

Attachment 1 Under Separate Cover  
Submissions and Council Officer Responses  
Extraordinary Meeting of Council



*We're With* **YOU**

Wednesday 28 June, 2023

Council Chambers, Wingecarribee Shire Council Civic  
Centre 68 Elizabeth Street, Moss Vale at 4.30pm

Extraordinary Meeting of Council - 28 June 2023  
Attachments

**7.1 RESOURCING STRATEGY, DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPERATIONAL  
PLAN INCLUDING BUDGET INCLUDING FEES AND CHARGES - POST  
EXHIBITION REPORT.....2**

7.1.1 Submissions And Council Officers Responses.....2

# AGENDA OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL WEDNESDAY 28 JUNE 2023

## Draft Resourcing Strategy 2023-2033, Delivery Program 2023-2025 and Operational Plan and Budget 2023/24 - Submissions and Staff Responses

Number	Name	Submission	Staff Response
01	<b>P. Cunningham Mittagong</b>  <b>Note - Received 17 May 2023 – pre-exhibition submission</b>	<p>Council is to markedly increase assorted building related fees as detailed in Southern Highlands Express 03 May quoting substantive comment from Theo Onisforou. Having been in Construction and Civil Engineering all my life, cost increases must always be justified, with alternatives, defined benefits and performance clearly stated. Simply raising prices and introducing new costs is a technique adopted at all levels of government. The results are normally increased bureaucracy but with few or none of the stated benefits for those who pay the costs – a core reason why Australia is uncompetitive. Council must therefore provide justification for the existing costs, before imposing new costs - for example:</p> <p>If the total cost of an employee is say \$180 per hour, and it takes a whole day to on average for one staff member to attend to a normal domestic DA/matter, then the cost to the applicant should be \$1440 for a full day cost module. Larger developments are simply more cost modules, charged according to a specific job schedule.</p> <p>What justification is there for any “neighbour notification” regardless of job size? For example: A template based letter sent to neighbours (irrespective of how many) might take 30 minutes at most, therefore council pass on \$90 as a fee. A new \$695 fee means a clear \$600 profit for council for doing nothing.</p> <p>What justification is there for Council to charge ANY percentage fee based on building cost? Once approved for construction, Council has no risk and does nothing because supposedly ‘expert’ “Certifiers” are paid to supposedly ensure compliance. Commercial projects normally involve an assortment of Architects, Engineers and whatever. So again – what are the justifications for council to charge a percentage?</p> <p>What performance guarantees will Council provide that benefits will be commensurate with whole of cost? Or will delays and apparent and real obfuscations continue?</p> <p>I am happy to pose more questions and (for a fee of course!) provide constructive comment regarding a system restructure to align council with commercial realities. For now, these simple questions must be addressed and made known to all ratepayers BEFORE any changes are implemented.</p>	<p>Council annually reviews its Operational Plan which includes its budget, fees and charges. The review of fees and charges includes consideration of Consumer Price Index (aligned with the Sydney All Groups), full or partial cost recovery, market rates and fees set by external statutory bodies. The draft 2023/34 fees and charges have been reviewed on this basis.</p> <p>At the meeting held on 10 May 2023, Council endorsed the draft Operational Plan 2023/24 including budget and fees and charges for public exhibition for 28 days. The exhibition period commenced on 12 May until 9 June 2023.</p>
02	<b>D. Anstiss Moss Vale</b>	<p>Spelling issue page 11, "General" not "Genertal manager"</p> <p>In regard to increasing the fees and charges along with 4.1 percent increase in rates plus .4 % - I fail to see how this lines up with the start of the document saying that you want to " keep people in the shire" (page 7) more rates and charges does not keep people in the shire.</p>	<p>Thank you for bringing this to Council’s attention, the spelling error will be rectified it in the final version of the document.</p> <p>Council understands your perspective regarding the proposed increase in fees and charges, as well as the 4.1 percent increase in rates. The intention is to strike a balance between the financial sustainability of the council and the well-being of the community</p>

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Number	Name	Submission	Staff Response
		<p>The elderly can hardly afford to retire here as the cost of living is so high, rates and charges that are costing so much they are sitting at home in the dark under a blanket as they can't afford to use the power and pay rates (I have seen this).</p> <p>The youth can hardly afford to buy in the market at all let alone be slugged by the rates and an increase in other fees and charges which again contradicts your Mangers opening address that there is an ageing workforce with 50% of the staff over 50 and there is going to be a focus on bringing young people into council. How many trainee council Officers will stick around paying fees and charges, rates that equate to a huge percentage of the years wages?</p> <p>I am a business owner in the highlands and can tell you that if this increase happens it will shut my business down. The general community is struggling to make ends meet not just elderly or youth. The onflow effect of the increases you propose is that there is nothing left for the greater community to spend in the community, in turn shutting down small and medium business and then the people that worked there leave the area.</p> <p>Then you, the council, have lost rates from those people, you have lost youth, you have lost experience, you have lost the community. No one wants to be a part of a community where the councils only solution to paying years of bad decisions and wastes of money is to keep jacking up the rates. If you really want to save the community, the "shire" you need to be a part of it and understand we just need a bit of a break.</p>	<p>members. Council aims to provide essential services, maintain infrastructure, and support the needs of all residents.</p> <p>While it may seem contradictory to aim at "keeping people in the shire" while proposing increased rates and charges, Council assures you that the primary objective is to create a sustainable environment for all residents. The decision to adjust rates and charges is not taken lightly, and Council considers the long-term effects on the community. Council recognise the challenges faced by different demographics, including the elderly and the youth, and strives to address these issues through various initiatives.</p> <p>Regarding the concerns about the elderly, Council is committed to ensuring that the Shire remains an affordable place for them to retire. Furthermore, Council understands the importance of attracting and retaining a diverse workforce, including young professionals and is actively working to create opportunities and support systems.</p> <p>Your points regarding the impact on businesses and the wider community are valid, and Council takes them seriously. Council understands that an increase in rates and charges can create financial strain on local businesses, which is not conducive to a thriving community. The aim is to strike a delicate balance between funding essential services and minimising the burden on businesses and residents.</p>
03	E. Leneve Mittagong	<p>The new fees and charges are an absolute joke.</p> <p>You charge for kerb and guttering at \$297 per l/m and footpaths at over \$300 how is this possible when before we were told that footpaths were a council responsibility as it benefited everyone, and the ratepayer had to pay for the kerb and guttering because it benefited the residence. Question is why do we pay rates for when these should be provided under the rates collected some houses in our street have been paying rates for over 80 years and still no kerb and guttering or footpaths.</p>	<p>Council resolved to no longer support the policy for resident kerb and gutter contributions. Residents are not required to contribute to kerb and gutter costs.</p> <p>The fees and charges relating to construction costs are established for third party damage costs. For example: If an individual or company damages council infrastructure. The damage costs will then be calculated using the rate disclosed on the fees and charges and invoiced to the third party.</p>

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		<p>Cemeteries - the charges here an absolute disgrace. Take Welby for instance it is not looked after properly, the amount of money charged for plaques is over the top for the stainless steel, when the paint fill does not even stay in, and it takes 6 months to actually receive.</p> <p>I thought with the new administration that things would improve they have not- you can't speak to anyone when you ring and then they don't get back to you and now you have the hide to want to charge when you want to speak to someone – when that is what they are paid for and what we pay rates for. The administrator was meant to work for the ratepayers not against.</p>	<p>Council wants to assure you that we value your feedback and take your concerns seriously. Council will review the charges for plaques to ensure they are reasonable and reflective of the quality provided. Additionally, Council will investigate the maintenance practices at Welby Cemetery to improve its overall upkeep.</p>
04	<b>L. Bramich Balmoral</b>	<p>Resourcing Strategy 2023-2033 = Great, balmoral is excluded again. Shire dog parks given more attention than our remote community, shame. At least council is consistent in delivering nothing.</p> <p>Resourcing Strategy 2023-2033 = Balmoral ignored again.</p> <p>Operational Plan 2023/2024 = Charged full rates for no curb and guttering. No community water storage. No recreational space or playground on council land. No public toilets. Still living on dirt road 30 years on. No locality signs. No vision. Thanks, WSC.</p>	<p>The draft Capital Works Program has been prepared with consideration of the condition and serviceability of existing infrastructure and available funding streams. Many projects listed are multi-year projects with delivery already in progress, or the funding is rigidly linked to a successful grant application or approved strategy.</p> <p>As part of the 2022/23 Capital Program, Council committed to the delivery of RFS Water Storage Tanks at Balmoral RFS Station and an upgrade of Balmoral Reserve. Balmoral Reserve upgrade will see the establishment of a grassed area and installation of park furniture to create a recreational &amp; community space for the Balmoral community. A pathway will also be constructed to link both the Community Hall and Balmoral Reserve with the bus shelters on Wilson Drive. These projects are both underway with completion forecast for early 2023/24.</p>
05	<b>J. McKern Moss Vale</b>	<p>I would like to congratulate the team on the visionary priorities for the Shire for 2023 and beyond. Unfortunately, I may not be on this planet to see many come to fruition but wish you well going forward. However, I do have some questions and observations.</p> <p>Moss Vale Bypass: What will the blow out cost to building the Bypass have on its estimated completion date? Will the building of the proposed Crematorium be put on hold?</p>	<p>Noted and thank you.</p> <p>The design phase of Moss Vale Bypass is on track for completion by the end of 2023. The construction phase of the project is unfunded. Council will continue to seek grant funding opportunities. The commencement of construction will be subject to funding being secured. The Moss Vale Bypass is a critical component in ensuring satisfactory traffic management within and around Moss Vale and therefore Council remains committed to the project. Funding of the Moss Vale Cemetery Masterplan is unrelated to the Moss Vale Bypass, with Stage 1 of the Masterplan programmed for 2024/25. The development of a crematorium is under consideration as part of a potential Stage 2 of the Masterplan, however delivery of this item by Council would subject to the findings of a detailed business case.</p>

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		<p>Unfunded projects of which there are many: How does council envisage raising the necessary capital; through rate hikes and/or NSW State Government grants, other?</p> <p>Re the SHIP: I was pleased to see that the new plans on pages 50/51 is kinder to the Southern Highlands than previous plans and hope that you will have control of Planning within the SHIP, avoiding State Significant Projects as much as possible.</p> <p>On the subject of PLASREFINE PLASTIC WASTE RECYCLING, I, and I am sure the residents, appreciate the information sessions given by Susan Stannard, Michael Park and other team members. Knowing that Council too is against the proposal has given the community a more positive and hopeful outlook. Though why, at this stage, GHD feels it necessary to engage in more information sessions on June 1 and 2 is rather a puzzle. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR COUNCIL TO BE REPRESENTED AT ONE OF THE SESSIONS?</p> <p>I would like to bring to your attention that the lighting in the SHIP is fast becoming a health hazard and creating visual pollution. Once it was the full moon that lit up my house during the night. Now, every night the blaze of light from the SHIP carries far and wide. Please would Council do what it can to impose tighter controls? Garvan made every effort to reduce their lighting when it was raised as an issue. Why should not the current builds act accordingly?</p>	<p>Council actively seeks grants and explores funding avenues to support essential projects. Through strategic prioritisation, we maximise available funds and align projects with residents' needs, aiming for sustainable growth and development in the local area.</p> <p>Council understands the importance of maintaining a balance between development and preserving the unique character of our community. Council recognises the significance of local control and the value it brings in shaping the future of the area. While it may not be possible to entirely avoid State Significant Projects, Council are dedicated to engaging with relevant stakeholders, incorporating community input, and advocating for the best interests of the local area throughout the planning process. Council is currently actively developing the strategic planning framework to guide the future development of the SHIP as a regionally significant employment precinct and opportunities for community input to help shape the framework will be available as part of the strategic planning process.</p> <p>Regarding the recent information sessions, your comments are noted. It is confirmed that a representative from Council did attend one of the sessions.</p> <p>Your concerns about lighting in the SHIP are noted. Balancing the need for sufficient lighting while minimising adverse effects on the surrounding environment and residents is crucial. As part of planning for the future development of the SHIP, Council will be looking closely at how to manage or mitigate the potential land use conflicts that may arise from increased development within the precinct.</p>
06	<b>A. Williamson Exeter  Exeter Sings Choir Inc.</b>	<p>As you know, Exeter Sings Choir Inc has been a regular hirer of the Badgery Room and, subsequent to the completion of the Hall extension, the Reuben Room for 12 years. This has contributed well and consistently to Exeter Hall's account. Plus, we hire for our 2 concerts / soirees each year (covid duration excepted).</p> <p>We are a Not-for-Profit local group, providing community benefits for the members of our choir and for the community more broadly. We use the hall weekly for practice for approximately 32 weeks a year. Each member contributes to the Hall hire each time we practise. Our numbers are modest - currently something under 20 active members.</p> <p>The proposed astronomical increase in Room usage hourly fee to \$47.50 per hour will be put to our members, but the Exeter Sings Committee view is that this is beyond our means. (Currently we pay \$12.55 per hour.) We would be dipping into</p>	<p>The draft Fees and Charges that are currently on exhibition for Exeter Hall have been reviewed and the newly revised fees and charges are outlined in the Council report and fees and charges document.</p>

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		<p>savings (after selling some equipment) every single week. That is clearly not sustainable.</p> <p>We do not make a mess; we do not have refreshments. We use the Hall when no one else wants it, through Margot's (EHMC) careful management of hirers. Good steady income for Exeter Hall's finances, in the order of \$850-\$900 p.a. including concert days. It is not hard to imagine that other small community groups like ours will be in the same financial Predicament.</p> <p>We are investigating other options at this point. Alternative privately owned facilities are presently under consideration. This is most likely the way we will go if these proposed fees are ratified by Council. How sad. What is the purpose of Exeter Village Hall if not for the use of the local Exeter groups in the community? If these proposed charges are adopted, I expect that the Exeter Village Hall will become something of a white elephant, as other groups will have the same issues as Exeter Sings Choir does. We understand a modest increment in line with CPI, but these proposed charges are nonsense.</p>	
07	<p><b>M. McNamara Exeter</b></p> <p><b>Exeter Sings Choir Inc.</b></p>	<p>I was shocked and greatly disappointed to learn of Council's proposed increase in fees for rental of the Exeter Hall facility, and in particular the Reuben Room, which is used by EXETER SINGS CHOIR on a weekly basis. We are a NOT FOR PROFIT organisation and have been regular weekly users, (apart from mid year break) of The Hall for twelve years now, not including the two years of Covid restrictions, and greatly value this facility as our Choir meeting place each week and for twice yearly concerts/soirées.</p> <p>Council's thoughtless proposed introduction of this new scale of fees shows how out of touch they are with the concept of VILLAGE and COMMUNITY.</p> <p>The Exeter Village Hall was built and paid for by the community over 120 years ago and has been an integral part of the Community ever since. The Choir, and a number of other small groups will be greatly impacted by this 89.2% increase in fees, (\$12.55 to \$47.50).</p> <p>Members of our EXETER community worked long and hard for the addition of the Reuben Room and its wonderful kitchen, verandah and other facilities, only, it appears, to have it made inaccessible to us in the future by Council's extraordinary new charges.</p> <p>I would ask Council to reassess this valuation schedule and to consider the impact your decision will have on the small groups who gather each week in friendship with like minded interests to use The Hall facilities.</p>	<p>The draft Fees and Charges that are currently on exhibition for Exeter Hall have been reviewed and the newly revised fees and charges are outlined in the Council report and fees and charges document.</p>

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Number	Name	Submission	Staff Response
08	<b>J. Burniston Burradoo</b>	I have rented out the Community Hall in Queen Street, Moss Vale for the past 17/18 years at 9.15am on a Monday morning and for the past couple of years on a Thursday. I teach exercise classes to seniors, and I have a lovely group of ladies who like to stay fit and also socialise together. The rent has gone up over the years like everything else and I pay \$20 a class. If the fees are going to increase again, I will have to put my charges up to the participants as the insurance has increased as well. I do not like to do this as most of them are on a pension. So please, I only make a small amount out of the classes anyway, so can the charges stay within \$5 of the present fees.	Current fee for a regular hirer Health & Wellbeing is \$20.90 per hour Proposed Fee for regular hirer Health & Wellbeing is \$25.70 \$25.70 is 30% of the proposed Commercial rate per hour for Moss Vale Senior Citizens and Community Centre.
09	<b>C. Hewson Moss Vale</b>	Resourcing Strategy = Draft is a good concept, but it depends on money.	Council is actively seeking grant funding opportunities and carefully managing priorities for unfunded projects. Your input and feedback are highly valued.
10	<b>B. Stone Bowral</b>	The new payment gateway is asking for a mobile phone number.  For payments I fail to see how this is required nor why it should be mandatory. From a privacy and data risk perspective information that is not required should not be asked and other data should only be retained for a minimum amount of time. Therefore, I don't see how this complies with best practice nor cyber.gov.au recommendations. I look forward to your response.	Thank you for expressing your concerns regarding the requirement for a mobile phone number in the new payment gateway. Council understands your privacy and data risk perspective. The requirement for a mobile phone number is intended to enhance security. Council will review the data retention practices and assess the necessity of making it mandatory. Your input is valuable, and Council is committed to balancing security measures with privacy rights.
11	<b>B. Barnaby Bowral</b>	I would like to include in the Budget money set aside to restore 2 small sections of road which are in desperate need of resurfacing.  Complete resurface of Bundaroo Street in between Bong Bong Road and Bendooley Road. A disgusting section of road that is in constant use.  Complete resurface of road Bessemer St between Mittagong Rd and rail underpass. Another disgusting road that is in constant use.  Top priority is the installation of Otto size bins in the town CBDs centre of each village and replacing those small size open bins that are elsewhere. They are a ridiculous size. 3 coffee cups fills them up. Presently they are always overflowing, and rubbish strewn on the street by overfilling, wind, or birds Please include these in the Budget	Council understands the urgent need for road resurfacing on Bundaroo Street (between Bong Bong Road and Bendooley Road) and Bessemer Street (between Mittagong Road and the rail underpass). We will carefully assess these sections and prioritise their inclusion in the budget, considering their importance and the impact on the community.  Regarding waste management, Council acknowledges the challenges posed by the current small open bins in the town CBDs. Your request for the installation of appropriately sized Otto bins in the centre of each village is noted. Council will be replacing selected bins in Bowral with larger 120L sulo bins in July 2023. This will be a temporary measure until bin enclosures are sourced and installed early 2024.
12	<b>J. Vild Bowral</b>	Where is the funding for pedestrians & cyclists? \$23m for roads & not 1 extra pedestrian crossing in the shire	Within the draft 2023/24 to 2026/27 Capital Program there is \$2.15M budgeted for the delivery of new path connections. Council will also seek grant funding opportunities, such as the Get NSW Active and Safer Roads Program administered by Transport for NSW, to enable the delivery of further footpath and shared path projects.



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Number	Name	Submission	Staff Response
13	<b>M. &amp; N. Gibbs Colo Vale</b>	<p>My feedback is the drainage and the fixing of broken sewer pipes in Colo Vale.</p> <p>Broken sewer pipes in Banksia Street, Colo Vale, and lack of drainage in Telopea Street and most of Colo Vale. Something must be done urgently, and I see in the documents there is nothing mentioned about Colo Vale for any Sewer or drainage works.</p> <p>More and more families are moving into Colo Vale as it is just off the expressway and quicker excess to get to the city. Don't you think Colo Vale should be an urgent requirement to fix the village of drainage and sewer?</p>	<p>Within the draft 2023/24 to 2026/27 Capital Program there is an annual \$2M Sewer Main Renewal program to ensure that the sewer reticulation network remains in satisfactory condition. The sewer mains along Banksia Street Colo Vale will be investigated and required works subsequently programmed.</p> <p>The stormwater network of Colo Vale comprises of a network of roadside grass swale drains with stormwater pipes at road intersections. There are currently no plans for a major upgrade of the stormwater network and Council will continue to maintain the existing stormwater network as required.</p>
14	<b>S. Cains Bowral</b>	<p>Hi at Wingecarribee Shire Council</p> <p>I see no reference in your project list to the restoration of the Mittagong Playhouse/Hall. This important heritage building was restored for use thanks to community and energy and initiatives. It was a highly valued place and a centre for many worthwhile and inclusive community activities.</p> <p>Mittagong Playhouse needs to be funded for repair and to be restored to a community who love it. Funding, please!</p>	<p>The renewal and refurbishment works required at Mittagong Playhouse/Hall are beyond the capacity of funds available in the 2023/24 to 26/27 Delivery Program and therefore the project unfortunately does not feature within the draft Capital Works Program.</p> <p>None the less, Council is committed to reopening and reactivation of Mittagong Playhouse/Hall and is actively seeking grant funding opportunities to enable its delivery.</p>
15	<b>J. Simons Burradoo</b>	<p>Dear Council, I and my friends miss having our Mittagong Playhouse. If we cannot afford to rebuild it, we should pull down the wreckage and build us a new hall, or we should plan a new hall on another site. I do hope you will be able to take this matter on board. I hear that it is not even on your agenda.</p>	<p>The renewal and refurbishment works required at Mittagong Playhouse/Hall are beyond the capacity of funds available in the 2023/24 to 26/27 Delivery Program and so the project unfortunately does not feature within the draft Capital Works Program.</p> <p>None the less, Council is committed to reopening and reactivation of Mittagong Playhouse/Hall and is actively seeking grant funding opportunities to enable its delivery.</p>
16	<b>P. Goodman Mittagong</b>	<p>I understand that the Mittagong Playhouse is not going to be opened. This is very upsetting as the Playhouse is the only venue in the Highlands for theatre for small productions where young students can learn how theatre works. It is a very important asset for the community, it is an historic building much loved by the residents. I ask that funds are used for refurbishment of this important and much-loved building. I would like to add that it is the only venue in the Highlands for these activities.</p> <p>I ask that this decision be made in the light of the importance of this beautiful and historic building.</p>	<p>The renewal and refurbishment works required at Mittagong Playhouse/Hall are beyond the capacity of funds available in the 2023/24 to 26/27 Delivery Program and so the project unfortunately does not feature within the draft Capital Works Program.</p> <p>None the less, Council is committed to reopening and reactivation of Mittagong Playhouse/Hall and is actively seeking grant funding opportunities to enable its delivery.</p>
17	<b>J. Christie Mittagong  Highlands Chi Kung</b>	<p>My apologies for today's meet; matters have overtaken unfortunately.</p> <p>In any case, the percentage increase for (hall) fees as proposed means conducting Qigong classes, as earlier this year, will not be viable. (Please review)</p>	<p>Current fee for a regular hirer, Health and Wellbeing equates to \$8.36 per hour. Proposed fee for a regular hirer Health and Wellbeing is \$10.50 per hour \$10.50 per hour is 30 % of the proposed Commercial hire fee for Yerrinbool Hall.</p>

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18	<b>K. Street Bowral  Mittagong Memorial Hall Management Committee</b>	<p>\$2million in funding has disappeared from Wingecarribee Council and been diverted by Council officers without consultation or advice to any of the stakeholders. This leaves the Mittagong <b>Playhouse</b> without any possibility of gaining the funds to reopen. To quote from the Council website, "It is of great importance that the building be restored quickly to allow theatre productions again".</p> <p>Without this \$2million in seed funding, there is little hope of ever raising the money to reopen the Playhouse. With it, the Playhouse can at least be reopened to the community. On 1 September 2022 Shaun Robinson (WSC Manager, Assets), after consultation with many in WSC including the General Manager, issued a statement to stakeholders advising that in a staged approach, the first stage would be to rectify the structural defects and reinstate the auditorium so that it can once again be used by the community. Please honour this promise. Please reinstate this seed funding and include this project and the importance of performing arts to our culture and community in:</p> <p>The Council list of Priority Projects 2023-2025 Include this project and the performing arts in the Arts and Culture Strategic Plan 2015-2031 – there is currently no mention or consideration of the performing arts in this document at all. Include this project in the Wingecarribee 2040 Local Strategic Planning Statement. Include this project and the performing arts in the Community Strategic Plan Wingecarribee 2041.</p> <p>The Mittagong Playhouse is one of 3 buildings which are joined together to form what is commonly known as the Mittagong Memorial Hall. The Playhouse was the hub and home of the performing arts in the Southern Highlands and with a 170 seat capacity it provided entertainment for thousands of locals each year and performance opportunities for many, many members of our community.</p> <p>In 2019 the Playhouse was declared to be at risk of collapse and was closed to the public based on engineering advice that has subsequently been called into question. The Wingecarribee Council provided a \$2million contribution for rectification works and after many consultations and variations, plans for a renovated building were prepared. The proposed design extended far beyond the Playhouse building and provided extensive renovation of all 3 buildings. The project was estimated to cost \$7million. Plans were prepared and a development application was lodged. Grant applications were prepared and lodged – these applications were on the basis of a \$5million grant in addition to the \$2million in seed funding provided by the Council.</p> <p>The Council commenced work to "make the Playhouse safe" and erected substantial steelwork outside the building. Inside and out of sight the WSC heritage officers started a journey of discovery in the old building. The ceiling was removed, walls damaged as old window openings were investigated and holes were dug through the</p>	<p>The renewal and refurbishment works required at Mittagong Playhouse/Hall are beyond the capacity of funds available in the 2023/24 to 26/27 Delivery Program and so the project unfortunately does not feature within the draft Capital Works Program.</p> <p>None the less, Council is committed to reopening and reactivation of Mittagong Playhouse/Hall and is actively seeking grant funding opportunities to enable its delivery.</p> <p>Council's commitment to the project is evident through its inclusion within the Shire Priorities 2023 document, with the reopening and reactivation of Mittagong Playhouse/Hall listed as one of the advocacy projects.</p>

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Number	Name	Submission	Staff Response
		<p>floor as footings of apparent interest were exposed. The end result of all of this is that the interior of the Playhouse is now uninhabitable. If this “work” were done by anyone else, it would be called vandalism.</p> <p>The closure of the Playhouse in 2019 decimated the performing arts community in the Southern Highlands – there are now only 2 surviving theatre groups. School facilities are not a viable alternative due to a lack of availability, restrictions, and costs. Schools make extensive use of their facilities, and it does not suit anybody to make these facilities available to outside groups for the weeks it takes to mount a theatrical performance. The Bowral Memorial Hall is unsuitable for theatre productions due to its design as a much needed home for concert bands. Please give back the Playhouse to our community.</p>	
19	S. Douglas AGD Bundanoon	<p>The following relates to the Draft Unfunded Capital Infrastructure Projects list, and is a result of only a partial review.</p> <p>Item 5, Development Compliance Officer seems to be essential, not discretionary. In my experience, Council has long lacked the DA compliance personnel.</p> <p>necessary to deal with the workload. As noted, such roles can return some of their costs through fines. Almost every construction site that I’ve seen in the Shire over &gt;10 years has had deficient and often absent sediment and erosion controls.</p> <p>Item 11, relates to walking trail maintenance (as opposed to upgrades or new tracks), so should be regarded as essential, if only for risk/liability mitigation (plus potential pollution offences arising from excessive sediment flows to water courses)</p> <p>Item 19, bushfire risk management funding reserve - seems essential to me, and can readily be offset by external funds when available (as stated)</p> <p>Item 21, update bushfire management plans for major bushland reserves - seems essential and related to liability.</p> <p>Item 22, The Royal Botanic Gardens should be able to provide this advice at less than what a private consultancy would charge. The main issue will be availability of staff. Not an essential item. But the street tree plan should simply be reviewed in the context of climatic trends and predictions.</p> <p>Item 27, this is essential and relates to important work done by the E&amp;S Team. Small change in the scheme of things.</p> <p>Item 30, the proposal has some merit but could perhaps be better dealt with in the context of an urban stormwater plan that uses gross pollutant traps, detention</p>	<p>Noted – comments will be taken into consideration as part of the potential development and delivery of these unfunded projects.</p>

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**Draft Resourcing Strategy 2023-2033, Delivery Program 2023-2025 and Operational Plan and Budget 2023/24 - Submissions and Staff Responses**

Number	Name	Submission	Staff Response
		<p>systems, and constructed wetlands. Using sweeper trucks to do a single pass each year won't achieve much at all. If done during autumn, it would collect large volumes of deciduous leaves that are best removed from the stormwater system for reduced blockage risk and also because such mass leaf fall can deoxygenate streams. But one pass of each street won't deal with the weeks or monthslong leaf fall that occurs. Better to deal with this systemically, plus it is a reason why street tree plantings should not be deciduous by default, or if that option is used, should be accompanied by drainage systems to capture those leaves and have them removed for green waste processing.</p> <p>Item 33, essential and safety related.</p> <p>Item 34 - generally sensible but not essential. Very high costs for final component (\$10k per tree installed!). If this work was done, smaller plants should be used rather than very advanced stock at great cost.</p> <p>Item 35 - essential as it entails risk management, I stopped reading at this point due to time poverty. But a quick scan of the much longer list indicates some dubious expenses (Christmas trees and decorations - hardly appropriate in a multicultural society under a secular constitution). The document has a lot of seemingly discretionary projects (some good, some less so). I skipped to the end of the document and noticed –</p> <p>Item 187 is for GPS trackers on Ranger vehicles. Don't see this as necessary when Rangers should carry Spot Devices or equivalents so that they are personally able to be tracked and they can activate an EPIRB and have at least some basic satellite messaging comms. No need for the vehicles to have trackers, especially given the Ranger is the asset that is at risk, and the Ranger could be some distance from their vehicle in a remote situation.</p>	
20	M. Dunn Penrose	<p>Please fix the Mittagong Playhouse. We need a theatre that can be used to stage plays and musicals. The BMH is great for concerts, but the Highlands needs theatre. The Playhouse was great - used for both touring shows and local shows.</p> <p>Please get it functional again.</p>	<p>The renewal and refurbishment works required at Mittagong Playhouse/Hall are beyond the capacity of funds available in the 2023/24 to 26/27 Delivery Program and so the project unfortunately does not feature within the draft Capital Works Program.</p> <p>None the less, Council is committed to reopening and reactivation of Mittagong Playhouse/Hall and is actively seeking grant funding opportunities to enable its delivery.</p> <p>Council's commitment to the project is evident through its inclusion within the Shire Priorities 2023 document, with the reopening and reactivation of Mittagong Playhouse/Hall listed as one of the advocacy projects.</p>

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### Draft Resourcing Strategy 2023-2033, Delivery Program 2023-2025 and Operational Plan and Budget 2023/24 - Submissions and Staff Responses

Number	Name	Submission	Staff Response
21	<b>R. Thompson Bowral</b>	<p>I am pleased to see the marvellous transformation in the Bowral Memorial Hall and look forward to enjoying many events there. However, it concerns me that there seems to be no plans for the Mittagong Playhouse which seems to be in a sad state of disrepair.</p> <p>While the Memorial Hall will be a wonderful venue for larger concerts and productions there is no doubt that a smaller, more intimate venue is also needed in the Highlands to accommodate such groups as the Highlands Theatre Group as well as smaller recitals. Could you please advise me if there are any plans for the Playhouse.</p>	<p>The renewal and refurbishment works required at Mittagong Playhouse/Hall are beyond the capacity of funds available in the 2023/24 to 26/27 Delivery Program and so the project unfortunately does not feature within the draft Capital Works Program.</p> <p>None the less, Council is committed to reopening and reactivation of Mittagong Playhouse/Hall and is actively seeking grant funding opportunities to enable its delivery.</p> <p>Council's commitment to the project is evident through its inclusion within the Shire Priorities 2023 document, with the reopening and reactivation of Mittagong Playhouse/Hall listed as one of the advocacy projects.</p>
22	<b>L. Nias Mittagong )</b>	<p>Wonderful as it is to hear about all the great things happening in Bowral - and it really IS - it is sad that some of the truly wonderful bits of Mittagong are being so badly neglected. What has happened to the Playhouse? There used to be so many fantastic productions (musical, touring, theatrical, community) happening there but it has been closed for ages and no sign of any development or repair. I personally want to be able to see films, theatre and music as we used to. I know I'm not alone. Please would you start giving us updates on progress there so we know what we can look forward to?</p>	<p>The renewal and refurbishment works required at Mittagong Playhouse/Hall are beyond the capacity of funds available in the 2023/24 to 26/27 Delivery Program and so the project unfortunately does not feature within the draft Capital Works Program. None the less, Council is committed to reopening and reactivation of Mittagong Playhouse/Hall and is actively seeking grant funding opportunities to enable its delivery. Council's commitment to the project is evident through its inclusion within the Shire Priorities 2023 document, with the reopening and reactivation of Mittagong Playhouse/Hall listed as one of the advocacy projects.</p>
23	<b>L. Bruce Exeter  Exeter Hall Management Committee</b>	<p>Shaun Robinson advised us (the Exeter Hall Management Committee - EHMC) earlier this year the second entrance to Exeter Park was on the Capital Works program for 2023/24 and would be completed in that Financial Year. The EHMC had paid for a Heritage Architect to do a survey for us which indicated there was no problem in proceeding with this project. We decided at our EHMC meeting in February that we would undertake our own investigations into the cost of completing the Project ourselves, if the WSC couldn't complete it in a timely manner. We have never made a commitment to complete the project, just investigate the cost. Our preferred option is, and has always been, for the WSC to fund and carry out the work needed for the project. Two Committee Members did meet with Graham Clark late in February to discuss the ATCOW process IF we decided to go ahead with the entrance ourselves. Can you please put the Project back onto the draft document to go to Council as a matter of urgency as the second entrance is urgently required to enable vehicles to safely enter and leave Exeter Park, as the existing entrance only allows one way traffic. Thank you.</p>	<p>In response to feedback received, the scope of the 2023/24 Sportsfield &amp; Reserve Park Furniture Renewal project can be for an upgrade of the amenity of Exeter Reserve through the renewal and provision of additional park furniture as well as construction of a second accessway. Delivery of these items will bring benefits to both the park and sportsfield functions of Exeter Reserve.</p>
24	<b>L. Bruce Exeter  Exeter Hall Management Committee</b>	<p>We would like to make the following comments about the new proposed charges for the Exeter Village Hall.</p> <p>The new Fees and Charges which were originally published showed huge increases in most of the rates and these were totally unacceptable to the Exeter Hall Management Committee (EHMC), a 355 Committee.</p>	<p>The draft Fees and Charges that are currently on exhibition for Exeter Hall have been reviewed and the newly revised fees and charges are outlined in the Council report and fees and charges document.</p>

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**Draft Resourcing Strategy 2023-2033, Delivery Program 2023-2025 and Operational Plan and Budget 2023/24 - Submissions and Staff Responses**

Number	Name	Submission	Staff Response
		<p>After a number of approaches to the WSC it was found that a number of mistakes had been made and a new lot of Fees and Charges were advised to the EHMC in letters from George Harb and Camel Foster.</p> <p>These new rates which are shown as Exeter Village Hall NEW (in a document given to us by George Harb after the original published called Exeter Village Hall rates) are now acceptable to the EHMC, along with the 50% discount for Exeter based Community organisations. We require both of these commitments to be in place before we agree to the proposal. If these two items are not included in the document to go to Council for approval, we require further consultation before we agree to the new Fees and Charges. Please see appropriate letters and documents attached.</p>	
22	<b>D. Williamson Exeter</b>	<p>Exeter Park 2nd Entrance I write in support of Lloyd Bruce's submission to restore this project to the upcoming capital work program.</p> <p>The need for this Project is due to the success and steady growth of the Exeter Markets, an increased attendance at sports events, the steady increase of significant events at Exeter Hall (weddings, birthdays, funerals), the increased patronage of the Exeter General Store and the very limited on road and off-road parking which very quickly becomes overwhelmed, - spilling traffic into the church grounds and RFS fire station.</p> <p>The large increase in housing in Ashbourne Estate is clearly going to increase road and pedestrian traffic in the villages and the 2nd Entrance project is simple and low-cost infrastructure that will help get supply ahead of demand. We need to be thinking and acting ahead of problems. The issue is traffic and pedestrian safety as there is no sign of additional off-road parking being available in the medium or long term. Simple risk management analysis demonstrates that the proposed second entrance and lane markings will ease traffic flow, facilitate safe turns and ensure pedestrians are leaving and entering their cars in the safe areas of the park.</p> <p>The markets are an ideal growth industry for a village like Exeter. Ratepayers expect WSC to be actively supporting such clean, sustainable, commercial, economic growth opportunities. Ad hoc surveys show that people come from across the Sydney Basin and the Goulburn area to SH village markets and once here spend time and money in the Highlands as a whole - making a day of the visit. If we have to have industry and more housing, then this is the type of industry to support.</p> <p>Further, the Exeter Hall Management Committee have indicated they will support the construction of the 2nd Entrance with a contribution to funding - not 100% as been suggested. The recycling of EHMC funds directly back into what will be an enhanced WSC asset is an ideal use of the money and supports local community engagement with Council objectives and delivery actions.</p>	<p>In response to feedback received, the scope of the 2023/24 Sportsfield &amp; Reserve Park Furniture Renewal project can be for an upgrade of the amenity of Exeter Reserve through the renewal and provision of additional park furniture as well as construction of a second accessway. Delivery of these items will bring benefits to both the park and sportsfield functions of Exeter Reserve.</p>

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## Draft Resourcing Strategy 2023-2033, Delivery Program 2023-2025 and Operational Plan and Budget 2023/24 - Submissions and Staff Responses

Number	Name	Submission	Staff Response
		Please ensure the Exeter Park 2nd Entrance is on the capital works program at full estimated cost. Discussion on any cost share with EHMC can follow once more detail of service relocations and protection issues have been assessed and a more refined estimate developed.	
26	<b>P. Hales Bowral</b>  <b>Bong Bong Picnic Race Course</b>	<p>Resourcing Strategy 2023-2033 = The strategy document appears to meet the requirements of the LGA however it only displays skills in following formula and claiming to be in the interest of this community, it lacks a simple summary that the average resident can grasp. It also supports and reflects the views of a few self-serving parties. What is the 10 years look ahead for this community that will preserve the lifestyle and standards of living we expect and believe we deserve?</p> <p>Draft Delivery Program 2023-2025 = This document is also formula and contains the usual corporate overview. there appears to be more focus on administrative function than the physical delivery. While acknowledging the need for reporting and structure there can be too much control resulting in more Chiefs and less Indians.</p> <p>Operational Plan 2023/2024 = This document is detailed and generally covers all aspects of pricing and policy. Criticism is what appears to be a lack of consistent pricing policy and a summary of the overall financial impacts. Why is there such a diverse price on all the local halls? It is what the document doesn't contain that is my primary concern. I have to declare a personal interest as Company Secretary of Bong Bong Picnic Race Club Ltd. The Club has received notification that the existing rate relief that has been given over the past several years, is being retired. We can now apply for a maximum subsidy of \$500. This is against an annual rate expense that had reached &gt;\$14,000 p.a and seriously threatened the continued existence of this iconic entity that has survived since 1886 and at one time enjoyed the patronage of the State Governor.</p> <p>Bong Bong Picnic Race Club is a tier 2 public company limited by guarantee of its members and is exempt from income tax. It is run by unpaid volunteers and subjected to all the rules and restrictions imposed on a registered racecourse. This includes only being permitted to hold 1 race event each year. Further restrictions were imposed by State and Local Government that include limiting attendance at the annual event to Members and their invited guests, no BYO alcohol and draconian</p>	<p>Thank you for feedback regarding the Resourcing Strategy 2023 – 2023. This document consists of four components, the Long-Term Financial Plan, Workforce Management Plan, Asset Management Plan and Digital Strategy which shows how Council intends to delivery its strategic priorities. An overview of the Resourcing Strategy goals is provided on page 6 of the draft document.</p> <p>Council recently endorsed the Wingecarribee 2041 Community Strategic Plan which represents the community vision, aspirations and goals. You can access the Community Strategic Plan at <a href="https://www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/council/strategies-plans/Community-Strategic-Plan-Wingecarribee-2041">https://www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/council/strategies-plans/Community-Strategic-Plan-Wingecarribee-2041</a></p> <p>The Draft Delivery Program 2023 – 2025 and Draft Operational Plan 2023/24 outline how council will deliver and achieve its Community Strategic Plan objectives which also includes the annual budget and statement of revenue policy. We recognise the importance of delivering these documents in a format that the community are able to understand while adhering to our legislative responsibilities. Our goal with communications is very much in line with this suggestion to move toward making our messaging and the way we communicate more relatable and easy to grasp.</p> <p>This voluntary subsidy was introduced by Council to acknowledge and provide a contribution to groups that provide a service or activity that is available to all ratepayers across the Shire.</p> <p>As the scheme is not well known, not all eligible groups have benefited from the scheme and those that have, have done so by varying amounts.</p> <p>The Policy and guidelines have been reviewed and updated to ensure that moving forward subsidies will be distributed more equitably across the ratepayer base.</p> <p>As it is unknown how many applications will be received, an annual maximum amount has been implemented, however, this amount will be reviewed and adjusted after the first twelve (12) months of operation.</p> <p>Council also does provide other funding opportunities to groups - <a href="https://www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/community/grants-funding-opportunities">https://www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/community/grants-funding-opportunities</a></p>

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## Draft Resourcing Strategy 2023-2033, Delivery Program 2023-2025 and Operational Plan and Budget 2023/24 - Submissions and Staff Responses

Number	Name	Submission	Staff Response
		<p>security and policing requirements. The Club's mission is to conduct the best picnic class horse race in this State and to hold the Wyeera property available for any worthwhile Community purpose. We have saved Council substantial costs by making the property available as home to Bowral Show Society, Burradoo Polocrosse Club and Bowral Dressage Club and heavily subsidising the costs to these groups. We have also been in discussion with Bowral Men's Shed to provide them with the same benefits when they are obliged to vacate their existing premises. In the medium term we have suggested the property is used as the staging and assembly base for emergency services in times of crisis. Under the LGA the Race Club falls through the cracks to the extent that it is not farmland, mining or residential therefore it is deemed to be business. Its function is not commercially viable but provides this region with significant tangible benefits. I am sure there are several similar entities that will be financially impacted by this review of policy (Moss Vale Show Society &amp; etc.). This should be addressed or declared in the document.</p>	
27	<p><b>J. Slattery Colo Vale</b></p> <p><b>(Part 1 of 5)</b></p>	<p>Operational Plan 2023/24 = Congratulations on the new format, it helped make reviewing lengthy and at times complex set of documents much easier.</p> <p>Priority Actions Measures and Annual Targets</p> <p>It is welcome that Council is currently reviewing how it measures performance and working to establish accurate baselines and test the quality of key measures, as a number of the Priority Action measures and annual targets are, from my perspective, lacking without this context. Using Bushland and Biosecurity Priority Actions 2023 - 2024 as an example</p> <p>☐ Complete biosecurity weed controls in at least five identified high environmental risk bushland reserves &gt; Hectares of biosecurity weeds controlled</p> <p>What is the biosecurity weed condition of all the other Bushland reserves within the shire? Is the density and extent of the areas impacted by biosecurity weeds decreasing?</p> <p>☐ Undertake priority biosecurity weed inspections along high-risk pathways and sites &gt; Number of inspections conducted financial year &gt; Three main roads and five high risk sites</p> <p>What is the biosecurity weed condition of all other roads and sites within the shire? Is the density and extent of the areas impacted by biosecurity weeds decreasing?</p> <p>I found it difficult to align the Operational Plan Annual Priority Actions and KPIs for each Service Area's Principle Activity back to the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) Goals, and feel there is a level of disconnect between the two. I appreciate the Delivery Program links to the CSP and to the Operational Plan but from perspective the clear alignment of the Operational Plan Activities and Measurements back to the Community Strategic Plan goals is missing.</p> <p>I request that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the performance measure review, establishing baselines and key measures quality testing are given urgent priority with an aim of being in place for the 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan and Budget or earlier;</li> <li>- the community is engaged, through Community Reference Panels or other channels, to help develop the performance measures and reporting.</li> </ul>	<p>Noted and thank you.</p> <p>The Priority Actions in the Operational Plan do not cover every activity being delivered by Council in the coming year, but rather actions that are more of a priority or deliverable highlight. Measures will improve over time, particularly with the adoption of new strategies and plans, and the Community Reference Panel can contribute to these as they are developed.</p> <p>With respect to some of the specifics mentioned:</p> <p>Council's Biosecurity team will work to reduce the risk of priority weeds in high value environmental and agricultural land and assets. This team will be guided by the Council Local Strategic Weed Management Plan, currently in draft. This plan relates to and is informed by the South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan. Council will undertake biosecurity weed inspections along high risk pathways and measures have been updated to be reflective of the annual target to 1,000km of roads and at 80 high risk sites.</p> <p>Inspection of Council owned or managed natural areas (bushland and watercourse) will continue in 2023/2024. Weed inspections are based on fire management units where they are mapped. Council will incorporate condition assessments into its data collection.</p>

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Number	Name	Submission	Staff Response
27	<b>J. Slattery Colo Vale</b>	Environment Levy (Levy.) and Environment & Sustainability Service Area Principle Activities and Priority Actions.	Priority Actions have been assigned to the Service Area in Council and not specifically to different funding sources such as the Environment Levy. The Priority Actions in the Operational Plan do not cover every activity being delivered by Council in the coming year, but rather actions that are more of a priority or deliverable highlight. Many programs that tend to be ongoing in nature are not itemised in this list.
	<b>Continued, part 2 of 5</b>	<p>I am most interested in the transparent management of the Special Rate Variations, with my focus being on the Environment Levy. In this regard, thank you for the information on the proposed Environment Levy expenditure and the explanation of what the Levy is and what it is used for.</p> <p>Delivery Program 2023-2025 = It is unclear to me how the Draft Delivery Program 2023-2025 Environment and Sustainability Principle Activities (Principle Activities) and Draft Operational Plan and Budget 2023/24 Environment and Sustainability Priority Actions (Priority Actions) align with the Environment Levy projects. I haven't been able to find information on the specific actions for the Environment Levy projects e.g. what are the Priority Actions for 1.1 Environmental Weed Management 1.3 Green Web Action 2.1 Riparian Management Plans Delivery 3.3 Community Sustainability Questions that come to mind include: - Are any of the Principle Activities for the Environment and Sustainability or any other service area aligned to the Environment Levy Projects? - Are any or all of Priority Actions for the Environment and Sustainability or any other service area funded in part or in full by the Environment Levy? If so, which ones. Anecdotally I understand that the Environment Levy is meant to fund actions that are additional to Council's statutory obligations. I note that the second most expensive Environment Levy expenditure item is Levy Env Levy Corporate Support. I appreciate there is a cost to manage the Environment Levy, however for transparency purposes an overview of the types of expenditure included in this line item would be helpful.</p> <p>I request that - in the final report to council, the community is provided with A) a list of the Priority Actions for the Environment Levy 2023/2024 projects and budget, B) an indication if any of the Environment Levy Project Priority Actions align with any of the Environment and Sustainability (or any other service area) Priority Actions, C) which if any of the Environment and Sustainability (or any other service area) Priority Actions are funded in part or in full by the Environment Levy and to what extent D) an overview of the types of expenditure in the Levy Env Levy Corporate Support - Confirmation of whether my understanding, that the Environment Levy is to be used to fund actions that are additional to Council's statutory obligations, is correct.</p>	<p>The Environment Levy supports projects and programs that are primarily delivered in the Environment and Sustainability Service Area. A list of the Delivery Program activities and 2023/2024 Priority Actions funded or supported by the Environment Levy (EL) are listed below:</p> <p><b>1. Natural Resources Management Delivery Program Activities</b> No. 1 EL part funded No.2 EL part funded No.4 EL Funded No.5 EL funded together with Grants <b>Priority Actions 2023/2024</b> No.1 EL funded together with Grants No.2 EL funded together with Grants No.4 EL funded No.7 EL funded No.8 EL funded No.9 EL funded No.10 EL part funded No.11 EL funded No.12 EL funded together with Grants No.13 EL funded</p> <p><b>2. Sustainability Services Delivery Program Activities</b> No. 1 EL part funded No.2 EL part funded No.3 EL part funded No.4 EL part funded No.6 EL part funded <b>Priority Actions 2023/2024</b> No.1 EL part funded No.3 EL funded No.4 EL funded No.5 EL part funded No.6 EL part funded No.8 EL funded No.9 EL funded</p>

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Number	Name	Submission	Staff Response
			<p>No.10 EL part funded            No.12 EL funded            No.12 EL funded together with Grants            No.13 EL part funded</p> <p><b>3. Bushland and Biosecurity            Delivery Program Activities</b>            No.1 EL funded            No.2 EL funded</p> <p><b>Priority Actions 2023/202</b>            No.1 EL funded            No.3 EL funded</p> <p>The Corporate Support item identified in the Environment Levy budget has been part of the Environment Levy program since its inception and was part of the program that has been approved by IPART as part of the special rate variation. The item identifies the impact across the organisation in delivering the Environment Levy program including the support provided in Finance, procurement, payroll, human resources, record keeping, information and communications technology support etc.</p>
27	<b>J. Slattery            Colo Vale</b>	<p>Attachment 5 Draft Unfunded Capital Infrastructure Projects List - For the 2023/24 Budget = I note that Walking Tracks Strategy 2020 - Unfunded Maintenance Works is listed in the Draft Unfunded Capital Infrastructure Projects List - For the 2023/24 Budget. It is Reference No 11 in the document.</p> <p>I also note that funding of the Walking Track Strategy is listed in Attachment 6 Shire Priorities 2023, with full funding of \$6m to be sought from Federal and State Government and that once funding is secured upgrades across the reserves can be programmed and staged. This, from perspective, implies that implementation of the strategy will not progress until this funding is sourced. I am aware that the Community Reference Panel – Sport, Recreation and Leisure focus is on, amongst other things, Implementation of the Recreational Walking Paths strategy. This is most welcome as many of the walking tracks are in urgent need of repair, maintenance and sign posting.</p> <p>Questions that come to mind include:            Q1 What priority is Council giving to implementing the actions from the Recreational Walking Paths strategy?            Q2 How will the Community Reference Panel progress implementation of the Recreational Walking Paths strategy and actions, particularly on ground works, without funding?</p> <p>I request that</p>	<p>Unfortunately grant applications for the Walking Tracks Strategy Action Plan have so far been unsuccessful. Council will continue to look for opportunities to source funds for the implementation of the Strategy. Repairs to the track from the Berrima Campground to Riverbend Reserve is a high priority and is funded. An audit of the Box Vale Track has been completed and will guide actions to restore this popular walking track.</p>

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Number	Name	Submission	Staff Response
		<p>- the \$100k recurrent funding as requested in attachment 5 is provided to the project starting in the 2023 - 2024 budget,</p> <p>- implementation of actions in the strategy commence in 2023 – 2024, even if this means reprioritising actions to suit available resourcing.</p> <p>- to help with any resourcing constraints the Strategy's Action A1.2 Establish a Trail Stewardship Program.... is progressed as a priority to enable volunteers to meaningfully and continually contribute to trail management and maintenance activities.</p>	
27	<p><b>J. Slattery</b> <b>Colo Vale</b></p> <p><b>Continued part</b> <b>4 of 5</b></p>	<p>Other Unfunded Projects = I also noticed the following plans (which have been adopted by council), management obligations and their implementation or updating are also unfunded.</p> <p>Quote from plan, "19 Bushfire Management Funds Reserve</p> <p>- Council relies heavily on grant funds to meet our obligations and is very vulnerable to any change in funding distribution or additional requirements *Request is for a reserved amount to meet the minimum requirement to manage our bushfire obligations, which could be returned to the reserve as grant funds come in. *the minimum is currently not quantified (and subject to change with new guidelines). A starting figure of at least \$100,000 has been suggested. *It would provide some level of assurance that Council can meet it ongoing bushfire obligations.</p> <p>- New guidelines being introduced and / or foreshadowed by the RFS will increase workload and costs of meeting our management obligations. They will increase the area needed to be actively maintained, and potential change the...</p> <p>21 Consultants costs to update Bushfire Management Plans for Council's 3 main reserves. Plans to be GIS based.</p> <p>22 Resources for a consultant to assess predicted climate change impacts on street tree currently used in Council's Street Tree Master Plan and consider risk and potential alternative species that could be used in the plan.</p> <p>34 Delivery of Street Tree Master Plan (STMP) and Street Tree Implementation Plan (STIP).</p> <p>35 Street Tree Inventory Maintenance/Update - allowance for continuing cyclic update of existing street and open space tree inventory - updating and reviewing 1-2 precincts per year."</p> <p>It is astounding that council is not providing a minimum yearly budget for its bushfire management obligations and fire trail maintenance, regardless of any grants it gets, especially after the recent devastating fires in our shire. With regards to Council's Street Tree Master Plan (STMP) and Street Tree Implementation Plan (STIP) why have plans and not fund their implementation and reviews? I notice that council has a number of adopted strategies and plans, including Plans of Management that appear, to me, not to be under active management and or implementation, and or</p>	<p>Council works closely with all firefighting and land management agencies through membership of the Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC). Council, like most land management agencies, relies on state-government funding to meet its bushfire management obligations. Council does allocate a budget for bushfire management on top of the 'grants' (Rural Fire Fighting Fund, Bush Fire Mitigation Program, Fire Access Fire Trail [FAFT] program) that it anticipates and does receive annually. While the program does rely on funds received through these funds for activities such as asset protection work, Council works with the RFS and the Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) and can anticipate the level of funding coming in any given year. In addition, Council does allocate required funds whenever there is an unanticipated need. For example Council allocated \$125,000 in the 2022/2023 year for the repair and maintenance of five tactical Fire Trails under its care and control. These fire trail upgrades have been completed.</p> <p>The new generation Wollondilly Wingecarribee Bush Fire Risk Management Plan is currently in development and will be finalised in 2024. Once the Bush Fire Management Committee and NSW Rural Fire Service finalises the plan, fire management plans (FMPs) can be prepared for bushland reserves. Council will also take into consideration opportunities for Aboriginal cultural burning within its network of bushland reserves when these FMPs are prepared. All former plans of management for Council owned or managed reserves do not meet legislative requirements under the Local Government Act (1993) nor the Crown Land Management Act (1967).</p> <p>Street tree projects action single tree planting requests for residents. No street tree planting projects are planned for in this delivery period.</p> <p>A Community and Crown Land Natural Areas (Bushland and Watercourse) Plan of Management and Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve Plan of Management (POM) have been drafted and sent to Crown Land for all land in the shire categorised as Natural Area (Bushland and Watercourse). Comments were recently received for the Natural Areas POM and edits are currently being made prior to being sent back to Crown for Minister's approval. All Plans of Management have a public hearing so the community will have an</p>

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		<p>have passed their review date. It raises the question of whether an overall Responsible Officer is assigned to co-ordinate and report on the implementation of each strategy and plan.</p> <p>I request that As implementation status of the Bushfire Management and Street Tree projects Council reconsiders funding these projects in the 2023 – 2024 budget or provide specific reasons why they aren't being funded in the 2023 - 2024 budget and when yet to be implemented works will be funded.</p> <p>Council conducts and prioritises a review of all of its adopted strategies and plans, including Plans of Management and those that have past their review date, detailing</p> <p>A) the current delivery status of each strategy and plan's Action Items, B) timeframe for updating strategies and plans that are past their review date, and C) the effectiveness of current processes, procedures etc for implementing and reporting on the plans and strategies, with consideration given to assigning an overall Responsible Officer to co-ordinate and report on the implementation of each plan and strategy, if this is not already in place.</p>	<p>opportunity to have their say on the final draft. Comments from Crown Land typically take 6-12 months from the date of submission to the Crown Land portal to be received.</p> <p>The draft Environment and Climate Change Strategy highlights the need for our communities and places to be more resilient and adaptable to the impacts of climate change. When the Street Tree Masterplan is reviewed and updated, Council will access resources such as the latest scientific evidence, tools and data available (such as Which Plant Where from Macquarie University) and advice from institutions such as the Botanic Gardens to guide the update to the masterplan.</p> <p>We appreciate your suggestions for improving the current processes and procedures for implementing and reporting on these documents. Council acknowledges the importance of conducting regular reviews and updating strategies and plans, including those that have exceeded their review date. Your feedback is valuable as we strive to enhance our planning and reporting practices. We will take your suggestions into account as we continue to improve the effectiveness of our strategies and plans. Thank you for your engagement and contribution to our Integrated Planning and Reporting process.</p>
27	<b>J. Slattery Colo Vale</b>  <b>Continued part 5 of 5</b>	<p>Bowral Lookout Access Road = I haven't been able to find any information in the Draft Operational Plan 2023- 2024 or Draft Delivery Plan 2023 -2025 on when the access road to Bowral Lookout in Mount Gibraltar reserve will be repaired and reopened. This access road was excised from the reserve so it would be classified as a road asset and included in the various road's infrastructure programs.</p> <p>I request that -the community is advised when the Bowral Lookout access road will be repaired and reopened; and provide confirmation that the road is on Council's Road maintenance and renewal programs.</p>	<p>Council has applied for funding under NSW Government Disaster Recover Funding Arrangements (DRFA) funding stream - Restoration of Public Assets. This funding application is currently being considered by NSW Government (Transport for NSW). If successful, the repair works will be completed in 2023-2024 financial year.</p>
28	<b>G. Johnson Burrawang</b>  <b>Burrawang School of Arts</b>	<p>Thank you for your letter of 16 May 2023 advising of changes to the eligibility for a subsidy for Rates, Water &amp; Sewerage charges levied on the Burrawang School of Arts (BSoA).</p> <p>While we can understand Councils desire and intention to maximise revenue income, we, as a not for profit, community based and volunteer run organisation, cannot support Councils proposed reduction in our rate subsidies.</p> <p>The BSoA has and is providing the Burrawang and surrounding communities with a Hall suitable for many uses including meetings, presentations, plays, movies and all manner of school and aged community activities. The BSoA has been in use since the late 1800's and has been managed by volunteer residents throughout its history. At</p>	<p>This voluntary subsidy was introduced by Council to acknowledge and provide a contribution to groups that provide a service or activity that is available to all ratepayers across the Shire.</p> <p>As the scheme is not well known, not all eligible groups have benefited from the scheme and those that have, have done so by varying amounts.</p> <p>The Policy and guidelines have been reviewed and updated to ensure that moving forward subsidies will be distributed more equitably across the ratepayer base.</p>

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		<p>times the Council (WSC) has provided grants that have assisted with the ongoing maintenance, capital works and upkeep of the Hall. But essentially the Hall has been maintained by the Community with the annual Council contribution being the Rate subsidy (100%). For 2022/23 the rate subsidy represented \$6,006. The proposed rate subsidy is a maximum of \$500.</p> <p>The rates are a significant sum for an organisation such as the BSo and in fact would have represented approximately 25% of our fixed operating costs.</p> <p>We would suggest that it is unreasonable to reduce the rates assistance from the current 100% to what, under the new proposal, would have represented approximately 3% (or possibly less). This would be a burden of significant magnitude for the BSoA.</p> <p>As a Community based Association we would request that our current Rate rebate of 100% be maintained for the 2023/24 financial year and this rebate continue into the future.</p>	<p>As it is unknown how many applications will be received, an annual maximum amount has been implemented, however, this amount will be reviewed and adjusted after the first twelve (12) months of operation.</p> <p>Council also does provide other funding opportunities to groups - <a href="https://www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/community/grants-funding-opportunities">https://www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/community/grants-funding-opportunities</a></p>
29	<b>P. Nelson Moss Vale</b>	<p>Resourcing Strategy 2023-2033 = Nil Comment</p> <p>Delivery Program 2023-2025 = Nil Comment</p> <p>Operational Plan 2023/2024 = Did council provide any funds from its Operational Plan to progress the Berrima Bypass? And has council supported any funding with representation to its Federal Member Mr Taylor for Grant Funding to support the Berrima Bypass?</p>	<p>Council has been applying for grant funding opportunities as available for the Berrima Bypass Project, the latest being to the Fixing Country Roads Program however the funding applications have unfortunately not been successful.</p> <p>Council remains committed to the delivery of the project, which is evident through its inclusion within the Shire Priorities 2023 document as an advocacy project for which Council will continue to seek grant funding opportunities for.</p>
30	<b>A. Carnahan Bundanoon  Bundanoon Community Association</b>	<p>The Bundanoon Community Association welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Resourcing Strategy, Delivery Program, Operational Plan and Budget that Council has on exhibition.</p> <p>We would like to congratulate Council on a comprehensive document and especially commend the 11 "tenets" of the Delivery Program. Our response is from a community perspective – from the outside looking in towards Council for support and assistance. We have applied a Bundanoon lens to the documents, as it is Bundanoon that the Association has a responsibility to.</p> <p>Rather than address items within the budget and size of the relative funding 'buckets', we submit our response and requests to Council as a whole, asking that these requests be placed into the relevant areas for consideration and action in the 2023 to 2025 period.</p>	<p>Thank you for submission, staff responses are provided below.</p>

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		<p>A list of all the items raised below is attached to this document as an Appendix with some priority assessment and costings applied.</p> <p>Street safety in the main 'elbow' of Bundanoon is a long-standing concern. The Association has approached Council for assistance with improving safety for pedestrians. This is underway and we place this high on our priority action list. Suitable treatment including lower speed signs and possibly a pedestrian crossing with refuges would improve safety.</p> <p>The Association has taken the Place Plan concept and started our own community consultation using the accessible Place Game questionnaire. We will continue with this and look forward to harmonising this with Council when the larger Bundanoon Place Plan consultation begins.</p> <p>Bundanoon is home to many wildlife loving locals. Wingecarribee's 2023 Citizen of the Year, John Creighton of Wombat Care Bundanoon, is a testament to this. The Association would like to see wildlife warning signs to alert tourists to the hazards of wildlife on our roads, especially at night. We acknowledge Council has received significant funding for koala protection, we also want wombats, kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas and lyrebirds to be protected from road trauma on our roads that border their habitat, especially Morton National Park. Cycling/rotating the images on the signs would increase their attention. The BCA would volunteer to do this if approved.</p> <p>We commend Council for the magnificent refurbishment of the Bowral Memorial Hall. Whilst we are very grateful for the reroofing of our Hall, both as a community and as Hall tenants, we would like to work with Council to improve some of the facilities. Our projection screen is heavy and needs to be carefully raised and lowered</p>	<p>Council will investigate this site and, if required, scope potential solutions. Implementation of any significant traffic management upgrades will however be subject to grant funding opportunities.</p> <p>Council looks forward to receiving feedback from the Bundanoon Community Association's consultations.</p> <p>Council is working with many stakeholders including wildlife carer organisations and the WSC traffic committee on a wildlife vehicle-strike minimisation project, utilising funding from the NSW Koala Strategy Regional Partnership. Council has purchased two large variable message signs (VMS). The VMS are currently in a pilot testing phase.</p> <p>Council is completing procurement for four vehicle-activated signs (VAS) to be positioned on priority roads which intersect important koala habitat (Tourist Road (2), Old Hume Highway Yerrinbool (1) and Tugalong Road, Canyonleigh (1)). Additional VAS are planned to be purchased to address road safety issues across the Shire. Council has also purchased static general wildlife advisory signs on roads as you exit Penrose north towards Bundanoon and as you exit Bundanoon south towards Penrose. We are currently scoping the strategic installation of additional static signs.</p> <p>Council is advocating to Transport for NSW for lowered and consistent speed limits on many of our rural roads. By working across branches within Council it is hoped that both wildlife and people will be safer on our roads.</p> <p>Council is engaging a consultant to develop key messages and educational materials for the koala project. It is hoped by increasing driver awareness through rotating messages and additional marketing and education materials that vehicle-strike will be reduced. Through its learner driver education program young and inexperienced drivers are learning about the risk of vehicle strike on the roads, and what to do if an animal is injured.</p> <p>Council appreciates your suggestion to install a powered projection screen at your hall. To proceed, please explore funding options like grants or community initiatives. Once you secure the necessary funds, Council will assist with overseeing the installation process. Please submit an Approval to Carry Out Work application, available on Council's</p>

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		<p>by two strong people. A new powered screen would open the Hall to more use for event screenings. This would be a modest \$20,000 compared to the (deserved) \$8.5 million bestowed to the Bowral Memorial Hall.</p> <p>We also welcome the new footpath addition in 2022 that completed the shared path loop past the Oval and Jordans Crossing Reserve. This has received very positive feedback and will nicely support access to the new grant-funded fenced off-leash dog park in Jordans Crossing Reserve. Over the course of the delivery program, we would also like to see a new shared paved path on Erith Street to formalise the well-defined dirt walking track from the top of Hill Street to the Hotel. This would provide a safe active transport path to the village from Warrigal Aged Care and the new over 55's development on Old Wingello Road. It would help direct pedestrians to the safer dedicated rail crossing and not the confined road overbridge.</p> <p>Tourism and economic development are a missing focus area we would like to draw attention to. In 2009, through local businesses and Council a beautiful "Bundanoon and the Southern Villages" fold out brochure was created by Council and Bundanoon businesses. It was available at Destination Southern Highlands and guest houses and businesses. The brochure is now out of date and not available.</p>	<p>website. We value your commitment to improving the facilities and are here to support you.</p> <p>The proposed footpath route does feature within the adopted Pedestrian Access &amp; Mobility Plan for Bundanoon. The 2023/24 New Footpath program cannot accommodate the construction of this link, however a design phase will be completed in 2023/24 to enable its submission in the annual Get NSW Active Program or consideration for delivery in 2024/25 New Footpath onwards.</p> <p>Destination Southern Highlands will be producing a new brochure for the first time in two years. It will be launched around January 2024 and will include Bundanoon and southern villages. Information from the brochure can be included on Council's website, if you supply the copy and images.</p>
30	<b>A. Carnahan Bundanoon Bundanoon Community Association Continued</b>	<p>There is also a Visitors Information Bay at the northern entry to Bundanoon with a well-designed and safe pull over area. The signage frames are weather beaten, the map cover damaged and the information out of date. For both the pamphlet and information bay we would like Council's assistance with resourcing to provide up-to-date tourism information. Despite everything being 'online', and Destination Southern Highlands having a comprehensive website, actual tourism is still a very tactile experience and brochures are an important part of wayfinding as well as creating a lasting impression.</p> <p>We have a potential hidden heritage treasure in the old projection room of the Soldiers' Memorial Hall. The room, which requires access via external stairs, is a working example of the twin carbon-arc film projectors which provided projection in cinemas up until the 1970s (or in our case the 1990s). The equipment was working and may be one of the few remaining carbon-arc projector facilities in the State. With Council's assistance we would like to learn the rarity of the room and if it is rare, treatment to ensure it is preserved for heritage value.</p> <p>Our Association is a joint licensee of a parcel of Council land in Burgess Street. We have a proposal to build a storage facility on the land, however, there has been long</p>	<p>Council is supporting the Bundanoon Community Association in a planned project to refresh the signs, update the maps and obtaining the necessary approvals needed to conduct the works. Council staff will make contact with you to assist in progressing the matter.</p> <p>The Bundanoon Soldiers' Memorial Hall is a proposed heritage item. Council officers will add reference to the information regarding the projection room to the heritage evidence sheet. The Study that proposes this become a heritage item is to be reported to the Local Planning Panel in late June 2023 and Council in July after which it will be placed on public exhibition. The Bundanoon Community Association will be notified of the public exhibition and it is hoped that additional information about the projection room might come to light as a result. The Berrima District Historical Society will also be contacted as part of the consultation phase of the Heritage Study and may be able to provide input.</p>

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		<p>delays due to the parcel being on three lots. We have been told these lots need to be amalgamated before a DA can be submitted and we look forward to Council completing the amalgamation or determining the DA can proceed without amalgamation.</p>	<p>Thank you for your question. Could you please consider the content of the letter to yourself dated 11 November 2022. Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact Council's planning department.</p> <p>While Council does not have available budget for activations/events they certainly can assist in driving awareness of the community facilities and offering through the Your Shire e-news, media content and socials to encourage patronage. A spotlight on swimming centres across our Shire could be scheduled leading into Summer months.</p> <p>Councils Community Development team can assist to explore ways to partner with the community to run youth-led, senior's or intergenerational events at the pool during warmer months. Suggestions may be around Youth Week or Seniors festival in 2024. Council can also provide the community with any available grant opportunities to assist the club to fund new event ideas.</p>
		<p>Upgrade Leaver Park tables. Working with Council's bushcare program, a group of volunteers assist with the maintenance of the little-known Leaver Park. Once a popular swimming spot, the two picnic tables have fallen into disrepair – one is totally broken the other is marginal. Replacement with new picnic tables would enhance the area as a recreation reserve.</p>	<p>Leaver Park will be inspected and the repair of deteriorated assets programmed accordingly.</p>
		<p>The Bundanoon Swimming Centre is home to a swimming club, exercise swimmers and recreational use over the hotter months. We appreciate swimming centres are expensive to run and want the patronage of the Centre to increase to justify the costs. We would like to explore with Council ways to increase patronage of the pool through promotions and events.</p>	<p>Council will continue to work with the users of the aquatic services network to enhance activation and patronage.</p>
		<p>The Heritage Conservation Area in Bundanoon protects our significant built landscape and we would like to work with Council to increase awareness of the Area with the community generally and the owners and tenants within the Area specifically.</p>	<p>Council has committed a place plan for Bundanoon which will provide an ideal opportunity to increase awareness of the heritage conservation area in Bundanoon.</p>
		<p>Although a lower priority, the data projector in the Soldiers' Memorial Hall is not up to modern standard for cinema and especially PowerPoint style presentations. This limits its use. A new screen is a higher priority and may resolve some of the issue.</p>	<p>Thank you for expressing your concerns about the facilities at the Soldiers' Memorial Hall. Council understands the need for an upgrade to the projector and screen. To address this, it is suggested that you explore alternative funding options such as fundraising or grants. Once you secure the necessary funds, Council will support you in overseeing the installation of upgraded facilities. As per our standard procedures, please submit an Approval to Carry Out Work application, available on Council's website. We appreciate your feedback and encourage your proactive efforts to enhance the Halls facilities.</p>



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		<p>The acoustics in the Soldiers' Memorial Hall have been criticised by performers. An assessment by an acoustic engineer would assist in finding treatments and cost estimates to retain the character of the Hall while improving performance acoustics.</p> <p>Finally, although somewhat minor, providing appropriate waste bins on the main street would be welcomed. Some years ago, the fixed bins in Picnic Park (opposite the main shops) were replaced by red lidded domestic bins as a solution to the ravens constantly emptying the bins. Also, a street bin outside the IGA Village Grocer was removed and not replaced. We would like to see attractive raven-proof street bins as well as replacing the missing bin.</p> <p>We make this submission in the spirit of Council's "We're with you" tag and look forward to working with Council on Bundanoon's own "delivery program", either through direct funding/resourcing, identifying and submitting grant applications, or through volunteer time.</p>	<p>Upon review and consideration of the condition of the community hall network, Council's current focus is on the renewal and maintenance of halls and so there are no plans to undertake an acoustic review of the Soldiers Memorial Hall.</p> <p>There are currently no plans to increase the provision of street bins within Bundanoon Village Centre beyond the 11 currently provided. A renewal and update of bin styles and enclosures would form part of a larger streetscape upgrade program – of which Bowral CBD is the current priority identified.</p>
31	<p><b>M. Pepping</b> <b>Moss Vale</b></p> <p><b>Town Planning</b> <b>Consultant</b></p>	<p>I make this submission to Council raising significant concerns in relation to the proposed non statutory fees to be applied to Planning and Development fees and charges for the 2023/24 FY. The proposal to significantly increase fees by the proportions as exhibited cannot be justified against the current service performance as delivered by Council. Development Determinations by Council are taking significantly longer than the statutory timeframes.</p> <p>I start by reminding Council and reflecting on the statements made in recent times by the Administrator on the need by applicants to engage consultants to assist with preparing and lodging development applications. It has been insinuated that applicants should not have to rely on the services of consultants to assist with preparing their development applications and that prospective proponents should be able to attend Council to seek professional assistance to prepare an application without the need of consultant assistance. At the present time, non-chargeable enquires are available on an appointment basis only on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30am – 12:30pm capped at 15 minutes. Formal pre-lodgement meetings are chargeable and set to increase significantly. This presents significant barriers to proponents being able to seek advice from Council in a timely and cost-effective manner. It is further noted that instructions or advice from Council staff to proponents is that they would be best to engage a Town Planner, Engineer, Architect or other professional to prepare their application which addresses the Council's and State's planning requirements relating to their development. The reality is that Consultants are in the main performing the tasks and providing assistance to proponents that is needed to prepare an application worthy of approval.</p>	<p>The proposed fees have been benchmarked against other Councils and will assist Council in offering improved service delivery. At present, staff resources are engaged in activities that either have no prescribed fee, or fees that are below the market rate of other Councils in NSW. The proposed fees will align Council with the fees that are charged by other Councils in NSW for these types of services and evidence of this has been presented to Council.</p> <p>The cost per Pre-DA meeting is scheduled to be reduced, not increased. Current scheduling of non-chargeable duty planning advice is associated with staff resourcing levels and this is able to be reviewed once full-time equivalent (FTE) roles are filled following the completion of the recent restructure that has occurred at Council.</p> <p>Further comparisons have been compiled for review by Council and the cost per Pre-DA meeting at other Councils does vary depending on the number of staff that attend these meetings, the level of advice that is give and whether meeting notes are issued following the meeting. In some cases, a Pre-DA meeting can involve a substantial amount of work ahead of the meeting in order to ensure accurate information is able to be discussed.</p>

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**Draft Resourcing Strategy 2023-2033, Delivery Program 2023-2025 and Operational Plan and Budget 2023/24 - Submissions and Staff Responses**

Number	Name	Submission	Staff Response
		<p>The draft fees and charges for 2023/24 as exhibited were presented to Extraordinary Council Meeting in May 2023. It was advised that many of the fees were going to be increased by up to 500% in some cases. Many of the certification processes and post approval certificate fees which are not regulated through legislation are proposed to be increased by 100% or more. It was suggested in the Council meeting that the fee increases were in line with the fees of adjoining Councils. My research has found otherwise.</p> <p>Further, at the meeting the proposed increases were touched on and as part of the Council resolution, the following request was passed in the adopted motion: 5. During the exhibition period the General Manager provide further information on any charge or fee listed recommended for increase above CPI (above 7%) with comparison to adjoining LGA and market place rates generally. I was unable to locate such information on the Council's website in the package of documents which were included in the exhibition material. Nevertheless, I did my own comparative which shows some alarming differences. Amongst the suite of fees and charges in the proposed 2023/24 Fees and Charges document, Wingecarribee Shire Council proposes to charge \$790 - \$2,090 per meeting for a pre-lodgement meeting. In comparison Wollondilly proposes to charge \$600 - \$1,460, Queanbeyan- Palerang Council \$200 - \$800 and Shoalhaven City Council \$176 - \$343.20. Wingecarribee SC is significantly above adjoining and similar sized Council's within its region.</p>	
<b>31</b>	<b>M. Pepping Moss Vale</b>	<p>Of more concern are the fees for Complying Development Certificates and Construction Certificates and Inspections.</p>	<p>Applicants are not obliged to use Council for these certification services and can engage their own private certifier for these inspections and certificates. At present Council costs for employing certifying consultants is not met by the fees charged and the ratepayer is effectively subsidising people building and developing. The fees and charges proposed adopt an approach of more than cost recovery, so that Council can focus its budget and resources on the development assessment and approvals that only Council can provide.</p>
	<b>Town Planning Consultant</b>	<p>A Complying Development Certificate Application fee for a typical \$450,000 dwelling house construction has been compared against adjoining and similar sized Council's within the region in the following table.</p>	
	<b>Continued Part 2 of 3</b>	<p>Wingecarribee Shire Council \$6,500 Wollondilly Shire Council \$3,386 Goulburn Mulwaree Council \$3,390 Queanbeyan Palerang RC \$2,815</p> <p>A Complying Development Certificate Application for an application for a development valued at \$1M would be as follows:</p> <p>Wingecarribee Shire Council \$13,720 Goulburn Mulwaree Council \$9,200 Queanbeyan Palerang RC \$5,015 Shoalhaven City Council \$2,900</p>	<p>The flat fee structure provides for ease of administration and whilst the proposed fees are generally higher than the examples cited in the submission, Council recognises the need to ensure that the fee-for-service offering is commensurate with what is also readily available from the private sector.</p>

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Number	Name	Submission	Staff Response
		<p>The fees proposed by Wingecarribee Shire Council are flat fees compared to other Councils who are proposing to use sliding scales of cents in the dollar above a base amount.</p> <p>The range for the proposed \$6,500 application fee by Council applies to new dwelling house, alterations and additions or outbuilding valued between \$100,001 - \$1,000,000. The implication for a flat fee approach taken by Council is that a modest build cost at the lower end of the bracket will pay as much as the proponent whose construction costs are closer to the \$1M value. This arrangement establishes a huge inequality and situation that smaller developments which are more common having to subsidise the more expensive developments.</p>	
31	<p><b>M. Pepping Moss Vale</b></p> <p><b>Town Planning Consultant</b></p> <p><b>Continued, part 3 of 3)</b></p>	<p>A similar comparison for Construction Certificate fees for a \$450,000 dwelling house was prepared. It was found that the fee proposed by Wingecarribee Shire Council would be significantly higher as illustrated below:</p> <p>Wingecarribee SC \$7,120 Wollondilly SC \$2,895 Goulburn Mulwaree Council \$4,875 Queanbeyan Palerang RC \$2,128</p> <p>In addition to the above fees, it is noted that there is a disparity of significant amounts for a number of other fees such as Notification and Consultation fees and Subdivision Certificates.</p> <p>A comparison of Fees for a 5 lot subdivision certificate are as follows: Wingecarribee SC \$743 plus \$315 per additional lot created = \$2,003 Wollondilly SC = \$1,500 Goulburn Mulwaree Council \$700 plus \$115 per additional lot created = \$1,160 Queanbeyan Palerang RC \$550 plus \$100 per additional lot created = \$950 Shoalhaven CC \$582 plus \$38 per additional lot created = \$734</p> <p>Other fees that are 100% higher than the comparative Councils used above include Occupation Certificates for Class 1 or 10 blg and class 2-9 blg.</p> <p>Class 1 or 10 / Class 2-9 Wingecarribee Shire Council \$770 / \$1,950 Wollondilly SC \$340 / \$400 Goulburn Mulwaree Council \$280 / \$420 Queanbeyan Palerang RC \$378 / \$550 Shoalhaven City Council \$583 / \$583</p> <p>It is noted that the State Government has now acknowledged that the statutory fees for development applications are required to be indexed on an annual basis which is</p>	<p>Applicants are not obliged to use Council for these certification services and can engage their own private certifier for these inspections and certificates. At present Council costs for employing certifying consultants is not met by the fees charged and the ratepayer is effectively subsidising people building and developing. The fees and charges proposed adopt an approach of more than cost recovery, so that Council can focus its budget and resources on the development assessment and approvals that only Council can provide.</p> <p>The availability of certification services in the Southern Highlands is considered to be adequate in servicing the demand for private sector involvement with construction certificates.</p> <p>Whilst the proposed fees are generally higher than the examples cited in the submission, Council recognises the need to ensure that the fee-for-service offering is commensurate with what is also readily available from the private sector.</p>

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Number	Name	Submission	Staff Response
		<p>a reasonable expectation. Such annual indexation increases are tied to a set formula. It is suggested that Council's fees which are non-regulated should be increased on the same basis as the regulated fees. The fees as proposed for 2023/24 which are significantly higher than that of comparative Councils are inappropriate and unjust and will impact on the Shire's ability to make housing supply more affordable in a market that is already out of reach of many. Housing affordability is already at a crisis point which has been contributed too by ongoing significant delays in determination times, lack of tradespeople, increased cost of building materials and inflation. It could be argued that proponents can choose to appoint a private certifier to issue the certificates etc mentioned above, however in regional areas such as the Southern Highlands, the supply and availability of private certifiers is limited and consequently proponents rely on their local Council to perform the vast majority of planning and building approval functions.</p> <p>My submission has only touched on some of the fees applicable in the Planning and Development function area. If Council's agenda is to remove itself from the function of providing a Certification service to the community let alone an affordable Certification function, then Council is negating one of its key responsibilities which is to provide affordable services for its citizens.</p>	
32.1	<p><b>G. White</b> <b>Bowral</b></p> <p><b>Wingecarribee</b> <b>Net Zero</b> <b>Emissions</b></p>	<p>Submission on Operational Plan - Essential and Non-essential Items.</p> <p>We are writing to provide our comments and feedback on the Operational Plan currently open for public comment. We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the decision-making process and offer our perspective on various items outlined in the plan. Below, we have highlighted specific points from the unfunded items that we believe deserve attention in terms of their importance and necessity.</p> <p>Item 5: Development Compliance Officer We believe that the inclusion of a Development Compliance Officer is not discretionary but rather essential. This position plays a crucial role in ensuring compliance with development regulations and maintaining the integrity of our local government's planning framework. By having a dedicated officer in this capacity, we can effectively address potential issues, prevent non-compliance, and protect the interests of our community.</p> <p>Item 11: Walking Trail Maintenance We strongly recommend that walking trail maintenance, even without upgrades or new tracks, be regarded as an essential component of the Operational Plan. Proper maintenance is crucial for risk mitigation and liability reduction, especially concerning potential pollution offenses arising from excessive sediment flows to water courses. Ensuring the safety and usability of existing trails should be a priority to safeguard both the environment and the community.</p>	<p>Council has two development compliance officers undertaking enforcement work and agrees that it is an important function in implementing the provisions of various legislation in order to meet community expectations.</p> <p>Council is currently investigating options to enable a higher level of service to be provided for the maintenance of the recreational walking track network.</p>

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Number	Name	Submission	Staff Response
		<p>Item 19: Bushfire Risk Management Funding Reserve The establishment of a bushfire risk management funding reserve appears essential to us, considering the inherent risks associated with bushfires. While we acknowledge that external funds can offset the reserve when available, having a dedicated funding source prioritizes proactive measures to manage and mitigate bushfire risks effectively. This approach demonstrates a responsible and forward-thinking strategy to protect both lives and property.</p>	<p>Council works closely with all firefighting and land management agencies through membership of the Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC). Council, like most land management agencies, relies on state-government funding to meet its bushfire management obligations. Council does allocate a budget for bushfire management on top of the 'grants' (Rural Fire Fighting Fund, Bush Fire Mitigation Program, Fire Access Fire Trail [FAFT] program) that it anticipates and does receive annually. Council works with the RFS and the Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) and can anticipate the level of funding coming in any given year. In addition, Council allocates required funds whenever there is an unanticipated need. For example, Council allocated \$125,000 in the 2022/2023 year for the repair and maintenance of five tactical Fire Trails under its care and control. These fire trail upgrades have been completed.</p>
		<p>Item 21: Update Bushfire Management Plans for Major Bushland Reserves The update of bushfire management plans for major bushland reserves is essential and directly relates to liability. By regularly reviewing and updating these plans, we can ensure that appropriate measures are in place to minimize the risk of bushfires and protect the surrounding communities. It is imperative to prioritize the safety of our residents and visitors while managing the potential liabilities associated with bushfire incidents.</p>	<p>The new generation Wollondilly Wingecarribee Bush Fire Risk Management Plan is currently in development and will be finalised in 2024. Once the Bush Fire Management Committee and NSW Rural Fire Service finalises the plan, fire management plans (FMPs) can be prepared for bushland reserves.</p>
		<p>Item 22: Street Tree Plan and Advice from Royal Botanic Gardens. In light of the recent loss of trees in the Highlands and the need for a forward-thinking approach to tree replacement and management, seeking advice from the Royal Botanic Gardens is crucial. Incorporating their expert advice will enhance our understanding of climate-related challenges and enable us to make informed choices for the longevity and sustainability of our urban tree canopy. While the street tree plan may not be considered essential, leveraging the knowledge and resources of the Royal Botanic Gardens can provide cost-effective expertise compared to private consultancies. We recommend reviewing the plan in the context of climatic trends to ensure alignment with changing environmental conditions and maximize cost savings for our local government.</p>	<p>Feedback related to seeking advice from Royal Botanic Gardens is noted and will be considered when developing the Street Tree Strategy.</p>
32	<p><b>G. White</b> <b>Bowral</b> <b>Wingecarribee</b> <b>Net Zero</b> <b>Emissions</b>  <b>Continued</b></p>	<p>Item 27: Essential Work by the Environment and Sustainability (E&amp;S) Team. Item 27 appears to be essential and we urge you to fund this item, considering its association with important work carried out by the E&amp;S Team. While the cost may be relatively small compared to the overall budget, the impact and significance of this work should not be overlooked. Prioritizing and supporting the efforts of the E&amp;S Team will contribute to the sustainable development and environmental protection goals of our local government.</p>	<p>This matter has been addressed in previous years. As outlined in the Council report, there has been no scrutiny on the unfunded priority list over the past twelve months, and the validity or scope of these unfunded priorities were not confirmed as accurate with any assurances.</p>

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Number	Name	Submission	Staff Response
		<p>Item 30: Urban Stormwater Management We urge the council to consider addressing Item 30, which proposes the use of sweeper trucks for annual street cleaning, within the broader context of an urban stormwater plan. Implementing comprehensive stormwater management strategies, such as the use of gross pollutant traps, detention systems, and constructed wetlands, can be more effective in reducing pollution risks. Additionally, consideration should be given to capturing and removing deciduous leaves from the stormwater system to minimize blockages and potential de oxygenation of streams. Taking a systemic approach to urban stormwater management will yield better results in terms of pollution prevention and environmental preservation.</p>	<p>Council will consider opportunities to expand the current street sweeping program to address item 30 in the Urban Stormwater Management Plan.</p>
		<p>Item 33: Essential Safety Measures Item 33, which pertains to essential safety measures, should be prioritized without question. Safety should always be a paramount concern for our local government, and any initiatives aimed at enhancing safety measures must be given due importance and adequate resources. The wellbeing of our residents and visitors should never be compromised.</p>	<p>Council always maintains safety as paramount to its operations and will resource any safety measures/enhancements based on risk management best practice.</p>
		<p>Item 34: Cost Considerations for Tree Installation While Item 34 may be generally sensible, the high costs associated with the final component, amounting to \$10,000 per tree installed, appear excessive. It is advisable for council to reassess the cost structure and explore more cost-effective alternatives that can achieve the desired outcomes while ensuring fiscal responsibility. Striking a balance between quality and affordability is crucial in delivering effective public services.</p>	<p>Council will consider all available options to ensure best value for quality, safety, cost and future growth prospects of any tree planting.</p>
		<p>Item 35: Risk Management Item 35, which entails risk management, should be deemed essential, given its direct relation to safeguarding the well-being of our community. Prioritising risk management measures demonstrates a proactive approach to identify, assess, and mitigate potential risks, thereby ensuring the safety and security of our residents. Investing resources in risk management aligns with good governance practices and should be included in the Operational Plan.</p>	<p>Council embeds risk management outcomes and practices into all operational activities.</p>
		<p>In conclusion, we understand and sympathise with the fact that the council is operating within a system that has systemic funding flaws. However, we firmly believe that despite these limitations, it is crucial to prioritize essential items and ensure responsible resource allocation to foster the long-term well-being and sustainable development of our community. The points highlighted above reflect our initial observations, and we encourage further review and consideration of these items. As concerned residents, we believe that by collectively working towards these goals, we can overcome challenges and make meaningful progress.</p>	
		<p>Thank you for considering our comments, and we remain committed to supporting the positive growth and development of our local council.</p>	

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Number	Name	Submission	Staff Response
33	<b>R. Russell Penrose</b>	Wingecarribee Shire aims to have “housing that meets the needs of current and future generations” (3.4, Community Strategic Plan). I have concerns that some of these fee hikes put further barriers to housing affordability, particularly for the most vulnerable in the population. While I understand the need to recover costs, it would seem appropriate, given our current housing affordability crisis, to minimise fee increases for Complying Development Certificate approvals such as ‘granny flats’ in the up to \$100,000 category (and potentially even the next category with the rise of building costs) in order to ensure access to the construction of modest dwellings is not put further out of reach for those with limited income and resources.	<p>Council is mindful of the rising costs of housing and associated affordability challenges. However, it is also important to ensure that Council operate on the basis of at least partial cost-recovery for these services.</p> <p>By promoting smaller dwellings and more flexible options for housing across a broad range of sectors, Council is fulfilling its obligation in assisting those within the community who rely upon additional housing choice. Other State government policies which promote housing affordability are also administered by Council.</p>
34	<b>J. Lemann Bowral</b>	Mount Gibraltar Landcare and Bushcare ask the council to review the ‘Unfunded Component’ of the Operational Plan and Budget to include some funds for Walking Track Maintenance. In particular, the long overdue maintenance of the Walking Tracks in Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve. It is now 3 years since the Walking Tack Strategy was produced and accepted.	Council will continue to seek grant opportunities to fund the implementation of the Walking Track Strategy. Council’s Bushcare Team, with the support of volunteers, will undertake vegetation maintenance along the tracks in Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve as per annual work plans. An audit of the Box Vale Track within Mount Alexandra Reserve has been completed and works are planned and budgeted for 2023/24.
35	<b>R. Anderson Bowral</b>  <b>Civic Development Solutions</b>  )	<p>Delivery Program 2023-2025 = I note the Delivery Program Activities 2023-2025 include the following activity</p> <p>“Continuously review processes and policies to ensure that the team is delivering quality service, robust assessment and positive development outcomes that meet the needs and aspirations of the community”</p> <p>Can you please consider incorporating some workshops with consultants and developers for obtaining feedback on council processes and policies. An invitation could be provided to frequent users of councils development assessment services. There is a huge level of frustration in the community in dealing with council policies and processes in the development assessment and post Da process currently. Council should be providing a forum for discussing the problems that people are experiencing in their dealings with council’s development Assessment and development Engineering Services and seek feedback on improvement. The continuous review process should incorporate feedback and this would be an ideal way to achieve this in a consolidated way.</p> <p>I don’t believe that complaints would be capturing these frustrations as people have a very low expectation of getting any feedback or outcome from just putting in individual feedback each time. Emails expressing frustrations to senior managers are not responded to Such workshops should include council officers involved in the DA and post Assessment process and not just senior managers.</p>	Council has been engaging with the community in early 2023 by attending various townships and villages in relation to Council’s processes and procedures. In addition, Council has a complaints register which deals specifically with these types of issues.

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Number	Name	Submission	Staff Response
36	B. Anstee Bowral	<p>Resourcing Strategy 2023-2033 = The upgrade of the memorial hall in Mittagong should be abandoned and the additions to the original building demolished so that a town square is returned to Mittagong and there is visual interaction between the main retail strips on Bowral Road and Main Street which are currently isolated. This is a once in a life time opportunity. The current theatre can be replaced by a new build at a cheaper cost than a renovation. The renovation of the memorial hall in Bowral should be proof of this. The existing Berrima Historic facility would be better located in Berrima in close proximity to the current museum. The stone work on the building came from the old Fitzroy Iron works and could be reused in new buildings. Wingecarribee Shire needs a performance theatre with a capacity of 250 seats and a Performing Art Centre with a seating capacity of 500 seats. The requirements are achievable and should be commercially viable. This could be achieved with liaison with private enterprise. Wingecarribee Shire needs a register of property assets that can be investigated for future community use. There should be no need to buy land for future community facilities.</p> <p>Draft Delivery Program 2023-2025 = The provision to upgrade sewer treatment plants should consider the latest technology for sewerage treatment to clear potable water. Large developments should be encouraged to have on site treatment facilities thereby eliminating a financial load on the community. An example of this is the onsite treatment facility at Zen Oasis in Medway Road by Aerofloat.</p> <p>Operational Plan 2023/2024 = The increases in fees and charges should be limited to a CPI increase only. The charges for Complying Development Certificates and Construction Certificates should be in accordance with the schedule rates under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations for similar development costs. The fee for an application for a building certificate for unauthorised work of \$16,000 is unrealistic. The fee should relate to the schedule fee for the cost of work for which the building certificate will cover. The creation of new fees at unrealistic costs should be eliminated.</p>	<p>Council has already prepared a detailed design for the reopening and reactivation of Mittagong Playhouse/Hall. It is expected development approval will soon be received and grant funding opportunities continue to be pursued. Council's commitment to this project is evident in its inclusion within the Shire Priorities 2023 document.</p> <p>The upgrading of the Bowral, Moss Vale and Mittagong sewage treatment plants has been driven by the growing needs of the local communities. The technologies in the modern designs have been chosen to exceed the tighter EPA discharge licencing into the future. Whilst purified recycled water is a current topic of discussion, our industry is not yet at the point of implementing sewage treatment directly into potable water supply. The increased treatment required to meet such standards would also be at a higher cost.</p> <p>Councils centralised sewage treatment schemes are strategically planned to efficiently and effectively meet the needs of the community, the catchment and facilitate long term sustainable use of residential and commercial land in urbanised areas. The schemes have been designed to meet Councils responsibilities including ecologically sustainable development, protection of the environment, protection of public health and protection of community amenity. Costs are spread across the community to provide equitable access and benefits of the service are shared by the whole community.</p> <p>The actual Building Information Certificate fee proposed was intended to be \$1,600, not \$16,000 as this represents a typographical error. The proposed fees have been benchmarked against other Councils and will assist Council in offering improved service delivery. At present, staff resources are engaged in activities that either have no prescribed fee, or fees that are below the market rate of other Councils in NSW. The proposed fees will align Council with the fees that are charged by other Councils in NSW for these types of services.</p>

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Number	Name	Submission	Staff Response
37	F. Simons Exeter	<p>Resourcing Strategy 2023-2033 = Council has a tremendous challenge ahead as it improves how it is managed and led, how it engages with its community, what systems support its operation, how its workforce requirements are met and how workforce capacity is developed. I feel the resourcing strategy overall presented a good outline of the vision and the challenges ahead for the next 10 years. It is good to know that there is a vision beyond the immediate focus and day to day problems. I think it will be increasingly important to help the community to think about the longer term as well as the current gaps and shorter-term improvement areas that you are making progress on. Both are essential for people to understand i feel, and this is hard work, but is important in building community confidence in Council's representation of current community needs as well as longer term likely needs. It might help to adopt a catch phrase and a graphic to use when speaking to community groups and putting out any written material that helps people to understand the short, medium and longer-term focus that Council is attending to.</p> <p>Draft Delivery Program 2023-2025 = I think the Administrator's summary was excellent and put out there the sorts of short- and medium-term priorities that are sensible and welcome. I was pleased to see a two-step process of review described, looking at internal processes and systems and then a review prioritising service reviews and enhancements. I felt overall the plan was comprehensive and well explained. I liked the 'plans on a page' approach. However, in terms of the vision, and its important mention of the word 'respectful' I couldn't see a clear line between the actions under each of the key themes and the outcome of 'respectful'. Clearly two aspects of this will be how Councillors and Council staff themselves behave, but the other issue is how the Community behaves. I think there is a case for Council trying to lead some sort of program that helps the community improve respect for each other and how they communicate with Council and about Council.</p> <p>Operational Plan 2023/2024 = I was really pleased to see that fees and charges for community (NFP) organisations hiring community facilities have been held at or very near to current hiring fee levels. The ability of community groups to gather and meet in local facilities is paramount to a healthy thriving community. However, could I suggest that the documents that go out for public comment include the current hire rates as well as the proposed rates. This would achieve several things - it would allow more people to see the modest NFP community hirer increases for many services which I believe Council would always be well-served to maintain, and it would also perhaps avoid the mistake made this year in the case of Exeter Hall (and perhaps others - not sure) because it would surely alert those responsible for checking the</p>	<p>Council's goal with communications is very much in line with this suggestion to move toward making its messaging more relatable and easy to grasp. Visual communication is an essential part of this communication and Council officers are building a body of brand imagery that tells this story/illustrates our focus, 'at a glance'. Council's new tagline 'we're with you' reinforces Council's approach to working collaboratively with the community to make what matters most to community members happen. The Community experience is now front-and-centre across all of our communication and key messaging around rebuilding and revitalising, with and for our current and future communities is central to content.</p> <p>Council has provided a personalised approach for community groups, utilising a village focus, with the relatively new role of Place Liaison Officer. This role in its second year has assisted with the community to understand Councils vision and goals in a more relatable way and to provide a direct conduit into Council. This role will continue to work with community groups and associations to look at longer term needs for each community and how they feel about their 'place' as well as building confidence and trust with Council.</p> <p>Council appreciates this perspective on the importance of mutual respect. Council agrees that respect must run both ways for communication to be constructive and productive. The approach begins with seeking to understand the perspective and point of view of those Council wants to communicate with, in order to communicate information or an invitation to participate, in a way that is meaningful and respectful so that all parties are engaged in the process. Council is reaching out to rebuild and strengthen a respectful rapport with media, community and industry groups. Council believes that respect modelled and demonstrated will ultimately have a greater impact than respect 'taught' because when it is experienced it becomes real.</p> <p>Thank you for expressing your satisfaction with the fees and charges for community organisations hiring our facilities. Council appreciates your suggestion to include both the current and proposed hire rates in the documents for public comment. This transparency would allow more people to understand the modest increases for NFP community hirers but also serve as a proactive measure to avoid any inconsistencies or errors in fee hikes. We value your feedback and will take it into account to improve processes and ensure better communication in the future.</p>

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		document to any huge fee hikes that were inconsistent with the budget principles advocated. Even though such mistakes can be resolved in the consultation process, Council faces a huge reputational impact when officers themselves do not raise a red flag when something looks so odd and out of kilter. On this particular matter I think Council staff and/or systems let Council down badly because the mistake, not initially recognised or pursued in a timely way meant that community indignation was aired and agitated when it need not have been that way.	
38	<b>J. Dalzell Canyonleigh  Canyonleigh Hall Management Committee</b>	<p>I am writing as Chairperson of the Canyonleigh Hall Management Committee to voice our opinion on the proposed rates.</p> <p>Our rate per hour is currently \$31.40 inclusive of GST. The proposed rate is \$40 also inclusive of GST which was a verbal statement at the meeting on 30 May at WSC and is not written into the proposal Also not written in the proposal is the inclusive of the days prior and post an event/wedding however it was stated at the same meeting that it will be included.</p> <p>The increase in the proposed hourly rate is 27%. Our question is how did that figure be calculated. Wedding fees will increase by just under 4% which is consistent with CPI. An example of our concern with the hourly rate is with our constant hirer being the Canyonleigh Community Association (CCA) who holds a BYO dinner once a month at the hall for three and a half hours. They hold this to compensate for the lack of any other local venue to meet locals new and established since the extinguish of the General Store. The CCA do not wish to make this a "price" to come along. The CCA prefer to just ask for donations which occasionally can mean that the fee for the hire of the hall is in excess of the donations. With the new proposal this will happen frequently being as the new cost will be \$70.</p> <p>As you are aware Canyonleigh is unique to other villages with no shop and a distance between our neighbours. The only way we can physically meet new residents is the hope that they come along to any of the functions put on by the CCA who in turn struggle for new members since the closure of the General Store. If it is not viable to reduce the proposed daily rate for everyone could consideration be given to the CCA for a rate of their own. I am aware that the proposed rate for them is \$20 per hour.</p>	<p>Within the Council report it will be made clear that the fee for a wedding includes ½ day the day before the event for setup, the day of the event and 2 hours from 8.00am - 10.00am for the clean and tidy up the day after the event.</p> <p>Council notes the uniqueness of Canyonleigh Hall and the absence of other facilities in the Canyonleigh area that would allow the community to get together for social events. However, the proposed new fee of \$20 per hour for Community/Not for Profit organisations brings Canyonleigh hall hire in line with other halls that provide amenities and utilities of a similar nature. Canyonleigh hall provides amenities such as and not limited to a small stage, well equipped kitchen, heating and cooling and a wide veranda.</p>
39	<b>K. Street Bowral</b>	<p>Resourcing Strategy 2023-2033 = No provision to reopen Mittagong Playhouse - funds previously budgeted removed without community consultation.</p> <p>Draft Delivery Program 2023-2025 = No provision to reopen Mittagong Playhouse.</p> <p>Operational Plan 2023/2024 = Budgets mean nothing if they are varied without community consultation like the redirection of funds budgeted for the Mittagong Memorial Hall and Playhouse</p>	<p>The renewal and refurbishment works required at Mittagong Playhouse/Hall are beyond the capacity of funds available in the 2023/24 to 26/27 Delivery Program and so the project unfortunately does not feature within the draft Capital Works Program.</p> <p>None the less, Council is committed to reopening and reactivation of Mittagong Playhouse/Hall and is actively seeking grant funding opportunities to enable its delivery.</p>

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			Council's commitment to the project is evident through its inclusion within the Shire Priorities 2023 document, with the reopening and reactivation of Mittagong Playhouse/Hall listed as one of the advocacy projects.
40	Anonymous	<p>I wish to make the below submission. I only became aware of this public exhibition last night, and I am aware that the submission period closes in less than half an hour, so I will only be able to briefly expand on my points. I would appreciate if my submission could be anonymous.</p> <p>I had heard that Council fees were broadly set to rise in line with CPI and has taken that at face value. I was therefore surprised when I opened the document entitled 'Draft Fees and Charges - 23/24 Market Comparison' and noticed a series of fees proposed to be hiked by 100%+ (predominantly those in sections 29 and 30 covering Development, Subdivision and Construction Fees and Building and Planning Certificates). These are not minor fees, but ones that run in to the thousands, so a doubling of the cost (or more!) is very significant.</p> <p>The broad reason proffered seems to be to 'align with market rates' but the same document shows that neighbouring councils are almost always charging significantly less than WSC proposes to. To which market are the Council seeking to benchmark these charges to - to the commercial, profit-making market? Some of these services are only offered by council, and can't be outsourced to private certifiers! Furthermore, Council is not a commercial enterprise. Is it not meant to serve the community? Why is it seeking to align itself with an entirely different category of commercial providers, and not other Councils?</p> <p>Finally, I would like to note that I am disappointed that this particular set of increases has been tucked away in the documents in such a way that they were not easily reviewed. I stumbled across them by accident, when looking to see what swimming lessons were proposed to cost last year! I went to YouTube to view the recording of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 26 April when this information was presented and noted that most presenters took the audience through slides that clearly showed the fees that were proposed to increase by more than 4% or 10%. However, the presenter for Development Application and Regulation made only a fleeting reference using a slide entitled 'Key Changes in Fees and Charges'. At the conclusion of his presentation, I observed all the slides that made clearer reference to the increased fees were hurriedly skipped through to get to the slides for the next presenter. I could only see what these slides contained by pausing the video to read them. I would like to think that this was not a deliberate 'glossing over' of these key changes but I am left with the very distinct impression of an attempt to pull the wool over our eyes. Transparency is sorely lacking. At a time when many individuals and families are hurting, and feeling gouged by cost increases on every front, I urge you</p>	<p>The proposed fees have been benchmarked against other Councils and will assist Council in offering improved service delivery. At present, staff resources are engaged in activities that either have no prescribed fee, or fees that are below the market rate of other Councils in NSW. The proposed fees will align Council with the fees that are charged by other Councils in NSW for these types of services.</p> <p>The proposed fees are not profit-making, but serve to achieve part-cost recovery for various services that are offered by Council. The presentation timeframe did not permit a review of each and every fee, but detailed those fees that were increasing substantially in areas that were likely to affect a higher proportion of the LGA.</p>

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**Draft Resourcing Strategy 2023-2033, Delivery Program 2023-2025 and Operational Plan and Budget 2023/24 - Submissions and Staff Responses**

Number	Name	Submission	Staff Response
		to reconsider the excessive rise in some of these fees and charges. It is not too late. Respectfully, A local resident	
41	P. Connolly Bowral	<p>I note that many development, subdivision, and construction fees are proposed to increase by 100%.</p> <p>It appears the increases to these big-ticket items have been somewhat 'buried' in the documentation, and hidden behind statements like "The Draft 2023/24 Fees and Charges were generally indexed by 7% in line with...CPI" (From FAQ on Your Say Wingecarribee)</p> <p>Council also notes that some fees have been further reviewed to benchmark them against other councils. However, the document showing comparisons with neighbouring councils shows the proposed Fees for this category greatly exceed the fees charged in other shires. That being the case, what is the rationale behind the 100% increase?</p> <p>Whilst increased fees in this category will likely not create a major hurdle for larger developers, there will be a significant impost on individuals and families seeking to build a family home in an area that is already pricing many out of contention.</p> <p>This seems to work directly in opposition to notions of providing affordable housing for this region. There is widespread discontent in the shire with frustrations around Council's performance, particularly in approval timeframes. Does Council feel their sub-par performance is deserving of an 100% increase in these fees?</p> <p>Would there be a corresponding 100% increase in the quality of Council performance?</p> <p>Yours living in hope</p>	<p>Comparisons have been made with other Councils in NSW and not just neighbouring Councils in order to demonstrate that the fees are not unique to Wingecarribee Shire, but allow in-part for cost recovery for the services offered. In some cases where there is a 100% increase, it is largely because Council has not regularly reviewed its fees and charges and in these instances Council has been subsidising the actual costs of the services.</p> <p>Council is mindful of the rising costs of housing and associated affordability challenges. However, it is also important to ensure that Council operate on the basis of at least partial cost-recovery for these services.</p> <p>By promoting smaller dwellings and more flexible options for housing across a broad range of sectors, Council is fulfilling its obligation in assisting those within the community who rely upon additional housing choice. Other State government policies which promote housing affordability are also administered by Council.</p> <p>The proposed increase in fees will be associated with improved services in some instances, but on the whole this review allows for Council's fees and charges to be benchmarked against other Councils in NSW and assists with cost recovery of services. In the case of Pre-DA meetings, the proposed fee will reduce, but Council will be maintaining its service offering.</p>