



BUSINESS PAPER

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

To be held on

Wednesday, 23 October 2019
4pm

at

Armidale Council Chambers

Members

Councillor Simon Murray (Mayor)
Councillor Libby Martin (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Peter Bailey
Councillor Jon Galletly
Councillor Diane Gray
Councillor Andrew Murat
Councillor Debra O'Brien
Councillor Margaret O'Connor
Councillor Dorothy Robinson
Councillor Ian Tiley
Councillor Bradley Widders

AGENDA

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20	Close of Ordinary Meeting	

Item:	8.1	Ref: AINT/2019/22345
Title:	FOR INFORMATION: Notice of Motion - Cr Robinson - 25 September 2019	Container: ARC16/0025
Author:	Nathalie Heaton, Service Leader Governance, Risk and Corporate Planning	
Attachments:	Nil	

One Notice of Motion received from Cr Robinson for the Ordinary Council Meeting on 25 September 2019 was deemed unlawful by virtue of clause 3.14 of the Code of Meeting Practice (COMP). It was therefore not included in the Business Paper.

Item: 8.2 **Ref:** AINT/2019/24251
Title: FOR DECISION: Climate Emergency Declaration **Container:** ARC16/0025
Author: Dorothy Robinson, Councillor
Attachments: 1. Notice of Motion: Climate Emergency - background information (attachment)

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the above motion at the Ordinary Council to be held on 23 October 2019.

- a) **That Council acknowledge our local and global communities are facing a climate emergency that requires urgent action by all levels of government; that human-induced climate change represents a great threat to humanity, civilisation and other species; and that, to prevent the most catastrophic outcomes, societies including local councils, need to take urgent action.**
- b) **That Council therefore declares that we are in a 'Climate Emergency'.**
- c) **That a report be prepared by February 2020, with input from a working group of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee and the community, on current initiatives and additional future actions that can be undertaken in the short, medium and long term to:**
 1. **Reduce greenhouse emissions aiming, by 2030, for no additional contribution from our region to the global temperature rise**
 2. **Adapt to current and anticipated climate change impacts**
 3. **Reduce atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases, e.g. Sequester and store carbon in trees and soils.**
- d) **That Council encourages other local governments (that have not already done so) to take similar action to reduce greenhouse emissions and protect our climate.**
- e) **That Council lobbies State and Federal Governments for urgent action to reduce greenhouse emissions and protect our climate.**

.....
Cr Dorothy Robinson
14 October 2019

Item: 8.3 **Ref:** AINT/2019/24257
Title: FOR DECISION: Water strategy for Saumarez Historical Trust **Container:**
ARC16/0025
Author: Margaret O'Connor, Councillor
Attachments: Nil

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the above motion at the Ordinary Council to be held on 23 October 2019.

That Council extend its watering strategy to save historic trees in Central Park to Saumarez National Trust Property so that it's historic trees and plant items can be saved from perishing due to lack of water.

.....
Cr Margaret O'Connor/Cr Ian Tiley
14 October 2019

Management Comment:

The head gardener at Saumarez Historical Trust House recently contacted Council's Coordinator of Public and Town Spaces to discuss the strategy that parks staff had put in place for Central Park including mulching and aerating. He expressed an interest in doing the same for some trees at Saumarez.

Council is happy to provide advice on strategies to support maintenance of gardens during the ongoing drought conditions and understands that Saumarez uses bore water to water their gardens. The Historical Trust has not sought anything further from the Council. In the circumstances, other than ongoing advice and support, there is not a need to replicate the watering regime at Central Park at Saumarez which is managed by the Historical Trust.

Item: 8.4 **Ref:** AINT/2019/24258
Title: FOR DECISION: Community Q & A Water Information Session
Container: ARC16/0025
Author: Margaret O'Connor, Councillor
Attachments: Nil

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the above motion at the Ordinary Council to be held on 23 October 2019.

- a) **That Council hold, as soon as possible, a WATER SUPPLY Q and A session in the Town Hall for all ARC residents so that the public can have the opportunity to understand what Council is doing to ensure water supply in the region.**
- b) **That local members Hon Adam Marshall MP and Hon Barnaby Joyce be invited to attend and speak to the community on this subject from their state and federal perspectives, respectively.**

.....
Cr Margaret O'Connor/Cr Ian Tiley
14 October 2019

Management Comment:

Large Town Hall style community meetings are not conducive to providing meaningful outreach with the community. Often they are hijacked by individuals with an agenda and don't allow the broader community to participate.

The Drought Management Water Restriction Communications and Engagement Plan identifies a number of tactics for Council to employ to provide meaningful ways for stakeholders and the community to participate in and remain engaged.

Initiatives from the plan are now being implemented including **partnering with industry, community organisation outreach program, partnering with UNE, schools engagement and adaption measures for accommodation providers.**

Individual outreach is currently underway with identified top business water users to implement a Water Saving Action Plan and council has redirected resources to provide one-on-one support through a conservation officer to assist these businesses to reduce their water use by up to 25 percent. Council has developed a business rebate program specifically for the top water users to provide a financial incentive. Businesses outside of top water users will be engaged with in industry groups in a workshop environment as asked to pledge to save water. Council will also be conducting outreach with larger businesses to engage staff on water conservation and best practice within their own organisations and in the home.

Broader community outreach is being undertaken through

- A values and perceptions survey (currently live on our yoursay website)
- Pop-up engagement at the Markets in the Mall

- Water Expo for National Water Week to be held in conjunction with the 27 October Markets in the Mall
- Static displays at Armidale Central, libraries, customer service areas, airport and shopfront in Guyra
- Presentations at community organisations eg Business Chamber, Rotary etc
- Promotional campaign across all media channels and regular updates and flow of information to the media
- Social/online media campaign.

Item: 9.1 **Ref:** AINT/2019/20247
Title: FOR DECISION: Internal Reporting Policy **Container:** ARC17/1847
Author: Nathalie Heaton, Service Leader Governance, Risk and Corporate Planning
Attachments: 1. DRAFT Internal Reporting Policy

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Internal Reporting Policy be placed on Public Exhibition 28 days and if no significant submissions are received, that the Policy be adopted.

Context

It is a statutory requirement under the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994* (PID Act) for all Councils to adopt an Internal Reporting Policy. This Policy has been based on the NSW Ombudsman's model.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish an internal reporting system for staff and Councillors to report wrongdoing without fear of reprisal. The policy sets out who you can report wrongdoing to in Council, what can be reported and how reports of wrongdoing will be dealt with by Council. This policy is designed to complement normal communication channels between supervisors and staff. Staff are encouraged to raise matters of concern at any time with their supervisors, but also have the option of making a report about a public interest issue in accordance with this policy and the PID Act.

This policy is just one in the suite of Council's complaint handling policies.

The internal reporting system established under this policy is not intended to be used for staff grievances, which should be raised through the Staff Grievance (Operational Policy 145). If a staff member makes a report under this policy which is substantially a grievance, the matter will be referred to Human Resource to be dealt with in accordance with the Staff Grievance Operational Policy.

Proposal, Research and Analysis

Following Proclamation, all policies rolled into the newly amalgamated Council nonetheless the Internal Reporting Policy was due for review. It has been redrafted, following the guidelines set by the NSW Ombudsman.

Impact

There are no significant impacts in adopting the Internal Reporting Policy.

Summary

It is a statutory obligation for Councils in NSW to adopt an Internal Reporting Policy, and the Policy should be reviewed every two years.

Once adopted, copies of Organisational Statement and the Policy itself will be communicated to staff.

Item:	9.2	Ref: AINT/2019/22741
Title:	FOR DECISION: Review of Councillor and Staff Interaction Policy	Container: ARC17/2330
Author:	Nathalie Heaton, Service Leader Governance, Risk and Corporate Planning	
Attachments:	1. Councillor and Staff Interaction Policy - Reviewed following appointment of General Managers	

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) **That the Councillor and Staff Interaction Policy be amended following the change in titles, and endorsed.**
- (b) **That the Draft Councillor and Staff Interaction Policy go on public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days.**
- (c) **That if no submissions are made within the submission period, then the Councillor and Staff Interaction Policy be adopted.**

Context

Policy provides a framework for Councillors in exercising their civic duties by specifically addressing their ability to interact and receive advice from authorised staff. This Policy supports the provisions of the Code of Conduct.

Purpose

The Local Government Act defines the roles and responsibilities of the Mayor and Councillors, and specifies that the General Manager is to direct staff in the performance of their duties. Interactions between Councillors and staff are necessary to facilitate well-informed decisions and the provision of Council services.

In accordance with Council's Code of Conduct, Councillors, Administrators and staff are expected to conduct their interactions with each other with respect, professionalism, objectivity, honesty and to a high standard of ethical behaviour. This Policy supplements the Code and nominates those Council staff that Councillors may access to exercise their civic leadership and represent the views of the community.

Proposal, Research and Analysis

In accordance with Council's Code of Conduct, Councillors, Administrators and staff are expected to conduct their interactions with each other with respect, professionalism, objectivity, honesty and to a high standard of ethical behaviour. This Policy supplements the Code and nominates those Council staff that Councillors may access to exercise their civic leadership and represent the views of the community.

Summary

No changes have been made to the Policy other than the change in staff titles following the restructure.

Item: 9.3 **Ref:** AINT/2019/24356
Title: FOR INFORMATION: Delivery Program 2017-2021 and Operational Plan 2018-2019 Progress Report - June 2019 **Container:** ARC16/0502
Author: Renata Davis, Program Leader - Corporate Planning and Performance
Attachments: 1. Delivery Program 2017-2021 and Operational Plan 2018-2019 - Progress Report - June 2019

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Delivery Program 2017-2021 and Operational Plan 2018-2019 Progress Report (June Quarter 2019) be noted.

Context

The attached document is a progress report based on the strategies of the Delivery Program 2017-2021 and the activities of the Operational Plan 2018-2019. This June Quarter Report completes the Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements for the 2018-2019 Financial Year.

Purpose

This Report informs Council and the Community about the progress of Council's Operational Plan actions and how these actions work towards delivering the strategies outlined in the Delivery Program, and ultimately, the goals of the Community Strategic Plan, as part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

This reporting is a requirement of the **Local Government Act 1993 s404(5)**, which states that: *The general manager must ensure that regular progress reports are provided to the council reporting as to its progress with respect to the principal activities detailed in its delivery program. Progress reports must be provided at least every 6 months.*

Armidale Regional Council has opted to provide Quarterly Progress Reports which update Councillors on both the progress of the Delivery Program strategies and the Operational Plan actions which work towards achieving those strategies.

Proposal, Research and Analysis

Each of Council's business areas has completed a final review, based on the April to June period, of the strategic and operational tasks and key performance indicators adopted in the Operational Plan 2018-2019.

Summary

As the final Progress Report for the Operational Plan 2018-2019, this document gives an assessment of progress and achievements against the actions. The next Progress Report will be based on the Operational Plan 2019-2020 which began 1 July 2019.

Item: 10.1 **Ref:** AINT/2019/24058
Title: FOR DECISION: 2019/20 Carry Forward Budget Review **Container:** ARC18/2703
Author: Kelly Stidworthy, Service Leader - Finance
Attachments: 1. 2019/20 Carry Forward Budget Review Report

RECOMMENDATION:

- a) That Council note the 2019/20 Carry Forward Budget Review.
- b) That Council resolve to amend the 2019/20 budget in accordance with the Budget Review Report tabled at the attachment.

Context

The 2019/20 Carry Forwards represent incomplete projects as at 30 June 2019 that had a 2018/19 budget allocation. It is necessary for Council to resolve to carry forward unspent amounts in order to provide funding for the projects to be finalised in the 2019/20 financial year.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information on the 2019/20 Carry Forwards and to obtain approval to amend the adopted budget for those amounts.

Proposal, Research and Analysis

The following projects were identified as incomplete as at 30 June 2019 and requiring a carry forward budget allocation.

Capital

Project No	Description	Revenue Budget to be Carried Forward	Expense Budget to be Carried Forward	Funding Source	Total Grant	Status	Is Council Delivering Project?
210115	Armidale Regional Adventure Playground	(3,322)	328,420	Grant	333,233	In Progress	Yes
210119	Mother of Ducks Lagoon & Nature Reserve Upgrade	(1,524)	151,904	Grant	153,054	In Progress	Yes
210120	Guyra Community Hub Upgrade	(268,000)	397,897	Grant	400,000	In Progress	Yes
210122	Tingha Skate Park Upgrade	(76,380)	93,100	Grant	114,000	Finalised	Yes
210218	Transport Infrastructure Upgrades	(2,800)	1,217	Grant	4,000	Finalised	Yes
210234	Airport Business Park		54,088			In Progress	Yes
	Guyra Depot Electrical Upgrade		32,925			Finalised	Yes
210413	RFS RAFT Shed		283,495	Contribution		In Progress	Yes
210414	RFS FCC Armidale	(72,465)	70,213	Contribution		In Progress	Yes
210501	Plant Purchases/Sales	(332,863)	750,004			In Progress	Yes
	21st Century Library Strategy Implementation		193,522			In Progress	Yes
230265	SES HQ Upgrade		35,000			In Progress	Yes
240282	Harris Park Lighting		68,579			In Progress	Yes

Project No	Description	Revenue Budget to be Carried Forward	Expense Budget to be Carried Forward	Funding Source	Total Grant	Status	Is Council Delivering Project?
240287	Sports Council Program		25,227			In Progress	Yes
240331	Solar Project Installation at Major Council Facilities		166,299	Grant	434,000	In Progress	Yes
240611	CBD CCTV Cameras, Security & Lighting Upgrade		210,067	Grant	450,000	In Progress	Yes
260301	Sewage Pumping Stations		88,500	Sewer Reserve		In Progress	Yes
260407	Sewage Treatment Plant		454,810	Sewer Reserve		In Progress	Yes
270251	Guyra Main Street Upgrade		1,040,160	Grant	2,000,000	In Progress	Yes
270254	Water Filling Stations	(50,000)	24,910	Grant	100,000	Finalised	Yes
270418	Kempsey Road Improvements		160,435	Grant	1,313,376	In Progress	Yes
270436	Boorolong Rd Upgrade	(174,791)	219,371	Grant	372,000	Finalised	Yes
270439	Puddledock Road		114,445	Grant	153,500	In Progress	Yes
270537	Bridges Replacement Program		51,910	Grant	2,900,000	In Progress	Yes
272008	Airport Lands Subdivision		643,199			In Progress	Yes
272011	Regional Airport Apron		117,389			In Progress	Yes
272025	Shand Drive Construction	(40,000)	554,062	Part Grant	1,226,978	In Progress	Yes
272028	Taxiway Access Construction R&M		100,000			Not Commenced	Yes
272029	Airport Capital Works		200,000			Not Commenced	Yes
280213	Malpas Dam Water Release Facility		102,000			Not Commenced	Yes
280216	Dumaresq Dam Upgrade Stability Investigation		871,058			In Progress	Yes
280327	Reservoir Cleaning & Ladder Replacements		14,784			In Progress	Yes
280425	Water Pumping Stations		251,302	Water Reserve		In Progress	Yes
280726	Water Treatment Plant		471,465	Water Reserve		In Progress	Yes
290146	New Landfill Construction		1,207,124	Loan		In Progress	Yes
290700	Armidale Organics Processing Expansion	41,157	201,550			In Progress	Yes
300375	IWCM Study & Malpas Guyra Pipeline Investigations	669,787	(435,046)	Grant	11,530,000	Finalised	Yes
300602	Guyra Recreation Grounds Upgrade		27,772			In Progress	Yes
300716	Preschool Upgrade		17,844			In Progress	Yes
	Mobile Stage		80,484	Grant	80,484	Not Commenced	Yes
Total		(311,202)	9,441,485				

The above amounts are reflected in the Budget Review Report tabled at the attachment and reconcile back the following Carry Forward budget adjustments:

<u>Consolidated – Cashflow & Reserve Movements</u>	
Proceeds from Property, Plant & Equipment	(332,863)
Capital Grants and Contributions	<u>21,662</u>
Total	(311,201)

Purchase of Property, Plant & Equipment

9,441,485

Operating

Project No	Description	Revenue Budget to be Carried Forward	Expense Budget to be Carried Forward	Funding Source	Total Grant	Status	Is Council Delivering Project?
210053	Black Mountain Tennis Court Fence		15,000	Grant	15,000	In Progress	No
210614	Review and Enhance the New Council Website		8,102	Grant	8,102	Finalised	Yes
210654	Transformation Program		75,415	Grant	75,415	In Progress	Yes
250203	Masterplan		141,458	Grant	141,458	In Progress	Yes
210930	Automated Vehicle Trial - Unspent Grant		20,614	Grant	637,323	In Progress	Yes
210930	Automated Vehicle Trial - Council Contribution		25,000			In Progress	Yes
250180	Gasworks Remediation		25,000			In Progress	Yes
300074	Guyra Home Support Services		32,782	Grant	32,782	Finalised	Yes
210114	N E Movement and Adventure Centre	(668,686)	983,634	Grant	998,039	In Progress	No
210117	Mountain Bike Facilities (GONZO)	(99,013)	147,780	Grant	147,780	In Progress	No
210123	Guyra Gun Club Upgrade	(67,094)	100,141	Grant	100,141	In Progress	No
240381	Armidale Golf Club Upgrade		74,449	Grant	252,827	In Progress	No
220110	Aboriginal Employment Development Trainees		45,683	Grant	50,000	In Progress	Yes
240250	Sports Council		40,887	Grant	40,887	In Progress	Yes
240253	Get Active Week		15,661	Grant	15,661	In Progress	Yes
Total		(834,793)	1,751,606				

The above amounts are reflected in the Budget Review Report tabled at the attachment and reconcile back the following Carry Forward budget adjustments:

Consolidated – Income Statement

Operating Grants and Contributions 834,793

Total Recurrent Expenditure 1,751,606

Impact

The 2019/20 Carry Forwards will add around \$9.4m in expenditure to the 2019/20 capital program and around \$917k of net expenditure to Council's operating result. This will have a detrimental impact on Council's forecast 2019/20 operating result however it is largely as a result of grant funded projects where Council acts as the lead agency under the funding agreement.

Summary

The 2019/20 Carry Forward Budget Review needs to be resolved by Council in order to be included in the 2019/20 adopted budget.

Item:	10.2	Ref: AINT/2019/24108
Title:	FOR DECISION: Debt Write Off Delegation	Container: ARC16/1228
Author:	Kelly Stidworthy, Service Leader - Finance	
Attachments:	Nil	

RECOMMENDATION:

That, in accordance with section 213(2) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*, Council fix the minimum amount for debts to be written off only by resolution of Council at \$10,000.

Context

Section 213(2) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (the Regulation) states:

A council must from time to time, by resolution, fix an amount above which debts to the council may be written off only by resolution of the council.

This effectively provides the General Manager or CEO with a delegation up to which they can authorise debt write offs by order in writing.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to set a minimum amount for debts to be written off only by resolution of Council at \$10,000.

Proposal, Research and Analysis

Due to the large amount of debts raised and held by Council, debt write offs are an operational matter that is part of the normal course of business.

The provisions of s213(2) of the Regulation reflect this and s213(5) specifies the following debt write off criteria:

A debt can be written off under this clause only:

- a) if the debt is not lawfully recoverable, or*
- b) as a result of a decision of a court, or*
- c) if the council or the general manager believes on reasonable grounds that an attempt to recover the debt would not be cost effective.*

Debt is already written off under delegation by way of the undetectable water leaks policy; however, no delegation currently exists for any other type of debt.

Impact

The existence of a delegation under which debts can be written off will assist with reducing administration within Council with small matters able to be processed more quickly than is currently the case. It will then also be possible to implement business process efficiencies such as writing off small amounts that are less than the cost of the printing and postage of the debt owing. As no delegation currently exists these types of activities are not able to be performed.

While a lower delegation level could be considered, in the context of Council's debt book that was approximately \$7 million at 30 June 2019, \$10,000 is recommended as a reasonable level.

Summary

It is recommended that Council fix the minimum amount for debts to be written off only by resolution of the council at \$10,000.

Item: 10.3 **Ref:** AINT/2019/24506
Title: FOR DECISION: Water Access Card Administration Fee **Container:**
ARC18/2703
Author: Kelly Stidworthy, Service Leader - Finance
Attachments: 1. Draft Water Access Card application form

RECOMMENDATION:

- a) **That Council endorse for public exhibition, the proposed new Water Access Card Administration Fee as outlined in this report.**
- b) **That the proposed Fee be publicly exhibited in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993.**
- c) **That a further report addressing any matters raised through the public exhibition period be brought back to Council for consideration prior to finalising the proposed Fee. Should no submissions be received during the public exhibition period, the proposed and advertised Water Access Card Administration Fee be adopted and implemented without a further report to Council after the public exhibition period ends.**

Context

This report proposes introduction of a new Water Access Card Administration Fee.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval to introduce an administration fee for a proposed Water Access Card (WAC).

Proposal, Research and Analysis

Council is now providing access to potable water at water filling stations located at the Armidale Arboretum (New England Highway, Armidale) and McKie Parkway (opposite Moredun Street in Guyra).

The intent of the water filling stations is to provide access to potable water for Armidale Regional Council residents on rural properties that meet the following criteria:

- Within the Armidale Regional Council LGA
- Not connected to the potable water reticulation network
- The property has an approved, occupied, residential dwelling

Under the current arrangements purchasing of water at the filling stations is via a credit card swipe that allows the sale of water to anyone with a functioning credit card.

Since becoming operational there is evidence that customers other than those that meet the above criteria are purchasing water at the filling stations. There is also evidence that water transporters are purchasing water from the site and carting water out of the LGA. Council has taken action to prevent abuse of this service, however it remain vulnerable to misuse.

In order to ensure water is responsibly sourced from the filling stations, Council officers have investigated options to address access with card reader technology suppliers.

Following these investigations an option to provide an account card to preregistered card users (using an application form) was agreed as the best way to address access and maintain control over the use of the water as per current water restrictions.

The proposal to use a WAC is based on the following:

- Users must pre-register via an application form (copy attached)
- An upfront non-refundable fee of \$100 to obtain a WAC will be charged to cover the cost of the card, administration fees to process the application, costs to monitor usage per card and the transaction fee charged by the service provider for each transaction (currently proposed at \$0.22 per transaction)
- When completing the application residents will be required to prepay for water they plan to take from the filling station up to 8,000 litres per month.
- Prepaid water charges will be levied at the current rate being charged at the water filling stations i.e. \$3.90 per kilolitre
- The card provider has stated the card use can be limited to 8,000 litres per month and once the limit is reached further transactions would not be allowed until the card is reactivated – by way of a further prepaid amount.
- Reactivation of the card following a “top up” payment can be managed remotely by Council personnel.

Impact

The proposed administration fee is considered reasonable and is less than the current water access fee of \$225.00 per annum for Armidale and Guyra residents on the water network.

The introduction of the Water Access Card system or similar controls is a necessary step in the management of water resources and to assist in the regulation of volumes of water removed at water filling stations.

Only customers that have pre registered and approved water access cards will be able to remove water from the water filling stations.

Credit card access at the filling station will be disabled once the WAC system is operational.

Summary

Once Council endorses the proposed fee, a public exhibition process must be followed. A further report will be prepared should submissions be received during the exhibition period and presented to a future Council meeting. If no submissions are received, then the new fee will commence after the public exhibition period ends.

Item:	11.1	Ref: AINT/2019/24119
Title:	FOR DECISION Installation of one (1) 6m x 3m Digital Wall Advertisement at 197 Beardy Street, Armidale (Dumaresq Street frontage)	Container: DA-56-2019
Author:	Simon Vivers, Town Planner	
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Plans of Development2. Section 4.15 Assessment3. Lighting Impact Assessment4. Road Safety Assessment5. Recommended Conditions of Approval	

RECOMMENDATION:

That having regard to the assessment of DA-56-2019, that Council:

- a) **Grant consent to the Application subject to the conditions, as detailed in the conditions document in Attachment 5 to this report.**

Context

The application submitted for Council's consideration is for the installation of one (1) 6m x 3m Digital Wall Advertisement located on land located at 197 Beardy Street, Armidale. The specific site of the installation would be on the north-eastern corner of the land, adjacent to the Dumaresq and Dangar Street intersection/roundabout.

The application requires the consideration of Council given the proposal seeks to vary a numerical development standard imposed by an environmental planning instrument by more than 10%. The relevant EPI is *State Environmental Planning Policy No 64—Advertising and Signage*, Clause 22(b)(iii). This clause restricts the total area of a wall advertisement to 20% of the total size of the elevation.

The clause and assessment of the variation are outlined in detail in the attached assessment report.

The application has been notified to adjoining occupiers as well as Armidale Ex-Services Memorial Club and State of New South Wales (land not adjoining but in proximity to the site). No responses have been received.

Purpose

The purpose of the recommendation is to permit the installation of a Digital Wall Advertisement, subject to the conditions attached. By virtue of granting permission, a Clause 4.6 variation to a development standard would also be approved.

Proposal, Research and Analysis

A detailed assessment of the proposal together with consideration of relevant matters under section 4.15 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* is included in the attachments. A summary of key operational characteristics of the proposal are as below:

The advertisement type breakdown would be as follows:

- Community advertising (10%)
- Local External advertising (includes Armidale Plaza) (10%)

- Other external advertising (includes local or national advertising) (80%)

The hours of operation were proposed to be 5am to 11pm Sunday to Thursday and 5am to 1am Friday to Saturday. It is noted that Council's assessment officer recommends that hours of operation are restricted to 6.30am – 11pm daily, which is consistent with a similar approval in vicinity to the site.

The application has been supported by the following documents:

- Statement of Environmental Effects
- Clause 4.6 Variation Assessment
- Road Safety Assessment
- Lighting Impact Assessment

The application has been referred to Council's Development Engineer, who has raised no objection to the proposal, given the supporting information demonstrates compliance with *Transport Corridor Outdoor Advertising and Signage Guidelines 2017*. No other referrals were required.

Minor revisions have occurred to reduce the height of the proposal and to obtain further justification and details of compliance with State Environmental Planning Policy 64. This in turn has triggered the requirement for the determination variation to a development standard.

Impact

Any impacts from the proposal have been considered in detail in the attached assessment report. In summary, it is considered that the main impacts are in relation to:

- Design and Appearance (including impact on the character and setting of the host building and surrounding area)
- The amenity of adjoining and nearby occupiers
- Traffic and public safety.

Summary

The application is permissible with consent under the *Armidale Dumaresq Local Environmental Plan 2012*. The proposal is also compliant with the *Armidale Dumaresq Development Control Plan 2015* and *State Environmental Planning Policy 64-Advertising and Signage*, and adequately justifies the variation to the relevant development standard as required. The subject location is not affected by any site constraints which would preclude the development. On balance, the proposal is considered acceptable and therefore recommended for approval, subject to conditions.

Item: 12.1 **Ref:** AINT/2019/22182
Title: FOR DECISION: Work Health and Safety Policy **Container:** ARC16/0619
Author: Lindsay Grigg, Acting Program Leader WHS
Attachments: 1. POL 028 WHS Policy Aug 2019

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That the revised Work Health and Safety (WHS) Policy be placed on Public Exhibition for no less than 28 days and if no significant submissions are received, that the Policy be adopted.**
- (b) That once adopted the WHS Policy be placed on all Council noticeboards at all Council facilities.**

Context

While a WHS Policy is not a requirement for Council under the legislation, a current and clear policy is the foundation of Council's commitment to protecting our people against health and safety risks in the workplace.

As part of Council's commitment to WHS the current Policy has been reviewed and based on the suggested format from SafeWork NSW.

Purpose

The WHS Policy forms the foundation of all WHS document at Council and should state the objectives and commitment of the Executive and Management. It provides the guidelines from which the Safety Management System can be developed and determines the nature of the Work Health and Safety Culture within Council.

Proposal, Research and Analysis

As a matter of due process the current Policy has been reviewed and reformatted. This format is simple and reads clearly delivering the require messages of commitment and obligation to good Work Health and Safety at Armidale Regional Council.

Impact

There is no significant impact in adopting the WHS Policy however there can be subtle indirect repercussion if the Policy is not maintained and communicated to all staff and visitors at Armidale Regional Council.

Summary

In order to clearly display the commitment of the Executive and Management and provide the foundation of continual improvement in Work Health and Safety this Policy should be reviewed whenever there are changes in the Organisation and/or the legislation.

Once adopted this Policy will replace the existing Policy and be communicated to staff and displayed in such a way that visitors and contractors have access.

Item: 13.1 **Ref:** AINT/2019/19922
Title: FOR INFORMATION: Disclosure of Interest by Councillors and Designated Persons 2019
Container: ARC16/0662-1
Author: Nathalie Heaton, Service Leader Governance, Risk and Corporate Planning
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council note the Register of Disclosures by Councillors and designated persons for the period July 2018 – June 2019, as tabled.

Background

The purpose of this report is to table Declaration of Interest Returns, in compliance with the provisions of Section 450A of the NSW Local Government Act 1993 (Act), in relation to the keeping of a register of, and the tabling of, pecuniary interest forms by Councillors and designated persons.

Purpose

Section 449(3) of the Local Government Act 1993 requires Councillors (and designated persons), who hold that position on 30 June in each year, to lodge a “Disclosures by Councillors and Designated Persons Return”. All Councillors who held office at 30 June and designated persons should have lodged such a return with the Chief Executive Officer by 30 September 2019.

The purpose of these provisions is to ensure transparency and accountability in local government decision making. The obligations upon Councillors, Chief Executive Officer, Senior Staff and other designated persons are as much a protection for them as it is for the community, in the review of Council’s decisions, and one of the important mechanisms in enhancing public confidence in local administration.

Designated persons identified by Council include the Chief Executive Officer, General Managers (Senior Staff), all Service Leaders; staff authorised to order goods over \$55,000 (inclusive GST), staff involved in strategic planning, staff involved in assessing/issuing consents to development applications and staff involved in compliance/regulatory activities.

Proposal, Research and Analysis

Sections 449 and 450A of the Local Government Act 1993 cover the compulsory lodgement of pecuniary interest annual returns. The Act details specific responsibilities of the Chief Executive Officer in relation to the collection, reporting, tabling and public accessibility of the returns.

Impact

This is not applicable to this report.

Summary

Under the Act, the returns are to be tabled at the first Council meeting following the last day for lodgement.

Item: 13.2 **Ref:** AINT/2019/22418
Title: FOR INFORMATION: 2019 Christmas and New Year closure dates
Container: ARC17/2389
Author: Kim Bryan, General Manager Organisational Development
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council note the 2019 Christmas and New Year close down period from close of business Tuesday, 24 December 2019 and re-opening on Thursday 2 January 2020.

Context

This report advises Council of the closure of the administration offices and depots between Christmas and New Year and the essential service operations that will operate over this time.

Conventionally, Council has closed its normal business operations during the Christmas and New Year period. The 2019 Christmas and New Year proclaimed public holidays that fall during the close down period are as follows:

Wednesday	25 December 2019	Public Holiday
Thursday	26 December	Public Holiday
Friday	27 December	Close down
Saturday	28 December	Close down
Sunday	29 December	Close down
Monday	30 December	Close down
Tuesday	31 December	Close down
Wednesday	1 January 2020	Public Holiday

The Christmas and New Year period is a time of low business activity for the Council and a time when many Staff normally take leave.

Work crews will be rostered to work through this period to deal with emergencies and other critical and unforeseen break downs that may arise.

Council's on-line payment facilities allows registered users to make payments, lodge certificates, access Council's property and application registers, all of which are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Item: 13.3 **Ref:** AINT/2019/23627
Title: FOR INFORMATION: Cash and Investment Report September 2019
Container: ARC16/0001-4
Author: Deborah Walls, Accountant
Attachments: 1. Investment Summary 30.09.2019

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive and note the Cash and Investment Report September 2019.

Context

As at 30 September 2019 Council held \$72,750,620 in cash and investments excluding the Trust Fund.

Purpose

The Cash and Investment Report provides an overview of cash and investments for the period 1 September 2019 – 30 September 2019 and compliance with Council policy.

Proposal, Research and Analysis

Cash and Investments

Council's at call account balances were as follows:

Bank Account	September 2019	August 2019 comparative	Movement
Cash at Bank			
General Fund	0	0	0
Trust Fund	1,436,693	1,435,108	1,585
Total	1,436,693	1,435,108	1,585
High Interest Savings and IM Funds			
High Interest Account	9,496,119	16,627,260	(7,131,141)
TCorp	5,254,501	5,249,859	4,642
Total	14,750,620	21,877,119	(7,126,499)

A daily sweep occurs to clear the balance of the general fund bank account to a nil balance with excess funds deposited into the High Interest Earning account.

During the month the following cash flows occurred. This also includes the transfers to and from the High Interest Account for the daily sweep.

	September 2019	August 2019 Comparative
Receipts	15,283,093	24,162,897
Payments	(15,281,509)	(24,188,627)
Net	1,584	(25,730)

Opening Balance 1/9/2019	85,881,761
Redemptions of Investments	(4,000,000)
Reinvestments of funds	7,000,000
Net transfer to High Interest Account	(7,161,082)
Increased principle due to maturities	(8,970,059)
Closing Balance	<u>\$72,750,620</u>

As per the attached investment register (refer Attachment 1 section 2), the investments are diversified across a range of institutions, with no one institution exceeding 35% of average annual funds invested to ensure the portfolio is in line with the Investment Policy.

Investments with a S&P Long Term Rating of BBB have been utilised to their limit, as these Investments are providing a higher return. The exposure to these investments has decreased to 58% of the Term Deposit Portfolio and 44% of the entire Investment portfolio. As these investments mature over the next 12 months, investments with an alternate rating will need to be sourced to ensure the exposure across the rating system is in line with the Investment Policy. ARC has been moving to higher rating investments where available.

Investment Yield

The Council has invested in Term Deposits which have rates of return higher than the 30 Day BBSW Index. By investing in High Interest Savings Accounts this reduces the average yield across the entire portfolio to be more in line with the 30 day BBSW index.

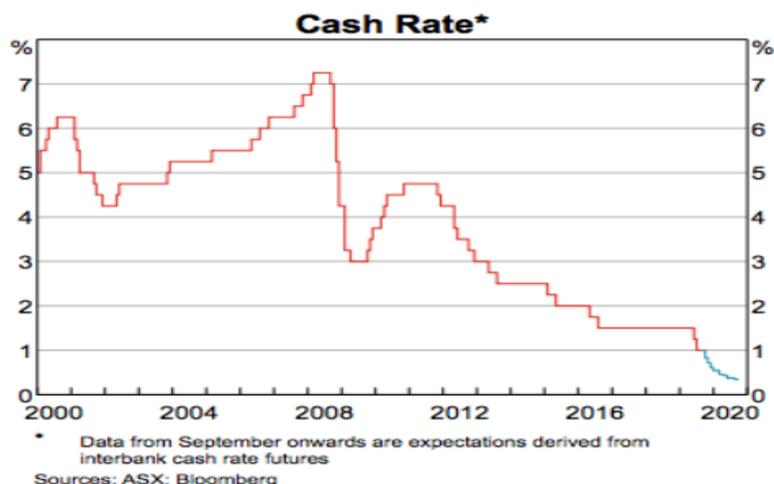
Armidale Regional Council has out performed the RBA Cash rate, the 3 month BBSW and the AusBond Bank Bill Index, for all 12 terms up to September 2019. At the end of September ARC outperformed the 3 month BBSW by 1.47%.

The Council is continually researching and identifying ways to utilise excess funds. In September, the RBA elected to hold the cash rate at 1.00%, resulting in Term Deposits (for a term of less than 12 months), realising a return of an average of 1.6 -1.65%.

Forecast

At its October meeting (1 October 2019) the RBA again reduced the cash rate to its lowest point of 0.75%. It again indicated that *"It is reasonable to expect that an extended period of low interest rates will be required in Australia to reach full employment and achieve the inflation target. The Board will continue to monitor developments, including in the labour market, and is prepared to ease monetary policy further if needed to support sustainable growth in the economy, full employment and the achievement of the inflation target over time."*

The RBA's forecasts suggest another cut to the cash rate. The timing of the cut is still a little uncertain, however market pricing at the time the assumptions are suggesting the first half of 2020. With this expectation ARC may need to consider a longer term outlook when investing.



The Council's adopted Long term Financial Plan (LTFP) should be drawn upon as the basis when investing Longer Term. This will ensure adequate funds are available for the projects identified in the LTFP at an appropriate time.

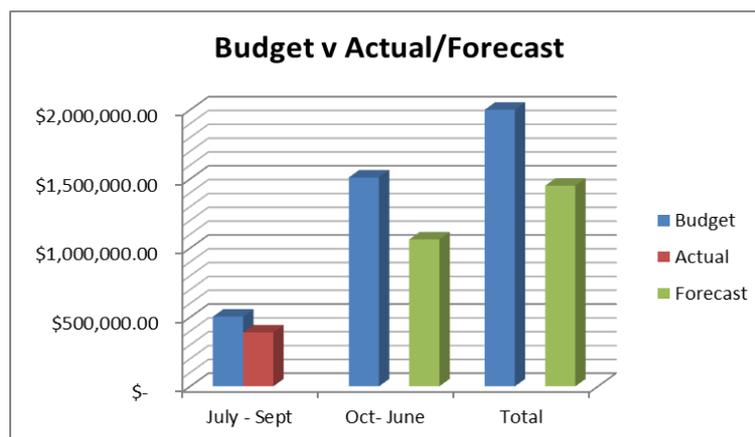
Impact

With a decrease of the cash rate, interest rates from cash and investments will also see a reduction.

Modelling has indicated that ARC can expect interest received from Cash and Investment accounts to be lower than the 2019-2020 original budgeted amounts.

ARC has also held a higher amount in cash due to the expected payment for Monadelphous for the Malpas Pipeline project. This payment has now been expensed, therefore decreasing the amount of cash available to earn interest. A revised budget for interest received should be considered from \$2.014 million to \$1.45 million.

Interest Type	Actual July 19 – Sept 19	Predicted Oct 19 – June20	Total
Cash At Bank (High Interest Account)	\$40,170	\$37,500	\$77,670
T – Corp	\$19,818	\$54,000	\$73,818
Term Deposits	\$329,049	\$969,949	\$1,298,998
Total	\$389,037	\$1,061,449	\$1,450,486
Budget (Original)	\$503,588	\$1,510,765	\$2,014,354
Difference	(\$114,551)	(\$449,316)	(\$563,868)



The current Institution Rating split across the S& P Long Term Rating Scale will require additional attention as the investments fall due. This is due to, the amount invested with any one Institution, based on their S&P rating, has been reduced to restrict single exposure. This will impact the return on investments, as typically the lower credit rating investments have a higher return. It should also be noted that some high term credit rating investments (such as AMP) have set limits on how much we can invest with them. This adds an additional hurdle when investing.

It should be noted that higher rated investments often have lower rates as can be seen in the example below.

Available Rates at 1 October 2019 – Long Term Rating A-AA

Institution	1month	3 month	6-8 Months	9-11 Months	1 Year	>1 Year
ANZ	1.10	1.49	1.47	1.41	1.35	1.50
NAB	1.10	1.65	1.60	1.56	1.55	1.50
Westpac	0.56	1.30	1.40	1.37	1.51	1.53
Macquarie	0.85	1.65	1.65	1.50	1.45	1.50
Bank of China	1.40	1.39	1.53	1.51	1.46	NA

AMP available rates 1 October 2019 – Long Term Rating BBB+

AMP	1.25	1.65	1.75	1.70	1.70	1.70
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In September, ARC decreased its exposure in BBB+, by only partially reinvesting in Bank of Queensland at maturity. ARC also reinvested with NAB and Regional Australia Bank. No new investments were entered into during September due to additional cash being required to pay for expenses associated with Malpas Pipeline.

All of Council’s investments for the period ending 30 September 2019 are in accordance with:

- Council Investment Policy
- Local Government Act 1993 – Section 625.
- Local Government Act 1993 – Order of the Minister dated 12 January 2011.

- The Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – Reg 212.

The investment of surplus funds must remain in line with Council's Investment Policy. This will ensure sufficient working capital is retained and restrictions are supported by Cash. Cash management complies with the NSW Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

Summary

The Cash and Investment Report provides an overview of cash and investments to 30 September 2019 and demonstrates compliance with Council policy. Investment yields for new investments are lower than previously available; however, all investment options are being investigated with consideration of longer term investment options to be assessed for suitability.

Item: 13.4 **Ref:** AINT/2019/23983
Title: FOR INFORMATION: Monthly Financial Report September 2019
Container: ARC19/3334
Author: Kelly Stidworthy, Service Leader - Finance
Attachments: 1. Monthly Financial Report September 2019

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive and note the Monthly Financial Report September 2019.

Context

Monitoring of YTD actual performance to budget is important to ensure that expenditure remains within available financial resources.

To assist with better monitoring of budgets, budget phasing has been introduced allowing a comparison to be made against YTD budget rather than the Annual budget.

An update on the financial impact of the current drought situation is also included in this report.

Purpose

The monthly financial report is provided to assist with monitoring the financial position of Armidale Regional Council; and ensure that sound financial management practices are employed to ensure expenditure remains within available financial resources.

Proposal, Research and Analysis

The monthly financial report is provided for the following funds:

- General Fund
- Water Supply Fund
- Sewer Supply Fund
- Consolidated

More detailed operating and capital budget reports are also provided. Information relating to the financial impact of the drought is also included in this report.

General Fund

As at 30 September, the General Fund achieved an \$18.4m operating surplus against a YTD budget of \$14.7m. The operating surplus is high because rates have been levied and recognised as income in the July period. As the year progresses expenditure will increase and will offset the surplus to bring the result into closer alignment with the Annual forecast operating position.

Most revenue and expenditure categories are on track to meet budget with the exception of interest revenue, which is tracking lower across all funds due to lower investment rates being achieved. This will need to be reviewed at the first quarter budget review.

Land sales are also flagged as possibly not achieving the full year forecast without the sale of the former Kolora facility being achieved.

The net budget position represents the forecast cash impact of Council's operating and capital results for the year. Council's forecast is for a positive cash impact in 2019/20 to assist with reducing cashflow risk and improving the level of unrestricted cash. The main risk to the forecast

cash position at this time is that the budget for land sales included the disposal of the former Kolora building, which may not be realised.

Water Supply Fund

As at 30 September, the Water Fund achieved a \$1.6m operating surplus against a YTD budget of \$1.8m.

At this time, most revenue and expenditure categories are on track to meet budget with the exception of interest revenue and lower income is expected from user charges and fees due to drought conditions resulting in restricted water use. The likely impact of the drought on the Water Fund financial position is starting to be modelled as outlined below and early indications are that the overall impact on the Water Fund reserve will be significant.

Council has budgeted for a negative cash impact in 2019-20 of \$2.0m due to the requirement to undertake capital works. These works will be funded from the water supply reserve fund.

Drought Financial Impacts

A preliminary review and forecast was undertaken on the Water Fund reserve over the next 24 months and the likely impacts from the currently known projects or trends with financial impacts that are not yet reflected in the budget or long term financial plan.

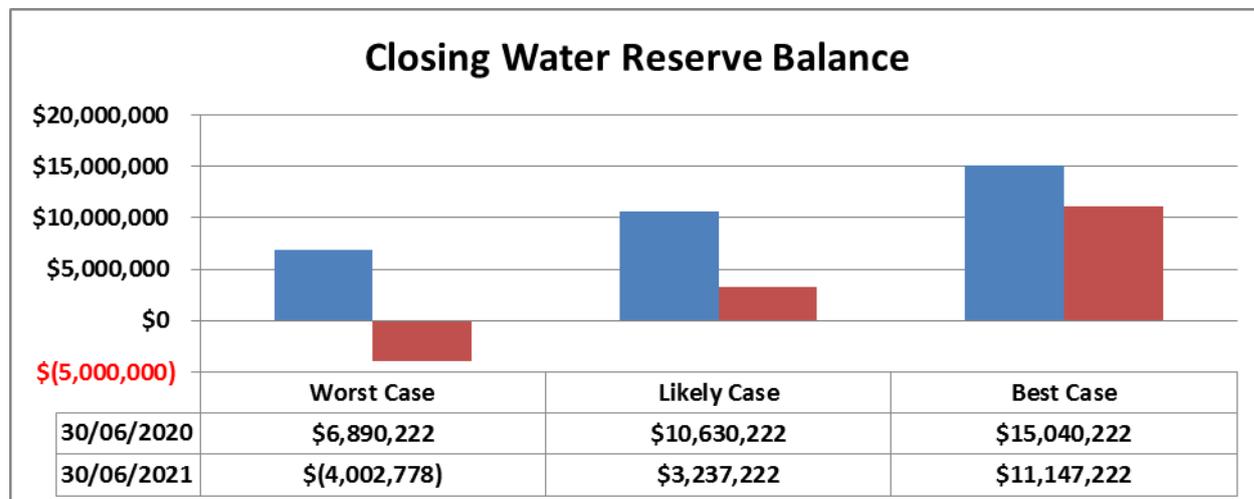
These include:

Project/Trend	Capital or Operating	Amount
Malpas Dam - Additional Pontoon	Capital	1,500,000
Puddledock Dam - Duplicate Pipeline	Capital	11,540,000
Groundwater Infrastructure	Capital	10,000,000
Malpas Dam - Dam Wall Investigation Only	Capital	1,000,000
Water Treatment Plan - Investigation & Design Only	Capital	1,000,000
Dumaresq Dam Safety Project	Capital	1,000,000
Guyra Water Carting and associated costs	Operating	800,000
Groundwater Investigation	Operating	2,000,000
Water Usage Charges Reduction	Operating	2,609,480
Leak Detection	Operating	200,000
Drought Rebate Scheme	Operating	300,000
Drought Communications	Operating	200,000
TOTAL		32,149,480

Some of the above projects will attract external funding with some funding already confirmed and confirmation on other projects still pending or in dispute.

Three scenarios have been generated to represent the best estimate of worst, likely and best case scenario 'Water Fund Impacts' available at this time based on the likelihood of receiving external funding. It is important to note that many of the above impacts are estimates only and will require refinement once further information is known.

These scenarios produce results over the next 24 month period as follows:



The scenario analysis does not include the financing of costs that are in excess of the Water Fund reserve through new borrowings.

The analysis while preliminary does demonstrate the significance of the financial impacts likely on the Water Fund reserve over the next 2 years and provides an indication that unless water security projects can attract 100% external funding then they may not be able to be commenced.

A Water Fund drought scenario will be incorporated into the first quarter budget review.

In addition to the above, further costs will be incurred should the timeframe to day zero decrease resulting in further restrictions on water usage being necessary as well as revenue related to water usage charges would also significantly decrease.

Sewer Supply Fund

As at 30 September, the Sewer Fund achieved a \$5.1m operating surplus against a YTD budget of \$4.4m.

Most revenue and expenditure categories are on track to meet budget with the exception of interest revenue.

Council has budgeted for a negative cash impact in 2019/20 of \$886k due to the requirement to undertake capital works. These works will be funded from the sewer supply reserve fund.

Consolidated

As at 30 September, the Consolidated position achieved a \$25.1m operating surplus against a YTD budget of \$20.8m.

Council's has budgeted for a negative cash impact of \$1.6m in 2019/20, which relates to capital works to be undertaken on water and sewer infrastructure. These works will be funded from the water and sewer supply reserve funds.

Impact

The adopted budget does not have provision for overspends or for initiatives not included in the original budget and, as a result, must be closely monitored to ensure that actual expenditure remains within available financial resources. Introduction of any new initiatives requiring expenditure or overspends will require us to make adjustments to either the quantum or quality of projects and services to accommodate. Any overspends or new initiatives identified outside of the original budget must have an accompanying funding source.

Summary

The monthly financial report provides information on Council's actual to budget performance. The likely impact of drought on the Water Fund Reserve is also outlined in this report.

Item: 13.5 **Ref:** AINT/2019/24123
Title: FOR INFORMATION: Summary of Resolutions of Council April 2019 -
September 2019 **Container:** ARC16/0001-4
Author: Hayley Ward, Interim Museum Team Leader
Attachments: 1. OCM Actions Tracking Summary Sheet April - September 2019

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report outlining resolutions of Council from April 2019 to September 2019 and actions carried out, be noted.

Context

The attached document is a progress report on the implementation of resolutions of Council.

Purpose

This report aims to inform Councillors on the work carried out by Council Officers on the implementation of Council resolutions.

Proposal, Research and Analysis

Not applicable.

Impact

The resolutions outlined in the attachment have been previously adopted by Council. The impacts of each of the resolutions are varied and were outlined in the original reports to Council.

Summary

This report is for information purposes only and will be provided on a monthly basis for the previous six months.

Item: 13.6 **Ref:** AINT/2019/24293
Title: FOR INFORMATION: Petition - Climate Emergency
Container: ARC17/1544
Author: Nathalie Heaton, Service Leader Governance, Risk and Corporate Planning
Attachments: 1. Petition - Armidale Regional Council - Declare a Climate Emergency

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Petition in relation to climate emergency be noted.

Context

On 14 October 2019, Council received a petition. The petition calls on Council to declare a climate emergency and indicates that 807 people have signed the petition online, and 1,000 people have signed a printed copy.

Purpose

The purpose of bringing this report to Council is to advise that a petition was received.

Proposal, Research and Analysis

A Notice of Motion from Council to declare a Climate Emergency has been submitted by Councillor Robinson.

Impact

The impact of receiving the Petition is that Council acknowledges that a number of residents are concerned about climate change; and request that Council continue to consider possible steps to mitigate future climate change.

Summary

A petition in relation to climate emergency was received by Council on 14 October 2019.

Item: 16.1 **Ref:** AINT/2019/22835
Title: FOR INFORMATION: Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee
Meetings held on 27 August 2019 and 18 September 2019
Container: ARC16/0522-2
Author: Nathalie Heaton, Service Leader Governance, Risk and Corporate
Planning
Attachments:
1. Minutes - Audit and Risk Committee - 27 August 2019
2. Minutes - Audit and Risk Committee - 18 September 2019

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meetings held on 27 August 2019 and 18 September 2019 be noted.

Item: 16.2 **Ref:** AINT/2019/23679
Title: FOR DECISION: Minutes - Traffic Advisory Committee - 1st October 2019 **Container:** ARC16/0168-4
Author: Belinda Ackling, Personal Assistant
Attachments: 1. Minutes - Traffic Advisory Committee - 01 October 2019

RECOMMENDATION:

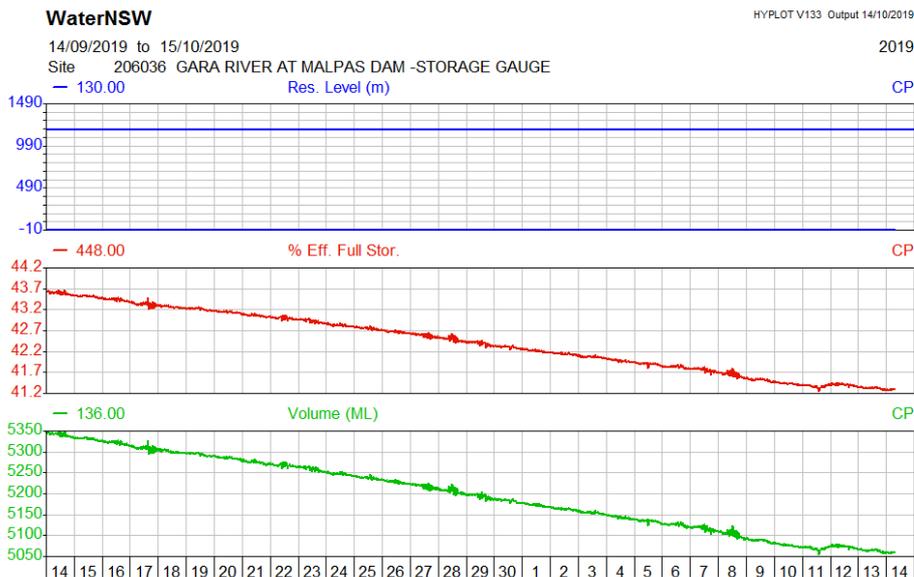
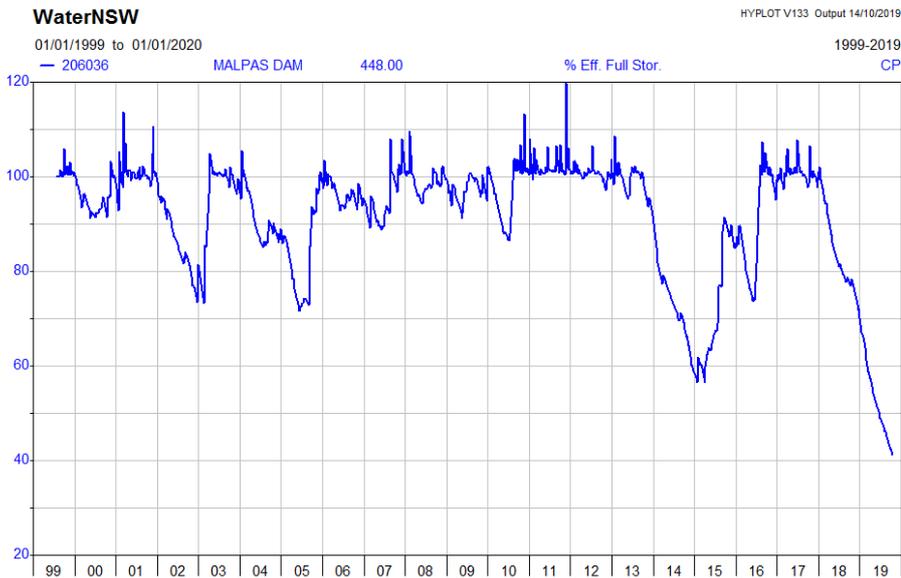
- a) That the Minutes of the Traffic Advisory Committee meeting held on 1st October 2019 be endorsed.
- b) That a Stop sign and associated line marking be installed on the Kelly Ave leg of the intersection with Newton Street.
- c) That No Stopping signs be installed on the western side of driveway of the All Seasons Motel in Railway Pde Armidale.
- d) That the current No Stopping Zone located on the eastern side of the Priceline Pharmacy rear entry be replaced with a Loading Zone extending west to including the Repco Loading Dock.
- e) That timed parking limits of 2hr be installed in Barney Street between Marsh and Faulkner Streets.
- f) That vehicles over 4.5ton be excluded for parking on Barney Street between Faulkner and Dangar Streets.
- g) That approval be provided for the installation of Disability User parking spaces in front of 126-128 Bradley Street (Physiotherapist), 106 Bradley Street (Pharmacy) and 92-96 Bradley Street (IGA Supermarket).
- h) That approve be provided to change of No Parking Zone to No Stopping Zone at Four Ways Tyre Service entrance to Bradley Street.
- i) That Council explore more formal options for the parking concerns raised for Donnelly Street between Canambe and Kennedy Street with a report to be submitted to the next meeting.
- j) That the Armidale Secondary College modifications to Infrastructure for Kentucky, Butler and Lambs Avenue be endorsed and monitored once fully functional.
- k) That the Special Event Transport Management Plan: Seesaw Armidale Drought Relief Fundraiser and requested road closure for Faulkner Street between Rusden and Barney Streets on Saturday 2 November 2019 from 2pm -4pm be endorsed.

Item: 18.1 **Ref:** AINT/2019/24254
Title: QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Outflows on Malpas Dam **Container:** ARC16/0025
Author: Dorothy Robinson, Councillor
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

Question on Notice 1 (Cr Robinson)

The graphs below show water levels at Malpas over the past 20 years and the past month. Levels depend on inflows and outflows. What information is there on outflows (overflows when the dam is full and any other releases, as well as inflows to the water treatment works) and can it be provided to councillors and the public?



Question on Notice 1

Answer:

The outflows from Malpas Dam are available on the WaterNSW website. This website is accessible to the public and shows outflows measured at station # 206039. The station measures flow in the Gara River due to overflows from Malpas Dam (when it is full) and also deliberate environmental releases from the dam as per the Macleay Water Sharing Plan (releases are **zero** if the dam is less than 55% full, this is very rare) and runoff from the small catchment below the dam wall (when it rains).

It is also worth noting that Council removes water from Malpas Dam as per the NSW Government water allocation licence as follows:

- Malpas Dam 6,772ML per annum
- Guyra Dam 729ML per annum

The 2018 figures follow:

- Malpas Dam 3,243ML
- Guyra Dam 702ML

Inflows to the water treatment plant from Malpas Dam are measured at the Armidale and now Guyra water treatment plants via electronic flow meters. The data is maintained by the water treatment operators but is not published as such.

However, on the Council website we do list the **Treated Water Usage: litres per week** - see link below. This gives an indication of volumes into the water treatment plant via Malpas and to a small extent Puddledock at the moment.

<https://www.armidaleregional.nsw.gov.au/environment/water-usage-supply>