

1. Chair's Minute

Council extended its deepest sympathies to His Majesty King Charles III, The Royal Family, and all those across the world mourning the loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

2. Council meeting schedule 2023

Council determined its meeting schedule for 2023 with meetings to be held on the third Wednesdays commencing 10.00am at the Rous County Council Administration Office on:

- 15 February
- 19 April
- 21 June
- 16 August
- 18 October
- 13 December

3. Review of organisation structure

Section 333 of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires that Council review its organisation structure within 12 months of any ordinary election. Council endorsed the structure as presented.

4. Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the quarter ending 30 September 2022

Council noted the results presented in the Quarterly Budget Review Statement as at 30 September 2022 and authorised the variations to the amounts from those previously estimated.

5. Declassification of Business Activity from Financial Statements

Council has three business activities being Water, Land Development and Commercial Properties. The current process of reporting on the existing business activities is manual by nature, time consuming to prepare, confusing to the users of the financial statements, and when assessed overall adds no benefit to the users of Council's financial statements. Each of the activities proposed to be declassified are reported to Council through the formal Quarterly Budget Review process.

Council agreed to declassifying the business activities of Land development and Commercial properties effective from 1 July 2022. Following declassification, only Water activities will be reported in the Special Purpose Financial Statements.

6. Retail water customer account assistance

In accordance with section 356 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* and its 'Retail Water Customer Account Assistance' policy, Council approved financial assistance in the amount of \$13,594.48.

7. Annual Financial Reports and Audit Report year ending 30 June 2022

Public notice for the presentation of the draft 2021/22 Financial Reports was issued 21 October 2022 inviting both inspection and submissions. The financial statements can be viewed on our website.

Council expressed its appreciation to staff for their effort in achieving an unqualified report.

8. Deferral of developer contributions: *The Buttery Limited*

The Buttery Limited made application to Council for a water service connection to supply the existing residential rehabilitation centre located at 346 Lismore Road, Bangalow.

The assessed developer contributions payable are \$76,454.56 (2022/23) (8.26 equivalent tenements) based on the *Water Directorate Equivalent Tenement Guidelines* for 27 short term accommodation bedrooms and 421m² of office space.

Council approved deferral of the developer contributions.

9. Adoption of Rous Regional Demand Management Plan (RDMP) 2023-2026

The RDMP was considered at Council's August meeting and placed on public exhibition for the period 22 August to 12 September 2022, resulting in 33 submissions being received.

Having considered the public submissions, Council adopted the '*Rous Regional Demand Management Plan (2023-2026)*' and '*Regional Demand Management Plan Review and Update - Background Information and Recommended Plan Components*' without alteration.

10. Establishing an engagement space at Molesworth Street premises

The *Rous Cultural Environmental and Information Centre* (RCEIC) that was established in the Lismore Visitor Information Centre to provide a focal point for Rous engagement across all service delivery areas including engagement with First Nations communities.

The loss of the centre through the devastating floods of February and March 2022 has impacted on the planned rollout of community education/engagement activities and there is now work to be undertaken to reconsider or reframe these engagement strategies.

An opportunity has been identified at the Molesworth Street premises to recreate some of the engagement opportunities that the RCEIC provided – in a low risk and low cost way. The shopfront area on Level 2 (previously sublet to NRMA) provides an easily accessible and welcoming space that is suitable for creating an engagement area for stakeholders and the broader community. The plan is to establish a 'passive' information and resource centre that is open for stakeholders and the general public to access resources.

11. Information reports

i). Investments – September 2022

- At the RBA's 7 September 2022 meeting, it was decided to increase the cash rate by 50 basis points to 2.35%.
- As at 30 September 2022 the Cheque Account had a balance of \$605,710 and other funds invested in by Council had a balance \$38,668,722. The total portfolio balance as at 30 September 2022 was \$39,274,432.
- The weighted average return on funds invested was 1.99%. This represents an increase of 51 basis point compared to the July 2022 result (1.48%) and is 110 basis points below Council's benchmark (the average 90-day BBSW rate of 3.09%)
- Total interest revenue of \$60,401.54.
- Interest earned compared to the original budget is \$131,097 above the pro-rata budget.
- Current holdings in Ethical Financial Institutions equals \$11,998,904 or 31.03% of the total portfolio.

ii). Demand Management status report and scorecard 2021/22

The report provides a summary of progress against actions and key performance indicators for the concluding year (2021/2022) of the Regional Demand Management Plan (RDMP) 2019-2022. It covers significant achievements, challenges and learnings over this four-year term, and outcomes that informed the new Regional Demand Management Plan 2023-2026.

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>