

From the Mayor's Desk:

Funding sources open up for community needs



I have pleasure in reporting to Council my activities in the role of Mayor since the April 2021 Meeting.

Mouse Control: After our prolonged push to address the mouse plague, we are now getting a support package to be rolled

out to help farmers, small businesses and households in managing the mouse plague across regional NSW. The NSW Government is providing grants to help meet the costs of controlling mouse numbers.

Federal Grant Monies: Councils in the Federal electorate of Parkes are set to share in more than \$42 million in another round of the highly successful Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program, announced in the recent Federal Budget. Council appreciates the tireless efforts of our representative, Mr Mark Coulton, in advocating on our behalf.

Western Divisions Conference: Councillor Deans, the General Manager and I travelled to Broken Hill for the Western Division Councils of NSW Annual Conference. This year's theme was 'Four Pillars of Sustainability', presenting a great opportunity to network with other regional Councils and Councillors, Ministers, Shadow Ministers, and Cr Linda Scott (LGNSW President and ALGA President). Please see my Mayoral Minute in the May Business Paper (available on the Council website) for a full report on this important meeting.

Coonamble Show: After Coonamble Show was cancelled last year due to Coronavirus, the committee pressed on and came up with a novel idea to hold a Virtual Show, with the main street shopfronts transformed to showcase the artwork from the local schools and residents.

I am confident that the committee is eager to have a great show this year with normal to higher entries for all categories and large crowds expected.

I also had the pleasure of attending the Showgirl Dinner. We are lucky to have exemplary young people within our community who are willing to promote and enter events like this to help promote our area. Should anyone wish to contact me to discuss any concerns, please phone 0427 887 666.

Ahmad Karanouh

Mayor

Draft Operational Plan exhibited for comment

Council's draft Operational Plan and Budget for the coming financial year (July 2021 to June 2022) are on public exhibition until 10 June 2021, giving members of the public an opportunity to comment on the priorities and charges proposed.

Electronic copies of the drafts are available on Council's website and as printed copies at the Administration Office in Coonamble, as well as the libraries in Coonamble, Gulargambone and Quambone.

Council accepted a balanced draft Operational Budget 2021-22 to present to the community, with expenditure of \$26.6m matched by anticipated revenue to the same amount.

Less than one-fifth (17%) of the revenue is

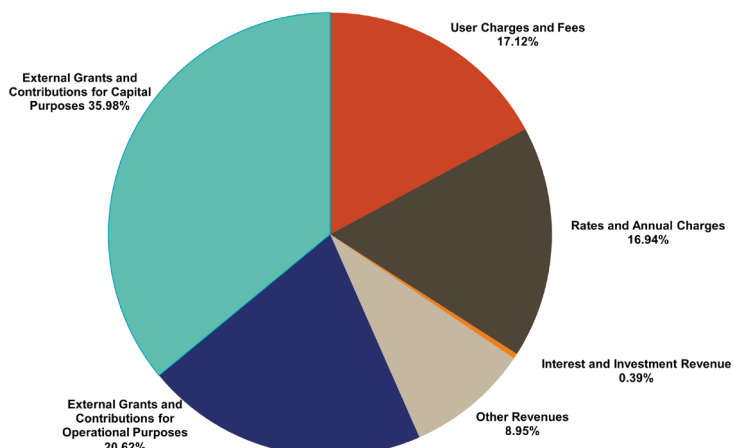
raised from rates (\$5,044,838), with this revenue stream including a 2% capped increase on rates from last year.

For residential households, the combined increases in rates, water, sewerage and garbage collection charges will be about \$5 per week.

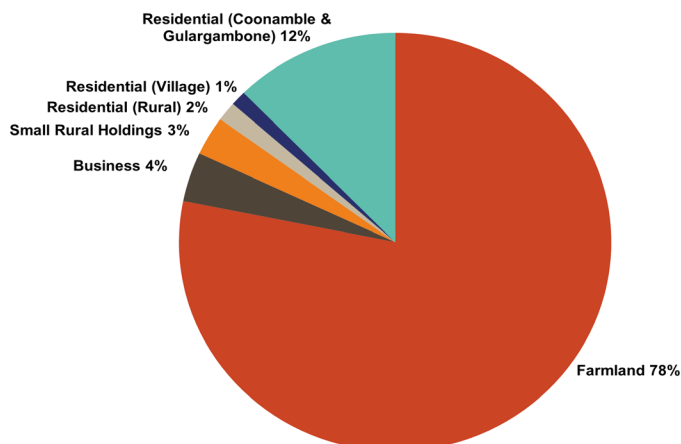
Total operational and other revenues expected for the 2021-22 financial year will come from rates and annual charges (17%), user charges and fees (17%), interest and investments (0.5%), grants and contributions (56.5%) and other revenues (9%).

The graphs below show the sources of Council's rates revenues and where revenues will be spent in the coming year.

All incomes sources for Coonamble Shire Council (%)



Council's sources of rates revenue (%)



Sports Ground lighting

New poles for lighting have been raised at Coonamble Sports Ground as part of a NSW Government Drought Stimulus Package grant to upgrade the facility.

Rainfall at the beginning of May prevented the heavy crane from lifting the poles into position as scheduled. Council is appreciative of the patience of members of the many sporting groups who were prevented from using the grounds during this period.

Testing of the lighting will now be undertaken as the next stage in this project, followed by levelling of the surface and replacement of the cricket pitch at the end of the football season.



A crane completes the job of lifting new lighting poles into place at Coonamble Sports Ground.

Draft policies exhibited

Council resolved to exhibit three draft policies for public comment at its May meeting:

- Community Consultation Policy.
- Fraud Control Policy.
- Social Media Policy.

Members of the public and businesses have until 10 June 2021 to comment on the draft policies. These drafts are available on Council's website and as hard copies at Council's Administration Office in Coonamble, and at the libraries in Coonamble, Gulargambone and Quambone.

Emergency contacts:

Water & Sewerage 0428 217 420

Other Emergencies 0458 271 881

Ranger 0427 255 881

Website for all details:

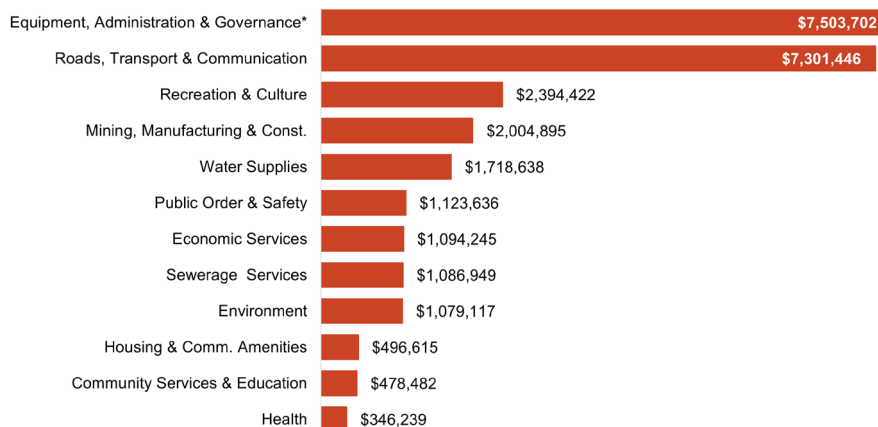
www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au

Council's income sources and spending

All of the graphs shown in this edition of the *Community Connect* should be understood in relation to the Budget but also with the complementary explanation, in the Operational Plan, of the actions that this budget is proposed to fund in the 2021-22 financial year.

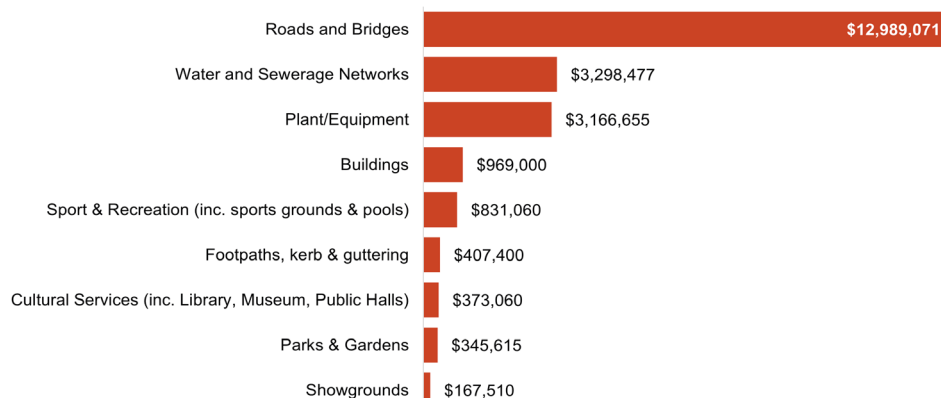
These actions themselves are derived from the four-year Delivery Plan and the 10-year Strategic Plan adopted by Council as a part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework suite of documents, mandated by the NSW Office of Local Government.

Operational Expenditures (before Capital)



* Includes equipment running expenses (\$1,500,200) and depreciation (\$1,025,712)

Proposed capital expenditure by asset type



Maintenance of roads balanced with other priorities

There are 1,168km of unsealed roads throughout Coonamble Local Government Area, and about 370km of sealed roads.

The average cost to carry out maintenance grading on an unsealed road is \$5,000/km. If every kilometre of unsealed road were given a single maintenance grading in the year, it would cost \$5.84 million.

Unsealed roads often require maintenance grading after a substantial rain event, particularly if used by traffic while the road is wet. Since the drought has broken, there are usually several substantial rain events in a single year, meaning unsealed roads often

require more than one maintenance grading. Reforming and resheeting an unsealed road costs an average \$30,000/km. If every kilometre of unsealed road were reformed and resheeted once a year, it would cost \$35.04 million.

Council proposes to raise \$5.05 million from rates in the coming year.

As a Council, the community's elected representatives, in consultation with Council staff, attempt to balance all community priorities within the Local Government Area and the financial commitments that each represents.

Date of June Council meeting postponed one week

Council will delay its June meeting by one week to allow the collation of community responses and feedback to the draft Operational Plan and draft Budget for 2021-22.

Council meetings are normally scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month.

However, the June meeting will be held on the third Wednesday, 16 June.

The June meeting of Council will adopt the Operational Plan and Budget 2021-22 taking into consideration the sentiments and points raised in the public submissions.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Coonamble Shire Council will be held on Wednesday, 16 June 2021