Liveable Communities

<p>Berrigan Shire 2032 Strategic Objective: 1.1 Support sustainable use of our natural resources and built landscapes 1.3 Connect and protect our communities</p>
<p>Delivery Program Objective: 1.1.1 Coordinate strategic land use planning 1.3.1 Coordinate flood levee, council transport network, storm water asset management and planning</p>
<p>Disability Inclusion Focus Area: Liveable Communities</p>
<p>Active Ageing & Disability Inclusion Plan Theme: Moving</p>

Active Ageing & Disability Inclusion Plan Outcome: Safe paths, parks, and travel in, around and between our towns					
What we want to do	How are we going to do it?	What will be the outcome	Lead Responsibility	Cost/Other Resources	Commencing
Review Transport Asset Management Plan	<p>Review life cycle cost of walkways</p> <p>Identify total maintenance and capital renewal costs associated with maintaining existing service levels and legislation</p> <p>Consult with our communities on funding strategies to enhance accessibility for all users</p> <p>Investigate location and signage requirements Disabled Parking</p>	Safer paths and travel on roads in and between our towns	Director Infrastructure		<p>2024/2025</p> <p>2023/24</p>

Active Ageing & Disability Inclusion Plan Outcome: Safe paths, parks, and travel in, around and between our towns

What we want to do	How are we going to do it?	What will be the outcome	Lead Responsibility	Cost/Other Resources	Commencing
Extend and upgrade pedestrian access to open space, public buildings and retail centres	Review in consultation with users and Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plans (PAMPs)	All abilities pedestrian access in and between open space, public buildings and retail centres	Director Infrastructure		2023/2024
Include in the Council's Development Control Plan (DCP) a requirement for footpaths	As part of a planned review of the DCP	All new residential and retail developments will facilitate and promote pedestrian access and mobility	Director Strategic Planning and Development		2022/2023
Improve the walkability of our towns and local access to services	Consider as part of the planning process for new sub-division opportunities to extend walkability and access to services	New developments extend the walkability of our towns and local access to services	Director Strategic Planning and Development		2022/2023

<p>Berrigan Shire 2032 Strategic Objective: 2.1 Berrigan Shire 2032 objectives and strategic actions facilitate the effective governance by Council of Council operations and reporting</p>
<p>Delivery Program Objective: 2.1.1 Council operations, partnerships and coordination of resources contribute toward implementation of Berrigan Shire 2032</p> <p>2.1.2 Meet legislative requirements for Council elections, local government and integrated planning and reporting</p> <p>2.1.3 Council operations and financial management support ethical, transparent and accountable corporate governance</p>
<p>Disability Inclusion Focus Area: Meaningful Employment Systems and processes Attitudes and behaviour</p>

<p>Active Ageing & Disability Inclusion Plan Theme: Employment: A workplace where all employees experience meaningful employment achieved through change in systems and processes; and attitudes and behaviours</p>					
What we want to do	How are we going to do it?	What will be the outcome	Lead Responsibility	Cost/Other Resources	Commencing
Promote access and opportunities for meaningful employment by disabled persons and older workers	Internal review and integration of this Plan / Policy with Disability Inclusion Plan	Workplace Inclusion and Diversity Action Plan	Deputy CEO		2024/2025
Improve the accessibility of corporate communications	As part of the planned re-brand of the Council's corporate communications	Accessible and identifiable plain english corporate communications	Communications Officer	Social Media Platforms	Ongoing

Active Ageing & Disability Inclusion Plan Theme: Employment: A workplace where all employees experience meaningful employment achieved through change in systems and processes; and attitudes and behaviours

What we want to do	How are we going to do it?	What will be the outcome	Lead Responsibility	Cost/Other Resources	Commencing
Implement Active Ageing and Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022 - 2026	Monitor implementation and continuous improvement of Active Ageing and Disability Inclusion Plan 2022 – 2026 Quarterly Reporting Annual Report	Inclusive workplace and communities Consumer participation is promoted in the planning and development of facilities and services	Director Strategic Planning and Development		Ongoing

<p>Berrigan Shire 2032 Strategic Objective: 3.1 Create safe, friendly and accessible communities 3.2 Support community engagement through life-long learning, culture and recreation</p>
<p>Delivery Program Objective: 3.1.1 Build communities that are home to more families and young people 3.1.2 Facilitate all age healthy lifestyles and ageing in place 3.1.3 Strengthen the inclusiveness and accessibility of our community</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">3.2.1 Provide opportunities for life-long learning, cultural expression and recreation 3.2.2 Facilitate and partner with local communities in the development of township plans</p>
<p>Disability Inclusion Focus Area: Liveable communities Attitudes and behaviours Systems and processes</p>

Liveability and Healthy Ageing Framework Theme: Inclusion					
Liveability and Healthy Ageing Outcome: All residents including disabled; older residents and their carers get the services they need to engage with their community					
What we want to do	How are we going to do it?	What will be the outcome	Lead Responsibility	Cost/Other Resources	Commencing
Improve access to NDIS by Shire residents access to basic services	Participate in reviews that request feedback on the impact of the NDIS on Shire residents access to basic services NDIS Continue to document as part of Council's review of the DIAP	Strategic advocacy by the Council and monitoring of Shire residents access to community based disability and aged care service provision	Director Strategic Planning and Development Director Strategic Planning and Development		Ongoing

Liveability and Healthy Ageing Framework Theme: Inclusion

Liveability and Healthy Ageing Outcome: All residents including disabled; older residents and their carers get the services they need to engage with their community

What we want to do	How are we going to do it?	What will be the outcome	Lead Responsibility	Cost/Other Resources	Commencing
	resident access to aged care and disability support services	Timeseries and longitudinal documentation of service levels			
Conduct Library Services activities that are accessible and respond to and reflect local needs and interests	Consult disabled residents, their carers and older residents in the development the libraries annual program of activities	A library service responsive to interests of all residents irrespective of disability or age	Library Manager		Ongoing
Lead strategic management of recreation and open space assets	Engage volunteer committees of management in disability friendly and age-friendly profiling and auditing of recreation and open space assets	Information will be included in programed management and operation of open space and recreation assets	Director Infrastructure	Recreation Officer	Ongoing

Berrigan Shire 2027 Strategic Objective: 4.2 Diversify and promote local tourism
Delivery Program Objective:
Disability Inclusion Focus Area: Attitudes and behaviour Meaningful Employment Liveable Communities

Liveability and Healthy Ageing Framework Theme: Growing					
Liveability and Healthy Ageing Outcome: A vibrant business community that makes Berrigan Shire a great place to live, work, play and grow old					
What we want to do	How are we going to do it?	What will be the outcome	Lead Responsibility	Cost/Other Resources	Commencing
Improve accessibility at Council events and events held at Council facilities	Audit Council facilities and their accessibility As part of event funding request information from event proponents re: how their event will promote inclusion	Online resource for Council and the Community to inform decision-making when booking or planning	Manager, Economic Development and Tourism	Grant funding for upgrades	2022/2023
Promote inclusion and accessibility for all at Town Beach Tocumwal	Include in the scope of the Plan of Management for Tocumwal Foreshore Reserve improved access to Town Beach by day visitors	Accessible Foreshore	Deputy CEO	Grant & Council Funding	Ongoing
Investigate with local developers and Tourism Operators accessible tourism options	Promote through Visitor Information Services experiences that are inclusive and accessible	Increase visitor numbers – inclusive tourism market	Manager, Economic Development and Tourism		2022/2023

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United Nations. (2007). *Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability*. New York: United Nations.

Footnotes

ⁱ Commonwealth Government Intergenerational Report 2021 [2021 Intergenerational Report \(treasury.gov.au\)](https://www.treasury.gov.au)

PURPOSE






The purpose of the Customer Service Charter is to outline Berrigan Shire Councils "Can Do" approach to customer service as a whole organisation and establish a standardised method to managing contact with our customers.

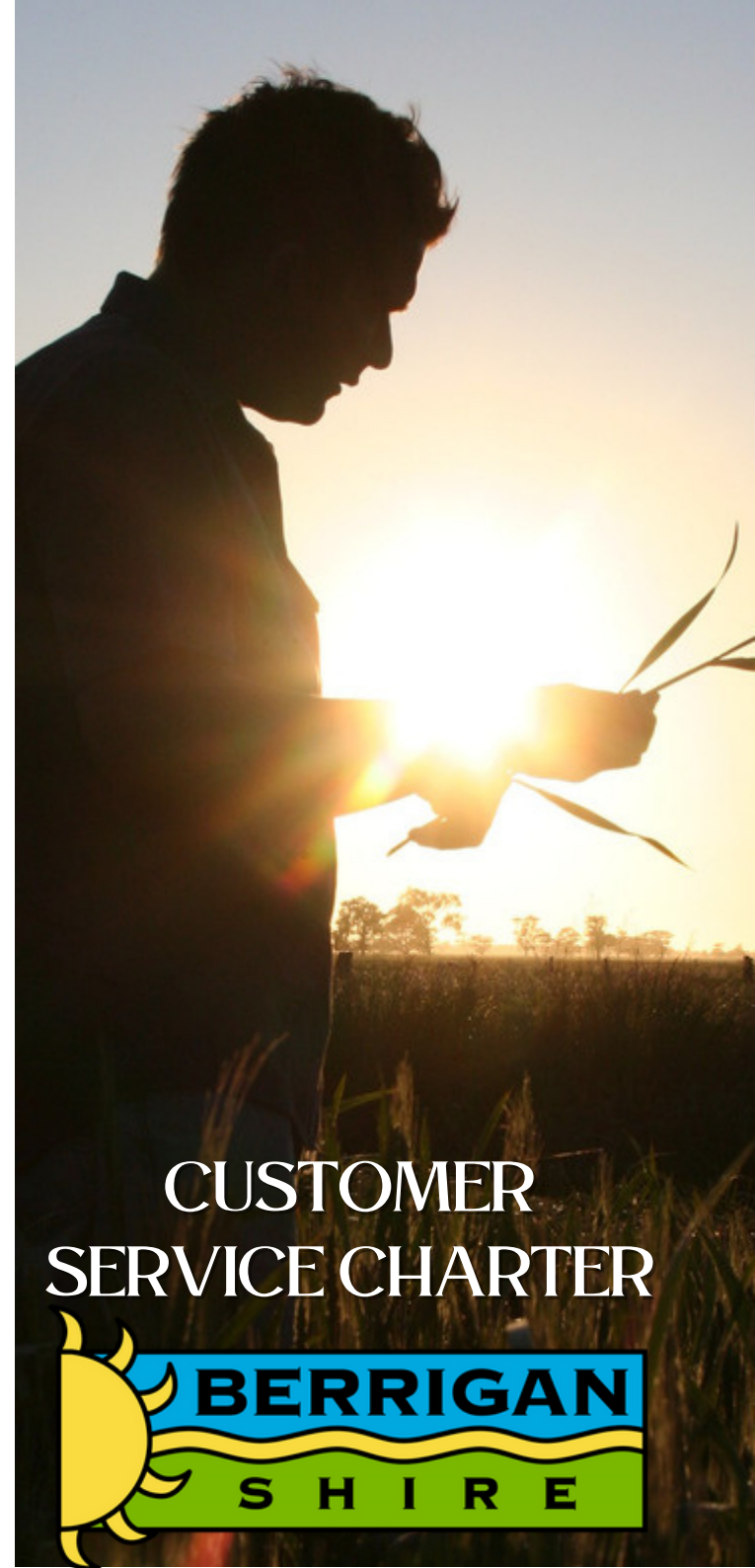
SERVICE STANDARDS

Required Service	Our Aim
Answer your call	Within 30 seconds
Return after hours phone message	Within 1 working day
Response to a request for service	Initial request with works request number within 2 working days
General Building Enquiry	Response within 5 working days
Collection of contained animal	Same working day



CONTACT US

-  03 5888 5100
-  mail@berriganshire.nsw.gov.au
-  Berrigan Shire Council
-  www.berriganshire.nsw.gov.au
-  56 Chanter Street Berrigan NSW 2712



CUSTOMER SERVICE CHARTER





REQUESTS AND COMPLAINTS

“Complaints” are different from “Requests”
“Requests” for service are a request for Council to undertake action or maintenance on a matter such as grading of a road, or roadside slashing. These requests are to be made to the Customer Service Team via contact channels listed to the back of the pamphlet The Customer Service team will log the request into Council Asset Maintenance System where the appropriate staff member will be assigned for actioning. Unfortunately there may be times where we fail to meet your expectations – resulting in a “complaint”.

You can report your complaint via phone, email or in person; you may also wish to:

- Ask to speak to a supervisor or manager
- Ask to speak to a Director (who reports directly to the CEO)
- Ask the Customer Service team to escalate your request

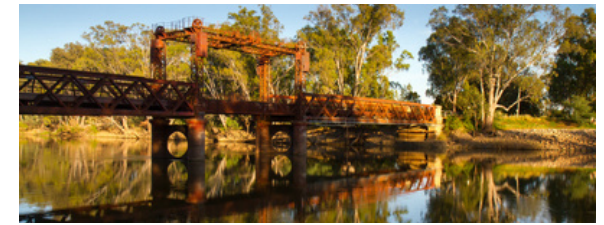
All people have the right to raise concerns and make legitimate complaints and expect that the issues raised will be handled in a fair, confidential and responsive manner. Clearly explaining the issue and what you think should be done to fix it will assist us.

If you remain dissatisfied with Berrigan Shire Council’s response, a review body such as the NSW Ombudsman may be able to help.

Visit: www.ombo.nsw.gov.au

Call: 1800 451 524

*"Building a better
Berrigan Shire"*



We are committed to:

- Making contact with us as easy and convenient as possible
- Treating customers with respect, courtesy, patience, sensitivity and attentiveness.
- Handle customer requests and enquiries with discretion and maintain privacy.
- Respond to customer enquiries promptly and efficiently
- Provide clear, concise and accurate advice and information.



Our expectations in return:

- Treat staff and councilors with respect, courtesy and patience
- Clearly articulate enquiries, problems and complaints
- Provide sufficient information to enable a response
- Recognise that council does not have unlimited resources and will set priorities based on formal protocols.

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Ashley Haynes <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Tuesday, 7 June 2022 14:34

To: Hansen, Matthew <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Grand Final

Hello Matt.

Thanks for your time yesterday.

As discussed the FFNC would like the opportunity to showcase our facility in hosting this year's MFNL Grand Final. We see it as a major sporting event for our community and the BSC.

When hosting in 2019 some factors beyond our control worked against us returning a favourable financial outcome to the MFNL.

In order to address this and enable our bid to host this year successful, we are seeking your assistance with the following.

We have included the costings from the previous Grand Final.

Security \$3643

Trophies \$4272

Independent Gate keepers \$1100

Signage on the playing surface and surrounds \$3250 Stage hire \$500 Umpires \$4272 Toilet hire \$3500 Wastage removal this was arranged by BSC in 2019 so we are not sure on cost.

It is our intention to market this strongly throughout our region and access to the BSC social platforms would be appreciated.

We also have involved the Finley Chamber to work collaboratively in making it a weekend event rather than a day. We intend to approach all accomodation venues, clubs and restaurants to provide an exciting "weekend away" option for those needing to travel.

Our committee would like to extend to the BSC the option to promote the shire on the scoreboard throughout the day and on the fixed signage. 10 tickets to the Breakfast would also be included to be used at your discretion. The MFNL have agreed to extend the time frame for our submission until the 16th of June Happy to answer and further questions you may have in relation to this request.

Regards

Ashley



Murray Football Netball League

P.O. Box 859 Yarrowonga Vic 3730

Phone 0435 182 782

Email: mfl@outlook.om.au

Monday 30th May 2022

Finley Football Netball Club

President

Mr Ashley Haynes

Dear Ashley

As a result of a review of the 2019 Grand Final held at the Finley Recreation Reserve, the Murray Football Netball League Executive has reopened submissions to host the 2022 Murray Football Netball League Grand Final to be played on the 20th September. Catering will remain on a rotation basis.

Gate takings of \$42,019 from the 2019 Grand Final was the poorest result since 2013, the last Grand Final to be held at Tocumwal. Taking into consideration there has been a 20% increase to the admission price over the period 2013 and 2019, the reality is the gate was the worst recorded since 2004.

The Murray Football Netball League up to and including the 2019 preliminary finals was on track to break the record for total gate takings across all finals. As a result of the poor attendance of the Grand Final the record from 2018 remains.

It can be argued the number of teams playing were different. 11 clubs participated in 2018 whereby 9 clubs participated in 2019. But the fact remains, attendance records were consistently broken on the lead up to the Grand Final, emphasising the enormous interest in the result of the competition.

League expenses incurred from the Grand Final were also greater than previous years due to the nature of cpi and but mostly travel surcharges. For example, the GV Umpire Grand Final fees in 2019 were \$3767. 2018 \$2920. This was due to travel component.

Other fees that incurred a travel component were Gatekeepers, stage hire, security and sign writing totaling an extra \$2500 on top of the fixed costs of providing those services.

In comparison to the 2018 Grand Final, revenue was down \$8537 while expenses at a minimum were up \$3347. Being conservative, the shortfall from the previous year is over \$11,000.

The League has endured enormous financial hardship of the 2020 and 2021 seasons due to covid and cannot afford to risk further losses.

As we all know supporters of the teams participating will attend the Grand Final no matter what. The challenge for the community of Finley is to support the event as well as attracting the neutral supporters from surrounding areas. The Grand Final is an **event** the Finley community should be proud of hosting.

For Finley Football Netball Club to host the 2022 Grand Final at the Finley Recreation reserve a submission is required to satisfy the Murray Football Netball League Executive that all provisions have been made to ensure a successful outcome for the League and the catering clubs.

The Murray Football Netball League Executive acknowledges the enormous effort made by the volunteers of the Finley Football Netball Club. For the club's strong community focus and commitment to nurturing passion and talent.

We look forward to working with Finley Football Netball Club to promote and increase the awareness of grass roots sports, which unite local communities.

Submissions are due COB Monday 6th June.

Sincerely

Dale Norman
General Manager

UNSOLICITED PROPOSAL
27 DAVIS STREET
STAGE 1

This unsolicited proposal is prepared as per the conditions of the *Unsolicited Proposals Guide for Submission and Assessment, August 2017*.

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1. INTRODUCTION

As per the Unsolicited Proposals Guideline, an Unsolicited Proposal is an approach to Government (in this case Berrigan Shire Council) from a Proponent with a proposal to deal directly with the Government over a commercial proposition, where the Government has not requested the proposal.

A Glossary of Terms is included at [Section 6](#).

2. PRE-SUBMISSION CONCEPT REVIEW

There has been no pre-submission concept review provided to Council other than initial conversations with both Mayor Matt Hannan and the Executive Leadership Team. All felt the concept should be presented to Council for further and more detailed consideration.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

This section is modified from 4.3 of the Unsolicited Proposals Guide to allow for the circumstances of this proposal.

STAGE 1A

Stage 1A of the process allows the BSC to undertake a Preliminary Assessment of the proposal in conjunction with the relevant agencies, to determine if the submission constitutes an unsolicited proposal and if sufficient justification exists to warrant direct dealing and therefore undertake a Stage 1 assessment. The BSC reserves the right to further consider, or not consider, Unsolicited Proposals beyond this stage at its absolute discretion. The Unsolicited Proposals Steering Committee* approves progressing to Stage 1b.

** Council may decide that the full Elected Body be nominated as the Steering Committee or part of the Elected Body. The make up of the Steering Committee is at Council's discretion.*

PROPONENT RESPONSIBILITIES

During Stage 1a the Proponent is responsible for:

- preparing and Initial Submission in accordance with the Schedule of Information Requirements listed below
- identification of unique elements of the proposal
- forwarding the Initial Submission to the Deputy CEO; and
- responding to requests for further information. The information to be provided will depend on the size and complexity of the proposed project.

BERRIGAN SHIRE COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

During Stage 1a the BSC is responsible for:

- promptly acknowledging receipt of the Initial Submission
- Undertaking an initial compliance check to ensure the required information has been provided
- Requesting further information from the Proponent if required. This may involve clarification meetings with the Proponent in order to promote clarity of Government requirements.
- Undertaking a Preliminary Assessment that will be based on the potential for the proposal to satisfactorily meet the Assessment Criteria.
- Preparing a Preliminary Assessment Report for review and approval by the Steering Committee
- Steering Committee approval to progress to Stage 1b if warranted
- Notification of the Preliminary Assessment outcome to the Proponent.

OUTCOMES

The following outcomes may result from this stage:

- The Submission is considered suitable for progression to Stage 1b
- The Submission is not considered suitable for further consideration. In this case the Steering Committee will recommend a course of action including whether that the submission will not be considered further, or that it may require further information.

FEEDBACK

Proponents will be provided with written feedback on whether their Submission has progressed to Stage 1b or reasons for a decision not to proceed with a proposal.

STAGE 1B

OBJECTIVE

For the BSC to undertake a comprehensive initial assessment of the proposal to identify the potential benefit to Council of further consideration and development with the Proponent.

PROPONENT RESPONSIBILITIES

During Stage 1b the Proponent is responsible for:

- Responding to requests for further information. The information to be provided will depend on the size and complexity of the proposed project.

BERRIGAN SHIRE COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

During Stage 1b the Council is responsible for:

- Establishment of the Assessment Panel**
- Requesting further information from the Proponent if required. This may involve clarification meetings with the Proponent in order to promote clarity of Government requirements
- Undertaking a formal assessment. The assessment will be based on the potential for a subsequent Details Proposal to satisfactorily meet each of the Assessment Criteria if progressed to Stage 2
- Determining whether other procurement policy documents and / or project assurance mechanisms should be applied for proposals recommended to proceed to Stage 2
- Preparing an Assessment Report for review and approval by the Steering Committee
- Preparing a draft Participation Agreement for all proposals deemed appropriate to progress to Stage 2
- Notification of the initial assessment outcome to the Proponent

*** The composition of the Assessment Panel is at Council's discretion.*

OUTCOMES

The following outcomes may result from this stage:

- The proposal is considered suitable for progression to Stage 2. The proposal, in concept form, is deemed of sufficient interest to BSC to warrant further development and progression to a more defined project either with the original Proponent or with a view to bringing the project to market.
- The proposal is not sufficiently unique to justify direct negotiations with the Proponent. In this case, the Steering Committee will agree to a recommended course of action such as those outlined above in Stage 1a.
- The proposal is considered suitable for further consideration if the project appears to have merit, requires a relatively low resource commitment by the BSC, is low risk, and does not conflict with any whole of Government initiative.
- The Submission is not considered suitable for further consideration.

FEEDBACK

Proponents with proposals considered suitable to proceed to Stage 2 for further consideration will be provided with the following information:

- A summary of the assessment finding
- The proposed process for the further development and consideration of a Detailed Proposal, including governance arrangement.
- Guidance regarding: value, scope, appropriate target return on investment parameters, timing, risk and other limitations affecting the Detailed Proposal in order to avoid unnecessary costs for the Proponent.
- A Draft Participation Agreement
- Written feedback providing reasons for a decision not to proceed with a proposal will be provided.

DISCLOSURE

Information on all Unsolicited Proposals that progress to Stage 2 will be published on the BSC website. This may include details of the Proponent and proposal, the governance structure for Stage 2, the probity advisor appointed and reasons why the proposal has progressed to Stage 2. Further information may be published as appropriate. The BSC will consult with the Proponent before any information is disclosed to ensure commercially sensitive information remains confidential.

Generally, the Government seeks to disclose all proposals in this stage. In some cases, Proponents may request that proposals are not listed, if this would pose significant risks to commercial negotiations or Intellectual Property. The BSC considers each request and may agree not to disclose a proposal. The ability to undertake an assessment in confidence is considered essential to creating a receptive environment to elicit innovative private sector proposals.

4. SCHEDULE OF INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

The BSC will consider Unsolicited Proposals that address the following criteria (as set out on the NSW Government website <https://www.nsw.gov.au/unsolicited-proposals/key-criteria-and-assessment-process>)

- A. **Uniqueness** – your organisation must be uniquely placed to delivery a proposal that will bring tangible benefits to the Berrigan Shire Council and the community of the Berrigan Shire. For a proposal to meet the uniqueness criterion, you must be the only party able to deliver the proposal and the proposal must deliver unique benefits to the people of the Berrigan Shire. The BSC may agree to initial market testing of a proposal if it has met merit but is not unique.
- B. **Value for money** – does your proposal delivery value for money to the community of the Berrigan Shire, including financial and economic benefits?
- C. **Impact** – does your proposal deliver on the objectives and align with the strategic priorities of the Berrigan Shire Council?
- D. **Return on Investment** – is the proposed return on investment, to you the Proponent, in line with industry standards?
- E. **Capability and capacity** – Does your organisation have the proven experience, capability and capacity to carry out the proposal?
- F. **Affordability** – does your Proposal require any funding from the Berrigan Shire Council or any other Government funding source?
NOTE: If so, the BSC will have to undertake a separate process to determine whether funding is available.
- G. **Risk allocation** – do the risks identified with your proposal reflect an acceptable risk allocation to the BSC?

5. UNSOLICITED PROPOSAL

The essence of this Unsolicited Proposal is that the Proponent purchase Council's property at 27 Davis Street at market value. The Proponent is currently offering \$260,000 for the purchase of the property given the renovations required to the property though this is subject to further investigations and assessment should the Proposal be deemed suitable to progress.

The property at 27 Davis Street is an ageing asset that has had only minor and immediate maintenance undertaken during Council's ownership of the property. As a result some renovations are required to ensure the property meets current requirements, including the urgent need to upgrade the electricity to current legislated standards (i.e. it does not have surge protection) and the fire alarm does not meet current legislated requirements.

Further work required at the property includes renovation of the primary bathroom due to some water damage, replacement of flooring due to age and use, and the renovation of the kitchen due to age and use.

The Proponent would also prefer Council include the first right of refusal to any signed agreement of sale, so that in the future if the property is to be sold, that Council have the first right to repurchase the property at current market value.

UNIQUENESS

The Proponent believes the opportunity for her to purchase the property from Council offers a unique opportunity to Council.

The sale of the property to Council would remove the ageing asset from Council's assets and therefore remove the depreciation from Council's financial schedules. It would also provide Council with the initial capital required to commence their plans to build some affordable housing in Finley. Further allowing the sale of the property to the Proponent would alleviate the need for Council to undertake the significant renovations required at the property.

VALUE FOR MONEY

The Proponent believes offering to purchase the property at market value will allow Council to ensure it is not selling the property below a fair price. The Proponent requested market valuations of all Council owned rental properties at the beginning of her term with Council and therefore current Market Valuations are available for this property. That information is provided at Appendix A.

The Proponent further offers a second market valuation be undertaken to ensure the valuation undertaken previously addresses the current increase in house values across the Shire.

IMPACT

The Proponents believe the Proposal does align well with Council's strategic plans and objectives.

Strategic Outcome 2 looks to ensure Council operations are open, honest, transparent and accountable to the community including the development of new opportunities. Ensuring this Proposal to be open to public scrutiny from its inception will ensure the Proposal meets the requirements of good governance.

2. Good Government

...Increasing...the transparency of day to day Council operations and Council accountability for how we connect with, and report to our communities. And just as important as the (Community Strategic) plan, is the process which facilitates...the development of new opportunities.

2.1 Berrigan Shire 2027 objectives and strategic actions facilitate the effective governance by Council of Council operations and reporting.

2.1.3 Council operations and financial management support ethical, transparent and accountable corporate governance.

Strategic Outcome 4 looks to ensure Council provides the environment in which investment and innovation is possible in the community. Providing Council the opportunity to hold some initial investment capital into key worker housing meets one of the identified issues being experienced across the community at this point in time. Council and the community have recognised the urgent need for key worker housing in the area and this Proposal will give them the opportunity to commence investment in that area.

4. Diverse and resilient businesses

Local job creation driven by investment and innovation (new products/services) is needed to retain and attract skilled professionals and young people.

4.1 Strengthen and diversify the local economy and invest in local job creation and innovation.

4.1.1 Partner with government and industry to promote strategic investment in the development of economic assets and infrastructure needed to create [and support] jobs.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Return on Investment (ROI) is calculated by subtracting the initial value of the investment from the final value of the investment (which equals the net return), then dividing this new number (the net return) by the cost of the investment, then finally, multiplying it by 100.

In this case the Social Return on Investment (SROI) may be the better assessment tool. SROI is an outcomes based measurement tool that helps organisations to understand and quantify the social, environmental and economic value they are creating. The point of SROI is to understand value creation through capital allocation. In this way SROI is calculated as the total present value of the impact divided by the total investment. The calculation should indicate the how much value (including social value) is generated for every dollar invested (i.e. 5:1 indicates for every \$1 invested, a social value equivalent of \$5 is generated)

In this case I have estimated that the social value provided by this investment would allow Council to provide the initial capital to commence works on 2 houses and one set of units in Finley on the parcels of land already set aside for this purpose. It is envisaged that this capital will require partnership with MLHD and some possible grant funding monies for affordable housing that have been mooted following the recent Federal Election.

The Proponent is offering in this Proposal to pay \$260,000 for the property at 27 Davis Street.

Finley's current median house price is \$239,000. If we then add the social value of being able to retain professional and key workers due to their ability to find and afford suitable accommodation, if I estimate those workers add \$2.00 per investment dollar to the local economy ($\$239,000 \times \$2 = \$478,000$) over a 5 Year period.

Estimate worked out as follows:

- Key worker income of \$50,000 per year – 5 years = \$250,000
- Cost of recruitment saved (approx. 75% of wage) = \$37,500 x 5 years = \$187,500
- Social value (community spending and further job creation at 20% of wage) = \$10,000 each year X 5 years = \$50,000

So if we have 4 accommodation offerings (2 houses and 2 units) then the total social impact value is \$1,912,000.

$SROI = (\text{Social Impact Value} - \text{Initial Investment}) / \text{Initial Investment}$

$(\$1,912,000 - \$260,000) / 260,000$

$\$1,652,000 / \$260,000$

SROI = 6:1

The Proponent would of course, should the Proposal move to Stage 2, suggest a more indepth and independent assessment of SROI is undertaken to support the assumptions made above.

Should the Proposal move to Stage 2 of the process, the Proponent also understands a current market valuation of the property would be required to underpin the SROI figures estimated in this document.

CAPABILITY AND CAPACITY

The Proponent believes they will be able to secure the required loan amount from their bank and have initiated a pre-approval process to do so.

AFFORDABILITY

The Proponents believe there will be little requirement for Council to inject funds into this process.

RISK ALLOCATION

The following risks have been assessed from the Proponent's point of view according to Council's Risk Management Policy and Framework.

The following categories of risk are not considered in the following assessments and a commentary of why those categories are not considered is provided below:

- Public Liability
- Work Health and Safety
- Environment

FINANCIAL RISK

Negligible financial loss (2.5% of annual budget): no impact on program or business operation.

Likelihood – Rare

	Consequence				
Likelihood	1	2	3	4	5
A	Medium	High	High	Very High	Very High
B	Medium	Medium	High	High	Very High
C	Low	Medium	High	High	High
D	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
E	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High

Council would be divesting itself of an asset that is due to cost it a significant amount of money (electrical upgrade, fire alarms and other renovation requirements such as replacement of the primary bathroom which has leaked and damaged an interior wall and renovation of the kitchen, and replacement of the flooring throughout the house).

Council would gain the price at which the house is sold.

PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY

Contain complaint or action with short term significance; medium loss to organisation

Likelihood – Possible

	Consequence				
Likelihood	1	2	3	4	5
A	Medium	High	High	Very High	Very High
B	Medium	Medium	High	High	Very High
C	Low	Medium	High	High	High
D	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
E	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High

It is unlikely the sale of the property would be considered sufficient to warrant investigation by the Minister as long as Council ensures the entire process is open and transparent to the community. Offering Council first right of refusal on any signed contract of sale will also ensure that, should the renovated property be sold into the future, that it will have first option to retain the property. This lessens the risk of Council retaining a deteriorating asset on their financial records, and lessens their exposure to not having a property available in Berrigan in the future for other incoming personnel.

COMMUNITY (SOCIAL & CULTURAL) / GOVERNMENT REPUTATION / MEDIA

Heightened local community concern or criticism

Likelihood – Likely

	Consequence				
Likelihood	1	2	3	4	5
A	Medium	High	High	Very High	Very High
B	Medium	Medium	High	High	Very High
C	Low	Medium	High	High	High
D	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
E	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High

The Proponent acknowledge the risk to reputation associated with this Proposal. The Proponents however feel this risk can be mitigated by the transparency of the decision and by the SROI offered to the community as a result of the Proposal being found suitable.

LEGAL

Isolated non-compliance or breach; negligible financial impact

Likelihood – Rare – Conceivable but highly unlikely

	Consequence				
Likelihood	1	2	3	4	5
A	Medium	High	High	Very High	Very High
B	Medium	Medium	High	High	Very High
C	Low	Medium	High	High	High
D	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
E	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High

The Proponent has sought initial legal advice and believes the Proposal will address legal risks if:

- It is transparent to the community;
- A second market valuation is attained before an agreed price is reached
- The Proponent (CEO) plays no part in any decision made
- The Council is provided the first right of refusal as a condition of any signed contract of sale.

POSITIVE CONSEQUENCES

Significantly enhanced reputation, huge financial gain, significant saving in time.

Likelihood – Almost Certain

	Consequence				
Likelihood	1	2	3	4	5
A	Medium	High	High	Very High	Very High
B	Medium	Medium	High	High	Very High
C	Low	Medium	High	High	High
D	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
E	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High

The amount of money provided by the sale of 27 Davis Street could be used a leverage for the key worker accommodation project to be undertaken in Finley. The initial investment is therefore not a huge amount within Council's budget but could provide significant opportunity to the broader community.

6. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Term	Meaning
Assessment Criteria	The criteria upon which the Unsolicited Proposal will be assessed (as per the Unsolicited Proposals Guideline).
Assessment Panel	A panel of BSC representatives including Councillors and staff (this may include a specialist adviser)
BSC	Berrigan Shire Council
Detailed Proposal	A submission by the Proponent to the Minister at the conclusion of Stage 2
Establishment Meeting	The first meeting between the BSC and the Proponent held at the commencement of Stage 2
Final Binding Offer	A formal proposal submitted by the Proponent at the conclusion of Stage 3 which is capable of acceptance by the Minister
Initial Submission	A submission by the Proponent during Stage 1 which briefly describes the Unsolicited Proposal (in accordance with the Schedule of Information Requirements)
Initial Schedule of Information Requirements	Information to be prepared by the Proponent in preparation for pre-lodgement meeting with BSC
Intellectual Property	Inventions, original designs and practical applications of good ideas protected by statute law through copyright, patents, registered designs, circuit layout rights and trademarks; also trade secrets, proprietary know-how and other confidential information protected against unlawful disclosure by common law and through additional contractual obligations such as Confidentiality Agreements.
Minister	The Minister responsible for the administering Local Government
Participation Agreement	An agreement signed by BSC and the Proponent at the commencement of Stage 2
Proponent	Karina Ewer (CEO)
Proposal Development Workshop	Interactive meetings held between BSC and Proponent representatives with the aim of progressing proposal development
Proposal Manager	The Deputy Chief Executive Officer of BSC who is responsible for co-ordinating BSC input for the receipt and assessment of an Unsolicited Proposal
Public Sector Comparator (PSC)	An estimate of the net present value of a project's whole of life costs and revenues using the most efficient and likely form of BSC delivery

Reference Project	The basis for calculating the PSC, reflecting BSC delivery of the project by traditional means
Shadow Bid Model	The BSC's best estimate of a private party bid price
Stage 3 Agreement	An agreement signed by BSC and the Proponent at the commencement of Stage 3.
Steering Committee	Is the full Elected Body of Councillors that make up the Council of the Berrigan Shire Council
Unsolicited Proposal	An approach to BSC from a Proponent with a proposal to deal directly with the BSC over a commercial proposition, where the BSC has not requested the proposal. This may include proposals to build and / or finance infrastructure, provide goods or services, or undertake a major commercial transaction.
Unsolicited Proposals Guideline	Is the Unsolicited Proposals: Guide for Submission and Assessment as produced by the NSW Government and published in August 2017.
Value for Money	The overall value of a proposal to Government (refer to section 2.3 of the Unsolicited Proposals Guide for further details).

Council Meeting

15 June 2022

8.26 Tender T02-22-23 Supply of Quarry Products for the 2022/23
Financial Year

Report by: Assets & Operations Manager, Gary George

Strategic Outcome: 1. Sustainable natural and built landscapes

Strategic Objective: 3.1 Create safe, friendly and accessible communities

Recommendation: That the Council:

1. Accepts all compliant tenders for the 2022-23 financial year for T02-22-23 supply of Quarry Products.
2. Sign and seal the contract documents.

Report:

The Council wish to compile a list of suppliers of Quarry Products. This list is to enable the Council to select suitable materials on a 'Best Value' basis to support the delivery of works and services to the community as required.

The Supply of Quarry Products contract is a schedule of rates contract.

Tenders closed at 2:00pm, Wednesday 1st of June, 2022. At the time of closing a total of four submissions were received.

Submissions were received from the following organisations:

1. Andrew Goldman Excavations Pty Ltd
2. E.B. Mawson & Sons Pty Ltd
3. The Trustee for B Lawrence Business Trust
T/A Lawrence Brothers Quarries Pty Ltd
4. Stephen Haynes Pty Ltd

Consideration of the Tenders

All tenders were considered by the Tender Evaluation Committee consisting of Gary George and Dean Loats and mediated by Judith Cakebread.

The first three tenders submitted were deemed compliant with the specification, the 4th tenderer only supplied cartage out of Quarries and has been accepted.

Supervisor



The superintendent of the contract will be the Director of Infrastructure and the superintendent's representative will be the Operation Manager.

Council Meeting

15 June 2022

8.27 Tender T03-22-23 Supply of Electrical Services for the 2022-23 Financial Year

Report by: Assets & Operations Manager, Gary George

Strategic Outcome: 1. Sustainable natural and built landscapes

Strategic Objective: 3.1 Create safe, friendly and accessible communities

Recommendation: That the Council:

1. Accepts all compliant tenders for the 2022-23 financial year for T03-22-23 supply of Electrical Services, to be on panel of approved contractors.
2. Sign and seal the contract documents

Report:

The Council wish to compile a list of available electrical contractors to carry out electrical works on Council Assets. The list is to enable the Council to select electrical contractors on a 'Best Value' basis to support the delivery of works and services to the community as required.

The Supply of Electrical Services contract is a schedule of rates contract.

Tenders closed at 2:00pm, Wednesday 1st of June, 2022. At the time of closing a total of seven submissions were received.

Submissions were received from the following organisations:

1. Cobram Electrical & Data Pty Ltd
2. IW & CL Wastle Pty Ltd T/A Ian Wastle Pace Electrics
3. Mobaditty T/A Koality Downunder Servicing
4. The Trustee for Murray River Electrical Trust
5. Murray Valley Locating & Electrical Pty Ltd
6. Scott PA and JL
7. R & H Purtle Family Trust

Consideration of the Tenders

All tenders were considered by the Tender Evaluation Committee consisting of Gary George and Matthew Miller and mediated by Judith Cakebread.

All Tenders submitted were deemed compliant with the specification.

Supervisor



The superintendent of the contract will be the Director of Infrastructure and the superintendent's representative will be the Building & Planning Manager.