

Summary of Delivery Program and Operational Plan Submissions

Submission No	Date of Submission	Item #	Summary of Submission	Category	Area/Road	Response to Submission
1	13-Mar-23	1	What is the plan for rehabilitation, repair and resealing of Gummun Lane, Merriwa.	Roads - Urban	Gummun Lane, Merriwa	Design and reconstruction works scheduled for FY 23/24 with budget allocation \$250,000
		2	Intersection of Gummun Lane and Scone Road, unsafe due to restricted visibility.	Roads - Urban	Gummun Lane & Scone Road, Merriwa	Design and reconstruction works scheduled for FY 23/24 with budget allocation \$250,000
2	08-May-23	1	Opposed to increase in pool fees. Feels that the fees are too expensive for families and asking for a reduction in the fees.	Fees & Charges		Pool fees have increased by a conservative CPI increment to assist with the cost of operating the pool services conducted by our contracted pool operator. A family pass at \$322.90 equates to less than \$2 per day during the pool season for a whole family. Council will round down the family pass from \$322.90 to \$320.00.
3	22-May-23	1	Request the painting of centre lines on Barton and Susan Streets to reduce speed of traffic	Traffic Safety	Barton & Susan Streets, Scone	This matter has been raised previously. The traffic volumes on Barton Street are low and do not require centre line marking.
		2	Requesting Barton and Susan Streets to have 50km/h signs @ 200m distance	Traffic Safety	Barton & Susan Streets, Scone	This is the default speed limit of the town and there is no compliance requirement to provide these road signs as per Australian Standards.
		3	Support to upgrading the gully at the northern end of Barton Street. Apparently Council is NOT applying for State Govt grants. New Development DP 230/2022 for 38 Barton Street is quoted as saying that they are to provide some money to the upgrade.	Roads - Urban	Barton Street	The upgrade of the Figtree Gully crossing in Barton Street will be considered as part of the future subdivision to the east of Scone township.
		4	Request the levelling of Stafford Street (between Birrell and Liverpool Streets). It has been on the 'May Happen List' since 2017	Roads - Urban	Stafford Street, Scone	This project is not considered high priority. It will remain on a potential projects list but is not prioritised for this DPOP
		5	Request upgrade to Barton Street kerb & gutter; corner of Birrell (southern side) and Barton (western side) Streets. The area seems to edge an area adjacent to the hospital helipad.	Kerb & Gutter	Barton & Birrell Streets, Scone	Council is aware of water flow issues in this area with investigations underway. It will remain on a potential projects list but is not high priority for 2023/24 DPOP.
		6	Items from previous DPOP submission that submitter would like answered:		Barton & Birrell Streets, Scone	Considered in items 6a to 6c
		6a	Requesting an upgrade to the Barton Street gully.	Roads - Urban	Barton Street, Scone	The upgrade of the Figtree Gully crossing in Barton Street will be considered as part of the future subdivision to the east.
		6b	Requesting replacement of the Barton/Birrell Street water pipes (number 4219). Please supply timeline for replacement and where was it in the 2022-23 budget	Water & Sewer	Barton & Birrell Streets, Scone	Barton St water distribution lines are being replaced currently (between Birrell and Susan Street). Completion is expected in early July 2023. Barton Street replacement was included in the water main replacement program, it was not a separate line item in the budget.
6c	Please supply timeline for replacement of Barton Street water pipes and where was it in the 2022-23 budget	Water & Sewer	Barton Street, Scone	Replacement due for completion in early July 2023. Barton Street replacement was included in the water main replacement program, it was not a separate line item in the budget		
4	18-May-23	1	Support for Shire initiative to build affordable housing in Scone. Feels that professionals wanting to move to the area for employment are unable to do so due to affordable housing / rental properties.	Affordable housing	Scone	Council is currently undertaking a review and update of the Upper Hunter Land Use Strategy. The updated strategy will include a Local Housing Strategy to address issues such as housing affordability. In addition, Council is seeking expressions of interest for the development of Council owned land to facilitate new housing.
5	26-May-23	1	Requesting a separate line item in the budget for the Clifflands Road Survey & Design works starting July 2023 and also a separate line item listed for continued sourcing of grant funding or other budgetary means.	Roads - Urban	Clifflands Road	Survey and design for Clifflands Road commenced May 2023. Funding applications under fixing country roads & other suitable programs will continue to be submitted.
		2	Requesting a separate line item in the budget for the continuation of urgent road repairs for Muffett Street between Philip and Sherwood Streets and for continued sourcing of grant funding or other budgetary means.	Roads - Urban	Muffett Street	Council agrees with suggestion and will be included in future DPOP budget considerations beyond 2023/2024. Council will also pursue with application for grant funding opportunities to accelerate the delivery of the project.
		3	Supports the continued protection of critical industry and agricultural land within the Shire to support the wellbeing of the land, family, business, employment opportunities and the natural environment. Need to protect agriculture from land use conflicts and urban encroachment.	Development		Council has a number of strategic plans that include measures to protect critical industries and agricultural land within the Shire. Issues such as land use conflict are considered in the assessment of planning proposals and development applications where there may be an impact on agricultural land.

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5		4	Opposed to the 3.7% rate rise and a further special rate variation to follow as it puts increased pressure on agriculture, small business & family budgets within the Shire.	Rates		IPART recommended increase of 3.7% is approx. 60% of the current inflation rate of 6.8%. To ensure that Council deliver the services to the community an increase in general rating income is required to meet the costs of delivering these services.
		5	Why have the Muffett Street planned road works ceased, and what is the timeframe for the remaining works to be completed? Recommendation: Are the Scone Saleyard Development Contribution Fees still available that were to be used within 5 years of the development and were to be used to upgrade Muffett Street and the owner contributions for the recent new gutter installation along the vacant blocks of Philip Street. These contributions would deliver unfinished roadworks urgently needed between Philip and Sherwood Streets.	Roads - Urban	Muffett Street	Council agrees with suggestion and will be included in future DPOP budget considerations beyond 2023/2024. Council will also pursue with application for grant funding opportunities to accelerate the delivery of the project.
		6	Why have the Cliftlands Road Survey and Design works been stalled repeatedly year after year and had previously been included in the Survey & Design Program as others that have moved forward? Funded Survey & Design work to start in the 22/23 year now planned to start in July 2023. Further completion in January 2024.	Roads - Urban	Cliftlands Road	Survey and design for Cliftlands Road commenced May 2023.
6	13-May-23	1	Request rectification of Haynes awning so footpath can be opened again within next 6 months	Footpath	Cassilis	Council is working with the property owner to rectify the Haynes awning. It is anticipated that work will commence in the coming months (subject to contractor availability).
		2	Request a footpath to connect Post Office to School	Footpath	Cassilis	Further investigations and community consultation will be undertaken for this potential project which currently is not included in the 2023/2024 DPOP and remains unfunded. Council will consult with the school and community to determine need.
		3	Request lighting / realignment of intersection of Golden Hwy & Uarby Street, Cassilis	Roads - Regional	Golden Hwy	This is a Transport for NSW (Transport for NSW) responsibility. Council has already submitted a letter to Transport for NSW in support of this project.
		4	Support of going ahead with Cassilis Sewerage System.	Water & Sewer	Cassilis	Council has undertaken a number of reviews for the project in order to deliver a suitable cost effect sewerage system for the Cassilis community. After all reviews the project still remains unaffordable without Council obtaining full grant funding for the project. A series of Sewer treatment ponds has been investigated to be the best option and the design is shovel-ready at a cost of in excess of \$5 million. Grant funding opportunities will continue to be investigated.
		5	Request more maintenance of infrastructure in Cassilis such as roads, kerb & guttering, lighting and building maintenance. Suggest for Council to use a more proactive approach to ask residents to tidy up yards to avoid fire hazards and vermin/pests living in buildings.	Infrastructure	Cassilis	Regular maintenance works to be programmed and undertaken as per 2023/24 budget allocations. Council supports residents taking a proactive approach to property maintenance.
		6	Object to the contributions from citizens of Cassilis not meeting the ratio of capital works programed to the area.	Ratio	Cassilis	Council does not distribute funds on a perceived ratio of income. This is a flawed logic and can not be sustainable. Expenditure is based on asset needs, growth and service requirements. Some years additional funds will be spent in areas where low rate income is generated and vice-versa.
		7	Object to the inequity of current DPOP with respect to citizens living west of the Krui River in the Council region. This area represents 18% of the area and contributes more than \$1m (2018/19 figures) in rates.			Majority of Council's roads infrastructure capital expenditure is reliant on grant funding received which predominantly determines the locality for delivery.
		8	Disappointed the only nominated expenditure in the DPOP was the rehabilitation of Comialla Road.			Council maintains a road priority hierarchy which determines the schedule of infrastructure works which do not receive specific capital grant funding. For the 2023/2024 year only Comialla Road was regarded as critical for capital upgrade however other roads within the Cassilis area are included in the maintenance grading program.
		9	Request more roads from west of Krui River be on the re-sheeting program.			Hampshire and Yallambie Roads are programmed for 2023/24
		10	Object to the current classification of some roads in the region. e.g.. Racecourse Road			Council reviews the road classification every 5-10 years unless there is a significant residential/ commercial development in that region. The traffic count is calculated based on annual average daily traffic and not particular to any specific event. A review of road hierarchy classification is scheduled to commence 2023/24 following completion of condition assessment and revaluation of both sealed and unsealed networks.

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6		11	Requesting maintenance such as; re-sheeting, unblocking culverts, fixing of culverts with holes and maintenance grades be more frequent than every 18 months to all wet weather access roads like Racecourse & Darkwood Roads. Residents need to drive off road for oncoming traffic, dodge rocks and fix gutters themselves after rainfall.			Maintenance will be scheduled by the Works Delivery Team in FY23/24 and works to be undertaken as per program.
		12	Disappointed the Two Mile Causeway on the Llangollen Rd did not receive any allocation of money for causeway and bridge upgrades.			This will be considered in future programs
		13	Believes that Cassilis is a reasonably self-sufficient community maintaining 2 cemeteries, War Memorial Park and War Memorial Gates without Council expenditure from the DPOP	Parks & Facilities		Council appreciates any support that the community can provide to assist in maintaining the community's infrastructure. Council will continue with its normal maintenance programs throughout the 2023/2024 year.
7	28-May-23	1	Disappointed that the DPOP has already been decided before the community sessions. Consultation should be earlier in the year. For several years the Merriwa District Progress Association and ratepayers have provided feedback with absolutely no response to - and certainly no inclusion of - their suggestions or comments in the DPOP.	Community Consultation	Merriwa	Consultation occurs throughout the year through the Community Advisory Committee but most capital works are driven by asset management practices rather than community desire and wish lists. We note that the Merriwa Progress Association does not have representation on the Community Advisory Committee which is recommended. This may assist to put forward potential infrastructure works.
		2	Disappointed that none of the suggestions from the Merriwa District Progress Association consultation forum on 5 Nov 2022 were included in the DPOP. Suggestions were:			Refer below comments 2a to 2l
		2a	Request for distinctive overhead lights in the main street.	Street lighting		The Merriwa District Community Advisory Committee and Council have already agreed to under tree lighting rather than overhead lighting. Under tree lighting was requested by Merriwa District Progress Association in a letter to Council dated January 2022.
		2b	Request for the Civic Centre be painted or rendered.	Beautification		This has been considered and is not supported.
		2c	Request to paint a sepia mural on the Bow Street wall of the RSL Club	Beautification		This is a privately owned building. Council recommends that the Merriwa Progress Association approach the Merriwa RSL if they wish to pursue the request.
		2d	Request a new unit (kiosk) for street stalls.	Beautification		Council will further investigate request for a multi-purpose pop up street stall for the Merriwa community. Funding to be assessed when quotes are obtained.
		2e	Request solar powered lighting to illuminate the new mural in the Rotary playgrounds	Beautification		Community consultation will be undertaken to gauge the support for the lighting at Rotary Park with quotes to be obtained if there is positive community support for the project.
		2f	Request to beautify the Merriwa River frontage areas to make the river part of the town	Beautification		Review of suggestions by the Merriwa District Community Advisory Committee and possible grant funding solutions for the project
		2g	Request a few flower pots in the main street	Beautification		For consideration by the Merriwa District Community Advisory Committee in the overall CBD street beautification project.
		2h	Requesting exercise stopping points (with equipment) on the shared pathway.	Parks & Facilities		Exercise equipment is already along the pathway at the skatepark. Additional stopping points could be considered for future cycleway enhancements however, project not presently funded. Council will investigate possible active sports/wellbeing funding options.
		2i	Requesting a fenced -in dog park within town	Infrastructure		Council is investigating possible sites for an off-leash dog park in the Merriwa area.
		2j	Request for Council to hold more courses to improve literacy. e.g.; courses in running committees, insurance literacy, etc.	Community Services		Council will investigate through their Community Service department to advocate for the provision of courses.
		2k	Request to locate defibrillators around Merriwa with 24 hour access.			Currently reviewing possible funding options for defibrillator points across all townships and village locations within the shire.
2l	Request for more art murals and sculptures	Beautification		Council recommends that this request for more art mural and sculptures with the township should be raised at the Community Advisory Committee to provide recommendations through to Council for consideration.		

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7		3a	Request the DPOP be more user friendly. DPOP document difficult to interpret by average person. Items listed are cryptic in their nature, only to be understood by the author and selected Council executive. The document is not user-friendly, and does not provide the type of useful information of most interest to residents. EG: local residents are interested to know details about local capital projects, staffing levels, assets and plant distribution across the Shire.	Communication		Enhancement and simplification of the DPOP for the end user is always in Council's objectives. Will review for 2024/25 document.
		3b	Request for more hands-on outdoor staff. MPDA considers UHSC has too many employees engaged in administrative tasks instead of providing hands-on services. Merriwa staffing numbers in road crews and parks & facilities are below traditional levels. Use of contractors for works should be limited in favour of using local Council employees where appropriate.			It would be good to have additional staff in Merriwa however reality is that Council has advertised continually for new employees based in Merriwa without any success hence the requirement for contractors to fill the void. Council remains committed to employing additional outdoor staffing in the future. It should be noted that Council seeks at all times to engage the local business operators for contract works which assist in-directly with the local economy.
		4	Request for better community consultation. The community believe the UHSC DPOP community session cannot be considered as consultation - only presentations and that Council's focus is delivering a "balanced budget". Suggest the following:	Community Consultation		Consultation occurs throughout the year at the quarterly Community Advisory Committee or when required. Most of Council's capital works programs are driven by asset management practices rather than community desire and wish lists. However, if community demand for a project is received through the yearly consultation processes of the CAC then Council will ensure that it will receive due consideration in future budget preparations. Council makes no apology for focusing on a balanced budget.
		4a	Request to develop a strategic plan to enhance employment opportunities			Further investigation and clarification required. It would be advantageous for the submitter to provide more information on the purpose, content and perceived benefit of the plan.
		4b	Request to identify potential infrastructure projects as part of a long-term strategic plan	Infrastructure		Information available in all Asset Management Plans
		4c	Request for a balanced capital expenditure across the Shire instead of in and around Scone	Ratio		Majority of Council's capital expenditure is reliant on grant funding received which determines the locality for delivery.
		4d	Request to simplify the DPOP so it can be understood easily by the ratepayers	Communication		Enhancement and simplification of the DPOP for the end user is always in Council's objectives. Will review for 2024/25 document.
		4e	Request to adopt a program of resheeting and resealing rural roads	Roads - Rural		Council has a program and this is published monthly in the Infrastructure Services Committee agenda.
		4f	Request to extend the operating hours of the Merriwa VIC to 9am to 5pm, 7 days per week.	VIC		Review of operations in currently under consideration which includes the proposed operating hours.
		4g	Request to resume using tangible communication for residents who do not use social media	Communication		Council primarily uses digital driven communication mechanisms to communicate to the community which is the most cost effective and environmentally friendly method of communication. Council will however consider an increase in the pamphlet style drops at community centres in future consultation periods.
		4h	Request to plan and construct bridges over Bow River and Kiloie Creek	Bridges	Bow River & Kiloie Creek	This forms part of the VPA with Lightsource bp.
		4i	Request for equitable upgrading of local and regional roads across the shire	Ratio		Majority of Council's roads infrastructure capital expenditure is reliant on grant funding received which predominantly determines the locality for delivery.
		4j	Request to address the apparent failure to meet Strategic Objectives listed in the DPOP			Council is not aware of any failure to meet its Strategic Objectives listed in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan.
		5	Positives:			
		5a	Supportive of the allocation of funds for maintaining essential services such as water & sewer.			Noted
5b	Support the increase in annual contribution to the Merriwa District Progress Association towards administrative costs.			Noted		
5c	Support the allocation of \$450k for rehabilitation of Comialla Road			Noted		
5d	Support the ongoing repairs to the Scone / Merriwa Road (Murdering Hut Gully)			Noted		

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7		5e	Support the roadworks within the township of Merriwa (Gummun Lane, Bow Street, intersection of Bow Street and Solllys Lane.			Noted
		6a	Support the rehabilitation works on regional roads in the Merriwa district for the 2024/25 year (Idaville & Cullingral Roads)	Roads - Rural	Merriwa / Cassilis	Noted
		6b	Object to no budget for regional roads in the Merriwa / Cassilis district for the 2023/24 year which is in stark contrast to allocations for regional roads in the Scone district (Moonan Brook, Hunter & Moobi Roads)			Incorrect with MR62 Halls Creek To Murdering Hut is on the schedule of works for 2023/2024.
		7	Object to repairs to MR358 being considered 'a bonus for Merriwa'			We note that the MPA doesn't consider the major repairs to the MR358 project as a bonus to the Merriwa community.
		8	Request the project for lighting over Vennacher Street pedestrian crossing be completed ASAP. First reported to Council in 2018.			Council has been investigating options for the project over the last couple of years and will deliver the project in the 2023/2024 year.
		9	How many gravel pits were activated from the \$100k expenditure in the 2022/23 year	Gravel Pits		The funds were used for the expansion of Cuan Gravel pit
		10	Grateful for the \$200k grant Council received for Merriwa town revitalisation. Will work with Sam Wooden to scope out the project of footpath engraving and tree up lighting with advice and cooperation from Merriwa Chamber of Commerce and Merriwa CAC.			The project will be managed internal by Council Infrastructure Services Works Delivery Engineer.
		11	Supportive of the \$60k that has been taken from Merriwa Reserved Fund to go towards the Merriwa shared pathway so that residents do not have to pay the footpath contribution.	Footpath		The \$60k reduction in the Merriwa reserve fund was incorrectly included as a typographical error and should not be assumed as funding the footpath.
		12	Object to allocation of funds for the Road Safety Officer (Item 0446, Page 26). Dissatisfied with the effectiveness of this position in relation to 3 matters listed below that MDPA have lodged with Council:	Road Safety Officer		Road Safety Officer does an excellent job but they are unable to implement changes to the State Road network. See below in response to each
		12a	* Safety of pedestrians - zebra crossing over Bettington Street between Royal Hotel and VIC.	Traffic Safety	Bettington Street, Merriwa	There is a pedestrian crossing at this location. Further clarification to be obtained for what is being requested.
		12b	* Reducing the speed limit to 50km/h on the eastern approach to Merriwa on the Golden Highway (before the driver reviver)	Traffic Safety	Golden Hwy	It is Transport for NSW's responsibility to set speed limits based on factual evidences.
		12c	* Safety of pedestrians - zebra crossing over Vennacher Street - poor visibility at night.	Street lighting	Vennacher Street, Merriwa	Council has been investigating options for the project over the last couple of years and will deliver the project in the 2023/2024 year.
		13	Request for Council to consider applying for a grant to construct the additional 6 to 8 beds to make the facility more self funding.	Community Services	Gummun Place	Gummun Place already struggles to maintain 100% occupancy due to insufficient demand. Increasing the number of beds will not make the facility more self-funding.
		14	Request for Council to plan, design and budget for capital works to improve the safety of campers in the Merriwa Caravan Park. Relocate the entrance to the park into Dutton Street & erect fence on southern & eastern boundaries.	Economic Affairs	Merriwa Camping Ground	Review and consideration of suggestion will be undertaken with appropriate grant funding applications considered.
		15	Request to allocate funds for ground preparation for the Reverse Vending Machine in Merriwa	Waste Management	Reverse Vending Machine, Merriwa	Council will be funding the ground preparation for the RVM in Merriwa from the Merriwa Reserve Fund. The income generated from the licence fee will be allocated to the Reserve fund.
16	Request for Council to begin planning for a new subdivision in Merriwa, such as that in Collins Street	Town Planning	Merriwa	Council is currently seeking expressions of interest for the development of Council owned land in Merriwa.		
17	Request for Council to reinstate the opening hours of the Merriwa VIC of 9am to 5pm seven days per week.	Economic Affairs	Merriwa VIC	Review of operations currently under consideration		
18	Can Council identify where the \$1.94M federal funded repair works will be carried out. Announced on NBN News on 3/5/2023	Infrastructure		Council has not received \$1.94M for repair works from the Federal government. Need further clarification whether it is distributed for all upper hunter councils. However, Council is undertaking other road repair works that are being programmed and managed internally. Further information on our maintenance and capital works will be available in Council and Infrastructure Committee reports.		

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7		19	Request a regular public transport service between Scone and Cassilis via Merriwa. MDPA note that current bus transport connections to Merriwa offered by Sid Fogg, Osbornes and TransCare do not provide satisfactory timetables to fulfil the needs of tourist trade and backpacker workforce as they operate around school hours only.	Transport	Cassilis / Merriwa / Scone	Council has already investigated the public transport between town localities. Council's Road Safety Officer has made enquiries and identified that school buses travelling between Merriwa and Scone can be used for public transport. Any other bus transport outside those trips are at the discretion of the bus companies which are privately owned and would require constant demand to ensure that it would be economically viability.
		20	Request for Council to allocate budget for matching grant funding should installation of Cassilis Sewer Scheme go ahead.	Water & Sewer	Cassilis	The project is only affordable if full funding is received.
		21	Request for distribution of Capital Projects to be fair across all areas of the Shire. It appears heavily biased towards Scone. Allocation for MR358 should not be classed as Merriwa.	Ratio		Majority of Council's capital expenditure is reliant on grant funding received which determines the locality for delivery.
8	28-May-23	1&2	Request Council meet with Hunter New England Health to advocate for a regular podiatry service in Murrurundi. Council to be attended by one elected Councillor and a relevant staff member.	Health	Murrurundi	Council will raise this matter with Hunter New England Health.
		3	Request an upgrade to the surface of the Murrurundi Tennis Court.	Infrastructure	Murrurundi	Western outside court proposed to be upgraded to multi purpose use court. In the interim, maintenance to be undertaken under a regular program for the other two tennis courts to be funded from within current budget allocations and could be included in Youth facilities upgrade.
		4	Request Council implement the Tuning into Teens, or similar parenting program in Murrurundi with a view to expansion across the shire	Community Services		Council will investigate implementing a program.
		5	Request Council implement a parenting program for new dads in Murrurundi	Community Services		Council will investigate implementing a program.
		6	Request Council fully assist and resource an ongoing playgroup either at the Murrurundi library or another venue for parents with children 0-5 years of age should the current trial of a playgroup in the Murrurundi library be successful.	Community Services		Council will investigate implementing a program.
		7	Request the cost of programs in recommendations for 4 to 7 years, including child care where relevant be added to the existing draft budget allocation for Community Services within the draft DPOP	Community Services		Council will investigate implementing a program.
		8	Request Council budget for tree plating and maintenance of such trees along the old stock route between Murrurundi and Blandford to promote the potential of a scenic recreational walking path which can continue potentially to Wingen & beyond.	Parks & Facilities		Council does not agree to tree planting in stock route due to the existing water pipeline. Council allocates \$5,000 for community tree planting and could be planted in Council Road Reserves however it would be subject to community caring for the infant trees.
9	28-May-23	1	Request for funding of \$10k to deliver another Murrurundi Festival with the popular key components (Kite Festival & Fairy Picnic). Believe the festival in 2023 was successful and the community would benefit through the continuation of the event.	Donations		Council can assist with some grant funding applications to other bodies for the festival.
10	29-May-23	1	Opposed to the budget favouring the Scone community. The amalgamation was not to advantage one community over the other. Merriwa was not a bankrupt shire at the time.	Ratio		Amalgamation is predominantly driven by the State Government and is undertaken to provide the best outcomes for the overall community. With the amalgamation that occurred in 2004 the whole of Scone Shire Council, approx. 50% of Murrurundi Shire Council and 90% of Merriwa Shire Council were joined to form Upper Hunter Shire Council. Council does not favour one locality over the other but base decisions on the Community service requirements that is driven predominately by the population of the locality which in essence see more funds spent in the Scone locality to other localities within the Shire. With regards to capital works as highlighted in the community consultation presentations for the 2023/2024 DPOP many of these projects are grant funded and spending occurs in alignment with the grant terms.

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10		2	Opposed to Scone being considered the 'regional centre' and having the regional facilities. Merriwa should be the 'regional centre'. Scone residents can access many facilities by taking a short drive down the New England Hwy or catching a train. Merriwa occupies a strategic position on the Golden Hwy.	Deamalgamation		Although council recognises the importance of the Merriwa township linkage to the west of the State via the Golden Highway, Scone holds a strategic position along the New England Highway which links the West to the North and South of the State. In addition Scone has a substantially larger population, commercial centre and a greater number of facilities and services to meet the community needs and is considered the primary urban area in the shire. Council continues to support duplicate services at Merriwa and other centres to ensure ease of access to members of the community in these localities.
		3	Opposed to the budget. DPOP doesn't reflect the business base of the community (agriculture community). Agriculture contributes 52% of the rates collected in the shire	Ratio		It is correct Agricultural community provides a substantial portion to the General rate for Council however it also received the majority of expenditure with maintenance and renewals of the rural road networks. In addition, the farming community also benefit from the facilities and services within the townships when entering those localities for supplies and services, which also comes at a cost to Council.
		4	Request for a bus service between Scone and Merriwa and out along the Golden Hwy so that backpackers, students and travellers can access their community.	Transport	Cassilis / Merriwa / Scone	Council has already investigated the public transport between town localities. Council's Road Safety Officer has made enquiries and identified that school buses travelling between Merriwa and Scone can be used for public transport. Any other bus transport outside those trips are at the discretion of the bus companies which are privately owned and would require constant demand to ensure that it would be economically viability.
		5	Request to divert B Doubles around the town and not down the main street (Golden HIGHWAY). Merriwa runs east west and at different times of the day the many truck and car drivers who pass through Merriwa are blinded by the setting sun causing a safety hazard for pedestrians crossing the road and cars reverse parking into 45degree angle parking. Worried a B Double will miss corner and drive into caravan park.	Traffic	Merriwa	Council does not support diverting heavy vehicles onto local roads. A fully constructed bypass is the responsibility of Transport for NSW and is not a priority for them at this stage.
		6	Request for more consultation with the community (not merely quarterly with handpicked group of residents). DPOP consultation 12 months before.	Community Consultation		Council has engaged the Community Advisory Committees as a form of regular consultation with the community. These meeting are held at least quarterly with other meetings arranged as required. These meetings are open to all members of the community to attend and Council encourages attendance.
		7	What is the expected completion date for the Bow Brigade RFS fire shed? The project is taking too long.	Infrastructure	Merriwa	Council is working with the RFS to identify a new site for the Bow Brigade shed as the proposed site on the Golden Highway is not suitable.
11	26-May-23		Allan Cunningham Road:			Refer below comments 1 to 4
		1	Request for upgrade to Allan Cunningham Road: culvert crossings, pavement cracking & storm water management. Multiple road culverts have subsided causing significant dips. Whilst attempts to maintain these, defects remain and pose a hazard to traffic. Inlets and outlets require maintenance with water unable to get into or away from stormwater pipes. In rain events the intersection at Cliftlands Road holds water causing one lane to be covered. Rutting in road also holds water.	Roads - Urban	Allan Cunningham Road	Maintenance program to be undertaken within 2023/24 budget allocations.
		2	Request for Allan Cunningham Road to be widened. The road does not allow two vehicles to pass safely, particularly in dealing with the school bus or garbage truck. It requires passing vehicles to drive partly on the road verge or pull over into a driveway. This act is not safe with the road having steep embankments, multiple culvert crossings and multiple driveways with culverts, all having sheer drop offs either side.	Roads - Urban	Allan Cunningham Road	Further investigations required to develop design criteria and scope of works. Survey & design plans to be developed for inclusion in future road widening priority list.
		3	Request for upgrade to Cul-de-sac head on Allan Cunningham Road. The Cul-de-sac head is insufficient and does not comply with minimum standards for turning templates. Does not allow for the school bus or garbage truck to safely complete the turning manoeuvre and are currently using private driveways or grass verges to turn around.	Roads - Urban	Allan Cunningham Road	This project could be considered in a future year's budget.

Submission No	Date of Submission	Item #	Summary of Submission	Category	Area/Road	Response to Submission
11		4	Request to extend the water main on Allan Cunningham Road to the cul-de-sac and provide a loop for the service. The water main extends down both sides of the road but does not service the last four lots. Water NSW considers dead ends are not the best practice as they: reduce fire flows, lead to the deterioration of water quality, cause corrosion, reduce water pressure, require routine flushing operations, impact water services during main repair and maintenance works.	Water & Sewer	Allan Cunningham Road	It is Council's practice to have residents pay for the extension of the Council's water reticulation system to feed new lots which should have occurred when the cul-de-sac was created. Council has in the past consulted with the residents about extending the water main with a need for each resident to contribute. It is understood that one of six residents were willing to make a payment which was unviable. Council will reconsider extending the mains if the residents are willing to agree to pay for the water main extension. Therefore, it has not been included in any future work schedules as a priority.
12		1	Request for footpath off Graeme St (southern side) Aberdeen between Walker and Mount Streets	Footpath	Graeme Street	Currently included on the priority list for Aberdeen and included in the 2023/2024 DPOP with an estimated length of 200 metres to be delivered.
		2	Request for the beautification of St Andrews Reserve and preservation of Hunter River and surrounds in that area	Parks & Facilities	St Andrews Reserve	Council will liaise with other regulatory authorities regarding the preservation of the Hunter River along the St Andrews Reserve and surrounding areas. Regarding beautification of St Andrews Reserve Council recommends that suggestions be raised through the Community Advisory Committee for consideration.
13		1	Request for Council to advocate for improved health services in Murrurundi.	Health	Murrurundi	Council will continue to advocate for improved health services in Murrurundi.
		2	Request the cleaning of the third tennis court at Murrurundi. Feels the surface is in poor condition.	Infrastructure	Murrurundi Tennis Courts	Western outside court proposed to be upgraded to multi purpose use court. In the interim, maintenance to be undertaken under a regular program for the other two tennis courts to be funded from within current budget allocations and could be included in Youth facilities upgrade.
		3	Request for more programs for teenagers, new dads, playgroup, more input into teens, childcare and parenting programs.	Community Services		Council will investigate implementing programs.
		4	Request for more information about healthy eating and healthy living.	Community Services		Council will investigate implementing programs.
14		1	Request for funding for the Murrurundi Festival as an ongoing annual event.	Funding		Council can assist with some grant funding applications to other bodies for the festival.
15		1	Request for upgrade to Kyuga Street, Aberdeen. Drive way has been ripped up by rubbish truck. Road is too dangerous for anyone to ride a scooter on.	Roads - Urban	Kyuga Street Aberdeen	Works to be scheduled under the maintenance program.