

LOCAL MATTERS

LISMORE CITY
COUNCIL NEWS
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BACK TO BASICS 2022/23 BUDGET ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Councillors voted to place the Council's Draft Budget for the financial year 2022/23 on Public Exhibition for community feedback until 10 June.

The 2022/23 budget is a back-to-basics budget, which brings business costs under control and in line with revenues.

The five key pillars are: limit financial impost on ratepayers, economic development, asset renewal and maintenance, fiscal discipline and maintaining service levels.

Mayor Steve Krieg said: "This Council was elected to make sensible decisions to improve Council's long-term financial sustainability while increasing funding to improve our roads.

"Our first budget has delivered on this promise. The draft budget has no increase in rates, no increase in fees and charges, no new borrowings and no reduction in the services Council provides for the community.

"What it does have is a cash surplus, more investment in our roads, particularly for pothole repairs, and an overall improvement in our net operating result.

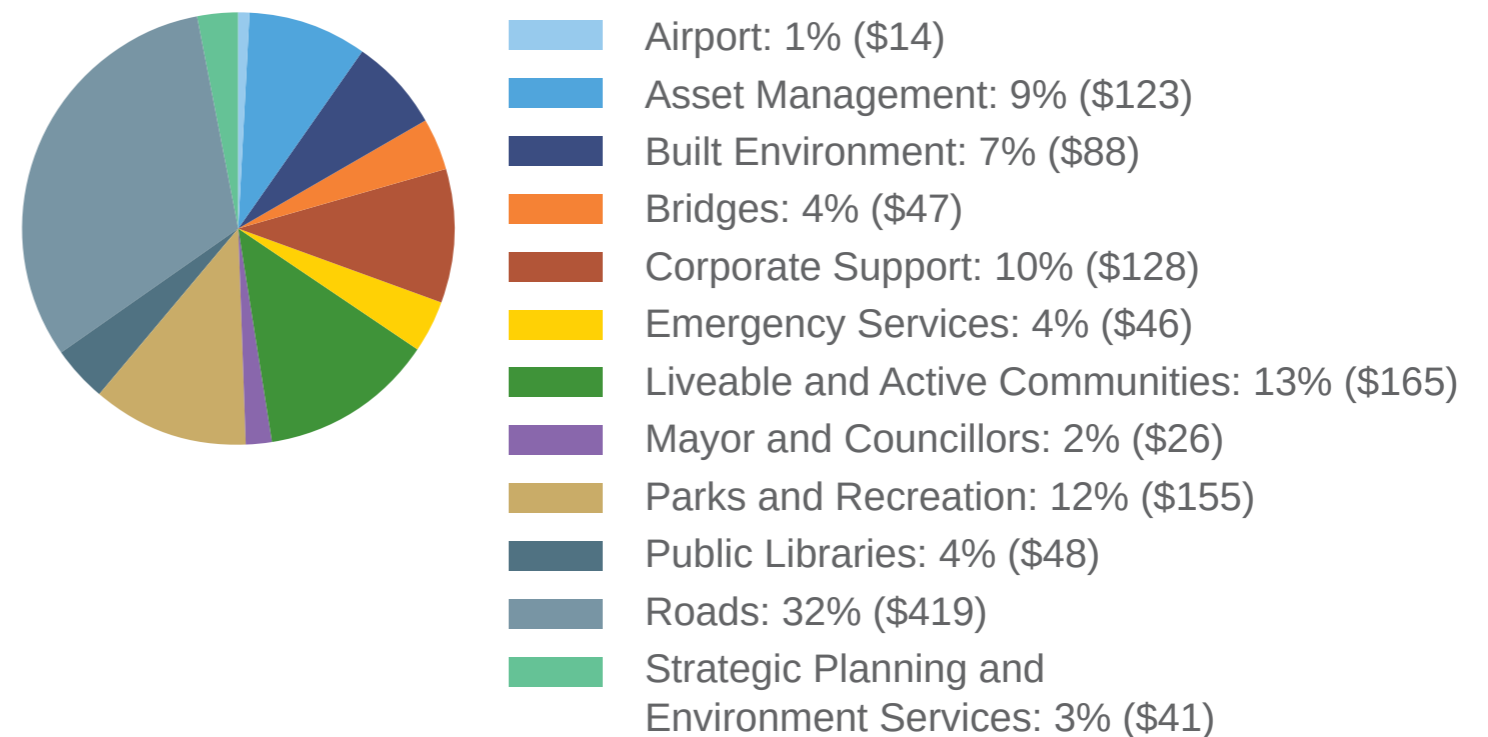
"This is a great outcome and the first step towards long-term financial sustainability. And it has been achieved despite the uncertainty caused by the worst natural disaster our community has ever experienced."

While achieving an improved cash surplus of \$585,000, the key highlights of the draft budget include an extra \$4.4 million for our road network compared with last year's budget, including \$3 million for road construction, \$700,000 more for pothole repair, \$297,000 for footpaths, \$444,000 for drainage, an extra \$1.1 million to maintain community assets and an additional \$100,000 to stimulate the local economy and \$202,000 put aside for rental relief for organisations that rent Council-owned properties.

The Draft Budget can be viewed at Council's Corporate Centre, 43 Oliver Avenue, Goonellabah, at Lismore and Goonellabah libraries or online via www.yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au Submissions can be made online, emailed to council@lismore.nsw.gov.au or sent to **the General Manager, Lismore City Council, PO Box 23A, Lismore, NSW 2480.**

Public submissions must be received by 10 June 2021. The Draft Budget will then go back to Council for adoption.

WHERE YOUR RATES ARE SPENT



Distribution of General-Purpose Rate Income

The above graph illustrates proposed general fund expenditure for an average residential rate of \$1,300 for 2022/23.

COUNCIL OFFERS FLOOD RATE RELIEF

Lismore City Councillors have adopted a broad range of measures to support our flood-affected community.

They include the waiving of interest on overdue rate and water bills, a new Hardship Policy that specifically includes ‘Natural Disaster Impact’, a streamlined hardship application process and changing the way water usage is determined.

Council is unable to offer relief to non-ratepayers, but it’s expected that relief should be passed on by residential and commercial landlords.

Unfortunately, under State Government legislation Council is legally required to levy rates on all rateable properties and is not permitted to write off or waive rates.

However, Council’s new Hardship Policy is designed to make it easier for flood-affected community members to enter a payment plan to extend the time that rates are payable.

A new Hardship application form has been developed to allow for an easier and more streamlined process for flood-affected residents. It can be found at www.lismore.nsw.gov.au

Council will also not charge interest on overdue rates and charges from 1 March to 30 June 2022. This will allow for the new hardship policy to come into effect, without penalising ratepayers.

The only area that Council has more ability to offer relief is Water charges for flood-affected properties. Council will not charge households or businesses for excess water usage during the clean-up.

Water meter readings will continue as normal, but Council will be assessing usage by using average daily consumption from the same period in 2021.

Council is committed to helping our community through the recovery process. Flood-affected residents are urged to apply for support under Council’s Hardship Policy.

Those who are unsure if they qualify or need any assistance can contact Council directly on 6625 0500.

COUNCIL DECIDES...

At Council’s Ordinary May meeting on Tuesday, 10 May:

- Council resolved (7 in favour, 4 against) to prepare a planning proposal that permits temporary moveable dwellings and associated structures as Exempt Developments in response to natural disasters in Zone RU1 Primary Production and prepare a draft policy regarding this issue.
- Council resolved (unanimous) to write to the Premier and relevant NSW State Government ministers, requesting they pay for the rates and water charges of Lismore LGA ratepayer impacted by the 2022 floods for the 2022/23 financial year.
- Council resolved (8 in favour, 3 against) to reintroduce annualised landing subscriptions for the Lismore Regional Airport effective 10 May 2022.
- Council resolved (8 in favour, 3 against) to create a Debt Management Policy to ensure options relating to the writing off, waiving or reducing debts are consistent with provisions contained in the Local Government Act and Regulations.
- Councillors resolved (5 in favour, 4 against, with two declaring a conflict of interest) that the collection of the 1998/99 and 2018/19 Lismore Special Business Rate Variation Levies be suspended until June 2023.

All relevant business papers, minutes and live webcasts can be found at www.lismore.nsw.gov.au.

Council’s next Ordinary Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 14 June 2022.



FROM LITTLE THINGS, BIG THINGS GROW

It's the Australian and New Zealand Botanic Gardens Open Day on Sunday, 29 May and to celebrate the Friends of the Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens Inc (FLRBG) are hosting a number of guided garden walks and activities to celebrate.

The Garden's volunteers have been working hard to repair and clear the walking tracks since the natural disaster on 28 February to ensure visitors get to experience the gardens' wide range of botanical delights.

In recognition of the hard work by volunteers since the gardens opened in 2002, The Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens recently awarded the FLRBG for their outstanding contribution to major works to enhance the environment for our community.

Visitors to the gardens can enjoy the more than 8000 trees already planted, which belong to 600 different species.

The nursery will also be open, so please bring cash as there is no EFTPOS facilities.

Here is a list of the guided walks for Open Day:

9.30am: Useful Plants Garden - Andreas

10.30am: The Gardens Regeneration – Mari Jo

11am: Uncommon Plants Garden – Peter Gould

11am: Native Bees as Pollinators - Trudi

11.30am: Hoop Pine Forest - Marama

Noon: Wilson's Park Species Garden - Tim

Noon: Useful Plants Garden - Ken

12.30pm: Encounters 2020 Garden – Tracey

To register, please email secretary@friendslrbg.com.au with your preferred walk and time.



NEW CBD WORK ZONES FOR TRADESPEOPLE'S PARKING

New Work Zones have been introduced for tradespeople working in the CBD for the next six months to help with the City's reconstruction and recovery.

The amount of work occurring in our CBD is increasing as more premises are starting their rebuild after the flood and providing tradespeople with certainty for parking is critical in helping our city recover.

Tradespeople can apply for a free Trade Parking Permit to park in a dedicated Work Zone. The public are asked not to park in these zones.

The streets that define the block are Woodlark Street (North), Keen Street (East), Conway Street (South) and Molesworth Street (West).

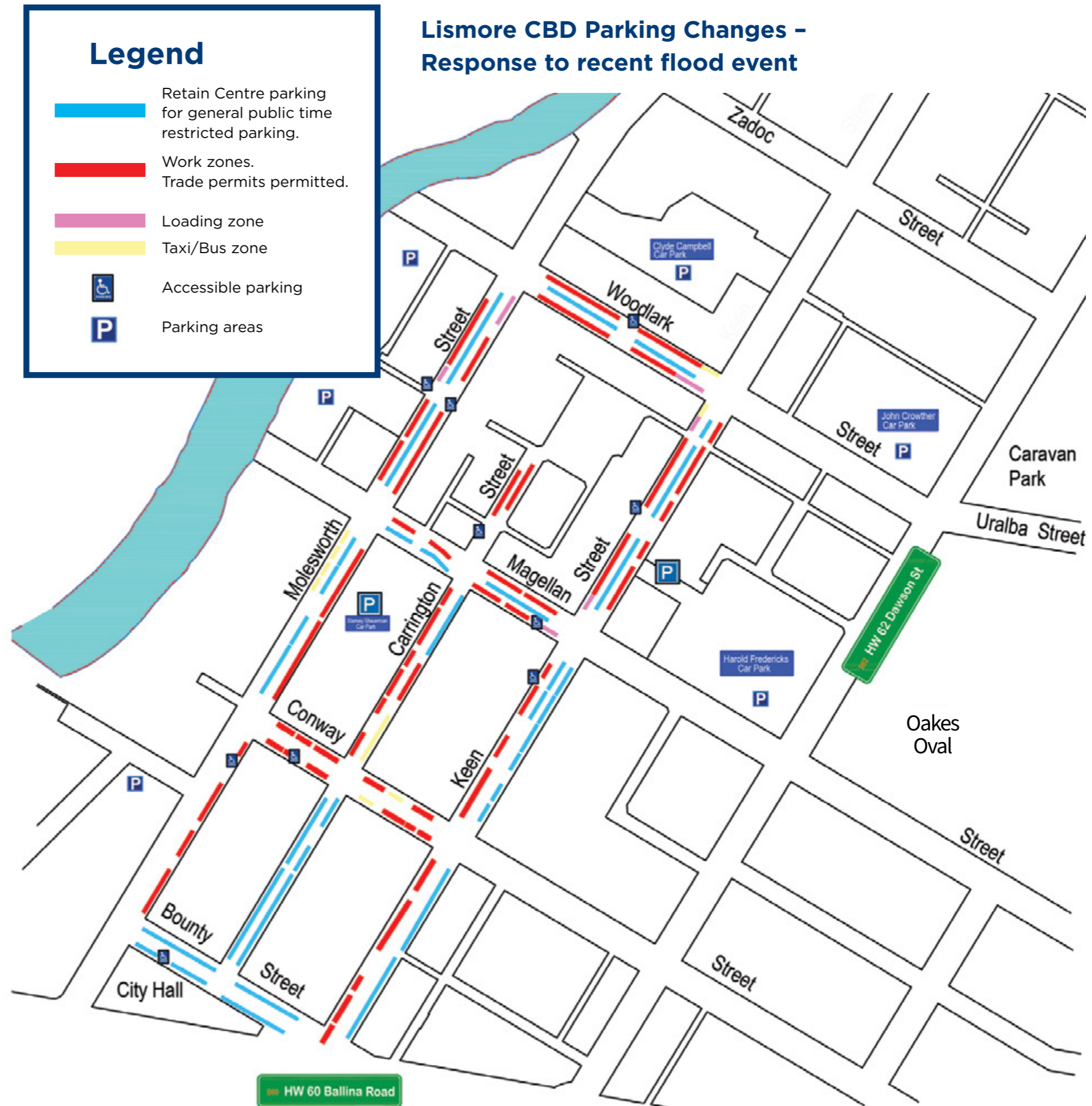
This means tradespeople can park in Work Zones without any time limits.

The public can continue to park in areas not designated as Work Zones, with normal parking rules in place, such as timed parking.

Please refer to the Lismore CBD parking map.

Tradespeople are strongly encouraged to utilise Work Zones to reduce the impact on the general public.

To apply for a free Trade Parking Permit, you can visit the Council website at www.lismore.nsw.gov.au/apply-now-for-trade-parking-permits.





DEVELOPMENT CONSENTS ISSUED

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT

In accordance with the provisions of Section 101 of the Act and Clause 124 of the EP&A Regulation, notification is given that the undermentioned developments have recently been granted consent.

APPLICATION DETAILS

DA07/76-5 44 Ballina Road, Lismore: Section 4.55(1A) application to modify consent to amend condition 4A to extend the hours of operation.

DA18/322-3 37 Baldock Drive, McLeans Ridges: Section 4.55(1A) modification to delete conditions 8 and 14 pertaining to Vegetation Management Plan.

DA19/413-2 34 Wyrallah Road, East Lismore: Section 4.55(1A) application to modify consent 5.2019.413.1 (Child Care Facility) to raise the approved buildings (floor levels and roof level) and amend floor layout of the approved development.

DA22/63 119 Alphadale Road, Lindendale: Dwelling additions and alterations.

DA22/67 12 O'Mahoney Drive, Goonellabah: Inground swimming pool.

DA22/87 13 Grey Gum Close, Caniaba: Dwelling and retaining wall.

DA22/95 53 Dibbs Street, Lismore: Shed.

DA22/102 5 Anzac Close, Lismore: To undertake the demolition of the existing buildings.

DA22/113 203 Woodlawn Road, North Lismore: To undertake internal alterations and additions to the main building of an educational establishment (St John's College – Woodlawn).

Details of applications and consents, together with conditions attached, may be inspected at Council's Corporate Centre during business hours or via DA Tracking at www.lismore.nsw.gov.au.

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT

As the consent authority, Council has received the following development applications for consideration.

DA NUMBER: 21/585

LOCATION AND DP LOT: 65 Rous Road, Goonellabah (Lot 1 DP 870760).

APPLICANT: Certifiers2u.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: To undertake alterations and additions to a seniors housing development.

CLOSING DATE: 13 June 2022.

If you wish, you may make a submission to the Council in relation to the Development Application. Any submission must specify the grounds of objection (if any).

The above Development Application(s) and accompanying documents may be inspected at Council's Corporate Centre, 43 Oliver Avenue, Goonellabah, during ordinary office hours or via DA Tracking at www.lismore.nsw.gov.au.

Further information relating to written submissions is available on Council's website. There are laws regarding the mandatory disclosure of political donations in relation to planning matters. Political donations disclosure reporting forms are available from the Department of Planning at www.planning.nsw.gov.au.





PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION OF PUBLIC LAND AT 15 INDUSTRY DRIVE, EAST LISMORE

Lismore City Council are in the process of acquiring real property at 15 Industry Drive, East Lismore (being Lot 9 in DP230347) from Property NSW with the intention of leasing for use by the Lismore Men and Community Shed.

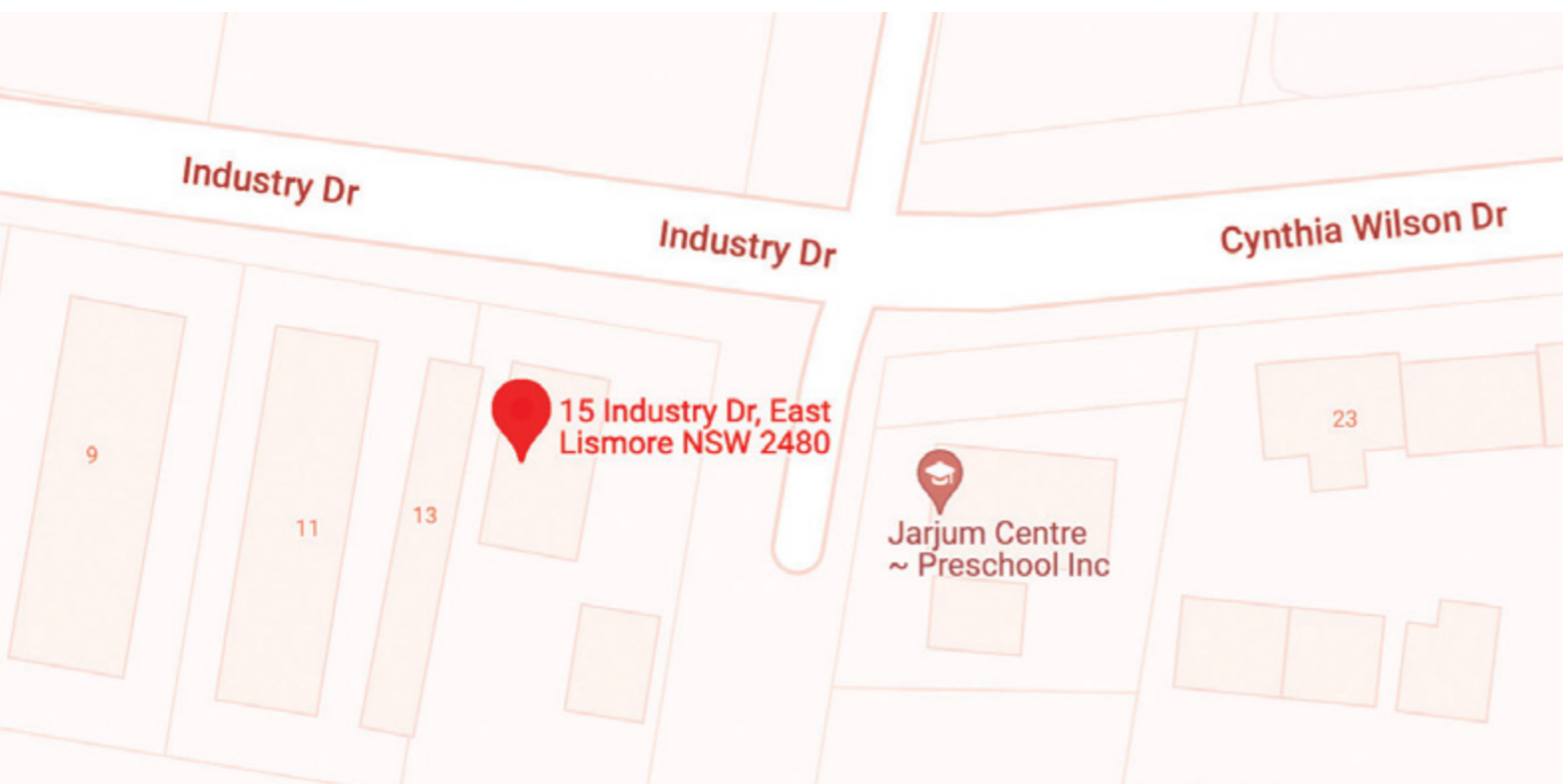
Pursuant to Sections 31 and 34 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council hereby gives public notice of its intention to classify the subject land as 'operational'.

Council invites submissions on the proposed land classification.

To make a submission, visit Council's website at

www.lismore.nsw.gov.au and follow the 'Your Say Lismore' link or write to the General Manager, PO Box 23A, Lismore, NSW 2480 with correspondence marked 'Proposed Classification of Land – CDR22/544'.

Submissions close at 4pm on Tuesday, 14 June 2022.



FLOOD INQUIRY SUBMISSIONS

There was a big response to the NSW Government Flood Inquiry meeting at Southern Cross University on Tuesday, 3 May with community members joining both in-person and online.

The inquiry is gathering feedback from people on the ground who were affected by the floods and those who also assisted our community.

There is still an opportunity for community members to make a submission online, via email, post or by phone.

The inquiry is an opportunity to have your say, to ask questions of the Inquiry, and to raise issues about flood preparedness or responses.

Submissions will close Friday, 20 May however the Inquiry will accept and consider late submissions made by people directly impacted by the floods.

To find out more or make an online submission, please visit the submission portal at

www.nsw.gov.au/flood-inquiry-submissions-portal.



PEDESTRIAN AND WHEELCHAIR-FRIENDLY KEEN ST FOOTPATH UPGRADE

The Keen Street footpath upgrade is expected to start in the coming weeks which will help revitalise the Lismore CBD.

The upgrade will initially focus on the inner block between Woodlark and Magellan streets.

The project will not only beautify the section of Keen Street, it will also make the footpath wheelchair friendly and have a a lightly exposed aggregate concrete finish.

During construction there will be pedestrian access while work is underway. The work will be completed in stages to minimise disruptions.

Council will work closely with businesses to ensure access is available to shopfronts.

The community is encouraged to continue to support local businesses throughout this project.

The project is expected to run for approximately 12 weeks, however, there may be delays due to unplanned events such as wet weather or unexpected disturbance to underground services.

The upgrade is made possible by an Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Grant which aims to stimulate local communities across Australia to manage the economic impacts of COVID-19.

Council will continue to keep the community updated throughout the project, however if you have any questions or would like to know more, please visit Council's YourSay page at www.yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au.



BUILD BACK BETTER PUBLIC FORUMS

To encourage community discussion and feedback about how to build Lismore back better after the 28 February natural disaster and 30 March flood, Council has released a Discussion Paper outlining some broad options.

Some of the options include land swaps, a 'planned retreat' from high flood risk areas in North and South Lismore, Protection of the CBD and expanding the Goonellabah industrial precinct.

Council is also holding two public forums at the Lismore Heights Bowling Club where the community can come along to find more information, make suggestions and ask questions.

Bookings are essential to attend the forums, which will be held on:

Monday, 23 May at 5.30pm

Wednesday, 25 May at 11.30am

The Monday evening forum will also be livestreamed on Council's Facebook Page.

To read the Discussion Paper and to book to attend one of the forums, go to www.yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au.



**CONTACT US:
6625 0500**

Corporate Centre: 43 Oliver Avenue, Goonellabah

Hours: Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 4.30pm

Post: PO Box 23A, Lismore, NSW 2480

Email: council@lismore.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.lismore.nsw.gov.au



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