



ATTACHMENTS

8. ATTACHMENTS – 29 March 2016

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CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT

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URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL

URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL
CASH & INVESTMENTS
AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2016

Data Block
Period end date is:
Month

28-February-2016
2

Bank Accounts

Financial Institution	Type
National Australia Bank	General
National Australia Bank	Everyday Business
National Australia Bank	Business Cash Maximiser
National Australia Bank	Business Investment
National Australia Bank	Trust
National Australia Bank	Bundarra RTC

Bank Balance
697,549.80
2,057,468.68
0.00
238.72
31,286.33
22,364.45
2,808,915.98

All Bank Accounts & Term Deposits have been checked against the General Ledger Balances

Date
4/03/2016

By who
L Frazier

(Balance of 2015 + 2016)

GL Account Name	GL Number	Balance per GL	Discrepancy	Error Checking
General Fund	19001.8000.8000	697,549.80	0.00	Report in Balance
Everyday Business	19005.8201.8201	2,057,468.68	0.00	Report in Balance
Business Cash Maximiser	19005.8201.8202	0	0.00	Report in Balance
Business Investment	19008.8000.8000	238.72	0.00	Report in Balance
Trust	19001.8001.8000	31,286.33	0.00	Report in Balance
Bundarra RTC	19005.8004.8000	22,364.45	0.00	Report in Balance
Term Deposits	19010.8200.8200	8,400,000.00	0.00	Report in Balance

As at 8/3/16	2015	2016
1,447,910.70	788,233.03	
659,677.67		
697,549.80		per this rep
37,872.13		variance

Term Deposits

Financial Institution	Start Date	Maturing	Term	Reference	Amount	Rate	Interest	Days	Total	Annualised Interest	Months to maturity
National Australia Bank	29/08/2015	29/02/2016	6 months	94-376-8138	500,000.00	2.90%	7,309.59	184	507,309.59	14,500.00	1
Westpac Banking Corporation	24/09/2015	24/03/2016	6 months	032607 - 333865	1,000,000.00	3.10%	15,457.53	182	1,015,457.53	31,000.00	1
ANZ	1/01/2016	31/03/2016	3 months	9749-34485	500,000.00	2.89%	3,673.97	90	503,673.97	14,900.00	1
National Australia Bank	15/01/2016	14/04/2016	3 months	77-247-8231	500,000.00	3.03%	3,735.62	90	503,735.62	15,150.00	2
Westpac Banking Corporation	24/12/2015	24/04/2016	4 months	032607 - 333879	1,000,000.00	3.12%	10,428.48	122	1,010,428.48	31,200.00	2
National Australia Bank	29/01/2016	29/05/2016	4 months	34-786-2144	1,000,000.00	2.98%	9,912.05	121	1,009,912.05	29,900.00	3
Westpac Banking Corporation	17/02/2016	17/06/2016	4 months	032607-333721	1,300,000.00	3.15%	13,575.21	121	1,313,575.21	40,850.00	4
ANZ	23/02/2016	23/08/2016	6 months	TBA	800,000.00	2.98%	11,887.34	182	811,887.34	23,840.00	6
National Australia Bank	26/02/2016	26/08/2016	6 months	TBA	800,000.00	3.00%	8,975.34	182	808,975.34	18,000.00	6
Westpac Banking Corporation	24/02/2016	24/07/2016	5 months	032607 - 335719	800,000.00	3.15%	7,818.90	151	807,818.90	18,900.00	5
Newcastle Permanent	26/02/2016	26/05/2016	3 months	28694	600,000.00	3.00%	4,438.36	90	604,438.36	16,000.00	3

8,400,000.00

97,212.41

8,497,212.41

Institution Name
National Australia Bank
Community Mutual
Newcastle Permanent
Westpac Banking Corporation
ANZ
CBA

Current month
1 month
2 months
3 months
4 months
5 months
6 months & over

2,000,000.00
1,500,000.00
1,800,000.00
1,300,000.00
600,000.00
1,400,000.00
0.00
8,400,000.00

Attachment
B

1
2
3
4
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7

Uralla Shire Council
Investments at 29 February, 2016

Cash at Bank – Operating Accounts:

Institution	Account	Bank Statement
National Australia Bank	Main Account	\$697,549.80
National Australia Bank	Trust Account	\$31,296.33
Community Mutual	Bundarra RTC	\$22,364.45
Total		\$751,210.58

Business Investment (Cash Management) Account

Institution	Interest rate	Balance
National Australia Bank	0.10%	\$238.72
Professional Funds	2.15%	\$2,057,466.68
Business Cash Maximiser	1.50%	\$0.00
Total		\$2,057,705.40

Term Deposits:

Institution	Interest rate	Maturity	Balance
National Australia Bank	2.90%	29/02/2016	\$500,000.00
Westpac Banking Corporation	3.10%	24/03/2016	\$1,000,000.00
ANZ	2.98%	31/03/2016	\$500,000.00
National Australia Bank	3.03%	14/04/2016	\$500,000.00
Westpac Banking Corporation	3.12%	24/04/2016	\$1,000,000.00
National Australia Bank	2.99%	29/05/2016	\$1,000,000.00
Westpac Banking Corporation	3.15%	17/06/2016	\$1,300,000.00
ANZ	2.98%	23/08/2016	\$800,000.00
National Australia Bank	3.00%	26/08/2016	\$600,000.00
Westpac Banking Corporation	3.15%	24/07/2016	\$600,000.00
Newcastle Permanent	3.00%	26/05/2016	\$600,000.00
Total			\$8,400,000.00

Financial Instruments through Lehman Brothers Australia:

Structured Credit	Maturity Date	Face Value at Acquisition	Current Book Value at 30 June 2015
Parkes 1A AAA	Jun-15	\$250,000.00	\$0.00
Total		\$250,000.00	\$0.00

23 February 2016

Olivia Wood
Tablelands Community Transport
PO Box 20
URALLA NSW 2358

Dear Olivia Wood,

I am pleased to advise that your organisation is eligible to receive an additional recurrent annual funding allocation under the Community Transport Program (CTP) for the local government areas (LGAs) set out in the table below. This funding offer is for the period 1 January 2016 through until the 30 June 2018, although allocation amounts and outputs set out below are annual figures.

Local Government Area(s)	Eligible \$ Amount (per annum)	Minimum Contracted Trips (per annum)
Armidale Dumaresq Council	\$22350.31	894
Guyra Shire Council	\$20040.34	802
Uralla Shire Council	\$16049.46	642
Walcha Council	\$7734.27	309

A major changes form has been attached to this letter in order for your organisation to accept this offer of additional funding with the subsequent number of contracted trips. If you would like to accept the offer please ensure that an authorised representative of your organisation has reviewed the offer, signed the attached major changes form and returned to Transport for NSW, Rural and Regional Service Delivery and Performance. Following the receipt of the signed major changes form, Transport for NSW will countersign the major changes form, amend the CTP Schedule of Service and return them to your organisation.

If you would like to discuss this offer please contact your contract officer, Nicholas Szafraniec on (02) 8836 3213 or via email to nicholas.szafraniec@transport.nsw.gov.au. Alternatively please feel free to contact Rainer Koenig, Manager Contracts, Rural and Regional Service Delivery and Performance, Transport for NSW on 8836 6250 or via email to Rainer.Koenig@transport.nsw.gov.au.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terry Lee-Williams', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Terry Lee-Williams
Director
Rural & Regional Service Delivery & Performance
Infrastructure & Services
Transport for NSW



**Transport
for NSW**

FUNDING CONTRACT – MAJOR CHANGE FORM

I/We, as representative(s) of the Service Provider, agree that the Service Provider will comply with the amended CTP Services as detailed in the letter of offer for additional CTP funding and output units (Our Ref: CT16/02019; February 2016).

(NB: This form need only be signed by 1 representative of your organisation (defined as, 'Your Representative' as per the Funding Contract). A witness to this signature can be anyone over 18 years of age. The witness does not need to be a person from your organisation.

Service Provider Use Only

Signed for and on behalf of:

(insert your Service Provider Name above)

(insert Service Provider ID -Vendor No)

In accordance with either: its constitution and section 22 of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009/by its authorised delegate/in accordance with its section 127 of the Corporations Act 2001 Cth (where applicable)

(Name)

(Position)

(Signature)

In the presence of:

(Name of witness)

(Position - if applicable)

(Signature)

TfNSW Use Only

Signed for and on behalf of Transport for NSW (ABN 18 804 239 602) by its authorised delegate:

Signed on

(Day/Month/Year)

Signed by

(Full name of authorised delegate)

(Signature)

In the presence of:

(Name)

(Signature)

Return by post to:
Community Transport Agreements, TfNSW
Locked Bag 5085 PARRAMATTA NSW 2124; or

Deliver to:
Level 6, 16-18 Wentworth St
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150; or

Return via email to:
Email scanned copies: community.transport@transport.nsw.gov.au



ABN: 52 631 074 450

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CENTRAL NORTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY (CNRL) ORDINARY MEETING

Wednesday, 2 March 2016

Council Chambers, Level 4, Ray Walsh House

437 Peel Street Tamworth, commencing at 2pm

AGENDA

1. Welcome to Country
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Previous General Meeting 4 November 2015
4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes
5. Library Services Manager's Report
6. Quarterly Report for December 2015 (Attachment 3)
7. Spydus Upgrade Report (There will be a Spydus 10 demonstration for delegates)
8. CNRL Agreement (Attachment 4)
9. CNRL Draft Strategic Plan (Attachment 5)
10. General Business
11. Next General Meeting: Wednesday 2 November 2016.

1 Welcome

"I would like to acknowledge the Kamilaroi people who are the traditional custodians of this land. I also pay my respect to Elders, both past and present, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal people who are present today."

2 Apologies

3 Minutes of Previous General Meeting

CENTRAL NORTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY (CNRL)

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING

4 NOVEMBER 2015

Council Chambers, Level 4, Ray Walsh House

437 Peel Street Tamworth

Meeting opened at 2.36pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tamworth Regional Council

Cr Warren Woodley

Ms Kay Delahunt

Mr John Sommerlad

Ms Marian Bennett

Ms Shiralee Franks

Ms Narelle Lightfoot

Ms Megan Pitt

Ms Katey Allwell

Narrabri Shire Council

Cr Cathy Redding

Ms Jennifer Campbell

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Cr Mary Roberts

Ms Cindy Teuma

Uralla Shire Council

Ms Olivia Wood

Gwydir Shire Council

Cr Catherine Egan

Mr Tim Cox

Ms Gail Philpott
Walcha Council
Cr Bill Heazlett

1. Welcome

Cr Bill Heazlett (chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the Kamilaroi people who are the traditional custodians of the land. He paid respect to Elders past and present and extended respect to any other Aboriginal people present at the meeting

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cr Karen Disting (Uralla) and Anne Newsome (LPSC).

Motion: *That the apologies be accepted*

Moved: Cr Cathy Redding

Seconded: Cr Warren Woodley

Carried

3. Minutes from the previous meeting

Motion: *That the minutes of the previous meeting held 10 June 2015, be accepted as a true and accurate record.*

Moved: Cr Mary Roberts

Seconded: Cr Cathy Redding

Carried

4. Business arising from Previous Minutes

No business arising.

5. Library Services Manager's Report

Kay Delahunt reported on the success of the One Book-One Region program. Copies of The Rosie Project were sent to branches, either as additions for the collection, or as copies to distribute in the community. Kay commended the branches on their level of involvement in helping to promote the event.

Library Services is now part of the Destination Tamworth Directorate within Tamworth Regional Council.

All professional positions have now been filled at Tamworth Library. Two part-time library assistant positions are soon to be advertised.

Tamworth staff members with long service and annual leave balances that need to be reduced have been placed on leave plans. This includes some CNRL designated staff.

The CWA Country of Study for 2016 is Mongolia. The CNRL Discover Team will again be preparing a webpage and social media pages to promote this to CWA branches in the region and across the state.

Narrabri Library was awarded Winner Innovation in Business at the Narrabri 2015 Business Awards.

CNRL is applying for a 2015/16 Public Library Infrastructure Grant for four NAO Humanoid robots. These will provide the opportunity for CNRL communities to learn basic coding skills. Applications include software which can be used with autistic children.

Several CNRL staff members have enrolled in Cultural Connections: Library Services for Indigenous Australians, a 3 week online course run by ALIA through Sydney Tafe. The course identifies ways for libraries to engage and support the indigenous community.

The Regional Library Models Research Project report is yet to be released.

Motion: *That the Library Services Manager's report be received and noted.*

Moved: *Cr Warren Woodley*

Seconded: *Cr Cathy Redding*

Carried

6. Quarterly Report for September 2015

Motion: *That the CNRL Quarterly Report for September 2015 be received and noted.*

Moved: *Cr Warren Woodley*

Seconded: *Cr Catherine Egan*

Carried

7. Children's Services Report

Katey Allwell reported that Tamworth Library has participated in the second stage of a research project being conducted by the State Library of NSW in partnership with Macquarie University.

Six branches held family storytime events as part of 'The Reading Hour'.

CNRL branches participated in Book Week 2015.

The storytime kit collection has been refreshed . Branches now have access to the kits on a rotational basis.

Motion: *That the Children's Services Report be received and noted*

Moved : *Cr Mary Roberts*

Seconded: *Cr Catherine Egan*

Carried

8. Digital and Communications Librarian's Report

Marian Bennett reported on the Spydus User's Network (SPUN) conference recently held in Sydney.

The Discovery OPAC, Requests, Housebound and Helpdesk modules are in the process of redesign.

CNRL will be upgrading to Sypdus V10.1.3 in late November and will 'Go Live' in mid December.

Branches will be supplied with tablets which will enable staff to access Spydus away from the desk and to also demonstrate the use of the library's downloadable content. Wireless access to Spydus will also allow remote use when providing outreach to villages.

Spydus has developed a data analysis and reporting tool, Spydus BI, which will soon be offered to Australian client libraries at a cost yet to be released.

Marian reported on continuing investigations into RFID technology and the experiences of other libraries.

Cr Bill Heazlett asked for a demonstration of Spydus 10 at the next meeting.

Motion: *That the Digital and Communications Librarian's Report be received and noted.*

Moved: Cr Catherine Redding

Seconded: Cr Warren Woodley

Carried

9. Goonoo Goonoo Station Oral History Report

Shiralee Franks reported on the progress of the project. Professor Janis Wilton has been engaged to train staff. The training included the preparation of a manual which will be able to be used as a template for future projects. To date, two interviews have taken place, with others in the planning stages. Interviews will be uploaded to Spydus and made accessible on the internet.

Motion: *That the Goonoo Goonoo Station Oral History Project report be received and noted.*

Moved: Cr Catherine Egan

Seconded: Cr Warren Woodley

Carried

10. Draft Budget 2016/17

Kay Delahunt presented the 2015/16 Draft Budget. Council contributions in the draft budget remain at \$12.20 per capita, the same as in 2014-15.

Motion: *That in relation to the report on CNRL Budgets, the CNRL Committee:*

(i) receive and note the Budget versus Actual Report for 2014/15

(ii) receive and note the Movements in cash reserves as at 30 June 2015

(iii) consider the Draft Budget for 2016/17 and, in accordance with the requirements of the CNRL Regional Library Agreement, provide written comments to Tamworth Regional Council by 15 January 2016

Moved: Cr Cathy Redding

Seconded: Cr Catherine Egan

Carried

11. General Business

A video on the use of the library 3D printer by the North West Cancer Centre to make customised shields for radiotherapy was shown.

Meeting closed 3.50pm

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

5. Library Services Manager's Report:

5.1 CWA Country of Study

The Central Northern Regional Library has again provided a website for the Country Women's Association (CWA) Country of Study. This year the country is Mongolia. Library staff have put together a number of links that will aid people in researching information on Mongolia. A Facebook page has also been updated to showcase current news articles about the country of study. This is a great way to keep up-to-date with what is currently happening in Mongolia

5.2 Makerspace Workshops at CNRL branches in January

Building on the success of last year's pop-up makerspace program, CNRL staff facilitated makerspace workshops across the region in January 2016. Visits were made to all CNRL branches and also included an outreach visit to Bingara Vacation Care. This year's makerspace theme 'Lost Worlds' extended the theme of the Summer Reading Club program. Over 90 children and their parents and caregivers across the region participated in the makerspace sessions. Participants were encouraged to explore the theme using a range of craft materials. The program aims to encourage discovery and exploration, and provides an opportunity for young people to develop their creativity through "making".

5.3 Summer Reading Club

During the December /January School Holidays, CNRL branch staff encouraged young library patrons to discover underwater worlds, alternate universes and more, as part of the popular Summer Reading Club program. Led by the State Library of Queensland, in partnership with the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) and other state and public libraries the Summer Reading Club is an annual program delivered in libraries and online.

A total of 392 children participated in the Summer Reading Club across the CNRL region. Outreach visits promoting the Summer Reading Club were carried out at local schools in Boggabri and Werris Creek. The visits aimed to raise the profile of the Summer Reading Club program in the respective communities, and have resulted in a 275% increase on last year's registrations. The program aims to encourage a continued love of reading and ongoing multi-literacy skill development amongst young people during the summer holidays. Key outcomes for CNRL branches are to engage with young people and to motivate young people to read and engage with library collections.

5.4 New Baby Book Pack Collection for Quirindi Library

Quirindi Library has received funding through the Shenhua Community Grants Program to establish a new Ten Minutes a Day – Baby Book Pack collection. The new collection will target children aged birth to 2 years. The collection aims to provide a foundation for early literacy development by providing book packs that encourage parents to share and experience the love of reading with their baby. Each pack has been carefully selected to suit the developmental needs of children 2 years and under and includes two board books, a nursery rhyme CD and laminated nursery rhyme sheet. The collection is expected to be launched early March 2015.

To promote the launch of Quirindi Library's new Baby Book Pack collection, Youth Services staff will run a Ten Minutes a Day – Baby Book Time Workshop program for parents at Quirindi Library commencing on Tuesday 23 February 2016. The program will run for the four weeks leading up to the collection launch. The workshops are designed to give parents practical ideas for using stories, rhymes, songs and music to help babies develop early literacy skills

5.5 3D Printing Presentation at the SLNSW

Youth and Outreach Services Librarian, Katey Allwell delivered a presentation on 3D printing and its application in libraries at the **State Library of NSW**. The presentation included information about how 3D printing works, background information on how CNRL established 3D printing facilities, and how this has been used to engage the community. The presentation was an opportunity to highlight and share with other libraries the model currently being used to deliver 3D printing workshops to young people at Tamworth Library. 3D printing is part of library programming designed to promote development of STEM skills (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths).

5.6 Beamafilm (This service will be demonstrated for delegates)

Beamafilm is a film streaming service that offers access to hundreds of documentaries and independent features from a number of different countries. New films are frequently being added to the database. Library patrons are able to access the films by logging in to the library website, clicking on the **research** drop down box, selecting **online databases** and then selecting **Beamafilm**. Once they have entered their library card number they have free access to all the films. The films can be viewed on a number of devices including smartphones, tablets, PC's and television via HDMI cable. CNRL is licensed to screen Beamafilm movies to groups of up to 30 people.

5.7 The Computer School

The Computer School is an interactive online computer and technology training directory. It provides an extensive and comprehensive range of self-paced computer skills training material

covering popular computer programs. Library members will have access to hundreds of user friendly tutorials containing step-by-step instructions with easy to follow screen shots, practical exercises and activities. The tutorials and lessons cover topics such as: Computer Basics, Technology Basics, Tablets, Mobile Devices and Apps, Microsoft, Apple, Samsung, Androids, Google, Social Media and Networking, Digital Photography, PhotoShop, Dreamweaver and more.

The Computer School is a tool for library staff and their customers. Library staff may use the tutorials themselves to learn about various technologies and computer software as part of their own professional development. Library customers can be assisted to use the tutorials if they are inquiring about help with computer software or technologies. They may access The Computer School from the library or from home. There is also the opportunity for branch staff to use The Computer School to train small groups.

5.8 Country Music Storytimes

To celebrate the Country Music Festival, Tamworth Library hosted two Country Music Storytimes. The 2015 Queen of Country Music, Katrina Higgins, presented storytime to a group of 40 parents and children. The event included a craft session where children made their own crown to take home. Gore Young Ambassador, Nicole Parry, read a book by New Zealand author Kat Merewether "Kiwi's First Egg" and presented it to the library to add to the collection. Amber Lawrence also visited the Tamworth Library with her guitar, to present storytime and promote the upcoming release of her first children's album. Amber read a story and shared with the crowd of 60 her new song about Grandmas.

5.9 SWITCH Conference

SWITCH 2015 was held at Australian Technology Park, Eveleigh NSW from November 17-20. The conference was attended by Cr Bill Heazlett, Cr Cathy Redding, Kay Delahunt, Jenny Campbell, Marilyn Deeks, Shiralee Franks and Ita Hanssens. This year the conference focused heavily on sustainability and partnerships. Keynote speakers included Mark Hynes, Director of Corporate Affairs, London Borough of Lambeth and Siobhan Reardon President & Director of the Free Library of Philadelphia. Mark's presentation was titled ***Libraries in the Age of Austerity - a UK Perspective*** and Siobhan talked about ***Community Partnerships – Happy Marriages or Strange Bedfellows....*** The conference included numerous short presentations from library innovators, particularly showcasing innovative new programs including City of Sydney's *Pop Up Libraries*, Camden's *Books Unbound* outreach and technology help, Warringah's 1950's caravan "Marilyn" and it's exciting outreach use, Randwick's *Beach Library* and most exciting of all the *Manly Virtual Library*. The presentations can be accessed at <http://nswpla.org.au/switch2015/>

The 2016 Switch Conference will be held in Ulladulla from Nov 22-25.

5.10 CNRL member contributions 2014-15

An error has been identified in the per capita contribution amounts that CNRL Councils were invoiced in 2014-15. The contributions (as invoiced) were not based on the correct population figures. The contributions are calculated on the population figures used by the Library Council of New South Wales to determine the library subsidy. This information is released after the draft CNRL budget has been prepared. Revised contribution figures have been calculated to match the subsidy population. CNRL Councils were invoiced, in total, an additional \$7,782. Invoices for 2015-16 contributions will be adjusted to compensate for this. (see attachments 1 & 2) In order to meet the budgeted CNRL income for 2015-16 a movement from reserves of \$7,782 will be required.

5.11 Spydus 10 and electronic payments

Currently member councils retain fines money collected at their branches. Spydus 10 introduces the ability to pay fines and charges online. It is proposed that all fines money collected at branches be kept by the member Council and that at the end of the financial year a report of electronic payment of fines be generated and member Councils reimbursed for the fines paid online by their local borrowers.

Recommendations:

- i) That the Library Services Manager's Report be received and noted
- ii) That the movement of \$7,782 from reserves be approved
- iii) That reimbursements to member Councils for fines collected electronically occur annually at June 30.

6. Quarterly report for December 2015 (Attachment 3)

Recommendation: That the CNRL Quarterly Report for December 2015 be received and noted.

7. Spydus Upgrade Report

The CNRL Spydus upgrade commenced in late October 2015. This timing allowed CNRL to take advantage of the new features in the latest release of Spydus 10. These features include responsive OPAC design and 2 factor authentication.

The TEST system was upgraded between November 10 and 12. Civica provided training on November 25 and 26 and this was attended by key staff at Tamworth. A maximum of eight staff were allowed to attend the training and all sessions were filled to capacity.

Testing of Spydus 10 commenced November 26. All CNRL branch staff were trained at a Regional Training Day held on 10 December 2015. The LIVE system upgrade took place on December 16 with branches working in Spydus Offline all day. Spydus 10 was available to all branches early on December 17 with all modules fully operational.

Spydus 10 introduces web based modules for Circulation, Enquiry, Cataloguing and Web Maintenance. These modules open in internet browser windows and do not require a software installation to operate. Web modules allow software updates to be remotely applied by Civica and ensure that all branch libraries are operating with the latest version of Spydus 10.

As part of the upgrade each CNRL branch library was provided with a Samsung tablet device. The responsive design of the web modules automatically resizes the screen to suit the device the webpage is opened on. Use of the tablet allows roving service to be conducted at each branch and provides staff with a device containing apps for resources held by the library e.g. Bolinda app & Transparent Languages Online app. Staff can now demonstrate a range of apps to clients using the Samsung tablet.

Spydus 10 introduces 2 factor authentication. This is a software method of providing a secure connection back to Spydus and means that branch staff can use their Samsung tablet at a site other than the library e.g. town hall or school. Full access to Spydus 10 modules at these locations presents a huge range of opportunities as it will allow 'on the spot' registration of clients, reservation placement and in depth enquiries to be conducted.

A new self check system was also introduced during the upgrade period. The new web based self service software provides the clients with increased options including the ability to renew their loans, alerts clients to available reservations and displays alerts not previously available to clients e.g. that they have already borrowed the item.

The new software has been customised with the CNRL logo and contains two short videos that demonstrate how to scan borrower cards and issue items.

There have been a few small teething problems with both systems; feedback from the branches has been valuable in clearly identifying the issues. Civica applied a server patch on February 10 to resolve one issue, a self service software patch on February 12 and they are working to resolve the other issues as soon as possible.

Marian Bennett

Digital & Communications Librarian

Recommendation: That the Spydus Upgrade Report be received and noted.

8. CNRL Agreement

The Central Northern Regional Library Agreement was extended for 12 months from 1 July 2015 and is due for renewal as at 30 June 2016. No changes to the agreement are recommended. The agreement will be sent to Member Councils in April to ensure there is adequate time for the document to be presented at Council Meetings. Copies of the 2010 Central Northern Regional Library Agreement and the Variation Agreement 2012 (to admit Gwydir Shire Council) are attached for delegate's reference. (Attachments 4 & 5)

Recommendation: That the current Central Northern Regional Library Agreement be renewed for a period of five years with the continued provision that Gwydir Shire Council shall not be entitled to share in reserves which existed before it became a delegating council.

9. CNRL Draft Strategic Plan (Attachment 6)

Recommendation: That the Draft CNRL Strategic Plan 2016-2021 be adopted

10. General Business

11. Next General Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of CNRL is scheduled for Wednesday 2 November 2016.



Quarterly Report December 2015



Vision Statement

CNRL councils build community by providing virtual and physical gathering places that foster lifelong learning, literacy, intellectual recreation and participation.

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Theme - libraries as community builders:

Outcome 1.1 Libraries are well sited, contemporary, accessible and appropriate to each community

(Library buildings are the responsibility of member councils)

	Responsibility	Actions	Time Frame	Performance measures	December 2015
1.1.1	CNRL	Provide advice to member councils about library buildings	Annual	Site visits and reports to OICs and branch staff	No Visits this quarter
1.1.2	<i>Member Councils</i>	Monitor existing library buildings for optimal use of space	Annual	Improvements to library layout	
1.1.3	<i>Member Councils</i>	Library buildings are well maintained	Annual	Member Councils to report annually on work completed	Narrabri Library – continues to work towards fixing foundations
1.1.4	<i>Member Councils</i>	Ensure open hours are appropriate	2011	Hourly usage monitored for sample period Results user survey	
1.1.5	CNRL	Develop an outreach plan and review service to public service outlets	2010/11	Plan implemented 2010/11	No changes this quarter
1.1.7	TRC	Work with Kootenai Community Development Committee to	Annual	TRC to report annually on floor space & building improvements	No activity this quarter

		improve/upgrade Koolaling Library	Annual			
1.1.8	LPSC	Work with Community Services Department to improve /upgrade Quirindi Library	Annual	LPSC to report annually on progress towards increased floor space , upgrade to library courtyard and refurbishing	Spinner unit for JVDs/audio books and a brochure stand supplied by LPSC for Quirindi Library	

Outcome 1.2 Branch Libraries are flexible spaces with multi format content, learning events and diverse programming

	Responsibility	Actions	Time Frame	Performance measures	December 2015																
1.2.1	CNRL	Develop a wide range of resources as outlined in the CNRL Regional Resources Policy	Quarterly /Annual	Items added Stock turnover Loans Items exchanged \$ per capita spent on resources (annual)	During the quarter 3,477 items were added to the regional catalogue of which 11 items were local studies. Weekly stock rotation took place with 7,100 books rotated in the region. Stock rotation was suspended during the Christmas / New Year period Quarterly loans for CNRL totalled 73,541. 3,099 e-audio books were downloaded and 2,271 e-books were downloaded.																
1.2.2	CNRL	Review regional resources policy to include new formats	2010	Revised policy implemented	Completed – policy reviewed in 2015																
1.2.3	Branch Staff	Source local studies items for the collection		No of local studies items added per LGA	<table><tr><td>Manilla Library</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Narrabri Library</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Nundle Library</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>South Tamworth Library</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Tamworth Library</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>Uralia Library</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Walcha Library</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Werris Creek Library</td><td>1</td></tr></table>	Manilla Library	0	Narrabri Library	0	Nundle Library	0	South Tamworth Library	0	Tamworth Library	8	Uralia Library	1	Walcha Library	1	Werris Creek Library	1
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Walcha Library	1																				
Werris Creek Library	1																				

					Total 11	The Nundle Librarian has joined the local history group and is working with them and other CNRL staff to have their resources available to the general public or published on the CNRL webpage																																																																																					
1.2.4	CNRL	Review CNRL local studies policy	2011	Revised policy implemented	Completed – policy reviewed in 2015																																																																																						
1.2.5.	CNRL & Branch Staff	Engage the community with targeted programs and events at all branches with at least one program per quarter at each branch	Quarterly	No of active book groups No of programs for adults No of programs for children Program attendance	CNRL Quarterly Programs and Attendance December 2015 <table><tr><th></th><th>Children's Programs</th><th>Attendance</th><th>Adult's Programs</th><th>Attendance</th></tr><tr><td>Barraba</td><td>1</td><td>11</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Bingara</td><td>40</td><td>1165</td><td>6</td><td>24</td></tr><tr><td>Boggabri</td><td>1</td><td>121</td><td>1</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>Kootinggal</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Manilla</td><td>9</td><td>134</td><td>11</td><td>858</td></tr><tr><td>Narrabri</td><td>80</td><td>1876</td><td>24</td><td>212</td></tr><tr><td>Nundle</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>4</td><td>26</td></tr><tr><td>Quirindi</td><td>27</td><td>108</td><td>27</td><td>182</td></tr><tr><td>South Tam</td><td>5</td><td>97</td><td>2</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>Tamworth</td><td>43</td><td>1153</td><td>60</td><td>745</td></tr><tr><td>Uralla</td><td>15</td><td>135</td><td>12</td><td>57</td></tr><tr><td>Walcha</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>3</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>Warraldra</td><td>44</td><td>1140</td><td>7</td><td>52</td></tr><tr><td>Wee Wee</td><td>4</td><td>71</td><td>3</td><td>53</td></tr><tr><td>Werris Ck</td><td>1</td><td>102</td><td>16</td><td>107</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>270</td><td>6113</td><td>178</td><td>2356</td></tr></table> <p>On November 18, Tamworth Library hosted acclaimed Australian author Judy Nunn. Judy spoke about her latest novel <i>Spirits of the Ghan</i>. Over 80 people attended the talk and asked her to sign copies of their books. On Saturday afternoon blogger and author Rosie</p>			Children's Programs	Attendance	Adult's Programs	Attendance	Barraba	1	11	0	0	Bingara	40	1165	6	24	Boggabri	1	121	1	11	Kootinggal	0	0	0	0	Manilla	9	134	11	858	Narrabri	80	1876	24	212	Nundle	0	0	4	26	Quirindi	27	108	27	182	South Tam	5	97	2	14	Tamworth	43	1153	60	745	Uralla	15	135	12	57	Walcha	0	0	3	15	Warraldra	44	1140	7	52	Wee Wee	4	71	3	53	Werris Ck	1	102	16	107	TOTAL	270	6113	178	2356
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					Waterland visited Tamworth Library to talk about her book <i>The Anti-Cool Girl</i> . Over 90 people attended the event and the queue went out the door for people to meet her and buy copies of her book. Readers' Services Librarian, Amanda Burke organised the two events which attracted different audiences.
1.2.6	CNRL	Develop a plan of children's programs and services that can be applied at branch libraries	Annual	Programs prepared for Children's Bookweek, Simultaneous Storytime Preschool Storytime modules	CNRL purchased and distributed Summer Reading Club promotional material. CNRL outreach visits promoting the Summer Reading Club were carried out at local schools in Boggabri and Werris Creek and these led to a 275% increase on last year's registrations for the program.
1.2.7	CNRL & Branch Staff	Inform the community about library events	Quarterly	Marketing strategy No of times library receives media coverage	Newspaper coverage occurred throughout the region

Outcome 1.3 Library services are inclusive

	Responsibility	Actions	Time Frame	Performance measures	December 2015
1.3.1	CNRL Member Councils	Provide home library service to household residents	Monthly service Quarterly reporting	No of household clients receiving service per branch	TRC – 84 individuals and 8 institutions Narrabri Shire – 4 institutions @ Narrabri & 3 clients @ Boggabri LPSC – does not have home library service Uralla Shire – 16 clients 1 Seniors Assist Walcha Shire – 3 clients Gwydir - 3 individuals and 3 institutions
1.3.3	CNRL Branch Staff	Actively seek/foster partnerships with both mainstream	Report quarterly on progress	No of programs for targeted sectors No of attendees	Challenge groups attending Quirindi, Werris Creek, Tamworth and South Tamworth Libraries for several hours a week listening to music, listening to stories, watching films and reading Juvenile Justice meet with their clients at the Quirindi Library

		and socially isolated sectors of the community			Knitting groups are hosted at multiple branches Deliveries to remote clients (Bingara), Digital Hub programs (Tamworth) Gwydir provide activities for Work for the Dole participants Gwydir provides work experience for a year 10 student living with a disability
1.3.4	Member Councils	Libraries have disability access	Member councils to report annually on progress	Libraries included in council disability access plan Progress with implementation of disability action plan.	No activity reported this quarter

Outcome 1.4 The regional library is tuned into the communities it serves and responsive to local needs

	Responsibility	Actions	Time Frame	Performance measures	December 2015
1.4.1	CNRL	Undertake ongoing consultation with branch libraries with face to face visits	Annual	List of consultations that have taken place (at least one per annum)	No visits this quarter
1.4.3	CNRL	Consultation with member council library OIC's	Annual	Visit by Library Services Manager & Executive Officer at least once per annum.	No face to face activity this quarter

Theme - libraries as online community

Libraries are changing from being service providers to facilitating the creation of content. For the library service to provide the information that people require, resources must include all formats including information that is "born digital". Social networking technologies facilitate the ability to find, share and combine information.

Outcome 2.1: The Library website encourages user participation and local content

	Responsibility	Actions	Time Frame	Performance measures	December 2015
2.1.1	CNRL	Develop a website marketing plan	Feb 2011	Progress with marketing plan	
2.1.2	CNRL	Social networking opportunities used to increase participation on the library website	As new technologies become available – Report annually 2010-11	Number of book reviews added to the site Other social networking activities Introduce new measures with each new technology implemented	Facebook used at Tamworth, Quirindi, Werris Creek, Kootingal, Nundle and Barraba Libraries. Pinterest and Facebook used to promote the CWA Country of Study The library webpage / web catalogue was redesigned to include drop down menus and an image carousel for event promotion.
2.1.3.	CNRL/ Branch Staff	Build and share local knowledge and resources using social networking technologies	As new technologies become available – Report annually 2010-11	Items of local studies content added to the website	The upgrade to Spydus 10 has made uploading Oral History interviews possible. Two interviews have been uploaded and can be accessed when logged into the library catalogue. Sixteen local studies photographs have been uploaded to the CNRL database this quarter.
2.1.4	CNRL	Continue to develop the website to improve functionality and maintain modern corporate image	Review website quarterly	Web hits User survey 2011 e-audio downloads Podcast use Other measures as appropriate	3,099 e-audio accesses this quarter compared to 1,827 for the same quarter last year.(70% increase) 35,262 database searches compared to 22,178 for the same quarter last year (59% increase) 2,271 e book uses compared to 1,638 in the previous year (39% decrease)

Theme - maximizing value of technology

Modern libraries use technology for continuous improvement and to develop services

Outcome 3.1: Technology meets community and industry expectations

	Responsibility	Actions	Time Frame	Performance measures	December 2015
3.1.1	CNRL	Continue to upgrade library management system annually	Annual	Upgrade completion	Spydus 10 upgrade took place October to December 2015
3.1.2	CNRL	Actively participate in library management system user group	Attend SPUN conference October 2010- Report annually	Attendance user meetings and Spydus conference	SPUN List Serv – Participation on the List Serv with questions being posted and assistance given to other libraries.
3.1.3	Member Councils	Provide fast accessible public access Internet @ all service points	2010-2011	PAPCs meet bandwidth requirements	Tamworth Library moved to NSW.net for public access Internet
3.1.4	CNRL	Investigate and report on new technologies to optimize service delivery.	Annual	Systems & Technology Librarian's report	Digital and Communications Librarian presented a report at the CNRL November 2015 Ordinary Meeting
3.1.5.	CNRL	Develop marketing strategies for new electronic resources as they are introduced	As each technology is introduced 2010-11	Strategies in place	No change this quarter

Theme - flexible, team oriented and skilled staff

Outcome 4.1 Staff aligned with strategic outcomes

	Responsibility	Actions	Time Frame	Performance measures	December 2015
4.1.1	TRC	TRC and Admin staff position profiles reviewed as appropriate	As positions become vacant 2010-11	No of position profiles reviewed	No new appointments this quarter.
4.1.2	TRC	TRC Library staff skills assessments carried out	Annual	Skills assessments carried out	Current training plan in place until 30 June 2016
4.1.3	Branch Staff	Branch staff provide reports that relate to strategic outcomes	Monthly	Reports completed	Reports received from library staff at Tamworth, Narrabri, Liverpool Plains, Gwydir, Uralla and Walcha
4.1.4	CNRL	Investigate a succession planning strategy that documents procedures and develops staff skills	2010-11	Strategy investigated with feedback from TRC Employee Services Staff	No activity this quarter
4.1.5	CNRL	Celebrate success and recognise achievements	Annual	Highlights & achievements reported in CNRL quarterly reports	

Outcome 4.2 There is a culture of learning and staff are skilled and confident

	Responsibility	Actions	Time Frame	Performance measures	December 2015
4.2.1	TRC	Staff development programs are available, relevant and interesting	Annual	Programs offered as per annual training plan Program attendances	A Regional Training Day took place on December 10 Several staff completed the ALIA online course Cultural Connections: Library Services for Indigenous Australians

4.2.2	CNRL	Promote a culture of innovation, flexibility and risk taking	Annual	No of new initiatives	Tamworth Library is preparing for an automated print management system Youth and Outreach Services Librarian, Katey Allwell delivered a presentation on 3D printing and its application in libraries, at the State Library of NSW. The presentation included information about how 3D printing works, background information on how Tamworth Library established the 3D printing facilities and how it has been used to engage the community. The presentation was an opportunity to highlight and share with other libraries the model currently being used to deliver 3D printing workshops for young people at Tamworth Library. 3D printing is part of library programming designed to promote development of STEM skills (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths).
4.2.3.	CNRL & <i>Member Councils</i>	Encourage attendance at and participation in regional training days, conferences and the public library professional community	Quarterly	Attendance at training	A Regional Training Day was held on December 10 SPUN conference October 20-23 attended by Marian Bennett SWITCH Conference attended by Cr Bill Heazlett, Cr Cathy Redding, Kay Delahunt, Jenny Campbell, Marilyn Deeks, Shiralee Franks and Ita Hanssens Katey Allwell & Kay Delahunt attended the Justin Hoenke presentation at the State Library of NSW Several staff completed the ALIA online course Cultural Connections: Library Services for Indigenous Australians
4.2.4.	CNRL	Provide CNRL induction training to all new staff in the CNRL region	As new staff are recruited 2010-11	All staff have attended induction	CNRL training provided for Madison Garrad (Walchra) October 27
4.2.5	CNRL	Provide regional training days for CNRL staff	Quarterly	No of regional training days per year	Regional Training Day held December 10 – Spydus Upgrade Training

Theme - responsible finance & governance

Outcome 5.1 – CNRL Committee kept informed and participate in policy making and strategic planning

	Responsibility	Actions	Time Frame	Performance measures	December 2015
5.1.1	CNRL	CNRL management meetings take place	2x year (November & February)	Meetings take place	The CNRL Annual General Meeting and CNRL Ordinary Meeting took place at Tamworth on November 4.
5.2.2	TRC Finance	Annual Financial Statements prepared	Annual	Financial statements prepared and adopted	CNRL Financial Statements presented to the Committee November 4
5.2.3	CNRL	CNRL Annual Report	Annual	Report prepared and adopted	CNRL Annual Report completed and presented to the Committee on November 4
5.2.4	CNRL	CNRL Quarterly performance review	Quarterly	Reports completed and distributed to delegates & OICs quarterly	Quarterly reports completed

Outcome 5.2 Systems, processes and performance regularly reviewed

	Responsibility	Actions		Performance measures	March 2015
5.2.1	CNRL	Implement continuous improvement by streamlining key processes and documenting new procedures	Review processes twice annually	Workflow improvements	Workflow changes implemented with Spydus 10 upgrade
5.2.2	CNRL	Monitor library performance by producing regular statistical reports, participating in PLEG , completing the annual statistical return for the SLNSW and	Quarterly & Annual	PLEG SLNSW annual statistical return CNRL quarterly report CNRL annual report	All reporting requirements met this quarter. CNRL Quarterly Report completed.

		completing CNRL quarterly and annual reports			
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Outcome 5.3 – Funding is maximized and budget/asset management is realistic and sustainable

	Responsibility	Actions	Time Frame	Performance measures	December 2015
5.3.1	CNRL & Member Councils	Advocate for improved state and federal funding for libraries	Attend PLC meetings May & Oct	Attendance PLC meetings	Cr Bill Heazlett and Kay Delahunt attended the PLNSW meeting held at Eveleigh on November 20
5.3.2	CNRL	Prepare library development grant applications for regional projects	September	Applications prepared	No activity this quarter.
5.3.3	CNRL	Explore partnership opportunities	2010-11	No of new partnerships	
5.3.4	CNRL	Prepare CNRL budget	November /Annual	Budget presented to CNRL Committee and approved by Member Councils	Draft 2016-17 budget prepared and presented to the CNRL Committee on November 4
5.3.5.	TRC Finance Member Councils	Statement of Library Operations for CNRL & Member Councils submitted to SLNSW by deadline	Annual	All statements submitted to SLNSW	In progress
5.3.6	CNRL	Advise and support member councils in the preparation of LGA	September	Incidents where assistance provided	Tamworth Regional Council submitted an application in this funding round. The application was for Nao Robots for use throughout the CNRL Region. All CNRL Councils provided letters of support.

		library development grant applications				
5.3.7	CNRL	Asset replacement budgeted for and replacement schedule in place	Annual	Asset replacement takes place	New cyberoams were installed, modems replaced and switches installed. Samsung tablets were provided to all branches with screen protectors in place.	
5.3.8	Joint CNRL/ <i>Branch staff</i>	Stocktake of regional library resources takes place	Every 2 years	Stocktake report	Stocktake will now take place every five years. Stocktake is a staff intensive activity and the 2011 stocktake indicated a low stock loss rate for CNRL. The option exists to schedule mini-stocktakes for high turnover collections and locations.	



**AUSTRALIAN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

**National General Assembly of Local
Government**

19 - 22 June 2016

Call for Motions Discussion Paper

**'Partners in an Innovative and
Prosperous Future'**

Motions should be lodged electronically at www.alga.asn.au no later than

11:59pm on Friday 22 April 2016.

Preamble

The 2016 National General Assembly (NGA) is most likely to be held in the lead up to the next Federal election. During this time, all national political parties focus on leadership, key messages, marginal seats and political campaigning. National policy initiatives enter the public domain and all Australians are asked to engage in the political process and choose between competing ideas, election promises and the numerous candidates across the nation.

Last year's NGA theme was '*Closest to the People - Local government in the Federation*'. The theme reinforced the vital role of local government in Australia's system of government. It built on the Government's Federation White Paper process, which sought to clarify roles and responsibilities of the levels of government and potentially better align funding with respective responsibilities. It also acknowledged the development of a Green Paper on Taxation. The NGA greatly assisted ALGA in its advocacy and participation in the reform process.

Since then there has been much debate on taxation reform, which will culminate at the 2016 Federal election.

In December 2015 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) reset the national political dialogue. COAG committed to:

'... close collaboration in areas of shared responsibility, including competition, tax, innovation, infrastructure, cities and regulation, as well as in health and education.'

COAG leaders agreed the principles for a new national economic reform agenda should be:

'...to deliver for all Australians no matter where they live:

- a stronger, more productive and more innovative Australian economy, with more jobs, more opportunities and higher living standards
- fairness and equity, with protection for disadvantaged and lower income Australians, and
- more efficient and high quality services.'

The theme of the 2016 NGA – '*Partners in an Innovative and Prosperous Future*' – invites councils from across Australia to consider the role of local government in this agenda, and how councils can play their role in the delivery of these objectives.

Many of the services and infrastructure provided by councils are not only critical to the social, cultural and environmental well-being of their communities, but also to the economic prosperity of their regions and the nation more broadly.

The NGA debate on motions and associated discussions will seek to highlight how local government can be more agile in delivering those services to communities, as well as send a strong and unified message to the Commonwealth.

Introduction

The 2016 NGA theme is '*Partners in an Innovative and Prosperous Future*'.

This year, the NGA debate on motions and associated discussions will seek to highlight how local government can be more efficient and effective. The discussions will look at how local government, working in partnership with other levels of government, the private sector and the not-for-profit sector, can innovate and create a prosperous future for the community it serves.

This year's theme builds on the work of the 2015 NGA which focused on local government's role in the Federation. The Commonwealth Federation Discussion Paper 2015 sets a context in which motions for this year's NGA should be developed.

The theme '*Partners in an Innovative and Prosperous Future*' seeks to focus attention on the role that local government can play in creating a prosperous Australia. The Federation Discussion Paper notes that Australia today is very different from the country it was at the time of Federation and poses the fundamental question: '... does [the Federation] provide the system of national governance that Australians need right now, and will it help or hinder efforts to adapt and thrive in the vastly different economic, political and social realities of the 21st century?'

To put this question in a local government context:

Are the government systems (including our own), processes and priorities, in many cases set up decades ago, still appropriate today?

Are they delivering accessible and fair systems and are they a help or hindrance? Do they facilitate business activity and contribute to higher living standards, or are they a drag on the local economy? Are they necessary or do they duplicate effort?

Technological change has created opportunities, making many traditional models of business and government obsolete. Have these opportunities been taken up?

Participatory democracy is being enhanced through empowering individuals and local communities with new knowledge and new ways of engaging with each other and with governments. Are these opportunities been captured?

Australian productivity and living standards are comparatively high by world standards. However, the current national productivity and reform debate recognises that without reform, Australia risks being left behind on the world stage—meaning fewer jobs, lower economic growth, and reduced living standards.

COAG has responded positively to this challenge. All governments have committed to collaborate particularly in areas of shared responsibility, including competition, tax, innovation, infrastructure, cities and regulation, as well as health and education.

The 2016 NGA seeks motions that suggest reform, innovation in government operations and opportunities to partner with local government that will support Australia's prosperity.

Local government role in national productivity

Over several decades, the NGA has called on the Australian Government to recognise the importance of greater levels of investment in local and regional infrastructure. This advocacy has been, in part, built on equity considerations as well as productivity considerations.

The NGA has called on the Australian Government to increase Financial Assistance Grants and Roads to Recovery (R2R) funding. These calls have been predominantly based on the need for the Commonwealth to help achieve horizontal equity (i.e. an equitable level of municipal services across the country) and the need to assist local councils to rebuild and maintain local infrastructure, particularly roads.

The rationale for permanent R2R funding and additional freight investment is that essentially the purpose of R2R is to restore the capacity of local roads to a standard able to sustain social and economic services, whereas additional funding through freight investment would be required to improve the standard of roads to meet the higher service levels required to handle higher productivity vehicles and significantly higher volumes of freight traffic.

The NGA's calls to the Australian Government have also sought recognition that local infrastructure provides important economic services. Local roads, for example, are an essential component of the national road network and therefore add to local and regional productivity and, in aggregate, make a significant contribution to state and national productivity.

Community infrastructure also plays an important role in local and regional economic development by enhancing the quality of life for residents as well as helping to attract and retain population, skilled workers and a local and regional workforce. The State of the Regions Report in 2015, commissioned by ALGA and written by National Economics, showed that there is a strong economic rationale for ensuring that all regions in Australia prosper. The report confirmed OECD findings that regional inequality reduces national productivity.

Local government's objectives in local economic development are diverse. They recognise local circumstances, availability of resources and the impact of external factors such as privatisation, technological change, globalisation and structural industry changes. For some councils, particularly in rural and regional areas, the focus is on stemming the decline in population, loss of businesses and local employment. For others, it is a focus on working with local businesses and the local community to optimise economic development and opportunities for the area.

Local government can facilitate and support economic development but it is frequently criticised for impeding economic development by imposing additional costs on business including through regulation, creating red-tape, providing unsuitable infrastructure etc.

Australian councils contribute significantly to the productivity and economy of their regions by focusing their efforts in three key strategic areas:

- creating and maintaining the investment environment – ensuring the availability of appropriate physical and social infrastructure, striving to deliver a quality public domain, and ensuring sufficient housing diversity and lobbying on behalf of local and regional communities for sufficient community services such as education and training, health and well-being, community safety and emergency services
- facilitating new local investment – actively promoting business development through facilitating local economic development, strategic planning, working with business

associations/main street organisations, and active involvement with tourism or other business activities, and

- attracting external investment through the creation of new business and capital – working with regional bodies such as RDA, Austrade and developers to attract and create new businesses and investment.

Local government has a key role to play in the provision of support services and infrastructure that underpins local and regional economic development, and therefore local government plays an essential part in achieving higher productivity. In broad terms, actions geared to creating and maintaining the investment environment in local and regional communities are considered to be of prime importance to a majority of local councils and it is this area that ALGA has focused its greatest attention.

Local government is a natural leader in local economic development because councils know their local business communities, workforce and comparative advantages better than anyone else. Local people and businesses are the key to economic growth and development and councils are perfectly positioned to work with local stakeholders to drive a bottom-up, place-based approach to achieve prosperity. Every council's economic development activity will be different according to the unique structures and needs of their local economies, as well as the capacity of the council and community.

Questions

Given the importance of local and regional infrastructure are there any national initiatives that could further assist local government to support local and regional productivity?

Are there areas of reform that local government can explore to enhance economic development and productivity?

Partnering

The term *partner* as a noun is defined as '... a person who takes part in an undertaking with another or others, especially in a business or firm with shared risks and profits.' In the context of the 2016 NGA, it can be interpreted as '.... how councils can take part in an undertaking with others, including sharing the risk, for the benefit of the community'.

Local government provides a vast array of services and local infrastructure, often in partnership with others including other governments, the private sector, the community and not-for-profit sector.

Example of partnerships include:

- the provision of a local swimming pool in partnership with the private sector, or a not-for-profit organisation, that provides the management service of that facility
- the provision of Meals on Wheels in partnership with the community not-for-profit sector delivering meals to residents at their homes, and
- the provision of Home and Community Care (HACC) to targeted groups of clients in the municipality, in partnership with the federal and state governments which provide funding.

Other examples include:

- councils partnering with a university to provide locally-relevant research to inform decisions on issues such as development applications in areas that could be effected by sea level change
- partnering with other councils to share resources and skills, and
- partnering with the private sector to develop new and innovative ways of delivering services, such as electronic planning or apps to report pot holes.

A key feature of each of these examples is that each party brings different expertise, skills, resources and experiences to the specific undertaking. The combination of these skills, expertise and resources frequently results in innovation and the provision of a service in a way that would not be possible by either party separately.

An alliance between local government and other partners creates new opportunities for business as well as innovative services, increased efficiency, cost savings and more accessible service to the benefit of the community.

Questions

Please note, where local government is mentioned in the following questions it refers to local government as a whole, not specific proposals for partnerships at a single council level. Questions are designed to draw out new ideas that could transform the delivery of services and infrastructure at a systemic level.

Are there new opportunities for the Australian Government to partner with local government to deliver Commonwealth services at the local level? What would be the role of the Commonwealth in such a partnership? How would this benefit the community?

Are there partnerships that could be developed to maximise the opportunities to innovate and provide simpler, smarter and more reliable services and infrastructure at the local level? If so, what are these opportunities and what would be the role of the Commonwealth in supporting these partnerships?

Are there opportunities for the private sector to partner with local government to speed up and improve a local government service or function? What role could the Commonwealth play in facilitating these opportunities?

Innovation

The Australian Government has declared its strong support for innovation. The Government's National Innovation and Science Agenda says innovation is:

'... at the heart of a strong economy—from IT to healthcare, defence and transport—it keeps us competitive, at the cutting edge, creates jobs and maintains our high standard of living. It's not just about new ideas, products and business models; innovation is also about creating a culture where we embrace risk, move quickly to back good ideas and learn from mistakes.'

The statement has a focus on a range of objectives including:

- entrepreneurship and leveraging our public research
- increasing collaboration between industry and researchers to find solutions to real world problems and to create jobs and growth
- developing and attracting world-class talent for the jobs of the future, and
- government leading by example by embracing innovation and agility in the way we do business.

Questions

What is the role of local government in this innovation agenda?

Are these objectives relevant to local government itself? For example, is its role in increasing collaboration between industry and researchers to find solutions to real-world problems and to create jobs and growth? If so, how can these solutions be shared to the benefit of all councils and their communities. How could the Australian Government help this to occur?

What can local government bring to the table as a partner? For example, does local government hold data that, having regard to privacy issues, could be shared with the private sector which could put it to innovative uses? How could the Australian Government support this?

Are there digital innovations that could be introduced to local government that would increase the efficiency of businesses working with local government and vice-versa. How could the Australian Government support this?

Is there a role for local government to help innovative start-ups to rapidly transform their ideas into globally competitive businesses by giving them mentorship, funding, resources, knowledge and access to business networks? If so, how could the Australian Government support this?

Resourcing

In the 2014-15 Federal Budget, the Government committed to provide \$2.2867 billion in Local Government Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs). However, the Government also announced it would pause the indexation of FAGs for the three years following that budget.

FAGs are a Commonwealth Specific Purpose Payment to local government paid through the State and Territory Governments. Payments are made to councils by jurisdictional Treasurers on the advice of state and territory Local Government Grants Commissions under the provisions of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*.

The objects of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* enable the Commonwealth Parliament to provide assistance to the states for the purposes of improving:

- (a) the financial capacity of local governing bodies
- (b) the capacity of local governing bodies to provide their residents with an equitable level of services
- (c) the certainty of funding for local governing bodies
- (d) the efficiency and effectiveness of local governing bodies, and
- (e) the provision by local governing bodies of services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Freezing the indexation of FAG's will reduce Commonwealth expenditures (and grants to councils) by more than \$925 million over the forward estimates. The freeze also means that the aggregate level of FAGs will be permanently reduced by almost 13 per cent, unless there is a future government decision to restore this base with a catch-up payment.

Councils are invited to submit motions to address this issue.

Wooldridge Fossicking Reserve

Management Plan

2015 – 2017



Version	Review Date	Reviewer	Approved
		Uralla Shire Council	

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1. Introduction

The Wooldridge Fossicking Area is located in the Uralla Shire and forms part of the historical gold mining precinct adjacent to the township of Uralla. The Reserve (Crown Reserve No. R91185) was gazetted for Public Recreation on 7 July 1978 (Uralla Parish Map, sheet reference 1).

The scenic and environmental quality of the Reserve, with the mix of a creek with permanent water flows and bushland, provides a peaceful and varied setting for the following activities:

- Fossicking for gold and precious gems
- Picnicking, fishing, swimming, walking (including walking dogs)
- Environmental and heritage education (e.g. school excursions)
- Bird watching
- Photography
- Camping

In addition, the Reserve is considered by Council to be an important environmental asset. Uralla Shire Council and the community greatly value it for its recreational and ecological value. Its successful management is a high priority for Council.

This Management Plan has been formulated through research of historical documents (including the Uralla Shire Council Biodiversity Strategy, November 2012, J Hunter, W Hawes, T Sonter, The Envirofactor Pty Ltd Inverell NSW 2360), ground survey, consultation with residents, the Uralla Shire Bush Regeneration Team and reference to advice from the New England Weeds Authority.

1.1 Purpose for this plan of management

Council has not prepared a plan of management for Wooldridge Fossicking Reserve before, so why now? Firstly, the intent of placing land into management through the Reserve Trust system allows a mechanism for community participation in defining the values associated with the Reserve and gives them a say in the decision making process around that land.

Since 1978 (when the Reserve was entrusted to Council for management) new legislation covering the roles and responsibilities of Councils, Crown Lands, and management of the environment has been introduced or changed. For example, Councils now have an obligation to control weeds and protect threatened native flora and fauna on land under their care and control.

Council's aim is to balance expectations of use by the public with the accepted values of the Reserve. Certain activities are incompatible with the values of the ecological and passive recreational value of the Reserve. Quad and motorbike riding off track through native vegetation is a prime example. A Management Plan provides one means through which Council can determine those activities that will and will not be compatible with managing the Reserve to protect its values.

The need to consolidate information about the Reserve and clearly stating what, why, how and by whom the values of the Reserve are being managed serves a practical purpose and allows us to record historical, social, and environmental information to inform good governance practice.

Limitations of this Plan

The cultural heritage value of the site for Aboriginal people is unknown to Council. Further research and consultation with local Anaiwan representatives is needed to incorporate an appropriate understanding of the cultural values of the site and the appropriate management of those values.

Much remains unknown about the ecological values of the Reserve. A better understanding of the natural health of the Reserve and its ecological communities will evolve over time. As further information and data becomes available it will be incorporated into this Management Plan.

2. Location and Tenure

The Reserve's purpose is listed as "Public Recreation" and was gazetted on 7 August 1978 with management being devolved to the Uralla Shire Council.

The Reserve is accessed via Devoncourt Road and is situated approximately 2km northwest of Uralla. The Reserve is 35ha in size within Lot 3 DP 755816. It attracts daily visitors from the local community and day or overnight visitors from around the country. Map 1 indicates the geographic location of the Reserve with respect to the township of Uralla. The Reserve is zoned RU2 Rural Landscape.

3. Description

The Reserve is predominantly undulating woodland with granite outcrops, bordered on the eastern side by an upper section of the Gwydir River near to the confluence of this river with Rocky Creek. The soils are predominantly in situ deeply weathered granite with a sandy loam texture. The dominant tree species in most of the Reserve is Stringybark, over an understorey of native tussock grasses and forbs with scattered shrubs. A variety of other native trees are also present. The vegetation community on the Reserve is largely in very good condition, providing excellent habitat for native flora and fauna species.

In the upper parts of the Reserve the diversity of grasses and herbs means it most closely matches NSW Vegetation Community 510, Blakely's Red Gum – Yellow Box woodland of the New England Tablelands (although Red Gums are absent). This is an endangered ecological community. It may be considered to be an intergrade between that community and the Broadleaved Stringybark – Yellow Box community that occurs on rocky ridges in this district. In any case, this community constitutes the Box-Gum Woodland Endangered Ecological Community.

The dominant tree in the lower parts of the Reserve is Mountain Gum with some other trees including New England Peppermint, with Sweet Bursaria and Tea Tree as common shrubs. These areas are most similar to NSW Vegetation Community 606, Mountain Gum – Ribbon Gum open forest of drainage lines of southern New England Tablelands Bioregion. The gentle slopes and rocky areas have a diverse over storey of Apple Box, Mountain gum, Yellow Box, Broad-leaved Stringybark and New England Peppermint, with few shrubs and a diverse ground layer dominated by Kangaroo Grass.

The mature trees, shrubby areas and diverse ground layer provide quality habitats for native fauna, although the lack of woody debris on the ground due to firewood collection is a habitat limitation. There are relatively few weeds except in some areas near the river and camping areas.

The creek area has, over time, been reduced in condition via the encroachment of weed species into the native environment. Weed invasion was enabled by disturbance, particularly close to the river, during fossicking and other visitation in the past century and to a lesser extent in recent years. Weed invasion has also occurred as a result of propagules being washed downstream or brought in by birds, animals, vehicles and wind. Efforts to reduce propagule sources in Uralla and other parts of the catchment, combined with increasing community awareness of weeds, will slowly reduce the likelihood of re-invasion.

There are two established camp sites with facilities. The larger camp site is at the bottom of the Reserve near the creek. A second and smaller camp site is located north of the bigger camp site. Both sites have toilets, bins and picnic tables. Camp sites and fire sites are defined by habitual use, camp sites are not mains connected. Larger camper vans and caravans can be accommodated in the largest camping site while smaller vans and tents can access the smaller camping site as well as sites scattered on the tracks. The condition of some tracks is such that access to the remoter portions of the Reserve is only via a 4WD or on foot.

Camping in the Reserve is free. On many, perhaps most, nights of the year there are tourists camped by the river. Many of them contribute to Uralla's economy by buying provisions or visiting other tourist attractions.

Uralla Shire Council staff and visitors to the Reserve note both a marked increase in the numbers of people camping in the Reserve and the nights the Reserve is occupied. It is estimated that through summer there are on average six groups (including family groups, singles or couples) camping each night; and a minimum of one group camping each night in other seasons.

4. Key Values and Threats

4.1 Key Values

Camping and Recreation

The scenic and environmental quality of the Reserve, with the mix of a creek with permanent water flows and bushland, provides a peaceful and varied setting for the following activities:

- Fossicking for gold and precious gems
- Picnicking, fishing, swimming, walking (including walking dogs)
- Environmental and heritage education (e.g. school excursions)
- Bird watching
- Photography
- Camping

In addition, the Reserve is considered by Council to be an important environmental asset. Uralla Shire Council and the community greatly value it for its recreational and ecological value. Its successful management is a high priority for Council.

Ecological value

There is significant ecological importance in conserving and protecting vegetation classified as an Endangered Ecological Community. In the event that this status is not confirmed, the Reserve remains one of the few substantial areas of woodland near Uralla in as good condition that is not regularly grazed by stock.

The importance of the Reserve is not confined to the site. The Reserve has an important role to play in its relationship to vegetation surrounding the Reserve. Aerial photography clearly illustrates that the Reserve is centrally located in a band of vegetation running west to north-north west of Uralla. Much of this vegetation is thinning and soils in the area are exceptionally friable. The corridor effect created by this band of vegetation allows fauna and native plant species to travel through the

landscape while the continuity and integrity of that vegetation is essential in buffering its condition from further deterioration and fragmentation.

4.2 Key Threats

Weeds

Within the banks of the Gwydir River there are high densities of African Lovegrass, willows and other weeds. It is not likely that weeds can be eliminated from within the creek as upstream sources on both private and public land would need to be eliminated to ensure that reinfestation would not occur. There is no data available to track the impact that these weeds have had on native vegetation and fauna diversity and condition. Outside the creek, weeds are limited in their distribution, diversity and abundance therefore with enough consistent effort these weeds can be eliminated.

Vandalism and nuisance behaviour

Unfortunately, vandalism and nuisance behaviour has long been associated with the Reserve. In the past, negative behaviour and damage was mainly associated with the larger camping area. While the Reserve has been subject to several incidents of vandalism over the previous two years (in one case a fire was deliberately lit and in another trees were cut down or damaged), anecdotal evidence suggests that with increasing use of the main camp sites there has actually been a decrease in the level and type of vandalism near the main camp sites.

Rather than disappearing, however, it seems that inappropriate behaviour has shifted to areas beyond the main camping sites and is bringing those responsible into closer contact with neighbours. As a consequence, there has been an increase in complaints regarding illegal drinking, late night noise levels, off leash dog walking and off road driving.

Vandalism and nuisance behaviour is not consistent with visitor motivations or their behaviour; Council believes that locals visiting the park over weekends or late in the evening are responsible for the damage.

Removal of natural materials

Trees and fallen woody debris have been harvested from the Reserve. Doing so diminishes the habitat complexity of the Reserve and this in turn will potentially impact on the diversity and abundance of native fauna present. Removing fallen woody debris removes nutrient input to the ecosystem further undermining the health of the Reserve.

Reports have reached Council of locals removing sand from the creek. While small in scale, removing sand from the creek is not an acceptable activity as it presents a safety concern for those recreating at the Reserve and is not be compatible with protecting the ecological values of the Reserve.

Bush fire

Bushfires are unpredictable and vary greatly according to weather conditions. People visiting or camping at the Reserve light fires for cooking or to enjoy the ambiance and experience of having a campfire. Fire sites are located on grounds cleared of any vegetation and marked either by the presence of a ring of stones to contain it or a fireplace. During maintenance and other visits, Council staff check that fires have been extinguished properly. Unfortunately, fires have been deliberately lit in dry ground cover. Such fires in the prevailing conditions have the potential to become exceptionally dangerous and pose a risk to visitors and neighbours to the Reserve.

5. Legislative Framework

The New South Wales Department of Lands, together with the Reserve Trusts appointed by the Minister, are responsible for managing the Crown Lands system in New South Wales. *The Crown Lands Act 1989* is the main government legislation affecting the planning, management and use of Crown Land. Uralla Shire Council is the Trust Manager for the Wooldridge Fossicking Reserve.

In preparing a plan of management for a Crown reserve it is essential that the 'public purpose' of the Reserve is the basis for planning and management. Any additional use, activity, development or management practice must conform to the public purpose for the Reserve and the policies of the NSW Crown Lands Division regarding Crown reserves.

Principles of Crown Land Management include:

- Environmental protection principles be observed in relation to the management and administration of Crown Land
- The natural resources of Crown land (including water, soil, flora, fauna and scenic quality) be conserved wherever possible
- Public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown land be encouraged
- Where appropriate, multiple uses of Crown land be encouraged
- Where appropriate, Crown land should be used and managed in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained in perpetuity; and
- Crown land be occupied, used, sold, leased, licensed or otherwise dealt with in the best interest of the State consistent with the above principles.

6. Management Strategy

6.1 Objectives of the Strategy

1. Maximise the natural values of Wooldridge Fossicking Reserve by:
 - i. Improving our understanding of the ecological value of the Reserve.
 - ii. Improving habitat value for native plants and animals.
 - iii. Reducing weeds that compete with indigenous species for space. Light, moisture and nutrients.
 - iv. Monitoring and controlling the impact of pest animal species at the site.
 - v. Undertaking works in ways that efficiently use self-sustainability of native species and improve ecosystem resilience (e.g. Regeneration from soil seed bank, limit erosion).
2. Reduce the negative off-site impacts of weed and pest issues on Wooldridge Fossicking Reserve due to the important location of the Reserve in the headwaters of the Gwydir River.
3. Ensure that facilities and amenities at the Reserve are maintained in order that visitors can enjoy a safe and comfortable stay at the Reserve.
4. Facilitate increasing visitor numbers in a manner that does not undermine the Reserves natural values.
 - i. Improve our understanding of visitor motivations to use the Reserve.
 - ii. Improve our understanding of the numbers and types of visitors using the Reserve.

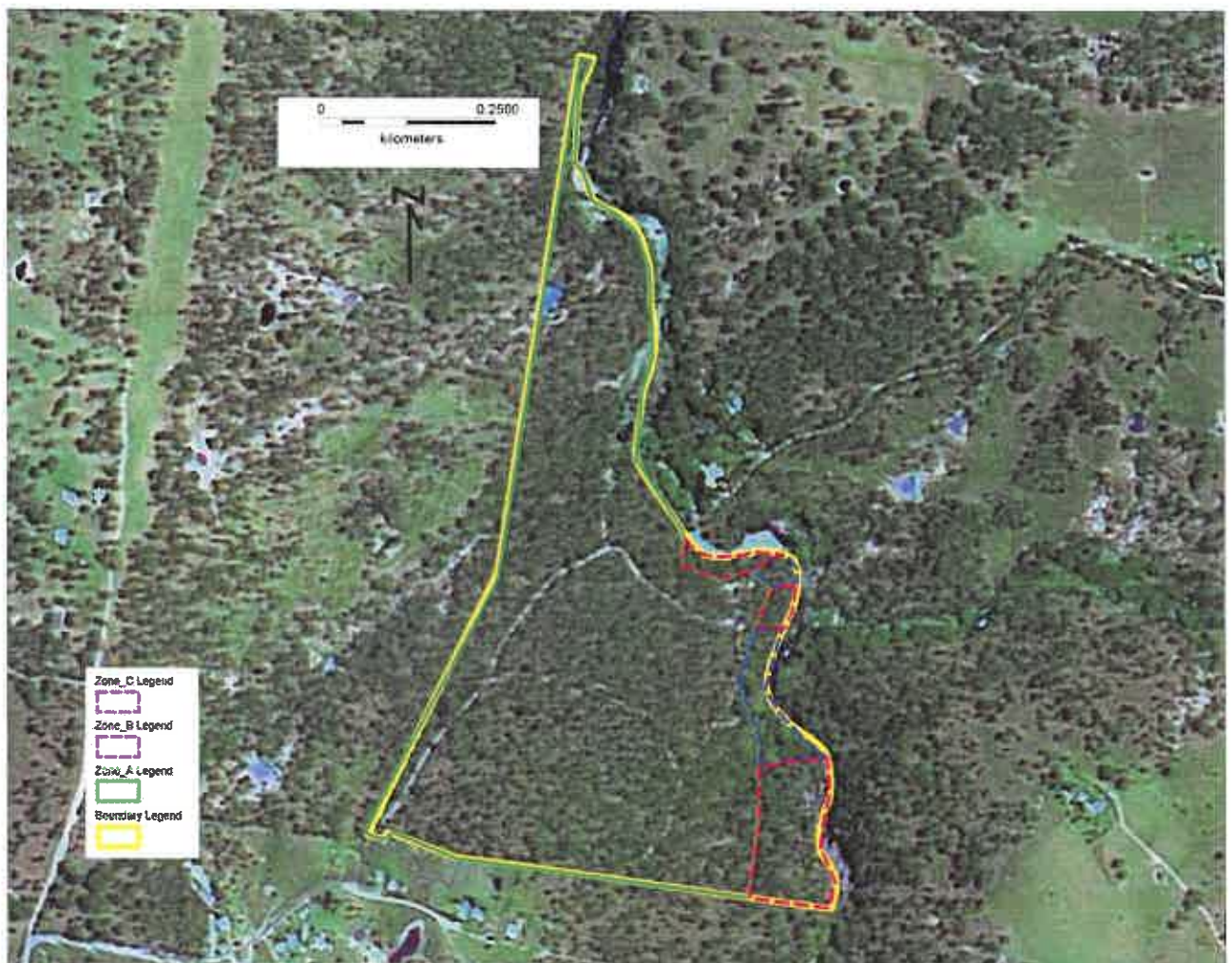
This plan of management applies the principles of bush regeneration as its framework approach to managing the natural values of the Reserve. This approach relies principally on strategic weed control using techniques that focus on enabling natural regeneration of indigenous plants and minimising opportunities for weeds to re-invade.

This Plan of Management outlines the services in place to maintain the Reserve and highlights those matters requiring works, some of which will need additional funding.

7.1 Land Management Zones

For the purposes of creating an effective management framework, the Reserve has been divided into three types of management zone. The classification was devised with consideration to geomorphological features such as rock, streams, slope and soils, vegetation community, recreational traffic status, current condition and weed status.

The following map describes the breakdown of the Reserve into these management zones and management objectives and actions are hereafter directed specifically at these zones.



Map 3. Management Zones – Wooldridge Fossicking Area

7.2 Zone A

Description

Native grassy woodland vegetation in very good condition. There are isolated patches of non-indigenous weed species. The weed burden is relatively cost effective to manage at the current level of infestation. Weed species present include African Lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*), Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*), Firethorn (*Pyracantha rogersiana*), Wormwood, Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sp.*), Nightshade (*Solanum sp.*), Fleabane (*Conyza sp.*). Willows (*Salix sp.*) are common on one section of adjoining land and are invading the Reserve.

Access tracks to the main camping sites run through Zone A. These tracks, particularly those at the bottom of the Reserve giving access to toilet facilities and camp grounds, are in a deteriorating condition and need to be graded/gravelled. A survey and drainage design is needed.

Management Objectives

- i. Control weed species to ensure that the full extent of land in Zone A condition is maintained or increased. There is a high expectation that a number of weed species can be eradicated entirely from this management zone, including a patch of African Lovegrass in the north corner.
- ii. Encourage desirable species to out-compete undesirables. Methods of weed removal which can safely be utilised are spot spraying, cut and paint, drill and inject, and manual removal.
- iii. Maintain facilities and infrastructure for the comfort of visitors.

Action Plan

- i. Spring 2016, 2017 – resurvey, locate and selectively treat all noxious and environmental weeds within the zone that have not been eradicated/treated in the 2014 and 2015 seasons. Care needs to be taken to maintain existing native groundcover species to expand and replace them.

Approximate timeframe: 6 days

Responsibility: Uralla Shire Council Bush Regeneration Team

- ii. Follow up with the same action in the following Autumn to locate and remove emerging individual plants or patches of seedlings of the targeted species.

Approximate timeframe: 4 days

Responsibility: Uralla Shire Council Bush Regeneration Team

- iii. Patrolling area looking for isolated weeds in bushland above flood-reach and carefully spot-spray (or for the few woody weeds cut/drill & poison).

Approximate timeframe: 0.5 days per season and 1 day for treatment per season

Responsibility: Uralla Shire Council Bush Regeneration Team

- iv. Assess the need to continue to treat willows (in the creek), undertake treatment if appropriate.

Approximate timeframe: 2 days

Responsibility: Uralla Shire Council Bush Regeneration Team

- v. Continue bin collection and toilet maintenance, continue to refill water tower.

Approximate timeframe: 0.5 days/week

Responsibility: Uralla Shire Council Parks and Gardens

- vi. Grade and gravel tracks.

Approximate timeframe: 1 day

Responsibility: Uralla Shire Council Grader crew

7.3 Zone B

Description

Semi-confined creek flood area and adjacent gullies with very good habitat value including a diverse range of native species. The percentage of weed infestation within the groundcover component is estimated to be between 30 and 40%. The predominant weed species is African Lovegrass.

Management Objectives

- ii. As there are a large proportion of native groundcover species and the weed species are effectively interspersed within the native matrix, targeting individual plants for removal will allow the rapid infill of those small areas with the adjacent native species. This is the most effective and efficient situation for weed removal and long-term self sustainability of the site.
- iii. Encourage desirable species to out-compete undesirables. Methods of weed removal which can safely be utilised are spot spraying, cut and paint, drill and inject, manual removal.
- iv. Assist recovery of ground cover and shrub vegetation affected by a fire in 2015.
- v. Monitor camping spots for erosion.
- vi. Monitor tracks and the development of off-track tracks for erosion and other impacts.

Action Plan

- i. Build on success of weed treatments in the 2014 and 2015 seasons. Apply chemical to infested areas whilst minimising collateral damage to the native species present. Management must aim to maintain the vigour, persistence and competitiveness of desirable native species, this is paramount to the long term success of the project.

Approximate timeframe: 2 days

Responsibility: Uralla Shire Council Bush Regeneration Team

- ii. Maintain African Lovegrass treatment buffer zone between the creek and the Reserve. This buffer was established during the 2014 and 2015 seasons and is the area affected by a fire in 2015. Particular attention needs to be paid to this area as it recovers. There is a risk that new weeds may appear as competition from native species is suppressed. Eradication of African Lovegrass from the creek is not possible.

Approximate timeframe: 2 days

Responsibility: Uralla Shire Council Bush Regeneration Team

- iii. Complete/supplement plantings of lomandra as required around access points to the creek and other bare areas.

Approximate timeframe: 2.5 days

Responsibility: Uralla Shire Council Bush Regeneration Team

7.4 Zone C

Description

Highly weed infested stream bank (in both high traffic location and low traffic location). This zone has significant areas where the weed infestation amounts to between 80 and 90% of the groundcover species present.

The high traffic location is situated between the car park and the river. The nature of this zone presents a high threat for the spread and reinfestation of adjacent areas. The predominant weed species is African lovegrass. Within this zone there is a further small area, also adjacent to the car park, which is highly weed infested with a high number of weed species represented – much higher than any other area within the Reserve.

The low traffic area is the more southerly area of Zone C land. This area has the potential to re-infest areas downstream including all other sections of Zone B and C.

Management Objectives

- i. Within the larger component of this zone the strategy is to contain the perimeter of the weed infestation thereby negating the potential for spread into the adjacent areas of the Reserve.
- ii. In the high traffic section of this unit is the main thoroughfare for users to the creek and the treatment of both sides of the walkway will reduce the potential for manual spread of viable seeds by people and pets having direct contact with the seed heads.
- iii. Investigate the potential for installing educational infrastructure and signage to encourage the community to engage in activities which contribute to the long-term eradication of these weed species from the site and to avoid acting in ways that are likely to advantage weeds.
- iv. Maintain facilities, tracks and access for visitors.

Action Plan

- i. Maintain and extend the African Lovegrass treatment buffer zone between the creek and the Reserve. This buffer was established during the 2014 and 2015 seasons.

Approximate timeframe: 2 days

Responsibility: Uralla Shire Council Bush Regeneration Team

- ii. Re-sow the eradication zone with indigenous species capable of out-competing the African Lovegrass. Mulch, plant and sow native grass seeds, lomandra and other plants as necessary.

Approximate timeframe: 2 days

Responsibility: Uralla Shire Council Bush Regeneration Team

- iii. Monitor effectiveness of the steps at river access point to dissuade access by vehicles.

Approximate timeframe: Incorporate into existing works program

Responsibility: Uralla Shire Council Bush Regeneration Team

- iv. Continue to install, move and monitor coir logs to intercept rain water flows and support sediment build up on eroding tracks and other surfaces.

- v. Continue weekly checks of litter bins and toilets in Summer, undertake repairs to infrastructure as needed and continue to refill the water tank.

Approximate timeframe: 1 day/week in Summer, 0.5 days/week during other seasons

Responsibility: Uralla Shire Council Parks and Gardens

7.5 Other strategies

These strategies are designed to address specific nuisance behaviour within the Reserve and to manage access in order to dissuade the prohibited activities listed in Section 8.

- i. Redesign fencing and gate access at the end of Castle Drive such that access is blocked for vehicles, excluding the emergency services and pedestrians wishing to visit the Reserve.

Vehicles can access and cross the creek from the end of Castle Drive. As this is a Crown road, permission from Crown Lands is required. The Rural Fire Service also need to be consulted so that accommodation can be made for access in an emergency. Council does not propose to block pedestrian access.

- ii. Improve internal and external communications about the values of the Reserve and Council's approach to its management as outlined here. This includes more frequent communication with residents regarding the value of the Reserve and Council's management approach. This can be achieved via the Council newsletter, website and the Environmental Consultative Panel.
- iii. Host more regular community education and awareness events at the Reserve to improve appreciation for the Reserve and the importance of its socio-ecological role.

8. Prohibited Activities

Visitors have a 'right of access' to the Wooldridge Fossicking Reserve for recreation. Visitors are expected to use the Reserve in accordance with generally accepted standards of behaviour: their activities should be safe and socially acceptable and conducted in a way that does not affect other users of the Reserve.

Visitors to the Reserve must not engage in any activity that will disturb the peaceful atmosphere of the Reserve or that of neighbours to the Reserve; or could cause damage to the condition of the Reserve such that overnight camping or daily recreation is unsafe for visitors; or could cause damage to the condition of natural vegetation; or could cause damage or harm to habitats for fauna or directly harm or injure fauna. Such activities include but are not limited to:

- Drive any vehicle (including 4WD, motorbikes and quads) off defined tracks, over creek banks or through the creek.
- Remove sand, wood, vegetation (alive or dead), or bush rock from the Reserve.
- Deliberately fell or damage trees or other vegetation.
- Graze stock or other animals.
- Litter or dump waste including garden waste.

- Walk dogs off a leash.
- Light fires outside of marked fire places.
- Grazing animals.

Uralla Shire Council will provide signage and education and awareness through the website, local newsletter and factsheets prepared by the Visitor Information Centre for visitors and locals wishing to use the Reserve.

9. Implementation, evaluation and review

This plan will be administered by the Department of Infrastructure and Regulation through the Environmental Management coordinator, Works Engineer, Parks and Gardens and Bush Regeneration Team. Ongoing consultation and input to the plan will be sought from the Visitors Information Centre, which is well placed to report feedback from campers and day visitors to the Reserve.

This plan will be reviewed and updated every two years.