
**NARROMINE SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING BUSINESS PAPER – 14 APRIL 2021
REPORTS TO COUNCIL – INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENGINEERING SERVICES**

1. WORKS REPORT

Author	Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Responsible Officer	Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Link to Strategic Plans	CSP – 4.3.4 Ensure Council's property assets are monitored and well managed

Executive Summary

This report provides information regarding works undertaken for the given period in regards to both operational and capital works.

Report

The Works Report (**Attachment No. 1**) for the period 3 March 2021 to 6 April 2021 is presented to Council for information.

Financial Implications

Council has provision for these services in its Operational Budget.

Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Local Government Act 1993
Roads Act 1993

Risk Management Issues

Nil

Internal/External Consultation

Nil

Attachments

1. Works Report

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be noted.

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2. WATER PRICING

Author	Manager Utilities
Responsible Officer	Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Link to Strategic Plans	CSP – 4.3.4 Ensure Council's property assets are monitored and well managed

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider water consumption charges for the Narromine LGA prior to public consultation.

Report

This report should be considered with the fees and charges as part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting documents.

A decision is required regarding the increase for water consumption charges to enable cost recovery for the supply of treated and untreated water within the Narromine LGA.

With the ongoing and increasing legislative requirement to produce and distribute safe drinking water, there is a subsequent increase in operational costs on an ongoing basis. Infrastructure is nearing its end of useful life and requires major investment for renewals or refurbishment.

Whilst Council has successfully increased water tariffs over the past couple of years, the current tariffs still do not recover adequate funds to meet this ongoing and increasing requirement in maintaining the treatment, supply and storage of treated and untreated water sustainably or safely, or meeting best practice.

Some infrastructure renewals have been delayed and or postponed due funding shortfalls. While capital improvements such as a water treatment plant, reservoirs and booster pump sets, are being considered and planned for, capital replacements such as mechanical (pumps and pipes), chemical (dosing), electrical and communication infrastructure is still required.

Water quality in its supply bores have also changed, which necessitates the need to introduce alternative treatment techniques and processes, therefore increasing overall maintenance and operational costs.

It is therefore recommended that the following consumption fees be considered to be placed on public exhibition by Council for the 2021/2022 financial year to meet its ongoing obligations to supply water that meets the NSW Health Regulations:

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2. WATER PRICING CONT.

Locality	Old Charge	New Charge	% Change	\$ Increase
Narromine and Trangie Non-Residential /kL	\$1.75	\$1.91	9%	\$0.16
Tomingley filtered Non- Drinking Water / k L	\$1.50	\$1.62	8%	\$0.12
Narromine and Trangie Residential /kL	\$1.70	\$1.85	9%	\$0.15
Bulk Water Supply (Per Megalitre)	\$450	\$477	6%	\$27
Council Standpipes				
Potable Water/kL	\$3.10	\$3.20	3.2%	\$0.10
Raw Water/kL	\$1.50	\$1.60	6.5%	\$0.10

A comparison was done where consumption charges were compared with other Councils. These charges are presented in the table below.

Council Name	2020/21 Water Usage Rate per kL
Parkes Shire	
Tariff Step 1 <400kL:	\$1.90
Tariff Step 2 >400kL	\$3.50
Commercial Water Tariff per kL	\$2.50
Raw Water Step 1 <400kL	\$1.30
Raw Water Step 1 >400kL	\$2.50
Dubbo Regional Council	
Water supply usage charge	\$2.12
Mid-Western Regional Council (Mudgee)	
Water Usage Residential/kL	\$3.25
Water Usage – Standpipes/kL	\$6.02
Lachlan Shire Council Business and Residential	
Tariff Step 1 <600kL	\$2.90
Tariff Step 2 >600kL	\$4.15
Warren Shire	
Tariff Step 1 <450kL	\$1.26
Tariff Step 2 >450kL	\$1.91
Bogan Shire	
Treated Water/kL	\$2.00
Raw Water Limited Supply	\$1.00

From the above table, Narromine Shire Council is still charging less than most neighbouring councils in the region.

Council has an obligation to implement full cost recovery pricing which is a requirement of the NSW government via DPI-Water Best Practice Pricing Guidelines. It is important to comply with these guidelines to be eligible for ongoing funding via various grant programs (i.e. Safe and Secure) for new and improved infrastructure.

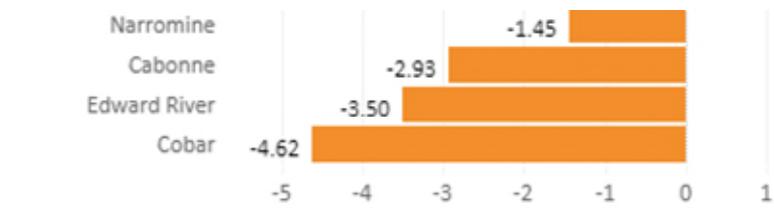
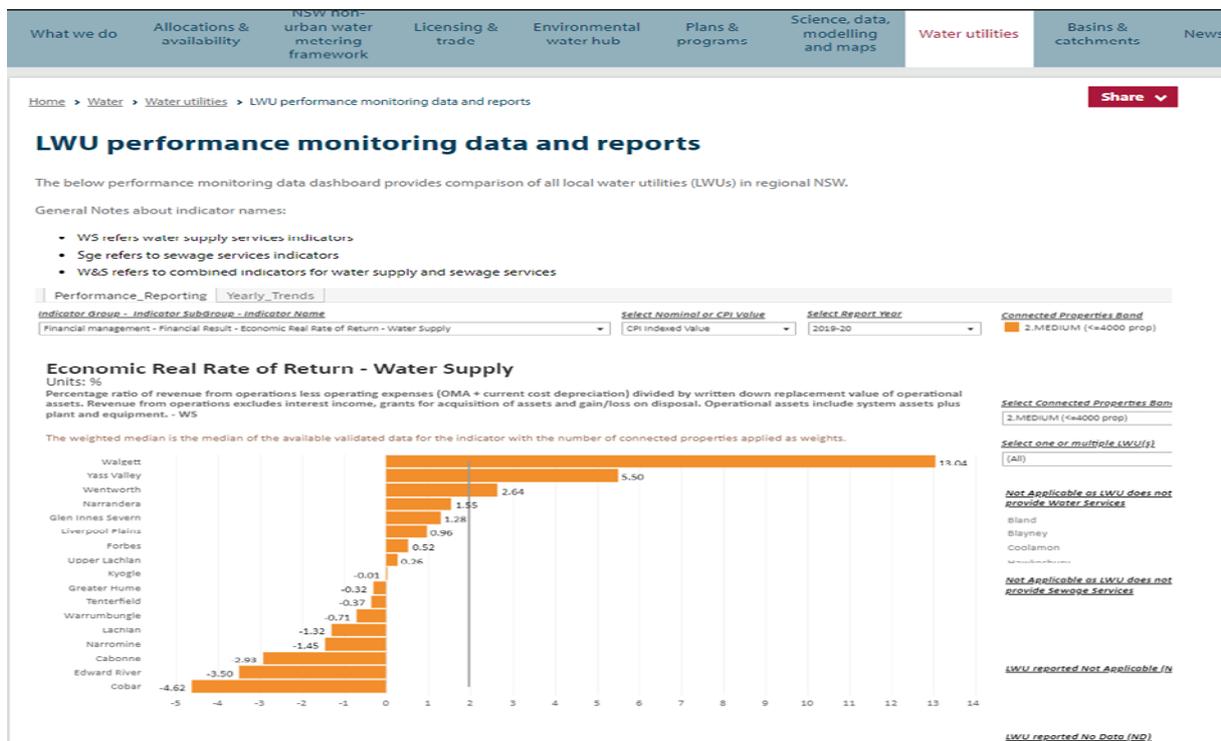
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2. WATER PRICING CONT.

It should be noted that Council should not increase hardship for particular groups of customers and any price increase needs to be affordable.

Financial Implications

If an increase does not occur Council's water business will be regarded as unsustainable. Current performance monitoring data from DPIE Water shows that Council is sitting on (negative -1.45%) in relation to the Real Rate of Economic Return in relation to its water supply business (see extract below from validated data 2019-2020)



Source: (<https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/water-utilities/lwu-performance-monitoring-data>, 2021)

Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Local Government Act 1993.

2. WATER PRICING CONT.

Risk Management Issues

Unsustainable water business if water prices are not increased. Proper community consultation needs to be done to inform water users about this price change to manage community expectations and Council's reputation.

Internal/External Consultation

Public exhibition and consultation as part of the Fees and Charges and IP&R process.

Attachments

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council consider the proposed water consumption price increases for inclusion in the IP&R documentation.
2. That Council, suggest alternative water consumption fees should it feel that the proposed fees are too high.

3. NARROMINE POOL LINER

Author	Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Responsible Officer	General Manager
Link to Strategic Plans	CSP – 3.3 A community that values the efficient use of utilities, natural resources and energy CSP 4.3.1 Operate and manage Council in a financially sustainable manner that meets all statutory and regulatory compliance and Council policies CSP 4.3.3 Ensure Council's property assets are monitored and well managed.

Executive Summary

This report provides Council with the necessary information in order to consider contracting a single source supplier for the provision and installation of a water proofing membrane for the 50m pool located at the Narromine Aquatic Centre under Section 55(3)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993.

Report

3. NARROMINE POOL LINER CONT.

As Council is aware, numerous attempts have been made to seal a water leak at the 50 metre pool, the recent being water proofing and sealing the return centre line.

Council staff sought quotations from numerous suppliers for the supply and installation of a waterproofing membrane for the 50 metre pool at the Narromine Aquatic Centre. Only 1 supplier responded. This supplier provided a quotation for a permanent liner to line the 50 metre pool. While a liner is being proposed, other waterproofing techniques will be considered.

Financial Implications

Council received \$600,000 grant funding from the Resources for Region Program, which has been allocated to various projects at the Narromine Aquatic Centre. It is estimated that the water proofing will cost approximately \$410,000. While this could address waterproofing issues, unknown structural issues may arise as the pool is drained and the leak(s) repaired. These unknowns cannot be costed at this stage.

Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Section 55 of the Local Government Act 1993, provides that a Council must invite tenders before entering in a contract which is greater than \$250,000 (including GST) unless a contract where, because of extenuating circumstances, remoteness of locality or the unavailability of competitive or reliable tenderers, a Council decides by resolution (which states the reasons for the decision) that a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders.

Council staff have already invited quotations from numerous suppliers. Only one quotation is determined to be fit for purpose.

It is therefore considered that due to the unavailability of competitive tenderers inviting tenders for the supply and installation of waterproofing would not achieve a satisfactory result.

Risk Management Issues

Council has consulted with the current pool contractor regarding timing and delivery of the works, to ensure the pool will be opened at the start of the next swimming season. A timeline has been obtained regarding lead times for pool preparation which will be confirmed with the contractor.

While a number of unknowns regarding the structural capability of the current pool still exist, the Tender specification would consider potential risks that needs to be managed or transferred.

Compliance with the tendering requirements under section 55(3)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993.

3. NARROMINE POOL LINER CONT.

Internal/External Consultation

Consultation within the Engineering Services Section.
Consultation with the current Narromine Aquatic Centres Contractor.

Attachments

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council determine a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders for the supply and installation of waterproofing membrane in Narromine, because of the unavailability of competitive and specialised tenderers as demonstrated in the request for quotations process, and further the time constraints in the overall tender process, prior to the opening of the pool season.

4. STREETLIGHTS – BULK LED UPGRADE

Author	Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Responsible Officer	Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Link to Strategic Plans	CSP – 4.3.4 Ensure Council's property assets are monitored and well managed.

Executive Summary

This report is to provide Council with the information on Essential Energy undertaking an LED rollout that has been provided for Council's consideration as part of our FY22 rollout.

Report

Essential Energy is undertaking an LED rollout across their footprint over the next few years to drive reduced carbon emissions, reduced streetlighting bills and more efficient public lighting.

As part of this program the Essential Energy's Bulk LED Replacement (BLR) Program estimate has been provided for Council's consideration as part of our FY22 rollout.

A significant barrier in moving to LED has been retiring recently installed luminaires with a high residual value. Essential Energy has partnered with the NSW State Government to remove this barrier. The new funding provided by the NSW Government supports Essential Energy's strategy to accelerate deployment of LED's, further reducing

4. STREETLIGHTS – BULK LED UPGRADE CONT.

Councils' energy bills and facilitating savings that can be used for other local government critical services.

Financial Implications

Council's contribution for this replacement was estimated to be \$297,110.11, with an estimated annual saving of \$69,288.03.

The estimate provided above is based on a "like for like" deployment in accordance with CEOS5126.02 Operational Standard: Public Lighting Maintenance. Funds to be sourced from unrestricted reserves.

During planning Essential Energy will work with Council to review this approach and will provide a revised estimate where Council may wish to defer from this approach based on Council preference. Where non-standard lighting is currently installed, the estimate is based on installing a standard LED luminaire fitting in lieu of a more expensive decorative luminaire, however this can be included where Council wishes to retain a decorative looking luminaire. Some exclusions may apply to offer pricing where additional works beyond a luminaire replacement is required – for example where modifications are required to support structures. We recommend applying a small contingency to budgeting to allow for any minor additional works, improvements in lighting, or decorative aesthetics that Council may be seeking to retain as part of the upgrade program.

Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Nil

Risk Management Issues

Futureproofing streetlights
Reduced Electricity bills
Reduced Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Increased useful life of luminaire
Reduced operational costs

Internal/External Consultation

Internal consultation with Engineering teams
Consultation with Essential Energy

Attachments

Nil

4. STREETLIGHTS – BULK LED UPGRADE CONT.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves the expenditure of \$297,110.11 from unrestricted reserves for the Bulk LED upgrade of Streetlights in the townships within the Narromine LGA.

5. NATURE STRIPS AND TREE POLICY

Author	Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Responsible Officer	Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Link to Strategic Plans	CSP – 4.2.8 Implement best practice governance standards, transparent decision making and a strong ethical culture 3.2.2 Ensure Regulatory compliance with environmental legislation DP – 4.2.8.2 Maintain a framework of relevant policies and procedures.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to consider repealing the Property Access and Nature Strips Policy and Management of Public Spaces Tree Policy and replace it with the Nature Strips and Tree Policy, for public exhibition.

Report

Nature strips are public land and not part of residential property, however it is well recognised that a shared maintenance approach between Council and the community provides the maximum opportunity for individual and town wide benefits. Where this relationship exists, the nature strip can perform its essential role as a conduit of services and make a highly valuable contribution to the street character, which in turn can lead to higher individual property value and sustainability benefits. While many aspects of nature strips maintenance are the responsibility of Council, it is accepted practice that the adjacent landholder or resident is responsible for some maintenance and for ensuring that any landscaping development is safe and appropriate.

This policy establishes Council's position with regard to nature strips along urban streets and the planting, managing, maintenance and removal of trees and vegetation with the Council Road Reserve.

The Nature Strips and Tree Policy (**Attachment No. 2**) was developed after a review was done on the Property Access and Nature Strips Policy and Management of Public Spaces Tree Policy. Items covered in the previous policies, which are not covered in this Policy will be covered in the new Policy or Operational Directives.

5. NATURE STRIPS AND TREE POLICY CONT.

Financial Implications

Nil

Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Council has regulatory responsibilities under the following: -

- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- Roads Act 1993
- Civil Liability Act 2002
- *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*
- *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)*
- *Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2009 (NSW)*
- Australian Standard 4373-2007 – Pruning of Amenity Trees
- Australian Standard 2303-2015 – Tree Stock for Landscape Use
- Australian Standard ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines

Risk Management Issues

The policy is to promote a consistent Local Government approach to manage nature strips and trees across the Narromine LGA townships.

Internal/External Consultation

The policy should be placed on public exhibition for comment.

Attachments

Nature Strips and Tree Policy

RECOMMENDATION

That the Nature Strips and Tree Policy be accepted and placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF TENDER FOR CONSULTANCY TO CARRY OUT AN INTEGRATED WATER CYCLE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Author	Manager Utilities
Responsible Officer	Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Link to Strategic Plans	CSP – 4.3.4 Ensure Council's property assets are monitored and well managed

6. ACCEPTANCE OF TENDER FOR CONSULTANCY TO CARRY OUT AN INTEGRATED WATER CYCLE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY CONT.

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider and appoint Public Works Advisory (PWA), an entity of the Crown, under Section 55(3)(b) of the NSW Local Government Act for Consultancy Services. These services are for the Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy.

Report

The NSW government (NSW DPIE- Water) requires that all local water and sewer utilities to either update or complete an Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) strategy.

This IWCM strategy addresses the complex linkages between elements of the urban water cycle (water supply, sewage and stormwater and community expectations. The NSW Government through DPIE Water and the Safe and Secure grant program has made funds available (75% DPIE / 25% LWU) to carry out this process. Narromine has received the required concurrence from DPIE - Water for its Terms of Reference and the Tender Proposal from PWA.

It is estimated that the duration of the project would be a minimum of 70 weeks to complete, which will result in compliance with the required Best Practice Documentation for Council including provision of the following key outcome documents:

- 30-year total asset management plan (TAMP);
- 30-year financial plan (FP); and
- Drought and emergency response contingency plan (DERCP).

A LWU's IWCM Strategy addresses the following:

- 3 Elements of the Best-Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Framework 2 (IWCM, Water Conservation and Drought Management Plan); and
- 6 of the nineteen requirements of the NSW Government's Best-Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines, 2007

Council will also be required to conduct the following investigations which at this time can not be costed, until scopes of works have been prepared by the Consultant in conjunction DPIE-Water and Council:

- A full hydrogeological investigation to determine the sustainability of Narromine and the Trangie bores.
- Any further options assessments arising from this study including potential for dual source supply and possible high security river extraction allocations.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF TENDER FOR CONSULTANCY TO CARRY OUT AN INTEGRATED WATER CYCLE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY CONT.

Financial Implications

Council 's contribution is to fund 25% (\$120,959 incl GST from a Tender proposal of \$483,836 incl GST), under the Safe Secure Program. Funding will be sourced from the current approved operations budget which currently has \$80,000 allocated. Further funding will be allocated over the next two financial years from the Water and Sewer reserves.

Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Local Government Act 1993
Water Management Act 2000

Risk Management Issues

- Without completion of a well-documented IWCM Strategy Council will have no clear direction or plan for its Water and Sewage Business as this is the key strategic document.
- Engaging PWA Advisory is seen as the lowest risk Consultancy in relation to the financial commitment involved as it is underwritten by the Crown.
- PWA is familiar with the requirements of an IWCM and required approval processes.
- Compliance with the tendering requirements under section 55(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 1993.

Internal/External Consultation

Prior to the project initiation meeting, Council will form a Project Reference Group (PRG) that will oversee the project. The PRG will include the following representatives as a minimum:

- Principal's Director of Engineering and Infrastructure Services
- Principal's Project Manager (Manager Utilities)
- Principals Manager of Engineering Services
- Representative from NSW DPIE - Water
- Two (2) nominated elected Councillors
- Nominees of other Stakeholders if required I.E. NSW -Health, NSW-EPA, Natural Resources Access Regulator, Indigenous Communities.

The Consultant and Council are required to facilitate a series of public workshops and meetings to be decided by the PRG to inform, consult, involve and collaborate with the public in every aspect of the Strategy, in particular in the setting of Levels of Service.

Attachments

Nil

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6. ACCEPTANCE OF TENDER FOR CONSULTANCY TO CARRY OUT AN INTEGRATED WATER CYCLE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY CONT.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council consider and adopt the proposal to engage NSW-Public Works Advisory as the Consultant for the NSC Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy under section 55(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 1993.
2. That Council fund \$120,959 from the Water and Sewer Reserves, as its 25% contribution.

André Pretorius
Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services

Attachment No. 1

 <p>Narromine SHIRE COUNCIL</p>	<p>MONTHLY WORKS REPORT</p> <p>Tuesday, 6 April 2021</p>	<p>Infrastructure and Engineering Services Narromine Shire Council Tel: 02 6889 9999 Fax: 02 6889 9998 mail@narromine.nsw.gov.au</p>
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*Road and Park users are to proceed with caution at all work sites and observe work signs to ensure safety.
Speed zones are enforceable with possible short delays.
For all enquiries, please contact Council's Infrastructure and Engineering Services Department on 6889 9999.*

URBAN ROADS – Narromine, Trangie, Tomingley	
Various Streets (Narromine)	<p><u>Maintenance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine Maintenance Program such as patching and street sweeping, etc. Weed spraying of streets, gutters and footpaths ongoing.
Various Streets (Trangie)	<p><u>Maintenance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine Maintenance Program such as patching and street sweeping, etc. The mobility access ramps in Dandaloo Street are almost complete, with linemarking still to be completed.
Various Streets (Tomingley)	<p><u>Maintenance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine Maintenance Program by contractor. Contractor 's contract expired in March and will be reviewed. Currently in discussions/negotiations with Contractor.
UNSEALED ROADS NETWORK	
Various Unsealed Roads	<p><u>Maintenance: Map No. 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ceres Siding Road – Maintenance grade Anglebone Road - Maintenance grade Woodleigh Road – Maintenance grade Eureka Road– Maintenance grade Woodside Road – Maintenance grade Morgan Street – Maintenance grade Mungeribar Lane Boggy Plains Road Pineview Road <p><u>Capital: Map No. 2</u></p>
SEALED ROADS NETWORK	
Various Sealed Roads	<p><u>Maintenance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pothole patching where required <p><u>Capital:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dubbo Collie Road – Full Rehab Backwater Road – Shoulder works and gravel resheet <p><u>Roadside spraying completed by Council - Biosecurity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tomingley Road Tullamore Road Tullamore Road culverts Dandaloo Road culverts Trangie Dandaloo Road culverts Trangie Collie Road culverts Corry Road culverts

Attachment No. 1

 <p>Narromine SHIRE COUNCIL</p>	<p align="center">MONTHLY WORKS REPORT</p> <p align="center">Tuesday, 6 April 2021</p>	<p align="right">Infrastructure and Engineering Services Narromine Shire Council Tel: 02 6889 9999 Fax: 02 6889 9998 mail@narromine.nsw.gov.au</p>
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SWIMMING POOLS	
Narromine Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed for winter
Trangie Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed for winter
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE NETWORK CBD Gardens, Parks, Ovals, Villages	
Narromine CBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing vegetation management.
Narromine Parks and Reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General maintenance and mowing. • Weed control in all small parks ongoing. • Dundas Park Playground construction continuing. • Wetlands – Construction of carpark and primary pond continuing.
Narromine Sports Grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General maintenance, spraying and mowing. • Preparation for winter sport commenced. • Apex Park Netball court construction continues. • Cale Oval fence replacement nearing completion. • Cale Oval spectator mound nearing completion.
Narromine Streets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General maintenance. • Street sweeping continues.
Trangie CBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General maintenance and weed control ongoing. • Vegetation mowing and slashing continuing.
Trangie Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General maintenance and mowing. • Swift Park Playground construction nearing completion with opening event to be advised. • Weed control in Swift park, outside construction area ongoing.
Trangie Sports Grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance program has increased in preparation for winter sport.
Trangie Streets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General maintenance. • Street sweeping weekly on Thursdays. • Stormwater improvements (kerb and gutter) completed in Belgrove Street. • Consultants are still to finalise alternative stormwater management treatments, since the original proposed treatments will not work at other identified sites such as at the corner of Mullah and Harris Streets. Contractors to re-commence with construction once suitable solutions have been found. • Designs for Bimblebox Lane have been received and have been reviewed. Meeting held with John Holland to discuss drainage within road and rail corridor. Expected construction for drainage improvements to commence mid April 2021
Tomingley Village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractor's contract expired in March. Currently in discussions/negotiations with Contractor.

Attachment No. 1

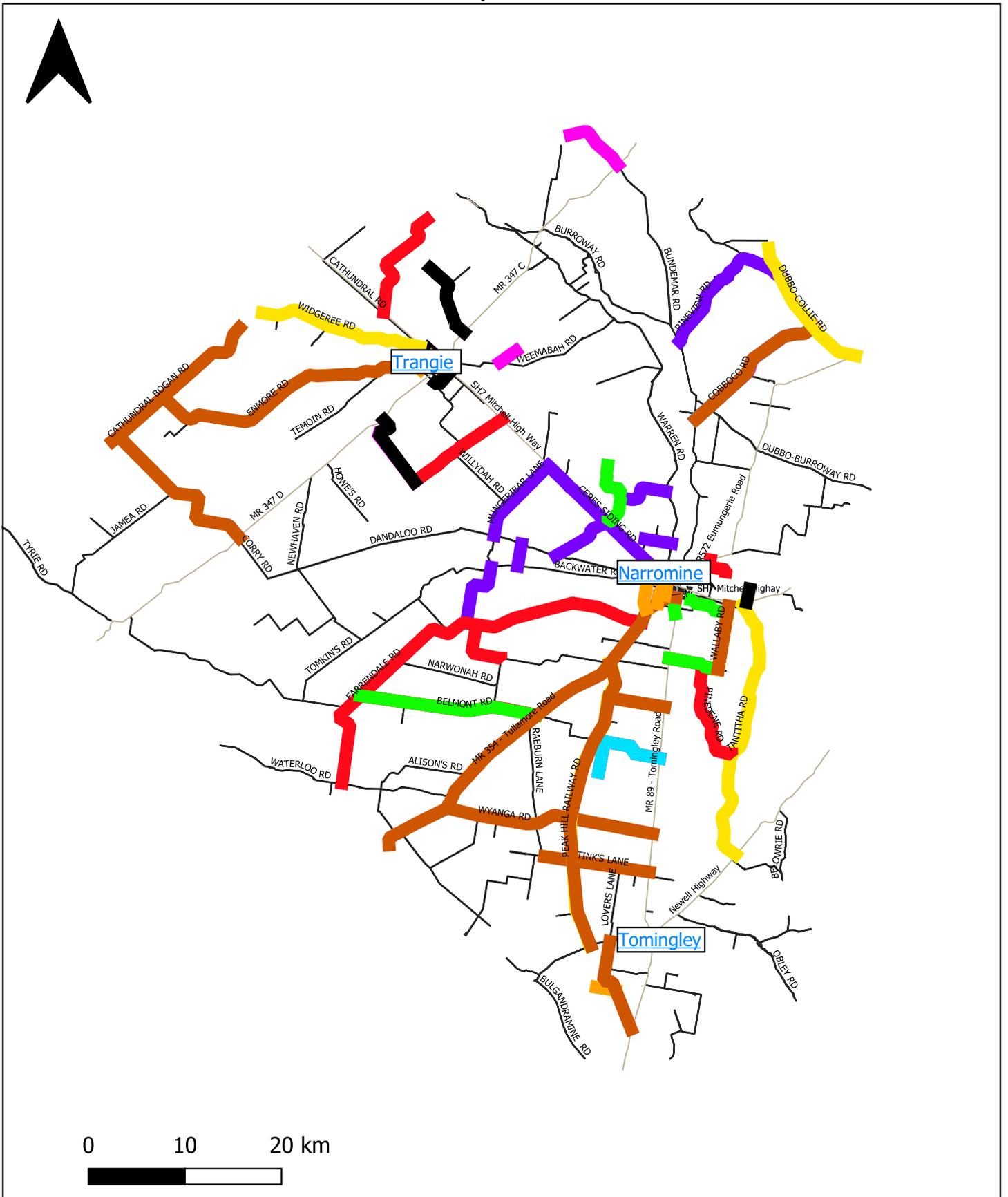
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AERODROME	
Narromine Aerodrome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree trimming, slashing and weed control continues.
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	
All Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General maintenance as required.
Vandalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graffiti continues in both Narromine and Trangie. • Break in occurred at Cale Oval canteen facility.
Narromine Medical Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General maintenance as required.
Council Administration Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General maintenance as required.
PUBLIC CONVENIENCES	
Rotary Park (Narromine) Public Toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilet facilities cleaned daily.
Burraway Street Public Toilets (adjacent to Pool)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilet facilities cleaned daily.
Manildra Street Toilets (at Saleyards)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilet facilities are now open, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and are cleaned daily.
Argonauts Park (Trangie) Public Toilets (Goan Waterhole)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilet facilities cleaned every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
Dandaloo Street Trangie (adjacent to Bakery)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilet facilities cleaned every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
Narromine and Trangie Truck Wash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiting for outcome of land acquisition process for the Trangie Truck wash.
Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilet block secured and cleaned daily.
CEMETERIES	
Narromine Cemetery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General maintenance continues. • Topping up of subsiding graves continues. • The continuation of the brick wall fence along Nellie Vale Road has commenced. • Weed spraying continues.
Trangie Cemetery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General maintenance, mowing and weed spraying. • Topping up of subsiding graves continues.
WATER AND SEWER	
Tomingley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular maintenance at the water treatment plant. • Tenders for new water treatment plant were over budget. A redesign in conjunction with DPIE technical advisors has been carried out, and once concurrence is given the project will proceed to Tender or Quotation.
Trangie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff have continued reticulation system maintenance. • Staff continue operational Drinking Water Quality Testing as required by legislation daily.

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WATER AND SEWER CONT.	
Trangie cont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff replaced 1 water service due to corrosion of existing line. • Staff continue regular sewer pump station and STP system maintenance as required. • Inspection of STW by DPIE Water inspector at request of Council to advise on problems in the plant due to inundation during high rainfall events. As a result of this, additional testing procedures will be required with an upgrade of Laboratory facilities required along with modifications to the plants programming for flood cycles. Further works in relation to the head of works are required for WHS reasons. • Staff and contractors have completed investigations into the possibility of future extension of sewer along Enmore Street. The results are being examined and costings of required works undertaken.
Narromine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff continue daily operational Drinking Water Quality Testing as required by legislation. • Staff are continuing construction of two rising mains and a reticulation main on the Tullamore Road prior to construction of the Wetlands Carpark. • Staff replaced 14 water services in Narromine due to repeated failures and corrosion of galvanised and copper pipes. • Staff installed new fire hydrants on the 300mm main in Cathundril Street in readiness for the decommissioning of older no longer required AC Mains in this area. • Staff completed removal of asbestos pipes and cast iron and steel fittings from the now redundant bores 1,2, 4 and 5 sites. The block in Manildra street that was the site of Bore 1 is now totally vacant along with the small portion of land in A'Beckett street that was the site of Bore 2.

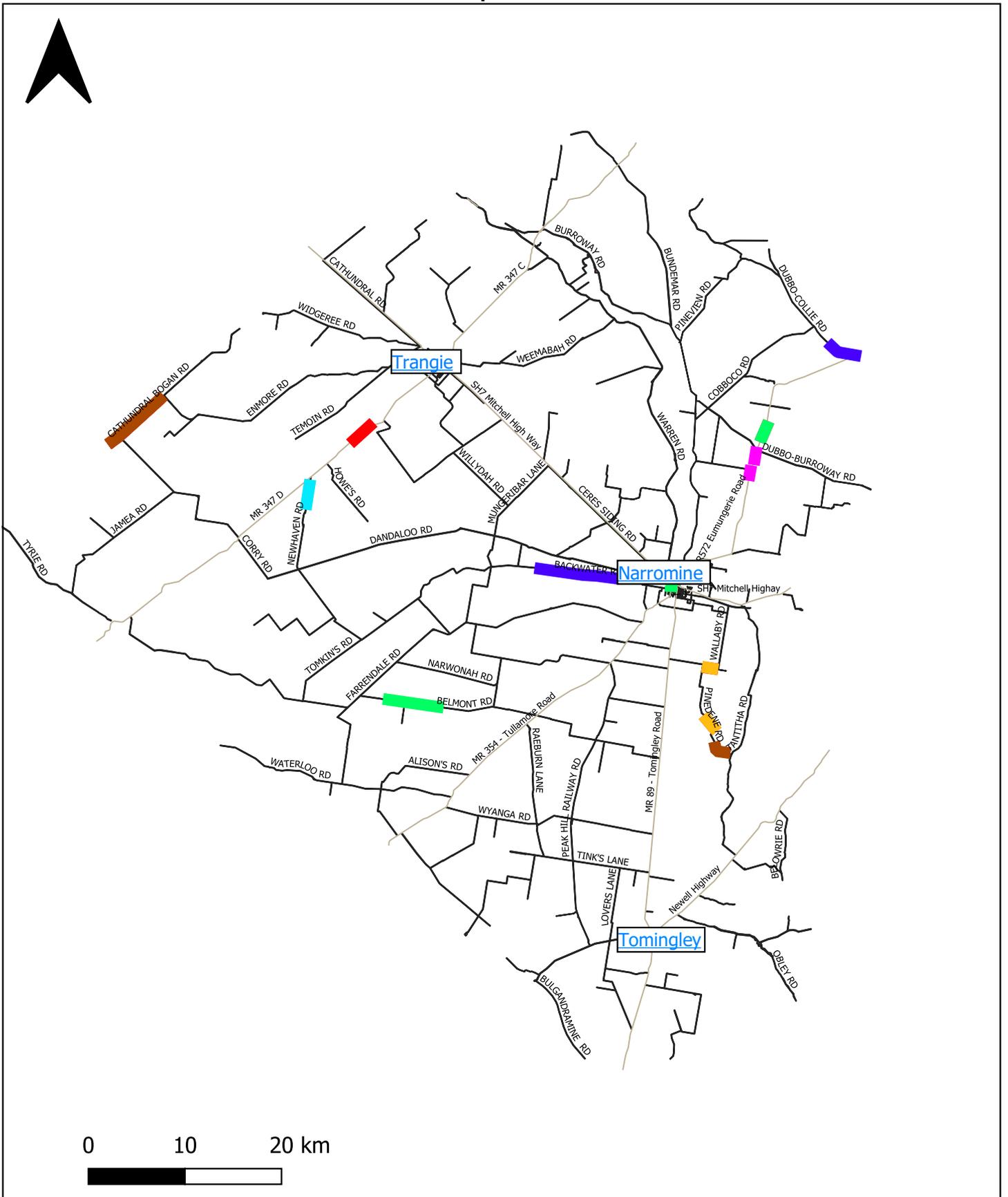


Narromine Shire Council

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
|  March |  November |  July |
|  February |  October | |
|  January |  September | |
|  December |  August | |



Note - the roads highlighted are visual purposes only and may not be the exact location of work



Narromine Shire Council

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
|  March |  November |  July |
|  February |  October | |
|  January |  September | |
|  December |  August | |



Note - the roads highlighted are visual purposes only and may not be the exact location of work



NATURE STRIPS and TREE POLICY
MOWING, PLANTING, LANDSCAPING,
MAINTENANCE AND REMOVAL

Adopted by Council on XX Month 2021
(Resolution No 2021/XX)

Attachment No. 2

NARROMINE SHIRE COUNCIL – NATURE STRIP AND TREE POLICY – MOWING, PLANTING, LANDSCAPING AND REMOVAL

DOCUMENT VERSION CONTROL

CREATED BY	FIRST ADOPTED	LAST MODIFIED	REVIEW PERIOD
Andre Pretorius Director of Infrastructure and Engineering Services	BY COUNCIL ON XX MONTH 2021 RES NO 2021/XX		3 YEARS

**NARROMINE SHIRE COUNCIL – NATURE STRIP AND TREE POLICY – MOWING, PLANTING,
LANDSCAPING AND REMOVAL**

1 INTRODUCTION

Nature strips are public land and not part of residential property, however it is well recognised that a shared maintenance approach between Council and the community provides the maximum opportunity for individual and town wide benefits. Where this relationship exists, the nature strip can perform its essential role as a conduit of services and make a highly valuable contribution to the street character, which in turn can lead to higher individual property value and sustainability benefits. While many aspects of nature strips maintenance are the responsibility of Council, it is accepted practice that the adjacent landholder or resident is responsible for some maintenance and for ensuring that any landscaping development is safe and appropriate. For example, the landholder is expected to ensure that trees and shrubs growing on private land do not impede access to the nature strip or the footpath. Likewise, residents who wish to landscape their nature strip may do so but only in a way that provides for safe access and use by the public

This policy establishes Council's position with regard to nature strips along urban streets and the planting, managing, maintenance and removal of trees and vegetation with the Council Road Reserve.

Council is responsible for the management and maintenance of trees on the Shire's street roadsides and those on Council owned land.

2 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to:

- Confirm Council's position in relation to the responsibility and cost of construction and maintenance of nature strips;
- Confirm and recognize the community's role in maintaining nature strips;
- Ensure the mowing, planting and landscaping of nature strips contributes to the overall streetscape and amenity;
- Define appropriate criteria for assessing requests by residents for Council assistance in mowing grassed nature strips;
- Define appropriate criteria for assessing requests by residents to plant out nature strips; and
- Outline the planting, management and removal of trees on public land

3 SCOPE

This policy applies to all Council owned and/or controlled nature strips within the Narromine Shire LGA urban environment.

Council has had a long-standing practice of relying on residents and businesses to maintain those grassed nature strips adjoining their property. This policy restates this practice identifying the importance of community involvement and cooperation.

This policy does not extend to the mowing of grass or landscaping on private property; which is the responsibility of the owner or occupier of the property.

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4 DEFINITIONS

Nature strip: means any Council owned and/or controlled land located between a constructed road and a parcel of private property (that is, the street verge) but does not include land reserves for a public purpose or bushland. It is generally that portion of the street verge that is grassed and may contain street trees.

Urban Environment: residential lot

5 LEGISLATION

- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- Roads Act 1993
- Civil Liability Act 2002

6 STANDARDS

- Australian Standard 4373-2007 – Pruning of Amenity Trees
- Australian Standard 2303-2015 – Tree Stock for Landscape Use
- Australian Standard ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines

7 RELATED DOCUMENTS

Statewide Mutual - Best Practice Manual – Trees & Trees Roots - Version 8 – December 2019

Essential Energy Vegetation Management Brochure – 15 January 2018

8 CONTENT

8.1 Principles

Narromine Shire Council is committed to ensuring that the streetscapes are maintained in partnership with the residents of Narromine Shire. Nature strips contribute significantly to the streetscape and visual amenity of local neighbourhoods. Council aims to maintain an overall consistency and appearance of nature strips.

Council maintains the street trees but relies on residents to maintain the grass. Council also relies on residents to keep garden plants within their property trimmed to ensure it does not obstruct pedestrian access on the footpath, laneway or nature strip and doesn't interfere with cyclist or motorist sightlines.

To ensure safety and amenity the following general principles apply for footpaths or verges:

- The footpath area, either formed concrete, asphalt, bitumen pathway, synthetic turf or unformed grass verge must be maintained with sufficient clearance (generally 1.5 metres wide) to allow pedestrians to walk along comfortably.
- Any construction works within the road reserve will require an S138 application in terms of the Roads Act, 1993 to the Infrastructure and Engineering Department.
- Property owners or residents are responsible for determining the underground and aboveground services within the nature strip (i.e. Dial before you Dig) prior to lodging the application form with Council.
- Groundcovers, native grasses and shrubs up to 50 cm in height to help maintain line of sight can be planted.
- Compacted gravel on up to 50% of the nature strip (but not within the drip line of trees),

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with the remainder being low level shrubs or grass (this allows for water filtration and has a cooling effect) can be installed.

- Temporary protective fencing for new grass/shrubs up to 13 weeks can be provided to facilitate the establishment or growing-in period.
- No trees or shrubs must be planted in the footpath area without written consent from Council.
- Council will identify the need for planting of trees within the urban space and ensure that the trees planted will be in accordance with this policy.

9 MOWING OF NATURE STRIPS

9.1 Areas that Council will mow and maintain

Council undertakes to maintain the nature strips or verge areas that meet any or all of the following criteria:

- Adjacent to Council owned or operated community facilities;
- Adjacent to parks and reserves;
- In front of lots where a clean-up Notice/ Order have been issued to that lot. Council will maintain that area every six months, depending on environmental conditions; and
- Nature strips where the resident or owner of the property is unable to physically and financially to undertake the work themselves and has made application to Council and had it approved for Council to maintain that area.

9.2 Areas to be maintained by owners / residents

The property owner or resident of abutting properties are responsible for maintaining the visual amenity by maintaining the vegetation (excluding street trees) and landscape features on the nature strip including watering, weeding, mowing, removal of loose material that poses as a slip or trip hazard and edging turf. Council does not carry out renovations or maintenance of nature strips.

All areas not maintained by Council are expected to be maintained by the owners and/or residents of the adjoining private property. Grassed nature strips are expected to be mowed regularly by residents or property owners and kept neat and tidy such that they provide a safe environment and contribute to the general appearance and aesthetics of the streetscape.

It is recognised that some residents may appoint a contractor to undertake general yard or garden maintenance work for them. It is considered reasonable that the nature strip mowing would be carried out in conjunction with the mowing of the private property. Nature strips will generally not be mowed by Council if other lawns on the private property are being maintained by the resident or a contractor on behalf of the resident.

9.3 Eligibility Criteria for Nature Strip Mowing Service Adjacent to Private Property

Council could provide a nature strip mowing service in circumstances where residents, due to financial reasons, are unable to mow the nature strip adjoining their residence, to ensure that Narromine Shire grassed nature strips and streetscape amenity is maintained. Only where residents meet certain criteria will the nature strip mowing service be provided by Council.

The nature strip mowing service is not an entitlement program. At all times the mowing service will only be provided subject to availability of funding.

The following criteria will be considered in assessing a person's eligibility for inclusion on the nature

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strip mowing list:

- Be a permanent resident of Narromine Shire, and occupy the property which is the subject of the nature strip mowing service application; and
- Be receiving or be assessed as eligible to receive home care services such as Meals on Wheels or have a disability or other medical condition which makes it impossible for that person to mow their nature strip; and
- Be the holder of a current Pensioner Concession Card issued by the Commonwealth Government or in receipt of a Service Pension; or some other type of income substitution resulting from a physical disability that restricts a person from mowing their nature strip e.g. worker's compensation or income protection benefit; and
- Have no other members of the household who are able to mow the nature strip.

Council reserves the right to take special conditions into consideration, other than those listed above.

9.4 Mowing Service Schedule

The nature strip mowing service does not provide a guaranteed mowing frequency and site visits under this Policy will generally be no more than 6 times a year, or at Council's discretion.

Council will clean grass clippings from the footpath, driveway and gutter that results from works carried out in the maintenance of the nature strips. No other rubbish, debris or green waste will be cleaned up and/or removed from the nature strip or private property at the time of mowing.

9.5 Approval Process for Nature Strip Mowing Service

Applicants requesting this nature strip mowing service must fill in the relevant application form.

Once the application has been assessed, residents who meet the eligibility criteria will be entered on Council's nature strip mowing list.

All recipients of the service are required to reapply annually to confirm eligibility. Applications forms will be sent out by Council and the service will be suspended if a response is not received.

The Council reserves the right to remove any person from the nature strip mowing list at any time with two weeks written notice, if any of the following occur:

- The person sells or otherwise transfers their interest in the property, and/or ceases to occupy the property.
- The circumstances of the owner / occupier of the property change dramatically, such that the person no longer meets the eligibility criteria stated in this policy.
- The person fails to report any changes in their circumstances, which could make them ineligible for inclusion on the nature strip mowing list.
- Council deems that the person no longer meets the eligibility criteria stated in this policy.

10 GARDENS AND VEGETATION ON NATURE STRIPS

10.1 Bushland vegetation on nature strips

Existing remnant bushland vegetation in specific locations adjacent to Council's bushland reserves

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must be maintained with minimum weed infestation so as not to obstruct pedestrian, cyclist or vehicular traffic.

10.2 Gardens on nature strips

Property owners or residents who wish to plant a nature strip abutting their property with anything other than the items listed in Section 8.1 must apply to Council in writing. All costs associated with the Landscaping will be borne by the property owner or resident.

10.3 Existing Gardens on nature strips

The nature strip must not be landscaped to look like private land and/or used for a private purpose.

Garden plants on nature strips must be kept in a safe, clean, healthy and attractive condition. Understorey plants must be kept to a maximum height of 0.5 metre and maintained so as not to obstruct pedestrian, cyclist or vehicular traffic. Sight distances for vehicles entering and exiting driveways, cross overs and intersections must be maintained and vegetation must not interfere with the driving task itself. A clearance zone of 1.5 metres beside the road is required so people can still get in and out of cars and rubbish bins can be collected.

Property owners will be responsible for repairing any damage to infrastructure caused by landscaping works.

Any works considered hazardous will be required by Council to be removed or made safe at the cost of the relevant property owners.

Hard landscaping elements such as large rocks or boulders, railway sleepers or retaining walls will not be permitted as these items are potential hazards or they may interfere with the driving task itself.

Letterboxes must be established on private property with suitable access to Australia Post drivers maintained.

Electrical or solar wiring must not be installed on the nature strip (e.g. lighting of trees etc.).

Mulch material must be kept stable and properly contained. Allowable treatments include granitic sand, screened granite, crusher grit, blue and white metal grit and finely ground organic mulch which have a diameter of less than 10mm.

Nature strip soil levels, including mulch, should not be allowed to significantly drop or protrude above the level of the footpath or kerb. Ideally nature strips are gently graded towards the kerb for drainage purposes.

Fixed irrigation systems are not encouraged by Council as other service providers may need to access underground services in the nature strip, with these systems being damaged and costly for property owners to replace. Council will not be responsible for replacing plants or landscaping as a result of such works.

Council will endeavour to restore the disturbed area; however, Council reserves the right to remove any nature strip landscaping or treatment for the purpose of carrying out works, without being liable to compensate owners for any loss in reinstating the nature strip.

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11 TREES IN PUBLIC SPACES

11.1 Tree Planting and Species Selection

Council will proactively identify opportunities to increase its canopy over the local government area, especially within build up areas.

Improving the quality of this canopy cover will be achieved through stock quality, planting, selection criteria and species diversity.

Council's urban forest is a mix of native, exotic, evergreen and deciduous trees.

Council will plant the most appropriate tree species based on site suitability, aesthetic, functional and biological attributes, performance and the potential to contribute to the landscape character.

Council will only use quality nursery stock according to the latest best practice and standards.

Council recognises that low species diversity has the potential to create an unstable ecosystem that is vulnerable to pest and disease attack. Council will increase species diversity by ensuring the street and park tree population does not comprise of more than 50% for any particular family and 30% for any particular genus.

11.2 Tree Removal (whole or limb) and Replacement

Selective tree removal and replacement programs are vital in managing canopy cover to ensure that the numerous benefits trees provide are sustained for future generations.

Council will assess all trees proposed for removal or lopping in Council owned or managed land and implement removal and replacement programs as required.

The risk to public safety (including road users) and property will take priority in tree removal in decisions in emergency situations.

Council will remove and replace poor performing trees to reinvigorate the urban forest.

Council will undertake the staged removal and replacement of trees classified as noxious. The impacts to canopy cover will be a key consideration in removing trees as part of this process.

Council will develop strategies for the installation of new plantings, where feasible, prior to tree removal required for capital work projects.

Council will maintain a spread of tree age classes to minimise the impact of tree removals in close timeframes and/or within specific areas.

11.3 Requests for Street Tree Planting By Residents

Council will consider requests from residents to plant street trees. Requests will be assessed according to policy and standard requirements.

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12 Tree Maintenance

Council recognises that trees are a major asset and play an important role in ensuring our Shire is liveable, attractive and healthy.

Our trees grow in a harsh environment and require specialised care and management. They are living dynamic organisms that have the potential to cause damage or injury.

Council will conduct regulation inspections of street and park trees to determine the potential for a tree or one of its limbs to fail and in doing so injure people or damage property. These inspections include a consideration to road user safety.

Risk Management strategies include but are not limited to, replacement, repair or redirecting of footpaths, root pruning, installing root barriers, tree pruning, diverting services or minor infrastructure, enlarging root zones or tree removal.

13 Trees and shrubs in private property

Property owners are required to maintain trees and shrubs within their property. Where a tree or shrub, located in private property, is overhanging onto a road reserve and pose a safety risk or interfere with the driving task, Council will:

- a) Approach the property owner and raise the issue in the first instance;
- b) Allow for the property owner to address the issue within an agreed timeframe; and
- c) Should the issue not be addressed within the agreed timeframe, Council will remove the hazard at no cost to Council.

Offences

- a) It is an offence to do any of the following on vegetation located on public land or land that Council own without written consent from Council:
 - i. Trim, remove, lop, destroy any tree, shrub or vegetation;
 - ii. Remove or damage any tree or trunk protection measure such as a tree guard, bollard, guide post and the like; and
 - iii. Attach any sign, marking, fixture, light, etc. to any tree.