17 September 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, 22 September 2026 at 6.00pm for consideration of the following business -

(1) Livestreaming Video and Audio Check
(2) Acknowledgement of Country
(3) Recording of Meeting Statement
(4) Statement of Ethical Obligations
(5) Apologies for non-attendance
(6) Disclosures of Interest
(7) Public Forum
(8) Election of Mayor
(9) Election of Deputy Mayor
(10) Mayoral Minute
(11) Confirmation of Minutes - Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25.08.26
(12) Matters arising from Minutes
(13) Reports of Staff
    (a) Executive Services
    (b) Corporate Services
    (c) Infrastructure Services
    (d) Planning and Environmental Services
(14) Delegates Reports

Mark Dicker
General Manager

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
91 ADELAIDE STREET,
BLAYNEY NSW 2799

TELEPHONE (02) 6368 2104

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO:
GENERAL MANAGER
BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL
PO BOX 62
BLAYNEY NSW 2799

Email: council@blayney.nsw.gov.au

Meeting Calendar 2026

September

6.00pm	21 September 2026	McPhillamys CCC Meeting	Community Centre
6.00pm	22 September 2026	Council Meeting	Community Centre
5.00pm	23 September 2026	Visitor Economy Working Group Meeting	Community Centre
5.00pm	24 September 2026	Disability Inclusion Working Group Meeting	Community Centre

October

5.00pm	7 October 2026	Cadia Community Consultative Committee Meeting	Orange
2.30pm	14 October 2026	Bush Fire Management Committee Meeting	Orange
10.00am	21 October 2026	Central Tablelands Water Meeting	Blayney
2.00pm	23 October 2026	Central Tablelands Weeds Authority Meeting	Kelso
6.00pm	27 October 2026	Council Meeting	Community Centre
8.30am	28 October 2026	Orange 360 Board Meeting	Orange

November

9.00am	5 November 2026	Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting	Community Centre
3.30pm	11 November 2026	NSW Rural Fire Service Canobolas Liaison Committee Meeting	Orange
9.00am	12 November 2026	Central NSW Joint Organisation Board Meeting	Sydney
8.30am	13 November 2026	Country Mayors Association	Sydney
6.00pm	17 November 2026	Council Meeting	Community Centre
8.30am	25 November 2026	Orange 360 Board Meeting	Orange

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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) ELECTION OF MAYOR

Department: Executive Services

Author: General Manager

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

File No: GO.ME.2

Recommendation:
That Council:
1. Note nominations have been called for position of Mayor
2. Note Cr X, Cr X and Cr X have nominated for position of Mayor.
3. Note as only one nomination has been received for the position of Mayor, no election is necessary.
4. Conduct the election by the open voting method.
5. Note the General Manager will as act the Returning Officer for the election.

Reason for Report:
For Council to note nominations have been called for, and elect a Mayor, who will undertake the roles and responsibilities of this position until September 2028.

Report:
The role of the Mayor as the leader of the elected representatives is an important position, being spokesperson and principal member of the Council.

The Mayor presides over Council and Committee meetings and is the primary liaison/advocate with state and federal members of parliament. The Mayor supervises the General Manager's day to day activities, approves leave and facilitates the General Manager's contract and annual performance reviews.

The Mayor represents Council on regional organisations, intergovernmental bodies and other organisations. Blayney Shire Council Mayor is a voting delegate on the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board, the Association of Mining and Energy Related Councils, NSW Country Mayors Association and LGNSW (Local Government NSW).

Division 2 (s225-230) details the role and election of the Mayor by the elected body, specifically, section 226 details the role of the Mayor as follows;

(a) to be the leader of the council and a leader in the local community,

(b) to advance community cohesion and promote civic awareness,

(c) to be the principal member and spokesperson of the governing body, including representing the views of the council as to its local priorities,

(d) to exercise, in cases of necessity, the policy-making functions of the governing body of the council between meetings of the council,

(e) to preside at meetings of the council,

(f) to ensure that meetings of the council are conducted efficiently, effectively and in accordance with this Act,

(g) to ensure the timely development and adoption of the strategic plans, programs and policies of the council,

(h) to promote the effective and consistent implementation of the strategic plans, programs and policies of the council,

(i) to promote partnerships between the council and key stakeholders,

(j) to advise, consult with and provide strategic direction to the general manager in relation to the implementation of the strategic plans and policies of the council,

(k) in conjunction with the general manager, to ensure adequate opportunities and mechanisms for engagement between the council and the local community,

(l) to carry out the civic and ceremonial functions of the mayoral office,

(m) to represent the council on regional organisations and at inter-governmental forums at regional, State and Commonwealth level,

(n) in consultation with the councillors, to lead performance appraisals of the general manager,

(o) to exercise any other functions of the council that the council determines.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
In accordance with the Local Government Act (1993) s290 Council must elect a Mayor.

The voting procedure is as determined by the NSW Local Government (General) Regulation (2021) Schedule 7:

- The General Manager is the returning officer
- A nomination must be made in writing by two or more Councillors, one of whom may be the nominee.
- A nomination is not valid unless the nominee has indicated consent in writing
- The nomination is to be delivered to or sent to the General Manager
- The names of the nominees will be announced at the Council meeting

If only one Councillor has nominated, that Councillor is elected. If more than one Councillor is nominated, the Council must resolve whether the election is to proceed either by: open voting, ordinary ballot or preferential ballot (secret).

Method of voting
If more than one nomination is received, Council must determine the method of voting before the election proceeds. The available methods are:

Method	Process
Open voting	Councillors vote openly by a show of hands or similar means.
Ordinary ballot	Councillors cast a secret ballot, with each Councillor voting for one candidate.
Preferential ballot	Councillors cast a secret ballot by numbering all candidates in order of preference.

It is highlighted to Council the NSW Office of Local Government Fact Sheet states *"Open voting is the most transparent method of voting. It is also the least bureaucratic method and reflects normal council voting methods".*

An email providing notice (including Office of Local Government's *Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor by Councillors – Fact Sheet* and blank nomination form) has been provided to Councillors.

Budget Implications:
Nil

Enclosures (following report)
Nil

Attachments (separate document)
Nil

02) ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Department: Executive Services

Author: General Manager

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

File No: GO.ME.2

Recommendation:
That Council:
1. Elect a Deputy Mayor for the same term of office as the Mayor.
2. Note nominations have been called for the position of Deputy Mayor
3. Note Cr X, Cr X and Cr X have nominated for the position of Deputy Mayor.
4. Note as only one nomination has been received for the position of Deputy Mayor, no election is necessary.
5. Conduct the election by the open voting method.
6. Note the General Manager will as the Returning Officer for the election.

Reason for Report:
For Council to receive the nomination(s) and elect from its members a Deputy Mayor, who will undertake the roles and responsibilities of this position for the term as determined by Council.

Report:
The Deputy Mayor may exercise any function of the Mayor at the request of the Mayor or if the Mayor is prevented by illness, absence or otherwise or if there is a casual vacancy in the office of Mayor.

The Deputy Mayor is Council's alternate voting delegate on the regional organisations including the Central NSW Joint Organisation; NSW Country Mayors and Association of Mining and Energy Related Councils.

Section 231 of the Local Government Act (1993) details the role of the Deputy Mayor as follows;

> *(1) The councillors may elect a person from among their number to be the deputy mayor.*
>
> *(2) The person may be elected for the mayoral term or a shorter term.*
>
> *(3) The deputy mayor may exercise any function of the mayor at the request of the mayor or if the mayor is prevented by illness, absence or otherwise from exercising the function or if there is a casual vacancy in the office of mayor.*

(4) The councillors may elect a person from among their number to act as deputy mayor if the deputy mayor is prevented by illness, absence or otherwise from exercising a function under this section, or if no deputy mayor has been elected.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
In accordance with the Local Government Act (1993) s231(2), Council may elect a Deputy Mayor for the same or a shorter term as the Mayor. It is recommended that the term of the Deputy Mayor be the same as that of the Mayor, which is two years.

The voting procedure is as determined by the NSW Local Government (General) Regulation (2021) Schedule 7:

- The General Manager is the returning officer
- A nomination must be made in writing by two or more Councillors, one of whom may be the nominee.
- A nomination is not valid unless the nominee has indicated consent in writing
- The nomination is to be delivered to or sent to the General Manager
- The names of the nominees will be announced at the Council meeting

If only one Councillor has nominated, that Councillor is elected. If more than one Councillor is nominated, the Council must resolve whether the election is to proceed either by: open voting, ordinary ballot or preferential ballot (secret).

Method of voting
If more than one nomination is received, Council must determine the method of voting before the election proceeds. The available methods are:

Method	**Process**
Open voting	Councillors vote openly by a show of hands or similar means.
Ordinary ballot	Councillors cast a secret ballot, with each Councillor voting for one candidate.
Preferential ballot	Councillors cast a secret ballot by numbering all candidates in order of preference.

It is highlighted to Council the NSW Office of Local Government Fact Sheet states *"Open voting is the most transparent method of voting. It is also the least bureaucratic method and reflects normal council voting methods".*

An email providing notice (including Office of Local Government's *Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor by Councillors – Fact Sheet* and blank nomination form) has been provided to Councillors.

Budget Implications:
Nil

Enclosures (following report)
Nil

Attachments (separate document)
Nil

03) MAYORAL MINUTE - UPDATE ON THE H5 BIRD FLU OUTBREAK AND THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Author: Councillor Bruce Reynolds

File No: EM.AU.2

Recommendation:
That Council note the update from Minister Penny Sharpe in relation to the recent H5 Bird Flu-Local Government Forum.

Item:
The Mayor attended the H5 Bird Flu –Local Government Forum held on Thursday 10 September 2026.

The Forum was led by Penny Sharpe, the Minister for Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Heritage.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, Rhys Powell outlined the current situation for outbreaks across Australia.

The main points highlighted in presentation were:
- H5 bird flu is a high pathogenicity variant of avian influenza that mainly affects wild and domestic birds, poultry and some mammals.
- H5 bird flu is a global issue - Australia is the last continent to be impacted.
- There have currently been no detections in NSW poultry flocks.
- The risk to the public remains low.
- Further spread in wild birds across Australia is anticipated and is being closely monitored.

Key Message to Residents and the Community:
Do not touch sick or dead birds. Report any sightings of sick or dead wild birds or other animals to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

Guidance can be found at: nsw.gov.au/H5birdflu

The presentation is attached for more in-depth information that was presented to the forum.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

1 Presentation - H5 Bird Flu - Local Government Forum 31 Pages

04) MAYORAL MINUTE - COMMONWEALTH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANT ALLOCATION TO BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL 2026/27

Author: Councillor Bruce Reynolds

File No: GR.RP.4

Recommendation:
That Council note the financial assistance grant allocation for Blayney Shire for the 2026/27 financial year.

Item:
The Financial Assistance Grant component has increased by 6.02%, this financial year, which is above the state increase at 4.5%.

This has seen $4.208 million made available for our Shire this financial year and is up from $3.969 million the previous year, plus quarterly instalments.

It is also important to note that approximately 77% of this year's allocation was provided as a forward payment in late June. This forward payment has been quarantined in the internally allocated accounts in the financial statements. It was released on the first of July as unrestricted cash. The other 23% will come in quarterly instalments, in August, November, February and May during the current financial year.

The confirmation grants letter is enclosed after this report, together with a fact sheet on the grants and a breakdown of the grant payments for Blayney Shire.

Enclosures (following report)

1	Financial Assistance Grants Letter	3 Pages
2	Financial Assistance Grants Fact Sheet	1 Page

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

Local Government Grants Commission

NSW GOVERNMENT

Reference: A1014900

Clr Bruce Reynolds
Mayor
Blayney Shire Council

By email: bruce.reynolds@blayney.nsw.gov.au
cc: mdicker@blayney.nsw.gov.au
council@blayney.nsw.gov.au

24 August 2026

Dear Clr Reynolds,

Thank you for your Council's engagement with the NSW Grants Commission in order to support the allocation of the Commonwealth Government's Federal Assistance Grants. As the Chair of the NSW Local Government Grants Commission's (Commission), alongside the Deputy Chair and Commissioners, we appreciate the local government sector's commitment to preserving the integrity of this important grant allocation process.

In accordance with our policy of providing information to councils about the way the Commission calculates financial assistance grants (FA Grants), please find attached a summary of Council's 2026-27 estimated FA Grants entitlement **(Appendix A)**.

2026-27 Estimated entitlements
The Federal Government's FA Grants total estimated entitlement for 2026-27 is $3.62 billion and is made up of $2.5 billion for the general purpose component (GPC) and $1.1 billion for the local roads component (LRC). The national estimated entitlement for 2026-27 increased by $160 million to account for final adjustments to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and population shares for the year.

The GPC is distributed across the states and territories on a population basis. NSW received 31.09% or $779 million, which represents a 3.95% increase on last year's final figure.

The LRC is based on a historical formula. NSW's share of the total national road funding is 29%, or $322 million.

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Local Government Grants Commission

NSW GOVERNMENT

External factors impacting the GPC pool of funds in NSW

NSW communities and councils continue to be faced with a number of challenges including devastating climate disasters. In 2025, the CPI continued to trend towards previously average levels of about 3.5% to 4%. But further fluctuations cannot be ruled out.

Council's 2026-27 FA Grants estimated entitlement, compared to the 2025-26 final entitlement is as follows:

Blayney Shire Council				
Year	General Purpose $	Local Roads $	Total $	
2025-26 final	2,775,433	1,193,696	3,969,128	Change
2026-27 est	2,958,537	1,250,015	4,208,552	6.0%

The NSW Schedule of Payments (**Appendix B**) and the 2026-27 Fact Sheet **(Appendix C)** is also enclosed for Council's information.

Impact of advanced payments

The Commonwealth Government made an early payment of the 2026-27 estimated FA Grant entitlement. In June 2026, all councils were paid 80% of the estimated entitlement for 2026-27 in advance, as calculated at that date. This has resulted in the quarterly instalments for 2026-27 being reduced and will be paid in quarterly instalments in August 2026, November 2026, February 2027 and May 2027.

The Commission continues to be concerned about the unpredictability that the practice of advance payments creates. Long-term and annual budgeting forecasts are subject to changes, and annual financial reporting can often be skewed. Councils are advised not to rely on either the availability of future advance payments or the value of those advances if received.

Challenges in fairly distributing the GPC funds

As councils will be aware, the Commission is required to adhere to the National Principles which mandate a per capita payment based on population growth/decline. This inhibits the full application of the Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation (HFE) Principle to distribute the grants based on greatest relative need. It is also the policy of the NSW Government to explore opportunities to direct grants to communities with the greatest relative need. The Commission has had regard to these policies in allocating the grants.

Maintaining the annual negative floor on the GPC

The Commission has maintained the negative floor in 2026-27. It not sustainable to protect those councils with greatest relative advantage. The negative floor is essential to

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Local Government Grants Commission

distribute the GPC more fairly, allowing greater application of the HFE, consistent with the National Principles and NSW policy.

There is no guarantee that a council will receive an increased FA Grant each year. There are a number of changing variables, including a council's changing measure of relative disadvantage compared to the state average measure and the size of the total FA Grant pool.

Commission's review of the allocation methodology
The Commission is currently reviewing the methodology used to allocate the FA Grant for the 2027-28 financial year and subsequent years.

To support its review, the Commission will conduct a series of stakeholder consultation sessions, both in person in Sydney and Regional locations, and online via webinar. These sessions will outline the proposed methodology and provide councils with an opportunity to offer feedback.

The draft methodology has been developed in accordance with the National Principles and the State Government's Policy of targeting the Financial Assistance Grants, as far as possible, to councils experiencing the greatest relative disadvantage.

Councils are invited to register their interest in attending any of the eight in person sessions commencing early August 2026 via the following link: NSW Local Government Grants Commission, or register for a webinar session:

8 September 2026 – Register here
16 September 2026 – Register here

I would ask that this letter please be tabled at the next Council meeting.

If you have any questions concerning these matters, please contact the Commissions Secretariat on (02) 4428 4142 or grantscommission@olg.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Linda Scott
Chair
Local Government Grants Commission

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Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541
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Financial assistance grants 2026-27

Local Government Financial Assistance Grants (FA Grants) help local councils deliver services to their communities. The Australian Government determines the pool of FA Grants available, and this is paid annually to councils by the NSW Government based on recommendations from the Local Government Grants Commission.

The Commission uses a refined model to direct funding to councils with the greatest relative disadvantage. This is typically rural and remote councils with limited revenue capacity.

This funding is untied and paid to NSW's 128 councils, as well as the Lord Howe Island Board, and the Village Committees of Silverton and Tibooburra.

The NSW Local Grants Commission consists of four members appointed for maximum terms of five years.

The current membership of the Commission is:

Linda Scott –Chair

Brett Whitworth –Deputy Chair

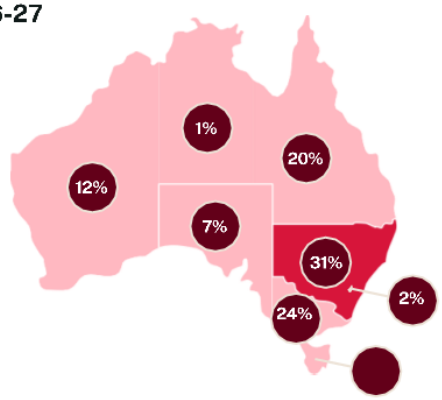
Leanne Barnes PSM OAM –Commissioner

Jason Hamling –Commissioner

The Commission has started the process of reviewing the formula for the allocation of FA Grants for implementation in the 2027-28 financial year.

In June 2026, the Australian Government paid approximately 80% of the 2026-27 grants in advance. The remainder of the grant allocation will be paid in quarterly instalments.

Financial Assistance Grant Distribution for 2026-27



National Total
$3.62 billion

NSW Total
$1.1 billion

General Purpose Component
$779 million

Local Roads Component
$322 million

Funds allocated to NSW are based on the National Principles as part of Federal legislation, being the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995.

Total Grant Calculation

The FA Grant comprises two components: the General Purpose Component (GPC) and the Local Roads Component (LRC). Grant distribution is based on operational expenditure, not capital works. While 66% of the state's population lives in metropolitan councils, they receive only 24% of the grant funding. The remaining funds are distributed to regional, rural, and remote councils.

General Purpose Component (GPC)

The GPC allocation is based on council expenditure and is also subject to a minimum grant per capita. In 2026-27, that amount is $27.22.

In 2026-27 the range to which an individual council's annual GPC can vary will be a maximum increase of 6% or a maximum decrease of 4% (excluding the Relative Disadvantage Allowance).

Range of general purpose grants	$1,030,155 - $27,482,411
Population of NSW (as of 30 June 2025)	8,591,549
Average per capita general purpose grant	$463.98
Highest per capita general purpose grant	$4,197
Minimum per capita general purpose grant	$27.22

Local Roads Component (LRC)

The LRC is allocated so that local government entities can preserve their road assets. As much as possible, allocations are based on the relative needs of each local government entity's expenditure on roads.

Local road length in NSW	149,764 km
Bridge length (>6m) in NSW	169,316 M
Average local roads grant/km	$2,521,915
Highest local roads grant/km	$7,804,87
Lowest local roads grant/km	$171,845

05) MAYORAL MINUTE - NSW COALITION PLAN FOR A ROYALTIES FOR REGIONAL WATER & SEWERAGE FUND

Author: Councillor Bruce Reynolds

File No: TT.SP.1

Recommendation:
That Council note the NSW Coalition commitment to fund regional water infrastructure should they be elected to Government at the 2027 NSW State election.

Item:
The Mayor attended a briefing session hosted by the Hon Steph Cooke, NSW Shadow Minister for Water in relation to the NSW Coalition's proposal to fund Council water and sewerage infrastructure projects, if the Coalition is elected at the March 2027 New South Wales election.

The NSW Coalition has released a plan to fund councils' water and sewerage infrastructure, by using mining royalties as the funding base for these projects, titled the Royalties for Regional Water Fund.

The current NSW Government position on funding regional water has not seen any new funding added to the Safe and Secure Water Program for four consecutive budgets. This program is now "fully allocated, not exhausted", meaning no capacity to fund new or urgent projects. There is currently no clear pathway or funding mechanism to address growing infrastructure need across LWUs.

Future State and Federal Government funding will be critical for Blayney Shire with upcoming major works required at the sewerage treatment plant in Blayney.

Central Tablelands Water also needs to secure funding to upgrade and expand Lake Rowlands, the Carcoar Water treatment plant and their major water mains.

The proposed funding announcement by the NSW Coalition would enable funding to be sourced by Councils and County Councils.

There would be four sub streams for funding:

1. Sub fund/subsidiary account 1
   LWU Water & Sewerage CAPEX Fund
2. Sub fund/subsidiary account 2
   Regional Cities Water Infrastructure & Headworks Fund
3. Sub fund/subsidiary account 3: ($45m)
   Lifespan Asset Management including future renewal, underpinned by co-design:
4. Sub fund/subsidiary account 4: ($5m)

Emergency Measures Assistance Fund:

There were a number of funding options put forward which are listed below:

- Full grant funding for projects
- Partial grant funding where the Applicant is able to make a co-contribution
- Flexible loan options

Low cost loans e.g. 2% loan product (i.e. half of the TCorp rate), payable over 20 years (intergenerational)

- interest only loans
- loans able to be repaid back into the fund when lots are sold (where council is the developer)
- County Councils to have access to TCorp loans for the first time
- Strengthen and expand the Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewerage Program

There is detailed information on the funding proposal in the attached presentation document.

The Mayor has contacted Steph Cooke's office asking the following questions (and the Minister has advised written answers will be provided):

1. You mention small rural council as eligible and then you mention regional centres. What about the Councils in between?

2. Are you going to have separate funds for sewerage and water or all the one fund?

3. Are you looking at quarantining any funds for Councils that are directly impacted by mining, (eg 25% of the funds) given you are using mining royalties for the proposed fund?

4. While I think you have answered this question in the presentation, with your four funding areas, will there be funds for renewals and new water assets? Will the repairs and renews have higher priority?

How much of the funds will be allocated to each of the four areas?

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

1 Royalties for Regional Water Fund 15 Pages

06) MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING HELD 25 AUGUST 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 25 August 2026, being minute numbers 2608/001 to 2608/023 be confirmed.

MINUTES OF THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE CHAMBERS, BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY CENTRE, ON 25 AUGUST 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 Hutchings	Non Pecuniary (Significant)	8	43	Minutes of the Visitor Economy Working Group held 12 August 2026	Wife is a member of the Visitor Economy Working Group

MAYORAL MINUTE

MAYORAL MINUTE - 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW CONFERENCE - MOTION RESPONSE

2608/001 RESOLVED:

That Council note the response from Hon. Rose Jackson MLC Minister for Water to one of the motions that was submitted by Blayney Shire Council to the 2025 Local Government NSW Conference.

(Reynolds/Gosewisch)
CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING HELD 28 JULY 2026

2608/002 RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 July 2026, being minute numbers 2607/001 to 2607/033 be confirmed.

(Scott/Hutchings)
CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cr Gosewisch asked for an update on the recently approved cattle yards at the Blayney Showground. The General Manager confirmed an update will be provided to Councillors.

NOTICES OF MOTION

NOTICE OF MOTION - ROAD SPEED LIMITS REVIEW

2608/003 RESOLVED:

That Council requests a review of the following speed limits:

1. Village of Carcoar to be 40km/h
2. Village of Millthorpe to be 40km/h
3. In all Rural Residential subdivisions where a Cul-de-sac exists in the Millthorpe, Forest Reefs and Browns Creek areas to be 60km/h.
4. On Carcoar Road from the current 80km/h limit sign to south of the 112 Carcoar Road property entrance to be 80km/h.

(Reynolds/Johnston)
CARRIED

EXECUTIVE SERVICES REPORTS

2026 LGNSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE MOTION - INCREASED REGIONAL RAIL SERVICES

2608/004 RESOLVED:

That Council propose the following motion at the upcoming 2026 LGNSW Annual Conference:

That LGNSW calls on the NSW Government to:

1. *Review with the intent to improve current rail services available to residents in regional NSW.*
2. *Provide "reverse" rail services across NSW, timed to run in the opposite direction to the current NSW/TrainLink XPT services as part of the new train fleet implementation.*
3. *Refurbish the existing XPT fleet with the intent to provide additional services throughout NSW.*
4. *Provide additional passenger train services from regional parts of NSW including; Parkes and Orange to Sydney.*

(Reynolds/Newstead)

CARRIED

2026 LGNSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE MOTION – EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY COLLECTION CONCERNS

2608/005 RESOLVED:

That Council propose the following motion at the upcoming 2026 LGNSW Annual Conference:

That LGNSW calls on the NSW Government regarding the proposed new Emergency Services Levy:

1. *That Councils not be required to collect the new levy.*
2. *If Councils are forced to collect the levy that Councils are fully reimbursed the full cost of the levy collection.*
3. *Request the NSW Government acknowledge the 11.7% funding contribution Councils and our ratepayers make towards funding Emergency Services, if this contribution is kept as part of the levy process, when making funding announcements.*

(Reynolds/Gosewisch)

CARRIED

2026 LGNSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE MOTION - RENEWABLE EXCLUSION ZONES AROUND RURAL COMMUNITIES

2608/006 RESOLVED:

That Council propose the following motion at the 2026 LGNSW Annual Conference:

That LGNSW calls on the NSW Government to create and legislate a statewide exclusion zone (preventing renewable energy developments) from being within 5 kilometres of any

residential zoned land within a regional city, town and village across NSW to protect the long-term growth (residential, industrial and commercial) opportunities of regional NSW.

(Reynolds/Dorsett)
CARRIED

2026 LGNSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE MOTION - GREAT WESTERN HIGHWAY

2608/007 RESOLVED:

That Council propose the following motion at the upcoming 2026 LGNSW Annual Conference:

That LGNSW calls on the NSW Government and Opposition to provide a long-term commitment to construct a dual carriageway on the Great Western Highway from Katoomba to Lithgow.

(Reynolds/Newstead)
CARRIED

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

MINUTES OF THE VISITOR ECONOMY WORKING GROUP HELD 12 AUGUST 2026

2608/008 RESOLVED:

That Council note the minutes from the Visitor Economy Working Group meeting held 12 August 2026.

(Gosewisch/Johnston)
CARRIED

Cr Hutchings returned to the Chambers.

CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

REPORT OF COUNCIL INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 JULY 2026

2608/009 RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Note the report indicating Council's investment position as at 31 July 2026.
2. Note the certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer.

(Scott/Hutchings)
CARRIED

DRAFT STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL REPORTS BY COUNCIL 2025/26

2608/010 RESOLVED:

That Council;

1. Make the statement in accordance with Section 413(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993, and Clause 215 of the Local Government (General) Regulation (2021) for the General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2026.

2. Receive the certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer.
3. Make the statement in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Accounting Practice in relation to the Special Purpose Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2026.
4. Endorse signature of the statements by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, the General Manager and the Responsible Accounting Officer.
5. Refer the General Purpose Financial Statements and Special Purpose Financial Statements to audit and invite Intentus Chartered Accountants, as the contracted agent for the NSW Audit Office, to complete the audit as per the requirements of Section 413(1) of the Local Government Act (1993) and Local Government (General) Regulation (2021).
6. Approve the net transfers from Council's external cash restrictions of $408k.
7. Approve the net transfers to Council's internal cash allocations of $2.45m, for the purposes as detailed in Schedule 1 of Policy 3K Restricted and Unrestricted Cash Policy.

(Newstead/Gosewisch)
CARRIED

SALE OF INDUSTRIAL LAND - LOT 1 DP842577 (EOI 2/2026)

2608/011 RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Note an offer in accordance with Resolution No. 2604/023 (from the April 2026 Council meeting) has been received to purchase SL2 – Lot 1 DP842577, 8 Tollbar Street, Blayney, for the sale price of $420,000 + GST,
2. Note that contracts are now proceeding to be drawn up to progress the sale.

(Gosewisch/Newstead)
CARRIED

MINUTES OF THE DISABILITY INCLUSION WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD 4 AUGUST 2026

2608/012 RESOLVED:

That Council;

1. Receive and note the minutes of the Disability Inclusion Working Group meeting held 4 August 2026.
2. Undertake a further review of King George Oval accessible seating for required alterations to mitigate risk of tripping.
3. Endorse the Blayney Shire 2022 – 2026 Disability Inclusion Action Plan Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2026.

(Scott/Hutchings)
CARRIED

MINUTES OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 6 AUGUST 2026

2608/013 RESOLVED:

That Council;

1. Receive the minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held 6 August 2026
2. Note the Annual Report on the operations of the Blayney Shire Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 to Council.
3. Endorse the Draft ARIC Annual (2026/27) and Four Year Work Plan (2024-2028).
4. Request the Central NSW NSWJO CISO to provide increased focus and assistance to Blayney Shire Council to support their continual improvement and uplift of cyber security.

(Newstead/Gosewisch)

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF 2026/27 CARRYOVER WORKS

2608/014 RESOLVED:

That Council

1. Approve supplementary votes of expenditure to the 2026/27 budget for carryover works from 2025/26 to 2026/27 as per the attached schedule totalling $6.01m funded from:
   a. internal cash allocations of $4.06m
   b. externally restricted unexpended grants and contributions of $727k
   c. other external cash restrictions $1.23m
2. Approve supplementary votes of expenditure for 2026/27 totalling $302k for carryover works from 2025/26 to 2026/27 funded from:
   a. future grants and contributions of $273k for milestones not yet received
   b. other internal cash restrictions of $29k
3. Note the financial implications of carryover works on the adopted 2026/27 Operational Plan as detailed in Tables 1-3 of the report.

(Gosewisch/Scott)

CARRIED

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORTS

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES: KEY ACTIVITIES REPORT

2608/015 RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Note the Infrastructure Services: Key Activities Report for August 2026.
2. Note expenditure of $8,470 to undertake repairs to lighting at King George Oval from existing operational budgets and the potential for budget adjustment later in the financial year.
3. Approve a supplementary vote of $4,500 from the Village

Enhancement Program for Showground Pavilion - air conditioning project.
4. Approve a supplementary vote of $35,000 for additional scope on the Sewer Treatment Discharge Impact Assessment from the Sewer Fund (Restricted).

(Scott/Hutchings)
CARRIED

RICHARDS LANE AND INTERSECTION UPGRADE PROJECT

2608/016 RESOLVED:
That Council note the project update for the Richards Lane and intersection upgrade project.

(Newstead/Hutchings)
CARRIED

2026/27 TRANSPORT ASSET CAPITAL RENEWAL ALLOCATIONS

2608/017 RESOLVED:
That Council;
1. Note the proposed work locations for the 2026/27 transport asset capital renewal programs.
2. Approve a Supplementary vote of $117,800 in the 2026/27 Operational Plan for the Victoria Street Urban Stormwater renewal project, funded from the Asset Renewals - Stormwater (SV) Internal Allocation.

(Gosewisch/Newstead)
CARRIED

BLAYNEY LOCAL FLOOD STUDY 2026

2608/018 RESOLVED:
That Council;
1. Note the submission received during the exhibition of the 2026 Blayney Local Flood Study.
2. Adopt the 2026 Blayney Local Flood Study (as amended)
3. Note that Council has lodged a grant application to DCCEEW to progress the floodplain risk management study and plan.

(Gosewisch/Hutchings)
CARRIED

PROPOSED (PART) ROAD CLOSURE - NORTH STREET, LYNDHURST

2608/019 RESOLVED:
That Council:
1. Endorse the closure of the portion of North St, Lyndhurst as per the enclosed diagram that adjoins Lot 5, DP1108340.
2. Approve the sale price of the land to be $1, plus all costs associated with the road closure including Council's road closure application fee, survey fees and legal fees.
3. Have a further report presented to a future Council meeting to consider any submissions lodged during the notification

period and to make a decision on approval for the proposal.

(Dorsett/Gosewisch)
CARRIED

PROPOSED (PART) ROAD CLOSURE - BELUBULA STREET, NORTH, CARCOAR

2608/020 RESOLVED:

That Council;

1. Take into consideration submissions received during the notification period.
2. Approve the closure of portions of Belubula Street North, Carcoar – Lot 67, DP1111005
3. Give public notice for a period of 28 days of Council's intention to classify the land as Operational Land.
4. Delegate authority to the General Manager to execute any document necessary to facilitate the road closure, land transfer and easement with Essential Energy.

(Scott/Newstead)
CARRIED

EASEMENT FOR DRAINAGE AND SEWER - LOT 2 DP1103517

2608/021 RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Endorse the acquisition of an easement over Lot 2 DP1103517 (53 Gerty Street) to facilitate the conveyance of stormwater and sewer infrastructure from Council land.
2. Approve the compensation to the landowner be $16,200, as determined by an independent valuation, as a supplementary vote from the Property Account.
3. Delegate authority to the General Manager to negotiate and finalise the terms of the easement and execute any documents necessary to facilitate its creation and registration.

(Gosewisch/Hutchings)
CARRIED

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS

NSW STATE LAND USE PLAN

2608/022 RESOLVED:

That Council note the release of the NSW State Land Use Plan (State Plan) and the new three-tier State, Regional and Local strategic planning framework.

(Scott/Gosewisch)
CARRIED

DELEGATES REPORTS

MCPHILLAMYS GOLD PROJECT COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

2608/023 RESOLVED:
That Council note the delegates report on the McPhillamys Gold Project Community Consultative Committee meeting held 27 July 2026.

(Reynolds/Gosewisch)
CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.12pm.

The Minute Numbers 2608/001 to 2608/023 were confirmed on 22 September 2026 and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting held on 25 August 2026.

_____
Cr B Reynolds
CHAIR

07) QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AT THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING HELD 25 AUGUST 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 questions taken on notice at the Ordinary Council Meeting held 25 August 2026 and subsequent response be received and noted.

Reason for Report:
To formally record questions taken on notice at the previous Council meeting and subsequent responses.

Report:
Question 1
Cr Gosewisch asked a question about the 2025/26 Financial Statements, regarding the disclosure under Note C2-2 on leases by Council. Leased land in the Industrial Area is not referenced and sought clarification where this information is found. The statements include leases for Ironbark Café (Visitor Information Centre) and Meals on Wheels but doesn't mention the leases in the Industrial Area in the vicinity of the former Blayney Sale Yards.

Response:
The leases identified are individually immaterial in value and accordingly, were not disclosed in the draft 2025/26 Financial Statements under Note C2-2. However, it is acknowledged that, when considered collectively, the total income generated from these leases is material to warrant disclosure. Accordingly, the relevant information has been added for inclusion in Council's draft 2025/26 Financial Statements.

Question 2
Cr Gosewisch asked if there was an update on the permanent steel cattle yards at the Blayney Showground?

Response:
Blayney Shire Horse Sports have advised they would seek to move quickly with desire to have the project completed before Christmas 2026.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Nil

Budget Implications:
Nil

Enclosures (following report)
Nil

Attachments (separate document)
Nil

08) GRANTS COMMISSION REVIEW OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Department: Executive Services

Author: General Manager

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

File No: GS.LI.1

Recommendation:
That Council:
1. Note the NSW Local Government Grants Commission's proposed revised methodology for allocating Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to NSW councils.
2. Note the NSW Local Government Grants Commission letter dated 4 September 2026, which models the proposed changes for Blayney Shire Council, would increase Council's Financial Assistance Grant from $3.969 million to $5.813 million.
3. Endorse the significant positive impact on Council's financial sustainability, Long Term Financial Plan and future service and infrastructure provision the change in methodology would provide.
4. Proceed to lodge a submission with the NSW Local Government Grants Commission supporting the proposed methodology changes.
5. Continue sector advocacy seeking support for restoration of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue.

Reason for Report:
To advise Council of the NSW Local Government Grants Commission's proposed revised methodology for allocating Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to NSW councils.

Report:
Background
Financial Assistance (FA) Grants are annual Commonwealth grants provided to states and distributed to local councils. The grants are untied, meaning councils may use them according to local priorities.

FA Grants have two components:
- General Purpose Component, which supports councils' overall capacity to provide services; and
- Local Roads Component, which recognises councils' relative need for roads expenditure.

FA Grants are provided under the Commonwealth Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995. The NSW Local Government Grants Commission recommends how the NSW allocation is distributed between councils in accordance with that legislation and the National Principles applying to the grants.

The Commission is an independent body, reviewing the NSW allocation methodology who will make recommendations to the NSW Minister for Local Government.

The Commission advises that the review is intended to produce a methodology that is fairer, more transparent, based on more reliable data and consistent with the legislative requirements applying to the grants.

The proposed methodology is not final. Submissions close on 9 October 2026 and the Commission currently proposes to implement the new methodology from 1 July 2027, that is for the 2027/28 financial year onwards.

The Commission's letter to Council, dated Friday 4 September, is provided as an enclosure and the methodology consultation presentation is provided as an attachment.

The review concerns how the Commonwealth funding allocated to NSW is divided between councils. It does not increase the total Commonwealth funding pool. If the NSW allocated pool by the Commonwealth Government remains unchanged, increases for some councils will result in reductions for others.

Discussion

Proposed Methodology

For the General Purpose Component, the Commission proposes to replace the current direct assessment approach with a balanced-budget model. The model would compare each council's estimated expenditure needs with its estimated capacity to raise revenue. The difference would be used to assess relative financial need.

Consistent with the National Principles, 30% of the General Purpose Component would continue to be distributed to all councils on a per-capita basis. The remaining 70% would be distributed according to assessed relative financial need.

The proposed assessment of expenditure needs includes population, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population and remoteness. Revenue-raising capacity would be estimated using household income, numbers of households, land values, statewide rating benchmarks, modelled fees and charges and a four-year average of operating grants. Water and sewer activities would be excluded from relevant measures.

For the Local Roads Component, the Commission proposes to assess relative expenditure needs primarily using council-reported road and bridge lengths, adjusted for regional construction cost differences. Road type, condition and usage are not directly included because the Commission advises that sufficiently consistent and audited statewide information is not available.

The preferred model also proposes a grant 'floor' for 14 councils with the highest remoteness scores. Those councils would not receive less than their 2025/26 allocations. Equivalent protection, however, is not currently proposed for other councils that may experience substantial reductions. Further detail is provided in the presentation attached.

Indicative impact on Blayney Shire Council
The Commission's letter dated 4 September 2026 provides the following indicative modelling for Blayney Shire Council.

Component	2025/26 actual	Proposed methodology	Indicative change
General Purpose	$2,775,433	$4,440,300	$1,664,867
Local Roads	$1,193,696	$1,373,555	$179,859
Total	**$3,969,128**	**$5,813,855**	**$1,844,726**

The General Purpose Component increases by $1,664,867 and the Local Roads Component increases by $179,859, a combined total increase of $1,844,726.

The FA Grant is recurrent and untied. It supports Council's overall ability to provide services and maintain community infrastructure.

Financial Sustainability and Strategic Implications
Council has recently undertaken significant work to assess and respond to its long-term financial sustainability challenges. This has included:

- Special Rate Variation;
- Ongoing restraint in operational spending;

An increase in income of this size would materially assist in Council's long term financial sustainability.

Sector Implications
The State Commission's consultation presentation attached demonstrates that the proposed methodology is a sector-wide redistribution issue, not simply a matter affecting Blayney Shire Council.

The presentation shows that the proposed approach would change the relative allocation of FA Grants across NSW councils. Some councils would receive more funding, while others would receive less, depending on how the proposed expenditure needs and revenue capacity measures apply.

That broader sector effect is important. The consultation should not be assessed only by reference to individual council winners and losers. It should also consider whether the methodology improves fairness and transparency across the sector without creating abrupt financial shocks for councils that are already managing recognised infrastructure, service and financial sustainability pressures. This was highlighted in the January 2026 NSW Audit Office report: Local government 2025 | Audit Office of New South Wales

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
FA Grants are allocated under the Commonwealth Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act, with the NSW Local Government Grants Commission responsible for recommending allocations to NSW councils.

Council will monitor the consultation process and assess the proposed methodology against its financial sustainability, revenue and service planning objectives. The current proposal remains subject to consultation, with submissions due by 9 October 2026.

No final decision has been made and in this regard with some Councils modelled to have a significant drop in FA Grant revenue and additionally a NSW election in March 2027, staff do not expect changes to be implemented that would commence on 1 July 2027.

It is recommended that Council make a submission to the Commission.

Budget Implications:
There is no immediate change to Council's adopted 2026/27 Operational Plan arising from the NSW Grants Commission's proposal. The methodology has not been finalised and is currently proposed to apply from 1 July 2027.

An $1,844,726 increase of income in 2027/28 would result in an immediate improvement in the Delivery Program / Operational Plan and would require corresponding adjustments to the Long Term Financial Plan.

However, the new methodology would also likely presents challenges with long term financial planning and introduces potential financial risk. The methodology includes an assessment of Council's financial performance, which may result in future adjustments or reductions to the level of grant funding allocated to Council.

Enclosures (following report)

1	NSW Local Government Grants Commission	5 Pages

Attachments (separate document)

2	NSW Local Government Grants Commission Proposed Methodology Consultation	49 Pages

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Office of Local Government

Our reference: A1020255

Clr Bruce Reynolds
Mayor
Blayney Shire Council

By email: bruce.reynolds@blayney.nsw.gov.au
cc: mdicker@blayney.nsw.gov.au
council@blayney.nsw.gov.au

4 September 2026

Dear Clr Reynolds,

I write to provide an update on the NSW Local Government Grants Commission's (the Commission) review of the methodology for how the Commonwealth Government's budgeted Financial Assistance Grants (FA Grants) are allocated to NSW councils. As foreshadowed, this review is being conducted in response to advocacy from the NSW peak local government bodies to ensure improvements to the methodology are made, that it complies with the legislation, is fairer, more transparent and is based on the most correct data available.

The Commission understands that any change to the way grants are distributed is very important for councils and your communities. For this reason, we are seeking council and stakeholder feedback on the draft methodology, as proposed in this letter, before any final decision about the allocation methodology is made.

As all councils understand, this draft proposal cannot change the total Commonwealth funding pool available to NSW councils. Instead, this draft methodology may change how that funding is distributed between councils, with the aim of meeting the legal requirements of the grants, which includes better reflecting each council's relative financial need.

Further information about the key methodology changes is provided at **Attachment A** to support your Council's consideration of the proposal.

To assist with planning and feedback, the table below shows your Council's indicative funding under the draft proposal, assuming the annual NSW amount does not change. These figures are estimates only – as the Commonwealth Government controls the total amount, and this varies with their budget allocation. However, we are providing you this estimate to help councils understand the possible effect of the proposed changes.

	General Purpose Component $	Local Road Component $	Total $
2025-26 Actual	2,775,433	1,193,696	3,969,128
Proposed Methodology	4,440,300	1,373,555	5,813,855

The Commission would welcome your council's views on the draft methodology, including its practicality, transparency, fairness, data sources, potential impacts, risks and any opportunities for improvement. In particular, if you have views on the methodology or data sources, we will welcome your views on alternative methodologies or data sources to use.

The methodology presentation and submission template guide are available on the Office of Local Government website here. Your feedback on the methodology and data sources will help the Commission understand how the proposal may affect councils in practice before we finalise our approach. Submission should be provided **by 9 October 2026** to grantscommission@olg.nsw.gov.au.

Thank you for the important work you and all NSW councils do to support your communities and the financial sustainability of council.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Linda Scott
Chair
Local Government Grants Commission

Attachment A – Summary of proposed methodology changes

General Purpose Component

The proposed methodology change uses a balanced-budget approach, which is used by the majority of other Australian jurisdictions. In simple terms, this compares what each council is expected to need to spend with what it is reasonably able to raise in revenue.

This provides a more complete picture of a council's financial position and is intended to ensure funding is allocated fairly, consistently and to better align with the Legislative Instrument - National Principles. The model supports the principles of horizontal fiscal equalisation and effort neutrality. This means councils should be able to provide a comparable level of service through reasonable revenue and expenditure effort, without grant outcomes being driven by individual policy choices. The proposed approach looks at both the cost of delivering local services and a council's ability to raise revenue.

As required under the National Principles, 30 per cent of the General Purpose Component (GPC) funding pool must be distributed on a per-capita basis. This means this part of the funding is allocated to councils based on population. The remaining funding would be distributed according to assessed financial need, with financial need being measured as the gap between a council's modelled expenditure need and modelled revenue capacity, compared with the NSW average.

The proposed methodology would:

1	2	3
Allocate 30% per capita to all councils	Estimate expenditure need and revenue capacity	Allocate 70% according to financial need

Table 1 compares the previous and proposed methodology:

Area	Previous methodology	Proposed methodology
Minimum grant	Allocated after the needs assessment, adding complexity	Allocate 30% of the GPC to all councils on a per capita basis before assessing need
Definition of need	Expenditure need and revenue capacity assessed separately and relative to state averages	Use a balanced-budget approach that accounts for expenditure need and revenue capacity together
Expenditure data	Six expenditure categories; not all expenditure covered; reliance on unaudited disaggregated reporting	One aggregated operating expenditure measure using data aligned more closely with audited totals; water and sewer excluded
Expenditure drivers	The model did not account for remoteness	Model accounts for population, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, ARIA+ remoteness and the interaction between population and remoteness

Area	Previous methodology	Proposed methodology
Revenue capacity	Rates capacity based mainly on land values and aggregated urban/non-urban categories; limited treatment of other revenue	Residential rates based on household income; business, farmland and mining rates assessed using land values; include modelled user fees and charges and a four-year average of operating grants
Adjustments	Separate relative disability allowance and post-model adjustments increased complexity	Remove the separate disability allowance and rely more directly on the model
Local roads	Fixed weightings and separate urban/rural treatment using population, road length, bridge length and remoteness	Use council-reported road and bridge length, adjusted by regional construction cost differences (estimated using Rawlinsons regional construction cost indices)

Table 2 identifies the expenditure need and revenue capacity drivers for the draft methodology of the General Purpose Component:

Expenditure Need	Revenue Capacity
• Modelled as the average operating cost per person expected for a council with similar structural characteristics, rather than the council's chosen or actual spending in a single year • Based on total operating expenditure, excluding water and sewer services, using four years of data • Population: smaller councils are generally assessed as having higher per capita costs because fixed costs are spread across fewer residents • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population: recognises additional service-delivery needs and the relevant National Principle • ARIA+ remoteness recognises isolation-related costs such as freight, travel and access to specialised labour • Population and remoteness interaction recognises that the per capita cost effect of isolation is greater for small remote councils • The model produces a per capita expenditure need for each council using common statewide coefficients	• Estimated as what a council should reasonably be able to raise on average, rather than the revenue it chooses to collect in a particular year • Residential rates: assessed using average household income and the number of households, reflecting affordability and the size of the residential base • Business, farmland and mining rates: assessed separately using land values and category-specific statewide benchmarks • User fees and charges: estimated statistically from council characteristics, excluding water and sewer charges, to preserve effort neutrality • Operating grants: included as a four-year council average as grant support must be recognised and varies considerably between years • The combined rates, user fees and charges, and operating grants produce a per capita revenue-capacity estimate for each council

Under the draft methodology, financial need equals expenditure need minus revenue capacity. Councils, above the weighted NSW average financial need receive a needs-based grant; other councils receive the minimum per capita grant only.

Local roads component

The proposed methodology identifies road need using each council's reported local road and bridge network length, adjusted for regional differences in construction costs via the Rawlinsons Australian Construction Handbook indices. The respective index figures give an indication of how total building project costs vary across NSW, which is used to proxy variations in road maintenance costs. Where a council-specific index is not available, it is estimated using population and ARIA+ remoteness.

Road type, condition and usage are not directly included because comprehensive, consistent and audited data are not available.

Adjustment to ensure national principles are addressed

The methodology recognises that regional, rural, and remote councils often face higher service delivery costs – for this reason, remoteness is included as an important factor in assessing relative need. The methodology also recognises the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, consistent with the National Principles.

The Commission's preferred option includes a safeguard for the 14 most remote NSW councils (Accessibility and Remoteness Index of Australia - or ARIA - score above 6), ensuring they do not receive less funding than they currently receive. The Commission has noted that these councils face unique service delivery challenges, have limited capacity to generate revenue locally, and rely heavily on grant funding. The safeguard provides greater funding certainty for these communities.

09) SUBMISSION ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSET VALUATION DISCUSSION PAPER - OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Department: Executive Services

Author: General Manager

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

File No: CM.CI.3

Recommendation:
That Council note the submission made to the Office of Local Government on the Local Government Asset Valuation Discussion Paper.

Reason for Report:
To inform Council on a submission made to the Office of Local Government.

Report:
The NSW Government's response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the ability of local governments to fund infrastructure and services committed to examining the asset valuation method used by NSW councils. In response to the inquiry, the Office of Local Government (OLG) is examining the asset valuation method used by councils.

The Office of Local Government developed a Local Government Asset Valuation Discussion Paper which is seeking the sector's views on asset valuation models.

Submissions were to be made by 5pm Friday 11 September 2026.

A submission on behalf of Blayney Shire Council is attached to this report.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Nil

Budget Implications:
Nil

Enclosures (following report)

1	Submission - Asset Valuation Methodology	11 Pages

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

Department of Planning and Environment
Office of Local Government

Asset Valuation Methodology Review

Feedback Form

Introduction

In March 2024, the Hon. Ron Hoenig MP, Minister for Local Government, asked the Legislative Council's State Development Committee to undertake a review into the ability of councils to fund infrastructure and services (the Inquiry) and to provide recommendations for a way forward. The NSW Government responded to the Inquiry, supporting 15 of the 17 recommendations.

In response to recommendations 13 and 14 of the Inquiry the Office of Local Government (OLG) has prepared the *Local Government Asset Valuation Discussion Paper* which seeks feedback on the preferred model of asset valuation for the NSW local government sector.

The options considered in the Paper are:

- Option 1: Continue with the Fair Value model
- Option 2: Transition to the Cost model; or
- Option 3: Use a mixed approach with different models for different asset classes.

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- postal address
- telephone number
- email address
- role/position (if applicable)
- any other personal information you provide in your submission.

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OLG will review and evaluate all submissions received.

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Department of Planning and Environment
Office of Local Government

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Have your say

To have your say on this Discussion Paper, you may:

Online: Complete the online feedback form at https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/programs-and-initiatives/financial-sustainability-reforms.

By email: Complete the Word version of the feedback form and email it to olg@olg.nsw.gov.au

By post: Complete the Word version of the feedback form and send it by post to:
Asset Valuation Methodology Review
Sector Policy and Frameworks Team
Office of Local Government
Locked Bag 3015
Nowra NSW 2541

Submissions will be accepted until close of business on Friday, 11 September 2026.

Department of Planning and Environment
Office of Local Government

Feedback Form

Your Details	
1. **Name** *(required field)*:	Mark Dicker
2. **Postal Address:**	PO Box 62, Blayney, NSW, 2799
3. **Telephone:**	02 6368 2104
4. **Email Address:**	council@blayney.nsw.gov.au
5. **Which of the following best describes you?** *(required field)*:	☐ Member of the public ☐ Council Metro ☐ Council Regional ☒ Council Rural ☐ County Council ☐ Councillor *(choose this option if responding as an individual, not on behalf of your council)* ☐ Joint Organisation/Regional Organisation of Councils ☐ Industry / advocacy organisation ☐ NSW State Government agency ☐ Other *(please specify)*: _____
6. **Name of Organisation and Role/Position** *(if applicable)*:	Blayney Shire Council General Manager
7. **I approve the publication of my personal information and submission on OLG's webpage** *(required field)*:	☒ Yes - I approve the publication of my personal information and submission on OLG's webpage. ☐ Yes - I approve the publication of my submission only on OLG's webpage, and do not approve the publication of my personal information on OLG's webpage. ☐ No – I do not approve the publication of my personal information and submission on OLG's webpage.

Targeted Questions (Revaluation Model)
Question 1. What is your view on the revaluation model?
The revaluation model is the preferred model for valuing infrastructure assets of the options provided by Accounting Standard AASB 116. The revaluation model considers Council's financial position as a whole, including current and future revenue projections, operating expenditure and ongoing financial sustainability facilitated through realistic forecasting of required renewal and maintenance activities to facilitate Council's long-term objectives and demonstrate responsible financial management.
Question 2. Do you support the continued use of the revaluation model for NSW councils?
Answer 1. ☒ Yes ☐ No Council supports the continued use of the revaluation model for NSW councils. Reverting to a cost model would materially understate the financial challenges Council faces in maintaining its existing level of services and infrastructure assets. Furthermore, the cost model would provide an overstated and potentially misleading picture of Council's long-term financial sustainability. This is particularly important when engaging with councillors and the community to demonstrate the need for a review of service levels or special variation to rates, or when presenting the case for additional funding to IPART or other levels of government. Maintaining the revaluation model, subject to the rigours of independent audit, provides a more transparent, robust and meaningful assessment of Council's financial performance and position. It also provides greater insight into the true cost of maintaining and sustaining Council's existing services and infrastructure over the long term. For these reasons, the continued use of the revaluation model provides a more accurate and transparent representation of Council's financial position and the financial resources required to sustainably maintain its existing services and assets.
Question 3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of continuing to use the revaluation model and how would your council prioritise them?
The Revaluation Model provides the following advantages for local government: 1. Particularly for regional councils, the vast majority of infrastructure held is considered specialised and used for the provision of services to the community. Roads and other transport assets including stormwater and sewerage infrastructure are largely unique and there is no active market to test the market valuation of these critical assets. The basis for measurement of assets using the revaluation model is adopting the current replacement costs of assets in the absence of determination of fair value through market influences. 2. The current replacement cost of local government infrastructure is essential for reliable forecasting of capital renewal needs for both the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) and Asset Management Plans (AMPs) under the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. Historical asset prices do not adequately inform these plans. 3. Current replacement costs are important for asset planning to determine the optimal replacement timing and strategies to maintain Council's infrastructure. Even under a cost approach, Council would still be required to maintain current replacement costs in order to undertake meaningful

long-term asset management planning, effectively removing any perceived reduction in cost of moving to a cost model.

4. Depreciation calculated on fair value (using current replacement costs) enables councils to demonstrate whether they are truly financially sustainable over the life of their assets. Depreciation calculated on current replacement cost demonstrates this by showing the consumption of asset value in terms of what it would cost to replace that asset in current day terms. Reporting the consumption of infrastructure assets at fair value enables councils to recognise the true operational costs of its services to the community and properly consider issues of intergenerational equity. This information is vital in demonstrating Council's ability to maintain its assets as and to take action when required by facilitating sustainable revenue generation and make informed expenditure and service level decisions.

The revaluation model has the following disadvantages for local government:

1. The current revaluation model imposes real direct and many indirect costs each year including external costs of consultants, valuers and auditors and the indirect costs of staff time and resources.
2. The requirement to apply indexation between formal revaluations to comply with the requirements of AASB116 creates an artificial and potentially inaccurate value for infrastructure assets, which is then effectively corrected or superseded when the next formal revaluation is undertaken. This adds complexity and administrative burden without necessarily producing a more accurate representation of the underlying value of Council's assets.

Question 4.	**Would the continued use of the revaluation model provide more relevant and reliable information to users of the financial statements about the effects of transactions, other events or conditions on financial position, performance and cash flow for councils over the other options?**

3. ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

With the majority of Council's infrastructure assets, being specialised or other assets for which there is no active market, fair value is calculated using the cost approach and is based on current replacement cost under para B8 of AASB 13.

As explained above, depreciation based on fair value (current replacement cost) and remaining useful lives of assets provides more accurate information about the consumption of current asset value required to provide the services for the year. Consequently, the "bottom line" operating result after depreciation calculated using fair value shows the true sustainability of the organisation as an entity required to renew its assets as required to provide services over the long term.

Fair value based on current replacement cost aligns asset values across the organisation and provides consistency for the purpose of statutory reporting and compliance with the IP&R framework.

Question 5.	**Can you provide modelling or statistics to support your views on the revaluation model?**

4. ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

For Example:

Assume a sewer facility was constructed in 1950 for a historical cost of $500,000, with a 100-year useful life. Under a cost-based approach:

- Original cost: $500,000

- Annual depreciation: $5,000
- Age in 2026: 76 years
- Accumulated depreciation: $380,000
- Carrying value in 2026: $120,000

Yet Council's long-term financial planning may identify that the facility requires $20 million to renew or replace in 2030. This creates a risk that long term financial plan will then not present an accurate financial position or long-term financial sustainability.

An asset that is reported with a carrying value of $120k, while requiring a future renewal investment of $20m demonstrates how a cost-based measurement approach can materially understate the financial challenge Council faces in maintaining its levels of service.

It should be noted that even this model is not perfect as the replacement of asset renewals relying on assets valued at current replacement cost only allows for replacement of like for like assets which is rarely the case particularly with such complex assets as described above. Therefore, it is often seen in practice that even this valuation method does not adequately inform Council's future renewal expenditure however it is a lot closer than the cost valuation method.

Question 6.	**What changes, improvements, additional guidance, training or support would assist your council if the revaluation model is retained?**

- Simplify the revaluation process and provide the required resources and training for Councils to conduct their own internal comprehensive valuations.
- A reference of standard replacement cost unit rates for common infrastructure items.
- A reference of standard useful lives.
- Remove the requirement to index assets between revaluation years as this creates an artificial and potentially inaccurate value for infrastructure assets, which is then effectively corrected or superseded when the next formal revaluation is undertaken. This adds complexity and administrative burden without necessarily producing a more accurate representation of the underlying value of Council's assets.
- The above improvements will also help to streamline processes and simplify the audit process.

Question 7.	**What else should be considered?**

Nil.

Targeted Questions (Cost Model)	
Question 8.	**What is your view on the cost model?**
The cost model, using historical cost asset values, is inadequate to demonstrate the true cost of services, through current value deprecation, and allow councils to accurately compile their LTFP projections in terms of capital renewals. The impact of using historical costs is exacerbated in the case of councils as they are notably asset - intensive, relying on infrastructure with very long useful lives. By using historic cost, it is not possible for the rate of asset consumption to be demonstrated / calculated and therefore it is not able to address intergenerational equity, as is a requirement within the Council's IP&R process.	
Question 9.	**Do you support the cost model for NSW councils?**
5.	**☐ Yes ☒ No**
Question 10.	**What are the advantages and disadvantages of moving to a cost model and how would your council prioritise them?**
Disadvantages include: • Understatement of asset worth and future funding needs: risks councils not making adequate funding provision within their financial planning. • Loss of relevance for decision-marking: historical cost values do not reflect current replacement cost, market conditions or insurance requirements. This will mislead lenders, insurers, the community and Council about the true condition and value of Council's infrastructure. • Loss of a vital tool, the council income statement, to demonstrate financial sustainability or financial need to stakeholders.	
Question 11.	**Will the introduction of the cost model result in more relevant and reliable information to users of the financial statements about the effects of transactions, other events or conditions on financial position, performance and cash flow for councils over the other options?**
6.	**☐ Yes ☒ No** The cost model is based on out of date historical cost information which can distort decision making and assessment of sustainability in the longer term. As councils are notably "infrastructure heavy", controlling assets with longer useful lives typically of 10 to 100 years, historical cost information can become quite out of date and irrelevant to current day decision making. Furthermore, introducing the cost model may: • Interfere with ability to benchmark council performance against similar councils in other states. • Create confusion within communities trying to understand why the budgeted renewal / rehabilitation costs are far in excess of the depreciated actual cost.

Question 12.	**Can you provide modelling or statistics to support your views?**
7.	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No** Please write your comments here
Question 13.	**Does your council have sufficient historical information available to report a 'true historical cost' for the transition of current assets to the cost model?**
8.	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No** Council does not have sufficient historical information to reliably determine a 'true historical cost' for all existing assets, particularly within the sewer and stormwater infrastructure networks. Council has a significant portfolio of ageing infrastructure, some of which was constructed many decades ago. Historical records for these assets are limited, incomplete or, in some cases, unavailable. This is particularly evident within the sewer and stormwater networks, where infrastructure has been progressively constructed, modified and renewed over many decades. As a result, attempting to establish a true historical cost for these assets would require significant estimation and reconstruction of historical information. This would introduce a level of uncertainty and inconsistency into the cost model and could result in values that are no more reliable than the existing valuation methodologies. Council therefore considers that transitioning these assets to a cost model based on 'true historical cost' would be problematic, particularly where the underlying historical records do not exist to support the reported amounts.
Question 14.	**What is your view on a phased approach to the cost model, where certain asset classes are transitioned over time so that councils have time to prepare systems and processes and work with their auditor?**
Council does not support the cost model for long-term infrastructure assets and therefore does not support a phased transition to it.	
Question 15.	**If a phased approach was supported, what timeframe would you suggest to phase in the cost model?**
Not applicable.	
Question 16.	**If a phased approach was supported, what asset classes should be prioritised?**
Not applicable.	

Question 17.	**If there was a change in local government valuation approaches, what finance system and/or implementation timelines and processes would council need to undertake?**
The ramifications of a change of this scale have not been fully realised or adequately considered. Implementation would likely require substantial investment in Council's financial systems, significant retrospective reconstruction of historical asset and financial data and considerable additional administrative effort. This would place a substantial burden on Council's already limited resources and divert staff capacity from core operational and service delivery responsibilities.	
Question 18.	**What training, guidance or support would council need if the cost model was implemented?**
Significant training would be required across the whole of Council, extending from Elected Members through to Finance, Asset Management and operational teams. This would be resource-intensive and would require Council to effectively rebuild and reconfigure established processes, systems and reporting frameworks that are already embedded and functioning. The scale of this change would place a substantial additional burden on Council's limited resources, with significant time and cost required to implement a system that largely duplicates processes already in place.	

Targeted Questions (Mixed Model)	
Question 19.	**What is your view on a mixed valuation approach?**
Council does not support the proposed use of a mixed valuation approach. The mixed valuation approach is based on the premise that historical cost is an appropriate measure for certain classes of infrastructure assets. This is problematic where current replacement costs are essential to producing meaningful and accurate Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) and Asset Management Plan (AMP) projections. Using historical cost for these assets risks producing depreciation outcomes that do not reflect the true cost of maintaining and ultimately replacing critical infrastructure and therefore may provide a misleading assessment of long-term financial sustainability. The underlying assumption that fair value is only relevant to assets that may be sold is also flawed. For local government infrastructure, fair value commonly incorporates current replacement cost and therefore provides information that is directly relevant to financial management, asset management, depreciation modelling and long-term financial sustainability decisions. These are not simply accounting considerations; they directly inform Council's ability to understand the future financial burden associated with maintaining its infrastructure portfolio. Furthermore, the mixed valuation approach does not eliminate the valuation burden on councils. Councils would still be required to undertake costly and time-consuming valuations across asset classes, while potentially receiving limited benefit from doing so. This is particularly concerning for smaller regional councils with limited financial and technical resources. The proposed approach therefore risks creating the worst of both worlds: councils retain a significant valuation and compliance burden while simultaneously introducing inconsistencies in the valuation basis across infrastructure asset classes. Rather than simplifying financial reporting, this may create additional complexity, reduce comparability and make it more difficult for elected members and the community to understand the true cost and sustainability of Council's infrastructure obligations. Council considers that any proposed valuation framework should prioritise the usefulness of financial information for long-term asset management and financial sustainability, while recognising the significant resource constraints faced by regional and rural councils.	
Question 20.	**Do you support the use of a mixed valuation approach?**
9.	**☐ Yes ☒ No**
Question 21.	**Which asset classes would you consider appropriate for measurement under the revaluation method and which asset classes under the cost method?**
Not applicable.	
Question 22.	**If a phased approach was supported for the asset classes falling under the cost approach, what timeframe would you suggest to phase in the cost model?**
Not applicable.	

Question 23.	**If a phased approach was supported, what asset classes should be prioritised?**
Not applicable.	
Question 24.	**What are the advantages and disadvantages of implementing a mixed valuation approach and how would your council prioritise them?**
10.	☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** Refer to answer 19.
Question 25.	**Would the mixed valuation approach result in more relevant and reliable information about the effects of transactions, other events or conditions on financial position, performance and cashflow for councils over the other options?**
11.	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No** A mixed approach would have the similar impacts to a cost-base approach and reduce the relevance and reliability of financial information for the sector's largest and most service-critical infrastructure asset classes, while adding operational complexity without a clear benefit.
Question 26.	**If there was a change in local government valuation approaches, what system and/or implementation timelines, costs and processes would council need to undertake?**
The ramifications of a change of this scale have not been fully realised or adequately considered. Implementation would likely require substantial investment in Council's financial systems, significant retrospective reconstruction of historical asset and financial data, and considerable additional administrative effort. This would place a substantial burden on Council's already limited resources and divert staff capacity from core operational and service delivery responsibilities.	
Question 27.	**Do you have any modelling or statistics to support your views?**
12.	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Question 28.	**What training or guidance would council need if a mixed valuation approach was implemented?**
Significant training would be required across the whole of Council, extending from Elected Members through to Finance, Asset Management and operational teams. This would be resource-intensive and would require Council to effectively rebuild and reconfigure established processes, systems and reporting frameworks that are already embedded and functioning. The scale of this change would place a substantial additional burden on Council's limited resources, with significant time and cost required to implement a system that largely duplicates processes already in place.	

10) TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

Department: Executive Services

Author: Manager Tourism and Communication

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

File No: GS.PG.1

Recommendation:
That Council approve funding under the 2026/27 Tourism Development Program, subject to conditions detailed in the report, to:
1. Newbridge Progress Association Inc. $2,000 for the Newbridge Winter Solstice Festival 2027.
2. Newbridge Art Show Inc. $2,000 for Spring into Art at Newbridge.
3. Blayney A & P Association Inc. $2,000 for the 2027 Blayney Show.

Reason for Report:
For Council to consider approval of applications seeking Council financial support under the 2026/27 Tourism Development Program.

Report:
Three applications were received and assessed against the Tourism Development Program objectives, eligibility requirements and funding criteria.

Applicant / Event	Recommended Allocation	High-level use of grant funding	Recommendation
Newbridge Progress Association Inc. – Newbridge Winter Solstice Festival 2027	$2,000	Regional radio advertising and marketing to broaden awareness of event across Western NSW and encourage increased visitation to Newbridge and Blayney Shire.	Approve
Newbridge Art Show Inc. – Spring into Art at Newbridge	$2,000	Marketing and promotional activity, including website maintenance, event photography, videography and signage for the expanded arts, workshop and music program.	Approve
Blayney A & P Association Inc. – 2027 Blayney Show	$2,000	Free family amusement and entertainment attractions, including a rock-climbing wall, reptile show and roving/static magic show to enhance the visitor experience.	Approve
Total allocation recommended / committed	**$6,000**		
Remaining balance - Tourism Development Fund	**$2,000**		Retain for Round 2

The total annual funding pool is $10,000. The recommended allocation of $6,000 to the three current applications, together with the $2,000 previously approved by Council to be carried over for the Neville Show, results in a total committed allocation of $8,000 and leaves $2,000 unallocated.

1. **Newbridge Progress Association Inc. – Newbridge Winter Solstice Festival 2027: $2,000 (Event)**

The Newbridge Winter Solstice Festival is an established village event that has operated since 2014 and is expected to attract approximately 1,000 attendees. The event supports winter and off-peak visitation and contributes to local accommodation, hospitality and retail activity.

The application seeks $2,000 to extend regional radio promotion through Super Radio Network and Southern Cross Austereo campaigns, broadening awareness across Western NSW and encouraging additional visitation to Newbridge and Blayney Shire.

The application is eligible and strongly aligned with the Tourism Development Program, with the requested funding directed toward tourism marketing and event promotion.

Key strengths include strong tourism promotion, support for winter visitation, economic benefit to local businesses and a clear capacity for the event to continue annually.

Council will require confirmation of risk management, insurance and event approval documentation as part of the funding agreement.

Assessment Summary:
The application demonstrates high strategic alignment and high tourism benefit, with low to moderate financial risk. It is recommended that Council approve $2,000, subject to funding being applied only to eligible tourism marketing and event promotion activities, confirmation of required event approvals and insurance, correction of budget errors, and submission of a final acquittal report.

2. **Newbridge Art Show Inc. – Spring into Art at Newbridge: $2,000 (Event)**

Spring into Art at Newbridge is a five day arts, cultural and workshop event that promotes Newbridge as a cultural tourism destination, encourages visitors from outside the Shire, supports local accommodation and hospitality businesses, and contributes to increased length of stay.

The application seeks $2,000 to contribute to marketing and promotional activity, including website maintenance, event photography, videography and signage for the expanded arts, workshop and music program.

Key strengths include a growing event profile, regional marketing approach, ATDW listings, workshop and arts programming, and substantial cash and in-kind support.

The requested Council contribution represents a small proportion of total project expenditure and leverages significant external and volunteer contribution.

Issues to note include reliance on sponsorship and other grant income, ambitious expenditure relative to expected attendance, and the need to restrict Council funding to eligible marketing and promotional activities rather than broader event operations.

Assessment Summary:
The application demonstrates high strategic alignment and high tourism benefit, with moderate financial risk. It is recommended that Council approve $2,000, subject to funding being applied only to approved tourism marketing and promotional activities, confirmation of budget assumptions and sponsorship commitments, evidence of required approvals and insurance, and submission of an acquittal report detailing visitor numbers, marketing outcomes and expenditure.

3. **Blayney A & P Association Inc. – 2027 Blayney Show: $2,000 (Event)**

The Blayney Show is a long established annual agricultural event with reported attendance of approximately 3,500 people and evidence of visitation from outside the local government area.

The application seeks $2,000 toward free amusement and family entertainment attractions, including a rock-climbing wall, reptile show and roving/static magic show, to enhance the visitor experience at the annual Show.

Key strengths include the event's scale, long operating history, strong community support, balanced project budget, applicant co-contribution, and clear economic benefit to accommodation providers, fuel businesses, suppliers, retailers and exhibitors.

While the application has weaker direct tourism development alignment than the Newbridge applications, the event's scale, visitor draw and economic contribution support approval.

Assessment Summary:
The application demonstrates moderate strategic alignment and moderate to high tourism benefit, with low financial risk. It is recommended that Council approve $2,000, noting that the application demonstrates strong event and economic outcomes but only moderate tourism development alignment.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, section 356, Council may resolve to grant financial assistance to persons for the purpose of exercising its functions.

As this program was included in the 2026/27 Operational Plan, does not exceed more than 5 percent of Council's income and is open to all persons within Council's area; 28 days public notice of Council's resolution is not required.
Event funding applications need to meet the following criteria of the Tourism Development Program:

- Demonstrate sound organisational planning, including a clear event plan, event structure, operational processes, insurance and risk management.
- Events held on Council land must be conducted in accordance with Council's Events Management Policy.
- Events must be held within the Blayney Shire Council Local Government Area.
- Event planning must recognise peak tourism periods for the Orange Region and demonstrate how the event fits into the annual event calendar.
- Deliver quality event marketing and visitor-focused promotion.
- Appeal to target markets as outlined in the Orange Region Destination Management Plan.
- Promote visitation and expenditure in the region and support increased overnight visitation where possible.
- Have the capacity to be an ongoing event or a significant one-off event resulting in increased brand awareness for the region.
- Ensure the event is listed on the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) and Blayney Shire Council websites.

All approved applications should be subject to standard funding conditions, including eligible expenditure only, provision of relevant financial documentation, required approvals, permits, insurance and risk management documentation, acknowledgement of Council support, and completion of an acquittal report with evidence of expenditure and tourism outcomes.

Council also needs to be considerate that all applicants are from not-for-profit groups run by volunteer committees for events in Blayney Shire. It is important for Council to strike a balance in providing support to community groups who are willing to dedicate their time to coordinate events which provide value to the local economy.

Budget Implications:
The total annual Tourism Development Fund pool is $10,000. The recommended allocation of $6,000 to the three current applications, together with the $2,000, previously approved by Council, for the Neville Show results in a total committed allocation of $8,000.

A remaining balance of $2,000 will be retained for Round 2 future eligible demand or Council discretion.

Enclosures (following report)
Nil

Attachments (separate document)
Nil

11) REPORT OF COUNCIL INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 AUGUST 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 at 31 August 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 August 2026.

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

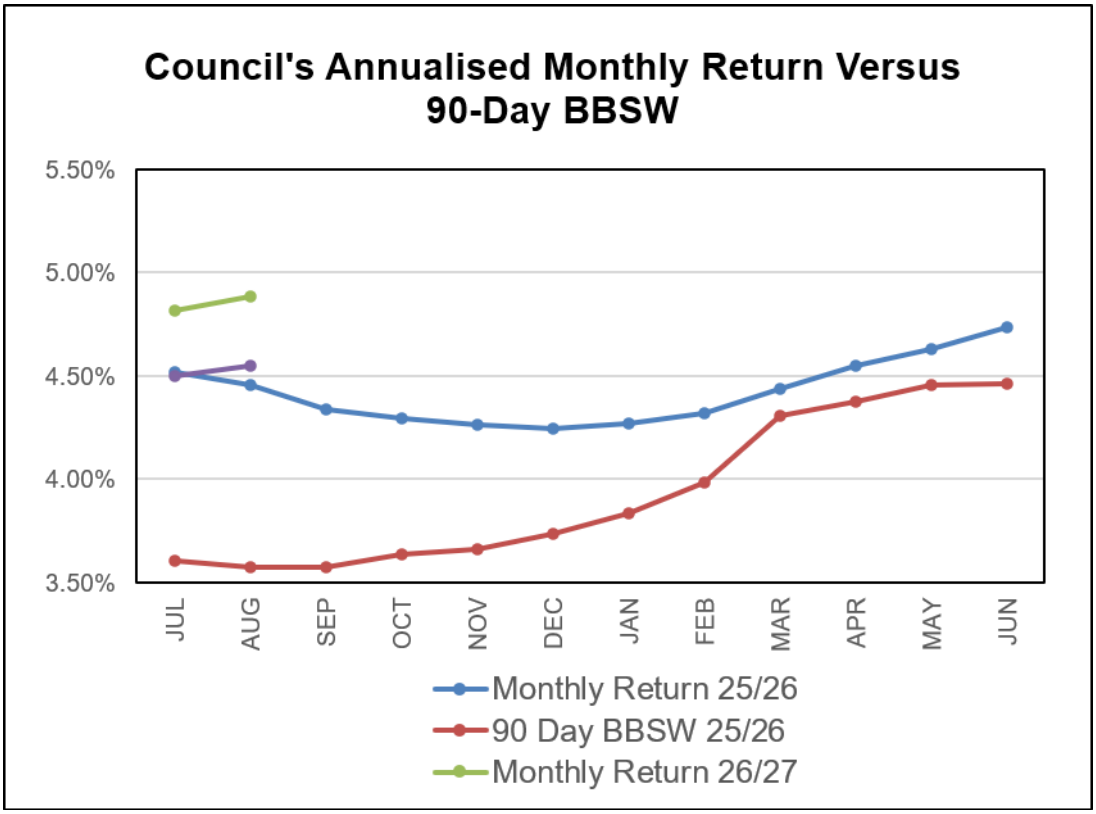
Council's total investment and cash position as at 31 August 2026 is $38,067,450.

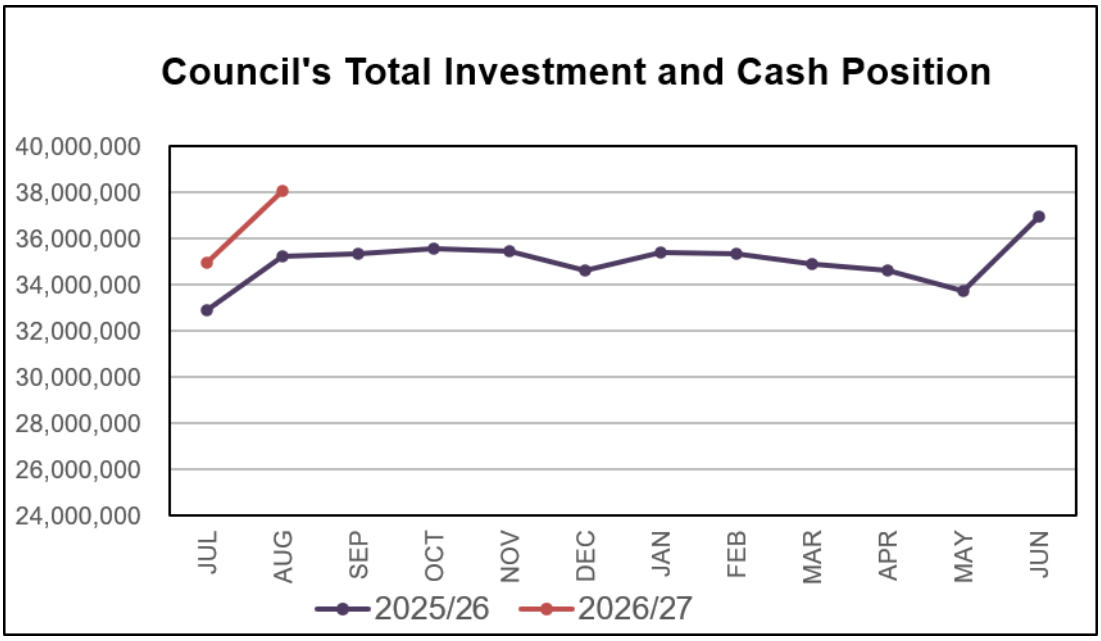
Interest on cash and investments accrued for the month of August was $145,181. The total interest accrued on cash and investments year to date is $285,945.

Council's monthly net return on Term Deposits (annualised) for August was 4.89% which outperformed the 90-day Bank Bill Swap Rate of 4.55%.

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

Funding Program	**$**
Roads To Recovery 2025/26	556,121
Financial Assistance Grant 2026/27 - Q1	243,853
Community Energy Upgrades Rd 2 - Milestone 2	148,855


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 25/26
90 Day BBSW 25/26
Monthly Return 26/27


Council's Total Investment and Cash Position
40,000,000
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
2025/26
2026/27

Register Of Investments and Cash as of 31 August 2026					
Institution	**Method**	**Rating**	**Maturity**	**Amount $**	**Interest Rate**
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%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	09/03/2027	500,000	5.150%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	16/03/2027	500,000	5.290%
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%

CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	25/05/2027	500,000	5.180%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	25/05/2027	500,000	5.350%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	01/06/2027	500,000	5.350%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	08/06/2027	500,000	5.190%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	15/06/2027	500,000	5.210%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	15/06/2027	500,000	5.190%
Bank of Queensland	Curve	A2/A-	22/06/2027	500,000	5.150%
MyState Bank Ltd	Curve	A2/BBB+	29/06/2027	500,000	5.300%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	06/07/2027	500,000	5.250%
B & A Bank	Curve	A2/A-	13/07/2027	500,000	5.100%
B & A Bank	Curve	A2/A-	13/07/2027	500,000	5.100%
Bank of Queensland	Curve	A1/A	20/07/2027	500,000	5.150%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	27/07/2027	500,000	5.410%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	03/08/2027	500,000	5.300%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	10/08/2027	500,000	5.350%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	17/08/2027	500,000	5.230%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	24/08/2027	500,000	5.320%
Total Investments				**32,000,000**	**4.885%**
Commonwealth Bank - At Call Account (1)				2,010,363	4.250%
Commonwealth Bank Balance - General (1)				3,796,585	4.200%
Reliance Bank (1)				260,502	0.000%
Total Cash and Investments(2)				**38,067,450**	
Benchmarks:		BBSW 90 Day Index (1)			4.550%
		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 - August 2026		
Financial Institution	**Amount $**	**Commentary**
Westpac	(520,544)	Term deposit matured 04/08/2026
Westpac	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 04/08/2026
NAB	(518,339)	Term deposit matured 11/08/2026
NAB	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 11/08/2026
CBA	(517,951)	Term deposit matured 18/08/2026
CBA	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 18/08/2026
Westpac	(520,394)	Term deposit matured 25/08/2026
Westpac	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 25/08/2026

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%	75%	24,000,000
A- Category	40%	13%	4,000,000
BBB+ Category	25%	9%	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%	12%	
			32,000,000

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	2,000,000
Bendigo & Adelaide (B&A) Bank	A2/A-	3,000,000	1,500,000
CBA	A1+/AA-	8,000,000	8,000,000
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	500,000
MyState Bank Ltd	A2/BBB+	1,000,000	1,000,000
NAB	A1+/AA-	8,000,000	8,000,000
Reliance Bank	Unrated	1,000,000	1,000,000
Westpac	A1+/AA-	8,000,000	8,000,000
Total Investments			**32,000,000**

Summary of Restricted, Allocated and Unrestricted Cash & Investments			
	Actual[2] 30/06/2026 $ 000's	Actual 31/08/2026 $ 000's	Forecast [1] 30/06/2027 $ 000's
External Cash Restrictions	14,211	14,168	11,977
Internal Cash Allocations	18,674	14,604	12,000
Total Restricted, Allocated Cash & Investments	**32,885**	**28,772**	**23,977**
Unrestricted Cash	3,932	9,295	3,520
Total Restricted, Allocated and Unrestricted Cash & Investments	**36,817**	**38,067**	**27,497**

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 indicative and represent best available information as at 30/06/2026. Further adjustments are still anticipated throughout finalisation of the 2025/26 Financial Statements and the final unrestricted cash figure may be subject to audit adjustments.

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) SIX MONTHLY DELIVERY PROGRAM REVIEW - JUNE 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.PL.1

Recommendation:
That the progress report of Council's 2025/26 – 2028/29 Delivery Program to 30 June 2026, for inclusion into the Council 2025/26 Annual Report, be received.

Reason for Report:
To review progress of Council's 2025/26 – 2028/29 Delivery Program.

Report:
As part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework the Office of Local Government (OLG) requires Council to adopt a suite of strategic planning documents. These documents include a long term Community Strategic Plan, a four year Delivery Program and an annual Operational Plan and Budget.

These documents are supported by the Resourcing Strategy comprising the Long Term Financial Plan, Asset Management Policy and Plans and the Workforce Plan.

The 2025/26 – 2028/29 Delivery Program was adopted in June 2025 following consultation with the community, Councillors and Council staff. The Delivery Program outlines the key activities and services to be delivered to the community throughout the Council term, guided by the Blayney Shire Council Community Strategic Plan.

The Office of Local Government (OLG) requires Council to report on progress against the Delivery Program every six months, with these reports provided to both Council and the community. At the conclusion of the Council term, a comprehensive End of Term Report is prepared to provide the outgoing Council and the community with an overall assessment of progress and achievements during the term.

This report provides a consolidated summary of activities undertaken across the organisation, drawing on both qualitative and quantitative information provided by Managers and Directors. As the final progress report for the 2025/26 financial year, it provides an overview of activities undertaken during the twelve-month period and will form part of Council's 2025/26 Annual Report.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Council is required under the Local Government Act to report six monthly to Council with reporting included in Council's Annual Report.

Budget Implications:
Nil

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

1 2025/26 – 2028/29 Delivery Program Progress Report as at 30 June 2026 26 Pages

13) REVIEW OF COUNCIL POLICIES

Department: Corporate Services

Author: Director Corporate Services

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

File No: GO.PO.1

Recommendation:
That Council;
1. Endorse the following policies and place them on public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days.

Policy Name
Bring Your Own Device Policy
Road Pathway and Bridge Naming Policy

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

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

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

In the interest of public transparency, the following policies would normally be proposed for public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days.

The following policy is new and is provided as an attachment for reference:

Policy	Objective	Comment
Bring Your Own Device Policy	To provide clear requirements for the approved use of personally owned devices when accessing Blayney Shire Council systems and information, while protecting Council data, maintaining cyber security controls and supporting efficient work practices.	New policy developed as recommended in the Fraud Risk Health Assessment undertaken in 2025/26.

The following existing policy is proposed with no changes since last adopted:

Policy	Objective	Comment
Road Pathway and Bridge Naming Policy	To provide a standardised and consistent framework for local road and bridge naming within the Blayney Shire Council Local Government Area (Blayney Shire).	No changes.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Nil

Budget Implications:
Nil

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

1	Draft Bring Your Own Device Policy	6 Pages
2	Draft Road Pathway and Bridge Naming Policy	18 Pages

14) ENDORSEMENT OF DRAFT DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN

Department: Corporate Services

Author: Director Corporate Services

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

File No: CS.PO.1

Recommendation:
That Council:
1. Endorse the Draft 2026 – 2030 Disability Inclusion Action Plan for Blayney Shire Council for exhibition and it be placed on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days;
2. Should no submissions be received during the public exhibition period, adopt the Draft 2026 – 2030 Disability Inclusion Action Plan for Blayney Shire Council

Reason for Report:
For Council to endorse the Draft 2026 – 2030 Disability Inclusion Action Plan for Blayney Shire Council for public exhibition.

Report:
Blayney Shire Council has developed a Disability Inclusion Action Plan as required under the Disability Inclusion Act 2014. Council's current 2022 – 2026 Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) was adopted in March 2023.

Blayney, Cabonne and Orange Councils have adopted a collaborative approach to the development of a joint plan. Under this approach, each Council has taken the lead with undertaking local community consultation and developing strategies and actions that reflect the needs and priorities of their respective communities. These individual strategies comprise individual council plans and will be combined into a joint plan.

The Disability Inclusion Action Plan will underpin Council's commitment to providing quality facilities and services that enable people with a disability to fully participate in our communities.

This Disability Inclusion Action Plan for 2026 – 2030 is a third iteration and was developed through a community consultation process which also included review of Council documents and relevant Government policies.

The 2026 – 2030 Disability Inclusion Action Plan sets out what Council will do over four years to enable people with a disability to have greater access to Council information, services and facilities.

The consultation process involved community engagement with the broader community through surveys and targeted consultation to help identify gaps and discuss issues.

The Blayney Shire Disability Inclusion Working Group (DIWG) and a Disability Inclusion Reference Group have been engaged during preparation of the plan and will be engaged further for refinement of the plan.

It is proposed that the Draft 2026 – 2030 Disability Inclusion Action Plan be endorsed for public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

The development of a Disability Inclusion Action Plan will satisfy Council's legislative obligations and will also assist in raising community awareness, helping to make Blayney Shire more accessible for all community members.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
The development of a Disability Inclusion Action Plan is required under the Disability Inclusion Act 2014 and will form part of Council's integrated planning and reporting process.

Budget Implications:
No budget allowance has been provided for plan preparation and finalisation of the plan with it coordinated using existing Council staff resources. Implementation of the plan is envisaged to be incorporated into activity and project planning and budgeted into operational and capital project costs.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

1	Draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan	17 Pages

15) NOMINATION FOR DISABILITY INCLUSION WORKING GROUP

Department: Corporate Services

Author: Director Corporate Services

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

File No: CM.ME.3

Recommendation:
That Council;
1. Appoint Heather Ferguson as a community representative to the Disability Inclusion Working Group for the remainder of the current Council term.
2. Amend the Disability Inclusion Charter to reflect a minimum of 5 community representatives.

Reason for Report:
For Council to consider a community representative nomination for the Disability Inclusion Working Group for the duration of the remainder of the Council term.

Report:
Council is in receipt of a community representative nomination from Heather Ferguson for the Disability Inclusion Working Group.

The nomination was received following attendance by the nominee at the recent 2026 – 2030 Disability Inclusion Plan Reference Group. The nominee has a background of working in disability employment enterprises in human resources and training.

The Disability Inclusion Working Group Charter provides for the Working Group to comprise one Councillor, one alternate Councillor and five community representative positions. While five community representatives are currently appointed, there is merit in providing greater flexibility for additional community members to participate, particularly to accommodate meeting times and the availability of appointed members.

The Charter outlines that the quorum of the committee is four. It is not proposed to amend this number.

The Disability Inclusion Working Group is tasked with monitoring and developing strategies to maintain Council's commitment to improving access for all community members to a range of services implementing the Disability Inclusion Action Plan. The Plan sets out Council's actions to support inclusion of people with disability.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Council has established this working group to exercise its functions on Council's behalf as per section 355(b) of the NSW Local Government Act (1993). The committee has been given a delegated authority to act, which is limited and does not have a budget. It is advisory in nature and as minutes are reported to Council the recommendations of each meeting are, so far as adopted by Council, resolutions of Council.

Council has discretion in the number and appointment of members and if so choose, by resolution may vary the number of community representatives. At any time, Council may invite additional community representatives and approve another person(s) to any of the committees.

Upon endorsement, nominees will act as Community Representatives for the duration of the Council term unless the Working Group is dissolved earlier.

Budget Implications:
Working Group meetings are predominantly held in Council facilities after hours in most cases, and a member of the senior staff team provides the secretariat and administration support at no additional overtime cost to the organisation.

Community representatives are volunteers and contribute without any reimbursement of travel or other meeting expenses. For very minimal expense committees of Council are an important and valuable community engagement opportunity.

Enclosures (following report)
Nil

Attachments (separate document)
Nil

16) MINUTES OF THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 14 SEPTEMBER 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: CR.SD.2

Recommendation:
That Council;

1. Receive the minutes of the Financial Assistance Committee meeting held 14 September 2026.
2. Note the resignation of Jordan Butler from the Community Financial Assistance Committee.
3. Seek expressions of interests for community representative nominations to the Community Financial Assistance Committee.
4. Note the approval of fee waiver under delegation by the General Manager, in the amount of $773.
5. Approve the recommendations for 2026/27 – Round 1 of the Community Financial Assistance Program by the Financial Assistance Program Committee, in the amount of $19,273 being:

No.	Applicant	$
1	Blayney Rotary Club	1,699
2	Newbridge Progress Association	2,580
3	Sunny Ridge Golf Club	5,000
4	Country Education Foundation	5,000
6	Blayney Junior Soccer Club Inc	2,994
8	Neville Show Society	2,000

6. Approve the recommendations for 2026/27 – Flagship funding by the Financial Assistance Program Committee, in the amount of $25,000 being:

No.	Applicant	$
F1	Blayney Shire Horse Sports	25,000

7. Consider the application from Sidetrack Arts for the Blayney Railway Station 150th Anniversary Community Event.

Reason for Report:
For Council to endorse the minutes of the Financial Assistance committee meeting held 14 September 2026 and associated allocations of funding under the Community Financial Assistance Program.

Report:
The Financial Assistance Committee at its meeting held 14 September 2026 considered a number of matters including:

- The resignation of Committee Member (community representative), Jordan Butler and recommended promotion of expressions of interests for nominations to the Community Financial Assistance Committee.

  The committee of 9 members is comprised of:
  - 2 Councillors
  - A representative from Newmont (Cadia) Mining
  - A representative from Flyers Creek Wind Farm
  - 5 community representatives.

  The quorum is 5 members.

  With this resignation the committee will be comprised of 7 members with 3 community representatives. The committee has recommended that expressions of interest be sought for the two vacant community representatives.

- Applications for Round 1 of the Community Financial Assistance Program for 2026/27.

  An amount of $20,227 was also available for distribution in Round 1 ($42,000 for full year).

  Council received 8 applications for the Round 1 of 2026/27 Program seeking $27,791 in financial assistance. The committee has recommended $19,273 be allocated to projects for Round 1.

- An amount of $25,000 was available for Flagship project funding for the 2026/27 year.

  Council received 2 Flagship applications seeking $41,347 in financial assistance. The Financial Assistance Committee has recommended $25,000 be allocated to one project.

- An application from Sidetrack Arts for That the application from Sidetrack Arts for the Blayney Railway Station 150th Anniversary Community Event, whilst supported given its significance, is not within the scope of the Community Financial Assistance Program. This application was referred to Council for consideration.

Recommendations for funding are pursuant to the criteria stipulated in the Community Financial Assistance Program policy and guidelines.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COMMITTEEHELD 14 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT BLAYNEY SHIRE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm.

1. PRESENT

Councillor Rebecca Scott (Chair); Miles Hedge; Tamara Miller; Josh Fitzgerald (Iberdrola). Melissa O'Brien (Cadia); Anton Franze (Director Corporate Services – Secretariat: Ex-officio).

2. APOLOGIES

David Kingham; Councillor Karl Hutchings.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Name	Item	Nature	Interest		
			Pecuniary	Non-Pecuniary	
			S	S	LTS
M.Hedge	8 – App. 1	Member of Blayney Rotary Club			X
R.Scott	8 – App. 6	Member of Blayney Senior Football			X

S: significant
LTS: Less than significant

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING – 5 MARCH 2026

Recommendation:
That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 March 2026 be noted.

Miles Hedge / Melissa O'Brien

5. BUSINESS ARISING

Nil.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER RESIGNATION

That the Community Financial Assistance Committee:

1. Note the resignation of Committee Member, Jordan Butler.
2. Recommend promotion of expressions of interests for nominations to the Community Financial Assistance Committee.

Melissa O'Brien /Tamara Miller

7. REQUESTS APPROVED BY GENERAL MANAGER UNDER DELEGATION

Recommendation:
That the approval of fee waivers and sporting related financial assistance, under delegation by the General Manager, in the amount of $773 be noted.

Rebecca Scott / Miles Hedge

8. CONSIDERATION OF ROUND 1: 2026/27 COMMUNITY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

SUMMARY OF AVAILABLE FUNDS:	
Annual budget 2026/27	$ 145,000
Less: Flagship funding	-$ 25,000
Less: 2026/27 Operational Plan Approved Contributions (Admin, insurance and event)	-$ 78,000
Total Available for Distribution 2026/27	**$ 42,000**
Less Funding allocated for Round 2	-$ 21,000
Less Funding approved under delegation	-$ 773
Total Available for Distribution 2026/27 – Round 1	**$ 20,227**

SUMMARY OF FLAGSHIP FUNDING AVAILABLE:	
Annual budget 2026/27	$ 25,000
Total Available for Distribution:	**$ 25,000**

Recommendation:

1. That an amount of $19,273 from the 2026/27 Community Financial Assistance Program be recommended for approval by Council as per the attached schedule for Round 1.
2. That the application from Sidetrack Arts for the Blayney Railway Station 150th Anniversary Community Event be referred to Council for consideration.
3. That Flagship funding of $25,000 be approved.

Melissa O'Brien / Tamara Miller

9. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting proposed for early March 2027. Date to be confirmed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.15pm.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS: 2026/27 ROUND 1

No	Applicant	Project	Grant sought	Grant recommended	Comments and feedback
1	Blayney Rotary Club	Purchase and Installation of Smart Television - Blayney Golf Club	$1,800	$1,699	Funding approved only to extent of quotation value.
2	Newbridge Progress Association	Purchase of materials and signage / Hire portable stage and Golf carts - Winter Solstice Festival	$5,000	$2,580	Successful event. Funding for hire of stage not within funding policy. Whilst outside scope of policy, Committee supports Golf Cart funding request to aid accessibility at the event.
3	Sunny Ridge Golf Club	Repaint and repair entire clubhouse roof	$5,000	$5,000	Funding conditional on applicant furnishing a second quote.
4	Country Education Foundation	Tertiary and Vocational Training Scholarship program	$5,000	$5,000	Worthwhile program supporting students with need. Conditional on Blayney students being allocated funding to approved amount and associated acquittal / substantiation.
5	Sidetrack Arts	Blayney Railway Station 150th Anniversary Community Event	$4,997	$ -	Supported in principle however outside scope of policy. Referred to Council for consideration.
6	Blayney Junior Soccer Club Inc	Purchase of Portable Soccer Goals	$2,994	$2,994	Funding conditional on applicant furnishing a quotation. Portable goals supported as permanent goals are not an option as ground is a multipurpose facility.
7	Neville Show Society	Public Liability insurance/ Affiliation Fees Ag Show NSW	$1,000	$ -	Request not supported - outside scope of policy.
8	Neville Show Society	Purchase of Bain Maree for Neville Hall Canteen	$2,000	$2,000	Appliance would be a great addition for recurrent use,
	TOTAL:		**$27,791**	**$ 19,273**	

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS: FLAGSHIP FUNDING

No	Applicant	Project	Grant sought	Grant recommended	Comments and feedback
F1	Blayney Shire Horse Sports	Installation of Permanent Steel Cattle Yard Facilities at Blayney Showground	$25,000	$25,000	Application includes support from other groups and is included in Blayney Showground Masterplan. Wider community benefit. Worthy of support.
F2	Carcoar Dam Sailing Club	Replacement and upgrade of Off-grid Electrical Infrastructure	$16,347	$ -	Detailed application well presented. Funding recipient in 2025/26.
	TOTAL:		**$41,347**	**$25,000**	

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
The recommendations for funding are as recommended by the Financial Assistance Committee and are assessed against the Community Financial Assistance Program guidelines.

Budget Implications:
Council has an amount of $145,000, encompassing $25,000 Flagship project funding, allocated in the 2026/27 Operational Plan for this purpose. This also includes an amount of $78,000 approved in advance for financial assistance to groups, schools and organisations.

Should Council approve the application from Sidetrack Arts for the Blayney Railway Station 150th Anniversary Community Event a source of funding will need to be identified and budget approved.

Enclosures (following report)
Nil

Attachments (separate document)
Nil

17) LEASE OF INDUSTRIAL LAND FOR AGISTMENT PURPOSES

Department: Corporate Services

Author: Director Corporate Services

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

File No: PM.TN.10

Recommendation:
That Council lease the industrial land to Mr R. Hobby for the term ending 29 February 2028, with an option to renew for a further one-year period, at an annual fee of $200, subject to annual adjustment in accordance with CPI.

Reason for Report:
For Council to consider an expression of interest received for vacant industrial land previously offered in an Expression of Interest for Lease of Industrial Land for Agistment Purposes and not allocated.

Report:
In February 2025 Council advertised Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Lease of Industrial Land for Agistment Purposes in the Blayney Industrial Estate.

There were 2 lots (Lot 6 and Lot 7) that Council leased that have since been surrendered following the lessee relocating out of the Council area in July 2025. Whilst Lot 6 has been leased since vacated, Lot 7 remains vacant. Details of the land are shown below:

Tender Lot	Approx. size	Water Available	Property Description
7	1.670ha	Yes	Saleyards Paddock (Marshalls Lane) Part Lot 26 DP 1288588

A standing Expression of Interest for this lot has been promoted since the land became vacant. Recently Council received an offer as follows:

Tender Lot	Property Description	Name	Amount p.a.
7	Part Lot 26 DP 1288588	Mr. R. Hobby	$200

The amount offered is below amounts offered in previous years being:

- 2025 – Two bids $1,100 and $400; and
- 2021 – $500

The land however has remained vacant and not been maintained for over a one year period.

The applicant is a previous lessee with Council and has demonstrated experience with maintaining land.

A condition of leasing is that 4 weeks' notice can be given to the lessee to vacate if Council has an interested party to purchase or lease land for a commercial purpose.

The lease period, if approved, would be for the period to 29 February 2028 with an option of a further year. Lease amounts are indexed annually by CPI on 1 March.

The leasing of land assists Council with management of land for fire and weeds while affording the opportunity for interested parties to obtain access to land for animal grazing.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Should Council choose not to allocate this lease a program of maintenance of land will be required to manage weeds and fire hazards.

Budget Implications:
Income generated will help to offset expenditure associated with land held including insurance and land rates.

Enclosures (following report)
Nil

Attachments (separate document)
Nil

18) 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 September 2026.
2. Approve a supplementary vote of $1,500 from the Village Enhancement Program to DIWG Project – Lyndhurst Carpark & Bus Stop Area, noting this enables construction of Stage 1 only.

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:
Lyndhurst Capital Park – Accessible Upgrade
Councillors would recall a project from 2025/26, approved to be carried forward into the 2026/27 financial year, titled 'DIWG Project – Lyndhurst Carpark & Bus Stop Area', with an allocated project budget of $47,828, estimated from Concept Drawings.

Detailed design has now been finalised and identified that the accessible car parking space proposed during the concept design stage requires additional civil works to enable construction and achieve compliance with AS 2890.5.

The bus boarding area has also been designed in accordance with TfNSW bus zone guidelines and AS 1428.1. To achieve compliant grades between the boarding area and existing footpath, the boarding ramp has been relocated to the western side of the existing shelter and lengthened.

The design has been separated into two stages to enable construction of the accessible carpark as Stage 1, while allowing Council to determine whether the Stage 2 works—comprising the bus boarding area, accessible ramp, kerb and gutter, and associated pavement works—are undertaken as part of the 2026/27 Delivery Program or deferred to a future year. If Council sought to

proceed with both stages in the 2026/27 Delivery Program a suggested resolution can be found within the **Budget** section of this report.

Figure 1 depicts the proposed works and staging, while Table 1 provides a summary of the scope and estimated cost for each stage.

Stage	Scope	Estimate cost to construct	Suggested Funding Sources
Stage 1	Accessible Car space, associated kerb and gutter, kerb ramp, concrete shared area and road pavement works	$49,300	Existing Funds + $1500 from VEP, being the original funding source of this project.
Stage 2	Bus boarding area, accessible ramp, kerb and gutter, kerb ramp and road pavement works	$67,500	VEP, Cadia or FCWF Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA)

Table 1: Staging and estimate summary.

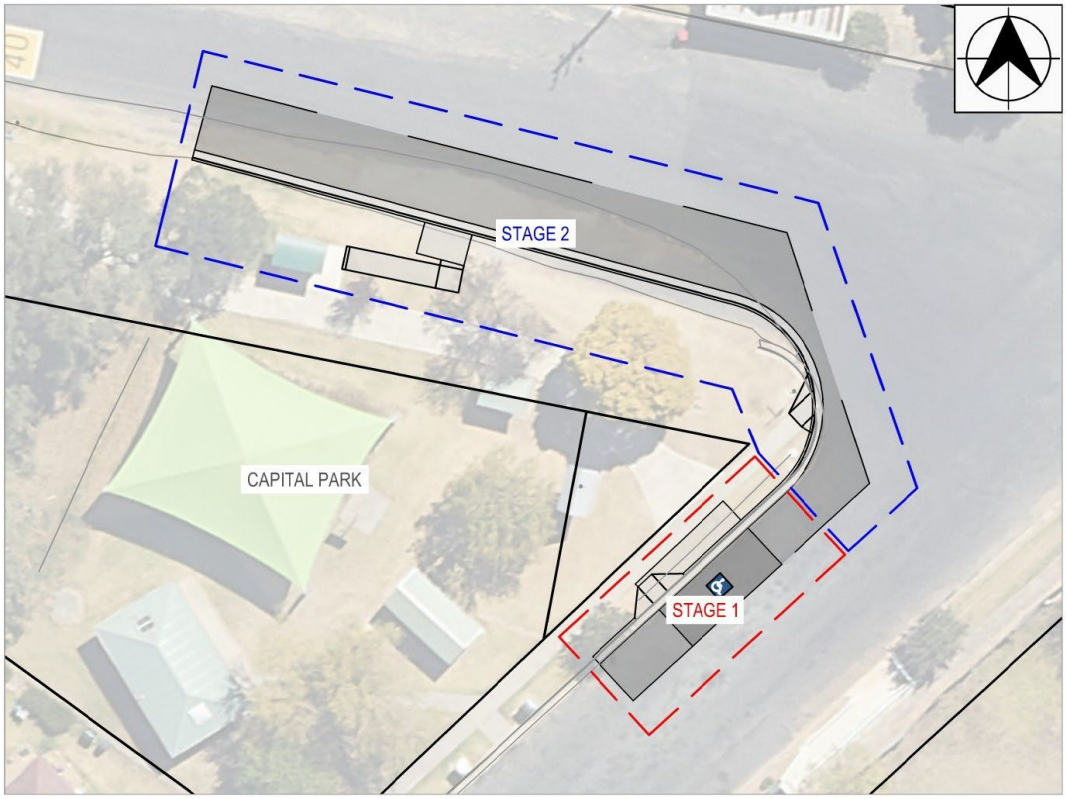


Figure 1: Proposed works.

Maintenance and renewal works
Since the last report, pothole patching has been completed on Hobbys Yards Road, Wimbledon Road, Cadia Road, and Newbridge Road. Patching crew staff have been utilised for traffic control for the Victoria Street works over the past few weeks, so limited patching has occurred.

Since the last report, another 33.5 km of gravel roads have been graded. These roads include Wallaces Road, North Lane, Wattersons Lane, Hagars Lane, Gartholme Road, Myers Lane, Glenlea Road, Bulb Farm Lane, Nixons Lane, Rapleys Lane, Convent Lane, Four Mile Creek Road, Millpost Creek Road, Somers Lane, Lawson Road, Meribah Road, Old Errowanbang Road, Ellerys Lane, Pitlochry Road.

Resheeting of gravel has been completed on Gallymont Road, and Lucan Road. An additional 3,372 tonnes of gravel on unsealed roads have been applied since the last report. Resheeting on Meribah Road and Neville-Trunkey Road is halfway completed.

The resealing program list has been finalised and issued to the sealing contractor. The sealing contractor is now scoping and preparing seal designs for these based on their measured texture depth readings.

The initial round of linemarking renewal works has also been completed, as at 15/9/2026, new longitudinal lines being applied on Forest Reefs Road and Newbridge Road. Transverse work is also being completed in the region on Forest Reefs Road's intersections with hold lines being re-marked. In addition, numerals are being re-marked in and around Newbridge as they have almost disappeared with age. The last of this year's linemarking renewal works will occur on Tallwood Road during the completion of the RERRF new linemarking works, with 3.6km of centreline expected to be marked on segments outside of the capital works area.

Open Spaces and Facilities
Vandalism
Recent vandalism has been experienced at the public toilets at Capital Park in Lyndhurst. Substantial damage was reported to Council by NSW Police. No suspects have been identified. Toilets, basins, one door and one skylight need to be replaced at a cost of approximately $10k.

Staff have opted to install stainless steel items in lieu of the ceramic fitting for better durability. This will likely impact operational budgets as the year progresses, but these are considered essential infrastructure to maintain. Recurring minor vandalism at the Heritage Park public toilets (mess not destruction) has been prevented through adjustments to the opening hours via the Smarthub digital access control system.

Sportsgrounds
The irrigation repairs have commenced at KGO now winter sport seasons have concluded. Napier oval was able to be reopened for the community for the last couple of weeks of the season.

The Dakers Oval cricket pitch has been installed and the grounds are now being reconditioned from the works to prepare for the cricket season. The Showground cattle yards proposal has been approved, and the user group are awaiting the outcome of grant submissions before proceeding. Council will provide basic assistance with project delivery at the relevant time.

Sewer Treatment Plant (STP)
Staff capacity at the STP has limited this month to essential works. This has included persisting with the aerator fault investigations. The cause has not yet been identified. Impacts are not critical at this time. Draining of one of the sludge ponds that has not been drained in approximately 5 years was undertaken. This is an increased volume than typically undertaken, and will require much of our remaining onsite disposal areas for the resultant biosolids output.

Flow monitoring of the Belubula River for the Discharge impact Assessment has commenced. This is the study required by the EPA to further inform their consideration of our license variation request. A recent change to near-real-time reporting of license breaches has increased the feedback from the EPA on this matter.

Major Projects
Note: Tallwood Road budget and expenditure reporting is cumulative budget and reporting from 25/26 to current 26/27.

Tallwood Road – RERRF					
Due Date	**Revised Budget $**	**Expenditure this Month $**	**Total Expenditure (inc. prior year) $**	**Committed Expenditure $**	**Estimated Total Project Costs $**
October 2026	1,838,324	156,132	1,504,900	137,010	1,651,720
Commentary					
• All works except sealing, guardrail, and delineation completed. • Funding acquittal has been lodged for RERRF program.					
Forecast (1-3 months)					
• Completion of sealing, guardrail installation, and delineation at the end of the month.					

Naylor Street Bridge - Renewals					
Due Date	**Revised Budget $**	**Expenditure this Month[1] $**	**Total Expenditure $**	**Committed Expenditure $**	**Estimated Total Project Costs $**
June 2027	500,000	127,322	127,322	51,736	TBD

Commentary

- [1] Includes prior months expenditure not yet reported, as this is the first reporting of the project's status.
- Preliminary bridge repairs are completed, with deck timbers, abutment bracing and pile duplication, and fixture maintenance works all completed in August.
- Geotechnical sampling has been completed for the new timber wingwall design. Sampling reports will be provided to CTW for underbore scoping of the water main on the bridge, which is required to enable the construction of the new wingwall. Council is awaiting receipt of the investigation report from the geotechnical engineers.
- A preliminary REF has been prepared with intended design scope included in the assessment. The report is currently in draft status and being reviewed.
- A design consultant that specialises in timber bridges has been engaged to undertake the design once the geotechnical investigation report is received and transmitted on.

Forecast (1-3 months)

- Receipt of geotechnical investigation report.
- Commencement of design of new wingwall/abutment.
- Undertaking of estimates and scoping documentation for RFx of the new wingwall/abutment.
- Receipt of underbore scoping/design from CTW.

Victoria Street – Urban Stormwater Renewals					
Due Date	**Revised Budget $**	**Expenditure this Month[1] $**	**Total Expenditure $**	**Committed Expenditure $**	**Estimated Total Project Costs $**
September 2027	250,000	124,283	124,283	48,489	224,591
Commentary					
• [1] Includes prior months expenditure not yet reported, as this is the first reporting of the project's status. *Reporting as at 15/9/2026* • All culvert/pipe works are completed, with the three lines fully installed. • New concrete pit was formed and poured. • All remaining works on the kerb and gutter, kerb inlets, footpath and perambulator ramp, and sealing of trench surface is expected to be completed by 25th September 2026. • Hydro-seeding of the verge material will likely occur around completion of kerb and verge top-dressing, pending contractor availability. • Re-sealing of this area is already included in the current-year resealing program, and as such a temporary emulsion seal will be applied over the trench/excavation areas until such time as the reseal is completed. • Three days of inclement weather delayed the programming slightly, and inability to source correct lintels delayed completion by another day.					
Forecast (1-3 months)					
• Completion of works by end of September. • Resealing over section of works likely November/December.					

Hobbys Yards Road Renewal – CH1400-3050					
Due Date	**Revised Budget $**	**Expenditure this Month $**	**Total Expenditure $**	**Committed Expenditure $**	**Estimated Total Project Costs $**
June 2027	1,359,795	3,111[1]	3,111	44,480	1,503,982[2]
Commentary					
• [1] Includes prior months not previously reported. • Preliminary drainage works are underway. • Detailed design currently being finalised, which has been delayed significantly by the prioritisation of the Victoria Street Millthorpe culvert project. • [2] Cost to complete (above Estimated total Project Costs) is based on 1.5km of work (current draft preliminary estimate). • Staff are proceeding to commence this project based on a reduced project length, being approximately 1.32km (to fit within the next available horizontal curve) to be within the current revised budget allocation. • It is highlighted to Council; staff have proceeded to survey an additional 150m south of the 1.5km project area (would take the project to 1.65km) with a view to give Council the option to extend the scope of this project. • Upon finalisation of the design, staff will be able to more confidentially estimate project costs and present the 3 options (1.32km, 1.5km and 1.65km) to Council at the October Council meeting for a decision.					
Forecast (1-3 months)					
• Finalisation of detailed design and final cost estimate by the end of September, after which final programming will be committed. • Culvert installation in the 1.32km section. • Subcontractor engagement for stabilising.					

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. Supplementary votes are recommended in this report.

Lyndhurst Capital Park – Accessible Upgrade
If Council sought to proceed with both stages to be constructed this 2026/27 financial year, a suggested resolution can be found below:

> *2. Approve a supplementary vote of $1,500 from the Village Enhancement Program to DIWG Project – Lyndhurst Carpark & Bus Stop Area (Stage 1).*
> *3. Approve a supplementary vote of $67,500 from **[insert budget source]** to DIWG Project – Lyndhurst Carpark and Bus Stop Area (Stage 2).*

As at 11/09/2026, the balances of restricted VEP & voluntary planning agreement funds, excluding committed funds are approximately as follows:

Allocation	$
Cadia Voluntary Planning Agreement	$270,000
FCWF Voluntary Planning Agreement	$245,000
Village Enhancement Program	$230,000

Enclosures (following report)
Nil

Attachments (separate document)
Nil

19) 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.MT.1

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

Reason for Report:
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:
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.

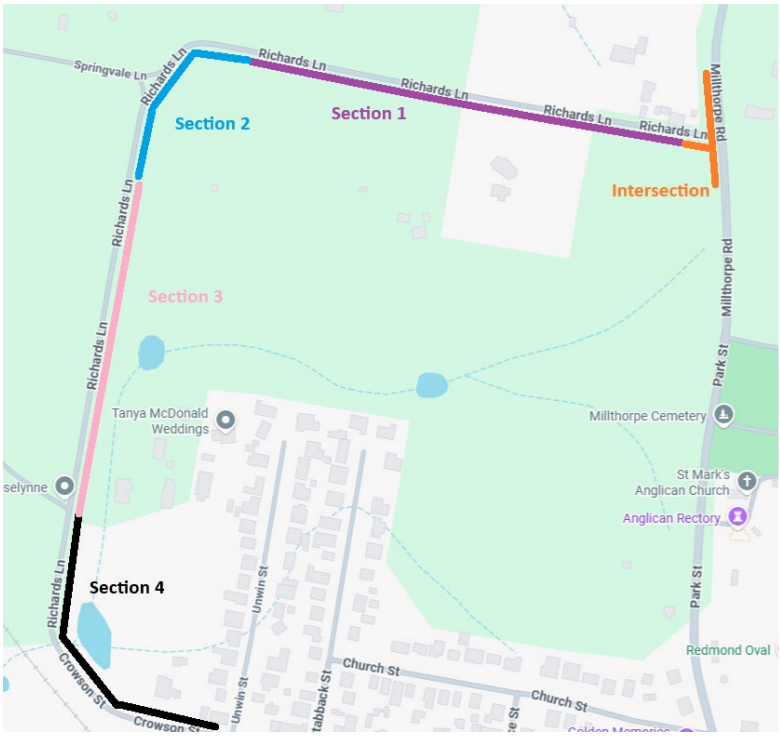


Figure 1

Project Summary
The current project financial summary is shown in Table 1 below.
Costs and budget allocations are being reported as the combined 25/26 and current FY figures for continuity of reporting purposes.

Richards Lane – R4R9					
Completion Date	**Revised Budget $**	**Expenditure this Month $**	**Total Expenditure $**	**Committed Expenditure $**	**Estimated Total Project Costs $**
September 2026	3,070,673	557,221	2,598,448	334,113	2,932,561

Table 1

Local Road Portion of Works:
Majority of works are complete with the local road being sealed on 27/08/2026. Pavement temperatures allowed for the installation of a double coat seal so will not require reseal in the following 12 months.

Line marking remains the main outstanding item of work, which will be completed in conjunction with the intersection linemarking.

TfNSW have issued a speed zone determination of 50km/h. Council is currently ordering signs to arrange its implementation following completion of the project.

Intersection Portion of Works
Majority of works have been completed, with the concrete barriers removed and opened to two-way traffic on 14/09/2026. The entrance to Richards Lane off Millthorpe Road will remain closed until linemarking is installed.

The Contractor has experienced delays securing a linemarking sub-contractor. This is the final works remaining and is programmed to be completed prior to the end of September.

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

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 ~$138k as contingency funds yet to be drawn upon.

Enclosures (following report)
Nil

Attachments (separate document)
Nil

20) MINUTES OF THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM MEETING - 4 SEPTEMBER 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.4

Recommendation:
That Council:
1. Receive and note the minutes of the Blayney Shire Local Transport Forum Meeting, held on 4 September 2026.
2. Endorse the Traffic Guidance Scheme for the Blayney Twilight Shopping Event, to be held on Friday, 27 November 2026 on Church Street Blayney, as a Class 2 event, subject to the conditions detailed in the Director Infrastructure Services' Report.
3. Endorse the Traffic Management Plan for the Millthorpe Market event, to be staged on 6 December 2026 & 6 April 2027 on Redmond Oval as a Class 2 event, subject to the conditions detailed in the Director Infrastructure Services' Report.
4. Endorse the Traffic Guidance Scheme for the annual Blayney Show, to be staged on 27 February 2027 on Blayney Showground, Marshalls Lane, as a Class 3 event, subject to the conditions detailed in the Director Infrastructure Services' Report.
5. Note the public exhibition of the proposed changes to Adelaide St North, adjacent to St Joseph's School has been completed and a separate report has been prepared to this Council Meeting.
6. Following a review of parking arrangements in Lindsay St, Blayney, endorse:
    a. Bus zone signage to be altered as per plan provided in annexure A.
    b. Alteration of "No Parking" & "Bus Zone' times to align with school zone times.
    c. The western side of Lindsay St to be signposted as 60 degree rear to kerb parking.

MINUTES OF THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM MEETING
HELD IN THE CHAMBERS, BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY CENTRE, ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2026, COMMENCING AT 11:00 AM

PRESENT

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

Present: Jacob Hogan (Director Infrastructure Services), Lilly Simons (Trainee Administration Officer), Mayor Bruce Reynolds (Blayney Shire Council – Observer)

APOLOGIES
Nil

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
Item 3 – Cr Newstead noted that Hannah's Transport trucks have been frequently parking in the area over the past couple of months. NSW Police stated that incidents should be reported to the police when they occur.

The guardrail at the Millthorpe Road/Glenorie Road intersection has been repaired

DECLARATION OF INTEREST
That the following Declaration of Interest be noted.

Number	Member/Officer	Interest	Report	Reason
12	Reg Rendall	Pecuniary	Event – Remembrance Day – 11 November 2026	ANZAC

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
Recommendation:
That the Minutes of the Blayney Shire Council Local Transport Forum Meeting held on 5 June 2026, be confirmed to be a true and accurate record of that meeting.

(Mover: Jackie Barry/ Steve Chaplin)

REPORTS

STREET EVENT - BLAYNEY TWILIGHT SHOPPING - FRIDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2026
Recommendation:
That Council endorse the Traffic Guidance Scheme for the Blayney Twilight Shopping Event, to be held on Friday, 27 November 2026 on Church Street Blayney, as a Class 2 event, subject to the conditions detailed in the Director Infrastructure Services' Report.

Action: The incorrect date was shown on the attached plan. A revised plan will be submitted with the ROL to TfNSW.

STREET EVENT - MILLTHORPE MARKETS - 6 DECEMBER 2026 & 4 APRIL 2027

Recommendation:

1. That Council endorse the Traffic Management Plan for the Millthorpe Market event, to be staged on 6 December 2026 & 6 April 2027 on Redmond Oval as a Class 2 event, subject to the conditions detailed in the Director Infrastructure Services' Report.

STREET EVENT - BLAYNEY SHOW 27 FEBRUARY 2027 (IC/101903)

Recommendation:

That Council endorse the Traffic Guidance Scheme for the annual Blayney Show, to be staged on 27 February 2027 on Blayney Showground, Marshalls Lane, as a Class 3 event, subject to the conditions detailed in the Director Infrastructure Services' Report.

ADELAIDE STREET NORTH / ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

Recommendation:

That Council

1. Note the submissions received during the public exhibition period.
2. Allocate funding to progress the proposed changes of Adelaide St North, adjacent to St Joseph's school.

Community and school feedback was discussed, including pedestrian access, bus bay retention and concerns regarding road access and notification.

SIGNAGE - BUS ZONE - LINDSAY STREET, BLAYNEY

Recommendation:

1. That bus zone signage be altered as per plan provided in annexure A.
2. That "No Parking" & "Bus Zone' times be altered to align with school zone times.
3. That the western side of Lindsay St be signposted as 60 degree rear to kerb parking.

TRAFFIC REGISTER

TRAFFIC REGISTER

All items have been actioned

GENERAL BUSINESS

PARKING - WATER STREET, BLAYNEY

Actions

The background and history of Traffic devices on Water Street was presented. No further action proposed.

BUS ROUTE - REQUEST TO CHANGE BUS ROUTE AND ADD BUS STOP - LYNDHURST

Actions

Noted by the committee.

GENERAL BUSINESS WITHOUT NOTICE

TRUCKS PARTIALLY OBSTRUCTING THE ROAD AT THE SERVICE STATION

Mayor Reynolds raised concerns regarding trucks associated with the service station partially obstructing the roadway, with tyres extending over the fog line.
NSW Police responded that this is a breach of current road rules and should be reported to the Police.

ANZAC DAY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND SIGNAGE

Mayor Reynolds raised a request from the local Sergeant for additional signage due to pedestrians spilling onto the roadway during the ANZAC Day Dawn Service.
Action: BSC to review the TGS and consider additional signage and traffic management measures for the Dawn Service.

B2B EVENT – 17TH & 18TH APRIL 2027

Mayor Reynolds met with Ed Kirk who provided an update on the proposed B2B event in the Blayney area, including Newbridge and Trunkey, scheduled for 17–18 April 2027. The event may have an impact on the Shire, with a formal application still pending.

MID-WESTERN HIGHWAY – CTLX SPEED LIMIT

Mayor Reynolds advised that he is waiting further update from TfNSW in regard to the CTLX speed limit matter.

PYM STREET & BLAKE STREET INTERSECTION - MILLTHORPE

Mayor Reynolds has been approached by resident regarding confusion over give-way requirements at the Pym Street and Blake Street intersection.
Action: BSC to coordinate review of the intersection and make any recommendations to the Local Traffic Forum.

INFORMAL MATTERS

EVENT - MILLTHORPE GARDEN RAMBLE - 31 OCTOBER & 1 NOVEMBER 2026

Noted

EVENT - CADIA OPEN DAY 2026 - 8 NOVEMBER 2026 (IAPP/102740)
A parking concern was raised regarding the existing bus zone and potential pick-up arrangements at Redmond Oval.
Action: BSC to review submitted documents.

EVENT - REMEMBRANCE DAY - 11 NOVEMBER 2026
Noted

EVENT - CAROLS AT CARRINGTON - 11 DECEMBER 2026 (IAPP/102466)
Noted

EVENT - 2027 RALLY - SATURDAY 13 MARCH 2027 - SAVE THE DATE AWAITING APPLICATION (NC/30649)
The application is still being prepared. The proposed Greghamstown and Dungeon Road location has been rejected by DIS. Noted

FUTURE MEETING DATES - 2026
Friday, 4 December 2026

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 11:52am

Enclosures (following report)

1	Street Event - Blayney Twilight Shopping - Conditions	1 Page
2	Street Event - Millthorpe Markets - Conditions	1 Page
3	Street Event - Blayney Show - Conditions	1 Page
4	Lindsay Street, Blayney - Signage Plan	1 Page

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

Street Event – Blayney Twilight Shopping – Friday 27 November 2026

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

a. The Event Organiser shall obtain approval from NSW Police, with submission of a Notice of Intention to Hold a Public Assembly, in accordance with the Summary Offences Act 1988, and a copy provided to Blayney Shire Council, prior to the event.
b. Council is to be provided with an up-to-date copy of a $20M Public Liability Insurance Policy indicating Blayney Shire Council's interests, and the date and location of the event.
c. 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 Local Transport Forum for approval prior to the event.
d. Implementation of the approved Traffic Guidance Scheme (TGS) is to be completed by persons appropriately qualified to do so.
e. All personnel carrying out traffic control duties must hold a Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) authorised traffic controller's ticket.
f. The Event organiser shall provide and install physical barriers (ie: vehicles) at temporary road closure locations (Church Street, Blayney) for the duration of the event, in accordance with NSW Police requirements for the protection of crowded places.
g. All Event Marshalls, Traffic Controllers and participants must be consulted and advised of the risk management and contingency arrangements in case of an emergency.
h. A Risk Assessment must be completed and a Risk Management Plan submitted to Council prior to the event.
i. The Event Organiser shall ensure high-visibility vests are provided and worn by all volunteers.
j. The Event Organiser must inform all relevant persons involved in the organisation of the event of the Conditions of Approval.
k. The Event Organiser is to notify all Emergency Services of the event and associated road closures, including Orange Base and Blayney Hospitals.
l. The Event Organiser is to notify all business proprietors and residents affected by the event at least 7 days prior to the event.
m. The Event Organiser is to provide and publish the direct contact number for the Event Organiser/Clerk of the Course, for in the event of an emergency, residents and Emergency Services may need to access the route.
n. The Event Organiser is to comply with the requirements of the Transport for NSW "Guide to Traffic and Transport Management for Special Events" (version 4.2) dated November 2025, for a Class 2 event.
o. The Event Organiser will, advertise the temporary road closures, including a direct contact number for the Event Organiser, at least seven days prior to the event, in the local media.
p. The Event Organiser will not direct any person to, nor place any markings on the roadway in accordance with s123 of the Road Transport Act 2013.

Street Event – Millthorpe Markets – 6 December 2026 & 4 April 2027

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

a. The Event Organiser shall obtain approval from NSW Police, with submission of a Notice of Intention to Hold a Public Assembly (via **chifleyrms@police.nsw.gov.au**), in accordance with the Summary Offences Act 1988, and a copy provided to Blayney Shire Council, prior to the event.

b. The Event Organiser shall obtain a Road Occupancy Licence, in accordance with the Roads Act 1993 (s144) from Transport for NSW, with a copy provided to Blayney Shire Council, prior to the event.

c. Council shall be provided with an up-to-date copy of a Public Liability Insurance Policy to a value of at least $20m, indicating Blayney Shire Council's interests, and the date and location of the event.

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

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

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

h. The Event Organiser shall ensure high-visibility vests are provided and worn by all volunteers.

i. The Event Organiser must inform all relevant persons involved in the organisation of the event of the Conditions of Approval.

j. The Event Organiser is to notify all Emergency Services of the event and associated road closures, including Orange Base and Blayney Hospitals.

k. The Event Organiser is to notify all business proprietors and residents affected by the event at least 7 days prior to the event.

l. The Event Organiser is to 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.

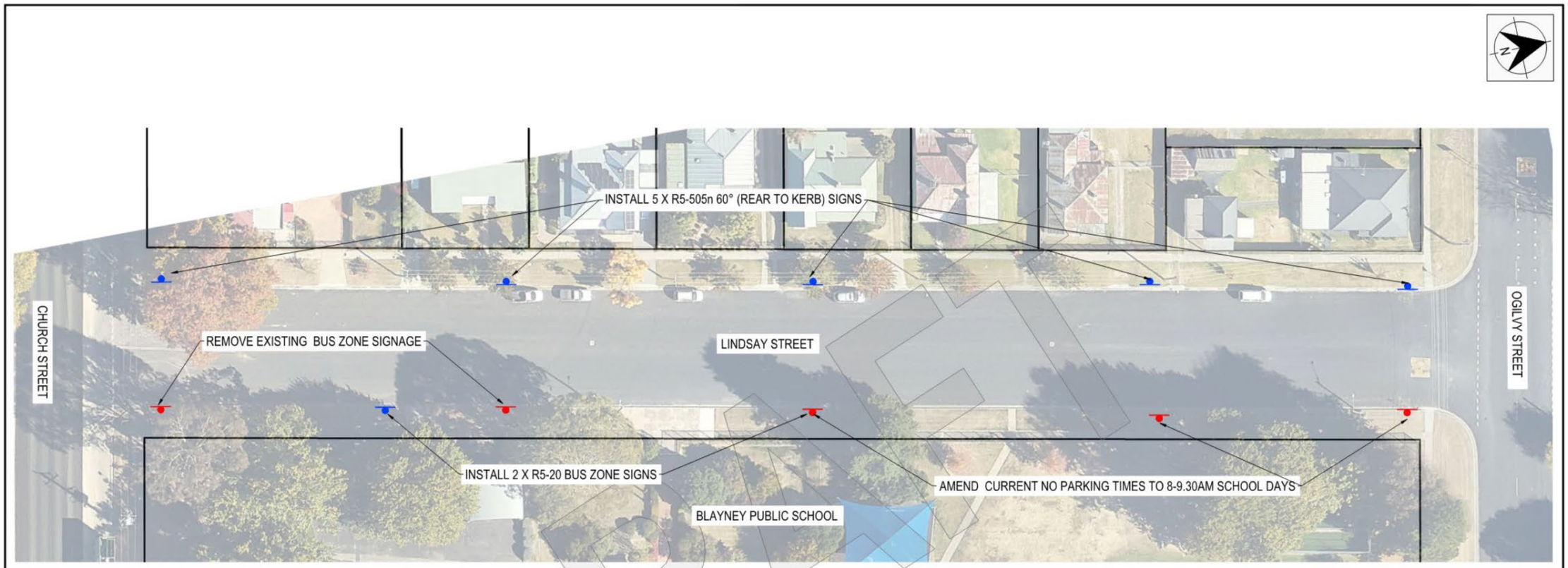
m. The Event Organiser will, advertise the temporary road closures, including a contact number for an event organiser, at least seven days prior to the event, in the local media.

Street Event – Blayney Show – 27 February 2027

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

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

This is Page No. 44 of the Agenda of the Traffic Committee Meeting of Blayney Shire Council held on 4 September 2026



PLAN
SCALE 1:300

LEGEND:
- DESIGN SIGNAGE
- EXISTING SIGNAGE

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.
3. CADASTRAL BOUNDARIES SHOWN ARE INDICATIVE ONLY.
4. ANY DRAWING DISCREPANCIES SHALL BE REFERRED TO BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL FOR CLARIFICATION PRIOR TO WORK COMMENCING.
5. PRIOR TO BULK EARTHWORKS, EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES SHALL BE INSTALLED ON SITE.
6. GRASSED AREAS AND TABLE DRAINS SHALL BE REINSTATED AFTER CONSTRUCTION.

BEFORE YOU DIG byda.com.au

REV	DESCRIPTION	INITIALS	DATE
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
A	ISSUED FOR DISCUSSION	EB	27/8/2026

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

SCALES: ALL SCALE UNITS ARE METRES — ORIGINAL A1
AS SHOWN

SHIRE COUNCIL Blayney

APPROVED	DATE		
SURVEYED	-	DATE	-
DESIGNED	EB	DATE	27/8/2026
DRAWN	EB	DATE	27/8/2026

PROJECT: LINDSAY ST APRKING REVIEW
SHEET TITLE: SIGNAGE LAYOUT

DRAWING FILE	DRAWING NO.	SHEET	REV
BE1314-A-Lindsay St Parking Review.dwg	BE1314	01 OF 01	A
DESIGN FILE: -	PLOT DATE: 27/08/2026		

21) ADELAIDE STREET NORTH / ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

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. Note the submissions received during the public exhibition period.
2. Allocate funding in Council's delivery plan or long-term financial plan to implement the proposed changes of Adelaide St North, adjacent to St Joseph's School.

Reason for Report:
For Council to consider the submissions made during the exhibition period.

Report:
Ongoing traffic issues around the intersection of Hill St and Adelaide St North during school pick up and drop off times prompted a review of the current parking and bus zone arrangement.

At the 16 June 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting, Council Approved a 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 St N to a Children's Crossing during school zone operating hours.

The proposal was exhibited with a closing date of 27 July 2026 with advertisements placed in the Village Voice on 2 July 2026 and 16 July 2026. Notification letters were distributed to affected residents and businesses within the proximity of the site via a combination of letterbox drops, mailed letters and email.

At the end of the exhibition period a total of six submissions were received. 5 submissions were supportive and 1 submission was not supportive of the proposal. A summary of the main components within these submissions, with a response for each is shown in Table 1.

As a result of this, no changes are recommended to be made to the proposal and it is recommended that Council allocates funds to implement the proposal.

Item	Submission content	Response
1	2 submissions received with the concern that the bus parking on Hill St, east of Adelaide St is not retained.	It is intended to retain this as a bus zone for a holding area for buses waiting to access the Adelaide Street bus zone.
2	3 submissions concerned about possible conflict with the children's crossing and buses	The Children's Crossing is a designated conflict point between pedestrians and vehicles. It is recognised that St Joseph's School intends to escort groups of students across the road to board buses at this location.
3	3 submissions requesting a supervised crossing.	The upgrade to a Children's Crossing will enable St Joseph's School to make application to Transport for NSW, requesting a school crossing supervisor.
4	No support for the reopening of Adelaide St/Hwy Intersection	Noted
5	1 submission concerned with change of priority at Adelaide/Hill St intersection will increase speeds on Hill St.	It is acknowledged that this may be an unintended consequence. Vehicle speeds on Hill Street should be monitored following installation through traffic counts, with further action considered if required.
6	1 submission concerned with cars performing u-turns on Hill Street after leaving the "kiss n drop" zone.	It is acknowledged that this may be an unintended consequence and should be monitored following installation. If U-turn movements become problematic, Council can consider additional linemarking and signage to restrict them.

Table 1 – Submission summary.

The overall theme across the submissions was that the current configuration is not working effectively and that there is community support for changes to traffic movements at this location. It is recognised that there is no clear or definitive solution, and any proposal implemented will need to be closely monitored following installation, with further adjustments made as necessary based on observed traffic conditions.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
All assessments and recommendations follow a risk-based approach in managing driver and pedestrian safety.

If implemented, Council officers would ensure all impacted directly properties and stakeholders are directly informed of the implementation date and any associated operational changes arising from the proposal.

Budget Implications:
Implementation of this proposal needs to occur in a single stage. The portions of work, estimated cost and suggested funding source is shown in Table 2, below.

Item	Description	Estimated Cost	Suggested Funding Source.
1	Resealing of Adelaide Street North	$26,500	Existing 2026/27 Resealing Budget, Cadia or FCWF Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA), VEP
2	Signage and Linemarking	$14,300	Cadia or FCWF Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA), VEP
3	Upgrade Pedestrian Crossing to Children's crossing.	$6,200	
	Total Project Estimated Cost	**$47,000**	

Table 2 – Estimated implementation costs.

It is noted that if Council proceeds with funding Item 1 through existing budget allocations it will impact the resealing program already noted by Council at the August 2026 Ordinary Council meeting. Remaining resealing projects will be prioritised based on a combination of condition and road criticality.

As at 11/09/2026, the balances of restricted VEP & voluntary planning agreement funds, excluding committed funds are approximately as follows:

Allocation	$
Cadia Voluntary Planning Agreement	$270,000
FCWF Voluntary Planning Agreement	$245,000
Village Enhancement Program	$230,000

If Council sought to enable delivery of this project in the 2026/27 Financial year suggested resolutions are on the following page.

Suggest Resolution 1 – If to delivery is sought with a combination of existing resealing budget and external budget sources:

> *1. Note the submissions received during the public exhibition period.*
> *2. Endorse the reallocation of existing 2026/27 resealing budget to delivery Adelaide Street North reconfiguration.*
> *3. Approve a supplementary vote of $20,500 from the **[insert budget source]** to reconfiguration of Adelaide Street North*

Suggest Resolution 2 – If delivery is sought with external budget sources only:

> *1. Note the submissions received during the public exhibition period.*
> *2. Approve a supplementary vote of $47,000 from the **[insert budget source]** to reconfiguration of Adelaide Street North*

Enclosures (following report)

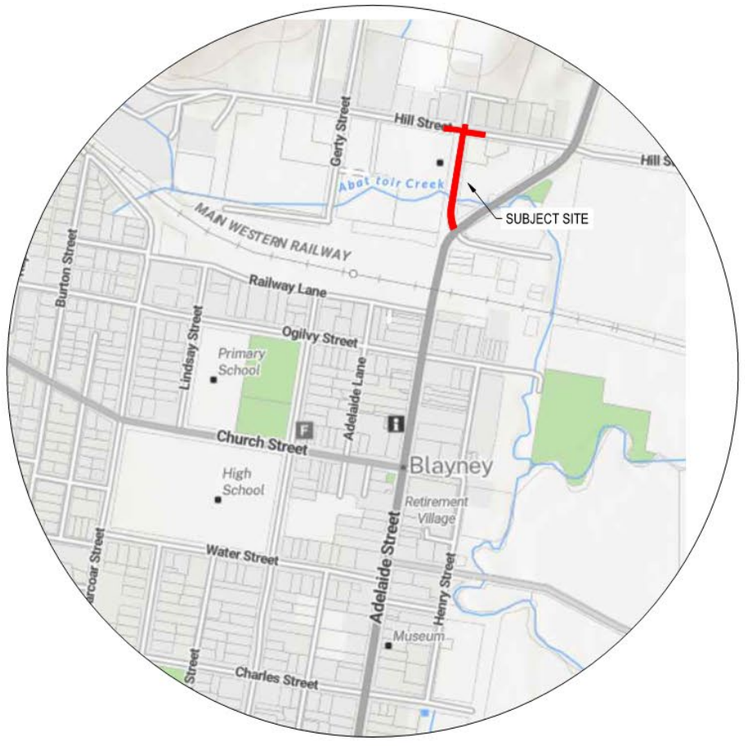
1 Adelaide Street North Proposal 4 Pages

Attachments (separate document)

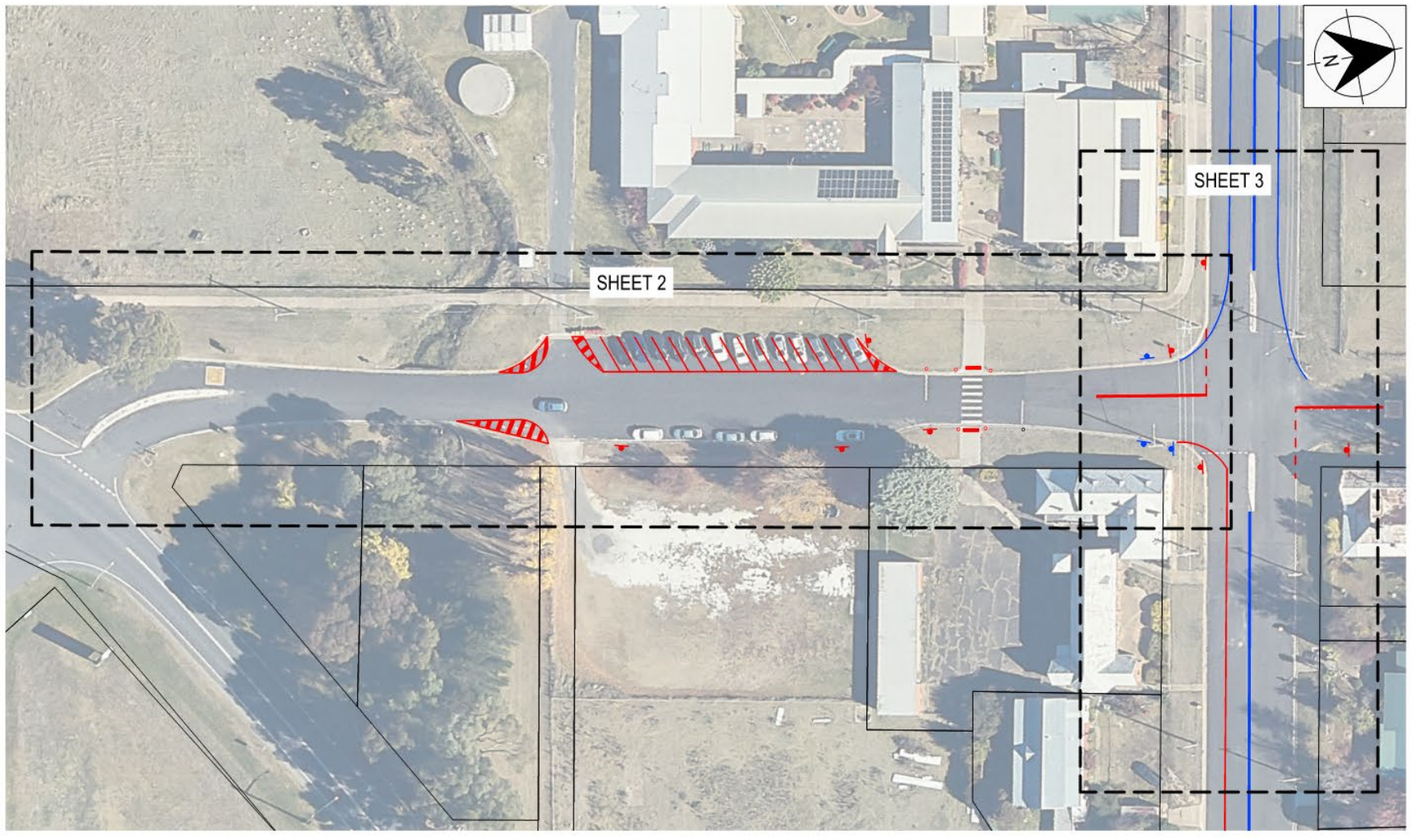
2 Adelaide Street North Public Submissions 10 Pages

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

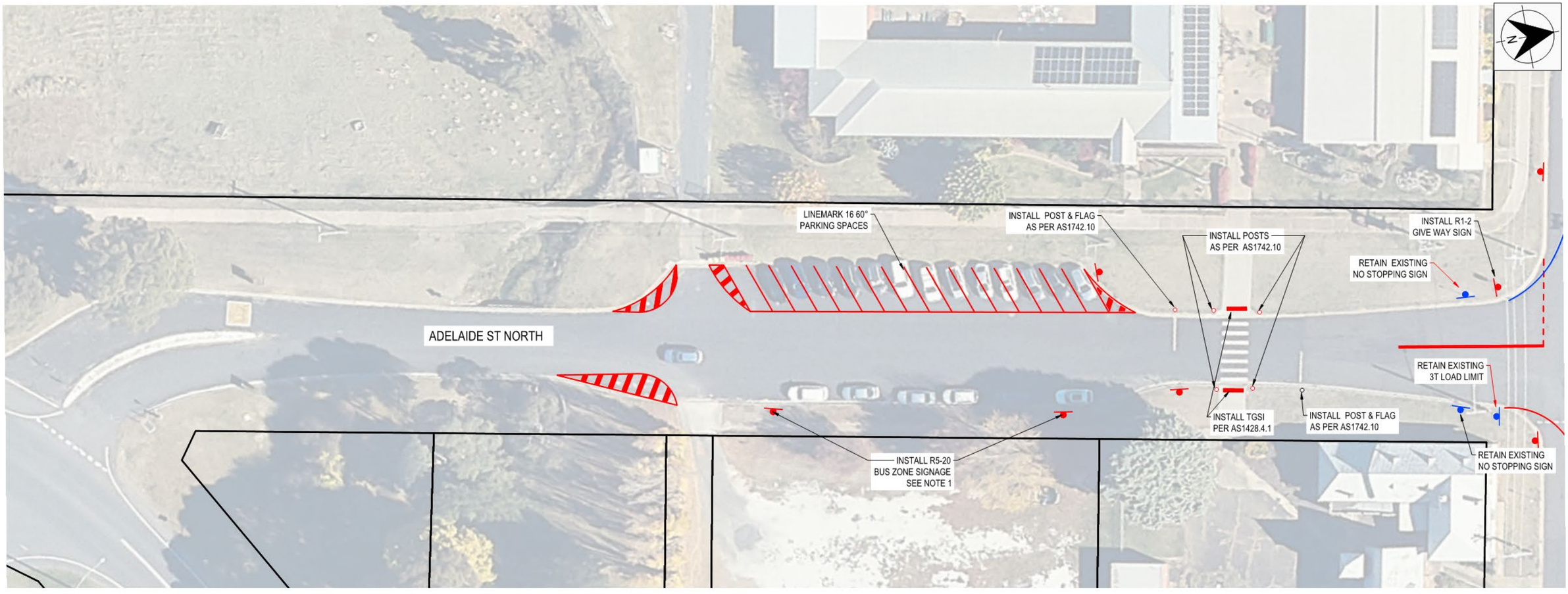
Blayney SHIRE COUNCIL

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

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

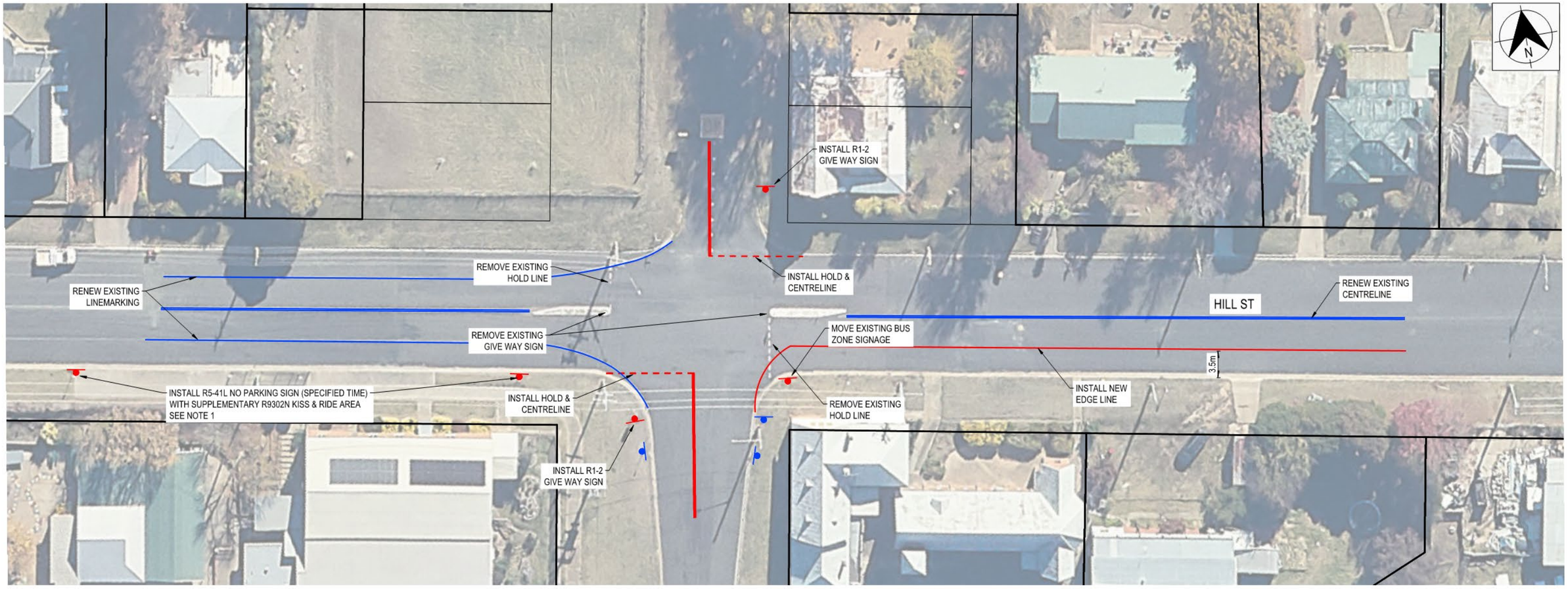
PROJECT: ADELAIDE STREET NORTH

SHEET TITLE: 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:

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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

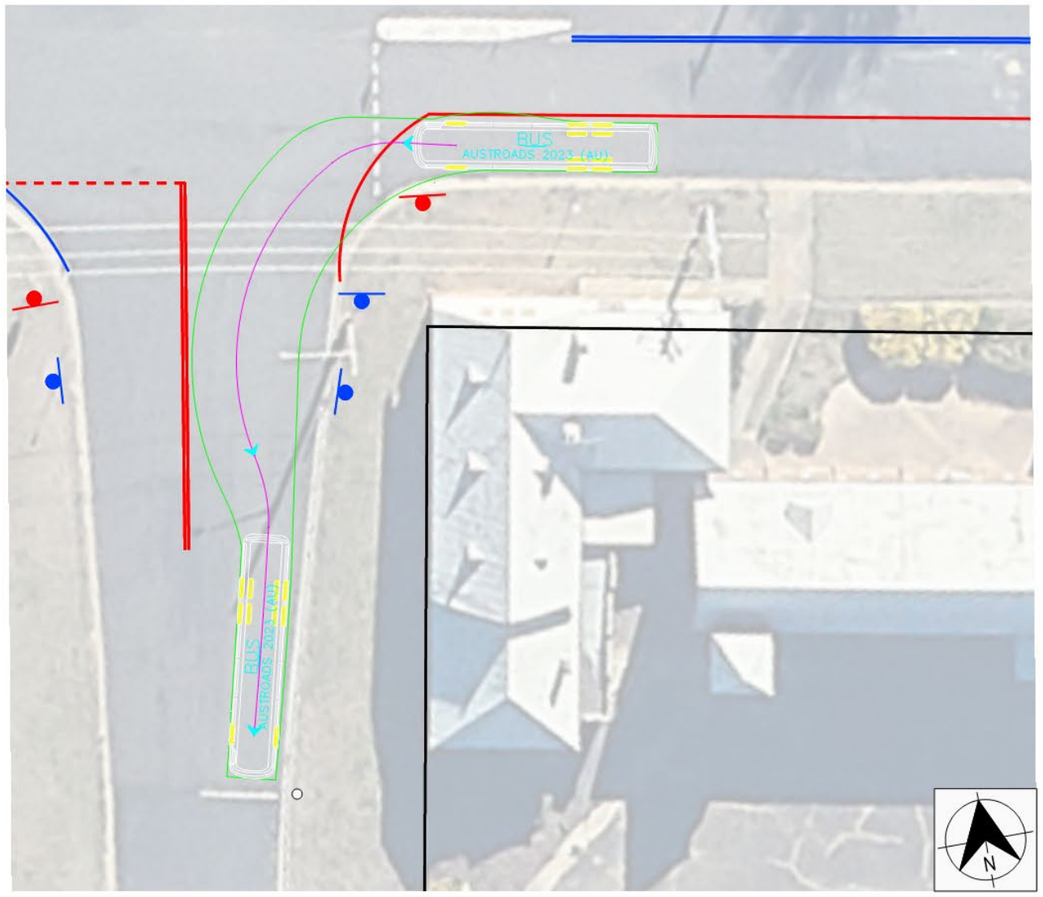
Blayney SHIRE COUNCIL

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

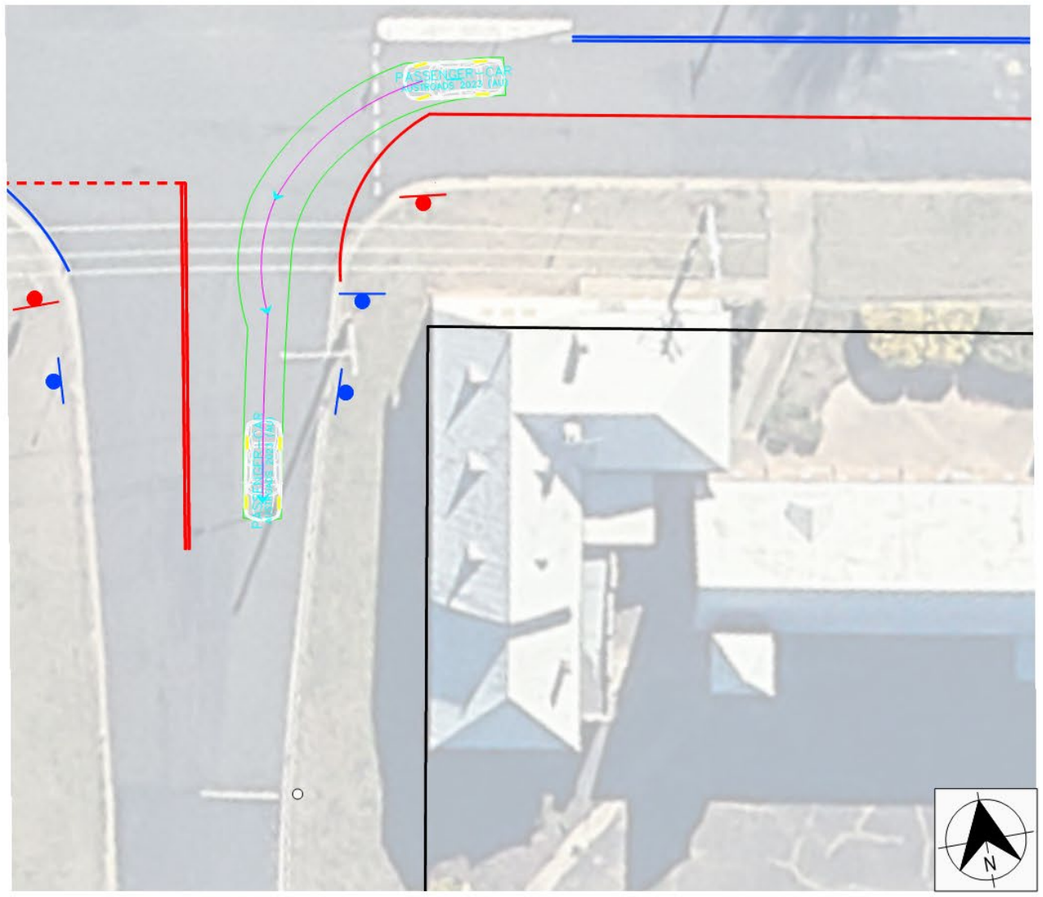
PROJECT: ADELAIDE STREET NORTH

SHEET TITLE: HILL STREET PLAN

DRAWING FILE	DRAWING NO.	SHEET	REV
BE1289-C-Adelaide St North.dwg	BE1289	03 OF 04	C
DESIGN FILE: -	PLOT DATE: 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.
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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

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: TURNING PATHS
DRAWING FILE: BE1289-C-Adelaide St North.dwg
DRAWING NO.: BE1289
SHEET: 04 OF 04
REV: C
DESIGN FILE: -
PLOT DATE: 19/05/2026

22) LAND ACQUISITION FOR ROAD REALIGNMENT BETWEEN 860 AND 1150 ERROWANBANG ROAD - DP1216561

Department: Infrastructure Services

Author: Director Infrastructure Services

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

File No: GS.RP.3

Recommendation:
That Council:
1. Take into consideration submissions received during the notification period.
2. Approve the closure of road reserve identified as Lots 11, 12 and 14 in DP1216561.
3. Give public notice for a period of 28 days of Council's intention to classify the land as Operational Land.
4. Delegate to the General Manager authority to execute any document necessary to facilitate the road closure.

Reason for Report:
Council approval is required for the closure of road reserve.

Report:
Council, at the meeting of 28 July 2026 resolved **(Resolution 2607/021)**;

That Council:
1. *Endorse the closure of road reserve identified as Lots 11, 12 & 14 in DP1216561.*
2. *Have a further report presented to a future Council meeting to consider any submissions lodged during the notification period and to make a decision on approval for the proposal.*

Council provided notification to the relevant authorities in accordance with s.38A of Roads Act 1993. The following authorities were notified 10 August 2026 and were to provide a response to the notification within 28 days:

Authority
- Essential Energy
- Transgrid
- APA Group
- Jemena Asset Management Pty Ltd
- NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (NSW Planning)
- NSW Department of Planning and Environment (Resources & Energy)
- NSW Department of Industry: Crown Lands
- NSW Department of Industry: Fisheries

- Transport for NSW – Land Use Planning and Development
- Fire and Rescue NSW
- NSW Rural Fire Service
- Central Tablelands Water
- Forestry Corporation
- Local Land Services
- NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
- UGL Regional Linx

Additionally, a notice was advertised on Council's Website and placed in the Village Voice on 13/08/2026 and 27/08/2026

During the notification period, Council received in total 9 responses.

Council received 8 responses which detailed no objection to the proposal:

- Jemena Asset Management Pty Ltd
- Transgrid
- NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
- APA Group
- NSW Department of Industry: Fisheries
- Transport for NSW
- Essential Energy
- Forestry Corporation of NSW

Council received 1 response which detailed objection to the proposal:

Department	Reason	Has the objection been resolved and withdrawn?
Crown Lands and Public Spaces, Dept of PHI	Requested evidence of status of the road proposed for closure	Yes – letter received advising no objection

As there are no outstanding objections, it is recommended that Council approve the closure of the section of road.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
This road closure is being undertaken in accordance with Division 3, s.38 of the Roads Act 1993.

Budget Implications:
The acquisition of lands and the associated costs were within existing budget allocations and further expenditure is only expected for legal costs associated with the finalisation of Lots 11, 12 and 14. These expenses are proposed to be drawn from the Property Account.

Enclosures (following report)
Nil

Attachments (separate document)
Nil

23) PROPOSED (PART) ROAD CLOSURE - MANDURAMA STREET, CARCOAR

Department: Infrastructure Services

Author: Director Infrastructure Services

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

File No: RD.RC.33

Recommendation:
That Council:
1. Endorse the closure of the portion of Mandurama Street, Carcoar as per the enclosed diagram.
2. Approve the sale price of the land to be $1 to Mr. Charles Jensen, plus all costs associated with the road closure including Council's road closure application fee, survey fees and legal fees.
3. Have a further report presented to a future Council meeting to consider any submissions lodged during the notification period and to make a decision on approval for the proposal.

Reason for Report:
Council approval is required for the closure of road reserve and subsequent sale of land.

Report:
Council received enquiry from Mr. Jensen for the purchase of the subject land. The land comprises of rural bushland that is adjacent to the applicant.

An internal review indicates that this section of road meets the requirements of s.38A of the Roads Act 1993 and Council may consider the closure of this section of road.

While the applicant has not occupied the land, they have undertaken some weed control and seeks to purchase the land and maintain it on an ongoing basis. The applicant requested that Council take into consideration the significant maintenance costs, primarily weed eradication and fencing in consideration of the sale of this land.

As such, it is recommended that Council dispose of the land for a nominal value of $1, plus all costs associated with the road closure, which are anticipated to be in the vicinity $25,000–$30,000.

If Council endorses the Road Closure, the proposed way forward is as follows:
a. A letter will be provided to the applicant notifying that Council is willing to proceed with a schedule of estimate costs associated with the closure. The applicant would be responsible for actual costs incurred.

b. Council will instruct its solicitor to prepare a deed of agreement relating to the road closure. The road closure process does not progress until this deed is executed by both parties.
c. Council commence the road closure process with engagement of survey and public notification in accordance with Road Act 1993.
d. A further report will be presented to Council to consider any submissions lodged during the notification period and make a decision on approval for the proposal.
e. Subject to successful approval of the above steps, plan is lodged with Land Registry Services for registration.
f. Upon registration, Council will publish a gazette notice announcing the closure and facilitate the sale and conveyancing of land.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Section 38A of the Roads Act stipulates when Council may close a council public road.
A council may propose the closure of a council public road for which it is the roads authority if-

(a) the road is not reasonable required as a road for public use (whether for present or future needs), and
(b) the road is not required to provide continuity for an existing road network, and

if the road provides a means of vehicular access to particular land, another public road provides lawful and reasonably practicable vehicular access to that land.

Following Council's endorsement, the proposal will be publicly exhibited and authorities notified for the required statutory 28-day notification period, after which a further report will be presented to Council for consideration of any submissions received and to consider whether to proceed with the road closure.

Budget Implications:
The applicant is to fund Council’s road closure fee and all costs associated with the closure. This will then have no impact on Council budgets.

Enclosures (following report)

1 Proposed Road Closure

Attachments (separate document)

Nil


Collins St
Collins St
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH/SHRINE
Coombing St
Mandurama St
Icely St
Icely St STREET
CARCOAR POLICE STATION
CARCOAR PUBLIC SCHOOL

24) PROPOSED LEASE OF UNUSED ROAD RESERVE - (PART) COLLINS STREET, CARCOAR

Department: Infrastructure Services

Author: Director Infrastructure Services

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

File No: RD.RC.27

Recommendation:
That Council:
1. Endorse the proposal to lease part of Collins Street, Carcoar to Mr. Eric Foote and Mr. Todd Hahn.
2. Exhibit the proposal on public exhibition for a minimum 28 days, and seek input from adjoining owners, in accordance with the Roads Act 1993.
3. Be provided with a further report upon closing of the public exhibition period for consideration of submissions and determination of lease proposal.

Reason for Report:
For Council to consider lease of part of an unformed section of Collins St, Carcoar.

Report:
Council received an enquiry from Mr. Eric Foote & Mr. Todd Hahn in relation to leasing unused road reserve that adjoins their property.

The subject land is an unformed road being approximately 0.36ha of Collins Street which is located approximately 170m east of the construction section of Collins Street.

The purpose of the lease, as indicated by the proponent (being the owners of adjoining land, being Lots 4-6 & 17 DP758225 and Lot 160 DP1084365) would be for weed control and native vegetation rejuvenation in the interest of extending the habitat of their existing property and creating a wildlife corridor.

A lease term of 5 years is proposed.

In consideration of the Lease Council approved for Graham Lane, Millthorpe under **Resolution 2502/017** of $320p.a. for 1.18Ha, Council Officers propose a lease fee proportional to the land area, at an amount of $100p.a., indexed annually. Councillors will need to set the lease fee for the land, following the public exhibition period.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
In relation to short term lease of unused public roads, the Roads Act 1993 s.153 permits lease of land comprising a public road where not used by the public. Council is required to give public notice including neighbour notification (s.154) and consider submissions before granting lease approval (s.155). Should a lease be granted public notice of outcome must be published (s.156). A lease period must not exceed 5 years (s.157).

Budget Implications:
There is a minor financial implication to Council for the internal preparation and administration of the lease.

Enclosures (following report)

1 Proposed Lease Area 1 Page

Attachments (separate document)

Nil


RU2
Unformed Collins Street
R5
28
30
32
34
36
38
Icely Street
SP2
Classified
Road
STREET
STREET

25) CENTRAL WEST AND ORANA STRATEGIC REGIONAL INTEGRATED TRANSPORT PLAN (SRITP)

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 release of the Central West and Orana Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan (SRITP).

Reason for Report:
To inform Council of the recently published Strategic Plan that has direct relevance to the Blayney Shire.

Report:
Transport for NSW has prepared the Central West and Orana Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan (SRITP) to establish a 20-year strategic direction for transport investment and planning across the region.

The Central West and Orana SRITP comprise of 39 short and medium-term initiatives, as well as longer-term and statewide outcomes, which were finalised following consultation period from 3 November 2025 until 6 February 2026.

Councillors may recall noting a submission made by Blayney Council at the December 2025 Ordinary Council meeting (**Resolution 2512/021**).

The Plan contains several matters of direct relevance to the Blayney Shire, these key matters are summarised in Table 1, below.

Matter	Relevance	SRITP Page Reference
Blayney Main Street	The Plan identifies Blayney Main Street as an example of a State road that performs both regional movement and local place function. It recognises the conflict between through traffic, heavy vehicles, pedestrians and local traffic.	57
Main Street Planning	Initiative 3 specifically identifies Blayney for investigation of improved main street planning.	103
Potential Blayney Bypass	Initiative 24 specifically identifies Blayney for investigation or continued planning of a potential bypass where the existing State Road has a dual place and movement function.	109
Town Entry Treatments	Initative 23 specifically identifies Blayney for multi-stage town entry gateway treatments.	109
Local Public Transport	Initiative 6 specifically identifies Blayney for investigation of expanded local public transport services. The Plan identifies Millthorpe railway station as part of the Main West Rail line.	104 42
Regional Freight Network	Initiative 18 specifically identifies Blayney as part of the proposed Central West and Orana Freight Network Plan which will consider future freight and supply chain requirements and infrastructure investments	180
Road Safety	The Plan identifies population centres as having significantly higher crash rates and identifies the competing transport functions of the Blayney Main Street. Initiative 22 proposes investigation of safety improvements on and approaching population centres including crossings, intersections and footpaths infrastructure and speed management. This has relevance to both Blayney and Millthorpe.	77-78 109
Blayney-Demondrille Rail Line	The plan confirms that the rail corridor remains non-operational and that no additional action is proposed to review its status.	40

Table 1 – SRITP Key Blayney Matters

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
There are no immediate financial or operational risks associated with Council noting the Central West and Orana Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan. However, the Plan identifies a number of future transport initiatives that may require Council resources, advocacy, project development and potential co-contributions if progressed. These include improvements to the Blayney Main Street, local public transport, freight access, road safety, town entry treatments and investigation of a potential Blayney bypass. The Plan does not itself commit funding for these projects.

Budget Implications:
There are no direct financial implications arising from Council noting the Plan.

Future financial implications may arise where Council chooses to participate in investigations, develop complementary projects or pursue funding opportunities associated with the initiatives identified in the Plan.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

1	Central West and Orana Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan (SRITP)	132 Pages

26) DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PERFORMANCE 2025/26

Department: Planning and Environmental Services

Author: Director Planning and Environmental Services

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

File No: GO.ME.1

Recommendation:
That the Development Assessment Performance report for 2025/26 and 2026/27 to date be received and noted.

Reason for Report:
This report provides an overview of Council's development assessment performance for the 2025/26 year and 2026/27 to date as measured by the Minister for Planning's expectations order.

Report:
At its Ordinary meeting of 28 July 2026 Council considered correspondence from the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces outlining the updated Environmental Planning and Assessment (Statement of Expectations) Order for 2026.

The material provided to Council at the July meeting identified that the revised Order commenced on 1 July 2026 and expanded the Minister's expectations beyond development application assessment to include modification applications, complying development certificate variation statements, local infrastructure contributions, planning proposals and strategic planning.

The processing time for development applications is often used as the most relevant metric to assess a council's performance and it is interesting to note Blayney Shire Council's improvement in this area since the Ministerial expectations commenced in 2024.

Development Assessment Times
For Blayney, in 2024/25, the Ministers expected assessment days were **115** and in 2025/26 **105** days.

For 2026/27, the State benchmark is **90 days**. For 2027/28 it reduces to **80 days**, and from 1 July 2028 it reduces to **65 days**. These days, however, reduce if a council's previous year's average was less than the State benchmark.

Blayney Shire Council's performance for the previous 2 financial years and for 2026/27 to date is outlined in the following table.

Blayney Shire Council – Development Assessment Performance

Financial Year	Minister's Development Assessment Expectation	Blayney Average Assessment Days	Performance Against Expectation
2024/25	115 days	115 days	Met expectation
2025/26	105 days	73 days	32 days faster
2026/27 to date	73 days*	52 days	21 days faster

** The 2026 Statement of Expectations Order establishes a State benchmark of **90 days** for 2026/2027 but requires the lesser of that benchmark or the council's previous financial year average. As Blayney's 2025/2026 average was **73 days**, the applicable expectation for Blayney is therefore **73 days***

The reduction of assessment days is pleasing and credit should go to Council's assessment and administration staff who have worked diligently to try and guide applicants and streamline approaches through what can be a very complex process. The continued reduction in expectation days will be challenging but they will certainly embrace the challenge.

It is also relevant to note that the expectation for an application to be formally reviewed and received once uploaded to the NSW Planning Portal is now 7 days. In the 2025/26 financial year Council averaged 14 days for this metric and 7 days will be extremely challenging. In an effort to comply with this period, it is necessary to ensure applications are of a high standard before they are formally accepted. If they are not, then they are rejected.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
The provisions of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 govern the assessment and determination processes for DA's.

Budget Implications:
Nil

Enclosures (following report)
Nil

Attachments (separate document)
Nil

27) NSW COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PLAN

Department: Planning and Environmental Services

Author: Director Planning and Environmental Services

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

File No: GR.LR.2

Recommendation:
That Council note the report on the Statewide Community Participation Plan.

Reason for Report:
To provide Councillors and the community with a brief overview of the new NSW Community Participation Plan 2026 (CPP) and the implications for Council's planning and development assessment processes.

Report:
A Community Participation Plan (CPP) sets out how and when planning authorities will engage the community and stakeholders in decision-making processes related to planning functions.

A new Statewide Community Participation Plan commenced on 1 September 2026. It replaces the previous arrangements under which individual councils and planning authorities operated and replaces more than 100 separate community participation plans, including Blayney Shire Council's Community Participation Plan.

Key Changes
The principal changes are:

- A single statewide framework now applies to community participation requirements rather than separate Council-based exhibition requirements.
- Many local development applications will generally continue to have a minimum 14-day exhibition period. However, certain development types have been identified as not requiring public exhibition, where the specified criteria are met. In some cases, these differ from Council's former Community Participation Plan. See following table.
- Council-related development applications require a minimum 28-day exhibition period.
- Applications likely to generate significant public interest because of their location, nature or scale may be exhibited for a longer period at the discretion of the consent authority.

Comparison – Development Not Requiring Notification / Public Exhibition

Former Blayney CPP – B2.1 Development not requiring notification	**New NSW CPP 2026 – Table 6 Development types excluded from public participation**	**Comparison / Change**
1. Single storey dwelling house	Dwelling house up to **2 storeys**	Now includes two-storey dwelling houses.
2. Addition to a single storey dwelling house	Internal/external alterations and additions, subject to the Table 6 conditions; also alterations/additions to existing residential accommodation resulting in **no more than 2 storeys**	**Broadened** – no longer limited to additions to single-storey dwellings.
3. Open carport, pergola or verandah	Ancillary residential development including **carports, pergolas** etc.	**Generally retained/broadened**.
4. Private swimming pool	Ancillary residential development, including **pools**	**Retained**.
5. Detached garage/shed/outbuilding associated with dwelling house and behind building line	Ancillary residential development including **sheds**	**Broadened** – former specific location requirement does not appear.
6. Subdivision creating less than 5 lots in RU1, RU2 or RU3	**Subdivision creating ≤5 new lots**	**Broadened** – no longer restricted to RU1/RU2/RU3.
7. Subdivision creating 1 additional lot in R1, R5 or RU5	**Subdivision ≤5 new lots**	**Broadened**– up to five new lots, regardless of the former specified zones.
New exclusions from notification/exhibition		
—	Bed and breakfast	New exclusion.
_	Dual occupancy up to 2 storeys	New exclusion.
—	Attached dwelling up to 5 dwellings	New exclusion.

Former Blayney CPP – B2.1 Development not requiring notification	New NSW CPP 2026 – Table 6 Development types excluded from public participation	Comparison / Change
—	Multi dwelling housing up to 5 dwellings	New exclusion.
—	Secondary dwelling	New exclusion.
—	Exhibition home	New exclusion.
—	Home business	New exclusion.
—	Home industry	New exclusion.
—	Home occupation	New exclusion.
—	Industrial retail outlet	New exclusion.
—	Kiosk	New exclusion.
—	Roadside stall	New exclusion.
—	Rural worker's dwelling	New exclusion.

In addition to the above, the main noticeable change for Blayney Shire is that all development in the village zone of Millthorpe and Carcoar was previously notified to neighbours. This is not recognised in the Statewide Plan. The former Community Participation Plan was the mechanism to enable those notifications and consider any submissions made. As Council's former Community Participation Plan has been superseded, this will no longer occur.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Nil at this stage.

Budget Implications:
Nil at this stage.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

1 Statewide Community Participation Plan 32 Pages

28) REPORT OF THE CENTRAL NSW JOINT ORGANISATION BOARD MEETING HELD 26 AUGUST 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 26 August 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 26 August 2026 in Canberra.

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	7 Pages
2	Central NSW Joint Organisation Draft Minutes	9 Pages
3	Central NSW Joint Organisation Quarterly Newsletter	12 Pages
4	Great Western Highway Advocacy Position Statement	1 Page
5	Inland Rail Advocacy Position Statement	1 Page

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

Report from the Mayor and General Manager attending the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting on 12 August 2026 in Canberra

Recommendation/s
That Council note the report from the Mayor and General Manager on the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) Board meeting on 12 August 2026 in Canberra

This report provides advice from the recent meeting of the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board held in Canberra on 12 August 2026.

Presentations were received from:

- CNSWJO, RDA Central West, NBN and Telstra on the Regional Digital Plan
- Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) on the Basin Plan Review

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 Canberra on 12 August 2026

Federal Parliament Visit

The Board attended Federal Parliament in Canberra on 13 August 2026 and met with an excellent line-up of federal Members, Federal Ministers and Senators.

The Board met with:

- Mr Jamie Chaffey MP- Federal Minister for Parkes, Shadow Assistant Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, Shadow Assistant Minister for Resources
- The Hon. Andrew Giles MP- Minister for Skills and Training
- Mr Toby Walker- Senior Water Advisor to Senator Murray Watt, Minister for Water and the Environment
- Senator Deborah O'Neill- Duty Senator for Riverina, Calare and Parkes
- Mr Joel Tuckwell- Senior Adviser to the Hon. Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- The Hon. Kristy McBain MP- Minister for Emergency Management, Minister for Regional Development

- The Hon. Josh Wilson MP- Assistant Minister for Climate Change & Energy, Assistant Minister for Emergency Management
- The Hon. Emma McBride MP- Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health
- Mr Andrew Gee MP- Federal Member for Calare
- Mr Bastian Simrajh- Adviser to The Hon. Sam Rae MP, Minister for Aged Care and Seniors
- Mr Dan Goodman- Advisor to The Hon Anika Wells MP, Minister for Communications and Minister for Sport
- Mr Ben Antenucci and Mr Stephen Quilkey- Advisers to The Hon Julie Collins MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- The Hon. Michael McCormack MP- Federal Member for Riverina, Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Shadow Minister for Water

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









Board Meeting Update

Financial Report
A new Investment Policy and Strategy were endorsed by the Board.

Governance and Policy
The CNSWJO's Code of Meeting Practice (based on the 2025 Model Meeting Code) that was endorsed on 12 November 2025, was rescinded. The previous Code of Meting Practice (based on the 2021 Model Meeting Code), adopted by the CNSWJO Board on 13 November 2024 was reinstated.

The first meeting of the Shared ARIC was held on 30 June 2026. The ARIC is shared with Hunter JO and the Illawarra Shoalhaven JO.

Associate Membership of Local Government NSW (LGNSW)
The Board considered the benefits, costs and strategic implications of the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) becoming an Associate Member of Local Government NSW (LGNSW).

LGNSW is the peak body representing local government in New South Wales and provides advocacy, policy support, industrial relations advice, professional networks, training and discounted access to conferences and events. Associate membership would provide CNSWJO with direct access to these services while strengthening its connection to the broader local government sector.

The Board endorsed this request, and steps are underway to progress membership.

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

- Solar asset audit
- 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

Advocacy regarding the Great Western Highway and the Inland Rail continue to be of great importance to the Board. At the meeting, the Board adopted two advocacy position statements which can be found as attachments to this report. The advocacy position statements were provided to various Ministers and Members of Parliament on 13 August, clearly demonstrating the Board's unified advocacy position on the matters.

The Position Statement for "Priority 1: Reputation and Collaboration" advocacy position was endorsed to be updated to include:

a. return of Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) funding,
b. doubling of roads to recovery, and
c. inclusion of low or no-interest loans with 20-year payback period and making the loan process simpler.

The Board also endorsed the key advocacy messages for the "Priority 4: Telecommunications" advocacy position statement being:

a. Improve regional digital connectivity through sustained investment in broadband and mobile infrastructure,
b. Prioritise mobile coverage improvements across regional transport corridors and identified black spot areas,
c. Support equitable access to digital services by addressing digital disadvantage,
d. Ensure regional connectivity priorities are embedded in state and federal infrastructure planning and funding programs,
e. Promote diverse and resilient connectivity solutions,
f. Strengthen telecommunications resilience in disaster preparedness and recovery planning, and
g. Support coordinated regional approaches to digital transformation and Smart Places initiatives,

The updated advocacy position statement will be provided to the Board's November meeting for endorsement.

Regional Prosperity
The Board is planning a tour of the Western Sydney International Airport and associated business park which will include Mayors, General Managers, Tourism Managers and Economic Development Managers. The tour is being collectively coordinated by NSW Dept of Primary Industries and Regional Development, CNSWJO, RDA Central West and Destination Network Central West.

Renewable Energy Community Benefit Sharing
The Board received a summary of the many work components currently underway in the JO network in relation to Community Benefit Sharing approaches and the State-wide Approach to Community Benefit Sharing Toolkit for State Significant Developments, including renewable energy development.

The Board approved to fund further work to support councils with tools, templates and policies relating to community benefit sharing, noting other JOs are also being asked to contribute funds for this work.

Tourism
The Board noted the 13.7:1 return on investment (ROI) achieved for member councils through the regional tourism program in 2025/26.

Telecommunications
The Board endorsed the recently developed Central NSW Regional Digital Plan. The Plan was developed in partnership with nbn Local, CNSWJO, Regional Development Australia Central West (RDACW) and Telstra.

Transport
Development of the Regional Freight Strategy is progressing, with key freight network and movement datasets now secured through partnerships with TfNSW, NHVR and Austroads. The project is moving into councils reviewing mapping and identifying local freight routes, infrastructure and constraints. The work will also support the Critical Infrastructure Project being delivered through the Regional Resilience Program.

Negotiations with TfNSW on the revised draft Master Access Deed template continue. Councils are reviewing TfNSW's latest responses to outstanding issues, with feedback informing a coordinated local government position and future discussions to achieve fair and workable outcomes for councils.

The Board resolved to:

1. write to the Premier and Ministers Saffin and Aitchison seeking urgent support for businesses affected by the Great Western Highway works, including:
    a. reducing the business grant turnover threshold from 40% to no more than 20% to improve access to support for impacted businesses, and
    b. expanding eligibility to include non-GST registered businesses.

Water
The Board was provided with an update on:

- Regional Water Loss Management and Efficiency Project-phase two,
- Water Utilities Alliance Strategic Plan 2030,
- Water Operator Training including advice on the development and piloting of the Competency Benchmark for Local Water Utility (LWU) Operators in NSW,

- IPART Prices for WaterNSW regional and rural bulk water from 1 July 2026, and
- Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment-Water Local Water Utilities branch restructure

Cyber Security
A confidential report was provided to the Board with a detailed update on progress of the program. The Program in its second year of the Regional Cyber Security Strategy and Roadmap, where the objective is to scale maturity and embed governance whilst developing common regional mechanisms that councils can apply locally.

During the FYQ4 reporting period:

- The Cyber Governance Dashboard was progressively introduced through engagement with General Managers, Directors and IT Managers.
- The first common regional governance and operational metrics were analysed by the Information Security Steering Committee (ISSC) and incorporated into the governance reporting model.
- Work progressed on reusable regional policy, risk, control, assurance and AI governance artefacts.
- Communication streams evolved with the delivery of three Cyber War Room sessions examining actual ransomware and nation state incidents.
- The Program prepared to move into FYQ1 2027 Security Calander theme of resilience, response and budget, with incident preparedness the immediate priority.

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

- Submission- Emergency Services Funding Reform
- Submission- Statewide Community Participation Plan
- Submission- Low Rise Housing and Targeted Assessment
- Submission- Variations and Changes to Complying Development
- Submission- National Regional Roads Australia Mobile Program (RRAMP) draft Grant Opportunity Guidelines
- Submission- Productivity Commission National Water Reform 2026 Interim update
- Submission- Peak Demand Reduction Scheme & Energy Savings Scheme (Southern Lights)
- Submission- Review of Public Lighting Code (Southern Lights)
- Submission- Australian Energy Regulator re Rate of Return Instrument (Southern Lights)
- Submission- Net Zero Commissions Call for Evidence- Decarbonisation Pathways for NSW

Regional Net Zero
$70k funding has been received from DCCEEW as seed funding for a regional Revolving Energy Fund.

CNSWJO is working with the NSW DCCEEW Sustainable Councils team and member councils to host the next JONZA face-to-face event in region, on 24 and 25 September 2026, visiting Parkes, Molong and Orange.

Regional Resilience Program
CNSWJO has secured access to NSW SES Strategic Flood Layers data to support development of the local Disaster Readiness Action Plan (DRAP) framework. Access to this data strengthens the region's ability to integrate state, regional and local information into a consistent evidence base for disaster risk reduction, resilience planning and investment decision-making. Work is continuing with partner agencies to establish longer-term arrangements that support broader regional access and application.

CNSWJO has submitted a Disaster Ready Fund Round 4 application seeking Commonwealth funding to implement the next phase of the region's resilience program. If successful, the project will support rollout of the DRAP framework across member councils, development of a Regional DRAP, and a more consistent regional approach to resilience planning, investment prioritisation and risk reduction.

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

Value to Members

CNSWJO measures quantitative value provided to members in line with the agreed KPIs in the SSRP under each priority.

Highlight KPIs	Q1 (Jul-Sept)	Q2 (Oct-Dec)	Q3 (Jan-Mar)	Q4 (Apr-Jun)	Total for FY
# new contracts	3	1	3	2	**9**
$ income through contract management fees	$136,859	$76,082	$122,714	$141,510	**$477,165**
$ spent by member councils	-				**$32,985,751**
$ saved for member councils	-				**$1,931,772**
# training courses delivered	1	0	2	1	**4**
# staff/Councillors trained	18	0	34	16	**68**
$ grant funding applied for	$6,293,687	$0	$0	$1,055,074	**$7,348,761**
$ grant funding received	$85,780	$0	$0	$70,500	**$156,280**
# submissions	3	4	5	6	**18**
# media releases (inc tourism)	11	3	3	12	**29**
# contractors inducted through online WHS program	215	307	228	252	**1002**
# regional team meetings	18	18	18	19	**73**
ROI on tourism/PR/marketing	-	-	-	-	**13.7**
# PR activities through tourism program	48	9	36	45	**138**

Return on Investment 2025/2026

During 2025/26, the return on investment (ROI), for CNSWJO member councils was 4.6:1. This measures quantifiable value only, through grant funding, cost savings from regional contracts, and value from public relations and marketing through the regional tourism program.

Members will note a reduced ROI from previous years, being:

- 2024/25 – 6.3:1
- 2023/24 – 9.3:1
- 2022/23 – 9.4:1
- 2021/22 – 7.6:1

The main reason for this reduction is the savings achieved through the regional electricity contract. In 2022, and 2025 members entered into long-term electricity contracts. While savings could be calculated in the early years, it would not be accurate or appropriate to compare the price of electricity to those that were procured years apart. As such, with comparable contract pricing is no long available, savings from electricity contracts are no longer included in the ROI calaculations.

ROI 25/26	Membership fees	grant funding	cost savings	PR value	value (funding + savings)	ROI
Bathurst	$ 155,656.00	$ 73,246.38	$ 177,853.11	$ 290,225.76	$ 541,325.25	3.48
Blayney	$ 48,814.00	$ 52,113.38	$ 62,249.94	$ 9,625.76	$ 123,989.08	2.54
Cabonne	$ 81,690.00	$ 52,816.38	$ 200,341.98	$ 7,842.42	$ 261,000.79	3.20
Central Tablelands Water	$ 40,304.00	$ 98,123.00	$ 35,514.66	$ -	$ 133,637.66	3.32
Cowra	$ 84,917.00	$ 55,416.38	$ 192,857.82	$ 84,709.09	$ 332,983.30	3.92
Forbes	$ 70,267.00	$ 52,816.38	$ 371,151.54	$ 157,575.76	$ 581,543.68	8.28
Lachlan	$ 63,984.00	$ 60,146.38	$ 177,748.77	$ 154,509.09	$ 392,404.24	6.13
Lithgow	$ 101,086.00	$ 69,416.38	$ 46,812.05	$ 237,042.42	$ 353,270.85	3.49
Oberon	$ 60,542.00	$ 60,666.38	$ 76,218.21	$ 29,859.09	$ 166,743.68	2.75
Orange	$ 161,199.00	$ 126,026.38	$ 273,580.15	$ 717,679.09	$ 1,117,285.62	6.93
Parkes	$ 90,123.00	$ 53,336.38	$ 159,269.02	$ 194,342.42	$ 406,947.82	4.52
UMCC	$ 2,217.00	$ -	$ 1,760.00	$ -	$ 1,760.00	0.79
Weddin	$ 39,132.00	$ 44,263.38	$ 83,898.17	$ 44,409.09	$ 172,570.64	4.41
TOTAL	$ 999,931.00	$ 798,387.19	$ 1,859,255.43	$ 1,927,820.00	$ 4,585,462.62	4.59

Spend on aggregated contracts

The following table and graph show the spend by member councils under regional contracts facilitated by CNSWJO for the 25/26 FY:

SPEND	Water Utilities Alliance Contracts	HR Contracts	WHS contracts	Supply contracts	Energy contracts	RDOCS contracts	Other contracts	Training	Total
Bathurst	$385,431	$86,086	$0	$1,843,304	$4,048,879	$26,521	$0	$2,138	**$6,392,359**
Blayney	$0	$20,992	$0	$370,969	$358,160	$7,554	$7,670	$5,360	**$770,704**
Cabonne	$7,454	$22,942	$0	$1,595,687	$439,077	$0	$21,902	$7,791	**$2,094,853**
Central Tablelands Water	$5,841	$4,860	$334	$59,990	$500,600	$0	$0	$71	**$571,697**
Cowra	$612,859	$32,710	$12,209	$1,148,997	$1,216,133	$0	$0	$8,385	**$3,031,292**
Forbes	$792,528	$42,658	$0	$1,906,070	$1,282,978	$10,675	$0	$3,756	**$4,038,664**
Lachlan	$494,279	$26,386	$0	$1,021,626	$852,919	$0	$0	$4,290	**$2,399,499**
Lithgow	$3,226	$27,902	$0	$896,563	$8	$0	$0	$8,082	**$935,781**
Oberon	$4,228	$17,194	$7,462	$501,779	$289,711	$6,950	$25,476	$0	**$852,801**
Orange	$1,264,464	$140,698	$42,233	$858,020	$4,494,578	$29,734	$0	$12,345	**$6,842,072**
Parkes	$105,074	$9,725	$0	$1,230,188	$2,794,845	$20,173	$0	$4,956	**$4,164,960**
Central Tablelands Weeds Authorit	$0	$396	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	**$396**
Weddin	$142,432	$14,403	$7,752	$493,293	$218,926	$10,573	$0	$3,295	**$890,674**
Total	$3,817,817	$446,951	$69,989	$11,926,486	$16,496,812	$112,179	$55,048	$60,469	$32,985,751

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 2025/26 FY:

SAVINGS	Water Utilities Alliance Contracts	HR Contracts	WHS contracts	IT contracts	Supply contracts	Roads/ Transport contracts	Energy contracts	RDOCS contracts	Other contracts	Training	Legal advice re Procurement	Participation in regional procurement	Total
Bathurst	$22,596	$2,493	$0	$0	$53,591	$0	$68,996	$0	$0	$682	$5,495	$24,000	**$177,853**
Blayney	$0	$2,173	$0	$0	$9,301	$0	$15,713	$0	$0	$3,568	$5,495	$26,000	**$62,250**
Cabonne	$2,582	$0	$0	$0	$109,944	$0	$52,368	$0	$4,009	$2,943	$5,495	$23,000	**$200,342**
Central Tablelands Water	$2,363	$0	$143	$0	$6,666	$0	$9,583	$0	$0	$0	$1,760	$15,000	**$35,515**
Cowra	$37,991	$2,162	$5,232	$0	$38,548	$0	$57,037	$0	$0	$10,393	$5,495	$36,000	**$192,858**
Forbes	$43,568	$904	$0	$0	$202,199	$0	$84,042	$0	$0	$3,944	$5,495	$31,000	**$371,152**
Lachlan	$27,870	$1,553	$0	$0	$32,910	$0	$72,462	$0	$0	$2,459	$5,495	$35,000	**$177,749**
Lithgow	$440	$2,322	$0	$0	$14,063	$0	$0	$0	$0	$3,493	$5,495	$21,000	**$46,812**
Oberon	$2,078	$491	$3,198	$0	$5,892	$0	$23,846	$0	$5,218	$0	$5,495	$30,000	**$76,218**
Orange	$73,831	$4,930	$18,100	$0	$31,560	$0	$109,043	$0	$0	$8,621	$5,495	$22,000	**$273,580**
Parkes	$7,720	$973	$0	$0	$45,329	$0	$70,143	$0	$0	$1,610	$5,495	$28,000	**$159,269**
Central Tablelands Weeds A	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$1,760	$0	**$1,760**
Weddin	$8,812	$0	$3,322	$0	$32,470	$0	$12,943	$0	$0	$3,855	$5,495	$17,000	**$83,898**
Sub Total	$229,852	$17,999	$29,995	$0	$582,473	$0	$576,176	$0	$9,227	$41,569	$63,965	$308,000	$1,859,255
											Cost to members		$421,000
												Total	$1,438,255

Attachments

1. Draft Minutes of the CNSWJO Board meeting 12 August 2026.
2. CNSWJO Quarterly Newsletter – Edition 7 – September 2026
3. Great Western Highway advocacy position statement
4. Inland Rail advocacy position statement

Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting on 12 August 2026 held in Canberra

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

Mr D Sherley	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 J Gordon	RDACW
Mr S Dunshea	Forbes Shire Council	Cr Ruth Fagan	RDACW
Mr I Greenham	Lachlan Shire Council	Ms G Collins	Premiers Dept
Mr R Gurney	Lithgow City Council	Ms K Barker	CNSWJO
Mr G Wallace	Oberon Council	Ms M Macpherson	CNSWJO
Mr S Maunder	Orange City Council	Ms J Webber	CNSWJO
Mr M Sykes	Weddin Shire Council		

Voting members in **bold**

1 **Meeting opened** at 12.46pm, Chaired by Cr K Beatty

2 **Acknowledgement of Country**

3 **Apologies** – Mr K Boyd, Mr M Jones, Ms K Annis-Brown, Ms L Taylor

RESOLUTION 26/08- 3
Moved: Cr John Medcalf
Seconded: Cr Andrew McKibbin

That the apologies for the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting 12 August 2026 be accepted.

CARRIED

4 **Conflicts of Interest**

RESOLUTION 26/08- 4
Moved: Cr Robert Taylor
Seconded: Cr Phyllis Miller

No conflicts of interest were declared.

CARRIED

5 **Speakers**

6 **Minutes**

6a **Confirmation of the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting dated 27 May 2026 held in Sydney**

RESOLUTION 26/08 – 6a
Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller
Seconded: Cr Neil Westcott

That the minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting held 27 May 2026 held in Sydney be confirmed.
CARRIED

6b Noting the Minutes of the CNSWJO GMAC Meeting held on 30 July 2026 held in Orange

RESOLUTION 26/08 – 6b
Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller
Seconded: Cr Neil Westcott

That the minutes of the CNSWJO GMAC Meeting held 30 July 2026 in Orange be noted.
CARRIED

7 Business Arising from the Minutes- Matters in Progress

RESOLUTION 26/08– 7
Moved: Cr Robert Taylor
Seconded: Cr Tony Mileto

That the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board note the Matters in Progress, making deletions as suggested, as well as 250529: matters in progress and 240523-10: WRAS.
CARRIED

8 Correspondence

RESOLUTION 26/08– 8
Moved: Cr Paul Smith
Seconded: Cr Andrew McKibbin

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

9a Financial Report

RESOLUTION 26/08 – 9a
Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds
Seconded: Cr Phyllis Miller

That the Board note the Financial Report.
CARRIED

9b Governance and Policy Report

RESOLUTION 26/08 – 9b
Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds
Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Governance and Policy Report and
1. note that the CNSWJO is up to date with its compliance requirements,
2. endorse the Investment Policy and the Investment Strategy,
3. endorse the appointment of Mr Mark Dicker as the Deputy Chair of GMAC,
4. endorse the update to the Delegations Register to include the role of Deputy Chair where the Chair is absent,

5. note the progress of the Shared ARIC, including the first meeting on 30 June 2026,
6. rescind the CNSWJO Code of Meeting Practice as adopted on 12 November 2025 and returning to the previously adopted Code of Meeting Practice, and
7. that the day of the Board meetings remain as Thursdays.

CARRIED

Meeting suspended at 1.12pm for the presentations:

- Regional Digital Plan Presentation
  - Ms Meredith Macpherson – CNSWJO,
  - Mr Josh Gordon – RDA Central West,
  - Mr Matt Armstrong - NBN, and
  - Mr Chris Taylor - Telstra,
- Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) Basin Plan Review- Ms Megan Winter, MDBA

Meeting resumed at 2.31pm.

Cr Miller declared a conflict of interest in relation to report 9c. Cr Miller remained in the room but abstained from voting on the item.

9c Associate Membership of Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Report

RESOLUTION 26/08 – 9c
Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds
Seconded: Cr Neil Westcott

That the Board note the Associate Membership of Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Report and

1. endorse the Central NSW Joint Organisation applying for Associate Membership of Local Government NSW at a cost of $4,646 + GST for 2026/27, and
2. authorise the Executive Officer to complete and submit the Associate Membership Application and any associated documentation required by LGNSW.

CARRIED

9d Regional Procurement Program Report

RESOLUTION 26/08 – 9d
Moved: Cr Andrew McKibbin
Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Regional Procurement and Contracts Report.

CARRIED

9e Advocacy Report

RESOLUTION 26/08- 9e
Moved: Cr Andrew McKibbin
Seconded: Cr Paul Best

That the Board note the Advocacy Report and

1. endorse the updates to the 'Priority 1: Reputation and Collaboration' advocacy position statement to include:
   a. return of Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) funding
   b. doubling of roads to recovery
   c. inclusion of low or no-interest loans with 20-year payback period and making the loan process simpler.

2. endorse the key advocacy messages for the 'Priority 4: Telecommunications' advocacy position statement being:
    a. Improve regional digital connectivity through sustained investment in broadband and mobile infrastructure,
    b. Prioritise mobile coverage improvements across regional transport corridors and identified black spot areas,
    c. Support equitable access to digital services by addressing digital disadvantage,
    d. Ensure regional connectivity priorities are embedded in state and federal infrastructure planning and funding programs,
    e. Promote diverse and resilient connectivity solutions,
    f. Strengthen telecommunications resilience in disaster preparedness and recovery planning, and
    g. Support coordinated regional approaches to digital transformation and Smart Places initiatives,
    noting that the advocacy position statement will be provided to the Board's November meeting for endorsement,
3. endorse the nomination of Cr Phyllis Miller as the CNSWJO representative on the NSW DPHI Local Government Planning Roundtable,
4. endorse the CNSWJO Integrated Transport Group's revised Terms of Reference and note that all Mayors will be invited to these meetings in future, and
5. endorse the following submissions:
    a. Emergency Services Funding Reform,
    b. Statewide Community Participation Plan,
    c. Low Rise Housing and Targeted Assessment,
    d. Variations and Changes to Complying Development,
    e. National Regional Roads Australia Mobile Program (RRAMP) draft Grant Opportunity Guidelines,
    f. Productivity Commission National Water Reform 2026 Interim update,
    g. Review of Public Lighting Code,
    h. Peak Demand Reduction Scheme and Energy Savings Scheme,
    i. Submission to the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) on the Rate of Return Instrument (RoRI), and
    j. Net Zero Commissions Call for Evidence- Decarbonisation Pathways for NSW.

CARRIED

9f Regional Prosperity Report

RESOLUTION 26/08 – 9f
Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller
Seconded: Cr Bruce Reynolds

That the Board note the Regional Prosperity Report and
1. note that planning is underway for a tour of the Western Sydney International Airport and associated business park on 10 November.

CARRIED

9g Renewable Energy Community Benefit Sharing Report

RESOLUTION 26/08 – 9g
Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds
Seconded: Cr Andrew McKibbin

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

1. approve up to $10k from unbudgeted surplus to fund further work to support councils with tools, templates and policies relating to community benefit sharing, noting other JOs are also being asked to contribute funds for this work.

CARRIED

9h Regional Tourism Report

RESOLUTION 26/08 – 9h
Moved: Cr Robert Taylor
Seconded: Cr Tony Mileto

That the Board note the Regional Tourism Report and
1. endorses the Destination Public Relations Annual Report -July 2025 to June 2026, and
2. note the 13.7:1 return on investment (ROI) achieved for member councils through the regional tourism program in 2025/26.

CARRIED

9i Regional Telecommunications Report

RESOLUTION 26/08 – 9i
Moved: Cr John Medcalf
Seconded: Cr Tony Mileto

That the Board note the Regional Telecommunications Report and
1. endorse the Central NSW Regional Digital Plan -July 2026 and development of a regional Position Statement and advocacy priorities for Telecommunications informed by the Digital Connectivity Priorities and Action Plan that forms part of the Plan.

CARRIED

9j Regional Transport Report

RESOLUTION 26/08 – 9j
Moved: Cr Paul Smith
Seconded: Cr Andrew McKibbin

That the Board note the Regional Transport Report and:
1. support continued advocacy for the continuation of the Inland Rail project north of Parkes; and
2. write to the Premier and Ministers Saffin and Aitchison seeking urgent support for businesses affected by the Great Western Highway works, including:
    a. reducing the business grant turnover threshold from 40% to no more than 20% to improve access to support for impacted businesses, and
    b. expanding eligibility to include non-GST registered businesses.

CARRIED

9k Regional Water Report

RESOLUTION 26/08 – 9k
Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller
Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Regional Water Report and
1. endorse the Mid-term report to Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment Water for the Water Loss Management and Efficiency Program; and
2. endorse the Water Utilities Alliance - Strategic Plan 2030.

CARRIED

9l Regional Net Zero Report

RESOLUTION 26/08 – 9l
Moved: Cr Robert Taylor
Seconded: Cr Paul Smith

That the Board note the Regional Net Zero Report and

1. note the $70k funding received from DCCEEW as seed funding for a regional Revolving Energy Fund.

CARRIED

9m Regional Resilience Program Report

RESOLUTION 26/08 – 9m
Moved: Cr Robert Taylor
Seconded: Cr Paul Smith

That the Board note the Regional Resilience Program Report, and

1. endorse the CNSWJO's regional grant application to the Disaster Ready Fund Round 4.

CARRIED

9n Quarterly Review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priorities 2025-2029

RESOLUTION 26/08 – 9n
Moved: Cr Cass Coleman
Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

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

1. endorse the revised Terms of Reference for the Financial Sustainability Subcommittee,
2. endorse the appointment of Cr Phyllis Miller as Chair and Mr Scott Maunder as Deputy Chair of the Financial Sustainability Subcommittee,
3. note the actions from the Financial Sustainability Subcommittee and that updates of the actions be provided to the Board at its next meeting, with the actions being:
    a. Seek advice from the Audit Office as to treatment of RFS assets on councils books.
    b. Seek an update in relation to the Federal Inquiry into Financial Sustainability Committee on the progress and next steps including timing for final recommendation report.
    c. Recommend that the Board add the following to the priority 1 position statement:
        i. Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) funding to return
        ii. Doubling of roads to recovery
        iii. Very low, or no, interest loans with 20-year payback period, and making the loan process simpler.
    d. Identify which grant funding programs have disappeared or reduced in recent years, and
4. note the ROI for member councils is 4.6:1 for 2025/26.

CARRIED

10 Confidential Session

Resolution 26/08 – 10
Moved: Cr Paul Smith

Seconded: Cr Andrew McKibbin

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

CARRIED

10a Regional Cyber Security Program Report- Confidential

RESOLUTION 26/08– 10a
Moved: Cr Robert Taylor
Seconded: Cr Andrew McKibbin

That the Board note the Regional Cyber Security Program Report and
1. note the progress of the activities in the endorsed Regional Cyber Security Strategy and Roadmap.

CARRIED

10b Confidential Session

RESOLUTION 26/08- 10b
Moved: Cr Andrew McKibbin
Seconded: Cr Cass Coleman

That the Board resolve out of closed session.

CARRIED

11a RDA Central West Update Report

RESOLUTION 26/08- 11a

The Board noted the RDA Central West Update.

11b NSW Premier's Department Update

RESOLUTION 26/08- 11b

The Board noted the NSW Premier's Department Report.

11c OLG Update Report

RESOLUTION 26/08- 11c

The Board noted the OLG Update Report and
1. request advice from OLG on the red fleet changes including clarification of the reported $130m+ cost for service centres and fleet and seek assurance that councils are not required to continue contributing 11.7% towards these costs.

12 Matters Raised by Members

RESOLUTION 26/08 – 12
Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds
Seconded: Cr Tony Mileto

That the Board note the Matters Raised by Members report and

1. note the correspondence from Orange City Council and the Mayoral Minute from the Blayney Mayor regarding improved passenger rail services in the Central West,
2. endorse, in principle, advocacy for:
    - a morning day-return passenger rail service between Dubbo and Sydney via Orange, Millthorpe and Blayney, and
    - the extension of at least one Bathurst Bullet service to Orange,
    - retaining the additional Lithgow train services introduced during the Victoria Pass closure,
    - optimisation of the existing XPT network through split rail sets, enabling a service from Orange travelling to Parkes and return, and
    - a scheduled Indian Pacific stop at Parkes,
3. that these priorities be incorporated into the CNSWJO transport priority's advocacy position statement,
4. write to the NSW Minister for Transport and relevant local Members of Parliament advising of the Board's support for these initiatives and seeking their inclusion in future regional passenger rail planning and investment programs,
5. endorse the Great Western Highway advocacy collateral, and
6. endorse the Inland Rail advocacy collateral.

CARRIED

13 Late Report – Productivity Commission Interim Report on Housing Supply Regulation

RESOLUTION 26/08 – 13
Moved: Cr Andrew McKibbin
Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the late report on the Productivity Commission Interim Report on Housing Supply Regulation, and

1. update the relevant advocacy position statement to include advocacy:
    a. against any funding penalties or punitive mechanisms linked to housing completions or housing targets,
    b. for increased investment in enabling infrastructure, including water, sewer, transport and community infrastructure, and
    c. for workforce and digital capability funding to support regional councils in implementing housing reforms.

CARRIED

14 General business- Nil

15 Speakers to the next meeting

- Kate Lorimer-Ward: CEO of Local Land Services
- Rebecca Reardon: President of NSW Farmers
- Michael Coutts-Trotter: Secretary, NSW Premiers Dept in the role of Chair of the Renewables Delivery and Energy Security Secretaries Group.
- Nancy Chang: Interim CEO of NSW EPA

16 Next meetings:
Board Meeting dates:

11 November 2026 – Sydney (additional visit to Sydney in lead up to State election, with Parliament House session to be held on 12 November 2026).

GMAC Meeting dates:
22 October 2026 – Forbes

Meeting closed at 4.34pm.

Page 9 is the last page of the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting minutes of meeting of 12 August 2026 held in Canberra.



Photo: CNSWJO Board meeting in Canberra on 12 August 2026

CENTRAL NSW JOINT ORGANISATION

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

EDITION 8, SEPTEMBER 2026

The General Managers Advisory Committee (GMAC) met in Orange on 30 July for its quarterly meeting. During the meeting, members received a presentation from the CNSWJO's Jen Webber, on the Disaster Readiness Action Plan Template and its role in strengthening regional preparedness.

In mid-August, the Board convened in Canberra for its quarterly meeting. Presentations were received on the Regional Digital Plan, while the Murray-Darling Basin Authority delivered an update on the Basin Plan Review.

The Board endorsed two advocacy position statements; one for the Great Western Highway, and the other for the Inland Rail. These can be found on the following pages of this newsletter.

The following day, the Board participated in a series of meetings with Federal Ministers and Senators to advocate for regional priorities and discuss matters of importance to member councils. Further details on these engagements are provided on the following page.

The Board also received a briefing from the National Water Grid on current funding arrangements, future funding pathways and timelines, opportunities to strengthen collaboration and project delivery across all levels of government, and the potential for direct funding models for local water utilities. In addition, Board members met with the Productivity Commission to discuss its Interim Report into Housing Supply Regulation.

This edition of the newsletter highlights the broad range of projects, initiatives and collaborative activities currently being progressed through the Central NSW Joint Organisation on behalf of its member councils and communities.



Meet Jessie!

Jessie delivers CNSWJO's water efficiency program, working closely with member council water teams to improve water management outcomes across the region.

As part of the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water-funded Water Loss Management Program, Jessie works with participating councils to implement program activities and supports other regions that are adapting and replicating the successful approaches developed in Central NSW.

Jessie also works alongside the Water Utilities Alliance on initiatives that create operational efficiencies, cost savings and process improvements for regional water utilities.

Beyond her water-focused work, Jessie contributes to a range of procurement projects and is currently coordinating a regional procurement process for the maintenance of sewer and stormwater assets.

MEETINGS WITH FEDERAL MINISTERS - 13 AUGUST 2026

The Board attended Federal Parliament House in Canberra on 13 August 2026 and met with a great line-up of federal Ministers, Assistant Ministers, Shadow Ministers, Senators and advisors, including:

- **Mr Jamie Chaffey MP** - Federal Minister for Parkes, Shadow Assistant Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, Shadow Assistant Minister for Resources
- **The Hon. Andrew Giles MP** - Minister for Skills and Training
- **Mr Toby Walker -** Senior Water Advisor to Senator Murray Watt, Minister for Water and the Environment
- **Senator Deborah O'Neill** - Duty Senator for Riverina, Calare and Parkes
- **Mr Joel Tuckwell** - Senior Adviser to the Hon. Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- **The Hon. Kristy McBain MP** - Minister for Emergency Management, Minister for Regional Development
- **The Hon. Josh Wilson MP** - Assistant Minister for Climate Change & Energy, Assistant Minister for Emergency Management
- **The Hon. Emma McBride MP** - Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health
- **Mr Andrew Gee MP** - Federal Member for Calare
- **Mr Bastian Simrajh** - Adviser to The Hon. Sam Rae MP, Minister for Aged Care and Seniors
- **Mr Dan Goodman** - Advisor to The Hon Anika Wells MP, Minister for Communications and Minister for Sport
- **Mr Ben Antenucci and Mr Stephen Quilkey** - Advisers to The Hon Julie Collins MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- **The Hon. Michael McCormack MP** - Federal Member for Riverina, Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Shadow Minister for Water

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

The Board is appreciative of the support provided by Mr Jamie Chaffey, MP's office in hosting the event.

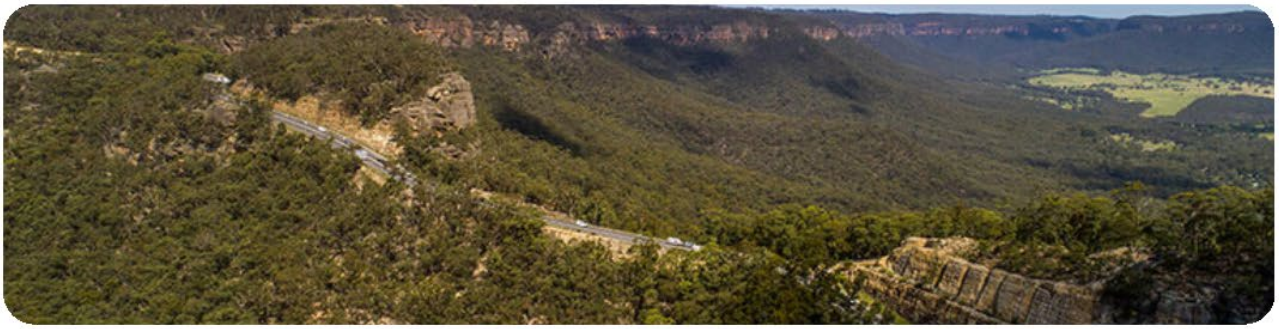








ADVOCACY ON THE GREAT WESTERN HIGHWAY



GREAT WESTERN HIGHWAY

Unlocking freight, productivity and resilience between Sydney and the Central West

THE MISSING LINK IN NSW'S EAST-WEST FREIGHT CORRIDOR

The Great Western Highway is the **primary strategic road connection** between Sydney and the Central West and a critical link within both the NSW State Road Network and the National Land Transport Network. Recognised by Infrastructure Australia as a route of **strategic significance**, the corridor supports **freight** movement, regional **economic growth**, **tourism** and access to **essential services**.

As Western Sydney International Airport comes online, the importance of a safe, reliable and efficient connection will only increase. **The Central West remains the only major NSW freight region without a modern highway connection to Sydney.**

WHY ACTION IS NEEDED

Freight Productivity
Steep gradients, narrow lanes and vehicle restrictions limit access for higher productivity freight vehicles, increasing costs across regional NSW.

Network Resilience
The highway is vulnerable to accidents and disasters with limited redundancy. There are often no options to maintain vehicle and freight access during disruptions.

Growing Demand
Congestion worsens during peak periods. Population growth and Western Sydney Airport will add pressure to this constrained corridor.

CENTRAL NSW'S PRIORITIES

1. **Fix Mitchells Causeway**
   Support the NSW Government's work to address current design issues and improve corridor performance and resilience.
2. **Deliver the third lane at Mitchells Causeway**
   Fund the third lane solution as part of the current bridge project to improve traffic flow, freight efficiency and network reliability.
3. **Complete the missing dual carriageway sections**
   Fund delivery of the remaining dual-carriageway sections: Katoomba to Medlow Bath, and Medlow Bath to Blackheath. The design work has already been completed.
4. **Fund a long-term solution**
   Determine and fund a suitable long-term dual-carriageway solution for increased capacity including higher productivity freight vehicles from Blackheath to Lithgow.

BENEFITS

- ✅ Improved freight productivity and lower transport costs
- ✅ Better connectivity to Western Sydney International Airport
- ✅ Increased resilience during natural disasters and disruptions
- ✅ Reduced congestion and travel times
- ✅ Improved road safety outcomes
- ✅ Stronger regional, state and national economic growth



The CNSWJO region covers 63,000 square kilometres and has a population of around 182,000 people.

CENTRAL NSW JOINT ORGANISATION

The councils and communities of the Central West ask the Australian Government to partner with the NSW Government to fund the next stage of Great Western Highway upgrades, delivering critical capacity, resilience and freight productivity improvements through Mitchells Causeway, Blackheath and Victoria Pass.

ADVOCACY ON THE INLAND RAIL



INLAND RAIL

Delivering Australia's inland freight spine north of Parkes

A NATION-BUILDING FREIGHT CORRIDOR FOR CENTRAL NSW AND AUSTRALIA

Central NSW Joint Organisation's (CNSWJO) position is clear: Inland Rail should be completed north of Parkes. Inland Rail was promised as a complete national freight corridor and governments should deliver on that commitment. The strategic case for Inland Rail remains strong, with freight productivity, supply chain resilience, fuel security and regional development benefits that continue to be realised through completion of the corridor.

For more than a decade, communities, councils and businesses have **planned and invested** on the basis of a **bipartisan commitment** to Inland Rail. Communities including Narrabri, Narromine and others have made decisions in the expectation that the corridor would be delivered. At its core, **Inland Rail remains a good project and those commitments should be honoured.**

WHY ACTION IS NEEDED

Supply Chain Security

Resilient inland freight options reduce reliance on constrained coastal routes and help maintain access during disasters, fuel disruptions and other shocks

Freight Productivity

Central NSW carries significant local and through-freight. Stronger rail alternatives help reduce long-term pressure on council roads, bridges and regional corridors.

Long-Term Confidence

Councils, communities, landholders and industry have planned around Inland Rail for years. A clear pathway is needed so the project does not fade from national planning

CENTRAL NSW'S PRIORITIES

1. **Honour the original commitment: Complete Inland Rail north of Parkes**
   Complete Inland Rail north of Parkes and deliver the national freight corridor originally promised. Communities should not be left with a partially delivered project after years of bipartisan support, planning and investment.
2. **Preserve the corridor**
   Protect the corridor north of Parkes, including north of Narromine, so future delivery remains possible and options are not lost.
3. **Take practical next steps**
   Progress planning, design refinement, corridor protection, freight network improvements and intermodal planning to keep momentum in the project.
4. **Work constructively with landholders**
   Review corridor impacts and narrow the corridor where practical, without compromising the long-term alignment needed for future delivery.

BENEFITS

- ✅ Complete national freight corridor, not a stranded partial project
- ✅ Stronger supply chain, fuel security and network resilience
- ✅ Better connections to inland, metropolitan and export markets
- ✅ Reduced long-term pressure on regional roads and bridges
- ✅ Greater confidence for agriculture, mining, manufacturing, renewables and logistics
- ✅ Stronger regional, state and national economic growth
- ✅ Provide fuel storage certainty for the nation

CENTRAL NSW JOINT ORGANISATION

The councils and communities of Central NSW call on the Australian Government to honour the bipartisan commitment made to regional Australia and complete Inland Rail north of Parkes. This is not a new project seeking support. It is a nation-building project that communities have planned around, invested in and supported for more than a decade.

REGIONAL FREIGHT STRATEGY

Development of the Regional Freight Strategy is continuing, with freight mapping focused on consolidating existing datasets to support regional planning, infrastructure investment and future advocacy priorities. CNSWJO has been working with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR), Transport for NSW (TfNSW) and Austroads to access key freight data and reduce duplication across member councils.

Several important datasets have now been secured, including State and Regional Road networks, Higher Mass Limit (HML) routes, livestock transport routes, rail crossing information and freight generator data.

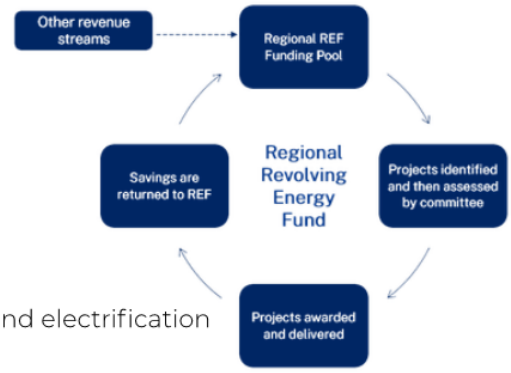
The next phase of the project will involve working with councils to validate the mapping, identify gaps and incorporate local knowledge to ensure the information accurately reflects freight movements, infrastructure and constraints across the region. The Strategy will provide an important evidence base to support future advocacy for freight infrastructure investment, network resilience and improved freight connectivity across Central NSW.

REGIONAL REVOLVING ENERGY FUND

Central NSW Joint Organisation has recently received funding from NSW Dept of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), under the Joint Organisation Net Zero Accelerator (JONZA) program, as seed funding for a Regional Revolving Energy Fund (REF).

The Regional REF funding can be spend on capital works such as:

- Solar Photovoltaic (PV) installations
- Battery and Virtual Power Plant (VPP) installations
- Mid-scale renewable energy installations
- Variable Speed Drive (VSD) control upgrades
- Heat pump upgrades
- HVAC and control upgrades
- Electrification upgrades (e.g. replacing gas)
- Sewage and Wastewater Treatment Plants efficiency upgrades and electrification
- Solar PV cleaning and maintenance



The REF will help councils deliver net zero projects by providing a source of funding that can be reused over time. As projects generate savings and funds are repaid to the REF, those funds can be reinvested into new projects, creating an ongoing pool of funding to support emissions reduction initiatives across the region. The REF will be available for all member councils to apply to use in the coming months.

OTHER WAYS TO THE WEST CAMPAIGN

The campaign includes a comprehensive mix of marketing, communications and industry engagement activities:

- Development of the Other Ways to the West campaign brand, tagline and logo.
- Creation of campaign creative assets, social media content and a stakeholder Campaign Toolkit.
- Launch of the dedicated campaign website www.otherwaystothewest.com.au, featuring alternative travel routes.
- Delivery of a coordinated public relations, digital marketing, advertising and social media campaign.
- Adoption of campaign branding and messaging by Central NSW councils across their tourism websites and marketing channels.
- Distribution of media releases and an editorial program promoting alternative travel routes and tourism experiences
- Strategic media partnerships with 2GB Radio, News Ltd and Holidays with Kids to maximise reach into key Sydney and family travel markets.



WATER UTILITIES ALLIANCE - STRATEGIC PLAN

Over the past 12 months, the Water Utilities Alliance has undertaken a comprehensive review and update of its Strategic Plan. This process included a series of consultation sessions with Alliance members and additional focus sessions involving the Alliance Executive, Chair and Deputy Chair, as well as the Chairs of the Water Loss Management and Efficiency and Water Quality working groups.

The Strategic Plan refresh included detailed mapping to align priorities with key stakeholder documents, including member council delivery plans, the CNSWJO Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities, the NSW Water Directorate Strategic Plan, the NSW Water Strategy and the previous Alliance Business Plan. Work continues on an implementation plan to support this high-level strategy.

The Strategic Plan was endorsed by the Board at its 12 August meeting.



ACTIVE LEAK DETECTION TRAINING

Leak detection using listening sticks, correlators and ground microphones was identified through the WLME group as an opportunity for training. The CNSWJO engaged Aqua Analytics to deliver a face-to-face training session for member councils which was delivered on 24 June 2026 in Molong.

The training included a theory and practical component. Eleven participants atended the training from the following councils – Cabonne, Central Tablelands Water, Cowra, Lithgow, Orange and Parkes.



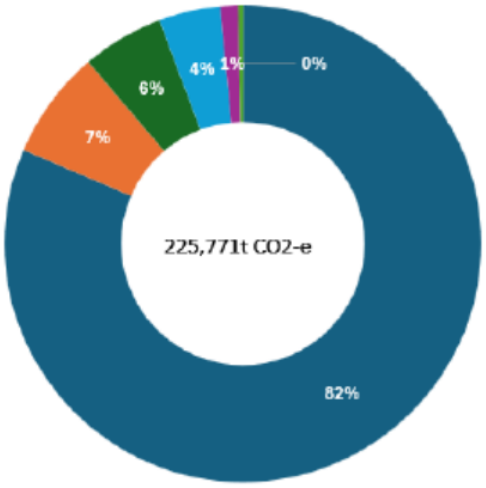
REGIONAL EMISSIONS PROFILE

As part of Joint Organisation Net Zero Accelerator (JONZA) Round 3 funding, no-cost licences were granted from NSW DCCEEW to participating JONZA councils for use of the newly-built 'Cassora' greenhouse gas accounting tool. These licences applied from July 2025 to June 2026 and have since been renewed until June 2027.

The Cassora platform is designed for use by NSW councils in estimating emissions for various scope 1 and 2 sources: stationary energy (natural gas, diesel for generators), transport energy (fleet fuel), electricity use, streetlighting, solid waste (landfills), and wastewater treatment.

All eleven CNSWJO member councils have published data for FY 24-25 in the Cassora platform, with the following graph depicting the emissions sources for the region. Solid waste (landfill) emissions account for over 80% of the region's emissions.

Contribution of emissions by category, FY 24-25



Category	t CO2-e
Solid waste	183,812
Transport energy	16,610
Electricity	12,499
Wastewater	9,411
Stationary energy	2,714
Streetlighting	726

COMMUNITY BENEFIT SHARING

CNSWJO is working closing with neighbouring regions on a State-wide Approach to Community Benefit Sharing Toolkit for State Significant Developments. The focus areas of the toolkit include:

- policy and planning,
- capacity building, and
- advocacy

Components of the toolkit include:

- Draft State Significant Development: Model Interventions Procedure for Local Government
- Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) – draft principle(s)
- Local Environmental Plan (LEP) – draft clause(s) and/or objectives
- Draft Planning Agreements Policy – model document
- Draft Community Benefit Sharing Policy for Councils
- Draft Planning Agreements Template – model document
- Existing Planning Agreements – model examples
- Development Control Plan (DCP) – chapter updates

Next steps for the Toolkit:

- Seeking feedback in August/September from two Planners Reference Groups on the drafted State Significant Development: Model Interventions Procedure and Community Benefit Sharing Policy
- Continue engaging with particular councils, especially those councils currently drafting LSPS principles and LEP clauses aligned with the intent of the Toolkit
- Continue reviewing relevant Planning Agreement Policies, Templates, and executed Planning Agreements in order to develop a model Policy, Template, and suite of potential clauses-of-interest for negotiating individual Planning Agreements.

It is anticipated that elements of the toolkit will be available by the end of 2026.

REGIONAL DIGITAL PLAN

CNSWJO has worked closely with Regional Development Australia, Central West (RDACW), nbn local and Telstra to develop a Central NSW Regional Digital Plan. The Plan was endorsed by the Board at its 12 August meeting.

The Plan aligns with Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP) Priority Four, supporting collaboration with RDACW to improve telecommunications outcomes. It focuses on:

- current connectivity performance,
- digital inclusion challenges,
- opportunities for smart places and innovation,
- planning for future growth,
- disaster preparedness and communications resilience,
- funding and investment opportunities,
- regional collaboration as the key delivery mechanism, and
- digital connectivity priorities and action plan.

The Priorities and Action Plan includes six key recommendations:

- Support residents and businesses to access the best available technology, including fibre and LEO satellite upgrades as they become available.
- Build or upgrade mobile broadband infrastructure to improve coverage across black spots and areas of poor coverage.
- Ensure regional connectivity needs are clearly identified, evidenced and embedded in local and regional planning so they can be referenced in future funding submissions.
- Support a structured, coordinated approach to Smart Places adoption across the region.
- Strengthen coordinated, place-based digital inclusion support, prioritising LGAs with the largest Australian Digital Inclusion Index (ADII) gaps.
- Strengthen communications resilience at community facilities and improve coordination between councils and carriers during disaster events.

Work will commence shortly on an implementation and reporting framework. This will include discussion with key delivery partners including the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), Business NSW, tech providers and others as identified.

To ensure the Plan remains relevant and effective, progress will be monitored and reported annually against key measures.



Photo: David Saunderson (Telstra), Cr Ruth Fagan (Chair, RDA Central West), Cr Kevin Beatty (Chair CNSWJO), Mr Josh Gordon (RDA Central West), Matt Armstrong (nbn local), Chris Taylor (Telstra).



VALUE TO MEMBERS AND RETURN ON INVESTMENT FOR 2025/26

CNSWJO measures quantitative value provided to members in line with the agreed KPIs in the SSRP under each priority. The following table provides a snapshot of the quantifiable value provided to members in 2025/26.

Highlight KPIs	Q1 (Jul-Sept)	Q2 (Oct-Dec)	Q3 (Jan-Mar)	Q4 (Apr-Jun)	Total for FY
# new contracts	3	1	3	2	9
$ income through contract management fees	$136,859	$76,082	$122,714	$141,510	$477,165
$ spent by member councils	-				$32,985,751
$ saved for member councils	-				$1,931,772
# training courses delivered	1	0	2	1	4
# staff/Councillors trained	18	0	34	16	68
$ grant funding applied for	$6,293,687	$0	$0	$1,055,074	$7,348,761
$ grant funding received	$85,780	$0	$0	$70,500	$156,280
# submissions	3	4	5	6	18
# media releases (inc tourism)	11	3	3	12	29
# contractors inducted through online WHS program	215	307	228	252	1002
# regional team meetings	18	18	18	19	73
ROI on tourism/PR/marketing	-	-	-	-	13.7
# PR activities through tourism program	48	9	36	45	138

During 2025/26, the return on investment (ROI), for CNSWJO member councils was 4.6:1. This measures quantifiable value only through grant funding, cost savings from regional contracts, and value from public relations and marketing through the regional tourism program.

ROI 25/26	Membership fees	grant funding	cost savings	PR value	value (funding + savings)	ROI
Bathurst	$ 155,656.00	$ 73,246.38	$ 177,853.11	$ 290,225.76	$ 541,325.25	3.48
Blayney	$ 48,814.00	$ 52,113.38	$ 62,249.94	$ 9,625.76	$ 123,989.08	2.54
Cabonne	$ 81,690.00	$ 52,816.38	$ 200,341.98	$ 7,842.42	$ 261,000.79	3.20
Central Tablelands Water	$ 40,304.00	$ 98,123.00	$ 35,514.66	$ -	$ 133,637.66	3.32
Cowra	$ 84,917.00	$ 55,416.38	$ 192,857.82	$ 84,709.09	$ 332,983.30	3.92
Forbes	$ 70,267.00	$ 52,816.38	$ 371,151.54	$ 157,575.76	$ 581,543.68	8.28
Lachlan	$ 63,984.00	$ 60,146.38	$ 177,748.77	$ 154,509.09	$ 392,404.24	6.13
Lithgow	$ 101,086.00	$ 69,416.38	$ 46,812.05	$ 237,042.42	$ 353,270.85	3.49
Oberon	$ 60,542.00	$ 60,666.38	$ 76,218.21	$ 29,859.09	$ 166,743.68	2.75
Orange	$ 161,199.00	$ 126,026.38	$ 273,580.15	$ 717,679.09	$ 1,117,285.62	6.93
Parkes	$ 90,123.00	$ 53,336.38	$ 159,269.02	$ 194,342.42	$ 406,947.82	4.52
UMCC	$ 2,217.00	$ -	$ 1,760.00	$ -	$ 1,760.00	0.79
Weddin	$ 39,132.00	$ 44,263.38	$ 83,898.17	$ 44,409.09	$ 172,570.64	4.41
TOTAL	$ 999,931.00	$ 798,387.19	$ 1,859,255.43	$ 1,927,820.00	$ 4,585,462.62	4.59

UPDATE ON CYBER SECURITY

The Program is operating within Horizon 2 - Build, the second year of the Regional Cyber Security Strategy and Roadmap, where the objective is to scale maturity and embed governance whilst developing common regional mechanisms that councils can apply locally.

During the FYQ4 reporting period:

- The cyber governance dashboard was progressively introduced through engagement with General Managers, Directors and IT Managers.
- The first common regional governance and operational metrics were analysed by the Information Security Steering Committee (ISSC) and incorporated into the governance reporting model.
- Work progressed on reusable regional policy, risk, control, assurance and AI governance artefacts.
- Communication streams evolved with the delivery of three Cyber War Room sessions examining actual ransomware and nation state incidents.
- The Program prepared to move into FYQ1 2027 Security Calander theme of resilience, response and budget, with incident preparedness the immediate priority.

Highlights from the last quarter

Phase two of the Regional Water Loss Management and Efficiency (WLME) project is aimed at embedment of water loss management and water efficiency practices within CNSWJO member councils and expansion of the program into the Western Councils and Riverina/Murray regions.

Funding has been provided to the CNSWJO for the coordination role, along with funding for the CNSWJO and Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) and Western Councils Water Alliance (WCWA) Project Officers to deliver activities under phase two for their respective member councils.

Upcoming procurement:

- Traffic Control Services
- Asset Management of Sewer Pipes
- Supply & Delivery of Road Signs
- Solar Asset Audit
- Supply of Bitumen Emulsion
- Regional Project Management Services Panel
- Restocking of First Aid Kits and Optional Fire Safety Compliance Services

New contracts:

- Southern Lights and Networks Consulting Support
- Water Loss Management Consultant
- Cold Mix Asphalt Patching Product
- Regional Procurement for Supply and Delivery of Concrete Stormwater Drainage Pipes
- Destination Marketing and PR Services

The Destination Public Relations program delivered through Gabrielle Brewer PR has continued to deliver excellent return on investment for CNSWJO member councils. The total ROI for the 5 year period from 2021-2026 is 16.5:1.

The program promoted 11 local government areas as tourism destinations and achieved an advertising value of over $482k and a PR editorial value of over $1.45million.

CNSWJO is working with its members to develop a Regional Freight Strategy, with key freight network and movement datasets now secured through partnerships with TfNSW, NHVR and Austroads. The project is moving into councils reviewing mapping and identifying local freight routes, infrastructure and constraints.

Submissions lodged since June include:

- Submission to the NSW Legislative Assembly Select Committee on Emergency Services Funding Reform
- Proposed Statewide Community Participation Plan
- Submission to DPHI - Low rise housing and targeted assessment
- Submission to DPHI - variations and changes to complying development
- Submission to Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication, Sports and the Arts - National Regional Roads Australia Mobile Program (RRAMP) draft Grant Opportunity Guidelines
- Submission to Productivity Commission - National Water Reform 2026 - Interim Update
- Submission to DCCEEW - Peak Demand Reduction Scheme (PDRS) & Energy Savings Scheme (ESS)
- Submission to DCCEEW - Review of Public Lighting Code
- Submission to Australian Energy Regulator - Draft 2026 Rate of Return Instrument (RORI) Review
- Submission to the Net Zero Commission's Call for Evidence - Decarbonisation Pathways for NSW

All of our submissions can be found on the website www.centraljo.nsw.gov.au/submissions

Upcoming events:

- **Tuesday 15 September** - Water Loss Management Group Meeting
- **Wednesday 30 September** - Transport Technical Committee Meeting
- **Thursday 8 October** - Water Utilities Alliance Meeting
- **Tuesday 13 October** - Water Loss Management Group Meeting
- **Wednesday 14 October** - Training, Learning and Development Group Meeting
- **Wednesday 14 October** - Regional Resilience Group Meeting
- **Thursday 22 October** - General Managers Advisory Committee Meeting
- **Tuesday 3 November** - Regional Net Zero Group Meeting
- **Tuesday 10 November** - Landfill Emissions Working Group Meeting
- **Thursday 12 November** - Board Meeting
- **Tuesday 17 November** - WHS/Risk Management Group Meeting
- **Wednesday 18 November** - IT Managers Group Meeting
- **Thursday 26 November** - Water Utilities Alliance Meeting
- **Thursday 26 November** - Building Surveyors Networking Group Meeting

Meet the JO team



Kate Barker
Executive Officer



Ann Thomas
Finance Manager



Meredith Macpherson
Water and Regional Development Program Manager



Carolyn Griffin
Governance and Operations Coordinator



Jen Webber
Regional Program Manager - Resilience and Transport



Jordan Welden-Iley
Chief Information Security Officer



Jessie Parish
Project Officer - Water Efficiency



Venessa Green
Project Officer - Net Zero



Kayla Clanchy
Project Officer - Landfill Emissions

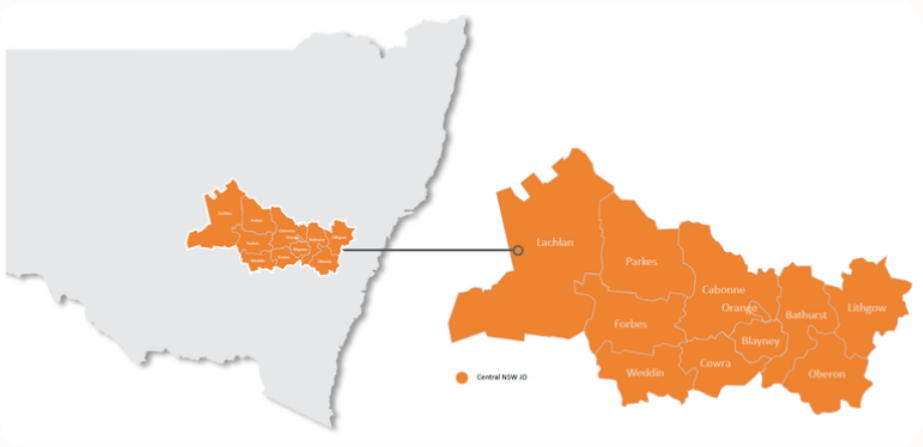


Grace Quinton
Project Officer - Procurement



Kirsty Sheppeard
Project Officer - Procurement

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



GREAT WESTERN HIGHWAY

Unlocking freight, productivity and resilience between Sydney and the Central West

THE MISSING LINK IN NSW'S EAST-WEST FREIGHT CORRIDOR

The Great Western Highway is the **primary strategic road connection** between Sydney and the Central West and a critical link within both the NSW State Road Network and the National Land Transport Network. Recognised by Infrastructure Australia as a route of **strategic significance**, the corridor supports **freight** movement, regional **economic growth**, **tourism** and access to **essential services**.

As Western Sydney International Airport comes online, the importance of a safe, reliable and efficient connection will only increase. **The Central West remains the only major NSW freight region without a modern highway connection to Sydney.**

WHY ACTION IS NEEDED

Freight Productivity
Steep gradients, narrow lanes and vehicle restrictions limit access for higher productivity freight vehicles, increasing costs across regional NSW.

Network Resilience
The highway is vulnerable to accidents and disasters with limited redundancy. There are often no options to maintain vehicle and freight access during disruptions.

Growing Demand
Congestion worsens during peak periods. Population growth and Western Sydney Airport will add pressure to this constrained corridor.

CENTRAL NSW'S PRIORITIES

1. **Fix Mitchells Causeway**
   Support the NSW Government's work to address current design issues and improve corridor performance and resilience.
2. **Deliver the third lane at Mitchells Causeway**
   Fund the third lane solution as part of the current bridge project to improve traffic flow, freight efficiency and network reliability.
3. **Complete the missing dual carriageway sections**
   Fund delivery of the remaining dual-carriageway sections: Katoomba to Medlow Bath, and Medlow Bath to Blackheath. The design work has already been completed.
4. **Fund a long-term solution**
   Determine and fund a suitable long-term dual-carriageway solution for increased capacity including higher productivity freight vehicles from Blackheath to Lithgow.

BENEFITS

- ✅ Improved freight productivity and lower transport costs
- ✅ Better connectivity to Western Sydney International Airport
- ✅ Increased resilience during natural disasters and disruptions
- ✅ Reduced congestion and travel times
- ✅ Improved road safety outcomes
- ✅ Stronger regional, state and national economic growth



The CNSWJO region covers 63,000 square kilometres and has a population of around 182,000 people.

The councils and communities of the Central West ask the Australian Government to partner with the NSW Government to fund the next stage of Great Western Highway upgrades, delivering critical capacity, resilience and freight productivity improvements through Mitchells Causeway, Blackheath and Victoria Pass.



INLAND RAIL

Delivering Australia's inland freight spine north of Parkes

A NATION-BUILDING FREIGHT CORRIDOR FOR CENTRAL NSW AND AUSTRALIA

Central NSW Joint Organisation's (CNSWJO) position is clear: Inland Rail should be completed north of Parkes. Inland Rail was promised as a complete national freight corridor and governments should deliver on that commitment. The strategic case for Inland Rail remains strong, with freight productivity, supply chain resilience, fuel security and regional development benefits that continue to be realised through completion of the corridor.

For more than a decade, communities, councils and businesses have **planned and invested** on the basis of a **bipartisan commitment** to Inland Rail. Communities including Narrabri, Narromine and others have made decisions in the expectation that the corridor would be delivered. At its core, **Inland Rail remains a good project and those commitments should be honoured.**

WHY ACTION IS NEEDED

Supply Chain Security

Resilient inland freight options reduce reliance on constrained coastal routes and help maintain access during disasters, fuel disruptions and other shocks

Freight Productivity

Central NSW carries significant local and through-freight. Stronger rail alternatives help reduce long-term pressure on council roads, bridges and regional corridors.

Long-Term Confidence

Councils, communities, landholders and industry have planned around Inland Rail for years. A clear pathway is needed so the project does not fade from national planning

CENTRAL NSW'S PRIORITIES

1. **Honour the original commitment: Complete Inland Rail north of Parkes**
   Complete Inland Rail north of Parkes and deliver the national freight corridor originally promised. Communities should not be left with a partially delivered project after years of bipartisan support, planning and investment.
2. **Preserve the corridor**
   Protect the corridor north of Parkes, including north of Narromine, so future delivery remains possible and options are not lost.
3. **Take practical next steps**
   Progress planning, design refinement, corridor protection, freight network improvements and intermodal planning to keep momentum in the project.
4. **Work constructively with landholders**
   Review corridor impacts and narrow the corridor where practical, without compromising the long-term alignment needed for future delivery.

BENEFITS

- ✅ Complete national freight corridor, not a stranded partial project
- ✅ Stronger supply chain, fuel security and network resilience
- ✅ Better connections to inland, metropolitan and export markets
- ✅ Reduced long-term pressure on regional roads and bridges
- ✅ Greater confidence for agriculture, mining, manufacturing, renewables and logistics
- ✅ Stronger regional, state and national economic growth
- ✅ Provide fuel storage certainty for the nation

The councils and communities of Central NSW call on the Australian Government to honour the bipartisan commitment made to regional Australia and complete Inland Rail north of Parkes. This is not a new project seeking support. It is a nation-building project that communities have planned around, invested in and supported for more than a decade.

29) CADIA VALLEY OPERATIONS COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Department: Executive Services

Author: General Manager

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

File No: GR.LR.1

Recommendation:
That Council note the minutes from the Cadia Valley Operations Community Consultative Committee meeting held 17 August 2026.

Reason for Report:
To update Council on the recent Community Consultative Committee meeting held on 17 August 2026 for Cadia Valley Operations.

Report:
Please find enclosed minutes from the Cadia Valley Operations Community Consultative Committee meeting held 17 August 2026.

Cr Johnston attended on behalf of Blayney Shire Council.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Nil

Budget Implications:
Nil

Enclosures (following report)

1	Cadia Valley Operations Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes	9 Pages

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

Notes: Minutes of the Meeting of the Newmont Cadia Community Consultative Committee (CCC) Monday 17 August 2026
Location: Held at The Quest, 132 Kite Street, Orange
Time: 6pm – 8pm

Members:	Chairperson: Margaret Harvie (MH)
Community representatives:	Graham Brown (GB), Bob Meyenn (BM), Chris Baker (CB), Kim Masters (KM), John Gerathy (JG)*, Ben Kemp (BK) – Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council (OLALC), Frances Retallack (FR) – Cadia Community Sustainability Network.
Council representatives:	Stephen Johnston (SJ) – Blayney Shire Council Representative, Scott Maunder (SM) – Orange City Council Representative.
Cadia representatives:	Lori Douglas (LD) – General Manager, David Coe (DC) – Director Environment, Melissa O'Brien (MOB) – A/Director Social Performance.
Persons in attendance:	Erin Hart (EH) – Manager- Exploration, Erika Rollin (ER) – A/Lead – Social Performance, Yurinda Davies (YD) (note taker).
Apologies:	Matthew Christensen (MC) – Cabonne Shire Council Representative.

*Attended online
Meeting Opened: 6 pm.

Agenda Items

Agenda Items	Description	Who
1.	Acknowledgement of Country	MH
2.	Apologies Declarations of pecuniary interest	All
3.	Correspondence	MH
4.	Actions from Previous Meetings (see attached)	All and facilitated by Chair
5.	Around the room – what we are hearing from the community	MH
6.	Exploration Update • Overview of Cadia exploration activities	EH
7.	Update from Cadia Q2, 2026 • Operational Update • Social Performance Activities • Environmental Performance and Farms Update	LD MOB DC
8.	Cadia Continued Operations Project • Panuara Road Realignment: Design Drawings • Update on Panuara Road Markers • Independent Expert Advisor: Councils to nominate another Council representative	DC

This

	• CCOP Gateway Certificate	
9.	Understanding the approval submissions	MOB
10.	Next Regular CCC meetings • 16 November 2026 CCOP CCC – Special briefing 7 October 2026	MH

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/By Whom (Below and Appendix 1- Actions List)
1.	**Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country** MH welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the Wiradjuri people.	

2.	**Apologies and declarations of pecuniary interest**
	• MH paid by Cadia, appointed by Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).
	• YD independent note taker – also in a 12 month contract to Blayney Shire Council as the Manager Tourism and Communication.
	• The following CCC members are in receipt of benefits paid by Cadia through the Cadia District Enhancement Project (CDEP).
	  ○ Frances Retallack
	  ○ John Gerathy
	  ○ Chris Baker
	  ○ Graham Brown
	  ○ Kim Masters	

3.	**Correspondence**
	1. The letter of 11 June 2026 from Lori Douglas to the chairperson was noted. This related to the class action and explanation of the restrictions this brings in discussing certain matters. This letter was issued in the light of the request for discussion on property value concerns that was an action from the May CCC meeting. (letter attached)
	Cadia provided the following responses through the Chair to questions from CCC members JG and FR (received in the week prior to the meeting). These responses are yet to be reviewed by the relevant CCC members.
	2. Questions submitted from JG
	  • Why won't Cadia answer questions for those not part of proceedings?
	  • Is testing being undertaken to determine if PFAS is the problem?
		Action 1: CCC members to review Cadia's responses and come back with follow up questions.

This

Cadia's response: *Cadia acknowledges the question. The specific matters raised are the subject of current court proceedings. Cadia is not in a position to comment substantively on these matters while the proceedings are on foot. The AECOM report was commissioned as part of Cadia's environment protection licence conditions. Cadia will continue to comply with any requirements or directions of the EPA in relation to PFAS investigations.* ***(see attached letter for full response in relation to the land valuation question)***

3. Questions submitted from FR
    - Is Cadia aware of the risks of PFAS contamination to the surrounding community identified in independent scientific research? Attached is a paper by K. Barfoot and others titled "PFAS and the Mining Industry: Understanding the Challenges", which identifies potential exposure pathways for nearby communities.

Cadia's response: *As this matter forms part of the issues in dispute in the class action and noting the item has been raised by Frances, Cadia considers the more appropriate course of action would be for Frances to raise her queries through her legal representatives. Cadia does not otherwise comment on the validity or accuracy of the report prepared by K Barfoot or its relationship and applicability to Cadia's mining operations. Given the current proceedings, Cadia will not be commenting further on this issue or the report.*

- DCCEEW in its review of the Gateway Certificate Application (Paul Scully letter dated 16/10/2024) refers to a number of issues which are required to be assessed. Where have these matters been considered in CVOs reporting, are these reports publicly available?

Cadia's response: *In NSW, the Gateway Application Process is a mandatory pre-development assessment for certain State Significant Mining and Petroleum (including coal seam gas) projects proposed on Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL) or within a Critical Industry Cluster (CIC) (only in Hunter Valley). It was introduced to ensure that high-value agricultural land and associated water resources are considered before a development application (DA) is lodged.*

· *understanding of ground water and surface water, including interactions with groundwater dependent ecosystems*

The gateway panel did not raise issues with Cadia Continued Operations Project (CCOP) but identified matters to be addressed in the EIS studies. The Independent Expert Scientific Committee acknowledged that additional impact assessments were required to respond to the questions raised. iesc-advice-cadia-continued-operations-2024-151.pdf

The Gateway Panel for CCOP provided a conditional certificate and made recommendations to be addressed in the EIS studies. DPHI or Independent Planning Commission (IPC) will consider these as the determining authority. These relate to the EIS outlining:

· *Long term groundwater and surface water monitoring requirements for STSFX (South Tailings Storage Facility)*

This

	· *How rehabilitation will achieve the highest practically achievable land and soil capability for agriculture post closure* · *Improved agricultural land outcomes.* *Conditional Gateway Certificate (Amendment).pdf (SECURED)* • PTSF (Pit Tailings Storage Facility) water storage. There has been a significant decrease in the volume of water stored in the PTSF over the last year. What has this water been used for? If operations over the last 12 months have resulted in this significant decrease in water stored how will CVO manage dust over an increased disturbed area (Mod 16 and CCOP) in the context of a super La Nina? ***Cadia's response:*** *Site water storage is recorded in the CCC meeting pack quarterly.* LD spoke to the correspondence to the Chair about the Class Action. She advised further to the letter outlining the reasons for this, any questions that are potentially related to the class action will be taken on notice and appropriate responses will be provided subject to legal advice.	
3.	JG indicated that he wished to be excused from the meeting as his main interest in attending online while overseas was because a PFAS presentation was to be on the agenda (now on the November meeting agenda). JG asked that the information about PFAS that he had provided to the Chairperson be distributed to the CCC members. This action was taken the day following the meeting. JG was invited to raise any issues prior to leaving the meeting. His question - If PFAS is found to be emitting from the mine, will Cadia continue operations? LD responded by taking question on notice and will refer to legal advice. Indicated that he was keen to have an expert to explain the health impacts of PFAS. JG was excused from meeting at 6:16pm. GB – in response to the discussion about PFAS indicated that there was a need to equally understand the potential PFAS contribution of landholders.	Action 2: Question from JG, if PFAS is found to be emitting from the mine will Cadia continue operations?
4.	**CCC member behaviour**. The Chair addressed the issue of behaviour over email exchanged since the last meeting and the need as per the Code of Conduct for members to be respectful of each other. The instance of recent inappropriate emails has been addressed by the Chair. The Chair has made clear to the person involved that it is not acceptable to belittle any member in the context of the issues that they raise at meetings. Every member is entitled to raise whatever issues that are important to them and their community. The Chair reminded the group that while anyone could use 'Reply all' this was not encouraged. The chair is willing to be the avenue for distribution of information to all members.	

This

5.	Actions from Previous Meetings • CCC Actions Review (2025-2026). Cadia has compiled a spreadsheet with a full list of actions and list of outstanding actions for the CCC to review and confirm. • Actions are initially formed in the meeting and listed in the meeting notes. If there are any gaps/challenges to actions, CCC members should raise them in the context of the meeting and the subsequent meeting notes. • There is now a comprehensive list of the outstanding actions from the last meeting and earlier actions that had not been fully closed. Members are invited to review the current list of outstanding actions and potentially find other previous meeting actions that are yet to be closed out. Two outstanding actions had been added to the current list at the request of FR.	Action 3: Members to review all actions and identify any additional previous outstanding actions.
6.	Around the room – what we are hearing from the community • FR – Blood testing the community. Preliminary results are as concerning as those from the Blue Mountains, a known PFAS contaminated water source for over 30 years. The community are looking to better understand 'What is the problem?' 'What can we do about it?'. There was an increase in noise complaints. Post earthquake, community are interested to know of the ability to open the lower levels of the mine/production levels. • BM – Traffic on Cadia Rd. Large vehicles take over the whole road leaving little room for smaller vehicles. Concerns about the fact that is an incident waiting to happen. It was confirmed the large vehicles are under pilot vehicle escort. Community has raised water concerns in relation to the Mine's expansion. LD advised the Mine recycles approximately 70% of their water and have projected reasonable water levels until 2031. They are looking at utilising effluent water again and are working towards self-sufficiency (subject to climate conditions). DC advised the CCC that Cadia is subject to the same water licences as others. • BK – Nil. • CB – Pest management and noise concerns. There is constant day and night noise from the mining operations. Reported a truck with a heavy load that lost a piece off the back of the truck, and he believed it went unreported. Fortunately, it fell off the road and there wasn't an incident. CB indicated that there was effort to move it, but it was too heavy. It was believed that the team involved removed it quickly. • KM – Community noise complaints, particularly when it is cloudy and in the early morning. Roads are deteriorating. Feral pests (deer, kangaroos, pigs and foxes) have increased since the removal of the pine trees/buffer zone. Pest management requires a coordinated/Landcare partnership approach. There are a few campers around and there are concerns about the risk of a fatality, i.e., dangerous feral pigs. • GB – Nothing to add to the previously raised issues. • SM – Nil. • SJ – Nil.	

7.	Exploration Update • Overview of exploration activities in the Cadia district (refer to the presentation). Exploration-stage activities are visible to the public through aerial activity. Due to technological advancements, Cadia is re-surveying the existing area to obtain updated analysis across the broader tenement package. This will support a better understanding of the resource in the area with analysis methods having improved significantly. GB noted that exploration has been occurring for approximately 80 years and asked EH to clarify the difference between exploratory and tenement compliance activities. CB asked if there have been any variances identified between previous and most recent studies. EH advised that they were still in the early stages and it was too soon to tell but the reason for doing the same type of exploration again is the significant improvements in technology both for undertaking surveys and interpreting the information.	Action 4: EH to provide a map of the exploratory area. Action 5: EH to provide an exploration update at a future meeting presentation.
8.	Update from Cadia Q2, 2026 (Refer to presentation) • Operational Update ○ LD noted Phil Donato (State member for Orange) visited the mine to view operations. There are still spaces available for CCC/Councils to visit the Mine as part of a scheduled tour. ○ Light vehicles for the tailings project are currently travelling a small section of Cadia Road adjacent to the STSF while separation works are completed onsite between the heavy vehicle and light vehicle roads. An incident involving a near miss between a heavy vehicle and light vehicle prompted a temporary change to vehicle access at the Cadia Tailings Project. There has been no change to public road access. • Social Performance Activities ○ Cadia open day tickets sold out. ○ Errowanbang community listen-and-learn dates are to be confirmed. MOB noted that she understood that JG was waiting until the CCOP information was available to schedule this meeting. ○ Social Performance calendar of activities for the remainder of the year was shared with the CCC. ○ Sticky Nightshade management. CCC members confirmed that drone spray coverage is not achieving its intended outcomes and is degrading the land. Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development and LLS (Local Land Services) are rolling out trials of biological and chemical control methods. ○ Reported Noise complaints (see presentation) reflect work at the tailings project. When complaints are received, Cadia seeks to identify and address the location/source at the time, using a hear, act and mitigate approach. To mitigate high noise levels, Cadia is staggering large machinery start times. • Environmental Performance and Farms Update. ○ Cadia is balancing pest management on its sites and farms with biodiversity stewardship. ○ New Farm manager is to commence on 21 September.	Action 6: CCC congratulates Brooke Adamson (Excellence in Mining and 2026 Woman of the Year award) Action 7: Get the specialist (StevTech or Bullseye Ag) to present to the CCC on the effectiveness of broad vs. targeted drone spray management.

This

9.	Cadia Continued Operations Project (CCOP) • Panuara Road Realignment: Design Drawings. ○ The EIS is still in development and DC presented the current plans. ○ The CCC noted community interest in using the existing Meribah Road alignment as much as possible with a key objective of protecting the trees along the ridgeline. • Update on Panuara Road Markers ○ FR stated that the issue is the placement of the road. The current proposal appears to remove established ancient trees from the ridgeline, trees which cannot be replaced in our lifetime. ○ The CCC unanimously supported a review of the road placement to utilise the existing Meribah Road for the realignment and avoiding these trees. ○ DC noted that the road realignment also needs to consider powerline infrastructure on both sides of the proposed road. ○ Chair summarised the discussion from the CCC as indicating that members were asking Cadia to review the current plans with a view to moving the road to avoid these trees. ○ DC committed to come back to the CCC with a rationale from the road design engineers for the placement of the road. ○ In response to concern about cultural heritage BK of OLALC indicated that they can send people to perform scar tree assessments. It was noted that what may be perceived as a scar may actually be the result of animal or debris activity. • Independent Expert Advisory group for CCOP: Councils to nominate another representative of the three Councils- was previously Mark Hodges (OCC). • CCOP Gateway Certificate was discussed at the request of the CCC. CB requested the link to the reports that supported the Gateway Application. (see these links below) • Comment about the CCOP meeting scheduled for 7 October ○ FR requested Cadia to highlight how community concerns have been integrated into business decisions as part of the CCOP. Particularly around roads and noise. ○ DC stated that the CCOP meeting on 7 October will provide a high-level overview of what is included in the EIS prior to submission. Cadia will present project assumptions and share investigation outcomes and impacts.	Action 8: DC to confirm the rationale behind the proposed road placement and present back to the CCC. Action 9: SM to ask Mark Hodges if he would be interested to act as the Council representative. Action 10: DC to highlight what Cadia have heard from the community that has been incorporated in the plans for the CCOP. Action 11: Cadia to provide links to the reports that support the Gateway Application.
9.	Understanding the approval submissions – as submissions are not due until after our next meeting this item was carried over to the next regular CCC meeting (16 November)	
10.	Upcoming meetings. MH confirmed the dates with the CCC. • CCOP CCC on 7 October 2026 • Next Regular CCC meetings on 16 November 2026	

Meeting Closed: 8:06 pm.

This

Appendix 1: Actions List

Page No	Action No	Description	Date Raised	Status	Date closed
2	1	CCC members (JG and FR) to review Cadia's responses and come back with follow up questions.	17 August	Open	
4	2	Question from JG, if PFAS is found to be emitting from the mine will Cadia continue operations?	17 August	Open	
5	3	Members to review all actions and identify any additional previous outstanding actions.	17 August	Open	
6	4	EH to provide a map of the exploratory area.	17 August	Open	
6	5	EH to provide an exploration update at a future presentation.	17 August	Open	
6	6	CCC congratulates Brooke Adamson (Excellence in Mining and 2026 Woman of the Year award)	17 August	Open	
6	7	Get the specialist (StevTech or Bullseye Ag) to present back to the CCC on the effectiveness of broad vs. targeted drone spray management.	17 August	Open	
7	8	DC to confirm the rationale behind the proposed road placement and present back to the CCC.	17 August	Open	
7	9	SM to ask Mark Hodges if he would be interested to act as the Council representative.	17 August	Open	
7	10	DC to highlight what Cadia have heard from the community that has been incorporated in the plans for the CCOP.	17 August	Open	
7	11	Cadia to provide links to the reports that support the Gateway Application. Publicly available on the Independent Planning Commission website Cadia Continued Operations Project Gateway Certificate Application | Independent Planning Commission Reports are available under the tab "Key documents and updates"	17 August	See links provided	

This

		These include the following reports specific to BSAL determination 1. Gateway Report by Minesoils 2. Appendix 1 BSAL Site Verification Assessment redacted 3. Appendix 2 Soil Survey Summary and Soil Profile Descriptions 4. Appendix 3 Certificates of Analysis 5. Appendix 4 Land and Soil capability assessment			

This

30) CANOBOLAS ZONE NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE BUSH FIRE LIAISON COMMITTEE DELEGATE REPORT

Department: Executive Services

Author: Councillor Bruce Reynolds

CSP Link: 5. Protecting our assets for future generations

File No: ES.ME.2

Recommendation:
That Council receive and note the Canobolas Zone NSW Rural Fire Service Liaison Committee delegate report from the meeting on 2 September 2026.

Reason for Report:
To provide Councillors with an update on the Canobolas Zone NSW Rural Fire Service Liaison Committee meeting held on Wednesday 2 September 2026.

Report:
The following is information tabled by the Canobolas Zone of the NSW Rural Fire Service at the Liaison Committee meeting held in Cowra on Wednesday 2 September 2026. Attached are both the minutes of the meeting and the business paper.

There were three areas where the committee agreed to approach the Minister or the commissioner on.

These were:

1. to send letter to Minister for tree callouts, and whether a better system could be formulated for RFS call outs with the triple 000 system.
2. to send letter from Liaison Committee to NSW RFS Commissioner, regarding state plant desk, with regards to usage of local operators, so that it doesn't reduce tasking efficiency. There were also concerns about slow plant turnout during major fires and what was the financial delegation of District Manager.
3. to send letter to the commissioner for clarity on RFS truck crew GVM load limits for operation on private property.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Nil

Budget Implications:
Nil

Enclosures (following report)

1	Business Paper	5 Pages
2	Meeting Report	5 Pages

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

Business Paper

	Description
Meeting	Liaison Committee
Location:	Cowra Council, Committee Room 1, 116 Kendal Street, COWRA
Date and time:	Wednesday 02 September 2026, 3.30PM

Agenda

Welcome to the Canobolas Zone Liaison Committee. We continue our strategy to reconnect with Council Staff and create a forum for open and collaborative relations.

- Apologies
- Minutes of the Canobolas Zone Liaison Committee Meeting held, 10 June 2026
- Business arising from the Minutes
- *Zone Managers Report which includes:*
    1. Financial Report
    2. Brigade Station
    3. Fleet Update
    4. Coming Events
    5. Hot Fire Training Facility
    6. Staffing arrangements
    7. Membership Services Report
    8. Community Risk Report
    9. Asset and Infrastructure Report
    10. WHS Issues
    11. Code of Conduct and Ethics Issues
    12. Recommendations from Senior Leadership Team
    13. General Business

Zone Managers Report

Item 1 – Financial Report

Please find enclosed Assets and Infrastructure Tracking Register for the Financial year to date.

Assets and Infrastructure Invoice Tracking Register 2026-2027 FY - Canobolas Zone

Total Costings to date:	$	88,715.47
Total Fleet Costings to date:	$	72,000.63
Total Infrastructure Costings to date:	$	13,766.52
Total Other Costings to date:	$	2,948.32

Estimated Yearly Budget	
Estimated Amount	$666,681.00
$577,965.53	

Fleet

Expenditure Type		
A Service	$	48,015.48
B Service	$	-
C Service	$	-
D Service	$	-
Pink Slip	$	621.16
Misc Service	$	1,113.00
Repair	$	4,826.40
Tyre Repair/Replace	$	768.00
Fuel	$	14,336.99
Supply Only	$	2,319.60

Servicing Costs (Total)		
Bridgestone	$	1,179.00
BR & KS Burn	$	2,497.20
Cowra Truck Wreckers	$	17,456.11
Diesel Tec	$	1,490.95
MTS Mechanical	$	203.15
J & K Christie	$	-
SG & AM Hamilton	$	31,477.01
Total:	$	54,303.42

Main Vendor Costings Break Up (Not all Vendors)			
Vendor	Type	Amount	
Apple City Auto Electrical	Electrical	$	56.70
Billabong Takeaway	Fuel	$	-
BP Plus	Fuel	$	244.57
BR & KS Burn	Mechanical	$	2,497.20
Bridgestone	Tyres/Mechanical	$	1,179.00
Canowindra Tyre Service	Tyres/Mechanical	$	-
Cowra Auto Electrical	Electrical	$	225.00
Cowra Truck Wreckers	Mechanical	$	17,456.11
Tyrepower Cowra	Tyres/Mechanical	$	-
Darren Shephard Vehicle Installations	Mechanical	$	-
Diesel Tec	Mechanical	$	1,490.95
Fleet Card	Fuel	$	13,400.53
Gooloogong General Store	Fuel	$	-
Greens Mandurama	Fuel	$	-
Impression Markings	Equipment	$	-
J & K Christie Mechanical	Mechanical	$	-
MTS Mechanical	Mechanical	$	203.15
Orange Auto Glass	Repairs / Installs	$	-
Petes Car Wash (Racetrack)	Cleaning	$	-
SG & AM Hamilton	Mechanical	$	31,477.01
Silvio Polinelli	Radios	$	-
Viva (Shell)	Fuel	$	691.89
Western Battery Co	Batteries	$	2,037.90
Whittaker Contracting	Repairs / Installs	$	235.62

Report Current as of:	27/08/2026

Infrastructure

Costings Break Up		
Electrical - Works	$	-
Electricity - Supply	$	-
Plumbing	$	-
General Repairs	$	-
Security	$	561.00
Rubbish / Waste	$	-
Cleaning	$	-
Gas Replacement	$	153.46
Other	$	12,752.06
Total:	$	13,466.52

Costing LGA Break Down
(Including Other Costs)

LGA		
Blayney	$	12,833.68
Cabonne	$	21,430.28
Cowra	$	18,947.06
Orange	$	440.00
Shared	$	28,114.63
Bulk Fuel (All LGA)	$	6,949.82
Total:	$	88,715.47

RECOMMENDATION: That the Report on A&I Expenses for July 2026 to August 2026 period be noted.

Item 2 – Brigade Station

Canobolas Zone has been finalising station builds and repairs in the district. Solar power and generator back up have been installed at Milburn Creek Station.

The Washpen Station had both bathrooms repaired with a fall for the drainage and Woodstock has had concrete complete on the corner of the driveway, along the fenceline to allow for better access.

Assessments are underway at Molong Station for the failed hot water system. This has been impacted the meals room.

External lighting is being replaced at Cargo and Moorbel Stations for more visibility.

RECOMMENDATION: Submitted for Liaison Committee information.

Item 3 – Fleet Update

As of 01 July 2027, the firefighting fleet will transfer from Councils to RFS. This is a result of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) inquiry into the RFS Red Fleet. During the transition period, Councils will continue to be responsible for the maintenance of vehicles and fleet assets, ensuring no disruption during the upcoming season.

The Service is undertaking an assessment program to check compliance with GVM across the fleet. This affects the following appliances in the Canobolas Zone.

Cat 9	Cat 7	Cat 1	Cat 2
6 Offline	26 Restricted	1 Restricted	10 Restricted

RECOMMENDATION: That the information on the firefighting appliances be noted.

Item 4 – Coming Events

The district has two events in September 2026; The Hot Fire Training Facility Opening and a Vehicle Handover and Medal Presentation.

RECOMMENDATION: That the upcoming events be noted.

Item 5 – Hot Fire Training Facility

A redundant water treatment plant has been utilised as a specialist training facility. The lower levels were converted into a four-room house fire scenario, inclusive of the installation of stainless-steel props, re-connection of electricity to support the use of the props, security system and lighting of the facility.

This facility upgrade would allow for a safer, cleaner and cost-effective training environment for our volunteers and staff, statewide.

RECOMMENDATION: Submitted for Liaison Committee information.

Item 6 – Staffing arrangements

Inspector Adrian Grabham has been appointed as District Manager to Canobolas, from July 2026.

Recruitment is ongoing for the District Coordinator role; Katrina Smith is currently acting in this role.

Also, Zac Hojel on paternity leave until October 2026. During this period, we have Frank Dante acting in this role.

RECOMMENDATION: That the report on Canobolas Zone staff movements by the Zone Manager be noted.

Item 7 - Membership Services Report

Katrina Smith will table a Membership Services Report for the quarter highlighting training activities.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Report on Membership Services be noted.

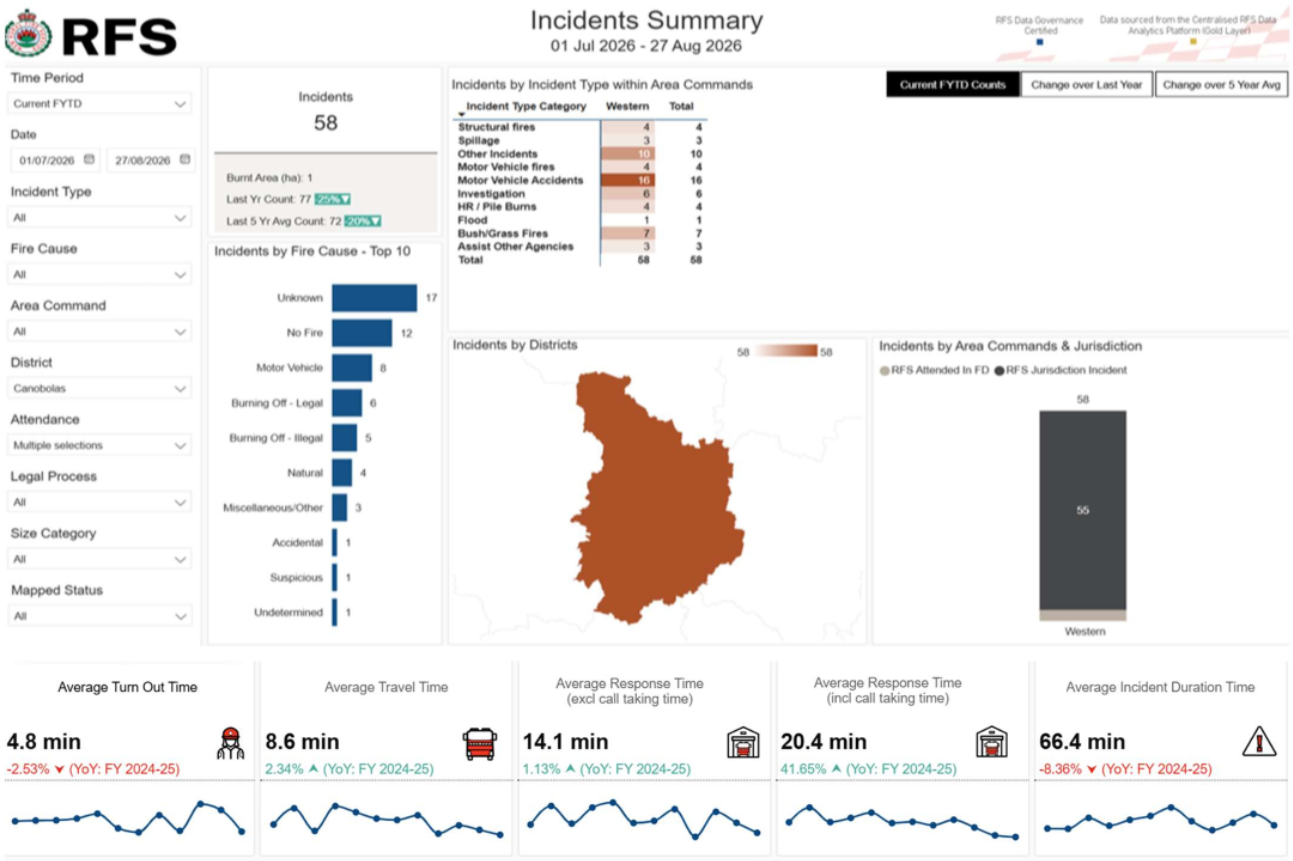
Item 8 – Community Risk Report

Katrina Smith will table a Community Risk Report for the quarter highlighting activity for the quarter along with hazard reduction plans for the autumn.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Report on Community Risk activities be noted.

Item 9 – Operations Report

Frank Dante will table an Operations Report for the quarter highlighting tanker movements, maintenance and incidents.



RECOMMENDATION: That the Report on Operational activities be noted.

Item 10 – WHS Issues

NSWRFS are focussing on Hazardous Trees for the upcoming season. Hazardous Trees Awareness training is available on Fuel for members as well as media campaign to provide information to volunteers in the lead up to the Bush Fire Danger Period. Referring to PPC, communication, exclusion zones, dynamic risk assessments to identify changing circumstances and hazards.

RECOMMENDATION: That the awareness campaign be noted.

Item 11 - Code of Conduct and Ethics Issues

Nil

Item 12 – Recommendations from Senior Leadership Team

Recommendation from the June, Senior Leadership Team meeting was initiate a Membership Sub Committee to identify ways to increase membership base as well as keeping a solid and involved volunteer workforce.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Report on Senior Leadership Team be noted.

Item 13 – General Business

Nil

Table 1: Appendices

Description
Minutes of Liaison Committee Meeting, held 10 June 2026
Functional Area Report – Membership Services – 30 July 2026
Functional Area Report – Community Risk – 28 July 2026
Functional Area Report – Assets and Infrastructure – 27 July 2026

For further information regarding the [add text], please contact Canobolas team on 02 6363 6666 or **email Canobolas.FCC@rfs.nsw.gov.au**

Meeting Report

	Description
Meeting	Liaison Committee (LC)
Convened by:	Bruce Reynolds (BR)
Attendees:	Jacob Hogan (JH), Bruce Reynolds (BR), Katrina Smith (KS), John Kjoller (JK), Frank Dante (FD), Ian Thomas (IT), John Sturgeon (JS), Tim Mooney (TM), Peter Wright (PW), Jasmyne Bootsma (JB), *Peter Batten (PB)*
Partial	
Location:	Cowra Council, Committee Room 1, 116 Kendal Street, Cowra
Date and time:	Wednesday, 02 September 2026, 3.30PM
Apologies:	Adrian Grabham (AG)
Minutes by:	Jasmyne Bootsma (JB)

- Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country
- Apologies - Adrian Grabham (AG)
- Business arising from the Minutes

Item 7 – WHS Issues - Chainsaw Equipment

Recent incident, of fallen tree (not fire affected) discussion of Council staff, procedures and qualifications. All Councils have on call staff who can assign staff to incidents with chainsaw equipment and qualifications. Triage for trees down callouts, assigned through ICEMS, should recommend SES.

Recommendation to send letter to Minister for tree callouts, and whether better system to be formulated for RFS call outs with the triple 000 system (Ref 1.4)

(John Kjoller / Tim Mooney)

No further issues arising from minutes from meeting held, 10 June 2026.

- *Zone Manager Report*

Item 1 - Financial Report

KS spoke to financial tracking register. Budget has already been handed down; this goes through Orange City Council. 2026/2027 FYR figure for Maintenance and Repairs is $666,000; Issue with appliance tank just arisen, will continue to track expenditure. Undergoing servicing in District.

Ensure tracking register information has clear reporting dates. (Ref 1.1)

Item 2 - Brigade Station

Finalising builds and repairs on stations in Canobolas Zone. Solar has been installed for Milburn creek Station – in operation. Woodstock station, driveway works have been completed to ensure safe and better access for reversing into station.

Washpen station, the fall in the bathrooms have been corrected. Utilising local tradespersons to complete. Issue not recognised at time of station completion, not under builder warranty.

Molong station recently has had pipe burst, local contractors engaged (Cabonne Carpets); Initial confusion with ownership and responsibility through Council. NSWRFS to arrange works.

Cargo and Moorbel station have had lighting replaced for increased visibility and safety at night.

Eugowra station, plan has been confirmed as 4B station. Public works now taken over. Canobolas Zone has no capacity to have input for works. No soil turned yet. Appliances are still at Eugowra for response. Continuing to communicate with community and Brigade.

Discussed signage at Brigade Stations – is there a program to refurbish signs. Brigade can initiate discussion with District for update / replacements. Millthorpe have enquired into electronic signage at station. Due to expense, brigade is looking at the possibility of fundraising. Ensure consultation with Transport for NSW for approval in location. Council mentioned further restrictions may be placed on electronic sign in relation to dimming and switching off at certain times of the evening.

Stations will remain with Councils for now. Maintenance responsibilities continue to be NSWRFS.

Note Tallwood signage faded. RFS staff to review and determine if replacement is required.

Query who is responsible for ongoing costs for electronic signage

Item 3 - Fleet Update

Fleet transfer is expected to occur 01 July 2027. Councils awaiting on information on how to treat the write off of the fleet from their books. There will be financial implications for all Canobolas Zone Councils except Cabonne which does not have the fleet on their books.

New fleet into the Canobolas Zone are only expecting one or two appliances. 40 units for this financial year are expected across the state, due to ongoing GVM concerns.

Compliance checks across the state are expected to be completed in 18-27 months. Canobolas Zone awaiting direction for the assessment program and restrictions. Inclusive of recommended equipment to carry on appliances.

Aging fleet will need to be maintained, and this may not be feasible for some of the older trucks which may eventually have to be taken off the road.

Fleet advice will be distributed when received. (Ref 1.2)

In a past meeting it was discussed the restrictions were for on public roads only. Concerns were raised, in the case of emergency, should additional persons be in appliances than restrictions, and an incident occurs, is there an 'emergency situation clause' or does the onus fall to the driver.

Recommendation to send letter to clarify RFS truck crew GVM load limits for operation on private property. (Ref 1.6)

(John Kjoller / Peter Wright)

Item 4 - Coming Events

Discussed Council invitations to upcoming events on 30 September

Confirm invitation for Cr Peter Wright. (Ref 1.3)

Item 5 - Hot Fire Training Facility

Discussed completion of facility and noted opening on 30 September.

Item 6 - Staffing Arrangements

Inspector Adrian Grabham has been appointed at Canobolas District Manager. District Coordinator (2IC) position has recruitment process underway. Welcome Frank to temporary role, in Assets and Infrastructure, substantive position as Mitigation Crew Leader.

Item 7 - Membership Services Report

KS spoke to Learning and Development report. Three courses have been cancelled – Trim Felled Trees (TFT), Breathing Apparatus Operator (BAO) and Structural Fire Fighter (SFF). Lack of numbers for BAO and SFF. TFT has excessive nominations and not enough assessors.

Membership review continues to be validated through Annual General Meetings. The restrictions are contentious with volunteers and their purpose. Potential to affect membership. District are initiating conversations at brigade meetings. Always consideration for resource to risk.

Item 8 - Community Risk Report

KS spoke to Community Risk report. Geoff Selwood is working with UGL in relation to rail corridor hazard reductions. Weather is hindering Mitigation crews, though focus is on Lyndhurst and Woodstock rail corridors to be prepared to burn when weather is suitable.

Discussed the difficult relationship with UGL. Country Councils across the state are having challenges contacting UGL representatives and maintaining same contacts due to turnover of UGL staff. Cowra Council has a current agreement in place with Lachlan Valley Rail, local Brigade looking to assist with burn around the station and rail lines in Cowra.

Item 9 - Asset and Infrastructure Report

FD spoke to Assets and Infrastructure report. Major servicing provider on track for servicing of fleet. The roadworthy inspections are now complete, focus on servicing.

PPC/PPE is up to date with issues to members. State Logistics Team will get through back orders and maintain a level of approx. 5 off store items in Districts.

Station works discussed above. Northwest station has had air conditioner replaced, as was within the Ploughman's Creek flood zone.

District discussing the increase cylinders at Canobolas Fire Control Centre to increase CABA capability supplies.

Response timeframes are low. Liaison Committee acknowledges the Brigade Members efforts and thanks all volunteers in the Canobolas Zone for their quick response.

Item 10 - WHS Issues

Hazardous trees have been discussed at Brigade Captains meetings over the past two weeks. The awareness campaign encourages our member to recognising risk and utilise Heavy Plant if necessary to keep our people safe. PPC is the last resort for our members. Canobolas has a Chainsaw Support Brigade to assign if necessary.

Item 11 - Code of Conduct

Nil

Item 12 - Recommendations from Senior Leadership Team

Membership subcommittee initiated to try and increase membership. iPads have been purchased to issue to Group Officers in strategic locations to assist Brigades in applications and training in their areas. To improve the retention and engagement of our volunteer workforce.

Item 13 - General Business

- Committee Meetings

Meeting information for Liaison Committee suggested to be sent as calendar invite.

Canobolas FCC to send future meetings as calendar invite. (Ref 1.0)

- Training

FD highlighted the focus and improvements on training arranged by Malcolm MacKenzie at Canobolas, believes will lead to improved turnout response.

Noted

- Heavy Plant (HP) Desk

Went live yesterday. HP team and operators had meeting in Orange, to discuss and understand changes with this season. Canobolas will continue to ring our HP suppliers to maintain situational awareness. HP desk was initiated to remove administrative tasks. Imperative that District obtains strategy from fireground and communicates this in the request online. This season all contractors all one cost.

It was raised that we don't want to lose the responsiveness and have concerns when the state gets busy. There is no Pre-Determined Dispatch for Heavy Plant. Council need to wait for contact from HP desk. Need to provide feedback if efficiency is lost for incidents.

A concern about lack of knowledge for selected operators, not from the local area. That do not have the local terrain experience. There were also concerns about the speed in which heavy plant can be turned out. There were also concerns that the new state desk may be operating many fires at once and become overwhelmed in coordinating heavy plant at each fire ground on major bush fire days. There were also issues raised about the low level of delegation for the local zone manager during major emergencies.

Recommendation to send letter from Liaison Committee to NSW RFS Commissioner, regarding state plant desk, with regards to usage of local operators, so that it doesn't reduce tasking efficiency. Concerns about slow plant turnout during major fires. Inclusive of financial delegation of District Manager. (Ref 1.5)

(John Kjoller / John Sturgeon)

All recommendations carried as bulk motion, carried unanimously

(Jacob Hogan / Tim Mooney)

- The Liaison Committee congratulated Canobolas Fire Control Centre team for the openness and frankness of the communication and how the team are handling the constant changes.

Noted

- PW thanked all Committee members for attending the Cowra Council for the meeting.

Noted

Close 1700hrs

Table 1: Action items

Ref.	Item description	Owner	Due Date
1.0	Canobolas FCC to send future meetings as calendar invite.	JB	
1.1	Ensure tracking register information has clear reporting dates.	JB	
1.2	Fleet advice will be distributed when received.	AG	
1.3	Confirm invitation for Cr Peter Wright.	JB	
1.4	Recommendation to send letter to Minister for tree callouts, and whether better system to be formulated for RFS call outs with the triple 000 system	BR, PB, AG	
1.5	Recommendation to send letter from Liaison Committee to NSW RFS Commissioner, regarding state plant desk, with regards to usage of local operators, so that it doesn't reduce tasking efficiency. Concerns about slow plant turnout during major fires. Inclusive of financial delegation of District Manager.	BR, PB	
1.6	Recommendation to send letter to clarify RFS truck crew GVM load limits for operation on private property.	BR, PB	
1.7	Thank brigade members and appreciate response times.		
1.8	Tallwood signage faded. RFS staff to review and determine if replacement is required.		

Table 2: Documents referred to in the meeting

Description
Minutes of Liaison Committee Meeting, held 10 June 2026
Functional Area Report – Membership Services – 30 July 2026
Functional Area Report – Community Risk – 28 July 2026
Functional Area Report – Assets and Infrastructure – 27 July 2026

Table 3: Next meeting

Date	Start time	Location
11 November 2026	1530hrs	Orange City Council

For further information regarding the Liaison Committee, please contact Canobolas Fire Control Centre on 02 6363 6666 or **email** Canobolas.FCC@rfs.nsw.gov.au