

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LISMORE HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY 9 JUNE 2026 AT 10:00 AM

Please note: These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next Council meeting. Decisions recorded in the draft minutes are subject to the Council's Code of Meeting Practice in relation to rescinding decisions.

Present

Mayor, Councillor Krieg; Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Guise, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Rob, Waters together with Mr Butron, General Manager; Ms Sullivan, Director People & Community; Ms Keneally, Director Roads & Infrastructure; Mr Potter, Director Water Waste & Open Spaces; Mr Snow, Director Economy Planning & Environment; Mr Reinhold, Manager Development Services; Mr Harper, Director – Delivery; Ms Williams, Property Lead; Mr Mercer, Manager Finance Partnering, Corporate Planning and Revenue; Mr Pitman, Technology Support Officer; Ms Cotterill, Manager Governance; Mrs Mitchell, Executive Officer; Ms Tye, Executive Assistant Mayor and Councillors; Miss Hull, Executive Assistant - General Manager.

Apologies and Applications for Leave of Absence or Attendance by Audio-Visual Link

Nil

Confirmation of Minutes

1/26 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting on 12 May 2026 be confirmed.

(Councillors Bing/Gordon)

Voting for: Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Guise, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

Voting against: Nil

Disclosures of Interest

Cr Battista declared a Non-Significant, Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest for the following item:

11.2 Mayoral Attendance Report May 2026

Nature: My wife organised the 'Our Kids Winter Ball'

**Cr Gordon declared a Non-Significant, Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest for the following item:
10.7 DA25/234: Subdivision and Boundary Adjustment – Three (3) Lots into Four (4) Lots at Clunes**

Nature: Some of the community like to draw conclusions between my career and subdivisions that present themselves to Council

Altering Order of Business

2/26 **RESOLVED** that that the order of business be altered to debate item 10.1.

(Councillors Krieg/Dalton-Earls)

Voting for: Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

Voting against: Councillor Guise

10.1 Code of Meeting Practice

3/26 **RESOLVED** that Council:

1. rescind item 9.3 from 10 February 2026 meeting adopting the Code of Meeting Practice
2. rescind item 9.2 from 10 February 2026 meeting and reinstate 1.2.20 Council Briefings Policy with the policy being amended to provide that briefings or workshops may be scheduled at the discretion of the General Manager, or supported by at least three Councillors or by resolution of Council on a particular matter
3. rescind its decision from 9 December 2025 relating to establishing a Briefings Committee
4. amends Clause 18.3 in the reinstated Code of Meeting Practice noting that public exhibition of this amendment has been undertaken and no submissions were received:

18.3 If the business of the meeting is unfinished after 5 hours and the council does not resolve to extend the meeting, or if the meeting is unfinished after 30 minute extension, the chairperson must either:

- a) defer consideration of the remaining items of business on the agenda to the next ordinary meeting of the council, or
 - b) adjourn to the Thursday following meeting at 6pm to extend no later than 9pm, and defer consideration of the remaining items of business on the agenda to the next ordinary meeting of the council if the business of the meeting is still unfinished
5. notes a new report in relation to item 7.2 from 12 May 2026 will be submitted at a future meeting

(Councillors Krieg/Hall) (BP26/506)

Voting for: Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg and Rob

Voting against: Councillors Guise and Waters

Mayoral Minute(s) and Condolence Motions

Reports of Committees

8.1 Briefings Committee - 5 May 2026

4/26 **RESOLVED** that the minutes be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

(Councillors Gordon/Bing) (BP26/447)

Voting for: Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Guise, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

Voting against: Nil

8.2 Local Traffic Forum

5/26 **RESOLVED** that:

1. the minutes be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted
2. Lismore City Council, as the delegated road authority, approves the temporary closure of Tutable Creek Road between Rose Road and Beardow Road, including the associated detour, for a period of approximately 13 months from July 2026

(Councillors Hall/Bing) (BP26/514)

Voting for: Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

Voting against: Councillor Guise

Matters Arising

9.1 Questions on Notice

6/26 **RESOLVED** that the Questions on Notice responses provided in this report be noted.

(Councillors Hall/Waters) (BP26/464)

Voting for: Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Guise, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

Voting against: Nil

9.2 Walk of Honour Committee

7/26 **RESOLVED** that:

1. Councillors Krieg, Knight-Smith, Bing, Rob, Dalton-Earls and Hall be appointed to the Walk of Honour Committee
2. the Terms of Reference and eligibility guidelines be adopted
3. nominations open indefinitely

(Councillors Knight-Smith/Hall) (BP26/475)

Voting for: Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Guise, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

Voting against: Nil

Reports of the General Manager

10.2 Policy Review

MOTION moved that Council:

1. adopt the new:
 - a. 1.8.28 Modern Slavery Prevention Policy
 - b. 8.11.4 Lismore Regional Gallery Permanent Collection Policy
2. adopt the revised:
 - a. 5.2.34 Conflicts of Interest Policy – Council Related Development Applications
 - b. Australia Day Awards Committee Terms of Reference

(Councillors Knight-Smith/Guise)

Councillor Jensen left the meeting, the time being 10:32AM

Councillor Jensen returned to the meeting, the time being 10:35AM

FORESHADOWED motion that Council:

1. adopt the new:
 - a. 1.8.28 Modern Slavery Prevention Policy
 - b. 1.8.3 Councillors Drug & Alcohol Policy
 - c. 8.11.4 Lismore Regional Gallery Permanent Collection Policy
2. adopt the revised:
 - a. 5.2.34 Conflicts of Interest Policy – Council Related Development Applications
 - b. Australia Day Awards Committee Terms of Reference

(Councillor Krieg)

8/26 **DEFEATED** a motion of dissent be accepted by councillors.

(Councillors Guise/Waters)

Voting for: Councillors Guise and Waters

Voting against: Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg and Rob

RESOLVED that the motion be put.

(Councillor Bing)

Voting for: Councillors Battista, Bing, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg and Rob

Voting against: Councillors Dalton-Earls, Guise and Waters

9/26 **RESOLVED** that Council:

1. adopt the new:
 - a. 1.8.28 Modern Slavery Prevention Policy
 - b. 8.11.4 Lismore Regional Gallery Permanent Collection Policy
2. adopt the revised:
 - a. 5.2.34 Conflicts of Interest Policy – Council Related Development Applications
 - b. Australia Day Awards Committee Terms of Reference

(Councillors Knight-Smith/Guise) (BP26/417)

Voting for: Councillors Dalton-Earls, Guise, Hall, Knight-Smith, Krieg and Waters

Voting against: Councillors Battista, Bing, Gordon, Jensen and Rob

10.3 Annual Mayor and Councillor Fees

MOTION moved that the fees payable to the Mayor and Councillors for 2026-2027 be set at the 2025-2026 adopted rates, being \$68,800 and \$27,860 for each Councillor.

(Councillors Dalton-Earls/Gordon)

Councillor Waters left the meeting, the time being 11:00AM

Councillor Waters returned to the meeting, the time being 11:02AM

FORESHADOWED MOTION moved that the fees payable to the Mayor and Councillors for 2026-2027 be \$71,350 and \$28,890 respectively.

(Councillor Battista)

10/26 **DEFEATED** that the fees payable to the Mayor and Councillors for 2026-2027 be set at the 2025-2026 adopted rates, being \$68,800 and \$27,860 for each Councillor.

(Councillors Dalton-Earls/Gordon) (BP26/474)

Voting for: Councillors Dalton-Earls, Gordon and Rob

Voting against: Councillors Battista, Bing, Guise, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg and Waters

MOTION moved that:

1. the fees payable to the Mayor and Councillors for 2026-2027 be \$71,350 and \$28,890 respectively
2. Council amends the Councillors Expenses and Facilities Policy to include free access to GSAC and the Memorial Baths, subject to legal advice
3. If deemed legal, the amended policy be put on public exhibition and reported back to Council

(Councillors Hall/Knight-Smith)

FORESHADOWED MOTION moved that the fees payable to the Mayor and Councillors for 2026-2027 be \$71,350 and \$28,890 respectively.

(Councillor Gordon)

11/26

RESOLVED that:

1. the fees payable to the Mayor and Councillors for 2026-2027 be \$71,350 and \$28,890 respectively
2. Council amends the Councillors Expenses and Facilities Policy to include free access to GSAC and the Memorial Baths, subject to legal advice
3. If deemed legal, the amended policy be put on public exhibition and reported back to Council

(Councillors Hall/Knight-Smith) (BP26/474)

Voting for: Councillors Battista, Guise, Hall, Knight-Smith, Krieg and Rob

Voting against: Councillors Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Jensen and Waters

10.4 Audit Risk and Improvement Committee - Extension of Chairperson's Term

That Council extend the expiration of the terms for the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Chairperson, Mr Stephen Coates, to 11 December 2030.

Lapsed due to lack of a mover

Councillor Hall left the meeting, the time being 11:33AM

Councillor Hall returned to the meeting, the time being 11:35AM

10.5 Outdoor Dining Fees Waiver (2026-2027)

12/26

RESOLVED that Council:

1. waive outdoor dining fees for the 2026–2027 financial year in support of CBD activation and economic recovery
2. note the General Manager will review the waiver arrangements during the 2026–2027 financial year and provide a further report to Council regarding the approach to outdoor dining fees from the 2027–2028 financial year onward, including possible phased reintroduction of fees
3. note Area B for the Lismore Pie Cart at 11 Magellan Street is excluded from the waiver arrangements and will continue to be charged in accordance with its existing agreement

(Councillors Rob/Knight-Smith) (BP26/469)

Voting for: Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Guise, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters
Voting against: Nil

10.6 Monthly Finance and Investment Report

13/26 **RESOLVED** that Council note the Monthly Finance Performance Report as at 30 April 2026 and the Investment Performance Report for May 2026.

(Councillors Bing/Rob) (BP26/476)

Voting for: Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters
Voting against: Councillor Guise

10.7 DA25/234: Subdivision and Boundary Adjustment - Three (3) Lots into Four (4) Lots at Clunes

MOTION Moved that Development Consent be granted to DA25/234, subject to the recommended conditions of consent (see Attachment 2).

(Councillors Hall / Bing)

Councillor Gordon left the meeting, the time being 11:50AM

Councillor Gordon returned to the meeting, the time being 11:52AM

Councillor Rob left the meeting, the time being 11:53AM

Councillor Rob returned to the meeting, the time being 11:55AM

14/26 **RESOLVED** that Development Consent be granted to DA25/234, subject to the recommended conditions of consent (see Attachment 2).

(Councillors Hall/Bing) (BP26/513)

Voting for: Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg and Rob
Voting against: Councillors Guise and Waters

At this point the meeting adjourned for lunch, the time being 12.10pm

The meeting resumed at 12.40pm

Notices of Motion / Questions with Notice

11.1 Mayoral Attendance Report April 2026

Councillors Waters and Guise returned to the meeting, the time being 12:49PM

15/26 **RESOLVED** that Council receives the Mayoral Attendance Report for April 2026.

(Councillors Krieg/Bing) (BP26/398)

Voting for: Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Guise, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg and Waters

Voting against: Councillor Rob

11.2 Mayoral Attendance Report May 2026

16/26 **RESOLVED** that Council receives the Mayoral Attendance Report for May 2026.

(Councillors Krieg/Hall) (BP26/473)

Voting for: Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Guise, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg and Waters

Voting against: Councillor Rob

11.3 Sister City Relationships

17/26 **RESOLVED** that Council:

1. examine the existing Sister City arrangements, with the view to developing a policy to
 - a. create more engagement and a better connection with current Sister Cities Yamato Takada, Japan, Lismore, Ireland and Eau Claire, USA
 - b. formalise a Sister City relationship with current friendship city Conegliano, Italy
2. engage with the Ambassador to Australia for the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste about the possibility of developing a Sister City Relationship with a township in the country
3. explore with the leadership of Ujung Pandang, Indonesia and Wudi, China the continued value of the existing relationships
4. explore new Sister City arrangements that may have economic benefits to Lismore

(Councillor Krieg) (BP26/405)

Voting for: Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters
Voting against: Councillor Guise

11.4 Skate Parks improvement

18/26 **RESOLVED** that Council actively seek grant funding:

1. for stage two of the Lismore Skatepark
2. to upgrade the Nimbin skatepark including adequate lighting and security cameras

(Councillors Krieg/Hall) (BP26/406)

Voting for: Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Guise, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters
Voting against: Nil

11.5 Infrastructure Expenditure and Business Unit Review for 2026/27 Budget Preparation

19/26 **DEFEATED** that Council requests the General Manager schedule a presentation for an upcoming Briefing detailing the following operational metrics:

1. a financial breakdown of the current financial year's 'Sealed Road Maintenance' expenditure, specifically providing the percentage split and dollar value assigned to programmed capital renewals versus unscheduled/reactive maintenance work orders
2. an overview of infrastructure procurement for the past 12 months, detailing the ratio of local versus non-local spend, and identifying the top five non-Lismore LGA suppliers by total expenditure
3. a performance summary of Council's Commercial Business Units, specifically detailing the current capacity utilisation rate and the year-to-date financial dividend returned to the General Fund from Northern Rivers Quarry & Asphalt

(Councillors Dalton-Earls/Knight-Smith) (BP26/409)

Voting for: Councillors Dalton-Earls, Guise, Knight-Smith and Waters
Voting against: Councillors Battista, Bing, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Krieg and Rob

11.6 Crime Prevention Plan

20/26 **DEFEATED** that Council holds a briefing on a Crime Prevention Plan implementation aligned with the National Crime Prevention Framework.

(Councillors Dalton-Earls/Waters) (BP26/409)

Voting for: Councillors Dalton-Earls, Guise, Knight-Smith and Waters

Voting against: Councillors Battista, Bing, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Krieg and Rob

11.7 Nimbin Water Supply

MOTION MOVED that Council provides 50% reduction in water usage charges for Nimbin water customers for the duration of the current and ongoing water alerts.

(Councillor Waters)

Councillor Gordon left the meeting, the time being 1:42PM

Councillor Bing left the meeting, the time being 1:42PM

Councillor Gordon returned to the meeting, the time being 1:43PM

Councillor Bing returned to the meeting, the time being 1:44PM

FORESHADOWED MOTION moved that connecting Nimbin to the Rous County Council reticulated system be included in the Budget as a zero cost line item, and that council discuss options with Rous County Council and seek out grant funding opportunities if a viable solution is identified.

(Councillor Rob)

Councillor Krieg left the meeting, the time being 1:59PM

Councillor Krieg returned to the meeting, the time being 2:00PM

21/26 **DEFEATED** that Council provides a 10% reduction in water usage charges for Nimbin water customers for the duration of the current and ongoing water alerts.

(Councillors Waters/Dalton-Earls) (BP26/478)

Voting for: Councillors Dalton-Earls, Guise, Hall, Knight-Smith and Waters

Voting against: Councillors Battista, Bing, Gordon, Jensen, Krieg and Rob

22/26 **RESOLVED** that connecting Nimbin to the Rous County Council reticulated system be included in the Budget as a zero cost line item, and that council discuss options with Rous County Council and seek out grant funding opportunities if a viable solution is identified.

(Councillors Rob/Hall) (BP26/478)

Voting for:	Councillors Battista, Bing, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg and Rob
Voting against:	Councillors Dalton-Earls, Guise and Waters

11.8 Media Policy - Legal Advice

MOTION moved that Council:

1. resolves to obtain independent legal advice, addressing:
 - a. whether the Media Policy is consistent with the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW), including sections relating to the role, responsibilities and functions of councillors
 - b. whether the policy unlawfully restricts or fetters councillors in the exercise of their civic duties
 - c. whether any provisions of the policy are inconsistent with the implied freedom of political communication
 - d. the level of legal and reputational risk to Council arising from the policy and any recommended amendments
2. requests the independent legal advice be reported to Council as soon as practicable
3. further resolves that Council consider whether enforcement of any contested provisions of the Media Policy should be suspended pending receipt of that advice

(Councillor Knight-Smith/Waters)

Councillor Hall left the meeting, the time being 2:29PM

Councillor Hall returned to the meeting, the time being 2:31PM

Councillor Rob left the meeting, the time being 2:31PM

Councillor Rob returned to the meeting, the time being 2:33PM

RESOLVED that the motion be put.

(Councillor Krieg)

23/26

DEFEATED that Council:

1. resolves to obtain independent legal advice, addressing:
 - a. whether the Media Policy is consistent with the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW), including sections relating to the role, responsibilities and functions of councillors
 - b. whether the policy unlawfully restricts or fetters councillors in the exercise of their civic duties

- c. whether any provisions of the policy are inconsistent with the implied freedom of political communication
 - d. the level of legal and reputational risk to Council arising from the policy and any recommended amendments
2. requests the independent legal advice be reported to Council as soon as practicable
 3. further resolves that Council consider whether enforcement of any contested provisions of the Media Policy should be suspended pending receipt of that advice

(Councillors Knight-Smith/Waters) (BP26/494)

Voting for: Councillors Dalton-Earls, Guise, Knight-Smith and Waters

Voting against: Councillors Battista, Bing, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Krieg and Rob

By Exception

24/26 **RESOLVED** that that the recommendations set out in items 11.9 to 11.16 be adopted by exception.

(Councillors Hall/Battista)

Voting for: Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Guise, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

Voting against: Nil

11.9 CBD Lighting and CCTV cameras

Can the General Manager provide an update regarding any additional CBD lighting and/or CCTV cameras installed this financial year, and if there are plans to install further lighting and/or CCTV cameras next financial year?

General Manager's response:

New and upgraded external cameras have been installed in this financial year in the Lismore CBD at the following locations:

Qty	New Location
10	City Hall
1	Dawson/Woodlark roundabout

- 1 Keen/Magellan roundabout
- 1 Keen/Woodlark roundabout
- 3 Lismore Memorial Baths
- 1 Molesworth/Magellan roundabout
- 5 Municipal Building
- 1 Brewster/Uralba roundabout
- 1 Molesworth/Woodlark roundabout
- 5 Skatepark

There are no plans to install any additional cameras in the Lismore CBD in the next financial year.

Re-energised lighting has been completed at the following locations:

- roundabout Woodlark and Molesworth Sts - wayfinding lighting
- roundabout Bridge and Terania Sts - wayfinding lighting
- roundabout Dawson & Conway Sts - wayfinding lighting
- roundabout Molesworth & Conway Sts - wayfinding lighting
- roundabout Dawson & Leycester Sts - wayfinding lighting
- roundabout Keen & Woodlark Sts - wayfinding lighting
- roundabout Three Chain Rd & Union St - wayfinding lighting
- Lismore Skatepark
- Shearman Dve & Duke St laneway - street lighting
- 52 Keen Street – street lighting

Works to complete:

- roundabout Woodlark and Dawson Sts - wayfinding lighting
- roundabout Keen and Magellan Sts - wayfinding lighting
- Woodlark St LED Uplights
- Robert White Bridge & Fawcett Bridge - street lighting

11.10 Disabled Parking - Zadoc Street

Can the General Manager please explain if and when disabled parking will be put in place in Zadoc Street outside the Lismore Court building?



General Manager's response:

At the last Local Traffic Internal Working Group there were several items in relation to requests for changes to parking in the CBD area.

It was determined there would be no changes in the CBD (between Bounty to Zadoc Streets and Molesworth to Dawson Streets) until a CBD Parking Strategy is undertaken later in 2026. Consultation with the Disability Inclusion Advisory Group will be undertaken as part of the strategy in relation to the best locations for accessible parks.

Please note there are two accessible parks available nearby in Zadoc Street (as shown below).

The installation of parks at the requested location would cost \$50,000-100,000, dependent on design and project scope due to the gradient, to ensure compliance.



11.11 Disabled Parking - Dawson Street

Can the General Manager please explain if and when disabled parking will be put in place in the parallel parking area near the Dawson Street crossing adjacent to the Lismore Skate Park?



General Manager's response:

Parking at the skatepark has been referred to the Local Traffic Internal Working Group (LTIWG) for consideration at the next meeting, including disabled parking.

A parking plan for Uralba Street on the northern side of the skatepark has also been drafted for consideration by the LTIWG. The need for a formalised carpark at this location has been identified post-skatepark completion. Should the LTIWG endorse the carpark plan, future funding will be sought for implementation.

11.12 Rail Trail Expenditure

Following the recent announcement that the 2024 grant application to extend the Rail Trail was unsuccessful, can the General Manager:

1. provide information relating to council resolutions to support the subsequent public messaging that council 'was also planning for the project's eventual success by incorporating the rail trail into North Lismore Road development and infrastructure works where possible' and 'are continuing to plan ahead so we are ready to move when future funding opportunities arise'; and
2. provide details relating to how much ratepayer money has been budgeted next financial year and has been expended to date chasing grant funding, building and maintaining the existing section of the Rail Trail, and planning and incorporating unbuilt sections of the Rail Trail into road development and infrastructure works going forward;

noting that the Rail Trail may never secure funding to extend it to connect with Byron Shire Council's Rail Trail.

No Federal Funding For Rail Trail In Byron Shire



The Federal Government this week notified Byron Shire Council that its grant application for the design and construction of the Mullumbimby to Crabbes Creek section of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail was unsuccessful.

The application for \$42 million was submitted in 2024 in partnership with the Lismore City Council and also included the section of rail trail from Lismore to Bexhill.

General Manager's response:

On 21 November 2023 Council resolved:

That Council adopt the Priority Projects Register (Attachment 1) incorporating the identified priorities below (in order of priority):

1. *Resilience Feasibility Study including Water Security and Flood Mitigation*
2. *Regional Airport Master Planning and Redevelopment*
3. *Northern Rivers Rail Trail Stage 2 (South Lismore to Booyong)*
4. *Event Legacy Program*
5. *Riverside Precinct Development (Bridge to Bridge)*

The Rail Trail is included within the draft *Strategic Planning Framework* documentation as supported, this is due to its future economic and destination potential for the LGA.

Planning for the consideration of rail trail elements in the North Lismore infrastructure development works refers to ensuring bicycle and pedestrian crossings on Alexandra Parade and linkages with the Get NSW Active footpath works are included in the design.

Attached is a previous response detailing the construction costs.

Open Spaces has been absorbing the maintenance costs and delivering a basic level of service within existing budgets. As there has been no dedicated cost centres, these costs have not been accurately captured. Moving into next financial year, all Rail Trail works will be allocated to specific work orders/tasks so costs can be tracked, regardless of whether a dedicated budget is assigned.

To date the only costs associated with chasing grant funding has been staff time.

Planning for incorporation of works - Inclusion of discrete design elements such as bicycle crossings are of minimal cost in an infrastructure design project. Once elements have been designed the construction of such items concurrent with the infrastructure delivery would be included as eligible expenditure in the project budget under each relevant grant.

Notice of Motion / Question with Notice

Councillor Big Rob has put the following question with notice:

Can the General Manager please provide:

- an accurate cost breakdown of what has been spent to establish the Bentley to South Lismore section of the Rail Trail to date, including all grant funding actually received, any ratepayer funds already used to establish the Rail Trail, any connecting infrastructure and any expected expenditure on finishing the Rail Trail and connecting infrastructure going forward
- the cost of maintaining the Rail Trail to date and going forward
- any unexpected costs which have come up
- the cost to date and any ongoing costs related to staff pursuing additional sections of the Rail Trail, together with their current expected cost to establish if funding is identified?



Attachment/s

There are no attachments for this report.

TRIM Record No: BP25/115:EF19/25-7

General Manager's response:

Below is the expenditure to date, any Council works (e.g. signage, slashing etc.) were funded by the recycling credit.

Unexpected or unknowns were mainly:

- poor ground conditions, e.g. the low point outside of town, the subgrade was stabilized and trail concreted for flood longevity
- drainage was heavily silted in places, notably on Kyogle Road, this was cleared from the rail trail to the levee wall as well as several other areas

Council officers have been meeting with Tweed, Richmond Valley and Byron Council officers to discuss the formulation of a Memorandum of Understanding, Governance Model and overall coordination of the management, maintenance and marketing of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail. Costs would be shared between member councils. This figure is currently undetermined and at this stage no commitments have been made by LCC.

The Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program funding submission was submitted last year for the next stage. There are no ongoing costs related to this, funding submissions as they arise will be submitted for future sections, the business cases for these were conducted externally.

The business case from 2023, estimated the remaining sections from Lismore to Booyong at \$37 million.

Building Better Regions Fund - Round 5	\$ 9,918,615.00
TfNSW cleanup	\$ 55,000.00
Recycling Credit	\$ 648,000.00
Nesbitt connection & carpark - 7.11 funding	\$ 272,618.62
Total funding	\$ 10,894,233.62
Project Management - External	\$ 317,905
Surveying, RSA, SRZ	\$ 110,362
Detailed Design	\$ 491,167
Planning approvals & studies	\$ 112,075
Biosecurity	\$ 22,000
Geo-Tech	\$ 21,170
Flood Cleanup	\$ 123,005
Main Contractor	\$ 9,221,180
Designs - trail elements	\$ 52,720
Maintenance (ongoing)	\$ 300,000
Landscaping, signage, screening, misc	\$ 122,649
Total spending	\$ 10,894,233.23

11.13 Public Space Maintenance Teams and Street Sweeper

Councillors have been advised that Council has established three operational teams responsible for maintaining public spaces across the Lismore Local Government Area and has purchased an improved street sweeper.

Can the General Manager please provide an update on the Public Space Maintenance Teams and Street Sweeper, including the responsibilities and areas maintained and any planned improvements or changes.

General Manager response:

As councillors have previously been advised, Open Spaces has recently completed a period of workplace change and are still recruiting to fill the adopted Open Spaces structure.

Open Spaces will have four dedicated teams, CBD, south, north and sports fields. The teams will be attending to grounds and gardens, cleanliness and maintenance. A new street sweeper has been procured with additional features such as pressure cleaning capabilities. Council has already received great feedback from CBD businesses regarding this resource and the staff operating it.

11.14 Progress Update - Resolution 209/25

In relation to Resolution 209/25, can the General Manager please provide an update on the progress of actions arising from this resolution, including:

- advocacy and collaboration with NSW Police and other agencies
- progress in securing grant funding and implementing lighting and CCTV improvements
- engagement with State Government regarding health, mental health, housing and homelessness supports
- implementation and outcomes of operational actions currently being undertaken by staff

RESOLVED that Council:

1. *advocate to work in collaboration with Richmond Police District to:*
 - a. *reinstate the Drug Squad that was disbanded over a year ago now*
 - b. *boost the specialist TAG unit back to full capacity*
 - c. *support increasing police resources by actively seeking grant funding opportunities with support from the NSW Police Commissioner and Member for Lismore*
 - d. *support ongoing high visibility policing and operations throughout the LGA with supplementary support by way of regular Ranger patrols*

2. *actively pursue grant opportunities to increase lighting and boost CCTV capabilities across the LGA as a deterrent against antisocial and criminal activity*
3. *request the Minister for Health and the Minister for Mental Health to provide the Northern NSW Local Health District more resources to deal with the increased number of patients who require acute support*
4. *request the Minister/s for Housing and Homelessness provide additional resources to address housing insecurity and homelessness across the LGA*
5. *notes the actions staff are undertaking with regards to:*
 - a. *increased patrols in Lismore CBD and Nimbin*
 - b. *meeting and collaborating with local Police to identify and address emerging crime issues*
 - c. *seeking grant funding to improve street lighting across Lismore CBD and villages*
 - d. *supporting youth programs, education and awareness campaigns*

General Manager's response:

In October 2025 letters were sent to the Ministers for Health, Mental Health, Housing and Homelessness, Member for Lismore and Police Commissioner. Responses received are attached.

New and upgraded external cameras have been installed in this financial year in the Lismore CBD at the following locations:

Qty	New Location
10	City Hall
1	Dawson/Woodlark roundabout
1	Keen/Magellan roundabout
1	Keen/Woodlark roundabout
3	Lismore Memorial Baths
1	Molesworth/Magellan roundabout
5	Municipal Building
1	Brewster/Uralba roundabout
1	Molesworth/Woodlark roundabout
5	Skatepark

There are no plans to install any additional cameras in the Lismore CBD in the next financial year.

Re-energised lighting has been completed at the following locations:

- roundabout Woodlark and Molesworth Sts - wayfinding lighting
- roundabout Bridge and Terania Sts - wayfinding lighting

- roundabout Dawson & Conway Sts - wayfinding lighting
- roundabout Molesworth & Conway Sts - wayfinding lighting
- roundabout Dawson & Leycester Sts - wayfinding lighting
- roundabout Keen & Woodlark Sts - wayfinding lighting
- roundabout Three Chain Rd & Union St - wayfinding lighting
- Lismore Skatepark
- Shearman Dve & Duke St laneway - street lighting
- 52 Keen Street – street lighting

Works to complete:

- roundabout Woodlark and Dawson Sts - wayfinding lighting
- roundabout Keen and Magellan Sts - wayfinding lighting
- Woodlark St LED Uplights
- Robert White Bridge & Fawcett Bridge - street lighting

Council Rangers and contracted security continue daily patrols in the CBD and twice weekly in Nimbin.

Officers continue to:

1. have regular meetings with NSW Police and assist with operations when tasked
2. investigate funding avenues
3. liaise with community organisations



The Hon Ryan Park MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Regional Health
Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast

Ref: M25/8397

Councillor Steve Krieg
Mayor
Lismore City Council

Lismore City Council health care funding (your ref: sk.bm:co25/10717)

Dear Mayor

Steve

Thank you for writing on behalf of Lismore City Council about funding for the Northern NSW Local Health District.

I acknowledge the concerns raised and appreciate your advocacy on this matter. I recognise that access to community health services is important and I appreciate you bringing this to my attention.

After you got in touch, I followed up on this matter with the District to get a better understanding of the situation.

I am advised that the District is funded to provide a specialist mental health response in the Lismore Base Hospital Emergency Department 7 days a week.

I am also advised that the Lismore Acute Care Service is a multi-disciplinary team of specialist mental health clinicians who provide a crisis and assessment service. They provide short term treatment interventions for up to 4 weeks to people living with moderate to severe mental illness who are in crisis or experiencing an acute phase of illness.

The Lismore PACER (Police, Ambulance and Clinician Response) position will commence in January 2026. People aged 18 years or older experiencing a mental health crisis can be referred to PACER by NSW Police or Ambulance. The PACER Clinician will be co-located with police and will help deescalate psychiatric emergencies within the community.

I appreciate you bringing this to my attention and giving me the opportunity to help. The safety and care of patients is the highest priority for NSW Health.

Thank you again for writing. For more information, please contact [REDACTED] A/Director Mental Health Alcohol & Other Drugs, Northern NSW Local Health District, at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ryan Park MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Regional Health
Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast



The Hon Rose Jackson MLC

Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness,
Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth

Ref: EAP24/15732 and M25/7735

Steve Kreig
Mayor – Lismore City Council
43 Oliver Avenue
Goonellabah, NSW 2480

Re: Lismore City Council -Resolution

Dear Mayor Kreig, *Steve*

Thank you for writing to advise of the resolution of Lismore City Council passed on 14 October 2025, and for outlining Council's concerns regarding community safety, access to mental health services, housing insecurity, and homelessness across the Lismore Local Government Area.

Please accept this response on behalf of myself and the Minister for Health in relation to item 3 and myself in relation to item 4.

I acknowledge the challenges being experienced by the Lismore community, particularly in the aftermath of the recent natural disasters and associated recovery. I welcome Lismore City Council's continued collaboration with the NSW Government and service partners to support vulnerable community members.

The NSW Government continues to make significant investments to strengthen mental health services across the state, including in regional and disaster-affected communities.

The 2025 NSW Government Budget commits a record \$3.1 billion towards mental health, reflecting 8.5% of the total Health expenditure for 2025-26. This is comprised of \$2.9 billion in recurrent expenses and \$219.2 million in capital expenditure.

New initiatives funded in 2025-26 include \$23.1 million to expand community-led suicide prevention and wellbeing support programs for First Nations people and \$15.4 million to boost the community mental health workforce and enhance mental health support for young people with severe and complex mental illness, and regional communities.

This funding builds on 2024 Budget investments to enhance community mental health services which included:

- \$30.4 million over 4 years to enhance community mental health teams across targeted parts of NSW, including regional areas. This funding boosts the workforce by about thirty-five additional mental health positions which support community outreach, allow for extended hours of service, and enable more comprehensive case management. It will also strengthen coordination of care, enhance access to specialist psychological services, and improve the involvement of carers and family in care.

OFFICIAL

- \$38.9 million over 4 years to strengthen mental health services by expanding the NSW Single Front Door, delivered through Healthdirect, to provide a statewide point of contact to access mental health support and care across all levels of government. This will enable people with non-urgent mental health needs to connect with community-based services, reducing avoidable emergency department (ED) presentations.
- \$40 million over 4 years for the Pathways to Community Living Initiative, which supports people with persistent mental illness and complex needs who have been in hospital for a long time, or who are at risk of long stays. This additional investment: has established a dedicated, complex care clinical workforce of over twenty-five full time equivalent (FTE) roles and will deliver up to twenty more beds in the community, as an alternative to long term hospital care.

The NSW Government is also partnering with the Commonwealth Government to establish additional Medicare Mental Health Centres (MMHCs).

MMHCs are designed to provide a welcoming space for adults experiencing distress, crisis, or moderate to severe mental illness to access immediate and short-term care and support, and connection with appropriate services for ongoing care. The service is free, and no appointment or referral is needed.

Fourteen new centres are being established across NSW as part of a joint Commonwealth and NSW investment of \$84.5 million (\$26.37 million from NSW) under the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement Bilateral Schedule. This includes a new centre for the Tweed area, which is expected to be operational mid-2027.

A Commonwealth-funded MMHC has been operating in Lismore since 2022.

In response to the numerous disasters that have been experienced in NSW, and in particular in Northern NSW, the NSW Government has established long standing mental health programs to support rural and regional communities. This includes \$23.7 million over 4 years to 2026-27 for 30 FTE Disaster Recovery Clinician and \$21.15 million over 5 years to 2026-27 for the Rural Adversity Mental Health Program. There are 4 FTE Disaster Recovery Clinicians and 2 FTE Rural Adversity Mental Health Program Coordinators in Northern NSW.

The NSW Government is also significantly investing in suicide prevention through the Towards Zero Suicides Initiatives. A key initiative in these efforts is the provision of Safe Havens.

Safe Havens are non-clinical, peer-supported spaces designed as an alternative to EDs for people experiencing suicidal distress. They are free, require no referral, and are staffed by workers with lived experience.

In the Northern NSW Local Health District, pop-up Safe Havens were established after the 2022 floods in Lismore, Woodburn, Murwillumbah, and Mullumbimby, with funding extended until June 2026. Additionally, a permanent Safe Haven operates in Tweed Heads under the Towards Zero Suicides initiative, while the original Lismore site remains temporarily closed due to the pop-up rollout. A transition plan for services in 2026 is being developed.

Suicide Prevention Outreach Teams (SPOT) provides mobile, assertive outreach for individuals at high risk of suicide, offering crisis support in community settings rather than hospital environments. These teams work across Northern NSW (including Lismore and surrounding LGAs) and, like Safe Havens, provide an alternative response to EDs. SPOT services emphasise rapid response, engagement with hard-to-reach individuals, and integration with local recovery initiatives to strengthen community resilience.

To find out more about the Towards Zero Suicides initiatives that the NSW Government is investing in, you can visit <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/towardszerosuicides/Pages/default.aspx>. In relation to housing insecurity and homelessness, Homes NSW continues to provide critical support to people in the Lismore Local Government Area (LGA) who require housing assistance and Temporary Accommodation (TA). On any given night, between 30 and 50 individuals and families are assisted with TA in Lismore, with broader support provided to approximately two hundred clients and families across the Northern Rivers region. This ongoing assistance reflects the NSW Government's commitment to ensuring that vulnerable community members have access to safe and secure accommodation options during times of need.

There has been a recent announcement of 112 new social homes across the Northern Rivers, with new developments underway in Lismore, Casino and Alstonville. These projects are providing safe, fit-for-purpose housing as the region continues to recover from the 2022 floods, and form part of a broader \$6.6 billion investment to deliver 8,400 new social homes across NSW.

To further strengthen local responses, Specialist Homelessness Support provider, Social Futures, has successfully secured funding through the Homelessness Innovation Fund (HIF). This funding will enable the establishment of a Supported Temporary Accommodation service in Lismore, scheduled to open in January 2026. The service will accommodate up to fifty-five clients and families and will be the first Supported TA provider operating within the Lismore LGA. This initiative represents a significant step forward in providing wraparound support for people experiencing homelessness, ensuring they have access not only to accommodation but also to the services they need to transition into stable housing.

In addition to these measures, Rent Choice products remain available to eligible clients in the Lismore LGA, including young people and individuals fleeing domestic and family violence. These products provide rental subsidies and tailored support to help clients secure and sustain private rental accommodation, reducing the risk of homelessness and promoting long-term housing stability.

Homes NSW is also working collaboratively with local partners through the Northern Zero Collaboration Group, which commenced meetings in Lismore in November 2025. This group brings together key housing and homelessness sector stakeholders to improve coordinated responses for people sleeping rough. A key focus of the group is to identify a lead support worker for each person sleeping rough, ensuring they receive personalised assistance to navigate barriers and access appropriate homelessness and housing pathways. This approach reflects best practice in addressing chronic homelessness and demonstrates the value of strong local partnerships.

I have been advised that a Homes NSW Team Leader contacted Lismore City Council to acknowledge receipt of the Mayor's correspondence and advised that Homes NSW remains available for further discussion. While Council declined to take the Team Leader's name or contact details at that time, Homes NSW is committed to continuing engagement through formal channels and established processes to ensure effective communication and collaboration.

The NSW Government recognises the importance of coordinated, place-based responses and values the role of local government in identifying emerging community needs. Ongoing collaboration between councils, service providers, and government agencies remains critical to supporting community wellbeing and delivering improved housing outcomes.

OFFICIAL

Thank you again for bringing Council's resolution to my attention. I look forward to continuing to work together to improve outcomes for the people of NSW, particularly those experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness.

Yours sincerely



I know there are such important issues to you and your community - we are directly investing in new local services and want to continue work with Council on long-term solutions

Rose Jackson MLC
Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness,
Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth

CC: The Hon Ryan Park, Minister for Health and Regional Health, ryan.park@parliament.nsw.gov.au

The Hon Rose Jackson MLC

Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness,
Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth



Ref: M26/1242

The Hon Janelle Saffin MP
Minister for Small Business
Minister for Recovery
Minister for the North Coast
Member for Lismore
lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Notice of Motion on Community Safety

Dear Minister *Janelle*

Thank you for writing on behalf of Lismore City Council outlining the Council's concerns for community safety, access to support and the need for additional resources to address housing insecurity and homelessness across the Lismore Local Government Area (LGA). I apologise for the delay in responding.

I acknowledge the significant challenges faced by the community in the Lismore and greater Northern NSW, particularly in relation to the recovery efforts following the recent natural disasters. I appreciate your advocacy on these important issues and recognise the distress that housing insecurity and homelessness continue to cause within the community.

Mayor Steve Krieg also wrote to me directly regarding the issues you have raised. I have enclosed a copy of the response provided to him for your reference.

I can assure you that the NSW Government continues to make significant investments to strengthen the services available in the greater Lismore region.

In relation to community safety and mental health supports, I am pleased to advise that since the Mayor wrote to me, the Lismore PACER (Police, Ambulance and Clinician Response) position has commenced. People aged 18 years or older experiencing a mental health crisis can be referred to PACER by Police or NSW Ambulance. The PACER clinician will be co-located with Police and will help to de-escalate psychiatric emergencies in the community.

Furthermore, it is my understanding that, the Northern NSW Local Health Districts Mental Health Alcohol & Other Drugs team, in partnership with Healthy North Coast, jointly presented at a recent Community Safety Forum. I am pleased to hear it was agreed that Mr Stephen Carrigg, the Rural Adversity Mental Health Program Coordinator will deliver Mental Health first aid training to the Business Chamber.

Ensuring that everyone in New South Wales has access to a safe and secure home is a key priority for me and the NSW Government. In August 2025, I released the NSW Homelessness Strategy 2025–2035, which provides a whole-of-government response to prevent and address homelessness across the state. For more information, please visit: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/homes-nsw/nsw-government-response-to-homelessness/nsw-homelessness-strategy-2025-2035>.

In October 2025, I released the Homes for NSW Strategy. This is a 10-year plan to transform the non-market housing and homelessness system. This Strategy puts people first by building a system that is fair, inclusive and empowers people to have greater control over their future. For more information please visit: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/homes-nsw/housing-reforms-and-initiatives/homes-for-nsw-strategy>.

These Strategies are supported by the NSW Government's record \$6.6 billion investment under the Building Homes for NSW program, the largest investment in social housing in the state's history. This program will deliver 8,400 new social homes and includes \$527.6 million for homelessness services, along with a \$100 million Homelessness Innovation Fund focused on reducing reliance on temporary accommodation and supporting service innovation.

A key example of this investment in Lismore is Social Futures' 54-room crisis accommodation hub, delivered through more than \$3.9 million in joint funding. The hub has transformed a disused aged care facility into safe, self-contained accommodation for people sleeping rough, providing on-site specialist support to assist individuals and families to transition into long-term housing. Across the Northern Rivers region, 347 social homes have also been delivered or are in the pipeline for delivery between March 2025 and June 2028.

In addition, the NSW Government is progressing delivery of secure rental housing in East Lismore, with construction underway on 50 new build-to-rent homes, the first development of its kind in the region. More than 20 per cent of these homes will be allocated as affordable housing for low- to moderate-income residents. Planning is also progressing for the adjoining site, expected to deliver at least 400 additional homes. For further information about these developments, you may wish to contact my colleague, the Hon. Paul Scully MP, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.

Thank you again for writing and bringing this to my attention. Your correspondence and the issues raised are important and continue to inform work across the NSW Government and partner agencies.

Yours sincerely



Thanks Jewelbe- your ongoing support for housing in your community is noted. The council have also been strong advocates. I assure you we are doing everything we can to ensure housing is delivered in Lismore.

Rose Jackson MLC

Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness,
Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth

11.15 Exemptions from Timed Parking - Lismore LGA

Can the General Manager please provide a list of all categories of persons, permits, or entities that are exempt from timed parking restrictions within the Lismore local government area, including the basis for those exemptions and the number of permits or approvals currently in effect?

General Manager's response:

All parking permits have been implemented following Council resolutions.

- Hospital Precinct resident parking permits 35
- Legal Precinct staff (NSW Police, Court and NSW Correctives) 375
- CBD Trade permit – numbers vary weekly dependent on works

11.16 Vehicle Tracking

Can the General Manager please provide details relating to the extent of council's vehicle fleet which are fitted with trackers, any existing plans to install additional trackers, and the impact any existing vehicle trackers have had on productivity, WHS and driving complaints?

General Manager's response:

Council has now completed installation of the new 4G/5G In Vehicle Monitoring System (IVMS) across all operational fleet vehicles, plant and trailers.

The system is not yet live. Before activation, Council must finalise several governance steps, including confirming workplace surveillance procedures, assigning Driver ID access, determining system access levels and completing operator training. Once these steps are completed, a staged rollout will commence.

As the system is still in testing, no formal productivity, WHS or driving-behaviour impacts can be reported at this stage. Early testing has generated speed-related alerts, which have been used to reinforce safe-driving expectations.

The IVMS is expected to support improvements in safety, incident response, operational efficiency and complaint resolution once fully implemented.

Confidential Matters – Closed Council Meeting

25/26 **RESOLVED** that Council now exclude the press and public and meet in Closed Council to consider the following matters;

Item 12.1 Tender T402526RTC Co-Mingled Recycling Transportation & Processing - Evaluation Report
Grounds for Closure Public Interest Section 10A(2) (d i): Discussion of this matter in an open meeting would on balance be contrary to the public interest because it relates to: commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

(Councillors Hall/Bing)

Voting for: Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Guise, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

Voting against: Nil

Resumption of Open Council

When the Council had resumed its former sitting, the Mayor reported that Council, meeting in Closed Session, had **RESOLVED** that Council:

12.1 Tender T402526RTC Co-Mingled Recycling Transportation & Processing - Evaluation Report

1. in accordance with Clause 178(1)(a) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, accepts Richmond Waste Services (Eljo Pty Ltd & The Trustee for the Rico Family Trust), as the successful supplier for Tender T402526RTC Co- Mingled Recycling Transportation with the contract to be awarded for a three year period, from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2029 with an option for two x one year extensions to the contract at Council's absolute discretion
2. delegate authority to the General Manager to:
 - a. exercise the option when required to extend the contract, subject to the satisfactory performance of the supplier
 - b. to approve variations deemed to be necessary and appropriate within their financial delegations

(Councillors Bing/Gordon) (BP26/422)

Voting for: Councillors Battista, Bing, Dalton-Earls, Gordon, Hall, Jensen, Knight-Smith, Krieg, Rob and Waters

Voting against: Councillor Guise

Closure

This concluded the business and the meeting terminated at 2.50pm.

CONFIRMED > > 2026 at which meeting the signature herein was subscribed.

MAYOR