



SOUTHERN DOWNS REGIONAL COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Dear Councillors

Your attendance is hereby requested at the General Meeting of Council to be held in the Council Chambers, Southern Downs Regional Council, 61 Marsh Street, Stanthorpe on **Wednesday, 25 September 2019** at **9:00AM**.

Notice is hereby given of the business to be transacted at the meeting.

David Keenan

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

19 September 2019

Attendance

10:30am Presentation of Casual for a Cause to Stanthorpe Cancer Support Group

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

1. PRAYER & CONDOLENCES

2. ATTENDANCE

3. APOLOGIES

4. READING AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 General Council Meeting - 28 August 2019

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the General Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28 August 2019 be adopted.

4.2 Special Council Meeting - 9 September 2019

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Monday 9 September 2019 be adopted.

4.3 Special Council Meeting - 13 September 2019


Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Friday 13 September 2019 be adopted.

5. ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL MEETINGS

5.1 Actions from Previous Council Meetings

Document Information

 Southern Downs REGIONAL COUNCIL	Report To: General Council Meeting	
	Reporting Officer:	Meeting Date: 25 September 2019
	Chief Executive Officer	ECM Function No/s: 13.42

Recommendation

THAT Council receive the report and note the contents.

Report

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of Actions resulting from resolutions from the following Council Meetings:

- General Council Meeting 28 August 2019
- Special Council Meeting 9 September 2019
- Special Council Meeting 13 September 2019

Copies of the Actions Reports are attached.

Attachments

1. Actions from General Council Meeting 28 August 2019 [↓](#)
2. Actions from Special Meeting 9 September 2019 [↓](#)
3. Actions from Special Council Meeting 13 September 2019 [↓](#)



ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING 28 AUGUST 2019

MEETING DATE	ITEM NUMBER	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION OFFICER	ACTION TO DATE	COMPLETED
28/08/2019	5.1	Actions from Previous Council Meetings	Keenan, David	12 Sep 2019 - 12:46 PM - David Keenan Action completed by: Seymour, Marion Noted.	12/09/2019
28/08/2019	6.1	Conflict of Interest - Cr Meiklejohn - Agenda Item 17.2	Keenan, David	12 Sep 2019 - 12:46 PM - David Keenan Action completed by: Seymour, Marion Noted.	12/09/2019
28/08/2019	6.2	Conflict of Interest - Cr Pennisi - Agenda Item 12.2	Keenan, David	12 Sep 2019 - 12:47 PM - David Keenan Action completed by: Seymour, Marion Noted.	12/09/2019
28/08/2019	6.3	Conflict of Interest - Cr Pennisi - Agenda Item 12.4	Keenan, David	12 Sep 2019 - 12:47 PM - David Keenan Action completed by: Seymour, Marion Noted.	12/09/2019
28/08/2019	6.3.1	Conflict of Interest - Cr Pennisi - Agenda Item 12.4	Keenan, David	12 Sep 2019 - 12:47 PM - David Keenan Action completed by: Seymour, Marion Noted.	12/09/2019
28/08/2019	6.4	Conflict of Interest - Cr Pennisi - Agenda Item 17.14	Keenan, David	12 Sep 2019 - 12:47 PM - David Keenan Action completed by: Seymour, Marion Noted.	12/09/2019
28/08/2019	6.4.1	Conflict of Interest - Cr Pennisi - Agenda Item 17.14	Keenan, David	12 Sep 2019 - 12:47 PM - David Keenan Action completed by: Seymour, Marion Noted.	12/09/2019
28/08/2019	6.5	Conflict of Interest - Cr Pennisi - Agenda Item 17.15	Keenan, David	12 Sep 2019 - 12:47 PM - David Keenan Action completed by: Seymour, Marion Noted.	12/09/2019
28/08/2019	6.5.1	Conflict of Interest - Cr Pennisi - Agenda Item 17.15	Keenan, David	12 Sep 2019 - 12:47 PM - David Keenan Action completed by: Seymour, Marion Noted.	12/09/2019
28/08/2019	7.1	Mayoral Minute	Dobie, Tracy	12 Sep 2019 - 12:51 PM - Tracy Dobie Action completed by: Seymour, Marion Noted.	12/09/2019
28/08/2019	8.1	Correspondence	Seymour, Marion	12 Sep 2019 - 12:53 PM - Marion Seymour Action completed by: Seymour, Marion	12/09/2019



ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING 28 AUGUST 2019

MEETING DATE	ITEM NUMBER	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION OFFICER	ACTION TO DATE	COMPLETED
				Noted.	
28/08/2019	11.1	Financial Report as at 31 July 2019	Gross, Helen	3 Sep 2019 - 2:05 PM - Helen Gross Action completed by: Keir, Dianna Council resolution noted.	3/09/2019
28/08/2019	11.2	Building Our Regions Round 5	Aspinall, Jason	3 Sep 2019 - 2:05 PM - Jason Aspinall Action completed by: Keir, Dianna EOI submitted 30 August 2019	3/09/2019
28/08/2019	11.3	Stormwater Asset and Service Management Plan	Pembroke, Elle	3 Sep 2019 - 2:06 PM - Elle Pembroke Action completed by: Keir, Dianna Council resolution noted.	3/09/2019
28/08/2019	11.4	Queensland Veterans' Memorial Grants Program	Aspinall, Jason	3 Sep 2019 - 2:06 PM - Jason Aspinall Action completed by: Keir, Dianna Application awaiting final review. Due for submission 20 October 2019	3/09/2019
28/08/2019	11.5	Infrastructure Australia Priority Projects List	Aspinall, Jason	3 Sep 2019 - 2:07 PM - Jason Aspinall Action completed by: Keir, Dianna Submitted 30 August 2019.	3/09/2019
28/08/2019	11.6	Adoption of Amended Schedule of General Fees and Charges 2019/2020	Page, Andrew	3 Sep 2019 - 2:07 PM - Andrew Page Action completed by: Keir, Dianna Council resolution noted.	3/09/2019
28/08/2019	12.1	Infrastructure Services Directorate Monthly Report	McKenzie, Seren	12 Sep 2019 - 4:28 PM - Seren McKenzie Action completed by: Fagan, Barb Noted	12/09/2019
28/08/2019	12.2	Cycleway Master Plan	McKenzie, Seren	17 Sep 2019 - 8:56 AM - Seren McKenzie Action completed by: Fagan, Barb Public consultation period has commenced by advertising in the local media.	17/09/2019
28/08/2019	12.3	Stanthorpe Streetscape	McKenzie, Seren	17 Sep 2019 - 8:56 AM - Seren McKenzie Action completed by: Fagan, Barb Public consultation period has commenced by advertising in the local media.	17/09/2019
28/08/2019	13.1	Reconfiguration of a Lot, Gary Hayes & Partners Pty Ltd, 29 Amarina Avenue, Sladevale	Reid, Geoff	17 Sep 2019 - 5:19 PM - Geoff Reid Action completed by: Bilbrough, Allison	17/09/2019



ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING 28 AUGUST 2019

MEETING DATE	ITEM NUMBER	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION OFFICER	ACTION TO DATE	COMPLETED
				Noted	
28/08/2019	13.1.1	Reconfiguration of a Lot, Gary Hayes & Partners Pty Ltd, 29 Amarina Avenue, Sladevale - Approval	Stroud, Jane	17 Sep 2019 - 5:19 PM - Jane Stroud Action completed by: Bilbrough, Allison Resolution noted and conditions being drafted	17/09/2019
28/08/2019	12.4	Water Contingency Plan	McKenzie, Seren	17 Sep 2019 - 5:01 PM - Seren McKenzie Action completed by: Fagan, Barb Noted	17/09/2019
28/08/2019	12.1	Stanthorpe CBD Vehicle Parking Study	McKenzie, Seren	17 Sep 2019 - 8:56 AM - Seren McKenzie Action completed by: Fagan, Barb Public consultation period has commenced by advertising in the local media.	17/09/2019
28/08/2019	13.2	Adapt Planning, Purple Dove Awareness Group Inc., 19 Church Road, The Summit	Beck, Sean	17 Sep 2019 - 5:17 PM - Sean Beck Action completed by: Bilbrough, Allison Letter mailed advising of Council Resolution	17/09/2019
28/08/2019	13.3	Request for Review of Decision for Issue of Temporary Events Permit	Stroud, Jane	12 Sep 2019 - 3:22 PM - Jane Stroud Action completed by: Bilbrough, Allison Applicant has been notified of Council decision to uphold refusal and the events strategy will be promoted for consideration during the 1st quarter review.	12/09/2019
28/08/2019	13.4	Regional Promotion and Visitor Numbers Autumn/Winter 2019	Long, Vivien	11 Sep 2019 - 5:10 PM - Vivien Long Action completed by: Bilbrough, Allison Council Resolution noted.	11/09/2019
28/08/2019	13.5	Senate Submission into Regional Jobs	Stroud, Jane	17 Sep 2019 - 5:18 PM - Jane Stroud Action completed by: Bilbrough, Allison Submission mailed to Select Committee	17/09/2019
28/08/2019	17.1	Renewal of Trustee Lease between the Allora Tennis Club Incorporated and Southern Downs Regional Council	Duell, Kate	12 Sep 2019 - 1:11 PM - Kate Duell Letter and email sent as notification of outcome to Lessee today 12 Sep 2019 - 1:11 PM - Kate Duell Action completed by: Duell, Kate Email and letter sent as notification to Lessee today	12/09/2019
28/08/2019	17.2	Renewal of Trustee Lease between the Warwick Swimming Club Incorporated and the Southern Downs Regional	Duell, Kate	12 Sep 2019 - 1:12 PM - Kate Duell Action completed by: Duell, Kate	12/09/2019



ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING 28 AUGUST 2019

MEETING DATE	ITEM NUMBER	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION OFFICER	ACTION TO DATE	COMPLETED
		Council		Email and letter sent as notification to Lessee today	
28/08/2019	17.3	Application for Rates Deferral - PID 106500	Gow, Lachlan	17 Sep 2019 - 8:05 AM - Lachlan Gow Response issued to ratepayer 17 Sep 2019 - 8:06 AM - Lachlan Gow Action completed by: Gow, Lachlan Response issued to ratepayer	17/09/2019
28/08/2019	17.4	Application for Rates Deferral - PID 133220	Gow, Lachlan	17 Sep 2019 - 8:06 AM - Lachlan Gow Report withdrawn - no action required 17 Sep 2019 - 8:08 AM - Lachlan Gow Action completed by: Gow, Lachlan Report withdrawn - No action required	17/09/2019
28/08/2019	17.5	Request for 35% discount on Property ID 16310	Gow, Lachlan	17 Sep 2019 - 8:08 AM - Lachlan Gow Action completed by: Gow, Lachlan Response issued to ratepayer	17/09/2019
28/08/2019	17.6	Application for Rates Deferral - PID 126495	Gow, Lachlan	17 Sep 2019 - 8:09 AM - Lachlan Gow Action completed by: Gow, Lachlan Hardship applied to property and response issued to ratepayer	17/09/2019
28/08/2019	17.7	Application for Rates Deferral - PID 35125	Gow, Lachlan	17 Sep 2019 - 8:09 AM - Lachlan Gow Action completed by: Gow, Lachlan Response issued to ratepayer	17/09/2019
28/08/2019	17.8	Application for Rates Deferral - PID 23950	Gow, Lachlan	17 Sep 2019 - 8:10 AM - Lachlan Gow Action completed by: Gow, Lachlan Response issued to ratepayer	17/09/2019
28/08/2019	17.9	Application for Rates Deferral - PID 18085	Gow, Lachlan	17 Sep 2019 - 8:10 AM - Lachlan Gow Action completed by: Gow, Lachlan Response issued to ratepayer	17/09/2019
28/08/2019	17.10	Land Acquisition and Disposal by Lease	Cockram, Cathy	11 Sep 2019 - 2:23 PM - Cathy Cockram Action completed by: Keir, Dianna Council's solicitor has been engaged to prepare the 'sale of land' contract and also the lease document as per the resolution.	11/09/2019



ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING 28 AUGUST 2019

MEETING DATE	ITEM NUMBER	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION OFFICER	ACTION TO DATE	COMPLETED
28/08/2019	17.11	Second Request for Water Relief - PID 93645	Reid, Nellie	<i>17 Sep 2019 - 4:49 PM - Nellie Reid</i> Action completed by: Keir, Dianna Correspondence has been sent to applicants advising that relief has not been granted.	17/09/2019
28/08/2019	17.12	Waive Water Consumption Charges - PID 93510	Gow, Lachlan	<i>17 Sep 2019 - 8:10 AM - Lachlan Gow</i> Action completed by: Gow, Lachlan Response issued to ratepayer	17/09/2019
28/08/2019	17.13	July 2019 Monthly Report - Warwick Indoor Recreation and Aquatic Centre - YMCA Brisbane	Gribbin, Peter	<i>18 Sep 2019 - 8:58 AM - Peter Gribbin</i> Action completed by: Keir, Dianna At the August 2019 general meeting of Council, the report was received and no items were discussed or queried.	18/09/2019
28/08/2019	17.14	Audit and Risk Management Committee Meeting Minutes - 15 August 2019	Collins, Jody	<i>3 Sep 2019 - 2:08 PM - Jody Collins</i> Action completed by: Keir, Dianna Council resolution noted.	3/09/2019
28/08/2019	17.15	Evaluation Report - RFT19_196 - Southern Downs Environmental Sustainability Strategy	Magnussen, Craig	<i>12 Sep 2019 - 3:24 PM - Craig Magnussen</i> Action completed by: Bilbrough, Allison Contract appointed for the SDESS	12/09/2019
28/08/2019	17.17	Submission to State Government for Drought Assistance Funding for the Carting of Water to Stanthorpe	McKenzie, Seren	<i>18 Sep 2019 - 11:03 AM - Seren McKenzie</i> Action completed by: Fagan, Barb Submission successful, \$2.4 million capital & \$800,000 for water carting per month until 2021.	18/09/2019
28/08/2019	17.16	Waste Contracts - Transfer Stations and Tender Consideration Plan: S230 of the Local Government Regulation 2012	Brooks, Darryl	<i>12 Sep 2019 - 3:27 PM - Darryl Brooks</i> Action completed by: Bilbrough, Allison Extension of time confirmed with Supervisors. A further report will be presented at the October General Meeting for awarding of contract.	12/09/2019
28/08/2019	17.18	Recommendation to Host 2020 Hockey Women's State Masters	Stroud, Jane	<i>11 Sep 2019 - 5:13 PM - Jane Stroud</i> Action completed by: Bilbrough, Allison Letter sent to Hockey Queensland advising of Council's full support and offer of funding for the 2020 Masters tournament.	11/09/2019



ACTIONS FROM SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING 9 SEPTEMBER 2019

MEETING DATE	ITEM NUMBER	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION OFFICER	ACTION TO DATE	COMPLETED
9/09/2019	3.1	Conflict of Interest - Cr Pennisi - Agenda Item 4.2	Keenan, David	<i>12 Sep 2019 - 12:54 PM - David Keenan</i> Action completed by: Seymour, Marion Noted.	12/09/2019
9/09/2019	4.1	Building Our Regions Round 5 Regional Capital Fund - Planning	Aspinall, Jason	<i>12 Sep 2019 - 4:42 PM - Jason Aspinall</i> Action completed by: Keir, Dianna Application being drafted and will fall due for submission by the end of September 2019.	12/09/2019
9/09/2019	4.2	2019-21 Works for Queensland Program funding variation	Aspinall, Jason	<i>18 Sep 2019 - 8:24 AM - Jason Aspinall</i> Action completed by: Keir, Dianna In progress – advised Dept that variation request is forthcoming. Formal variation request to be submitted upon receipt of form from Dept. Anticipate finalisation by 20 September 2019.	18/09/2019
9/09/2019	5.1	Evaluation Report - PSA for Water Carting	Morris, Joanne	<i>12 Sep 2019 - 4:40 PM - Joanne Morris</i> Action completed by: Keir, Dianna Letters have been drafted and submitted for Director signature.	12/09/2019



ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING 13 SEPTEMBER 2019


^MEETING DATE	ITEM NUMBER	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION OFFICER	ACTION TO DATE	COMPLETED
13/09/2019	1.1	Councillor Attendance by Teleconference	Keenan, David	<i>18 Sep 2019 - 9:10 AM - David Keenan</i> Action completed by: Seymour, Marion Noted	18/09/2019
13/09/2019	4.1	Request for Extension of the Due Date Period	Gow, Lachlan	<i>18 Sep 2019 - 9:17 AM - Lachlan Gow</i> Action completed by: Gow, Lachlan Due date for payment and discount date extending in the Property & Rating system of TechOne to 11 October 2019	18/09/2019

6. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

7. MAYORAL MINUTE

7.1 Mayoral Minute

Document Information

 Southern Downs REGIONAL COUNCIL	Report To: General Council Meeting	
	Reporting Officer:	Meeting Date: 25 September 2019
	Mayor	ECM Function No/s:

Recommendation

THAT Council receive the Mayoral Minute for September 2019.

Report

While there has been much happening since the last General Council Meeting, I will address only two items.

The first item is the bushfires that impacted Stanthorpe, Applethorpe, Ballandean and Pozieres. The work on the ground undertaken by QFES, the Rural Fire Service, Queensland Police, SES, Council and Ergon is to be commended. Exceptional planning and preparation meant that each of these organisations was able to do the work they needed to do.

Our residents too, who fought the fire at their own homes and businesses; and who evacuated when they were asked to do so, are to be applauded. Their swift action meant that no lives were lost.

And then to the many individuals, alone or as part of an organisation, who responded immediately and continue to respond - thank you. The strength and spirit of our community will sustain us through the recovery from this bushfire.

The second item is the funding provided by the Queensland State Government for the Emergency Water Project for Stanthorpe. So much work has been undertaken by Council staff to do the research, preparation, funding submission and now the roll out of the project itself.

The advocacy undertaken for our region, on many levels, paid off with the Premier pledging 100% of the necessary funding.

It is at times like this that we need to stop for a minute and show gratitude. Gratitude for what was saved in this bushfire.

Gratitude for the funding and donations from people who live inside and outside of our region.

Gratitude that we live in the country we live in.

Options

1. Council receive the Mayoral Minute for September 2019.

2. Council not receive the Mayoral Minute for September 2019.


Attachments

Nil

8. READING AND CONSIDERATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Correspondence

Document Information

 Southern Downs REGIONAL COUNCIL	Report To: General Council Meeting	
	Reporting Officer:	Meeting Date: 25 September 2019
	PA to Mayor & CEO	ECM Function No/s:

Recommendation

THAT the report of the Chief Executive Officer in relation to Correspondence be received.

Report

1. **Federal Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management** in response to Council's correspondence regard participation on the Future Drought Fund Consultative Committee. Copies of both letters are attached.

Action: Noted.

Attachments

1. Letter from Council to the Federal Minister for Water Resources [↓](#)
2. Letter from Federal Minister for Water Resources [↓](#)



Our Ref: DK:CM:14.03

30 July 2019

The Hon. David Littleproud MP
Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster
and Emergency Management
PO Box 641
DALBY QLD 4405

david.littleproud.mp@aph.gov.au

Please address all
communications to:

The Chief Executive Officer
Southern Downs
Regional Council
PO Box 26
Warwick Qld 4370

mail@sdrc.qld.gov.au
www.sdrc.qld.gov.au

abn 59 786 792 651

Warwick Office

64 Fitzroy Street
Warwick Qld 4370

Stanthorpe Office

61 Marsh Street
Stanthorpe Qld 4380

t. **1300 MYSDRC**
(1300 697 372)

f **07 4661 0333**

Dear Minister

Participation on Future Drought Fund Consultative Committee

The purpose of this letter is to seek Southern Downs Regional Council's participation on the Future Drought Fund Consultative Committee.

Council welcomes the Morrison Government's recent establishment of the Future Drought Fund and looks forward to the support it will provide to drought affected communities such as those located in the Southern Downs.

Council also welcomes the Government's announcement regarding the establishment of the Future Drought Fund Consultative Committee to inform development of the Drought Resilience Funding Plan.

As you will be acutely aware, the Southern Downs is experiencing unprecedented drought conditions. As such, Council has strong views on investment strategies to best provide outcomes that enable communities to become more prepared for and resilient to the effects of drought.

I look forward to your favourable consideration of this request.

Yours faithfully

David Keenan
Chief Executive Officer



The Hon. David Littleproud MP

**Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance,
Natural Disaster and Emergency Management
Federal Member for Maranoa**

Ref: MC19-006417

- 2 SEP 2019

Mr David Keenan
Chief Executive Officer
Southern Downs Regional Council
PO BOX 26
WARWICK QLD 4370

Via email: david.keenan@sdrc.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Keenan

Thank you for your correspondence of 30 July 2019, concerning the Future Drought Fund Consultative Committee.

A key aspect of the government's forward-looking drought policy is the Future Drought Fund (FDF), which will provide a secure revenue scheme to be used for drought resilience, preparedness and response. Through grants or other arrangements, the FDF is intended to support a wide range of drought resilience measures that benefit all Australians. This investment will help lift the productivity and profitability of the agriculture sector and enhance the health and sustainability of Australia's farming landscapes.

Work will soon commence on developing the Fund's Drought Resilience Funding Plan – a rolling four-year high level framework – to ensure a coherent and consistent approach is undertaken when considering and providing funding for drought resilience projects. The Funding Plan will be developed based on advice from the Future Drought Fund Consultative Committee and informed through extensive public consultation.

As set out in the *Future Drought Fund Act 2019*, the Consultative Committee members must have expertise or experience in two or more of the following areas: drought resilience measures, climate risk, the agriculture industry, rural and regional community leadership and resilience, rural and regional development, applied research, agricultural extension and economics.

Appointments for the Committee are being finalised and will have a balance of gender, knowledge, skills as well as representation of a balance of different regions across Australia affected, or that could be affected, by drought.

Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 Telephone: 02 6277 7630 Email: Minister.Littleproud@agriculture.gov.au

You may like to participate in the consultation process, expected to commence in November 2019, to share your ideas for the Fund. You can find out more about the FDF, including how to be notified when consultation begins, at: <https://haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/future-drought-fund>. I trust the information I have provided has been helpful.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Littleproud', with a stylized flourish at the end.

DAVID LITTLEPROUD MP

9. RECEPTION AND READING OF PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

Nil


10. EXECUTIVE SERVICES REPORTS

Nil

11. CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

11.1 Southern Downs Youth Council 2019 - Meeting No.3

Document Information

 Southern Downs REGIONAL COUNCIL	Report To: General Council Meeting	
	Reporting Officer:	Meeting Date: 25 September 2019
	Community Development Officer	ECM Function No/s:

Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. Note the minutes from the third meeting of the Southern Downs Youth Council 2019 held Thursday 29 August 2019;
2. Note the recommendations made by the Youth Council; and in particular, Council approve the following recommendation made by the Youth Council:
 - a. THAT the Southern Downs Youth Council recommends schools to open to the wider public/community for 'open days' with the future goal being building relationships and connections between schools and the community.

Report

On 29 August 2019, the Southern Downs Youth Council held its third meeting for 2019 at SCOTS PGC College. The Southern Downs Youth Council discussed several matters, with one item leading to recommendation that is now before Council for its consideration.

Budget Implications

Nil

Policy Consideration

Southern Downs Youth Policy

Community Engagement

Southern Downs Youth Council

Legislation/Local Law

Nil

Options

Council:

1. Note the minutes of the Southern Downs Youth Council 2019 and approve the recommendation;

2. Note the minutes of the Southern Downs Youth Council 2019 and not approve the recommendation;
3. Do not note the minutes or approve the recommendation of the Southern Downs Youth Council 2019.

Attachments

1. Youth Council Meeting Minutes - 29 August 2019 [1](#)



SOUTHERN DOWNS YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES



MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN DOWNS YOUTH COUNCIL Held at the Junior/Middle School Library, SCOTS PGC College, on Thursday, 29 August 2019 at 9:30am

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

1. INFORMAL GATHERING	2
2. HOST SCHOOL TOUR, WELCOME AND SNAPSHOT	2
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1. INFORMAL GATHERING

The Southern Downs Youth Council student members met with Council staff for an informal get-together prior to the formal meeting. This was an opportunity to 'warm-up' and get ready for the meeting. Discussions were held about what to expect from the meeting and the proposed items/topics.

2. HOST SCHOOL TOUR, WELCOME AND SNAPSHOT

Principal Mr Kyle Thompson welcomed everyone, gave a snapshot of the school and led the group on a brief tour of their school where members saw some of the facilities provided to their students for activities such as hospitality/sporting/science.

Mr Thompson congratulated the students on their efforts in the Youth Council space and encouraged everyone to think about *'how and what you can be implemented in the schools to make change'*. Mr Thompson also highlighted the fact that change comes from students rather than adults and with small change movement creates a ripple effect for larger change within the community.

Mr Thompson further discussed the importance of building relationships which includes finding out about each other by discussing who you are, why you care then moving into the space of what you can do for each other.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY, WELCOME AND OPEN

The Mayor provided an acknowledgement of country, welcomed the Southern Downs Youth Council student members and guests to the third meeting for 2019 and formally opened the meeting. The Mayor also acknowledged all elders in the community who continually support the community year after year for their efforts.

4. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

Present:

Youth Council Membership

Allora P-10 State School – Connor Feltham and Faith McKay;
Assumption College Warwick – Matthew Higgins and Kaitlyn Newley;
Killarney P-10 State School – Thomas Browne and Michaela Paterson;
SCOTS PGC College – Holly Naughten;
Southern Downs Flexible Learning Hub – WCC – Joshua Pearson
Stanthorpe State High School – Erinn Davenport & Liam Gow;
St Joseph's School – Taylah Whiticker & Cooper Wren;
Warwick Christian College – Angela Harm & Gizeshw'k Mason; and
Warwick State High School – Krystal Simon & Matthew Strom.

Observers

Southern Downs Regional Council – Cr Jo McNally, Cr Marika McNichol, Cr Sheryl Windle, Cr Yve Stocks, Cr Rod Kelly, Michael Bell, Joanne Morris, Samantha Shelbourn, Angie Schultz (Minute Secretary);
SCOTS PGC College; Estie Wiid;
Assumption College Representative Anna Hardy;
St Joseph's School – Lorien Kirby;
Warwick Christian College – Principal Carmelo Rubio;
Warwick State High School – Kirsty Caterson;

Apologies:

SCOTS PGC College – Lincoln McNair

School of Total Education – Cormac Doolan and Katie Hughes;

Southern Downs Flexible Learning Hub – WCC – Luke Pillar

Warwick Christian College – Cooper Demoor

Southern Downs Regional Council – Cr Cameron Gow, Cr Neil Meiklejohn, Cr Vic Pennisi, and Gwen Jones

Southern Downs Flexible Learning Hub – WCC – Jenny Pearson

Warwick State High School – Vicki Buttrose & Justin Alley

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

Moved Liam

Seconded Matthew

THAT the minutes of the Southern Downs Youth Council Meeting held on Thursday, 30 May 2019 be adopted.

Carried

6. HOST SCHOOL AND YOUTH COUNCIL ITEMS

6.1 SCOTs PGC College Item

Proposed & Presented by:

Youth Council members, Holly Naughten (apologies for Lincoln McNair)

Proposal:

Connection with young people in our community, specifically within schools.

Summary Information:

Holly discussed the issue with the younger school grades entering into high school and the daunting process of integration. Holly suggested a buddy system such as a reading program or sports events where older grades interact and connect with younger grades to make the transition easier. Along with this Holly raised the desire for schools to build relationships with other school which supports students to form connections with those outside of their own school environment.

Discussion

Group discussions began with majority of schools such as Warwick State High School, Killarney P-10 State School, St Joseph's School and Stanthorpe State High explaining that programs like this already exist. These include 'Transition Day' where the primary school (year 6) buddy with the high school students or 'Informal Peer Group days' where the high school goes to the primary school and undertake activities with a younger student. These days are designed to encourage communication between different grades and making connections that reduces the anxiety or stress of the first day/week.

Suggestions were raised about opening the 'open or transition' days to the community to encourage all younger students from any school to come and visit possible High schools to migrate to. An idea was discussed to change the day's name to promote more community attendance and have more school open days.

Recommendation:

Moved Holly **Seconded** Kaitlyn

THAT the Southern Downs Youth Council recommends schools to open to the wider public/community for 'open days' with the future goal being building relationships and connections between schools and the community.

Carried

6.2 Update on the Aged Care Youth Council Resolution

Summary Information:

Proposed and Presented by: Matt Strom and Krystal Simon (Warwick State High School)

Update on its visit to Aged Care Facilities which came about due to a Youth Council recommendation (moved in April).

Council wrote to aged care facilities informing them of the request from Southern Downs Youth Council to engage with its residents to capture stories and bridge the generation gap.

Matt: Recently, Krystal and I have been to both, the Akooramak and Churches of Christ nursing homes. At Akooramaz we had 4 elderly residents and at the Churches of Christ we had 5 elderly residents.

Krystal: Some interesting facts that we learnt about the Churches of Christ residents are; Rose City use to be Magnolia Arcade and a Magnolia tree was placed outside its entrance, Barne's general store was located at rivers, there was a fish pond in Leslie park, Scots College was a hospital and they use to go dancing at the railway station.

Matt: Some facts that we learnt from Akooramak residents were; the math subject was called rhythmic, there was no industrial estate, Warwick was only an agricultural town, main street has remained on the same street, there was an open air picture theatre and Hollywood café was located next to the town hall.

Krystal: We mostly used these encounters as social interactions with the elderly residents which we enjoyed. The residents at both homes also enjoyed us going up and talking to them and would like more students to go and socialise with them.

Discussion

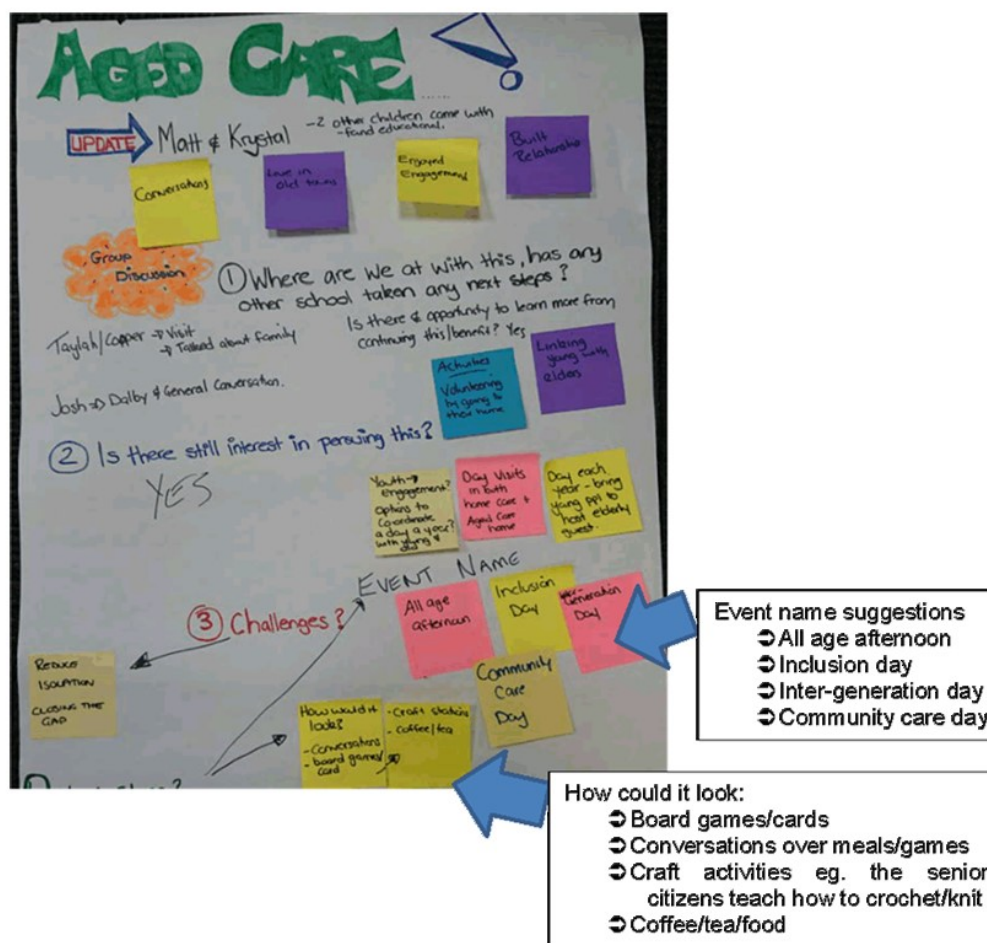
Other schools have also commenced participating in these visits with these being; Taylah and Cooper from St Joseph's School visiting Carramar Aged Care and found the visit enjoyable and mostly talked about family with the seniors. Joshua from Southern Downs Flexible Learning Hub advised he visited an Aged Care facility in Dalby with the main focus on being 'general conversations'. Allora State School previously discussed in the last meeting their contact made also.

The Mayor posed the questions around *'is there still interest in pursuing interaction with Aged Care facilities and what opportunity can be harnessed from continuing this?'*

The consensus from the Youth Council was the continuation of this event as it is highly beneficial for both the youth and elderly in ways such as:

- *Reduce isolations*
- *Closing the gap between generations*
- *Keeping the stories being told through generation interactions*

The Mayor asked 'how would it look to implement this activity yearly' and opened it to the Youth Council for a group name for the event. These were discussed and highlighted in the workshop of ideas below:



Next Steps

The Mayor requested further investigations from council to engage with aged care facilities and the schools for interest in a 'one day a year' event to be added to the yearly calendar.

7. KEY FOCUS TOPIC

7.1 Drought Management/Communication Ideas

Discussion

The Mayor wanted to focus on ideas on drought management/communication that the council can improve/implement; the topic was opened up for Youth Council discussion.

Michaela suggested why don't those residents who currently have no water tanks be encouraged to install subsidised water tanks; future planning idea.

The Mayor responded with some back information on the current structure in place for water tank rebate scheme for town residents versus rural residents. It was explained that the

town water works on a reticulated water system where in town residents who buy a tank (receive a rebate) as in town residents pay an access water fee which residents in rural area (outside of town) are not required to pay a fee; they are not connected in with the town water. The challenge is trying to find an incentive for rural residents to take up this proposal.

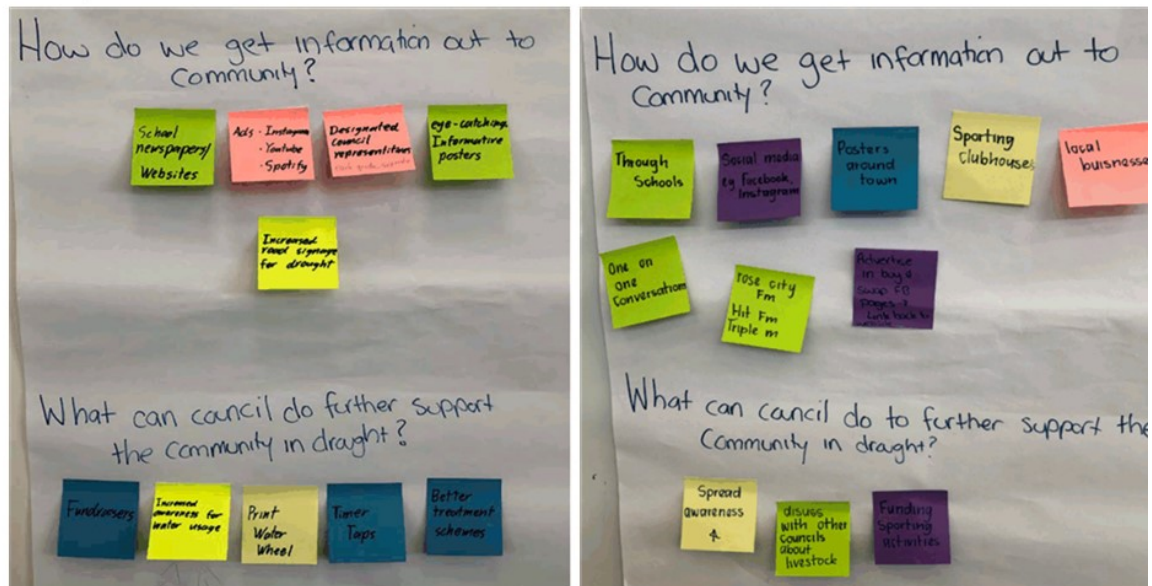
Erinn suggested making more awareness of water consumptions and what it looks like; especially for youth.

The Mayor asked all the students to write down this web address: www.sdrcl.qld.gov.au and to go to the 'water restrictions', click on 'what can 120 Litre per person look like' or copy the below URL: (<https://www.sdrcl.qld.gov.au/living-here/water-wastewater/water-restrictions/what-can-120-litres-per-person-look-like>).

Erinn's suggestion generated further discussion where the Mayor asked the students to break up into two (2) groups and answer the following questions:

1. How do we get this information (communication) to everyone in the community?
2. What can council do to further support community in drought?

The two groups broke away and workshoped ideas. These ideas were captured and are pictured below:



The Mayor brought the group together and went through each team ideas. From the discussion the Mayor asked the group what could they suggest could be ways to provide support to those in need without it looking like a 'handout'. *For example: how to provide funding to those in need who either don't feel comfortable asking for help or know how and where to ask for assistance.* Kaitlyn gave an example of giving funds to a volunteer group who are currently struggling where they pitched it to the group *'this is for all the volunteering efforts your organisation provides everyone else'*. An outcome was discussed as an approach option is to make it not look like a handout rather as acknowledgement of how they contribute to community.

Next Steps

The Mayor requested two follow up points to be completed by the Councils Community Development Team:

1. Work with the Council's media team to distribute more effective communication based on the Youth Councils suggestions provided in the above pictures. Specifically looking into advertising on Radio (at time youth and parents are more engaging in the platform eg. afternoons) and using media applications such as Spotify/Facebook buy and swap to have eye catching Ads to increase drought awareness.
2. Provide Youth Council ideas on 'how to support the community' to the drought committee.

7.2 Pop-up events

Summary Information:

At the meeting held on 30 May 2019, the Youth Council discussed the type of pop-up events you would like to see (summary in table below), which would attract tourism and youth, and the feasibility of these events.

The Mayor proposed a plan for a larger event in Warwick or Stanthorpe and smaller events in the smaller regional towns and has asked that firmer details regarding the shape of this be provided for the next meeting with funding to be allocated.

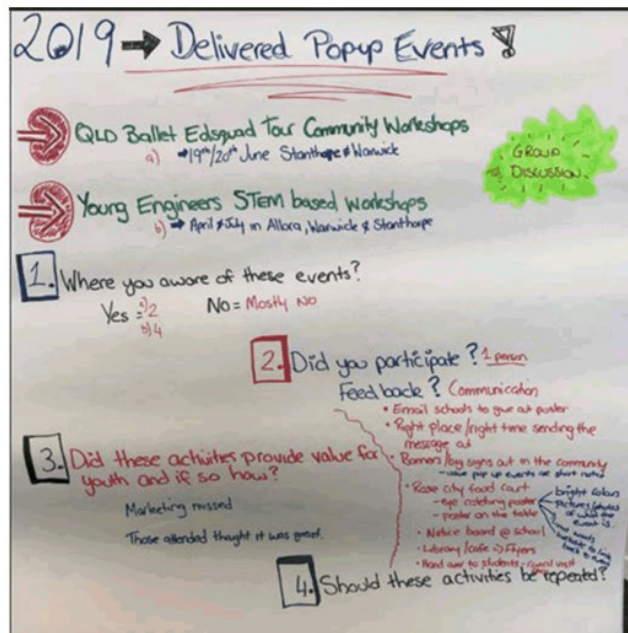
The top preferences of pop-up events were	Ideas of events that would attract visitors to the small towns/villages	Feasibility
Town Musical; Bowling; International Food; Laser Skirmish; All school event (non-academic); and Sunflower Trail	Carnivals; Bake off promoting primary produce of local area; Sporting events (involving schools)	Cost; Council delegate; Location; Popularity; Advertisement; Appeal; Volunteers; Assistance; Facilities; Equipment; Date; Mobility/accessibility; Environmental consideration; Manpower

To date in 2019 Council has delivered the following pop up events:

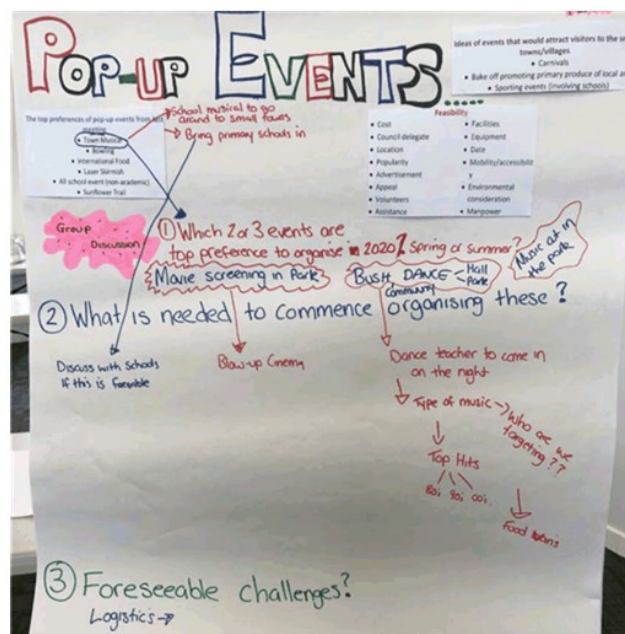
- QLD Ballet Edsquad Tour Community Workshops 19th/20th June in Stanthorpe and Warwick
- Young Engineers STEM based workshops in Allora, Warwick and Stanthorpe in April and July 2019

Discussion:

The Youth Council discussed the interest in these delivered pop-up events, if it was successful and any feedback to provide. Details of answers were captured and photographed below:



Further discussion was held around which 2 or 3 events would be the top preference as an aim to implement in 2020. New ideas were provided from the group with further discussion around how to organise these and foreseeable challenges. These are captured below:



Next Steps

Council to contact the schools on the possibility of a school musical being planned that could be run across the region.

8. Q&A ON ALL THINGS LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Item was not addressed for this meeting with time given for workshop ideas discussed further on in the minutes.

9. EVENTS COMING UP

The Mayor wanted to highlight two up and coming events occurring to the Youth Council; these being:

1. Tiddalik – Aboriginal Folk tale being held on Saturday 7th September afternoon down at Condamine, run by Warwick Chamber of Commerce Inc. The party is to bring community together to try and make Tiddalik laugh and encourage rain.
2. Saturday 15 September there will be a prayer for rain event occurring.


10. NEXT MEETING & CLOSE

The next Southern Downs Youth Council meeting will be held at Warwick Christian College on Thursday, 17 October 2019 at 8:45am (informal gathering), followed by the formal meeting at 9:30am. Further details will be sent out with the agenda closer to the meeting date.

The meeting closed at 11:30am.

11.2 Asset Management Roadmap Update

Document Information

 Southern Downs REGIONAL COUNCIL	Report To: General Council Meeting	
	Reporting Officer:	Meeting Date: 25 September 2019
	Asset Management Coordinator	ECM Function No/s:

Recommendation

THAT Council receive and note the Asset Management Roadmap report for the period ended 31 August 2019.

Report

This report provides an overview of the FY2020 Asset Management Workplan and update on Asset Management Roadmap Activities as at the end of August 2019.

FY2020 Asset Management Workplan

A FY2020 Asset Management Workplan (Workplan) has been developed for FY2020 to determine the Asset Management Roadmap activities planned for delivery over next 12 months.

In developing the Workplan, a balance has been struck between:

- foundational work for asset classes that have not been a focus in the past
- progression of more mature asset classes, and
- continuing business as usual activities.

The Workplan has been developed around six key fundamental asset management elements:

- Asset Data and Specification
- Asset Classification and Register
- Asset Condition Data and Performance
- Levels of Service
- Criticality and Risk
- Asset Management Plan

An overview of the high level scope for each of the key elements is included at Attachment 1. The Workplan is outlined in Attachment 2.

Asset Management Roadmap Projects

1. *Unsealed Roads Levels of Service, Road Hierarchy and Asset Data*

Council has engaged a consultant, Proterra Group Pty Ltd, to assist in refining Levels of Service and developing elements of an Asset Management Plan for Unsealed Roads.

Key components of this work include:

- Alignment of the Unsealed Road hierarchy with National Association of Australian State Road Authorities (NAASRA) classification

- Identifying the appropriate level of service for roughness and travel speed for each unsealed road class
- Development of an evidence based prioritisation matrix for Unsealed Roads.

Concurrent work is being completed internally to:

- Document the proposed unsealed road hierarchy, and
- Document and cost current unsealed road levels of service.

In combination the outcomes of unsealed roads level of service, road hierarchy and asset data work aim to reduce ambiguity in relation to Council's provision of unsealed roads enabling more meaningful engagement with the community.

2. *Condition Assessment of Critical Water & Wastewater Infrastructure (Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program)*

Council was successful in obtaining \$560,000 for the condition assessment of critical water and wastewater infrastructure through the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program. The condition assessment of critical assets will enable proactive management of assets and processes, and implementation of efficient planning.

Key components of this work include:

- Development of criticality and risk matrices
- Data specification and collection (where required)
- Condition assessment
- Identification of any additional investigations (as required)

3. *Bridge Asset Data & Specification and Asset Classification & Register*

Council does not currently have an established single point of truth data repository for Bridges.

Work has commenced to:

- Define asset data attributes
- Map the relationship between operational assets and financial assets
- Develop a bridge database, and
- Align the asset register and database

4. *Open Space Service Plan and Levels of Service*

It has been identified that the existing open space levels of service do not provide adequate confidence that the activities Council undertakes to maintain open spaces areas are appropriate and sufficient.

A scope for the development of an open space service plan and revision of levels of service is currently being developed with the objective of reducing ambiguity in relation to Council's provision of open space assets, enabling reporting of levels of service and facilitating more meaningful engagement with the community.

Asset Management Roadmap Status

A status update on the Asset Management Roadmap is provided as Attachment 3.

Budget Implications

Nil

Policy Consideration

Shaping Southern Downs

Grow: Strong Governance

Improve the relationship between Council policy, service delivery, infrastructure, advocacy and community priorities.

Corporate Plan

8.13 Continue to review and expand Asset Management Plans

Develop and implement improvements to the corporate asset management processes and systems

Community Engagement

Nil

Legislation/Local Law

Nil

Options

Council:

1. Receive and note the Asset Management Roadmap report for the period ended 31 August 2019.
2. Not receive and note the Asset Management Roadmap report for the period ended 31 August 2019.

Attachments

1. High Level Scope Overview [↓](#)
2. FY2020 Asset Managment Workplan [↓](#)
3. Asset Management Roadmap Status [↓](#)

High Level Scope Overview

Asset Data & Specification

- Established single point of truth data repository (database)
- Defined asset data attributes
- Relationship between operational assets and financial assets is understood and considered in repository structure (preferably one-to-one)
- Assets are visible on Council mapping (where applicable)

Asset Classification & Register

- (Financial) Asset register reflects data repository
- Assets have a financial value (where applicable)

Asset Condition Data & Performance

- 'Current' condition data is available
- Established condition assessment program
- *Data is updated from the field [Future activity]*

Levels of Service

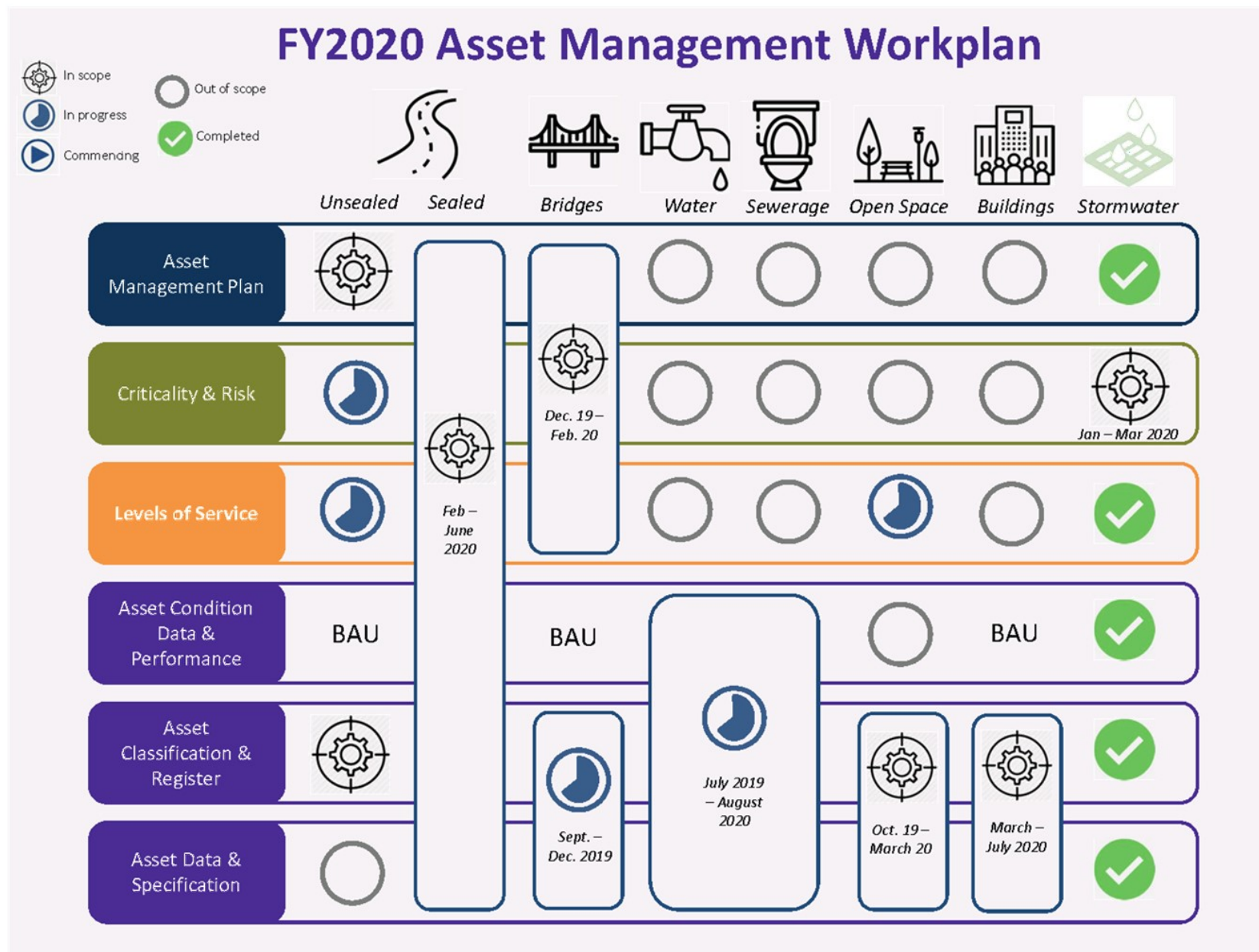
- Service objective of assets is understood and documented
- Functional hierarchy and overarching design standards are established
- Current Customer Levels of Service and performance measures are defined & documented
- Technical Levels of Service are defined, documented and costed
 - Operational Levels of Service
 - Capital Levels of Service (Renewal strategy)

Criticality & Risk

- Criticality Hierarchy has been developed and key risks identified

Asset Management Plan

- Development of a Core Asset Management Plan (or sub-plan) incorporating all of the above




Attachment 3: Asset Management Roadmap Status

Project	Project Owner	Milestones/ Tasks	Estimated Completion Date	Status
Unsealed Roads Levels of Service, Road Hierarchy and Asset Data	Maintenance Supervisor Unsealed Network	Review and collection of segmentation data: - Segment lengths - average daily traffic estimates - estimated gravel depths/ coverage - roughness - identification of steep sections and sharp curvature	Under review	In progress - delayed
		Documentation of proposed Unsealed Road Hierarchy	25/10/2019	In progress
		Documentation & costing of current Levels of Service	25/10/2019	In progress
		Development of prioritisation matrix	tbd	Not started
Condition Assessment of Critical Water & Wastewater Infrastructure (Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program)	Asset Management Coordinator	Confirmation of Scope	02/08/2019	Complete
		Preparation of Tender Documentation: Water & Wastewater Treatment Plants	06/09/2019	Complete
		Procurement and management review of Tender documentation	27/09/2019	In progress
		Procurement	Week of 30/09/2019	Not started
		Tenders Close	08/11/2019	Not started
Bridge Asset Data and Asset Classification	Asset Management Coordinator	Define, agree and document: - parent bridge attributes - bridge component attributes	11/10/2019	In progress
		Determine, agree, validate and document Bridge asset classification		
		Specify work order assets		
		Develop proposed database structure &		

			map to asset classification		
			Database build	November 2019	Not started
Open Space Service Plan and Levels of Service	Manager	Parks and Operations	Development of (expanded) Scope	September 2019	In progress

11.3 Financial Report as at 31 August 2019

Document Information

 Southern Downs REGIONAL COUNCIL	Report To: General Council Meeting	
	Reporting Officer:	Meeting Date: 25 September 2019
	Financial Services Coordinator	ECM Function No/s: 12.13

Recommendation

THAT Council receive and note the Financial Report as at 31 August 2019.

Report

Council's operating performance against forecast shows that the operating surplus before capital items is \$28.3m. All of the general rates for 2019/20 have been raised in July and with the extension of the payment due date as a result of the bushfires, they will now be due for payment on 13 October 2019.

Income Statement

Total operating revenue of \$39.0m has been recognised for the financial year and capital revenue of \$0.6m has been received for the year.

Overall operating expenditure of \$10.8m is \$1.8m under the year to date estimate of \$12.6m. Materials and services are \$2.1m under the year to date estimate.

Balance Sheet

As at 31 August 2019 Council had \$50.0m in cash at bank and investments. Total loans owing (including the current and non-current portions) amount to \$20.8m.

Capital Works in Progress

Capital works expenditure to 31 August 2019 is \$3.1m which is 8.9% of the adopted capital works budget of \$35.1m. There are committed costs of \$3.5m meaning \$6.6m has been spent and committed; this represents 18.8% of the budget. The carryover and amendments budget amounts will be finalised in the first quarter budget review.

Year to date capital expenditure by area is as follows:

	Total Budget	YTD Expenditure	% Spent	Committed	Spent & Committed	% Spent & Committed
Land & Land Improvements	239,000	1,622	0.7%	49,664	51,286	21.5%
Buildings	3,693,687	26,918	0.7%	16,089	43,007	1.2%
Plant & Equipment	3,234,000	228,092	7.1%	3,526	231,617	7.2%
Roads, Drains & Bridges	11,780,819	1,515,836	12.9%	1,983,469	3,499,305	29.7%
Water	4,645,161	1,035,801	22.3%	881,899	1,917,700	41.3%
Wastewater	5,360,190	21,216	0.4%	123,365	144,581	2.7%
Other Assets	6,166,939	306,043	5.0%	399,195	705,238	11.4%
Total	35,119,796	3,135,528	8.9%	3,457,206	6,592,734	18.8%

Budget Implications

The first quarter budget review process will begin in September 2019.

Policy Consideration

Operational Plan 2019/20

Undertake best value review of Council's Services

Community Engagement

Nil

Legislation/Local Law

Local Government Act 2009 and Local Government Regulation 2012.

Options

Council:

1. Receive and note the Financial Report as at 31 August 2019.
2. Not receive and note the Financial Report as at 31 August 2019.

Attachments

1. Performance Report August 2019 [↓](#)



Performance Report

August 2019

Southern Downs Regional Council Income Statement

August 2019

Unaudited 2019 Actual \$		Annual 2020 Budget \$	Phased 2020 YTD Budget \$	Phased 2020 YTD Actual \$
Revenue from ordinary activities				
31,537,432	General Rates	34,032,756	32,600,000	32,587,252
287,480	Rural fire brigade levy	286,832	286,832	272,907
25,956,703	Utility Rates and Charges	26,691,934	4,448,656	4,609,854
(1,813,029)	Less Discounts	(1,848,575)	(1,499,812)	(830,307)
(649,044)	Rates on Council properties	(436,872)	(59,138)	(72,697)
55,319,542		58,726,075	35,776,538	36,567,010
5,230,591	Fees and Charges	4,756,436	791,689	1,105,486
1,796,409	Interest	1,401,650	231,667	187,165
3,206,055	Contract & Sales Revenue	3,677,125	612,854	61,554
1,241,088	Rent and Other Income	1,030,515	186,343	196,745
9,961,621	Government Grants and Subsidies	8,128,796	1,400,633	927,080
76,755,305	Total Operating Revenue	77,720,597	38,999,724	39,045,040
Expenses from ordinary activities				
23,912,608	Employee Costs	20,615,839	3,719,540	4,128,423
30,357,733	Materials and Services	34,895,878	6,041,640	3,930,943
16,127,926	Depreciation and Amortisation	15,613,993	2,662,879	2,691,125
1,656,609	Finance Costs	1,503,923	176,271	19,190
72,054,875	Total Operating Expenses	72,629,633	12,600,330	10,769,680
4,700,430	Operating Surplus/(Deficit) before capital items	5,090,963	26,399,394	28,275,360
Other Capital Amounts				
11,656,176	Capital Grants, Contributions and Donations	20,450,896	9,314,558	572,916
(1,861,655)	Other capital income and (expenses)	674,000	112,333	-
14,494,951	Net Result Surplus/(Deficit)	26,215,859	35,826,284	28,848,276

Explanation

Income Statement

This Statement outlines:

- all sources of Council's YTD income (revenue).
- all YTD operating expenses incurred. These expenses relate to operations and do not include capital expenditure. However the depreciation of assets is included.

The Net Result Surplus/(Deficit) for the reporting period is a good measure of council's financial performance.

This figure is determined by deducting total expenses from total revenue.

Southern Downs Regional Council Balance Sheet

August 2019

Unaudited 2019 Actual \$		Annual 2020 Budget \$	Phased 2020 YTD Actual \$
Current Assets			
50,270,960	Cash assets & Investments	32,294,968	49,988,330
7,781,732	Receivables (includes Rates & Utilities receivable)	6,280,550	31,970,649
10,500	Assets held for sale	636,215	373,500
890,778	Inventories	263,785	538,324
58,953,970		39,475,518	82,870,803
Non-Current Assets			
742,000	Investment Property	746,536	742,000
718,855,107	Property, plant and equipment	809,967,452	762,962,983
147,690	Other Financial Assets	147,000	73,642
30,414,390	Capital works in progress	22,298,606	37,190,537
1,124,884	Intangible Assets	1,094,016	1,033,065
751,284,071		834,253,610	802,002,226
810,238,041	TOTAL ASSETS	873,729,128	884,873,029
Current Liabilities			
8,643,857	Creditors and other payables	8,231,892	10,548,495
6,474,969	Provisions	4,215,000	6,458,334
1,469,729	Interest bearing liabilities	1,595,302	1,505,627
16,588,555		14,042,194	18,512,456
Non-Current Liabilities			
20,782,859	Interest bearing liabilities	17,741,288	19,326,943
4,566,373	Provisions	4,417,000	4,637,766
25,349,232		22,158,288	23,964,710
41,937,787	TOTAL LIABILITIES	36,200,482	42,477,165
768,300,254	NET COMMUNITY ASSETS	837,528,646	842,395,864
Community Equity			
183,477,525	Asset Revaluation Reserve	203,599,000	220,231,658
584,822,729	Retained surplus	633,929,646	622,164,205
768,300,254	TOTAL COMMUNITY EQUITY	837,528,646	842,395,864

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet outlines what Council owns (its assets) and what it owes (liabilities) at a point in time. Council's net worth is determined by deducting total liabilities from total assets - the larger the equity, the stronger the financial position.

Key Ratios				Key Ratios			
	Budget	YTD Actual	On Target?		Budget	YTD Actual	On Target?
Working Capital Ratio				Interest Coverage Ratio			
(Current Assets / Current Liabilities)	2.81 : 1	4.48 : 1	✓	(Net Interest Expense / Total Operating Revenue) (%)	0.13%	-0.14%	✓
Target Ratio	> 1:1	> 1:1		Target Ratio Upper Limit (%)	10.0%	10.0%	
This is an indicator of the management of working capital (short term financial capital). Measures the extent to which a Council has liquid assets available to meet short term financial obligations.				This ratio indicates the extent to which a Council's operating revenues are committed to interest expenses. As principal repayments are not operating expenses, this ratio demonstrates the extent to which operating revenues are being used to meet the financing charges associated with debt servicing obligations.			
Operating Surplus Ratio				Asset Sustainability Ratio			
(Net Operating Surplus / Total Operating Revenue) (%)	31.2%	73.9%	✓	(Capital Expenditure on the Replacement of Assets (renewals) / Depreciation Expense)	224.9%	245.0%	✓
Target Ratio	0.0% to 15.0%	> 0.0% to 15.0%		Target Ratio Lower Limit (%)	> 90%	> 90%	
This is an indicator of the extent to which revenues raised cover operational expenses only or are available for capital funding purposes.				This is an approximation of the extent to which the infrastructure assets managed by the Council are being replaced as these reach the end of their useful lives. Depreciation expense represents an estimate of the extent to which the infrastructure assets have been consumed in a period. Capital expenditure on renewals (replacing assets that the Council already has) is an indicator of the extent to which the infrastructure assets are being replaced.			
A positive ratio indicates the percentage of total rates available to help fund proposed capital expenditure. If the relevant amount is not required for this purpose in a particular year, it can be held for future capital expenditure needs by either increasing financial assets or preferably, where possible, reducing debt.				Comments on Ratio Results.			
Net Financial Liabilities Ratio				The reported ratios are taken from the Department of Local Government guidelines on sustainable financial management. When looking at ratios it is important to acknowledge that they represent a snapshot in time and that anomalies in the reported results are not taken in isolation. The targets are those provided by the Department as a preferred range and results outside those ranges will require further consideration.			
((Total Liabilities - Current Assets) / Total Operating Revenue)	-8.4%	-103.5%	✓	Whilst changes to the legislation have amended the required ratios, the ratios listed will continue to be reported on.			
Target Ratio Upper Limit (%)	<=60%	<=60%		The Asset Sustainability Ratio is under the target lower limit as there has not been a full year of activity for assets.			
This is an indicator of the extent to which the net financial liabilities of a Council can be serviced by its operating revenues.							
A positive value of less than 60 per cent is the benchmark as determined by the Department of Local Government. It indicates that Council has the capacity to fund liabilities and to have the capacity to increase its loan borrowings. A positive value greater than 60 per cent but less than a 100% indicates that Council has the capacity to fund liabilities but has limited capacity to increase its loan borrowings.							
A ratio less than zero (negative) indicates that current assets exceed total liabilities and, therefore, Council has the capacity to increase its loan borrowings.							

Executive Services Operating Statement			
	FY Budget \$	YTD Budget \$	YTD Actual \$
Operating Revenue			
Operating Grants and Subsidies	170,000	28,333	-
Sundry Revenue	7,400	1,233	8,166
Total Operating Revenue	177,400	29,566	8,166
Operating Expenditure			
Employee Costs	2,110,906	362,620	314,394
Materials	267,694	45,407	113,559
Contracts and Services	412,684	68,781	11,315
Finance Costs	5,700	950	-
Depreciation and Amortisation	6,738	1,145	1,235
Plant Hire	95,400	15,900	24,802
Other Expenses	799,818	133,303	149,722
Rates on Council Properties	437	-	-
Total Operating Expenses	3,699,377	628,106	615,027
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(3,521,977)	(598,540)	(606,861)

Corporate and Community Services Operating Statement			
	FY Budget \$	YTD Budget \$	YTD Actual \$
Operating Revenue			
Rates and Utility Charges	31,075,576	31,433,657	32,090,625
Fees and Charges	1,152,570	191,045	287,826
Operating Grants and Subsidies	5,032,329	884,555	607,967
Interest Received	1,401,650	231,667	187,165
Leasing and Rent	498,584	97,721	140,957
Sundry Revenue	296,161	50,161	36,775
Total Operating Revenue	39,456,870	32,888,806	33,351,315
Operating Expenditure			
Employee Costs	3,009,083	590,868	629,777
Materials	3,629,095	589,900	1,018,422
Contracts and Services	3,051,563	508,594	133,906
Finance Costs	615,460	52,083	19,190
Depreciation and Amortisation	567,239	99,531	119,449
Plant Hire	310,175	51,696	54,909
Other Expenses	1,213,635	295,606	243,324
Rates on Council Properties	70,520	28,401	31,847
Total Operating Expenses	12,466,770	2,216,679	2,250,824
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	26,990,100	30,672,127	31,100,491

Infrastructure Services Operating Statement			
(Excludes Water and Wastewater)			
	FY Budget \$	YTD Budget \$	YTD Actual \$
Operating Revenue			
Fees and Charges	836,016	139,336	105,017
Operating Grants and Subsidies	2,477,734	412,956	315,671
Leasing and Rent	5,052	842	2,535
Recoverable Works	3,677,125	612,854	61,554
Sundry Revenue	26,768	4,461	854
Total Operating Revenue	7,022,695	1,170,449	485,631
Operating Expenditure			
Employee Costs	9,423,101	1,673,084	1,740,145
Materials	6,242,090	1,081,566	935,541
Contracts and Services	3,717,365	617,815	221,654
Finance Costs	360,788	-	-
Depreciation and Amortisation	9,604,610	1,638,679	1,623,882
Plant Hire	(3,514,272)	(587,312)	(567,643)
Other Expenses	163,750	27,292	(1)
Rates on Council Properties	295,419	21,501	33,494
Total Operating Expenses	26,292,851	4,472,625	3,987,072
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(19,270,156)	(3,302,176)	(3,501,441)

Sustainable Development Operating Statement			
(Excludes Waste)			
	FY Budget \$	YTD Budget \$	YTD Actual \$
Operating Revenue			
Rates and Utility Charges	200,000	(10,000)	(9,169)
Fees and Charges	1,426,650	237,775	285,340
Operating Grants and Subsidies	363,500	60,583	3,442
Leasing and Rent	-	-	-
Recoverable Works	-	-	-
Sundry Revenue	38,160	5,527	6,438
Total Operating Revenue	2,028,310	293,885	286,051
Operating Expenditure			
Employee Costs	2,819,650	528,920	743,609
Materials	973,579	135,408	47,426
Contracts and Services	1,333,396	217,733	68,317
Finance Costs	-	-	-
Depreciation and Amortisation	7,778	1,321	1,317
Plant Hire	424,560	70,760	83,163
Other Expenses	135,000	15,833	-
Rates on Council Properties	5,746	531	520
Total Operating Expenses	5,699,709	970,506	944,352
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(3,671,399)	(676,621)	(658,301)

Water Services Operating Statement			
	FY Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
	\$	\$	\$
Operating Revenue			
Rates and Utility Charges	12,642,898	2,105,483	(51,651)
Fees and Charges	543,000	90,500	110,130
Operating Grants and Subsidies	-	-	-
Sundry Revenue	33,000	5,500	1,020
Total Operating Revenue	13,218,898	2,201,483	59,499
Operating Expenditure			
Employee Costs	1,788,281	304,883	428,973
Materials	2,798,382	449,447	542,312
Contracts and Services	1,650,722	275,121	89,910
Finance Costs	296,475	49,413	-
Depreciation and Amortisation	2,902,067	493,020	513,546
Plant Hire	333,100	55,517	76,616
Other Expenses	-	-	-
Rates on Council Properties	7,556	4,408	4,173
Total Operating Expenses	9,776,583	1,631,809	1,655,530
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	3,442,315	569,674	(1,596,031)

Wastewater Services Operating Statement			
	FY Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
	\$	\$	\$
Operating Revenue			
Rates and Utility Charges	9,086,027	1,514,338	1,405
Fees and Charges	235,000	39,167	109,328
Total Operating Revenue	9,321,027	1,553,505	110,733
Operating Expenditure			
Employee Costs	1,365,924	241,016	222,022
Materials	1,146,349	157,897	90,667
Contracts and Services	1,363,288	227,215	56,504
Finance Costs	403,340	67,223	416,005
Depreciation and Amortisation	2,434,795	413,759	49,073
Plant Hire	240,946	40,159	-
Rates on Council Properties	21,106	2,801	1,666
Total Operating Expenses	6,975,748	1,150,070	835,937
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	2,345,279	403,435	(725,204)

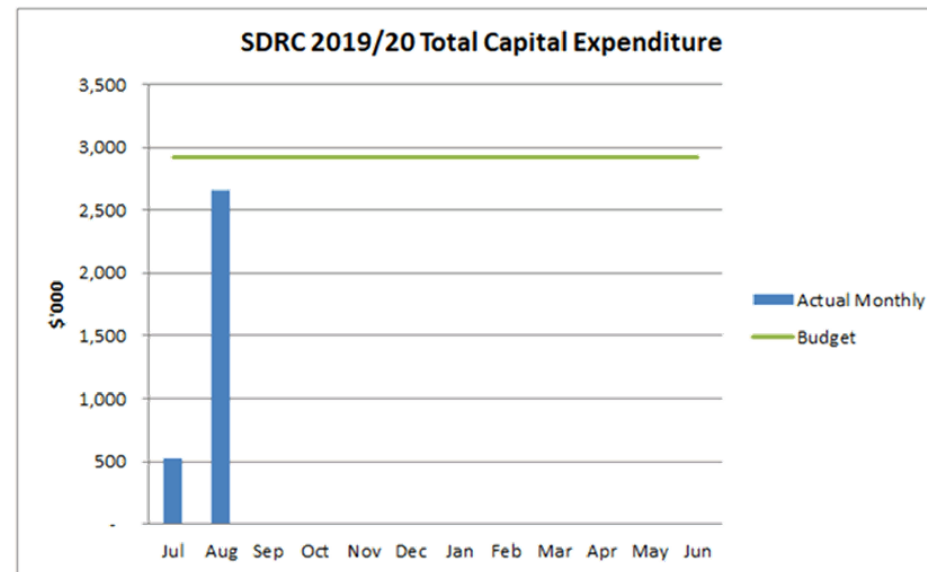
Waste Services Operating Statement			
	FY Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
	\$	\$	\$
Operating Revenue			
Rates and Utility Charges	6,158,446	4,610,000	4,608,496
Fees and Charges	563,200	93,867	207,846
Sundry Revenue	125,390	20,898	-
Total Operating Revenue	6,847,036	4,724,765	4,816,342
Operating Expenditure			
Employee Costs	11,500	1,917	49,503
Materials	1,366,638	226,182	4,356
Contracts and Services	6,569,000	1,094,834	467,084
Finance Costs	122,160	6,602	-
Depreciation and Amortisation	90,767	15,426	15,690
Plant Hire	171,920	28,653	16,008
Rates on Council Properties	9,704	905	997
Total Operating Expenses	8,341,689	1,374,519	553,638
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,494,653)	3,350,246	4,262,704

**Southern Downs Regional Council
Capital Works Projects by Asset Class
As At 31 August 2019**

	Total Budget	YTD Expenditure	% Spent	Committed	Spent and Committed	% Spent and Committed
Land and Land Improvements	239,000	1,622	0.7%	49,664	51,286	21.5%
Buildings	3,693,687	26,918	0.7%	16,089	43,007	1.2%
Plant and Equipment	3,234,000	228,092	7.1%	3,526	231,618	7.2%
Road, Drains and Bridges	11,780,819	1,515,836	12.9%	1,983,469	3,499,305	29.7%
Water	4,645,161	1,035,801	22.3%	881,899	1,917,700	41.3%
Wastewater	5,360,190	21,216	0.4%	123,365	144,581	2.7%
Other Assets	6,166,939	306,043	5.0%	399,195	705,238	11.4%
Total	35,119,796	3,135,528	8.9%	3,457,207	6,592,735	18.8%

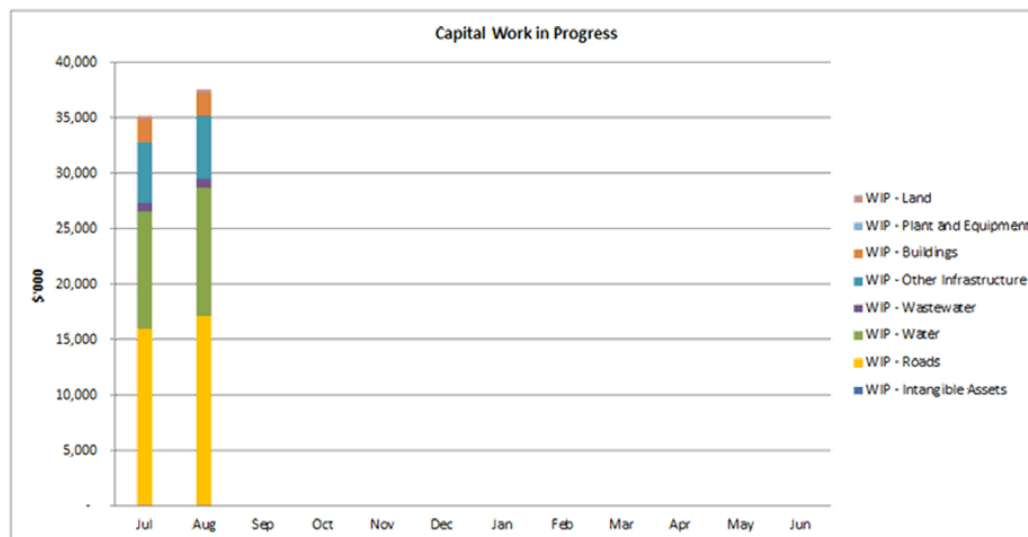
Carryover budget amounts will be processed in the first quarter budget review.

**Southern Downs Regional Council
Capital Expenditure
As At 31 August 2019**



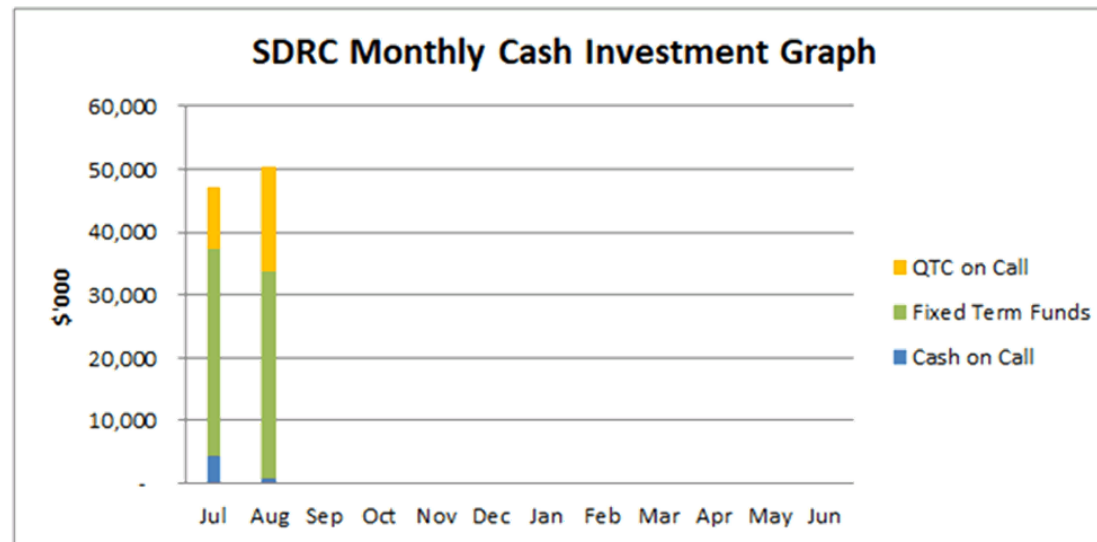
Capital committed costs as at 31 August 2019 is \$3.5 Million

Southern Downs Regional Council
Total Work in Progress (WIP) Report
As At 31 August 2019



	Jul-18 \$'000	Aug-18 \$'000	Sep-18 \$'000	Oct-18 \$'000	Nov-18 \$'000	Dec-18 \$'000	Jan-19 \$'000	Feb-19 \$'000	Mar-19 \$'000	Apr-19 \$'000	May-19 \$'000	Jun-19 \$'000
Intangible Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Roads	16,033	17,139	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Water	10,564	11,562	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wastewater	736	758	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Infrastructure	5,492	5,743	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Buildings	2,022	2,027	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plant and Equipment	21	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land	374	376	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	35,242	37,626	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Southern Downs Regional Council
Total Monthly Cash Investment Register
As At 31 August 2019**



**Southern Downs Regional Council
Borrowings Report
As At 31 August 2019**


QTC Loan Account Balances:

	\$
Fund Name: Southern Downs Regional Council	
CBD Redevelopment Stage 2	887,895
Market Square Pump Station	414,351
General	2,998,370
General 2009	1,419,790
General 2009/10	215,762
General 2010/11	3,260,882
General 2011/12	4,041,357
General 2012/13	2,285,541
Warwick Sewerage Treatment Plant	847,728
Allora Water Main	4,111,593
Stanthorpe Sewerage	349,302
Total Loan Balance	<u>20,832,571</u>

12. INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORTS

12.1 Infrastructure Services Directorate Monthly Report

Document Information

 Southern Downs REGIONAL COUNCIL	Report To: General Council Meeting	
	Reporting Officer:	Meeting Date: 25 September 2019
	Director Infrastructure Services	ECM Function No/s: 04.15.01

Recommendation

THAT Council receive the Infrastructure Services Directorate Monthly Report.

Report

The follow is provided for the information of Councillors.

2018/19 Capital Project Status

Refer to Attachments for details.

Operational

Works

- Library van fit out is completed, and the van was used after the bushfires to visit affected areas and share recovery information.
- Palmer Bridge – Approach works have started and abutments are now complete. The next stage will be installing the girders and decking. The project is ahead of schedule.
- Works are progressing on Forde Street Allora and Jack Smith Gully roads and due for completion within the month.
- Sealing of some roads in Glen Aplin has been completed.
- Design for civil works and other improvements for the Men's Shed and Woodcrafters is progressing well.
- The Request For Quotation (RFQ) for the design and construct for two bridges under the Bridge Renewal Program is due to be released next month.
- The RFQ for the design and construct for the 2 cycleway bridges in Stanthorpe under the TMR Cycle program is due to be released in October.
- The RFQ for refurbishment of the Mitchner Memorial shelter in Warwick is currently out for tender.
- The Request For Tender (RFT) documents for the Learn To Ride facility are progressing.

Parks and Operations

Facilities

- Work has commenced on getting the three pools operational for the warmer weather. The Stanthorpe pool was filled in mid-September and minor works have been carried out at the Allora and Killarney change rooms.

- Renewal works of toilets at Jackie Howe Park completed.
- Asbestos inspections have been completed on all Council Buildings, and appropriate action taken as required.
- Seventy eight jobs were completed in August and entered into Reflect throughout the region.
- **Parks**
 - Replaced old soft-fall with new Takura Chip at Pioneer Park Swanfels.
 - Removed all Privet from Millarvale Creek Park Maryvale.
 - Parks crew tidied up the Leyburn Street in preparation for the Leyburn Sprints.
 - Winter pruning, fertilizing, mulching of all roses ready for Warwick Rodeo.
- **Cemeteries**
 - The cemeteries section has facilitated 15 interments for the period 13 August to 4 September.
 - The landscaping for the Warwick Burial Wall precinct (Loving Memory) has progressed with the completion of the retaining wall, garden edging awaiting instillation and roses ordered.
 - The Assumption Year 11 Art Class is to visit the Warwick Cemetery on 12 September to undertake a tour and a school art project.
- **Workshops/Plant**
 - Tender (20_012) for a Grader has been progressed, report with recommendation included in this month's meeting.
 - Six tenders to close this month and three tenders to be prepared to release to the market.

Water

- The submission to the State Government for funding for emergency water infrastructure and monthly cost of carting was successful. The State Government have committed \$2.4 million for the capital costs and an ongoing amount of \$800,000 per month for the carting of water.
- The works for the two water tanks and the 1.5km pipeline are well progressed at Storm King Dam to receive the carted water.
- There was minimal impact on the level of Storm King Dam following the bushfires in the Stanthorpe area, as most water was brought in or taken out of Quart Pot Creek.
- The timeframes for running out of water for Stanthorpe remains at December 2019/January 2020 (dependant on use and water quality). For Warwick the date remains as late 2020.
- Projects and operations remain on track. The recycled water main extension in Warwick is progressing with the tender recommendation included as a report this month.

Water Performance Data Report as at 31 August 2019

Recycled Water Tables

WWTP - Performance against target levels of service August 2019.																						
Number	Licence compliance Parameters			WARWICK WWTP.						STANTHORPE WWTP.						Parameter	WALLANGARRA		DALVEEN		KILLARNEY	
				Class A.		STP outlet.		IRG.4. Lyndhurst Stud.		Class B. Supply point.		W1 release point. Quart pot creek.		CED Lagoon 7			IRG.1. CED		IRG.2.CED			
				Licence Target	Actual	Licence Target	Actual	Licence Target	Actual	Licence Target	Actual	Licence Target	Actual	Licence Target	Actual		Licence Target	Actual	Licence Target	Actual		
1	5 Day BOD. mg/L	Max	20	2	30	6			50	2	20		BOD									
2	TSS. mg/L	Max	5	22			30	36	100	32	30		TSS									
	TDS. mg/l				1000	31	1500	687	<1500	759	1000											
6	Turbidity NTU	Max	2	5.62									NTU									
7	pH	Min	6	7.4	6.5	7.7	6.5	7.2	6.5	7.8	6.5		pH	6.5	9.3	6.5	##	6.5	7.1			
		Max	8.5	8.08	8.5	8	9.0	7.2	9.0	7.5	9.0			9	9.3	8.5		8.5	7.1			
8	Free Chlorine Residual. mg/l	Min							0.3	0.3	0.3		Free Cl2									
		Max																				
	E. coli. cfu/100 mL	Max	<10	10					<100	<10	<10		E.Coli									
3	Faecal Coliform (cfu/100 mL)	Max					1000	73,000					F. Cols	1000	6,300	1000		1000	130			
	Elec. Cond. uS/cm	Max					3000	1030					E.C.									
9	SAR. mg/l						15	5.5	<10	8.8												
10	Total N. mg/L	Max						6.5	125	43.6	0.75		Tot. N									
11	Total P. mg/L	Max						0.22	20	11.6	0.1		Tot.P									
12	Boron mg/L	Max							<2	0.11			Boron									
13	Chloride. mg/L	Max					800	177	<250	182			Chloride									
14	DO. mg/L	Min											DO									
15	Volume ML	ML		37.0		31.8				11.3	W1 release											
16	Odour Complaint	Yes	Warwick Inflow: ML				68.8		Stanthorpe inflow ML	11.3	Nil		Odour									
17	Other (Discharge to creek)	No											Other									
Legend																						
	Meeting Target																					
	Not Meeting Target																					
M/S	Missed sample																					
##	Lab Error																					

Stanthorpe Recycled Water Scheme												
Monthly Volume of Recycled Water Supplied (ML)												
Supply Year 2019-20	Group 1		Group 2				Group 3		Urban	Receiving Environment	Monthly Total	
	Eastern Colour	DPI	Hendrickse n/Baronio	Visentin 1	Visentin 2	Pinata 1 Kelly rd	Pinata 2 Ellwoods	Taylor				Wren
July	4.748	unknown faulty meter	0.967		0.24	2.346	0.658	4.378	2.083			15.4200
August	4.318	N/A	1.999	0.518	1.869	0.533	1.274	2.203	0.828			13.54
September												
October												
November												
December												
January												
February												
March												
April												
May												
June												
												28.96
Full Allocation (%)	33.22%	3.47%	13.29%	3.47%	14.58%	6.60%	5.98%	10.77%	4.98%			96.36%
YTD Total (ML)	9.07	unknown	2.97	0.52	2.11	2.88	1.93	6.58	2.91			28.96
YTD Target (ML)	9.62	1.00	3.85	1.00	4.22	1.91	1.73	3.12	1.44			27.91
YTD Target (%)	94%	#VALUE!	77%	52%	50%	151%	112%	211%	202%			104%

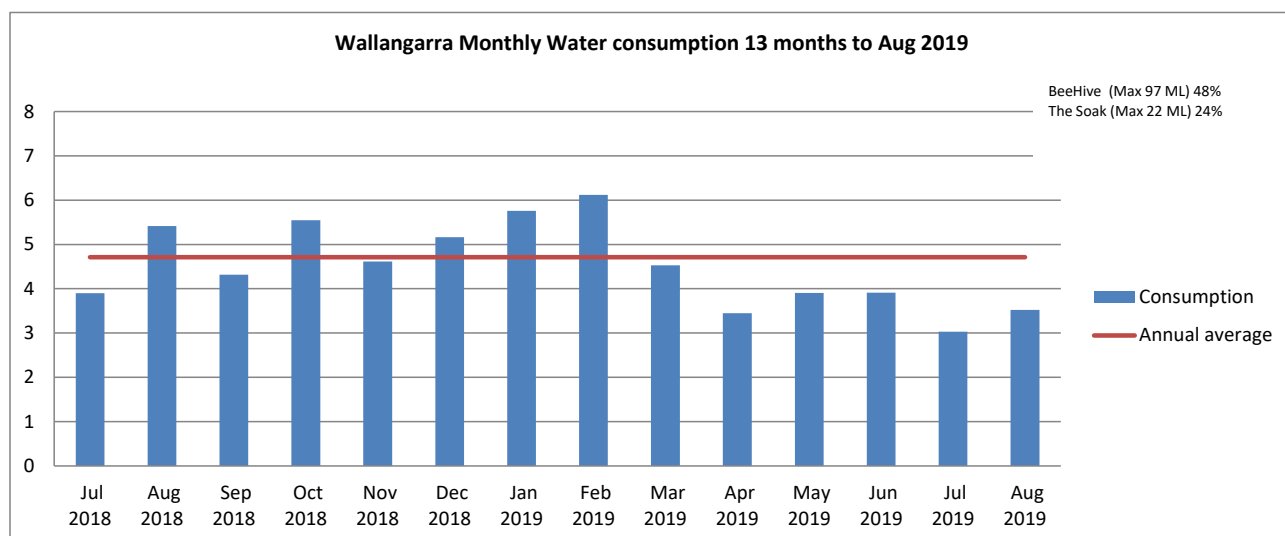
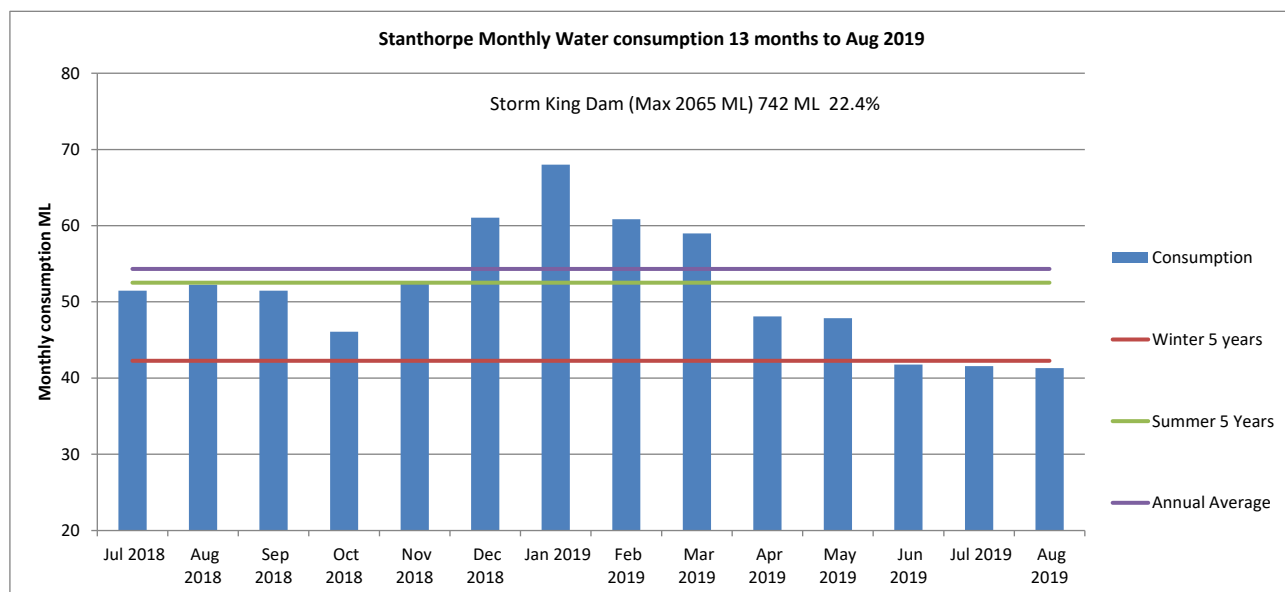
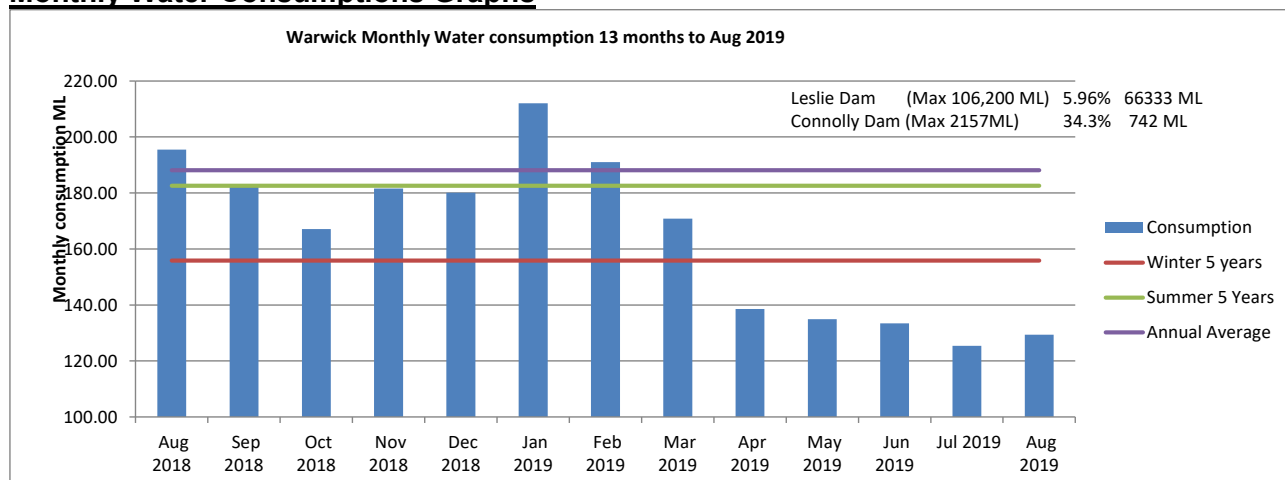
Potable Water Table

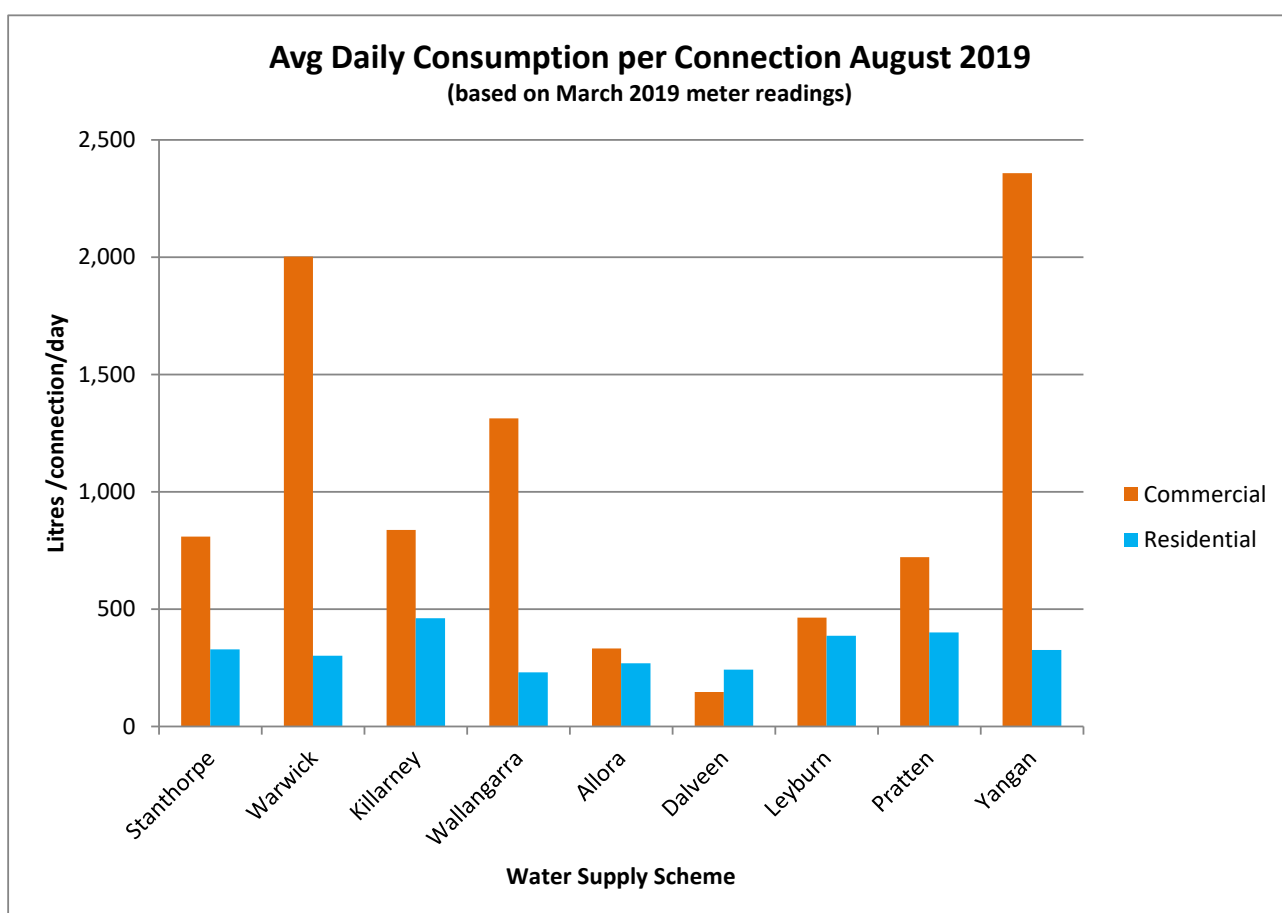
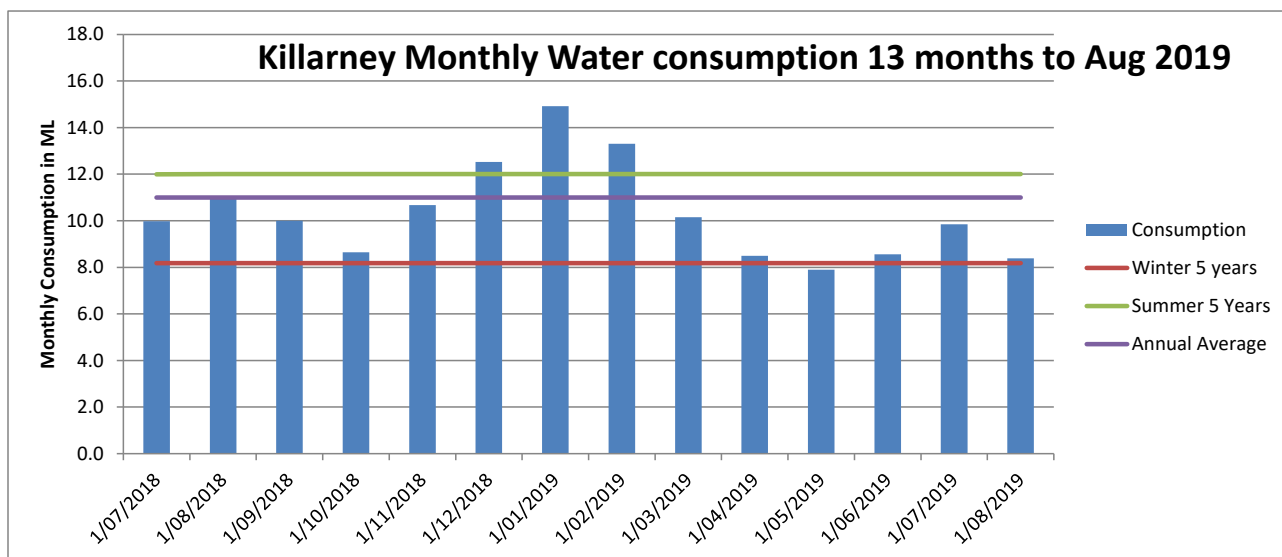
Water Supply from Treatment Plants – Month of			August				
Number	Licence compliance Parameters		ADWG Standard	Warwick WTP	Stanthorpe WTP	Killarney WTP	Wallangarra WTP
				Status	Status	Status	Status
1	Physical	NTU	<1	0.17	0.17	0.08	0.16
		Taste Complaint		0	0	0	0
		Odour Complaint		0	0	0	0
2	pH	Minimum	6.5	7	7.18	7.45	7.06
		Maximum	8.5	7.25	7.87	7.71	7.73
3	Free Chlorine Residual (mg/L)	Maximum	<5.0	3.30	2.5	1.6	2.2
4	<i>E. coli</i> (cfu/100mL)	Nil		0	0	0	0
Legend							
	Meeting Target						
	Not Meeting Target						
	Not Measured						

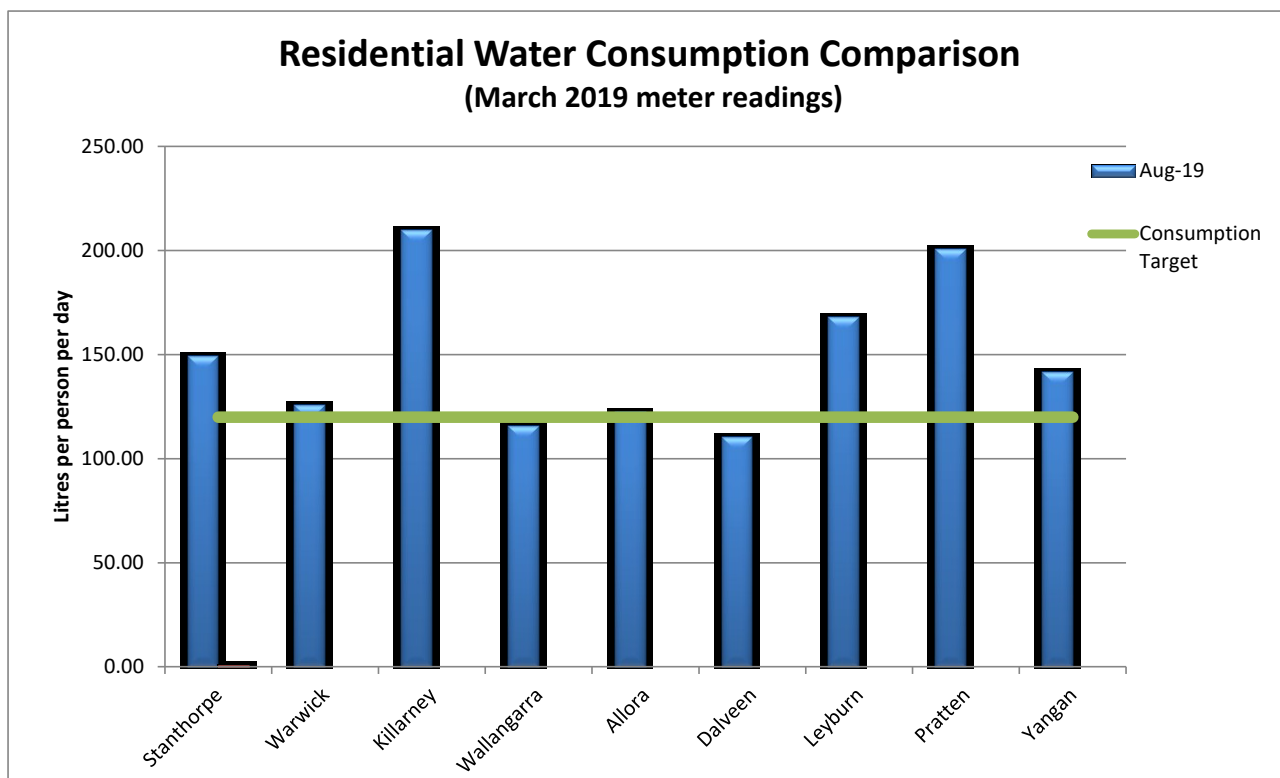
Dam Levels

Water Supply Levels and Monthly consumption at the end of Aug 2019											
Remaining Supply is based on no rain & current monthly consumption.											
	Water Scheme	Supply Source/s	Supply Capacity (ML/Yr) unless specified otherwise				Demand (ML)				Remaining Supply Mths*
			Maximum	Dam % Full	Quantity	Available	Annual	Monthly	Daily	Litres /sec	
1	Warwick	Leslie Dam (SunWater)	106,250	5.96%	6,333	7,075	1552.60	129.38	4.17	48.31	12 (inc evap)
		Connolly Dam	2,157	34.30%	742						
2	Stanthorpe	Storm King Dam	2,065	22.40%	463	463	495.52	41.29	1.33	15.42	4 (inc evap)
3	Killarney	Spring Creek Weir & OSS	300	N/A	300	300	100.67	8.39	0.27	3.13	35.8
4	Wallangarra	Beehive Dam	97	48.00%	47	52	42.25	3.52	0.11	1.31	14.7
		The Soak	22	24.00%	5						
5	Allora	Warwick WTP			As per Warwick		57.54	4.80	0.15	1.79	12 (inc evap)
6	Dalveen	Bore/s	30	N/A	30	30	5.88	0.49	0.02	0.18	61.2
7	Leyburn	Bore/s	30	N/A	30	30	17.98	1.50	0.05	0.56	20.0
8	Pratten	Bore/s	30	N/A	30	30	12.71	1.06	0.03	0.40	28.3
10	Yangan	Warwick WTP			As per Warwick		27.84	2.32	0.07	0.87	12 (inc evap)
		Leslie Dam (SunWater)	Agreement to hold bottom 15% (15,930) for SDRC. Contract for supply of 3,207 ML/yr								
	Note!	*Wallangarra Dam supplies do not account for evaporation									

Monthly Water Consumptions Graphs







Budget Implications

Reference Financial Report

Policy Consideration

Nil

Community Engagement

Nil

Legislation/Local Law

Nil

Options

Council:

1. Receive the Infrastructure Services Directorate Monthly Report; or
2. Does not receive the Infrastructure Services Directorate Monthly Report.

Attachments

1. Capital Works Project Status Report - Works [↓](#)



Capital Works

Program 19/20 - Capital Works Report September 20190906

HVSP - Heavy Vehicle Safety And Productivity Program		
BRP - Bridge Renewal Programme (50/50)		NOT STARTED
BS - Blackspot (50/50)		Construction
CNLGGP - Cycle Network Local Government Grants Program (50/50)		Planning and Design
RTR - Roads to Recovery (100)		Completed
TIDS - Transport Infrastructure Scheme (50/50)		Planning
WQ - Works for Queensland (100)		ON HOLD

Project Name	Revenue Actual YTD	Current Revenue Budget	Proposed Revenue Budget	Act Expend	Commit	Act+Com Expend	Forecast	Current Budget	Proposed Budget	Funding	Progress	Project Officer	Est Start	Est Finish	Start	Finish	Status/Comment
CAPITAL WORKS - CONSTRUCTION	47,884,441	4,993,721	-	1,654,934	2,006,276	3,661,209	0	12,892,442	0								
<i>Previous Year</i>	<i>45,902</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>249,924</i>	<i>287,051</i>	<i>537,775</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>								
101669 - Rangers Rd / Osenham Street Intersection	0	0	0	24,839	0	24,839	0	0	0	RTR	100%	MAPESA	18/09/2016	28/06/2019	30/04/2019	27/06/2019	Project Completed
102010 - Condamine River Crossings (MPP next stage)	0	0	0	457	0	457	0	0	0		50%	MAPESA	11/02/2019	28/06/2019	11/02/2019		Project Completed, awaiting instruction to proceed to next phase
102101 - 2nd Off Leach Dog Parks	0	0	0	34,589	2,144	36,733	0	0	0		90%	CMC/MAGNAGLE	20/06/2019	14/06/2019	30/06/2019		Project Completed
101892 - Industrial Land Development	0	0	0	256	4,009	4,265	0	0	0	TIDS	100%	HEATHT	17/06/2018	28/04/2019	4/02/2019	25/06/2019	Project Completed
101994 - TIDS Amiens Road widening 18/19	1,492	0	0	2,307	0	2,307	0	0	0	TIDS	100%	HEATHT	30/09/2018	21/12/2018	5/11/2018	14/06/2019	Project Completed
101825 - Casey Street Drainage 18/19	0	0	0	989	102,815	103,804	0	0	0		75%	JUNAUO/HESE	20/04/2018	26/07/2019	16/09/2018		Project Completed, awaiting instruction to proceed to next phase
102001 - Gravel Recteeling (18-19)	0	0	0	97,817	126	97,943	0	0	0		100%	BEATTIEM	30/07/2018	15/06/2019	2/07/2018	26/06/2019	Project Completed
101889 - Multi Purpose Vehicle/Fire - Disaster Centre/Library	0	0	0	0	33,636	33,636	0	0	0	WQ	60%	MBELL	12/11/2018	26/07/2019	21/01/2019		Project Completed
101995 - TIDS Inveramsay Road widening 18/19	4,209	0	0	639	0	639	0	0	0	TIDS	100%	MCOCHRANE	18/09/2018	30/03/2019	11/02/2019	31/05/2019	Project Completed
101997 - TIDS Freestone Road 18/19	2,761	0	0	2,552	0	2,552	0	0	0	TIDS	100%	MCOCHRANE	4/03/2019	17/05/2019	4/02/2019	14/06/2019	Project Completed
102004 - Reseals 18/19	0	0	0	8,885	0	8,885	0	0	0		100%	PCRIIP	6/08/2018	11/06/2019	6/08/2018	31/05/2019	Project Completed
101682 - Thames Creek Culvert reconstruction	0	0	0	0	3,741	3,741	0	0	0		100%	MCOCHRANE	5/06/2017	22/09/2017	31/12/2018	3/02/2019	Project Completed
101887 - Condamine River, Walking and Cycle Path Extension (W4Q2)	0	0	0	385	0	385	0	0	0	WQ	100%	MCOCHRANE	4/06/2018	31/05/2019	25/02/2019	7/06/2018	Project Completed
101906 - Cycleways - Glen Alpine and Condamine Bridge	37,600	0	0	166,947	0	166,947	0	0	0	CNLGGP	200%	HEATHT	1/05/2018	23/06/2018	26/11/2018	13/12/2018	Project Completed
102088 - Guy Street, Platten Street and Parker Street Cycleway Design	0	0	0	1,296	141,390	142,686	0	0	0	CNLGGP	40%	MCOCHRANE	5/11/2018	30/10/2019	4/02/2019		Design in progress, awaiting Council decision on the Cycleway Masterplan
102006 - B Double Routes	0	0	0	871	0	871	0	0	0	HVSP	100%	MHOLESZKO	2/07/2018	31/05/2019	12/11/2018	28/06/2019	Project Completed
102002 - Jimmy Mann Road Roadway	0	0	0	7,452	0	7,452	0	0	0	RTR	100%	PCRIIP	18/03/2019	21/06/2019	23/01/2019	25/06/2019	Project Completed
<i>Current Year</i>	<i>1,383</i>	<i>6,093,721</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1,205,010</i>	<i>1,720,425</i>	<i>2,925,435</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>12,892,442</i>	<i>0</i>								
101864 - Palmer Bridge Freestone (BRP) year 2	0	1,300,000	0	468,736	1,354,742	1,823,478	0	2,200,000	0	BRP	70%	MCOCHRANE	30/04/2018	20/12/2019	16/07/2018		Construction in progress
102133 - Jack Smith Gully Rehab (TIDS)	1,383	219,500	0	26,019	88,679	114,679	0	439,000	0	TIDS	30%	MAPESA	1/10/2019	22/12/2019	26/08/2019		Construction in progress
102127 - Village Amenity Sealing (RTR)	0	220,000	0	147,848	57,206	205,054	0	220,000	0	RTR	90%	HEATHT	31/07/2019	31/10/2019	22/07/2019		Construction almost completed
102163 - Bourkes Road Bridge (BRP4)	0	326,180	0	2,206	1,596	3,800	0	652,200	0	BRP	5%	MCOCHRANE	7/10/2019	20/12/2019	1/07/2019		Design in progress
102164 - Upper Forest Springs Bridge (BRP4)	0	301,400	0	2,017	1,909	3,917	0	602,800	0	BRP	5%	MCOCHRANE	20/01/2020	13/03/2020	1/07/2019		Design in progress
102160 - Redheel Gravel Roads (TIDS)	0	879,871	0	0	0	0	0	1,759,742	0	TIDS	0%	HEATHT	14/01/2019	12/04/2019			Not started
102161 - Depot/Mgillie East St upgrade (HVSP)	0	395,000	0	0	4,711	4,711	0	790,000	0	HVSP	5%	MCOCHRANE	23/07/2019	20/09/2019	1/07/2019		Planning and Design in progress
102131 - Redheel Gravel Roads (ex LRRS)	0	0	0	632,512	194,889	827,391	0	1,000,000	0		45%	BEATTIEM	1/07/2019	30/06/2020	1/07/2019		In progress
102136 - Forde Street Allora Rehab	0	0	0	11,987	94,943	106,930	0	245,000	0		60%	MCOCHRANE	5/08/2019	31/08/2019	2/08/2019		In progress
102165 - Guy Street Footpath (LGP)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80,000	0	CNLGGP	0%	PCRIIP	1/12/2019	25/01/2020			Not started
102166 - Condamine River Walk stage 2 (W4Q)	0	300,000	0	0	0	0	0	300,000	0	WQ	15%	MCOCHRANE	1/11/2021	30/11/2021	1/08/2019		Planning and Design in progress
102167 - Donnellys Castle Road Rehab (RTR)	0	350,000	0	0	2,814	2,814	0	350,000	0	RTR	0%	HEATHT	22/07/2019	29/08/2019	1/08/2019		Planning and Design in progress
102168 - McGraw Street Cycleway (CNLGGP)	0	322,600	0	2,726	3,389	6,106	0	945,000	0	CNLGGP	10%	HEATHT	10/09/2019	30/11/2019	1/08/2019		Planning and Design in progress - awaiting signed agreement
102169 - Park Road Crossover (CNLGGP)	0	37,800	0	0	0	0	0	75,600	0	CNLGGP	0%	MCOCHRANE	19/10/2019	30/11/2019			Not started - awaiting signed agreement
102170 - Quail Point Cycle way (CNLGGP)	0	416,500	0	1,523	1,163	2,686	0	833,000	0	CNLGGP	10%	HEATHT	19/01/2020	15/03/2020	1/08/2019		Planning and Design in progress - awaiting signed agreement
102171 - Upper Wheelvale Rd Widening (RTR)	0	450,000	0	545	1,959	2,495	0	450,000	0	RTR	10%	MCOCHRANE	21/10/2019	29/11/2019	1/08/2019		Planning and Design in progress
102158 - Reseal Program	0	0	0	8,902	2,479	11,372	0	1,000,000	0		5%	PCRIIP	1/07/2019	30/06/2020	1/08/2019		Planning and Design in progress
102159 - Connolly Dam Rd Sealing (TIDS)	0	475,000	0	0	0	0	0	950,000	0		0%	MHOLESZKO	12/08/2019	29/11/2019			Awaiting grant funding
102174 - Upper Forest Springs Road Widening Rehab (RTR)	0	300,000	0	0	0	0	0	300,000	0	RTR	0%	PCRIIP	2/09/2020	1/05/2020			Planning and Design in progress
Boat Ramps - Leslie and Storm King Dams																	
Seed Funding Projects																	
Yangan Road School Parking																	Project not proceeding - CONFIRMATION REQUIRED
Manwick Shared Zone																	Project Completed, awaiting project number



Capital Works


HVSP - Heavy Vehicle Safety And Productivity Program		
BRP - Bridge Renewal Programme (50/50)		NOT STARTED
BS - Blackspot (50/50)		Construction
CNLOGP - Cycle Network/Local Government Grants Program (50/50)		Planning and Design
RTR - Roads to Recovery (100)		Completed
TDS - Transport Infrastructure Scheme (50/50)		Waiting
WQ - Works for Queensland (100)		ON HOLD

Program 19/20 - Capital Works Report September 20190906

Project Name	Revenue Actual YTD	Current Revenue Budget	Proposed Revenue Budget	Act Expend	Commit	Act+Com Expend	Forecast	Current Budget	Proposed Budget	Funding	Progress	Project Officer	Est Start	Est Finish	Start	Finish	Status/Comment
CAPITAL WORKS - COMMUNITY	-	400,000	-	28,699	22,855	51,555	0	318,755	0								
<i>Previous Year</i>	0	0	0	8,027	5,627	13,654	0	7,255	0								
102063 - Old Allora Offices Redumping & Raising	0	0	0	1,255	0	1,255	0	1,255	0	WQ	100%	ANNEKEJ	11/07/2018	28/06/2019	11/07/2018	28/06/2019	Project Completed
101885 - Rest area for visitors and travellers incorporating new	0	0	0	349	0	349	0	0	0	WQ	100%	ZOED	20/06/2019	30/06/2019	25/06/2019	25/06/2019	Project Completed
101963 - Stanthorpe Admin Building Under Planning	0	0	0	5,432	0	5,432	0	0	0		100%	ZOED	20/07/2018	26/06/2019	13/06/2018	25/06/2019	Project Completed
101968 - Equitable Access Requirements - Stanthorpe Admin Building	0	0	0	1,008	3,592	4,592	0	0	0		100%	ZOED	20/07/2018	28/06/2019	28/06/2019	28/06/2019	Project Completed
101888 - Recreation Areas at Connolly Dam and Small Villages	0	0	0	0	2,035	2,035	0	0	0	WQ	98%	ZOED	12/03/2018	29/03/2019	29/03/2019	30/01/2019	Project Completed - awaiting electricity connection
<i>Current Year</i>	0	808,000	0	20,673	17,229	37,901	0	817,500	0								
101868 - Mitchell Shelter Warwick Cemetery Restoration	0	0	0	1,525	6,388	7,913	0	155,000	0		5%	JVRUGHESE	1/07/2018	30/06/2020	1/07/2018		Planning and Design in progress
102134 - Buildings Fire Systems Upgrades 2019-20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	62,500	0		0%	ANNEKEJ	20/06/2019	29/05/2020			Yet to commence
102177 - Learn to Ride Park (W4Q)	0	300,000	0	2,162	5,241	7,403	0	300,000	0	WQ	0%	MHOLESZKO	4/11/2019	7/02/2020			Planning and Design in progress
101884 - Will Street Community Groups Relocation (W4Q)	0	300,000	0	16,985	5,809	22,585	0	300,000	0	WQ	10%	JVRUGHESE	7/12/2017	18/06/2020	7/12/2017		Planning and Design in progress
Construction of Daggs Falls lookout							0			WQ	0%						On Hold - Not Proceeding. Council seeking alternative project to make the funds
Relocate Warwick SES to APRA Building							0			WQ							On Hold - ongoing negotiations on the lease arrangements
CAPITAL WORKS - Maintenance	-	0	-	8,321	6,956	12,277	0	966,000	0								
<i>Previous Year</i>	0	0	0	1,960	0	1,960	0	0	0								
101947 - Extension of the lighting along Quat Pak Creek	0	0	0	463	0	463	0	0	0		0%	CHRISW	15/02/2018	30/06/2018	15/02/2018		Light poles received, awaiting completion of footpath project to install lighting
101977 - Stanthorpe Park Run Stage 1	0	0	0	1,497	0	1,497	0	0	0		100%	MMAHONEY	13/12/2018	21/06/2019			Project completed
<i>Current Year</i>	0	0	0	3,361	6,956	10,317	0	855,000	0								
102135 - Stanthorpe Cemetery Burial Wall	0	0	0	2,246	6,956	9,202	0	270,000	0		0%	ANNEKEJ	1/11/2019	30/06/2020			Planning and Design in progress
103009 - Cycleway / Footpath Strategic Plan	0	0	0	1,115	0	1,115	0	0	0		100%	CHRISW	1/02/2018	30/06/2019		28/06/2019	Part of last FY master cycleway project. Council briefing session on 9th September of overall master plan
102156 - Footpaths Replacement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50,000	0		0%	BOAMERON	1/07/2019	30/06/2020			Planning and Design in progress
102183 - Replacement of damaged Kerb & Channel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75,000	0		0%	BOAMERON	1/07/2019	30/06/2020			Planning and Design in progress
102181 - Seal High Maintenance gravel sections	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200,000	0		0%	BOAMERON	1/07/2019	20/06/2020			Not started
102180 - Seal Gravel Roads	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200,000	0		0%	BOAMERON	1/07/2019	30/06/2020			Not started
102178 - Homestead Rd Widening	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40,000	0		0%	BOAMERON	2/06/2019	30/06/2019			Not started
102179 - Replace damaged light poles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	120,000	0		0%	MCOCHRANE	5/08/2019	28/06/2019			Not started
CAPITAL WORKS - COMBINED TOTAL	47,885	6,693,721	-	1,588,954	2,038,087	3,627,041	0	14,846,197	0								
				11%	14%												

12.2 Water Contingency Plan

Document Information

 Southern Downs REGIONAL COUNCIL	Report To: General Council Meeting	
	Reporting Officer:	Meeting Date: 25 September 2019
	Director Infrastructure Services	ECM Function No/s:

Recommendation

THAT Council receive the attached Water Contingency Plan.

Report

Southern Downs Regional Council is exploring all opportunities to ensure that there is a supply of drinking water to its residents and businesses. Current forecasts indicate that without substantial rainfall Stanthorpe will not have access to a reliable water supply by December 2019 and Warwick will be in a similar position by December 2020.

Council is working with key stakeholders from the State Government, other local government authorities, the community and businesses to undertake actions that ensure that drinking water is made available.

The State Government has committed to funding the construction of emergency water infrastructure for the carting of water from Connolly Dam raw water line to the new water storage tanks at Storm King Dam. This funding totals \$2.4 million in capital infrastructure and \$800,000 per month for the carting of water until 2021.

The two x 1 ML water tanks and 1.5km gravity water main are currently under construction with the water main well progressed.

The attached Water Contingency Plan provides an overview of the contingency actions that are being considered and implemented at present.

Budget Implications

Budget implications will be assessed on a monthly and quarterly basis.

Policy Consideration

Water and Wastewater Customer Service Standards 2014

Community Engagement

Nil

Legislation/Local Law

Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008

Options

Council:

1. Receive the Water Contingency Plan.
2. Receive the Water Contingency Plan with changes.
3. Not receive the Water Contingency Plan.

Attachments

1. Southern Downs Water Contingency Plan [↓](#)

Southern Downs Water Contingency Plan

Southern Downs Regional Council is exploring all opportunities to ensure that there is a supply of drinking water to its residents and businesses. Current forecasts indicate that without substantial rainfall Stanthorpe will not have access to a reliable water supply by December 2019 and Warwick will be in a similar position by December 2020.

Southern Downs Regional Council is working with key stakeholders from the State Government, other local government authorities, the community and businesses to undertake actions that ensure that drinking water is made available.

Council contractors are currently undertaking works on the emergency water infrastructure for the receipt of raw water to be treated at the Stanthorpe water treatment plant.

The following is an overview of the contingency actions that are being considered and implemented at present.

Stanthorpe

Short term

- With no rain and based on current consumption levels the water supply in Storm King is forecasted to be exhausted in the December 2019 or January 2020.
- The August 2019 consumption level detailed that Stanthorpe is using 1.33 ML per day, 41.29 ML per month. Standpipe use has increased in Stanthorpe again this month and is about 20% of the monthly usage.
- The average resident in Stanthorpe is using 149 litres per person per day; the current restrictions have a target of 100 litres per person per day. The consumption is slowly decreasing.
- At this stage, Council does not intend to cart water from Coolmunda or Glenlyon Dams which are both at low levels and therefore have limited availability of water for Southern Downs. These options may be re-opened in the future should these dams receive rain events that recharge their dam levels.
- Raw water will be transported from Connolly Dam via standpipes at Warwick and possibly Morgan Park.
- Transported raw water for Stanthorpe will be stored in two x 1ML tanks and gravity piped to the water treatment plant. Construction is well underway and will be completed in November.
- The Preferred Supplier Arrangement for water carting has been finalised, with a number of transport companies on the supplier list.
- Water restrictions to be increased to critical level, 100 litres per person per day from 1 September 2019 and emergency water restrictions of 80 litres per person per day to be implemented at a future date.
- Critical and emergency water restrictions will be strictly enforced with additional meter readings and enforcement.
- Leak detection repairs have been completed and all detected leaks on public infrastructure repaired throughout the Stanthorpe reticulated network.
- Desilting or dredging of Storm King Dam would only be considered once no more water is being used from the dam as there will be a negative impact on the water quality.
- Council officers will continue to work with local businesses to improve water conservation.
- Council officers will continue to provide community and school education sessions.
- Council officers will continue to work with accommodation providers in relation to water conservation.
- Officers will continue to identify other potential sources of water.
- The role and function of the Applethorpe Ring tank to be identified.
- Water for road construction and other works continues to be brought into Stanthorpe from other sources, such as Killarney and use of Warwick recycled water.
- Yields from the Soak and the Beehive to be monitored, as well as surrounding bores.
- If required Southern Downs Regional Council will assist where practical Tenterfield Shire Council to the provision of water.
- The new raw water line from Storm King Dam to the water treatment plant is complete.

- Council is seeking to make water tanks or bladders mandatory for all new houses, commercial and industrial developments.
- Water used on the September bushfires was mostly brought into the region and from Quart Pot Creek, resulting in minimal impact on the level of Storm King Dam.

Medium Term

- Issues associated with recycled water that is currently supplied to the effluent users to be finalised, so as water can be used for other purposes.
- Increase the quality of the recycled water to allow other applications (road construction, etc.).
- Desilting to be potentially undertaken based on reports and survey of dead storage levels at Storm King Dam.
- Planning to commence on increasing the capacity of Storm King Dam once the State government has determined the yield and viability of this option.
- Planning and investigations to commence in relation to establishing a pipeline from Connolly Dam and Storm King Dam in the long term.
- Planning and investigations to commence in relation the upgrade or relocation of the Stanthorpe Sewerage Treatment facility in the medium term to deliver high quality of recycled water.
- Permanent water conservation measures to be mandated, including water tank rebates where applicable.
- Additional water allocations to be identified and further investigated, such as Bookookara Creek.

Long term

- Subject to the planning and investigations seek funding for;
 - Increasing the capacity of Storm King Dam
 - Relocating or upgrading the Stanthorpe Sewerage Treatment Plant
 - Establishing a connection between Storm King Dam and Connolly Dam
 - Upgrading of the standard of the recycled water.
- Support the establishment of Emu Swamp Dam as an irrigation project.
- Further investigate the opportunities for sourcing water from the Clarence River in a consortium with Toowoomba Regional Council, Western Downs Regional Council and Tenterfield Shire Council.
- Retain permanent water conservation measures.

Warwick

Short Term

- With no rain and based on current consumption levels the water supplies in Leslie and Connolly Dam are forecasted to be exhausted by December 2020.
- Warwick, Allora and Yangan are all currently serviced by the Warwick Water Treatment Plant.
- Warwick's consumption in August 2019 was 3.94 ML per day and 122.27 ML per month.
- Allora's consumption in August 2019 was 0.15 ML per day and 4.795 ML per month.
- Yangan's consumption in August 2019 was 0.074 ML per day and 2.32 ML per month.
- The average resident in Warwick is using 126 litres per person per day, Allora is 122 litres per person per day and Yangan is 141 litres per person per day, the current restrictions have a target of 100 litres per person per day.
- Review of all bores in the Warwick region is nearing completion, including the validation of allocations and the quality and yield of each bore.
- Immediate assessment of the capacity of the Allora bores to service Allora (350 ML allocation), as has occurred in the past.
- There may also be an opportunity to use Allora bore water to supplement the Warwick supply by sending it back through the existing pipeline to the Warwick Water Treatment Plant.
- Seek endorsement from the Dalrymple Water Committee Meeting (This has occurred and endorsement has been provided).
- Establish the necessary infrastructure to provide drinking water from the bores to Allora.
- Separate Allora from the Warwick system thereby saving up to 5 ML per month that can be put back into the Warwick system.
- Leak detection has been completed in the Warwick reticulated system.
- Water Restrictions were increased to critical level, 100 litres per person per day, from 1 September 2019.
- Critical and Emergency Water Restrictions will be strictly enforced with additional meter readings and enforcement
- Secure water from inside or outside the region that can be transported to the Warwick Water Treatment Plant or Leslie Dam and the cost of transporting the water;
- Council to investigate the installation of production bores in the Lyndhurst Lane area that could be connected to Leslie Dam network supplying up to 5 ML per day.
- Quantify the cost of the water and the cost of the transportation of the water to the Warwick Water Treatment facility.
- Quantify the cost of the water and the cost of the transportation of the water to Leslie Dam.
- Determine the most effective delivery point for the delivery of water.
- Deliver the new infrastructure identified in the funding applications in regard to recycled water in the industrial estate and saleyards.

- Commence discussion with Toowoomba Regional Council in relation to piping water from Clifton to Warwick, should Toowoomba decide to service Clifton (This discussion has occurred).
- Commence discussions with the Great Artesian Basin Authority in relation to accessing the basin.
- Seek endorsement from DNRME for additional bores to provide stock water.
- Dead storage level established for Connolly Dam to allow consideration of de-silting or dredging once Connolly Dam water is not in use.
- Works at Connolly Dam have been reviewed and a more efficient and cost effective option identified.
- Considering the viability of additional allocation of water being purchased from SunWater at Leslie Dam.
- State Government Departments to review the application of recycled water or the quality of recycled water to be increased through additional processes.
- Council officers will continue to work with local businesses to improve water conservation.
- Council officers will continue to provide community and school education sessions.
- Council officers will work with accommodation providers in relation to water conservation.
- Council is seeking to make water tanks or bladders mandatory for all new houses, commercial and industrial developments.
- Council to exit water agreements with landholders around Leslie Dam in relation to expired water agreements.
- The Preferred Supplier Arrangement for water carting is currently being finalised, with a number of transport companies likely to be on the supplier list.

Medium Term

- Desilting to be potentially undertaken based on reports and survey of dead storage levels at Connolly Dam
- Planning and investigations to commence in relation to establishing a pipeline from Connolly Dam and Storm King Dam in the long term.
- Complete renewal works at Connolly Dam.
- Permanent water conservation measures to be mandated, including water tank rebates where applicable.
- Continue to provide community education in relation to water conservation.
- Assess the capacity of the Killarney Water resources to supplement Warwick, potentially via Yangan.
- Planning and investigations to be commenced in relation to accessing water from the Great Artesian Basin.

Long Term

- Create a grid system to distribute water across the municipality.
- Source a connection into the South East Queensland Water Grid or a connection to Clifton should Toowoomba proceed with a pipeline south.

- Establish production bores that have the capacity to drought proof Warwick.
- Increase the quality of and distribution network for the improved use of recycled water for industrial and farming purposes.
- Consider planning for an additional dam in the Elbow Valley region.

The Southern Downs Region

Short Term

- Finalise a panel of water transport providers, as well as identifying accessible water resources from outside the region for emergency supply.
- Ensure a supply for urban use in Wallangarra.
- Ascertain the capacity of the Soak and the Beehive.
- Consider the utilisation of bores around the Soak and the Beehive.
- Provide education to businesses and the broader community in relation to water conservation.
- Identify if possible options for the limited supply of water for livestock.
- Consider incentives for the installation of water tanks on rural properties.
- Validate the capacity of bores in areas outside the urban centres.
- Explore options in relation to augmented water supplies from Killarney.
- Make water tanks or bladders mandatory for all new houses, commercial and industrial developments.
- Manage the expectations of people living in rural areas seeking water for livestock.

Medium Term

- Formalise a network of bores based on the review of the allocations to Southern Downs Regional Council.
- Ensure all bores are being used effectively.
- Develop a long term strategy for water management in the rural areas.
- Provide incentives to residents and businesses to conserve water.
- Seek additional water allocations for Killarney.
- Develop a cross border project with Tenterfield Shire Council to ensure water security.


Long Term

- Review the strategies that have been developed.
- Work with the rural sector to aim for the highest levels of water efficiency.
- Ensure the sustainability of the water supply for small towns across the region.

13. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

13.1 Invasive Pests Control Scheme Evaluation

Document Information

 Southern Downs REGIONAL COUNCIL	Report To: General Council Meeting	
	Reporting Officer:	Meeting Date: 25 September 2019
	Manager Environmental & Regulatory Services	ECM Function No/s: 11.35.04

Recommendation

THAT Council receive the AEC Group Invasive Pests Control Scheme Evaluation and endorse the ongoing implementation and periodic (four yearly) review of the Invasive Pests Control Scheme Policy.

Report

Following an extensive and overwhelmingly supportive public consultation process that included eight (8) public meetings at locations across the Southern Downs Region, attended by 260 people, Council endorsed the Invasive Pests Control Scheme (IPCS) Policy for adoption at the 14 June 2017 Special Council Meeting. In giving its endorsement, Council made an undertaking to review the policy before the end of the third year of implementation, being 2019/2020.

The IPCS has received strong support from the community and achieved very high levels of voluntary compliance. 91% of Control Works Forms were returned in the first year of implementation. This exceeded initial expectations and grew to 93% in the second year. Since the scheme's introduction, unprecedented levels of weed control work have been undertaken across the region and coordinated wild dog baiting participation has increased markedly.

Since the introduction of the IPCS, the scheme has been used to assist in leveraging alternative sources of funding, securing over \$2.2M of funding for pest related initiatives from State and Federal Government funding. There is strong support from State agencies and many other local governments are watching the implementation of the IPCS with keen interest, to assess its applicability within other local government areas. Council officers have presented on the IPCS to a number of National, State and regional invasive pest and local government forums and attracted positive feedback, endorsements and insightful discussion in doing so. SDRC is seen as an innovator and a leader in the invasive pest management space; much of which can be attributed to the introduction of the IPCS.

The introduction of the IPCS, like any change process, initially met with some resistance from those affected by it. Officers invested much of the first year of implementation educating landholders about the aims of the IPCS and how to meet their obligations under it. The level of acceptance of the IPCS has increased dramatically following its first two years of implementation. This is evidenced by the reduction in phone enquiries received by Council officers and their interactions with landholders.

The worsening drought conditions across the Southern Downs have presented many challenges for the region's landholders and for the implementation of the IPCS. Council officers have taken a common sense and empathetic approach in dealing with landholders' situations on a case by case

basis. Officers continue to modify the approach taken with administration of the IPCS and its flexibility in adapting to changed situations is one of its great virtues.

Having successfully implemented the IPCS, Council engaged AEC Group in June 2019 to undertake a triple bottom line analysis of the IPCS, calculating and taking account of the economic, environmental and social costs and benefits of the IPCS. AEC Group presented a draft report of their findings to Council officers in August 2019 and the report was considered by Council's Pest Management Advisory Committee (PMAC) at its 3 September 2019 meeting held in Stanthorpe. The final report submitted by AEC Group is attached (Attachment 1).

The AEC Group report includes a cost-benefit analysis that demonstrates a net benefit (net present value) in retaining the IPCS policy, ranging from \$45.3M to \$95.9M over 30 years to 2047. Further, the report demonstrates a decrease in area of infested lands of 23,815 hectares achieved from 2017/2018 to 2018/2019 and projected further decrease of between 148,000 to 415,000 hectares over the decade, 2020 to 2030. A projected increase over the same period of 150,000 hectares was conservatively estimated in the event the IPCS is discontinued after 2019/2020.

AEC Group conducted telephone interviews with a random selection of landholders whose properties are subject to the IPCS. AEC Group reported that, "overwhelmingly people are in favour of the IPCS and even those that don't love it, accept it". A range of landholder feedback is included with the report at Attachment 1. The consultation, and analysis, led to the AEC Group report including a range of recommendations for improvement of the IPCS. Many of these are administrative in nature and will be implemented with insignificant cost.

The key recommendation is filling the infestation level invasive pest data gap, in order to more accurately evaluate the progress of the IPCS going forward. Property level data has been captured from Control Works Forms to date. Infestation level data is resource intensive to capture in a meaningful way and officers have collaborated with the University of Southern Queensland in a remote sensing project funding application to the Queensland Government. Should the application be unsuccessful, other revenue sources and partnerships will be explored.

The cost benefit analysis, projected reduction of infested lands and feedback from landholders and agencies present a compelling argument for ongoing implementation of the IPCS. Discussion at the 3 September 2019 PMAC meeting indicated strong support for the continuation of the IPCS and culminated in the following recommendation being made.

"That in light of the findings of the AEC Group evaluation, Council endorses ongoing implementation of the IPCS.

Council amends the IPCS policy to reflect its ongoing effect and to provide for annual updates of the cost benefit model with IPCS data and four-yearly reviews".

It is proposed that IPCS data captured annually will be entered into the AEC Group report cost benefit model to monitor the progress of the scheme. Further, it is proposed that, as with all Council policies, the IPCS Policy is reviewed every four years.

Budget Implications

Operational impacts will require budget consideration.

Policy Consideration

Invasive Pests Control Scheme Policy (PL-PE074)

Corporate Plan

8.15 Review pest management services in accordance with legislative requirements, community expectations and to ensure the protection of the environment

Shaping Southern Downs

4.4.1.2 Conserve agricultural areas, including those which provide community with an affordable supply of fresh food, food security and export earning potential.

4.4.3.1 Develop policies, programs and management plans, aimed at increasing the biodiversity and conservation value of land within the region.

4.4.3.2 Conserve and protect valued natural resources, including water, land, flora and fauna.

4.4.3.6 Manage invasive pests within the region.

Community Engagement

The IPCS underwent significant public consultation prior to its implementation and has been subject to ongoing consultation and subsequent continuous improvement processes since.

The evaluation of the IPCS completed by AEC Group also featured consultation with a random selection of landholders and targeted agencies. Additionally, the Pest Management Advisory Committee (which is a community consultative group) was consulted during the evaluation process.

Legislation/Local Law

Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014.

Options

Council:

1. Receive the AEC Group Invasive Pests Control Scheme Evaluation and endorse the ongoing implementation and periodic (four yearly) review of the Invasive Pests Control Scheme Policy.
2. Does not receive the AEC Group Invasive Pests Control Scheme Evaluation and does not endorse the ongoing implementation and periodic (four yearly) review of the Invasive Pests Control Scheme Policy.

Attachments

1. AEC Group Report - Invasive Pests Control Scheme Evaluation [↓](#)

INVASIVE PEST CONTROL SCHEME EVALUATION

SOUTHERN DOWNS REGIONAL COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 2019



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INVASIVE PESTS CONTROL SCHEME EVALUATION



DOCUMENT CONTROL

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Job Name: SDRC Invasive Pest Scheme Evaluation
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Client Contact: Craig Magnussen
Project Manager: Matthew Kelly
Email: matthew.kelly@aecgroup.com
Telephone: 07 4771 5550
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

Southern Downs Regional Council (Council) introduced the Invasive Pests Control Scheme (IPCS) in 2017/18 as a proactive approach to reducing the impact of invasive pests on the region's agricultural productivity, biodiversity, and resident amenity. Landholders are required to abide by the scheme and identify and take necessary measures to control invasive pests on their land.

The scheme includes a pest management levy and an upfront concession fee. Those who comply with the IPCS retain their concession and those who do not have their levies collected and invested in strategic pest management initiatives. Council promotes best practice control methods and helps landowners to achieve this through advice and facilitation, with a focus on reducing the impacts of invasive pests in the Southern Downs region.

In order to develop a deeper understanding of the IPCS and its associated benefits and costs to the community, Council has engaged AEC Group Pty Ltd (AEC) to undertake an evaluation to measure the scheme's impacts to the regional community.

PURPOSE & APPROACH

This report provides a Triple Bottom Line (TBL) impact assessment of the IPCS to the Southern Downs region. The evaluation considers the impacts the IPCS has had on invasive pests and their prevalence, as well as the associated economic, environmental, and social benefits and costs this has delivered to the region.

The analysis is both historic (2017/18 and 2018/19) and forward looking (2019/20 to 2029/30). The findings of this evaluation will be used by Council to refine the IPCS and support community engagement regarding the regional benefits of the scheme. The report includes a Cost Benefit Assessment (CBA) of the IPCS, estimating the net socio-economic benefits to the Southern Downs community over a 30 year period.

KEY FINDINGS

Review of the IPCS

A range of data relating to the initial two years of IPCS operations were reviewed, including headline outcomes from control works form submissions and the results of an online survey completed by Council. Key outcomes of the IPCS over its initial two years of operations include:

- Since the implementation of the IPCS, the number of inspections has increased by approximately 340, with the percentage assessed increasing from 73.9% in 2017 to 92.7% in 2018.
- From 2017 to 2018, the hectares with pests declared in the Southern Downs has decrease by 23,815ha indicating that the IPCS is successfully decreasing the impact of invasive pests within the region.
- Since the implementation of the IPCS, landholders' level of awareness of both invasive pests and the control scheme has increased by 16 percentage points to reach 71%.
- Majority (53.5%) of landholders support the continuation of the IPCS and think the scheme is of value to the Southern Downs region and particularly the agricultural industry.
- The number of control works form reminders decreased by approximately 650, with landholders adjusting to the administrative process of the IPCS.
- An average of 26ha per property have been treated for pests that were previously infested.
- Since implementation, respondents have spent an additional \$3,258 on average for invasive pest control.

INVASIVE PESTS CONTROL SCHEME EVALUATION



Social, Environmental and Economic Impacts

Based on the review of data provided by Council, major invasive pest species impacting the Southern Downs were identified as:

- Blackberry.
- Wild dogs.
- African boxthorn.
- Velvety tree pear.
- Rabbits.

Impacts of these invasive pests were reviewed within a TBL framework, with results summarised in the table below.

ES.1. Social, Environmental and Economic Impacts of Invasive Pests

Pest Species	Economic Impacts	Environmental Impacts	Social Impacts
Wild Dogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced income due to loss of stock. Costs to dispose of deceased animals. Wild dogs transmit diseases which can infect agricultural production of sheep and cattle (including sheep measles, hydatidosis, mange, distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, Neospora caninum and toxoplasmosis (DPI, n.a.)). Changes to the stock composition with premium stock that has been built up over a number of years being destroyed. Impacted properties typically have a negative impact on land values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attacks on native animals and subsequent loss of biodiversity. Potential for transmission of diseases to native animals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychological impacts on farmers if attacks on livestock are repetitive. The predation of livestock has significant social and psychological effects on primary producers and their families. In addition, pest animals such as wild dogs are a nuisance, damaging infrastructure and culturally important sites and displaying adverse behaviours such as disruptive noise (Invasive Plants and Animals Committee, 2017). Financial stress implications due to loss of income. Injury risks of attacks to humans (particularly children).
Rabbits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grazing of field crops reducing yields and damaging soils, resulting in a reduction in farmer income. Impacted properties due to warrens etc. creates a negative impact on land values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overgrazing native pastures, leading to loss of plant biodiversity. Preventing vegetation from regenerating and degrading the quality of soil. Cause significant land degradation by building warrens. Acting as a food source for larger predators such as wild dogs. Reduced the amount of food stock available for native animals. Increasing and spreading invasive weeds (Cooke, 2011). Potential spread of diseases to native animals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial stress implications due to loss of income. Psychological stress due to the potential for infestation. Reduced natural amenity due to destruction/degradation of rural areas.

INVASIVE PESTS CONTROL SCHEME EVALUATION



Pest Species	Economic Impacts	Environmental Impacts	Social Impacts
African Boxthorn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacting stock due to the spiny thickets hindering mustering and stock movement. • Reducing productive potential and yields. • Presence typically has a negative impact on land values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dense covering can create shade and crowd out vegetation and prevent regeneration. • Commonly harbour other invasive pests such as rabbits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dense infestations likely to impact recreation and potential injuries to people. • Financial stress implications due to loss of income associated with reduced production land.
Blackberry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dense and impenetrable thickets and are often situated along waterways, impacting access to watering points for stock. • Due to its rapid growth, the weed spreads across land relatively fast impacting vegetation and pasture. • Presence typically has a negative impact on land values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides shelter and acts as a food source for other invasive pests. • The pest can become a significant fire hazard due to the large amount of dead canes. • Due to its rapid growth, the weed spreads across land relatively fast impacting native vegetation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degradation of natural habitats and reduced natural amenity. • Loss of income associated with agricultural production may cause financial stress to landholders.
Velvety Tree Pear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hindering stock movement and limit access for recreational activities. • Sharp spines may get lodged into the wool of sheep and contaminate the product. • The sharp spines have the potential to cause injury to animals. • Presence has a negative impact on land values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rather dense infestations can compete with natural habitats, limiting the growth and regrowth of vegetation. • The tree pear provides a harbour for other invasive pests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dense infestations can reduce recreational activity and cause injuries to people as a result of the sharp spines. • Can negatively impact income due to loss of stock or crops.

Source: AEC.

Stakeholder Engagement

Telephone consultations were undertaken with a small selection of Southern Downs landholders to help inform the IPCS evaluation.

Stakeholders were generally supportive of the IPCS in its objective to reduce the impacts of invasive pests in the Southern Downs region. Council staff were generally identified as knowledgeable regarding pest control processes and seen as partners in supporting the control of invasive species. Landholders typically focussed on the economic/financial costs and benefits of the scheme but when questioned were aware of the broader environmental and social/community implications of the scheme.

A number of landholders found it challenging to quantify their costs associated with implementing the scheme, given that activities were undertaken internally or using a mix of hired and internal labour and equipment

A number of recommendations were made for future improvements to the scheme, including:

- **Ensuring consistency within IPCS requirements across properties:** Poor controls on neighbouring properties would lead to a reoccurrence of the pests in future years.

INVASIVE PESTS CONTROL SCHEME EVALUATION



- **Smaller industrial/commercial properties being included in the scheme:** Some smaller landholders felt their smaller industrial/commercial properties should fall outside the IPCS.
- **Consideration of greater use of biological controls:** Some landholders identified a greater utilisation/incorporation of biological control such as the Cactoblastis Moth would be effective in controlling invasive pests such as prickly pear.
- **Stress associated with the scheme implementation:** Some landholders felt significant stress associated with potentially receiving a supplementary rates notice through the scheme despite their efforts to comply.
- **Notices being directed via mail and to the landholder:** Some landholders which were based outside of the Sothern Downs (either leasing their properties or run via a manager) expressed a desire to create an option for scheme communications to be sent to a nominated manager/operator via electronic methods (SMS or email).
- **Desire for ongoing landholder input into IPCS control activities:** A number of landholders identified a wish to have greater/ongoing input into future control activities funded by the scheme.

Future IPCS Projections

Limited data was available to project future impacts of the IPCS. Potential scenarios of future projections were developed based on the outcomes of the initial two years of scheme operations and workshops with Council. The scenarios examined were:

- **Low Scheme Impact (approximately 150,000 additional hectares declared pest free by 2030):** Declining landholder input over time and diminishing returns to control works over time result in lower hectare reductions in invasive pests as the scheme matures. Remaining impacted growers continue to limit their involvement within the scheme.
- **Medium Scheme Impact (approximately 300,000 additional hectares declared pest free by 2030):** Continued control works, with landholders implementing the current control methods over the next 10 years and returning a similar yield in pest reduction.
- **High Scheme Impact (approximately 415,000 additional hectares declared pest free by 2030):** Significant landholder engagement within the scheme and ongoing increases in pest eradication success as management controls are adopted and the ongoing economic, environmental and social benefits begin to flow through to landholders.

Cost Benefit Assessment

The CBA assessed the project over a 30-year timeframe. Specifically, the following costs and benefits were considered:

- **Costs:**
 - IPCS implementation costs.
 - On-property pest control costs.
- **Benefits:**
 - Reduced impacts of invasive pests.

The CBA modelling at the discount rate of 7% (under the medium impact scenario) is economically desirable, returning an Net Present Value (NPV) of \$74.3 million over the 30-year assessment period, with a Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) of 2.01 highlighting that the project returns \$2.01 per every dollar of cost, and an Internal Rate of Return (IRR) of 20.6%. The CBA returned a positive NPV under all scenarios and discount rates assessed.

In addition to the costs and benefits quantified within the analysis, the project is expected to generate a range of impacts, including:

- **Costs:**

INVASIVE PESTS CONTROL SCHEME EVALUATION



- **Impact of IPCS implementation on landholders:** As was noted in Chapter 4, the potential for a supplementary rates notice is a noted point of stress for landholders (particularly during times of drought and financial hardship). The impacts of the psychological burden of the IPCS on landholders has not been incorporated into the analysis as it is understood that Council will continue to work empathetically with landholders to support the outcomes of the scheme while minimising any adverse impacts.
- **Benefits:**
 - **Benefits from IPCS revenues:** IPCS levy collection results in additional pest control activities (beyond those undertaken on-property by landholders) including on Council lands. The impacts of IPCS levies have been conservatively assumed to be a transfer of benefits between landholders and Council and have been excluded from the assessment. However, it should be noted that benefits from control works undertaken by council (including on Council-owned lands) are significant.
 - **Increased economic activity from contract control works:** The IPCS promotes qualified local contractors to undertake control works for landholders to comply with the scheme. This in turn supports industry growth and employment outcomes within the Southern Downs LGA. Two additional contract businesses have established operations in the Southern Downs region post-implementation of the IPCS.
 - **Potential spread of invasive pests under the base case:** The benefits of invasive pest control are based upon the reported (and projected) reduction in areas impacted under the scheme. However, it is likely that under the base case (i.e. without the implementation of the scheme) that invasive pest species would have continued to spread and impacted additional lands within the Southern Downs.
 - **Increased collaboration and potential application of the scheme in other areas:** The IPCS is an innovative approach for local government pest control. Broader State and other agency stakeholders consulted for this study were broadly supportive of the scheme's approach and its objectives as well as the applicability of the scheme to other LGA's across Queensland and Australia.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The analysis undertaken in this review has identified that the IPCS is an important mechanism for the control of invasive pest species and support for the ongoing viability of the critical agricultural industry. Over the longer term the scheme is estimated to have significant ongoing benefits, which outweigh the costs vs. inaction.

Council has invested significant time and resources to implement the scheme and given its notable early successes and reported gradual acceptance by landholders it is the recommendation of this report that the scheme be continued. The results of the CBA suggest significant longer term benefits are projected to be provided by the scheme. It would be beneficial to the Southern Downs community and agricultural industry to continue the scheme to continue reducing the impacts of invasive pests.

A number of opportunities for the potential improvement of the scheme have been identified throughout the review process for Council's consideration. These include:

- **Consideration of improved mapping and scheme data capture:** This evaluation has identified a number of limitations regarding the availability of pest impact data within properties and across pest types. Improved data capture and mapping will support greater targeting of key areas and improve the capture of TBL benefits. Adoption of this recommendation needs to take into consideration appropriate budget limitations as well as the potential overburdening of landholders with survey/data capture.
- **Continuation of data capture regarding scheme impacts:** This evaluation is based on a small sample of scheme impacts, and the incorporation of future data points will help to improve the CBA and future impact projections significantly.
- **Consideration of additional actions to be taken against repeatedly non-compliant properties:** The evidence of repeat non-compliant properties as well as noted frustration of neighbouring landholders with non-compliant operators suggests that additional actions against non-compliant properties may need to be considered. This could take the form of a three-strike rule or similar, increasing fees required to be paid for

INVASIVE PESTS CONTROL SCHEME EVALUATION



non-compliance after the third infringement. Such an approach would support consistency within the IPCS requirements across all properties.

- **Consideration of adjusting the properties included within the scheme:** The noted prevalence of small commercial/industrial properties within the scheme suggests a review of properties which are included within the scheme may be considered. The limitations of appropriate ratings categories through which to apply the scheme is acknowledged in making this recommendation.
- **Consideration of alternative notice methods to support non-resident landholders:** Council should consider avenues to implement an option for a nominated manager/operator to be notified directly via electronic methods (SMS or email) to support prompt compliance with the IPCS for properties operated under lease or through employed management.
- **Consideration of avenues for ongoing landholder input and engagement into IPCS control activities:** An opportunity exists for ongoing engagement with IPCS ratepayers to collaborate on future control initiatives utilising IPCS levies. Ongoing engagement will support greater buy-in to the scheme and help promote a collaborative approach to invasive pest control.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Southern Downs Regional Council (Council) introduced the Invasive Pests Control Scheme (IPCS) in 2017/18 as a proactive approach to reducing the impact of invasive pests on the region's agricultural productivity, biodiversity, and resident amenity. Landholders are required to abide by the scheme, which includes identifying and taking necessary measures to control invasive pests on their land.

The scheme includes a pest management levy and an upfront concession fee. Those who comply with the IPCS retain their concession and those who do not have their levies collected and invested in strategic pest management initiatives. Council promotes best practice control methods and helps landowners to achieve this through advice and facilitation, with a focus on reducing the impacts of invasive pests in the Southern Downs region.

In order to develop a deeper understanding of the IPCS and its associated benefits and costs to the community, Council has engaged AEC Group Pty Ltd (AEC) to undertake an evaluation to measure the scheme's impacts to the regional community.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

This report provides a Triple Bottom Line (TBL) impact assessment of the IPCS to the Southern Downs region. The evaluation considers the impacts the IPCS has had on invasive pests and their prevalence, as well as the associated economic, environmental, and social benefits and costs this has delivered to the region.

The analysis is both historic (2017/18 and 2018/19) and forward looking (2019/20 to 2029/30). The findings of this evaluation will be used by Council to refine the IPCS and support community engagement regarding the regional benefits of the scheme.

1.3 APPROACH

The remainder of the report is as follows:

- **Chapter 2:** Provides an overview of the IPCS, the broader Southern Downs agricultural sector and key invasive pest species to provide context for the evaluation.
- **Chapter 3:** Reviews existing data relating to the impacts of the IPCS over 2017/18 and 2018/19.
- **Chapter 4:** Presents the outcomes of engagement with key landholders involved in the IPCS.
- **Chapter 5:** Provides an evaluation of the historic and projected future impacts of the IPCS.
- **Chapter 6:** Presents a Cost Benefit Assessment (CBA) of the IPCS, estimating the net socio-economic benefits to the Southern Downs community over a 30 year period. While the project scope is based on a ten-year forward-looking analysis period, analysis of costs and benefits is undertaken over a longer timeframe to reflect the socio-economic benefits delivered by pest control are longer term in nature. A description of the CBA modelling approach is presented as Appendix A.

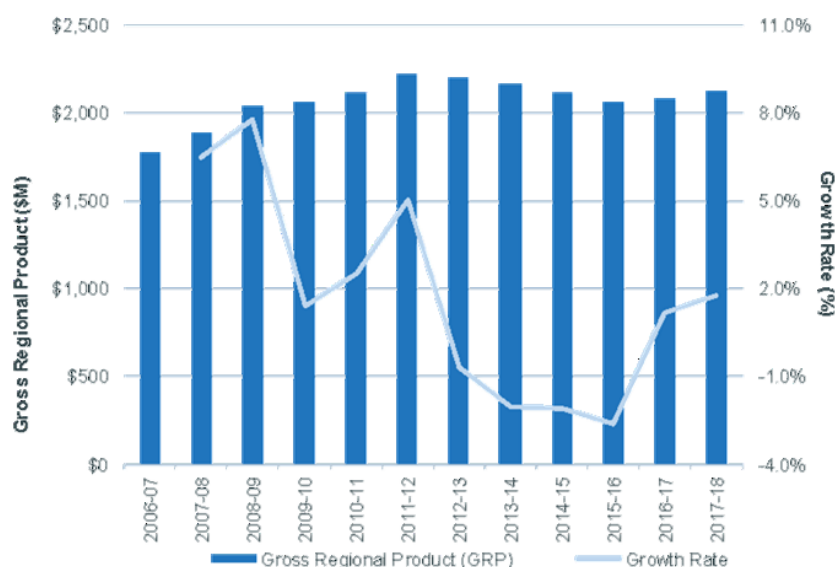
2. REVIEW OF INVASIVE PEST CONTROL SCHEME

The following sections provide an overview of the importance of the agricultural industry to the Southern Downs region and the context for Council's implementation of the IPCS.

2.1 THE SOUTHERN DOWNS AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY

The Southern Downs Local Government Area (LGA) generated Gross Regional Product (GRP) of \$2.1 billion in 2017-18, an increase of 1.8% from the previous year. Over the period of 11 years, GRP grew by 1.6% on average per annum.

Figure 2.1. Gross Regional Product (GRP), Southern Downs LGA



Source: AEC (Unpublished).

Agriculture is the single largest contributor to GRP, generating 25.6% of total sector contribution to GRP during 2017-18. Other significant sectors in the Southern Downs LGA include (see Figure 2.2):

- Construction (7.5% of total sector contribution to GRP).
- Health care and social assistance (7.3%).
- Ownership of dwellings (7.0%).
- Manufacturing (7.0%).

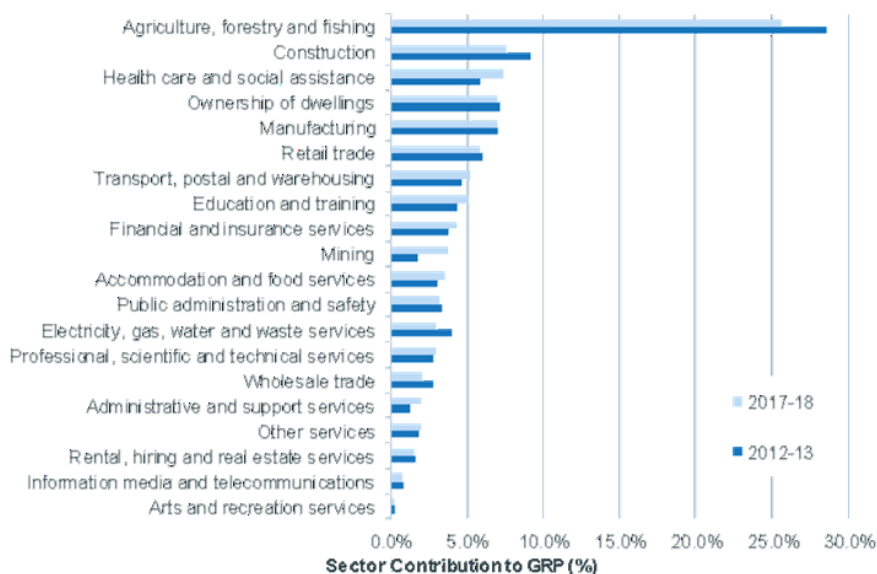
The dominant agricultural sector drives significant flow-on activity in the above listed sectors, particularly construction, ownership of dwellings (i.e. housing demand), and manufacturing. GRP is quite volatile from year to year, which is common for agricultural-focussed economies, with seasonal production and market factors having a significant impact on economic output.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing's contribution to GRP has declined by -2.9 percentage points over the past five years, while construction (the second largest contributor) declined by -1.6 percentage points over the same period of time.

INVASIVE PESTS CONTROL SCHEME EVALUATION



Figure 2.2. Proportion of Total Sector Contribution to GRP, Southern Downs LGA, 2012-13 vs 2017-18



Source: AEC (Unpublished).

The largest contributor to agricultural production (in terms of gross value) is horticulture, including other fruit (which includes pome fruit, stone fruit, orchard fruit and other), accounting for 30.7% of the total agricultural gross value in the region. Vegetables are the second largest contributor at 19.7% of total agricultural production value.

Southern Downs is also a significant livestock producer (predominantly beef cattle), representing over \$108 million of gross production value in 2015-16.

Table 2.1. Agricultural Gross Production Value 2015-16, Southern Downs LGA

Agricultural Product	Gross Value (\$M)	% of Total
Cereal crops	\$18.43	5.5%
Other Broadacre Crops	\$3.99	1.2%
Crops for Hay	\$8.70	2.6%
Nurseries, Cut Flowers Or Cultivated Turf	\$25.41	7.6%
Grapes (Wine & Other)	\$0.24	0.1%
Other Fruit	\$102.51	30.7%
Veg	\$65.84	19.7%
Wool	\$2.66	0.8%
Milk	\$13.28	4.0%
Eggs	\$3.30	1.0%
Livestock Slaughterings	\$89.47	26.8%
Total	\$333.83	100%

Source: ABS (2018).

2.2 MAJOR INVASIVE PEST SPECIES

Invasive pests have significant known economic, environmental and social impacts, causing detrimental damage to the agricultural industry, urban and rural residential areas, and the health of animals (and in some cases humans). The following sections identify the top five most prevalent invasive pests in the Southern Downs LGA and review their known impacts across the TBL framework, as well as providing a summary of relevant literature examining the costs of these invasive pests in Queensland and Australia.

INVASIVE PESTS CONTROL SCHEME EVALUATION



2.2.1 Top Five Most Prevalent Invasive Pests in Southern Downs LGA

Wild Dogs

Wild dogs can have significant negative impacts on the agricultural industry and are relatively common throughout Queensland. Impacts of wild dogs include (AWI, 2013):

- **Economic impacts:**
 - Reduced income due to loss of stock.
 - Costs to dispose of deceased animals.
 - Wild dogs transmit diseases which can infect agricultural production of sheep and cattle (including sheep measles, hydatidosis, mange, distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, Neospora caninum and toxoplasmosis (DPI, n.a.)).
 - Changes to the stock composition with premium stock that has been built up over a number of years being destroyed.
 - Impacted properties typically have a negative impact on land values.
- **Environmental impacts:**
 - Attacks on native animals and subsequent loss of biodiversity.
 - Potential for transmission of diseases to native animals.
- **Social impacts:**
 - The repetitive predation of livestock has significant social and psychological effects on primary producers and their families. Additionally, pest animals such as wild dogs are a nuisance, damaging infrastructure and culturally important sites and displaying adverse behaviours such as disruptive noise (Invasive Plants and Animals Committee, 2017).
 - Financial stress implications due to loss of income.
 - Injury risks due to attacks to humans (particularly children).



Source: Rockhampton Regional Council (n.a.)

Rabbits

Rabbits have a significant negative and costly impact to the agricultural industry through overgrazing of crops alongside significant environmental risks to native plant species. According to a study conducted by William, Parer, Coman, Curley and Braysher (as cited in McLeod, 2012), it takes less than one rabbit per hectare to prevent the successful regeneration of many native trees and shrubs. Key identified economic, environmental, and social impacts include (McLeod, 2012):

- **Economic impacts:**
 - Grazing of field crops reducing yields and damaging soils, resulting in a reduction in farmer income.
 - Impacted properties due to warrens etc. creates a negative impact on land values.
- **Environmental impacts:**
 - Overgrazing native pastures, leading to loss of plant biodiversity.
 - Preventing vegetation from regenerating and degrading the quality of soil.
 - Cause significant land degradation by building warrens.
 - Acting as a food source for larger predators such as wild dogs, foxes and feral cats.
 - Reduced the amount of food stock available for native animals.



Source: Queensland Government (2018).

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- Increasing and spreading invasive weeds (Cooke, 2011).
- Potential spread of diseases to native animals.
- **Social impacts:**
 - Financial stress implications due to loss of income.
 - Psychological stress due to the potential for infestation.
 - Reduced natural amenity due to destruction/degradation of rural areas.

African Boxthorn

African boxthorn is an aggressive weed that is covered in spiny thickets and can spread by birds or animals carrying the seed. The species is tough, meaning it is able to grow in a range of climatic conditions and has the ability to regrow from root segments (Natural Resources Northern & Yorke, 2019). Therefore, to eliminate the pest and prevent regeneration, care must be taken during the removal process. The weed causes environmental, economic and social impacts including (Agriculture Victoria, 2019):



Source: Southern Downs Regional Council (Unpublished)

- **Economic impacts:**
 - Impacting stock due to the spiny thickets hindering mustering and stock movement.
 - Reducing productive potential and yields.
 - Presence typically has a negative impact on land values.
 - Dense infestations have the potential to injure stock and people, leading to loss of productivity and financial costs for treatment.
- **Environmental impacts:**
 - Dense covering can create shade and crowd out vegetation and prevent regeneration.
 - Commonly harbour other invasive pests such as rabbits.
- **Social impacts:**
 - Dense infestations likely to impact recreation and potential to injure people, leading to reduced amenity.
 - Financial stress implications due to loss of income associated with reduced production land.

Blackberry

Blackberry is a highly invasive pest which is covered in spiny thickets and can quickly crowd out native vegetation (Government of SA, 2015). In addition to reducing land productivity and hindering recreational activities, negative impacts also include (Agriculture Victoria, 2017a):



Source: Southern Downs Regional Council (Unpublished)

- **Economic impacts:**
 - Dense and impenetrable tickets and are often situated along waterways, impacting access to watering points for stock.
 - Due to its rapid growth, the weed spreads across land relatively fast impacting vegetation and pasture.
 - Presence typically has a negative impact on land values.
- **Environmental impacts:**

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- Provides shelter and acts as a food source for other invasive pests.
- The pest can become a significant fire hazard due to the large amount of dead canes.
- Due to its rapid growth, the weed spreads across land relatively fast impacting native vegetation.
- **Social impacts:**
 - Degradation of natural habitats and reduced natural amenity.
 - Loss of income associated with agricultural production may cause financial stress to landholders.

Velvety Tree Pear

The velvety tree pear is covered with pointy stems and is spread through animals consuming the seeded fruits. Like most of the invasive weed pests mentioned, the velvety tree pear provides a home to animals such as rabbits, harbouring the spread of other invasive pests. Additionally, the velvety tree pear will (Brisbane City Council, n.a.):



Source: Brisbane City Council (n.a.)

- **Economic impacts:**
 - Hinder stock movement and limit access for recreational activities.
 - Sharp spines may get lodged into the wool of sheep and contaminate the product.
 - The sharp spines have the potential to cause injury to both animals and humans, leading to loss of productive value of stock, reduced productivity of workers, and financial costs for treatment.
 - Presence has a negative impact on land values.
- **Environmental impacts:**
 - Rather dense infestations can compete with natural habitats, limiting the growth and regrowth of vegetation.
 - The tree pear provides a harbour for other invasive pests.
- **Social impacts:**
 - Dense infestations can reduce recreational activity and cause injuries to people as a result of the sharp spines, leading to reduced amenity.
 - Can negatively impact income due to loss of stock or crops, causing financial stress.

2.2.2 Costs of Invasive Pests

A desktop review of previous studies has been conducted in order to quantify the potential cost of similar invasive pests. Table 2.2 below identifies a review of studies and subsequent identified impacts. For comparative and modelling purposes, the potential costs are presented on a per hectare or per head basis.

Key points of note arising from the literature review include:

- There is significant variation in benefits/costs based on the types of pests and agricultural properties:
 - Weed infestations typically generate the highest associated costs (e.g. tree pear and blackberry).
 - Higher value/intensity horticultural and cropping operations generally gain a greater economic return on a per ha basis compared to extensive grazing or similar activities.
- There are often high up-front costs associated with control, while benefits tend to be longer term in nature.

INVASIVE PESTS CONTROL SCHEME EVALUATION



Table 2.2. Studies Identifying the Cost of Invasive Pests (\$2019)

Study	Invasive Pest/s	Notes	Impact Total Cost (\$2019)	Imputed Cost (\$/ha or \$/head Impacted)
Cost of Pest Animals in NSW and Australia, 2013-14 <i>Ross McLeod (2016)</i>	Rabbits and wild dogs	Economic cost of invasive pests in 2013-14 dollars achieved by adding production losses and expenditure on management at the farm and government levels. Production losses are valued using both fixed price and economic surplus methods.	Average production loss cost in QLD for rabbits is \$86.47 million and for wild dogs is \$48.59 million.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost to the beef industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rabbits - \$7.03 p/head Wild Dogs - \$3.90 p/head Cost to the sheep and lamb industry¹ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rabbits - \$1.26 p/head Wild Dogs - \$0.96 p/head
Impact of Weeds on Australian Grain Production <i>Llewellyn et al (2016)</i>	Invasive weeds	Collection of primary data from 600 grain growers was used to derive control and production loss parameters across 13 major agroecological zones. The report includes the cost of yield loss due to weeds, grain contamination costs and control costs. The major crop types include wheat, barley, oats, canola, pulses and sorghum.	Invasive weeds were estimated to cost Australian grain growers an estimated \$3,497 million. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$154/ha for expenditure losses \$119/ha for control costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$154/ha for expenditure losses \$119/ha for control costs
Major Economic Costs Associated with Wild Dogs in the Queensland Grazing Industry <i>L. Hewitt (2009)</i>	Wild dogs	Economic cost of wild dogs on the Queensland grazing industry (2008-09 dollars). Costs collected from surveys by producers, saleyards, processors and State and Local governments. Costs include those associated with stock losses, wild dog management, bites from wild dogs and disease impacts.	Wild dogs cost the Queensland grazing industry approximately \$82.57 million in 2008-09.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost to Cattle Producers - \$4.25 p/head Cost to Sheep/Goat Producers² - \$10.86 p/head
Economic and Environmental Impacts of Rabbits in Australia <i>Invasive Animals CRC (2012)</i>	Rabbits	Approximate cost to agricultural enterprises (per rabbit, per year) adapted from DPI&F (2008).	Approximate cost (/rabbit/yr) (\$): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wool - \$2.11 Store cattle (property bred) - \$2.74 Trading cattle (grow out for 12 months) - \$3.25 Stud cattle - \$15.87 Broccoli (/ha) - \$11.30 Lettuce (/ha) - \$2.68 Lucerne (irrigated, /ha) - \$7.76 Wine grapes (/ha) - \$74.21 	As per previous column.
The Economic Impacts of Vertebrate Pests in Australia	Rabbits and wild dogs	Annual loss in consumer surplus and producer surplus, highlighting the overall economic surplus on	Loss in agriculture measured by economic surplus in QLD:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost to the beef industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rabbits - \$10.17

INVASIVE PESTS CONTROL SCHEME EVALUATION



Study	Invasive Pest/s	Notes	Impact Total Cost (\$2019)	Imputed Cost (\$/ha or \$/head Impacted)
<i>Gong et al. (2009)</i>		the agricultural industry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rabbits - \$127.17 million • Wild dogs - \$27.46 million 	<p>p/head</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wild Dogs - \$2.03 p/head • Cost to the sheep and lamb industry¹ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rabbits - \$2.77 p/head ○ Wild Dogs - \$1.53 p/head
Annual Costs of Weeds in Australia <i>Ross McLeod (2018)</i>	Invasive weeds	<p>'Residual weed-related production losses are valued using both fixed price (loss-expenditure) and economic surplus methods, along with farmer expenditure on control measures. Farm level control methods include herbicides, costs of herbicides application, cultivation and integrated weed management practices. Annual losses and weed control costs are estimated for winter crops (wheat, oats, barley, canola), legumes, summer crops, cotton, rice, horticulture and livestock industries (dairy, wool, sheep-meat and beef) using production and price data averaged over the five-year period to 2018' (McLeod, 2018, p. 4).</p>	Estimated to cost on average \$5.08 billion across Australia	<p>Mean annual economic surplus weed costs (Total costs of weeds \$/ha)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wheat - \$149 • Oats - \$140 • Barley - \$149 • Canola - \$157 • Lupins - \$141 • Field Peas - \$144 • Chickpeas - \$170 • Sorghum - \$169 • Maize - \$255 • Triticale - \$139 • Sunflowers - \$150 • Soybeans - \$183 • Cotton - \$409 • Sugar - \$232 • Rice - \$220 • Fruit - \$532 • Vegetables - \$443 • Dairy - \$117 • Beef/Veal - \$2 • Lambs/Mutton - \$5 • Wool - \$5

¹ Calculated by dividing the total cost of wool and sheep/lamb by the total number of sheep and lamb

² Total Number of sheep & lamb used to calculate \$ per head

Source: ABS (2018), AEC.

INVASIVE PESTS CONTROL SCHEME EVALUATION



2.3 THE SOUTHERN DOWNS INVASIVE PESTS CONTROL SCHEME

The IPCS was introduced by the Southern Downs Regional Council in 2017/18 as an innovative approach to reducing the impact of invasive pests on the region's productivity, biodiversity and amenity. Landholders are required to abide by the scheme and identify and take necessary measures to control invasive pests on their land.

The scheme includes a pest management levy and an upfront concession fee. Those who comply with the IPCS retain their concession and those who do not have their levies collected and invested in strategic initiatives to provide additional regional benefits. Council promotes best practice control methods and helps landowners to achieve this through advice and assistance, with a focus on reducing the impacts of invasive pests in the Southern Downs region. In 2018-19, the IPCS included 5,309 properties (regardless of the use of the land applied) within certain general rating categories (see Table 2.3).

Landholders are responsible for pest management on their properties; however, Council do provide a list of contractors for those who are unable or unwilling to undertake the work themselves if requested. The IPCS requires landholders to make a reasonable attempt to control and remove invasive pests, preventing future impact on their land and the potential spread to neighbouring properties. Key invasive pests present in the Southern Downs LGA are outlined in section 2.2.1 above.

The scheme has been established to reduce the number of invasive pests in the region to directly benefit primary producers and residential and commercial properties in rural areas, with flow on benefits to the wider community. Considering the importance of agricultural production to the Southern Downs, control of invasive pests is critical to the regional economy as well as the environment.

The scheme is funded by a special rate in which non primary production properties and primary production properties are charged different amounts as per the table below.

Table 2.3. IPCS Levy Breakdown

Rating Category	Speciate Rate (cents in the dollar of ratable value)	Notes
Residential 4 Commercial and Industrial – Rural Extractive Special Uses Other	\$0.30	The minimum annual amount charged is \$500 and maximum \$6,000
Agriculture and farming 1,2 & 3 Horticulture 1,2 & 3 Private Forestry	\$0.50	The minimum annual amount charged is \$500 and maximum \$6,000

Source: Southern Downs Regional Council (2019)

3. IMPACTS OF THE INVASIVE PESTS SCHEME

The following sections review the data provided by Council (including comparison data of the IPCS in 2017 and 2018 as well as online survey responses; a summary of information received from Council is provided in Appendix B) to analyse the impact of invasive pests in the Southern Downs before and after the implementation of the IPCS.

3.1 RESULTS OF COMPARISON DATA PROVIDED

Council provided key outputs from the 2017-18, and 2018-19 Control Works forms¹ and summary data submitted by landholders in an excel spreadsheet format. A summary of the data included within the control works forms is listed below.

The number of control works forms issued between 2017-18 and 2018-19 decreased by approximately 500 forms. The number of forms submitted highlighting there is no pest presence on the landholders' property has increased slightly over the two year period (by 30 properties) and accepted no pest status has increased substantially, highlighting a decrease in the prevalence of invasive pests since the implementation of the IPCS.

The number of reminders has decreased by approximately 650, with landholders adjusting to the administrative process of the IPCS. Additionally, the percentage of control work forms received increased by approximately 3%.

Table 3.1. Control Work Forms Comparison Data

Control Work Forms	2017/18	2018/19
CWF issued	5,815	5,309
Reminders issued	2,168	1,519
CWF received	5,280	4,954
NO Pest status	1,758	1,788
Accepted NO Pest	1,492	1,747
Supplementary Issued	465	457
Supplementary Reinstated	120	182
Northern IPCS Area Property Identification Numbers (PID's)	1,862	1,721
Central IPCS Area PID's	1,606	1,379
Southern IPCS Area PID's	2,344	2,209

Source: Southern Downs Regional Council (Unpublished).

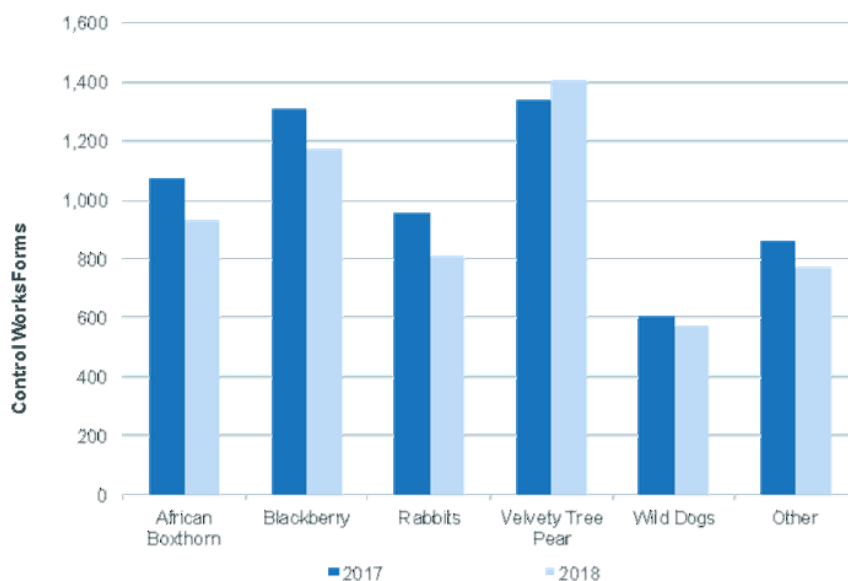
Figure 3.1 indicates that of the five most prevalent invasive pests in Southern Downs. The most prevalent invasive pests are the invasive plants (African boxthorn, blackberry and velvety tree pear) with a significantly larger number of control work forms being submitted over the two years compared to pest animals of rabbits and wild dogs (7,240 forms for invasive plants vs 2,943 forms for invasive pest animals). Since the implementation of the IPCS, control work forms highlighting the impact of rabbits has decreased the most of the five most prevalent invasive pests, by 146, closely followed by African boxthorn and blackberry decreasing by 145 and 135 respondents respectively. Velvety tree pear is the only invasive pest in the top five most prevalent invasive pests to record an annual increase in control works forms submitted since the implementation of the IPCS.

¹ Control Works forms are provided to residents by Council to complete and are designed to capture information regarding whether invasive pests are on the property, their extent, proposed control works for the coming period, and anticipated completion date for proposed works.

INVASIVE PESTS CONTROL SCHEME EVALUATION



Figure 3.1. Individual Pest Comparison



Source: Southern Downs Regional Council (Unpublished).

Since the implementation of the IPCS, the number of inspections has increased by approximately 340, with the percentage of properties assessed increasing from 73.9% in 2017 to 92.7% in 2018. The increase in inspections suggests an increase in engagement by Council, resulting in landholders applying stricter control methods to ensure they comply with the IPCS.

Table 3.2. Number of Inspections

Inspections	2017	2018
Inspections	684	1,023

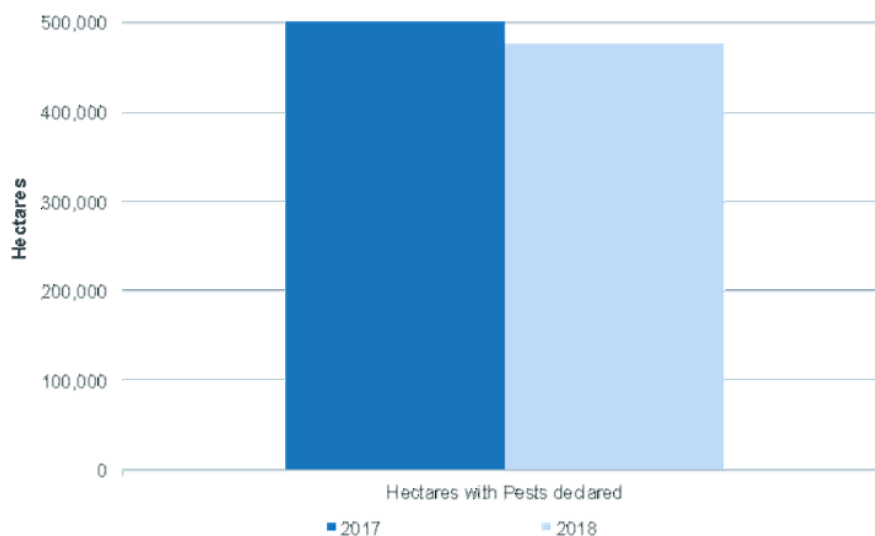
Source: Southern Downs Regional Council (Unpublished).

From 2017 to 2018, the area of land with pests declared in the Southern Downs has decreased by 23,815ha, indicating that the IPCS is successfully decreasing the prevalence of invasive pests within the region.

INVASIVE PESTS CONTROL SCHEME EVALUATION



Figure 3.2. Hectares with Pests Declared, Southern Downs



Source: Southern Downs Regional Council (Unpublished).

Since the implementation of the IPCS, landholders' level of awareness of both invasive pests and their impacts have increased by 16 percentage points to reach 71%. The increased awareness of landholders influences stricter control methods and as a result, leads to the decline of invasive pest infested land.

Table 3.3. Level of Awareness of Invasive Pests

Indicator	Pre-IPCS	Since IPCS
Level of Awareness	55%	71%

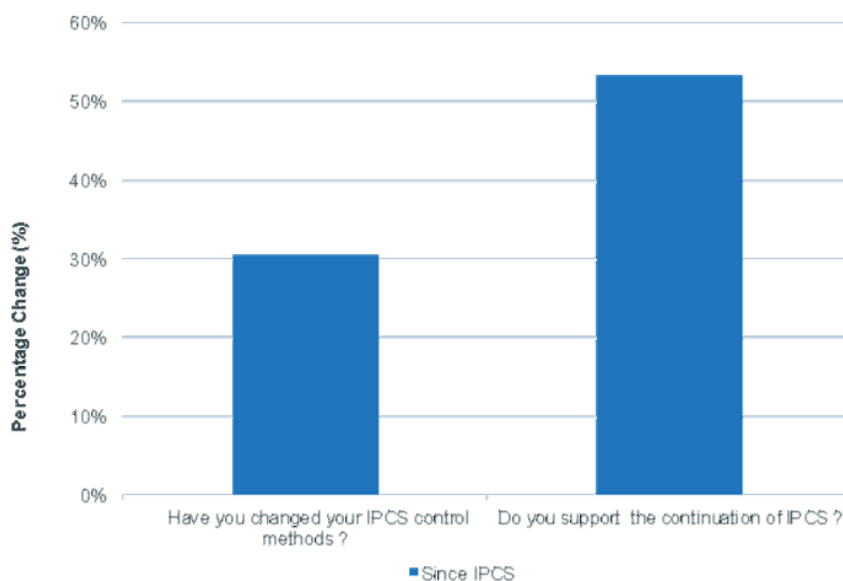
Source: Southern Downs Regional Council (Unpublished).

Since the implementation of the IPCS, control methods have changed by 30.5% compared to pre-IPCS. The majority, approximately 53.5%, of landholders, supports the continuation of the IPCS and think the scheme is of value to the Southern Downs region and particularly the agricultural industry.

INVASIVE PESTS CONTROL SCHEME EVALUATION



Figure 3.3. Percent of Landholders that have Changed Methods



Source: Southern Downs Regional Council (Unpublished).

3.2 INVASIVE PESTS CONTROL SCHEME SURVEY

Results of the IPCS survey were provided online and are open to the public. It must be noted that some of the questions included in the survey are also included within the comparison data, and information provided by Council outlined in section 3.1 may not align with the data presented from the survey results below. The survey and control work forms differ in sample size which will impact the direct comparability of the results. The survey consisted of 155 participants, with headline numbers including:

- 32.9% of respondents listed both tree pear and blackberry to be the two most invasive pests that cause the most impact.
- Since the implementation of the scheme, those respondents who are very aware of invasive pest impacts and control methods increased by 15.6 percentage points. This is approximately in line with the change in awareness indicated through control works forms of 16 percentage points.
- A significant portion of respondents (approximately 69%) have not changed the way they control invasive pests on their property since the scheme implementation, while approximately 31% of survey respondents indicated they have changed the way they control invasive pests. This aligns with the 30.5% of landholders indicating they have changed control methods since the introduction of the IPCS outlined through the comparison data (see Figure 3.3).
- An average of 26ha per property have been treated for pests that were previously infested.
- Since implementation, respondents have spent an additional \$3,258 on average for invasive pest control.
- A significant portion of respondents (87.58%) have not engaged the services of a contractor to carry out control work since implementation.
- 84.97% of respondents know where to go to access best practice control information for invasive pests.
- 53.69% of respondents support the continuation of the IPCS in the Southern Downs region. This aligns with the approximately 53.5% of landholders indicating they support the continuation of the IPCS outlined through the comparison data (see Figure 3.3).

INVASIVE PESTS CONTROL SCHEME EVALUATION



3.3 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Over the past five years of financial data, it can be seen that Council have experienced consecutive financial losses ranging from approximately \$960,000 to over \$1.45 million annually to carry out invasive pest control (total nominal losses of approximately \$6 million over the period of five years). The largest loss was experienced in 2018-19 of approximately \$1.45 million (the second year of operation for the IPCS) attributed largely to an increase in combined pest animal and plant expenses of approximately \$480,000 from 2017-18 to 2018-19.

During the second year of IPCS operation (2018-19), IPCS levy revenue (less concession) decreased compared to the previous year by approximately \$23,000. This was a result of a decrease in levy revenues of approximately \$500,000, though this was partially offset by a decrease in concessions paid by Council to landholders that complied with pest management initiatives of approximately \$436,000.

Expenditure on invasive animals peaked during 2018-19 and is expected to decrease by approximately \$275,000 throughout 2019-20, while expenditure on invasive plants are budgeted to increase by approximately \$27,000 over the same time period.

The large spike in invasive animal and plant expenses from the first year of the IPCS implementation to the second are largely attributed to expenses which include materials, chemicals and hardware (increasing by approximately \$182,000), plant hire expenses (increasing by approximately \$85,000), control services (increasing by approximately \$69,000) and wages (increasing by approximately \$68,000).

Although costs during 2018-19 increased, Council waived fees for the hire of powered spray equipment and cactus injectors by landholders in order to assist those impacted by drought in the region.

Table 3.4. Financial Performance of Invasive Pest Management, Southern Downs Regional Council

Revenue	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20 ¹
IPCS (Levy less concession)				\$152,400	\$129,035	\$200,000
Grant Revenue		\$164,000	\$41,000	\$255,413	\$188,975	\$112,000
All other Revenue	\$24,348	\$5,374	\$14,063	\$7,563	\$99,883	\$3,000
Total Revenue	\$24,348	\$169,374	\$55,063	\$415,376	\$417,893	\$315,000
Expenditure						
Pest Animal	\$369,346	\$269,848	\$297,019	\$428,437	\$708,173	\$433,236
Pest Plant	\$520,391	\$754,301	\$524,983	\$564,630	\$763,394	\$790,800
Pest Mgt Precept	\$364,983	\$362,196	\$374,801	\$384,609	\$394,822	\$404,541
Total Expenditure	\$1,254,720	\$1,386,345	\$1,196,803	\$1,377,676	\$1,866,389	\$1,628,577
Profit / Loss	-\$1,230,372	-\$1,216,970	-\$1,141,741	-\$962,300	-\$1,448,496	-\$1,313,577

¹ 2019/20 budgeted.

Source: Southern Downs Regional Council (unpublished).

From the implementation of the IPCS initiative until the current year, IPCS revenue has been used to offset existing costs contained in the Council's pest management budget. However, from this year forth, the IPCS revenue will fund new activities including: deer control (\$15,000), wild dog aerial baiting and provision of meat bait for ground baiting (\$30,000), increased wild dog spur fence maintenance and patrol (additional \$32,500), control of weeds on roads (additional \$30,000), IPCS administration assistance (additional \$5,000).

It must be noted that an additional \$1 million in grant funding was received in June 2019 from the Australian Government for wild dog exclusion fencing activities. This funding was an advanced payment and will be recognised against the program(s) in the 2019-20 financial year as the expenses occur. Additionally, Council was recently approved for \$700,000 of funding from the Queensland Government's Feral Pest Initiative (round 3) for cluster fencing. The funds will be expended over a two and a half year period from the current financial year (2019-20). However, the above funds are not included in the table above as they were not recognised in Council's budget for 2019-20. Inclusion of these grants would lift both revenue and expenditure on pest management by Council, but as these amounts are expected to effectively offset (i.e. the grant funding is anticipated to be fully expended on provision of fencing for which the funds were received) the overall impact on profit/ loss is not anticipated to differ significantly.

4. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Telephone consultations were held by AEC with a small section² of stakeholders, including the Local Government Association Queensland (LGAQ), Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs (DLGRMA) QLD, and the Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) and landholders involved in the IPCS to consider their views on the success of the scheme, its TBL benefits, and potential areas for improvement.

Individual responses to consultations are not provided. Rather, the following section outlines a collection of responses across key areas of inquiry as a summary of input from the consultees.

Success of the IPCS

Stakeholders were generally supportive of the IPCS in its objectives to reduce the impacts of invasive pests in the Southern Downs region. Council staff were generally identified as being knowledgeable regarding pest control processes and seen as partners in supporting the control of invasive species.

A small selection of stakeholder comments includes:

- "The Council rep is good to deal with and knowledgeable about pest control, he is helping us get on top of our prickly pear problem."
- "Keep up the good work."
- "We understand what Council is trying to do."
- "We need to be pest free in this day and age. The future is all about clean and safe food production."
- "We are happy with the process."
- "The scheme hasn't really changed our approach to managing pests, but it has brought it front of mind."

Costs and Benefits of the IPCS

Landholders typically focussed on the economic/financial costs and benefits of the scheme but when questioned were aware of the broader environmental and social/community implications of the scheme. A number of landholders found it challenging to quantify the costs of implementing the scheme, given that activities were undertaken internally or using a mix of hired and internal labour and equipment.

Stakeholder comments included:

- "It's hard to assess the costs of control as we try to do as much as we can ourselves."
- "It's a big community benefit getting on top of dogs and pear trees, Council should be paying us for what we are doing."
- "We're on top of our pests which is good for growing and our land values."
- "It's not just the farm properties that are impacted, but also Council lands, QRail and other places."
- "It's a big effort to get on top of the boxthorn, but it should pay off in the long run."
- "Raising awareness of the issue is one of the biggest things the scheme has achieved."

² 22 landholders and three broader agencies at the time of writing.

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Issues/Opportunities for Improvement

When asked for areas of improvement or recommended changes to the scheme, feedback typically fell into the following categories:

- **Ensuring consistency within IPCS requirements across properties:** Some landholders felt they were doing the right thing, but poor controls on neighbouring properties would lead to a reoccurrence of the pests in future years.
- **Smaller industrial/commercial properties being included in the scheme:** Some smaller landholders felt their smaller industrial/commercial properties should fall outside the IPCS, given their modest scale and the scheme's intent to support agricultural production.
- **Consideration of greater use of biological controls:** Some landholders identified a greater utilisation/incorporation of biological control such as the Cactoblastis Moth would be effective in controlling invasive pests such as prickly pear.
- **Stress associated with the scheme implementation:** Some landholders felt significant stress associated with potentially receiving a supplementary rate notice through the scheme despite their efforts to comply. It was noted by a number of landholders that implementing controls during the drought was extremely challenging both financially and practically (as it was difficult to tell which weeds were alive and needed to be eradicated).
- **Notices being directed via mail and to the landholder:** Some landholders which were based outside of the Sothorn Downs (either leasing their properties or run via a manager) expressed a desire to create an option for scheme communications to be sent to a nominated manager/operator via electronic methods (SMS or email). It was noted that the mail notices to the ratepayer often led to a lag in actioning control activities in these instances.
- **Desire for ongoing landholder input into control activities:** Some landholders identified a wish to have greater/ongoing input into future control activities funded by the scheme. Such engagement was seen as a key means to ensure ongoing landholder support for the IPCS.

Views of Broader Stakeholders

Broader stakeholders were generally supportive of the IPCS as an innovative approach for local governments to resource pest control activities. Stakeholders acknowledged the initial pushback from the community/landholders with the introduction of the scheme, however noted that the consensus has since moved more towards general acceptance of the scheme and its objectives.

Comments from (QTC, LGAQ, and DLGRMA) stakeholders included:

- The Department did review the process under the legislation. The process and program are legislatively compliant.
 - At the beginning of the IPCS program, DLGRMA were aware of the complaints from the community, however these have since reduced significantly over time.
 - Recognise Council's planning in development of the program, supported with community engagement, information and direct support for reporting and control works.
 - DLGRMA conducted meetings/conversations with Council and the Pest Control Advisory Group in order to develop an appropriate program and implementation.
 - Council has confirmed its commitment to its responsibilities and to pursue other Government agencies which will provide further support for the IPCS in the Southern Downs region (e.g. Transport and Main Roads and National Parks and Wildlife).
- Conversations with other Councils and through presentations at workshops/conferences indicate there is a general interest in the program and how it could be applied by other Councils.

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- A key question for the program remains: How will Council deal with non-compliant landholders? Presently, only the IPCS Levy is applied – no work is done by Council on private land.
- It is up to individual Councils how they address invasive pest issues. However, there certainly appears to be aspects of the scheme which could be applied by numerous Councils across Queensland seeking to resource their control activities.
- Southern Downs Regional Council has benefitted significantly from grant funding to support the scheme, it's important to understand how the scheme will fare in the absence of significant support.
- In order to support the success of the program in the future, it is crucial for ongoing engagement.
- Southern Downs has been suffering one of the worst droughts in the region's history, creating significant negative implications for agricultural producers. As a result, it is important to be sensitive to producer difficulties.
- Council should be supported for their innovative and proactive approach to invasive pest management.
- It has been noted that Council has put a significant amount of resources into the implementation of the IPCS to benefit all residents living within the Southern Downs. If the scheme were to end, the time and money injected into this program over the past few years to deliver benefits to the region would be wasteful.

5. FUTURE PROJECTIONS

The following section provides scenarios of projected future spread of invasive pests with and without the IPCS.

In projecting the potential future impacts of the IPCS it must be noted that limited data was available to develop these projections over the period of 10 years. The IPCS has only been operating for two years, which is an insufficient length of time to develop a reliable estimate of the impact the IPCS is having in reducing the spread of invasive pests.

Data regarding the spread of invasive pests prior to implementation of the IPCS was also not available, nor the level of control effort and expenditure, and therefore it is not possible to estimate the rate of spread of invasive pests pre-IPCS nor understand how the spread may have progressed without the IPCS. However, anecdotal evidence based on discussions with Council and landholders indicates the spread of the top five invasive pests in the Southern Downs was increasing year on year.

In consideration of the limited information regarding the spread of pests and control effort expenses before the implementation of the scheme and short period of data regarding the spread of pests since the implementation of the IPCS, a scenario-based approach has been adopted to demonstrate the potential impacts of the IPCS. Additional data is required to provide a more accurate understanding of the impacts of the IPCS. It is intended that these projections and assessment of impacts will be continually updated as additional data is made available to better understand the impacts of the IPCS.

Impacts of the IPSC

Between 2018 and 2019, the impacted land in the Southern Downs region decreased by 23,815ha. The future impacted land area has been projected over a period of 10 years (from 2020-30) based on this decline in 2018-19, across three alternative scenarios:

- **Low Scheme Impact** - Declining landholder input over time and diminishing returns to control works over time result in lower hectare reductions in invasive pests as the scheme matures. Remaining impacted growers continue to limit their involvement within the scheme.
- **Medium Scheme Impact** - Continued control works, with landholders implementing the current control methods over the next 10 years and returning a similar yield in pest reduction.
- **High Scheme Impact** - Significant landholder engagement within the scheme and ongoing increases in pest eradication success as management controls are adopted and the ongoing economic, environmental and social benefits begin to flow through to landholders.

The above initial projection scenarios were workshopped with Council staff involved in the IPCS and were considered reasonable given the limited data available, however are subject to significant uncertainty. As an ongoing process AEC will provide an editable projection template to Council. This will enable additional data points for IPCS performance can be monitored³, particularly the implications of any diminishing reductions in invasive pest prevalence over time.

Key results from the initial projections developed indicate that:

- The low impact scenario assumes that, with lower engagement, infested pest land will continue to decrease by a cumulative 148,000ha by 2030. Control methods begin to decrease from 2024 resulting in a smaller decrease in invasive pest land.
- The medium scenario indicates that invasive pest land will continue to decrease by approximately 24,000ha per year, decreasing by a total of approximately 300,000 by 2030.

³ Including projected implications for the Cost Benefit Assessment developed in Chapter 6.

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- The high demand scenario assumes that over a period of 10 years, invasive pest land will decrease by approximately 415,000ha by 2030.

What Would Occur Without the IPCS

Without the IPCS, there is significant potential for an increase in pests and subsequently infested pest land over a period of time. Although landholders may still undertake some form of control from time to time, invasive pests have the potential to spread faster than irregular and infrequent control methods. A number of studies highlight the potential spread of invasive pests, including:

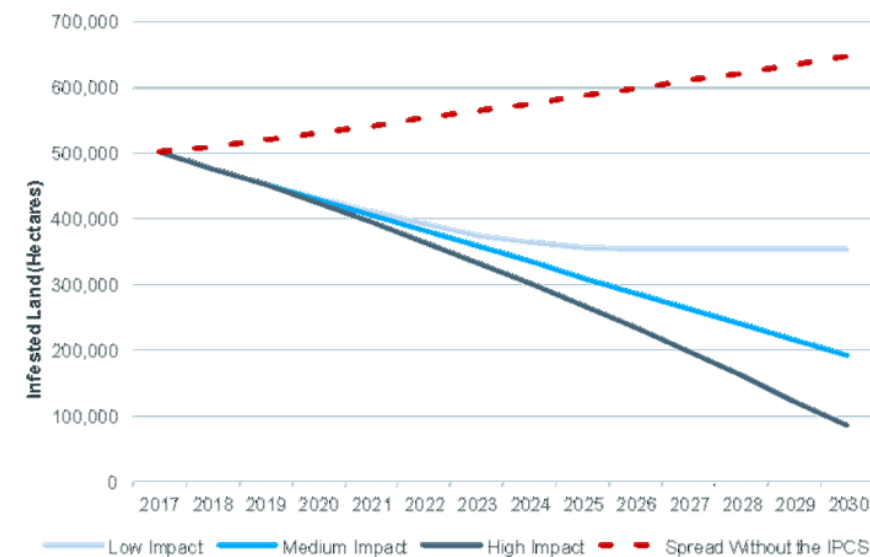
- Rabbits are able to breed year round in good conditions, with the ability to produce 11 young per year in marginal areas and up to as many as 25 or more in favourable conditions (DPIF, 2008).
 - Rabbits have the ability to reproduce more than five times per year, producing up to five young per litter (Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, 2011).
 - Historically, rabbit invasion varied from 10-15km per year in wet forested country to over 100km per year in the range lands (Agriculture Victoria, 2017b).
- Wild dogs have the ability to breed twice within a year, however they are more likely to have one litter with an average of five pups (range between 1 to 10) (Agriculture Victoria, 2017c).
- Invasive weeds can easily be spread via both animals, water and the wind, dispersing seeds 20 to 30 kilometres from the plant itself (Queensland Government, 2016).

While it is difficult to accurately assess the potential spread of invasive pests in the absence of the scheme given the available data, the impacts of a conservative and hypothetical increase of 2% per annum is illustrated shown in Figure 5.1. Anecdotally, the increasing prevalence of invasive pest impacts in the Southern Downs was a key reason of the implementation of the IPCS.

Comparison of Scenarios

The following figure compares the three scenarios of reduction in invasive pests through ongoing implementation of the IPCS, compared to a scenario of what might have been expected to occur without the IPCS assuming an annual increase in spread of 2% per annum.

Figure 5.1. Historic and Projected Hectares Impacted by Invasive Pests



6. COST BENEFIT ASSESSMENT

6.1 METHOD AND APPROACH

This assessment provides an overview of the net economic costs and benefits associated with the IPCS between the financial years ending 30 June 2018 to 30 June 2047.

All years presented in the cost benefit analysis are for financial years ending June. The costs and benefits have been assessed against three real discount rates (4%, 7%, and 10%) with the focus primarily on the standard 7% discount rate.

The geographical scope of the project impact is the Southern Downs LGA. Costs and benefits assessed in this analysis relate to this catchment.

The following scenarios were compared in this assessment:

- **The base case:** which assumes the IPCS was not implemented. Under the base case, the Southern Downs community will be without a scheme which is best designed to reduce the prevalence and better control invasive pests than likely alternatives. As outlined in section 5, there is limited data available to appropriately estimate either the control effort that may have been undertaken without the IPCS nor the spread of invasive pests. Anecdotally, it is understood the spread of invasive pests was increasing, however, to be conservative it has been assumed in the base case that the spread of invasive pests would remain at around 500,000 ha. Estimates of the cost for controlling pests by landholders have not been developed due to insufficient information available. To offset this, the costs of control for landholders in the project cases (below) have only incorporated an "additional" cost for control to landholders as a result of the IPCS implementation.
- **The project cases:** which assumes the Invasive Pests Control Scheme remains in place, reducing the area within Southern Downs impacted by invasive pest species and supporting key economic, environmental and social benefits to the Southern Downs community. Outcomes under the project case are reported under the high, medium and low future impact scenarios as shown in section 5. As indicated in the description of the base case above, only the marginal increase in control effort/ costs (from existing/ what would occur without the IPCS) is included as part of the project cases to offset the exclusion of the control costs in the base case.

Impacts on the spread of invasive pests, as well as costs of implementing the IPCS for both Council and landholders, has only been examined over a ten year period to 2030. Beyond this time period it is assumed the spread of invasive pests remains at 2030 levels for each scenario, while costs for managing pests revert to historic levels for maintenance and upkeep. As only the marginal increase in costs for implementing the IPCS are included in the assessment, from a modelling perspective this results in an assumption of no additional costs compared to what would otherwise occur in the base case after 2030.

While the costs of implementing the IPCS and reduction in spread of pests delivered is only examined over a ten year period, the longer term economic, social and environmental benefits from the reduction in spread delivered over this ten year period are examined over the full 30 years of the cost benefit analysis.

The cost benefit analysis below provides guidance on the net impact of the project cases against the base case.

Decision Criteria:

The Net Present Value (NPV) and Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) will be the primary decision criteria for the economic appraisal. The NPV of a project expresses the difference between the present value (PV) of future benefits and PV of future costs, i.e.: $NPV = PV \text{ Benefits} - PV \text{ Costs}$. The BCR provides the ratio between the PV of benefits and PV of costs, i.e., $BCR = PV \text{ Benefits} / PV \text{ Costs}$.

Where the economic appraisal results in a:

- Positive NPV and BCR above 1: the project will be deemed as being desirable
- NPV equal to zero and BCR of 1: the project will be deemed neutral (i.e., neither desirable nor undesirable)

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- Negative NPV and BCR below 1: the project will be deemed undesirable.

The Internal Rate of Return (IRR), which indicates the discount rate which would return an NPV of \$0 and a BCR of 1, is also reported.

Additional details regarding the approach used for this cost benefit analysis is presented in Appendix A.

6.2 QUANTIFICATION & VALUATION OF COSTS & BENEFITS

6.2.1 Costs

Implementation Costs

Implementing the IPCS has cost Council \$1.4 million (2017-18) and \$1.9 million (2018-19) in the initial years⁴ and are projected to cost \$1.6 million per annum going forward to 2030. Scheme implementation costs have been incorporated into the model from 2018 through to 2030. It has been assumed the cost to Council to implement the IPCS would not differ between projection scenarios.

Scheme costs have only been assessed over 10 years (compared to a 30 years CBA analysis period) in line with the terms of reference for the IPCS evaluation. Beyond this time period it is assumed the costs for managing pests revert to historic levels for maintenance and upkeep (while the spread of pests remains at 2030 levels). While it is acknowledged that control works would continue to be undertaken beyond the 10 year period, as only the marginal increase in costs for implementing the IPCS are included in the assessment, from a modelling perspective this results in an assumption of no additional costs compared to what would otherwise occur in the base case after 2030.

It should be noted that some control works costs would still be incurred by Council in the absence of the IPCS (i.e. under the base case), which have not been incorporated in the modelling. This results in an overstatement of implementation costs for the IPCS compared to what would likely be incurred by Council without the IPCS.

On-Property Pest Management Costs

On-property pest management costs to landholders as a result of the IPCS have been included in terms of the additional costs for controlling pests since the implementation of the IPCS as identified in landholder survey results (SDRC, 2019b). The survey indicates landholder on-property pest management costs (facilitated by the IPCS) have increased by approximately \$125 per hectare of land controlled.

It is likely that impacted lands will require additional follow-up treatments/ controls beyond the initial year in order to remain pest free. To account for this, follow up control costs have been assumed at half the initial rate (\$62.50/ha) for the two years post-initial control works. Beyond this point it is assumed that control/ maintenance costs for previously impacted properties would be similar to the base case scenario.

On property pest management costs have been projected across the low, medium and high impact scenarios developed in Chapter 5.

6.2.2 Benefits

Reduced Impacts of Invasive Pests

The core benefit of the IPCS is the reduction in the prevalence of invasive pests within the Southern Downs community. Potential benefits run across the TBL framework (as reviewed in Chapter 3), with key impacts as highlighted in the table below.

⁴ For the purposes of the CBA modelling, all years have been converted to current \$2019-20.

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Table 6.1. Invasive Pest Impacts

Pest Species	Economic Impacts	Environmental Impacts	Social Impacts
Wild Dogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced income due to loss of stock. Costs to dispose of deceased animals. Wild dogs transmit diseases which can infect agricultural production of sheep and cattle (including sheep measles, hydatidosis, mange, distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, Neospora caninum and toxoplasmosis (DPI, n.a.)). Changes to the stock composition with premium stock that has been built up over a number of years being destroyed. Impacted properties typically have a negative impact on land values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attacks on native animals and subsequent loss of bio-diversity. Potential for transmission of diseases to native animals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychological impacts on farmers if attacks on livestock are repetitive. The predation of livestock has significant social and psychological effects on primary producers and their families. In addition, pest animals such as wild dogs are a nuisance, damaging infrastructure and culturally important sites and displaying adverse behaviours such as disruptive noise (Invasive Plants and Animals Committee, 2017). Financial stress implications due to loss of income. Injury risks of attacks to humans (particularly children).
Rabbits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grazing of field crops reducing yields and damaging soils, resulting in a reduction in farmer income. Impacted properties due to warrens etc. creates a negative impact on land values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overgrazing native pastures, leading to loss of plant biodiversity. Preventing vegetation from regenerating and degrading the quality of soil. Cause significant land degradation by building warrens. Acting as a food source for larger predators such as wild dogs. Reduced the amount of food stock available for native animals. Increasing and spreading invasive weeds (Cooke, 2011). Potential spread of diseases to native animals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial stress implications due to loss of income. Psychological stress due to the potential for infestation. Reduced natural amenity due to destruction/degradation of rural areas.
African Boxthorn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacting stock due to the spiny thickets hindering mustering and stock movement. Reducing productive potential and yields. Presence typically has a negative impact on land values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dense covering can create shade and crowd out vegetation and prevent regeneration. Commonly harbour other invasive pests such as rabbits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dense infestations likely to impact recreation and potential injuries to people. Financial stress implications due to loss of income associated with reduced production land.

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Pest Species	Economic Impacts	Environmental Impacts	Social Impacts
Blackberry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dense and impenetrable tickets and are often situated along waterways, impacting access to watering points for stock. Due to its rapid growth, the weed spreads across land relatively fast impacting vegetation and pasture. Presence typically has a negative impact on land values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides shelter and acts as a food source for other invasive pests. The pest can become a significant fire hazard due to the large amount of dead canes. Due to its rapid growth, the weed spreads across land relatively fast impacting native vegetation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degradation of natural habitats and reduced natural amenity. Loss of income associated with agricultural production may cause financial stress to landholders.
Velvety Tree Pear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hindering stock movement and limit access for recreational activities. Sharp spines may get lodged into the wool of sheep and contaminate the product. The sharp spines have the potential to cause injury to animals. Presence has a negative impact on land values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rather dense infestations can compete with natural habitats, limiting the growth and regrowth of vegetation. The tree pear provides a harbour for other invasive pests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dense infestations can reduce recreational activity and cause injuries to people as a result of the sharp spines. Can negatively impact income due to loss of stock or crops.

Source: AEC

As noted in section 2.3.1, the benefits associated with a reduction in invasive pests varies significantly depending on the type of pest, the associated land uses being impacted, and the methodology for valuation applied. For this assessment, a rounded estimate of \$50/ha/annum has been applied based on Southern Downs land use (high value horticulture and cattle grazing) and reported pest mix (Table 6.1).

It should be noted that not all the productive land area of reported impacted properties may contain invasive pests, which will impact the TBL impacts. However, in the absence of more accurate impact data, the scenarios developed in chapter five have been retained as the basis for reduced prevalence of invasive pest benefits⁵. Capture of more accurate impacted area data by property and pest type is a key recommendation of this review and would improve the estimation of benefits substantially.

Benefits have been projected across the low, medium and high impact scenarios, with pest levels assumed to remain constant from 2030 to the end of the analysis period in 2047. This is based on a 10 year forward-looking analysis period with a longer timeframe to reflect the socio-economic benefits delivered by pest control that are longer term in nature. To help retain a more conservative estimate and given the limited data available, the potential impacts of the IPCS in terms of a reduction in spread of invasive pests has been compared to a base case that assumes the spread of invasive pests remains at approximately 500,000 ha over the analysis period. This is likely a conservative assumption given anecdotal evidence indicates the spread of invasive pests was increasing prior to implementation of the IPCS.

6.2.3 Costs and Benefits Not Included

There are a number of other costs and benefits the project will deliver that were not included in the cost benefit analysis which are considered qualitatively below:

- **Costs:**
 - **Potential mental stress impact of IPCS implementation on landholders:** As was noted in Chapter 4, the potential for a supplementary rates notice is a noted point of stress for landholders (particularly

⁵ Noting that reduced hectares of impacted area within a property would also proportionately impact the on-property pest management costs driver of the CBA.

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during times of drought and financial hardship). The impacts of the psychological burden of the IPCS on landholders has not been incorporated into the analysis as it is understood that Council will continue to work empathetically with landholders to support the outcomes of the scheme while minimising any adverse impacts.

- **Benefits:**

- **Benefits from IPCS revenues:** IPCS levy collection results in additional pest control activities (beyond those undertaken on-property by landholders) including on Council lands. The impacts of IPCS levies have been conservatively assumed to be a transfer of benefits between landholders and Council and have been excluded from the assessment. However, it should be noted that benefits from control works undertaken by council (including on Council-owned lands) are significant.
- **Increased economic activity from contract control works:** The IPCS promotes qualified local contractors to undertake control works for landholders to comply with the scheme. This in turn supports industry growth and employment outcomes within the Southern Downs LGA. Two additional contract businesses have established operations in the Southern Downs region post-implementation of the IPCS.
- **Potential spread of invasive pests under the base case:** The benefits of invasive pest control are based upon the reported (and projected) reduction in areas impacted under the scheme. However, it is likely that under the base case (i.e. without the implementation of the scheme) that invasive pest species would have continued to spread and impacted additional lands within the Southern Downs. The cost benefit analysis has assumed the spread of invasive pests does not increase in the base case, which is likely a conservative assumption.
- **Increased collaboration and potential application of the scheme in other areas:** The IPCS is an innovative approach for local government pest control. Broader State and other agency stakeholders consulted for this study were broadly supportive of the scheme's approach and its objectives as well as the applicability of the scheme to other LGAs across Queensland and Australia.

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6.3 COST BENEFIT ASSESSMENT

The table below outlines the Present Value (PV) of the identified costs and benefits associated with the project between the financial year ended June 2018 and the financial year ended June 2047, at discount rates of 4%, 7%, and 10%.

The CBA modelling at the discount rate of 7% is economically desirable, with:

- **The low impact scenario** returning an NPV of \$45.3 million over the 30-year assessment period, with a BCR of 1.85, and an IRR of 18.8%.
- **The medium impact scenario** returning an NPV of \$74.4 million over the 30-year assessment period, with a BCR of 2.01, and an IRR of 20.6%.
- **The high impact scenario** returning an NPV of \$95.9 million over the 30-year assessment period, with a BCR of 2.09, and an IRR of 21.7%.

The analysis indicates that the continuation of the IPCS is desirable across all scenarios and discount rates applied.

Table 6.2. Summary of Cost Benefit Analysis Results, 2018 to 2047

Real Discount Rate	PV Costs (\$M)	PV Benefits (\$M)	NPV (\$M)	BCR
Low Impact Scenario				
4%	\$56.9	\$134.4	\$77.6	2.36
7%	\$53.2	\$98.5	\$45.3	1.85
10%	\$50.3	\$76.0	\$25.8	1.51
Medium Impact Scenario				
4%	\$82.1	\$209.8	\$127.8	2.56
7%	\$73.5	\$147.9	\$74.4	2.01
10%	\$66.7	\$109.6	\$42.9	1.64
High Impact Scenario				
4%	\$99.7	\$263.9	\$164.2	2.65
7%	\$88.0	\$183.9	\$95.9	2.09
10%	\$78.9	\$134.7	\$55.8	1.71

Note: Totals presented in the table may not equal the sum of costs and benefits due to rounding.
Source: AEC

6.4 SENSITIVITY TESTING

This section examines the sensitivity of the project to key model inputs and assumptions used in the CBA. Sensitivity analysis in this section has been undertaken for the medium impact scenario using a Monte Carlo analysis across the following key assumptions used in the modelling.

- **Costs:**
 - IPCS implementation costs.
 - On-property pest control costs.
- **Benefits:**
 - Reduced impacts of invasive pests.

Each of the above assumptions has been tested in isolation with all other inputs held constant, with the results reported in Table 6.3 in terms of the modelled change in NPV resulting from the variance in the base assumptions at a discount rate of 7%. The final row of the table examines each assumption simultaneously to provide a 'combined' or overall sensitivity of the model findings to the assumptions used. Table 6.3 also outlines the distribution used allowing for a 10% confidence interval, with the '5%' and '95%' representing a 90% probability that the distribution and NPV will be within the range outlined in the table.

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Ranges tested include:

- Costs represent a maximum 40% higher and 30% lower than the base values.
- Benefits represent a normal distribution with a standard deviation of 0.2.

Table 6.3. Sensitivity Analysis Summary, Discount Rate 7% (Medium Impact Scenario)

Variable	Net Present Value (\$ Million)	
	5%	95%
Costs		
IPCS Implementation Costs	\$70.5	\$77.6
On-Property Pest Management Costs	\$60.8	\$85.4
Benefits		
Reduced Impacts of Invasive Pests	\$23.9	\$121.4
Combined	\$21.8	\$122.4

Source: AEC

The analysis indicates, at a discount rate of 7%, there is a 90% probability the project will provide an NPV of between \$21.8 million and \$122.4 million. Sensitivity testing returned a positive NPV in 99.0% of the 5,000 iterations run in Monte Carlo analysis. This means that under 99.0% of the input parameters examined in this assessment the project results in a positive NPV.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The analysis undertaken in this review has identified that the IPCS is an important mechanism for the control of invasive pest species and support for the ongoing viability of the critical agricultural industry. Over the longer term the scheme is estimated to have significant ongoing benefits, which outweigh the costs vs. inaction.

Council has invested significant time and resources to implement the scheme and given its notable early successes and reported gradual acceptance by landholders it is the recommendation of this report that the scheme be continued.

A number of opportunities for the potential improvement of the scheme have been identified throughout the review process for Council's consideration. These include:

- **Consideration of improved mapping and scheme data capture:** This evaluation has identified a number of limitations regarding the availability of pest impact data within properties and across pest types. Improved data capture and mapping will support greater targeting of key areas and improve the capture of TBL benefits. Adoption of this recommendation needs to take into consideration appropriate budget limitations as well as the potential overburdening of landholders with survey/data capture.
- **Continuation of data capture regarding scheme impacts:** This evaluation is based on a small sample of scheme impacts, and the incorporation of future data points will help to improve the CBA and future impact projections significantly.
- **Consideration of additional actions to be taken against repeatedly non-compliant properties:** The evidence of repeat non-compliant properties as well as noted frustration of neighbouring landholders with non-compliant operators suggests that additional actions against non-compliant properties may need to be considered. This could take the form of a three-strike rule or similar, increasing fees required to be paid for non-compliance after the third infringement. Such an approach would support consistency within the IPCS requirements across all properties.
- **Consideration of adjusting the properties included within the scheme:** The noted prevalence of small commercial/industrial properties within the scheme suggests a review of properties which are included within the scheme may be considered. The limitations of appropriate ratings categories through which to apply the scheme is acknowledged in making this recommendation.
- **Consideration of alternative notice methods to support non-resident landholders:** Council should consider avenues to implement an option for a nominated manager/operator to be notified directly via electronic methods (SMS or email) to support prompt compliance with the IPCS for properties operated under lease or through employed management.
- **Consideration of avenues for ongoing landholder input and engagement into IPCS control activities:** An opportunity exists for ongoing engagement with IPCS ratepayers to collaborate on future control initiatives utilising IPCS levies. Ongoing engagement will support greater buy-in to the scheme and help promote a collaborative approach to invasive pest control.

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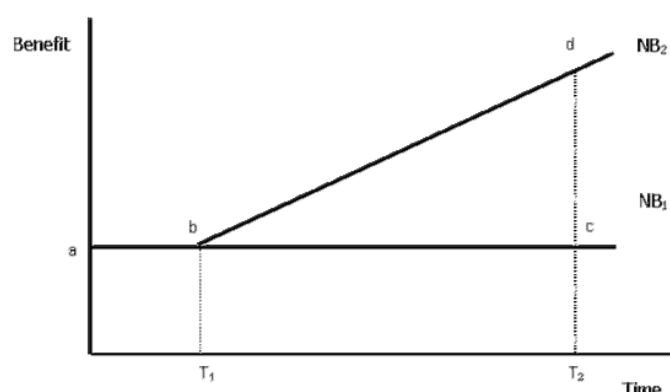
APPENDIX A: COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

STEP 1: DEFINE THE SCOPE AND BOUNDARY

To enable a robust determination of the net benefits of undertaking a given project, it is necessary to specify base case and alternative case scenarios. The base case scenario represents the 'without project' scenario and the alternative or 'with project' scenario examines the impact with the project in place.

The base case (without) scenario is represented by line NB_1 (bc) over time T_1 to T_2 in the figure below. The investment in the project at time T_1 is likely to generate a benefit, which is represented by line NB_2 (bd). Therefore, the net benefit flowing from investment in the project is identified by calculating the area (bcd) between NB_1 and NB_2 .

Figure A.1. With and Without Scenarios



Source: AEC

STEP 2: IDENTIFY COSTS AND BENEFITS

A comprehensive quantitative specification of the benefits and costs included in the evaluation and their various timings is required and includes a clear outline of all major underlying assumptions. These impacts, both positive and negative, are then tabulated and where possible valued in dollar terms.

Some impacts may not be quantifiable. Where this occurs the impacts and their respective magnitudes will be examined qualitatively for consideration in the overall analysis.

Financing costs are not included in a CBA. As a method of project appraisal, CBA examines a project's profitability independently of the terms on which debt finance is arranged. This does not mean, however, that the cost of capital is not considered in CBA, as the capital expenses are included in the year in which the transaction occurs, and the discount rate (discussed below in Step 5) should be selected to provide a good indication of the opportunity cost of funds, as determined by the capital market.

STEP 3: QUANTIFY AND VALUE COSTS AND BENEFITS

CBA attempts to measure the value of all costs and benefits that are expected to result from the activity in economic terms. It includes estimating costs and benefits that are 'unpriced' and not the subject of normal market transactions but which nevertheless entail the use of real resources. These attributes are referred to as 'non-market' goods or impacts. In each of these cases, quantification of the effects in money terms is an important part of the evaluation.

INVASIVE PESTS CONTROL SCHEME EVALUATION



However, projects frequently have non-market impacts that are difficult to quantify. Where the impact does not have a readily identifiable dollar value, proxies and other measures should be developed as these issues represent real costs and benefits.

One commonly used method of approximating values for non-market impacts is 'benefit transfer'. Benefit transfer (BT) means taking already calculated values from previously conducted studies and applying them to different study sites and situations. In light of the significant costs and technical skills needed in using the methodologies outlined in the table above, for many policy makers utilising BT techniques can provide an adequate solution.

Context is extremely important when deciding which values to transfer and from where. Factors such as population, number of households, and regional characteristics should be considered when undertaking benefit transfer. For example, as population density increases over time, individual households may value nearby open space and parks more highly. Other factors to be considered include, depending on the location of the original study, utilising foreign exchange rates, demographic data, and respective inflation rates.

Benefit transfer should only be regarded as an approximation. Transferring values from similar regions with similar markets is important, and results can be misleading if values are transferred between countries that have starkly different economies (for example a benefit transfer from the Solomon Islands to Vancouver would likely have only limited applicability). However, sometimes only an indicative value for environmental assets is all that is required.

STEP 4: TABULATE ANNUAL COSTS AND BENEFITS

All identified and quantified benefits and costs are tabulated to identify where and how often they occur. Tabulation provides an easy method for checking that all the issues and outcomes identified have been addressed and provides a picture of the flow of costs, benefits and their sources.

STEP 5: CALCULATE THE NET BENEFIT IN DOLLAR TERMS

As costs and benefits are specified over time it is necessary to reduce the stream of benefits and costs to present values. The present value concept is based on the time value of money – the idea that a dollar received today is worth more than a dollar to be received in the future. The present value of a cash flow is the equivalent value of the future cashflow should the entire cashflow be received today. The time value of money is determined by the given discount rate to enable the comparison of options by a common measure.

The selection of appropriate discount rates is of particular importance because they apply to much of the decision criteria and consequently the interpretation of results. The higher the discount rate, the less weight or importance is placed on future cash flows.

The choice of discount rates should reflect the weighted average cost of capital (WACC). For this analysis, a base discount rate of 6% has been used to represent the minimum rate of return, in line with Australian Government guidelines. As all values used in the CBA are in real terms, the discount rate does not incorporate inflation (i.e., it is a real discount rate, as opposed to a nominal discount rate).

To assess the sensitivity of the project to the discount rate used, discount rates either side of the base discount rate (6%) have also been examined (4% and 8%).

The formula for determining the present value is:

$$PV = \frac{FV_n}{(1 + r)^n}$$

Where:

PV = present value today

FV = future value n periods from now

r = discount rate per period

n = number of periods

INVASIVE PESTS CONTROL SCHEME EVALUATION



Extending this to a series of cash flows the present value is calculated as:

$$PV = \frac{FV_1}{(1+r)^1} + \frac{FV_2}{(1+r)^2} + \dots + \frac{FV_n}{(1+r)^n}$$

Once the stream of costs and benefits have been reduced to their present values the Net Present Value (NPV) can be calculated as the difference between the present value of benefits and present value of costs. If the present value of benefits is greater than the present value of costs then the option or project would have a net economic benefit.

In addition to the NPV, the internal rate of return (IRR) and benefit-cost ratio (BCR) can provide useful information regarding the attractiveness of a project. The IRR provides an estimate of the discount rate at which the NPV of the project equals zero, i.e., it represents the maximum WACC at which the project would be deemed desirable. However, in terms of whether a project is considered desirable or not, the IRR and BCR will always return the same result as the NPV decision criterion.

STEP 6: SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

Sensitivity analysis allows for the testing of the key assumptions and the identification of the critical variables within the analysis to gain greater insight into the drivers to the case being examined.

A series of Monte Carlo analyses has been conducted in order to test the sensitivity of the model outputs to changes in key variables. Monte Carlo simulation is a computerised technique that provides decision-makers with a range of possible outcomes and the probabilities they will occur for any choice of action. Monte Carlo simulation works by building models of possible results by substituting a range of values – the probability distribution – for any factor that has inherent uncertainty. It then calculates results over and over, each time using a different set of random values from the probability functions. The outputs from Monte Carlo simulation are distributions of possible outcome values.

During a Monte Carlo simulation, values are sampled at random from the input probability distributions. Each set of samples is called an iteration, and the resulting outcome from that sample is recorded. Monte Carlo simulation does this hundreds or thousands of times, and the result is a probability distribution of possible outcomes. In this way, Monte Carlo simulation provides a comprehensive view of what may happen. It describes what could happen and how likely it is to happen.

APPENDIX B: SUMMARY OF PROVIDED INFORMATION

Table B.1. Summary of Information Provided by Council

Date Received	File Name	Summary
14/06/2019	Control Works Form 19/20	Blank form which is handed to residents to fill, intended to highlight: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive pests – Y/N • Which invasive pests are on the property and to which extent • Proposed control works • Completion date for works from Sep 2019 to April 2020
14/06/2019	Copy of IPCS 17-18 Comparison Data	
14/06/2019	Copy of IPCS 17-18 Comparison Data Graphs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparison of top 5 pests 2017-18 • No pest comparison • CWF issued and received and reminders issued and % received • Inspections assessment 2017 and 2018 comparison • Ha with pests declared 17 and 18 • Awareness level pre IPCS and Since IPCS • Changed control methods and support for continuation of IPCS
14/06/2019	Copy of List of Contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pest control contractors contact details
20/06/2019	Survey Responses Available https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-63JO8N8WL/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPCS Survey

Source: AEC.

BRISBANE

Level 5, 131 Leichhardt Street
Spring Hill QLD 4000
Australia
T: +61 (0)7 3831 0577

TOWNSVILLE

233 Flinders Street East
Townsville QLD 4810
Australia
T: +61 (0)7 4771 5550

SYDNEY

Level 14, 25 Bligh Street,
Sydney NSW 2000
Australia
T: +61 (0) 2 9283 8400

AFFILIATED OFFICES:

BANGKOK

2024/129-130 Sukhumvit 50
Prakanong Klongtoey,
Bangkok, Thailand 10260
T: +66 2 107 0189

DARWIN

Level 1, 48-50 Smith Street
Darwin NT 0800
Australia
T: 1300 799 343

MELBOURNE

Level 13, 200 Queen Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
Australia
T: +61 (0)3 8648 6586

PERTH

Level 2, 580 Hay Street
Perth WA 6000
Australia
T: +61 (0) 8 6555 4940

SHANGHAI

Level 35, 1st Building,
700 Lique Road, Putuo District,
Shanghai, China 200333
T: +8618 516293312


aecgrouppltd.com

OUTCOME DRIVEN



13.2 Pest Management Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - 3 September 2019

Document Information

 Southern Downs REGIONAL COUNCIL	Report To: General Council Meeting	
	Reporting Officer:	Meeting Date: 25 September 2019
	Manager Environmental & Regulatory Services	ECM Function No/s: 11.23.01; 11.35.04

Recommendation

THAT:-

1. Council endorse the minutes of the Pest Management Advisory Committee meeting held at Stanthorpe on 3 September 2019.
2. In light of the findings of the AEC Group evaluation, Council:
 - a) Endorse ongoing implementation of the Invasive Pests Control Scheme (IPCS); and
 - b) Amend the IPCS policy to reflect its ongoing effect and to provide for annual updates of the cost benefit model with IPCS data and four-yearly reviews.

Report

The minutes of Council's Pest Management Advisory Committee are submitted for Council's consideration of recommendations following each meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2019 are attached (Attachment 1) as is the Local Laws (Pest Management) report to the meeting (Attachment 2). A single recommendation arose from the meeting, concerning the Committee's consideration of the draft findings of the AEC Group IPCS evaluation (Attachment 3).

The AEC Group report considered economic, environmental and social costs and benefits of the IPCS and demonstrated a net benefit in retaining the IPCS policy. The cost benefit analysis, projected reduction of infested lands and feedback from landholders and agencies present a compelling argument for ongoing implementation of the IPCS. The AEC Group report also highlighted a number of recommendations to improve upon administration of the policy, which will be incorporated. Discussion amongst Pest Management Advisory Committee (PMAC) members indicated strong support for the continuation of the IPCS and culminated in the following recommendation being made.

"That in light of the findings of the AEC Group evaluation, Council endorses ongoing implementation of the IPCS.

Council amends the IPCS policy to reflect its ongoing effect and to provide for annual updates of the cost benefit model with IPCS data and four-yearly reviews".

Council's IPCS Policy was endorsed by Council at the 14 June 2017 Special Meeting, with a review to be undertaken prior to the end of 2019/2020.

Budget Implications

Operational impacts will require budget consideration.

Policy Consideration

Invasive Pests Control Scheme Policy (PL-PE074)

Corporate Plan

8.15 Review pest management services in accordance with legislative requirements, community expectations and to ensure the protection of the environment

Shaping Southern Downs

4.4.1.2 Conserve agricultural areas, including those which provide community with an affordable supply of fresh food, food security and export earning potential.

4.4.3.1 Develop policies, programs and management plans, aimed at increasing the biodiversity and conservation value of land within the region.

4.4.3.2 Conserve and protect valued natural resources, including water, land, flora and fauna.

4.4.3.6 Manage invasive pests within the region.

Community Engagement

The IPCS underwent significant public consultation prior to its implementation and has been subject to ongoing consultation and subsequent continuous improvement since.

As part of the evaluation process, AEC Group consulted with a random selection of landholders and targeted agencies in conducting its evaluation of the IPCS. Additionally, the Pest Management Advisory Committee was utilised as a consultative group.

Legislation/Local Law

Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014

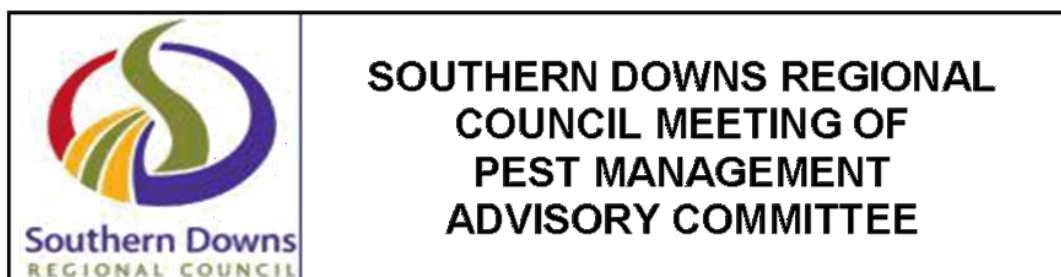
Options

Council:

1. Endorse the minutes of the Pest Management Advisory Committee meeting held at Stanthorpe on 3 September 2019 and endorse the recommendation that, in light of the findings of the AEC Group evaluation:
 - a) Endorse ongoing implementation of the Invasive Pests Control Scheme (IPCS); and,
 - b) Amend the IPCS policy to reflect its ongoing effect and to provide for annual updates of the cost benefit model with IPCS data and four-yearly reviews.
2. Does not endorse the minutes of the Pest Management Advisory Committee meeting held at Stanthorpe on 3 September 2019.

Attachments

1. Pest Management Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - 3 September 2019 [↓](#)
2. Pest Management Report [↓](#)
3. AEC Group Report - Invasive Pests Control Scheme Evaluation (Excluded from agenda - Provided under separate cover) [⇒](#)



**MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN DOWNS REGIONAL COUNCIL PEST MANAGEMENT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Held in the Council Chambers, Stanthorpe on

Tuesday 3 September 2019 at 10.00 am

TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2019

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

1. ATTENDANCE	3
2. APOLOGIES	3
3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES	3
4. INVASIVE PESTS CONTROL SCHEME EVALUATION – AEC GROUP	3
5. IPCS REPORT – CRAIG MAGNUSSEN	3
7. COUNCIL PEST MANAGEMENT REPORT – MATHEW WARREN	4
8. UPDATE BY MEMBER GROUPS	4
9. GENERAL BUSINESS	4
12. FURTHER MEETING.....	4
13. CLOSURE	4

1. ATTENDANCE

Cr Cameron Gow, Jane Stroud, Ray Lambert, Craig Magnussen, Clive Smith, Ken McCray, John Agnew, Holly Hosie, Mandy Craig, John Cuskelly, Andrew O'Dea, Ian Stevenson, Nathan Ring, Nathan Willis and Birgit Schade (Minute Secretary)

2. APOLOGIES

Cr Tracy Dobie, Cr Jo McNally, Cr Neil Meiklejohn, Cr Rod Kelly, Cr Sheryl Windle, Pedro Hodgson, Mat Warren and Ted Vinson.

Recommendation:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 June 2019 are a true and accurate record.

Moved: Clive Smith

Seconded: Andrew O'Dea

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was agreed that matters arising from the Minutes would be discussed during the meeting at the relevant agenda items.

4. AEC GROUP REPORT - INVASIVE PESTS CONTROL SCHEME EVALUATION

Council engaged AEC Group to evaluate the economic, environmental and social costs and benefits of the Invasive Pests Control Scheme (IPCS). Craig presented an overview of the draft report, which demonstrated net benefit in retaining the IPCS policy. The cost benefit analysis, projected reduction of infested lands and feedback from landholders and agencies present a compelling argument for ongoing implementation of the IPCS. The report also highlighted a number of recommendations to improve upon administration of the policy. Discussion amongst Pest Management Advisory Committee (PMAC) members indicated strong support for the continuation of the IPCS and culminated in the following recommendation being made.

Recommendation:

That in light of the findings of the AEC Group evaluation, Council endorses ongoing implementation of the IPCS.

Council amends the IPCS policy to reflect its ongoing effect and to provide for annual updates of the cost benefit model with IPCS data and four-yearly reviews.

Moved: John Agnew

Seconded: Andrew O'Dea

CARRIED

5. IPCS REPORT – CRAIG MAGNUSSEN

Craig gave an overview of the administration of the 2019/2020 IPCS to date, the detail of which is contained in the Council Pest Management Report (attached).

6. WILD DOG EXCLUSION FENCING UPDATE – CRAIG MAGNUSSEN

Craig advised that Council had received a funding agreement from DAF for the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative (QFPI) project and that the Oversight Committee had rejected Council's request to amend the agreement to include electrification in the fencing specification. Craig noted that Council increased its funding of the patrol and maintenance of the Stanthorpe Wild Dog Spur Fence by 50% in the 2019/2020 budget, funded through IPCS revenue. This is in recognition of the important role of the fence in managing wild dogs, including as a component of the exclusion fencing to be realised through the QFPI and Australian Government funded projects.

Clive Smith proposed that DAF consider providing for use of the IPCS as the mechanism to ensure compliance with exclusion fencing maintenance obligations, rather than requiring landholder groups to become incorporated and enter into contracts with Council. There was

agreement this was a very valid proposal and that Council officers would pursue it with DAF and its QFPI Oversight Committee.

7. COUNCIL PEST MANAGEMENT REPORT – MAT WARREN

Craig spoke to Mat Warren's previously circulated report in his absence.

8. UPDATE BY MEMBER GROUPS

Ken McCray:

Transport & Main Roads allocated \$50,000 for the 2019/2020 RMPC for control of a variety of pests on multiple roads. Council is using a range of methods, including mechanical control during the dry conditions.

Ray Lambert:

Significant levels of weed control works on Council roads are working to encourage landholder participation in the IPCS.

Nathan Willis:

The IPCS has prompted QPWS to undertake more reactive pest control and controlled burning has in parts been substituted with other weed control methods.

Andrew O'Dea:

Condamine Headwaters Landcare has received \$100,000 funding with another \$25,000 pending and the group is working on several projects together with Southern Queensland Landscapes.

Ian Stevenson & Nathan Ring:

The Darling Downs Moreton Rabbit Board (DDMRB) has finalised its survey of Dalveen properties. Public awareness has increased dramatically as a significant amount of breeding places were identified and controlled, in partnership with SQ Landscapes. DDMRB has recently signed a contract with Goondiwindi Regional Council for cluster fencing.

Clive Smith:

All committee members of the Wild Dog Management Working Group were re-elected at the recent AGM and a meeting of the Stanthorpe Wild Dog Spur Fence Committee was held.

Mandy Cray:

Pigs, feral cats and Indian Myna control projects are being undertaken by Granite Borders Landcare on both sides of the border.

John Cuskelly:

Automated pest management systems including photo analysis of pest animals are being implemented by Western Downs Regional Council and John undertook to provide feedback at future meetings.

Holly Hosie:

SQ Landscapes is looking for African boxthorn hotspots for landowner demonstration and education forums. SQ Landscapes continues to work with Council to support cluster fencing, rabbit and deer control projects and an update on the Wallangarra rabbit and Ballandean deer population reduction figures will be presented at a future meeting.

Jane Stroud:

SDRC put forward two motions to LGAQ's Annual Conference:

- Invasive pest funding; adequate resourcing of QPWS Regions and a continuation of the QFPI.
- Commonwealth drought funding; querying the Commonwealth's direct action following the winding up of the Drought Commissioner and Drought Taskforce, and, the Future Drought Fund not providing funds before July 2020.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

10. FURTHER MEETING

The next meeting of the Southern Downs Regional Council Pest Management Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on 3 December 2019, 64 Fitzroy Street, Warwick at 10.00am.

11. CLOSURE

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 11.50am.

**Southern Downs Regional Council
Pest Management Advisory Committee Meeting
3 September 2019
Local Laws (Pest Management) Report
Mathew Warren**

Invasive Pests Control Scheme (IPCS)

- **2019/20 IPCS Summary**
 - IPCS information packs were issued to 5,288 landholders on 28 June 2019.
 - 1,744 reminder letters were issued on 16 August 2019.
 - The submission period for Control Works Forms (CWFs) closes on 17 September 2019.
 - A 64% initial return rate was achieved. This is similar to the two previous years.
 - As at 30 August 2019, 1,021 CWFs remain outstanding (19.3%).
 - To date officers have assessed a total of 1113 CWFs and conducted 663 pre-approval property inspections
 - Council continues to support landholders to control their invasive pests through the waiving of hire fees for spray equipment and cactus injectors which has seen very strong demand for the equipment. There are waiting lists for most equipment.
 - Mechanical weed control options are being encouraged due to dry conditions
 - Pest Management Officers continue to take a common sense and empathetic approach when dealing with landholders due to the worsening drought conditions.
- No announcement has been made as to the outcome of SDRC and the University of Southern Queensland's application to DNRME's TraNsfoRM! Innovation Fund. The application sought \$460,000 to use remote sensing (hyper- spectral satellite and drone imagery) to map populations of key invasive pest plants in the Southern Downs Region and to conduct species distribution modelling in response to climate change.
- Attended the 2019 NSW Weeds Conference and presented on IPCS. The conference was attended by over 300 delegates and included university researches, officers from NSW DPI, NSW Local Lands Officers and local government pest management officers from across NSW. The presentation was well received and prompted much discussion.
- Pest Management Officers attended a Biosecurity Queensland workshop in Gatton to look at ways BQ can support local government to manage invasive pests. I gave a presentation on the IPCS, which was very well received.
- AEC Group are finalising the triple bottom line (economic, environmental and social) assessment of the IPCS. IPCS Officers were briefed by AEC on the preliminary findings.

Rabbit Control Projects

- The Darling Downs Moreton Rabbit Board (DDMRB) strategic private property survey project in the Dalveen and Killarney areas is in the harbor removal and warren destruction phase. The DDMRB is supporting the owner of a property identified through the course of the project as being heavily infested with over 450 warrens by supplying equipment and operators to destroy harbor and rip warrens. Southern Queensland Landscapes are providing additional funding to continue the ripping work on a number of neighbouring properties.
- Council has completed the destruction of warrens on the road reserve along Tunnel Road and are also in the process of removing a large volume of dumped fencing material that also contains asbestos from a gully line. The material is providing harbor for rabbits.
- Further mechanical rabbit warren destruction work is booked in for early September at Dalveen, Rosenthal Heights, Greymare, Killarney and Cullendore
- Council continues to record and destroy rabbit warrens on council owned or managed lands as they are identified or reported.
- Met with Mark Ridge from the DDMRB to discuss a project to top net the section of rabbit fence from Dalveen to the Karara area. Council will purchase materials and the DDMRB will supply the labour and ongoing maintenance. This will see the section of fence upgraded to dog height which will augment the wild dog control across this area and link in with proposed cluster fencing in the Goldfields area.

Weeds

- TMR has provided funding for the 2019/20 year to continue pest management projects on State controlled roads via Council's Road Maintenance Performance Contract (RMPC).
- A request for quote is due to be released for a contractor to undertake RMPC works on the Cunningham and New England Highways.
- Mechanical control options such as mulching of African boxthorn are being employed due to the dry conditions. A forest mulcher was used to remove a significant infestation from an unformed road reserve near Gladfield. This area will now be more easily managed with minimal herbicide when the season breaks.
- Council officers have successfully negotiated with some landholders in the Stanthorpe region to bring some large patches of blackberry under control. Mechanical methods and fire were successfully utilized to effect the out of season control.
- Council's Pest Control Officers continue to respond to customer requests for roadside weed control. This timely and professional response to issues raised by the public demonstrates Council's commitment to pest management and helps with acceptance of the IPCS.

Wild Dog Exclusion Fencing

- The inaugural meeting of the Exclusion Fencing Steering committee took place on 26th June in Stanthorpe. The meeting was attended by representatives from SRDC's Environmental and Regulatory Services Department, Economic Development team, Biosecurity Queensland and landholders from the four priority clusters areas. Key outcomes from the meeting centered on engaging a project officer to drive the project forward plus obtaining certainty on the minimum required exclusion fence specification. A number of property owners are keen to see a Weston Style Electric fence or an electric offset be options available to landholders.

- A request for quote for a project officer to manage the exclusion fencing project closed on 26th August.
- Attended a meeting with additional landholders in the Pikedale area to discuss an additional Pikedale cluster. This cluster would require approx. 34km of new fencing and enclose an area of 7600ha of strategic sheep and wool growing lands.

Coordinated Wild Dog Control

- Coordinated 1080 ground baiting was delivered across the region in August with a very large turn out from landholders in the Wildash and Elbow Valley areas. Council supplied their mobile cold room and other resources to allow a donated bull to be processed by local landholders for use in the baiting.
- Limited reactive baiting was provided in June with landholders continuing to approach Pest Management Officers for pre-manufactured baits on an ad hoc basis.
- Council has funded aerial baiting in 2019/20 which will occur in late September to early October.

Flying Fox Roost Management


- A request for quote is being drafted for the development of a Flying Fox Management Plan. It is hoped a plan can be drafted for consideration by Council prior to flying foxes arriving.
- A small colony of Black Flying Foxes (approx. 100 animals) over wintered in Warwick. There has also been a recent complaint of Flying Fox activity at Allora.

Stanthorpe Dingo Spur Fence Association

- The first meeting since 2017 was held in Stanthorpe on 15 August. Invitations to the meeting were sent to all property owners that adjoin the fence. Two landholders attended with a number of apologies being received. The new patrol and maintenance contractor was introduced but no fence business was discussed due to the low turnout. Next meeting will be scheduled for early evening to improve attendance.
- The new contractor (Warwick Fencing) will commence the patrol and maintenance of the Stanthorpe Wild Dog Spur Fence in early September. The additional funds committed by Council will see an increase in patrol and maintenance activity along the fence.

13.3 Plumbing and Drainage Reforms

Document Information

 Southern Downs REGIONAL COUNCIL	Report To: General Council Meeting	
	Reporting Officer:	Meeting Date: 25 September 2019
	Manager Environmental & Regulatory Services	ECM Function No/s: 07.19

Recommendation

THAT Council notes reductions achieved in plumbing application turnaround times and resolves to opt into providing for fast-track plumbing and drainage applications under the provisions of the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018*.

Report

The Queensland State Government recently introduced reforms to plumbing and drainage legislation designed to facilitate development by:

- Reducing statutory timeframes for the processing of plumbing applications down from 20 days to 10 days,
- Introducing an expedited 'fast-track' application type for a two (2) day timeframe; and
- Introduced the requirement to maintain registers for backflow prevention devices and on-site sewage systems.

As part of the introduction of this legislative change all local government authorities were given the opportunity to opt in or out of the legislative changes. Officers of Southern Downs Regional Council (SDRC) attended several State government run briefings to ensure that they understood the parameters and requirements of the legislative changes. Additionally, staff also benchmarked against other LGA's proposed responses, and facilitated local industry sessions to gather feedback on the proposed changes and their implications on the local plumbing industry. Having considered existing resources, local feedback and required legislative changes, Officers then prepared a report to Council on this subject ahead of the legislation coming into effect.

The report outlined the feedback gathered at industry forums, the proposed changes and also explored existing resourcing levels to enable accelerated timeframes. The report made a range of recommendations about enhancing the processes Officers use by creating an online system for plumbing application lodgement, alongside some streamlined processing back of house that helps to ensure that all applications are properly made, distributed to plumbing inspection staff as soon as practicable after being received and therefore approved in shorter timeframes. This work was dependant on the creation of a temporary technical officer role to directly assist in this process.

Having considered the Officer's views and proposals, Council resolved at its 26 June 2019 General Meeting to:

- opt out of providing for fast-track applications in the short-term;
- endorse the appointment of a temporary plumbing technical officer to review Council's plumbing applications processes and ability to meet the requirements of the reforms; and
- consider the findings of the review and a recommendation regarding providing for fast-track applications.

Since this time, the decisions of Council have been implemented and the plumbing technical officer role was filled and commenced on 30 July 2019.

The plumbing technical officer, in collaboration with the Built Environment team and other areas of Council, has identified and implemented a number of process changes aimed at reducing turnaround times and promoting development in the region. Compiling the backflow prevention device and on-site sewage system registers has commenced; a significant and ongoing undertaking, with a statutory requirement for maintenance oversight. The administrative workload involved in processing water tank rebate claims has also proven significant and ongoing in its nature.

Since Council resolved its decision, and with the plumbing technical officer in place to facilitate work improvements, plumbing application turnaround times have been markedly reduced. For the most part the turnaround timeframe now is to zero (0) days i.e. applications are being approved the same day they are received. Council staff are now in a position to provide guaranteed turnaround times of three (3) to five (5) days which can in most cases be exceeded.

The majority of applications would continue to be approved and returned to the applicant on the day they are received. A three to five day guarantee provides a buffer to cover staff leave and rostered days off. This demonstrates a significant business improvement and is a great advantage in ensuring that SDRC is well placed to facilitate development as efficiently as possible.

From a procedural point of view, a resolution of Council is required under the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018* to reverse Council's 26 June 2019 resolution to opt out of providing for fast-track applications. This report seeks to support the improved processes now in place for the plumbing services of Council, and to formally offer a new level of service excellence to the Southern Downs community, through these reduced approval timeframes. Officers recommend to Council that we are now in a position to formally "opt into" the legislative reforms.

Budget Implications

Operational impacts will require budget consideration.

Policy Consideration

Corporate Plan

- 8.4 Develop and implement customer focussed policies and processes in keeping with Council's commitment to customer service.
- 8.6 Continue to upgrade and use most effective technology to provide best delivery of services to the region.

Shaping Southern Downs

4.1.3.2 Improve the relationship between Council policy, service delivery, infrastructure, advocacy and community priorities.

Community Engagement

The Built Environment team continues to engage with the local industry on the plumbing and drainage reforms.

Legislation/Local Law

Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018

Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2019

Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code

Options

Council:

1. Notes reductions achieved in plumbing application turnaround times and resolves to opt into providing for fast-track plumbing and drainage applications under the provisions of the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018*.
2. Notes reductions achieved in plumbing application turnaround times and resolves not to opt into providing for fast-track plumbing and drainage applications under the provisions of the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018*.

Attachments

Nil

14. REPORTS OF DEPUTATION OR CONFERENCE & REPORTS FROM DELEGATES APPOINTED BY COUNCIL TO OTHER BODIES

Nil

15. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

16. GENERAL BUSINESS

17. CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS ITEMS

In accordance with the provisions of Section 275(1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, a local government may resolve to close a meeting to the public and move 'into Committee' to discuss confidential items, such that its Councillors or members consider it necessary to close the meeting.

Recommendation

THAT the meeting be closed to the public and move into committee to discuss the following items, which are considered confidential in accordance with Section 275(1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following, as indicated:

17.1 Freehold Lease between the Killarney Recreational Club Incorporated and Southern Downs Regional Council

Reason for Confidentiality

This item is considered confidential in accordance with section 275(1)(e) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as it contains information relating to contracts proposed to be made by Southern Downs Regional Council.

17.2 Freehold Lease between the Lions Club of Stanthorpe Incorporated and Southern Downs Regional Council

Reason for Confidentiality

This item is considered confidential in accordance with section 275(1)(e) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as it contains information relating to contracts proposed to be made by Southern Downs Regional Council.

17.3 Freehold Lease between Collegians Junior Rugby League Club Incorporated and Southern Downs Regional Council

Reason for Confidentiality

This item is considered confidential in accordance with section 275(1)(e) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as it contains information relating to contracts proposed to be made by Southern Downs Regional Council.

17.4 Trustee Lease between the Allora & District Historical Society Incorporated and Southern Downs Regional Council

Reason for Confidentiality

This item is considered confidential in accordance with section 275(1)(e) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as it contains information relating to contracts proposed to be made by Southern Downs Regional Council.

17.5 Application for Rates Deferral - PID 71685

Reason for Confidentiality

This item is considered confidential in accordance with section 275(1)(d) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as it contains information relating to rating concessions.

17.6 Application for Rates Deferral - PID 19835

Reason for Confidentiality

This item is considered confidential in accordance with section 275(1)(d) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as it contains information relating to rating concessions.

17.7 Write Off Sundry Debtor Charges

Reason for Confidentiality

This item is considered confidential in accordance with section 275(1)(h) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as it contains information relating to business for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government or someone else, or enable a person to gain a financial advantage.

17.8 Saleyards Advisory Committee Minutes of the Meeting held 29 August 2019

Reason for Confidentiality

This item is considered confidential in accordance with section 275(1)(h) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as it contains information relating to business for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government or someone else, or enable a person to gain a financial advantage.

17.9 Saleyards Master Plan

Reason for Confidentiality

This item is considered confidential in accordance with section 275(1)(e) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as it contains information relating to contracts proposed to be made by Southern Downs Regional Council.

17.10 August 2019 Monthly Report - Warwick Indoor Recreation and Aquatic Centre - YMCA Brisbane

Reason for Confidentiality

This item is considered confidential in accordance with section 275(1)(h) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as it contains information relating to business for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government or someone else, or enable a person to gain a financial advantage.

17.11 RFT 19_142 - Design and Construction of Recycled Water Pipeline - Stage 1 Extension

Reason for Confidentiality

This item is considered confidential in accordance with section 275(1)(e) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as it contains information relating to contracts proposed to be made by Southern Downs Regional Council.

17.12 Evaluation Report - RFT 20_012 Supply of One Articulated Motor Grader

Reason for Confidentiality

This item is considered confidential in accordance with section 275(1)(e) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as it contains information relating to contracts proposed to be made by Southern Downs Regional Council.