



AGENDA

CULTURE AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

10 AUGUST 2023

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

The meeting is scheduled to commence at 5.30pm.

	Page
CCC23/63 LEAVE OF ABSENCE (ID23/1240)	
CCC23/64 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (ID23/1228) In accordance with their Oath/Affirmation under the Act, and Council's Code of Conduct, Councillors must disclose the nature of any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest which may arise during the meeting, and manage such interests accordingly.	
CCC23/65 REPORT OF THE AQUATICS WORKING PARTY - MEETING 17 JULY 2023 (ID23/1901) The Committee had before it the report of the Aquatics Working Party meeting held 17 July 2023.	3
CCC23/66 REPORT OF THE DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MEETING 24 JULY 2023 (ID23/1900) The Committee had before it the report of the Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting held 24 July 2023.	6
CCC23/67 REPORT OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE / YOUTH COUNCIL - MEETING 1 AUGUST 2023 (ID23/1557) The Committee had before it the report of the Social Justice Advisory Committee meeting held 1 August 2023.	10
CCC23/68 REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SPACES TREE COMMITTEE - MEETING 2 AUGUST 2023 (ID23/1916) The Committee had before it the report of the Public Spaces Tree Committee meeting held 2 August 2023.	12

- CCC23/69** **COMMUNITY SAFETY WORKSHOP: A VALUES BASED APPROACH
(ID23/1816)** 15
- The Committee had before it the report dated 20 July 2023 from the Director Community, Culture and Places regarding Community Safety Workshop: A Values Based Approach.
-
- CCC23/70** **MACQUARIE REGIONAL LIBRARY PERFORMANCE REPORT
APRIL TO JUNE 2023 (ID23/1775)** 19
- The Committee had before it the report dated 13 July 2023 from the Manager Macquarie Regional Library regarding Macquarie Regional Library Performance Report April to June 2023.



DUBBO REGIONAL
COUNCIL

Report of the Aquatics Working Party - meeting 17 July 2023

AUTHOR: Governance Officer
REPORT DATE: 1 August 2023

The Council had before it the report of the Aquatics Working Party meeting held 17 July 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Aquatics Working Party meeting held on 17 July 2023, be adopted.



REPORT
AQUATICS WORKING PARTY
17 JULY 2023

PRESENT: Councillors J Black, S Chowdhury, the Director Community, Culture and Places, the Manager Recreation and Open Spaces, J McKechnie (Community Representative), A Lavelle (Community Representative), Y McDonald (Community Representative), and C Gain (Community Representative).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Governance Officer, Katherine Forman (Belgravia Leisure)

Councillor J Black assumed the Chair of the meeting.

The proceedings of the meeting commenced at 5.03pm.

AWP23/15 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY (ID23/1255)

Director Community Culture and Places delivered an Acknowledgement of Country.

AWP23/16 LEAVE OF ABSENCE (ID23/1256)

There were requests for leave of absence received from R Mutton (Community Representative).

Katherine Forman and C Gain attended via Audio-Visual Link

AWP23/17 CONFLICT OF INTEREST (ID23/1257)

There were no Conflicts of Interest declared.

AWP23/18 REPORT OF THE AQUATICS WORKING PARTY - MEETING 15 MAY 2023 (ID23/1778)

The Working Party had before it the report of the Aquatics Working Party meeting held 15 May 2023.

OUTCOME

That the report of the Aquatics Working Party meeting held on 15 May 2023, be noted.

Y McDonald attended the meeting, 5.33pm

K Forman left the meeting, 5.40pm

AWP23/19 INTRODUCTION TO BELGRAVIA LEISURE - KATHERINE FORMAN (ID23/1777)
The Committee was addressed by the Director Community Culture and Places and Katherine Forman regarding this matter.

OUTCOME

- 1. That the address from the Director Community Culture and Places and Katherine Forman noted.**
- 2. It was noted that the purpose of the Working Party as outlined in the Terms of Reference is centred around providing advice on aquatic leisure centre developments, not the operation of the centres themselves.**

AWP23/20 INDOOR AQUATIC LEISURE CENTRE (DUBBO) (ID23/1776)
The Working Party had before it the report dated 13 July 2023 from the Manager Recreation and Open Space regarding Indoor Aquatic Leisure Centre (Dubbo).

OUTCOME

- 1. That the report dated 13 July 2023 from the Manager Recreation and Open Space regarding Indoor Aquatic Leisure Centre (Dubbo) be noted.**
- 2. That a report be sent to council in regards to the updating of the Dubbo facility.**

AWP23/21 EXAMINATION OF OTHER TOWNS AND THE POOL CENTRES (ID23/1197)
The Committee had before it information and was addressed by Andrew Lavelle Community Representative regarding this matter.

OUTCOME

That the information and the address from the Andrew Lavelle Community be noted.

A Lavelle left the meeting, 6.16pm

The meeting closed at 6.20pm.

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CHAIRPERSON



DUBBO REGIONAL
COUNCIL

Report of the Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee - meeting 24 July 2023

AUTHOR: Governance Officer
REPORT DATE: 1 August 2023

The Council had before it the report of the Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting held 24 July 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting held on 24 July 2023, be adopted.



REPORT
DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
24 JULY 2023

PRESENT: Councillor S Chowdhury, P Wells, the Manager Community Services, the Community Development Officer Senior and People with Disability, S Ellis (Community Representative), L Haksteeg (Community Representative), J Bevan (Community Representative), V Avila (Community Representative), D Sparrow (Community Representative), T Nagy (Community Representative), K Letcher (Community Representative), R Mason (Community Representative) and P Settree (Community Representative).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: the Governance Officer

Councillor P Wells assumed the Chair of the meeting.

The proceedings of the meeting commenced at 5.04pm.

DAIAC23/1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY (ID23/1757)

Community Representative S Ellis delivered an Acknowledgement of Country.

DAIAC23/2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE (ID23/1756)

There were requests for leave of absence received from Councillor J Black, the Director Community, Culture and Places, the Manager Infrastructure Strategy and Design, M Croft (Community Representative), J Brewster (Community Representative).

DAIAC23/3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (ID23/1758)

There were no Conflicts of Interest declared.

DAIAC23/4 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON (ID23/1761)

At this juncture, the Director Community, Culture and Places (staff position running meeting) called for nominations for Chairperson of the Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

Councillor P Wells was nominated by Clr S Chowdhury.

Councillor P Wells accepted their nomination and was elected Chairperson of the Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee for the Mayoral term. Also S Chowdhury accepted to become the Alternate chair of the committee.

DAIAC23/5 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION (ID23/1759)

Councillor P Wells provided a welcome and introduction to the Committee.

DAIAC23/6 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE (ID23/1762)

The Committee had before it the report dated 10 July 2023 from the Governance Officer regarding Terms of Reference and Code of Meeting Practice.

OUTCOME

1. That the Terms of Reference (Appendix 1) and Code of Meeting Practice for Community Committees and Working Parties (Appendix 2) be noted.
2. That the terms of reference be adjusted to allow the committee to continue through the new mayoral term.
3. That the terms of reference be adjusted to allow the committee to meet at intervals of minimum monthly and maximum of quarterly.

DAIAC23/7 FUTURE MEETING DATES (ID23/1760)

The Advisory Committee gave consideration to Future Meeting Dates.

OUTCOME

1. That a request be sent to the CEO for a meeting to be held Monday 21 August 2023, 5.15pm.
2. That calendar invitations be sent out to all members of the Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee for above date and include a via audio visual link.
3. That the committee be emailed 10 days before the next meeting about calling for agenda items.
4. That is be noted J Bevan an apology at the next meeting.

DAIAC23/8 2022 – 2025 DUBBO REGIONAL COUNCIL DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN (ID23/1763)

The Committee was addressed by the Manager Community Services regarding this matter.

OUTCOME

1. That the address from the Manager Community Services be noted.
2. That the 2022 – 2025 Dubbo Regional Council Disability Inclusion Action Plan be reviewed by the committee and comments sent through prior to the next meeting. (Rusan.Hill@dubbo.gov.nsw.au).

DAIAC23/9 GENERAL BUSINESS (ID23/1840)

The following items of General Business were discussed:

- S Ellis (Community Representative) – Action Plan
- T Nagy (Community Representative) – report writing and varieties of software programs for non-visible disabilities
- Clr P Wells – Structure of how minutes are approved

OUTCOME

1. **That at the next meeting of the Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee, the following items be placed on the Agenda:**
 - a. **2022 – 2025 Dubbo Regional Council Disability Inclusion Action Plan**
 - b. **Action Plan report each meeting**
2. **That the minutes be summarised into an action list for the committee and reported on each meeting.**
3. **That it be considered the reports be in a simplify plain English format and uses of software program for non- visible disabilities.**
4. **That a structure be sent out to the committee about were minutes are sent for approval.**

The meeting closed at 6.15pm.

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CHAIRPERSON



DUBBO REGIONAL
COUNCIL

Report of the Social Justice Advisory Committee/Youth Council - meeting 1 August 2023

AUTHOR: Governance Officer
REPORT DATE: 16 June 2023

The Council had before it the report of the Social Justice Advisory Committee and Youth Council meeting held 1 August 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Social Justice Advisory Committee and Youth Council meeting held on 1 August 2023, be adopted.



REPORT
**SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE/
YOUTH COUNCIL**
1 AUGUST 2023

PRESENT: Councillors J Gough, P Wells, the Director Community, Culture and Places, Manager Community, Culture and Places, S Talbot (Community Representative), E Davis (Community Representative), F Schubert (Community Representative, A Somerville (Youth Member) and M Jeffery (Youth Member).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Executive Support Administration Community, Culture and Places.

Councillor P Wells assumed the Chair of the meeting.

The proceedings of the meeting commenced at 5.01pm.

SJAC23/19 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY (ID23/1844)

P Wells delivered an Acknowledgement of Country

SJAC23/20 LEAVE OF ABSENCE (ID23/1843)

There were requests for leave of absence received from N Bramble (Community Representative) and J Bayliss (Youth Member).

SJAC23/21 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (ID23/1842)

There were no Conflicts of Interest declared.

SJAC23/22 COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN FRAMEWORK (ID23/1555)

The Committee was addressed by the Director Culture, Community and Places regarding Section: Working Towards a Safer Community and What are Our Values.

OUTCOME

1. That the address from the Director Culture, Community and Places be noted.
2. That it be noted that the next meeting of the Social Justice Advisory Committee and Youth Council is scheduled for 5pm on Tuesday 5 September 2023.
3. That at the next meeting of the Social Justice Advisory Committee and Youth Council, the following item/s be placed on the Agenda:
 - a. Community Safety Plan
 - i. Desired outcomes and issues preventing achieving the desired outcomes.

The meeting closed at 6.15pm.

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CHAIRPERSON



DUBBO REGIONAL
COUNCIL

Report of the Public Spaces Tree Committee - meeting 2 August 2023

AUTHOR: Governance Officer
REPORT DATE: 3 August 2023

The Council had before it the report of the Public Spaces Tree Committee meeting held 2 August 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Public Spaces Tree Committee meeting held on 2 August 2023, be adopted.



**REPORT
PUBLIC SPACES TREE COMMITTEE
2 AUGUST 2023**

PRESENT: Councillors J Black, J Gough, R Ivey, the Director Community, Culture and Places, the Director Infrastructure, the Director Development and Environment, B Edmondson (Community Representative), W Browne (Community Representative), E Holmes (Community Representative), B Sutherland (Community Representative), N Grant (Community Representative), E Webster (Community Representative) and G Avery (Community Representative).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: The Executive Officer Community, Culture and Places and the Governance Team Leader.

Councillor J Gough assumed the Chair of the meeting.

The proceedings of the meeting commenced at 4:40pm.

PSTC23/16 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY (ID23/1446)

The Director Community, Culture and Places delivered an Acknowledgement of Country

PSTC23/17 LEAVE OF ABSENCE (ID23/1448)

There were no requests for leave of absence received for this meeting.

Councillor R Ivey attended via Audio-Visual Link

PSTC23/18 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (ID23/1451)

There were no Conflicts of Interest declared.

**PSTC23/19 REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SPACES TREE COMMITTEE - MEETING 3 MAY 2023
(ID23/1841)**

The Committee had before it the report of the Public Spaces Tree Committee meeting held 3 May 2023.

OUTCOME

That the report of the Public Spaces Tree Committee meeting held on 3 May 2023, be noted.

PSTC23/20 CORRESPONDENCE (ID23/1625)

The Committee had before it the report dated 28 June 2023 from the Governance Team Leader regarding Correspondence.

OUTCOME

That the correspondence provided by community members be noted and were responded to accordingly.

**PSTC23/21 COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL POSITION WITH REGARD TO
PUBLIC TREES AND URBAN FOREST CANOPY (ID23/1885)**

The Committee was addressed by the Manager Recreation and Open Spaces regarding this matter.

OUTCOME

That the address from the Manager Recreation and Open Spaces be noted.

The meeting closed at 6.28pm.

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CHAIRPERSON



REPORT: Community Safety Workshop: A Values Based Approach

DIVISION: Community, Culture and Places
REPORT DATE: 20 July 2023
TRIM REFERENCE: ID23/1816

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose	Provide review or update	
Issue	Council is being proactive in contributing to community safety improvements. Criminal behaviour is concern for community and there are many stakeholders required to work together in addressing root causes and contributing factors.	
Reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council is a community leader, but is not the responsible agency for crime prevention. • By gathering key community service, law enforcement and judicial stakeholders together and engage them in a Values Based Approach, Council can assist with focusing effort to where the community feels it is needed. 	
Financial Implications	Budget Area	Community, Culture and Places
	Funding Source	Community Services
	Proposed Cost	<\$5,000
	Ongoing Costs	Nil
Policy Implications	Policy Title	Nil
	Impact on Policy	Nil

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

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

Theme: 5 Liveability
CSP Objective: 5.1 The health and safety of the community is improved
Delivery Program Strategy: 5.1.3 There is an appropriate level of policing in our region

RECOMMENDATION

That the information contained within this report be noted.

Murray Wood
Chief Executive Officer

CA
Director Community,
Culture and Places

BACKGROUND

Dubbo Regional Local Government Area is a vibrant and rapidly growing Community. With that comes a range of exciting opportunities, but it is not without its challenges. Perennial issues around crime prevention, justice rulings and provision of community services in a fluctuating socioeconomic environment require community effort.

The recent release of crime related data by New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) has assisted in bringing attention to our region's challenges. The BOCSAR data shows that crime related issues are shared throughout regional NSW. The contributing factors are generally common throughout but each region has their own specific challenges.

Eager to proactively respond to the latest data with the aim of improving the region's crime data trend, Dubbo Regional Council has sought to bring a variety of key stakeholders together to identify what our values are as a community, set desired outcomes to achieve, then establish an action plan involving those relevant stakeholders to address the identified issues preventing us from reaching those outcomes.

By building on the foundation of our community's values, effort can be focused to where it is needed most and assist positioning community service stakeholders to strive for improved outcomes and secure government funding assistance to correcting social disadvantage in our region.

Previous Resolutions of Council

25 May 2023 CCL23/125	<i>That Council, through its Social Justice and Youth Committees, work with the government agencies, non-government organisations and other stakeholders, to develop a Community Safety Strategy and associated Action Plan.</i>
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REPORT

Community Service representatives across Dubbo and Wellington will be invited to participate in a Community Safety Working Group to assist community individuals, groups and service providers in contributing to actions focused toward improving elements of community safety in our area.

The relevant stakeholders are those participating in relevant established Council Advisory Committees, established community service providers and local law enforcement.

The outcome of the working group will help inform a broad reaching action plan that through its implementation, can represent a defined approach that can be measured and reported on over a period of time.

The theme of the workshop is: *'Working together toward a safer community'*

The working group draws in people from a full range of life and employment. That can allow for powerful outcomes, but also presents some logistical problems to resolve. This is mostly around time and location that suits each broad group. For this reason, three workshops are planned. The first has been held and was part of a regular Councillor Workshop which included the Executive Leadership Team and relevant community services related DRC staff. The second is a combined sitting of the Social Justice Advisory Committee and Youth Council. The first sitting was held 1 August 2023, the contribution was so detailed that a second sitting is required to complete that initial phase of the process. That will be held in the first week of September. The third will involve targeted community service representatives not already included in the two previous sessions.

The focus of the three sessions is on identifying the 'Values' and 'Dreaming' of the stakeholder group. When thinking about '*Working together toward a safer community*', What do we want to see? What do we expect from ourselves, each other and our community? What do we believe in and dream of? This will then enable us to define the group's 'Desired Outcomes'.

The next phase of the session will conclude with the group identifying the things that are preventing us from achieving each of the agreed 'Desired Outcomes'.

The session will conclude at that point. We will have established what we believe in as stakeholder group, what are our desired outcomes when thinking of improving community safety, we will have identified the issues we need to address.

From there Council staff assisted by community service providers and law enforcement representatives will build a response framework addressing those 'Issues'. It is important to remember, that Dubbo Regional Council is a community leader but is not the responsible agency for crime prevention nor judicial processes for law enforcement in general. Its key role in this context is to facilitate discussion and assist with focusing effort from responsible agencies across our region.

When ready, the group(s) will re-convene and the Community Safety Action Plan presented and discussed. A draft will then be made available for public review.

When in place, the Community Safety Action will provide focus areas that can be reported on and progress monitored and actions adjusted to respond to changing circumstances. It will give insight to a broad range of stakeholders involved with community services and law enforcement as to the priority areas identified by community representatives.

The principles outlined in Dubbo Regional Council Code of Conduct will form the basis of expectations around invitees' behaviour and contribution.

Resourcing Implications

- Each session should be expected to take around 2 hours depending on contribution from the group. This is likely to be out of normal hours work and will require a level of catering to sustain the group.
- The cost of the implementing the Community Safety Plan itself will depend on what is considered and ultimately adopted.

Total Financial Implications	Current year (\$)	Current year + 1 (\$)	Current year + 2 (\$)	Current year + 3 (\$)	Current year + 4 (\$)	Ongoing (\$)
a. Operating revenue	0	0	0	0	0	0
b. Operating expenses	\$5,000	0	0	0	0	0
c. Operating budget impact (a – b)	-\$5,000	0	0	0	0	0
d. Capital Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0
e. Total net impact (c – d)	-\$5,000	0	0	0	0	0
Does the proposal require ongoing funding?		No				
What is the source of this funding?		Community Services Budget				

Table 1. Ongoing Financial Implications

Timeframe

Key Date	Explanation
20 July 2023	Councillor Workshop (session 1)
1 August	Joint sitting of Social Justice Advisory Committee (SJAC) and Youth Council (YC)
September 2023	Second Session of joint sitting of SJAC and YC
TBC	Third Session
October 2023	Report to Culture and Community Committee on outcomes of the three sessions and next steps.



REPORT: Macquarie Regional Library Performance Report April to June 2023

DIVISION: Community, Culture and Places
REPORT DATE: 13 July 2023
TRIM REFERENCE: ID23/1775

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose	Quarterly Reporting	
Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance and Activity Report 	
Reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> <i>Library Act 1939</i> Library Regulations 2018 NSW Standards and Guidelines for NSW public libraries (2020) 	
Financial Implications	Budget Area	Community, Culture and Places – Library Services
	Funding Source	Dubbo Regional Council Warrumbungle Shire Council Narromine Shire Council NSW Government Subsidies and Grants Other Income (Fees and Charges)
	Annual Income	\$3,656,957
	Annual Expenditure	\$3,555,243
Policy Implications	Policy Title	Macquarie Regional Library Strategic Plan 2021-2024
	Impact on Policy	Operational oversight
Consultation	MRL Regional Library Service	Council Community Needs Survey 2021 Library Customer Survey 2021 Annual public exhibition MRL planning documents

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

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

Theme: 5 Liveability

CSP Objective: 5.3 The lifestyle and social needs of the community are supported

Delivery Program Strategy: 5.3.2 A variety of youth activities and entertainment is available

Theme: 5 Liveability

CSP Objective: 5.4 Our community has access to a full range of educational opportunities

Delivery Program Strategy: 5.4.3 Access to a high standard of library services and facilities is available

Theme: 5 Liveability

CSP Objective: 5.4 Our community has access to a full range of educational opportunities

Delivery Program Strategy: 5.4.1 Access to a variety of high quality education facilities, opportunities and choice is available

RECOMMENDATION

That the Macquarie Regional Library Performance Report for April to June 2023 be noted.

Craig Arms
Director Community, Culture and Places

KK
Manager Macquarie
Regional Library

BACKGROUND

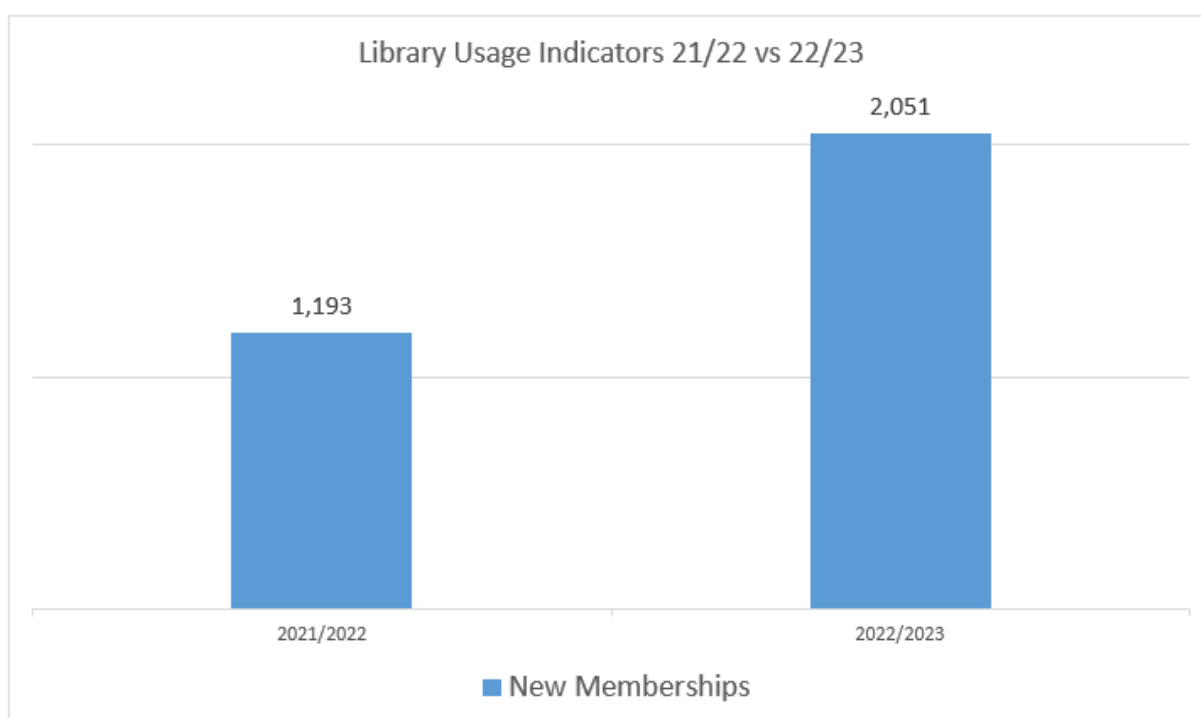
The Macquarie Regional Library (MRL) performance report provides a quarterly update on the library's delivery and operational plans drawn from the Community Strategic Plan and the MRL Delivery and Operational Plans. The update report provides quarterly results for various indicators, including a financial snapshot, memberships, loans, visitations and regional initiatives.

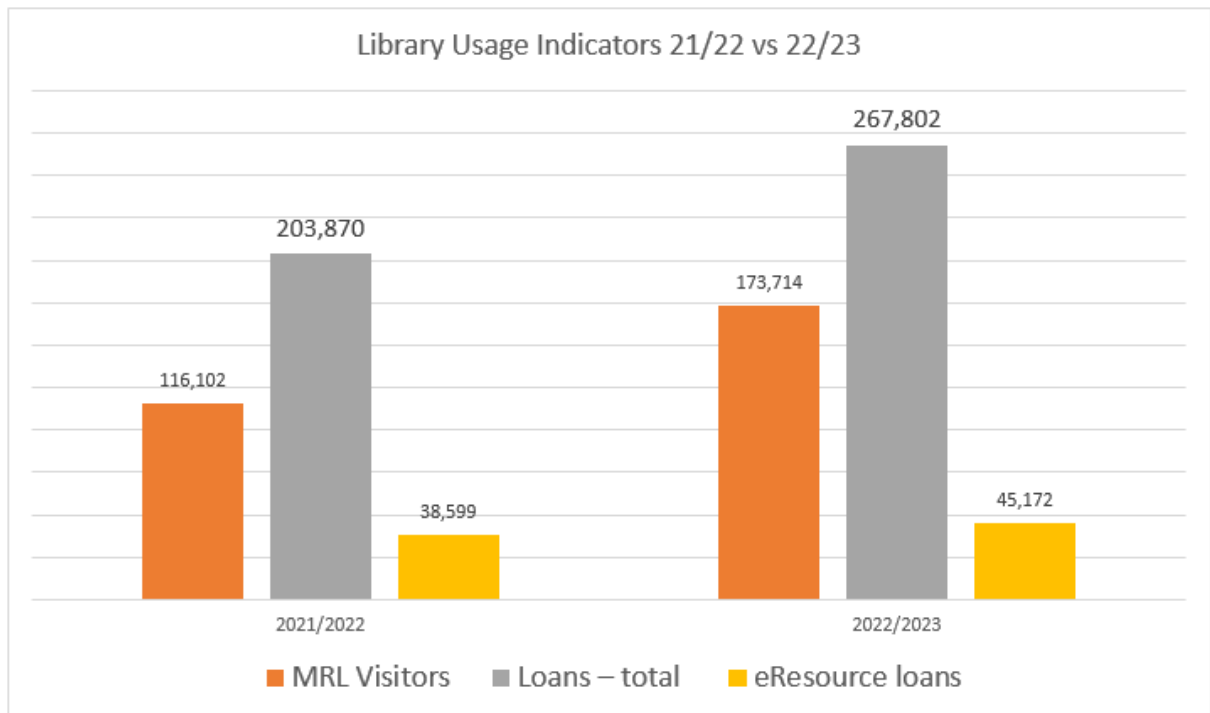
REPORT

The 2022/2023 year is the first period in which Macquarie Regional Library was not directly affected by the COVID pandemic since 2018/2019. While restrictions associated with the pandemic formally ceased in early 2022, public libraries throughout Australia have reported a slow return to pre-pandemic usage levels due to changed perceptions in the community towards the safety of public spaces.

In comparison with 2021/2022, Macquarie Regional Library recorded significant increases in library usage with the following highlights:

Description	2021/2022	2022/2023	% increase
New Memberships	1,193	2,051	72%
MRL Visitors	116,102 (COVID-19 impacted)	173,714	50%
Loans – total	203,870	267,802	31%
eResource loans	38,599	45,172	17%





Early Literacy Programs

A recent research report commissioned by NSW Public Libraries Association (<https://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/resource-files/2023-03/apo-nid322400.pdf>) highlighted poor levels of literacy amongst the Australian community, with NSW as a State ranking 6th. Public libraries have traditionally been influential in promoting and supporting literacy, particularly early childhood. In addition to its long-standing and ongoing programs of Story times, Rhyme times and literacy-based school holiday family programs in 2022/2023, Macquarie Regional Library introduced three significant initiatives in this area.

- 1000 Books Before School

Based on a State Library of Victoria program, MRL funded this program using a Local Priority Grant from the Library Council of New South Wales. These grants are provided annually at a level determined by the Library Council of New South Wales based on community needs. The 1000 Books Before School program offers support and incentives for parents and children to incorporate regular reading activities into their lives. Launched in November 2022, the Library had registered 556 children for the program by 30 June 2023. This program is ongoing.

- Dolly Parton Imagination Library

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is an initiative started by the American singer Dolly Parton to provide every child with free, age-appropriate, high-quality books every month from birth to age 5. The NSW Government has funded this project through its Brighter Beginning Initiative, targeting communities with poor literacy levels, including Warrumbungle and Narromine LGAs. MRL is a partner in this program, providing a registration service,

promotion and support activities. By June 30 2023, 225 children had registered for the Warrumbungle and Narromine LGAs program.

- Early Childhood Literacy Services Review

Utilising Library Council of NSW (State Library of NSW) Local Priority Grant funding, MRL engaged a consultancy from the Childhood Education and Care section of Dubbo TAFE to evaluate the library's early childhood literacy services and provide training to library staff.

MRL Services for Council

Macquarie Regional Library aims to support the diverse information needs of member Councils and raise awareness of the professional library services, collections and resources available to Council. This may assist council and staff in their professional roles and the delivery of Council services. The library is currently engaging with councils understand their information needs and the library's services to support needs.

Australian Digital Inclusion Index

The Australian Digital Inclusion Index uses data from the [Australian Internet Usage Survey](#) to measure digital inclusion across three dimensions: Access, Affordability and Digital Ability. The 2023 Index is now available at www.digitalinclusionindex.org.au and includes the following key findings;

- Digital inclusion at the national level continues to improve steadily.
- There is a considerable digital gap between First Nations and non-First Nations people in Australia.
- The persistent divide between capital cities and other parts of the country continues to narrow. However, the Digital Ability gap, in particular, remains considerable.
- Digital inclusion remains closely linked to age. The gap between younger and older Australians has grown slightly, especially in Digital Ability.

Macquarie Regional Library has a significant role in improving digital inclusion in the community. One-to-one Tech Help sessions are provided at our branches to help people develop their digital skills. The Connect Room at Dubbo Library is used for staff-assisted sessions assisting people with low-level digital skills or accessing online meeting software to connect with family and conduct business. In partnership with Telstra, Warrumbungle Libraries provide a comprehensive series of tech training classes covering online shopping, cyber safety and accessing NSW Government support. In 2022/2023, 620 library customers used MRL digital inclusion services.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

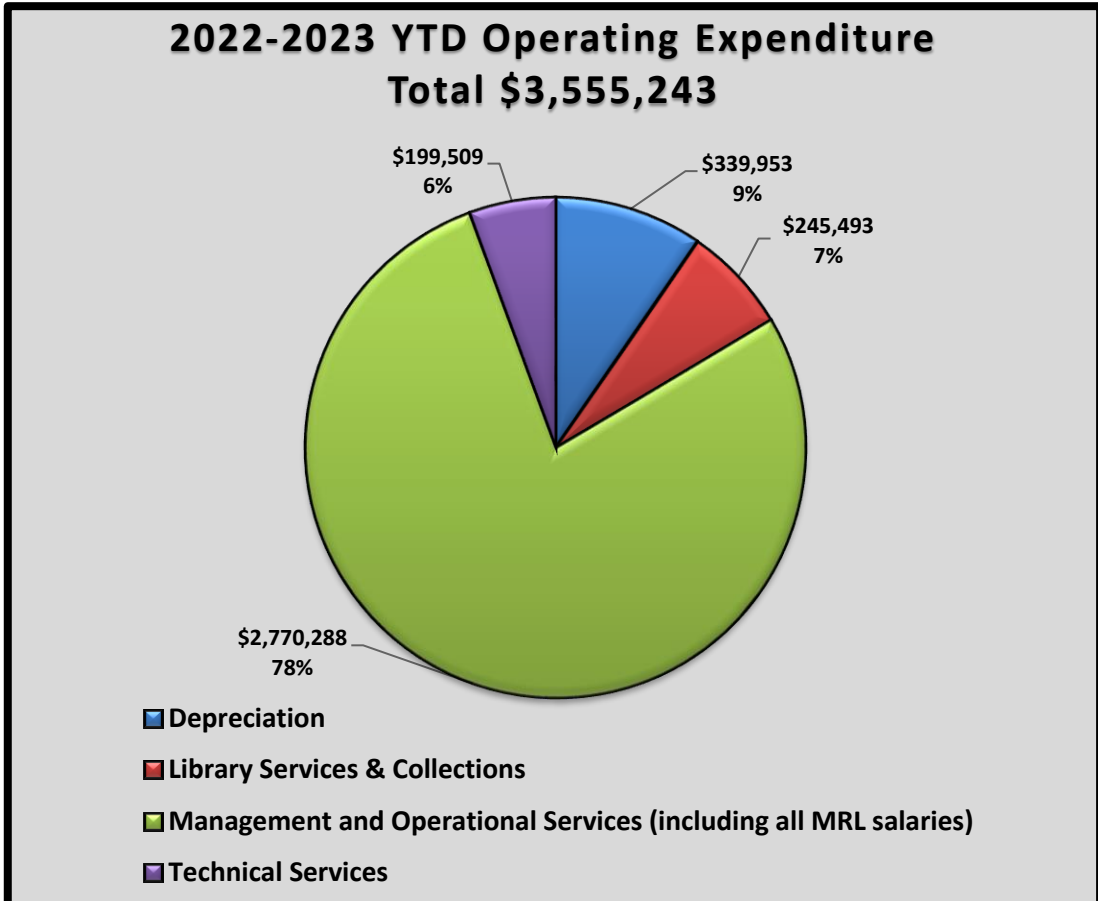
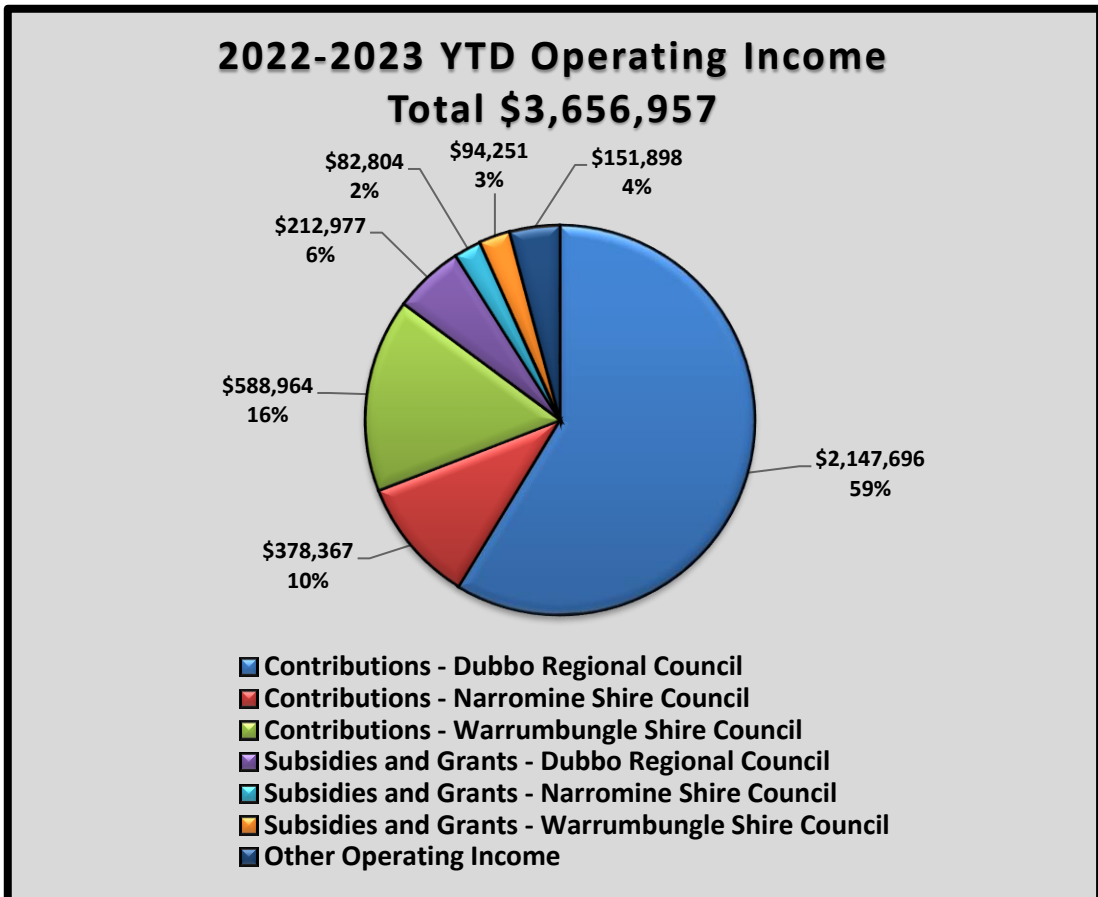
Macquarie Regional Library has a balanced budget for the June 2023 quarter and has met all financial obligations by 30 June 2023.

The NSW State Government 2022/2023 Library Subsidy payment is \$2.85 per capita. A further subsidy adjustment payment comprises a flat rate allocation, with an additional portion of funding allocated based on need, as identified using each council's Socio-Economic Index (SEIFA) score. The funds are paid to all NSW councils annually upon council funding application approval.

SUMMARY

The MRL Quarterly Performance Report provides an overview of the operational performance of the regional library service, encompassing seven libraries and three service points across three local government areas. The quarterly results align with the library's annual budget for 2022/2023.

Total Financial Implications	Current year (\$)	Current year + 1 (\$)	Current year + 2 (\$)	Current year + 3 (\$)	Current year + 4 (\$)	Ongoing (\$)
a. Operating revenue (including NSW Government grants/subsidy)	3,656,957	0	0	0	0	0
b. Operating expenses	3,555,243	0	0	0	0	0
c. Operating budget impact (a – b)	101,714	0	0	0	0	0
d. Capital Expenditure	303,990	0	0	0	0	0
e. Total net impact (c – d)	202,276	0	0	0	0	0
Does the proposal require ongoing funding?	No					
What is the source of this funding?	N/A					



MACQUARIE REGIONAL LIBRARY 2022/2023 Operational Plan – July 2022 to June 2023

Objective – Provide quality services to Macquarie Regional Library communities		
Key Measures of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visits to the library per capita • Number of transaction (loans and reference enquiries) • Operating expense per transaction (loans and reference enquiries) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95% of customers view their library as satisfactory • Percentage of register users to the total population 		
Legend:	Completed On Track Delays Not Yet Commenced No Progress	
Action	Date	Status
Strategy		
1. GOVERNANCE		
1.1 Governance procedures for provision of professional and effective services are appropriate		
1.1.1 Review regional service delivery model to ensure that the most appropriate level of service.	March 2023	
1.1.2 Review MRL Service Agreement (2023-2024 MRL Service Review Improvement Plan Action)	March 2023	
1.2 Financial resources for provision of professional and effective services are sufficient		
1.2.1 Submit draft budget to MRL member councils	April 2023	
1.2.2 Undertake quarterly budget reviews	Quarterly	
1.2.3 Seek grant and subsidy opportunities to obtain full benefits for the Library Service	Ongoing	
1.2.4 Review MRL Revenue Policy [fees and Charges]	March 2023	
1.3 Evaluation and planning for strategically managed services		
1.3.2 Develop MRL Annual Operation Plan	March 2023	
1.3.4 Complete biennial report against the <i>SLNSW Living Learning Libraries: Standards & Guidelines</i>	November 2022	
1.3.5 Review MRL policies for consistency with policy, legislation, and best practice	March 2023	
2. PEOPLE MANAGEMENT		
2.1 Professional and effective services delivered by skilled and informed staff		
2.1.1 Develop annual staff training program	September 2022	
2.1.2 Conduct an all staff development and training day	November 2022	
2.1.3 Review the MRL organisational structure	March 2023	
3. SERVICES & PROGRAMS		
3.1 Customers have access to a full range of high-quality programs and services		
3.1.2 Review member database annually	July 2022	
3.1.3 Collate visitation and attendance at programs and events at each branch	Monthly	
3.1.4 Review provision of services, programs and collections, particularly for target and diversity groups	September 2022	
3.1.7 Review MRL website and branding	December 2022	
3.1.8 Produce comprehensive quarterly statistical reports on library activities.	Quarterly	
3.1.9 Compile a quarterly overview report on programs, services and special events	Quarterly	
4. COLLECTIONS		
4.1 Customers have access to current and relevant library collections		
4.1.1 Undertake analysis and report on annual statistics, collection profiles and usage	August 2022	
4.1.2 Review Library Management System and database integrity biennially	June 2023	
4.1.4 Review the MRL Collection Management Policy biennially	April 2023	
5. MARKETING		
5.1 Customers have access to current services, programs and resources		
5.1.1 Review and develop an annual Marketing Plan	December 2022	
6. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY		
6.1 Information technology enables staff and customers to access required information and library processes		
6.1.2 Report annually on current and future information technology needs	November 2022	
6.1.4 Review business continuity, technology plans and strategies	April 2023	
7. LIBRARY SPACES		
7.1 Branches are welcoming, safe, accessible and responsive to community needs and building standards & guidelines		
7.1.1 Undertake annual inspection of buildings to ensure WHS compliance	October 2022	
7.1.2 Review equipment requirements for branches and service points	October 2022	
8. SUSTAINABILITY		
8.1 Library services meet sustainability needs of the community		
8.1.1 The Library supports sustainability	Ongoing	

MRL Loans, Membership and Visitation Statistics

APRIL – JUNE 2023



46,920 visitors



5,101 hours of internet use



18,849 online database searches



541 new borrowers including eMemberships



3,747 information requests



66,605 items borrowed



This includes 12,298 eBooks, eMagazines eFilms and eAudio



5,845 logins



4,361 participants attended 339 programs and events

RESOURCES



95 posts
2,587 followers
1,187 engagements



58 tweets
999 followers
193 engagements



75 posts
1,105 followers
51 engagements