
NARROMINE SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING BUSINESS PAPER – 19 FEBRUARY 2025
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 during the given period for operational and capital works.

Report

The Works Report (**Attachment No. 1**) for the period 2 December 2024 to 7 February 2025 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

- Works Report (**Attachment No. 1**)

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be noted.

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2. CEMETERY MASTER PLAN

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 the proposed cemetery master plan and recommends endorsement of the plan.

Report

In November 2024, Council resolved to place the draft Cemetery Master Plan on public exhibition. The exhibition period closed on 15 January 2025. Two submissions were received during the exhibition period; the details of the submissions are shown in the table below.

Submission number	Summarised Submission contents	Council Comments
1	Request to include a colorbond fence along the western side of the cemetery. Request to include a row of trees along the western side of the cemetery. Both are requested to provide visual and audio barriers between the residential properties and the cemetery.	The plan has been updated to include these suggestions.
2	Please consider: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Location of the new entrance to be at the same location of the current double gate entrance on Nellie Vale Road 2. Placing all future Niche Walls in the same location (not spread out) 3. Repainting or powder coating the gates and iron fencing 4. Sealing of one road in the older section 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The existing dual gate access in the old section does not permit road widening or construction works. However, this access will remain operational under normal conditions until the new access is constructed. Once the new access is in place, further analysis will be conducted to assess the feasibility and appropriateness of retaining both access points on Nellie Vale Road.

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		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. It is anticipated that future niche walls will be grouped in the south-western corner of the cemetery. 3. Repainting of the gates and fencing will be included within the Recreational Facilities Asset Management Plan. 4. Road sealing within the cemetery has been added to the updated plan.
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Once endorsed, the master plan will provide guidance on the future development at the Narromine Cemetery. The first project working within the master plan is the installation of the new toilets and removal of the current toilets.

Financial Implications

The Master Plan will influence future budgets, but no immediate financial implications are expected from the plan itself. Implementation will occur as funding becomes available in the future.

Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Local Government Act 1993
Heritage Act 1977
Narromine Local Environmental Plan 2011

Risk Management Issues

The following was considered in developing the master plan:

1. Stakeholder engagement
2. Cultural sensitivity
3. Environmental management
4. Heritage preservation

Internal/External Consultation

External consultation occurred from November 2024 – January 2025 and two submissions were received.

Attachments

- Narromine Cemetery Master Plan (**Attachment No. 2**)

2. CEMETERY MASTER PLAN (Cont'd)

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. The Narromine Cemetery Master Plan be endorsed.
2. The new toilets are installed in the location depicted within the master plan.

3. FOGO BAGS

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 on the distribution of FOGO bin liners to residents and a recommendation to reduce Council costs.

Report

FOGO (Food Organics and Garden Organics) bags are compostable and designed for use in kitchen caddies to facilitate green waste collection, helping residents manage food and organic waste efficiently. The FOGO system allows households to dispose of organic materials in an environmentally friendly manner, reducing landfill waste and promoting sustainable waste management practices.



Figure 1: A type of FOGO bin liner

3. FOGO BAGS (Cont'd)

At present, these bags are freely available at the Council's front counter, allowing anyone, including non-residents of the Shire, to collect them without restrictions. This has resulted in a high and unmonitored collection rate, costing Council tens of thousands of dollars. The lack of control over distribution has also raised concerns that some individuals may be taking excess bags, possibly using them for purposes other than organic waste disposal.

To ensure that FOGO bags are distributed fairly to ratepayers while reducing excessive consumption and costs, Council proposes a new distribution system. Under this proposal, vouchers will be provided to all ratepayers with their annual rates notice. These vouchers will entitle each household to receive a maximum of two rolls of 150 FOGO bags per year, which equates to approximately one bag every two days. This allocation aligns with standard waste management practices and should be sufficient for most households' needs. Residents will be able to redeem their vouchers at Council's front counter, ensuring that the bags are received only by those who are eligible.

Residents who require additional FOGO bags beyond their allocated amount will have the option to purchase them at a cost set in Council's fees and charges schedule. This ensures that those needing extra bags can still access them while maintaining the cost-saving measures.

This initiative is expected to lead to substantial cost savings while maintaining accessibility to essential waste management resources for residents. Additionally, it will encourage responsible use of the bags, preventing unnecessary waste and misuse. Council will also track voucher redemptions to monitor distribution effectiveness and adjust allocations if necessary in future years. By implementing this change, Council can ensure that the bags are used efficiently and by those contributing to the waste service.

Financial Implications

This implementation is expected to save Council significant money in future years.

Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Local Government Act 1993
Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001

Risk Management Issues

1. **Resident Awareness and Compliance** – Effective communication strategies will be necessary to inform residents of the changes and avoid confusion.
2. **Potential Community Backlash** – Some residents may view the change as a reduction in service; proactive engagement and education will be key to mitigating concerns.

3. FOGO BAGS (Cont'd)

3. **Enforcement and Monitoring** – Ensuring that non-residents and those exceeding their allocation do not exploit the system, requiring monitoring of voucher use and potential audits.

It is not expected to be a large change or imposition on rate payers or Council staff.

Internal/External Consultation

No consultation will occur, however, community with the community will be required to clearly outline the changes.

Attachments

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Introduce a controlled distribution system for FOGO bags by issuing two vouchers per property with the annual rates notice, with implementation commencing after the distribution of 2025 rate notices.
2. Communicate the changes clearly to residents via Council's website, social media, Council Column, and rates notices to ensure awareness and compliance.
3. Create a line item in Council's 2025/2026 Fees and Charges for purchase of FOGO bags.

4. SMART WATER METER REVIEW

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 addresses Council's resolution No 2024/243 to investigate and report on Smart Water Meters.

Background

In 2022, Council initiated a staged program to replace all existing water meters with "smart meters". This program has now been fully completed, with over 99% of water meters across the three towns now installed and reading remotely.

4. SMART WATER METER REVIEW (Cont'd)

What Are Smart Meters?

"Smart meters" is a term that can refer to various types of meters, but in this context, it refers to a standard mechanical water meter equipped with an attached transmission device. The meter includes a turbine that detects water flow, causing the meter to increment as water passes through. This mechanical action is recorded by the electronic transmission device, which then sends the data to Council's systems.

While the meter can still be read manually onsite, to increase efficiency and minimize the potential for incorrect readings, over 99% of Narromine's water meters are now read remotely and automatically through Council's water management system, Aqualus.

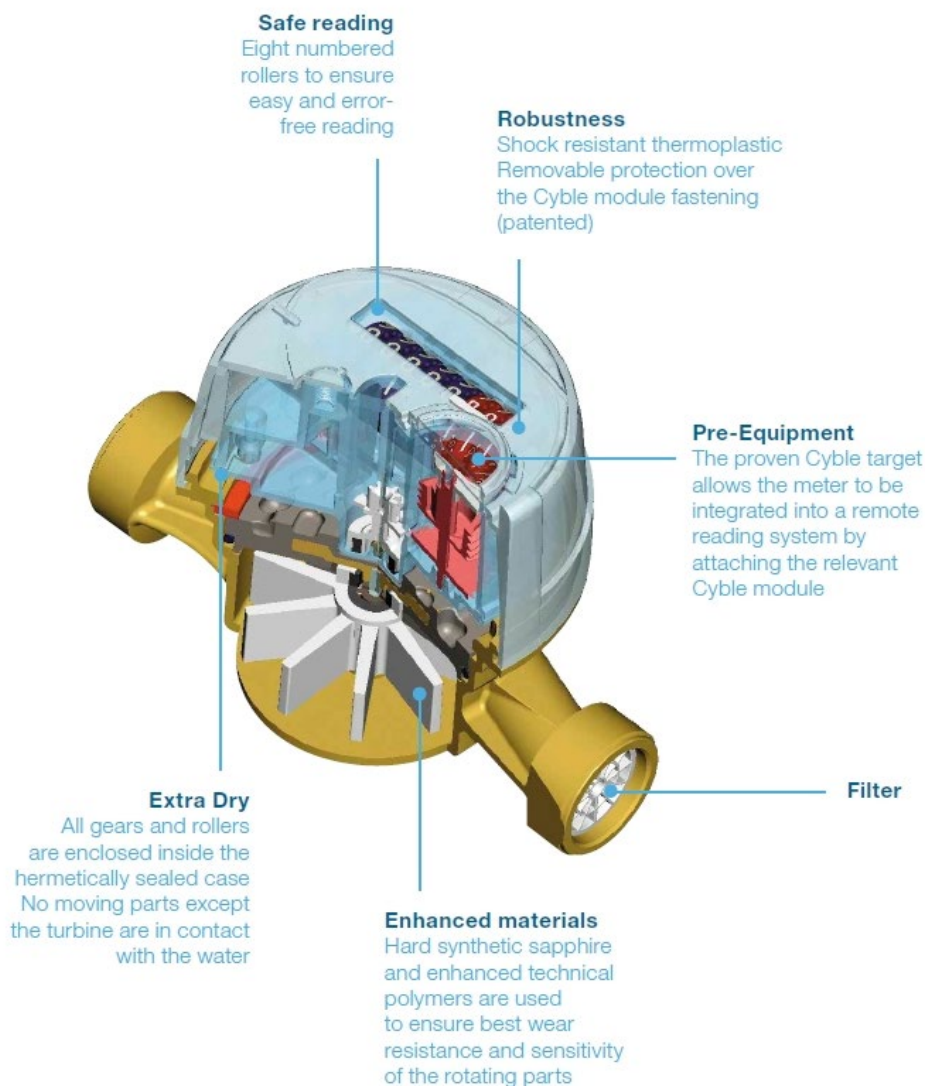


Figure 1: Image of a typical smart meter. The mechanical turbine is consistent with standard water meters, the electronic top allows for remote reading of the meter.

4. SMART WATER METER REVIEW (Cont'd)

Why did we replace our existing water meters?

Like all equipment, water meters degrade over time. As a meter ages, the turbine components wear down, leading to underreporting of the water flow passing through it. To ensure accurate readings and optimal performance, it is best practice to replace meters every seven to ten years.

In 2020, Council conducted a review of the age of all water meters and found that over 63% of meters would need replacement within the next 1 to 3 years. Based on this assessment, Council elected to replace the old meters with smart meters.

What are the benefits of smart meters?

Smart meters offer numerous advantages, including:

- Real-time water readings at properties
- Increased awareness and engagement for homeowners
- Detailed monitoring of network usage
- Reduced time spent on manual meter readings
- Lower costs associated with meter reading staff and contractors
- Early identification of leaks, enabling prompt action
- Empowering customers to track their water usage daily
- Helping customers develop strategies to reduce water consumption
- Enhancing Council's ability to respond quickly and accurately to usage inquiries

How does Council monitor water usage?

Council uses large magnetic flow meters at key locations, including the main pump station (McGrane Way), reservoir outlets (Nymagee and Duffy Streets), bore sites, and the treatment plant. These flow meters, combined with water quality analyses, enable Council to track both water consumption and water quality as it is delivered to customers.

Council submits these measurements to various regulatory bodies as part of its annual reporting process. This information is publicly available.

What is the typical water usage in Narromine?

Water consumption is largely influenced by two key factors: ambient temperature and rainfall. Over the past six years, New South Wales has experienced both extreme drought conditions and periods of excessive rainfall and flooding, significantly affecting water usage patterns. During the recent drought, Council pumped higher-than-average volumes of water, whereas in the wetter years, water consumption decreased.

This trend is illustrated in the graph below, which highlights the impact of weather conditions on water consumption. In 2016-17 and during the years of the drought water consumption averaged 500 kL per household per year. In the wetter years that followed consumption decreased to approximately 320 kL/year. Therefore, despite price increases the average customer bill remained fairly steady for approximately six years. In 2023/2024 and again at the end of 2024 the water annual consumption increased (average 380 kL per household) and this, along with the increased rates and charges has resulted in increased bills.

4. SMART WATER METER REVIEW (Cont'd)

The graph also shows the total consumption and total pumped volume. It is evident that the volumes of purchased water remain consistently below the total volumes pumped, confirming that our system monitoring – including pumped volumes, district meters, and household meters – is accurate.

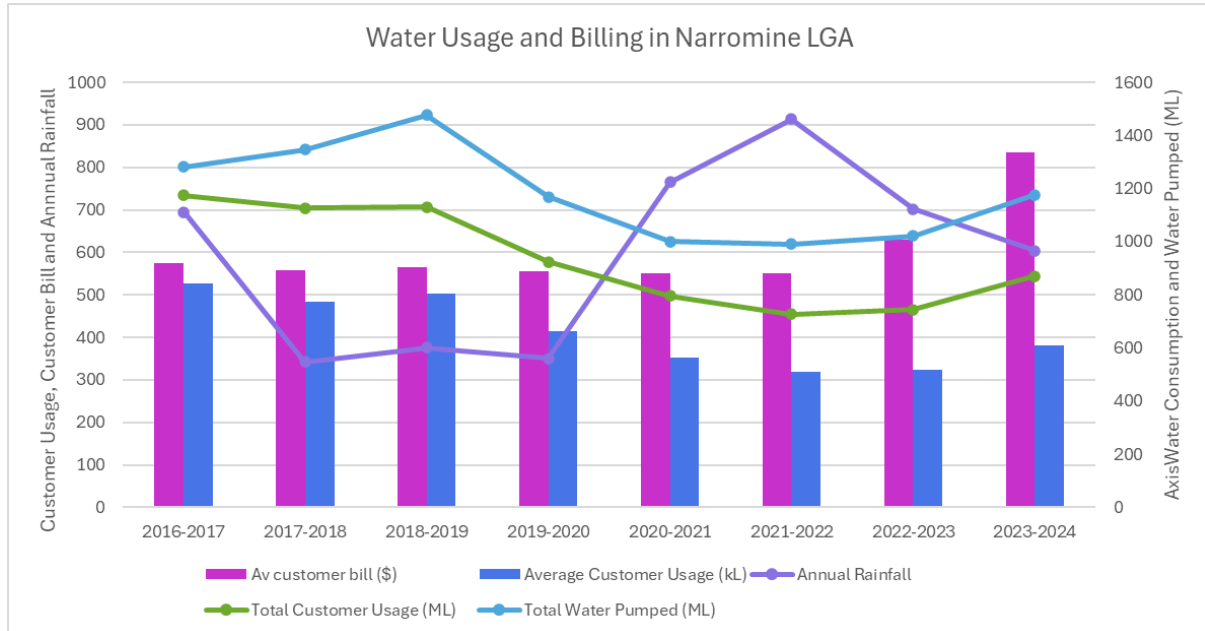


Figure 2: Graph of Water Demand across Narromine LGA

Does Council Track where the water goes?

To effectively manage water conservation and ensure the optimal performance of Council's pipe network, a recent water loss management audit has been conducted. This audit provides a detailed map that tracks the distribution of treated water throughout the system. In the 2023/2024 financial year, 1,176 ML of potable water was pumped from the treatment plant to customers. The breakdown of billed and metered water usage is outlined below.

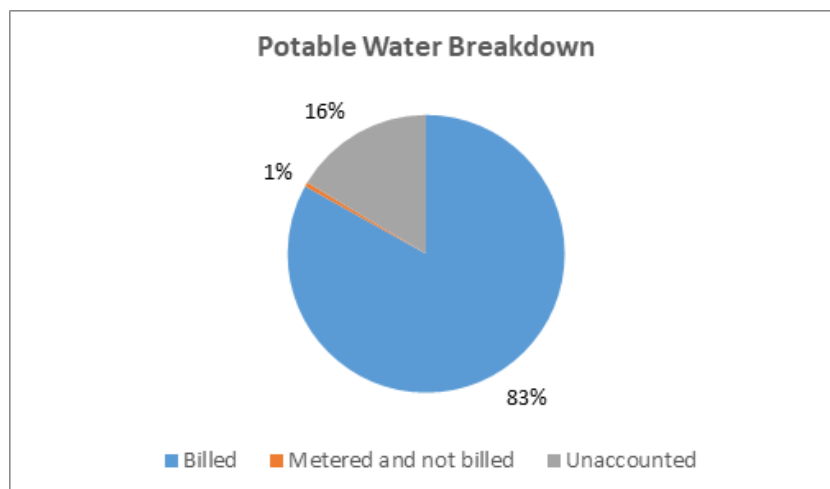


Figure 3: Graph of billed and unbilled water

4. SMART WATER METER REVIEW (Cont'd)

This distribution pattern is typical for a water utility. While the majority of water used is billed, there remains a portion that is not metered and therefore not billed. A significant portion of this unmetered water is likely attributed to Council's irrigation lines throughout the township and firefighting uses (including Fire and Rescue). However, it is also possible that some old illegal water connections still exist.

The breakdown of billed usage is shown below.

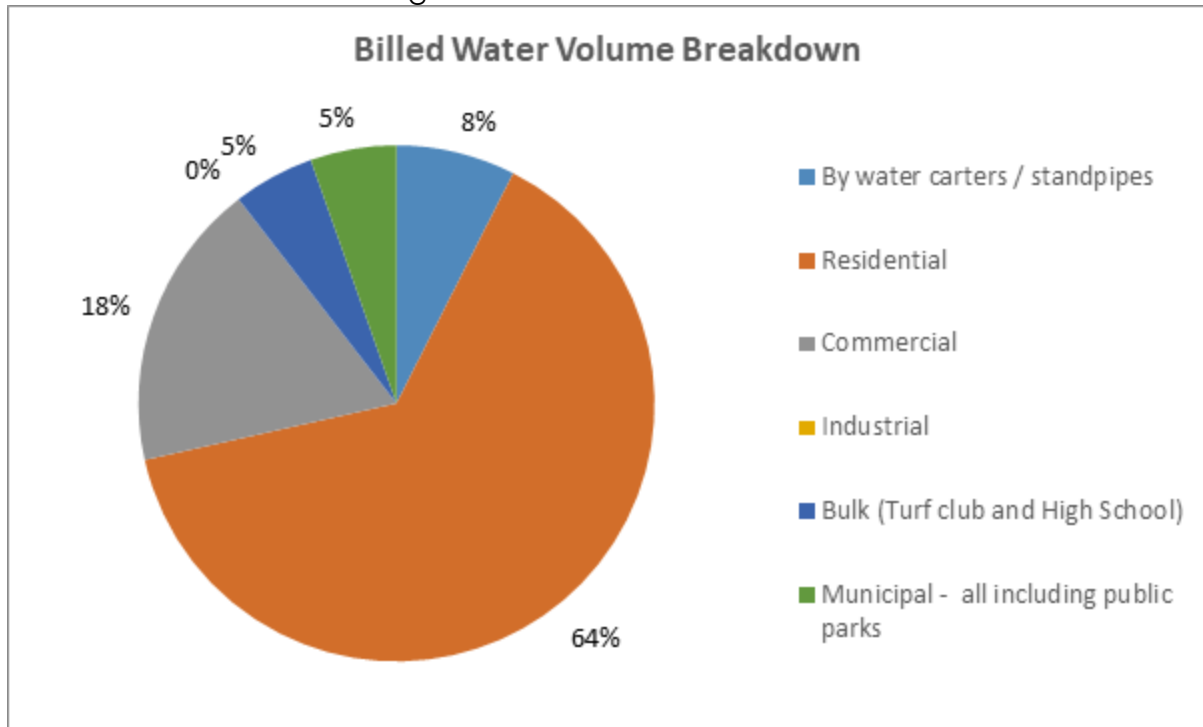


Figure 4: Graph of water use breakdown

Through this audit, Council has gained a solid, high-level understanding of water usage patterns and requirements across the towns, helping to inform future water management strategies.

How did Council prove the accuracy of the smart meters?

Council's smart meters are supplied by Honeywell, the same supplier as the previous meters. Honeywell is the supplier of water meters to the majority of water utilities across Australia. All water meters must conform to the Australian Standard 3564.4 (2007) *Meters for water supply*. Under the standard, the supplier must guarantee a water meter accuracy of $\pm 4\%$ for new meters. Council has sent two smart meters for testing at an accredited laboratory both were within this tolerance. These reports are available upon request.

During the rollout of smart meters, Council conducted physical meter readings to ensure that transmitted readings were consistent with those from the meters in the field. Any discrepancies identified during this process were promptly addressed and corrected.

4. SMART WATER METER REVIEW (Cont'd)

The majority of residential properties are equipped with 20mm or 25mm water connections, which are the most common sizes. Our smart meter supplier provides these meters in bulk with factory calibration. The electronic transmitter is permanently mounted to the unit, and once installed, the meter begins to read immediately. Since these meters are factory-set, the potential for human error is minimal. To date, Council is not aware of any 20mm or 25mm meters causing incorrect water billings.

During the original installation meters larger than 25mm did not have factory calibration. For these meters, it was the responsibility of the installer to ensure the smart transmitter is correctly calibrated to the meter. This process can introduce human error, and Council has identified between five to eight meters that required recalibration after installation. In most cases this recalibration was identified prior to billing customers.

Council now purchases meters in the following sizes with factory calibration: 20mm, 25mm, 32mm and 40mm. This reduces the chance for incorrect field calibration.

Meter Corrosion

There is a widespread issue (across Australia) with the corrosion of water meters, which has caused holes within the meters leading to leaks. Since 2022, 90 meters have been replaced due to this issue. While this does not affect the functionality of smart meter readings, it can result in water leakage and potential costs for customers. Council is actively working with the meter supplier to resolve this issue. In cases of leaks, impacted customers are not charged for the water. When a meter is affected, Council staff promptly replace it. Although this issue does not interfere with meter readings, we understand it is frustrating and completely outside of our control. Council have not received any complaints, and we consistently receive positive feedback regarding the quick resolution of this matter by the water team.

How can customers learn more about Aqualus and monitor their water usage?

Council's website provides comprehensive information to help customers understand and monitor their water usage through the Aqualus system, including:

- Instructions on how to read a smart meter
- An explanation of how smart meters function
- Contact details for reporting meter malfunctions
- Steps for signing up to the Aqualus system

Below are the key matters to be addressed as resolved by Council at the November 2024 Council Meeting.

1. Number of complaints about water meters since smart water meters have been installed.

Council typically receives between three to five water billing complaints per quarter, with the majority stemming from concerns that customers have been incorrectly charged for water usage. These complaints are generally addressed by the Customer Service Team and, on occasion, are escalated to the Water Team for further investigation. Since 2016, a total of 16 customer requests have been registered, querying or disputing high water usage.

4. SMART WATER METER REVIEW (Cont'd)

There have been no *registered* complaints regarding water meters (or smart meter) since 2020.

One specific case involved a customer who requested testing of a smart water meter, as they believed it was reading inaccurately. In this instance, Council arranged for the meter to be tested by an accredited laboratory, which confirmed that the meter was operating correctly and within the acceptable error tolerance of $\pm 4\%$.

While there have been occasional reports of customer mistrust regarding smart meters, investigations have consistently shown that the meters and their electronic transmissions are functioning as intended, with no faults identified. Council does

2. Number of complaints that have been addressed and resolved.

All 16 complaints referenced above have been successfully resolved, and there are currently no outstanding water meter related complaints.

3. Number of water bills with a percentage increase of more than 10-15% and above.

Quantifying this is challenging, as water usage can fluctuate significantly from quarter to quarter and year to year, largely due to weather conditions. Additionally, the replacement of the old meters, which were under-reading, likely contributed to slight increases in water usage readings.

4. Current processes for dealing with water complaints.

Council's Water complaint Resolution Process

1. **Initial Contact:** When a water complaint is received, Council's Customer Service Team contacts the resident and uses Aqualus, our online water data platform, to review the resident's water usage. This often helps the customer identify the source of excessive usage, such as irrigation, leaks, or pool filling. This step resolves approximately 85% of customer issues.
2. **Referral to the Water Team:** If the issue cannot be resolved by Customer Service, the complaint is referred to the Water Team for further investigation.
3. **Meter Read:** The Water Team will conduct a meter reading to verify the meter's accuracy in comparison to the bill. They will also inspect the meter to ensure it is in proper working condition.
4. **Manager Follow-up:** After the meter has been read, Council's Manager of Utilities will contact the resident to discuss the issue. In most cases, this is a misunderstanding that can be resolved over the phone.
5. **Site Visit (if needed):** If the issue cannot be resolved by phone, the Manager of Utilities will arrange a site visit to further investigate and discuss the matter with the resident.
6. **Meter as Source of Truth:** Council considers the water meter to be the accurate record of water usage. If the meter reading has increased, the customer will be billed accordingly. If the customer disagrees with the reading, they can request the meter be sent to an accredited laboratory for testing.

4. SMART WATER METER REVIEW (Cont'd)

5. Current percentage increase in water bills prior to the new smart meters being installed.

As shown in Figure 1, there has been no significant change in billing amounts since the installation of the smart meters. Consumption remains largely influenced by weather patterns. However, annual water price increases—implemented to account for inflation and the cost of treated water (introduced in 2020)—have contributed to higher bills. From the data available there does not appear to be bill increase due to smart meter installation.

6. Amount of water Narromine Shire has pumped in the last quarter in Narromine.

In the 2023/2024 financial year Council pumped 1 176 ML from the high lift pumps into the reticulation. Council does not have easily accessible figures for quarters and undertakes water consumption comparisons on an annual basis.

7. Amount of water Narromine residents have been billed for in the last quarter (total metered consumption).

In the 2023/2024 financial year Council pumped 1 176 ML and billed users 977 ML. There was an additional 6 ML that was metered and not billed (e.g. flushing water mains, RFS use). Council does not have easily accessible figures for quarters and undertakes water consumption comparisons on an annual basis, however, the volumes of pumped water are higher than volumes billed (as shown in Figure 2).

Summary

Council has a high level of trust in the mechanical water meters as they are used extensively across the country and supplied by a reputable supplier. Council has a high level of trust in all 20 mm water meters as they come factory calibrated and do not require human calibration onsite, reducing the opportunity for potential errors. To date Council has not found a single 20mm meter to be incorrectly reading or transmitting.

Whilst Council has a high level of trust in all water meters, manual calibration for the larger meters can occasionally lead to human error. However, our resolution process of checking the physical meter read ensures that these issues are found and addressed.

There is an ongoing defect with the meter bodies which is resulting in early-life failure. Council staff immediately install a new meter when customers raise this issue and customers are not charged for any water leak during this period.

The smart meter fleet is a great initiative to help Council and customers monitor water usage. Smart meters and the Aqualus program should be promoted within the community to encourage people to sign-up to the platform.

4. SMART WATER METER REVIEW (Cont'd)

Financial Implications

Council has provision for these services in its Operational Budget.

Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Local Government Act 1993
Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)

Risk Management Issues

Nil

Internal/External Consultation

Previous consultation has occurred for water meters.

Attachments

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be noted.

5. GRANT APPLICATION FOR TRANGIE WASTE FACILITY CLOSURE

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 the future of the Trangie Waste Management Facility.

Report

Council's Waste Management Strategy 2020-2028 identifies the need to transition from landfill operations to waste transfer stations, with the Trangie landfill scheduled for closure in 2028. A grant opportunity, provided through the EPA, has been identified that could provide up to \$300,000 in funding; the grant funding period closes in mid-March. The funding would be for the closure of the Trangie landfill and the construction of a new waste transfer station, provided the project is completed by June 2027.

5. GRANT APPLICATION FOR TRANGIE WASTE FACILITY CLOSURE (Cont'd)

This project presents multiple benefits for Council and the community. Financially, the grant will significantly reduce the costs associated with landfill closure and the establishment of a transfer station, easing the burden on Council's budget. Operationally, the new waste transfer station will maintain the same level of service as the existing landfill, ensuring no disruption to residents or businesses. Environmentally, closing the landfill ahead of schedule will minimize long-term ecological impacts, improving waste management sustainability. Furthermore, transitioning to a transfer station aligns with evolving regulatory requirements, keeping Council compliant with state and national waste management policies.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$769,200, with Council's contribution approximately \$400,000. This cost has already been accounted for in the waste fund's long-term financial plan, as Council has resolved to undertaking the landfill closure. While the grant will significantly reduce the overall project cost to Council, it will also result in a portion of the financial expenditure being brought forward by one financial year.

Financial Implications

- The grant provides significant financial relief to Council by covering the majority of the closure and construction costs.
- Proceeding without grant funding would require full Council funding by 2028.
- Bringing the project forward by one year aligns with Council's long-term waste management objectives while reducing financial strain on future budgets.
- The waste fund has sufficient available funds to provide the co-contribution amount.

Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Local Government Act 1993

Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001

Risk Management Issues

Project Timeline Acceleration: Adjusting the timeline requires planning and coordination; however, securing external funding justifies the effort.

Potential Cost Overruns: While the grant is expected to cover the majority of costs, a detailed cost assessment will be undertaken to ensure adequate budgeting.

Community Perception: Clear communication with residents will be necessary to emphasize that there will be no impact on their ability to dispose of waste, as the transfer station will provide the same service as the landfill.

Internal/External Consultation

Clear and timely communication with the Trangie community is critical to ensure they are aware of the changes.

Highlight that while changes are occurring to where the rubbish is stored, there will be minimal impact on users.

5. GRANT APPLICATION FOR TRANGIE WASTE FACILITY CLOSURE (Cont'd)

Attachments

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Apply for the available grant funding of up to \$300,000 to close the Trangie waste facility and construct a new waste transfer station.
2. In the event that Council secures the grant funding:
 1. Allocate the required Council contribution of approximately \$400,000 in the budget for the project over the coming financial years.
 2. Undertake the project and community consultation to enable project completion by June 2027.

Melanie Slimming
Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services

WORKS REPORT

Water and Sewer

Water usage during January has been extremely high, with demand on some days slightly exceeding production. The Water Team has been actively managing pumping operations and closely monitoring the situation to ensure service continuity. Recent rainfall has provided some relief, allowing reservoir levels to stabilise; however, the situation remains challenging due to the lack of redundancy in the event of equipment failure. The newly installed booster pumps at Nymagee Street and Duffy Street have been invaluable in minimizing impacts on customers during peak demand periods.



Figure 1: The booster pump station at Nymagee Street is now operational

PFAS testing results have been received, confirming no detections. This is a positive outcome for Council and the community, reinforcing the safety and quality of the water supply.

The IWCM Strategy draft has been completed, with a workshop scheduled for mid-March. This strategy will serve as the 30-year plan for the water and sewer system, ensuring sustainable management and future-proofing infrastructure.

Water and Sewer (Cont'd)

The water quality options paper for the new Water Treatment Plant (WTP) has been endorsed by the regulatory body. Council is now working on obtaining quotes for the concept and detailed design of the new WTP. This project will be 75% funded by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), with Council funding the remaining 25%. The design process is expected to take eighteen months, followed by a review period, after which Council can commence tendering and construction. The design process will include a detailed cost estimate to provide further clarity on financial implications and necessary borrowings.

NSW Health now requires Local Water Utilities to publish water quality data on Council websites, with updates at least annually. This information has been uploaded to Council's website, demonstrating the high quality and safety of the water supply to the community. Additionally, Council's annual Drinking Water Management System Report was completed and submitted to NSW Health in December.

Other recent upgrades in the water space include:

- Starlink has been successfully installed at Tomingley, improving connectivity for operational monitoring and remote management.
- Field Solutions Antenna: Installation of an antenna on the water tower by Field Solutions (a private telecommunications company) is underway, further enhancing communication capabilities to the Narromine and wider area.
- Smart water meters in Tomingley are now online and fully operational, allowing for remote meter reading and improved water management.

Council continues to focus on ensuring a reliable and high-quality water supply while progressing key infrastructure projects to support future demand and sustainability.

Roads

Enmore Road upgrade is now complete, with the entire section fully sealed. These works have significantly improved safety by widening the road at bends, clearing trees to enhance visibility, and increasing the bend radius for smoother and safer driving conditions.

Newhaven Road has also been completed with sealing completed in early February.



Figure 2: Newhaven Road has been upgraded and sealed

Roads (Cont'd)

Council crews, alongside contractor teams, are working at full capacity to complete flood recovery projects, with funding required to be expended by 30 March.

Frecklingtons Crossing has undergone a major upgrade, including the installation of a new culvert system. These works are now complete, improving drainage and overall road resilience.



Figure 3: New Culvert on Frecklingtons Crossing

In addition, works are currently underway on Belmont, Backwater, Hamiltons, Mungery Hall, and Farrendale Roads, with crews continuing to progress these upgrades.

Road Closures in Trangie

In July 2021, the Local Traffic Committee resolved to close several Hierarchy 6 roads around Trangie. These roads are classified as very low traffic and are not maintained by Council. In the coming months, Council will begin the public consultation process regarding these closures. It is anticipated that the closure of these roads will not unduly impact residents, as they are not heavily trafficked. The resolution and map from the July 2021 Council Meeting of the approved road closures is attached (**Annexure 1**).

Parks and Gardens

Council's Parks and Gardens team has been actively maintaining public spaces, focusing on irrigation, tree management, mowing, and general upkeep. Dead tree removal is ongoing around town to improve safety and aesthetics. Additionally, vegetation mowing and general maintenance works continue across parks, reserves, and public spaces.

Irrigation upgrades and maintenance have been a key priority, with the recent hot weather. Improvements are ongoing at Rotary Park and the Narromine cemetery to enhance water efficiency and improve green space quality. With the extreme heat, crews have also been undertaking extensive hand-watering of trees around town to ensure they remain healthy and continue to thrive.

Parks and Gardens (Cont'd)

Mowing crews have been busy keeping up with growth across sports fields, parks, and road verges. Oval maintenance continues to be a focus to ensure playing surfaces are in optimal condition for the upcoming winter sports season. Council is actively working with a turf specialist to ensure the preparation of the sporting fields is the best we can supply. Council has hired an “Agrivator” which will core and aerate the fields to improve turf growth and, hopefully, field softness.

Additionally, the team has been working on cleaning kerb and gutters in town to improve drainage and overall streetscape presentation.

Recent summer storms caused a lot of damage across the towns over the holiday period, including one of the trees in front of the council chambers. The team have provided support for the tree which will hopefully continue to grow upright.



Figure 4: This tree was blown over by the recent storms and is now supported in an upright position

Council Chamber Roof Replacement – Project Update

The Council roof replacement works have started with the external asbestos removed in late January. The roof replacement is scheduled to start in early March with staff moving between offices and working from home for the duration of the project which is expected to take six weeks.

Solar Lights – Derribong Street Footpath

In late December new solar lights were installed along the Derribong Street footpath. As the lights do not require power connection, Council is able to install internally without working with Essential Energy, significantly speeding up the approval process. These lights are a trial to determine whether they will be appropriate for other areas including the industrial zone.

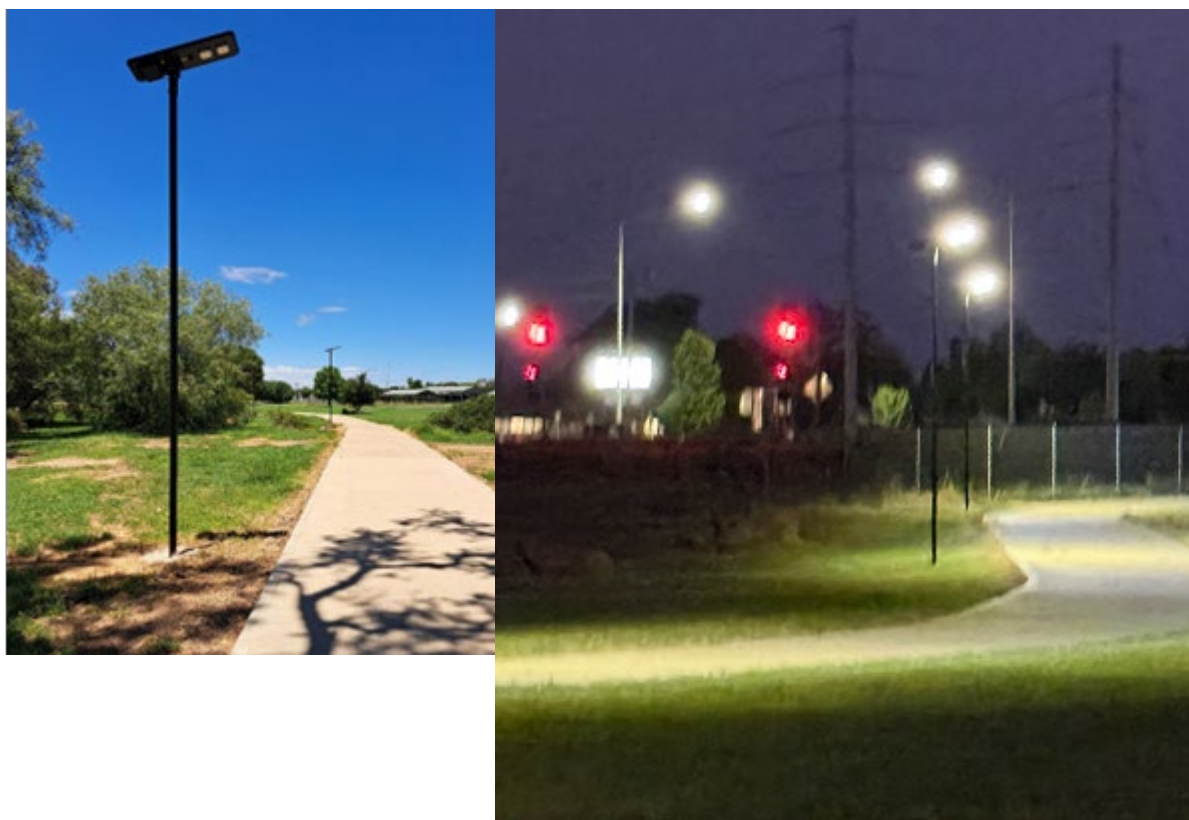


Figure 5: Installation of the new solar lights on Derribong Street Footpath.

Garage Sale Trail – Impact Report

The Garage Sale Trail 2024 held over two weekends in November is an initiative to promote buying and selling second hand goods. In Narromine 1,152 people participated over 47 garage sales and stalls. 4,231 items were reused or sold, diverting a significant portion from landfill. The close out report estimates that \$24,399 was generated for households, charities, and community groups. With a significant reach through education and media campaigns, the event not only encouraged sustainable behaviours—56% of sellers would not have participated otherwise—but also provided financial relief amid rising living costs. Feedback emphasized the program's success and suggested enhanced promotional materials to further increase participation and impact in future years.

Waste Facility – CCTV

Council is trialling a portable security camera at the waste facility. The units are relatively cheap to purchase and can be easily relocated to remote facilities (including road sites). The imagery is saved on the device and can be accessed via a Bluetooth connection. Council hopes to deter vandalism and theft across our facilities and worksites.



Figure 6: Council's portable security camera at the Narromine Waste Facility

FOGO Collection and Distribution Success

The FOGO (Food Organics and Garden Organics) collection initiative in Narromine in late 2024 proved to be a resounding success, with 118 cubic metres of material distributed, including 18 cubic metres in Trangie and 5 cubic metres in Tomingley. The initiative allowed residents to collect pasteurised FOGO material free of charge to use on their gardens, helping reduce waste while providing valuable compost. While most users were satisfied with the standard box trailer size offered. The collection was well-received, with up to 10 vehicles per day on average during the first week of the trial. Given the success of the program, there are plans to run a similar initiative next year, with improvements such as positioning materials closer to the gatehouse, using a bobcat to load trailers, and designating set loading times to better manage staff schedules and avoid interruptions. The total spend for the trial was approximately \$4,000.

Some questions were raised about the safety and suitability of the FOGO material and staff visited the Wyandra Waste Facility to better understand the treatment process. The raw FOGO material is pasteurised at 70°C for 7 days to eliminate weeds and most bacteria, followed by drying and screening to 10mm to remove contaminants. Although some minor contamination is possible, the process has been successful, and no poor feedback has been received at the facility. The FOGO material is extensively used by landscapers in Dubbo.

Library Works

Construction has started at the Narromine Library to improve the toilets and emergency exit. The works are progressing well and are scheduled to be completed by the end of May.

Works are also starting at the Trangie Library, with the new fence installed in late January. Further works will be occurring at Trangie to renovate the kitchen and toilets over the coming months.



Figure 7: A new external fence has been installed at the Trangie Library

Northern Drainage Pipework Installation

Works have started for the northern drainage pipework installation along Meryula Street in Narromine. The contractor are progressing well and have completed the outlet and pipe installation through Rotary Park. They are continuing along Meryula Street and will impact school traffic for a few weeks in February before continuing alongside Payton and Dundas Ovals. The work is scheduled to be complete in late May.



Figure 8: The northern drainage river outlet has been constructed

Review of Truck Parking on Burraway Street

The Engineering Team undertook a review of the truck parking on Burraway Street and submitted recommendations to the February Local Traffic Committee. The February meeting minutes will be considered at Council's Ordinary Meeting in March, however it was determined that no change to the truck parking was required, and parking tickets will be issued to vehicles parking against the traffic rules.

Tomingley Rest Stop Grant Funding

Council have been successful in receiving a \$1.2 million grant for the upgrade and rejuvenation of the Tomingley Rest Stop area. The grant includes a full redesign of the area with pavement upgrades, increased beautification, public toilets and pedestrian access improvements. Council will undertake the design over the next twelve months and then move into the construction phase. This funding will provide a much-needed improved to the rest stop and town access point.

Defibrillator – Narromine Wetlands

Narromine's first publicly accessible defibrillator has been installed at the wetlands. This unit is a trial to monitor vandalism and outdoor exposure.



Figure 9: New Defibrillator installed at the Narromine Wetlands

Upcoming Tree Removal on Dandaloo Street

The tree located on Dandaloo Street, next to the rail crossing, is scheduled for removal due to its proximity to several critical infrastructure elements. These include a water main, optic fibre line, kerb and gutter, Telstra services, stormwater pipe network (including water and sewer), and the footpath. Additionally, the tree obstructs the sightlines to the railway line, posing a safety risk.

The tree's roots have significantly damaged the footpath, creating hazardous conditions for pedestrians, particularly elderly residents. In the next six months, the Council plans to reconstruct both the footpath and the bitumen roadway, and removing the tree is essential to facilitate these works. Due to the presence of underground services, no replacement tree is planned for this location.



Figure 10: Tree planned for removal on Dandaloo Street

2. TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES – VARIOUS ROADS IN TRANGIE (Cont'd)

Report

A number of unformed roads exist in Trangie which are currently classed as Hierarchy 6 in Council's Asset Management Plans. **Attachment 2**. These roads are currently not maintained. At this stage, the unformed roads are being used by road users during or after rain events. This causes considerable damage to our road infrastructure due to the anti-social behaviour. It further creates a hazard since some of these unformed roads are located adjacent to an unfenced open drain, which road users access regularly.

The current drainage systems to be upgraded in future will be serviced with an interim service road. It will then be ultimately accessed by the public, once vacant lots have been developed.

Access to existing dwellings will still be maintained as per Council policy. It should be noted that roads will be opened to the public, once the lot(s) have been developed and access to the lots are required.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Traffic Committee considers and endorses the temporary road closure;
 2. Relevant stakeholders are notified by public consultation and other required processes; and
 3. Council proceed with the erection of required barricades to prevent the public from accessing these roads.
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Projection: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

Date: 9/06/2021

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Map Scale: 1:4232 at A3

Attachment No. 2
Narromine Cemetery Master Plan



Existing rainwater tank to be removed.

Gate and road upgrade, to become main access point to cemetery.

Tree installation along Nellie Vale Road

Nellie Vale Road

Road upgrade to dual lane access

New toilets

New carpark

Sound and visual barriers (including trees and fence) along western boundary

New tree plantation

Headwall expansion

Expansion of irrigation system and lawn planting. Future Monument wall

Car Park (Old Section)

Baby Grave fencing and vegetation improvements

Headwall expansion

Other:
 Replacement of Kurrajong Trees throughout the cemetery.

Sealing of all roads within the cemetery

