

# Agenda

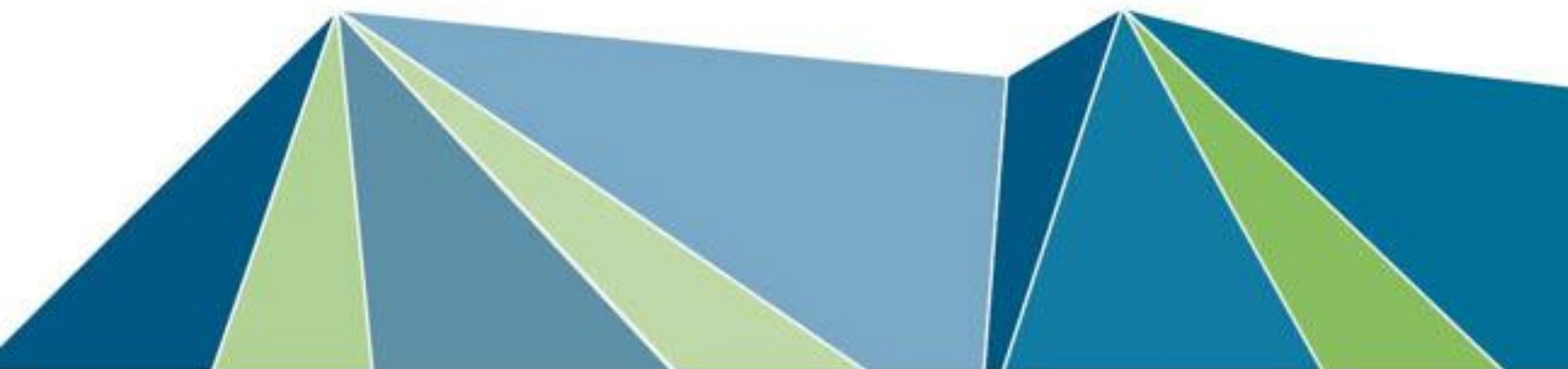
## ***Ordinary Meeting*** **28 May 2026**

An Ordinary Meeting of Ballina Shire Council will be held in the Ballina Shire Council Chambers, 40 Cherry Street Ballina on **28 May 2026 commencing at 9:30 AM.**

1. Australian National Anthem
2. Acknowledgement of Country
3. Apologies
4. Confirmation of Minutes
5. Declarations of Interest and Reportable Political Donations
6. Mayoral Minutes
7. Planning and Environmental Health Division Reports
8. Corporate and Community Division Reports
9. Civil Services Division Reports
10. Notices of Motion
11. Advisory Committee Minutes
12. Reports from Councillors on Attendance on Council's behalf
13. Confidential Session

Paul Hickey  
**General Manager**

**A morning tea break is taken at 10.30am and a lunch break taken at 1.00pm.**



## **Ethical Decision Making and Conflicts of Interest**

### **A guide for Councillors, Council employees and community representatives**

Ethical decision making

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

### **Conflict of Interest**

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

- **Pecuniary** – an interest that you have in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to yourself or another person or entity defined in part 4 of the Council's Code of Conduct, with whom you are associated.
- **Non-pecuniary** – a private or personal interest that you have that does not amount to a pecuniary interest as defined in the Council's Code of Conduct.

These commonly arise out of family or personal relationships, or out of involvement in sporting, social, religious or other cultural groups and associations, and may include an interest of a financial nature.

### **The test for a conflict of interest**

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

### **Identifying problems**

- Do I have private interests affected by a matter I am officially involved in?
- Is my official role one of influence or perceived influence over the matter?
- Do my private interests' conflict with my official role?

### **Disclosure and participation in meetings**

#### **Pecuniary Interests**

- A Councillor or a member of a Council Committee who has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the Council is concerned, and who is present at a meeting of the Council or Committee at which the matter is being considered, must disclose the nature of the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable.
- The Councillor or member must not be present at, or in sight of, the meeting of the Council or Committee:
  - a) at any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed by the Council or Committee, or
  - b) at any time during which the Council or Committee is voting on any question in relation to the matter.

**No Knowledge** - A person does not breach this clause if the person did not know and could not reasonably be expected to have known that the matter under consideration at the meeting was a matter in which he or she had a pecuniary interest.

#### **Non-pecuniary Interests**

Must be disclosed in meetings. There are a broad range of options available for managing non-pecuniary interests and the option chosen will depend on an assessment of the circumstances of the matter, the nature of the interest and the significance of the issue being dealt with. Non-pecuniary interests must be dealt with in one of the following ways:

- It may be appropriate that no action be taken where the potential for conflict is minimal. However, Councillors should consider providing an explanation of why they consider a conflict does not exist.
- Limit involvement if practical (e.g. Participate in discussion but not in decision making or vice versa). Care needs to be taken when exercising this option.
- Remove the source of the conflict (e.g. Relinquishing or divesting the personal interest that creates the conflict)

- Have no involvement by absenting yourself from and not taking part in any debate or voting on the issue as per the provisions in the Code of Conduct (particularly if you have a significant non-pecuniary interest)

### **Public Question Time – This Session Does Not Form Part of the Ordinary Meeting**

- A Public Question Time has been set aside during the Ordinary meetings of the Council. The Ordinary meeting will be adjourned from 12.45 pm for Public Question Time. If the meeting does not extend to 12.45 pm Public Question Time will be held after the meeting closes.
- The period for the public question time is set at a maximum of 15 minutes.
- Questions are to be addressed to the Chairperson. The period is set aside for questions not statements.
- Questions may be on any topic, not restricted to matters on the Ordinary meeting agenda.
- The Chairperson will manage the questions from the gallery to give each person with a question, a “turn”.
- People with multiple questions will be able to ask just one question before other persons with a question will be invited to ask and so on until single questions are all asked and, time permitting, multiple questions can be invited and considered.
- Recording of the questions will not be verbatim and will not form part of the minutes of the Ordinary meeting.
- The standard rules of behaviour in the Chamber will apply.
- Questions may be asked from the position in the public gallery.

### **Recording and Livestreaming of Council Meetings**

- The meeting (with the exception of the confidential session) is being livestreamed and recorded for on-demand viewing via Council’s website ([ballina.nsw.gov.au/agendas-and-minutes](http://ballina.nsw.gov.au/agendas-and-minutes)) and a person’s image and/or voice may be broadcast.
- Attendance at the meeting is taken as consent by a person to their image and/or voice being webcast.
- All speakers should refrain from making any defamatory comments or releasing any personal information about another individual without their consent.
- Council accepts no liability for any damage that may result from defamatory comments made by persons attending meetings. All liability will rest with the individual who made the comments.
- A person must not livestream or use an audio recorder, video camera, mobile phone or any other device to make a recording of the proceedings of a meeting of the council or a committee of the council without the prior authorisation of the council or the committee.

## Table of Contents

1.	Australian National Anthem .....	5
2.	Acknowledgement of Country .....	5
3.	Apologies.....	5
4.	Confirmation of Minutes.....	5
5.	Declarations of Interest and Reportable Political Donations.....	5
6.	Mayoral Minutes .....	6
6.1	Mayoral Minute - Invest in Us campaign	6
7.	Planning and Environmental Health Division Reports .....	8
7.1	Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition	8
7.2	Land Classification - Lot 8 DP 1313438 - North Creek Ballina	18
7.3	Policy (Review) - Climate Change	21
8.	Corporate and Community Division Reports .....	25
8.1	Use of Council Seal	25
8.2	Investment Summary - April 2026	27
8.3	Ward Committee - Membership	33
8.4	Legal Matters - Update	36
8.5	Tender - Stormwater Recovery - Riverside Drive, Ballina	40
8.6	Tender - Surf Lifesaving Services 2026-2030	42
8.7	Tender - Alstonville Creek Restoration	45
8.8	Policy (Review) - Councillor Training and Development	48
8.9	Financial Year 2025/26 - 31 March 2026 Review	50
9.	Civil Services Division Reports .....	75
10.	Notices of Motion.....	76
10.1	Notice of Motion - Ballina Bar Safety, Break Wall and Access Road	76
10.2	Notice of Motion - Big Scrub Rainforest - Protection and Enhancement	82
11.	Advisory Committee Minutes .....	85
12.	Reports from Councillors on Attendance on Council's behalf.....	86
12.1	Mayoral Meetings	86
13.	Confidential Session.....	88

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1. Australian National Anthem
  2. Acknowledgement of Country
  3. Apologies
  4. Confirmation of Minutes
  5. Declarations of Interest and Reportable Political Donations
  6. Mayoral Minutes
- 

**1. Australian National Anthem**

The National Anthem will be played.

**2. Acknowledgement of Country**

In opening the meeting, the Mayor will provide an Acknowledgement of Country.

We acknowledge the Nyangbul peoples of the Bundjalung nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

**3. Apologies**

**Leave of Absence request**

Cr Therese Crollick has requested leave of absence from Monday 24 August to Monday 28 September 2026 inclusive.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the request from Cr Therese Crollick for leave from Monday 24 August to Monday 28 September 2026 be granted.

**Leave of Absence request**

Cr Simon Chate has requested leave of absence from Thursday 25 June to Thursday 23 July 2026 inclusive.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the request from Cr Simon Chate for leave from Thursday 25 June to Thursday 23 July 2026 be granted.

**4. Confirmation of Minutes**

A copy of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ballina Shire Council held on Thursday 23 April 2026 were distributed with the business paper.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ballina Shire Council held on Thursday 23 April 2026.

**5. Declarations of Interest and Reportable Political Donations**

1. Australian National Anthem
  2. Acknowledgement of Country
  3. Apologies
  4. Confirmation of Minutes
  5. Declarations of Interest and Reportable Political Donations
  6. Mayoral Minutes
- 

## **6. Mayoral Minutes**

### **6.1 Mayoral Minute - Invest in Us campaign**

**Councillor** Sharon Cadwallader

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I move:

That Council:

1. Notes the Country Mayors Association of NSW "Invest in Us" campaign advocating for increased Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to Local Governments. The campaign seeks to restore at least 1% of total Commonwealth taxation revenue for local Councils across Australia.
2. Recognises the critical role Local Government plays in delivering essential services and infrastructure that underpin community wellbeing, economic vitality, and national resilience.
3. Supports the campaign's core message: 'Invest in us so we can invest in them'.
4. Commits to participating in the campaign by:
  - a. Sharing campaign materials through Council communication channels
  - b. Engaging with local media and community stakeholders to raise awareness
  - c. Lobbying Federal representatives to support the funding increase.
5. Requests the Mayor to write to the relevant Prime Minister, Treasurer, Federal Minister for Local Government, the Shadow Minister for Local Government, our local Member of Parliament and Senator expressing Council's support for the campaign and urging their commitment to the proposed funding increase.

#### **Mayor's Comments**

The Country Mayor's Association of NSW (CMA) is inviting all its member Councils to participate in a vital campaign advocating for the restoration of the Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to Local Governments.

The campaign seeks to restore at least 1% of total Commonwealth taxation revenue for local Councils under the rallying call: 'Invest in us so we can invest in them'.

The past several years have seen unprecedented operational cost increases with successive Australian Governments rolling back Financial Assistance Grants to close to half of the one percent they started at. There are other federal finding programs accessed by rural, remote and regional Councils in NSW but they are project based and do not help to keep the lights on.

1. Australian National Anthem
  2. Acknowledgement of Country
  3. Apologies
  4. Confirmation of Minutes
  5. Declarations of Interest and Reportable Political Donations
  6. Mayoral Minutes
- 

Local Governments are the backbone of our communities, delivering essential services and infrastructure that shape the daily lives of Australians. Despite this, funding constraints continue to limit our ability to meet growing demands. This strategy outlines a comprehensive communications approach to raise public awareness, build coalitions, and influence Federal policymakers.

Lobbying has been undertaken by CMA, Local Government NSW (LGNSW), Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and more. This is a different, positive approach and strong backing is encouraged at local levels.

Councils don't ask much from our communities – now is the time to help us help you.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Notes the Country Mayors Association of NSW "Invest in Us" campaign advocating for increased Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to Local Governments. The campaign seeks to restore at least 1% of total Commonwealth taxation revenue for local Councils across Australia.
2. Recognises the critical role Local Government plays in delivering essential services and infrastructure that underpin community wellbeing, economic vitality, and national resilience.
3. Supports the campaign's core message: 'Invest in us so we can invest in them'.
4. Commits to participating in the campaign by:
  - a. Sharing campaign materials through Council communication channels
  - b. Engaging with local media and community stakeholders to raise awareness
  - c. Lobbying Federal representatives to support the funding increase.
5. Requests the Mayor to write to the relevant Prime Minister, Treasurer, Federal Minister for Local Government, the Shadow Minister for Local Government, our local Member of Parliament and Senator expressing Council's support for the campaign and urging their commitment to the proposed funding increase.

## **Attachment(s)**

Nil

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

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### 7. Planning and Environmental Health Division Reports

#### 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

<b>Section</b>	Strategic Planning
<b>Objective</b>	To present the outcomes of the public exhibition of the Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan and seek direction on adoption of a master plan for the reserve.

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#### **Background**

*Preparation of a management plan for Spoonbill Reserve* is an action (EL1.2b) in Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan identified for completion in 2025/26.

Following extensive community engagement in October and November 2025, a Draft Master Plan was presented to the 26 February 2026 Ordinary meeting. The Draft Master Plan was endorsed for public exhibition.

The exhibited Draft Master Plan (Attachment 1) sought to balance the community's aspirations to maintain the informality, low-key and 'natural' charm of the site with provision of basic general amenities and things to do for youth.

The community engagement was promoted to stakeholders and the public, and feedback was received through an online survey and written submissions.

The findings of the community engagement (Attachment 2 and redacted submissions in Attachment 4) identified a diversity of opinions relating to the specific features of the exhibited master plan with the core community values remaining the same, being:

- the site as an informal open space which is primarily a 'natural' green area.
- the birds and wildlife which use the site, particularly the Royal Spoonbill.
- the open grass area and the opportunities this presents for informal use and play (e.g. throwing/kicking a ball, cricket etc).
- the pine tree and fig tree for shade and wildlife habitat values.
- the peacefulness of the current open space, valued by nearby residents.

Low-key embellishments within a predominantly open area appear to be generally supported.

The community engagement was influenced by discussions at the 26 February 2026 Ordinary Council meeting regarding possible use of the land for housing, with the public exhibition feedback expressing strong views against housing.

A flier prepared and distributed by an unknown source around the locality also appears to have impacted submissions. The flier urged people to oppose development of any kind at Spoonbill Reserve. A copy of the flier is included in Attachment 2.

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

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The Master Plan has been adjusted to reflect the public exhibition stage and its outcomes, and this report recommends adoption of the Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan as contained in Attachment 3.

### Key Issues

- Public exhibition and community engagement insights
- Revisions to the Draft Master Plan
- Adoption of the revised Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan

### Discussion

#### General Information

The February 2026 Ordinary Meeting report on this matter provides background information about the site and its land status - [Agenda of Ordinary Meeting of Ballina Shire Council - Thursday, 26 February 2026](#)

Some key considerations include:

- Spoonbill Reserve is Council owned land
- It is classified as Community Land managed in accordance with Council's *Plan of Management for Community Land (2025)* with a category of 'General Community Use'
- The land zoning is RE1 Public Recreation
- The land is largely an unembellished open grass area with two large trees (Moreton Bay Fig and Norfolk Pine)
- The Royal Spoonbill is known to have nested in the pine tree at the site in the late 1990s, prior to substantial residential development with some more recent records of Royal Spoonbill sightings in 2021 and community sightings of the birds using the grass areas in 2023.

The initial round of community engagement undertaken in October – November 2025 resulted in substantial face to face interaction and insights being received from more than 193 contributors across the various online and drop-in engagement platforms.

Full details of the engagement undertaken and community insights are provided at the following link [Agenda of Ordinary Meeting of Ballina Shire Council - Thursday, 26 February 2026](#)

In summary, the strong messages from the initial community engagement included:

Community Values - The community identified the following key values:

- the site as an informal open space which is primarily a 'natural' green area
- the birds and wildlife which use the site, in particular the Royal Spoonbill

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

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- the open grass area and the opportunities this presents for informal use and play (e.g. throwing/kicking a ball, cricket etc)
- the pine tree and fig tree for shade and wildlife habitat values.
- nearby residents value the peacefulness of the current open space.

Community Ideas - Whilst there were people who wish the site to remain “as is”, many people also identified opportunities for improvements at a variety of scales.

The most popular ideas being:

- Natural/environmental values and peaceful informal open space
- Active recreation and things for youth/older children to do
- General amenity improvements and low-key additions to support family use.

This input was used to prepare the Draft Master Plan which represented a balance of the community’s aspirations to maintain the informality, low-key and 'natural' charm of the site along with provision of basic general amenities and things to do for youth.

### Community Engagement – Public Exhibition

The Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan (Attachment 1) was placed on public exhibition to obtain further community feedback from 9 March – 8 April 2026. The community was informed and the public exhibition period promoted directly to stakeholders and the general community as follows:

- Letters / emails sent to key stakeholders, stakeholder groups and community members who nominated in previous engagement to be 'kept informed'
- Council’s engagement web site YourSay project page was updated with notice of public exhibition and the Draft Master Plan
- Social media posts to Council’s facebook page and pushed to local community pages
- YourSay online survey
- Poster in Council's foyer.

Feedback was received from the community through the online survey and written submissions. Key community messages are summarised below and the original feedback provided in Attachment 2.

### *Online Feedback*

The YourSay project page was updated as a central location to connect to the community and provide general information about the exhibited plan.

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

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The FAQs were also updated to address misinformation regarding the scope of the exhibited master plan and to keep the community informed.

The page received the following interactions:

- 76 page visits (14 registering to leave comments)
- 14 visitors to the survey.

The web site used the 'Survey' tool to gather feedback from the community on the following questions:

- *Considering the community engagement feedback, rank the following design objectives in your order of priority?*
- *What are the five features of the Draft Master Plan that you like the most?*
- *What are the five features of the Draft Master Plan you like the least?*
- *Are there any features of the Draft Master Plan you would change?*
- *Is there anything else that you would like to see added to the Draft Master Plan?*

The following is a summary of the online feedback results. Refer to Attachment 2 for the full YourSay report and expanded comments.

Most respondents lived in Skennars Head or Lennox Head.

All respondents stated that they had read the Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan.

6 of the 14 respondents stated that they had participated in the initial round of community engagement, whilst eight stated that they did not.

The five most supported responses to each question are provided below:

- Q4 - Considering the community engagement feedback, rank the following design objectives in your order of priority?
  - Preserve the 'natural' and 'informal' feel of the site.
  - Retain and protect the pine and fig trees and enhance environmental value, natural shade and support wildlife.
  - Balance the aspiration for tree planting with generous open green space to support continued informal community use.
  - Connect the site with accessible paths to existing pathway networks and destinations such as the school, Sharpes Beach and Aureus Park.
  - Provide places for people to come together and to sit in the park.
- Q5 - What are the five features of the Draft Master Plan that you like the most?
  - Zone 2 - There are two large open areas of grass for community recreation and play
  - Zone 1 - Mixed native trees provide shade for people and homes for wildlife. The trees form a native tree arboretum and education trail.
  - Zone 1 - Native groundcover gardens provide safety and homes for bees, birds and bugs

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

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- Zone 2 - A pathway makes it easy for people of all abilities to move across the reserve. Pathways include art, heritage or cultural references
- Zone 3 - Picnic shelters and table settings provide a place for people to sit, eat and hold small scale activities
  
- Q6 - What are the five features of the Draft Master Plan you like the least?
  - Zone 3 - Artwork made by youth features throughout the reserve
  - Zone 1 - A signage trail tells the story of the Royal Spoonbill and provides information about local flora, fauna and cultural heritage
  - Zone 3 - Equipment for teens supports flexible and active play. This could include a basketball hoop (not full court), outdoor rock climbing, gymnastics bars, a flat hardstand area for general use and rope play equipment)
  - Zone 2 - There are two large open areas of grass for community recreation and play
  - Zone 1 - Red sand-stock bricks from the historic Sharpe family mill (Prospect Mill) are featured in site furniture.
  
- Q7 - Are there any features of the Draft Master Plan you would change?  
There were mixed responses to this question including:
  - Less grass
  - No parking in the reserve
  - Need to consult a Spoonbill expert
  - Draft is comprehensive
  - Looks good
  - Wildlife corridor
  - Less features
  - No youth activities (put at Aureus)
  - More play equipment for all ages
  - Leave as is
  
- Q8 - Is there anything else that you would like to see added to the Draft Master Plan?
  - Leave as is. Stop spending money.
  - Pedestrian crossing at Seaside Avenue
  - Add gym equipment, BMX track, dog park, water fountain
  - Take stuff out of the plan e.g. seats
  - Site is underused. Needs something.
  - More equipment
  - Path
  - More play for all ages
  - Plan is comprehensive
  - Abandon it

conflicting opinions in the response to the public exhibition is highlighted by the two large open areas of grass for community recreation and play featuring as an item in the top 5 most liked and least liked feature of the draft master plan.

There were some comments across both stages of engagement regarding opportunities to locate any active recreation facilities such as things for youth/teens, at Aureus Park instead of Spoonbill Reserve.

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

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Aureus Park, located in front of the future commercial centre site and at the southeastern edge of the residential area, currently contains passive open space and play equipment for younger age groups.

Spoonbill Reserve is more centrally located to the broader residential community and key users with a concentration of teens near the site because of its proximity to the schools.

In endorsing play equipment at Spoonbill Reserve, it will be prudent to review the placement of equipment within the existing Headlands Park, on the northern side of Xavier Catholic College, at the next review of the Playground Upgrade and Management Plan or at the end of the economic life of the existing playground.

### *Written Submissions*

25 written submissions were received. One of these was received outside the exhibition period but has been included in the submission evaluation.

These submissions are contained in Attachment 2.

The overwhelming message from the written submissions is in objection to the idea of housing in Spoonbill Reserve (which was not a part of the Draft Master Plan on exhibition).

Other messages were mixed and in support and opposition to various aspects of the Draft Master Plan including:

- Leave it as it is (no embellishments or change)
- The current open space is valuable, but some low-key embellishments could be included (e.g. shade trees, seating, pathway, gardens etc)
- Support for things to do for youth as well as opposition to youth activities in Spoonbill Reserve with some suggestions that they would be better suited at Aureus Park
- Some support for the Draft Master Plan as exhibited
- Some concerns regarding the impact of trees on adjoining residents
- Some concerns about Council's financial situation and the cost of infrastructure and inadequate budget to undertake maintenance.

It appears, from specific wording and content, that many of these written submissions may have been influenced by the flier that was distributed around the Skennars Head locality.

It is unclear in some written submissions whether the submitter had read the Draft Master Plan.

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

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### *Strong Community Messages across all Engagement*

In collectively considering the initial and public exhibition stage engagement, the following strong community values remain:

- The community values the reserve as an informal open space which is primarily a 'natural' green area
- The community values the birds and wildlife which use the reserve, in particular the Royal Spoonbill
- The community values the open grass area and the opportunities this presents for informal use and play (e.g. throwing/kicking a ball, cricket etc)
- The pine tree and fig tree are valued for shade and wildlife habitat values
- The nearby residents value the peacefulness of the current open space.

Low-key embellishments to support these values seem generally supported.

Community views on the Draft Master Plan are mixed, with both support and opposition to the various features of the plan.

### Revised Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan

Given the mixed feedback from the public exhibition, only minor revisions have been made to the Draft Master Plan, which represents modest embellishments within a predominantly informal open space. The revisions made to the Draft Master Plan include:

- Car parking on Redford Drive is notated to reinforce the location entirely within the road reserve and not Spoonbill Reserve
- The quantity of trees within the arboretum area has been reduced and notes requiring clearance to property boundaries added (note that the quantity of trees are indicative in any case and all works are subject to detailed design)
- A maximum height for native ground cover garden plantings of 0.6m has been noted to maintain clear sight lines for passive surveillance across the park
- The area of informal open grass has been increased
- The "where to from here" process amended.

The youth activity area remains in the revised Draft Master Plan because whilst there was some opposition to this in written submissions and the flier, there was also support for 'things to do for teens' in other engagement activities as part of the initial and public exhibition stages of the community engagement.

Other key features of the Draft Master Plan remain unchanged.

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

The revised Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan is provided in Attachment 3 and an extract from the Draft Master Plan is provided in Figure 1.



**Figure 1: Revised Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan (extract)**

The revised Draft Master Plan maintains the informality, low-key and 'natural' charm of the site as a place of environmental value and peacefulness within an expanding residential precinct, whilst also incorporating some modest embellishments to improve general amenity, usability and provide some things to do for youth.

### Planning and Other Considerations

The planning pathway has not yet been determined for works shown in the Draft Master Plan. However, as the land is owned by Council, the proposed works are relatively minor and consistent with the land zoning and Plan of Management, a simple planning pathway is anticipated.

As the Lennox Head and Skennars Head locality is of Aboriginal cultural significance, cultural heritage investigations and precautions will be an imperative part of any planning and construction process.

Further investigations and studies may be required to verify proposed opportunities for carparking and a safe crossing point on Redford Drive.

### **Delivery Program Strategy / Operational Plan Activity**

In 2022, the community via a B Ward Committee meeting requested that Council engage with the community in relation to plans for Spoonbill Reserve, including further community consultation and investigation of "new options for the Spoonbill Reserve, which might include a basketball court".

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

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Preparation of a management plan for Spoonbill Reserve is an action identified in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan for 2025 – 2029 as part of Direction 2 – Engaged Leadership:

- *EL1.2b Prepare management plan for Spoonbill Reserve (2025/26)*

The Draft Master Plan placed on public exhibition and revised in this report was prepared to address this action.

### **Community Engagement Strategy**

Engagement has been undertaken with stakeholders and the public in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Strategy 2024.

The engagement methodology was based upon the project having a potentially moderate level of impact upon the local government area or community and used an "Involve" approach.

Under the strategy, this approach seeks to work directly with stakeholders and the public throughout the process to ensure that concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered in the master planning process. The project engagement methods exceed the minimum action requirements of the strategy.

A community engagement report relating to the public exhibition period is in Attachment 2.

### **Financial / Risk Considerations**

The Draft DPOP 2026 – 2030, currently on public exhibition includes:

- \$280,000 capital expenditure for open space improvements at Spoonbill Reserve (with approval of the special rate variation)
- \$129,000 capital expenditure for open space improvements at Spoonbill Reserve (without approval of the special rate variation)
- an action for 2029/2030 to implement the master plan.

The allocation of \$280,000 could support implementation of some early works as part of a staged delivery approach but will not be adequate to complete all works shown on the revised Draft Master Plan.

The revised Draft Master Plan makes clear that most works are unfunded at present.

An adopted plan can be a valuable tool to inform staged implementation, support future investment or seek grant funding.

## 7.1 Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition

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### Options

Council has the following options to proceed:

*Option 1 – Adopt the revised Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan.*

Under this option Council adopts the revised Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan as provided in Attachment 3 to this report for the reasons presented above in this report. This incorporates amendments following public exhibition.

This is the recommended option.

*Option 2 – Amend the revised Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan and adopt the amended Master Plan.*

Under this option, Council may make further changes to the Draft Master Plan.

Preferred changes can be incorporated into the Council resolution relating to the adoption of the Master Plan.

*Option 3 – Adopt the Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan as exhibited.*

Under this option, Council would adopt the master plan without change as it was exhibited.

Options 2 and 3 are not recommended based on the extensive community engagement undertaken to inform the master planning process and on the basis that revised plan as recommended reflects a balanced approach to provision of embellishments to support community use within a predominantly informal passive open space.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the revised Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan as per Attachment 3 to this report.

### Attachment(s)

1. Draft Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition [⇒](#)
2. Spoonbill Reserve Community Engagement Summary Report - Public Exhibition [⇒](#)
3. Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Revised Draft for Adoption [⇒](#)
4. Spoonbill Reserve Master Plan - Public Exhibition Redacted Submissions [⇒](#)

## **7.2 Land Classification - Lot 8 DP 1313438 - North Creek Ballina**

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### **7.2 Land Classification - Lot 8 DP 1313438 - North Creek Ballina**

<b>Section</b>	Strategic Planning
<b>Objective</b>	To determine the classification of land under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993

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#### **Background**

Council at the 14 December 2023 Ordinary meeting resolved to compulsorily acquire Crown Land located beyond the eastern end of the Ballina Byron Gateway Airport runway. The land is required for the construction of a rock revetment wall and associated filling, being works associated with the use of the adjoining land for airport purposes.

An application to the Office of Local Government, the Minister and the Governor was subsequently made for the compulsory acquisition of the Crown Land. The Governor approved the compulsory acquisition of the land on 4 March 2026, and Council obtained title to the land on 14 April 2026.

Council also resolved that upon acquisition of the land it be classified as operational land in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act).

This report recommends that Council finalise the classification of the land as required by the LG Act.

#### **Key Issues**

- Classification of land under the terms of the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act)

#### **Discussion**

The land acquired by Council is known as Lot 8 DP1313438 (Lot 8). Lot 8 has an area of 1.191ha and is zoned W1 – Natural Waterway under the provisions of Ballina Local Environmental Plan 2012. The location of Lot 8 is shown by red outline on the following figure.



**Figure 1: Aerial Photo Extract**

## **7.2 Land Classification - Lot 8 DP 1313438 - North Creek Ballina**

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Section 31 of the LG Act provides that before a council acquires land or within three months after it acquires land it may resolve that the land be classified as either community land or operational land.

The purpose of land classification is to identify clearly land which should be kept for use by the general public (community) and land which need not (operational).

Operational land typically comprises land which facilitates the carrying out by a council of its functions or land which may not be open to the general public, such as a works depot.

Council has previously resolved that the land now known as Lot 8, be classified as operational land upon acquisition.

In accordance with section 34 of the LG Act Council must give public notice of a proposed resolution to classify or reclassify public land.

A period of not less than 28 days must be provided, in which submissions may be made in respect to the proposed resolution.

Public notice of a proposed resolution of the Council to classify Lot 8 as operational land was given via the 'Your Say' web site from 18 March 2026 until 24 April 2026. No submissions have been received.

Given that Lot 8 has been acquired by Council, and the required public notice period has concluded, it is now necessary for the Council to confirm the classification of Lot 8 as operational land under the terms of the LG Act.

### **Delivery Program Strategy / Operational Plan Activity**

Land classification under the LG Act is an administrative responsibility of Council.

The Delivery Program contains several activity areas (LP3.1a to LP3.1c) related to ensuring the on-going viability of Ballina Byron Gateway Airport, which relates to the proposed land classification.

### **Community Engagement Strategy**

Public notice has been given for the required period in accordance with the provisions of section 34 of the LG Act. No submissions have been received.

### **Financial / Risk Considerations**

Lot 8 has already been acquired under the provisions of the *Just Terms Compensation Act 1991* to facilitate the construction of a rock revetment wall. There are no further financial implications associated with the proposed resolution.

The classification of Lot 8 as operational land is a legal mechanism under the LG Act that provides Council with flexibility in the management and maintenance of the adjoining airport runway infrastructure.

**Options**

*Option 1 - The Council may resolve to classify Lot 8 as operational land.*

This is the recommended option. Under this option, the proposed classification of Lot 8 as operational land will take effect immediately upon the resolution of the Council.

*Option 2 - The Council may decline to resolve to classify Lot 8 as operational land.*

This option is not recommended. Declining to classify Lot 8 as operational land will result in the lot being classified as community land at the end of the three-month period after acquisition specified by s31(2) of the LG Act.

A community classification will not provide Council with sufficient flexibility in terms of the ongoing management and maintenance of the land as part of a commercial airport undertaking.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approves the classification of Lot 8 DP1313438 as operational land under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 and that the classification takes effect immediately.

**Attachment(s)**

Nil

## 7.3 Policy (Review) - Climate Change

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### 7.3 Policy (Review) - Climate Change

**Section** Health and Environment

**Objective** To inform Council of the outcomes of the public exhibition of the reviewed Climate Change Policy.

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#### **Background**

At the 26 February 2026 Ordinary Council meeting considered a report on the draft Climate Change Policy review and resolved as follows:

- 1. That Council adopts the amended Climate Change Policy, as per Attachment 1 to this report.*
- 2. That Council place this policy on exhibition for public comment, with any submissions received to be resubmitted back to Council. If no submissions are received, then no further action is required.*

The amended policy was placed on public exhibition for 28 days between 7 March and 3 April 2026.

This report presents a summary and analysis of the public exhibition submissions.

It also seeks direction on the finalisation of the Climate Change Policy review.

#### **Key Issues**

- Outcomes of the public exhibition.
- Finalisation of the Climate Change Policy review.

#### **Discussion**

The Climate Change Policy sets organisational emissions reduction targets for Council, and a framework for progressing climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience strategies for Council and the community.

The organisational targets are:

- Net zero emissions by 2030.
- 100% renewable electricity for its operations by 2030.

The primary focus under the policy is Council's operations. However, there is scope to facilitate community engagement to build local capacity in emissions reduction and development of local and regional projects.

The draft policy review (Attachment 1) was placed on public exhibition between 7 March and 3 April 2026.

Two submissions were received and are discussed in the Community Engagement Strategy section of this report.

## 7.3 Policy (Review) - Climate Change

### Delivery Program Strategy / Operational Plan Activity

The Climate Change Policy relates to the following 2025-2029 Delivery Program and Operational Plan outcomes and strategies:

- HE1.1 Our planning considers past and predicted changes to the environment
  - HE1.1d Implement Climate Change Action Plan
- HE2.2 Use our resources wisely
- HE2.3 Pursue innovative technologies
- EL1.3 Incorporate social, economic and environmental considerations into decision-making
- EL2.1 Ensure a balance budget, with revenue opportunities combined with cost savings and efficiencies.
- EL3.1 Actively advocate community issues to other levels of government
- EL3.2 Encourage a networked and adaptive approach to meeting regional challenges
- CC1.2 Ensure plans are in place for public health events, natural disasters and environmental changes

This is a key policy to guide actions across portfolios as it sets clear goals to be working towards throughout Council's day to day operations and medium to long term portfolio planning.

It also allows for the targets and outcomes to be achieved in various ways so Council can be responsive to new information, technology, constraints and ideas.

### Community Engagement Strategy

In accordance with Council's Community Engagement Strategy, the draft Climate Change Policy was publicly exhibited for 28 days from 7 March to 3 April 2026.

Two submissions were received during the exhibition period in response to the draft Climate Change Policy.

Copies of the submissions received are provided in Attachment 2.

A summary of the submissions and the response is provided in Table 1.

**Table 1 – Submissions Summary and Staff Response**

Submission	Contents
Kevin Loughrey	<p>The submission states it provides..."an alternative perspective on the relevance of "Climate Change" with respect to Council policies and actions."</p> <p>The submission essentially objects to the policy with this expressed in various ways including as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "...human emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) are causing dangerous global warming (known as "Anthropogenic Global Warming" or AGW is based on flawed scientific reasoning."</li><li>• "If AGW is overstated, council policies based on it waste ratepayer money."</li></ul>

### 7.3 Policy (Review) - Climate Change

Submission	Contents
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "...instead focus on real issues like flood mitigation, water security or economic growth. Data shows we're in a cooling phase. Council would do well to prepare for that, not phantom warming."</li> <li>• "...the assertion that the majority of scientists agree with AGW is untrue."</li> <li>• "Council should pause AGW-based policies, review raw data, and consult independent experts."</li> </ul>
Staff Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objection to Council's climate change policy position noted.</li> <li>• Policy statements 2.3g, 2.3k enable Council's priorities, strategies, and actions to be informed by current knowledge and best available science.</li> </ul>
Malcolm Johnson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commends Ballina Shire Council (BSC) Climate Change Policy.</li> <li>• Acknowledges the enormity of strategies required to achieve Net Zero Emissions targets by 2030.</li> <li>• Urges BSC to agree and accept the scientific evidence that global climate is changing due to anthropogenic influences.</li> <li>• Suggests BSC recognise that working collaboratively with all sectors of community, economy and environment creates a greater synergy to achieve Net Zero Emissions.</li> </ul> <p>Recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration with government and industry authorities to improve Floodplain Management.</li> <li>• Monitoring of farming practices to assess their role in mitigating flooding, soil erosion, water pollution and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.</li> <li>• Incorporate natural based rehabilitation methods into flood mitigation engineering to avoid Richmond River catchment acting purely as a fast drain ignoring important environmental factors.</li> <li>• Solar PV installations on all suitable BSC sites; develop more biofuel opportunities from waste and sewerage; change the vehicle fleet to EV, reducing fuel and maintenance costs; initiate accredited carbon offsetting projects if necessary; energy efficient water pumping and street lighting.</li> <li>• Investigate with other agencies and authorities the possibility of partnership to create a Mid-Scale Electricity Power and Battery Storage facility.</li> </ul>
Staff Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy statements 2.3g, 2.3k enable Council's priorities, strategies, and actions to be informed by current knowledge and best available science.</li> <li>• Collaboration with all levels of government, industry, and the community is required to deliver long term effective action. This is reflected in the guiding principles and policy statements of the policy, specifically 2.2d and 2.3k.</li> <li>• Council's existing areas of activity include floodplain management, coastal zone management, biodiversity and environmental management. The Climate Change policy principals and statements reflect Council's aim to help improve and facilitate climate change mitigation, adaptation, and</li> </ul>

### 7.3 Policy (Review) - Climate Change

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Submission	Contents
	<p>preparedness across the community through best practice sustainable development principles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council's Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan sets out the pathway to achieve net zero emissions and 100% renewable electricity through short, medium, and long term actions, including solar PV installations, fleet transition, emissions offsetting, and energy efficiency.</li><li>• Council is an active member of the Joint Organisation Net-Zero Accelerator (JONZA) program of Northern NSW Councils, which enables regional collaboration on renewable energy initiatives and emerging technologies, including opportunities that may not be viable for councils acting independently. The concept of a Mid-Scale electricity power and battery storage facility may be explored in the future as part of a regional initiative.</li></ul>

The feedback in the submissions has been considered with responses outlined above and no changes are recommended to the policy as exhibited.

#### **Financial / Risk Considerations**

This review has been undertaken within Council's existing resources, and no financial impacts or risks are expected to arise from the proposed changes.

#### **Options**

##### *Option 1 - Council adopts the amended policy as exhibited*

This approach is recommended given the nature of the submissions and relatively minor changes.

##### *Option 2 – Council adopts the policy with further amendments*

Council may adopt the policy with amendments as specified.

This approach is not recommended given the nature of the submissions received and Council's resolution.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council adopts the amended Climate Change Policy, as exhibited, as per Attachment 1 to this report.

#### **Attachment(s)**

1. Policy (Review) - Climate Change - 26 February 2026 Ordinary Meeting [⇒](#)
2. Policy (Review) - Climate Change - Submissions [⇒](#)

## 8.1 Use of Council Seal

## 8. Corporate and Community Division Reports

### 8.1 Use of Council Seal

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#### RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council affix the Common Seal to the following documents.

US 2026/11	Assignment of Sublease/licence from Rahnoma Pty Ltd to Prospira Investments Pty Ltd for Part Lot 1 DP 1153927 known as the Ballina Gallery Café subject to the written consent of the Minister (the Crown) being granted for such assignment.  <b>Explanation:</b> Rahnoma Pty Ltd have sold the business known as the Ballina Gallery Café to Prospira Investments Pty Ltd and have requested assignment to Prospera Investments P/L.		
US 2026/12	1. That Council, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, enters the following Variation of Lease of <i>community land</i> :		
	<b>Property</b>	<b>Tenant</b>	<b>Tenure</b>
	The land and building known as 'Ballina Fox Street Preschool' located at 84 Fox Street, Ballina being Lot 1 DP781710	Ballina Fox Street Preschool Incorporated	Variation of existing lease to record exercise of the ten (10) year option term by Council, at an annual rent equal to the statutory minimum rent charged by Crown Lands (currently \$625 per annum plus GST)
	2. That Council authorises the General Manager to affix the seal to the Variation of Lease documents in point one and any other documents required to vary the lease in accordance with point one.  <b><u>Background</u></b>  There is an existing 10-year registered lease which contains a 10-year option to renew. The initial 10-year period is coming to an end. The 10-year option to renew in the existing lease may be exercised by Council (as lessor). This use of seal is to allow Council to sign the Variation of Lease, recording that the 10-year option has been exercised. As this is a variation of the existing lease, no further public notification is required.		

## 8.1 Use of Council Seal

US 2026/13	1. That Council, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Crown Land Management Act 2016, enters the following licence of <i>community land</i> :		
	<b>Property</b>	<b>Tenant</b>	<b>Tenure</b>
	The clubhouse at Kingsford Smith Reserve being the whole of Lot 153 DP1098090 (Council is Crown Land Manager of Reserve 82164)	Ballina Seagulls Football Club Incorporated	12-month licence at a rent equal to the statutory minimum rent charged by Crown Lands (currently \$625 per annum plus GST)
2. Council authorises the General Manager to affix the seal to the lease documents in point one and any other documents required to allow tenure to be granted in accordance with point one.			
3. That prior to points one and two being actioned, statutory public notification relating to the proposed lease of community land be undertaken, with a report to be presented to Council if an objection of a substantive nature is received to the grant of the proposed lease.			
<b><u>Background</u></b>			
12 month licence only due to poor condition of the clubhouse with major works needed.			

### Attachment(s)

Nil

## 8.2 Investment Summary - April 2026

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### 8.2 Investment Summary - April 2026

<b>Section</b>	Financial Services
<b>Objective</b>	To provide details of Council's cash and investments portfolio breakup and performance

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#### **Background**

In accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, the Responsible Accounting Officer of a council must provide a monthly investment report setting out the council's cash and investments.

The report is to be presented at the ordinary meeting immediately following the end of the respective month.

This report provides details of the total funds invested, where the investments are held and other related matters, to confirm that Council is complying with Council's Investment Policy and to ensure transparency.

The Responsible Accounting Officer certifies that the investments made during April 2026, have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

#### **Key Issues**

- Compliance with Investment Policy
- Return on investments

#### **Discussion**

Council's investments are in accordance with Council's Investment Policy, Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021. A copy of the [Investment Policy](#), adopted 27 June 2024, is available on Council's website and linked above.

The total balance of investments, as at 30 April 2026 was \$109.6m compared to a balance as at 31 March 2026 of \$109.6m.

Council's investments, as at 30 April 2026, were invested at a weighted average interest rate of 4.457%, which was 0.651% higher than the weighted average 90 Day Bank Bill Index (BBSW) to 30 April 2026 of 3.806%.

The balance of Council's Commonwealth Bank business account, as at 30 April 2026 was \$27,400,257, compared to a balance of \$27,572,037 as at 31 March 2026. An increased balance is presently being held in the business account to ensure funds are available for major project progress claims as they come due.

Total combined cash and investments, as at 30 April 2026 was \$137,000,257 compared to a balance of \$137,172,037 as at 31 March 2026. The net decrease in cash and investments from March to April was minimal, at \$171,780.

During the month there were major grant funds received for the Evacuation Route Raising Project, Crown Reserve Restoration Works and library funding

## 8.2 Investment Summary - April 2026

towards the Alstonville Cultural Centre along with land sales at Russellton Industrial Estate. These funds were offset by regular creditor payments.

TCorp's monthly Economic Commentary report for April 2026 can be viewed using the following link: [Monthly economic report – April 2026](#)

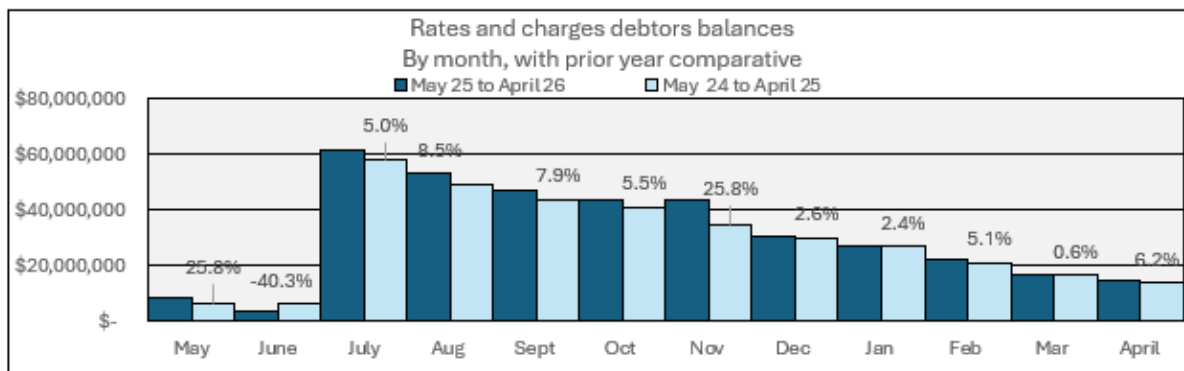
### Restricted Reserves

The majority of Council's investment portfolio is restricted by legislation (external) and Council (internal) uses for specific purposes. The following table reflects the portfolio percentages based on 30 June 2025 balances.

Reserve Name	Restriction	% Portfolio*
Wastewater (incl developer contributions)	External	19.03%
Water (incl developer contributions)	External	16.34%
Section 7.11 Developer Contributions	External	21.87%
Domestic Waste Management	External	1.38%
Bonds and Deposits	External	2.59%
Specific Purpose Unexpended Grants	External	6.30%
Commercial Properties	Internal	0.99%
Carry Forward Works	Internal	1.58%
Bypass Maintenance	Internal	2.94%
Management Plans / Studies	Internal	0.66%
Airport	Internal	2.66%
Employee Leave Entitlements	Internal	2.57%
Quarries	Internal	0.41%
Property	Internal	9.40%
Plant and Vehicle Replacement	Internal	0.08%
Open Spaces	Internal	2.11%
Miscellaneous Internal Reserves	Internal	2.18%
Community Facilities	Internal	0.67%
Financial Assistance Grant in Advance	Internal	2.72%
Unrestricted		3.52%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100.00%</b>

### Debtors

As per the following chart, as at 30 April 2026, the balance was 6.26% higher than 30 April 2025.



This increase is predominantly due to the rate peg increase for 2025/26 of 3.8% and growth in the rating base.

## 8.2 Investment Summary - April 2026

### A. Investments by Institution

Funds Invested With	Fossil Fuel Free / Green Investment	Rating S&P	31 March \$'000	30 April \$'000	Quota %	% of Total
AMP Bank	Yes	BBB+	1,000	1,000	20%	0.91%
Bank Australia Ltd (was Australian Unity Bank)	Yes	BBB+	12,000	12,000	20%	10.95%
Bank of Queensland	Yes	A-	10,000	10,000	20%	9.12%
BankVic	n/a	BBB+	5,000	5,000	20%	4.56%
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank	Yes	BBB+	1,000	1,000	20%	0.91%
Commonwealth Bank	No	AA-	1,000	1,000	20%	0.91%
Great Southern Bank	Yes	BBB+	8,000	8,000	20%	7.30%
Heartlands Bank Australia	n/a	BBB	8,000	8,000	20%	7.30%
Judo Bank	Yes	BBB	8,000	8,000	20%	7.30%
Macquarie Bank	No	A+	1,600	1,600	20%	1.46%
MyState Bank Ltd	Yes	BBB+	10,000	10,000	20%	9.12%
National Australia Bank	No	AA-	6,000	6,000	20%	5.47%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	No	A	16,000	16,000	20%	14.60%
Suncorp Limited	No	A+	4,000	4,000	20%	3.66%
Unity Bank Ltd	Yes	BBB+	4,000	4,000	20%	3.66%
Westpac Bank Corp	No*	AA-	14,000	14,000	20%	12.77%
<b>Total</b>			<b>109,600</b>	<b>109,600</b>		<b>100.0%</b>

\* All investments held with Westpac Bank are combined for reporting by institution – this total includes some Green Investments

Credit Rating Summary as per the Investment Policy	Maximum Allowed		Value 31 March \$'000	Value 30 April \$'000	%	%
	%	Value \$'000				
A- or Higher	100%	109,600	53,600	53,600	48.9%	48.9%
BBB	60%	65,760	56,000	56,000	51.1%	51.1%
<b>Total</b>			<b>109,600</b>	<b>109,600</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Liquidity Risk Parameters as per the Investment Policy	Maximum Allowed		Value 31 March \$'000	Value 30 April \$'000	%	%
	%	Value \$'000				
Term equal to 1 year or less	100%	109,600	91,000	91,000	83.0%	83.0%
Term > 1 year and < 3 years	40%	43,840	6,600	6,600	6.0%	6.0%
Term > 3 years	20%	21,920	12,000	12,000	11.0%	11.0%
<b>Total</b>			<b>109,600</b>	<b>109,600</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Fossil Fuel Free and Green Investments

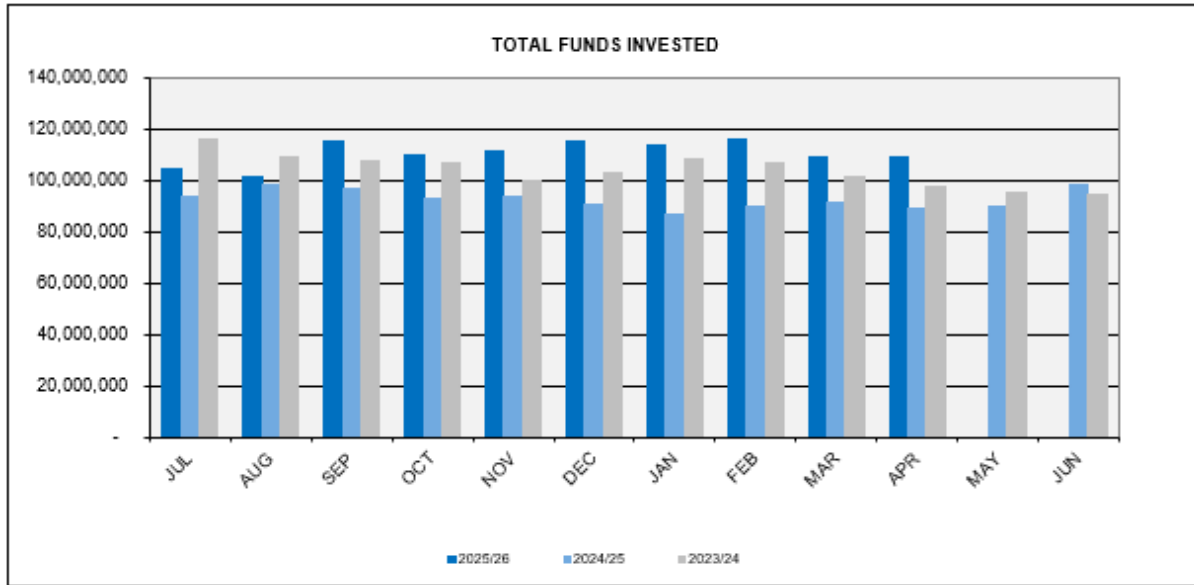
Environmental Classification	31 March		30 April	
	(\$'000)	(%)	(\$'000)	(%)
Fossil Fuel Aligned Investments	30,600	27.9	30,600	27.9
Non-Fossil Fuel and Green Aligned Investments	66,000	60.2	66,000	60.2
Not Classified	13,000	11.9	13,000	11.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>109,600</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>109,600</b>	<b>100.0</b>

In April 2026, three investments matured totalling \$5.0m. Two of these investments were held with non-fossil fuel aligned institutions totalling \$3.0m and one was a green investment of \$2.0m.

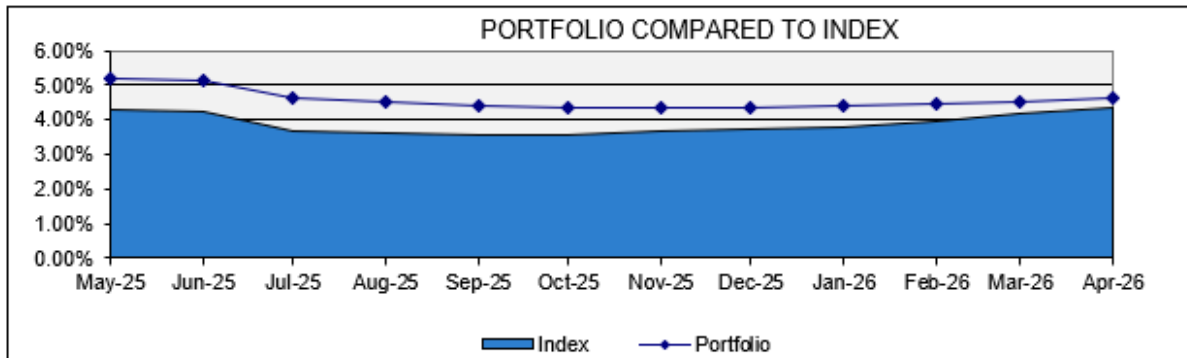
Three new investments, totalling \$5.0m, were placed. Two of these investments were with non-fossil fuel aligned institutions totalling \$3.0m and one was a green investment of \$2.0m.

## 8.2 Investment Summary - April 2026

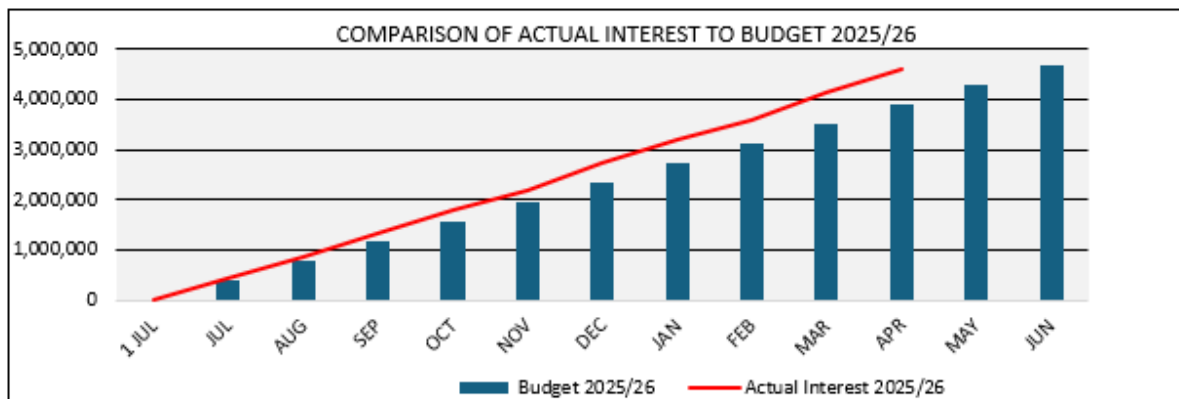
### B. Monthly Comparison of Total Funds Invested



### C. Comparison of Portfolio Investment Rate to 90 Day BBSW



### D. Progressive Total of Interest Earned to Budget



The graph shows that actual interest income earnings to date is trending above budgeted income. An increase to interest income budgets has been identified in the report titled 'Financial year 2025/26 - 31 March Financial Review', included later in this agenda.

## 8.2 Investment Summary - April 2026

### E. Investments held as of 31 March 2026 and 30 April 2026

PURCH DATE	ISSUER	TYPE	RATE	FINAL MATURITY DATE	31 March \$'000	30 April \$'000
18/06/21	Bendigo & Adelaide Bank	FRN	4.91%	18/06/26	1,000	1,000
29/06/23	AMP Bank	FRN	5.97%	29/06/26	1,000	1,000
14/09/23	Macquarie Bank Limited	FRN	5.02%	14/09/26	1,600	1,600
20/02/24	Westpac Banking Corporation	FRN	4.86%	20/02/29	2,000	2,000
19/03/24	Suncorp-Metway Limited	FRN	5.25%	19/03/29	1,000	1,000
22/08/24	Commonwealth Bank of Australia	FRN	4.86%	22/08/29	1,000	1,000
03/06/25	Australian Unity Bank Ltd	TD	4.35%	02/04/26	2,000	-
03/06/25	Australian Unity Bank Ltd	TD	4.35%	03/06/26	2,000	2,000
24/07/25	Westpac Banking Corp - Green	TD	4.19%	23/07/26	2,000	2,000
24/07/25	Westpac Banking Corp - Green	TD	4.17%	21/04/26	2,000	-
29/07/25	Rabobank Australia Ltd.	TD	4.28%	21/07/26	2,000	2,000
29/07/25	Rabobank Australia Ltd.	TD	4.20%	28/07/26	2,000	2,000
02/09/25	National Australia Bank	TD	4.15%	01/06/26	2,000	2,000
03/09/25	Unity Bank	TD	5.00%	03/06/26	2,000	2,000
09/09/25	Suncorp-Metway Limited	TD	4.11%	09/06/26	2,000	2,000
16/09/25	National Australia Bank	TD	4.15%	12/05/26	2,000	2,000
23/09/25	National Australia Bank	TD	4.20%	21/05/26	2,000	2,000
25/09/25	Rabobank Australia Ltd.	TD	4.64%	24/09/30	4,000	4,000
25/09/25	Westpac Banking Corp - Green	TD	4.12%	22/09/28	4,000	4,000
25/09/25	Westpac Banking Corp - Green	TD	4.19%	25/05/26	2,000	2,000
25/09/25	Westpac Banking Corp - Green	TD	4.18%	26/06/26	2,000	2,000
30/09/25	Bank of Queensland	TD	4.28%	30/09/30	3,000	3,000
07/10/25	Suncorp-Metway Limited	TD	4.30%	05/05/26	1,000	1,000
07/10/25	BankVic	TD	4.25%	04/08/26	2,000	2,000
13/10/25	Bank of Queensland	TD	4.35%	13/04/26	1,000	-
14/10/25	Unity Bank	TD	4.25%	14/07/26	2,000	2,000
11/11/25	Australian Unity Bank Ltd	TD	4.37%	09/06/26	1,000	1,000
11/11/25	Australian Unity Bank Ltd	TD	4.37%	12/05/26	1,000	1,000
11/11/25	Australian Unity Bank Ltd	TD	4.35%	11/11/26	2,000	2,000
19/11/25	BankVic	TD	4.40%	17/11/26	2,000	2,000
09/12/25	Rabobank Australia Ltd.	TD	4.52%	09/12/26	2,000	2,000
09/12/25	MyState Bank Ltd	TD	4.60%	17/06/26	2,000	2,000
09/12/25	MyState Bank Ltd	TD	4.60%	11/06/26	2,000	2,000
09/12/25	MyState Bank Ltd	TD	4.60%	16/07/26	2,000	2,000
16/12/25	Rabobank Australia Ltd.	TD	4.52%	16/12/25	2,000	2,000
16/12/25	Judo bank Pty Ltd	TD	4.60%	16/12/25	2,000	2,000
17/12/25	Great Southern Bank	TD	4.60%	17/12/25	2,000	2,000
17/12/25	Great Southern Bank	TD	4.61%	17/12/25	2,000	2,000
17/12/25	MyState Bank Ltd	TD	4.60%	17/12/25	2,000	2,000
17/12/25	MyState Bank Ltd	TD	4.65%	17/12/25	2,000	2,000
05/01/26	Bank Australia Ltd	TD	4.50%	05/01/27	2,000	2,000
06/01/26	Judo bank Pty Ltd	TD	4.70%	05/01/27	2,000	2,000
13/01/26	Judo bank Pty Ltd	TD	4.70%	12/01/27	2,000	2,000
13/01/26	Bank of Queensland	TD	4.50%	13/07/26	2,000	2,000
20/01/26	Bank of Queensland	TD	4.50%	20/10/26	2,000	2,000
03/02/26	BankVic	TD	4.75%	02/02/27	1,000	1,000
05/02/26	Heartland Bank Australia	TD	4.95%	02/02/27	2,000	2,000

## 8.2 Investment Summary - April 2026

PURCH DATE	ISSUER	TYPE	RATE	FINAL MATURITY DATE	31 March \$'000	30 April \$'000
05/02/26	Heartland Bank Australia	TD	4.85%	03/11/26	2,000	2,000
11/02/26	Heartland Bank Australia	TD	4.95%	27/01/27	2,000	2,000
11/02/26	Judo bank Pty Ltd	TD	4.95%	10/02/27	2,000	2,000
11/02/26	Great Southern Bank	TD	4.85%	09/12/26	2,000	2,000
26/02/26	Heartland Bank Australia	TD	5.00%	02/03/27	2,000	2,000
26/02/26	Great Southern Bank	TD	4.91%	24/02/27	2,000	2,000
26/02/26	Unity Bank Ltd	TD	4.85%	24/11/26	2,000	2,000
02/04/07	Rabobank Australia Ltd.	TD	5.16%	17/03/27	2,000	2,000
12/05/07	Bank of Queensland	TD	5.15%	22/09/26	2,000	2,000
24/04/07	Rabobank Australia Ltd.	TD	5.46%	30/03/27	2,000	2,000
02/04/26	Bank Australia Ltd	TD	5.60%	02/04/27	-	2,000
13/04/26	Bank of Queensland	TD	5.35%	13/04/27	-	1,000
21/04/26	Westpac Banking Corp - Green	TD	5.31%	21/04/27	-	2,000
	<b>Total</b>				<b>109,600</b>	<b>109,600</b>
	TD=Term Deposit; FRN=Floating Rate Note					

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the record of banking and investments for April 2026.

### Attachment(s)

Nil

### 8.3 Ward Committee - Membership

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### 8.3 Ward Committee - Membership

**Section** Governance

**Objective** To consider membership of Newrybar Community Hall to Council's B Ward Committee; and Our Lady of Rosary Conference, St Vincent de Paul Society to Council's C Ward Committee.

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#### **Background**

At the October 2024 Ordinary meeting, Council resolved to retain the existing structure and membership of the three Ward Committees, with expressions of interest to be called for any additional membership.

An expression of interest (EOI) process calling for Ward Committee membership opened in January 2025 and closed in February 2025 with applications reported to and adopted at the February 2025 Council meeting.

Since the original report there have been a few additional requests to join the Ward Committees.

A further application has now been received from the Newrybar Community Hall to have representation on the B Ward Committee.

At the 26 March 2026 Ordinary meeting, Council resolved to write to St Vincent de Paul to invite them to join Council's C Ward Committee.

Further to this correspondence an application has now been received from the Our Lady of Rosary Conference, St Vincent de Paul Society to have representation on the C Ward Committee.

#### **Key Issues**

- Community representation

#### **Discussion**

Newrybar Community Hall is seeking membership of Council's B Ward Committee, as per Attachment 1 to this report.

The application states that Newrybar Community Hall is a community group that provides community events, markets and function space.

The application from Newrybar Community Hall is consistent with the membership requirements for Ward Committees.

Our Lady of Rosary Conference, St Vincent de Paul Society is seeking membership of Council's C Ward Committee, as per Attachment 2.

### 8.3 Ward Committee - Membership

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The application states that Our Lady of Rosary Conference, St Vincent de Paul Society is a community organisation that provides assistance and support to those that are struggling.

The application is consistent with the membership requirements for Ward Committees.

Council's Ward Committees have no delegated authority, and membership is limited to representatives from locally based not for profit community groups, with one member representing each group.

Current membership of the Ward Committees is as follows:

#### **A Ward**

#	Organisation
1	Ballina Bears Cricket Club
2	Ballina Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN)
3	Ballina Chamber of Commerce
4	Ballina Coastcare
5	Ballina Croquet Club Incorporated
6	Ballina CWA
7	Ballina East Lions Club Incorporated
8	Ballina Environment Society
9	Ballina Evening View Club
10	Ballina Lighthouse and Lismore Surf Lifesaving Club
11	Ballina Naval and Maritime Museum
12	Ballina Peninsular Residents Association
13	Cumbalum Residents Association Incorporated
14	Dementia Inclusive Ballina Alliance
15	Heritage Advisory Ballina
16	Northern Rivers Disc Club
17	NSW Police Force/Ballina Police Station/Richmond Police District
18	Rainbow Region Dragon Boat Club
19	Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond
20	Screenworks
21	St Vincent de Paul
22	U3A Ballina/Byron
23	West Ballina Residents Association Incorporated

#### **B Ward**

#	Organisation
1	Ballina Environment Society
2	Lennox Community Gardens Incorporated
3	Lennox Head Chamber of Commerce
4	Lennox Head Chess Club Incorporated
5	Lennox Head Combined Sports Association
6	Lennox Head Landcare
7	Lennox Head Residents Association
8	Lennox Head-Alstonville Surf Life Saving Club
9	Marine Rescue Ballina
10	NSW Sport & Recreation (Lennox Head) (State Government)
11	Tuckombil Landcare

## 8.3 Ward Committee - Membership

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### C Ward

#	Organisation
1	Alstonville Agricultural Society Incorporated
2	Alstonville and District Cricket Association
3	Alstonville Community Preschool
4	Alstonville Football Club
5	Alstonville Plateau Historical Society
6	Alstonville/Wollongbar Chamber of Commerce
7	Ballina Environment Society
8	Heritage Advisory Alstonville
9	LinC Alstonville
10	Pearce Creek Hall
11	Rous Mill Ratepayers Association
12	Tuckombil Landcare (including Bulwinkel Landcare)
13	Wardell & District Progress Association
14	WardellCORE
15	Wollongbar Community Action Network
16	Wollongbar Community Preschool

### **Delivery Program Strategy / Operational Plan Activity**

This report is linked to Delivery Program Strategy:

EI1.2 Involve our community in our planning and decision-making processes.

### **Community Engagement Strategy**

Ward Committees are one component of Council's community engagement and play a significant role in Council's interaction with the community.

### **Financial / Risk Considerations**

There are no financial or risk considerations involved in increasing the membership of Ward Committees.

### **Options**

The options are to approve or not approve the nominations for membership. The recommendation is for approval.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That Council approves the Newrybar Community Hall as a member of Council's B Ward Committee.
2. That Council approves Our Lady of Rosary Conference, St Vincent de Paul Society as a member of Council's C Ward Committee.

### **Attachment(s)**

1. B Ward Committee Membership Application - Newrybar Community Hall (redacted) [⇒](#)
2. C Ward Committee Application - Our Lady of Rosary Conference, St Vincent de Paul Society (redacted) [⇒](#)

## 8.4 Legal Matters - Update

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### 8.4 Legal Matters - Update

**Section** Governance

**Objective** To provide the quarterly status report on Council legal matters.

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#### Background

This quarterly report provides the quarterly update on legal matters related to Council's planning and compliance activities.

#### Key Issues

- Outcomes
- Cost of litigation

#### Discussion

A summary of current and recent legal cases follows.

Council Legal	Applicant	Description	Estimate (\$)	Actual (\$)
Lindsay Taylor Lawyers	GTH Resorts	Land and Environment Court - Class 1 Proceedings – Deemed refusal of Development Application 2022/721.	500,000	822,000

#### Comment

DA 2022/721 was originally for the development of 148 independent living units for a seniors housing community with associated manager's residence, community facilities, infrastructure and services at 550-578 River Street, Ballina. The DA was reported to the Northern Regional Planning Panel for determination on 30 November 2023. The Panel determined to refuse the DA.

At the first directions hearing on 21 August 2023 a section 34 conciliation conference was scheduled for 8 March 2024. This conciliation conference was held and was subsequently terminated. On 10 April 2024 the Court granted the applicant leave to amend the DA to rely on amended plans and materials and to amend the proposal to 146 independent living units. This matter was heard on 16-23 September 2024. The commissioner has reserved judgement.

The Court granted leave to the applicant on several occasions, including just prior to and during the hearing, to amend the proposed development and to provide numerous technical documents and updated plans and reports to accompany the amended proposals and to address outstanding technical deficiencies. The proposed development that went before the Court at the hearing was substantially different from the original proposal refused by the NRPP.

Council successfully put a motion to the Court to reopen the case to have additional material relating to another decision of the Land and Environment Court presented.

In June 2025, the Applicant paid Council an agreed amount of \$125,000 for costs thrown away in this appeal.

The Court's decision on this appeal was handed down on 13 February 2026. The judgement is in favour of GTH Resorts with the Court finding that the development application should be granted consent subject to appropriate conditions.

On 12 March 2026, the Court formally granted conditional consent to the DA as amended.

## 8.4 Legal Matters - Update

Council Legal	Applicant	Description	Estimate (\$)	Actual (\$)
Parker and Kissane	Chase Bangalow Developments Pty Ltd	Land and Environment Court - Class 1 Proceedings – Refusal of Modification Application to DA 2006/12 and Refusal of Building Information Certificate 401.2021.57.	250,000	90,000

### Comment

In 2021 and in response to outstanding development compliance matters, Council issued a Development Control Order (DCO) to Chase Bangalow Developments Pty Ltd. Class 1 proceedings were subsequently filed in the L&E Court appealing the DCO.

These proceedings relate to an appeal against Council's refusal of a modification application (DA 2006/12.5) to modify development consent 2006/12 and refusal of an associated Building Information Certificate at 19 Old Pacific Highway, Newrybar.

Whilst the extent of the modification application is unclear, it purported to seek approval to utilise the existing buildings on site for nominated purposes.

A section 34 conference was held on 12 August 2025. An extension of this Conference was granted to enable the Applicant further opportunity to submit information to attempt to resolve the matter. On 21 October 2025, the Court ordered the termination of the section 34 conference as there was no resolution of the issues. The matter was then listed for hearing on 21 and 22 April 2026.

Prior to the 21 and 22 April 2026 hearing, the Applicant provided amended plans and documentation. These amendments were acceptable to Council and addressed the reasons for refusal of the modification application and the Building Information Certificate.

Agreement between parties was reached and on 24 April 2026 the Court ordered that Modification Application to DA 2006/12.5 be approved in the terms agreed.

Council Legal	Applicant	Description	Estimate (\$)	Actual (\$)
Parker and Kissane	David Morgan and David Hughes	Land and Environment Court - Class 1 Proceedings – Refusal of Development Application DA 2024/106	300,000	22,000

### Comment

These proceedings relate to an appeal against Council's refusal of a development application (DA 2024/106) which seeks consent for the construction of a tourist park (caravan park) comprising 145 sites (116 long term and 29 short term) at 10 Lismore Road, Alstonville.

Council filed its Statement of Facts and Contentions on 1 August 2025. The applicant filed its Statement of Facts and Contentions in reply on 29 October 2025.

The matter was listed for a Section 34 conference on 19 November 2025.

On 3 November 2025, the Court considered a Notice of Motion from the applicant to have the Court separately determine a question of law around the permissibility of the proposed development.

The Court agreed to set aside a separate hearing on the question of permissibility. This hearing occurred on 25 November 2025. A decision on this hearing has been reserved. The Section 34 conference scheduled for 19 November 2025 was cancelled.

Council is awaiting the Court's decision on the hearing.

## 8.4 Legal Matters - Update

Council Legal	Applicant	Description	Estimate (\$)	Actual (\$)
Parker and Kissane	Craig and Ann Tosomeen	Land and Environment Court - Class 1 Proceedings – Deemed Refusal of s.4.55 Application to Modify Development Application 2024/98	5,000	5,000
<p><b>Comment</b>            These proceedings relate to an appeal against Council's deemed refusal of a section 4.55 application to modify development application reference 2024/98.</p> <p>Prior to the first directions hearing, the application was determined by way of consent.</p> <p>The applicant subsequently withdrew their appeal and filed a Notice of Discontinuance.</p>				
Council Legal	Applicant	Description	Estimate (\$)	Actual (\$)
Lindsay Taylor Lawyers	Kate Singelton Pty. Ltd. & S.J. Connelley CPP Pty. Ltd.	Land and Environment Court - Class 1 Proceedings – Appeal against Development Consent 2023/270 in respect to developer contributions	100,000	3,000
<p><b>Comment</b>            These proceedings relate to an appeal against development consent 2023/270 and contributions levied under Council's Roads Contribution Plan.</p> <p>DA 2023/270 relates to stage 1 Commercial Premises at Ballina Heights Drive, Cumbalum.</p> <p>The first directions hearing is on 25 May 2026.</p> <p>At this first directions hearing the Court will set a date for a section.34 conference.</p>				

### Delivery Program Strategy / Operational Plan Activity

Legal cases are linked to Delivery Program strategies such as:

- HE3.2 - Match infrastructure with development to mitigate any impacts on the environment
- HE3.3 - Minimise negative impacts on the natural environment

### Community Consultation Policy

This report is in open Council to ensure the community is informed on legal matters.

If Council wishes to discuss any details, it may be necessary to resolve into confidential session to ensure any legal advice is not discussed in open Council.

### Financial / Risk Considerations

The following table provides a summary of planning and compliance related legal costs for recent years, including expenditure for 2025/26 to the end of January 2026.

## 8.4 Legal Matters - Update

**Table 1 – Legal Expenditure 2023/24 to Mid May for 2025/26 (\$)**

Description	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
The Beach House	3,100	0	0
DA 2020/192 – GTH Resorts (Gem Life)	4,900	0	0
DA 2021/137 – 10 Old Pacific H'way (Newrybar Pty)	2,600	0	0
DA 2022/33 – Bangalow Road (Advertising Sign)	125,800	300	0
DA 2022/284 – The Crest (DAs 2018/51, 2021/420)	91,000	400	0
DA 2022/333 – 43 Ballina Street, Lennox Head	20,500	46,600	0
DA 2022/469 – 404 Old Byron Bay Road (New DA)	0	2,400	5,600
DA 2022/721 – GTH Resorts (Gem Life)	230,000	570,000	14,100
DA 2023/270 – Ballina Heights, Commercial	0	0	3,200
DA 2023/343 – Rous County Council	0	0	13,500
DA 2023/504 – Alstonville Showground	8,400	0	0
DA 2024/98 – 13 Coral Avenue, Alstonville	0	0	5,500
DA 2024/106 – 10 Lismore Road	0	3,200	18,700
DA 2024/248 – Cultural Centre Onsite Septic	0	0	3,000
Compliance – 19 Old Pacific Highway, Newrybar	0	15,800	47,800
Compliance – Council Teven Reserve Works	0	31,800	6,600
Compliance – Norton Street	0	0	8,100
Compliance – Wunsch Noise	0	3,500	12,100
Other Compliance and Planning Agreements	32,200	24,000	18,200
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>518,500</b>	<b>698,000</b>	<b>156,400</b>
Legal Expenditure Budgets	510,000	710,000	360,000
<b>Expenditure Budget Result – Surplus / (Shortfall)</b>	<b>(8,500)</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>203,600</b>
Legal Income from Costs Recovered	17,400	125,500	14,800
Legal Income Budget	80,000	20,000	10,000
<b>Income Budget Result – Surplus / (Shortfall)</b>	<b>(62,600)</b>	<b>105,500</b>	<b>4,800</b>
<b>Net Legal Budget Result – Surplus / (Shortfall)</b>	<b>(71,100)</b>	<b>117,500</b>	<b>208,400</b>

Legal expenditure can vary significantly each year, as shown in the next table, which provides an eight-year summary of actual results.

**Table 2 – Legal Expenditure – Period 2017/18 to 2024/25 (\$'000)**

Year	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Expense	967	503	1,042	736	471	297	519	698
Income	108	61	157	539	364	8	17	125
<b>Net Cost</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>573</b>

The average net expenditure for the last five years is \$334,000, with the 2025/26 budget for the planning and health and environment sections providing a net total budget of \$350,000 (\$10,000 income and \$360,000 expenditure).

The draft 2026/27 budgets total a net \$380,000 (\$10,000 income and \$390,000 expenditure).

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the contents of this Legal Matters – Update report.

### Attachment(s)

Nil

## **8.5 Tender - Stormwater Recovery - Riverside Drive, Ballina**

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### **8.5 Tender - Stormwater Recovery - Riverside Drive, Ballina**

**Section** Engineering Works

**Objective** To report the outcomes of the tender evaluation for the Tender - Stormwater Recovery - Riverside Drive, Ballina

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#### **Background**

The work to be undertaken under this contract is the augmentation of the stormwater network on Riverside Drive, Ballina in the area surrounding Riverside Park.

Tenders opened on Monday 2 March 2026 and at the close of tenders on Thursday 26 March 2026, five (5) tender submissions were received.

This report outlines the results of the public tender process.

#### **Key Issues**

- Comply with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
- Obtain value for money

#### **Discussion**

One hundred and ninety-five (195) companies accessed the request, with tenders received from:

- Ireland Civil Contracting Pty Ltd
- Kingsline Pty Ltd
- RCC Earthworks Pty Ltd
- Somerville Excavator Hire
- United Civil Group Pty Ltd

The tender submissions were assessed to ensure conformance with the conditions of tender and the mandatory criteria, being:

- Insurance
- Work Health and Safety
- Required registrations or accreditations

All tender submissions met the mandatory assessment and were assessed using the following weighted assessment criteria:

- Pricing structure 60%
- Capability and Relevant Experience 15%
- Methodology and Programme 10%
- Social and community 15%

## **8.5 Tender - Stormwater Recovery - Riverside Drive, Ballina**

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Somerville Excavator Hire has been assessed as the preferred tenderer based on the evaluation. Details of the assessment and pricing options have been provided to Councillors by a confidential memorandum.

### **Delivery Program Strategy / Operational Plan Activity**

These works are identified in Council's capital expenditure in the adopted Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

### **Community Engagement Strategy**

Council has undertaken a public tender process in accordance with the Local Government (General) 2021.

The total cost of the preferred tender is \$335,636, excluding GST.

### **Options**

The options for Council are set out in Part 7 Section 178 (1) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, which requires that:

*(1) After considering the tenders submitted for a proposed contract, the council must either:*

- (a) accept the tender that, having regard to all the circumstances, appears to it to be the most advantageous, or*
- (b) decline to accept any of the tenders.*

Based on the tender evaluation, it is recommended that Council accept the tender from Somerville Excavator Hire.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That Council in accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 Section 178(1)(a)*, accepts the tender and awards the contract to Somerville Excavator Hire for the Tender - Stormwater Recovery - Riverside Drive, Ballina for the total amount of \$335,636 (excluding GST).
2. That Council authorises the General Manager to sign the contract documents.

### **Attachment(s)**

1. Confidential Memorandum - Tender Report - Stormwater Recovery - Riverside Drive, Ballina (Confidential)

## 8.6 Tender - Surf Lifesaving Services 2026-2030

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### 8.6 Tender - Surf Lifesaving Services 2026-2030

**Section** Open Spaces

**Objective** To report the outcomes of the tender evaluation for the Tender - Surf Lifesaving Services 2026-2030

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#### **Background**

The services to be undertaken under this contract are Surf Lifesaving Services from 1 September 2026 to 31 August 2030.

Council has historically contracted out the provision of professional surf lifesaving services on its beaches, with Surf Life Saving Services Pty Ltd trading as Australian Lifeguard Service being the incumbent provider.

Tenders opened on 11 February 2026 and at the close of tenders on 2 April 2026, one (1) tender submission was received.

This report outlines the results of the public tender process.

#### **Key Issues**

- Comply with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
- Obtain value for money

#### **Discussion**

Forty-four (44) companies/organisations downloaded the documentation with the sole tender received from Surf Life Saving Services Pty Ltd t/a Australian Lifeguard Service.

The tender submission was assessed to ensure conformance with the conditions of tender and met all mandatory criteria around:

- Insurances
- Work Health and Safety Management Systems

The tender submission was assessed using the following weighted assessment criteria:

- |                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| • Pricing                         | 30% |
| • Experience and Past Performance | 25% |
| • Capability                      | 30% |
| • Social & Community              | 15% |

As sole tenderer, Surf Life Saving Services Pty Ltd t/a Australian Lifeguard Service has been assessed as an acceptable contractor based on the evaluation. Details of the assessment and pricing options have been provided to Councillors by a confidential memorandum.

## 8.6 Tender - Surf Lifesaving Services 2026-2030

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The evaluation panel scoring based on the criteria and weighting is provided in the table below.

<b>Tender Assessment</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>	<b>Assessed Panel Score (%)</b>
Pricing (as sole tender)	30%	30%
Experience & Past Performance	25%	23.75%
Capability	30%	28%
Social and Community	15%	14.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>96.25%</b>

### **Delivery Program Strategy / Operational Plan Activity**

The provision of lifeguard services on our beaches is aligned with the Delivery Program and Operational Plan actions as follows:

CC1.1 Actively promote safety and wellbeing strategies.

### **Community Engagement Strategy**

Council has undertaken a public tender process in accordance with the Local Government (General) 2021.

### **Financial / Risk Considerations**

Beach safety is a high-risk activity, and it is essential that Council has professional services available.

The tendered amount from the Australian Lifeguard Service for providing the core level of lifeguard services is \$524,187 (excluding GST) for Year One and a 3% annual increase for the remaining three years (with provision for CPI indexing if higher than 3%).

Council's 2026/27 budget for the provision of the Surf Lifesaving Contract is \$505,975 (excluding GST) for maintaining the current service levels.

Additional funding of \$19,187 (excluding GST) is required to meet the tendered price to deliver core services for 2026/27.

This increase will be included in the report to the 25 June 2026 Ordinary meeting, where Council considers all submissions to the draft 2026/27 to 2029/30 Delivery Program and 2026/27 Operational Plan.

The total expected cost of the contract is \$2.193m (excluding GST) for the four-year period.

Council could seek to reduce the service cost by reducing the level of service provided (e.g. reduced timeframes for patrols, removal of a service in a particular location). This is not recommended.

**Options**

The options for Council are set out in Part 7 Section 178 (1) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, which requires that:

*(1) After considering the tenders submitted for a proposed contract, the council must either:*

- (a) accept the tender that, having regard to all the circumstances, appears to it to be the most advantageous, or*
- (b) decline to accept any of the tenders.*

Based on the tender evaluation, it is recommended that Council accept the tender from Surf Life Saving Services Pty Ltd t/a Australian Lifeguard Service.

Some councils do employ their own staff to provide this service, however based on the relatively smaller scale of Council's operations, the seasonality of the work, and the extensive experience of the recommended tenderer, the preference is to accept the tender.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That Council in accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 Section 178(1)(a)*, accepts the tender and awards the contract to Surf Life Saving Services Pty Ltd t/a Australian Lifeguard Service for the Tender - Surf Lifesaving Services 2026-2030 for the total amount of \$2,193,002.89 (excluding GST).
2. That Council authorises the General Manager to sign the contract documents.

**Attachment(s)**

1. Confidential Memorandum - Tender Report - Surf Lifesaving Services (Confidential)

## 8.7 Tender - Alstonville Creek Restoration

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### 8.7 Tender - Alstonville Creek Restoration

**Section** Open Spaces

**Objective** To report the outcomes of the tender evaluation for the Tender - Alstonville Creek Restoration

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#### **Background**

The work to be undertaken under this contract is the naturalisation of approximately 650m section of the Alstonville Creek watercourse (Tanamera Reserve). Council has received grant funding from the Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program (URCP) to undertake the restoration works.

Tenders opened on Friday 27 February 2026 and at the close of tenders on Thursday 2 April 2026, nine (9) tender submissions were received.

This report outlines the results of the public tender process.

#### **Key Issues**

- Comply with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
- Obtain value for money

#### **Discussion**

Two hundred and twenty-two (222) companies downloaded the documentation with tenders received from:

- Boyds Bay Landscaping Trust t/a Boyds Bay Landscaping Pty Ltd
- Brown Environmental Earthworks Planning Pty Ltd
- Gracewood Pty Ltd
- Green Civil Services Pty Ltd
- Ireland Civil Contracting Pty Ltd
- Land & Civil Pty Ltd
- Somerville Excavator Hire
- Synergy Resource Management Pty Limited
- The Trustee for D Loosemore Family Trust t/a Aussierock Landscape and Construction

The tender submissions were assessed to ensure conformance with the conditions of tender and the mandatory criteria, being:

- Insurance
- Work Health and Safety
- Required registrations or accreditations

Eight (8) of the nine (9) tender submissions met the mandatory assessment criteria.

## 8.7 Tender - Alstonville Creek Restoration

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The following weighted assessment criteria were applied:

- Pricing structure 30%
- Experience and capability 30%
- Recent Projects 10%
- Tender Program and Construction Methodology 10%
- Social and community 15%

Land & Civil Pty Ltd has been assessed as the preferred tenderer based on the evaluation. Details of the assessment and pricing options have been provided to Councillors by a confidential memorandum.

### **Delivery Program Strategy / Operational Plan Activity**

The works are aligned with Strategy HE1.3 – Enhance our open spaces, reserves, natural areas and their heritage values.

### **Community Engagement Strategy**

Council has undertaken a public tender process in accordance with the Local Government (General) 2021.

### **Financial / Risk Considerations**

Funding for the works is provided through a grant from the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water under the URCP, in the amount of \$1,102,597. The URCP aims to restore the health of urban waterways for the benefit of native plants, animals and local communities.

\$44,514 has been expended to date on professional services associated with master planning and detailed design, including flood modelling, community consultation and best-practice river design outcomes. This results in \$1,058,083 of grant funding remaining for restoration works.

The total cost of the preferred tender is \$1,312,706.12 (excluding GST).

The preferred tender is approximately 38% below the pre-tender cost estimate prepared following detailed design and represents best value for money when assessed against both price and non-price criteria.

A funding shortfall of \$254,623 remains between the grant funding and the recommended tender amount.

An option to address the funding shortfall has been identified within the 2026/27 Open Spaces capital works program, being the deferral of planned playground and associated embellishment works at Faulks Reserve. This has a minimal impact on the program long term and maintains planned asset renewal works through the deferral being in relation to new infrastructure.

The reallocation of this funding to the Alstonville Creek Restoration project will enable the works to proceed within the terms of the grant agreement and within required delivery timeframes. The recommended reallocation also includes a small contingency.

## 8.7 Tender - Alstonville Creek Restoration

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Any delay to awarding the contract and commencing construction introduces a risk in relation to Council's ability to meet the conditions of the URCP funding, with potential implications for grant compliance.

Delay in the delivery of the restoration work is also likely to lead to increasing costs whilst the grant amount remains fixed.

The revised four-year program of works for the Open Spaces playground renewal will be reported to the June 2026 Ordinary meeting as part of the report on the adoption of the 2026/27 to 2029/30 Delivery Program.

### Options

The options for Council are set out in Part 7 Section 178 (1) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, which requires that:

*(1) After considering the tenders submitted for a proposed contract, the council must either:*

*(a) accept the tender that, having regard to all the circumstances, appears to it to be the most advantageous, or*

*(b) decline to accept any of the tenders.*

Based on the tender evaluation, it is recommended that Council accept the tender from Land & Civil Pty Ltd.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council in accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 Section 178(1)(a)*, accepts the tender and awards the contract to Land & Civil Pty Ltd for the Tender - Alstonville Creek Restoration for the total amount of \$1,312,706 (excluding GST).
2. That Council authorises the General Manager to sign the contract documents.
3. That Council approves the reallocation of \$280,000 from the Open Spaces capital works program, in 2026/27, to address the funding shortfall between the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program grant funding and the accepted tender amount.
4. That Council notes the revised four-year program of works for the Open Spaces Playground Renewal Program will be reported to the 25 June 2026 Ordinary meeting as part of the report on the adoption of the 2026/27 to 2029/30 Delivery Program.

### Attachment(s)

1. Confidential Memorandum - Tender Report - Alstonville Creek Restoration (Confidential)

## 8.8 Policy (Review) - Councillor Training and Development

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### 8.8 Policy (Review) - Councillor Training and Development

**Section** Governance

**Objective** To review the Councillor Training and Development Policy.

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#### **Background**

All of Council's existing policies are progressively reviewed to ensure they reflect contemporary practices and legislative requirements. The purpose of this report is to review the Councillor Training and Development policy.

Council last reviewed this policy in August 2022.

#### **Key Issues**

- Whether the policy meets the requirements of Council and current legislation.

#### **Discussion**

This policy was established to demonstrate Council's commitment to ensuring Councillors have access to training and educational opportunities and can maintain their knowledge to contemporary standards and expectations.

The aim is to facilitate training opportunities for Councillors to increase their levels of knowledge and expertise recognising that this investment will enhance the effectiveness of the Council's performance in achieving its goals.

The policy has been updated to reflect the new sections of the Local Government Regulation, where there are mandated timelines for Councillor induction training after an election.

A new section relating to the Councillor induction program is included, to align with the Office of Local Government's (OLG) Guidelines.

A link to the guidelines is here [Councillor Induction and Professional Development](#).

A separate appendix detailing the principles of the Local Government Act is included in the reviewed policy.

Otherwise, the policy is contemporary and reflects current legislation.

A copy of the policy is attached to the report showing the changes highlighted yellow for additions and red strike through for deletions.

#### **Community Engagement Strategy**

It is recommended that Council adopt the policy as presented and place the document on exhibition for public comment.

## **8.8 Policy (Review) - Councillor Training and Development**

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If any submissions are received, they can be reported back to Council however there will not be a need for any further report if there is no public comment.

### **Options**

Council may accept the policy or propose changes.

It is recommended that the policy be adopted as presented.

It is also recommended that if no submissions are received from the exhibition process, that no further action is required.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That Council adopts the Councillor Training and Development policy, as per Attachment 1 to this report.
2. That Council place this policy on exhibition for public comment, with any submissions received to be resubmitted back to Council. If no submissions are received, then no further action is required.

### **Attachment(s)**

1. Policy (Review) - Councillor Training and Development [⇒](#)

## **8.9 Financial Year 2025/26 - 31 March 2026 Review**

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### **8.9 Financial Year 2025/26 - 31 March 2026 Review**

<b>Section</b>	Financial Services
<b>Objective</b>	To provide a quarterly review of the 2025/26 financial year based on the known results to 31 March 2026.

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#### **Background**

In accordance with Clause 203 of the Local Government (General) Regulations, the Responsible Accounting Officer of a council must, not later than two months after the end of each quarter, submit to the council a budget review statement that shows a revised estimate of the income and expenditure for that year. This is the third quarterly review for 2025/26.

#### **Key Issues**

- Variations to the budget and financial performance

#### **Discussion**

New mandatory Quarterly Budget Review Statement Guidelines were issued by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure in August 2025, to commence quarter one 2025/26.

This report is the third quarterly review for 2025/26, using the new templates, which are included as Attachment 1 to this report.

The templates follow a format that is consistent with the Financial Statement disclosures. This means that income and expenditure line items are by income type, rather than by Council function/section.

The columns for Recommended Changes for Council Resolution within the mandatory templates include approved changes within the quarter, as the templates do not allow for the changes already approved during the quarter, to be separated from the Recommended Changes within this report.

This means the figures include any approved budget changes from the February to April 2026 Ordinary meetings, which includes the report titled "Capital Expenditure Program – 31 March 2025 Review", which was a separate report to the April 2026 Ordinary Council meeting.

The budget reviews within the body of this report, are in a format consistent with previous quarterly budget reviews, with analysis by function/section, as that provides a more detailed analysis to improve the understanding of the financial performance of Council and the proposed budget adjustments.

The information provided within the body of this report reconciles back, where applicable, to the mandatory standardised templates in Attachment 1.

An outline of the information provided in the body of this report is as follows:

**Section One - General Fund Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP)**

This section provides an overview of the General Fund including a high-level summary of the ten-year LTFP, plus the current year.

**Section Two - Operating Income and Expenditure Budgets 2025/26**

Outlines the 2025/26 operating income and operating expenditure budgets by Fund (General, Water and Wastewater).

The Other Approved Changes and Changes for Approval, by Fund, agree to the Recommended Changes, as per the Income and Expenses Budget Review Statements in Attachment 1.

**Section Three - Capital Budgets 2025/26**

Outlines the 2025/26 capital expenditure budgets.

The Other Approved Changes and Changes for Approval, combined for all three funds together, agree to the Recommended Changes, as per the Capital Budget Review Statement in Attachment 1.

**Section Four - Cash and Investment Statement**

Provide details of the projected movements in the cash reserve balances.

The Forecasted Restricted Reserves reconciles to the Projected Year End, as per the Cash and Investments Budget Review Statement in Attachment 1.

**Section Five - Certification**

This is a Statement by the Responsible Accounting Officer as to whether the current year's estimated financial performance is or is not satisfactory.

**Section One - General Fund Long Term Financial Plan**

The following table provides a summary of the General Fund LTFP with the inclusion of the changes listed in this report.

**General Fund - LTFP Forecasts - December 2025 Review (\$'000)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>2027/28</b>	<b>2028/29</b>	<b>2029/30</b>	<b>2030/31</b>	<b>2031/32</b>	<b>2032/33</b>	<b>2033/34</b>	<b>2034/35</b>	<b>2035/36</b>
Operating Income	97,431	102,539	107,363	113,478	119,543	123,219	127,881	132,442	137,370	142,256	147,430
Operating Expenses	81,776	82,651	86,437	89,391	92,103	93,386	96,545	99,636	102,064	105,179	108,035
<b>Result before Non-Cash items</b>	<b>15,655</b>	<b>19,888</b>	<b>20,926</b>	<b>24,087</b>	<b>27,440</b>	<b>29,833</b>	<b>31,336</b>	<b>32,806</b>	<b>35,306</b>	<b>37,077</b>	<b>39,395</b>
Add Gain on Disposal	3,092	2,697	3,015	1,660	1,690	1,720	1,750	1,780	1,810	1,840	1,870
Less Deprec and Loss on Disposal	25,920	26,361	26,411	27,253	28,123	29,020	29,944	30,899	31,883	32,899	33,944
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(7,173)</b>	<b>(3,776)</b>	<b>(2,470)</b>	<b>(1,506)</b>	<b>1,007</b>	<b>2,533</b>	<b>3,142</b>	<b>3,687</b>	<b>5,233</b>	<b>6,018</b>	<b>7,321</b>
Work Cap Result	(977)	(871)	(276)	6	592	864	1,275	1,669	2,167	2,668	3,263
<b>WC Balance</b>	<b>1,728</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>1,179</b>	<b>2,043</b>	<b>3,318</b>	<b>4,987</b>	<b>7,154</b>	<b>9,822</b>	<b>13,085</b>

This forecast shows the General Fund reaching an operating surplus in 2029/30, following deficits from 2025/26 to 2028/29. The forecasts are inclusive of the income from the proposed special rate variation.

## 8.9 Financial Year 2025/26 - 31 March 2026 Review

The following section provides commentary in relation to the forecast changes impacting on the General Fund.

The financial performance of the Water and Wastewater Funds is outlined later in this report.

The **Forecast Operating Result**, for the General Fund, as at **31 March 2025**, is a loss of \$7.173m. This compares to a forecast loss of \$6.346m, following the quarter two review as reported to the February 2025 Ordinary meeting.

The estimated movement in **Unrestricted Working Capital** shows a slight improvement, with a forecast deficit as at March of \$977,000. This compares to a forecast deficit of \$982,000, following the quarter two review as reported to the February 2026 Ordinary meeting.

### Section Two - Operating Income and Expenditure Budgets - 2025/26

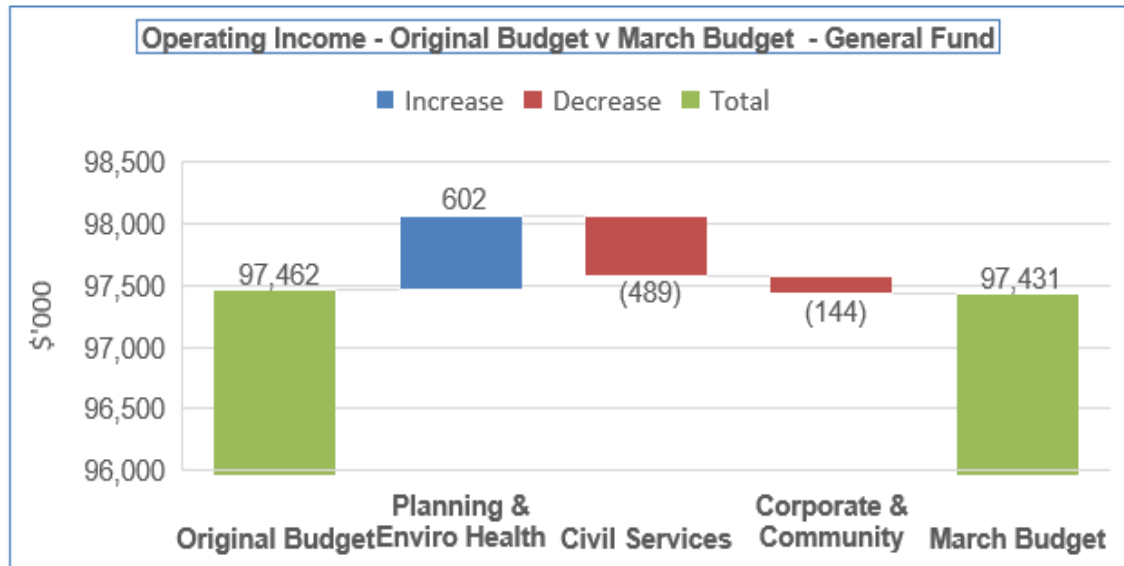
#### General Fund - Operating Income (\$'000)

The next table details operating income, including recommended variations for this March quarterly review, as per the "Changes for Approval" column.

Operating Income	Original Budget	Dec Budget	Other Approved Changes	Revised Budget	Changes for Approval	Mar Budget	Actual to Mar
<b>Planning and Environmental Health Division</b>							
Strategic Planning	909	964	0	964	253	1,217	86
Development Services	2,363	2,463	0	2,463	0	2,463	1,862
Health and Environment	1,374	1,378	0	1,378	100	1,478	803
Community Gallery	110	110	0	110	0	110	97
Open Spaces	1,376	1,436	0	1,436	30	1,466	1,209
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>6,132</b>	<b>6,351</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,351</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>6,734</b>	<b>4,057</b>
<b>Civil Services Division</b>							
Infrastructure Planning	248	318	0	318	132	450	385
Roads and Bridges	3,834	4,122	0	4,122	(173)	3,949	2,750
Emergency Services	125	125	0	125	0	125	131
Landfill and Resource Mgmt	14,006	12,821	0	12,821	240	13,061	10,003
Domestic Waste Mgmt	8,937	9,061	0	9,061	15	9,076	9,497
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>27,150</b>	<b>26,447</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26,447</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>26,661</b>	<b>22,766</b>
<b>Corporate and Community Division</b>							
Governance	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Comms / Customer Service	9	9	0	9	10	19	14
Financial Services	39,797	39,847	0	39,847	121	39,968	35,416
Information Services	221	221	0	221	0	221	150
People and Culture	1,040	1,120	0	1,120	0	1,120	478
Property Management	3,449	3,336	0	3,336	(30)	3,306	2,753
Ballina Byron Airport	11,022	10,512	0	10,512	(75)	10,437	7,576
Community Facilities	944	924	0	924	22	946	783
Facilities Management	39	121	0	121	0	121	116
Library Services	138	197	0	197	0	197	196
Swimming Pools	1,296	1,296	0	1,296	(40)	1,256	1,047
Destination and Economy	247	247	0	247	20	267	128
Plant Operations	5,978	5,978	0	5,978	200	6,178	4,906
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>64,180</b>	<b>63,808</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>63,808</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>64,036</b>	<b>53,571</b>
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>97,462</b>	<b>96,606</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>96,606</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>97,431</b>	<b>80,394</b>

## 8.9 Financial Year 2025/26 - 31 March 2026 Review

The following chart shows the cumulative income budget changes for the year to date, by Division.



The chart details net year to date income budget increases of \$602k for the Planning and Environmental Health Division, with income budget decreases of \$489k for the Civil Services Division and decreases of \$144k for the Corporate and Community Division.

The Planning and Environmental Health Division has had year to date budget increases within the Strategic Planning Section, with larger adjustments being increases in interest for Section 7.11 reserves.

The Civil Services Division had a large decrease in projected income for the Landfill and Resource Management section in the December quarterly review.

The Corporate and Community Division includes decreases to forecast Airport revenue, which has had decreases for the December and March quarters.

### General Fund – Operating Expenses (\$'000)

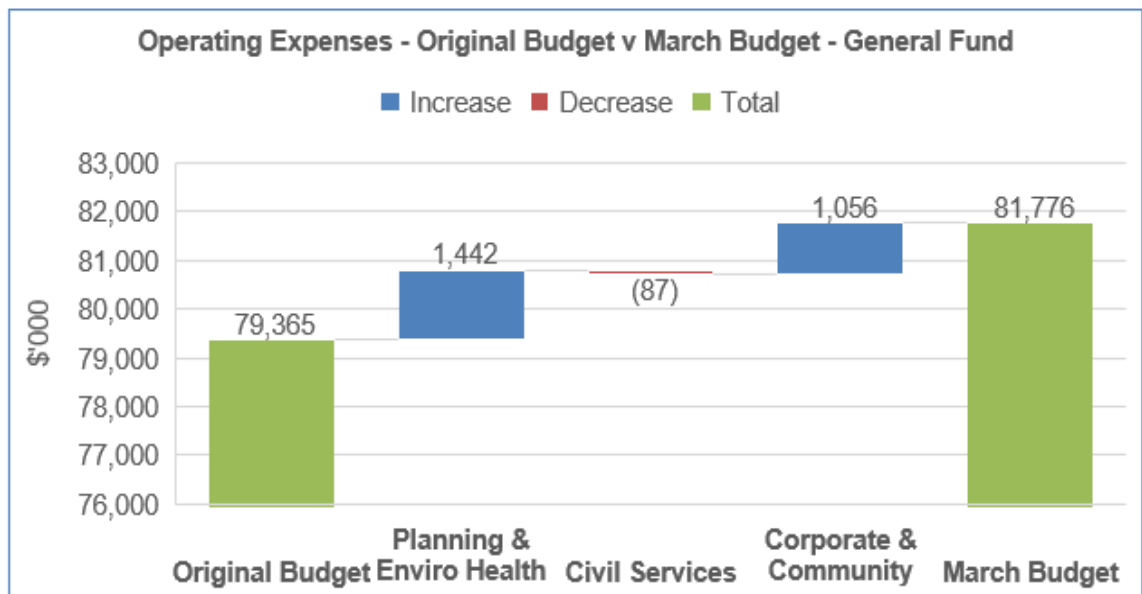
The next table details operating expenses, including recommended variations for this March quarterly review, as per the “Changes for Approval” column.

Operating Income	Original Budget	Dec Budget	Other Approved Changes	Revised Budget	Changes for Approval	Mar Budget	Actual to Mar
<b>Planning and Environmental Health Division</b>							
Strategic Planning	897	1,224	0	1,224	0	1,224	741
Development Services	3,024	2,853	0	2,853	(34)	2,819	2,351
Health and Environment	3,870	4,300	0	4,300	100	4,400	2,975
Community Gallery	478	518	0	518	0	518	347
Open Spaces	7,908	8,358	0	8,358	300	8,658	6,955
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>16,177</b>	<b>17,253</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17,253</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>17,619</b>	<b>13,369</b>
<b>Civil Services Division</b>							
Infrastructure Planning	2,278	2,281	0	2,281	(46)	2,235	1,514
Roads and Bridges	7,684	8,231	0	8,231	106	8,337	6,285
Emergency Services	705	741	0	741	0	741	536
Landfill and Resource Mgmt	14,534	13,269	0	13,269	220	13,489	8,538

## 8.9 Financial Year 2025/26 - 31 March 2026 Review

Operating Income	Original Budget	Dec Budget	Other Approved Changes	Revised Budget	Changes for Approval	Mar Budget	Actual to Mar
Domestic Waste Mgmt	9,587	9,617	0	9,617	282	9,899	6,974
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>34,788</b>	<b>34,139</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34,139</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>34,701</b>	<b>23,847</b>
<b>Corporate and Community Division</b>							
Governance	1,426	1,426	0	1,426	0	1,426	1,324
Comms / Customer Service	732	772	0	772	(46)	726	611
Financial Services	787	750	0	750	8	758	445
Information Services	3,610	3,652	0	3,652	50	3,702	3,483
People and Culture	1,729	1,797	0	1,797	0	1,797	1,986
Property Management	2,208	2,168	60	2,228	20	2,248	1,577
Ballina Byron Airport	7,077	7,432	0	7,432	145	7,577	5,455
Community Facilities	1,320	1,320	0	1,320	2	1,322	873
Facilities Management	722	824	0	824	25	849	728
Library Services	2,119	2,119	0	2,119	22	2,141	1,559
Swimming Pools	2,160	2,160	0	2,160	20	2,180	1,504
Destination and Economy	759	759	0	759	20	779	408
Plant Operations	3,751	3,751	0	3,751	200	3,951	3,080
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>28,400</b>	<b>28,930</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>28,930</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>29,456</b>	<b>23,033</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>79,365</b>	<b>80,322</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>80,322</b>	<b>1,394</b>	<b>81,776</b>	<b>60,249</b>
Gain on Real Estate, Plant and Rental Properties	3,290	3,290	(198)	3,290	0	3,092	1,203
Depreciation and Non-Cash	25,920	25,920	0	25,920	0	25,920	19,440
<b>Net Operating Result</b>	<b>(4,533)</b>	<b>(6,346)</b>	<b>(258)</b>	<b>(6,346)</b>	<b>(569)</b>	<b>(7,173)</b>	<b>1,908</b>

The next chart shows the cumulative expenditure budget changes, for the year to date, by Division.



The chart illustrates net year to date expenditure budget increases of \$1,442k for the Planning and Environmental Health Division and \$1,056k for the Corporate and Community Division with expenditure budget decrease of \$87k for the Civil Services Division.

The Planning and Environmental Health Division larger adjustments have included increases in operating expenses for the Open Spaces Section.

The Civil Division had a large decrease in projected expenditure for the Landfill and Resource Management Section in the December quarterly review.

## 8.9 Financial Year 2025/26 - 31 March 2026 Review

The Corporate and Community Division includes increases to forecast Airport expenditure, which has had increases for the December and March quarters.

Overall, for this quarterly review, the larger adjustments to the General Fund Operating Result include:

- Increase of \$369,000 to the budgets for interest income for the General Fund. Of that, \$121,000 impacts on the cash result and the other \$248,000 is allocated to reserves (primarily Section 7.11 reserves).
- Grant funding of \$338,000 under the Federal Roads to Recovery Program has been deferred to 2026/27.
- Landfill and Resource Management (LRM) income budgets increased by \$240,000.

LRM expenditure budgets increased by \$220,000, with a net impact on the LRM Reserve being an increase to the reserve of \$20,000.

- Domestic Waste Management (DWM) expenditure budgets increased by \$282,000. The net impact on the DWM Reserve being a decrease to the reserve of \$267,000.
- Airport income budgets decreased by \$75,000, expenditure budgets increased by \$145,000, with a net impact on the Airport Reserve being a decrease to the reserve of \$220,000.
- The expenditure budgets for the Open Spaces section have been increased by a further \$300,000.

### General Fund Working Capital Movements (\$'000)

Item	Original Budget	Dec Budget	Other Approved Changes	Revised Budget	Changes for Approval	Mar Budget	Actual to Mar
Increase / (Decrease)	(982)	(982)	0	(982)	5	(977)	N/A

Working capital is a measure of short-term liquidity and as a rule Council aims to target a break-even result for the General Fund.

This review provides a small improvement to the forecast movement in working capital.

Comments on the budget variations are as follows.

**General Fund - Operating Income**

***Planning and Environmental Health Division***

*Strategic Planning*

The income budget for Strategic Planning Proposals has increased by \$253,000.

Following a recalculation of Council's forecast interest income to be received for cash and investment holdings for the year, interest income budgets have been reviewed based on expected reserve balances.

The budgets for interest income for the Section 7.11 Reserves have been increased by \$243,000, to a revised forecast of \$1,118,000.

These funds are transferred to the Section 7.11 reserves.

The income budget for Strategic Planning Proposals has been increased by \$10,000, to a revised budget of \$65,000, based on trend.

*Development Services*

There are no changes to forecast income, which is trending in line with forecasts.

*Health and Environment*

A \$100,000 income budget is raised, being grant funding for the Coast and Estuary Coastal Management Plan. This funding is under the State Government Planning and Environment Coastal and Estuary Grants Program, with a 2:1 funding arrangement.

A corresponding expenditure budget of \$150,000 has been raised within the Operating Expenses section of this report.

*Open Spaces*

The income budget for rental income from the Wollongbar Sport Fields has been increased by \$30,000, to a revised budget of \$90,000, bringing the budget to match the amount received.

***Civil Services Division***

*Infrastructure Planning*

Income budgets are increased \$132,000.

The budget for Development Engineer Inspection fee has been increased \$85,000, to a revised budget of \$305,000, based on amounts received.

An internal income budget of \$30,000 is raised for bond money refunded back to Council. A road maintenance bond had been paid under a Council development application for works for the Ballina Surf / Compton Drive realignment.

The refund of this money has been recognised as income and has been transferred back to the Community Infrastructure Reserve, where this expenditure had originally been sourced.

The budget for Road Closure Applications income has been increased by \$17,000, to a revised budget of \$22,000, to bring the budget to match actual income received, with amounts totalling \$20,000 received for the month of February.

### *Roads and Bridges*

Income budgets have been decreased by a net \$173,000.

Grant funding of \$338,000 under the Federal Roads to Recovery Program has been deferred to 2026/27, following advice from the Federal Department overseeing this program.

Whilst the total funding over the five-year funding period is unchanged, the allocation across years has been amended.

This income is classified as operating income, in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

There is a corresponding deferral of capital expenditure of \$338,000.

Interest budgets, for the Bypass Reserves, have been decreased by \$10,000, following the review of the interest income based on expected reserve balances. This adjustment decreases the forecast Bypass Reserve balances.

Natural Disaster funding of \$75,000 has been received this financial year, in relation to expenditure in 2024/25.

A further \$60,000 Natural Disaster funding has been approved, with expenditure budgets of this amount noted later in this report.

A new income budget of \$40,000 is raised, being grant funds confirmed by the NSW Reconstruction Authority under the Northern Rivers Recovery and Resilience Program (NRRRP) for a Flood Property Portal.

This project is to increase community flood risk awareness and resilience by delivering a range of activities, including improved access to flood risk information. The program deliverables include an online flood search report, free of charge, to residents and industry, to support awareness of flood risk and support risk informed planning and development.

A corresponding expenditure budget has been raised.

### *Landfill and Resource Management*

Income budgets have been increased by \$240,000.

The income budget for gate fees from Domestic Waste Management is increased by \$130,000, to a revised forecast of \$3.665m.

## **8.9 Financial Year 2025/26 - 31 March 2026 Review**

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A new budget of \$110,000 is raised for the forecast income from the Tip Shop, following the recent transfer of management to Council. Budgets for future years have already been included with the long-term financial plans that were endorsed for exhibition.

Expenditure budgets, detailed in the next section of this report, are increased by \$220,000 in total, with a net impact on the LRM Reserve, being an increase to the reserve of \$20,000.

### *Domestic Waste Management (DWM)*

Income budgets have been increased by \$15,000.

The budgets for annual charges are increased by \$10,000, to a revised balance of \$8.889m, to match amounts levied.

The budget for interest income has increased by \$5,000, to a revised balance of \$47,000, following the recalculation of Council's forecast interest income and expected reserve balances.

Expenditure budgets, detailed in the next section of this report, are increased by \$282,000, with a net impact on the DWM Reserve being a decrease to the reserve of \$267,000.

### *Corporate and Community Division*

#### *Communications and Customer Service*

A budget of \$10,000 is raised for grant funding received from the National Australia Day Council for the Australia Day ceremony.

#### *Financial Services*

Forecast interest income has been reviewed following an upward trend of actual interest income to date, compared to budgeted interest, and two further Reserve Bank interest rate increases during the quarter.

Allocation between the funds and various reserves is then calculated using the estimated average reserve balances.

A recalculation of estimates results in a proposed total increase to the Consolidated Council of \$618,000.

The Financial Services section includes interest on investments income and an offset (negative) interest paid by Council, if applicable, on the release of bond money held by Council.

The income budget for interest on investments within this section is increased \$141,000, to a revised budget of \$1.641m.

The budget for interest payable on bond money released is increased \$20,000, to a revised budget of \$70,000, based on trend.

## **8.9 Financial Year 2025/26 - 31 March 2026 Review**

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A further \$248,000 is also allocated to General Fund reserves, with the largest component being \$243,000 for the Section 7.11 reserves, within the Strategic Planning Section.

The remaining interest income adjustments are an increase of \$176,000 to Wastewater Fund and an increase of \$73,000 to the Water Fund.

### *Property Management*

This section encompasses Commercial Property Management, Land Development and the Flat Rock Tent Park.

Budget for the Flat Rock Tent Park short term income has been decreased by \$30,000, to a revised forecast of \$570,000, based on trend.

Expenditure budgets for the Flat Rock Tent Park, detailed in the next section of this report, are increased by \$20,000, with a net impact on the Flat Rock Tent Park Reserve, being a decrease of \$50,000.

### *Ballina Byron Gateway Airport (BBGA)*

Airport income budgets have been decreased by \$75,000.

Forecast income for parking income is reduced by \$75,000 to a revised forecast of \$1.875m for 2025/26. Whilst there are reduced passenger numbers, the new airline agreements came into effect in the third quarter of 2025/26, stabilising passenger revenues, however the lower passenger numbers did cause a decrease in car parking revenues.

Expenditure budgets, detailed in the next section of this report, are increased by \$145,000, with a net impact on the Airport Reserve, being a decrease of \$220,000.

### *Community Facilities*

Income budgets have been increased by \$22,000, based on trend.

Forecast income for the Ballina Surf Club has been increased by \$15,000, to a revised income of \$167,000.

Forecast income budget for the Ballina Indoor Sports Centre has been increased by \$5,000, to a revised income of \$270,000.

Forecast income for the Lennox Head Cultural Centre and the Lennox Head Community Hall have been increased by \$5,000 and \$2,000, to revised income of \$200,000 and \$22,000, respectively.

Forecast income for the Northlakes Hall has been decreased by \$5,000, to a revised income of \$15,000.

### *Swimming Pools*

Income budgets have been reduced by a total of \$40,000 based on trend.

## **8.9 Financial Year 2025/26 - 31 March 2026 Review**

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Forecast income for the Ballina Memorial Swimming Pool entrance fees have been reduced by \$20,000, to a revised budget of \$770,000.

Forecast income for the Alstonville Aquatic Centre entrance fees have been reduced by \$20,000, to a revised budget of \$475,000.

### *Destination and Economy*

A new income budget of \$20,000 is raised for forecast registration income to be received from the Country Mayors Association Regional meeting to be held in Ballina. A corresponding expenditure budget is also raised.

### *Plant Operations*

Income budgets have been increased \$200,000, based on trend.

A corresponding adjustment of \$200,000 has also been made to expenditure budgets, with a net nil impact on the forecast Plant Reserve balance.

## **General Fund - Operating Expenses**

### ***Planning and Environmental Health Division***

#### *Development Services*

Savings were identified within the Consultancies Budget. That budget is reduced by \$34,000 to a revised budget of \$186,000, with the savings transferred to Plant Reserves to fund the purchase of an additional vehicle.

Salaries and wages are currently trending over with a high volume of work.

Legal expenses are trending down, with further expenditure to be incurred in the final quarter with one case ending and two other cases with ongoing appeals.

It is estimated that there will be savings within this budget for this year, although it is difficult to estimate at this stage.

No changes are proposed to the salaries or legals budgets in this review.

#### *Health and Environment*

The budget for the Coast and Estuary Coastal Management Plan has been increased by \$150,000, to a revised budget of \$180,000, based on expenditure incurred.

This expenditure is funded on a 2:1 basis under the State Government Coastal and Estuary Grants Program.

The increase to this budget is funded through \$100,000 from the grant and the remaining \$50,000 funded from the Healthy Waterways budget.

*Open Spaces*

The expenditure budgets for the Open Spaces Section have been increased by a further \$300,000, following substantial increases over the past two quarters.

The increases are \$140,000 for open spaces operations, \$20,000 for urban tree maintenance, \$40,000 for sports field operations and \$100,000 for public amenities.

Some further increases have also been necessary for 2026/27 operating budgets, to bring those budgets to match the 2025/26 revised budgets.

These increases highlight the strain on operations within this section.

**Civil Services Division**

*Infrastructure Planning*

The expenditure budgets show a decrease of \$46,000.

This represents the reversal of interest payable that had been previously recognised as an expense.

Interest had been accrued across 2023/24 and 2024/25 in relation to interest payable by Council for an amount outstanding to the Crown in relation to the Lighthouse Parade Crown Land acquisition.

Council had requested rescission of the land acquisition and had been in discussions with the Crown over this time, and interest had continued to accrue.

It has now been confirmed that Council has been successful with the rescission of the land acquisition, and interest that had been accruing, on the amount outstanding, has also been revoked.

*Roads and Bridges*

This section encompasses roads, bridges, stormwater and ancillary transport services. Expenditure budgets have increased by a net \$106,000.

A new expenditure budget of \$40,000 for a Flood Property Portal, corresponding to the grant funding from NRRRP noted earlier in this report.

New budgets are raised corresponding to approved Natural Disaster funding of \$60,000.

This expenditure is allocated as \$20,000 for Houghlahans Creek Road landslip, \$20,000 for Teven Road landslip, \$10,000 for Rutherford Street stormwater outlet damage, and \$10,000 for Lennox Boardwalk damage.

The expenditure budget for street cleaning is increased by \$20,000, to a revised budget of \$450,000, based on trend.

A budget of \$14,000 has been transferred from the Regional Roads Operating budgets, to partly fund the Flood Camera for Wardell Road, noted within the Capital works section later in this report.

*Landfill and Resource Management*

As noted earlier, expenditure budgets are increased by \$220,000 in total.

An expenditure budget of \$110,000 is raised for the Tip Shop operations, corresponding to the income budget raised earlier within this report.

The budget for the transport and disposal of residual waste has been increased by \$95,000, to a revised budget of \$7.82m.

This is a direct result of the increase in transport and disposal contract costs due to the rise in fuel costs.

Other small budget adjustments with a net increase of \$15,000, have been made to back of house operations, dust suppression and leachate management.

*Domestic Waste Management*

As noted earlier, expenditure budgets are increased by \$282,000 in total.

This is a direct result of the increase in the kerbside bin collection contract costs due to the rise in fuel costs.

***Corporate and Community Division***

*Communications and Customer Service*

Software budget of \$50,000 is transferred to the Information Services section.

This budget is for the online booking system that enables the public to view facility availability and make bookings online. The system is available for community facilities and open spaces.

As this is maintained by the Information Services Section, the budget is now consolidated within that section's Software Licence Fees budget.

The budget for Australia Day is increased by \$4,000, to \$38,000, to match expenditure incurred.

*Financial Services*

The budget for Asset Revaluations has increased by \$8,000.

This is to allow for an independent valuation of investment properties to meet Australian Accounting Standard statutory requirements for the preparation of the 2025/26 financial statements.

This expenditure is to be funded from the Legal / Audit / Revaluation Reserve within the Financial Services Section.

*Information Services*

As noted earlier, a software budget of \$50,000 is transferred from the Communications and Customer Service section.

*Property Management*

As noted earlier, expenditure budgets for the Flat Rock Tent Park, are increased by \$20,000 in total.

The budget for advertising is increased by \$15,000, to \$30,000, to meet actual expenditure due to website improvements.

The budget for waste removal is increased by \$5,000, to a revised budget of \$15,000, based on actual expenditure.

*Ballina Byron Gateway Airport (BBGA)*

Expenditure budgets are increased by \$145,000 in total. The major increase is for salaries and consultant budgets, up by \$150,000.

Staff vacancies resulting in position secondments and recruitment processes caused an increased use of consultants to fill and support essential roles and resulted in an increase in staff overtime.

The budget for apron maintenance is increased by \$64,000, to meet patching costs in relation to a significant asphalt failure in Bay 4.

Savings totalling \$69,000 were identified across other airport maintenance budgets to offset the budget increases noted.

*Facilities Management*

Expenditure budgets have been increased by \$25,000.

The budget for administration building maintenance has been increased by \$25,000 to \$156,000, based on expenditure incurred.

*Library Services*

A budget of \$22,000 is raised for various items for the Lennox Head library, including the installation of a secure RFID return chute, entry foyer storage works and a library trolley.

These works are funded from the Library Special Projects Reserve, which relates to unexpended grant funds for the libraries.

*Swimming Pools*

Expenditure budgets have been reduced by a total of \$20,000.

The Ballina Memorial Swimming Pool will be closed across June 2026 for annual scheduled maintenance.

The maintenance expenditure for the Ballina Memorial Swimming Pool has been increased \$20,000, to a revised budget of \$105,000, offset by other savings.

*Destination and Economy*

An expenditure budget of \$20,000 is raised for forecast expenses for the Country Mayors Association Regional meeting to be held in Ballina.

*Plant Operations*

Expenditure budgets have been increased \$200,000, based on trend.

**Water Operations**

The next table details the forecast operating result for the Water Fund.

**Water - Statement of Operating Income and Expenses (\$ '000)**

Item	Original Budget	Dec Budget	Other Approved Changes	Revised Budget	Changes for Approval	Mar Budget	Actual to Mar
Operating Income	17,762	17,814	0	17,814	73	17,887	12,012
Operating Expenses (excl. dep)	14,694	14,891	0	14,891	287	15,178	12,175
<b>Operating Result Before Dep</b>	<b>3,068</b>	<b>2,923</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,923</b>	<b>(214)</b>	<b>2,709</b>	<b>(163)</b>
Depreciation and Non-cash	2,250	2,250	0	2,250	0	2,250	1,688
<b>Net Operating Result</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>(214)</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>(1,851)</b>

The **Forecast Operating Result** (inclusive of depreciation) **as at 31 March 2026** is a surplus of \$459,000 with a deterioration of \$214,000 from changes made as part of this review.

Operating income budgets are increased by a \$73,000.

Following a recalculation of Council’s forecast interest income to be received for cash and investment holdings for the year, interest income budgets have been reviewed based on expected reserve balances.

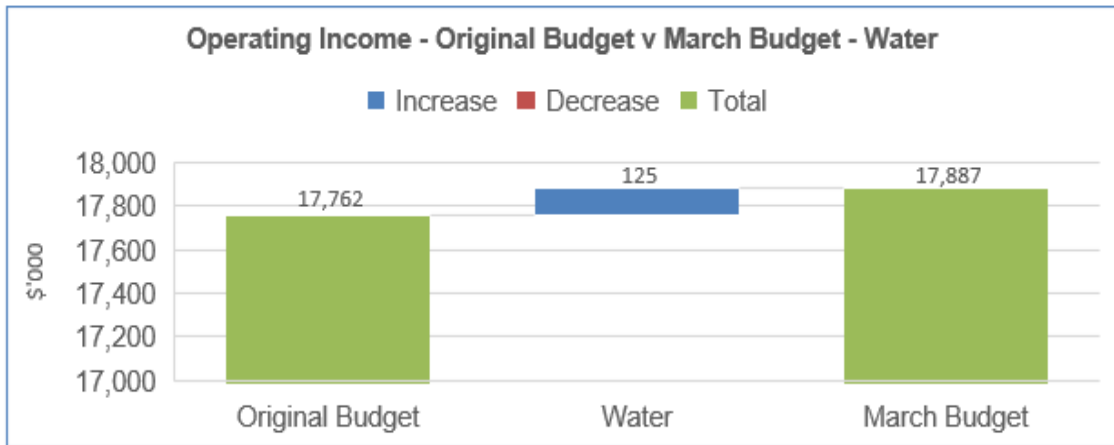
The budgets for interest income for the Water Fund are increased by \$73,000.

Operating expenditure budgets are increased by \$287,000.

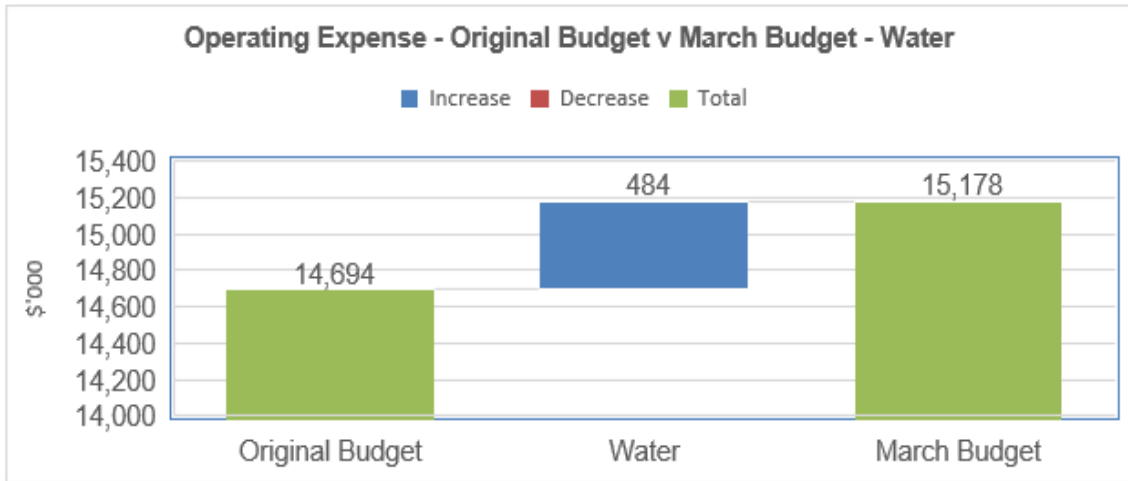
Adjustments to operating expenditure budgets were made for:

- Increase of \$234,000 for drinking water mains. There has been a significant focus on leak repairs, and several fire hydrant repairs have been completed following Council’s regular inspection program.
- Increase of \$24,000 to miscellaneous budgets, primarily telemetry.
- Increase of \$10,000 to reservoirs maintenance and operations budgets.
- Increase of \$9,000 to treatment budgets.

The following chart graph shows cumulative income budget changes, being increases of \$125k for the year to date, for Water Operations.



The following chart shows the cumulative expenditure budget changes, being increases of \$484k for the year to date, for Water Operations.



**Wastewater Operations**

The next table details the forecast operating result for the Wastewater Fund.

**Wastewater - Statement of Operating Income and Expenses (\$ '000)**

Item	Original Budget	Dec Budget	Other Approved Changes	Revised Budget	Changes for Approval	Mar Budget	Actual to Mar
Operating Income	24,900	27,920	0	27,920	346	28,266	25,330
Operating Expenses (excl. dep)	14,793	14,831	0	14,831	85	14,916	10,570
<b>Operating Result Before Dep</b>	<b>10,107</b>	<b>13,089</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13,089</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>13,350</b>	<b>14,760</b>
Depreciation and Non-cash	5,300	5,300	0	5,300	0	5,300	3,975
<b>Net Operating Result</b>	<b>4,807</b>	<b>7,789</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,789</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>8,050</b>	<b>10,785</b>

The **Forecast Operating Result** (inclusive of depreciation) **as at 31 March 2026** is a surplus of \$8.05m, with an improvement of \$261,000 from changes made as part of this review.

Operating income budgets are increased \$346,000.

## 8.9 Financial Year 2025/26 - 31 March 2026 Review

Following a recalculation of Council's forecast interest income to be received for cash and investment holdings for the year, interest income budgets have been reviewed based on expected reserve balances.

The budgets for interest income for the Wastewater Fund are increased by \$176,000.

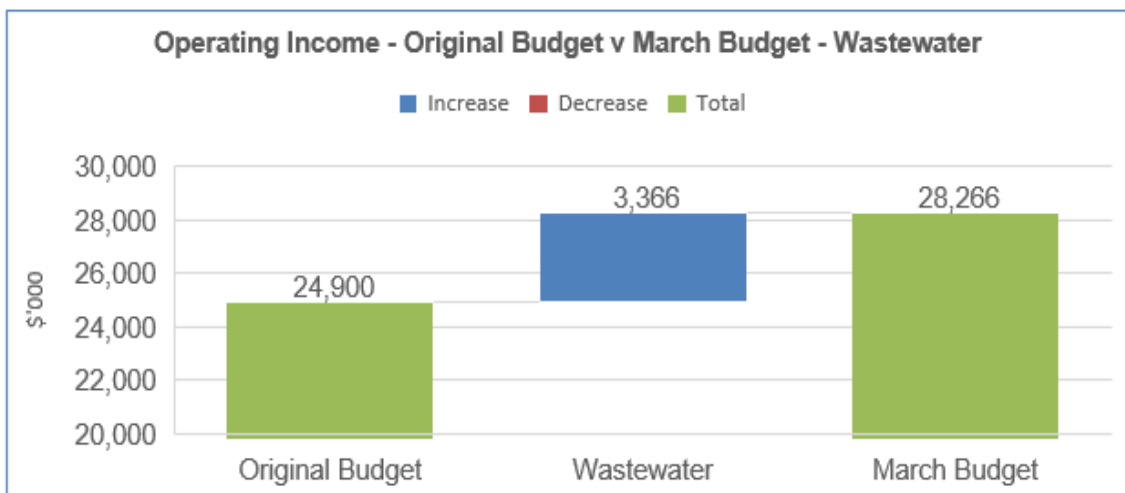
Recycled water income budgets have been increased by \$150,000, based on trending of residential and non-residential usage.

Forecast income from Septic Waste Disposal fees is increased by \$20,000, to a revised forecast of \$220,000, based on trend.

Operating expenditure budgets are increased by a net \$85,000, with the larger adjustments including:

- Net increase of \$177,000 for Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) maintenance budgets. At the Ballina WWTP, reactive maintenance budgets are up by \$70,000 and other maintenance budgets are up by \$50,000, with a major service to the drum screening and major repairs to the blowers. At the Lennox Head WWTP, reactive maintenance budgets are up by \$40,000, with major repairs and service to the aerators.
- Net increase of \$99,000 for WWTP operations budgets. At the Ballina WWTP, operations budgets are up by \$70,000, with increased costs due to the failure of the blowers.
- The budget for the Alstonville Treatment Plant Master Plan has been decreased by \$80,000, to a budget of \$20,000, as this work will be completed in 2026/27 and 2027/28.
- The budget for the Wardell Treatment Plant Master Plan, of \$100,000, has also been deferred to 2026/27.

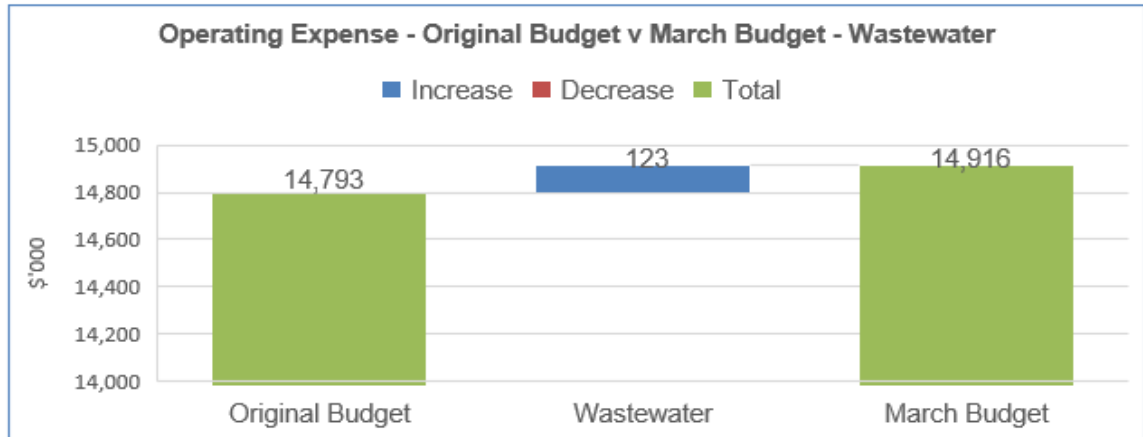
The following graph shows cumulative income budget increases of \$3,366k for the year to date, for Wastewater Operations.



Insurance income of \$2m, interest income of \$420k and access charges income of \$600k was included in the September and December reviews.

## 8.9 Financial Year 2025/26 - 31 March 2026 Review

The following chart shows cumulative expenditure budget increases of \$123k for the year to date, for Wastewater Operations.



### Section Three - Capital Budgets - 2025/26

This section of the report looks at capital expenditure.

#### General Fund - Capital Budget - Source and Application of Funds (\$ '000)

Capital Funding / Expenditure	Original Budget	Dec Budget	Other Approved Changes	Revised Budget	Changes for Approval	Mar Budget	Actual to Mar
General revenue	10,519	10,519	(1,022)	9,497	(22)	9,475	
Reserves	19,110	17,488	(6,991)	10,497	(94)	10,403	
Loans	1,250	0	0	0	0	0	
Section 7.11 contributions	19,940	9,024	(364)	8,660	0	8,660	
Grants and contributions	49,927	33,399	(3,180)	30,219	(301)	29,918	
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>100,746</b>	<b>70,430</b>	<b>(11,557)</b>	<b>58,873</b>	<b>(417)</b>	<b>58,456</b>	<b>26,593</b>
<b>Planning and Environmental Health Division</b>							
Health and Environment	86	94	0	94	0	94	36
Open Spaces	6,249	7,957	(3,478)	4,479	0	4,479	3,763
<b>Civil Services Division</b>							
Infrastructure Planning	43	189	0	189	0	189	0
Roads and Bridges	72,626	44,143	(2,851)	41,292	(287)	41,005	16,069
Emergency Services	2,700	4,569	0	4,569	0	4,569	3,095
Waste Management	1,250	682	0	682	0	682	310
<b>Corporate and Community Division</b>							
Information Services	0	500	(300)	200	0	200	0
Property Development and Management	320	2,838	(1,920)	918	(130)	788	506
Ballina Byron Gateway Airport	5,400	1,213	(768)	445	0	445	418
Facilities Management	10,025	6,115	(2,240)	3,875	0	3,875	1,622
Swimming Pools	47	40	0	40	0	40	40
Destination and Economy	0	90	0	90	0	90	90
Plant Operations	2,000	2,000	0	2,000	0	2,000	645
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>100,746</b>	<b>70,430</b>	<b>(11,557)</b>	<b>58,873</b>	<b>(417)</b>	<b>58,456</b>	<b>26,593</b>

**General Fund**

A review of the capital works program was presented in the report titled “Capital Expenditure Program – 31 March 2025 Review”, to the 23 April Ordinary meeting. The following budget adjustments are made as part of this report:

*Roads and Bridges*

Budget of \$338,000 for The Coast Road segment 200, has been deferred to 2026/27.

These works are partly funded under the Roads to Recovery Program, for which there is a corresponding deferral of grant funding, as noted earlier within the Operating Income section of this report.

A new budget of \$24,000 for a Flood Camera on Wardell Road is raised.

This is funded as \$10,000 grant funding from NRRRP and \$14,000 transferred from Regional Roads Operating budgets.

A new budget of \$27,000 is raised for car park works at Mellis Circuit, Alstonville.

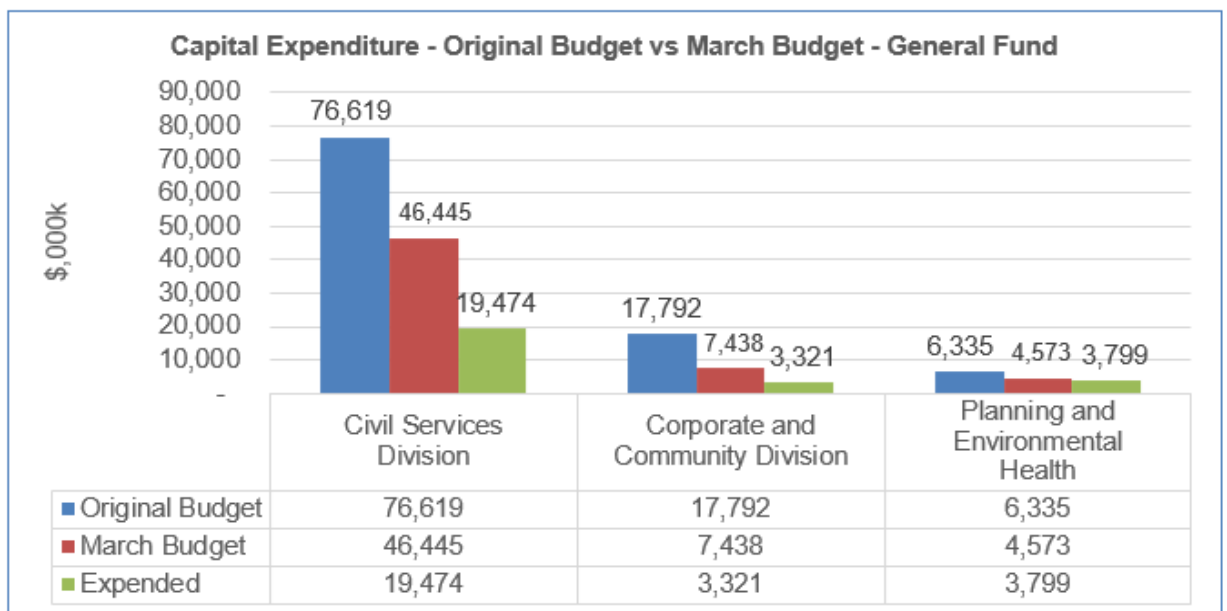
This capital expense is offset by a corresponding capital income budget, being a contribution paid by NSW Fire & Rescue.

*Property - Flat Rock Tent Park*

This expenditure is included with the Property Development section.

Capital budget of \$130,000 has been deferred to 2026/27, resulting in a revised capital expenditure budget of \$250,000 for 2025/26 and a revised budget of \$200,000 for 2026/27.

The following chart shows the Original General Fund capital budget, revised March budget alongside Actuals to 31 March 2026, by Division.



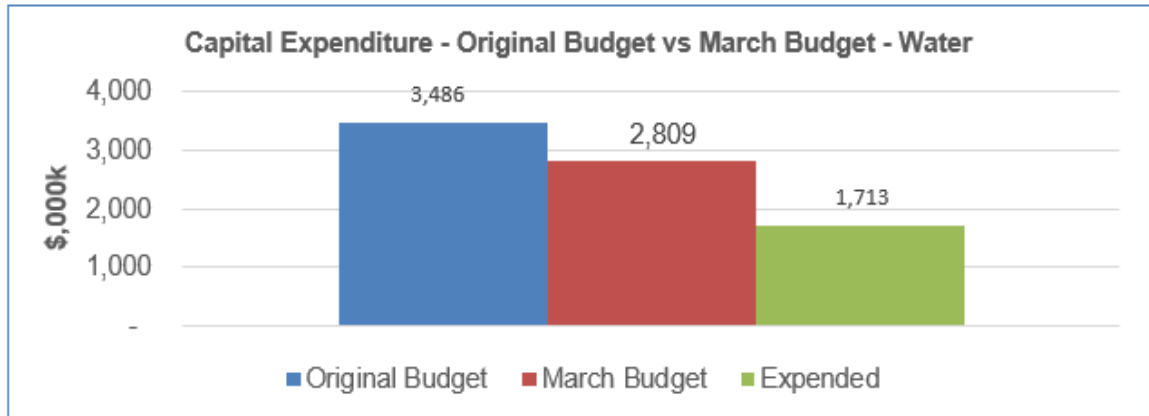
**Water Fund**

**Water - Capital Budget - Source and Application of Funds (\$'000)**

Capital Funding / Expenditure	Original Budget	Dec Budget	Other Approved Changes	Revised Budget	Changes for Approval	Mar Budget	Actual to Mar
<b>Funding</b>							
Reserves	3,436	2,829	(30)	2,799	0	2,799	
Section 64 contributions	50	10	0	10	0	10	
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>3,486</b>	<b>2,839</b>	<b>(30)</b>	<b>2,809</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,809</b>	<b>1,713</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>3,486</b>	<b>2,839</b>	<b>(30)</b>	<b>2,809</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,809</b>	<b>1,713</b>

A review of the capital works program was presented in the report titled “Capital Expenditure Program – 31 March 2025 Review”, to the 23 April Ordinary meeting. No further adjustments are proposed in this report.

The following chart shows the Original Water Fund capital budget, revised March budget alongside Actuals to 31 March 2026, for the Civil Services Division.



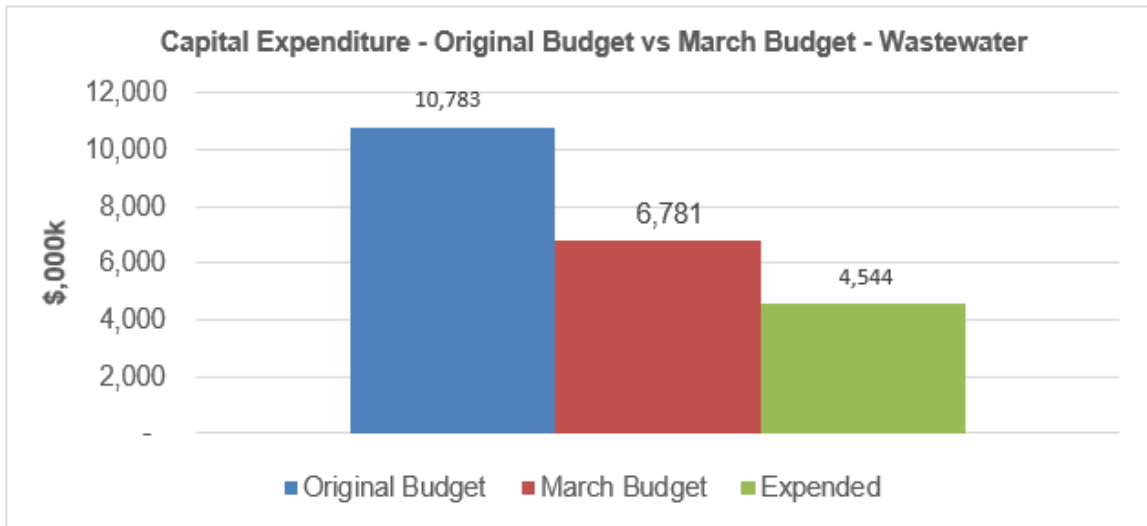
**Wastewater Fund**

**Wastewater - Capital Budget - Source and Application of Funds (\$'000)**

Capital Funding / Expenditure	Original Budget	Dec Budget	Other Approved Changes	Revised Budget	Changes for Approval	Mar Budget	Actual to Mar
<b>Funding</b>							
Reserves	8,533	8,543	(2,550)	5,993	0	5,993	
Section 64 contributions	2,250	1,873	(1,085)	788	0	788	
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>10,783</b>	<b>10,416</b>	<b>(3,635)</b>	<b>6,781</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,781</b>	<b>4,544</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>10,783</b>	<b>10,416</b>	<b>(3,635)</b>	<b>6,781</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,781</b>	<b>4,544</b>

A review of the capital works program was presented in the report titled “Capital Expenditure Program – 31 March 2025 Review”, to the 23 April Ordinary meeting. No further adjustments are proposed in this report.

The following chart shows the Original Wastewater Fund capital budget, revised March budget alongside Actuals to 31 March 2026, for the Civil Services Division.



**Section Four - Cash and Investment Statement**

The next table shows the forecast for externally and internally restricted reserves.

**Forecast Restricted Reserves as at 30 June 2026 (\$'000)**

Reserve Title	Dec Budget	Other Approved Changes	Revised Budget	Changes for Approval	Mar Budget
<b>Externally Restricted</b>					
Section 7.11	20,851	364	21,215	(157)	21,058
Domestic Waste Management	1,048	0	1,048	(267)	781
Section 64 Water	12,065	0	12,065	(53)	12,012
Water	6,944	30	6,974	(261)	6,713
Section 64 Wastewater	8,795	1,314	10,109	(171)	9,938
Wastewater	12,765	2,611	15,376	182	15,558
<b>Total Externally Restricted</b>	<b>62,468</b>	<b>4,319</b>	<b>66,787</b>	<b>(727)</b>	<b>66,060</b>
<b>Internally Restricted</b>					
Council Elections	95	0	95	0	95
Financial Assistance Grant	3,177	0	3,177	0	3,177
Legal / Audit / Revaluations	159	0	159	(8)	151
Employee Leave Entitlements	2,994	0	2,994	0	2,994
Risk Management Projects / Insurance	122	0	122	0	122
Community Infrastructure Reserve	6,682	275	6,957	30	6,987
Property Development Reserve	8,540	(485)	8,055	0	8,055
Wigmore Arcade	1,216	0	1,216	0	1,216
Crown Properties Rental	104	0	104	0	104
Flat Rock Tent Park	53	0	53	80	133
Quarries	133	360	493	0	493
Airport	5,665	768	6,433	(220)	6,213
Facilities Management	207	901	1,108	0	1,108
Library Special Projects	380	0	380	(22)	358
Plant Replacement	322	0	322	34	356
Administration Building and Depot	187	700	887	0	887
Other Corporate and Community	141	0	141	0	141
Strategic Planning Studies and Proposals	233	0	233	0	233

## 8.9 Financial Year 2025/26 - 31 March 2026 Review

Reserve Title	Dec Budget	Other Approved Changes	Revised Budget	Changes for Approval	Mar Budget
Section 7.11 Plan Reviews	180	0	180	0	180
Public Art	127	15	142	0	142
Environment and Health	240	50	290	0	290
Vegetation Works	347	0	347	0	347
Public Amenities	160	0	160	0	160
Open Spaces	460	1,325	1,785	0	1,785
Sports Fields	650	103	753	0	753
Cemeteries	237	0	237	0	237
Stormwater Capital	262	616	878	0	878
Stormwater and Environ Mgmt Plans	176	0	176	0	176
Canal Dredging	120	0	120	0	120
Bypass Funds	3,153	100	3,253	(10)	3,243
Road Works and Contingencies	3,462	360	3,822	1,728	5,550
Street Cleaning	101	0	101	0	101
Footpaths and Other Ancillary Works	15	895	910	0	910
Boat Ramps and Infrastructure	96	0	96	0	96
Landfill and Resource Management	9	0	9	20	29
<b>Total Internally Restricted</b>	<b>40,205</b>	<b>5,983</b>	<b>46,188</b>	<b>1,632</b>	<b>47,820</b>
<b>Total Restricted</b>	<b>102,673</b>	<b>10,302</b>	<b>112,975</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>113,880</b>

### Comment on Cash and Investment Position

The changes in this report increase the reserves by a net \$0.905m resulting in a forecast balance for restricted reserves of \$113.88m.

The changes to reserves made as part of this review have been noted earlier in this report within 'Section One-Operating Income and Expenditure' or 'Section Two – Capital Budgets', with the addition of changes to forecast Section 7.11 capital income contributions, Section 64 capital income contributions, and a significant road contribution, noted as follows.

#### *Section 7.11 Reserves*

The forecast capital income budget for Section 7.11 contributions is reduced by \$400,000, from \$3.5m to \$3.1m based on trend. Partially offsetting this was an increase of \$243,000 to interest income allocated to these reserves.

#### *Domestic Waste Management*

There is a decrease of \$267,000 to this reserve, being the net of changes to the operating result noted within this report.

#### *Water Reserves*

Water Reserves are decreased by a net of \$314,000. There is a decrease of \$214,000 for adjustments to the operating result noted earlier within this report.

The forecast capital income budget for Section 64 contributions is also reduced by \$100,000, from \$350,000 to \$250,000, based on trend.

*Wastewater Reserves*

Wastewater Reserves are increased by a net \$11,000. There is an increase of \$261,000 for adjustments to the operating result noted earlier within this report.

Partially offsetting this, the forecast capital income budget for Section 64 contributions is reduced by \$250,000, from \$1,000,000 to \$750,000, based on trending of income received for the first three quarters of the year.

*Legal/Audit /Revaluations*

There is a decrease of \$8,000 to this reserve, being funding for the revaluation of Council's investment property portfolio.

*Community Infrastructure Reserve*

There is an increase of \$30,000, being a transfer back to reserves for a bond refund noted within the Operating Income for the Infrastructure Planning Section within this report.

*Flat Rock Tent Park*

There is a net increase of \$80,000 to this reserve. An increase of \$130,000 is for the deferral of capital expenditure offset partially by the deterioration to the operating result of \$50,000.

*Airport*

There is a decrease of \$220,000 being the net adjustment to operating budgets noted within this report.

*Library Special Projects*

There is a decrease of \$22,000 for works identified within the Operating Expenses section of this report.

*Plant*

There is an increase of \$34,000 to the reserve, being funds transferred from savings identified within the Development Services section, to fund the purchase of an additional vehicle.

*Bypass Funds*

There is a decrease of \$10,000 to the Bypass Reserves, representing a decrease in interest income.

*Roadworks and Contingencies*

There is a new reserve allocation, of \$1,728,000 within the Road Works section, resulting from a new capital income budget. A deed between Council and Rous has been signed, confirming the contribution of this amount to Council towards future roundabout works for the corner of Gallans Road and Tamarind Drive.

## **8.9 Financial Year 2025/26 - 31 March 2026 Review**

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These funds are expected to be received before 30 June 2026. These funds are to be held within the reserve until such time as the total proposed expenditure budget, funding sources and timing of works are determined.

### *Landfill and Resource Management*

There is an increase of \$20,000 being the net adjustment to operating budgets noted within this report.

### **Section Five - Certification**

The following statement is made in accordance with clause 203(2) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021.

It is my opinion that the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for Ballina Shire Council for the quarter ended 31 March 2026 indicates that Council's projected financial position at 30 June 2026 is satisfactory, having regard to the projected estimates of income and expenditure and the original budgeted income and expenditure.

The satisfactory position is based on the short term (twelve month) outlook.



Signed Linda Coulter, Responsible Accounting Officer

### **Delivery Program Strategy / Operational Plan Activity**

The content of this report relates directly to the financial sustainability of Council. This is identified within Council's adopted Delivery Program, under Direction 4: Engaged Leadership.

EL2.1d – Pursue financial sustainability.

### **Community Engagement Strategy**

This report has been prepared to inform the community of budget variations. Staff have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

### **Financial / Risk Considerations**

This report details financial results to date in comparison to budget.

### **Options**

Council may approve the budget amendments or make further changes.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That Council notes the contents of this report for the 31 March 2026 Quarterly Financial Review and approves the budget changes identified within the report.
2. That Council approves the contents of the templates under the Quarterly Budget Review Statement Guidelines (QBRS Guidelines) issued by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, as per Attachment 1 to this report and approves the budget changes identified within.

**Attachment(s)**

1. Quarterly Budget Review Statement-Department of Housing, Planning and Infrastructure (for attaching to Council report) [⇒](#)

9. Civil Services Division Reports

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**9. Civil Services Division Reports**

Nil Items

## **10.1 Notice of Motion - Ballina Bar Safety, Break Wall and Access Road**

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### **10. Notices of Motion**

#### **10.1 Notice of Motion - Ballina Bar Safety, Break Wall and Access Road**

**Councillor** Cr Karsten

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I move:

That Council:

1. Acknowledges the tragic loss of life on 4 May 2026 of William “Bill” Ewen and Frank Petsch of Marine Rescue NSW and Matthew Clayton and extends its deepest condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of those who lost their lives. That we recognise and thank the members of the local Ballina Marine Rescue team who responded on the evening of 4 May 2026 and acknowledge their bravery, professionalism and commitment to the safety of our community and beyond, along with the SES, NSW Police and all first responders who supported both on the night and into the morning of the 5 May 2026.
2. Writes to the State Government, including the Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Heritage; the Hon. John Graham MLC, Minister for Roads and Transport; the Hon. Yasmin Catley, MP, Minister for Police and Counter Terrorism; the Hon. Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Regional NSW, as well as relevant agencies including Transport for NSW and Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water requesting a coordinated inter-agency response to address the safety and infrastructure issues of South Ballina.

That this correspondence include:

- The structural condition and effectiveness of the South Ballina break wall
- The deteriorating condition of the emergency access road to the South Ballina break wall and surrounding coastal infrastructure
- The implications of the condition of the Ballina Richmond River bar and the impact to public safety, vessel navigation, and emergency service access.

That consideration be given to State Government support and funding addressing:

- Immediate safety and access improvements
- Medium to long-term infrastructure works, including the bar, break wall remediation, and road stabilisation.

## 10.1 Notice of Motion - Ballina Bar Safety, Break Wall and Access Road

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### Councillor Comments

The South Ballina break wall and surrounding coastal entrance have changed substantially since the floods in 2022 and Cyclone Alfred in March of 2025.

The Ballina Richmond River bar is a well-known and dynamic coastal entrance which is subject to constantly changing conditions which present regular risks to vessel operators, including those working in our local fishing industry, tourism through whale watching and of course our emergency services to name a few.

The emergency access road from Mobbs Bay to the ocean end of the wall continues to be eroded away.

Most of the year this road is accessed by foot for recreation access (by bird watchers, bush walkers, fisherman and surfers, etc.), but it also serves a critical function for emergency response.

The land is owned and managed by NSW National Parks and Wildlife and NSW Crown Lands. Council's management of South Ballina Beach Road stops at a point approximately 620m past the entrance to Ballina Beach Nature Resort, after which the road enters NSW National Park.

There is evidence of minor repairs, including treatment of sink holes, being undertaken along the road to try and a maintain safe and navigable road for emergency vehicles.

I have attached a few photos taken the morning following the tragedy, while emergency vehicles were still on site.

Sadly, the invasive weed known as the bitou bush is horribly the only thing saving parts of the road from dangerous collapse up to the tyre tracks.

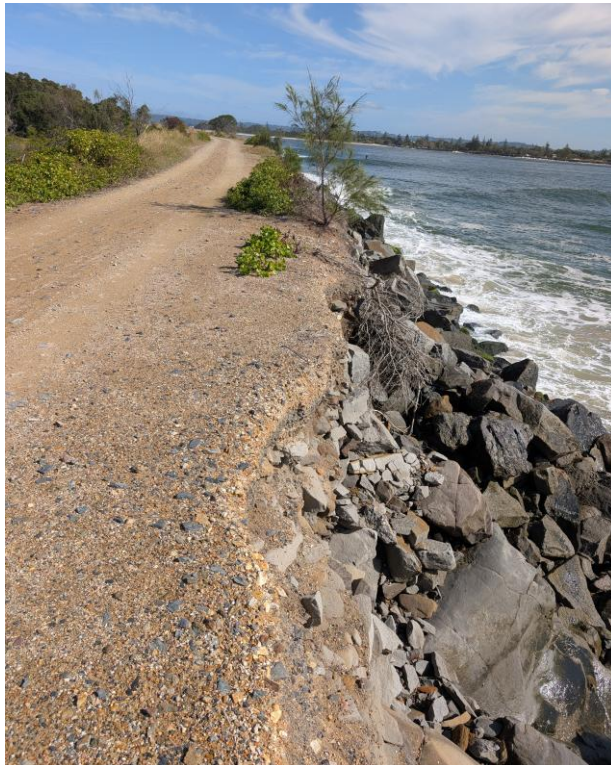


Image 1 – taken by Cr Karsten

**10.1 Notice of Motion - Ballina Bar Safety, Break Wall and Access Road**

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**Image 2 – taken by Cr Karsten**



**Image 3 – taken by Cr Karsten**

## 10.1 Notice of Motion - Ballina Bar Safety, Break Wall and Access Road

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Besides the road condition leading up to the South Wall, the access beyond the South Wall has also changed significantly with a substantial sand dune that has built up beyond the concrete block. See recent photos compared to the same photo and sign in 2020.



Image 4 – taken by Roslyn Felsch

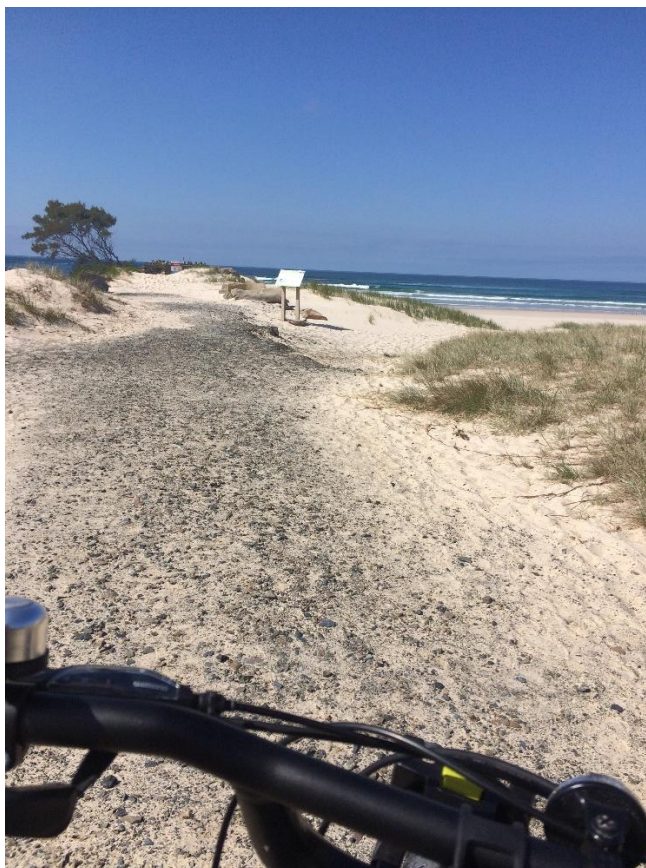


Image 5 – taken by Roslyn Felsch



**Image 6 – taken by Roslyn Felsch**

The other issue, that is often discussed locally and needs a serious look, is a benefit analysis of dredging at the bar and whether it will make a positive or negative impact of the safety of the ocean entrance to Ballina for boats, for emergency services, and for the longevity of the South Ballina break wall.

### **Conclusion**

This motion seeks to highlight that an inter-agency coordinated response is required to deal with the substantial and complex safety issues of this key coastal area. The community seeks comprehensive answers to these key concerns and questions.

**COUNCILLOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Council:

1. Acknowledges the tragic loss of life on 4 May 2026 of William “Bill” Ewen and Frank Petsch of Marine Rescue NSW and Matthew Clayton and extends its deepest condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of those who lost their lives. That we recognise and thank the members of the local Ballina Marine Rescue team who responded on the evening of 4 May 2026 and acknowledge their bravery, professionalism and commitment to the safety of our community and beyond, along with the SES, NSW Police and all first responders who supported both on the night and into the morning of the 5 May 2026.
2. Writes to the State Government, including the Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Heritage; the Hon. John Graham MLC, Minister for Roads and Transport; the Hon. Yasmin Catley, MP, Minister for Police and Counter Terrorism; the Hon. Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Regional NSW, as well as relevant agencies including Transport for NSW and Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water requesting a coordinated inter-agency response to address the safety and infrastructure issues of South Ballina.

That this correspondence include:

- The structural condition and effectiveness of the South Ballina break wall
- The deteriorating condition of the emergency access road to the South Ballina break wall and surrounding coastal infrastructure
- The implications of the condition of the Ballina Richmond River bar and the impact to public safety, vessel navigation, and emergency service access.

That consideration be given to State Government support and funding addressing:

- Immediate safety and access improvements
- Medium to long-term infrastructure works, including the bar, break wall remediation, and road stabilisation.

**Attachment(s)**

Nil

## **10.2 Notice of Motion - Big Scrub Rainforest - Protection and Enhancement**

### **10.2 Notice of Motion - Big Scrub Rainforest - Protection and Enhancement**

**Councillor**

Cr Chate

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I move:

That Council actively seeks opportunities to:

1. Promote the protection, enhancement and expansion of Big Scrub rainforest remnants within our shire
2. Raise dedicated funds through grant applications to relevant State, federal and corporate bodies for increased levels of rainforest restoration and expansion within our shire
3. Communicate with, incentivise and work with amenable private landholders with the goal of locating additional land on which to extend some of these local Big Scrub rainforest pockets.

#### **Councillor Comments**

The Big Scrub rainforest once covered the Northern Rivers – stretching east and south from the Nightcap Range across through Goonengerry to Byron Bay, then south, right down past Clunes, Bangalow and Alstonville to Meerschaum Vale and then west, across to Dunoon and Lismore.

Originally, it covered an incredible 75,000 hectares but in the 1840's European settlers began clearing the forest, harvesting red cedar trees for its valuable wood and opening land for agriculture.

Of the 75,000 hectares, there are less than 700 hectares remaining today – that's less than 1% of the original Gondwanan Big Scrub rainforest. And the vast majority of the remaining rainforest remnants are under five hectares in area.

Within these remaining Big Scrub remnants, there are at least 61 threatened species of fauna, including nine that are classified as endangered and 38 species of threatened flora, 19 of which are endangered.

And in Ballina Shire, we are home to a few of these remaining pockets.

In 2024, I attended the Rainforest Connections conference, held in the Ballina RSL. This was the first conference dedicated to the protection and restoration of our rainforests for more than 25 years.

At this conference, there were many people representing many organisations, all of which had one goal in common – the protection, restoration and regeneration of our rainforests.

I spoke to representatives from Local Land Services, Rainforest Rescue, the Big Scrub Rainforest Conservancy and many other organisations as well as many members of various local Landcare and riparian groups.

## **10.2 Notice of Motion - Big Scrub Rainforest - Protection and Enhancement**

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There are so many experts out there, people working tirelessly in rainforest science and education as well as those dedicated to revegetation and restoration.

There are also many destructive weed species which threaten to overrun our native forest, and it's clear that the work needed to restore our rainforests is significant and requires many hands.

I believe we as a Council can do more to achieve an increase in both quantity and quality of rainforest within our shire.

Obviously, I am not advocating the removal or destruction of any existing development in lieu of new rainforest plantings, what I am calling for in this notice of motion is for Council to seek out financial opportunities and collaborative pathways towards the expansion and restoration of the Big Scrub rainforest within our region.

### **Staff Comments**

Council has a number of programs involving native vegetation restoration. These programs include implementation of vegetation management plans on public land, riparian and other vegetation restoration and enhancement projects through Council's Healthy Waterways Program and habitat restoration works (e.g. koala habitat) under Council's Biodiversity Strategy.

Vegetation restoration works are progressively occurring throughout the shire, including in areas located on the Alstonville Plateau. The restoration of Alstonville Creek is an example of a recent project that is progressing on the plateau, noting further works are the subject of grant funding and a report regarding the award of a tender located elsewhere in this business agenda.

Further, Council will activate a rural landholders incentive program for vegetation restoration works under the Healthy Waterways Program in 2026/27. This follows the following Council resolution in September 2025:

*That Council approves the implementation of a small grants program for the restoration of private land, in rural areas, under the Healthy Waterways Program, as outlined within this report.*

Council routinely monitors grant funding opportunities and applications are made where outcomes align with Council's objectives and resources permit in relation to both grant funding requirements and physical delivery of projects.

### **COUNCILLOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Council actively seeks opportunities to:

1. Promote the protection, enhancement and expansion of Big Scrub rainforest remnants within our shire.
2. Raise dedicated funds through grant applications to relevant State, Federal and corporate bodies for increased levels of rainforest restoration and expansion within our shire.

## **10.2 Notice of Motion - Big Scrub Rainforest - Protection and Enhancement**

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3. Communicate with, incentivise and work with amenable private landholders with the goal of locating additional land on which to extend some of these local Big Scrub rainforest pockets.

### **Attachment(s)**

Nil

11. Advisory Committee Minutes

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**11. Advisory Committee Minutes**

Nil Items

## 12.1 Mayoral Meetings

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### 12. Reports from Councillors on Attendance on Council's behalf

#### 12.1 Mayoral Meetings

**Councillor** Sharon Cadwallader

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Activities I have attended, or propose to attend, at the time of writing this report, since the April 2026 Ordinary meeting are as follows:

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Meeting</u></b>
24 April	Meeting with Sasha Lennon: Ballina Shire Economic Development and Visitor Economy Strategy
25 April	Ballina RSL sub-Branch ANZAC Day Dawn Service & Breakfast
25 April	Ballina RSL sub-Branch ANZAC Day March & Lunch
28 April	Public Citizenship Ceremony (two ceremonies held)
29 April	Meeting with Pat Grier and Staff
29 April	Cr Training - Land and Environment Court, Lindsay Taylor Lawyers
30 April	NSW Local Government Grants Commission webinar
30 April	Meeting with Keith Duncan – Richmond River
30 April	Meeting with Northern NSW Local Health District meeting and Staff
30 April	Northern Rivers Community Gallery – May/June Exhibitions Launch
3 May	Our Kids Day Out
4 May	Mayor and General Manager weekly meeting
4 May	Richmond Police District - Probationary Constable Induction Day
5 May	Laid flowers at Marine Rescue tower to honour the lives lost in the Ballina bar boating tragedy of 4 May 2026
5 May	Visited injured Marine Rescue crew members in hospital
6 May	Australian Coastal Councils Association Office bearers meeting (Zoom)
7 May	LGNSW Rural and Regional Summit 2026
7 May	Country Mayors Association of NSW (CMA) Reception hosted by Hon Ben Franklin MLC with guest speaker Former Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK, CVO, MC
8 May	Country Mayors Association of NSW (CMA) Board meeting
8 May	Meeting with NSW Premier The Hon Chris Minns MP
11-21 May	Leave
22 May	North Coast & Mid North Coast Training Awards
23 May	Emmanuel Anglican College performance of Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
25 May	Mayor and General Manager weekly meeting
25 May	'Long Lunch' 88.9 Nora Vidler-Banksby radio interview
27 May	Ballina Byron Gateway Airport (BBGA) Aviation Careers' Days Expo
26 May	Alstonville Cultural Centre sod turn event
26 May	Ballina Shire Council National Volunteer Week Celebration
27 May	Ballina Byron Gateway Airport (BBGA) Aviation Careers' Days Expo
27 May	Mayor meeting with Boral and Staff – Teven Quarry
27 May	Ballina Chamber Business After Hours Networking event
28 May	Public Forum
28 May	Ordinary meeting

Deputy Mayor Cr Damian Loone attended the following activities:

25 April	Alstonville RSL sub-Branch ANZAC Day Service
28 April	Public Citizenship Ceremony
30 April	A Ward Committee Briefing with Caroline Klose
1 May	Beer & Beef invited speaker re Ballina Bridges Duplication
6 May	The Long Roll - Cherry Street Sports Club with Cr Kinny
8 May	Meeting with Disability Advisory Group with Cr Dicker
8 May	ClubsNSW Purple Friday Community High Tea – invited speaker
12 May	A Ward Committee Meeting

## **12.1 Mayoral Meetings**

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14 May	Meeting with Sally Layton re The Green Seat Project
16 May	NSW SES North Eastern Zone Awards Ceremony
17 May	Marine Tower wreath laying with Lennox Machinery Club
21 May	Opening of Bolt & Buckle retail store in Alstonville
26 May	Ballina Byron Gateway Airport Aviation expo
26 May	Ballina Shire National Volunteers Week – Shaws Bay Hotel

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council notes the contents of the report on Mayoral meetings.

### **Attachment(s)**

Nil

13. Confidential Session

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**13. Confidential Session**

Nil Items