



AGENDA

CULTURE AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

10 FEBRUARY 2022

MEMBERSHIP: Councillors J Black, L Burns, S Chowdhury, M Dickerson, V Etheridge, J Gough, R Ivey, D Mahon, P Wells and M Wright.

The meeting is scheduled to commence at .

		Page
CCC22/1	LEAVE OF ABSENCE (ID22/178)	
CCC22/2	CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (ID22/179)	
CCC22/3	ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON (ID22/191)	
CCC22/4	LOCAL ROADS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM PHASE 3 - PROJECT NOMINATIONS (ID22/73) The Committee had before it the report dated 27 January 2022 from the Manager Economic Development and Marketing regarding Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 - Project Nominations.	2
CCC22/5	DRAFT COUNCIL POLICY: MAINTENANCE OF NATURE STRIPS AND LANEWAYS (ID22/82) The Committee had before it the report dated 31 January 2022 from the Manager Operations regarding Draft Council Policy: Maintenance of Nature Strips and Laneways.	14



REPORT: Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 - Project Nominations

DIVISION: Culture and Economy
REPORT DATE: 27 January 2022
TRIM REFERENCE: ID22/73

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose	Seek endorsement	
Issue	Council must determine projects that meet the program guidelines and submit project nominations to the funding body for approval.	
Reasoning	Council has been allocated \$4,292,996 from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (funding body) under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program Round 3.	
Financial Implications	Budget Area	Culture and Economy Infrastructure Executive Services/Liveability
	Funding Source	LRCI Phase 3 Funding Allocation – Australian Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
	Proposed Cost	\$4,292,996
	Ongoing Costs	Road only projects estimate, renewals annually \$27,500 + annual increases
Policy Implications	Policy Title	There are no Policy Implications arising from this report.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The 2040 Community Strategic Plan is a vision for the development of the region out to the year 2040. The Plan includes five principle themes and a number of strategies and outcomes. This report is aligned to:

Theme: 2 Infrastructure
CSP Objective: 2.2 Our road transportation network is safe, convenient and efficient
Delivery Program Strategy: 2.2.1 Council promotes a high level of road safety to users

Theme:	2 Infrastructure
CSP Objective:	2.2 Our road transportation network is safe, convenient and efficient
Delivery Program Strategy:	2.2.2 Council provides traffic management facilities to enhance the safety and efficiency of the road transport network

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the Chief Executive Officer submit Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 project nominations, as detailed in the report, to the funding body for approval.**
- 2. That, in the case that any project nomination be rejected by the funding body, the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to submit alternative projects or amendments to approved projects.**

Natasha Comber
Director Culture and Economy

JH
Manager Economic
Development and
Marketing

BACKGROUND

The \$2.5 billion Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program, funded by the Australian Government, supports local councils to deliver priority local road and community infrastructure project across Australia, supporting jobs and the resilience of local economies to help communities bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Previous funding round allocations for Dubbo Regional Council have been,

Round 1 \$2,146,498

Round 2 \$2,843,101

A summary of the projects, funding amounts and project status as at 31 December 2021 is attached as Appendix 1.

The Round 3 funding allocation for Dubbo Regional Council is \$4,292,996.

The Round 3 eligible grant activity has been summarised as follows;

- Local Roads Projects
Involve the construction or maintenance of roads managed by local governments, encourage to consider works that support improved road safety outcomes.
- Community Infrastructure Projects
Involve the construction, maintenance and/or improvements to council-owned assets (including natural assets) that are generally accessible to the public. All projects must deliver benefits to the community, such as improved accessibility, visual amenity and/or safety.
- Other Public Land
Involve the construction, maintenance and/or improvements to state/territory and Crown owned land/assets, and Commonwealth owned land/assets, can also be eligible projects where the Council can confirm that they have the authority of the land or asset owner to undertake the project at the nominated site(s) and the site(s) are accessible to the public (including natural assets).
- Maintaining Overall Capital Expenditure
As an economic stimulus measure, the intent is that Eligible Funding Recipients undertake infrastructure projects which are additional to projects that they had planned to undertake using either their own funds or funds already available to the Eligible Funding Recipients by another opportunity. The funding is not intended to replace existing expenditure commitments but rather to enable further, additional expenditure as economic stimulus.
Under Phase 3, Eligible Funding Recipients will be required to maintain their overall capital spending on roads and community infrastructure, funded by their own revenue, at or above their 2021-22 capital spending level. The focus on overall capital spending provides Eligible Funding Recipients with greater flexibility to set and deliver the infrastructure priorities in their communities.
- Co-contributions
Co-contributions are not required under the LRCI Program, but are allowed to be used for projects. A project can be funded by a combination of LRCI Program funds, the Eligible Funding Recipient's funds, and other government program funds (including

state government programs), as long as the combined funding for the project does not exceed the estimated cost of a project.

- Eligible Construction Time Period
Between 1 January 2022 and 30 June 2023.
- Combined Projects – Completed LRCI Phase 1 and Phase 2 Projects
Eligible Funding Recipients can nominate discrete later stages of projects that are already receiving funding under the LRCI Program. The Phase 3 nomination must be a new, separate and previously unfunded project stage

REPORT

Consultation

Council’s former Economic Projects and Grants Officer undertook regular consultation with Senior and Executive Council employees regarding priority projects across the organisation. A centralised register of projects continues to be maintained by the Administration Officer and Manager of the Economic Development and Marketing branch.

As various funding opportunities arise, the register is reviewed to determine projects that would be suitable and eligible to meet the guidelines of the funding opportunity. This report details six identified priority projects that are likely to meet the LRCI Phase 3 Guidelines and are achievable under the program guidelines.

The [guidelines](#) can be accessed online.

Resourcing Implications

Council has appropriate in-house resources to undertake the listed projects. Noting that specialised works and/or services will be sought under Council’s Purchasing and Procurement Policy, seeking local supplier where applicable and where best value can be achieved.

Total Financial Implications	Current year (\$)	Current year + 1 (\$)	Current year + 2 (\$)	Current year + 3 (\$)	Current year + 4 (\$)	Ongoing (\$)
a. Operating revenue	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
b. Operating expenses	0.0	27,500	29,174	30,049	30,951	30,952
c. Operating budget impact (a – b)	0.0	27,500	29,174	30,049	30,951	30,952
d. Capital Expenditure	800,000	3,492,996	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
e. Total net impact (c – d)	-800,000	-3,465,496	29,174	30,049	30,951	30,952
Does the proposal require ongoing funding?	Yes, operational funds					
What is the source of this funding?	Grant					

Table 1. Ongoing Financial Implications

Project details

PROJECT ONE	
Project Name	Whealers Lane Road Rehabilitation Works
Project Description/Problem being addressed	Local Roads Project <i>Road rehabilitation works, The current condition of the pavement is rated as poor and it presents with pavement deformations, high roughness count, multiple pothole repairs and shoving. The rehabilitated pavement will provide a smoother running surface with high skid resistance. This will improve road safety particularly during periods of wet weather.</i>
Infrastructure Type	Road
Total Project Cost	\$1,500,000
LRCI Phase 3 Funding Required	\$1,500,000
Construction Start Date	October 2022
Construction Completion Date	June 2023
Estimated Jobs supported – Council Employees	15
Estimated Jobs Supported – Contractors	15
Project Electorate	Parkes
Project Location Coordinates	32°14'58.7"S 148°37'50.0"E
Project Land/Asset Owner	Council
Indigenous employment or business use	Yes
Recycled materials used	Yes



PROJECT TWO	
Project Name	Ollie Robbins Oval Event Precinct Community Infrastructure upgrades
Project Description/Problem being addressed	Community Infrastructure Projects <i>Construction of an elevated substation platform, approximately 4.7m in height plus enclosure panelling, such that the substation is positioned 600mm above the 1 in 100 year flood level. The construction of both low and high voltage cables is also required as part of the redevelopment to meet load requirements and update aging infrastructure/cabling.</i>
Infrastructure Type	Community
Total Project Cost	\$400,000
LRCI Phase 3 Funding Required	\$400,000
Construction Start Date	March 2022
Construction Completion Date	November 2022 - January 2023
Estimated Jobs supported – Council Employees	0.32
Estimated Jobs Supported – Contractors	8
Project Electorate	Parkes
Project Location Coordinates	32.24896° S 148.59972° E
Project Land/Asset Owner	Council
Indigenous employment or business use	Yes
Recycled materials used	No



PROJECT THREE	
Project Name	Eulaline Lane, Arthurville Sealing Gravel Road
Project Description/Problem being addressed	Local Roads Project
Infrastructure Type	Road
Total Project Cost	\$1,468,000
LRCI Phase 3 Funding Required	\$1,468,000
Construction Start Date	January 2023
Construction Completion Date	June 2023
Estimated Jobs supported – Council Employees	6
Estimated Jobs Supported – Contractors	6
Project Electorate	Calare
Project Location Coordinates	32°36'16.8"S 148°43'58.1"E
Project Land/Asset Owner	Council
Indigenous employment or business use	Yes
Recycled materials used	Yes



PROJECT FIVE	
Project Name	Old Dubbo Gaol Heritage Plaza Infrastructure Upgrades
Project Description/Problem being addressed	Community Infrastructure Projects <i>Need to replace current substation as part of redevelopment. Utilising an existing (new) substation but significant infrastructure works required as the current location is in the centre of the plaza, for safety and functionality the substation will be relocated.</i>
Infrastructure Type	Community
Total Project Cost	\$400,000
LRCI Phase 3 Funding Required	\$400,000
Construction Start Date	March 2022
Construction Completion Date	June 2022
Estimated Jobs supported – Council Employees	0.32
Estimated Jobs Supported – Contractors	5
Project Electorate	Parkes
Project Location Coordinates	32.24603° S 148.60209° E
Project Land/Asset Owner	Council
Indigenous employment or business use	Yes
Recycled materials used	No



PROJECT SIX	
Project Name	Gisborne Street Shoulder Sealing Works
Project Description/Problem being addressed	Local Roads Project
Infrastructure Type	Road Community Combination
Total Project Cost	\$274,996
LRCI Phase 3 Funding Required	\$274,996
Construction Start Date	February 2023
Construction Completion Date	April 2023
Estimated Jobs supported – Council Employees	6
Estimated Jobs Supported – Contractors	4
Project Electorate	Calare
Project Location Coordinates	32°32'59.0"S 148°56'45.3"E
Project Land/Asset Owner	Council
Indigenous employment or business use	Yes
Recycled materials used	Yes



Summary

Project Name	Project Electorate	Type	Project Cost
Wheeler Lane Road Rehabilitation Works	Parkes	Roads	\$1,500,000
Ollie Robbins Oval Event Precinct Infrastructure upgrades	Parkes	Community	\$400,000
Eulaline Lane Sealing Gravel Road	Calare	Roads	\$1,468,000
Tracker Riley and Riverside Path Network Wayfinding Signage	Parkes	Community	\$250,000
Old Dubbo Gaol Heritage Plaza Infrastructure Upgrades	Parkes	Community	\$400,000
Gisborne Street Shoulder Sealing Works	Calare	Roads	\$274,996
Total Cost			\$4,292,996

Planned Communications

- Media Release – announcement of approved projects, expected start and completion dates, project costs, acknowledgement of funding body.

Timeframe

Key Date	Explanation
18 November 2021	Executed Funding Deed returned to funding body
14 February 2022	Project Nominations to be submitted to funding body
*pending approval 1 March 2022	Project Managers advised Projects may commence Projects to be included in Pulse Project Management and Control Module for coordinated reporting to be administered by the Administration Officer Economic Development and Marketing
30 June 2023	All projects completed

APPENDICES:

- [1](#) LRCI Phase 1 and 2 Projects Summary

Appendix 1 – LRCI Phase 1 and Phase 2 Projects Summary

Phase 1 - Total funding allocation: \$2,146,498

Due for completion: 30 June 2022

Project Name	Funding	Project Electorate	Project Status
Toorale Road – Drainage Improvements	\$480,000.00	Parkes	Underway
Minore Road - Footpath	\$134,000.00	Parkes	Complete
Hutchins Avenue - Footpath	\$53,000.00	Parkes	Complete
Dubbo – Solar Panel Installation	\$160,000.00	Parkes	Complete
Wellington Caves – Entrance Upgrade	\$146,029.00	Calare	Underway
Dubbo Showground – Toilet Block	\$220,469.00	Parkes	Underway
Battistels/Pavans Oval, Dubbo – Amenities and Car Park	\$500,000.00	Parkes	Complete
Victoria Park, Dubbo – Rocket Installation	\$150,000.00	Parkes	Complete
Cameron Park – Restoration of WW1 Memorial	\$40,000.00	Calare	Complete
Wellington Caves – Access Road Repairs	\$40,000.00	Calare	Complete
Dubbo Aquatic Leisure Centre – Upgrades	\$150,000.00	Parkes	Complete
Wheeler Lane Dubbo – Footpath	\$73,000.00	Parkes	Complete
<p>Note: Cobra Street Pedestrian Crossing - Original project nomination was withdrawn. Due to significant delays, a variation request was approved on 13.01.21 to replace this project with the Dubbo Aquatic Leisure Centre Upgrade project (full reallocation of the \$150,000).</p>			

Phase 2 – Total funding allocation \$2,843,101

Due for completion: 30 June 2022

Project Name	Funding	Project Electorate	Project Status
Tamworth Street Reconstruction, Dubbo	\$690,000.00	Parkes	Underway
Hennessy Drive Shared Pathway, Dubbo	\$465,000.00	Parkes	Underway
Installation of Solar Panel Renewable Systems	\$110,000.00	Parkes	Complete
Western Plains Cultural Centre Security Upgrade	\$240,000.00	Parkes	Underway
Dubbo Regional Theatre & Convention Centre External LED Signage and beautification of building entry	\$300,000.00	Parkes	Underway
Western Plains Cultural Centre Temporary Large Object Storage and Community Music Facility	\$100,000.00	Parkes	Underway
Wellington Pedestrian Footbridge	\$738,101.00	Calare	Underway
Apex Oval Plant and Equipment, Dubbo	\$200,000.00	Parkes	Complete



REPORT: Draft Council Policy: Maintenance of Nature Strips and Laneways

DIVISION: Liveability
REPORT DATE: 31 January 2022
TRIM REFERENCE: ID22/82

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose	Seek endorsement	Other: Public Exhibition
Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeking public of proposed Council policy 	
Reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council cannot maintain all nature strips and laneways across the Local Government Area (LGA). Consistent with the vast majority Councils across the country, Dubbo Regional Council looks to the adjoining landowner to maintain their interface with those portions of public land. 	
Financial Implications	Budget Area	Liveability
	Funding Source	Recurrent Operations Budget
	Proposed Cost	Nil
	Ongoing Costs	Nil
Policy Implications	Policy Title	Maintenance of Nature Strips and Laneways
	Impact on Policy	New Policy

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The 2040 Community Strategic Plan is a vision for the development of the region out to the year 2040. The Plan includes five principle themes and a number of strategies and outcomes. This report is aligned to:

Theme: 5 Liveability

CSP Objective: 5.1 Our City, town and villages are well-maintained, are welcoming, showcase their heritage and what they have to offer

Delivery Program Strategy: 5.1.3 The City of Dubbo is recognised as being attractive and welcoming

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the Council Policy Maintenance of Nature Strips and Laneways, as attached at Appendix 1, for the purposes of public exhibition.

John Watts
Director Liveability

CA
Manager Operations

BACKGROUND

The 'nature strip' is that area of public land existing between the private property boundary and the curb and gutter/road verge. The 'laneway' is that land separating the rear boundary of properties in older sections of Dubbo city, Wellington and villages.

In December 2021, the Executive Leadership Team endorsed a management policy for the maintenance of nature strips and laneways across the Dubbo Regional Council Local Government Area. That management policy is now presented for consideration toward a formal Council Policy.

REPORT

Consultation

- Relevant internal stakeholders were consulted for the drafting of the endorsed Management Policy. This included representatives from Liveability, Infrastructure Delivery and Organisational Performance. The proposal was presented to and endorsed by the Executive Leadership Team in December 2021.
- The consultation acknowledged that the scale of nature strip and laneways across the LGA is too great for Council to be expected to maintain.
- The Management Policy outlined the expectation of the adjoining landowner to maintain their portion of the nature strip and/or laneway.

Resourcing Implications

The Management Policy acknowledges the scale of land involved and the resource demand required if Council were to maintain it all. The policy explains the need for the adjoining landowner to be responsible for their portion of nature strip and/or laneway and therefore there is no direct budget implication to the endorsement of the policy.

Options Considered

- Council could adopt a policy which stipulates Council's responsibility for the maintenance of nature strips and laneways. This would necessitate a reduction in other services across the Local Government Area in order to allocate appropriate resources to maintain these areas to an appropriate standard.
- Council adopts the attached policy (**Appendix 1**), which stipulates that it is the responsibility of the adjoining property owner to maintain nature strips and laneways. This option could present a minor inconvenience to property owners, but also leads to an increased likelihood that all nature strip and laneways are maintained to a suitable standard.

Preferred Option

The draft Council Policy attached at **Appendix 1** represents the preferred option, with responsibility for nature strip and laneway maintenance falling to the adjoining property owner. There are conceivably thousands of kilometres of nature strips throughout the LGA and many kilometres of laneways. It is not practical to expect Council to maintain some or all

of these areas. The financial and time cost would be exorbitant. No other Council is known to maintain these respective areas routinely.

Next Steps

- Place the Draft Council Policy on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days.
- Consider any public submissions in drafting a final version of the policy.
- Present the final version to Council for adoption.

APPENDICES:

- 1 [↓](#) Draft Council Policy - Nature Strips and Laneways



DUBBO
REGIONAL
COUNCIL

COUNCIL POLICY

Maintenance of Nature Strips and Laneways

Date 31 January 2022

Council Resolution Date

Clause Number

Responsible Position Director Liveability
Branch Operations
Division Liveability
Version 1.0
TRIM Reference Number
Review Period 5 Year
Review Date November 2026
Consultation Executive Leadership Team

Document Revision History	
Description	Date
Notes	

POLICY

PURPOSE

To outline the respective responsibilities of Dubbo Regional Council (Council) and residents in relation to the mowing of nature strips and laneways in order to provide a safe, functional and aesthetically pleasing streetscape.

This Policy applies to the management of all urban nature strips and laneways, property owners and occupiers, in the Local Government Area.

BACKGROUND AND RELATED LEGISLATION

A nature strip is the area of public land between the private property boundary and the curb and gutter or roadside. Nature strips should be maintained to a reasonable level. This usually translates to the regular watering and mowing of grass throughout the year, in order to keep the nature strip aesthetically pleasing and conforming to the overall streetscape of urban areas

Nature Strips serve an important purpose of providing a buffer between the vehicle carriage way and the private boundary. The space is typically occupied by footpaths, street trees, lawn and a range of public service utilities both above and below the ground.

Laneways are typically the narrow strip of land between the rear boundaries of properties that have been used for access.

Council is committed to ensuring that the streetscape in Dubbo Region LGA is of a standard that improves local amenity, minimises public safety risks and maintains pedestrian access. This Policy reinforces Council's position of residents and property owners assuming primary responsibility for the mowing of the nature strips and laneways as Council does not mow nature strips and laneways in front of, and adjacent to residential, commercial or industrial properties.

Council does not mow nature strips and laneways adjacent to other government facilities including schools, hospitals, Housing NSW properties, religious institutions, private childcare centres, or other public and private businesses.

Council relies on the community spirit of its local residents and property owners to contribute to the amenity of the region.

SCOPE

The policy applies to all nature strips and laneways throughout the Local Government Area.

DEFINITIONS

To assist in interpretation, the following definitions apply: (Delete section if not required)

Term	Definition
Nature Strip	A nature strip is the area of public land between the private property boundary and the curb and gutter or roadside
Laneway	Laneways are typically the narrow strip of land between the rear boundaries of properties that have been used for access.

POLICY**1. Council's Responsibility Regarding Nature Strips and laneways**

1.1. Council will maintain nature strips adjoining or within:

- Public reserve areas such as, bushland, parks or gardens;
- Council facilities such as public buildings, recreation grounds or swimming pools; and
- Certain areas of Central Business Districts.

2. Property Owners (and Tenants) Role Regarding Nature Strips

2.1. Traditionally, Property Owners (and tenants) have maintained nature strips adjoining their properties. Council lacks adequate resources to effectively maintain these diverse areas, which taken together, constitute a large and sparsely spread area of land. As such, Property Owners (and tenants) efforts are required in order to maintain nature strips throughout our urban areas to a reasonable condition.

2.2. Residents and property owners are expected to maintain the nature strip and laneways (where they exist) adjoining their property. Maintenance refers to keeping the area tidy, mowing, edging and weeding, removing litter, leaf fall and tree debris.

2.3. The footpath must be kept unobstructed to permit pedestrian access. If no footpath exists then an unplanted space adjoining the property boundary must be maintained to permit the same.

2.4. Grass height is expected to be maintained to less than 300mm.

2.5. Areas subject to native vegetation protection must be maintained in accordance with those specifications, which may limit mowing and removal of vegetation.

2.6. Street trees that have been planted by Council in accordance with its Street Tree Masterplan are excluded. They remain the property and responsibility of Council. Residents must not prune or interfere with Council maintained street trees nor plant their own trees within the nature strip.

2.7. Garden beds, median gardens and other identified features installed by the developer on public land are maintained by the developer for a defined period of time. After that period maintenance is undertaken by Council.

3. Areas of Neglect, Where Nature Strips Create an Eyesore or Safety Hazard

In cases where footpaths and nature strips become overgrown, Council may write to the property owner and advise them of this policy.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Director Liveability