



OBERON COUNCIL

137 Oberon Street
PO Box 84
Oberon NSW 2787

Telephone: (02) 6329 8100
Email: council@oberon.nsw.gov.au

Oberon Council Ordinary Meeting Tuesday 19 March 2024

Commencing at 5:30 pm
To be held at the Oberon Council Chambers



OBERON

MORE THAN YOU IMAGINE

EVACUATION SIGN AND DIAGRAM

Ground Floor 137-139 Oberon Street, Oberon NSW 2787

Chubb

Defibrillator
Distribution Board
Carbon Dioxide
Dry Chemical Powder
Water
First Aid Point
Hose Reel
Exit
Alternate Evacuation Path
Evacuation Path
Assembly Area

Evacuation Procedures

IN CASE OF FIRE

- R REMOVE people from immediate danger
- A ALERT people nearby and raise an alarm (Dial 000)
- C CONFINE fire and smoke (Close doors behind you if safe to do)
- E EVACUATE via the nearest emergency exit

Site Plan

Oberon Council Admin Building

Oberon Street

Sign Ref: AG - YAH - 2 Issue Date: 03/2021 Review Date: 03/2026 © Chubb Fire & Security PTY LTD 1300 650 182

Risk Matrix Legend

Through its Enterprise Risk Management Processes, Oberon Council has developed Risk Appetite Statements which are shown in the following table.

Category of Risk	Avoid	Resistant	Accept	Receptive
Business Continuity			PRIMARY	
Financial	PRIMARY	Secondary		
Safety	PRIMARY			
Environment		PRIMARY	Secondary	
People & Culture	Secondary	PRIMARY		
Project Performance			PRIMARY	
Technical Complexity			PRIMARY	Secondary
Public Image and Reputation	Secondary	PRIMARY		
Assets & Infrastructure		Secondary	PRIMARY	
Governance	PRIMARY			
Service Delivery			PRIMARY	

Each risk is evaluated in terms of potential loss, likelihood of occurrence and the effectiveness of controls in place to manage the risks according to the criteria set out below:

Likelihood	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	Extreme
Almost Certain (95%)	Low	Medium	High	Extreme	Extreme
Likely (65%)	Low	Medium	Medium	High	Extreme
Possible (39%)	Low	Low	Medium	High	High
Unlikely (26%)	Low	Low	Low	Medium	High
Rare (20%)	Low	Low	Low	Medium	High

Table of Contents

1	Opening Of Meeting	6
2	Acknowledgement Of Country	6
3	Prayer	6
4	Record Of Attendance	6
5	Declarations Of Interest	7
6	Presentations	8
7	Questions From The Public	8
8	Confirmation Of Minutes	8
8.1	Ordinary Meeting 20 February 2024	8
9	Mayoral Minute And Report	30
9.1	Mayoral Minute and Report - March 2024	30
10	Notices Of Motion	32
10.1	Drainage	32
10.2	Footpaths	33
11	Councillor And Delegates Reports	34
11.1	Central NSW Joint Organisation Board Meeting	34
11.2	Black Springs Community Association - February Meeting	59
11.3	Oberon Quarry Community Consultative Committee	61
12	Committee Reports	68
12.1	Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting 14 December 2023	68
12.2	Heritage Committee Meeting 26 February 2024	82
12.3	Hazelgrove School Committee Report	88
13	Reports For Decision	90
13.1	Town Improvement Levy Review	90
13.2	10 Tiger Place - Modification to Section 68 effluent disposal area	171
13.3	Policy 2220 - Related Parties Disclosures Review	176
13.4	Central Tablelands Weeds Authority Request for Additional Funds	184
13.5	Regional Emergency Roads Repair Fund Works Program	186
13.6	Sponsorship Request Oberon Charity Golf Day	192
13.7	Close Out Report - The Reef Amenities	198
13.8	Yarning Circle MOU	202
13.9	November Council Meeting - Proposed Reschedule	211
13.10	Grants Update and Contribution	213
14	Reports For Information	314

14.1	Monthly Activity Report General Manager - March 2024	314
14.2	Monthly Activity Report - Planning & Development - March 2024	318
14.3	Monthly Activity Report Technical Services - March 2024	326
14.4	Monthly Activity Report Corporate Services - March 2024	332
14.5	Investments.....	336
14.6	Status of Council Resolutions - March 2024.....	339
15	Urgent Business	360
16	Closed Session - Confidential Reports	360
16.1	Water Write-off Request - Assessment 12368376.....	361
17	Closure Of Meeting.....	361

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor will welcome members and declare the meeting open.

The meeting will be livestreamed via Zoom webinar facilities.

Recordings of Council Meetings or parts thereof cannot be copied, recorded, reproduced, reused or transmitted without the prior written consent of the General Manager. The meeting is being recorded and will be made publicly available on Council's website. Persons attending the meeting should refrain from making any defamatory statements.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Council acknowledges that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri, Gundungurra and Dharug People, and respects the history and culture of the elders both past and present.

3 PRAYER

The Meeting will be opened in prayer.

4 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Members	Mayor Mark Kellam Deputy Mayor Andrew McKibbin Clr Katie Graham Clr Helen Hayden Clr Clive McCarthy Clr Mick McKechnie Clr Lauren Trembath Clr Ian Tucker Clr Bruce Watt
Staff	Gary Wallace, General Manager Damian O'Shannassy, Planning and Development Director Mathew Webb, Corporate Services Director David Basil, Technical Services Manager Sharon Swannell, Executive Coordinator
Leave of Absence	Nil

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A GUIDE TO ETHICAL DECISION-MAKING

(Provided by the Independent Commission Against Corruption)

- Is the decision or conduct legal?
- Is it consistent with Government policy, Council's objectives and code of conduct?
- What will the outcome be for you, your colleagues, the Council, anyone else?
- Does it raise a conflict of interest?
- Do you stand to gain personally at public expense?
- Can the decision be justified in terms of public interest?
- Would it withstand public scrutiny?

A conflict of interest is a clash between private interest and public duty. There are two types of conflict:

- Pecuniary – regulated by the Local Government Act and Department of Local Government
- Non-pecuniary – regulated by codes of conduct and policy. ICAC, Ombudsman, Department of Local Government (advice only)

The test for conflict of interest:

- Is it likely I could be influenced by personal interest in carrying out my public duty?
- Would a fair and reasonable person believe I could be so influenced?
- Conflict of interest is closely tied to the layperson's definition of "corruption" – using public office for private gain
- Important to consider public perceptions of whether you have a conflict of interest

Identifying problems

- 1st Do I have private interests affected by a matter I am officially involved in?
- 2nd Is my official role one of influence or perceived influence over the matter?
- 3rd Do my private interest's conflict with my official role?

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

When making a Declaration of Interest the reason for making the declaration should be clearly stated. Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Significant Interests should be managed by leaving the room while the matter is considered.

Pecuniary -
Non-Pecuniary Significant -
Non-Pecuniary Less than Significant -

6 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The public gallery is open to members of the community. The community is to be given the opportunity to ask questions at the commencement of the council meeting, and the Mayor is to ask for questions from the gallery prior to the commencement of the ordinary meeting.

Members of the public wishing to address Council are permitted to do so provided the following guidelines are adhered to:

1. The person asking the question at the Council meeting must clearly state their name and in what capacity they are acting.
2. If the person asking the questions is acting as another person/organisation's agent, they must advise Council if they have their prior consent/authority.

Questions from the public is not an opportunity for debate with elected representatives or staff, it is an opportunity for the community to ask a question in relation to an issue or put a point of view relating to an issue that may be causing interest or concern. Due to time constraints a time frame of three minutes per speaker is allocated. All questions and comments must be directed through the Mayor and in the instance of a question, if it cannot be answered it will be taken on notice and a response given within a reasonable period. This is the only opportunity for a community member to address Council during an Ordinary Meeting.

None received.

8 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

8.1 Ordinary Meeting 20 February 2024
--

Attached is the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 20 February 2024.

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 20 February 2024 be confirmed.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nil



137 Oberon Street
PO Box 84
Oberon NSW 2787

Telephone: (02) 6329 8100
Email: council@oberon.nsw.gov.au

Unconfirmed Minutes Oberon Council Ordinary Meeting Tuesday 20 February 2024

Commencing at 5:30 pm
Held at the Oberon Council Chambers



Table of Contents

1	Opening Of Meeting	4
2	Acknowledgement Of Country	4
3	Prayer	4
4	Record Of Attendance	4
5	Declarations Of Interest	4
6	Presentations	5
7	Questions From The Public	5
8	Confirmation Of Minutes	6
8.1	Ordinary Meeting 19 December 2023	6
9	Mayoral Minute And Report	6
9.1	Mayoral Minute and Report - February 2024	6
10	Notices Of Motion	7
10.1	Oberon Skate Park Surveillance Cameras	7
11	Councillor And Delegates Reports	7
11.1	Burruga and District Community Association Meeting (BDCA)	7
11.2	Upper Macquarie County Council	8
12	Committee Reports	9
12.1	Community Services Committee	9
12.2	Black Springs Community Hall Committee Meeting	9
13	Reports For Decision	10
13.1	2024/25 IPART Rate Peg Determination	10
13.2	LALC MOU Yarning Circle	11
13.3	Abercrombie Road Project Scope Change	12
13.4	Oberon Quarry - Community Consultative Committee - Council delegate	13
13.5	Social Media Policy 2130	14
13.6	Six Month Delivery Program Update	15
14	Reports For Information	15
14.1	Monthly Activity Report General Manager - February 2024	15
14.2	Monthly Activity Report - Planning & Development - February 2024	16
14.3	Monthly Activity Report Technical Services - February 2024	16
14.4	Monthly Activity Report Corporate Services - December 2023	17
14.5	Investments	17
14.6	Grants Update - February 2024	18
14.7	Status of Council Resolutions - February 2024	18

14.8	Quarterly Budget Review Statement 2 - October - December 2023.....	19
14.9	Close Out Report Oberon Visitor Centre Refurbishment.....	20
14.10	Close Out Report Oberon Library and Community Centre.....	20
14.11	Town Improvement Levy Consultation Update.....	21
15	Urgent Business	22
16	Closed Session - Confidential Reports	22
16.1	Late Applications - Section 356 Funding	22
17	Closure Of Meeting.....	23

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor welcomed members and declared the meeting open at 5:30pm.

The meeting was livestreamed via Zoom webinar facilities. Recordings of Council Meetings or parts thereof cannot be copied, recorded, reproduced, reused or transmitted without the prior written consent of the General Manager. The meeting is being recorded and made publicly available on Council's website and persons attending the meeting should refrain from making any defamatory statements.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Council acknowledges that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri, Gundungurra and Dharug People, and respects the history and culture of the elders both past and present.

3 PRAYER

The Meeting was opened in prayer by Heidi Howden, Oberon Uniting Church.

4 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Members	Mayor Mark Kellam (Chair) Deputy Mayor Andrew McKibbin Clr Katie Graham Clr Helen Hayden Clr Clive McCarthy Clr Mick McKechnie Clr Lauren Trembath Clr Ian Tucker (via Zoom) Clr Bruce Watt
Staff	Gary Wallace, General Manager Damian O'Shannassy, Planning and Development Director Mathew Webb, Corporate Services Director Sharon Swannell, Governance and Executive Manager
Leave of Absence	Nil

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary	- Nil
Non-Pecuniary Significant	- Nil
Non-Pecuniary Less than Significant	- Nil

6 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Vicki Walsh – Owner / Operator of The Laundry Pad, Oberon – Yes I am here again, I know I sound like a broken record but the broken record going around and around in my head is not good either. December's meeting I asked questions that were put on notice. I was told I would get answers the Friday before Christmas. The answers I got were routine maintenance will continue. Routine maintenance is not fixing the water issue water issue with my business. The CWT report was given to Council on ⁵ December. I did get a copy which I have read and there are recommendation within the report and one is to clean the main street pipes again with the likes of Clearflow. This was made as a priority recommendation. Has this been discussed at the confidential meeting, and if so, when will this be done? These are filters that I only changed on Friday (Vicki displayed images on a mobile phone). My business can no longer keep doing this and I am saying this every month. I am getting nowhere, nobody is giving me straight answers. I know the General Manager was on leave for the whole month of January but he has now been back for two weeks. I need answers. I have lost a sale, thank you. This was due to the contaminated water, and I have this in writing. I do not want to lose another one. So please, tell me when the recommendations from CWT will be actioned. This was agreed to bring in an independent person and that person has come. Why has nothing been done? I need answers. Thank you.

The General Manager advised that CWT have provided Council with the report, and that Ms Walsh's question would be taken on notice.

Toni-Lee – CEO Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) – I am here on behalf of Delise from Goulburn LALC who was unable to be here today. I am here to talk about the Proposed Yarning Circle at Oberon Common. I don't know the whole gist of the project, but I would like to vouch my support and the support of Bathurst LALC for this community initiative and I really think this is a positive step in incorporating Aboriginal Culture into Oberon, which we haven't seen for quite some time. There may be some questions you have around the MOU in regards to maintenance responsibilities and I am happy to address those. I am here to support Delise and the Oberon Community with the Yarning Circle. Thank you.

Dr Akber Alamyar – Oberon Resident – I have been a resident of Oberon for 25 years, currently working full-time in Bathurst as a GP. I do still have some Oberon patients who I see at times. I would like to thank Oberon Council for keeping the town so well. I would like to suggest that Oberon considers going on the list as a Tidy Town. We are nearly there but there are still some problems I come across on my daily walks. There are some people who litter the roads and you see all sorts of rubbish thrown such as plastic, paper, drink cans, nappies. There is an older lady who walks every morning, winter time and summer time, collecting rubbish. However, within weeks there is a build up

of rubbish again and I can guess from this rubbish, it belongs to a small group of people from teenagers to around 35 years old. You can see that these people are throwing the rubbish out of the window from their cars. I would like for Oberon Council to spend a small amount of money to put signage in each entrance to Oberon, warning these people that the town will be becoming a Tidy Town. I think this will make out town much nicer than it already is. I am happy to help.

8 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

8.1	Ordinary Meeting 19 December 2023
------------	--

Moved: Clr McKibbin

Second: Clr Hayden

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 19 December 2023 be confirmed.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nil

Carried - Resolution No: 1 - 20/02/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie,
Clr Trembath, Clr Tucker and Clr Watt

Votes against: Nil

It was noted that on Page 17 of the Minutes, the seconder should read Clr Tucker, not Trembath. The minutes will be corrected.

9 MAYORAL MINUTE AND REPORT

9.1	Mayoral Minute and Report - February 2024
------------	--

File No: Governance/Mayor/General

Author: Mayor Mark Kellam

Summary

This report summarises the main activity for the Mayor since the last report.

Moved: Clr Kellam

Second: Clr McKibbin

That Report Item 09.01 is received as information.

Carried - Resolution No: 2 - 20/02/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie, Clr Trembath, Clr Tucker and Clr Watt

Votes against: Nil

10 NOTICES OF MOTION

10.1	Oberon Skate Park Surveillance Cameras
File No:	Governance/Meetings/Ordinary
Author:	Clr McCarthy

Moved: Clr McCarthy

Second: Clr Trembath

That Council seek quotations for the 2024/25 Operation Plan to upgrade the surveillance Cameras at the Skate Park and Oberon Common or before if Council see fit.

Amendment

Moved: Clr Trembath

Second: Clr Hayden

That Council review the report of November 2022 regarding surveillance cameras and defer the matter to a working party for discussion.

The Amendment lapsed due to the lack of an eligible mover. The original motion stands.

Moved: Clr McCarthy

Second: Clr Trembath

That Council seek quotations for the 2024/25 Operation Plan to upgrade the surveillance Cameras at the Skate Park and Oberon Common or before if Council see fit.

Lost

Division

Votes for: Clr McCarthy and Clr Tucker

Votes against: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McKechnie, Clr Trembath and Clr Watt

11 COUNCILLOR AND DELEGATES REPORTS

11.1 Burruga and District Community Association Meeting (BDCA)

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: Clr Andrew McKibbin

Summary

The most recent meeting of the Burruga District Community Association (BDCA) was held on 11 January 2024, commencing at 7.30pm. Clr McKibbin attended as the Councillor delegate.

Moved: Clr McKibbin

Second: Clr Hayden

That Council receive and note the delegates report to the Burruga District Community Association Meeting held on 11 January 2024.

Carried - Resolution No: 3 - 20/02/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie, Clr Trembath, Clr Tucker and Clr Watt

Votes against: Nil

11.2 Upper Macquarie County Council

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: Clr Andrew McKibbin

Summary

The most recent meeting of the Upper Macquarie County Council t/as Central Tablelands Weeds Authority (CWTA) was held at Kelso on Friday 24 November 2023 at 2pm. The meeting was attended by Clrs Andrew McKibbin and Bruce Watt.

Moved: Clr McKibbin

Second: Clr McCarthy

That Council receive and note the Upper Macquarie County Council delegates report.

Carried - Resolution No: 4 - 20/02/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie, Clr Trembath, Clr Tucker and Clr Watt

Votes against: Nil

12 COMMITTEE REPORTS

12.1 Community Services Committee

File No: CSD/CSC

Author: Brooke Perry (Community Services and Youth Coordinator), Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director)

Summary

Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 8 February 2024 are submitted for Council's information and endorsement.

Moved: Clr Graham

Second: Clr McCarthy

1. That Council commit to hosting another End of Year Spectacular event on 7 December 2024 and provide appropriate budget and resources as itemised in the 2024/25 Operational plan.
2. That Council receive and note minutes of the Community Services Committee held on 8 February 2024.

Carried - Resolution No: 5 - 20/02/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie, Clr Trembath, Clr Tucker and Clr Watt

Votes against: Nil

It was noted that Kathy Sajowitz has resigned from the Community Services Committee. A letter of thanks will be provided to Mrs Sajowitz for her service to this committee and the community.

12.2 Black Springs Community Hall Committee Meeting

File No: Governance/Meetings/Black Springs Community Hall Committee

Author: Brooke Perry (Community Services and Youth Coordinator), Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director)

Summary

Minutes of the Black Springs Hall Committee Meeting held on 8 February 2024 are submitted for Council's information and endorsement.

Moved: Clr Hayden

Second: Clr McKibbin

1. That Council prioritise funding in the FY 2024/25 Operational Plan to complete repairs to the Band Room in the Black Springs Hall.
 2. Continue the revised meeting schedule for the Black Springs Hall Community meetings for the first Thursday of every second month commencing 4 April 2024 and update the charter accordingly.
-

3. That Council receive and note minutes of the Black Springs Hall Committee held on 8 February 2024.

Carried - Resolution No: 6 - 20/02/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie, Clr Trembath, Clr Tucker and Clr Watt

Votes against: Nil

13 REPORTS FOR DECISION

13.1	2024/25 IPART Rate Peg Determination
File No:	Finance/Rates
Author:	Zoe Marks (Finance Manager), Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director)

Summary

This report seeks Council to adopt the 5.2% rate peg as approved by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) as the basis for the development of the 2024/25 Integrated Planning and Reporting documents. Staff require a resolution from Council on the adopted rate peg as this drives the financial modelling in key documents such as the Operation Plan, Revenue Policy and Long-Term Financial Plan.

Moved: Clr Hayden

Second: Clr Tucker

That Council does not adopt the IPART determined rate peg of 5.2% for the 2024/25 Financial Year, but adopt a rate peg of 4.5% for the 2024/25 Financial Year.

Lost

Division

Votes for: Clr Hayden and Clr Tucker

Votes against: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie, Clr Trembath and Clr Watt

Foreshadowed Motion

Moved: Clr McKibbin

Second: Clr McKechnie

That Council adopt the IPART determined rate peg of 5.2% for the 2024/25 Financial Year.

Carried - Resolution No: 7 - 20/02/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie, Clr Trembath and Clr Watt

Votes against: Clr Tucker

13.2 LALC MOU Yarning Circle

File No: CSD/LALC

Author: Debra Keane (Tourism and Economic Development Manager), Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director)

Summary

Pejar Local Aboriginal Lands Council have provided a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in relation to the Yarning Circle for Council consideration and signing.

Moved: Clr Hayden

Second: Clr McKibbin

That Council undertake further negotiations regarding the proposed Memorandum of Understanding and that the General Manager be delegated to undertake the negotiation.

Carried - Resolution No: 8 - 20/02/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie, Clr Trembath, Clr Tucker and Clr Watt

Votes against: Nil

13.3 Abercrombie Road Project Scope Change

File No: Roads/R187

Author: David Basil (Technical Services Manager)

Summary

Due to Transport for NSW (TfNSW) pausing REPAIR funding, a proposal is put forward to proceed with the Abercrombie intersection upgrade at Black Springs from the southern entrance using \$450,000 of Block Grant funding and to delay or modify funding for the intersection at the Shooters Hill Road project until the March 2024 Council meeting.

As part of Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) plans, approval was given in 2023/24 to upgrade Abercrombie Road at two intersections:

- (1) Black Springs from the southern entrance; and
- (2) Shooters Hill Road, with treatments of Abercrombie Road extending over the Fish River Bridge.

The total cost of both road works was \$900,000 split equally between the two intersections upgrades. The funding of the projects was to be \$450,000 from the Block Grant with 50% contribution from the 2023/24 REPAIR Program.

In October 2023 TfNSW announced changes to the 2023/24 REPAIR Program, where it has been paused until 2027. Council can still use the \$450,000 Block grant portion which can now only fund one of the two intersection upgrade projects.

Moved: Clr Hayden
Second: Clr Trembath

That Council:

1. Proceed to upgrade the intersection on Abercrombie Road at Black Springs, being the southern entrance at a cost of \$450,000; and
2. Include the Abercrombie Road at Shooters Hill Road intersection in the Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund (RERRF) \$2.49M program deliberations at the March Ordinary Meeting.

Amendment

Moved: Clr Tucker
Second: Clr McKibbin

That Council:

1. Proceed to upgrade the intersection on Abercrombie Road at Black Springs, being the southern entrance at a cost of \$450,000; and
2. Include the Abercrombie Road at Shooters Hill Road intersection near Little River, and the Abercrombie Road at Sloggetts Road intersection, and the rectification of a section of pavement on Dog Rocks Road in the Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund (RERRF) \$2.49M program deliberations at the March Ordinary Meeting.

The Amendment was put and won, the Amendment becomes the Motion.

Moved: Clr Tucker
Second: Clr McKibbin

That Council:

1. Proceed to upgrade the intersection on Abercrombie Road at Black Springs, being the southern entrance at a cost of \$450,000; and
2. Include the Abercrombie Road at Shooters Hill Road intersection near Little River, and the Abercrombie Road at Sloggetts Road intersection, and the rectification of a section of pavement on Dog Rocks Road in the Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund (RERRF) \$2.49M program deliberations at the March Ordinary Meeting.

Carried - Resolution No: 9 - 20/02/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie,
Clr Trembath, Clr Tucker and Clr Watt

Votes against: Nil

13.4 Oberon Quarry - Community Consultative Committee - Council delegate

File No: PR67-73

Author: Damian O'Shannassy (Planning and Development Director)

Summary

A request has been received from Mr Garry West, who has been appointed by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) to be the Independent Chair of the Oberon Quarries Community Consultative Committee (CCC) seeking a representative from Council to sit on the CCC as part of the Oberon Quarries extension project.

Moved: Clr McKibbin

Second: Clr Hayden

That Council nominate Councillor Tucker as the delegate, Councillor Trembath as the alternate Councillor delegate and the Planning and Development Director to represent Council on the Oberon Quarries Community Consultative Committee.

Carried - Resolution No: 10 - 20/02/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie, Clr Trembath, Clr Tucker and Clr Watt

Votes against: Nil

13.5 Social Media Policy 2130

File No: Governance/Policies

Author: Gary Wallace (General Manager), Sharon Swannell (Executive Coordinator)

Summary

The Office of Local Government has developed a Model Social Media Policy. The Model Social Media policy has been developed following two rounds of consultation with the local government sector and represents a 'best practice' approach.

Moved: Clr McKibbin

Second: Clr Hayden

That:

1. Council place the proposed Model Social Media Policy on exhibition for 28 days seeking input from the community.
2. Council delegate to the General Manager any minor administrative amendments to the draft (and final) should they be required.
3. Endorse the Model Social Media Policy should no submissions be received or report back to the next available Council meeting should non administrative submissions be provided.

Carried - Resolution No: 11 - 20/02/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie, Clr Trembath, Clr Tucker and Clr Watt

Votes against: Nil

13.6	Six Month Delivery Program Update
File No:	Governance/Integrated Planning and Reporting
Author:	Gary Wallace (General Manager), Damian O'Shannassy (Planning and Development Director), Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director), Sharon Swannell (Executive Coordinator)

Summary

This report provides a summary of progress over the six-month period June – December 2023, in achieving the actions contained within the Delivery Program 2022-26.

Moved: Clr Hayden

Second: Clr McKibbin

That report Item 13.6 is received as information.

Carried - Resolution No: 12 - 20/02/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie, Clr Trembath, Clr Tucker and Clr Watt

Votes against: Nil

14 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

14.1	Monthly Activity Report General Manager - February 2024
File No:	Governance/Meetings/Ordinary
Author:	Gary Wallace (General Manager), Sharon Swannell (Executive Coordinator), Rebecca Burgess (WHS/Risk Coordinator)

Summary

This report item summarises the main activity by the General Manager since the last report. Items include Human Resources, Workplace Health & Safety, Community Activity, Regional Issues, Executive Management Team Meetings and planned activities.

Moved: Clr McKibbin

Second: Clr Trembath

That report item 14.1 is received as information.

Carried - Resolution No: 13 - 20/02/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie,
Clr Trembath, Clr Tucker and Clr Watt

Votes against: Nil

14.2 Monthly Activity Report - Planning & Development - February 2024

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: Kirsty Hanrahan (Development Control Assistant), Janet Bailey (Development Control Administration Officer), Damian O'Shannassy (Planning and Development Director)

Summary

This report item summarises the main activity in the Planning and Development Department since the December 2023 Council Meeting.

Moved: Clr Hayden

Second: Clr Trembath

That report item 14.2 is received as information.

Carried - Resolution No: 14 - 20/02/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie,
Clr Trembath, Clr Tucker and Clr Watt

Votes against: Nil

14.3 Monthly Activity Report Technical Services - February 2024

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: David Basil, Technical Services Manager

Summary

This report provides a summary of works in progress and/or completed during December 2023 and January 2024. The report also provides an outline of proposed works in the Technical Services and Works area for the month of February/March 2024.

Moved: Clr Hayden

Second: Clr Trembath

That report item 14.3 is received as information.

Carried - Resolution No: 15 - 20/02/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie,
Clr Trembath, Clr Tucker and Clr Watt

Votes against: Nil

14.4 Monthly Activity Report Corporate Services - December 2023

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director), Brooke Perry (Community Services and Youth Coordinator), Julie Baker (Library Manager), AJ Jack (IT and GIS Co-ordinator), Debra Keane (Tourism and Economic Development Manager), Zoe Marks (Finance Manager)

Summary

This report provides an update on the activities of the Corporate Services Directorate for December - January and forward plans.

Moved: Clr Hayden

Second: Clr Trembath

That report item 14.4 is received as information.

Carried - Resolution No: 16 - 20/02/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie, Clr Trembath, Clr Tucker and Clr Watt

Votes against: Nil

14.5 Investments

File No: Financial Management/Investments/Register

Author: Lisa Koleda (Management Accountant), Zoe Marks (Finance Manager)

Summary

This report provides Council with the Statement of Investments as of 31 January 2024.

Moved: Clr McKibbin

Second: Clr McCarthy

That report item 14.5 is received as information.

Carried - Resolution No: 17 - 20/02/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie, Clr Trembath, Clr Tucker and Clr Watt

Votes against: Nil

- 14.6 Grants Update - February 2024

File No: Governance/Grants January 2024

Author: Toni Dwyer (Grants Co-ordinator), Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director)

Summary

This report provides a summary of grant funding applications submitted and funding notifications received during late December & January 2024.

Moved: Clr Hayden

Second: Clr McKibbin

That report item 14.6 is received as information.

Carried - Resolution No: 18 - 20/02/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie,
Clr Trembath, Clr Tucker and Clr Watt

Votes against: Nil

Zoe Marks entered the meeting at 7.52pm

14.7 Status of Council Resolutions - February 2024

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: Gary Wallace (General Manager), Damian O'Shannassy (Planning and
Development Director), Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director)

Summary

This report item summarises the current status of Council resolutions and provides updates for actions taken.

Moved: Clr Hayden

Second: Clr Trembath

That report Item 14.7 is received as information.

Carried - Resolution No: 19 - 20/02/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie,
Clr Trembath, Clr Tucker and Clr Watt

Votes against: Nil

14.8 Quarterly Budget Review Statement 2 - October - December 2023

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: Zoe Marks (Finance Manager), Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director)

Summary

The Quarterly Budget Review Statements (QBRs) for the period 1 October to 31 December 2023 are provided as an attachment following this report in accordance with the requirements, of the Office of Local Government.

Moved: Clr Hayden
Second: Clr McKibbin

That report Item 14.8 is received as information.

Amendment

Moved: Clr McKechnie
Second: Clr McCarthy

That:

1. Report Item 14.8 is received as information.
2. That Council consider reallocation of Town Improvement funds currently allocated to the Rugby League Lighting Towers and Rugby League Change Rooms at the next Ordinary Council Meeting.

The Amendment was put and won, the Amendment becomes the Motion.

Moved: Clr McKechnie
Second: Clr McCarthy

1. Report Item 14.8 is received as information.
2. That Council consider reallocation of Town Improvement funds currently allocated to the Rugby League Lighting Towers and Rugby League Change Rooms at the next Ordinary Council Meeting.

Carried - Resolution No: 20 - 20/02/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie,
Clr Trembath, Clr Tucker and Clr Watt

Votes against: Nil

14.09 Close Out Report Oberon Visitor Information Centre Refurbishment

File No: CSD/ECTourism

Author: Debra Keane (Tourism and Economic Development Manager), Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director)

Summary

This is a project close out report for the Oberon Visitor Information Centre Refurbishment at 48 Ross Street, Oberon NSW 2787.

Moved: Clr McKibbin

Second: Clr Hayden

That report Item 14.09 is received as information.

Carried - Resolution No: 21 - 20/02/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie, Clr Trembath, Clr Tucker and Clr Watt

Votes against: Nil

14.10 Close Out Report Oberon Library and Community Centre

File No: CSDLIBRARY

Author: Julie Baker (Library Manager), Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director)

Summary

This is the project close out report for the Oberon Library and Community Centre at 74A Dart Street Oberon.

Moved: Clr McKibbin

Second: Clr Hayden

That report Item 14.10 is received as information.

Carried - Resolution No: 22 - 20/02/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie, Clr Trembath, Clr Tucker and Clr Watt

Votes against: Nil

14.11 Town Improvement Levy Consultation Update

File No: CSD/TI

Author: Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director), Zoe Marks (Finance Manager), Sharon Swannell (Executive Coordinator)

Summary

Council is undertaking a review of the Town Improvement Levy to ensure the equity and outcomes of the rating structure are still relevant for our community. At the November Ordinary Meeting, Council resolved to place the review documentation on public exhibition for 90 days and support the communications strategy. The following report provides an update to Council on the actions taken so far.

Moved: Clr McKibbin

Second: Clr Hayden

That report Item 14.11 is received as information.

Carried - Resolution No: 23 - 20/02/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie, Clr Trembath, Clr Tucker and Clr Watt

Votes against: Nil

15 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

16 CLOSED SESSION - CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Moved: Clr McKechnie

Second: Clr McKibbin

That:

1. Council resolve into Closed Council to consider the business identified, together with any late confidential reports tabled at the meeting.
2. Pursuant to Section 10A(1)-(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the media and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified as confidential under the provisions of Section 10A(2) as outlined above.
3. The correspondence and reports relevant to the subject business be withheld from access to the media and public as required by Section 11(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Carried - Resolution No: 22 - 20/02/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie, Clr Trembath, Clr Tucker and Clr Watt

Votes against: Nil

Council moved into Closed Council at this point 8:25 pm. Members of the public present left the meeting.

16.1 Late Applications - Section 356 Funding

File No: Finance/Donations/Section 356

Author: Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director)

This report is CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 1993, as it relates to personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

This report is CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2)(d) of the Local Government Act 1993, as it relates to commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed: (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council, or (iii) reveal a trade secret.

Moved: Clr Hayden

Second: Clr Trembath

1. That Council support the requests from Oberon District Garden Club and Lifechurch Oberon for Section 356 funding from the 2023/24 unallocated funds.
2. Place the funding allocations on public exhibition for 28 days.

Carried - Resolution No: 23 - 20/02/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr Kellam, Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie, Clr Trembath, Clr Tucker and Clr Watt

Votes against: Nil

Open Council resumed at 8.41pm. Recording of the meeting re-commenced at this point in time. There were no members of the public present.

The Mayor advised of the resolutions that were made while the meeting was closed to the public.

17 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.42pm.

9 MAYORAL MINUTE AND REPORT

9.1 Mayoral Minute and Report - March 2024

File No: Governance/Mayor/General

Author: Mayor Mark Kellam and Acting Mayor Andrew McKibbin

Summary

This report summarises the main activity for the Mayor since the last report.

Recommendation:

That Report Item 09.01 is received as information.

A. Meetings

14 Feb 2024	Vic Camelirri phone discussion regarding Council position about Wind Towers
14 Feb 2024	Discussion with Jennifer Coote, Western NSW Local Health District regarding Oberon Health Council
14 Feb 2024	2BS Radio Interview with Jac Underwood
16 Feb 2024	2BS Radio Interview
20 Feb 2024	Ordinary Council Meeting
20 Feb 2024	Mayor and Deputy Mayor Meeting – handover of responsibilities to Deputy Mayor for period of Mayor’s leave
23 Feb 2024	2BS Radio Interview (Acting Mayor)
23 Feb 2024	Central Tablelands Weed Authority Meeting (Acting Mayor)
28 Feb 2024	2BS Radio Interview (Acting Mayor)
29 Feb 2024	Central Tablelands Joint Organisation Board Meeting (Acting Mayor)
1 Mar 2024	2BS Radio Interview (Acting Mayor)
5 Mar 2024	STP Working Party Meeting
5 Mar 2024	Transport for NSW update re Jenolan Caves Road, Hampton slope repairs
7 Mar 2024	Fish River Water Supply Long Term Strategy Customer Consultation Oberon
8 Mar 2024	2BS Radio Interview
11 Mar 2024	Black Springs Community Association Meeting
12 Mar 2024	Councillor Informal Briefing Session

B. Representation

2 Mar 2024	Attend former Mayor Don Fitzpatrick funeral (Acting Mayor)
8 Mar 2024	International Women’s Day Mayoral Dinner (attended by Clr Graham; Clr Trembath and Clr Hayden)

C. Correspondence

- 23 Feb 2024 Select Committee on Remote, Rural and Regional Health advising it is conducting an inquiry into the implementation of Portfolio Committee No. 2 recommendations relating to the delivery of specific health services and specialist care in remote, rural and regional NSW.
- 25 Mar 2024 David McMurray, Oberon Men's Shed in relation to the Oberon Showground
- 26 Feb 2024 Andrew Whittaker in relation to drainage issue following rainfall events.
- 26 Feb 2024 The Hon Paul Toole MP passing concerns about development approval processes at Oberon Council.
- 27 Feb 2024 Nikola Popovic concerns about development approval processes at Oberon Council.
- 27 Feb 2024 Central NSW Joint Organisation invitation to attend the Western Sydney International Airport Stakeholder Planning Forum being held on 19 March 2024.
- 29 Feb 2024 Central Tablelands Water joint media release from the Federal and State Water Ministers announcing \$7.7 m to proceed with the final business case of the Belubula Water Security Project.
- 6 Mar 2024 The Centre for Volunteering advising that the Volunteering NSW Conference will be held on Thursday 6 June 2024 in Sydney
- 7 Mar 2024 National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) advising it has published a consultation draft of a new code of practice
- 9 Mar 2024 The Hon Courtney Houssos MLC regarding ticketless parking fines
- 10 Mar 2024 Keith Sullivan expressing disappointment to learn that Council have decided to work hand in hand with the Government regarding Wind Towers.
- 12 Mar 2024 Vick Walsh request an opportunity to meet.
- 12 Mar 2024 Paul Zadro, requesting Council to complete grading of the Glen Road.
- 12 Mar 2024 Claudia Macleay advising Central Tablelands Regional Landcare Network has completed the development of our Strategic Plan for the period 2023-2027.

10 NOTICES OF MOTION

10.1	Drainage
File No:	Governance/Meetings/Ordinary
Author:	Clr Ian Tucker

Motion

That \$50,000 of the funds currently allocated in the Town Improvement Fund for drainage projects be utilised for improvements to stormwater pits, especially for the addition of a lintel where none currently exists.

Reason

- There is a large existing allocation in the Town Improvement Levy Fund for drainage works (\$197,855), but no specific projects have currently been identified.
- The addition of a lintel onto an existing pit to increase the inlet capacity can greatly improve the overall functioning of the system. Inlet capacity is often the limiting factor, more so than the size of the pipes.
- Where no lintel is provided, the grate can quickly become blocked during heavy rainfall events. Very little water can then enter the pit, and consequently bypasses to the next pit.
- Reducing clogging of the inlet also reduces maintenance demands.
- Most pits around Oberon have lintels, but a few do not. This suggested commitment of \$50,000 may be enough to upgrade 10-15 pits. The Acting Director Technical Services can advise on this.

10.2 Footpaths

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: Clr Ian Tucker

Motion

That the funds currently allocated in the Town Improvement Levy Fund for footpaths be utilised for:

- a. Construction of pram crossings to existing footpaths where none currently exist
- b. Modifications to ramps at disabled parking spaces to ensure they comply with gradient standards
- c. Survey and design for pedestrian safety improvements at the Ross Street/Queen Street intersection

Reason

- There is an existing allocation of \$46,973 in the Town Improvement Levy Fund for footpaths, but no specific projects have currently been identified.
- There are a number of locations where footpaths meet with the top of kerb, leaving a step down to road level. Construction and improvement of pram crossings is one of the initiatives recommended in the Oberon Active Transport Strategy (i.e. PAMP).
- Most of the existing kerb ramps at disabled parking spaces do not comply with gradient standards. This increases the risk for people with limited mobility, and the potential liability for Council. This has been discussed by TALC, which supports modifying the ramps, possibly similar to those in front of IGA.
- The Oberon Active Transport Strategy also recommends the installation of kerb extensions to shorten road crossing lengths. It specifically mentions the Ross Street/Queen Street intersection. Completing a design will facilitate grant applications or enable Council to consider funding for construction in a future budget. The suggested design would also include provision for disabled access.

11 COUNCILLOR AND DELEGATES REPORTS

11.1 Central NSW Joint Organisation Board Meeting

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: Deputy Mayor Andrew McKibbin and General Manager Gary Wallace

Summary

Acting Mayor Andrew McKibbin and General Manager Gary Wallace attended the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board Meeting held in Condobolin on 29 February 2024.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Note the report from the Mayor on the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) Board Meeting 29 February 2024
 2. Note the return on investment from Council fees to the CNSWJO is 9.4:1;
 3. Support the Simtables workshop at Council in disaster readiness
 4. Note the CNSWJO Draft Statement of Budget and Revenue.
-

List of Attachments

1. 240229 CNSWJO Board Meeting Minutes 29 February 2024 [11.1.1 - 11 pages]
2. 240229 CNSWJO Budget and Statement of Revenue Policy [11.1.2 - 5 pages]

Comment



Picture 1: The Central NSW JO Board Meeting in progress, 29 February 2024, Condobolin

Board members were welcomed to Condobolin by Cr John Medcalf, Deputy Mayor of Lachlan Shire Councillor and immediate past Chair of the CNSWJO Board.

The first order of business was to elect a Chair. Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor of Cabonne was elected unopposed. Cr Mark Kellam, Mayor of Oberon was elected unopposed as Deputy Chair.

The Board received a presentation from Ms. Gerry Collins from Department of Regional NSW regarding Regional Coordination and Delivery Program.

Councillors John Medcalf and David Somerville were recognised for the years of service to the region. The Board also acknowledged the passing of former Councillor Don Fitzpatrick, former Mayor of Oberon.

On the day, the Board provided feedback that this report should include advice on the substantial value to members of the work the CNSWJO. This report leads with this advice. Please find the draft Minutes of the Meeting attached.

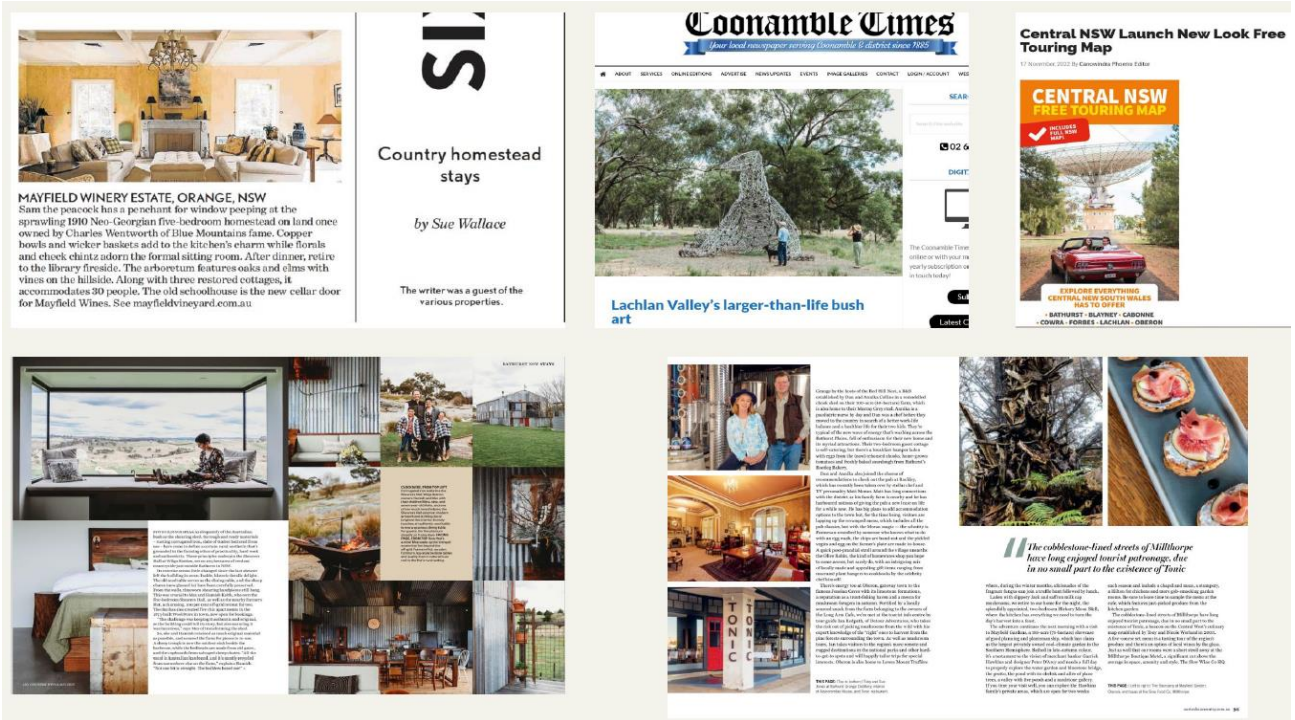
Value to Council

80% of CNSWJO resources are dedicated to providing its operational support program. This program delivers a return on investments of 9.4:1 for every dollar Council spends on its membership fees. This value is made up of grant income, monies saved through the CNSWJO procurement program and public relations value from its tourism marketing.

The work the region does in writing submissions, media, supporting projects and project teams, developing collateral and providing opportunities for members in various forums to represent their views is not included in the above figure of 9.4:1 ROI. However, this value is reported quarterly to the Board. Please go to the CNSWJO website to review past Board agendas at <https://www.centraljo.nsw.gov.au/business-papers-agendas/> or to review last year's Annual Statement please go to [2023 STATEMENT \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

This work continues year on year and for the 2022/2023 year the value is summarised as:

- 13 [Submissions - Central Joint Organisation \(nsw.gov.au\)](#) were lodged in line with CNSWJO policy on matters important to the region;
- 13 Plans, strategies and other collateral that members can leverage for funding, advocacy, forward planning and other purposes;
- \$4.2m in net cost savings across 18 regional contracts from a spend of \$25.3m.
- \$2.05m in grants for members to support training for Fluoride Operators, disaster risk reduction, Business case and Strategy Development JONZAG - Net Zero Acceleration Grant and other energy management, best practice in aggregated procurement, tourism and regional development;
- \$1.4m in public relations value and over \$472k in advertising value which encompassed 11 media releases and various social media metrics. The PR program delivered a major tourism marketing campaign for "Come Out, We're Open" which formed a large body of work within the PR program in 2023.



Picture 2: Some of the many publications as a result of the CNSWJO PR campaigns



Picture 3 One of the fully funded dull page spreads in the SMH where all member councils were promoted

Grant funded projects for the 2022/2023 year were:

- The Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration Program;
- Disaster Risk Reduction Fund program;
- Bridge Assessments;

- Come Out We're Open flood recovery program
- A Business Case for Priority Investment in the Nexus between Net Zero and Energy Security;
- A Regional Centre of Excellence in Water Loss Management;
- Transitioning Integrated Water Cycle Management Plans to Integrated Planning and Reporting; and
- A Spare Capacity in Housing Project.

Most of these are being finalised this year or are ongoing.

This value is delivered primarily by the various operational teams across the region including the CNSWJO:

- General Managers' Advisory Committee
- Water Utilities' Alliance
- Transport Technical Committee
- Tourism Managers Group
- Planners' Group
- Human Resources Managers Group
- WHS/Risk Management Group
- Training, Learning and Development Group
- Energy Group
- Regional IT Group
- Building Surveyors Skills Shortages Working Group
- Disaster Risk Reduction Steering Committee

Adoption of the Draft Statement of Budget and Revenue

CNSWJO must adopt its Statement of Budget and Revenue (the Statement) at its May meeting having put it on exhibition for 30 days. It resolved to provide it to members as part of this report. Please find the Draft Statement attached. The budget includes a 3% increase in fees, below that of the IPART rate pegged rise for Councils of 4.5% - 5.5%.

Submissions

Submissions lodged

The following submissions have been lodged since the last Board meeting. All have been at the request of members and/or as part of supporting the advocacy policy of the Board. All Submissions can be viewed on the website [Submissions - Central Joint Organisation \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.cnswj.org.au/submissions)

- [Australian Productivity Commission third inquiry into the National Water Initiative – January 2024](#)
- [Submission to the review of the Regional Development Act](#)
- [Draft NSW Energy Policy Framework](#)

- [Essential Energy Determination 2024-29 – Revised Public Lighting Pricing Proposal](#)
- [Consultation on the Future Drought Fund Investment Strategy & Funding Plan 2024-2028 – December 2023](#)
- [Submission to the NSW vocational education and training \(VET\) review – November 2023](#)
- [Response to the Department of Planning and Environment Lachlan Regional Water Strategy shortlisted actions – November 2023](#)
- [Inquiry into the planning system and the impacts of climate change on the environment and communities – November 2023](#)

Submissions under development

At the time of writing responses are intended for the following calls for submissions:

- DCCEE Draft Restoring the Rivers Framework Consultation;
- The inquiry into the assets, premises and funding of the NSW Rural Fire Service; and
- The draft Terms of Reference for the IPART review of NSW council financial model.

Disaster Risk Reduction Program

Council has received its Disaster Risk Reduction Needs Analysis report. At the time of writing a regional opportunities report is being finalised to identify programming the CNSWJO can deliver to support Council in this work.

Notably, CNSWJO are currently planning community workshops and training sessions aimed at enhancing community preparedness regarding natural disaster risks and vulnerabilities. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) evaluated three technology options: Simtables, SIMS online, and a cross-JO technology scoping study. It was decided to pursue all three options, focusing primarily on Simtables for the workshops. The workshops will introduce Simtables as a pilot program due to its distinctive nature and potential applications in disaster preparedness. The primary objective is to understand the technology's practical applications in disaster preparedness for the region and explore the potential to secure funding through existing Disaster Risk reduction initiative, contingent on a successful pilot. In the event of the success of the pilot and the purchase of the technology, a program will be developed to engage the broader community.

The workshops are tentatively scheduled for various locations in May 2024:

Bathurst – 2 May 2024
Oberon – 13 May 2024
Cowra – 14 May 2024
Lithgow – 15 May 2024
Blayney – 21 May 2024
Weddin – 21 May 2024
Orange – 22 May 2024
Parkes – 22 May 2024
Lachlan – 23 May 2024
Forbes – 23 May 2024
Cabonne – 24 May 2024

The workshops will primarily focus on bushfire preparedness across all Local Government Areas, with added emphasis on flooding scenarios in identified regions; Cabonne, Forbes, Lachlan, Lithgow,

and others identified. The success of the workshops relies heavily on coordination and support from member councils, as well as assistance from the PSC and Local Emergency Management Officers (LEMOs). CNSWJO will circulate an email once the above workshop dates, times, and venues are confirmed.

A recommendation has been made for elected representatives, general managers, and other relevant staff to participate in the upcoming community workshops and training sessions. This recommendation is crucial as it emphasises the importance of community preparedness and the potential benefits that Simtable technology can bring in enhancing disaster preparedness capabilities. Moreover, this initiative aligns well with the recent needs analysis for the region, which identified key opportunities within councils. The Simtable technology may be utilised as a tool to address some of these needs by providing a hands-on approach to understanding and mitigating disaster risks, fostering collaboration among stakeholders, and enhancing decision-making processes.

Collaborating on community engagement

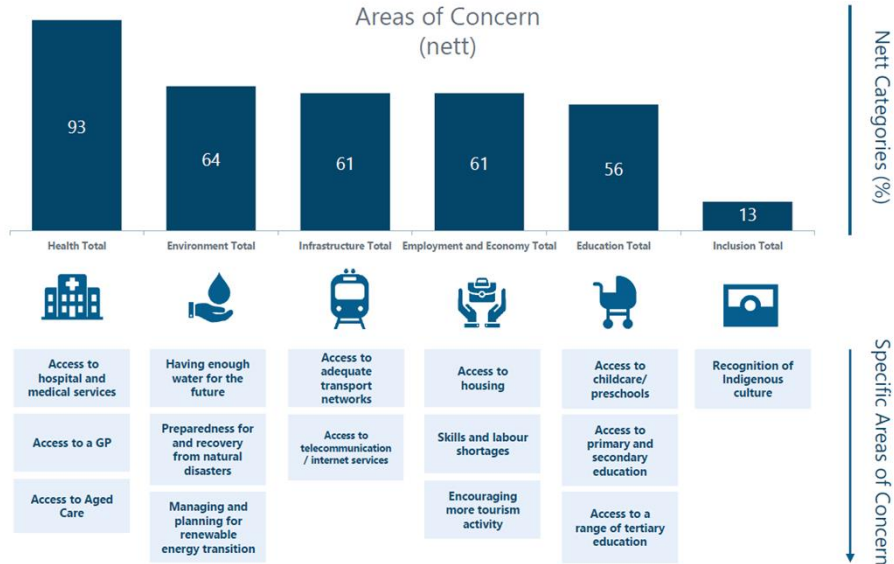
There is opportunity to optimise data collection and dissemination in region to support the Community Engagement Strategies for member Councils.

Two projects the region has been collaborating on are Community Sentiment Surveying and Our PlaceMats.

The work on Community Sentiment Surveying was with four member Councils and produced advice on regional priority. Please see the graphic below.

Areas of Key Concern for the Region

93% 
Are concerned with some aspect of the **Health Services** in the region



Environment, Infrastructure, Employment and Economy, and Education were other categories of concern

I will now read out a list of areas that your Council may or may not be responsible for, but could influence, and I would like you to tell me which 5 out of the 15 areas would be the biggest areas of concern in your community right now? You may think they are all important however which 5 areas would you say are particularly important and need immediate attention?

Figure 1 Priorities of the community members surveyed across four local government areas

CNSWJO has been working with RDA Central West and Regional NSW on two key projects in the last twelve months, these being a repeat of the PlaceMats project providing 48 data sets for Councils they can use in their Community Strategic Planning community consultations and the workshops with NSW Government agencies providing useful data for Councils. Council will receive a report separately to adopt its PlaceMat. To view the regional PlaceMat please go to <https://www.centraljo.nsw.gov.au/co-operative-projects/>

Under the Local Government Act Councils must have Community Engagement Strategy (CES) that determines how they will engage the community in creating and reviewing their Community Strategic Plan. The CNSWJO Board resolved to collaborate with key peak regional agencies to optimise CES going forward.

The following value is provided to members through this project:

- Cost savings through aggregated procurement;
- Regular surveying supported regionally will show for trends;
- Other stakeholders may be interested in collaborating in this process including making a financial contribution. This may result in a greater body of shared data and better relationships between peak agencies;
- Participating in a regional program sets up a discipline for consultation processes.

Water

The Water Report provided:

- An update on the project to transition local water utility strategic planning into the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework;
- Advice on the near completion Regional Water Loss Management project grant funded with members able to access funding for water loss management equipment; and
- Advice on the completion regional asset management assessments using the National Asset Management Assessment Framework (NAMAF) where participating councils should have their report.

It provided advice on current consultative processes including:

- Joint Select Committee on Protecting Local Water Utilities from Privatisation;
- NSW Productivity Commission review of funding arrangements for Local Water Utilities;
- Australian Productivity Commission third inquiry into the National Water Initiative; and
- Draft Restoring the Rivers Framework, including engagement with the Murray Darling Basin Authority.

Planning is underway with Charles Sturt University for a Productive Water Policy Lab this year. All Councilors will be invited. The Board resolved to ask Phil Donato, Member for Orange, to organise a round table with state and federal representation to progress advocacy on water for the region.

Energy

There is a substantial amount of activity being undertaken to address the energy priority of the CNSWJO. Current work includes;

- Submissions;

Case Study: Compensation for communities impacted by the rewiring of NSW

At the time of writing the NSW Government is giving consideration to a revised energy policy framework. Included in this framework is guidance for voluntary compensation for affected communities. This includes a \$1050 per megawatt hour voluntary benefit sharing arrangement.

Assuming

- A 40% capacity factor for wind renewable energy generation
- The current price for Large Generation Certificate (LGC) is \$46; and
- All LGCs will be realised and they are realised annually as is the case at present.

\$1050 pa equates to just 0.7% of the annual income from only LGCs. The generator then sells its electricity at profit on top of that.

As it stands, renewable energy generation is being significantly incentivised and impacted communities are not being compensated. This is simply not fair.

- Implementation of the Joint Organisation Net Zero Program;
- Adoption of the Business Case for priority investment in the Nexus between Net Zero and Energy Security;
- Advocating on Council's behalf to the Australian Energy Regulator on the costs of streetlighting.

Material advice to Council from this work is that;

- Key messaging regarding the Dept of Planning Energy Framework consultation includes the Case Study above on compensating communities for the impacts of rewiring NSW in the context of support for the overall net zero aspiration;
- Council will receive a fully funded net zero fleet strategy;
- The advocacy undertaken by CNSWJO as the lead of the Southern Lights collaboration of councils has shown a substantial reduction in street lighting pricing. The final determination by the Australian Energy Regulator should be known by May of this year.

CNSW Joint Organisation Board Meeting

Minutes of Meeting 29 February 2024

Held in Condobolin at the SRA Pavilion

In Attendance*

Cr J Jennings	Bathurst Regional Council	Cr M Statham	Lithgow City Council
Cr D Somerville	Blayney Shire Council	Cr A McKibbin	Oberon Council
Cr K Beatty	Cabonne Council	Cr J Hamling	Orange City Council
Cr R Fagan	Cowra Shire Council	Cr N Westcott	Parkes Shire Council
Cr J Medcalf	Lachlan Shire Council	Cr C Bembrick	Weddin Shire Council

Mr D Sherley	Bathurst Regional Council	Cr A Rawson	CTW
Mr M Dicker	Blayney Shire Council	Mr G Rhodes	CTW
Ms H Nicholls	Cabonne Council	Ms K Annis-Brown	OLG
Mr S Loane, OAM	Forbes Shire Council	Ms G Collins	Regional NSW
Mr G Tory	Lachlan Shire Council	Ms J Bennett	CNSWJO
Mr C Butler	Lithgow City Council	Ms M Macpherson	CNSWJO
Mr G Wallace	Oberon Council	Ms K Barker	CNSWJO
Mr D Waddell	Orange City Council	Ms J Webber	CNSWJO
Mr K Boyd, PSM	Parkes Shire Council		
Ms N Vu	Weddin Shire Council		
Ms M Schraeder	Regional NSW		

*Voting members in **bold**

Meeting opened at 9.00am by Chair Cr Kevin Beatty

1. **Welcome**
2. **Acknowledgement of Country**
3. **Apologies, applications for a leave of absence by Joint Voting representatives**
Cr P Miller, Cr M Kellam, Cr P Phillips, Mr P Devery, Mr D Sherley, Mr M Dicker, Mr B Byrnes, Cr S Ferguson, Cr C Bembrick, Mr J Gordon

Resolved	Cr M Statham / Cr J Hamling
That the apologies for the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting 29 February 2024 listed above be accepted.	

4. Election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

Cr Kevin Beatty was elected as Chair unopposed.

Cr Mark Kellam was elected as Deputy Chair unopposed.

The service to the Board of Cr J Medcalf and Dr D Sommerville was acknowledged.

The passing of Cr Don Fitzpatrick was acknowledged.

5. Conflicts of Interest

Resolved
NIL declared

6. Speakers

- a. Gerry Collins, Director, Western NSW/Regional Coordination & Delivery / Regional Development / Department of Regional NSW.
- b. Katrina Annis-Brown, Office of Local Government

7. Minutes

7a Noting of the GMAC Minutes held 1 February 2024 in Orange

Resolved	Cr R Fagan / Cr N Westcott
That the Minutes of the CNSWJO GMAC Meeting held 1 February 2024 in Orange were noted	

7b Confirmation of the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting 23 November 2023 in Sydney

Resolved	Cr D Somerville / Cr M Statham
That the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting held 23 November 2023 in Sydney were noted	

8. Business Arising from the Minutes - Matters in Progress

Resolved	Cr J Hamling / Cr J Jennings
That the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board note the Matters in Progress, making deletions as suggested.	

9. Reports on Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2022-2025

Priority One: Leveraging our successful collaboration

9a Financial Report

Resolved	Cr J Medcalf / Cr N Westcott
That the Board note the Financial Report.	

9b Budget considerations 2024/2025: The Draft 2024 CNSWJO Statement of Budget and Revenue

Resolved	Cr R Fagan / Cr A McKibbin
That the Board note the Statement of Budget and Revenue Report and;	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. adopt the draft Statement of Budget and Revenue and place it on exhibition for 30 days; 2. note that the budget for the next financial year includes a fee rise of 3% and a profit for the year of \$55,227; and 3. provide advice in the Mayoral Board report regarding the Statement of Budget and Revenue seeking member feedback. 	

9c Advocacy Report

Resolved	Cr J Jennings / Cr J Medcalf
That the Board note the Advocacy Report and;	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. note that a report from the workshop with the Rural Doctors' Network has been circulated; 	

2. adopt the Advocacy Plans for
 - a. Transport;
 - b. Water;
 - c. Energy; - receive a report on end of life and ratings on renewable energy generation.
 - d. Regional Prosperity;
 - e. Health; and
 - f. Skills Shortages;
3. endorse the activities of the Opt-in Advocacy Subcommittee of Mayors, those being;
 - a. developing a media campaign on Council sustainability;
 - b. progressing advocacy for a Safe Swift and Secure Link between Sydney and Central NSW; and
 - c. providing oversight of advocacy for the renewable energy transition and council financial sustainability; and
4. endorse the following submissions that have been lodged:
 - a. Australian Productivity Commission third inquiry into the National Water Initiative – January 2024
 - b. [Submission to the review of the Regional Development Act](#)
 - c. [Draft NSW Energy Policy Framework](#)
 - d. [Essential Energy Determination 2024-29 – Revised Public Lighting Pricing Proposal](#)
 - e. [Consultation on the Future Drought Fund Investment Strategy & Funding Plan 2024-2028 – December 2023](#)
 - f. [Submission to the NSW vocational education and training \(VET\) review – November 2023](#)
 - g. [Response to the Department of Planning and Environment Lachlan Regional Water Strategy shortlisted actions – November 2023](#)
 - h. [Inquiry into the planning system and the impacts of climate change on the environment and communities – November 2023](#)
5. Lodge the following submissions under the hand of the Executive
 - a. DCCEEW Draft Restoring the Rivers Framework Consultation;
 - b. the Inquiry into the Assets, Premises and Funding of the NSW Rural Fire Service; and
 - c. the draft Terms of Reference for the IPART review of NSW council financial model.
6. correspondence be sent to Mr Phil Donato/Mr Roy Butler requesting that the Minister for Water, The Hon. Rose Jackson be approached to convene a Regional Water Security Roundtable in the region to include state and federal government representatives.
7. receive a report on leading practice in Regional Governance.

9d Community Engagement Collaboration Report

Resolved	Cr C Bembrick / Cr D Somerville
That the CNSWJO Board note the Community Engagement Collaboration Report and	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. adopt the Regional Report on community sentiment by Woolcott Research; 2. note the significance of the findings on community priority for health and request the Portfolio Mayors for Health and Ageing provide feedback on ways in which the JO respond to this; and 3. adopt the Regional PlaceMat with a proforma report to go to councils on this project. 	

9e Regional Procurement and Contracts Report

Resolved	Cr J Medcalf / Cr A McKibbin
That the Board note the Procurement and Contract Management report and;	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. approve the updates to the procurement plan; and 2. endorse the updated Procurement Policy to include the sustainable procurement clause noting that implementation of such will occur over a 12-month period under the Best Practice in Aggregated Procurement Program. 	

9f Disaster Risk Reduction Fund Program Report

Resolved	Cr N Westcott / Cr M Statham
That the Board note the Disaster Risk Reduction Fund Program report and;	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. request that members nominate key staff members for the opportunity to extend licenses for the Emergency Services Spatial Information Library (ESSIL) platform beyond emergency staff; 2. commend to members that they support a top-down approach within Councils for essential staff to engage in the design and development of a regional Disaster Risk Reduction Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework; and 3. commend to members that Mayors, General Managers, and other relevant staff participate in the upcoming community workshops and training sessions. 	

Priority Five: Regional Transport and Infrastructure and Planning and Prioritisation

9g Transport Report

Resolved	Cr J Medcalf / Cr R Fagan
That the Board note the Transport report and note the progress on the following projects;	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Fix Me'; • Fixing Country Bridges; and • Grattan Institute. 	

Priority Six: Regional Water Security and Productive Water

9h Regional Water Report

Resolved	Cr D Somerville / Cr J Hamling
That the Board note the Regional Water Report.	

Priority Seven: Transition to a sustainable, secure and affordable energy future

9i Energy Program Report

Resolved	Cr D Somerville / Cr J Medcalf
That the Board note the Energy Program report and;	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. endorse the JONZA mid-term report; 2. note the addition of \$59,534 in funding for the JONZA program extension to 30 June 2024; 3. note the regional application for participating councils under the Community Energy Upgrades Fund focusing on pools; 	

4. endorse the draft Zero Emissions Fleet Transition Strategy, particularly the proposed 16 recommended strategic actions for CNSWJO;
5. request that member councils provide feedback on the draft regional zero emissions fleet transition strategy;
6. endorse the Business Case on the Nexus Between Energy Security and Emissions Reduction, the appendices and the Roadmap; and
7. endorse the following submissions:
 - a. Energy Policy Framework; and
 - b. AER Determination for 2024-2029 for Public Lighting.

9j Quarterly Review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2022-2025

Resolved	Cr A McKibbin / Cr J Medcalf
-----------------	-------------------------------------

That the Board note the Quarterly Review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2022-2025.

10. Resolve into Confidential Committee of the Whole

Resolved	Cr J Medcalf / Cr M Statham
-----------------	------------------------------------

That the Board

1. resolve into closed session to consider business identified, together with any late reports tabled at the meeting;
2. pursuant to section 10A(1)-(3) of the Local Government Act 1993, the media and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified confidential under the provisions of section 10A(2) as outlined above; and
3. correspondence and reports relevant to the subject business be withheld from access.

11. Executive Officer

11a Executive Officer Performance Review 2022-2023

Resolved	Cr R Fagan / Cr J Medcalf
-----------------	----------------------------------

That the Board note the Executive Officer Performance Review 2022-2023 and

1. note the report regarding the performance management of the Executive Officer and that the performance was better than satisfactory; and
2. note a discretionary increase of 5% to the Executive Officer's remuneration package, which reflects the performance of the Executive Officer and is in line with the Local Government Award increase from 1 July 2023 of 4.5% and the increase of the Superannuation Guarantee Charge of 0.5%.

11b Executive Officer Transition Report

Resolved	Cr N Westcott / Cr M Statham
That the Board note the Executive Officer Transition Report and	
1. transition all staff to be employed through the Joint Organisation;	
2. seek to have payroll and HR functions administered through a member council;	
3. adopt a 2IC model for staff management for the next twelve months;	
4. note that the Executive Officer will reduce hours to four days a week until December of this calendar year; and	
5. review the structure with the incoming Board in December of this year.	

12. Resolve into Open Session – Cr M Statham/Cr R Fagan

13. Late Reports - Nil

14. Matters raised by Members - Nil

15. Speakers to next meeting

- Essential Energy: Mr David Wilson / Mr Geoff Burgess
- Planning Staff – as advised by Ms G Collins
- Ministers for Transport, Energy
- Minister Housoss (Minister for Finance)
- Transgrid
- Mr Martin Rush (Mining Related Councils)

16. Next meeting

GMAC:

- 2 May 2024 – Oberon

Board:

- 23 May – Lithgow
- 22 August – Federal Parliament
- 28 November – State Parliament

Meeting closed: 12:13

Page 6 is the last page of the Central NSW Joint Organisation meeting 29 February 2024 held at Condobolin



**CENTRAL NSW
JOINT ORGANISATION**

**Central NSW
Joint Organisation**

**Budget and Statement of Revenue
Policy 2024-2025**

Draft for Public Comment

Contents

1. Financial Contributions by Member Councils	3
2. Fees & Charges	3
3. 2024-2025 Budget	4

DRAFT

Budget and Statement of Revenue Policy 2024-2025

The Central NSW Joint Organisation's revenue and accounting policies are kept in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards Board. CNSWJO abides by the:

- *Local Government Act (1993)*
- *Local Government (General Regulation 2005)*
- *Local Government Code of Accounting Practice & Financial Reporting*

1. Financial Contributions by Member Councils

Financial contributions by member councils fall into two categories. Firstly, membership fees are levied from all member councils in order to perform the principal functions of delivering on strategic regional priorities, regional leadership and intergovernmental cooperation. The second category is for contributions from participating councils for a program of other functions enhancing strategic capacity and direct service delivery. Strategic work by the Joint Organisation will determine the nature of this program. [Strategic Planning - Central Joint Organisation \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.cnswjoo.nsw.gov.au/strategic-planning)

As outlined in its Charter, the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) member councils must contribute financially based on the following methodology:

- a. The annual financial contribution required to be made by each member council is to consist of:
 - i. base fee of the same amount for each Member Council; and
 - ii. a capitation fee [based on the population number drawn from ABS census figures].
- b. The annual financial contribution required to be made by each associate member is to be based on a methodology adopted by the Board.
- c. The amount of the base fee, capitation fee and financial contribution by associate members for a financial year is to be determined prior to the start of that year by Resolution of the Board.

For 2024-2025, contributions from member councils of the Joint Organisation of \$964,909 has been determined with the following breakdown:

- Membership & Administration: \$369,984
- Membership of various programs: \$594,925
(Operational, CNSWJO Water Utilities Alliance, Tourism & Western Region Academy of Sport)

2. Fees & Charges

Under the Local Government Act 1993, the CNSWJO may charge and recover an approved fee for its services.

CNSWJO must consider the following when establishing approved fees:

- The cost of provision of the service
- Recommended prices suggested by outside bodies
- The importance of the service
- Legislation that regulates certain fees
- Goods & Services Tax legislation.

3. 2024-2025 Budget

**Central NSW Joint Organisation Budget
2024/2025**

**Budget
2024/2025**

Income	
CNSWJO Membership Fees	369,984
CWUA Best Practice Program	334,440
CNSWJO Regional Tourism Group	122,591
CNSWJO Operational Membership	126,035
WRAS	11,859
	\$964,909
Grant funding - JONZA	\$155,000
Grant funding - Bridges Project Mgmt	\$12,746
Grant funding - Disaster Ready Fund	\$202,195
	\$369,941
CWUA -Smart Approved Watermark	19,767
	\$19,767
HR - Regional Training Service Income	100,000
	\$100,000
Management Fees from Contracts	320,000
Management Fee from LGP	50,000
	\$370,000
Copyright Licence	20,000
Cyber Security (from members)	200,000
Vehicle Lease Back - Net Zero and Operational Programs Mgr	5,000
Interest	20,000
	\$245,000
Total Income	\$2,069,617

Expenditure

Executive Officer Costs	150,000
Executive Officer Vehicle Costs & Depn	10,000
2IC / Net Zero and Operational Programs Manager incl Vehicle	45,065
Finance Manager	80,300
Project Officer - Procurement (mat leave until April 2025)	36,506
Project Officer - BPAP (and mat leave backfill)	79,928
Project Officer - Operations	60,438
Project Support Officer - Energy and Resilience	2,400
Cybersecurity Project	203,000
Executive Support and Admin Officer	80,000
Productive Water and Advocacy Manager - JO costs	56,000
CWUA - Best Practice Program (inc staff)	334,440
CWUA - Smart Approved Watermark	19,767
Grant - Bridges (inc staff)	12,746
Grant - JONZA (inc staff)	155,000
Grant - Disaster Ready Fund (inc staff)	202,195
Disaster Ready Program (JO costs)	86,655
CNSWJO Regional Tourism Group Marketing	122,591
SSRP review	35,000
Remuneration of the Chair	10,000
WRAS	11,859
HR - Training Service Costs	95,000
Regional Medical Student Scholarship	15,000
Advocacy	15,000
Accounting/Audit/Financial Services Support	29,000
Bank Fees and Sundry Costs	2,500
Computer Software/Licences	2,000
Procurement Software	4,000
Copyright Licence	20,000
Depreciation (excl vehicles)	4,000
Internet Cloud	10,000
Legal	10,000
Operational Teams Costs	10,000
Printing/Stationery/Postage	1,000
Zoom Conferences	1,500
Website Hosting and Costs	1,500
Total Expenditure	\$2,014,390
Net Profit/Loss	\$55,227



**CENTRAL NSW
JOINT ORGANISATION**

**Central NSW
Joint Organisation**

**Budget and Statement of Revenue
Policy 2024-2025**

Draft for Public Comment

Contents

1. Financial Contributions by Member Councils	3
2. Fees & Charges.....	3
3. 2024-2025 Budget	4

DRAFT

Budget and Statement of Revenue Policy 2024-2025

The Central NSW Joint Organisation's revenue and accounting policies are kept in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards Board. CNSWJO abides by the:

- *Local Government Act (1993)*
- *Local Government (General Regulation 2005)*
- *Local Government Code of Accounting Practice & Financial Reporting*

1. Financial Contributions by Member Councils

Financial contributions by member councils fall into two categories. Firstly, membership fees are levied from all member councils in order to perform the principal functions of delivering on strategic regional priorities, regional leadership and intergovernmental cooperation. The second category is for contributions from participating councils for a program of other functions enhancing strategic capacity and direct service delivery. Strategic work by the Joint Organisation will determine the nature of this program. [Strategic Planning - Central Joint Organisation \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.cnswjoo.nsw.gov.au/strategic-planning)

As outlined in its Charter, the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) member councils must contribute financially based on the following methodology:

- a. The annual financial contribution required to be made by each member council is to consist of:
 - i. base fee of the same amount for each Member Council; and
 - ii. a capitation fee [based on the population number drawn from ABS census figures].
- b. The annual financial contribution required to be made by each associate member is to be based on a methodology adopted by the Board.
- c. The amount of the base fee, capitation fee and financial contribution by associate members for a financial year is to be determined prior to the start of that year by Resolution of the Board.

For 2024-2025, contributions from member councils of the Joint Organisation of \$964,909 has been determined with the following breakdown:

- Membership & Administration: \$369,984
- Membership of various programs: \$594,925
(Operational, CNSWJO Water Utilities Alliance, Tourism & Western Region Academy of Sport)

2. Fees & Charges

Under the Local Government Act 1993, the CNSWJO may charge and recover an approved fee for its services.

CNSWJO must consider the following when establishing approved fees:

- The cost of provision of the service
- Recommended prices suggested by outside bodies
- The importance of the service
- Legislation that regulates certain fees
- Goods & Services Tax legislation.

3. 2024-2025 Budget

**Central NSW Joint Organisation Budget
2024/2025**

**Budget
2024/2025**

Income	
CNSWJO Membership Fees	369,984
CWUA Best Practice Program	334,440
CNSWJO Regional Tourism Group	122,591
CNSWJO Operational Membership	126,035
WRAS	11,859
	\$964,909
Grant funding - JONZA	\$155,000
Grant funding - Bridges Project Mgmt	\$12,746
Grant funding - Disaster Ready Fund	\$202,195
	\$369,941
CWUA -Smart Approved Watermark	19,767
	\$19,767
HR - Regional Training Service Income	100,000
	\$100,000
Management Fees from Contracts	320,000
Management Fee from LGP	50,000
	\$370,000
Copyright Licence	20,000
Cyber Security (from members)	200,000
Vehicle Lease Back - Net Zero and Operational Programs Mgr	5,000
Interest	20,000
	\$245,000
Total Income	\$2,069,617

Expenditure

Executive Officer Costs	150,000
Executive Officer Vehicle Costs & Depn	10,000
2IC / Net Zero and Operational Programs Manager incl Vehicle	45,065
Finance Manager	80,300
Project Officer - Procurement (mat leave until April 2025)	36,506
Project Officer - BPAP (and mat leave backfill)	79,928
Project Officer - Operations	60,438
Project Support Officer - Energy and Resilience	2,400
Cybersecurity Project	203,000
Executive Support and Admin Officer	80,000
Productive Water and Advocacy Manager - JO costs	56,000
CWUA - Best Practice Program (inc staff)	334,440
CWUA - Smart Approved Watermark	19,767
Grant - Bridges (inc staff)	12,746
Grant - JONZA (inc staff)	155,000
Grant - Disaster Ready Fund (inc staff)	202,195
Disaster Ready Program (JO costs)	86,655
CNSWJO Regional Tourism Group Marketing	122,591
SSRP review	35,000
Remuneration of the Chair	10,000
WRAS	11,859
HR - Training Service Costs	95,000
Regional Medical Student Scholarship	15,000
Advocacy	15,000
Accounting/Audit/Financial Services Support	29,000
Bank Fees and Sundry Costs	2,500
Computer Software/Licences	2,000
Procurement Software	4,000
Copyright Licence	20,000
Depreciation (excl vehicles)	4,000
Internet Cloud	10,000
Legal	10,000
Operational Teams Costs	10,000
Printing/Stationery/Postage	1,000
Zoom Conferences	1,500
Website Hosting and Costs	1,500
Total Expenditure	\$2,014,390
Net Profit/Loss	\$55,227

11.2 Black Springs Community Association - February Meeting

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: Clr Hayden

Summary

This reports outlines the Delegates report from the meeting of the Black Springs Community Association held 12 February 2024.

Recommendation:

That Council note and accept the delegates report.

List of Attachments

Nil

Comment

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm with numerous members in attendance. The meeting was opened by the Chair, Mr Leon Dwyer welcoming all those in attendance.

Apologies

Numerous apologies given and accepted.

Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting were moved and accepted.

Business Arising form Minutes

Nil

Finance Treasurers Report

Finance report was read out and supplied, moved and accepted.

Business arising from Correspondence

- Insurance policy too be reviewed.
- Resolution was made to follow up with Paul Robb of NSW Forestry to discuss issues around weeds, pests, and anything else members would like to put forward.
- Discussion around damage done to hall re the acoustic panels from tek screws, and the unplanned unauthorized work re power points, and the fact that there is a MOU between council and BSCA and it needs to be followed.
- Resolution made to write a letter to council to apologise.
- Spark electrical account for unauthorized work, council do not feel they should pay, BSCA made a resolution to pay account.

Business arising moved and accepted.

Agenda Items

Mathew Webb Oberon Councils Corporate Services Director gave a presentation on the Town Improvement levy review. Numerous questions were put forth.

Council Delegate report

Update regarding Hall was given.

General Business

Deborah Hoolihan would like to organise a dinner in April and possibly a dance later in the year.

Elsbeth Alexander suggested she would like to see some kind of planning meeting to plan out the year ahead.

Meeting Closed

President declared the meeting closed about 9.30pm.

11.3 Oberon Quarry Community Consultative Committee

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: Clr Ian Tucker and Clr Lauren Trembath

Summary

The first meeting of the Oberon Quarry Community Consultative Committee was held on 29 February 2024. Clrs Tucker and Trembath attended as Council delegates.

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the delegates report to the Oberon Quarry Community Consultative Committee.

List of Attachments

1. OBERON QUARRIES EXTENSION PROJECT CCC 20240229 MINUTES Final [11.3.1 - 6 pages]

Comment

At Council's February meeting, Clr Ian Tucker was appointed as the Council delegate to the Oberon Quarry Community Consultative Committee, and Clr Trembath was appointed as the alternative delegate. Both Councillors attended the first meeting of the Committee held at Lake Oberon Estate on 29 February 2024.

Mr Garry West is the Chair of the Committee, having been appointed by DOP. Other members were appointed following direct approaches from Mr West.

An outline of the proposed quarry expansion was provided including:

- Description and history of the existing quarry
- Proposed expansion and extension of the life of the quarry
- Forecasts of quantities of material expected to be extracted, truck movements, hours of operation
- Outline of the potential environmental and social impacts
- Backfilling and rehabilitation

It is worth noting that at the peak of operations, it is expected that up to \$700,000pa will be paid to Council to contribute to the maintenance of haul routes.

The draft EIS is expected to be finalised and submitted to DOP in the next few weeks. Once accepted by DOP it will be placed on public exhibition.

OBERON QUARRIES EXTENSION PROJECT

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Location: Function Centre, Lake Oberon Estate, 167 Harveys Rd, Oberon

Date: Thursday 29 February 2024

Time 12pm

Attendance:

Garry West	Independent Chairperson
Tony & Julie Alveres	Community representatives
Lyle Fitzpatrick	Community representative
Barry Lang	Community representative
Tim Murray	Community representative
Cr Ian Tucker	Oberon Council
Cr Lauren Trembath	Oberon Council
Bennett Kennedy	Oberon Council
Neil Hargraves	Oberon Quarries
Jake Hargraves	Oberon Quarries
Luke Hargraves	Oberon Quarries
Samara pringle	Oberon Quarries
Peter Jamieson	Anditi (By videoconference)

Apologies

Harley Kolstad	Community representative
John Hackfath	Community representative
Emma Terracni	Oberon Quarries

Minutes

Garry West welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the CCC and outlined the CCC appointment and meeting process and objectives. The CCC is conducted within the Guidelines established by the NSW Department of Planning and advised he is appointed by them.

Mr West explained a copy of the minutes and the meeting presentation by the company will be uploaded to the project website.

Company Presentation

The presentation was provided by Peter Jamieson.

The existing quarry was approved in 1993 following a Commission of Inquiry. Between 1993 and 2015 several modifications to the quarry were approved by the Minister

extending the life until 2016. In 2015 a new State Significant Development (SSD-6333) was approved until 2045. Commercial operations commenced in 1995. The quarry has an approved area of 30 ha and operations of up to 400,000 tonne per annum (tpa) production and 3,000 tonne per day (tpd) product delivery.

Extraction within the proposed extension area is to occur within the rim of Racecourse Hill and all runoff from the extraction area will be to Sediment Dams 1 & 2 and the 2 ML Storage Dam. Discharges from the quarry water management system are via a grassed overland flow path to Racecourse Creek.

The final rehabilitation will have benched quarry walls, grassed and timbered quarry floor free draining to sediment dams 1 & 2.

30 years of operations have occurred with no significant environmental impacts.

The existing processing plant is within a fully bunded area. The quarry undertakes monthly dust and water quality monitoring along with blast monitoring and noise monitoring as required. The monitoring result can be found on the quarry website <http://www.oberonquarries.com.au/environment>. The quarry prepares an Annual Return in accordance with its requirements under its Environment Protection Licence (EPL 4442), an annual review of the Development Consent, tri-annual Independent Audits and complaints register which are all available via the website.

Proposed Extension Area

The proposed extension area is 31.5 ha consisting of improved pasture and 10 trees. The resource is 16 to 19 m deep and contains approximately 15.7 million tonnes of hard rock. The project is seeking consent to extend the life of the quarry to 2057. Access to the proposed extension area will be from the existing quarry floor and with runoff from the extension area serviced by the existing quarry water management system. The proposed water management system is designed to contain and control runoff from a 100-year 24-hour rainfall event.

There are 4 residences within 1.1 kms to 1.5 kms of the proposed extension.

The Biodiversity Assessment finds the extension area is predominately improved pasture with isolated trees. No ecosystem credits are required as the site does not meet the thresholds required. Also, no species credits are required due to the lack of suitable habitat, habitat constraints being absent from the site or species have been surveyed and not found.

No Aboriginal sites or potential archaeological deposits were identified during the survey and there are no proposed impacts to Aboriginal sites.

Hours of Operation

Currently quarry and processing is approved 7am to 6pm Mondays to Fridays and 7am to 5pm on Saturdays. It is proposed to extend the start to 6am Monday to Saturday, except for blast hole drilling which will remain at 7am. No quarrying or process is undertaken on Sundays or public holidays and that is proposed to continue.

The loading of haul trucks is currently approved from 6am to 10pm Mondays to Fridays and 6am to 5 pm Saturdays. It is proposed to extend the start time to 5am Monday to Saturday. No loading of haul trucks is undertaken on Sundays or public holidays and that is proposed to continue. This earlier loading time will allow trucks to access the Sydney market prior to peak times.

Maintenance is currently approved 7am to 6 pm Mondays to Fridays and 7 am to 4 pm on Saturdays. No changes are proposed to these times. Similarly, no changes are proposed to the approved hours of construction of haul roads or quarry infrastructure.

Product delivery is currently approved from 6 am to 10 pm Mondays to Fridays and 7 am to 4 pm Saturdays. No product delivery trucks are to enter the quarry prior to 6am on any day. During the periods 6 am to 7 am and 6 pm to 10 pm a maximum of 4 laden delivery trucks shall leave the site per hour (total of 8 truck movements per hour). The proposed change is to allow product delivery trucks to enter the site from 5 am Monday to Saturdays. No other changes are proposed.

Proposed Extraction Sequence

It is proposed to quarry blocks of approx. 2 ha each commencing in a south easterly direction to the southern boundary then in a northerly direction to the northern boundary. Each block is estimated to contain approximately 1 million tonnes of hard rock with negligible topsoil/overburden. The proposed annual extraction is 650,000 tpa of aggregate and road base; 200,000 tpa of crusher dust together with a stockpile drawdown of 100,000 tpa. 12 Blasting events a year are proposed and crushing and processing is to occur in the existing plant within the bunded area.

Backloading of ENM and VENM

To assist in improving the overall efficiency of quarry operations, approval is sought to backload Excavated Natural Material (ENM) and Vegetative Excavated Natural Material (VENM) to the quarry which will be incorporated into the final landform. Backloading of up to 500,000 tpa is sought with the potential for emplacement of up to 10 to 15 million tonnes of ENM and VENM over the life of the quarry.

Final Landform

The final landform is proposed to be combination of benched and backfilled landform. The extent of backfilling will be dependent on the volume of ENM and VENM together with 500,000 tonnes of stockpiled topsoil and overburden to establish a stable landform. The rehabilitated quarry floor will then be seeded with improved pasture in

accordance with the landowner requirements including native trees. The final landform will be shaped to be free-draining or draining to the existing water management system.

Traffic Impact

Up to 950,000 tpa of product delivery is sought by the project over the life of the quarry, together with an increase in the maximum daily tonnage from 3,000 tpd to 6,000 tpd. Since 1995 maximum legal payload per truck has increased from 29 t to 68 t, therefore the average payload per truck is proposed to increase from 35 t to 55 t over the next decade. Laden trips at maximum daily transport is proposed to increase from 104 trips to 172 trips for an average payload of 35 t, this is proposed to subsequently decrease to a maximum of 109 trips/day for an average payload of 55 t. It is estimated that at this level of product transport there will be an average of approximately 91 trucks/day or approximately 8 trucks/hour assuming product transport occurs 11 hours/day, 300 days per year. Existing intersections at Shooters Hill Road/Edith Road, Edith Road/Titania Road, Titania/Duckmaloi Road can accommodate the increased truck numbers from the quarry.

The proposed backloading of ENM and VENM on quarry trucks will not increase overall truck movements.

Oberon Quarries pays a CPI indexed tonnage-based Road Maintenance contribution to Oberon Council which is \$0.55/tonne as of 2024.

Air Quality Impact Assessment

The Air Quality Impact Assessment (AQIA) indicates the incremental concentrations from the project are small and there is no projected exceedances of the annual average TSP, PM10 and PM2.5 criteria. The Greenhouse Gas assessment indicates the direct emissions associated with the project contribute up to 0.005% of NSW total GHG emissions in 2020 and up to 0.001% of Australia's GHG emissions in the 12 months to June 2022.

Noise & Vibration

Operational noise levels will meet Noise Policy for Industry (NPI) criteria for all non-project related residences under noise enhancing meteorological conditions and maximum noise levels will be below EPA trigger levels for sleep disturbance at residences. Quarry road traffic noise will meet Road Noise Policy objectives at nearest receivers under worst case conditions. Air-blast overpressure and vibration from blasting will meet all criteria.

No properties meet the Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy (VLAMP) requirements.

Alternatives and Justification for the Project

The Environmental Impact Assessment criteria requires all projects to review and consider the alternatives from proceeding with the project as well as justifying why the project should proceed. Alternatives are from do nothing, not increasing annual production, consider alternative haul routes and consider the electricity needs using renewable energy such as solar and wind.

The site justification indicates the site and infrastructure are well established and highly suitable for the proposed extension; 30 years of demonstrated ability to operate the quarry in a way that has low impact on surrounding residents and negligible impact on the surrounding environment as well as a low demand on the social infrastructure.

The quarry makes a significant contribution to the maintenance and upkeep of roads in the surrounding area and has access to approximately 15.7 million tonnes of high-quality hard rock resource that is highly sought after.

The quarry provides continued employment for 35 staff and contractors with the potential to increase to 45 staff and contractors as well as continued utilization of established infrastructure that can be used for many years to come.

The proposed extension provides an opportunity for utilisation of void created by quarrying for emplacement of ENM and VENM in an energy efficient manner by backloading to the quarry.

The project is consistent with Planning Objectives and Policies and is consistent with Ecological Sustainable Development (ESD) principles.

The Bushfire Assessment and Valuation sections of the Environmental Impact Assessment are the last requirements before the draft EIS is submitted to the Department of Planning for adequacy and subsequent publication for submissions and determination.

General Business

Cr Tucker asked what is the ENM and VENM material. Peter explained it is extracted material from the Sydney tunnel for example. No building waste is involved, and each load is required to have a certificate from the EPA.

Cr Tucker asked about the final landform. Peter explained the quarried areas are progressively rehabilitated, overburden is replaced and the grassed and timbered as required by the landowner.

Tony Alveres questioned what assessment has been made of the increase in power requirements. Peter advised the assessment indicated there is little increase in energy requirements.

Cr Trembath referred to the possible use of solar and wind in the presentation. Peter explained the increase in energy requirements are low but solar is a possibility at the northern end. Wind power is not proposed.

Cr Tucker questioned the benefits for Council and whether the road contribution is specific for the haul route or other roads within the LGA. Peter indicated the road maintenance contribution is specific to the haulage routes within the LGA that are used by Oberon Quarries.

Mr West thanked Tony and Julie Alveres for hosting the meeting at their venue.

Meeting closed at 1.20pm

Next meeting TBA

12 COMMITTEE REPORTS

12.1	Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting 14 December 2023
-------------	--

File No:	ARIC24
----------	--------

Author:	Gary Wallace (General Manager), Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director)
---------	---

Summary

Minutes of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on 14 December 2023 are submitted for Council's information and endorsement.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Receive and note minutes of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on 14 December 2023 and endorse the recommended actions.
 2. A Councillor Workshop be held to review Council's Risk Appetite Statements.
 3. Note the 2022/23 Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Annual Report as endorsed by the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee
-

List of Attachments

1. 231214 Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Minutes 14 December 2023 [**12.1.1** - 7 pages]
2. ARIC Annual Report OC 2022-23 [**12.1.2** - 5 pages]

Comment

The last meeting of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee considered a number of matters.

An update was provided in relation to the Risk and Opportunities Registers. The WHS & Risk Coordinator and Executive Management Team have conducted a thorough review of the process regarding identifying Risks associated with our major projects. During the review there are a number of risk profiles that need to be considered. The overarching community strategic risks, our corporate organisational risks and project specific registers. It has also been identified that we need to review our risk appetite statements. These will be reviewed every 12 months. Mayor Mark Kellam requested a councillor workshop be held to review risk appetite statements.

The NSW Modern Slavery Amendment Act, 2021 requires all Local Government sites to take reasonable steps to ensure that goods and services procured by and for Council are not the product of modern slavery. An update was provided regarding the activities undertaken by Council to minimise modern slavery in supply chains.

Oberon Council recently participated in a regional procured Asset Management Maturity Audit using IPWEAs National Asset Management Assessment Framework (NAMAF) to assess the status of asset management across all asset classes. An update was provided in relation the audit.

A status update was provided in relation to the Rates and Annual Charges percentage as at 30 June 2023 noting the reasons for the abnormal end of year result.

A report was provided in relation to the completion of the 2022-23 Financial Statement audit on 31 October 2023. The members of ARIC acknowledged Council for the work done.

Discussion was held in relation to the development of new Terms of Reference in line with the OLG model charter. The review of the Terms of Reference is required to be completed by 30 June 2024.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee will be held on 14 March 2024.



MINUTES

AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

The Meeting was held on Thursday 14 December 2023, in the Council Chambers, 137 – 139 Oberon Street, Oberon and via Microsoft Teams.

The Meeting commenced at 11:00 am.

Attendance

Neil Maltby	Independent Member (Chair)
Ron Gillard	Independent Member (via Teams)
Kylie McRae	Independent Member (via Teams)
Mayor Mark Kellam	Councillor Delegate
Deputy Mayor Andrew McKibbin	Councillor Delegate
Gary Wallace	General Manager, Oberon Council
Mathew Webb	Corporate Services Director, Oberon Council
Zoe Marks	Finance Manager, Oberon Council
Lisa Koleda	Management Accountant, Oberon Council
Sharon Swannell	Executive Coordinator

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from John Thompson, Intentus and Farisha Ali, Audit Office.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary	- Nil
Non-Pecuniary Significant	- Nil
Non-Pecuniary Less than Significant	- Nil

3 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1	Minutes from meeting held on 14 September 2023
------------	---

Moved: Neil Maltby
Seconded: Mayor Mark Kellam

Recommendation to Council:

That the Minutes of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on 14 September 2023 be noted.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

It was noted that the minutes will be amended to reflect the attendance of John Thompson, not John O'Malley.

4 REPORTS

4.1	Risk and Opportunity Registers Update
------------	--

Author:	Rebecca Burgess (WHS/Risk Coordinator)
---------	--

Summary

Providing an update in relation to the Oberon Council Risk and Opportunity Registers.

Gary Wallace provided an update as Rebecca Burgess was absent from the meeting. Council has now identified a number of our major projects that potentially need to be added to our registers. Based on the previous discussion we have also developed a new Risk Matrix.

The WHS & Risk Coordinator and Executive Management Team have conducted a thorough review of our processes. The process regarding identifying Risks associated with our major projects were reviewed. During the review there are a number of risk profiles that we need to consider. The overarching community strategic risks, our corporate organisational risks and project specific registers.

Clr McKibbin and Mayor Mark Kellam agreed the proposed process is a good way forward.

Kylie McRae identified that the process needs to ensure that if a high project risk starts to go south very quickly that you can bring it to the immediate attention of Council.

Ron Gillard added his only concern is depending on how many projects are going concurrently the ARIC only needs to see anything that is high risk or has escalated or new projects. This will assist with reducing the volume of reporting.

Kylie McRae added this is still sitting in the old format and needs to be reformatted into the new format.

Ron Gillard will provide some comments offline in relation to his feedback. This will be circulated out of session and feedback provided.

Gary Wallace advised it has also been identified that we need to review our risk appetite statements as well. These will be reviewed every 12 months. Mayor Mark Kellam requested a councillor workshop be held to review risk appetite statements.

Kylie McRae commented on the enormous volume of work that Rebecca has put into the process and the expertise that she has developed throughout the process, it's very impressive. The Mayor added his agreement.

Moved: Mayor Mark Kellam
Seconded: Neil Maltby

Recommendation to Council:

That the report on the update to the Oberon Council Risk and Opportunity Registers be noted by the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

That a Councillor Workshop be held to review the Risk Appetite Statements.

4.2	Modern Slavery Risk Assessment
Author:	Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director)

Summary

The NSW Modern Slavery Amendment Act, 2021 requires all Local Government sites to take reasonable steps to ensure that goods and services procured by and for Council are not the product of modern slavery.

Mathew Webb provided an update regarding the activities undertaken by Council to minimise modern slavery in supply chain activities.

Council has provided its supplier lists to the Central NSW Joint Organisation, they will review the suppliers and survey all major suppliers (over \$150,000 spend per annum). These will then be put into risk categories and we can then ensure our approach addresses any issues identified. It was thought it was appropriate to go through a regional approach.

Kylie McRae asked what the approach would be for new suppliers in the future.

Mathew Webb advised that a checklist will be implemented to identify any issues in the procurement appointment phase in the future.

Mathew Webb asked for feedback from the Independent Members regarding any activity that other councils are taking in relation to this.

Ron Gillard advised that there have been a variety of different responses, some councils have put comments and questionnaires as part of their procurement policies and others have gone more in depth like the regional approach.

Kylie McRae advised that the State and Federal Government have checklists in all their procurement processes. They ask a question to say how do you ensure there is no modern slavery in your supply chain.

Mathew Webb responded that is a matter we have considered, particularly in relation to higher risk categories such as purchase of chemicals. When the report is received in relation to our supplier base it will be provided to the next available ARIC Meeting.

Moved: Mayor Mark Kellam
Seconded: Neil Maltby

Recommendation to Council:

That ARIC note the progress of the regional modern slavery compliance project supported by the Central NSW Joint Organisation.

4.3	Asset Management Maturity Audit
Author:	Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director)

Summary

Oberon Council recently participated in a regional procured Asset Management Maturity Audit using IPWEAs National Asset Management Assessment Framework (NAMAF) to assess the status of asset management across all asset classes.

Mathew Webb provided an update in relation to the Asset Management Maturity Audit recently undertaken. Council has previously participated in this process in 2019 and thought it would be a good opportunity to look at our asset landscape and see what improvements have been since that time.

The audit was conducted by the University of NSW and was carried out at a number of councils across the region. The review covered our Asset Management Plans and how asset management flows throughout the organisation. The audit used the NAMAF framework. A report will be provided to the next meeting once the report is received by Council.

Ron Gillard commented that Asset Management is a risk area as well, particularly around maintenance of assets. I am comfortable with Oberon's attention to Asset Management. Ron asked in the Asset Management Policy document the responsibilities are by section and asked who is on the Asset Management Steering group? Gary Wallace advised the Steering Group is currently EMT, however in the future we may need to address this. Ron suggested this be moved to the section under EMT and state that the EMT is operating as the asset management steering group.

Moved: Cllr Andrew McKibbin
Seconded: Neil Maltby

Recommendation to Council:

That the report on the asset management maturity audit be noted and accepted.

4.4 Draft ARIC Annual Report 2022/23

Author: Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director)

Summary

The draft 2022/23 ARIC annual report is submitted to the committee for feedback and endorsement.

Kylie McRae advised that under the listing of the independent members Ron Gillard is listed as a member at the December 2022 Meeting, he attended this meeting as an Observer. This will be amended.

Moved: Mayor Mark Kellam
Second: Cllr Andrew McKibbin

Recommendation to Council:

That the committee endorse the proposed 2022/23 Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Annual Report and the report be presented to the next available Council Meeting.

4.5 Rates & Annual Charges Outstanding Percentage

Author: Zoe Marks (Finance Manager)

Summary

This paper is to provide a status update of the Rates & Annual Charges Outstanding Percentage (RACOP) due to the abnormal year result at 30 June 2023 and to answer questions resulting from the Financial Statements presentation.

Zoe Marks advised that during the process of transition from the Civica Financial module to the new Open Office system. During that period we were unable to extract our reminder installments for our ratepayers. Due to our inability to get those reports out we had an outstanding rate level of 16% as at 30 June 2023. We have now reduced that percentage back to 6% and an updated report will also be provided to Council in relation to Council's debt recovery activities.

Cllr McKibbin asked about the current debt status. The report outlines the debt overdue as at specific dates. Of the ageing amount of \$462,715 what is the likelihood of recovery of that debt.

Zoe Marks advised that a number of the outstanding amounts are ageing and we are assessing the lands in question. A number of properties may reach the stage of forced sale. A report outlining the details will be provided to Council early in 2024.

Moved: Mayor Mark Kellam
Seconded: Cllr Andrew McKibbin

Recommendation to Council:

That Rates and Annual Charges Outstanding Percentage update be noted and accepted.

4.6 2022-23 External Audit Completion

Author: Zoe Marks (Finance Manager)

Summary

The Audit Office completed Council's 2022-23 Financial Statement audit on 31 October 2023. The audited financial statements are now on public exhibition.

Oberon Council lodged their Financial Statements by the due date of 31 October 2023. We are happy with the results of the audit and it is significantly clean.

an immaterial matter has been brought to our attention that community land was not indexed. this was identified very late and not provided until the day before the Finance Statements were required to be lodged.

Neil Maltby commented that at the last meeting John Thompson indicated there were no red flags.

Mathew Webb advised that the final management letter is due to be received soon. This can be circulated out of session.

Ron Gillard commended staff on meeting the 31 October 2023 deadline. The Audit Office has experienced resourcing issues, for Oberon Council to get it done by the end of October is a credit. Ron suggested that when the Audit Engagement is reviewed next March 2024 the timeline should be reviewed at that point.

Neil Maltby asked if there are any questions in relation to the accounts as they are presented. Neil asked that the Engagement Closing Report is provided to the Chair.

There were no further questions.

Moved: Neil Maltby

Seconded: Ron Gillard

Recommendation to Council:

That the Audited Financial Statements completion and associated reports be noted and accepted and note that Audit Risk and Improvement Committee acknowledged the work done by Oberon Council.

5 ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Action Items and Other Updates

Author: Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director), Zoe Marks (Finance Manager)

Summary

This report item summarises the current status of action items from the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meetings and provides updates for actions taken.

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

Ron Gillard raised the new Terms of Reference that have recently been provided. The only thing that will need to change is where there has been legislation put in place that will need to be considered prior to 30 June 2024. That will come down to Council's approach. This will come into effect in September 2024. The current ARIC is open and transparent. The proposed structure removes Councillors from the ARIC, for this Council the current Councillor members are active participants in the ARIC.

Kylie McRae agreed with the comments that Ron has made. The independence of an ARIC should outweigh the Council Members. Council needs to start to consider the internal audit aspects of the guidelines. The model charter that OLG have circulated do not comply with audit standards. Kylie has a version that does comply that she will share with the Committee.

Gary Wallace agreed with the comments made. To not have the Mayor and Deputy Mayor not sitting on the ARIC is not good. It is noted in the new document that if you propose working outside that framework Councils are required to write to OLG and advise. Gary will raise this on a regional level. Another concern is the Mayors and Councillors are unable to be a member, but a staff member from another council can be nominated.

Neil Maltby asked what percentage of time the Mayor would be present at ARIC Meetings that you attend. Ron 60%, some new ARIC's have been created under the new rules.

Under the new checklist there is a criteria for non-voting councillor that they are required to meet. I believe for the benefit of Council I would invite the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to attend as observers.

Gary Wallace advised that the delegates to the ARIC are resolved by Council each year.

Clr McKibbin commented that Councillor representatives have a good opportunity to provide information to Council on the role and the essential functions that the ARIC performs.

The Mayor added that the ARIC is the most important committee that Council has.

Ron Gillard suggested that we need to review the terms of reference by 30 June so will need to start to circulate the new draft charter to the March Meeting and suggested that standing observers could be a process we want to consider moving forward.

7 NEXT MEETING DATE AND MEETING CLOSE

7.1 Next Meeting Date And Meeting Close

The next Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday 14 March 2024, commencing at 11.00am in the Oberon Council Chambers.

The meeting closed at 12.45pm.



Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC)
Annual Report 2022-23

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	2
2. Role of the Committee	2
3. ARIC Charter	2
4. Purpose of Report.....	2
5. Committee Structure	2
6. Profiles of the Members.....	3
7. ARIC Meetings and Participation	4
8. Committee Activities in the Reporting Period	4
9. Committee Forward Planning for 2023-24.....	5

1. Introduction

I present, on behalf of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee ('Committee' or 'ARIC'), the ARIC report for Oberon Council for the period to 30 June 2023.

Oberon Council's ARIC was refreshed in the first half of 2022 and the new ARIC had its first meeting for the term on the 15 September 2022.

The objective of the ARIC is to provide independent assurance, oversight and assistance to Council on risk management, internal controls, governance and external accountability. The ARIC keeps the following under review: financial management, governance, enterprise risk management, the performance management framework, Council's control framework, integrated planning and reporting, and legislative and regulatory compliance.

2. Role of the Committee

The ARIC is an advisory committee to Council and management operating under s428A of the Local Government Act 1993. The Committee's role is to provide independent advice and assistance to Oberon Council. This is achieved by receiving information and providing advice on Council's policies and procedures to manage the following aspects of the Council's operations:

- Compliance;
- Risk management;
- Fraud control;
- Financial management;
- Governance;
- Implementation of the strategic plan, operational plan and delivery program;
- Service reviews;
- Collection of performance measurement data;
- Internal audit; and
- Any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

3. ARIC Charter

The current Charter was recommended by the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee for adoption on 23 March 2023. It was adopted by Oberon Council on 18 April 2023. Council is required to review the Charter at least once during the Council term.

4. Purpose of Report

The report provides background to the Committee's membership, activities during the period and areas for attention in the year to come.

Prior to its presentation to Council, the report was reviewed and endorsed by the Members of the ARIC.

5. Committee Structure

Membership of the ARIC comprises the Mayor, one Councillor, a nominated alternate Councillor and three Independent Members appointed by Council.

The Committee is currently comprised of the following members:

Independent Members:

- Neil Maltby (Chair) – Appointed 30 December 2021 (for the remaining Council term [Sept 2024])
- Ron Gillard – Appointed 21 February 2023 (for the remaining Council term [Sept 2024])
- Kylie McRae – Appointed 18 April 2023 (for the remaining Council term [Sept 2024])

Councillor members:

- Mayor Mark Kellam
- Deputy Mayor Andrew McKibbin
- Councillor Ian Tucker (alternate)

6. Profiles of the Members

For the 2022/2023 period, two new independent members were recruited to the Oberon ARIC due to the resignation of previous members Phillip Burgett and Dr Phillip Ross.

Neil Maltby

Neil has over 45 years of senior commercial business management experience in medium sized entities operating in numerous industries across Australia, and has operated his own consulting business for the past 10 years. He is currently an independent member and Chair on two regional Council Audit and Risk Committees. Neil is a Fellow of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand.

Ron Gillard

Ron Gillard has widespread experience in the commercial and business sector in Australia, the US, and Europe. He currently operates his own consulting business and has done so for nearly 20 years. In addition, Ron has held executive and board roles on a number of community organisations and has been appointed as an Independent Member and/or Chair on audit & risk committees of twenty-one regional and rural Councils and/or JO's since 2015 (currently Chair of seven and a Member of a further nine, with ten of the 'current' total being shared ARIC's). Ron holds a Master's Degree in Commerce.

Kylie McRae

Kylie McRae is an experienced governance, risk, assurance and integrity with 30 years' experience providing; assurance services, risk management advice and support, probity advice and assurance, fraud and corruption investigations and advice, workplace investigations, and advice on corporate governance, strategic planning, compliance management and organisational performance.

She has held several Chief Audit Executive and Chief Risk Officer roles in both the public and private sectors. Kylie has a range of qualifications including a Master of Business Administration (Executive), Bachelor of Commerce, Certified Internal Auditor and Certified Practising Accountant. She is a fellow of the Institute of Internal Auditors Australia (PFIIA), CPA Australia (FCPA) and the Governance Institute of Australia (FGIA). She is also a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD).

Kylie is currently a member of five local government audit risk and improvement committees and on the Board of a charity. She has previously been Chair of audit risk and improvement committees in local government and held several board positions on both corporate and not for profit organisations.

Pecuniary Interest Returns are completed annually by all ARIC members.

The ARIC was supported and informed through reports to its meetings by council officers including:

- Gary Wallace, General Manager
- Mathew Webb – Corporate Services Director
- Zoe Marks – Chief Financial Officer
- Rebecca Burgess – Work Health and Safety Officer
- Sharon Swannell – Executive Coordinator
- Lisa Koleda – Management Accountant

Representatives of the Audit Office of NSW (and/or their audit contractor Intentus) also attended each meeting by invitation during the reporting period.

7. ARIC Meetings and Participation

Member	Role	Meeting Dates			
		15/9/22	8/12/22	23/3/23	8/6/23
Neil Maltby	Independent Member (Chair) – Voting	X	X	X	X
Ron Gillard	Independent Member – Voting	X (Observer)	X (Observer)	X	X
Kylie McRae	Independent Member – Voting				X
Clr Mark Kellam (Mayor)	Clr Delegate – Voting	X		X	X
Clr Andrew McKibbin	Clr Delegate – Voting		X		X
Clr Ian Tucker	Alternate (Voting in Clr Delegate absence)	X	X	X	

All non-attendance at Committee meetings was supported by apology.

8. Committee Activities in the Reporting Period

The financial audit was undertaken by the Audit Office of NSW. Regular updates of progress and issues were provided at each ARIC meeting. The Committee received the Financial Statements and the Audit Closing Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2022 at the 8 December 2022 committee meeting.

Council tracks action items identified in the interim and end of year management letters and reports the actions taken to the ARIC. A summary of the key items are outlined below and all have been addressed during the term.

Prior Year Audit Management Letter:

1. Cyber Risk Policy / Framework Development
2. Information technology – exception reporting
3. Opportunities to improve governance frameworks

Current Year Audit Management Letter:

4. Controls over reconciliations
5. Lack of formalised patch management policy

Other matters reviewed by the Committee during the term:

- Refreshed ARIC Terms of Reference
- RFS Assets
- Investment Policy
- Borrowing Policy
- Bring Your Own Device Policy
- Cyber Audit Reporting
- Corporate Card Policy
- Fraud and Corruption Policy
- Governance Policy
- Internal Reporting Policy
- Corporate Card Audit
- IT Migration Project Updates and Risk Assessments
- 23/24 Draft Integrated Planning and Reporting
- Enterprise Risk Management Program

9. Committee Forward Planning for 2023-24

Council is making solid progress in the development of its governance framework covering risk management and internal audit.

Building on this base will be the primary focus of the Committee in 2023-24 in the following specific areas:

- Finalisation and implementation of the Strategic Internal Audit Plan;
- Considering fraud and corruption control arrangements;
- Implementation of the proposed regional approach to cyber security; and
- Ongoing work on long term financial sustainability.

Council's work in developing a legislative compliance framework also needs to be finalised as a priority.

Report by:

Neil Maltby
Independent Chair

13 December 2023

12.2 Heritage Committee Meeting 26 February 2024

File No: Governance/Meetings/Heritage

Author: Damian O'Shannassy (Planning and Development Director), Janet Bailey (Development Control Administration Officer)

Summary

Minutes of the Heritage Committee Meeting held on 26 February 2024 are submitted for Council's information and endorsement.

Recommendation:

1. That Council receive and note minutes of the Heritage Committee Meeting held on the 26 February 2024
 2. That Council lists St Peters Anglican Church Mutton Falls as a Heritage Item in the next LEP.
 3. That Council lists the O'Connell Avenue of Trees as a Heritage Item in the next LEP.
 4. That the existing Structure of the Heritage Committee be retained as is and that Council widen the exposure and notification of meeting dates and representatives.
-

List of Attachments

1. 240226 Heritage Committee 26 February 2024 Minutes [12.2.1 - 5 pages]

Comment

Following is the discussion of items of the Heritage Committee held on the 26 February 2024:

- Discussions were held on the repairs need to be done at the St Peters Anglican Church at Mutton Falls and the requirement to seek recommendation from Council to have the property Heritage Listed at the next LEP.
- Discussion was held on the O'Connell Avenue of Trees at O'Connell and the need to have the avenue listed as a separate item on the next LEP.
- The committee members discussed the existing Committee structure and were happy with it. Some members also wanted to expand the notifications of these meetings to various community groups in the LGA to encourage other to attend the meetings.

Next Meeting Date

Next meeting of the Committee will be the 27 May 2024 commencing at 3.00pm.



OBERON COUNCIL

MINUTES

HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Meeting was held on 26 February 2024, in the O'Connell Hotel and via Teams.

The Meeting commenced at 3.00pm.

Attendance

Clr Lauren Trembath, Chair
Clr Helen Hayden, Council Delegate
Ken Snowden, National Heritage Trust Representative
Philippa Gemmell-Smith
Tina Slattery
Ian Doney arrived 3.45pm
Susan Willis
David Willis
Christo Aitkin, Heritage Advisor
Damian O'Shannassy, Planning and Development Director
Janet Bailey, Development Control Administration Officer
Lyn Webb Observer
Judith Smith Observer
Jeff Smith Obsever

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies Bob Mills
 Ian Doney

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary	- Nil
Non-Pecuniary Significant	- Nil
Non-Pecuniary Less than Significant	- Nil

3 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 Minutes from meeting held on 27 November 2023
--

Moved: Helen Hayden
Seconded: Tina Slattery

Recommendation to Council:

That the Minutes of the Heritage Committee Meeting held on 26 February 2024 be noted.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nil

4 REPORTS

4.1 Mutton Falls Church - Seeking Funding for Repairs
--

Author: Damian O'Shannassy (Planning and Development Director)
--

Summary

Councillor Hayden has requested that discussions are held regarding Mutton Falls Church to look at the possibility of seeking funding for the repair of post and rail fence at the front of the church property.

Helen spoke about the fence around the cemetery which needs repairing. Christo wondered if anyone had some old photos of what the fence may have looked and Lyn Webb advised that some of the fence is in its original state. It was noted that the Church is not listed on our current LEP and the committee would like to recommend to Council that it be listed on our next LEP.

Christo also mentioned that Inventory Sheets would need to be completed and Helen and Lyn will assist and see if there are any old photos available that could be included.

Christo also carried out an inspection in November with some of the congregation members to highlight works required on the Church. These include but not limited to, repairing cracking, painting drainage, invasion of bats and possible power supply (Solar).

Moved: Helen Hayden
Seconded: Tina Slattery

Recommendation to Council:

That the Heritage Committee recommends to Council that St Peters Anglican Church at 2003 Lowes Mount Road Tarana be listed as a Heritage Item (Schedule 5) on the next LEP.

4.2 Listing of O'Connell Avenue of Trees as a Heritage Item

Author: Damian O'Shannassy (Planning and Development Director)

Summary

Councillor Trembath has requested that the O'Connell Avenue of Trees be considered for listing as a local Heritage item in Councils LEP.

The O'Connell Avenue of Trees is part of the Conservation area of O'Connell. Discussion was held on the possibility of damage to the trees from the movement of the large wind turbines through the area to Paling Yards. The Committee understands that the Avenue of Trees is in the O'Connell Conservation area but they would like Council to list the Avenue as a separate item on the LEP.

Christo advised that to try to list it now would require a Planning Proposal to change the LEP and this would take 12-18 months to complete. Council is working on a new LEP and therefore the listing should be considered under the next LEP.

Moved: David Willis
Seconded: Helen Hayden

Recommendation to Council:

That the O'Connell Avenue of Trees be listing as a local Heritage item in Schedule 5, Part 1 of the new Oberon Local Environmental Plan (LEP) .

4.3 Old Bakery at O'Connell Hotel

Author: Damian O'Shannassy (Planning and Development Director)

Summary

Councillor McCarthy has advised staff that the last known baker at the O'Connell Bakery was Billy Bush and there is a photo of him in the O'Connell Hotel.

Recommendation:

For information only.

4.4 Heritage Committee Terms of Reference

Author: Damian O'Shannassy (Planning and Development Director)

Summary

The Heritage Committee terms of reference was to be reviewed at the Heritage Committee meeting.

This matter was put forward for discussion. The Heritage Committee has reviewed the Quorum requirements, and the current members are happy to continue with the current terms of reference.

The Committee was keen to have key community groups attend these meetings and ways to advertise these meetings should be considered by Council.

Moved David Willis
 Seconded Helen Hayden

Recommendation:

That the Heritage Committee Terms of reference to remain as is, with no change to the number of members but to also be inclusive of key community groups should they wish to attend any or all meetings.

5 ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Action Items

Author: Damian O'Shannassy (Planning and Development Director)

Summary

This report item summarises the current status of action items from the Heritage Committee Meetings and provides updates for actions taken.

That the Heritage Committee note the current action updates and that the item referring to Black Springs be deleted as the Thorsby Memorial and Heritage Wall has been completed by the Black Springs Community Association after receiving a federal government grant of \$12647.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Activity	Responsibility
WHITE SPRINGS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can White Spring cemetery be listed as a State Item 	Damian and Christo
CHIMMNEY STACK BURRAGA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request Council to place this item on our Heritage List • To Investigate options for access to the Stack 	Damian O'Shannassy matter ongoing and to be considered as part of LEP review
GREAT WESTERN WALK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Great Western Walk is from Penrith to Bathurst and is segmented into six stages 	Ongoing
O'CONNELL CEMETERY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To investigate an alternate access to the Cemetery at O'Connell 	Lauren
ST Peters Church Mutton Falls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request Council for funds to assist in the restoration of the church or to assist with grant opportunities from Heritage NSW • Look at listing Church on State /Australian Heritage 	Damian Christo

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

Hazlegrove School

Helen advised that the old Hazlegrove School needs repairs and that she has written to Council to get some grant funding to attend to these repairs. Helen has now obtained a quote for some of the repairs and is waiting on a report back from Council. There is also a recommendation from Helen to Council to fix up the Tennis Courts.

Awareness of the Heritage Committee Meetings

Tina wanted to widen the scope to advertise the Heritage Committee Meetings to various groups in all of the localities such as Black Springs, Edith Tarana, Mutton Falls and that they can come to or send in a representation to these meetings. This would be extremely helpful when Council is looking for new members of the Section 355 Committees after the Council Elections later in the year.

National Trust Award

Ken advised the Committee that the National Trust has posthumously recognised Betty Somerville for her dedication to educating and protecting Heritage at her Mountain View property at Wisemans Creek.

Lindlegreen Barn

Ken advised that they were short listed but has been unsuccessful for Round 2 funding from Heritage NSW. Heritage NSW have come up with a new Structure for their Grants.

Applications are every 2 years and funding can be applied for next calendar year.

Ken is in touch with Heritage NSW and they advise little can be done at the moment they just have to wait until the Grant Funding is opened.

7 NEXT MEETING DATE AND MEETING CLOSE

7.1 Next Meeting Date And Meeting Close

The next Heritage Committee meeting will be held on Monday 27 May 2024, commencing at 3.00pm in the Oberon Council Chambers.

The meeting closed at 4.45pm.

12.3	Hazelgrove School Committee Report
File No:	S355 Committee/Hazelgrove Public School Reserve
Author:	Gary Wallace (General Manager)

Summary

Minutes of the Hazelgrove School Reserve Committee Meeting held on 11 March 2024 are submitted for Council's information and endorsement.

Recommendation:

That:

1. Council receive and note minutes of the Hazelgrove School Reserve Committee held on 11 March 2024.
 2. That the Hazelgrove School Reserve Committee have resolved to prioritize the following projects within the precinct as follows;
 - School House Building
 - Tennis Courts
 - Tennis Court Lighting
 - Surrounding grounds and area
 3. That Oberon Council fund the full pest and building inspection as per quote received on 21st December 2023 up to \$600. The work is to be funded from Oberon Parks and Gardens Maintenance Fund, and on completion the report be provided to Council and the Hazelgrove School Reserve Committee.
-

List of Attachments

Nil

Comment

The minutes of the Hazelgrove Public School Reserve are highlighted below. A number of recommendations have been put forward by the Committee for Council consideration.

The meeting commenced at 4.30pm

Committee

Brett Fitzpatrick, Graham Whittaker, Jasmin Armstrong, Renee Howard, Michelle Jameison.

Apologies:

Michelle Jameison, Jasmin Armstrong, Renee Howard

Attendees:

Mr Gary Wallace (GM), Helen Hayden (Chair), Graham Whittaker, Brett Fitzpatrick.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 October 2023 was moved and accepted.

Business arising from minutes:

Discussion around council resolution 19 December 2023 Ordinary Meeting in relation to quotation for building and pest inspection report, this was sent to council on 21 December 2023.

General Manager Gary Wallace discussed with committee priorities moving forward and the need to set out the priorities for maintenance and repairs/upgrades in order.

The following endorsed recommendation from committee:

1. *That the Hazelgrove School Reserve Committee have resolved to prioritize the following projects within the precinct as follows;*
 - *School House Building*
 - *Tennis Courts*
 - *Tennis Court Lighting*
 - *Surrounding grounds and area*

Moved: Graham Whittaker Seconded Brett Fitzpatrick

The quote to undertake a full pest and building report was submitted to Council in December 2023. The quote outlined the inspection requirements for the School and what is proposed to be undertaken as part of the report. The quote for the work was \$560.

The following endorsed recommendation from committee:

2. *That Oberon Council fund the full pest and building inspection as per quote received on 21 December 2023 up to \$600. To be funded from Oberon Councils parks and gardens maintenance fund. And supply a full report to Council and the Hazelgrove school reserve Committee.*

Moved: Helen Hayden Seconded Graham Whittaker

General Business

Discussion was held around additional funding the committee could seek via Section 356 funding grants offered by Oberon Council. This grant could assist the committee with surrounding ground projects and other sundry items needed for the Hazelgrove School Reserve.

Meeting Close 5.03 pm

Next Meeting Date

Next meeting to be advised.

13 REPORTS FOR DECISION

13.1 Town Improvement Levy Review

File No: Governance/Finance/Town Improvement

Author: Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director), Zoe Marks (Finance Manager), Sharon Swannell (Governance and Executive Manager), Hannah Booth (Records and Communications Coordinator)

Summary

In November Council resolved to undertake a 90-day consultation period to seek community feedback in relation to the future of the Town Improvement Levy. The consultation was part of a wider review to ensure the equity and outcomes of the rating structure are still relevant for our community. Feedback from the consultation process and a recommendation on the future of the Town Improvement Levy are presented to Council for consideration.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Note the findings of the 90-day community consultation process.
 2. Endorse Scenario 3 to discontinue the Town Improvement Levy and distribute this component of rating revenue into the base rate component within the ordinary rate structure for development of the FY24/25 Operational and Delivery Plan
 3. Retain current governance protocols on any funds raised under the previous Town Improvement Levy until all projects are delivered.
-

List of Attachments

1. Community Consultation Activities Overview [13.1.1 - 11 pages]
2. Oberon Council Town Improvement Levy Survey [13.1.2 - 34 pages]
3. Submission Grouping 1 [13.1.3 - 8 pages]
4. Submission Grouping 2 [13.1.4 - 18 pages]
5. Submission Grouping 3 [13.1.5 - 5 pages]

Comment

Over the last year Council has undertaken a review of the rating structure, with a particular focus on the Town Improvement Levy (TI). The review has included an array of Councillor workshops, modelling and stakeholder engagement looking at potential options for the future of the Town Improvement Levy.

In continuation of the review staff developed the following materials to gather community feedback.

- a) Town Improvement Levy Review Paper: The paper details the implications and outcomes of implementing each of the scenarios above. Scenarios have various permutations and options for phasing to reduce the immediate impact on residents.
 - b) Communications Strategy: A communications strategy has been developed to support the proposed 3-month consultation period. The strategy is built on three key goals to ensure the community is adequately aware, educated and responsive during this process.
-

At the November Ordinary Meeting Council resolved to:

1. *Place the Town Improvement Levy Review paper on public exhibition for 90 days.*
2. *Endorse the communications strategy to support the consultation process.*
3. *Allocate \$10,000 from the Town Improvement fund and \$10,000 from Parks and Gardens Maintenance budget to support costs involved in the consultation process.*

Community Feedback - Submissions

A separate report recaps the community consultation activities undertaken to drive awareness and participation in the consultation process. All activities encouraged residents to make a submission or complete the online survey.

Upon closure of the public exhibition period, 22 submissions were received. They have been presented in three groupings based on the area of residence, impact or strong opinions towards one of the presented scenarios.

Submissions were received from the following individuals. A petition from residents at Rutters Ridge was also presented to Council by Cllr Clive McCarthy. Submissions are attached for information.

- Kenneth Doble
- Rob and Chris Lane
- Terry and Rhonda Boyce
- Dan Cove
- Joan Sullivan
- Col Roberts
- Keith Sullivan
- Ashley Hoolihan
- Janine Cross
- Marianne Wilkinson
- Laurel and Peter Hawken
- Keith Sullivan
- Sig Sovik
- David Henderson
- Debra McKenzie
- James Khamis
- Duncan Morehouse
- Michael Hill
- Teena and Mathew Scott
- Peter Hammond
- Paul and Loretta Graham
- Rutters Ridge Petition – Cllr Clive McCarthy

Community Feedback – Online Survey

Council launched an online survey on 12 February which ran through to 29 February 2024. Through this, 203 responses were obtained. The survey was open to all residents within the Oberon LGA aged over 18 years old, with no quotas applied for age, gender or location.

Some key findings from the survey are outlined below

- Participants
 - 39% respondents live within the existing Town Improvement Zone
 - 50% reside outside of the proposed extended zone
- Preferred Option
 - The option gaining the most support was the notion of moving the Town Improvement Levy into ordinary rates (Option 3, net support:54%)
 - Support for this option was high across all zones, but particularly high amongst residents in the existing zone (70%)

Overall Analysis and Considerations

General feedback and consensus throughout the consultation was constructive with a variety of opinions and feedback shared. Conversations around equity, burden and value of a rating structure can be diverse, so all feedback points were reviewed holistically.

Scenario 2 – TI Boundary Expansion (Least Preferred)

Based on the consultation it was clear that a proposed expansion of the current Town Improvement boundary to capture additional residents is the least preferred option. While potential impacted residents were concerned about the levy and provided this feedback, it was also evident that any new boundary allocation would likely replicate or amplify constraints currently encountered in the operation of the levy. This includes boundary winners and losers, increased administration, and ability to deliver projects over a much larger zone such as Kerb and Gutter, drainage, bulk goods, and park beatification. Much of this negated any advantage in including more ratepayers under this expanded zone scenario.

Scenario 3 – Move TI into Ordinary Rates (Preferred)

Upon review of the remaining scenarios, both quantitative and qualitative data highlighted more of a positive response to scenario 3. In ranking terms over half of respondents ranked this as the preferred option. This consensus was also shared by those residing elsewhere in the LGA, with this scenario gaining the highest net support rating at 43%. While this is not exhaustive and conclusive, it does highlight an appetite for residents outside of the current zone to receive enhanced services that can be derived from a broader rate distribution. This net support was 70% for those currently in the zone, which is understandable as they are currently the sole contributors to this levy.

While there are limitations to the survey and submission data, the above synopsis does align with discussions held at community meetings and other sentiment monitoring of social media.

Preferred Approach

Based on the feedback from the community consultation and operational outcomes it is recommended Council proceed with Scenario 3 and distribute the current TI Levy revenue into the base rate component within the ordinary rate structure.

Benefits of this include:

- A more fair and equitable distribution of rates across the community.
- Projects and resources able to be allocated across the Local Government Area in accordance with the broader needs of the community.
- Reduced administration costs to Council and community.

Timeframe

Should Council support the implementation of Scenario 3, this will be incorporated into the development of the FY24/25 Operational and Delivery plan. No phasing is proposed for Scenario 3.

Scenario 2 cannot be delivered prior to the development and adoption of the FY24/25 Operational and Delivery plan. Should Council seek this option, further discussions would be required on the steps involved and likely timeline.

Existing TI funds and projects

Should Council support the implementation of Scenario 3, all existing TI funds and project allocations would be treated as per the current practice. Funds would remain restricted and only used for previously endorsed TI projects. TI reporting would continue each quarter and remain until all projects are delivered. Any reallocations must be done via Council Resolution and projects would need to be delivered in the current Town Improvement district.

Financial Implications

With Council resolving to take the 5.2% rate peg at the February Council Meeting the total estimated permissible income of Oberon Council for the FY24/25 is \$5,431,691. While the income cap cannot be breached, the adoption of Scenario 3 does have a small impact on the distribution among the rating categories. The following table highlights the changes for Scenario One and Two, when compared to the adopted FY23/24 rating structure.

FY23/24 Rating Structure -

General Information			General Rates			Town	Total	%
Classification	% of Land	Current Valuation	Adval (\$)	Base (\$)	Total	Improvement	(\$)	
Farmland	66.17%	1,475,147,470	2,142,006	233,520	2,375,526	1,746	2,377,271	46.04%
Residential	10.17%	226,762,750	633,727	264,290	898,017	343,560	1,241,577	24.05%
Rural Residential	16.60%	369,996,300	702,944	162,288	865,232	-	865,232	16.76%
Non-Urban	3.65%	81,392,800	146,777	62,640	209,417	-	209,417	4.06%
Business	1.95%	43,459,591	195,350	63,940	259,290	210,417	469,707	9.10%
Non-Rated	1.46%	32,563,340	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Total	100.00%	2,229,322,251	3,820,804	786,678	4,607,482	555,722	5,163,204	100.00%

FY24/25 - Rating Structure Scenario One

General Information			General Rates			Town	Total	%
Classification	% of Land	Current Valuation	Adval (\$)	Base (\$)	Total	Improvement	(\$)	
Farmland	66.17%	1,473,648,770	2,267,213	231,840	2,499,053	1,837	2,500,890	46.04%
Residential	10.17%	236,350,750	675,294	269,420	944,714	361,425	1,306,139	24.05%
Rural Residential	16.60%	372,914,400	746,564	163,660	910,224	-	910,224	16.76%
Non-Urban	3.65%	81,392,800	157,667	62,640	220,307	-	220,307	4.06%
Business	1.95%	43,147,691	209,389	63,384	272,773	221,358	494,131	9.10%
Non-Rated	1.46%	25,573,450	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Total	100.00%	2,233,027,861	4,056,127	790,944	4,847,071	584,620	5,431,691	100.00%

FY24/25 - Rating Structure Scenario Three

General Information			General Rates			Town	Total	%
Classification	% of Land	Current Valuation	Adval (\$)	Base (\$)	Total	Improvement	(\$)	
Farmland	66.17%	1,473,648,770	2,286,463	389,712	2,676,175	-	2,676,175	49.27%
Residential	10.17%	236,350,750	683,489	472,194	1,155,683	-	1,155,683	21.28%
Rural Residential	16.60%	372,914,400	753,916	283,065	1,036,981	-	1,036,981	19.09%
Non-Urban	3.65%	81,392,800	159,477	95,816	255,293	-	255,293	4.70%
Business	1.95%	43,147,691	211,570	95,988	307,558	-	307,558	5.66%
Non-Rated	1.46%	25,573,450	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Total	100.00%	2,233,027,861	4,094,916	1,336,775	5,431,691	0	5,431,691	100.00%

It is important to note that the number of assessments determines the figure to be added into each base rate. For the purposes of the consultation a figure of \$141 was provided, although there could be some small movement based on final assessment numbers, which are taken as close as possible to the new financial year. In the example above using current assessment numbers has resulted in \$143.00 addition to the base rate, with rounding going into Ad Valorem. The final numbers are reflected in the IP&R paper which is presented to Council in June.

Relevance to Oberon Community Strategic Plan

Theme 5: Leadership and Engagement

Action 5.3 Council builds strong relationships with other Councils and organisations in support of the Oberon plan and the wider region

5.3.3 Delivery of the Community Strategic Plan (CSP)

Theme 5: Leadership and Engagement

Action 5.5 Ensure financial stability and support efficient council operations

5.5.3 Ensure sound financial management

Risk Category

Business Continuity

Financial

Public Image and Reputation

Governance

Risk Severity Ranking

Moderate - 48%

Town Improvement - Consultation Activities Undertaken

Oberon Council Website – Dedicated Page and homepage tile. 1236 views



Home / Council / Rating Structure Review - Town Improvement Levy

Rating Structure Review - Town Improvement Levy

Oberon Council is currently undertaking a process of public consultation in relation to a review of the Town Improvement Levy.



The Town Improvement Levy is raised on every rateable assessment within the Oberon gazetted township for town improvements within that area. In 2023-24 the Town Improvement Levy will raise \$555,722 and Council nominated the following projects through the Integrated Planning and Reporting Process (IP&R)

- Kerb and Gutter improvements
- Construction of the Oberon Library and Community Centre
- Continued beautification and recreation works at the Oberon Common
- Footpath Upgrades
- Drainage improvements at Richards Park
- Bulky goods collection

The levy has been an integral part of Oberon Council's rating structure since 1934 and

Your voice matters.

We're conducting a survey to gather valuable insights and feedback from our community in relation to the Town Improvement Levy. Help us shape the future by sharing your thoughts and opinions. Click the link below to participate now!

[Town Improvement Levy - Survey](#)

Have your say.

Submissions are invited throughout the process and must be received by **4pm on Wednesday 28 February 2024.**

Submissions should be addressed to the Oberon Council, PO Box 84, Oberon NSW 2787, or emailed to ratingreview@oberon.nsw.gov.au



Oberon Fitness and Leisure Centre

Rating Structure Review - Town Improvement Levy

Emergency Road Closures & Updates

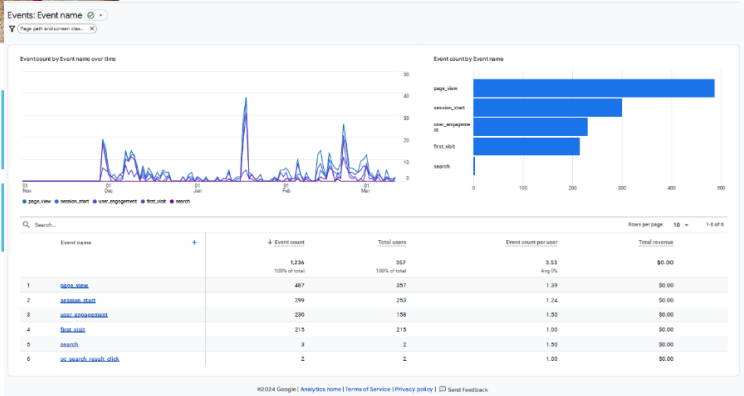
Council Meetings

Positions Vacant

Planning and Building

Animals & Livestock

Rates & Finance



Youtube Explainer Video – 74 views



Oberon Council Town Improvement Levy Review 2024 - Explainer



Oberon Council
20 subscribers

Subscribe

0



Share

Download

Clip



Online Survey – 203 responses (Separate Report Provided)

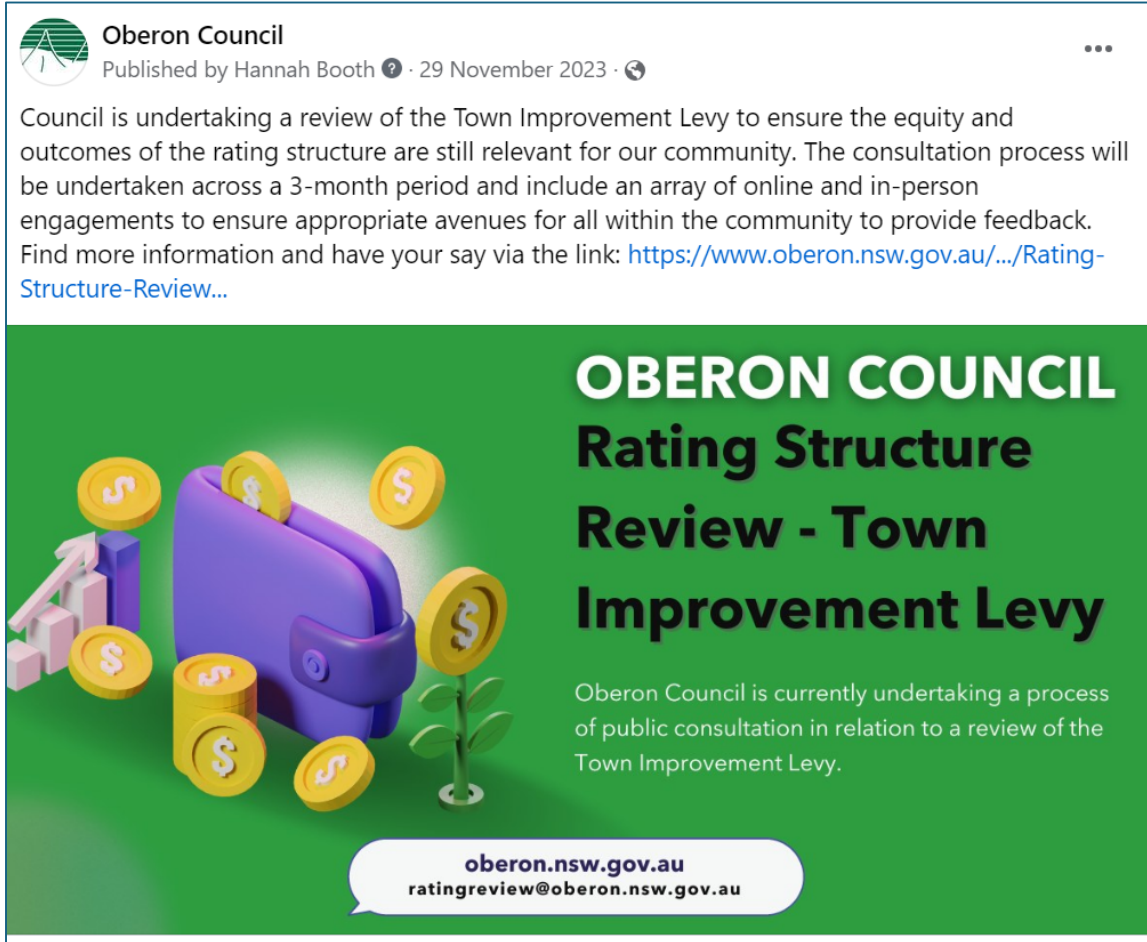
Town Improvement Levy survey

March 2024



Social Media - Ongoing Posts seeking community feedback and engagement.

November 29 – Social media introduction post



Oberon Council
Published by Hannah Booth · 29 November 2023

Council is undertaking a review of the Town Improvement Levy to ensure the equity and outcomes of the rating structure are still relevant for our community. The consultation process will be undertaken across a 3-month period and include an array of online and in-person engagements to ensure appropriate avenues for all within the community to provide feedback. Find more information and have your say via the link: <https://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au/.../Rating-Structure-Review...>

OBERON COUNCIL
Rating Structure Review - Town Improvement Levy



Oberon Council is currently undertaking a process of public consultation in relation to a review of the Town Improvement Levy.

[oberon.nsw.gov.au](https://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au)
ratingreview@oberon.nsw.gov.au

Total insights >
See more details about your post.

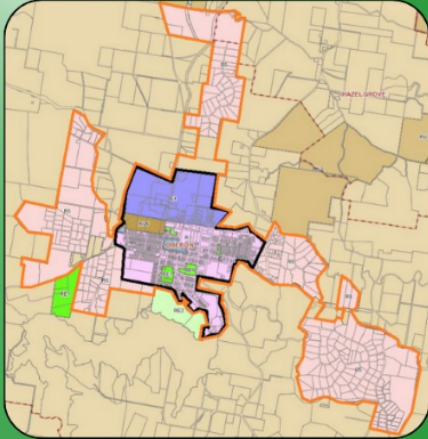
Post impressions ⓘ	Post reach ⓘ	Engagement ⓘ
1,942	1,545	120

December 8 – Scenario two posted on Facebook

 **Oberon Council**
Published by Hannah Booth · 8 December 2023 · 

Council is undertaking a review of the Town Improvement Levy and three scenarios are being presented to the community for consideration.
Find more information and have your say via the link: <https://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au/.../Rating-Structure-Review...>

SHOULD THE TOWN IMPROVEMENT LEVY BOUNDARY BE EXPANDED?



POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- Expanded area for Town Improvement projects to be delivered, such as; parks and gardens, footpaths, drainage and kerb & gutter
- Current TI residents will receive a decrease, while those newly included in the boundary will see the levy added to their annual rates
- Any adjustment does not generate additional income for Council

Have your say and make a submission by email:
ratingreview@oberon.nsw.gov.au

Total insights >
See more details about your post.

Post impressions <small>i</small>	Post reach <small>i</small>	Engagement <small>i</small>
896	823	49

December 9 – Scenario three posted on Facebook

 **Oberon Council**
Published by Hannah Booth · 9 December 2023 ·

Council is undertaking a review of the Town Improvement Levy and three scenarios are being presented to the community for consideration.

Find more information and have your say via the link: <https://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au/.../Rating-Structure-Review...>

SHOULD THE TOWN IMPROVEMENT LEVY BE REMOVED IN FAVOUR OF A LGA WIDE APPROACH?

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- Every ratepayer outside the TI zone will receive (approx.) an additional \$141.00 charged to their rates assessment
- For ratepayers within the TI zone, the original TI Levy will be removed and the \$141.00 will be added to their General Base Rate
- Any adjustment will not generate additional income for Council
- Council will no longer be bound by the TI district in which to allocate projects.

Have your say and make a submission by email:
ratingreview@oberon.nsw.gov.au



Total insights >
See more details about your post.

Post impressions ⓘ	Post reach ⓘ	Engagement ⓘ
649	595	26

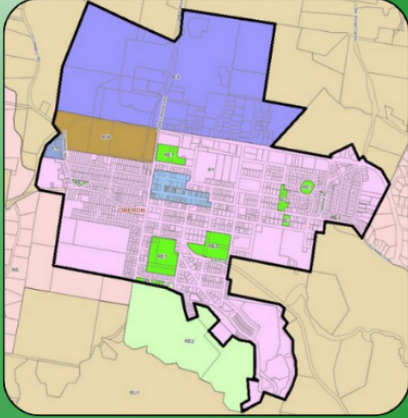
December 10 – Scenario one posted on Facebook

 **Oberon Council**
Published by Hannah Booth · 10 December 2023

Council is undertaking a review of the Town Improvement Levy and three scenarios are being presented to the community for consideration.

Find more information and have your say via the link: <https://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au/.../Rating-Structure-Review...>

SHOULD THE TOWN IMPROVEMENT LEVY BOUNDARY REMAIN UNCHANGED?






POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- Council would continue to deliver appropriate projects within the current TI boundary (more details on project history can be viewed on Council's website)
- No change for ratepayers
- No change to Council operations

Have your say and make a submission by email: ratingreview@oberon.nsw.gov.au

Total insights >
See more details about your post.

Post impressions 	Post reach 	Engagement 
823	707	83

 **Grainne Aine**
If it ain't broke don't fix it ...
13 w Like Reply Hide
The comment that Grainne Aine is replying to has been deleted.

 **Grainne Aine**
Rhonda Boyce that's a matter of opinion ...
13 w Like Reply Hide
The comment that Grainne Aine is replying to has been deleted.

 **Grainne Aine**
Rhonda Boyce as I say it's a matter of opinion, and I don't care enough to waste my time arguing about it
13 w Like Reply Hide

 **Craig Shiel**
Yes! ...
13 w Like Reply Hide

February 12 – Initial community survey post on Facebook

TOWN IMPROVEMENT LEVY - YOUR SAY MATTERS

We're conducting a survey to gather valuable insights and feedback from our community in relation to the Town Improvement Levy.

Help us shape the future by sharing your thoughts and opinions. Click the link below to participate now!


<https://survey.confirmit.com.au/wix/p968545419987.aspx>

For more information on the Town Improvement Levy and the current review, please visit our website.


Total insights
See more details about your post.


Post impressions ⓘ	Post reach ⓘ	Engagement ⓘ
361	299	24

Most relevant

 Kathleen Sajowitz
I urge all residents to complete this survey...This is an important proposed change in the way **Oberon Council** may "do business" in the future. We as ratepayers need to let council know what we expect. The survey takes just a few minutes.

3 w Like Reply Hide

 Marianne Wilkinson
No extra rates for people outside the town boundaries!
We already pay extra for everything and land service rates. We have fuel to pay to go anywhere, supply our own water, sewer and take our own rubbish to the tip. Let the people living in town pay for their footpaths and kerb and gutter. Don't put a bigger burden on those living outside the town boundaries

2 w Like Reply Hide 

February 21 – Survey pushed out to community again via Facebook

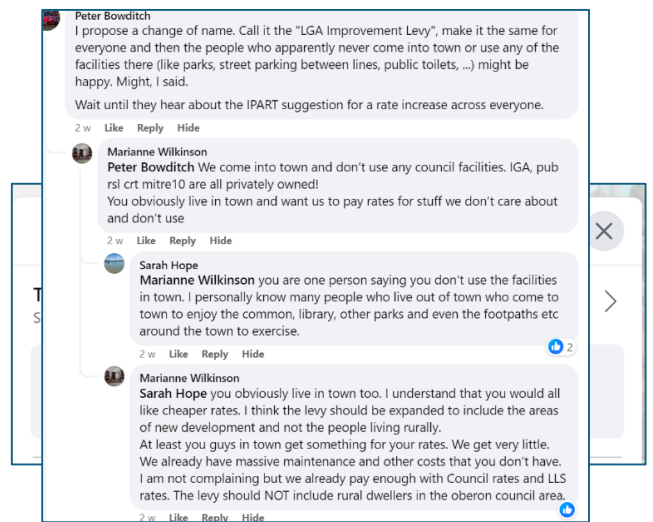
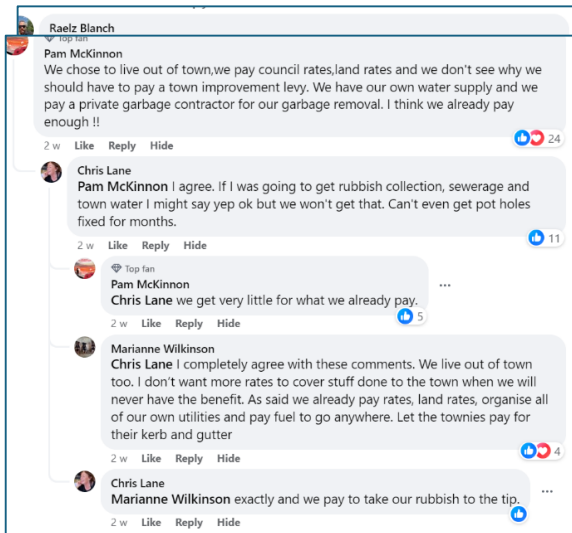
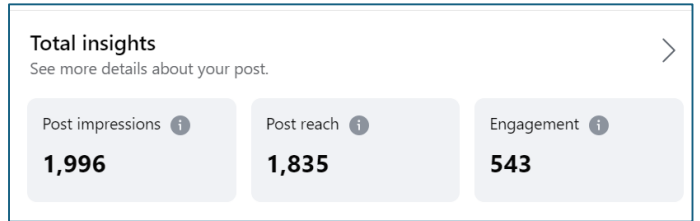
?😞TOWN IMPROVEMENT LEVY - WE WANT YOUR THOUGHTS!😞?

Oberon Council are conducting a survey to gather valuable insights and feedback from our community in relation to the Town Improvement Levy.

Help us shape the future by sharing your thoughts and opinions. Click the link below to participate now! <https://survey.confirmit.com.au/wix/7/p968545419987.aspx>

*Please be assured that as with all Council's market research surveys, your responses are anonymous and confidential. Your privacy and preferences are respected, and any contact information will not be used for unsolicited communication.

For more information on the review and details on the Town Improvement Levy, please visit our website: <https://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au/.../Rating-Structure-Review...>

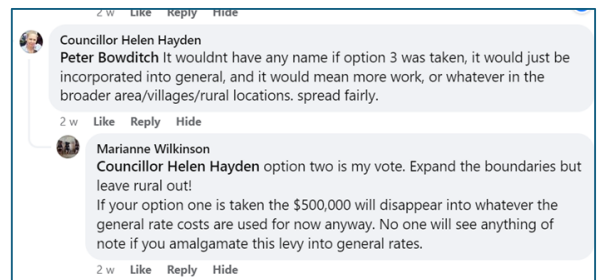


February 22 – TI Explainer video posted to


Youtube & Facebook

TOWN IMPROVEMENT LEVY REVIEW - EXPLAINER VIDEO

A visual and auditory explanation of Oberon Council's Town Improvement Levy Review. Corporate Services Director Mathew Webb provides a short overview of the Town Improvement Levy, and the three proposed scenarios for consideration.




Most relevant ▼




Marianne Wilkinson
I have a suggestion. Abolish the Town Improvement Levy and apply for more government funding. There is already projects funded by government. Make that Option Four. \$600 a year on top of General Rates as it is at the moment for the town is a lot. Just spreading the cost onto everyone or adjusting the boundary isn't fixing it. This Levy has been around for nearly 100 years- it should be abolished but not at every ratepayers expense.I reckon every rate payer would vote for that! Why not have a little referendum when the Council Elections happen later this year?

2 w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Hide](#) Edited




Christopher Duff
Every grant that is available, I'm sure is being applied for. So if dropped, there would simply be that much less money to spend. It can't be replaced by an extra grant that currently isn't being applied for

2 w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Hide](#)



Councillor Helen Hayden
Marianne Wilkinson Oberon already is heavily funded, we dont score as well as other councils and need to use our "Öwn Source" revenue. One thing people dont understand about a Local Government grading system. We cant rely on grants especially under a Labor Government! So many grants have been abolished and or cancelled, they dont care to much for us country bumpkins.

2 w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Hide](#)



Councillor Helen Hayden
Marianne Wilkinson Referendums are costly. If abolished services would need to be cut and that would affect everyone! And re \$600 on town rates would be reduced.

2 w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Hide](#) Edited

Local Media –

- Oberon Review
- Editorial and Advertorial Partnership
- Mayoral Column

In-Person Meetings

- Farmers Association – Mayor Mark Kellam Presentation

- Burruga Bureau – Deputy Mayor Andrew McKibbin
- Black Springs Community Association – CSD, Clr Helen Hayden
- O’Connell Valley Community Group Meeting – GM, CFO, Clr Lauren Trembath
- Oberon Business and Tourism Association – CSD, GM, Clr Helen Hayden

Councillor Portal

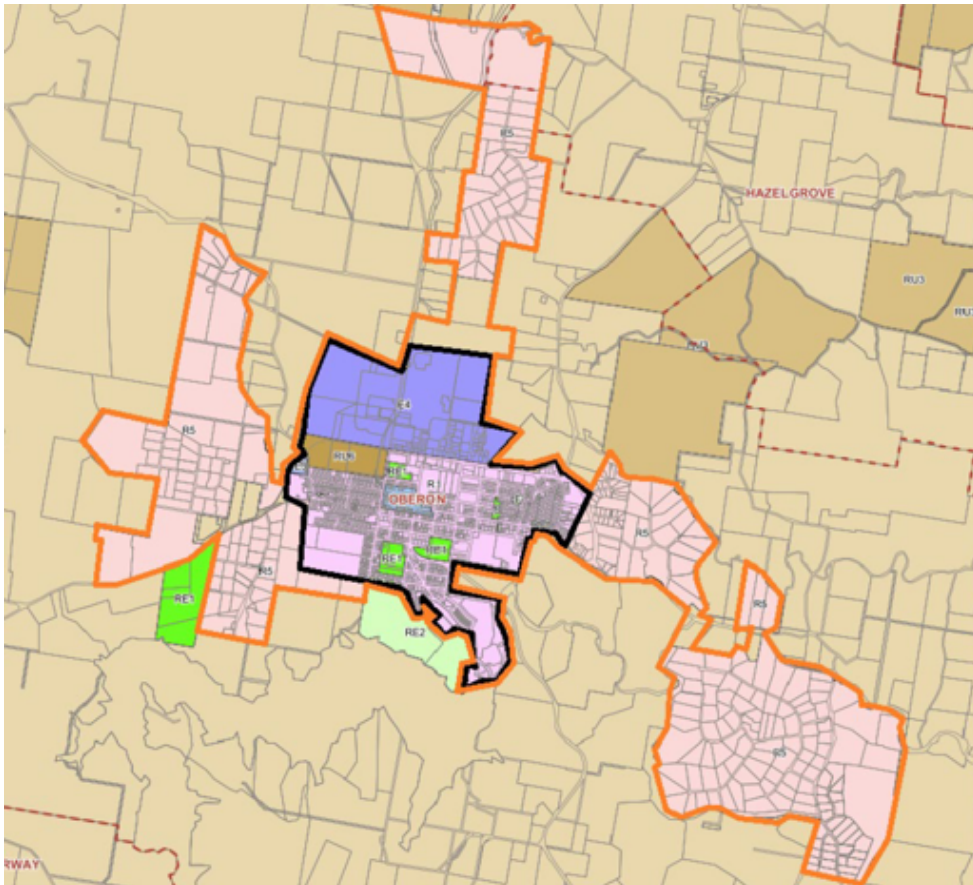
- Presentation resources

Community Group- Communications

- Black Springs Community Association –
- Oberon Business and Tourism Association –
- O’Connell Valley Community Group –
- Burruga Ag and District Association –

Letter Drops –

Undertaken to all mailboxes for those in the R5 zone to ensure awareness of consultation.



Community Newsletter –February edition.



Oberon Council Rating Structure Review -Town Improvement Levy

Oberon Council is currently undertaking a process of public consultation in relation to a review of the Town Improvement Levy.

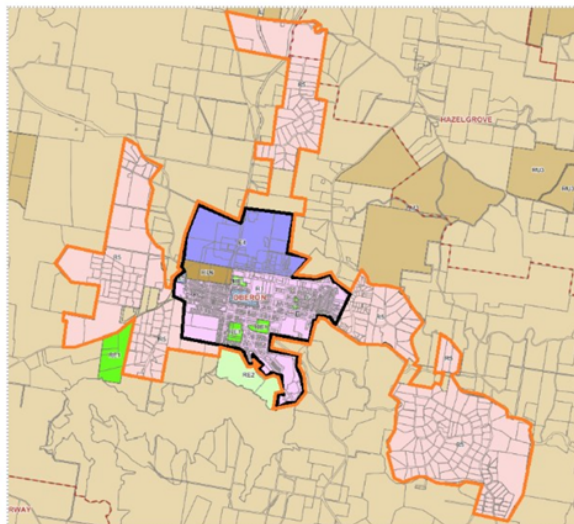
The Town Improvement Levy is collected from every assessable property within the designated Town Improvement boundary to fund improvements in that area.

In 2023-24 the Town Improvement Levy will raise \$555,722 and Council nominated the following projects through the Integrated Planning and Reporting Process (IP&R)

- ◆ Kerb and Gutter improvements
- ◆ Construction of the Oberon Library and Community Centre
- ◆ Continued beautification and recreation works at the Oberon Common
- ◆ Footpath Upgrades
- ◆ Drainage improvements at Richards Park
- ◆ Bulky goods collection

Council is undertaking a review of the Town Improvement Levy to ensure the equity and outcomes of the rating structure are still relevant for our community. This process includes a thorough consultation process to gather input and consensus on the most appropriate pathway forward for the future of the Town Improvement Levy.

Some ratepayers have raised concerns that any adjustments to the Town Improvement Levy will result in an increase to Council's income. This is not the case, the total revenue generated by rates is capped and subject to the specification of a percentage variation by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). Accordingly, any adjustments to the Levy will not generate any additional revenue for Oberon Council.



Scenario 2- Example of Expanding the Town Improvement Boundary

Town Improvement Levy survey

March 2024



Background & research design



 CONTENTS



BACKGROUND



Background

Oberon Council is currently undertaking a review of its Town Improvement Levy, which applies to each rateable assessment within the gazetted township of Oberon. The money raised from this levy is allocated to town improvements projects within this area, including:

- Kerb and Gutter improvements
- Construction of the Oberon Library and Community Centre
- Continued beautification and recreation works at the Oberon Common
- Footpath Upgrades
- Drainage improvements at Richards Park
- Bulky goods collection

The 2023 Community survey with residents of the Oberon Local Government Area (LGA) indicated that there is room to improve and willingness to spend on certain aspects of the LGA, particularly around road conditioning.

As part of this review, Oberon City Council engaged Woolcott Research & Engagement to undertake a survey with residents within the LGA around current perceptions of the Town Improvement Levy and support for proposed changes.



RESEARCH DESIGN AND ANALYSIS



Research design

Oberon Council shared a link to the survey on their website and social media channels from 12th of February until 29th of February 2024. Through this, n=203 completes were obtained.

This survey was open to all residents within the Oberon LGA aged over 18 years old, with no quotas applied for age, gender or location.

Analysis

Data cleaning, coding and analysis was then performed by Woolcott Research & Engagement.

Due to rounding, percentages may not always add to 100.

Significance testing has been carried out at the 95% confidence interval. Results are shown in bold **green** where significantly higher and bold **red** where significantly lower than the total sample size.



Participant Profile



Respondents tended to be female (55%).



Almost half were between 50 and 64 years old (48%).



Most indicated they live in the Oberon township (47%).



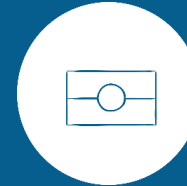
Respondents were most commonly working full-time (46%).



Among those who disclosed their income, there was a consistent distribution of income.



8% of respondents spoke a language other than English at home.

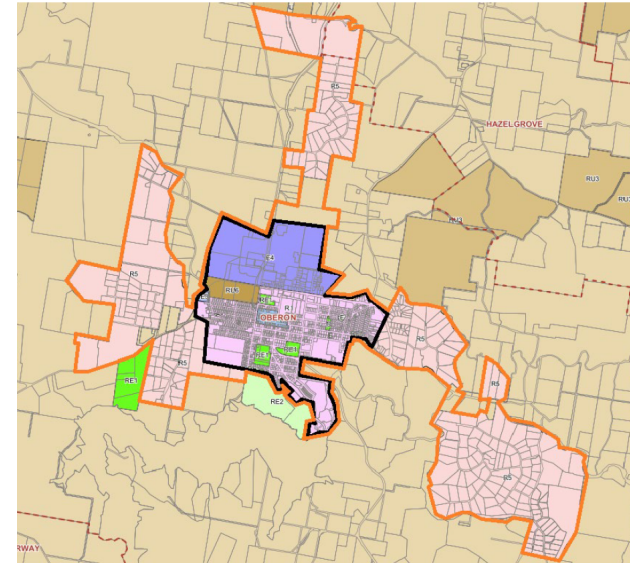
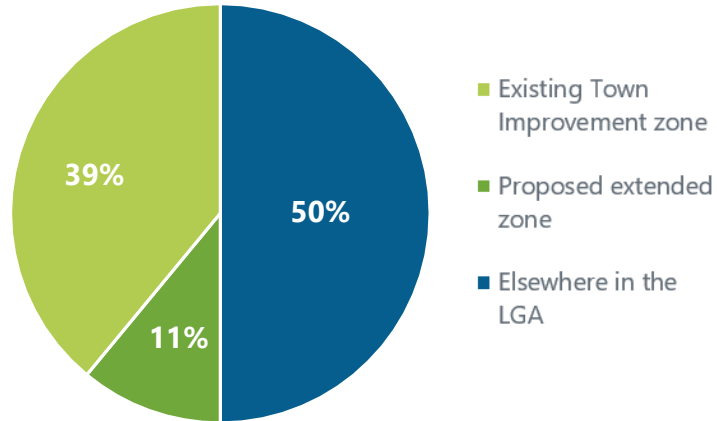


3% of respondents identified as Aboriginal, with a smaller proportion identifying as Torres Strait Islander (<1%).



Two fifths live within the existing Town Improvement zone (indicated in black on the map, 39%), while a small proportion resides in the proposed extended zone (indicated in orange on the map, 11%).

Half of respondents indicated that they live outside the existing and proposed Town Improvement zone (50%).



This image was shown to respondents in the open survey when asked to indicate if they lived inside the current Town Improvement Zone (indicated in black), the proposed extended zone (orange) or elsewhere in the LGA.

Q9. Which of the following best describes you? I pay rates for a property...
Base: All respondents (n=203)

Perceptions of Current Town Improvement Levy

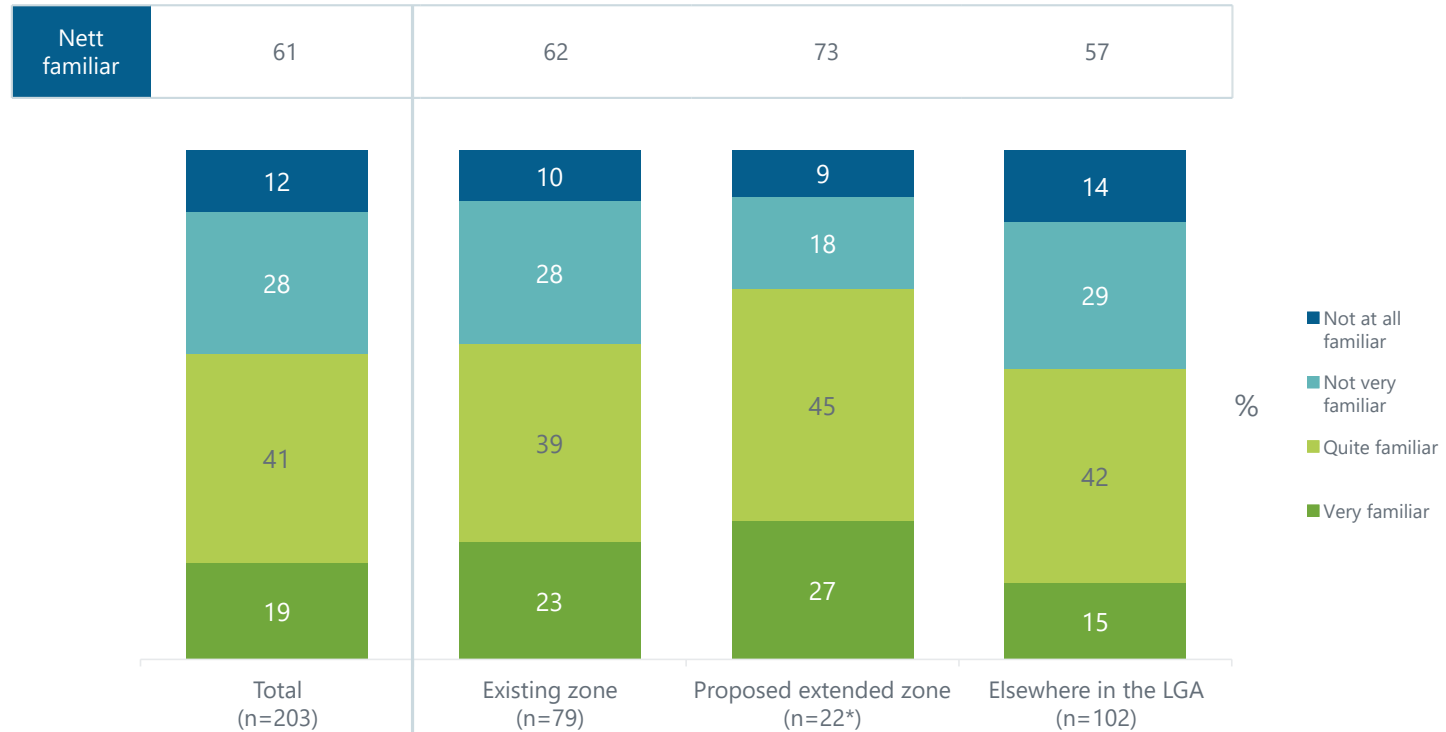


FAMILIARITY WITH THE TOWN IMPROVEMENT LEVY



Three fifths of respondents indicated they were familiar with the Town Improvement Levy (61%), though they tended to be 'quite' familiar (41%) rather than 'very' familiar (19%).

This did not significantly vary by respondent location.



Q6. Are you familiar with the Town Improvement Levy?

Base: All respondents (n=203); in existing Town Improvement zone (n=79); in proposed extended Town Improvement zone (n=22*); elsewhere in the LGA (n=102)

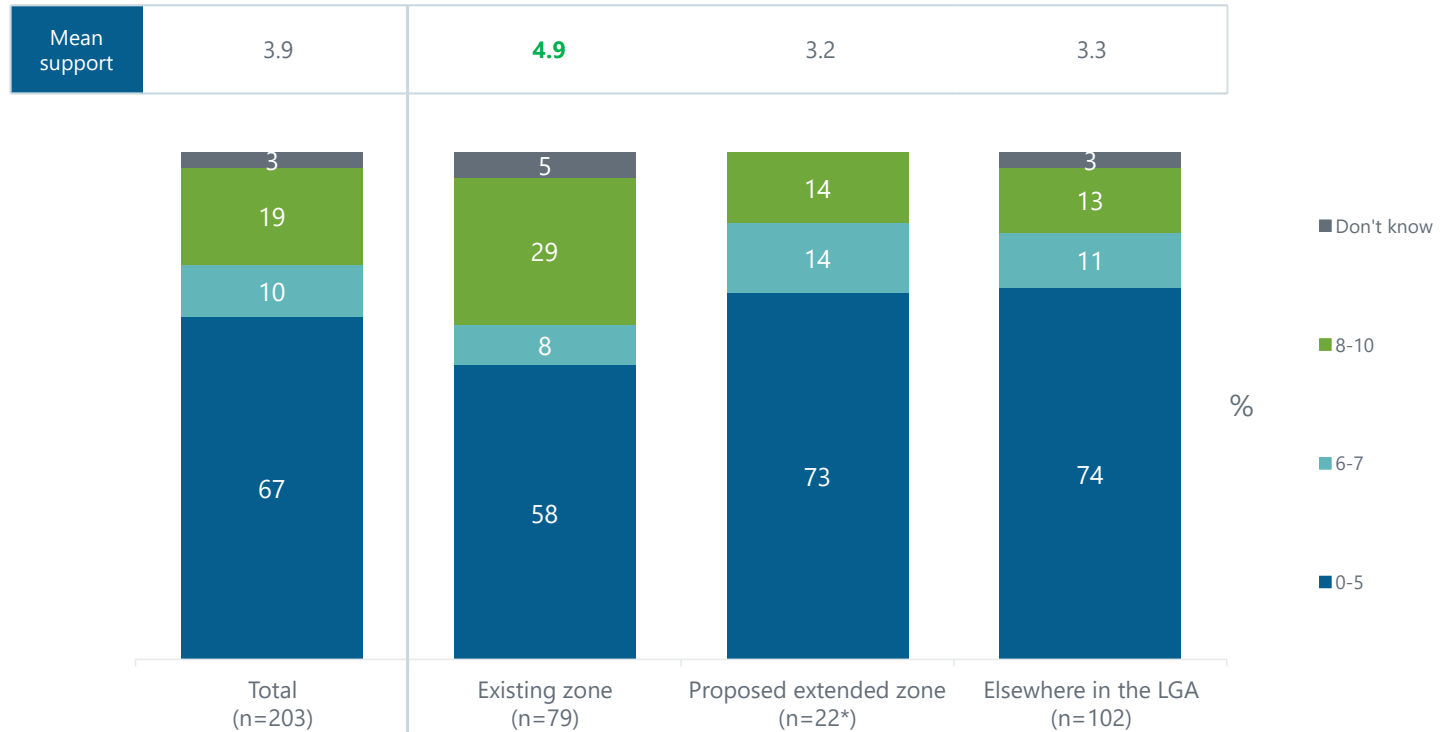
*CAUTION Small base size, indicative only

SUPPORT OF THE TOWN IMPROVEMENT LEVY



The majority of respondents indicated they were not supportive of the Town Improvement Levy (nett 0-5: 67%).

Those living within the existing Town Improvement Zone rated their support significantly higher than respondents in general (mean 4.9 compared to 3.9).



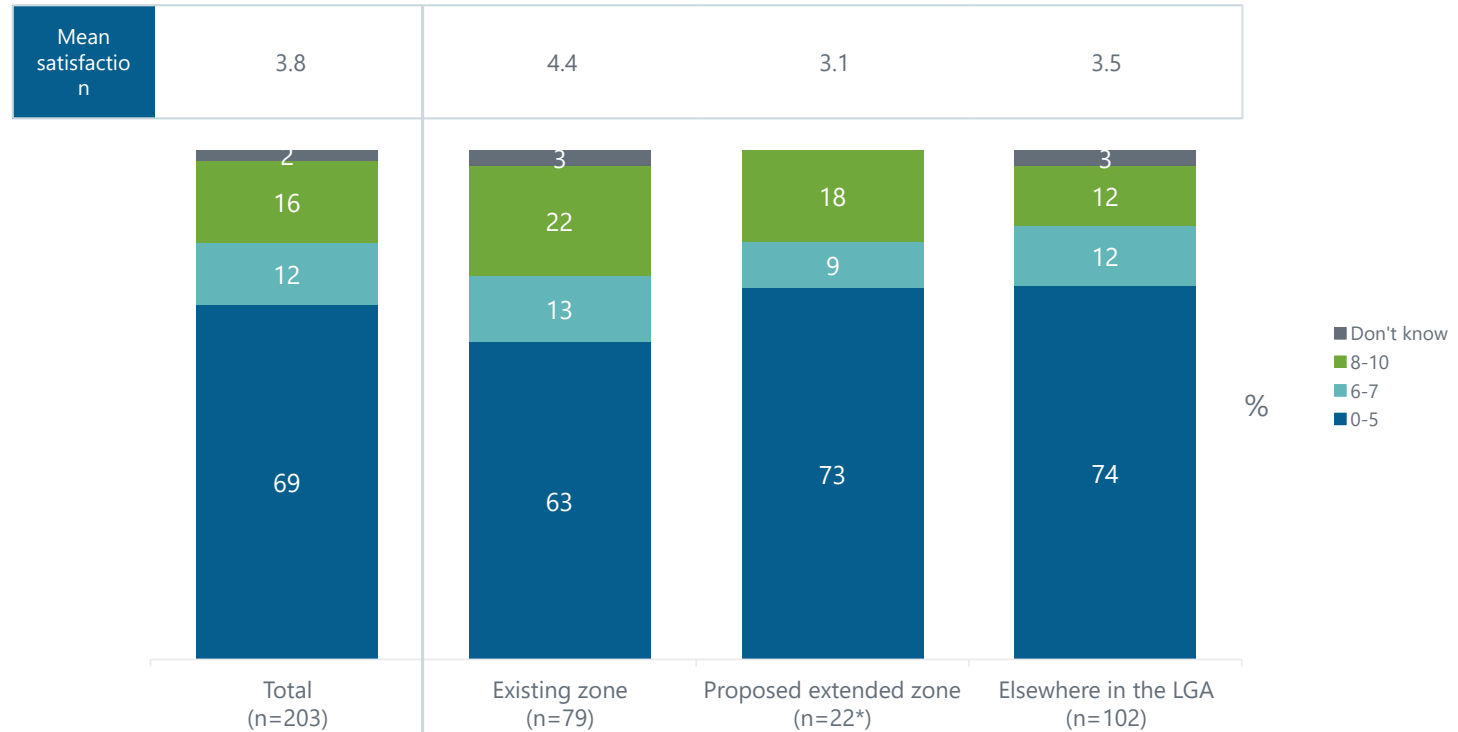
Q7. How supportive are you towards the Town Improvement Levy?
 Base: All respondents (n=203); in existing Town Improvement zone (n=79); in proposed extended Town Improvement zone (n=22*); elsewhere in the LGA (n=102)
 *CAUTION Small base size, indicative only

SATISFACTION WITH TOWN IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



When given context and asked to rate their satisfaction with the Town Improvement Projects, most respondents rated their satisfaction as low (nett 0-5: 69%).

Residents under 50 years old were significantly less likely to rate their satisfaction highly (nett 8-10: 6%).



Q8. How satisfied are you with the Town Improvement Projects?
 Base: All respondents (n=203); in existing Town Improvement zone (n=79); in proposed extended Town Improvement zone (n=22*); elsewhere in the LGA (n=102)
 *CAUTION Small base size, indicative only

**Proposed
changes to Town
Improvement
Zone**



Context

Three options were explained to survey respondents, who were then asked to indicate their level of support for each one and to rank them in order of preference. These options were:

- **Option 1:** No change to the Town Improvement Levy

The Town Improvement Levy would continue as is, such that funds raised would be bound to the current geographic zone.

- **Option 2:** Extended Town Improvement zone

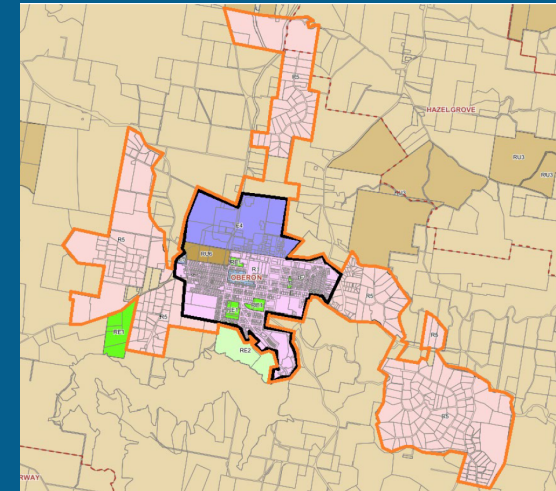
The geographical zone of the Town Improvement Levy would be expanded.

This would decrease the rates for those within the Town Improvement zone and increase the rates for those joining the Town Improvement zone. There would be no change in rates for those remaining outside the extended zone.

- **Option 3:** Move the levy into ordinary rates

This option removes the Town Improvement Levy and collects the funds for wider improvement across the entire LGA through ordinary rates.

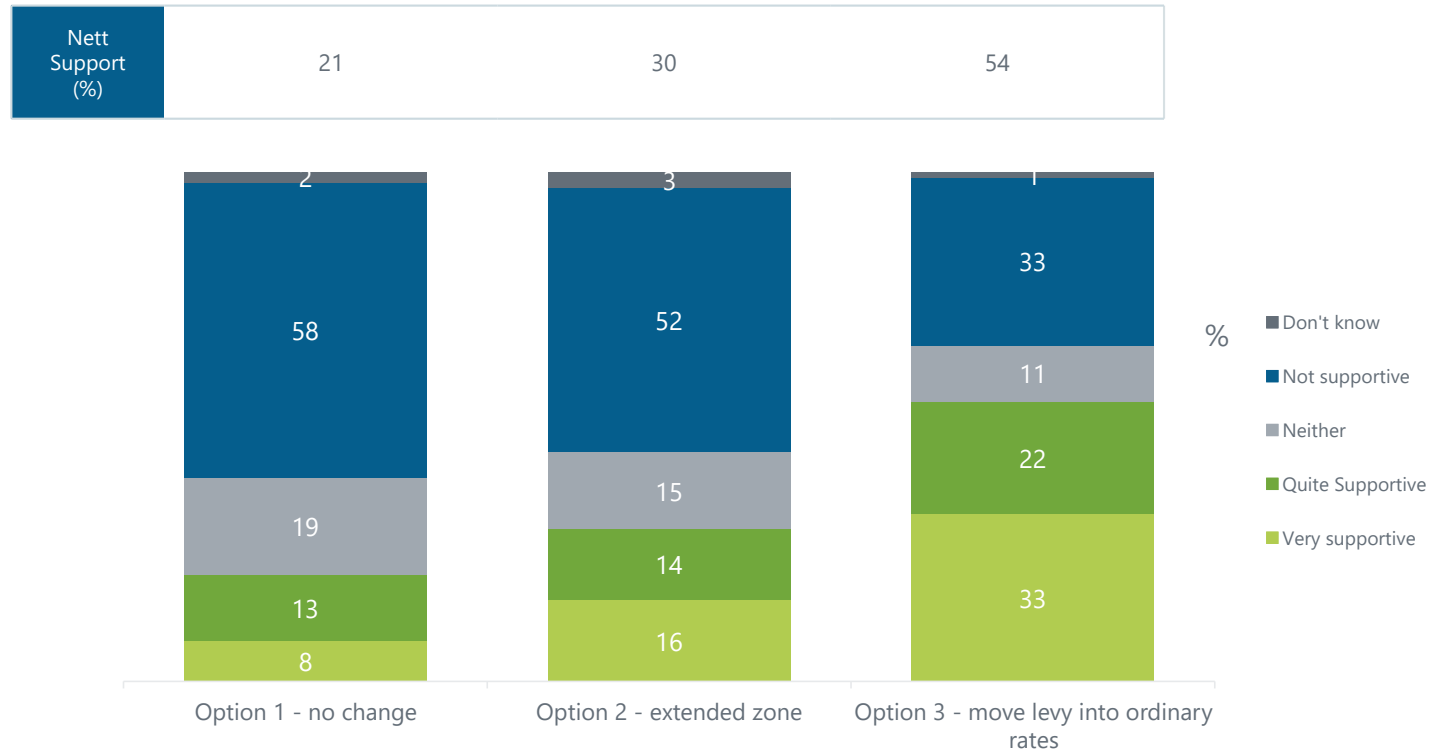
This would decrease the rates for those within the Town Improvement zone and increase the rates for others outside of the current zone.



SUPPORT FOR OPTIONS



After each option was explained to respondents, there was the highest support for Option 3 (nett supportive 54%).



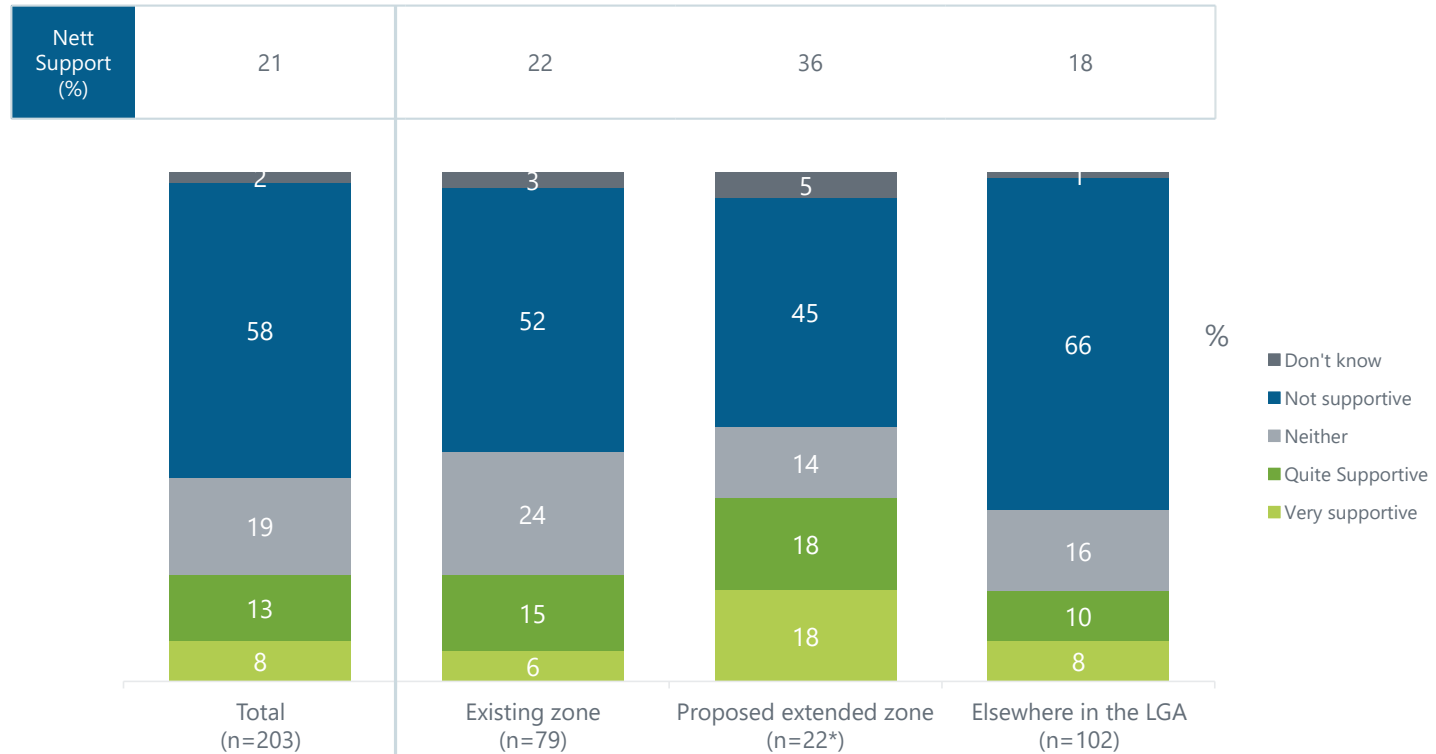
Q10. How supportive are you of this option? [Option 1, 2 and 3]
Base: All respondents (n=203)

SUPPORT FOR OPTION 1 – NO CHANGE



Only a fifth of residents supported Option 1 (nett supportive 21%).

Those outside of the proposed Town Improvement Zones were particularly not supportive of this option (66% versus 58%).



Q10. How supportive are you of this option [option 1]?

Base: All respondents (n=203); in existing Town Improvement zone (n=79); in proposed extended Town Improvement zone (n=22*); elsewhere in the LGA (n=102)

*CAUTION Small base size, indicative only

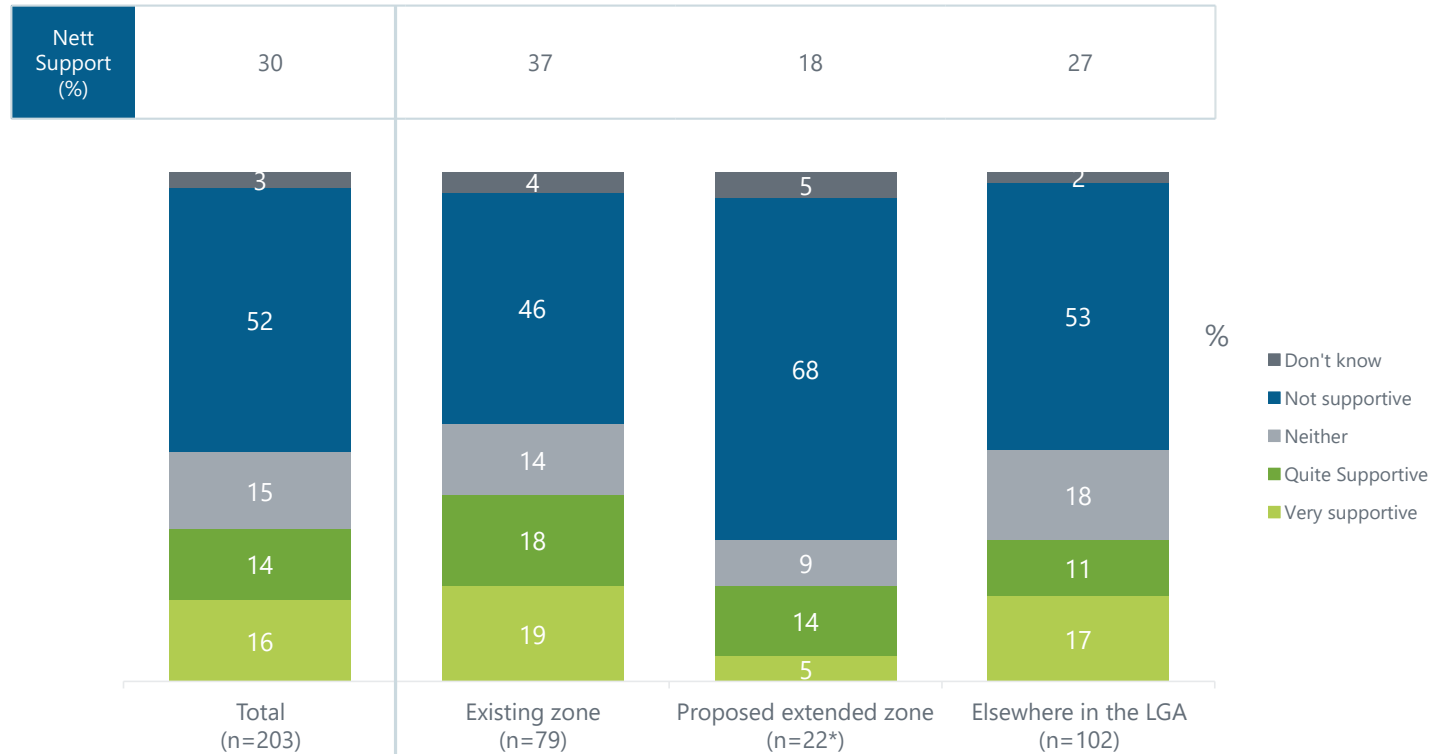
SUPPORT FOR OPTION 2 – EXTENDED ZONE



A third of residents were supportive of Option 2 (nett supportive 30%).

Support was marginally higher amongst those residing within the existing zone (nett supportive 37%).

Those within the proposed extended zone, whose rates would increase under this option, were more likely to not be supportive (68%).



Q10. How supportive are you of this option [option 2]?

Base: All respondents (n=203); in existing Town Improvement zone (n=79); in proposed extended Town Improvement zone (n=22*); elsewhere in the LGA (n=102)

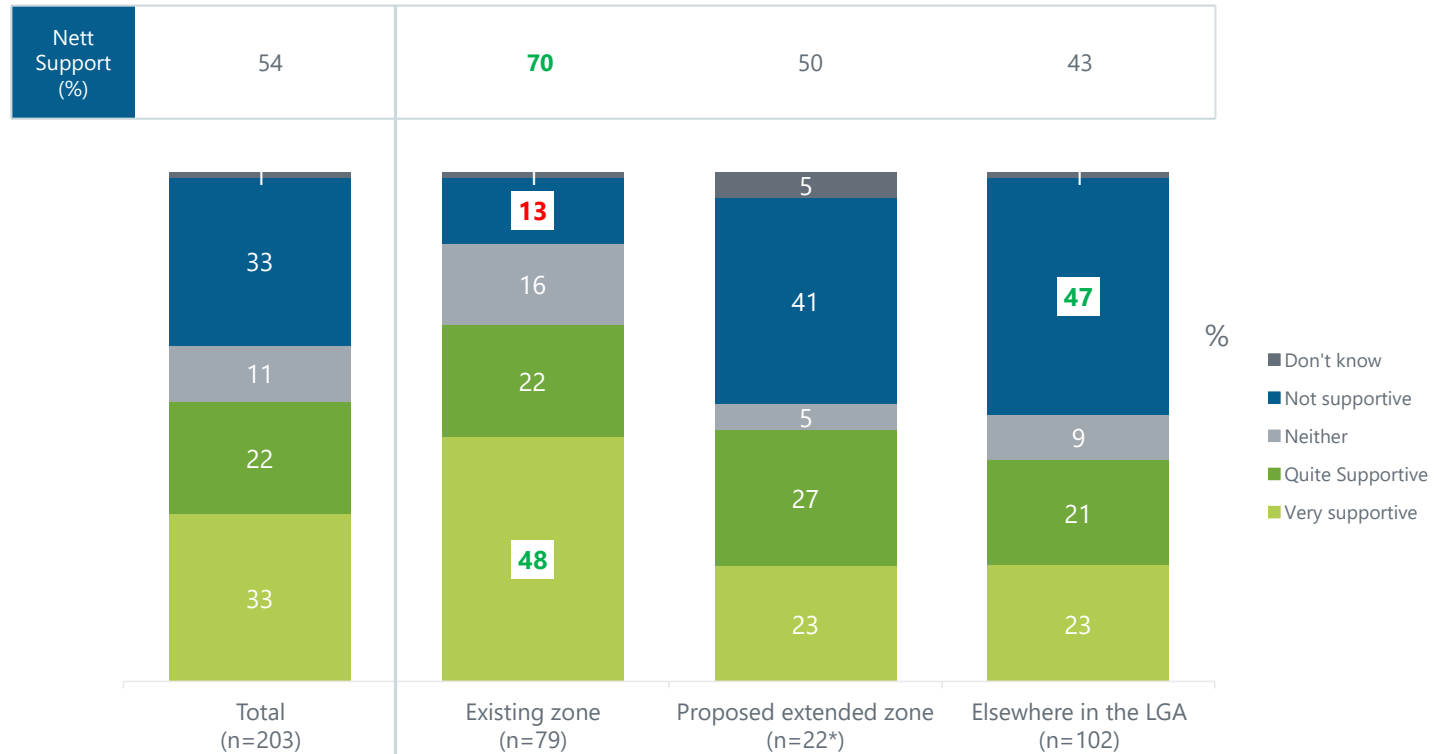
*CAUTION Small base size, indicative only



Over half of residents were supportive of Option 3 (nett supportive 54%).

Support for this option was higher amongst those within the proposed extended zone than the other zones.

SUPPORT FOR OPTION 3 – MOVE LEVY INTO ORDINARY RATES



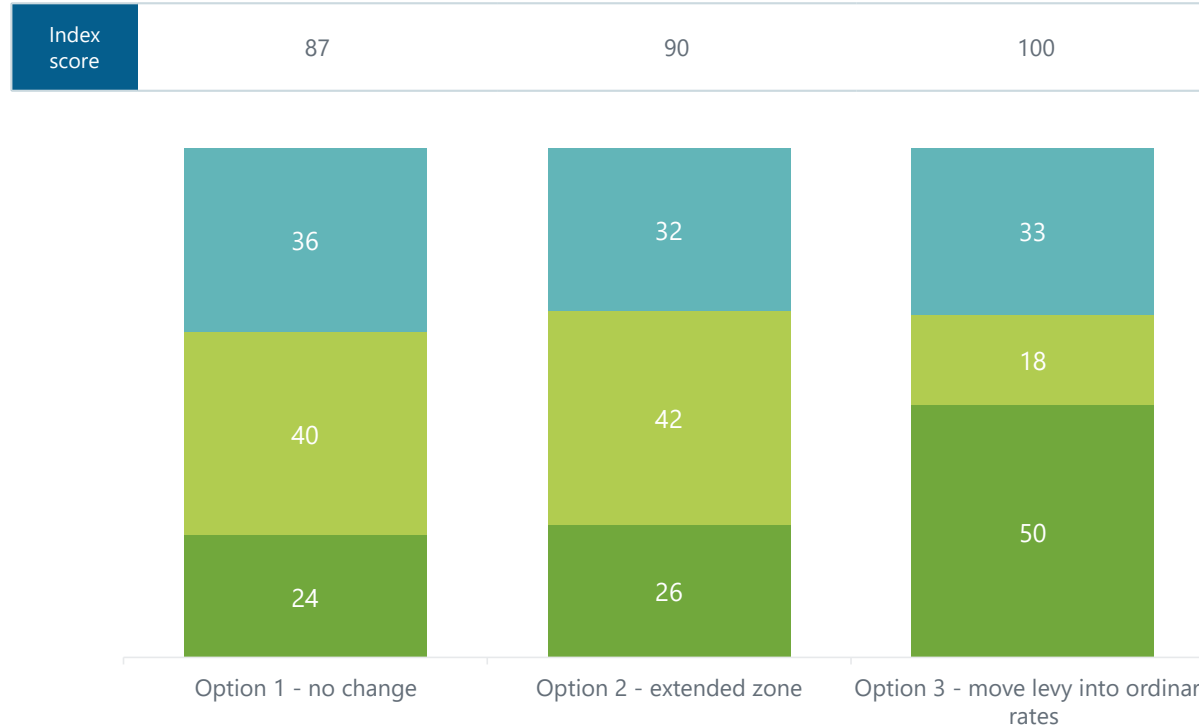
Q10. How supportive are you of this option [option 3]?
 Base: All respondents (n=203); in existing Town Improvement zone (n=79); in proposed extended Town Improvement zone (n=22*); elsewhere in the LGA (n=102)
 *CAUTION Small base size, indicative only



When asked to rank the three options, Option 3 was the most preferred, with half ranking this as their first preference.

Options 1 and 2 were ranked relatively similarly by respondents.

RANKING OF OPTIONS



13. Please rank your preference for the three options, with 1 being your most preferred option?

Base: All respondents (n=203)

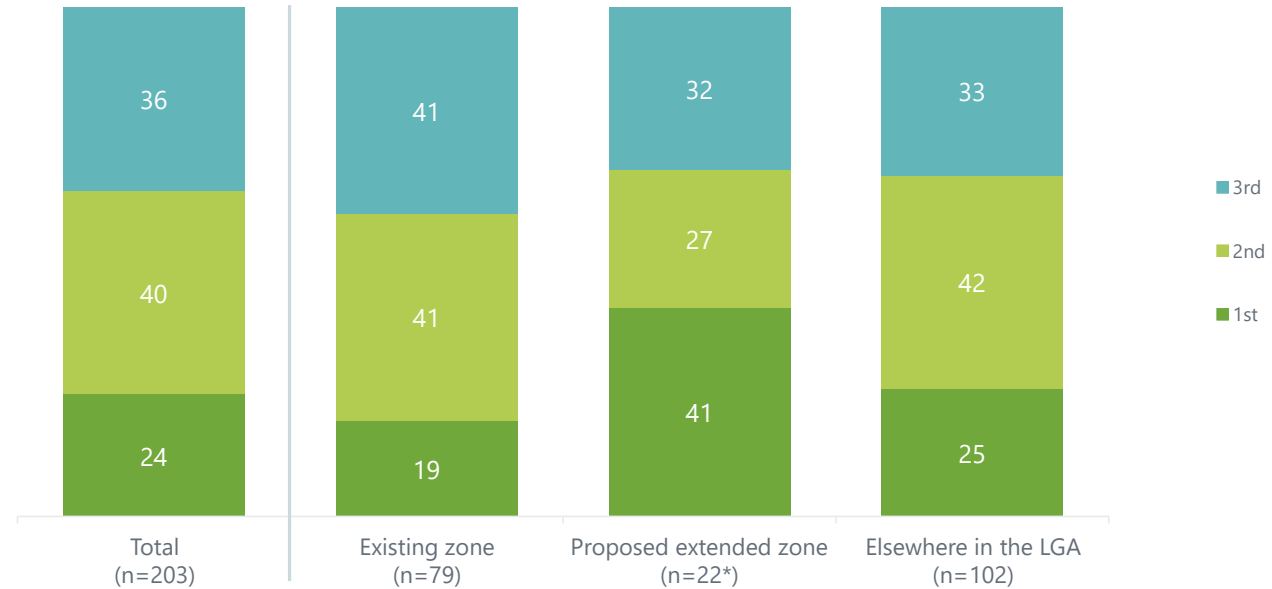
Index scores show the relative importance of each feature, where higher scores are better. These scores have been calculated by assigning a score of three for each option when it was rated as the first priority by respondents, two when rated as a second priority etc. The average was then calculated for each option and expressed as an index score where the highest score is 100, to indicate the relative ranking of each option.

RANKING OF OPTION 1 - BY RESPONDENT LOCATION



A quarter of respondents ranked Option 1 as their most preferred option (24%).

Those in the proposed extended Town Improvement Zone were more likely to rank this option as their most preferred (41%).



13. Please rank your preference for the three options, with 1 being your most preferred option? [Results for option 1]

Base: All respondents (n=203); in existing Town Improvement zone (n=79); in proposed extended Town Improvement zone (n=22*); elsewhere in the LGA (n=102)

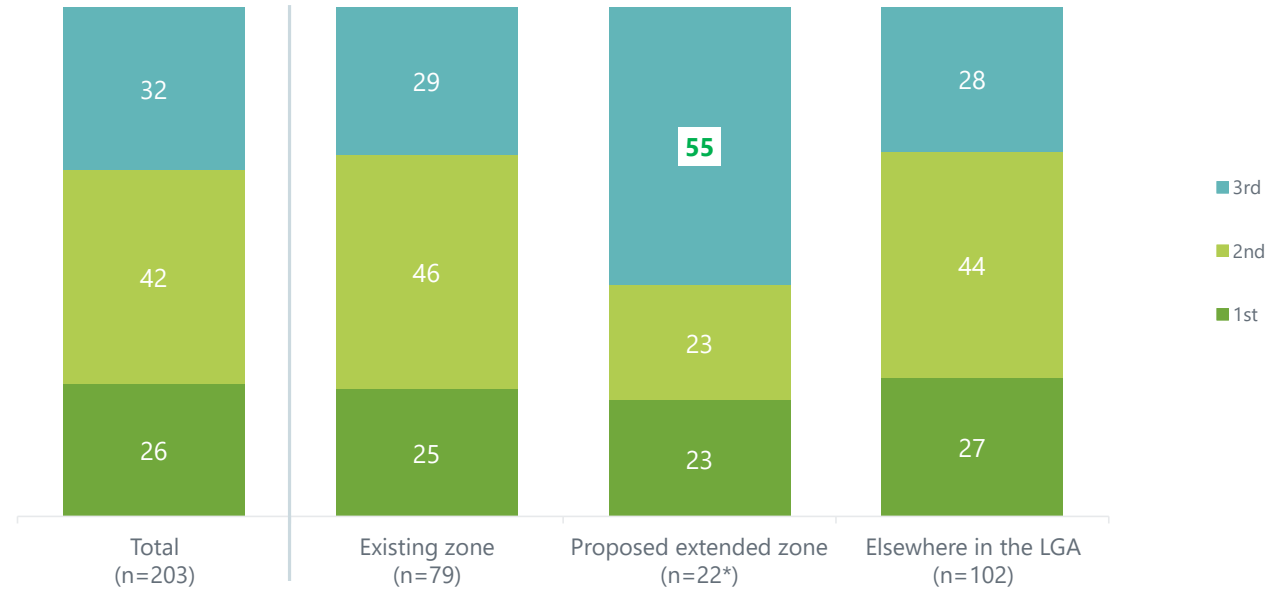
*CAUTION Small base size, indicative only

RANKING OF OPTION 2 - BY RESPONDENT LOCATION



A quarter of residents ranked Option 2 as their most preferred option (26%).

Those in the proposed extended Town Improvement Zone were significantly more likely to rank this as their least preferred option (55%).



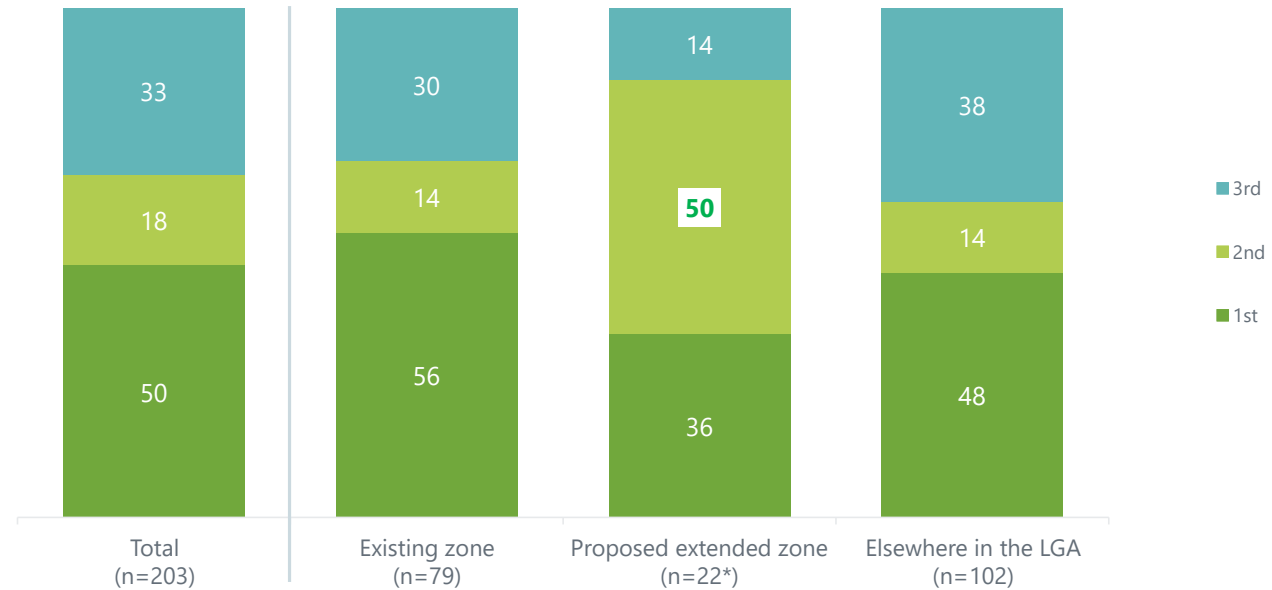
13. Please rank your preference for the three options, with 1 being your most preferred option? [Results for option 2]
 Base: All respondents (n=203); in existing Town Improvement zone (n=79); in proposed extended Town Improvement zone (n=22*); elsewhere in the LGA (n=102)
 *CAUTION Small base size, indicative only

RANKING OF OPTION 3 - BY RESPONDENT LOCATION



Half of residents ranked Option 3 as their most preferred option (50%).

This was ranked first by both those in the existing zone and those outside the proposed extended zone (56%, 48%).



13. Please rank your preference for the three options, with 1 being your most preferred option? [Results for option 3]

Base: All respondents (n=203); in existing Town Improvement zone (n=79); in proposed extended Town Improvement zone (n=22*); elsewhere in the LGA (n=102)

*CAUTION Small base size, indicative only

REASONS FOR RANKING – OPTION 1



Those rating Option 1 as their first preference indicated they were happy with the current approach, or that they live outside the expanded zone and didn't see benefit in changing the levy.

A smaller proportion also indicated that they did not feel that this option would benefit residents in the expanded zone.

UNPROMPTED RESPONSES	Respondents who ranked Option 1 as their first preference (n=49) %
It's fine currently/I like it how it is	29
I live outside the expanded zone and don't see benefit/don't want to pay	27
Option 2 will not benefit residents in the expanded area	12
Levy is not being used for its original purpose/money is being mismanaged	8
I don't want to pay extra	4
More areas should be covered	2
I don't live in town NFI	2
Everyone benefits/uses infrastructure so everyone should contribute	2
Other	6
No reason provided/not answered	10

Q14. What are the reasons for ranking that option as your first preference? – Option 1
Base: Respondents who ranked option 1 as their first preference (n=49)

REASONS FOR RANKING – OPTION 2



Most respondents who rated Option 2 as their first preference indicated that they felt that more areas should be covered. This was consistent across residents in different locations.

Those who lived outside the proposed zone felt they don't see the benefit of a further expanded zone or want to pay more.

UNPROMPTED RESPONSES	Respondents who ranked Option 2 as their first preference (n=53) %
More areas should be covered	55
I live outside the expanded zone and don't see benefit/don't want to pay	19
Everyone benefits/uses infrastructure so everyone should contribute	9
Levy is not being used for its original purpose/money is being mismanaged	2
I don't want to pay extra	2
I don't live in town NFI	2
Other	9
No reason provided/not answered	13

Q14. What are the reasons for ranking that option as your first preference? – Option 2
Base: Respondents who ranked option 1 as their first preference (n=53)

REASONS FOR RANKING – OPTION 3



Among residents who indicated Option 3 was their first preference, four fifths suggested that all residents use council infrastructure and therefore should contribute with no differences in response by location.

A smaller proportion felt that the levy was not being used for its original purpose, or that more areas could be included generally.

UNPROMPTED RESPONSES	Respondents who ranked Option 3 as their first preference (n=101) %
Everyone benefits/uses infrastructure so everyone should contribute	80
Levy is not being used for its original purpose/money is being mismanaged	12
More areas should be covered	10
I do not support the levy	4
I don't live in town NFI	1
Option 2 will not benefit residents in the expanded area	1
Other	4
No reason provided/not answered	1

Q14. What are the reasons for ranking that option as your first preference? – Option 3
Base: Respondents who ranked option 1 as their first preference (n=101)

Summary



 CONTENTS



SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS



Participant profile



- Respondents tended to be female (55%) and almost half were between 50 and 64 years old (48%).
- Most indicated they live in the Oberon township (47%) and most were working full-time (46%).
- Among those who disclosed their income, there was a consistent distribution of income.
- 8% of residents spoke a language other than English at home.
- 3% of respondents identified as Aboriginal, with a smaller proportion identifying as Torres Strait Islander (<1%).
- Two fifths of respondents live within the existing Town Improvement Zone (39%), with another half residing outside of the proposed extended zone (50%).

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS



Current familiarity and satisfaction with the Levy



- Over 60% of residents were familiar with the current Town Improvement Levy (61%), with 41% 'quite' familiar (41%) and 19% 'very' familiar.
- Support for the levy across residents was generally low (nett 0-5: 67%), although amongst residents within the existing zone support was significantly higher (mean 4.9 compared to 3.9).
- Reported satisfaction with the Town Improvement projects was also rated low (nett 0-5: 69%), with residents under the age of 50 being significantly less likely to rate their satisfaction highly (nett 8-10: 6%, compared to 16% from all respondents).

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS



Proposed changes to the Levy



- The option gaining the most support was the notion of moving the Town Improvement Levy into ordinary rates (Option 3, nett support: 54%).
- Support for this option was high across all zones, but particularly high amongst residents within the existing zone (70%).
- Of the other options, a fifth of residents were in support of no change (Option 1), and a third were supportive of extending the zone (Option 2), although this was not well supported by residents who were in the proposed extended zone.
- Overall, half of residents (50%) ranked Option 3 as their most preferred, more so by residents within the existing Town Improvement Zone and those elsewhere in the LGA (56%, 48%). The main reason for preferring this option was a feeling that all residents use infrastructure and should contribute.
- For those within the proposed extended zone, there was a slight preference for no change (Option 1), though Option 3 was their second preference.

Participant profile







The majority of respondents were female (55%).

Most respondents were aged between 50 and 64 years old (48%), while a further quarter were between the ages of 35 and 49 years old (23%).

AGE AND GENDER

		All respondents (n=203) %
Gender 	Female	55
	Male	45
	Non-binary	<1
Age 	18 to 34	8
	35-49	23
	50-64	48
	65+	19
	Prefer not to say	2



Q3. Are you ...?
 Q4. Which age group do you fall into?
 Base: All respondents (n=203)

PRIMARY RESIDENCE AND LOCATION



Almost all primarily reside in Oberon (94%).

Almost half were from the Oberon Township (47%), while a smaller number were from Black Springs (10%), O'Connell (8%) and Porters Retreat (7%).

		All respondents (n=203) %
Primarily Reside in Oberon 	Yes	94
	No	6
Location 	Oberon Township	47
	Black Springs	10
	O'Connell	8
	Porters Retreat	7
	Burruga	2
	Edith	4
	Hazelgrove	4
	Duckmaloi	3
	Shooters Hill	2
	Burruga	2
	Other	13

Q5. Is your house in Oberon your primary place of residence?
 Q2. In which area of Oberon Council do you live?
 Base: All respondents (n=203)

EMPLOYMENT STATUS



Almost half were working full-time (46%), with a smaller amount working part-time or being self-employed (14%, 16%).

A similar proportion were retired (16%).

		All respondents (n=203) %
Employment status 	Working full-time	46
	Working part-time	14
	Self-employed	16
	Unemployed	1
	Household duties / caring for children	5
	Retired	16
	Pension	1
	Refused	<1

D1. Which of the following best describes you?
Base: All respondents (n=203)

HOUSEHOLD INCOME



Two fifths of respondents did not disclose their household income (44%).

Respondents were relatively evenly distributed across each income bracket.

		All respondents (n=203) %
Household Income 	Less than \$50,000	13
	Between \$51,600 and \$80,000	13
	Between \$81,000 and \$100,000	13
	Between \$101,000 and \$150,000	10
	More than \$151,000	7
	Prefer not to say	44

D2. What is your approximate annual household income?
Base: All respondents (n=203)



One in ten spoke a language other than English at home (8%).

3% of respondents identified as Aboriginal, while a smaller proportion indicated they are Torres Strait Islander (<1%).

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME AND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER RESIDENTS

		All respondents (n=203) %
Languages spoken at home 	Another language	8
	English only	72
	Prefer not to say	20

		All respondents (n=203) %
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander identity 	Aboriginal	3
	Torres Strait Islander	<1
	None of the above	74
	Refused	23

D4. Do you speak a language other than English at home?
 D3. Do you identify as being Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander?
 Base: All respondents (n=203)



Woolcott Research & Engagement
Level 6, 104 Mount Street, North Sydney NSW 2060
+61 2 9261 5221
www.woolcott.com.au
Contacts: Karyn Wong Kwong@woolcott.com.au
Louise Williams: Lwilliams@woolcott.com.au



Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

From: [Gary Wallace](#)
To: [Mathew Webb](#)
Subject: FW: Submission Town Improvement Fund
Date: Monday, 29 January 2024 2:28:18 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)

Gary Wallace
General Manager
Oberon Council

+612 6329 8125
0409 157 003
gary.wallace@oberon.nsw.gov.au
www.oberon.nsw.gov.au



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 5:15 PM
To: Gary Wallace <Gary.Wallace@oberon.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Andrew McKibbin <Andrew.McKibbin@oberon.nsw.gov.au>; Bruce Watt <bruce.watt@oberon.nsw.gov.au>; Clive McCarthy <Clive.McCarthy@oberon.nsw.gov.au>; Helen Hayden <helen.hayden@oberon.nsw.gov.au>; Ian Tucker <ian.tucker@oberon.nsw.gov.au>; Katie Graham <katie.graham@oberon.nsw.gov.au>; Lauren Trembath <lauren.trembath@oberon.nsw.gov.au>; Mark Kellam <mark.kellam@oberon.nsw.gov.au>; Mick McKechnie <Mick.McKechnie@oberon.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Submission Town Improvement Fund

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Gary,

I wish to make comment on the use of the Town Improvement fund .
In essence my considerable number of submissions over many years remains unchanged
and are suggested as another point of referral

The original purpose of the fund remains unchanged, despite application in recent times
for purposes not consistent with the defined purpose of the levy.

This original purpose being for the provision of Drains, Gutters, and Footpaths within the Town boundary, on the basis that Rural Rate payers were not the primary Beneficiaries of the cost.

It should, however, not be utilised for overall community facilities as has occurred in recent years. This is despite there being many projects within Town that would have complied with the definition of the fund use purpose ..

With inflationary factors influencing the volume availability via this source in recent years the contribution being made by town property owners is so high that it should have been looked at long ago.

As I have said, this burden on Town Ratepayers should not be spent for overall community benefit. As indicated previously, on the other hand rural ratepayers should not have to fund Primary Town Improvements of Drains , Gutters and Footpaths.

Inflationary factors have seen a large increase in the funds collected and unreasonable sums being collected for an unclear purpose and

is a factor that needs to be addressed as part of this review by Council.

I submit to Council that the Town Improvement Levy be continued for the original defined purpose.

That a levy is re-established more in keeping with the purpose and objectives.

That a program of the annual expenditure of sums from the levy be established with the Town Ratepayers.

As a believer in the concept of "User Pays," I accept the comment as to why are the Rural Roads not paid from Rural Rates? To which I respond " I did not know, they were not.

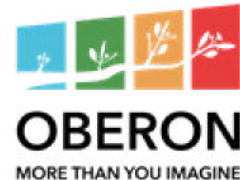
Regards,
Keith Sullivan

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

From: [Gary Wallace](#)
To: [Mathew Webb](#)
Subject: FW: TI Levy
Date: Tuesday, 13 February 2024 10:24:08 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Gary Wallace
General Manager
Oberon Council

+612 6329 8125
0409 157 003
gary.wallace@oberon.nsw.gov.au
www.oberon.nsw.gov.au



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 10, 2024 10:22 AM
To: Gary Wallace <Gary.Wallace@oberon.nsw.gov.au>; Andrew McKibbin <Andrew.McKibbin@oberon.nsw.gov.au>; Bruce Watt <bruce.watt@oberon.nsw.gov.au>; Clive McCarthy <Clive.McCarthy@oberon.nsw.gov.au>; Helen Hayden <helen.hayden@oberon.nsw.gov.au>; Ian Tucker <ian.tucker@oberon.nsw.gov.au>; Katie Graham <katie.graham@oberon.nsw.gov.au>; Lauren Trembath <lauren.trembath@oberon.nsw.gov.au>; Mark Kellam <mark.kellam@oberon.nsw.gov.au>; Mick McKechnie <Mick.McKechnie@oberon.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: TI Levy

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]
[this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Gary,

I have been advised that the TI levy in a new form will be discussed, at O'Connell next week .
Congratulations to Lauren as I assume this is her initiative.

The last time I checked most ratepayers in the current levied area are happy to pay the levy subject to it being spent on, the defined fund purpose of footpaths drains etc.

The problem is that there does not appear to be any improvement with the use of the fund being a decision by Council with a lack of work being carried out within the funds defined purpose.

Recent Councils, and I assume senior staff, seem to have lost the basic purpose of their role of representing the views of the community and they make decisions arbitrarily regardless of the community's view.

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

The basic rule of LG Levies is that those who pay should get the benefit. It was the reason the fund was set up, because rural residents did not obtain benefit from residential drains and gutters etc.

Similarly rural roads are of little benefit to those not living in rural areas and is another thing that needs to be looked at. Perhaps a similar approach should be adopted for the "Field of Dreams" at O'Connell. (ie. Those that get the benefit should pay).

My suggestion is to keep the existing TI Fund and appoint a TI expenditure committee to provide input to Council staff on where the funds should be spent. Particularly as there is already considerable funds collected from a section of the community for a specific purpose. It is the belief of many that the need of the rural community and town residents are completely different. Perhaps, however, with what I believe to be of increasing concern about rural roads a separate levy needs to be applied to this sector. Again, with representatives of contributors to suggest the priority in expenditure.

I can assure you that there will be considerable resentment displayed by long-term residents if the TI fund is interfered with in any way.

Please Councilors, leave our TI levy alone and implement a plan to ensure the funds best application within the fund's definition.

Regards

Keith Sullivan

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

From: [Debra McKenzie](#)
To: [Rating Review](#)
Subject: Town Improvement Levy
Date: Wednesday, 17 January 2024 5:39:45 PM

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I have strong views regarding this levy.

I believe it should be abolished completely. I have never been expected to pay this type of levy until I moved to Oberon.

My rates are a big expense & if properly managed should be sufficient without this added expense.

As I don't expect this outcome a fair distribution throughout the Oberon Shire would be a good first step. I'm sure people who live "out of town" benefit equally from netball facilities & The Common etc.

Many elderly residents move from the land into town & should not be expected to find the funds for this added burden.

Therefore my first preference would be to abolish this levy altogether.

As I doubt this will happen I believe the Town Improvement Levy should be shared equally between all Oberon ratepayers.

Debra McKenzie
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone



27 February 2024

Mr G Wallis
The General Manager
Oberon Council
PO Box 84.
Oberon NSW 2787
By email: ratingreview@oberon.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir

Re: Oberon Council Rating Structure Review – Town Improvement Levy

Our Assessment No. is [REDACTED] and my Rate Notice Issued 28 July 2023 shows Town Improvement Rate Residential of \$516.15.

We note that the levy has been an integral part of Oberon Council's rating structure since 1934 and that a review is necessary due to the increasing subdivisions, new dwellings and growth of the town.

Terry and I are in support of this review and support the third option.

Remove the Town Improvement Levy and add the component to ordinary rates.

Our reasoning is that due to the town's growth, the number of subdivisions, new dwellings and the increasing population that the benefits to the town that are paid for by the Town Improvement Levy be shared with all Ratepayers of the LGA.

This also means that the outlying villages in the LGA will benefit from the third option.

Yours sincerely

Terry and Rhonda Boyce

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Rating Review](#)
Subject: Town Improvement levy
Date: Tuesday, 27 February 2024 10:04:18 AM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mayor and Councillors,

I wish to make a submission on the review of the Town Improvement Special Levy.

The purpose of the special levy has changed dramatically over the last 10 to 15 years. The Local Government Act states that a special levy placed on ratepayers must be for the main benefit of the residents paying that levy. ie: it is levied on a special group (those benefitting) for a specific purpose (nominated when applying for the special levy) and for a specified period. The purpose of the levy cannot be altered unless authorized by the Minister for Local Government.

Ninety years for a special levy smacks of mis-management. Recently I have noticed in the Business Papers that the Town Improvement Fund has been used for propping up short falls in the new Library/Hub, top dressing playing fields, Lighting at the football club, bulky good collection, council amenity block upgrades, furniture for parks. Surely most of these projects should be covered by our normal rates. Ninety years ago when this levy was approved there was no Oberon Library, it was later run by Lithgow Library, until we finally had our own library, no bulky good collection, no common.

Council should take more care when costing grants as the shortfalls have to come from somewhere. Before starting a project the source of the finance should be clearly identified. Half finished projects are not on time and on budget.

The footpaths around Oberon township seriously need improving. Hop on a mobility scooter and go for a ride to find all the uneven concrete. After 90 years why are there still many footpaths very close to town not concreted. With our weather we need to be kept dry when at all possible.

The Levy was specified to be for drainage, kerb and gutter improvements. The use of this levy cannot change, be all encompassing and be used as a slush fund for wherever the Council has a shortfall. Also a newly elected Council cannot change the purpose of the levy, as I now note that it can be used for anything within the town boundary! When did this change and who approved this?

In the past 90 years much has changed in Oberon, most noticeably the roads bringing residents and visitors to town. This has made all town facilities easily accessible to all living within the Oberon Council area.

When applying to the Minister for the change in the levy I believe that it should be specified just

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

what the levy is for and the period of time the levy will be in place – surely not another 90 years.

I believe that the Town Improvement Levy should continue and I am also of the opinion that the area should be expanded to include all small acre properties that have popped up around the township in the last 20 – 30 years. The change to this levy would need to be agreed by the Minister for Local Government.

Another levy could be applied to the village areas to allow for upgrades within the village areas.

Yours faithfully

JOAN SULLIVAN

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Rating Review](#)
Subject: Rating Structure Review - Town Improvement Levy
Date: Saturday, 3 February 2024 2:38:39 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of Rutters Ridge, Oberon for some time it has come to our attention that the Oberon Council wishes to include our and many other rural residential communities lying on the out skirts of Oberon into the town boundary with the aim for us to pay more on our rates for the services that Oberon offers us.

My husband and I sincerely object to this proposal very strongly. The following reasons are why.... We do not get the same services that the town dwellers have and incur the considerable expense of providing our own services. No rubbish collection but we receive the blown rubbish from the tip regularly in our fences and paddocks... which we have to collect and return to the tip!! So we incur rubbish disposal costs ourselves. No water, we have to collect our own or buy it and pay extra electricity every time we turn on a tap. No sewerage, we have to pay for our own sewerage collection and disposal via septic tank cleaning regularly. We do not have kerb and guttering along our rural roads and maintain our road verge ourselves.

We do not object to doing and paying for these services ourselves but do object strongly to being railroaded by council into the town improvement levy boundaries being extended to our rural residential areas. How is our situation any diferent from farming enterprises which surround us. Are they next to be slugged with the town boundary expansion?

I hope the Oberon Council considers our petition against the boundaries being changed unless we will be receiving the services, reticulated water, sewerage to every home and rubbish collection.... Im sure we wont ever get those services!

Regards, Laurel Hawken for and on behalf of Peter Hawken also.

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

From: [Col Roberts](#)
To: [Rating Review](#)
Subject: Suggestion regarding TIL
Date: Tuesday, 20 February 2024 1:29:36 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Matt,

I note the three options proposed for the TIL. I prefer the second (an expansion of the town boundaries), however even this option has some issues. When I look at the makeup of the Town Improvement Levy there appears to be some things that all rate payers benefit from and some things that only town residents benefit from . For example All rate payers get a benefit from the Library and its operation and all rate payers get a benefit from having good sporting fields and facilities.

So, is it an option to take these two items out of the TIL and fund them from General Rates. This would be fairer for TIL payers and TIL non payers.

This probably more complicated than I make it sound , but am forwarding it as an observation.

Regards

Col Roberts
[REDACTED]

www.lowesmounttruffles.com.au

www.visitoberon.com

31 January 2024

Sig Sovik


To: The General Manager – Oberon Council

To: All Councillors – Oberon Council

Dear General Manager; dear Councillors

Oberon Council Rating Structure Review – Town Improvement Levy.

Council has invited submissions from ratepayers to council's letter of 15 December 2023.

Problem

If a simple unqualified question was put to a town rate payer "would you like to get rid of the TI levy from your rate assessment?" it is a fair bet that the answer would be "yes".

But the complaint raised I believe was different: It was that the amounts collected from town ratepayers were partly spent on assets and services not for the prime benefit of those ratepayers who had to pay the levy.

Last time I looked at this (2021) my guesstimate was that a conservative 20% of the money collected over the last few years had been spent on purposes not directly benefiting town ratepayers but on assets and services for the general benefit of the overall LGA.

It was suggested to council by me and others that this was unjust and was not in accord with the Local Government Act relating to special rates, and that this misalignment should be corrected.

There are a couple of markers along the way:

- a) In 1934 the TI levy was introduced – to be paid specifically by the town ratepayers - to cover town improvements and beautification; the justification for the levy was that council felt that the rural ratepayers through their rates were subsidising the towns-people and that this should be rectified; and
- b) in about 2010 or so, late councillor McMahon took up in council the question of whether the TI levy should be discontinued. It was decided that the levy was still needed, as there was enough new work, upgrades and maintenance to absorb the amounts collected; and
- c) from feedback that I hear, there is currently no shortage of work falling within the definition of the purpose of the levy. In the last many years - although substantial amounts have been syphoned off for other priorities - much of the levy has continued to be absorbed for sidewalks, gutters, drainage and town beautification, etc. Year after year the budgeted levy amounts have been allocated by councillors to specific projects of this nature. There has been no indication that there is currently a shortage of qualifying projects.

Determination of Rates

In determining rates for the various rating categories, council has to consider whether there are sufficiently significant differences between the rating categories in relation to access to or demand for, or the cost of, providing services or infrastructure (see LGA Sec 529, for example).

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

In 2023 IPART considered special rate variation requests from 17 council, and SRVs from 6% rate increases to 93% were approved. The report came out in June 2023. IPART uses average rates per assessment for each rating category to assess the impact of rate changes.

For Lithgow council, an overall increase of 45.7% including the peg was approved for 23/24. Lithgow distributed this with 27.5% for residential and farmland, business 53.7% and mining 134.7%. I bring Lithgow up as IPART provides some comparative numbers including Oberon in its documentation. IPART includes our TI rate in their comparison. The residential rate used by IPART was composed – for Oberon – of residential plus rural residential plus non-urban (i.e., village) plus TI. The average residential rate calculated by IPART (including the peg) for Oberon for 2023/4 is at \$1025 and still below the average in Lithgow (\$1111 including SRV 27.5%), Bathurst (\$1236 - including 3.7% peg) and Mid-Western Regional (\$1034 - including peg).

The IPART averages are aggregates of all residential sub-categories with the inclusion in the calculation of village and rural residential. Council could – and perhaps should - get dis-aggregated and more granular data from IPART than those available to me, and recheck the numbers.

The TI is split between business and residential. About 38% of the total is paid by business, and 62% by residential ratepayers.

The base amount across the rating categories varies from \$190 to \$278; it is unclear what logic council has applied to determine the level and its variations. Including in the calculation the TI amounts, the base makes up about 15% of total rates revenue, with the significant largest part coming from the ad valorem component. Including the TI, the ranking of the ad valorem is as follows (cents in the dollar):

Farm land	0.15 cents (TI amount immaterial; cent/\$ excluded)
Non-urban (village)	0.18 cents
Rural Residential	0.19 cents
Residential	0.45 cents
Business	1.03 cents (businesses located in town)

The ranking in the table above appears to the untrained eye roughly right. Perhaps it can be argued that the order of village and rural residential is not right, but the difference in the base amount will come into play here – and in any event we are talking about small dollar differences.

For residential, it would be useful to have precise comparative data with other towns similar to Oberon: council may as noted above be able to obtain such information. As a first approximation, the residential 0.45 cents/dollar does not seem way out of order compared to village or rural residential.

None of the above information indicates that TI should be proportionally removed from the town rates. On the contrary, the bulk of the TI is required to cover the expenditure on assets and services for which the TI levy was originally introduced and have since been maintained.

Comment on Business, Industry and Heavy Industry

The business rate: It appears incongruous that the same rate and base amount apply equally to the coffee shop in the main street and to the heavy/heavier industry on the other side of the bypass.

To have a council rate cent/dollar for the coffee shop about twice that of the residential property three streets back seems perhaps at least in the right ballpark. But before starting to redistribute rates, the subject should be investigated properly by council.

Reverting to IPART and its work last year on Lithgow (and others), the average business rate amounts collected by Oberon appears to be very much lower than elsewhere. Granted, considering size and population differences they should be higher in for example Lithgow, but the difference seems excessive.

My immediate impression is that Oberon is under-cooking the rates for the town's heavier industry, and before starting to redistribute the TI, this issue should be properly investigated. It would not be productive to proportionally redistribute the \$210k TI (budget 24FY) attributed to business unless council can reasonably assure rate payers of the equity of its rate distribution across the rating categories.

Conclusion

Expansion of the Town Improvement area as suggested to adjacent rural residential areas would only make sense if (LGA sec 529) council is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the added ratepayer's access to and demand for and use of the town improvements funded by the levy are significant. I doubt the council will be able to satisfy these criteria.

I cannot see that the \$210k of the levy now paid by business should be redistributed to other ratepayers, based on the IPART comparisons of business rate payments for neighbouring councils.

I cannot see that council has presented to the ratepayers any data justifying distributing the levy across all rate categories – including farmland.

I believe any redistribution exercise would require a full review of the whole rating structure and rate burden. For staff this is a material and time-consuming exercise.

It may be that council's need to approach IPART for a general rate increase for Oberon cannot long be delayed. If council hopes that an income stream from wind and solar will solve its financial problems, I think it will be disappointed both as to timing and as to amounts.

It may therefore be that the rational thing with the TI is to leave it as is for the moment, and if possible deal with its termination, its partial (80%?) replacement/addition into the general rates, and necessary transition arrangements as part of IPART's next consideration of the appropriate overall rate burden for Oberon. Such an IPART review will deal with many of the same issues and data as will a separate rate burden distribution exercise. One would wish perhaps to have good reasons to duplicate staff work on such initiatives.

In the interim, council in my view should ensure that no future amounts from the TI are spent on assets or services outside the purpose for the fund as originally determined; TI funds should be directed so as to materially and directly benefit those who are paying the levy.

Sincerely yours

Sig Sovik

From: [Dan Cove](#)
To: [Rating Review](#)
Subject: Submission - Town Improvement Levy Review
Date: Tuesday, 27 February 2024 8:22:02 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Evening,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the review of the Oberon Town Improvement Levy.

As a resident of On Avon Avenue, I objected to the proposed expansion of the boundaries of the Levy in 2015 on the basis that communication with residents at that time had been inadequate. I was pleased to see that the Council had listened to feedback received at this time and that the communication around the current review has been comprehensive and inclusive. I commend the Council for this approach.

In regards to the three future options proposed within the review, I would like to state my strong support for the implementation of Option 3, being the removal of the Levy and its addition to the base rate component across the LGA. My reasons for this are:

- Reduction/elimination of administrative requirements associated with the T1 district means that this is the only of the three options to provide a cost saving to Council. These will be ongoing.
- Whilst not increasing revenue, Council will have increased freedom to allocate funds (including to areas outside the current T1 zone).
- This option will provide stability and eliminate the possibility of revisiting the expansion of the zone into the future as Oberon continues to grow through new subdivisions, village expansions etc. As this review and the consultation process also represents a cost to Council, then to proceed with Option #3 will also ensure these additional costs are also not repeated in the future.
- This option is equitable to all LGA ratepayers. This is not the case with #1 as funds allocated through the current levy will still benefit those ratepayers outside the zone utilising Council facilities or recreational spaces enhanced through the levy. Option #2 is also inequitable both for this reason, but also as residents in the majority of the additional zone identified in the proposed increased boundary will not receive commensurate benefits to their additional charges as such improvements as kerb and guttering, footpaths etc are unlikely to be extended to these areas.

I would be happy to discuss this submission further if required and am happy to be contacted.

Again, my appreciation for the thorough and inclusive process.

Regards,

Dan Cove
[REDACTED]

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

From: [duncan](#)
To: [Rating Review](#)
Subject: R5 Town Improvement Levy Proposal
Date: Monday, 18 December 2023 7:14:26 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Sir,

I strenuously object to including the Titania Estate component of Area R5 in the Town Improvement Levy.

1. Titania Estate has no council services and imposing a levy is purely a funding collection proposal without any equivalent benefit to this area. It is in the category of taxation without benefits.
2. The estate is not suitable for the provision of sewage infrastructure, footpaths, fibre networks or driveways. The ground is shale, the banks on the sides of the road in the hilly areas are unstable and would require retaining walls to be inserted if footpaths were to be installed. There are no parks or open areas available, unless Council resumes areas of land from the current owners.
3. The cost to Council to provide any improvements would be unsupportable within your potential revenue over the next 20 years. The State government is extremely unlikely to provide any funding, and if they did it would be better spent on improving access to Jenolan Caves – or install a chair lift.

Yours Sincerely,

Duncan Morehouse

[REDACTED]

Oberon

RATING REVIEW SUBMISSION

In reference to the information circulated to properties in my area and available on council's web site, I would like to object to the proposed 2nd option (to Expand the Town Improvement District to include more ratepayers). Both the other options (keeping the existing Town Improvement District, removal of the Town Improvement Levy) appear to be more equitable proposals.

Based on the suggested usage of the funds from the levy, and in reference to the proposed new area outlined in orange on the map in the exhibition document, I make the following comments:

- Kerb and Gutter Improvements. People in my area (and I expect also in the other areas proposed in this option) have no expectation or desire for kerb and guttering. It would not be a very economical project given the larger frontages of most properties, and would not be in keeping with the more rural nature of these properties that are outside of the existing Town Improvement District.
- Construction of Oberon Library and Community Centre. Whilst I have not yet personally been into the new centre, it is available to me and to all other residents outside of the existing Town Improvement District. People who benefit from it would include ratepayers from the entire Oberon Council area, and funding it from the proposed new area would be just as inequitable as funding it from the existing area.
- Continued beautification and recreation works at the Oberon Common. My objection to funding these works are similar to those outlined above in relation to the library and community centre. It is available to all residents in the council area, although those living close by are probably more likely to use it frequently. The proposed area shown on the map is not based on proximity and some larger properties much closer to The Common are excluded from the levy whilst smaller properties kilometres away are included in the area expected to fund these works.
- Footpath Upgrades. Like kerb and guttering, the provision of footpaths along streets with a more rural nature is not desired by residents in these areas. There are many fewer vehicle movements on roads in my area than there would be in the township itself. I often walk along the side of the road and have never felt that there is any need for a footpath, and I do not expect that council would ever provide one.

I do use the footpath beside the railway line (which avoids the need to walk along the much busier and higher speed Lowes Mount Road). My own experience of this path is that although it is used by some residents in my area, it is largely used as an exercise route by people living in the township. It also services properties in Clover Lane (excluded from the proposed new district for a reason that is not apparent to me) and as far out as Black Bullock Road (also not included in the proposed new district). I expect this path is in a different category to the footpaths in the township itself, and I am not certain whether it benefits from the Town Improvement Levy. At any rate it benefits people from well outside the proposed new areas to be added to the Town Improvement District.

- Drainage improvements at Richards Park. Although I am not familiar with Richards Park, I would make the same objections as outlined above for The Common. It is available to all

residents but is much more likely to be used by those in close proximity (I expect even more so than The Common).

- Bulky Goods Collection. Although I am not certain, I believe that the current bulky Goods Collection service is available to ratepayers who have regular garbage collection. Expanding it outside of the township area would be less economical due to the increased distance between property road frontages. I do not want or expect council to provide a bulky goods collection to my area any more than I want them to provide a regular garbage collection service.
- Projects in the New Zone. It is stated that “parks and gardens upgrades and a variety of Town Improvements” could occur in the newly identified zone. Oberon is already blessed with excellent parks and gardens (The Common and Apex Park are 2 great parks that I am familiar with). I do not see any need for (and do not want) more parks and gardens within the new zone. The inclusion of a “variety of Town Improvements” is a delightfully vague statement, and I would encourage you to be more specific and outline some actual worthwhile benefits if you want people in the new area to be supportive of this proposal. I cannot think of any town improvements that I would like to see (or expect council to provide) in my area.
- Increased Costs. It is stated that a considerable amount of work would be required by a zoning specialist for this proposal. I assume that this work would come at a cost. It is also stated that there is potential for a doubling of administration costs under this proposal. There would also be costs associated with exhibiting the proposal and the potential that it might not go ahead despite these costs having been incurred. I am sure there would be a better use of this money and encourage council not to proceed down this path.

I note that a previous proposal to expand the Town Improvement District in 2015 was not successful. I don't think anything has changed significantly since then. One of the stated aims of the review of the levy is to “ensure the equity and outcomes of the rating structure are still relevant for our community”. The second proposal outlined (expansion of the Town Improvement District) appears to be the least equitable of the proposals and I hope that council will not spend money further pursuing this option.

Thank you,

David Henderson

RECEIVED
09 FEB 2024
BY:



COLLINS

A24 SERIES ACCOUNT BOOK

We the Undersigned are
AGAINST the Pre Pe
TOWN Improvement Le

10203

TREBLE CASH

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
BOB & DIANNE O'BRIEN	[REDACTED]
ADAM & ALICIA HOLLAND	[REDACTED]
David, Catherine Braithwaite	[REDACTED]
FRANK JAHLEK	[REDACTED]
Mario Certoma	[REDACTED]
Jason Fisher	[REDACTED]
Vernice Fisher	[REDACTED]
Russell Reynolds	[REDACTED]
David Reynolds	[REDACTED]
JENNIFER McLAUGHLIN	[REDACTED]
Deon Christie-Johnston	[REDACTED]
Stacey Murphy	[REDACTED]
Roy FARQUHAR	[REDACTED]
Yvonne Farquhar	[REDACTED]
Greg Robinson	[REDACTED]
Kerrie Robinson	[REDACTED]
Zoe Peak	[REDACTED]
Blake Peak	[REDACTED]
Adam Gibbons	[REDACTED]
JOZEF CRNCEC	[REDACTED]
PETER HAWKEN	[REDACTED]
Laurel Hawken	[REDACTED]
Glen Stewart	[REDACTED]
Jess Patten	[REDACTED]
PAUL & LORRETTA GRAHAM	[REDACTED]
Lisa Richards	[REDACTED]
Corey Richards	[REDACTED]
Belinda Lehn	[REDACTED]
Jess Foley	[REDACTED]
ROB CHRISTIE-JOHNSTON	[REDACTED]
KATE CHRISTIE-JOHNSTON	[REDACTED]

From: [Teena and Mathew Scott](#)
To: [Rating Review](#)
Subject: Town improvement levy.
Date: Thursday, 30 November 2023 11:26:15 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We live 4km out of town and are dead against the town improvement levy for the reasons

1. it does not affect or help us in anyway.
2. Our landrates are high enough.
3. We've had town beautification on our rates and the levy and it only ever gets spent on the main street never anywhere else.
4. Constantly seeing rubbish on the side of the road entering and leaving town and it is never cleaned up by council, only ever by citizens that live here that don't get paid. Some rubbish bins placed around such as bypass and all exits leaving town instead of just the main street.
5. You cant walk down Foodworks side of main street stinks like cigarettes and there all over the ground. Council wont clean it.
6. Money will be waisted.
7. No rest areas anywhere for visitors except parks in town.
8. Public toilets on main street are filthy and should be ripped down.
9. Titania rd is a complete mess of wattle and weeds and never gets cleaned up, not tyo mention the rubbish thrown out of cars.

So as far as i am concerned we DO NOT want the town levy as i believe it will only benefit a very small minority and that is not us.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Rating Review](#)
Subject: Objection to Expansion of Town Improvement Levy
Date: Thursday, 28 December 2023 3:46:21 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Oberon Council Members,

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed expansion of the Town Improvement Levy. While I recognize the necessity of funding community facilities, the current approach raises concerns about fairness and practicality.

The expansion of the Town Improvement Levy appears to disproportionately affect ratepayers residing in areas farther from the town centre. This situation seems inequitable as these residents may not benefit from the proposed facilities as frequently as those in closer proximity. Moreover, it is disconcerting that the proposed expansion target zones lacking basic services such as garbage collection and town water, and residents in these zones endure poor road conditions.

Given the prevailing economic circumstances marked by rising living costs and high-interest rates, imposing extra financial strain on residents is audacious. In light of this, I strongly urge the Council to explore alternative revenue-generation methods that prioritise fairness and consider the economic challenges faced by many in our community.

It is worth noting that a significant portion of residents in the expanded zone may not be permanent residents of Oberon. This raises the issue of them being asked to fund services by two different councils, further complicating the fairness of the proposed levy.

I propose that the Council considers revenue-raising ideas based on a user-pay system to ensure that those who directly benefit from the proposed facilities contribute proportionally to their funding. Additionally, exploring options to have tourists contribute financially would alleviate the financial burden on local residents considering tourists are users of these facilities as well.

In conclusion, I implore the Council to reconsider the expansion of the Town Improvement Levy and to explore alternative avenues for revenue generation that are fair, transparent, and considerate of the economic challenges faced by many in our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will carefully consider the concerns raised by myself and other concerned residents.

Sincerely,

James Khamis
(part time resident at Fairview Drive Oberon)

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

From: [Kenneth Doble](#)
To: [Rating Review](#)
Subject: Town Improvement Levy Review
Date: Wednesday, 28 February 2024 12:57:45 PM

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We are owners of 31 Marks Crescent, in the Titania Estate and are intending to build on this land in the near future.

Our strong preference is for Option number 1: “ Keep the Town Improvement Levy as it is currently operated “.

We do not wish for any of the changes that could result from being included in the Town Improvement Levy District. We expressly do not want footpaths and curb and guttering, as we love the rural feel of the area as it is. This rural feel is the main reason why we purchased the land.

The current Town Improvement Levy District seems the fairest option to us, as it is the people in this area who have opted to live in a town environment, and therefore may appreciate the type of improvements that have been mentioned.

We really hope that the beautiful Titania Estate will not be changed.

Thank you for the opportunity of voicing our concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Kenneth Doble and Deborah Koreshoff

From Max Mrs Graham.

Paul & Lorretta GRAHAM

[REDACTED]

OBERON NSW 2787

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

RECEIVED
05 FEB 2024

BY:

31/1/2024

Oberon Council,
Oberon Street,
Oberon NSW 2787

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE:- Proposed Expansion of the Town Improvement Boundary and subsequent increased Rate structure to the Rutters Ridge locality.

Please be advised that we as landowners and rate payers of [REDACTED], Oberon are **completely in opposition to any change in the boundary expansion and bringing us into the town boundary with increased rate structures.** The improvements that you mention do nothing for our own area or us and will not provide us with any benefits.

We have owned our land for over 42 years during which time we have had no improvements whatsoever provided by Council and none or very little attention to our area.

There has been NOTHING!!! And we want NOTHING.

To Date:-

- No improvements
- No maintenance
- No garbage
- No kerb
- No grass cutting or very minimal over those 42 years
- No fences were provided
- No repairs have even been carried out from the road to our driveway
- No power
- No water
- No sewerage
- Very little road maintenance of any description

Our subdivision was Council developed and it was just a paddock. We had to do everything and provide at our own cost, all services of water, septic, power, fencing, roads, rubbish removal (take our own garbage to the tip), etc. We did (and continue to do) this willingly knowing that we would not be subjected to the exorbitant rates of the town area.

We have maintained the large council owned verges by grass cutting, weed control and collecting rubbish etc on both sides of our land and those of our surrounding neighbours for many years at our own cost including fuel for our ride-on mower. We do not receive any payment for this or indeed recognition, nor did we expect it. We are proud landowners who keep our area tidy.

We once asked the Council road repair workers who for the one and only time that I can recall were seen on Rutters Ridge Road just outside our gateway to repair a couple of pot holes on the road, if they could repair one going towards our driveway. We received the blunt reply that NO Council doesn't own that land it was up to us to maintain it. I beg to differ. Our land starts within our boundary. We are not permitted to encroach on Council verges therefore in my estimation Council certainly does own the verges or certainly is in control of them. However, we were required to patch these potholes ourselves.

My point is we have never received any benefits nor interest in our locality until Council decides in its wisdom that it needs more funds to spend to benefit its own agendas and the rate payers in town and therefore, we will be an easy target for increased rates for no rewards or benefits to our own area.

The walking track from town out to Black Bullock road is a disgrace and no one seems to give two hoots about that. However, the walking track from the O'Connell Hotel via the Memorial trees is well maintained. Will O'Connell residents be asked to accept a rate structure change too in order to fund these "town improvements" for the benefit of the whole community.

We are not in agreement to being added to an extended town boundary with a levy added to our rates. It appears that Council has no idea or consideration that we already maintain our own surrounding 'Council owned' land and road with our ongoing substantial private costs of keeping the council verges and road maintained in our area.

Put very bluntly, leave us alone as we have been left alone for 42 years to fend for ourselves and find your extra funds elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,

Paul and Lorretta Graham

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

From: [Rob Lane](#)
To: [Rating Review](#)
Subject: town improvement levy
Date: Wednesday, 28 February 2024 12:13:17 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon

We have received your correspondence regarding the potential extension of the town improvement boundary which could include our area.

You have advised in the letter the projects that would be funded within the town improvements levy non of it would appear to benefit our property. We currently have no curb and guttering we have no footpaths, and we have no bulky goods collection. Therefore we do not support the changes to expending the town improvement levy.

Regards!

Rob and Chris Lane

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

From: [Ashley Hoolihan](#)
To: [Rating Review](#)
Subject: Town improvement levy
Date: Tuesday, 13 February 2024 8:57:59 AM

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi

I am against changing the levy to include ratepayers from outside the township boundaries. I pay rates for the land I own in the Oberon district and rarely visit the town itself. I am firmly of the belief that the ratepayers who will benefit from the levy should be the the ones that pay it and I can't see why rural landowners should pay for something that will only benefit those from within the town. Rural ratepayers will not gain any benefit from the levy any more than any tourist or someone passing through. Why should the levy be imposed on ratepayers who do not have kerbs and gutters, who do not have any footpaths and who do not get bulky goods collections?

The town improvement levy has been levied on only those within the town for 90 years as they have been the ratepayers who have benefited. This is still the same reason that the town improvement levy should not be imposed on rural landowners.

Thanks

Ashley Hoolihan
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Rating Review](#)
Subject: Objection to Cross the Board Rates Rises for all Oberon LGA
Date: Saturday, 3 February 2024 6:55:23 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Oberon Rating Reviewers,

We would like Submit our OBJECTION to Oberon Council Raising Rates for all property owners in the Oberon LGA.

We live on a rural property 18kms from Oberon, and we shouldn't be given the extra burden of paying more rates for urban dwellers to have their areas beautified!.

We do not support people living outside the Oberon Urban area paying more rates to give people in the urban area of Oberon kerb and gutters and footpaths among the other things mentioned!

We already pay rates that give us no services at all other than road maintenance(No garbage pickup, no water supply and no sewer which we are happy not to have mind you. Prefer to be independent!).

Oberon Council will never put kerb and gutter at our property roadside- why should we have to pay for other people?

All the other beautification projects will never or rarely be used by people in our living situation, well out of the urban area.

We already must pay extra in fuel to go anywhere, and we have Local Land Service General Rates that the people in Oberon don't have to pay.

It would be very unfair to make everyone pay extra rates so those living in the town pay less!!!

Regards

Marianne Wilkinson

Mobile- [REDACTED]

Rod and Marianne Wilkinson

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Oberon 2787 NSW

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Member Damara Sheep Breeders Society of Australia

<http://www.damaras.com.au/>

RECEIVED
15 FEB 2024

BY:

[REDACTED]
Oberon NSW 2787

The General Manager

Oberon Council

137 Oberon St.

15th Feb. 2024

Re. Town Improvement Levy Rate redistribution.

Dear Sir,

With regards the various proposals to make the Town Improvement Levy (TIL) more equitable across a broader range of the Councils ratepayers, I personally am in favour of option 3 where the TIL is distributed across all ratepayers. Obviously all people access, use and enjoy the facilities that Council provide whether they live in town or out.

My problem with this option however is those ratepayers that may have multiple rate notices will potentially be paying a far greater burden than those with only one rate notice. I note the projected increase is in the area of \$141.00. There are ratepayers that may have property in their own name, a family company name or a Trust name. All of which relate to the one family farming business. Under Option 3 as it stands now, the potential increase could be \$423.00.

I realise there is a potential problem identifying those multiple rate notice payers, however I believe in most cases the address would be the same even if they were paying rates on two or more properties in different names. They could possibly be identified this way.

With a reduction of the number of rate notices that the TIL is being distributed across there would obviously be an increase in the amount each ratepayer would have to pay in order for the TWI revenue to remain the same.

Is it possible for Council staff to calculate how many ratepayers do receive multiple rate notices and then what the proposed increase would be per individual ratepayer and then amend Option 3 accordingly?

Yours sincerely,



Peter Hammond

From: [Janine Cross](#)
To: [Rating Review](#)
Subject: Submission re Rating Structure Review - Town Improvement Levy
Date: Sunday, 4 February 2024 10:51:18 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The Council

I understand that Council may need additional funding to maintain and improve the CBD of Oberon.

I have no objection to either of Council's first two proposals and it would make sense to adopt the second proposal to expand the Town Improvement District to include more ratepayers, lessening the burden to current ratepayers.

However, I am totally opposed to the third proposal to remove the Town Improvement Levy and add it into the Base Rate component within the Ordinary Rate Structure. Such a change would affect all rural and rural residential ratepayers that would not receive the benefits that those living closer to the town receive from the levy.

As a rural resident living on the the north west edge of the LGA, we currently receive very little for the rates we pay, the occasional road grading and weed spraying of our local road and maintenance of the less than 5km of main road that I regularly use.

All of our business, friends and medical support is sourced in Bathurst and our visits to Oberon are few and far between.

The last thing I want is an increase in our rates for town improvement that provides no value to me or for that matter all those famers that live in our area.

So, definitely not Option 3.

Regards
Janine Cross

[REDACTED]

From: Michael Hill <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, December 8, 2023 9:23 PM
To: Mark Kellam <mark.kellam@oberon.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Letter to Farmers Association

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mark,

Please find attached a copy of a letter to Xavier Martin (I gave him a copy last last night).

Also thanks for the presentation on Town Improvement Levy options. The option to spread it around all rate payers seems fair to me and Heidi and I have no objection to that proposal and the associated \$140 extra fee.

Regards,

Michael Hill

13.2 10 Tiger Place - Modification to Section 68 effluent disposal area

File No: PR640-10

Author: Barry Byrom, (Building Surveyor), Damian O'Shannassy (Planning and Development Director)

Summary

Council has received a Modification seeking to vary the approved effluent envelope for an Onsite Wastewater system for Lot 97 in DP 1238111, known as 10 Tiger Place, Oberon.

Recommendation:

That;

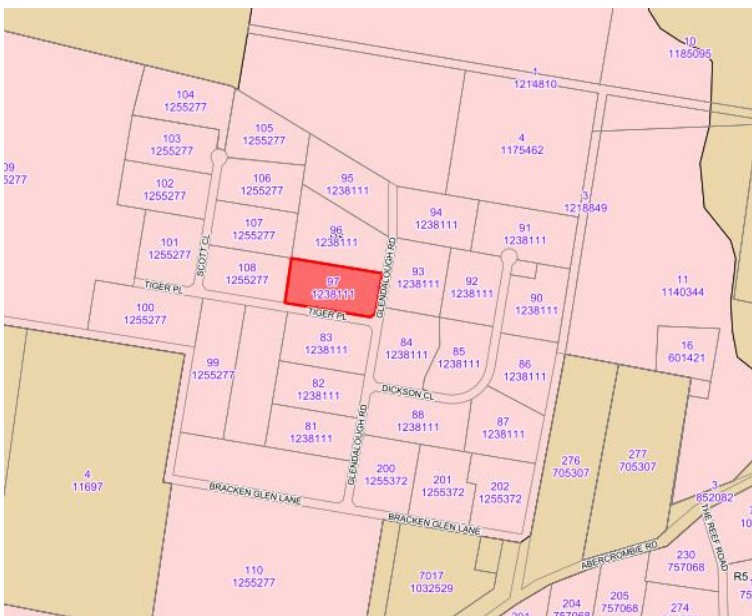
1. Council vary the restriction on title on Lot 97 in DP 1238111 in relation to section S68 envelope for development application 19.2023.31.2 for construction of a dwelling on the subject land known as 10 Tiger Place, Oberon,
2. That a division be called in accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act 1993.
3. Council provide delegation to the General Manager to vary the Effluent or Building Envelopes for all development applications which provides a restriction of title subject to no increased environmental impact and no submissions received upon appropriate community consultation.

List of Attachments

1. effluent disposal variation letter [13.2.1 - 1 page]
2. Existing Effluent Disposal location [13.2.2 - 1 page]
3. Proposed Effluent Disposal Area [13.2.3 - 1 page]

1. Location of the Proposal

10 Tiger Place, Oberon (Lot 97 DP 1238111) - The site is located adjoining Middle Creek in Bracken Glen Estate.



2. Proposed Development

The Modification is seeking a variation to the effluent envelope.

3. Referrals

Nil

4. Legislative Context

Oberon Council is identified as the authority who can vary or modify this restriction.

5. Assessment

Council conducted a site inspection and found that the envelope is located close by a waterway, in a depression that is prone to hold water which is not ideal for an effluent disposal area. There are no foreseen issues in moving the effluent disposal area outside of the envelope. The impact would be minimal.

6. Exhibition

No exhibition required.

Financial Implications

Nil

Relevance to Oberon Community Strategic Plan

Theme 3: Caring for the Environment

Action 3.2 Work with other agencies to protect fauna and biodiversity

3.2.5 Provide regulatory services to protect natural resources

Risk Category

Environment

Risk Severity Ranking

Minor - 32%

WEDNESDAY, 6 MARCH 2024

ABN: 98 466 039 052

Oberon Council
137-139 Oberon Street,
Oberon 2787

To whom it may concern,

Re: Section 68 V9 ; 06357066 ; 5 DA Lot 97 (DP 1238111)

We have been engaged by the owner of the above-mentioned property, (A. Francis & S. Young), to represent them in lodging a Development Application (DA) for a proposed new residence located at 10 Tiger Place, Oberon. As part of this development application, we are required to lodge a section 68 application to install a new effluent disposal on the property.

During the design process it was determined that the effluent disposal envelope is in a location that is considered less than ideal and is 70-80 meters in a westerly direction of the proposed new residence. The dwelling location on the development site is forced by other restrictions including the building envelope and an existing building pad. Therefore, the dwelling location cannot be changed, especially given that construction works are well under way.

Oberon Council's Town Planner and Building Inspectors have inspected the site and responded with an email dated 23rd of February 2024. It was advised within this email that a discussion was had on site with Lewis Church (Plummer) and Oberon Council's Building Surveyor. Both agreed that it would be less than ideal if the septic tank and effluent trenches remained in their current locality and agreed it would be feasible for relocation to occur.

The proposed location for the septic tank and effluent trenches is considered to be a much better suited position given that it is approximately 30 meters in a westerly direction to the dwelling and is fully compliant with all separation distances outlined within Clare Civil effluent disposal assessment supporting this application.

The purpose of this letter is to seek support for a variation to the development control standards imposed by Oberon Council to locate the effluent disposal outside of the envelope. This letter is to be read in conjunction with the amended architectural plans issued 5/3/2024 (06623-10 Tiger place DACC M) and the effluent disposal report completed by Calare Civil in addition to the amended documentation submitted via the NSW planning portal on 5/3/2024. Portal Reference number V9 ; 06357066 ; 5

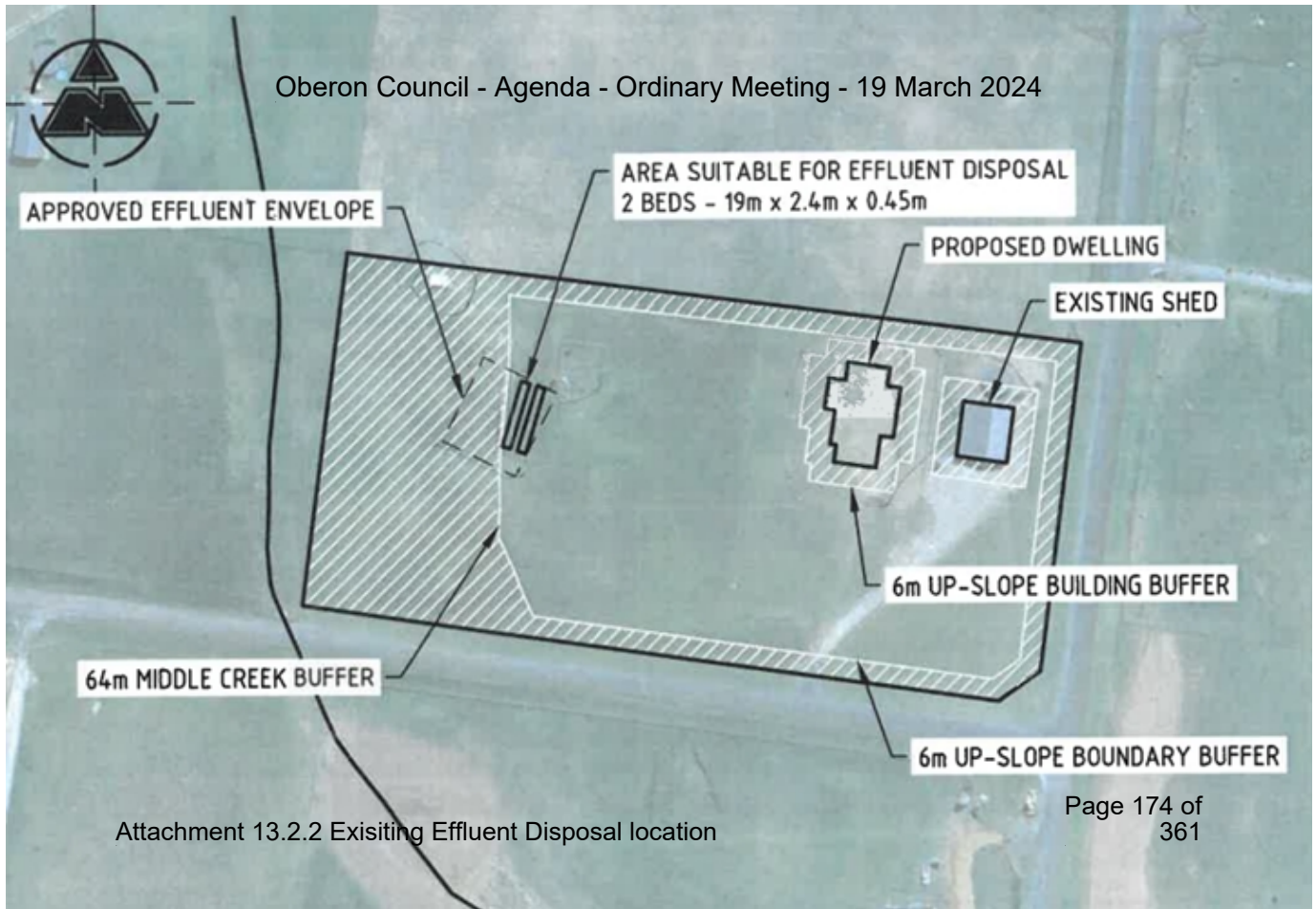
We appreciate your consideration of the matter. Please contact me directly if you have any further questions around the options for the proposed changes to the effluent disposal location.

Kind regards,

Aaron Schumacher,
Aaron Schumacher Drafting.



BDAA, Full Member – Membership # 2630-18.
BDA&T, Low Rise Accredited Building Designer – Accreditation # 6365.



APPROVED EFFLUENT ENVELOPE

AREA SUITABLE FOR EFFLUENT DISPOSAL
2 BEDS - 19m x 2.4m x 0.45m

PROPOSED DWELLING

EXISTING SHED

6m UP-SLOPE BUILDING BUFFER

64m MIDDLE CREEK BUFFER

6m UP-SLOPE BOUNDARY BUFFER



Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

100m MIDDLE CREEK BUFFER

AREA SUITABLE FOR EFFLUENT DISPOSAL
2 BEDS - 19m x 2.4m x 0.45m

PROPOSED DWELLING

EXISTING SHED

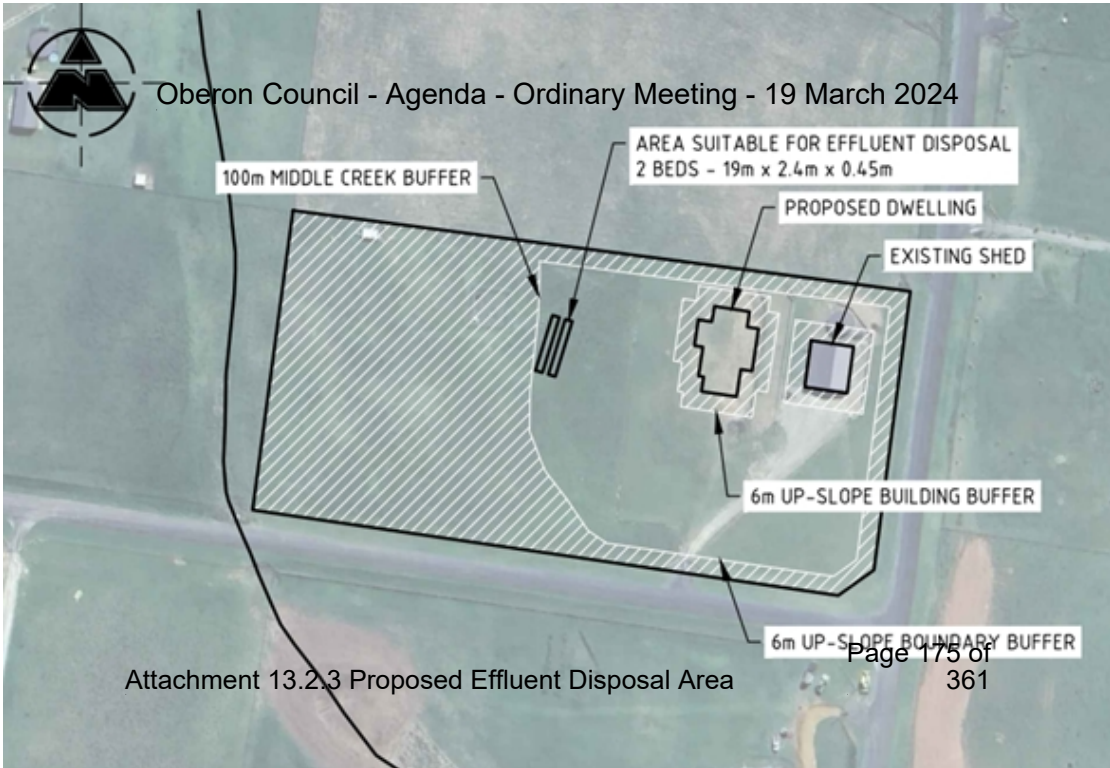
6m UP-SLOPE BUILDING BUFFER

6m UP-SLOPE BOUNDARY BUFFER

Attachment 13.2.3 Proposed Effluent Disposal Area

Page 175 of

361



13.3 Policy 2220 - Related Parties Disclosures Review

File No: Policies/Related Parties

Author: Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director), Zoe Marks (Finance Manager)

Summary

Council has undertaken a review of the Related Parties Disclosers Policy as it was overdue for renewal.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Place the revised Related Parties Disclosers Policy 2220 on public exhibition for 28 days and submissions be invited to Council during that period.
 2. If no submissions are received within the exhibition period, the policy be adopted as presented.
 3. Delegate to the General Manager to amend any minor changes proposed.
-

List of Attachments

1. 2220 Related Parties Disclosures Draft [13.3.1 - 6 pages]

Comment

Council has undertaken a review of the Related Parties Disclosers Policy as it was overdue for renewal.

1. Background

The Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) determined in AASB 124 that from 1 July 2016 related party disclosures will apply to government entities, including local governments (Councils).

2. Purpose of the Policy

The objective of this policy is to establish guidelines for an effective internal reporting system which encourages and facilitates the reporting of disclosures regarding corruption, maladministration and serious and substantial waste.

3. Objectives and Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all Key Management Personnel of Oberon Council. Including:

- the Mayor,
- Councillors,
- Administrators,
- the General Manager, and
- Directors.

4. Summary of Amendments to Policy

General refresh and ensure correct legislative references.

Financial Implications

Financial reporting and risk assessment.

Relevance to Oberon Community Strategic Plan

Theme 5: Leadership and Engagement

Action 5.2 Council has sound organisational health, with strong leadership and governance frameworks

5.2.3 Effective meeting Structures, policies and procedures

Risk Category

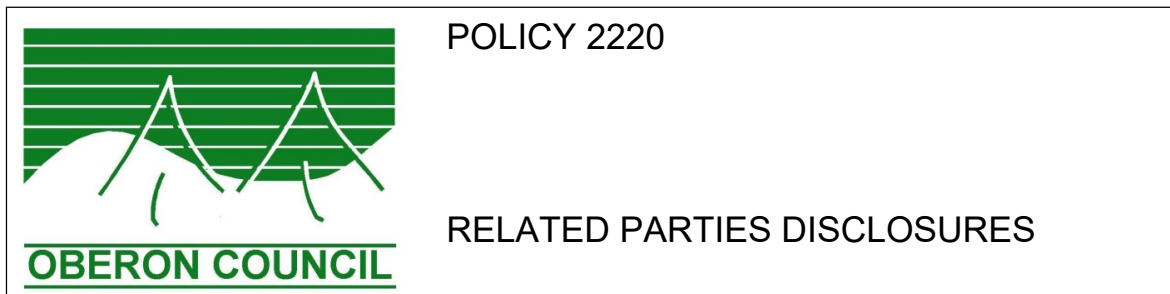
Business Continuity

Financial

Governance

Risk Severity Ranking

Minor - 32%



1. Intent of Policy

The objective of this policy is to establish guidelines for an effective internal reporting system which encourages and facilitates the reporting of disclosures in regards to corruption, maladministration and serious and substantial waste.

This policy is designed to complement normal communication channels between supervisors and staff. Staff are encouraged to continue to raise appropriate matters at any time with their supervisors, but as an alternative have the option of making a protected disclosure in accordance with this policy.

2. Scope of Policy

This policy applies to all Key Management Personnel of Oberon Council. Including:

- the Mayor,
- Councillors,
- Administrators,
- the General Manager, and
- Directors.

3. Definitions

AASB 124

Means the Australian Accounting Standards Board, Related Party Disclosures Standard.

Act

The Local Government Act 1993.

Arm's length transaction

A transaction between two related parties that is conducted as if they were unrelated, so that there is no question of conflict of interest.

Close Family Members

Close family members are people who can be expected to influence or be influenced by key management personnel and include that persons children and spouse or domestic partner; children of that persons spouse or domestic partner; and dependants of that person or that persons spouse or domestic partner.

Control

Is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of an entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

Joint Control

Is the contractually agreed sharing of control over an economic activity.

Key Management Personnel (KMP)

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, directly or indirectly. Council's KMP would include the Mayor, Councillors, General Manager, Directors and Supervisors.

KMP Compensation

Compensation includes all employee benefits (as defined in AASB 119 Employee Benefits) and include all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by the entity, or on behalf of the entity, in exchange for services rendered to the entity. They include short term employment benefits e.g. wages etc.; post employment benefits e.g. pensions; other long term benefits e.g. long service leave; and termination benefits.

Material transaction

Transactions assessed as material based on some or all of the following criteria

- Significance in terms of size
- Carried out on non-market terms
- Outside normal day to day business operations
- Disclosed to regulatory or supervisory authorities
- Reported to senior management.

Related Parties

A person or entity that is related to the entity that is preparing its financial statements i.e. a related party is a party that exhibits control or joint control, or significant influence over the reporting entity or key management personnel of the reporting entity.

Related Party Transactions

A related party transaction is a transfer of resources, services or obligations between a reporting entity and a related party, regardless of whether a price is charged.

Responsible Accounting Officer

A position of Council that has legislative responsibilities under the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

Significant influence

Is the power to participate in the financial and operating policy decisions of an entity but is not in control over those policies. Significant influence may be gained by share ownership, statute or agreement.

4. Guidelines

The Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) determined in AASB 124 that from 1 July 2016 related party disclosures will apply to government entities, including local governments (Councils).

AASB 124 provides that Council must disclose the following financial information in its financial statements for each financial year period:

- disclosure of any related party relationship;
 - must disclose in its Annual Financial Statements its relationship with any related parties or subsidiaries (where applicable), whether or not there have been transactions within the relevant reporting period;
- Key Management Personnel (KMP) Compensation Disclosures;
 - must disclose in its Annual Financial Statements details for each of the categories of KMP compensation, as stated in the definitions of this Policy, in total.

4.1 Obligation to Report

All Councillors, General Manager, Directors and Supervisors have an obligation under Council's Code of Conduct to:

- Fulfil their statutory duty, to act honestly and exercise a reasonable degree of care and diligence
- Identify and resolve situations which involve a conflict of interest or improper use of their position
- Act in a way which enhances public confidence in the system of local Government
- Report instances of corruption, maladministration and serious and substantial waste.

4.2 What disclosures are protected under the Act?

To be protected under the Act, a disclosure must show or tend to show corrupt conduct, maladministration or serious and substantial waste of public money. It must be more than a mere allegation without substantiation and must include evidence that if substantiated would amount to the alleged conduct.

To be protected the disclosure must be made voluntarily to a person or authority nominated in this policy.

4.3 What disclosures are not protected?

A disclosure is not protected under the Act if it is made by a public official in the exercise of a duty imposed by or under an Act. Protection is also not available for disclosures which:

- Are made frivolously or vexatiously,
- Primarily question the merits of government policy, or
- Are made solely or substantially with the motive of avoiding dismissal or other disciplinary action.

It is an offence to wilfully make a false or misleading statement when making a disclosure.

4.4 Disclosures to journalist or Member of Parliament

In very limited circumstances disclosures made to journalists or a Member of Parliament will be protected if:

- The person making the disclosure to a journalist or member of Parliament must have already made substantially the same disclosure through the internal reporting system or to the General Manager or an investigating authority in accordance with the Act,
- The investigating authority, council, staff or public official to whom the matter was originally referred has:
 - i. Decided not to investigate the matter, or
 - ii. Decided to investigate the matter but not completed the investigation within six months of the original disclosure, or
 - iii. Investigated the matter but not recommended any action in respect of the matter, or
 - iv. Failed to notify the person making the disclosure, within six months of the disclosure, of whether the matter is to be investigated.
- The responsible officer must have reasonable grounds for believing that the disclosure is substantially true.

5 Examples of Transactions

The following are examples of transactions that are required to be disclosed if they are transacted with a related party:

- Purchase or sale of goods
- Purchase or sale of property and other assets
- Rendering or receiving services
- Leases
- Quotations and/or tenders
- Commitments
- Settlements of liabilities on behalf of Council or by Council on behalf of the related party
- Grants and subsidy payments made to associated entities of Council
- Non-monetary transactions
- Compensation made to key management personnel and their close family members.

6 Review of Related Party Declarations

A review of KMP and their related parties will be completed prior to 5 July each year. Whereby the identified KMP will be required to complete the Related Party Declaration and return this to Council's Finance Coordinator by 31 July.

The method of identifying the close family members and associated entities of KMP will be by KMP self-assessment. KMP are responsible for keeping the Finance Coordinator updated when any changes to those related parties occur outside of those times.

Particular events, such as a change in Councillors, General Manager, Directors, or Supervisors will trigger a review of Council's related parties immediately following such an event.

Council's Finance team will be responsible for identifying Council subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures. Council's Finance staff will maintain a register of all declared and identified related parties.

7 Policy Review

This Policy shall be reviewed biennially to ensure that it meets the object of the legislation and facilitates the making of disclosures under the Act.

8 Related Legislative and Regulatory Requirements

Local Government Act 1993
Accounting Standard AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures
Accounting Standard AASB 10 Consolidated Financial Statements
Accounting Standard AASB 11 Joint Arrangements
Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (PPIPA)
Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act)
Local Government (General) Regulation 2005
Local Government Code of Accounting Practice

Approving Authority	Oberon Council
Contact	Corporate Services Director
Approval	Ordinary Meeting 19 June 2018 Report Item 13.06 Minute 16 190618 Extraordinary Meeting 25 June 2019 Report Item 07.03, Minute 05 250619 Ordinary Meeting 21 July 2020 Report 13.01, Minute 16 210720 Ordinary Meeting 18 May 2021 Report 13.01, Minute 12 180521 March 2024
Revision Date	March 2026
Issue Date to Staff	

APPENDIX 1 – Related Parties Disclosures Form



OBERON COUNCIL

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

**RELATED PARTY DECLARATION
BY KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL (KMP)**

Name of Key Management Personnel	
Position of KMP	

List details of known close family members, entities that are controlled/jointly controlled by KMP and entities that are controlled/jointly controlled by the close family members of KMP.

Name of Person or entity	Relationship

I, _____, declare that the above list includes all my close family members and the entities controlled, or jointly controlled, by myself or my close family members. I make this declaration after reading Council’s Policy 2220 which details the meaning of the words “close family members” and “entities controlled, or jointly controlled, by myself or my close family members”.

Declared at	
Signature of KMP	
Date	

The information on this form is being collected to allow Oberon Council to process your application and/or carry out its statutory obligations. All information collected will be held by Council and will only be used for the purpose for which it was collected. An individual may view their personal information and may correct any errors.

Received by Finance:

13.4 Central Tablelands Weeds Authority Request for Additional Funds

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: David Basil (Technical Services Manager), Dani Bradshaw (Change Management Analyst)

Summary

Council has received a request for additional funding from the Central Tablelands Weeds Authority to complete the roadside weed spraying for areas not yet treated for section 1 of the program.

Total roadside within section 1 is equal to 335km. The annual service fee to treat section 1 is \$53,160 and this funding has been fully expended on 112km of roadside spraying. The remainder of section 1 is approximately 223km and Central Tablelands Weeds Authority has estimated a further \$105,844.72 funding is required to complete this program.

While this estimate has been provided, Central Tablelands Weeds Authority have also stated that due to other variables including the level of infestations, type of infestation and roadside access, this funding may be insufficient.

Recommendation:

That Council

1. Request for detailed project forecasts and risk mitigation information in relation to the delivery of Roadside Weed Control program.
 2. Do not commit additional funding until further review and information has been provided.
-

List of Attachments

Nil

Comment

A Roadside Weed Control Service Agreement commenced on the 23 August 2023 between Central Tablelands Weed Authority (Legal Entity Upper Macquarie Council Council) and Oberon Council and other participating councils. This agreement was for Upper Macquarie County Council (UMCC) to implement a 3-year rotation program where each of the Councils are divided into 3 sectors, with each sector having a similar road length and will:

- (i) Treat all Roads within a sector annually for each constituent Council; and
- (ii) Target regional Priority Weeds and where resources are available, also weeds of local community concern; and
- (iii) Comply with the County Council Pesticide Use Plan and Central Tablelands Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans.

Council paid a base contribution to UMCC Weed Biosecurity functions for financial year 2023/2024 of \$117,552.12 as well as an annual service fee of \$53,160 for the treatment of section 1 of the roadside weed spraying program. Under section 5 (f) of the Roadside Weed Control Service Agreement if all roads are not treated in a sector due to the service fee for a Council being expended UMCC will request additional funds to complete the sector. The payment of additional funds is at the discretion of the constituent Council.

Upon the receipt of CTWA request for additional funding, staff requested further information about the project status. In response CTWA provided a briefing document indicating only 112km of roads have been treated for the 2023/2024 and the service fee of \$53,160 has been expended. CTWA indicated a further 223km is yet to be completed and best cost estimate for the work totalled \$105,844.72, although this is subject to a variety of factors.

Factors that affect the cost per km of each individual roadside include the level of infestations, type of infestations, access to roadside, roadside spraying frequency and climatic impacts of good growth seasons. These factors could result in the estimated funds being insufficient to complete the remaining roads for this year's program.

While it is understood CTWA face several variables in delivering this service for Council, the current situation contains a variety of unknowns regarding service delivery and financial risk. Before Council can make any further financial contributions, more detail should be provided by UMCC to mitigate ongoing risk. This could include contractor management policies, cost control initiatives and more detailed estimates.

Financial Implications

Council 23/24FY budget is tracking well with current forecasts indicating a profit of \$180,000. This has been carefully managed through cost control, grant cost shifting and prudent management. This surplus has been earmarked to reduce current loans on community infrastructure such as the Oberon Community Hub. Should Council need to provide additional funds for this program, the loan repayments and interest will impact Council operations going forward.

Relevance to Oberon Community Strategic Plan

Theme 3: Caring for the Environment

Action 3.2 Work with other agencies to protect fauna and biodiversity

3.2.4 Weed and pest control management

Risk Category

Financial

Environment

Risk Severity Ranking

Major - 60%

13.5 Regional Emergency Roads Repair Fund Works Program

File No: Governance/Meetings/Grants

Author: David Basil (Technical Services Manager)

Summary

Council's \$2,492,009 Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund allocation requires a detailed works plan to be submitted by 30 April 2024. Approval is sought for proposed funding programme categories.

A detailed work plan will then be completed based on risk and criticality from Council's current strategic documents, the recent road condition assessments undertaken in late 2023 and yet to be approved funding application of roads for AGRN 1034 2022 natural disaster claim with Transport for NSW.

Recommendation:

That Council approve the proposed funding categories for the Regional Emergency Road Repair Funding of \$2.492m.

List of Attachments

1. RERRF Reporting Template - Work Plan [**13.5.1** - 3 pages]

Comment

The Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund (RERRF) is a \$670 million initiative which provides funding, to assist local councils across regional NSW with urgent road repairs, priority corrective maintenance and repair of potholes on their Local and Regional Roads.

Funding allocations were provided based on kilometres of road network managed in the Local Government Area. Oberon Council received total funding of \$4,270,603 across two payments. The first funding payment was for \$1,778,594 made under the original Regional and Local Roads Repair Program (RLRRP). The RLRRP had an initial works completion date of 29 February 2024. Therefore, the majority of works under this program have been completed in the 2023/2024 financial year.

However, in October 2023 Transport for NSW (TfNSW) combined the RLRRP with the RERRF and Oberon Council received a further fund allocation of \$2,492,009 with the works completion date for both funding payments extended to 31 October 2027.

Funding requirements for the grant require Council to provide a detailed working plan by 30 April 2024. The template for the detailed works program is attached. Due to the extended delivery time for roads works TfNSW have acknowledged that variations to the works plan are expected. Thus, the variation process is anticipated to be simplified and readily adjustable if urgent or conflicting priority works arise.

During the IP&R processes Council endorsed funding groupings for specific road work activities with operational staff given the authority to apply this funding to specific roads as per maintenance and priority plans. A similar approach is recommended for the allocation of the \$2.492m RERRF grant.

Council has completed a condition assessment of the road network to identify flood damaged roads and will be submitting a natural disaster claim to TfNSW in March 2024. This report is seeking

direction from Council on how this funding can be allocated by road work activity according funding guidelines below:

Eligible works under the program	Ineligible works under the program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corrective Maintenance (scope outlined below) • Renewals (scope outlined below) • Upgrades (scope outlined below) <p>Corrective Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patching • Heavy Patching • Smoothing or reshaping (unsealed roads) • Drainage and Culverts • Bridge maintenance <p>Renewal works that are covered Rehabilitation works including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying a partial asphalt overlay on top of the deteriorated road surface; • Improving the existing pavement with the addition of new material; or • Removal of the old pavement and replacement with new pavement. • Resealing/ resurfacing • Gravel resheeting <p>Upgrade works that are covered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sealing shoulders: • Widening shoulder/ carriageway <p>Timing of works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works underway on or after 1 January 2023 • All works are to be completed and open to traffic by 31 October 2027. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewal works (scope outlined below) • Upgrade works (scope outlined below) • Replacement or strengthening of bridges <p>Renewal works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culverts and drainage replacements <p>Upgrade works Works creating new assets or significantly enhancing the asset in place including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • carriageway duplication, • drainage system upgrades, • sealing gravel roads, • building kerb and gutter, and footpaths.

Based on the roads condition assessment and the guidelines above, the following recommendations for funding allocations is proposed:

Financial Year 2023/2024

\$100,000 Gravel Resheeting

Financial Year 2024/2025

\$200,000 Reseals

\$100,000 Potholing

\$696,004 Renewal/Corrective Works (including rehabilitation, heavy patching, and drainage)

\$150,000 Gravel Resheeting

Financial Year 2025/2026

\$200,000 Reseals

\$100,000 Potholing

\$696,004 Renewal/Corrective Works (including rehabilitation, heavy patching, and drainage)

\$150,000 Gravel Resheeting

Financial Year 2026/2027

\$100,000 Potholing

At the February meeting it was resolved to discuss several projects under the RERRF Funding. Below is a snapshot of eligible and ineligible projects under the guidelines.

Under the guidelines of the RERRF the projects have the following status:

1. Intersections at Abercrombie Road and Shooters Hill Road

The proposed works for this project included activities that are not eligible under this program, including guard rails, realignment of intersection and tree trimming. Therefore, staff are proposing to address the pavement failure for an estimated cost of \$80,000 under the RERRF Renewal/Corrective Works category in Financial Year 2024/2025. The remainder of this project will be considered in future funding allocations.

2. Rectification of a section of pavement on Dog Rocks Road

Pavement renewal works are required for 2.5km of road at 17.5km from Black Springs. The cost to renew this section is \$1,050,000 and is eligible for RERRF funding.

There is also a need for upgrade works with the installation of guardrail for 1.2km of road at 20 km from Black springs. The cost to upgrade this section is \$400,000 and is ineligible for RERRF funding.

3. Intersection at Abercrombie Road and Sloggetts Road

Under the RERRF guidelines, a road realignment is considered as significantly enhancing an asset and is not eligible. This project will need to be considered as part of future funding opportunities.

Upon the allocation of funding groupings staff will complete the detailed works plan based on Council's strategic documents, identified priority roads from the condition assessment report and the outcome of the natural disaster claim with TfNSW.

Financial Implications

As outlined above.

Relevance to Oberon Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Infrastructure and Services

Action 4.1 Provide a program to improve local roads and work with partners on state road infrastructure

4.1.1 Maintenance program for roads, bridges, drains and walkways in the Oberon LGA

4.1.5 Grant funding opportunities for road works

Risk Category

Assets and Infrastructure

Risk Severity Ranking

Minor - 32%

Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund – Detailed Work Plan	
Council Name:	Oberon Council
<p>To be submitted to Transport for NSW Representative</p> <p>Councils are to complete the following template which outlines the planned work activities and outputs over the next 36 months as part of the Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund. Council are to submit the plan by 30 April 2024 as per clause 10 (a) (iii) of the funding deed.</p> <p>Councils are to provide a breakdown of the planned work activities across the Regional and Local road network including information on the type of activities delivered. Council's program work plan must only be for eligible works as per Fund Guidelines.</p> <p>Transport for NSW approval of the work plan is required to inform TfNSW on how the council plan to spend the funds</p>	

Summary of Planned Work Activities and Output			
	Regional Roads	Local Roads	Total
Area of proposed work activities (m ²) (<i>e.g. Council covered a 20km stretch of road and conducted 100 m² of heavy patching</i>)			
Program of works expenditure (\$)			
Associated administration and/or management costs up to 2% (\$)			
Other comments (provide explanation of the type of works you are planning to deliver using this funding i.e. heavy patching, renewal works)			

Detailed Planned Work Activities and Output			
Road or/Suburb Name	Work Activity Type	Quantity and Unit of Measure (eg. Each, m ² , km)	Estimated Cost (\$)
Financial Year 2023/24			
Financial Year 2024/25			
Financial Year 2025/26			

Financial Year 2026/27			
Financial Year 2027/28 - RERRF completion date: 31 October 2027			

END OF REPORT

13.6 Sponsorship Request Oberon Charity Golf Day

File No: Corporate Services\Sponsorship

Author: Gary Wallace (General Manager), Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director)

Summary

Council has received a sponsorship request from Can Assist for the hosting of the Oberon Charity Golf Day.

Recommendation:

That:

- 1 Council provide \$2,000 in sponsorship to support the Can Assist Oberon Charity Golf Day.
 - 2 Place the funding allocation on public exhibition for 28 days.
-

List of Attachments

1. Re_ Grant or donation [**13.6.1** - 4 pages]

Comment

Council has been contacted by the event committee who are organising an Oberon Charity Golf Day on behalf of Can Assist. It is understood this is a new event concept for the charity, taking advantage of increased interest in golf day events. The fundraising target is \$8,000 which has been developed based on a proposed Council contribution, entry fees and other sponsorships. All funds will go to Can Assist to support their ongoing work and activities in the community.

The email correspondence with organisers is attached for reference. Further clarification with the organisers indicates sponsorship would include Council logo on marketing collateral and event day branding opportunities.

Should Council support the recommendation the funds would come from the Section 356 donations funds. For the FY 23/24 Council allocated \$90,000 to the program and has so far allocated \$86,641 to a variety of projects throughout the year.

Financial Implications

Should Council wish to draw funding from the remaining Section 356 donation funds (\$3,359) the support would be subject to an exhibition period of 28 days.

Relevance to Oberon Community Strategic Plan

Theme 5: Leadership and Engagement

Action 5.1 Partner with local communities to create an ongoing culture of engagement to aid Council decision making

5.1.2 Opportunities for communities in all parts of the LGA area to participate in Civic and community events

5.1.3 Opportunity for individuals to participate and volunteer in activities

Risk Category

Financial

Risk Severity Ranking

Insignificant - 20%

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

From: JESSE GRAHAM
Sent: Thu, 29 Feb 2024 02:32:14 +0000
To: Mathew Webb
Subject: Re: Grant or donation

You don't often get email from jjgschillngrill@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt
Thank you for getting back to me so soon
I was thinking \$2,000
Thank you again and kind regards
On behalf of myself
And can assist

Sent from my iPhone

On 29 Feb 2024, at 1:07 pm, Mathew Webb <Mathew.Webb@oberon.nsw.gov.au> wrote:

Hi Jesse,

Thanks for the email.
This type of request would need to go to the next Council meeting for consideration.

Can you give me an idea of the amount you are looking for in sponsorship?

Cheers
Mat

From: JESSE GRAHAM <jjgschillngrill@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 2:34 PM
To: Mathew Webb <Mathew.Webb@oberon.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Grant or donation

You don't often get email from jjgschillngrill@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mathew

It's Jesse Graham

We are holding a can assist charity golf day on the 28th April 2024

And would love if Oberon Council could give us a grant or donate to this wonderful event

Kind regards Jesse Graham



CHARITY GOI

ORG.

JESSE GRAHAM, RIC

4 PERSON

SHOTG

Sent from my iPhone

13.7 Close Out Report - The Reef Amenities

File No: Land Use & Planning/Crown Land

Author: Damian O'Shannassy (Planning and Development Director)

Summary

This is a project close out report for the new Reef Amenities building at The Reef Reserve, Oberon NSW 2787.

Recommendation:

That Council note the report and contribution required to complete the project from the Building Maintenance Fund.

List of Attachments

1. 2206 Final Report. Mar 24 [13.7.1 - 2 pages]

Comment

Council engaged Central West Project Managers to manage the project on behalf of Council.

Construction

- The Project was delivered in three components:
 - Delivery of the building structure and sheeting (Bathurst Sheds and then Best Sheds)
 - Erection of the building including sheeting (Exceptional Builds Carpentry and Construction)
 - Fit out and services installation (Shed Developments)
- Bathurst Sheds (Builtrite Shed Company Pty Ltd) went into Liquidation in March 2023, one day after the deposit amount was paid. Council is pursuing any opportunity to recoup the funds through the liquidator. This caused a delay in the project.
- To facilitate the continuation of the project Council resolved to allocate \$21,169.10 from Section 7.11 funds. Due to the above a new price for the supply of the building was obtained from Best Sheds, who delivered the building to the Council yard on 14 August 2023. Exceptional Builds erected the building in August 2023 and Shed Developments then fitted out the spaces and installed and commissioned the services.

The facility was handed over to Council on 30 November 2023.

Scope adjustments

Initial budgets were established for this project approximately two years prior to construction, which impacted on costs due to escalation.

A number of scope adjustments were required, which led to variations from the fit out contractor and impacted the final cost by \$7,727.

These variations were introduced as an upgrade or to assist in effective maintenance.

- Slight increase in the footprint of the building
 - High water indicator
 - Supply and install additional bollards
-

- Supply and install gas cage
- Stortz Coupling
- Increased Battery Capacity

Financial Implications

The project is over budget by \$7,727.



In order to deliver on the project building maintenance funds were used to cover the overspend outlined in the variations above.

Further treatment of those funds will be addresses through the upcoming quarterly review process.

Relevance to Oberon Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Infrastructure and Services

Action 4.2 Provide accessible, safe and well maintained community spaces and facilities

4.2.6 Provide, maintain and improve public toilets

4.2.10 Assets maintenance and improvement program for parks and open spaces infrastructure

Risk Category

Environment

Assets and Infrastructure

Risk Severity Ranking

Minor - 32%



Reef Amenities Project Close Out Report Completion November 2023

Project: Reef Amenities
Reporting Date: Project Completion
Current Key Activities
Construction Contractor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project was delivered in 3 components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delivery of the building structure and sheeting (Bathurst Sheds and then Best Sheds) ○ Erection of the building including sheeting (Exceptional Builds Carpentry and Construction) ○ Fit out and services installation (Shed Developments) • Bathurst Sheds (Builrite Shed Company Pty Ltd) went into Liquidation in March 2023, one day after the deposit amount was paid. Council is persuing any oppportunity to recoup the funds through the liquidator. This caused a delay in the project • Due to the above a new price for the supply of the building was obtained from Best Sheds, who delivered the building to the Council yard on 14 August 2023. • Exceptional Builds erected the building in August 2023 and Shed Developments then fitted out the spaces and installed and commissioned the services. • The facility was handed over to Council on 30 November 2023.
Scope Adjustments
Initial budgets were established for this project approximately 2 years prior to construction, which impacted on costs due to escalation.
A number of scope adjustments were required, which led to variations from the fit out contractor and impacted the final cost by \$7,727. These variations were introduced as an upgrade or to assist in effective maintenance.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slight increase in the footprint of the building • High water indicator • Supply and install additional bollards • Supply and install gas cage • Stortz Coupling • Increased Battery Capacity
Post Completion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of incomplete items were identified at the completion inspection, which were subsequently completed. • There has been an ongoing issue regarding the water pump, which has been rectified by the contractor.



Reef Amenities Project Close Out Report Completion November 2023

Project: Reef Amenities
Reporting Date: Project Completion
Communications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The facility was available for the annual Red Fin Roundup, with good feedback on the quality and functionality/
Authorities
The final OC has been issued by Oberon Council.

Budget Summary		
	Total	Comments
Original Budget	\$200,000	
S7.11 Contributions for Bathurst Sheds Debt	\$21,169	Funds for Bathurst Sheds Liquidation
Revised Budget	\$221,169	
Approved Completion Value	\$228,896	Consultants, Contractor
Project Cost Variance (Over Run)	\$7,727	

13.8	Yarning Circle MOU
File No:	CSD/LALC
Author:	Gary Wallace (General Manager)

Summary

Pejar Local Aboriginal Lands Council have provided an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in relation to the Yarning Circle for Council consideration and signing after the initial MOU was presented to Council in February. The amended document has been assisted by Councillor McKibbin in its preparation and has now been returned to Council with minor changes.

Recommendation:

That Council endorse the revised MOU relating to the Yarning Circle project within the Common as presented.

List of Attachments

1. MOU Yarning Circle Oberon Common march 2024 [13.8.1 - 7 pages]

Comment

The Yarning Circle project has previously been supported by Council and grant funding has now been officially approved by the National Indigenous Australia Agency (NIAA). This funding has been provided to Pejar Local Aboriginal Lands Council for progression and delivery of the Yarning Circle project.

At the February Ordinary Meeting Council resolved to defer the draft MOU and seek additions to the document that would clarify some of the confusion in the original document.

The MOU aims to formalise the arrangement between Council and Pejar, outlining ongoing roles relating to maintenance and ownership. This is an important component of the development considering the cultural and community attributes of the project. It is considered that the new document addresses these requirements for both Pejar and Council.

The MOU has been rewritten with the support of Councillor McKibbin and was presented to Pejar in February.

Pejar has now responded to the revised draft and with minor changes (provided in red) seeks Council endorsement of the MOU.

It is considered that the revised draft MOU provides clarity for all parties in relation to the project and can be considered for endorsement.

Financial Implications

Nil

Relevance to Oberon Community Strategic Plan

Theme 1: Community Well Being

Action 1.3 Meet the health, education and social service needs of the community

1.3.1 Support community health initiatives

1.3.21 Youth services and programs

Risk Category

Environment

Assets and Infrastructure

Risk Severity Ranking

Insignificant - 20%

THIS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made on the day of February 2024

BETWEEN

Oberon Council, ABN 13 632 416 632, of 137-139 Oberon Street, OBERON NSW 2787 (Council)

and

Pejar Local Aboriginal Lands Council, of 80 Combermere Street, Goulburn NSW 2580 (Pejar)

WHEREAS

- A. Council has, after representations from the local Aboriginal community, determined to set aside a section of the Oberon Common for the establishment of an Aboriginal Yarning circle.
- B. The Local Aboriginal community wishes to establish a Yarning Circle in the Common.
- C. Pejar, as the representative Aboriginal land council for the Oberon area, is seeking to facilitate the establishment of the Yarning Circle.
- D. The Parties wish to ensure that the Yarning Circle is available for use by all members of the community and for use by the Aboriginal members of the community for significant events and celebrations. These events and celebrations may include educational, school activities plus community activities and celebrations (e.g. NAIDOC, Sorry Day, Reconciliation Week)

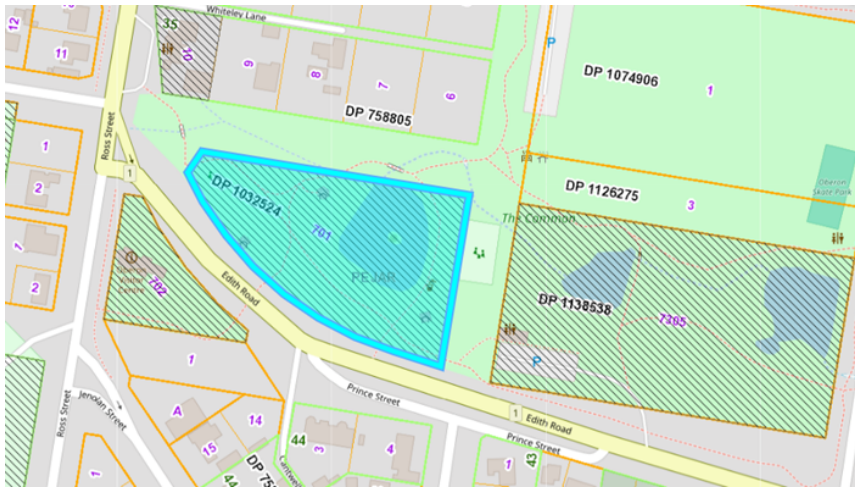
MOU CONCEPTS

1 Interpretation

1.1 The following terms shall have the following meaning in this MOU:

- a) “Common” means the parkland area in Oberon township owned by Oberon Council bordered by Edith Road, Dudley Street and Curtis Street.

This should be listed correctly in the MoU. Snip below of area. (Lot 701 DP 1032524 parcel of Crown Land Reserve – reserve purpose of Public Recreation and gazette 7 March 1975 - with Oberon Council as the Crown Land Manager – snip below first snip)



- a) “Designated Location” means the location for the Yarning Circle identified in the plan of the Oberon Common at Attachment A (the location should be marked clearly on a map not just the design layout, have put an example in Attachment A)
- b) “Party” means on or other of Council or Pejar
- c) “Parties” means collectively Council and Pejar.
- d) “Yarning Circle” means the design concept identified in the photographs at Attachment B.
- e) “Yarning Circle Materials“ means the construction materials for the creation of the Yarning Circle namely sandstone blocks and local granite gravel/sand base.

2 Status of this MOU.

- 2.1 This MOU does not nor is it intended to create any legally binding obligations on the Parties. The MOU sets out a framework under which the Parties should act. Any action taken or not taken by any Party in reliance on the provisions of this MOU shall be at that Party’s risk.

3 Understanding

- 3.1 The Parties acknowledge that:
 - a) ownership and title of the land which constitutes the Common and that section of the Common on which the Yarning Circle is to be established is and will continue to be owned by Oberon Council (needs correcting to show it is Crown Land Managed by Oberon Council – this is not council land – you will need to check with Crown that you can enter into an MOU under the CLM Act otherwise may need a Licence) and no lease or licence is granted to Pejar;
 - b) Pejar will be responsible for all construction works at the Designated Location and for the engagement of a landscaper with experience in this style of construction:
 - c) the sandstone seating blocks will have local totems and symbols with

explanatory dialogue to assist with education and will also work as an informative feature regarding local culture; and

- d) ownership of the sandstone seating blocks creating the Yarning Circle will remain with Pejar but the other materials including the gravel/sand for use on the base will attach to the land and become the property of the Council.
- 3.2 Oberon Council's intention is to allow the Yarning Circle to be established and to remain in the Designated Location. If in future Oberon Council determines that the Yarning Circle requires relocating, then Oberon Council will enter into discussions with Pejar with the objective of reaching a mutually satisfactory solution.
- 3.3 In the event of a relocation of the Yarning Circle under Clause 3.2 above or Pejar determines that the Yarning Circle is no longer appropriate for the local Aboriginal requirements then the Parties will mutually determine what is to occur with the assets of the Yarning Circle that are not affixed to the land being principally the large sandstone blocks, however these are and will remain assets of the Pejar LALC who will have the final say.

4 Maintenance of the Yarning Circle

- 4.1 It is intended that Council will undertake its normal maintenance of the Common and this will include the Yarning Circle and its surrounds.
- 4.2 Any specific maintenance to the Pejar assets including the large sandstone seating blocks, which will have local totems and symbols with explanatory dialogue, will be undertaken by Pejar as the custodian of these assets for the local Aboriginal people. What is the specific maintenance that we need to carry out? Please list

5 Insurance

- 5.1 Council has a Public Liability Insurance policy that covers it for any negligent acts or omissions that may cause injury, death or damage. This policy extends to the Common. The policy is maintained for \$20 million per claim and \$20 million in the aggregate.

6 Variation to this MOU

- 6.1 It is the intention of the Parties that any amendment or variation to this MOU will be in writing and mutually agreed by the Parties.

7 Nominated Contacts

- 7.1 The Parties representatives for administering this MOU as at the date this MOU is signed are listed below in Clause 7.2. The representatives may change over time. A Party should update any changes by notifying the other Party in writing.

7.2 Council

Gary Wallace

General Manager
0263298151
Gary.wallace@oberon.nsw.gov.au

Pejar
Delise Freeman
Chief executive Officer
0248223552
Pejar1@bigpond.com.au

The parties have executed this MOU on the day and year first above written.

SIGNED)
For Oberon Council)
by Gary Wallace)
General Manager)
in the presence of:)

.....
.....

SIGNED)
for Pejar Local)
Aboriginal Lands Council)
By Delise Freeman)
Chief executive officer)
In the presence of:)

.....
.....

Attachment A

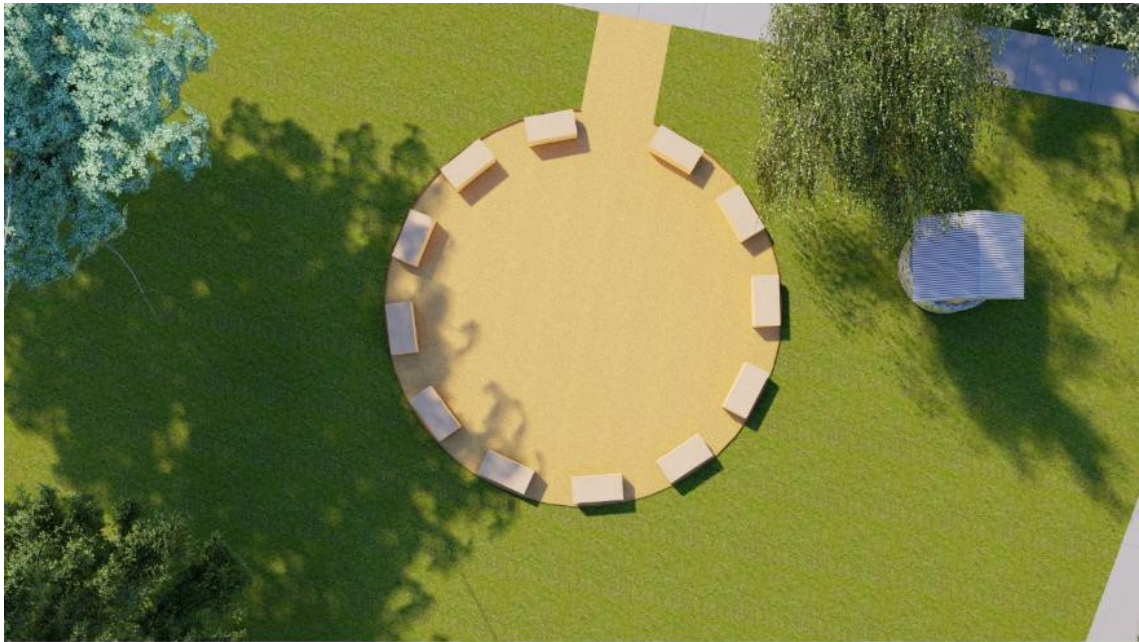
Plan of Common with Designated Location for Yarning Circle



There should also be a map showing location within the reserve of Yarning Circle

Attachment B
Oberon Common Yarning Circle Concepts





13.9 November Council Meeting - Proposed Reschedule

File No: Council meetings/Governance

Author: Gary Wallace (General Manager)

Summary

This report seeks Councils support for a one off change to the November Ordinary Council Meeting. It is considered necessary to allow for the Mayor and General Manager (Delegates of LGNSW) to attend the Annual Conference in Tamworth from 17-19 November 2024.

Recommendation:

That Council endorse proposed changes to the November 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting from the third Tuesday in November (19th) to the second Tuesday being November 12 to allow for attendance to the Local Government NSW Annual Conference.

List of Attachments

Nil

Comment

On 14 September of 2024 the NSW Local Government Elections will be held. In advice received from the NSW Electoral Office (EO) it has been indicated that the finalisation of the poles will occur in either the last week in September or first week in October.

Under the Local Government Regulations Councils must hold their first general Ordinary Meeting within 21 days of Candidate selection. This means that there will be limited time for Councillor induction prior to the first Council meeting on 15 October.

It is considered that the first meeting of the new Council in October will deal with mainly procedural matters with a formal induction process occurring in late October. This will however include Councils draft financial statements that are legislated to be endorsed in draft form prior to the end of October.

Given the above and in an effort to avoid substantial delays in other matters it is proposed to move the 19 November 2024 Ordinary Meeting to 12 November 2024. This will allow for standard business decisions to be considered and debated by the new Council after Induction Training has taken place and will also accommodate attendance of the Mayor and General Manager to the Local Government NSW Annual Conference that this year will be held in Tamworth.

Financial Implications

Nil

Relevance to Oberon Community Strategic Plan

Theme 5: Leadership and Engagement

Action 5.2 Council has sound organisational health, with strong leadership and governance frameworks

5.2.1 Enable Elected Members to better represent community

5.2.3 Effective meeting Structures, policies and procedures

Risk Category

Governance

Risk Severity Ranking

Insignificant - 20%

13.10 Grants Update and Contribution

File No: CSD/Grants

Author: Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director), Toni Dwyer (Grants Co-ordinator)

Summary

This report provides a summary of grant activities and opportunities for Council consideration in relation to an application under the Community Energy Upgrades Fund Round 1.

That Council:

1. Commit up to \$153,000 as a co-contribution from the Water Fund to support the development and application under the Community Energy Upgrades Fund.
 2. Note other grant updates and activities have been included in this report.
-

List of Attachments

1. Oberon Council Renewable Energy Action Plan - Final [13.10.1 - 97 pages]

Comment

Australian Government, Department of Climate Change, Energy the Environment and Water – Community Energy Upgrades Fund Round 1

As advised last month, applications are open for the Community Energy Upgrades Fund. The program will co-fund energy efficiency and electrification upgrades for local governments to deliver reduced energy bills and emissions from local government owned and/or operated facilities. The minimum grant is \$25,000 and the maximum is \$2,500,000. Applicants are required to contribute at least 50% cash. Applications for Round 1 close 30 April 2024.

As per prior reports a joint Council application was considered through Central NSW Joint Organisation. After further review this application is solely for Swimming Pools and is heavily based on gas boiler conversion. Consequently, it is proposed that Council pursue an individual application based on the information included in the Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP). The plans highlight facilities that are more suitable and have higher potential for savings. Also noting there is already a current grant in place for solar PV systems and Led lighting at Oberon Pool/Gym Complex and Community Hub under the Stronger Country Community Program

Based on preliminary investigations and discussions with the grant authority it would seem Council has an opportunity develop an application based around the building proposals highlighted in the REAP. This is particularly relevant for Council facilities with 24-hour operations, such as the Water Treatment Plant where investments can be recouped in the short to medium term via a solar and storage option. A copy of the REAP is attached for reference.

Noting the technical expertise required to compile a quality application it is recommended that Council engage a renewal energy consultant to assist in the development of the application. This application will initially focus on the Water Treatment Plant but include workings for a secondary application that can include other buildings included in the REAP. This would allow Council to be grant ready for future rounds of this grant program. Costs of this type of consultant are estimated at \$21,000.

To proceed with the initial application for the Water Treatment Plant Council would be required to commit to a 50% co-contribution. The estimates for a 67.3kW ground-mounted and 31.5KW roof-mounted solar PV system with a 150kWh battery storage are \$264,000. Based on this and the consultant costs the following commitment would be required from the Water Fund.

1. Grant Consultant - \$21,000
2. Water Treatment Plant – up to \$132,000 (50 % co-contribution)

If Council is not successful in the initial round other buildings can be included in future applications. To support other buildings Council may wish to consider the creation of a Renewal Energy Internal restriction that can be utilized to fund further renewable transition projects through yearly allocations. Staff are currently undertaking a review of the internal restrictions and will be presenting some recommendations for movements at the next Extraordinary Council Meeting – Finance Committee.

OTHER - GRANT FUNDING NOTIFICATIONS/OPPORTUNITIES

a. NSW Government, Transport for NSW – Active Transport to School Program Announcement

In the February Grant Report, it was advised that an announcement made by NSW Government on 29 January 2024 of a program to fund small projects in walking, scooting and bike riding that make it easier and safer for kids to travel to school. It has now been clarified by Transport NSW that this announcement referred to the Get NSW Active Program that closed in December. Council will recall a recent grant application still pending, titled “My kids can walk or ride to school! - Improving Safety Dart Street School Precinct. Consequently, no further action is required to address this announcement.

b. Australian Government, Pay Our Way Grant Program

The Australian Government is providing \$200 million for the Play Our Way program that will run over 3 years from 2024 to 2027. It is anticipated the grant will open mid-March 2024. The grant opportunity aims to address barriers some women and girls face when participating in sport and physical activity by delivering quality facilities and sport participation experiences. Stream 1 of this grant offers single or multi-year funding to support new and upgraded sport facilities, playing areas and spaces, specifically for women girls. It is anticipated that the maximum will be \$2 million. Stream 2 offers single year funding of between \$50,000 and \$1 million, with projects able to be delivered over multiple years, to support sustainable and enduring sport participation programs and/or new or upgraded equipment, specifically for women and girls. Staff are currently assessing and compiling data with the intention to put forward an application for the development of Hockey facilities at the Oberon Multisport complex.

c. Australian and NSW Government Road Safety Program 2023/2024- 2025/26

The Road Safety Program 2023/24 -2025/26 launched in early 2024 provides. \$91.8 million of funding to councils across NSW. The Program seeks to improve road safety by minimizing the occurrence of severe injuries and fatalities, with a focus on vulnerable road users like pedestrians and cyclists. It targets both urban areas and rural high-speed roads, aiming to reduce off-road and head-on collisions. This Program contains four sub-programs:

1. School zone Infrastructure
2. Heavy Vehicle Rest Area – State roads only
3. Walking and Cycling Infrastructure
4. Pedestrian Protection

Applications opened on 4 March 2024 and close at midnight 10 May 2024. One application per project is needed and multiple applications can be made. Applications are assessed proportionally equal on four factors, road safety, economic benefits, construction readiness and risk and evidence of an improvement of risk rating.

GRANT APPLICATIONS AND VARIATION REQUESTS UPDATE

d. NSW Government, Transport for NSW – Open Streets Program

The Open Streets Program is a \$4.5 million non-competitive grant program open to all councils across NSW to support the temporary closure of streets for placemaking activities for people by January 2025. An application has been submitted for \$9,000 to cover the cost of closing Oberon Street for the Oberon End of Year Spectacular in December 2024.

e. Australian Government, NAIDOC 2024 Local Grants

An application was submitted for the 2024 NAIDOC 2024 Grant for \$3,000. This application was for a workshop and indigenous Art Exhibition. A further application was submitted for the NAIDOC Week 2024 Grant for \$10,000. This application was for a Cultural Burning Workshop and NAIDOC Family Day. NAIDOC Week is held across Australia from 7-14 July 2024 NAIDOC Week and encourages everyone to celebrate and recognize the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This year's theme is, Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud & Proud.

f. Heart Foundation Active Australia Innovation Challenge

An application for \$50,000 was submitted for the Heart Foundation's Active Australia Challenge. Applications closed on 1 March 2024. This grant was for new innovative projects that get more people moving. Oberon Council applied for a project entitled "Konquer Kanangra" to encourage physical activity in the Oberon Community. This would involve offering a 10-week training program of fitness at the Fitness Centre culminating in a new annual event on 9th November 2024 marketed as "Konquer Kanangra". "Konquer Kanangra" Run/Walk or KK would inaugurally be a Walk/Run within the Kanangra-Boyd National Park, situated in the Oberon Local Government area. This program has the aim of improving the physical and mental health of the Oberon community, encouraging people to join Oberon Council Fitness Centre and the development of a new event for the Outdoor Festival. If Council's application is shortlisted a 5-minute pitch for final judging will be required.

GRANT PROGRESS TABLE

Grant Progress Table- March 2024				
Submitted	Details/Description of Project	Grant Program	Grant Amount	Status
15 Jan 2024	Sewage Treatment Plant	Growing Regions Program (Federal Grant)	\$3,000,000	Pending – Advice expected Feb-Mar.
29 Sep 2023	Oberon Council Local Housing Strategy	Regional Housing Strategic Planning Fund	\$100,000	Unsuccessful
15 November 2023	Black Springs Hall Seating	2023-24 Crown Reserves Improvement Fund	\$16,665	Pending – Advice expected May 2024
4 December 2023	Shared path extension to Rutters Ridge, Oberon Hills Estate	Get NSW Active 2024-25, NSW	\$370,260	Pending – Advice expected April 2024

		Department of Transport		
13 December 2023	My kids can walk or ride to school! - Improving Safety Dart Street School Precinct.	Get NSW Active 2024-25, NSW Department of Transport	\$50,300	Pending – Advice expected April 2024
12 March 2024	Workshop and indigenous Art Exhibition	2024 NAIDOC Grants	\$3,000	Pending
22 February 2024	Cultural burning workshop and NAIDOC Family Day	NAIDOC Week 2024	\$10,000	Pending
1 March 2024	“Konquer Kanangra” event and training program.	Heart Foundation Active Innovation Challenge	\$50,000	Pending – Short-listing advice 3-5 April. Final Pitch 29 Apr – 1 May, Winners Advised 6 May
6 March 2024	Assistance in costs associated with closing a road for the Oberon End of Year Spectacular Festival.	NSW Transport for NSW Open Streets Program	\$9,000	Pending



Oberon Council

Renewable Energy Action Plan

Final Report

05 July 2021





Contents

GLOSSARY OF CLIMATE CHANGE & PROJECT ABBREVIATIONS 5

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 7

1.1 STRATEGY AND TARGETS 7

1.2 REGIONAL INITIATIVES 7

1.3 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND DRIVERS 8

1.4 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS SUMMARY – EFFICIENCY & SOLAR 9

1.5 COUNCIL’S 2019/20 ENERGY USE AND CARBON FOOTPRINT 13

1.6 RENEWABLE ENERGY ACTION PLAN FOR OBERON COUNCIL 13

 1.6.1 Short and medium-term action plan 14

 1.6.2 Long term action plan 16

 1.6.3 Possible future mid-scale and community projects 18

2 APPROACH AND SCOPE OF WORK 20

3 GLOBAL CONTEXT FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND TARGETS 22

3.1 THE NEED TO REACH ‘NET-ZERO’ GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS 22

3.2 INTERNATIONAL DRIVERS FOR CLIMATE ACTION 23

4 NATIONAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT ACTION 25

4.1 NATIONAL TARGETS 25

4.2 NSW STATE TARGETS 26

4.3 NSW LOCAL GOVERNMENTS RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE 29

5 CENTRAL NSW JOINT ORGANISATION (CNSWJO) 30

6 LOCAL TRENDS – WHAT IS OCCURRING IN OBERON LGA? 31

7 OBERON COUNCIL 33

8 COUNCIL’S 2019/20 ENERGY USE AND CARBON FOOTPRINT 34

8.1 ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION SUMMARY 35

9 OBERON COUNCIL’S RENEWABLE ENERGY ACTION PLANS 38

9.1 MEASURES AVAILABLE TO REDUCE OBERON COUNCIL’S ELECTRICITY AND CARBON FOOTPRINT 38

9.2 BUYING CLEAN ENERGY 39

 9.2.1 Renewable energy power purchase agreement 39

 9.2.2 Mid-scale solar farm in Oberon Council 40

9.3 BEHIND-THE-METER SOLAR 42

 9.3.1 Onsite renewable energy 45

 9.3.2 Solar PV and battery storage opportunities for future works and community 49

 9.3.3 Assumptions used 49

9.4 ENERGY EFFICIENCY 50

 9.4.1 Energy efficiency initiatives 51

9.5 SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT 53

10 A CLOSER LOOK AT MAJOR OPPORTUNITIES 60

10.1 WATER TREATMENT PLANT 60

10.2 OBERON AQUATIC CENTRE 62

10.3 SEWERAGE TREATMENT WORKS 64

10.4 LANDFILL OFF-GRID SOLAR PV SYSTEM 66

10.5	ELECTRIC VEHICLE OPPORTUNITIES.....	67
10.5.1	<i>New Community Centre</i>	67
10.5.2	<i>New Oberon Sports Complex</i>	69
11	OBERON COUNCIL ACTION PLAN	70
11.1	SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM ACTION PLAN	71
11.2	LONG TERM ACTION PLAN.....	74
11.2.1	<i>Possible Future and Community Projects</i>	75
	APPENDIX A: SOLAR PV POTENTIAL LOCATIONS.....	76
	<i>Oberon WTP –31kW – Roof-mounted solar PV</i>	76
	<i>Oberon WTP– 98kW – Ground-mounted solar PV</i>	77
	<i>Oberon Aquatic Centre – 62kW – Roof-mounted solar PV</i>	78
	<i>Oberon Aquatic Centre – 99kW – Roof-mounted solar PV</i>	79
	<i>Sewage Treatment Plant – 35.5kW – Ground-mounted solar PV</i>	80
	<i>Sewage Treatment Plant – 63kW – Ground-mounted solar PV</i>	81
	<i>Council Chambers – 33kW – Roof-mounted solar PV</i>	82
	<i>Council Chambers – 46.6kW – Roof-mounted solar PV</i>	83
	<i>Sewage Pumping – 10.8kW– Ground-mounted solar PV</i>	84
	<i>Sewage Pumping – 19kW– Ground-mounted solar PV</i>	85
	<i>Council Depot – 16kW– Roof-mounted solar PV</i>	86
	<i>Council Depot – 28.1kW– Roof-mounted solar PV</i>	87
	<i>New Library – 10kW – Roof-mounted solar PV</i>	88
	<i>Visitors Information Centre – 6.6kW – Roof-mounted solar PV</i>	89
	<i>The Commons – 8kW– Roof-mounted solar PV</i>	90
	<i>New Community Centre – 8.2kW– Roof-mounted solar PV</i>	91
	<i>Fire Control Building – 6.6kW– Roof-mounted solar PV</i>	92
	<i>SES Building – 5.9kW – Roof-mounted solar PV</i>	93
	<i>New Sports Complex – 39.6kW – Roof-mounted solar PV</i>	94
	<i>New Sports Complex – 97kW – Solar Carport</i>	95
	<i>Landfill – 1.1MW – Mid-scale solar farm</i>	96

Table of Figures

Figure 1: Four-step process to develop Oberon Council’s Renewable Energy Action Plan	8
Figure 2: Renewable energy & carbon targets by NSW Councils & ACT	9
Figure 3: seven-step process to develop Oberon Council’s renewable energy action plan	20
Figure 4: The Climate Action Tracker’s warming projections for 2100, various policy scenarios.....	22
Figure 5: Global context for action on climate.....	23
Figure 6: Global Risks report – likelihood & impact of climate, other risks to global economy	24
Figure 7: Australia’s renewable energy and carbon goals – National level	25
Figure 8: Australia’s quarterly GHG emissions from all sources	25
Figure 9: Australia’s renewable energy and carbon goals – State & Territory level	26
Figure 10: Indicative Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone	27
Figure 11: Indicative South West Renewable Energy Zone.....	27
Figure 12: Renewable energy & carbon targets by NSW Councils & ACT	29
Figure 13: Solar PV uptake by Oberon LGA (APVI 2021)	31
Figure 14: Oberon council boundary map.....	33

Figure 15: Oberon Council carbon footprint by emission source	34
Figure 16: Oberon Council’s large electricity using sites.....	35
Figure 17: Oberon Council electricity use by equipment.....	36
Figure 18: Four categories of measures to implement renewable energy technologies at Council	38
Figure 19: Average daily energy demand in May at the water treatment plant	60
Figure 20: Estimated grid demand in May with 98.8kW solar PV + 150kWh BESS.....	61
Figure 21: Average daily energy demand at the aquatic centre for each month	62
Figure 22: Estimated grid demand with 99.5kW solar PV + 70kWh BESS.....	63
Figure 23: Estimated Average daily energy demand in May at the new STP.....	64
Figure 24: Potential energy balance at the new STP with solar + BESS	64
Figure 25: Estimated grid purchases in May with 62.9kW solar PV + 150kWh BESS.....	65
Figure 26: Technical architecture of an off-grid system.....	66
Figure 27: Energy balance with the off-grid system.....	66
Figure 28: Community centre location and proximity to city centre	67
FIGURE 29: COMMUNITY CENTRE LOCATION AND PROXIMITY TO CITY CENTRE	68
FIGURE 30: POSSIBLE SOLAR CARPORT STRUCTURE AT THE NEW SPORTS COMPLEX.....	69

Table of Tables

Table 1: Council’s energy use and carbon footprint 2019/20.....	13
Table 2: Oberon Council short to medium term plan for Council operated sites.....	14
Table 3: Oberon Council long term plan for Council operated sites.....	17
Table 4: Oberon Council action plans for future capital works at Council sites	18
Table 5: Council’s energy use and carbon footprint 2019/20.....	34
Table 6: Indicative costs and savings for minimum behind-the-meter solar PV for Council sites	45
Table 7: Indicative capital costs for future works and community projects	49
Table 8: Indicative costs and savings for energy efficiency for Council-operated sites.....	51
Table 9: Oberon Council short to medium term plan for Council operated sites.....	71
Table 10: Oberon Council long term plan for Council operated sites.....	74
Table 11: Oberon Council action plans for future capital works at Council sites	75

Glossary of climate change & project abbreviations

Acronym	Definition
AC, DC	Alternating & direct current
ACCU	Australian Carbon Credit Unit
AEMC	Australian Energy Market Commission
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
AER	Australian Energy Regulator
AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use
APVI	Australian Photovoltaic Institute
B20, B50	Diesel blends with 20% and 50% biodiesel
BASIX	Building Sustainability Index
BAU	Business-as-usual
BCA	Building Code of Australia
BEEC	Building Energy Efficiency Certificate
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BMS	Building Management System
BEV	Battery electric vehicle
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
C40	Network of the world's megacities committed to addressing climate change
CCF	Climate Change Fund
CER	Certified Emissions Reductions (offsets)
CFL	Compact fluorescent
COP	Coefficient of performance (refrigeration)
COP21	Conference of the Parties in Paris at which the Paris Agreement was reached
CO ₂ -e	Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
CPP	Cities Power Partnership
CSP	Community Strategic Plan
C4CE	Coalition for Community Energy
DOL	Direct On Line
DPIE	NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
E3	Equipment Energy Efficiency program
EER	Energy efficiency ratio
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
EPC	Energy Performance Contracting
EPC(M)	Engineer, Procure, Construct (Maintain)
ERF	Emissions Reduction Fund
ESC	Energy Saving Certificates
ESS	NSW Energy Savings Scheme
EV	Electric Vehicle
FiT	Feed-in-tariff
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
HVAC	Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning
ICE	Internal combustion engine
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

kWh, MWh, GWh	Units of energy – usually used for electricity
LED	Light Emitting Diode (lighting technology)
LGC	Large-scale Generation Certificate
MJ, GJ	Units of energy – usually used for gas
LGA	Local Government Areas
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
NABERS	National Australian Built Environment Rating System
NCC	National Construction Code
NEM	National Electricity Market
NGA	National Greenhouse Accounts
NRMA	National Roads and Motorists' Association
O&M	Operation and maintenance
P2P	Peer to Peer trading of renewable energy
PHEV	Plug-in hybrid electric vehicle
PPA	Power Purchase Agreement
PV	Solar photovoltaic technology
REF	Revolving Energy Fund
RET	Australia's Renewable Energy Target
S1	Scope 1 greenhouse gas emissions, from combustion of fuel at your facilities
S2	Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions, caused by consuming electricity
S3	Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions, indirect emissions upstream and downstream of your business
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRES	Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme
SPS	Sewer Pumping Station
STC	Small-Scale Technology Certificates
STP	Sewerage Treatment Plant
VFD, VSD	Variable Frequency Drive / Speed Drive
VGA	Virtual Generation Agreement
VPPs	Virtual Power Plants
W, kW, MW	Units of power – usually used for electricity
WTP	Water Treatment Plant

1 Executive summary

100% Renewables was engaged by Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO), acting through the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) to develop a Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP) to enable Oberon Council to identify and prioritise opportunities that will help it to cost-effectively increase the amount of renewable energy at its facilities and lower energy demand.

1.1 Strategy and Targets

This Renewable Energy Action Plan outlines the approach for Council along with CNSWJO to work progressively on implementing renewable energy and energy efficiency projects over several years. This energy plan is based on cost-effective and commercially available technologies and solutions that can position Oberon Council as a leader in sustainability through its emissions reduction actions. Given the identified and assessed potential, the following targets can be progressed by Council in the future:

- Oberon Council has recently set a target to source at least 50% of Council's total electricity from renewable energy, from the next electricity contract commencing from January 2023. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment has agreed to fund 50% of third-party procurement advice on the 2023 electricity contract which will include consideration of a 50% renewable energy PPA for Council¹.
- Furthermore, by 2030 (or earlier) Council can aim to source 100% of grid-delivered electricity from renewables where cost-effective and incurring no added risk to Council. This can be delivered via both renewable energy power purchasing and the implementation of onsite solar and battery storage.
- Reduce energy-related greenhouse gas emissions by 70% by 2030, consistent with achieving 100% renewables for electricity. The balance of emissions is related to transport and diesel used by large vehicles and plant.
- Assisted by the new NSW Government's \$490m package for EVs, it will likely be feasible to switch to electric vehicles for passenger cars and LCVs by 2030. Other electric vehicle opportunities for larger fleet items are emerging as well, and Council's active interest in EV and other low emissions transport will position it well for future upgrade opportunities.

1.2 Regional initiatives

CNSWJO has been proactively working with their council members to develop and implement several regional projects. Aligned with this, the Joint Organisation will assist Council in making informed decisions to integrate renewable energy and energy efficiency projects through funding opportunities, procurement and setting strategic priorities for this transition.

Some of the key projects that CNSWJO has undertaken recently to assist their local council members include:

- **Southern lights LED streetlighting** – The JO has worked with Essential Energy to roll out LED lights across local council regions. As streetlighting tends to be one of the largest energy users

¹ Oberon Council Ordinary Meeting. (2021, June). Agenda and Business Papers. Oberon Council.

for a Council, this project can quickly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Council’s operations.

- **EV charging infrastructure** – To ensure the Central New South Wales region is well positioned for the rapidly evolving electrification of road transport, CNSWJO and Evenergi have developed a ‘*Regional EV Charging Infrastructure in Central NSW*’ report to assist Councils in implementing EV charging infrastructure across the region. The report details the impact, financial benefits, and opportunities for EV chargers in Central New South Wales.
- **Renewable Energy PPAs** – Recently, CNSWJO has worked with DPIE to secure up to \$50,000 for its Council members, for aggregated electricity procurement support through its Sustainable Councils and Communities Program. In the current market, such bulk purchases are integral to making the price for renewables competitive with ‘regular’ power prices. Therefore, support from CNSWJO for bulk purchase of renewable energy for multiple Councils can achieve cost-effective prices to source renewable energy.

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, in conjunction with the Central NSW Joint Organisation, has been facilitating the development of plans and energy efficiency, solar and battery storage projects for its members. Oberon Council can directly benefit from this initiative as the Joint Organisation seeks to develop bulk procurement opportunities for its members. With similar projects being undertaken by multiple other Councils, bulk procurement of services and goods to implement these actions plans is an opportunity for Oberon Council to improve the financial cases of the opportunities outlined in this REAP.

1.3 Project development and drivers

This project is focused on energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities available to Oberon Council, that can be implemented by Council and supported by CNSWJO’s regional approach to decarbonisation. The project included four steps as outlined below.

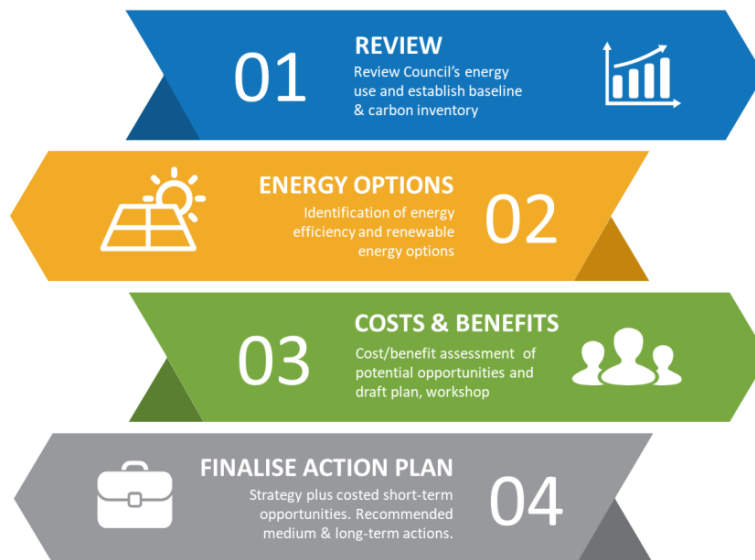


FIGURE 1: FOUR-STEP PROCESS TO DEVELOP OBERON COUNCIL’S RENEWABLE ENERGY ACTION PLAN

Drivers for the development of the REAP are numerous and include:

- The REAP builds on past and continuing work by Council to improve energy efficiency and implement renewables and puts a framework around future actions that can drive further savings.
- The REAP complements action by the Oberon community. Some 23.3% of dwellings in the Oberon LGA have installed solar PV as of May 2021. In addition to 581 residential systems, there have been 51 installations of 10-100kW in capacity, which tend to be commercial-scale systems, and two installations greater than 100kW. The total installed capacity is 5,120kW.
- Efficiency and renewable energy are cost-effective and deliver high returns for invested funds.
- Many local Councils around NSW and across Australia have taken leading positions to reduce their own emissions and act as leaders for their communities (see below).

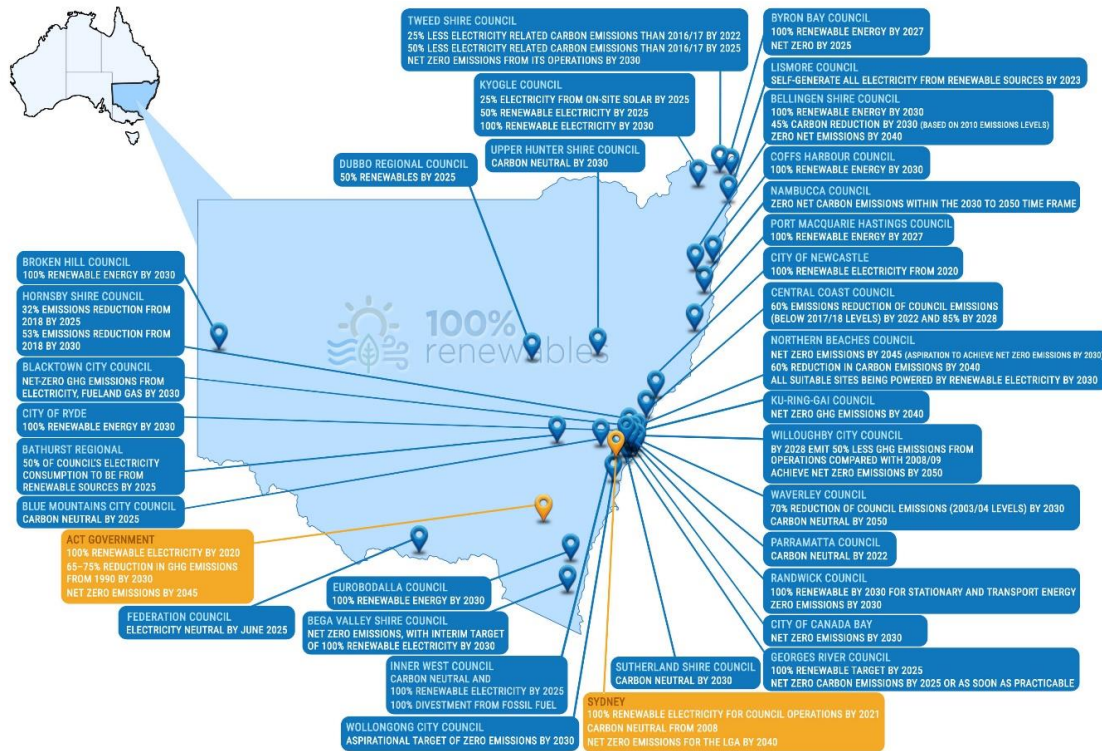


FIGURE 2: RENEWABLE ENERGY & CARBON TARGETS BY NSW COUNCILS & ACT

1.4 Financial analysis summary - efficiency & solar

The next stage of this plan should be for Council to work with CNSWJO to understand the next steps involved in proceeding with the identified action plans. These may include opportunities for grant funding, bulk procurement and strategic planning, and further prioritisation of opportunities. A number of energy efficiency and behind-the-meter solar PV opportunities have been costed at a high level for this strategy. This estimates a maximum cost of ~\$1.20 million for short, medium and long term actions, with annual cost savings based on current rates of around \$183,138. Overall, this represents a payback of 6.5 years. These estimates exclude costs and benefits for efficiency and

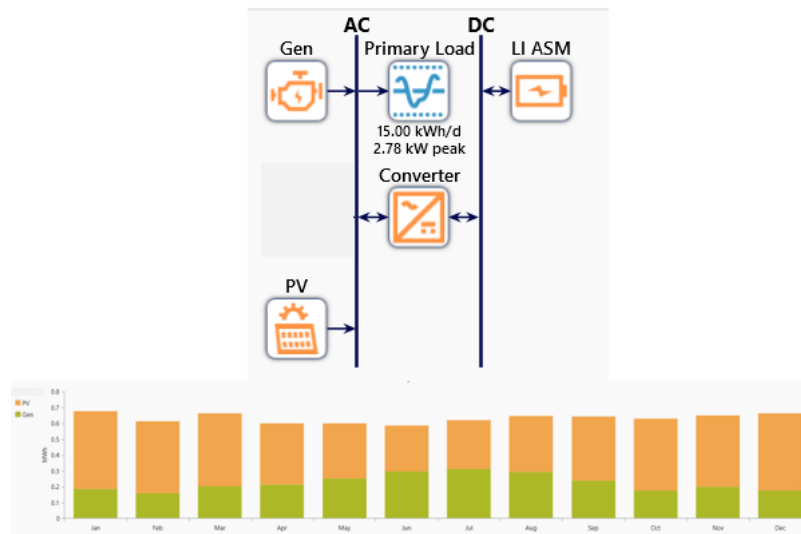
renewables on new capital works projects such as the planned sports complex and potential future community projects such as the Oberon Tennis club. Furthermore, for completeness we have only included the capital costs for implementing the short-term, off-grid opportunity at the Landfill site. The much larger system, proposed in the long-term has been only included for informing Council of the opportunity at this stage.

- Solar PV projects are relatively easy targets that can reduce Council's electricity use. We have evaluated them based on Council's priority ranking and split them into recommended minimum solar PV and maximum solar plus battery storage solutions that Council could invest in over the longer term to drive grid energy use down and cost savings for Council.
 - **Short and medium term action plans / Minimum solar PV** – these are opportunities at selected sites where solar PV and BESS offers a cost effective solution to reduce energy costs. Following our site visits and Council consultation, we have developed eight short and five medium term solar PV action plans at Council sites. These investments would generate **355MWh** of electricity per annum (with 103MWh exported back to the grid). The estimated total investment is **\$270,008** with forecast annual savings of **\$71,936** for a simple payback of **3.75 years**. This is also a short-term opportunity at the landfill site, and an additional ~\$18,000 would be required to develop a small solar-battery-diesel system to generate an estimated 14MWh of clean energy annually to meet the (small) demand of the site (see description below). As there is currently no connected power to the site no savings or payback are calculated for this opportunity, which may defer or avoid the need to connect the site to the Essential Energy grid.
 - **Long term action plans/ Maximum solar PV²** – we have developed a number of actions that could be implemented in the long term to expand on Council's short term and medium term action plans. These include additional solar PV and battery storage systems to maximise the electricity demand met at Council sites by renewable energy. Higher costs for batteries mean that these are seen as longer term solutions. Expanding the proposed short and medium term targets with added solar and BESS would increase the total annual solar generation to **611MWh** per annum (with 136MWh exported back to the grid). The total estimated investment for all the combined solar PV and battery action plans is **\$855,178**. These investments would have an estimated annual savings of **\$128,497** per year and would pay back in **6.6 years**. This is exclusive of a long-term opportunity at the landfill site to develop a larger solar-battery-diesel system to meet larger energy demand at the site. An additional ~\$106,650 would be required to build a larger system here, capable of generating annual solar PV output of ~83MWh.
- Energy efficiency projects, including lighting upgrades, can reduce Council's electricity use by **193MWh** per annum, predominantly from upgrading streetlights to LED technology. We have

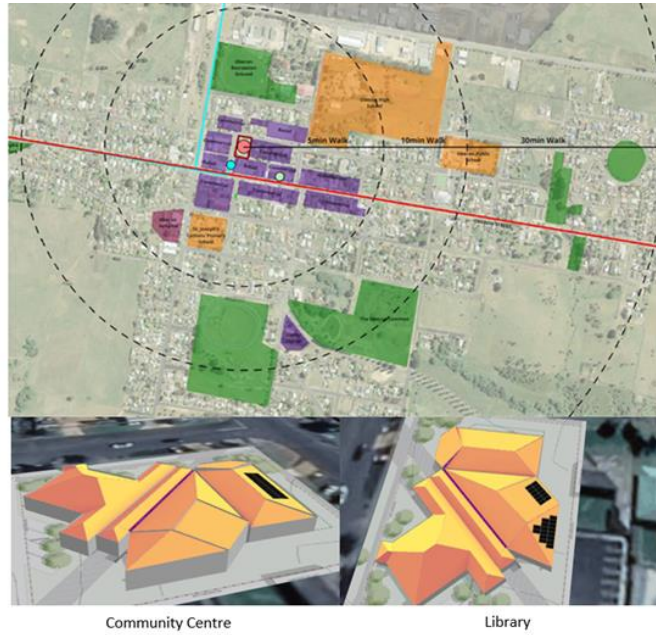
² Please note that for sites which have either a short / medium term solar opportunity, and a long term solar opportunity, the business case reflects the total cost and total benefits of the respective system sizes and battery storage solutions. However, if Council implements the short / medium term projects initially, then expanding that system in the long term with more solar batteries would see just the marginal cost of the upgrade incurred, along with the marginal savings for these system upgrades.

estimated the total cost of these projects to be **\$326,093** and annual savings to Council of **\$54,641**. These projects would pay for themselves in **5.9 years**.

- We have investigated a small number of renewable energy opportunities associated with planned capital works projects. The sites we have investigated are:
 - **Landfill** – Based on our site visits and engagement with Council, we have investigated multiple opportunities at the Landfill site. Following this, as a short-term target, Council can opt to implement an off-grid system to meet projected short term energy needs for the site, taken to be an average daily demand of 15kWh per day. However, a more detailed assessment of on-site equipment and operating hours would be required to model an accurate off-grid solution to ensure energy independence. In the long-term, Council can consider expanding the off-grid system to meet most of the energy requirements at the Landfill site, e.g. weighbridges. A detailed review of how this system would perform has been outlined in [Section 10.4](#) of this report. The image below indicates the short-term opportunity for a small off-grid system with the monthly energy generation from both the diesel and PV + BESS system. Based on the site’s operation hours, the energy consumed from diesel generator can be limited to winter months, when solar would not be producing sufficient energy to meet this site’s energy demand.



- **New community centre** – The centre will include the library, function halls, workstations and small office spaces. We have developed 10kW and 8.2kW solar PV systems for the library and community space, respectively. However, based on the final design and new energy consumption, the solar PV layout and size needs to be finalised.



- **Planned sports complex** – The new sports complex is a large project that has the potential host at least a 100kW solar PV carport system. Being in an ideal location, with multiple facilities such as rugby fields, hockey ground, netball courts and fitness areas the sports complex has the potential to increase visitors into Oberon Council. The proposed solar PV system size is only for informing Council regarding the potential for solar PV opportunities at this new site.







- Oberon Council also has a few sites that could potentially be suitable to host community and/or mid-scale solar projects in future, including at the (future) capped landfill, as well as at the Oberon Tennis Club.

1.5 Council’s 2019/20 energy use and carbon footprint

The focus of this REAP is Council’s energy use. Available data covers all of Council’s electricity use, and all bulk diesel consumption. Fuel data for passenger vehicles or purchases made via fleet card were not available. Council’s energy and related carbon footprint for 2019/20 is tabulated below.

TABLE 1: COUNCIL’S ENERGY USE AND CARBON FOOTPRINT 2019/20

	Emission source	Activity data	Units	Scope 1 t CO2-e	Scope 2 t CO2-e	Scope 3 t CO2-e	Total	%
	Diesel	318.24	kL	864.9		44.2	909.1	45.1%
	Petrol	-	kL	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0%
	Electricity used in council assets	731,160.51	kWh		592.2	65.8	658.0	32.6%
	Electricity used by streetlighting	262,459.00	kWh		212.6	236.2	448.8	22.3%
	TOTAL			864.9	804.8	346.2	2,016.0	100.0%

1.6 Renewable Energy Action Plan for Oberon Council

Focused on energy consumption, a renewable energy action plan for Oberon Council comprises of three main elements organised into short, medium and long term plans tabulated below:

1. Onsite energy efficiency and renewable energy
2. Renewable electricity purchasing, and
3. Sustainable transport energy

We developed the energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities based on our engagement with Council and site visits, encompassing the largest energy users in Council. These assets accounted for 92% of the electricity use in Council. Furthermore, we have considered future renovations or upgrades to Council’s assets that may alter the current energy demand. We have also investigated battery storage opportunities for large energy users as requested by Council.

The outcome from this assessment of opportunities includes:

- 33 actions to improve efficiency and install renewable energy (and later on battery storage) across 16 sites plus streetlights.
- Identified actions in the short, medium and long term that will help Council to engage with, develop and implement opportunities for renewable energy purchasing and sustainable transport.
- These action plans have been split to provide information regarding the different stages of approach Council would be required to carry out to ensure they reach the proposed renewable energy targets in the short, medium and long term.

1.6.1 Short and medium-term action plan

TABLE 2: OBERON COUNCIL SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM PLAN FOR COUNCIL OPERATED SITES

Category	Sub-category	Site	Energy-saving option	Indicative cost	Payback	IRR
Energy efficiency	LED Lighting	Unmetered streetlighting	Install LED streetlights for local and main roads.	\$219,046	5.3	18%
Solar PV	Off-grid	Landfill	Install a 4kW ground-mounted solar PV with a 6kWh BESS and a 5kVA diesel generator. This is an estimate based on an average daily energy demand of 15kWh per day.	~\$18,000	Not assessed.	
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Roof - STC	Water Treatment Plant	Install a 31.5kW roof-mounted solar PV system on the north-west section of the roof.	\$31,500	4.4	22%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Roof - STC	Oberon Aquatic Centre	Install a 62.9kW roof-mounted solar PV system on the newly built gym's roof and swimming pools north roof.	\$62,900	4.1	24%
Energy efficiency	LED Lighting		Install LED lightings to replace the existing HID's and fluorescent lightings.	\$5,446	6.0	17%
Energy efficiency	VSD Control		Install a VSD to control the main recirculation pump.	\$45,179	8.0	12%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Roof - STC	Sewage Treatment Plant	Install a 35.5kW ground-mounted solar PV system on the upgraded STP site.	\$46,150	4.5	22%
Energy efficiency	VSD		Implement VSD control of major aerators/ motors in the new STP, together with dissolved oxygen as part of the STP upgrade.	\$38,552	8.0	13%
Energy efficiency	LED Lighting	Council Chamber	Install LED lightings to replace all surface-mounted fluorescent lights.	\$10,235	6.0	17%

Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Roof - STC		Install a 33.3kW roof mounted solar PV system on the north section of the roof.	\$33,300	3.2	35%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Ground - STC	Sewerage Pumping	Install a 10.9kW single-pole ground-mounted system towards the north of the main switch room.	\$14,170	3.4	30%
Energy Efficiency	LED Lighting	Council Depot	Install LED lightings to all fluorescent lights in the depot stores.	\$5,063	5.0	20%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Roof - STC		Install a 16.3kW roof-mounted solar PV system on the main vehicle shed.	\$16,300	3.1	32%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Roof + BESS - STC	Library	Install a 10kW roof-mounted solar PV with a 5kWh battery to meet the newly designed site's electricity demand. Please note, this system has been sized based on the current electricity demand. Revisit this opportunity with actual energy data after the library renovation.	\$14,500	5.7	16%
Energy Efficiency	LED Lighting	Visitors Information Centre	Upgrade all fluorescent lightings to LED technology.	\$2,572	5.5	18%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Roof - STC		Install a 6.66kW roof-mounted solar PV system on the north section of the building.	\$6,660	2.9	37%
Energy efficiency	BESS	The Commons	Install a 15kWh battery storage system on the existing solar PV system	\$13,500	19.9	8%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Upgrade + BESS		Upgrade the existing 250W panels with 370W panels to get a DC nameplate of 8.14kW with a 20kWh battery storage system to meet the site's energy demand.	\$23,698	7.5	13%

Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Roof - STC	New Community Centre	Install an 8.25kW roof-mounted solar PV system on the newly designed Community Centre. Please note, this system has been sized based on the current electricity demand. Revisit this opportunity with actual energy data after the centre renovation.	\$8,250	2.5	39%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Roof - STC	Fire Control Office	Install a 6.66kW roof-mounted solar PV system on the east and west orientation of the building.	\$6,660	3.5	28%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Roof - STC	SES Building	Install a 5.92kW roof-mounted solar PV system on the on the north section of the rear building.	\$5,920	3.0	33%
Electricity procurement		Whole of Council	Work with CNSWJO to source at least 50% and up to 100% of Council's electricity from renewable energy in Council's next contract.			
Electric vehicles	EV charging	Whole of Council	Work with CNSWJO to assess the outcomes from the EV charging infrastructure report and the NSW Government's recent \$490 million funding package for fleet electrification, to determine the priority opportunities for Oberon and how to progress these.			
Electric vehicles	EV &/or hybrid vehicles	Whole of Council	Progressively move Council's fleet towards hybrid and/or electric vehicles.			

1.6.2 Long term action plan

A suggested long-term action plan for Oberon Council is outlined below. Please note that the details in the table below for solar at the WTP, Aquatic Centre, STP, Council Chambers, Sewage pump station and Depot includes the full costs and associated savings for these suggested systems. There are also short / medium term options suggested for these sites. If Council opts to install the short / medium term options, then Council will only incur the marginal cost for expanding the systems in the longer term, along with the marginal savings of the additional systems.

TABLE 3: OBERON COUNCIL LONG TERM PLAN FOR COUNCIL OPERATED SITES

Category	Sub-category	Site	Energy-saving option	Indicative cost	Payback	IRR
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV + BESS - Roof - STC	Water Treatment Plant	Install a 98.8kW ground-mounted solar PV system with a 150kWh battery storage at the water treatment plant.	\$222,490	14.6	6%
Solar PV	Off-grid	Landfill	Install a 23.7kW ground-mounted solar PV with a 52kWh BESS and a 11kVA diesel generator. This is an estimate based on an average daily energy demand of 55kWh per day and increased renewable energy fraction.	~\$106,650	Not assessed.	
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV + BESS - Roof - STC	Oberon Aquatic Centre	Install a roof-mounted solar PV with 99.5kW and a 70kWh battery storage unit to meet the gym's and aquatic centre's energy demand.	\$162,500	6.1	14%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV + BESS - Ground - STC	Sewage Treatment Plant	Install a 62.9kW and 150KWh battery storage unit at the upgraded STP facility.	\$216,770	16.8	5%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV + BESS - Roof - STC	Council Chambers	Install additional 13.3kW roof-mounted solar PV with a 70kWh battery storage unit to meet the site's electricity demand.	\$109,600	7.2	11%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV + BESS - Ground - STC	Sewerage Pumping	Alternative: Install a 19.1kW ground-mounted system with a 50kWh battery storage unit to meet the site's variable energy demand.	\$69,830	8.8	12%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV + BESS - Roof - STC	Council Depot	Install a 28.1kW solar PV system with a 15kWh battery to meet the site's electricity demand.	\$20,900	4.5	41%

1.6.3 Possible future mid-scale and community projects

A suggested list of action plans that could be implemented on the future capital work projects.

TABLE 4: OBERON COUNCIL ACTION PLANS FOR FUTURE CAPITAL WORKS AT COUNCIL SITES

Category	Sub-category	Site	Energy-saving option	Indicative cost
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Roof - LGC	Oberon Tennis Club	Install a 133kW roof-mounted solar PV system on the north orientation of the Tennis Centre as a community solar project.	\$199,500
Sustainable Transport	EV Charging	New Community Centre	Install EV charging stations.	Not assessed
Sustainable Transport	EV Charging	Sporting Complex	Install EV charging stations.	Not assessed
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV + BESS - Carport - STC	Centre	Install a 96.8kW carport solar PV system with a 70kWh BESS at the new sports complex.	\$334,040
Off-grid*	Solar PV + BESS + Genset	Landfill	Short-term: Install a 4kW ground-mounted solar PV with a 6kWh BESS and a 5kVA diesel generator. This is an estimate based on an average daily energy demand of 15kWh per day.	~\$18,000
Off-grid*	Solar PV + BESS + Genset	Landfill	Install a 23.7kW ground-mounted solar PV with a 52kWh BESS and a 11kVA diesel generator. This is an estimate based on an average daily energy demand of 55kWh per day and increased renewable energy fraction.	~\$106,650
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Ground - LGC	Landfill	Install a 1.1MW east-west fixed tilt system on the capped landfill site.	\$1,980,000



Scope

Summary of the scope of work and approach

2 Approach and scope of work

100% Renewables was engaged by CNSWJO through the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to develop a Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP) for Oberon Council to identify and prioritise opportunities that will help Council to cost-effectively increase the amount of renewable energy at its facilities and lower energy demand. As part of our service delivery to develop these renewable energy action plans, we draw on accurate and comprehensive baseline and projection data, engagement with stakeholders, we assess opportunities and develop agreed plans for feasible projects across Council.

The scope of this project is outlined below, which shows a 7-step process to review data, identify project options, develop cost-benefit analyses, and prepare Council’s REAP.

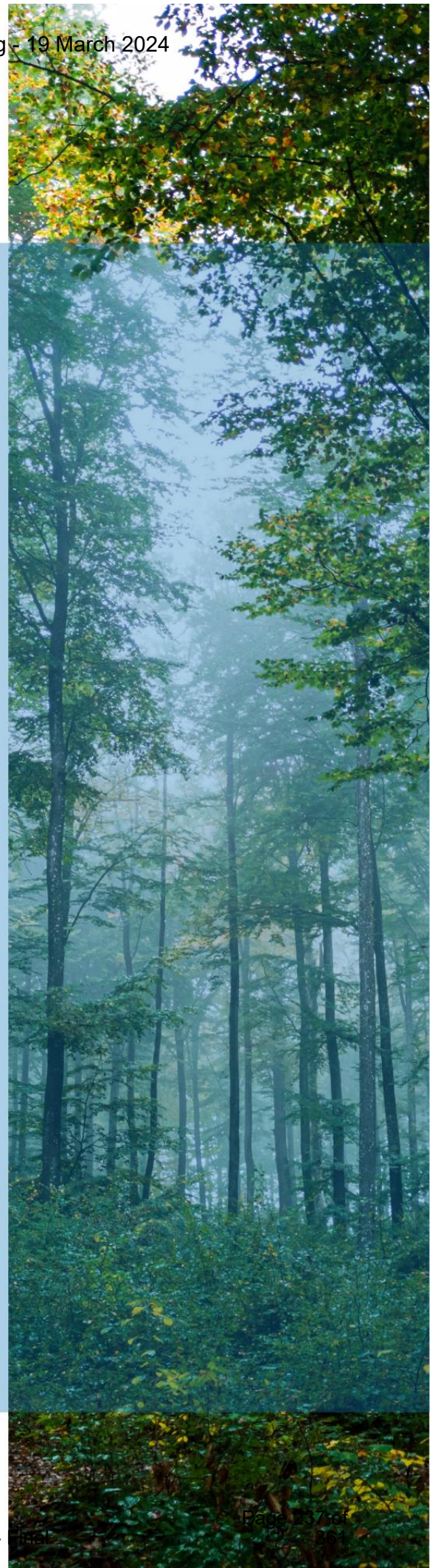


FIGURE 3: SEVEN-STEP PROCESS TO DEVELOP OBERON COUNCIL’S RENEWABLE ENERGY ACTION PLAN

- **Stage 1 – Inception**
 - Meet and coordinate project plans and timeline with the Project Control Group (PCG)
 - Meet Council’s key stakeholders and discuss the project plan
- **Stage 2 – Energy & carbon footprint**
 - Collect energy data from Council’s energy management platform (e21) or billing
 - Develop energy & carbon footprint for Council operations
- **Stage 3 – Engagement**
 - Set up meetings/presentations with key stakeholders across Council
 - Set up and conduct site visits across key sites at Council
 - Engage with Council staff across all functional areas relevant to the REAP
- **Stage 4 – Draft opportunities**
 - Develop draft opportunities in Excel for discussion with stakeholders
 - Circulate these opportunities to Council staff for input, discussion, and prioritisation
- **Stage 5 – Business case development**
 - Model solar PV business cases, assess efficiency opportunities
 - Overview of sustainable transport and renewable energy power purchasing
- **Stage 6 – Action plans**
 - Develop short, medium and long term action plans for Council
- **Stage 7 – Renewable Energy Action Plan**
 - Develop Renewable Energy Action Plan report for review, then finalise and present



Background and context



3 Global context for climate action and targets

3.1 The need to reach 'net-zero' greenhouse gas emissions

Due to all historical and current carbon emissions, global temperatures have increased by ~1°C from pre-industrial levels. The main driver of long-term warming is the total cumulative emissions of greenhouse gases over time. As shown by the *Climate Action Tracker*³ below, without additional effort, human-caused carbon dioxide (equivalent) emissions may increase to over 100 billion tonnes annually by 2100, which is double current global emissions. The resulting increase in global temperatures would be up to 4.8°C (as per the IPCC Climate Change 2014 Synthesis Report⁴).

With current policies around the world, global temperatures are projected to rise by about 3.1°C. To prevent dangerous climate change by limiting global warming, close to 200 of the world's governments signed the landmark Paris Agreement. This Agreement underpins science-based targets to limit the global temperature increase to well below 2°C by 2050. With current pledges, and if all countries achieved their Paris Agreement targets, it would limit warming to 2.9°C. To limit warming to 1.5°C, carbon emissions must decline sharply in the short-term and reach net-zero by mid-century.

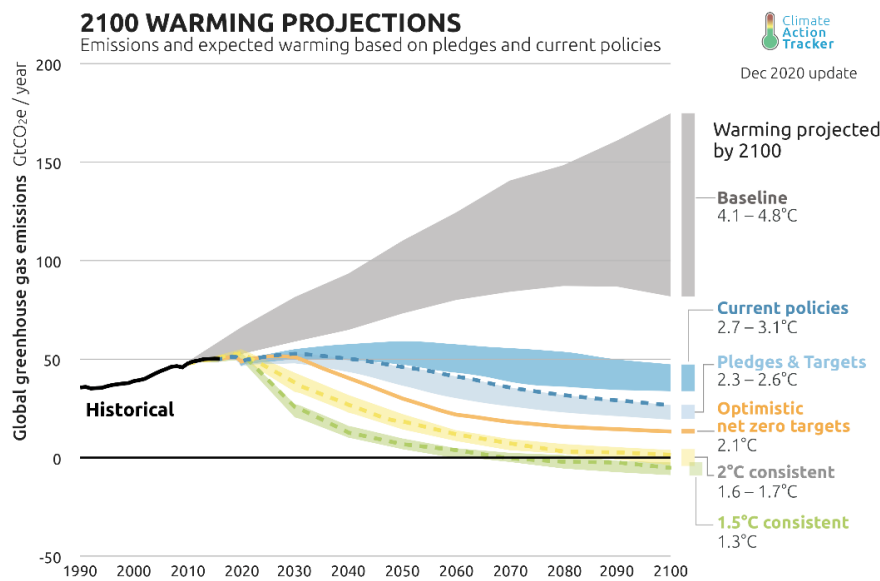


FIGURE 4: THE CLIMATE ACTION TRACKER'S WARMING PROJECTIONS FOR 2100, VARIOUS POLICY SCENARIOS

A net-zero target means that by the target date, there must be no greenhouse gas emissions on a net basis. For a local government's operations for example, this could mean:

1. GHG emissions from stationary fuel combustion such as LP gas use are minimised, and
2. GHG emissions from transport fuel combustion are minimised, and
3. GHG emissions from electricity consumption are minimised, and
4. GHG emissions from waste and in Council's supply chain are minimised, and
5. Remaining emissions offset or removed through sequestration measures

³ <https://climateactiontracker.org/global/temperatures/>

⁴ [IPCC Climate Change 2014 Synthesis Report](#)

3.2 International drivers for climate action

Internationally, there are three primary drivers for urgent action on climate, additional to the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol from 2013 to 2020. These are:

1. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In 2015, countries adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Governments, businesses and civil society together with the United Nations are mobilising efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Agenda by 2030⁵. The SDGs came into force on 1 January 2016 and call on action from all countries to end all poverty and promote prosperity while protecting the planet.

2. Paris Agreement

To address climate change, countries adopted the Paris Agreement at the COP21 in Paris on 12 December 2015, referred to above. The Agreement entered into force less than a year later. In the agreement, signatory countries agreed to work to limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C, and given the grave risks, to strive for 1.5°C Celsius⁶.

3. Special IPCC report on 1.5°C warming (SR15)

In October 2018 in Korea, governments approved the wording of a special report on limiting global warming to 1.5°C. The report indicates that achieving this would require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society. With clear benefits to people and natural ecosystems, limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C could go hand in hand with ensuring a more sustainable and equitable society⁷.



FIGURE 5: GLOBAL CONTEXT FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE

⁵ Sourced from <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

⁶ Sourced from <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climatechange/>

⁷ Sourced from https://www.ipcc.ch/news_and_events/pr_181008_P48_spm.shtml



In addition, the World Economic Forum’s Global Risks Report 2021⁸ highlights adverse climate change-related outcomes as among the most likely to occur with the highest impacts to the global economy. The chart below from the WEF’s report shows several key climate risks clustered in the top right corner; that is, these risks are assessed to be among the most likely to eventuate, with the greatest economic impact among all the global risks that were assessed.



FIGURE 6: GLOBAL RISKS REPORT – LIKELIHOOD & IMPACT OF CLIMATE, OTHER RISKS TO GLOBAL ECONOMY

⁸ <https://www.weforum.org/reports/the-global-risks-report-2021>

4 National and State Government action

4.1 National targets

At a national level, Australia’s response to the Paris Agreement has been to set a goal for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of 5% below 2000 levels by 2020 and GHG emissions of 26% to 28% below 2005 levels by 2030. A major policy that currently underpins this is the Renewable Energy Target (RET). This commits Australia to source 20% of its electricity from renewable energy sources by 2020.



FIGURE 7: AUSTRALIA’S RENEWABLE ENERGY AND CARBON GOALS – NATIONAL LEVEL

According to the Clean Energy Regulator⁹, the Renewable Energy target has been met and renewable energy generation will exceed the target by some 7,000 GWh.

The RET is the main successful policy underpinning Australia’s climate mitigation efforts. Other key initiatives include the Climate Solutions Fund, formerly the Emissions Reduction Fund, which sources abatement from eligible activities in the economy via periodic auction processes. Despite these initiatives, Australia’s GHG emissions remained relatively steady over the period 2015 to 2020, with a sharp dip in emissions observed throughout calendar year 2020 due to Covid-19.



FIGURE 8: AUSTRALIA’S QUARTERLY GHG EMISSIONS FROM ALL SOURCES¹⁰

⁹ March 2018, Australian Government – Clean Energy Regulator. 2018 Annual Statement to the Parliament on the progress towards the 2020 Large-scale Renewable Energy Target.

¹⁰ <https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/national-greenhouse-gas-inventory-quarterly-update-december-2020#quarterly-emissions-data>

4.2 NSW State targets

At a sub-national level, most states and territories have established emissions targets as well as some legislated targets for renewable energy, as seen below.

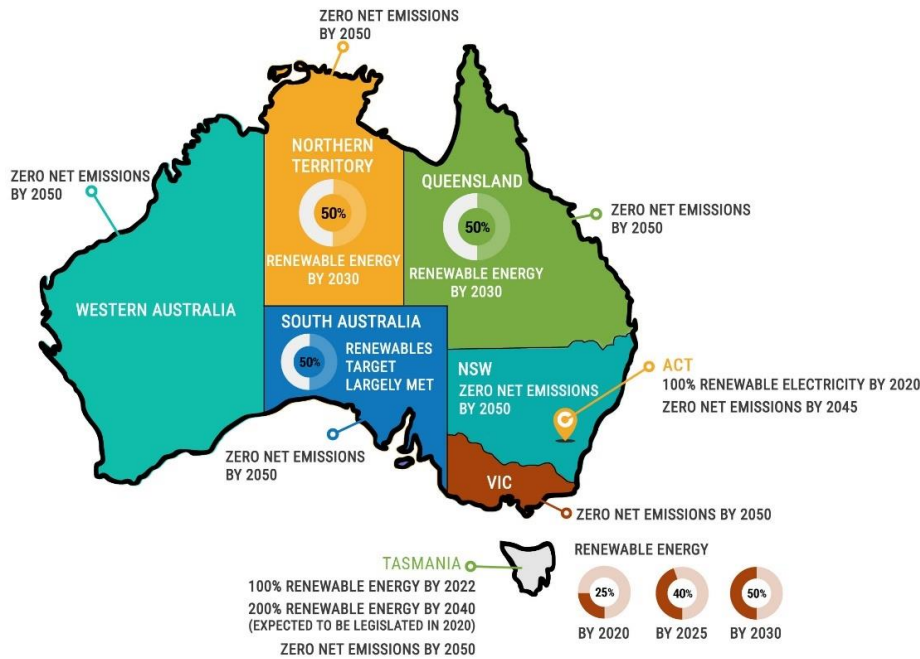


FIGURE 9: AUSTRALIA’S RENEWABLE ENERGY AND CARBON GOALS – STATE & TERRITORY LEVEL

Supporting the NSW Government’s commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2050, NSW Government recently released its **Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020–2030**¹¹. This sees the first of three 10-year plans released that will set a pathway to net zero emissions in NSW by 2050.

In addition the NSW Government has developed a **NSW Electricity Strategy**¹² which will help the State to deliver on its goal to attract renewable energy investment. On 27th November 2020 the NSW Government passed the *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill (2020)* which will help to drive the transition to renewables in the state in coming years by coordinating investment in new generation, storage and network infrastructure in New South Wales¹³.

In the first instance a renewable energy zone (REZ) in Central West Orana will be developed, attracting significant private sector investment to developing new generation assets in this region. A larger renewable energy zone is to be developed in the New England region, with up to seven additional REZs’ to be developed in future, including a recently-announced REZ for the Hunter Valley region.

The figures below show the approximate locations of the Central West Orana and South-West REZs’.

¹¹ © State of New South Wales 2020. Published March 2020

¹² <https://energy.nsw.gov.au/renewables/renewable-energy-zones>

¹³ <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/bill/files/3818/XN%20Electricity%20Infrastructure%20Investment%20Bill.pdf>

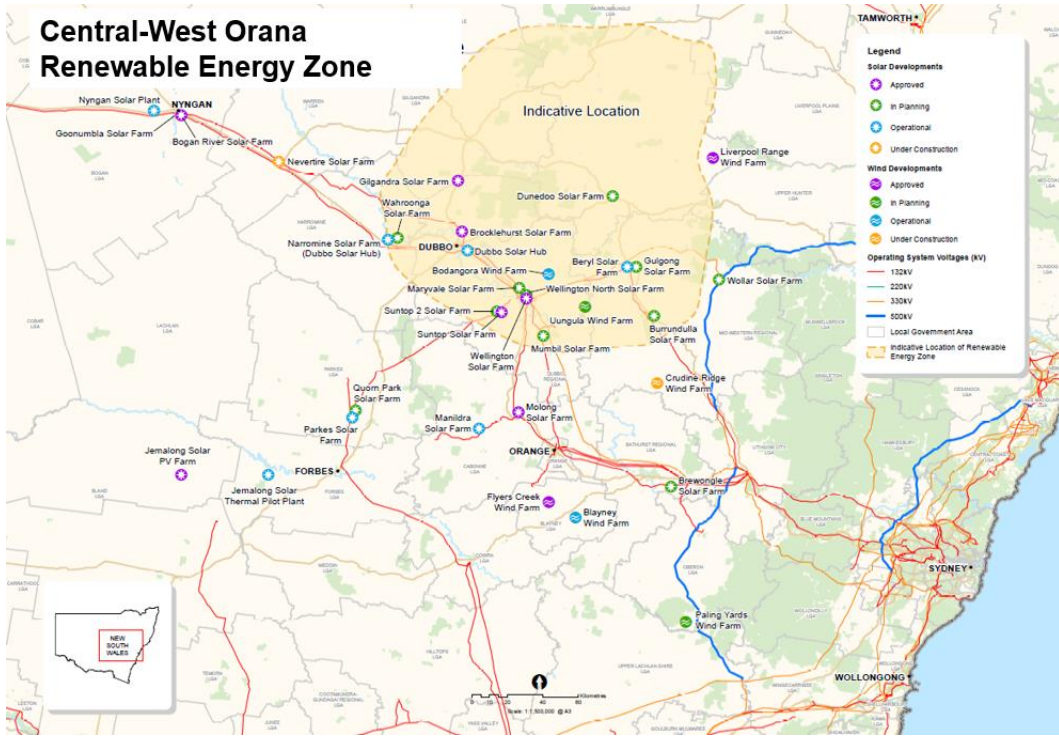


FIGURE 10: INDICATIVE CENTRAL-WEST ORANA RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONE

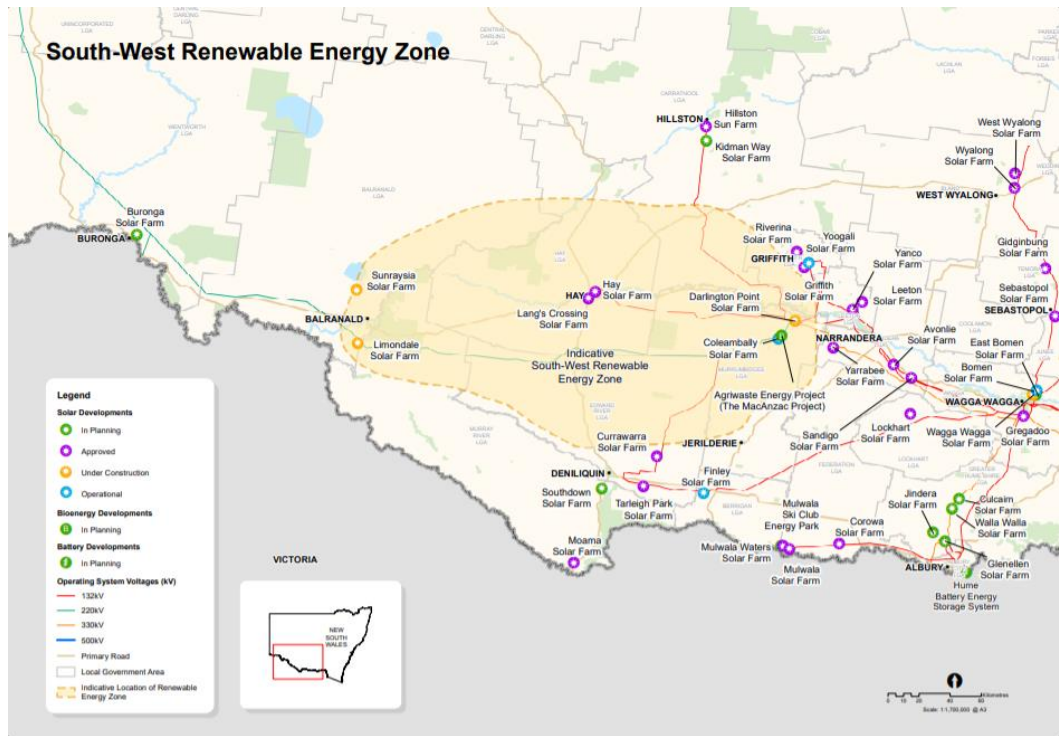


FIGURE 11: INDICATIVE SOUTH WEST RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONE

Some of the key highlights of the 2020-2030 Net Zero Plan include:

- A central focus of the plan is about jobs that will be created and about the lowering of energy costs for consumers. Many renewable energy jobs will be created in regional NSW.
- The Plan commits to breaking down barriers that remain to people and business investing in commercially available technologies, such as energy-efficient appliances and buildings, Roof-mounted solar, firm grid-scale renewables, and electric vehicles.
- The Plan commits NSW to reducing State emissions by 35% by 2030 and to net-zero by 2050 and articulates this is a shared responsibility among business, individuals, and governments.
- There will be a broadening of the focus of abatement to encompass low-carbon products and services and providing consumers with more information to influence buying decisions.
- Clarity on some of the funding, targets and programs that will help drive this change, such as:
 - \$450 million Emissions Intensity Reduction Program
 - \$450 million commitment to New South Wales from the Climate Solutions Fund
 - \$1.07 billion in added funding via NSW and Commonwealth across several measures
 - Development of three Renewable Energy Zones in the Central-West, New England and South-West of NSW to drive up to \$23 billion in investment and create new jobs
 - Energy Security Safeguard to extend and expand the Energy Savings Scheme
 - Expanded Energy Efficiency Program
 - Expanded Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Plan with the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure and Model Availability Program to fast-track the EV market in NSW
 - Primary Industries Productivity and Abatement Program to support primary producers and landowners to commercialise low emissions technologies
 - Target of net-zero emissions from organic waste by 2030
 - Development of a Green Investment Strategy, with Sydney as a world-leading carbon services hub by 2030
 - Enhancement of the EnergySwitch service by allowing consumers to compare the emissions performance of energy retailers
 - Advocate to expand NABERS to more building types, and improve both the National Construction Code and BASIX
 - Establishment of a Clean Technology Program to develop and commercialise emissions-reducing technologies that have the potential to commercially out-compete existing emissions-intensive goods, services and processes
 - Establishment of a Hydrogen Program that will help the scale-up of hydrogen as an energy source and feedstock, and target 10% hydrogen in the gas network by 2030
 - Aligning action by the government under GREP with the broader state targets through clear targets for Roof-mounted solar, EVs, electric buses, diesel-electric trains, NABERS for Government buildings, power purchasing and expansion of national parks

Several of these initiatives will be of interest and benefit to Oberon Council and its community.

4.3 NSW local governments response to climate change

Much of the leadership on renewable energy and climate in Australia comes from local government. Prominent examples of how local governments are demonstrating leadership are highlighted below.

1. Cities Power Partnership or CPP is an initiative of the Climate Council and it represents Australia’s largest local government climate action network with >120 councils. While this doesn’t involve setting specific targets per se, the commitment to key actions can either serve as a set of de facto targets or can provide a basis from which to set targets in future. Key aspects of the CPP include:
 - a. Making five action pledges to tackle climate change.
 - b. Connection and sharing between participants.
 - c. Access to a comprehensive online Knowledge Hub and Power Analytics tool to help track emissions, energy and cost savings.
 - d. Councils can also access support from local and international experts.
2. Adoption and publication of ambitious¹⁴ targets for renewable energy and/or carbon emissions for Council operations. The chart below shows the status of target-setting by local councils in NSW (at October 2020).

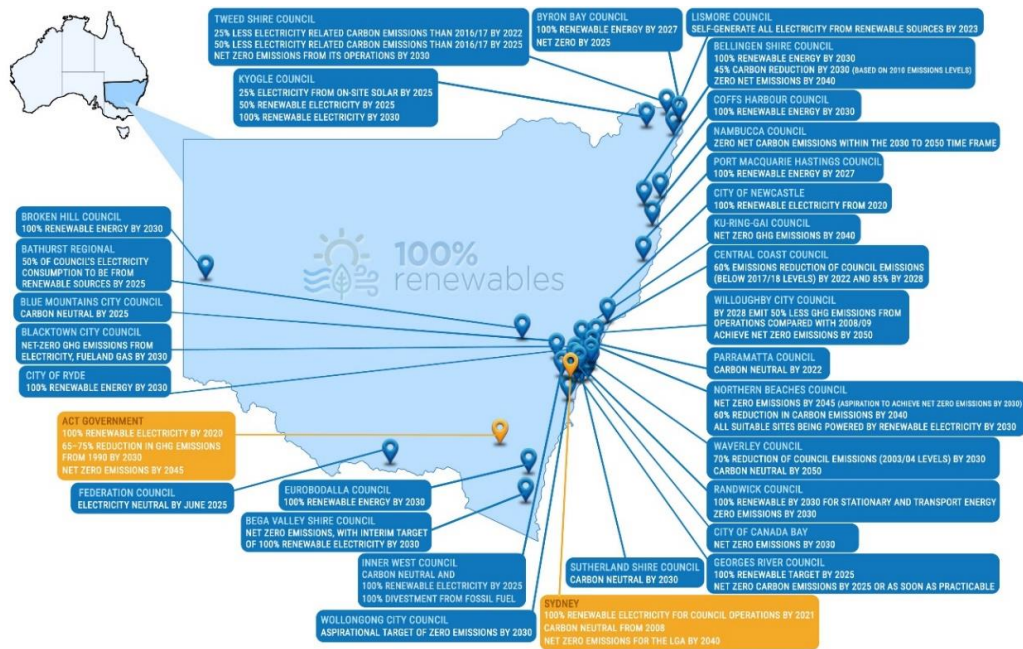


FIGURE 12: RENEWABLE ENERGY & CARBON TARGETS BY NSW COUNCILS & ACT

3. Many local councils across NSW have taken up opportunities as LED streetlighting has become available and approved for use, to upgrade their local and main road lights. Councils across NSW and across the three distribution networks have seen energy use and costs, as well as maintenance costs, fall dramatically as a result of these upgrades.

¹⁴ Most ambitious commitments by local councils include targets for renewable energy (electricity) and/or overall emissions that are aligned with or ahead of a science-based target timeframe for their included emissions sources



5 Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO)

CNSWJO is proactively pursuing the development and implementation of a number of regional projects that can help Oberon Council to implement projects identified in this report, and to implement additional initiatives that will further drive down greenhouse gas emissions for Council's operations.

- **Bulk procurement**

CNSWJO views bulk procurement as a key priority in supporting its Council members. Through aggregated procurement, Oberon Council can potentially see cost savings that make solar, battery energy storage and energy efficiency projects more cost effective.

- **Grant Funding**

Access to grant funding is an important element of any Council's action to increase their renewable energy generation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment highlights a number of potential funding sources in its May 2020 Net Zero Guidance for NSW local councils¹⁵. Further, with the development of the NSW Government's Net Zero Plan 2020-2030 a range of programs and funding opportunities may arise in coming years, in areas such as solar PV, battery energy storage, electric vehicles and waste management.

There are also pre-existing financial incentives for energy efficiency and renewables, via programs such as the NSW Energy Savings Scheme (ESS) which lowers the cost of eligible efficiency measures, and the Renewable Energy Target (RET) which subsidises the cost of small-scale solar PV systems up to 100 kW.

- **Renewable Energy Power Purchase Agreement**

Oberon Council can consider the use of renewable energy power purchasing agreements (PPAs) to accelerate a transition to renewables and low emissions for Council operations. Numerous local councils in NSW have already implemented this opportunity, including nearly 20 councils via a renewable energy PPA negotiated by Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC), City of Sydney, City of Newcastle and Hawkesbury City Council.

- **Electric Vehicle strategy and development**

CNSWJO has recently developed a Regional Charging Infrastructure Report which is specifically for the Joint Organisation's Council members, mapping key locations across member Councils that could implement EV infrastructure to boost regional tourism and start to build the infrastructure to support future vehicle transport. The report has identified six Council owned sites and nine private sites as preferred locations in Oberon that would be ideal for EV charging infrastructure¹⁶. The report also outlines other objectives that would benefit Council from growing electric vehicle markets. These include impacts of transitioning to EV for the region, provides an overview of the existing and near-term planned charging infrastructure, technical design criteria, being "grant-ready" and educating Council staff and community as a whole.

¹⁵ © State of New South Wales and Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020. Net Zero Emissions Guidance for NSW Councils, May 2020.

¹⁶ Everengi & CNSWJO. (2021). REGIONAL EV CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE IN CENTRAL NSW. Central New South Wales Joint Organisation.

6 Local trends – what is occurring in Oberon LGA?

Continued falling prices for solar PV, rising electricity prices and the continued availability of financial incentives through the Renewable Energy Target (RET) has made renewable energy technologies much more affordable for many residents and businesses. The uptake of solar PV has accelerated rapidly in recent years, with around 20% of all NSW households now having solar panels on their roofs.

Some 23.3% of dwellings¹⁷ (APVI <http://pv-map.apvi.org.au/>) in the Oberon LGA have installed solar PV. This places the LGA in the mid to upper end of NSW councils in terms of the number of residents taking up solar panels. In addition to 581 residential systems, there have been 51 installations of 10-100 kW in capacity, which tend to be commercial-scale systems, with 2 installations greater than 100 kW, including a 2 MW system at Borg Manufacturing. Total installed capacity is 5,281 kW as of May 2021.

Local governments surrounding Oberon Council have comparable levels of solar PV uptake, ranging from 21% to 25% uptake by local communities. The graphic below displays the current solar PV uptake status of the Oberon LGA.

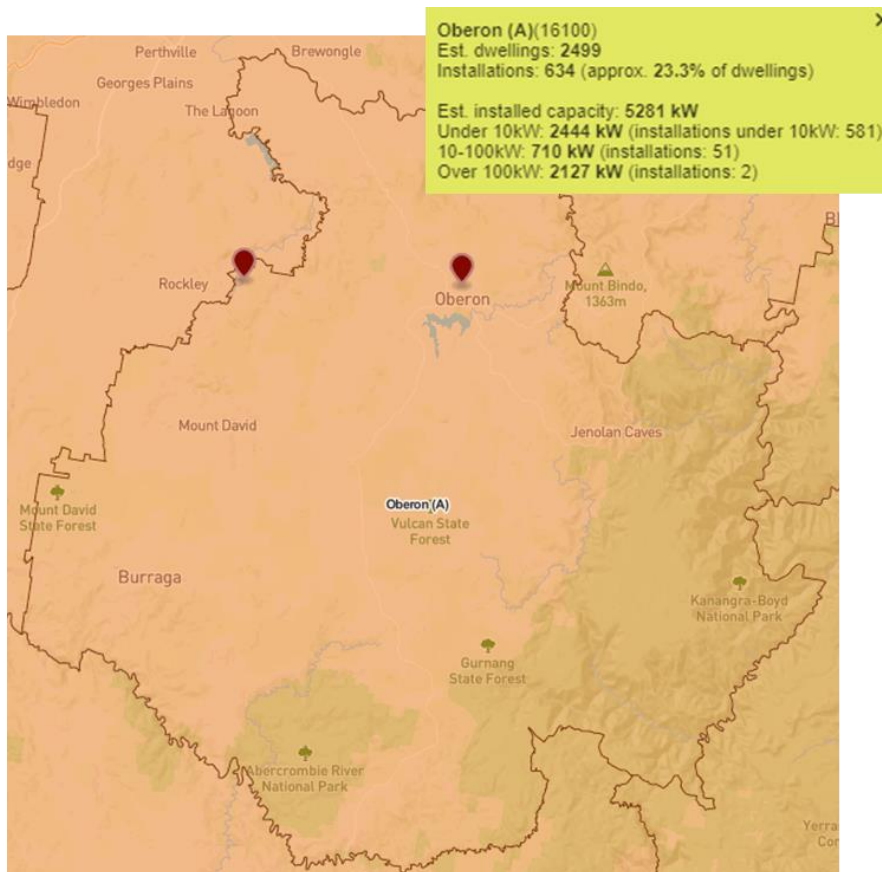


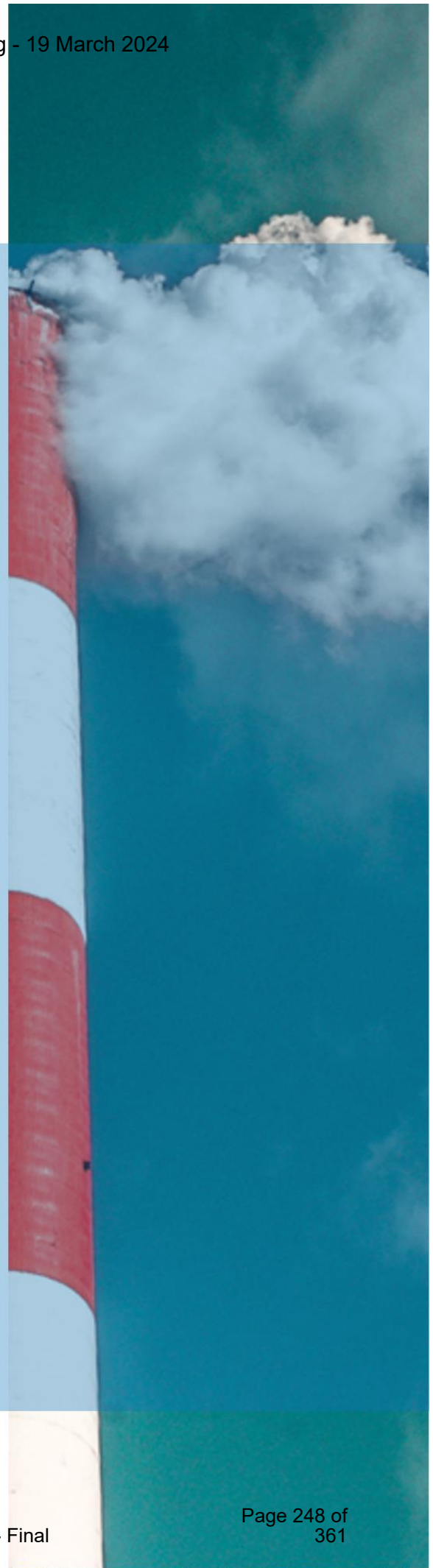
FIGURE 13: SOLAR PV UPTAKE BY OBERON LGA (APVI 2021)

¹⁷ APVI <http://pv-map.apvi.org.au/>



Baseline

Oberon Council's energy and carbon footprint



7 Oberon Council¹⁸

Oberon Council is located in Central West NSW, approximately two hours drive from Bathurst, Orange, Cowra and Blue Mountains. The council services a total area of 3,628 km². More than 28% of Oberon Council is protected including, national parks and natural reserves.

As of 2019, 5,411 people were residing in Oberon Council according to the ABS. The population in the LGA has been relatively steady in the past six years. From a total of 675 registered businesses, 46% are in the agricultural sector.

Approximately 60% of the LGA’s population lives in the main town of Oberon. Smaller populations live in small towns including O’Connell, Hazelgrove, Edith and Black Springs.

Council provides water and wastewater services, community facilities, waste management, roads and vegetation management, sport and recreation, and planning and administration services from its facilities, with most services based in Oberon. From an energy perspective Council has 56 metered electricity accounts and operates a fleet of diesel and petrol vehicles. Council also pays for street lighting services (energy and maintenance), though these assets are owned and managed by Essential Energy.

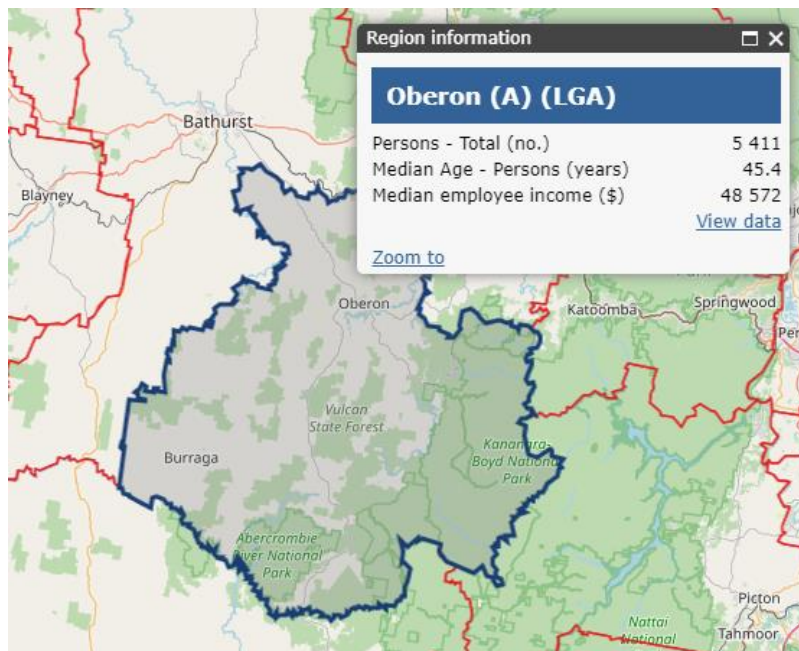


FIGURE 14: OBERON COUNCIL BOUNDARY MAP¹⁹

¹⁸ Information sourced from <https://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au/about-oberon> and https://itt.abs.gov.au/itt/r.jsp?RegionSummary®ion=13010&dataset=ABS_REGIONAL_LGA2018&geoconcept=LGA_2018&maplayerid=LGA2018&measure=MEASURE&datasetASGS=ABS_REGIONAL_ASGS2016&datasetLGA=ABS_REGIONAL_LGA2018®ionLGA=LGA_2018®ionASGS=ASGS_2016

¹⁹ Figure sourced from <https://dbr.abs.gov.au/region.html?lyr=lga&rqn=16100>

8 Council’s 2019/20 energy use and carbon footprint

Council’s energy use and carbon footprint were assessed based on available energy consumption only, and additional emissions from landfill gases, sewerage treatment emissions and other sources such as refrigerants were excluded. In 2019/20 Council’s carbon footprint was dominated by electricity consumption and bulk diesel fuel consumption. Fuel consumption via fleet card purchases were not available and will be small relative to bulk diesel consumption.

TABLE 5: COUNCIL’S ENERGY USE AND CARBON FOOTPRINT 2019/20

	Emission source	Activity data	Units	Scope 1 t CO2-e	Scope 2 t CO2-e	Scope 3 t CO2-e	Total	%
🚗	Diesel	318.24	kL	864.9		44.2	909.1	45.1%
	Petrol	-	kL	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0%
🏢	Electricity used in council assets	731,160.51	kWh		592.2	65.8	658.0	32.6%
💡	Electricity used by streetlighting	262,459.00	kWh		212.6	236.2	448.8	22.3%
📊	TOTAL			864.9	804.8	346.2	2,016.0	100.0%

Data were provided by CNSWJO from a handful of sources and the estimates developed as follows:

- The bulk fuel data was provided as a spreadsheet for FY19-20; as the data was not separated for petrol and diesel, we have assumed all bulk fuel data corresponds to diesel.
- Electricity data for all the large and small sites were provided from the e21 energy portal for dates from 2017 to 2020.
- Council had Origin as their retailers, and the tariff contract structures were supplied for all the 56 sites in a separate spreadsheet.

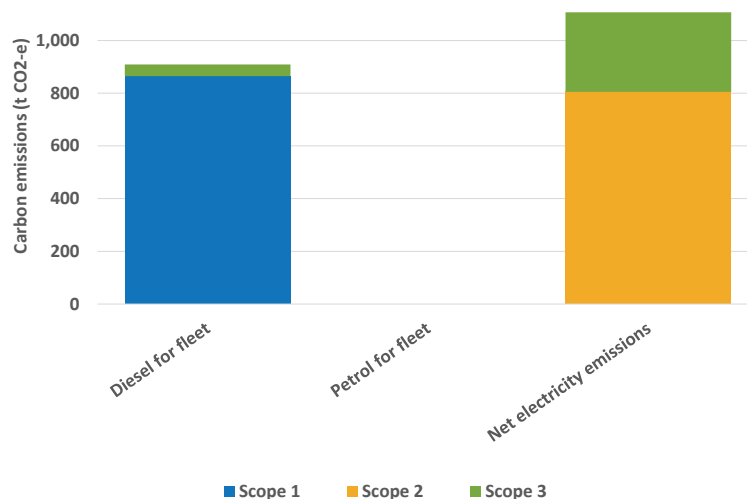


FIGURE 15: OBERON COUNCIL CARBON FOOTPRINT BY EMISSION SOURCE

8.1 Electricity consumption summary

As the main source of operational greenhouse gas emissions, electricity use was assessed further. The following two charts provide a summary of where and how electricity is used, including:

- Top 10 electricity using sites seen against the balance of consumption
- Estimated electricity end-use by equipment type

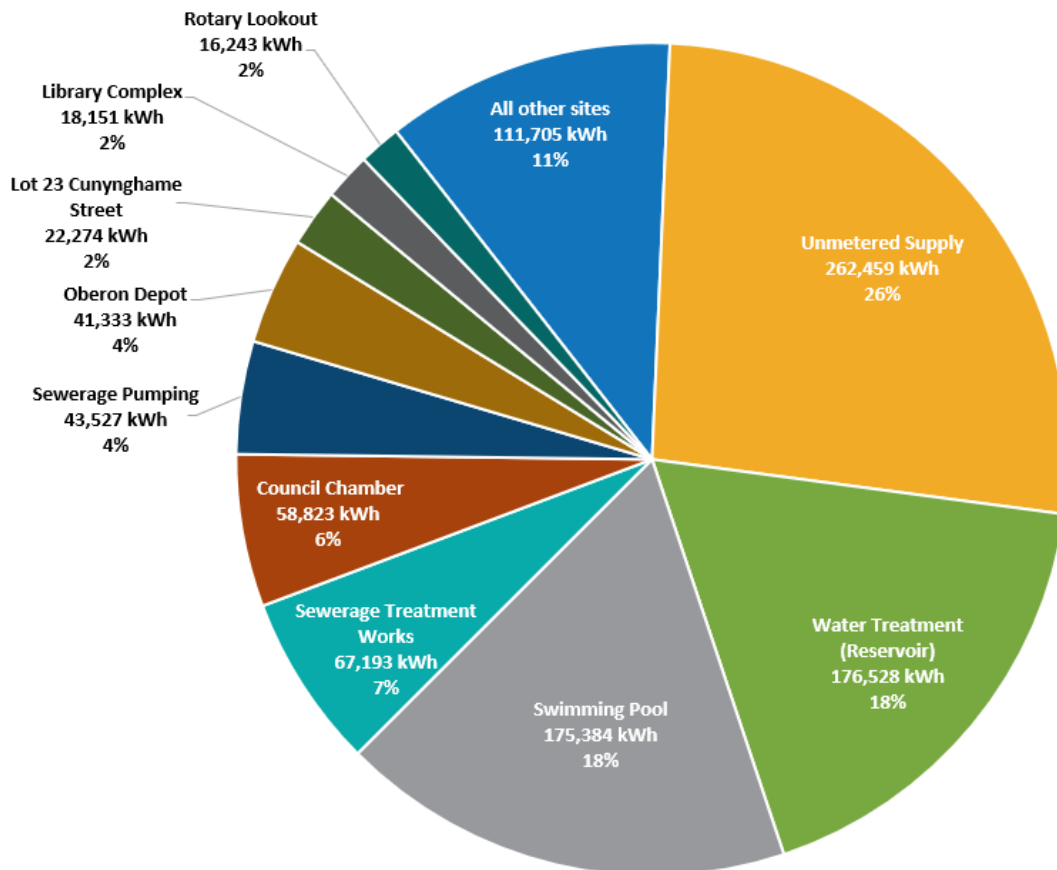


FIGURE 16: OBERON COUNCIL'S LARGE ELECTRICITY USING SITES

Electricity use is dominated by a small number of large sites (including the main street lighting account) and many individually small electricity using sites. The 'top 10' sites' use 89% of total electricity used by Council. As seen in the figure above, 26% of electricity is consumed by streetlighting, and other large consumers include the water treatment plant, swimming pool, sewage treatment plant and the Council chambers, which account for 48% of electricity consumption. Sites under 'all other sites' include for example toilet blocks, open spaces / parks and lookouts.

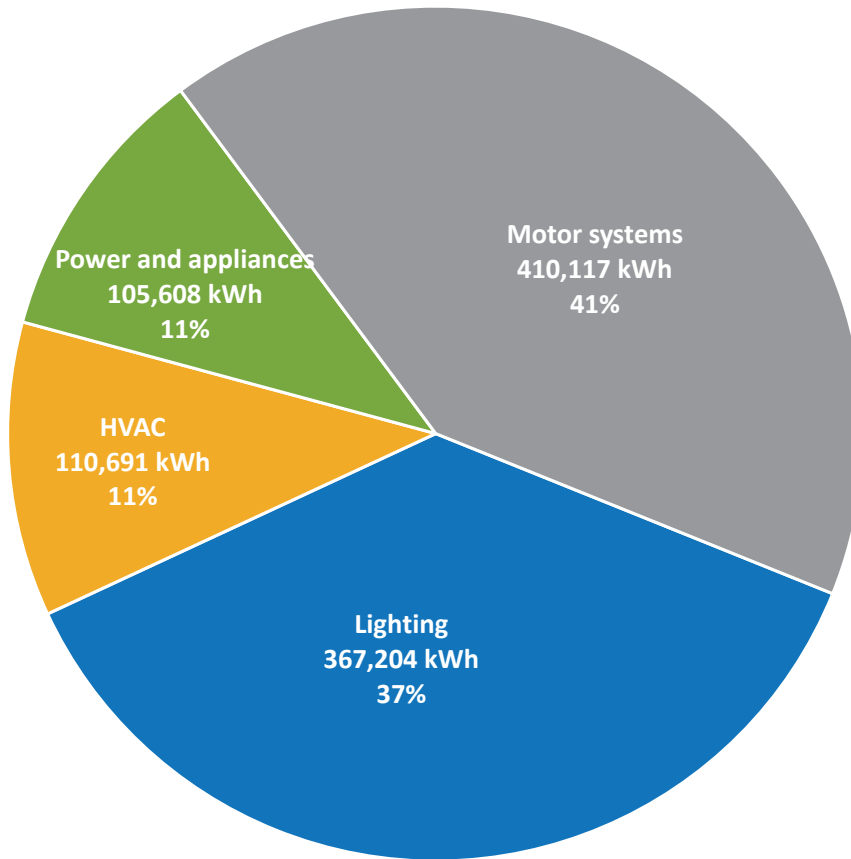


FIGURE 17: OBERON COUNCIL ELECTRICITY USE BY EQUIPMENT

It is also possible to estimate the contribution by major equipment types to electricity use, based on experience with similar operations. The major equipment types include motor systems, lighting, air conditioning (HVAC) and power & appliances. The estimated contribution to Council’s electricity consumption is illustrated above, highlighting motor systems and lighting as the major users, and likely the major focus areas for energy efficiency.



Renewable Energy Action Plan

Oberon Council's
RE and EE
opportunities



9 Oberon Council’s Renewable Energy Action Plans

9.1 Measures available to reduce Oberon Council’s electricity and carbon footprint

A review of Oberon Council’s current operational energy demand and carbon footprint, site visits and discussions with staff suggests that there are four main areas of action by Oberon Council that, implemented together in a planned way, can reduce energy demand, increase onsite renewables, and reduce energy-related emissions. These four areas are:

1. Buying clean energy (e.g. via a renewable energy power purchase agreement or PPA)
2. Behind-the-meter solar (i.e. onsite solar, BESS)
3. Energy efficiency
4. Sustainable transport

These four measures are illustrated in the graphic below. Following this, a summary of the scope, scale, cost-effectiveness and risks associated with each of these measures is presented that can enable the success of Council’s abatement efforts. This is then followed by the presentation of action plans that will guide Oberon Council to implement their Renewable Energy Action Plan.

Action plans are based on analysis of information and data, visits to Oberon Council facilities with experienced staff, and discussions with key stakeholders.



FIGURE 18: FOUR CATEGORIES OF MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES AT COUNCIL

9.2 Buying clean energy

9.2.1 Renewable energy power purchase agreement



Description

The single biggest opportunity to reduce electricity emissions is to purchase renewable energy and/or renewable energy offsets via Council’s electricity procurement process. Unlike other abatement options, this does not require Oberon Council to physically implement change, only to stipulate that renewables be purchased to meet part or all of its electricity needs. This approach has been taken by several local governments in recent years and underpins most goals to reach carbon neutrality / net-zero emissions²⁰. There are three main ways in which an organisation can source renewable energy, illustrated below.



The most favourable approach in the current market is likely to be to enter into a renewable energy power purchase agreement (PPA) with bundled electricity and Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs).

As part of its electricity procurement arrangements through Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO), Oberon Council has previously sought to source renewable energy as part of its supply agreement. Future electricity procurement processes will similarly seek to invite offers for renewable energy supply, up to 100% of member Councils’ requirements. Assessment of offers will compare offered prices with ‘regular’ power offers and take into account proposed contract duration for a renewable energy PPA and long-term forecast wholesale electricity prices.



Scope for abatement

Based on Oberon Council’s current energy mix, **purchasing 100% renewable electricity would lead to abatement of 1,107 t CO₂-e, and 50% renewables would lead to abatement of 882 t CO₂-e per year** (the exact abatement would change based on annual energy demand, on the selection of large-only sites or all sites, and on the proportion of renewables selected).

²⁰ Examples of NSW Councils’ purchasing renewables as part of their electricity supply include: [Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils](#), [City of Sydney](#), [City of Newcastle](#) and [Hawkesbury City Council](#).


Risks and mitigation

A risk assessment would be performed as part of CNSWJO's electricity procurement process.


Costs and benefits

The costs or benefits of a renewable energy PPA are assessable via comparison of PPA offer pricing with offered and forecast regular power pricing over the same timeframe, and so is inherently subject to the quality of knowledge and assumptions underpinning forecasting.

9.2.2 Mid-scale solar farm in Oberon Council


Description

An option available to Oberon Council is to build its own mid-scale renewable energy plant on land it owns or to participate in a regional mid-scale renewable energy project with other councils. Power generated would be exported to the grid, and Council could then purchase this electricity (and LGCs) via a licensed retailer or could simply take the grid spot price as income and retire or sell LGCs depending on its income and/or abatement goals.

This arrangement is like projects developed in recent years by Sunshine Coast Council (15 MW solar farm at Valdora generates the same clean energy as Council's electricity demand) and City of Newcastle (5MW Summerhill landfill solar farm meets ~30-40% of Council's electricity needs). While several recent projects have been based on solar energy, bioenergy opportunities may also be feasible at a regional level.

A key aspect to note in these projects is that Council can't simply 'allocate' the renewable energy generated to its sites. If it wants to offset its regular power use with power from its own renewable energy plant, it must do so via a licensed retailer as an intermediary.

Like a PPA that is negotiated for supply from remote / non-Council projects, developing a mid-scale project is a complex undertaking, and requires assessment of a range of aspects, such as design, connection agreements, EPC and O&M contracts, ownership models, and the development of retail agreements to supply the power to Council. Community involvement in the ownership and/or purchasing of clean energy from the project could also be considered.

This likely represents a long term option for Oberon Council, and this strategy does not assess the costs, benefits, options and risks associated with this approach.

The visits to Oberon identified the existing landfill as a potential site for a mid-scale solar farm, subject to future supply of electricity to the site and/or proximity to the grid for export. After the landfill is capped, the top section of the site is estimated to have capacity for a 1.19MW east-west fixed tilt system, such as the 5B racking system to meet Council's energy demand. This size / type of solar farm can generate an estimated 1.736 GWh of energy annually, more than Council's electricity demand.


**Scope for
abatement**

The scope for abatement of Council's emissions would depend on the scale and type of project, treatment of LGCs generated from the project's operation, and Oberon Council's offtake fraction of energy generated, for example.

The case for Council to develop a project such as this may have multiple aspects, such as meeting its own targets for renewables and abatement, its desire to see more renewable energy projects built in Oberon, its desire to build projects that involve community ownership and/or establishment of a community energy retailer, or opportunities for grant funding that may make such a project economically viable compared with other options.

So, the scope for abatement of Council's emissions can range from a small fraction up to 100% of electricity emissions, and the scope for abatement in the wider community is potentially even larger.


**Risks and
mitigation**

In addition to the renewable energy PPA risks that would be evaluated as part of electricity procurement (and which would also apply in the case of a mid-scale project), additional risks apply when looking at this opportunity. These include:

- Retailers may not want to be party to off-take, so the ability to sleeve with Council's electricity agreement may be limited
- Greater skills and knowledge of wholesale markets would be required to manage revenue risk over time

These are examples, and other risks may apply and would need to be identified, assessed, and managed/mitigated as part of any future project development.


**Costs and
benefits**

In the current market – with declining wholesale prices, declining LGC prices, and lower offtake rates available for much larger renewable energy projects compared with mid-scale projects, the business case likely favours a PPA-only model to sourcing renewables for Council's facilities, from a financial perspective, rather than a local solar farm.

Hence the only recommendation at this time is to maintain a watch on trends in solar technology, battery technology and grant funding opportunities.

9.3 Behind-the-meter solar



Description

Solar PV is a well-established technology, and more than 20% of Australian homes and an increasing number of businesses are installing solar panels to reduce their grid energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions. The uptake of battery energy storage (BESS) remains low but is expected to become more cost effective in future.

Visits to Council's operations as well as discussions about planned new facilities and upgrades has highlighted opportunities for solar at several sites. At several sites more than one option can be considered. At some sites implementation of solar and storage may be a staged approach.

The following is a summary of the solar PV and BESS opportunities that have been identified at Council operated sites:

Site name	Behind-the-meter solar potential
Water Treatment Plant	A 31.5kW roof-mounted solar PV system can be installed on the main building facing north-west. In the long-term, Council can develop another 67kW ground-mounted system with 150kWh battery storage to meet more of the site's energy demand.
Oberon Aquatic Centre	Install a 62.9kW roof-mounted solar PV system on the newly constructed gym and the aquatic centre roofs. The system can be expanded to a 99kW PV system with 70kWh battery storage to meet more of the variable demand of the site.
Sewerage Treatment Works	Install a 35.5kW ground-mounted solar PV system next to the newly designed STP site (assumed to require one third more power than the current STP, this and the optimum solar array size should be verified after 12 months of operation of the new plant). The PV system would be close to the proposed plant room. In future, Council could expand the solar PV system to a 63kW ground-mount system with 150kWh battery storage. The proposed system size in the long term would depend on future energy demand.
Council Chambers	Install a 30kW roof-mounted solar PV system on the north facing aspects of the building. Being a commercial space, most of the energy would be consumed during daytime on weekdays. Council can expand the system in future to a 46.6kW roof-mounted solar PV system coupled with a 70kWh battery storage unit.
Sewerage Pump	Install a 10.9kW single-pole ground-mounted solar PV system. This could be installed north of the plant room, which has a flat terrain profile. Alternatively, Council can install a system sized at 19.1kW, ground-mounted solar PV system with a 50kWh battery storage unit in the long-term.



Council Depot	Install a 16.3kW roof-mounted solar PV system on the main vehicle shed. In the long-term, Council can expand the roof-mounted solar PV to a 28kW system with a 15kWh battery unit.
Library Complex	Install a 10kW solar PV system with a 5kWh battery storage unit to meet the energy demand of the newly re-designed library building. Please note, this system has been sized based on the current electricity demand. Revisit this opportunity with actual energy data after the centre renovation.
Visitors Information Centre	Install a 6.66kW roof-mounted solar PV system on the north-east section of the roof.
The Common	Install a 15kWh AC battery to store the excess energy generated from the existing solar PV system. Council can also look to increase the system size by replacing the existing PV panels with more efficient 370W panels, with a 20kWh battery storage unit to meet the site's variable energy demand.
Community Centre	Install an 8.25kW solar PV system on the re-designed community centre. Please note, this system has been sized based on the current electricity demand. Revisit this opportunity with actual energy data after the centre renovation.
Fire Control Office	Install a 6.6kW roof-mounted solar PV system on the east and west orientation of the site.
SES Building	Install a 5.9kW roof-mounted solar PV system on the north section of the rear building.
Oberon Tennis Club	Install a 133kW roof-mounted solar PV system on the Oberon tennis site as a community scale project.
Sporting Complex	Install a 39.4kW solar PV system on the pavilion/viewing building of the planned new sporting complex. In the long-term, Council can install a 96.8kW carport structure with a 70kWh battery storage unit. This would ideally be part of the EV charging infrastructure proposed for this site.
Landfill	As a short-term opportunity, consider install a 4kW ground-mounted single-pole solar PV system with a 6kWh battery storage unit and a 5kVA generator. And, in the long-term expand this off-grid system to meet most of the energy demand at the landfill. We have assumed an average daily demand of 55kWh/day to size this off-grid system. Following this, a 23.7kW ground-mounted system with a 52kWh battery storage unit and a 11kW

LPG generator can be implemented to meet the energy demand of the landfill.


Scope for abatement

The above opportunities can be summarised as:

- Council-operated sites have scope for **~235kW – 400kW** of solar PV, with scope for battery energy storage in the long term at sites with low or intermittent demand.
- This can generate from **~355MWh to 611MWh** of electricity per year with most of this consumed on Council sites and some export to grid. Abatement at current grid carbon intensity would be **226.6 to 435 t CO₂-e** per year for reduced onsite grid electricity use, plus emissions savings associated with export of excess solar energy to the grid for systems smaller than 100 kW.


Risks and mitigation

Risks associated with solar PV implementation are minimal provided systems are appropriately sized, designed, installed, connected and maintained on sound buildings and structures, as with any other asset.

The cost effectiveness of solar PV has long been demonstrated, and panel prices continue to fall. The commercial sector has embraced solar PV in recent years, and this is the main factor that has driven further acceleration in the implementation of Roof-mounted solar.


Costs and benefits

The estimated costs and annual savings for each of the above systems is summarised in the tables below.

9.3.1 Onsite renewable energy

Site visits and data analysis were used to identify sites that are most likely to be suitable to install solar PV. A summary of the solar PV layouts at Oberon Council sites is provided in Appendix A. Note that opportunities for solar and storage in the long term represent full rather than marginal PV + storage opportunities, so Council has visibility of the overall opportunity and (current estimated) overall financial returns for each site. If Council elects to implement short / medium term opportunities for these sites, then only the marginal project scope and costs would warrant implementation in the longer term.

TABLE 6: INDICATIVE COSTS AND SAVINGS FOR MINIMUM BEHIND-THE-METER SOLAR PV FOR COUNCIL SITES

Site	Modelled PV size	BESS (kWh)	Capital cost	Cost savings	Payback (years)	NPV	IRR	Solar yield (kWh)	% of solar export	% energy saving	Emissions reduction (t CO ₂ -e) ²¹
Water Treatment Plant	<i>Short-term option:</i> 31.5kW Roof-mounted solar PV		\$31,500	\$7,624	4.4	\$65,032	22%	45,800	~30%	18%	28.85
	<i>Long-term option:</i> 98.8kW Ground-mounted solar PV + BESS	150	\$222,490	\$28,578	14.6	\$31,985	6%	157,300	~20%	71%	113.26
Oberon Aquatic Centre	<i>Short-term option:</i> 62.9kW Roof-mounted solar PV		\$62,900	\$16,513	4.1	\$148,009	24%	91,430	~30%	36%	57.6
	<i>Long-term option:</i> 99.5kW Roof-mounted solar PV + BESS	70	\$162,500	\$28,288	6.1	\$167,919	13%	142,983	~20%	65%	102.9

²¹ Emissions reduction refers here only to reduced grid electricity use on site.

Site	Modelled PV size	BESS (kWh)	Capital cost	Cost savings	Payback (years)	NPV	IRR	Solar yield (kWh)	% of solar export	% energy saving	Emissions reduction (t CO ₂ -e) ²¹
Sewerage Treatment Works	<i>Medium-term option:</i> 35.5kW Ground-mounted solar PV		\$46,150	\$10,988	4.5	\$95,438	22%	56,420	~30%	44%	35.5
	<i>Long-term option:</i> 62.9kW Ground-mounted solar + BESS	150	\$216,770	\$21,391	16.8	-\$8,237	5%	99,960	~20%	12%	71.9
Council Chambers	<i>Short-term option:</i> 33.3kW Roof-mounted solar PV		\$33,300	\$11,095	3.2	\$118,971	31%	49,750	~30%	59%	31.34
	<i>Long-term option:</i> 46.6kW Roof-mounted solar PV + BESS	70	\$76,300	\$16,063	7.2	\$58,204	11%	68,342	~20%	89%	46.95
Sewerage Pump	<i>Short-term option:</i> 10.10kW Ground-mounted solar PV		\$14,170	\$4,450	3.4	\$43,883	30%	18,680	~20%	34%	13.4
	<i>Alternate: Long-term option:</i> 19.1kW Ground-mounted solar PV + BESS	50	\$69,830	\$8,433	8.8	\$17,788	7%	32,370	~10%	67%	26.2
Council Depot	<i>Short-term option:</i> 16.3kW		\$16,300	\$5,491	3.10	\$55,122	32%	24,180	~25%	44%	16.32

Site	Modelled PV size	BESS (kWh)	Capital cost	Cost savings	Payback (years)	NPV	IRR	Solar yield (kWh)	% of solar export	% energy saving	Emissions reduction (t CO ₂ -e) ²¹
	Roof-mounted solar PV										
	<i>Long-term option:</i> 28.1kW Roof-mounted solar PV + BESS	15	\$41,600	\$9,970	4.4	\$81,459	21%	41,850	~20%	81%	30.1
Library Complex	<i>Medium-term option:</i> 10kW Roof-mounted solar PV + BESS	5	\$14,500	~\$2,682	~5.7	~\$17,594	16%	15,830	~40%	~52%	~8.5
Visitors Information Centre	<i>Short-term option:</i> 6.66kW Roof-mounted solar PV		\$6,660	\$2,457	2.9	\$25,407	35%	10,470	~25%	49%	7.1
The Common	<i>Medium-term option:</i> 15kWh BESS	15	\$13,500	\$1,121	19.9	-\$2,853	3%	-	~10%	31%	3.84
	<i>Medium-term option:</i> 8.14kW Solar PV upgrade + BESS	20	\$23,698	\$3,167	7.5	-	-	12,180	~25%	67%	8.2
New Community Centre	<i>Medium-term option:</i> 8.25kW Roof-mounted solar PV		\$8,250	~\$3,421	~2.5	~\$36,796	39%	12,910	~25%	~96%	8.7
Fire Control Building	<i>Short-term option:</i> 6.66kW		\$6,660	\$2,009	3.5	\$19,530	28%	8,733	~30%	62%	5.5

Site	Modelled PV size	BESS (kWh)	Capital cost	Cost savings	Payback (years)	NPV	IRR	Solar yield (kWh)	% of solar export	% energy saving	Emissions reduction (t CO ₂ -e) ²¹
	Roof-mounted solar PV										
SES Building	<i>Short-term option:</i> 5.92kW Roof-mounted solar PV		\$5,920.00	\$2,038	3.0	\$20,688	33%	8,855	~30%	64%	5.6
Minimum total*	235kW	25	\$270,008	\$71,936	3.75	\$646,470	26%	355,238	~28%	52%	226.61
Maximum total**	400.6kW	530	\$855,178	\$128,497	6.6	\$469,133	19%	611,783	~24%	65%	434.91

* The minimum total of **235kW** takes into account the minimum solar PV and battery opportunities for all the sites. These consider opportunities that Council has prioritised as short, and medium term targets for each site. For example, if a site has only a small/ medium term target, the smaller system size is accounted towards the minimum PV opportunities.

** The maximum total of **400kW** takes into account the maximum solar PV and battery opportunities for all the sites. If a site has opportunities in both the long and short term, the long-term opportunity is counted in the maximum PV opportunities calculations. However, for sites that may only have a medium/ short term recommendation, the larger system size still gets calculated towards the maximum PV opportunities.

9.3.2 Solar PV and battery storage opportunities for future works and community

We have also estimated a few future works and community solar PV and BESS projects that could be implemented as a long-term target for Council. However, these opportunities have not been financially assessed at this stage.

TABLE 7: INDICATIVE CAPITAL COSTS FOR FUTURE WORKS AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Site	Modelled PV size	BESS (kWh)	Capital cost
Landfill	4kW – Off-grid solar PV	6	\$18,000
	23.7kW - Off-grid solar PV	52	\$106,650
	1,100kW - Ground-mounted solar PV		\$1,980,000
Planned New Sporting Complex	39.6kW - Roof-mounted solar PV		\$39,600
	96.8kW - Solar Carport	70	\$334,040
Oberon Tennis Club – Community Project	133kW - Roof-mounted solar PV		\$199,500

9.3.3 Assumptions used

- Solar modelling software (Helioscope with Nearmap / Six maps) was used for all proposed installations.
- Council’s energy billing data and site interval data (where available) was used to determine optimum solar array sizes and to estimate or calculate the level of self-consumption of solar and the amount likely to be exported in each case.
- Benchmark pricing for solar PV systems (flush roof-mount, tilted roof-mount and ground-mount systems) and inverters has been used.
 - Flush and fixed roof-mount systems - \$1/W STC scale and \$1.5/W LGC scale, solar PV upgrade - \$0.7/W STC scale
 - Ground-mount systems - \$1.3/W STC scale and \$1.8/W LGC scale
 - Carport solar systems - \$2.8/W STC scale and \$3.3/W LGC scale
 - Off-grid solar PV system - \$4.5/W STC scale
- Annual expenses include cleaning / maintenance. Cleaning costs of \$15/MWh of solar energy generation have been used. These are applied to each solar PV opportunity with annual escalation at 2.5%.
- For all exported energy a feed-in rate of \$0.08/kWh was assumed to be available, which will require Council to seek this in electricity agreements.
- A single discount rate of 5% is applied for net present value (NPV) calculations.

9.4 Energy efficiency



Description

Energy efficiency remains the cheapest form of greenhouse gas abatement in many situations. The following is a summary of the identified energy efficiency opportunities at Council sites:

- **Street Lighting:** Council has received a business case and proposed costs to upgrade its streetlights to LED technology. This will apply to local as well as main roads (excluding lighting owned and managed by RMS).
- **STP and Swimming Pool VSD controls:** Most of the sites at Oberon Council with large pumps utilise VSD controls. The swimming pool would be an ideal site to install VSD control to operate the main recirculation pump to setback at night and when the pool is closed. Furthermore, the upgraded STP site could implement VSD controls on major aerators and motors, in conjunction with Dissolved Oxygen (DO) control.
- **Lighting:** Much of Council's sites have been upgraded to LED technology. Moving forward, Council can replace the remaining fluorescent technology with LED fittings as an "easy target" to reduce energy demand and improve energy efficiency.

Efficiency plans and budgeting will be informed by regular auditing of facilities and equipment, and by Operational Budget planning and Delivery Program planning that considers projects that will continuously reduce Council's energy footprint.



Scope for abatement

The scope for energy efficiency across Council's sites is estimated to be around **192MWh** per year, equal to more than 19% of current electricity demand. Around 69% of this potential is associated with upgrading all streetlights to LED.

While energy savings potential is significant, the design and construction of new facilities may see increases in energy demand as well, even where these new facilities are energy efficient. Hence the net savings potential could be lower than these estimates.



Risks and mitigation

The risks associated with energy efficiency upgrades are generally low provided business cases, specification and contractor management processes are robust. Some of the main risks and mitigants will include:

- Designing effective measurement and verification at an affordable cost that provides useful feedback about the success of projects
- Regular review processes for energy management is important. For example, design guidelines and procurement guidelines should stay at the level of development of new technologies, practices and services



Costs and benefits

The estimated costs and annual savings for each of the above opportunities is summarised in the tables below.

9.4.1 Energy efficiency initiatives

Site visits and data analysis were used to identify energy efficiency opportunities at Oberon Council.

TABLE 8: INDICATIVE COSTS AND SAVINGS FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR COUNCIL-OPERATED SITES

Site	Description of potential energy efficiency opportunity	Indicative cost	Cost savings	Payback (years)	Resource savings (kWh)	% energy savings	Emissions reduction (t CO ₂ -e)	IRR
Streetlighting	<i>Short-term option:</i> Upgrade all the 482 streetlights to LED technology.	\$219,046	\$40,080	5.3	133,854	51%	117	18%
Oberon Aquatic Centre	<i>Short-term option:</i> Install LED fittings to replace all remaining HID and fluorescent lightings.	\$5,446	\$908	6.0	3,946	6%	3.55	17%
	<i>Short-term option:</i> Implement VSD control on the pool's main recirculation pump, which would include setback at night and when the pool is closed.	\$45,179	\$5,647	8.0	24,554	11%	22.1	12%
Sewerage Treatment Works	<i>Short-term option:</i> Implement VSD control on major aerators and pumps at the upgraded STP site in conjunction with Dissolved Oxygen (DO) control (note this is indicative and assumes 25% savings for VSD compared with DOL control for aerators in the new plant which is taken to require a third more power than the current plant. If VSDs are already spec'd then this opportunity has already been achieved).	\$38,552	\$4,819	8.0	19,276	21%	17.35	13%

Site	Description of potential energy efficiency opportunity	Indicative cost	Cost savings	Payback (years)	Resource savings (kWh)	% energy savings	Emissions reduction (t CO ₂ -e)	IRR
Council Chambers	<i>Short-term option:</i> Replace all the surface-mounted fluorescent light fittings to LED technology.	\$10,235	\$1,706	6.0	5,882	11%	5.29	17%
Council Depot	<i>Short-term option:</i> Upgrade the remaining fluorescent lights with LED fittings.	\$5,063	\$1,013	5	3,616	6%	3.25	20%
Visitors Information Centre	<i>Short-term option:</i> Replace all the 36W fluorescent light fittings to LED technology.	\$2,572	\$468	5.5	1,612	12%	1.45	18%
Total		\$326,093	\$54,641	5.97	192,740	17%	170	16%

9.5 Sustainable transport



Description

Transport emissions is a substantial GHG source for Oberon Council from diesel used for Council's operational vehicles. Petrol use for passenger cars will be small by comparison, but was not supplied for this project. Given the dominance of larger diesel-fuelled vehicles and plant the opportunities for Council to transition rapidly to low and zero-emissions fleet are currently limited.

NSW Government's Net Zero Plan 2020-2030 is developing a range of measures that will start to shape the future of transport in the State. Recently the government announced \$490 million in funding, which includes:

- Waiving stamp duty on eligible EVs under \$78,000
- \$3,000 upfront rebates on 25,000 eligible EVs under \$68,750
- \$171 million for EV charging incl \$131 million for ultra fast charging
- \$33 million to help shift government fleets to electric
- 50% target for new vehicles to be EV by 2030, and
- No new road user tax until 30% of new vehicle sales are EV

Other measures underway also include electric buses and consumer information programs.

For communities such as Oberon, some of the key aspects that these measures will need to consider in order for EV strategies to be locally applicable will include:

- Real data examining performance of hybrid and EVs in regional communities,
- Supply, warranty, and servicing issues at a local regional level, and
- Coordination on EV charging infrastructure development, between State Government, councils / groups of councils through CNSWJO, and private + motoring association providers

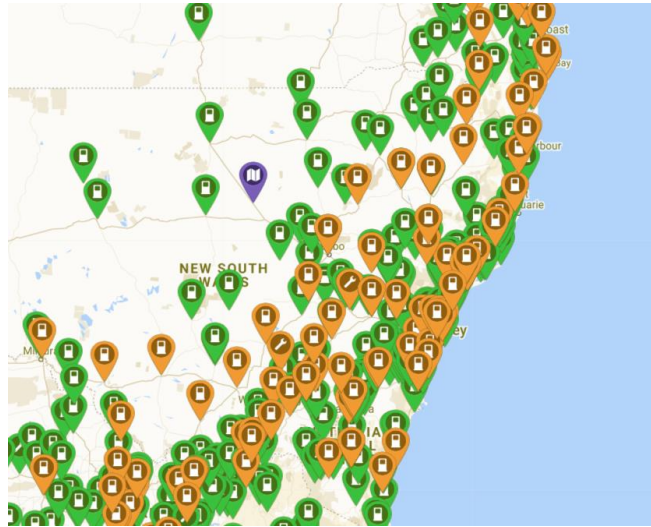
The focus of this section of Council's Renewable Energy Action Plan is to provide an overview of the current status some of these key areas that will shape future transport, including current EV infrastructure, EV growth, and actions that Council can start to progress.

EV charging infrastructure

In August 2020 the Electric Vehicle Council reported that there were 2,307 DC and AC chargers in Australia²². Locations of DC and public chargers are readily accessible, see below²³, where green pins denote public chargers and orange pins denote fast, or rapid chargers. It has been noted that the EV infrastructure is rapidly growing, with a 40% increase in fast chargers in the past 12 months. Increasing numbers of private chargers are also being installed, retrofitted to homes and businesses as well as designed into new buildings.

²² <https://electricvehiclecouncil.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/State-of-EVs-in-Australia-2019.pdf>, p19

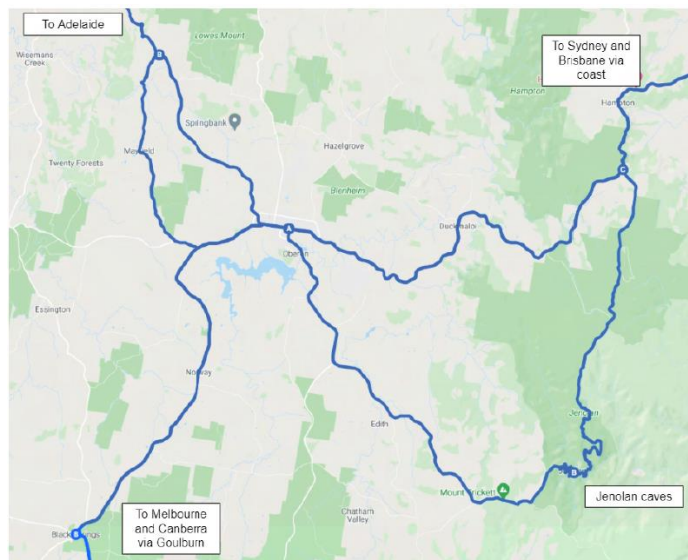
²³ <https://www.plugshare.com/>



PLUGSHARE MAP OF PUBLIC (GREEN) AND FAST (ORANGE) EV CHARGERS IN NSW, APRIL 2021

Oberon Council

Currently, Oberon has one public charger, which is located at the Visitor Information Centre. The report developed by CNSWJO specifically for its Council members includes the key routes, EV charging infrastructure benefits and potential sites to develop EV infrastructure. The key routes identified for Oberon Council have been mapped in the image below ²⁴.



MAP OF KEY ROUTES AROUND OBERON – CNSWJO EV REPORT

²⁴ Everergi & CNSWJO. (2021). REGIONAL EV CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE IN CENTRAL NSW. Central New South Wales Joint Organisation.

The report provides a detailed summary of shortlisted sites identified in Oberon, along with the recommended charger sizes, constraints, and descriptions for shortlisting the site. The table below summarises the identified site from the Regional Charging Infrastructure Report ²⁵:

Location	Site Ownership
The Oberon Common	Council
Oberon Visitors Information Centre	Council
Tallys Lane (Near Library)	Council
Oberon Dam	Council
APEX Park	Council
Jenolan Cave Trust	Private
Mayfield Gardens	Private
War Museum	Private
Oberon & District Museum	Private
Oberon Hotel	Private
Supa IGA	Private
Oberon Golf Club	Private
Oberon Hospital	Private
Jenolan Holiday Park	Private

The CNSWJO Regional Charging Infrastructure report plays a vital role for Oberon Council to make informed decisions on transitioning into EV's and keeping up with the demand for EV chargers across Australia.

Types of EV Chargers

There are three types of EV chargers that have been implemented across Australia²⁶.

- **Level 1:** These are typically used at residential properties, and usually draw power from an existing power point (10-15 Amp, single phase). These are slow chargers and require long hours to fully charge a BEV. These chargers use five pin ports. Two pins are used as a communication portal between the EV and the station, and the other three pins are the AC lines for charging.
- **Level 2:** These are the typical commercial level chargers currently deployed in Australia. They are AC chargers, and have a seven-pin port which is to support the three-phase supply. The level 2 chargers can be found in apartment complexes, shopping centres, public and office spaces. A BEV can be charged overnight with this charger.
- **Level 3:** These are rapid DC EV chargers at power levels ranging from 25kW to 350kW. There is an uptake of these chargers across Australia, mainly at

²⁵ Evenergi & CNSWJO. (2021). REGIONAL EV CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE IN CENTRAL NSW. Central New South Wales Joint Organisation.

²⁶ <https://electricvehiclecouncil.com.au/about-ev/charger-map/>

public locations, as they have the capability to charge certain EV's fully in less than 30 mins.

EV charging infrastructure providers in Australia

While there are multiple EV suppliers in the Australian market, we have investigated the top 4 EV charging infrastructure providers in Australia.

- JET Charge: One of the largest suppliers of EV in Australia. They are the official charging partner to 14 different vehicle manufactures.
- Schneider Electric: They provide turn-key charging solutions for EV through their EVlink charging stations. They are compatible with most of the EV's manufactured for Australia. They also have different solutions for residential, commercial private and public parking areas.
- Tritium: They are specialised in designing and manufacturing the world's most advanced and reliable fast and high-powered DC chargers. Tritium has developed DC chargers with nameplates ranging from 50kW to 350kW.
- NHP: They are a well-established electrical and engineering company with over 50-years of experience in the Oceania region. They offer solutions ranging from low-cost home chargers to DC rapid chargers.

DC vs AC charging stations

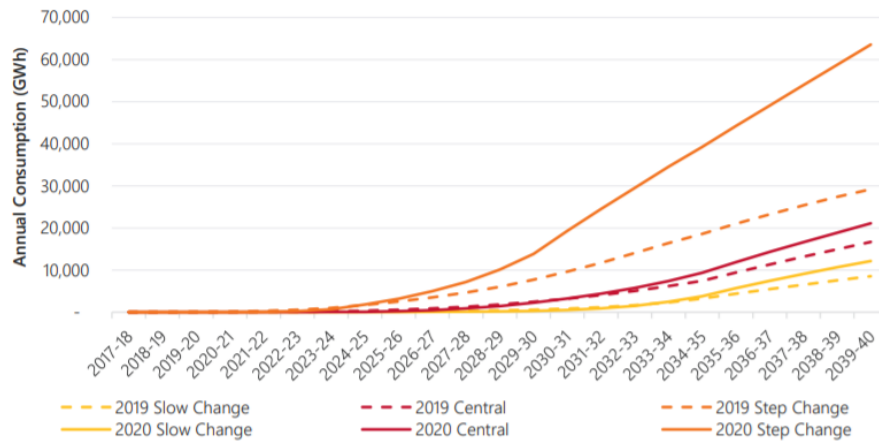
Most electric cars are fitted with DC batteries. As the grid infrastructure carries AC power, Australia has pushed forward with AC charging infrastructure. Currently, there are 1,950 AC chargers, with 630 of them located in NSW. The AC current is converted onboard to DC, before the car is refuelled, hence the car takes longer to charge. On the other hand, DC chargers have AC-DC converters inside the charger, allowing for rapid charging. The DC chargers are more expensive, and there are currently 350 charging stations across Australia with 153 of them located in NSW. The DC charging stations are beneficial for community areas, which can attract travellers and tourists.

Projected growth in electric vehicles

AEMO's 2020 Electricity Statement of Opportunities (SOO) forecasts energy demand for EV uptake through to 2040²⁷. Except under a step-change forecast EV uptake forecasts remain low until the last 2020s' and into the 2030s.

Where fuelled with regular grid power in NSW EVs currently have higher operational emissions than hybrids, whereas where fuelled from renewables this is not the case. As the grid changes with planned retirements of coal fired power stations, this situation will change and emissions from EVs will become less than those from hybrids.

²⁷ https://aemo.com.au/-/media/files/electricity/nem/planning_and_forecasting/nem_esoo/2020/2020-electricity-statement-of-opportunities.pdf?la=en



AEMO PROJECTIONS OF EV ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION – SOO 2020

Based on these forecasts it is likely that emissions reduction from sustainable transport measures nationally will be modest in the period to 2030, but significantly increased by 2050 as the grid greens and EV uptake increases. Forecasts are updated periodically, and Council should monitor these from time to time. As indicated above the NSW Government’s Net Zero Plan for the 2020-2030 period includes significant work to incentivise and encourage uptake of EVs well ahead of the above forecasts, so this is an area that may accelerate quicker than current forecasts.

Availability of electric passenger vehicles in Australia

According to the Electric Vehicle Council²⁸, in 2020 there were 28 EV models available in Australia (both BEV and PHEV) from 11 manufacturers, and this was forecast to grow by a further 6 vehicles in 2021, with a continued shift towards battery electric vehicles (BEV).

In addition, the EV Council reports the commitments by most major car manufacturers to develop EVs in coming years. For example:

- Ford: By 2025, will invest \$11 billion with the aim of having 24 hybrid and 16 fully electric vehicles in its global model portfolio by 2022.
- General Motors: 20 BEVs by 2023
- Hyundai: By 2024, \$20 billion investment in EVs, AVs and batteries
- Nissan: 8 BEVs by 2022, \$10 billion investment in EV
- Toyota: 10,000 units planned for 2020 and 30,000 for 2021, first new BEVs by 2021, 10 models are expected by 2025

Corporate and government fleets make up more than 50% of new EV sales, and many Councils are now developing long term transport strategies that explicitly include a shift in their fleet to low and ultimately zero-emissions fleet. Most

²⁸ <https://electricvehiclecouncil.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/EVC-State-of-EVs-2020-report.pdf>, p24



prominent at this time is the ACT Government, which is switching its passenger fleet to EVs for all new leases from 2020-21 and has trialled electric buses with a view to shifting these to all-electric by 2040 as part of the ACT's carbon neutral commitment.

Availability of low emissions Light Commercial Vehicles in Australia

Light Commercial Vehicles (LCVs), including utility vehicles are common among Council fleets and often account for a sizeable proportion of total diesel fuel use. Over the medium term, most of the major ute manufacturers have plans in place to provide electric and hybrid electric options in their ute range. A short summary of the current status for several vehicles is provided below.

- Mitsubishi Triton²⁹: in September 2019 Mitsubishi advised that the next-generation Mitsubishi Triton ute – due two to three years from now (~2022/23) – will have the option of hybrid power, with decisions still to be made whether this will be a PHEV or a paired electric battery with fuel engine.
- Toyota has committed to including electric options with all new vehicle models going forward, which will include utes³⁰. Toyota is developing a hybrid version of its next-generation Hilux ute. It is expected this will be available from 2023. At this stage, Toyota has not committed to an all-electric model. A diesel-electric powertrain is one of the options under consideration.
- Nissan is also planning for an electric vehicle future, with a hybrid diesel-electric Nissan Navara ute potentially available by the mid-2020s³¹. Nissan also indicated that commercial vans were also candidates for electrification.
- Ford's next-generation Ranger and Everest models will include plug-in hybrid variants of both the dual-cab ute and off-road SUV, understood to be from 2022.

Most of the current activity and plans points to electric and hybrid electric utes being a medium to long-term proposition, and day-to-day performance while carrying load, and charging infrastructure are key factors that will evolve in the next couple of years.

For Oberon Council utility vehicles are used and hybrid models such as those noted above may provide an opportunity to trial one or more in Council's fleet in coming years.

Recommended actions – electrification of vehicles

Suggested actions for Council to pursue in coming years in relation to electrification of its vehicle fleet include:

²⁹ <https://www.caradvice.com.au/790317/mitsubishi-triton-to-get-hybrid-power-precede-nissan-navara-development/>

³⁰ <https://www.motoring.com.au/toyota-hilux-to-go-hybrid-121251/>

³¹ <https://www.motoring.com.au/nissan-navara-e-power-hybrid-by-2025-119492>



- Assess the costs and benefits of hybrid passenger cars within council’s petrol and diesel fleet for new purchases or leases.
- In the medium-term switch to hybrid passenger vehicles and LCVs when these become commercially available and viable, and potentially one or more electric passenger vehicles.
- Consider the development of EV charging infrastructure on Council land and by supporting local businesses.
- Consider implementing telematics on fleet to get more detailed data that can help to inform future vehicle selection decisions.
- In future reviews of Council’s transport / vehicle procurement strategy, integrate planning to assess / evaluate and progress Council’s fleet towards electric technologies where and when feasible.
- Stay abreast of developments in EV incentives, policy and other support, and incorporate these in Council’s planning process for its transport fleet.
- Over the longer term, progressively migrate fleet to lower and zero emissions where it is technically and financially viable, including passenger vehicles, utes, commercial vans / buses and other operational plant.
- Continue transition from diesel to petrol vehicles where hybrids are not available (NOx, Euro 6).



Scope for abatement

The scope for emissions reduction for Oberon Council overall from transport measures is more than **909 t CO₂-e** in the long term (bulk diesel plus any fleet card petrol and diesel purchases), inclusive of both scope 1 and scope 3 emissions. The speed of emissions reduction will depend on the rate of adoption of EVs and hybrids, and on selection of renewable energy as the fuel source.



Risks and mitigation

Oberon Council should assess the range of factors influencing the uptake of EVs for different types of vehicle user – owned or leased by Council, salary-sacrificed by staff, or driven by contractors. Factors will include:

- Whole of Life costing basis that consider purchase price, incentives, resale, and operating costs including electricity price
- Range and charging infrastructure
- Fitness for purpose
- Availability, serviceability, warranties
- The role of other technologies such as hydrogen, autonomous vehicles, etc in Council’s long-term fleet strategy



Costs and benefits

The capital cost premium for EVs and hybrid models that are fit for purpose for Council requirements, as well as the future resale value will be assessed alongside fuel, registration, insurance, and maintenance cost savings from time to time using a Whole of Life cost calculation. A cost-neutral approach would see low-emission vehicles have comparable total-cost-of-ownership to current fleet.

10 A Closer look at Major Opportunities

10.1 Water Treatment Plant³²

The Oberon water treatment plant is one of the largest consumers of electricity at Council. By implementing a 98.8kW solar PV system with a 150kWh battery storage unit, the treatment plant can reduce its electricity demand from the grid by ~62%. For analysis, we have estimated the load profile for a conventional water treatment plant and scaled it to the annual energy demand of the site, being 176 MWh/annum. Moreover, we have considered an unfavourable or worst-case scenario; where there are peaks and troughs in demand throughout the day. In this case shifting the energy generated from solar PV would be important to generate a return on Council’s investment. It is noted that the current electrical infrastructure is sufficient to host the 98.8kW solar PV system; however, augmentations to the switchboard may be required to install a battery storage unit of the proposed scale. The figure below shows the indicative daily energy demand in May at the water treatment plant without any on-site renewable energy.

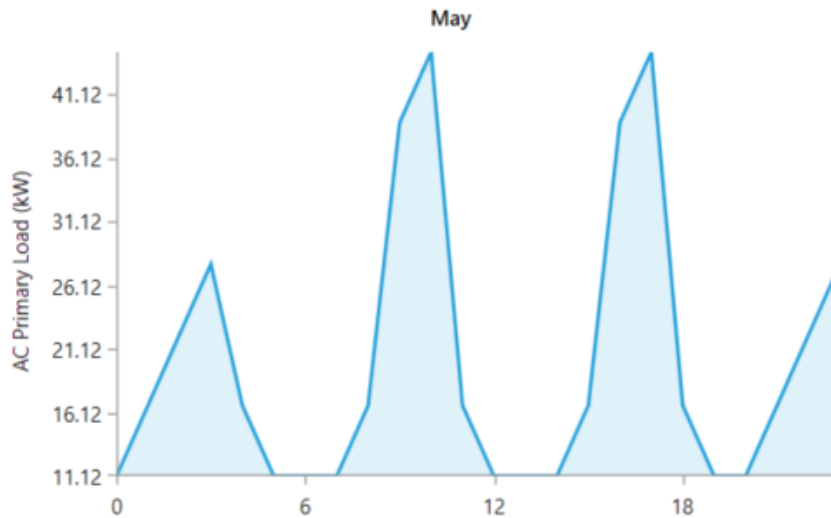


FIGURE 19: AVERAGE DAILY ENERGY DEMAND IN MAY AT THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

The WTP could meet most of its energy requirements during the day and late evenings with the proposed solar PV and BESS solution. This is recommended as a long-term action for Council, however this could be brought forward in the event battery prices fall rapidly or are cheaper through regional bulk purchasing.

Based on preliminary analysis, by implementing a solar hybrid system of this size, ~60% of the energy demand would be generated from on-site renewables.

³² This draws on a possible load shape for water treatment under a scenario less favourable for solar to present a conservative case. As part of the draft report review access to interval data for the site and/or further details about plant operation are welcome, and will allow a more robust business case to be developed for the final REAP.

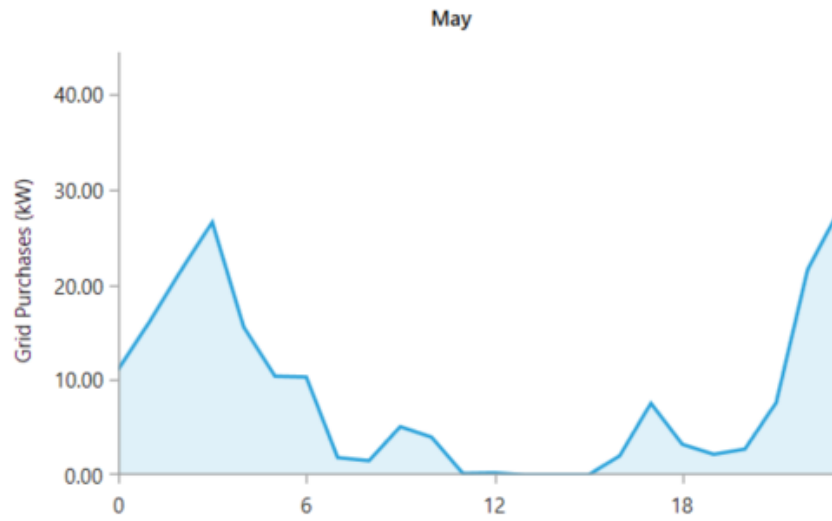


FIGURE 20: ESTIMATED GRID DEMAND IN MAY WITH 98.8kW SOLAR PV + 150kWh BESS

As seen above, dependency on grid electricity would reduce substantially by implementing a system of this size at the water treatment plant. Council could further increase the renewable energy fraction with a larger storage system and solar PV array, but due to limited roof space and land area on the eastern side of the plant, this represents the current proposed solution with currently available panel efficiency.

10.2 Oberon Aquatic Centre

The Oberon aquatic centre and the newly opened gym facility is an ideal site for a solar and battery solution. Our analysis was based on interval data provided by Council; however, the provided data does not include the additional energy demand from the gym facility. Our preliminary analysis suggests a 99.9kW solar PV rooftop array with a 70kWh battery storage unit would be optimum to meet the energy demand at this site. With the gym being opened recently, the energy demand would vary from that estimated below. This figure shows the average energy demand during the operational months of the pool. Additionally, energy demand would increase across the months from the new gym, which shares the same NMI as that of the swimming pool.

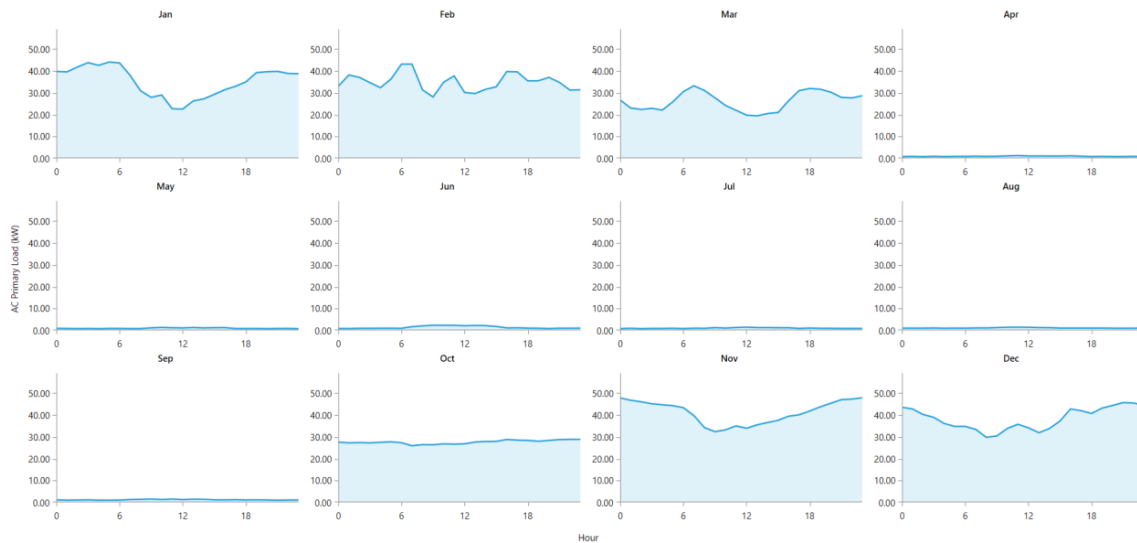


FIGURE 21: AVERAGE DAILY ENERGY DEMAND AT THE AQUATIC CENTRE FOR EACH MONTH

The site inspection suggests that Council may need to upgrade the main switchboard to install a solar hybrid solution of this scale. As the pool has natural lighting through skylights, our solar PV design has considered optimising a solution that takes into account the skylights but also the ease of installation. By dividing the solar array into two 50kW units, two separate inverters could be connected separately for each unit, i.e., one array/ inverter on the gym section can be directly connected to the gym DB and the array/inverter at the swimming pool building can be directly connected to the main plant room, which is 5m behind the main aquatic centre.

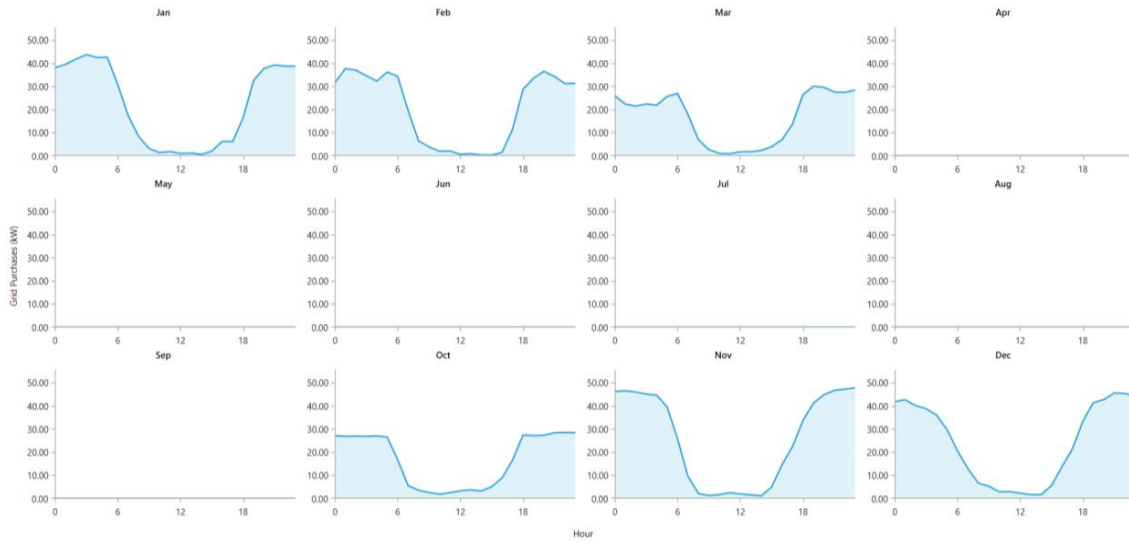


FIGURE 22: ESTIMATED GRID DEMAND WITH 99.5kW SOLAR PV + 70kWh BESS

As seen above, almost all the energy demand from early morning to late evenings are met with this system. We have estimated the renewable energy fraction with a hybrid system of this size would be ~60%. Due to the seasonal usage, installing a larger solar PV system with battery storage would not be viable as this site would send most of the energy during the pool closure back to the grid. Depending on the local conditions, Essential Energy may also curtail such large energy generation. However, some of the energy generated during the pool closure months would be consumed on-site by the newly opened gym facility.

10.3 Sewerage Treatment Works

Council is currently developing a larger sewerage treatment plant behind the existing sewerage treatment plant. As the site is currently under development, it would be beneficial to focus on electrical design strategies that could host solar PV and battery storage units in the future. We have estimated the energy demand to increase by 35% for analysis purposes and developed a load profile for a typical sewerage treatment plant.

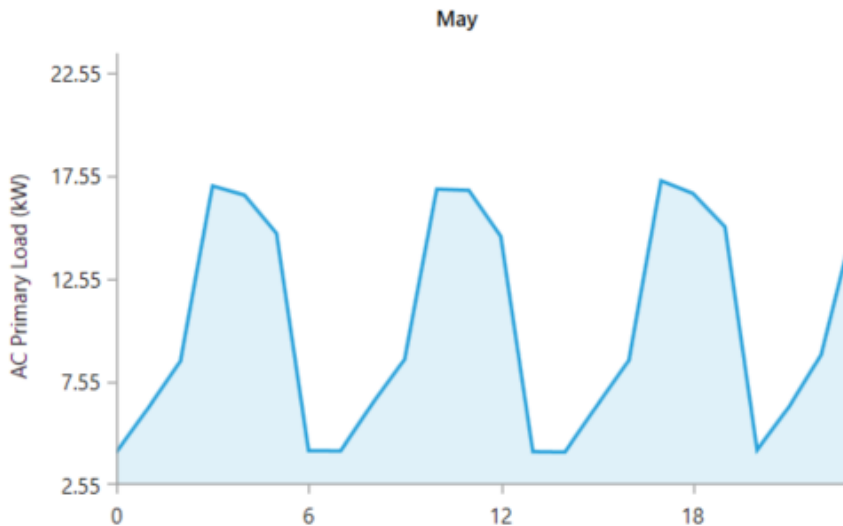


FIGURE 23: ESTIMATED AVERAGE DAILY ENERGY DEMAND IN MAY AT THE NEW STP

The above figure shows the estimated average daily consumption in May at the STP³³. For modelling purposes, we have assumed the energy demand would be constant throughout the year, with large variability in consumption on a daily basis. Following this, we have designed a 62.9kW ground-mounted solar PV system close to the electrical room with a 150kWh battery storage unit. This large storage unit would ensure maximum energy generated from the proposed solar PV system would be self-consumed on-site.

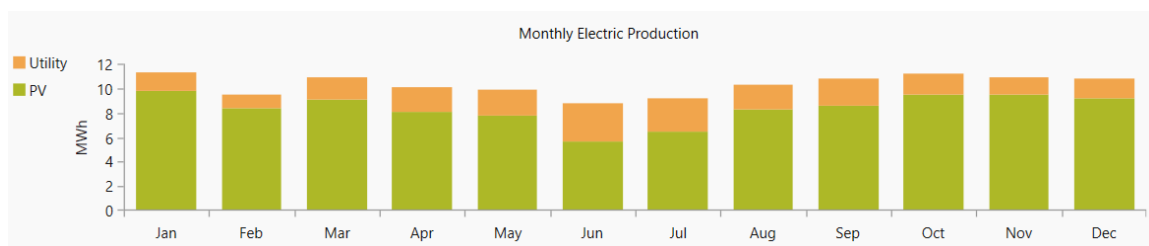


FIGURE 24: POTENTIAL ENERGY BALANCE AT THE NEW STP WITH SOLAR + BESS

³³ As part of the review of the draft, further advice on expected operation of the site – e.g. 9 to 10 daily aeration cycles – would be beneficial and will allow the model of solar / BESS self-consumption to be refined.

The above chart indicates most of the energy required for this site could potentially be met by an on-site solar PV and battery storage system. The grid dependency would be higher during the winter months due to the reduced solar production from shorter sunshine hours. With this simulation, the new STP site can be powered with ~80% energy generated from on-site renewable energy sources. However, this could vary depending on the load profile and actual energy demand.

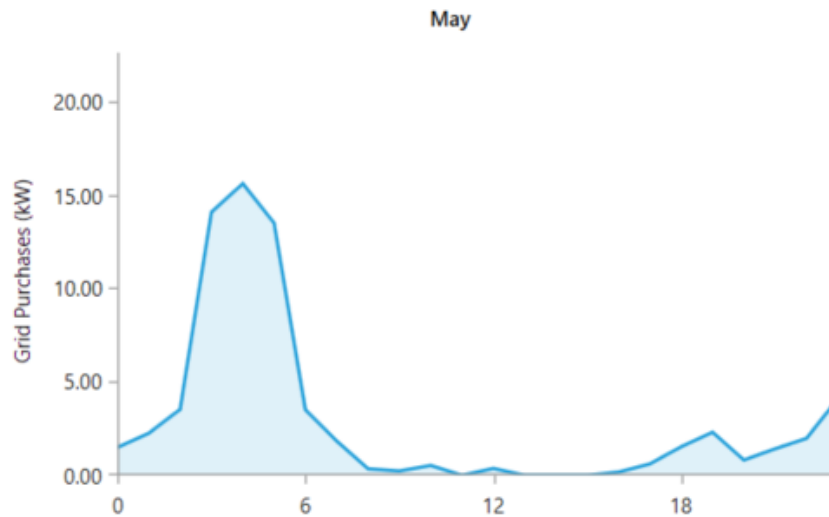


FIGURE 25: ESTIMATED GRID PURCHASES IN MAY WITH 62.9kW SOLAR PV + 150kWh BESS

As seen above, the proposed solution can shift the solar energy generated during the day to offset energy demand during the night and early mornings. The project would be complex and expensive as the proposed solar PV is a ground-mounted system, with trenching required to run cables towards the electrical room. Additionally, the location for installing a battery unit with sufficient airflow needs to be identified on the newly designed STP site.

10.4 Landfill off-grid solar PV system

As the existing landfill site does not have a supply of electricity, we have investigated an opportunity to implement an off-grid solar PV system. For analysis purposes, we have estimated the average daily energy use for this site to be 55kWh; however, Council should carry out its own assessment of future power needs before sizing any off-grid system or comparing the cost / benefits of this with a new grid connection. As the site cannot be powered completely with renewable energy technologies, a small generator would be required to fully meet the energy demand throughout the year.

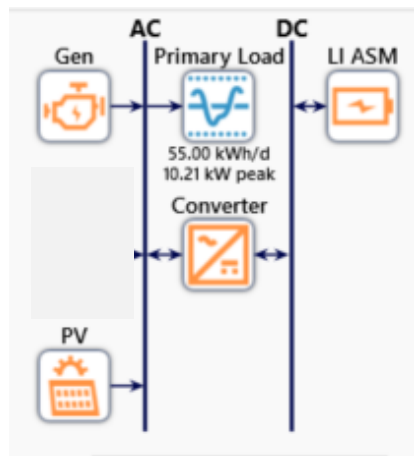


FIGURE 26: TECHNICAL ARCHITECTURE OF AN OFF-GRID SYSTEM

The diagram above indicates the technical architecture for implementing an off-grid solar PV system at the landfill site. Following this, if the site consumes ~55kWh per day, a 23.7kW ground-mounted system coupled with a 52kWh battery storage unit and an 11kW generator would meet the required energy demand for this site.

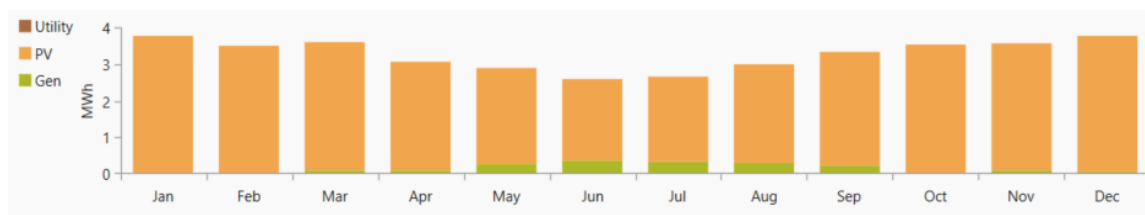


FIGURE 27: ENERGY BALANCE WITH THE OFF-GRID SYSTEM

As seen above, apart from winter months when the sun-hours are low, the solar PV coupled with the battery storage system can meet the site’s energy demand. During overcast periods or low solar production days, the generator would kick in to meet the dynamic energy requirements of the site. We have estimated the capital cost for installing this off-grid system as \$106,650; however, this may vary depending on the products utilised and the complexities which arise from detailed site analysis. This would be assessed against costs to connect to the Essential Energy grid via a new connection point.

10.5 Electric Vehicle Opportunities

To further investigate EV opportunities, we have identified two sites that are currently under development at Council: the new community centre and new sporting complex.

10.5.1 New Community Centre

The new community centre would be an ideal location to implement EV charging stations. These could be for visitors to the centre, EV users visiting nearby tourist destinations or for travellers to charge their vehicles while on route elsewhere.

The image below shows walking distances of main road shops and facilities in Oberon from the centre. The adopted design for the community can be found below, which indicates four parking bays within the site boundary.



FIGURE 28: COMMUNITY CENTRE LOCATION AND PROXIMITY TO CITY CENTRE³⁴

³⁴ Oberon Community Hub – Functional Design Brief and Concept

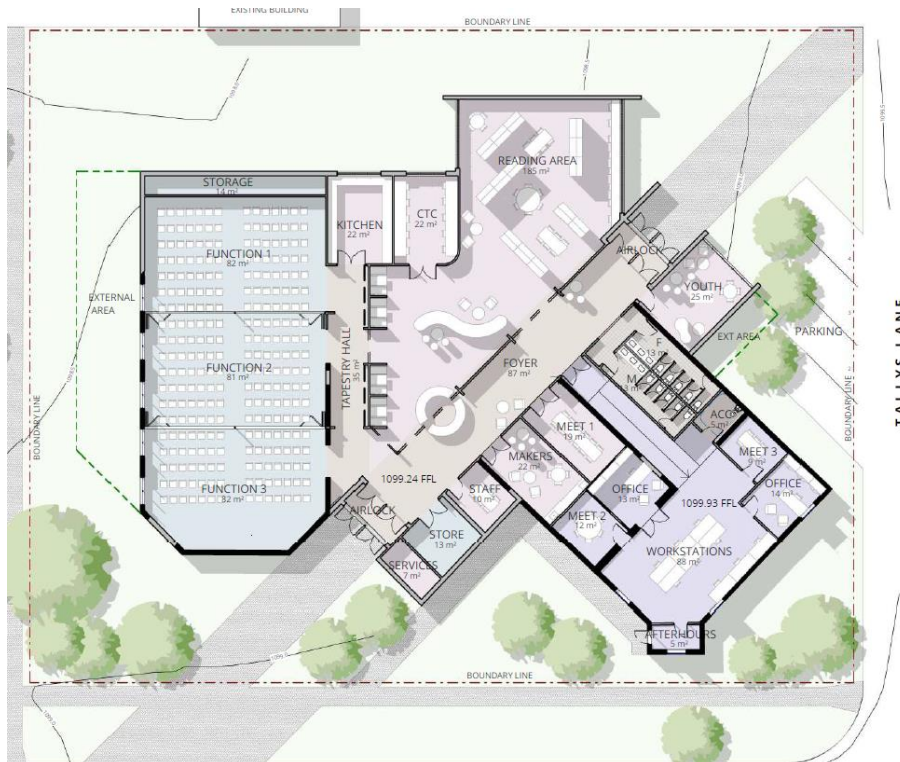


FIGURE 29: COMMUNITY CENTRE LOCATION AND PROXIMITY TO CITY CENTRE

Based on the design, the parking lots are angled; to futureproof for EV charging, it would be beneficial to have these parking bays designed to allow both forward and reverse parking. This would ensure cars that have charging ports in the front or back could charge their vehicles easily. Initially, Council can set up a single bay, which would permit only EV cars to park and charge their vehicles. Based on the demand for the EV charging station, Council can expand the EV infrastructure in future.

The new community building has sufficient roof space for a ~20kW solar PV system. Based on a detailed energy modelling of the new site, Council could opt to install a battery storage system to store the excess solar power generated and charge vehicles on demand. Furthermore, as the community centre is a public space, we have assumed sufficient lighting for user safety and to support charging during the night-time. These chargers should be away from hazardous sites such as fuel tanks, LPG tanks or any gas vents or drains.

10.5.2 New Oberon Sports Complex

The Oberon Sports Complex is another ideal site to implement EV charging infrastructure due to its location and availability of land. The site is proposed near Albion Road, which is ~1.5km away from the city centre. Apart from the proximity to the city centre, the proposed sporting complex will have:

- Two rugby league fields,
- Hockey ground,
- Netball courts,
- Play area, and
- Fitness stations across the complex.

These facilities along with other community facilities like BBQ stations, garden and forecourt areas, will assist in attracting more travellers to visit Oberon Council for sports training and holidays. The initial design layout of the Sports complex suggests ~140 parking bays, which are all angled at 90°, thereby ensuring minimal changes required to implement an EV charging facility.



FIGURE 30: POSSIBLE SOLAR CARPORT STRUCTURE AT THE NEW SPORTS COMPLEX

The figure above shows a 96.8kW solar carport system that could be implemented at the new sporting site, though optimum sizing should be performed based on expected energy demand and the potential future use of the site to charge vehicles.

By implementing the electrical room closer to the car parks, Council can reduce the total expense for implementing this solar carport with batteries and EV charging infrastructure due to reduced trenching, labour time and AC cable sizes to ensure appropriate voltage rise.

11 Oberon Council Action Plan

In order to achieve deep cuts in its energy use and associated GHG emissions, Oberon Council will need to commit time, resources and financial support to a multi-year program of work that will implement measures identified in this plan that reduce emissions. A key priority in this should be to invest in measures that also improve Council's bottom line.

These measures are identified below and tabulated into a short-medium term plan, and long-term and continuous improvement actions, based on priorities, costs and maturity of the technology recommended. The opportunities identified reflect the measures identified in the above section.

11.1 Short to medium term action plan

Based on the assessment of onsite measures and our analysis, a suggested short to medium term action plan for Oberon Council is outlined below. Actions recommended could be implemented during the course of the current and next Delivery Plan cycle, for example.

TABLE 9: OBERON COUNCIL SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM PLAN FOR COUNCIL OPERATED SITES

Category	Sub-category	Site	Energy-saving option	Indicative cost	Payback	IRR
Energy efficiency	LED Lighting	Unmetered streetlighting	Install LED streetlights for local and main roads.	\$219,046	5.3	18%
Solar PV	Off-grid	Landfill	Install a 4kW ground-mounted solar PV with a 6kWh BESS and a 5kVA diesel generator. This is an estimate based on an average daily energy demand of 15kWh per day.	~\$18,000	Not assessed.	
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Roof - STC	Water Treatment Plant	Install a 31.5kW roof-mounted solar PV system on the north-west section of the roof.	\$31,500	4.4	22%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Roof - STC	Oberon Aquatic Centre	Install a 62.9kW roof-mounted solar PV system on the newly built gym's roof and swimming pools north roof.	\$62,900	4.1	24%
Energy efficiency	LED Lighting		Install LED lightings to replace the existing HID's and fluorescent lightings.	\$5,446	6.0	17%
Energy efficiency	VSD Control		Install a VSD to control the main recirculation pump.	\$45,179	8.0	12%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Roof - STC	Sewage Treatment Plant	Install a 35.5kW ground-mounted solar PV system on the upgraded STP site.	\$46,150	4.5	22%
Energy efficiency	VSD		Implement VSD control of major aerators/ motors in the new STP, together with dissolved oxygen as part of the STP upgrade.	\$38,552	8.0	13%

Energy efficiency	LED Lighting	Council Chamber	Install LED lightings to replace all surface-mounted fluorescent lights.	\$10,235	6.0	17%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Roof - STC		Install a 33.3kW roof mounted solar PV system on the north section of the roof.	\$33,300	3.2	35%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Ground - STC	Sewerage Pumping	Install a 10.9kW single-pole ground-mounted system towards the north of the main switch room.	\$14,170	3.4	30%
Energy Efficiency	LED Lighting	Council Depot	Install LED lightings to all fluorescent lights in the depot stores.	\$5,063	5.0	20%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Roof - STC		Install a 16.3kW roof-mounted solar PV system on the main vehicle shed.	\$16,300	3.1	32%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Roof + BESS - STC	Library	Install a 10kW roof-mounted solar PV with a 5kWh battery to meet the newly designed site's electricity demand.	\$14,500	5.7	16%
Energy Efficiency	LED Lighting	Visitors Information Centre	Upgrade all fluorescent lightings to LED technology.	\$2,572	5.5	18%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Roof - STC		Install a 6.66kW roof-mounted solar PV system on the north section of the building.	\$6,660	2.9	37%
Energy efficiency	BESS	The Commons	Install a 15kWh battery storage system on the existing solar PV system	\$13,500	19.9	8%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV -		Upgrade the existing 250W panels with 370W panels to get a DC nameplate of 8.14kW with a 20kWh battery storage system to meet the site's energy demand.	\$23,698	7.5	13%

	Upgrade + BESS					
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Roof - STC	New Community Centre	Install an 8.25kW roof-mounted solar PV system on the newly designed Community Centre.	\$8,250	2.5	39%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Roof - STC	Fire Control Office	Install a 6.66kW roof-mounted solar PV system on the east and west orientation of the building.	\$6,660	3.5	28%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Roof - STC	SES Building	Install a 5.92kW roof-mounted solar PV system on the on the north section of the rear building.	\$5,920	3.0	33%
Electricity procurement		Whole of Council	Work with CNSWJO to source at least 50% and up to 100% of Council's electricity from renewable energy in Council's next contract.			
Electric vehicles	EV charging	Whole of Council	Work with CNSWJO to assess the outcomes from the EV charging infrastructure report and the NSW Government's recent \$490 million funding package for fleet electrification, to determine the priority opportunities for Oberon and how to progress these.			
Electric vehicles	EV &/or hybrid vehicles	Whole of Council	Progressively move Council's fleet towards hybrid and/or electric vehicles.			

11.2 Long term action plan

A suggested long-term action plan for Oberon Council is outlined below.

TABLE 10: OBERON COUNCIL LONG TERM PLAN FOR COUNCIL OPERATED SITES

Category	Sub-category	Site	Energy-saving option	Indicative cost	Payback	IRR
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV + BESS - Roof - STC	Water Treatment Plant	Install a 98.8kW ground-mounted solar PV system with a 150kWh battery storage at the water treatment plant.	\$222,490	14.6	6%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV + BESS - Roof - STC	Oberon Aquatic Centre	Install a roof-mounted solar PV with 99.5kW and a 70kWh battery storage unit to meet the gym's and aquatic centre's energy demand.	\$162,500	6.1	14%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV + BESS - Ground - STC	Sewage Treatment Plant	Install a 62.9kW and 150KWh battery storage unit at the upgraded STP facility.	\$216,770	16.8	5%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV + BESS - Roof - STC	Council Chambers	Install additional 13.3kW roof-mounted solar PV with a 70kWh battery storage unit to meet the site's electricity demand.	\$109,600	7.2	11%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV + BESS - Ground - STC	Sewerage Pumping	Alternative: Install a 19.1kW ground-mounted system with a 50kWh battery storage unit to meet the site's variable energy demand.	\$69,830	8.8	12%
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV + BESS - Roof - STC	Council Depot	Install a 28.1kW solar PV system with a 15kWh battery to meet the site's electricity demand.	\$20,900	4.5	41%

11.2.1 Possible Future and Community Projects

A suggested list of action plans that could be implemented on the future capital work projects.

TABLE 11: OBERON COUNCIL ACTION PLANS FOR FUTURE CAPITAL WORKS AT COUNCIL SITES

Category	Sub-category	Site	Energy-saving option	Indicative cost
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Roof - LGC	Oberon Tennis Club	Install a 133kW roof-mounted solar PV system on the north orientation of the Tennis Centre as a community solar project.	\$199,500
Sustainable Transport	EV Charging	New Community Centre	Install EV charging stations.	Not assessed
Sustainable Transport	EV Charging	Sporting Complex Centre	Install EV charging stations.	Not assessed
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV + BESS - Carport - STC		Install a 96.8kW carport solar PV system with a 70kWh BESS at the new sports complex.	\$334,040
Off-grid	Solar PV + BESS + Genset	Landfill	Install a 23.7kW ground-mounted solar PV with a 52kWh BESS and a 11kVa diesel generator	\$106,650
Behind the meter solar	Solar PV - Ground - LGC	Landfill	Install a 1.1MW east-west fixed tilt system on the capped landfill site.	\$1,980,000

Appendix A: Solar PV potential locations

Oberon WTP -31kW - Roof-mounted solar PV



Oberon WTP- 98kW - Ground-mounted solar PV





Oberon Aquatic Centre – 62kW – Roof-mounted solar PV



Oberon Aquatic Centre – 99kW – Roof-mounted solar PV



Sewage Treatment Plant – 35.5kW – Ground-mounted solar PV



Sewage Treatment Plant – 63kW – Ground-mounted solar PV





Council Chambers – 33kW – Roof-mounted solar PV





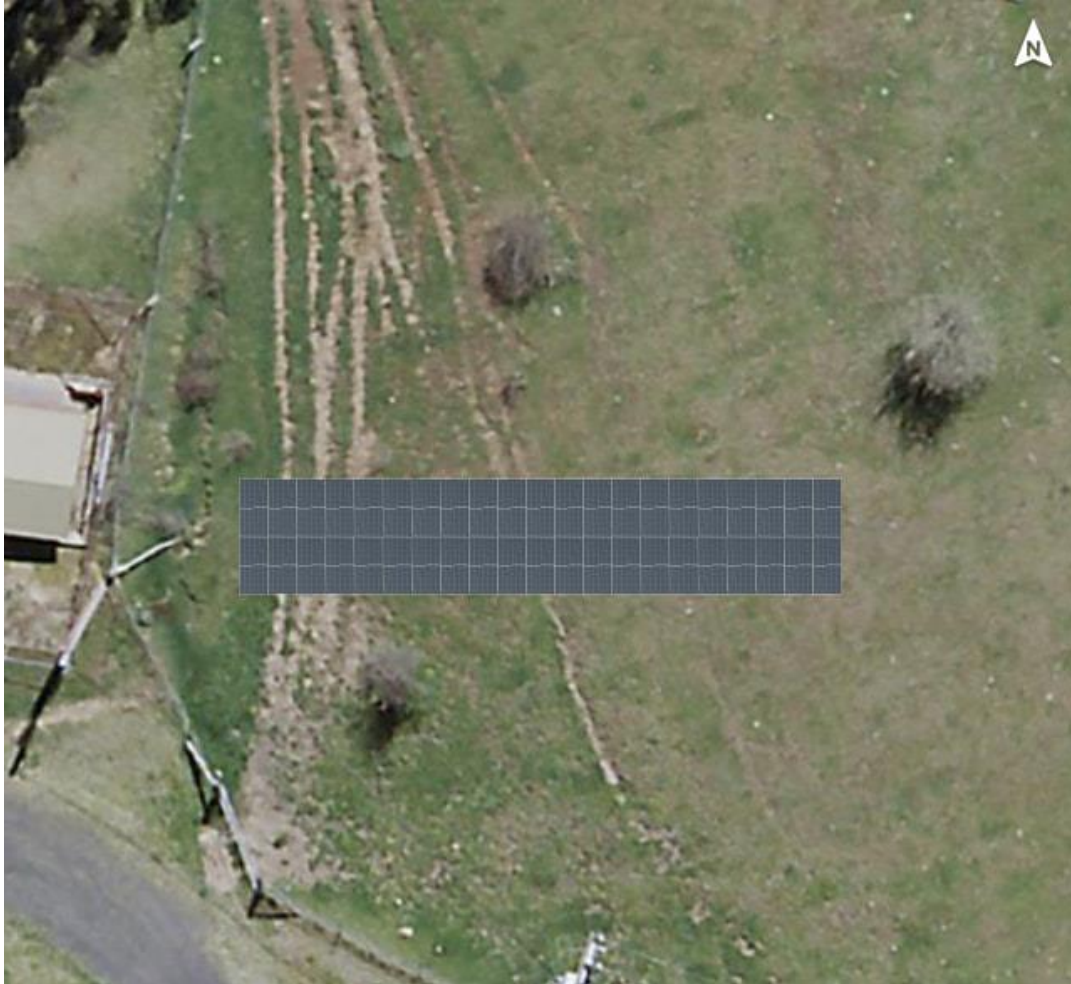
Council Chambers – 46.6kW – Roof-mounted solar PV



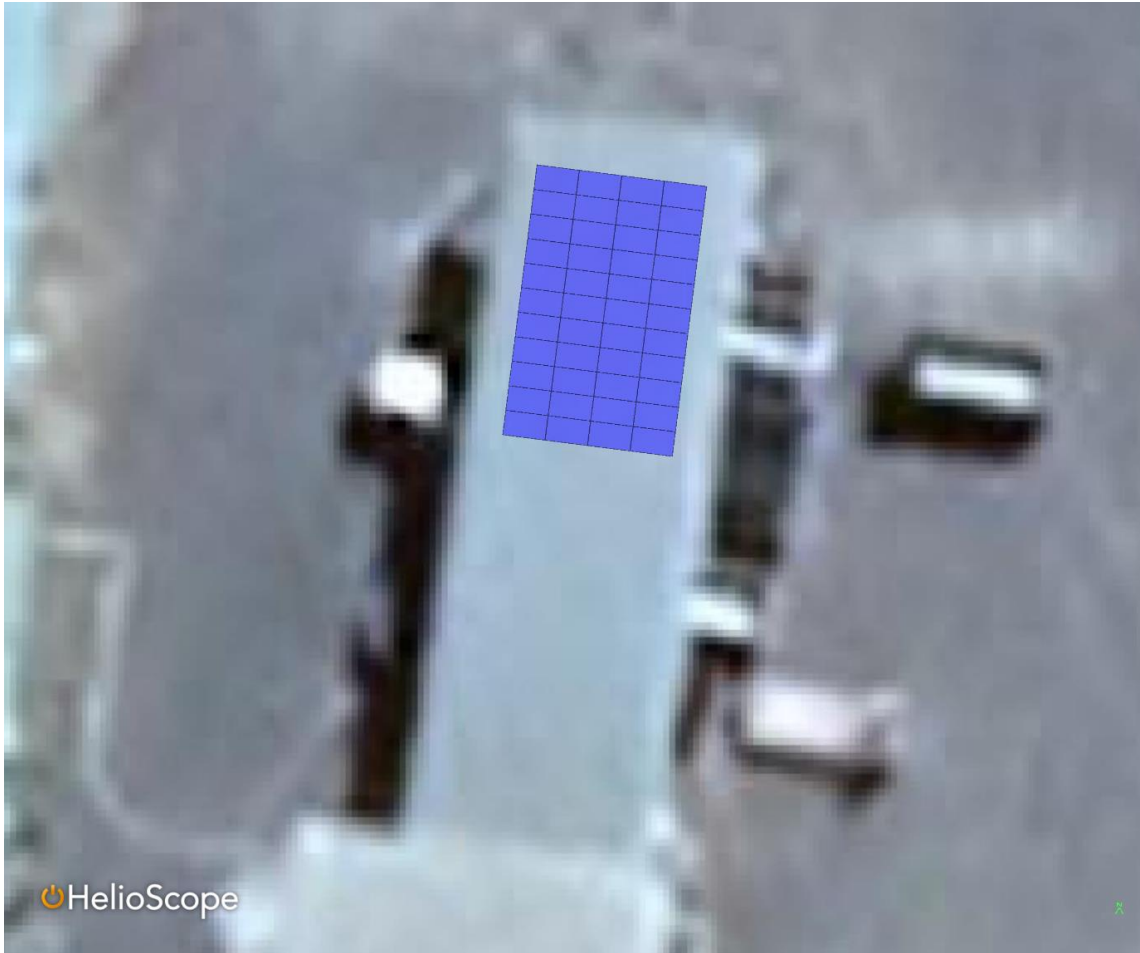
Sewage Pumping - 10.8kW- Ground-mounted solar PV



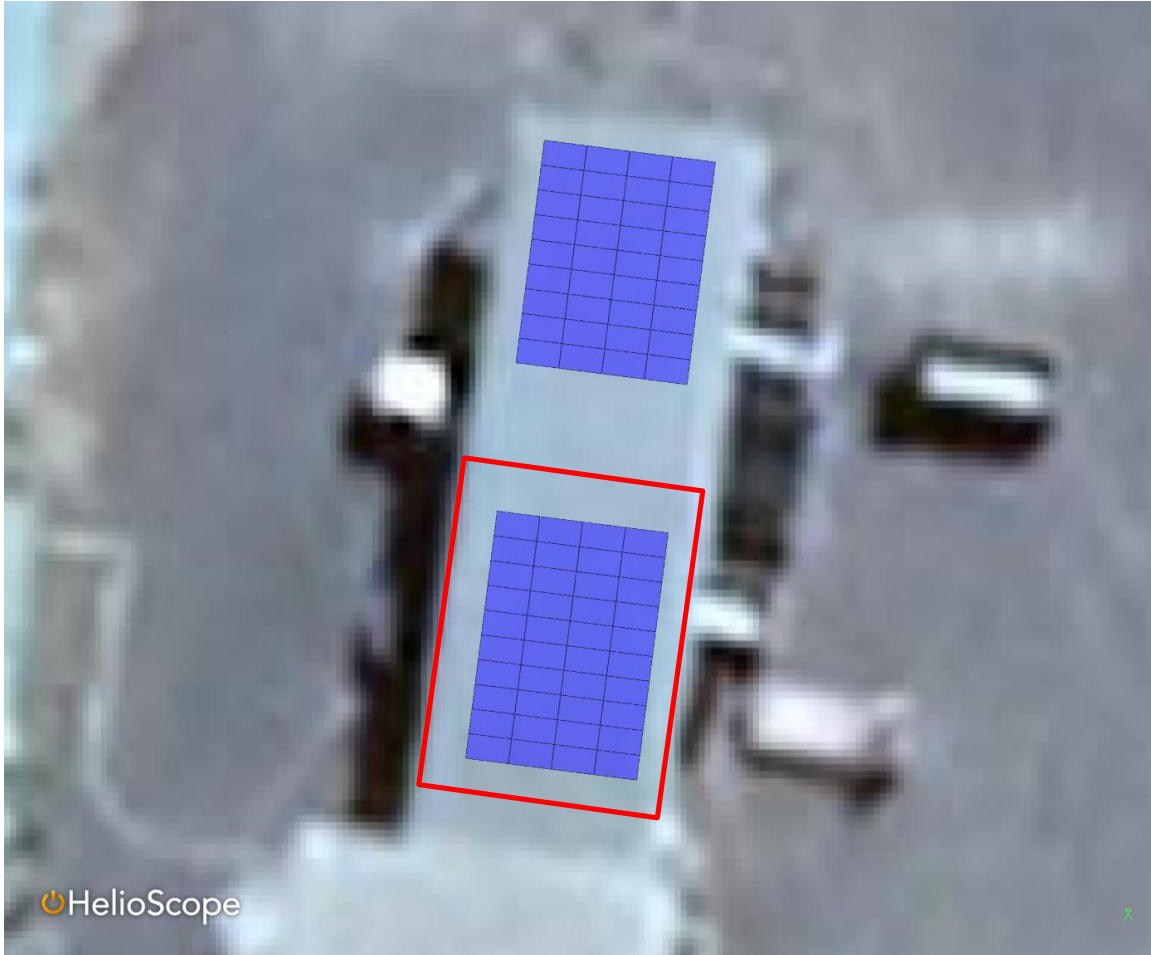
Sewage Pumping - 19kW- Ground-mounted solar PV



Council Depot - 16kW- Roof-mounted solar PV

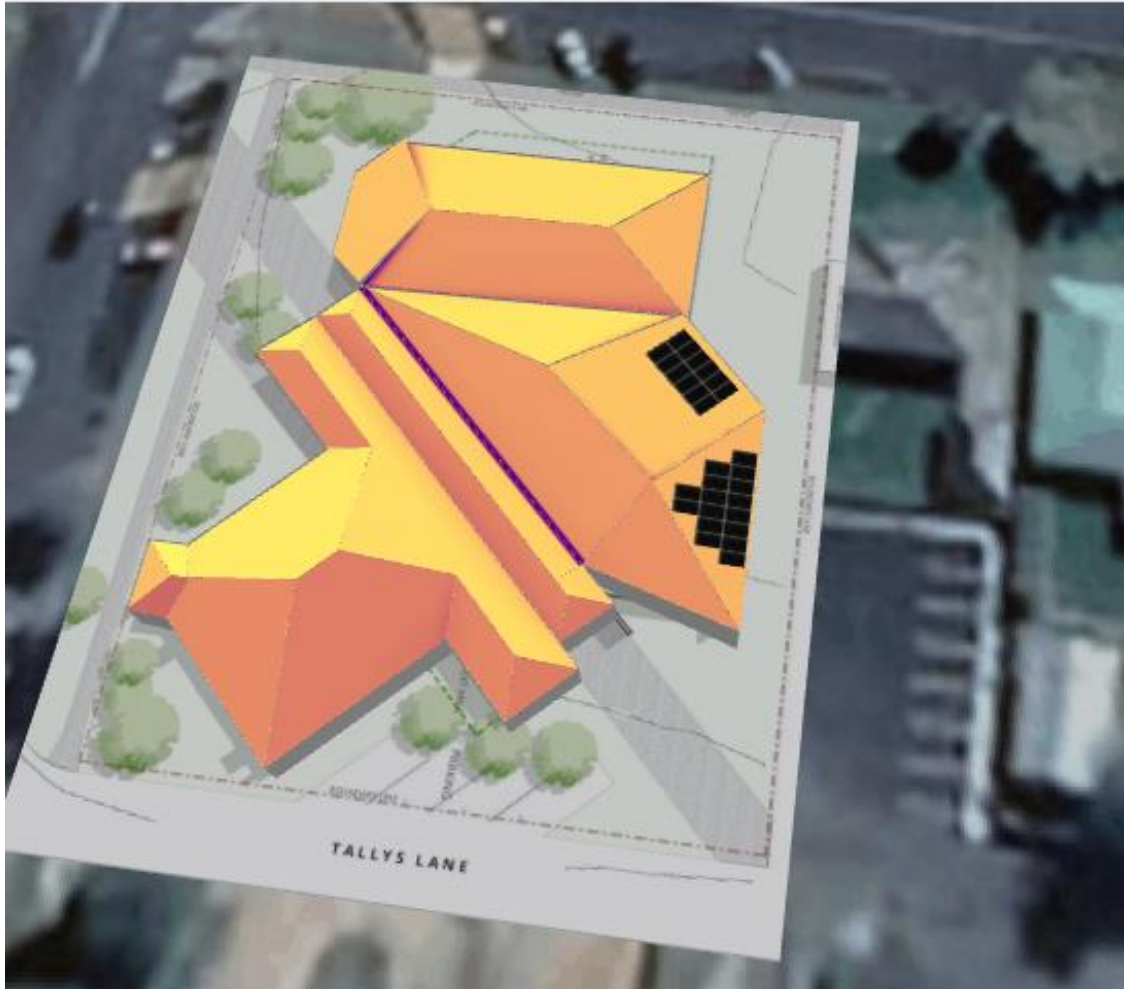


Council Depot - 28.1kW- Roof-mounted solar PV





New Library - 10kW - Roof-mounted solar PV



Visitors Information Centre - 6.6kW - Roof-mounted solar PV

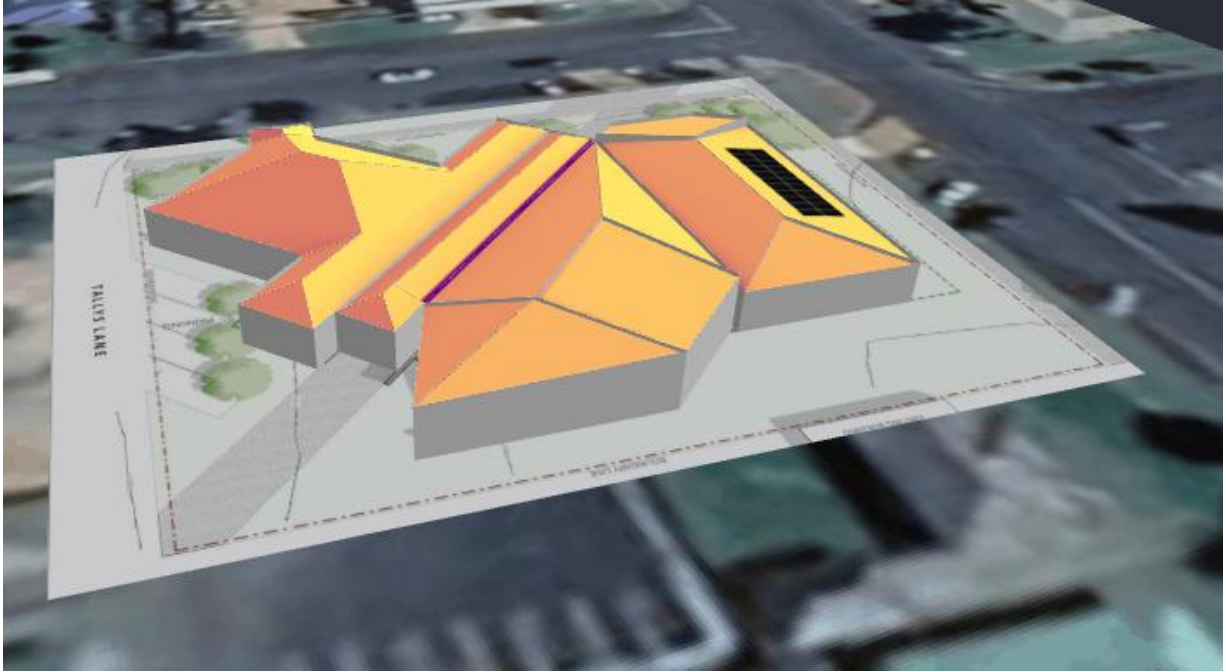




The Commons - 8kW- Roof-mounted solar PV



New Community Centre – 8.2kW– Roof-mounted solar PV



Fire Control Building – 6.6kW– Roof-mounted solar PV



SES Building – 5.9kW – Roof-mounted solar PV





New Sports Complex – 39.6kW – Roof-mounted solar PV





New Sports Complex – 97kW – Solar Carport



Landfill - 1.1MW - Mid-scale solar farm





Level 32, 101 Miller Street
North Sydney 2060

www.100percentrenewables.com.au

14 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

14.1	Monthly Activity Report General Manager - March 2024
-------------	---

File No:	Governance/Meetings/Ordinary
----------	------------------------------

Author:	Gary Wallace (General Manager), Sharon Swannell (Governance and Executive Manager), Rebecca Burgess (Work Health Safety and Risk Manager)
---------	---

Summary

This report item summarises the main activity by the General Manager since the last report. Items include Human Resources, Workplace Health & Safety, Community Activity, Regional Issues, Executive Management Team Meetings and planned activities.

Recommendation:

That report item 14.1 is received as information.

List of Attachments

Nil

1. PLANNED ACTIVITY

COMMUNITY SURVEY – Council worked with three other LGA's through our relationship with the CNSWJO to undertake a community survey. This sought commentary from the community through telephone calls and an online presence requesting community feedback on Councils programs and processes whilst also asking about potential future opportunities. The results were presented to Council in early December 2023. Key findings included concerns with Heath, Water, Roads and Social Connection, all of which are very important to the Oberon community. These responses will inform the way Council communicates with the public as well as inform our future strategic direction. The outcome of the initial commentary has informed Councils Communications Plan for the preparation of the Town Improvement Levy review which will be debated in March.

COUNCIL CULTURAL OVERVIEW - Staff have been reviewing and updating the WHS Policy Statement, and in doing so also examining the Dignity & Respect @ Oberon Council Charter which appears in the bottom right of the current Policy Statement. Currently there are six pillars of the charter, they are: Work Ethics; Leadership; Communication; Trust; Empathy; Positivity. Consultation

OBERON SPORTS GROUND – significant work has been undertaken to progress the Oberon Sports Ground project. Early earthworks have commenced on site and a sod turning was undertaken on February 13 with our state and federal members present. This is a once in a generation project that has been supported through \$6.9M of State Government funding and a Direct Dealings process as outlined by ICAC. Council has developed and integrated its Probity Plan to ensure good governance and transparency through the entire project. Work will continue on the preparation of a Statement of Environmental Effects for the Sports Club which will be lodged in March.

OPERATIONAL PLAN 2024/2025 - Work is progressing on the development of the draft operational plan for the 24/25 Financial year. Staff are currently engaging with departments to consider all the facets in the day to day running of the organisation. Workshops with Councillors will be undertaken in late March/early April.

2. WHS/RISK COORDINATOR

	February 2024
Incidents/Accidents/Hazards Reported	0
Hazards Reported	0
Near Miss	0
No Injury, Damage to Assets	0
First Aid Injuries	0
Medical Treatment Injuries	0
Lost Time Injuries	0
Restricted Duty Injuries	0
Incident Reported to Regulator	0
Incidents Involving Pool or Gym Patrons	0
Toolbox/Safety Meetings	213
Plant Pre-Start Inspections	108

Work Health Safety and Risk Activities

- WHSR represented Council at the Statewide Pre-Renewal virtual meeting during February. Council's Account Manager and Claims Manager outlined some of the expected increases in premiums this year, with the highest expected increase being for cyber insurance, which at this stage is estimated to be 20% on last year. Other premium projections were around 7.5% increase on last year. The Pre-Renewal meeting is a good opportunity for Council to re-examine its cover, deductibles and how the insurances have worked for Council in the last years. The review resulted in a consensus that the current Carriers Liability limit should be increased as well as the current Crime cover limit. This ensures that, should Council need to make a claim, the amount covered is sufficient.
- In anticipation of this years insurance renewals the WHSR Manager is working to complete questionnaires required by Statewide Mutual in order to undertake the renewal process. Input is required from all of Council's Directorates as the questionnaires are comprehensive and cover Council property, vehicles, cyber, crime and organisational risk information. The ten questionnaires are due for completion over the month of March. Following this Statewide gathers this information prior to going to market in search of competitive insurance cover.
- Statewide Mutual's Regional Risk Manager and Council's WHSR met to discuss this years Board Initiatives options. On offer this year is Business Continuity Plan review; Climate Change Risk Assessment; or Enterprise Risk Management review. Given that both the BCP and ERM have recently been thoroughly reviewed and updated, it may be an opportunity, pending EMT approval, for Council to avail of a Climate Change Risk Assessment, as this is an emerging area that will require Council's focus.
- Following the refurbishment of the Visitor Centre, the reinstatement of updated evacuation plans is now complete and the final Fire Safety Certificate was issued.
- WHSR worked with pool staff to develop a revised incident form which is more applicable to cover incidents involving patrons (members of the public).
- WHSR worked with the Technical Services Directorate to ensure that contractors who are working for Council have all necessary insurances and workers compensation cover in place.

- WHSR and the Fleet Manager undertook a site safety visit of the quarry pit at Isabella. Toolbox forms and plant prestart checklists were audited, with the contractor and staff on site found to be fully compliant with safety requirements.
- AusHealth attended Council facilities in February for the purposes of undertaking random drug and alcohol tests of staff.
- Working with Children checks and CPR certification for pool and gym staff were updated. These are kept in the Vault Damstra system with reminders ensuring that expiration dates are followed up in a timely manner.
- WHS Induction training was undertaken for two new starters in the month of February. A thorough WHS Induction ensures new starters understand the WHS policies and procedures in place at Council, how to undertake their new roles safely and where to seek assistance if required.

3. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Council Page in the Oberon Review was prepared on 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 February 2024 with advertising and information. Notices included:

- Weekly Mayoral Column
- Positions Vacant – Planning and Development Administration Assistant; Human Resources Manager and Trainees x 2; Labourer x 4
- Council Meetings – February 2024
- Tender T2023-15 – Construction of 11 Lot Industrial Subdivision
- Invitation to Oberon Multi-Purpose Sports and Community Complex Turning the first Sod Ceremony
- Public Exhibition – Draft Plan of Management for 24 Crown Reserves
- Public Exhibition of Town Improvement Levy Review
- Invitation to attend International Women’s Day Mayoral Dinner
- Determinations – December 2023 and January 2024
- Tender T2024-2 – Preparation of a Comprehensive Strategic Land Use Strategic for the Oberon Local Government Area
- Council Meeting – March 2024

Oberon Council continues to use a wide variety of platforms to advertise and provide information to the community including the weekly page within the Oberon Review, updates on Council’s website www.oberon.nsw.gov.au and Council’s Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/oberoncouncil>. Council Website, Council Facebook Page and Council LinkedIn page updated with media releases, positions vacant and relevant articles.

Additional content has been created throughout the month to promote the Town Improvement Levy Review. This has included development of a dedicated section of Council’s Website with a “quick links” tab from the home page of the website as well as social media and other content. Full details are included in a separate report for information.

“Good News Week” newsletter issued to Councillors and staff on 2, 9, 16 and 23 February 2024.

4. COMMUNITY ACTIVITY, REGIONAL ISSUES and OTHER MEETINGS

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 14 Feb 2024 | Oberon Business and Tourism Association Annual General Meeting |
| 14 Feb 2024 | Central NSW Joint Organisation Transport Infrastructure Advocacy Plan |

14 Feb 2024	Oberon Business and Tourism Association
15 Feb 2024	Meeting with Councillor Tucker
15 Feb 2024	CNSWJO Transport Infrastructure Meeting
19 Feb 2024	Asset Maturity Audit Findings Presentation
20 Feb 2024	Ordinary Council Meeting
21 Feb 2024	Oberon Sports Facilities Committee Meeting
27 Feb 2024	Oberon Sports Complex Project Control Group Meeting
28 Feb 2024	Central NSW Joint Organisation Regional Net Zero Group Meeting
29 Feb 2024	Central NSW Joint Organisation Board Meeting
4 Mar 2024	Human Resources Manager Interviews
4 Mar 2024	StateWide Return
5 Mar 2024	Management Committee Meeting
5 Mar 2024	STP Working Party Meeting
5 Mar 2024	Transport for NSW Briefing – Jenolan Caves Road, Hampton Remediation Works
6 Mar 2024	Greater Sydney CAG Meeting
7 Mar 2024	Fish River Water Supply Long-term Strategy Customer Consultation
11 Mar 2024	Hazelgrove School Reserve Committee
12 Mar 2024	Councillor Informal Briefing Session

14.2 Monthly Activity Report - Planning & Development - March 2024

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: Kirsty Hanrahan (Building Surveyor), Damian O'Shannassy (Planning and Development Director), Janet Bailey (Development Control Administration Officer)

Summary

This report item summarises the main activity in the Planning and Development Department since the February 2024 Council Meeting.

Recommendation:

That report item 14.2 is received as information.

List of Attachments

Nil

Comment

1. PLANNED ACTIVITY FOR FEBRUARY 2024

Development Applications

The number of applications submitted to Council during February 2024 are slightly down on the previous month, however applications remain high with some complex applications currently being assessed. Council continues to utilise on a part time basis, a Town Planning Consultant to assist in reducing the backlog of Development Applications and other Planning related matters.

Planning Portal

Council's Planning and Development Director has been selected to represent Oberon Council on the NSW Planning Portal Council Reference group for medium to low volume application Councils and the first meeting is scheduled for late March 2024.

Comprehensive Land Use Strategy (CLUS) review

A Request For Tender (RFT) from Planning Consultants went live in late February on eProcure with a closing date of 5 April. Following an evaluation of the tenders a report will be presented to Council for selection of the preferred Consultant to undertake the CLUS review.

Draft Plan of Management (PoM) for 24 Crown Reserves

As part of the program to align the management of Crown Reserves under Council's jurisdiction with Council's Community Strategic Plan 2019-2040, Crown Lands have endorsed the exhibition of a Draft Plan of Management for 24 Crown Reserves. This means that Council invited written submissions in response to the Draft document. The Community was requested to review this document to consider how the reserves will be managed into the future.

The Draft PoM was on exhibition for a period of six weeks from 17 January until 1 March 2024. Submissions are currently being assessed and a report will be submitted to Council for consideration and determination of the final PoM.

Compliance

An increased number of compliance matters have been considered over the month ranging from prohibited land uses to unauthorised building works. These matters take up considerable Council

resources to bring to a resolution and as a result take time away from assessing and considering legitimate applications submitted.

Black Springs Sportsground Landscape Masterplan

Councils Landscape consultant met on site with representatives of the Black Springs Community Association (BSCA), Cr Hayden and the Planning and Development Director in early February to undertake a walk around the site. The meeting also discussed a wish list for inclusion in a discussion at a proposed community meeting to be held in April. (tbc).

PROJECTS

Oberon Gym Complex (enclosure of the rear area)

A Modified Development Application is currently waiting on owners consent from The Crown prior to further progressing. This application is to enclose the existing rear open area to allow increased usage of the facility. These works are the result of Council receiving a Stronger Country Community Fund Round 5 grant for \$585,362.00. The project remains on track to be completed within the grant timeframe.

A selected request for tender closed on 11 March 2024. A review of the tenders will now take place and a report will be provided to Council for consideration of a preferred builder.

Solar to the Oberon Pool, Gym and Library/Community Centre

A request for quotation (RFQ) was issued for a project to install additional solar to the Oberon Pool and new solar to the gym and Library/community centre.

These works are the result of Council receiving a Stronger Country Community Fund Round 5 grant for \$100,000.00. The project remains on track to be completed within the grant timeframe.

Oberon Off Leash Dog Park

Works are close to completion with the installation of the shade shelter, picnic table, rainwater tank and bins. Mowing is now scheduled to be regularly undertaken by parks and gardens and the off leash park is also monitored by Council's Ranger to ensure compliance.



Oberon Fitness and Leisure Centre

SUMMARY

The Oberon Fitness and Leisure Centre (OFLC) is pleased to submit the report for February 2024.

February has been a busy month, the new year a traditionally strong period for fitness whilst also prime pool season.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

- Swimming Lesson program
- Weekly Personal training sessions
- Small group training sessions run for teacher groups from Oberon High School and St Josephs aimed at improving teacher wellbeing and reducing stress
- Oberon U3A fitness sessions for community members
- Oberon High School swimming carnival
- Oberon Public School swimming carnival.
- St Joesphs swimming carnival.

Pool Report

The activities of the pool for this month revolved heavily around school swimming carnivals. With all three major schools undertaking their carnivals within a two week period.

Participation numbers from all schools were up from last year's carnival and numbers were the strongest in a five year period. This coincides directly with the increase patronage and promotion of the pool.

This was exaggerated in the high school carnival with competitive swimming numbers up 40% on last year.

All other operational activities were as normal for February. Our regular program of swimming lessons was not affected due to the carnivals.

Fitness Centre Report

February continued the strong growth for fitness. David Sellers Facilities Manager is pleased to report we are now at the same number of members as we were prior to the transition to Council from the previous management. This increase in members is reflected in a revenue increase.

Membership sales were strong and program attendance was high. February saw +19 new memberships.

Class fitness levels are also continuing to remain strong as the changing of the season generally signals a shift to retention within the fitness industry. Our programs will reflect this shift in mindset for March.

Centre visits	FEB
Memberships	1190

Visit passes	9
Personal training	18
Total Attendance	1199

Membership Type	FEB
Concession Fitness DD	29
Adult Fitness DD	139
1 Month Upfront	12
1 Week	1
Pt DD	12
Student 16-18	14
Teen Under 16	13
Fitness Passport	26

Membership Movement	FEB
New Fitness Sales	23
Cancellations	13
Loss	+10

2. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

DETERMINATIONS – FEB 2024

10.2022.24.2	Modification to existing DA 10.2022.42.1 - New Access Construction & New Shed	18 Muirs Road OBERON NSW 2787
10.2023.48.1 20.2023.17.1	New Childcare Centre & Connection to sewer	8 Brennan Cres OBERON NSW 2787
10.2023.66.1	Demolition of Existing Shed	69 Curtis Street OBERON NSW 2787
11.2023.27.1	New Childcare Centre	6-8 Tasman Street OBERON NSW 2787
11.2021.49.1	Composting and Landscaping Supply Facility - Staged Construction Certificate - Pavement Works	24 Endeavour Street, 26 Endeavour Street & 68 Hawken Street OBERON NSW 2787

10.2023.61.1 20.2023.23.1	New Shed & Bathroom and Connection to Sewer	50 Scotia Ave OBERON NSW 2787
------------------------------	--	-------------------------------

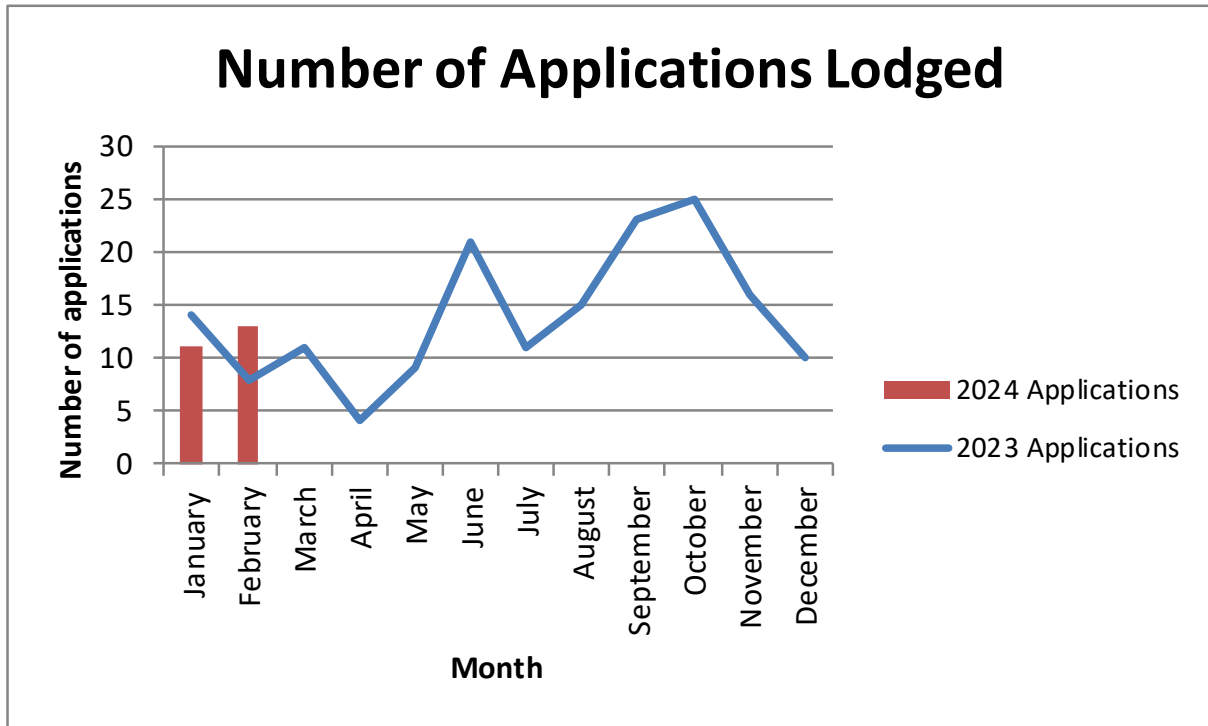
DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS IN PROGRESS – FEB 2024

No.	Date sub Portal	Lodgement Date	Commencement Date	Stop the Clock Date	Information Received Date	Determination date
10.2021.72.1	22.09.2021	06.10.2021	10.11.2021	10.11.2021		
10.2022.8.1	16.12.2022	25.01.2023	21.02.2023	14.03.2023		
10.2023.16.1	13.03.2023	29.03.2023	18.07.2023	18.07.2023		
10.2023.28.1	08.05.2023	05.06.2023	04.07.2023	13.07.2023		
10.2023.29.1	11.05.2023	08.06.2023	28.06.2023	04.07.2023		
10.2023.30.1	08.05.2023	09.06.2023	26.06.2023	14.07.2023		
10.2023.32.1	01.06.2023	21.06.2023	06.07.2023	18.07.2023	06.09.2023	
10.2023.35.1	11.06.2023	27.06.2023	03.08.2023	03.08.2023		
10.2023.40.1	11.07.2023	17.07.2023	25.07.2023	25.07.2023	29.08.2023	
10.2004.130.3	31.07.2023	04.08.2023	20.08.2023			21.02.2024
10.2022.97.2	22.08.2022	12.09.2022	17.09.2023	18.09.2023		
10.20219.25.2	29.09.2023	31.10.2023	06.11.2023	06.11.2023		
10.2023.60.1	06.10.2023	08.11.2023	20.12.2023	20.12.2023		
10.2023.61.1	30.10.2023	08.11.2023	20.12.2023			19.02.2024
10.2023.62.1	08.10.2023	08.11.2023	20.12.2023	20.12.2023		
10.2023.66.1	22.11.2023	05.12.2023	02.02.2024	02.02.2024		08.02.2024
10.2023.67.1	02.11.2023	20.12.2023	02.02.2024	02.02.2024		
10.2024.1.1	02.12.2023	15.01.2024	02.02.2024	02.02.2024		
10.2024.2.1	02.01.2024	15.01.2024	02.02.2024			
10.2024.3.1	19.12.2024	15.01.2024	05.02.2024			
10.2024.4.1	03.01.2024	15.01.2024	06.02.2024			
10.2022.24.2	14.12.2023	15.01.2024	02.02.2024	02.02.2024	06.02.2024	
10.2023.40.2	15.01.2024	02.02.2024	14.02.2024			
10.2024.5.1	13.01.2024	02.02.2024	14.02.2024			
10.2024.7.1	01.02.2024	09.02.2024	22.02.2024			
10.2024.8.1	05.02.2024	15.02.2024	22.02.2024			
10.2014.32.2	15.02.2024	21.02.2024	04.03.2024			
10.2024.9.1	13.02.2024	21.02.2024	04.03.2024			
10.2023.48.2	19.02.2024	23.02.2024	07.03.2024			
10.2024.10.1	15.02.2024	01.03.2024	12.03.2024			
10.2023.25.3	19.02.2024	11.03.2024				
10.2023.34.2	26.02.2024	11.03.2024				
10.2024.11.1	27.02.2024	11.03.2024				
10.2024.12.1	27.02.2024	11.03.2024				

Total fees for Applications during February 2024 were \$12,983.27.

The income from applications year to date is \$25,177.91.

Copies of determinations are available for inspection at Council’s Administration Centre. Applications for the calendar year are being provided in a table form to give an outline of applications being lodged against those of the previous year.

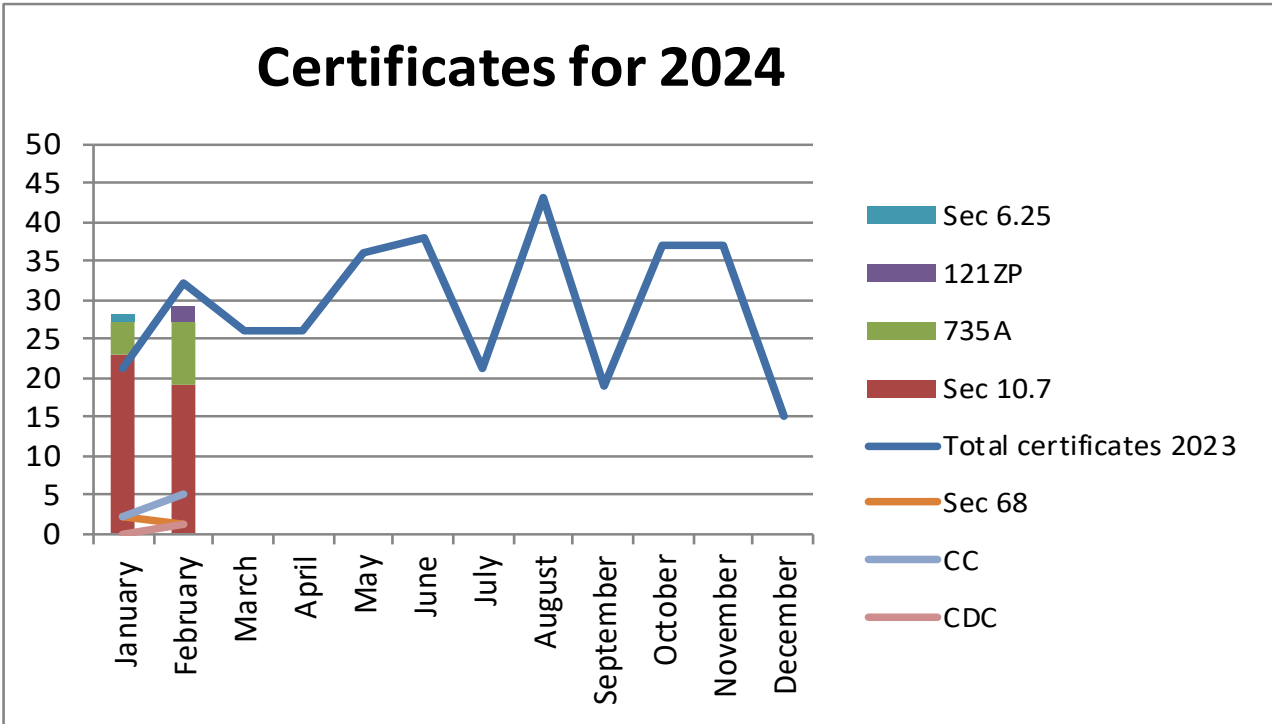


CERTIFICATES ISSUED

During the Conveyancing process, normally as part of the sale of a property, various Certificates are applied for by Solicitors, Real Estate Agents or by the public. In February 2024 the following Certificates were issued:

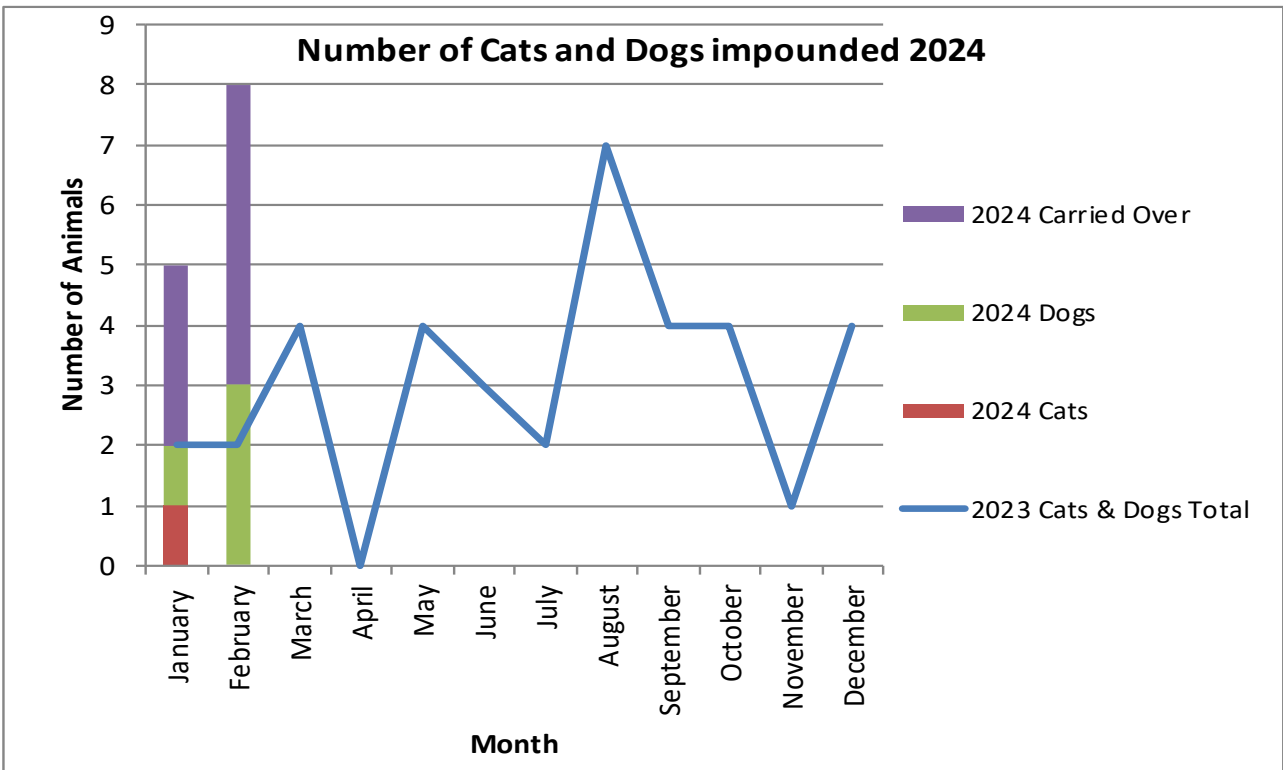
CERTIFICATES	February 2024
SECTION 10.7 PLANNING CERTIFICATES Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979	19
SECTION 735A CERTIFICATES AS TO NOTICES Local Government Act, 1993.	8
CERTIFICATES AS TO ORDERS SCHEDULE 5 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979	2
SECTION 6.26 BUILDING INFORMATION CERTIFICATES Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979	0
CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATES	5
COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT	1
SECTION 68 APPLICATIONS Local Government Act 1993	1

Certificates for the calendar year are being provided in a table form to give an outline of certificates being lodged against those of the previous year.



OBERON ANIMAL POUND

The following are details of activity at the Animal Pound in February 2024



DOG DECLARATIONS	February 2024
Notice of Intention to Declare a Dog Dangerous	0
Notice to Declare a Dog Dangerous	0
Notice of Intention to Declare a Dog Menacing	0
Notice to Declare a Dog Menacing	1
Notice of Intention to Declare a Dog Nuisance	0
Notice to Declare a Dog Nuisance	0

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Various inspections, including building inspections, health inspections, environmental inspections and complaints were conducted during February 2024.

TYPE OF INSPECTIONS	February 2024
Building Inspections	41
Food Inspections	35
Environmental Inspections (Air, Noise and Water Pollution)	0
Subdivisions Certificate Inspections	2
Complaints (Including Animal Control & Livestock)	26
Building Maintenance Inspections	6

14.3 Monthly Activity Report Technical Services - March 2024

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: David Basil, Technical Services Manager

Summary

This report provides a summary of works in progress and/or completed during February 2024. The report also provides an outline of proposed works in the Technical Services and Works area for the months of March/April 2024.

General Managers Note: With the resignation of the previous Technical Services Director the activity report has been developed by the Technical Services Manager with assistance from Councils Infrastructure and Water Engineer and based on the Directors activity during the period.

Recommendation:

That report item 14.3 is received as information.

Comment

1. COMPLETED WORKS DURING FEBRUARY 2024 AND PROPOSED WORKS IN PROGRESS DURING MARCH/APRIL 2024

Arkstone Rd, Fixing Local Roads Round 4

Works are progressing towards completion on 18 March 2024 with shoulder clearing, formation of drains, 16 culvert installations and construction of 200mm compacted road pavement for 5.5km of Arkstone Road for FLR Round 4 funding. Road sealing has been programmed for 19 March. This will include an additional 2 km of road reseal for a road section under the FLR Round 2 project.

Won gravel for the subbase was from quarry on Arkstone Rd, and crushed gravel screened - 20mm for the base wearing course was used from the nearby quarry on The Blue Road.



Arkstone Rd, Fixing Local Roads Round 3

3.3 km of road line marking was completed in early February. Completed works to date have been 6.5km of shoulder vegetation clearing, construction of 200mm sub-base and 100mm of base pavement.



Heavy Patch

21,407 m² of heavy patching of badly affected road areas was undertaken as part of Council's road maintenance program through TfNSW funding have now been completed for:

- Hazelgrove Road (3,056 m²)
- Shooters Hill Road (3,200 m²)
- Abercrombie Road (4,411 m²)
- Dog Rocks Road (6,340 m²)
- Mount David Road (4,400 m²)

Sealing of the heavy patches were completed in February and March.

Road Reconstruction

Road works on Abercrombie Road at Black Springs commenced on Monday 4 March 2024 to widen 1km of Abercrombie Road at the southern entrance to Black Springs. The current seal width is 7.5m which will be widened to a 9m seal and 11m width to include shoulders.

Road Resealing

As part of the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) funding program, the following roads will be resealed in the next few weeks:

- Mutton Falls Road
- Dog Rocks Road
- Beaconsfield Road
- O'Connell Plains Road



- Sewells Creek Road
- Junction Road
- Mt David Road

The bridge approaching Nunan's Hill Road will also be sealed in March.

Road preparation works have commenced on Bloom Hill Road in preparation for sealing in the coming weeks.

O'Connell Sports Ground

Works on the cricket field and sports ground at O'Connell will commence shortly with spraying and slashing of the field. The work will include completing the back filling of irrigation trenches and level the surface so there are no depression areas. The irrigation installation company Water Mark will oversee the project.

There will be 1,100 tons of topsoil from the Oberon Sports ground project that will be spread over the O'Connell sports ground. The top dressing will be compacted, and laser levelled for adequate falls consistent with the sports field.

Gravel Resheeting

Gravel resheeting under the LRCI funding commenced this week for once kilometer Beaconsfield Road. Isabella Road will also be done in March.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS POTHOLE PATCHING FEBRUARY 2024

REGIONAL ROADS:	FEBRUARY
Abercrombie Rd	110
Albion St	
Edith Rd	70
Total	180

YTD Regional roads = 1805

LOCAL ROADS:	FEBRUARY
Mutton Falls Rd	120
Mt David Rd	90
Shooters Hill Rd	70
Dog Rocks Rd	140
Sewells Ck Rd	80
Rutters Ridge Rd	40
Junction Rd	40
Total	580
TOTAL	760

YTD Local roads = 5270

YTD Regional & Local Roads = 5895

2. RMCC (Road Maintenance Council Contract) WORKS FOR TRANSPORT FOR NEW SOUTH WALES (TfNSW).

Routine Maintenance

Routine road maintenance work and condition monitoring continues both O'Connell and Duckmaloi Roads following TfNSW Roads Maintenance Council Contract.

Asphalts works on Duckmaloi Road

The asphalt works on Duckmaloi begun on 6 February 2024, starting from the intersection of Jenolan Cave Road and Duckmaloi Road intersection.

The total area for Asphalt works is approximately 7,000 m².



Asphalts works will be completed in all respect mid-April 2024

Reseal on Duckmaloi Road

Resealing on Duckmaloi Road is still being carried out. Resealing works will be completed mid-April 2024. Approximate budget for resealing \$400,000.00.

Heavy Patching on O'Connell Road

Heavy Patching works on Oconnell Road are set to resume on 19 March 2024, with completion expected by mid-April. Area of Heavy Patching approximately 3000m².

Duckmaloi Rd Safety Project

The safety Project on Duckmaloi Road is still underway and is expected to be fully completed by the end of this financial year.

3. WATER & WASTEWATER REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the Oberon Council Local Government Area water consumption and sewage treatment processes for February 2024 and a Water NSW Oberon Dam water level update.

Weekly Oberon Dam Levels

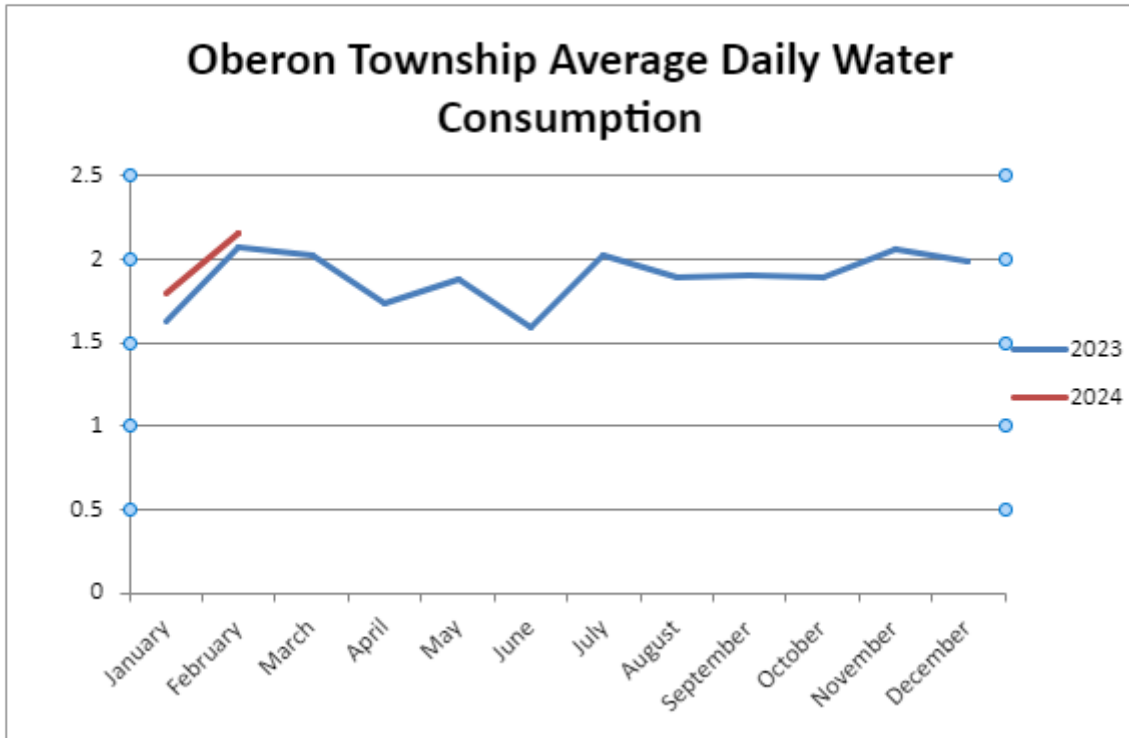
The following are weekly dam level recordings for Oberon Dam, for February 2024 as supplied and published by WaterNSW:

February 2024	
06.02.24	97.7%
12.02.24	97.5%
20.02.24	98%
28.02.24	97.6%

Water Consumption from WaterNSW Oberon Dam

February 2024	
01.02.24 -- 10.02.24	21.415 ML
11.02.24 -- 17.02.24	14.978 ML
18.02.24 -- 24.02.24	14.798 ML
25.02.24 -- 29.02.24	11.524 ML

The total raw water consumption during February 2024 = 62.715 ML
Daily average consumption = 2.162 ML



Sewer Plant – Weekly kL Intake for Treatment of Wastewater

February 2024	
01.02.24 -- 10.02.24	21.415 kL
11.02.24 -- 17.02.24	14.978 kL
18.02.24 -- 24.02.24	14.798 kL
24.02.24 -- 29.02.24	11.524 kL

The daily average of wastewater flow into Oberon Sewerage Treatment Plant = 62.715 kL
 The total wastewater volume into Oberon Sewer Treatment Plant February 2024 was 2.162 kL

3. TECHNICAL SERVICES MEETINGS FEBRUARY 2024

The following is a summary of meetings attended by the Manager Technical Services.

- 01/02/2024 - Oberon Council meeting with Downer Group
- 05/02/2024 - TfNSW Monthly Meeting
- 08/02/2024 - Traffic Advisory Local Committee Meeting
- 12/02/2024 - Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting
- 21/02/2024 - Oberon Sports Facility Committee Meeting
- 22/02/2024 - Central West Joint Organisation Consensus Meeting

14.4 Monthly Activity Report Corporate Services - March 2024

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director), Debra Keane (Tourism and Economic Development Manager), Julie Baker (Library Manager), Brooke Perry (Community Services and Youth Coordinator), Zoe Marks (Finance Manager), AJ Jack (IT and GIS Co-ordinator)

Summary

This report provides an update on the activities of the Corporate Services Directorate for February and forward plans.

Recommendation:

That report item 14.4 is received as information.

List of Attachments

Nil

1. Information Technology

Document Migration

Change management strategy workshops have commenced with each of the directorates. This includes an analysis on the readiness and ability to manage change particularly incorporating skills, attitudes and behaviours. Training will commence in late April to assist with the progression of the new document management process.

Enterprise System Migration

The migration continues and now has a hard deadline of 30 June 2024. We do not intend to budget for payments to Civica in the new financial year.

Cyber Security

The Cyber Security risk is ever increasing particularly with Local Government being identified as a gateway to other levels of government. Incident management and mitigation have been reported in more detail to the Oberon Audit Risk and Improvement Committee.

CCTV Installation

Both the Library and Visitor Information Centre received new CCTV as part of the LRCI grant funded projects. This will provide staff with more oversight and control of the facilities.

2. Finance

2024/25FY Budget Preparations

Preparations are underway in the development of the 2024/25FY Operational Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan.

Town Improvement Levy Review

The Finance Team have prepared final calculations for the Town Improvement Levy Review and are included in a separate report to this meeting.

Audit Engagement Planning

The Finance Team have started meeting and have set the timeline for the 2023/24FY audit with the Auditors.

3. Community Services

YouthWeek April 15 – 19

The team were successful in applying for a YouthWeek grant that will assist to deliver an array of programming in April. Planned events include Movie sessions, VR gaming day, cooking and food workshops and a henna tattoo session.

Upcoming Events

20 March 2024 – **Welcome to Oberon 2024**

21 March 2024 – **Seniors Festival Luncheon**

April 2024 – **Youthweek programming**

4. Oberon Library & Community Centre

Month	Visits	Loan	New Members	New items	Program attendance	eLoans
July 2023	-	688	34	80	19	251
August 2023	-	725	29	98	97	212
September 2023	-	884	14	101	46	231
October 2023	-	664	18	112	45	221
November 2023	-	848	14	77	8	248
December 2023	-	618	10	65	26	186
January 2024	-	706	18	46	16	210
February 2024	-	633	13	46	73	263
Total 2023/2024		5,766	150	625	330	1,822
<i>Total 2022/2023</i>	-	6,122	56	769	677	2,132
<i>Total 2021/2023</i>	9,690	6,710	79	712	1,081	1,815

* Door count unavailable

Library Lovers Day

Wednesday 14 February was Library Lovers Day, it is a day to honour libraries, librarians, and library lovers, and the valuable roles that libraries play in people's lives. Library staff ran a month-long competition, Blind date with a book. Random books were picked from the shelves, wrapped to remain a mystery, with a brief description to entice people to take it home. Borrowers were asked to rate the book when returned to the library with each response being entered to win a special prize. 38 blind date books were taken home.



Operable Wall

Portable Partitions Australia conducted a site visit on 27 February to install the track for the two operable walls in the function room. It will take approximately one month to have the panels built to specification and install to be completed in April. Once completed the function room will be able to be divided into multiple spaces.

After Hours

The library now has an after-hours chute. Located at the Tallys Lane entrance the chute is available for returns outside of normal opening hours. Since re-opening it has been a frequently asked questions from library users, so it is a very welcome addition to the library.

5. Tourism and Economic Development

Visitor Information Centre

Tourism numbers are still performing well with February up 22.1% compared to the same time last year. While small in total, international visitors are still steadily increasing with 69 this month.

Commbank ID data shared for January indicate tourism contributed \$1.9 million to the local economy in January.

Field to Forest Festival

The following events are now live and taking bookings.



Join us to mark the opening of Oberon's Field to Forest Festival!

SIP, SAVOUR AND SLICE

Saturday 6th April
12.00pm - 5.00pm
Tickets \$120

Book online
redground.com.au



RedGround Truffle Hunting Lodge, 264 Titania Road, Oberon NSW

www.visitoberon.com/events #visitoberon

FOREST TALK

13TH APRIL 2024 - 12PM TO 3PM

OBERON FOREST AND TIMBER PAVILION
OBERON & DISTRICT MUSEUM - SCOTIA AVENUE



Tickets \$10pp
Includes afternoon tea and museum entry from 10.30am on the day

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
Nikki Bennetts
Learn all about State Forests
James Griffiths
Cool Climate Apiary
Col Roberts
Truffles and Oberon Museum



The finale event of Field to Forest 2024 -

The Producers' Table



Saturday 20 April, 2024 6.30pm

Three courses of Oberon produce, stories and the finest music

Oberon Visitor Brochure

Advertising revenue required to produce the brochure have nearly been met with a final round of sales underway. A working group consisting of staff and members from OBTA are working through the content, imagery and layout in order to achieve the best look and feel. A preliminary mock has been shared with team in order to start this process.

14.5 Investments

File No: Financial Management/Investments/Register
 Author: Lisa Koleda (Management Accountant), Zoe Marks (Finance Manager)

Summary

This report provides Council with the Statement of Investments as of 29 February 2024.

Recommendation:

That report item 14.5 is received as information.

List of Attachments

Nil

Comment

During its March 2024 meeting, the Reserve Bank Board elected to keep the cash rate target steady at 4.35%. This decision aims to facilitate inflations movement toward the midpoint of the 2-3 percent target range within a reasonable timeframe, while also sustaining moderate employment growth.

Notably, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) has implemented a strategy of reducing the frequency of meetings this year, aligning with other central banks like the US Federal Reserve and the Bank of England, both of which also convene eight times annually. This approach fosters a more robust policy formulation and discussion process, allowing external members to exert influence on analysis and forecasts. While mortgage holders may experience a longer wait for interest rate updates, there's positive news of another rate hike being unlikely.



Cash at bank

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Value</i>
CBA Business - General Funds	2,379,947.24
CBA Business - Online Saver	2,189,366.77
NAB Business - Cheque	104242.81
	<u>4,673,556.82</u>

As of 29 February 2024, Council had \$24,250,000 invested with term deposits. Total cash and cash equivalents were \$28,923,556.82. Below is a breakup of Council's Cash and Cash Equivalents:

Active Term Deposits:

Institution	Date Invested	Rate	Maturity Date	Amount
National Australia Bank	15/03/2023	4.60%	13/03/2024	500,000.00
Southern Cross Credit Union	30/03/2023	4.70%	27/03/2024	500,000.00
Defence Bank - (Sewer)	26/04/2023	4.65%	10/04/2024	500,000.00
National Australia Bank - (Sewer)	11/04/2023	4.40%	10/04/2024	500,000.00
AMP Bank - (Sewer)	24/05/2023	5.15%	24/04/2024	500,000.00
Bank Of Queensland.	7/06/2023	5.20%	8/05/2024	500,000.00
Macquarie Bank	5/07/2023	5.10%	22/05/2024	500,000.00
National Australia Bank	23/06/2023	5.35%	22/05/2024	500,000.00
AMP Bank	21/06/2023	5.65%	5/06/2024	500,000.00
National Australia Bank	5/07/2023	5.40%	5/06/2024	500,000.00
National Australia Bank	5/07/2023	5.40%	19/06/2024	500,000.00
Commonwealth Bank	5/07/2023	5.34%	2/07/2024	500,000.00
Commonwealth Bank	5/07/2023	5.34%	2/07/2024	500,000.00
Commonwealth Bank	5/07/2023	5.34%	3/07/2024	500,000.00
National Australia Bank	19/07/2023	5.35%	17/07/2024	500,000.00
National Australia Bank	5/07/2023	5.39%	17/07/2024	500,000.00
Bank Of Queensland.	19/07/2023	5.35%	17/07/2024	500,000.00
The Mutual Bank	5/07/2023	5.70%	31/07/2024	500,000.00
Macquarie Bank - STP	16/08/2023	4.92%	14/08/2024	500,000.00
Bank Of Queensland.	2/08/2023	5.25%	14/08/2024	500,000.00
Macquarie Bank	31/08/2022	4.41%	28/08/2024	500,000.00
Family First Credit Union	8/08/2023	5.25%	10/09/2024	500,000.00
Macquarie Bank	13/09/2023	4.82%	11/09/2024	500,000.00
Bank Of Queensland.	6/09/2023	4.95%	11/09/2024	500,000.00
Macquarie Bank	21/09/2022	4.42%	25/09/2024	500,000.00
G&C Mutual Bank	20/09/2023	5.25%	25/09/2024	500,000.00
Commonwealth Bank	16/08/2023	5.13%	8/10/2024	500,000.00
Commonwealth Bank	18/10/2023	5.02%	22/10/2024	500,000.00
Bank Of Queensland.	18/10/2023	5.10%	23/10/2024	500,000.00
Commonwealth Bank	8/11/2023	5.17%	5/11/2024	500,000.00
Judo Bank - STP	12/10/2022	4.45%	6/11/2024	500,000.00
Judo Bank - STP	12/10/2022	4.45%	6/11/2024	500,000.00
Defence Bank - STP	12/10/2022	4.70%	6/11/2024	500,000.00
Commonwealth Bank	22/11/2023	5.11%	19/11/2024	500,000.00
Macquarie Bank - STP	9/11/2023	5.09%	20/11/2024	500,000.00
AMP Bank	9/11/2023	5.10%	4/12/2024	500,000.00
Defence Bank - STP	8/11/2023	5.15%	18/12/2024	500,000.00
Judo Bank	8/11/2023	5.40%	18/12/2024	250,000.00
National Australia Bank	17/01/2024	5.05%	15/01/2025	500,000.00
Australian Unity Bank	6/12/2023	5.25%	15/01/2025	500,000.00
Illawarra Credit Union	31/01/2024	5.10%	29/01/2025	500,000.00
Australian Unity Bank	20/12/2023	5.20%	29/01/2025	500,000.00
Australian Unity Bank	21/12/2023	5.10%	26/02/2025	500,000.00
National Australia Bank	28/02/2024	5.00%	26/02/2025	500,000.00
National Australia Bank	28/02/2024	5.00%	26/02/2025	500,000.00
Australian Unity Bank	20/12/2023	5.10%	12/03/2025	500,000.00
Australian Unity Bank	20/12/2023	5.10%	26/03/2025	500,000.00
G&C Mutual Bank	21/12/2023	5.10%	7/05/2025	500,000.00
G&C Mutual Bank	21/12/2023	5.10%	21/05/2025	500,000.00

24,250,000.00**Total Cash & Cash Equivalents 28,923,556.82****Externally restricted 19,083,067.00****Internally restricted 8,780,985.00****Unrestricted Cash 1,059,504.82**

Investments matured during this reporting period:

Institution	Date Invested	Rate	Maturity Date	Amount
National Australia Bank	2/03/2023	4.95%	28/02/2024	500,000.00
National Australia Bank	15/02/2023	4.85%	28/02/2024	500,000.00

Investments placed during this reporting period:

Institution	Date Invested	Rate	Maturity Date	Amount
National Australia Bank	28/02/2024	5.00%	26/02/2025	500,000.00
National Australia Bank	28/02/2024	5.00%	26/02/2025	500,000.00

Summary of Interest earned for the month of February 2024

Interest received on matured investments for the month	49,728.08
Year to Date interest received on matured investments	587,166.61
Monthly accrued interest on active investments	94,007.57
Average interest rate achieved	5.07%
90-day BBSW	4.34%
CBA Business - General Funds Acc (YTD Interest received)	62,839.08
CBA Business - Online Saver Acc (YTD Interest received)	60,478.55

Definitions:

Interest received for the month and YTD (year to date) represent the actual payments received into Council's general fund bank account.

Monthly accrued interest on active investments is accumulated interest that has yet to be paid – at time of reporting.

Average interest rate achieved is the sum of all interest dividends, divided by the length of time investments are held – at time of reporting.

90 days BBSW is a benchmark interest rate at the time of reporting.

Biz Saver Online Acc, interest received is the accumulated interest earned on fund held in the Biz Saver available for use.

I certify that the investments have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005, and Council's Investments Policy.

Zoe Marks
Responsible Accounts Officer

14.6 Status of Council Resolutions - March 2024

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: Gary Wallace (General Manager), Damian O'Shannassy (Planning and Development Director), Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director)

Summary

This report item summarises the current status of Council resolutions and provides updates for actions taken.

Recommendation:

That report Item 14.8 is received as information.

List of Attachments

1. 240314 Status Report March 2024 [**14.6.1** - 20 pages]

Comment

Following each Council Meeting the General Manager and Directors review the decisions and agree on a priority for actioning these decisions. Each Director will provide an update to the Council Action Checklist, as well as reporting on actions to the General Manager.

With respect to outstanding actions from previous Council Meetings the General Manager will review these with the Mayor and the Directors on at least a monthly basis.

If any Councillor requires an update on a specific item, they should contact the General Manager or the relevant Director or submit a Councillor Request Form to the Executive Coordinator.

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
Ordinary Meeting - Carried over actions from status report	15 210921 Business Case - Land at 34 Glyndwr Avenue, Oberon	That Council provide up to \$20,000 from the Land Bank to prepare documentation in preparation of a development application for a dual occupancy on land known as Lot 10 DP 245689 being known as 34 Glyndwr Avenue.	Gary Wallace	<p>02/02/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Developing project scope for consultant services.</p> <p>Advice received for grant opportunities relating to residential and industrial developments to be considered from Regional Infrastructure Fund expected in October.</p> <p>03/02/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>No information has been forthcoming regarding the Regional Infrastructure Fund. Progression of plans and engineering for the site continue given the site constraints.</p> <p>14/06/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Currently awaiting outcome of the Housing Australia Fund Bill and opportunities that may exist for Council to utilise this for subsidized housing.</p> <p>09/08/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>No further understanding of bill status. Options for medium density being considered given site constraints.</p> <p>13/09/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>The Australian Housing Bill has seen support at a Federal level between the Greens and Labour. Awaiting the detail to see if opportunities for Council exist.</p>	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
				<p>13/12/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>No additional advice received as yet, however substantial housing packages are earmarked for 2024 from both Federal and State Governments</p> <p>14/02/2024 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Council is undertaking an assessment of the requirements for the Housing Australia Grant funding opportunity, applications open until 22 March 2024.</p>	
Ordinary Meeting - Carried over actions from status report	14 150222 Faugha Ballaugha Road - Proposed Sectional Road Realignment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council proceed with the creation of new road realignment to a section of the Faugha Ballaugha Road eliminating the existing acute bend on this road. 2. Council allocate funding from Section 7.11 Rural Roads to an amount of up to \$35,000 to complete the acquisition works in advance of constructing a new section of unsealed road pavement. 	Chris Schumacher, Gary Wallace	<p>02/02/2023 Chris Schumacher</p> <p>Matter in progress, quotation for survey and design of new road alignment in progress. Survey to be undertaken during March 2022.</p> <p>Survey completed, new alignment pegged and design and legal formalities now in progress.</p> <p>Fencing contractor has ordered materials, work is expected to commence during December 2022 as issues have occurred during the gas outage and Jemena contractors.</p> <p>07/02/2023 Chris Schumacher</p> <p>Survey of new alignment and fencing completed December 2022. Transfer of small parcel of acquired land to public road in progress.</p>	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
				<p>13/09/2023 Chris Schumacher</p> <p>Looking to undertake a training program with internal officers through our Legal practitioners. This has been delayed as officer is currently undertaking a seconded role.</p> <p>10/10/2023 Chris Schumacher</p> <p>Progressing with the finalisation of the land transfer.</p> <p>14/02/2024 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Resourcing for this project is currently slowing the finalisation of the project.</p> <p>14/03/2024 Gary Wallace</p> <p>To finalise this matter an external will be engaged.</p>	
Ordinary Meeting - Carried over actions from status report	33 150322 Humphries Road Oberon - Partial Road Reconstruction	A report be prepared detailing guidelines for developers in the construction of roads for future consideration by Council.	Chris Schumacher, Damian O'Shannassy	<p>02/02/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>To be included in an update to the DCP as part of our strategic planning review.</p> <p>10/10/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Strategic process to commence in November. Scope complete.</p>	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
				<p>14/02/2024 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Tender for comprehensive Land Use Strategy to be advertised in February.</p> <p>14/03/2024 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Request for Tender uploaded on the E-Tendering Portal with closing date 4 April 2024</p>	
Ordinary Meeting - Carried over actions from status report	35 190422 Residential Land Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nominate the Open Tendering method as prescribed in accordance with Clause 166(b) of the Local Government Regulation 2005 seeking interest in the development of residential land. 2. Upon completion of the mandatory 21-day tender period, assessment by a panel will provide a further report to Council for consideration and determination. 	Gary Wallace	<p>02/02/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Noted – Design Specification and construction plans to supplement the Tender documentation is complete.</p> <p>Advice received for grant opportunities relating to residential and industrial developments to be considered from Regional Infrastructure Fund expected in November/December. Should no additional advice be received Tender will be sent out for costs.</p> <p>03/02/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>No further progress on the Regional Infrastructure Fund. Given the proximity of the NSW State election it is considered that this fund will be activated after the NSW State election in March. Council will progress to tender.</p> <p>14/03/2023 Gary Wallace</p>	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
				<p>Tender documents currently being prepared to be exhibited in March 2023.</p> <p>10/05/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Current opportunities re being considered for further options for construction. A report is provided to the May 2023 meeting.</p> <p>14/06/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Reported to May 2023 Meeting.</p> <p>08/08/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>DA being prepared for Council consideration.</p> <p>13/09/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>The Australian Housing Bill has seen support at a Federal level between the Greens and Labour. Awaiting the detail to see if opportunities for Council exist.</p> <p>10/10/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Scope finalised in October, will be uploaded to portal in December.</p> <p>14/02/2024 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Council undertaking an assessment of the requirements for the Housing Australia Grant funding opportunity, applications open until 22 March 2024.</p>	

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
Ordinary Meeting - Carried over actions from status report	36 190422 Industrial Land Developments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nominate the Open Tendering method as prescribed in accordance with Clause 166(b) of the Local Government Regulation 2005 seeking interest in the development of Stage 2 of the Oberon Industrial Estate. 2. Upon completion of the mandatory 21-day tender period, assessment by a panel will provide a further report to Council for consideration and determination. 3. Revise the selling price per square metre rate as delegated to the General Manager in the Mayoral Memo. 	Gary Wallace	<p>02/02/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Noted – Design Specification and construction plans to supplement the Tender documentation is complete.</p> <p>Advice received for grant opportunities relating to residential and industrial developments to be considered from Regional Infrastructure Fund expected in November/December.</p> <p>03/02/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>No further information as to the Regional Infrastructure Fund. Given the nature of the State election it is considered that this fund will be activated after the NSW State election in March. Council will progress to tender.</p> <p>14/03/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Tender documents currently being prepared, to be exhibited in March 2023.</p> <p>10/05/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Current opportunities re being considered for further options for construction. A report is provided to the May 2023 meeting.</p> <p>11/07/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Revised options for layout being prepared and costed.</p>	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
				<p>08/08/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Report to Council August 2023 Meeting.</p> <p>13/09/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>From actions at August Ordinary Meeting Tender will be prepared during September 2023.</p> <p>10/10/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Tender finalised in October, will be uploaded to portal in December.</p> <p>14/02/2024 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Tender closed, outcomes to be reported to March meeting.</p> <p>14/03/2024 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Assessment of Tenders is progressing. It is anticipated to provide reports to April, as finalisation of project was temporarily delayed due to resourcing.</p>	
Ordinary Meeting - Carried over actions from status report	14 190722 Dreves Road - Right of Carriageway and Release of Easement	That Council take appropriate action to have Lot 4 in DP1026840 classified as public road.	Chris Schumacher	<p>06/02/2023 Chris Schumacher</p> <p>Legal matter in progress with Councils solicitor and staff in order to resolve Lot 4 DP1026840 as Public Road.</p> <p>13/09/2023 Chris Schumacher</p>	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
				<p>Looking to undertake a training program with internal officers through our Legal practitioners. This has been delayed as officer is currently undertaking a seconded role.</p> <p>10/10/2023 Chris Schumacher</p> <p>Progressing with the finalisation of the land transfer.</p> <p>14/02/2024 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Resourcing for this project is currently slowing the finalisation of the project.</p> <p>14/03/2024 Gary Wallace</p> <p>To finalise this matter an external will be engaged.</p>	
230321 Ordinary Meeting 21 March 2023	12 - 21/03/2023 Creation of a Future of Town Improvement Levy Project	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Utilise the list of identified scenarios, for further modelling as part of the ongoing review of the Town Improvement Levy. Note the outcome of the review will form part of the 2024/25 Operational Plan deliberations. Update community engagement strategy to guide the consultation 	Mathew Webb	<p>11/04/2023 Mathew Webb</p> <p>Staff undertaking further modelling and research into the various scenarios outlined by Council. Staff also starting to develop the communication and consultation plan.</p> <p>14/06/2023 Mathew Webb</p> <p>Work continues on the review.</p> <p>08/08/2023 Mathew Webb</p> <p>Review continues. Timeline included in the Corporate Services Monthly Report</p>	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
		<p>process for the review of the Town Improvement Levy.</p> <p>Resolution No:</p>		<p>13/09/2023 Mathew Webb</p> <p>A Town Improvement Levy workshop is scheduled to be held on 12 October 2023.</p> <p>09/10/2023 Mathew Webb</p> <p>Councillor workshop undertaken on 12 October. Full report due for the November meeting.</p> <p>16/11/2023 Mathew Webb</p> <p>Separate report provided to Council on this matter</p> <p>14/02/2024 Mathew Webb</p> <p>Consultation continues. Separate report provided</p> <p>14/03/2024 Mathew Webb</p> <p>Report to March Ordinary Meeting outlining results of community consultation undertaken.</p>	
230418 Ordinary Meeting 18 April 2023	22 - 18/04/2023 Policy 2123 Anti Bullying Positive Working Relationships Policy	That Workplace Behavioural Standards and Expectations Policy 2123 be further reviewed to ensure it is consistent with Policy 2101, and that Complaints Handling Policy 2101 also be reviewed.	Gary Wallace, Mathew Webb	<p>09/05/2023 Mathew Webb</p> <p>Review underway</p> <p>08/08/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Working group established to critique current policy.</p>	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
				<p>13/12/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Values and Commitments phase complete. Will be reported to March 2024.</p> <p>14/03/2024 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Resourcing (sickness) has delayed this. The finalising of this action requires melding of two existing policies.</p>	
230516 Ordinary Meeting 16 May 2023	9 - 16/05/2023 Tender 2023-09 Oberon Kerbside Garbage Collection	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Nominate the Open Tendering method as prescribed in accordance with Clause 166(a) of the Local Government Regulation 2005 for the provision of Kerbside Garbage Collection services for the next three (3) year period with an option for a further extension of 2-years (T2023-09). At the conclusion of the Tender period all information will be assessed by a panel and a report will be put to the next available Ordinary Meeting of Council seeking endorsement of a suitable provider for the new Oberon Kerbside Garbage Collection Contract. 	Chris Schumacher	<p>14/06/2023 Chris Schumacher</p> <p>Tender documents currently being prepared.</p> <p>13/09/2023 Chris Schumacher</p> <p>Kerbside Waste Tender held over until following Councillor Waste Workshop.</p> <p>10/10/2023 Chris Schumacher</p> <p>Waste Workshop held in September. Progress report presented to October Ordinary Meeting.</p> <p>14/12/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Council utilising options for 2023/24 and the development of a tender in the last quarter of 2023/24.</p>	In Progress
230516 Ordinary Meeting 16 May 2023	21 - 16/05/2023 Bailey's Lane Causeway Replacement	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Council proceed with the supply and construction of a new single lane 	Chris Schumacher	<p>14/06/2023 Chris Schumacher</p>	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
		<p>bridge structure by contractor Murray Valley Piling to replace the existing low-level causeway on Baileys Lane.</p> <p>2. The existing \$206,905 plus an additional \$60,000 of funding be taken from the existing \$1M NSW Severe Weather & Flood Affected grant funding to assist the delivery of this new bridge infrastructure at a total cost of \$266,905.</p> <p>3. Council reduce the previously dedicated funding under the NSW Severe Weather & Flood Affected Grant Fund for gravel resheeting to make up the short fall for the development.</p> <p>4. That the bridge be installed including fitting of safety rails to be funded from the existing \$1M NSW Severe Weather & Flood Affected grant funding rural roads.</p> <p>5. The General Manager be authorised to sign the relevant contracts and authorise payments associated with the project</p>		<p>Engagement with Murray Valley Piling proceeding. Works will be undertaken in July 2023.</p> <p>09/08/2023 Chris Schumacher</p> <p>Work commenced on 7 August 2023 and is expected to be completed by the end of August 2023.</p> <p>13/09/2023 Chris Schumacher</p> <p>Works complete, close out report to be provided to October Meeting.</p> <p>10/10/2023 Chris Schumacher</p> <p>Awaiting final section of rail to be supplied. A close out report will be presented to the November Ordinary Meeting.</p> <p>14/02/2024 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Bridge ends have been installed, close out report will be provided at the next available meeting.</p>	
230606 Extraordinary Council Meeting - Works	3 - 6/06/2023 Yarning Circle Inclusion Oberon Common	That Council support the Yarning Circle concept and progression of the project should grant funding be confirmed.	Debra Keane, Mathew Webb	14/06/2023 Mathew Webb Awaiting outcome of funding. Locations of Yarning circle to be discussed at the Common Working party.	Matter closed

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
Committee 6 June 2023				<p>11/07/2023 Mathew Webb</p> <p>Working group needing more time to evaluate suitable locations. Next working group meeting on the 26 July.</p> <p>08/08/2023 Mathew Webb</p> <p>Matter ongoing. Contact made with Rotary, awaiting outcome from Rotary's August meeting.</p> <p>10/10/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>Common Working Party reported no concern from Rotary. Report to November Meeting to confirm.</p> <p>14/02/2024 Mathew Webb</p> <p>MOU provided to Council for consideration and progression of the project</p> <p>14/03/2024 Mathew Webb</p> <p>See further resolution from February Ordinary Meeting. Subsequent actions will be reported under this resolution.</p>	
230606 Extraordinary Council Meeting - Works Committee 6 June 2023	6 - 6/06/2023 Reef Amenities	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide \$21,169.09 be sourced from Section 7.11 rural contributions fund with 50% coming from Open Space and 50% from Community facilities to fund the amount paid to Builrite Shed 	Damian O'Shannassy , Dani Bradshaw, Mathew Webb	<p>14/06/2023 Damian O'Shannassy</p> <p>Councils Project Manager has been requested to engage with shed company's to progress the project adhering to the budget.</p> <p>11/07/2023 Damian O'Shannassy</p>	Matter closed

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
		<p>Company Pty Ltd which was placed in liquidation on 20 March 2023.</p> <p>2. Advise the funding authority of its decision.</p> <p>3. Return any monies received from the liquidation be provided equally back to the contributions fund for which the allocation was made.</p>		<p>Council has accepted a new quotation for the shed structure and following the delay, new contractors are being approached to undertake the erection of the shed and fitout of the structure.</p> <p>09/08/2023 Damian O'Shannassy</p> <p>Slab installed, Works expected to be completed in September.</p> <p>13/09/2023 Damian O'Shannassy</p> <p>Works nearing completion. Close out report to be provided to November Meeting.</p> <p>14/02/2024 Damian O'Shannassy</p> <p>Works completed. Close out report to be provided to the March meeting.</p> <p>14/03/2024 Damian O'Shannassy</p> <p>Close out report provided to March Ordinary Meeting.</p>	
230919 Ordinary Meeting 19 September 2023	15 - 19/09/2023 Delegates to Council Committees	That Council endorse in principle the proposed alternative facility management options for the administration of the independent living units to reduce the associated psychosocial risks to staff with the General Manager to provide a variety of options including indicative costings to fund the options.	Mathew Webb	<p>12/10/2023 Mathew Webb</p> <p>Various scenarios and costings still being gathered.</p> <p>14/02/2024 Mathew Webb</p> <p>Discussions continue with Columbia regarding a community outreach program. Units management model unchanged at this time</p>	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
230919 Ordinary Meeting 19 September 2023	13 - 19/09/2023 Delegates to Council Committees	That the Heritage Committee Community review the terms of reference in relation to voting members and community representatives and come back to Council with a recommendation.	Damian O'Shannassy	<p>10/10/2023 Damian O'Shannassy</p> <p>The Heritage Committee terms of reference will be reviewed at the next Heritage Committee Meeting to be held on Monday 27 November 2023.</p> <p>12/12/2023 Damian O'Shannassy</p> <p>As a quorum was not achieved at the Heritage Committee meeting held on 27 November 2023, this matter will be referred to the next Heritage Committee meeting to be held on Monday 26 February 2024.</p> <p>12/03/2024 Damian O'Shannassy</p> <p>The matter was considered at the Heritage Committee Meeting held on 26 February 2024 and the minutes are contained in this agenda.</p>	Matter closed
231121 Ordinary Meeting 21 November 2023	8 - 21/11/2023 Common Working Party Meeting 10 October 2023	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council receive and note minutes of the Common Working Party Meeting held on 10 October 2023. 2. Council note the re-dedication of the Oberon Treasures Display at the Common held on Saturday 18 November. 3. Up to \$1,000 from unallocated Town Improvement Funds be allocated to fund the opening ceremony for the Oberon Treasures Project. 	Gary Wallace	<p>13/12/2023 Gary Wallace</p> <p>1 – 7 Actions taken 8 – 9 Ongoing</p>	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
		<p>4. Council provide an allocation of \$1,000 from unallocated Town Improvement Funds to assist with the removal of the well at the Oberon Common.</p> <p>5. An allocation of \$500 be provided from the unallocated Town Improvement Fund to assist in providing a historical board outlining the old well and its significance to the Oberon Common.</p> <p>6. Up to \$1,000 be allocated to address the gardens around the memorial plaques for Mayors.</p> <p>7. Provide funding from the Town Improvement Common Fund to the installation of appropriate signage explaining the Oberon Treasures project.</p> <p>8. Provide funding from the Town Improvement Common Fund to the installation of a plaque to recognise the Women's Service in the defence forces and auxiliary services at the plinth already located in the Common.</p> <p>9. Any remaining unallocated Town Improvement Levy Funds for the Common be allocated towards the extension of footpaths in the Oberon Common.</p>			

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
231121 Ordinary Meeting 21 November 2023	11 - 21/11/2023 Town Improvement Levy Review	That Council: 1. Place the Town Improvement Levy Review paper on public exhibition for 90 days. 2. Endorse the communications strategy to support the consultation process. 3. Allocate \$10,000 from the Town Improvement fund and \$10,000 from Parks and Gardens Maintenance budget to support costs involved in the consultation process.	Mathew Webb	14/02/2024 Mathew Webb Consultation underway 14/03/2024 Mathew Webb Comprehensive report provided to March Ordinary Meeting.	Matter closed
231219 Ordinary Meeting 19 December 2023	4 - 19/12/2023 Black Springs Land	That: 1. Oberon Council explore compulsory acquisition of the land situation at 67 Dog Rocks Road, Black Springs, (Lot 174, DP757072) being the Black Springs Transfer Station utilising their powers as outlined in the <i>Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991</i> or other acquisition methods. 2. Provide to Council at its February or March Meeting a further report on the acquisition of the subject land at 67 Dog Rocks Road, Black Springs.	Gary Wallace	14/02/2024 Gary Wallace Noted, Telco informed that they are currently in negotiations with private landholder. No further action at this time. 14/03/2024 Gary Wallace No further information provided by telco at this stage.	In Progress
231219 Ordinary Meeting 19 December 2023	7 - 19/12/2023 Wind Power Generation Environmental Projects	That Council refer the possible listing of the Avenue of Trees at O'Connell in Schedule 5, Part 1 of the Oberon LEP 2013 to the Heritage Committee for advice.	Damian O'Shannassy	14/02/2024 Damian O'Shannassy Correspondence will be forwarded to the Heritage Office for further information.	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
231219 Ordinary Meeting 19 December 2023	21 - 19/12/2023 Late Report - Oberon Sewerage Treatment Plant Replacement Project - Tender	That: 1. Council acknowledge the changes to the closing of the new Sewerage Treatment Plant tender from 29 January 2024 to 16 February 2024. 2. The Managing Director/CEO of Public Works Advisory be directed to attend the next Ordinary Council Meeting to explain the significant delay in providing detailed design documents for the Oberon Sewerage Treatment Plant project. 3. Correspondence be forwarded to the Minister responsible for the portfolio outlining the Council's concerns regarding delays to this project.	Gary Wallace	14/02/2024 Gary Wallace 1. Noted 2. Correspondence forwarded to Public Works in line with Council resolution, awaiting response. 3. Correspondence forwarded to Ministers office awaiting response. 14/03/2024 Gary Wallace No response received at this time.	In Progress
240220 Ordinary Meeting - 20 February 2024	5 - 20/02/2024 Community Services Committee	1. That Council commit to hosting another End of Year Spectacular event on 7 December 2024 and provide appropriate budget and resources as itemised in the 2024/25 Operational plan. 2. That Council receive and note minutes of the Community Services Committee held on 8 February 2024	Mathew Webb	14/03/2024 Mathew Webb Noted – contribution within the 2024/24 draft Operational Plan will be deliberated.	In Progress
240220 Ordinary Meeting - 20 February 2024	6 - 20/02/2024 Black Springs Community Hall Committee Meeting	1. That Council prioritise funding in the FY 2024/25 Operational Plan to complete repairs to the Band Room in the Black Springs Hall. 2. Continue the revised meeting schedule for the Black Springs Hall Community meetings for the first Thursday of every	Mathew Webb	14/03/2024 Mathew Webb 1. Ongoing 2. Noted 3. Noted	Matter closed

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
		<p>second month commencing 4 April 2024 and update the charter accordingly.</p> <p>3. That Council receive and note minutes of the Black Springs Hall Committee held on 8 February 2024.</p>			
240220 Ordinary Meeting - 20 February 2024	7 - 20/02/2024 2024/25 IPART Rate Peg Determination	That Council adopt the IPART determined rate peg of 5.2% for the 2024/25 Financial Year.	Mathew Webb	14/03/2024 Mathew Webb Noted	Matter closed
240220 Ordinary Meeting - 20 February 2024	8 - 20/02/2024 LALC MOU Yarning Circle	That Council undertake further negotiations regarding the proposed Memorandum of Understanding and that the General Manager be delegated to undertake the negotiation.	Gary Wallace, Mathew Webb	14/03/2024 Mathew Webb Revised MOU presented to March Ordinary Meeting.	In Progress
240220 Ordinary Meeting - 20 February 2024	9 - 20/02/2024 Abercrombie Road Project Scope Change	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Proceed to upgrade the intersection on Abercrombie Road at Black Springs, being the southern entrance at a cost of \$450,000; and Include the Abercrombie Road at Shooters Hill Road intersection near Little River, and the Abercrombie Road at Sloggetts Road intersection, and the rectification of a section of pavement on Dog Rocks Road in the Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund (RERRF) \$2.49M program deliberations at the March Ordinary Meeting. 	David Basil	14/03/2024 Gary Wallace <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Black Springs program began early March. Further report provided to March Ordinary Meeting 	Matter closed

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
240220 Ordinary Meeting - 20 February 2024	10 - 20/02/2024 Oberon Quarry - Community Consultative Committee - Council delegate	That Council nominate Councillor Tucker as the delegate, Councillor Trembath as the alternate Councillor delegate and the Planning and Development Director to represent Council on the Oberon Quarries Community Consultative Committee.	Damian O'Shannassy	14/03/2024 Damian O'Shannassy Noted – Cllr Tucker and Cllr Trembath attended the Consultative Committee Meeting – report provided to March Ordinary Meeting.	Matter closed
240220 Ordinary Meeting - 20 February 2024	11 - 20/02/2024 Social Media Policy 2130	That: 1. Council place the proposed Model Social Media Policy on exhibition for 28 days seeking input from the community. 2. Council delegate to the General Manager any minor administrative amendments to the draft (and final) should they be required. 3. Endorse the Model Social Media Policy should no submissions be received or report back to the next available Council meeting should non administrative submissions be provided.	Gary Wallace	14/03/2024 Gary Wallace Currently on Public Exhibition until 5 April 2024.	In Progress
240220 Ordinary Meeting - 20 February 2024	20 - 20/02/2024 Quarterly Budget Review Statement 2 - October - December 2023	1. Report Item 14.8 is received as information. 2. That Council consider reallocation of Town Improvement funds currently allocated to the Rugby League Lighting Towers and Rugby League	Mathew Webb	14/03/2024 Mathew Webb Noted – This report has been deferred until the outcome of the Town Improvement Levy deliberations have occurred.	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
		Change Rooms at the next Ordinary Council Meeting.			
240220 Ordinary Meeting - 20 February 2024	23 - 20/02/2024 Late Applications - Section 356 Funding	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council support the requests from Oberon District Garden Club and Lifechurch Oberon for Section 356 funding from the 2023/24 unallocated funds. 2. Place the funding allocations on public exhibition for 28 days. 	Mathew Webb	14/03/2024 Mathew Webb Currently on public exhibition until 5 April 2024	In Progress

15 URGENT BUSINESS

Summary

In accordance with Clause 241 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005 business may be transacted at a meeting of Council even though due notice of the business has not been given to the Councillors. However, this can happen only if:

- a) A motion is passed to have the business transacted at the meeting: and
- b) The business proposed to be brought forward is ruled by the Chairperson to be of great urgency.

Recommendation:

That Council consider the following matters as they are considered to be of an urgent nature requiring immediate consideration by Council.

16 CLOSED SESSION - CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Summary

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, in the opinion of the General Manager, the following business is of a kind as referred to in Section 10A(2) of the Act and should be dealt with in a part of the meeting closed to the media and public.

Set out below is Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993 in relation to matters which can be dealt with in the closed part of a meeting.

The matters and information are the following:

- (a) Personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors)
- (b) The personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer
- (c) Information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business
- (d) Commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:
 - (i) Prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or
 - (ii) Confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council, or
 - (iii) Reveal a trade secret
- (e) Information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law
- (f) Matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property
- (g) Advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the grounds of legal professional privilege
- (h) Information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on community land
- (i) alleged contraventions of any code of conduct requirements applicable under section 440

16.1 Water Write-off Request - Assessment 12368376

File No: Finance/Rates

Author: Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director)

This report is CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2)(b) of the Local Government Act 1993, as it relates to the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer.

17 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Mayor will declare the meeting closed.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Oberon Council will be held on Tuesday 16 April 2024 commencing at 5.30pm, in the Oberon Council Chambers, 137 Oberon Street, Oberon.