

Summary of Decisions

May 2023 Council Meeting



- Council will write to the Treasurer, the Minister for Emergency Services, the Minister for Local Government and local State Member expressing Council's strong opposition to the NSW Government's last-minute decision to impose an enormous Emergency Services Levy (ESL) cost increase on councils for 2023/24 by scrapping the ESL subsidy for councils;
 - Noting that as a consequence of the unannounced 73% increase in the State Emergency Service budget and an 18% increase in the Fire and Rescue NSW budget, Council's 3.9% rate increase to provide essential community services and infrastructure has been significantly eroded;
 - Advising that the Government's decision may lead to a reduction in important local services and/or the cancellation of necessary infrastructure projects.
 - Council will call on the NSW Government to take immediate action to:
 - restore the ESL subsidy in 2023/24
 - urgently introduce legislation to decouple the ESL from the rate peg to enable councils to recover the full cost
 - develop a fairer, more transparent and financially sustainable method of funding critically important emergency services in consultation with local government.
 - Council will write to the Chair of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) advising that Council's forced emergency services contribution is manifestly disproportionate to the 2023/24 rate cap, which has resulted in additional financial stress.
 - Council will write to the President of LGNSW and the Central NSW Joint Organisation seeking their ongoing advocacy to bring about a relief in the burden of Councils' emergency services contribution.
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- Council noted the engagement of Woolcott Research Pty Ltd to undertake the 2023 Community Survey.
- Council noted the Investments and Financial report for April 2023.
 - Council will cap Civic Centre hire costs at \$11,000 for the Cowra Eisteddfod, with the remainder to be donation.
 - Council will donate \$2,2750 to the Cowra Musical & Dramatic Society to assist with their Celebration production in July 2023.
 - Release of Closed Decisions: 70/23 – Request for tender 5/2022 – Netball Clubhouse and Public Amenities Building – Col Stinson Park Cowra; 71/23 – Westcast Development Update DA 137/2021.
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- The minutes of the Traffic Committee meeting held on 11 April 2023 were noted.
 - Council noted the traffic classifier information recording traffic speeds through the school zone on the State highway at Holmwood School has been forwarded to NSW Police through the Local Traffic Committee.
 - Council noted in the minutes that Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) upgrade the SCHOOL ZONE & SCHOOL DAYS signage to "C" size, reflective, and flashing annulus, to improve the advance warning of the 40km/h school zone around Holmwood Public School.
 - Council adopted the Aquatic Centre Concept Design and work packages.
 - Council will prepare and advertise tender for detailed hydraulic, structural, mechanical design of Work Packages 1, New Pools Plantroom & Filtration; Work Package 2, Main Pool & Toddler Pool Redevelopment, Reversing Building Ramp & Floodlights; and Work Package 3, New Splashpad & Floodlight (includes splashpad filtration).
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- Council noted the report on the Draft Cowra Shire Swimming Pool Inspection Policy and adopted the policy.

For further information, please contact Cowra Council Communications at communications@cowra.nsw.gov.au or tel. (02) 6340 2087.