

**INQUIRY INTO THE ABILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO FUND  
INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES  
HEARING – Wednesday 26 June 2024**

**Questions on Notice: Lismore City Council**

**Dr AMANDA COHN:** Mr Hartley, I will follow up on your first answer. You mentioned that you had some grant funding for recovery officers, and you indicated that there had been an increase in demand for other types of council services. **Could you give examples of those, or take that on notice?**

Council has provided the community with support during the flood event and the subsequent period.

This ranged from -

1. Financial support:
  - a. Council wrote off approximately \$250,000 in water charges in 2022-2023 in recognition of those rate payers who were cleaning out their properties
  - b. Moratorium on rate payments and interest charges on outstanding rates
  - c. Successfully lobbied on behalf of the impacted rate payers for the NSW Government to pay rates for the 2022-2023 year on behalf of those eligible ratepayers
  - d. Council did not apply the IPART rate peg percentage of 0.7% or subsequent 2.5% suggested by the Minister in 2022-2023
  - e. Council also decided not to increase Fees & Charges (other than commercial or NSW Statutory Charges). This is despite Council being subject to an inflationary pressure of 5-7% in its costs
2. Emergency assistance:
  - a. Council operated an evacuation centre during the event which was resourced by Council officers and utilised Council facilities
  - b. Ordinary staff time is not reimbursable under the disaster recovery funding and therefore was borne by Council
3. Council officers were required to take an increase in enquiries around waste services, rate hardship and general enquiries around flood issues.

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**Dr AMANDA COHN:** My last question is about cost shifting. Local Government NSW has done an excellent job of quantifying the impact of cost shifting at a state level, but I am interested in whether there are specific examples that come to mind of recent cost shifting at a local level that we might need to look at addressing.

**Dr AMANDA COHN:** We would love to be provided with that list.

A copy was provided to the Committee on the day.

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**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS: Lismore City Council**

**Could you expand in more detail the impact on Lismore City Council's waste management of the NSW government waste levy going to general revenue and not being fully reinvested in waste projects?**

Council has raised this issue with the NSW Government previously (letter to the NSW Minister for Environment, Local Government and Heritage (June 2018 - cc attached) and no redress was provided by that Government or subsequent Governments.

Council is required to pay an EPA levy waste going for the item that goes into its landfill cell yet only receives minimal return from the State Government in return funding for grant projects.

EPA Levy Paid by Council (2013 – 2022) - \$18,667,524.86\*

Funding returned to Council via Waste Grants: - \$ 3,343,863.59

The NSW EPA Waste Levy is a cost to Council but is ultimately paid by the ratepayer of Lismore.

Over the period, waste levy has seen the NSW Government remove \$15.3 million from the Lismore community or as the ratepayer is required to pay this charge, added an additional cost burden to the rate payers of Lismore.

These are funds that could be better spent within the community of Lismore delivering either better and cheaper waste services, addressing environmental issues or addressing the significant infrastructure funding gap that Council experiences.

*\*Council was subject to two natural disasters in 2022 which severely impacted Council's waste cell. Since these events Council has been required to ship its waste to Queensland due to its cell not being operational. Although this means Council is not required to pay the land fill levy, there has been an additional cost of disposal which has not been subject to disaster recovery funding therefore has been borne by the already heavily impacted community.*

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**I understand that Lismore City Council’s charges for waste collection have recently increased by 50%. What consultation was undertaken with the community regarding this decision?**

**Councillor Consultations**

Councillors were engaged through briefings, the Waste Review and 2024-2025 budget process.

**Statutory Obligations**

Lismore City Council in adopting its 2024-2025 is guided by the Integrated Planning & Reporting Guidelines (IP&R) issued by the NSW Office of Local Government. The IP&R framework is prescribed by the NSW *Local Government Act 1993*.

Section 405 of the *Local Government Act 1993* States that Council must have an Operational Plan that is adopted before the beginning of each financial year, detailing the activities and actions to be undertaken by council during the that year to achieve the 4 Year Delivery Plan.

Integrated Planning & Reporting Guidelines (IP&R) issued by the NSW Office of Local Government outlines the documents required to be developed by Council and presented to the Community for consultation for a period of 28 days, over which time Council invites public submission.

Exhibition was via Council’s “Your Say” page on Council’s website, for the period 18 May 2024 to 16 June 2024 inclusive:

The documents placed exhibition included required included:

1. Draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan
2. Draft Revenue Policy 2024-2025
3. Draft Budget by Program 2024-2025
4. Draft Fees & Charges 2024-2025
5. Draft Fees & Charges - NEW
6. Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2024-2034
7. Draft Asset Strategic Management Plan 2024

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***Extract from the 2024-2025 Revenue Policy that was on display for 28 days:***

**Waste Management Charges:**

Council has reviewed the numerous services that it offers with particular emphasis on landfill reduction. A range of options that encourage recycling and introduces choice in the size of bins collected is now available at various prices. Maps of the areas covered by these services are available for viewing at Council's Corporate Centre: -

**a) Waste Collection Charges**

These charges are levied for the actual collection and removal of waste from a property, where Council makes the service available. Council must approve the type and size of bins used.

All waste collection charges are an annual charge, either under Section 496 or 501 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. This in effect means that the charge will apply for the entire year regardless of the number of times the service is utilised.

If a service is no longer required and Council is notified to that effect, the charge will still apply in the rating year in which it was levied but will not be charged in future years. The exception to this is where a charge has been wrongly applied such as where the charge was for two services but only one was received.

When a service or additional service is requested during a rating year, the cost of the service will be calculated on a quarterly pro-rata basis and levied from the next rate instalment period after the service is commenced.

As a result of the natural disasters of February and March 2022 and the subsequent damage to Council's waste cell, Council has been required to transport waste off site to other facilities. This has resulted in Council incurring significant additional operational costs, it is anticipated that this will continue during 2024-2025 year until the cell becomes operational. To offset the increased operational costs, Council has introduced a waste levy of \$75.00 per assessment for the 2024-2025 year.

**To minimise the impact on ratepayers, Council proposes to not impose the Waste minimisation charge for 2024-2025.**

For Domestic Services: -

- Integrated Waste Collection: This charge is applicable to all urban domestic properties receiving the service within the defined collection area. The service is a **weekly 240 litre organic bin** and a **fortnightly 360 litre recycling bin** plus a **fortnightly 140 litre waste bin collection service**.
- Integrated Waste Collection – Urban Half: This charge is applicable to all urban domestic properties receiving the service within the defined collection area. The

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service is a **weekly 120 litre organic bin** and a **fortnightly 120 litre recycling bin** and a **fortnightly 80 litre waste bin** collection service.

- Integrated Waste Collection – Waste Plus: This charge is applicable to all urban domestic properties receiving the service within the defined collection area. The service is a **weekly 240 litre organic bin**, a **fortnightly 360 litre recycling bin** and a **fortnightly 240 litre waste bin** collection service.
- Integrated Waste Collection – Premium: This charge is applicable to all urban domestic properties receiving the service within the defined collection area. The service is a **weekly 240 litre organic bin**, a **fortnightly 360 litre recycling bin** and a **fortnightly 2x240 litre waste bins** collection service.

Waste Collection – Special Needs: This service is available on application and requires approval by the Manager – Commercial Services. It is available for customers with health or mobility problems and will be assessed on a ‘case by case’ basis. The service is available to domestic.

- properties only. The service consists of a **fortnightly 240 litre waste bin** collection service collected from and returned to the property by the waste truck driver or a variation on this depending on assessment by the assessment team.
- Waste Collection – Rural: This charge is applicable to all domestic properties within the service areas as defined, outside the urban area of Lismore and receiving the collection service. The service is a **fortnightly 240 litre waste bin** and a **fortnightly 360 litre recycling bin** collection service.
- Waste Collection – Rural Half: This charge is applicable to all domestic properties within the service areas as defined, outside the urban area of Lismore and receiving the collection service. The service is a **fortnightly 140 litre waste bin** and a **fortnightly 120 litre recycling bin** collection service.
- Waste Collection – Rural Village: This charge is applicable to all domestic properties within the rural village service areas as defined, outside the urban area of Lismore and receiving the collection service. The service is a **fortnightly 240 litre organic bin** and a **fortnightly 360 litre recycling bin** plus a **fortnightly 240 litre waste bin** collection service.
- Waste Collection – Rural Village Half: This charge is applicable to all domestic properties within the rural village service areas as defined, outside the urban area of Lismore and receiving the collection service. The service is a **fortnightly 120 litre organic bin** and a **fortnightly 120 litre recycling bin** plus a **fortnightly 140 litre waste bin** collection service.

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For Non-Domestic Services: -

- Waste Collection – Urban Business: This charge is applicable to all non-domestic properties receiving the service within the defined collection area. This service is a **fortnightly 240 litre waste** bin and a **fortnightly 240 litre resource recovery** (recyclable, organics) bin collection service.
- Waste Collection – Rural Business: This charge is applicable to all non-domestic properties within the service areas as defined, outside the urban area of Lismore and receiving the collection service. The service is a **weekly 240 litre waste bin** and a **fortnightly 360 litre recycling bin** collection service.
- Waste Collection – Rural Half Business: This charge is applicable to all non-domestic properties within the service areas as defined, outside the urban area of Lismore and receiving the collection service. The service is a **fortnightly 240 litre waste bin** and a **fortnightly 240 litre recycling bin** collection service.

**b) Other Waste Management Charges**

In addition to collection charges, Council also levies several other charges, which are used to implement waste management and reduction programs.

**Waste Availability:** This charge applies to all rateable properties where the waste collection service is available, but not being utilised, excluding those properties paying the Nimbin Transfer Station charge.

**Waste Minimisation:** This charge is applicable to all rateable properties except for those rateable properties paying the Nimbin Transfer Station charge. This charge is for the provision of recycling services, waste strategy and policy development, other waste reduction programs, waste education services and an allocation of one (1) waste voucher per rateable property (capped at 5,000 vouchers per annum). This charge attracts GST.

As a result of the natural disasters of February and March 2022 and the subsequent damage to Council's waste cell, Council has been required to transport waste off site to other facilities. This has resulted in Council incurring significant additional operational costs, it is anticipated that this will continue during

2024-2025 year until the cell becomes operational. To offset the increased operational costs, Council has introduced a waste levy of \$75.00 per assessment for the 2024-2025 year.

**To minimise the impact on ratepayers, Council proposes to not charge the Waste minimisation levy in 2024-2025.**

**Nimbin Transfer Station:** This charge is applicable to all rateable properties within the Nimbin and District service area map, not receiving a waste collection service, and is charged on a per dwelling basis. A copy of the map is available at Council's Corporate Centre.

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A summary of all waste management charges follows: -

<b>Service</b>	<b>Annual Charge 2024-2025</b>	<b>QLD Levy 2024-2025</b>	<b>Total 2024-2025</b>	<b>Yield (\$'000)</b>
Integrated Waste Collection	\$540.00	\$75.00	\$615.00	\$6,519
Integrated Waste Collection – Urban Half	\$375.00	\$75.00	\$450.00	\$160
Integrated Waste Collection – Waste Plus	\$640.00	\$75.00	\$715.00	\$312
Integrated Waste Collection - Premium	\$857.00	\$75.00	\$932.00	\$227
Waste Collection Service – Special Needs	\$440.00	\$75.00	\$515.00	\$19
Waste Collection – Rural	\$530.00	\$75.00	\$605.00	\$1,457
Waste Collection – Rural Half	\$345.00	\$75.00	\$420.00	\$204
Waste Collection – Rural Village	\$615.00	\$75.00	\$690.00	\$1,067
Waste Collection – Rural Village Half	\$415.00	\$75.00	\$490.00	\$54
Waste Collection - Urban Business	\$470.00	\$75.00	\$545.00	\$642
Waste Collection - Rural Non-Domestic	\$525.00	\$75.00	\$600.00	\$137
Waste Availability	\$11.39	-	\$11.39	\$10
Waste Minimsation	\$0.00	-	\$0.00	\$0.00
Nimbin Transfer Station	\$173.48	-	\$173.48	\$56
				\$10,865

Additional bins are available for Domestic and Non-Domestic services upon requests as per the following pricing:

<b>Extra Bin services</b>	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Scheduling</b>
Extra Bin Urban - 240L Waste	\$ 219.75	Fortnightly
Extra Bin Urban - 360L Recycle	\$ 89.59	Fortnightly
Extra Bin Urban - 240L Organics	\$ 295.33	Fortnightly
Extra Bin Rural & Village - 240L Waste	\$ 258.62	Fortnightly



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**Regional and rural airports are critical infrastructure supporting emergency services.**

Some regional and rural airports may provide these critical services. Typically, the most common emergency Lismore is as a result of flooding. Lismore Airport is located in a flood corridor and its ability to act as a key piece supporting infrastructure during a flood event is significantly limited.

Neither Lismore Base Hospital nor St Vincents Hospital view Lismore Airport an important component of their patient transfer program. Time critical, emergency situations are managed via the Westpac Helicopter service.

The Westpac Helicopter service started operating out of their Brunswick Street base in 1990 and remained there up to their relocation at the Lismore Airport facility since 2017. This would strongly suggest this service does not need to be located at an airport.

What plans are in place or underway to reduce the level of subsidy Lismore ratepayers are currently providing airport operations, and/or return commercial flights to Lismore airport?

Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) regulatory requirements to retain airport status mean that it is very difficult to mitigate ongoing capital investment (refurbishment/renewal/replacement) and associated maintenance costs. Also, all significant capital items are exposed to flooding and therefore are at constant risk of minor to significant damage.

Whereas some Australian Government grants are available from time to time, the Lismore City Council bears a bulk (if not all) of the cost of the airport's operations. Currently, Lismore's airport drains circa \$500,000 p.a. (excluding overheads and depreciation) from Council's General Fund.

#### Increased Fees

Council has in the past, considered increasing fees payable by airport users, however the proposed increase was nominal and not likely to have a material mitigating impact on the airport's financial position.

#### Flight Schools

Currently a small number of pilot training flight schools operate out of Lismore. The Economic Development group has held brief discussions with an international flight school and their desire to establish operations in Lismore. This includes the leasehold of the airport terminal for classroom-based lessons. The Economic Development group remains in contact with this prospect. However, tangible discussions are essentially on hold until the completion of the airport terminal rebuild (post the February 2022 flooding event).

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Whereas this emerging opportunity will likely reduce the airport's deficit it will not eliminate it. Additionally, should the flight school expansion come to reality, based on previous experience, there is a broad concern that the increased air traffic will see Council (via CASA) receive a significant increase in noise complaints from residents in the flight path.

#### Commercial Flights

The current commercial activity at Lismore's airport is limited to small, sole-trader operators. Lismore faces substantial headwinds when looking to attract any form of larger commercial operators due to:

#### Passenger Traffic

The airport's proximity to substantially larger airports in Ballina Airport and the Gold Coast Airport and their established routes virtually eliminates any opportunity to attract a new passenger service to Lismore. Put simply, without sizable subsidies (payable by Lismore Council) potential service providers have indicated that it is not economic for them to establish and operate a passenger service out of Lismore.

As part of Aviation Project's consulting engagement, small regional airlines were contacted to determine their interest in Lismore's airport. Only one (FlyPelican) expressed mild interest noting that any such service would need to be heavily subsidised. Rex Airlines expressed no interest in returning to Lismore.

Compounding the issue, should a meaningful, regular passenger service be established at Lismore, CASA regulations may require additional infrastructure investment both airside (e.g., runway lighting) and terminal side (e.g., the introduction of Security Screening services).

#### Freight

No comprehensive investigation has taken place by Council management with respect to Freight Services out of Lismore airport. Notwithstanding the issues associated with the proximity to competing airports and their associated airfreight services, the general opinion is that freight operations out of Lismore airport are not considered a viable proposition due to limited demand for time critical/high value products and the anticipated cost associated with such a specialised service.

Council management has considered alternative uses for the land on which the airport operates. From leasehold farming (e.g., agistment of cattle, growing of animal fodder etc.) to the establishment of a solar farm for electricity generation. All potential alternatives face the same issue of "regular" flooding limiting its appeal for investors and/or operators. None of the alternatives trialled have generated sufficient income for either party to pursue as a long-term strategy.

# LGNSW COST SHIFTING SURVEY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/25

GENERAL INFORMATION	INFORMATION
Council:	Lismore City Council

TOTAL INCOME BEFORE CAPITAL AMOUNTS	FIGURE IN \$
Total income from continuing operations before capital amounts in \$. Total income from continuing operations less grants and contributions provided for capital purposes, less profit from disposal of assets, and less profit from interests in joint ventures & associates as shown in the income statement of council's financial statements.	147,348,076

**GRAND TOTAL** \$ 10,183,534

	2024/25
COST SHIFTING EXAMPLES	ESTIMATE OF ANNUAL NET ONGOING OPERATIONAL COST IN \$
<b>1. Contribution to Fire and Rescue NSW.</b> Please only include the relevant amount of the emergency service levy invoice from the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services.	\$ 746,300
<b>2. Contribution to Rural Fire Service.</b> Please only include the relevant amount of the emergency service levy invoice from the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services.	\$ 503,200
<b>2a. Contribution to NSW State Emergency Service.</b> Please only include the relevant amount of the emergency service levy invoice from the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services.	\$ 213,000
<b>3. Pensioners rate rebates.</b> Net cost in \$ incurred due to mandatory pensioners rebates for rates and charges (total amount of mandatory concession minus state reimbursement). Please do not include in your calculation rebates for water supply and sewerage charges as these charges are subject to a separate fund and cost can be recovered across all users.  NSW is the only state that requires councils to fund approximately half the cost of mandatory pensioner concessions (ss575-584 of the Local Government Act (NSW) 1993).	\$ 446,500
<b>4. Voluntary conservation agreements.</b> Net cost in \$ incurred due to rate exemptions as a result of voluntary conservation agreements. Note: Pursuant to section 555 of the Local Government Act (NSW) 1993, land (or the proportion of the landholding) that is subject to a voluntary conservation agreement between the landowner and the relevant NSW Minister (environment portfolio) under section 69 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act (NSW) 1974 is exempt from all council rates.	\$ -

# LGNSW COST SHIFTING SURVEY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/25

GENERAL INFORMATION	INFORMATION
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<p><b>5. Public library operations.</b> Cost in \$ representing the proportion of operational expenditure that was not funded by the State Government but would have been funded had the original funding arrangement of a State Government subsidy of half the amount expended by council on the operation of libraries been applied (i.e. shortfall between actual State Government subsidies (prescribed amount pursuant to s13(4)(b) Library Act (NSW) 1939 and the regulation) and the subsidy council would have been eligible for pursuant to s13(4)(a) Library Act (NSW) 1939 (the original funding arrangement of a state subsidy of half the amount expended by council on the operation of libraries from rate income).</p> <p>Do not include capital expenditure. Do not enter the total operational expenditure for libraries. Please explain if your figure is larger than half the expenses from continuing operations for public libraries in special schedule 1 of your financial statements.</p>	<p>\$ 1,086,048</p>
<p><b>6. Shortfall in cost recovery for regulation of On-site sewerage facilities.</b> Cost in \$ of services/functions less any revenue related to them (fees, state government payments/subsidies). Please only include necessary costs that cannot be recovered as a result of regulatory constraints. Do not include capital expenditure. Note: Councils are required to regulate the installation, approve and monitor the operation and keep a register of all on-site sewerage management systems (section 68 of the Local Government Act (NSW) 1993).</p>	<p>\$ -</p>
<p><b>7. Shortfall in cost recovery for regulatory functions/services under the Companion Animal Act (NSW) 1998.</b> Cost in \$ of services/functions less any revenue related to them (fees, state government payments/subsidies). Do not include capital expenditure. Note: Councils' role was expanded from a pure enforcement role to a regulatory body with functions including preparation of companion animal management plan, operation of lifetime registration system, separation of cats and dogs, maintaining facilities, enforcement, and the collection of fees for the Office of Local Government which returns only a small proportion of those fees to Local Government.</p>	<p>\$ 119,000</p>
<p><b>8. Shortfall in cost recovery for regulatory functions/services under the Contaminated Land Management Act (NSW) 1997.</b> Cost in \$ of services/functions less any revenue related to them (fees, state government payments/subsidies). Do not include capital expenditure. Note: Councils are required to respond to contaminated land issues, undertake the administration, registration and mapping of contaminated sites not regulated by the NSW Environment Protection Authority, develop policies, and consider contamination in land-use planning processes.</p>	<p>\$ 75,000</p>

# LGNSW COST SHIFTING SURVEY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/25

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<p><b>9. Shortfall in cost recovery for functions under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act (NSW) 1997.</b> Cost in \$ of regulatory services/functions less any revenue related to them (fees, state government payments/subsidies). Note: Councils are required to administer the licensing system and enforce protective regulation (issuing of environmental notices, prosecution of environmental offences, undertaking of environmental audits) in relation to all non-scheduled activities not regulated by the NSW Environment Protection Authority.</p>	\$ 243,000
<p><b>10. Shortfall in cost recovery for functions as control authority for noxious weed.</b> Cost in \$ of regulatory services/functions less any revenue related to them (fees, state government payments/subsidies; e.g. grants from the NSW Department of Primary Industries) or cost in \$ of net contributions to other authorities for reasonably necessary regulation of noxious weeds on land other than council land and council managed Crown land. Do not include cost of other environmental weeds control or general bushland care. Do not include capital expenditure.</p> <p>Councils are required to regulate and control noxious weeds pursuant to the Noxious Weeds Act (NSW) 1993 and s183 of the Local Government Act (NSW) 1993.</p>	\$ 169,100
<p><b>11. Functions under the Rural Fires Act (NSW) 1997.</b> Cost in \$ of services/functions less any revenue related to them (fees, state government payments/subsidies). Do not include capital expenditure. Please do not include the contributions to the Rural Fire Service and NSW Fire Brigade covered in questions 1 and 2.</p> <p>Councils are required to administer and remedy complaints about fire hazards on council property, and to map and administer bushfire prone land (e.g. asset protection work, fire trails). Please include net cost of assistance provided to the Rural Fire Service to fight bushfires declared under s44 of the Rural Fires Act (NSW) 1997 on any land within the council area.</p>	\$ -
<p><b>12. Immigration services and citizenship ceremonies.</b> Cost in \$ of providing these services less any revenue related to them (fees, state government payments/subsidies).</p> <p>Councils conduct citizenship ceremonies under the Australian Citizenship Act (Cwth) 2007.</p>	\$ 4,700
<p><b>13. Shortfall in cost recovery in the administration of food safety regulation.</b> Cost in \$ of services/functions less any revenue related to them (fees, state government payments/subsidies). Please only include necessary costs that cannot be recovered as a result of regulatory constraints.</p> <p>Councils are required to undertake registration and inspection of food and food premises under the Food Act (NSW) 2003.</p>	\$ -

# LGNSW COST SHIFTING SURVEY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/25

GENERAL INFORMATION	INFORMATION
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<p><b>14. Provision of educational services.</b> Net cost in \$ of providing educational services due to the State Government's withdrawal from providing educational services that should be state government responsibility (e.g. sporting facilities used by public schools, education programs, classes for disadvantages children in youth centres, but not child care as such). Do not include capital expenditure.</p> <p>Please do not include council education programs the state government would not be responsible for (e.g. waste and sustainability education).</p> <p>Where facilities are used by other governments (e.g. public schools) please estimate the proportion of operation and maintenance cost allocated to the use by the other level of government (not the total cost of operating the facility).</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em;">\$</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em;">331,615</p>
<p><b>15. Crime prevention/policing.</b> Net cost in \$ of crime prevention/policing services in public spaces necessary because of insufficient services by other spheres of government (e.g. CCTV surveillance, security patrols, crime prevention programs, community safety committees). Please note that this only applies to crime prevention or policing activities that should have been undertaken by other spheres of government (e.g. police). It should not include council activities to protect community from other risks (e.g. surfer and swimmer injuries (beach patrols), safety at council events, or security of council facilities). Do not include capital expenditure.</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em;">\$</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em;">139,588</p>
<p><b>16. Flood Mitigation program.</b> Cost in \$ representing the proportion of expenditure that was not funded by other levels of government but would have been funded had the original funding arrangement been applied (originally the Australian Government and State Government provided 80% of the required funds; whereas now the Australian Government provides one third and the State Government is required to provide another one third, and the rest has to be made up by council). Please estimate shortfall in actual funding from other levels of government in comparison with what council would have obtained under the original funding arrangement.</p> <p>Please only include activities that are eligible for or receive funding from other levels of government under the flood mitigation program. Please include in your calculation funding for infrastructure projects.</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em;">\$</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em;">439,200</p>
<p><b>17. Transfer of responsibilities for roads under RMS road reclassification reviews.</b> Net cost (only operational) in \$ associated with all roads inherited due to reclassification of regionally important roads as local roads or state-important roads as regional or even local roads (since the significant reclassifications in the early 1990s). This is supposed to measure the ongoing maintenance and depreciation cost (or annualised renewal cost) associated with all roads so transferred since the 1990s – not about the cost associated with transfers in any one year. Please deduct any compensation received in association with a reclassification.</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em;">\$</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em;">2,261,000</p>

# LGNSW COST SHIFTING SURVEY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/25

## GENERAL INFORMATION

## INFORMATION

Council:

Lismore City Council

<p><b>18. Medical services.</b> Net cost in \$ of providing medical services necessary because of insufficient services by other levels of government (e.g. retaining general practitioners, nurses and dentists; aboriginal and other medical services required by the community). Do not include capital expenditure.</p>	\$ -
<p><b>19. Road safety.</b> Net cost in \$ of road safety officer/road safety program necessary due to the NSW Government's (RMS) withdrawal of funding or cost of net contribution to other authorities that provide such officer/program. Do not include capital expenditure.</p>	\$ -
<p><b>20. Community and human services.</b> Net cost in \$ of all programs necessary to the community where other levels of government have initiated the program and initially provided adequate funds but now provide inadequate funds or have withdrawn completely; e.g. State Government contribution do not increase in line with these actual costs (e.g. employment cost); i.e. the shortfall between adequate and actual funding for such programs that were initiated by other levels of government.. Do not include capital expenditure. Community and human services include children service program, aged and disabled care programs, community development/liaison programs, youth development programs, aboriginal community programs, cultural development programs etc.</p>	\$ 485,200
<p><b>21. Waste levy.</b> Cost in \$ of paying levy to the NSW Government dependent on the amount of waste produced by council less any amounts recovered through "Waste Less Recycle More" program grants.</p> <p>The waste levy applies to the Sydney metropolitan area; the Illawarra, Hunter and Central Coast area (extended regulated area); and the area including the Blue Mountains, Wollondilly and local government areas along the coast north of Port Stephens to the Queensland border (regional regulated area). Please provide estimate of net costs with respect to the 2015/16-scheme with a levy of \$133.10 per tonne (Sydney metro), \$133.10 (extended regulated area), and \$76.70 (regional regulated area).</p>	\$ -
<p><b>22. Sewerage treatment system license fee.</b> Cost in \$ of license fee, load based and administrative, to be paid to State Government in relation to sewer effluent discharge. Note: Councils are required to pay this fee as polluter under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act (NSW) 1997.</p>	\$ 10,800
<p><b>23. Waste management site license fee.</b> Cost in \$ of license fee (administrative fee, no load based fee) to be paid to State Government. Note: Councils are required to pay this fee council as polluter under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act (NSW) 1997.</p>	\$ 20,900