



11 December 2025

Dear Councillor,

Your attendance is requested at an Ordinary Council Meeting of the Blayney Shire Council to be held in the Chambers, Blayney Shire Community Centre on Tuesday, 16 December 2025 at 6.00pm for consideration of the following business -

- (1) Livestreaming Video and Audio Check
- (2) Acknowledgement of Country
- (3) Recording of Meeting Statement
- (4) Statement of Ethical Obligations
- (5) Apologies for non-attendance
- (6) Disclosures of Interest
- (7) Public Forum
- (8) Mayoral Minute
- (9) Confirmation of Minutes - Ordinary Council Meeting held on 18.11.25
- (10) Matters arising from Minutes
- (11) Reports of Staff
 - (a) Executive Services
 - (b) Corporate Services
 - (c) Infrastructure Services
 - (d) Planning and Environmental Services
- (12) Delegates Reports
- (13) Closed Meeting

Mark Dicker
General Manager

Meeting Calendar 2025 / 2026

December

<u>Time</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
2.00pm	12 December 2025	Central Tablelands Weeds Authority Meeting	Bathurst
6.00pm	16 December 2025	Council Meeting	Community Centre
10.00am	17 December 2025	Central Tablelands Water Meeting	Blayney

January

Nil

February

10.00am	18 February 2026	Central Tablelands Water Meeting	Grenfell
2.00pm	20 February 2026	Central Tablelands Weeds Authority Meeting	Kelso
6.00pm	23 February 2026	McPhillamy's CCC Meeting	Community Centre
6.00pm	24 February 2026	Council Meeting	Community Centre
9.00am	25 February 2026	Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting	Community Centre
10.00am	26 February 2026	Central NSW JO Board Meeting	Grenfell

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HELD ON TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2025

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LIVE STREAMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

In accordance with the Blayney Shire Council Code of Meeting Practice, this meeting will be recorded for the purpose of the live streaming function via our YouTube channel. The audio and visual live stream and recording, will allow members of the public to view proceedings via the Internet without the need to attend Council meetings. The objective of this service is to eliminate geographic and other access barriers for the community wishing to learn more about Council's decision making processes.

By speaking at the Council Meeting you agree to be livestreamed and recorded. Please ensure that if and when you speak at this Council Meeting that you ensure you are respectful to others and use appropriate language at all times.

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Council does not accept any responsibility for any verbal comments made during Council meetings which may be inaccurate, incorrect, defamatory, or contrary to law and does not warrant nor represent that the material or statements made during the streamed meetings are complete, reliable, accurate or free from error.

Live streaming is primarily set up to capture the proceedings of the Council meeting and members of the public attending a Council meeting need to be aware they may be recorded as part of the proceedings.

STATEMENT OF ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS

Councillors are reminded of their oath or affirmation of office made under section 233A of the Local Government Act and their obligations under the Council's Code of Conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.

01) MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING HELD 18 NOVEMBER 2025

Department: Executive Services

Author: General Manager

CSP Link: 1. Prioritise transparency, financial sustainability and strong partnerships with and for our community

File No: GO.ME.3

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 18 November 2025, being minute numbers 2511/001 to 2511/009 be confirmed.

MINUTES OF THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE CHAMBERS, BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY CENTRE, ON 18 NOVEMBER 2025, COMMENCING AT 6.01PM

Present: Crs B Reynolds (Mayor), R Scott (Deputy Mayor), I Dorsett, C Gosewisch, K Hutchings, S Johnston and J Newstead

General Manager (Mr M Dicker), Acting Director Corporate Services (Mrs T Irlam), Director Infrastructure Services (Mr J Hogan), Director Planning & Environmental Services (Mr A Muir) and Executive Assistant to the General Manager (Mrs L Ferson)

RECORDING OF MEETING STATEMENT**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY****DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Nil

PUBLIC FORUM

David Anderson – Item 8 – DA2024/0063 – Detached Dual Occupancy and 2 Lot Subdivision – 24 Knox Place, Millthorpe

LATE REPORT**MAYORAL MINUTE - ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT (PLANNING SYSTEM REFORMS) BILL 2025 - IMPACTS ON BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL**

2511/001 RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Note recent amendments to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act which have been passed by NSW Parliament.

2. Note one of the amendments removes planning determination powers from local Councils in regional NSW to a new Local Planning Panel.
3. Write to the Minister for Planning requesting the NSW Government reconsider its decision to remove planning approval functions away from local elected representatives in regional NSW.

(Reynolds)
CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING HELD 28 OCTOBER 2025

2511/002

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 October 2025, being minute numbers 2510/001 to 2510/024 be confirmed.

(Gosewisch/Scott)
CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil

The Mayor asked if there was any objection to bringing item 8 forward for consideration, being the topic of the public forum. There was no objection.

DA2024/0063 - DETACHED DUAL OCCUPANCY AND 2 LOT SUBDIVISION - 24 KNOX PLACE, MILLTHORPE

2511/003

RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Note the submission received in relation to Development Application 2024/0063.
2. Note its decision of 28 October 2025 to grant development consent to Development Application 2024/0063 for the erection of a dual occupancy and a two-lot subdivision at Lot 11, DP 1291217, 24 Knox Place, Millthorpe subject to the conditions.
3. Note that the contents of the submission and the revised assessment report attached to the business paper have been duly considered and Council's position in granting development consent, subject to the same conditions remains.

(Gosewisch/Newstead)

The **DIVISION** was taken and the names of the Councillors voting FOR and AGAINST were as follows:

FOR	AGAINST	
Councillor Reynolds		
Councillor Newstead		
Councillor Gosewisch		
Councillor Dorsett		
Councillor Hutchings		
Councillor Scott		
Councillor Johnston		
Total (7)	Total (0)	CARRIED

CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

REPORT OF COUNCIL INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2025

2511/004

RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Note the report indicating Council's investment position as of 31 October 2025.
2. Note the certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer.
(Scott/Newstead)

CARRIED

QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT - SEPTEMBER 2025

2511/005

RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Receive the report on the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the quarter ending 30 September 2025.
2. Adopt the supplementary votes of (\$262k) nett proposed in the Quarterly Budget Review Statement, resulting in a decrease to capital expenditure of (\$18k), an increase to operating expenditure of \$53k and a decrease in income of (\$227k).
3. Note the certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer that the Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) for the quarter ended 30 September 2025, based on the current projections of income, expenditure, and both restricted and unrestricted cash levels, Council's projected financial position as at 30 June 2026 is considered satisfactory.

(Gosewisch/Hutchings)

CARRIED

ATTRACTION AND RETENTION OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS - LOAN

2511/006

RESOLVED:

That Council;

1. Receive the report on Attraction and Retention of Medical Professionals – Loan.
2. Approve the provision of an interest free loan to Dr. Padmavathi Madduru pursuant to policy 6C Attraction and Retention of Medical Professionals.

(Newstead/Gosewisch)

CARRIED**INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORTS****INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT**

2511/007

RESOLVED:

That Council;

1. Note the Infrastructure Services Monthly Report for November 2025.
2. Note \$9,000 is being allocated within the 2025/26 Village Enhancement Program for Blayney Tennis Court lighting repairs.

(Newstead/Hutchings)

CARRIED**MINUTES OF THE BLAYNEY SHOWGROUND USER GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 10 NOVEMBER 2025**

2511/008

RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Receive the minutes of the Blayney Showground User Group Committee meeting held 10 November 2025.
2. Endorse the Blayney Showground Strategic Plan 2026-2030 and place on exhibition for a period of 28 days.
3. If no submissions are received, the Strategic Plan be adopted.

(Scott/Hutchings)

CARRIED**PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS****DRAFT DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN 2026**

2511/009

RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Endorse the Draft Blayney Shire Development Control Plan 2026 as attached to this report for public exhibition.
2. Authorise the General Manager to make any minor amendments including insertion of additional diagrams to the Draft Blayney Shire Development Control Plan 2026 content, as required for its exhibition.
3. Place the Draft Blayney Shire Development Control Plan

2026 on public exhibition as required under the procedures of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 and Council’s Community Engagement Plan, noting that the period will be extended due to the Christmas/New Year period.

4. Note that a future addendum will be produced in respect of the lands on the corner of Park Street and Richards Lane, Millthorpe.

(Gosewisch/Newstead)

The **DIVISION** was taken and the names of the Councillors voting FOR and AGAINST were as follows:

FOR	AGAINST	
Councillor Reynolds		
Councillor Newstead		
Councillor Gosewisch		
Councillor Dorsett		
Councillor Hutchings		
Councillor Scott		
Councillor Johnston		
Total (7)	Total (0)	CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.13pm.

The Minute Numbers 2511/001 to 2511/009 were confirmed on 16 December 2025 and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting held on 18 November 2025.

Cr B Reynolds
CHAIR

02) JUNE 2026 COUNCIL MEETING DATE

Department: Executive Services

Author: General Manager

CSP Link: 1. Prioritise transparency, financial sustainability and strong partnerships with and for our community

File No: GO.ME.2

Recommendation:

That Council move the June 2026 Council meeting to 6pm Tuesday 16 June 2026.

Reason for Report:

For Council to consider moving the June 2026 Council meeting forward one week, from 6pm Tuesday 23 June 2026 to 6pm Tuesday 16 June 2026.

Report:

In August 2025 Council adopted a meeting schedule of Ordinary Meetings of Council for the forthcoming 12 months as per cl.3.1 of Blayney Shire Council Code of Meeting Practice.

It is proposed to move the June 2026 Council Meeting forward one week to avoid a date clash with the 2026 Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly (NGA) to be held in Canberra 22-25 June 2026.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Nil

Budget Implications:

Nil

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

03) BLAYNEY CENTREPOINT - 'POWERING OUR FUTURE: BLAYNEY STORAGE PROJECT' CAPITAL EXPENDITURE REVIEW

Department: Executive Services

Author: General Manager

CSP Link: 3. Infrastructure is resilient, fit for purpose and maintained to support our community

File No: GS.LI.1

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Endorse the Capital Expenditure Review for the Blayney CentrePoint 'Powering our Future: Blayney Storage Project'.
2. Note the project is forecast to be completed by December 2026.
3. Approve a supplementary vote of \$722,710 in the 2025/26 Operational Plan with the funding source being Grants and Contributions.
4. Include an allocation of \$273,472 in the 2026/27 Operational Plan with the funding source being Grants and Contributions.

Reason for Report:

To inform and seek Council endorsement of the Blayney CentrePoint 'Powering our Future: Blayney Storage Project'.

Report:

Council resolved at its meeting on 22 April 2025 meeting **Resolution Number (2504/006)**.

**COMMUNITY ENERGY UPGRADE FUNDING APPLICATION
2504/006 RESOLVED:**

That Council:

1. *Note the report.*
2. *Endorse the 2025 Blayney Shire Renewable Energy Project which has an estimated project cost of \$1 million and proceeds to prepare and submit the following grant funding applications:*
 - a. *Australian Government (Community Energy Upgrade Funding) seeking \$500,000*
 - b. *Newmont (Cadia Legacy Fund) seeking \$500,000 as the matching 50% co contribution.*
3. *Approve a supplementary vote of \$15,000 in the 2024/25 Operational Plan to engage a specialist energy consultant to assist with the grant documentation and grant application to be funded from the Property Internal Allocation.*
4. *Be provided a further report which considers whole of life costs and ongoing budget implications, upon finalisation of the estimated project scope and cost and lodgement of the grant applications.*

Capital Expenditure Guidelines (2010) issued under s23 of the Local Government Act (1993) and Council's Capital Projects Operating Guidelines (2019) provide for reporting to Council on a major infrastructure spend, which is outside the norm and when a budget exceeds \$1m.

Whilst technically the current project cost is under the \$1m threshold, it is considered appropriate and best practice to undertake a capital expenditure review for the project.

This project is currently not included within the 2024/25 Operational Plan, nor the 4-year Delivery Program.

Background

On 10 June 2025, Newmont advised Council it was successful in obtaining \$500,000 for the Blayney Storage Project under the Cadia Legacy Fund.

Council used this \$500k commitment from Newmont as the required 50% co contribution to apply under the Australian Government' Community Energy Upgrades Fund Round 2.

On 10 November 2025, the Australian Government advised Council it was successful in obtaining \$496,182 for the Blayney Storage Project under Community Energy Upgrades Fund (CEUF) Round 2.

Council has now secured \$996,182 in funding for the project, meaning the capital expenditure for the project is 100% externally funded with no capital contribution anticipated to be required from Council.

CentrePoint electricity consumption

CentrePoint consumes a significant amount of electricity, between 1.5MWh and 2MWh per day, of which the 99kW solar PV system generates approximately 25% of electricity consumed at the site.

Recent historical electricity expenditure for CentrePoint is shown in the table below, (and it is noted this site is part of the very good Central NSW Joint Organisation large sites electrical contract).

The trend for Council, like our community, is the ever-increasing expenditure for electricity, something which Council has no control over.

Year	Expenditure
2022/23	\$148,263
2023/24	\$152,678
2024/25	\$163,546

For 2025/26 (July to October) year to date expenditure is \$59,645 and when comparing to the same period in 2024/25, which was \$55,039 this is already an 8.36% increase.

Outline of proposed project

CentrePoint had a electrical upgrade (including new substation) as part of the 2020 Aquatic Upgrades, which is a key aspect to this project as CentrePoint is a single user of this substation.

The grant applications have been submitted on installing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with capacity of 900kWh / 440kW battery.

No additional solar is proposed, with the theory being to charge the battery during the middle of the day from the grid, when there is generally an oversupply of renewable energy, and energy is significantly cheaper, if not free and even being paid to take it.

ChargeWorks, specialist energy consultants with significant experience and working relationships throughout the Central NSW Joint Organisation have been engaged to assist Council with this project

ChargeWorks in April 2025 prepared a scoping report for Council to apply under the Community Energy Upgrade Fund which is provided as an enclosure to this report.

Project Justification

The Blayney Shire Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035 was adopted by Council in May 2025 following a collaborative and extensive process undertaken with the community. Five key themes were identified by the community and endorsed by Council:

The five key themes, are;

1. **Leadership:** *Prioritise transparency, financial sustainability and strong partnerships with and for our community*
2. **Community:** *A connected, healthy and inclusive community*
3. **Infrastructure:** *Infrastructure is resilient, fit for purpose and maintained to support our community*
4. **Economy:** *A diverse, vibrant and sustainable economy*
5. **Natural and Built Environment:** *Protecting our assets for future generations*

The Blayney CentrePoint 'Powering our Future: Blayney Storage Project' relates to key themes 1, 3, 4 and 5 within the Blayney Shire Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035.

The project directly relates to the following key theme strategies within the 2025/26 to 2028/29 Delivery Program;

1.4b. Council operates in a financially sustainable manner and seeks to identify and implement ongoing efficiencies

Financial sustainability: *Manage Council financial systems, processes and projects in a sustainable way that maximises value for money for Ratepayers*

Financial sustainability: Ensure Council has adequate cash flow to meet its needs

1.4c. Creation of new and upgraded public assets is balanced with the needs of the greater community

New and Upgraded assets: Ongoing operational impacts from new and upgraded assets is considered prior to a project being committed to and/or supported

3.1c. Ensure renewal of existing and future infrastructure is sustainable, planned and based on ensuring inter-generational equity

Grant funding submissions: Identify opportunities and make application for state and federal government grants

4.2a. Engage and advocate in relation to social, corporate and environmental responsibilities for mining and renewable energy projects

Engagement: Engage with key stakeholders including: Cadia Gold Mine, Flyers Creek Wind Farm, McPhillamys Gold Project for the betterment of the community

5.4a. Transition to a sustainable, secure and affordable energy future

New renewable energy: Identify opportunities to install and fund renewable energy technologies

5.4b. Minimise the impact of carbon emissions

Regional collaboration: Work with CNSWJO Net Zero Group to identify opportunities to minimise carbon emissions

Capacity of the Council

Council is experienced in managing and acquitting NSW and Australian Government Grants with Council successfully acquitting numerous grants in recent years.

Council has recently project managed the following unique and complex projects, including:

- \$4.8m - CentrePoint Sport and Leisure Centre Major Upgrade, Stage 1
- \$1.8m - CentrePoint Sport and Leisure Centre Major Upgrade, Stage 2
- \$2.2m - Central West Equestrian and Livestock Arena

It is acknowledged this would be Council's first significant renewable energy project to manage and there is risk associated with that, which Council is seeking to mitigate through the engagement of specialist consultants.

Priorities and Alternatives

Since the announcement it has been allocated \$496k in CEUF funding Council has been liaising and working with both ChargeWorks and an architect seeking to finalise the scope of the project in preparation of lodging a Development Application and then a Request for Tender.

At this stage it is being analysed and discussed that potentially the best option may be to test the market via an open Request for Tender (RFT), seeking submissions for a BESS with a minimum storage requirement of 900kWh, with an option to also seek prices for BESS up to 1500kWh.

Given the amount of funding received there is the possibility a larger BESS could be installed within the current \$996k budget.

Specialist Energy consultants need to analyse and advise the cost benefit of going beyond 900kWh. It would also be dependent on submissions received during the RFT which Council will consider when considering the RFT submissions.

Specialist Energy consultants are also considering whether additional solar PV on CentrePoint roof would provide benefit and synergy with the BESS.

Public Consultation Process and Community Engagement

Community consultation on the project has not been specifically undertaken, however, the project does align with several key themes within the Community Strategic Plan and key theme strategies within the Delivery Program, both of which were developed having undertaken significant community consultation and public exhibition of draft documents.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Capital Expenditure Guidelines (2010) issued under s23 of the Local Government Act provide the framework for a transparent, consistent methodology for Council to evaluate a major project of this scale.

These guidelines, outline the necessity for Council to make an informed decision before committing resources to those infrastructure projects that are expected to cost in excess of 10% of Council's annual ordinary rate revenue or \$1m, whichever is the greater.

Whilst technically the current project cost is under the \$1m threshold, it is considered appropriate and best practice to undertake a capital expenditure review for the project.

Council's capital and operational works in general are covered under Council's Public Liability and Property Insurance Policy with Statewide Mutual.

Additional risks associated with a project of this scale, may require additional notation on Council's Contracts Works Insurance which ensures cover is provided for both works in progress, property damage, public liability and Contractor default.

Until the RFT process is undertaken, certainty around the cost for supply and installation of the BESS will not be known. Specialist energy consultants have advised though the project may be delivered under budget.

If this was to occur, Council could be in a position where all of the grant money may not be fully expended and may require a project variation and/or all of the grant funding not be utilised. - This is an unlikely position, but a situation the consultants have identified to Council.

Budget Implications:

Capital Project Estimates:

This project is currently not included within the 2025/26 Operational Plan, nor the 4-year Delivery Program.

Council has to date provided for approximately \$33k for grant preparation and investigation and design.

The project has an estimated cost of \$996,182. 100% of capital funding has been secured as follows:

- \$500,000 from Newmont under the Cadia Legacy Fund.
- \$496,182 from the Australia Government under the Community Energy Upgrades Fund Round 2 grant program

The project is currently 100% externally funded with no contribution anticipated to be required from Council.

Operating Budget Estimates:

Operating budget based on information provided by specialist energy consultants forecast operational expenses (O&M, platform and battery charging (inc. retail fees)) at \$55,054 for Year 1.

Revenue figures based on the conservative forecast for Year 1 is \$173,541, putting the net cashflow position for Year 1 at \$118,487.

The 15-year NPV modelling (2 scenarios: conservative and volatile) has been prepared by Council staff and is based upon the following inputs: CPI 3.5%, discount rate of 7% and Degradation of 1%.

It is highlighted the inputs solely depend on forecast revenue, noting electricity prices have been extremely volatile in recent years and are therefore very hard to forecast and staff have sought to be conservative (including more conservative than the specialist energy consultants).

The summarised 15 Year model is provided as enclosure.

Blayney CentrePoint 'Powering our Future: Blayney Storage Project'	
Total Project Cost	\$996,182
Grant funding secured	\$996,182
Council Contribution	NA (\$33k to date in design costs)
Source of Council Funds	NA
Asset Write Off	NA – new asset
Net cashflow position	\$118,487 (year 1)
Depreciation impact	\$66k per annum

The full impact of the project has not been modelled through the Long Term Financial Plan. A summary of the undiscounted operational impacts to the income statement is modelled in the attached summary for both the conservative and volatile scenarios.

Under the conservative scenario, the operational impact is expected to be break even noting that any anticipated revenues are subject to market sensitivities and are difficult to forecast. It should also be noted that depreciation expense has been modelled on a straight line basis however in reality will be subject to fair value assessment at least at every revaluation cycle and the depreciation expense is likely to increase.

Enclosures (following report)

- | | | |
|---|--|---------|
| 1 | Payback Period & Operational Impact - 15 Years | 1 Page |
| 2 | CentrePoint Storage Project | 6 Pages |

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

Payback Period Full Capital Investment - 15 Yrs

Conservative \$137,346 wholesale market arbitrage

Full Value																					
																	CPI	3.50%			
																	Discount rate	7.00%			
																	Degradation	1.00%			
Costs	Capital	-\$996,182																			TOTAL
	O&M		-\$1,500	-\$1,553	-\$1,607	-\$1,663	-\$1,721	-\$1,782	-\$1,844	-\$1,908	-\$1,975	-\$2,044	-\$2,116	-\$2,190	-\$2,267	-\$2,346	-\$2,428				-\$28,944
	Platform		-\$5,946	-\$6,154	-\$6,370	-\$6,592	-\$6,823	-\$7,062	-\$7,309	-\$7,565	-\$7,830	-\$8,104	-\$8,387	-\$8,681	-\$8,985	-\$9,299	-\$9,625				-\$114,732
	Battery Charging (inc retail fees)		-\$47,608	-\$49,274	-\$50,999	-\$52,784	-\$54,631	-\$56,543	-\$58,522	-\$60,571	-\$62,691	-\$64,885	-\$67,156	-\$69,506	-\$71,939	-\$74,457	-\$77,063				-\$918,629
Revenues	Peak Demand Reduction		\$36,195	\$37,462	\$38,773	\$40,130	\$41,535	\$42,988	\$44,493	\$46,050	\$47,662	\$49,330	\$51,057	\$52,844	\$54,693	\$56,607	\$58,589				\$698,407
	Wholesale Market Arbitrage		\$137,346	\$142,153	\$147,128	\$152,278	\$157,608	\$163,124	\$168,833	\$174,742	\$180,858	\$187,188	\$193,740	\$200,521	\$207,539	\$214,803	\$222,321				\$2,650,185
Cashflow	Net	-\$996,182	\$118,487	\$122,634	\$126,926	\$131,369	\$135,967	\$140,725	\$145,651	\$150,749	\$156,025	\$161,486	\$167,138	\$172,987	\$179,042	\$185,308	\$191,794				\$2,286,287
	Discounted Cashflow	-\$996,182	\$110,736	\$109,144	\$106,570	\$104,056	\$101,602	\$99,206	\$96,866	\$94,582	\$92,351	\$90,173	\$88,046	\$85,969	\$83,942	\$81,962	\$80,029				\$80,029
	Cumulative	-\$996,182	-\$885,446	-\$776,302	-\$669,732	-\$565,676	-\$464,074	-\$364,868	-\$268,002	-\$173,420	-\$81,069	\$9,103	\$97,149	\$183,119	\$267,061	\$349,023	\$429,052				

Volatile \$182,829 wholesale market arbitrage

Full Value																						
																	CPI	3.5%				
																	Discount rate	7.0%				
																	Degradation	1.0%				
Costs	Capital	-\$996,182																				TOTAL
	O&M		-\$1,500	-\$1,553	-\$1,607	-\$1,663	-\$1,721	-\$1,782	-\$1,844	-\$1,908	-\$1,975	-\$2,044	-\$2,116	-\$2,190	-\$2,267	-\$2,346	-\$2,428				-\$28,944	
	Platform		-\$5,946	-\$6,154	-\$6,370	-\$6,592	-\$6,823	-\$7,062	-\$7,309	-\$7,565	-\$7,830	-\$8,104	-\$8,387	-\$8,681	-\$8,985	-\$9,299	-\$9,625				-\$114,732	
	Battery Charging (inc retail fees)		-\$47,608	-\$49,274	-\$50,999	-\$52,784	-\$54,631	-\$56,543	-\$58,522	-\$60,571	-\$62,691	-\$64,885	-\$67,156	-\$69,506	-\$71,939	-\$74,457	-\$77,063				-\$918,629	
Revenues	Peak Demand Reduction		\$36,195	\$37,462	\$38,773	\$40,130	\$41,535	\$42,988	\$44,493	\$46,050	\$47,662	\$49,330	\$51,057	\$52,844	\$54,693	\$56,607	\$58,589				\$698,407	
	Wholesale Market Arbitrage		\$182,829	\$189,228	\$195,851	\$202,706	\$209,800	\$217,143	\$224,744	\$232,610	\$240,751	\$249,177	\$257,898	\$266,925	\$276,267	\$285,937	\$295,944				\$3,527,810	
Cashflow	Net	-\$996,182	\$163,970	\$169,709	\$175,649	\$181,796	\$188,159	\$194,745	\$201,561	\$208,616	\$215,917	\$223,474	\$231,296	\$239,391	\$247,770	\$256,442	\$265,417				\$3,163,913	
	Discounted Cashflow	-\$996,182	\$153,244	\$151,040	\$147,478	\$144,000	\$140,604	\$137,287	\$134,050	\$130,888	\$127,801	\$124,787	\$121,844	\$118,970	\$116,164	\$113,424	\$110,749				\$110,749	
	Cumulative	-\$996,182	-\$842,938	-\$691,898	-\$544,420	-\$400,420	-\$259,816	-\$122,529	\$11,521	\$142,409	\$270,210	\$394,997	\$516,841	\$635,811	\$751,975	\$865,399	\$976,149					

Income Statement Impact - Conservative

	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36	2036/37	2037/38	2038/39	2039/40	2040/41	
Revenues	Peak Demand Reduction	36,195	37,462	38,773	40,130	41,535	42,988	44,493	46,050	47,662	49,330	51,057	52,844	54,693	56,607	58,589
	Wholesale Market Arbitrage	137,346	142,153	147,128	152,278	157,608	163,124	168,833	174,742	180,858	187,188	193,740	200,521	207,539	214,803	222,321
		173,541	179,615	185,901	192,408	199,142	206,112	213,326	220,793	228,520	236,519	244,797	253,365	262,232	271,410	280,910
Costs	O&M	1,500	1,553	1,607	1,663	1,721	1,782	1,844	1,908	1,975	2,044	2,116	2,190	2,267	2,346	2,428
	Platform	5,946	6,154	6,370	6,592	6,823	7,062	7,309	7,565	7,830	8,104	8,387	8,681	8,985	9,299	9,625
	Battery Charging (inc retail fees)	47,608	49,274	50,999	52,784	54,631	56,543	58,522	60,571	62,691	64,885	67,156	69,506	71,939	74,457	77,063
	Depreciation	66,412	66,412	66,412	66,412	66,412	66,412	66,412	66,412	66,412	66,412	66,412	66,412	66,412	66,412	66,412
		121,466	123,393	125,387	127,451	129,588	131,799	134,088	136,456	138,908	141,445	144,071	146,789	149,603	152,514	155,528
Net Operational Impact		52,075	56,222	60,514	64,957	69,554	74,313	79,239	84,336	89,613	95,073	100,725	106,575	112,630	118,896	125,382

Income Statement Impact - Volatile

	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36	2036/37	2037/38	2038/39	2039/40	2040/41	
Revenues	Peak Demand Reduction	36,195	37,462	38,773	40,130	41,535	42,988	44,493	46,050	47,662	49,330	51,057	52,844	54,693	56,607	58,589
	Wholesale Market Arbitrage	182,829	189,228	195,851	202,706	209,800	217,143	224,744	232,610	240,751	249,177	257,898	266,925	276,267	285,937	295,944
		219,024	226,690	234,624	242,836	251,335	260,132	269,236	278,660	288,413	298,507	308,955	319,768	330,960	342,544	354,533
Costs	O&M	1,500	1,553	1,607	1,663	1,721	1,782	1,844	1,908	1,975	2,044	2,116	2,190	2,267	2,346	2,428
	Platform	5,946	6,154	6,370	6,592	6,823	7,062	7,309	7,565	7,830	8,104	8,387	8,681	8,985	9,299	9,625
	Battery Charging (inc retail fees)	47,608	49,274	50,999	52,784	54,631	56,543	58,522	60,571	62,691	64,885	67,156	69,506	71,939	74,457	77,063
	Depreciation	66,412	66,412	66,412	66,412	66,412	66,412	66,412	66,412	66,412	66,412	66,412	66,412	66,412	66,412	66,412
		121,466	123,393	125,387	127,451	129,588	131,799	134,088	136,456	138,908	141,445	144,071	146,789	149,603	152,514	155,528
Net Operational Impact		97,558	103,297	109,237	115,384	121,747	128,333	135,149	142,203	149,505	157,062	164,884	172,979	181,358	190,030	199,005



15th April 2025

Blayney Shire Council
Community Energy Upgrade Fund
Centrepont Battery

Prepared by ChargeWorks

Introduction

ChargeWorks has been invited by Blayney Shire Council to provide technical assistance to Council in an application for Community Energy Upgrade Funding (CEUF).

According to the CEUF guidelines, total project value must have at least \$50,000 in eligible expenditure (up to \$5,000,000) and be aimed at energy efficiency and/or electrification and/or load flexibility upgrades that reduce costs and emissions for local government's facilities or operations using commercially available technologies.

Eligible activities must relate to the project and may include one or more of the following:

- load flexibility/demand management systems, e.g. air-conditioning controls upgrades including demand management capabilities at a civic centre
- electrification upgrades, e.g. the replacement of a gas boiler with a heat pump and heat recovery at an aquatic centre
- electric vehicle charging infrastructure, e.g. smart electric vehicle charging for multiple vehicles at a depot for local government vehicles
- energy efficiency upgrades, e.g. variable speed drives fitted to electric motors at a wastewater treatment plant
- behind the meter renewables generation and storage, e.g. a rooftop solar power system with a virtual power plant enabled energy storage system at a childcare centre.

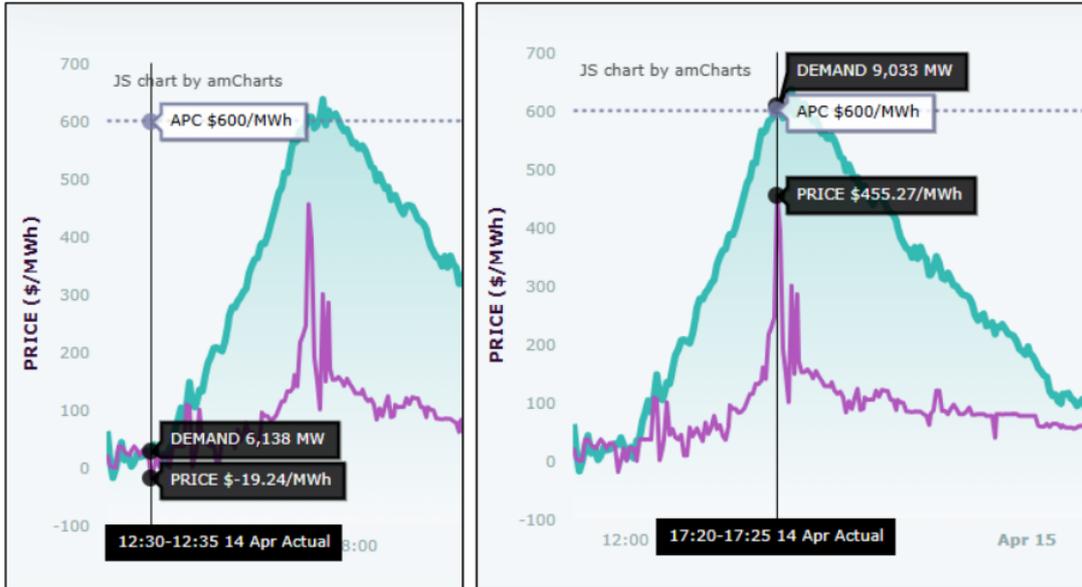
Integrated projects that bring together several activities and encompass multiple sites are encouraged e.g. an energy upgrade at a community centre including energy efficient building envelope improvements, energy efficient equipment, a solar power and battery storage system and disconnection of the gas supply.

Round 2 of the Community Energy Upgrades Fund Program is due to close on the 13th of June 2025

Wholesale Electricity Market

The supply and demand of electricity on the National Electricity Market is becoming more volatile.

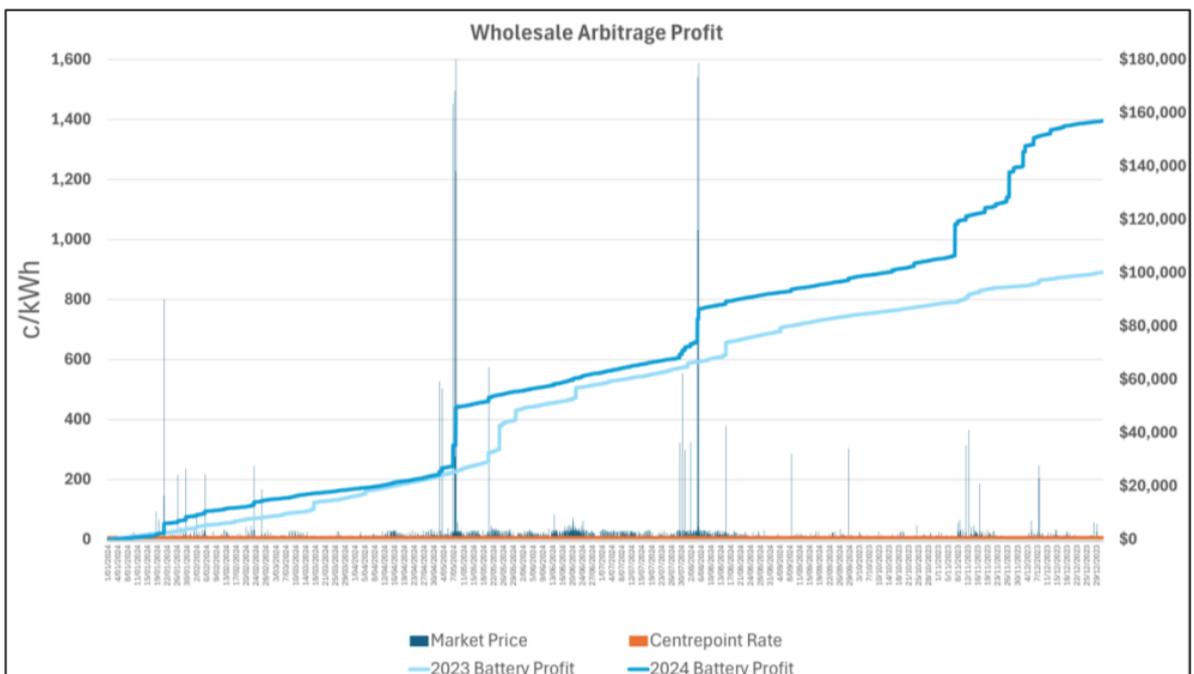
For most of the day, prices are near-zero (or negative), but in periods of peak-demand the price can increase substantially. Take the 14th of April 2025 as an example:



This means that by using storage, to exploit and arbitrage between the highest and lowest point in the day, a profit can be made.

The annual profit for a 900kWh / 440kW battery exploiting this arbitrage was \$100,000 (in 2023) and \$160,000 per annum (in 2024) – mainly from a small number of very high electricity prices.

The cumulative profit in a year is shown below:



Battery Storage

Centrepoint has substantial electrical infrastructure and a dedicated transformer to the electricity grid. It can accommodate a battery of this size as shown below.

Further, this site is already contracted to Iberdrola for its electricity supply until 2031. Iberdrola has the ability and appetite to provide its customers with access to the wholesale electricity market and other ancillary markets.

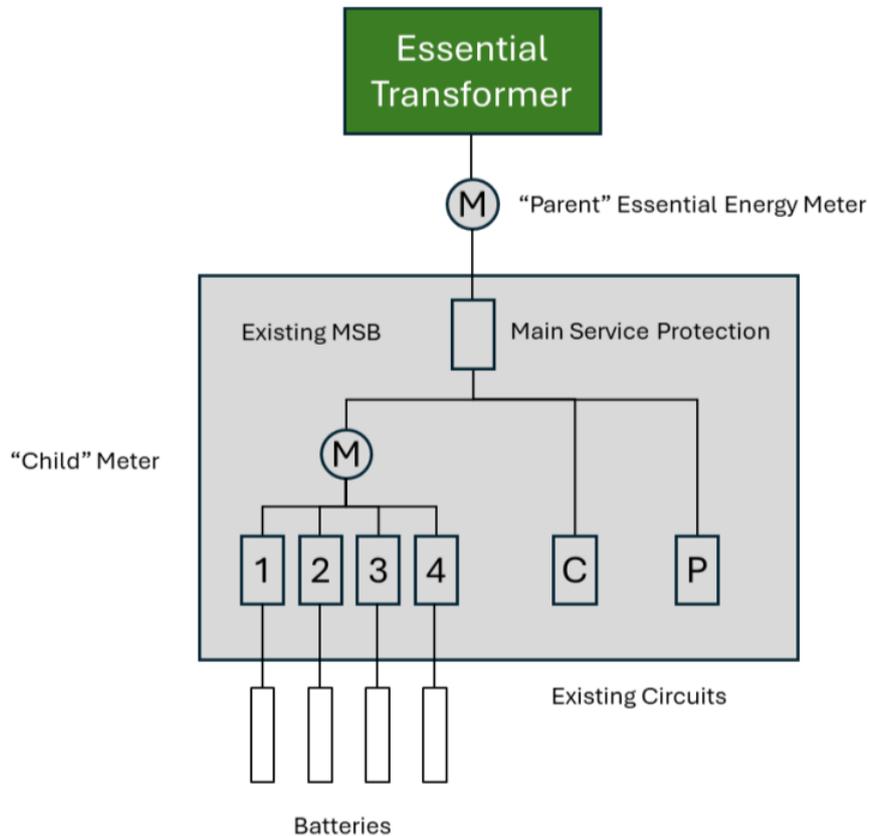


This site is ideal because of its established retail and existing infrastructure.

Metering for Wholesale Exposure

The electrical configuration of a wholesale exposed battery is what is known as an “embedded network”, where the power going into and out of the battery is separately metered.

The retailer of the “parent” meter deducts any usage by the “child” and treats that usage as effectively an independent site. From an electrical standpoint, the batteries are independent from Centrepoint altogether.



This allows the batteries to charge and discharge at wholesale prices different to contracted rates of the parent.

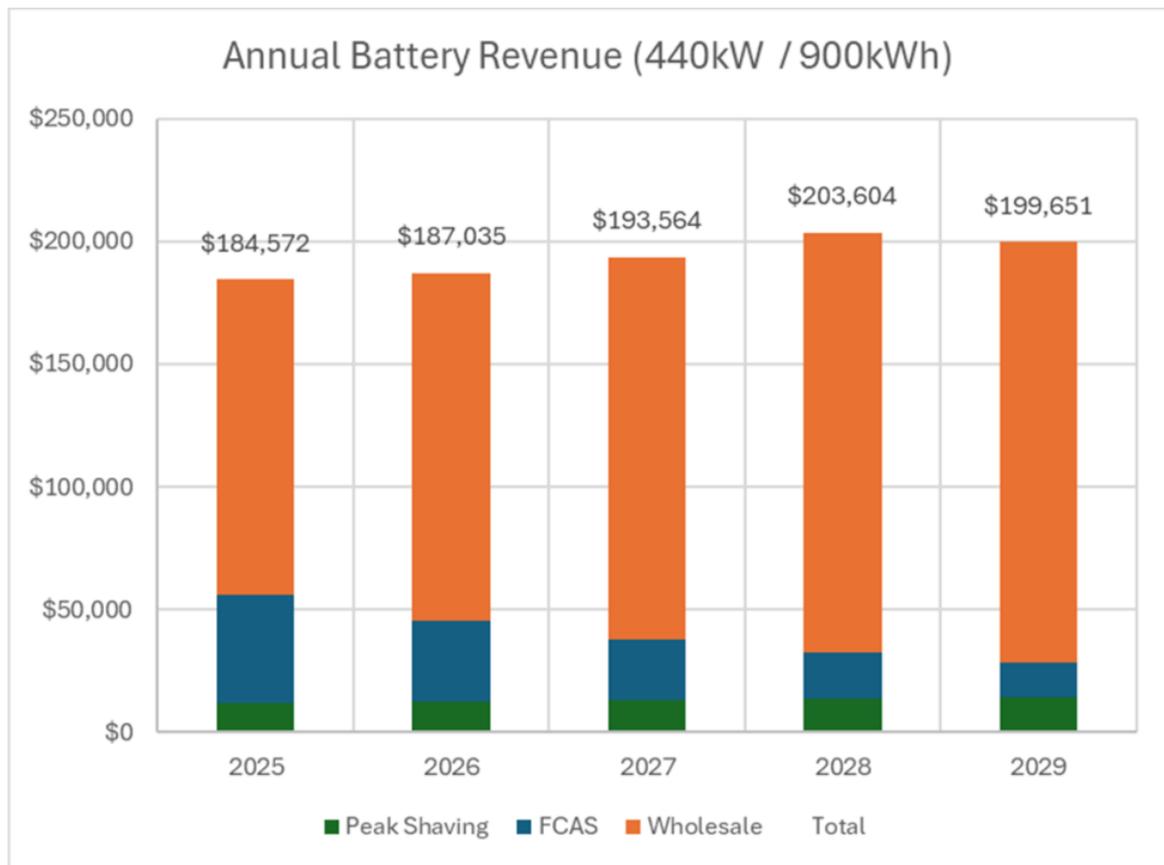
Say for example, if wholesale prices are astronomically high, a battery can discharge power through the child meter and get paid very well for this export. What happens to the power after this is largely irrelevant. If the site soaks up this power, it will just pay for electricity at the normal contracted rates.

Centrepoint does, however, pay for network charges to Essential Energy at the parent meter. Any battery export (i.e. reduced demand on Essential’s network) in the period could be useful in reducing the assessed network charges. This is a relatively low value cost saving but adds about 10% more savings to the business case.

Savings

The forecasted revenues over the next five years is predominantly wholesale arbitrage, but includes some modest peak shaving savings and another ancillary market known as "FCAS" (frequency response).

Expected savings should total approximately \$180,000 - \$200,000 per year.



The "financially responsible market participant" for the site would be Iberdrola.

Iberdrola could either pay revenue directly to Council or provide a reduced bill.

- The existing annual electricity cost of Centrepont is approximately \$150,000, which would reduce to approximately \$130,000 from reduced network charges.
- The remaining balance of approximately \$160,000 - \$180,000 would be paid direct to Council or credited against its whole bill (noting that Iberdrola also invoices for the Sewage Treatment Plant).

04) REPORT OF COUNCIL INVESTMENTS AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2025

Department: Corporate Services

Author: Chief Financial Officer

CSP Link: 1. Prioritise transparency, financial sustainability and strong partnerships with and for our community

File No: FM.AU.1

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Note the report indicating Council’s investment position as of 30 November 2025.
2. Note the certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer.

Reason for Report:

For Council to endorse the Report of Council Investments as at 30 November 2025.

Report:

This report provides details of Council’s Investment Portfolio as at 30 November 2025.

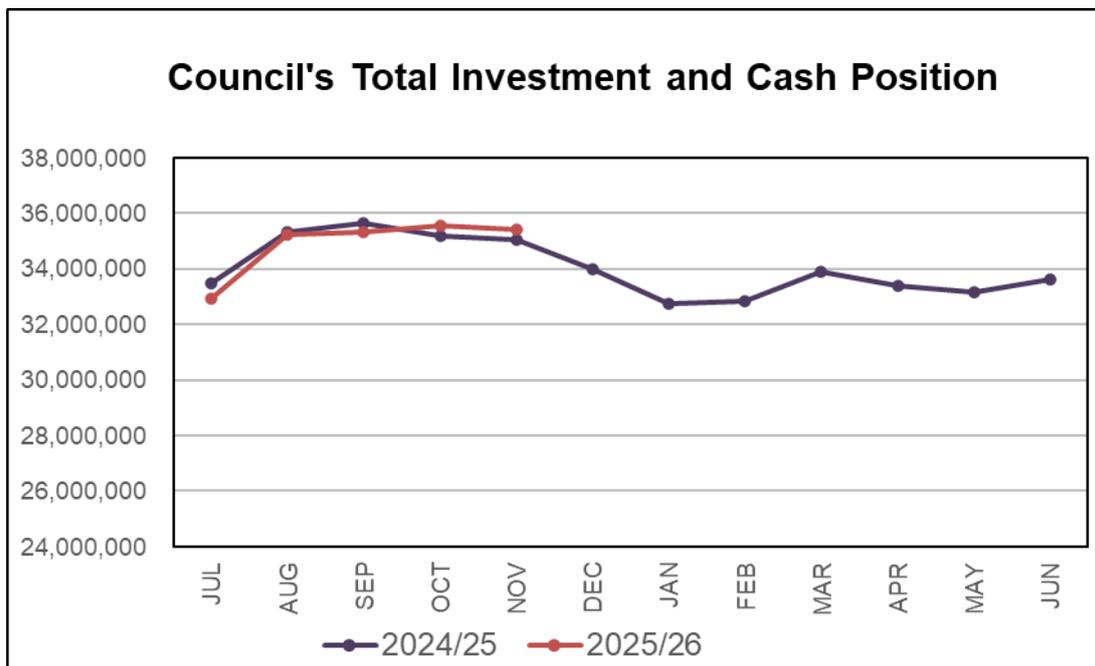
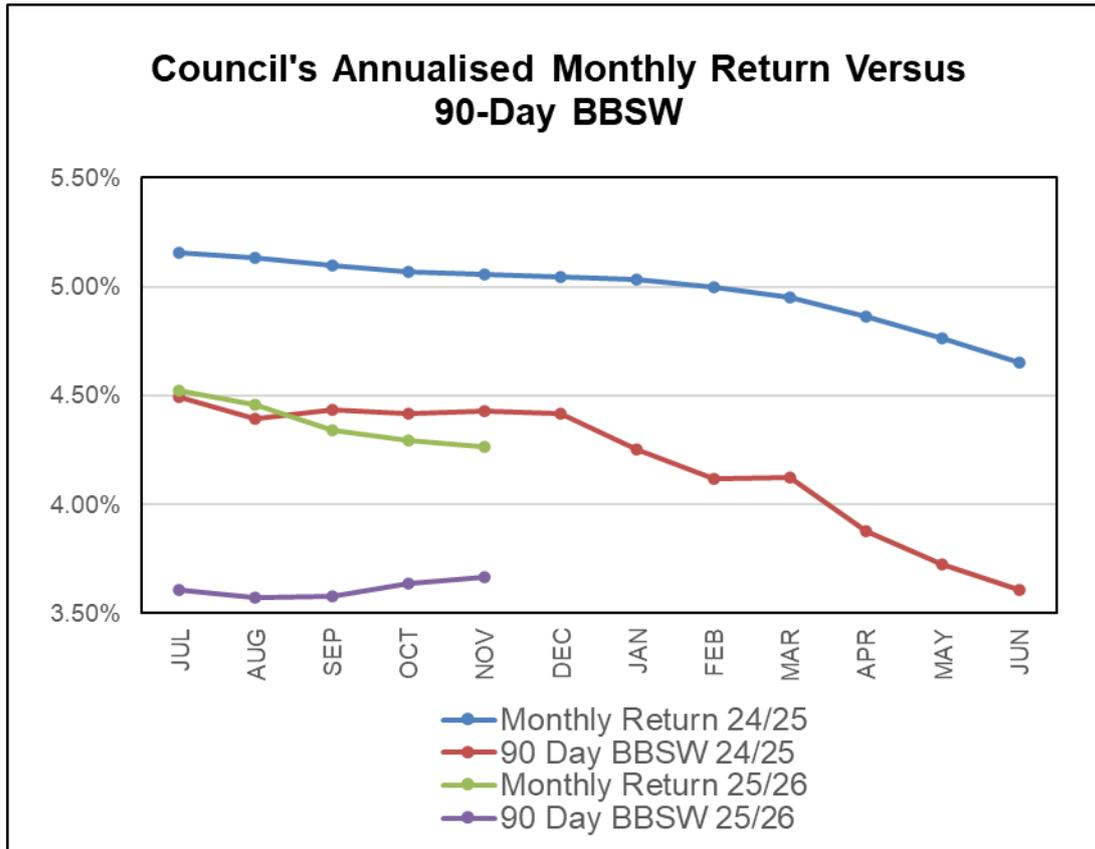
Council’s total investment and cash position as of 30 November 2025 is \$35,427,020.

Interest on cash and investments accrued for the month of November was \$117,755. Year to date the total interest accrued on cash and investments is \$619,176.

Council’s monthly net return on Term Deposits (annualised) for November was 4.26% which outperformed the 90-day Bank Bill Swap Rate of 3.66%.

Significant cash inflows from grant funded programs for the month of November included:

Funding Program	\$
Financial Assistance Grant – Q2	483,719



Register Of Investments and Cash as of 30 November 2025					
Institution	Method	Rating	Maturity	Amount \$	Interest Rate
MyState Bank Ltd	Curve	A2/BBB+	02/12/2025	500,000	5.100%
Auswide Bank Ltd	IAM	A2/BBB+	09/12/2025	500,000	4.250%
Auswide Bank Ltd	IAM	A2/BBB+	09/12/2025	500,000	5.110%
IMB Bank Ltd	Direct	A2/BBB+	16/12/2025	500,000	4.100%
Bank of Queensland	Curve	A2/A-	16/12/2025	500,000	4.650%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	06/01/2026	500,000	4.580%
B & A Bank	Curve	A2/A-	13/01/2026	500,000	4.100%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	13/01/2026	500,000	4.290%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	20/01/2026	500,000	4.090%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	20/01/2026	500,000	4.280%
Bank of Queensland	Curve	A2/A-	27/01/2026	500,000	4.250%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	27/01/2026	500,000	4.900%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	03/02/2026	500,000	4.110%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	03/02/2026	500,000	4.300%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	10/02/2026	500,000	4.300%
B & A Bank	IAM	A2/A-	17/02/2026	500,000	4.100%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	17/02/2026	500,000	4.770%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	24/02/2026	500,000	4.200%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	24/02/2026	500,000	4.740%
Defence Bank Ltd	Curve	A2/BBB+	03/03/2026	500,000	4.100%
Reliance Bank	Direct	Unrated	03/03/2026	500,000	4.650%
ING Bank	IAM	A1/A	10/03/2026	500,000	4.650%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	17/03/2026	500,000	4.200%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	17/03/2026	500,000	4.220%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	24/03/2026	500,000	3.990%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	24/03/2026	500,000	4.150%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	31/03/2026	500,000	4.000%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	31/03/2026	500,000	4.570%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	07/04/2026	500,000	4.180%
IMB Bank Ltd	Direct	A2/BBB+	14/04/2026	500,000	4.050%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	14/04/2026	500,000	4.160%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	21/04/2026	500,000	4.080%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	28/04/2026	500,000	4.170%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	05/05/2026	500,000	4.020%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	12/05/2026	500,000	4.120%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	19/05/2026	500,000	4.140%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	26/05/2026	500,000	4.200%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	02/06/2026	500,000	4.200%
ING Bank	IAM	A1/A	09/06/2026	500,000	4.050%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	16/06/2026	500,000	3.990%
Bank of Queensland	Curve	A2/A-	23/06/2026	500,000	4.300%
MyState Bank Ltd	Curve	A2/BBB+	30/06/2026	500,000	4.200%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	07/07/2026	500,000	4.050%
ING Bank	Curve	A1/A	14/07/2026	500,000	4.130%
ING Bank	Curve	A1/A	21/07/2026	500,000	4.150%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	28/07/2026	500,000	4.200%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	04/08/2026	500,000	4.120%

NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	11/08/2026	500,000	4.250%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	18/08/2026	500,000	4.160%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	25/08/2026	500,000	4.090%
ING Bank	Curve	A1/A	08/09/2026	500,000	3.960%
Reliance Bank	Direct	Unrated	15/09/2026	500,000	4.200%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	29/09/2026	500,000	4.130%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	06/10/2026	500,000	4.230%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	13/10/2026	500,000	4.130%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	20/10/2026	500,000	4.350%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	27/10/2026	500,000	4.150%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	03/11/2026	500,000	4.340%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	04/11/2026	500,000	4.250%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	10/11/2026	500,000	4.360%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	17/11/2026	500,000	4.250%
Total Investments				30,500,000	4.264%
Commonwealth Bank - At Call Account ⁽¹⁾				607,706	3.500%
Commonwealth Bank Balance - General ⁽¹⁾				3,809,370	3.450%
Reliance Bank ⁽¹⁾				509,944	0.000%
Total Cash and Investments⁽²⁾				35,427,020	
Benchmarks:		BBSW 90 Day Index ⁽¹⁾			3.663%
		RBA Cash Rate ⁽¹⁾			3.600%

1. % Interest rates as at end of reporting period.

2. Total cash reported as per bank statements at the reporting date.

Summary of Investment (Cash) Movements - November 2025		
Financial Institution	Amount \$	Commentary
NAB	(517,490)	Term deposit matured 04/11/2025
NAB	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 04/11/2025
Westpac	(506,651)	Term deposit matured 04/11/2025
Westpac	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 04/11/2025
Westpac	(525,679)	Term deposit matured 11/11/2025
Westpac	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 11/11/2025
NAB	(517,090)	Term deposit matured 18/11/2025
NAB	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 18/11/2025
BOQ	(517,441)	Term deposit matured 25/11/2025
BOQ	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 25/11/2025
Westpac	(515,948)	Term deposit matured 25/11/2025
Westpac	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 25/11/2025

Long Term Credit Rating (or Moody's, Fitch, S&P or Equivalent)	Policy Maximum %	Current Holding %	Current Holding \$
TCorp IM Funds	100%	0%	-
AAA – AA Category	100%	69%	21,000,000
A- Category	40%	16%	5,000,000
BBB+ Category	25%	11%	3,500,000
BBB Category	5%	0%	-
BBB- Category and below: Local ^(a) ADI's	10%	3%	1,000,000
BBB+ / BBB / BBB- & below categories combined	25%	15%	
a. ADI's located within the Local Government Area			30,500,000

Individual Institution Limit	Rating	Policy Maximum \$	Current Holding \$
Auswide Bank	A2/BBB+	1,000,000	1,000,000
Bank of Queensland	A2/A-	3,000,000	1,500,000
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank	A2/A-	3,000,000	1,000,000
CBA	A1+/AA-	8,000,000	5,000,000
Defence Bank Ltd	A2/BBB+	1,000,000	500,000
IMB Bank Ltd	A2/BBB+	1,000,000	1,000,000
ING Bank	A1/A	3,000,000	2,500,000
MyState Bank Ltd	A2/BBB+	1,000,000	1,000,000
NAB	A1+/AA-	8,000,000	8,000,000
Reliance Bank	Unrated	1,000,000	1,000,000
Westpac	A1+/AA-	8,000,000	8,000,000
Total Investments			30,500,000

Summary of Restricted, Allocated and Unrestricted Cash & Investments			
	Actual ⁽⁴⁾ 30/06/2025 \$ 000's	Actual 30/11/2025 \$ 000's	Forecast ⁽³⁾ 30/06/2026 \$ 000's
External Cash Restrictions	14,619	14,565	11,991
Internal Cash Allocations	16,064	13,787	6,557
Total Restricted, Allocated Cash & Investments	30,683	28,352	18,548
Unrestricted Cash	2,852	7,075	4,582
Total Restricted, Allocated and Unrestricted Cash & Investments	33,535	35,427	23,130

3. Balances forecasted are informed by the Long-Term Financial Plan and based on the best available information at time of preparation.

4. Balances are per the audited 2024/25 Financial Statements.

CERTIFICATION – RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER

I, Tiffany Irlam, certify that the investments listed in this report have been made in accordance with s.625 of the Local Government Act (1993), the Local Government (General) Regulation (2021) and Council Policy.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

The Responsible Accounting Officer must table a written report to Council on money invested pursuant to s.625 of the Local Government Act (1993). Investments made are in accord with the framework established within Council's Investment Policy.

Budget Implications:

A good investment strategy optimises Council's return on investments.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

05) ADOPTION OF CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

Department: Corporate Services

Author: Director Corporate Services

CSP Link: 2. A connected, healthy and inclusive community

File No: GO.PO.1

Recommendation:

That Council adopt the Code of Meeting Practice and it be updated to Council's Policy Register.

Reason for Report:

For Council to adopt the revised Code of Meeting Practice that reflects the new requirements under the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

Report:

Council at its meeting held 28 October 2025 endorsed the Draft Code of Meeting Practice for the prescribed period of public exhibition. The closing date for submissions is 15 December 2025 and at the time of report preparation no submissions were received.

Should a submission be received following issue of the Business paper the submission will be distributed under separate cover.

There was however an error identified in clause 3.1 - Time of ordinary council meetings. The attached document proposes amendment of this clause to reflect that *where a Council meeting falls on a Tuesday that is a public holiday, the Council meeting shall be held as otherwise determined.*

The objective of the Code of Meeting Practice is to provide a model for the convening and conduct of Council and Committee meetings. It establishes policy and guidelines for Council and promotes accountability to the community.

The revised Code reflects the recently released Code of Meeting Practice by the Office of Local Government and ensures consistency with best practice standards, increases transparency in decision-making, and reflects the current operational environment, including hybrid meetings and greater community expectations for accessibility and accountability.

The commencement date for the new code is 1 January 2026, whether or not Council has adopted its policy.

A copy of the draft Code of Meeting Practice is attached for reference.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Council is required to adopt a code of meeting practice that incorporates the mandatory provisions of the Model Meeting Code prescribed by the Regulation. A council's adopted meeting code must not contain provisions that are inconsistent with the mandatory provisions.

Risk of Extended Meetings

As reported previously, with the discontinuation of Councillor briefing sessions, there is an inherent risk that formal Council meetings may become significantly longer.

In the absence of a dedicated opportunity to discuss complex matters and seek clarification in advance, more time is likely to be spent during the formal session addressing questions that would previously have been resolved through briefings.

Extended meetings have potential to impact decision-making quality, staff and Councillor fatigue, resourcing and the overall safety and welfare particularly for those travelling after hours.

To mitigate these risks and maintain effective governance practices, Council may wish to consider alternative meeting arrangements, such as the introduction of daytime meetings or earlier start times, to support informed deliberation while upholding other obligations.

This can be considered in August or September 2026 when Council sets the next 12 months of meeting dates and time.

Budget Implications:

There are no significant financial implications associated with the exhibition or adoption of the draft Code of Meeting Practice. Costs will be limited to advertising and administrative support, which are within existing budget allocations in Council's 2025/26 Operational Plan.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

1 Code of Meeting Practice

51 Pages

06) REVIEW OF COUNCIL POLICIES**Department:** Corporate Services**Author:** Director Corporate Services**CSP Link:** 1. Prioritise transparency, financial sustainability and strong partnerships with and for our community**File No:** GO.PO.1**Recommendation:**

That Council;

1. Endorse the following policies and place them on public exhibition for a period of not less than 42 days.

Policy Name
Artificial Intelligence Policy
Pensioner and Hardship Policy
Privacy Management Plan
Road Hierarchy, Renewal and Maintenance Policy
Planning Agreement Policy
Pathway Hierarchy, Standard and Maintenance Policy
Fitness Instructors and Group Trainers Policy
Recycled Water Policy

2. Provided no submissions are received, adopt the policies and update Council's Policy Register.

Reason for Report:

For the Council to review and endorse Council's strategic policies for adoption, subject to public exhibition.

Report:

Council has undertaken a review of policies as shown below as part of the policy review program.

In the interest of public transparency, the following policies would normally be proposed for public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days. Given the holiday season it is proposed that this be extended to 42 days.

The following new policy is submitted for consideration by Council:

Policy	Objective	Comment
AI Policy	To establish the strategic framework for governing artificial intelligence (AI) use across Council, ensuring privacy, security, accountability and public trust.	Policy modelled on document provided by the CNSWJO Chief Information Security Officer.

The following existing policies proposed are with minimal changes since last adopted and amendments are tracked in the document for reference:

Policy	Objective	Comment
Pensioner and hardship Policy	To provide a framework in response to applications from property owners, ratepayers and customers experiencing genuine hardship in meeting their commitment to payment of their rates, annual charges and fees to Council.	Minor amendments made.
Privacy Management Plan	To ensure Council information is used in accordance with the principles of open and transparent government, within the parameters of confidentiality and the Privacy and Personal Information Act, 1998.	Minor amendments made.
Road Hierarchy, Renewal and Maintenance Policy	To provide a framework around maintenance of public roads to ensure compliance with relevant legislative requirements, within financial constraints, and as determined in Council's Transportation Asset Management Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan.	Minor amendments made.
Planning Agreement Policy	To provide a clear framework and sound governance for the negotiation and management of planning agreements in the Blayney local government area.	Minor amendments made.
Pathway Hierarchy, Standard and Maintenance Policy	To outline Council's level of service for pathway maintenance activities and details procedures for the management of the pathway network and related infrastructure.	Minor amendments made.
Fitness Instructors and Group Trainers Policy	To provide a framework for the effective management of the commercial use of Blayney Shire Council's Parks and other Public Open Spaces, for personal and group fitness training activities, and to minimise the disturbance of the general public's use of these facilities	Minor amendments made.
Recycled Water Policy	To detail the requirements for managing Council's recycled water system.	Minor amendments made.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Nil

Budget Implications:

Nil

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

1	Draft Artificial Intelligence Policy	4 Pages
2	Draft Pensioner and Hardship	5 Pages
3	Draft Privacy Management Plan	58 Pages
4	Draft Road Hierarchy Renewal and Maintenance policy	12 Pages
5	Draft Planning Agreement Policy	16 Pages
6	Draft Pathway Hierarchy, Standard and Maintenance Policy	7 Pages
7	Draft Fitness Instructors and Group Trainers Policy	7 Pages
8	Draft Recycled Water Policy	5 Pages

07) ADOPTION OF UNREASONABLE AND UNREASONABLY PERSISTENT CUSTOMER POLICY

Department: Corporate Services

Author: Director Corporate Services

CSP Link: 1. Prioritise transparency, financial sustainability and strong partnerships with and for our community

File No: GO.PO.1

Recommendation:

That Council;

1. Receive the report on Adoption of the Unreasonable and Unreasonably Persistent Customer Policy;
2. Note the one submission on the Adoption of the Unreasonable and Unreasonably Persistent Customer Policy received during the public exhibition period;
3. Adopt the Unreasonable and Unreasonably Persistent Customer Policy and it be included in Council's policy register.

Reason for Report:

For Council to consider the submission received during the period of public exhibition and consider adoption of the Unreasonable and Unreasonably Persistent Customer Policy.

Report:

Council at its meeting held 28 October 2025 resolved to endorse the Unreasonable and Unreasonably Persistent Customer Policy and place it on public exhibition.

The Policy is a commitment to:

- Ensuring that all customers are treated fairly and reasonably.
- Providing guidance, education and training as appropriate for staff and Councillors in dealing with customers.
- Ensuring that Council resources are used efficiently and effectively when dealing with customers.
- That unreasonable requests, persistent behaviour and harassment is reduced.

The closing date for submissions was 1 December 2025 and at the conclusion of this period 1 submission had been received.

The submission is a detailed document concerning the Unreasonable and Unreasonably Persistent Customer Policy. It outlines the author's background and extensive experience as a Councillor at a number of councils, a professional, and a complainant, and contends that Council should not have such a policy.

The submission is recommended for notation with no amendments to the policy.

A copy of the Adoption of the Unreasonable and Unreasonably Persistent Customer Policy and submission are provided as an attachment to this business paper.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

The policy represents an important commitment by Council to ensure customers are treated fairly and reasonably, while also promoting the efficient and effective use of Council resources and safeguarding staff from abuse, stress, and unreasonable behaviour.

Budget Implications:

Nil

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

- 1 Submission - Unreasonable and Unreasonably Persistent Customer Policy 7 Pages

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) (e) of the Local Government Act, as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law.

08) SUSTAINABLE COLLECTIONS PROJECT 2026 - 2027

Department: Corporate Services

Author: Director Corporate Services

CSP Link: 1. Prioritise transparency, financial sustainability and strong partnerships with and for our community

File No: RC.MG.2

Recommendation:

That Council;

1. Provide in-principle support for contribution towards the Sustainable Collections Project of \$10k per annum, for 2 years, commencing 2026/27; and
2. Refer the consideration of the request for funding to the 2026/27 – 2029/30 Delivery Plan and 2026/27 Operational Plan deliberations.

Reason for Report:

For Council to be updated on the revitalisation of the Sustainable Collections Project and a request by Orange City Council for a contribution of \$10k per annum, for 2 years, commencing 2026/27 as part of a joint funding arrangement.

Report:

Council has been advised that the Orange City Council has been successful in sourcing grant funding through Create NSW for the Sustainable Collections Project.

The project entails supporting 12 museums across the Orange, Blayney and Cabonne local government areas and will focus on disaster preparation, paper conservation and conservation.

An amount of \$25k p.a. in grant funding, through Create NSW, has been allocated and with contributions in the amount of \$10k p.a., over 2 years, sought from Orange City Council (OCC), Cabonne Council and Blayney Shire Council.

The Sustainable Collections Project was a successful program that was run from as early as 2007/08 with the last round of grant funding with contributions from councils in the period 2014/15 – 2016/17.

The program has provided invaluable support, professional expertise and capacity building for volunteer museum and history groups. In the following years, after discontinuation of grant funding, OCC still provided limited support to groups, be it at a significantly smaller scale within existing staff resource allocation.

A report and program budget and benefits summary, from Orange City Council's Community Museum and Heritage Manager, are attached and provide a more detailed outline of the proposed program.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Council's participation in the program is integral for the compliance with conditions of grant funding sourced.

Budget Implications:

Council has no provision for this activity in its forward financial plan. Funding of this project will require an additional vote of funds in the 2026/27 and 2027/28 years. An amount of \$25k in grant funding has been sourced for the Sustainable Collections Project on the basis of individual contributions of \$10k by Orange, Cabonne and Blayney Councils.

Enclosures (following report)

- | | | |
|---|--|---------|
| 1 | OCC Community Museum and Heritage Manager Report | 4 Pages |
| 2 | Program budget and benefits for museums and councils | 2 Pages |

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

D25/147089

REPORT TO: BLAYNEY COUNCIL MEETING
FROM: ORANGE CITY COUNCIL, MUSEUM & HERITAGE MANAGER
DATE: 16 DECEMBER 2025
SUBJECT: FUNDING REQUEST FOR THE SUSTAINABLE COLLECTIONS PROGRAM (SCP) 2026- 2027

Executive Summary

This report seeks continued financial support of \$10,000 each from Cabonne and Blayney Councils to support the delivery of the Sustainable Collections Program (SCP) for the financial years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027. Orange City Council has committed a financial contribution of \$10,000 in its 2025–2026 and 2026-2027 delivery plan (total \$20,000). This would result in a combined council contribution of \$30,000.00 each year to match a successful funding application from Create NSW of \$25,000 for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027. Total of \$55,000 per year or \$110,000 for the 2-year program.

The main aim of the SCP is to strengthen regional cultural infrastructure by fostering long-term sustainability and a shared sense of custodianship over the region’s heritage. Facilitated by Orange City Council’s Community Museum and Heritage Unit the SCP will provide curatorial, hands-on collections support and documentation, digitisation assistance and training to volunteers to help strengthen local cultural infrastructure, fostering long-term sustainability and a shared sense of custodianship over the region’s heritage.

This report outlines the Sustainable Collections Program (SCP), its strategic benefits, recent survey insights, and a funding recommendation. The SCP is a collaborative initiative supporting 12 volunteer-run museums across Orange, Blayney, and Cabonne. It provides essential services such as collection documentation, digitisation, preventive conservation, and volunteer training. Continued funding is critical to preserve heritage and strengthen our regional cultural infrastructure.

Project Overview

The SCP has operated for 17 years, delivering curatorial support, digitisation assistance, and training to local museums. These activities safeguard historical collections, improve public access, and build resilience against risks such as volunteer shortages and natural disasters. The program also fosters cultural tourism and community engagement, contributing to regional identity and education.

This program acknowledges that the region’s heritage and museum collections are important community assets that need improved documentation and management to sustain their value and significance in the future. A particular concern is that the history and provenance of many items in the collections is not well recorded and is at risk of being lost forever as volunteer’s age.

The funding has supported the engagement of a Collections Officer to provide collection documentation services and the provision of expert museum advice to museums across Orange Blayney and Cabonne Council areas, museums across the LGAs include:

Museum Network

- Orange & District Historical Society
- Orange RSL Museum
- Bloomfield Hospital Collection
- Blayney Local and Family History Society
- Viv Kable Collection
- Carcoar Hospital Museum
- Carcoar Court House
- Stoke Stable, Carcoar
- Golden Memories Museum, Millthorpe
- Molong & District Historical Society and Museum
- Molong and District Servicemen and Servicewomen's Portrait Gallery
- Canowindra & District Historical Society Museum
- Cudal Food and Wine Centre
- Eugowra Historical Museum and Bushranger Centre

The program for 2026-2027

The Sustainable Collections Program will deliver a coordinated regional museum initiative that strengthens heritage preservation, access, and engagement across Orange, Cabonne, and Blayney Council areas. Outcomes include continued support for 12 volunteer-run museums through documentation, digitisation, and preventive conservation, alongside quarterly network meetings and tailored training programs such as paper conservation and disaster resilience workshops. The program for the two-year period will include:

- Continued website maintenance - 2-year program
[Central NSW Museums](#)
- Social media marketing of events and programs – 2-year program
[\(20+\) Facebook](#)
- Printing of catalogue sheets and newsletters – 2-year program
- Facilitation of Regional Network meetings (4 meetings per annum) – 2-year program including catering
- Administration of the SCP program – 2 years

Workshops:

- Collections care workshop (Paper objects) – consultant x 1 day (including planning, accommodation, and travel and workshop catering) – Year 1
- Disaster planning workshop – consultant x 2 days (including planning, accommodation, travel and catering – Tegan Anthes) – Kay Soderland

Staffing:

- Collection documentation – staff member – 2-year program x 15 hours per week x 42 weeks including travel
- Orange City Council provides significant in-kind support for the Sustainable Collections Program, valued at approximately \$20,000 annually). This includes staff time for program administration, coordination of regional network meetings, operational advice, facilitation of workshops, and museum site visits.

Strategic Benefits of the SCP

Benefits of the SCP include:

Digitisation and online access to collections

- Preservation of heritage collections and improved documentation – thousands of items photographed, documented and digitized on eHive Collection Management System [Central NSW Museums | eHive](#)
- Increased cultural tourism and community engagement

Volunteer training and capacity building.

- Specialist conservation workshops (e.g., WWI object care, archival care, paper conservation)
- Comprehensive audits and strategic planning for regional museums (2008, 2019, 2023)

Exhibition development

- Major collaborative exhibitions: Journeys: People, Place, Stories (2016); Paddock to Plate (2018); Watermarks (2005); Orange Blossoms (2009).
 - Development of interpretive panels and thematic programs (e.g., Villages of the Heart)

Governance and Capacity Building

- Regular Regional Museum Network meetings (4 per year) for planning and peer exchange
- Training in collection management systems (Mosaic, eHive), social media, and significance statements
- Support for grant writing and strategic planning for individual museums

Key Survey Findings

- Recent feedback from survey undertaken with participating museums in 2024 highlights:
 - 70% noted increased volunteer confidence through training
 - The average number of new volunteers in the past two years is 2.75 across the network of regional museums. Most of the volunteers are aged over 70
 - Less than 40% of the collections are catalogued online
 - There are no paid staff in any museums

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- The main source of income for most museums is admission fees and grant funding, one museum relies on café income
- 60% indicated that better disaster preparedness would result from workshops
- Two (2) museums don't own a photocopier; one doesn't have a computer.

Recommendation

That Blayney Council considers allocating funding for the Sustainable Collections Program over the next 2 years of \$10,000 per year.



Alison Russell

**COMMUNITY MUSEUM AND HERITAGE MANAGER
ORANGE CITY COUNCIL**

SUSTAINABLE COLLECTIONS PROGRAM

	Year 1 - 2026	Year 2 - 2027	Benefits to the Council
Program Income			<p>The benefits outlined are all interconnected through the Sustainable Collections Project, which provides a comprehensive framework for strengthening regional heritage. By building digital access and improving documentation, the program enhances visibility and educational use of collections while fostering inclusive storytelling. Its focus on conservation training and disaster preparedness ensures cultural preservation and resilience, supporting continuity in times of crisis. Through on-site support and workshops, the project develops volunteer capacity, encourages intergenerational knowledge-sharing, and promotes pride in local heritage. At the same time, it strengthens regional collaboration, professional development, and long-term digital infrastructure, ensuring sustainability and community-led cultural practice across the Central West.</p>
Contributions:			
Blayney Shire Council	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
Orange City Council	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
Cabonne Council	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
Create NSW	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	
Total income:	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	
Program expenditure			<p>This program will build digital access to regional collections; supports cultural preservation and disaster resilience; increases engagement with local heritage through digitisation; enables inclusive storytelling and education through improved documentation; fosters volunteer skills and knowledge-sharing across generations</p> <p>The program will provide on-site support to volunteer museums to build capacity in documentation, digitisation, and care of collections</p> <p>This workshop will build conservation knowledge and practical skills; enhances long-term care of local collections; encourages pride in and stewardship of regional heritage; supports skills development in the cultural sector.</p> <p>This workshop builds local resilience and preparedness for climate-related emergencies; supports cultural continuity and recovery after disaster; encourages cross-institutional collaboration and knowledge-sharing; strengthens confidence in collection care and community cultural leadership.</p>
Staffing for collection documentation			
Collection documentation (estimated) - 1 staff - 2 year program	\$ 49,781	\$ 49,781	
<p>to be shared across Orange Blayney and Cabonne Councils</p> <p>Blayney Council - working with Golden Memories Museum, Blayney Local and Family History Group, Carcoar Hospital Museum, Carcoar Court House, Stoke Stable and would like to investigate the Carmenhurst Room and Viv Kable Collection if necessary.</p>			
Workshops:			
Paper Conservation Workshop including, preparation, [redacted]	\$ 4,800		
- Museums of Orange Blayney and Cabonne Councils			
<p><i>Workshop includes - Agents of deterioration that impact paper-based objects and archives, Storage and handling of paper-based objects, basic conservation methods including cleaning, tape and staple removal, flattening and tear repair</i></p>			
Lets Get Prepared Workshop - Disaster Planning workshop, consultant x 1 full day workshop and 2x 1/2 day site visits and workshop planning		\$ 4,300	
<p><i>This workshop will provide an opportunity for volunteers to discuss collection risks and concerns and develop preventative strategies.</i></p> <p>Travel and expenses</p>			
	\$ 550	\$ 1,500	
Total program expenditure:	\$ 55,131	\$ 55,581	

SUSTAINABLE COLLECTIONS PROGRAM

	Year 1 - 2026	Year 2 - 2027	Benefits to the Council
<u>In-kind by Orange City Council</u>			
Continued website maintenance and updating of events and programs ██████████	\$ 720	\$ 720	Enables growth and visibility of regional collections online; supports digital inclusion and community storytelling; facilitates intergenerational volunteering and knowledge exchange; enhances public access and educational use of museum collections; strengthens the long-term digital infrastructure of regional museums.
Social media marketing of events and programs – 2-year program ██████████	\$ 720	\$ 720	
Printing of catalogue sheets and newsletters – 2-year program	\$ 500	\$ 500	Printing divided between the three Councils
Facilitation of Regional Network meetings (4 meetings per annum) – 2-year program including catering, staff attending meetings)	\$ 1,920	\$ 1,920	Strengthens regional collaboration and peer networks; builds volunteer capacity through shared learning and exchange; recognises and supports the contribution of regional volunteers; promotes sustainability and community-led cultural practice.
Administration of the SCP program – 2 years includes, supervising staff, consultants, program administration, coordination of regional network meetings, operational advice, facilitation of workshops and museum site visits and travel expenses. 14 days ██████████	\$ 7,280	\$ 7,280	Supports sector capacity-building through skills exchange; fosters collaboration between institutions; strengthens professional development opportunities in the Central West
Recruitment and management of Collections Officer, provide conservation and operations advice, and report writing ██████████	\$ 8,871	\$ 8,871	
Attend Paper Conservation and Let's Get Prepared Workshops x 3 days	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	
Museum site visits with Collections Officer x 8 -10 per year	\$ 4,800	\$ 4,800	
Total in-kind support:	\$ 26,011	\$ 26,011	

09) REDMOND OVAL LICENCE: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Department: Corporate Services

Author: Director Corporate Services

CSP Link: 1. Prioritise transparency, financial sustainability and strong partnerships with and for our community

File No: PM.LO.6

Recommendation:

That Council;

1. Acting in its capacity as Crown Reserve Manager, consent to a licence being issued to Minister for Education and Early Learning for a period of twenty one (21) years for part of Crown Reserve R29953 (part Lot 235 DP 750384) known as Unnamed Reserve (Redmond Oval).
2. Acting in its capacity as Crown Reserve Manager, apply a licence fee of \$622 (including GST) per annum being the statutory minimum rental prescribed.
3. Endorse the Director Corporate Services to finalise the Licence agreement terms with the Minister for Education and Early Learning.
4. Authorise the Mayor and General Manager to sign and execute the Licence and affix the Council Seal, if required.

Reason for Report:

To obtain Council approval, as Crown Reserve Manager, for the issue of a licence for 21 years to the Minister for Education and Early Learning, for Part Redmond Oval as conditioned within DA 63/2021 consent.

Report:

In October 2023 Council approved a 1 year licence to the Minister for Education and Early Learning for use of part of the Redmond Oval (Crown Reserve No 29953). The arrangement originates from a condition of DA 63/2021 for Millthorpe School Redevelopment that required a licence for use of the parking area to be entered into.

A lengthy term was sought for the licence however was not possible until the Plan of Management, adopted by Council in April 2025, was finalised. The maximum period of 21 years is now proposed for this arrangement. A licence in this matter is considered the best solution as it allows the area to be available to other users of the reserve and does not confer exclusive use.

The licence fee sought is that associated with the previous existing licence. Crown Lands NSW requires a statutory minimum licence of \$622 (2025/26) to be included in the licence.



PROPOSED LEASE AREA OF REDMOND OVAL

AREA OF LEASE



AREA TO BE LEASED
APPROX. 1800 M²

Each party are to bear the financial responsibility for payment of all outgoings associated with preparation of the licence. Council will bear all costs associated with maintenance of the licence area.

The existing licence is proposed for endorsement however may be subject to review and amendment requests by the Department of Planning and Environment – Crown Lands and / or NSW Education. To this end, Council approval for the General Manager is sought for minor amendments to finalise the agreement.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

The Crown Reserve manager system provides a framework for Council to participate in the management of reserves in our local government area. A reserve manager is the legal body holding ownership of reserved or dedicated Crown land on a temporary basis (being for the life of that reserve trust), for the purposes of facilitating the management of the land on behalf of the public.

The Crown Reserve Manager is set up under the Crown Land Management Act 2016 to have responsibility for the care, control and management of a Crown reserve. A manager can only make decisions and take actions concerning the reserve, if those decisions and actions are in the interests of the reserve and the public and are consistent with the range of powers and responsibilities set out in the Crown Land Management Act 2016.

Budget Implications:

All costs associated with preparation of the licence is to be borne by each party. The licensee will be required to pay a licence of \$622. All costs associated with maintenance of the Redmond Oval including the licence area remain with Council.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

1 Draft Licence for Redmond Oval - Education 31 Pages

10) REVIEW OF AUDIT RISK, AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE**Department:** Corporate Services**Author:** Director Corporate Services**CSP Link:** 1. Prioritise transparency, financial sustainability and strong partnerships with and for our community**File No:** CM.ME.17**Recommendation:**

That Council;

1. Receive the report of the Review of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.
2. Amend the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Terms of Reference – Clause 9.2 Dispute Resolution as follows:
 - a. Delete:
“In the event of a disagreement between the committee and the General Manager or other senior managers, the dispute is to be resolved by the governing body.”
 - b. Add:
“In the event of a disagreement between the committee and the General Manager, the dispute is to be resolved by the governing body.

In the event of a disagreement between the committee and Council staff, excluding the General Manager, the dispute is to be resolved by the General Manager”.
3. Arrange for the Mayor and Independent Chair of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee to meet prior to the next meeting to discuss outcomes of the Review of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

Reason for Report:

For Council to receive a report of the Review of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee and approve amendment of the Terms of Reference, as recommended.

Report:

Council at its meeting held 23 June 2025 (resolution 2506/011) resolved:

That Council;

-
3. *In accordance with 9.5 of the ARIC terms of reference undertake a review of the effectiveness of the ARIC including a review of the terms of reference. The review Committee is to comprise the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Johnston, the General Manager and the Director Corporate Services, with a report back to Council.*

Meetings of the panel were held during the ensuing period with recommendations made on future operations of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC).

Of significance was an anomaly found in the ARIC Terms of Reference under clause 9.2 Dispute Resolution that states:

“In the event of a disagreement between the committee and the General Manager or other senior managers, the dispute is to be resolved by the governing body.”

The panel has recommended that the above wording be deleted in the Terms of Reference clause 9.2 and be replaced with:

“In the event of a disagreement between the committee and the General Manager, the dispute is to be resolved by the governing body.

In the event of a disagreement between the committee and Council staff, excluding the General Manager, the dispute is to be resolved by the General Manager”.

Of the other recommendations, it is proposed that the Mayor and General Manager work with the newly appointed ARIC Chair on minor amendments to the committee meeting process.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

The Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (the Committee) has been established to promote good corporate governance in Council. Good corporate governance of the Council ensures that the people of Blayney Shire receive the services that they need in an effective and efficient manner, delivered with honesty and integrity.

The objective of the Committee is to provide independent assurance and assistance to Council with respect to the following key areas as per Section 428A of the Local Government Act 1993.

The Committee is an independent advisory committee that assists the Council to fulfil its oversight responsibilities.

Budget Implications:

Costs associated with holding of Committee meetings, sitting fees for independent members and associated service reviews / audits are provided for in Council's 2025/26 Operational Plan for this purpose.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

- 1 Recommendations from the Review of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee 7 Pages

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) (e) of the Local Government Act, as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law.

11) MINUTES OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 13 NOVEMBER 2025

Department: Corporate Services

Author: Director Corporate Services

CSP Link: 1. Prioritise transparency, financial sustainability and strong partnerships with and for our community

File No: CM.ME.17

Recommendation:

That Council;

1. Receive the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held 13 November 2025.
2. Approve amendment of Policy 4C - Corporate Credit Card Policy to reflect that authorisation of the Mayor Credit card be amended from Chief Financial Officer to Director Corporate Services.
3. Consider whether amendments to other policies are required to address differences between policies and general accepted practices as noted in the Credit Card Compliance Review report.
4. Note the conclusion of the tenure of outgoing Chairperson, Donna Rygate, and that she be thanked for her services as both an Independent Member and Independent Chairperson of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

Reason for Report:

For Council to endorse the minutes of the Blayney Shire Audit, Risk and Improvement committee meeting held 13 November 2025.

Report:

The Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) held its meeting 13 November 2025.

Of significance to Council from this meeting were the following items:

- A Cyber Security Update from Council's Manager Information Technology and CNSWJO Chief Information Security Officer for the August to October 2025 quarter.
- A report on the 2024/25 Financial Statements and tabling of the 2025 Audit Engagement Closing Report received from the NSW Audit Office.
- Tabling of a report on Corporate Credit Card compliance activities for the period January 2025 – June 2025 by Council's Chief Financial Officer.

Outcomes from this report included:

- Recommendation for amendment to Policy 4C - Corporate Credit Card Policy to reflect that authorisation of the Mayor Credit card be amended from Chief Financial Officer to Director

- Corporate Services to ensure that future compliance reviews by the Chief Financial Officer remain impartial.
- Assessment of whether amendments to other policies are required to address differences between policies and general accepted practices noted in the Credit Card Compliance Review report.
 - Compliance Review findings to be communicated to relevant elected members and officers, together with a reminder of their compliance obligations and the impending internal audit of councillor facilities and expenses.
- Tabling of the Annual Report for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, as adopted by Council and lodged with the OLG.
 - An update on the Fraud Risk Health Assessment and appointment of National Audits Group to conduct the review.
 - A report on the review of Council’s Delegations Register and notation of policies and procedures in place for the management and exercise of delegations.
 - An update regarding superannuation payments to Committee members and the proposed approach to future payment of fees and superannuation to Committee independent members.
 - It was the final meeting for the Committee Chairperson, Donna Rygate, who has served almost 8 years on the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee. Throughout her appointment, she has served as an Independent Member and later as the Independent Chairperson.

The full business paper from the Blayney Shire Audit, Risk and Improvement committee is available to Councillors for reference on the Councillor Portal under Committee Information.

The minutes of the meeting held are tabled below:

MINUTES OF THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL AUDIT, RISK & IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ONLINE 13 NOVEMBER 2025, COMMENCING AT 9:04 AM

Present:

Donna Rygate	Independent - Chairperson
Stephen Coates	Independent member
Liz Jeremy	Independent member
Cr. John Newstead	Councillor - non-voting
Ron Gillard	Observer (Future Chairperson)
Anton Franze	Director Corporate Services – Secretariat
Jacob Hogan*	Director Infrastructure Services - SME
Tiffany Irlam*	Chief Financial Officer – SME
Morgan Lee Hewitt*	Trainee Finance Officer – SME
Vicki Walker*	WHS & Risk Coordinator – SME
Glenn Newman*	Manager Information Technology - SME
Jordan Welden-Iley*	Chief Information Security Officer, Central NSW Joint Organisation – SME
Marvic Estocapio*	Intentus (External Audit Service Provider for NSW Audit Office) – SME

SME – subject matter expert.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

APOLOGIES

Mark Dicker	General Manager - non-voting observer
Cr. Bruce Reynolds	Mayor - non-voting observer

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

The following standing Disclosure of Interests were reported:

Committee Member/Staff	Interest	Item	Pg	Report	Reason
D. Rygate		-	-	-	Chair of Cabonne Shire Council, Upper Macquarie County Council and Central Tablelands Water ARIC Committees (Standing disclosure).
D. Rygate		-	-	-	Member of Western Regional Planning Panel (Standing disclosure).
D. Rygate		-	-	-	Member of Energy Co Board (Standing disclosure).
D. Rygate		-	-	-	Chair of Central Tablelands Local Land Services (LLS) and member of Statewide Board (Standing disclosure).
D. Rygate		-	-	-	Chair of Audit Committee, Service NSW (Standing disclosure).

Minutes are adopted by consensus unless stated otherwise.

Confirmation of Minutes

2511/001 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 14 AUGUST 2025

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held 14 August 2025 be received.

Reports

2511/002 WHS AND RISK REPORT

Recommendation:

That the WHS and Risk Report be received.

2511/003 CYBER SECURITY UPDATE

Recommendation:

That the Committee note the Cyber Security Update and CNSWJO Chief Information Security Officer update for the August to October 2025 quarter.

2511/004 **FINANCE ACTIVITIES REPORT: AUGUST 2025 - NOVEMBER 2025****Recommendation:**

That the Finance Activities report for period August 2025 – November 2025 be received.

2511/005 **2024/25 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND ENGAGEMENT CLOSING REPORT****Recommendation:**

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee notes report on the 2024/25 Financial Statements and the 2025 Audit Engagement Closing Report received from the NSW Audit Office.

Marvic Estocapio (Intentus) left meeting at 9.46am

2511/006 **CORPORATE CREDIT CARD COMPLIANCE REVIEW JANUARY - JUNE 2025****Recommendation:**

1. That the report on Corporate Credit Card compliance activities for the period January 2025 – June 2025 be received.
2. That the recommendation for amendment to Policy 4C - Corporate Credit Card Policy, to ensure that future compliance reviews by the Chief Financial Officer remain impartial, be referred to Council for action.
3. That Council consider whether amendments to other policies are required to address differences between policies and general accepted practices as noted in the Credit Card Compliance Review report.
5. That the Compliance Review findings be communicated to relevant elected members and officers, together with a reminder of their compliance obligations and the impending audit of councillor facilities and expenses.

2511/007 **BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL 2024/25 ANNUAL REPORT****Recommendation:**

That the Annual Report for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, as adopted by Council and lodged with the Office of local Government, be noted.

2511/008 **INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE: FRAUD RISK HEALTH ASSESSMENT****Recommendation:**

That the committee note:

1. The update on the Fraud Risk Health Assessment.
2. The appointment of National Audits Group to conduct the Fraud Risk Health Assessment.
3. The proposed timeframe for work to be undertaken.

2511/009 REVIEW OF DELEGATIONS REGISTER**Recommendation:**

That the Committee:

1. Note the report on the review of Council's Delegations Register.
2. Note the policies and procedures in place for the management and exercise of delegations.

2511/010 INDEPENDENT MEMBER SUPERANNUATION**Recommendation:**

That the Committee note the update regarding superannuation payments to Committee members and the proposed approach to future payment of fees and superannuation to Committee independent members.

2511/011 SCHEDULE OF OUTSTANDING AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS**Recommendation:**

That the Schedule of Outstanding Audit Recommendations report be received.

2511/012 UPDATE ON MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS**Recommendation:**

That the Update on Major Developments report be received.

2511/013 PRESCRIBED FUNCTIONS ACTIVITY REPORT**Recommendation:**

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee receive the report on Prescribed Functions outlining activities on Internal Audit, External Audit, Internal Controls, Legislative Compliance, Fraud and corruption prevention, Financial Management, Governance, Business Improvement, Service reviews and Strategic Planning.

As this was the Chair's final meeting, she extended her appreciation to the Committee, Councillors, observers, and staff for their support and contributions throughout her tenure.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 10.37am

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

The Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (the Committee) has been established to promote good corporate governance in Council. Good corporate governance of the Council ensures that the people of Blayney Shire receive the services that they need in an effective and efficient manner, delivered with honesty and integrity.

The objective of the Committee is to provide independent assurance and assistance to Council with respect to the following key areas as per Section 428A of the Local Government Act 1993. Such areas include compliance; risk management; fraud control; internal control; financial management; governance; service reviews; other matters prescribed by the regulations, and execution of Council functions.

The Committee is an independent advisory committee that assists the Council to fulfil its oversight responsibilities.

Budget Implications:

Costs associated with holding of Committee meetings, sitting fees for independent members and associated service reviews / audits are provided for in Council's 2025/26 Operational Plan for this purpose.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

12) INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT

Department: Infrastructure Services

Author: Director Infrastructure Services

CSP Link: 3. Infrastructure is resilient, fit for purpose and maintained to support our community

File No: GO.ME.1

Recommendation:

That Council note the Infrastructure Services Monthly Report for December 2025.

Reason for Report:

This report presents an update to Council on current projects, construction and maintenance activities within the Blayney Shire being managed or undertaken by Council's Infrastructure Services Department.

The report outlines work that has been carried out over the past month as well as status of major projects.

Report:

Maintenance works

Patching was undertaken on Carcoar Road, Forest Reefs Road, Belubula Way, Mandurama Road, Neville Road, Hobbys Yards Road, Barry Road, Three Brothers Road, Moorilda Road, and Wimbledon Road since the last report. Patching was also undertaken in the local streets of Blayney, Lyndhurst, and Neville. Council is still currently procuring cationic bitumen emulsion from Orange City Council.

Maintenance grading works have been undertaken on Spring Hill Road, Gartholme Road, Myers Lane, Quarry Farm Lane, Souths Lane, Bradene Road, and Gallymont Road.

No gravel resheeting works were undertaken since the last report, as Council trucks have been resourcing the completion of the Hobbys Yards Road rehabilitation project.

Roadside mowing has been completed on Hobbys Yards Road, Four Mile Creek Road, Panuara Road, Cadia Road, Burnt Yards Road, and Errowanbang Road. Some of these roads are listed as roads forming Transport Corridor Fire Breaks in Council's BFMP, and as such it was particularly prudent to mow these coming into bushfire season.

Works are underway to repair a recent failure on the entrance to Walkom Road and is likely to be reopened before Christmas.

Open Spaces and Facilities

Shadesail replacements at Heritage Park have been completed. The play train is with the Blayney Men’s Shed for restoration.

Vandalism has increased in recent weeks particularly at Heritage Park. Recent issues include frequent damage to the toilet block, destruction of multiple solar lights along the Belubula River Boardwalk and removal and damage to pavers in Carcoar Street.

A contractor for the repair of the lights at the Blayney Tennis Courts has been engaged.

Mowing remains a priority for the Parks and Gardens team.

Sewer Treatment Plant (STP)

Business as usual for the sewer treatment plant over the last month. No major issues to report. Preparatory works for the Christmas shutdown include preventative cleaning of particular sewer lines at a higher risk of blockage over the break.

Major Projects

Note: costs/budgets are reported for the current financial year only.

Rodd Street Culvert Repairs – Natural Disaster AGRN1034					
Due Date	Revised Budget YTD \$	Expenditure this Month \$	Total Expenditure YTD \$	Committed Expenditure YTD \$	Estimated Total Project Costs \$
June 2026	408,270	327	196,802	140,392	337,195
Commentary					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All works are now complete. 					
Forecast (1-3 months)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor for defects. Finalise project costings. 					

Richards Lane – R4R9					
Due Date	Revised Budget YTD \$	Expenditure this Month \$	Total Expenditure YTD \$	Committed Expenditure YTD \$	Estimated Total Project Costs \$
Dec. 2025	2,587,673	8,433	76,266	2,143,793	2,437,989
Commentary					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary items of the contract and pre-construction documentation are being compiled by the contractor for both the local road and state road portions of work. • Contractor establishment occurred 10/11/25. • Contractor working on road widening section Ch35-CH500, a variation has been instructed to rectify latent conditions found in the subgrade. • Richards Lane entrance off Millthorpe Road will be closed over the Christmas break, with residential traffic required to access Richards Lane via Crowson Street. 					
Forecast (1-3 months)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulk earthworks, cut/fills to subgrade and culvert installation. • Road pavement construction in local road section. • Approval to commence work on intersection anticipated from TfNSW in Jan 2026. 					

Hobbys Yards Road					
Due Date	Revised Budget YTD \$	Expenditure this Month \$	Total Expenditure YTD \$	Committed Expenditure YTD \$	Estimated Total Project Costs \$
June 2026	1,009,755	420,917	632,951	197,941	882,084
Commentary					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sealing was completed Thursday 4th December. • Minor items outstanding for project finalisation. 					
Forecast (1-3 months)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linemarking and signage installation still outstanding, to be completed in the new year. • Works as executed survey and drawings to be prepared. • Monitor for defects. 					

Garland Road – RERRF					
Due Date	Revised Budget YTD \$	Expenditure this Month \$	Total Expenditure YTD \$	Committed Expenditure YTD \$	Estimated Total Project Costs \$
June 2026	761,197	1,708	2,166	90,471	739,977
Commentary					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop design issued for delivery. • Preliminary drainage works underway prior to commencement of roadworks in January 2026. 					
Forecast (1-3 months)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commencement of roadworks in new calendar year. 					

Tallwood Road – RERRF^[1]					
Due Date	Revised Budget YTD \$	Expenditure this Month \$	Total Expenditure YTD \$	Committed Expenditure YTD \$	Estimated Total Project Costs \$
June 2026	1,574,097	1,070	23,335	7,182	1,572,539
Commentary					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ^[1] RERRF funding accounts for only \$761,197 of the total budget, the remaining budget is funded from Council's general revenue. • The design of the 2.5km section is still underway, with Council officers focusing on a 1.2 km stage for delivery this year. The design of this section has been issued for review. The cost to complete has been formulated based on this draft design. • Additional geotechnical investigations revealed a lack of value for money in performing in-situ stabilisation with the intent to form a sub-base. 					
Forecast (1-3 months)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-destructive excavation will be used to determine the location of infrastructure and utilities non maintained by Council prior to Christmas. • Finalisation of the scope of works section of design is estimated to be completed by February. 					

Newbridge Road Culvert – FRG					
Due Date	Revised Budget YTD \$	Expenditure this Month \$	Total Expenditure YTD \$	Committed Expenditure YTD \$	Estimated Total Project Costs \$
June 2026	275,541	144,309	154,332	24,820	255,362
Commentary					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works substantially complete, with culvert, drainage, and road works complete. • Invoicing and payment claims are still being finalised. 					
Forecast (1-3 months)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fencing reinstatement and floodgate, and reinstatement of delineation will occur after culvert works are complete. Completion is estimated for December. • Linemarking will occur in 2026 to allow seal to settle prior to application. 					

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Council's infrastructure activities are undertaken in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and other relevant regulatory frameworks.

Delivery is guided by Council's adopted policies, including procurement and risk management. This report provides ongoing updates on key projects and associated risks such as cost variations and delivery timeframes.

Budget Implications:

Council has verbally advised Regional NSW that it will not meet the impending 31 December 2025 completion deadline for Resources for Regions round 9 program (R4R9).

The Richards Lane project is currently in progress with contractors onsite and will be the only project (of the 9) that will not be completed by the current specified completion date. Council is aware of a nearby Council who have recently sought an extension to 30 June 2026.

In preparing to formally communicate with Regional NSW, Infrastructure Services staff together with Council's Finance Department have commenced an interim audit of all Resources for Regions round 9 projects and expenditure.

Council will work with Regional NSW with the intent to likely lodge a variation for R4R9 containing 2 aspects: completion of Richards Lane project (to April 2026) and reallocation of any funds from the other 8 R4R9 projects to the Richards Lane project.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

13) VEGETATION POLICY**Department:** Infrastructure Services**Author:** Manager Waste Water and Urban Services**CSP Link:** 3. Infrastructure is resilient, fit for purpose and maintained to support our community**File No:** RD.PO.4

Recommendation:

That Council;

1. Endorse the Vegetation Policy and place it on public exhibition for a period of not less than 42 days.
2. Provided no submissions are received, adopt the Vegetation Policy and rescind the existing 2 policies being Street Tree Policy and Verge Garden Guidelines, and update Council's Policy Register.

Reason for Report:

For the Council to review and endorse the Vegetation Policy for adoption and rescind existing policies being replaced, subject to public exhibition.

Report:

During review of existing strategic policies, it was determined that the Street Tree Policy was overly operational, and the strategic intent for both the Street Tree and Verge Garden policies were very similar and could therefore be combined into a single policy.

The Vegetation Policy has been written to replace the 2 existing policies. It includes trees, bushes, and garden beds in urban public areas, as well as removal of private trees in urban areas, which was not previously included in any policy. It specifically excludes weeds management.

The main positions of the Vegetation Policy are:

- Council encourages and seeks to deliver increased tree cover throughout the shire.
- Council is the responsible party for all vegetation in public spaces and will deliver programs to manage vegetation life cycles.
- Council has the facility to negotiate transfer of responsibilities to/from community groups.
- Aligning the creation of Verge Gardens by the public to the same as other plantings i.e. requiring Council approval.
- Private trees now linked to conditions for when Council need to assess / approve these tree removals.

This policy is consistent with feedback received during the CSP consultation related to specific tree / plant additions, pruning and removals, i.e. maintenance activities. The Vegetation Policy addresses these requests by providing avenues to undertake the community requests.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Nil

Budget Implications:

Nil

Enclosures (following report)

1	25P Vegetation Policy	6 Pages
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Attachments (separate document)

2	25L Street Tree Policy	10 Pages
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3	25N Verge Garden Guidelines	16 Pages
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Vegetation Policy

Policy	25P
Officer Responsible	Director Infrastructure Services
Last Review Date	16/09/2025

Strategic Policy

INTRODUCTION

Trees, shrubs and gardens perform many functions that support a healthy community. Apart from being a natural air purifier, absorbing carbon dioxide and providing oxygen, they provide natural air conditioning, shade, habitat for native wildlife, soil restoration and shelter against noise and wind. Aesthetically, they add natural beauty and provide a necessary softening of the built environment. Culturally, they contribute to the character of an area and add a sense of life and place.

Blayney Shire Council recognises the importance of vegetation and its role as a key contributor to a high quality environment. We are committed to maintaining the formal and informal vegetation that we have, improving their maintenance and protection and increasing the level of tree canopy cover by:

- acknowledging trees as vital urban infrastructure in our policy and strategic planning documents
- increasing the number of Council Trees in our shire
- protecting trees potentially affected by development through regulated conditions and controls
- educating the community in the benefits of trees and gardens
- encouraging more planting through community awareness and special projects
- Managing trees and vegetation sustainably and systematically in line with Council policies and strategies

POLICY STATEMENT

Blayney Shire Council:

- recognises the significance of trees in terms of creating functional and aesthetic streetscapes and reserves
- will plan for urban enhancement through the retention of suitable trees and the creation of gardens within proposed road reservations and public reserves
- has the responsibility for the planning, establishment, care, control, and maintenance of all Council trees and gardens

SCOPE

The Policy applies to:

- All trees and bushes that are owned or managed by Council (that is a tree with 50% or more of its trunk growing from Council managed land) Such trees shall be referred to as the Council Trees
- Gardens located on Council owned or managed land.
- The removal of trees on private property (that is a tree with less than 50% of its trunk growing from Council managed land)
- Weeds management is specifically excluded from this policy

Council officers, residents/owners, builders, developers, contractors, representatives, and event organisers are all required to comply with this Policy.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this Policy is to provide a context for the development of high quality streetscapes and public spaces that require efficient resource input, thereby maximising outcomes. The Policy will assist the Council in moving toward greener, more liveable communities.

Objectives

To establish a policy that drives the development of a tree management program that enhances the aesthetics, the public amenity and enjoyment of public open spaces.

Strategic Direction

The Council Vegetation Policy is presented in the following key areas:

- Consultation
- General Objectives
 - Plantings
 - Tree Management
 - Powerlines
 - Tree Protection
 - Tree Removal
 - Garden Beds
 - Verge Areas
 - Private Trees
- Resourcing and Implementation
- Performance
- Legislative Context

Consultation with Stakeholders

Council values its stakeholder's opinion and encourages consultation and communication in the improvement of its streetscape. In accordance with the Council's Community Engagement Policy's Key Values and Principles; namely:

- Encouraging participation of people who live, work, visit or support Council and
- Ensuring relevant information is readily available and that is accurate, comprehensive, and easy to understand.

Council will apply the following practices:

- Internal consultation with the Council's relevant service units
- Increase resident interest in the ongoing care of its streets and reserves
- Encourage community consultation in programmed plantings and removals by providing opportunities to comment
- Raise community knowledge about the benefits of trees and the place they

have in our streetscapes

General Objectives

Plantings

Blayney Shire Council's objective is to plant a Council Tree outside each residential property zoned R1, RU5, E1 or E3 within the Blayney Shire Council Local Government Area (LGA). Council may consider planting Street Trees outside residential properties in R5 zoning. When considering plantings, Council shall assess all site considerations. Preference will be given to planting native trees where possible.

The planting of any tree or other plant by any person on public open space is prohibited without the written approval of Council.

Tree Management

Council will maintain existing trees and garden beds in a sound and healthy condition. Council staff shall inspect all trees planted within road shoulders, nature strips and developed open space in residential and rural-residential areas on a regular basis. Actions required will then be programmed into an ongoing maintenance schedule.

Powerlines

Council recognises that statutory bodies (and their agents) have legislated authority to prune, lop, or remove trees encroaching on utilities without Council approval. This can typically include power lines and roads. Council shall endeavour to engage with these organisations to collaboratively manage pruning works and achieve outcomes consistent with the objectives of this policy.

Tree Protection

Council Trees and gardens will be protected from construction works and other activities that threaten their health and stability. Council will ensure all construction, works, events and development activities do not adversely impact Council Trees or gardens.

Tree Removal

The removal of Council Trees is contrary to the intent of this policy, however in some circumstances tree removal is required. Causes for removal may include ill health of the tree, hazard to the public or other infrastructure, or as part of construction or development works. Removal of a Council Tree will generally not be accepted due to personal preferences, nuisance due to leaf litter or other dropped material, or allergies. Council will assess the justification according to operational procedures. Removal of a Council Tree may not occur without Council approval. Heritage and conservation requirements supersede council policy.

Garden Beds

Council may plant garden beds in public spaces, and in limited circumstances, verge areas. Where installed, this will be done according to village masterplans and in a coordinated fashion. Garden beds will be inspected by Council on a schedule and maintained, modified or removed as required. Council may, through negotiation and

agreement, transfer specific responsibilities to community groups.

Garden beds created in verge areas are discouraged, as they can negatively impact access, utilities, sight lines and other services. Council cannot ensure their longevity as other authorities may use verge areas for their services at any time. Legacy verge-located garden beds will be inspected periodically to ensure they continue to meet their approval criteria. For clarity, this section includes garden beds / individual plants either planted in the ground, or in street furniture such as pots or planter boxes.

Verge Areas

Council is responsible to maintain verge areas throughout the shire. Due to the prohibitive cost of maintaining all verge areas, Council actively mows verges in only selected town entry / high profile areas within the Shire. Council seeks assistance from residents to periodically mow the grass verges in front of their properties.

Private Trees

The removal of trees in private urban areas is regulated by NSW Planning Legislation, Heritage and Conservation Legislation, and Council's Development Control Plan. In conservation areas, approval is required from council before removing trees on private property in R1, R5, RU5, E1, E2 and E3 zoning, unless there is immediate threat to life or property. Tree removal applications as part of a Development Application will be considered in the entirety of the application. Heritage and conservation requirements supersede Council policy.

Trees not covered by the above criteria require council approval to remove if they are located in R1, R5, RU5, E1, E2, and E3 zoning, and;

- are over 5m high, or
- are mature natives being over 10 years old, or
- there are 3 or more trees are proposed for removal on a single lot.

An Arborist's report may be required to justify the tree removal(s).

Resourcing and Implementation

Funding and physical resources shall be considered each year as part of Council's Operational Plan.

Identification of resources and implementation of this policy will be the responsibility of Director Infrastructure Services.

Performance

Performance will be measured against criteria detailed in Council's Asset Management Plan – Parks and Gardens.

Legislative Context

Acts, Regulations, Standards and Environmental Planning Instruments relevant to this policy:

- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979)*
- *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2017*
- *State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021*
- *Blayney Development Control Plan (2018)*
- *Blayney Local Environmental Plan (2012)*
- *Roads Act (1993)*
- *Heritage Act (1997)*
- *Electricity Supply Act (1995)*

End of Policy

	Date	Minute
Adopted:		
Last Reviewed:		
Next Review:		

14) PROPOSED (PART) ROAD CLOSURE - COLLINS STREET, CARCOAR

Department: Infrastructure Services

Author: Director Infrastructure Services

CSP Link: 3. Infrastructure is resilient, fit for purpose and maintained to support our community

File No: RD.AD.1

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Note the submissions received during the notification period.
2. Approve the closure of part of Collins Street, Carcoar that is identified as Lot 100 DP1321451 adjoining Lot 1 Sec 15 DP758225, in accordance with s.38 Roads Act 1993
3. Give public notice for a period of 28 days of Council's intention to classify the land as Operational Land.
4. Delegate to the Mayor and General Manager authority to execute signature and fixing of the Council Seal to facilitate the road closure and land transfer.

Reason for Report:

Council approval is required as part of the road closure process.

Report:

At the 28 August 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting (**Resolution No: 2508/023**), Council resolved the following:

That Council:

1. Approve the sale price of this land as \$30,000 plus GST (if applicable), plus all costs associated with the road closure, to the top of bank.
2. Note a further report will be presented to a future Council meeting to consider any submissions lodged during the notification period and to decide whether to approve this road closure and sale of this land.

At the 25 February 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting, Council resolved (**Resolution No: 2502/029**) the following:

That Council:

1. Endorse the closure of the portion of Collins St, Carcoar that adjoin Lot 1 Sec 15 DP758225, in accordance with s.38 Roads Act 1993, subject to the applicant funding Council's road closure application fee, all costs associated with the closure and compensation for the market value of the land.
2. Delegate to the General Manager authority to negotiate and execute the terms of the road closure.

- 3. Delegate to the General Manager authority to negotiate the sale price of the land, subject to Council approval; and*
- 4. Have a further report presented to a future Council meeting to consider any submissions lodged during the notification period and to make a decision on approval for the proposal.*

Following resolution 2508/023, Council provided notification to relevant authorities in accordance with s.38B of the Roads Act 1993. The following authorities and adjoining landowners were notified on 29 October 2025 and were to provide response to the notification within 28 days:

- | <u>Authority</u> | <u>Adjoining Landowners</u> |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential Energy • Transgrid • APA Group • Jemena Asset Management Pty Ltd • NSW Department of Planning and Environment • NSW Department of Planning and Environment: Resources & Energy • NSW Department of Industry: Crown Lands • NSW Department of Industry: Fisheries • NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service • Transport for NSW – Land Use Planning and Development • Fire and Rescue NSW • NSW Rural Fire Service • Central Tablelands Water • Forestry Corporation • Local Land Services • UGL Regional Linx | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Collins Street, CARCOAR • 16 Belubula Street, CARCOAR • 2 Jones Street, CARCOAR |

Additionally, notification was placed in the Village Voice on 6 November 2025.

During the notification period, Council received 10 submissions. All submissions received detailed no objection to the proposed closure and were from:

- APA
- Essential Energy
- Transgrid
- Jemena
- NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
- TfNSW
- UGL
- DPIRD - Fisheries

- DPH&I – Crown Lands
- DPI – Regional Development

It is recommended that Council approve the closure of the section of road.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

This road closure is being undertaken in accordance with Division 3, s38 of the Roads Act 1993.

Budget Implications:

Cost associated with the road closure are borne by the applicant who is purchasing the land from Council.

Enclosures (following report)

1 Plan

1 Page

Attachments (separate document)

Nil



15) REVIEW OF MAJOR PLANT RENEWALS**Department:** Infrastructure Services**Author:** Director Infrastructure Services**CSP Link:** 3. Infrastructure is resilient, fit for purpose and maintained to support our community**File No:** RD.AD.1**Recommendation:**

1. That Council; Note an internal review of major plant has been completed (including independent external peer review).
2. Endorse the disposal of the following items of plant without replacement:
 - a) P663 Dynapac CA500PD
 - b) P662 Dynapac CA3500
3. Defer renewal of the following plant items to 2026/27:
 - a) PSV001 – Isuzu Street Sweeper
 - b) P169 – Sewer Jetting Trailer
 - c) P40 – Isuzu NH Rigid Haul Truck
4. Approve a supplementary vote of \$100,000 from the Plant internal allocation for the procurement of major plant in 2025/26.
5. Amend budget allocations of outstanding major plant renewal for 2025/26 as follows;

Plant Item	Budget \$
P660 - Dynapac CA3500	200,000
P661 - Dynapac CA3500	200,000
P44 - NPR55-155 Tabletop w/crane	160,000
P43 - NPR55-155 Amenities Truck	205,000
P52 - Grader Cat 12M	550,000
HV003 - Mack Tipper	380,000
PSV001 – Sloan Built Dog Trailer	160,000
P630 – Isuzu watercart	350,000
PSV002 – Isuzu Patching Truck	550,000
P72 – John Deere 5725 with bucket	135,000
P89 - Trimax Mower – Winged	35,000
LC007 – Kubota Zero Turn Mower	25,000
LC008 – Kubota Zero Turn Mower	25,000
P173 – Sewell Road Broom TB200E	65,000

Reason for Report:

To inform Councillors of a recent internal review and seek approval for a supplementary vote of funds.

Report:

During the 2024/25 financial year and in the process of seeking quotations to procure scheduled plant replacements, the following was identified:

- Indexation of estimated plant replacement costs had not kept up with actual costs within the plant industry for some major plant items.
- Some internal charge rates of plant items were not properly recovering actual operational costs.

Orders were placed for the major plant items shown in Table 1 in 2024/25, as they were highly utilised and delays to their renewal would have risk to incurring significant operational maintenance costs.

Apart from the items in Table 1, procurement of other major plant items was halted, and an internal operational review was commenced by staff to look at plant needs and develop revised purchasing costs.

The consultant reviewed the recommendations and provided comment. The consultant also reviewed internal charge rates and their calculation method and benchmarked these rates against other regional Council average hourly rates.

The proposed adjustments to budget allocations for each plant item is shown in Table 3, with a supplementary vote of approximately \$100K required as part of this adjustment. Some items are proposed for deferral, shown in Table 2

Table 1: 2024/25 Items of major plant replaced, as programmed.

Plant Item	Replaced with	Current Status
P601 Hino 500 Series (tipper)	Isuzu FSR 140-260 (tipper)	Awaiting delivery.
P602 Hino 500 Series (tipper)	Isuzu FSR 140-260 (tipper)	Awaiting delivery.
P603 Hino 500 Series (tipper)	Isuzu NPR 75-190 (flat deck ¹)	Awaiting delivery.
PLC011 Toro GM 3310 Mower	Kubota F3690 Mower	Order complete.
PLC012 Toro GM 3310 Mower	Kubota F3690 Mower	Order complete.
PLC013 Toro GM 3310 Mower	Kubota F3690 Mower	Order complete.

Table 2 – Major plant proposed to be deferred (as recommended in review)

Plant Item	Deferral Reason
PSV001 – Street Sweeper	Currently only one body currently available on the market (Iveco) with others due to released next year which will enable more market competition and therefore potential for better value for money for Council next financial year.
P169 – Sewer Jetting Trailer	Will align with renewal of two other sewer assigned plant items and enable an operational service review to determine the best fit for purpose plant items for this area, as per recommendations of the Major Plant Review.
P40 - Isuzu NH Rigid Haul Truck	While originally programmed for 2024/25, the current plant item is in good condition and has not met threshold for replacement in this current year.

¹ Note: Prior to purchase, Council officers conducted a service review which identified that the 3 Hino tipper trucks could be replaced with 2 tippers and 1 flat deck due to current operational needs and utilisation, which provided cost savings to Council of approx. \$75,000, in comparison to a like-for-like replacement.

Table 3 – Proposed revised budget allocations

Outstanding Plant Item	Original Renewal Year	Current Budget Allocation \$	Proposed Revised Budget Allocation 2025/26 \$
P660 - Dynapac CA3500	2024/25	34,851 ²	200,000
P661 - Dynapac CA3500	2024/25	156,832	200,000
P662 – Dynapac CA3500	NA	Nil	Nil – Propose to dispose and not replace as forecast
P663 - Dynapac CA500PD	2024/25	205,504	Nil – Propose to dispose and not replace
P44 - NPR55-155 Tabletop w/crane	2025/26	109,486	160,000
P43 - NPR55-155 Amenities Truck	2025/26	122,382	205,000
P52 - Grader Cat 12M	2025/26	656,615	550,000
HV003 - Mack Tipper	2025/26	407,939	380,000
PTR001– Sloan Built Dog Trailer	2025/26	118,434	160,000
P630 – Isuzu watercart	2025/26	376,356	350,000
PSV002 – Isuzu Patching Truck	2025/26	427,678	550,000
P72 – John Deere 5725 with bucket	2025/26	165,572	135,000
P89 - Trimax Mower – Winged	2025/26	29,605	35,000
LC007 – Kubota Zero Turn Mower	2025/26	24,333	25,000
LC008 – Kubota Zero Turn Mower	2025/26	24,333	25,000
P173 – Sewell Road Broom TB200E	2025/26	66,611	65,000
Surplus/remaining budget for the completed Toro Mower replacements (x3)	2024/25	15,546	Nil - complete
TOTAL		2,942,077	3,040,000

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Delays associated with the renewal of major plant increase the likelihood of plant breakdowns, major servicing and the resulting reduced availability and increased operational costs.

² Note: these funds were drawn on and addressed in a QBRS for the scheduled replacement of P601, P602 & P603 Tippers which were over their individual allocation.

Replacement of Major plant would be sought through Local Government Procurement (LGP) platforms.

Budget Implications:

A supplementary vote of \$100,000 is recommended as part of this report.

Enclosures (following report)

- | | | |
|---|--|---------|
| 1 | Review of Major Plant - Peer Review Report | 5 Pages |
| 2 | Review of Major Plant - Summary of recommendations | 3 Pages |

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL REVIEW - FLEET MANAGEMENT - INFRASTRUCTURE DIRECTORATE

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Benefit Projects and Consulting was engaged to undertake a comprehensive review of Blayney Shire Council's Fleet Management, with a specific focus on the Fleet Replacement Program. The aim was to provide an overview of operations and identify opportunities for improvement across the fleet's lifecycle and management practices.

OVERVIEW

The Council's fleet underpins the majority of its activities, supporting everything from building inspections to heavy civil construction works. The review focused on 50 items currently in operation within the Infrastructure Directorate, noting that Council's total fleet exceeds 70 plant items and vehicles, with an estimated purchase cost over \$10 million. Additionally, commercial and light vehicles are provided as part of employee salary packaging arrangements.

Forecasts anticipate the fleet will be replaced approximately 1.2 times every ten years, with total replacement expenditure expected to reach \$30 million over the same period.

BENCHMARKING AND ANALYSIS

Analysis included:

- Benchmarking fleet spend, useful lives (UL) and composition
- Testing the impact of extended ULs on operational costs
- Comparing fleet maintenance costs across four (4) small to medium size Regional Councils
- Validation of forecast assumptions against historic trends as supplied by Council
- Reviewing the Councils proposed fleet replacement program for 25/26
- Examining results against IPWEA Fleet benchmarking, referencing the Plant and Vehicle Management Manual (PVMM)

RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPACTS

The key recommendations and impacts from the review include:

- Apply conservative extensions or reductions to fleet ULs to achieve a net reduction in capital investment, aligning with the draft replacement strategy.
- Align enterprise resource plans and enterprise asset management frameworks to incorporate residual values in depreciation calculations
- Revise recovery rates to reflect industry standards and best practice, correcting historical misalignments
- Enhance the accuracy of capital forecasting for future fleet investment and replacement

2. BACKGROUND

This review covers Fleet Management and Replacement at Blayney Shire Council.

OVERVIEW

Fleet Management involves:

- Specification of new and replacement fleet to support the operations of the council
- Fleet lifecycle from budget approval to the process of disposal
- Fleet analysis and portfolio improvements
- Insurance, registration and fuel management
- Maintenance and repair of the plant and equipment
- Fleet asset and data management

FLEET MAKEUP & COSTS

The replacement program consists of 76 items and consists of 50 heavy plant items that were included only in this review, which encompass gravel trucks and trailers, street sweepers, loaders, mowers, and tractors. In addition to these core vehicles, the fleet includes specialised equipment that supports a wide range of services. The replacement schedule is determined based on factors such as age, usage, maintenance costs, and evolving operational needs.

There are an additional 36 light vehicles consisting of utilities, light vehicles and SUV's however it is important to note that this recent review focused exclusively on the 50 heavy fleet items. The 36 light vehicle items were not included in this review.

The Council's fleet has a total acquisition cost of approximately \$13.108 million. Annual expenditure for the purchase or replacement of heavy fleet items ranges from \$1.6 million to \$4.8 million. Notably, the budget allocations for the financial years 2025/26 and 2032/33 are \$4.0 million and \$4.8 million respectively, covering the replacement or purchase of 30 heavy fleet items during these periods.

Council fleet assets are highly sought after in the second-hand market, largely due to their comparatively low usage and well-maintained condition relative to commercial fleets. As a result, disposal proceeds from these assets typically represent a significant percentage of their original purchase price.

The Council develops replacement cost forecasts and budgets by taking the original purchase cost of each item and escalating it annually by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) throughout the asset's useful life. However, a disconnect can arise between the forecasts maintained by the fleet manager and those documented in the Council's Long-Term Financial Plans (LTFPs). This misalignment may lead to discrepancies in the Council's budget planning and reporting.

FLEET MAINTENANCE AND OPERATING COSTS

In addition to capital investment, Council allocates operational funds to support the ongoing operation and maintenance of its vehicle fleet. This includes employing more than 2 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff within the workshops, ensuring the fleet is regularly serviced and maintained to meet operational requirements and safety standards. Maintenance activities are generally completed on an annual basis, utilising a mix of programmed maintenance—scheduled tasks based on manufacturer recommendations or usage patterns—and preventative maintenance, which aims to identify and address potential issues before they result in breakdowns or costly repairs.

From a financial perspective, depreciation on the fleet is a significant consideration. Council's adopted depreciation formula applies to a 5% annual rate, resulting in an approximate depreciation expense of \$980,000 per annum. However, it is important to note a discrepancy with Council's Asset Management Plan for Transport, which was last made publicly available in 2018 and cites an annual depreciation value of \$661,000. This difference may reflect changes in asset values, fleet composition, or updates to accounting practices since the plan's publication.

During the review, it was identified that Council adopts the straight-line method when calculating depreciation. While the straight-line methodology is appropriate and commonly used, omitting residual values from depreciation calculations can lead to less accurate financial reporting and asset management. Incorporating residual values aligns Council's practices with accepted industry standards, providing a truer picture of asset value and supporting better decision-making for the management and renewal of fleet assets.

FLEET MANAGEMENT AND PROCUREMENT

Council has a dedicated staff member responsible for fleet management. This role works closely with operational teams to procure replacement or new equipment and dispose of the equipment being replaced.

Procurement and management practices for the fleet have evolved over the years. For smaller fleet items, the Council typically seeks three quotes to ensure competitive pricing and value whilst also considering a local procurement policy and shop local mantra. In contrast, larger plant items are procured via a quotation process via the Local Government Procurement (LGP) panel, allowing for economies of scale and streamlined acquisition whilst ensuring adherence to Councils procurement processes along with relevant regulatory legislative requirements.

Disposal of fleet assets is managed predominantly through online auction disposals and auction marketplaces, providing a broad marketplace and potentially higher returns. In some cases, disposals occur through trade-ins when replacement vehicles are purchased, offering convenience and immediate offset of costs.

Fleet replacement is generally prompted by the age of the asset. However, for certain items, a combination of utilisation and age determines when a replacement is necessary. As a result, some vehicles may be sold later in their lifecycle, which can influence resale value and operational efficiency.

3. REVIEW OBJECTIVES

Fleet Management review includes:

- Fleet utilization targets
- Fleet analysis including types and range of items
- Fleet disposal timings
- Fleet forecasting

4. ANALYSIS UNDERTAKEN

The review considered Council's operational and capital programs with a specific focus on plant and equipment requirements. This review encompasses a comparative analysis with four (4) regional councils of similar size in FTE, fleet and operations. The analysis was also compared with IPWEA Fleet benchmarking schedules. The analysis was also compared with IPWEA Fleet benchmarking schedules.

This comprehensive approach enabled the identification of specific areas where operational enhancements could be made. Key findings highlighted both strengths and gaps in current practices, providing actionable insights into targeted improvements.

RESOURCING

Generally, Council has a full-time dedicated fleet manager. This is a positive approach considering the extent of management for plant and equipment to maintain and optimize fleet to an industry standard and safety requirements.

USEFUL LIVES (UL)

A comparison of the estimated useful lives for different types of fleet across the councils was undertaken showing similar UL's being applied to what has been proposed in the draft replacement strategy. Whilst there were some outliers for obscure plant items, this is a common occurrence in Councils plant and equipment.

HISTORIC RECOVERY INCREASES

Historic recovery rates and pricing were reviewed in the replacement program. This supporting information showed only minor historic recovery price increases. The analysis showed the recovery rates for some large items, (including Motor graders) have been well below industry benchmarking which has resulted in distorted financial implications due to the significant loss in income from these rates. The reduced rates, for many large and expensive replacement items shows a significant disparity in the replacement program.

The review of Council supplied proposed recovery rates aligns with an improved cost recovery model however it should be noted that due to some of these larger items having been under charged for an extended period of time, it may take up to 4 years to see financial improvements in the replacement program.

BENCHMARKING

There are limited external benchmarks applicable for council fleet, however the IPWEA and other standards are applicable and provide an excellent toolbox of resources.

Benchmark indicators were reviewed across multiple councils. The differences between the councils were minor and at times insignificant indicating that the proposed replacement strategy, whilst taking some time to recover financially will place Council into a more sustainable financial position for management of its replacement program and utilization targets.

COMPOSITION OF FLEET

Composition of the fleet was reviewed to determine differences in use and application. This review identified specialist equipment that may be able to be kept for longer or charged out at a fixed yearly rate for items such as the Sewell Sweeper and Seca Jetta. Generally, Council possesses a fleet register consistent with Councils workforce and financial sustainability across the sector.

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANS

Council has a fleet asset management plan contained in a master spread sheet having fleet spend reflected in their LTFPs. Additional reviews about budget and LTFP movements would support more accurate LTFP cashflows in future.

Council's Asset Management Plan for Transport, which contains information on fleet and financial information was last made publicly available in 2018, may be out of date and requires a review.

ACCOUNTING FOR FLEET

Accounting and fleet UL's and residual values were compared showing the accounting assumptions are not fully aligned with fleet manager assumptions and outcomes with material impacts on operating surpluses.

Ongoing depreciation savings will also be realised with the extension of ULs when accounting treatments are aligned to fleet management practices.

5. KEY ASSUMPTIONS

Note – the basis for the forecasts and baseline for this work are the forecasts held by the Council as of August 2025.

Adjustments to forecasts for accuracy such as CPI escalation and disposals proceeds have been described as avoided costs. The re-aligned forecasts have then been used as the baseline to measure improvements from deliberate decisions to change ULs, fleet composition, fleet workshop productivity etc.

The key assumptions underpinning the financial evaluation are:

- The fleet forecasts prepared at the end of 24/25 for 25/26 and beyond were used as the baseline for the review
- 10% contingency assumed on overall fleet capital spend has been allowed (with the aim being this is held contained from the rest of the fleet forecast)
- Changes to fleet forecasts relating to refined CPI and disposal assumptions (based on history) have been treated as avoided costs for the purposes of the review
- Operating costs have been based up to the 24/25 financial year as provided by Council.
- Forecast fleet cost increases are based on reviews of historic purchases, equipment appraisals and accounting indexation to forecast future replacements.
- Evaluation period 10 years based on the LTFP duration

Plant Item	Purchase Year	Approx Service Life	Scheduled Renewal Year	BSC Recommendation	Justification	BP+C Review	BP+C Comments
P40 P&G Tipper	2018	7	2025/26 (Carry Over)	1. Retain and renew in 2025/26 2. Adjust rate to \$27/hr to ensure recovery prior to replacement (operational impact additional 23k over 12 months to Parks & Gardens)	High utilisation confirms this asset is essential and aligns with Council's core services.	Agree	Proposed rate adjustment brings charge rate in line with industry average
P43 - Amenities Truck	2019	7	2025/26	1. Retain and renew in 2025/26 2. Revise rates in accordance with utilisation and projected recovery. 2. Schedule replacement late in the year, and increase rate to \$36/hr to achieve full recovery.	High utilisation confirms this asset is essential and aligns with Council's core services.	Review	Consider extending to 26/27 based on speciality of vehicle and setup as manufacture may take longer than expected for fabrication (item description states amenities truck, plant listing states garbage truck) BSC to confirm as rates could vary between \$36 - \$102/hr
P44 Isuzu NPR flat top/crane - Concreters	2018	7	2025/26	1. Retain and renew in 2025/26 2. Revise rates in accordance with utilisation and projected recovery. 2a. Currently programmed for replacement in 25/26. Continue to replace with no adjustment as asset is on target to fully recover. 2b. Reduce rate to minimum + 4% margin to fully recover to lessen operational impact on footpath renewals in 25/26.	High utilisation confirms this asset is essential and aligns with Council's core services.	Agree	
P47 - STP Tipper	2019	10		1. Retain. 2. Increase rate to \$39/hr to ensure full recovery by scheduled renewal year.	Meets efficiency expectations and supports ongoing operational needs.	Agree	
P52 CAT 12M	2017	8	2025/26	1. Retain and renew in 2025/26. 2. Increase rate by ~10% to reduce the projected recovery losses, noting that due to historic poor development of historic rates, this cannot be fully mitigated without substantial operational impacts.	High utilisation confirms this asset is essential and aligns with Council's core services.	Review	Consider review of rate charge for consistency across Motor Graders - General Comment (excl AWD)
P72 John Deere 5325 Bucket Tract	2009	8	2025/26	1. Retain 2. Increase rate by ~10% to reduce the projected recovery losses, noting that due to historic poor development of historic rates, this cannot be fully mitigated without substantial operational impacts. 3. Review whether the plant item is fit for purpose and whether differing specification would deliver greater value	Meets efficiency expectations and supports ongoing operational needs.	Review	Council to consider operational requirements and fit for purpose replacement item.
P74 McCormick	2018	8		1. Retain	High utilisation confirms this asset is essential and aligns with Council's core services.	Review	Scheduled for replacement in 26/27 which aligns with forecast UL however 1yr longer than optimum replacement timing. Review rate
P77 John Deere 6095MC	2017	12		1. Retain 2. Review whether the plant item is fit for purpose and whether differing specification would deliver greater value. 3. Revise plant hire rates based on actual utilisation.	Meets efficiency expectations and supports ongoing operational needs.	Review	Council to consider operational requirements and fit for purpose replacement item.
P78 John Deere 6095MC	2017	12		1. Retain 2. Review whether the plant item is fit for purpose and whether differing specification would deliver greater value. 3. Revise plant hire rates based on actual utilisation.	Under target but may still support core or seasonal activities. Monitor future usage trends.	Review	Council to consider operational requirements and fit for purpose replacement item.
P79 Kubota U27-4 + Sureweld Tra	2018	8		1. Retain. 2. Revise plant hire rates based on actual utilisation	Meets efficiency expectations and supports ongoing operational needs at STP	Agree	
P169 SECA US Jetter	2012	10	2025/26	1. Retain and defer replacement to 2028/29. Review whether the plant item is fit for purpose and whether differing specification would deliver greater value (consolidating other STP plant, tipper & ute in 2028/29). 3. Revise plant hire rates based on actual utilisation.	Meets efficiency expectations and supports ongoing operational needs at STP. Defer to align with other STP renewals for a future service review to ensure procured items are fit for purpose.	Review	Possibly look at 27/28 FY when time arises. Consider charging this item out lump (asset cost / UL) and charge Sewer up front to avoid loss of recovery income and timesheet allocation.
P173 Sewell Sweeper	2016	10	2025/26	1. Retain and defer to 2025/26 2. Enforce correct costing to timesheets. 3. Increase rate by calculating projected use for the next 12 months, to reduce the projected recovery losses, noting that due to historic poor development of historic rates, this cannot be fully mitigated without substantial operational impacts.	Very low usage; not cost-effective to retain. However essential to Council's operations. However it has been identified that it is potentially not being correctly costed to timesheets.	Agree	Specialised item. Consider charging item as lump sum (asset cost / EUL) and charge Operations up front to avoid loss of recovery income and timesheet allocation.
P601 Hino 500 1426	2017	8	2024/25	1. Retain		Agree	
P602 Hino 500 1426	2017	8	2024/25	1. Retain	High utilisation confirms this asset is essential and aligns with Council's core services. A prior review identified that these tippers should be replaced with 2 x tipper and 1 x flat deck truck for an operational efficiency and savings.	Agree	
P603 Hino 500 1426	2017	8	2024/25 (replaced with Flat Top)	1. Retain - Note a prior review replaced this item with a flat top instead of tipper.		Agree	

P630 Isuzu FYJ2000 Watercarts	2017	12	2025/26	1. Retain and renew in 2025/26	High utilisation confirms this asset is essential and aligns with Council's core services.	Review	UL exceeding optimum replacement timing
P631 Isuzu FYJ2000 Watercarts	2017	12		1. Dispose (already occurred in 2024/25)	While this supports operational needs, the reduction in capital works will reduce the requirement for this plant item and they are readily available dry or wet hire.	Review	UL exceeding optimum replacement timing
P660 Dynapac CA3500D	2017	12	2025/26 (Carry Over)	1. Retain and renew in 2025/26	Meets efficiency expectations and supports ongoing operational needs.	Review	UL exceeding optimum replacement timing
P661 Dynapac CA3500D	2017	8	2025/26 (Carry Over)	1. Retain and renew in 2025/26	Meets efficiency expectations and supports ongoing operational needs.	Review	Consider review of charge rates
P662 Dynapac CA3500D	2017	8		1. Dispose	While this supports operational needs and has moderate utilisation, the reduction in capital works will reduce the requirement for this plant item and they are readily available for cost effective dry hire.	Disagree	Considering 3 x motor graders should retain based on construction/maintenance activities.
P663 Dynapac CA5000D Pad Foot Roller	2017	8	2025/26 (Carry Over)	1. Dispose	While this supports operational needs and has moderate utilisation, the reduction in capital works will reduce the requirement for this plant item and they are readily available for cost effective dry hire.	Disagree	Consider retaining if budget allows however if Nil capital requirement, agree with disposal. Readily available for hire if disposal is adopted.
SV001 Isuzu FSR Street Sweeper	2019	8	2025/26	1. Retain and renew in 2025/26	Meets efficiency expectations and supports ongoing operational needs.	Review	Consider review of charge rates as significantly lower than average rates.
SV002 Isuzu FSR Flocon	2019	8	2025/26	1. Retain and renew in 2025/26	High utilisation confirms this asset is essential and aligns with Council's core services.	Agree	
HV001 Isuzu NQR Dual Cab Tipper	2019	8		1. Retain. 2. Revise plant hire rates based on actual utilisation	Meets efficiency expectations and supports ongoing operational needs.	Review	Consider review of charge rates as significantly lower than average rates.
HV003 Mack Granite	2019	8	2025/26	1. Retain and renew in 2025/26 2. Review whether a different configuration would provide better value for money and support to Councils operations (in combination with TR001)	High utilisation confirms this asset is essential and aligns with Council's core services.	Agree	
HV004 Mack Trident Tipper	2020	8		1. Retain	Meets efficiency expectations and supports ongoing operational needs.	Agree	
HV005 Isuzu NQR Signs	2021	8		1. Retain	Meets efficiency expectations and supports ongoing operational needs.	Agree	
PHV006 - Isuzu FYJ300 Watercarts	2023	8		1. Retain	High utilisation confirms this asset is essential and aligns with Council's core services.	Agree	
PHV007 - Isuzu FYJ300 Watercarts	2023	8		1. Retain	High utilisation confirms this asset is essential and aligns with Council's core services.	Agree	
HV008 - Mack Trident	2025	8		1. Retain	High utilisation confirms this asset is essential and aligns with Council's core services.	Agree	
TR001 Sloanbuilt Tri Dog	2019	8	2025/26	1. Retain and renew in 2025/26 2. Review whether a different configuration would provide better value for money and support to Councils operations (in combination with HV003)	Under target but may still support core or seasonal activities. Monitor future usage trends.	Agree	
TR003 Sloanbuilt Tri Dog	2020	8		1. Retain. 2. Revise plant hire rates based on actual utilisation	High utilisation confirms this asset is essential and aligns with Council's core services.	Agree	
TR006 Sloanbuilt Dog Trailer	2025	8		1. Retain. 2. Revise plant hire rates based on actual utilisation	Under target but may still support core or seasonal activities. Monitor future usage trends.	Review	Council to consider oprational requirement at end of 25/26 FY
HP001 CAT 950M	2019	8		1. Retain	Meets efficiency expectations and supports ongoing operational needs.	Agree	
HP003 Cat 12M	2019	10		1. Retain	High utilisation confirms this asset is essential and aligns with Council's core services.	Agree	Consider review of rate charge for consistency across Motor Graders - General Comment (excl AWD)
HP004 Cat 432F2	2020	10		1. Retain as it is core to Council's services. 2. Monitor utilisation and revise plant hire rates. 3. Review whether renewal is warranted at scheduled interval (2027/28)	Low utilisation, not cost effective to retain.	Agree	
HP005 Caterpillar 305E 5T Excavator	2022	8		1. Retain. 2. Revise rates (reduce) in accordance with utilisation and projected recovery.	High utilisation confirms this asset is essential and aligns with Council's core services.	Agree	
HP006 JCB 3CX PRO	2022	10		1. Retain. 2. Revise rates in accordance with utilisation and projected recovery.	High utilisation confirms this asset is essential and aligns with Council's core services.	Agree	
Cat 140 Grader	2024	10		1. Retain	High utilisation confirms this asset is essential and aligns with Council's core services.	Agree	Consider review of rate charge for consistency across Motor Graders - General Comment (excl AWD)
HP008 Komatsu WA270-8	2025	10		1. Retain 2. Continue to review and monitor utilisation and recovery.	Note this is a newly procured plant item replacing the moderately utilised Hyundai Loader which supports stockpile and quarry operational needs. As such there is insufficient data for this row.	Review	Consider review of charge rates as significantly lower than average rates.

LC004 Trimax Wing Mower	2020	10		1. Retain. 2. Revise rates in accordance with utilisation and projected recovery.	Meets efficiency expectations and supports ongoing operational needs.	Agree	
LC005 Seppii Flail Mower	2020	10		1. Retain 2. Revise rates in accordance with utilisation and projected recovery. 3. Continue to ensure utilisation is captured correctly on timesheets	Under target due to historic inaccuracy with costing on timesheets. Part of core annual activities. Monitor future usage trends.	Agree	
LC006 Seppii Flail Mower	2020	10		1. Retain 2. Revise rates in accordance with utilisation and projected recovery. 3. Continue to ensure utilisation is captured correctly on timesheets	Under target due to historic inaccuracy with costing on timesheets. Part of core annual activities. Monitor future usage trends.	Agree	
Shockwave Turf Slicer	2022	10		1. Retain	High utilisation confirms this asset is essential and aligns with Council's core services.	Agree	
LC011 Toro 3310	2022	5	2024/25	1. Retain	High utilisation confirms this asset is essential and aligns with Council's core services.	Agree	
LC012 Toro 3310	2022	5	2024/25	1. Retain	High utilisation confirms this asset is essential and aligns with Council's core services.	Agree	
LC013 Toro 3310	2022	5	2024/25	1. Retain	High utilisation confirms this asset is essential and aligns with Council's core services.	Agree	
P89 Trimax Wing Mower	2016	6	2025/26	1. Retain and renew 2025/26 2. Revise plant hire rates based on actual utilisation.	High utilisation confirms this asset is essential and aligns with Council's core services.	Agree	
P94 Trimax Warlord Flail Mower	2016	6		1. Retain 2. Revise plant hire rates based on actual utilisation.	High utilisation confirms this asset is essential and aligns with Council's core services.	Agree	
P98 Jarrett Slasher				1. Retain 2. Revise plant hire rates based on actual utilisation.	High utilisation confirms this asset is essential and aligns with Council's core services.	Agree	

16) WHITES QUARRY - FUTURE OPTIONS**Department:** Infrastructure Services**Author:** Director Infrastructure Services**CSP Link:** 3. Infrastructure is resilient, fit for purpose and maintained to support our community**File No:** RD.AD.1

Recommendation:

1. That Council: Note it has received a proposal from Bonus Quarrying Resources Pty Ltd in relation to Council's Whites Quarry, 52 Greghamstown Road Blayney.
2. Note Council has proceeded to obtain independent Probity Advice regarding the proposal.
3. That Council proceed to undertake a public Expressions of Interest (EOI) process inviting proposals for the further development, improvement or use of Council's Whites Quarry, 52 Greghamstown Road Blayney.

Reason for Report:

This report seeks Council's endorsement to commence a public Expressions of Interest (EOI) process to explore potential development or improvement opportunities for Whites Quarry.

Report:

Council owns and operates Whites Quarry located at 52 Greghamstown Road Blayne, which is estimated to reach end of its useful life as an operational quarry around 2035.

In preparation for future closure, Council has prepared a comprehensive Rehabilitation Plan that outlines the post-operational landform, environmental management and rehabilitation obligations associated with the site.

During the same time period as this rehabilitation plan being finalised, Council received an unsolicited proposal from an external proponent outlining potential opportunities for further development at the site. The proposal suggested that such opportunities could generate financial benefit for Council and/or reduce rehabilitation obligations and associated costs.

Given the unsolicited nature of the proposal, Council sought independent probity advice. The advice concluded that it would be inappropriate and potentially high-risk for Council to enter into negotiations with this proponent, as no competitive or public process had been undertaken. Proceeding without market testing was assessed as inconsistent with probity principles of transparency and fairness.

An EOI process provides a transparent and defensible mechanism for Council to test the market, assess the feasibility of development opportunities and ensure that all interested parties have equal access to participate. It also enables Council to understand the full range of potential financial, operational or environmental benefits prior to determining whether a formal tender process or further negotiations should follow.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Independent probity advice provided to Council identified a risk of perceived or actual lack of transparency if Council were to negotiate directly with the unsolicited proponent. A public EOI process mitigates these risks and aligns with fair and equitable procurement processes.

Part 7 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* outlines requirements for tendering and procurement. Clause 166 recognises that Councils may conduct preliminary market engagement – such as an EOI – to identify suitable entities prior to calling for open or selective tenders.

Council must consider all EOI's made in response to the advertisement. After considering the applications Council may;

- Invite tenders from all applications
- Invite tenders from only those applicants' council considers can meet the proposed requirements.
- Decline to invite tenders from any applicants

Budget Implications:

The preparation and advertising of the EOI can be funded from existing operational budgets. Any future financial implications associated with pursuing

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

- | | | |
|----------|--|---------|
| 1 | Proposal from Bonus Quarrying Resources Pty Ltd
<i>This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) (di) of the Local Government Act, as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.</i> | 3 Pages |
| 2 | Probity Advice
<i>This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) (c) of the Local Government Act, as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.</i> | 5 Pages |

17) CENTRAL WEST AND ORANA STRATEGIC REGIONAL INTEGRATED TRANSPORT PLAN

Department: Infrastructure Services

Author: Director Infrastructure Services

CSP Link: 3. Infrastructure is resilient, fit for purpose and maintained to support our community

File No: RD.AD.1

Recommendation:

That Council note the submission on the Draft Central West and Orana Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan.

Reason for Report:

To advise Council of a submission made to the Draft Central West and Orana Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan.

Report:

The Draft Central West and Orana Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan (the Plan) provides a 20-year vision and defines the key transport priorities for the region to support community, land use and transport needs, now and into the future.

The plan is currently on public exhibition until Sunday 14 December 2025.

Due to the timing of the closing of the public exhibition (after issue of the business paper), the Blayney Shire Council submission will be provided as a late attachment to the business paper.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Nil

Budget Implications:

Nil

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

18) MINUTES OF THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM HELD 5 DECEMBER 2025

Department: Infrastructure Services

Author: Director Infrastructure Services

CSP Link: 3. Infrastructure is resilient, fit for purpose and maintained to support our community

File No: TT.ME.1

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Receive and note the minutes of the Blayney Shire Council Local Transport Forum, held Friday, 5 December 2025.
2. Note the Blayney Shire Council Local Transport Forum meeting dates for 2026 being: 6 March, 5 June, 4 September and 4 December 2026.
3. Endorse the Traffic Guidance Scheme for the Blayney Show, to be staged on 7 March 2026 on Blayney Showground, Marshalls Lane, as a Class 3 event, subject to the conditions detailed in the Director Infrastructure Services' Report.

Reason for Report:

For Council to endorse the minutes of the Blayney Shire Council Traffic Committee meeting held 5 December 2025.

MINUTES OF THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE CHAMBERS, BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY CENTRE, ON 5 DECEMBER 2025, COMMENCING AT 10:02 AM

PRESENT

Members: Cr John Newstead (Blayney Shire Council-Chair), Reg Rendall (State Member for Bathurst Representative), Jackie Barry (TfNSW) and Steve Chaplin (NSW Police).

Present: Jacob Hogan (Director Infrastructure Services) and Lauren Ferson (Executive Assistant to the General Manager).

APOLOGIES

Nil

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

REPORTS

LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM MEETING DATES 2026

20251205:01

Recommendation:

That Council note the Blayney Shire Council Local Transport Forum meeting dates for 2026.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM HELD 12 SEPTEMBER 2025

20251205:02

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Blayney Shire Council Traffic Committee Meeting held on 12 September 2025, be confirmed to be a true and accurate record of that meeting.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Question regarding the reopening of Adelaide Street north. Council is meeting with the St Joseph's School Principal next week. TfNSW are reviewing the Safe Systems Assessment (SSA), based on Council's design. Anticipated to be further information provided at the next meeting. Discussion on the Children's Pedestrian Crossing.

STREET EVENT - BLAYNEY SHOW 7 MARCH 2026

20251205:03

Recommendation:

That Council endorse the Traffic Guidance Scheme for the annual Blayney Show, to be staged on 7 March 2026 on Blayney Showground, Marshalls Lane, as a Class 3 event, subject to the conditions detailed in the Director Infrastructure Services' Report.

TRAFFIC REGISTER

TRAFFIC REGISTER

Noted.

GENERAL BUSINESS

TRUCKS PARKING OLIVE STREET, MANDURAMA

Actions

For TfNSW and NSW Police Comment.

NSW Police to monitor and provide feedback at next meeting.

EVENT - CAROLS AT CARRINGTON - 12 DECEMBER 2025

Actions

Noted.

EVENT - MILLFEST - SATURDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2026**Actions**

Noted.

**EVENT - THE AMEND PROJECT - WALK FOR CONNECTION
EVENT - SATURDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2026****Actions:**

Noted.

Approval also being sought from TfNSW.

**EVENT - NEWBRIDGE SWAP MEET - NEWBRIDGE NSW -
SUNDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2026****Actions**

Noted.

EVENT - 2026 RALLY OF BATHURST - 14 MARCH 2026**Actions**

Noted.

INFORMAL MATTERS

- The 50km/hr sign coming into Blayney from Cowra is partially blocked by a tree branch. Council will log a request to TfNSW for trimming.
- Discussion on an application for Millthorpe Speed Zone review - 40km/hr village.
- Question on progressing the speed zone review for Richards Lane. Continue to use roadwork zone.
- Transport for NSW are currently doing public consultation on the Draft Central West and Orana Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan and seeking comments from the public.

FUTURE MEETING DATES - 2026

Friday, 6 March 2026

Friday, 5 June 2026

Friday, 4 September 2026

Friday, 4 December 2026

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 10.37am.

Enclosures (following report)

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | LTF - Conditions - Blayney Show | 1 Page |
| 2 | LTF - TGS - Blayney Show | 1 Page |

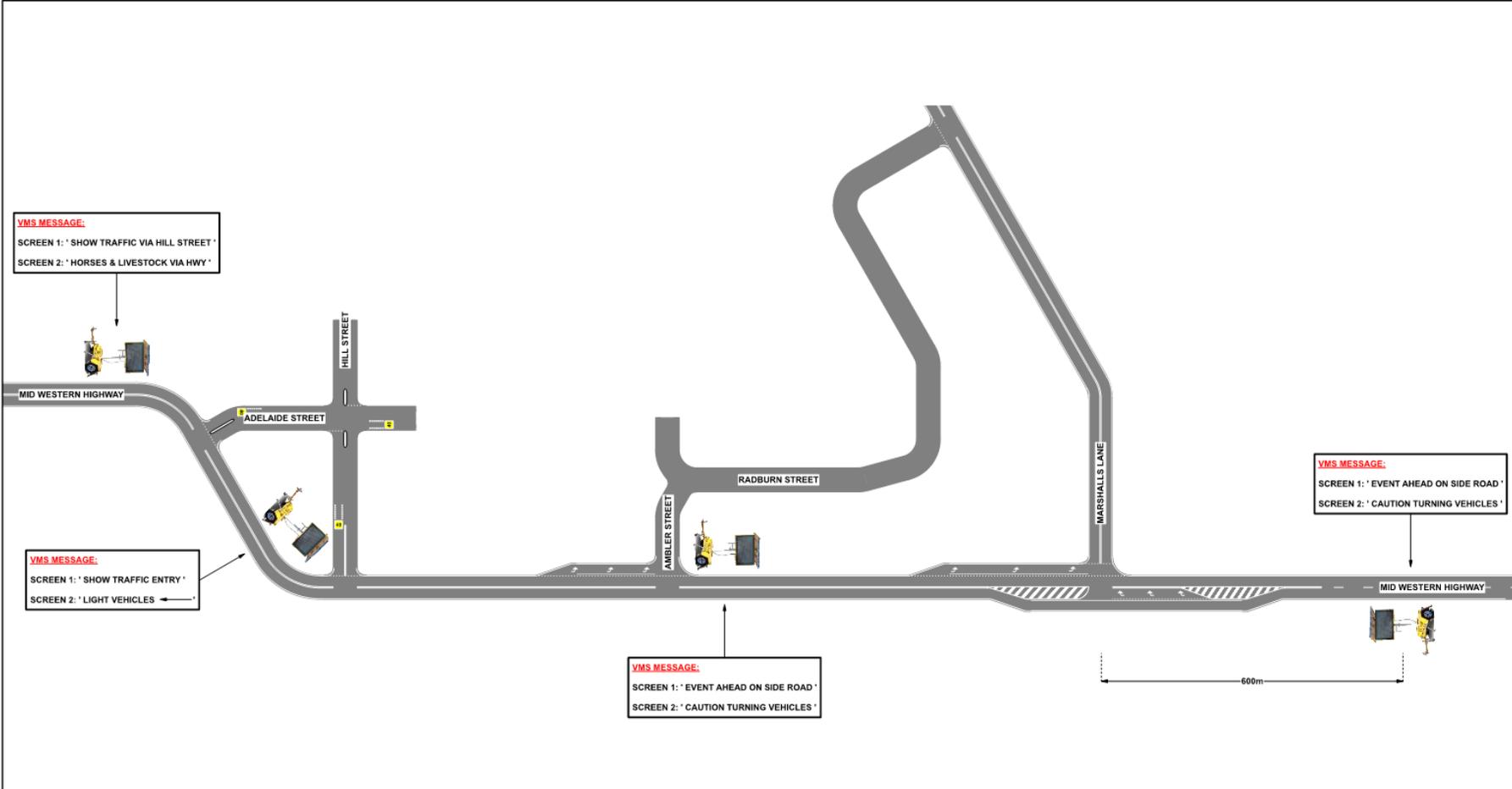
Attachments (separate document)

Nil

Street Event – Blayney Show – 7 March 2026

Conditions considered appropriate for the Event Organiser to comply with include the following:-

- a. The Event Organiser shall obtain approval from NSW Police, with submission of a Notice of Intention to Hold a Public Assembly (via chifleyrms@police.nsw.gov.au), in accordance with the Summary Offences Act 1988, and a copy provided to Blayney Shire Council, prior to the event.
- b. The Event Organiser shall obtain a Road Occupancy Licence, in accordance with the Roads Act 1993 (s144) from Transport for NSW, with a copy provided to Blayney Shire Council, prior to the event.
- c. Council shall be provided with an up-to-date copy of a \$20M Public Liability Insurance Policy indicating Blayney Shire Council's interests, and the date and location of the event.
- d. A Traffic Management Plan (TMP) and a Traffic Guidance Scheme (TGS) must be prepared for the event by an appropriately qualified person, and shall be provided to the Blayney Traffic Committee for approval prior to the event.
- e. Implementation of the approved Traffic Guidance Scheme (TGS) is to be completed by persons appropriately qualified to do so.
- f. All Event Marshalls, Traffic Controllers and participants must be consulted and advised of the risk management and contingency arrangements in case of an emergency.
- g. A Risk Assessment must be completed and a Risk Management Plan submitted to Council prior to the event.
- h. The Event Organiser shall ensure high-visibility vests are provided and worn by all volunteers.
- i. The Event Organiser must inform all relevant persons involved in the organisation of the event of the Conditions of Approval.
- j. The Event Organiser is to notify all Emergency Services of the event and associated road closures, including Orange Base and Blayney Hospitals.
- k. The Event Organiser is to notify all business proprietors and residents affected by the event at least 7 days prior to the event.
- l. The Event Organiser will, advertise the temporary road closures, including a contact number for an event organiser, at least seven days prior to the event, in the local media.
- m. The Event Organiser is to comply with the requirements of the "Guide to Traffic and Transport Management for Special Events" (version 3.5) dated 1 July 2018, for a Class 3 event.
- o. The Event Organiser will not direct any person to, nor place any markings on the roadway in accordance with s123 of the Road Transport Act 2013.



	PROJECT		LOCATION		TGS No:	
	THE BLAYNEY SHOW		BLAYNEY SHOWGROUND		BLAYNEY-SHOW-2025	
	TRAFFIC CONTROL TYPE		ROAD CONFIG		PAGE NO:	
	STOP / SLOW		2LANE / 2WAYS UNDIVIDED		1 OF 1	
CLIENT	SCALE	ROAD SPEED	WORK SPEED	SEQUENCE	PROXIMITY	ROL / SZA APPROVED
BLAYNEY SHOW	NOT TO SCALE				<1.5m	YES: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ROL ONLY: <input type="checkbox"/> N/A: <input type="checkbox"/>
	REV No	REV DATE	TGS DATE	COMMENCEMENT DATE	DURATION	ROL LICENCE NO: ROL ACTIVATION TIME:
0		10/10/2024				
Designer: MATT D'AQUINO			Approved By: MATTHEW MARTIN			
PWZTMP Licence No: TCT0048195 Email: Planning@workcontrol.com.au			PWZTMP Licence No: TCT0048578 PH: 0473 000 854			
<i>Matt D'Aquino</i>			<i>Matthew Martin</i>			

19) REPORT OF THE CENTRAL NSW JOINT ORGANISATION BOARD MEETING HELD 12 NOVEMBER 2025

Department: Executive Services

Author: Councillor Reynolds

CSP Link: 1. Prioritise transparency, financial sustainability and strong partnerships with and for our community

File No: GR.LR.3

Recommendation:

That Council note the report from the Mayor on the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) Board Meeting held 12 November 2025.

Reason for Report:

To provide Council with the Mayor's delegate report on the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) meeting.

Report:

Please find enclosed report from the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting held 12 November 2025 in Parkes.

Mayor Bruce Reynolds and General Manager Mark Dicker attended on behalf of Blayney Shire Council.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Nil

Budget Implications:

Allocations are included in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan for delegates to attend this meeting.

Enclosures (following report)

- | | | |
|---|---|----------|
| 1 | Central NSW Joint Organisation Report and Minutes -
12 November 2025 | 14 Pages |
|---|---|----------|

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

Report from the Mayor and General Manager attending the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting on 12 November 2025 in Sydney

Recommendations

That Council note the report from the Mayor and General Manager on the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) Board meeting on 12 November 2025 held in Sydney.

This report provides advice from the recent meeting of the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board held in Sydney on 12 November 2025.

The CNSWJO Board met in Sydney at The Grace Hotel to align with the Board’s visit to NSW State Parliament on 13 November 2025. Speakers to the Board meeting were Mr Matt Armstrong, NBN; Mr Ed Nicholas, Tribe Infrastructure Group and Mr Jordan Welden-Iley from the CNSWJO who provided a presentation on cyber security.

More detail on reports to the meeting are below where the agenda can be found on the [CNSWJO website](#).

Please contact Interim Executive Officer, Ms Kate Barker, with any queries.



Images: The CNSWJO Board, peak agencies and Ministers at the meetings in Sydney on 12 and 13 November 2025

2024/25 Annual Performance Statement

The CNSWJO is required to submit an Annual Performance Statement (the Statement) by 30 November 2025. The Statement reports progress on the implementation of CNSWJO's Strategic Plan.

The Statement highlights a strong return on investment for members of 6.28:1, cost savings of almost \$2.6m, and over \$1.86m in grant funding. The Statement provides detail of the value to members, the various collaboration opportunities, communication and media, submissions, recognition through awards, and an overview of the activities and successes of each of the JO's 7 key strategic regional priorities.

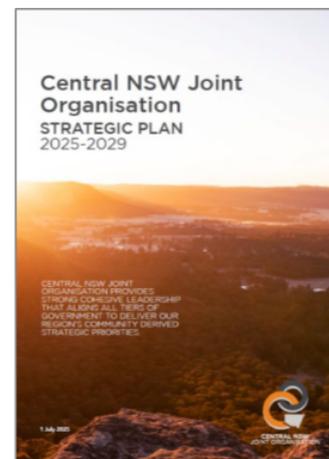


The [2024/25 Annual Performance Statement](#) can be found on the CNSWJO website.

Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities 2025-2029

The Board adopted the Strategic Plan and Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities 2025-2029, taking immediate effect, and the Portfolio Mayors for the priorities for the SSRP 2025-2029 are:

- Priority 1: Leveraging our reputation and strength in collaboration- Cr Kevin Beatty
- Priority 2: Regional prosperity through better connected infrastructure and services- Cr Neil Westcott and Cr Bruce Reynolds
- Priority 3: Improved and fit-for-purpose infrastructure in health and ageing- Cr Phyllis Miller, Cr John Medcalf and Cr Neil Westcott
- Priority 4: Telecommunications- Cr Kevin Beatty and Cr Phyllis Miller
- Priority 5: Regional transport planning and infrastructure prioritisation- Cr Andrew McKibbin, Cr Bruce Reynolds and Cr Paul Smith
- Priority 6: Regional water security and productive water- Cr Paul Smith, Cr Tony Mileto, Cr Robert Taylor, Cr Bruce Reynolds and Cr Andrew Rawson
- Priority 7: Climate change adaptation and mitigation- Cr Cass Coleman, Cr Neil Westcott and Cr Andrew Rawson



The [SSRP](#) can be found on the CNSWJO website.

Advocacy

Updates were provided in relation to advocacy for the regional prosperity, health, transport, water and energy portfolios.

In the context of a changing political framework, the way in which advocacy is facilitated via the JO has been considered and a new advocacy framework which aims to streamline, clarify and improve regional advocacy through the JO was adopted.

The following submissions were endorsed:

1. [Submission to Inquiry into Rural Housing and Second Dwellings Reform](#)
2. [Submission to the NSW EPA on Climate Change Licensee Reporting Requirements](#)
3. [Submission into the Review of the Operations of the NSW Reconstruction Authority regarding the NSW East Coast severe weather from May 2025](#)

Renewable Energy Community Benefit Sharing

The Board was provided with a draft discussion paper prepared by CNSWJO in relation to lessons learned from member councils regarding Voluntary Planning Agreements in the context of renewable energy developments.

All member councils have been engaged in the development of this discussion paper. The Board endorsed the draft discussion paper and the CNSWJO Planners Group will consider the paper and provide advice back to the Board on which actions to progress at a regional level and what further support can be provided to member councils.

Procurement and Contracts

Delegates to the Board meeting noted the ongoing growth of the Regional Procurement and Contract Management Program with its associated cost savings to member councils. There are currently 20+ regional contracts available for use by members, with a further 10 under development. Details of the available contracts can be found here- www.centraljo.nsw.gov.au/contracts-register.

Regional Resilience Program

The Evacuation Centre Assessments project (funded under the Disaster Ready Fund) has been finalised, and the reports now provide councils and CNSWJO with a strong evidence base to strengthen evacuation facilities, with future work flagged to assess Emergency Operations Centres.

The Board endorsed the Regional Evacuation Centre Assessment report.

Regional Prosperity

Advice was provided to the Board on endorsed priorities identified for regional prosperity including the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Planning System Reforms) Bill 2025.

Concerns raised by legal experts and Local Government NSW (LGNSW) on changes to the planning laws announced by the NSW Premier in September were highlighted.

Where numerous challenges have been identified with the legislation, Local Government NSW (LGNSW) is following its passage closely and continuing to prosecute the importance of ensuring that the essential role of democratically elected councils remains central to the planning framework in NSW. Also, that any statutory rules, environmental planning instruments, and policies are developed in a genuinely collaborative manner with local government to maintain public trust and confidence in the planning system. CNSWJO continues to maintain a watching brief in this space as peak agencies such as LGNSW and CMA are leading the charge.

Telecommunications

Some members have raised concerns around the need to do more in this space. In response, a presentation was received from nbn Local in relation to the development of a Regional Digital Plan. The Board endorsed the development of a regional plan which aims to provide baseline digital connectivity information for the region, determine priorities and set a platform to support and advocate on behalf of the community for digital connectivity improvements throughout the Central NSW Region. The plan will be developed in collaboration with RDA Central West, nbn Local, Telstra and other key stakeholders.

This has also been identified as an action for the CNSWJO in partnership with RDACW in the Parkes, Forbes and Lachlan Regional Drought Resilience Plan.

Transport

The draft Central West Orana Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan has recently been released by Transport for NSW, with feedback sought until 14 December. CNSWJO intends to lodge a submission.

The JO continues to participate in the Central NSW Integrated Transport Group which meets 4 times per year with representatives from CNSWJO, Transport for NSW (TfNSW), Inland Rail, the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI), and member councils. The Group discusses opportunities, challenges and developments with direct implications for the region's transport planning and priorities.

Water

Where CNSWJO is leading the state in its work in Water Loss Management and Water Efficiency, the Water and Regional Development Manager and Chair of the Western Councils' Water Alliance (WCWA) co-presented on the roll-out of the program to the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) and WCWA at this year's Local Government NSW Water Management Conference in Albury on 10 September. This presentation focussed on the opportunity through the Productivity and Equality Commission's report on Alternate Funding Models for Local Water Utilities for the State government to incentivise collaboration.

A 2026 University of Sydney Major Industry Project Placement Scheme (MIPPS) project proposal has been submitted. This project builds on previous projects in water efficiency and aims to explore the relationship between pump scheduling, water demand, and energy use across council water networks. It will build an evidence base that can help councils better understand opportunities for cost savings, operational efficiency, and more sustainable water-energy management.

The Water and Regional Development Manager attended the Murray Darling Association 2025 National Conference in Griffith on 1-2 October. This presented a great opportunity to hear first-hand from a broad cross section of stakeholders from across the Basin, reflecting interests in irrigation, industry, local government, biosecurity, and the environment.

Regional Energy Report

The Joint Organisation Net Zero Accelerator (JONZA) Round 3 program commenced on 1 July 2025, with \$253K in funding through to 31 December 2026. The Round 3 approach is to be broad to allow for flexibility as opportunities and grants arise, with the main focus areas being:

- Distributed Energy Resources (DER),
- Energy Security, Capacity and Affordability,
- Resilience
- Emissions, inc fleet
- Data and cost savings
- Water

The [E Venture Map](#), led by CNSWJO to promote spontaneous EV tourism across NSW, is being progressed to finalisation in 2025, with promotion and physical signage roll-out.

Various other EV resources are being rolled out to members through the JONZA program.

Quarterly Review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priorities

JO Chairs’ Forum

The Forum brings together all NSW JO’s along with other alliances of councils from across NSW three times per year. Its purpose is to exchange information on best practice and excellence in the pursuit of strategic regional priorities, joint advocacy and collaboration activities for the benefit of local councils and their communities right across rural and regional NSW.

The current chair of the Forum is Cr Sue Moore, Mayor of Singleton Council and Chair of Hunter JO, along with Deputy Chair Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor of Cabonne Council and Chair of Central NSW JO. The Hunter JO currently provides the secretariat to the Forum.

The 7 August meeting in Sydney consisted of a workshop around the potential cross-JO approach to a collaborative community benefit sharing for renewable energy developments framework. This proposed approach was well-received and Hunter JO as the Chair of the Forum is seeking formal participation from JOs. CNSWJO, via the Chair and the previous resolution of the Board, has agreed to participate in this collaborative approach.



Spend on aggregated contracts

The following table shows the spend by member councils through regional contracts from 1 July to 30 September.

SPEND	Water Utilities Alliance Contracts	HR Contracts	WHS contracts	Supply contracts	Roads/ Transport contracts	Energy contracts	RDOCS contracts	Training	Total
Bathurst	\$369,275	\$4,000	\$0	\$33,799	\$0	\$871,380	\$9,570	\$0	\$1,288,025
Blayney	\$0	\$5,718	\$0	\$44,267	\$0	\$90,316	\$2,289	\$0	\$142,591
Cabonne	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$40,203	\$0	\$120,079	\$0	\$0	\$160,282
Central Tablelands Water	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$22,497	\$0	\$102,262	\$0	\$0	\$124,759
Cowra	\$31,324	\$3,640	\$0	\$29,987	\$0	\$247,245	\$0	\$0	\$312,196
Forbes	\$538,527	\$3,575	\$0	\$237,868	\$0	\$267,670	\$3,368	\$0	\$1,051,008
Lachlan	\$0	\$4,689	\$0	\$42,464	\$0	\$176,916	\$0	\$0	\$224,069
Lithgow	\$0	\$3,900	\$0	\$48,979	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$52,879
Oberon	\$0	\$1,300	\$231	\$17,952	\$0	\$53,955	\$2,687	\$0	\$76,125
Orange	\$407,566	\$10,700	\$14,458	\$32,393	\$0	\$1,055,979	\$6,959	\$5,400	\$1,533,454
Parkes	\$76,430	\$2,730	\$0	\$23,803	\$0	\$484,818	\$7,094	\$4,200	\$599,075
Upper Macquarie County Council	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Weddin	\$48,521	\$0	\$0	\$37,050	\$0	\$44,177	\$1,975	\$0	\$131,724
Total	\$1,471,644	\$40,252	\$14,689	\$611,262	\$0	\$3,514,795	\$33,942	\$9,600	\$5,696,185

Savings on aggregated contracts and other programming

The following table shows the savings achieved by member councils through regional contracts and other regional programs from 1 July to 30 September.

SAVINGS	Water Utilities Alliance Contracts	HR Contracts	WHS contracts	Supply contracts	Roads/ Transport contracts	Energy contracts	Training	Legal advice re Procurement	Participation in regional procurement	Total
Bathurst	\$19,436	\$651	\$0	\$3,240	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,000	\$29,327
Blayney	\$0	\$1,430	\$0	\$4,427	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,000	\$12,856
Cabonne	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,204	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,000	\$10,204
Central Tablelands Water	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$7,500
Cowra	\$5,528	\$593	\$0	\$3,307	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,000	\$16,427
Forbes	\$28,344	\$582	\$0	\$23,954	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$62,880
Lachlan	\$0	\$917	\$0	\$5,441	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$16,358
Lithgow	\$0	\$635	\$0	\$5,022	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,000	\$11,657
Oberon	\$0	\$212	\$99	\$1,841	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$7,152
Orange	\$24,074	\$1,938	\$6,196	\$3,969	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$36,178
Parkes	\$4,023	\$444	\$0	\$3,949	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,000	\$14,416
Upper Macquarie County Council	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Weddin	\$3,524	\$0	\$0	\$4,606	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$10,130
Sub Total	\$84,927	\$7,401	\$6,295	\$66,460	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$70,000	\$235,083
									Cost to members	\$105,250
									Total	\$129,833

Grant Funding

The following table shows the grant funding received for member councils for the 25/26 FY to date.

GRANT FUNDING - 25/26 FY	Water	Training/ HR/WHS	Roads/ Transport	Energy	Tourism	Disaster Resilience	Other	Total
Bathurst	\$9,593	\$20,430	\$0	\$3,165	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$33,188
Blayney	\$0	\$8,890	\$0	\$3,165	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,055
Cabonne	\$9,593	\$0	\$0	\$3,165	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,758
Central Tablelands Water	\$9,593	\$88,530	\$0	\$3,165	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$101,288
Cowra	\$9,593	\$2,600	\$0	\$3,165	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,358
Forbes	\$9,593	\$0	\$0	\$3,165	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,758
Lachlan	\$9,593	\$7,330	\$0	\$3,165	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,088
Lithgow	\$9,593	\$16,600	\$0	\$3,165	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$29,358
Oberon	\$9,593	\$7,850	\$0	\$3,165	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,608
Orange	\$9,593	\$73,210	\$0	\$3,165	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$85,968
Parkes	\$9,593	\$520	\$0	\$3,165	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$13,278
Upper Macquarie County Council	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Weddin	\$0	\$1,040	\$0	\$3,165	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,205
Total	\$95,930	\$227,000	\$0	\$37,980	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$398,890

Attachments

1. Draft Minutes of the CNSWJO Board meeting 12 November 2025

Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting on 12 November 2025 held in Sydney

Voting delegates

Cr R Taylor	Bathurst Regional Council	Cr C Coleman	Lithgow City Council
Cr B Reynolds	Blayney Shire Council	Cr A McKibbin	Oberon Council
Cr K Beatty	Cabonne Council	Cr T Mileto	Orange City Council
Cr P Smith	Cowra Shire Council	Cr M Applebee	Parkes Shire Council
Cr J Webb	Forbes Shire Council	Cr P Best	Weddin Shire Council
Cr J Medcalf, OAM	Lachlan Shire Council		

Associate Member delegates and others attending

Mr M Dicker	Blayney Shire Council	Cr A Rawson	Central Tablelands Water
Mr B Byrnes	Cabonne Council	Mr C Harris	Central Tablelands Water
Mr P Devery	Cowra Shire Council	Mr M Jones	CTWA
Mr R Jane	Forbes Shire Council	Ms R Fagan	RDACW
Mr A Stoneham	Lachlan Shire Council	Mr J Gordon	RDACW
Mr R Gurney	Lithgow City Council	Ms K Annis-Brown	NSW OLG
Mr G Wallace	Oberon Council	Ms G Collins	NSW Premier’s Dept
Mr K Boyd PSM	Parkes Shire Council	Ms K Barker	CNSWJO
Mr L Sheehan	Weddin Shire Council	Ms M Macpherson	CNSWJO
		Ms J Webber	CNSWJO
		Ms C Griffin	CNSWJO

Voting members in **bold**

- 1 **Meeting opened** at 9.30am, Chaired by Cr K Beatty
- 2 **Acknowledgement of Country**
- 3 **Apologies-** Cr P Miller, Cr N Westcott, Mr D Sherley, Mr S Dunshea, Mr B Omundson, Mr B Fry

RESOLUTION 25/11- 3
 Moved: Cr Andrew McKibbin
 Seconded: Cr John Medcalf

That the apologies for the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting 12 November 2025 listed above be accepted.

CARRIED

4 Conflicts of Interest

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 4
 Moved: Cr Andrew McKibbin
 Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

No conflicts of interest were declared.

CARRIED

5 Speakers

- **5a NBN** – Workshop on identifying the challenges and opportunities for improved telecommunications in Central NSW
- **5b Tribe Infrastructure Group** – Parkes Energy from Waste facility

- **5c Regional Chief Information Security Officer** – Mr Jordan Welden-Iley – Cyber Security training session for Board and General Managers

Action: Mr Welden-Iley to circulate the model AI policy to member councils

6 Minutes

6a Confirmation of the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting dated 31 July 2025 held in Parkes

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 6a

Moved: Cr John Medcalf

Seconded: Cr Bruce Reynolds

That the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting held 31 July 2025 held in Parkes be confirmed.

CARRIED

6b Noting the Minutes of the CNSWJO GMAC Meeting held on 24 July 2025 in Blayney

6c Noting the Minutes of the CNSWJO GMAC Meeting held on 30 October 2025 in Eugowra

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 6b and 6c

Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds

Seconded: Cr John Medcalf

That the Minutes of the CNSWJO GMAC Meetings held 24 July 2025 in Blayney and 30 October 2025 in Eugowra be noted.

CARRIED

7 Business Arising from the Minutes- Matters in Progress

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 7

Moved: Cr Cass Coleman

Seconded: Cr Paul Best

That the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board note the Matters in Progress, making deletions as suggested.

CARRIED

8a Financial Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8a

Moved: Cr Andrew McKibbin

Seconded: Cr Bruce Reynolds

That the Board note the Financial Report and

1. approve the cash reserves for 2025/26 for employee leave entitlements, plant and equipment turnover, and working capital reserve,
2. note the correspondence from LGP rejecting member councils' request for the rebate to continue to be paid to the JO,
3. should subsequent requests for payment of the LGP rebate be paid to the JO instead of members be denied, member councils re-direct the funds received for the LGP rebate to the JO.

CARRIED

8b Adoption of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025 Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8b

Moved: Cr Robert Taylor

Seconded: Cr John Medcalf

That the Board note the Adoption of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025 Report and

1. adopt the Central NSW Joint Organisation General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025, and
2. circulate the confidential Audit Management Letter to Board members.

CARRIED

8c Governance Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8c

Moved: Cr Tony Mileto

Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Governance Report and

1. endorse the 2024/25 Annual Performance Statement, place it on the CNSWJO website and send a copy to the OLG,
2. note the advice on Code of Conduct complaint statistics,
3. note the Pecuniary Interest Returns under s450a of the Local Government Act 1993,
4. determine the dates for Board meetings for 2026 be:
 - 26 February 2026– Grenfell (Weddin)
 - 27 + 28 May 2026– State/Federal visit pending sitting dates once released
 - 26 + 27 August 2026– State/Federal visit pending sitting dates once released
 - 26 November 2026- Bathurst
5. determine the dates for GMAC meetings for 2026 be:
 - 5 February 2026- Orange
 - 30 April 2026- Cowra
 - 30 July 2026- Orange
 - 22 October 2026 – Forbes

CARRIED

8d Policy and Procedure Review Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8d

Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds

Seconded: Cr Cass Coleman

That the Board note the Policy and Procedure Review Report and

1. endorse the move from an annual to a 3-yearly schedule for policy reviews,
2. adopt the updated Code of Meeting Practice,
3. adopt the following new policies and procedures:
 - AI Use Policy,
 - Password Policy,
 - Higher Duties Policy,
 - Evaluation Panel Responsibilities Procedure,
4. note the amendments to various policies, including the revamped Advocacy Policy and Advocacy Procedure.

CARRIED

8e Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities 2025-2029 Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8e

Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds

Seconded: Cr Andrew McKibbin

That the Board note the Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities 2025-2029 Report and

1. note the feedback provided during the exhibition period for the Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities,
2. adopt the Strategic Plan and Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities 2025-2029,
3. note the Portfolio Mayors for the priorities for the SSRP 2025-2029 are:
 - Priority 1: Leveraging our reputation and strength in collaboration- Cr Kevin Beatty
 - Priority 2: Regional prosperity through better connected infrastructure and services- Cr Neil Westcott and Cr Bruce Reynolds
 - Priority 3: Improved and fit-for-purpose infrastructure in health and ageing- Cr Phyllis Miller, Cr John Medcalf and Cr Neil Westcott
 - Priority 4: Telecommunications- Cr Kevin Beatty and Cr Phyllis Miller
 - Priority 5: Regional transport planning and infrastructure prioritisation- Cr Andrew McKibbin, Cr Bruce Reynolds and Cr Paul Smith
 - Priority 6: Regional water security and productive water- Cr Paul Smith, Cr Tony Mileto, Cr Robert Taylor, Cr Bruce Reynolds and Cr Andrew Rawson
 - Priority 7: Climate change adaptation and mitigation- Cr Cass Coleman, Cr Neil Westcott and Cr Andrew Rawson
4. endorse the interim organisational structure of the CNSWJO, and seek a report on a reviewed structure upon the appointment of the Executive Officer,
5. note the risk matrix has been reviewed and updated, and
6. that all Board members and General Managers respond to the SSRP Evaluation survey once issued.

CARRIED

8f Advocacy Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8f

Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds

Seconded: Cr Andrew McKibbin

That the Board note the Advocacy Report and

1. endorse the proposed new Advocacy Framework,
2. endorse the creation of an Annual Advocacy Plan and Activities Schedule, to be provided at the February 2026 Board meeting for endorsement,
3. endorse the creation of Portfolio Position Statements to be embedded within each Annual Advocacy Plan and Activities Schedule,
4. endorse the creation of Advocacy Repositories for each Portfolio, with legacy “Advocacy Plans” content being migrated into each corresponding Repository,
5. seek an update from Penrith City Council on the status of the business case for the Castlereagh Corridor,
6. endorse the following submissions and place them on the CNSWJO website:
 - NSW EPA Climate Change Licensee Reporting Requirements,
 - NSW Legislative Council's Inquiry into Rural Housing and Second Dwellings Reform, and
 - Review of the Operations of the NSW Reconstruction Authority regarding the NSW East Coast severe weather, and
7. seek a presentation from Western Sydney Airport

CARRIED

8g Renewable Energy Community Benefit Sharing Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8g

Moved: Cr Andrew McKibbin

Seconded: Cr Cass Coleman

That the Board note the Renewable Energy Community Benefit Sharing Report and

1. confirm its support and participation in a state-wide collaborative approach to community benefit sharing to:
 - a. understanding and applying the new benefit-sharing guideline for large-scale energy developments,
 - b. developing council policies and procedures for negotiating community benefits-sharing arrangements, and
 - c. advocating for clear planning processes, additional guidelines and retrospective arrangements to ensure net community benefit for regional host communities for all energy developments,
2. endorse the Draft *Discussion Paper: Lessons Learned on renewable energy projects in the region and Voluntary Planning Agreements*,
3. request that the CNSWJO Planners Group consider the Draft *Discussion Paper: Lessons Learned on renewable energy projects in the region and Voluntary Planning Agreements* at its next meeting and provide advice on the actions within the Discussion Paper to be progressed at a regional level, with a report provided back to the Board in due course,
4. seek a presentation from Mr Brad Cam from Mid-Western Regional Council at the February 2026 Board meeting in relation to an update on the progress of the significant number of developments and their impacts in that region, and
5. seek a proposal to facilitate a workshop with councils in relation to community benefit-sharing, and
6. follow up with Cr Sam Coupland in relation to the documents discussed at the 12 June meeting.

CARRIED

8h Procurement Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8h

Moved: Cr Paul Smith

Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Regional Procurement Report and approves the updates to the procurement plan.

CARRIED

8i Regional Resilience Program Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8i

Moved: Cr Tony Mileto

Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Regional Resilience Program Report and

1. endorse the Regional Evacuation Centre Assessment Report and note the identified recommendations, including:
 - a. a total of \$3 million in upgrades for Council-owned sites have been recommended for evacuation centres across the region, which will require further funding to implement,
 - b. that councils consider their individual reports and supporting documentation in relation to the recommendations; and
 - c. consideration of future work to assess Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs), as outlined in the report, and

2. endorse the approved Disaster Ready Fund Round 2 variation request and note that the Milestone 2 claim will proceed in accordance with the revised project schedule and deliverables.

CARRIED

8j Regional Prosperity Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8j

Moved: Cr Marg Applebee

Seconded: Cr Paul Best

That the Board note the Regional Prosperity Report and

1. write to the NSW Planning Minister in support of advocacy by Local Government NSW and the Country Mayors Association regarding the changes to the Planning Legislation, and
2. a report be provided to the Board for alternate options for the tourism operations delivered by the JO.

CARRIED

8k Health Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8k

Moved: Cr John Medcalf

Seconded: Cr Paul Best

That the Board note the Health Report and that the renewed MoU with RDN is under review to be signed in early 2026.

CARRIED

8l Telecommunications Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8l

Moved: Cr Marg Applebee

Seconded: Cr John Medcalf

That the Board note the Telecommunications Report and endorse the development of a Regional Digital Plan including separate LGA plans in partnership with nbn Local, Regional Development Australia Central West and other providers including Telstra.

CARRIED

8m Regional Transport Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8m

Moved: Cr Andrew McKibbin

Seconded: Cr Tony Mileto

That the Board note the Regional Transport Report.

CARRIED

8n Regional Water Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8n

Moved: Cr Cass Coleman

Seconded: Cr Paul Smith

That the Board note the Regional Water Report.

CARRIED

8o Regional Energy Report

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8o

Moved: Cr Marg Applebee

Seconded: Cr Bruce Reynolds

That the Board note the Regional Energy Report and

1. endorse the JONZA Round 3 project management plan,
2. lobby the relevant Federal Government department/s for the Grid Enhancing Technologies grant guidelines to be modified for the next round of funding to allow local government entities to apply,
3. endorse the Landfill Emissions Abatement Knowledge Sharing (LEAKS) Program project plan, and
4. endorse the Landfill Emissions Working Group terms of reference.

CARRIED

8p Quarterly Review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Strategic Regional Priority 2022-2025

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 8p

Moved: Cr Robert Taylor

Seconded: Cr John Medcalf

That the Board note the Quarterly Review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priorities 2022-2025 report and

1. recognise the return on investment (ROI) for member councils in 2024/25 was 6.28:1, and
2. endorse the renewal of the MoU with RDA Central West, noting the 2026 collaborative activity schedule.

CARRIED

9a RDA Central West Update

The Board noted the RDA Central West Update Report.

9b NSW Premier’s Department Update

The Board noted the NSW Premier’s Department Update Report.

9c OLG Update Report

The Board noted the OLG Update Report.

10 Confidential Session

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 10

Moved: Cr Marg Applebee

Seconded: Cr Andrew McKibbin

That the Board

1. resolve into closed session to consider business identified, together with any late reports tabled at the meeting.
2. Pursuant to section 10A(f) of the Local Government Act 1993, the media and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified confidential under the provisions of section 10A(2)(f) as outlined above.
3. Correspondence and reports relevant to the subject business be withheld from access.

CARRIED

Stakeholders from RDACW, NSW Premier’s Department, and NSW OLG left the room.

10a Regional Cyber Security Program Report- Confidential

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 10a

Moved: Cr Cass Coleman

Seconded: Cr Paul Best

That the Board note the Regional Cyber Security Program Report and endorse the Regional Cyber Security Strategy & Roadmap.

CARRIED

CNSWJO staff left the room.

10b Confidential Session

RESOLUTION 25/11 – 10b

Moved: Cr Cass Coleman

Seconded: Cr Marg Applebee

That the Board resolve out of closed session.

CARRIED

11 Matters Raised by members

Lithgow – Seeking support from members for a notice of motion to the LGNSW conference in relation to the development of a State Assistance Grants program.

- Support was provided by members.

12 Late Reports - Nil

13 General business - Nil

14 Speakers to the next meeting

- Brad Cam, General Manager, Mid Western Regional Council re VPAs for renewable energy projects
- Western Sydney Airport
- NSW Farmers Federation
- Ms Kate Lorimer Ward – Local Land Services re feral pigs issue

Meeting closed at 4.33pm

Page 8 is the last page of the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting minutes of meeting of 12 November 2025 held in Sydney.

20) COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION MEETING

Department: Executive Services

Author: Councillor Reynolds

CSP Link: 1. Prioritise transparency, financial sustainability and strong partnerships with and for our community

File No: GO.ME.1

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the minutes of the Country Mayors Association meeting held 14 November 2025.

Reason for Report:

To update Council on the recent Country Mayors Association (CMA) meeting held Friday 14 November 2025.

Report:

The draft minutes of the CMA meeting held 14 November 2025 in Sydney are enclosed for Council's information.

Mayor Bruce Reynolds and General Manager Mark Dicker attended on behalf of Blayney Shire Council.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Nil

Budget Implications:

Allocations are included in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan for delegates to attend this meeting.

Enclosures (following report)

- | | | |
|---|--|----------|
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|---|--|----------|

Attachments (separate document)

Nil



THE COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC

"What we want is nothing more than equity"

Chairman: Cr Rick Firman OAM
 C/- Temora Shire Council,
 PO Box 262, Temora NSW 2666
 Email: admin@nswcountrymayors.com.au

MINUTES

The General Meeting of the Country Mayors Association of NSW Inc was held on **Friday 14 November 2025, in the Theatre, Parliament House, Macquarie Street from 8:20am until 1pm (inclusive of the CMA's 2025 AGM). The meeting had a Skills and Education theme.**

The attendance and apologies are listed at the end of the minutes.

8:20am The meeting commenced with a welcome from CMA Chairman Mayor Rick Firman OAM and his introduction of the first guest speaker NSW Premier, the Hon. Chris Minns MP.

8:30am Presentation and Q&A – NSW Premier, the Hon. Chris Minns MP

The Premier commended the work of CMA Chairman and the Country Mayors Association in general. He emphasised how "country councils are like the canaries in the coal mine, whether it be crime or water." In addressing the underfunding of Councils, Premier Minns said that "NSW has 1/3 of the population but we get a disproportionate share of the federal tax dollar – it just has to go up".

Q. Mayor Sharon Cadwallader (Byron Shire) asked about Councils paying for roads in Crown Lands.

Premier: We support your call for Federal Financial Assistance Grants to return to 1% (of tax revenue) but I don't see that as a justification for Councils bearing additional costs. I will look into the matter.

Q. Mayor Jasmin Jones (Yass Valley Council) asked about REZ burdens.

Premier: The Premier described scenario with the coal power station shutdowns. It is not about whether you believe in climate change. We need to produce energy. We need to produce NSW gas – I understand it's unpopular but we must act to meet the State's energy needs, to keep the lights on.

We cannot slow down the roll out of renewable energy projects.

Mayor Jones: If we can talk about capacity building.

Then: No local council input in the planning and development approval process.

Premier: Local Planning panels should have local involvement.

Mayor Patricia White (Shoalhaven City Council): Thank you for visiting the Shoalhaven. At one stage, we were \$35mil in the red, due to slow disaster payments. Would you consider some of the Queensland measures?

Premier: We work with the Federal Government and we are still waiting on the Lismore flood reimbursement from the Federal Government (from four years ago). We are looking at nicking ideas from Queensland to speed up the delivery of funds.

Q: Mayor Sarah Ndiaye (Byron Shire): There are Mayors working full-time for \$33,000pa. We are given a stipend and not a wage so a Mayor cannot even get Centrelink maternity leave.

Premier: I hope that my respect for those in Local Government has been evident. When you go to Coles or Wollies, it takes you three times as long. I know you do it because you believe you need to. I am prepared to look at it.

Mayor Lachlan Ford (Bourke Shire): Thanks for the youth funding. The growth of National Parks has been a real concern for our Shire and western NSW. It has reduced the productivity of our LGA.

Premier: We spent two years developing the policy. The land clearing policy was not rushed.

Mayor Ford: We were never spoken to and \$80mil. GDP has been lost from our Shire.

Mayor Paul Culhane (Upper Lachlan Shire): We have less than one person / square km. We could contribute to low-cost housing and the housing crisis.

Premier: We are limited by capacities, in communities and the building sector.

Premier Minns concluded with news that will help with Police numbers: We've had a 70% increase in applications for the Police Academy, thanks to a great recruitment campaign promoting the ability of new officers to work in their home towns.

A thank you gift was presented by CMA Chairman Mayor Rick Firman OAM

9:10am Presentation and Q&A – Federal Shadow Local Government Minister, Dr. Anne Webster MP

Dr. Webster commended and thanked the CMA, especially for Governor's reception, saying it was a very memorable night.

The Federal Shadow Local Minister is a regional MP and described how "lowering the default speed limit would greatly impact us in the country, our productivity."

Dr. Webster also discussed Federal funding programs. Regarding FA Grants, Dr Webster spoke with NSW Local Government Minister Ron Hoenig and NSW Shadow Local Government Minister Chris Rath and we do need something to change. FA grants for metro Councils are like dessert, nice to have but not really necessary. 5% of Sydney councils actually need the FA Grants. Local Councils are responsible for 77% of roads but it's 90% in country NSW.

NSW has seen a reduction on nearly \$6Billion in funding from the Federal Government.

Dr. Webster also discussed the Red fleet issue and Mobile black spots. She encouraged CMA Members to advise her office of issues they encounter.

Q: Mayor Petrie (Tenterfield Shire): NSW is receiving over \$12Billion less GST but Victoria is getting more back than that State pays. Can you do something there?

Dr. Webster: I will take that on notice.

Q: Mayor Coupland (Armidale Regional Council): NSW Local Government is set up to fail but not in QLD. Local Government needs to be empowered and uncapping (of rates) needs to occur.

Dr. Webster: That is a question for the Premier. I would support that but my passion is the FA Grants and I don't see any appetite (for change) from Minister McBain and King.

Q: Mayor John Harvie (Murray River Council): We'd like a commitment to return to 1%. Would the Coalition take that to the next election?

Dr. Webster: We need to know if the 1% is the answer to financial unsustainability.

Q: Mayor Tiffany Galvin (Gwydir Shire): We have times when we have no mobile service at all. It's dangerous.

Dr. Webster: Please tell me these stories in writing. What we are hearing is just not good enough. It's inequity.

Q: Mayor Robert Bell (Uralla Shire): The 1% is key. Truck drivers pay so much (in taxes) for using our roads and don't see much going to roads.

Q: Mayor Brian Monaghan (Bland Shire) also commented on the inadequate funding and need for funding certainty, if Government leaders are to be trusted.

A thank you gift was presented by CMA Deputy Chairman Mayor Russell Fitzpatrick

9:30am Excelling Council Presentation – Gwydir Shire Council

Gwydir Shire Mayor Tiffany Galvin and GM Leah Daley spoke with pride of their Council's initiatives to upskill local talent and support training that would not otherwise exist in the local area.

The Council is a RTO and provides heavy vehicle driver training. The Council has been awarded for The Living Classroom – 150 hectares of little used town common that was turned into a food production wonderland for training programs and community benefit.

The GM embodies the Council's support for local talent. She grew up from a trainee in administration with the Council.

Presentation supplied.

A thank you gift was presented by CMA Board Member Mayor Sam Coupland.

Excelling Council Presentation – Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council

Mayor Kenrick Winchester also spoke with pride about what QPRC was able to achieve, greatly improving DA assessment efficiencies and customer service. He expressed appreciation for Council's GM, Director and the Planning Assessment Team for their commitment to changing the culture and implementing the DA Action Plan.

Ms Ryan explained how QPRC went about addressing their housing shortage by working smarter and with better resourcing in the Council's planning department. DA Assessment timeframes were more than halved in a financial year.

Presentation supplied.

A thank you gift was presented by CMA Board Member Mayor Russell Webb.

9:50am Chairman of the NSW Grants Commission Linda Scott

In an unscheduled but welcome presentation, NSW Grants Commission Chairman and former LGNSW and ALGA President Linda Scott announced that the NSW Grants Commission is going to review the formula for the distribution of FA Grants. She welcomed the support from Dr. Webster for the increasing of FA Grants. We will be conducting a comprehensive process to get from you what should be factored into a new formula or process. We will be in touch regarding the process and how you can provide input.

10:00am Presentation and Q&A – (then) Leader of the NSW Opposition, the Hon Mark Speakman SC MP

Everything is called a crisis these days but housing *really* is a crisis.

We believe the planning reforms will help. But the focus has been a bit Sydney-centric. We've been lobbying to reduce building costs.

Apprenticeships have continued to decline and that impacts building sector skills capacities.

Employers need to be incentivised; initially there is no money in it employers who have apprentices learning on the job.

We understand that the biodiversity Offsets Scheme is another blockage of concern for you.

Modular homes should be catered for in our planning and approvals system.

We would fund university pre-school funding. The Government has been building public preschools but community pre-schools currently face financial feasibility challenges. A

Community Pre-School director would probably get paid less than an entry level primary school teacher. Pre-school desserts could broaden.

Q: Mayor Jasmin Jones (Yass Valley Council) Raised the issue of decline access to maternity services.

Mr Speakman: Part of the cause there has been unfunded wage increase promises.

Q: Mayor Julia Ham (Snowy Valleys Council) Said that she works in the early childhood sector and appreciated the focus. Pay parity for early childhood educators must happen. State funded pre-schools are going to lure staff with better pay and they will close.

Mr Speakman: The pay gap will be about 30%. I doubt the Government's target of building 100 pre-schools by 2030 will be achieved.

CMA Chairman Mayor Rick Firman (Temora Shire): The financial sustainability challenge to Local Government.... What could the NSW Coalition do to improve on the status quo?

Mr Speakman: I don't have promises on hand. I do have concerns that the Government will shrink their infrastructure spend and pass more costs onto you (country Councils).

I'll be interested to see what the Government does with the emergency services levy.

A thank you gift was presented by CMA Board Member Mayor Sharon Cadwallader.

10:30am Morning Tea was held in the Fountain Courtyard (due to a record attendance). More than a needed break, cup of coffee and snack, this was a valued networking session between members, as well as a broad cross-section of NSW Parliamentarians.

11:00am Presentation – NSW Nationals Leader Mr. Dugald Saunders MP was scheduled to address the meeting but called in sick. Nationals MP Gurmesh Singh replaced him (and replaced him as NSW National Party Leader less than a week later).

Mr Singh said that housing is not just in crisis in terms of supply but also (as a consequence) affordability. Of course they're linked but seeing home prices become out of reach for first-home buyers is a major concern.

The different between community and corporate preschools is day and night, so we need to support them.

For us on the coast, we did not realise the rolling drought in the south west but it has dried out on the coast now also.

We have been pushing for transport subsidies and there should also be support for Councils.

Helping Councils with the delivery of enabling infrastructure is one of the ways the Government can help address the housing crisis. We don't have the rate base in the regions but a thriving regional NSW is crucial and we need homes and the Government has a role to play.

Regarding the new Koala National Park – tourism benefits have been overstated. The Mid North Coast is a massive tourism destination and we don't know what trails will remain open with the new National Park. We will lobby for a lot more funding for the transition over the next 9-12 months.

Regional Crime is getting worse. Our communities are living in fear. QLD and Victorian Governments have led with strength.

A thank you gift was presented by CMA Board Member Mayor Josh.

11:15am Presentation – Country Education Foundation of Australia (CEF) Chief Executive Officer, Ms Wendy Mason

Ms Mason said that she was grateful for the opportunity to address a room full of distinguished mayors and General Managers.

Investing in youth education and training pathways, the CEF has channelled over \$20mil in funding to students. Ms Mason said that the backing of the local community is critical.

There are now 55 individual local foundations. Ms Mason said that she is keen to hear from Councils who would like one in their community.

Our support addresses the financial pressure. 98% of our students are on track to complete their training. We have been responsible for 619 students in NSW.

Presentation supplied.

A thank you gift was presented by CMA Board Member Mayor Sue Moore.

AGM

1. Chairman Mayor Firman OAM welcome members to the CMA AGM.

2. Apologies

Recommendation: That the apologies be accepted and noted.

Moved by: Mayor Sharon Cadwallader (Ballina Shire). Seconded by: Mayor Sarah Ndiaye (Byron Shire) – carried unanimously.

3. Minutes of last AGM

Recommendation: That the 15 November 2024 Minutes be accepted as a true record.

Moved by: Mayor Sharon Cadwallader (Ballina Shire). Seconded by: Mayor John Medcalf OAM (Lachlan Shire) – carried unanimously.

4. Matters arising (from the Minutes)

Nil

5. Correspondence relating to the AGM

Nil

6. Annual Reports:

- **Chairman's Annual Report 2024/25**

- The Chairman's report was supplied but Mayor Firman made special mention of the past CMA Chairmen present and the PRRRAC, which would not have happened without the CMA's advocacy and cordial influence.

Recommendation: That the CMA Chairman's Annual Report be received and noted.

The Chairman made a presentation of thanks to the CMA Board and staff members.

Moved by: Mayor Nina Dillon (Goulburn Mulwaree Council). Seconded by: Mayor Sharon Cadwallader (Ballina Shire) – carried unanimously.

- **Annual Financial Report 2024/25 – presented by CMA Secretary Ms Melissa Boxall (GM, Temora Shire), who noted the 'above and beyond' work on CMA accounts undertaken by Temora Shire's Mrs Elizabeth Smith.**

Recommendation: That the CMA’s Annual Financial Report be received and noted. Moved by: Mayor Kenrick Winchester (QPRC). Seconded by: Mayor Russell Fitzpatrick (Bega Valley Shire) – carried unanimously.

7. It was noted that there are no Board Elections required (current two-year terms conclude in November 2026, with Board elections to occur then).

8. Secretariat / Executive Officer position

CMA Board Recommendation:

That the Executive Officer position be left vacant and that the status quo remains in relation to the delivery of Secretariat and Policy Advisor services provided to CMA up to 30 November 2026.

AND FURTHER

That the Chairman be delegated authority to engage:

- 1. Regional Development Australia Northern Inland (RDANI) to deliver secretariat services for 30 hours / week, at a cost of \$80,000 (excl. GST) per annum from 1 December 2025 to 30 November 2026.**
- 2. JBMS Consulting (JBMS) to deliver Policy Advisor Services, at a cost of \$30,000 (plus GST) per annum, from 1 December 2025 to 30 November 2026.**

AND FURTHER

That the Secretary send letters to unsuccessful applicants.

Moved by: Mayor Mayor Russell Fitzpatrick (Bega Valley Shire). Seconded by: Mayor Sharon Cadwallader (Ballina Shire) – carried unanimously.

9. Setting of annual membership fees

Board Recommendation: That the CMA increase membership fees by 10%, in light of the increasing workload with advocacy to Government Inquiries. This 10% increase would result in the fees for the 2026 calendar year becoming \$1,815 for Councils with a population of 10,000 and over, and Councils with a population of less than 10,000 paying 75% of the full fee, becoming \$1,361.25, which would also be the new fee for not-for-profit Associate Membership, while for-profit Associate Membership would become \$3,630 per year.

The Board foreshadows another increase in the next year, given the added costs of pre-meeting workshops. However, the Board is ever mindful of Councils’ tight budgets and costs incurred in traveling to and accommodating in Sydney.

Moved by: Mayor Nina Dillon (Goulburn Mulwaree Council) Seconded by: Mayor Kenrick Winchester (QPRC) - carried unanimously.

10. Meeting Dates for 2026

Aligning CMA meetings with NSW Parliament sitting dates is an approach that the Board considers successful and wishes to continue, as it is convenient for NSW Ministers and Parliamentarians to visit our meetings. Fridays are commonly preferred.

The following dates were approved by the Board for CMA meetings and workshops in 2026, allowing for optional mid-afternoon two-hour workshops during the Thursday preceding the Sydney meetings (except for May, with 7 May being the LGNSW Regional Summit). The CMA will continue to organised evening functions prior to Sydney meetings, with engaging guest speakers:

Board Recommendation: That the CMA lock-in the following meeting dates for 2026:

- **26 - 27 March**
- **8 May**
- **27 - 28 August**
- **12 - 13 November**

Moved by Mayor Steve Allan (Bellingen Shire). Seconded by Mayor Sarah Ndiaye (Byron Shire) – carried unanimously.

The 2026 CMA Regional Meeting

From a top quality field of applications to host the 2026 Regional Meeting of the CMA, the Board selected Ballina Shire Council.

Board Recommendation: That the CMA Executive, in collaboration with the host Council select a date between the CMA's May and August meetings, then advise the membership, as soon as can be managed.

Moved by Mayor Sarah Ndiaye (Byron Shire). Seconded by Mayor John Medcalf OAM (Lachlan Shire) – Carried unanimously.

11. CMA Constitution

The CMA Policy Advisor Mrs Julie Briggs and Secretary Ms Melissa Boxall have refined the CMA NSW Constitution, which was provided to members two months in advance of this endorsement vote.

The Board recommends the adoption of amended CMA NSW Constitution.

Board Recommendation: That the Country Mayors of New South Wales (CMA) members adopt the amended CMA NSW Constitution.

Moved by: Mayor Sharon Cadwallader (Ballina Shire). Seconded by: Mayor John Harvie (Murray River Council) – carried unanimously.

12. Other Urgent Business without notice, for the AGM.

Nil.

AGM concluded 12:02pm

General Meeting

1. Apologies

Recommendation: That the apologies be accepted and noted.

Moved by: Mayor John Medcalf OAM (Lachlan Shire). Seconded by: Mayor Adam Shultz (Lake Macquarie City Council) – carried unanimously.

2. Adoption of Minutes from the 8 August 2025 meeting

Recommendation: That the 8 August 2025 Minutes be accepted as a true record.

Moved by: Mayor Sharon Cadwallader (Ballina Shire). Seconded by: Mayor Steve Allan (Bellingen Shire) – carried unanimously.

3. Matters arising from 8 August 2025 Minutes

Nil

4. Correspondence [since 8 August 2025]

Outward

Federal Local Government Minister, the Hon Catherine King MP	Sturt Highway Strategic Direction Doc.
Federal Local Government Minister, the Hon Minister Kristy McBain MP	Sturt Highway Strategic Direction Doc.
Mayor Tom Kennedy, Broken Hill City Council	Thank you for hospitality to CMA
Dan Newlan, Exec. GM – Corporate Relations and Community, Squadron Energy	Declining request to speak to CMA Membership
Mayor Lachlan Ford, Bourke Shire Council	Response re proliferation of national parks in western NSW.
Royal Flyer Doctor Service	Thank you for hosting CMA.
Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon Jihad Dib	Thank you for meeting and reiterating CMA support for the RFS recommendations
Leader of the NSW Nationals, Mr Dugald Saunders MP	Invitation to present at the 14 Nov. 2025 CMA meeting.
NSW Opposition Leader, Mr Mark Speakman	Invitation to present at the 14 Nov. 2025 CMA meeting.
Dep. Sec. of the OLG, Mr Brett Whitworth PSM	Invitation to present at the 14 Nov. 2025 CMA meeting.
NSW Housing Minister, the Hon Rose Jackson MLC	Invitation to present at the 14 Nov. 2025 CMA meeting.
NSW Dep Premier and Minister for Education, the Hon Prue Car MP	Invitation to present at the 14 Nov. 2025 CMA meeting.
Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, the Hon Steve Whan MP	Invitation to present at the 14 Nov. 2025 CMA meeting.
NSW Minister Planning the Hon Paul Scully MP	CMA concerns regarding planning reform Bill
Police Commissioner Mal Lanyon	Congratulations on his appointment
Forbes Shire Mayor Cr. Phyllis Miller OAM	Condolences regarding Steve Loane
Federation Councillor and former CMA Board member Pat Bourke	Condolences regarding his father, Tom Bourke
Mr. Jamie Chaffey MP Federal Member for Parkes Shadow Assistant Minister for Agriculture Shadow Assistant Minister for Resources And Ms. Trish Cook MP Federal Member for Bullwinkel	Congratulations regarding the Parliamentary Friends of Local Government initiative in Federal Parliament.
Mayor Jarrod Marsden, Cobar Shire Council	Condolences regarding the mining tragedy in late October, 2025.
NSW Local Government Minister the Hon Ron Hoenig MP	Proposed amendment to the Code of Meeting Practice to enable remote participation in Council meetings where

	extreme weather events has made getting to a meeting unsafe.
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Inward

Dr. Joe McGirr MP	Rural Health Action Plan
Lauren Andrews, Head of Corporate Affairs, Bendigo Bank	Response to CMA letter re Bendigo Bank Agency closures
The Hon Ryan Park MP, NSW Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health	Response to CMA Ambulance paramedic concerns
The Hon Chris Minns MP, NSW Premier	Preliminary notice re advisory council
Mayor John Medcalf OAM, Lachlan Shire Council	Loss of local financial services - concerns and impacts
The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, NSW Environment Minister	Thanking CMA members for their input at the Biodiversity Offsets and waste workshop, 7 August
Mayor Lachlan Ford, Bourke Shire	The proliferation of national parks in western NSW.
Dan Newlan, Exec. GM – Corporate Relations and Community, Squadron Energy	Seeking to address CMA Members
The Hon. Tara Moriarty MLC, NSW Agriculture Minister	Response to CMA Fire Ant concerns and request to ban turf crossing the border from Queensland.
Scott Charlton, Sydney Airport CEO	Seeking input into the Sydney Airport Master Plan
Annabey Whitehead, Executive General Manager, Corporate Affairs and Fundraising Royal Flyer Doctor Service	Thanking the CMA Chairman and Secretary for visiting their base at Broken Hill and inviting other CMA members to visit Broken Hill or Dubbo sites.
Agriculture Minister the Hon Tara Moriarty	REROC Urgent call for Action - Southern NSW Drought Summit Recommendations
Federal Local Government Minister, the Hon Catherine King MP	Sturt Highway Strategic Direction Doc.
Dubbo Regional Council	Lack of enforcement of strategies and requirements regarding renewable energy projects
Mayor Lachlan Ford, Bourke Shire	Regional Rural and Remote Advisory Council
David Webb, GM – Hay Shire Council	Continuation of the Regional and Local Roads Repair Program
Mayors of Cootamundra Gundagai, Yass Valley, Snowy Valleys and City of Wagga Wagga	Southern NSW Drought Position Paper
David Webb, GM – Hay Shire Council	Rural Aged-care Sustainability

Recommendation: That the correspondence be received and noted.

Moved by: Mayor Paul Culhane (Upper Lachlan Shire). Seconded by: Mayor Cheryl Cook (Federation Council) – carried unanimously.

5. Media Releases

[Country Mayors given good news on crime, RFS](#)

[Country Mayors welcome new council meeting rule book](#)

[NSW Country Mayors slam bank branch closures and job cuts](#)

[NSW Country Mayors welcome new Police Commissioner](#)

[NSW COUNTRY MAYORS RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT CENTRALISED PLANNING FOR RURAL NSW](#)

[NSW Country Mayors: NSW Road funding on the right track](#)

[NSW Country Mayors commends Westpac for regional opening](#)

[NSW Local Government Minister Honours Mayor Phyllis Miller OAM](#)

[NSW Country Mayors oppose Federal Speed limit lowering proposal](#)

6. Reports

Report from Chairman Mayor Rick Firman OAM

Previously dealt with in the Chairman's Annual Report. However, Mayor Firman further updated members that following his CMA advocacy, the Joint Chiefs of Staff will address the courtesy expectation that Ministers visiting an LGA will notify the relevant Council.

The Chairman also advised that Minister Moriarty has agreed to a Zoom meeting about the Sustainable Communities program.

Recommendation: That the Report be received and noted.

Moved by: Mayor Sharon Cadwallader (Ballina Shire). Seconded by: Mayor Daniel Linklater (Wentworth Shire) – carried unanimously.

Finance Report – Ms. Melissa Boxall (CMA Secretary)

Recommendation: that the Report be received and noted, as read.

Moved by: Mayor Sharon Cadwallader (Ballina Shire). Seconded by: Mayor Daniel Linklater (Wentworth Shire) – carried unanimously.

Report from ALGA President Mayor Matt Burnett

Mayor Burnett thanked the ALGA board members from NSW for their work and the CMA for the reception at Government House.

We've proposed a phased-in return to 1%.

I'm a regional mayor too. I know how much the costs have gone up and the revenue has not.

We want to take funds from Canberra, not the cities – that can come later.

Recommendation: that the ALGA Report be received and noted.

Moved by: Mayor Kenrick Winchester (QPRC). Seconded by: Mayor Nina Dillon (Goulburn Mulwaree Council) – carried unanimously.

Report from President of LGNSW – Mayor Phyllis Miller OAM**Recommendation: That the Report be received and noted.**

Moved by: Mayor Claire Pontin (Midcoast Council). Seconded by: Mayor Bronwyn Petrie (Tenterfield Shire Council) – carried unanimously.

Policy Advisor’s Report – Mrs. Julie Briggs**Recommendation: that the Report be received and noted and that the recommendations therein be endorsed.****Recommendation: that the recommendations contained in the Policy Advisor’s Report be adopted.**

Moved by: Mayor John Medcalf OAM (Lachlan Shire). Seconded by: Mayor Gilgandra Shire (Gilgandra Shire) – carried unanimously.

Business with Notice**Byron Shire Council recommendations. Mayor Sarah Ndiaye spoke to her motions...****That the CMA advocates to:**

- 1. Urge the NSW Government to review and overhaul the current remuneration framework, including the removal of Section 242A, to enable benchmarking.**
- 2. Support legislative reform to provide mayors and councillors with access to paid maternity, paternity, carers, and sick leave.**
- 3. Ensure acting mayors and deputy mayors are appropriately remunerated during periods of leave without financial penalty to the incumbent.**
- 4. Write to the Minister for Local Government, relevant State and Federal MPs, and the Fair Work Ombudsman to advocate for these reforms.**

In summarising the briefing document distributed to members, Mayor Ndiaye said that the system is flawed and made for a different time.

Narrabri Shire Mayor Darrell Tiemens seconded the motion.

Mayor Winchester: I had two months off last year because of a heart attack and got no pay. He said that he supported the motion, so long as it did not look like the CMA sought pay rates comparable to State MPs.

The motions were passed unanimously.

7. Urgent business without notice**Planning reforms – Local Planning Panels**

MOTIONS:

- That the CMA challenges the decision of the State Government to remove elected Local Councils from Development Application considerations and call for the immediate inclusion of Local Councillor representation in Local Planning Panels (LLPs).
- Any decision-making powers that had previously been vested with Councillors in relation to DAs will now be vested in LPPs.
- At no stage had we ever been told that an aspect of these reforms would strip the ability of elected Councillors from being able to consider DAs within their LGA.
- We call upon the Premier and Ministers for Planning and Local Government to work with CMA to ensure this specific change can be reviewed, with the aim of providing Councils with the opportunity to retain elected Councillors having a role in actively representing their communities by being involved in the determination of DA's.

The planning reforms motions were moved by Goulburn Mulwaree Council Mayor Dillon and QPRC Mayor Kenrick Winchester seconded the motion. The motions were passed unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 12:50pm

The next CMA meeting will be **27 March 2026**, in the NSW Parliament House Theatre – 8:20am-1pm.

Fortunately, we have secured the Theatre for all four Sydney meetings again next year.

On behalf of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Board Members, the Secretary, Policy Advisor & Secretariat – we wish you, your families and Councillors, staff & communities a very Merry Christmas. We look forward to a productive and enjoyable 2026 for CMA NSW!

Attendance

Cr. Doug Batten	Mayor	Gilgandra Shire Council
David Neeves	GM	Gilgandra Shire Council
Cr. Darrell Tiemens	Mayor	Narrabri Shire Council
Eloise Chaplain	GM	Narrabri Shire Council
Cr. Julia Ham	Mayor	Snowy Valleys Council
Kate Barker	Interim EO	Central NSWJO
Meredith Macpherson		Central NSWJO
Cr. Ruth McRae OAM	Mayor	Murrumbidgee Council
John Scarce	GM	Murrumbidgee Council
Cr. Jasmin Jones	Mayor	Yass Valley Council
Gayleen Burley	CEO	Yass Valley Council
Ben Taylor	CEO	Wollondilly Shire Council
Cr. Matt Gould	Mayor	Wollondilly Shire Council
Cr. Greg Whiteley	Mayor	Warren Shire Council
Gary Woodman	GM	Warren Shire Council
Cr. Doug Curran	Mayor	Griffith City Council
Scott Grant	GM	Griffith City Council

Cr. Sue Moore	Mayor	Singleton Council
Cr. Cheryl Cook	Mayor	Federation Council
Adrian Butler	GM	Federation Council
Cr. Daniel Linklater	Mayor	Wentworth Shire Council
Cr. Peter Crisp	Deputy Mayor	Wentworth Shire Council
Cr. Kenrick Winchester	Mayor	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
Rebecca Ryan	GM	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
Cr. John Medcalf OAM	Mayor	Lachlan Shire Council
Alan Stoneham	Acting General Manager	Lachlan Shire Council
Cr. Margot Davis	Mayor	Glen Innes Severn Council
Bernard Smith	GM	Glen Innes Severn Council
Cr. Brian Ingram	Mayor	Hilltops Council
Anthony O'Reilly	GM	Hilltops Council
Cr. Chris Hanna	Mayor	Snowy Monaro Regional Council
Noreen Vu	CEO	Snowy Monaro Regional Council
Cr. Kevin Mack	Mayor	Albury City Council
Cr. Digby Rayward	Mayor	Dungog Shire Council
Gareth Curtis	GM	Dungog Shire Council
Cr. Kevin Beatty	Mayor	Cabonne Shire Council
Brad Byrnes	GM	Cabonne Shire Council
Cr. Kathryn Rindfleish	Mayor	Warrumbungle Shire Council
Nicole Benson	Acting General Manager	Warrumbungle Shire Council
Cr. Matt Burnett	President	ALGA
Cr. Leah Anderson	Mayor	Port Stephens Council
Cr. Steve Krieg	Mayor	Lismore City Council
Cr. Ray Smith	Mayor	Clarence Valley Council
Cr. Paul Culhane	Mayor	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Alex Waldron	CEO	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Cr. David McCann	Mayor	Coolamon Shire Council
Tony Donoghue	GM	Coolamon Shire Council
Cr. Bruce Reynolds	Mayor	Blayney Shire Council
Mark Dicker	GM	Blayney Shire Council
Julie Briggs	Policy Advisor	CMA
Gary Fry	Secretariat	CMA
Cr. Rick Firman	Mayor	Temora Shire Council
Melissa Boxall	GM	Temora Shire Council
Cr. Russell Fitzpatrick	Mayor	Bega Valley Shire Council
Anthony McMahon	CEO	Bega Valley Shire Council
Cr. Susannah Pearse	Mayor	Moree Plains Shire Council
Natalia Cowley	GM	Moree Plains Shire Council
Cr. Melissa Matters	Deputy Mayor	Kiama Council
Jane Stroud	CEO	Kiama Council
Adrian Panuccio	GM	Midcoast Council
Cr. Claire Pontin	Mayor	Midcoast Council
Cr. Nina Dillon	Mayor	Goulburn Mulwaree Council
Scott Gallacher	GM	Goulburn Mulwaree Council
Cr. Adam Shultz	Mayor	Lake Macquarie City Council
Cr. Russell Webb	Mayor	Tamworth Regional Council
Cr. Sarah Ndiaye	Mayor	Byron Shire Council

Mark Arnold	GM	Byron Shire Council
Cr. George Weston	Mayor	Leeton Shire Council
Michael Kidd	Deputy Mayor	Leeton Shire Council
Cr Nikki Williams	Mayor	Coffs Harbour City Council
Ian Fitzgibbon	Acting General Manager	Coffs Harbour City Council
Stephen Dunshea	Interim GM	Forbes Shire Council
Cr. Jenny Webb	Councillor	Forbes Shire Council
Cr. Kate Dight	Mayor	Inverell Shire Council
Brett McInnes	GM	Inverell Shire Council
Cr. Brian Monaghan	Mayor	Bland Shire Council
Grant Baker	GM	Bland Shire Council
Cr. Tiffany Galvin	Mayor	Gwydir Shire Council
Leeah Daley	GM	Gwydir Shire Council
Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr	GM	Singleton Council
Maurice Collison	Mayor	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Greg McDonald	GM	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Cr. Ashley Hall	Mayor	Edward River Council
Jack Bond	CEO	Edward River Council
Kate Barker	CEO	CNSWJO
Meredith Macpherson		CNSWJO
Andrew McKibbin	Mayor	Oberon Council
Gary Wallace	GM	Oberon Council
Cr. Patricia White	Mayor	Shoalhaven City Council
Andrew Constance	CEO	Shoalhaven City Council
Cr. Robert Bell	Mayor	Uralla Shire Council
Toni Averay	GM	Uralla Shire Council
Cr. Damian Loone	Deputy Mayor	Ballina Shire Council
Cr. Sharon Cadwallader	Mayor	Ballina Shire Council
Cr. Bronwyn Petrie	Mayor	Tenterfield Shire Council
Dr. Richard Colbran	CEO	Rural Doctors Network
Katie McDonell	Community Solutions Manager	Rural Doctors Network
Mike Edwards	Chief Operating Officer	Rural Doctors Network
Cr. Erik Noakes	Mayor	Walcha Council
Stephen Parry	GM	Walcha Council
Cr. Sam Coupland	Mayor	Armidale Regional Council
Darren Schaefer	Acting GM	Armidale Regional Council
Cr. Steve Allan	Mayor	Bellingen Shire Council
Mark Griffioen	GM	Bellingen Shire Council
Cr. Lachlan Ford	Mayor	Bourke Shire Council
Leonie Brown	GM	Bourke Shire Council
Cr. Julia Cornwell		
McKean	Mayor	Berrigan Shire Council
Mark Dupé	Interim CEO	Berrigan Shire Council
Bob Stewart	Administrator	Central Darling Shire Council
Greg Hill	GM	Central Darling Shire Council
Paul Smith	Mayor	Cowra Council
Paul Devery	GM	Cowra Council
Cr. Peter Sharp	Mayor	Lockhart Shire Council
Gavin Rhodes	GM	Lockhart Shire Council
Cr. Ken Cudmore	Mayor	Liverpool Plains Shire Council
Cian Middleton	GM	Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Bronwen Regan	Government Relations Manager	LGNSW
Kelli Wells	Senior Media Officer	LGNSW

Apologies

Lisa Miscamble	GM	Wingecarribee Shire Council
Cr. Jesse Fitzpatrick	Mayor	Wingecarribee Shire Council
Cr. Colleen Fuller	Mayor	Gunnedah Shire Council
Eric Groth	GM	Gunnedah Shire Council
Laura Black	GM	Clarence Valley Council
Mr. Brett Whitworth PSM	Deputy Secretary	OLG
Cr. Lea Parker	Mayor	Greater Hume Council
Colin Kane	GM	Greater Hume Council
Frank Zaknich	CEO	Albury City Council
David Webb	GM	Hay Shire Council
Cr. Carol Oataway		Hay Shire Council
Cr. Tania Brown	Lord Mayor	Wollongong City Council
Paul Bennett	GM	Tamworth Regional Council
		Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council
Cr. Abb McAlister	Mayor	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council
Roger Bailey	Interim GM	Kyogle Council
Cr Danielle Mulholland	Mayor	Junee Shire Council
Bob Callow	Mayor	Junee Shire Council
James Davis	GM	Narrandera Shire Council
Cr. Neville Kschenka	Mayor	Narrandera Shire Council
Tim Coote	GM	Orange City Council
Barry Omundson	Interim CEO	Bogan Shire Council
Cr. Glen Neill	Mayor	Cobar Shire Council
Cr. Jarrod Marsden	Mayor	
		Broken Hill City Council
Jay Nankivell	GM	Wagga Wagga City Council
Cr. Dallas Tout	Mayor	
	Acting General	
Kulwant Singh-Pangly	Manager	Lismore City Council

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21) 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW CONFERENCE DELEGATE REPORT

Department: Executive Services

Author: Councillor Reynolds

CSP Link: 1. Prioritise transparency, financial sustainability and strong partnerships with and for our community

File No: GR.ME.2

Recommendation:

That Council note the 2025 Local Government NSW Conference Delegate Report.

Reason for Report:

The LGNSW Annual Conference was recently attended by Mayor Bruce Reynolds, Deputy Mayor Rebecca Scott and General Manager Mark Dicker.

Report:**Conference Program Wrap Up**

More than 1,000 local government representatives gathered in Penrith from Sunday 23 November to Tuesday 25 November 2025 for the 2025 LGNSW Annual Conference. It was an extremely productive gathering with several highlights.

Premier and MPs Address Conference

Local Government Minister the Hon Ron Hoenig MP and the Shadow Minister the Hon Chris Rath MLC addressed delegates on the opening day and generously took some questions from the floor. Their focus was on the recently passed Planning Reforms and on concerns surrounding the Model Code of Meeting Practice.

Premier the Hon Chris Minns MP joined the conference on Monday, acknowledging the hard work of mayors and councillors and thanking the local government sector for their delivery of critical services to every community. He also spoke on the Government's Housing Reforms and on the various benefits that have already flowed from the \$250 million Fresh Start Program - which has provided access to funding for the employment of apprentices and trainees at every council in New South Wales over the past 12 months.

MoU Extended with Country Mayors Association

As part of the conference program, an extended Memorandum of Understanding was signed between LGNSW and the Country Mayors Association, strengthening the relationship between the two organisations and setting out a framework for cooperation on issues impacting councils, particularly those in remote, rural and regional communities.

Through the partnership, LGNSW and the CMA will collaborate on policy development, advocacy campaigns and information sharing, working together to deliver stronger outcomes for councils and communities right across New South Wales.

Policy Development

On Monday, delegates conscientiously worked their way through the business paper, successfully resolving 115 of the 136 motions that had been submitted by councils across the State. The remaining 21 motions will now be determined by our incoming Board.

The motions were respectfully debated by voting delegates and covered a range of issues, including the role of councils in addressing the housing crisis, the State's transition to renewable energy and the need for increased funding and support for local water utilities.

Each motion considered at the conference represents an issue that councils are facing across the state. The outcomes will now directly inform LGNSW's advocacy to the state and federal governments for the coming year.

AR Bluett Awards – Congratulations Camden and Leeton Shire

Camden Council and Leeton Shire Council have been named the 2025 recipients of the prestigious AR Bluett Memorial Award, recognising their exceptional achievements and leadership in local government.

Camden Council received the metropolitan/major regional honour, while Leeton Shire Council claimed the regional/rural category.

The awards celebrate excellence, innovation and genuine community impact by a local government body. Both councils have demonstrated what can be achieved through strong leadership, collaboration and a commitment to delivering real results for their residents.

Former Mayor Scott Ferguson honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award

Former Blayney Shire Council Mayor Scott Ferguson was awarded the Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Lifetime Achievement Award, recognising more than 25 years of exceptional service, leadership and advocacy for the Blayney community and the wider local government sector.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is one of LGNSW's highest honours. It acknowledges an outstanding and sustained contribution to the community a councillor or mayor represents, or to the sector more broadly. Nominees must demonstrate clear examples of leadership, innovation, policy advancement or legislative influence that have delivered measurable benefits.



New Patron – Cr Darriea Turley AM

Former President of LGNSW Cr Darriea Turley AM has officially been announced as a Patron of the organisation in recognition of her service and dedication to the sector. Darriea served as a Director since the combined organisation was created in 2013 and was elected President in 2021. She will now continue to support the organisation along with our other valued Patrons.

2026 Annual Conference – Destination: Wollongong!

Our conference concluded on a real high with the Lord Mayor of Wollongong, Cr Tania Brown, issuing a warm invitation to delegates to travel to the coastal city for the 2026 event.

Lord Mayor Brown spoke about Wollongong's many natural beauties and it's thriving community, but also highlighted the fact that the city "knows how to put on a show", pointing to the recent World Triathlon Championship Finals and the UCI Road World Championships held in 2022.

The 2026 LGNSW Annual Conference is scheduled to take place from 22 to 24 November.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Nil

Budget Implications:

The 2025/26 budget includes an allocation for 4 persons to attend the 2025 LGNSW Annual Conference.

As per Council's 'Payment of Expenses and the Provision of Facilities to the Mayor and Councillors Policy' Council will meet the Registration, Accommodation, Travel and Car Parking costs for Council Delegates attending the LGNSW Conference as authorised by Council Resolution.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

Matters to be dealt with in closed committee

In accordance with the Local Government Act (1993) and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, in the opinion of the General Manager, the following business is of a kind as referred to in Section 10(2) of the Act, and should be dealt with in a part of the meeting closed to the media and public.

22) NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DEMOLISH DWELLING

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) (b) (e) of the Local Government Act, as it deals with the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer; AND information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law.