



**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
Held Friday, 14 March 2025**

*Held in the Simeon Lord Room
Esk Library Building
Redbank Street, Esk*

Present

Cr Jason Wendt	(Mayor)
Cr Helen Brieschke	(Deputy Mayor)
Cr Michael Bishop	(Councillor)
Cr Brett Freese	(Councillor)
Cr Tiara Hurley	(Councillor)
Cr Kylee Isidro	(Councillor)
Cr Sally Jess	(Councillor)
Mr A Johnson	(Chief Executive Officer)
Mr G Love	(Acting Director Operations)
Mr L Hannan	(Director Planning and Development)
Mrs K Jones	(Director HR and Customer Service)
Mr D Rowe	(Director Corporate and Community Services)
Mrs H Golinski	(Minute Secretary / Executive Assistant)

Observer	Mrs P Banditt	(Senior Finance Officer)
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Opening of Meeting

The Mayor, Cr Jason Wendt, opened the meeting at 9.00 am.

Leave of Absence

Nil

Confirmation of Minutes**Resolution**

Moved – Cr Bishop

Seconded – Cr Jess

“THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 26 February 2025 as circulated to all Members of Council be confirmed”.

Carried

Vote - Unanimous

Business arising out of minutes of previous meeting

Nil

Matters of Public Interest**Matters of public interest – Mayor Wendt**

Reflecting back on Tropical Cyclone (TC) Alfred our region has escaped reasonably well compared with our neighbouring Councils.

Our Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC) staff are second to none! Adam and Gary a special mention for your unwavering dedication to our local community, sometimes in the face of huge pressure coming from above they had to stand steadfast and defend our processes and data against the Bureau's predictions and the State's pressure which was immense! Where possible they went for a nice meal but more often it was microwave meals and some instant coffee. The Region was the focus and although we are few in number, our strength is in our ability for real personal attention to individual property owners. These two guys were supported by a team anywhere from two to five people depending on the time of day or night. The team covered telephone enquiries, ran mapping, liaised with field staff and whatever else popped up unexpectedly. We were supported by the local Queensland Police Service (QPS), emergency management and Queensland Fire Department representatives from the State. Our media team ran shifts around the clock to facilitate the most up to date information available to our residents. Well done to the whole team! Your dedication to the Somerset Region was exemplary. There were twice daily meetings with the Premier and Cabinet, utility and emergency services representatives, which were run very well. I must say to have the Premier available to be able to convey personal requests for your region meant the State really did allow a local led system albeit we need a few things ironed out for future experiences but overall a good result.

The evacuation centres were stocked and ready to go at locations throughout the region. Thankfully Lowood was the only centre that was stood up; again thank you to our staff who left their families to make our stranded people as comfortable as possible. Thank you to the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) staff who helped man the Lowood Evac centre. Cr Freese paid a visit as well to the staff morale up – thank you Brett.

Now to recovery, we have moved to facilitate locally led recovery group meetings today chaired by our Councillors for Human Social Recovery, economic Recovery and Infrastructure and Environment Recovery. These groups will facilitate the repair of our public assets like roads, drainage, parks etc as well as guiding locals, business owners and the Ag sector in the available assistance from the State and Federal Government to get back to where they were prior to Alfred visiting us.

Volunteers – I have to say something - I've always been part of the rural fire service family(now QFD) since we came to Somerset and again these guys and girls opened their shed doors rolled up their sleeves and pitched in, sand bags, food whatever was needed, the SES, officers and Cadets everyone was on every one of our Local Disaster Management Group meetings ready to lend a hand where needed. The rest of the community helping where they could to make sure their neighbours were ok.

There is nothing more humbling as a leader than to be surrounded by people that galvanise and gather in adversity to help each other to emerge stronger than before an event. We are truly blessed in Somerset!

Matters of public interest – Cr Brieschke

March

- 14 Council is hosting an In Good Company series of information sessions on Dementia Awareness and Carer Support, beginning at Fernvale Visitor Information Centre today, 10 am to 12 pm.
- 21 In Good Company, Dementia Awareness & Care Support, Alexandra Hall, Toogoolawah, 10 am to 12 pm.

Matters of public interest – Cr Bishop

There are two matters I would like to bring to the attention of Council this meeting.

The first is to thank the many people who worked tirelessly to keep our community safe during and after the recent weather event. Many of these people are volunteers and demonstrate care for their community and neighbours by hard work. I refer to those SES and other volunteers who assisted with sand bagging and those workers from Energex who reconnected power supply to the many thousands of people without power across the Southeast of Queensland. I also acknowledge the Council staff and mayor for maintaining the 24 Local Disaster Management Committee operations during the event. I acknowledge that Cr Brett Freese along with Queensland Ambulance staff kept the Lowood Evacuation Centre open over the weekend. I am thankful that more damage was not done. I know that Council has transitioned from response to recovery, and I have been appointed as the chair for the Human Social Recovery Subgroup, which will meet officially for its first meeting today. In preparation and to ensure prompt recovery, Council has applied for support from the Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme which is State and Commonwealth funded. We expect an announcement from the government at any moment and will provide information to the community once it is confirmed. I encourage people to keep an eye out for details via Council media.

The second point I would like to make is that Harmony Day is celebrated in Australia on 21st March. Harmony Day is a day to celebrate Australian multiculturalism, based on the successful integration of migrants into our community. Harmony Day is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set of core Australian values. Held every year on 21 March. The Day coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Since 1999, more than 70,000 Harmony Day events have been held in childcare centres, schools, community groups, churches, businesses and federal, state and local government agencies across Australia.

Matters of public interest Cr Hurley

As we reflect on the recent Cyclone Alfred event, I want to take a moment to express my thanks to all of our SES and emergency services volunteers, as well as our Somerset community, for their incredible efforts during this challenging time. It is a testament to the resilience and spirit of our Somerset region.

I had the privilege of volunteering alongside an outstanding team at the Kilcoy SES, where we worked together to fill sandbags in preparation for the potential cyclone. The turnout of community members who joined us after seeing a simple Facebook post was nothing short of remarkable. It truly warms my heart to witness such dedication and selflessness from our residents. We are indeed fortunate to live in a community that rallies together in times of need.

I would also like to reach out to our primary producers in the region. Your input is invaluable, and I encourage you to consider filling out the disaster recovery surveys. Your feedback will play a crucial role in our recovery efforts and help ensure that our agricultural sector can bounce back stronger than ever.

Lastly, I want to extend my appreciation to our dedicated Mayor, CEO, and operations teams. Their commitment to keeping our community informed throughout Cyclone Alfred was outstanding. Mayor Wendt has shown unwavering dedication, spending long hours in the office to ensure the safety of our residents. It is an honour to be part of a team led by such a committed mayor.

Together, we will continue to support one another and emerge from this event even stronger. Thank you once again to everyone who contributed to our community's safety and well-being during Cyclone Alfred.

Matters of public interest – Cr Freese

I would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to everyone who worked tirelessly during the recent cyclone Alfred. The LDMG group excelled during this event with the region never more prepared for the event. Our thoughts go out to our neighboring councils, particularly Lockyer Valley Regional Council and the town of Laidley who sustained significant flooding. To all the staff, emergency services and volunteers who gave their time in keeping us safe during this period I say thank you.

Come and Chat Session at Linville on Wednesday 19 March from 9:00 – 11:00

Toogoolawah Campdraft Friday 21 – 23 March

Camp and Jam at Esk showgrounds Country, Blues and Rock Festival featuring Disgraceland, Rock n Roll boys, Deep Blue and Plumb Dogs as well as an Open Mic Walk up sessions on Friday 21 – Sunday 23 March. Sales end today with day passes available for \$25 or a three day pass \$55 and 4 nights camping unpowered site still available for \$60.

Watts for Breakfast at Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield on Sunday 23 March from 7:30 – 9:30. Hosted by the Queensland Warbirds & Vintage Aircraft Association (QWVAA) they are promising something extra special for the morning such as a YAK formation flypast and the attendance of some very special warbird type aircraft. They'll be firing up the BBQ's to cook a feast of sausages, bacon, eggs, and beans. Everyone is Welcome

Vixons of the Fall at the Civic Centre rescheduled due to Cyclone Alfred to Friday 15 August

Matters of public interest – Cr Jess

The Somerset region recently faced a significant weather event with the arrival of Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred. The Somerset SES and the many volunteers who assisted in the aftermath of the storm are to be commended for their dedication and tireless efforts. Their quick response and ongoing support were instrumental in helping those affected by the ex-tropical cyclone, providing much-needed assistance to the community during a challenging time.

The Somerset Council Team also played a critical role in managing the situation, working around the clock to monitor the progress, and keeping the community informed through regular updates. Their proactive approach and consistent communication helped ensure the safety and preparedness of residents throughout the event.

For primary producers and small business owners impacted by the weather event, the Somerset Council encourages them to reach out for support. The Council is available to assist in directing individuals to the relevant authorities who can help with claim applications and other recovery processes.

The efforts of the SES, volunteers, and the Council Team have highlighted the strength and resilience of the Somerset community. Together, they are working towards recovery and rebuilding in the wake of Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

Declarations of Interest

Cr Isidro declared an interest in Agenda Item 8 Application for Temporary Entertainment Event – Jackson Hepner Foundation Memorial Event.

Declarable Conflict of Interest – Cr Isidro – Agenda Item 8 Application for Temporary Entertainment Event – Jackson Hepner Foundation Memorial Event

I inform this meeting that I have a declarable conflict of interest in this matter as defined by section 150EN of the Local Government Act 2009.

I will be declaring a conflict of interest in this matter as a fair-minded observer might apprehend that my decision-making might be influenced by my personal interest (being my spousal relationship with Director Craig Young), leading to a decision contrary to the public interest, as it is fair to assume that a fair-minded observer may assume Craig and/or his team had been significantly involved in this process.

I propose to leave and stay away from the place where the meeting is being held while this matter is discussed and voted on.

Cr Isidro left the meeting at 9.15am.

Subject:	Application for Temporary Entertainment Event – Jackson Hepner Foundation Memorial Event
File:	Environmental Management – Reports - Environmental Health Reports
Action Officer:	EHO-BW

Background/Summary

Council has received a temporary entertainment event application from the Jackson Hepner Foundation to conduct a fundraising event (Ref: 1714182). The event is proposed to be

located at Archer Falls Airfield, 1253 Neurum Road Mount Archer from 11.30am to 11.30pm on Saturday 29 March 2025.

The Jackson Hepner Foundation is a non-profit organisation which provides hampers to patients and families when dealing with a cancer diagnosis. The proposed memorial event will celebrate the life of former Somerset resident Jackson Hepner and raise awareness and funds to support childhood cancer patients and families.

The proposed event will be a ticketed event involving pig races, auctions, food stalls and live music. The event will also incorporate a show and shine aspect where car and bike enthusiasts can display their vehicles on the grounds.

Proposed timing of events are as follows:

- Stall holder bump in – 9.30am to 10.30am
- Gates to open at 11.30am
- Bar to open from 12.30pm to 11pm
- Pig races, auction, raffles and acoustic music to occur from 1.30pm to 5.30pm
- A live band to play from 6pm to 11pm
- Event to end at 11.30pm.

Total attendance for the one-day event is predicted to be 450 persons.

The applicant has prepared an Event Management Plan which outlines how the event will comply with Council's local law requirements for temporary entertainment events.

Council has approved fundraising events held at the Archer Falls Airfield in the past, most recently in 2021.

Council regulates this activity through *Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2011*, and *Subordinate Local Law 1.12 (Operation of Temporary Entertainment Events) 2011*.

Assessment of Application

Under section 9 of *Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2011*, Council may grant an approval for a temporary entertainment event only if it is satisfied that:

Criteria – LL, section 9(1)(a)	If the prescribed activity requires a separate approval under an Act, a law of the Commonwealth or the local government's planning scheme - the separate approval has been granted; and
Officer Comment	The applicant has obtained a Community Liquor Permit from the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation for the sale of alcohol at the event. A copy of the permit has been provided to Council.
Criteria – LL, section 9(1)(b)	The proposed operation and management of the prescribed activity is adequate to protect public health, safety and amenity and prevent environmental harm; and
Officer Comment	The applicant has provided an Event Management Plan for the event detailing provisions for public safety and environmental harm.
Criteria – LL, section 9(1)(c)	If the prescribed activity is the commercial use of a local government controlled area or road - the grant of the approval is consistent with the objective of the local government of restriction of the commercial use of local government controlled areas and roads, where such activities are permitted, in recognition of the fact that the activities may otherwise enjoy an unfair commercial advantage over competitive activities conducted from fixed premises in the local government area for which rates and other

	charges are paid, and to which planning and other regulatory legislation applies;
Officer Comment	It is considered that the grant of approval would be consistent with the objective of the local law.
Criteria – LL, section 9(1)(d)	The proposed operation and management of the prescribed activity would be consistent with any additional criteria prescribed for the activity under a subordinate local law for this paragraph; and
Officer Comment	<i>Subordinate Local Law 1.12 (Operation of Temporary Entertainment Events) 2011</i> prescribes criteria for the proposed activity. An assessment against that criterion is provided below.
Criteria – LL, section 9(1)(e)	The grant of the approval would be consistent with the purpose of any relevant local law; and
Officer Comment	The approval would be generally consistent with Council's Local Laws.
Criteria – LL, section 9(1)(f)	If the application relates to trust land - the grant of the approval would be consistent with the terms and conditions of the trust; and
Officer Comment	The subject land is not trust land.
Criteria – LL, section 9(1)(g)	If the application relates to a prescribed activity mentioned in section 5(b) - the grant of the approval would be consistent with any requirements or criteria specified in the relevant <i>Local Government Act</i> in relation to the approval.
Officer Comment	Not applicable.
Criteria – SLL, Section 4(1)	The design and construction of the place of the temporary entertainment event must be safe and appropriate to the nature of the entertainment proposed and the number of people expected to attend the place.
Officer Comment	The applicant has provided an Event Management Plan for the event detailing provisions for safety and security. The design and construction of the event is considered appropriate for hosting an event of this nature and scale.
Criteria – SLL, section 4(2)	Entertainment provided at the place must not unreasonably detract from the amenity of the area in which the entertainment is, or is proposed to be, situated.
Officer Comment	It is unlikely that the proposed event will unreasonably detract from the amenity of the surrounding area. Conditions of approval will require the approval holder to not cause an environmental nuisance under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> .
Criteria – SLL, section 4(3)	Entertainment provided at the place must not generate significant noise, dust or light pollution or other significantly adverse effects on the surrounding neighbourhood.
Officer Comment	<p><u>Noise</u></p> <p>The main source of noise from the event will be associated with the live music and use of the PA system. The nature of the event and associated entertainment is not expected to cause a noise nuisance. Conditions of approval will require the event to comply with the default noise standards for open air events in the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>.</p> <p><u>Dust/Light</u></p> <p>Dust and light nuisance are not expected for the event. The applicant will provide additional lighting to the parking area and around the stage.</p>

	Conditions of approval will require the event to not cause an environmental nuisance, which includes a dust and light nuisance.
Criteria – SLL, section 4(4)	There must be enough toilets and sanitary conveniences provided for the event.
Officer Comment	Required numbers for toilets and sanitary conveniences will be conditioned if the event is approved.
Criteria – SLL, section 4(5)	Adequate provision must exist for the disposal of waste generated by the use of the place for the temporary entertainment event.
Officer Comment	The proposed event will provide wheelie bins and industrial bins throughout the grounds for waste collection. Volunteers will collect additional rubbish following the event to ensure the site is left in a clean and tidy condition.
Criteria – SLL, Section 4(6)	Adequate provision must exist for people and (if relevant) vehicles to enter and leave the place of the temporary entertainment event.
Officer Comment	Separate entry and exit points will be provided for the event. Onsite carparking will be provided. Council's Operations Department have reviewed the application and did not have any requirements.

Attachments

Event Management Plan

Recommendation

THAT Council approve the application subject to the conditions listed below:

No.	CONDITION
1.0	ENVIRONMENTAL/ LOCAL LAW
1.1	The approval holder must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Display the approval in the manner, and at the locations, specified by the local government; and • Produce the approval for inspection by an authorised person on demand.
1.2	The operation of the temporary entertainment event must not unreasonably detract from the amenity of the area in which the event is located.
1.3	The approval holder must provide Somerset Regional Council with a copy of a public liability insurance certificate of currency for a minimum of \$20 million dollars and must note Somerset Regional Council as an interested party. The certificate of currency must be provided to Council by no later than Monday 24 March 2025.
1.4	The temporary entertainment event is limited to the operation of the Jackson Hepner Foundation Memorial Event, located at Archer Falls Airfield, 1253 Neurum Road Mount Archer from 11.30am to 11.30pm on Saturday 29 March 2025.
1.5	The approval holder must provide the following number of toilets and sanitary conveniences for the event: Males: 3 toilets; 8 urinals; 2 hand basins. Females: 13 toilets; 2 hand basins; 1 sanitary convenience bin per female toilet. Unisex: at least 1 unisex toilet for patrons with a disability at each group of toilet facilities.
1.6	The approval holder must provide an appropriate number of waste bins that are to be serviced by an appropriately licensed waste contractor. The number of waste bins provided must be sufficient to accept all waste generated by the event, including waste from attendees, event staff, and food vendors.

1.7	All waste generated from the event must be disposed of at an appropriately licenced waste disposal facility.
1.8	The approval holder must maintain insurance that is applicable to the activity including without limitation, a public liability insurance policy which provides indemnity for each individual occurrence in an amount not less than \$20 million dollars. The insurance certificate must cover the permit holder and the Somerset Regional Council against any claims whatsoever arising from the operation of the event.
1.9	<p>The approval holder must indemnify and keep indemnified, the Somerset Regional Council, their officers, employees and agents (the indemnified) against any or all losses suffered or incurred (except to the extent that any losses are caused through the negligent act or omission of the indemnified) in connection with the erection, existence or operation of the works or activities, the subject of this approval.</p> <p>“Losses” include liabilities, losses, damages, expenses and costs (including legal costs on a full indemnity basis and whether incurred or awarded) of any kind or nature, whether arising in contract or tort (including, but not limited to, negligence) or under a statute; and also include loss or profits, loss of revenue, loss of anticipated saving, loss of opportunity, pure economic loss and loss of data any other consequential special or indirect loss or damage.</p>
1.10	The temporary entertainment event must not cause an environmental nuisance as defined by the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> .
1.11	Noise associated with the event must not exceed the following levels at a sensitive receptor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) before 7am, if the use causes audible noise; or (b) from 7am to 10pm, if the use causes noise of more than 70dB(A); or (c) from 10pm to midnight, if the use causes noise of more than the lesser of the following— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) 50dB(A). (ii) 10dB(A) above the background level.
1.12	The operation of the temporary entertainment event must not create a traffic nuisance or increase an existing traffic nuisance or detrimentally affect the efficiency of the road network in which the activity is undertaken.
1.13	The approval holder must provide appropriate lighting to all areas of the temporary entertainment event to ensure the safety of the public.
1.14	<p>All buildings, structures, vehicles, facilities or equipment used in the operation of the temporary entertainment event must be maintained at all times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In good working order. • In good state of repair. • In a clean and sanitary condition.
1.15	The approval holder must ensure that a food licence issued under the <i>Food Act 2006</i> is obtained (to the extent that it is required) by any entities selling food at the event.
1.16	The approval holder must ensure that the temporary entertainment event is run generally in accordance with the approved Event Management Plan.
1.17	The approval holder is to provide a contact number for any complaints received during the events. Such information is to be distributed throughout the local area via a letterbox drop prior to the event.
1.18	The approval holder must ensure that all electrical installations or distributions to be utilised for the event are installed and signed off by a licenced electrician.
1.19	The approval holder must ensure that the construction of any structures onsite, including temporary stages, are installed by appropriately qualified persons.
1.20	<p>The approval holder must submit to Council, within 14 days of the event, a Post Event Report detailing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of attendees, performers and staff. • Any incidents during the event relating to public health and safety and the outcomes of those incidents.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any incidents during or associated with the event where the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Ambulance Service or Queensland Fire Emergency Services assistance was required and the outcomes of those incidents.
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Resolution

Moved – Cr Hurley

Seconded – Cr Brieschke

“THAT Council approve the application subject to the conditions listed below:

No.	CONDITION
1.0	ENVIRONMENTAL/ LOCAL LAW
1.1	The approval holder must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Display the approval in the manner, and at the locations, specified by the local government; and Produce the approval for inspection by an authorised person on demand.
1.2	The operation of the temporary entertainment event must not unreasonably detract from the amenity of the area in which the event is located.
1.3	The approval holder must provide Somerset Regional Council with a copy of a public liability insurance certificate of currency for a minimum of \$20 million dollars and must note Somerset Regional Council as an interested party. The certificate of currency must be provided to Council by no later than Monday 24 March 2025.
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1.6	The approval holder must provide an appropriate number of waste bins that are to be serviced by an appropriately licensed waste contractor. The number of waste bins provided must be sufficient to accept all waste generated by the event, including waste from attendees, event staff, and food vendors.
1.7	All waste generated from the event must be disposed of at an appropriately licenced waste disposal facility.
1.8	The approval holder must maintain insurance that is applicable to the activity including without limitation, a public liability insurance policy which provides indemnity for each individual occurrence in an amount not less than \$20 million dollars. The insurance certificate must cover the permit holder and the Somerset Regional Council against any claims whatsoever arising from the operation of the event.
1.9	The approval holder must indemnify and keep indemnified, the Somerset Regional Council, their officers, employees and agents (the indemnified) against any or all losses suffered or incurred (except to the extent that any losses are caused through the negligent act or omission of the indemnified) in connection with the erection, existence or operation of the works or activities, the subject of this approval. “Losses” include liabilities, losses, damages, expenses and costs (including legal costs on a full indemnity basis and whether incurred or awarded) of any kind or nature, whether arising in contract or tort (including, but not limited to, negligence) or under a statute; and also include loss or profits, loss of revenue, loss of anticipated saving, loss of opportunity, pure economic loss and loss of data any other consequential special or indirect loss or damage.
1.10	The temporary entertainment event must not cause an environmental nuisance as defined by the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> .

1.11	Noise associated with the event must not exceed the following levels at a sensitive receptor: (a) before 7am, if the use causes audible noise; or (b) from 7am to 10pm, if the use causes noise of more than 70dB(A); or (c) from 10pm to midnight, if the use causes noise of more than the lesser of the following— (i) 50dB(A). (ii) 10dB(A) above the background level.
1.12	The operation of the temporary entertainment event must not create a traffic nuisance or increase an existing traffic nuisance or detrimentally affect the efficiency of the road network in which the activity is undertaken.
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1.14	All buildings, structures, vehicles, facilities or equipment used in the operation of the temporary entertainment event must be maintained at all times: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In good working order. • In good state of repair. • In a clean and sanitary condition.
1.15	The approval holder must ensure that a food licence issued under the <i>Food Act 2006</i> is obtained (to the extent that it is required) by any entities selling food at the event.
1.16	The approval holder must ensure that the temporary entertainment event is run generally in accordance with the approved Event Management Plan.
1.17	The approval holder is to provide a contact number for any complaints received during the events. Such information is to be distributed throughout the local area via a letterbox drop prior to the event.
1.18	The approval holder must ensure that all electrical installations or distributions to be utilised for the event are installed and signed off by a licenced electrician.
1.19	The approval holder must ensure that the construction of any structures onsite, including temporary stages, are installed by appropriately qualified persons.
1.20	The approval holder must submit to Council, within 14 days of the event, a Post Event Report detailing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of attendees, performers and staff. • Any incidents during the event relating to public health and safety and the outcomes of those incidents. • Any incidents during or associated with the event where the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Ambulance Service or Queensland Fire Emergency Services assistance was required and the outcomes of those incidents." <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Carried</u></p> <p>Vote - Unanimous</p>

Cr Isidro returned to the meeting at 9.19am.

Subject:	Memorandum of Understanding – Somerset Assist Inc. (Stepping Stones Community Wellness Hub) Somerset Room 9 Heap Street Esk
File Ref:	Leasing-Out - 2024-2025 – Council Land and Buildings
Action Officer:	CAO

Background / Summary

Somerset Assist Inc. (SAI) is a not-for-profit organisation based in Somerset and a registered charity assisting older persons access to home care services.

The Memorandum of Understanding with SAI for use of the Stepping Stones Community Wellness Hub is due to end on 30 April 2025. SAI have expressed an interest to enter into a new Memorandum of Understanding with Council for its use of the Somerset Room of the Stepping Stones building, located at 9 Heap Street, Esk as an office for administrative tasks, meeting clients and contractors and for the storage of secure files and office equipment, commencing on 1 May 2025 and ending on 30 April 2027.

Attachments

Draft Memorandum of Understanding with Somerset Assist Inc.

Recommendation

THAT Council, in accordance with Local Government Regulation 2012 Section 236 (b) (ii), authorise the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Somerset Assist Inc. for a period of two (2) years, commencing on 1 May 2025 and expiring on 30 April 2027.

Resolution

Moved – Cr Hurley Seconded – Cr Brieschke

“THAT Council, in accordance with Local Government Regulation 2012 Section 236 (b) (ii), authorise the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Somerset Assist Inc. for a period of two (2) years, commencing on 1 May 2025 and expiring on 30 April 2027.”

Carried

Vote - Unanimous

Subject:	Fernvale Sport Park Advisory Committee Meeting 5 February 2025
File Ref:	2024 – 2028 – Fernvale Sports Park Advisory Committee
Action Officer:	CTM

Background/Summary

The meeting of the Fernvale Sports Park Advisory Committee (the Committee) was held on Wednesday, 5 February 2025 at the Fernvale Sports Park. A report of the meeting is attached for review.

Items of note:

- The Committee welcomed the newly appointed President and Secretary of the Somerset Storm Netball Club.
- Works at the Fernvale Sports Park including the repair of the solar light in carpark, installation of a timing system on the shed light have been completed. Temporary repair of vandalised dug outs completed however further quotes being sourced for repair of Perspex.

Attachments

Meeting Report – Fernvale Sport Park Advisory Committee – 5 February 2025

Recommendation

THAT Council receive the report for the Fernvale Sports Park Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 5 February 2025.

Resolution

Moved – Cr Hurley

Seconded – Cr Jess

“THAT Council receive the report for the Fernvale Sports Park Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 5 February 2025.”

*Carried**Vote - Unanimous*

Subject:	Finance report
File Ref:	Monthly reporting - finance
Action Officer:	CEO

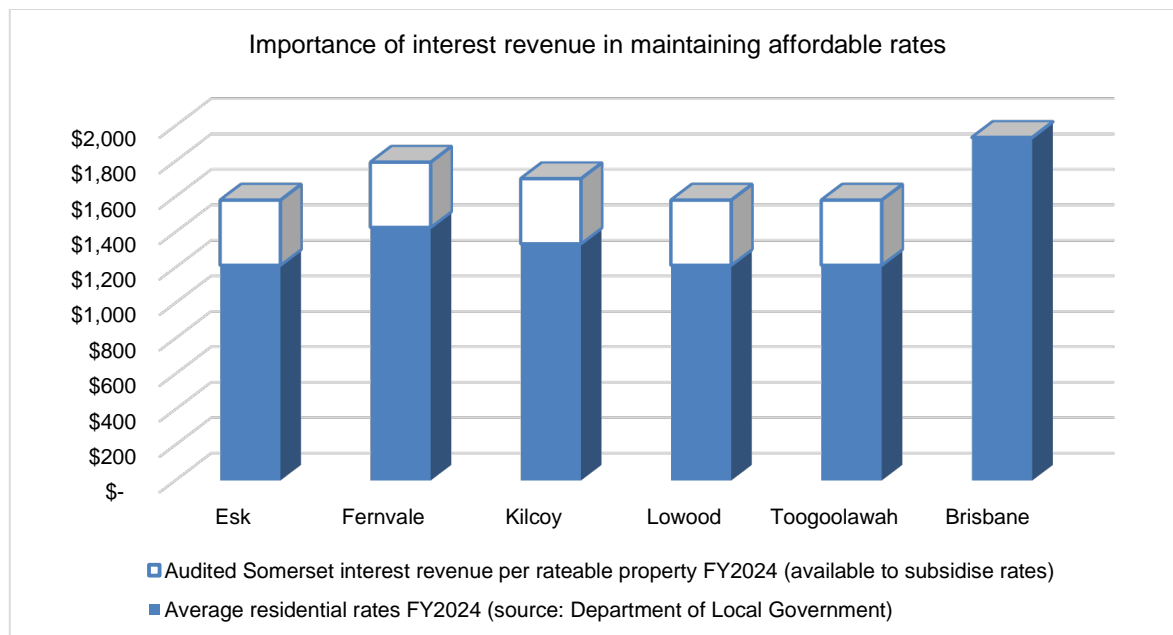
Background/Summary**Investments**

Council relies heavily on interest revenue to keep rates at the lowest possible level. The Reserve Bank of Australia decreased its target interest rate by 0.25% to 4.10% on 19 February 2025.

An investment summary is attached detailing interest earnings from Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) cash fund and other sources. Council's key long-term investment strategy has been to maintain interest-bearing credit facilities totalling \$53.8 million to Urban Utilities (UU) which helps fund vital infrastructure like Lowood wastewater treatment plant as well as providing mutual benefit to both UU and Council.

These currently carry a combined weighted average interest rate of 3.65%. Interest rates on the UU facilities are reviewed annually by QTC based on a rate resetting formula.

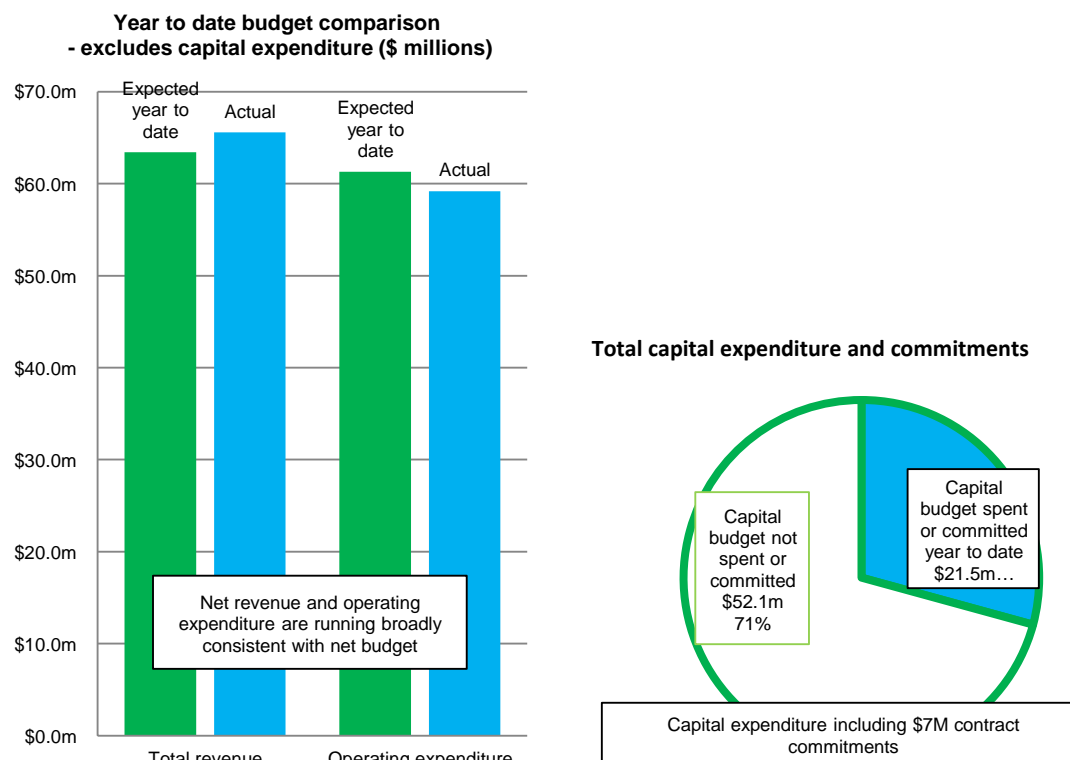
Interest revenue for FY2025 is budgeted at \$338 on average for every rateable property in Somerset, assisting Council to provide the lowest possible rates and charges to residents.



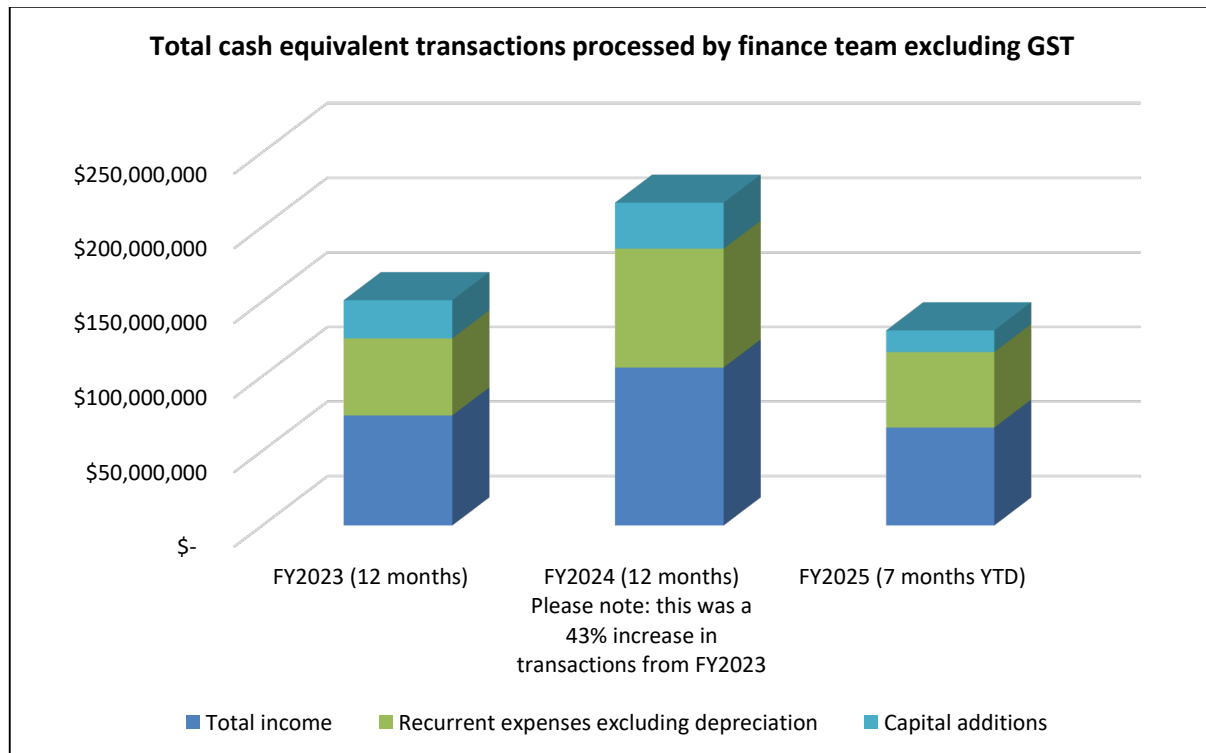
Financial reports

Reports for the period 1 July 2024 to 3 March 2025 are attached detailing the progress that has been made in relation to Council's FY2025 budget consistent with Local Government Regulation 2012 s204 and the attached basis of accounting statement.

Provisional results with 67% of the financial year completed are summarised as follows:

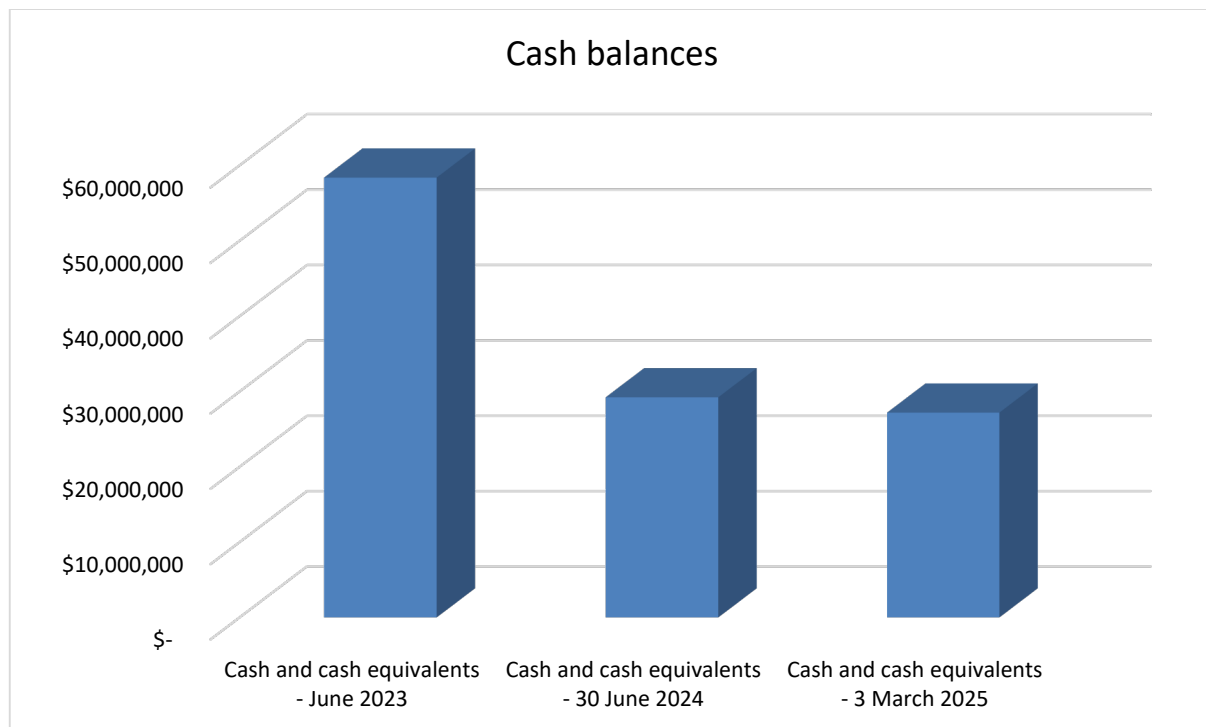


Overall transactions for FY2024 not including depreciation expenses were 43% higher than FY2023, mainly due to significant flood restoration and capital works programs. To put this increase into context, CPI over the same period only increased by around 4%.



Cash flows

Cash balances at 30 June 2024 and 3 March 2025 were as below:

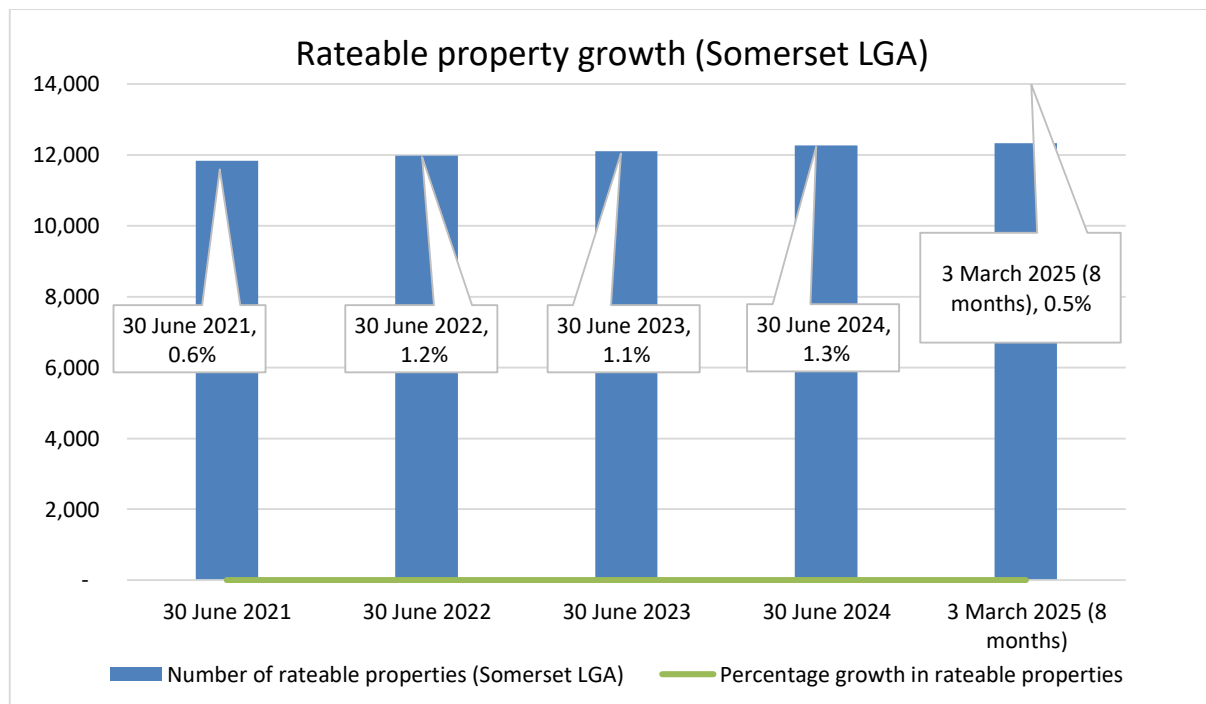


Officer action to repair cash balances include:

- Advances from South East Queensland Community Stimulus Program (SEQCSP) competitive grant applications were achieved of \$2.7 million during November 2024. This cash was possible due to the success of these applications.
- Council officers expect that Council should receive advance payments in respect of part of its \$5 million of successful grant applications under the Australian Government's Thriving Suburbs Program once funding agreements are finalised.
- Since the beginning of the financial year, cash inflows from Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) cash reimbursements of \$22 million have been achieved against FY2025 DRFA expenditure of \$18.7 million. Council's FY2024 financial statements showed that \$17.6 million of the \$22 million DRFA receipts was owing to Council as at 30 June 2024.
- Council is actively working to collect overdue rates including through use of sale of land for overdue rates powers.

Growth

Rateable property data provides an indication of regional growth. The total number of rateable properties in Somerset has increased as below.



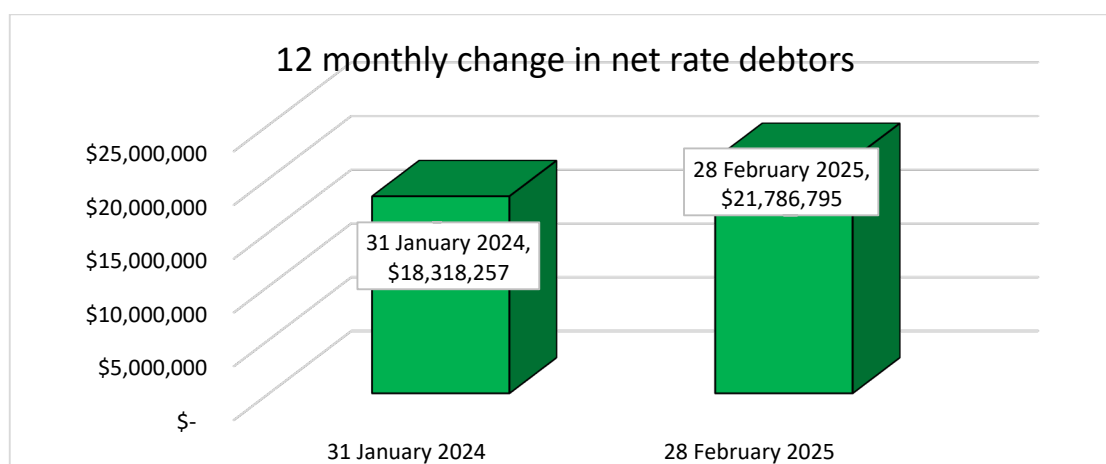
Grant application outcomes

- Council has been advised that we were unsuccessful in the application of the Australian Government's Community Energy Upgrades Fund Round 1 (CEUF) LED streetlighting conversion model that was lodged in April 2024.

Rates

Council issues rate notices each six months. The chart below shows the change in total rate debtors over the previous year. To put the increase in rate debtors into context, just two (2) commercial ratepayers currently owe a combined \$1.369M in overdue rates and charges.

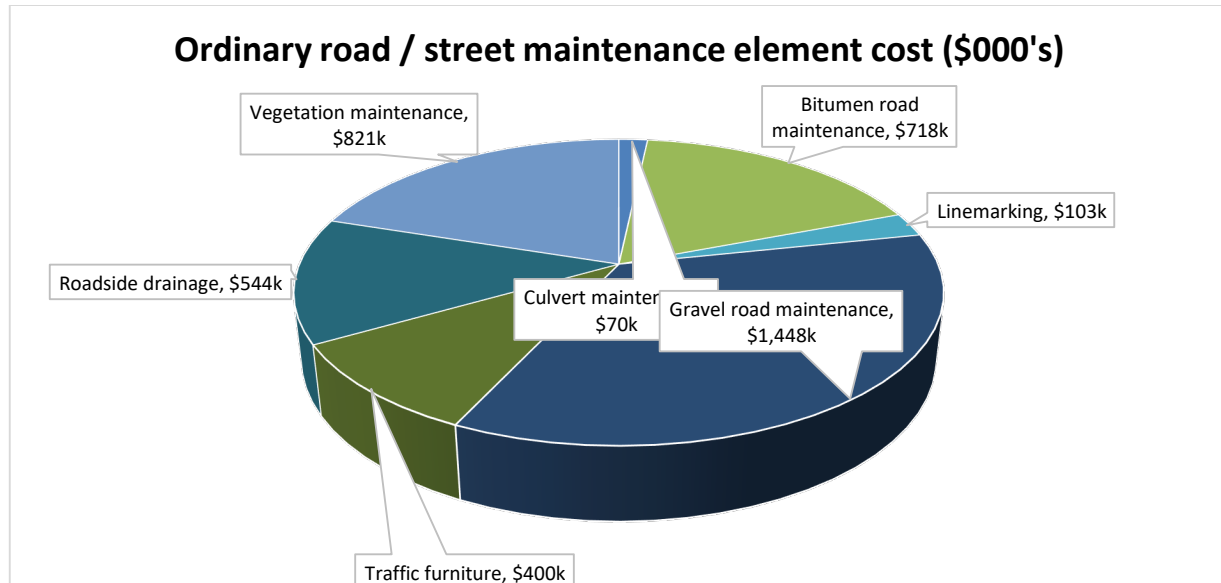
During October 2024, Council issued 11 notices of intention to sell land for overdue rates or charges. Council is working with the two remaining property owners and their mortgagees to resolve the actions.



Ordinary road and street maintenance dissection

Road and street ordinary maintenance costs incurred to 3 March 2025 are dissected as follows:

Maintenance type	Total (\$000's)
Bitumen road maintenance	718
Gravel road maintenance	1,448
Roadside drainage	544
Culvert maintenance	70
Vegetation maintenance	821
Traffic furniture	400
Linemarking	103
Total actual year to date excluding flood-related	4,104



Road maintenance and road flood repairs

Council's 30 most costly road segments including both ordinary maintenance and flood repairs for the financial year to date were as below. Costs per linear metre where relevant has been added for context:

Road segment	Cost (\$000's)	Cost per linear metre (\$)
Scrub Creek (flood repairs) DM01671Ch1670-Ch1850	2,218	
Mountain View Dr (flood repairs) DM01766CH2260-2380	1,866	
Patrick Estate (flood repairs) DM01222Ch4410-Ch4530	1,246	
Braeburn Rd (flood repairs) DM01374Ch170-Ch190	563	
Gregors Creek Rd (flood repairs) DM01502Ch2120-Ch2170	454	
Patrick Estate (flood repairs) DM06830Ch1925-Ch2570	429	665
Glamorgan Vale (flood repairs) DM00964Ch260-Ch274	417	
Esk Crows Nest (flood repairs) DM01609Ch33270-Ch34090	339	413
Mary Smokes Creek Rd (flood repairs) DM05735Ch20-Ch90	233	
Gregors Creek Rd (flood repairs) DM07287Ch20400-Ch20540	224	1,596
Mt Byron Rd (gravel) Mtc14466m	217	
Lowood Minden (flood repairs) DM06335Ch9520-Ch9630	194	1,762
Kammholz Rd (flood repairs) DM00618Ch150-Ch150	168	
Mount Kilcoy Rd (flood repairs) DM02518Ch17465-Ch17490	157	

Esk Crows Nest Rd Traffic Furniture	156	
Sandy Creek Rd (flood repairs) DM05857Ch8860-Ch8940	136	1,704
Mahons Rd (flood repairs) DM07877Ch5910-Ch5950	115	
Neurum Rd (flood repairs) DM02131Ch13420-Ch13510	114	1,270
Kangaroo Creek Rd (gravel) Mtc7416m	110	
McClean Rd (flood repairs) DM03031Ch485-Ch495	108	
Esk Crows Nest Rd (bitumen) Mtc25994m	108	
Mahons Rd (flood repairs) DM07878Ch6030-Ch6100	106	1,512
Prospect St (flood repairs) DM06719Ch35-Ch95	98	1,635
Sandy Creek (flood repairs) DM05801Ch3800-Ch3806	96	
Lowood Minden (flood repairs) DM08510Ch9900-Ch9970	95	1,358
Pakleppa Lane West (flood repairs) DM09208Ch220-Ch410	94	497
Banks Creek Rd (gravel) Mtc9088m	93	
Glamorgan Vale (flood repairs) DM00956Ch3620-Ch3620	92	
McCauleys Lane (flood repairs) DM05829Ch600-Ch685	92	1,086
Esk Crows Nest Rd	92	
Subtotal (\$000's)	10,430	

Special road maintenance/ renewal

In addition to ordinary bitumen road maintenance and flood repairs, expenditure on resealing of bitumen roads is budgeted for FY2025 at \$2.4M. Resealing is a necessary part of the ongoing cost of managing the sealed road network.

Attachments

Financial reports

Recommendation

THAT Council receive the financial reports for 1 July 2024 to 3 March 2025 including the attached basis of accounting statement.

Resolution

Moved – Cr Bishop

Seconded – Cr Jess

“THAT Council receive the financial reports for 1 July 2024 to 3 March 2025 including the attached basis of accounting statement.”

Carried

Vote - Unanimous

Subject: Somerset Regional Council Communications Strategy
File Ref: Officer Reports
Action Officer: CM

Background/Summary

An overarching Communications Strategy has been developed for the organisation to guide its operations, specifically addressing challenges and opportunities within the region. The strategy aims to enhance communication regarding council's core business and supplementary activities with residents.

Effective communication is critical to fostering trust between the council and the community.

In response to feedback and the evolving expectations of our residents, this communications strategy has been developed to streamline and improve how we convey information across multiple channels.

Objectives of the Communications Strategy:

The strategy is designed to achieve the following key objectives:

- Honesty and openness: Ensuring transparent communication.
- Timeliness: Delivering information promptly and proactively.
- Purposefulness: Ensuring communications have clear intent and relevance.
- Language and accuracy: Using simple, informative, and precise language coupled with empathy and compassion.
- Consistency: Maintaining uniformity across all messaging.

These foundational elements are essential for effective council communication across the organisation.

Challenges and Considerations:

The document outlines the diversity of the Somerset region and the challenges faced in communicating with a broad range of stakeholders across multiple platforms. Acknowledging these challenges, the strategy is designed to ensure inclusive and accessible communication.

Implementation and Performance Monitoring:

The Communication Strategy is supported by a Key Performance Indicator document that outlines clear actions on how Council will implement the principles, objectives, and goals outlined in the strategy. This document also aligns with business-as-usual activities to ensure sustained progress. The KPIs contained in the document will be integrated into council's operational plan.

Publications considered in the preparation of this strategy include:

- SRC Staff Pulse Survey (March 2023): Staff highlighted the need for improved communication across the council. Improved communication was listed among the top five core systems requiring enhancement. Staff also expressed a desire for regular and positive communication from all levels of management.
- SRC Community Surveys (2023): Conducted with residents and visitors at rural shows in Esk, Toogoolawah, Kilcoy, and Lowood, highlighting the need for improved engagement.
- Census 2021: Provided demographic insights to shape communication approaches.

The Communications Strategy will be reviewed by 2029. At that time, anticipated social changes in Somerset, including shifts in demographics, social behaviour, and visitor patterns, will be considered. Additionally, factors such as the economy, environment, political landscape, legislative requirements, governance, and new technology will influence the strategy's future direction.

A strong, strategic approach to communications will ensure council effectively connects with and serves the community. The Communications Strategy provides a structured, forward-thinking framework to enhance transparency, engagement, and responsiveness.

It is recommended that council adopt the Communications Strategy and approve its phased implementation to improve overall communication efforts.

Attachments

SRC Communications Strategy 2025-2029

Recommendation

THAT council adopt the SRC Communications Strategy and approve its phased implementation to improve overall communication efforts.

Resolution

Moved – Cr Bishop

Seconded – Cr Jess

“THAT council adopt the SRC Communications Strategy and approve its phased implementation to improve overall communication efforts.”

Carried

Vote - Unanimous

Meetings authorised by Council

Nil

Mayor and Councillor Reports

Cr Brieschke – Councillor Report

- | | | |
|-------|----|---|
| Feb | 26 | Ordinary Council meeting |
| | | Workshop meeting |
| | 27 | Lowood Futures Advisory Committee meeting (half) |
| | | Kilcoy Recreation Grounds Advisory Committee meeting |
| | 28 | Lions Youth of the Year, Toogoolawah State High School |
| March | | |
| 03 | | Working Smart with Outlook training |
| 05 | | Somerset Local Disaster Management meeting, Esk |
| | | International Women's Day High Tea, Somerset Civic Centre |
| | | Ipswich DDMG meeting via Teams |
| 06 | | Somerset Local Disaster Management meeting via Teams |
| | | Visit to Toogoolawah SES |
| | | Preparation for possible Evac Centre, Toogoolawah |
| 07 | | Somerset Local Disaster Management meeting via Teams |
| | | Visit to resident re sandbag request |
| | | Ipswich DDMG meeting via Teams |
| 08 | | Somerset Local Disaster Management meeting via Teams |
| 09 | | Somerset Local Disaster Management meeting via Teams |
| 10 | | Somerset Local Disaster Management meeting via Teams |
| 11 | | Somerset Local Disaster Management meeting via Teams |
| | | Chief Finance Officer interview – observer |
| 12 | | LGAQ Civic Leaders Summit, Brisbane |
| 13 | | LGAQ Civic Leaders Summit, Brisbane |

I would like to thank members of our community, SES, Qld Fire Service, Police and Ambulance who assisted and reassured many residents in need, as we faced the threat of Cyclone Alfred last week.

Thanks also to Council staff who manned the Somerset Local Disaster Coordination Centre around the clock, keeping us up to date and to those who opened the Lowood Evacuation Centre.

We were ready in Toogoolawah, but I have to say I was very relieved when the threat passed and we did not have to open the Evac Centre.

The Mayor, Councillor Jess and I attended the LGAQ Civic Leaders Summit in Brisbane this week and I would like to thank Council for the opportunity.

During a panel discussion, the subject of Red Tape was discussed at length with submissions to the Government, due very soon.

Matters discussed included gravel pits, fish ladders, impacts of depreciation, traffic control and advocacy opportunities to engage with the Federal Government to improve working relationships with Local Government.

The discussion also extended to frustration in our communities over licensing, security guards and more, making some community events unviable in the future.

We were informed LGAQ are advocating for an extension and continuance to the Local Roads & Infrastructure Program that has been flagged to finish in 2026, which will affect most Queensland Councils.

The Summit was also a great opportunity to catch up with Councillors' from other regions to discuss similar issues facing our communities.

Cr Bishop – Councillor Report

March

- 03 Council Microsoft Training
- 04 Renewable Energy Site Tour - Western Downs
- 05 International Women's Day Celebration Esk Civic Centre
- 06 Somerset Regional Council LDMG meeting number 2 TC Alfred Event
- 07 Somerset Regional Council LDMG meeting number 3 TC Alfred Event
- 08 Somerset Regional Council LDMG meeting number 4 TC Alfred Event
- 10 Somerset Regional Council LDMG meeting number 5 TC Alfred Event
- 11 Ipswich District Human and Social Recovery meeting #1
- Somerset Regional Council LDMG meeting number 6 TC Alfred Event
- 12 Somerset Regional Council LDMG meeting number 7 TC Alfred Event
- 13 Ipswich District Human and Social Recovery Group meeting #2
- Brisbane Valley Interagency Meeting
- Ipswich and West Moreton Landcare meeting

Cr Isidro – Councillor Report

Cr Hurley – Councillor Report

March

- 03 Microsoft Outlook Training, Esk
- 05 Kilcoy SES, assist sandbagging
- 06 LDMG Meeting number 2 (Disaster co-ordination for Cyclone Alfred)
- 07 LDMG Meeting number 3
- 08 LDMG Meeting number 4
- 10 LDMG Meeting number 5
- 11 LDMG Meeting Number 6
- 12 LDMG Meeting number 7
- 14 Council Meeting, Esk

Cr Freese – Councillor Report

February

- 27 Regional Consultation Workshop – Country Qld at Toowoomba
- 28 Esk Lions Youth of the Year at Toogoolawah State School

March

- 01 Lowood Lions Youth of the Year at Lowood Showgrounds
- 02 Somerset Village Rural Fire Brigade Special Meeting
- 03 Outlook Training at SRC

- 04 Tour of Western Downs Renewable Energy Site Tour
 05 International Women's Day Event at Civic Centre

Cr Jess – Councillor Report

February

27 Lowood Lions Youth of the Year Interviews

28 Esk Lions Youth of the Year Judging

March

01 Lowood Lions Youth of the Year Judging

04 Renewable Energy Site, Chinchilla

05 Somerset Regional Council International Women's Day Event

12-13 Civic Leaders Conference, Brisbane

Resolution

Moved – Cr Bishop

Seconded – Cr Hurley

“THAT the verbal and written reports of Mayor Wendt and Councillors Brieschke, Bishop, Freese, Hurley, Isidro and Jess be received.”

Carried

Vote - Unanimous

Receipt of Petition

Nil

Consideration of notified motions

Nil

Reception of notices of motion for next meeting

Nil

Items for reports for future meetings

Nil

Confidential Closed Session

Subject: Rate rebate progression – 04060-00000-000
File Ref: Rates - rebates
Action Officer: CEO

Confidential Closed Session

In accordance with section 254J (1) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 Council may close a council meeting to the public. Section 254J (3) states further, a Local Government or a committee of a local government may make a resolution about a local government meeting under subsection (1) or (2) only if its Councillors or members consider it necessary to close the meeting to discuss one or more of the following matters:

(d) Rating concessions

Mr Tim Fynes-Clinton, King & Co joined the meeting at 9.37am.

Resolution

Moved – Cr Bishop

Seconded – Cr Hurley

“THAT In accordance with section 254J (1) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 Council may close a council meeting to the public. Section 254J (3) states further, a Local Government or a committee of a local government may make a resolution about a local government meeting under subsection (1) or (2) only if its Councillors or members consider it necessary to close the meeting to discuss one or more of the following matters: (d) Rating concessions at 9.37am.”

Carried*Vote - Unanimous***Resolution**

Moved – Cr Bishop

Seconded – Cr Brieschke

“THAT Council move out of a closed session at 10.29 am and be once again open to the public.”

Carried*Vote - Unanimous***Resolution**

Moved – Cr Bishop

Seconded – Cr Brieschke

“THAT Council

1. Re-iterate its decision of 19 December 2024 to provide a conditional partial rebate under the “hardship” provisions of Local Government Regulation 2012 s120(1)(c), on the terms and conditions as stated in that resolution, subject to the reference to the date “14 February 2025” wherever it appears in that resolution being changed to “28 March 2025”.
2. Delegate to the Chief Executive Officer all legislative powers necessary to: -
 - a. Give effect to paragraph 1 above; and
 - b. If the terms and conditions of the partial rebate detailed in paragraph 1 are not met, progress all outstanding matters associated with the ongoing recovery of overdue rates and charges owing on assessment 04060-00000-000.”

Carried*Vote - Unanimous***Closure of Meeting**

Summary

There being no further business, the Mayor, Cr Jason Wendt closed the meeting at 10.30 am.

Appendix A



Somerset
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Communications Strategy

2025 – 2029



Our Vision

The Somerset region, with its unique identity and proud heritage, is vibrant, cohesive and connected, providing the foundations for a prosperous rural lifestyle.

Our Mission Statement

To provide leadership in making locally responsive and informed decisions, focusing on our customer's needs to deliver the highest quality efficient services and facilities to all communities of the Somerset region.

Communications Strategy

The Communications Strategy is aligned with council's Corporate Plan and Operational Plan and is centered on the key themes of Natural Somerset, Vibrant Somerset, Prosperous Somerset, Well Planned Somerset and United Somerset. These five themes guide council's focus and have several outcomes and strategies and are aligned with the aims and objectives of the Communications Strategy.

Council Publications

Corporate Plan – 2021 – 2026
Operational Plan (2024-2025)

Relevant Council Policies

CO20 Social Media Policy
CO27 Media Engagement Policy
C034 Copyright Policy

Relevant Council Procedures

Style Guide

Our Core Values

Our values govern council's actions and how we serve the communities of the Somerset region.

We value:

Community Champions

As community champions we will provide a foundation for long-term growth and prosperity while providing flexibility to respond to the changing needs of our community.



Safety STAR (Stop, Think, Act, Review)

We recognise that to function efficiently and effectively our organisation and community must feel safe. In doing so, we will take the necessary time to stop and think, take appropriate action to protect our people, and review our processes in the spirit of continuous improvement.



Excellence

We encourage our elected representatives, employees, our community champions and our customers to be actively involved in our quest for excellence – meeting or exceeding our community's needs and expectations at the lowest cost possible.



Empowered Workforce

As an organisation, we aim to provide a safe environment for our employees to further develop their productive capacity through the acquisition of skills, teamwork, empowerment and participation in the decision-making process.



Positive Interactions

We encourage positive interactions within the organisation and externally, and our relationships are based on integrity, honesty, openness, accountability and equity.





Communications Strategy Objective

Somerset Regional Council recognises the importance of effective communication with its community and various stakeholders. It is focused on building and enhancing trusting relationships with its community. With a heavy focus on positive interactions, council's communications focus is embedded within the core values of the organisation.

Our key objectives:



Honesty and Openness

Transparency in local government communication is key to building trust. Our stakeholders have a right to know how and what services are delivered and where money is allocated and being spent.



Purposeful

Information needs to inform or engage stakeholders about council business and/or activities. Messaging needs to be topical, purposeful and meaningful.



Consistency

Information from council needs to be distributed regularly to build and maintain momentum and support brand recognition within the community.



Language and Accuracy

Use easy to understand simple language, not government or legal terminology, to inform and or explain council information and policy positions. Refrain from using jargon to ensure understanding amongst key audiences. Consistency with language used is important. Deliver information in a simple, easy to understand way to educate the community about council's policy positions and decisions.



Timeliness

Information needs to be provided in real time to ensure stakeholders are brought along for the journey. They are informed of decisions and operations – it supports and promotes inclusion and unity across Somerset.

Methods

How do we communicate

Methods of communication should be tailored to the audience, method and purpose.

- Media releases – weekly highlights, council meeting highlights and general news releases
- Media enquiries (direct)
- Media liaison
- Council website
- Customer service centres
- Facebook
- Instagram
- LinkedIn
- Internal staff newsletter – Team Somerset News
- Email
- Electronic direct marketing (EDM)
- Noticeboards (VMS and fixed)
- SMS
- Annual report
- Mailouts
- Employees
- Elected members
- Word of mouth
- Advertisements (print, online, radio)
- Brochures
- Posters
- Radio
- TV
- Digital
- And more

One size approach does not fit all – we need to be accommodating and tailor our message to our intended audience across multiple channels.

Media outlets



Print



Radio



TV



Digital



Types of information

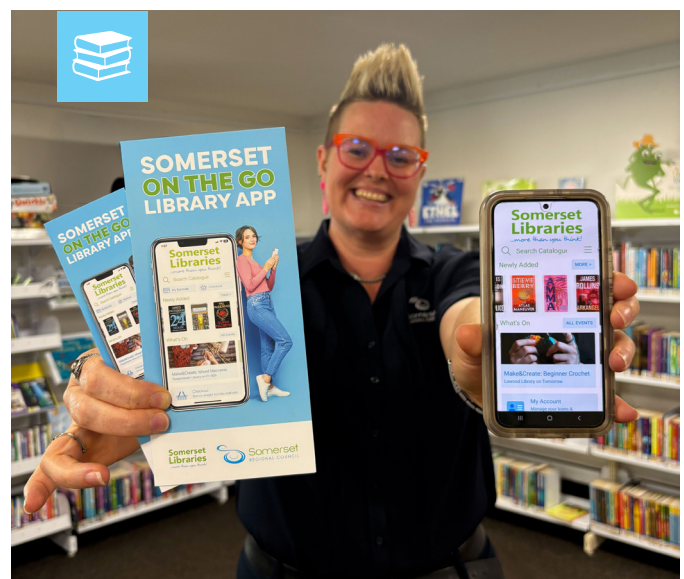
- Business as usual (roads, rates, rubbish)
- Disaster
- Crisis
- Advocacy
- Events
- Libraries
- Arts and culture
- Active and healthy
- School engagement activities
- Strategic projects of council and more

Risk Management

- Reputational damage
- Disaster communications
- Crisis communications
- Brand (manipulation)

Managing Risks

Somerset Regional Council recognises risk management is an integral part of good governance and management practice. Accordingly, council has an active system in place to manage and treat risks. This system is supported and managed by council's CEO and Directors. Risk management principles and processes with the organisation's overall governance, strategy and planning, management, reporting processes, policies, values and culture are managed daily.



What we will achieve by 2029:



Build trust and reputation

We will engage and listen to the community, inviting feedback, respecting views and providing purposeful and relevant information in a timely response. We will also be responsive to the community's opinions by managing and addressing issues as they arise.



Support our elected members

We will support and empower our elected members by keeping them informed about strategic and operational initiatives so they can provide accurate information on behalf of council.



Improve internal communications

We will support our employees to feel empowered. By informing our employees of council decisions and operations across the organisation, we inform our community with accurate information. We support Team Somerset to be Community Champions.



United team

We will demonstrate that we are Team Somerset by being consistent, accurate, open, honest, empathetic and compassionate in what we say and do across the organisation both internally and externally. We will clearly communicate in a variety of ways to inform and educate residents, ratepayers and other stakeholders about the services and support we provide, as well as our decisions, vision and plans.



Stakeholders

Somerset stakeholders comprise of these key audiences:

- Ratepayers and residents
- Businesses and investors
- Volunteers
- Visitors
- Progress associations, reference groups, community associations, advisory groups
- Media (print, online, radio and TV)
- Local government agencies and other local governments
- State and Federal government
- Elected representatives (local, state and federal)
- Funding bodies
- Suppliers
- Team Somerset
- Potential employees (job seekers)

Different stakeholders require tailored approaches to communication particularly for specific demographics:

- The elderly
- The remote residents
- Rural property owners
- Somerset youth
- Parents and their families
- People with impairments
- Culturally and linguistically diverse
- Homelessness
- Other minority groups

At a minimum, Somerset Regional Council is focused on building and enhancing trusting relationships with our community.