



Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the **Ordinary Council Meeting** of the **Whitsunday Regional Council** will be held at the Council Chambers, 83-85 Main Street, Proserpine on **Wednesday 12 July 2023**, commencing at **9:00 AM** and the Agenda is attached.

Councillors: Julie Hall (Mayor), Gary Simpson (Deputy Mayor), Jan Clifford, Clay Bauman, John Collins, Michelle Wright and Michael Brunker.

Local Government Regulation 2012

254.(C) (1) Notice of each local government meeting or adjourned local government meeting must be given to each councillor or committee member at least 2 days before the day of the meeting, unless it is impracticable to give the notice before that time.

(2) The written notice must state:

- (a) state the day and time of the local government meeting; and
- (b) for a special meeting—state the business to be conducted at the meeting; and
- (c) include the agenda for the local government meeting.

(3) A **special meeting** is a meeting at which the only business that may be conducted is the business stated in the notice of meeting.



Warren Bunker

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Agenda of the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held at
Council Chambers, 83-85 Main Street, Proserpine on Wednesday 12 July 2023
commencing at **9:00 AM**

Council acknowledges and shows respect to the Traditional Custodian/owners in whose country we hold this meeting.

9:00 AM

- Formal Meeting Commences

10:00 am - 10.30 am

- Morning Tea

Whitsunday Regional Council
Agenda of the Ordinary Council Meeting held at
Council Chambers, 83-85 Main Street, Proserpine on
Wednesday 12 July 2023 commencing at 9:00 AM

1 APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE	5
2 CONDOLENCES	6
2.1 Condolences Report	6
3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	7
4 MAYORAL MINUTE	8
5 MAYORAL UPDATE	9
6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	10
6.1 Confirmation of Minutes	10
7 BUSINESS ARISING	13
8 DEPUTATIONS	14
9 PETITIONS	15
10 NOTICES OF MOTION	16
11 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE	17
12 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY	18
13 OFFICERS REPORTS	19
13.1 Office of the Mayor and CEO	19
13.1.1 Funding Opportunity - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure	19
13.2 Corporate Services	25
13.2.1 Trustee Lease - Volunteer Marine Rescue Whitsunday & Whitsunday Game Fishing Club	25
13.2.2 Lease - Collinsville Men's Shed	30
13.2.3 Queensland Audit Office Report - Local Government 2022	34
13.2.4 Annual Revaluation - Effective 30 June 2024	124
13.3 Development Services	128
13.3.1 20230175 - Development Application for Preliminary Approval (Variation Request) for Material Change of Use for Thirteen (13) Dual Occupancy Lots - L: 200 SP: 244953 - Breeze 8 Pty Ltd C/- Veris	128
13.3.2 20221046 - Development Application for Development Permit for Reconfiguration of a Lot - One (1) Lot into Two (2) Lots - 65-67 Tucker Road, Riordanvale - Tucker C/- Wynne Planning & Development	149
13.3.3 Development Services Monthly Report - June 2023	165
13.4 Community Services	183

13.4.1 Sponsorship Request - Proserpine Veteran Golfers Association Inc. - Wintersun Event	183
13.4.2 Sponsorship Request - Airlie Beach Race Week.....	187
13.4.3 Donation of Council Fees - June 2023	192
13.4.4 Donation Request - St Mary's Catholic School - 150th Year Celebration	195
13.4.5 Donation Request - Whitsundays Hospital Ball.....	199
13.4.6 Sport & Recreation Club Grants - 12 July 2023	202
13.4.7 Financial Support for a Junior Elite Athlete - 12 July 2023	205
13.4.8 Extension to Temporary Closure - Kings Beach, Bowen - 17 August to 30 September 2023	208
13.4.9 Community Services Monthly Report - June 2023.....	212
14 MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE	238
15 LATE REPORT ITEMS.....	239
16 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS	240
16.1 Corporate Services	240
16.1.1 Disposal of Land – Bowen Community Centre	240

1 APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

This item on the agenda allows Council the opportunity to receive apologies/leave of absence from Councillors unable to attend the meeting.

2.1 - Condolences Report

DATE: Wednesday 12 July 2023

TO: Ordinary Council Meeting

AUTHOR: Tailah Jensen - Governance and Administration Officer

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Warren Bunker - Chief Executive Officer

PRESENTED FOR: Information

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

PURPOSE

To acknowledge and observe a minute silence for the recently deceased throughout the Whitsunday Region.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council observe one (1) minute's silence for the recently deceased.

CONCLUSION

Councillors, committee members, staff, general public and anyone participating in the meeting are to stand and observe a minute silence for the recently deceased.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

This item on the agenda allows Councillors the opportunity to declare a conflict of interest, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act), in a matter that is to be discussed at this meeting of Council that is not an ordinary business matter.

Any such declarations will be managed during the meeting as required in accordance with the relevant sections of the Act.

This item on the agenda allows the Mayor to introduce, by a signed minute, a matter for consideration at the meeting. In accordance with Council's Standing Orders, such a matter takes precedence over all other matters for consideration at the meeting and may be adopted by a motion moved by the Mayor without the need for the motion to be seconded.

5 MAYORAL UPDATE

A verbal update will be provided.

6.1 - Confirmation of Minutes

DATE: Wednesday 12 July 2023

TO: Ordinary Council Meeting

AUTHOR: Tailah Jensen – Governance Administration Officer

AUTHORISING OFFICER: Warren Bunker - Chief Executive Officer

PRESENTED FOR: Decision

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

PURPOSE

At each Council meeting, the minutes of the previous meeting must be confirmed by the councillors present and signed by the person presiding at the later meeting. The Minutes of Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 28 June 2023 and Special Council Meeting held on 30 June 2023 are provided for Councils review and confirmation.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Confirms the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 28 June 2023.
2. Confirms the minutes of the Special Meeting (Budget) held on 30 June 2023.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with s272 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, minutes were taken at Council's Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 June 2023 and Special Council Meeting held on 30 June 2023 under the supervision of the person presiding at the meeting. These unconfirmed minutes once drafted were submitted to the Chief Executive Officer for review and are available on Council's website for public inspection.

DISCUSSION/CURRENT ISSUE

Council's options are:

Confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting on 28 June 2023 and Special Council Meeting held on 30 June 2023.

If Council is satisfied that the unconfirmed minutes are an accurate representation of what occurred at the meetings held on 28 June 2023 and 30 June 2023 and comply with legislative requirements outlined in this report, no further action is required other than to confirm the minutes as per the recommendation.

Confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting and Special Council Meeting with amendments.

If Council is not satisfied that the unconfirmed minutes are an accurate representation of what occurred at the meetings held on 28 June 2023 and 30 June 2023 and comply with legislative requirements outlined in this report, then they move a motion that they be confirmed but with a list of amendments to ensure they are correct and compliant.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

In accordance with the Act, Council must record specified information in the minutes of a meeting regarding any declared material personal interests or conflicts of interest. The Special Meeting of 30 June 2023 was for the purposes of adopting the budget in which case there can be no declarations recorded for this meeting. The following interests were declared and recorded in the minutes for the meeting of 28 June 2023:

Councillor/Officer	Prescribed or Declarable	Report No.	Particulars of the interest
Cr Wright	Prescribed	13.2.2	<i>Cr Wright declared a prescribed conflict of interest as per section 150EL of the Local Government Act 2009 due to the development application involving a family member.</i> <i>Cr Wright left the meeting at 10.02am and did not participate in the discussion or voting on this matter.</i>
Mayor Hall	Prescribed	13.4.1	<i>Mayor Hall declared a prescribed conflict of interest in accordance with section 150EL of the Local Government Act 2009 as a consequence of the related party donating to her Mayoral campaign even though the amount was under the declarable threshold.</i> <i>Mayor Hall left the meeting at 11.02am and did not take part in the discussion or voting on this matter.</i>

Additionally, the chairperson of a local government meeting must also ensure that details of an order made against a Councillor for unsuitable meeting conduct at a Council meeting are recording in the minutes of the meeting. At the Ordinary Council Meeting and Special Council Meeting, the following orders were made:

Councillor	Order Made
<i>No orders were made at these meetings</i>	

Local Government Regulation 2012

Section 272 of the Regulation stipulates that the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that minutes of each meeting of a local government are taken under the supervision of the person presiding at the meeting.

Minutes of each meeting must include the names of councillors present at the meeting and if a division is called on a question, the names of all persons voting on the question and how they voted.

At each meeting, the minutes of the previous meeting must be confirmed by the councillors present and signed by the person presiding at the later meeting.

A copy of the minutes of each meeting must be available for inspection by the public, at a local government's public office and on its website, within 10 days after the end of the meeting. Once confirmed, the minutes must also be available for purchase at the local government's public office(s).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The price for a member of the public to purchase a copy of the minutes must not be more than the cost to the local government of having the copy printed and made available for purchase, and if the copy is supplied to the purchaser by post, the cost of the postage.

TABLED MATTERS

Unresolved Tabled Matters			
Date of Meeting	Resolution Number	Summary	Resolved
25/05/2022	13.1.3 Council Meetings Live Stream Policy	That the item be tabled until we have a full Council.	To be presented to a future Council Meeting.
22/02/2023	13.5.2 - Tondara Road seal	That the item lie on the table pending further investigations and costings.	Currently out to tender for re-sheeting. The gold mine is in voluntary administration so scope is subject to change regarding road sealing if traffic volumes decline as a result.

CONSULTATION

Director Corporate Services

DISCLOSURE OF OFFICER'S INTERESTS

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has an interest to declare in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2009 or the Staff Code of Conduct.

CONCLUSION

These minutes from the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 June 2023 and Special Council Meeting held on 30 June 2023 are therefore submitted for adoption of their accuracy by the Councillors at this meeting of Council.

7 BUSINESS ARISING

This item on the agenda allows Councillors the opportunity to seek clarification or updates on business arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

8 DEPUTATIONS

This item on the agenda allows persons to make a deputation to Council. Deputations are managed in accordance with Council's adopted Standing Orders.

This item on the agenda allows for the Mayor, Councillors or Council's Chief Executive Officer to present a petition to the meeting. In accordance with Council's Standing Orders, no debate on or in relation to the tabled petition shall be allowed and the only motion which may be moved is that the petition either be received, referred to a Committee or Council officer for consideration and report back to Council, or not be received because it is deemed invalid.

10 NOTICES OF MOTION

In accordance with Council's Standing Orders, Councillors may give notice of any business they wish to be discussed at an Ordinary Meeting by way of a Notice of Motion. This item on the agenda allows Councillors to introduce and move any motions they have submitted to the Chief Executive Officer for inclusion in the agenda.

11 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

This item on the agenda is for the inclusion of any responses prepared by officers in response to questions taken on notice at previous meetings of Council.

Excerpt from Council's Standing Orders:

1. In each Meeting, time shall be set aside to permit members of the public to address the Council on matters of public interest related to local government.
2. Questions from the Public Gallery will be taken on notice and may or may not be responded to at the Meeting.
3. The time allotted shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes and no more than three (3) speakers shall be permitted to speak at any one (1) meeting.
4. Any person addressing the Council shall stand, act and speak with decorum and frame any remarks in respectful and courteous language.

13 OFFICERS REPORTS

13.1 Office of the Mayor and CEO

13.1.1 - Funding Opportunity - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure

DATE: Wednesday 12 July 2023

TO: Ordinary Council Meeting

AUTHOR: Elouise Lamb - Project Officer Economic Development and Major Grants

AUTHORISING OFFICER: Warren Bunker - Chief Executive Officer

PRESENTED FOR: Decision

ATTACHMENTS

1. Section A [13.1.1.1 - 1 page]
2. Section C [13.1.1.2 - 1 page]

PURPOSE

To confirm funding and project support for the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 4.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Approve the nomination of the Bicentennial Boardwalk Stages 2 and 3 as the preferred projects to use the allocated Local Roads and Community Infrastructure grant funding towards.
2. Confirm that the required co-contribution of (\$949,463 ex GST) was adopted as part of the 2023/2024 Capital Expenditure Budget on 30 June 2023 and;
3. Acknowledge that a contract has been awarded under the prior Council Resolution OM2022/12/14.32 to undertake the proposed Stages 2 and 3 of the Bicentennial boardwalk upgrades once grant funding was confirmed.

BACKGROUND

The Incoming Grant Funding Application Policy was adopted in July 2018. The policy identifies Councillors, elected to represent the views of the community, as stakeholders in the decision-making process to determine which projects become the subject of grant funding applications.

In previous decisions of Council, the proposed project has been identified in a resolution of Council from 14 December 2022:

RESOLUTION OM2022/12/14.32

Moved By: CR J CLIFFORD Seconded By: CR G SIMPSON

That Council award Contract 500.2022.0083 Design, Supply, and Installation of Bicentennial Boardwalk Upgrade to The Trustee For The Julatson Family Trust & The Trustee For The Marjen Family Trust (Plants Whitsunday) based on their alternative submission for the amount of:

- a) *\$902,637.25 (excluding GST) for the full design and completion of Separable Portion 2, noting the requirement to increase the project budget by \$100k at the quarter two budget review to cover Separable Portion 2, and*

This is page 19 of the Agenda of Council's Ordinary Council Meeting - 12 July 2023

- b) A provisional amount of \$2,589,819.35 (excluding GST) for Separable Portion 1 and 3, subject to funding and future Council budget approvals for the 2023-2025 financial years.

DISCUSSION/CURRENT ISSUE

The following funding programs are open, and Council is eligible to attain funds to support capital activities consistent with the guidelines. Projects put forward aim to align with Council's Strategic Management Plan, Strategic Asset Management Plan, Project Management Framework, 10 Year Capital Works Plan and Capital and Operational Budget cycles.

Funding Program	Project Recommendation
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Funds (Part A) WRC Phase 4 allocation: \$1,050,537 Project Dates- July 2023 – June 2025 Co-contributions are not required.	<i>Bicentennial Boardwalk Stage 2</i> Project Cost: \$2,000,000 Amount Requested: \$1,050,537 WRC Contribution: \$949,463 (approved 23/24 capital budget) Project Implications: A contract has been awarded to replace all three sections of the Bicentennial Boardwalk in three distinct stages. This is the second stage from the VMR car park to Shingley Drive cul-de-sac at Peninsula Apartments (see attachment 1). The timber boardwalks are to be replaced with a composite fibre (Wagners) product that provides minimal maintenance, high durability, and long product life. The new sections of boardwalk will be typically 3.5m wide, increasing the width to allow safer transport for all users.
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Funds (Part B) WRC Phase 4 allocation: \$605,973 Project Dates- July 2023 – June 2025 Co-contributions are not required.	<i>Bicentennial Boardwalk Stage 3</i> Project Cost: \$605,973 Amount Requested: \$605,973 WRC Contribution: 0 Project Implications: The third stage covers the section of boardwalk along the ocean front on Broadwater Avenue (see attachment 2). As per above the timber boardwalks are to be replaced with a composite fibre (Wagners) product and the boardwalk will be typically 3.5m wide.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Local Government Act 2009
 Local Government Regulation 2012
 Incoming Grant Funding Application Policy

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

To support business units across Council in the delivery of their objectives through enabling access to Grants and Funding.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Bicentennial Boardwalk Stage 2 - Total project cost is \$2,000,000. Council will need to contribute \$949,463 which has been approved in the 23/24 capital budget. The funding portion for part A of Phase 4 is \$1,050,537.

Both projects are intended to deliver cost recovery as currently there is a significant annual expense for repairing the existing structure. The upgrade works will see major savings in the two resources that are almost permanently engaged to renew the boardwalks.

CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

Director Corporate Services
Director Community Services
Director Infrastructure Services
Director Development Services
Chief Executive Officer
Chief Operating Officer Aviation & Tourism
Economic Development Manager

RISK ASSESSMENT

Recommended projects provide opportunities to increase services to the community at minimal cost to Council. The risk in not supporting the project submissions is reduced capacity of Council to deliver outcomes for the community that align with strategic plans.

This project also addresses risks at site as the current boardwalk has trip hazards with lifting boards which are increasing due to more users with heavier or more rigid vehicles that damage the board quicker.

TIMINGS/DEADLINES

Funding deadlines are provided in Funding Program information in the above table.
Projects are to be completed by 30 June 2025.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Council officers contributing to the preparation and approval of this report have no conflicts of interest to declare.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

Section 58 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* specifies required conduct for public entities when acting or making a decision. Sections 15-37 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* identifies the human rights a public entity must consider in making a decision. The human rights relevant to this decision are as follows:

- Section 19 – Freedom of movement.
- Section 21 – Freedom of expression.
- Section 24 – Right to own property and not be arbitrarily deprived of property.
- Section 27 – Cultural rights – generally – all persons with a particular cultural, religious, racial, or linguistic background have the right to enjoy their culture, to declare and practice their religion and use their language.
- Section 28 – Cultural rights – Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This decision does not limit the above identified human rights.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Prioritisation of projects was considered by Officers and projects have been recommended based on policy requirements in addition to project alignment with funding objectives and readiness to be delivered.





13.2.1 - Trustee Lease - Volunteer Marine Rescue Whitsunday & Whitsunday Game Fishing Club

DATE: Wednesday 12 July 2023

TO: Ordinary Council Meeting

AUTHOR: Billie Davis - Senior Commercial Officer

AUTHORISING OFFICER: Jason Bradshaw - Director Corporate Services

PRESENTED FOR: Decision

ATTACHMENTS

1. VMR Area Map [13.2.1.1 - 1 page]
2. VMR Site Map [13.2.1.2 - 1 page]

PURPOSE

To advise Council of Volunteer Marine Rescue Whitsunday's request for a new 30-year term trustee lease.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to:

- a) Surrender the current lease (expiry 26 August 2029) with the Volunteer Marine Rescue Whitsunday Inc. and Whitsunday Game Fishing Club Inc. over the whole of land at Lot 100 on CPHR840168; and
- b) Enter into negotiations and execute a thirty (30) year peppercorn lease with the Volunteer Marine Rescue Whitsunday Inc. and Whitsunday Game Fishing Club Inc. for whole of the land at Lot 100 on CPHR840168 in accordance with Section 236(1) (b)(ii) and (c)(iii) of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

BACKGROUND

Council is trustee to the land at Lot 100 on CPHR840168, known as 7 Altmann Avenue, Cannonvale.

Volunteer Marine Rescue Whitsunday Inc. and Whitsunday Game Fishing Club Inc. 'the Clubs' currently have a lease over the land for twenty (20) years which is due to expire 26 August 2029.

DISCUSSION/CURRENT ISSUE

The Clubs have been lobbying for various grants that have been on offer from state and federal entities to allow them to conduct upgrades to their current clubhouse facilities.

The Clubs have now been successful in obtaining grants and one of the conditions is that they obtain a longer-term lease over the land to ensure that by adding these improvements to the land they are able to be retained by the Clubs for a long period of time.

As the current lease still has 6-years remaining, it is recommended to surrender the current lease and enter into a new 30-year lease term.

The planning assessment requirement for lease terms over 10-years is not applicable as this is a whole of land lease.

The toilet block contained within the lease area is currently maintained by Council because it is open to the public and not just available for the VMR club, along with the adjacent carpark.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

In accordance with the Local Government Regulation 2012 Section 236(1) (b)(ii) and (c)(iii), Council may enter into a lease without the requirement to go to public tender if the lease is to a community organisation and/or renewing a lease to an existing tenant.

As this is a whole of land lease, the requirement of a recognition of a lot for leases over a 10-year term is not triggered as stated under the definitions of the *Planning Act 2016*.

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Lead and improve the organisation's procurement, property and fleet functions across the organisation, including managing the centralised and specialised services to enable and achieve the operational and long-term objectives of Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The lease will be at a peppercorn rate, therefore will not be providing Council with revenue. Taking this cost away from the lessee allow them to invest it back into the activities for their members and the community.

Further in lieu of a peppercorn lease, the lessee is responsible for all maintenance of the assets and land within their leased area, except as advised above regarding the toilet block and carpark.

CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

Director Development Services
Executive Manager Procurement, Property & Fleet
Manager Development Assessment

RISK ASSESSMENT

Council's community leases have provisions to mitigate Council's risk in relation to land and building condition management, pest management, sub-leasing, and public liability.

TIMINGS/DEADLINES

Once the Clubs obtain the new lease, they will be able to secure additional funding.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Council officers contributing to the preparation and approval of this report have no conflicts of interest to declare.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

No

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

N/A

Attachment 13.2.1.1 VMR Area Map

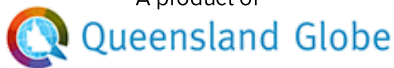
20°16'10"S 148°42'10"E

20°16'10"S 148°42'24"E



20°16'23"S 148°42'10"E

20°16'23"S 148°42'24"E



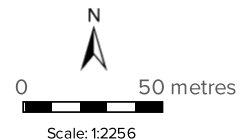
A product of

Legend located on next page



Includes material © State of Queensland 2023. You are responsible for ensuring that the map is suitable for your purposes. The State of Queensland makes no representation or warranties in relation to the map contents and disclaims all liability.

If imagery is displayed, imagery includes material © CNES reproduced under license from Airbus DS, all rights reserved © 21AT © Earth-i, all rights reserved, © Planet Labs PBC, 2023



Printed at: A4
Print date: 6/7/2023

Not suitable for accurate measurement.
Projection: Web Mercator EPSG 102100 (3857)

For more information, visit
<https://qldglobe.information.qld.gov.au/help-info/Contact-us.html>



Queensland Government
Department of Resources



13.2.2 - Lease - Collinsville Men's Shed

DATE: Wednesday 12 July 2023

TO: Ordinary Council Meeting

AUTHOR: Billie Davis - Senior Commercial Officer

AUTHORISING OFFICER: Jason Bradshaw - Director Corporate Services

PRESENTED FOR: Decision

ATTACHMENTS

1. 19 Conway Street, Collinsville- Site Map [**13.2.2.1** - 1 page]
2. 19 Conway Street, Collinsville- Locality Map [**13.2.2.2** - 1 page]

PURPOSE

Collinsville Men's Shed has advised Council that they wish to renew their lease and continue their use of the land at 19 Conway Street, Collinsville.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to enter into negotiations and execute a ten (10) year peppercorn lease with the Collinsville Men's Shed for the whole of land being 19 Conway Street, Collinsville being Lot 3 on MPH 40217 in accordance with Section 236(1)(b)(ii) and (c)(iii) of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

BACKGROUND

Council owns the land at 19 Conway Street, Collinsville.

The Collinsville Men's Shed has held a lease with Council for over 5 years at a peppercorn rate. They have established a clubhouse for their operations.

DISCUSSION/CURRENT ISSUE

The Collinsville Men's Shed lease is due to expire 30 September 2023.

The Collinsville Men's Shed have advised that they would like to continue holding tenure over this land to allow them to provide a vital service to the locals of Collinsville.

It is recommended to enter into a new lease with the Collinsville Men's Shed in accordance with Council's community organisation leases for a term of 10-years at a peppercorn rate.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

In accordance with the Local Government Regulation 2012 Section 236(1) (b)(ii) and (c)(iii), Council may enter into a lease without the requirement to go to public tender if the lease is to a community organisation and/or renewing a lease to an existing tenant.

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Lead and improve the organisation's procurement, property and fleet functions across the organisation, including managing the centralised and specialised services to enable and achieve the operational and long-term objectives of Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The lease will be at a peppercorn rate, therefore will not be providing Council with revenue. Taking this cost away from the lessee allows them to invest it back into the activities for their members and the community.

Further in lieu of a peppercorn lease, the lessee is responsible for all maintenance of the assets and land within their leased area.

CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

Executive Manager Procurement, Property & Fleet

RISK ASSESSMENT

Council's community leases have provisions to mitigate Council's risk in relation to land and building condition management, pest management, sub-leasing, and public liability.

TIMINGS/DEADLINES

The Collinsville Men's Shed lease is due to expire 30 September 2023.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

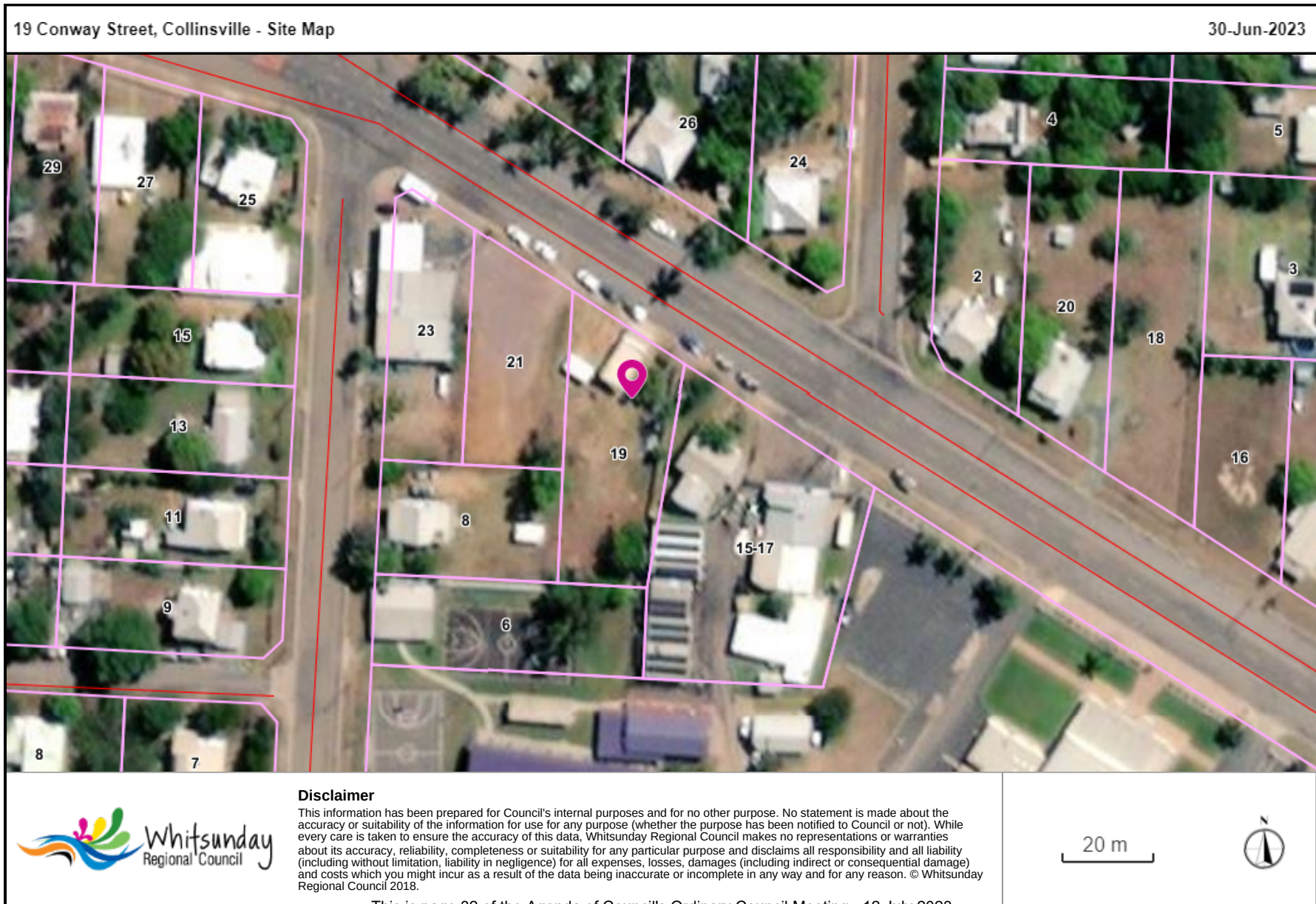
Council officers contributing to the preparation and approval of this report have no conflicts of interest to declare.

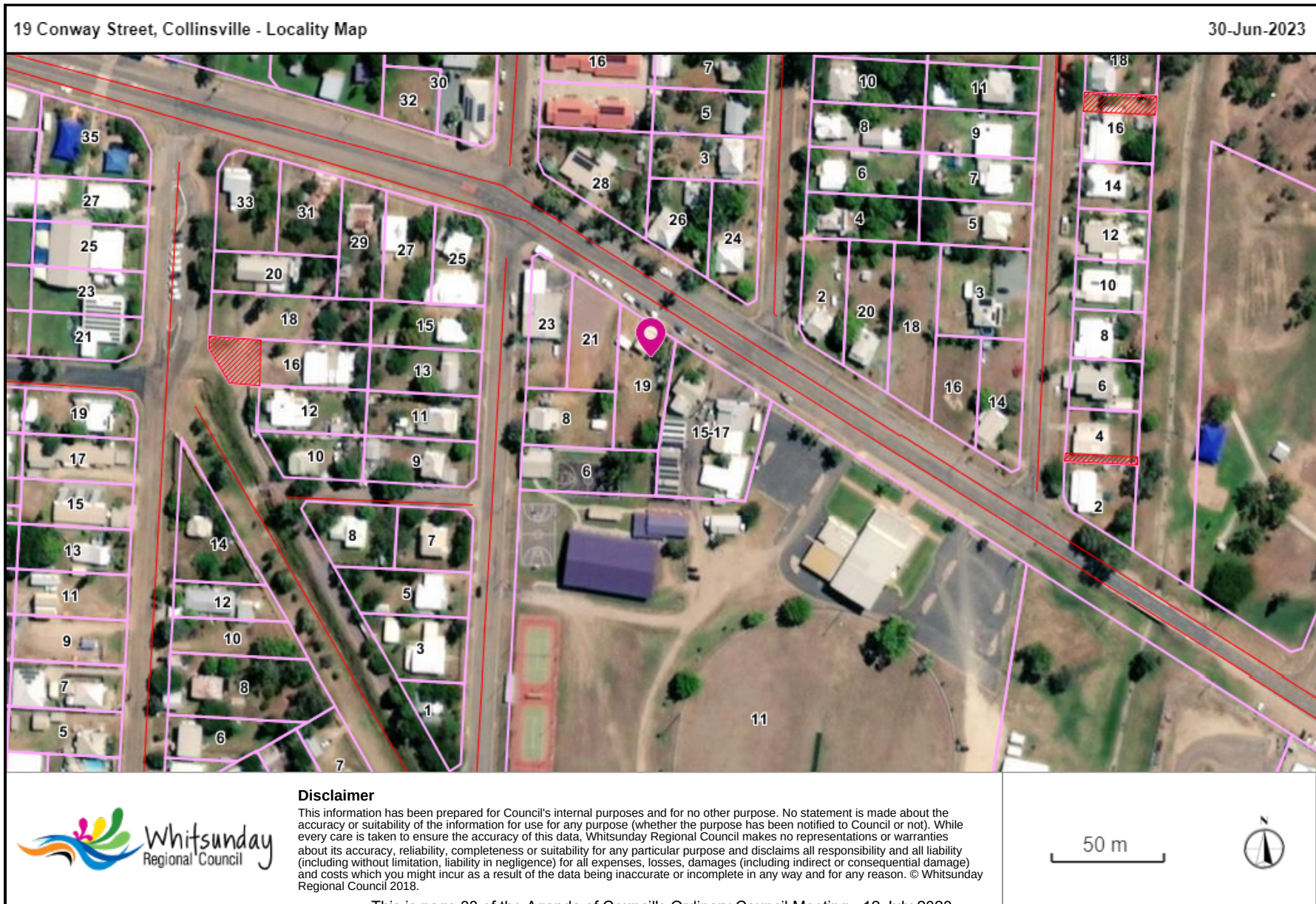
HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

No

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

N/A





13.2.3 - Queensland Audit Office Report - Local Government 2022

DATE: Wednesday 12 July 2023

TO: Ordinary Council Meeting

AUTHOR: Jason Bradshaw - Director Corporate Services

AUTHORISING OFFICER: Jason Bradshaw - Director Corporate Services

PRESENTED FOR: Information

ATTACHMENTS

1. Local government 2022 (Report 15 – 2022–23) [13.2.3.1 - 86 pages]

PURPOSE

To present the Queensland Audit Office report on Local Government Audits for 2022.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the Queensland Audit Office Report - Local Government 2022 and note the outcomes and assessment from the Annual Audit Report for Whitsunday Regional Council.

BACKGROUND

Each year the Queensland Audit Office presents a report to the Queensland Parliament on the overall performance of local governments across the state and provides commentary on key issues facing the local government sector. The financial outcomes of each local government are disclosed in this report.

DISCUSSION/CURRENT ISSUE

As at the date of the report (22/6/2023), 73 of the 77 councils in Queensland had completed their audited financial statements with Audit Opinion for the year ended June 2022. There continues to be challenges with the timeliness of financial reporting, with only 48 Councils planned to certify their financial statements early. By comparison this was 62 Councils in 2020/21 and 70 Councils in 2019/20. Only 65 Councils met the legislative deadline for the year. A further six had extensions to the timeframes.

Controls over Council financial systems and processes have improved overall, but many of the higher-risk issues have not been resolved after more than a year. Continued efforts to reduce the number of unresolved significant deficiencies by Council has seen that number reduce to 114 as of 30 June 2022, compared to 127 in 2021. Many Councils with deficiencies do not have an audit committee (16 Councils) or an internal audit function (14 councils).

For the 2021-22 financial year, 35 Council's generated an operating surplus. This is consistent with the prior year, however there are 46 Council's that are still at either a moderate or high risk of not being financially sustainable. These surplus results have also been impacted by the timing of the Federal Governments' payment of the Financial Assistance Grants.

Whitsunday Regional Council has received a positive outcome through the Report achieving positive responses to all sustainability measures, and all green traffic lights recorded against the indicators for the 2022 Audit. This supports the hard work from the team over recent years to ensure accurate and timely reporting. Below is summary of Council's Performance:

Council	Internal controls					Financial sustainability	Days to complete from year end	
Key: CE = Control environment; RA = Risk assessment; CA = Control activities; IC = Information and communication; MA = Monitoring activities. OS = Number of significant deficiencies outstanding longer than 12 months at 30 June 2022 FS = Financial sustainability — relative risk assessment (refer Figure I4). D = Number of days to have audit opinion certified from 30 June 2022 (number of days between 30 June and 31 October is 123)								
Coastal councils	CE	RA	CA	IC	MA	OS	FS	D
Whitsunday Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	48

Almost two thirds of councils still have deficiencies in their information systems, at a time when cyber-attacks across the public sector keep rising.

The report presents a number of recommendations for both Councils and the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (the Department). The following recommendation is made to councils.

Assess the maturity of their procurement and contract management processes using our procure-to-pay maturity model, and implement identified opportunities to strengthen their practices	
REC 1	We recommend all councils assess the maturity of their procurement and contract management processes using our procure-to-pay maturity model. Councils should identify their desired level of maturity and compare this to the maturity level that best represents their current practices. This assessment will help them identify and implement practical improvement opportunities for their procurement and contract management processes.

There are also other prior year actions that require further actions from councils, with 15 recommendations from prior reports yet to be completed.

The report presents seven recommendations for the Department to address:

- Provide necessary guidance and tools to councils to help improve their month-end financial reports.
- Provide a clear definition of 'extraordinary circumstances' for councils seeking ministerial extensions to their legislative time frame for financial reporting.
- Measure the effectiveness of training programs provided to councils.
- Provide training on financial reporting processes and support councils to meet their reporting deadlines in times of need.
- Make sure all councils have an effective internal audit function.
- Develop a strategy to uplift capability of the sector on cyber-related matters.
- Publish a framework to assess the sustainability risk of councils by 1 July 2023

Appendix G of the report identifies local entities for which an audit opinion will not issue for 2021/22 because they have not produced a financial report. An entity known as 'Whitsunday Coast Airport and Infrastructure Pty Ltd' is listed in this report as the entity is currently dormant.

Overall, while the report identifies opportunities to improve the local government sector, Whitsunday Regional Council is shown in a positive light with sound financial sustainability against comparable councils in the table below (extracted - page 66).

Figure 14
Financial sustainability risk assessment by council category: Results at the end of 2021–22

Coastal councils	Avg. grant funding percentage ¹	Current operating surplus ratio %	Avg. operating surplus ratio %	Avg operating surplus ratio trend ²	Net financial liabilities ratio %	Net financial liabilities ratio trend	Current asset sustainability ratio %	Avg. asset sustainability ratio %	Avg. asset sustainability ratio trend ²	Relative risk assessment			
Coastal councils													
Bundaberg Regional Council	20%	6.00%	4.83%	●	–	-16.00%	●	↑	47.00%	48.40%	●	↓	Moderate
Bundelkin Shire Council	22%	5.17%	4.52%	●	↓	-77.40%	●	↑	88.56%	95.40%	●	↑	Lower
Calms Regional Council	18%	2.00%	-0.11%	●	–	57.00%	●	↑	71.00%	95.20%	●	↓	Lower
Cassowary Coast Regional Council	25%	0.00%	-2.33%	●	–	-34.00%	●	↑	68.00%	91.80%	●	↑	Moderate
Douglas Shire Council	25%	-1.00%	-2.35%	●	–	-28.00%	●	↓	74.00%	105.80%	●	↑	Moderate
Fraser Coast Regional Council	22%	-0.00%	1.30%	●	↓	-27.05%	●	↑	80.58%	93.51%	●	↑	Lower
Gladstone Regional Council	14%	-2.66%	-2.24%	●	↓	33.74%	●	↓	66.66%	61.34%	●	↑	Moderate
Gympie Regional Council	26%	-0.68%	-4.43%	●	–	-13.55%	●	↑	33.28%	98.68%	●	↓	Moderate
Hinchinbrook Shire Council	34%	-10.00%	-12.09%	●	↓	-18.70%	●	–	90.80%	74.52%	●	↑	Higher
Livingstone Shire Council	28%	1.91%	3.12%	●	–	-3.01%	●	↑	45.04%	51.96%	●	–	Lower
Mackay Regional Council	19%	0.20%	0.37%	●	–	4.30%	●	↑	65.50%	65.76%	●	↑	Lower
Noosa Shire Council	15%	4.29%	8.69%	●	–	-15.93%	●	↓	121.13%	117.66%	●	↑	Lower
Rockhampton Regional Council	26%	-0.10%	2.06%	●	–	40.80%	●	↑	63.20%	92.26%	●	↓	Lower
Townsville City Council	20%	1.00%	0.81%	●	↑	72.00%	●	↑	91.00%	73.60%	●	–	Moderate
Whitsunday Regional Council	37%	5.18%	4.14%	●	–	9.83%	●	↑	97.98%	151.23%	●	↑	Lower
Coastal councils average	24%	0.75%	0.42%			-1.06%			75.65%	87.85%			
Coastal councils – combined risk assessment				Lower	Lower				Moderate				Lower

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Council has statutory obligations under the Local Government legislation for its reporting and audit requirements covered through the *Local Government Act 2009* and *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Support the organisation in ensuring appropriate compliance with legislation and to support the elected council in its decision-making processes and obligations as a local government.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The reporting of financial information is undertaken on a monthly basis with Council and annual financial statements are compiled and subject to audit. These costs are managed within the operating budget and annual audit fees are paid each year.

CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

Director Corporate Services
Manager Financial Services
Manager Strategic Finance

RISK ASSESSMENTS

Matters of risk are addressed within the audit plan and guide the audit focus areas both from within Council and its internal audit activity and also from the Queensland Audit Office on the matters for investigation and reporting each year. This risk-based approach highlights the importance of focus areas that as an industry local government needs to improve or maintain.

TIMINGS/DEADLINES

The Queensland Audit Office report was presented to Parliament on 22 June 2023 and has been reviewed and is reported to Council for completeness in a timely manner.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Council officers contributing to the preparation and approval of this report have no conflicts of interest to declare.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

Section 58 of the Human Rights Act 2019 specifies required conduct for public entities when acting or making a decision. Sections 15-37 of the Human Rights Act 2019 identifies the human rights a public entity must consider in making a decision. The human rights relevant to this decision are as follows:

- Section 19 – Freedom of movement.
- Section 21 – Freedom of expression.
- Section 24 – Right to own property and not be arbitrarily deprived of property.
- Section 27 – Cultural rights – generally – all persons with a particular cultural, religious, racial, or linguistic background have the right to enjoy their culture, to declare and practice their religion and use their language.
- Section 28 – Cultural rights – Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This decision does not limit the above identified human rights.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Not Applicable.



FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT

22 June 2023

Local government 2022

Report 15: 2022–23

As the independent auditor of the Queensland public sector, including local governments, the Queensland Audit Office:

- provides professional audit services, which include our audit opinions on the accuracy and reliability of the financial statements of public sector entities
- provides entities with insights on their financial performance, risk, and internal controls; and on the efficiency, effectiveness, and economy of public service delivery
- produces reports to parliament on the results of our audit work, our insights and advice, and recommendations for improvement
- supports our reports with graphics, tables, and other visualisations, which connect our insights to regions and communities
- conducts investigations into claims of financial waste and mismanagement raised by elected members, state and local government employees, and the public
- shares wider learnings and best practice from our work with state and local government entities, our professional networks, industry, and peers.

We conduct all our audits and reports to parliament under the *Auditor-General Act 2009* (the Act). Our work complies with the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards* and the Australian standards relevant to assurance engagements.

- Financial audit reports summarise the results of our audits of over 400 state and local government entities.
- Performance audit reports cover our evaluation of some, or all, of the entities' efficiency, effectiveness, and economy in providing public services.

Learn more about our publications on our website at www.qao.qld.gov.au/reports-resources/fact-sheets.

Mr J Kelly MP
Acting Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

22 June 2023

This report is prepared under Part 3 Division 3 of the *Auditor-General Act 2009*.



Brendan Worrall
Auditor-General



© The State of Queensland (Queensland Audit Office) 2023.

The Queensland Government supports and encourages the dissemination of its information. The copyright in this publication is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-No Derivatives (CC BY-NC-ND) 4.0 International licence.



To view this licence visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>

Under this licence you are free, without having to seek permission from QAO, to use this publication in accordance with the licence terms. For permissions beyond the scope of this licence contact copyright@qao.qld.gov.au

Content from this work should be attributed as: The State of Queensland (Queensland Audit Office) *Local government 2022* (Report 15: 2022–23), available under CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 International.

Cover image is a stock image purchased by QAO.

ISSN 1834-1128

Contents

Report on a page	1
Recommendations for councils and the department	2
1. Overview of entities in this sector	6
2. Results of our audits	7
3. Internal controls	18
4. Financial performance	27
Appendices	34
A. Full responses from entities	35
B. Local governments by segment	41
C. Legislative context	42
D. Status of recommendations from prior reports	44
E. Audit opinions for entities preparing financial reports	53
F. Entities exempt from audit by the Auditor-General	59
G. Local government entities for which we will not issue opinions	60
H. Audit opinions issued for prior financial years	62
I. Financial sustainability measures	63
J. Our assessment of councils' financial governance	72

Acknowledgement

The Queensland Audit Office acknowledges the Traditional and Cultural Custodians of the lands, waters, and seas across Queensland. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

Report on a page

Financial statements are reliable, but fewer councils prioritised and achieved timely financial reporting

Early financial reporting means current and relevant information is provided to decision-makers and members of the community. In 2021–22, only 32 councils (2020–21: 36 councils) *achieved* early financial reporting – meaning – having their financial statements certified at least 2 weeks before their 31 October legislative deadline.

In recent years, we have found fewer councils are planning for early completion of their financial statements. This year, only 48 councils *planned* to certify their financial statements early. In prior years, these numbers were substantially higher (62 councils in 2020–21 and 70 councils in 2019–20).

External factors such as staff shortages and natural disasters have negatively impacted on the sector's ability to achieve timely financial reporting. However, these issues would be better managed if councils improved the persistent issues we find in their month-end and year-end reporting processes, and their asset management practices.

In this report, we make several recommendations to the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (the department) – as regulator of the sector – to help build capability in the local government sector that will improve timely financial reporting.

Councils are taking too long to resolve high-risk issues

Significant deficiencies are those that have substantial financial or reputational risk for councils and need to be addressed immediately. Continued efforts by councils have reduced the number of unresolved significant deficiencies to 114 as at 30 June 2022 (2021: 127). However, 65 per cent (2021: 67 per cent) of these significant deficiencies remain unresolved more than 12 months after we identified them.

Many councils with significant deficiencies do not have an audit committee (16 councils) or an internal audit function (14 councils – these councils are in breach of the legislation). We have recommended the department make sure all councils establish an effective internal audit function, as required under the legislation.

Almost two thirds of councils still have significant deficiencies in their information systems, at a time when cyber attacks across the public sector keep rising. The department could collaborate with other state government agencies and develop a framework to help councils better manage their information systems security.

Grant funding received in advance has masked the full extent of the sector's decline in financial sustainability

This year, 35 councils generated an operating surplus. Although this is consistent with last year, the sector's operating results were favourably impacted by receiving a large portion of one of its grants in advance. In the absence of this advance grant funding, only 28 councils would have generated an operating surplus in 2021–22. At 30 June 2022, 46 councils (2020–21: 45 councils) are still at either a moderate or a high risk of not being financially sustainable.

Recommendations for councils and the department

Recommendations for councils

This year, we make the following recommendation to councils.

Assess the maturity of their procurement and contract management processes using our procure-to-pay maturity model, and implement identified opportunities to strengthen their practices	
REC 1	We recommend all councils assess the maturity of their procurement and contract management processes using our procure-to-pay maturity model. Councils should identify their desired level of maturity and compare this to the maturity level that best represents their current practices. This assessment will help them identify and implement practical improvement opportunities for their procurement and contract management processes.

Prior year recommendations need further action by councils

Councils have made some progress to address the recommendations we made in our prior reports. However, further action is still required for 15 recommendations as summarised below.

Theme	Summary of recommendation	Local government report
Governance and internal control	All councils to have an audit committee with an independent chair. Audit committee members should understand their roles and responsibilities, and the risks the committee needs to monitor	Report 13: 2019–20
	Assess their audit committees against the actions in our 2020–21 audit committee report	Report 15: 2021–22
	Improve their overall control environment	Report 15: 2021–22
	Improve risk management processes	Report 17: 2020–21
	All councils must establish and maintain an effective and efficient internal audit function	Report 13: 2019–20
Asset management and valuations	Asset management plans to include councils' planned spending on capital projects	Report 15: 2021–22
	Review the asset consumption ratio in preparation for the new sustainability framework. Assess whether the actual usage of assets is in line with asset management plans	Report 15: 2021–22
	Improve valuation and asset management practices	Report 17: 2020–21
Financial reporting	Reassess the maturity levels of financial statement preparation processes in line with recent experience to identify improvement opportunities that will help facilitate early certification of financial statements	Report 15: 2021–22
	Enhance liquidity management by reporting unrestricted cash expense ratio and unrestricted cash balance in monthly financial reports	Report 15: 2021–22
	Improve financial reporting by strengthening month-end and year-end financial reporting processes	Report 17: 2020–21



Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

Theme	Summary of recommendation	Local government report
Information systems	Conduct mandatory cyber security awareness training	Report 13: 2019–20
	Strengthen security of information systems	Report 17: 2020–21
Procurement and contract management	Secure employee and supplier information	Report 13: 2019–20
	Enhance procurement and contract management practices	Report 17: 2020–21

Implementing our recommendations will help councils strengthen their internal controls for financial reporting and improve their financial sustainability.

We have included a full list of prior year recommendations and their status in [Appendix D](#).

Recommendations for the department

This year, we make the following 7 recommendations to the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (the department).

Provide necessary guidance and tools to councils to help improve their month-end financial reports	
REC 2	The department should provide guidance and tools such as monthly management reporting pack templates and checklists for the completion of month-end financial reports. These tools should set the minimum standard of information that councillors will need to be provided with to make informed financial decisions. This in turn would help them improve the quality of their month-end financial reports and their month-end processes.
Provide a clear definition of 'extraordinary circumstances' for councils seeking ministerial extensions to their legislative time frame for financial reporting	
REC 3	The department should clearly define what 'extraordinary circumstances' are in the context of extensions to councils' legislated deadlines for certifying financial statements. This will provide consistent criteria for assessing council applications for extensions.
Measure the effectiveness of training programs provided to councils	
REC 4	The department should measure the effectiveness of the training programs it provides to councils. This would help the department identify remedial actions when desired outcomes are not achieved.
Provide training on financial reporting processes and support councils to meet their reporting deadlines in times of need	
REC 5	The department should, for councils that do not consistently achieve early financial reporting: - provide training to finance staff that covers matters such as - basic financial statement preparation - analysing and interpreting financial statements - preparing and delivering on a year-end time table - accounting concepts and application of relevant accounting standards. This should be in addition to the tropical financial reporting workshop provided by the department each year - make available a panel of financial reporting specialists that councils can call upon in times of need to help with their financial reporting processes. For this to work effectively, the department should establish ground rules that put the onus on councils to plan for their financial reporting early. This support should only be made available to councils on an exception basis.
Make sure all councils have an effective internal audit function	
REC 6	The department should monitor whether all councils have an internal audit function and that appropriate internal audit activities are undertaken each year. To help councils meet their legislative requirements the department should: - educate councillors and senior executives on the benefits of an internal audit function and how this adds value to council operations - make internal audit guidelines available on the department's website and provide example templates (such as a model internal audit charter) to help councils understand and meet their obligations.
Develop a strategy to uplift capability of the sector on cyber-related matters	
REC 7	We recommend the department, in collaboration with the Queensland Government's Customer and Chief Digital Officer, develops a strategy to increase awareness and improve capability in the sector on cyber-related matters. This will help councils strengthen their information security controls.
Publish a framework to assess the sustainability risk of councils by 1 July 2023	
REC 8	The department should publish a framework to assess the financial sustainability risk of councils. This framework should be made available to the sector from 1 July 2023 to align with the effective date of the department's new financial sustainability guideline.



Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

Prior year recommendations need further action by the department

The department has taken some corrective action to address the 4 recommendations from *Local government 2020* (Report 17: 2020–21).

- The department has published its new framework for financial sustainability.
- It continues to work on providing greater certainty for long-term funding to councils and providing more training for financial governance to councillors and senior leadership teams within councils.
- The proposal for the department to require all councils to establish an audit committee has not yet progressed. Parliament's State Development and Regional Industries Committee, in its report – *Report 32: Examination of Auditor-General Reports on the local government sector* – confirmed the importance of an audit committee to the sector and recommended to parliament that all local governments should establish an audit committee.

We have included a full list of prior year recommendations and their status in [Appendix D](#).

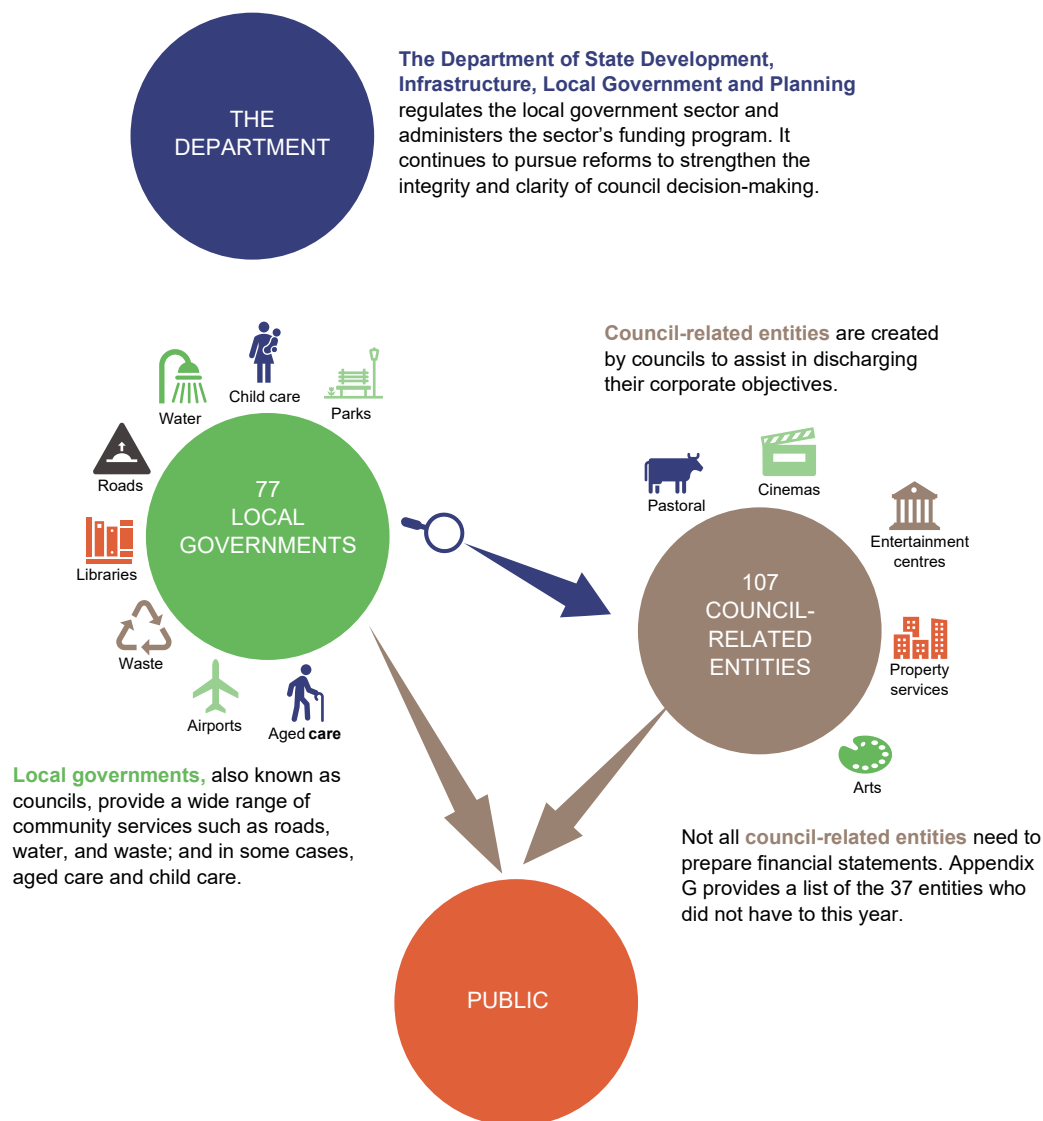
Reference to comments

In accordance with s.64 of the *Auditor-General Act 2009*, we provided a copy of this report to all councils and the department. In reaching our conclusions, we considered their views and represented them to the extent we deemed relevant and warranted.

Any formal responses from councils and the department are included at [Appendix A](#).

1. Overview of entities in this sector

Figure 1A
Entities in the local government sector



Source: Queensland Audit Office.

2. Results of our audits

This chapter provides an overview of our audit opinions for the local government sector.

Chapter snapshot

Only 48 councils prioritised timely financial reporting by planning to have their financial statements certified 2 weeks before the legislative deadline



3 prior year recommendations for councils that need further action.

[Appendix D](#) provides the full detail of all prior year recommendations.

4 new recommendations to the department

- Provide necessary guidance and tools to councils to help improve their month-end financial reports.
- Provide a clear definition of 'extraordinary circumstances' for councils seeking ministerial extensions to their legislative time frame for financial reporting.
- Measure the effectiveness of training programs provided to councils.
- Provide training on financial reporting processes and support councils to meet their reporting deadlines in times of need.



DEFINITION

We express an **unmodified opinion** when financial statements are prepared in accordance with the relevant legislative requirements and Australian accounting standards.

We issue a **qualified opinion** when financial statements as a whole comply with relevant accounting standards and legislative requirements, with the exceptions noted in the opinion.

We include an **emphasis of matter** to highlight an issue of which the auditor believes the users of the financial statements need to be aware. The inclusion of an emphasis of matter paragraph does not change the audit opinion.

Audit opinion results

Audits of financial statements of councils

As at the date of this report, we have issued audit opinions for 73 councils (2020–21: 75 councils). Of these:

- 65 councils (2020–21: 62 councils) met their legislative deadline
- 2 councils (2020–21: 10 councils) met the extended time frame granted by the minister (the minister for local government may grant an extension to the legislative time frame where extraordinary circumstances exist)
- 4 councils (2020–21: 3 councils) that received ministerial extensions did not meet their extended time frame
- 2 councils (2020–21: nil) that had their financial statements certified past their legislative deadline did not seek an extension from the minister.

Over the years, some councils have not prioritised financial reporting and their financial statements have not been certified within their legislative deadline. Figure 2A shows councils that have not met their legislative deadline for at least 3 of the last 5 years.

Figure 2A
Councils who have not met their legislative time frame for at least 3 of the last 5 years

Council	Number of years legislative time frame not met
Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	4 years
Richmond Shire Council	4 years
Etheridge Shire Council	3 years
North Burnett Regional Council	3 years

Source: Queensland Audit Office.

Financial statements of councils and council-related entities are reliable

The financial statements of councils and council-related entities that we issued opinions for were reliable and complied with relevant laws and standards.

We included an emphasis of matter in our audit report for Richmond Shire Council to highlight that a material change was required to the previous financial statements certified 6 March 2023, and they were replaced by the version we certified 24 April 2023.

Consistent with the last 2 years, we included an emphasis of matter in our audit report for Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council. This was to highlight uncertainty about its ability to repay its debts as and when they arise.

One controlled entity, Local Buy Trading Trust (controlled by the Local Government Association of Queensland Ltd), received a qualified opinion. This was because it was unable to provide us with enough evidence that the revenue it recorded was complete. This entity received a qualified opinion for the previous financial year for the same reason.

Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

An emphasis of matter was also included in the audit opinion for 11 controlled entities because:

- 6 had decided to wind up their operations
- 2 were reliant on financial support from their parent entities
- 2 had uncertainty about their ability to repay their debts as and when they arise
- one was not able to support a key account balance recorded in its financial statements.

Not all council-related entities need to have their audit performed by the Auditor-General. [Appendix F](#) provides a full list of these entities.

Status of unfinished audits from previous years

When we tabled *Local government 2021* (Report 15: 2021–22) in May 2022, 2 councils (Richmond Shire Council and Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council) and 6 council-related entities had not finalised their 2020–21 financial statements. In addition, one controlled entity had not finalised its financial statements for the 2019–20 financial year.

As at the date of this report:

- Richmond Shire Council and 5 council-related entities had their 2020–21 financial statements certified and all received unmodified opinions.
- The Western Queensland Local Government Association had its 2019–20 and 2020–21 financial statements certified. We included an emphasis of matter in our audit opinions for both financial years to highlight that the entity was winding up its operations.

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is yet to have its financial statements certified for the 2020–21 financial year.

[Appendix H](#) provides a full list of these entities and the results of their audits.

Fewer councils are achieving early certification of their financial statements

Community and other stakeholders rely on financial statements to understand the financial health of their council. Additionally, financial statements hold elected members accountable for how councils' money is spent each year.

Queensland councils have 4 months (to 31 October) after their financial year end to have their financial statements certified. Yet, each year, several councils do not meet this time frame, and many more have their financial statements certified close to their legislative deadline – meaning the information is not current and relevant when it is released to the public.

Common issues contributing to councils not achieving timely certification of their financial statements are explained further in this chapter.

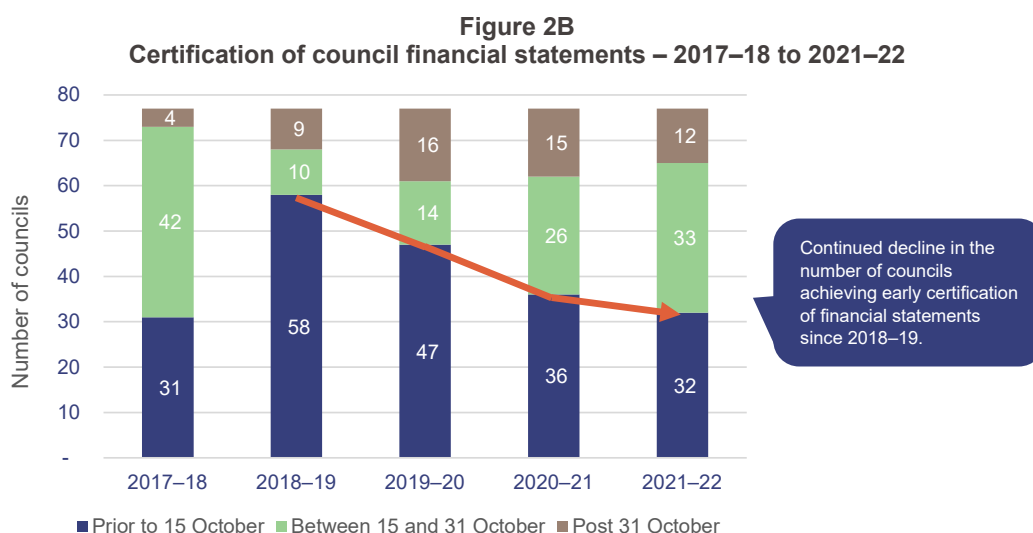
For many years, we encouraged councils to have their financial statements certified soon after 30 June – and measured and reported their timeliness using a traffic light model. Under that model, councils that had their financial statements certified at least 2 weeks before their legislative deadline were considered to be timely.

Between the 2017–18 and 2018–19 financial years, councils improved the timeliness of their financial reporting. Although fewer councils achieved early certification in 2019–20, we saw this as a one-off decline in timeliness due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In recognition of the sector's progress to improve the timeliness of financial reporting, we stopped measuring timeliness using the traffic light model in 2020–21. We moved to a financial statement maturity model where we asked councils to self-assess their financial reporting maturity levels. It is available on our website at: www.qao.qld.gov.au/reports-resources/better-practice.

However, the change from the traffic light basis of measurement, together with other challenges that councils have faced in recent years, has resulted in a substantial decline in the timeliness of financial statement certification.

This year, only 32 councils (2020–21: 36 councils), which is 40 per cent of the sector (2020–21: 47 per cent), had their financial statements certified 2 weeks before the legislative deadline. Figure 2B shows the time frames for certification of council financial statements over the last 5 years.



Note: 2021–22 (Post 31 October) includes 4 councils that are yet to have their financial statements certified. 2020–21 (Post 31 October) includes one council yet to have its financial statements certified.

Source: Queensland Audit Office.

Early certification of financial statements is always important, but leading into the next local government elections in March 2024 it is even more critical. Elected members will have one last opportunity to demonstrate their council's financial health to their community when the certified financial statements for the 2022–23 financial year are made publicly available. Acknowledging the importance of this information, going forward, we will compile our local government report as at the statutory reporting date. This will ensure our analysis of the sector's performance is available to the community early in the subsequent calendar year.

Common issues preventing timely certification of financial statements continue to exist year after year

Ineffective month-end and year-end processes (financial reporting processes)

Section snapshot 55 councils have at least one deficiency in their month-end processes (2020–21: 60 councils).	84 new deficiencies arose for month-end processes this year.
	73 deficiencies for month-end processes from prior years were still unresolved as at 30 June 2022.

Ineffective financial reporting processes significantly contribute to councils not having their financial statements certified in a timely manner.

Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

Financial reporting begins with month-end processes that provide elected members and council executives with regular information about the financial performance of council. It finishes with year-end processes that produce the annual financial statements, which are certified and provided to the community and other stakeholders. These processes complement each other.

Councils with good month-end processes generally produce higher quality annual financial statements in less time. This is because they resolve any discrepancies and errors each month.

In the 2020–21 financial year, we asked councils to assess their financial statement preparation processes using our financial statement maturity model, which is available on our website at:

www.gao.qld.gov.au/reports-resources/better-practice. As a part of this process, 46 councils self-assessed that their *monthly* financial reports were not prepared using accrual accounting processes – recognising revenue and expenses as they are earned or incurred, regardless of when cash has been received or paid.

To understand if these self-assessments were accurate, we reviewed the 30 June 2022 monthly reporting for roughly a third of the sector. Specifically, we compared the operating results (difference between revenue generated and expenditure incurred in the day-to-day operations) reported by these councils in their internal management reports to the results that were reported in their certified year-end financial statements.

If councils adopt an accrual basis of accounting, they would report minimal differences between the annual operating results in their monthly reports and the result in their financial statements. Instead, we found:

- 14 councils (61 per cent of those we reviewed) reported an operating result in their year-end financial statements that was significantly lower than the operating result reported in their monthly financial reports
- for 6 of these 14 councils, they reported an operating surplus (operating revenue higher than operating expenses) in their monthly financial reports at 30 June 2022. But they reported an operating deficit (operating expenses higher than operating revenue) in their certified year-end financial statements.

This means financial reporting processes at these councils are ineffective. Management and councillors at these councils were not provided complete information each month to make informed decisions. They also did not have reliable financial information to help prepare the next year's budget.

This year, we provided councils with guidance about accrual accounting and how this should be reported in monthly financial reports. This included items reported in the financial reports such as depreciation (allocating the value of an asset over its life) and grant revenue (timing of recognition).

As part of our 2022–23 financial year audits, we are reviewing whether councils implemented our guidance for accrual accounting. We will report on these outcomes in our *Local government 2023* report.

In addition to adopting accrual accounting for monthly reporting, we continue to recommend councils improve their month-end and year-end processes as detailed in [Appendix D](#).

The department can play a key role in helping councils improve their month-end processes, and in turn, their year-end processes, to achieve early financial reporting. This can come in the form of guidance and templates such as monthly financial reports and checklists for completing month-end processes.

Recommendation for the department

Provide necessary guidance and tools to councils to help improve their month-end financial reports (REC 2)

The department should provide guidance and tools such as monthly management reporting pack templates and checklists for the completion of month-end financial reports.

These tools should set the minimum standard of information that councillors will need to be provided with to make informed financial decisions. This in turn would help them improve the quality of their month-end financial reports and their month-end processes.

Asset management (including maintenance of asset data) and asset valuations continue to challenge the sector

Section snapshot  54 councils have at least one deficiency in their asset management practices (2020–21: 60 councils).	 17 councils reported a prior period error for fixed assets in this year's financial statements (2020–21: 9 councils). The total value of these errors resulted in movements totalling \$241 mil. (2020–21: 11 councils, \$410 mil.)
 8 councils have either out-of-date or incomplete asset management plans (2020–21: 11 councils).	 12 councils identified 'found' assets that they had not previously recorded in their financial statements. The total value of these assets was \$180 mil. (2020–21: \$108 mil.)

Queensland councils combined manage approximately \$114 billion of infrastructure assets. The large and diverse asset base means that maintaining good asset data, accounting for assets, and determining asset values often presents challenges. We discuss below the common issues we find at councils.

Asset management and asset data – Some councils do not have up-to-date asset management plans or good asset data to help them maintain and optimise the performance of their assets. This is because they have poor systems for managing assets, lack of resources or expertise, or have outdated/incorrect information.

When councils have accurate asset data, it is a good starting point to build a good asset management plan. For this, councils should regularly inspect their assets and make sure information in their financial systems and geographical information systems – which are used to capture, store, and manage detailed components of assets, including their geographical location – agree to each other.

When councils do not have good asset data, the information presented in their financial statements may be incorrect. This year, 12 councils reported values for assets for the first time in their financial statements, although these councils always owned these assets. This is known as 'prior period errors'. This is not the first time councils have reported prior period errors in their financial statements. These errors arise because some councils do not have good processes to account for assets as and when they acquire them.

Asset valuations processes – Determining the fair value of council assets is complex and highly subjective. Councils often rely on the expertise of external valuers to help value their assets. The common issues we find with councils' valuation processes are:

- councils not engaging early enough with external valuers, causing valuations to not be undertaken in a timely manner
- lack of or inadequate review of the valuer's work that results in errors being identified during our audits – councils are the owners of these assets and know their assets well. They need to make sure the assumptions and judgements the valuer uses are reasonable and appropriate to their circumstances.

Councils should also consider the timing of their programs to value assets. Some councils complete comprehensive valuations (which need condition assessments, physical inspections, and a review of unit costs) on all types of assets in the same financial year. This is an extensive amount of work. These councils may benefit from a rolling program where a single type of asset is valued each year (for example roads, buildings, and water and sewerage assets could be comprehensively revalued in separate years). This helps spread the work required across multiple years and makes engaging an external valuer easier in times when limited valuers are available.

These issues also impact the completion and certification of financial statements, and often these delays result in councils not meeting their legislative deadline. Councils still need to take further action to address our prior year recommendation to improve their asset management and valuation practices as detailed in [Appendix D](#).

Asset management is also critical to the long-term sustainability of councils, as discussed in [Chapter 4](#).

Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

We are finalising our performance audit on improving asset management in local government. This report will include recommendations for how councils can effectively manage their assets while minimising the total cost of owning them. We encourage councils and the department to review this report when it is tabled (expected in mid-2023) and implement any recommendations relevant to them.

Other factors that have impacted timely reporting

Ineffective month-end and year-end processes and asset management issues have long been the reasons councils do not achieve timely certification of their financial statements. If councils had these practices imbedded and operating effectively, they would be better equipped to manage external disruptions. However, because they do not, external factors (as summarised in Figure 2C) have also contributed to untimely financial reporting in recent years.

Figure 2C
Factors impacting timely reporting

2019–20	2020–21	2021–22
 COVID-19 pandemic  Local government elections  New accounting standards	 COVID-19 pandemic  Staff turnover and vacancies  Significant natural disasters	 Staff turnover and vacancies  Significant natural disasters

Source: Compiled by Queensland Audit Office.

In *Local government 2020* we explained the challenges councils faced being impacted by and responding to COVID-19, local government elections, and new accounting standards, and how these delayed the certification of their financial statements. In this section, we explore the other factors that contributed to a decline in the timeliness of financial reporting by councils in subsequent financial years.

Staff turnover and vacancies

Since 2021, Australia (and the rest of the world) has been impacted by what has been called the ‘great resignation’, where workers left organisations at scale and pace. The local government sector was not immune to this phenomenon.

For councils outside of South East Queensland, attracting and retaining experienced staff has historically been a challenge, and this has become even harder in the last 2 years. Many councils face the choice between filling vacant roles with less experienced and qualified staff or engaging external consultants at a significantly higher cost.

The loss of knowledge when staff leave an organisation, and the disruption from frequent turnover of staff, prevents councils from maturing their financial and business systems, processes, and strategy.

Individual councils are unlikely to overcome these challenges alone. Some councils come together as a group through platforms such as ‘alliances’ or ‘regional organisations of councils’ – groups of councils from similar geographic locations form an association to achieve common goals. These councils can benefit from sharing resources and expertise, as well as through combined purchasing power.

We have seen councils successfully work together during the COVID-19 pandemic to implement directives from government, such as border closures and cleaning public amenities. Councils need to leverage such collaboration and work together to create more depth and resilience in back-office functions such as financial management, human resource management, and information management and security. Their ability to do this is aided by the fact that currently 90 per cent of councils use one of 4 accounting systems.

Natural disasters

Natural disasters cause significant disruption to councils – diverting attention from their usual operations to focus on disaster response. Accounting for natural disasters (for example the change in the value of a council's assets because of damage caused by a flood) is also complex and time-consuming. This adds further pressure to councils' finance teams – especially in small and regional councils that are already experiencing staff shortages.

When a natural disaster strikes, it generally impacts more than one council in a region. We have seen disaster management groups at impacted councils come together and serve their communities in such difficult times to help with recovery processes.

Councils could again use this experience of working together to develop comprehensive documentation of the assumptions and judgements they use to determine the fair value of their assets (which is the amount for which the assets could be sold in a fair transaction).

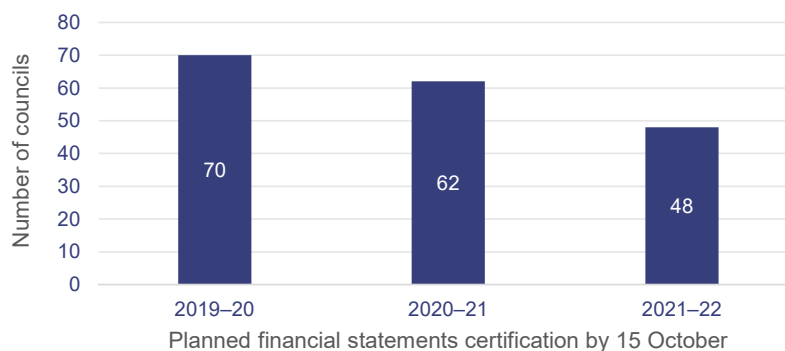
Planning for the financial reporting process is weak

Councils are not aiming for early certification of their financial statements

At the start of each years' audit process, councils provide us dates they plan to have their financial statements certified. Since we moved away from measuring their timeliness using a traffic light system (explained earlier in this chapter), fewer councils are striving for early certification.

Figure 2D shows, for the last 3 years, how many councils planned to have their financial statements certified early – that is, 2 weeks before their legislative deadline of 31 October.

Figure 2D
Planned certification of council financial statements by 2 weeks before the legislative time frame (2019–20 to 2021–22)



Source: Queensland Audit Office.

In the 2019–20 financial year, 91 per cent of the sector planned to have their financial statements certified 2 weeks before the legislative time frame. This declined to 80 per cent in 2020–21 and declined even more in 2021–22 to only 62 per cent of the sector.

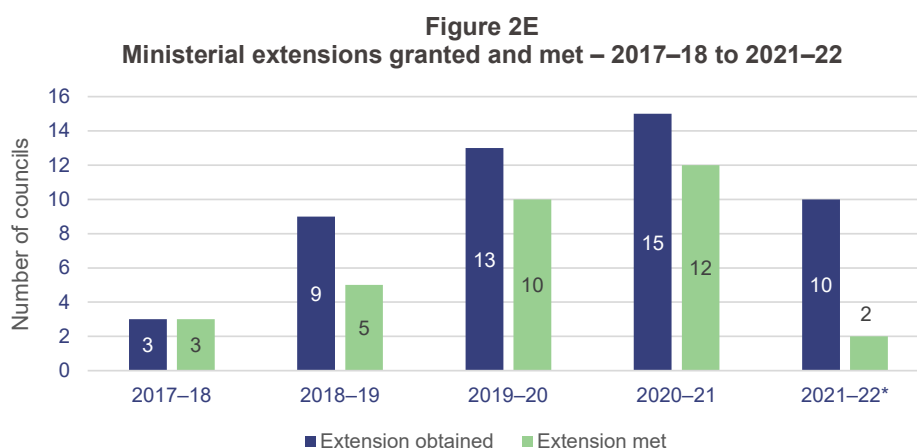
If councils do not *plan* to have their financial statements certified early, they are unlikely to improve the timeliness of their financial reporting.

Ministerial extensions are sought very late

When a council does not expect to have its financial statements certified within the legislated deadline, it can seek an extension of time from the minister for local government.

Under the legislation, the minister may grant an extension when 'extraordinary circumstances' prevent the council from having its financial statements certified within the legislative deadline.

However, when councils, and many times the same councils, keep seeking an extension from the minister year after year, it cannot be deemed 'extraordinary circumstances'. In Figure 2E, we show the number of councils that applied for an extension and the number of councils that met their extended time frames over the last 5 years.



Note: * For 2021–22, 4 councils that applied for extension are yet to finalise their statements.

Source: Queensland Audit Office.

Of the 10 councils that received an extension of time to have their financial statements certified for the 2021–22 financial year:

- 7 did not apply for an extension until late in October 2022
- 6 applied for more than one extension this year
- 6 also applied for an extension last year.

This confirms that some councils do not have good processes to have their financial statements certified in a timely manner.

In *Results of audits: Local government entities 2011–12* (Report 10: 2012–13), we recommended the department determine and publish criteria for granting ministerial extensions to reporting deadlines in 'extraordinary circumstances'. At the time, the department acknowledged the merit of our recommendation; but it has not yet taken any action to provide clarity on what extraordinary circumstances are.

Recommendation for the department

Provide a clear definition of 'extraordinary circumstances' for councils seeking ministerial extensions to their legislative time frame for financial reporting (REC 3)

The department should clearly define what 'extraordinary circumstances' are in the context of extensions to councils' legislated deadlines for certifying financial statements.

This will provide consistent criteria for assessing council applications for extensions.

Department's role to address skills shortages and improve timely financial reporting

Although staff shortages have contributed to untimely financial reporting, this issue has existed in the sector for several years, especially in regional and remote councils. The fundamental reason councils in regional and remote areas struggle to achieve timely financial reporting is the lack of appropriately qualified and skilled staff.

In 2020 we collected information from more than half the sector to understand the extent of qualified and skilled staff in their engineering and finance teams. At the time we gathered this information, we noted that:

- 16 per cent of these councils did not have appropriately qualified engineers that were responsible for managing their infrastructure assets
- 27 per cent of these councils did not have an accountant with a post-tertiary qualification that was responsible for managing their finances.

We plan to survey the sector for our next local government report to understand if this situation has worsened, given the recent impact of the great resignation explained earlier in this chapter.

Councils who regularly fail to meet the legislative deadline for financial reporting generally do not have the necessary skills to improve their financial reporting. These councils would benefit from greater support by the department to help develop strategies to improve their financial reporting processes.

In *Local government 2020*, we recommended the department provide training to councillors and senior leadership teams for councils that have limitations raising revenue due to remoteness and small populations (that is, councils that are highly reliant on grant funding). Our recommendation aimed to improve councillors' and senior leaders' understanding of governance and accountability to allow them to drive change within their councils.

Some of these councils were already prioritising financial reporting and had established good governance processes, such as an effective audit committee and internal audit function. However, most were not.

This year, 25 per cent of the councils (7 councils) we recommended receive additional training did not meet their legislative deadline. At 30 June 2022, these councils also had 31 unresolved significant deficiencies (breakdowns in internal control that we identified with substantial financial or reputational risk for councils that need to be addressed immediately). This is 27 per cent of the unresolved significant deficiencies for the sector. In addition, 5 of these councils do not have an audit committee or an internal audit function.

This indicates that the training provided by the department may not be achieving the desired outcomes.

Recommendation for the department

Measure the effectiveness of training programs provided to councils (REC 4)

The department should measure the effectiveness of the training programs it provides to councils.
This would help the department identify remedial actions when desired outcomes are not achieved.

The department, as the regulator of the local government sector, also has a responsibility to make sure councils comply with the financial reporting obligations required under the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

In addition to continuing to deliver and improve the training for councillors and senior executives, the department should develop targeted training for finance staff. This should be aimed at councils that consistently fail to have their financial statements signed in a timely manner and do not have adequate skills around financial accounting and reporting processes. The department currently provides example financial statements and conducts certain workshops for councils. However, the untimely financial reporting by councils confirms these are not addressing the skills shortage for financial reporting in the sector.

Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

One option would be for the department to establish a group of qualified, experienced professionals who could help councils in need from time to time. This approach would be similar to that now used by the Public Sector Commission to help state government departments dealing with significant government restructures. Should the department adopt such a model, it would need to be clear about when councils could use this service.

Recommendation for the department

Provide training on financial reporting processes and support councils to meet their reporting deadlines in times of need (REC 5)

The department should, for councils that do not consistently achieve early financial reporting:

- provide training to finance staff that covers matters such as
 - basic financial statement preparation
 - analysing and interpreting financial statements
 - preparing and delivering on a year-end time table
 - accounting concepts and application of relevant accounting standards.

This should be in addition to the tropical financial reporting workshop provided by the department each year

- make available a panel of financial reporting specialists that councils can call upon in times of need to help with their financial reporting processes. For this to work effectively, the department should establish ground rules that put the onus on councils to plan for their financial reporting early. This support should only be made available to councils on an exception basis.

3. Internal controls

Internal controls are the people, systems, and processes that ensure an entity can achieve its objectives, prepare reliable financial reports, and comply with applicable laws. Features of an effective internal control framework include:

- strong governance that promotes accountability and supports strategic and operational objectives
- secure information systems that maintain data integrity
- robust policies and procedures, including appropriate financial delegations
- regular monitoring and internal audit reviews.

This chapter reports on the effectiveness of councils' internal controls and provides areas of focus for them to improve. When we identify weaknesses in the controls, we categorise them as either 'deficiencies', which need to be addressed over time, or 'significant deficiencies', which are high risk and need to be addressed immediately.

Chapter snapshot

There are fewer significant issues, but it is taking too long resolve

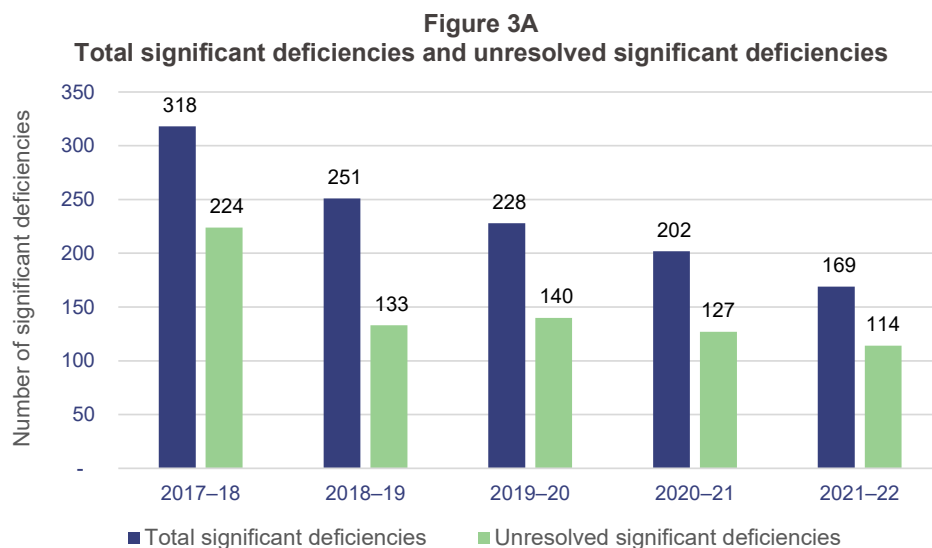


- 
- 1 new recommendation to councils**
- Assess the maturity of their procurement and contract management processes using our procure-to-pay maturity model, and implement identified opportunities to strengthen their practices.
- 9 prior year recommendations to councils that need further action**
[Appendix D](#) provides the full detail of all prior year recommendations.

- 2 New recommendations to the department**
- Make sure all councils have an effective internal audit function.
 - Develop a framework for managing security risks.
- 
- 1 prior year recommendation to the department that needs further action**
[Appendix D](#) provides the full detail of all prior year recommendations.

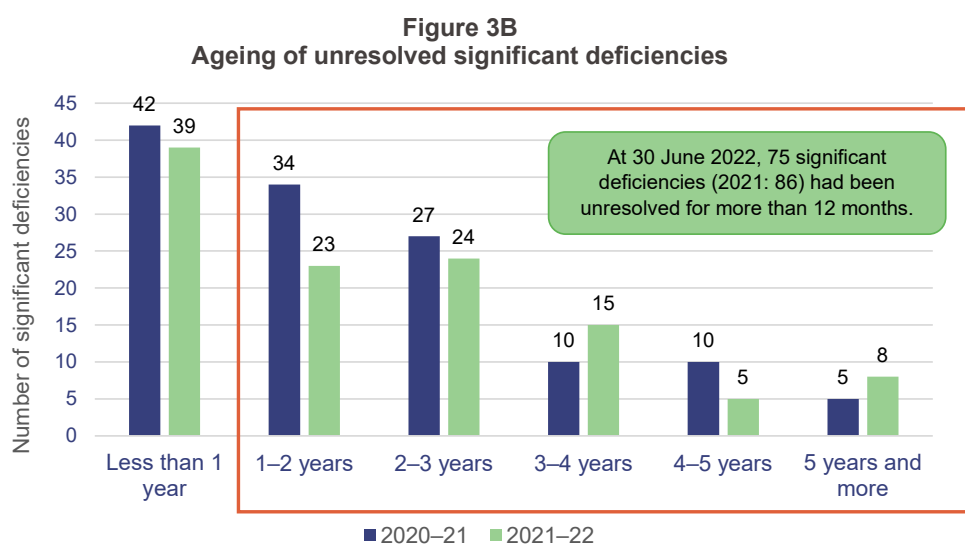
Internal controls are improving, but more than half the sector still has unresolved significant deficiencies

Councils have continued to reduce the number of unresolved significant deficiencies in their internal controls. But, as at 30 June 2022, 42 councils (2021: 47 councils) have at least one significant deficiency they need to address. Figure 3A shows the total number of significant deficiencies we have identified in the sector over the last 5 years, along with those that remained unresolved at 30 June each year.



Source: Queensland Audit Office.

Although councils have reduced the number of significant deficiencies, many are still unresolved for more than 12 months as shown in Figure 3B.



Source: Queensland Audit Office.

Significant deficiencies are those that may result in substantial financial or reputational loss to councils – which in turn may impact their financial sustainability. When these significant deficiencies are unresolved for a long time, the risk of financial and reputational loss to councils increases.

In [Appendix J](#), for each council, we list the number of significant deficiencies that remain unresolved for more than 12 months. As at 30 June 2022, 35 councils (2021: 35 councils) had one or more significant deficiencies that remained unresolved more than 12 months after we identified them.

Entities that do not resolve significant deficiencies in a timely manner generally do not have good governance and monitoring processes in place. When an entity strengthens its internal controls and implements good governance structures – such as by establishing an effective audit committee and internal audit function – it can also improve its financial performance.

Audit committees and internal audit functions

Section snapshot	
 As at 30 June 2022, 16 councils (2021: 20 councils) did not have an audit committee function. • 15 councils did not have an audit committee at all. • One council had an audit committee that did not meet in the 2021–22 year.	 As at 30 June 2022, 14 councils (2021: 14 councils) did not have an internal audit function. • 7 councils did not have an internal audit function. • 7 councils did not undertake any internal audit activity.
These councils combined had 55 unresolved significant deficiencies (68 per cent of all significant deficiencies) and 12 of these councils are at high risk of not being financially sustainable.	These councils combined had 61 unresolved significant deficiencies (75 per cent of all significant deficiencies) and 9 of these councils are at high risk of not being financially sustainable.
11 councils do not have either an audit committee or an internal audit function. These councils combined have 50 unresolved significant deficiencies at 30 June 2022.	

Audit committees

Audit committees play a key role in providing management with an independent and objective source of advice on various matters. This includes financial reporting, internal controls, risk management, and internal and external audit functions.

While management retains ultimate accountability for councils' internal controls, audit committees help improve councils' internal controls by overseeing proactive and timely resolution of outstanding issues.

After several years of recommending to councils that they should establish an audit committee function, in *Local government 2020* we recommended the department should mandate all councils to establish an audit committee. The State Development and Regional Industries Committee (a committee of parliament) in its report – *Report 32: Examination of Auditor-General Reports on the local government sector* – recommended to the parliament that all councils should establish an audit and risk committee.

In the 2023–24 financial year, we plan to undertake an audit on the effectiveness of local government audit committees. This report will follow on from *Effectiveness of audit committees in state government entities* (Report 2: 2020–21) and provide insights into the effectiveness of audit committees at councils.

Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

Internal audit

An internal audit function is a key building block for good financial reporting and governance practices. It provides an independent view on whether a council's internal control framework is effective and helps promote a strong risk management and compliance culture.

Every council in Queensland is required under the *Local Government Act 2009* to establish an effective internal audit function. An effective internal audit function is one where a council must, in each year, have an internal audit plan (a list of audits that it plans to undertake) and deliver on that plan.

Figure 3C shows councils that did not have an internal audit function established as at 30 June 2022 and those that had established a function but did not undertake any internal audit activity.

Figure 3C
Councils that did not have an effective internal audit function at 30 June 2022

Councils with no internal audit function	Councils that had no internal audit activity
Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council*	Bulloo Shire Council
North Burnett Regional Council	Carpentaria Shire Council
Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	Croydon Shire Council
Paroo Shire Council	Etheridge Shire Council
Richmond Shire Council*	McKinlay Shire Council
Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council*	Mornington Shire Council
Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council*	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council

Note: * These councils have not had an internal audit function for 3 or more years as at 30 June 2022.

Source: Queensland Audit Office.

Nearly 60 per cent of the councils in Figure 3C failed to meet the legislative deadline in 2021–22:

- Four of these councils are yet to have their financial statements certified.
- Four of these councils missed the deadline but subsequently had their audit opinions issued. Of these, 2 councils have not met their legislative deadline for 3 or more years in a row.

The department, as the regulator for the local government sector, needs to make sure that councils comply with their legislative requirements to establish an effective internal audit function. The department also has a role to educate councils on the benefits of an internal audit function and make sure appropriate resources – such as guidelines and templates – are available to councils.

Recommendation for the department**Make sure all councils have an effective internal audit function (REC 6)**

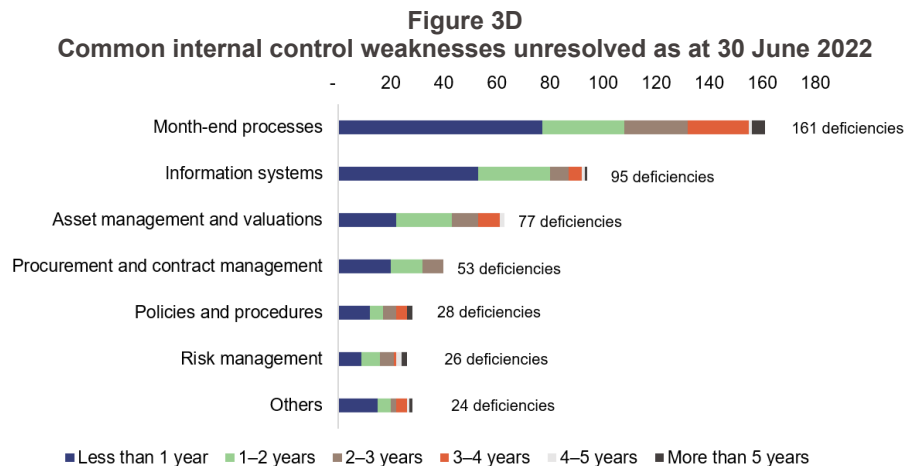
The department should monitor whether all councils have an internal audit function and that appropriate internal audit activities are undertaken each year.

To help councils meet their legislative requirements the department should:

- educate councillors and senior executives on the benefits of an internal audit function and how this adds value to council operations
- make internal audit guidelines available on the department's website and provide example templates (such as a model internal audit charter) to help councils understand and meet their obligations.

Common internal control weaknesses in the sector

The common internal control weaknesses we discuss in this chapter are those that have persisted for several years. Figure 3D summarises these weaknesses by the number of years they have been unresolved, as at 30 June 2022.



Source: Queensland Audit Office.

The number of weaknesses in information system controls continues to rise in the sector

Section snapshot

48 councils have at least one deficiency in their **information technology systems** (2020–21: 45 councils).

63 new deficiencies have been identified in 2021–22 in addition to **37 deficiencies** unresolved from previous years.

9 councils have one or more **significant deficiencies** in their information systems that have not been resolved for over a year.

Councils hold large volumes of financial, operational, and personal data about their suppliers, customers, and employees in their information technology systems.

Recent cyber attacks on the information systems of Australian and international entities, including some high-profile Queensland public sector entities, have disrupted their operations and caused loss of sensitive data.

As recently as April 2023, one regional council in central Queensland became a victim of a cyber attack. The council is assessing the impact of this attack and has involved cyber security experts to help it manage the recovery process. This is on the back of other councils in Victoria and New South Wales that were also impacted by cyber attacks within the last 18 months.

The frequency and number of attacks in the last 2 years highlights that it is no longer if, but when a successful attack will occur.

Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

It is critical that councils implement strong security controls to protect their data from cyber attacks, undetected errors, and potential financial loss, including through fraud. Our *Forward work plan 2023–26* includes an audit topic on *Responding to and recovering from cyber attacks* that will provide insights and lessons learned on entities' preparedness.

This year, because of changes to the Australian auditing standards, we undertook in-depth reviews of information system controls across all public sector entities in Queensland. From these, we identified additional deficiencies in councils' information systems.

The changes to Australian auditing standards require auditors to assess the effectiveness of information systems controls that are critical to generate financial information. It is important to note that these changes do not focus on controls that protect systems against cyber attacks and do not provide assurance that council's cyber security measures are strong enough. However, the findings from our audits inform councils of the vulnerabilities in their systems and provide them opportunities to strengthen their internal controls.

The most common internal control deficiencies identified include:

- inappropriate access levels being assigned to council staff. This means staff can process transactions when they are not authorised to do so. This may expose councils to financial loss, unauthorised access to their data, and the risk of loss of data
- lack of good controls to implement and monitor strong passwords. Weak passwords are easier to guess, and they expose information technology systems to potential cyber attacks
- lack of good policies to govern the security of information systems. These policies should define obligations that staff need to comply with when using councils' information technology systems.

Implementing effective controls to mitigate the risk of cyber attacks should be performed on a cost–benefit basis. Accordingly, in *Managing cyber security risks* (Report 3: 2019–20) we recommended all entities in the Queensland public sector firstly assess whether they:

- have a framework for managing cyber security risks
- know what information assets they have
- know to what extent those information assets are exposed to cyber security risks.

Based on the results of these activities, entities should implement cyber security risk mitigation strategies.

Since October 2018, the Queensland Government's Customer and Chief Digital Officer (QGCCDO) has required state departments to implement an information security management system (ISMS) – a systematic approach to identify and manage information security risks – in accordance with the ISO 27001 *Information Security Standard*. Currently, no such standards are mandated for the local government sector.

There is an opportunity for the department to collaborate with the QGCCDO to improve the information technology security practices of the sector, using the principles of an ISMS. This would provide the department information about councils that have weaker information security controls.

Recommendation to the department

Develop a strategy to uplift capability of the sector on cyber-related matters (REC 7)

We recommend the department, in collaboration with the Queensland Government's Customer and Chief Digital Officer, develops a strategy to increase awareness and improve capability in the sector on cyber-related matters. This will help councils strengthen their information security controls.

[Appendix D](#) provides our full recommendation from previous years, which still requires further action by councils.

Procurement and contract management practices are not fit-for-purpose

Section snapshot 34 councils have at least one deficiency in their procurement and contract management practices (2020–21: 29 councils).	23 new deficiencies have been identified this year in addition to 24 deficiencies unresolved from previous years. 8 councils have one or more significant deficiencies in their procurement and contract management processes that have not been resolved for over a year.
--	---

Councils collectively spend approximately \$8 billion each year to obtain goods and services from varied suppliers. When such large amounts of monies are spent – which are funded by tax payers in the form of grants or other sources such as rates and fees – there is a need for strong controls and processes. This is important so councils can uphold their communities' confidence that their monies are spent wisely.

Despite this, we identify more weaknesses each year in councils' procurement and contract management processes and practices.

To gain a comprehensive understanding of the extent of the efficiency and effectiveness of councils' procurement and contract management processes, we implemented our procure-to-pay maturity model at 5 councils this year.

We selected a range of councils from large councils in South East Queensland to a small remote Indigenous council to assess the maturity of their procurement and contract management processes.

Figure 3E summarises the scope of the maturity model, together with the strengths and improvement opportunities we identified.

Figure 3E
Scope of the maturity model and our observations

What did we assess?	Do councils have the appropriate framework and policies? How effective are councils' information systems? How effective are councils' procurement and contract management processes? What sort of reporting is provided to management and councillors?
Overall maturity	The maturity of the sector varied – larger councils demonstrated a higher maturity compared to the smaller councils, which have limited resources.
Strengths	- Most councils had a documented process, including adequate policies and procedures for their procurement and contract management, that comply with the legislation. - Larger councils had good information technology systems in place to manage the procurement process and had set financial delegations within their systems to authorise invoices. - Probity factors were considered by most councils in their procurement process.
Improvement opportunities	Councils did not have any reporting mechanisms to their elected members for what they procured, what contracts had been entered, and whether their vendors delivered on their contractual obligations.

Source: compiled by Queensland Audit Office.

Recommendation for all councils

Assess the maturity of their procurement and contract management processes using our procure-to-pay maturity model, and implement identified opportunities to strengthen their practices (REC 1)

We recommend all councils assess the maturity of their procurement and contract management processes using our procure-to-pay maturity model.

Councils should identify their desired level of maturity and compare this to the maturity level that best represents their current practices. This assessment will help them identify and implement practical improvement opportunities for their procurement and contract management processes.

We also identified as a part of our audits common internal control weaknesses in councils' procurement and contract management processes and practices – that we have reported for several years. These are:

- **value for money** – Councils have not maintained good documentation on the appropriate number of tenders/quotes obtained for the purchase of goods and services. This means they were not able to demonstrate they were getting the best price for the goods and services they procured
- **risk of procuring incorrect goods or goods at incorrect prices** – Councils have procured goods and services before entering an agreement with suppliers. This means they exposed themselves to risks of disagreement with suppliers over the terms of purchases (such as quantity and price of goods procured)
- **poor contract management practices** – We find councils either do not maintain contract registers or their registers lack key information such as start and end dates and values of contracts. When contract registers are well maintained, they help councils better plan their financial commitments, track their obligations, and reduce the risk of paying more than they agreed with suppliers.

In *Contract management for new infrastructure* (Report 16: 2021–22), we made recommendations for how entities can improve their frameworks for managing contracts. Councils may benefit from implementing the recommendations made in this report to improve their contract management processes.

[Appendix D](#) provides our full recommendations from previous years, which still require further action by councils.

Stronger risk management is needed in uncertain times

Section snapshot



25 councils have at least one deficiency in their risk management practices (2020–21: 22 councils).



10 councils have one or more **significant deficiencies** in their risk management practices that have not been resolved for over a year.



10 new deficiencies have been identified this year in addition to 27 deficiencies unresolved from previous years.



14 councils that were impacted by 2021–22 natural disasters did not have well-documented or up-to-date business continuity and disaster recovery plans.

Queensland councils faced considerable risks in recent years, including the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, rising cyber crime and fraud, and an uncertain economic outlook.

These risks have reinforced the need for good risk management practices to make sure councils deliver desired outcomes to their communities.

Common areas councils can improve their risk management practices include having:

- a well-documented and up-to-date business continuity and disaster recovery plan that is tested periodically. This will help councils continue to deliver services and infrastructure to the community and minimise the impacts of any disruptions in the event of a disaster
- an up-to-date and complete risk management framework and risk register. This will help councils identify and address the risks facing their business, and in doing so, increase the likelihood of successfully achieving their objectives.

[Appendix D](#) provides our full recommendations from previous years, which still require further action by councils.

Councils need to establish good policies and procedures

Over the last few years, we have noticed an increase in the number of councils that do not have good policies and procedures. Policies and procedures provide guidance, ensure consistency, assign accountability, and establish clarity to council staff and elected members on how the council operates.

At 30 June 2022, 13 councils either did not have policies and procedures in place for some of their day-to-day operations, or these policies and procedures were outdated. These councils may have increased financial and reputational risks, because council staff and elected members may not manage the operations in line with the council's expectations.

Good policies and procedures are critical for those that are new to the organisation – whether it be council staff or an elected member.

Over the years, councils in Queensland have experienced significant change in their elected members as a part of local government elections (which occur every 4 years). Following these elections, we also see changes in the staff who hold key positions across councils.

With the next local government elections being held in March 2024, councils should make sure they establish good policies and procedures to help smoothly transition any newly elected members and new executive staff.



Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

4. Financial performance

In this chapter, we analyse the financial performance of councils, with emphasis on their financial sustainability that is measured under the Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2013, issued by the department.

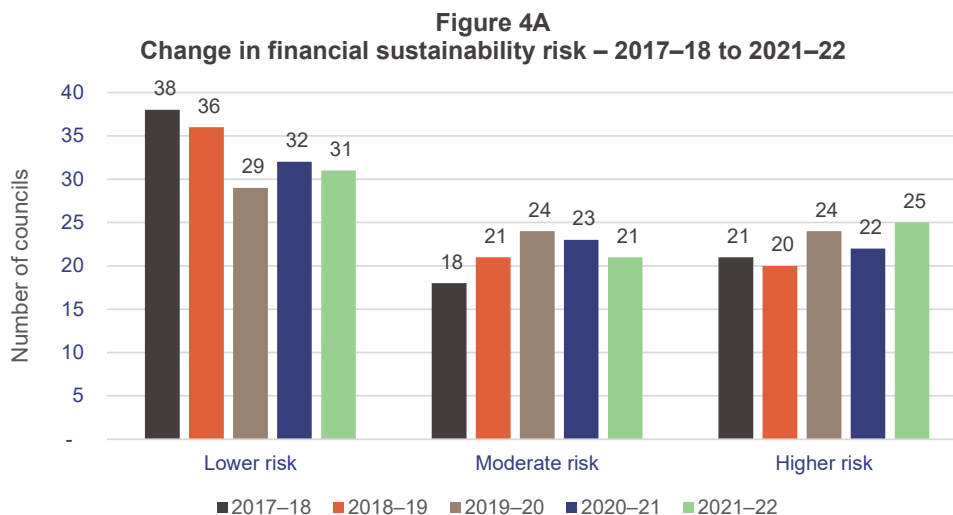
Chapter snapshot

The sector's expenses have increased at twice the rate of its revenue



Increased cost of labour, materials, and services contributed to a decline in the sector's overall financial sustainability.

Figure 4A shows the financial sustainability risk of the sector over the last 5 years. (Refer to Appendix I for definitions of lower, moderate, and higher financial sustainability risk.)



Source: Compiled by the Queensland Audit Office, from councils' financial statements.



3 prior year recommendations to councils that need further action

[Appendix D](#) provides the full detail of all prior year recommendations.

1 new recommendation to the department

Publish a framework to assess the sustainability risk of councils by 1 July 2023.

2 prior year recommendations to the department need further action

The department has implemented one prior year recommendation. [Appendix D](#) provides the full detail of all prior year recommendations.



Financial sustainability measures are changing for the sector, but a framework to measure the associated risk is needed

In *Local government 2020* and *Local government 2021*, we explained the challenges councils face to demonstrate their ability to achieve financial sustainability, particularly those in remote areas. These include:

- lower population and fewer employment opportunities, resulting in lower revenue-generating ability
- higher costs of maintaining a large asset base spread over a large geographic area
- the current financial sustainability guideline, which expects all councils to achieve the same financial benchmarks (refer to [Appendix I](#) for details of the financial measures and benchmarks).

The department recognised these challenges and has developed a new financial sustainability guideline. Under this new guideline, councils are grouped into similar categories (known as tiers) to better reflect the varied drivers and challenges across the sector.

The new guideline introduces additional ratios and benchmarks (that vary across the tiers) that councils will report against in their financial statements from 2023–24 onwards.

The department is currently developing a framework (risk framework) to measure sustainability risk under the new guideline. Given the new guideline will be implemented from 1 July 2023 (for the 2023–24 financial year), it is important that the risk framework is also made available to the sector from this date.

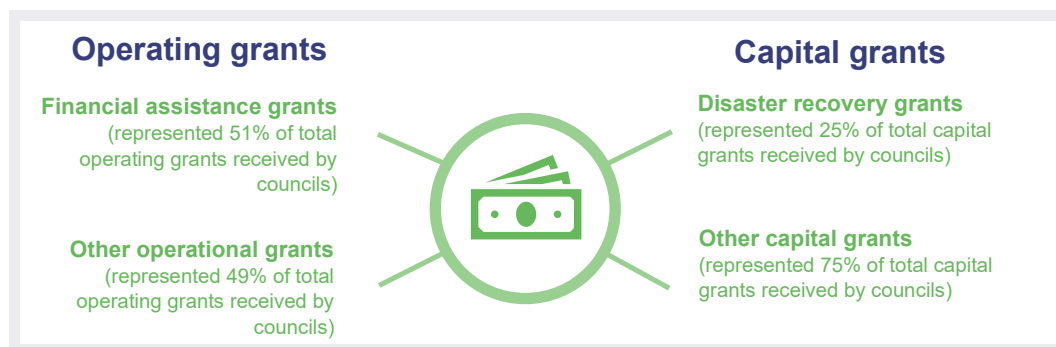
Recommendation for the department

Publish a framework to assess the sustainability risk of councils by 1 July 2023 (REC 8)

The department should publish a framework to assess the financial sustainability risk of councils. This framework should be made available to the sector from 1 July 2023 to align with the effective date of the department's new financial sustainability guideline.

Role of grant funding in local government

Snapshot of grants received by councils (based on a 5-year average)



Queensland councils receive grants from the Australian and Queensland governments for their day-to-day operations (operating grants) and to construct and maintain their assets (capital grants). Without these grants, some councils in Queensland would not be able to provide services to their communities and maintain their assets.

Financial assistance grants

One operating grant received by every council in Australia is the 'Financial Assistance Grant' (FA grant) from the Australian Government. The FA grants play an important role in supplementing the operating revenues of councils – so much so that they represent approximately 51 per cent of operating grants for the sector in Queensland.

The FA grants are made up of 2 components – a general purpose grant and an identified road grant. Both components are untied, meaning they can be used for any purpose. These grants are provided by the Australian Government and are distributed through the department with the assistance of the Queensland Local Government Grants Commission (the Commission) – an independent body appointed by the governor in council (which is the Governor acting on advice of the Executive Council to approve the decisions of Cabinet. All Cabinet ministers are members of the Executive Council, with at least 2 ministers and the Governor needed for a meeting).

The Commission allocates these grants based on the requirements of a Commonwealth Act (the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*) and the national principles established by the Australian Government. The FA grants are distributed using the following principles:

- The identified road grant is allocated based on the expected cost for councils to maintain roads in their local government area.
- The general purpose grant is allocated
 - 30 per cent based on the population of the council. This component is entirely at the discretion of the Australian Government and all councils in Australia receive this component of the general purpose grant
 - 70 per cent based on the council's relative need (amount of grants required by a council to provide effective and efficient services to its community). This portion also considers a council's ability to generate revenue and the expenditure it incurs on services. This component is determined by the Commission and is not distributed to councils that have a population of 80,000 or more.

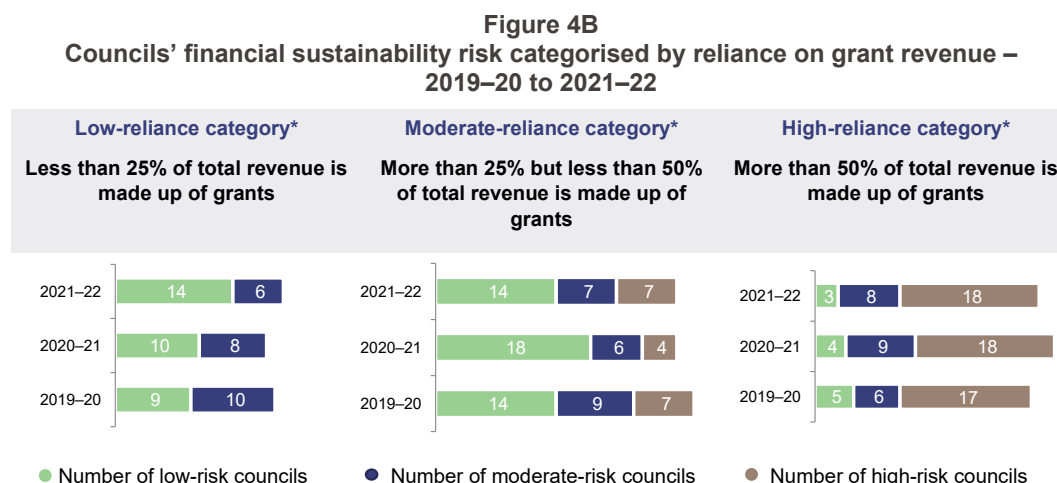
In 2020–21, the Commission changed its grant allocation methodology, recognising that remote councils with small populations have limited means to raise sufficient revenue to meet the cost of providing services to their community.

As a part of this change in methodology, the Commission also decreased the threshold for the relative need grant from 80,000 to 50,000 residents, to align with other jurisdictions in Australia. This means that 5 fewer Queensland councils will receive the 70 per cent component of the FA grant in 2022–23.

These changes will result in 54 councils receiving more funding in 2022–23 than in previous years.

Impact of grants on the sustainability of councils

Given the importance grant funding plays in the sector, we analysed the financial sustainability of councils based on their reliance on grants (including both operating and capital grants), as shown in Figure 4B.



Note: * Grant reliance is calculated using 5-year average of grant funding as a percentage of total revenue.

Source: Compiled by the Queensland Audit Office, from councils' financial statements.

In the 2019–20 and 2020–21 financial years, the local government sector received higher than usual grant funding to help it recover from the financial impacts experienced during the COVID–19 pandemic response.

In 2021–22, grant funding to councils declined, as economies started to recover from the financial impacts of the pandemic response. With the decline in grant funding, the reliance on grants has also reduced. Accordingly, more councils this year (14 councils) have a lower financial sustainability risk in the low reliance category than last year (10 councils).

Generally, as a council's reliance on grants increases, its risk of not being financially sustainable also increases. However, at 30 June 2022, 3 councils that had a high reliance on grants had a low risk of being financially unsustainable.

These 3 councils are in one of the most remote locations in Queensland and have significant limitations on generating their own revenue. Yet, with strong governance structures and internal controls, and sound budget monitoring processes, they have managed their spending and consistently generated operating surpluses.

Early receipt of grant funding has masked the operating deficits some councils would have otherwise incurred

This year, 35 councils generated operating surpluses. This is consistent with last year (2020–21: 35 councils) and the results before the pandemic. However, this year, the sector as a whole received a large portion of its FA grants in advance.

Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

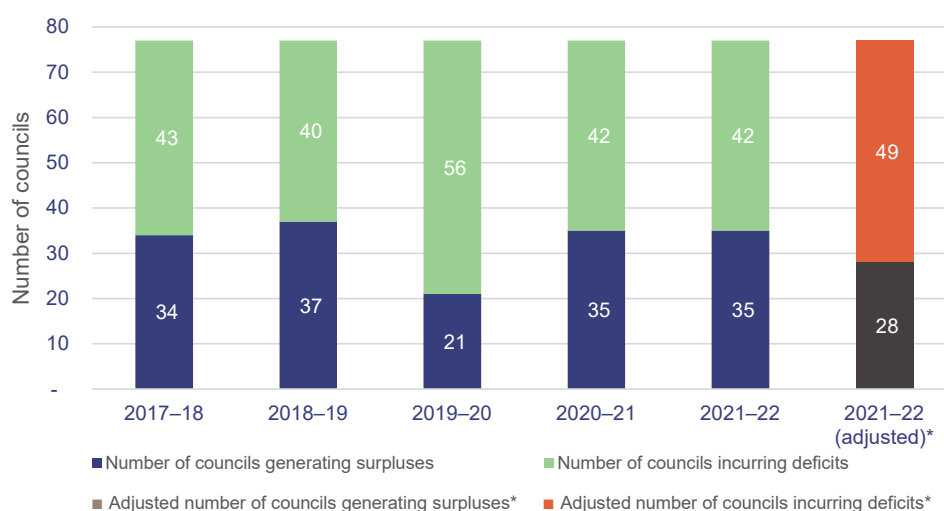
Usually, in June each year, councils receive approximately half of the next year's FA grant in advance. This year, the Australian Government decided to pay approximately 75 per cent of the 2022–23 financial year FA grant in advance. This advance payment was based on the new 'relative need' funding model discussed earlier in the report.

Because these grants are untied and councils do not have any specific obligations to meet, under accounting principles, councils reported these amounts as revenue in 2021–22. This meant that some councils that would have reported an operating deficit this year, instead reported an operating surplus.

Receiving a large portion of the FA grant in advance may seem advantageous for some councils. However, these funds need to be set aside to fund operations throughout 2022–23.

In Figure 4C, we show the number of councils that generated operating surpluses for 2017–18 to 2021–22. We also show what the sector's operating performance would have been for 2021–22 if councils had not received this advance funding.

Figure 4C
Number of councils generating operating surpluses and incurring deficits – 2017–18 to 2021–22



Note: * '2021–22 (adjusted)' indicates operational results if councils received the same proportion of FA grants as in the previous year.

Where councils have not certified their financial statements, the results used are those from the last certified financial statements.

Source: Compiled by the Queensland Audit Office, from councils' financial statements.

Any entity may occasionally incur an operating deficit. But when operating deficits are a regular occurrence, it is a sign the entity has weak budgeting and monitoring processes, and in some instances a habit of overspending or undercharging their community for services provided. This year, 42 councils incurred operating deficits. Of these, 27 have incurred operating deficits each year for the last 5 years.

Australia (as with the rest of the world) is facing significant increases in costs to employ staff and procure goods and services. In 2021–22, councils in Queensland experienced an increase in employee costs and material and services costs of 5 per cent and 10 per cent respectively.

Increased costs and rising interest rates can significantly impact fiscal policy (government's use of taxation and spending to influence the economy). This may mean tighter budgets and possible reductions to funding for councils in future years. But councils still need to provide essential services (roads, water, waste, and sewerage) to their communities, regardless of the level of grant funding they receive.

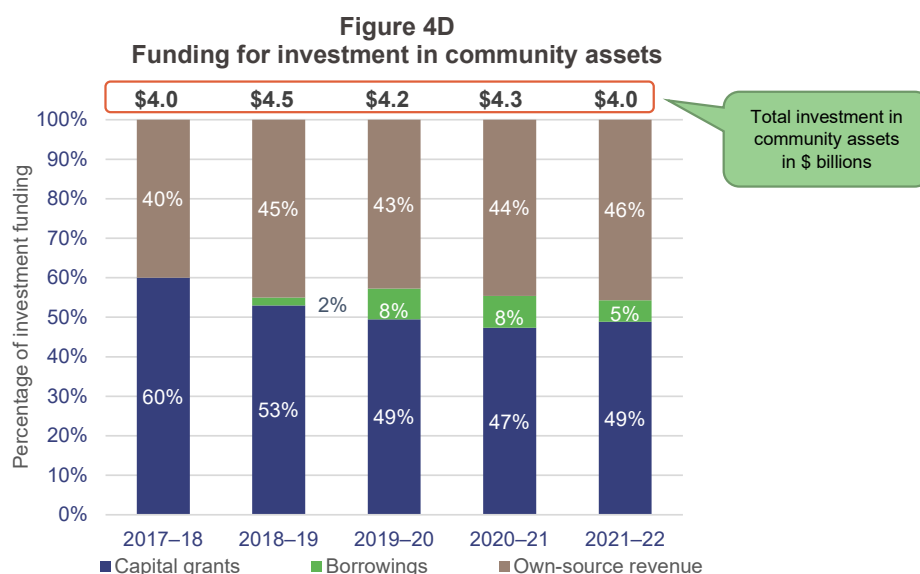
This is an ideal time for councils to revisit their costs and assess whether, at a minimum, the costs of providing these services are recovered through the fees they charge to their community. This includes reconsidering the need for some non-essential services they provide. Some of these non-essential services cost councils more than the fees they can charge, and in some instances, they do not generate any revenue from these non-essential services.

In *Managing the sustainability of local government services* (Report 2: 2019–20), we undertook an in-depth review of processes at 5 councils for planning and delivery of services to support long-term sustainability. As a part of this report, we also published a service prioritisation tool to help councils prioritise how money is distributed for spending on their non-essential services. The tool is available on our website at: www.qao.qld.gov.au/reports-resources/better-practice.

Based on the findings at the 5 councils, we made recommendations to all councils. We strongly encourage all councils to review the progress they have made implementing these recommendations.

Investment in assets is not enough to meet community needs

The total investment in community assets in 2021–22 was \$4.0 billion (2020–21: \$4.3 billion). As in prior years, funding for this investment came from capital grants, borrowings, and own-source revenue (revenue earned by councils from their day-to-day business), as shown in Figure 4D.



Source: Compiled by the Queensland Audit Office, from councils' financial statements.

Councils' reliance on borrowings to build and maintain community assets has remained low. The total debt of the sector at 30 June 2022 was \$6.4 billion (2021: \$6.2 billion). This is only 4.3 per cent of the value of community assets (2021: 5 per cent).

While it is encouraging to see councils continuing to invest in their assets, this level of investment is not enough to meet the needs of their communities. This is because it is not keeping up with what it would cost to replace the assets.

In *Local government 2021*, we highlighted the importance of the asset consumption ratio. This ratio measures the current value of a council's assets relative to what it would cost to build new assets with the same benefit to the community. In our 2021 report, we recommended councils review their asset consumption ratio and act to make sure their assets continue to meet the needs of their community.

Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

The department has introduced this ratio in its new sustainability guideline (effective from 1 July 2023) and set a benchmark of greater than 60 per cent for all councils.

We calculated the asset consumption ratio for all councils as at 30 June 2022 and identified that:

- 7 councils (2021: 6 councils) risk the possibility of their assets not being maintained to a standard to meet community expectations (these councils do not meet the benchmark for the ratio of 60 per cent)
- 9 councils (2021: 10 councils) risk their assets not being maintained to a standard that meets community expectations in the next few years (these councils have an asset consumption ratio that is between 61 per cent and 65 per cent).

When compared to the prior year, we found that only 7 councils improved their asset consumption ratio this year, while 44 councils show a declining ratio.

We continue to recommend councils review their asset consumption ratio and take the necessary steps to improve it. This is so their assets are maintained at a level that meets the future needs of their community.

[Appendix D](#) provides our full prior year recommendation, which still requires further action by councils to address these issues.

Appendices

A.	Full responses from entities	35
B.	Local governments by segment	41
C.	Legislative context	42
D.	Status of recommendations from prior reports	44
E.	Audit opinions for entities preparing financial reports	53
F.	Entities exempt from audit by the Auditor-General	59
G.	Local government entities for which we will not issue opinions	60
H.	Audit opinions issued for prior financial years	62
I.	Financial sustainability measures	63
J.	Our assessment of councils' financial governance	72



A. Full responses from entities

As mandated in s.64 of the *Auditor-General Act 2009*, the Queensland Audit Office gave a copy of this report with a request for comments to the Director-General, Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. We also provided a copy to all 77 councils and gave them the option of providing a response.

This appendix contains the detailed responses we received.

The heads of these entities are responsible for the accuracy, fairness, and balance of their comments.



Comments received from Director-General, Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning

Our ref: MC23/2807

16 JUN 2023

Mr Brendan Worrall
Auditor-General
Queensland Audit Office
QAO.Mail@qao.qld.gov.au



Department of
State Development, Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning

Dear Mr Worrall

Thank you for your email of 24 May 2023 regarding the Draft Report to Parliament titled *Local Government 2022* (the draft report). I note you also emailed the Honourable Steven Miles MP, Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure. Thank you for providing the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (the department) with an opportunity to review the draft report.

I was pleased to note your comments that the financial statement of councils and council related entities for the 2021-22 financial year are reliable and complied with relevant laws and standards. It is also encouraging that 84 per cent of councils had their financials signed by their legislative deadline which was an increase from the previous year.

Councils' improvement in the reduction of new significant deficiencies in their financial statements is also reassuring despite the conditions councils face with staff turnover and natural disasters. Despite this, I note that the timeliness of producing financial statements remains a challenge for the sector and that some councils continue to need to resolve their outstanding audit deficiencies from prior years with the Queensland Audit Office (QAO).

I note that you made one recommendation to councils this year:

Recommendation 1: *Assess the maturity of their procurement and contract management processes using the QAO's 'Procure-to-pay' maturity model and implement identified opportunities to strengthen their practices.*

The department supports this recommendation and I intend to write to each council to emphasise the importance of implementing this recommendation. In addition, I will also remind councils of the importance of taking action to address outstanding deficiencies, as identified by the QAO.

With regards to your seven recommendations for the department, I provide the following comments:

Recommendation 2: *Provide necessary guidance and tools to councils to help improve their month-end financial reports.*

The department supports this recommendation. However, I note that there are other stakeholders such as the Local Government Finance Professionals (LGFP) that may be better placed, or already provide, guidance to the sector on these issues. The department will engage with the LGFP and other stakeholders to investigate opportunities to further support this recommendation.

1 William Street
Brisbane Queensland 4000
PO Box 15009
City East Queensland 4002
Telephone 13 QGOV (13 74 68)
Website www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au
ABN 29 230 178 530

Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

Recommendation 3: Provide a clear definition of 'extraordinary circumstances' for councils seeking ministerial extensions to their legislative time frame for financial reporting.

The department supports this recommendation and will investigate criteria that relates to what 'extraordinary circumstances' are in the context of extensions to councils' legislated deadlines for certifying financial statements, however the Minister will always retain discretion to ascertain what 'extraordinary circumstances' are and approve these requests.

Additionally, the department will write to the two councils that did not request an extension of time and remind them of this requirement under the *Local Government Act 2009*.

Recommendation 4: Measure the effectiveness of training programs provided to councils.

The department supports this recommendation in principle, noting that it is difficult to assess the effectiveness of individual training programs. As the local government sustainability framework is implemented, the effectiveness of the department's responses (including training) will be monitored and adjusted whilst continuing to evaluate individual training programs.

Recommendation 5: Provide training on financial reporting processes and support councils to meet their reporting deadlines in times of need.

The department supports this recommendation in principle noting that the LGFP provide regular webinars, with this included as a sector specific topic. This training, as well as assistance to engage financial reporting specialists, will be considered as part of a targeted responses implemented under the sustainability framework.

Recommendation 6: Make sure all councils have an effective internal audit function.

The department supports this recommendation and will write to each of the 14 councils identified in the report as not having an internal audit function to remind them of the requirements under the *Local Government Act 2009*.

Recommendation 7: Develop a strategy to uplift capability of the sector on cyber-related.

The department supports this recommendation and will work closely with the Queensland Government's Customer and Chief Digital Officer as the subject matter expert to deliver greater council awareness.

Recommendation 8: Publish a framework to assess the sustainability risk of councils by 1 July 2023.

The department supports this recommendation and is finalising the development of a proposed risk framework, which is proposed to be published in July 2023.

If you require any further information, please contact me or

who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely



Mike Kaiser
Director-General

Comments received from Mayor, Moreton Bay Regional Council



Office of the Mayor
Cr Peter Flannery

T (07) 3480 6250
E mayor@moretonbay.qld.gov.au



13 June 2023

Mr Brendan Worrall
Auditor-General
Queensland Audit Office
PO Box 15396
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Via e-mail: gao@gao.qld.gov.au

Dear Auditor-General

DRAFT REPORT TO QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT - LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2022

Thank you for providing your draft report and for the opportunity to respond.

A major driver for the Queensland Government to establish regional councils through amalgamation was in response to a growing concern about the financial sustainability of local government.

Over a decade after amalgamation the financial sustainability of the local government sector is still a concern.

While I am pleased that Moreton Bay Regional Council (Council) continues to be in a sound financial position, it is becoming increasingly difficult to respond to the needs of our communities and keep rates affordable. As noted in the draft report, increases in the cost of labour, materials and services have challenged all councils, including Moreton Bay.

To help address some of the challenges, I would like to see consideration be given to the following:

- Increasing grant funding opportunities which take into account:
 - The need to recognise the impacts of high growth in the Moreton Bay region and the infrastructure needs that this generates;
 - A recent report commissioned by Council which found that on a per capita basis Moreton Bay is consistently amongst the lowest funded LGAs compared to similar regions within SEQ;
 - The need to provide cashflow certainty for grants as opposed to a year-on-year process, specifically through allocative programs like Works for Queensland (State) or the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (Federal) Programs;

Customer Service Contacts
PO Box 159 Caboolture QLD 4510 | T (07) 3205 0555
E mbrc@moretonbay.qld.gov.au | W www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au



Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

- 2 -

- The decrease in its allocation of Financial Assistance Grants which Council had at a crucial time during the COVID response (one of 20 councils that received a reduced allocation as a result of the 2021 methodology review);
- Three decades of decline in the value of Financial Assistance Grants as a proportion of total Commonwealth taxation revenue (from 1% to 0.5%); and
- The delivery times for infrastructure grants which are becoming increasingly difficult to meet in the current market – often have cost increases that must be met by Council.
- The impact of the decreasing waste levy – was supposed to be cost neutral to residents but with rising construction, contract and labour costs, this is highly unlikely.

While I acknowledge the work being done to amend the financial sustainability framework, changing the approach to measuring financial sustainability does not effectively address the root cause of the risks around financial sustainability. Until councils are provided with a sustainable funding stream that keeps pace with total taxation revenue (80% collected by the Federal Government and 17% collected by the State Government), there will continue to be issues with the financial sustainability of the sector.

Yours sincerely



PETER FLANNERY
Mayor

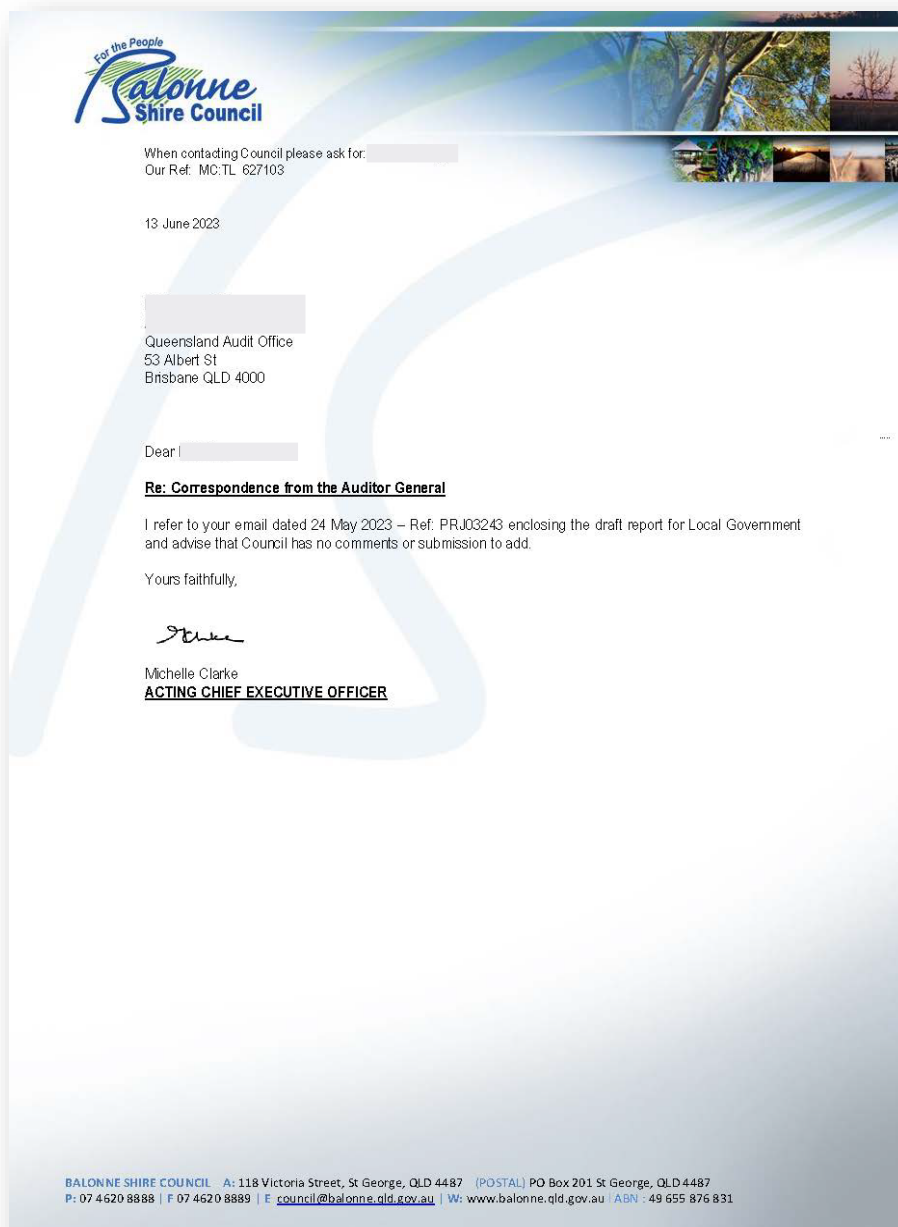
Our ref: 67158243

cc: Scott Waters, Chief Executive Officer

Customer Service Contacts
PO Box 159 Caboolture QLD 4510 | T (07) 3205 0555
E mbrc@moretonbay.qld.gov.au | W www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au



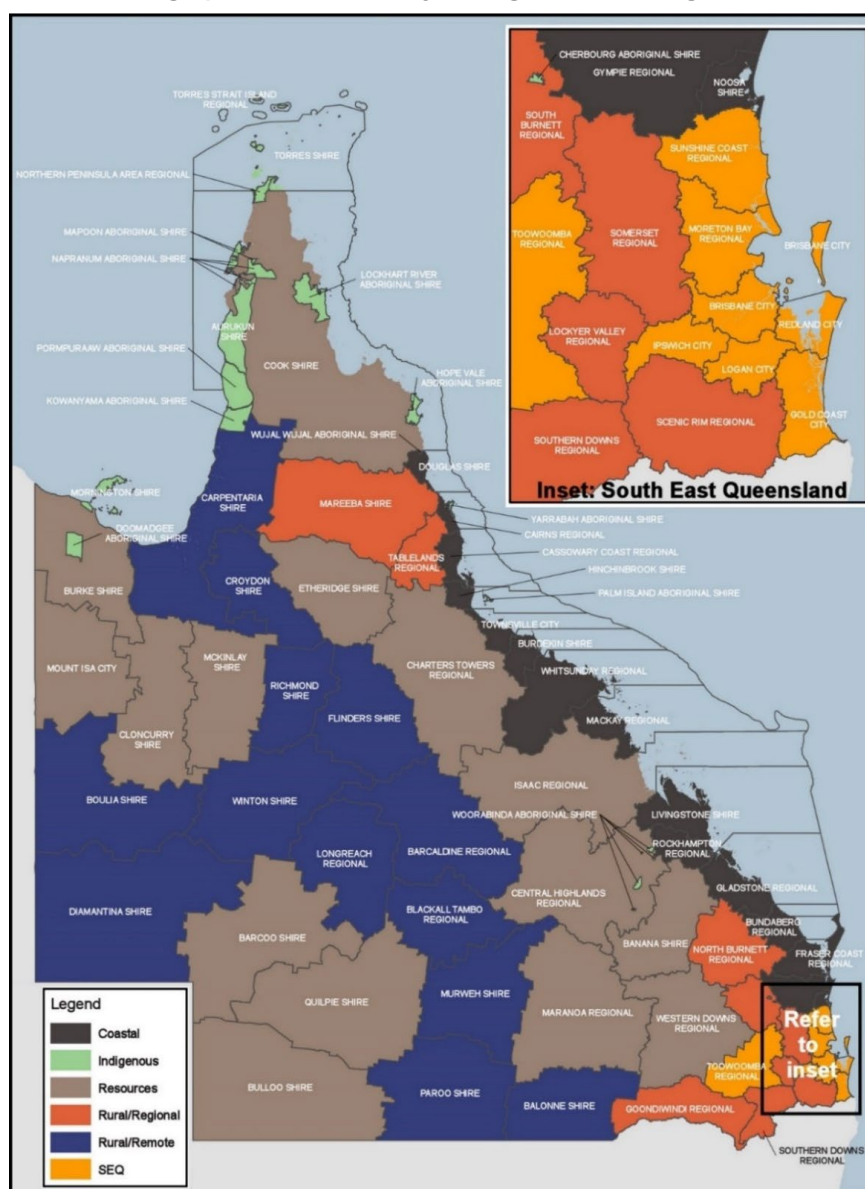
Comments received from Acting Chief Executive Officer, Balonne Shire Council



Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

B. Local governments by segment

Figure B1
Geographical location – by local government segments



Note: SEQ – South East Queensland.

Source: Spatial Services, Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning.

C. Legislative context

Frameworks

Under the *Constitution of Queensland 2001*, there must be a system of local government in Queensland that is made up of councils. Local governments (councils) are elected bodies that have the power to make local laws suitable to the needs and resources of the area they represent.

The councils' legislative framework is the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act) and the Local Government Regulation 2012 (the regulation).

The purpose of the Act is to specify the nature and extent of local governments' responsibilities and powers. It requires the system of local government to be accountable, effective, efficient, and sustainable.

The regulation requires each council to prepare, by 31 October:

- general purpose financial statements
- a current year financial sustainability statement
- a long-term financial sustainability statement.

Only the general purpose financial statements and the current year financial sustainability statement are subject to audit.

Brisbane City Council has the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* and City of Brisbane Regulation 2012. This regulation imposes the same financial reporting time frames and financial reporting requirements on Brisbane City Council as other councils have.

Each council must release its annual report within one month of the audit opinion date. The minister for local government may grant an extension to the deadline where extraordinary circumstances exist.

The current year financial sustainability statement includes the following 3 measures of financial sustainability:

- the *operating surplus ratio*, which indicates the extent to which operating revenues cover operating expenses
- the *net financial liabilities ratio*, which indicates the extent to which a council's operating revenues can service its net liabilities while maintaining its assets and service levels
- the *asset sustainability ratio*, which approximates the extent to which a council is replacing its assets as they reach the end of their useful lives.

Accountability requirements

The Act requires councils to establish financial management systems to identify and manage financial risks, including risks to reliable and timely reporting. The performance of financial management systems requires regular review.

Queensland local government financial statements

These financial statements are used by a broad range of parties including parliamentarians, taxpayers, employees, and users of government services. For the statements to be useful, the information reported must be relevant and accurate.

The Auditor-General's audit opinion on these financial statements assures users they are accurate and in accordance with relevant legislative requirements.

Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

We express an *unmodified opinion* when the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the relevant legislative requirements and Australian accounting standards. We *modify* our audit opinion when financial statements do not comply with the relevant legislative requirements and Australian accounting standards and are not accurate and reliable.

There are 3 types of modified opinions:

- qualified opinion – the financial statements as a whole comply with relevant accounting standards and legislative requirements, with the exceptions noted in the opinion
- adverse opinion – the financial statements as a whole do not comply with relevant accounting standards and legislative requirements
- disclaimer of opinion – the auditor is unable to express an opinion as to whether the financial statements comply with relevant accounting standards and legislative requirements.

Sometimes we include an *emphasis of matter* in our audit reports to highlight an issue that will help users better understand the financial statements. It does not change the audit opinion.

D. Status of recommendations from prior reports

The following tables provide the current status of the recommendations raised in our prior reports.

Figure D1
Status of recommendations for councils from *Local government 2021* (Report 15: 2021–22)

Reassess the maturity levels of their financial statement preparation processes in line with recent experience to identify improvement opportunities that will help facilitate early certification of financial statements		Further action needs to be taken*
REC 1	All councils should reassess their initial self-assessment against the financial statement maturity model and compare this to their recent financial statement preparation experiences. Councils should also reflect on their processes from the 2018–19 financial year that enabled them to have their financial statements certified earlier. Together, these reflections will identify improvement opportunities to assist elected members and their executives to improve the timeliness of certification of financial statements.	Most councils self-assessed their financial statement maturity level in the 2020–21 financial year, and this was reflective of their ability to generate timely financial statements. However, we found 22 councils self-assessed their maturity as high, but had their financial statements certified later. This suggested their self-assessment did not reflect actual practices. In the 2021–22 financial year, we focused on these 22 councils and found: • 11 did not complete the recommended reassessment of their maturity • 7 revised their maturity downwards after reassessing their maturity • 4 reassessed no change to their maturity level. We continue to encourage all councils to reassess the maturity of their financial statement processes. We are reviewing the maturity of councils' financial statement processes as part of our 2022–23 financial year audits to make sure they reflect their actual practices. We will report on the outcome in our <i>Local government 2023</i> report.
Assess their audit committees against the actions in our 2020–21 audit committee report		Further action needs to be taken*
REC 2	Those councils who have an audit committee function, and those that are looking to establish one, should consider implementing the actions we have identified in our report <i>Effectiveness of audit committees in state government entities</i> (Report 2: 2020–21). This would improve the effectiveness of their audit committees, with flow-on benefits to council governance and performance.	We are aware of some councils that have assessed their audit committee against the actions we identified. Those councils that have not had an opportunity to do so should complete their assessment in the 2023–24 financial year.



Attachment 13.2.3.1 Local government 2022 (Report 15 – 2022–23)

Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

Improve their overall control environment		Further action needs to be taken*
REC 3	All councils should use the annual internal control assessment tool available on our website to perform an initial self-assessment of the strengths and improvement opportunities of their internal controls. Where their results do not meet their performance expectations, they should develop and implement a plan to strengthen their internal controls over a specific period.	We are aware of some councils that have assessed their control environment against the internal control assessment tool. Those councils that have not had an opportunity to do so should complete their assessment in the 2023–24 financial year.
Asset management plans to include councils' planned spending on capital projects		Further action needs to be taken*
REC 4	All councils should review their asset management plans to confirm that these plans include the proposed timing and cost of their capital projects, including the cost of maintaining these assets over their whole lives. This would help councils identify their future funding needs and provide better information to the department on the timing of capital funding sought by councils.	Some councils who have good asset data have incorporated their planned spending on capital projects into their asset management plans. We recommend councils who have not yet had an opportunity to review their asset management plan, do so in the 2023–24 financial year.
Review the asset consumption ratio in preparation for the new sustainability framework. Assess whether the actual usage of assets is in line with the asset management plan		Further action needs to be taken*
REC 5	All councils should review their asset consumption ratio in preparation for the new sustainability framework to assess whether they are in line with the proposed benchmark. This ratio would inform councils whether their assets have been used in line with their asset management plans. Any variance between the expected and actual usage may either result in additional maintenance to improve the service levels of their assets or to reassess their expectation about asset usage.	Seven councils have improved their asset consumption ratio. However, there are 44 councils that have experienced a decline in this ratio. Of these 44 councils, 9 either do not meet the proposed benchmark (60 per cent) or are very close to not meeting the proposed benchmark in the next few years if they do not maintain their assets appropriately. We continue to recommend that councils monitor their asset consumption ratio and take steps to improve it. This will make sure their assets are maintained at an appropriate level to meet the future needs of their communities.



Enhance their liquidity management by reporting their unrestricted cash expense ratio and their unrestricted cash balance in monthly financial reports		Further action needs to be taken*
REC 6	All councils should enhance their liquidity management by reporting their unrestricted cash expense ratio and their unrestricted cash balance in the monthly financial reports they table in council meetings.	We are aware of some of councils that are reporting their unrestricted cash expense ratio and their unrestricted cash balance in the monthly financial reports they table in council meetings. Those councils that do not report their unrestricted cash expense ratio and their unrestricted cash balance in their monthly financial reports tabled in council meetings should start to do so.

Note: *Refer to recommendation status definitions later in this appendix.

Source: Queensland Audit Office.

Figure D2
Status of recommendations for councils from *Local government 2020* (Report 17: 2020–21)

Improve financial reporting by strengthening month-end and year-end financial reporting processes		Further action needs to be taken*
REC 1	Councils should strengthen their month-end and year-end processes to assist with timely and accurate monthly internal financial reporting and their annual financial statements. We recommend all councils use their recent financial statement preparation experiences to perform an initial self-assessment against the maturity model available on our website.	We continue to find that month-end processes at councils are ineffective. This year, we identified 84 new deficiencies where improvements were required to ensure timely and reliable month-end and year-end reporting. In addition, 54 councils had at least one deficiency in their month-end and year-end reporting processes. We continue to recommend that councils improve their month-end processes.
Improve valuation and asset management practices		Further action needs to be taken*
REC 2	- Councils need to engage with asset valuers early to complete the valuation of assets well before year end. - Councils need to use accurate information in their long-term asset management strategies and budget decisions. - Councils need to regularly match the asset data in their financial records to the asset data in their engineering/geographic information systems to ensure it is complete and reliable.	We continue to identify issues with the asset management policies and practices of councils. Councils also still need to improve processes for asset valuations. We observed several councils that did not meet their legislative deadlines because of errors and delays in asset valuations. In line with these findings, we continue to recommend that councils strengthen their asset management policies and practices.



Strengthen security of information systems		Further action needs to be taken*
REC 3	We recommend all councils strengthen the security of their information systems. Councils rely heavily on technology, and increasingly, they need to be prepared for cyber attacks. Any unauthorised access could result in fraud or error, and significant reputational damage. Councils' workplace culture, through their people and processes, must emphasise strong security practices to provide a foundation for the security of information systems. All entities across the local government sector should: • provide security training for employees so they understand the importance of maintaining strong information systems, and their roles in keeping them secure • assign employees only the minimum access required to perform their job, and ensure important stages of each process are not performed by the same person • regularly review user access to ensure it remains appropriate • monitor activities performed by employees with privileged access (allowing them to access sensitive data and create and configure within the system) to ensure they are appropriately approved • implement strong password practices and multifactor authentication (for example, a username and password, plus a code sent to a mobile), particularly for systems that record sensitive information • encrypt sensitive information to protect it • patch vulnerabilities in systems in a timely manner, as upgrades and solutions are made available by software providers to address known security weaknesses that could be exploited by external parties. Councils should also self-assess against all of the recommendations in our report – <i>Managing cyber security risks</i> (Report 3: 2019–20) – to ensure their systems are appropriately secured.	We continue to identify weaknesses in information systems controls, particularly regarding user access permissions. This year, we identified 63 new internal control issues in information systems. There are 48 councils who still have at least one unresolved deficiency in their information systems. The recommendation to strengthen the security of information systems remains.



Improve risk management processes		Further action needs to be taken*
REC 4	Councils should have a complete and up to date risk management framework including: - comprehensive risk registers that identify risks (including the risk of fraud) and appropriate risk mitigation strategies - current and relevant business continuity and disaster recovery plans. These plans should be tested periodically.	This year, 25 councils did not have adequate risk management processes in place. This is up from 22 councils in 2020–21 and is almost a third of the sector. This recommendation remains.
Enhance procurement and contract management practices		Further action needs to be taken*
REC 5	- Councils need to ensure they obtain value for money for the goods and services they procure and that they have the appropriate approvals to procure the goods and services. - To effectively manage their contractual obligations, councils should ensure their contract registers are complete and contain up to date information.	We have identified issues relating to procurement and contract management practices at 34 councils this year. This is more than the 29 councils with these issues in 2020–21. Councils have not actioned this recommendation and still need to do so. To help councils improve their procurement and contract management practices, in this report we have made a further recommendation. This is for councils to assess the maturity of their procurement and contract management processes using our procure-to-pay maturity model. This will assist councils in identifying opportunities to strengthen their procurement and contract management practices.

Note: *Refer to recommendation status definitions later in this appendix.

Source: Queensland Audit Office.



Figure D3
Status of recommendations for councils from
Local government entities: 2018–19 results of financial audits (Report 13: 2019–20)

Audit committees	Further action needs to be taken*
- All councils should have an audit committee with an independent chair. - All audit committee members must understand their roles and responsibilities and the risks the committee needs to monitor. - Audit committees must hold management accountable for ensuring timely remedial actions are taken on audit issues. All extensions of agreed time frames for remedial action require consideration by the audit committee, including management's risk mitigation strategies, until remedial action is completed.	As at 30 June 2022, there were still 15 councils (30 June 2021: 15 councils) that did not have an audit committee. Councils without an effective audit committee have 55 significant deficiencies that have been unresolved for more than 12 months (68 per cent of the sector). We continue to recommend these councils establish an independent audit committee with appropriately qualified committee members.
Internal audit	Further action needs to be taken*
All councils must establish and maintain an effective and efficient internal audit function, as required by the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i>.	As at 30 June 2022, there were 7 councils (30 June 2021: 6 councils) that still did not have an internal audit function. In addition, 7 councils (30 June 2021: 6 councils) that had an internal audit function established at 30 June 2022 did not have any audit activity during the 2021–22 financial year. We continue to recommend these councils establish an effective internal audit function as required by the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i>. This year we have also recommended the department educate councils about the legislated requirement and the benefit of an effective internal audit function, and regularly monitor their compliance.
Secure employee and supplier information	Further action needs to be taken*
- Councils must verify changes to employee and supplier bank account details through sources independent of the change request. - Councils need to ensure information systems are secure to prevent unauthorised access that may result in fraud or error. Security measures could include encryption of information, restriction of user access, regular monitoring by management, and appropriate segregation of duties.	We continue to find deficiencies at councils with regards to securing employee and supplier information. Similarly, we continue to find weaknesses with information systems security. In line with these findings, we continue to recommend councils secure their employee and supplier information.



Conduct mandatory cyber security awareness training	Further action needs to be taken*
Councils need to develop and implement mandatory cyber security awareness training for all staff, to be completed during induction and at regular periods during employment. This should include: • delivering targeted training to higher-risk user groups, such as senior management, staff who have access to sensitive data, software developers, system administrators, and third-party providers • recording and monitoring whether all staff have completed their required cyber security awareness training • conducting campaigns to test the adequacy of staff vigilance to risks, such as phishing (fraudulent emails) and tailgating (following a person into an office), so entities can assess and improve their awareness programs.	As at 30 June 2021, 20 councils had not provided cyber security awareness training to their employees. We understand there has been minimal progress by councils in 2022 to upskill their staff and equip them with the necessary training and continuous education about cyber security. We continue to recommend that all councils provide cyber security awareness training to their new and current employees.

Note: *Refer to recommendation status definitions later in this appendix.

Source: Queensland Audit Office.



Figure D4
Status of recommendations for the department from *Local government 2020* (Report 17: 2020–21)

Require all councils to establish audit committees		Not implemented – Recommendation accepted*
REC 6	We continue to recommend that the department requires all councils to establish an audit committee and ensures that each chairperson of the committee is independent of council and management. In light of the difficulties some councils have faced with internal control weaknesses, fraud, ransomware, and achieving financial sustainability, this is more important now than ever.	The proposal continues to be considered by the department but has not yet been progressed.
Make changes to sustainability ratios		Implemented*
REC 7	We recommend the department develops new financial sustainability ratios for Queensland councils. In developing these ratios and associated targets, we recommend the department considers the different sizes, services, and circumstances of the various councils. We also recommend that new financial sustainability ratios be established in time for the year ending 30 June 2022.	The department has developed a new framework that is expected to be implemented for the 2023–24 financial year.
Provide greater certainty over long-term funding		Partially implemented*
REC 8	We recommend the department reviews its current funding model to identify opportunities to provide funding certainty to councils beyond one financial year. A 3-year to 5-year funding model would assist councils, especially those heavily reliant on grants, to develop and implement more sustainable medium- to long-term plans.	The department has partially implemented this, and some grants in the 2020–21 year were multi-year grants. The department is looking at extending long-term funding options for other grant programs in the coming years.
Provide training to councillors and senior leadership teams around financial governance		Partially implemented*
REC 9	We recommend the department provides periodic training to councillors and senior leadership teams for councils that are highly reliant on grants. The training should focus on helping these councils: • establish strong leadership and governance • enhance internal controls and oversight • improve financial sustainability in the long term.	The department has made online training available to councillors and council employees. This training includes modules about accountability, decision-making, and other responsibilities. The department also delivered a series of financial management workshops for elected local government members covering financial governance and management concepts.

Note: *Refer to recommendation status definitions later in this appendix.

Source: *Queensland Audit Office*.



Recommendation status definitions

If a recommendation is specific to an entity, we have reported on the action that entity has taken and whether the issue is *fully implemented*, *partially implemented*, *not implemented*, or *no longer applicable*.

Status	Definition	
Fully implemented	Recommendation has been implemented, or alternative action has been taken that addresses the underlying issues and no further action is required. Any further actions are business as usual.	
Partially implemented	Significant progress has been made in implementing the recommendation or taking alternative action, but further work is required before it can be considered business as usual. This also includes where the action taken was less extensive than recommended, as it only addressed some of the underlying issues that led to the recommendation.	
Not implemented	Recommendation accepted	No or minimal actions have been taken to implement the recommendation, or the action taken does not address the underlying issues that led to the recommendation.
	Recommendation not accepted	The entity did not accept the recommendation.
No longer applicable	Circumstances have fundamentally changed, making the recommendation no longer applicable. For example, a change in government policy or program has meant the recommendation is no longer relevant.	

If a general recommendation was made for all entities to consider, we have assessed action on issues reported to specific entities in the prior year, as well as any further issues identified in the current year. On this basis, we have determined whether *appropriate action has been taken* across the sector, or if *further action needs to be taken* to address the risk identified.

Status	Definition
Appropriate action has been taken	Recommendations made to individual entities have been implemented, or alternative action has been taken that addresses the underlying issues, and no further action is required. No new issues have been identified across the sector that indicate an ongoing underlying risk to the sector that requires reporting to parliament.
Further action needs to be taken	Recommendations made to individual entities have not been fully implemented, and/or new recommendations have been made to individual entities, indicating further action is required by entities in the sector to address the underlying risk.

Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

E. Audit opinions for entities preparing financial reports

The following figures detail the types of audit opinions we issued, in accordance with Australian auditing standards, for the 2021–22 financial year.

Figure E1
Our audit opinions for local government sector financial reports for 2021–22

Entity	Date opinion issued	Financial statement opinion	Current year sustainability statement opinion ¹	Ministerial extension issued to date ²
Opinion key:				
U = unmodified; Q = qualified; E = emphasis of matter. (Refer to Appendix C for definitions of these terms.)				
Councils and their controlled entities				
Aurukun Shire Council	12.10.2022	U	E*	-
Balonne Shire Council	28.10.2022	U	E*	-
Banana Shire Council	31.10.2022	U	E*	-
Barcaldine Regional Council	31.10.2022	U	E*	-
Barcoo Shire Council	19.10.2022	U	E*	-
Blackall-Tambo Regional Council	31.10.2022	U	E*	-
Boulia Shire Council	12.12.2022	U	E*	31.12.2022
Brisbane City Council	15.08.2022	U	E*	-
• Allara SPV Trust	29.07.2022	E*	-	-
• Brisbane City Council Appeal for the Lord Mayor's Charitable Trust	20.09.2022	E*	-	-
• Brisbane Economic Development Agency Pty Ltd	27.09.2022	U	-	-
• Brisbane Powerhouse Foundation	05.10.2022	U	-	-
• Brisbane Powerhouse Pty Ltd	05.10.2022	U	-	-
• Brisbane Sustainability Agency Pty Ltd	28.10.2022	U	-	-
• City of Brisbane Investment Corporation Pty Ltd	01.08.2022	U	-	-
• City Parklands Services Pty Ltd	27.09.2022	U	-	-
• Museum of Brisbane Pty Ltd	25.10.2022	U	-	-
• Museum of Brisbane Trust	25.10.2022	E*	-	-
• Oxley Creek Transformation Pty Ltd	28.10.2022	E ³	-	-
• TradeCoast Land Pty Ltd	17.11.2022	E ³	-	-
Bulloo Shire Council	31.10.2022	U	E*	-
Bundaberg Regional Council	07.10.2022	U	E*	-
Burdekin Shire Council	08.09.2022	U	E*	-
Burke Shire Council	31.10.2022	U	E*	-

Entity	Date opinion issued	Financial statement opinion	Current year sustainability statement opinion ¹	Ministerial extension issued to date ²
Opinion key:				
U = unmodified; Q = qualified; E = emphasis of matter. (Refer to Appendix C for definitions of these terms.)				
Councils and their controlled entities				
Cairns Regional Council	16.09.2022	U	E*	-
• Cairns Art Gallery Limited	14.11.2022	U	-	-
Carpentaria Shire Council	31.10.2022	U	E*	-
Cassowary Coast Regional Council	14.10.2022	U	E*	-
Central Highlands Regional Council	31.10.2022	U	E*	-
• Central Highlands (Qld) Housing Company Limited	Not Complete	-	-	-
• Central Highlands Development Corporation Ltd	31.10.2022	U	-	-
Charters Towers Regional Council	31.10.2022	U	E*	-
Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council	21.10.2022	U	E*	-
Cloncurry Shire Council	25.01.2023	U	E*	-
Cook Shire Council	13.10.2022	U	E*	-
Council of the City of Gold Coast	29.09.2022	U	E*	-
• HOTA Gold Coast Pty Ltd	06.10.2022	U	-	-
• Major Events Gold Coast Pty Ltd	20.09.2022	U	-	-
Croydon Shire Council	17.11.2022	U	E*	-
Diamantina Shire Council	31.10.2022	U	E*	-
Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council	31.10.2022	U	E*	-
Douglas Shire Council	12.10.2022	U	E*	-
Etheridge Shire Council	14.12.2022	U	E*	30.11.2022
Flinders Shire Council	27.10.2022	U	E*	-
Fraser Coast Regional Council	29.09.2022	U	E*	-
• Fraser Coast Tourism & Events Ltd	15.12.2022	E*	-	-
Gladstone Regional Council	28.10.2022	U	E*	-
• Gladstone Airport Corporation	11.10.2022	U	-	-
Goondiwindi Regional Council	21.09.2022	U	E*	-
Gympie Regional Council	06.03.2023	U	E*	28.02.2023
• Rattler Railway Company Ltd	16.12.2022	E ⁴	-	-
Hinchinbrook Shire Council	31.10.2022	U	E*	-
Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council	29.07.2022	U	E*	-
Ipswich City Council	28.10.2022	U	E*	-
• Cherish the Environment Foundation Ltd	Not Complete	-	-	-
• Ipswich Arts Foundation Trust	28.11.2022	U	-	-
• Ipswich City Enterprises Investments Pty Ltd	08.11.2022	E ⁵	-	-
• Ipswich City Enterprises Pty Ltd	08.11.2022	E ⁵	-	-
Isaac Regional Council	28.10.2022	U	E*	-
• Isaac Affordable Housing Fund Pty Ltd	15.12.2022	E*	-	-

Attachment 13.2.3.1 Local government 2022 (Report 15 – 2022–23)

Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

Entity	Date opinion issued	Financial statement opinion	Current year sustainability statement opinion ¹	Ministerial extension issued to date ²
Opinion key:				
U = unmodified; Q = qualified; E = emphasis of matter. (Refer to Appendix C for definitions of these terms.)				
Councils and their controlled entities				
• Isaac Affordable Housing Trust	15.12.2022	E*	-	-
• Moranbah Early Learning Centre Pty Ltd	14.12.2022	E*	-	-
Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council	11.10.2022	U	E*	-
Livingstone Shire Council	31.10.2022	U	E*	-
Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council	31.10.2022	U	E*	-
• Lockhart River Aerodrome Company Pty Ltd	31.10.2022	U	-	-
Lockyer Valley Regional Council	16.12.2022	U	E*	31.12.2022
Logan City Council	14.09.2022	U	E*	-
• Invest Logan Pty Ltd	30.08.2022	U	-	-
Longreach Regional Council	27.10.2022	U	E*	-
Mackay Regional Council	10.10.2022	U	E*	-
• Mackay Region Enterprises Pty Ltd	Not Complete	-	-	-
Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council	31.10.2022	U	E*	-
Maranoa Regional Council	18.10.2022	U	E*	-
Mareeba Shire Council	05.10.2022	U	E*	-
McKinlay Shire Council	13.10.2022	U	E*	-
Moreton Bay Regional Council	12.10.2022	U	E*	-
• Millovale Pty Ltd	28.10.2022	U	-	-
Mornington Shire Council	Not Complete	-	-	30.06.2023
Mount Isa City Council	24.10.2022	U	E*	-
• Mount Isa City Council Owned Enterprises Pty Ltd	19.10.2022	U	-	-
Murweh Shire Council	24.10.2022	U	E*	-
Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council	25.10.2022	U	E*	-
Noosa Shire Council	26.10.2022	U	E*	-
North Burnett Regional Council	16.03.2023	U	E*	30.11.2022
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Not Complete	-	-	28.02.2023
Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	Not Complete	-	-	30.05.2023
Paroo Shire Council	28.10.2022	U	E*	-
Porpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council	08.09.2022	U	E*	-
Quilpie Shire Council	31.10.2022	U	E*	-
Redland City Council	19.09.2022	U	E*	-
• Redland Investment Corporation Pty Ltd	27.09.2022	U	-	-
Richmond Shire Council	24.04.2023	E ⁶	E*	16.12.2022
• The Kronosaurus Korner Board Inc	27.09.2022	E*	-	-
Rockhampton Regional Council	13.10.2022	U	E*	-
Scenic Rim Regional Council	07.10.2022	U	E*	-

Entity	Date opinion issued	Financial statement opinion	Current year sustainability statement opinion ¹	Ministerial extension issued to date ²
Opinion key:				
U = unmodified; Q = qualified; E = emphasis of matter. (Refer to Appendix C for definitions of these terms.)				
Councils and their controlled entities				
Somerset Regional Council	11.10.2022	U	E*	-
South Burnett Regional Council	13.10.2022	U	E*	-
• South Burnett Community Hospital Foundation Limited	21.04.2023	U	-	-
Southern Downs Regional Council	18.10.2022	U	E*	-
Sunshine Coast Regional Council	10.10.2022	U	E*	-
• SunCentral Maroochydore Pty Ltd	21.09.2022	U	-	-
• Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation Ltd	20.09.2022	U	-	-
Tablelands Regional Council	31.10.2022	U	E*	-
Toowoomba Regional Council	30.09.2022	U	E*	-
• Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd	29.09.2022	E ⁷	-	-
• Empire Theatres Foundation	29.09.2022	U	-	-
• Empire Theatres Pty Ltd	29.09.2022	U	-	-
• Jondaryan Woolshed Pty Ltd	29.09.2022	E ⁷	-	-
• Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise Pty Ltd	19.09.2022	U	-	-
Torres Shire Council	31.10.2022	U	E*	-
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	19.09.2022	U	E*	-
Townsville City Council	05.10.2022	U	E*	-
Western Downs Regional Council	14.10.2022	U	E*	-
Whitsunday Regional Council	17.08.2022	U	E*	-
Winton Shire Council	14.10.2022	U	E*	-
• Waltzing Matilda Centre Ltd	18.10.2022	U	-	-
Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council	Not Complete	-	-	31.03.2023
• Woorabinda Pastoral Company Pty Ltd	Not Complete	-	-	-
Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council	26.10.2022	E ⁸	E*	-
Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council	13.10.2022	U	E*	-

Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

Entity	Date opinion issued	Financial statement opinion	Current year sustainability statement opinion ¹	Ministerial extension issued to date ²
Opinion key:				
U = unmodified; Q = qualified; E = emphasis of matter. (Refer to Appendix C for definitions of these terms.)				
Councils and their controlled entities				
By-arrangements audits ⁹				
City of Logan Mayor's Charity Trust	16.06.2023	E*	-	-
The Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Foundation for the Arts	21.10.2022	E*	-	-

Notes:

- * An emphasis of matter was issued to alert users of the statements to the fact that special purpose financial statements had been prepared.
- ¹ Only councils prepare sustainability statements (not local government-related entities).
- ² Ministerial extensions may only be obtained for councils (not local government-related entities).
- ³ We included an emphasis of matter in our audit reports for Oxley Creek Transformation Pty Ltd and TradeCoast Land Pty Ltd to alert users of the statements that these entities had ceased trading and would be wound up in future.
- ⁴ We included an emphasis of matter in our audit report for Rattler Railway Company Ltd to alert users of the statements that the company's liabilities are higher than its assets. The company also plans to stop being a controlled entity of Gympie Regional Council.
- ⁵ We included an emphasis of matter in our audit reports for Ipswich City Enterprises Investments Pty Ltd and Ipswich City Enterprises Pty Ltd to alert users that the director for each entity intends to deregister the companies and transfer operations to their parent entity, Ipswich City Council.
- ⁶ We included an emphasis of matter in our audit report for Richmond Shire Council to highlight that a material change was required to the previous financial statements certified 6 March 2023, and they have been replaced by the version certified 24 April 2023.
- ⁷ We included an emphasis of matter in our audit reports for Empire Theatres Projects Pty Ltd and Jondaryan Woolshed Pty Ltd because the operations of these entities have been transferred to their parent entities (Empire Theatres Pty Ltd and Toowoomba Regional Council) and they will be wound up.
- ⁸ We included an emphasis of matter in our audit report for Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council to highlight uncertainty over its ability to repay its debts as and when they arise.
- ⁹ Where asked by a minister or public sector entity, and where the Auditor-General considers there is public interest, a financial audit of non-public sector entities may be performed 'by arrangement'.

Source: Queensland Audit Office.

The following figure details the types of audit opinions issued in accordance with Australian auditing standards for the 2021–22 financial year, for jointly controlled entities (entities controlled by multiple councils and other public sector entities).

Figure E2
Our audit opinions for jointly controlled entities' financial reports for 2021–22

Entity	Date audit opinion issued	Type of audit opinion issued
Opinion key: U = unmodified; Q = qualified; E = emphasis of matter. (Refer to Appendix C for definitions of these terms.)		
Central Western Queensland Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD)	12.12.2022	E*
Council of Mayors (SEQ) Pty Ltd	16.12.2022	U
Local Government Association of Queensland Ltd	04.10.2022	U
• Local Buy Trading Trust	04.10.2022	Q ¹
• Peak Services Legal Pty Ltd	04.10.2022	U
• Peak Services Holdings Pty Ltd	04.10.2022	E ²
• Peak Services Pty Ltd	04.10.2022	E ²
Major Brisbane Festivals Pty Ltd ³	28.04.2023	E*
Queensland Local Government Mutual Liability Pool (LGM Queensland)	29.11.2022	U
Queensland Local Government Workers Compensation Self-Insurance Scheme (trading as Local Government Workcare)	30.11.2022	U
SEQ Regional Recreational Facilities Pty Ltd	16.12.2022	U
South West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils Inc	15.12.2022	E*
Townsville Breakwater Entertainment Centre Joint Venture	02.05.2023	E ⁴
Western Queensland Local Government Association	Not Complete	-

Notes:

* An emphasis of matter was issued to alert users of the statements to the fact that special purpose financial statements had been prepared.

¹ We qualified our audit opinion for Local Buy Trading Trust because it was unable to provide us with enough evidence to confirm its revenue was complete. We also qualified our 2020–21 audit opinion for the same reason.

² We included an emphasis of matter in our audit opinions for Peak Services Holdings Pty Ltd and Peak Services Pty Ltd to alert users of the financial statements of the entities' financial dependence on their ultimate parent, the Local Government Association of Queensland Ltd.

³ The financial year of Major Brisbane Festivals Pty Ltd was 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022. The 2022 audit opinion has therefore not yet been issued.

⁴ We included an emphasis of matter in our audit report for Townsville Breakwater Entertainment Centre Joint Venture to highlight the net loss made by the entity.

Source: Queensland Audit Office.

Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

F. Entities exempt from audit by the Auditor-General

We will not issue opinions on several entities because they are exempt from audit by the Auditor-General. The following table lists the entities, grouped by the reasons for the exemptions.

Figure F1
Entities exempt from audit by the Auditor-General

Entity	Audit firm who performs the audit	Date opinion issued	Opinion
Opinion key: U = unmodified; Q = qualified; E = emphasis of matter. (Refer to Appendix C for definitions of these terms.)			
Exempt local government entities – small in size and of low risk <i>(s.30A of the Auditor-General Act 2009)</i>			
Drive Inland Promotions Association Inc	Whitehouse Audit	14.10.2022	E*
Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils	Halpin Partners Accountants	18.10.2022	E*
Gulf Savannah Development Inc	Rekenen Pty Ltd	04.11.2022	E*, E ¹
North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils	Rekenen Pty Ltd	30.09.2022	E*
Regional Queensland Council of Mayors Inc ²	SBB Partners	17.10.2022	E*
South West Regional Economic Development Association	FTA Accountants	Not complete	-
Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA) Inc	Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd	15.11.2022	E*
Whitsunday ROC Limited	SBB Partners	Not complete	-
Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation of Councils Inc	All Income Tax	14.03.2023	E*
Exempt local government entities – foreign-based controlled entities <i>(s.32 of the Auditor-General Act 2009)</i>			
Gold Coast City Council Insurance Company Limited	PricewaterhouseCoopers CI LLP	25.08.2022	U

Notes:

* An emphasis of matter was issued to alert users of the financial statements to the fact that special purpose financial statements had been prepared.

¹ The auditor included an emphasis of matter in their audit report because Gulf Savannah Development Inc was not able to support a key account balance recorded in its financial statements.

² Northern Alliance of Councils Inc changed its name to Regional Queensland Council of Mayors Inc. The financial statements of the Regional Queensland Council of Mayors Inc were for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

Source: Queensland Audit Office.

G. Local government entities for which we will not issue opinions

The Auditor-General will not issue audit opinions for the following public sector entities for the 2021–22 financial year, because they have not produced a financial report.

Figure G1
Entities for which no opinions are issued

Entity	Parent entity	Reason
Controlled entities		
Brisbane Tolling Pty Ltd	Brisbane City Council	Dormant
BrisDev Trust	Brisbane City Council	Wound up
CBIC Allara Pty Ltd	Brisbane City Council	Dormant
City Super Pty Ltd	Brisbane City Council	Wound up
OC Invest Pty Ltd	Brisbane City Council	Dormant
Riverfestival Brisbane Pty Ltd	Brisbane City Council	Dormant
CBIC Investment Pty Ltd	City of Brisbane Investment Corporation Pty Ltd	Dormant
CBIC Valley Heart Pty Ltd	City of Brisbane Investment Corporation Pty Ltd	Dormant
Cairns Art Gallery Foundation Limited	Cairns Regional Council	No longer a public sector entity ¹
Cairns Regional Art Gallery Trust	Cairns Regional Council	No longer a public sector entity ¹
HOTA Services Gold Coast Pty Ltd	HOTA Gold Coast Pty Ltd	Non-reporting ²
IA Foundation Ltd	Ipswich City Council	Dormant
YSB Pty Ltd	Invest Logan Pty Ltd	Wound up
Artspace Mackay Foundation	Mackay Regional Council	Wound up
Artspace Mackay Foundation Ltd	Mackay Regional Council	Wound up
Mundalbe Enterprises Ltd	Morrington Shire Council	Wound up
Outback @ Isa Pty Ltd	Mount Isa City Council	Dormant
Palm Island Community Company Limited	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	No longer a public sector entity ³
Palm Island Economic Development Corporation Pty Ltd	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	Dormant
Redheart Pty Ltd	Redland City Council	Dormant
Cleveland Plaza Pty Ltd	Redland Investment Corporation Pty Ltd	Non-reporting ⁴
Redland Developments Pty Ltd	Redland Investment Corporation Pty Ltd	Non-reporting ⁴
RIC Toondah Pty Ltd	Redland Investment Corporation Pty Ltd	Non-reporting ⁴
Sunshine Coast Events Centre Pty Ltd	Sunshine Coast Regional Council	Non-reporting ⁵
Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise Development Fund Limited	Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise Pty Ltd	Dormant
Empire Theatres Foundation Ltd	Toowoomba Regional Council	Dormant
NQ Spark Pty Ltd	Townsville City Council	Non-reporting ⁶



Attachment 13.2.3.1 Local government 2022 (Report 15 – 2022–23)

Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

Entity	Parent entity	Reason
Whitsunday Coast Airport and Infrastructure Pty Ltd	Whitsunday Regional Council	Dormant
Winton Community Association Inc	Winton Shire Council	Dormant
Jointly controlled entities		
Brisbane Festival Limited	Major Brisbane Festivals Pty Ltd	Dormant
QPG Shared Services Support Centres Joint Venture	Local Government Association of Queensland Ltd	Dormant ⁷
LG Cloud Pty Ltd	Local Government Association of Queensland Ltd	Wound up
LG Disaster Recovery Services Pty Ltd	Local Government Association of Queensland Ltd	Wound up
Local Buy Pty Ltd	Local Government Association of Queensland Ltd	Dormant
Prevwood Pty Ltd	Local Government Association of Queensland Ltd	Dormant ⁷
Queensland Partnerships Group (LG Shared Services) Pty Ltd	Local Government Association of Queensland Ltd	Dormant ⁷
South West Queensland Local Government Association	Multiple entities	Dormant ⁸

Notes:

- ¹ Cairns Art Gallery Foundation Limited and Cairns Regional Art Gallery Trust ceased being controlled entities of Cairns Regional Council.
- ² The transactions of HOTA Services Gold Coast Pty Ltd have been consolidated in the financial statements of HOTA Gold Coast Pty Ltd.
- ³ Palm Island Community Company Limited ceased being a controlled entity of Palm Island Aboriginal Council.
- ⁴ The transactions of Cleveland Plaza Pty Ltd, Redland Developments Pty Ltd, and RIC Toondah Pty Ltd have been consolidated in the financial statements of Redland Investment Corporation Pty Ltd.
- ⁵ The transactions of Sunshine Coast Events Centre Pty Ltd have been consolidated into the financial statements of Sunshine Coast Regional Council.
- ⁶ NQ Spark Pty Ltd was established in May 2022. The company will prepare its financial statements for the period 1 May 2022 to 30 June 2023. Its transactions for the 2021–22 financial year were consolidated into Townsville City Council.
- ⁷ QPG Shared Services Support Centres Joint Venture has been deregistered on 23 February 2023. Prevwood Pty Ltd and Queensland Partnerships Group (LG Shared Services) Pty Ltd are in the process of being deregistered.
- ⁸ Following the creation of South West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils, South West Queensland Local Government Association is no longer operating and is in the process of being wound up.

Source: Queensland Audit Office.

H. Audit opinions issued for prior financial years

The following table contains the audit opinions issued for prior financial years that were not finalised when we issued *Local government 2021* (Report 15: 2021–22).

Figure H1
Audit opinions issued for prior financial years

Entity	Date opinion issued	Opinion
Opinion key: U = unmodified; Q = qualified; E = emphasis of matter. (Refer to Appendix C for the definitions of these terms.)		
Financial statements from 2020–21 financial year – Councils		
Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	Not complete	-
Richmond Shire Council	5.09.2022	U
Financial sustainability statements from 2020–21 financial year – Councils		
Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	Not complete	-
Richmond Shire Council	5.09.2022	U
Financial statements from 2020–21 financial year – Controlled entities		
Cherish the Environment Foundation Ltd (controlled entity of Ipswich City Council)	18.10.2022	U
The Kronosaurus Korner Board Inc	5.09.2022	E*
Financial statements from 2020–21 financial year – Jointly controlled entities		
Central Western Queensland Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD)	9.08.2022	E*
Western Queensland Local Government Association	26.08.2022	E*, E ¹
Financial statements from 2019–20 financial year – Jointly controlled entities		
Western Queensland Local Government Association	26.08.2022	E*, E ¹
Financial statements from 2020–21 financial year – Entities exempt from audit by the Auditor-General		
Whitsunday ROC Limited (opinion issued by SBB Partners)	26.05.2022	E*
Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation of Councils Inc (opinion issued by All Income Tax)	21.04.2022	E*

Notes:

* An emphasis of matter was issued to alert users of these statements that they have been prepared using a special purpose basis.

¹ We included an emphasis of matter in our audit opinions for Western Queensland Local Government Association for the 2019–20 and 2020–21 financial years to alert users of the statements that the entity will be wound up in the 2022–23 financial year.

Source: Queensland Audit Office.

Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

I. Financial sustainability measures

Figure I1 details the ratios (measures) indicating short-term and long-term financial sustainability. The guidelines quoted in the target range were issued by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (the department).

Figure I1
Financial sustainability measures for councils

Measure	Formula	Description	Target range
Operating surplus ratio	<i>Net operating result divided by total operating revenue (excludes capital items)</i> Expressed as a percentage	Indicates the extent to which operational revenues raised cover operational expenses	Between zero and 10 per cent – per department-issued guidelines
	A negative result indicates an operating deficit, and the larger the negative percentage, the worse the result. Operating deficits cannot be sustained in the long term. A positive percentage indicates that surplus revenue is available to support the funding of capital expenses, or to hold in reserve to offset past or future operating deficits. We consider councils as financially sustainable when they consistently achieve an operating surplus and expect that they can do so in the future, having regard to asset management and community service level needs.		
Net financial liabilities ratio	<i>Total liabilities less current assets divided by total operating revenue</i> Expressed as a percentage	Indicates the extent to which a council's operating revenues (including grants and subsidies) can cover its net financial liabilities (usually loans and leases)	Not greater than 60 per cent – per department-issued guidelines
	If net financial liabilities are greater than 60 per cent of operating revenue, the council has limited capacity to increase loan borrowings and may experience stress in servicing current debt.		
Asset sustainability ratio	<i>Capital expenses on replacement of assets (renewals) divided by depreciation expenses</i> Expressed as a percentage	Indicates the extent to which assets are being replaced as they reach the end of their useful lives	Greater than 90 per cent – per department-issued guidelines
	If the asset sustainability ratio is greater than 90 per cent, the council is likely to be sufficiently maintaining, replacing, and/or renewing its assets as they reach the end of their useful lives. While a low percentage may indicate that the asset base is relatively new (which may result from rectifying extensive natural disaster damage) and does not require replacement, the lower the percentage, the more likely it is that a council has inadequate asset management plans and practices.		

Source: Queensland Audit Office.

Figure I2 details our risk assessment criteria for financial sustainability measures.

Figure I2
Risk assessment criteria for financial sustainability measures

Relative risk rating measure	Operating surplus ratio	Net financial liabilities ratio	Asset sustainability ratio
Higher	Less than negative 10% (i.e. losses) ●	More than 80% ●	Less than 50% ●
	Insufficient revenue being generated to fund operations and asset renewal	Potential long-term concern over ability to repay debt levels from operating revenue	Insufficient spending on asset replacement or renewal, resulting in reduced service levels and increased burden on future ratepayers
Moderate	Negative 10% to zero (i.e. losses) ●	60% to 80% ●	50% to 90% ●
	A risk of long-term reduction in cash reserves, and inability to fund asset renewals	Some concern over the ability to repay debt from operating revenue	Irregular spending, or insufficient asset management practices, creating a backlog of maintenance/renewal work
Lower	More than zero (i.e. surpluses) ●	Less than 60% ●	More than 90% ●
	Generating surpluses consistently	No concern over the ability to repay debt from operating revenue	Likely to be sufficiently replacing or renewing assets as they reach the end of their useful lives

Source: Queensland Audit Office.

We calculate our overall risk assessment of financial sustainability using the ratings determined for each measure, as shown in Figure I1, and the assignment of the risk assessment criteria, as shown in Figure I2.

Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

Figure I3
Explanations of our relative risk assessments

Risk level	Risk criteria
Higher risk 	There is a higher risk of sustainability issues arising in the short to medium term if current operating income and expenses policies continue, as indicated by average operating deficits (losses) of more than 10 per cent of operating revenue.
Moderate risk 	There is a moderate risk of sustainability issues over the longer term if current debt financing and capital investment policies continue, as indicated by: • a current net financial liabilities ratio of more than 80 per cent of operating revenue, or • an average asset sustainability ratio of less than 50 per cent, or • average operating deficits (losses) of between 2 per cent and 10 per cent of operating revenue, or • having 2 or more of the ratios assessed as moderate risk (see Figure I2).
Lower risk 	There is a lower risk of concerns about financial sustainability based on current income, expenses, asset investment, and debt financing policies.

Source: Queensland Audit Office.

We use a 5-year average when assessing the operating surplus and asset sustainability ratios. This is because these are long-term indicators. Viewing the annual ratios in isolation does not provide insights into councils' long-term financial sustainability.

The net financial liabilities ratio, however, is more effective as a point-in-time ratio. The more recent the point in time, the more useful this ratio is in assessing councils' flexibility to increase debt.

Our assessment of financial sustainability risk factors does not consider councils' long-term forecasts or credit assessments undertaken by the Queensland Treasury Corporation.

Figure 14
Financial sustainability risk assessment by council category: Results at the end of 2021–22

Coastal councils	Avg. grant funding percentage ¹	Current operating surplus ratio %	Avg. operating surplus ratio %		Avg operating surplus ratio trend ²	Net financial liabilities ratio %		Net financial liabilities ratio trend	Current asset sustainability ratio %	Avg. asset sustainability ratio %	Avg. asset sustainability ratio trend ²	Relative risk assessment	
Coastal councils													
Bundaberg Regional Council	20%	6.00%	4.83%	●	–	-16.00%	●	↑	47.00%	48.40%	●	↓	Moderate
Burdekin Shire Council	22%	5.17%	4.52%	●	↓	-77.40%	●	↑	88.56%	95.49%	●	↑	Lower
Cairns Regional Council	18%	2.00%	-0.11%	●	–	57.00%	●	↑	71.00%	95.20%	●	↓	Lower
Cassowary Coast Regional Council	25%	0.00%	-2.33%	●	–	-34.00%	●	↑	68.00%	91.80%	●	↑	Moderate
Douglas Shire Council	26%	-1.00%	-2.39%	●	–	-28.00%	●	↓	74.00%	105.80%	●	↑	Moderate
Fraser Coast Regional Council	22%	-0.09%	1.30%	●	↓	-27.05%	●	↑	80.58%	93.51%	●	↑	Lower
Gladstone Regional Council	14%	-2.66%	-2.24%	●	↓	33.74%	●	↓	88.66%	61.34%	●	↑	Moderate
Gympie Regional Council	26%	-0.68%	-4.43%	●	–	-13.55%	●	↑	33.28%	98.98%	●	↓	Moderate
Hinchinbrook Shire Council	34%	-10.00%	-12.09%	●	↓	-18.70%	●	–	90.80%	74.52%	●	↑	Higher
Livingstone Shire Council	28%	1.91%	3.12%	●	–	-3.01%	●	↑	45.04%	51.96%	●	–	Lower
Mackay Regional Council	19%	0.20%	0.37%	●	–	4.30%	●	↑	65.50%	65.76%	●	↑	Lower
Noosa Shire Council	15%	4.29%	8.69%	●	–	-15.93%	●	↓	121.13%	117.88%	●	↑	Lower
Rockhampton Regional Council	26%	-0.10%	2.06%	●	–	40.80%	●	↑	63.20%	92.26%	●	↓	Lower
Townsville City Council	26%	1.00%	0.81%	●	↑	72.00%	●	↑	91.00%	73.60%	●	–	Moderate
Whitsunday Regional Council	37%	5.18%	4.14%	●	–	9.83%	●	↑	97.98%	151.23%	●	↑	Lower
Coastal councils average	24%	0.75%	0.42%			-1.06%			75.05%	87.85%			
Coastal councils – combined risk assessment			Lower			Lower			Moderate			Lower	

Attachment 13.2.3.1 Local government 2022 (Report 15 – 2022–23)

Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

Indigenous councils	Avg. grant funding percentage ¹	Current operating surplus ratio %	Avg. operating surplus ratio %		Avg operating surplus ratio trend ²	Net financial liabilities ratio %		Net financial liabilities ratio trend	Current asset sustainability ratio %	Avg. asset sustainability ratio %		Avg. asset sustainability ratio trend ²	Relative risk assessment
Indigenous councils													
Aurukun Shire Council	62%	-7.00%	-14.83%	●	↑	-76.00%	●	↓	4.00%	19.00%	●	–	Higher
Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council	58%	-18.33%	-1.75%	●	↓	23.69%	●	↓	37.05%	114.01%	●	↓	Lower
Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council	55%	-31.00%	-23.80%	●	↑	4.00%	●	↑	40.00%	57.20%	●	↓	Higher
Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council	49%	1.00%	7.21%	●	↓	-193.00%	●	↑	91.00%	90.00%	●	↓	Lower
Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council	70%	0.00%	-37.46%	●	↑	-19.00%	●	↑	142.00%	103.42%	●	↑	Higher
Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council	73%	-8.00%	-3.36%	●	↑	-54.00%	●	↑	136.00%	90.60%	●	↓	Moderate
Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council	69%	-41.00%	-27.76%	●	↓	-55.00%	●	↓	67.00%	62.80%	●	↑	Higher
Mornington Shire Council*	47%	-10.70%	-26.59%	●	↑	-16.00%	●	↑	92.60%	194.54%	●	↑	Higher
Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council	66%	-24.00%	-18.80%	●	↓	-41.00%	●	↑	0.00%	25.60%	●	↓	Higher
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council*	53%	-28.00%	-15.00%	●	↓	-10.00%	●	↓	57.00%	64.44%	●	↓	Higher
Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council**	60%	-23.80%	-17.09%	●	↓	-2.93%	●	–	0.00%	129.60%	●	↓	Higher
Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council	62%	0.00%	8.19%	●	↓	-257.00%	●	↑	13.00%	60.80%	●	↓	Lower
Torres Shire Council	50%	-19.07%	-18.80%	●	↓	-66.27%	●	↑	113.79%	85.44%	●	↑	Higher
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	60%	-79.00%	-74.40%	●	↓	-29.00%	●	↓	19.00%	28.60%	●	↓	Higher
Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council*	31%	-0.90%	-15.41%	●	–	-41.90%	●	↑	104.40%	34.25%	●	↑	Higher
Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council	67%	-30.00%	-29.29%	●	–	54.00%	●	↓	41.00%	80.00%	●	↑	Higher
Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council	51%	-51.00%	-33.42%	●	↓	-27.00%	●	↓	25.00%	39.60%	●	↓	Higher
Indigenous councils average	58%	-21.81%	-20.14%			-47.44%			57.81%	75.29%			
Indigenous councils – combined risk assessment					Higher		Lower		Moderate				Higher



Resources councils	Avg. grant funding percentage ¹	Current operating surplus ratio %	Avg. operating surplus ratio %	Avg operating surplus ratio trend ²	Net financial liabilities ratio %	Net financial liabilities ratio trend	Current asset sustainability ratio %	Avg. asset sustainability ratio %	Avg. asset sustainability ratio trend ²	Relative risk assessment			
Resources councils													
Banana Shire Council	31%	6.08%	-4.92%	🟡	–	-22.39%	🟢	⬆️	80.43%	94.27%	🟢	–	Moderate
Bulloo Shire Council	62%	-5.30%	-3.09%	🟡	⬇️	-69.20%	🟢	⬇️	42.60%	104.01%	🟢	⬇️	Moderate
Burke Shire Council	76%	-21.20%	-40.23%	🔴	⬇️	-38.60%	🟢	⬇️	82.30%	85.38%	🟡	⬇️	Higher
Central Highlands Regional Council	22%	1.71%	-1.85%	🟡	–	-7.71%	🟢	⬇️	76.87%	104.00%	🟢	⬇️	Lower
Charters Towers Regional Council	46%	5.00%	0.61%	🟢	–	-71.00%	🟢	⬆️	68.00%	139.60%	🟢	⬇️	Lower
Cloncurry Shire Council	55%	-15.62%	-8.90%	🟡	⬇️	-23.24%	🟢	⬆️	87.55%	172.71%	🟢	⬇️	Moderate
Cook Shire Council	82%	2.00%	-22.58%	🔴	⬆️	-7.00%	🟢	⬆️	8.00%	67.75%	🟡	⬇️	Higher
Etheridge Shire Council	54%	1.85%	-2.71%	🟡	⬆️	-32.68%	🟢	⬇️	0.00%	8.97%	🔴	⬇️	Moderate
Isaac Regional Council	25%	3.75%	2.30%	🟢	–	-19.55%	🟢	⬆️	62.90%	175.46%	🟢	⬇️	Lower
Maranoa Regional Council	43%	2.84%	2.04%	🟢	–	-55.10%	🟢	⬆️	120.74%	138.72%	🟢	⬆️	Lower
McKinlay Shire Council	72%	5.20%	-7.51%	🟡	⬇️	-130.20%	🟢	⬆️	137.10%	328.78%	🟢	⬇️	Moderate
Mount Isa City Council	24%	-1.80%	0.16%	🟢	⬇️	-45.00%	🟢	⬇️	55.70%	56.99%	🟡	⬆️	Lower
Quilpie Shire Council	64%	6.00%	-5.37%	🟡	⬇️	-99.00%	🟢	⬆️	40.00%	41.00%	🔴	⬇️	Moderate
Western Downs Regional Council	25%	2.57%	7.16%	🟢	⬇️	-122.12%	🟢	⬆️	82.11%	77.08%	🟡	⬇️	Lower
Resources councils average	49%	-0.49%	-6.06%			-53.06%			67.45%	113.91%			
Resources councils – combined risk assessment		Moderate			Lower			Lower			Moderate		

Attachment 13.2.3.1 Local government 2022 (Report 15 – 2022–23)

Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

Rural/Regional councils	Avg. grant funding percentage ¹	Current operating surplus ratio %	Avg. operating surplus ratio %		Avg operating surplus ratio trend ²	Net financial liabilities ratio %		Net financial liabilities ratio trend	Current asset sustainability ratio %	Avg. asset sustainability ratio %		Avg. asset sustainability ratio trend ²	Relative risk assessment
Rural/Regional councils													
Goondiwindi Regional Council	33%	-1.71%	1.60%	🟢	⬇️	-74.50%	🟢	–	148.47%	115.29%	🟢	⬆️	Lower
Lockyer Valley Regional Council	24%	5.22%	5.76%	🟢	–	41.12%	🟢	⬇️	74.26%	91.43%	🟢	⬇️	Lower
Mareeba Shire Council	39%	14.63%	13.65%	🟢	⬇️	-101.77%	🟢	⬆️	176.04%	167.41%	🟢	⬇️	Lower
North Burnett Regional Council	49%	-11.83%	-19.19%	🔴	⬇️	-29.45%	🟢	⬆️	102.65%	98.16%	🟢	⬇️	Higher
Scenic Rim Regional Council	31%	0.00%	0.31%	🟢	⬇️	15.00%	🟢	⬇️	98.00%	161.80%	🟢	⬇️	Lower
Somerset Regional Council	26%	-9.00%	-0.25%	🟡	⬇️	-74.00%	🟢	⬇️	87.00%	97.00%	🟢	⬇️	Lower
South Burnett Regional Council	25%	6.00%	0.48%	🟢	–	-10.80%	🟢	⬆️	78.70%	86.34%	🟡	⬇️	Lower
Southern Downs Regional Council	29%	-4.55%	2.01%	🟢	⬇️	-26.89%	🟢	⬆️	119.00%	123.68%	🟢	⬆️	Lower
Tablelands Regional Council	29%	5.24%	0.32%	🟢	⬇️	-52.98%	🟢	⬆️	77.44%	94.16%	🟢	⬇️	Lower
Rural/Regional councils average	32%	0.44%	0.52%			-34.92%			106.84%	115.03%			
Rural/Regional councils – combined risk assessment		Lower			Lower			Lower			Lower		



Rural/Remote councils	Avg. grant funding percentage ¹	Current operating surplus ratio %	Avg. operating surplus ratio %	Avg operating surplus ratio trend ²	Net financial liabilities ratio %	Net financial liabilities ratio trend	Current asset sustainability ratio %	Avg. asset sustainability ratio %	Avg. asset sustainability ratio trend ²	Relative risk assessment
Rural/Remote councils										
Balonne Shire Council	62%	-5.30%	-8.69%	●	–	↓	53.80%	49.81%	●	Moderate
Barcaldine Regional Council	48%	6.83%	-16.04%	●	↑	↑	224.72%	144.05%	●	Higher
Barcoo Shire Council	46%	-3.63%	-21.93%	●	↑	↑	83.91%	77.90%	●	Higher
Blackall-Tambo Regional Council	45%	11.00%	-7.98%	●	↑	↑	68.00%	81.20%	●	Moderate
Boulia Shire Council	65%	-20.75%	-29.99%	●	↓	↓	120.70%	62.50%	●	Higher
Carpentaria Shire Council	69%	-13.36%	-17.81%	●	↓	↑	61.23%	48.98%	●	Higher
Croydon Shire Council	76%	9.30%	4.74%	●	–	↓	63.50%	124.00%	●	Lower
Diamantina Shire Council	43%	-19.90%	-9.58%	●	–	↑	8.20%	45.98%	●	Moderate
Flinders Shire Council	41%	14.00%	11.00%	●	↓	↑	25.20%	64.16%	●	Lower
Longreach Regional Council	53%	-2.30%	-10.41%	●	↓	↑	51.40%	100.86%	●	Higher
Murweh Shire Council	58%	-14.00%	-12.18%	●	↓	↑	85.00%	92.44%	●	Higher
Paroo Shire Council	72%	4.00%	-20.83%	●	↑	↑	46.00%	60.68%	●	Higher
Richmond Shire Council	57%	-9.68%	-30.14%	●	–	↑	56.76%	156.18%	●	Higher
Winton Shire Council	66%	-3.80%	-7.78%	●	↓	↑	246.79%	265.48%	●	Moderate
Rural/Remote councils average	57%	-3.40%	-12.69%		-46.20%		85.37%	98.16%		
Rural/Remote councils – combined risk assessment		Higher			Lower		Lower			Higher



Attachment 13.2.3.1 Local government 2022 (Report 15 – 2022–23)

Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

South East Queensland councils	Avg. grant funding percentage ¹	Current operating surplus ratio %	Avg. operating surplus ratio %	Avg operating surplus ratio trend ²	Net financial liabilities ratio %	Net financial liabilities ratio trend	Current asset sustainability ratio %	Avg. asset sustainability ratio %	Avg. asset sustainability ratio trend ²	Relative risk assessment
South East Queensland councils										
Brisbane City Council	13%	-3.00%	3.09%	↓	125.00%	↑	55.00%	75.20%	↓	Moderate
Council of the City of Gold Coast	19%	-1.10%	-1.33%	–	-16.10%	↑	63.00%	59.82%	↑	Moderate
Ipswich City Council	30%	2.74%	4.21%	↓	67.13%	↑	70.69%	64.35%	–	Moderate
Logan City Council	27%	5.28%	2.61%	–	-9.76%	↓	63.12%	74.81%	↓	Lower
Moreton Bay Regional Council	25%	10.70%	17.83%	↓	19.50%	↓	70.10%	62.98%	↑	Lower
Redland City Council	11%	1.63%	-3.01%	↑	-45.94%	↑	66.31%	50.97%	↑	Moderate
Sunshine Coast Regional Council	25%	9.30%	6.68%	–	58.80%	↓	71.20%	72.04%	↓	Lower
Toowoomba Regional Council	21%	-1.10%	1.41%	–	49.76%	↑	73.84%	66.16%	↑	Lower
SEQ councils average	21%	3.06%	3.94%		31.05%		66.66%	65.79%		
SEQ councils – combined risk assessment			Lower		Lower		Moderate			Lower

Notes:

¹ Average grant funding percentage shows the 5-year average level of grant funding as a percentage of total revenue per council. This does not form a part of the financial sustainability ratios but has been included for contextual purposes. Refer also to further commentary in Chapter 4, which analyses the financial sustainability by grant funding levels.

² Average ratio trend compares the average ratio from 2021–22 with the average ratio from 2020–21. Trends should be considered in conjunction with the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning's set benchmarks, and the analysis performed and explained in Chapter 4.

* The 2021–22 audit for this council is unfinished. The sustainability measures reported are based on the audited 2020–21 financial statements.

** The 2020–21 and 2021–22 audits for this council are unfinished. The sustainability measures reported are based on the audited 2019–20 financial statements.

Refer also to Figures I1, I2 and I3, which explain the financial sustainability measures and associated benchmarks.

Legend: ↑ An improving trend; – No substantial change; ↓ A deteriorating trend.

Source: Queensland Audit Office.



J. Our assessment of councils' financial governance

Auditing internal controls

Entities design, implement, and maintain internal controls (people, systems, and processes) to deliver reliable financial reporting, effective and efficient operations, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

In undertaking our audit, we are required under the Australian auditing standards to obtain an understanding of an entity's internal controls relevant to the preparation of the financial report.

We assess internal controls to ensure they are suitably designed to:

- prevent, or detect and correct, material misstatements in the financial report (which could influence a user's decision-making)
- achieve compliance with legislative requirements and make appropriate use of public resources.

Our assessment determines the nature, timing, and extent of the testing we perform to address the risk of significant mistakes in the financial statements.

If we believe the design and implementation of controls is effective, we select the controls we intend to test further. We do this by considering a balance of factors including:

- the significance of the related risks
- the characteristics of balances, transactions, or disclosures (volume, value, and complexity)
- the nature and complexity of the entity's information systems
- whether the design of the controls addresses the risk of material misstatement and facilitates an efficient audit.

If we identify deficiencies in internal controls, we determine the impact on our audit approach, considering whether additional audit procedures are necessary.

We design our audit procedures to address the risk of material misstatement so we can express an opinion on the financial report. We do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal controls.

Internal controls framework

We categorise internal controls using the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) internal controls framework, which is widely recognised as a benchmark for designing and evaluating internal controls.

The framework identifies 5 components for a successful internal control framework. These are explained in the following paragraphs.



Control environment



- Cultures and values
- Governance
- Organisational structure
- Policies
- Qualified and skilled people
- Management's integrity and operating style

The control environment is defined as the structures, policies, attitudes, and values that influence day-to-day operations. As the control environment is closely linked to an entity's overarching governance and culture, it is important that the control environment provides a strong foundation for the other components of internal control.

In assessing the design and implementation of the control environment, we consider whether:

- those charged with governance are independent, appropriately qualified, experienced, and active in challenging management
- policies and procedures are established and communicated so people with the right qualifications and experiences are recruited; they understand their role in the organisation; and they also understand management's expectations regarding internal controls, financial reporting, and misconduct, including fraud.

Risk assessment



- Strategic risk assessment
- Financial risk assessment
- Operational risk assessment

Risk assessment relates to management's processes for considering risks that may prevent an entity from achieving its objectives; and how management agrees risks should be identified, assessed, and managed.

To appropriately manage business risks, management can either accept the risk if it is minor or mitigate the risk to an acceptable level by implementing appropriately designed controls. Management can also eliminate risks entirely by choosing to exit from a risky business venture.

Control activities



- General information technology controls
- Automated controls
- Manual controls

Control activities are the actions taken to implement policies and procedures in accordance with management directives, and to ensure identified risks are addressed. These activities operate at all levels and in all functions. They can be designed to prevent or detect errors entering financial systems.

The mix of control activities can be categorised into general information technology controls, automated controls, and manual controls.

General information technology controls

General information technology controls form the basis of the automated systems control environment. They include controls over information systems security, user access, and system changes. These controls address the risk of unauthorised access and of changes to systems and data.

Automated control activities

Automated controls are embedded within information technology systems. These controls can improve timeliness, availability, and accuracy of information by consistently applying predefined business rules. They enable entities to perform complex calculations when processing large volumes of transactions. They also improve the effectiveness of financial delegations and the segregation of duties.

Manual control activities

Manual controls contain a human element, which can provide the opportunity to assess the reasonableness and appropriateness of transactions. However, these controls may be less reliable than automated elements, as they can be more easily bypassed or overridden. They include activities such as approvals, authorisations, verifications, reconciliations, reviews of operating performance, and segregation of incompatible duties. Manual controls may be performed with the assistance of information technology systems.

Information and communication



- Non-financial systems
- Financial systems
- Reporting systems

Information and communication controls are the systems used to provide information to employees, and the ways in which responsibilities are communicated.

This aspect of internal control also considers how management generates financial reports, and how these reports are communicated to internal and external parties to support the functioning of internal controls.

Monitoring activities



- Management supervision
- Self-assessment
- Internal audit

Monitoring activities are the methods management uses to oversee and assess whether internal controls are present and operating effectively. This may be achieved through ongoing supervision, periodic self-assessments, and separate evaluations. Monitoring activities also concern the evaluation and communication of control deficiencies in a timely manner to effect corrective action.

Typically, the internal audit function and an independent audit and risk committee are responsible for assessing and overseeing management's implementation of controls and their resolution of control deficiencies. These 2 functions work together to ensure that internal control deficiencies are identified and then resolved in a timely manner.

Assessment of internal controls

Our assessment of internal control effectiveness is based on the number of deficiencies and significant deficiencies we identified during our audit. We assess each of the 5 components of a successful internal control framework separately.

Assessment of internal controls	
Rating scale	Assessment criteria
● Effective	No significant (high-risk) deficiencies
● Partially effective	One significant deficiency
● Ineffective	More than one significant deficiency

The deficiencies detailed in this report were identified during our audit and may have been subsequently resolved by the entity.

They are reported here because they impacted on the overall system of control during 2021–22.

Financial statements preparation process

Until the 2019–20 financial year, we assessed the effectiveness of the financial statement preparation processes across 3 components:

- Year-end close processes – was based on early completion of 5 key elements of financial statements
- Timeliness of financial statements – compared the date the financial statements were certified against the legislative deadline of 31 October
- Quality of financial statements – was assessed based on the number of changes that are made between the draft of the financial statements submitted to audit and the final audited financial statements.

Each component was assigned a traffic light (red/amber/green), and this was reported to each council and in our annual reports to parliament.

In the 2020–21 financial year, we changed the way we assessed the financial statement preparation process to a maturity model (which is available on our website at www.qao.qld.gov.au/reports-resources/better-practice). The model is entity-driven and is scalable to each entity's size and complexity. It aims to bring flexibility in responding to the qualitative factors that influence entities' practices, which the previous assessment criteria did not take into account.

The model facilitates sharing of better practices across the public sector. It also brings focus to entities' areas of development to allow them to reach their targeted positioning.

For the 2020–21 financial year, we asked councils to self-assess their financial statement preparation processes using this model. In the 2022–23 financial year, we will work with councils to ensure that their self-assessed maturity levels reflect the reality of their strengths and weaknesses of their processes. We will report on the outcome of this assessment in our *Local government 2023* report.

Financial sustainability relative risk assessment

The detailed criteria for assessing a council's financial sustainability are explained in Appendix I – Figures I1 and I2. The overall assessment criteria are shown in Figure I3. Colours used for the overall risk levels are lower risk (green), moderate risk (amber), and higher risk (red).

Results summary

The following tables summarise the results of our assessment of the 77 councils' internal controls, by council segment.

Figure J1
Our assessment of the financial governance of councils by segment

Council	Internal controls					Financial sustainability	Days to complete from year end	
Key: CE = Control environment; RA = Risk assessment; CA = Control activities; IC = Information and communication; MA = Monitoring activities. OS = Number of significant deficiencies outstanding longer than 12 months at 30 June 2022 FS = Financial sustainability — relative risk assessment (refer Figure I4). D = Number of days to have audit opinion certified from 30 June 2022 (number of days between 30 June and 31 October is 123)								
Coastal councils	CE	RA	CA	IC	MA	OS	FS	D
Bundaberg Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	99
Burdekin Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	70
Cairns Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	78
Cassowary Coast Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	106
Douglas Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	104
Fraser Coast Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	1	●	91
Gladstone Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	120
Gympie Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	2	●	249
Hinchinbrook Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	123
Livingstone Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	1	●	123
Mackay Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	102
Noosa Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	1	●	118
Rockhampton Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	105
Townsville City Council	●	●	●	●	●	1	●	97
Whitsunday Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	48

Attachment 13.2.3.1 Local government 2022 (Report 15 – 2022–23)

Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

Council	Internal controls					Financial sustainability	Days to complete from year end	
Key: CE = Control environment; RA = Risk assessment; CA = Control activities; IC = Information and communication; MA = Monitoring activities. OS = Number of significant deficiencies outstanding longer than 12 months at 30 June 2022 FS = Financial sustainability — relative risk assessment (refer Figure I4). D = Number of days to have audit opinion certified from 30 June 2022 (number of days between 30 June and 31 October is 123)								
Indigenous	CE	RA	CA	IC	MA	OS	FS	D
Aurukun Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	104
Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	1	●	113
Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	123
Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	29
Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	103
Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	123
Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	1	●	123
Mornington Shire Council*	●	●	●	●	●	4	●	Not Complete
Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	2	●	117
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council*	●	●	●	●	●	1	●	Not Complete
Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council*	●	●	●	●	●	11	●	Not Complete
Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	70
Torres Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	123
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	81
Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council*	●	●	●	●	●	8	●	Not Complete
Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	3	●	118
Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	1	●	105

Council	Internal controls					Financial sustainability	Days to complete from year end	
Key: CE = Control environment; RA = Risk assessment; CA = Control activities; IC = Information and communication; MA = Monitoring activities. OS = Number of significant deficiencies outstanding longer than 12 months at 30 June 2022 FS = Financial sustainability — relative risk assessment (refer Figure 14). D = Number of days to have audit opinion certified from 30 June 2022 (number of days between 30 June and 31 October is 123)								
Resources councils	CE	RA	CA	IC	MA	OS	FS	D
Banana Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	123
Bulloo Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	1	●	123
Burke Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	123
Central Highlands Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	3	●	123
Charters Towers Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	1	●	123
Cloncurry Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	1	●	209
Cook Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	2	●	105
Etheridge Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	2	●	167
Isaac Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	120
Maranoa Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	110
McKinlay Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	1	●	105
Mount Isa City Council	●	●	●	●	●	3	●	116
Quilpie Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	123
Western Downs Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	106

Attachment 13.2.3.1 Local government 2022 (Report 15 – 2022–23)

Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

Council	Internal controls					Financial sustainability	Days to complete from year end	
Key: CE = Control environment; RA = Risk assessment; CA = Control activities; IC = Information and communication; MA = Monitoring activities. OS = Number of significant deficiencies outstanding longer than 12 months at 30 June 2022 FS = Financial sustainability — relative risk assessment (refer Figure I4). D = Number of days to have audit opinion certified from 30 June 2022 (number of days between 30 June and 31 October is 123)								
Rural/Regional councils	CE	RA	CA	IC	MA	OS	FS	D
Goondiwindi Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	83
Lockyer Valley Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	169
Mareeba Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	97
North Burnett Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	1	●	259
Scenic Rim Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	99
Somerset Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	103
South Burnett Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	105
Southern Downs Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	110
Tablelands Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	1	●	123

Council	Internal controls					Financial sustainability	Days to complete from year end	
Key: CE = Control environment; RA = Risk assessment; CA = Control activities; IC = Information and communication; MA = Monitoring activities. OS = Number of significant deficiencies outstanding longer than 12 months at 30 June 2022 FS = Financial sustainability — relative risk assessment (refer Figure I4). D = Number of days to have audit opinion certified from 30 June 2022 (number of days between 30 June and 31 October is 123)								
Rural/Remote councils	CE	RA	CA	IC	MA	OS	FS	D
Balonne Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	120
Barcaldine Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	1	●	123
Barcoo Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	2	●	111
Blackall-Tambo Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	123
Boulia Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	1	●	165
Carpentaria Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	6	●	123
Croydon Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	2	●	140
Diamantina Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	123
Flinders Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	119
Longreach Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	119
Murweh Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	116
Paroo Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	1	●	120
Richmond Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	2	●	249
Winton Shire Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	106

Attachment 13.2.3.1 Local government 2022 (Report 15 – 2022–23)

Local government 2022 (Report 15: 2022–23)

Council	Internal controls					Financial sustainability	Days to complete from year end	
Key: CE = Control environment; RA = Risk assessment; CA = Control activities; IC = Information and communication; MA = Monitoring activities. OS = Number of significant deficiencies outstanding longer than 12 months at 30 June 2022 FS = Financial sustainability — relative risk assessment (refer Figure I4). D = Number of days to have audit opinion certified from 30 June 2022 (number of days between 30 June and 31 October is 123)								
South East Queensland councils	CE	RA	CA	IC	MA	OS	FS	D
Brisbane City Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	46
Council of the City of Gold Coast	●	●	●	●	●	3	●	91
Ipswich City Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	120
Logan City Council	●	●	●	●	●	1	●	76
Moreton Bay Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	1	●	104
Redland City Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	81
Sunshine Coast Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	102
Toowoomba Regional Council	●	●	●	●	●	1	●	92

Notes:

* The internal controls assessments are based on the previous year's results because the 2021–22 financial year audit has not yet been completed.

Source: Queensland Audit Office.



qao.qld.gov.au/reports-resources/reports-parliament
qao.qld.gov.au/contact-us

T: (07) 3149 6000
E: qao@qao.qld.gov.au
W: www.qao.qld.gov.au
53 Albert Street, Brisbane Qld 4000
PO Box 15396, City East Qld 4002

13.2.4 - Annual Revaluation - Effective 30 June 2024

DATE: Wednesday 12 July 2023

TO: Ordinary Council Meeting

AUTHOR: Patricia Jago - Coordinator Rates

AUTHORISING OFFICER: Jason Bradshaw - Director Corporate Services

PRESENTED FOR: Decision

ATTACHMENTS

1. Letter from Department of Resources - 06 June 2023 [**13.2.4.1** - 1 page]

PURPOSE

This report is seeking Council's direction about the proposed Whole of Region revaluation for the upcoming 2024/25 financial year.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council ask the Department of Resources to include the Whitsunday Regional Council local government area as part of the 2024 revaluation program to take effect on 30 June 2024.

BACKGROUND

The Department of Resources have written to Council (Attachment 1) seeking our view in relation to the proposed inclusion of our Local Government Area as part of the 2024 revaluation program that will take effect on 30 June 2024.

Council received and implemented the last revaluation in 2021 for the 2022 financial year, this was the first revaluation undertaken in our region since 2017. In line with the consultation requirements of the Land Valuation Act 2010, the Valuer-General has written to each local government seeking their opinion on whether the annual valuation should be undertaken.

DISCUSSION/CURRENT ISSUE

Council has been overlooked for revaluations in the last two years and have been in communication with the State Government's Department of Resources, seeking inclusion in the upcoming valuations. The more often valuations are undertaken, the more reflective the valuations are of the market movements. This becomes a direct consideration when general rates are being levied.

Given the duration between the last valuations, Council again requests updated values to better and more accurately be able to levy rates on current valuations. When significant time passes between revaluations, it becomes more complicated to set and levy rates based on different movements in the market in different geographic areas and in different land uses.

Council again is requesting that a revaluation be undertaken.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Land Valuation Act 2010

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Maximise the organisation's financial performance, achieving a high level of customer service, productivity and efficiency through strategic direction, expert advice, and leadership.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If this valuation is realised, this will impact the budget and rates modelling considerations for the 2024/25 budget. If the revaluation is not realised, then the budget will continue based on the current valuations and the relativities are lost with keeping the valuation current and reflective of market conditions and movements.

Each year the budget contains an allocation for maintaining the land records and valuations for rateable land within the region. The cost of this is approximately \$140,000 each year, whether a revaluation occurs or not.

CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

Chief Executive Officer
Director Corporate Services
Manager Financial Services

RISK ASSESSMENT

Council has seen a lot of property movement within the past 12 months and a revaluation would align the valuations with the current market as this will otherwise be the third year without a revaluation. If this is not agreed, it will compound any future valuations and potentially impact on ratepayers.

TIMINGS/DEADLINES

A response is required to the Valuer General by the 14 July 2023 otherwise our Local Government Area will not be included in the next revaluation program.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Council officers contributing to the preparation and approval of this report have no conflicts of interest to declare.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

Section 58 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* specifies required conduct for public entities when acting or making a decision. Sections 15-37 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* identifies the human rights a public entity must consider in making a decision. The human rights relevant to this decision are as follows:

- Section 19 – Freedom of movement.
- Section 21 – Freedom of expression.
- Section 24 – Right to own property and not be arbitrarily deprived of property.
- Section 27 – Cultural rights – generally – all persons with a particular cultural, religious, racial, or linguistic background have the right to enjoy their culture, to declare and practice their religion and use their language.
- Section 28 – Cultural rights – Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This decision does not limit the above identified human rights.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Options	Description	Positives	Negatives
Option 2	Not accept proposed revaluation program effective 30.06.2024	No impact on 2024/25 budgeted rates	Growth in values against the sales in properties has been increasing which will be compounded if not applied in 2024/25



Department of Resources

6 June 2023

Mr Warren Bunker
Chief Executive Officer
Whitsunday Regional Council
83-85 Main Street
Proserpine QLD 4800

By email: info@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Bunker

Consideration for the annual valuation program effective 30 June 2024

I would like to introduce myself; my name is Laura Dietrich, I am the Valuer-General, Department of Resources. I have more than 25 years valuation experience across the public and the private sector. I have lived and worked in regional Queensland including Mackay, Roma, Emerald, and Maryborough and South-East Queensland.

I am seeking your views in relation to the revaluation of your local government area as part of the 2024 revaluation program that will take effect on 30 June 2024.

The *Land Valuation Act 2010* requires that the Valuer-General undertakes an annual valuation of rateable land, but they may decide not to do so in a local government area after considering:

- a market survey report for the local government area that reviews the sales of land and the probable impact of those sales on the value of land since the last annual valuation
- the results of consultation with the local government for the area and appropriate local and industry groups.

The State Valuation Service (SVS) is currently considering a range of factors, including the timing of the last valuation and market movements. The SVS will continue to monitor the property market.

Consistent with the Act, please advise me of your support or otherwise for a revaluation in 2024. You may also wish to provide me with any additional information relevant for consideration. Please provide your response to me **by Friday, 13 July 2023** by email at valuer-general@resources.qld.gov.au. The results of this consultation will be used to inform my final decision about the 2024 revaluation program.

If you have any further enquiries regarding the revaluation program, please contact David Hobbs, Area Manager, State Valuation Service on telephone (07) 4987 9330 or email David.Hobbs@resources.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Laura Dietrich
Valuer-General
Department of Resources

1 William Street, Brisbane Qld 4000
PO Box 15216, City East Qld 4002
www.resources.qld.gov.au
ABN 59 020 847 551

13.3.1 - 20230175 - Development Application for Preliminary Approval (Variation Request) for Material Change of Use for Thirteen (13) Dual Occupancy Lots - L: 200 SP: 244953 - Breeze 8 Pty Ltd C/- Veris

DATE: Wednesday 12 July 2023

TO: Ordinary Council Meeting

AUTHOR: James McEvoy-Bowe - Senior Planner

AUTHORISING OFFICER: Neil McGaffin - Director Development Services

PRESENTED FOR: Decision

ATTACHMENTS

1. Planning Assessment Report [**13.3.1.1** - 11 pages]
2. Conditions of Approval [**13.3.1.2** - 4 pages]
3. Locality & Zoning Plan [**13.3.1.3** - 1 page]
4. Proposal Plan [**13.3.1.4** - 1 page]
5. QLD Gov. 'Know Your Zone' Card - Low Density Residential Zone [**13.3.1.5** - 1 page]

PURPOSE

To present the assessment of the development application.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the Development Application for Preliminary Approval (Variation Request to the Whitsunday Planning Scheme 2017) for Material Change of Use for Thirteen (13) Dual Occupancy Lots, made by Breeze 8 Pty Ltd, on L: 200 SP: 244953 and located at Valley Drive Cannonvale, subject to the conditions outlined in Attachment 2.

BACKGROUND

On 17 April 2009, Council issued a Negotiated Decision Notice for Mandara Rise Estate which consisted of the following parts:

- A. Development Permit for Material Change of Use of Premises from Rural Zone to Urban Residential Zone consistent with the Transitional Strategic Plan; and
Development Permit for Staged Reconfiguration of a Lot:
 - Stage 1A – One (1) Lot into Twenty (20) Urban Residential Lots and Balance Lot;
 - Stage 1B – One (1) Lot into Eighteen (18) Urban Residential Lots, One Drainage Lot and Balance Lot; and
 - Stage 1C – One (1) Lot into Twenty (20) Urban Residential Lots and One (1) Single Dwelling Lot, Easement.
- B. Preliminary Approval (PA) Overriding the Planning Scheme to alter the level of assessment for Material Change of Premises for Eleven (11) Code Assessable Dual Occupancy Lots.

Part A of the permit has commenced with the first 20 lots (1-12 & 48-55) registered within the required period and therefore Part A cannot lapse.

Part B of the permit has lapsed for the following reasons:

- The Decision Notice separates the Reconfiguration of a Lot component (Part A) and the Preliminary Approval component (Part B) of the approval.
- No Dual Occupancies have been developed within the required period.

The current owner has elected to reapply for another PA to override the current Planning Scheme to change the level of assessment of Dual Occupancies within the Mandara Estate from Impact Assessable to Code Assessable. It is noted that the applicant has elected to increase the number of Dual Occupancy lots from 11 to 13 from the previous approval and that the 13 lots are specifically identified which means that Dual Occupancies are only Code Assessable over the nominated lots.

APPLICATION SUMMARY

Council is in receipt of a Development Application for PA (Variation Request to The Whitsunday Planning Scheme 2017) for Material Change of Use for Thirteen Dual Occupancy Lots. The PA includes a variation request to vary the Table of Assessment for Material Change of Use within the Low Density Residential Zone to allow the 13 nominated Dual Occupancy lots with Stage 1B and 1C of Mandara Rise to alter the level of assessment to Code Assessable as opposed to being Impact Assessable. The application contains no use component which means all Dual Occupancies will be subject to a further Material Change of Use application to be submitted to Council. Each lot is above the minimum lot size specified under AO1.2 of the Dual Occupancy Code and are generally of a regular shape. Each lot being equal to or over 800m² ensures sufficient space is available on each site for car parking, storage and private open space.

The application has been assessed against the benchmarks set within State Planning Policy, the Regional Plan and Planning Scheme and is found to be in compliance with each policy document. The basis around compliance with the benchmarks is that the proposal encourages housing diversity within the Cannonvale area which makes steps towards relieving the affordable housing challenges the region is facing. The variation has been found to be appropriate given the new Table of Assessment is consistent with the terms, definitions, and structure of the Planning Scheme.

No submissions were received during this period of Public Notification.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Planning Act 2016
Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme 2017

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Process all statutory applications within statutory timeframes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As the development application is for Preliminary Approval the payment of infrastructure charges is not required. Infrastructure charges will be levied on the future development permits required. All application fees have been paid.

CONSULTATION

Manager Development Assessment
Strategic Planner
Senior Technical Officer Engineering Assessment

RISK ASSESSMENT

The decision may be appealed in the Planning & Environment Court of Queensland.

TIMINGS/DEADLINES

A decision is required by 13 July 2023.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Council officers contributing to the preparation and approval of this report have no conflicts of interest to declare.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

Section 58 of the Human Rights Act 2019 specifies required conduct for public entities when acting or making a decision. Sections 15-37 of the Human Rights Act 2019 identifies the human rights a public entity must consider in making a decision. The human rights relevant to this decision are as follows:

- Section 19 – Freedom of movement.
- Section 21 – Freedom of expression.
- Section 24 – Right to own property and not be arbitrarily deprived of property.
- Section 27 – Cultural rights – generally – all persons with a particular cultural, religious, racial or linguistic background have the right to enjoy their culture, to declare and practice their religion and use their language.
- Section 28 – Cultural rights – Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This decision does not limit the above identified human rights.

ANALYSIS

Council has received the following Development Application, which has been assessed against the provisions of the relevant legislation as reported below.

1. Application Summary

Proposal:	Development Application for Preliminary Approval (Variation Request to The Whitsunday Planning Scheme 2017) for Material Change of Use for Thirteen (13) Dual Occupancy Lots
Landowner	Breeze 8 Pty Ltd
Property Address:	Valley Drive Cannonvale
Property Description:	L: 200 SP: 244953 T: & EMT E & F/SP265765
Area of Site:	36.58ha
Planning Scheme Zone:	Low Density Residential and Rural Zone
Level of assessment	Impact Assessable
Overlays:	Bushfire Hazard Overlay Environmental Significance Overlay Landslide Overlay
Existing Use:	Mandara Rise Estate
Existing Approvals:	20070720 – Consisting of Part A & B below: A. Development Permit for Material Change of Use of premises from Rural Zone to Urban Residential Zone consistent with the transitional Strategic Plan); and Development Permit for Staged Reconfiguration of a Lot: • Stage 1A – One (1) Lot into Twenty (20) Urban Residential Lots and Balance Lot; • Stage 1B – One (1) Lot into Eighteen (18) Urban Residential Lots, One Drainage Lot and Balance Lot; and • Stage 1C – One (1) Lot into Twenty (20) Urban Residential Lots and One (1) Single Dwelling Lot, Easement. B. Preliminary Approval (PA) Overriding the Planning Scheme to alter the level of assessment for Material Change of premises for Eleven (11) code Assessable Dual Occupancy Lots. – PA component has LAPSED. 20200313 – Development Permit for Operational Works – Mandara Rise Estate Stage 1B 20200314 – Development Permit for Operational Works – Mandara Rise Estate Stage 1C
Public Notification:	29 March 2023 / 16 May 2023
Submissions received:	Nil
State referrals:	Nil
Infrastructure charges:	Nil

2. Site Details

2.1. Location

The land is located over lots formally described as L: 200 SP: 244953 but is generally referred to as the Mandara Rise Estate.

2.2. Zoning

The land is split zoned Low Density Residential and Rural under the *Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme 2017* (V3.9).

2.3. Site description

The subject site is located at the end of Valley Drive in Cannonvale. The site is presently being developed for Stages 1B and 1C. Stage 1B is nearing completion and Stage 1C has commenced construction. Behind the proposed residential stages is a large densely vegetated hillside that adjoins the Conway National Park.

2.4. Access

The site gains access via Valley Drive and Pearl Street, both public roads that are constructed to a sealed standard.

2.5. Surrounding uses

North – Low and Low-medium density residential uses (Valley Drive, Tanika Road etc).
East – zoned Rural and then Conway National Park zoned for environmental management and conservation.
South – Vacant Rural land & Conway National Park
West – Low Density Residential development (Whitsunday Lakes)

3. Proposal Details

Council is in receipt of a Development Application for PA (Variation Request to The Whitsunday Planning Scheme 2017) for Material Change of Use for Thirteen (13) Dual Occupancy Lots. The PA component includes a variation request to vary the Table of Assessment for Material Change of Use within the Low Density Residential Zone to allow the 13 nominated Dual Occupancy lots with Stage 1B and 1C of Mandara Rise to have a Code Assessable level of assessment as opposed to being Impact Assessable.

The 13 Dual Occupancy Lots (DOLs) are proposed over the largest lots within the subdivision and are generally consistent with the layout of the previously approved DOLs within the lapsed Part B of the 20070720 Development Permit. Only the nominated allotments will have a changed level of assessment and Dual Occupancies will remain Impact Assessable outside of the nominated sites. The 13 DOLs are Lots 13, 15, 16, 25, 33, 34, 35, 36, 42, 43, 46, 47 & 59 over Stage 1B and 1C of Mandara Rise Estate. The location of the 13 DOLs is provided on the Proposed Plan of Development in Attachment 13.3.5.4.

4. Planning Assessment

The application has been assessed against the relevant provisions of the *Planning Act, 2016* and the *Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme, 2017*.

The proposal is generally in accordance with the Planning Scheme and is recommended for approval in accordance with the drawings and documents submitted, subject to reasonable and relevant conditions (Attachment 2).

4.1. State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA)

The application was not referable.

4.2. State Planning Policy – July 2017

The State Planning Policy (SPP) includes interim development assessment requirements to ensure that State interests are appropriately considered by local government when assessing development applications where the local government Planning Scheme has not yet appropriately integrated all of the State's interests in the SPP. As the most recent SPP (July 2017) has not been reflected in the Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme, Part B of the SPP confirms that it applies to the assessment of the development application. An assessment of the relevant State Interests is as followed:

State Interest – Liveable Communities and Housing

The SPP Liveable Communities and Housing is considered as a Prescribed Matter to the proposal. The theme aims to ensure that planning decisions facilitate appropriate development that supports the housing, employment, education, infrastructure, and other needs of the community. It requires planning schemes and regional planning decisions to ensure there is a sufficient supply of land for all housing types now and into the future and to guide appropriate development and redevelopment of land, focussing on delivering housing affordability outcomes to Queensland.

One of the primary concepts of the theme is affordable living. Affordable living refers to the total cost of living, including the dwelling cost or cost of renting a dwelling. The Whitsunday Region has and is experiencing a dramatic increase in the cost of living. Lack of housing supply and diversity is a significant driver of this change. Planning controls in the years prior to the Covid pandemic have been often used to restrict housing diversity as the region's priority for housing supply and diversity were not considered paramount. This is clearly no longer the case as the region is suffering a housing deficit which is affecting all households, regardless of socio-economic status.

The proposed development is taking the initial steps to overcome the deficit by providing additional housing typologies in the form of Dual Occupancies into the available housing supply within Cannonvale, specifically within the Low Density Zone. This is achieved by providing an easier pathway to supply additional housing within the zone by changing the level of assessment for Dual Occupancies from Impact to Code Assessable over the nominated DOLs. The impact of this variation, when referring to basic supply and demand economic principles, is that more housing supply combined with additional housing typologies will help to relieve pressures that the community is currently facing. It is acknowledged that 13 additional dwellings in Cannonvale will not immediately 'cure' the pressures the community is facing, however the situation is dire enough that any improvement to the issue is a significant improvement.

It is considered that the proposal achieves one of the key benchmarks of the theme in that development 'provides for a range of housing types, tenures and sizes to cater for different ages, household sizes and socio-economic groups and people requiring assisted

living.' Significant weight can be afforded to this benchmark as the proposal is facilitating an easier pathway for providing a range of housing typologies typically not seen in the Low Density Residential Zone. Presently the zone does not allow different housing typologies other than a Dwelling House which does not align with the Liveable Communities and Housing theme. Conversely, the proposal achieves providing additional housing diversity within the zone, giving further justification for the level of weight to be applied for compliance with this theme.

State Interest – Economic Growth

Not Applicable.

State Interest – Environment and Heritage

Not applicable.

State Interest – Safety and Resilience to Hazards

Not applicable.

State Interest – Infrastructure

The proposal will not have an impact on the regional transport network. The existing road network servicing the development has capacity for the additional vehicle movements the development generates.

4.3. Mackay Isaac and Whitsunday Regional (MIW Plan – February 2012

The MIW Regional Plan was established to provide the vision and direction for the region to 2031. The plan provides certainty about where the region is heading in the future and provides the framework to respond to the challenges and opportunities which may arise. The proposal is generally consistent with the provisions of the plan. The development area is located within the Urban Footprint of the MIW Regional Plan and provides for additional residential development in the form of Dual Occupancies.

An assessment against the Desires Regional Outcomes of the Plan is as followed:

Strategic directions – Sustainability, Climate Change and Natural Hazards

The interaction of hazards to the site has been addressed by the subdivision (20070720).

Strategic directions – Environment

The development will have minimal impact on the natural environment.

Strategic directions – Regional Landscapes

Not applicable. The development area is within the Urban Footprint.

Strategic directions – Natural Resource Management

Not applicable.

Strategic directions – Strong Communities

The region is made up of many local communities, each with its own unique character and identity. The region is growing rapidly, and significant growth is projected to continue. This presents challenges in managing the implications of growth, while continuing to support the prosperity of local communities.

The Strong Communities regional outcome aims to ensure development in the region addresses 'disadvantage.' Disadvantage means any unfavourable circumstances or conditions affecting an individual or group of people. The current housing environment is creating a natural disadvantage to those who cannot afford the cost of the available housing in the region. A key policy within the theme is to ensure 'Planning outcomes support a diverse range of housing, including affordable housing, retirement and aged care options, and access to services and facilities are actively pursued.' Focussing on the former part of this policy statement, the proposal takes the initial steps to provide more housing diversity and density within the Low Density Zone.

More housing supply provided to the region will help to provide cheaper housing options to those who desperately need it and provide local businesses in the region with places to house new and existing staff. Although the proposal is of a relatively small scale, it will facilitate an increase in housing supply by allowing for an additional dwelling per lot and providing a different housing product to cater to the needs of different household types.

Strategic direction – Strong Economy

Not applicable.

Strategic direction – Managing Growth

Not applicable.

Strategic direction – Urban Form

The urban form theme aims to ensure the townships are accessible and build on their heritage, character and liveability through designs that respond to the natural environment. The plan mandates that new development contributes positively to the settlement pattern through compact, well-designed development that integrates with the existing urban structure. The proposal provides infill development within the urban footprint. Each DOL is above the minimum lot size specified within the Dual Occupancy Development Code and therefore it is not expected that any future dual occupancy will be unable to meet the provisions of the code or be dramatically out of character or poorly designed. The proposal provides a marginal increase in dwelling density in an area that is already characterised by varying lot sizes and built form typologies and so can assimilate to the existing residential environment.

Strategic direction – Infrastructure and Servicing

Any growth in the region will inevitably add pressure to the region's infrastructure. The development will not impact on Council's ability to provide infrastructure to the region as the overall demand generated by the development is low.

Strategic direction – Transport

It is important that the region recognises, protects and manages major transport corridors to enable general vehicular and personal movement, and the safe and continued movement of freight throughout the region. The proposed development provides a minimal increase in traffic movements and is not likely to impact the region's major transport corridors.

4.4. Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme, 2017

4.4.1. Strategic Framework

The Strategic framework sets the policy direction for the Planning Scheme and forms the basis for ensuring appropriate development occurs in the Planning Scheme area for the life of the Planning Scheme.

4.4.2. Strategic Intent

The Planning Scheme sets the policy direction to ensure that to 2036 and beyond the Whitsundays is a prosperous, liveable and sustainable region which will be achieved through the integration of the unique attributes and competitive advantages of each township. The Regions townships and communities have a strong and proud social identity linked to its key economic sectors. The promotion and protection of the regions environmental values is significant to the expressed identities, including the unique scenic values, which consist of key urban gateways, views and vistas. An assessment of the development against the key themes of the Strategic Intent is as followed:

Strategic Intent – Theme 1 - Liveable Communities and Housing

The Whitsundays is a is a prosperous, liveable and sustainable region where people live, work, play and invest. However, the region is facing challenging issues in the availability of affordable housing, not envisaged in the conception of the Planning Scheme between 2014 and 2017.

The proposal provides infill over an established subdivision. The development increases the amount of housing supply in Cannonvale and ensures the Mandara Rise Estate provides a mix of housing typologies to diversify choice in the area. Ultimately, more housing supply and diversity will ensure there is sufficient availability of entry and mid-level housing options, the key areas in affordability. Providing more housing choice facilitates a pathway to changing the current housing environment in the region, which many may consider undesirable at present. The proposal provides additional housing choices within the Low Density Residential Zone and therefore does not conflict with the Liveable Communities and Housing theme.

Strategic Intent – Theme 2 - Economic Growth

The economic growth theme aims to protect and enhance the economic resilience, wealth creating and employment generating capacities of the Region's key sectors. The proposal does not compromise any strategic benchmarks of the Economic Growth theme.

Strategic Intent – Theme 3 - Environment and Heritage

The environment and heritage theme seeks to protect the region's cultural heritage and environmental values for the future. The proposed development site has no matters of environmental significance or identified cultural heritage values. Although within the Environmental Significance Overlay, the underlying subdivision is already substantially

completed, and the proposal does not increase any additional development footprint to that which is already approved. This means no additional impacts to the environment are generated by the proposed development, demonstrating compliance with the theme.

Strategic Intent – Theme 4 - Safety and Resilience to Hazards

The Safety and resilience to hazards seeks to ensure that development occurs outside of areas subject to natural hazards and that development in general is undertaken in a way that mitigates adverse environmental impacts. The proposed development is not an unacceptable risk to natural hazards.

Strategic Intent – Theme 5 – Infrastructure

The proposal will not impact Council's ability to supply infrastructure to the region.

4.4.3. Overlay Codes

Bushfire Hazard Overlay

The site is subject to the bushfire overlay, however the development footprint for Mandara Rise is already existing and the land has been cleared to the boundaries of the subdivision. This clearing has significantly reduced the fire risk. Each DOL will have direct access to a public road and be within 70m of a fire hydrant. The development therefore complies with the overlay.

Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO)

The development area of the Mandara Rise Estate is covered by the ESO. This area is already subject to the underlying development permits for the Mandara Rise Estate and has been cleared to facilitate the construction of the development. The proposed DOLs are proposed over the existing layout and therefore no further vegetation clearing is necessary. The development therefore complies with the overlay.

Landslide Hazard Overlay

No built form or works are proposed within the landslide hazard overlay as part of this development application. The DOLs are proposed on lots within an existing approval, which have previously been assessed for landslide hazard. Any future dual occupancies over the DOLs subject to the overlay will require a site and development specific geotechnical assessment. The development therefore complies with the overlay.

4.4.4. Low Density Zone Code

The Low Density Residential Zone Code states that whilst primarily intended to accommodate dwelling houses, limited other Accommodation activities may also be established in the zone where compatible with the prevailing residential character and amenity. The applicant acknowledges that the predominant land use character of the area is single dwelling houses, however the applicant has provided evidence that there are 9 dual occupancies within a 500m radius of the Mandara Rise Estate, demonstrating that dual occupancies would not be considered out of character to the area.

The variation request does not remove the ability for Council to ensure future dual occupancies maintain a high level of residential amenity for existing residents as the level of assessment for Dual Occupancies will be Code Assessable, requiring a Material

Change of Use Permit where Council will be able to have control so that residential character and amenity is upheld. Importantly, each proposed DOL is equal to or above the minimum lot size listed within the Dual Occupancy Development Code, which ensures sufficient space is available on each site for car parking, storage and private open space. This ensures a high level of residential amenity is provided to both residents and adjoining properties and that built form is reflective and compatible with the prevailing residential character and amenity of the area.

Each site will be fully connected to reticulated infrastructure and capacity is available to service the additional demand. The existing ROL provides for appropriate pedestrian connectivity throughout the estate and the proposal does not impact the footpath network. Each road servicing the development does not exceed the vehicles per day threshold, which demonstrates the road infrastructure servicing the development has sufficient capacity for the 13 addition dwellings.

Overall, the proposed development is compatible within the Low-density Residential Zone and primarily complies with Overall Outcome (2), whereby Dual Occupancies can be compatible with the prevailing residential character and amenity of the area.

4.4.5. Assessment of Variations – Code Assessable Dual Occupancy development in the Low Density Residential Zone

The proposed variations to table 5.5.8 of the Planning Scheme is consistent with the terms, definitions, and structure of the Planning Scheme. The variation amends the table of assessment to nominate Dual Occupancy development as Code Assessable on the nominated DOLs, subject to the following codes:

Low Density Residential		
Use	Categories of development and assessment	Assessment benchmarks for assessable development and requirements for accepted development
Dual occupancy	Code assessment if proposed over Lots 13, 15, 16, 25, 33, 34, 35, 36, 42, 43, 46, 47 & 59 as per Proposed Preliminary Approval Plan 400236 PP-02 by Veris Otherwise, Impact assessment	Dual occupancy code Low density residential zone code Infrastructure code Landscaping code Transport and parking code
Dwelling house	Accepted development if complying with the acceptable outcomes of the applicable code(s)	Dwelling house code
	Otherwise, code assessment	Dwelling house code Low density residential zone code
Home based business	Accepted development if complying with the acceptable	Home based business code

	outcomes of the applicable code(s)	
	Otherwise, code assessment	Home based business code Low density residential zone code Infrastructure code
Residential care facility	Code assessment	Residential care facility and retirement facility code Low density residential zone code Infrastructure code Landscaping code Transport and parking code
Retirement facility	Code assessment	Residential care facility and retirement facility code Low density residential zone code Infrastructure code Landscaping code Transport and parking code
All other Accommodation activities	Impact assessment	The Planning Scheme

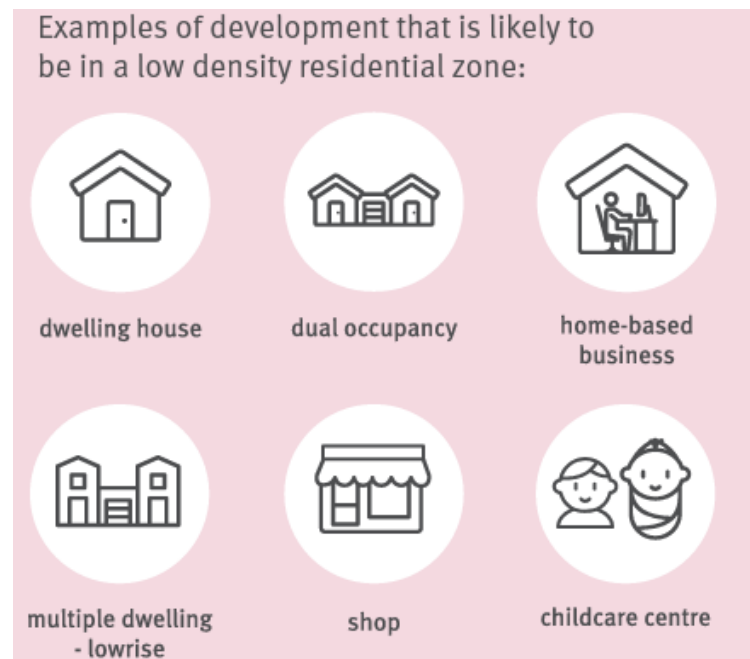
The varied table of assessment reflects the proposed development and is determined to be appropriate.

4.4.6. Other Relevant Matters

Recent changes to the *Planning Regulation 2017* (Rooming Accommodation Amendment effective 2 December 2022) removed reference to 'dwelling house' from the zone purpose statements for the Low Density and Low-Medium Density Residential Zone. The purpose of this change was to provide a consistent position on the types of development expected in these zones. The State has advised the following commentary in relation to the changes:

"Many planning schemes do not support a variety of dwelling types in lower density zones. The updated zone purpose statements will encourage a wider variety of dwelling types in lower density residential zones by clarifying the range of dwelling types that can be expected in these areas."

Further guidance release by the State in the form of 'Know Your Zone' cards, provide an overview of each zone and identify uses that can be expected in each zone. It is noted that the Dual Occupancy land use is now identified on the Low Density Residential Zone card:



Additional changes made to Schedule 6 of the *Planning Regulation 2017* whereby secondary dwellings in residential zones are no longer subject to the size limits stipulated in Dwelling house code. Provided the secondary dwelling is subordinate in size and used in conjunction with a main dwelling, there is potential for a secondary dwelling to be almost as large as the primary dwelling and for the site to present like a dual occupancy, having the same impacts despite being an as of right use.

As part of the State Interest Review for the Planning Scheme Major Amendment (currently V4.6), the State has requested that Council incorporates the Regulation changes into the Planning Scheme Major Amendment package (secondary dwellings and rooming accommodation only). Although Council has not yet been directed to reflect the zone purpose statement amendments in the Planning Scheme Major Amendment, it is clear the policy direction for the Low Density Residential Zone is to incorporate a wider variety of dwelling types, including Dual Occupancies. Therefore, in the assessment of the proposed variation request, significant weight can be given to the fact that the State's policy direction for the Low Density Residential Zone is to allow for Dual Occupancy development, just as the proposed development intends to provide.

4.4.7. Rural Zone Code

The site is subject to split zoning where the entirety of the underlying 20070720 ROL Permit is located on the Low Density part of the lot and the balance of the land is in the Rural zone. The balance section of the land under the rural zoning is a steep and vegetated hillside that adjoins the Conway National Park. Under the 20070720 ROL Permit, this balance portion of the site is categorised as an environmental reserve, to protect the National Park from urban encroachment and edge effects from the urban environment. The proposed development is infill development within the residential portion of the site. The balance portion is also unusable for agriculture due to the steep

mountainous terrain. The development bares no impact to the balance portion of the site and does not conflict with the Rural zone.

4.4.8. Development Codes

Dual Occupancy Code

The proposed development facilitates Dual Occupancies over specifically identified allotments within the Mandara Rise Estate Stage 1B and 1C. Any Dual Occupancies proposed over the DOLs will be subject to a further MCU Development Permit to be assessed and decided by Council. Each lot is above the minimum lot size specified under AO1.2 and are generally of a regular shape. Any lot that is an irregular shape contains a larger lot size to ensure code compliance at future MCU stage. Given that each DOL is equal to or above the minimum lot size of the code, it is expected that any future Dual Occupancy proposed over the DOLs will be able to meet the siting and design requirements of the code.

Infrastructure Code

Each DOL can be provided with the full range of urban services. No upgrades or augmentations are required to the reticulated networks to facilitate dual occupancies on any of the proposed DOLs. Council's Infrastructure Directorate has confirmed there is sufficient capacity in the water and sewer networks to receive the development.

Landscaping Code

All landscaping placements will be subject to further assessment at future MCU stage for each dual occupancy.

Transport and Parking Code

The lot sizes available for future development provide sufficient space to meet the requirements of the code.

5. Public Submissions

The development application was placed on public notification between 29 March 2023 and 16 May 2023 in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Planning Act 2016. The Notice of Compliance was received on 23 May 2023. No submissions were received during this period of Public Notification.

6. Infrastructure Charges

The development does not attract an Infrastructure Charge as the application is for a Preliminary Approval only. Infrastructure Charges will be applicable at future Material Change of Use stage for each Dual Occupancy.

1.0 ADMINISTRATION

- 1.1 This is a preliminary approval to vary the effect of the Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme 2017 given under Section 49(2) of the *Planning Act 2016*.
- 1.2 Where not specified within the Table of Assessment for the Low Density Residential Zone (within Condition 4.0), all land and development is considered to be within the Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme 2017 (as amended) and the category of development and assessment is determined accordingly.
- 1.3 The approved development must be completed and maintained generally in accordance with the approved drawings and documents:

Plan/Document Name	Prepared By	Plan Number	Dated
Proposed Preliminary Approval Plan	Veris	400236 PP-02	07/12/2022

- 1.4 Where a discrepancy or conflict exists between the written conditions of this approval and the approved plans, the requirements of the written condition(s) will prevail.
- 1.5 All conditions of this approval must be complied with in full to Council's satisfaction prior to the commencement of the use.
- 1.6 The applicant shall demonstrate and provide evidence that compliance with all conditions of this development approval and any other subsequent development approvals as a result of this development approval have been complied with at the time of the commencement of the use.

2.0 CURRENCY PERIOD

- 2.1 In accordance with section 88 of the Planning Act 2016, The Variation Approval lapses to the extent the development is not completed within five (5) years from the date of the decision notice.

3.0 OTHER DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

- 2.1 Other development permits which may be required to allow the development to be undertaken are listed below and these conditions do not affect the need to obtain such permits, namely:
- Development Permit(s) for Material Change of Use;
 - Development Permit(s) for Building Works;
 - Development Permit(s) for Reconfiguring a Lot;
 - Development Permit(s) for Operational Works
 - Plumbing and Drainage Works
- 2.2 The developer must also obtain all other permits, approvals and authorities required by other legislation.

4.0 TABLE OF ASSESSMENT

Low Density Residential		
Use	Categories of development and assessment	Assessment benchmarks for assessable development and requirements for accepted development
Dual occupancy	Code assessment if proposed over Lots 13, 15, 16, 25, 33, 34, 35, 36, 42, 43, 46, 47 & 59 as per Proposed Preliminary Approval Plan 400236 PP-02 by Veris Otherwise Impact assessment	Dual occupancy code Low density residential zone code Infrastructure code Landscaping code Transport and parking code
Dwelling house	Accepted development if complying with the acceptable outcomes of the applicable code(s)	Dwelling house code
	Otherwise code assessment	Dwelling house code Low density residential zone code
Home based business	Accepted development if complying with the acceptable outcomes of the applicable code(s)	Home based business code
	Otherwise code assessment	Home based business code Low density residential zone code Infrastructure code
Residential care facility	Code assessment	Residential care facility and retirement facility code Low density residential zone code Infrastructure code Landscaping code Transport and parking code
Retirement facility	Code assessment	Residential care facility and retirement facility code Low density residential zone code Infrastructure code Landscaping code

		Transport and parking code
All other Accommodation activities	Impact assessment	The Planning Scheme

5.0 MISCELLANEOUS

- 5.1 If any item of cultural heritage is identified during site works, all work must cease and the relevant State Agency must be notified. Work can resume only after State Agency clearance is obtained.

The Applicant is reminded of their obligations under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act, 2003 and the Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003. Further information and databases are available from the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships at: www.datsip.qld.gov.au

- 5.2 Any alteration necessary to electricity, telephone, water mains, sewerage mains, and/or public utility installations resulting from the development or in connection with the development, must be at full cost to the developer.
- 5.3 It is the developer's responsibility for the full rectification of any damage caused to neighbouring public infrastructure (such as footpaths, driveways, fences, gardens, trees and the like) caused by contractors, including clean up of any litter or waste that is a result of the subject development.

6.0 ADVISORY NOTES

6.1 Hours of work

It is the developer's responsibility to ensure compliance with the Environmental Protection Act 1994, which prohibits any construction, building and earthworks activities likely to cause nuisance noise (including the entry and departure of heavy vehicles) between the hours of 6.30 pm and 6.30 am from Monday to Saturday and at all times on Sundays or Public Holidays.

6.2 Dust Control

It is the developer's responsibility to ensure compliance with the Environmental Nuisance of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 which prohibits unlawful environmental nuisance caused by dust, ash, fumes, light, odour or smoke beyond the boundaries of the property during all stages of the development including earthworks and construction.

6.3 Sedimentation Control

It is the developer's responsibility to ensure compliance with the Environmental Protection Act 1994 and Schedule 9 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008 to prevent soil erosion and contamination of the stormwater drainage system and waterways.

6.4 Noise During Construction and Noise in General

It is the developer's responsibility to ensure compliance with the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

6.5 General Safety of Public During Construction

It is the project manager's responsibility to ensure compliance with the Work Health and Safety Act 2011. It states that the project manager is obliged to ensure construction work is planned and

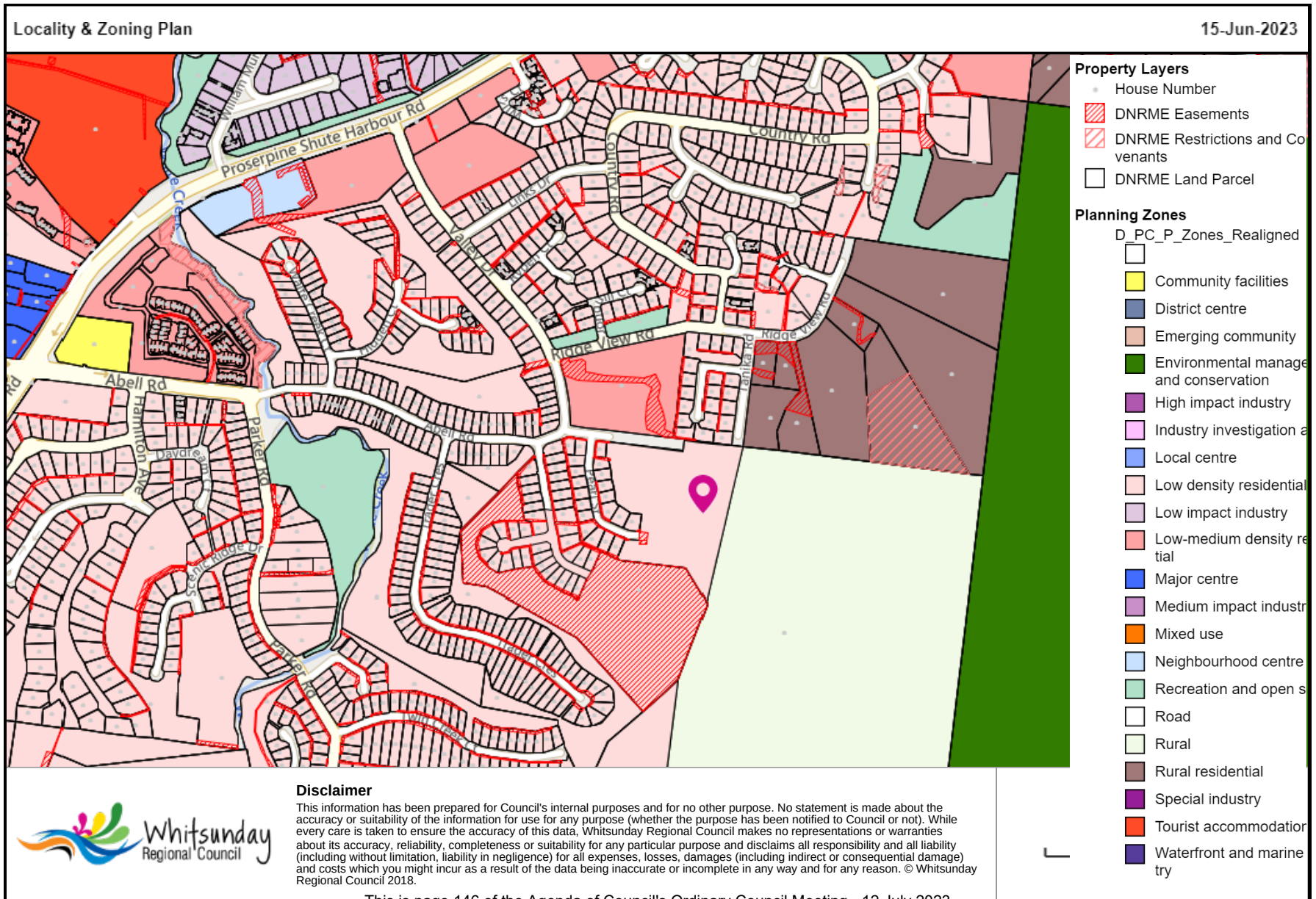
Attachment 13.3.1.2 Conditions of Approval

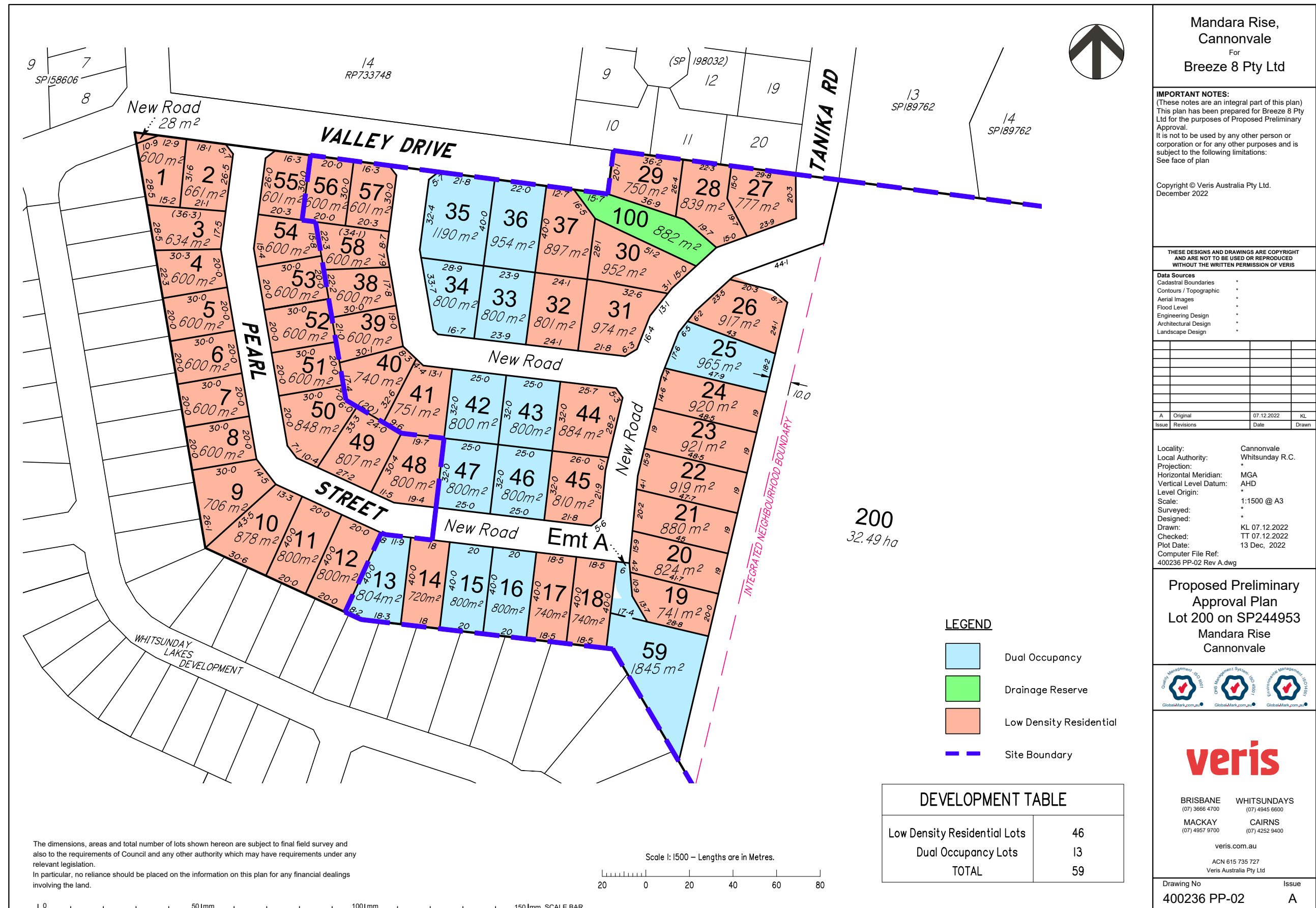
managed in a way that prevents or minimises risks to the health and safety of members of the public at or near the workplace during construction work.

It is the principal contractor's responsibility to ensure compliance with the Work Health and Safety Act 2011. It states that the principal contractor is obliged on a construction workplace to ensure that work activities at the workplace prevent or minimise risks to the health and safety of the public at or near the workplace during the work.

It is the responsibility of the person in control of the workplace to ensure compliance with the Work Health and Safety Act 2011. It states that the person in control of the workplace is obliged to ensure there is appropriate, safe access to and from the workplace for persons other than the person's workers.

- 6.6 Enquiries relating to the aforementioned conditions should be directed to the Development Services Directorate who will direct the enquiry to the relevant officer.





KNOW YOUR ZONE

Queensland zoning
information

Image is indicative only

Low density residential zone

What is a zone?

Every property is zoned. A zone identifies the preferred land use in an area. The zone, and other planning controls, are identified in the planning scheme to guide development and use of land.

What development can I expect in the low density residential zone?

The low density residential zone covers land that is mainly used for houses.

Buildings in this zone are likely to be low rise, for example 1, 2 or occasionally 3 storeys high and may include single houses or two houses on the same lot (called dual occupancy). Development of houses on smaller lots, and small scale multiple dwellings such as townhouses may be seen closer to a local or town centre, shops and public transport. Sometimes a smaller second dwelling or home, a 'granny flat', could be expected. This zone also includes other uses such as home-based businesses, local shops or child care centres.

A planning scheme can specify the range of housing types and sizes which may be developed in this zone.

Examples of development that is likely to be in a low density residential zone:



dwelling house



dual occupancy



home-based business



multiple dwelling - lowrise



shop



childcare centre

Examples of development that is unlikely to be in a low density residential zone:



medium impact industry



wholesale nursery



showroom

To find out more, visit qld.gov.au/knowyourzone or contact your local council.



Queensland
Government

13.3.2 - 20221046 - Development Application for Development Permit for Reconfiguration of a Lot - One (1) Lot into Two (2) Lots - 65-67 Tucker Road, Riordanvale - Tucker C/- Wynne Planning & Development

DATE: Wednesday 12 July 2023

TO: Ordinary Council Meeting

AUTHOR: James McEvoy-Bowe - Senior Planner

AUTHORISING OFFICER: Neil McGaffin - Director Development Services

PRESENTED FOR: Decision

ATTACHMENTS

1. Planning Assessment Report [13.3.2.1 - 8 pages]
2. Zoning and Locality Plan [13.3.2.2 - 1 page]
3. Proposal Plans [13.3.2.3 - 2 pages]
4. ALC Land Classification Map [13.3.2.4 - 1 page]
5. Setback Distance to Agriculture [13.3.2.5 - 1 page]

PURPOSE

To present the assessment of the development application.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council refuse the Development Application for Development Permit for Reconfiguration of a Lot - One (1) Lot into Two (2) Lots, made by N A Tucker & S M Tucker C/- Wynne Planning & Development, on L: 6 SP: 149502 and located at 65-67 Tucker Road Riordanvale, for the following reasons:

1. The proposal is not consistent with the State Planning Policy in respect of fragmentation of Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Class A and Class B land.
2. The proposal is not consistent with the Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday Regional Plan in respect of rural residential development in an area which is not identified as a rural living area, compromising the intent of the regional plan to protect productive agricultural land.
3. There has been no demonstration that an overriding community need exists for the proposed development.
4. The proposal conflicts with the Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme 2017 and cannot be conditioned to comply. Specifically:
 - a) The Rural zone is the correct zone for this site, being the default zone for the majority of the planning scheme area which is not included in an urban zone.
 - b) The predicted demand and supply of rural residential land within the planning scheme area was modelled by the WRC Urban Growth Study and adequate land is zoned to accommodate predicted demand.
 - c) The proposal is not consistent with the Rural Zone code and Reconfiguration of a Lot Code, which specifies a minimum lot size of 100 hectares.
 - d) The proposal is not consistent with the agricultural land overlay, which does not support fragmentation of land.

BACKGROUND

There are no background matters to report.

APPLICATION SUMMARY

Council is in receipt of a development application for the reconfiguration of one rural allotment into two, as described in the following table:

Proposed Lot	Size	Access arrangement
Proposed Lot 5	5,000sqm	Access from Tucker Road
Proposed Lot 6	1.5ha	Access from Tucker Road

The application is Impact Assessable as both allotments are beneath the minimum lot size for the zone as specified in Table 9.4.6.3.2 Minimum lot sizes and dimensions.

The applicant has sufficiently demonstrated planning grounds to support the application and the proposal is recommended for refusal due to non-compliances with the benchmarks set by the Planning Scheme, Regional Plan and State Planning Policy which seek to protect agricultural land. No submissions were received during the public notification period.

The applicant's consulting engineer identified a sighting distance non-compliance for the existing access location for Lot 6. The existing driveway location has existed for approximately 40 years. To resolve the identified non-compliance concealed Driveway signage located 170m before the access driveway can be utilised.

A detailed planning assessment is contained within Attachment 13.3.4.1.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Planning Act 2016

Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme 2017

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Process all statutory applications within statutory timeframes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The development attracts an infrastructure charge of \$13,364.40. All application fees have been paid.

CONSULTATION

Manager Development Assessment

Senior Technical Officer Engineering Assessment

Civil Engineer (Network Planning)

RISK ASSESSMENT

The decision may be appealed in the Planning & Environment Court of Queensland.

TIMINGS/DEADLINES

A decision is required by 12 July 2023.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Council officers contributing to the preparation and approval of this report have no conflicts of interest to declare.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

Section 58 of the Human Rights Act 2019 specifies required conduct for public entities when acting or making a decision. Sections 15-37 of the Human Rights Act 2019 identifies the human rights a public entity must consider in making a decision. The human rights relevant to this decision are as follows:

- Section 19 – Freedom of movement.
- Section 21 – Freedom of expression.
- Section 24 – Right to own property and not be arbitrarily deprived of property.
- Section 27 – Cultural rights – generally – all persons with a particular cultural, religious, racial or linguistic background have the right to enjoy their culture, to declare and practice their religion and use their language.
- Section 28 – Cultural rights – Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This decision does not limit the above identified human rights.

ANALYSIS

Council has received the following Development Application, which has been assessed against the provisions of the relevant legislation as reported below.

1. Application Summary

Proposal:	Reconfiguration of a Lot - One (1) Lot into Two (2) Lots
Landowner	N A Tucker & S M Tucker
Property Address:	65-67 Tucker Road Riordanvale
Property Description:	L: 6 SP: 149502
Area of Site:	2.057ha
Planning Scheme Zone:	Rural Zone
Level of assessment	Impact Assessable
Overlays:	Agriculture Land Bushfire Hazard
Existing Use:	Dwelling House
Existing Approvals:	Nil
Public Notification:	16 March 2023 / 6 April 2023
Submissions received:	Nil
State referrals:	Nil
Infrastructure charges:	\$13,191.40

2. Site Details

2.1. Location

The land is located at 65-67 Tucker Road Riordanvale, formally described as L: 6 SP: 149502.

2.2. Zoning

The land is zoned Rural under the *Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme 2017* (V3.7).

2.3. Site description

The subject site contains an existing dwelling and three outbuildings. The site is on a small crest approximately halfway along Tucker Road from the adjoining Riordanvale Road. The site consists of relatively thick vegetation that provides a natural buffer from surrounding farming activities also undertaken by the applicant on land to the east. The proposed vacant lot is a small hill containing thick vegetation.

2.4. Access

Access to Proposed Lot 5 can be via an upgraded concrete crossover to Tucker Road in accordance with Council standard drawing RS-056. Access to the parent parcel (Lot 6) requires an upgraded concrete crossover to the RS-056 standard. An informal access to

59 Tucker Road exists through proposed Lot 5 however this access is to be removed if the application is approved.

2.5. Surrounding uses

North – Rural zone land used for rural purposes (cane farming) on Lot 7 on SP149502.

East – Rural zone land used for rural purposes (cane farming) on Lot 7 on SP149502.

South – Rural residential land uses along Tucker Road.

West – Rural residential land uses along Tucker Road.

3. Proposal Details

Council is in receipt of a development application for the reconfiguration of one rural allotment into two, as described in the following table:

Proposed Lot	Size	Access arrangement
Proposed Lot 5	5,000sqm	Access from Tucker Road
Proposed Lot 6	1.5ha	Access from Tucker Road

The application is Impact Assessable as both allotments are beneath the minimum lot size for the zone as specified in Table 9.4.6.3.2 Minimum lot sizes and dimensions. The site does not contain any existing drainage features so is not subject to any potential flooding. The site contains a dwelling house and 3 sheds.

The application has been supported by an Effluent Disposal Report that demonstrates that Proposed Lot 5 can be appropriately serviced for on-site effluent disposal. An engineering overview has also been supplied that demonstrates the access for Proposed Lot 5 achieves the required Safe Intersection Sighting Distance (SISD) requirements. The existing driveway for Lot 6 does not achieve SISD due to a rise in Tucker Road. The driveway location on Tucker Road has existed for at least 40 years. The applicant's consulting engineer has provided a performance solution to address the SISD shortfall by placing 'Concealed Driveway' signage located 170m before the access driveway for Proposed Lot 6. The Infrastructure Directorate has accepted the signage performance solution.

No submissions were received during the mandatory Public Notification period. The development is unable to overcome the higher order benchmarks of the State Planning Policy and the Planning Scheme and is recommended for refusal.

4. Planning Assessment

The application has been assessed against the relevant provisions of the *Planning Act, 2016* and the *Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme, 2017*.

The proposal is recommended for refusal due to the following inconsistencies with the Planning Scheme, which cannot be satisfactorily conditioned to comply:

1. The proposal is not consistent with the State Planning Policy in respect of fragmentation of Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Class A and Class B land.
2. The proposal is not consistent with the Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday Regional Plan in respect of rural residential development in an area which is not identified as a rural living area, compromising the intent of the regional plan to protect productive agricultural land.

3. There has been no demonstration that an overriding community need exists for the proposed development.
4. The proposal conflicts with the Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme 2017 and cannot be conditioned to comply. Specifically:
 - a) The Rural zone is the correct zone for this site, being the default zone for the majority of the planning scheme area which is not included in an urban zone.
 - b) The predicted demand and supply of rural residential land within the planning scheme area was modelled by the WRC Urban Growth Study and adequate land is zoned to accommodate predicted demand.
 - c) The proposal is not consistent with the Rural Zone code and Reconfiguration of a Lot Code, which specifies a minimum lot size of 100 hectares.
 - d) The proposal is not consistent with the agricultural land overlay, which does not support fragmentation of land.

4.1. State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA)

The application was not referable.

4.2. State Planning Policy – July 2017

The State Planning Policy (SPP) includes interim development assessment requirements to ensure that State interests are appropriately considered by local government when assessing development applications where the local government Planning Scheme has not yet appropriately integrated all of the State's interests in the SPP. As the most recent SPP (July 2017) has not been reflected in the Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme, Part B of the SPP confirms that it applies to the assessment of the development application. The following State interest is applicable.

State Interest – Agriculture

The subject allotment is identified as having a Class B Agricultural Land Classification in accordance with the State's Agricultural Land Classifications. The site is not within the State Strategic Cropping Land overlay.

The State Planning Policy identifies that "*Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Class A and Class B land is protected for sustainable agricultural use by:*

- a) avoiding fragmentation of ALC Class A or Class B land into lot sizes inconsistent with the current or potential use of the land for agriculture;*
- b) avoiding development that will have an irreversible impact on, or adjacent to, ALC Class A or Class B land; and*
- c) maintaining or enhancing land conditions and the biophysical resources underpinning ALC Class A or Class B land."*

The proposed development conflicts with State Interest (a) as the proposal results in the subdivision of Class B agricultural land, equating to fragmentation of Class B agricultural land.

In response to b), the rear boundary of proposed Lot 5 has a setback of over 70m to the closest farming operations and the proposed dwelling location is over 170m from the adjoining farm. Within the 70m setback there is an elevation change of 10m and within the 170m setback, there is an elevation change of approximately 17.5m. Inside both

setbacks there is relatively thick vegetation which may also reduce the likelihood of future residential uses experiencing negative edge effects from adjacent farming.

In response to c), it is possible the development can maintain the existing land conditions of surrounding agricultural lands due to the setbacks, elevation change and existing vegetation that separates the adjoining Class B agricultural land and proposed Lot 5.

4.3. Mackay Isaac and Whitsunday Regional Plan – February 2012

The Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday Regional Plan was established to provide the vision and direction for the region to 2031. The plan provides certainty about where the region is heading in the future and provides the framework to respond to the challenges and opportunities which may arise. An assessment against the relevant Desired Regional Outcomes is as followed:

Strategic Direction – Managing Growth

The proposal will create further rural residential development in an area which is not identified as a Rural Living Area in the MIW Regional Plan. The purpose of the Rural Living Area in the regional plan is to prevent further fragmentation of productive agricultural land, by concentrating rural residential development in the identified areas within the plan. The site is surrounded by the Rural Living Area designation over the rural residential properties adjoining the premises and on the other side of Tucker Road. Nevertheless, the site carries the Rural Landscape designation and is not infill between lots of this designation and therefore the proposal conflicts with the Managing Growth Strategic Direction.

Strategic Direction – Natural Resource Management:

This strategic direction within the Regional Plan aims to provide guidance on protecting the regions natural resources, including agricultural production areas. In relation to those areas, it provides a framework of principles that protect the region's best agricultural lands by preventing inappropriate land uses in rural areas and further fragmentation of rural lands resulting in alienation and reduced agricultural productivity. The proposed development will result in fragmented agricultural lands and is close to existing cane farming operations and therefore conflicts with this strategic direction.

4.4. Whitsunday Regional Council Planning Scheme, 2017

4.4.1. Strategic Framework

The proposed development does not align with the Strategic Frameworks for the reasons identified in the Strategic Intent assessment.

4.4.2. Strategic Intent

Strategic Intent – Theme 1 – Liveable Communities and Housing

The predicted demand and supply of rural residential land within the planning scheme area was modelled by the WRC Urban Growth Study and adequate land is zoned to accommodate predicted demand. The land is proposed to be subdivided down to a size that is not considered efficient and productive Rural land. However, the land consists of certain characteristics that may permit an orderly rural subdivision that results in 'in-fill' development.

Land use strategy (7) of the Liveable communities and housing theme advises that rural residential development occurs on the fringes of urban areas and will generally not expand into adjacent rural areas. The subject site is close to the fringes of the urban area. The site directly adjoins a rural residential node in Riordanvale but is not a 'missing tooth' between land of this zoning.

The site does carry characteristics that could result in compliance with certain elements of the theme, however without an accompanying growth study on Rural Residential land supply that advises there is sufficient need for more rural residential land, the development is unable to comply with the Liveable Communities and Housing theme.

Strategic Intent – Theme 2 – Economic Growth

The proposed smaller lot 5 has characteristics that may not result in fragmented productive agricultural lands. However, it is unable to avoid fragmenting Class B Agricultural land. Agricultural uses proposed within the area of Lot 5 may result in edge effects from pesticide spraying that may impact the existing dwelling that is 30m away from the proposed Lot 5 boundary and a neighbouring residence (59 Tucker Rd) that is only 10m from the boundary. Agricultural activities within the area of proposed Lot 5 are already at a disadvantage due to the close proximity of residential accommodation.

Despite the unique situation identified above, the development cannot comply with the Economic Growth theme due to the fact that Class B Agricultural land, productive or not, is fragmented as a result of the proposed development.

Strategic Intent – Theme 3 – Environment and Heritage

The development site is not within the Environmental Significance Overlay and consists of Category X vegetation. The proposed development does not generate any conflicts with the land use strategies contained within the Environment and Heritage theme.

Strategic Intent – Theme 4 – Safety and Resilience to Hazards

The development site is subject to Bushfire Hazard Overlay. A Bushfire Management Plan accompanies the application material and identifies a bushfire risk that is Low.

Strategic Intent – Theme 5 – Infrastructure

The proposal is supported by the regions existing infrastructure networks and will not jeopardise their efficiency or delivery to the community.

4.4.3. Overlay Codes

Agriculture Land Overlay

The proposed development conflicts with the Agricultural Land Overlay. An agricultural land evaluation has not been undertaken for this proposal as per the requirements of the overlay code. The Agricultural Land Overlay protects the Strategic Framework requirement of Economic Growth 3.2.2. The Agricultural Land Overlay is separated into the following two layers:

- IAA State Important Agricultural Layer; and
- Agricultural land classification class A and B.

Important agricultural areas (IAAs) are areas identified in the Queensland Agricultural Land Audit 2013 as having all the requirements for agriculture to be successful and sustainable. ALC Class A and Class B land constitute the most productive agricultural land in Queensland, with soil and land characteristics that allow successful crop and pasture production. They are productive soils that have the capacity to sustain agricultural production with few limitations and cover just 2.5 per cent of Queensland. The site has been identified as containing Class B land. The resulting development may lead to further alienation and fragmentation of agriculturally viable land and potentially negatively impacting adjacent rural lands. The impacts from the proposal equate to a direct conflict with the overlay. The application therefore is unable to comply with the Agricultural Land Overlay and cannot be provided development conditions to comply.

Notwithstanding the above, the application can be considered due to the unique characteristics of the site and surrounding land. The proposal results in rural residential development on rural land, however may not result in alienated agricultural land or result in contested land for adjoining agricultural uses. The proposal results in new accommodation activities over proposed Lot 5. For this land use to be considered suitable, the proposal must achieve an appropriate level of buffering from any adjoining rural activity. The proposal's Site Plan identifies a future dwelling location that is setback approximately 30m from Tucker Road. This proposed dwelling location (at 65m AHD) achieves a setback of approximately 170m from the rural activity to the south-west and achieves a 250m setback from the rural activity directly west. There is also an elevation difference between the house pad and the agricultural activities.

Bushfire Hazard Overlay

The development site is not within the Environmental Significance Overlay and consists of Category X vegetation. A Bushfire Management Plan accompanies the application material. The report identifies a bushfire risk that is considered Low. Any future building application will be required to undertake Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) assessment to determine suitable development specific fire mitigation measures.

4.4.4. Rural Zone Code

The proposed development conflicts with the intent and Overall Outcomes of the Rural Zone. The purpose of the Rural Zone is to provide for a wide range of rural activities and a limited range of non-rural activities which complement or provide a service to rural areas. Additional residential uses do not generally complement or provide services to rural areas.

As discussed previously in this report, the proposal is for the subdivision of land to facilitate further rural residential development. Although adjoining rural residential zoned land, the subject site is not a 'missing tooth' between the zones with the development resulting in rural residential development pushing further out along Tucker Road. Overall Outcome (h) requires that need is demonstrated such that there is an overriding need for the development in terms of a public benefit and that there is no other site that is suitable for the development. It is noted that there has been no analysis of need presented for the subdivision of rural land and that there is still surplus rural residential land in the region capable of further subdivision.

4.4.5. Development Codes

Reconfiguring a Lot Code

The proposed development is inconsistent with the Reconfiguring a Lot Code. The proposal is unable to meet the Performance Outcomes of the code whereby it does not meet the minimum lot size of 100ha, or minimum width and length requirements listed within the code.

Infrastructure Code

An Effluent Design Report by SubTest was supplied to support the application. The report demonstrates that the proposed new allotment can be provided with on-site effluent disposal in accordance with the Queensland Plumbing & Wastewater Code 2019.

Excavation and Filling Code

Limited excavation would be required for construction of the new property accesses for each lot, which will be covered under a future operational works application. No filling activity forms part of this application.

Landscaping Code

The development benefits from natural on-site buffering from adjacent rural activities. The natural buffer ranges from 70m to 170m from the proposed building pad. No additional landscaping placements are required to facilitate the development.

Transport and Parking Code

The proposal requires the upgrade of two existing property accesses to the RS-056 standard. Conditions of approval can be included for the upgrade of these driveways to be provided under a future Operational works application.

The existing property access for the parent parcel is unable to achieve SISD due to a crest on Tucker Road. The achieved SISD is 94m and the requirement is 170m. The applicant's engineer has provided a performance solution in the form of Concealed Driveway signage located 170m before the access driveway. Council's Infrastructure Directorate has approved the performance solution. The Consulting Engineer has also identified that the existing driveway for Lot 6 needs an upgrade in culvert size to cater for the overland flow generated within the catchment. The pipe is currently 300mm and upgrading to the RS-056 standard requires a minimum 375mm pipe, which will cater for the stormwater within the catchment.

5. Public Submissions

The development application was placed on public notification between 16 March 2023 and 6 April 2023 in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Planning Act 2016. The Notice of Compliance was received on 11 April 2023. No submissions were received during this period of Public Notification.

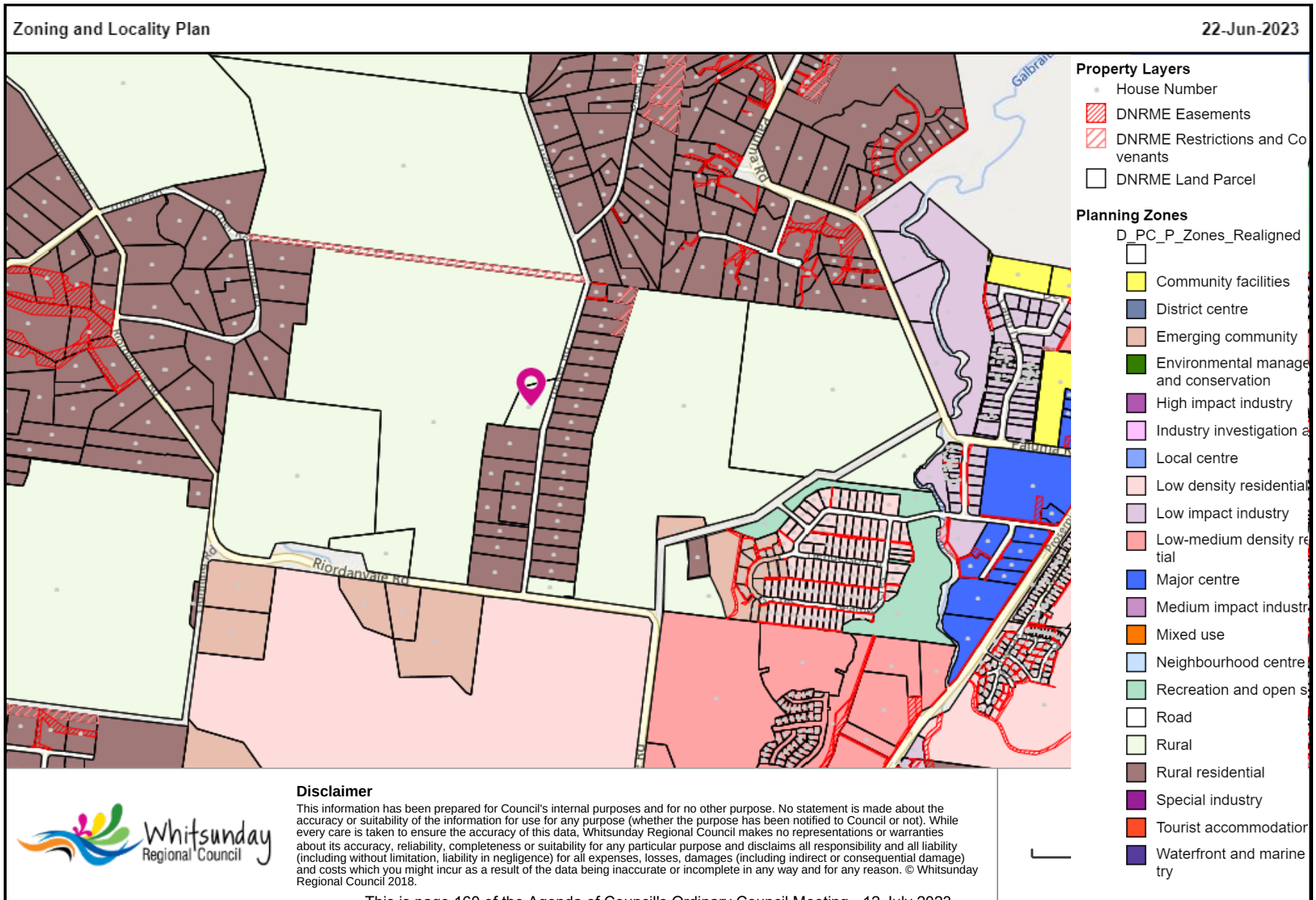
6. Infrastructure Charges

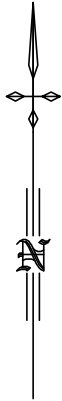
6.1. Adopted Infrastructure Charges Resolution

The following is a breakdown on the Infrastructure Charges for the development:

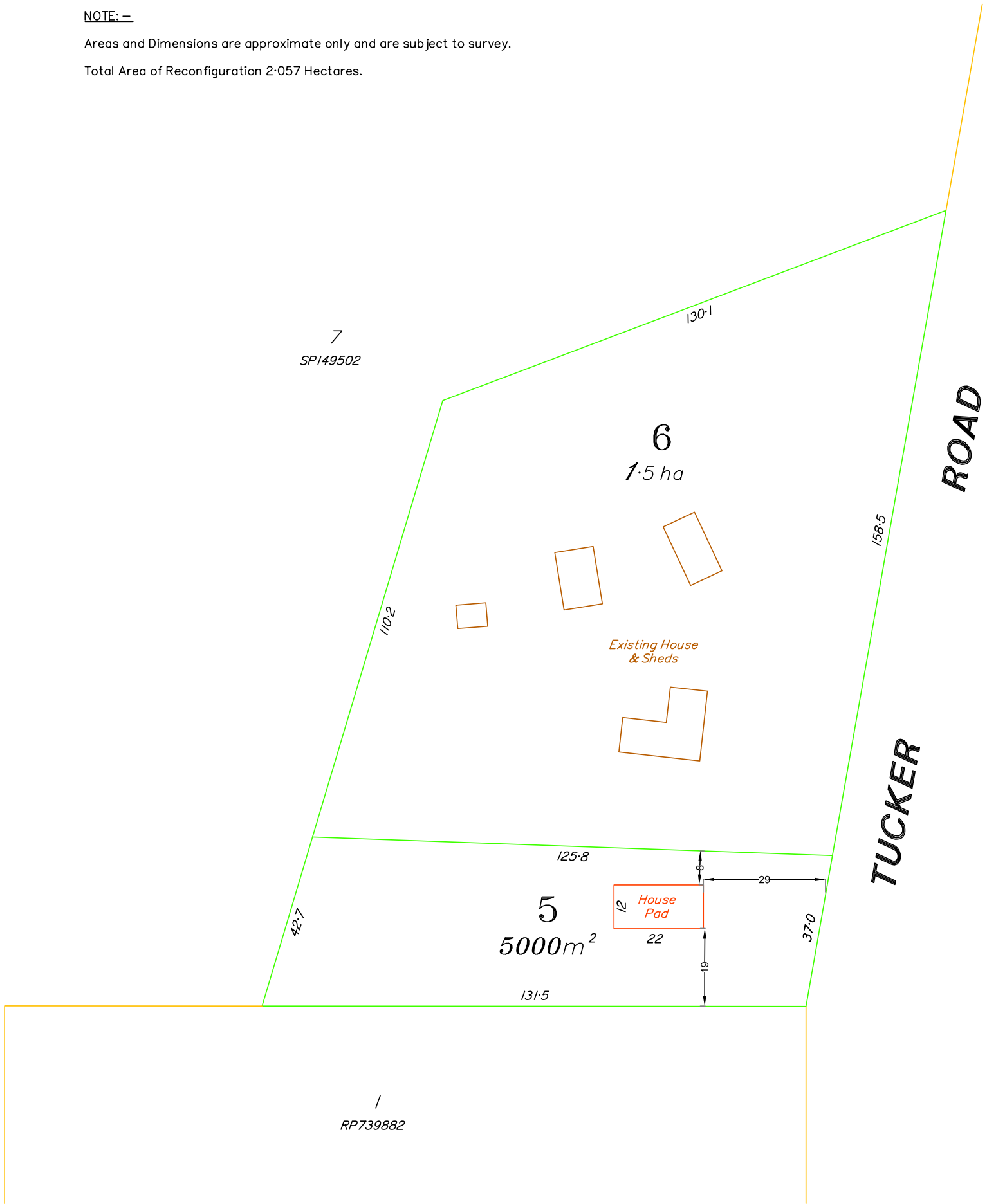
Adopted Charge

Type of Development	Development Category	Demand Unit & Qty	Charge Rate		Adopted Charge
ROL	Residential	2	\$31,080.00		\$62,160.00
Total Adopted Charge					\$62,160.00
Credit					
Type of Development	Development Category	Demand Unit & Qty	Charge Rate	Discount	Total Credit
Existing	Residential	1	\$31,080.00	100%	\$31,080.00
ROL	Water	1	\$31,080.00	30%	\$9,324.00
ROL	Sewer	1	\$31,080.00	27%	\$8,391.60
Total Credit					\$48,795.60
Total Levied Charge					\$13,364.40





NOTE: –
Areas and Dimensions are approximate only and are subject to survey.
Total Area of Reconfiguration 2·057 Hectares.



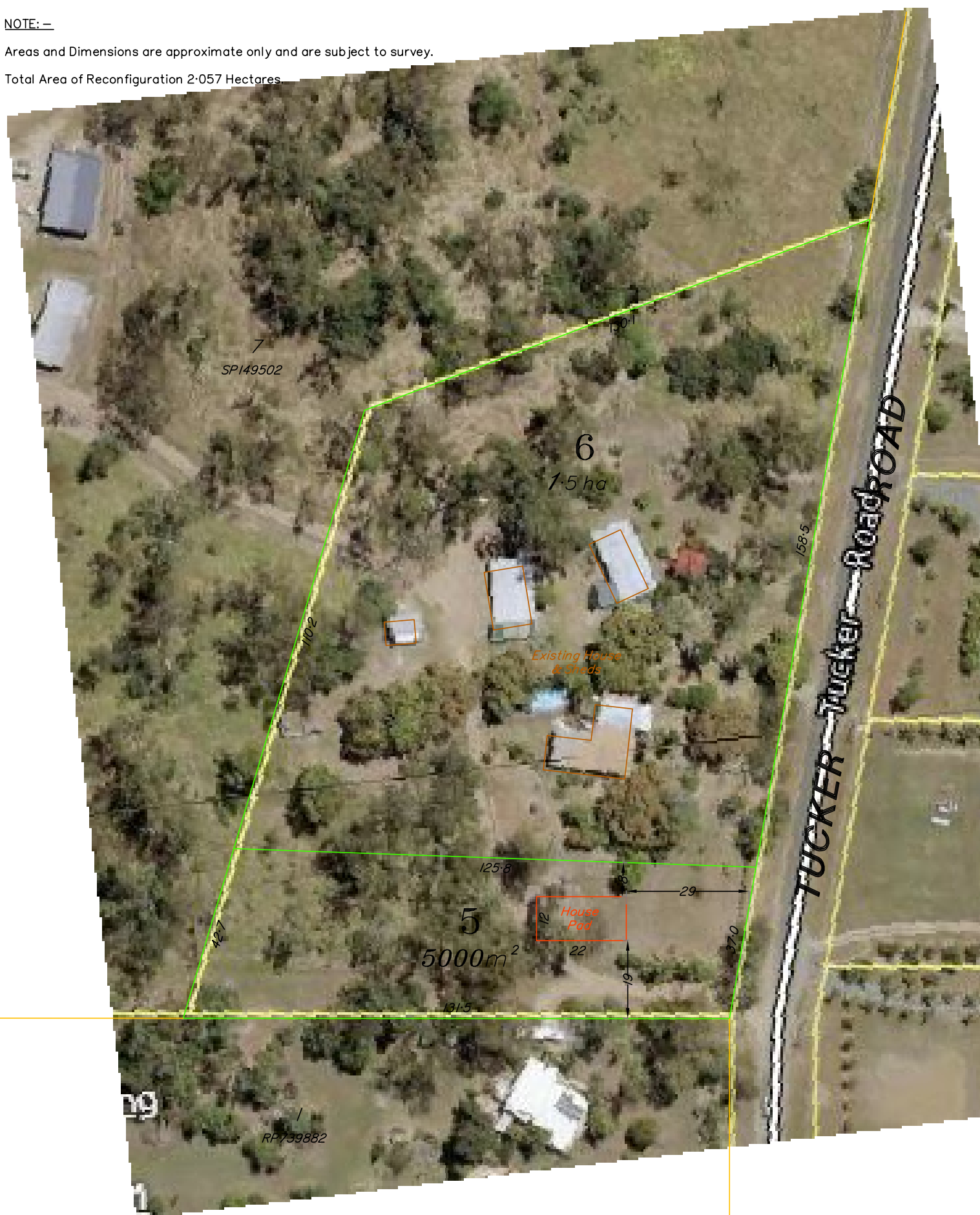
Wynne Planning & Development

PTY LTD

TOWN PLANNING SPECIALIST

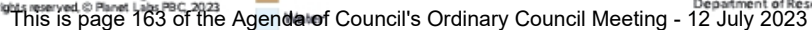
PROJECT		Reconfiguration of Lot	
Proposed Lots 5 and 6			
Cancelling Lot 6 on SP149502		File Reference	DATE
65–67 Tucker Road, Riordonvale		Tuckers Road	14/09/2022
LOCALITY	LOCAL GOVERNMENT	SCALE	SHEET No.
RIORDONVALE	WHITSUNDAY REGIONAL	1:1000 (at A3 Page Size)	1/1
		DRAWN by:	DRAFTING CHECK by:
		JB	TG

Total Area of Reconfiguration 2.057 Hectares.



PROJECT Reconfiguration of Lot		File Reference Tuckers Road DATE 14/09/2022	
Proposed Lots 5 and 6			
Cancelling Lot 6 on SP149502			
65–67 Tucker Road, Riordonvale		SCALE 1:1000 (at A3 Page Size)	SHEET No. 1/1
LOCALITY RIORDONVALE	LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITSUNDAY REGIONAL	DRAWN by: JB	DRAFTING CHECK by: TG

This is page 163 of the Agenda of Council's Ordinary Council Meeting - 12 July 2023





13.3.3 - Development Services Monthly Report - June 2023

DATE: Wednesday 12 July 2023

TO: Ordinary Council Meeting

AUTHOR: Jessica Yuskan - Administration Coordinator Development Services

AUTHORISING OFFICER: Neil McGaffin - Director Development Services

PRESENTED FOR: Information

ATTACHMENTS

1. Development Services Monthly Report - June 2023 [**13.3.3.1** - 16 pages]

PURPOSE

This report presents information relating to the operations of the Development Services Directorate for the month of June 2023.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the Development Services Monthly Report for June 2023.

BACKGROUND

The Development Services Directorate has a vision of a prosperous, liveable and sustainable Whitsundays.

The Directorates purpose is to lead the delivery of economic, social and environmental outcomes for the Whitsundays through services in partnership with stakeholders.

The Directorates vision is delivered by bringing together the functions of Strategic Planning, Development Assessment, Building and Plumbing Assessment and Compliance.

DISCUSSION/CURRENT ISSUE

See Attachment 1 – Development Services Monthly Report

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

All development activities have been undertaken within acceptable timeframes.

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Process all statutory applications within statutory timeframes.

Monitor development and land use to ensure compliance with statutory requirements and development conditions.

Develop and maintain a local government infrastructure plan that aligns with Council's Asset Management Plans and long-term Financial Forecast in compliance with State Interests.

Provide a consistent and transparent strategic framework and direction for the development industry and community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All operations have been managed within existing budget limitations.

CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

Manager Strategic Planning
Manager Development Assessment
Team Leader Plumbing
Development Compliance Coordinator

RISK ASSESSMENT

Regular reporting on the Directorate's progress and achievements ensures accountability and fosters a positive culture.

TIMINGS/DEADLINES

The Development Services Monthly Report is generally submitted to the first Council Meeting in the month.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Council officers contributing to the preparation and approval of this report have no conflicts of interest to declare.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

Section 58 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* specifies required conduct for public entities when acting or making a decision. Sections 15-37 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* identifies the human rights a public entity must consider in making a decision. The human rights relevant to this decision are as follows:

- Section 19 – Freedom of movement.
- Section 21 – Freedom of expression.
- Section 24 – Right to own property and not be arbitrarily deprived of property.
- Section 27 – Cultural rights – generally – all persons with a particular cultural, religious, racial or linguistic background have the right to enjoy their culture, to declare and practice their religion and use their language.
- Section 28 – Cultural rights – Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This decision does not limit the above identified human rights.

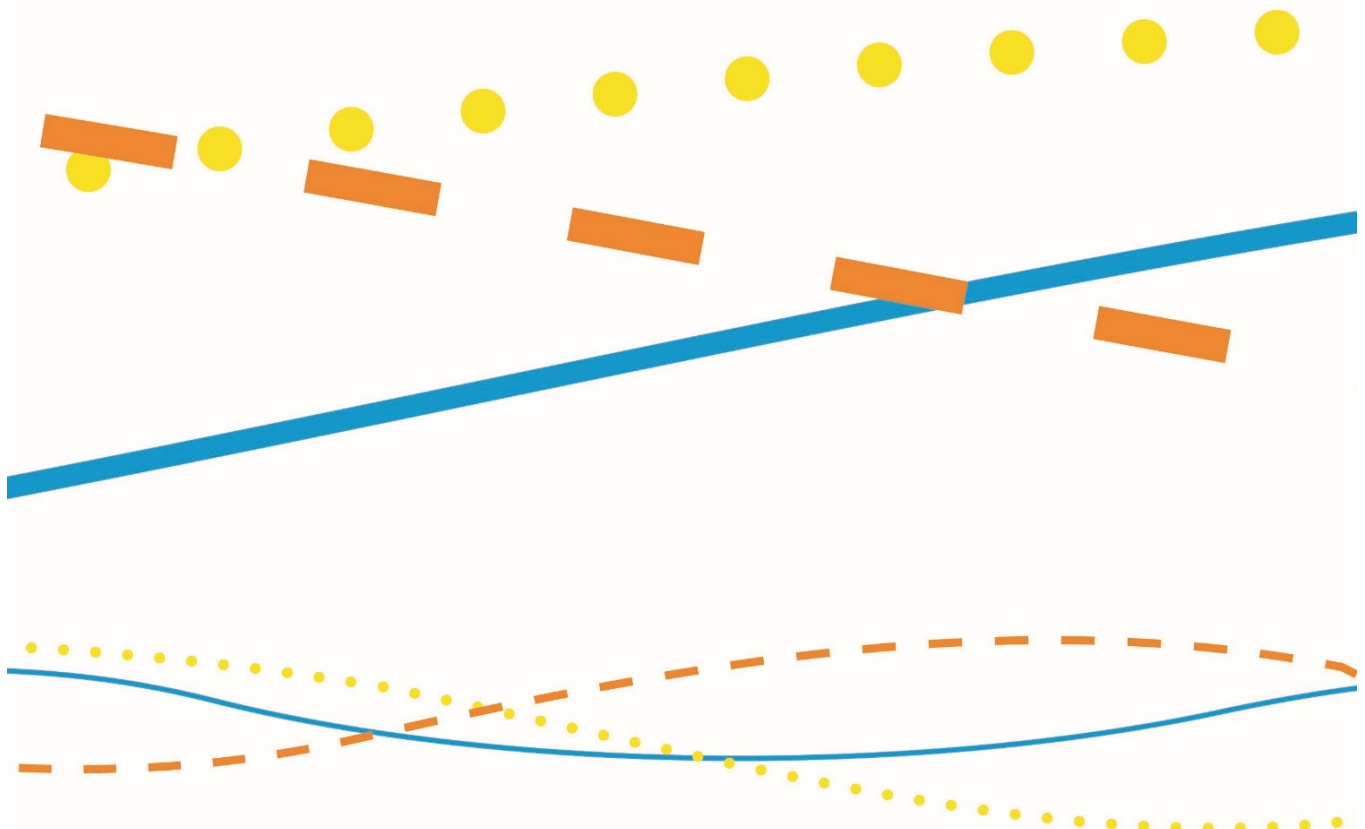
ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

N/A



Development Services Monthly Report

Building
Plumbing
Strategic Planning
Development Assessment
Development Compliance



Contents

Directors Report.....3

Strategic Planning.....5

Development Assessment6

Building.....12

Plumbing14

Development Compliance.....16

Directors Report

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Internal and external stakeholder engagement began for the development of an updated Economic and Population Study (EPS) based on the 2021 Census data. The EPS will inform a Land Supply Analysis and Housing Needs Assessment, which will later inform a Housing Strategy and Planning Scheme amendment to address housing diversity and affordability in the Region.

The Land Supply Analysis will address the supply of commercial and industrial land in the region.

The Local Government Infrastructure Plan (LGIP) has completed the Independent Review and been submitted for State Interest Review. The Ministers approval to enable the LGIP to be placed on public exhibition is expected soon.

Advice from the Minister is also anticipated soon as the Major Amendment to the Planning Scheme has been forwarded seeking endorsement and allow it to commence as soon as possible.

Council received comments from the Department of Resources on the Airlie Beach Foreshore Land Management Plan. These comments are being considered as a report is being prepared for Council.

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT

The number of development applications lodged for May and June remained steady with 66 in total being received. The first six months of 2023 have seen 180 development applications lodged with Council. This is slightly more than 2022 where 352 applications were received for the full calendar year. For context, the largest number of development applications lodged in a single year between 2017 and 2021 was 227 (2021). With a greater number of development applications being received the number of development applications being decided has in turn picked up with 139 applications decided this year which is on track to exceed 2022 where 247 applications were decided.

Recent notable applications received (but not yet reported to Council) include a rural subdivision for 5 allotments on Telford Road in Strathdiekie, and a Self-storage Facility and 19 lot Subdivision on Shute Harbour Road in Jubilee Pocket.

Technical engineering officers have received 42 operational works applications so far in 2023 which has exceeded the total number of applications received in 2022 at 40. Staff resources have been stretched yet have remained constant throughout this growth period.

On the ground works are nearing completion on Stage 2B at Airlie Summit with plan sealing expected to be lodged with Council in the coming weeks.

During June Council officers attended without prejudice meetings for two appeals in the Planning and Environment Court, first being the Self-storage Facility on Tropic Road and the second the Transport Depot on Rifle Range Road at Mount Marlow. Council continues to wait for judgements to be handed down on the Port of Airlie and Whitsunday Paradise matters.

Looking ahead, a number of development applications are being brought to Council for consideration in July, including a Preliminary Approval for 13 Dual Occupancies in Mandara Rise and a Medical Centre in Cannonvale.

BUILDING

Building within the region remains strong with a focus on domestic houses, sheds and swimming pools. The number of applications lodged by Private Certifiers remain consistent with previous months and is expected to continue on a similar trajectory.

PLUMBING

The number of applications and inspections completed continue to reflect the regions active building scene. Plumbing permits issued throughout the month were primarily for new residential builds but also commercial projects. This month, one of our Plumbing Inspectors unfortunately went off on unplanned extended sick leave. The reduction in the team and the sheer number of applications lodged have seen the assessment of plumbing applications being extended beyond the usually quick time frames.

COMPLIANCE

Full review continues on all existing building, plumbing and planning compliance matters. Due to the large number of current listings on the Compliance Register, matters are prioritised in accordance with urgency, risk and availability of resources.

Review of unlawful short term accommodation operators in the region continues with compliance being commenced on a number of properties. Positively a number of properties have submitted development applications in response to compliance action.

THE MONTH AHEAD

The Airlie Beach Foreshore Land Management Plan is being prepared for presentation at a future meeting.

Strategic Planning will continue research and working with the consultant on the Economic and Population Study, Housing Needs Assessment and Land Supply Analysis documents.

The Affordable Housing Amendment (Package 1) has been placed on hold pending receipt of the Greater Whitsunday Regional Housing Project and local housing strategies.

Strategic Planning

The Strategic Planning Branch is responsible for developing and maintaining land use and infrastructure plans and policies, such as the Planning Scheme, as well as reviewing various planning related State planning instruments and legislation, including the Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday Region Plan.

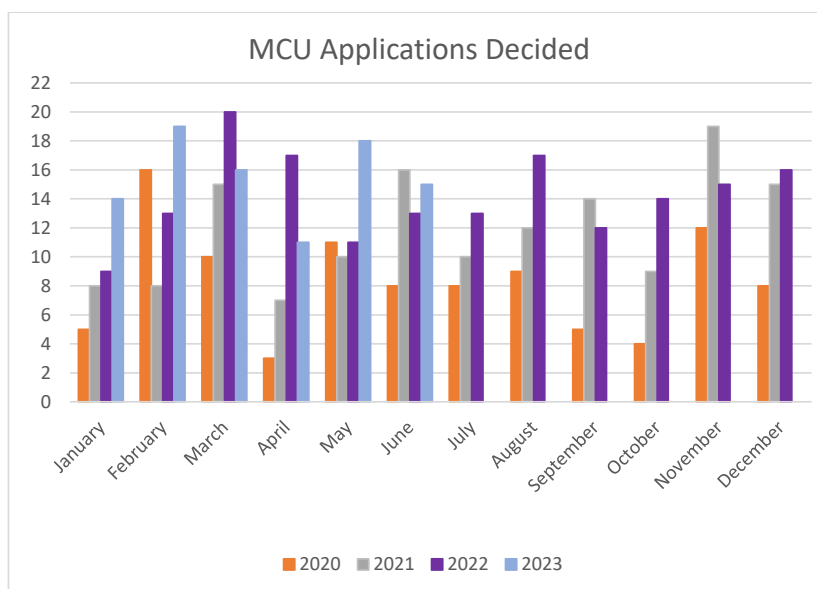
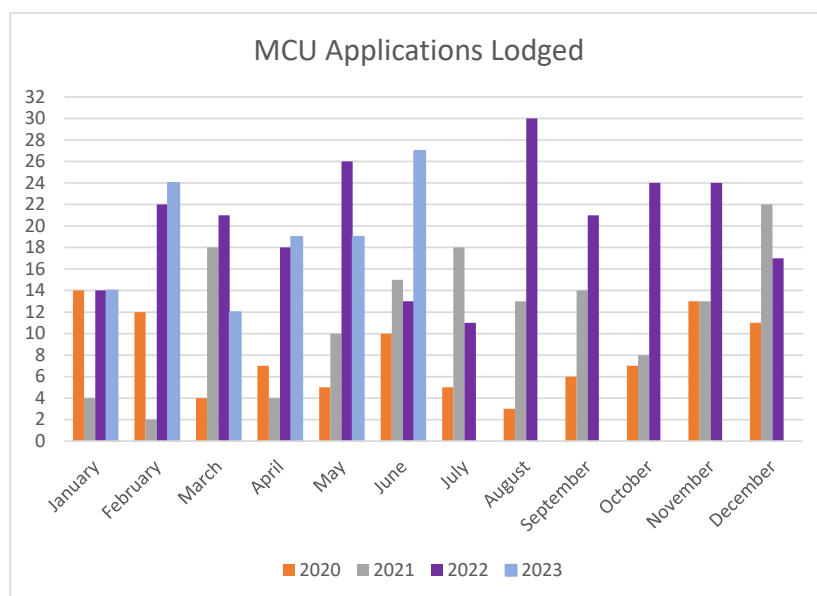
The Strategic Planning Branch is undertaking several projects, including;

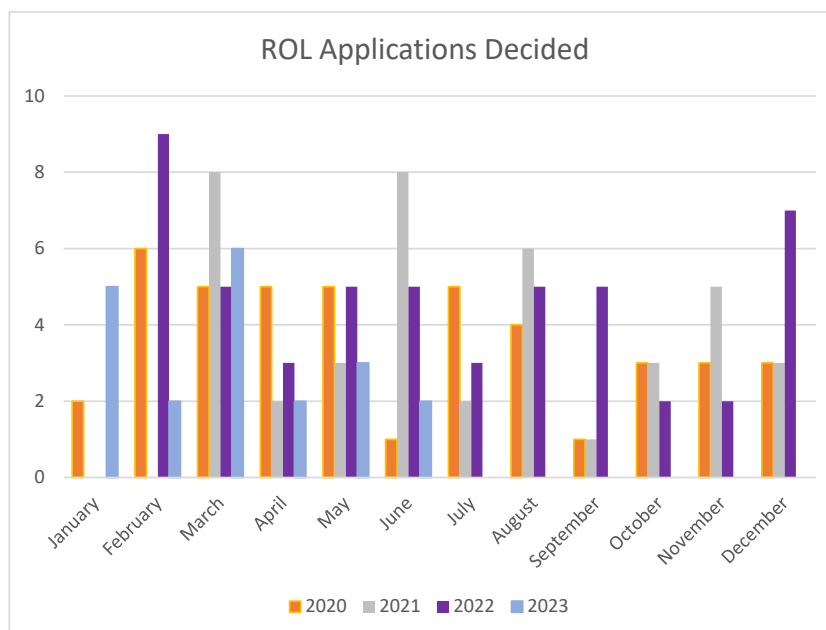
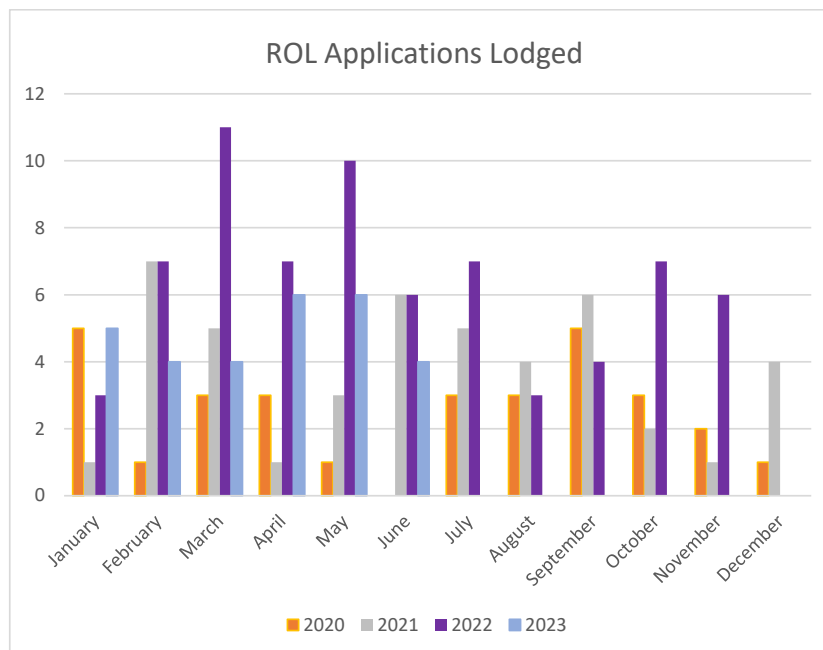
- Planning Scheme Major Amendment V4 awaiting final Ministerial approval;
- Local Government Infrastructure Plan V2 Amendment awaiting State Interest Review;
- Local Heritage Policy Review;
- Internal Consultation Airlie Beach Parking Policy;
- Amend the Airlie Beach Foreshore Land Management Plan (after State comments received);
- Draft Economic and Population Study;
- Draft Affordable Housing Amendment (Package 1);
- Draft Housing Needs Assessment and Land Supply Analysis;
- Draft Matters of Local Environmental Significance Amendment;
- Draft Flood Hazard Overlay Amendment;
- Implementation of Town Master Plan Projects;
- Research and preparation of a Proserpine Industrial Structure Plan;
- On-going Strategic Referrals for Development Assessment; and
- On-going assessment of Façade Improvement Policy Applications.

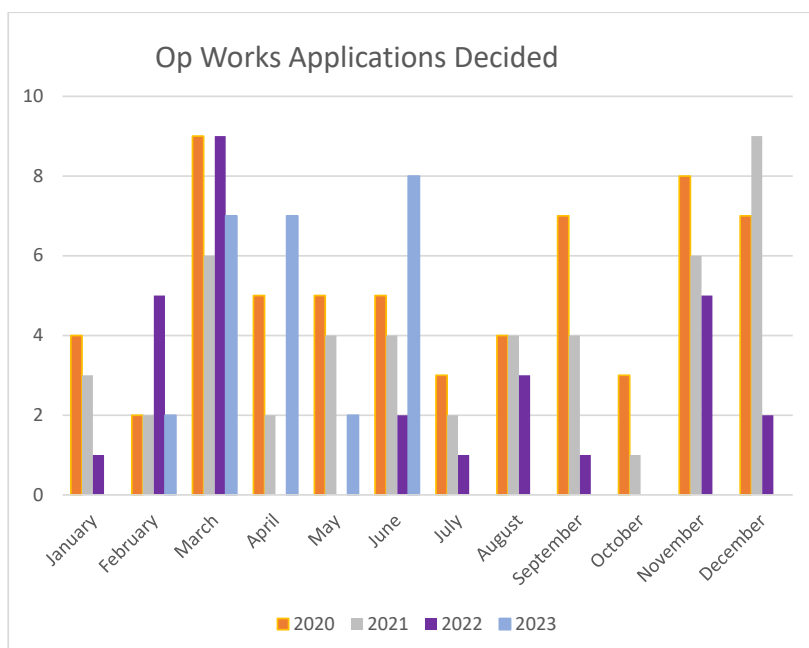
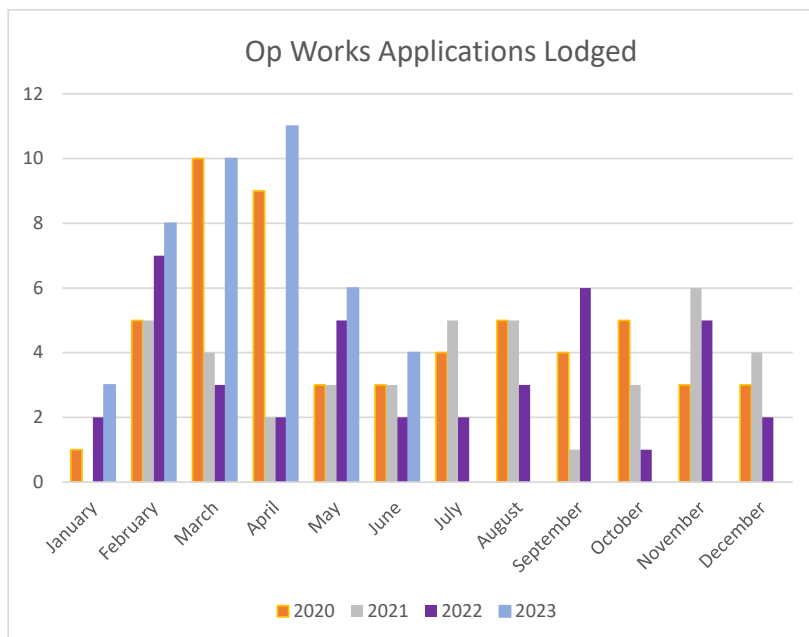
Development Assessment

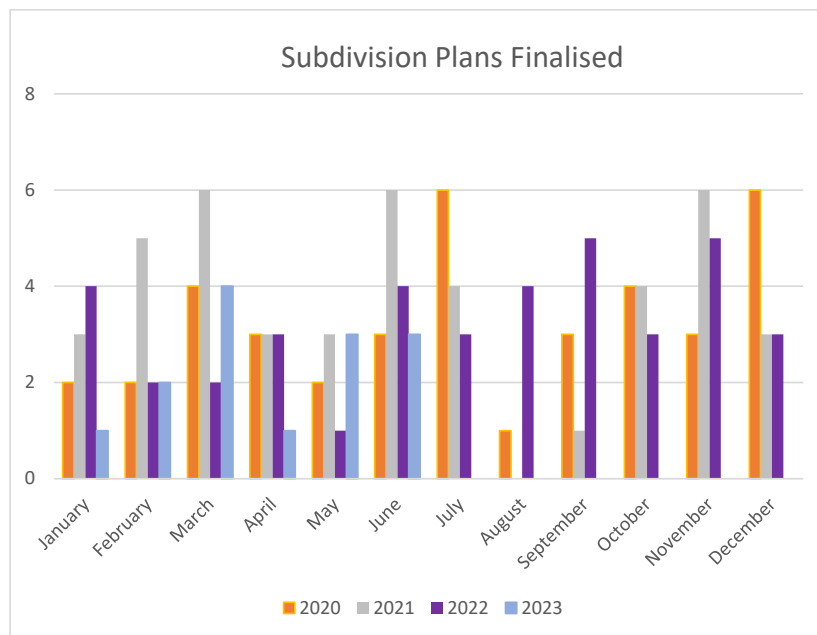
The Development Assessment Unit is responsible for assessing development applications, reviewing referrals for state land, environmental impact statements and other material for coordinated projects, activities, preparing planning and development certificates and inspecting developments for compliance with development approvals and other planning requirements.

Development Statistics – June 2023









Summary of Applications Decided Under Delegated Authority 25 May to 28 June 2023

Application #	Applicant & Location	Approval Details
20230356	MS Argus Pty Ltd Hamilton Island, Whitsundays	Approved - Development Permit for Preliminary Approval (Variation to Table of Assessment for Building works) and Development Permit for Material Change of Use for Resort Complex (Multiple Dwelling Extension)
20230210	Blue Jeep Investments Pty Ltd Rifle Range Road, Bushranger Drive & Duval Road, Preston	Approved - Development Permit for Reconfiguration of a Lot - Five (5) Lots into Five (5) Lots (Boundary Realignment)
20170356	Region RE Limited 226 Shute Harbour Road, Cannonvale	Approved – Minor Change Application – Material Change of Use – Retail/Commercial Complex
20230086	E Knight & S A Knight 31 Cumberland Court, Airlie Beach	Approved - Development Permit for Preliminary Approval (Variation Request) – Building Works (Height Relaxation)
20221152	A A McGregor & J L McGregor 51 Airlie Crescent, Airlie Beach	Approved - Development Permit for Material Change of Use – Dwelling House (Pool – Front Boundary Relaxation)
20230323	V L Leitch & P G Leitch 21-23 The Cove Road, Airlie Beach	Approved - Development Permit for Development Permit for Material Change of Use – Dwelling House
20230514	R Sellings & W B Sellings Paluma Road, Woodwark	Approved - Development Permit for Development Permit for Material Change of Use - Dwelling House (Shed – Over height)
20230419	Strathdee Properties Pty Ltd 19 The Cove Road, Airlie Beach	Approved - Development Permit for Development Permit for Material Change of Use – Dwelling House (Side Boundary Relaxation)
20230534	J R Brown & R G Brown 13 Gregory Street, Bowen	Approved - Development Application for Material Change of Use - Dwelling House - Open Carport (Front Boundary Relaxation)
20210525	C 3 Developments Pty 12 Waterson Way, Airlie Beach	Approved – Minor Change Application – Material Change of Use – Short Term Accommodation (Ten (10) Units and One (1) Managers Residence)
20230309	Colless Management Pty Ltd As TTE 12 Waterson Way, Airlie Beach	Approved – Minor Change Application – Operational Works – Roadwork, Drainage, Landscaping, Stormwater, Earthworks, Driveway Access, Water & Sewerage and Erosion & Sediment Control
20230572	Big Johnny Investments Pty Ltd As TTE 62 Bennett Road, Strathdickie	Approved - Development Permit for Operational Works in Association with Reconfiguration of a Lot
20220949	J D Finlay 53 Orchid Road, Cannonvale	Approved – Minor Change Application – Operational Works – Driveway Access, Stormwater, Erosion & Sediment Control
20230539	M W Bennett & G J Bennett Wrights Road, Strathdickie	Approved - Development Application for Development Permit for Operational Works for Driveway Access, Erosion & Sediment Control
20230413	S A Annand Bowen Veterinary Clinic/162 Richmond Road, Bowen	Approved - Development Application for Development Permit for Operational Works for External Access and Erosion & Sediment Control

20230546	Department of Defence Kings Beach Road, Bowen	Approved - Development Permit for Operational Works – Prescribed Tidal Works (Talisman Sabre 2023)
20230417	Whitsunday Commercial Centre Pty Ltd As TTE 1-5 Central Avenue, Cannonvale	Approved - Negotiated Decision Notice - Development Permit for Operational Works for Inter-allotment Drainage
20220492	J D Finlay 53 Orchid Road, Cannon Valley	Approved - Minor Change Application – Reconfiguration of a Lot – One (1) into Three (3) Lots
20230616	AAA Building Consultants 5 Murex Street, Dingo Beach	Approved – QDC Siting Variation for Garage – Rear & Side Boundary Setback
20220986	G J Black & L J Black 31 Dodd Street, Proserpine	Approved - Development Permit for Material Change of Use – Warehouse (Outdoor Boat, Caravan & Trailer Storage)
20230211	V M Clarke & M E Clarke 31 Spalla Drive, Proserpine	Approved – QDC Siting Variation for Carport – Front & Side Boundary Setback & Additional Length on Boundary

Summary of Applications Decided by Council – 24 May 2023 to 28 June 2023

Application #	Applicant & Location	Decision Details
20230019	C S Mason & S A Mason 10 Pleasant Drive, Cannonvale	Refused – Development Permit for Material Change of Use for Short Term Accommodation
20230197	T D Gordon 14 Davison Road, Wilson Beach	Approved - Development Permit for Material Change of Use – Dwelling House
20220981	Blue Jeep Investments Pty Ltd Bushranger Drive & Duval Road, Preston	Approved - Development Permit for Material Change of Use - Undefined Use (Twin Creeks Eco Park Stage 1 – Mountain Bike Trails)
20230148	A R King & C King 4 Armada Crescent, Jubilee Pocket	Refused - Development Permit for Material Change of Use for Short Term Accommodation
20230198	RJD Investments (NQ) Pty Ltd As TTE Champion Street, Merinda	Approved - Development Permit for Reconfiguring a Lot - One (1) Lot into Two (2) lots

Year to Date Comparison



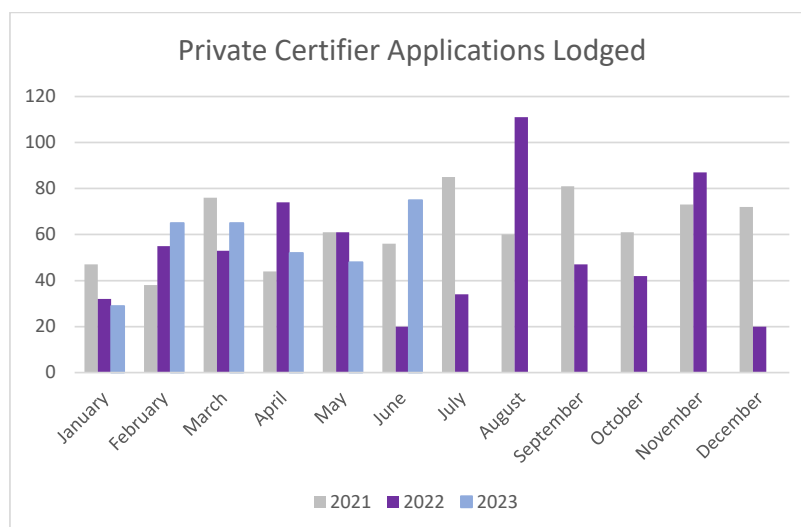
Planning Applications increase by 12%

Applications lodged with Council increased from 313 in 21/22 to 353 in 22/23

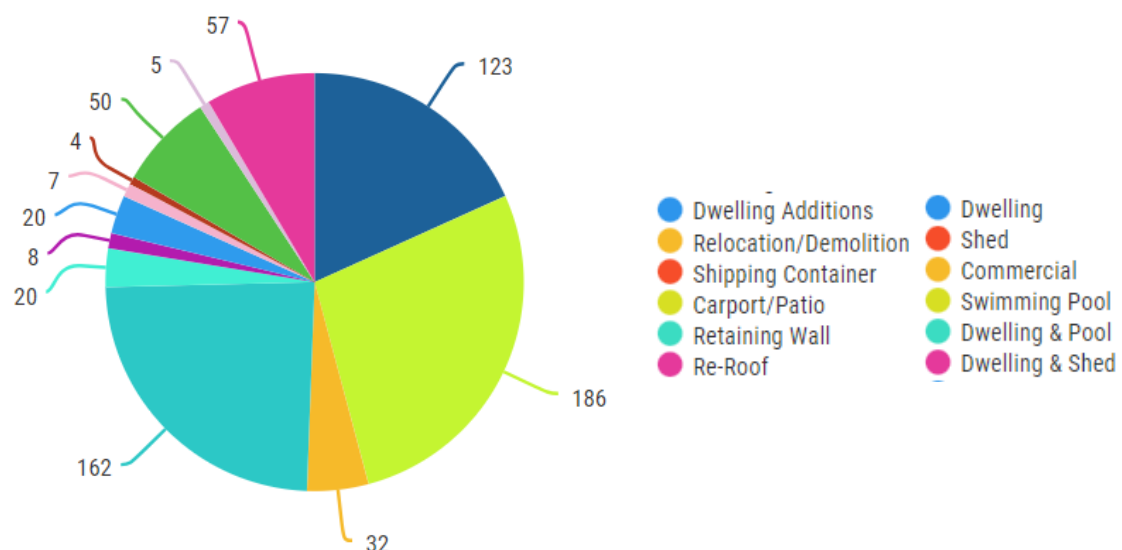
Building

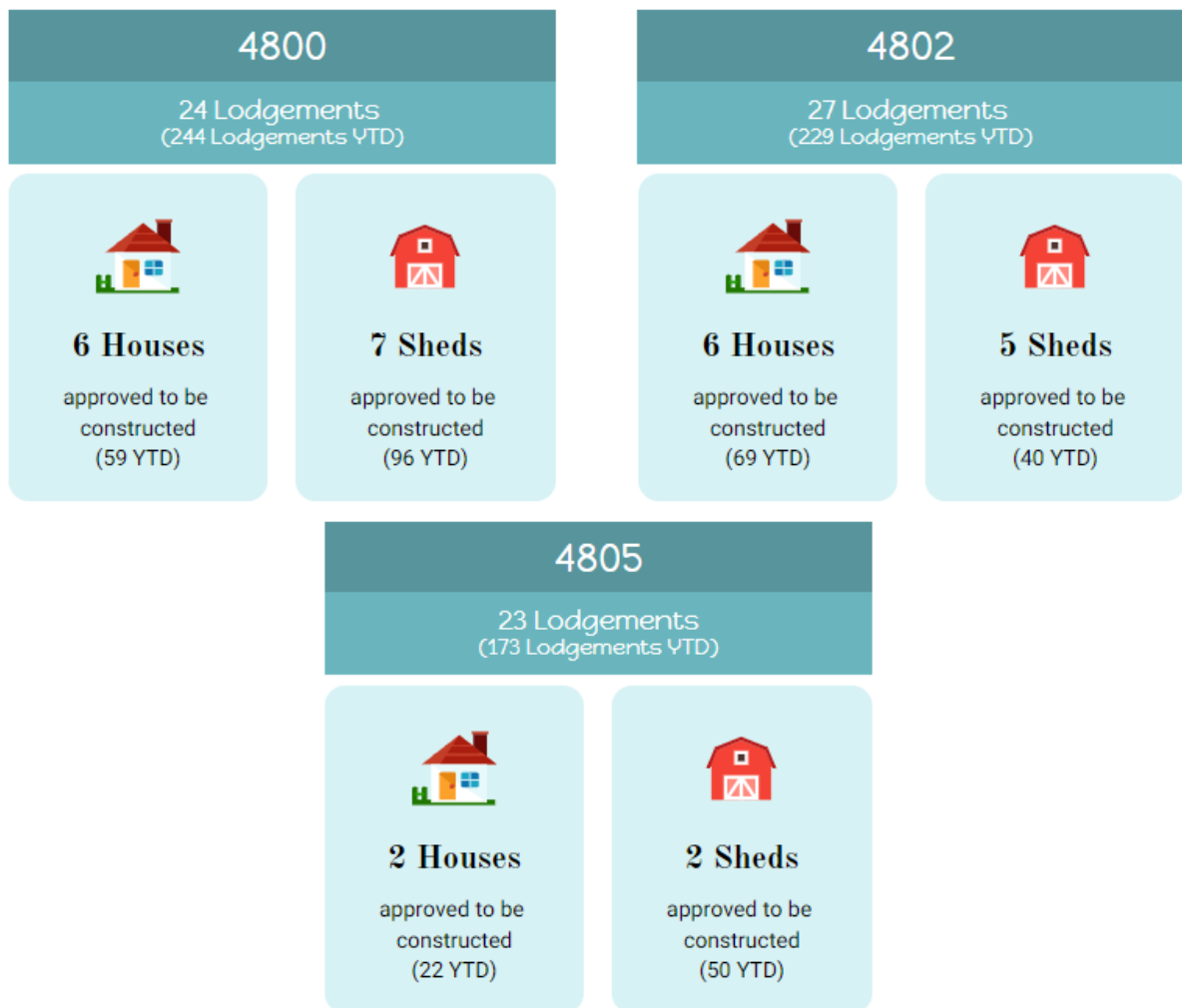
The Building branch is responsible for reviewing building applications, developing and maintaining various related policies and registers and carrying out regulatory functions.

Building Statistics – June 2023



Breakdown of Building Approvals Lodged By Private Certifiers 2022 - 2023





Year to Date Comparison



Building Applications decrease by 7%

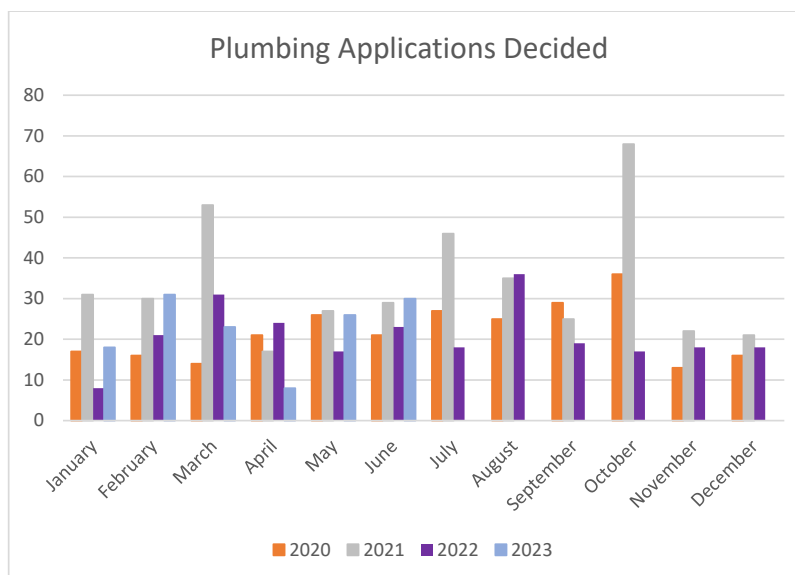
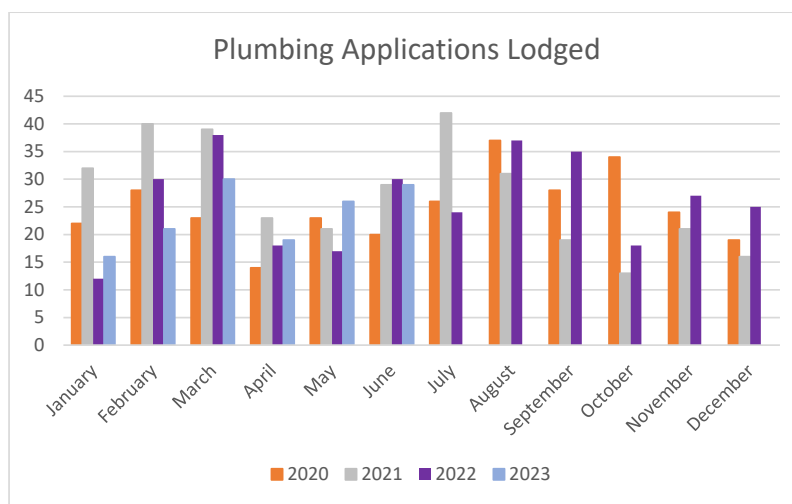
Applications lodged with Council decreased slightly from 727 in 21/22 to 675 in 22/23

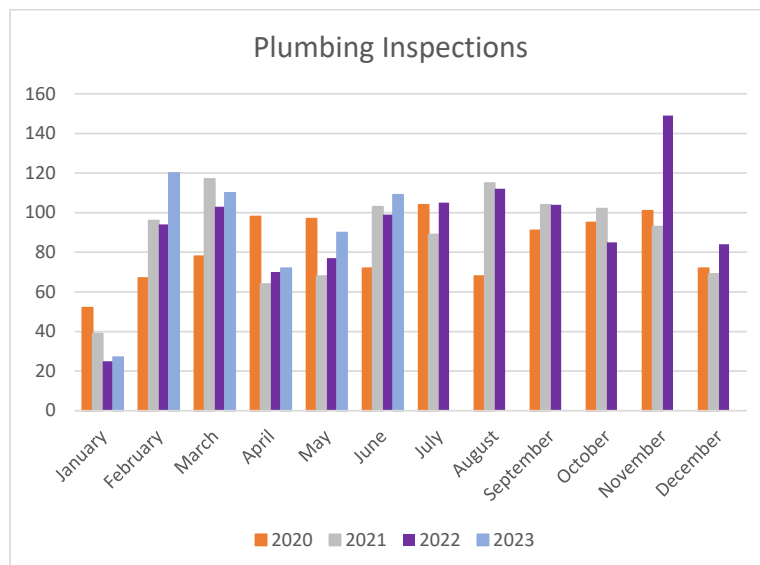
This financial year has seen a slight drop in applications lodged however is still consistent with the growth seen throughout the region.

Plumbing

The Plumbing branch is responsible for the assessment of plumbing applications, conducting plumbing inspections, developing and maintaining related policies and registers and carrying out regulatory functions.

Plumbing Statistics – June 2023





Year to Date Comparison



Plumbing Inspections increase by 21%

Plumbing inspections increased from
from 1044 in 21/22 to 1266 in 22/23

Whilst plumbing applications lodged with Council decreased, plumbing inspections increased from 1044 in 21/22 to 1266 in 22/23.

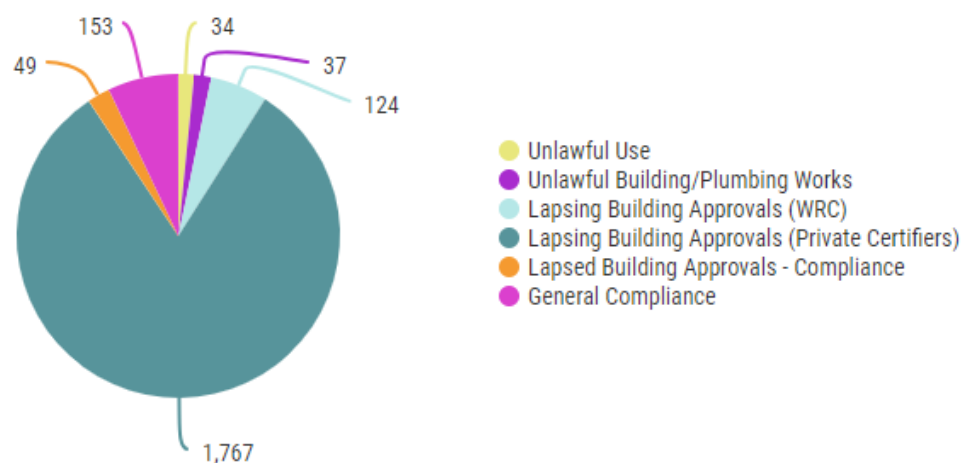
Development Compliance

Development Services manage and regulate enforcement and compliance procedures across the Building, Plumbing and Planning sectors throughout the Region.

Compliance Statistics – June 2023

Summary of Current Compliance Matters

Total Compliance Matters



The number of building, plumbing and planning compliance matters remains constant with new concerns being received as quickly as others are being completed. Matters are prioritised and actioned accordingly to urgency, risk and availability of resources.



Unlawful Use (eg: STA / HipCamp)

34



Unlawful Building / Plumbing Works

37



Lapsing Building Approvals (WRC)

124



General Matters inc Lapsed Approvals

174

Concerns raised by customers continue to centre around interallotment drainage issues, relocatable homes without building or plumbing approvals, unsafe swimming pools and unlawful building, operational work.

13.4.1 - Sponsorship Request - Proserpine Veteran Golfers Association Inc. - Wintersun Event

DATE: Wednesday 12 July 2023

TO: Ordinary Council Meeting

AUTHOR: Brooke Newell - Community Development Officer

AUTHORISING OFFICER: Julie Wright - Director Community Services

PRESENTED FOR: Decision

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proserpine Veteran Golfers Association [**13.4.1.1** - 2 pages]

PURPOSE

Council to consider a request for sponsorship from the Proserpine Veteran Golfers Association Inc. to assist with their Wintersun Event.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve a sponsorship of \$3,000 to assist with the Wintersun Event to be a major sponsor as requested by the Proserpine Veteran Golfers Association Inc.

BACKGROUND

Proserpine Veteran Golfers Association Inc (PVG) was established in 1998 and is a not-for-profit organisation which encourages and provides golfing activities to seniors and pensioners. The PVG has a total membership of 76, consisting of 44 males and 32 females. Wintersun is a major event on the Queensland and Proserpine golfing calendar and is advertised extensively throughout Australia. It attracts many regional and interstate competitors which provide flow on benefits to businesses within the township of Proserpine, Cannonvale, and Airlie Beach.

DISCUSSION/CURRENT ISSUE

Being a not-for-profit organisation the expenditure for this event significantly reduces any profit the PVG might make from this event and for the financial year, thus restricting any opportunities for improvement to their organisation and benefits that might come back to members. To maintain members and keep costs to a minimum yearly membership is only \$5.00.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

LSP_COMM_11 – Council Sponsorship Policy

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Facilitate, foster and encourage region wide activities and programs that engage our community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The funds will be taken from JC: 2967.10249.63150 – Community Donations (2967) / Sponsorship (10249).

Description	Amount (\$)
2023/2024 Budget	50,000
Actual + Commitment	0.00
YTD Remaining Budget	50,000

CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

Director Community Services

RISK ASSESSMENT

Providing funds to events of this nature will have a positive outcome on tourism and assist to local businesses.

TIMINGS/DEADLINES

To be paid within one month of approval date.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Council officers contributing to the preparation and approval of this report have no conflicts of interest to declare.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

Section 58 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* specifies required conduct for public entities when acting or making a decision. Sections 15-37 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* identifies the human rights a public entity must consider in making a decision. The human rights relevant to this decision are as follows:

- Section 19 – Freedom of movement.
- Section 21 – Freedom of expression.
- Section 24 – Right to own property and not be arbitrarily deprived of property.
- Section 27 – Cultural rights – generally – all persons with a particular cultural, religious, racial or linguistic background have the right to enjoy their culture, to declare and practice their religion and use their language.
- Section 28 – Cultural rights – Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This decision does not limit the above identified human rights.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Options	Description	Positives	Negatives
Option 2	Not provide support	Save Council money	Negative feedback from community group
Option 3	Offer a lesser donation. Save Council money	Save Council money	Negative feedback from community group



Proserpine Veteran Golfers Association Inc.



WHITSUNDAY REGIONAL COUNCIL SPONSORSHIP PROPOSAL

ABOUT OUR ORGANISATION

Proserpine Veteran Golfers Assoc Inc (PVG), established in 1998, is a not-for-profit organisation which encourages and provides golfing activities to seniors and pensioners (females 50+ and males 55+) from within the Whitsunday community. The PVG has a total membership of 76, consisting of 44 males and 32 females. To maintain members and keep costs to a minimum, yearly membership is only \$5.00. To understand the philosophy behind the activities undertaken by the PVG you only need to look to our motto "*A social day out with a little bit of golf*".

Activities undertaken by PVG throughout the year include weekly 18 hole competitions, competitions between Proserpine and Pioneer Valley played four times per year and competitions between Proserpine, Bowen, Collinsville, Home Hill and Ayr held five times per year. In addition, the most significant event held by the PVG is the 2 day Proserpine "**Wintersun**" event, held in early August, which attracts up to 150 participants (many from other parts of Queensland and interstate).

OUR SPONSORSHIP REQUEST Proposal

For the Whitsunday Regional Council (WRC) to contribute \$3,000 to become our major sponsor for the 2 day **Wintersun** Event.

Background

Wintersun is a major event on the Queensland and Proserpine golfing calendar and is advertised extensively throughout Australia. It attracts many regional and interstate competitors which provide flow on benefits to the towns of Proserpine and Airlie Beach, as well as WRC through the influx of visitors to accommodate the large number of mobile travellers. Local businesses also benefit from the increased visitor numbers.

It requires considerable resources, both physical and financial, to make it a successful event. The average expenditure per year by PVG over the past three events has been \$9,000 made up as follows:

PGC green Fees	\$2,500
Catering	\$4,000
Prizes	\$1,600
Golf balls	\$400
Other	\$500
TOTAL	\$9,000

Being a not-for-profit organisation, this expenditure significantly reduces any profit the PVG might make from this event and for the financial year, thus restricting any opportunities for improvement to our organisation and benefits that might come back to our members.

The Sponsorship will not only ensure that PVG run a very successful event but will also provide additional opportunities for the PVG to give something back to its members in the form of additional prizes, subsidised trips, improved equipment and social outings.

Benefits

In return for this sponsorship PVG will:

- Provide WRC logo on all its Wintersun nomination and promotional material.
- Acknowledge WRC as our major sponsor on all advertising, marketing and promotional material.
- Provide WRC representative with the opportunity to be involved in the major prize presentation.
- Display any WRC promotional material at the Club over the course of the two days.

CONCLUSION

Given that PVG is a not-for-profit organisation and has no access to outside funding, the provision of this Sponsorship would be most beneficial in ensuring a successful Wintersun Event and improving our own activities and the benefits provided to members.

I would like to acknowledge the support that WRC has given to the PVG in the past and hope that this relationship will continue in the future.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

13.4.2 - Sponsorship Request - Airlie Beach Race Week

DATE: Wednesday 12 July 2023

TO: Ordinary Council Meeting

AUTHOR: Hayley Borg - Events and Community Sponsorship Officer

AUTHORISING OFFICER: Julie Wright - Director Community Services

PRESENTED FOR: Decision

ATTACHMENTS

1. Airlie Beach Race Week - Sponsorship Request Redacted [13.4.2.1 - 2 pages]

PURPOSE

Council to consider a request for sponsorship from the organisers of the 2023 Airlie Beach Race Week – Whitsundays Festival of Sailing.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve:

1. A monetary sponsorship of \$5,000.00 and;
2. In-kind support up to the value of \$5,000.00 to assist the Whitsunday Sailing Club to host the 2023 Airlie Beach Race Week Festival of Sailing to be held 10-17 August 2023, with the in-kind sponsorship including:
 - a. Installation and removal of Banner Sites and placement in the Airlie Beach Main Street and Whitsunday Airport inclusive of additionally required traffic control.
 - b. Provision of additional waste services (excluding dump fees)
 - c. 30 x boat and trailer parking permits for Port of Airlie (Note: Permits do not guarantee parking)
 - d. 12 x boat and trailer parking permits for Abell Point Marina (Note: Permits do not guarantee parking)
 - e. Relaxation of off-street parking fees in the Coconut Grove Carpark.

BACKGROUND

The Airlie Beach Race Week – Whitsundays Festival of Sailing, is a seven-day event that attracts entrants from all over Australia and overseas for over the past 30 years.

Since 2015, Council has supported the event via cash and/or in-kind support totalling \$67,000.00 cash and \$36,000.00 in-kind support. Resolutions for previous years are listed below:

- Resolution - 2022/07/20.22 – \$5,000.00 cash + \$5,000.00 in-kind
- Resolution - 2021/06/09.18 – \$5,000.00 cash + \$3,000.00 in-kind
- Resolution - 2020/06/24.10 – \$7,000.00 cash + \$3,000.00 in-kind
- Resolution - 2019/06/12.11 – \$15,000.00 cash + \$5,000.00 in-kind
- Resolution - 2018/06/27.14 – \$5,000.00 cash + \$5,000.00 in-kind
- Resolution - 2017/03/22.32 – \$5,000.00 cash + \$5,000.00 in-kind
- Resolution - 2016/04/27.28 – \$20,000.00 cash + \$5,000.00 in-kind
- Resolution - 2015/06/10.05 – \$5,000.00 cash + \$5,000.00 in-kind

DISCUSSION/CURRENT ISSUE

The Airlie Beach Race Week – Whitsundays Festival of Sailing event has proven to have a positive economic impact to the area, with visitors injecting money towards local businesses during their visit. In 2022, Airlie Beach Race Week made an overall contribution of approximately \$6m to the Whitsunday economy with over 70% of attendees travelling to Airlie Beach from outside the region.

The 2022 Airlie Beach Race Week event saw a 40% increase in entries from 2019, with the input to the local community also much greater.

The request for sponsorship is \$5,000 cash plus additional in-kind donations. It is recommended that Council provide a \$5,000 monetary and up to \$5,000 in-kind sponsorship to assist the 2023 event.

In return for sponsorship, Council may receive the following:

- Council logo on all advertising and promotional materials, including website, social media and the event program.
- Display of Council signage in the main event areas.
- Verbal acknowledgement throughout the event.
- Invitation for Council representatives to present prizes on one day.
- 2 complimentary tickets to social events.
- Logo on Club Sponsors Board for 12 Months.
- Report demonstrating how the cash component is spent within the local area.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

LSP_COMM_11 - Council Sponsorship Policy

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Facilitate, foster and encourage region wide activities and programs that engage our community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The funds will be taken from JC: 2967.10642. – Community Donations (2967) / Sponsorship (10249).

Description	Amount (\$)
2022/23 Budget	50,000
Actual + Commitment	0
YTD Remaining Budget	50,000

CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

Director Community Services

RISK ASSESSMENT

Reputational - Providing financial assistance to community events reinforces Council's commitment to supporting local community groups.

TIMINGS/DEADLINES

Sponsorship to be paid within one month of approval.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Council officers contributing to the preparation and approval of this report have no conflicts of interest to declare.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

Section 58 of the Human Rights Act 2019 specifies required conduct for public entities when acting or making a decision. Sections 15-37 of the Human Rights Act 2019 identifies the human rights a public entity must consider in making a decision. The human rights relevant to this decision are as follows:

- Section 19 – Freedom of movement.
- Section 21 – Freedom of expression.
- Section 24 – Right to own property and not be arbitrarily deprived of property.
- Section 27 – Cultural rights – generally – all persons with a particular cultural, religious, racial or linguistic background have the right to enjoy their culture, to declare and practice their religion and use their language.
- Section 28 – Cultural rights – Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This decision does not limit the above identified human rights.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Options	Description	Positives	Negatives
Option 2	Not provide support	Save up to \$10,000	Negative public comment from organisers and community.

Sponsorship and support for Airlie Beach Race Week

Fri 09/06/2023 4:25 PM

As in previous years, we again request the support of Whitsunday Regional Council with Airlie Beach Race Week. In the past, council has been able to assist with the event, providing

- Direct sponsorship in the form of cash
- Installation of street banners
- Additional rubbish collection
- Designated boat storage area adjacent the Coral Sea Marina boat ramp
- Designated boat storage area adjacent the Port of Airlie boat ramp
- Relaxation of car parking fees and patrolling around the Whitsunday Sailing Club carpark

As you may be aware, 2023 has been an extremely difficult year to organise Airlie Beach Race Week, as we have had little support from the two local marinas, both claiming to be fully booked prior to the launch of the 2023 regatta. As such, we have had to restrict entry to this year's event. Despite these limitations, we currently have in excess of 120 entrants, with expectation that this will grow to around 150 boats by the start of the event.

From surveys carried out by IER on behalf of Tourism Events Queensland:

- Across the 8 days Airlie Beach Race Week attracted 3,105 individuals who attended or participated in one of the Airlie Beach Race Week events.
- Airlie Beach Race Week generated direct and incremental expenditure of \$5,220,430 attributable to the Whitsunday region economy and \$4,335,975 attributable to the Queensland economy.
- Airlie Beach Race Week was responsible for generating 28,210 visitor nights in Whitsunday region. The majority of these nights were generated by interstate visitors (15,120).
- In total, \$6,585,030 was spent by overnight visitors who stayed more than 40km from their normal place of residence. The majority of this spending was undertaken by interstate visitors (\$3,932,750).
- When assessing 'community pride', Airlie Beach Race Week rates high to very high on all indicators. The highest level of agreement was recorded for the statements 'The Whitsunday region is a great location for Airlie Beach Race Week' (98%); and 'Airlie Beach Race Week adds to the appeal of the Whitsunday region' (98%).

In return for sponsorship Council will receive; Council logo on all advertising and promotional materials, including website, social media and the event program. Display of Council signage in the main event areas. Verbal acknowledgement throughout the event. Invitation for Council representatives to present prizes on one day. 2 complimentary tickets to social events. Logo on Club Sponsors Board for 12 Months. In addition, we will send a report demonstrating how the cash component is spent within the local area. As always, we endeavour to support local businesses.

We thank Council for the ongoing support for this event, which is now in its 34th consecutive year.

Regards,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.



13.4.3 - Donation of Council Fees - June 2023

DATE: Wednesday 12 July 2023

TO: Ordinary Council Meeting

AUTHOR: Meredith Davis - Administration Officer - Community Development

AUTHORISING OFFICER: Julie Wright - Director Community Services

PRESENTED FOR: Decision

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

PURPOSE

Council to consider providing financial support for Not-for-Profit organisations to enable their event and facilities to continue to be an invaluable resource to our local communities.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the donation of Council fees for the following applicants.

1. Coalface Experience – Class 3 Event Application Fee - \$430.00
2. Whitsunday Conservation Council – Local Law Licence Fee - \$275.00

BACKGROUND

Donation on Council Fees are only available for Not-for-Profit organisations and only apply to:

- Planning, Building and Event Applications,
- Local Law Licence Applications,
- Local Law Licence Annual Renewals, and
- Green Waste Disposal Fees

DISCUSSION/CURRENT ISSUE

Organisation	Event/Description	Application Type	Amount
Coalface Experience	Miners Memorial Day 2023 United Workers Club Friday 13 October 2023 17 – 19 Railway Road, Collinsville	Class 3 Event Application Fee	\$430.00
Whitsunday Conservation Council	Local Law Licence Application Stall Holder Parking L:187 SP: 335831 15 Airlie Esplanade, Airlie Beach	Local Law Licence Application Fee	\$275.00
		Total	\$705.00

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

LSP_COMM_08

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Facilitate, foster and encourage region wide activities and programs that engage our community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The funds will be taken from budget code: JC 2967.11074 – Community Donations (2967) / Donations (11074).

Description	Amount \$
2023/24 Budget (Revised)	120,000
Actual + Commitment Spend	0
YTD Remaining Budget	120,000

CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

Director Community Services

RISK ASSESSMENT

The donation of Council fees for activities undertaken by community groups shows Council is committed to investing in the Community, while recognising the work done by our local, Not-for-Profit Community Groups.

TIMINGS/DEADLINES

30 June 2024

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Council officers contributing to the preparation and approval of this report have no conflicts of interest to declare.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

Section 58 of the Human Rights Act 2019 specifies required conduct for public entities when acting or making a decision. Sections 15-37 of the Human Rights Act 2019 identifies the human rights a public entity must consider in making a decision. The human rights relevant to this decision are as follows:

- Section 19 – Freedom of movement.
- Section 21 – Freedom of expression.
- Section 24 – Right to own property and not be arbitrarily deprived of property.
- Section 27 – Cultural rights – generally – all persons with a particular cultural, religious, racial or linguistic background have the right to enjoy their culture, to declare and practice their religion and use their language.
- Section 28 – Cultural rights – Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This decision does not limit the above identified human rights.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Options	Description	Positives	Negatives
Option 2	Not provide support	Save up to \$816.00	Negative public comment from organisers and community

13.4.4 - Donation Request - St Mary's Catholic School - 150th Year Celebration

DATE: Wednesday 12 July 2023

TO: Ordinary Council Meeting

AUTHOR: Brooke Newell - Community Development Officer

AUTHORISING OFFICER: Julie Wright - Director Community Services

PRESENTED FOR: Decision

ATTACHMENTS

1. Donation Request - St Mary's 150th Year Celebration [**13.4.4.1** - 2 pages]

PURPOSE

Council to consider a request for donation to the St Mary's Catholic School P&C Association for their 150th Anniversary Celebrations.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve a donation of \$5,000 to assist the St Mary's Catholic School Parents and Citizens Association with their 150th Anniversary Celebrations to be held 9 September 2023.

BACKGROUND

St Mary's Catholic School has been an integral part of the Bowen community since its establishment in 1873. Over the years the school has strived to provide quality education, nurture young minds, cultivate strong Catholic values and foster a sense of community to Bowen residents. To commemorate this significant milestone St Mary's Catholic School P&C Association are organising a celebration that will be attended by students, their families, alumni, staff, esteemed guests, and community members.

DISCUSSION/CURRENT ISSUE

Hosting an event of this magnitude requires substantial resources. There are costs involved that cannot be funded by the P&C Association alone. Those costs include providing food and beverages for guests, purchasing merchandise that showcases the school and the event, arranging entertainment, and decorating the venue to create an immersive and unforgettable experience for everyone in attendance.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Facilitate, foster and encourage region wide activities and programs that engage our community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The funds will be taken from JC: 2967.11074 – Community Donations (2967) / Donations (11074)

Description	Amount (\$)
2023/2024 Budget	120,000
Actual + Commitment	0
YTD Remaining Budget	120,000

CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

Director Community Services

RISK ASSESSMENT

There is a financial cost to Council however the assistance provided will support St Mary's Catholic School in providing a successful event for their 150th Year.

TIMINGS/DEADLINES

To be paid within one month of the approval date.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Council officers contributing to the preparation and approval of this report have no conflicts of interest to declare.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

Section 58 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* specifies required conduct for public entities when acting or making a decision. Sections 15-37 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* identifies the human rights a public entity must consider in making a decision. The human rights relevant to this decision are as follows:

- Section 19 – Freedom of movement.
- Section 21 – Freedom of expression.
- Section 24 – Right to own property and not be arbitrarily deprived of property.
- Section 27 – Cultural rights – generally – all persons with a particular cultural, religious, racial or linguistic background have the right to enjoy their culture, to declare and practice their religion and use their language.
- Section 28 – Cultural rights – Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This decision does not limit the above identified human rights.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Options	Description	Positives	Negatives
Option 2	Offer a smaller donation	Save Council money	Negative public comment from the community
Option 3	Not provide support	Save up to \$5,000	Negative public comment from the community



15.06.23

Subject: Request for Donation - St. Mary's Catholic Primary School's 150th Year Celebration

Dear Whitsunday Council,

I am writing to you on behalf of the parents and friends association at St Mary's School in Bowen to seek your support for a momentous occasion that is fast approaching - our school's 150th year.

Our school has been an integral part of the Bowen community since its establishment in 1873. Over the years, we have strived to provide quality education, nurture young minds, cultivate strong Catholic values and foster a sense of community for Bowen residents. To commemorate this significant milestone, we are organizing a celebration for September 9th, which will be attended by students, their families, alumni, staff, and esteemed guests.

As you can imagine, hosting an event of this magnitude requires substantial resources. The costs involved include providing food and beverages for our guests, purchasing merchandise that showcases our school and the event, arranging entertainment, and decorating the venue to create an immersive and unforgettable experience for everyone in attendance.

It is in this regard that I humbly reach out to you, requesting your support through a donation to help us cover the expenses associated with this occasion. A contribution would be greatly appreciated and would go a long way in ensuring the success of our event.

The 150th year celebration will be a highly significant and memorable occasion for our school and the Bowen community, bringing together current and former students, parents, and staff. The event will feature dance performances, music, prayer and blessing ceremonies, guided tours and a historical journey, providing an opportunity for all attendees to reconnect with their cherished memories and reflect upon the invaluable contributions our school has made to the community over the years.

If you are able to assist us with a donation, we kindly request that you contact St Mary's (see details above) or our school Principal, Mrs Alicia Ninnes, for further discussion. We would be more than happy to provide



any additional information or answer any questions you may have regarding our school, the event, or our funding requirements.

On behalf of the entire St Mary's community, I express our sincerest gratitude for your consideration and support. We are immensely grateful for the ongoing partnership between our school and the Whitsunday Council, and we look forward to continuing our shared commitment to the betterment of our community.

Thank you for your time and attention. We eagerly anticipate your positive response and hope to have the honor of your presence at our 150th year celebration.

[REDACTED]

13.4.5 - Donation Request - Whitsundays Hospital Ball

DATE: Wednesday 12 July 2023

TO: Ordinary Council Meeting

AUTHOR: Brooke Newell - Community Development Officer

AUTHORISING OFFICER: Julie Wright - Director Community Services

PRESENTED FOR: Decision

ATTACHMENTS

1. Donation Request - Whitsundays Hospital Ball [13.4.5.1 - 1 page]

PURPOSE

Council to consider a request for donation from the Proserpine Hospital for the 2023 Whitsundays Hospital Ball.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve a \$2,000 in-kind donation for the venue hire, equipment and ticketing plus a cash sponsorship of \$5,000 to assist with the Proserpine Hospital in hosting the 2023 Hospital Ball with event costs such as cleaning, security and staffing, of the Proserpine Entertainment Centre to be held 7 October 2023.

BACKGROUND

The Proserpine Hospital are organising the 2nd annual Whitsundays Hospital Ball to be held at the Proserpine Entertainment Centre. The Ball was created to boost employee morale and support hospital and ambulance staff across the Whitsunday Region after their tiresome efforts over the course of the pandemic. This year they have extended their invitation to general practitioners with an approximate guest list of 120 people.

DISCUSSION/CURRENT ISSUE

The Proserpine Hospital are proposing for Council to be their main sponsor and will feature the Council logo on all associated promotional materials.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Facilitate, foster and encourage region wide activities and programs that engage our community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The funds will be taken from JC: 2967.11074 – Community Donations (2967) / Donations (11074).

Description	Amount (\$)
2023/2024 Budget	120,000
Actual + Commitment	0
YTD Remaining Budget	120,000

CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

Director Community Services

RISK ASSESSMENT

There is a financial cost to Council, however the assistance provided will support the public health sector of the Whitsundays.

TIMINGS/DEADLINES

To be paid within one month of approval date

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Council officers contributing to the preparation and approval of this report have no conflicts of interest to declare.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

Section 58 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* specifies required conduct for public entities when acting or making a decision. Sections 15-37 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* identifies the human rights a public entity must consider in making a decision. The human rights relevant to this decision are as follows:

- Section 19 – Freedom of movement.
- Section 21 – Freedom of expression.
- Section 24 – Right to own property and not be arbitrarily deprived of property.
- Section 27 – Cultural rights – generally – all persons with a particular cultural, religious, racial or linguistic background have the right to enjoy their culture, to declare and practice their religion and use their language.
- Section 28 – Cultural rights – Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This decision does not limit the above identified human rights.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Options	Description	Positives	Negatives
Option 2	Offer a lesser donation	Save Council money	Negative public comment from community
Option 3	Not provide support	Save council up to \$7,000	Negative public comment from community

Attachment 13.4.5.1 Donation Request - Whitsundays Hospital Ball

Thanks for your reply, please see below my initial correspondence with regards to our event details.

Attached is the quote from the PEC which we would appreciate your support with in exchange for naming rights sponsorship to our event and the associated marketing. The costs of venue/equipment hire and technical staff are the expenses we would like to request support with as a minimum.

We would like to continue our annual ball event to support our regions medical staff which is an important part of retention and recruitment for our region.

If you require any clarification, please give me a call.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

[REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 10:39 am

To: mayor@uns.qld.gov.au; mayor@uns.qld.gov.au

Subject: Whitsundays Hospital Ball 2023

Dear Mayor Hall,

We are in the process of arranging out 2nd Annual Whitsundays Hospital Ball and would appreciate your consideration for support with the costs associated with our venue, The Proserpine Entertainment Centre.

Our inaugural hospital ball in 2022 was an effort to boost staff morale and support our hospital and ambulance staff across the Whitsunday's Region. This event was booked in at the PEC, however, due to issues with the retractable seating our booking was cancelled and we were required to find a new venue. We are very keen to support Proserpine and host our event at the PEC however the costs associated with this venue are prohibitive.

This year we will extend our invitation to our general practice colleagues and we are expecting approximately 120-guests this year (this is twice the size of Mackay Hospital's Ball for reference!).

We would like to propose marketing the council as our event's naming right sponsor and all associated promotional materials.

It would be my pleasure to discuss this partnership with yourself or your staff at any time, I have attached the PEC's preliminary quote for your reference.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

13.4.6 - Sport & Recreation Club Grants - 12 July 2023

DATE: Wednesday 12 July 2023

TO: Ordinary Council Meeting

AUTHOR: Jacqueline Neave - Arts & Community Programs Officer

AUTHORISING OFFICER: Julie Wright - Director Community Services

PRESENTED FOR: Decision

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

PURPOSE

For Council to consider the payment of the Sport & Recreation Club Grants for July 2023 in accordance with Council's Sport & Recreation Grant Guidelines.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the payment of a Sport & Recreation Club Grant to the following recipients:

1. Molongle Creek Boat Club Inc. – Band 1 - \$5,500
2. Whitsunday Moto Sports Club Inc. – Band 2 - \$3,000
3. Whitsunday Touch Association – Band 2 - \$3,000
4. Gloucester Sports & Recreation Association Inc. – Band 2 - \$3,000
5. Ports Denison Sailing Club Inc. – Band 3 - \$1,500
6. Wangaratta Bowls Club Inc. – Band 3 - \$1,500
7. Collinsville Barebow Hunters Club Inc. – Band 4 - \$1,000
8. Sailability Whitsunday Inc. – Band 4 - \$1,000

BACKGROUND

To be eligible for the Sport & Recreation Grant a club must meet the following criteria:

- Is incorporated and meets the obligations with the Office of Fair Trading
- Is covered with the appropriate level of public liability insurance (20 million)
- Provides membership data (as defined by Council) to Council on an annual basis.

The level of funding available to clubs will be based on a progressive scale, the larger the participation rate, the larger the support to the club. Participation is defined as being the total number of active members within the club.

The Sport & Recreation Clubs Grants are allocated based on the following:

Band Level	No. of Active Participants	Grant Allocation (\$)
Band 1	>250	5,500
Band 2	101 – 250	3,000
Band 3	51 – 100	1,500
Band 4	4 - 50	1,000

DISCUSSION/CURRENT ISSUE

The following applications were submitted:

Organisation Name	Junior Members	Senior Members	Total Members	Band	Public Liability	Amount Requested (\$)
Molongle Creek Boat Club Inc.			310	1	Yes	5,500
Whitsunday Moto Sports Club Inc	37	82	119	2	Yes	3,000
Whitsunday Touch Assoc Inc.	73	156	229	2	Yes	3,000
Gloucester Sports & Recreation Association Inc.	0	113	113	2	Yes	3,000
Port Denison Sailing Club Inc.	38	49	87	3	Yes	1,500
Wangaratta Bowls Club Inc.	0	53	53	3	Yes	1,500
Collinsville Barebow Hunters Club Inc.	4	14	18	4	Yes	1,000
Sailability Whitsunday Inc.	11	32	43	4	Yes	1,000
					Total	19,500

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

LSP_COMM_ - Community Grants Policy

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Facilitate, foster, and encourage region wide activities and programs that engage our community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The funds will be taken from budget code: JC:2967.10250 – Community Donations (2967) / Club Grants (10250).

Description	Amount (\$)
2023/2024 Budget	150,000
Actual + Commitment	0
YTD Remaining Budget	150,000

CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

Director Community Services

RISK ASSESSMENT

Reputational Risk – Providing funding support to the community and recognising the efforts of local Sport & Recreational Clubs is a positive outcome for Council.

TIMINGS/DEADLINES

Payment will be made within one month of approval.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Council officers contributing to the preparation and approval of this report have no conflicts of interest to declare.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

This decision does not limit the identified human rights.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Options	Description	Positives	Negatives
Option 2	Not approved	Save money in the budget	Negative impact for Council not showing support to clubs

13.4.7 - Financial Support for a Junior Elite Athlete - 12 July 2023

DATE: Wednesday 12 July 2023

TO: Ordinary Council Meeting

AUTHOR: Jacqueline Neave - Arts & Community Programs Officer

AUTHORISING OFFICER: Julie Wright - Director Community Services

PRESENTED FOR: Decision

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

PURPOSE

For Council to consider the applications for Financial Support for Junior Elite Athletes.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve financial support for the following applicants:

1. Diesel Bonds - Northern Region School Sport Representation 11-12yrs Rugby League Team Championships - \$250
2. Nicholas Philipson - Northern Region School Sport Representation 10 -12yrs Football (Soccer) State Championships - \$250

BACKGROUND

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 July 2021, Council resolved to adopt a policy to provide Financial Support for a Junior Elite Athlete. The level of funding available to individual Junior Elite Athletes is calculated on a progressive scale, the higher the level of representation the greater the financial support, as outlined below:

Level of Representation	Allocation (\$)
Representing North Queensland or equivalent in State level competition	250
Representing Queensland within Queensland	500
Representing Queensland Interstate	1,000
Representing Australia Overseas	up to 2,000

DISCUSSION/CURRENT ISSUE

Name	Age	Competition	Representati on Level	Sport	Amount (\$)
Diesel Bonds	12	Northern Region School Sport Representation 11-12yrs Boys Rugby League Championships 22-27 June 2023 Gladstone	State Level	Rugby League	250
Nicholas Philipson	12	Northern Region School Sport Representation 10 -	State Level	Football (Soccer)	250

		12yrs Football (Soccer) State Championships 3-6 August 2023 - Cairns			
Total					500

Diesel Bonds and Nicholas Philipson have previously received funding through the Junior Elite Athlete Program.

Diesel represented North Queensland in 11-12yrs Rugby League Championships in May 2022.

Nicholas represented North Queensland in the Football Queensland Youth Football (Soccer) Championships in June 2023.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

LSP_COMM_05 – Financial Support for a Junior Elite Athlete Policy

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Facilitate, foster, and encourage region wide activities and programs that engage our community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The funds will be taken from budget code: JC 2967.11074 – Community Donations (2967) / Donations (11074).

Description	Amount (\$)
2022/23 Budget (revised)	120,000
Actual + Commitment Spend	0
YTD Remaining Budget	120,000

CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

Director Community Services

RISK ASSESSMENT

This financial assistance shows Council's commitment to providing support to local junior elite athletes competing in a regional, state, or national level competition. Council's support of local community members demonstrates community engagement and willingness to grow local talent – impacting favourably on Council's reputation.

TIMINGS/DEADLINES

To be paid within one month of approval.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Council officers contributing to the preparation and approval of this report have no conflicts of interest to declare.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

This decision does not limit human rights.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Options	Description	Positives	Negatives
Option 2	Not provide financial support	Maintain budget level	Community disquiet due to lack of support

13.4.8 - Extension to Temporary Closure - Kings Beach, Bowen - 17 August to 30 September 2023

DATE: Wednesday 12 July 2023

TO: Ordinary Council Meeting

AUTHOR: Julie Wright - Director Community Services

AUTHORISING OFFICER: Julie Wright - Director Community Services

PRESENTED FOR: Decision

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Temporary Closure Area, Kings Beach [**13.4.8.1** - 1 page]

PURPOSE

To extend the temporary closure of Kings Beach, Bowen from the mouth of Sandhill Creek from Thursday, 17 August 2023 to Saturday, 30 September 2023, in accordance with *Whitsunday Regional Council Local Law No. 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities and Roads) 2014* to enable the area to be used by the Department of Defence to conduct Exercise Talisman Sabre 2023 activities including a Joint Logistics Over The Shore (JLOTS) exercise to move cargo from vessels onto land which are too large to enter locally available or preferred established ports.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council extend the temporary closure of Kings Beach, Bowen from the mouth of Sandhill Creek from Thursday, 17 August 2023 to Saturday, 30 September 2023 in accordance with *Whitsunday Regional Council Local Law No. 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities and Roads) 2014* to conduct Exercise Talisman Sabre 2023 activities.

BACKGROUND

At an Ordinary Meeting held 24 May 2023, Council resolved the following:

RESOLUTION OM2023/05/24.20

Moved By: CR M BRUNKER

Seconded By: CR M WRIGHT

That Council temporarily close:

- a) Kings Beach, Bowen from the mouth of Sandhill Creek from 5:00pm Wednesday, 14 June 2023 to 5:00am Wednesday, 16 August 2023, and,*
- b) Denison Park, Bowen Botanical Gardens from 5:00pm Wednesday, 14 June 2023 to 5:00am Wednesday, 16 August 2023,*
- c) Kings Beach Road and other roads on a temporary "as needs basis" through a delegation of the Chief Executive Officer. in accordance with Whitsunday Regional Council Local Law No. 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities and Roads) 2014.*

DISCUSSION/CURRENT ISSUE

Council is in receipt of an email dated 6 July 2023 requesting an extension to the closure of Kings Beach, Bowen from the mouth of Sandhill Creek from Thursday, 17 August 2023 to Saturday, 30 September 2023 to conduct Exercise Talisman Sabre 2023 activities.

The request for the extension is due to the JLOTS activity running several weeks behind on it's deployment and therefore the departure from Bowen.

Exercise Talisman Sabre 2023 is now being conducted in and around the Bowen area from 15 June 2023 to 30 September.

In accordance with Whitsunday Regional Council Local Law No. 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities and Roads) 2014 Part 2 Section 8 – Power of closure of local government controlled areas –

1. The local government may, by resolution, temporarily close a local government controlled area to public access—
 - (a) to carry out construction, maintenance, repair or restoration work; or
 - (b) to protect the health and safety of a person or the security of a person's property; or
 - (c) because of a fire or other natural disaster; or
 - (d) to conserve or protect the cultural or natural resources of the area or native wildlife.
2. A resolution under subsection (1)—
 - (a) must state a period, not greater than 6 months, during which the area will be closed; and
 - (b) must be revoked by the local government as soon as practicable after the local government becomes satisfied that the reason for making the resolution no longer exists.

Kings Beach, Bowen is a designated Dog and Horse Exercise Area in accordance with *Whitsunday Regional Council Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2014*. Therefore, it is considered the beach be closed to protect the health and safety of the public that may utilise the area to exercise their dog/s or horses.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Whitsunday Regional Council Local Law & Subordinate Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2014

Whitsunday Regional Council Local Law & Subordinate Local Law No. 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities and Roads) 2014

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Facilitate, foster and encourage region wide activities and programs that engage our community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Approval of the recommendation will require the installation of signs including a Variable Message Board to be extended at a cost of approximately \$4,000 in total for the duration of the exercise.

CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

Scott Hardy – Manager Natural Resource Management & Climate
Executive Leadership Team

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk assessments have been carried out by respective Defence Force Agencies in regard to each Exercise to ensure any associated risks identified have been addressed.

TIMINGS/DEADLINES

12 July 2023 to enable the closures to be advertised to the community.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Council officers contributing to the preparation and approval of this report have no conflicts of interest to declare.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

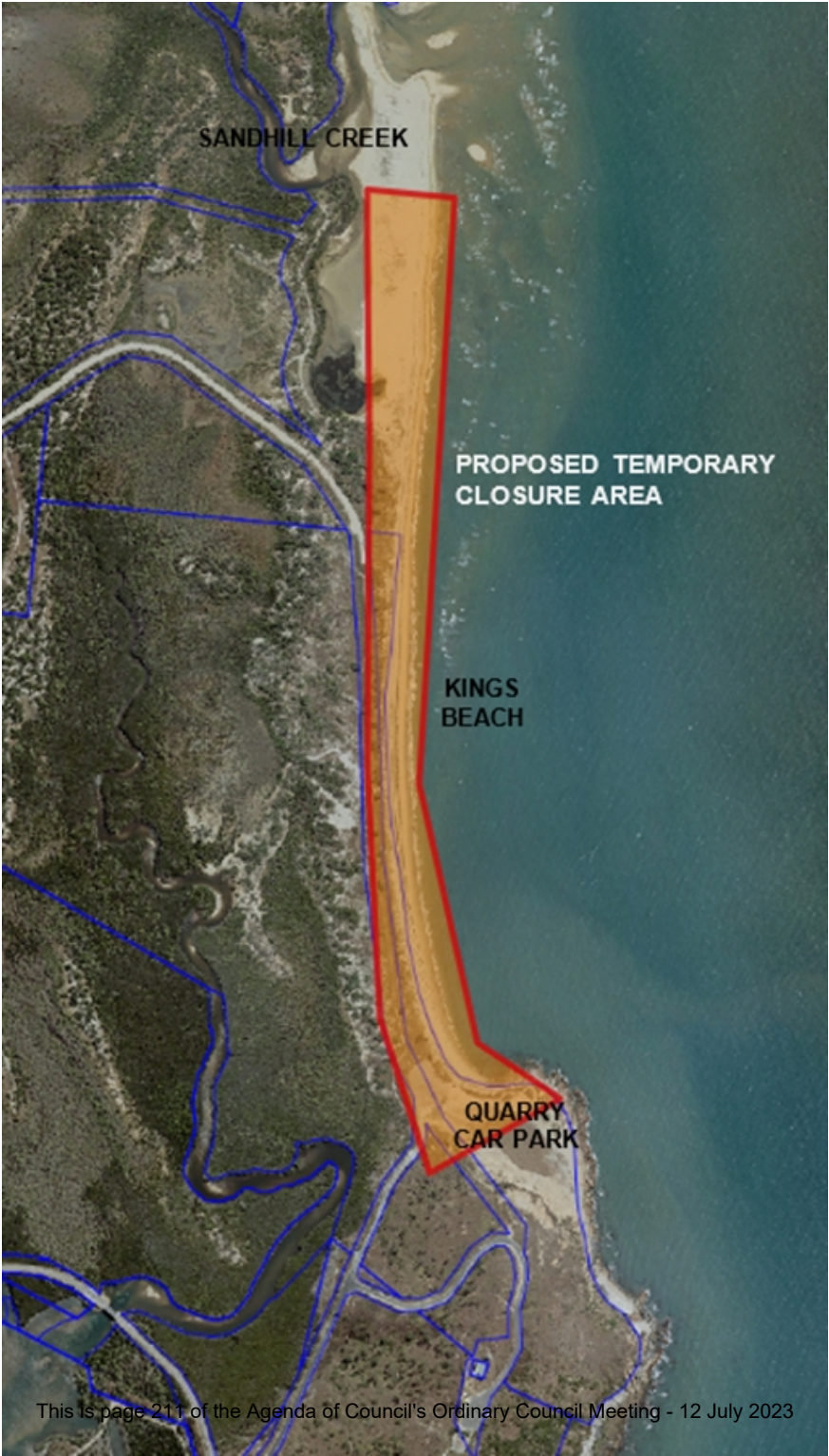
Section 58 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* specifies required conduct for public entities when acting or making a decision. Sections 15-37 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* identifies the human rights a public entity must consider in making a decision. The human rights relevant to this decision are as follows:

- Section 19 – Freedom of movement.
- Section 21 – Freedom of expression.
- Section 24 – Right to own property and not be arbitrarily deprived of property.
- Section 27 – Cultural rights – generally – all persons with a particular cultural, religious, racial or linguistic background have the right to enjoy their culture, to declare and practice their religion and use their language.
- Section 28 – Cultural rights – Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This decision does not limit the above identified human rights.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Options	Description	Positives	Negatives
Option 2	Decline the request	None	The exercises may relocate to an alternate region.



13.4.9 - Community Services Monthly Report - June 2023

DATE: Wednesday 12 July 2023

TO: Ordinary Council Meeting

AUTHOR: Erin Finau - Administration Coordinator Community Services

AUTHORISING OFFICER: Julie Wright - Director Community Services

PRESENTED FOR: Information

ATTACHMENTS

1. Community Services Monthly Report June 2023 [**13.4.9.1** - 24 pages]

PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is to set out an account of statistics pertaining to the functions of each branch within the Community Services Directorate for the month of June 2023.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the Community Services Monthly Report for June 2023.

BACKGROUND

The Community Services Directorate has a departmental vision of a prosperous, liveable, and sustainable Whitsundays. The directorate's purpose is to lead the delivery of economic, social, environmental, and recreational outcomes for the Whitsundays through services in partnership with stakeholders.

The directorate's vision is delivered by bringing together the functions of Community Development & Libraries, Aquatic Facilities & Caravan Parks, Environmental Health & Local Laws, Natural Resource Management & Climate, Customer Service, Cultural Heritage and Proserpine Entertainment Centre & Associated Venues.

DISCUSSION/CURRENT ISSUE

This report provides an overview of Whitsunday Regional Council's Community Services Directorate for the 2022/2023 financial year with particular focus on the month of June 2023.

STATUTORY/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

N/A

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

Through strong and open leadership, develop an organisation with a culture of respect, accountability and community service.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Manage within existing budget allocation.

CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

Coordinator Natural Resource Management & Climate
Manager Community Development & Libraries

Manager Customer Service
Manager Proserpine Entertainment Centre

RISK ASSESSMENT

Regular reporting on the Directorate's progress and achievements ensures accountability and fosters a positive culture.

TIMINGS/DEADLINES

N/A

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Council officers contributing to the preparation and approval of this report have no conflicts of interest to declare.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

No

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

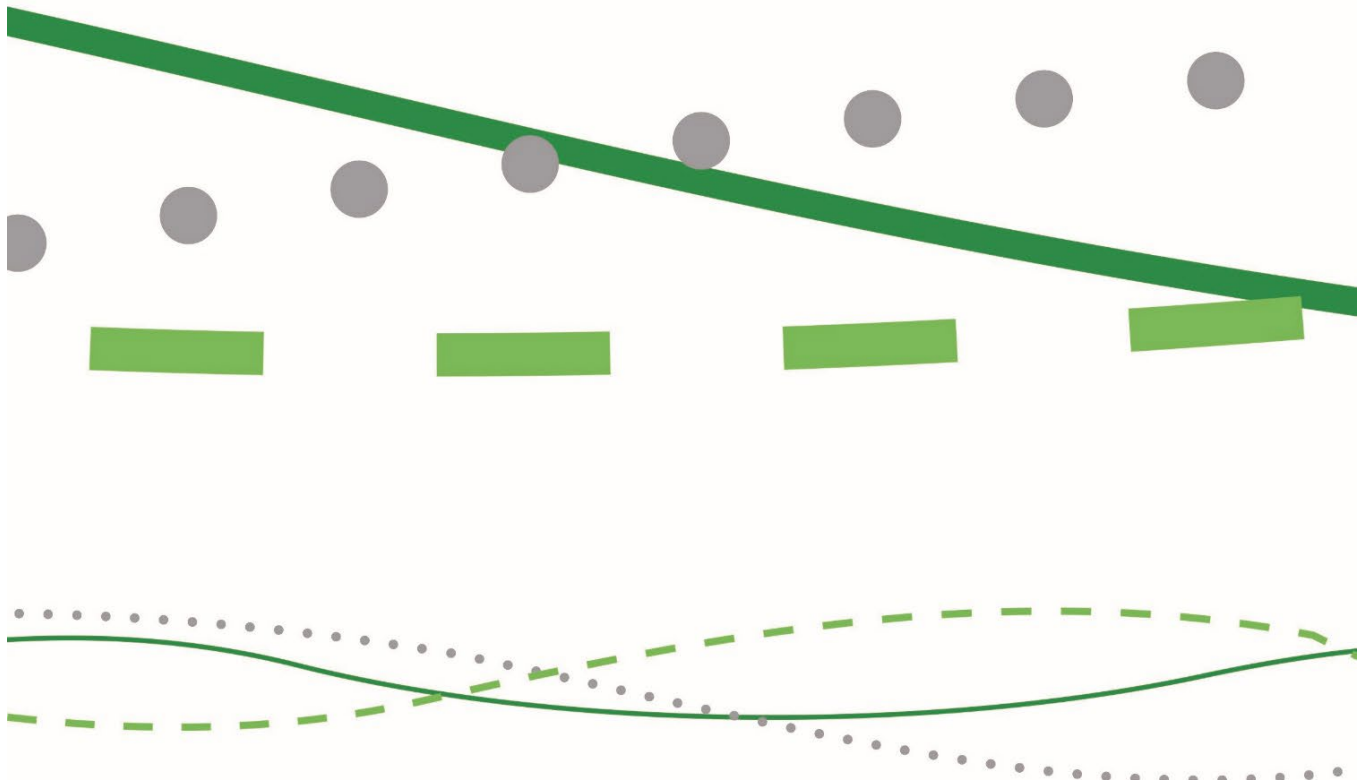
N/A



Community Services

Community Development & Libraries
Aquatic Facilities & Caravan Parks
Proserpine Entertainment Centre
Environmental Health & Local Laws
Natural Resource Management & Climate
Customer Service
Cultural Heritage

Monthly Report | June 2023



Director's Report

June 2023 saw the Community Services Team undertake events along with activities, projects and compliance issues.

The Events Team were busy with three external events during June: -

- Queensland Day Family Fun Day – approx. 500 attendees.
- Movie Night – Airlie Beach Foreshore – 185 attendees
- Welcome Whales Event – approx. 500 attendees.



Yearly totals for the following donations and sponsorship categories are as follows: -

- Elite Athletes – 107 applications with \$66,250 donated.
- Donation Requests - \$61,680 (73 received with 58 approved).
- Sponsorships - \$125,800 (cash).
- Sponsorships - \$38,030 (cash).

Yearly totals for External and Internal Events: -

- External events completed – 25 with 7,355 attendees.
- Internal events completed 13 with 494 attendees.
- External Event Applications received & processed – 91.

The Proserpine Entertainment Centre's Ticket sales for the month totalled 1,147 a decrease of 27.77% from the previous month. PEC Website Hits increased to a reach of 12,718 with the Facebook Reach decreasing from 15,609 to 9,932 from the previous month.

Shows & Performances for the month of June included the following: -

- Queensland Day
- Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow
- Wind in the Willows
- Movies – Little Mermaid, Spiderman and The Flash



My Community Directory + Diary searches totalled 5,085 a decrease of 28.64% from May 2023. The top five searched categories for June are Health Services, Recreation & Leisure, Sport, Environment & Conservation, and Community Clubs & Interest Groups.

Top ten health services searches for May are: -

- Allied Health
- Hospitals
- General Practice /Doctor
- Dental & Oral Health
- Mental Health Services
- General Health Services
- Drug & Alcohol Services
- Pharmacies
- Emergency Departments
- Child Youth & Family Health

The Community Services Team received 289 CRMs for June (208 completed) with the Environmental Health and Local Law Units receiving 260 (190 completed) complaints/requests for the month.

Top five complaint categories in regard to complaints received 'Other' Local Laws are: -

1. Illegal Camping
2. Overgrown Property
3. Abandoned Vehicles
4. Illegal Parking
5. Illegal Dumping

June started off with a bang with Proserpine Library participating in the QLD day festivities held in the parkland outside the Entertainment Centre. Nearly

Community Services Monthly Report | June 2023

250 people enjoyed the Library space with families creating QLD day glasses, flags and chatterboxes and taking advantage of all the library has to offer.

Library Staff attended *Embedding First Nations Perspectives in First 5 Forever* workshop at the State Library of Queensland – Auntie Sharron “mirii” Bell founder of Indigenous Insights (focuses on early childhood, cultural education and wellbeing), a proud Wiradjuri Gamilaraay woman, singer and song writer and her daughter, Jessica facilitated the workshop where attendees participated in a yarning circle, learnt about her and her family’s life and connection to country, sang many songs written by Auntie Sharron including *Let us pay respects*, *Stomp* and *Mamaba Dyan lived out in the Bush* also learning the traditional dance moves so that we can then teach the children at our F5F sessions. Participants then gathered as many F5F library facilitators together to share the learnings, videotaped the session to then share with the rest of the First 5 Forever Library staff.



Photo 3 - First 5 Forever Workshop

As part of the State Library of Queensland’s Development Subsidy Grant 2022/23, new blinds have been installed on the windows along the Conway Street side of Collinsville Library to minimise the amount of direct sunlight affecting books located near the windows. The new blinds have also added a fresh new look to the space.

Local felt artist, Cordell Steer held a beginner’s felt workshop in Proserpine Library, with 10 participants making two felted coasters. Workshops will also be held at Cannonvale and Bowen Libraries in July.



Photo 4 - Beginners Felt Workshop

Bowen Library held an author talk with Ruth and Don Pollock to promote their new books “Clouds and Sunshine” and Suggy’s Men”.

Page 3 of 24

School holidays kicked off in the last week of June with loads of fun activities across the region’s libraries. Teneille from Wildlife Whitsundays held snake education workshops at the Bowen, Proserpine and Cannonvale libraries. So much fun was had learning all about snakes and how to treat snake bites with a few brave attendees getting up close and personal with a python! Other school holiday activities included Koi Fish craft, rock painting, create a comic and journal making.



Photo 5 - Wildlife Whitsundays - Proserpine Library

The Cannonvale Library attended the Cannonvale State School Under 8’s day this month with a 3-hour outreach event well attended, with approximately 235 children and 85 adults visiting the Library Station.

The Region’s Libraries monthly borrowings decreased whilst attendance and website visits increased from June 2022.

- Attendance 11,604 – 32.87% increase
- Borrowings 13,460 – 1.26% decrease
- e-Library 1,953
- Library Website Visits 3,095 – 4.03% increase.

Natural Resource Management’s Projects for June 2023 include:

- A total of 192.4km of weeds along State controlled roads were sprayed by contractors for the month of June for the Road Maintenance Performance Contract (RMPC) Program.
- NRM Staff attended a total of 8 Workshops/Field Days/School Talks including both Bowen & Proserpine Show.
- Bren Fuller attended the National Feral Pig Conference in Cairns where he also gave a presentation on “How to Develop a Successful Feral Animal Aerial Control Program” at the National Feral Pig Conference 2023 + the Biosecurity Queensland Feral Deer Workshop.
- A total of 10 properties were baited for feral Animals or Yellow Crazy Ants with 740kg of baits laid including 1080 and ANTOFF.



Community Services Monthly Report | June 2023

- A new infestation was identified at Mandalay. This is now the 5th infestation site in the Whitsunday Council area. Letters have been sent to residents in the Mandalay area advising them of the infestation and what is to happen next.
- NRM Staff hosted three Community Bushfire Plan Meetings at Binbee, Euri Creek and Crystalbrook.
- Council Staff along with DNRM and QFES Rural Brigades conducted three hazard reduction burns at Silver Creek, Collinsville, and Brisk Bay.
- Council has received a \$50,000 grant from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Grader Grass control trial within the Whitsunday region.

The following are the average monthly occupancy rates at each of Council's Caravan Parks:

- Proserpine Tourist Park – 83% a 13.4% increase from June 2022.
- Wangaratta Caravan Park – 91% a 1.5% increase from June 2022.
- Proserpine RV Park - 290

The Bowen Work Camp contributed 396 hours towards Community Landscaping Maintenance, Community Indoor Tasks + Whitsunday Regional Council Landscape Maintenance.

Council's Off-Street Carparks generated \$73,114 for the month with 10,895 transactions, an increase of 18.09% from the previous month.

The Community Services Administration Officers' statistics for June 2023 include the following:

- Correspondence Generated – 621 items
- Civica & ECM Registrations – 1,688 tasks
- 1,066 Telephone Calls (internal and external).

Customer Service saw 1,386 visitors through the service centres an increase of 17.3% attendance to the previous month with an increase of receipts issued to 10,080 from 9,148 during May.

Total BPay, Austpost, Direct Deposits & eServices payments for the month is 64.6% of total payments received.

Telephone calls increased to 3,910 from 3,521 up by 11.04% from the previous month.

After hours calls generated 225 tasks to be actioned for June 2023 an 87.5% increase from the previous month.

Aquatic Facility user statistics for June 2023 in comparison to June 2022 are listed below:

- Airlie Beach Lagoon decreased by 41.08% to 7,798.
- Bowen Pool – increased by 308% to 4,400.
- Proserpine Pool – increased by 102% to 1,402.
- Collinsville Pool closed during winter months.

Julie Wright
Director Community Services

Community Services Monthly Report | June 2023

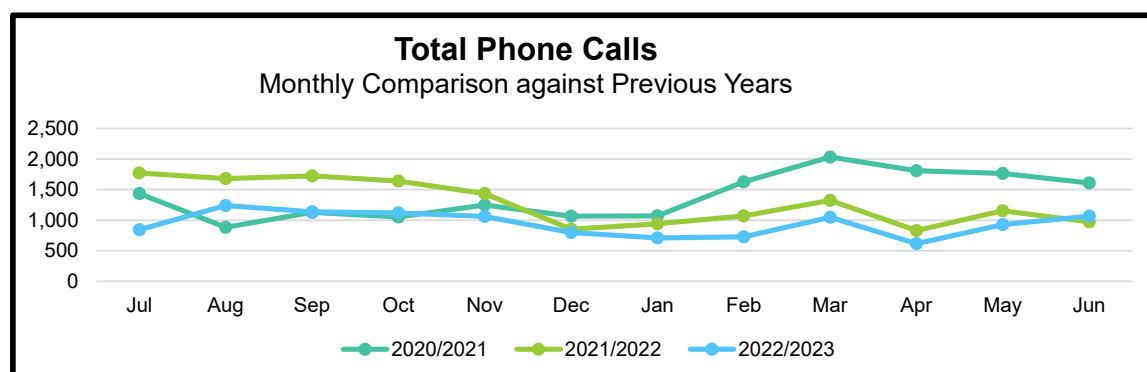
General

The Community Services Directorate has a departmental vision of a prosperous, liveable, and sustainable Whitsundays. The directorate's purpose is to lead the delivery of economic, social, environmental, and recreational outcomes for the Whitsundays through services in partnership with stakeholders.

The directorate's vision is delivered by bringing together the functions of Community Development & Libraries, Aquatic Facilities & Caravan Parks, Environmental Health & Local Laws, Natural Resource Management & Climate, Customer Service, Cultural Heritage & Collinsville Independent Living Facility.

Administration Officers

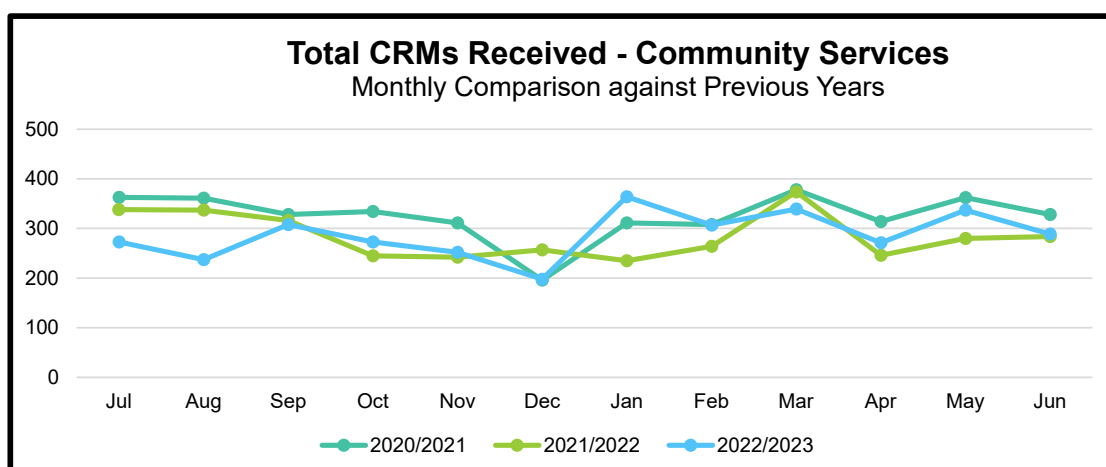
Service	YTD	Apr	May	Jun	Monthly Trend
Correspondence Generated	9,748	298	648	621	↓
ECM Task List	6,413	346	552	523	↓
Civica Registers	9,055	360	574	578	↑
Data Input	3,699	23	288	516	↑
CRMs Generated	748	87	94	114	↑
CRMs Closed	1,088	105	147	124	↓
Phone Calls - Internal	7,826	439	693	801	↑
Phone Calls - External	3,549	177	233	265	↑
Phone Calls - Total	11,292	616	926	1,066	↑
ECM Registering	6,508	323	563	473	↓
Purchase Orders	1,055	96	158	92	↓
Receipt Invoices	1,083	109	162	126	↓
Reports	369	27	21	51	↑



Community Services Monthly Report | June 2023

Customer Request Management (CRM)

Service	YTD	Apr	May	Jun	Monthly Trend
Community Development					
CRM Received	84	7	10	7	↓
CRM Completed	46	4	4	4	–
Library Services					
CRM Received	72	0	24	0	↓
CRM Completed	71	0	24	0	↓
Aquatic Facilities					
CRM Received	33	1	0	0	–
CRM Completed	21	1	0	0	–
Caravan Parks					
CRM Received	4	1	0	0	–
CRM Completed	3	0	0	0	–
Environmental Health & Local Laws					
CRM Received	2,949	247	272	260	↓
CRM Completed	2,232	163	216	190	↓
Parking					
CRM Received	14	0	1	1	–
CRM Completed	13	0	1	0	↓
NRM & Climate					
CRM Received	248	15	27	16	↓
CRM Completed	102	6	23	9	↓
Customer Service / E-Services					
CRM Received	44	0	3	5	↑
CRM Completed	40	0	3	5	↑
Total CRMs for Community Services					
CRM Received	3,448	271	337	289	↓
CRM Completed	2,528	174	271	208	↓



Community Development

The Community Development branch is responsible for assessing and acquitting community grants, developing and maintaining various community development related policies and registers, developing, and implementing various community programs such as cultural and recreational programs as well as maintaining various community facilities.

Operations

Service	YTD	Apr	May	Jun	Monthly Trend
Grant Applications					
Facility Management - Approved	3	1	0	1	↑
Facility Management - Approved (\$)	40,001	0	1	20,000	↑
Junior Elite Athlete - Approved	107	9	16	21	↑
Junior Elite Athlete - Approved (\$)	66,250	5,750	5,250	9,500	↑
RADF - Received	17	0	4	0	↓
RADF - Approved	10	0	0	0	–
RADF - Approved (\$)	58,367	0	0	0	–
RADF - Acquittals	6	1	1	1	–
Special Projects - Received	11	0	0	0	–
Special Projects - Approved	11	0	0	0	–
Special Projects - Approved (\$)	126,950	0	0	0	–
Special Projects - Acquittals	2	0	1	0	↓
Sport & Rec Club - Received	63	1	8	11	↑
Sport & Rec Club - Approved	62	4	1	10	↑
Sport & Rec Club - Approved (\$)	134,000	4,500	1,000	24,500	↑
Donation & Sponsorship Requests					
Donation Requests - Received	73	8	8	7	↓
Donation Requests - Approved	58	4	3	4	↑
Donation Requests - Approved (\$)	61,680	5,600	8,300	5,550	↓
Fee Waivers - Approved	46	0	7	6	↓
Fee Waivers - Approved (\$)	19,721	0	3,387	2,437	↓
Sponsorships - Received	42	4	6	6	–
Sponsorships - Approved	24	3	4	4	–
Sponsorships - Approved (\$)	125,800	7,000	19,500	8,500	↓
Sponsorships - Approved (in kind)	38,030	0	5,000	0	↓
Sponsorships - Acquittals	0	0	0	0	–
Events					
Council Events - External - Completed	25	2	4	3	↓
Council Events - External - Participants	7,355	1,069	600	1,185	↑
Council Events - Internal - Completed	13	0	1	0	↓
Council Events - Internal - Participants	494	0	70	0	↓
External Event Applications Received	91	3	7	9	↑

Community Services Monthly Report | June 2023

Cruise Ship Statistics

Statistics	YTD	Apr	May	Jun	Monthly Trend
Total Ships	80	4	1	5	↑
Total Passengers	176,917	12,220	3,400	15,619	↑
Off Ship Passengers & Crew	140,692	9,802	2,987	13,414	↑
Through Marina	119,964	8,025	2,537	–	↑
Town Visits	98,930	8,025	2,537	–	↑
Local Tours	28,348	1,777	450	–	↑

* Tour stats for 3 x ships were not received prior to this report being finalised for the month of June.

Junior Elite Athlete Recipients for June:

- Mathew Belyea, Blake Tissington, Nicholas Philipson, Nicholas Maranino, Lillian Kelly, Byron Goodin, Karlee Goodin, Jy Parkinson, Charlotte Finn, Sophie Fletcher, Connor Marks, Gausa Dau, Beau Peterson, Quade Scott, Lincoln Douglas, Cooper Robinson, Andrew Keeman, Jamar Tabua, and Lanie Hazeltine.

Events:

External:

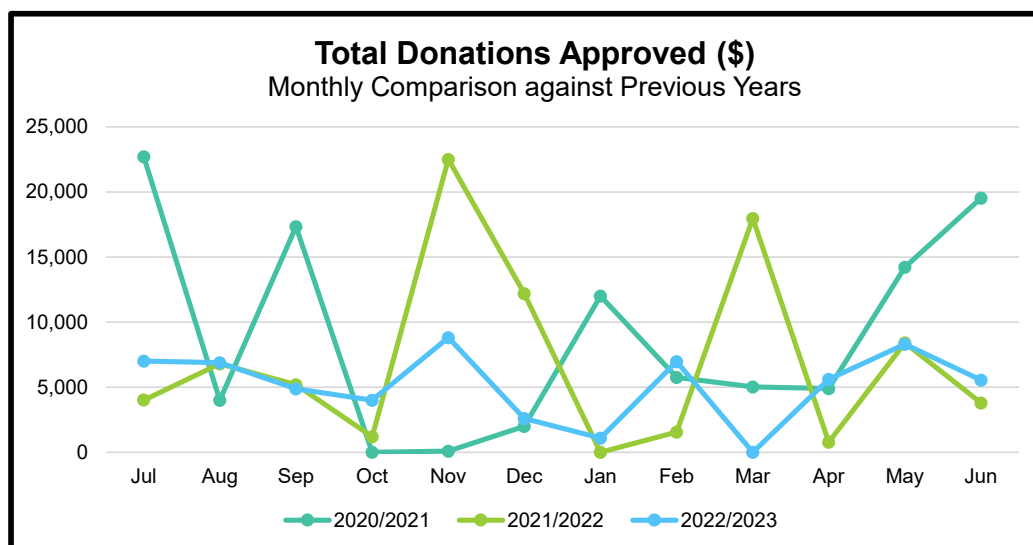
- Queensland Day Family Fun Day Event- approx. 500 attendees.
- Movie Night – Secret Life of Pets – 185 attendees.
- Welcome Whales Event - approx. 500 attendees.

Internal:

- N/A

Special Project Grants Successful Recipients:

- N/A



Community Services Monthly Report | June 2023



The report from My Community Directory + Diary is currently unavailable while they install upgrades to the software. My Community Directory + Diary have supplied the following stats for the month of June:

Year	Month	Listing Views	Results Views	Users	Events
2023	April	1,252	5,443	2,555	101
2023	May	1,631	7,126	2,999	74
2023	June	1,412	5,085	2,871	84

Top categories viewed for the month of June:

Rank	Category	Listing Views
1	Health Services	395
2	Recreation & Leisure	151
3	Sport	149
4	Environment & Conversation	134
5	Community Clubs & Interest Groups	111

List of Health Services searched:

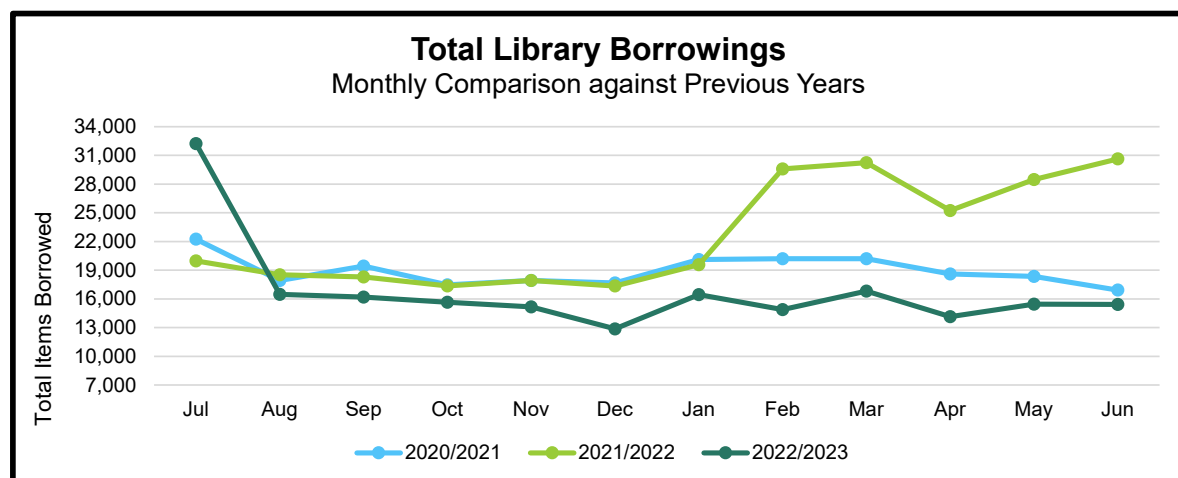
Rank	Service
1	Allied Health
2	Hospitals
3	General Practice/Doctor
4	Dental & Oral Health
5	Mental Health Services
6	General Health Services
7	Drug & Alcohol Services
8	Pharmacies
9	Emergency Departments
10	Child Youth & Family Health

Library Services

The Library Services branch is responsible for the provision of customer-centric services and resources to meet the information, recreation, cultural and lifelong learning needs of individuals and groups within the Whitsundays. The branch responsibilities include the design and delivery of library programs, promotion and marketing, collection development and maintenance, information/digital literacy opportunities, outreach, and service extension.

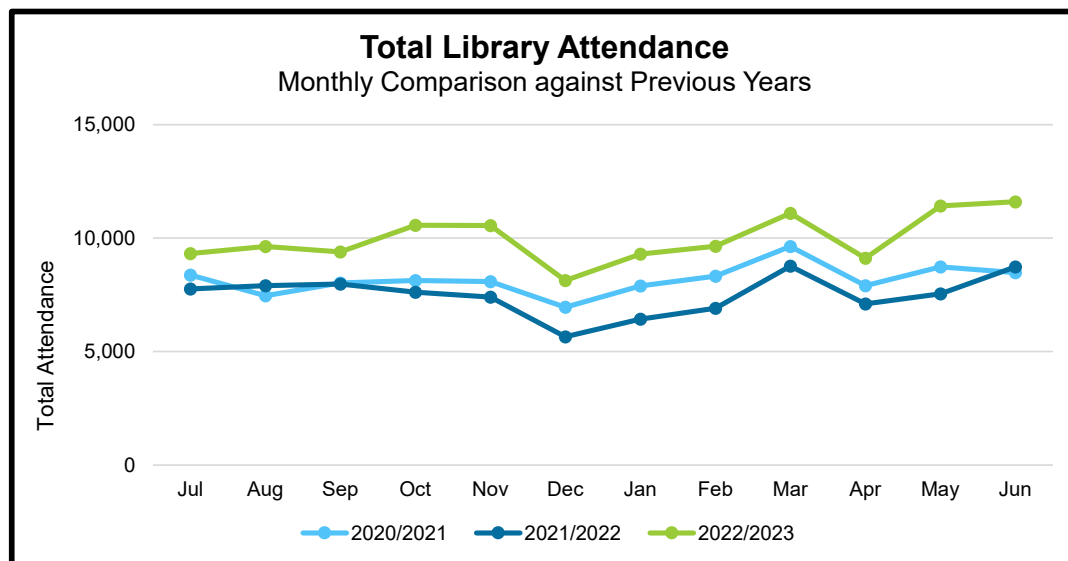
Operations

Service	YTD	Apr	May	Jun	Monthly Trend
Library Resources Acquired					
Bowen & Collinsville Libraries	3,186	208	327	411	↑
Cannonvale Library	5,334	315	695	575	↓
Proserpine Library	2,821	195	199	204	↑
e-Library	1,999	180	138	127	↓
Library Resources Borrowed					
Bowen Library	40,352	2,934	3,531	3,526	↓
Cannonvale Library	75,754	5,210	5,741	5,680	↓
Collinsville Library	4,615	287	285	272	↓
Proserpine Library	39,943	3,308	4,017	3,982	↓
e-Library	41,092	2,401	1,885	1,953	↑
Mobile Library	10	0	0	10	↑
Library Attendance					
Bowen Library	33,378	2,498	3,198	3,566	↑
Cannonvale Library	48,144	3,846	4,298	4,205	↓
Collinsville Library	7,594	729	792	598	↓
Proserpine Library	30,675	2,042	3,137	3,235	↑
Library Website					
Website Visits	30,679	2,197	2,353	3,095	↑



Community Services Monthly Report | June 2023

Service	YTD	Apr	May	Jun	Monthly Trend
First 5 Forever (F5F)					
Resources - Acquired	204	6	36	11	↓
Resources - Borrowed by Branches	1,027	75	156	82	↓
Community Partnership Interactions	306	24	80	29	↓
Toolkits Distributed	164	2	17	11	↓
F5F In Library - Activities Held					
Bowen Library	86	5	13	10	↓
Cannonvale Library	120	5	15	10	↓
Collinsville Library	35	2	4	3	↓
Proserpine Library	118	5	15	9	↓
F5F In Library - Activities Attendance					
Bowen Library	1,499	84	231	152	↓
Cannonvale Library	3,079	107	382	343	↓
Collinsville Library	181	8	24	22	↓
Proserpine Library	1,994	98	320	178	↓
F5F Community Outreach - Events Held					
Bowen Library	29	3	5	4	↓
Cannonvale Library	25	1	4	3	↓
Collinsville Library	11	0	2	0	↓
Proserpine Library	20	0	6	3	↓
F5F Community Outreach - Events Attendance					
Bowen Library	1,500	655	240	242	↑
Cannonvale Library	2,236	150	361	412	↑
Collinsville Library	331	0	200	0	↓
Proserpine Library	2,207	0	864	132	↓



Community Services Monthly Report | June 2023

Service	YTD	Apr	May	Jun	Monthly Trend
In Library Programs - Events Held					
Bowen Library - Adults	61	2	5	2	↓
Bowen Library - Children	79	14	3	5	↑
Cannonvale Library - Adults	67	5	8	4	↓
Cannonvale Library - Children	175	16	15	17	↑
Collinsville Library - Adults	5	0	1	0	↓
Collinsville Library - Children	19	4	0	2	↑
Proserpine Library - Adults	65	4	12	9	↓
Proserpine Library - Children	86	5	10	10	↓
In Library Programs - Events Attendance					
Bowen Library - Adults	219	6	12	7	↓
Bowen Library - Children	1,216	216	37	84	↑
Cannonvale Library - Adults	372	42	39	17	↓
Cannonvale Library - Children	3,442	272	192	386	↑
Collinsville Library - Adults	30	0	6	0	↓
Collinsville Library - Children	149	25	0	17	↑
Proserpine Library - Adults	435	8	105	33	↓
Proserpine Library - Children	1,424	261	164	225	↑
Community Outreach - Events Held					
Bowen Library - Adults	49	3	4	4	–
Bowen Library - Children	1	0	0	0	–
Cannonvale Library - Adults	45	3	3	3	–
Cannonvale Library - Children	0	0	0	0	–
Collinsville Library - Adults	9	2	0	0	–
Collinsville Library - Children	0	0	0	0	–
Proserpine Library - Adults	50	4	5	3	↓
Proserpine Library - Children	0	0	0	0	–
Community Outreach - Events Attendance					
Bowen Library - Adults	469	27	32	33	↑
Bowen Library - Children	19	0	0	0	–
Cannonvale Library - Adults	330	16	21	22	↑
Cannonvale Library - Children	0	0	0	0	–
Collinsville Library - Adults	7	1	0	0	–
Collinsville Library - Children	0	0	0	0	–
Proserpine Library - Adults	615	51	58	37	↓
Proserpine Library - Children	0	0	0	0	–
Public Computer Usage					
Bowen Library	5,496	378	551	557	↑
Cannonvale Library	7,582	628	729	597	↓
Collinsville Library	236	6	4	16	↑
Proserpine Library	3,035	270	304	274	↓

Bowen Work Camp

Council partners with Queensland Corrective Services to provide beneficial works projects for the community and rehabilitate offenders with their return to society. They perform a multitude of tasks including maintenance of fences, cemeteries, sportsgrounds and showgrounds, propagation of plants and they also participate in many restoration and general maintenance projects.

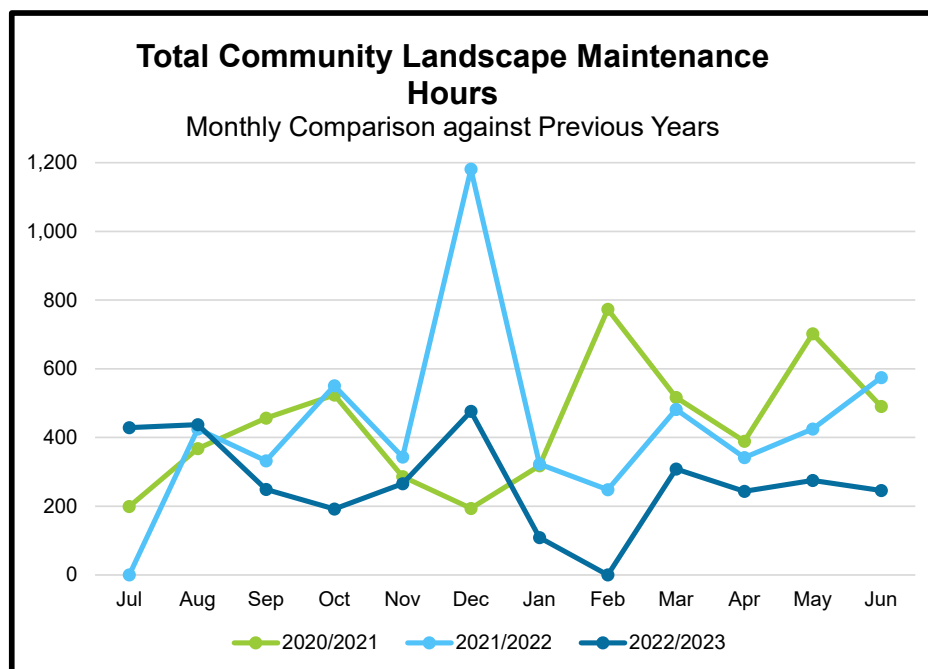
Operations

Service	YTD	Apr	May	Jun	Monthly Trend
Community Landscape Maintenance Hours	3,230	243.75	275.5	245.5	↓
Community Indoor Tasks Hours	842	63	72.5	106.5	↑
New Project Assessment Hours	2	0	0	0	–
WRC Landscape Maintenance Hours	306	12.5	35.75	44	↑
WRC Nursery Maintenance/Propagation Hours	56	0	12	4	↓
WRC Indoor Tasks Hours	6	0	6	0	↓
QCS Compound Duties Hours	736	55.5	42	48.5	↑

*No inmates for the month of February

Projects

Project	Status	% Complete	Budget
Collinsville Youth Coalition – Installing table and chairs	On Hold	0%	✓
Bowen Neighbourhood Centre – Snipping and mowing yard until they move into new premises	In Progress	80%	✓



Aquatic Facilities & Caravan Parks

The Recreation Services branch is responsible for delivering recreation and youth programs that activate our public and open spaces, supporting recreation groups to secure funding for projects, maintaining Council's caravan parks and aquatic facilities, and master planning for future sport and recreation assets.

Aquatic Facilities – Operations

Service	YTD	Apr	May	Jun	Monthly Trend
Airlie Beach Lagoon – Total Users	350,100	32,229	8,572	7,798	↓
Airlie Beach Lagoon – Total Offences	3,471	169	213	436	↑
Pool Attendance – Bowen	71,836	4,803	3,973	4,400	↑
Pool Attendance – Collinsville	20,670	712	0	0	–
Pool Attendance – Proserpine	43,287	2,853	2,069	1,402	↓

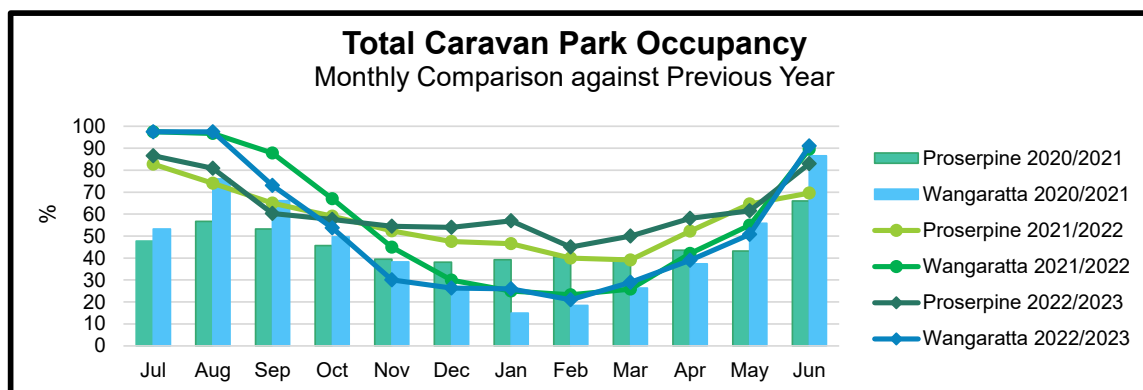
*Collinsville Swimming Pool closed during Winter months

Caravan Parks – Operations

Service	YTD	Apr	May	Jun	Monthly Trend
Proserpine Tourist Park					
Occupancy (%)	63.2	58	72	83	↑
Revenue (\$)	525,072	37,132	42,644	58,230	↑
Accumulated Revenue - Laundry Service (\$)	8,043	481	844	755	↓
Wangaratta Caravan Park					
Occupancy (%)	54.0	39	64	91	↑
Revenue (\$)	619,502	39,860	55,075	86,526	↑
Accumulated Revenue - Laundry Service (\$)	8,131	352	727	1,057	↑

Caravan Parks Occupancy – Yearly Comparison for June

Service	2020	2021	2022	2023	Yearly Trend
Occupancy (%)					
Proserpine Tourist Park	31.2	66.0	69.6	83	↑
Wangaratta Caravan Park	32.2	86.5	89.5	91	↑



Proserpine Entertainment Centre

The Proserpine Entertainment Centre facilitates and delivers a wide variety of activities and programs from live performance to cinema, workshops and masterclasses to lectures and seminars.

Operations

Service	YTD	Apr	May	Jun	Monthly Trend
Ticketed Events					
Events Held – Public Program	21	0	6	3	↓
Events Held – Hires	19	1	0	0	–
Events Held - Different Movies	40	12	5	7	↑
Events Held - Cinema Sessions	164	35	14	27	↑
Ticket Sales					
Ticket Sales - Performance - Walk Up	1,621	214	423	53	↓
Ticket Sales - Performance - Internet	5,964	515	642	169	↓
Ticket Sales - Performance - Phone	301	22	49	18	↓
Ticket Sales - Cinema - Walk Up	1,974	113	254	558	↑
Ticket Sales - Cinema - Internet	2,133	236	219	347	↑
Ticket Sales - Cinema - Phone	24	0	1	2	↑
Functions & Events					
Functions	3	0	0	0	–
Functions – Attendees	138	0	0	0	–
Events	4	2	1	1	–
Events – Attendees	2,124	1,500	24	600	↑
Hours					
Volunteer Hours	383	38	72	27	↓
Casual Hours (Paid) - Front of Hours	2,022.75	202.75	127	346.5	↑
Casual Hours (Paid) - Technical	1,865.5	299.75	231.75	210.25	↓
Booking Enquiries	54	4	6	3	↓
Website Hits	90,638	11,518	10,239	12,718	↑
Facebook Reach	117,379	11,687	15,609	9,932	↓
Feedback	22	4	3	0	↓
Bar Sales	54,157	6,245	5,107	\$10,833	↑

Shows & Performances for the month of June:

- Queensland Day – 4 June 2023
- Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow – 7 June 2023
- Wind in the Willows – 9 & 10 June
- Movies include the Little Mermaid, Spiderman and The Flash over the school holidays.

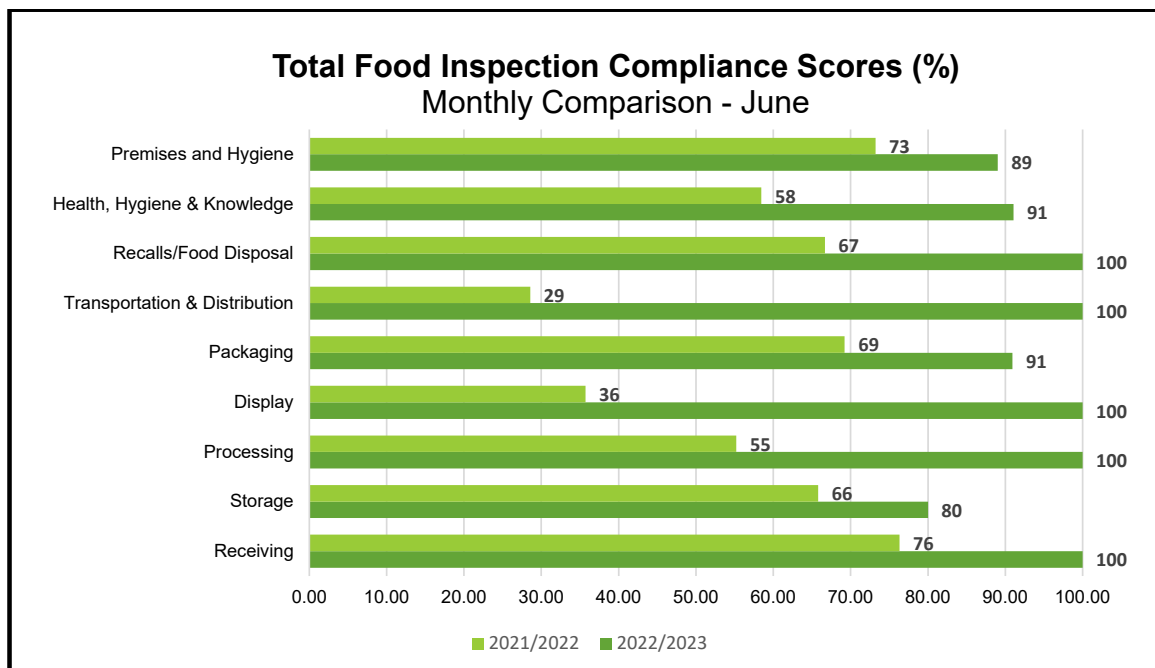
Environmental Health & Local Laws

The Environmental Health & Local Laws branch is responsible for regulation of all local laws and laws associated with Environmental Protection and Public Health. The Environmental Health Unit is responsible for licensing and inspection of food and accommodation premises, assessment of liquor licensing referrals, provides development conditions and the protection of the environment and public health. The Local Laws unit licenses prescribed activities and addresses all breaches of Local Laws including animal control and property compliance involving vegetation, accumulation of materials and temporary homes. Local Laws is also responsible for maintaining the animal impoundment facility, on/off-street car parking compliance and commercial parking operations. The branch is active in development, review and maintenance of related policies and registers.

Environmental Health – Operations

Service	YTD	Apr	May	Jun	Monthly Trend
Environmental Health					
Environmental Health – Plan Approval Applications Received	65	2	4	8	↑
Environmental Health Applications Received	90	0	11	8	↓
Food Safety Programs Received	2	0	1	0	↓
Liquor Licence Referrals Received	30	0	4	4	–
Food Business - Inspections	120	0	22	14	↓
Food Business - Re-Inspections	5	0	1	0	↓
Food Safety Programs Audit Reports Reviewed	12	0	1	1	–
Food Safety Supervisor Approval Reviewed	6	0	0	6	↑
Food Business Licence Enquiries	26	0	17	9	↓
Other Environmental Health Enquiries	6	0	1	5	↑
Other Environmental Health Inspections	2	0	0	2	↑
Development Applications Referrals Received	8	0	2	4	↑
Accommodation - Inspections	8	1	2	0	↓
Accommodation - Re-inspections	2	0	1	0	↓
Complaints Received - EH General	117	12	15	10	↓
Event Application Assessment	24	0	10	7	↓
Food Inspection Compliance Categories					
Receiving (%)	96.42	100.00	100.00	100.00	–
Storage (%)	84.97	100.00	88.89	80.00	↓
Processing (%)	92.29	100.00	87.23	100.00	↑
Display (%)	89.77	100.00	95.59	100.00	↑
Packaging (%)	97.28	100.00	100.00	90.91	↓
Transportation & Distribution (%)	79.17	100.00	100.00	100.00	–
Recalls/Food Disposal (%)	92.29	100.00	100.00	100.00	–
Health, Hygiene & Knowledge (%)	87.69	95.00	89.89	91.07	↑
Premises and Hygiene (%)	89.44	96.23	92.66	89.02	↓

Community Services Monthly Report | June 2023



Local Laws – Operations

Service	YTD	Apr	May	Jun	Monthly Trend
Local Laws					
Local Law Applications Received	75	1	3	17	↑
Complaints Received - Animal Management	994	72	118	102	↓
Complaints Received - Other Local Law	1,386	127	98	129	↑
Compliance Notices Issued	438	50	41	29	↓
Renewal/Reminder/Final Notices	762	0	52	22	↓
Infringement Responses	917	31	78	84	↑
Dog Registrations	4,342	32	27	161	↑
Cat Registrations	523	3	2	23	↑
Parking Infringements - Issued	1,949	132	190	152	↓
Parking Infringements - Waived	194	14	34	18	↓
Other Infringements - Issued	463	29	77	60	↓
Other Infringements - Waived	81	4	8	13	↑
Infringement Reminder Notices Sent	1,168	0	11	188	↑
Proserpine Self-Contained Vehicle Park Inspections*	1,878	0	269	290	↑

Complaint Categories – Other Local Laws

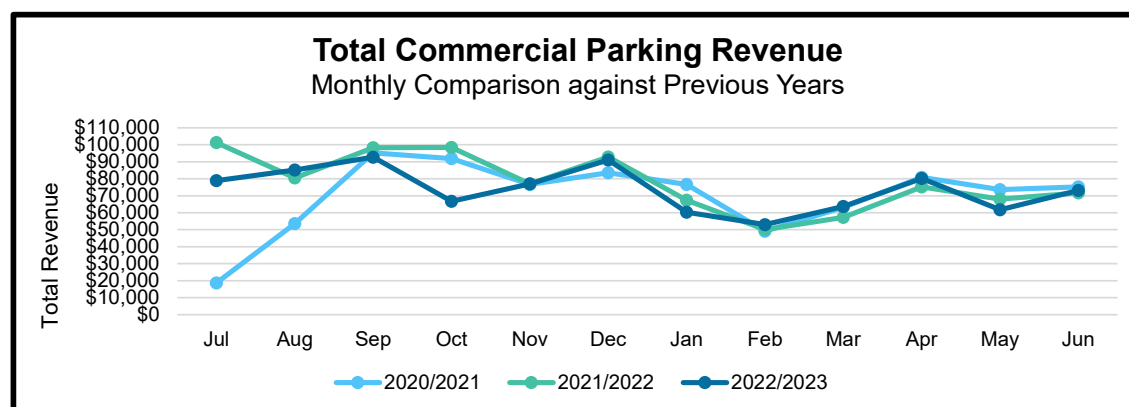
1. Illegal Camping
2. Overgrown Property
3. Abandoned Vehicles
4. Illegal Parking
5. Illegal Dumping

Community Services Monthly Report | June 2023

Commercial Parking – Operations

Car Parks	YTD	Apr	May	Jun	Monthly Trend
Heart of the Reef Transit Facility					
Occupancy (no.)	19	0	0	0	–
Revenue (\$)	1,064	0	0	0	–
Port of Airlie					
Average Spend (\$)	12.57	12.69	12.84	13.13	↑
Tariff (most selected)	12-24hr	12-24hr	12-24hr	12-24hr	–
No. of tickets purchased	24,973	2,083	1,741	1,935	↑
Revenue (\$)	313,157	26,450	22,361	25,416	↑
Airlie Creek					
Average Spend (\$)	4.43	4.56	4.51	4.60	↑
Tariff (most selected)	1-2hr	1-2hr	1-2hr	1-2hr	–
No. of tickets purchased	65,591	4,642	3,626	4,245	↑
Revenue (\$)	287,860	21,154	16,425	19,532	↑
Broadwater Avenue					
Average Spend (\$)	2	3.80	3.67	3.81	↑
Tariff (most selected)	1-2hr	1-2hr	1-2hr	1-2hr	–
No. of tickets purchased	8,955	2,362	1,638	1,926	↑
Revenue (\$)	33,078	8,982	6,016	7,329	↑
Abell Point Marina					
Average Spend (\$)	8.34	8.79	8.78	8.91	↑
Tariff (most selected)	4-12hr	4-12hr	4-12hr	4-12hr	–
No. of tickets purchased	21,386	2,014	1,472	1,653	↑
Revenue (\$)	180,208	17,693	12,922	14,733	↑
Coconut Grove					
Average Spend (\$)	5.72	5.29	5.42	5.37	↓
Tariff (most selected)	2-4hr	2-4hr	2-4hr	2-4hr	–
No. of tickets purchased	12,398	1,111	749	1,136	↑
Revenue (\$)	72,497	5,881	4,057	6,104	↑

*Airlie Lagoon Precinct figures separated to Airlie Creek & Broadwater Avenue Car Parks



Natural Resource Management & Climate

The Natural Resource Management & Climate branch is responsible for developing and implementing various environmental and community health and safety programs such as pest, weed and water quality programs as well as maintaining stock routes and implementing the Biosecurity Plan.

Natural Resource Management – Operations

Service	YTD	Apr	May	Jun	Monthly Trend
Complaints Received - Pest & Weed	136	8	18	8	↓
Complaints Received - Environmental	112	7	9	8	↓
Property Pest Management Plan (PPMP) Implemented/Reviewed	25	2	2	2	–
PPMP Annual Reviews Completed	32	0	4	3	↓
Landholder Access - Herbicide Rebate	63	5	6	9	↑
Landholder Access - Mechanical Rebate	2	0	0	0	–
Letters/Emails to Landholders - Weeds	911	86	326	65	↓
Property Visit/Inspections - Weeds	904	105	178	45	↓
Property Visit/Inspections - Feral Animals	282	10	10	0	↓
Feral Animals - Traps Set	12	0	2	1	↓
Feral Animals - Trapped	19	0	1	0	↓
Aerial Shooting - Flights	14	0	4	0	↓
Aerial Shooting - Feral Animals Shot	2,022	0	559	0	↓
Properties Baited (Feral Animals & Yellow Crazy Ants)	86	6	35	10	↓
Baits Laid (kg) (1080 & ANTOFF)	8,202	600	1,500	740	↓
Length of Road Reserve Sprayed (km)	440.4	100.5	73.5	192.4	↑
No. of Council Lots Sprayed/Inspected	74	2	17	20	↑
Mixed Chemicals Used (L)	4,297	15	200	1,382	↑
Workshops/Field Days/School Talks	17	0	3	8	↑
Letters/Emails to Landholders – Environment/Bushfire Management	969	20	22	1	↓
Property Visit/Site Inspection – Environment/Bushfire Management	296	6	12	35	↑
PIN's/Biosecurity Orders/Compliance Notices Issued - Environment	6	0	0	0	–
Project Reports - not to Council	40	4	0	0	–
Briefing / Council Reports	15	0	0	0	–
Bushfire Hazard Reduction Burns	7	0	1	3	↑
Bushfire Management Plans	46	1	1	0	↓
Environmental Planning Projects Completed	3	0	0	0	–
DA's Assessed (including RFI & Conditions & Advice) Completed	38	0	0	2	↑
Correspondence Out - CCAT	454	46	109	102	↓
Projects/Works Completed - CCAT	49	7	10	7	↓

Community Services Monthly Report | June 2023

Projects

Project	Status	% Complete	Budget	Time
Bushfire Management Program	In Progress	50%	✓	✓

Climate Projects

Project	Type	Status
Whitsunday Industry Resilience Project	Economic	Finalised
Funding and Financing Adaptation – A Case Study	Economic	Stage 1 finalised
Whitsunday Water Treatment and Pumping Optimisation	Economic	Underway – CQU Masters student in year 1 of 2
Whitsunday Healthy Heart (WHH) Project	Social	Underway (year 3 of 4)

Update

Pest Management Projects:

- **Weeds**
 - Officers manned a Pest Display at Show Whitsunday and the Bowen Show
 - Council has received a \$50,000.00 grant from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Grader Grass control trial within the Whitsunday region.
 - RMPC weed management spraying has been completed for the 2022/2023 year.
 - Site observations are ongoing of Prickly Acacia Biocontrol in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.
 - Contractors are still undertaking works for the Leucaena Urban Management Plan
 - The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries are conducting encapsulated herbicide trials on Neem trees within the Days Road, Gumlu area.
 - The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries conducted drone mapping of Chinese Apple Trees with participating landholders within the region.
- **Animals**
 - Bren Fuller gave a presentation at the Biosecurity Queensland Feral Deer Workshop
 - Bren Fuller attended the National Feral Pig Conference in Cairns where he also gave a presentation on “How to Develop a Successful Feral Animal Aerial Control program” at the National Feral Pig Conference 2023.
- **Yellow Crazy Ants**
 - Ground baiting was conducted at Funnel Bay.
 - New infestation was identified at Mandalay. This is now the 5th infestation site in the Whitsunday Council area. Letters have been sent to residents in the Mandalay area advising them of the infestation and what is to happen next.

Other Natural Resource Management Projects:

Collinsville Flying Fox

- Numbers have increased. As of 28 June 2023, there were 850 Black Flying Fox in 2 trees in 2 private properties in Belmore and Stanley Streets.

Bushfire Management

- Council hosted three Community Bushfire Plan Meetings at Binbee, Euri Creek and Crystalbrook (photo below of attendees at the Binbee meeting).
- Council along with DNRM and QFES Rural Brigades conducted three hazard reduction burns at Silver Creek, Collinsville and Brisk Bay.

Community Services Monthly Report | June 2023

- Council held three Bushfire Training Workshops in Bowen, Proserpine, and Collinsville.

Environment Projects

- Council hosted the Quarterly Bowen-Burdekin Local Marine Advisory (LMAC) Committee Meeting.
- Scott attended the 2023 Soil Science Australia Conference in Darwin
- Quotes have been received for the materials for the Wilson Beach Swimming Enclosure.

Climate Change

- Lee Hawkins attended the ecoSummit 2023 in Brisbane.



Photo - Community Bushfire Plan Meeting - Binbee

Community Services Monthly Report | June 2023

Customer Service

Call Centre – Operations

Service	YTD	Apr	May	Jun	Monthly Trend
Business Hours Call Centre					
Calls Received – Total CS	56,271	3,281	3,521	3,910	↑
Calls Received – 1300 WRC QLD	35,468	2,499	2,721	2,793	↑
Calls Answered	31,302	2,161	2,365	2,462	↑
Calls Overflowed	2,893	257	289	228	↓
Calls Abandoned	1,047	55	49	60	↑
Calls Abandoned (%)	2.95%	2.20%	1.80%	2.15%	↑
Untracked Calls (Voice Msg)	327	26	18	43	↑
*ASL - Average Service Level (%)	82.5%	86.1%	88.4%	84.5%	↓
*ASA - Average Speed of Answer	20	21	16	20	↑
*AHT - Average Handle Time/Secs	212	233	230	231	↓
After Hours Call Centre					
Calls Received– Total (inc test)	1,797	156	120	225	↑
Calls Answered– (Charged)	1,194	125	113	131	↑
Calls Abandoned (%)	7.8%	–	5%	41%	↑
*ASL - Average Service Level (%)	65%	62.0%	63.0%	50%	↓
*ASA - Average Speed of Answer	–	54	43	117	↑
*AHT - Average Handle Time/Secs	–	225	196	152	↓

Customer Transactions

Service	YTD	Apr	May	Jun	Monthly Trend
Receipts	145,330	9,638	9,148	10,080	↑
eServices Receipts	3,238	168	155	143	↓
eServices Receipts (%)	2.23%	1.74%	1.69%	1.42%	↓
Requests	23,983	1,488	1,785	1,843	↑
Counter Stats at FPOC (pay/req)	23,611	1,034	1,181	1,386	↑
eServices CRMs	41	0	3	5	↑
eServices CRMs (%logged)	0.17%	0.00%	0.17%	0.27%	↑

Payments:

- Total BPay, Austpost, Direct Deposits & EServices payments at **64.6%** of total payments.

Incoming Calls & Requests:

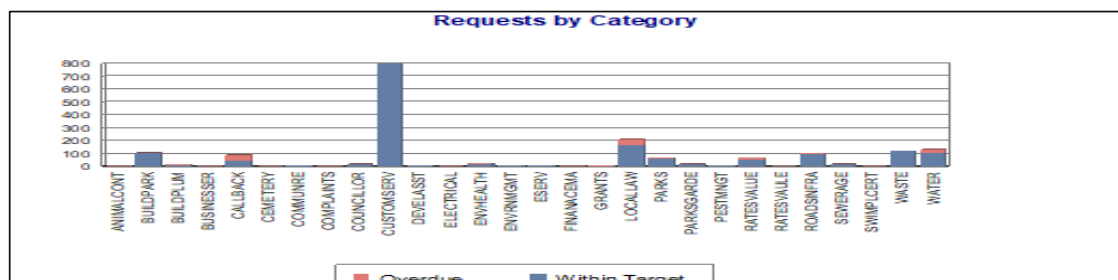
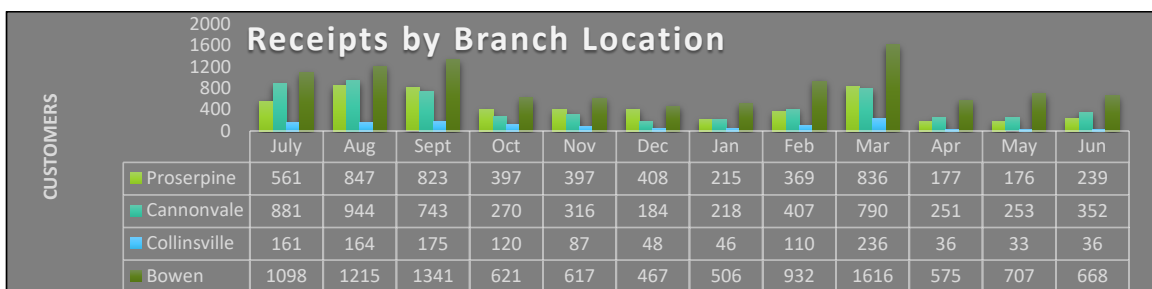
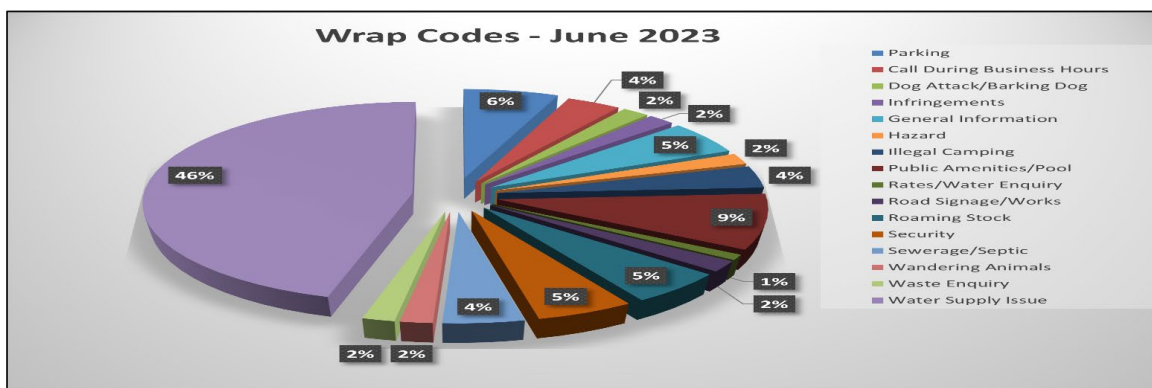
- CRM completion was **90.7%** within timeframe.
- Total of **1,386** visitors through the service centres.
- WRC Call Statistics at **84.5%** of calls answered in 25 seconds.
- First Point of Contact (FPOC) resolution was at **77.9%** for June.

Community Services Monthly Report | June 2023

Top Issues

Service	YTD	Apr	May	Jun	Monthly Trend
Counter Receipts					
Rates Search	1,845	112	156	137	↓
Rates Receipt	5,129	140	119	110	↓
Animal Tag Renewal	1,737	11	2	102	↑
New Animal Registration	833	30	27	68	↑
Infringements	435	15	22	52	↑
Telephone (First Point of Contact)					
Local Laws/Compliance and Environment	1,789	107	121	163	↑
Rates/Water Billing	2,960	172	116	158	↑
Building/Plumbing/Planning & Develop.	1000	77	73	118	↑
Water/Sewerage/Trade Waste	816	70	47	61	↑
General	1,328	62	38	45	↑

Afterhours Calls



Cultural Heritage

Our Cultural Heritage includes all the elements of our cultural way of life which have gone before us, and which exist now. Cultural Heritage is an expression of the ways of living developed by a community and passed on from generation to generation, including customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expressions, and values.

Cultural Heritage includes the Reconciliation Act Plan (RAP) for increased recognition of the Indigenous People in the Whitsunday Region and the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) sets out activities and communications with all Traditional Owners in the region. The ILUA will ensure Council is compliant and provide the community with knowledge on the Traditional Owners within our region.

Operations

Service	YTD	Apr	May	Jun	Monthly Trend
Meetings with Traditional Owners	3	1	0	0	–

- On-site meeting held in Collinsville with Jangga Operations on Monday, 11 July 2022.
- Jangga Consultative Committee Meeting held in Charters Towers on Thursday, 17 November 2022.
- Jangga Consultative Committee Meeting held in Bowen on Tuesday, 18 April 2023.

Projects

Project	Status	% Complete	Budget	Time
Review of Reconciliation Action Plan	In Progress	10%	✓	✓
Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA)	In Progress	80%	✓	✓

14 MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE

This item on the agenda allows Councillors the opportunity to raise an item not included on the agenda for discussion as a matter of importance.

15 LATE REPORT ITEMS

No late agenda items for this meeting.

16 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

16.1 Corporate Services

16.1.1 - Disposal of Land – Bowen Community Centre

CONFIDENTIAL

S254J Local Government Regulation 2012 - Closed Meetings

- (1) *A local government may resolve that all or part of a meeting of the local government be closed to the public.*
- (3) *However, a local government or a committee of a local government may make a resolution about a local government meeting under subsection (1) or (2) only if its councillors or members consider it necessary to close the meeting to discuss one or more of the following matters—*
 - (g) negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government.***