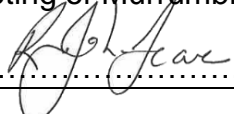
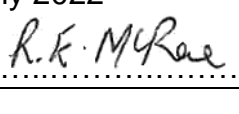


**REPORTS TO MURRUMBIDGEE COUNCIL MEETING
TO BE HELD TUESDAY 26 JULY 2022**

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This is page 1 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022


 General Manager
 
 Mayor

RECORDING & WEBCASTING OF MEETING

In the spirit of open, accessible and transparent Government, and to ensure this meeting is open to the public, this Council meeting is being recorded and livestreamed to the Murrumbidgee Council facebook page. A recording will also be placed on Council's website following the meeting.

Murrumbidgee Council accepts no liability for any defamatory, discriminatory or offensive remarks or gestures that are made during the course of the Council Meeting. Opinions expressed or statements made by individuals are the opinions or statements of those individuals and do not imply any form of endorsement by Murrumbidgee Council.

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MAYORAL MINUTE

ITEM NO. 1 - ACCOUNTING TREATMENT OF RURAL FIRE SERVICE ('RED FLEET') ASSETS

Council Meeting:	26 July 2022
Report Date:	11 July 2022
Author:	General Manager
File #:	SC218; SC129; SC130
Approval:	General Manager

BACKGROUND

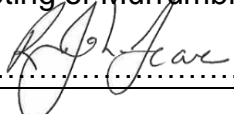
A long-standing dispute over the accounting treatment of the Red Fleet has come to a head with the the Auditor-General's 2021 Report on Local Government on 22 June 2022. The Audit Report re-emphasises the State Government determination that RFS assets are the "property" of Councils and must be recorded in Council's financial statements with Council required to therefore absorb all depreciation costs.

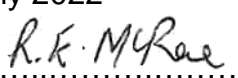
RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council write to the local State Member(s) Mr Justin Clancy, MP, Member for Albury and Mrs Helen Dalton, MP, Member for Murray, the Treasurer the Hon Matt Kean MP, Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience the Hon Stephanie Cook MP and the Minister for Local Government Wendy Tuckerman MP:
 - a. Expressing Council's objection to the NSW Government's determination on ownership of Rural Fire Service assets;
 - b. Advising of the impact of the Government's position on Council finances of this accounting treatment;
 - c. Informing that Council will not carry out RFS assets stocktakes on behalf of the NSW Government and will not record RFS assets in Murrumbidgee Council's financial statements;
 - d. Calling on the NSW Government to take immediate action to permanently clear up inequities and inconsistencies around the accounting treatment of Rural Fire Service (RFS) assets by acknowledging that rural firefighting equipment is vested in, under the control of and the property of the RFS; and
 - e. Amending s119 of the *Rural Fires Act 1997* so that the effect is to make it clear that RFS assets are not the property of Councils.

This is page 3 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.....General Manager

.....Mayor

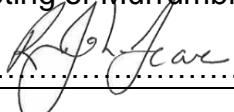
2. Council write to the Shadow Treasurer Daniel Mookhey MLC, the Shadow Minister for Emergency Services Jihad Dib MP, the Shadow Minister for Local Government Greg Warren MP, the Greens Spokesperson for Local Government Jamie Parker MP and the leaders of the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers, Animal Justice and One Nation parties Robert Borsak MLC, Emma Hurst MLC and Mark Latham MLC:
 - a. Advising Members of Murrumbidgee Council's position, including providing copies of correspondence to NSW Government Ministers; and
 - b. Seeking Members' commitments to support NSW Councils' call to amend the *Rural Fires Act 1997* as set out in correspondence.
3. Murrumbidgee Council write to the Auditor General advising that, notwithstanding any overtures of future qualified audits, it will not carry out RFS stocktakes on behalf of the NSW Government and will not record RFS assets in Murrumbidgee Council's financial statements, noting that the State Government's own Local Government Accounting Code of *Practice and Financial Reporting* provides for Councils to determine whether or not they record the RFS assets as Council assets.
4. Council promotes these messages via its digital and social media channels and via its networks.
5. Re-affirms its complete support of and commitment to local RFS brigades noting that Murrumbidgee Council's action is entirely directed towards the NSW Government's nonsensical position that rather than being owned and controlled by local brigades, RFS assets are somehow controlled by Councils, which Councils consider to be a cynical financial sleight of hand abdicating the NSW Government's responsibilities at the cost of local communities.
6. That Murrumbidgee Council affirms its support to Local Government NSW (LGNSW) and requests LGNSW continue advocating on Council's behalf to get clarification finally from the State Government about the accounting treatment of RFS assets.

MAYORAL COMMENT

The *Audit Office Local Government Report* has reinforced the notion that RFS mobile and other fire-fighting assets can somehow be deemed to be Council assets, and applies more pressure on Councils and the Office of Local Government (OLG) to conform with this determination, even though Councils do not have effective management or control of these assets.

Councils across the State and Local Government NSW (LGNSW) refute this determination. Councils do not have any say in the acquisition, deployment, or disposal of these assets. Comparable assets held by Fire & Rescue NSW

This is page 4 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.....General Manager

.....Mayor

(FRNSW) and the State Emergency Service (SES) are not vested anywhere other than with the organisations that purchase, use, maintain and dispose of them. I am calling on Councillors to support the Local Government campaign on the financial accounting treatment of Rural Fire Service (RFS) mobile assets known as the 'Red Fleet'.

Councils and LGNSW have also raised concerns that the requirement breaches Australian Accounting Standards. The State Government's own *Local Government Accounting Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting* provides for Councils to determine whether to record RFS assets on their books as Council assets. This position has been confirmed by the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment in his letter to the Auditor-General dated 7 June 2022, presented in Appendix 1 on page 47 of the 2021 Local Government Audit Report (copy of document at end of Mayoral Minute).

Council notes advice from LGNSW that many Councils are refusing to comply with the Auditor General's instructions. Councils remained firm in 2021, resisting pressure to record RFS assets, with the majority (68) choosing not to record the RFS mobile assets in accordance with the *Local Government Accounting Code*. This was the same number of Councils as in 2020. LGNSW is encouraging Councils to continue resisting pressure from the Audit Office and make their own determinations, notwithstanding overtures that ongoing non-compliance with the Auditor General's instructions may result in future qualified financial reports.

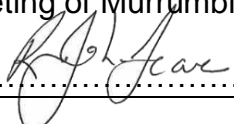
The latest Audit Report has made further impositions on Council by:

- recommending Council undertakes a stocktake of RFS assets and record the value in Council's financial statements;
- warning that if Council does not recognise the assets, it will be found non-compliant and will have a high risk finding reported; and
- calling on the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (OLG) to intervene where Councils do not recognise rural firefighting equipment.

The Government's blanket determination is not only nonsensical, but also inconsistent with the treatment of the comparable assets of other emergency service agencies such as Fire & Rescue NSW (FRNSW) and the State Emergency Service (SES). There is no rational reason for maintaining this anomaly.

LGNSW has been advocating this position on Councils' behalf and has written to the NSW Treasurer the Hon. Matt Kean MP, Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon. Steph Cooke MP, Minister for Local Government the Hon. Wendy Tuckerman MP and the Auditor-General, Ms Margaet Crawford to express the Local Government sector's strong objection to the NSW Government's determination, applied by the Auditor-General, that RFS assets are the property of Councils for accounting purposes and amend the *Rural Fires Act 1997*.

This is page 5 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.....General Manager

.....Mayor

Murrumbidgee Council's General Manager has advised the Auditor General that Council will carry out an action of identifying and stocktake of RFS assets, as these assets have been paid for by NSW taxpayers via the RFS Trust Fund and, to date, no identification has been undertaken to verify these assets exist. Acknowledging that it is a State responsibility, where we can determine that these assets do exist, Murrumbidgee Council is happy to do so.

The General Manager also advised the Auditor General that adding such assets to our financial records would provide a misleading set of financial statements, as Council has no ability to sell the RFS assets to pay off any debts, meaning that our metrics set at Fit for the Future would indicate we had assets to pay debts, but in fact we do not. Additionally, the General Manager informed the Auditor General that, as a result of including these assets on our financial statements, we would be overcharging our rate payers by having to recover the cost of depreciation, in effect fraudulently taking money from the rate payers, as none of this money then follows to replace the assets, it is all paid for from the RFS Trust Fund.

LGNSW has advised it will continue its advocacy efforts on Councils' behalf, and is asking all affected Councils in NSW to consider adopting the resolution advising the Audit Office that Council will not carry out the RFS stocktakes on behalf of the NSW Government and will not record RFS assets on Council's financial statements.

Appendix one – Response from the Office of Local Government within the Department of Planning and Environment



Office of
Local Government

5 O'Keefe Avenue NOWRA NSW 2541
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541

Our Reference:
Your Reference:
Contact:
Phone:

A822114
D2206464
Ally Dench
02 4428 4100

Ms Margaret Crawford
Auditor-General for New South Wales
GPO Box 12
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Email:

7 June 2022

Dear Ms Crawford

Thank you for the opportunity to review an updated draft of the report on Local Government 2021.

I have reviewed the changes in the draft report and would like to clarify my feedback in relation to the recognition of rural firefighting equipment (RFS Assets) for your consideration in finalising the report.

I acknowledge the State's position is that it does not control RFS assets. Councils need to assess whether they control any rural firefighting equipment in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. Councils need to recognise, in their financial statements, any material assets under their control and state the relevant accounting policy in relation to the treatment to the Audit Office.

The Minister for Local Government and the Department do not have legal authority to direct councils in this matter. However, we are working closely with Treasury to educate, guide and assist councils to understand the State's view regarding the ownership and recognition of the RFS assets in their financial reporting.

Should you require further assistance in relation to these matters, please do not hesitate to contact Ally Dench, OLG's Executive Director on or by email at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Michael Cassel
Secretary
Department of Planning and Environment

T 02 4428 4100 F 02 4428 4100 TTY 02 4428 4209
E olg@olg.nsw.gov.au W www.olg.nsw.gov.au ABN 20 770 707 468

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This is page 7 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

General Manager

Mayor

OFFICERS' REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

ITEM NO. 2 - GENERAL MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT

Council Meeting:	26 July 2022
Report Date:	14 July 2022
Author:	General Manager
File #:	SC218
Approval:	General Manager

BACKGROUND

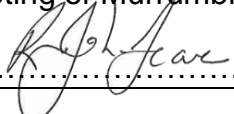
To provide information generally relating to past and future actions of the General Manager, along with specific action items being dealt with.

RECOMMENDATION

The contents of the General Manager's Monthly Report be noted, and Council:

1. Adopt the Policies, Codes and Plan as presented:
 - Staff Recognition Policy
 - Time in Lieu and Flexible RDO Policy
 - Staff Education and Training Policy
 - Code of Meeting Practice
 - Councillors Code of Conduct
 - Council Staff Code of Conduct
 - Council Committee Members, Delegates of Council and Council Advisors Code of Conduct
 - Enterprise Risk Management Plan
2. Adopt the Murrumbidgee Council Energy Strategy as presented.
3. Write to the Murray Darling Association Inc. Chair (cc to Murray Darling Association Region 9 Chair) supporting the resolution adopted by Griffith City Council on 14 June 2022 in relation to the Murray Darling Basin Plan 450GL – Up Water.
4. Approve the General Manager's annual leave request for 1 – 5 September, 2022 (inclusive). Further authorising the private use of Council's vehicle in the State of Queensland, 1 – 5 September 2022 (inclusive)

This is page 8 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.....General Manager

.....Mayor

1. Staff Recognition Policy - Review

Council workshopped this policy in March 2022, and had not proposed any changes to the original policy adopted in November 2019.

The original policy, as reviewed, was presented to the Consultative Committee in May 2022, and distributed to every staff member for comment.

At the May 2022 Consultative Committee, it was recommended that the following sentence be removed from the section titled Recognition on Retirement.

“Retirement for the purpose of this recognition means that the employee, on ceasing employment with the Council has no intention to continue in paid work of any kind, either inside or outside of Council.”

I recommend that this sentence be removed from the policy, and for Council to adopt the policy as presented, sentence removed.

Removing the sentence actually makes it clearer on how and when retirement is recognised, as in practice we rely upon two things:

- a) Eligible retirement age; and
- b) Pension age.

If an individual is eligible for the old age pension then they can retire under this policy and receive the retirement recognition, even if they go and earn an income elsewhere. The second, which is earlier than old age pension, is at what age the individual can draw down their superannuation (preservation age) and they permanently retire, and access their superannuation.

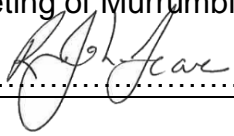
You can get your super when you reach your 'preservation age'. Your preservation age depends on when you were born.

Your date of birth	Age you can access your super (preservation age)
Before 1 July 1960	55
1 July 1960 — 30 June 1961	56
1 July 1961 — 30 June 1962	57
1 July 1962 — 30 June 1963	58
1 July 1963 — 30 June 1964	59
After 1 July 1964	60

If you haven't permanently retired

If you have reached your preservation age but haven't permanently retired, you can still access part of your super via a transition to retirement pension.

This is page 9 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.......... General Manager

.......... Mayor

It was finally present to the Consultative Committee in July 2022, with no further comments received.

Recommendation

The Staff Recognition Policy, as presented, be adopted.

2. Time in Lieu and Flexible RDO Policy - Revised

The revised policy, as presented, was workshopped by Council in March 2022, presented to the Consultative Committee in May 2022, and distributed to every staff member for comment.

It was re-presented to the Consultative Committee in July 2022.

No comments for changes were made by either the Consultative Committee or the Staff.

Recommendation

The Time in Lieu and Flexible RDO Policy, as presented, be adopted.

3. Staff Education and Training Policy – Revised

The revised policy, as presented, was workshopped by Council in March 2022 and presented to the Consultative Committee in May 2022, and distributed to every staff member for comment.

It was re-presented to the Consultative Committee in July 2022.

No comments for changes were made by either the Consultative Committee or the staff.

Recommendation

The Staff Education and Training Policy, as presented, be adopted.

4. Code of Meeting Practice – Revised

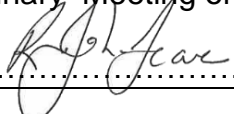
Council workshopped the Code of Meeting Practice in July 2022, and as a result one amendment was recommended.

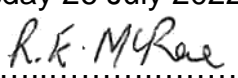
The amendment is to include an Acknowledgement to Country as item 1 in the order of business.

Recommendation

The Code of Meeting Practice, as presented, be adopted.

This is page 10 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

..........General Manager

..........Mayor

5. Codes of Conduct

Council workshopped the Councillors Code of Conduct, Council Staff Code of Conduct and Council Committee Members, Delegates of Council and Council Advisors code of Conduct in July 2022.

The current codes of conduct are taken from the model codes of conduct developed by the Office of Local Government. It has been indicated that the OLG will not be making any changes to the current codes of conduct this calendar year. As such, it was recommended that the current codes of conduct be reviewed without any changes.

Recommendation

The Councillors' Code of Conduct, Council Staff Code of Conduct and Council Committee Members, Delegates of Council and Council Advisors Code of Conduct, as presented, be adopted.

6. Kerbside Collection Three Streams

This item will be a standing item until fully implemented.

Over the next 12 months, we will be undertaking education, as well as facilitating the infrastructure required to deliver on the three stream kerbside collection on 1 July 2023.

The community will receive direct correspondence about what will be taking place on 1 July 2023, including material detailing which waste goes into which bin.

We intend to involve the schools, have open sessions for residents to ask questions, and we will seek invitations to various community groups and organisations where we can impart information on the three stream kerbside collection.

7. Enterprise Risk Management Plan

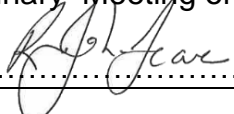
The attached Enterprise Risk Management Plan has been developed in conjunction with State Wide Mutual.

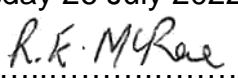
We have been unable to present the Plan until Council had adopted the Policy and Risk Appetite Statement.

The Plan reflects Council Policy and appetite when it comes to determined risks.

The next step is to build a comprehensive risk register. The risk register will be a live document, and will be constantly and regularly reviewed to keep up to date with changing risks, risk profiles and legislative changes. Unless requested by Council,

This is page 11 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.....General Manager

.....Mayor

we will not undertake another risk appetite workshop until the new election cycle commences.

Recommendation

The Enterprise Risk Management Plan, as presented, be adopted.

8. Energy Strategy

On 7 March 2022, the draft Murrumbidgee Council Energy Strategy was circulated to Elected Representatives, Senior Staff and Managers.

Following 4 months of open consultation, we are a position to adopt the draft strategy as presented.

Once adopted by Council we will be in a position to use the strategy in developing funding applications to move forward on recommendations identified.

Recommendation

The draft Murrumbidgee Council Energy Strategy, as presented, be adopted.

9. Murray Darling Basin Plan 450GL – Up Water

Council is in receipt of a letter (attached) from the General Manager of Griffith City, seeking Murrumbidgee Council's support in advocating the same position as resolved by Griffith City.

One way Murrumbidgee Council could advocate this position is to pass our own resolution.

Recommendation

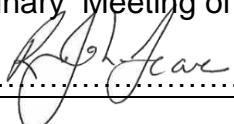
Council write to the Murray Darling Association (MDA) Inc. Chair (cc to Murray Darling Association (MDA) Region 9 Chair) supporting the resolution adopted by Griffith City Council on the 14 June 2022 in relation to the Murray Darling Basin Plan 450GL – Up Water.


10. General Manager annual leave and use of car

As previously notified our planned venture into Queensland in July was washed out due to heavy rain and possible flooding.

As such, I am looking at taking 1, 2 and 5 September as annual leave, and I am seeking permission to have private vehicle use in Queensland for these dates.

This is page 12 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.....General Manager

.....Mayor

Recommendation

- Annual leave be approved for the General Manager, Mr John Scarce, for the period 1-5 September 2022 (inclusive);
- Further authorising the private use of Council's vehicle in the State of Queensland, 1-5 September, 2022 (inclusive).

11. Movements

28 - 29 July 2022 - RAMJO Health Sub Committee - Albury
11 August 2022 - RAMJO Regional Priorities Workshop - Deniliquin
12 August 2022 - RAMJO Board Meeting - Deniliquin
30 August 2022 - Newell Highway Taskforce Committee - West Wyalong
14 October 2022 – RAMJO General Manager's Meeting - Leeton
19 - 21 October 2022 - CPA Congress – Virtual
23 – 25 October 2022 – LGNSW Conference – Hunter Valley
8 November 2022 – Newell Highway Taskforce – TBA
11 October 2022 – RAMJO Board Meeting – Leeton

SUSTAINABILITY

N/A

STATUTORY COMPLIANCE/POLICY

N/A

FINANCIAL

N/A

INTEGRATED PLANS

Theme 5: Our Leadership - Looking to our Future
5.1. Demonstrating Transparent Leadership through Accountability and Community Representation

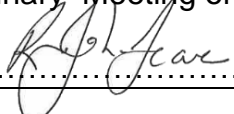
RISK MANAGEMENT

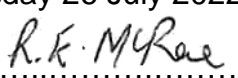
N/A

CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT

N/A

This is page 13 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.....General Manager

.....Mayor

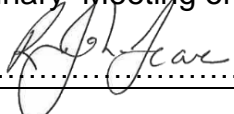
OPTIONS

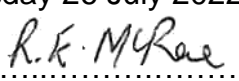
As per the recommendations.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment # 1: Staff Recognition Policy – Revised
- Attachment # 2: Time in Lieu and Flexible RDO Policy – Revised
- Attachment # 3: Staff Education and Training Policy – Revised
- Attachment # 4: Code of Meeting Practice
- Attachment # 5: Councillor Code of Conduct
- Attachment # 6: Council Staff Code of Conduct
- Attachment # 7: Council Committee Members, Delegates of Council and Council Advisors Code of Conduct
- Attachment # 8: Enterprise Risk Management Plan
- Attachment # 9: Murrumbidgee Council Energy Strategy
- Attachment # 10: Griffith City Council Letter

This is page 14 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.....General Manager

.....Mayor

**ITEM NO. 3 - DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION 19/2022 – SMALL MOTEL
COMPLEX 34 HAY ROAD DARLINGTON POINT**

Council Meeting:	26 July 2022
Report Date:	13 July 2022
Author:	Senior Town Planner
File #:	DA 19/2022
Approval:	General Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has received Development Application 19/2022 for a small motel complex, comprising six motel units bedroom dwellings at 34 Hay Road, Darlington Point and to operate in conjunction with an approved motel development at 23 Demamiel St (viz DA 58/17-18).

The matter is being reported to Council for determination on the basis that the land is owned by a Councillor, and a submission has been received raising concerns with the proposed development.

The development has been assessed regarding the matters for consideration set out in Section 4.15 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1979. The evaluation of the development concludes that the proposed development has merit.

RECOMMENDATION

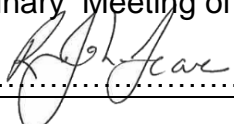
- a) **Murrumbidgee Council, as the consent authority pursuant to Section 4.16(3) of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979, grant deferred commencement consent to Development Application No: DA 19/2022 for a motel development on part of Lot 241 and 242 DP 750908, 34 Hay Road, Darlington Point, subject to the conditions, including those set out in Attachment # 11; and**
- b) **That the development application be delegated to the Director Planning, Community & Development for issue of the notice of determination.**

BACKGROUND

A development application from Steven Murray Architect on behalf of RJ Curphey was received by Murrumbidgee Council seeking development consent for a motel, comprising six motel units bedroom dwellings at 34 Hay Road, Darlington Point and to operate in conjunction with an approved motel development at 23 Demamiel Street, Darlington Point.

Each motel unit provides three beds (and could accommodate up to three to four people), a kitchenette and bathroom. One of the motel units has been designed as

This is page 15 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.....General Manager

.....Mayor

an accessible compliant unit. The motel services (cleaning, laundry and check-in facilities) are via the motel complex at 23 Demamiel Street.

Access to the subject site is via Lot 242 DP 750908 and six undercover parking spaces have been provided.

The subject site can be legally described Lots 241 & 242 DP 750908 and has the street address of 34 Hay Rd, Darlington Point. The lot is a trapezium in shape with a northern boundary of approximately 124 metres, an eastern boundary of approximately 44 metres and has a “frontage” of 51 metres to Hay Road and a secondary frontage to Demamiel Street of approximately 149 metres. It has a site area of 6078m².

The subject site has access to reticulated water and sewer.

Figure A: Aerial image with overlay of approved and proposed development



The development application was placed on exhibition and one (1) submission was received.

SUSTAINABILITY

N/A

STATUTORY COMPLIANCE/POLICY

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979

The development application has been evaluated in accordance with the provisions of section 4.15 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979*. The full evaluation can be summarised as follows:

- a) The subject land is zoned RU5 Village and under Part 2 Land Use Table of Murrumbidgee Local Environmental Plan 2013 and a *motel* is an innominate land use. As it is not listed in Item 2 (development without consent) or Item 4 (prohibited) of the Land Use Table, the development is therefore permitted with consent.
- b) The proposed development is unlikely to have any unreasonable impact on the environment, and where an adverse impact has been identified appropriate conditions have been imposed to mitigate the effects.
- c) The subject site is suitable for the proposed development.
- d) The proposed development does not raise any matter contrary to the public interest

The assessment of the application indicates that the proposed development has merit and warrants approval.

FINANCIAL

The proposed development does not pose any financial obligations on Council.

INTEGRATED PLANS

Community Strategic Plan

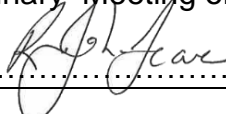
The following themes of the Murrumbidgee Council *Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027* apply in this instance:

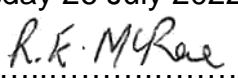
Environment

The following strategy is contained under the theme of 'Environment' and is considered relevant to the proposed development.

- Maintaining a balance between growth, development and environmental protection

This is page 17 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.......... General Manager

.......... Mayor

The proposed development is considered to be a sustainable land use, and one that would not have a detrimental impact on the environment subject to proper ongoing management of the facility.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The matters for consideration under section 4.15 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 ensure that all foreseeable risks are reviewed as part of the assessment process for any application.

CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT

Internal Referrals

Council's Director of Infrastructure was provided with details of the application and invited to provide comments. He advises that kerb and gutter should be provided and that design details are to be submitted to Council for approval prior to the issue of a Construction Certificate. Further, that the existing sewer infrastructure is not to be disturbed as a result of the driveway construction.

Public Notification

The proposed development was notified in accordance with legislative requirements, which include letters to nearby property owners, advertisement, and publication on Council's website. One (1) submission was received raising concerns with the proposed development.

The concerns identified in the submissions may be summarised as follows:

Ownership of laneway: The person making the submission identifies that the laneway identified on the site plan is in private ownership.

The concern has been noted, however as the development is not relying on the laneway for access and the development is set back 2.0m from the boundary, there are no impacts on the neighbouring property.

Council's assessing officer also fielded one telephone call regarding the development, whereby concerns were raised regarding kerb and guttering. It was explain that the kerb and guttering would be required as part of this development.

OPTIONS

Option 1 (Recommendation)

- a) Murrumbidgee Council, as the consent authority pursuant to Section 4.16(3) of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979, grant deferred commencement consent to Development Application No: DA 19/2022 for a motel development on part of Lot 241 and 242 DP 750908, 34 Hay Road, Darlington Point, subject to the conditions, including those set out in Attachment # 11; and
- b) That the development application be delegated to the Director Planning, Community & Development for issue of the notice of determination.

Option 2

- a) Any other resolution of Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment # 11: Recommended Conditions of Consent

ITEM NO. 4 - COMMUNITY TRANSPORT BUS

Council Meeting:	26 July 2022
Report Date:	18 July, 2022
Author:	Manager, Corporate & Community Services
File #:	CY10
Approval:	Director Planning, Community & Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Valmar Support Services Limited are the new providers of Commonwealth Home Support Services in the Murrumbidgee Council area, and have requested that Council transfer ownership of the existing community transport bus to their service to continue to be used in the Murrumbidgee Council area.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council gift the existing community transport bus to Valmar Support Services Limited.

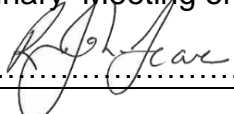
BACKGROUND

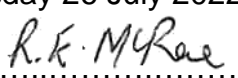
In December, 2021, Council advised the Department of Health that they would not be continuing with service provision of the Commonwealth Home Support Program in 2022-2023, and would transition out of the program by 30 June 2022. Council worked with the Department to implement a 'Transition Out Plan' to ensure continuity of service delivery. Valmar Support Services Limited were identified as a suitable organisation by the Department of Health to provide the service activities.

Council officers met with representatives of Valmar to discuss ongoing arrangements for the services within the Council area. To ensure that the service remained local, the use of an office within the Council building in Coleambally was negotiated.

Discussions were also held regarding the community transport bus. As part of the Transition Out Plan, any assets purchased with Commonwealth funding were to be recorded in an asset register and transferred to the agreed new service provider or, if sold, any relevant proceeds paid to the Commonwealth. Item 6 of the Transition Out Plan states:

This is page 20 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.....General Manager

.....Mayor

6. Assets

Where applicable and in accordance with the Grant Agreement, the details of all assets purchased with Commonwealth funding are to be recorded in an assets register.

Please attach an updated copy of your organisation's assets register and certify that it is up to date and correct.

Please provide details on how and when the transfer of assets to the agreed new service provider will occur. If your assets are to be sold and any relevant proceeds paid to the Commonwealth, please detail the arrangements for this.

All details must be included in the final report and, where appropriate, funding is to be returned to the Commonwealth. The Department will provide further details on this process.

The vehicle is a 2012 Toyota Hiace which was purchased second hand from Carrathool Shire Council at the end of 2013 through grant funding of \$40,000 from the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care. The purchase price of the bus was \$40,000, and was covered by the grant. Council did not have to provide any additional funds for the purchase. The vehicle has now been totally depreciated so has no value on Council's Plant Asset Register. It has approximately 130,000km on the clock.

Council must now decide whether the vehicle is gifted to Valmar Support Services or sold.

SUSTAINABILITY

N/A

STATUTORY COMPLIANCE/POLICY

NIL

FINANCIAL

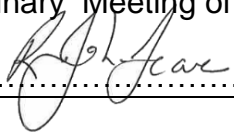
The vehicle has now been totally depreciated, so has no value on Council's Plant Asset Register.


INTEGRATED PLANS

Community Strategic Plan

Deliverable 1.1.1 Work together to achieve enhanced community and public transport accessibility.

This is page 21 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.....General Manager

.....Mayor

RISK MANAGEMENT

NIL

OPTIONS

Option 1 (recommendation)

That Council gift the existing community transport bus to Valmar Support Services Limited.

Other Options

- a) Sell the community transport bus to Valmar Support Services;
- b) Sell the community transport bus by open tender;
- c) Another resolution as determined by Council.

ATTACHMENTS

NIL

ITEM NO. 5 - LIQUID TRADE WASTE REGULATION POLICY REVIEW

Council Meeting:	26 July 2022
Report Date:	20 July 2022
Author:	Director Planning, Community & Development
File #:	SC49
Approval:	General Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is required to review its policies within 12 months of the Council election. A revised Murrumbidgee Council Liquid Trade Waste Regulation Policy is proposed for adoption by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

The revised Murrumbidgee Council Liquid Trade Waste Regulation Policy, as presented, be adopted by Council.

BACKGROUND

All Councils in NSW are required to adopt and implement a Liquid Trade Waste Regulation Policy to approve and regulate liquid trade waste discharges from commercial and industrial premises that discharge into Council's sewage system.

Murrumbidgee Council adopted its current Liquid Trade Waste Regulation Policy on 22 December 2016 based on the Liquid Trade Waste Regulation Guidelines 2009.

OFFICER COMMENT

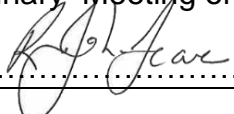
In 2021, the NSW Government released revised liquid trade waste management guidelines, aligning the requirements for liquid trade waste disposal with the national framework for Sewage Quality Framework.

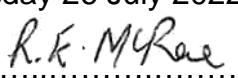
The revised Murrumbidgee Council Liquid Trade Waste Regulation Policy updates the Council's 2016 Trade Waste Policy in accordance with the 2021 NSW Guidelines.

SUSTAINABILITY

The revised Murrumbidgee Council Liquid Trade Waste Regulation Policy provides a framework to manage and control the discharge of liquid trade waste into the sewage treatment facilities in Darlington Point, Coleambally and Jerilderie and will ensure compliance and concurrence with liquid trade waste quality standards that are regulated by the NSW Environmental Protection Authority.

This is page 23 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.....General Manager

.....Mayor

Failure to comply with these quality standards may expose Council to regulatory action from the EPA.

STATUTORY COMPLIANCE/POLICY

- Local Government Act 1993
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
- Water Management Act 2000

FINANCIAL

Failure to achieve compliance may expose Council to regulatory action from the EPA.

The revised Policy maintains the existing liquid trade waste disposal fees.

INTEGRATED PLANS

3. Our built environment – liveable places

3.4 We operate our local utilities according to best practice standards and priorities.

3.4.1.5 Operate all Sewage Treatment Plants to ensure compliance with EPA requirements

RISK MANAGEMENT

Compliance with the 2021 NSW Liquid Trade Waste Management Guidelines is a statutory requirement for Council. Failure to do so will expose Council to the risk of penalties.

CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT

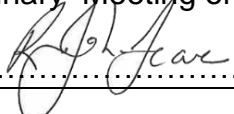
- General Manager
- Director of Infrastructure
- Environmental Health Officer
- Councillor Workshops

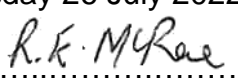
OPTIONS

Option 1 (recommendation)

The revised Murrumbidgee Council Liquid Trade Waste Regulation Policy, as presented, be adopted by Council.

This is page 24 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.....General Manager

.....Mayor

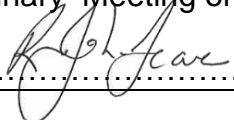
Option 2

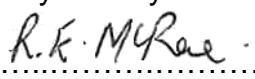
Another resolution as determined by Council.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment # 12: Revised Murrumbidgee Council Liquid Trade Waste Regulation Policy

This is page 25 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.....General Manager

.....Mayor

ITEM NO. 6 - INVESTMENT POLICY REVIEW

Council Meeting:	26 July 2022
Report Date:	15 July 2022
Author:	Chief Financial Officer
File #:	SC49
Approval:	General Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is required to review its policies within 12 months of the Council election. A revised Investment Policy is proposed for adoption by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

The Investment Policy, as presented, be adopted by Council.

BACKGROUND

The existing Investment Policy was adopted by Council on 28 August 2018. It is silent on a number of matters, including:

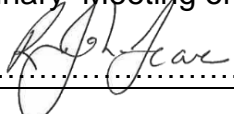
- when long-term and short-term credit ratings should be applied;
- how “split ratings” (i.e. where agencies disagree as to the rating band of an institution) should be considered;
- whether the credit rating applicable to the institution or the product is to be used;
- how changes in credit ratings should be dealt with;
- how individual counterparty and overall credit quality limits should interact with the target investment of funds in Bendigo Bank;
- the process to be followed if the Policy is breached;
- whether Council’s investments should be reviewed by ARIC (as suggested by The Office of Local Government’s *Investment Guidelines*).

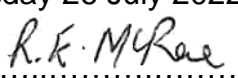
There is nothing in the existing policy explicitly prohibiting investment in institutions with credit ratings below BBB or unrated institutions; however, Council has expressed a desire not to invest with such counterparties.

The current Investment Policy reads:

In recognition of the significant community role, support and activities undertaken within the Council area, Council deems it appropriate that twenty percent (20%) of its investment portfolio is to be invested with the Coleambally Community Bank.

This is page 26 of 50 of the General Manager’s Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.....General Manager

.....Mayor

Until recently, Council officers have acted under the understanding that this percentage was 50%.

Bendigo Bank term deposit rates have also historically been lower than interest rates offered by other equivalently-rated or higher-rated institutions. Council receives a fee of 0.25% for all deposits held by accounts attributed to the Jerilderie and Darlington Point agencies.

The existing policy establishes several benchmarks for Council to review returns on its portfolio, some of which have been acquired and re-named. Performance against this benchmark has not been reported to Council to date.

OFFICER COMMENT

A number of changes are proposed to address the above, including:

- Substantial edits that do not affect the substance of the Policy, but that add clarity, such as rewording, deletion of redundant clauses and extraneous information, and separating the policy into relevant sections;
- The addition of clause numbers to the policy for ease of reference;
- The addition of a sample form to be completed by officers with delegated authority (indicating that they have read and understood the Policy and accept their obligations under the same);
- The removal of references to short-term credit ratings from the Policy (throughout);
- The definition of 'credit rating' in the Policy as follows (section 7):

Credit risk investment parameters are based on credit rating bands published by the credit rating agencies Standard & Poor's (S&P), Moody's, and Fitch. In the event of disagreement between agencies as to the rating band ("split ratings"), Council shall use the higher in assessing compliance with portfolio policy limits but shall apply the lower in assessing new purchases.

Credit ratings apply to both products and institutions. This Policy requires the rating applicable to the institution responsible for the product to be taken as the relevant rating, as this represents the underlying risk to Council.

- The addition of the following clause (3.10):

Changes in Credit Ratings

If any of Council's investments are downgraded, such that they no longer fall within these investment policy guidelines, they will be divested as soon as practicable.

- The addition of the requirement that (clause 3.9.1):

All investments must have a long-term credit rating of BBB or stronger.

- The clarification that both overall credit quality limits and counterparty limits exclude Council's trading account and funds invested with Coleambally Community Bank.

- The inclusion of the following clause regarding Coleambally Community Bank:

2.4. Investment in Coleambally Community Bank

2.4.1. In recognition of the significant community role, support and activities undertaken within the Local Government Area, Council will aim to hold 50% of its portfolio with the Coleambally Community Bank.

2.4.2. If, when considering a new investment, an equivalently-rated or better-rated institution is offering an interest rate 0.40% p.a. (or more) higher than Coleambally Community Bank with a comparable term to maturity, Council may invest in that institution in preference to Coleambally Community Bank, irrespective of the target set out in clause 2.4.1.

2.4.3. Notwithstanding clause 2.4.2, Council will hold a minimum of 10% of its portfolio with the Coleambally Community Bank at all times.

- The removal of the term to maturity allocation constraints (in place of the already-existing maximum durations for each credit rating category)
- The replacement of the existing performance benchmarks with the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index
- The addition of the following clause in relation to a breach of the policy:

Breach of Policy

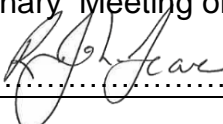
If a breach of this Investment Policy occurs, Council's Responsible Accounting Officer (RAO) should notify Council at its next ordinary meeting. Council should also consider notifying the Office of Local Government of any such breach.

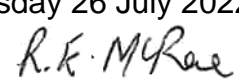
- The addition of the following clause in relation to review by ARIC:

Council's Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee will, from time to time, review the investments of Council to verify:

- that new investment types/products comply with this Policy*
- the performance of Council's investments against the benchmarks established within this Policy*
- that investments have been placed in accordance with this Policy*

This is page 28 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.......... General Manager

.......... Mayor

SUSTAINABILITY

N/A

STATUTORY COMPLIANCE/POLICY

- Local Government Act 1993
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2005
- Trustee Act 1925 (NSW)
- Relevant Office of Local Government Circulars
- Ministerial Investment Order – dated 12 February 2011
- Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting
- Australian Accounting Standards
- Murrumbidgee Council Investment Policy

FINANCIAL

Changes to the Investment Policy may affect the allocation of Council's investment portfolio.

INTEGRATED PLANS

Leading By Example

5.1.3 Maintain sound legislative decision-making that is ethical, accountable and transparent

RISK MANAGEMENT

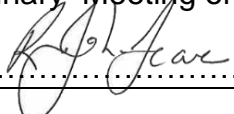
The Investment Policy seeks, through diversification and the imposition of mandatory constraints, to manage a number of risks in relation to the investment of Council's funds, including credit risk, liquidity risk, market risk, and maturity risk.

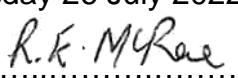
The principal objective of the Investment Policy is the preservation of capital, followed by liquidity and the achievement of an acceptable rate of return.

CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT

- General Manager
- Finance Manager
- Accountant
- Councillor Workshops

This is page 29 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.....General Manager

.....Mayor

OPTIONS

Option 1 (recommendation)

The Investment Policy, as presented, be adopted by Council.

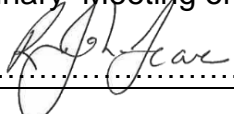
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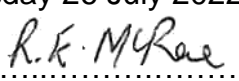
Another resolution as determined by Council.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment # 13: Investment Policy - Revised

This is page 30 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.....General Manager

.....Mayor

**ITEM NO. 7 - RATES & CHARGES HARDSHIP POLICY AND COVID-19
FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY REVIEW**

Council Meeting:	26 July 2022
Report Date:	15 July 2022
Author:	Chief Financial Officer
File #:	SC49
Approval:	General Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is required to review its policies within 12 months of the Council election.

Relevant elements of the existing COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy are proposed to be incorporated into the existing Rates & Charges Hardship Policy (to be renamed the Rates, Fees & Charges Hardship Policy).

This will then permit the COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy to be rescinded with no practical change to the way hardship applications are assessed.

RECOMMENDATION

The revised Rates, Fees & Charges Hardship Policy be endorsed and placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, before reconsidering for final adoption at the September Council meeting, along with rescission of the Covid-19 Financial Hardship Policy.

BACKGROUND

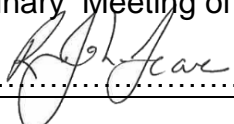
The current COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy was adopted by Council on 28 April 2020 in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. It contains a waiver of rents, fees and charges for Council-owned land, buildings and facilities, which is no longer in effect.


The current Rates & Charges Hardship Policy was ratified, without change, by Council at the April 2022 Council meeting.

OFFICER COMMENT

Following consultation with Council, relevant items from the COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy are proposed to be incorporated into the revised Rates, Fees & Charges Hardship Policy, by way of the following changes:

This is page 31 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.....General Manager

.....Mayor

1a. Extend the Scope of Policy and Hardship Criteria to incorporate all ratepayers, businesses, individuals, and community groups.

The relevant clauses will read:

Scope of Policy

This policy shall apply to all ratepayers, businesses, individuals, and community groups within the Murrumbidgee Council Local Government Area.

Hardship Criteria

Each case will be considered on merit, provided that an actual hardship exists and is genuine.

In addition, additional supporting documentation will be noted under *Application for Hardship*:

Supporting documentation in the case of a corporation may include but not be limited to:

- *Details of ownership and directorship*
- *Subsequent details or further information if owner is another corporation*
- *Financial details and proof of hardship of corporation and directors*

1b. Expand the Policy to include fees, in addition to rates and charges.

Rates & Charges Hardship Policy will be renamed to the Rates, Fees & Charges Hardship Policy to reflect this change, with similar renaming to occur throughout the policy for clarity; and the first line of the *Guidelines* will read:

... who cannot pay their rates, fees, and/or annual charges for reasons of financial hardship can apply to Council for assistance at any time.

2. Rescind the COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy

After the removal of the above clause, incorporating the above items into the existing Rates & Charges Hardship Policy makes the COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy redundant; any ongoing hardship arising from COVID-19 would fall under the 'Financial Hardship' grounds contained within the general policy.

Under the general policy, substantially similar payment arrangements and penalty interest waivers are available.

In addition, the guidelines for granting deferred payment arrangements under the existing COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy rely on the former JobKeeper eligibility criteria (broadly, a loss of 30% or more of revenue compared to the same period 12 months prior). As the COVID-19 pandemic has now been ongoing for multiple years, stakeholders who previously experienced a COVID-19-driven decline in turnover may be unable to access hardship concessions under this criteria if they have not experienced a further decline. In this sense, the COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy is more rigid than the Rates & Charges Hardship Policy.

SUSTAINABILITY

N/A

STATUTORY COMPLIANCE/POLICY

- Local Government Act 1993
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2005
- Murrumbidgee Council Rates & Charges Hardship Policy
- Murrumbidgee Council COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy

FINANCIAL

No net financial impact is expected as a result of the proposed policy changes; the practical application of Council's hardship provisions will remain unchanged.

INTEGRATED PLANS

Leading By Example

5.1.3 Maintain sound legislative decision-making that is ethical, accountable and transparent

RISK MANAGEMENT

N/A

CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT

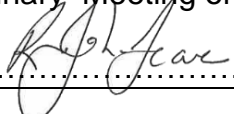
General Manager
Councillor Workshops

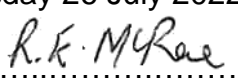
OPTIONS

Option 1 (recommendation)

The revised Rates, Fees & Charges Hardship Policy be endorsed and placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, before reconsidering for final adoption at the September Council meeting, along with rescission of the Covid-19 Financial Hardship Policy.

This is page 33 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.......... General Manager

.......... Mayor

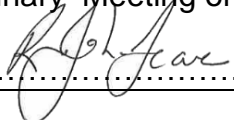
Option 2

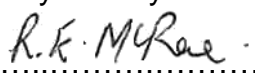
Another resolution as determined by Council.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment # 14: Rates, Fees & Charges Hardship Policy - Revised

This is page 34 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.....General Manager

.....Mayor

REPORTS/MINUTES OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

ITEM NO. 8 - AUDIT RISK & IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Council Meeting:	26 July 2022
Report Date:	27 June 2022
Author:	Audit Risk & Improvement Committee
File #:	SC130
Approval:	Audit Risk & Improvement Committee Chair

Minutes

1. Present Ms Linda MacRae (Chair); Mr Steven Pinnuck; General Manager, Mr John Scarce; Cr Robert Black; Chief Financial Officer, Ms Kaitlin Salzke; Finance Manager, Mrs Vicki Sutton; Mr Brad Bohun of Crowe Australasia (via video link) and Mr Hong Wee Soh of the NSW Audit Office (via video link).

The Mayor, Cr Ruth McRae joined the meeting at 10.51am.

2. Apologies Asset Manager, Mr Stephen Goodsall

3. Declaration of Interest

NIL

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting 4 February 2022

Taken as read and noted.

5. Business Arising

NIL

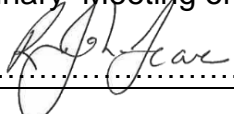
6. External Audit

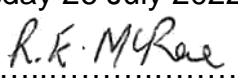
- 6.1 Annual Engagement Plan for the year ending 30 June 2022

Brad Bohun led the conversation on the Annual Engagement Plan, with particular reference to:

- (1) The direction by the NSW Audit Office that Rural Fire Service (RFS) equipment fleet assets should to be included as Council Assets. The Council and LGNSW are opposed to Council inclusion of RFS fleet assets on its books.

This is page 35 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.....General Manager

.....Mayor

This issue is not resolved. Brad Bohun recommended that Council undertake the first step in the process by validating the RFS fleet. He further advised that the fleet listing should be available from the Office of Local Government (OLG), however the General Manager advised that OLG does not have such a fleet listing available to Councils.

The Finance Manager advised that Council has a reasonably comprehensive fleet list from Mid Murray Zone RFS and a basic list from MIA Zone RFS. It was agreed that when this fleet listing from the two RFS Zones was validated that the matter would be referred to the Auditor for further discussion of the next step in the process.

(2) The NSW Audit Office have recommended that for the 2022/23 Annual Financial Statements process that Council implement an early close out procedure by 30 April 2023, particularly in relation to asset revaluations (ie moving asset revaluations to an earlier date to assist with the more timely preparation of the Annual Financial Statements) .

External Audit discussions were noted.

6.2 Audit follow-up matrix (updated June 2022) (previously item 9.1)

Questions were raised regarding some items listed on the matrix and the identified follow up dates.

Cyber security testing – penetration testing conducted June 2020. It was identified that this testing needs to be conducted again. Discussions with Veritech (the testing Company) have been held but due to staffing issues they have not been able to establish a testing date.

Asbestos Testing – Concern was raised regarding the lack of an asbestos register and the testing relating to relevant Council owned sites. The General Manager advised that Council was taking an ‘as-needed’ approach to testing prior to any construction or renovation activities being undertaken at any given site. The Committee agreed that this was a pragmatic approach.

Other items on the matrix were reviewed. It was noted that some of the timelines previously provided had passed, or may be unrealistic given the available resources.

Noted

At 11.05am Mr Brad Bohun of Crowe Australasia and Mr Hong Wee Soh of the NSW Audit Office left the meeting.

7. Internal Audit

7.1 Review of Internal Audits Schedule

- i. Contract Management
- ii. Communication and Community Consultation
- iii. Payroll Procedure
- iv. Fleet Management
- v. Development Applications
- vi. Compliance inspections ie swimming pools, OSSM, health

Discussion around the timing of the conduct of internal audit reviews was held. The Committee agreed that, while it did not wish to dictate rigid timelines, the broad aim would be for two internal audits to take place every 12 months, with one audit being related to finance activities and one related to other high risk operational or strategic risk areas.

Contract Management Audit

The Contract Management Audit is currently in progress. It is being undertaken by RSD, one of the Council's approved audit contractor providers. The final report is anticipated to be received late July/August.

Proposed Communications and Community Consultation Audit

In view of the comments made by the General Manager that the processes in this area have significantly improved, the Committee agreed that this audit be removed from the internal audit schedule. It was requested that the relevant staff member (Anne Lyons) be invited to attend a meeting later in the year to advise the Committee on the process being undertaken to ensure that the Council is communicating effectively with the community.

Payroll Procedure Audit

The Committee agreed that the Payroll Procedure Audit be the next internal audit review. A scope to be developed by the Chief Financial Officer (in conjunction with the appropriate Internal Audit Provider) with the Committee to consider the draft scope at the next ARIC meeting.

8. Other Reports

8.1 Statewide Mutual – Continuous Improvement Pathway (CIP) Launch | Risk Management Update

Provided to the Committee for information.

Noted

8.2 Murrumbidgee Council WHS Meeting Minutes 9 Feb 2022

8.3 Murrumbidgee Council WHS Meeting Minutes 12 May 2022

The Chair noted that there was no Executive Team representation on the Committee.

Noted

8.4 Enterprise Risk Management Plan

The Enterprise Risk Management Plan will be considered by Council at its meeting of 26 July 2022.

Reporting to Council around risk management is required. Risk management to be an item within the Chair's annual report.

Some items within the Plan were identified , particularly within the 'Consequence Table' that would be clarified with greater definition provided. Training was recognised as an item within the Plan that should be a priority.

Noted

8.5 Quarterly Budget Review March 2022

Noted

8.6 Monthly Cash & Investment Report April 2022

Noted

8.7 GM Confidential Report (verbal)

NIL

8.8 Update on Integrated Planning & Reporting documents (verbal)

Noted

8.9 Any Other Reports

NIL

9. ARIC Operations

9.1 Audit follow-up matrix (updated June 2022) - Dealt with as Item 6.2

9.2 Internal Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee Charter

It was agreed that Management would endeavour to provide a draft ARIC Charter prior to the final meeting of this calendar year. Relevant parts of new ARIC Government Guidelines (once adopted) should be included in Charter.

9.3 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interests and Other Matters

To be completed by the Chair Linda MacRae and Committee Member Steven Pinnuck and provided to Julie.

10. General Business

Section 355 Committees – Presentation prepared by Camden Council. (Presentation to be provided to Julie for distribution to the Committee). GM advised that this matter is currently being reviewed by the Executive Team.

11. Forward Meeting Plan

Kaitlin to liaise with Linda in relation to an updated forward meeting plan.

- 22 August 2022 at 10.00am at Council Chambers, Jerilderie
- 24 October 2022 at 10.00am at Council Chambers, Jerilderie (to be confirmed)

Whenever possible, Committee to meet in person.

Next Meeting 22 August 2022 at 10.00am at Council Chambers, Jerilderie

Meeting Closed 12.31pm

OFFICERS' REPORTS FOR NOTING

ITEM NO. 9 - MONTHLY CASH & INVESTMENT REPORT – JUNE 2022

Council Meeting:	26 July 2022
Report Date:	14 July 2022
Author:	Chief Financial Officer
File #:	SC133
Approval:	General Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Information report provided on cash and investments as of 30 June 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

Council note the monthly Cash and Investment Report containing the bank balances and schedule of investments as of 30 June 2022.

BACKGROUND

Cash at Bank

Council's consolidated cash position (cash and investments) as of 30 June 2022 was \$30,489,646.63, with the cash at bank amount for the same period being \$1,737,728.15.

Investments

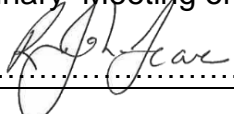
As at 30 June 2022, Council's total invested funds were \$28,751,918,48, as detailed in the following pages. The limits used in these reports are based on the revised Investment Policy, expected to be adopted by Council at the July 2022 meeting.

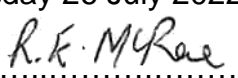
Investments were in compliance with the revised Investment Policy, with the exception of funds invested in IMB Ltd (27.59%), which are in excess of the individual counterparty limit set for BBB-rated institutions (10%). As previously indicated to Councillors, these investments will be divested as soon as practicable.

43.93% of investment funds were held with the Coleambally Community Bank (Bendigo) as of 30 June 2022.

Murrumbidgee Council's money-weighted rate of return for the month of June 2022 (0.78% p.a.) exceeded the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index benchmark rate (0.60% p.a.).

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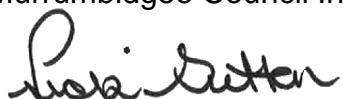
.....General Manager

.....Mayor

OFFICER COMMENT

I certify that:

- 1) the cash book was reconciled with the bank balance as shown by the bank statements as at 30 June 2022;
- 2) the investments have been invested in accordance with the Local Government Act and Regulations, however have not been invested in alignment with Murrumbidgee Council Investment Policy, as detailed above.



Vicki Sutton
Responsible Accounting Officer

SUSTAINABILITY

N/A

STATUTORY COMPLIANCE/POLICY

- Local Government Act 1993;
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2005;
- Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting (Guidelines).
- Murrumbidgee Council Investment Policy

FINANCIAL

Nil; information only.

INTEGRATED PLANS

Leading By Example

5.1.3 Maintain sound legislative decision-making that is ethical, accountable and transparent.

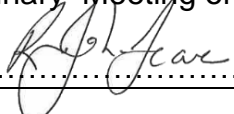
RISK MANAGEMENT

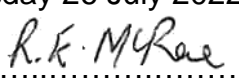
N/A

CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT

- General Manager
- Finance Manager
- Accountant

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.....General Manager

.....Mayor

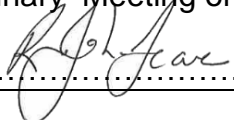
OPTIONS

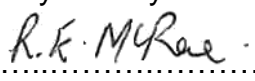
As per the recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment # 15: Investments as at 30 June 2022

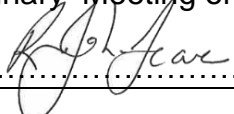
This is page 42 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

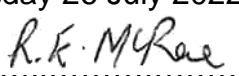
.....General Manager

.....Mayor

STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES	2021-22	2020-21
	Consolidated	Consolidated
CASH AT BANK 31 MAY 2022	2,294,977.53	2,479,719.74
ADD - Receipts - 30 June 2022	1,415,823.18	2,536.03
ADD - Receipts - Bendigo Bank	3,792,077.73	3,141,473.73
ADD - Outstanding Merchant settlement	3,371.49	0.00
ADD - Adjustments	0.00	29,053.05
LESS - Cheques	0.00	-1,208.75
LESS - EFT - Autopay	-3,536,101.32	-1,061,916.48
LESS - Payroll	-601,967.07	-344,703.74
LESS - Interbank Transfers	-1,623,874.70	0.00
LESS - Bank Charges & Transfers	-1,826.70	-1,986.05
LESS - Loan Repayments	0.00	0.00
LESS - Investments	0.00	-1,193,363.46
LESS - Emergency Services Levy		-124,311.18
LESS - Visa Card Pymt	-4,399.92	-4,816.09
LESS - Fuel Card	-352.07	-285.75
LESS - Photocopy Rental	0.00	0.00
CASH AT BANK 30 June 2022	1,737,728.15	2,920,191.05
CASH AT BANK 31 MAY 2022	196,647.54	197,751.31
Bank Statements - Bendigo Bank	1,551,782.28	2,903,646.68
PLUS Outstanding Deposits	0.00	738.71
PLUS Outstanding Merchant Settlement	3,371.49	0.00
LESS Unpresented Cheques	-1,171.41	0.00
LESS Outstanding Autopay	-12,901.75	-181,945.65
LESS Reverse Autopay	0.00	0.00
CASH AT BANK 30 June 2022	1,737,728.15	2,920,191.05
Add Investments	28,751,918.48	25,036,957.10
Total Cash and Investments	30,489,646.63	27,957,148.15
Represented by:-		
Trust Account	411,616.67	292,980.82
Water Fund	2,991,143.58	2,792,026.38
Sewer Fund	4,416,132.66	4,282,080.67
Domestic Waste Management	73,804.00	73,804.00
Unexpended Grant Funds	5,413,859.27	2,479,317.43
Plant Reserve	1,154,078.00	1,654,230.00
Employee Leave Entitlement Reserve	1,070,781.00	1,170,781.00
Infrastructure Reserve	2,703,655.00	2,706,698.00
Contributions Levy Reserve	485,469.00	384,630.00
New Council Implementation Fund	64,798.58	186,715.95
Stronger Communities Fund	5,468,571.70	7,151,851.85
General Fund	6,235,737.17	4,782,032.05
	30,489,646.63	27,957,148.15

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 General Manager

 Mayor

ITEM NO. 10 - NEW COUNCIL IMPLEMENTATION FUND – JUNE 2022

Council Meeting: 26 July 2022
 Report Date: 18 July 2022
 Author: Finance Manager
 File #: SC59
 Approval: General Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council originally received a grant of \$5M for the purposes of funding the work to be undertaken to merge the two Councils, with an additional amount of \$1,225,000 being received for specific purposes.

This report provides an update on expenditure to date of these tied and untied New Council Implementation Funds (NCIF).

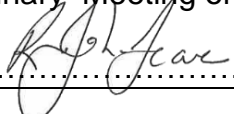
RECOMMENDATION

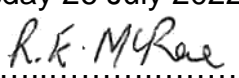
That the contents of the New Council Implementation Fund - June 2022 Report be noted.

BACKGROUND

	Amended Budget	Expenditure (Jun 2022)
PMO Staffing	\$1,400,000	\$1,600,091
Asset Management	\$330,000	\$336,300
Communications/Webpage	\$74,500	\$67,254
Information Technology	\$1,800,000	\$1,803,681
Policy Development	\$31,000	\$30,522
Human Resources (staff training and accommodation)	\$265,000	\$304,476
Marketing and Branding	\$92,500	\$92,440
Service Reviews	\$180,000	\$126,672
Signage/Uniforms/Rebranding	\$127,000	\$120,871
SCF Grant Administration	\$50,500	\$50,335
Miscellaneous	\$265,000	\$247,948
GIS Conversion Project	\$80,000	\$31,585
Integrated Telephone System	\$60,000	\$61,058
Local Representation Committee Allowances (2016/17)	\$124,500	\$124,118
Provision for adjustment to new Salary System during 2018/19	\$120,000	\$335,971
Provision of funding for telephone tower at Bundure	\$425,000	\$369,386
Integrate and update LEP and DCP's	\$350,000	\$160,767

This is page 44 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022


General Manager


Mayor

Provision of Integrated Risk Management Systems	\$150,000	
Provision of project readiness-design briefs and estimates	\$300,000	\$296,726
TOTAL	6,225,000	\$6,160,201

OFFICER COMMENT

The remaining funds from this project amount to \$64,799, with amalgamation of the LEP and associated works continuing, together with the implementation of an Asset Management System being undertaken.

SUSTAINABILITY

N/A

STATUTORY COMPLIANCE/POLICY

Quarterly updates are required to be provided to Council, with 6 monthly reports to the Office of Local Government.

FINANCIAL

As listed

INTEGRATED PLANS

Amendment to overall project costing has been authorised within the operational plan and delivery programmes for the 2021-22 financial year, as per quarterly budget reviews undertaken to March 2022.

RISK MANAGEMENT

N/A

CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT

N/A

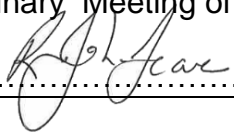
OPTIONS


As per the recommendation

ATTACHMENTS

NIL

This is page 45 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.......... General Manager

.......... Mayor

ITEM NO. 11 – RATES AND ANNUAL CHARGES COLLECTION REPORT - JUNE 2022

Council Meeting: 26 July 2022
Report Date: 19 July 2022
Author: Finance Manager
File #: SC165
Approval: General Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on rates and annual charges collection, showing totals for the initial levy, rebates applied, interest and legal costs incurred and total outstanding as at 30 June 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

The contents of the Rates and Annual Charges Collection Report at 30 June 2022 be noted.

BACKGROUND

	Total
Arrears brought forward	\$ 387,617
2021-2022 Levy	\$6,247,164
Less Pensioner Rebates	\$(99,030)
Interest and extra charges raised to 30/06/22	\$41,666
Net Rates & Charges to 30/06/22	\$ 6,577,417
Amount Collected to 30/06/22	\$ (6,090,987)
Total Outstanding (to 30/06/22)	\$ 486,430

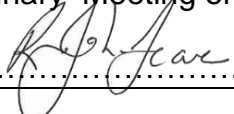
OFFICER COMMENT

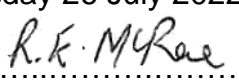
The percentage of rates and annual charges collected as at 30 June 2022 equates to 93%, in comparison to 94% for the same period last year.

SUSTAINABILITY

N/A

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.....General Manager

.....Mayor

STATUTORY COMPLIANCE/POLICY

- Local Government Act 1993;
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2005;
- Murrumbidgee Council Rates & Charges Hardship Policy.

INTEGRATED PLANS

Community Strategic Plan

5.1 Transparent Leadership, Sustainability, Accountability and Community Representation:

5.1.1 Provide leadership through ethical, accountable and legislative decision making processes.

RISK MANAGEMENT

N/A

CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT

Rates Officers

OPTIONS

As per the recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS

NIL

ITEM NO. 12 – STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUND – JUNE 2022

Council Meeting:	26 July 2022
Report Date:	18 July 2022
Author:	Finance Manager
File #:	SC137
Approval:	General Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's priority projects for the Stronger Communities Fund, rounds 1 and 2, have previously been set.

Under the terms of the funding deed, Council provided for grants in the amount of \$1,414,822 to local community organisations.

Council has also determined a further \$13,993,185 for the major projects component of the Stronger Communities Fund.

Interest on the unexpended component of the grant is to be included for Stronger Community Fund expenditure.

RECOMMENDATION

The contents of the Stronger Communities Fund Report be noted.

BACKGROUND

As at 30 June 2022, of the 55 community grants projects provided for, 54 have now been financially completed, with some minor works still to be undertaken on 1 project.

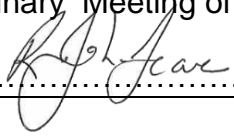
Of the further 36 major projects determined, 21 projects have been completed, with a further 13 commenced or nearing completion.

OFFICER COMMENT

The attached spreadsheet indicates the current position of all SCF funded programs as at 30 June 2022.

The projects not yet listed as commenced are the town water supplies for Coleambally and Darlington Point which are still awaiting the outcome of the completion of the Integrated Water Cycle Management Plans.

This is page 48 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.....General Manager

.....Mayor

SUSTAINABILITY

NIL

STATUTORY COMPLIANCE/POLICY

Quarterly updates are required to be provided to Council, with 6 monthly reports to the Office of Local Government.

FINANCIAL

Council has reinvested an amount of \$868,610.00 in interest on the unexpended grant funds into the funding pool.

INTEGRATED PLANS

Amendment to overall project costing is required within the operational plan and delivery programmes for future years, based upon anticipated completion dates of projects.

CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT

- Management Group
- Council
- Community

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment # 16: Stronger Communities Fund Grant Information at 30 June 2022.

ITEM NO. 13 - DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS APPROVED UNDER DELEGATION, JUNE 2022

Council Meeting: 26 July 2022
Report Date: 15 July 2022
Author: Director Planning, Community & Development
File #: SC210
Approval: General Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Information report provided to Council on Development Applications Approved Under Delegation during June 2022.

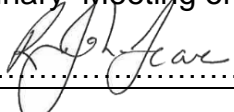
RECOMMENDATION

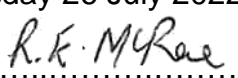
The information contained in the Development Applications Approved under Delegation, June 2022, be noted.

BACKGROUND

Application No	Address	Decision Date	Decision
DA24-2022	7346 Kidman Way Darlington Point	30/06/2022	Approved (Delegation)
<u>Description:</u>		<u>Consideration in determining application:</u>	
Subdivision		The development application was assessed under Section 4.15 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Neighbour notification or agency referral was not required.	
CDC3-2022	2 Rankin Road Jerilderie	24/06/2022	Approved (Delegation)
<u>Description:</u>		<u>Consideration in determining application:</u>	
Dwelling		The complying development certificate application was assessed under Section 4.28 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Neighbour notification or agency referral was not required.	
DA21-2022	2-6 Demamiel Street Darlington Point	24/06/2022	Approved (Delegation)
<u>Description:</u>		<u>Consideration in determining application:</u>	
Additional Cabin		The development application was assessed under Section 4.15 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Neighbour notification or agency referral was not required.	

This is page 50 of 50 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Murrumbidgee Council held Tuesday 26 July 2022

.....General Manager

.....Mayor