

Community and Regional Prosperity



MONTHLY GROUP
REPORT

MAY 2020



PERFORMANCE REPORTING COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL PROSPERITY

KEY GROUP PROJECTS



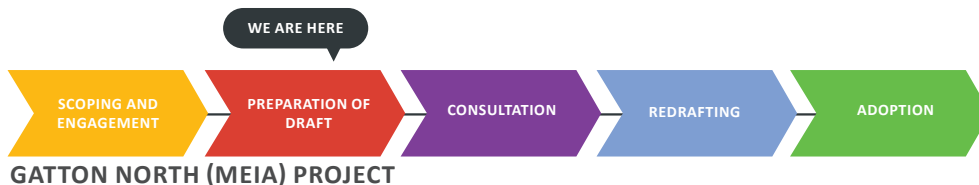
The proposed planning scheme amendments have been forwarded to the Minister for consideration. Advice from the Minister as to whether Council can adopt the amendments is due mid-June.



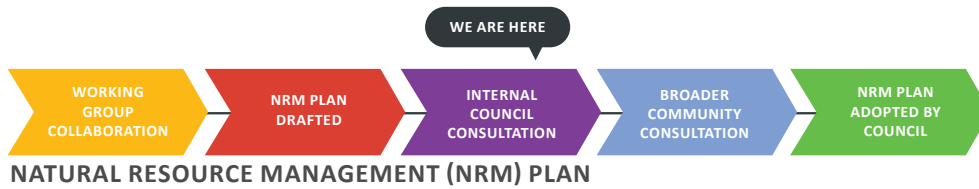
The proposed TLPI has been forwarded to the Minister for consideration. Advice from the Minister as to whether Council can adopt the TLPI is due mid-June.



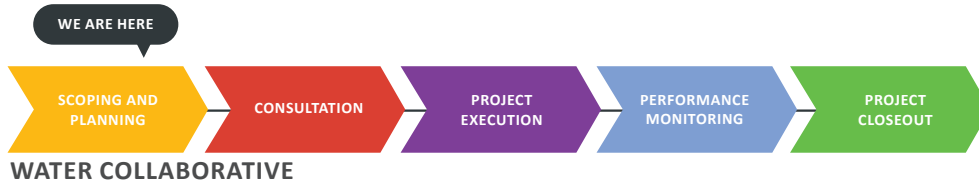
The project is progressing in accordance with the project plan.



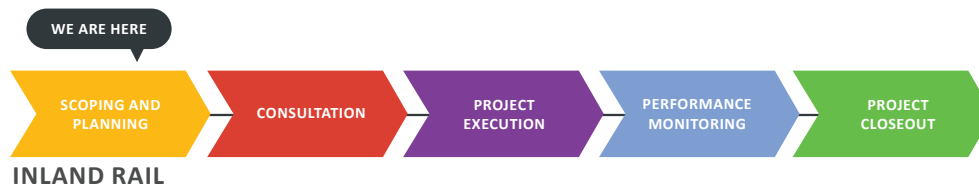
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The Natural Resource Management (NRM) Strategy was adopted by Council in January 2020. The more detailed NRM Plan was drafted in conjunction with the community working group in February 2020. The NRM Plan was due for adoption by Council in June 2020, however internal Council consultation has been delayed due to COVID-19.



The Lockyer Valley & Somerset Water monthly meeting was held on 4 June. Items of business included a presentation on Local water management plans and the successful models that have been transitioned in four other regions of Queensland. A verbal update was provided by the Chair on the progress of Jacobs on the detailed business case, and the revised planned delivery of the round 2 EOI process for the end of June. The delivery method had changed due to Covid-19 restrictions. The collaborative agreed that their last Milestone 2 of the project had been met and payment has made to the consultants for work completed thus far.



In the May 2020 Councillor workshop an update was provided on the ARTC Inland Rail project which will clearly have substantial impacts on the region. Council officers continue to engage with ARTC with respect to both the Helidon to Calvert project and the Gowrie to Helidon project. The update focused on timelines for the projects and on the complexities of the legal agreements presently being drafted. These documents relate to the Public Private Partnership process that is due to enter the Request for Proposal phase in mid-2020. A draft Project Plan has been received and reviewed for the Business case being carried out by Ernst Young under the Commonwealth's Inland Rail Interface Improvement Program.



The project is anticipated to be practically completed in October 2020 with final completion expected 31 December 2020.



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



During the month of May, Council received 11 enquiries from business seeking information and/or support relating to local resources and/or information, grants information and support, capacity building and new investment.

- 80% of these enquiries were from local businesses
- 20% were from outside the region with potential new venture ideas or investment interest.
- There has been an increase in enquiries seeking clarification and/or support for business grant applications.



BUSINESS HEALTH CHECKS - INFORMATION SNAPSHOT

TOTAL HEALTH CHECKS

108

MAY 1

22

MAY 28



- Horticultural businesses are consistently mentioning the effect of the ongoing drought.
- Food and beverage businesses are reporting strong support from the community.

Current enquiries by backpackers looking for work is strong, more harvest staff will be required for broccoli and onion season.

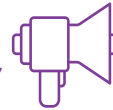
Retailers are reporting large revenue drop and in response have reduced opening hours.

I have no work at all, and seriously considering permanent closure.

Online sales have not been as strong as I had hoped. Casual staff have been let go.

People are beginning to return to town, and seeing a slow increase in sales.

REQUESTS



What is Council doing to bring people to the region once restrictions are lifted? Want to see Council promoting for people to travel into the region to bring outside money in.

TOURISM



BRISBANE MARKETING UPDATE

- Fortnightly local government partner networking meetings are continuing.
- Updating information on the Brisbane Marketing portal for COVID-19 resources for the tourism and events industry on their website.
- Webinar program moving to focusing on COVID recovery plans.
- Brisbane Marketing is offering six months' membership fee waiver for 2020/21, recognising the extraordinary economic situation of Covid-19 and the importance of partnerships in recovery.

TOURISM EVENTS QUEENSLAND MEDIA FAMIL OUTCOMES

Lockyer Valley Food Ambassador and celebrity chef Alastair McLeod led a Tourism Events Queensland (TEQ) media famil to the region in late March as a response to drought and bush fires. Media outlets attending included Brisbane Times, QWeekend (Courier Mail), News Regional Media, Weekend Notes, Starts at 60, along with specialist bloggers Beer and Croissants and Eat Drink and Be Kerry. The TEQ team included a publicist, international famil specialist, destination specialist and a Queensland Content Creator and Instagrammer.



The following are the outcomes to date, with further coverage expected post Covid-19 restrictions:

- Shelley Winkel (TEQ) appeared on Your Life Choices podcast promoting visiting the Lockyer Valley/Granite Belt/Scenic Rim
- TEQ secured professional images of the Lockyer Valley by Katie Purling @mycolourfulworld for editorial and social media use
- The Queensland Times (three articles), Journo Ash, Eat Drink & Be Kerry, Beer & Croissants and Chef McLeod ran a series of Instagram and Facebook stories, covering the Lockyer Valley, The Barn & Scotty's Garage, Awassi Cheesery, Porter's Plainland Hotel, Schulte's, 9Dorf Farms, Fordsdale Horseback Adventures, Café 4342, Caffe Sorella, Branell Homestead and Forest Hill.

TOP 5 LUYVALOCKYER WEB SEARCHES FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2020



764

THINGS TO DO



642

WHAT'S ON



395

ACCOMMODATION



247

LAKE DYER CAMPING GROUND



214

FOOD AND DINING





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A meeting was held with a representative of Youth Justice Conferencing (Legal Aid Queensland) in relation to a proposal to have youth awarded community service hours work on community projects such as graffiti removal and garden maintenance for Council and community groups. This has the potential to save Council funds with some elements of general maintenance.

Removal of the artillery at the war memorial in Littleton Park went very well, thanks to Parks and Garden staff, Gatton Police and Ziebarths Towing. The project end date has been extended to mid-June. The re-opening date is to be confirmed once installation of refurbished items and landscape work is complete.



Council was successful in obtaining \$1M of funding under the Commonwealth's Drought Communities Programme-Extension package which aims to stimulate the local economy by engaging non-Council local businesses in a range of community projects.

Store cards worth \$1,100 received from GIVIT were distributed to the Lockyer and Laidley Community Centres to provide support to drought affected families.

Pre-paid EFTPOS cards donated by Freemason Qld and Rural Financial Counselling Qld were distributed to bushfire-affected landholders who had responded to Council's survey on level of need for support to rebuild rural fences.

The Grant Mentoring Program has resulted in the following successful grants so far for this round of Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) and Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF) applications:

- Laidley Golf Club- \$31,537
- Forest Hill School of Arts- \$14,998
- Glenore Grove Hall- \$35,000
- Riding for Disabled- \$25,725
- Junction View Hall committee \$32,000

The most popular articles of the May Community Connect Newsletter were in relation to the COVID-19 Care Army Toolkit, Council's COVID-19 response, and essential COVID information for businesses.

STATUS OF EVENTS

- All Council events and programs are cancelled to the end of October 2020.
- Community markets and Old time dances are starting up again in Stage 3 of the restrictions.
- All community events that we are aware of have been cancelled until the end of June 2020.
- Laidley Pioneer Village is looking to reopen in Stage 3 with a small celebration promoted locally.
- All canine events at Laidley are cancelled until further notice.

6 COMMUNITY GROUPS GIVEN ASSISTANCE IN RELATION TO COVID-19

- Laidley Pioneer Village
- Gatton & District Historical Society
- Glenore Grove Social Dancing
- Gatton Quarter Horse State Show (GQHPA)
- Laidley Garden Club
- Gatton COTA Seniors

COMMUNICATIONS



ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

43 **HIGHEST PERFORMING POST**
 Ceasing operations at Staging Post Café
PAGE FOLLOWERS
 12,897 (up by 22)

20 **HIGHEST PERFORMING POST**
 Flat-ground tricks to show off
PAGE FOLLOWERS
 937

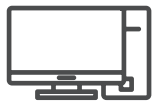
11 **HIGHEST PERFORMING POST**
 Chicken Divas – National Simultaneous Storytime
14 **LIKES**
 1,883 (up by 15)

30 **HIGHEST PERFORMING POST**
 Battle plan
PAGE FOLLOWERS
 2,531 (down by 1)

9,150 TOTAL WEBSITE USERS

69.3% NEW WEBSITE USERS

Most visited page was **waste disposal facilities** with 1,645 views.



4 **VIDEOS CREATED** **7** **MEDIA RELEASES**

16 **MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

MEDIA RELEASES IN MAY 2020


- Council joins Battle Plan to support local, state economy
- Council welcomes fast-tracking of Inland Rail Business Case
- Restoration works at local memorial now underway
- Council's events cancelled until 31 October due to COVID-19 pandemic
- Council to temporarily discontinue operating Staging Post Café, Function Centre
- Water security as important as ever
- \$1m drought support package for Lockyer Valley


11 **IN-HOUSE DESIGN PROJECTS**
 PROMOTIONAL MARKETING & MATERIAL ADVERTISING


1. Disaster Management Siren marketing
2. Environmental Health education boards
3. Scooter & Skate competition marketing
4. COVID-19 park restriction corflutes/stickets
5. COVID-19 BBQ restriction posters
6. COVID-19 Facilities infographic
7. Animal Emergency Evacuation marketing
8. Monthly group report template
9. Website news banner/ graphics
10. Laidley Spring Festival virtual tour
11. Working at events marketing


72,991 
ITEMS IN OUR COLLECTION


1,312
PHYSICAL LOANS

 **3,358** **ITEMS ISSUED**

 **393** **WITHDRAWALS**

 **N/A** **ITEMS RENEWED**


 **284** **ACQUISITIONS**


 **N/A** **ITEMS ISSUED VIA SELF-SERVICE**


The Library remained closed during May, however, customers continued to use the click and collect, pick and drop service. Facebook events and activities continue to reach our community with:


- Online Storytime – 12 stories with 2,152 reaches
- Friday funnies – 5 jokes with over 1,250 reaches
- National Simultaneous Storytime – 1 video with 3,660 views
- Ten little fingers, ten little toes rap – 1 video with 7,640 views
- Online book club – 8 active participants


FACEBOOK

12  PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

2,152  EVENT REACH

78  EVENT RESPONSES





963  TOTAL FACEBOOK LIKES

17  NEW FACEBOOK PAGE LIKES

This month, the Gatton Library was “flipped”. By relocating shelves and furniture, we have now made the library feel larger with the following results:

- Children’s collections connect with the outdoor play area
- Newspapers and magazines in a reading area with different furniture
- Open spaces between other collections allowing for other reading areas
- Better flow through the entire library space

eRESOURCES

PLATFORM	APRIL 2019	APRIL 2020	MAY 2020	VARIANCE FROM APRIL 2020 TO MAY 2020
eAudiobooks (Borrowbox) 	841	1,118	853	-23%
eBooks (Borrowbox) 	709	1,304	1084	-17%
eAudiobooks (RB Digital) 	69	96	109	13%
Kanopy (Movies) 	110	181	79	56%

eResource usage dropped this month as expected once schools returned and some restrictions were lifted.



The flip finalises the Gatton Library Refurbishment project that commenced in 2018.



1,312 
CLICK & COLLECT ITEMS BORROWED THIS MONTH

14,224 
ACTIVE LIBRARY MEMBERS

38 **NEW LIBRARY MEMBERS**



ART GALLERY

Artist Endeavour, the next exhibition for the Art Gallery has been confirmed with an opening date 18 September 2020. This exhibition will run until 15 November 2020. Some additional features to this travelling exhibition include curator talks and artist workshops.

CHILDCARE

The Federal Government implemented the Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package (the relief package) to ensure childcare services could continue to operate when COVID-19 restrictions were first introduced. The relief package was to operate from 6 April 2020 until 28 June 2020. This relief package meant that childcare fees could not be charged during this time, but to ensure childcare services could remain open, funding of up to 50% of revenue was provided. This funding is provided in lieu of the Child Care Subsidy. While the relief package operates in conjunction with JobKeeper payments, local governments do not qualify for JobKeeper payments, meaning the financial impacts on Council-run childcare centres has been more pronounced than for other operators in the sector.

The Federal Government has recently announced its extension of the Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package until 12 July 2020. After this date, funding will again be provided under the Child Care Subsidy and families once again will pay gap fees. From 13 July 2020, all approved early childhood services will also receive a Transition Payment for the period 13 July 2020 to 27 September 2020. While the Transition Payment is in lieu of JobKeeper, all providers including local governments will receive the payment. The Transition Payment is 25% of fee revenue during the relevant reference period (i.e. the fortnight up to 2 March 2020). Service providers must maintain the same fees until 27 September 2020, and must maintain the same average number of employees.

82% OCCUPANCY RATE

This figure shows booked care not actual attendance as some children are still absent due to COVID-19.

CONNECTION WITH COMMUNITY

FaceTime with Libraries for our regular fortnightly visits plus National Simultaneous Story Time on Wednesday 27 May 11.00am.





PLAINLAND STRUCTURE PLAN AND THE GATTON NORTH MEIA STUDY

Infinitem Partners Pty Ltd has been engaged by Council to undertake the Plainland Structure Plan and the Gatton North MEIA Study. Both projects are expected to be completed at the end of July 2020 and will inform the future Lockyer Valley Planning Scheme.

Infinitem Partners, has completed a Current State Report in relation to the Plainland Structure Plan and an Opportunity Report in relation to the Gatton North MEIA Study. They are now consulting with stakeholders and preparing the draft reports. Infinitem Partners will be presenting to Councillors at the workshop on 7 July 2020.

DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANUAL

The draft Development Manual, which sets out Council's standard requirement and process for Operational Works, has been finalised. A copy of the working draft has been provided to the Inland Rail project so that Council's standard can be incorporated into their processes. Staff are currently in the process of reviewing quotes to have the draft document peer reviewed. Once this has occurred engagement with the development engineering sector will occur before the development manual will be presented to council for adoption.

FLOOD PROJECTS

Reviews and revisions are being undertaken on most of Council's existing modelling to address issues that have been identified and to apply current standards. The boundaries of the existing model have also been extended to replace much of the indicative flood mapping in areas likely to be subject to development. There have been technical delays on the Tenthill and Laidley Regional projects which have had flow on impacts on the progress of the Flood Evacuation and Floodplain Management Project projects.

FLOOD EVACUATION

Building on the new modelling, internal and external consultation the objective of this project is to create flood evacuation planning for communities and businesses in the Council area including consideration of regional linkage requirements.

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN

Council is obliged under the SE QLD Regional Plan to undertake local floodplain management planning. The Brisbane River Flood Study Regional Floodplain management plan is being used as a starting point. The project includes consideration and implementation of risk based land use planning regulations, reviewing and updating flood mitigation projects and the creation of new planning control mapping. This is a parallel project to the current planning scheme review.





ACTIVITY	CURRENT MONTH	2020 YTD	2019 SAME YTD PERIOD
DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS			
RECEIVED	15	85	
DECIDED	12	70	
EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES			
RECEIVED	9	44	
DECIDED	10	41	
FORM 19s			
RECEIVED	28	127	
COMPLETED	33	113	
PRELODGE MEETINGS HELD	3	19	

11 **DECISION NOTICES ISSUED** (100% in statutory timeframes)

20 **BUSINESS DAYS AVERAGE TIME FOR APPLICATIONS IN DECISION STAGE THIS MONTH**

12 **DECISIONS MADE** (83% in statutory timeframes)

0 **NEGOTIATED DECISIONS THIS MONTH**

50% **DECISIONS MADE WITHOUT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTS**

Six decisions exceeded the statutory timeframe. The main causes being increased workload and reduced resourcing, and the Council meeting cycle not aligning with the decision period.

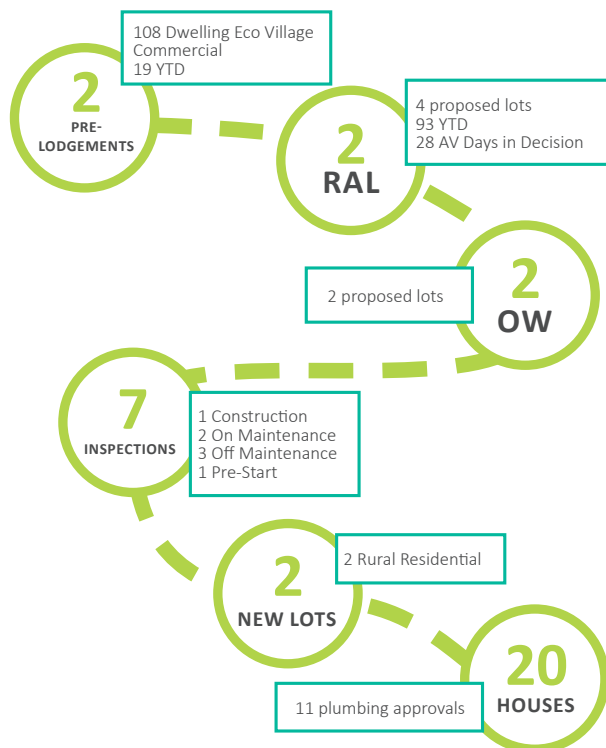
By adopting a consultative approach particularly for complex applications, where-by draft conditions are discussed with applicants, negotiated decision requests are reduced, with none received this month.

OUTSTANDING INFRASTRUCTURE CHARGES RECOVERED YTD = \$41,280.00

INFRASTRUCTURE CHARGES PAID YTD = \$193,464.08

- The success of Council’s approach to front loading the development process by providing a free prelodgement meeting service has been demonstrated with a Material Change of Use application for a 123 room Student Accommodation at 41 Railway Street Gatton proceeding through the assessment process without the need for an information request. This is a great initiative to stream line the assessment and provide certainty in the development process.
- The Business Support and Planning Officers have been working on Planning Work Instructions as part of the continuous improvement processes for the Development Assessment Team and 24 of the 30 identified processes have now been complete. This is an excellent resource which documents the team’s procedures to reduce risk and improve efficiency and consistency.

LAND DEVELOPMENT PIPELINE



DEVELOPMENT COMPLIANCE

8 **COMPLAINTS RECEIVED THIS MONTH**

6 **COMPLAINTS RESOLVED THIS MONTH**

1 **SHOW CAUSES ISSUED THIS MONTH**

100% **RESOLVED WITHOUT LEGAL ACTION**

ZERO **ENFORCEMENT NOTICES ISSUED THIS MONTH**



BUILDING APPROVALS ISSUED BY PRIVATE CERTIFICATION AND LVRC CERTIFICATION

Total Building approval issued in May = 67 with 23 issued by LVRC in an **average of 4.7 days**.

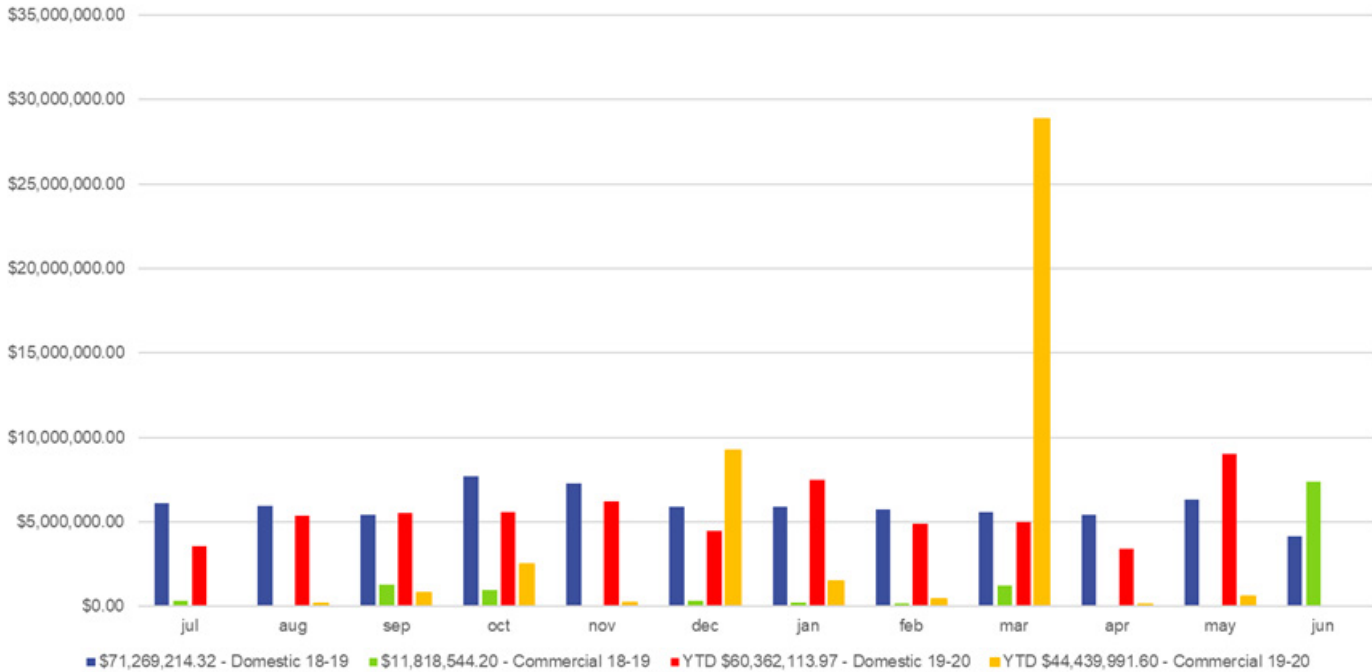
67



BUILDING APPROVALS DURING MAY

ESTIMATED COST 2018 TO 2020

The graph below of approved building work has being simplified to reduce down to 2 years of data.



PLUMBING

21 plumbing approvals issued in May in an **average of 4.1 days**

Total number of inspections during May = 206 with 47% being plumbing inspections.

21



PLUMBING APPROVALS DURING MAY

ENVIRONMENT AND PEST



A major focus for the team has been controlling mother of millions, groundsel bush and cats claw creeper on local roads and reserves and responding to an influx of concerns about wild dog activity in the region.

WEED SURVEYS ON LOCAL ROADS & RESERVES = 13.65 ha

WEED TREATMENT ON LOCAL ROADS & RESERVES = 2.80 ha



Pest officers continue to maintain social distancing and are limiting customer contact to emergency response events relating to pest animal control.



Council surveillance captured this photo of a wild dog

RESILIENT RIVERS

Contractors for Phase 1 bank stabilisation and revegetation at Beavan Street/Smithfield bridge in Gatton have undertaken mulching and replanting. Treatment of Cats Claw Creeper is nearing completion near Junction View as part of the Resilient Rivers project.




Cats Claw Creeper: before and after treatment


FUNDING


Council staff have prepare applications for grants relating to bushfire recovery and rabbit control. A bid for Drought Communities Extension funding of **\$380,000** – creek reserve weed management has been successful and is due for delivery from July 2020.



136 
TOTAL NUMBER OF INFRINGEMENT NOTICES ISSUED YTD

255 
NUMBER OF DOGS REGISTERED CURRENT RENEWAL PERIOD

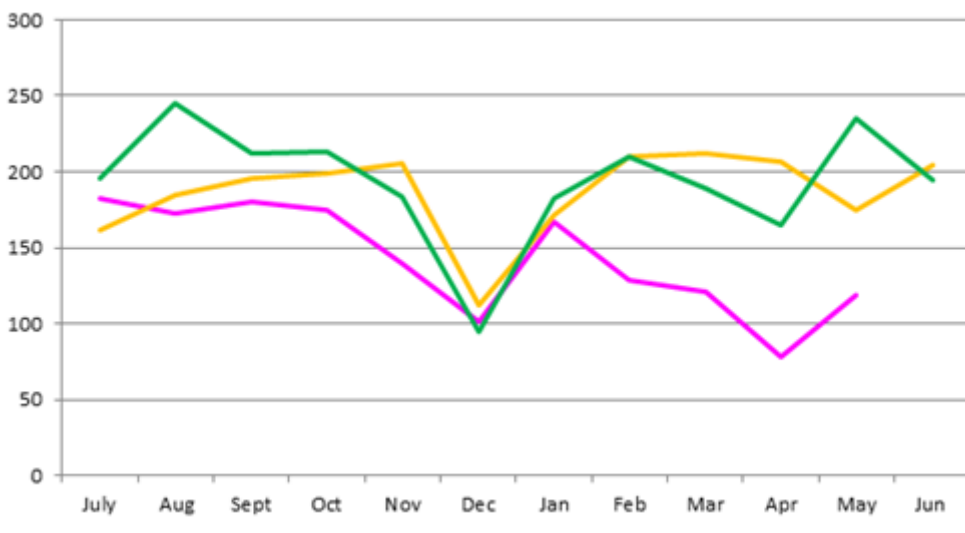
 **8,055**
 2019/2020


 **8,217**
 2020/2021


NUMBER OF DOGS REGISTERED

- 204 dogs have been impounded YTD. May 2020 resulted in the 2nd lowest number of dogs being impounded by Council in a month in 2019-2020 with 11 dogs being impounded.
- 8 of these dogs were released to their owners during the reporting period and a further 2 dogs were released on 1 June 2020.

COMPARISON OF ANIMAL RELATED CRMs RECEIVED JULY 2017 TO MAY 2020



2,432 
NUMBER OF CUSTOMER REQUESTS RECEIVED YTD

2,254 
NUMBER OF CUSTOMER REQUESTS RESOLVED YTD

 New Animal CRMs 2019-2020

 Animal CRMs 2018-2019

 Animal CRMs 2017-2018

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  

THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN ISSUES YEAR TO DATE

 **181**
FOOD RELATED LICENCES YTD

 **5**
PERSONAL APPEARANCE SERVICES LICENCES YTD

7 LOCAL LAWS PERMITS YTD

 **4** CARAVAN

 **2** EVENTS

 **1** ROADSIDE STALL

The Environmental Health Officer has been liaising with West Moreton Health regarding COVID-19 restrictions and also contacting Food Related businesses in region providing advice regarding COVID-19 protocols.