



Business Papers 2021

MID-WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
WEDNESDAY 26 MAY 2021

SEPARATELY ATTACHED ATTACHMENTS

*A prosperous and progressive
community we proudly call home*



ATTACHMENTS

Report 4.1	Attachment 5	1. Late Submission - Reinstatement of Rail Line- CAP	3
	Attachment 6	2. Late Submission - Crudine Road - Alan Heath.....	4
	Attachment 7	3. Late Submission - Airport - CAP	5
	Attachment 8	4. Late Submission - Spring Ridge Road Seal	6
	Attachment 9	5. Late Submission - RMS State Roads CAP	7
	Attachment 10	6. Late Submission - Youth Services	8
	Attachment 11	7. Late Submission - Streets & Roads in Town - Paul Christopherson	9
	Attachment 12	Management response public submissions presented late	11

From: [Your Say Mid-Western Regional Council](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Community Action Proposals completed Submission to the 2020/21 Draft Operational Plan
Date: Wednesday, 19 May 2021 5:17:18 PM

Community Action Proposals just submitted the survey 'Submission to the 2020/21 Draft Operational Plan' with the responses below.

What section of the 2020/21 Draft Operational Plan would you like to provide feedback on?

Other

Please give a title for the section you'd like to provide feedback on.

Reinstatement of the Rylstone to Gulgong rail and Other Matters

Please provide a detailed description of your submission.

The Mudgee Region is rapidly being swamped by trucks and heavy vehicles traversing our main highways and local urban roads. The implications of this traffic causes congestion, safety issues, air & noise pollution and cost to business due to time delays. The truck movements are generally associated with the moving and servicing of coal mining equipment, general freight and through traffic heavy vehicles whose destination is further western townships. WE NEED TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF TRUCKS ON OUR ROADS AND TO PROVIDE A BY-PASS ROAD AROUND THE MUDGE TOWNSHIP. There is approximately 93 km of rail line that links Rylstone and Gulgong. The Sydney to Rylstone line has been upgraded and the Gulgong line to Newcastle/Dubbo has been upgraded. The current Rylstone to Gulgong line is currently suitable to carry passenger cars and general freight (not coal carriages). There are 3 existing rail bridges on that section of line that require upgrading. The existing line could be upgraded and operational again in a matter of months. It is essential Council enter into discussions with Paul Toole (minister responsible) to reopen this rail line and provide access to general freight and passenger services. In addition, Council should commence the State Government study into the building of a by-pass road around the Mudgee township. WE MUST GET TRUCKS OFF OUR LOCAL URBAN STREETS.

From: [Leanne Heath](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Submission to Draft Management Plan / Rural Roads
Date: Thursday, 20 May 2021 3:14:54 PM

I would like to make the following points;

We note that Council has had funding for the sealing of School Bus Routes within the Mid-Western Regional Council area. Crudine Road is a School Bus Route and hasn't had any funding for the extension of the seal for many years. In fact, during the construction of the Crudine Ridge Windfarm the road was in an appalling condition resulting in damage to tyres and unsafe conditions.

The road loses its fines in dust and exposes large sharp rocks. The surface is getting narrower and is badly in need of widening and resheeting. This has become a safety issue for the general public, tourists (the Crudine Ridge Wind Farm is attracting a lot of interest from tourists) , and in particular the School Bus.

For these reasons we strongly suggest that when Council is formulating the new Management Plan, it gives consideration to an increase in funding for Rural roads.

Alan Heath

From: [Your Say Mid-Western Regional Council](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Community Action Proposals completed Submission to the 2020/21 Draft Operational Plan
Date: Friday, 21 May 2021 12:00:14 PM

Community Action Proposals just submitted the survey 'Submission to the 2020/21 Draft Operational Plan' with the responses below.

What section of the 2020/21 Draft Operational Plan would you like to provide feedback on?

Other

Please give a title for the section you'd like to provide feedback on.

Airport

Please provide a detailed description of your submission.

Your Operational Plan states further expenditure on the current Mudgee Airport. In the longer term, this airport should be rezoned for a university campus and a new airport established further West towards Gulgong. The current airport has an inadequate runway length to take large aircraft and it cannot be lengthened. The current airport is in a most inappropriate location and creates noise and air pollution to ALL Mudgee residents. A planning study should be undertaken immediately to find the best location for a new Regional airport that will be distanced from residential areas and be sufficiently provided with land rezoned to allow the facility to support aircraft and freight services. A funding grant should be prepared and submitted to the Federal Government for this new airport study. I urge Council to commence a submission. All expenditure on the current airport should be confined to care and maintenance.

From: [Your Say Mid-Western Regional Council](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Community Action Proposals completed Submission to the 2020/21 Draft Operational Plan
Date: Friday, 21 May 2021 11:46:43 AM

Community Action Proposals just submitted the survey 'Submission to the 2020/21 Draft Operational Plan' with the responses below.

What section of the 2020/21 Draft Operational Plan would you like to provide feedback on?

Other

Please give a title for the section you'd like to provide feedback on.

Bridges

Please provide a detailed description of your submission.

The proposal to replace the timber bridge at Beryl over the Wyaldra Creek is a total waste of public funds. This bridge within the past 3 years has had close to \$1m of repairs carried out by the State Government and is in excellent condition. The bridge only caters for local farms and a handful of Beryl residents. The funds should be redirected to seal the Spring Ridge Road which would be far more beneficial to the community. I cannot understand how Council could have prepared a proposal to replace this bridge when there are so many more important road works necessary in this Region

From: [Your Say Mid-Western Regional Council](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Community Action Proposals completed Submission to the 2020/21 Draft Operational Plan
Date: Friday, 21 May 2021 11:38:32 AM

Community Action Proposals just submitted the survey 'Submission to the 2020/21 Draft Operational Plan' with the responses below.

What section of the 2020/21 Draft Operational Plan would you like to provide feedback on?

Other

Please give a title for the section you'd like to provide feedback on.

RMS Works - State Roads

Please provide a detailed description of your submission.

It is essential that Council commence a planning study for the route for a bi-pass road around the Mudgee township to cater for the ever increasing heavy vehicles and the through traffic continuing to the mines and further West of the Town. This study can be funded by the State Government however it requires the will and drive of Council to commence this action. Planning the bi-pass route is an essential town planning need as it effects how the town can grow in future years. Heavy vehicle currently now traversing the urban streets of Mudgee is totally unacceptable. Please be proactive and start considering the future growth of this town and the safety of its citizens.

From: [Your Say Mid-Western Regional Council](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Community Action Proposals completed Submission to the 2020/21 Draft Operational Plan
Date: Friday, 21 May 2021 11:25:56 AM

Community Action Proposals just submitted the survey 'Submission to the 2020/21 Draft Operational Plan' with the responses below.

What section of the 2020/21 Draft Operational Plan would you like to provide feedback on?

Other

Please give a title for the section you'd like to provide feedback on.

Youth Services

Please provide a detailed description of your submission.

With the loss to the community from the recent sale of the Regent Theatre to a publican we anticipate the building will become a tavern linked to the Lawson Hotel - another tourist venue for the imported sporting fraternity. The Regent Theatre could have become a Performing Arts centre to host live music, plays, dance and hosted touring shows subsidised by the State & Federal Government. Now the youth of this town region are forced to travel to Dubbo, Bathurst or Orange. The cost of travel and accommodation just to see a show is prohibitive. Council states that they support youth services in this community however it is yet to demonstrate a serious concern for their well being. With youth suicide such a mental health concern in the community there is an urgent need to provide facilities that benefit young people. Council needs to plan for a Performing Arts Centre for Mudgee and to pursue Government Grants to progress the design and planning of such a venue.

21 May 2021



General Manager
Mid-Western Regional Council
PO Box 156
MUDGEE NSW 2850



Dear Mr Cam,

Public Submissions – 2021/22 Draft Operational Plan

Much more needs to be done with regards to streets & roads around town. This would most likely apply to all towns & villages in the region. Many streets have no curb or gutter, they are very rough & there is a lack of footpaths for pedestrians. It looks like there is \$200K allocated for footpaths however I see this has been previously spent repairing existing footpaths not constructing new ones in areas where they are really needed such as west Mudgee along any of the streets such as Denison Street. Denison Street has had such an increase in vehicular traffic due to Return & Earn, Jubilee Sports Ground & being an alternate route. Vehicular traffic shares the roadway with kids walking or on bikes & scooters, parents pushing prams, mobility scooters, pedestrians walking dogs, etc. In order to make pedestrians safe a greater commitment has to be provided to new footpaths. To make streets safe for vehicular traffic a greater commitment has to be provided to better quality road construction.

A \$200K spend on footpaths out of the total budget is insignificant.

Since 2020 there have been so many millions of dollars spent on unbudgeted property purchases, or spent or committed to be spent on projects that provide no real benefit to the residential ratepayer. At any time but particularly in these uncertain economic times Council should be pulling their heads & purse strings in to safeguard its financial position while providing those essential services & keeping rates set as low as possible. Instead it is proposed there will be a further 2% hike in rates.

Too much is being spent on a few. Not everyone is a footy fan – Glen Willow must be up to a \$100M asset with maintenance costs each year in the \$'000'000's. Apparently it's also OK to secretly purchase a neighbouring property for \$2M & build new roads for access from the west. \$400K of new bicycle tracks around Putta Bucca & a new \$500K bicycle bridge. \$3.5M on a secret purchase of Mudgee Valley Tourist Park with further urgent repairs in the

hundreds of thousands. Proposed \$10M on a Council operated solar farm while private operations are refused. Hardly anyone is an art fan yet \$8M is spent on an art gallery. In excess of \$200K unbudgeted payments made under the guise of COVID business booster payments to undisclosed recipients but including Councillors, staff, family & friends. In excess of \$650K purchase of TAFE Court Street. So all of this unbudgeted expenditure & ratepayers have to put up with rough roads & streets & no footpaths.....Council need to reconsider what the function of local government is & change its spending to accommodate the many not the few.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Christopherson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paul A. Christopherson

Recommendation for Public Submissions show as late attachments to the Draft 2021/22 Operational Plan

Due to the submission period extending beyond the deadline to produce the meeting agenda for the 26 May 2021 meeting, the below submissions must be considered and are included as late attachments.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

Receive the additional public submissions to the Draft 2021/22 Operational Plan and 2017/22 Delivery Program as listed below, with the General Manager required to respond to each submissions as follows:

1. Community member be thanked for their submission and Council confirms that the highway bypass is not currently a priority and falls under the responsibility of Transport for NSW.
2. Alan Heath be thanked for his submission and Council confirms that the demand for community initiatives is higher than what Council can fund
3. Community member be thanked for their submission and Council confirms that they have already approached universities and have not been successful.
4. Community member be thanked for their submission and Council confirms funds are specific to bridges and could not be redirected to road sealing.
5. Community member be thanked for their submission and Council confirms that the highway bypass is not currently a priority and falls under the responsibility of Transport for NSW.
6. Community member be thanked for their submission and Council confirms the demand for community initiatives is higher than what Council can fund.
7. Paul Christopherson be thanked for his submission and Council confirms that they are currently prioritising footpath works in accordance with the ranking in the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP).

The following table provides a summary of public submissions and a more detailed explanation for the recommendation.

From	Summary of Submission	Detailed explanation
1. Community Action Proposals	Reduce the number of trucks and heavy vehicles on our main highways and local urban roads by providing a by-pass around the Mudgee Township and reinstating the Rylstone to Gulgong Rail.	These works would fall under responsibly of Transport for New South Wales. A highway bypass is not currently a priority based on traffic volumes.
2. Alan Heath	Sealing or widening and resheeting of the Crudine Road which is a school bus route as it is becoming a safety issue for the School bus, tourists and the general public.	Council is currently prioritising road sealing based on bus routes, hierarchy and traffic volumes. Unfortunately, Council has a limited amount of resources, and the demand for community initiatives is higher than what Council can fund.
3. Community Action Proposals	The airport should be rezoned for a university campus and a new airport established further West towards Gulgong. A funding grant application	Council has approached universities and have not been successful in attracting a campus in Mudgee.

From	Summary of Submission	Detailed explanation
	should be submitted to the Federal Government for a new airport study.	
4. Community Action Proposals	Funds to replace the timber bridge at Beryl over Wyaldra Creek should be redirected to seal the Spring Ridge Road as it is far more beneficial to the community.	Grant funds are specific to bridge replacement and could not be redirected to road sealing
5. Community Action Proposals	Commence a planning study for the route for a by-pass road around the Mudgee township to cater for the ever increasing heavy vehicles and the through traffic continuing to the mines and further West of the Town. This should be funded by the State Government.	These works would fall under responsibly of Transport for New South Wales. A highway bypass is not currently a priority based on traffic volumes.
6. Community Action Proposals	Council needs to plan for a Performing Arts Centre for Mudgee and to pursue Government Grants to progress the design and planning of such a venue.	Unfortunately, Council has a limited amount of resources, and the demand for community initiatives is higher than what Council can fund. Council notes the Town Hall Theatre does provides some facilities of this nature.
7. Paul Christopherson	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the footpaths budget to put in new footpaths especially around Denison Street where there is an increase in vehicular traffic due to Return & Earn, Jubilee Sports Ground and it being an alternative route. This will make it safer as pedestrians will no longer be walking on the road. 2. Spend more money on improving rough roads and putting in kerb and gutters. 3. Stop spending money on unbudgeted property purchases and other projects that provide no real benefit to the residential ratepayer such as the art Gallery, Glen Willow, Mudgee Valley Tourist Park which requires costly repairs and maintenance, Putta Bucca bicycle tracks and bridges and the TAFE Court St Purchase. 	<p>From 2020/21 Council has allocated an additional \$200,000 each year to fund the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP) and also received a one off grant of \$500,000 in 20/21 to improve pedestrian access in the region. Council is currently prioritising footpath works in accordance with the ranking in the PAMP, which was adopted by the Mid-Western Regional Council in February 2016. Council has also retained the existing Footways Capital Works budget of approximately \$135,000 per annum to continue with repairing and replacing existing footpath.</p> <p>Council has also made significant increases to the Roads and Bridges maintenance and capital budgets in 2020/21 and a further increase of over \$1.1 million in 2021/22.</p>