11 June 2026

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 June 2026 at 6:00 PM 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 26.05.26
(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

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
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Meeting Calendar 2026

June

6.00pm	16 June 2026	Council Meeting	Community Centre
10.00am	17 June 2026	Central Tablelands Water Meeting	Grenfell
2.00pm	19 June 2026	Central Tablelands Weeds Authority Meeting	Kelso
8.30am	24 June 2026	Orange 360 Board Meeting	Orange

July

6.00pm	28 July 2026	Council Meeting	Community Centre

August

9.00am	6 August 2026	Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting	Community Centre
10.00am	12-13 August 2026	Central NSW JO Board Meeting and Parliament Visit	Canberra
10.00am	19 August 2026	Central Tablelands Water Meeting	Canowindra
2.00pm	21 August 2026	Central Tablelands Weeds Authority Meeting	Kelso
6.00pm	25 August 2026	Council Meeting	Community Centre
8.30am	26 August 2026	Orange 360 Board Meeting	Orange
8.20am	28 August 2026	Country Mayors Association	Sydney

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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.

Whilst Council will make every effort to ensure that live streaming is available, it takes no responsibility for, and cannot be held liable for technical issues beyond its control. Technical issues may include, but are not limited to the availability or quality of the internet connection, device failure or malfunction, unavailability of YouTube or power outages.

Live streams and archived recordings are a free public service and are not an official record of Council meetings. Recordings will be made of all Council meetings (excluding confidential items) and published to YouTube the day after the meeting. For a copy of the official public record, please refer to Council's Business Papers and Minutes page on Council's website.

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) CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

Department: Executive Services

Author: General Manager

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

File No: GO.PO.1

Recommendation:
That Council:
1. Rescind Resolution No. 2512/009 which adopted the Code of Meeting Practice as per the 2025 Model Meeting Code,
2. Note the Code of Meeting Practice, as adopted at the August 2025 Council meeting, pursuant to Resolution No. 2508/011 is reinstated.

Reason for Report:
The Office of Local Government (OLG) has advised that the Local Government (General) Amendment (Model Code of Meeting Practice) Regulation 2025 (Amendment Regulation) which prescribed the 2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW (2025 Model Meeting Code) has been disallowed by the Legislative Council.

Accordingly, Council is required to rescind the Blayney Shire Council Code of Meeting Practice 2025 adopted at the 16 December 2025 meeting (**Resolution 2512/009**).

This will have the effect of reinstating the previously adopted Blayney Shire Council Code of Meeting Practice adopted at the 26 August 2025 meeting (**Resolution 2508/011**) which is based on the 2021 Model Meeting Code.

Report:
The OLG has instructed that Council should rescind its resolution adopting the 2025 Model Meeting Code, as its first item of business at this meeting.

This will have the effect of reinstating the Blayney Shire Council Code of Meeting Practice, adopted in August 2025 which contains the mandatory provisions of the 2021 Model Meeting Code.

The disallowance of the Amendment Regulation does not prevent Council from including supplementary provisions from the 2025 Model Meeting Code, provided they are not inconsistent with the mandatory provisions of the 2021 Model Meeting Code.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Under section 41(4) of the Interpretation Act 1987, if a regulation ceases to have effect because of its disallowance, and the regulation amended a regulation that was in force immediately before the amending regulation took effect, the disallowance of the amending regulation has the effect of restoring or reviving the previous regulation as of the day of its disallowance.

The disallowance of the Amendment Regulation means that the 2025 Model Meeting Code is no longer prescribed for the purposes of s.360 of the Local Government Act 1993 and the previous 2021 version of the Model Meeting Code now becomes the prescribed version.

Under s.360 of the Act, Council's adopted Code of Meeting Practice must not contain provisions that are inconsistent with the mandatory provisions of the prescribed Model Meeting Code.

This means that the mandatory provisions of the Blayney Shire Code of Meeting Practice (December 2025) are inconsistent with the mandatory provisions of the previous 2021 Model Meeting Code; and no longer mandatory.

Because more than 3 months have passed since Council adopted its current meeting code, the signatures of 3 councillors are not required to rescind the resolution adopting the code.

Council is required to rescind the Blayney Shire Council Code of Meeting Practice, adopted at the 16 December 2025 meeting because of the disallowance motion that was passed by the NSW Upper House on 26 May 2026.

This will have the effect of reinstating the attached Blayney Shire Council Code of Meeting Practice adopted at the 26 August 2025 meeting.

OLG has verbally indicated the Minister intends to finalise a new 2026 Meeting Code within 4 months, so the value of further amending the previous Code is not considered valuable as a further draft would need to be developed and then advertised for a minimum of 42 days.

Budget Implications:
Nil

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

1 Code of Meeting Practice adopted August 2025 52 Pages

02) MAYORAL MINUTE - PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL RECIPIENT

Author: Councillor Bruce Reynolds

File No: CS.SP.2

Recommendation:
That Council acknowledge the significant achievement of Millthorpe resident, Mr Greg Wells, who was awarded a Public Service Medal for outstanding public service to government service delivery in NSW.

Item:
Millthorpe resident, Mr Greg Wells, was awarded a Public Service Medal at as part of the Kings Birthday 2026 Honours List.

Mr Greg Wells has had a distinguished public service career of more than 20 years serving in various roles with NSW Health, Family and Community Services, as the NSW government chief information and digital officer and, since 2022, as managing director of Service NSW. His career achievements reflect sustained excellence in large scale digital transformation and customer service reform, improving access to essential support for millions of citizens.

As managing director of Service NSW, Mr Wells delivered a major organisational restructure that simplified operations and achieved significant cost savings without compromising service quality or staff engagement. Under his leadership, Service NSW has continued to innovate, improving digital platforms, streamlining processes and enhancing accessibility for vulnerable customers. He has led the delivery of landmark innovations in digital licensing and credentials, enhancements to the Service NSW app, and the advancement of secure digital identity solutions, while strengthening cyber security, data governance and ethical technology use across government.

A key achievement has been improving the state's capacity to support communities following natural disasters such as Tropical Cyclone Alfred, the mid-north coast floods and the Broken Hill power outages. Service NSW has played a central role in crisis response and recovery, enabling rapid access to financial relief, grants and replacement documentation. His collaborative approach, working with emergency services, the NSW Reconstruction Authority, other agencies and the Commonwealth, has improved outcomes and reinforced public trust.

As government chief information and digital officer, he led whole-of-government digital modernisation. He championed and scaled the Digital Restart Fund, enabling projects that digitised critical services, streamlined major development approvals and improved millions of customer interactions annually.

Mr Greg Wells's work has transformed how citizens interact with government, making services faster, simpler, more accessible and more reliable, both in everyday interactions and during times of crisis.

Enclosures (following report)
Nil

Attachments (separate document)
Nil

03) MAYORAL MINUTE - NSW TOP TOURISM TOWN AWARDS

Author: Councillor Bruce Reynolds

File No: CR.AW.1

Recommendation:
That Council note at the recent 2026 NSW Top Tourism Town Awards, Millthorpe received 2 awards:
1. Silver: Tiny Tourism Town (population below 1,500)
2. People's Choice: Tiny Tourism Town (population below 1,500)

Item:
Blayney Shire is celebrating a standout result in the 2026 NSW Top Tourism Town Awards, with Millthorpe once again earning state-wide recognition and reinforcing its place as one of regional NSW's most compelling visitor destinations.

Announced by the NSW Tourism Association at the Local Government NSW Destination and Visitor Economy Conference in Maitland, the awards recognise towns that deliver memorable experiences, strong community pride and an irresistible reason to hit the road and explore.

For Blayney Shire, the honour is a fitting tribute to Millthorpe's enduring appeal. With its beautifully preserved heritage streetscape, acclaimed food and wine experiences, boutique shopping and warm country welcome, the village continues to captivate visitors seeking authenticity, character and a slower pace.

It is also a proud reflection of the wider visitor experience across Blayney Shire, where historic villages, scenic country drives and genuine local hospitality invite travellers to linger longer.

The 2026 awards recognised destinations across three population categories, along with the NRMA People's Choice Award, celebrating the towns visitors love most.

Tiny Tourism Town (population below 1,500)
- Broke – Gold
- **Millthorpe – Silver**
- Mungindi – Bronze
- **Millthorpe – NRMA People's Choice Award**

Council was represented by Councillor Stephen Johnston at the Local Government NSW Destination and Visitor Economy Conference in Maitland (27 to 29 March).

The success did not stop there for the wider Orange Region. Orange also secured Silver in the Top Tourism Town category for destinations with a population over 5,000 and claimed the NRMA People's Choice Award, underscoring the strength of the region.

Together, Millthorpe, Orange and the wider region showcase the very best of Central West travel – from heritage charm and village hospitality to celebrated cool-climate wines, outstanding local produce, vibrant events and spectacular seasonal landscapes. For visitors planning their next regional escape the Orange Region offer every reason to stay a little longer and discover more.

Enclosures (following report)
Nil

Attachments (separate document)
Nil

04) MAYORAL MINUTE - 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW CONFERENCE MINISTER'S RESPONSE TO THE MOTION FROM BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL ON STATE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Author: Councillor Bruce Reynolds

File No: GR.ME.2

Recommendation:
That Council note the response from Minister to the motions on State Significant Development that was submitted by Blayney Shire Council to the 2025 Local Government NSW Conference.

Item:
The LGNSW Annual Conference was held in November 2025 and attended by Mayor Bruce Reynolds, Deputy Mayor Rebecca Scott and General Manager Mark Dicker.

Council was provided with a report in February on the motions that were submitted by Blayney Shire Council to the annual conference.

There were four motions put forward by Blayney Shire Council.

Council has now received a response from the Minister to the Motion to State Significant Development changes.

The following was the motion submitted by Blayney Shire Council.

State Significant Developments Changes
That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to work with LGNSW to establish guidelines for current and proposed State Significant Development proposals for renewable projects (including solar, wind, battery, pumped hydro) which are and will significantly impact councils and their communities inclusive of:

a. the timeframe for councils to review the Environmental Impact Statements, and to respond to it, be extended to a minimum of 90 days.
b. requiring prior to any transport of any oversize/overweight renewable infrastructure components within the LGA:
    i. a dilapidation report on roads and associated infrastructure to be undertaken by the proponent; and
    ii. The lodgement of a bank guarantee equivalent to 50% of the cost of reconstructing the roads on which the proposed oversize/overweight renewable infrastructure components is to traverse with the relevant LGA.
    iii. an enforceable undertaking supported by ii above to reconstruct and repair roads damaged during the transport of renewable components within the relevant LGA within 90

days of completion of the transport on those roads of oversize/overweight components for the relevant project.

c. workers accommodation guidelines during construction phase that address:
    i. effect on rental accommodation including availability for current residents of the council area and affordability with increased rents.
    ii. establishment of worker camps in lieu or in addition to rental accommodation
    iii. in relation to i and ii above, how the influx of workers, and in some cases dependents, will be managed and financed in relation to:
        - provision of potable and non potable water,
        - sewerage wastewater services,
        - waste services,
        - policing for an increase in workers,
        - health services for the increased population, noting the potential for significant strain to be placed on already stretched/under resourced health services,
d. the EIS must fully detail the effect on local industries and how that is to be mitigated during construction phase including restrictions on use of roads. The EIS also needs to address how those industries are to be compensated financially if there is a detrimental effect on their revenue.
e. parameters for council and community consultation by the proponents and feedback prior to and following the preparation of the EIS.
f. the decommissioning of renewable projects at the end of their life including requirements to:
    i. determine what deconstruction requires including the level of removal of concrete sub structure foundations.
    ii. include in the EIS an independent report on the estimated cost of deconstruction of renewable project infrastructure at date of construction in accordance with i above.
    iii. to provide a bank guarantee by the proponent for the full value of deconstruction of the infrastructure in renewable projects adjusted yearly by the Non-residential building Construction materials and Labour index.
    iv. ensure that future purchasers are obligated to deconstruction, by mandating a precondition for any sale of any renewable project is that the buyer must lodge a replacement bank guarantee escalated by the Non-residential building Construction materials and Labour index. The sale does not take effect until the precondition is met, and the buyer agrees to escalate the bank guarantee yearly in accordance with Non-residential building Construction materials and Labour index.

Note from Council
A number of regional NSW councils are dealing with State Significant Developments (and some Critical State Significant Developments). In some cases, there are multiple proposed developments in the Local Government Area. These developments are being inadequately managed by the NSW Government and numerous councils (particularly in the regions) are all dealing with similar problems without adequate guidance or support. For example, only 28 days is allowed for reviewing complex Environmental Impact Statements that can exceed 9,000 pages in length which places significant resourcing issues on councils. The issue of worker accommodation has been identified by a number of councils with existing renewable projects under construction. The effect on housing availability and rental prices has been significant. The alternative of having workers camps has meant ancillary water, sewerage and waste services have to be provided. Health services have been strained without adequate hospital, medical practitioners and trained nurses. The closure of roads during the construction period for transporting renewable componentry to site has markedly affected industries reliant on transport such as livestock companies, timber companies and other industries. The failure of companies to properly reconstruct or repair roads damaged by the oversize/weight vehicles has been an acknowledged issue despite assurances prior to construction this would be addressed by proponents.

The final motion that was put to the conference covering this matter came from Oberon Council (noting LGNSW consolidate motions where a number of Councils put forward similar motions). The following motion was carried by the conference:

> ***18 Oberon Council State significant development - renewable projects***
> *That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to work with Local Government NSW to establish guidelines for current and proposed State Significant Development proposals for Renewable Projects (including Solar, Wind, Battery, Pumped Hydro) which:*
> 1. *provide the same benefits to all councils hosting renewable projects as if they are a Renewable Energy Zone*
> 2. *increase the time frame for response to Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) to a minimum of 90 days*
> 3. *prior to construction requiring road and infrastructure to be properly assessed so restitution following construction is enforced and occurs in a timely manner*
> 4. *require the EIS to detail sources of gravel and water for concrete and roads LGNSW Annual Conference 2025 49 Business Paper*
> 5. *require worker accommodation requirements to be fully assessed in the EIS to take account of affordability for the community and councils' ability to provide resources to worker camps*
> 6. *ensuring the EIS fully details the effect on local industries*
> 7. *provide minimum standards for decommissioning of renewable projects with standards and decommissioning secured by bank guarantees escalated for construction cost increases.*

8. *review the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP to ensure all regional and rural communities within and surrounding towns and villages are afforded the same opportunity for protection under 2.42 of the NSW Transport & Infrastructure SEPP when assessing electricity generating, storage and transmission state significant development projects.*

Ministers Response to Motion
The Minister, Penny Sharpe's MLC response is below (extracted from the attached letter dated 27 May 2026);

Resolutions 18.2- 18.8 have been referred to Minster for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon Paul Scully MP.

In November 2025, NSW Parliament amended the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020 to introduce the concept of an 'access area'.

The Minister for Energy may declare an access area as a specific geographical area outside of a declared REZ that includes related generation, storage and network infrastructure.

The Minister for Energy may declare that an access scheme applies in an access area or to part of it.

This would enable the collection of access fees for community and employment purposes. Under access schemes, local governments that are impacted can receive funds to implement for local community benefits.

These can include greater planning certainty and coordination of infrastructure developments, economic and community benefits, and improved engagement with local councils to mitigate negative impacts.

The NSW Government is carefully considering whether to declare an access area or new access schemes in line with these new provisions.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

1 Reponse from Minister Sharpe 25 Pages

05) MAYORAL MINUTE - ADVOCATE FOR EXTENDED PASSENGER RAIL SERVICES TO BLAYNEY AND MILLTHORPE, INCLUDING A MORNING 'REVERSE XPT' SERVICE AND EXTENSION OF AT LEAST ONE BATHURST BULLET TRAIN TO BLAYNEY

Author: Councillor Bruce Reynolds

File No: TT.SP.1

Recommendation:
That Council**:**
1. Supports the Orange Rail Action Group (ORAG) dual-priority rail proposal to deliver equitable, accessible morning day-return passenger train options to Sydney for Blayney Shire residents.
2. Advocates for a morning "reverse" rail service departing Dubbo and travelling to Sydney via Orange, Millthorpe, and Blayney, timed to run in the opposite direction to the current NSW TrainLink XPT.
3. Calls on the NSW Government to extend at least one morning Bathurst Bullet service to originate in Orange, providing a direct, early-morning commuter rail link from Millthorpe and Blayney to Sydney Central without requiring a coach transfer.
4. Writes to the NSW Minister for Transport, NSW Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, the Member for Orange, the Member for Bathurst and the Member for Dubbo to request these extensions be prioritised under the state's regional transit planning.
5. Collaborate with neighbouring councils through the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) and Dubbo Regional Council to leverage regional unity during Transport for NSW's ongoing network investigations.

Item:
The Central West region continues to struggle with archaic passenger rail timetables. The sole direct train option to the capital is the daily XPT, which departs Dubbo and Orange in the afternoon and arrives in Sydney at night. The return service departs Sydney at dawn, meaning regional travellers are forced to spend a minimum of two nights in capital city accommodation just to attend a single daytime medical, corporate, or legal appointment.

To overcome this, residents must currently take a multi-modal coach-to-rail shuttle connection just to catch the Bathurst Bullet express train to Sydney. This fragmented arrangement is complex, restrictive, and inequitable for an expanding regional hub.

The Orange Rail Action Group has compiled a clear community mandate, previously collecting over 10,000 signatures demanding better services. Their specific, pragmatic strategy involves two parallel service additions:

- The Morning "Reverse XPT": A morning day-return passenger rail service running opposite to the current XPT corridor. It would depart Dubbo in the early hours and serve Orange, Millthorpe, and Blayney, hitting Sydney Central by midday.

- The Bathurst Bullet Extension: Moving the starting terminus for at least one morning Bathurst Bullet service to Orange. This allows locals to board a direct, early-morning
- express train from Orange Station rather than waiting for years on new, separate rail frameworks.

Historically, Transport for NSW cited lack of local rolling stock and overnight stabling infrastructure as barriers to these upgrades. However, structural blockades have shifted:

- The NSW Government committed $2 million to a regional passenger rail feasibility study explicitly investigating day-return options.
- Field investigations are actively underway to design a dedicated train stabling yard at Orange Station, resolving overnight storage limits.
- The local Mindyarra Maintenance Centre in Dubbo and the deployment of the state's new hybrid regional fleet mean modern rolling stock is readily available to service the Main Western line.

Potential benefits to the Blayney Community of the additional services

Healthcare and Social Equity

- Affordable Medical Access: Residents can access specialized healthcare facilities in Sydney without facing expensive, multi-day city accommodation costs.
- Direct Day Trips: Eliminates the current need for a two-night metropolitan stay for a single daytime appointment [1].
- Support for Vulnerable Residents: Offers a stress-free travel alternative for elderly residents, youth, and people with disabilities who cannot drive long distances.

Tourism and Local Business Growth

- Village Micro-Tourism: Morning and evening train stops stimulate the visitor economies of historic tourism hubs like Millthorpe and Blayney.
- Capital Injection: Easier transport encourages weekend and day-trip travellers from Sydney to spend money at local boutique shops, cafes, and accommodation providers.
- Business Connectivity: Local business owners can easily travel to Sydney for corporate meetings, training, or industry events and return home the same day [1].

Decentralisation and Population Growth

- Attracting Hybrid Workers: Reliable, direct rail links make Blayney Shire an attractive destination for tree-changers and professionals who work remotely but need occasional city access.
- Easing Housing Pressure: Supports local housing strategies by encouraging sustainable population growth outside metropolitan Sydney.

Transport Independence and Safety

- Eliminating Coach Transfers: Replaces fragmented, multi-modal coach-to-rail shuttle transfers with a seamless, single-seat journey.
- Road Safety: Moves traffic off the Great Western Highway and across the Blue Mountains, reducing vehicle wear, driver fatigue, and regional road accidents.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

06) MAYORAL MINUTE - EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY FAVOURED OPTION AND LEVY COLLECTION CONCERNS

Author: Councillor Bruce Reynolds

File No: CR.CF.2

Recommendation:
That Council make a submission with the Legislative Assembly Select Committee on Emergency Services Funding Reform which:
1. Nominates option D as the preferred option.
2. Outlines a preference for Revenue NSW to collect the ESL.
3. Outlines the issues and concerns Council is expected to encounter if we were required to collect the levy.

Item:
In April 2026, the NSW Government released a discussion paper presenting options for replacing the current Emergency Services Levy (ESL) as part of the NSW Government's announced reform of the emergency services funding system in NSW.

The funding arrangements contribute to the operations of three important emergency services agencies; Fire and Rescue NSW, the NSW Rural Fire Service and the NSW State Emergency Service.

The Government is committed to a funding approach that is fairer, more sustainable, more transparent and improves insurance affordability in the face of a changing climate and rising costs.

The current insurance-based ESL places an unsustainable burden on insured households and businesses. The cost of insurance, which has been increasing rapidly, is made greater by the ESL. The rapidly escalating cost of insurance is actually exacerbating underinsurance and also non-insurance altogether in some instances.

The replacement levy options in the discussion paper proposes a tiered structure with increasing fixed charges based on land values. This means that owners of properties within a pre-defined range of land values would be subject to a fixed levy amount, with owners of properties in a higher land-value range being subject to a higher fixed levy amount. The differences in levy amounts and the number of land value thresholds would depend on the levy model option. The five levy model options in this paper vary in complexity and distributional impacts:
- Option A: Four tiers of fixed charges
- Option B: Four tiers of fixed charges with greater escalation
- Option C: Six tiers of fixed charges
- Option D: Fixed charges with regional discounts
- Option E: Fixed charges with surcharges by property type.

The paper goes on to say the levy model options are not exhaustive and are presented as instructive examples of the high-level levy design framework. The NSW Parliament has established the Legislative Assembly Select Committee on Emergency Services Funding Reform to gain feedback from the community on the five options put forward before making a final determination.

The Terms of reference of the select committee are:

That the committee inquire into and report on the New South Wales emergency services funding reform replacement levy model options with particular reference to:
(a) the levy design principles of cost recovery, equity, efficiency, simplicity, and sustainability; and
(b) design parameters of levy concessions and transition arrangements.

Submissions to the committee close on 19th June, which is three days after this Council meeting.

The five options are expanded in table 8 with 2023-24 figures used to demonstrate the impact on the various rate categories.

Table 8: Levy model options, levy amounts based on land values, by property sector, 2023-24

	Residential		Commercial		Industrial		Farm		Public benefit	
Option A	Land value	Levy	Land value	Levy	Land value	Levy	Land value	Levy	Land value	Levy
	Up to $302,100	$175	Up to $346,000	$275	Up to $486,000	$400	Up to $1,000,000	$450	Up to $363,000	$275
	$302,100 to $728,000	$225	$346,000 to $800,400	$800	$486,000 to $1,100,000	$1,200	$1,000,000 to $1,760,000	$600	$363,000 to $963,000	$950
	$728,000 to $1,410,000	$300	$800,400 to $2,410,000	$2,500	$1,100,000 to $3,310,000	$7,500	$1,760,000 to $4,010,000	$1,000	$963,000, to $3,260,000	$2,250
	Above $1,410,000	$523	Above $2,410,000	$12,972	Above $3,310,000	$42,857	Above $4,010,000	$2,280	Above $3,260,000	$5,513
Option B	Land value	Levy	Land value	Levy	Land value	Levy	Land value	Levy	Land value	Levy
	Up to $302,100	$158	Up to $346,000	$215	Up to $486,000	$325	Up to $1,000,000	$400		
	$302,100 to $728,000	$225	$346,000 to $800,400	$550	$486,000 to $1,100,000	$800	$1,000,000 to $1,760,000	$550	Up to $1,580,000	$200
	$728,000 to $1,410,000	$300	$800,400 to $2,410,000	$1,653	$1,100,000 to $3,310,000	$6,102	$1,760,000 to $4,010,000	$925		
	Above $1,410,000	$573	Above $2,410,000	$15,472	Above $3,310,000	$46,857	Above $4,010,000	$2,780	Above $1,580,000	$5,861
Option C	Land value	Levy	Land value	Levy	Land value	Levy	Land value	Levy	Land value	Levy
	Up to $170,100	$141	Up to $117,600	$175	Up to $193,200	$275	Up to $486,000	$375		
	$170,100 to $302,100	$175	$117,576 to $346,000	$275	$193,200 to $486,000	$400	$486,000 to $1,000,000	$450	Up to $3,260,000	$175
	$302,100 to $728,000	$225	$346,000 to $800,400	$450	$486,000 to $1,100,000	$800	$1,000,000 to $1,760,000	$525		
	$728,000 to $1,410,000	$300	$800,400 to $2,410,000	$1,725	$1,100,000 to $3,310,000	$6,073	$1,760,000 to $4,010,000	$918		
	$1,410,000 to $1,941,700	$523	$2,410,000 to $4,390,000	$12,972	$3,310,000 to $6,700,000	$42,857	$4,010,000 to $6,060,000	$2,280		
	Above $1,941,700	$623	Above $4,390,000	$17,972	Above $6,700,000	$50,857	Above $6,060,000	$3,280	Above $3,260,000	$11,735
Option D	For option D, levy amounts displayed are for non-concessional property located in Greater Sydney. Regional discounts apply: 20% discount for properties located in a regional town/city, a 40% discount for properties in large rural areas and a 50% discount for properties in rural areas.									
	Land value	Levy	Land value	Levy	Land value	Levy	Land value	Levy	Land value	Levy
	Up to $302,100	$189	Up to $346,000	$289	Up to $486,000	$417	Up to $1,000,000	$669	Up to $363,000	
	$302,100 to $728,000	$243	$346,000 to $800,400	$841	$486,000 to $1,100,000	$1,251	$1,000,000 to $1,760,000	$892	$363,000 to $963,000	$212
	$728,000 to $1,410,000	$324	$800,400 to $2,410,000	$2,628	$1,100,000 to $3,310,000	$7,816	$1,760,000 to $4,010,000	$1,487	$963,000, to $3,260,000	
	Above $1,410,000	$564	Above $2,410,000	$13,637	Above $3,310,000	$44,663	Above $4,010,000	$3,390	Above $3,260,000	$6,220
Option E	Residential - houses		Residential - units		Industrial (excluding mining)		Mining		No model based on property type is proposed for the commercial, farm and public benefit sectors. For these, there are no practical ways to identify properties by type without the need to develop a new database, with associated costs and lead times.	
	Land value	Levy	Land value	Levy	Land value	Levy	Land value	Levy		
	Up to $302,100	$161	Up to $302,100	$211	Up to $485,400	$300	Up to $2,500,000	$1,000		
	$302,100 to $728,000	$211	$302,100 to $728,000	$261	$485,400 to $1,100,000	$800	$2,500,000 to $100,000,000	$200,000		
	$728,000 to $1,410,000	$286	$728,000 to $1,410,000	$336	$1,100,000 to $3,290,000	$4,500	Above $100,000,000	$1,901,400		
	Above $1,410,000	$509	Above $1,410,000	$559	Above $3,290,000	$42,254				

Potential Best Option for Blayney Shire
In analysing the five options, Option D is clearly the best and preferred outcome for Blayney Shire rate payers.

Blayney Shire is classed by the Office of Local Government as a Large Rural Area (which is the assume categorisation for this discussion paper).

If Option D was implemented, rate payers in Blayney Shire would receive a 40% discount on the figure displayed in Table 8, option D. It should be noted Table 8 is quoting 2023-24 figures as a base and these figures would be indexed when it would be implemented.

From the options paper, page 50; Option D is similar to option A with moderately increasing levies across four tiers for each property sector, but with regional discounts for properties located outside Greater Sydney. These discounts are additional to, and applied before, the concessions for pensioners and vacant land.

Option D introduces regional discounts to reflect models used in Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia. These states provide emergency service levy discounts for properties located in non-metropolitan areas to reflect lower levels of emergency service provision. This is an additional equity consideration.

Given properties outside Greater Sydney have lower land values on average, these property owners would pay less on average under all replacement levy options compared to owners of properties in Greater Sydney. Moreover, as owners of property outside Greater Sydney tend to face higher ESL costs, they will tend to see higher savings than owners of properties with similar land values located in Greater Sydney.

Despite paying lower replacement levy amounts on average, some owners of property located outside Greater Sydney may consider they would still contribute disproportionally to the funding of emergency services relative to the benefit they could receive from their availability. Regional discounts attempt to remedy this and better align average replacement levy burdens to average level of emergency service provision. The regional discounts are broadly aligned to Queensland's Emergency Management Levy. In Queensland, properties are classified into five district classes based on the availability of fire.

As this option is clearly the best outcome for our ratepayers, the recommendation provided recommends that Option D be endorsed by Council.

Levy Collection Concerns
A secondary challenge appears to be who will collect any such new levy? In most other states, it appears Local Government collects any such similar levy. The NSW Government has used Councils, including Blayney Shire to collect information about the rates base for this exercise. It is expected that Local Government may be the collection mechanism, as it would cost the NSW Government a large amount of money to set up and run a collection system / agency in parrel to the Council rates-based system.

This creates a number of challenges for Blayney Shire as listed below:

- The preference is Revenue NSW would be responsible for the ESL collection and not Council.
- If Council were required to collect the levy, Council would be seen as the collection organisation and potentially be seen to be increasing rates above the rate peg and encounter reputational damage. Local Government is seeking a clear and distinctive

label/line on any rates notices clearly stating a NSW Government levy.

- Given Blayney Shire currently collects 11.7% of the ESL (and this is not expected to change), Blayney Council needs to have the ability to show this additional levy as a separate line item on the rates notice, which would provide full transparency to the landowner.
- There will be a cost impost to Councils having to administer this levy. Councils should not be out of pocket for cost recovery and will need to have full cost recovery for any administration of this levy.
- If Council were to administer the levy, there needs to be clarification on who collects the outstanding amounts of the levy. The question asked is whether the levy is classed as part of Councils outstanding rates or whether Revenue NSW administers overdue levy collection?
- If Council were to collect the levy;
    - When does Council have to pay this levy to the NSW Government?
    - Is it collected on a quarterly basis or annually and for those ratepayers who pay up front?
    - Can Council retain this money and pay it forward on a quarterly basis? Does Council have to pay the levy money in full for all ratepayers including any outstanding amounts?

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

1 Emergency Services Funding Reform Options Paper 70 Pages

07) MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING HELD 26 MAY 2026

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 26 May 2026, being minute numbers 2605/001 to 2605/021 be confirmed.

MINUTES OF THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE CHAMBERS, BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY CENTRE, ON 26 MAY 2026, COMMENCING AT 6.00PM

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), Director Corporate Services (Mr A Franze), 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
The General Manager reported the following Disclosure of Interest forms had been submitted:

Councillor /Staff	Interest	Item	Pg	Report	Reason
Cr Scott	Non Pecuniary (Significant)	19	110	EOI 1/2026 - Further Development, Improvement or Use of Whites Quarry	Cr Scott associates with the owner and multiple employees of one of the parties that has submitted and EOI.

MAYORAL MINUTE

MAYORAL MINUTE - SIX POINT ACTION PLAN ON RURAL AND REGIONAL HEALTH

2605/001 RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Note the release of the LGNSW's *"Caring for our Regions"* Six Point Action Plan on Rural and Regional Health, which outlines coordinated advocacy priorities to address critical gaps in healthcare access and outcomes for rural, regional and remote communities, including Blayney Shire;
2. Recognise that people living in rural, regional and remote areas experience poorer health outcomes, reduced access to primary and specialist care, and shorter life expectancy compared to metropolitan communities, and that these inequities are unacceptable;
3. Adopt the *"Caring for our Regions"* Action Plan on Rural and Regional Health as a formal advocacy position of Council;
4. Undertake appropriate media and communications opportunities to publicly support the *"Caring for our Regions"* Action Plan on Rural and Regional Health and strengthen coordinated advocacy with other councils.
5. Write to the NSW Minister for Regional Health, Ryan Park MP through the local Member of Parliament, MP Paul Toole MP and the Commonwealth Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health, Emma McBride MP through the local Member of Parliament, Andrew Gee MP, seeking their support for the *"Caring for our Regions"* Action Plan on Rural and Regional Health and calling for coordinated State and Commonwealth action to improve rural and regional health outcomes.
6. Notify LGNSW of this notice of motion.

(Reynolds/Gosewisch)
CARRIED

MAYORAL MINUTE - GREAT WESTERN HIGHWAY UPDATE

2605/002 RESOLVED:

That Council note the verbal report on the Great Western Highway update and the associated grant funding provided to Blayney Shire Council.

(Reynolds/Newstead)
CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING HELD 28 APRIL 2026

2605/003 RESOLVED:
That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 April 2026, being minute numbers 2604/001 to 2604/024 be confirmed.

(Scott/Hutchings)
CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
Nil

EXECUTIVE SERVICES REPORTS

ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCILS

2605/004 RESOLVED:
That Council;
1. Renew membership with the Association of Mining & Energy Related Councils NSW until 30 June 2027.
2. Holds payment of the 2026/27 membership fee until the Association of Mining & Energy Related Councils NSW pays Councils outstanding invoice for $10,925.64 ex GST.
3. Write to the Association of Mining & Energy Related Councils NSW, advising in accordance with clause 22 of the constitution, Council is providing advance notice of its intention to potentially resign its membership effective 30 June 2027.
4. Receive a further report in or before June 2027 to resolve whether to renew membership with the Association of Mining & Energy Related Councils NSW for 2027/28.
5. Write to the Association of Mining & Energy Related Councils NSW, seeking that the Association of Mining & Energy Related Councils NSW, return to a singular mining focused association.

(Gosewisch/Hutchings)
CARRIED

2026 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: 'CATCH UP WITH A COUNCILLOR'

2605/005 RESOLVED:
That Council;
1. Note the recent *'Catch up with a councillor 2026'* community engagement undertaken in April 2026 across the Blayney Shire.
2. Note the summary of feedback and/or suggestions captured from the community engagement.

(Newstead/Gosewisch)
CARRIED

VISITOR ECONOMY WORKING GROUP

2605/006 RESOLVED:

That Council;

1. Endorse the Visitor Economy Working Group Charter as attached, including any subsequent amendments.
2. Appoint Orange 360 Board Delegate, Councillor Gosewisch, as a member and chair of the Visitor Economy Working Group.
3. Appoint alternate Orange 360 Board Delegate, Councillor Johnston, as alternate chair and member of the Visitor Economy Working Group.
4. Proceed to undertake a public Expression of Interest process seeking nominations for industry representatives interested in being appointed by Council to the Working Group.

(Reynolds/Gosewisch)

CARRIED

CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

REPORT OF COUNCIL INVESTMENTS AS AT 30 APRIL 2026

2605/007 RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Note the report indicating Council's investment position as of 30 April 2026.
2. Note the certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer.

(Scott/Hutchings)

CARRIED

QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT - MARCH 2026

2605/008 RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Receive the report on the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the quarter ending 31 March 2026.
2. Adopt the supplementary votes of ($414k) nett proposed in the Quarterly Budget Review Statement, resulting in a decrease to capital expenditure of ($1.05m), an increase to operating expenditure of $1.87m and an increase in income of $410k.
3. Note the certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer that the Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRS) for the quarter ended 31 March 2026, 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.

(Scott/Gosewisch)

CARRIED

INVESTMENT POLICY

2605/009 RESOLVED:

That Council;

1. Receive the report on the Investment Policy,
2. Note the submission on the Investment Policy received during the public exhibition period,
3. Adopt the Investment Policy for inclusion into Council's policy register.

(Scott/Gosewisch)
CARRIED

2026/27 COUNCILLOR AND MAYORAL REMUNERATION

2605/010 RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Note the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal 2026 Annual Determination.
2. In accordance with the maximum level for the Rural Council category in the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal 2026 Annual Determination, set and fix the Councillor and Mayoral remuneration (excluding superannuation) for 2026/27 year as;
    a) $14,450 for Councillors, and
    b) $31,510 additional fee for the Mayor

(Newstead/Gosewisch)
CARRIED

CABONNE AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM

2605/011 RESOLVED:

That Council;

1. Receive the report on the Cabonne After School Care Program,
2. Note the sub reserve balance for the After School Care Program in Blayney as at 30 June 2025,
3. Provide within Council's Long Term Financial Plan, continued contribution towards the program (indexed annually), with a review of the Program by Council for the 2029/30 budget.

(Reynolds/Newstead)
CARRIED

BAD DEBT - JLGL PTY LTD (JACK LIVINGSTONE): COUNTRY TREE SERVICES

The General Manager advised that this report has been withdrawn as Council was advised payment has been made this morning.

2022-2026 DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN STATUS REPORT

2605/012 RESOLVED:

That the Disability Inclusion Working Group note the Blayney Shire 2022 – 2026 Disability Inclusion Action Plan Status Report for period ending 31 December 2025.

(Scott/Gosewisch)
CARRIED

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORTS

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES: KEY ACTIVITIES REPORT

2605/013 RESOLVED:

That Council note the Infrastructure Services: Key Activities Report for May 2026.

(Newstead/Gosewisch)
CARRIED

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LOT 7305 DP 1143307, HENRY ST BLAYNEY

2605/014 RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Resolve to compulsorily acquire the land of Lot 7305 DP 1143307, described as Henry Street, Blayney, pursuant to s186-187 of the Local Government Act 1993 and for the purposes of the Roads Act 1993.
2. Approve the making of an application to the Minister for Local Government and Governor seeking approval for the compulsory acquisition of land.
3. Delegate authority to the Mayor and General Manager to execute signature and fixing of the Council Seal on all required documentation to facilitate the acquisition.
4. Give public notice for a period of 28 days of Council's intention to classify the land as Operational Land.
5. Approve the publication of a notice in the NSW Government Gazette to dedicate the land as a public road pursuant to s10 Roads Act 1993.
6. Approve a supplementary vote of $35,000 funded from the Property Account to fund the acquisition.

(Scott/Gosewisch)
CARRIED

RICHARDS LANE AND INTERSECTION UPGRADE PROJECT

2605/015 RESOLVED:

That Council note the project update for the Richards Lane and intersection upgrade project.

(Gosewisch/Hutchings)
CARRIED

MINUTES OF THE BLAYNEY SHOWGROUND USER GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 11 MAY 2026

2605/016 RESOLVED:

That Council receive the minutes of the Blayney Showground User Group Committee meeting held 11 May 2026.

(Gosewisch/Newstead)

CARRIED

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS

BLAYNEY SHIRE DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN 2026

2605/017 RESOLVED:

That Council;

1. Approve the Blayney Shire Development Control Plan 2026 attached to this report, as amended and altered following the public exhibition.
2. Provide public notice that Blayney Shire Development Control Plan 2026 will commence on 9 June 2026.
3. Repeal Blayney Shire Development Control Plan 2018.
4. Provide a copy of the Blayney Shire Development Control Plan 2026 to the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.
5. Note that track changes will be removed from the final version of the DCP and authorise the General Manager to approve any minor formatting amendments to correct minor clerical errors or issues which do not change or alter the content or intent of the document.

(Scott/Hutchings)

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

DELEGATES REPORTS

RURAL AND REGIONAL SUMMIT 2026 DELEGATE REPORT

2605/018 RESOLVED:
That Council note the Delegates Report on the 2026 Rural and Regional Summit held on Thursday 7 May 2026 in Sydney.

(Reynolds/Gosewisch)
CARRIED

CLOSED MEETING

2605/019 RESOLVED:
That the meeting now be closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A of the Local Government Act, 1993 for consideration of the following matter:

EOI 1/2026 - FURTHER DEVELOPMENT, IMPROVEMENT OR USE OF WHITES QUARRY
This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) (c) (e) 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; AND information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law.

(Newstead/Hutchings)
CARRIED

Cr Scott, having declared an interest, left the Chambers.

CONFIDENTIAL MEETING REPORTS

EOI 1/2026 - FURTHER DEVELOPMENT, IMPROVEMENT OR USE OF WHITES QUARRY

2605/020 RESOLVED:
That Council;

1. Note the submissions received in response to EOI 1/2026 – Further Development, Improvement or Use of Whites Quarry
2. Accept the conforming Expressions of Interest received from;
    - Bonus Quarrying Resources Pty Ltd
    - Oberon Earthmoving Pty Ltd
    - Ulan Quarry Products Pty Ltd
    - WSP Australia Pty Ltd
3. Note that the submission from Saba Civil Management and Consultancy Pty Ltd was assessed as non-conforming due to failure to submit mandatory tender schedules.
4. Proceed to a Selective Tender process with Bonus Quarrying Resources Pty Ltd, being the respondent assessed as providing the most aligned proposal and strongest value-for-money outcome for Council following the public EOI process; and

5. Receive a further report following the closure of the Selective Tender process detailing the outcome of the submission and any proposed commercial arrangements for Council's consideration.

(Newstead/Hutchings)
CARRIED

2605/021 RESOLVED:
That as consideration of the matters referred to in the closed meeting has been concluded, the meeting now be opened to the public.

(Gosewisch/Hutchings)
CARRIED

Cr Scott returned to the Chambers.

AT THE RE-OPENING OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC, THE MAYOR ANNOUNCED THE OUTCOMES OF RESOLUTION NUMBER 2605/021.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.03pm.

The Minute Numbers 2605/001 to 2605/021 were confirmed on 16 June 2026 and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting held on 26 May 2026.

_____
Cr B Reynolds
CHAIR

08) PROPOSED TRANSFER OF MANAGEMENT: BAKERS SHAFT AND JUNCTION REEFS FROM CROWN LANDS TO BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL

Department: Executive Services

Author: General Manager

CSP Link: 5. Protecting our assets for future generations

File No: PR.AD.2

Recommendation:
That Council respond to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure – Crown Lands 22 May 2026 letter advising;

1. Strong objection to the proposed transfer of management of Crown Reserve 1031268 to Blayney Shire Council.
2. Crown Lands at a minimum hold any proposed transition until at least 1 July 2027, as;
   a. Crown Lands has not provided sufficient substantive information to enable Council to properly evaluate associated the liability and financial implications associated with the proposed transfer of management,
   b. Crown Lands have not provided a comprehensive list of assets at Crown Reserve 1031268 (that Council would become responsible for) to enable Council to assess if the proposed transfer of management proceeds,
   c. From a procedural fairness perspective, 41 days is insufficient notice for Council to;
      i) Obtain legal advice, and
      ii) Adequately consider: associated risk and liability, site assets and financial implications if the transfer of management proceeds.
3. That Council write to the NSW Minister for Lands and Property, the Hon Stephen Kamper;
   a. Outlining Council's strong objection to the proposed transfer and
   b. Seek an assurance that no transfer will take place until the information sought in 2 above is provided and Council is provided with a fair and reasonable time period to assess, consider and respond to that information.

Reason for Report:
To update Council on correspondence received 22 May 2026 from Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure – Crown Lands indicating an intention to devolve Junction Reefs Reserve (Reserve No. 1031268) to Council.

Report:
Council is in receipt of correspondence advising that Junction Reefs Reserve (Reserve No. 1031268) will be devolved to Council, pursuant to s.48 Local Government Act, from 1 July 2026.

Section 48 states:

> ***48 Responsibility for certain public reserves***
> *(1) Except as provided by section 2.22 of the Crown Land Management Act 2016, a council has the control of—*
> *(a) public reserves that are not under the control of or vested in any other body or persons and are not held by a person under lease from the Crown, and*
> *(b) public reserves that the Governor, by proclamation, places under the control of the council.*
>
> *(2) If any doubt arises as to whether any land comes within the operation of this section, or as to the boundaries of a public reserve, the Governor may, by proclamation, determine the matter.*

The financial implications of such a mandate are difficult to quantify without a comprehensive assessment of the of infrastructure across the 143.44ha site, including roads, buildings and operational maintenance requirements. Council's Insurer would also be requiring a thorough risk assessment to be undertaken to ascertain areas of risk and risk mitigation strategies.

For Council to take control of this reserve it is likely that there would be significant long term negative financial implications that are not yet factored into Council's Long Term Financial Plan.

On 9 September 2023 the General Manager in an email wrote to Crown Lands as follows:

> .
> *Council's initial position on receiving this letter, is it is not happy nor accepting of this NSW Government position to cost shift this matter onto Blayney Shire Council.*
>
> *In particular, Council notes the timing where Council is undertaking a significant review of both income and expenditure with the view of undertaking the special rate process to increase rating income to remain financially sustainable and viable.*
>
> *Transfer of management to Council of Junctions Reef would have a significant cost impact to Council.*
>
> *Look forward to discussing options with Crown.*

No specific response was received by Council.

The General Manager further, in an email on 28 June 2024 wrote to Crown Lands:

Junctions Reef Reserve
- *Council does not want management of this public reserve.*
- *Are we (NSW Government and Council) able to jointly engage with either the Orange Aboriginal Lands Council or the Cowra Aboriginal Lands Council about taking management of this reserve?*

No specific response was again received by Council.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
This precedence would present a significant future risk to Council with a number of community (or SLM) operated Crown Reserves in the Blayney LGA. Should these Crown Reserves not attract community interest to form an SLM in the future they are likely to share the same fate.

There is limited information in the 22 May 2026 letter, noting there is no reference to required rehabilitation works and/or improvements by OceanaGold, no formal list of assets (including dam wall).

In May 2026, Council staff attended a joint onsite inspection (together with representatives from Crown Lands and OceanaGold) at Junctions Reefs, in which OceanaGold advised their intent, as part of site rehabilitation and eventual site exit, to construct further assets within this reserve.

Council also has significant concerns whether potential legacy contamination issues on this site (being a former mine site) may become a future risk / liability to Council, noting recent PFAS related issues raised by the NSW Environmental Protection Authority.

Budget Implications:
Financial implications of any transfer are unable to be ascertained at this point in time. However, given there has been no inclusion in Council's Long Term Financial Plan for this area, any transfer of land will have a detrimental impact on Council's financial sustainability.

Enclosures (following report)

1 Management of Crown Reserve 1031268 3 Pages

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
- Crown Lands

NSW GOVERNMENT

Ref: DOC26/104599

Mark Dicker
General Manager
Blayney Shire Council
Via email only: [redacted]
CC'd: council@blayney.nsw.gov.au

Subject: Management of Crown Reserve 1031268 (Junctions Reefs / Bakers Shaft Reserves)

Dear Mark,

As discussed with Blayney Shire Council, Crown Reserve 1031268 is for the purposes of "Public Recreation, Heritage Purposes and Environmental Protection", comprising Junction Reefs Reserve and Bakers Shaft Reserve, located at Burnt Yards, Mandurama. A diagram illustrating the extent of the reserve and the full list of Lot/DPs subject to Reserve 1031268 is shown in **Attachment A**.

Under Section 48 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Crown reserves dedicated or reserved for a public purpose devolve to the local council when they are not under control or vested in any other body or person, or under any lease. A Reserve 1031268 is not managed or tenured, it therefore devolves to Blayney Shire Council.

The Department seeks to formally transition the management of Reserve 1031268 to Blayney Shire Council, by gazette as of 1 July 2026, either by devolvement under Section 48 of the *Local Government Act 1993* or by appointment as Crown Land Manager (CLM) under the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.

Approximate income/expenditure and asset value (as reference) are shown in **Attachment A**. The Department has engaged Corrective Services NSW on an annual basis to undertake minor maintenance works on the reserve, including rubbish removal and general mowing. This service is currently provided as part of the Community Engagement Program, at no cost to the Department.

Council is encouraged to seek appointment as CLM so that short-term licences can be issued over the reserve (*Note:* Council, if appointed as CLM, can only issue short-term licences for up to 12 months, until there is an adopted Plan of Management for that reserve).

The Junction Reefs Dam is state heritage listed with the majority of the dam wall located on the Belubula River, being a Crown waterway. The Department will continue to manage the dam and the dam wall. A survey may be conducted at the location to confirm if the dam wall is situated partly on Lot 260 DP 750359 (being part of Reserve 1031268.

The Department is committed to continue discussing the management transition with Council. Should you have any questions or wish to further discuss, Vicky Lyons can be contacted on [redacted]

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Shaun Barker
Area Manager- North West

22 May 2026

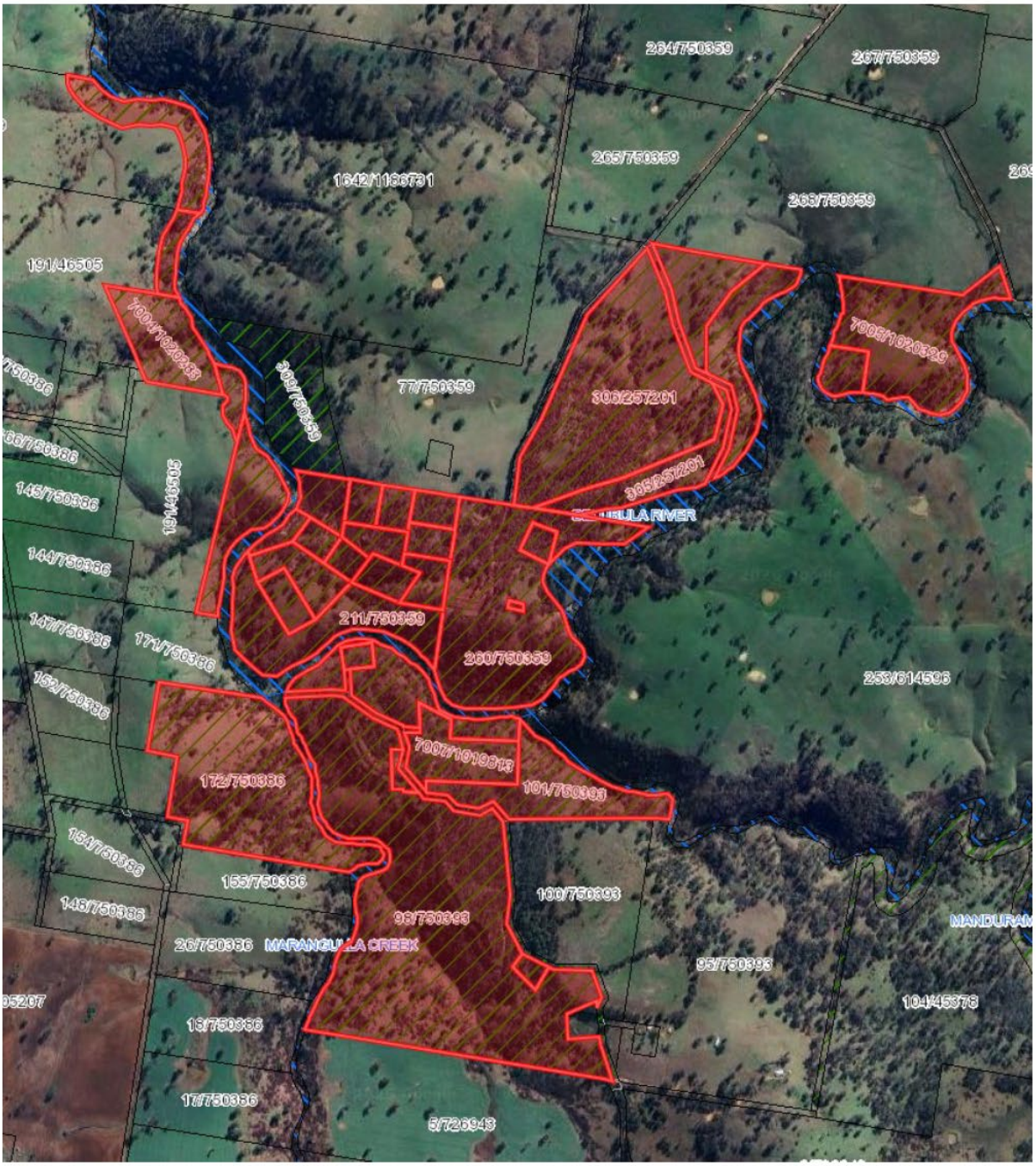
Attachment A

List of Lot/DPs subject to Reserve 1031268

	Lot/DP	Area
1	232/750359	1.981 (ha)
2	177/750359	1.616 (ha)
3	101/750393	10.176 (ha)
4	190/750359	1.234 (ha)
5	7006/1019813	0.8081 (ha)
6	253/750359	1.929 (ha)
7	258/750359	0.9996 (ha)
8	304/257201	6.983 (ha)
9	178/750359	1.649 (ha)
10	156/750359	0.1220 (ha)
11	98/750393	62.501 (ha)
12	193/46505	1.462 (ha)
13	305/257201	6.050 (ha)
14	179/750359	1.535 (ha)
15	7007/1019813	6.284 (ha)
16	231/750359	1.162 (ha)
17	211/750359	11.480 (ha)
18	99/750393	8.141 (ha)
19	7005/1020329	15.217 (ha)
20	176/750359	2.110 (ha)

Table – Approximate expenses, income and asset

Expenses - 2024/2025	
Dangerous tree	$4,500.00
Expenses - 2025/2026	
Mowing and Maintenance	$8,000.00
Weed control - Sticky nightshade, Chilean needle grass and Blackberry	$14,000.00
Dangerous tree	$3,000.00
Income	
Grazing licence 19/05/2025-20/05/2026	$3,600.00
Grazing licence 20/05/2026-19/05/2027	$3,600.00
Grants	
CRIF-2023/2024-Weeds-Sticky nightshade, Chilean needle grass, Blackberry, St Johns wort, Variegated and Black Thistles. Hemlock	$18,932.73
Asset	
Toilet blocks	
BBQ	
Cattle yards and loading ramp	
Fire pits	
Signage	


264/750359
267/750359
265/750359
263/750359
1642/1168731
191/46505
77/750359
300/257201
211/750359
260/750359
253/614596
172/750386
101/760393
100/760393
98/750393
95/750393
MARANGULA CREEK
MANDURAM
104/45378
16/750386
17/750386
5/726943

09) ORANGE360 DRAFT KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Department: Executive Services

Author: General Manager

CSP Link: 4. A diverse, vibrant and sustainable economy

File No: RC.PG.2

Recommendation:
That Council note the agreed Key Performance Indicators for Orange360 to 30 June 2027.

Reason for Report:
This report is presented to Council following the resolution of 28 April 2026 (**Resolution No. 2604/009**) which authorised the General Manager to finalise updated Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for Orange360 whish will be reported back to Council before 30 June 2026.

Report:
Since the April 2026 Council meeting, multiple meetings have been held between Orange360 stakeholders including: General Manager of Cabonne Council, General Manager Blayney Shire Council, Chief Executive Officer of Orange City Council together with Orange360 representatives (General Manager and Chair) to discuss and finalise both; a new funding agreement and updated KPI for Orange360.

The updated KPIs are provided as an enclosure to this report for Council to note.

The KPIs are 'in principle' until ratified by the Orange360 Board at the June meeting (scheduled for 24 June 2026). Blayney Shire Council delegate to the Orange360 board is Cr Gosewisch, so any feedback and input from Councillors on the KPIs can be provided to Cr Gosewisch.

Annual targets for the KPIs will be set each year and approved by the Board. The KPIs will be supported by the Annual Marketing Plan, the Annual Budget and the Membership Engagement Plan.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
The Board includes a delegate from Blayney Shire Council, Cr Gosewisch who is the conduit between Council and the Orange360 board.

As per Resolution No. 2604/009, Council is to receive a further report before 1 June 2027 to consider the three (3) year option extension. In this regard, Council will be required to consider a report in or around May 2027 as Orange360 will need to provide a performance report to Council in early April 2027, so Council can then consider a report regarding the three (3) year extension.

Budget Implications:
Nil

Enclosures (following report)

1	Orange360 Strategic Plan and KPIs	6 Pages

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

Orange360 Strategic Plan 2026–2030

Our Vision is for the Orange Region to be the leading year-round destination in regional NSW

Our mission is to drive sustainable tourism growth, enhance visitor experiences, and promote economic prosperity in the Orange Region through innovative destination marketing, industry development, and advocacy. We are committed to fostering regional growth, attracting increased visitation, and showcasing the unique offerings of our vibrant region.

Orange360 demonstrates our **core values** through our behaviour, function, and operation.

- We are responsive and versatile.
- Collaboration and teamwork are key to our success.
- We are committed to making a difference for our customers, members, the industry and stakeholders.
- Integrity and transparency in our actions and outcomes are at the core of our business.

The principles that guide Orange360 action and decision making are to:

- Lead with regional strengths.
- Place the visitor experience first.
- Encourage and facilitate continual improvement.
- Promote regional collaboration and unity.
- Seek positive engagement.
- Epitomise "stronger together".
- Be considerate and egalitarian.

Strategic Priorities A strong brand and visitation work depends on a connected, capable industry, and a connected industry has more to rally around when the brand and visitation engine is performing.

Orange360's strategic approach for 2026–2030 is built on two mutually reinforcing priorities.

1. **Build the Orange Region brand and drive visitation**
2. **Lead and connect the regional tourism industry**

DRAFT #2

PRIORITIES	OBJECTIVES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Measures	Data Source
1. Build the Orange Region brand and drive visitation	• Domestic overnight visitor numbers and occupancy rates grow year on year.	• Domestic overnight visitor numbers • Total visitor numbers • Average occupancy year on year for Orange Region • Benchmark Orange Region growth and or market share against key competitor markets eg. Bathurst, Mudgee, Hunter Valley	1) Year on year increase • Total Visitors • Domestic overnight visitors • Average occupancy 2) Orange Region market growth performs well against competitor destinations % growth	• Tourism Research Australia • Localis
	• The Orange Region is recognised as a leading year-round regional tourism destination in NSW.	• Brand recognition in NSW domestic market • Destination awareness, appeal, engagement - via Google & Meta social media, Search and Website user data • Increased awareness of the individual towns and villages of the Region	1) Orange Region rates above 60% for Awareness and 20% for Appeal for surveyed NSW market 2) Year on Year % Increase on unique website visitors 3) Increase in google search and direct referrals 4) Year on Year % growth Instagram social media engagement - through follows, saves, shares, link clicks. Video view and social interactions	• DNSW Brand Engagement Monitor • Google Analytics • Meta Data (Instagram) • Increased content and exposure of Villages and Towns

Orange360 Strategic Plan_draft2_table layout with KPIs
19May2026

			5) Villages & Towns promoted with the brand story and content	
	• Develop and executive effective Marketing Strategies and Annual Plans	• Annual Marketing Plan development in consultation with Stakeholders linked to O360 Strategy • Growth of engagement measures of Orange360 owned channels • Annual Marketing budget spend no less than 30% of operating budget • Quarterly Marketing and Campaign Review	1) Increased audiences, followers and increased exposure. 2) Increase engagement with Orange360 owned channels 3) Regional representation in creatives, assets exposure and content	• DNSW Brand Engagement Monitor • Google Analytics • Meta Data (Instagram) • Increased content and exposure of Villages and Towns • Financial report
2. Lead and connect the regional tourism industry	• A growing, engaged membership that advocates for Orange360 and supports its brand campaigns. • Industry capability is improving and sectors are being serviced with high-quality experiences. • Members understand the Orange360 value	• Membership income growth • Member retention • Growth in experience listings on the Orange360 website and ATDW • Increased member engagement and member satisfaction (annual survey)	1) Annual nett gain of membership income 2) Product, events and experiences listings increase through orange360.com.au 3) Increase in Membership involvement and attendance at activities/events 4) Annual survey shows positive engagement and	• Orange360 Membership Data • ATDW Listings July 1 vs June 30 – per LGA and total. • Annual Orange360 Membership Engagement Survey - 20% (Industry benchmark 5-30%) participation from members in the

DRAFT

	proposition and participate in its programs. • Orange360 is the recognised lead voice for tourism across the three LGAs. • Annual Membership Engagement Plan & Strategy Review • Strong, structured relationships are established and maintained with the three funding councils.		satisfaction with Orange360 5) Member communications and activities are valued for relevance and satisfaction by members	annual Orange360 membership survey - 80% rate either "Very Satisfied" or "Satisfied" *How satisfied are you with your overall experience and interactions with Orange360 over the last 12 months?*

DRAFT #2

PRIORITIES	ACTIONS
1. Build the Orange Region brand and drive visitation	**1. Brand management** • Better articulate the Orange Region brand identity through the development of a **Brand Story document** to inform marketing strategy and activation and support partnerships activity, • Develop and maintain **Orange Region brand identity** and associated assets, applying them consistently across all marketing communications. • Maintain brand integrity through sharing branded marketing assets and images for members and partners to amplify the promotion of the regional brand
	2. Visitor promotion • Develop and deliver the **Annual Marketing Plan**, setting out campaign calendar, channel strategy, content priorities and budget allocation for the year, endorsed by the board. • Convene the **Marketing think tank**, the board's marketing sub-committee, to shape the Annual Marketing Plan and provide ongoing strategic input on brand, campaigns and content priorities. • Deliver seasonal destination marketing campaigns across paid and owned channels, with whole-of-region activation including Cabonne and Blayney villages. • Run always-on content marketing across digital channels • Adapt always-on digital, SEO and content practice to AI-driven visitor discovery (generative engine optimisation, or GEO), ensuring the Orange Region brand, content, listings and operator data remain visible • Promote regional dispersal through itineraries, guides and seasonal campaigns. • Manage media, PR and influencer enquiries and host on-brand media famils. • Promote flagship and regional events through owned media channels and industry partnerships. • Continue to support industry conference or event enquiries from out of region • Design, collate and promote the annual **Fire Festival**

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PRIORITIES	ACTIONS
2. Lead and connect the regional tourism industry	• Implement an annual **Membership engagement plan** that supports destination marketing and member value. • Convene the regional tourism industry, members and non-members, through networking and collaboration events across the three LGAs. • Conduct an **Annual Industry Sentiment Survey** check to track engagement, capability and satisfaction. • Review the membership structure and benefits annually, full review biennially. • Support industry capability building through promoting workshops, briefings and support toolkits. • Facilitate visitor experience and product development through promotion of DNSW and DNCW strategies and initiative and industry development activity • Establish and maintain strong, structured relationships and communication with the three funding councils. • Represent the region in state and federal visitor economy related forums and through media. • Maintain brand integrity and connect members to the Brand through articulating the Orange Region brand story clearly to members. • Sharing branded marketing assets and images for members and partners to amplify the promotion of the regional brand • Maintain an up-to-date membership database and share insights, data and content via regular industry communications.

DRAFT#2

10) NEWBRIDGE ART SHOW - INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST

Department: Executive Services

Author: General Manager

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

File No: GS.AP.1

Recommendation:
That Council decline the request from Newbridge Art Show Inc seeking insurance reimbursement of $1,812.55 for the 2026 Spring into Art event at Newbridge.

Reason for Report:
For Council to consider a request from Newbridge Art Show Inc seeking $1,812.55 reimbursement for insurance expenses.

A recent meeting was held where the Newbridge Art Show advised they had already purchased this insurance. General Manager advised the request appears to sit outside all staff delegation and suggested a letter so Council can consider the matter.

Report:
Council has received a request (enclosed to this report) from Newbridge Art Show Inc seeking $1,812.55 reimbursement for insurance recently purchased by Newbridge Art Show Inc, for the 2026 Spring into Art event at Newbridge.

Initially an application under Council's Financial Assistance Program had been made for this reimbursement.

Newbridge Art Show Inc. is a newly incorporated entity. Previously, the Spring into Art event had been coordinated (including insurance) under the Newbridge Progress Association.

The Guidelines for the Blayney Shire Council Financial Assistance Program (can be found here https://www.blayney.nsw.gov.au/our-community/grants-scholarships-and-awards/community-financial-assistance-program) specify there is concern whether granting his request is in the best interest of the wider community.

Council was neither engaged on funding matters, nor was its opinion sought regarding the proposal for Newbridge Art Show Inc to splinter from the Newbridge Progress Association and independently deliver the event.

By not utilising Newbridge Progress Association as an umbrella, duplication is created (include expense duplication) which will ultimately have to be borne by the wider community should Council approve the request.

Council in 2025/26 supported Newbridge as follows;

1. Admin Assistance: Newbridge Progress Association $890 (FAP)
2. Newbridge Progress Association (Winter Solstice – Portaloo hire / traffic management) $3,430 (FAP)
3. Newbridge Winter Solstice (waiver of council services): $320 (FAP)
4. 2026 Newbridge Winter Solstice event $2,000 (equipment hire, golf cart transportation, signage) (Tourism Development Program)
5. Newbridge Arts Festival Acquisitive Prize: $1,000 (FAP)

Council has strongly in recent years sought across the shire to promote consolidation and streamlining of groups to align with and/or under the respective village committee i.e. Newbridge Progress Association, to save duplication. This request, if approved, will go against that long standing direction.

Ultimately it is Council's decision to make a determination. Council could approve this as a one-off reimbursement, providing the volunteers who make the event happen time to consider how they wish to proceed and/or progress in 2027.

Previously, this event has been delivered by the Spring into Arts Committee – a subcommittee of Newbridge Progress Association.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
There is risk of Council setting a precedent for other events within Blayney Shire.

The insurance sought in the application falls outside the intended scope of the Community Financial Program policy and would not have been necessary had they remained affiliated with the Newbridge Progress Association. The Community Financial Program policy is intended solely to provide public liability insurance for village committees and similar groups. Furthermore, Council does not underwrite insurance or operational expenses for other event organisers.

Budget Implications:
If Council decides to reimburse the $1,812.55 it would be allocated from Council's annual the Financial Assistance Program allocation.

<u>Enclosures</u> (following report)

1 Newbridge Art Show Request 1 Page

<u>Attachments</u> (separate document)

Nil

Newbridge Art Show Inc
c/- 11 Blayney St
Newbridge NSW 2795

May 30, 2026

Mark Dicker
General Manager
Blayney Shire Council

By email to [redacted]

Dear Mark

Inaugural year – insurance cover

Many thanks to you and Anton for meeting with Jan Dickie, Wendy Smith and me on May 25. As discussed, Newbridge Art Show Inc has come into being for several reasons, including:

- To afford the opportunity for both the major village events - the Newbridge Winter Solstice and Spring into Art at Newbridge - to access grant funding. Currently most funding sources permit one application per organization per financial year.
- While there is significant crossover in membership between the Newbridge Progress Association (NPA) and its creative subcommittees, the Newbridge Art Group Space (NAGS) and Newbridge Camera Club also attract regular participants who live outside the village and thus are ineligible to join NPA.
- The difficulty of validating and allocating revenue and expenditure associated with Spring into Art at Newbridge between the NPA and NAGS, given that the art show and the accompanying events are almost entirely interrelated.

As a newly incorporated association, Newbridge Art Show Inc must secure its own insurance. Moreover, it has been obliged to do so recentlyin order to supply the Certificate of Currency required to apply for grant funding. This has depleted the carryover funds which would have been used as seed funding for the 2026 event in October.

For that reason, we are asking that Blayney Shire Council support the organization with a one-off amount to cover the insurance for 2026 in the sum of $1,812.55. Invoices paid for each are attached to this letter:

- Personal Accident Voluntary Workers - $395.31
- Public & Products Liability - $1007.49
- Association Liability - $409.75

The organization will then allocate funds from its own activities for future years' premiums.

Kind regards

[redacted]

Sarah Hunter
Vice President

11) REPORT OF COUNCIL INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 MAY 2026

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 31 May 2026.
2. Note the certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer.

Reason for Report:
For Council to endorse the Report of Council Investments as at 31 May 2026.

Report:
This report provides details of Council's Investment Portfolio as at 31 May 2026.

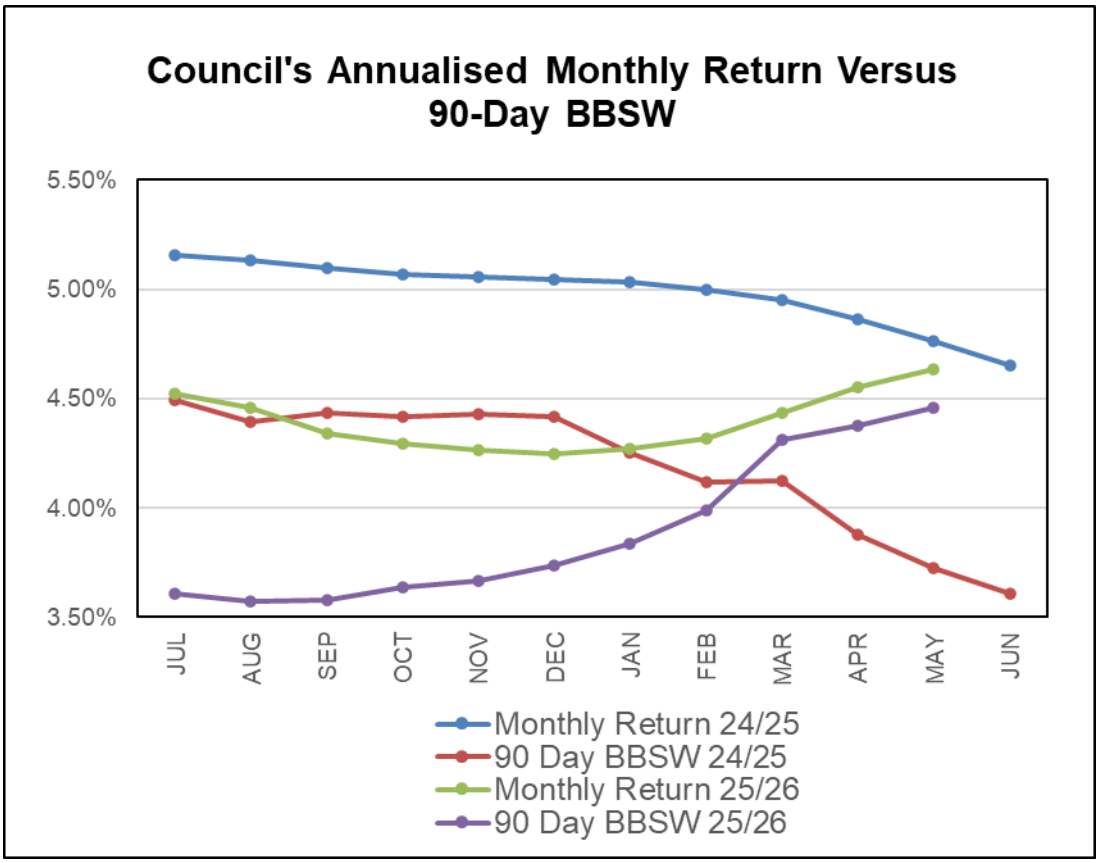
Council's total investment and cash position as of 31 May 2026 is $33,733,900.

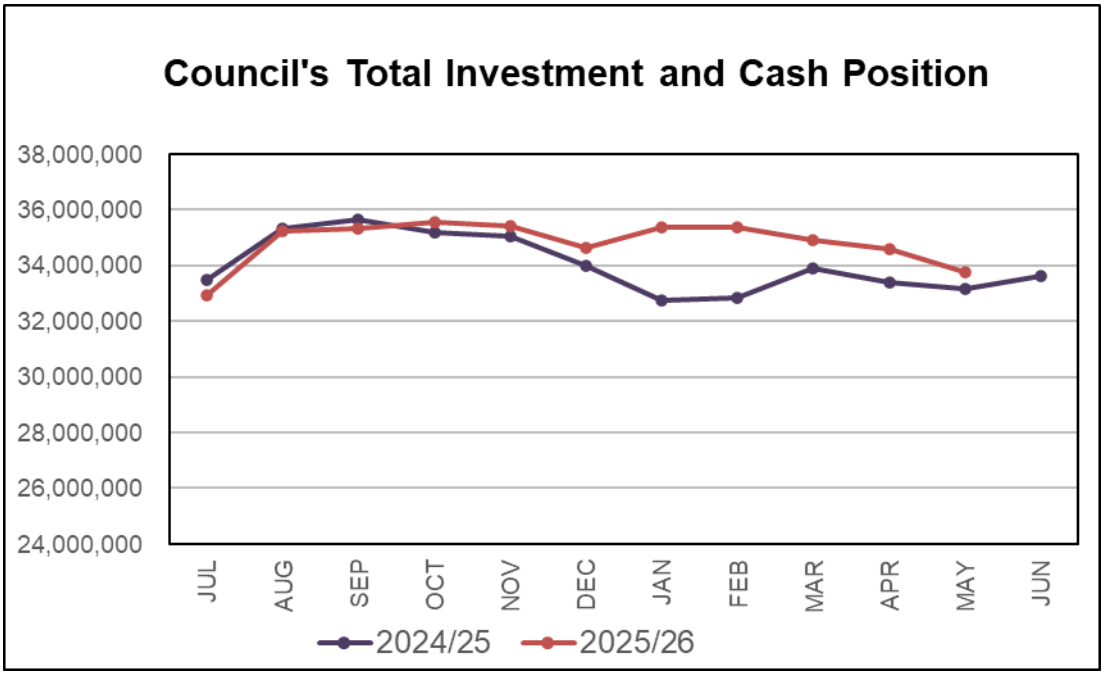
Interest on cash and investments accrued for the month of May was $132,345. Year to date the total interest accrued on cash and investments is $1,365,894.

Council's monthly net return on Term Deposits (annualised) for May was 4.63% which outperformed the 90-day Bank Bill Swap Rate of 4.46%.

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

Funding Program	**$**
OLG Financial Assistance Grant Q4 25/26	483,719


Council's Annualised Monthly Return Versus 90-Day BBSW
5.50%
5.00%
4.50%
4.00%
3.50%
JUL
AUG
SEP
OCT
NOV
DEC
JAN
FEB
MAR
APR
MAY
JUN
Monthly Return 24/25
90 Day BBSW 24/25
Monthly Return 25/26
90 Day BBSW 25/26


Council's Total Investment and Cash Position
38,000,000
36,000,000
34,000,000
32,000,000
30,000,000
28,000,000
26,000,000
24,000,000
JUL
AUG
SEP
OCT
NOV
DEC
JAN
FEB
MAR
APR
MAY
JUN
2024/25
2025/26

Register Of Investments and Cash as of 31 May 2026					
Institution	**Method**	**Rating**	**Maturity**	**Amount $**	**Interest Rate**
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%
B & A Bank	Curve	A2/A-	14/07/2026	500,000	4.400%
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%
Bank of Queensland	Curve	A2/A-	01/09/2026	500,000	4.450%
ING Bank	Curve	A1/A	08/09/2026	500,000	3.960%
Reliance Bank	Direct	Unrated	15/09/2026	500,000	4.200%
IMB Bank Ltd	Direct	A2/BBB+	22/09/2026	500,000	4.300%
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%
B & A Bank	IAM	A2/A-	17/11/2026	500,000	4.550%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	17/11/2026	500,000	4.250%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	24/11/2026	500,000	4.510%
MyState Bank Ltd	Curve	A2/BBB+	01/12/2026	500,000	4.200%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	08/12/2026	500,000	4.830%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	08/12/2026	500,000	4.520%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	15/12/2026	500,000	4.570%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	15/12/2026	500,000	4.560%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	12/01/2027	500,000	4.600%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	19/01/2027	500,000	4.600%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	19/01/2027	500,000	4.650%
Bank of Queensland	Curve	A2/A-	27/01/2027	500,000	4.550%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	02/02/2027	500,000	4.730%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	02/02/2027	500,000	4.690%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	09/02/2027	500,000	4.800%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	09/02/2027	500,000	4.730%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	16/02/2027	500,000	4.850%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	23/02/2027	500,000	4.800%
Defence Bank Ltd	Curve	A2/BBB+	02/03/2027	500,000	4.950%
Reliance Bank	Direct	Unrated	02/03/2027	500,000	4.900%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	16/02/2027	500,000	4.850%

CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	16/03/2027	500,000	5.120%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	23/03/2027	500,000	5.280%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	23/03/2027	500,000	5.350%
Defence Bank Ltd	Curve	A2/BBB+	30/03/2027	500,000	5.550%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	30/03/2027	500,000	5.280%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	06/04/2027	500,000	5.300%
IMB Bank Ltd	Direct	A2/BBB+	13/04/2027	500,000	5.300%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	13/04/2027	500,000	5.340%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	20/04/2027	500,000	5.230%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	27/04/2027	500,000	5.420%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	04/05/2027	500,000	5.330%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	11/05/2027	500,000	5.450%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	18/05/2027	500,000	5.460%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	25/05/2027	500,000	5.350%
Total Investments				**31,000,000**	**4.632%**
Commonwealth Bank - At Call Account (1)				618,879	4.250%
Commonwealth Bank Balance - General (1)				1,883,104	4.200%
Reliance Bank (1)				231,917	0.000%
Total Cash and Investments(2)				**33,733,900**	
Benchmarks:		BBSW 90 Day Index (1)			4.456%
		RBA Cash Rate (1)			4.350%

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 - May 2026		
Financial Institution	**Amount $**	**Commentary**
CBA	(513,877)	Term deposit matured 05/05/2026
CBA	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 05/05/2026
Westpac	(514,222)	Term deposit matured 12/05/2026
Westpac	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 12/05/2026
Westpac	(514,292)	Term deposit matured 19/05/2026
Westpac	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 19/05/2026
NAB	(514,096)	Term deposit matured 26/05/2026
NAB	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 26/05/2026

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%	73%	22,500,000
A- Category	40%	14%	4,500,000
BBB+ Category	25%	10%	3,000,000
BBB Category	5%	0%	-
BBB- Category and below: Local [a] ADI's	10%	3%	1,000,000
BBB+ / BBB / BBB- & below categories combined	25%	13%	
			31,000,000

a. ADI's located within the Local Government Area

Individual Institution Limit	Rating	Policy Maximum $	Current Holding $
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	6,500,000
Defence Bank Ltd	A2/BBB+	1,000,000	1,000,000
IMB Bank Ltd	A2/BBB+	1,000,000	1,000,000
ING Bank	A1/A	3,000,000	2,000,000
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			**31,000,000**

Summary of Restricted, Allocated and Unrestricted Cash & Investments			
	Actual[2] 30/06/2025 $ 000's	**Actual 31/05/2026 $ 000's**	**Forecast [1] 30/06/2026 $ 000's**
External Cash Restrictions	14,619	14,806	11,991
Internal Cash Allocations	16,064	13,040	6,557
Total Restricted, Allocated Cash & Investments	**30,683**	**27,846**	**18,548**
Unrestricted Cash	2,852	5,888	4,582
Total Restricted, Allocated and Unrestricted Cash & Investments	**33,535**	**33,734**	**23,130**

1. Balances forecasted are informed by the Long-Term Financial Plan and based on the best available information at time of preparation.
2. Balances are per the audited 2024/25 Financial Statements.

CERTIFICATION – RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER
I, Tiffaney 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

12) ADOPTION OF 2026/27 - 2029/30 DELIVERY PROGRAM AND 2026/27 OPERATIONAL PLAN

Department: Corporate Services

Author: Director Corporate Services

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

File No: GS.LI.1

Recommendation:
That Council:
1. Pursuant to the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993, adopt the 2026/27 – 2029/30 Delivery Program and 2026/27 Operational Plan.
2. Note the 1 community submission received during the public exhibition period (summarised and attached to this report).
3. Adopt the Revenue Policy for 2026/27, as outlined in the 2026/27 – 2029/30 Delivery Program and 2026/27 Operational Plan.
4. Adopt the Statement of Rating Structure, inclusive of year 3 of the approved special variation, and their respective short names as contained in the 2026/27 – 2029/30 Delivery Program and 2026/27 Operational Plan and make the Ordinary Rate and charges, including sewer charges and domestic waste management charges, pursuant to s.494 and s.496 of the Local Government Act 1993 and Waste Management Levy pursuant to s.501 of the Local Government Act 1993 detailed below:

Rating Structure for the 2026/27 Rating Year – Base Case SV Model 10% Increase						
Name of Category/ Subcategory	No. of Assessments	Base Rate	Ad Valorem	Land Value	Total Yield	% Yield from Base Amount
Residential						
Ordinary	1,204	$ 490	0.00144810	$ 428,357,920	$ 1,210,266	48.75%
Blayney & Carcoar	1,469	$ 490	0.00250158	$ 304,662,100	$ 1,481,947	48.57%
Millthorpe	354	$ 490	0.00124940	$ 144,420,000	$ 353,899	49.01%
Business						
Ordinary	149	$ 630	0.00430895	$ 37,239,750	$ 254,334	36.91%
Blayney	172	$ 630	0.00624723	$ 32,490,850	$ 311,338	34.80%
Business Millthorpe & Carcoar	58	$ 630	0.00311804	$ 18,479,800	$ 94,161	38.81%
Farmland						
Ordinary	707	$ 800	0.00167196	$1,530,637,090	$ 3,124,769	18.10%
Mining						
Ordinary	1	$1,600	0.04524558	$ 614,000	$ 29,381	5.43%
Gold		$1,600	0.05800485			
Gold / Copper Combined	1	$1,600	0.04322468	$ 150,000,000	$ 6,485,303	0.02%
Estimated Total Yield	**4,115**			**$2,646,901,510**	**$13,345,398**	

2026/27 Waste Charges

	Annual Charge	No. of Properties
Waste Management Levy *This is waste management charge is applied to all properties funding waste disposal services for the Blayney Shire*	$120	4,223
Domestic Waste Management		
Domestic Waste Management Service Charge *This is applied to properties that have a residence within the waste collection area.*	$472	2,770
Domestic Waste Management Availability Charge *This charge is applied to properties within the waste collection area that do not have a service but is available - i.e. vacant land*	$88	329
Commercial (Non-Domestic) Waste Management		
Non-Domestic Waste Management Service Charge *This is applied to properties for non-domestic properties within the waste collection area*	$608	338
Non-Domestic Waste Management Availability Charge *This charge is applied to properties within the waste collection area that do not have a service, but it is available i.e. vacant land*	$88	90
Non-Domestic Waste Service Management Charge for Charity and Not Profit Organisations *This is applied to the above properties for non-domestic properties within the waste collection area*	$160	16
Extra Services		
Additional Garbage Charge – per red bin	$432	98
Additional Recycling Charge – per yellow bin	$176	33
Total Yield		**$2,107,280**

2026/27 Non-Residential and Residential Sewer Charges

Residential			
	Access Charge	**No. of Properties**	**Total Yield**
Connected	$908	1,609	$1,460,972
Vacant (Unconnected)	$468	155	$72,540
Estimated Total Yield			**$1,533,512**

Non-Residential				
	Annual Charge (Prior to SDF Factor)	**No. of Properties**	**Quarter Charge before SDF applied**	**Min. quarterly amount charged**
20mm Water Service	$756	162	$189	$227
25mm Water Service	$1,152	21	$288	$227
32mm Water Service	$1,880	18	$470	$227
40mm Water Service	$2,940	11	$735	$227
50mm Water Service	$4,588	24	$1,147	$227
80mm Water Service	$11,732	1	$2,933	
100mm Water Service	$18,392	6	$4,598	
150mm Water Service	$41,388	2	$10,347	
Vacant/Unmetered	$468	56		
Usage Charge (per kl)	$1.92			
Estimated Total Yield				**$511,101**

Future Sewerage Infrastructure Subsidy Charge

	Access Charge	No of Properties	Total Yield
Connected - Residential	$55	1588	$87,340
Connected - Business	$55	243	$13,365
Vacant (Unconnected)	$55	172	$9,460
Estimated Total Yield			**$110,165**

2026/27 Trade Waste Charges

Commercial (Non-Residential)		
	Annual Fee	**No. of Properties**
Annual Trade Waste Fee	$144	67
Annual Trade Waste Fee (Large Dischargers Category 3)	$516	1
Liquid Trade Waste User Charges with Trade Waste Agreement (Category 1, Category 2/2s)	$2.79	60
Liquid Trade Waste User Charges with No Trade Waste Agreement	$27.92	8
Excess Mass Chargers for Category (3 Dischargers)	$ As per the table in fees and charges	1
Water Testing Charges (if required)	$362 per quarter	1
Estimated Total Yield		**$81,775**

5. Note the 2026/27 Draft Operational Plan forecasts a consolidated Net Operating Result before Capital Items of ($2.08m) deficit, represented by
    a. ($2.39m) deficit for General Fund,
    b. $316k surplus for Sewer Fund,
6. Note the annual review of the 2026/27 – 2035/36 Long Term Financial Plan;
7. Note remedial action may be required from 2028/29 to ensure the long term financial sustainability of Council should the planned assumptions in Scenario A – Base Case (particularly around additional mining rate income), not materialise.
8. Adopt the following programs which financially assist others under s.356 Local Government Act (1993), including the Community Financial Assistance Program, Local Heritage Assistance Program, Youth Week Grants Program, Tourism Event Development Fund and Village Enhancement Program.
9. Adopt the schedule of financial assistance under the Community Financial Assistance Program, pursuant to s.356 Local Government Act.

Reason for Report:
For Council to consider and adopt the 2026/27 – 2029/30 Delivery Program and 2026/27 Operational Plan following public exhibition, pursuant to s.404 and s.405 of the Local Government Act.

Report:
Public exhibition of Council's 2026/27 – 2029/30 Delivery Program and 2026/27 Operational Plan concluded on 28 May 2026, in accordance with the Council resolution of 28 April 2026.

Council adhered to the mandatory exhibition period of 28 days as required under the Local Government Act 1993, in order to allow sufficient time for all members of the community to become aware of the plans and programs proposed.

Fundamentally, the legislation requires the development and adoption of an operational plan and revenue policy annually. Council's 2026/27 Operational Plan identifies the specific actions to be completed in year 1 under each of the 4 year objectives expressed in the 2026/27 – 2029/30 Delivery Program. All councils in NSW are required to develop long term, medium term and short term plans as part of the Local Government Act.

Submissions

It is a requirement that any submissions received be considered by Council in the process of finalisation and adoption of the draft plans. Council received 1 submission on the 2026/27 – 2029/30 Delivery Program and 2026/27 Operational Plan. The submission made is detailed below and attached:

Submission 1

King George Oval Hire Fees (Blayney Rams RUFC) An extensive and detailed submission has been furnished regarding King George Oval (KGO) Hire Fees that seeks no increase to fees charged.
Response: • *The annual hire fee of $3,057 is proposed an increase of $118 (or 4%) to the annual hire fee is proposed for 2026/27.* • *KGO has a 95% ratepayer subsidy with income from users representing only 5% of operating expenditure on the facility.* • *KGO is the premier sporting facility within the Blayney LGA. Comparisons of user fees with other facilities are not appropriate, as facilities differ significantly in terms of infrastructure, amenities, and the level of service required for their operation.* • *Council acknowledges the concerns raised regarding participation trends, household affordability and the local workforce profile. However, Council must apply a consistent and equitable fee structure across user groups. The adopted pricing framework seeks to balance affordability, community participation objectives, and the ongoing costs of maintaining premier sporting facilities.* • *The concerns raised regarding participation trends, household affordability and the local workforce profile are acknowledged. However, Council must apply a consistent and equitable fee structure across user groups.* • *The detailed information regarding membership fees, sponsorship challenges, gate takings and licensed operations are noted. While these revenue streams contribute to overall financial capacity of users, it is recognised such limitations and variability affect all users, and Council is required to assess the appropriateness and equity of seasonal ground hire fees with a view to sourcing a reasonable contribution to operations from users rather than a continual increase to the ratepayer subsidy.*

- *The request for a moratorium on fee increases is a consideration for the elected Council however any deduction would require an increase to income elsewhere or reduction of service levels.*

Adoption of Council Fees and Charges for 2026/27
Council's Annual Charges and Schedule of Fees & Charges have also been exhibited and are included in the Appendix document. The Annual Charges for adoption are as shown in the recommendation of this report.

Section 356 Financial Assistance
Also detailed within Council's Operational Plan is the Schedule of Annual Financial Assistance funded through the Blayney Shire Council Community Financial Assistance Program under s.356 of the Local Government Act.

An amount of $145,000 has been provided for in 2026/27 under this program. Council also has provision in the 2026/27 Operational Plan for other programs that provide financial assistance including the Local Heritage Assistance Program, Youth Week Grants Program, Tourism Event Development Fund and Village Enhancement Program.

Amendments since exhibition of the draft Operational Plan
Amendments to operating income and expenditure in the draft 2026/27 Operational Plan are detailed below:

Operating Income	Amendment	Revised	Year
Financial Assistance Grant (no prepayment of 2027/28 allocation in 2026/27)	(3,202,503)	800,626	2026/27
Roads to Recovery (Heavy Patch, Reseal, Gravel Resheeting, Naylor Street Bridge)	1,397,661	1,953,782	2026/27
Roads to Recovery (Initial Seal – Village Steets)	300,000	856,121	2027/28
Roads to Recovery (Coombing Street – Council contribution)	250,000	806,121	2028/29
Grant Funding – Coombing Street	(250,000)	1,050,000	2028/29
Operating Expenditure	**Amendment**	**Revised**	**Year**
Fire & Rescue & SES Contribution	3,285	60,361	2026/27
IT Subscriptions & License Fees-Production Server extended warranty	12,500	470,781	2026/27
IT Subscriptions & License Fees-Production Server extended warranty	12,500	634,656	2027/28

Council's principal mechanism for carrying out capital works is a four year rolling capital works program and has been incorporated into the Delivery Program 2026/27 – 2029/30.

The 2026/27 – 2029/30 Capital Works Program, included in the Operational Plan details the individual projects and works that will be undertaken to achieve the commitments made in the Delivery Program.

Amendments to the capital expenditure program since exhibition of the draft 2026/27 – 2029/30 Delivery Plan and 2026/27 Operational Plan include changes as proposed:

#	Capital Expenditure	Amendment	Revised	Year
1	Supply and Install of Storage Area Network (SAN)	(40,000)	0	2026/27
2	STP Connectivity Infrastructure	25,000	25,000	2026/27
3	Production Server Replacement	(40,000)	0	2026/27
4	Naylor Street Bridge - Abutment Repairs (RTR)	400,000	500,000	2026/27
5	Gravel Resheeting Program (RTR)	260,288	707,822	2026/27
6	Heavy Patching Program (RTR)	353,725	961,912	2026/27
7	Reseal Program (RTR)	283,647	771,344	2026/27
8	Light Vehicle Replacements	51,744	714,886	2026/27
9	Initial Seal - Village Streets (RTR)	300,000	300,000	2027/28
10	Light Vehicle Replacements	(55,996)	829,446	2027/28
11	Production Server & SAN Replacement	100,000	112,000	2028/29
12	Light Vehicle Replacements	55,996	839,017	2028/29
13	Light Vehicle Replacements	(60,533)	911,738	2029/30

The Capital Works Program:

- Defines the capital projects that will help ensure the continued delivery of Council services;
- Allows advance planning of projects, including investigation, design and documentation;
- Is a key component of Council's infrastructure financing, planning maintenance and replacement strategy;

While inevitably refinements to the program will be made, it is appropriate and necessary to have the basis of a longer term schedule to allow appropriate planning both within the community and Council.

Rate revenue for 2026/27 includes the third and final year of the approved special variation to income. Council has implemented measures to monitor and report activities to ensure compliance with the SV approval by IPART that requires Council to disclose in its Annual Report each year for the duration of the SV, i.e. until 2031/32, the following:

- The program of expenditure actually funded and any differences to the proposed program;
- Any significant differences between Council's actual revenues, expenditure and operating result to that proposed in the LTFP and reasons for the differences;
- Outcomes achieved as a result of the additional income;
- Whether or not implementation of productivity improvements has occurred and associated justification of why;
- Other productivity and cost containment measures in place, the annual savings achieved and what these equate to as a proportion to total annual expenditure.

Table 1: Consolidated Income Statement

INCOME STATEMENT – CONSOLIDATED	Projected Years 2026/27 $'000	2027/28 $'000	2028/29 $'000	2029/30 $'000
Income from Continuing Operations				
REVENUE				
Rates & Annual Charges	17,227	18,235	19,420	19,989
User Charges & Fees	2,008	2,094	2,183	2,291
Other Revenues	252	261	293	281
Grants & Contributions provided for Operating Purposes	3,573	5,694	5,759	5,621
Grants & Contributions provided for Capital Purposes	626	1,895	12,405	1,814
Interest & Investment Revenue	1,187	1,090	1,085	903
Other Income:				
Net gains from the disposal of assets	15	22	28	27
Joint Ventures & Associated Entities	25	25	25	25
Total Income from Continuing Operations	**24,913**	**29,316**	**41,198**	**30,951**
EXPENSES FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS				
Employee Benefits & On-Costs	8,891	9,073	9,404	9,686
Borrowing Costs	141	125	109	98
Materials & Contracts	7,746	7,630	8,249	8,542
Depreciation & Amortisation	8,357	8,559	8,980	9,159
Impairment of investments	-	-	-	-
Impairment of receivables	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	1,230	1,278	1,389	1,311
Interest & Investment Losses	-	-	-	-
Net Losses from the Disposal of Assets	-	-	-	-
Joint Ventures & Associated Entities	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	**26,365**	**26,665**	**28,131**	**28,796**
Operating Result from Continuing Operations	**(1,452)**	**2,651**	**13,067**	**2,155**
Discontinued Operations – Profit/(Loss)	-	-	-	-
Net Profit/(Loss) from Discontinued Operations	-	-	-	-
Net Operating Result for the Year - (deficit) / surplus	**(1,452)**	**2,651**	**13,067**	**2,155**
Net Operating Result before Grants and Contributions provided for Capital Purposes - (deficit) / surplus	**(2,078)**	**756**	**662**	**341**

Table 2: General Fund Income Statement

INCOME STATEMENT – GENERAL	Projected Years 2026/27 $'000	2027/28 $'000	2028/29 $'000	2029/30 $'000
Income from Continuing Operations				
REVENUE				
Rates & Annual Charges	15,371	16,287	17,375	17,843
User Charges & Fees	1,680	1,734	1,790	1,848
Other Revenues	252	261	293	281
Grants & Contributions provided for Operating Purposes	3,573	5,694	5,759	5,621
Grants & Contributions provided for Capital Purposes	474	1,609	6,495	1,654
Interest & Investment Revenue	847	748	750	552
Other Income:				
Net gains from the disposal of assets	15	22	28	27
Joint Ventures & Associated Entities	25	25	25	25
Total Income from Continuing Operations	**22,237**	**26,380**	**32,515**	**27,851**
EXPENSES FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS				
Employee Benefits & On-Costs	8,548	8,717	9,034	9,305
Borrowing Costs	132	122	109	98
Materials & Contracts	6,727	6,554	7,149	7,382
Depreciation & Amortisation	7,522	7,707	7,861	8,017
Impairment of investments	-	-	-	-
Impairment of receivables	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	1,228	1,276	1,387	1,309
Interest & Investment Losses	-	-	-	-
Net Losses from the Disposal of Assets	-	-	-	-
Joint Ventures & Associated Entities	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	**24,157**	**24,376**	**25,540**	**26,111**
Operating Result from Continuing Operations	**(1,920)**	**2,004**	**6,975**	**1,740**
Discontinued Operations – Profit/(Loss)	-	-		
Net Profit/(Loss) from Discontinued Operations	-	-		
Net Operating Result for the Year - (deficit) / surplus	**(1,920)**	**2,004**	**6,975**	**1,740**
Net Operating Result before Grants and Contributions provided for Capital Purposes - (deficit) / surplus	**(2,394)**	**395**	**480**	**86**

Table 3: Sewer Fund Income Statement

INCOME STATEMENT – SEWER	Projected Years 2026/27 $'000	2027/28 $'000	2028/29 $'000	2029/30 $'000
Income from Continuing Operations				
REVENUE				
Rates & Annual Charges	1,856	1,948	2,045	2,146
User Charges & Fees	328	360	393	443
Other Revenues	-	-	-	-
Grants & Contributions provided for Operating Purposes	-	-	-	-
Grants & Contributions provided for Capital Purposes	152	286	5,910	160
Interest & Investment Revenue	340	342	335	351
Other Income:				
Net gains from the disposal of assets	-	-	-	-
Joint Ventures & Associated Entities	-	-	-	-
Total Income from Continuing Operations	**2,676**	**2,936**	**8,683**	**3,100**
EXPENSES FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS				
Employee Benefits & On-Costs	343	356	370	381
Borrowing Costs	9	3	-	-
Materials & Contracts	1,019	1,076	1,099	1,160
Depreciation & Amortisation	835	852	1,119	1,142
Impairment of investments	-	-	-	-
Impairment of receivables	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	2	2	2	2
Interest & Investment Losses	-	-	-	-
Net Losses from the Disposal of Assets	-	-	-	-
Joint Ventures & Associated Entities	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	**2,208**	**2,289**	**2,591**	**2,685**
Operating Result from Continuing Operations	**468**	**647**	**6,092**	**415**
Discontinued Operations – Profit/(Loss)	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Net Profit/(Loss) from Discontinued Operations	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Net Operating Result for the Year - (deficit) / surplus	**468**	**647**	**6,092**	**415**
Net Operating Result before Grants and Contributions provided for Capital Purposes - (deficit) / surplus	**316**	**361**	**182**	**255**

The 2026/27 – 2029/30 Delivery Program and 2026/27 Operational Plan has been modelled from Council's Base Case (SV Model) developed during the review of the 2026/27 – 2035/36 Long Term Financial Plan.

Long Term Financial Plan

The resourcing strategy including the Long Term Financial Plan was adopted on 23 June 2025, and whilst the plan only requires preparation every 4 years, it is recommended that the plan is updated at least annually to reflect updated assumptions.

The Long Term Financial Plan has been prepared to identify and communicate Council's financial objectives and forecasts for the planning period to the community and all of Council's stakeholders. It also forms the basis of Council's annual Operational Plan and Delivery Program within the context of long term financial sustainability.

The Long Term Financial Plan spans the next 10 years addressing Council's revenue streams, pricing policy, assumptions, risks and forecasts. A consolidated income statement, balance sheet & cash flow statement is tabled for each of the 3 scenarios. All scenarios simulate Council's current environment using the service levels and resources in accordance with Council's Asset Management Plan and Workforce Management Plan.

a. Base Case (SV Model)

- Third (3rd) and final year of SV model – 10% for 2026/27 and all other planned assumptions as detailed in the LTFP.
- Additional mining rates scheduled from mid 2027/28.
- Adjust Financial Assistance Grant for 2026/27 prepayment in 2025/26 and no future prepayments resulting in only 20% allocation in 2026/27.
- No change to the proposed renewal and maintenance expenditure forecast to address Council's infrastructure backlog and maintenance of assets.
- Increase waste annual charges from 3% to 10% to address increased environmental compliance costs at the Blayney Waste Facility including an additional $355k to fund the following studies / activities in addition to increased capital costs:
    - Leachate collection management plan
    - Stormwater management plan
    - Soil & water management plan
    - Water balance analysis
    - Groundwater & surface water receptor survey
    - Trigger action response plan
    - Update LEMP
    - Groundwater & leachate monitoring program
    - Volumetric compaction survey
    - Leachate Treatment System
    - Management of collected leachate
- Salaries and wages increased from 3.5% to 4% subject to finalisation of the 2026/27 – 2028/29 Local Government State Award negotiations
- Fuel costs increased by $266k
- A 7.5% increase to electricity costs following a forecast 10% increase to access charges
- A 6% increase to public liability and property insurance

- Increased depreciation expense for the buildings and transport asset classes due to anticipated indexation applied

b. Increased Rate Peg

- Increase rate peg (post SV) from 2027/28 – 2034/35 from 2.5% to 4% consistent with forecast increase in operational expenditure
- Increase to sewer charges by 5% from 2025/26 – 2034/35
- Minimal increase in interest and investment revenue to reflect additional forecast revenue.

c. Reduced Mining Income & Grant Funding

- Removal of the additional mining rates from a new mining development including VPA contributions scheduled to commence in 2027/28.
- Removal of grant funding for the Sewer Treatment Plant capacity upgrade instead being funded from sewer restricted cash and developer contributions.
- Reduction in interest and investment revenue due to the loss of additional rates income and reduction in restricted cash.
- Increased operational costs of $300k to run new infrastructure, not currently factored into the Base Case, as there is no indication yet that the upgraded infrastructure will be less efficient to run.

Consistent with Council's prior assumptions, the plan has been prepared using a number of forecasts particularly around additional revenue from mining rates. There continues to be uncertainty around whether this income will be realised and without it, from 2028/29 Council may need to consider remedial action to address future shortfalls which could include some or all of the following strategies:

- Reduction in planned capital works
- Reduction in current service levels
- Future increase in rates by way of an additional special variation.

The impact of a reduction in mining rates without the application of any remedial action is modelled in Council's Long Term Financial Plan ***Scenario C – Reduced Mining Income & Grant Funding.***

Conclusion

Adoption of the 2026/27 – 2029/30 Delivery Program and 2026/27 Operational Plan is part of the bigger picture that will set Council on a path to the Blayney Shire that all stakeholders – the community, Councillors and staff would all like to experience in the future.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Council is obligated under s.405 to adopt the Operational Plan before the beginning of each year and details the activities to be engaged in by the council during the year as part of the delivery program covering that year. As part of the adoption process consideration must be given to submissions that have been made concerning the draft plan.

The Integrated Planning & Reporting Guidelines for Local Government in NSW - clause 3.7 requires the Long Term Financial Plan to be reviewed and updated at least annually as part of the development of the Operational Plan.

Budget Implications:
The financial implications of this report are detailed in the 2026/27 – 2029/30 Delivery Program and 2026/27 Operational Plan.

Council has modelled its Long Term Financial Plan based on the assumptions detailed throughout the plan document. Of importance for Council and the community to understand with the Long-Term Financial Plan is that in the event that planned assumptions around income forecasts in the Base Case, mainly new mine rate income, do not eventuate then without the presence of an alternate income source Council will be required to undertake remedial action.

In the short term, Council may be required to scale back the capital expenditure program to the level that maintains a positive unrestricted cash position, however this will not be sustainable longer term.

Further remedial action required would entail review of Council services / service levels and exploring other revenue sources including the option of a further special variation to rate income.

The forecast operating result for each of the scenarios is tabled below for the first 4 years spanning the length of the Delivery Program and year 10 to demonstrate the long-term impact over the life of the LTFP:

Scenario	Year 1 2026/27 $000	Year 2 2027/28 $000	Year 3 2028/29 $000	Year 4 2029/30 $000	Year 10 2035/36 $000
a. Base Case (SV Model)					
Consolidated	**(2,078)**	**757**	**662**	**340**	**1,040**
General	(2,394)	396	480	85	529
Sewer	316	361	182	255	511
b. Increased Rate Peg					
Consolidated	**(2,078)**	**957**	**1,076**	**982**	**3,436**
General	(2,394)	596	894	727	2,785
Sewer	316	361	182	255	651
c. Reduced Mining & Grant Funding					
Consolidated	**(2,078)**	**303**	**(677)**	**(1,280)**	**(2,207)**
General	(2,394)	(58)	(559)	(990)	(2,039)
Sewer	316	361	(118)	(290)	(168)

The impact on restricted and unrestricted cash for each of the scenarios is tabled below for the first 4 years spanning the length of the Delivery Program and year 10 to demonstrate the impact over the life of the LTFP:

Scenario (Consolidated)	Year 1 2025/26 $000	Year 2 2026/27 $000	Year 3 2027/28 $000	Year 4 2028/29 $000	Year 10 2034/35 $000
a. Base Case (SV Model)	**23,130**	**23,395**	**27,159**	**25,981**	**37,607**
External Restriction	11,991	12,780	15,266	14,019	24,841
Internal Restriction	6,557	6,602	6,262	6,152	6,826
Unrestricted*	4,582	4,013	5,631	5,810	5,940
b. Increased Rate Peg	**23,138**	**23,428**	**27,438**	**26,735**	**46,968**
External Restriction	11,999	12,813	15,344	14,161	25,884
Internal Restriction	6,557	6,602	6,262	6,152	6,826
Unrestricted*	4,582	4,013	5,832	6,422	14,258
c. Reduced Mining & Grant Funding	**23,130**	**23,395**	**25,600**	**17,227**	**14,067**
External Restriction	11,991	12,780	14,132	6,738	14,094
Internal Restriction	6,557	6,602	6,262	6,152	6,826
Unrestricted*	4,582	4,013	5,206	4,337	(6,853)

As recommended by the 2022 Financial Sustainability Review the following Responsible Accounting Officer certification by Council's Chief Financial Officer is provided:

CERTIFICATION – RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER

I, Tiffaney Irlam, certify that to the best of my knowledge that:

- The 2026/27 – 2029/30 Delivery Program, 2026/27 Operational Plan and 2026/27 – 2035/36 Long Term Financial Plan attached has been prepared in accordance with the following:
    - the current resource capabilities of Council and the impact of significant funding received by Council to deliver valuable services to the community,
    - Using the most up to date forecasts and assumptions at the time of preparation including assumptions for factors that are outside Council's control,
- To the best of my knowledge and belief, the 2026/27 – 2029/30 Delivery Program, 2026/27 Operational Plan and 2026/27 – 2035/36 Long Term Financial Plan:
    - present fairly the Council's operating result and financial forecast for the year,
    - present fairly the operating result and financial forecast for each of Council's declared business activities for the year,
    - That the detailed schedule of capital works reflects projects identified and prioritised in Council's current asset management plans and roads strategy.

Enclosures (following report)

1	Blayney Rams RUFC submission	4 Pages

Attachments (separate document)

2	2026/27 - 2029/30 Delivery Program & 2026/27 Operational Plan	61 Pages
3	2026/27 - 2029/30 Delivery Program & 2026/27 Operational Plan - Appendix: Revenue Policy & Fees and Charges	52 Pages
4	2026/27 - 2035/36 Long Term Financial Plan	66 Pages

BLAYNEY RAMS RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

22/05/2026

To the Councillors,

This submission is being made to highlight the inherent unfairness of the current fee structure being imposed on the Senior Rugby Union Club (and by extension but in no way speaking for them, the Senior Rugby League Club). The club would argue that the fee structure is either based on fallacious or out-dated data, and/or on incorrect logical assumptions. In no way is the submission meant to be negative towards the provided level of service that King George Oval is, nor reflect on the Council or its current staff in providing this service.

I would firstly draw your attention to Page 48 of the document, with the day hire rates for the different facilities. An excerpt is provided below. This excerpt clearly shows that day-hire rates for the three main sports fields in the shire is consistent. We should be able to assume that this indicates that the cost of maintaining and replacing these three assets would also be consistent with each other, and that the services provided at each facility is consistent with each other, ergo these are comparative facilities.

Sporting Grounds	**Casual Hire (per day or part thereof) Redmond Oval**			
Sporting Grounds	- Casual Hire (incl. Toilets/Change rooms/Canteen)	PC	$ 753.00	±
Sporting Grounds	PLUS Cleaning Deposit	FC	$ 200.00	
Sporting Grounds	PLUS Key Deposit	FC	$ 100.00	
Sporting Grounds	PLUS Power & Lighting (as requested)	PC	$ 260.00	±
Sporting Grounds	**King George Oval Casual Hire (per day or part thereof)**			
Sporting Grounds	- Casual Hire (incl. Toilets/Change rooms/Canteen)	PC	$ 754.00	±
Sporting Grounds	PLUS Cleaning Deposit	FC	$ 200.00	
Sporting Grounds	PLUS Key Deposit	FC	$ 100.00	
Sporting Grounds	PLUS Power & Lighting (as requested)	PC	$ 260.00	±
Sporting Grounds	**Napier Oval Casual Hire (per day or part thereof)**			
Sporting Grounds	- Casual Hire (incl. Toilets/Change rooms)	PC	$ 700.00	±
Sporting Grounds	PLUS Cleaning Deposit	FC	$ 200.00	
Sporting Grounds	PLUS Key Deposit	FC	$ 100.00	
Sporting Grounds	PLUS Power & Lighting (as requested)	PC	$ 260.00	±

Figure 1: Page 48: Casual Hires

We now draw your attention to the bottom of Page 47 and the Top of page 48, Seasonal Hire for the sporting groups. Again, an excerpt has been provided below. This excerpt clearly indicates that the Rugby Union Club is:

- Paying 3.6 times the Seasonal Hire Fee for the same Facility than Little Athletics.
- Paying 2.7 times the Seasonal Hire Fee for the same Facility than Junior League.
- Paying 3.7 times the Seasonal Hire Fee for a comparative facility than Millthorpe Senior Cricket Club
- Paying 2.5 times the Seasonal Hire Fee for a comparative facility than Millthorpe Senior Soccer Club
- Paying 2.5 times the Seasonal Hire Fee for a comparative facility than Blayney Senior Soccer Club

BLAYNEY RAMS RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

When we use the wording comparative, we refer back to the conclusion drawn from Figure 1. Indeed, when we look at this the only club to pay more than us is the Senior League Club, who pay an extra $85. The senior Rugby Club also has the lowest number of participants across the Winter Sports, with our 2 teams (one of which, our Ladies team, forfeited last week due to poor numbers) being lower than the 3 teams each for of the soccer clubs & senior league, and significantly lower than the Junior Clubs team numbers.

Sporting Grounds	**King George Oval Seasonal Hire**			
Sporting Grounds	- Cricket	PC	$ 841.00	±
Sporting Grounds	- Junior Rugby League	PC	$ 1,134.00	±
Sporting Grounds	- Rugby League	PC	$ 3,142.00	±
Sporting Grounds	- Rugby Union	PC	$ 3,057.00	±
Sporting Grounds	- Little Athletics	PC	$ 841.00	±

2026/27 Fees and Charges

Function/ Activity	Fee Name	Pricing Principle	Total Fee 2026/27 Proposed	GST Incl.
Sporting Grounds	**Redmond Oval Seasonal Hire**			
Sporting Grounds	- Senior Cricket	PC	$ 814.00	±
Sporting Grounds	- Junior Cricket	PC	$ 814.00	±
Sporting Grounds	- Junior Soccer	PC	$ 1,134.00	±
Sporting Grounds	- Senior Soccer	PC	$ 1,218.00	±
Sporting Grounds	- Millthorpe Junior Rugby Union (inc. Blayney based-Gala Day)	PC	$ 749.00	±
Sporting Grounds	**Dakers/Napier Oval Seasonal Hire** Per facility (Dakers Oval or Napier Oval)			
Sporting Grounds	- Cricket	PC	$ 573.00	±
Sporting Grounds	- Junior Soccer	PC	$ 1,134.00	±
Sporting Grounds	- Senior Soccer	PC	$ 1,218.00	±

Figure 2: Page 47 & Page 48: Seasonal Hires

There have been several reasons provided to the club as to why this disparity exists, we will now examine some of the most incorrect of these:

1 - The greater capacity that senior participants can contribute financially compared to junior participants & the encouragement of junior participation and registrations.

Firstly, this would be a logical argument only if Junior participants paid their own registration fees rather than their parents or we still lived in the 1960's where every household only had one working parent. Council should also understand that insurance costs and affiliation fees across the entire sector are lower for Junior Participants than Senior participants.

When it comes to participation, Council should consider the impact that our unique local economy has on the availability of working age participants to attend on a Saturday. The Blayney LGA's 2021 census data shows that 25.6% of our population work in either Health Care, Mining or Manufacturing. These are all shift-based industries, and it is having a direct impact on our participation numbers.

Council should also consider that, again according to the 2021 Census data, 56% percent of income earners in Blayney earned less than $1000 per week in 2021. Compare that to our current rents, where according to the NSW Gov Rent check tool, the Median Range for our

lowest occupancy level is $493-$558 per week. The Office of Sport also indicates that the age bracket with the most significant decline in formal sport participation rates is the 18-24 year age bracket, which is our playing group. This is also an age group most likely to be in this low income bracket.

2 - The size and capacity of clubs to generate revenue through member fees, ground entry fees, sponsorships, canteen sales including licensed operations etc.

We've already discussed participation rates and membership numbers, however council should know that the Men's fees increased by $150 per player this year, while the Women's fees increased by $110 per player this year as well to cover our shortfall based on last season's numbers.

Ground Entry fees – Over the two home games in May this year, Blayney Rugby have made a grand total of $223 from ground entry, after our fees for card payments are taken out. Part of the lowness of this is that on mornings that Junior League have games, the gates are already open, and we cannot charge entry until Junior League is finished. Part of it is that we don't charge entry to children under 18. We also do not play local clubs in our competition, Yeoval, Coonabarabran and Coolah are not going to bring large crowds to the rugby. In a season where we get just 5 home games in the regular season, an average of $110 per game doesn't justify this being used as a revenue capacity.

Sponsorships – We can't offer many sponsors much, mainly because unlike a lot of other sporting clubs in the region, we can't put up signs on a fence opposite the grandstand for the sponsors due to a) it being a shared ground, and b) a defunct cricket pitch that really should have been removed. You couldn't even play a game of grade cricket there due to the deep engraved markings for the Little A's Track at midwicket.

Our current sponsorship level is at $8500, mainly due to our Women's sponsors withdrawing due to our inability to guarantee a team at the moment, and others withdrawing citing economic reasons. Our Men's major sponsor paid despite being in the middle of a closing down sale. The two jersey sets we use cost $5500 and our affiliation fee is $3740, half of both are directly attributed to us trying to provide an opportunity for Women to play sport. It is getting to the point where the club will be forced to abandon our Ladies program purely for financial reasons.

Licensed Operations – despite the realms of research showing how much pester power influences family financial decisions, including not just what but how much is being spent, this old chestnut keeps getting trotted out. Never mind that you don't need an RSA to sell a sausage sandwich or soft drink, or that soft drinks are significantly cheaper than alcohol and more often on bulk specials, or that alcohol consumption is down on historic levels across the board. If we take our two home games this season, we have made a combined profit of $705 across the canteen categories according to our Xero account transactions. We have also paid $161 for our Liquor Licence, and $130 for a volunteer to get an RSA. The idea that a licensed operation enables us to be able to afford 2.5 times the seasonal hire fee of a soccer club is questionable.

3 - Senior clubs generally place a higher demand on facilities such as the usage of lights.

Rebecca Ryan and the Sports Council were provided with the documents showing the required level of lighting to enable us to a) play a night game for insurance purposes and b) contact training in the entirety of the field area for insurance purposes. Because of the aforementioned defunct cricket pitch and whatever other reason/s we were never formally informed of, it was decided to not go with lights that would satisfy either of these. We would also point out that this

BLAYNEY RAMS RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

argument is fallacious given that the Tennis Club would only pay $1201 per season for their hire which includes significant lighting, and that there is currently a similar level of lighting on the Stillingfleet Courts for which Netball would only pay $1201 per season according to the proposal.

Other factors that may come up:

- *The Rugby Club owns a bus*
  - Yes we do, we had to get one to make sure all our players could afford to attend our away games. Our zone currently includes Us, Canowindra, Yeoval (117 km away), Coolah (261 km away) and Coonabarabran (310km away). Last year this also included Trangie (241km). We cannot reasonably expect our players to drive a 6 hour round trip and pay for the fuel, especially when they are financially struggling or are refusing shifts to do so.
  - The bus costs us a significant amount of money each year, however we are managing to keep this as cost neutral due to increases in playing fees and tickets to be on the bus.
  - The bus is also being utilised by several other local groups including League and some Schools.
- *Number of Home Games*
  - We have 5 in the regular season, 2 of which we have already held, including one against the only team whose supporters will travel here. 3 of which will have no away supporters travelling. It's not like we get to play Millthorpe in the local derby.
- *We have the best field/facilities*
  - We definitely like to think KGO is special, and Council staff do a great job of maintaining it. But we share with other sports, and there are permanent scars to the rectangular playing surface from the Little Athletics Track. We share storage with the other sports and do not have markings on the field purely for our chosen sport, unlike at Napier Oval.
- *Blayney can't have night games*
  - Night games are where other clubs our size are moving, as they have seen an marked increased in attendance and canteen sales. If Young can hold one in their weather so can we, except we can't due to the lights.

The club is of the opinion that we should not have any increase in fees charged to us, while there is such a disparity existing between us and the other user groups within town. While it would be nice, we're not asking for a decrease in fees from last year, just a moratorium on increases until such time that the fee structure is more fairly distributed across the sporting clubs.

BLAYNEY RUFC

blayneyrugby@outlook.com

13) DRAFT LIQUID TRADE WASTE GUIDELINES 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. Endorse the Liquid Trade Waste Guidelines Policy and place them on public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days.
2. Provided no submissions are received, adopt the Liquid Trade Waste Guidelines policy and update Council's Policy Register.

Reason for Report:
For the Council to review and endorse the Liquid Trade Waste Guidelines Policy for adoption, subject to public exhibition.

Report:
Council has undertaken a review of the Liquid Trade Waste Guidelines Policy.

The objective of the Liquid Trade Waste Guidelines Policy is to regulate non-domestic wastewater discharges to the sewerage system, protecting public health, worker safety, the environment, and Council infrastructure. It also promotes waste minimisation, water conservation, regulatory compliance, efficient sewerage management, and full cost recovery for trade waste services.

A copy of the policy is as attached. The policy is largely unchanged with one amendment shown with tracked changes.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
The adoption of the Liquid Trade Waste Guidelines Policy is essential for establishing and maintaining a framework for liquid trade waste management and compliance with relevant legislation.

Budget Implications:
Nil

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

1 Draft Blayney Liquid Trade Waste Guidleines 46 Pages

14) MINUTES OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 6 MAY 2026

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 6 May 2026
2. Adopt the Internal Audit Charter as amended.

Reason for Report:
For Council to endorse the minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held 6 May 2026.

Report:
The Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) held its meeting 6 May 2026.

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

- The Fraud Risk Health Assessment final report was presented by a representative from National Audits Group who conducted the review.
- A review of the Internal Audit Charter was undertaken by the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Chairperson to align it with the Global Internal Audit Standards. The committee endorsed amendments and referred it for adoption by Council. Document is attached with tracked changes.

  The Internal Audit Charter is a formal written document that defines the Internal Auditor's purpose, authority and responsibility within Blayney Shire Council. The Charter establishes:
  - The Internal Audit role within Council and recognises the importance of such an independent and objective service to Council
  - The authority to access all records, personnel, and other information relevant to the performance of internal audits
  - The scope of the Internal Auditing activities
- A status report on the Workforce Management Plan was presented. It was also recommended that ARIC members be provided out of session HR reports furnished to Manex.
- A Security Network Penetration Testing Assessment was presented following testing undertaken.

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.

MINUTES OF THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL AUDIT, RISK & IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE CHAMBERS, BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY CENTRE, ON 6 MAY 2026, COMMENCING AT 9:00 AM

Present:

Ron Gillard	Independent - Chairperson
Stephen Coates#	Independent member
Liz Jeremy#	Independent member
Cr. John Newstead#	Councillor - non-voting
Anton Franze	Director Corporate Services – Secretariat
Tiffaney Irlam*	Chief Financial Officer – SME
Glenn Newman*	Manager Information Technology - SME
Katy Henry	Intentus
Phil Swaffield#	National Audits Group
Mark Dicker	General Manager - non-voting observer

*SME – subject matter expert.
#Attended meeting via video conference

APOLOGIES

Min Lee	Audit Office NSW
Cr. Bruce Reynolds	Mayor - non-voting observer

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

The Director Corporate Services reported the following Standing Disclosure of Interests had been submitted:

Committee Member/Staff	Interest	Item	Pg	Report	Reason
Ron Gillard					Member of a number of ARIC's in the CNSWJO that may have transactions with Blayney (standing disclosure).
Liz Jeremy					Member of ARIC's in the joint arrangement that may have transactions with Blayney (standing disclosure).
Stephen Coates					Member of ARIC's in the joint arrangement that may have transactions with Blayney (standing disclosure).

Minutes are adopted by consensus unless stated otherwise.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

2605/001 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 25 FEBRUARY 2026

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held 25 February 2026 be received.

REPORTS

2605/002 FRAUD RISK HEALTH ASSESSMENT FINAL REPORT

Recommendation:

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee note;

1. The report on the Fraud Risk Health Assessment Final Report.
2. The presentation on the Fraud Risk Health Assessment Final Report by National Audits Group.
3. Recommendations in the final report and that they be updated to the Schedule of Recommendations and furnished to each Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee until resolved.

Phil Sawaffield (National Audits Group) and Katy Henry (Intentus) left meeting at 9.51am.

2605/003 WHS AND RISK ACTIVITIES REPORT

Recommendation:

That the WHS and Risk Activities report be received.

2605/004 FINANCE ACTIVITIES REPORT: MARCH 2026 - MAY 2026

Recommendation:

That the Finance Activities report for the period March 2026 – May 2026 be received.

2605/005 HUMAN RESOURCES ACTIVITIES REPORT

Recommendation:

That the Audit, Risk and improvement Committee note;

1. The report on the Human Resources Activities.
2. The status report on the Workforce Management Plan.
3. That ARIC members be provided out of session HR reports furnished to Manex.

2605/006 REVIEW OF INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER

Recommendation:

That the Audit, Risk ad Improvement Committee;

1. Note the report on the Review of the Internal Audit Charter and alignment of the Charter with the Global Internal Audit Standards.
2. Endorse the Internal Audit Charter and refer it to Council for adoption.

2605/007 SECURITY NETWORK PENETRATION TESTING ASSESSMENT

Recommendation:

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee note;

1. The report on the Security Network Penetration Testing Assessment.
2. Recommendations in the security assessment by Cyber Security NSW and that they be updated to the Schedule of Recommendations and furnished to each Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee until resolved.

2605/008 CYBER SECURITY UPDATE

Recommendation:

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee note the Cyber Security Update provided by the CNSWJO Chief Information Security Officer.

2605/009 SCHEDULE OF OUTSTANDING AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation:

That the Schedule of Outstanding Audit Recommendations report be received.

2605/010 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.

2605/011 UPDATE ON MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Recommendation:

That the Update on Major Developments report be received.

Meeting closed at 11.02am

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)

1	Draft Internal Audit Charter	11 Pages

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER

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1. Introduction

Blayney Shire Council has established an internal audit function as a key component of the Council's governance and assurance framework, in compliance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 and the Office of Local Government's Guidelines for risk management and internal audit for local government in NSW. This charter provides the mandate~~framework~~ for the conduct of the internal audit function at Council and has been approved by the governing body considering~~taking into account~~ the advice of the Blayney Shire Council Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

2. Purpose

Internal audit strengthens the organisation's ability to create, protect and sustain ~~is an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add~~ value by providing~~and improve~~ Council with independent, risk-based, and objective assurance, advice, insight, and foresight~~'s operations. It helps Council accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes~~[1].

It achieves this by providing~~Internal audit provides an independent and objective review and advisory service to provide~~ advice to the governing body, General Manager and Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee about the Council's governance processes, risk management and control frameworks and its external accountability obligations. It also assists the Council to improve its business performance.

Internal audit services may include:

- Assurance Services – objective examination of evidence for the purpose of providing an independent assessment of risk management, control and governance processes.
- Advisory Services – advisory and related client activities, the nature and scope of which are agreed upon with the client and which are intended to add value and improve business operations.

3. Independence

Council's internal audit function is to be independent of the Council so it can provide an unbiased assessment of the Council's operations and risk and control activities.

The internal audit function~~Internal Audit~~ reports:

- operationally~~functionally~~ to Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee on the results of completed audits, and for strategic direction and accountability purposes, and
- administratively to the General Manager to facilitate day-to-day operations.

Internal audit activities are not subject to direction by the Council and the Council's management has no role in the exercise of its internal audit activities.

The Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee is responsible for communicating any internal audit issues or information to the governing body. Should the governing body require additional information, a request for the information may be made to the Chairperson by resolution.

The Chairperson is only required to provide the information requested by the governing body where the Chairperson is satisfied that it is reasonably necessary for the governing body to receive the information for the purposes of performing its functions under the Local Government Act. Individual Councillors are not entitled to request or receive information from the Internal Audit Coordinator or the committee.

The General Manager has delegated their day-to-day administrative reporting arrangements of Internal Audit to the Director Corporate Services of the Council. The Director Corporate Services acts as liaison between Council, ~~and~~ the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee,~~ARIC~~ and the Internal Audit Coordinator and leads the secretariat support provided to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee~~ARIC~~. The Internal Audit Coordinator retains access to the General Manager as needed.

The General Manager must consult with the C~~c~~hairperson of the Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee before appointing or making decisions affecting the employment of the Internal Audit Coordinator. If the Internal Audit Coordinator is dismissed, the General Manager must report the reasons for their dismissal to the Council. The Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee, through the Chairperson, will contribute to the annual performance assessment of the Internal Audit Coordinator (in relation to their internal audit role only).

[1] ~~As defined by the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing (2017)~~

Where the Chairperson of the Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee has any concerns about the independence~~treatment~~ of the Internal Audit Coordinator, or any action taken that may compromise their ability to undertake their functions independently, they should~~can~~ report their concerns to the General Manager and/or governing body.

The Internal Audit Coordinator is to confirm at least annually to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee the independence of internal audit activities from the Council.

4. Authority and Confidentiality

Council authorises the internal audit function to have full, free and unrestricted access to all functions, premises, assets, personnel, records and other documentation and information that the Internal Audit Coordinator considers necessary for the internal audit function to undertake its responsibilities.

All records, documentation and information accessed while undertaking internal audit activities are to be used solely for the conduct of those activities. The Internal Audit Coordinator and individual internal audit staff are responsible and accountable for maintaining the confidentiality of the information they receive when undertaking their work.

All internal audit documentation, including external service provider working papers, will ~~is to~~ remain the property of Council~~, including where internal audit services are performed by an external third-party provider~~.

Information and documents pertaining to the internal audit function are not to be made publicly available. The internal audit function may only release Council information to external parties that are assisting the internal audit function to undertake responsibilities with the approval of the General Manager, except where it is being provided to an external investigative or oversight agency for the purpose of informing that agency of a matter that may warrant its attention and is a legal requirement.

5. Role

The internal audit function is to support the Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee to review and provide independent advice to the Council in accordance with section 428A of the Local Government Act 1993. This includes conducting internal audits of council and monitoring the implementation of corrective actions.

The internal audit function is to also play an active role in:

- developing and maintaining a culture of accountability and integrity

- facilitating the integration of risk management into day-to-day business activities and processes, and
- promoting a culture of high ethical standards.

The internal audit function has no direct authority or responsibility for the activities it reviews. The internal audit function has no responsibility for developing or implementing procedures or systems and does not prepare records or engage in Council functions or activities (except in carrying out its own functions).

6. Internal Audit Coordinator

Day to day management of Council's internal audit function is to be led by a member of Council's staff with sufficient skills, knowledge and experience to ensure it fulfils the internal audit function's~~its~~ role and responsibilities to Council and the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee. The Internal Audit Coordinator must be independent, impartial, unbiased and objective when performing their work and free from any conflicts of interest.

Responsibilities of the Internal Audit Coordinator include:

- contract management of the external service provider
- managing the internal audit budget
- ensuring the external provider completes internal audits in line with the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee's annual work plan and four-year strategic work plan
- forwarding audit reports by the external provider to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee
- acting as a liaison between the external provider and the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee
- monitoring the implementation of corrective actions that arise from the findings of audits and reporting progress to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee, and
- assisting the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee to ensure Council's internal audit activities comply with the Office of Local Government's Guidelines for risk management and internal audit for local government in NSW.

Within Council's structure, the Internal Audit Coordinator is also responsible for a range of non-audit functions and in this regard the following safeguards apply:

- when performing those duties, they are not acting in their internal audit role and the reporting lines specified in this Charter do not apply, and
- if an internal audit is required of one of the non-audit functions for which the Internal Audit Coordinator is responsible, the external service provider will report directly to the General Manager and the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee on the results of the audit.

7. Outsourced Internal Audit (External Service Provider)~~Function~~

Council is to contract an external third-party provider to undertake its internal audit activities. To ensure the independence of the external service provider, the Internal Audit Coordinator will~~is to~~ ensure that the external service provider:

- does not conduct any audits on specific Council operations or areas that the external service provider has provided consulting services~~they have worked~~ on within the last two years (excluding the conduct of internal audits in these areas);
- is not the same provider conducting Council's external audit;
- is not the auditor of any contractors of the Council that may be subject to the internal audit, and
- can satisfy the requirements of the Office of Local Government's Guidelines for risk management and internal audit for local government in NSW.

The Internal Audit Coordinator must consult with the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee and General Manager regarding the appropriateness of the skills, knowledge and experience of any external provider before they are engaged by the Council.

8. Performing linternal Aaudit Aactivities

The work of the internal audit function is to be thoroughly planned and executed. ~~The Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee must develop a Strategic Work Plan every four years to ensure that the matters listed in Schedule 1 are reviewed by the Committee and considered by the Internal Audit Function when developing their risk-based program of internal audits. The Strategic Work Plan must be reviewed at least annually to ensure it remains appropriate.~~

The internal audit function~~committee~~ must also develop an Annual Work Plan to guide the work of internal audit~~the Internal Audit Function~~ over the forward year.

~~All internal audit activities are to be performed in a manner that is consistent with relevant professional standards including the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors and AS ISO 31000:2018.~~

The Internal Audit Coordinator will:

- P~~is to p~~rovide the findings and recommendations of internal audits to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee at the end of each audit. Each report is to include a response from the relevant senior manager(s).
- ~~The Internal Audit Coordinator is to e~~Establish an ongoing monitoring system to follow up Council's progress in implementing corrective actions.
- D~~The General Manager, in consultation with the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee, is to d~~evelop and maintain policies and procedures to guide the operation of the Council's internal audit function. These should be reviewed and approved by the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee as appropriate.
- E~~The internal audit coordinator is to e~~nsure that the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee is advised at each of the committee's meetings of the internal audit activities completed during that quarter, progress in implementing the annual work plan and progress made implementing corrective actions.

9. Conduct and Standards

Internal audit personnel (including external service providers) must comply with the Council's Code of Conduct. Complaints about breaches of the code of conduct by internal audit personnel are to be dealt with in accordance with the Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW. The General Manager must consult with the Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee before any disciplinary action is taken against the Internal Audit Coordinator in response to a breach of the Code of Conduct. Declaration and management of conflicts of interest will occur in line with the requirements of Council's Code of Conduct.

Internal audit personnel will govern themselves by adherence to mandatory guidance contained in the International Professional Practices Framework ("IPPF") issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors ("IIA"), including the Global Internal Audit Standards.

This mandatory guidance constitutes the fundamental requirements for the professional practice of internal auditing and the principles against which to evaluate the effectiveness of the Internal Audit Function's performance.

The internal audit function, including external service providers, will perform their work in accordance with the IPPF. While the IPPF applies to all internal audit work, technology audits may

also apply the ISACA standards contained in the Information Technology Assurance Framework ("ITAF"). Where relevant, the current Australian risk management standard may also be applied.

~~Internal auditors must also comply with the Code of Ethics for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors.~~

10. Administrative Aarrangements

Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Mmeetings

The Internal Audit Coordinator:

- ~~w~~Will attend Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meetings as an independent non-voting observer. The Internal Audit Coordinator can be excluded from meetings by the committee at any time.

- ~~The Internal Audit Coordinator m~~Must meet separately with the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee at least once per year.

- As necessary, should~~The Internal Audit Coordinator can~~ meet with the Chairperson of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee at any time~~, as necessary,~~ between committee meetings.

Other Assurance Providers~~External audit~~

The~~Internal and external audit~~ activities of the internal audit function and other assurance providers (including but not limited to external audit) will be coordinated to help ensure the adequacy of overall audit coverage and to minimise duplication of effort. Periodic meetings and contact between the internal audit function and other assurance providers~~external audit~~ shall be held to discuss matters of mutual interest and to facilitate coordination.

~~External audit will have full and free access to all i~~Internal audit plans, working papers and reports, will be made available to other assurance providers as required.

Dispute Rresolution

The internal audit function should maintain an effective working relationship with the Council and the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee and seek to resolve any differences they may have in an amicable and professional way by discussion and negotiation.

In the event of a disagreement between the internal audit function and the Council, the dispute is to be resolved by the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee. Disputes between the internal audit function and the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee are to be resolved by the governing body.

Unresolved disputes regarding compliance with statutory or other requirements are to be referred to the Departmental Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government in writing.

Review arrangements

The Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee will~~must~~ review the performance of the internal audit function each year and report its findings to the governing body. A strategic review of the performance of the internal audit function must be conducted each council term that considers the views of an external party with a strong knowledge of internal audit and reported to the governing body.

This charter is to be reviewed annually by the committee and once each council term by the governing body. Any substantive changes are to be approved by the governing body.

11. Schedule 1 – Internal Audit Function Responsibilities

Audit

Internal audit

- Conduct internal audits as directed by the Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.
- Implement Council's annual ~~and four-year Strategic I~~internal aAudit wWork pPlan~~s~~.
- Monitor the implementation by Council of corrective actions.
- Assist the Council to develop and maintain a culture of accountability and integrity.
- Facilitate the integration of risk management into day-to-day business activities and processes.
- Promote a culture of high ethical standards.

External audit

- ~~Provide input and feedback on the financial statement and performance audit coverage proposed by external audit and provide feedback on the audit services provided.~~
- Review all external plans and reports in respect of planned or completed audits and monitor the Council's implementation of audit recommendations.
- Provide advice on action taken on significant issues raised in relevant external audit reports and better practice guides.

Risk

Risk management

Review and advise:

- if the Council has in place a current and appropriate risk management framework that is consistent with the Australian risk management standard.
- whether the Council's risk management framework is adequate and effective for identifying and managing the risks the Council faces, including those associated with individual projects, programs and other activities.
- if risk management is integrated across all levels of the Council and across all processes, operations, services, decision-making, functions and reporting.
- of the adequacy of risk reports and documentation, for example, the Council's risk register and risk profile
- whether a sound approach has been followed in developing risk management plans for major projects or undertakings
- whether appropriate policies and procedures are in place for the management and exercise of delegations
- if the Council has taken steps to embed a culture which is committed to ethical and lawful behaviour
- if there is a positive risk culture within the Council and strong leadership that supports effective risk management
- of the adequacy of staff training and induction in risk management
- how the Council's risk management approach impacts on the Council's insurance arrangements
- of the effectiveness of the Council's management of its assets, and
- of the effectiveness of business continuity arrangements, including business continuity plans, disaster recovery plans and the periodic testing of these plans.

Internal controls

Review and advise:

- whether the Council's approach to maintaining an effective internal audit framework, including over external parties such as contractors and advisors, is sound and effective.
- whether the Council has in place relevant policies and procedures and that these are periodically reviewed and updated.
- whether appropriate policies and procedures are in place for the management and exercise of delegations.
- whether staff are informed of their responsibilities and processes and procedures to implement controls are complied with.
- if the Council's monitoring and review of controls is sufficient, and
- if internal and external audit recommendations to correct internal control weaknesses are implemented appropriately.

Compliance

Review and advise of the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's compliance framework, including:

- if the Council has appropriately considered legal and compliance risks as part of the Council's risk management framework
- how the Council manages its compliance with applicable laws, regulations, policies, procedures, codes, and contractual arrangements, and
- whether appropriate processes are in place to assess compliance.

Fraud and corruption

Review and advise of the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's fraud and corruption prevention framework and activities, including whether the Council has appropriate processes and systems in place to capture and effectively investigate fraud-related information.

Financial management

Review and advise:

- ~~if Council is complying with accounting standards and external accountability requirements~~
- ~~of the appropriateness of Council's accounting policies and disclosures~~
- ~~of the implications for the Council of the findings of external audits and performance audits and the Council's responses and implementation of recommendations~~
- ~~whether the Council's financial statement preparation procedures and timelines are sound~~
- ~~the accuracy of the Council's annual financial statements prior to external audit, including:~~
  - ~~management compliance/representations~~
  - ~~significant accounting and reporting issues~~
  - ~~the methods used by the Council to account for significant or unusual transactions and areas of significant estimates or judgements~~
  - ~~appropriate management signoff on the statements~~
- ~~if effective processes are in place to ensure financial information included in the Council's report is consistent with signed financial statements~~
- if the Council's financial management processes are adequate
- the adequacy of cash management policies and procedures
- if there are adequate controls over financial processes, for example:
  - appropriate authorisation and approval of payments and transactions
  - adequate segregation of duties
  - timely reconciliation of accounts and balances
  - review of unusual and high value purchases
- if policies and procedures for management review and consideration of the financial position and performance of the Council are adequate
- if the Council's grants and tied funding policies and procedures are sound.

Governance

Review and advise of the adequacy of the Council governance framework, including the Council's:

- decision-making processes
- implementation of governance policies and procedures
- reporting lines and accountability
- assignment of key roles and responsibilities
- committee structure
- management oversight responsibilities
- human resources and performance management activities
- reporting and communication activities
- information and communications technology (ICT) governance, and
- management and governance of the use of data, information and knowledge.

Improvement

Strategic planning

Review and advise:

- of the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's Integrated, Planning and Reporting (IP&R) processes
- if appropriate reporting and monitoring mechanisms are in place to measure progress against objectives, and
- whether the council is successfully implementing and achieving its IP&R objectives and strategies.

Service reviews and business improvement

Review and advise:

- if the Council has robust systems to set objectives and goals to determine and deliver appropriate levels of service to the community and business performance
- if appropriate reporting and monitoring mechanisms are in place to measure service delivery to the community and overall performance, and
- how the Council can improve its service delivery and the Council's performance of its business and functions generally

Performance data and measurement

Review and advise:

- if the Council has a robust system to determine appropriate performance indicators to measure the achievement of its strategic objectives
- if the performance indicators the Council uses are effective, and
- of the adequacy of performance data collection and reporting.

	DATE	MINUTE No.
Adopted:	**Date: 26/08/2025**	**Minute:** 2508/017
Last Reviewed:	**Date: 26/08/2025**	**Minute:** 2508/017
Next Reviewed:	**Date: 01/05/2027**	

15) INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES: KEY ACTIVITIES 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:
1. Note the Infrastructure Services: Key Activities Report for June 2026.
2. Approve a supplementary vote of $264k (grant funding), under Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund (RERRF) from Garland Road to Tallwood Road.

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:
Heavy Patching
The condition of the completed heavy patching works will be continually monitored throughout the winter period. Isolated sections located near the driveways and intersection of the Browns Creek Road heavy patch have lifted due to waste collection movements. These sections have since been patched and will be closely monitored until reseal is possible next financial year.

Maintenance works
Pothole patching has been completed on Belubula Way, Garland Road, Browns Creek Road and streets in Blayney.

Maintenance grading works have been undertaken on Halls Road, Carcoar Dam Road, Gap Road, and Greghamstown Road. The productivity of the maintenance grading crews has been impacted by the wet weather encountered this month.

No gravel resheeting has been completed since the previous report.

No roadside mowing has been completed since the previous report.

Open Spaces and Facilities
Temporary field closures have extended recently to include Napier Oval, King George Oval and Redmond Oval due to persistent rain. The Parks and Gardens team have been actively managing fields to assist their drying out.

The repairs to the floating pontoon at Carcoar Dam have been completed and the pontoon has been reopened to the public. Works to the boat ramp are scheduled for the second half of June.

Sewer Treatment Plant (STP)
Telemetry issues for the Recycled Water Treatment Plant have required diagnosis and are currently being investigated by external contractors. These must be resolved before production can occur.

The NSW EPA have issued an updated license for the STP. This is an industry wide revision. It changes the format for annual reporting, and requires point in time reporting to the EPA, in lieu of some annual reporting. The NSW EPA have also responded to our variation request to increase the discharge threshold, by requesting certain environmental studies be provided. Staff are investigating suitable consultants.

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

Richards Lane – R4R9
Please refer to the separate report on this project.

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	0	845,603	14,219	859,822
Commentary					
• Enacon have had to postpone the pole replacement works due to wet weather encountered in May and are in the process of seeking a new planned outage date with Essential Energy. • All works are completed except for the pole replacement works.					

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	6,810	496,970	0	496,970
Commentary					
• All works are now completed, this project will no longer be reported. • A supplementary vote of surplus grant funds is recommended as part of this report to Tallwood Road.					

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[3]	282,437	1,065,201	102,523	1,677,181[2]
Commentary					
• [1] RERRF funding accounts for $761,197 of the total budget, the remaining budget is funded from Council's general revenue. • [3] If the supplementary vote of funds (transfer from Garland Road RERRF to Tallwood Road RERRF project) is approved, the total project budget is expected to be $1,838,324. • Culvert installations are completed excluding headwall/wingwall construction, currently in progress. The road is fully open to traffic now. • All boxing out works, widening and subbase construction is complete. • Batter trimming and dressing with topsoil has commenced and is being completed around inclement weather. • Once the headwalls are complete, the roadworks can be finished, and the road can be sealed with a primerseal. • Almost two weeks of lost time has been incurred due to inclement weather since the previous report.					
Forecast (1-3 months)					
• [2] Remaining funds from Garland Road RERRF project are yet to be transferred to Tallwood Road, which will supplement the funds to cover any over-expenditure. Cost to complete now includes resealing costs, however the project is still expected to be within budget due to Garland Road underspend. • Completion of headwalls & base course by the end of June. • Projected sealing into early July will likely be a primerseal, requiring a reseal in 26/27 financial year. These reseal costs have been incorporated in the above estimated Total Project Costs.					

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:
Budget commentary is included in the project reporting above.

A supplementary vote is recommended as part of this report to transfer surplus grant funding from the Garland Road project to the Tallwood Road project. It should be noted that, under the terms of the funding agreement, these funds are only eligible to be reallocated between these two projects and cannot be applied to any other Council project.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

16) RICHARDS LANE AND INTERSECTION UPGRADE PROJECT

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 project update for the Richards Lane and intersection upgrade project.

Reason for Report:
Given the significance of the Richards Lane project, including community interest and heightened level of risk the project poses to Council, this project was removed from the Infrastructure Services: Key Activities Report and reported separately each month.

This report serves to update and inform Council on the current status of the project including progression of works and Council's financial position for the project.

Report:
Project Summary
The current project financial summary is shown in Table 1 below.

Richards Lane – R4R9					
Completion Date	**Revised Budget YTD $**	**Expenditure this Month $**	**Total Expenditure YTD $**	**Committed Expenditure YTD $**	**Estimated Total Project Costs $**
30 Jun.2026	3,070,673	265,975	1,363,510	1,042,463	2,913,691

Table 1

Components of this project involve 4 Local Road sections and the intersection upgrade with Millthorpe Road. The extent of these sections is depicted in Figure 1.

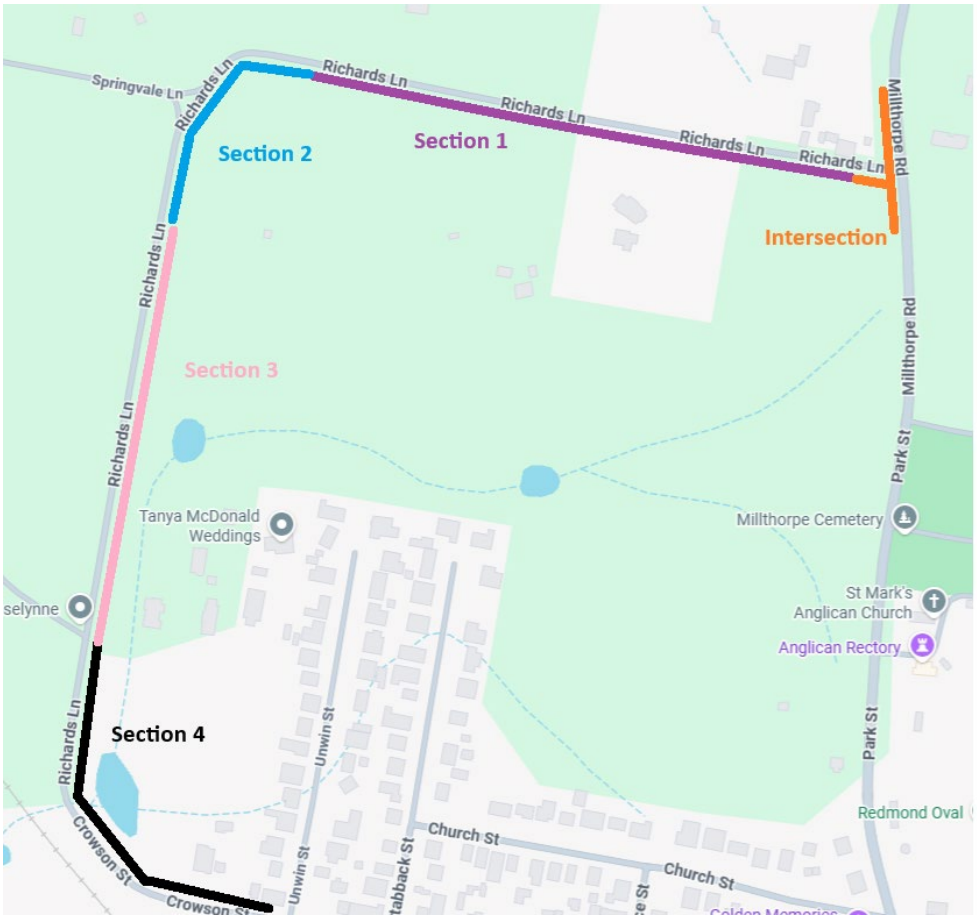


Figure 1

Local Road Portion of Works:
Residential access is still being maintained via Crowson Street.

Section 2 works are completed up to the base course and will be trimmed to final level alongside Section 1 & 3 (once all sections are complete). Pavement base layer will be complete in Section 3 in coming weeks. Once pavement construction is completed, the Section 4 seal will be ripped and re-worked, and the entirety of the local road will be sealed.

A primer seal proposal has been received and has been approved. Council officers are still waiting on a confirmed seal date for the local road section. This has resulted in the requirement of a reseal next financial year at an estimated cost of $139,300. This cost has been incorporated into Estimated Total Project Costs, within Table 1. The delivery of this reseal would be through Council's existing bitumen sealing tender.

Intersection Portion of Works
Despite challenging weather conditions, including almost two weeks of delays due to wet weather, subgrade treatment works are nearing completion. The drainage blanket has been installed and is performing satisfactorily. Importation and placement of the subbase layer is scheduled to commence in the coming weeks, together with the installation of concrete capping over services where required.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
The current program shows the majority of works completed by the end of July 2026.

Council officers have reached agreement with Regional NSW. Final acquittal of grant funds was submitted as of 29 May 2026. Further reporting is required at the end of July 2026, however there would be no outstanding funds to be claimed.

The risk of this project to Council is significantly reduced due to:

- The progression of works beyond the subgrade phase, reducing the likelihood of latent site conditions and associated contract cost variations.
- Agreement having been reached with the funding body, with the grant now fully acquitted.
- Community concerns relating to the project having largely subsided, as residents have adapted to the changed conditions and identified issues have been resolved.

Budget Implications:
Based on the current projected cost to complete (shown in table 1), at this stage it is anticipated the project will be completed within the current budget allocation which includes ~$156k as contingency funds yet to be drawn upon.

Enclosures (following report)
Nil

Attachments (separate document)
Nil

17) MINUTES OF THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM HELD 5 JUNE 2026

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 June 2026.
2. Review the existing parking arrangements on Lindsay Street between Church St and Ogilvy St.
3. Receive a further report as to the outcome of the review with any recommendation to changes to signage or linemarking.
4. Install R5-40 “No Parking At Any Time” signage along the southern side of Eulamore St, between Naylor Street and the access to 3 Eulamore Street .
5. Clear roadside vegetation along the southern side of Longswamp Road, to the east of Carbine Road.
6. Approve the event for the Millthorpe Winter Fire Festival Night Market, to be staged on 7th August 2026 on Pym Street Millthorpe as a Class 2 event, subject to the conditions detailed in the Director Infrastructure Services’ Report.
7. Endorse the plan for changes proposed to Adelaide Street North.
   a. Note that reopening access from the Mid-Western Highway into Adelaide Street North is not recommended.
   b. Approve the 28 day public exhibition of the proposal to relocate the existing bus zone, reconfigure the priority of Hill St / Adelaide St N intersection, and upgrade the existing pedestrian crossing on Adelaide Street N to a Children’s Crossing during school zone operating hours.
   c. Receive a further report to consider any public submissions and detailing estimated project costs, proposed staging and potential funding sources for the proposed works.
8. Note the reported heavy vehicle parking concerns on Orange road and investigate appropriate enforcement measures with NSW Police.
9. Note the completion of the Vittoria Road speed zone review, and the proposal to reduce the posted speed limit to 80 km/h.

Reason for Report:
For Council to endorse the minutes of the Blayney Shire Council Traffic Committee meeting held 5 June 2026.

MINUTES OF THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM MEETING HELD IN THE CHAMBERS, BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY CENTRE, ON 5 JUNE 2026, COMMENCING AT 10:00 AM

PRESENT

Members: Cr John Newstead (Blayney Shire Council-Chair), Jackie Barry (TfNSW), Steve Chaplin (NSW Police), Jack Doheny (NSW Police).

Present: Evatt Bourne (Design & Development Engineer), Lilly Simons (Trainee Administration Officer), Cr Bruce Reynolds (Blayney Shire Council-Mayor, Observer).

APOLOGIES

Reg Rendall (State Member for Bathurst Representative), Nathan Murphy (TfNSW), Jacob Hogan (Director Infrastructure Services), Nikki Smith (Administration Officer).

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

That the following Declaration of Interest be noted.

Number	Member/Officer	Interest	Report	Reason
6	John Newstead	Non pecuniary (less tha significant)	Adelaide Street North/S Joseph's School	Bus Driver on this route

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM HELD 6 MARCH 2026

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Blayney Shire Council Traffic Committee Meeting held on 6 March 2026, be confirmed to be a true and accurate record of that meeting.

(Mover: John Newstead/Seconder: Jackie Barry)

REPORTS

SIGNAGE - BUS ZONE - LINDSAY STREET BLAYNEY

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Review the existing parking arrangements on Lindsay Street between Church St and Ogilvy St.
2. Receive a further report as to the outcome of the review with any recommendation to changes to signage or linemarking.

REGULATORY SIGNAGE EULAMORE STREET CARCOAR

Recommendation:

That council install R5-40 “No Parking At Any Time” signage along the southern side of Eulamore St, between Naylor Street and the access to 3 Eulamore Street .

SIGNAGE - CNR CARBINE ROAD AND LONG SWAMP ROAD

Recommendation:

That Council clear roadside vegetation along the southern side of Longswamp Road, to the east of Carbine Road.

STREET EVENT - MILLTHORPE FIRE FESTIVAL - 7 AUGUST 2026

Recommendation:

That Council approve the event for the Millthorpe Winter Fire Festival Night Market, to be staged on 7th August 2026 on Pym Street Millthorpe as a Class 2 event, subject to the conditions detailed in the Director Infrastructure Services’ Report.

ADELAIDE STREET NORTH / ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Endorse the plan for changes proposed to Adelaide Street North.
2. Note that reopening access from the Mid-Western Highway into Adelaide Street North is not recommended.
3. Approve the 28 day public exhibition of the proposal to relocate the existing bus zone, reconfigure the priority of Hill St / Adelaide St N intersection, and upgrade the existing pedestrian crossing on Adelaide Street N to a Children’s Crossing during school zone operating hours.
3. Receive a further report to consider any public submissions and detailing estimated project costs, proposed staging and potential funding sources for the proposed works.

TRUCKS PARKING ALONG ORANGE ROAD

Recommendation:

That Council note the reported heavy vehicle parking concerns on Orange road and investigate appropriate enforcement measures with NSW Police.

UPDATE SPEED ZONE REVIEW - VITTORIA ROAD

Recommendation:

That Council note the completion of the Vittoria Road speed zone review, and the proposal to reduce the posted speed limit to 80 km/h.

GENERAL BUSINESS

EVENTS - SPRING INTO ART - NEWBRIDGE NSW - 15-18 OCTOBER 2026
Actions: For noting.

Guardrail Millthorpe Road/Glenorie Road intersection
Actions: TfNSW to investigate repositioning away from the road when the repairs are undertaken.

FUTURE MEETING DATES - 2026
Friday, 4 September 2026
Friday, 4 December 2026

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 11:17am

Enclosures (following report)

1	Millthorpe Fire Festival - Conditions	1 Page
2	Adelaide Street North Plan	4 Pages

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

STREET EVENT - MILLTHORPE FIRE FESTIVAL - 7 AUGUST 2026

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

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.
Council is to be provided with a Certificate of Currency of a $20M Public Liability Insurance Policy indicating Blayney Shire Council's interests, and the date and location of the event.

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.
Implementation of the approved Traffic Guidance Scheme (TGS) is to be completed by persons appropriately qualified to do so.

The Event organiser shall provide and install physical barriers (i.e.: vehicles) at temporary road closure locations on Pym, Elliott and Blake Streets for the duration of the event, in accordance with NSW Police requirements for the protection of crowded places.

All Event Marshalls, Traffic Controllers and participants must be consulted and advised of the risk management and contingency arrangements in case of an emergency.

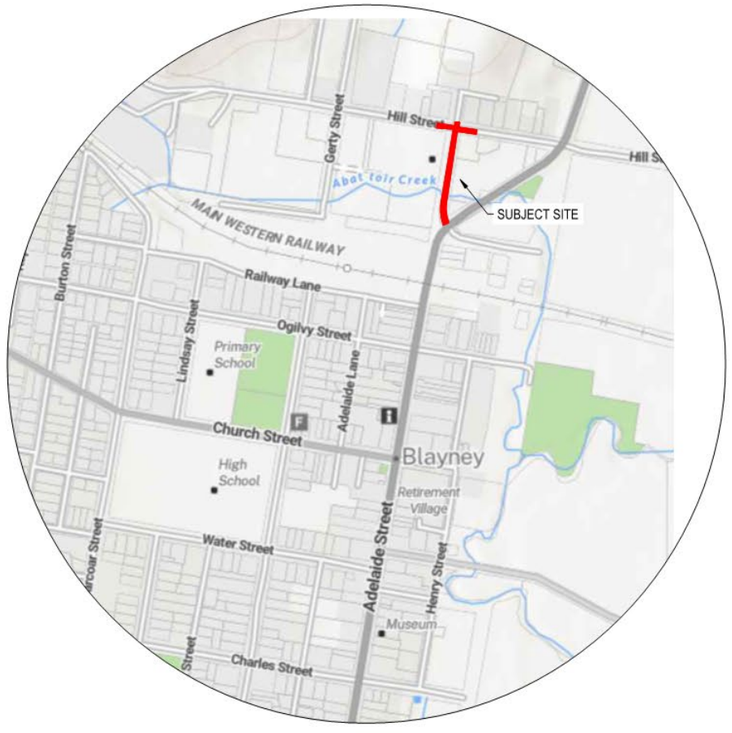
A Risk Assessment must be completed and a Risk Management Plan submitted to Council prior to the event.

The Event Organiser must:

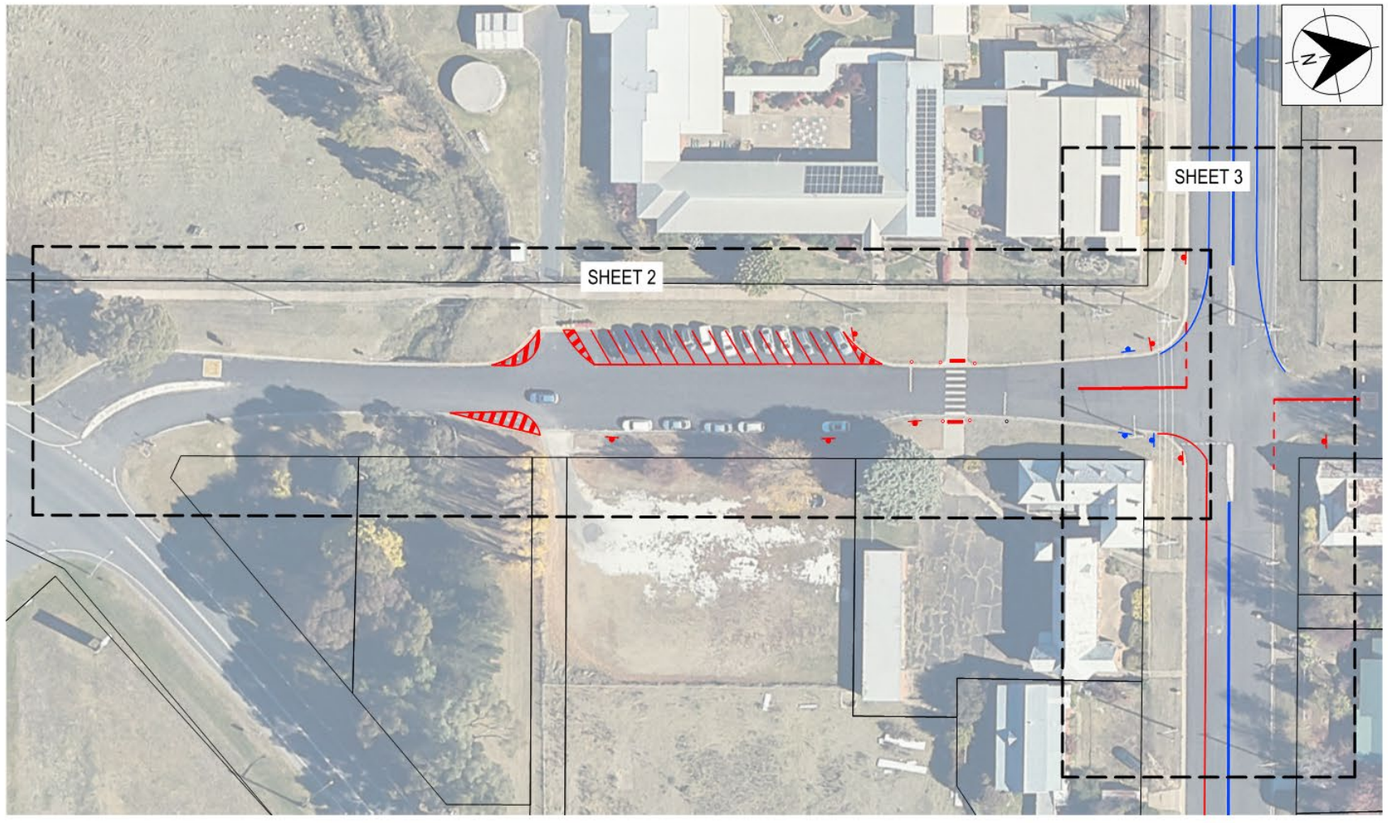
- Ensure high-visibility vests are provided and worn by all volunteers.
- Inform all relevant persons involved in the organisation of the event of the Conditions of Approval.
- Notify all Emergency Services of the event and associated road closures, including Orange Base and Blayney Hospitals.
- Notify all business proprietors and residents affected by the event at least 7 days prior to the event.
- Comply with the requirements of the "Guide to Traffic and Transport Management for Special Events" (version 4.1) dated November 2025, for a Class 2 event.
- 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.

ADELAIDE STREET NORTH

PLANS FOR RECONFIGURATION & CHILDRENS CROSSING OPTIONS



LOCALITY MAP
NTS



SITE MAP
SCALE 1:500

SCHEDULE OF DRAWINGS	
SHEET No.	SHEET TITLE
01	TITLE SHEET AND SCHEDULE OF DRAWINGS
02	ADELAIDE STREET PLAN
03	HILL STREET PLAN
04	VEHICLE TURNING PATHS

REV	DESCRIPTION	INITIALS	DATE
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
C	REARRANGED BUS ZONE LOCATION	EB	19/05/2026
B	ADELAIDE STREET NORTH OPTIONS ADDED	MY	29/04/2026
A	ISSUED FOR DISCUSSION	EB	16/10/2025

SURVEY JOB & NOTES: -
GPS BASES & RL's: -
DATUM: -
CONCEPT

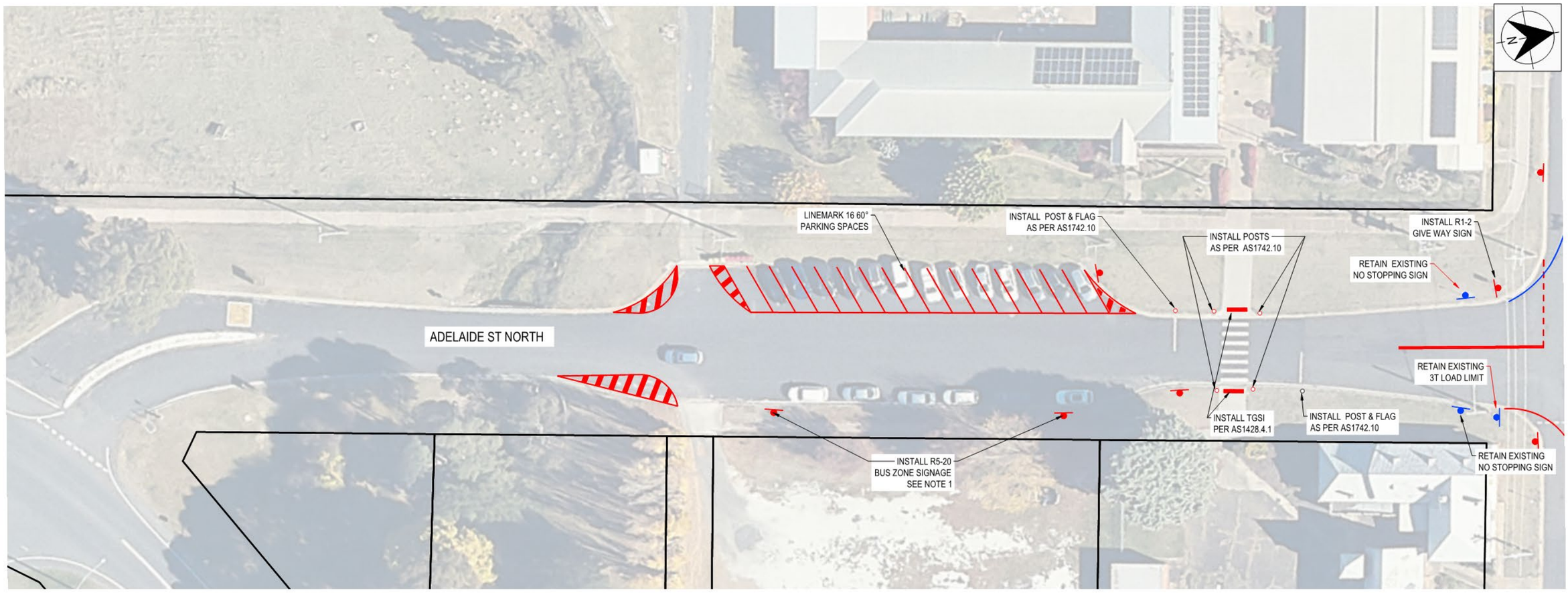
SCALES: AS SHOWN
ALL SCALE UNITS ARE METRES
ORIGINAL A1

Blayney Shire Council

APPROVED DATE
SURVEYED - DATE -
DESIGNED EB DATE 16/10/2025
DRAWN EB DATE 16/10/2025

PROJECT: ADELAIDE STREET NORTH
SHEET TITLE: TITLE SHEET AND SCHEDULE OF DRAWINGS
DRAWING FILE: BE1289-C-Adelaide St North.dwg
DRAWING NO.: BE1289
SHEET: 01 OF 04
REV: C
DESIGN FILE: -
PLOT DATE: 19/05/2026

LEGEND:
- DESIGN LINEMARKING
- EXISTING LINEMARKING FOR RENEWAL
- SIGNAGE EXISTING
- SIGNAGE NEW



PLAN
SCALE 1:250

SIGNS LEGEND

R5 41 NO PARKING (WITH TIMES)

R9309N - KISS & RIDE AREA

R5-20 BUS ZONE (WITH TIMES)

R1-2 GIVE WAY

NOTES:
1. ALL TIMED PARKING RESTRICTIONS ARE TO READ "8AM-9.30AM 2.30PM-4PM SCHOOLDAYS".
2. DO NOT SCALE OFF DRAWINGS. ALL LEVELS AND DIMENSIONS ARE IN METRES UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE AND SHALL BE VERIFIED ONSITE PRIOR TO COMMENCING WORKS.
3. VISIBLE SERVICES HAVE BEEN LOCATED ONLY. ANY SERVICES SHOWN ON PLAN SHALL BE ASSUMED AS INDICATIVE. SERVICE LOCATIONS MUST BE IDENTIFIED ON SITE PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION.
4. CADASTRAL BOUNDARIES SHOWN ARE INDICATIVE ONLY.
5. ANY DRAWING DISCREPANCIES SHALL BE REFERRED TO BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL FOR CLARIFICATION PRIOR TO WORK COMMENCING.
6. PRIOR TO BULK EARTHWORKS, EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES SHALL BE INSTALLED ON SITE.
7. GRASSED AREAS AND TABLE DRAINS SHALL BE REINSTATED AFTER CONSTRUCTION.

REV	DESCRIPTION	INITIALS	DATE
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
C	REARRANGED BUS ZONE LOCATION	EB	19/05/2026
B	ADELAIDE STREET NORTH OPTIONS ADDED	MY	29/04/2026
A	ISSUED FOR DISCUSSION	EB	16/10/2025

SURVEY JOB & NOTES -
GPS BASES & RL's -
DATUM -
CONCEPT

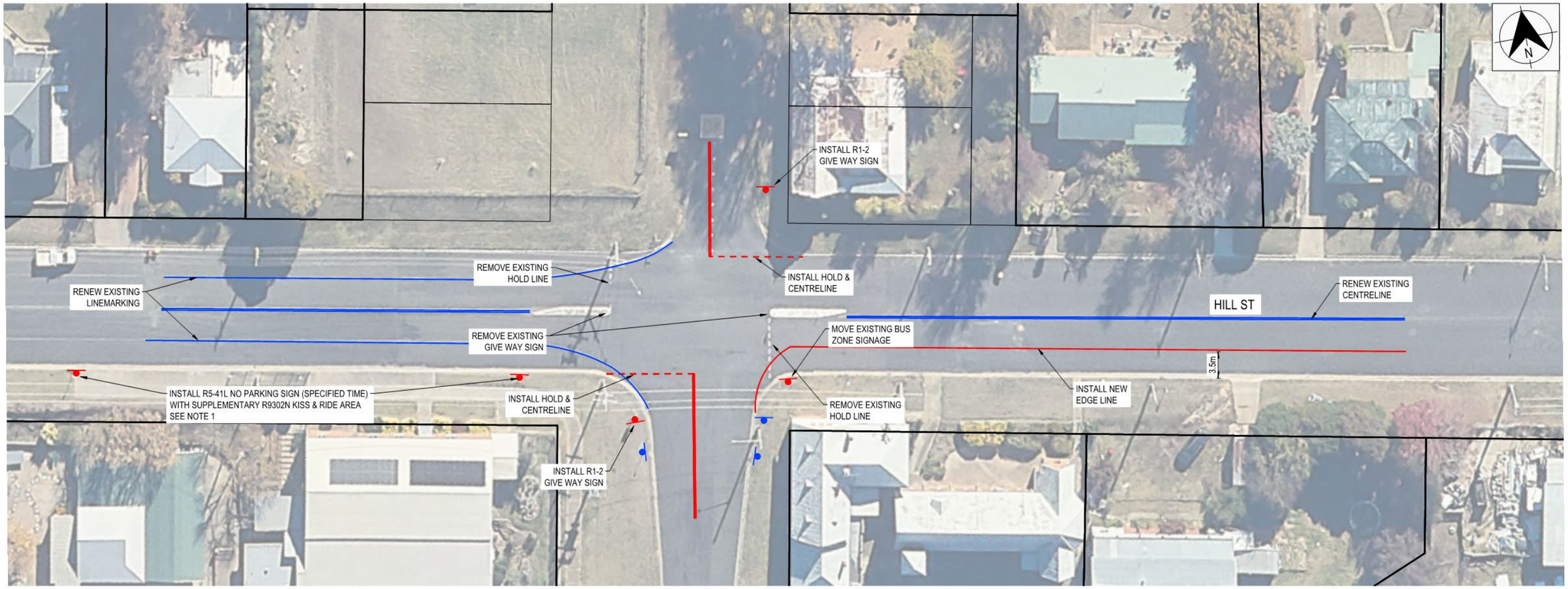
SCALES ALL SCALE UNITS ARE METRES ORIGINAL A1
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0 2.5 5 7.5 10 12.5m
1:500 A3

Blayney SHIRE COUNCIL

APPROVED DATE
SURVEYED - DATE -
DESIGNED EB DATE 16/10/2025
DRAWN EB DATE 16/10/2025

PROJECT ADELAIDE STREET NORTH
SHEET TITLE ADELAIDE STREET PLAN
DRAWING FILE BE1289-C-Adelaide St North.dwg
DRAWING NO. BE1289
SHEET 02 OF 04
REV C
DESIGN FILE -
PLOT DATE 19/05/2026

LEGEND:
- DESIGN LINEMARKING
- EXISTING LINEMARKING FOR RENEWAL
- SIGNAGE EXISTING
- SIGNAGE NEW



PLAN
SCALE 1:250

SIGNS LEGEND

R5 41 NO PARKING (WITH TIMES)

R9309N - KISS & RIDE AREA

R5-20 BUS ZONE (WITH TIMES)

R1-2 GIVE WAY

NOTES:
1. ALL TIMED PARKING RESTRICTIONS ARE TO READ "8AM-9.30AM 2.30PM-4PM SCHOOLDAYS".
2. DO NOT SCALE OFF DRAWINGS. ALL LEVELS AND DIMENSIONS ARE IN METRES UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE AND SHALL BE VERIFIED ONSITE PRIOR TO COMMENCING WORKS.
3. VISIBLE SERVICES HAVE BEEN LOCATED ONLY. ANY SERVICES SHOWN ON PLAN SHALL BE ASSUMED AS INDICATIVE. SERVICE LOCATIONS MUST BE IDENTIFIED ON SITE PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION.
4. CADASTRAL BOUNDARIES SHOWN ARE INDICATIVE ONLY.
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-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
C	REARRANGED BUS ZONE LOCATION	EB	19/05/2026
B	ADELAIDE STREET NORTH OPTIONS ADDED	MY	29/04/2026
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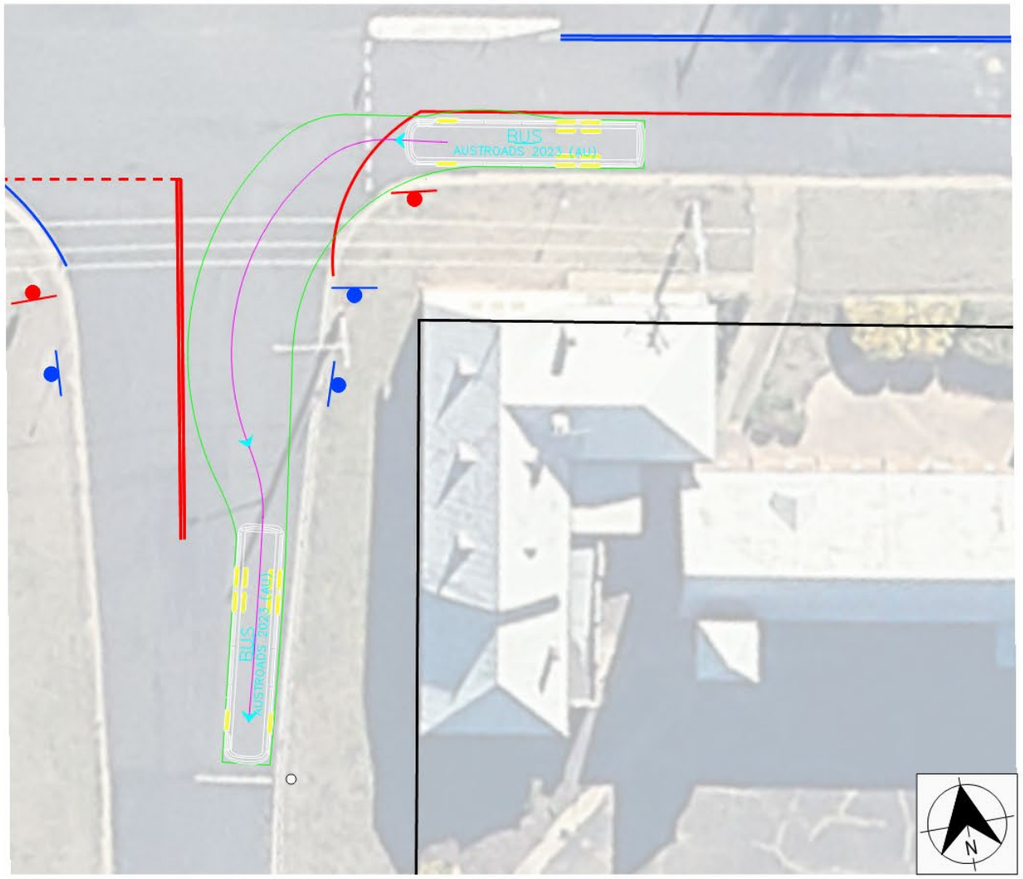
SURVEY JOB & NOTES: -
GPS BASES & RL's: -
DATUM: -
CONCEPT

SCALES: ALL SCALE UNITS ARE METRES — ORIGINAL A1
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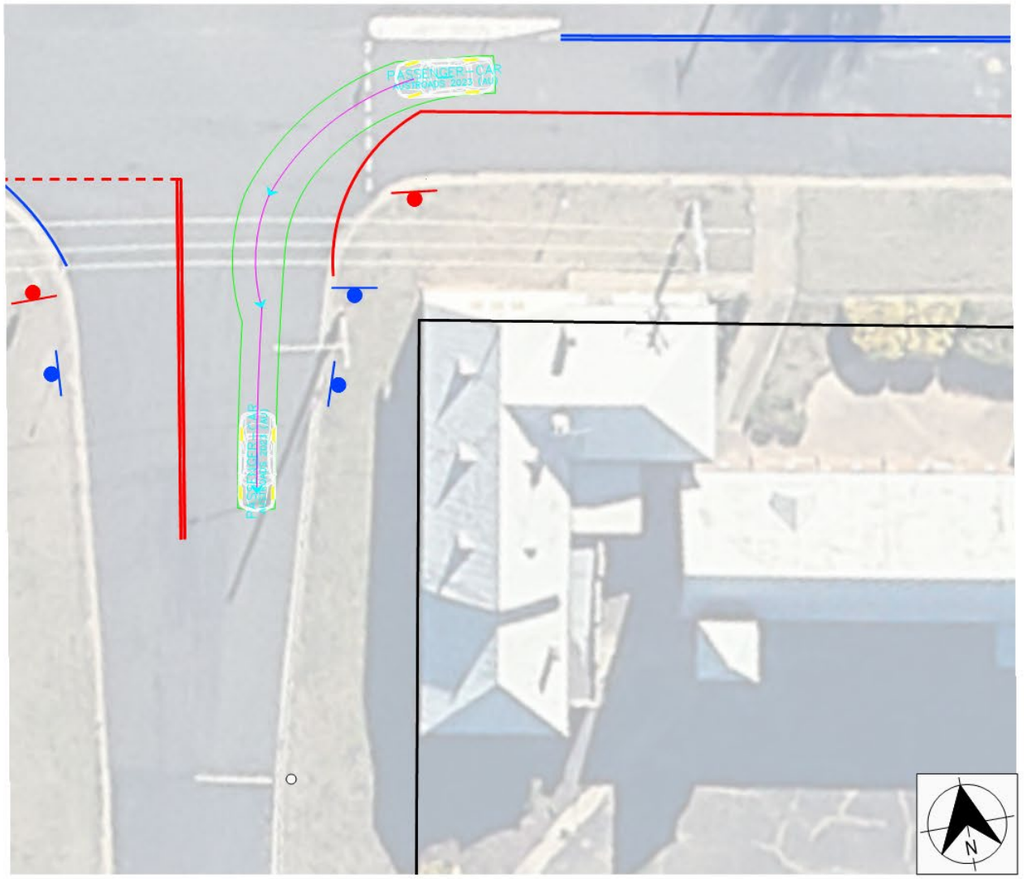
Blayney SHIRE COUNCIL

APPROVED	DATE		
SURVEYED	-	DATE	-
DESIGNED	EB	DATE	16/10/2025
DRAWN	EB	DATE	16/10/2025

PROJECT	ADELAIDE STREET NORTH			
SHEET TITLE	HILL STREET PLAN			
DRAWING FILE	BE1289-C-Adelaide St North.dwg	DRAWING NO.	SHEET	REV
DESIGN FILE	-	PLOT DATE	03 OF 04	C
		19/05/2026		



BUS TURNING PATH
SCALE 1:100



CAR TURNING PATH
SCALE 1:100

NOTES:

1. DO NOT SCALE OFF DRAWINGS. ALL LEVELS AND DIMENSIONS ARE IN METRES UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE AND SHALL BE VERIFIED ONSITE PRIOR TO COMMENCING WORKS.
2. VISIBLE SERVICES HAVE BEEN LOCATED ONLY. ANY SERVICES SHOWN ON PLAN SHALL BE ASSUMED AS INDICATIVE. SERVICE LOCATIONS MUST BE IDENTIFIED ON SITE PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION.
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REV	DESCRIPTION	INITIALS	DATE
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
C	REARRANGED BUS ZONE LOCATION	EB	19/05/2026
B	ADELAIDE STREET NORTH OPTIONS ADDED	MY	29/04/2026
A	ISSUED FOR DISCUSSION	EB	16/10/2025

SURVEY JOB & NOTES: -
GPS BASES & RL's: -
DATUM: -
CONCEPT

SCALES: ALL SCALE UNITS ARE METRES — ORIGINAL A1
1:250 A1
0 2.5 5 7.5 10 12.5m
1:500 A3

SHIRE COUNCIL Blayney

APPROVED	DATE		
SURVEYED	-	DATE	-
DESIGNED	EB	DATE	16/10/2025
DRAWN	EB	DATE	16/10/2025

PROJECT: ADELAIDE STREET NORTH
SHEET TITLE: TURNING PATHS

DRAWING FILE	BE1289-C-Adelaide St North.dwg	DRAWING NO.	BE1289
DESIGN FILE	-	PLOT DATE	19/05/2026

SHEET: 04 OF 04
REV: C

18) ADELAIDE LANE, BLAYNEY - ONE WAY (OGLIVY & CHURCH STREETS)

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. Approve the implementation of one-way for the northern section of Adelaide Lane.
2. Ensure all landowners adjoining the proposal are directly informed of the implementation date and any associated operational changes to access, servicing or waste collection arrangements arising from the proposal.

Reason for Report:
For Council to make a decision on the proposal to implement one-way for the northern section of Adelaide Lane, being entry via Ogilvy Street and exit via Church Street.

Report:
Councillors may recall a resolution of the Ordinary Council Meeting in June 2025, whereby Council endorsed the proposal to implement one-way for the northern section of Adelaide Lane and undertake public exhibition of the proposal for not less than 28 days.

Adelaide Lane is former night cart lane running parallel to Adelaide St in the township of Blayney. The section of Adelaide Lane that is the subject of this report extends between Church and Ogilvy St's (see attached locality map).

The section is utilised by a mix of residential and business properties, with the most notable businesses being Robanco Meats and Blayney Central Motel. Robanco Meats utilises Adelaide Lane for bulk deliveries including 19m semi-trailers. Angled parking within Blayney Central Motel encourages guests to exit the motel via Adelaide Lane. Five residences also currently gain access via Adelaide Lane.

Council placed a traffic counter on Adelaide Lane from 9/7/2024 to 30/7/2024. Data obtained revealed an average daily traffic count of 69.25 vehicles, with heavy vehicles comprising 17% of these. The 85-percentile speed was 27.7 km/h.

A Give Way sign is provided at the southern end of Adelaide Lane, at its intersection with Church St. (Fig. 1)



Figure 1. Intersection with Church St – proposed to be exit only

A Stop sign is located at the northern end of Adelaide Lane, at the intersection with Ogilvy St (Fig. 2). This sign was originally erected in response to the limited sight distance available at this intersection, particularly to the east.



Figure 2. Intersection with Ogilvy St – proposed to be entry only

Council's current standards for a two-way local access road require a minimum road reserve width of 17 metres, with a sealed pavement width of at least 6 metres to safely accommodate two-way traffic. Adelaide Lane has a road reserve width of approximately 6 metres and a sealed pavement width of only 3 metres. Given these significant constraints, the existing road geometry is not suitable for two-way traffic, and the implementation of a one-way traffic arrangement is considered the most appropriate outcome for this location.

Additionally, given the poor sight distance for vehicles exiting Adelaide Lane in a northerly direction, and the resulting risk to pedestrian traffic along Ogilvy St, it is proposed that traffic direction be limited to a southerly direction only.

The proposal was publicly exhibited commencing 3 July 2025 and closing 7 August 2025 via the following consultation methods:

- Listed on Council's website
- Advertised in the Village Voice 3, 17 & 31 July 2025.
- Notification letters sent to 17 residences who would be directly affected by the proposal.
- Notification letters sent to members of the Local Emergency Management Committee & JR Richards.

Following the conclusion of the exhibition period, no submissions were received.

It is recognised that the public exhibition of this proposal occurred some time ago. The delay in presenting the matter to Council was due to staff undertaking further work to ensure that servicing arrangements, particularly waste collection, could continue to be provided effectively to all affected properties.

Following liaison between staff and JR Richards, the proposed one-way traffic arrangement will require the following operational changes to waste collection services:

- Residents on the western side of Adelaide Lane will be required to place their waste bins on the eastern side of the lane for collection.
- Collection of commercial waste bins servicing Robanco Meats will occur via the private laneway accessed from Adelaide Street. Following collection at Hutchinsons Bakehouse, the waste collection vehicle will proceed through the private laneway into Adelaide Lane to service Robanco Meats. This arrangement will also eliminate the need for waste collection vehicles to reverse onto Adelaide Street, reducing operational and safety risks associated with the current collection process.

A signage plan for the proposed one-way arrangement has been prepared and is attached to this report. Should the proposal be approved, Council Officers will coordinate the installation of all signage to occur on a single implementation date. All affected residents and landowners will be notified in advance of the implementation date and any associated changes to access or waste collection arrangements.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Continued bi-directional use of Adelaide Lane poses a risk to foot traffic in the area and conflicts between vehicles.

Budget Implications:
The proposed signage arrangements can be implemented within existing operational budgets.

Enclosures (following report)

1 BE1306 - Adeliade Lane North One Way Signage Plan

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

ADELAIDE STREET NORTH ONE WAY

SIGNAGE PLAN

TITLE SHEET & SCHEDULE OF DRAWINGS



LOCALITY MAP
NTS



SITE MAP
SCALE 1:500

SCHEDULE OF DRAWINGS	
SHEET No.	SHEET TITLE
01	TITLE PAGE & SCHEDULE OF DRAWINGS
02	SIGNAGE LAYOUT PLANS

BEFORE YOU DIG 1dyd.com.au

REV	DESCRIPTION	INITIALS	DATE
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
B	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION	EB	10/6/2026
A	ISSUED FOR REVIEW	EB	20/5/2026

SURVEY JOB & NOTES: -
GPS BASES & RL's: -
DATUM: -
APPROVED

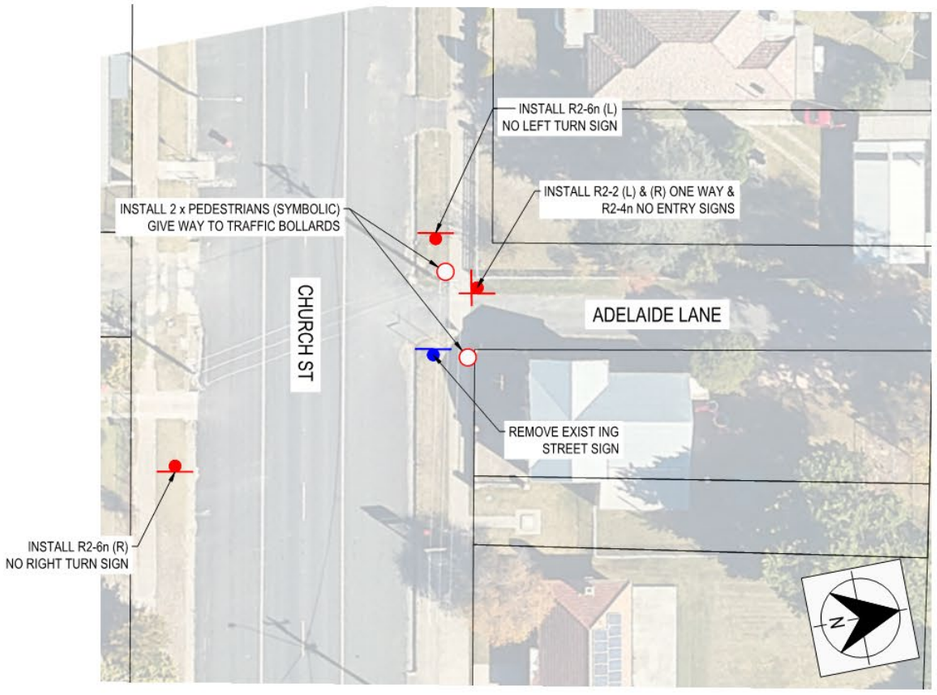
SCALES: ALL SCALE UNITS ARE METRES — ORIGINAL A1
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0 5 10 15 20 25m
1:1000 A3

Blayney SHIRE COUNCIL

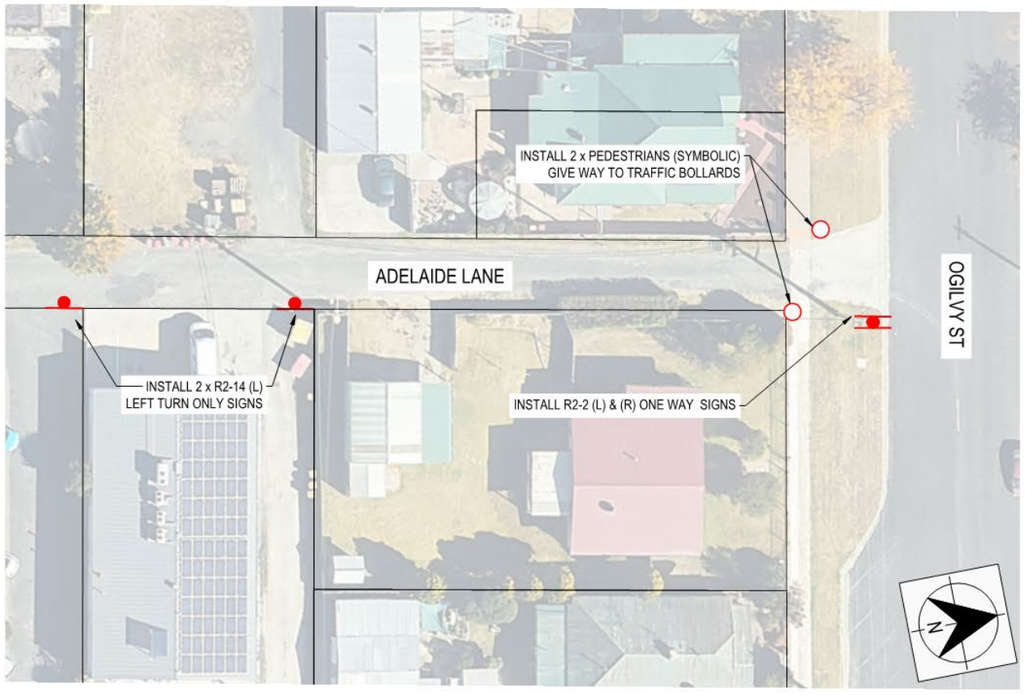
APPROVED	DATE		
SURVEYED	-	DATE	-
DESIGNED	-	DATE	-
DRAWN	EB	DATE	20/5/2026

PROJECT: ADELAIDE LANE NORTH ONE WAY
SHEET TITLE: TITLE SHEET & SCHEDULE OF DRAWINGS
DRAWING FILE: BE1306-B-Adelaide Lane North One Way Signage.dwg
DRAWING NO.: BE1306
SHEET: 01 OF 02
REV: B
DESIGN FILE: -
PLOT DATE: 10/06/2026

LEGEND:
SIGNAGE - NEW
SIGNAGE - REMOVE



CHURCH ST INTERSECTION PLAN
SCALE 1:250



OGILVY ST INTERSECTION PLAN
SCALE 1:250

SCHEDULE OF SIGNS			
SIGN No.	SIGN NAME	SIZE	COUNT
R2-2 (L)	ONE WAY LEFT	A	2
R2-2 (R)	ONE WAY RIGHT	A	1
R2-4n	NO ENTRY	A	1
R2-6n (L)	NO LEFT TURN	B	1
R2-6 (R)	NO RIGHT TURN	B	1
R2-14 (L)	ALL TRAFFIC LEFT ONLY	A	2
_	PEDESTRIANS GIVE WAY TO TRAFFIC	-	4

SIGNAGE LEGEND



R2-4n NO ENTRY



R2-14 (L) ALL TRAFFIC (L) ONLY



R2-2 ONE WAY



R2-6n NO RIGHT TURN

BEFORE YOU DIG byda.com.au

REV	DESCRIPTION	INITIALS	DATE
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
B	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION	EB	10/6/2026
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SURVEY JOB & NOTES -
GPS BASES & RL's -
DATUM -
APPROVED

SCALES ALL SCALE UNITS ARE METRES ORIGINAL A1
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1:500 A3

SHIRE COUNCIL Blayney

APPROVED DATE
SURVEYED - DATE -
DESIGNED - DATE -
DRAWN EB DATE 20/5/2026

PROJECT ADELAIDE LANE NORTH ONE WAY
SHEET TITLE SIGNAGE PLAN
DRAWING FILE BE1306-B-Adelaide Lane North One Way Signage.dwg
DRAWING NO. BE1306
SHEET 02 OF 02
REV B
DESIGN FILE -
PLOT DATE 10/06/2026

19) 2026 LOCAL ROADS CONGRESS

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 report on the 2026 Local Roads Congress.

Reason for Report:
To inform Councillors on the 2026 Local Roads Congress attended by Mayor Councillor Bruce Reynolds and Council's Director Infrastructure Services.

Report:
The 2026 Local Roads congress was held at NSW Parliament House and brought together representatives from local government, Transport for NSW, Local Government NSW, IPWEA NSW & ACT, industry stakeholders and Members of Parliament to discuss the future direction of the local roads policy, funding and asset management across New South Wales.

The Congress theme for 2026 was **"Shaping Policies for Stronger Communities"**, and provided opportunity for local government leaders, engineers, asset managers and elected representatives to engage directly with State Government Ministers, Shadow Ministers and senior transport official on matters affecting the management, maintenance and renewal of the State's local road network. Presentations and panel discussions focused on policy development, infrastructure funding, road safety, asset management and long-term network sustainability.

Keynote addresses were delivered by the Minister for Roads and Regional Transport, the Hon. Jenny Aitchison MP, and Shadow Minister for Roads, Mark Coure MP. Discussions highlighted the critical role local roads play in supporting regional economies, freight movements, community connectivity and access to essential services. The Congress also provided an update on the Roads and Transport Directorate's advocacy activities and priorities for the coming year.

A recurring theme throughout the Congress was the need for sustainable funding arrangements to support the growing maintenance and renewal task facing local government road networks. Speakers emphasised the importance pf evidence-based decision making, improved asset management practices and stronger alignment between infrastructure planning, financial planning and service delivery.

Several presentations explored the increasing role of technology in local government asset management, including automated asset data capture, artificial intelligence applications and data-driven approaches to infrastructure management. These initiatives have potential to improve the efficiency of road inspections, asset condition monitoring and long-term investment planning.

The Congress also examined broader policy issues including road recategorisation, sustainable procurement practices, local road liability and organisational asset management maturity. These discussions recognised the increasing complexity of managing local transport infrastructure and the need for continued collaboration between councils, State agencies and industry partners.

The Congress concluded with the development of the 2026 Congress Communiqué, which will inform the Roads and Transport Directorate's advocacy agenda over the next 12 months.

The 2026 Local Roads Congress Communiqué is enclosed with this report.

The 2026 Local Roads Congress reinforced its importance as a key forum for collaboration, knowledge sharing and advocacy on behalf of local government. The issues discussed are directly relevant to councils across New South Wales as they continue to address increasing infrastructure demands, financial pressures and community expectations.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Nil

Budget Implications:
The costs associated with attendance at the 2026 Local Roads Congress by the Mayor and Director Infrastructure Services were met from existing operational budget allocations.

Enclosures (following report)

1	2026 Local Roads Congress Communiqué	2 Pages

Attachments (separate document)

Nil



The NSW Roads and Transport Directorate (RTD), a joint initiative between Local Government NSW (LGNSW) and the NSW Division of the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA NSW and ACT), is pleased to present the 2026 Local Roads Congress Communiqué.

Over 120 delegates, encompassing mayors, elected council officials and council executive staff gathered with State Government Ministers and Shadow Ministers at NSW Parliament House on 1st June 2026 to attend the 2026 Local Roads Congress. The discussions and presentations from the Congress inform the advocacy focus of the Roads & Transport Directorate over the next 12 months which is outlined in this communiqué.

Under the theme of 'Shaping Policies for Stronger Communities', congress delegates identified the following list of recommendations as key priorities for Local, State and Federal governments to improve the NSW local road network.

NSW Local Government

The Congress supports a commitment from NSW Local Government to:

i. Prioritise funding of local road infrastructure to address the current annual shortfall and improve the condition of road assets.

ii. Investigate AI technology solutions, as a means of improving the efficiency of road maintenance, road safety and natural disaster assessment activities.

iii. Recognise that rural and regional councils maintain extensive road networks that support state and national economic activity and require a funding model that reflects road length, freight task and economic importance, not simply population.

iv. Develop and implement integrated local road network plans aligned with federal, state and regional plans, considering critical infrastructure, resilience, local transport needs, asset and risk management, road safety, freight, delivery and operation.

v. Develop and align Asset Management Plans and Long-Term Financial Plans that fully incorporate service levels, lifecycle costs, and risk.

NSW Government

The Congress calls on the NSW Government to:

i. Review the Fixing Local Roads Program with an annual allocation aligned to the Roads to Recovery distribution formula to provide greater certainty and allow improved short-medium term infrastructure planning by NSW Local Government.

ii. Ensure natural disaster funding arrangements allow resilience improvements to be included as a part of restoration works and provide dedicated funding for proactive betterment works to improve the overall resilience of the network.

iii. Explore funding options to support councils in replacing ageing causeways and concrete, steel and composite bridges.

iv. Support implementation of integrated local road network plans aligned to federal, state and regional plans, considering critical infrastructure, resilience, local transport needs, asset and risk management, road safety, freight, delivery and operation.

v. Partner with councils to deliver and fund supporting transport infrastructure in areas where the NSW Government has rezoned for higher housing density. This includes road maintenance, traffic and parking management, and upgrades to the local road network to meet demand.

Australian and NSW Government

The Congress calls on the Australian and NSW Governments to work together with NSW Local Governments to address the following:

i. An increase in base funding support for Local Government to address the current funding shortfall of road assets, and a corresponding reduction in individual competitive grants.

ii. Reduce cost shifting to local governments, particularly those associated with the provision and ongoing care of local road assets servicing large-scale economic generators and state significant developments.

iii. The NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA) and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) collaborate to streamline natural disaster funding and assessment requirements, including a maximum limit of 6 months to finalise agreements or claims from councils.

iv. Restore the Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund (RERRF) to address roads maintenance and defect backlogs.

Australian Government

The Congress calls on the Australian Governments to:

i. Increase Financial Assistance Grants to 1% of Commonwealth Tax Revenue and review the funding allocation to ensure an equitable distribution.

ii. Increase the annual Roads to Recovery Program allocations to align with the construction cost index and the growth in the road asset base, ensuring funding levels are maintained in real terms.

iii. Provide increased, long-term and predictable funding for local and regional roads, prioritising safety, congestion reduction, freight resilience, and growing communities. This also includes simplifying grant application and reporting processes to reduce administrative burdens on councils.

20) COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD 8 MAY 2026

Department: Executive Services

Author: Councillor Bruce Reynolds

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

File No: GO.ME.1

Recommendation:
That Council note the report from the Mayor on the recent Country Mayors Association Meeting held 8 May 2026.

Reason for Report:
To update Council on the recent Country Mayors Association (CMA) meeting held Friday 8 May 2026.

Report:
The draft minutes of the CMA meeting held 8 May 2026 in Sydney are enclosed for Council's information.

Mayor Cr 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 Operational Plan for delegates to attend this meeting.

Enclosures (following report)

1 Country Mayors Association Meeting Minutes - 8 May 2026 13 Pages

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

THE COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC

"What we want is nothing more than equity"

MINUTES

Friday 8th May 2026

A General Meeting of the Country Mayors Association of NSW Inc was held in the Theatrette, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney from 8:20am. The meeting had a 'Skill Shortages, Labour Solutions' theme.

The meeting commenced with a welcome from CMA Chairman Mayor Rick Firman OAM.
Mayor Firman opened the General meeting to allow for an urgent motion in response to the cessation of the Inland Rail Project by the Federal Government. Motion listed.

Attendance

Cr. John Medcalf OAM	Mayor	Lachlan Shire Council
Ian Greenham	GM	Lachlan Shire Council
Cr. Liam Ley	Deputy Mayor	Dungog Shire Council
Cr. Chris Hanna	Mayor	Snowy Monaro Regional Council
Noreen Vu	GM	Snowy Monaro Regional Council
Cr. Brian Ingram	Mayor	Hilltops Council
Anthony O'Reilly	GM	Hilltops Council
Cr. Kinne Ring	Mayor	Kempsey Shire Council
Andrew Meddle	CEO	Kempsey Shire Council
Cr. Daniel Keady	Mayor	Coonamble Shire Council
Greg Hill	GM	Coonamble Shire Council
Mick Raby	Acting General Manager	Uralla Shire Council
Cr. Kath Arnold	Deputy Mayor	Uralla Shire Council
Cr. Claire Pontin	Mayor	MidCoast Council
Cr. Margot Davis	Mayor	Glen Innes Severn Council
Bernard Smith	GM	Glen Innes Severn Council
Cr. George Weston	Mayor	Leeton Shire Council
Jackie Kruger	GM	Leeton Shire Council
Cr. Ruth McRae OAM	Mayor	Murrumbidgee Council
John Scarce	GM	Murrumbidgee Council
Cr. Rick Firman OAM	Mayor	Temora Shire Council
Melissa Boxall	GM	Temora Shire Council
Megan Mulrooney	CEO	REROC
Gary Fry	Secretariat	CMA
Cr. Russell Webb	Mayor	Tamworth Regional Council
Paul Bennett	GM	Tamworth Regional Council
Cr. Jeff Budd	Deputy Mayor	Tamworth Regional Council
Cr. Kathryn Rindfleish	Mayor	Warrumbungle Shire Council
Lindsay Mason	GM	Warrumbungle Shire Council

Cr. Louie Zaffina	Mayor	Balranald Shire Council
Terry Dodds	CEO	Balranald Shire Council
Cr. Kate Dight	Mayor	Inverell Shire Council
Brett McInnes	GM	Inverell Shire Council
Cr. Wendy Wilks	Councillor	Inverell Shire Council
Cr. Jarrod Marsden	Mayor	Cobar Shire Council
Peter Vlatko	GM	Cobar Shire Council
Cr. Greg Whitely	Mayor	Warren Shire Council
Gary Woodman	GM	Warren Shire Council
Cr. Alan White	Deputy Mayor	Coolamon Shire Council
Tony Donoghue	GM	Coolamon Shire Council
Cr. Ashley Hall	Mayor	Edward River Council
Jack Bond	CEO	Edward River Council
Cr. Jasmin Jones	Mayor	Yass Valley Council
Gayleen Burley	CEO	Yass Valley Council
Ross Gurney	GM	Lithgow City Council
Cr. Cassandra Coleman	Mayor	Lithgow City Council
Brett Stonestreet PSM	EO	Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation
Cr. Ewen Jones	Mayor	Narromine Shire Council
Jane Redden	GM	Narromine Shire Council
Cr. Tiffany Galvin	Mayor	Gwydir Shire Council
Leeah Daley	GM	Gwydir Shire Council
Cr. Cheryl Cook	Mayor	Federation Council
Jo Shannon	Deputy GM	Federation Council
Cr. Colleen Fuller OAM	Mayor	Gunnedah Shire Council
Kelly Stidworthy	Director Corporate Services	Gunnedah Shire Council
Cr. Nina Dillon	Mayor	Goulburn Mulwaree Council
Scott Gallacher	GM	Goulburn Mulwaree Council
Cr. Sarah Ndiaye	Mayor	Byron Shire Council
Mark Arnold	GM	Byron Shire Council
Cr. Neville Kschenka OAM	Mayor	Narrandera Shire Council
Tim Coote	GM	Narrandera Shire Council
Cr. Adam Roberts	Mayor	Port Macquarie Hastings Council
Cr. Jim Hickey	Deputy Mayor	Broken Hill City Council
Laura Black	GM	Clarence Valley Council
Cr. Ray Smith	Mayor	Clarence Valley Council
Stephen Dunshea	GM	Forbes Shire Council
Cr. Chris Roylance	Deputy Mayor	Forbes Shire Council
Cr. Phyllis Miller OAM	Mayor	Forbes Shire Council
Cr. Lea Parker	Mayor	Greater Hume Council
Dena Vlekkert	GM	Greater Hume Council
Cr. Paul Best	Mayor	Weddin Shire Council
Matthew Sykes	GM	Weddin Shire Council
Cr. Paul Culhane	Mayor	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Alex Waldron	CEO	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Cr. Tony Mileto	Mayor	Orange City Council
Scott Maunder	CEO	Orange City Council
Cr. Marg Applebee	Deputy Mayor	Parkes Shire Council
Cr. Julia Cornwall McKean	Mayor	Berrigan Shire Council
Cr Catherine Healy	Councillor	Berrigan Shire Council

Cameron Boardman	CEO	Berrigan Shire Council
Cr. Dallas Tout	Mayor	Wagga Wagga City Council
Jonathan Malota	Policy Advisor – Transport & Data	NRMA
Brad Byrnes	GM	Cabonne Council
Cr. Jamie Jones	Deputy Mayor	Cabonne Council
Stephen Gardiner	Advocacy Manager	Wollondilly Shire Council
Cr. Mayor Gould	Mayor	Wollondilly Shire Council
Cr. Darrell Tiemens	Mayor	Narrabri Shire Council
Eloise Chaplain	GM	Narrabri Shire Council
Cr. Russell Fitzpatrick	Mayor	Bega Valley Shire Council
Anthony McMahon	CEO	Bega Valley Shire Council
Cr Melissa Matters	Deputy Mayor	Kiama Municipal Council
Jane Stroud	CEO	Kiama Municipal Council
Cr. Paul Smith	Mayor	Cowra Council
Paul Devery	GM	Cowra Council
Cr. Peter Sharp	Mayor	Lockhart Shire Council
Cr. Sue Moore	Mayor	Singleton Council
Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr	GM	Singleton Council
Roger Bailey	Interim GM	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Counci
Cr. Bruce Reynolds	Mayor	Blayney Shire Council
Mark Dicker	GM	Blayney Shire Council
Cr. John Harvie	Mayor	Murray River Council
Stacy Williams	CEO	Murray River Council
Grant Baker	GM	Bland Shire Council
Cr. Lisa Minogue	Deputy Mayor	Bland Shire Council
Cr. Nick White	Deputy Mayor	Gilgandra Shire Council
David Neeves	GM	Gilgandra Shire Council
Cr. Jesse Fitzpatrick	Mayor	Wingecarribee Shire Council
Lisa Miscamble	GM	Wingecarribee Shire Council
Mark Griffioen	GM	Bellingen Shire Council
Cr. Leah Anderson	Mayor	Port Stephens Council
Cr. Eric Noakes	Mayor	Walcha Council
Stephen Parry	GM	Walcha Council
Cr. Des Kennedy	Mayor	Mid-Western Regional Council
Cr. Sharon Cadwallader	Mayor	Ballina Shire Council
Cr. Mathew Hatcher	Mayor	Eurobodalla Shire Mayor
Cr. Patricia White	Mayor	Shoalhaven City Council
Andrew Constance	CEO	Shoalhaven City Council
Cr. Julia Ham	Mayor	Snowy Valleys Council
Jessica Quilty	GM	Snowy Valleys Council
Cr. Trina Thomson	Councillor	Snowy Valleys Council
Cr. Robert Taylor	Mayor	Bathurst Regional Council
Robert Fish	GM	Port Macquarie Hastings Council
Cr. Robert Mustow	Mayor	Richmond Valley Council
Vaughan Macdonald	GM	Richmond Valley Council
Kate Barker	EO	Central NSW JO
Meredith Macpherson	Manager of Water & Regional Development	Central NSW JO
Katie McDonell	Community Solutions Manager	RDN
Hamdy Amrizal	Program Lead, Knowledge Mobilisation	RDN

Zoe Honeysett	Director, Apprentices & Trainees Program	OLG
Louise Taylor	Council Engagement Manager	OLG
Katrina Annis-Brown	Council Engagement Manager	OLG
Cr. Susannah Pearse	Mayor	Moree Plains Shire Council
Natasha Cowley	GM	Moree Plains Shire Council
Cr. Lachlan Ford	Mayor	Bourke Shire Council
Leonie Brown	GM	Bourke Shire Council
Cr. Josh Black	Mayor	Dubbo Regional Council
Cr. Steve Krieg	Mayor	Lismore City Council
Cr. Jeri Hall	Deputy Mayor	Lismore City Council
Cr. Katie Graham	Deputy Mayor	Oberon Council
Gary Wallace	GM	Oberon Council
Cr. Bronwyn Petrie	Mayor	Tenterfield Shire Council
Cr. Darcy Byrne	President	LGNSW
David Reynolds	CEO	LGNSW
Bronwen Regan		LGNSW

Apologies

Cr. Digby Rayward	Mayor	Dungog Shire Council
Gareth Curtis	GM	Dungog Shire Council
David Webb	GM	Hay Shire Council
Cr. Carol Oataway	Mayor	Hay Shire Council
Cr. Kenrick Winchester	Mayor	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
Rebecca Ryan	GM	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
Luke Ryan	GM	Dubbo Regional Council
Eric Groth	GM	Gunnedah Shire Council
Cr. Sam Coupland	Mayor	Armidale Regional Council
Cr. Adam Shultz	Mayor	Lake Macquarie City Council
Tony Farrell	CEO	Lake Macquarie City Council
Cr. Danielle Mulholland OAM	Mayor	Kyogle Council
Cr. Abb McCalister	Mayor	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council
Cr. Cameron McDonald	Mayor	Kiama Municipal Council
Adrian Butler	GM	Federation Council
Brad Cam	GM	Mid-Western Regional Council
Cr. Maurice Collison		Upper Hunter Shire Council
Greg McDonald	GM	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Ken Cudmore	Mayor	Liverpool Plains Shire Council
Cian Middleton	GM	Liverpool Plains Shire Council
Cr. Daniel Linklater	Mayor	Wentworth Shire Council
Ken Ross	GM	Wentworth Shire Council
Cr. Bob Callow	Mayor	Junee Shire Council
Jay Nankivell	GM	Broken Hill City Council
Cr. Brian Monaghan	Mayor	Bland Shire Council
Cr. Steve Allan	Mayor	Bellingen Shire Council
Cr. Kevin Beatty	Mayor	Cabonne Council
Cr. Dave McCann OAM	Mayor	Coolamon Shire Council

Recommendation: that the apologies be accepted and noted.

Moved by Mayor Phyllis Miller OAM (Forbes Shire). Seconded by Mayor John Medcalf OAM (Lachlan Shire). Carried unanimously.

3. Adoption of Minutes from 27 March 2026 meeting
Recommendation: that the 27 March 2026 Minutes be accepted as a true record

Moved by Mayor Kate Dight (Inverell Shire). Seconded by Mayor Jasmin Jones (Yass Valley Council). Carried unanimously.

4. Matters arising from 27 March 2026 Minutes

Nil

5. Urgent Inland Rail Motion

That the CMA Board make urgent representations to the Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, The Hon Catherine King MP:

1. To express NSW CMA's disappointment in the cessation of the Inland Rail Project.

2. To seek urgent clarification on the next steps in relation to the scaling back of the project.

3. To seek appropriate compensation and support measures for contractors, businesses and councils that have incurred significant sunk costs and undertaken substantial planning and investment in preparation for the project.

4. To seek clarification on how impacted rural, remote and regional communities in NSW, and associated planned infrastructure and economic development opportunities, will be supported moving forward.

5. That a delegation of affected NSW Country Mayors Association Mayors seek an urgent meeting with Minister King to discuss the impacts of the project's cessation on regional communities, councils and local economies.

Moved by Mayor Ewen Jones (Narromine Shire). Seconded by Mayor Darrell Tiemens (Narrabri Shire). Carried unanimously.

General Meeting Suspended

Presentations

CMA Chairman Mayor Firman presented immediate past Chairman, Emeritus Mayor Mr. Jamie Chaffey MP with a badge, honouring him as a CMA Patron.
Mayor Firman said that the CMA is a strong and politically influential representative body because of the work of our recent leaders and it's important to acknowledge that.
Mr Chaffey said this honour and role is a privilege he is proud of, "as is representing your interests in Canberra".

Presentation: NSW Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, the Hon. Steve Whan MP

We have worked hard to put TAFE back in the heart of the skills sector of NSW. There has been a 23% increase to TAFE's budget since we came into Government. Importantly, 87% of TAFE teachers are now permanent, which is a big increased and a real positive. I am proud that there is about $23Bil in the skills budget.
The NSW State nominated skilled migration programs continue to bring much needed skills into our regions from overseas.

A thank-you gift was presented to Minister Whan by CMA Deputy Chairman, Mayor Russell Fitzpatrick (Bega Valley Shire).

Presentation: NSW Shadow Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, Mr. Justin Clancy MP
Young people are lacking career confidence.
Our apprentice numbers are at their lowest since 2020.
Only about half of our apprentices complete their training. It is not just a funding issue; it's a system design issue.

A thank-you gift was presented to Mr. Clancy by CMA Board Member, Mayor Russell Webb (Tamworth Regional Council).

Presentation: The Welcome Experience
Mr. Craig Jenkins (Acting Executive Director, Regional Economic Delivery), DPIRD
The Welcome Experience is a free personalised settlement support program, established in 2023, in responses to essential worker shortages.
Local connectors help individuals and their families with holistic settlement, including housing, partner employment and education. 88 LGAs are now included and funding has been extended for a further 12 months. 3,400 essential workers have been supported as of this week. Over 6,000 people in total supported in regional NSW.

[Presentation supplied to members]

A thank-you gift was presented to Mr. Jenkins by CMA Board Member, Mayor Sue Moore (Singleton Council).

Presentation: Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) South Eastern Section CEO Mr. Greg Sam

There are 1.8mil people in the RFDS safety net. The 90th anniversary is occurring later in May.
Community interest is at our core, as should be the case for any charity. Not just emergency but also, dental and mental health services.
RFDS has a training role.
Value of the Service is calculated at $11 Billion over 10 years.
We continue to advocate for core funding. I ask for your help and support, calling on the NSW Government for $15mil in funding. Your valuable contribution will make a difference.

A thank-you gift was presented to Mr. Sam by CMA Board Member, Mayor John Medcalf OAM (Lachlan Shire).

Presentation: CSU Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Renée Leon
- on the importance of Regional Universities in NSW

What keeps you up at night is what to do if you lose your last doctor or nurse. Regional universities are key to addressing those challenges. It's a deliberate pipeline.
Regional NSW is expected to grow by 600,000 by 2045. Nearly 80% of our graduates go on work and live in regional – about -7,500 in the last year.
It costs more to run a regional university. The regional loading does not cover it. Cost of delivery is 12-25% higher but regional loading is about 3%.
Our struggles are your struggles. We seek your support.

A thank-you gift was presented to Prof. Leon by CMA Board Member, Mayor Josh Black (Dubbo Regional Council).

MORNING TEA in Fountain Courtyard – this valued networking opportunity had a colour boost, thanks to RFDS photo booths.

Before proceedings recommenced, Members held up signs of support for the RFDS for photo.

Presentation: Office of Local Government Deputy Secretary, Mr. Brett Whitworth PSM

Over 1,000 people into the Local Government sector thanks to the $252mil Fresh Start for Local Government program. Funding 1,300 cadetships, apprenticeships and trainees. Also to fund workforce capacity and capabilities. 15% / 100 Aboriginal people employed through the program.
91% of NSW Councils have said they experience skill shortages.

Talk to Zoe Honeysett - Director, Apprentices & Trainees Program, about the Fresh Start program.

Supervisor workshops are coming up.
Electric vehicle upskilling, including Council mechanics – important, given the fuel price crisis.
Grant apps round 4 open mid-year.

A thank-you gift was presented to Mr. Whitworth by CMA Board Member, Mayor Phyllis Miller (Dubbo Regional Council).

Chairman of the NSW Grants Commission Ms Linda Scott gave an impromptu talk, with which she foreshadowed visits to the regions to gather input on a new formula for FAGs distribution. Initial dates:

- 6 August - Queanbeyan
- 14 August – Coffs Harbour
- 13 September - Maitland
- 14 September - Griffith
- 15 September - Dubbo
- 16 September - Webinar

Members requested further visits to the west of the Newell Highway, such as Cobar and it was taken on notice.

Chairman, Mayor Firman asked Mayor Colleen Fuller (Gunnedah Shire) what her OAM meant to her.
Speaking from the heart, Mayor Fuller said 'It is about a team, our community.'.

LGNSW President Darcy Byrne commended Mayors who presented at the summit and requested suggestion for the next summit.

Presentation: NSW Premier, The Hon Chris Minns MP

I appreciate the opportunity to address this conference. Thanks to Rick and all of you. I am indebted to you for the local expertise you provide, especially through the Premier's Rural, Remote and Regional Advisory Council (PRRRAC).

It is a steep learning curve after 12 years out of Government and we genuinely appreciate the guidance from Rick and the CMA.

I only received the drought resilience report from Dr. Colbran yesterday, so I haven't read it yet. We are going to digest that report. With over 60% of the State in drought, it is timely.

In emergencies, politics takes a back seat, especially in country Council areas. You do it for the love of your community. It's genuine civic leadership.

Mayor Firman: Invest in Us - your position?
A: I'm in favour of the 1% and always have been. It is/would be money well spent.

We need your help re GST distribution. We need a statewide campaign.
We (in NSW) now receive 83c for every dollar we send to Canberra. Victoria receives $1.07. - an additional $1.5bil. plus. The WA Government is rolling cash. They just gave everyone there $700.

GENERAL MEETING RESUMES

Correspondence (since 26 March, 2026)

Outwards

To	Subject
The Hon. Anthony Albanese MP Prime Minister of Australia	Inequitable GST Distribution
The Hon. Steve Whan MP Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education Parliament of NSW	Invitation to Speak at the 8 May Meeting
Mr. Brett Whitworth PSM Deputy Secretary, Local Government NSW Office of Local Government	Invitation to Speak at the 8 May Meeting
Mr. Justin Clancy MP NSW Shadow Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education	Invitation to Speak at the 8 May Meeting
Mr Ron Dowell	Condolences for the passing of his late wife, former NSW Local Government icon, Jenny Dowell OAM

The Hon. Yasmin Catley MP, NSW Police Minister	Gun law reforms – CMA consultation
NSW Premier, The Hon Chris Minns MP	PFAS costs
NSW Premier, The Hon Chris Minns MP	The need for State and Federal Governments to appreciate the Local Government Financial Sustainability struggle
NSW Treasurer, The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC	PFAS costs
NSW Treasurer, The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC	The need for State and Federal Governments to appreciate the Local Government Financial Sustainability struggle
NSW Treasurer, The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC	GST Distribution and the CMA Federal Submission
NSW Premier, The Hon Chris Minns MP	GST Distribution and the CMA Federal Submission
NSW Minister for Local Government, The Hon Ron Hoenig MP	The need for State and Federal Governments to appreciate the Local Government Financial Sustainability struggle
NSW Minister for Water, The Hon Rose Jackson MLC	PFAS costs
NSW Planning Minister, The Hon Paul Scully MP	Councillor Representation on Local Planning Panels
Emeritus Mayor Ken Keith Emeritus Mayor Jamie Chaffey MP Emeritus Mayor Katrina Humphries	Notification of their CMA Patron status
Newcastle Lord Mayor Gavin Morris	Congratulating him on his election
Federal Minister for the Arts, The Hon Tony Burke MP	National Cultural Policy: Representation from Regional Australia and Local Government
NSW Minister for Local Government, The Hon Ron Hoenig MP	Advocating for the inclusion of a member of the Western Division of Councils in his Expert Advisory Panel.

Inwards

From	Note / Action
Byron Shire Mayor Sarah Ndiaye	Request for urgent lobbying to oppose the current version of the Crown Land Management Amendment (Statutory Review) Bill
Bourke Shire Council Mayor Lachlan Ford	CC'd Ministerial request for small business assistance due to the fuel crisis impacts.
Mr. Jamie Chaffey Shadow Assistant Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories. Shadow Assistant Minister for Resources	Introducing himself in his latest roles.
Mr. Luke Sloane, Deputy Secretary, Rural and Regional Health	Thanking the CMA for input into the NSW Health Multipurpose Health Service Strategy
NSW Planning Minister the Hon Paul Scully	Response to CMA planning reforms correspondence.
NSW Emergency Services Minister the Hon Jihad Dib MP	Response to CMA correspondence re the Government's response to the Red Fleet Inquiry
Gabby Taylor RBIA Coordinator Registered Lobbyist	Regional Banking Investment Alliance update re campaign - a cost sharing model, where big banks whose branch investment in regional areas falls short continue to support regional communities, either directly by opening branches, or through funding.
Waverley Council Mayor Will Nemesh	Notifying CMA of his Council's position re the Code of Meeting Practice and the rules against remote participation.
NSW Treasurer, The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC	Thanking CMA for our letter and collaboration re GST Distribution and the Federal Review.

Recommendation: That the correspondence be received and noted.

Moved by Mayor John Medcalf OAM (Lachlan Shire). Seconded by Mayor Colleen Fuller. (Gunnedah Shire). Carried unanimously.

MEDIA RELEASES

NSW Country Mayors congratulate new Nationals leadership team

Country Mayors draw out political big guns

NSW Country Mayors Welcome Reopening of Inquiry

Country Mayors renew vows with LGNSW

Eugowra people, Cabonne Council honoured for Inland Tsunami response

COUNTRY MAYORS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW – A BIG WEEK OF COLLABORATION

CMA backs Dr. McGirr's Rural Health Action Plan

No quick fix for NSW Red Fleet Ownership

NSW Country Mayors react to Bondi shooting

Legislation on Guns and Public Assembly too Rushed

NSW Country Mayors react to new look State Shadow Ministry

VALE DAME MARIE BASHIR

CMA discusses GST Review with NSW Premier and Treasurer

Welcome recognition for country NSW Council luminaries

CMA and NSW Emergency Services Minister progress Red Fleet issue

Emergency Services Levy a NSW Government responsibility

NSW Government drought response a good start

NSW Country Mayors welcome LG Expert Advisory Panel

NSW Premier and Country Mayors brainstorm

NSW COUNTRY MAYORS: TIME FOR NSW TO GET ITS' FAIR SHARE OF THE GST

NSW Country Mayors mourn Ray Donald OAM

Recommendation: **That the media releases be received and noted.**
Moved by Mayor Sarah Ndiaye (Byron Shire). Seconded by Mayor Cheryl Cook (Federation Council).
Carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Report from CMA Chairman Mayor Rick Firman OAM

The Chairman thanked members for their support of the Invest In Us campaign. He also discussed the

Mayor Julia Ham said she would like the PRRRAC report to advocate that drought be considered a natural disaster.

Recommendation: **That the Report be received and noted.**
Moved by: Mayor Phyllis Miller OAM (Forbes Shire Council).
Seconded by: Mayor John Harvie (Murray River Council)

– carried unanimously.

Finance Report – Ms. Melissa Boxall (CMA Secretary)

Recommendation: **That the Report be received and noted, as read.**
Moved by: Mayor Paul Smith (Cowra Council).
Seconded by: Mayor Nina Dillon (Goulburn Mulwaree Council)
– carried unanimously

Report from the President of ALGA, Mayor Matt Burnett

Recommendation: **That the Report be received and noted, as read.**
Moved by: Mayor Phyllis Miller OAM (Forbes Shire Council).
Seconded by: Mayor Sarah Ndiaye (Byron Shire)
– carried unanimously.

Report from President of LGNSW – Mayor Darcy Byrne

Mayor Byrne spoke to his report:

Recommendation: **That the Report be received and noted.**
Moved by: Mayor Louie Zaffina (Balranald Shire).
Seconded by: Mayor Nina Dillon (Goulburn Mulwaree 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.**

Moved by: Mayor Sue Moore (Singleton Council).
Seconded by: Mayor Russell Webb (Tamworth Regional Council).
– carried unanimously.

Recommendation: That the recommendations contained in the Policy Advisor's Report be adopted.
Moved by: Mayor Cheryl Cook (Federation Council).
Seconded by: Mayor Julia Ham (Snowy Valleys Council).
– carried unanimously.

Business with Notice

CMA Board Recommendations:

That the CMA have a position of support and welcoming hospitality for people of all faiths and different cultural backgrounds in rural, remote and regional NSW. Further, that this position be promoted.

Moved by: Mayor Sarah Ndiaye (Byron Shire)
Seconded by: Mayor Paul Culhane (Upper Lachlan Shire)
– carried unanimously.

That the CMA Members endorse the Board's motions of support for the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS)
Moved by: Mayor Phyllis Miller OAM (Forbes Shire)
Seconded by: Mayor John Medcalf OAM (Lachlan Shire)
– carried unanimously.

Urgent business without notice

Nil

Without any further business, Chairman, Mayor Firman declared the CMA General Meeting closed at 12:50 pm

A tutorial on accessing the data from the CMA-RDN Rural Health Access Survey for those who can stay on was conducted by CMA Policy Advisor Mrs Julie Briggs, RDN Community Solutions Manager Mrs Katie McDonell and RDN Health Data Analyst and Program Lead Mr Hamdy Amrizal.

The next CMA meeting will be in Ballina on 2 July 2026.

Theme: Roads, Transport and Disaster Recovery

21) REPORT OF THE CENTRAL NSW JOINT ORGANISATION BOARD MEETING HELD 27 MAY 2026

Department: Executive Services

Author: Councillor Bruce 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 recent Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) Board Meeting held 27 May 2026.

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 27 May 2026 in Sydney.

Mayor Cr 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 Delegate Report	10 Pages
2	Central NSW Joint Organisation Draft Minutes	8 Pages
3	Central NSW Joint Organisation Quarterly Newsletter	10 Pages

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

Report from the Mayor and General Manager attending the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting on 27 May 2026 in Sydney

Recommendation/s
That Council note the report from the Mayor and General Manager on the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) Board meeting on 27 May 2026 in Sydney

This report provides advice from the recent meeting of the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board held in Sydney on 27 May 2026.

Presentations were received from:

- Liverpool City Council and NSW Dept of Primary Industries and Regional Development on the Western Sydney International Airport and how the region can leverage opportunities
- Penrith City Council regarding the Castlereagh Corridor Business Case, and
- Transport for NSW on the Great Western Highway issue

Further detail on reports to the meeting are below. The agenda can be found on the CNSWJO website: www.centraljo.nsw.gov.au/business-papers-agendas/

Please contact Executive Officer, Ms Kate Barker, on 0428 604 513 with any queries.





Images: CNSWJO Board meeting in Sydney on 27 May 2026

NSW Parliament Visit

The Board attended State Parliament in Sydney on 28 May 2026 and met with an excellent line-up of local Members, State Ministers and MLCs.

The Board met with:

- The Hon. Courtney Houssos MLC- Minister for Domestic, Manufacturing and Government Procurement, and for Natural Resources
- The Hon. Jihad Dib MP- Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government and for Emergency Services
- The Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC- Minister for Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Heritage
- The Hon. Paul Scully MP- Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

- The Hon. Ryan Park MP- NSW Minister for Health and for Regional Health
- The Hon. Jenny Aitchison MP- Minister for Roads and Regional Transport
- The Hon. Ron Hoenig MP- Minister for Loval Government
- The Hon. Tara Moriarty MLC- Minister for Agriculture, and for Regional NSW and Western NSW
- Mr Roy Butler MP- Member for Barwon
- Mr Phil Donato, MP- Member for Orange
- The Hon Paul Toole, MP- Member for Bathurst
- Mr Scott Barrett, MLC

Unfortunately Minister Rose Jackson, Minister Janelle Saffin and Minister Prue Car were apologies on the day.

The Mayors of the CNSWJO region have been meeting in Parliament House in Sydney for the past decade. The event provides an important opportunity for the region to hear the vision of the NSW Government, for Ministers to receive feedback from this region and to discuss the priorities of the communities.

20267/2027 Statement of Budget and Revenue

The Board adopted the 20267/2027 Statement of Budget and Revenue, which can be found on the JO's website.

Executive Officer Recruitment

A report was received by the Board concluding the recruitment process for the Executive Officer. Ms Kate Barker was congratulated on her appointment to the role.

Shared ARIC

The CNSWJO has been working alongside the Hunter JO and the Illawarra Shoalhaven JO to form a shared Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee. The Board endorsed the independent members of the ARIC.

Cr Bruce Reynolds, Mayor of Blayney, will represent the CNSWJO as the Non-Voting Member.

The first meeting of the ARIC is due to be held on 18 June.

Procurement

CNSWJO continues to grow its contract offering to member councils, with the following procurement underway:

- Solar asset audit, following by solar asset maintenance
- Destination marketing services
- Project management services panel
- Asset management of sewer pipes
- Restocking of first aid kits and maintenance of fire extinguishers
- Traffic control services
- Bitumen emulsion.

Advocacy

Health
The Position Statement for Priority 3: Health and Ageing was endorsed by the Board at this meeting.

The Board also resolved to:

- write to Dr Joe McGirr MP in support of the *Better Care, Closer to Home Alliance* campaign and *Rural Health Action Plan*, and
- write to LGNSW in support of the *"Caring for our regions" Action Plan on for Rural and Regional Health*.

Transport
Following the recent Commonwealth Government announcement to discontinue the Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail project north of Parkes, the CNSWJO responded through the Chair with a media release on behalf of member councils, expressing deep concern about the decision, which came without warning and has significant implications for the region.

The media released reinforced that Inland Rail has long been considered nationally significant infrastructure underpinning freight capacity, investment confidence and long-term regional economic resilience. It also highlighted concerns about the way the decision was made, including the lack of transparency and engagement with regional communities on infrastructure of this scale.

The advocacy position statement for transport was updated to include additional wording around:

- strengthening the Board's position on Inland Rail, supporting reinstatement of funding for the full Melbourne to Brisbane corridor, and
- reaffirming the need for increased passenger rail connectivity between Sydney and the Central West.

The Board agreed to write to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, expressing disappointment and concern in relation to the cancellation of the Inland Rail north of Parkes and seeking the reinstatement of funding to complete the Parkes to Brisbane sections of the Inland Rail project as originally committed.

Correspondence has been sent to the Minister for Roads and Regional Transport, along with the Executive Director Partnerships and Integration at Transport for NSW in relation to the Sydney to Central West Corridor White Paper. The feedback focused on:

- Shift from planning to delivery- moving beyond repeated studies and commit to clear, staged implementation of upgrades.
- Corridor not fit for purpose- the current road conditions create congestion, safety risks, and unreliable travel times that limit productivity.
- State-significant role – the corridor is critical to NSW's economy, freight network, and connection between regional areas and Sydney.
- Resilience and reliability – the infrastructure lacks redundancy and is vulnerable to disruptions, requiring proactive long-term planning.
- Western Sydney Airport impact underestimated- future demand from the airport is not adequately planned for, risking missed opportunities.
- Freight efficiency and policy alignment – there needs to be clearer alignment with freight policy and upgrades to support modern freight vehicles.
- Road design constraints (grades & emissions) – the steep grades reduce efficiency, increase emissions, and pose safety issues.
- Tourism impacts – the poor corridor performance undermines visitor experience and regional tourism growth.

- Rail and multimodal gaps – the limited rail capacity increases reliance on roads, highlighting need for a stronger integrated freight network.

The Board agreed to develop a strategy for advocacy in relation to the Great Western Highway, highlighting its strategic importance and to advocate for ongoing investment. This was particularly pertinent in respect to the presentation on the opportunities to be leveraged through the Western Sydney Airport.

Drought
As of 11 May 2026, 63.4% of the Central Tablelands is drought affected with conditions forecast to intensify.

Key advocacy messages endorsed by the Board for drought include:

- recognition of drought in the State Disaster Mitigation Plan (SDMP) to reflect Central NSW's diverse risks,
- explicit inclusion of Water Supply and Sewer Assets in State and Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding. This is contingent on recognition of drought as a disaster, and
- reinstatement of the Regional Town Water Supply Coordinator to manage critical water shortages in drought.

Submissions
The following submissions have been lodged since the last meeting, and were endorsed by the Board:

- Submission to the Department of Housing Planning and Infrastructure (DPHI) New Approach to Strategic Planning,
- Submission to the Department of Housing Planning and Infrastructure (DPHI) on the Climate Change and Natural Hazards State Environmental Planning Policy (Explanation of Intended Effect),
- Submission to the Federal Productivity Commission on National Water Reform 2026, and
- Submission to the Murray Darling Basin Plan Review 2026

Great Western Highway Detour Support – "Other Ways to the West"

In response to requests from member councils and recognising the need to address fragmented messaging associated with the detour of the Great Western Highway at Victoria Pass ahead of the Easter long weekend, the Central NSW Joint Organisation led the development of the *Other Ways to the West* marketing campaign. The campaign was established in collaboration with member councils, Destination Network Central West, Business NSW (Western) and RDA Central West to respond to the significant and ongoing regional impacts of the detour.

Launched on 20 March, the *Other Ways to the West* campaign aims to reassure travellers that the region is accessible, open and ready to welcome visitors- despite a road detour on the Great Western Highway at Victoria Pass. It directly addresses community and visitor confusion about ways to get to the region and reframes the routes as a scenic road trip opportunity.

The campaign includes a toolkit that shows stakeholders how to use the messaging in their marketing. It has been widely shared by CNSWJO Tourism Managers and other partners with businesses and tourism operators for use on social and digital channels. The toolkit includes logos, images and suggested travel routes into the region. The toolkit is available here. All other assets can be found at Visit Central NSW: https://www.visitcentralnsw.com.au/





Regional Prosperity

Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Planning System Reforms) Act 2025

On 17 March, the CNSWJO facilitated a session in Bathurst attended by 29 representatives from 10 member councils to examine the NSW Planning Reforms. The session provided elected representatives, General Mand planners with clear insights into the proposed reforms and their implications for regional councils. It was led by planning specialist Mr Paul Crennan OAM, with input from Cr Phyllis Miller, regional NSW representative on the Planning Minister's Planning Systems Reform Reference Group. The session was well received and generated constructive discussion. CNSWJO will continue to support regional planners through further engagement as the reforms progress.

The Welcome Experience

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) has advised that Skillset's contract to deliver *The Welcome Experience* in the Central West has been extended to 30 June 2027.

From 1 July 2026, the program will also be expanded to include the previously excluded LGAs of Forbes, Cabonne and Blayney, following advocacy by CNSWJO on behalf of member councils.

Between September 2024 and January 2025, Skillset supported the relocation of 159 essential workers and 341 family members to the Central West. As part of the expanded contract, Skillset will increase its Local Connector workforce from one to three positions, with staff based in Orange, Parkes and Bathurst to improve local coverage across the region.

Renewable Energy Community Benefit Sharing

The Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia (SEGRA) Foundation's National Summit was held in Lithgow on 25-26 March. In addition to sponsoring the *Big Ideas Panel*, CNSWJO co-hosted an invitation-only *New Horizons* workshop with the Lithgow Emerging Economy Project (LEEP) on 24 March.

The purpose of the *New Horizons* workshop was to develop a draft set of shared principles to guide community and social benefit expectations for renewable energy development (usually State Significant Development (SSD)) outside Renewable Energy Zones (REZs). The workshop sought to bring together elected representatives, council staff, and regional leaders to strengthen collective leverage and reduce fragmented, project-by-project Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) negotiations with developers.

The ten draft shared principles agreed by attendees are listed below. The Board endorsed the Event Report.

1. Statement of Expectations/Rules of Engagement: Councils can set expectations about how developers engage with communities and the bare minimum requirements for Planning Agreement negotiations.
2. Clear distinction is needed between payments that go towards accommodating the development, offsetting the impacts of development, and providing additional benefits to the community.
3. When projects and their impacts affect more than one LGA – as is usually the case with State Significant Development whether they are in REZs or not – it is incumbent on the State and Federal Governments to provide financial and other supports to identify, plan for, and mitigate cumulative impacts.
4. 'Benefits' should benefit everyone because developers understand the value in what they are contributing and are reassured on outcomes, communities have agency in how outcomes are decided and delivered, and councils are meaningfully serving their communities.
5. With community input, councils are to define 'benefits' and how Community Benefit Sharing funds can tangibly deliver on these benefits.
6. Community Benefit Funds should be for items/outcomes that communities need, expect, and want, but these items go beyond what councils can directly deliver.
7. Councils do not want to be saddled with non-legacy infrastructure and assets and their associated maintenance costs.
8. Community Benefit Sharing plans need to have links to established plans, e.g. Community Strategic Plans, Housing Strategies, Local Strategic Planning Statements.
9. Councils must be able to pool funds from multiple and disparate Community Benefit Sharing arrangements/VPAs into a centralised Community Benefit Sharing Fund, to optimise council's ability to deliver genuinely beneficial, legacy projects/initiatives/infrastructure.
10. A regional Community Benefit Sharing Framework provides the tools, but not the requirement, for local councils to adopt a particular approach to Community Benefit Sharing and VPA negotiations.

Health

Health Workforce Policy Lab

At the request of the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) Board, and in collaboration with Charles Strurt University (CSU), a Policy Lab on Regional Health Workforce was held in Orange on 5

March 2026. The Policy Lab provided Councillors and staff from member councils across the region with an opportunity to collaboratively discuss the challenges and opportunities for regional communities in relation to health workforce.

The event culminated in the development of the event report, synthesising discussion and a refined set of advocacy position statements for the CNSWJO Board's consideration and endorsement.

The following actions have been identified as what councils and/or the Joint Organisation can do, mostly centred around advocacy:

1. consider joining Dr Joe McGirr MP's "Better Care, Closer to Home" Alliance,
2. collaborate with other Joint Organisations and other regional local government bodies, and councils to align regional initiatives and messaging,
3. work with key stakeholders to clarify roles and responsibilities between council, health services and partners at the local level by undertaking a mapping exercise with key stakeholders, and
4. work with key stakeholders to develop a graphic showing local governments role vs what local governments are delivering in relation to health services

The Board endorsed the event report including the above actions.

CSU Medical Scholarship

Following the success of the initial scholarships awarded to three CSU medical students, the CNSWJO Board resolved at its May 2025 meeting to fund scholarships for an additional three students. To maintain a steady pipeline of graduating recipients, the scholarships have been staggered across future years, enabling one graduate to receive a scholarship each year. Each scholarship is for $6k per student per year.

The recipients of the 3 scholarships in 2026 include:

- Brett Causer - 1st year student / 5 year scholarship
- Joseph Pearce - 4th year student / 2 year scholarship
- Tabitha Jones - 5th year student / 1 year scholarship

Telecommunications

The Board has previously endorsed the development of a Regional Digital Plan, including individual LGA plans, to be delivered in partnership with nbn Local, Regional Development Australia Central West (RDACW) and other providers, including Telstra.

The Plan aligns with the Statement of Strategic Regional Plan (SSRP) Priority Four, supporting collaboration with RDACW to improve telecommunications outcomes. It will inform a regional Position Statement and advocacy priorities to:

- Future-proof regional telecommunications;
- Ensure long-term broadband accessibility;
- Support adequate workforce capacity; and
- Improve mobile phone coverage across the region.

The Regional Digital Plan will establish a baseline of digital connectivity, identify regional priorities, and provide a coordinated framework for advocacy on behalf of Central NSW communities. Based on the Mid-Western Regional Council Digital Plan, it will be prepared for external distribution, cover a three-year horizon, be updated annually, and include agreed actions and an implementation roadmap.

Of note is the announcement by Communications Minister Anika Wells of a new industry standard developed by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) which for the first time sets uniform signal strength thresholds for how telcos advertise their coverage to consumers. Taking effect on 30 June, this will force Telstra to strip about 1 million square kilometres from its mobile coverage maps – an area about the size on NSW- and a third of its claimed coverage.

Endorsement of the Regional Digital Plan will be sought at the Board's August meeting.

Water

NSW Australian Water Association Award
The CNSWJO's Water Loss Management and Efficiency Hub Project won the Organisational Excellence Award at the Australian Water Association's NSW Heads of Water Gala Dinner on 13 March 2026. The award recognises outstanding leadership, collaboration and innovation in the NSW water sector.

This award reflects a decade of work that has shaped the current WLME project, supported by strong relationships, trust, and collaboration between the Water Utilities Alliance and NSW DCCEEW. These long-standing partnerships have enabled the delivery of meaningful outcomes and continue to innovate.

Climate Change Mitigation – Net Zero

EVenturemap
The public launch of EVenturemap commenced on 13 April 2026 in response to ongoing fuel supply challenges and strong alignment with regional visitor-economy initiatives such as *Other Ways to the West*.

EVenturemap operates statewide, with CNSWJO leading the project on behalf of a collaboration of Joint Organisations. The tool draws from a NSW Government EV-charger database and the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse, with the Central NSW region well positioned to leverage the tool alongside existing destination-marketing campaigns.

Circular Economy Initiatives
On 19 February 2026, CNSWJO supported RDA Central West to deliver the Circular Economy Precinct Accelerator Workshop in Orange. Facilitated by Circular Australia, the workshop brought together councils, industry and community stakeholders to explore circular-economy concepts in a Central West context.

Following the workshop, CNSWJO's Executive Officer will co-chair the emerging Circular Economy Precinct working group, continuing to work with RDA Central West and Circular Australia to support coordination, capability-building and next steps toward precinct development.

Climate Change Adaptation- Regional Resilience

Disaster Adaptation Plan update
The following is a summary of key activities that are underway through the development of the Central NSW Disaster Adaptation Plan (DAP) by the NSW Reconstruction Authority, with CNSWJO continuing to provide support to member councils.

- Infrastructure Resilience and Community Impacts Assessment (IRCIA) - Builds on earlier work in Central NSW, using a systems-based approach to better understand how infrastructure failures impact communities across different hazard scenarios, supporting improved risk identification and future investment planning.

- Field surveys to strengthen disaster risk intelligence - Collects detailed building and asset data to improve the accuracy of risk modelling and address key data gaps in the region.
- Community sentiment research - Engages communities to understand priorities, risk awareness and attitudes to disaster adaptation, informing future engagement and planning activities.
- Local adaptation engagement (Adaptation Stories and Conversations) - Includes short films, community events and discussions to showcase local resilience and gather insights to support adaptation planning.

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

Value for members

The following table provides a snapshot of the highlight quantitative KPIs as identified in the SSRP.

Highlight KPIs	Q1 (Jul-Sept)	Q2 (Oct-Dec)	Q3 (Jan-Mar)	Q4 (Apr-Jun)	Total for FY
# new contracts	3	1	3		7
$ income through contract management fees	$136,859	$76,082	$105,602		$318,543
$ spent by member councils	$5,866,394	$8,749,736	$6,672,478		$21,288,608
$ saved for member councils	$312,389	$255,610	$649,006		$1,217,005
# training courses delivered	1	0	2		3
# staff/Councillors trained	18	0	36		54
$ grant funding applied for	$6,293,687	$0	$0		$6,293,687
$ grant funding received	$85,780	$0	$0		$85,780
# submissions	3	4	5		12
# media releases	11	3	3		17
# contractors inducted through online WHS program	215	307	228		750
# regional team meetings	18	18	18		54
# PR activities through tourism program	48	9	36		93

Spend on aggregated contracts

The following table and graph show the spend by member councils under regional contracts facilitated by CNSWJO for the 2025/26 FYTD:

SPEND	Water Utilities Alliance Contracts	HR Contracts	WHS contracts	Supply contracts	Energy contracts	RDOCS contracts	Training	Total
Bathurst	$375,219	$61,722	$0	$1,038,320	$2,806,977	$20,852	$1,475	**$4,304,565**
Blayney	$0	$14,961	$0	$257,223	$240,735	$5,650	$5,360	**$523,929**
Cabonne	$0	$20,381	$0	$1,023,951	$294,225	$0	$7,625	**$1,346,183**
Central Tablelands Water	$0	$4,459	$0	$37,111	$351,134	$0	$0	**$392,705**
Cowra	$273,883	$26,330	$5,579	$657,534	$854,627	$0	$8,385	**$1,826,337**
Forbes	$788,300	$37,655	$0	$1,210,097	$898,106	$8,623	$3,590	**$2,946,372**
Lachlan	$0	$18,888	$0	$641,520	$594,379	$0	$4,290	**$1,259,077**
Lithgow	$0	$16,925	$0	$614,053	$6	$0	$2,090	**$633,074**
Oberon	$0	$13,617	$5,101	$365,739	$212,063	$5,465	$0	**$601,986**
Orange	$1,211,986	$105,074	$38,372	$536,682	$3,117,121	$23,256	$11,990	**$5,044,481**
Parkes	$76,430	$6,645	$0	$840,289	$1,923,587	$20,173	$4,790	**$2,871,914**
Central Tablelands Weeds Authorit	$0	$297	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	**$297**
Weddin	$139,636	$12,186	$7,752	$292,121	$143,606	$4,524	$3,295	**$603,120**
Total	$2,865,455	$339,140	$56,804	$7,514,639	$11,436,567	$88,543	$52,890	$22,354,038

Savings on aggregated contracts and other programming

The following table and graph show the savings by member councils under regional contracts and other regional programs that create efficiencies for the 2025/26 FYTD:

SAVINGS	Water Utilities Alliance Contracts	HR Contracts	WHS contracts	IT contracts	Supply contracts	Roads/ Transport contracts	Energy contracts	Training	Legal advice re Procurement	Participation in regional procurement	Total
Bathurst	$19,748	$1,790	$0	$0	$27,192	$0	$53,477	$225	$5,495	$12,000	**$119,928**
Blayney	$0	$1,766	$0	$0	$5,792	$0	$11,456	$3,568	$5,495	$11,000	**$39,077**
Cabonne	$0	$0	$0	$0	$71,969	$0	$37,126	$225	$5,495	$8,000	**$122,815**
Central Tablelands Water	$0	$0	$0	$0	$4,123	$0	$6,804	$0	$1,760	$10,000	**$22,687**
Cowra	$18,294	$1,766	$2,391	$0	$12,418	$0	$40,954	$8,340	$5,495	$16,000	**$105,658**
Forbes	$41,489	$904	$0	$0	$144,331	$0	$61,513	$3,830	$5,495	$20,000	**$277,561**
Lachlan	$0	$1,183	$0	$0	$15,301	$0	$55,720	$2,459	$5,495	$20,000	**$100,158**
Lithgow	$0	$1,693	$0	$0	$9,914	$0	$0	$1,834	$5,495	$11,000	**$29,936**
Oberon	$0	$343	$2,186	$0	$4,918	$0	$19,418	$0	$5,495	$15,000	**$47,360**
Orange	$66,412	$3,658	$16,445	$0	$19,694	$0	$86,844	$6,455	$5,495	$10,000	**$215,003**
Parkes	$4,023	$665	$0	$0	$24,407	$0	$50,549	$100	$5,495	$12,000	**$97,238**
Central Tablelands Weeds A	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$1,760	$0	**$1,760**
Weddin	$8,319	$0	$3,322	$0	$15,161	$0	$8,961	$3,855	$5,495	$7,000	**$52,113**
Sub Total	**$158,285**	**$13,765**	**$24,345**	**$0**	**$355,219**	**$0**	**$432,822**	**$30,892**	**$63,965**	**$152,000**	**$1,231,293**
									Cost to members		**$315,750**
										Total	**$915,543**

Attachments

1. Draft Minutes of the CNSWJO Board meeting 27 May 2026.
2. CNSWJO Quarterly Newsletter – Edition 7 – June 2026

Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting on 27 May 2026 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 N Westcott**	Parkes Shire Council
Cr P Miller OAM	Forbes Shire Council	**Cr P Best**	Weddin Shire Council
Cr J Medcalf OAM	Lachlan Shire Council		

Associate Member delegates and others attending

Ms K Brock	Bathurst Regional Council	Cr A Rawson	Central Tablelands Water
Mr M Dicker	Blayney Shire Council	Mr C Harris	Central Tablelands Water
Mr B Byrnes	Cabonne Council	Cr B Fry	Central Tablelands Weeds
Mr P Devery	Cowra Shire Council	Mr M Jones	Central Tablelands Weeds
Mr S Dunshea	Forbes Shire Council	Mr J Gordon	RDACW
Mr I Greenham	Lachlan Shire Council	Mr Reg Kidd	RDACW
Mr R Gurney	Lithgow City Council	Ms K Annis-Brown	NSW OLG
Mr G Wallace	Oberon Council	Ms K Barker	CNSWJO
Mr S Maunder	Orange City Council	Ms M Macpherson	CNSWJO
Mr M Sykes	Weddin Shire Council	Ms C Griffin	CNSWJO
		Ms J Webber	CNSWJO

Voting members in **bold**

1 **Meeting opened** at 11.02am, Chaired by Cr K Beatty

2 **Acknowledgement of Country**

3 **Apologies** – Mr D Sherley, Ms G Collins, Cr Ruth Fagan

RESOLUTION 26/05- 3
Moved: Cr Andrew McKibbin
Seconded: Cr Cass Coleman

That the apologies for the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting 27 May 2026 be accepted.

CARRIED

4 **Conflicts of Interest**

RESOLUTION 26/05- 4
Moved: Cr Andrew McKibbin
Seconded: Cr John Medcalf

No conflicts of interest were declared.

CARRIED

5 **Speakers**

- Overview and update on Western Sydney Airport and opportunities for the region to leverage in relation to freight, produce and economic development
    - Mr Ricky Puata- A/Director, Regional Economic Development – Strategic Initiatives,

NSW Dept of Primary Industries and Regional Development
  - Ms Julie Scott- Head of Economic Development & Strategy, Liverpool City Council
  - Gaya Arasaratnam – Coordinator Business Development, Liverpool City Council
  - **Action**: coordinate a tour for the Board to the Business Park
- Transport for NSW – Update on Great Western Highway
  - Mr Damien Pfeiffer- Executive Director Partnership & Integration
  - Ms Lisa Anderson – Executive Director Road Asset and Program Services
- Penrith City Council – Progress on the Castlereagh Corridor Business Case
  - Cr Todd Carney, Mayor
  - Mr Andrew Moore, General Manager

6 Minutes

6a Confirmation of the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting dated 26 February 2026 held in Grenfell

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 6a
Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller
Seconded: Cr Neil Westcott

That the minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting held 26 February 2026 held in Grenfell be confirmed.

CARRIED

6b Noting the Minutes of the CNSWJO GMAC Meeting held on 30 April 2026 in Cowra

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 6b
Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller
Seconded: Cr Neil Westcott

That the minutes of the CNSWJO GMAC Meeting held 30 April 2026 in Cowra be noted.

CARRIED

7 Business Arising from the Minutes- Matters in Progress

RESOLUTION 26/05– 7
Moved: Cr John Medcalf
Seconded: Cr Paul Smith

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

CARRIED

8 Correspondence

RESOLUTION 26/05– 8
Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller
Seconded: Cr Tony Mileto

That the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board note the outgoing and incoming correspondence.

CARRIED

9a Financial Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9a
Moved: Cr Robert Taylor
Seconded: Cr John Medcalf

That the Board note the Financial Report and
1. an investment strategy be prepared for the Board's consideration.

CARRIED

9b 2026/2027 Statement of Budget and Revenue Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9b
Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds
Seconded: Cr Phyllis Miller

That the Board note the 2026/2027 Budget Report and
1. note the 4% increase to fees, along with the $500 per member council flat increase to the operational program fees,
2. note that no submissions were lodged in relation to the draft budget during the exhibition period,
3. adopt the 2026/2027 Statement of Budget and Revenue, and
4. that GMAC monitor the resourcing impact of the budget cuts on the operation of the CNSWJO.

CARRIED

9c Executive Officer Recruitment Outcome Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9c
Moved: Cr John Medcalf
Seconded: Cr Phyllis Miller

That the Board note the Executive Officer Recruitment Outcome Report and
1. note that the recruitment process for the Executive Officer position was undertaken and concluded in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and relevant organisational requirements,
2. note that contractual arrangements with the successful candidate have been finalised, and
3. note and congratulate Kate Barker on the appointment as Executive Officer.

CARRIED

9d Governance and Policy Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9d
Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds
Seconded: Cr Andrew McKibbin

That the Governance and Policy Report be deferred pending clarification of the impact of the successful disallowance motion relating to the Code of Meeting Practice.

CARRIED

9e Shared ARIC Report

RESOLUTION 26/05- 9e
Moved: Cr Robert Taylor
Seconded: Cr Andrew McKibbin

That the Board note the Shared ARIC Report and
1. endorse the appointment of the following to the Shared ARIC with Hunter HO and Illawarra Shoalhaven JO:
   - Chair: Dianne Allen
   - Independent member: Rhonda Wheatley
   - Independent member: Emma Pryor

2. note that Cr Bruce Reynolds has been accepted as the Non-Voting Member of the Shared ARIC on behalf of CNSWJO.

CARRIED

9f Procurement Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9f
Moved: Cr Paul Smith
Seconded: Cr Andrew McKibbin

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

CARRIED

9g Advocacy Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9g
Moved: Cr Neil Westcott
Seconded: Cr Andrew McKibbin

That the Board note the Advocacy Report and

1. endorse the advocacy position statement for Priority 3: Health and ageing,
2. write to Dr Joe McGirr MP in support of the *Better Care, Closer to Home Alliance* campaign and *Rural Health Action Plan*,
3. write to LGNSW in support of the *"Caring for our regions" Action Plan on for Rural and Regional Health*,
4. endorse the revised version of the advocacy position statements for Priority 5: Regional transport planning and infrastructure prioritisation to include additional wording around:
    - strengthening the Board's position on Inland Rail, supporting reinstatement of funding for the full Melbourne to Brisbane corridor,
    - reaffirming the need for increased passenger rail connectivity between Sydney and the Central West,
5. write to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, expressing disappointment and concern in relation to the cancellation of the Inland Rail north of Parkes and seeking the reinstatement of funding to complete the Parkes to Brisbane sections of the Inland Rail project as originally committed,
6. endorse the following submissions:
    a) Submission to the Department of Housing Planning and Infrastructure (DPHI) New Approach to Strategic Planning,
    b) Submission to the Department of Housing Planning and Infrastructure (DPHI) on the Climate Change and Natural Hazards State Environmental Planning Policy (Explanation of Intended Effect),
    c) Submission to the Federal Productivity Commission on National Water Reform 2026, and
    d) Submission to the Murray Darling Basin Plan Review 2026

CARRIED

9h Great Western Highway Detour Collaborative Response Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9h
Moved: Cr Cass Coleman
Seconded: Cr Andrew McKibbin

That the Board note the Great Western Highway Detour Response Report and the value of CNSWJO-led collaboration with Regional Development Australia Central West, Business NSW and Destination Central West, and

1. CNSWJO's continued advocacy for NSW Government funding to extend the *Other Ways to the West* campaign to mitigate ongoing economic and visitor economy impacts arising from the prolonged detour of the Great Western Highway at Victoria Pass, and
2. that CNSWJO provide a report to the next Board meeting on the analytics of the Other Ways to the West campaign

CARRIED

9i Regional Prosperity Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9i
Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller
Seconded: Cr Bruce Reynolds

That the Board note the Regional Prosperity Report and

1. endorse the development of submissions under the hand of the executive on:
   a. Proposed statewide Community Participation Plan,
   b. Explanation of Intended Effect (EIE) on Variations and changes to complying development; and
   c. Discussion paper on Low-rise housing reforms and targeted assessment.

CARRIED

9j Renewable Energy Community Benefit Sharing Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9j
Moved: Cr Andrew McKibbin
Seconded: Cr Bruce Reynolds

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

1. endorse the *New Horizons* Workshop Event Report,
2. endorse the final version of the *Discussion Paper: Lessons learned on renewable energy projects in the region and Voluntary Planning Agreements*

CARRIED

9k Regional Health Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9k
Moved: Cr John Medcalf
Seconded: Cr Bruce Reynolds

That the Board note the Health Report and

1. endorse the CSU Policy Lab event report including progressing the 4 key actions:
   - join Dr Joe McGirr MP's "Better Care, Closer to Home" Alliance,
   - collaborate with other Joint Organisations and other regional local government bodies, and councils to align regional initiatives and messaging,
   - work with key stakeholders to clarify roles and responsibilities between council, health services and partners at the local level by undertaking a mapping exercise with key stakeholders, and
   - work with key stakeholders to develop a graphic showing local governments role vs what local governments are delivering in relation to health services
2. send a letter of congratulations on behalf of the Board to the three CSU medical school scholarship recipients for 2026.

CARRIED

9l Regional Telecommunications Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9l
Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller
Seconded: Cr Neil Westcott

That the Board note the Telecommunications Report and progress on the development of a Regional Digital Plan including separate LGA plans.

CARRIED

9m Regional Transport Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9m
Moved: Cr Andrew McKibbin
Seconded: Cr Paul Smith

That the Board note the Regional Transport Report.

CARRIED

9n Regional Water Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9n
Moved: Cr Paul Best
Seconded: Cr Phyllis Miller

That the Board note the Regional Water Report and
1. endorse the quarterly report to Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment Water for the Water Loss Management and Efficiency Program.

CARRIED

9o Regional Energy Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9o
Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds
Seconded: Cr Andrew McKibbin

That the Board note the Regional Net Zero Report and
1. endorse the JONZA Round 3 Mid-Term Report
2. endorse the JONZA Round 3 Project Tracker
3. endorse the Landfill Emissions Abatement Knowledge (LEAKS) *Mid-term Activity* Report dated 30 March 2026
4. endorse the *Lessons from regional NSW councils: Existing waste-related Clean Energy Regulator projects and active landfill gas management* Report.

CARRIED

9p Regional Resilience Program Report

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 9p
Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds
Seconded: Cr Tony Mileto

That the Board note the Regional Resilience Program Report.

CARRIED

10 Quarterly Review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2025-2029

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 10

Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller
Seconded: Cr Bruce Reynolds

That the Board note the Quarterly Review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2025-2029 report.

CARRIED

11a RDA Central West Update Report

The Board noted the RDA Central West Update.

11b NSW Premier's Department Update

The Board noted the NSW Premier's Department Report.

11c OLG Update Report

The Board noted the OLG Update Report.

12 Confidential Session

Resolution 26/05 – 12
Moved: Cr Cass Coleman
Seconded: Cr Neil Westcott

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

12a Regional Cyber Security Program Report- Confidential

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 12a
Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds
Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Regional Cyber Security Program Report and
1. note the transition of the Regional Cyber Security Program from strategy development into accelerated operational delivery, supported by council specific Annual Operating Plans and governance dashboards now in effect across all member councils, and
2. note the ISSC and GMAC's endorsement of a regional Top 5 Strategic Risk Framework and the introduction of a structured quarterly governance pack with operational metrics.

CARRIED

12b Confidential Session

RESOLUTION 26/05- 12b
Moved: Cr Andrew McKibbin
Seconded: Cr Cass Coleman

That the Board resolve out of closed session.

CARRIED

13 Late Reports – Nil.

14 Matters Raised by Members

RESOLUTION 26/05 – 14

That the Board note the matters raised by members and

1. that CNSWJO develop a strategy for advocacy in relation to the Great Western Highway, including coordinating a delegation of regional, rural and remote council Mayors and General Managers to Parliament to highlight the GWH strategic importance and advocate for ongoing investment,
2. write to the Country Mayors Association of NSW seeking advocacy support regarding the Great Western Highway closure, and
3. seek information from member councils in relation to a possible change of date for regular Board meetings, noting the request from a member to move meetings from Thursdays to Wednesdays.

15 General business

16 Speakers to the next meeting

- National Water Grid
- NSW DPIRD, NBNCo and Telstra – Regional Digital Plan

17 Next meetings:

Board Meeting dates:
12+13 August– Federal Parliament House visit in Canberra (note date and location change)
November – Federal Parliament House visit in Sydney (date TBC)

GMAC Meeting dates:
30 July 2026 – Orange
22 October 2026 – Forbes

Meeting closed at 4.45 pm

Page 8 is the last page of the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting minutes of meeting of 27 May 2026 held in Sydney.



Photo: CNSWJO Board meeting in Sydney on 27 May 2026

CENTRAL NSW JOINT ORGANISATION

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

EDITION 7, JUNE 2026

The General Managers Advisory Committee (GMAC) met in Cowra on 30 April for its quarterly meeting. During the session, GMAC received presentations from Local Land Services on the issue of unattended livestock on public and private lands, as well as from a University of Sydney Major Industry Project placement student, who shared insights from his work on water and energy management.

In late May, the Board convened in Sydney for its quarterly meeting. Presentations were delivered by the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Liverpool City Council, and Western Sydney Airport. Discussions focused on the development of the Western Sydney Airport and the opportunities it presents for Central NSW, particularly in relation to freight, agricultural produce, and broader economic development.

The Board also heard from Transport for NSW and Penrith City Council on the progress of the Castlereagh Corridor project.

On the following day, the Board met with a line-up of NSW Ministers. Further details on this engagement are provided on the next page.

This newsletter provides an update on a wide range of activities and initiatives currently underway through the Joint Organisation.



Meet our new EO

Congratulations to Kate Barker on her appointment as the Executive Officer of the Central NSW Joint Organisation.

Kate brings extensive experience in regional collaboration, program delivery, advocacy and strategic leadership, with a strong understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing councils across Central NSW.

Kate is already known to many council staff having held various roles in the organisation since 2010.

Kate officially commenced in the role of Executive Officer on 30 March 2026.

MEETINGS WITH NSW MINISTERS - 28 MAY 2028

The Board attended State Parliament in Sydney on 28 May 2026 and met with a great line-up of local Members, State Ministers and MLCs.

The Board met with:

- **The Hon. Courtney Houssos MLC** - Minister for Domestic, Manufacturing and Government Procurement, and for Natural Resources
- **The Hon. Jihad Dib MP** - Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government and for Emergency Services
- **The Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC** - Minister for Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Heritage
- **The Hon. Paul Scully MP** - Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
- **The Hon. Ryan Park MP** - NSW Minister for Health and for Regional Health
- **The Hon. Jenny Aitchison MP** - Minister for Roads and Regional Transport
- **The Hon. Ron Hoenig MP** - Minister for Loval Government
- **The Hon. Tara Moriarty MLC** - Minister for Agriculture, and for Regional NSW and Western NSW
- **Mr Roy Butler MP** - Member for Barwon
- **Mr Phil Donato, MP** - Member for Orange
- **The Hon Paul Toole, MP** - Member for Bathurst
- **Mr Scott Barrett, MLC**

The Mayors of the CNSWJO region have been meeting in Parliament House in Sydney for the past decade. It's a very important opportunity for the region to hear the vision of the NSW Government, for Ministers to receive feedback from this region and to discuss the priorities of the communities.


CNSWJO Board meeting with Minister Park


CNSWJO Board meeting with Minister Aitchison

COLLABORATION ON THE GREAT WESTERN HIGHWAY ISSUE

Working in partnership with RDA Central West, Business NSW (Western) and Destination Central West, the JO has provided regional leadership through its coordinating role in the collaborative response to the Great Western Highway disruption.

This collaboration has delivered clear value by enabling a coordinated, whole-of-region approach that aligns local government priorities with business, tourism and regional development perspectives. Impacts arising from the closure have been consistently identified and articulated across affected local government areas, strengthening regional coherence and reducing fragmented advocacy. This collective approach elevated the issue from a transport disruption to a broader regional economic and resilience matter requiring coordinated policy and funding responses.

The unified advocacy position has strengthened engagement with the NSW Government, TfNSW and other key agencies. CNSWJO's leadershiphas ensured council perspectives are integrated into broader advocacy initiatives, including Other Ways to the West, and that consistent messaging is maintained across government, industry and community stakeholders. Overall, the response demonstrates the tangible benefits of collaboration in supporting recovery and longer-term regional resilience.

Destination Central West NSW BUSINESS NSW CENTRAL NSW JOINT ORGANISATION Regional Development Australia CENTRAL WEST

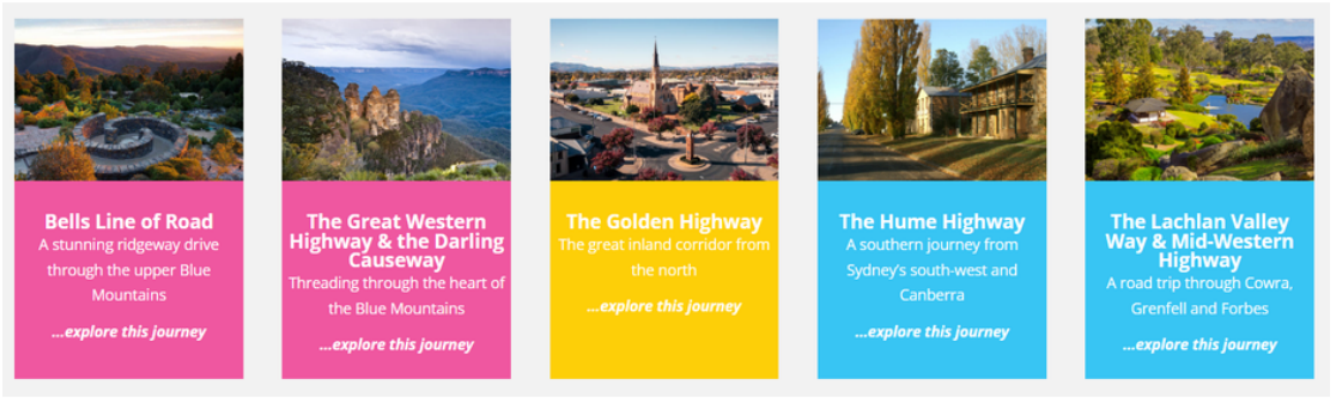
OTHER WAYS TO THE WEST CAMPAIGN

Launched on 20 March, the *Other Ways to the West* campaign aims to reassure travellers that the region is **accessible, open and ready to welcome visitors** - despite a road detour on the Great Western Highway at Victoria Pass. It directly addresses community and visitor confusion about ways to get to the region and reframes the routes as a scenic road trip opportunity.

The campaign, led by CNSWJO, was established in collaboration with member councils, Destination Network Central West, Business NSW (Western) and RDA Central West to respond to the significant and ongoing regional impacts of the detour.

CNSWJO and member councils committed $50k in seed funding to develop the first stage of the *Other Ways to the West* campaign, which enabled the creation and launch of foundational campaign assets, including a dedicated website, early digital and social media activity and supporting marketing collateral. Funding is being sought to continue the campaign.

Visit: www.otherwaystothewest.com.au to discover the great ways to travel to Central NSW via the Bells Line of Road, the Great Western Highway and the Darling Causeway, the Golden Highway, the Hume Highway, and the Lachlan Valley Way & Mid-Western Highways.





AWA NSW WATER AWARDS

The Water Loss Management and Efficiency Hub Project won the Organisational Excellence Award at the Australian Water Association's NSW Heads of Water Gala Dinner on 13 March 2026. The award recognises outstanding leadership, collaboration and innovation in the NSW water sector.

This award reflects a decade of work that has shaped the current WLME project, supported by strong relationships, trust, and collaboration between the Water Utilities Alliance and NSW DCCEEW. These long-standing partnerships have enabled the delivery of meaningful outcomes and continue to innovate.





LAUNCH OF EVENTUREMAP

Last year the CNSWJO received funding through NSW DCCEEW's Joint Organisation Net Zero Accelerator Program to support councils with a range of EV-related initiatives. One of the major projects delivered through this program is the development of the EVenturemap.

The EVenturemap is a simple digital tool designed to encourage EV drivers (and other visitors) to explore and spend time in our towns:

- An EV driver (or other visitor) arrives at a charger and scans a QR code
- Geo-location identifies where they are and allows them to select a 5, 10, 15 or 20-minute walking radius
- A curated list of nearby shops, cafés, public amenities and attractions is displayed

Importantly, the map is not limited to EV drivers – it can be used by anyone. Explore and plan your EV journey at www.eventuremap.nsw.gov.au









LEAK DETECTION DOGGIES

In May, four member councils - Bathurst, Cabonne, CTW and Lithgow, took part in a canine leak detection initiative delivered through the Water Loss Management and Efficiency Hub (WLME) project. In addition to identifying leaks, the initiative aimed to promote water efficiency, encourage community engagement, and showcase councils' proactive efforts to reduce water loss and improve network management.





CSU MEDICAL SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

Following the success of the initial scholarships awarded to three CSU medical students, the CNSWJO Board resolved at its May 2025 meeting to fund scholarships for an additional three students. To maintain a steady pipeline of graduating recipients, the scholarships have been staggered across future years, enabling one graduate to receive a scholarship each year.

A scholarship ceremony was held in Orange on 19 May 2026, where Mr Joseph Peace and Ms Tabitha Jones received their scholarships. Unfortunately, Mr Brett Causer was unable to atend the event.

Tabitha and Joseph expressed their sincere appreciation to the CNSWJO and member councils for the scholarships and advised they would be keen to meet the Board in the future.

The recipients of the 3 scholarships in 2026 include:

- Brett Causer - 1st year student / 5 year scholarship
- Joseph Pearce - 4th year student / 2 year scholarship
- Tabitha Jones - 5th year student / 1 year scholarship



Image: Cr Bruce Reynolds, Mayor of Blayney, scholarship recipients Joseph Pearce and Tabitha Jones, and Ms Kate Barker, CNSWJO Executive Officer at the scholarship ceremony.

SITE TOUR: FLYERS CREEK WIND FARM

In May, CNSWJO coordinated a site tour of the Flyers Creek Wind Farm, hosted by Iberdrola Australia, giving member councils a valuable opportunity to experience a large-scale renewable energy project firsthand.

Participants gained insight into wind farm infrastructure, project delivery, and the importance of community engagement and environmental management. The tour also highlighted Iberdrola's biodiversity initiatives, including the Squirrel Glider Habitat Improvement Project delivered in late 2024 in partnership with ecologists.

Now operational, the wind farm represents a significant regional investment, with more than 30 turbines generating renewable energy.





CSU POLICY LAB ON HEALTH WORKFORCE

At the request of the CNSWJO Board, and in collaboration with Charles Sturt University (CSU), a Policy Lab on Regional Health Workforce was held in Orange on 5 March 2026.

The Policy Lab provided Councillors and staff from member councils across the region with an opportunity to collaboratively discuss the challenges and opportunities for regional communities in relation to health workforce.

This was the third Policy Lab facilitated collaboratively by CNSWJO and CSU and the purpose of the day was to collectively identify roles and actions for councils in regional NSW to address the regional health workforce crisis, noting that the provision and coordination of health services is outside of councils' formal remit.









PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:

DISASTER READINESS ACTION PLAN (DRAP) TEMPLATE

What is the DRAP?

The DRAP is a practical tool for councils which moves beyond response and recovery, focusing on risk reduction and resilience. It supports long-term adaptation by planning for future risk, not just recovering from past events.

The DRAP template is funded by the Australian Government under the Disaster Ready Fund.

What will councils use it for?

- Reducing exposure and vulnerability
- Embedding disaster risk in planning and asset decisions
- Coordinating action across councils and agencies
- Strengthening long-term community resilience

Current status

The DRAP template is currently under development, and is being piloted across three member councils.

The DRAP will be available for all councils from late July 2026

SInce 2018, the Central NSW region has had 35 natural declared disasters

Through the development of the DRAP, we are building a shared regional framework to actively reduce future disaster risk

While we can't prevent natural hazards, with proper planning we can reduce the impact of disasters.

UNPACKING THE PLANNING REFORMS WORKSHOP

On 17 March, the CNSWJO facilitated a session in Bathurst attended by 29 representatives from 10 member councils to examine the NSW Planning Reforms.

The session provided elected representatives, general managers and planners with clear insights into the proposed reforms and their implications for regional councils. It was led by planning specialist Mr Paul Crennan OAM, with input from Cr Phyllis Miller, Regional NSW representative on the Planning Minister's Planning Systems Reform Reference Group. The session was well received and generated constructive discussion. CNSWJO will continue to support regional planners through further engagement as the reforms progress.



RENEWABLE ENERGY - COMMUNITY BENEFIT SHARING

As a precursor to the SEGRA 2026 Summit in Lithgow, an invite-only workshop ("New Horizons") was held on Tuesday 24 March for councils and stakeholders across the CNSWJO region.

The workshop aimed to develop shared principles to guide community and social benefit expectations for renewable energy projects (typically State Significant Developments) outside Renewable Energy Zones. It brought together elected representatives, council staff, and regional leaders to strengthen collective bargaining and reduce fragmented, project-by-project VPA negotiations.

Building on work from organisations such as CRJO, CNSWJO, the Regional Australia Institute, RE-Alliance, Toowoomba Regional Council, and the Clean Energy Council, the workshop supports the creation of a unified, regionally tailored community benefit-sharing framework for regional NSW. Outcomes will inform further testing, refinement, and endorsement through the Joint Organisation network.

The workshop outcomes will provide a foundation for further testing, refinement and regional endorsement of such a framework - primarily through the JO network and a draft set of 10 shared principles were identified by workshop participants.





SOUTHERN LIGHTS AND NETWORKS GROUP

The Southern Lights Group advocates for councils within the Essential Energy footprint, addressing complex regulatory and pricing frameworks managed by the Australian Energy Regulator (AER). The group has achieved significant wins, including making the NSW Public Lighting Code mandatory, which now acts as a Service Level Agreement between councils and DNSPs and is enforced by IPART.

Key Achievements and Activities:

1. **AER Pricing Determination (FY24–FY29):** Southern Lights played a critical role in achieving a 16.9% reduction in streetlighting charges, saving councils approximately $10.1 million over five years. This outcome avoided a potential 60% price increase that would have cost councils an additional $37.8 million.
2. **NSW Public Lighting Code:** After a decade of advocacy, the Code is now mandatory and tied to DNSP licensing conditions. Southern Lights continues to participate in annual and triennial reviews to ensure compliance and service standards.
3. **Smart Innovation and Technology Adoption:** The group is addressing resistance from DNSPs to adopt new technologies and advocating for a whole-of-state approach to reduce duplication of effort by councils.
4. **Quality Assurance in Billing:** Southern Lights has identified discrepancies in billing and is working toward a statewide approach to improve efficiency and accuracy, which is now linked to IPART reporting requirements.

The group is now expanding its remit beyond streetlighting to include broader energy network advocacy, aligning with the Joint Organisation Net Zero Accelerator (JONZA) program. This expansion aims to address network tariff changes introduced during the 2024–2029 AER Pricing Determination, which impact councils and businesses.

CNSWJO is the project manager for the Southern Lights and Networks Group, supporting its 30+ regional NSW council members.

UPDATE ON CYBER SECURITY

During FYQ3, the Program completed its transition from strategy establishment into operational delivery. All Member Councils now have council specific Annual Operating Plans in effect.

The ISSC has met twice during the quarter, expanded its membership to ensure all councils are represented, endorsed a regional Top 5 Strategic Risk Framework, and received its first operational metrics pack. Three structured communication streams have been launched to support operational, governance and learning audiences across the region.

The Regional CISO will present operational metrics data and regional maturity posture findings at relevant governance meetings in due course.



Highlights from the last quarter

Upcoming procurements:

- Traffic Control Services
- Tourism Public Relations
- Solar Asset Audits
- Project Management Services
- Bitumen emulsion
- Restocking of first aid kits

Together with Regional Development Australia Central West, nbnLocal and Telstra, CNSWJO is working on the development of a Regional Digital Plan. The purpose of the Plan is 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.

Recent online workshops to develop the regional Disaster Readiness Action Plan (DRAP) template brought great energy and collaboration! On 11 May, we welcomed 51 participants, followed by another 42 on 14 May.

Together, representatives from all 11 member councils joined with the NSW Reconstruction Authority, DCCEEW, NSW Police, Regional Development Australia Central West, SES, RFS, and the Illawarra Shoalhaven, Hunter, and Mid North Coast Joint Organisation making for two collaborative, well-attended sessions.

Through the NSW Office of Local Government's Fresh Start program, over $4.8m was received by CNSWJO member councils for training for staff. This included training in:

- water operations
- admin/customer service
- school-based traineeships
- cadet and apprenticeships

At its May meeting, the Board resolved to support :

- Dr Joe McGirr MP's *Better Care, Closer to Home Alliance* campaign and the Rural Health Action Plan, and
- LGNSW's "Caring for our regions" Action Plan for Rural and Regional Health.

Improving healthcare across the region is a key strategic priority of the Board.

Submissions lodged since March include:

- Submission to the Department of Housing Planning and Infrastructure (DPHI) New Approach to Strategic Planning,
- Submission to the Department of Housing Planning and Infrastructure (DPHI) on the Climate Change and Natural Hazards State Environmental Planning Policy (Explanation of Intended Effect),
- Submission to the Federal Productivity Commission on National Water Reform 2026, and
- Submission to the Murray Darling Basin Plan Review 2026

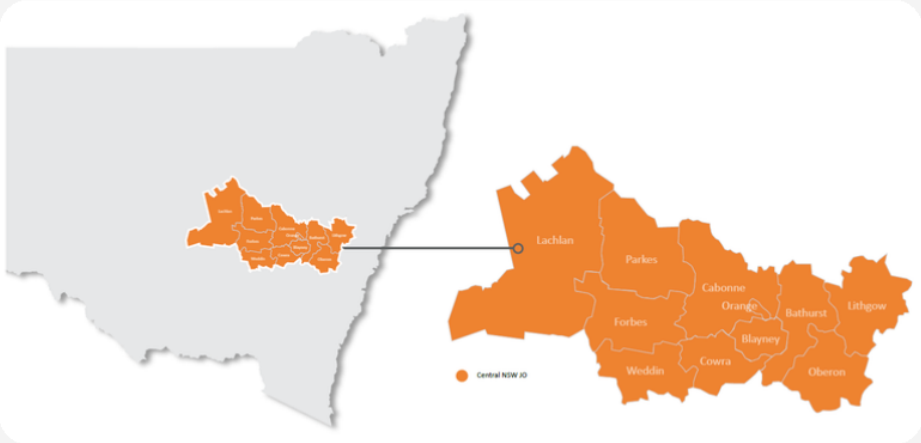
All of our submissions can be found on the website:

www.centraljo.nsw.gov.au/submissions

Upcoming events:

- Thursday 11 June - **Water Utilities Alliance Meeting**
- Wednesday, 17 June - **Regional Resilience Group Meeting**
- Thursday 18 June - **Building Surveyors Networking Group Meeting - online**
- Wednesday 24 June - **Active Leak Detection Training in Molong**
- Monday 29 July - **DRAP Template Pilot - Lithgow**
- Wednesday 1 July - **Disaster Readiness Action Plan Pilot Workshop - Parkes**
- Thursday 2 July - **Disaster Readiness Action Plan Pilot Workshop - Cabonne**
- Wednesday 15 July - **Training, Learning & Development Group Meeting**
- Wednesday 15 July - **Regional Resilience Group Meeting**
- Tuesday 21 July - **WHS/Risk Management Group Meeting**
- Tuesday 21 July - **Transport Technical Committee / Quarterly Meeting**
- Tuesday 28 July - **Landfill Emissions Working Group Meeting in Cowra**
- Thursday 30 July - **GMAC Meeting in Orange**
- Tuesday 4 August - **Regional Net Zero Group Meeting**
- Thursday 6 August - **Water Utilities Alliance Meeting**
- Wednesday 12 August - **CNSWJO Board Meeting in Canberra**
- Thursday, 13 August - **CNSWJO Meeting with Federal Ministers in Canberra**

OUR REGION



CENTRAL NSW JOINT ORGANISATION

Central NSW Joint Organisation provides strong cohesive leadership that aligns all tiers of government to deliver our region's community derived strategic priorities.

Read more about Joint Organisations here

YOUR REGIONAL GROUPS AND TEAMS

Ably led by the General Managers' Advisory Committee (GMAC), value is delivered primarily through various operational teams across the region. These include:

- General Managers' Advisory Committee
- Water Utilities' Alliance
- Transport Technical Committee
- Tourism Managers' Group
- Planners' Group
- Human Resources Managers' Group
- WHS/Risk Management Group
- Training, Learning and Development Group
- Net Zero Group
- Regional IT Group
- Building Surveyor/Skills Shortages Group
- Building Surveyors Networking Group
- Fleet Managers Group
- IP&R Group
- Regional Resilience Group
- Regional Procurement Working Group
- Regional Water Loss and Efficiency Group
- Information Security Steering Committee

ADVOCACY

Looking for recent submissions from the JO? Please go to www.centraljo.nsw.gov.au/submissions

There has been significant recent submission work undertaken by the CNSWJO team in energy, regional development, transport, and water.

Please feel welcome to ask for support for submissions if Council has directed you to respond.

PROCUREMENT

Did you know that CNSWJO facilitates many regional contracts for member councils, such as bulk fuel, bitumen, linemarking, pipe relining, dam surveillance, electricity, Employee Assistance Program, and so many more. Go to the CNSWJO website to find out more.

If you know of a procurement activity that would benefit from a regional approach, please reach out to the team!

In 2024/2025, CNSWJO regional contracts saved member councils over $2.5m!

For more information on any item in this newsletter, please reach out to the relevant program manager or email admin@centraljo.nsw.gov.au
www.centraljo.nsw.gov.au

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) SALE OF INDUSTRIAL LAND (EOI 2/2026)
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.