

### 1. Presentation: Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

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Brian Wilkinson (ARIC Chair) presented his final ARIC Performance Report 2022/23 before bidding farewell and commencing his well-deserved retirement.

Cr Mustow thanked Brian for his time and effort during his ten years with Rous and extended Council's best wishes for the future.

### 2. Preliminary 2022/23 end of financial year summary and budget carry forwards

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The Preliminary 2022/23 financial summary provided an overview of Rous' financial performance, detailing the transfers and identifying works to be carried forward to the 2023/34 financial year.

Council approved the funds to be carried forward as detailed in Tables 11 - 12 of the report.

### 3. Retail water bad debt write-off

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Council deferred the decision until the February 2024 Council meeting, with no interest to be applied to the account during that period. Staff will continue to work with the customer for the debt recovery of \$2,500.

### 4. Proposed change to ownership – Lismore Levee Scheme

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*Cr Gordon and Cr Rob (LCC) left the meeting during discussion on this item on the grounds of a significant, non-pecuniary interest.*

Council resolved to:

1. Acknowledge that the devastating and widespread impact of the 2022 Floods has highlighted the importance of local government partnering and working cooperatively for the benefit of the community.
2. Note that Lismore City Council has been successful in independently securing grant funding under the Northern Rivers Recovery and Resilience Program for upgrade and improvement works to the Lismore Levee Scheme and that Lismore is seeking to engage with Rous regarding consent to undertake those works.
3. Recognise that the historic role of Rous in urban flood mitigation has changed and having regard to the Lismore Levee Scheme asset renewal, replacement and upgrade works independently completed and planned by Lismore City Council, resolve to transfer the Lismore Levee Scheme to Lismore City Council and enable centralised control, ownership, operation and maintenance by that Council as the local government entity serving the community directly benefited by the Scheme.
4. Invite the Lismore City Council Mayor and General Manager to meet with the Rous Chair and General Manager to negotiate and agree next steps.
5. Confirm its commitment to work with Lismore City Council to ensure no delay to any planned upgrade and improvement works for the Lismore Levee Scheme.

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6. Write to relevant funding bodies to request financial assistance to affect the transfer of the Lismore Levee Scheme to ensure no cost is borne by either Lismore City Council or Rous.
  7. Revoke point 1(b) of resolution [84/22] arising from Council's meeting of 14 December 2022.
  8. Authorise the General Manager to affect all necessary actions associated with and ancillary to the implementation of this resolution of Council.

## 5. Lumley Park Bore Retrieval

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As part of ongoing works for establishing the proposed Alstonville Groundwater Scheme, the four existing bore sites at Convery's Lane, Lumley Park, Ellis Road and Lindendale Road required internal camera inspections, cleaning of the bore casings/screens and pumping capacity tests as all the bores had not been in operation for a number of years.

ACS Equip Pty Ltd were recommended as being the best contractor with the capability to undertake this task in eastern Australia. The only other contractor in the industry with similar capability and equipment being Aged Developments, is in Western Australia.

The pump within the Lumley Park bore could not be retrieved or lifted out from the bore casing.

Council agreed to provide an exemption as per Section 55(3)(i) of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* to carry out services valued at over \$250,000 without going to tender because of the bespoke nature of the work and the extremely limited supplier options.

It was also agreed to continue the engagement of ACS Equip Pty Ltd to a maximum amount of \$415,000 (incl GST), as they have a unique set of skills and equipment required to execute the completion of this task with the Lumley Park Bore.

## 6. Information reports

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### i) Investments – July 2023

- The RBA cash rate is 4.1%. The 90-day average bank bill swap rate (BBSW) is 4.26%.
- Total funds invested is \$37,628,593. This includes term investments and cheque account balance.
- Weighted Average Return is 4.21%. This represents an increase of 13 basis point compared from the June 2023 result (4.08%) and is 5 basis points below Council's benchmark (the average 90-day BBSW rate of 4.26%).
- Interest earned is \$147,526. Compared to the original budget this is \$49,284 above the pro-rata budget.
- Cheque account balance is \$453,892.
- 'Weel' Credit Card account balance is \$17,941. This is a bank account with Cuscal Limited and is used to hold funds for a prepaid credit card app that is now in use by all corporate card holders at Rous.
- Ethical holdings is \$4,998,155 (12.44% of current holdings).

ii) Water production and consumption – July 2023

The table below is the July 2023 bulk water sales to the constituent councils in kilolitres compared to the corresponding July sales for 2022 and 2021.

Council	Jul 2021 (kL)	Jul 2022 (kL)	Jul 2023 (kL)	% of Total Sales
Ballina Shire Council	291,977	280,661	303,534	36.97%
Byron Shire Council	171,109	178,812	220,110	26.81%
Lismore City Council	245,070	222,022	244,908	29.83%
Richmond Valley Council	50,189	41,241	52,492	6.39%
<b>Total monthly consumption by constituent councils</b>	<b>758,345</b>	<b>722,736</b>	<b>821,044</b>	

iii) Retail water customer account assistance

Two applications for financial assistance (amounting to \$3,158.79) in accordance with section 356 (1) under Council's 'Retail Water Customer Account Assistance' policy were received and approved by the General Manager.

iv) Debt write-off information summary

Council received and noted the debt write-off information summary with debts written-off totalling \$ 5,766.65 for the period 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023.

v) Overview - Local Government NSW Water Conference 26-28 June 2023

Rous participated in this year's Water Conference which was held in Parkes NSW and represented by:

- Chair - Cr Robert Mustow
- Councillors - Sandra Humphrys and Big Rob
- Phillip Rudd - General Manager
- Tom Lloyd - Dams and Treatment Engineering Manager
- Rhys Oates - Dams and Treatment Assistant Team Leader

A summary of the conference was presented for Council's information.

vi) Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) – meeting update

Council received and noted the ARIC minutes of 24 July 2023 and the ARIC performance report for the period 2022-2023.

Council also acknowledged the valuable contribution made by Brian Wilkinson over several years in his capacity as Chairperson of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

vii) Operational Plan 2022-2023 Scorecard - (Y1 - Q4) 01 April 2023 to 30 June 2023

The report was received and noted.

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viii) Tenders awarded by the General Manager under Delegation

Council received and noted the information provided in the report on tenders accepted and contracts awarded by the General Manager under delegated authority during the period 2022/23.

ix) Annual Report: Rous Regional Demand Management Plan 2023-2024

Council noted the progress of demand management deliverables for the 2022-2023 financial year including budget expenditure. The report also provided a summary on:

- Deferred programs starting 2023-2024
- Sustainable water partner program 2022/2023
- Residential water tank rebate 2022/2023
- Education/Engagement
- Smart metering and backflow prevention
- Water loss management program
- Water supply pricing

x) Reports/actions pending

The report was received and noted.

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## 7. Confidential matters

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i) Perradenya Estate – update report

*Cr Rob and Cr Gordon declared a significant, non-pecuniary interest and left the meeting during discussions. It is also noted a copy of the 'Perradenya Estate – update report' was not provided to Cr Rob and Cr Gordon.*

Council resolved to:

1. Receive and note the report.
2. Take all necessary steps outlined in the report to finalise the Perradenya Land Development. If any prior resolution is inconsistent with this resolution, that outstanding resolution is deemed to be revoked.
3. Authorise the General Manager to take all steps outlined in the report to finalise the Perradenya Land Development.

Council's business paper and draft meeting minutes can be found via the following link:  
<https://rous.nsw.gov.au/business-papers-and-meeting-minutes>