



18 September 2025

Dear Councillor,

Your attendance is requested at an Ordinary Council Meeting of the Blayney Shire Council to be held in the Chambers, Blayney Shire Community Centre on Tuesday, 23 September 2025 at 6.00pm for consideration of the following business -

- (1) Livestreaming Video and Audio Check
- (2) Acknowledgement of Country
- (3) Recording of Meeting Statement
- (4) Statement of Ethical Obligations
- (5) Apologies for non-attendance
- (6) Disclosures of Interest
- (7) Public Forum
- (8) Mayoral Minute
- (9) Confirmation of Minutes - Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26.08.25
- (10) Matters arising from Minutes
- (11) Reports of Staff
 - (a) Executive Services
 - (b) Corporate Services
 - (c) Infrastructure Services
 - (d) Planning and Environmental Services
- (12) Delegates Reports
- (13) Closed Meeting

Mark Dicker
General Manager

Meeting Calendar 2025

September

| <u>Time</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Meeting</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 6.00pm | 23 September 2025 | Council Meeting | Community Centre |

October

| <u>Time</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Meeting</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------|--|------------------------|
| 5.00pm | 14 October 2025 | Financial Assistance Committee Meeting | Community Centre |
| 10.00am | 15 October 2025 | Central Tablelands Water Meeting | Grenfell |
| 6.00pm | 27 October 2025 | Flyers Creek Wind Farm CCC Meeting | Community Centre |
| 6.00pm | 28 October 2025 | Council Meeting | Community Centre |

November

| | | | |
|---------|------------------|---|------------------|
| 12.00pm | 12 November 2025 | Central NSW Joint Organisation Board Meeting | Sydney |
| 4.00pm | 12 November 2025 | NSW Rural Fire Service Canobolas Zone Liaison Committee | Cabonne |
| 9.00am | 13 November 2025 | Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting | Online |
| 9.00am | 14 November 2025 | Country Mayors | Sydney |
| 6.00pm | 18 November 2025 | Council Meeting | Community Centre |
| 10.00am | 19 November 2025 | Central Tablelands Water Meeting | Canowindra |
| 9.00am | 20 November 2025 | Mining and Energy Related Councils Meeting | Sydney |
| 2.00pm | 21 November 2025 | Central Tablelands Weeds Authority Meeting | Bathurst |

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HELD ON TUESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2025

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LIVE STREAMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

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

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STATEMENT OF ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS

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

01) MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING HELD 26 AUGUST 2025**Department:** Executive Services**Author:** General Manager**CSP Link:** 1. Prioritise transparency, financial sustainability and strong partnerships with and for our community**File No:** GO.ME.3**Recommendation:**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 August 2025, being minute numbers 2508/001 to 2508/020 be confirmed.

MINUTES OF THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE CHAMBERS, BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY CENTRE, ON 26 AUGUST 2025, 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 Admin Assistants (Mrs K Palmer) (Mrs N Smith)

RECORDING OF MEETING STATEMENT**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY****APOLOGIES**

NIL

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

The General Manager reported the following Disclosure of Interest forms had been submitted:

| Councillor/Staff | Interest | Item | Pg | Report | Reason |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|------|----|--|---|
| Mark Dicker | Non-Pecuniary (Less than Significant) | 27 | 7 | Confidential – Contract 40/2025 Construction of Richards Lan Upgrade | My private (primary) residence is on Springvale Lane Millthorpe. Springvale Lane directly adjoins Richards Lane (noting my property entrance is 820m from Richards Lane). |

PUBLIC FORUM

Nil

MAYORAL MINUTE

RECOGNITION OF BLAYNEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR RECEIVING THE NSW MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AWARD

2508/001

RESOLVED:

That Council note and recognise Mr Toby Tyrrell and Ms Ella Sinclair from Blayney High School for being awarded the Education Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement at the 2025 Public Education Awards.

(Reynolds)

CARRIED

COMMONWEALTH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANT ALLOCATION TO BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL 2025-26

2508/002

RESOLVED:

That Council note the financial assistance grant allocation for Blayney Shire for the 2025-26 financial year.

(Reynolds)

CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING HELD 22 JULY 2025

2508/003

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 22 July 2025, being minute numbers 2207/007 to 2207/020 be confirmed.

(Scott/Johnston)

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil

EXECUTIVE SERVICES REPORTS

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

2508/004

RESOLVED:

That Council adopt the Organisational Structure as outlined in this report comprising:

- Executive Services
- Corporate Services
- Infrastructure Services
- Planning & Environmental Services

(Gosewisch/Newstead)

CARRIED

COUNCIL MEETING DATES**2508/005****RESOLVED:**

That Council adopt the following dates for Ordinary Meetings of Council for the next 12 months, to be held at 6.00pm predominantly in the Blayney Shire Community Centre:

- 28 October 2025
- 18 November 2025
- 16 December 2025
- 24 February 2026
- 24 March 2026
- 28 April 2026
- 26 May 2026
- 23 June 2026
- 28 July 2026
- 25 August 2026
- 22 September 2026

(Gosewisch/Hutchings)

CARRIED

2025 LGNSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE MOTION - MINING**IMPACTED COMMUNITIES****2508/006****RESOLVED:**

That Council propose the following motion at the upcoming 2025 LGNSW Annual Conference:

“That Local Government NSW:

1. Recognise the significant impact the cessation of the Resources for Regions grant funding program has had on the 26 councils and their communities that host mining operations in NSW, and
2. Calls on the NSW Government to develop and implement a new and improved grant funding program for regional councils and their communities that host mining operations in NSW”.

(Newstead/Scott)

CARRIED

**2025 LGNSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE MOTION - STATE
SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS****2508/007****RESOLVED:**

That Council propose the following motion at the upcoming 2025 LGNSW Annual Conference:

“That LGNSW calls on the NSW Government to work with LGNSW to establish guidelines for current and proposed State Significant Development proposals for Renewable Projects (including Solar, Wind, Battery, Pumped Hydro) which are and will significantly impact Councils and their communities inclusive of:

- a) The timeframe for Councils to review the Environmental

- Impact Statements, and to respond to it, be extended to a minimum of 90 days.
- b) Requiring prior to any transport of any oversize/overweight renewable infrastructure components within the LGA:
 - i. a dilapidating report on roads and associated infrastructure to be undertaken by the proponent; and
 - ii. The lodgement of a bank guarantee equivalent to 50% of the cost of reconstructing the roads on which the proposed oversize/overweight renewable infrastructure components is to traverse with the relevant LGA.
 - iii. An enforceable undertaking supported by ii above to reconstruct and repair roads damaged during the transport of renewable components within the relevant LGA within 90 days of completion of the transport on those roads of oversize/overweight components for the relevant project.
 - c) Workers accommodation guidelines during construction phase that address:
 - i. Effect on rental accommodation including availability for current residents of the Council area and affordability with increased rents.
 - ii. Establishment of worker camps in lieu or in addition to rental accommodation
 - iii. in relation to i and ii above, how the influx of workers, and in some cases dependents, will be managed and financed in relation to:
 - Provision of potable & non potable water
 - Sewerage wastewater services,
 - Waste services,
 - Policing for an increase in workers
 - Health services for the increased population, noting the potential for significant strain to be placed on already stretched/under resourced health services,
 - d) The EIS must fully detail the effect on local industries and how that is to be mitigated during construction phase including restrictions on use of roads. The EIS also needs to address how those industries are to be compensated financially if there is a detrimental effect on their revenue.
 - e) Parameters for Council and community consultation by the proponents and feedback prior to and following the preparation of the EIS.
 - f) The decommissioning of renewable projects at the end of their life including requirements to:
 - i. Determine what Deconstruction requires including the level of removal of concrete sub structure foundations.
 - ii. Include in the EIS an independent report on the estimated cost of deconstruction of Renewable project

infrastructure at date of construction in accordance with i above.

- iii. To provide a Bank Guarantee by the proponent for the full value of deconstruction of the infrastructure in renewable projects adjusted yearly by the Non-residential building Construction materials and Labour index.
- iv. Ensure that future purchasers are obligated to deconstruction, by mandating a pre-condition for any sale of any Renewable project is that the buyer must lodge a replacement bank guarantee escalated by the Non-residential building Construction materials and Labour index. The sale does not take effect until the precondition is met, and the buyer agrees to escalate the bank guarantee yearly in accordance with Non-residential building Construction materials and Labour index.”

(Scott/Hutchings)
CARRIED

2025 LGNSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE MOTION - PFAS SUPPORT

2508/008

RESOLVED:

That Council propose the following motion at the upcoming 2025 LGNSW Annual Conference:

“That LGNSW calls on the NSW Government to provide significant and immediate support (resourcing and financial) to ensure councils dealing with the emerging and evolving PFAS issues are not significantly financially disadvantaged and impacted responding to changing EPA requirements and PFAS guidelines”.

(Scott/Gosewisch)
CARRIED

2025 LGNSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE MOTION - FIXING COUNTRY BRIDGES PROGRAM

2508/009

RESOLVED:

That Council propose the following motion at the upcoming 2025 LGNSW Annual Conference:

“That LGNSW calls on the NSW Government to expand and/or review the eligibility criteria for the ‘Fixing Country Bridges Program’ in NSW to include composite bridges and renewal of significant heritage timber bridges”.

(Newstead/Gosewisch)
CARRIED

CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

REPORT OF COUNCIL INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 JULY 2025

2508/010

RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Note the report indicating Council's investment position as of 31 July 2025.
2. Note the certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer.

(Scott/Hutchings)

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

2508/011

RESOLVED:

That the Code of Meeting Practice be adopted and included in Council's policy register.

(Scott/Hutchings)

CARRIED

SIX MONTHLY DELIVERY PROGRAM REVIEW - JUNE 2025

2508/012

RESOLVED:

That the six-monthly review, for period ending 30 June 2025, of Council's 2024/25 – 2027/28 Delivery Program be received.

(Gosewisch/Newstead)

CARRIED

REVIEW OF DELEGATIONS REGISTER

2508/013

RESOLVED:

That Council adopt the Delegations Register as attached to this report.

(Scott/Hutchings)

CARRIED

**DRAFT STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL REPORTS BY COUNCIL
2024/25**

2508/014

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 2025.
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 2025.
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 \$3.72m.
7. Approve the net transfers to Council's internal cash allocations of \$5.46m, for the purposes as detailed in Schedule 1 of Policy 3K Restricted and Unrestricted Cash Policy.
8. Approve the creation of a Future financial sustainability internal allocation and update Schedule 1 of Policy 3K Restricted and Unrestricted Cash Policy.
9. For greater transparency and to facilitate better understanding of the Financial Reports, include Statement of performance measures – consolidated results (H1-1) and Statement of performance measures by fund (H1-2).

(Reynolds/Gosewisch)

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF 2025/26 CARRYOVER WORKS

2508/015

RESOLVED:

That Council;

1. Approve supplementary votes of expenditure to the 2025/26 budget for carryover works from 2024/25 to 2025/26 as per the attached schedule, totalling \$3.68m funded from:
 - a) internal cash allocations of \$1.96m
 - b) externally restricted unexpended grants and contributions of \$1.07m
 - c) other external cash restrictions of \$649k
2. Approve supplementary votes of expenditure for 2025/26 totalling \$2.06m for carryover works from 2024/25 to 2025/26 as per the attached schedule, funded from future grants and contributions.
3. Note the financial implications of carryover works on the adopted 2025/26 Operational Plan as detailed in Tables 1-3 of the report.

(Newstead/Hutchings)

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF DRAFT STRATEGIC WORK PLAN: ARIC

2508/016

RESOLVED:

That Council adopt the Draft Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Strategic Work Plan.

(Gosewisch/Scott)

CARRIED

**MINUTES OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 14 AUGUST 2025**

2508/017

RESOLVED:

That Council;

1. Receive the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held 14 August 2025.
2. Endorse the Annual Report on the operations of the Blayney Shire Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.
3. Adopt the Draft Internal Audit Charter.
4. Note the inclusion of the Review of Councillor Facilities and Expenses and the Review of Risk Arrangements in the Strategic Internal Audit Plan once each Council Term.
5. Note the Strategic Internal Audit Plan to be appended to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Strategic Work Plan.
6. Note the Blayney Library Service Review.

(Gosewisch/Hutchings)

CARRIED

**ADOPTION OF COMMUNITY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
POLICY**

2508/018

RESOLVED:

That Council;

1. Note the submission on the Community Financial Assistance Policy; and
2. Adopt the Community Financial Assistance Policy, as amended, and it be updated to Council's Policy Register.

(Scott/Newstead)

CARRIED

LEASE OF INDUSTRIAL LAND FOR AGISTMENT PURPOSES

2508/019

RESOLVED:

That Council;

1. Approve lease of Tender Lot 6 (Part Lot 26, DP 1288588) of industrial land paddocks to Abigail Palmer, for the period ending 29 February 2028 (with a 1-year option), for \$600 p.a. (indexed by CPI):
2. Continue promotion of the EOI for the remaining unallocated parcel of Industrial Land for Agistment Purposes.

(Gosewisch/Hutchings)

CARRIED

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORTS

2025/26 ROAD ALLOCATIONS AND CAPITAL WORKS PRIORITISATION

2508/020

RESOLVED:

That Council note the allocation of 2025/26 Transport Infrastructure renewal / capital programs.

(Scott/Hutchings)

CARRIED

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT

2508/021

RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Note the Infrastructure Services Monthly Report for August 2025.
2. Approve the capital expenditure supplementary vote of \$15,000 for Church Hill Lookout works in the 2025/26 Operational Plan from the Village Enhancement Plan internal allocation to complete delivery of Stage 1 works.
3. Approve the capital expenditure supplementary vote of \$40,000 for culvert renewal on Greghamstown Road in the 2025/26 Operational Plan from Council's heavy patching funds to complete the delivery of works.
4. Approve the capital expenditure supplementary vote of \$150,000 from the Flyers Creek Voluntary Planning Agreement fund to the 2025/26 operational plan for Council's heavy patching budget to fund heavy patching works on Browns Creek Road.

(Reynolds/Gosewisch)

CARRIED

LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE - NEW DELEGATION INSTRUMENT

2508/022

RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Note the 2025 Authorisation and Delegation Instrument by Transport for NSW, which replaces the former Local Traffic Committee (LTC) with the Local Transport Forum (LTF).
2. Update meeting practices, procedures and documentation to align the new prescribed naming conventions and functions of the LTF.
3. Convene meetings of the Local Transport Forum on a regular cycle, consistent with the former Local Traffic Committee.
4. Endorse the continuation of the current Councillor appointments: Cr John Newstead (Chairperson) and Cr Karl Hutchings (Alternate Chairperson) of the Local Transport Forum for the balance of their nominated term.

(Newstead/Hutchings)

CARRIED

PROPOSED (PART) ROAD CLOSURE - COLLINS STREET, CARCOAR

2508/023

RESOLVED:

That Council;

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

(Johnston/Gosewisch)

CARRIED

VEGETATION POLICY

2508/024

RESOLVED:

Council defers consideration of this item.

(Gosewisch/Newstead)

CARRIED

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION 2025/0047 - ERECTION OF A DETACHED SHED (OUTBUILDING) ON LOT 5 DP 1090642, 8 BLUETT CLOSE, FOREST REEFS

2508/025

RESOLVED:

1. That Council support the variation to the Blayney Development Control Plan 2018, C3.4 Garages, Carports, Outbuildings & Sheds in Large Lot Residential Areas requiring outbuildings to not exceed a 6m ridge height from existing ground level and cumulative floor area greater than 300m²; and
2. Consent to Development Application 2025/0047 for the Erection of a Detached Shed/Carport (Outbuilding) on Lot 5 DP 1090642, 8 Bluett Close, Forest Reefs subject to the draft conditions of consent.

(Newstead/Gosewisch)

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

FOR

Councillor Reynolds
Councillor Newstead
Councillor Gosewisch
Councillor Dorsett
Councillor Hutchings
Councillor Scott

Total (6)

AGAINST

Councillor Johnston

Total (1)

CARRIED

General Manager, Mark Dicker, having declared an interest, left the meeting at 6:43pm, prior to the closed meeting commencing and did not return to the meeting.

CLOSED MEETING

2508/026

RESOLVED:

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

**CONTRACT 11/2025 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES
2025-2028**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) (c) (di) of the Local Government Act, as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business; AND commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

**CONTRACT 40/2025 CONSTRUCTION OF RICHARDS LANE
UPGRADE**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) (c) (di) of the Local Government Act, as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business; AND commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

(Scott/Gosewisch)

CARRIED

CONFIDENTIAL MEETING REPORTS

**CONTRACT 11/2025 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES
2025-2028**

2508/027

RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Accept the tender from Midwest Traffic Management for Provision of Traffic Management Services No. 11/2025.
2. Delegate Authority to the General Manager to execute documentation required to enter into the contract for this tender.
3. Delegate Authority to the General Manager to extend the term of the contract for a further two (2) terms of twelve (12) months each if contractor performance and price are acceptable.

(Gosewisch/Newstead)

CARRIED

**CONTRACT 40/2025 CONSTRUCTION OF RICHARDS LANE
UPGRADE****2508/028****RESOLVED:**

That Council:

1. Note the tender assessment report of 40/2025 Richards Lane Construction.
2. Note the independent probity report by Procure Group.
3. Approve the independent probity report for public release as an annexure to the business paper minutes.
4. Accept the tender from Aitken Civil Engineering for the Construction of Richards Lane, Portions A & B, Contract 40/2025, for the value of \$2,177,209 inclusive GST, subject to variations.
5. Approve the capital expenditure supplementary vote of \$1,440,000 in the 2025/26 operational plan for this project from the following source(s);
 - \$600,000 Developer Contributions
 - \$210,000 Cadia VPA
 - \$110,000 25/26 Heavy Patching Program
 - \$420,000 25/26 Forest Reefs Road Project
 - \$100,000 Roads to Recovery
6. Delegate to the General Manager authority to execute contract documents, noting the General Manager will delegate these functions to the Director Planning & Environmental Services

(Reynolds/Gosewisch)

CARRIED**2508/029****RESOLVED:**

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

(Gosewisch/Scott)

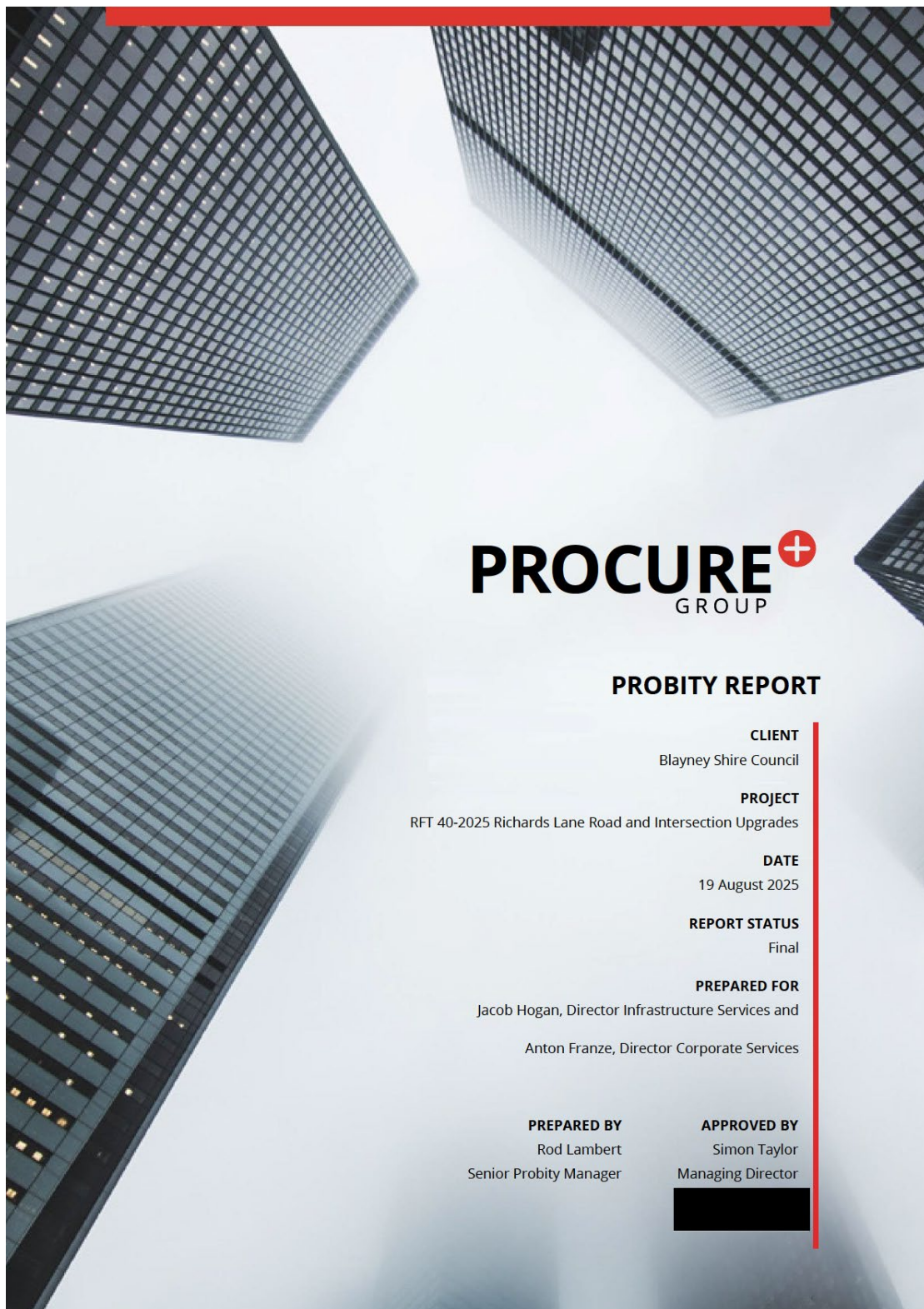
CARRIED**AT THE RE-OPENING OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC, THE MAYOR
ANNOUNCED THE OUTCOMES OF RESOLUTION NUMBERS 2508/027 to
2508/028.**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7:21pm

The Minute Numbers 2508/001 to 2508/029 were confirmed on 23 September 2025 and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting held on 26 August 2025.

Cr B Reynolds

CHAIR



Blayney Shire Council
RFT 40-2025 Richards Lane Road and Intersection Upgrades – Probity Report



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Statement of Responsibility

This probity report has been prepared for the purpose of assisting Blayney Shire Council in its decision making regarding the RFT 40-2025 Richards Lane Road and Intersection Upgrades Project. Procure has compiled the report on the basis of:

- a. information it has been given and which it has reviewed;
- b. the processes and procedures it has observed; and
- c. the issues raised with it.

The conclusion stated in section 2 of this report is based upon the work performed as documented in it. While Procure has identified probity risks and considered the controls, environment and action taken by Blayney Shire Council to address those risks, probity issues may nevertheless have arisen that have not been identified.

As the probity advisor, Procure has focussed solely on probity aspects of the process. Procure does not provide, nor does it purport to provide, nor can it be construed to have provided legal, commercial, procurement or technical advice. It is Blayney Shire Council's responsibility to obtain appropriate advice and to ensure compliance with relevant legislative and policy requirements.

While Procure may provide input into processes followed, Blayney Shire Council retains responsibility for the probity of its personnel and processes. The report cannot be relied upon by any other party or for any other purpose.

Blayney Shire Council
RFT 40-2025 Richards Lane Road and Intersection Upgrades – Probity Report



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Our Engagement

Procure Group Pty Ltd (**Procure**) has been engaged by Blayney Shire Council (**BSC** or **Council**) to provide independent probity advisory services in relation to RFT 40-2025 Richards Lane Road and Intersection Upgrades (the **project**). Further detail regarding our scope of service is included in section 3.

This report sets out our work performed and observations from a probity perspective relating to the procurement process followed by the BSC from the date of Procure's engagement on 6 August 2025, within the context of the framework provided by the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption's (**ICAC**) probity fundamentals.

Project Summary

On 6 August 2025, Procure was engaged by Council to provide probity advisory services in relation to the procurement of a contractor to undertake an upgrade of Richards Lane roadway and intersection. At the time of our engagement the Request for Tender (**RFT**) had already closed, tender submissions had been received and downloaded but not distributed to the Tender Evaluation Panel (**TEP**).

On 26 June 2025, BSC issued the RFT as an open tender published via Vendorpanel and advertised in the Village Voice on 3 July 2025. The RFT closed on 4 August 2025, with 8 submissions received. The submission from F1 Traffic Solutions was deemed non-compliant and therefore not subject to detailed evaluation. The remaining 7 submissions were evaluated against the evaluation criteria documented in the RFT.

The TEP assessed the seven compliant submissions received at tender close. A post tender clarification was issued to five tenderers seeking acknowledgement of receipt of Addenda 1 and 2. Only four tenderers responded and Hynash was subsequently deemed non-compliant. The remaining six responses were assessed following which the TEP recommended the second highest scoring tenderer for the award of the contract.

It should be noted that BSC's internal procedures do not require an Evaluation Plan to be prepared. Procure confirmed that the evaluation criteria were published in the RFT, weightings were agreed prior to the evaluation of responses and the evaluation was based on those same evaluation criteria.

Prior to the evaluation of tenders, the General Manager (**GM**) drew Council's attention to a previously declared non pecuniary interest, in that his private residence was in close proximity to the site of the works. It was advised it was prudent for the GM to remove himself from the process and not be involved in the decision-making or approval of tenders. This advice was taken, the Mayor was informed, and alternative management and approval processes were established.

Background

Richards Lane is located in the village of Millthorpe within the Blayney Shire. The project is one of the Blayney Shire Local Road Improvements funded under the NSW Government Resources for Regions Round 9 and is for the upgrade of the road to improve safety, drainage and the resilience of the road network.

The works were tendered as two separable portions; the Richards Lane reconstruction from approximately 45 metres west of the Millthorpe Road intersection and extending for approximately 1.2 Km (Portion A) and the upgrading of the Millthorpe Road – Richards Lane intersection (Portion B).

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1.2 Summary of Key Activities and Dates

| ACTIVITY | DATE |
|---|--|
| RFT issue date | 26 June 2025 |
| Mandatory Industry Briefing | 18 July 2025 (Not attended by Procure) |
| RFT Closing date | 4 August 2025 |
| Tender Evaluation Panel meeting #1 | 6 August 2025 |
| Briefing of Councillors | 11 August 2025 |
| Tender Evaluation Panel meeting #2 | 14 August 2025 |
| Evaluation Report finalised | 18 August 2025 |
| Probity Declaration completed by TEP members | 18 August 2025 |
| Evaluation Report endorsed by Director Corporate Services | 19 August |
| Approval to award | To be determined by Council |

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2 CONCLUSION

Based upon our work performed and detailed in this report, no issues of a probity nature have come to our attention that would lead us to conclude that the process followed by Blayney Shire Council in the evaluation of proposals for the RFT 40-2025 Richards Lane Road and Intersection Upgrades has not been conducted in a fair and equitable manner with due regard to probity.

3 SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Probity Advisor's Role

3.1.1 Role of Probity Advisor

Attachment A provides a description of the role of the probity advisor as well as a definition of probity, taken from relevant publications of the ICAC. In short, a probity advisor is engaged to observe, review and provide guidance on the integrity of procedures and processes, focusing on the means, rather than the ends, of the project in question.

3.1.2 Probity Fundamentals

In undertaking the probity advisory role, Procure has had regard to the "probity fundamentals" identified by the ICAC. These probity fundamentals are:

- + Maintaining accountability and transparency;
- + Maintaining impartiality;
- + Managing conflicts of interest;
- + Maintaining confidentiality; and
- + Obtaining value for money.

Further detail describing the probity requirements and principles above is provided in Attachment A.

Section 4 of this report outlines our work performed to monitor the application of the probity principles.

3.2 Scope of Work

Procure was engaged in August 2025 by Blayney Shire Council to act as probity advisor in regard to the procurement of the RFT 40-2025 Richards Lane Road and Intersection Upgrades. In accordance with our proposal, our scope of work included the following:

- + Attend meetings upon Council's request – meetings conducted via MS Teams;
- + Retrospective review of tender invitation document (RFT) (for background only);
- + Review and comment on the Tender Evaluation Report;
- + Provide ad hoc advice as required to address probity related issues;
- + Submit Probity Report; and
- + Attend debriefing meetings with unsuccessful tenderers (if required).

3.3 General Approach Taken

In providing the above services, Procure has employed a range of approaches, including:

- + Consideration of relevant Council and local government procurement guidelines;
- + Retrospective review of project documentation;
- + Observation of key meetings, activities and processes; and
- + Discussions with relevant representatives of the project team and provision of advice on issues arising.

Procure adopted a risk-based approach to the provision of its probity services. This means that, where necessary, we assisted in identifying potential probity risks and recommended possible mitigation strategies. Any recommended mitigation and control strategies had regard to the significance and impact of the specific probity risk being assessed.

4 WORK PERFORMED & OBSERVATIONS

4.1 Maintaining Accountability and Transparency

In advising and monitoring the process in relation to *Maintaining Accountability and Transparency*, Procure has undertaken the following tasks:

4.1.1 Pre receipt of proposals:

- + Retrospectively reviewed RFT documentation issued to tenderers to confirm that submission requirements were appropriately documented. The RFT documentation also clearly provided the evaluation criteria;
- + Noted that a mandatory on-site Industry Briefing was held on 18 July 2025;
- + Noted that BSC internal procedures do not require an Evaluation Plan to be developed;
- + Noted that BSC procedures require TEP members to complete a Probity Declaration at the conclusion of the tender evaluation. The Probity Declaration confirms Impartiality, Conflicts of Interest, Confidentiality, Compliance with Laws and Regulations, Integrity and Professionalism, Record Keeping and an Acknowledgement that breaches could result in legal consequences;
- + Noted that membership of the TEP comprised persons that appeared to have appropriate skills and experience to conduct the evaluation; and
- + Observed that the evaluation criteria were weighted prior to the commencement of tender evaluation.

4.1.2 Receipt and evaluation phase:

- + Confirmed through review of the Schedule of Tenders Received that 8 submissions were received by the tender close date and time on 4 August 2025;
- + Attended the TEP meeting held on 6 August 2025 and confirmed that no TEP members had a conflict of interest to declare;
- + Noted/observed the following at the TEP meeting held on 6 August 2025:
 - o The TEP ensured all tenderers except F1 Traffic Solutions had attended the mandatory on-site briefing held on 18 July 2025; and
 - o The TEP undertook a conformance check of the tenders received and determined that the response received from F1 Traffic Solutions was non-compliant for the following reasons:
 - the company did not attend the mandatory briefing;
 - the tender schedules were not completed; and
 - their response was considered to be a general response more aligned to advertising and not related to the scope of works.
- + The TEP noted that five tenderers did not confirm receipt of addenda 1 and 2. It was determined that this was not a significant matter that would justify non-conformance and issued a post-tender clarification to obtain confirmation of receipt;
- + Noted that one tenderer did not respond to the post-tender clarification by the due time and date;
- + Attended a briefing of Councillors held on 11 August 2025 where they were provided with a high-level overview of the project. Noted that they were advised in advance that the specific details of any tender, the content or evaluation of tenders received, or any matters that may compromise the integrity, confidentiality or impartiality of the tender evaluation process could not be discussed. Observed this restriction was respected and no inappropriate questions or matters were raised.
- + Attended the TEP meeting held on 14 August 2025 and confirmed with TEP members that:
 - o They had no conflicts of interest;
 - o They were not aware of any breaches in confidentiality; and
 - o They were not aware of any unresolved probity issues;

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- + Noted at the above meeting that one of the tenderers (Hynash) had submitted an incomplete price schedule and along with the absence of a response to the post-tender clarification the TEP determined the Hynash tender to be non-compliant, and it was not evaluated any further.
- + Noted that the TEP had completed individual scoring in advance of the meeting;
- + Observed robust discussion of scores with the TEP reaching a consensus score on each criteria for each tenderer, ranked the tenderers, and agreed a recommendation
- + Reviewed the Tender Evaluation Report prepared for the evaluation process and confirmed that it accurately reflected the evaluation process followed and conclusions of the TEP. The Tender Evaluation Report was endorsed by each member of the TEP on 18 August 2025; and
- + Confirmed by observation of the evaluation process, discussions with the project team, and review of evaluation documentation that the evaluation was appropriately undertaken.

4.2 Maintaining Impartiality

In advising and monitoring the process in relation to *Maintaining Impartiality*, Procure has undertaken the following tasks:

- + Confirmed that each tenderer was assessed against the same evaluation criteria as those included in the RFT;
- + Confirmed that all TEP members were present at all meetings held during the evaluation period; and
- + Confirmed with each TEP member at the TEP meeting held on 14 August 2025, at which the decision of which tenderer to recommend was made, that each member:
 - o Had sufficient time and information to complete the assessment; and
 - o Had considered the evaluation criteria in conducting their evaluation.

4.3 Managing Conflicts of Interest

In advising and monitoring the process in relation to *Managing Conflicts of Interest*, Procure undertook the following tasks:

- + Noted that prior to the evaluation of tenders the GM declared a conflict of interest in that his private residence was in close proximity to the site of the works;
- + Provided probity advice that in the above circumstances it was prudent for the GM to remove himself from the process and not be involved in the decision-making or approval of tenders;
- + Noted this advice was taken, the Mayor was informed, and alternative management and approval processes were established;
- + Noted that upon receipt of the post-tender clarification responses one TEP member identified that a family member was involved with the submission of one of the tenderer's responses. Whilst it appeared this involvement was only in an administrative role, it was agreed that the perception of a conflict of interest was such that the member's removal from the TEP was appropriate. The TEP member had not participated in a detailed review or scoring of responses prior to their removal from the TEP;
- + Noted that following the TEP member's withdrawal the TEP still had sufficient numbers and expertise to proceed with the evaluation without the need for a replacement;
- + Noted that conflict of interest was included as an agenda item for all TEP meetings attended by the probity advisor. No other conflicts were declared; and
- + Confirmed that no other conflicts of interest have been brought to the attention of the probity advisor.

4.4 Maintaining Confidentiality

In advising and monitoring the process in relation to *Maintaining Confidentiality*, Procure has undertaken the following tasks:

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- + Confirmed with the Manager Information Technology that tender submissions had been secured in a folder with access restricted to TEP members only;
- + Confirmed with TEP members at the final meeting for the evaluation phase held on 14 August 2025, that they were not aware of any confidentiality breaches; and
- + Noted that no breach of confidentiality has been brought to the attention of the probity advisor.

4.5 Obtaining Value for Money

In advising and monitoring the process in relation to *Obtaining Value for Money*, Procure has undertaken the following tasks:

- + Noted that the RFT process was a competitive open market process which gave all industry providers the opportunity to participate in the tender;
- + Noted that RFT responses were scored and ranked in accordance with the pre-agreed, weighted evaluation criteria;
- + Noted that Council utilised weighted quantitative and qualitative criteria in the evaluation process with a quantitative to qualitative ratio of 40:60;
- + Noted that the RFT allowed for the awarding of separate contracts for Portions A and B but issuing one contract for both portions provided a better value for money outcome;
- + Noted that the TEP identified some of the estimated quantities used to conduct the price assessment were a high risk of increasing once the project was underway. Given the extremely close scores it was decided to undertake a sensitivity analysis to determine if an increase in the quantities would impact on the scoring;
- + Noted that the recommended tenderer was ranked second 0.89 points behind the highest ranked tenderer (87.22 v 86.33) on the total weighted score. However when the TEP factored in the risks associated with contract departures and qualifications and the price sensitivity analysis discussed above, the TEP considered the second ranked tenderer offered better overall value for money; and
- + Noted that the Tender Evaluation Report contained sufficient information to support the TEP's recommendation.

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Attachment A – Key Terms & Definitions

| Key Terms | Definition |
|--|---|
| Probity Advisor | In its publication <i>"Probity and Probity Advising"</i> (November 2005) the ICAC describes a probity advisor as: <i>"an individual or organisation engaged to observe, review and provide guidance on the probity framework and/or processes of a project. Agencies use internal or external probity advisors to verify that the processes followed are consistent with government regulations, policies, guidelines and best practice principles. A probity advisor provides opinions and guidance on probity risks and issues that may arise during the process and confirms, in writing, whether the concluded process is consistent with the requirements outlined in a probity plan as well as general probity fundamentals. If probity requirements are not being or have not been met, the advisor identifies the non-conformities and any reasons for these in a written report, and if necessary, suggests solutions and monitors their implementation."</i> |
| Probity | Probity may be defined as: <i>"integrity, uprightness, honesty"</i> (Macquarie Dictionary). Within the public sector, the word "probity" is often used in a general sense to refer to an "appropriate process". Government seeks to conduct its commercial dealings with integrity. Public officials (and their advisors) must be able to demonstrate high standards of probity while pursuing the stated project objectives. |
| Maintaining Accountability & Transparency | Public sector accountability requirements are intended to save money, resources and time in the long term and prevent corruption, maladministration and substantial waste of public resources. All persons with responsibilities in relation to a project should be accountable for their actions associated with the project. All key activities and decision-making associated with the project should be recorded. Transparency helps ensure that a process is conducted with integrity, thus enhancing competition and the delivery of value for money, as well as reducing opportunities for corruption, maladministration and substantial waste of public money. An evaluation process should be applied consistently and conducted in accordance with an appropriate methodology. Processes should be well documented and reviewable. |
| Maintaining Impartiality | Individuals and organisations involved in preparing and submitting proposals for large public sector contracts often invest considerable time, effort and resources in doing so. In return, they are entitled to expect impartial treatment at every stage of the process. If they do not consider the process to be impartial and honest, they may withhold valuable ideas or be deterred from bidding in the future. Any form of bias, whether driven by personal interests or not, could jeopardise the integrity of the project. |
| Managing Conflicts of Interest | Conflicts of interest arise when there is a conflict between a public official's public duty and private interests, where those private interests could improperly influence the performance of their official duties and responsibilities. Advisors and other consultants working on the project must comply with public sector conflict of interest requirements. Failure to declare and/or effectively manage conflicts of interest can damage the integrity of the project, therefore eroding public or market confidence in the outcomes. Inadequate systems for identifying and dealing with conflicts of interest provide opportunities for corruption, maladministration and serious waste of public resources. |
| Maintaining Confidentiality | Accountability and transparency are fundamental to the work of public sector organisations and public officials. However, there is some information that needs to be kept confidential, at least for a specified period of time, in order to protect the integrity of a process and give private sector participants the confidence to do business with government. This information can include the content of proposals, intellectual property and pricing and profit structures. Importantly, much of the information relating to a project needs to be kept confidential up to the point where a contract is signed. |
| Obtaining Value for Money | Value for money is achieved by fostering an open competitive environment in which private sector participants can make attractive, innovative proposals with the confidence that they will be assessed on their merits. Lapses in probity often end with one or more parties obtaining unreasonable financial gains at the expense of the public interest. Value for money does not necessarily mean lowest price. Agencies need to consider non-price elements of proposals (including risk) and devise criteria that allow them to be evaluated. |

02) TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Department: Executive Services

Author: Manager Tourism and Communications

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

File No: GS.PG.1

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Approve \$2,000 for the Blayney A&P Association for the 2026 Blayney Show.
2. Defer application for \$2,000 for the Carcoar Village Association for the River Yarn Fibre Festival to a future meeting of Council pending supply of additional information.

Reason for Report:

For Council to consider the applications seeking Council financial support under the 2025/26 Tourism Development Program.

Report:

To streamline and simplify the process for this grant program, two rounds were established being:

- Round 1: Closes: 3 September 2025, outcome expected: late September 2025
- Round 2: Closes: 11 February 2026, outcome expected: late February 2026

Two applications have been received for round 1.

1. Blayney A&P Association - 2026 Blayney Show

Funding requested: \$2,000

Blayney Show is a multi-faceted event showcasing agriculture and animals as well as providing for market stalls, commercial displays, flowers, vegies, home cooking and craft.

Dance and music exhibitions, dog high jump and pet dogs entertain the crowds. In 2026 it is proposed to continue to provide free activities for all ages including Base Zero Climbing Wall, which includes staff to teach people how to use the climbing wall.

Bullistic Ambush Bucking Bull that gives plenty of laughs again for all ages, the Reptile Show that educates people on snake varieties found locally and what to do in an emergency and Circus Playspace that gives education and entertainment on circus activities, fun for all. All of these make for a great day when combined with the usual amusement rides and food stalls.

The event attracts people from target demographics of: Regional NSW, Sydney & Surrounds, Domestic Touring Visitors, Comfortable Cruisers, Visiting Family and Relatives.

Over 50% of the visitors and participants in Blayney Show come from outside the Blayney Shire postcodes. This is especially evident in the horse and goat events, the yard dogs and was also shown in the Homemade products entries this year.

Expenses (Ride Component of Event):

- Base Zero - \$2,995
- Bullistic Bucking Bull - \$1,500
- Reptile Display - \$2,200
- Circus Playspace - \$2,000

Income

- Blayney A&P - \$6,695
- Blayney Shire Council Grant - \$2,000

In 2025, Council provided \$1,000 in funding for rides (similar to above) and \$1,000 for marketing. In the acquittal of the rides application, the A&P said:

Blayney Show and the amusement attractions that we provided for free to patrons has been widely praised as catering for the teenage years and also assisting families to enjoy the Show for less cost. The tourism benefit to Blayney was huge as many comments were in favour of such a great Show with so much to offer. Approx 4,000 people went through the gates and car parking was at a maximum all day. People used motels to stay overnight and ate out at venues in Blayney.

2. Carcoar Village Association – River Yarn Fibre Festival

Funding requested: \$2,000

The River Yarn Fibre Festival, now entering its fourth year, is a two-day festival of workshops and market stalls for knitting and yarn enthusiasts held in Carcoar and hosted by the Carcoar Community Association. In previous years the event has been attended by approximately 850 people across the two days.

An application was submitted by the Carcoar Village Association for the 2026 event; however, additional information is sought which has not been provided at the time of writing this report. It is recommended to defer the application to the October Council Meeting as February 2026 (Round 2 of the program) will be too close to the event for the funding to have the maximum impact.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

In accordance with the Local Government Act, s356, Council may resolve to grant financial assistance to persons for the purpose of exercising its functions.

This program is included in the 2025/26 Operational Plan and does not exceed more than 5 percent of Council's income and is open to all persons within Council's area. A 28 days public notice period of Council's resolution is not required.

Budget Implications:

Council has allocated a total budget of \$10,000 in the 2025/26 Operational Plan for this program.

\$2,000 was allocated to Newbridge Progress Association for Spring into Art in 2024/25 (Resolution 2412/008). Approval of one application in the recommendation will leave \$6,000 available in this program for 2025/26.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

03) YOUTH EVENT**Department:** Executive Services**Author:** General Manager**CSP Link:** 2. A connected, healthy and inclusive community**File No:** RC.PL.1**Recommendation:**

That Council:

1. Note the youth disco being planned as part of 2025 Blayney Twilight Shopping event on 28 November.
2. Approve a \$4k allocation within Council's 2025/26 Community Financial Assistance Program to fund the youth disco event.

Reason for Report:

To update Council on recent Youth Committee meetings and seek a budget allocation of up to \$4k for a Youth Disco as part of 2025 Blayney Twilight Shopping event on 28 November 2025.

Report:

When Council reviewed and updated the 2025-2035 Blayney Shire Community Strategic Plan, five key themes were identified.

The proposed youth disco directly correlates to: theme 2. Community, community priority 2.2 and strategy 2.2a within Council's Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program & Operational Plan.

2. Community



A connected, healthy, safe and inclusive community.

| Community Priority | Strategies - How will we get there? |
|---|--|
| 2.2. Social connection and learning opportunities are available for all | <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Encourage and facilitate youth participation, engagement and employment opportunitiesb. Provide library services, community spaces and facilities that create social connection opportunitiesc. Support and assist with the promotion of community events and cultural activities |

Image 1: Extract from page 23 of Blayney Shire Community Strategic Plan 2025 - 2035

Following contact from Blayney High School, Council in July proceeded to undertake an Expression of Interest (EOI) seeking interested youth participants aged 14-24 who would like to participate in a Youth Council Pilot Program.

<https://www.blayney.nsw.gov.au/news/featured-topics/youth-council-pilot>

Positively, over 15 youths submitted an EOI seeking to make a difference within the Blayney Shire.

Two meetings have been held to date, of which there is enthusiasm from the group to create an event, being a Youth Disco (on Twilight Shopping night) as the initial event.

Following this event, an appropriate way forward can be ascertained (by both Council and the youth members) seeking to maximum interest from the group whilst ensuring limited resource implications for Council.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Council's Manager of Communications and Tourism is working with Blayney High School and Council's WHS and Risk Coordinator to plan the event including risk considerations.

Budget Implications:

A budget estimate of \$4k is recommended as part of this report to fund the proposed youth disco funded from within 2025/26 Community Financial Assistance Program.

These funds will be used to pay for various expenses, including community centre hire, DJ, photo booth, decorations and other ancillary items.

The committee are currently considering whether to charge attendees for the event which may reduce the budget required.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

04) QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT - JUNE 2025

Department: Corporate Services

Author: Chief Financial Officer

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

File No: FM.BU.1

PREVIOUS ITEMS: 15 - Adoption of 2025/26 Carryover Works - Council - 26 Aug 2025 6.00pm

Recommendation:

That Council receive the Quarterly Budget Review Statement noting actual results to 30 June 2025.

Reason for Report:

For Council to note the June Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) noting actual results to 30 June 2025.

Report:

The budget review statement must show, by reference to the estimate of income and expenditure set out in the Operational Plan adopted by Council, a revised estimate of the income and expenditure for the year.

The budget review statement must also be accompanied by a report as to whether or not the Responsible Accounting Officer believes that the financial position of the council is satisfactory, having regard to the original estimates of income and expenditure.

A set of minimum requirements have been set for reporting the financial position of Council, to facilitate explanations and major variations and recommend changes to the budget for Council approval. The report as tabled satisfies this minimum disclosure.

The QBRs reports the Council Consolidated position combining General and Sewer Funds and is composed of, but not limited to, the following budget review components:

- A statement by the Responsible Accounting Officer on Council's financial position at the end of the year based on the information in the QBRs;
- Summary of Operational, Capital, Net and Restricted cash positions
(QBRs: Part 1)
- Income and Expenses (Operational) Budget Review Statement in the following formats:
 - o by income and expense type including capital grants and contributions **(QBRs: Part 2)**

- o by function / activity to align with the operational plan including capital grants and contributions **(QBRs: Part 4)** and further detailed, excluding capital grants and contributions **(QBRs: Part 4A)**
- Capital Expenditure and Funding Budget Review **(QBRs: Part 3)** and further detailed **(QBRs: Part 5)**
- Recommended changes to revised budget with commentary for Operational Income and Expenditure **(QBRs: Part 6)** and Capital **(QBRs: Part 7)**
- Budget Review Cash and Investments position **(QBRs: Part 8)** and narrative **(QBRs: Part 9)**
- Budget Review Key Performance Indicators **(QBRs: Part 10)**
- Contracts Budget Review Statement **(QBRs: Part 11)** and narrative **(QBRs: Part 12)**
- Consultancy & Legal Expenses Overview **(QBRs: Part 13)**
- Loans summary **(QBRs: Part 14)**.

The purpose of the quarterly budget review is to act as a barometer of Council's financial health during the year and disclose Council's overall financial position. It is also a means to ensure Council meets its objectives, targets and outcomes as set out in its Operational Plan.

The attached report provides a detailed review of Council's 2024/25 Budget Review, noting actual results to 30 June 2025. There is no approval of Council budget variations sought.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Clause 203 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 requires that the Responsible Accounting Officer of a council prepare and submit to Council a budget review statement. This requirement is only for the September, December and March quarters.

The reporting to Council of the June quarter, noting actual activity for the year, is considered good practice and was a recommendation from the 2022 Financial Sustainability Review.

The format as presented reports on an income and expense type, in a similar format to that included in the annual financial reports, as well as by Council activity and helps to inform Council on the anticipated Income Statement operating result for the financial year. Other information is also disclosed including budgeted capital income and expenditure, restricted cash movements and key performance indicators.

Budget Implications:

The June Quarterly Budget Review statement is a measure of the actual income and expenditure compared to the adopted revised budget as a result of variations approved in the September, December and March quarters.

Table 1 – Income & expenses budget review statement (Consolidated)**Income & expenses budget review statement**

Budget review for the quarter ended 30 June 2025

Income & expenses - Council Consolidated

| (\$000's) | Original budget 2024/25 | Revised budget** 2024/25 | Other than by QBRS Jun Qtr | Notes | Projected year end result | Actual YTD figures * | Variance Surplus (Deficit) | Notes |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|
| Income | | | | | | | | |
| Rates and annual charges | 14,055 | 14,055 | - | | 14,055 | 14,136 | 81 | |
| User charges and fees | 1,772 | 1,692 | - | | 1,692 | 1,884 | 192 | a |
| Other revenues | 278 | 320 | - | | 320 | 316 | (4) | |
| Grants and contributions - operating | 5,907 | 6,663 | - | | 6,663 | 4,926 | (1,737) | b |
| Grants and contributions - capital | 5,760 | 7,521 | 8 | | 7,529 | 5,872 | (1,657) | c |
| Interest and investment revenue | 863 | 1,505 | - | | 1,505 | 1,663 | 158 | |
| Net gain from disposal of assets | (5) | 237 | - | | 237 | - | (237) | i |
| Share of interests in joint ventures | 25 | 25 | - | | 25 | 929 | 904 | d |
| Total income from continuing operations | 28,655 | 32,018 | 8 | | 32,026 | 29,726 | (2,300) | |
| Expenses | | | | | | | | |
| Employee benefits and on-costs | 8,249 | 8,121 | - | | 8,121 | 7,312 | (809) | e |
| Borrowing costs | 173 | 173 | - | | 173 | 163 | (10) | |
| Materials and services | 6,256 | 6,697 | - | | 6,697 | 5,399 | (1,298) | f |
| Depreciation and amortisation | 8,363 | 9,127 | - | | 9,127 | 9,126 | (1) | |
| Legal costs | 58 | 105 | 150 | | 255 | 100 | (155) | g |
| Consultants | 165 | 922 | 15 | | 937 | 480 | (457) | h |
| Net loss from disposal of assets | - | - | - | | - | 157 | 157 | i |
| Other expenses | 1,180 | 1,212 | - | | 1,212 | 1,015 | (197) | i |
| Total expenses from continuing operations | 24,444 | 26,357 | 165 | | 26,522 | 23,752 | (2,770) | |
| Net operating result from continuing operations | 4,211 | 5,661 | (157) | | 5,504 | 5,974 | (5,070) | |
| Discontinued operations - surplus/(deficit) | | - | | | - | | - | |
| Net operating result from all operations | 4,211 | 5,661 | (157) | | 5,504 | 5,974 | (5,070) | |
| Net Operating Result before Capital Items | (1,549) | (1,860) | (165) | | (2,025) | 102 | (3,413) | |

* Rates and annual charges are levied in full in July with minor variations made throughout the year. There are other income and expenditure items that vary in timing when paid or received (e.g. weekly, monthly or annually).

** Revised Budget represents the adopted budget as at the March Quarterly Budget Review Statement

As at 30 June 2025 the Income from Continuing Operations was \$29.73m compared to \$32.03m revised budget.

Operating Grants & Contributions were down by \$1.73m on revised budget following:

- 50% prepayment of the 2025/26 Financial Assistance Grant compared to 85% in 2024/25, resulting in only 65% attributed this financial year, (\$1.23m) less than forecast.
- Further carryover of Resources for Regions Round 9 (R4R9) masterplan studies for main street and showground projects (\$433k).

Capital Grants and Contributions were down by \$1.67m on revised budget following:

- Recognition of new RFS Fleet of \$418k
- Contributed infrastructure assets of \$681k through the transportation revaluation.
- Carryover of grant funded works including:
 - R4R9 – Richards Lane and Hobbys Yards Road (\$1.91m)
 - AGRN – Rodd Street Culvert emergency repair (\$408k)
 - FRG – Newbridge Road culvert (\$256k)

- Reduction in eligible grant funding claimed of (\$137k) on replacement of swallow creek bridge funded under Fixing Country Bridges (FCB) due to the project being finalised under budget.

Share of interest in Council's joint ventures, Central Tablelands Water and Central Tablelands Weeds Authority was \$904k compared to \$25k forecast.

Expenses from continuing operations were \$23.75m compared to \$26.52m revised budget.

Employee costs were down (\$809k) due to a number of vacant positions across technical, administration & works staff, a higher allocation of capitalised wages for inhouse design and project management and a reduction in related oncosts.

Materials and contracts were down by (\$1.91m) including:

- Consultancy fees of (\$457k) due to carryover works for R4R9 masterplans and FRG stormwater analysis.
- Carryover of the sewer strategic business plan (\$230k).
- Anticipated legal fees forecast not required.
- Reduction in operating costs of the recycled water treatment plant of (\$36k) due to delayed commissioning of the plant.
- Reduction in fleet management costs offset by higher utilisation recovery (\$437k).
- Maintenance activities on roads and buildings infrastructure (\$328k) less than forecast.

A net loss on disposal of assets of \$157k compared to \$237k budgeted profit on sale was also reflected following disposal of a number of infrastructure related assets identified through the revaluation including a bridge which was identified to be owned by a neighbouring council.

Capital expenditure for the year ending 30 June 2025 totalled \$9.89m compared with \$16.55m revised budget. All in progress capital works totalling \$4.54m were adopted as carryovers from 2024/25 to 2025/26 at the 26 August Council meeting and includes the following significant items:

- Deferral of road construction and rehabilitation works totalling \$2.17m
 - Richards Lane \$1.15m
 - Hobbys Yards Road \$633
 - Browns Creek Road \$159k
 - Land acquisitions \$151k
- Carryover emergency storm damage repairs on Rodd Street culvert of \$408k. A further \$415k on culvert replacements partially funded under the Flood Recovery Grant.
- Carryover of \$1.23m on plant replacements awaiting delivery including 3 trucks and 3 mowers.
- Carryover of \$221k for heritage pavement in Millthorpe village.
- Carryover of \$217k of infrastructure renewals at the Sewerage Treatment Plant including relining and step screen replacement.

Council's cash position as at 30 June 2025 was \$33.54m compared to a forecast of \$25.67m. This result was largely due to an increase in both operating and capital grants and contributions following early payment of initial milestones for projects carried over from 2024/25 or scheduled for completion in 2025/26.

The following is a summary of movements in restricted cash and allocated cash following a robust review of funds held and their associated purpose. The recommended changes to internal cash allocations together with actual activity for the financial year will result in an unrestricted cash balance of \$2.85m. The internal cash allocations show net transfers in of \$5.46m. The external cash restrictions show net transfers out of \$3.72m.

A summary of restricted and allocated cash is detailed in Table 1.

Table 2 – Cash & investments budget review statement

Cash & investments budget review statement

Budget review for the quarter ended 30 June 2025

Cash & investments - Council Consolidated

| (\$000's) | Opening balance 1/07/2024 | Revised budget 2024/25 | Other than by QBRS Jun Qtr | Projected year end result | Transfers to | Transfers from | Actual YTD figures |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Externally restricted ⁽¹⁾ | | | | | | | |
| Developer Contributions - General | 1,683 | 1,275 | 60 | 1,335 | 243 | (242) | 1,684 |
| Developer Contributions - Sewer | 2,058 | 2,058 | | 2,058 | 214 | | 2,272 |
| Specific Purpose Unexpended Grants | 6,727 | 4,455 | | 4,455 | 671 | (4,777) | 2,621 |
| Sewerage Services | 6,625 | 6,415 | | 6,415 | 170 | | 6,795 |
| Domestic Waste Management | 658 | 353 | | 353 | | (105) | 553 |
| Voluntary Planning Agreements | 589 | 410 | | 410 | 281 | (176) | 694 |
| Total externally restricted | 18,340 | 14,966 | 60 | 15,026 | 1,579 | (5,300) | 14,619 |
| ⁽¹⁾ Funds that must be spent for a specific purpose | | | | | | | |
| Internally allocated ⁽²⁾ | | | | | | | |
| Plant and Vehicle Replacement | 1,769 | 1,208 | | 1,208 | 1,313 | | 3,082 |
| Employees Leave Entitlement | 1,063 | 1,063 | | 1,063 | 244 | | 1,307 |
| Asset Renewals - Buildings | - | - | | - | 533 | | 533 |
| Asset Renewals - Stormwater | - | - | | - | 99 | | 99 |
| CentrePoint | 35 | 35 | | 35 | | | 35 |
| Emergency Works / Natural Disaster | 70 | 70 | | 70 | | | 70 |
| Election Reserve | 89 | 24 | | 24 | 19 | (83) | 25 |
| Environmental Projects – Belubula River | 27 | 27 | | 27 | | | 27 |
| Future Financial Sustainability | - | - | | - | 4,063 | | 4,063 |
| I.T Reserve | 394 | 394 | | 394 | | | 394 |
| Property Account | 1,565 | 1,510 | | 1,510 | 108 | (2) | 1,671 |
| Property Account - Borrowings | 733 | 733 | | 733 | | (147) | 586 |
| Quarry | 806 | 806 | | 806 | 90 | | 896 |
| Village Enhancement Program | 232 | 212 | | 212 | 125 | | 357 |
| Security bonds, deposits & retentions | 465 | 465 | | 465 | | (90) | 375 |
| Financial Assistance Grant | 3,145 | - | | - | 1,953 | (3,145) | 1,953 |
| Carryover Works | 215 | - | | - | 591 | (215) | 591 |
| Total internally allocated | 10,608 | 6,547 | - | 6,547 | 9,138 | (3,682) | 16,064 |
| ⁽²⁾ Funds that Council has earmarked for a specific purpose | | | | | | | |
| Unrestricted (ie. available after the above Restrictions) | 4,094 | 4,094 | - | 4,094 | | | 2,852 |
| Total Cash & investments | 33,042 | 25,607 | 60 | 25,667 | | | 33,535 |

The movements in cash restrictions are subject to change as a result of any audit adjustments and will require endorsement of Council in the event that there are audit amendments.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

1 Quarterly Budget Review Statement - June 2025 25 Pages

05) REPORT OF COUNCIL INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025**Department:** Corporate Services**Author:** Chief Financial Officer**CSP Link:** 1. Prioritise transparency, financial sustainability and strong partnerships with and for our community**File No:** FM.AU.1

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Note the report indicating Council's investment position as of 31 August 2025.
2. Note the certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer.

Reason for Report:

For Council to endorse the Report of Council Investments as of 31 August 2025.

Report:

This report provides details of Council's Investment Portfolio as of 31 August 2025.

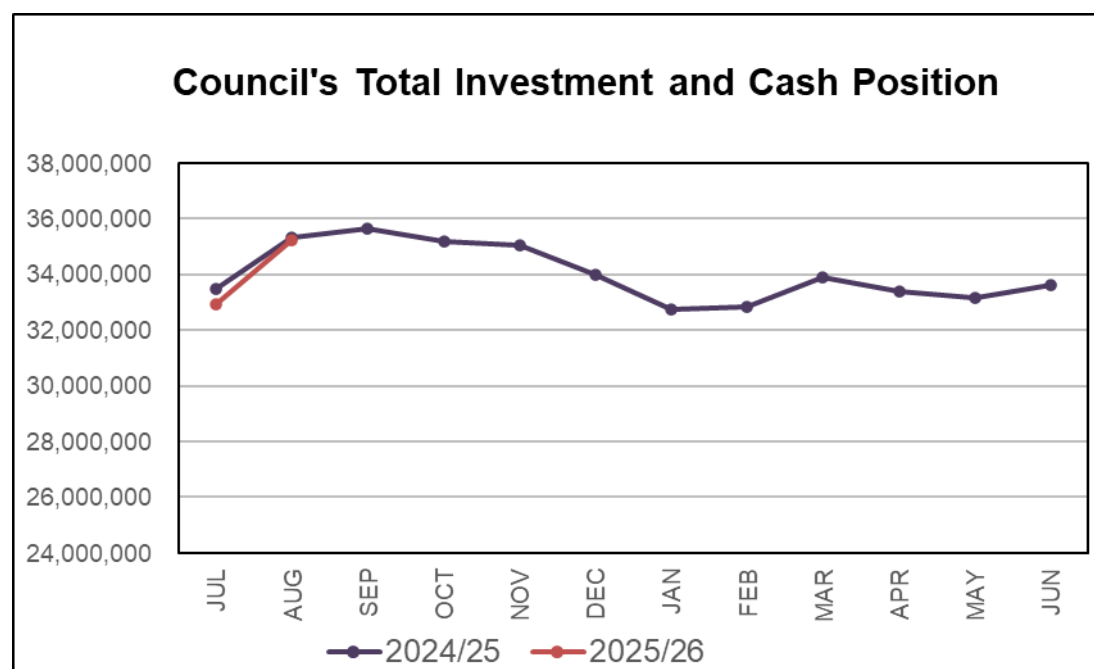
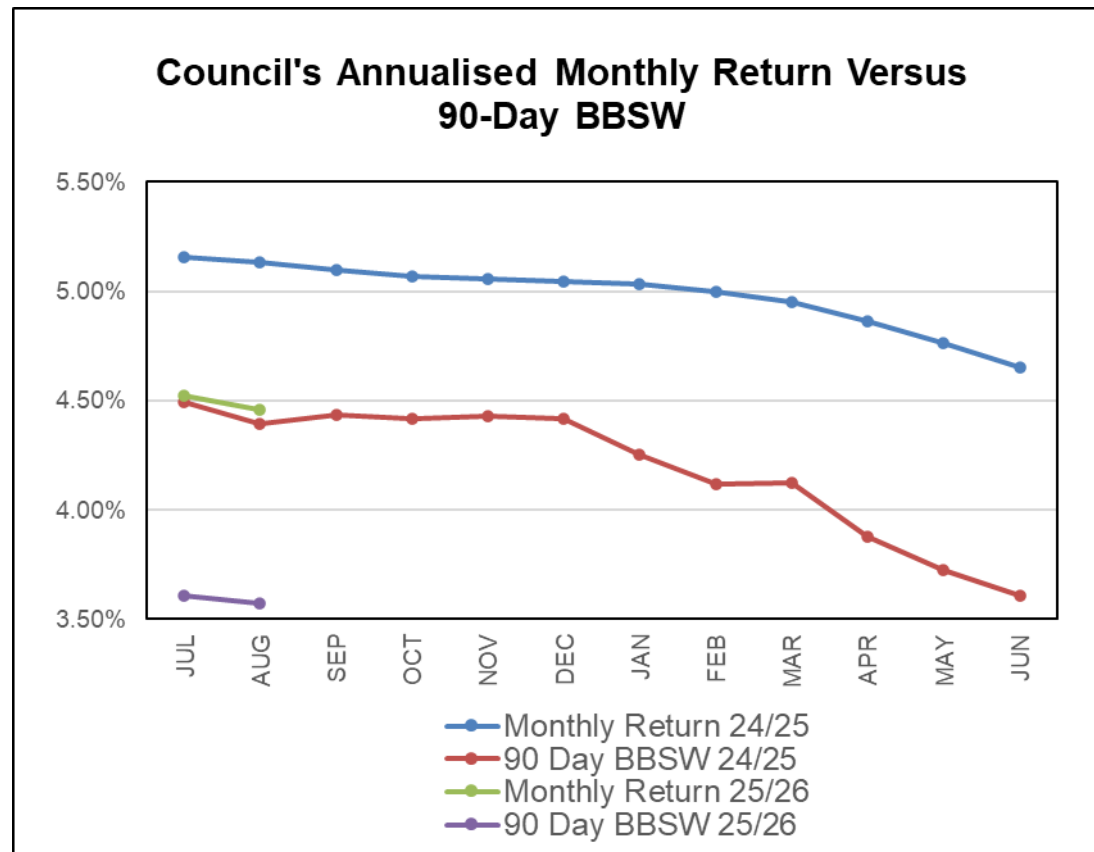
Council's total investment and cash position as of 31 August 2025 is \$35,237,662.

Interest on cash and investments accrued for the month of August was \$122,878. Year to date the total interest accrued on cash and investments is \$255,292.

Council's monthly net return on Term Deposits (annualised) for August was 4.46% which outperformed the 90-day Bank Bill Swap Rate of 3.573%.

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

| Funding Program | \$ |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| TfNSW Block Grant | 183,500 |
| Financial Assistance Grant – Q1 | 483,719 |



| Register Of Investments and Cash as of 31 August 2025 | | | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Institution | Method | Rating | Maturity | Amount \$ | Interest Rate |
| Westpac | Direct | A1+/AA- | 02/09/2025 | 500,000 | 4.650% |
| Defence Bank Ltd | Curve | A2/BBB+ | 02/09/2025 | 500,000 | 5.100% |
| Westpac | Direct | A1+/AA- | 09/09/2025 | 500,000 | 4.630% |
| ING Bank | Curve | A1/A | 09/09/2025 | 500,000 | 4.900% |
| CBA | Direct | A1+/AA- | 16/09/2025 | 500,000 | 4.610% |
| Reliance Bank | Direct | Unrated | 16/09/2025 | 500,000 | 5.100% |
| NAB | Direct | A1+/AA- | 23/09/2025 | 500,000 | 4.750% |
| NAB | Direct | A1+/AA- | 23/09/2025 | 500,000 | 5.050% |
| IMB Bank Ltd | Direct | A2/BBB+ | 30/09/2025 | 500,000 | 4.650% |
| NAB | Direct | A1+/AA- | 30/09/2025 | 500,000 | 5.050% |
| CBA | Direct | A1+/AA- | 07/10/2025 | 500,000 | 4.270% |
| Westpac | Direct | A1+/AA- | 07/10/2025 | 500,000 | 5.010% |
| CBA | Direct | A1+/AA- | 14/10/2025 | 500,000 | 4.240% |
| CBA | Direct | A1+/AA- | 14/10/2025 | 500,000 | 4.680% |
| ING Bank | Curve | A1/A | 21/10/2025 | 500,000 | 4.970% |
| NAB | Direct | A1+/AA- | 28/10/2025 | 500,000 | 4.800% |
| Westpac | Direct | A1+/AA- | 04/11/2025 | 500,000 | 4.080% |
| NAB | Direct | A1+/AA- | 04/11/2025 | 500,000 | 4.800% |
| Westpac | Direct | A1+/AA- | 11/11/2025 | 500,000 | 5.150% |
| NAB | Direct | A1+/AA- | 18/11/2025 | 500,000 | 4.690% |
| Bank of Queensland | Curve | A2/A- | 25/11/2025 | 500,000 | 4.250% |
| Westpac | Direct | A1+/AA- | 25/11/2025 | 500,000 | 4.620% |
| MyState Bank Ltd | Curve | A2/BBB+ | 02/12/2025 | 500,000 | 5.100% |
| Auswide Bank Ltd | IAM | A2/BBB+ | 09/12/2025 | 500,000 | 4.250% |
| Auswide Bank Ltd | IAM | A2/BBB+ | 09/12/2025 | 500,000 | 5.110% |
| IMB Bank Ltd | Direct | A2/BBB+ | 16/12/2025 | 500,000 | 4.100% |
| Bank of Queensland | Curve | A2/A- | 16/12/2025 | 500,000 | 4.650% |
| Westpac | Direct | A1+/AA- | 06/01/2026 | 500,000 | 4.580% |
| B & A Bank | Curve | A2/A- | 13/01/2026 | 500,000 | 4.100% |
| NAB | Direct | A1+/AA- | 13/01/2026 | 500,000 | 4.290% |
| Westpac | Direct | A1+/AA- | 20/01/2026 | 500,000 | 4.090% |
| NAB | Direct | A1+/AA- | 20/01/2026 | 500,000 | 4.280% |
| Bank of Queensland | Curve | A2/A- | 27/01/2026 | 500,000 | 4.250% |
| NAB | Direct | A1+/AA- | 27/01/2026 | 500,000 | 4.900% |
| CBA | Direct | A1+/AA- | 03/02/2026 | 500,000 | 4.110% |
| NAB | Direct | A1+/AA- | 03/02/2026 | 500,000 | 4.300% |
| NAB | Direct | A1+/AA- | 10/02/2026 | 500,000 | 4.300% |
| B & A Bank | IAM | A2/A- | 17/02/2026 | 500,000 | 4.100% |
| Westpac | Direct | A1+/AA- | 17/02/2026 | 500,000 | 4.770% |
| NAB | Direct | A1+/AA- | 24/02/2026 | 500,000 | 4.200% |
| Westpac | Direct | A1+/AA- | 24/02/2026 | 500,000 | 4.740% |
| Reliance Bank | Direct | Unrated | 03/03/2026 | 500,000 | 4.650% |
| ING Bank | IAM | A1/A | 10/03/2026 | 500,000 | 4.650% |
| NAB | Direct | A1+/AA- | 17/03/2026 | 500,000 | 4.200% |
| CBA | Direct | A1+/AA- | 17/03/2026 | 500,000 | 4.220% |
| CBA | Direct | A1+/AA- | 24/03/2026 | 500,000 | 3.990% |
| NAB | Direct | A1+/AA- | 24/03/2026 | 500,000 | 4.150% |

| | | | | | |
|--|--------|----------------------------------|------------|-------------------|---------------|
| CBA | Direct | A1+/AA- | 31/03/2026 | 500,000 | 4.000% |
| Westpac | Direct | A1+/AA- | 31/03/2026 | 500,000 | 4.570% |
| NAB | Direct | A1+/AA- | 07/04/2026 | 500,000 | 4.180% |
| Westpac | Direct | A1+/AA- | 14/04/2026 | 500,000 | 4.160% |
| CBA | Direct | A1+/AA- | 21/04/2026 | 500,000 | 4.080% |
| Westpac | Direct | A1+/AA- | 28/04/2026 | 500,000 | 4.170% |
| CBA | Direct | A1+/AA- | 05/05/2026 | 500,000 | 4.020% |
| ING Bank | IAM | A1/A | 09/06/2026 | 500,000 | 4.050% |
| MyState Bank Ltd | Curve | A2/BBB+ | 30/06/2026 | 500,000 | 4.200% |
| NAB | Direct | A1+/AA- | 07/07/2026 | 500,000 | 4.050% |
| ING Bank | Curve | A1/A | 14/07/2026 | 500,000 | 4.130% |
| ING Bank | Curve | A1/A | 21/07/2026 | 500,000 | 4.150% |
| Westpac | Direct | A1+/AA- | 28/07/2026 | 500,000 | 4.200% |
| Westpac | Direct | A1+/AA- | 04/08/2026 | 500,000 | 4.120% |
| Westpac | Direct | A1+/AA- | 25/08/2026 | 500,000 | 4.090% |
| Total Investments | | | | 31,000,000 | 4.456% |
| Commonwealth Bank - At Call Account ⁽¹⁾ | | | | 602,327 | 3.500% |
| Commonwealth Bank Balance - General ⁽¹⁾ | | | | 3,346,426 | 3.450% |
| Reliance Bank ⁽¹⁾ | | | | 288,909 | 0.000% |
| Total Cash and Investments⁽²⁾ | | | | 35,237,662 | |
| Benchmarks: | | BBSW 90 Day Index ⁽¹⁾ | | | 3.573% |
| | | RBA Cash Rate ⁽¹⁾ | | | 3.600% |

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

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

| Summary of Investment (Cash) Movements - August 2025 | | |
|---|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Financial Institution | Amount \$ | Commentary |
| CBA | (522,582) | Term deposit matured 05/08/2025 |
| CBA | 500,000 | Term deposit reinvested 05/08/2025 |
| Westpac | (507,368) | Term deposit matured 05/08/2025 |
| Westpac | 500,000 | Term deposit reinvested 05/08/2025 |
| CBA | (519,668) | Term deposit matured 12/08/2025 |
| CBA | 500,000 | Term deposit reinvested 12/08/2025 |
| Westpac | (507,254) | Term deposit matured 12/08/2025 |
| Westpac | 500,000 | Term deposit reinvested 12/08/2025 |
| B & A Bank | (519,178) | Term deposit matured 19/08/2025 |
| B & A Bank | 500,000 | Term deposit reinvested 19/08/2025 |
| CBA | (523,685) | Term deposit matured 26/08/2025 |
| CBA | 500,000 | Term deposit reinvested 26/08/2025 |
| Westpac | (507,595) | Term deposit matured 26/08/2025 |
| Westpac | 500,000 | Term deposit reinvested 26/08/2025 |

| Long Term Credit Rating (or Moody's, Fitch, S&P or Equivalent) | Policy Maximum % | Current Holding % | Current Holding \$ |
|--|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| TCorp IM Funds | 100% | 0% | - |
| AAA – AA Category | 100% | 68% | 21,000,000 |
| A- Category | 40% | 18% | 5,500,000 |
| BBB+ Category | 25% | 11% | 3,500,000 |
| BBB Category | 5% | 0% | - |
| BBB- Category and below: Local ⁽¹⁾ ADI's | 10% | 3% | 1,000,000 |
| BBB+ / BBB / BBB- & below categories combined | 25% | 15% | |
| 1. ADI's located within the Local Government Area | | | 31,000,000 |

| Individual Institution Limit | Rating | Policy Maximum \$ | Current Holding \$ |
|------------------------------|---------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Auswide Bank | A2/BBB+ | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 |
| Bank of Queensland | A2/A- | 3,000,000 | 1,500,000 |
| Bendigo & Adelaide Bank | A2/A- | 3,000,000 | 1,000,000 |
| CBA | A1+/AA- | 8,000,000 | 5,000,000 |
| Defence Bank Ltd | A2/BBB+ | 1,000,000 | 500,000 |
| IMB Bank Ltd | A2/BBB+ | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 |
| ING Bank | A1/A | 3,000,000 | 3,000,000 |
| MyState Bank Ltd | A2/BBB+ | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 |
| NAB | A1+/AA- | 8,000,000 | 8,000,000 |
| Reliance Bank | Unrated | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 |
| Westpac | A1+/AA- | 8,000,000 | 8,000,000 |
| Total Investments | | | 31,000,000 |

| Summary of Restricted, Allocated and Unrestricted Cash & Investments | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|---|
| | Actual ⁽⁴⁾ 30/06/2025 \$ 000's | Actual 31/08/2025 \$ 000's | Forecast ⁽³⁾ 30/06/2026 \$ 000's |
| External Cash Restrictions | 14,619 | 14,570 | 11,991 |
| Internal Cash Allocations | 16,064 | 15,651 | 6,557 |
| Total Restricted, Allocated Cash & Investments | 30,683 | 30,221 | 18,548 |
| Unrestricted Cash | 2,852 | 5,017 | 4,582 |
| Total Restricted, Allocated and Unrestricted Cash & Investments | 33,535 | 35,238 | 23,130 |

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

⁽⁴⁾ Balances are indicative and represent best available information as at 30/06/2025. Further adjustments are still anticipated throughout finalisation of the 2024/25 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

**06) MINUTES OF THE DISABILITY INCLUSION WORKING GROUP
MEETING HELD 27 AUGUST 2025****Department:** Corporate Services**Author:** Director Corporate Services**CSP Link:** 2. A connected, healthy and inclusive community**File No:** GO.CM.4

Recommendation:

That Council;

1. Receive and note the minutes of the Disability Inclusion Working Group meeting held 27 August 2025.
2. Endorse the Blayney Shire 2022 – 2026 Disability Inclusion Action Plan Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2025.
3. Note the upcoming Disability Inclusion and Accessibility Survey, that will help inform the 2026-2030 Disability Inclusion Action Plan.
4. Note the recommendation to fund accessibility improvements in Stage 1 of any multi stage projects to increase accessibility for the community.

Reason for Report:

For Council to approve the minutes of the Disability Inclusion Working Group meeting held 27 August 2025.

Report:

The Disability Inclusion Working Group held its meeting 27 August 2025.

The Disability Inclusion Working Group is responsible for:

- advising and making recommendations to Council on matters relating to access issues, with particular emphasis on issues for people with disabilities as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act.
- 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.
- providing advice and monitoring the implementation of relevant Council programs and policies. Such programs and policies include but are not limited to Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

Of significance from the meeting were following matters:

- The Blayney Shire 2022 – 2026 Disability Inclusion Action Plan Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2025, was discussed and referred to Council for endorsement. A copy of the 2022 – 2026 Disability Inclusion Action Plan Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2025 is provided as an attachment.
- The Disability Inclusion and Accessibility Survey, proposed to go live later in the month, that will help inform the 2026-2030 Disability Inclusion Action Plan was discussed. It was also suggested that

Council explore additional avenues to increase community engagement including manual copies for distribution to community groups and service providers.

- New projects were discussed, and it was recommended that Council allocate funding for accessibility considerations in Stage 1 of projects to ensure all the community benefits of the project from the start.

A copy of the meeting agenda is available on the Councillor Portal under Committee Information / Internal Council Committees.

The minutes of the meeting held are tabled below:

**MINUTES OF THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL DISABILITY INCLUSION
WORKING GROUP MEETING
HELD IN THE CHAMBERS, BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY
CENTRE, ON 27 AUGUST 2025, COMMENCING AT 5:14 PM**

Present: Cr. Rebecca Scott (Council Delegate and Chairperson); Anton Franze (Director Corporate Services – Secretariat); Kate Lockwood (Member); Sue Lane (Member); Jenny McMahon (Member);

APOLOGIES

Lyndall Harrison (Member); Allison Farr (Member).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 2 APRIL 2025
RESOLVED**

2508/001

That the Minutes of the Disability Inclusion Working Group meeting held 2 April 2025 be received.

(Lockwood/McMahon)

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Proposed accessible parking locations in Carcoar, Mandurama and Lyndhurst, map shown in report included an error with car park located on opposite side of road to amenities block. No action is required to locate parking on amenities block side of road.

Completion of KGO Accessible Seating Project, a member of the public had raised with the Chairperson concern that there is a bar along bottom (at front) and may be a trip hazard.

REPORTS**2022-2026 DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN ANNUAL REPORT****2508/002****RESOLVED**

That the Disability Inclusion Working Group;

1. Note the Blayney Shire 2022 – 2026 Disability Inclusion Action Plan Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2025.
2. Refer to Council the Blayney Shire 2022 – 2026 Disability Inclusion Action Plan Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2025, for endorsement.

(McMahon/Lane)

CARRIED**PREPARATION OF 2026 - 2030 DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN****2508/003****RESOLVED**

1. That the Disability Inclusion Working Group note the Disability Inclusion and Accessibility Survey, proposed to go live, that will help inform the 2026-2030 Disability Inclusion Action Plan.
2. That Council explore additional avenues to increase community engagement including manual copies for distribution to community groups and service providers .

(McMahon/Scott)

CARRIED**FUNDING OF NEW PROJECTS: ACCESS CONSIDERATIONS****2508/004****RESOLVED**

That future projects have allocation of funding for accessibility considerations included in Stage 1 to ensure all community benefits of the project from the start.

(Lockwood/McMahon)

CARRIED**MILLTHORPE MAINSTREET WORKS****2508/005****RESOLVED**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That members of the public that raised issues regarding slippery surface of the drainage grate be encouraged to report incidents and concerns to Council.

(Scott/Lane)

CARRIED**MEETING CLOSED 6.26PM**

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

The primary role of the Disability Inclusion Working Group is to provide input on Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan developed in accordance with the NSW Disability Inclusion Act (2014) on strategies for Council to:

- develop positive community attitudes and behaviours;
- create liveable communities;
- support access to meaningful employment; and
- improve access to mainstream services through better systems and processes.

Budget Implications:

Activities of the Disability Inclusion Working Group and implementation of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan are incorporated into project planning and within the budget constraints of operational and capital projects.

Enclosures (following report)

- | | | |
|---|--|---------|
| 1 | 2022 – 2026 Disability Inclusion Action Plan Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2025 | 5 Pages |
| 2 | Draft Disability and Accessibility Survey | 9 Pages |

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN 2022 - 2026: ANNUAL REPORT AS AT 30/06/2025

| Community Attitudes and behaviours | | | | | |
|--|---|----------|--|--------------------------|--|
| Strategy | Actions | CSP Ref. | Outcome | Timeframe | Status |
| Improve community attitudes and awareness of access issues and disability inclusion. | Promote access awareness and deliver community education around disability inclusion. | 4.1 | A minimum of two promotional items are to be circulated annually. | Annually | Destination NSW Accessible and Inclusive Webinar series advertised. |
| | Include features in Council's communications to the community about accessibility in and around the Shire. | 4.1 | Include accessibility in at least one community newsletter/Council notices page annually. | Annually | Upgrades to Millthorpe CBD to increase accessibility included in e-newsletter |
| | Funds are allocated for Council's Access Incentive Scheme to improve access to local businesses and community organisation premises. | 3.4 | Annual funds made available in Council's annual Operational Plan. | Annually | Some of the funds were used to assist in obtaining advice for a walkway at Neville Showground. |
| | Promotion and administration of Council's Access Incentive Scheme to improve access to local businesses and community organisation premises with Main Street hospitality outlets prioritised. | 3.4 | Minimum of 2 external advertisements / promotion of program. Minimum of 2 businesses and / or community facilities upgraded each year subject to receipt of applications that satisfy guidelines. | Annually Annually | Information is provided on Council's website Some of the funds were used to assist obtaining advice for a walkway at Neville Showground. |
| | Raise the profile of the DIWG across the Blayney Shire to provide community another avenue to report back | 4.1 | A minimum of 2 articles promoting disability inclusion per annum in GM Conversation and Council Newsletter. | Annually | Promotion occurred through the Expression of Interest promotions and communications, seeking nominations for persons to join the DIWG following September 2024 elections. |
| | Review, update and promote the Missed Business Brochure to local businesses. | 4.1 | Missed Business Brochure updated and promoted to businesses in the Blayney Shire. | Annually | Working Group agreed that alternate solutions to distribution of a hardcopy brochure and promotion on website. Promotion and awareness being undertaken through use of social media platforms. |
| Ensure consultation, support and assistance to local groups and organisations that support and / or advocate on behalf people with a disability. | Work with the Disability Inclusion Working Group to advocate for improved access and inclusion for people living with a disability or lived experience of disability. | 4.1 | The Disability Inclusion Working Group meet at least 2 times per annum. Minutes of Working Group reported to Council meeting. | Ongoing Ongoing | 2 meetings held in 2024/25. Minutes of DIWG meeting tabled to following Council meetings. |
| | Review of DIAP where legislation around disability inclusion changes | 4.1 | Document is updated to reflect any legislative change. | Annually | No changes to legislation. No action required. |
| | Council supports engagement of service providers and advocates through the Blayney Interagency. | 4.1 | Council provides access to a meeting facility and a Council officer in attendance. | Annually | Community Centre facility made available however no success with fostering interest from service providers and NSW Health for forum. |

| Building Liveable Communities | | | | | |
|--|--|----------|--|------------------|---|
| Strategy | Actions | CSP Ref. | Outcome | Timeframe | Status |
| Plan for connected and accessible pedestrian networks in each township. | Implementation of Active Movement Strategy that leads to the provision of suitable pathways. | 4.1 | Active Movement Strategy reviewed and implementation commenced. | Annually | Millthorpe CBD Construction complete which incorporated delivery of new accessible pram ramps. |
| Increase number of continuous accessible paths of travel in town and village centres and to key destinations per Active Movement Strategy. | Implement projects, that include footpaths, road crossings and kerb ramps, identified in the Active Movement Strategy and apply for Grant funding for any other priority accessibility projects. | 4.1 | Delivery of scheduled priorities identified in the Active Movement Strategy. | Annually | Delivery of AMS in accordance with Council Delivery plan. Notably Plumb St and Orange Rd Blayney paths have been completed and Blayney Rotary Lookout project commenced. Council applied for grant funding (NSW) for Blake and George Street footpath connections, however was unsuccessful. |
| Plan and deliver amenities to enable access for all. | Implement a program to improve our accessible public toilets. | 4.1 | Public toilets meet Access to Premises Standards. | Ongoing | No upgrades completed during the period. |
| Plan for infrastructure that is accessible for all. | Encourage universal design in planning of new housing, infrastructure and buildings. | 3.4 | Facilities and infrastructure meet Access to Premises Standards. | Ongoing | Staff obliged to consider Access to Premises Standards in the assessment process |
| | Undertake improvement of accessible parking within Blayney Shire. | 1.1 | 2018 Blayney Shire audit of accessible car parking updated and improvement plan developed. Accessible options investigated including costings for car parks created in or near Gold Street Park Mandurama and within Carcoar. | 2023 2025 | Audit review complete. Recommendations made to Council and incorporated into DP and OP. |
| Increase access and inclusion to Council services and facilities. | A range of online and hard copy resources are provided at the Blayney Library to meet the diversity of needs in community. | 4.4 | Inclusive resources including large print books and audio books available for issue. | Ongoing | Resources available through CWL include large print books, audio books and online resources. Online resources also available to members. |
| | Community Centre is available for accessible activities and events. | 4.4 | Concessional access provided subject to compliant application with Community Financial Assistance policy. | Ongoing | Community Financial Assistance Program promoted to users seeking concessional access and is utilised by a number of community groups. |
| | CentrePoint provides access for all. | 4.1 | Concessional entry NSW Companion Card holders. | Ongoing | Operational Plan adopted with Concessional entry to NSW Companion Card holders in CentrePoint fee structure. |
| | Consider the particular needs of children living with disability in the design, layout and security of parks and playgrounds. | 4.2 | Playgrounds are safe and inclusive. | Annually | Blayney Lookout designed to provide wheelchair access from allocated disability parking to memorial. |

| Building Liveable Communities | | | | | |
|--|--|----------|--|-----------|---|
| Strategy | Actions | CSP Ref. | Outcome | Timeframe | Status |
| Increase participation of people living with a disabilities in events, festivals and activities. | Promote inclusion for events held in the Blayney Shire. | 4.2 | Include and review information about making events accessible in responses to Event Management Applications. | Annually | Accessibility of events promoted to event organisers with responses to Event Management Applications. |
| | Investigate potential solutions for feedback and review of events to assist event organisers to make events more accessible. | 4.2 | Solution for feedback and review of events identified and subject to cost, implemented. | Annually | Undertaken on an as needs basis with event committees. |

| Creating Meaningful Employment Opportunities | | | | | |
|--|--|----------|---|-------------------|--|
| Strategy | Actions | CSP Ref. | Outcome | Timeframe | Status |
| Improve Council employment conditions and opportunities for people living with a disability. | Establish flexible work practices to encourage an inclusive working environment. | 2.1 | Flexible work practices implemented. | Ongoing | Flexible work practices established and promotion of Council as a flexible workplace undertaken as needed and identified. |
| | Provide disability awareness training to staff and Councillors. | 2.4 | Staff and Councillors and have completed training. | Each Council term | A disability awareness course has been sourced and is available to be completed at each participant's own pace and convenience. The course is free of charge and takes approximately 60 to 90 minutes to complete. To be scheduled for completion over the next 12 months. |
| Ensure Council recruitment process is accessible for people living with a disability. | Review and update the recruitment process to ensure it is accessible for people living with a disability. | 2.1 | Review undertaken and improvements made to promote inclusion. | Annually | Completed. |
| | Promotion of Council as an Equal Employment Opportunity employer with all vacancies. | 2.1 | Council positions vacant promote Council as an Equal Employment Opportunity employer. | Ongoing | Completed. The following statement is now included in all position advertisements: Equal Employment Opportunity Blayney Shire Council is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) employer. We value diversity and inclusion and encourage applications from <u>all</u> individuals, including but not limited to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples , people with disability , women , mature-aged applicants , and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds . We are dedicated to creating a respectful, supportive, and inclusive workplace for everyone. |
| Identify opportunities to procure goods and services from businesses in the region who employ people living with a disability. | Review procurement procedure to identify options to procure goods and services from identified businesses. | 2.1 | Procedure reviewed and list developed and used within Council. | 2023 | Completed. Procurement Policy amended in 2023 to include reference to investigation and procurement of goods / services from Australian Disability Enterprises where suitable and practicable. |

| Enhancing Systems and Processes to Improve Access | | | | | |
|--|--|----------|--|-------------|--|
| Strategy | Actions | CSP Ref. | Outcome | Timeframe | Status |
| Ensure Council communication and customer service is accessible to all. | Apply access and inclusion principles to Council's communication channels. | 2.1 | Council communication is accessible. | Ongoing | This occurs on an ongoing basis with relevant projects. |
| | Information is provided in an easy to read and accessible format. | 2.1 | Promotional material presented in an accessible format. | Ongoing | This occurs on an ongoing basis with relevant projects. |
| | Promote Council's implementation of access and inclusion principles and recognise the rights and contribution of people living with a disability in the community. | 4.1 | Promotion of Disability Inclusion Action Plan is undertaken. | Ongoing | This occurs on an ongoing basis with relevant projects. |
| | Ensure website conforms to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines conformance level AA. | 4.1 | Website to conform to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. | Ongoing | The system is established and working as intended. |
| | Council meetings are livestreamed to provide an alternative for attendance at meetings in person. | 2.4 | Council meetings are livestreamed. | Ongoing | Council meetings streamed monthly and accessible from Council's website. Council has implemented a 2nd camera for livestreaming meeting minutes. |
| Ensure a coordinated approach to disability and inclusion is adopted and maintained across all departments of Council. | Staff to be familiar with the Disability Inclusion Action Plan ensuring a coordinated approach to disability inclusion is maintained across the organisation. | 2.1 | Disability Inclusion Action Plan is promoted on Council Intranet. Disability Inclusion Action Plan is circularised for reinforcement and status updates / outcomes. | Semi-annual | DIAP discussed and promoted amongst MANEX and meetings of Directors / Managers. DIAP promoted on Council Intranet Plan circulated amongst responsible officers to update status and outcomes. |
| Ensure recognition of the Disability Inclusion Plan in Council's IP&R documentation. | Council's Disability Inclusion Plan is acknowledged in Council's Delivery Program and Annual Operational Plan. | 2.1 | Council's Delivery Program and Annual Operational Plan includes acknowledgement of Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan. | Annually | Reference to DIAP included in 2025/26 Operational Plan and 2025/26 - 2028/29 Delivery Program, adopted by Council at the June 2025 meeting. |

Acronyms

CS – Corporate Services

CWL – Central West Libraries

ES – Executive Services

IS – Infrastructure Services

PES – Planning and Environmental Services

Survey

1. How old are you? .

☐ 17 or under

☐ 18-24

☐ 25-34

☐ 35-44

☐ 45-54

☐ 55-64

☐ 65-74

☐ 75-84

☐ 85+

2. What is your gender? .

☐ Male

☐ Female

☐ Non-binary

☐ I'd prefer not to say

3. Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin? .

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes, Aboriginal
- ☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander
- ☐ Yes, both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

4. Do you identify with any of the following? .

- ☐ I am hearing impaired
- ☐ I am sight impaired
- ☐ I find it hard to move around easily
- ☐ I find it hard to learn
- ☐ I find it hard to tell people what I need or how I feel
- ☐ I'd prefer not to say
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. Are you any of the following? .

- ☐ Someone with disability
- ☐ A carer (unpaid) of a person with disability
- ☐ A family member or friend of a person with disability
- ☐ An interested member of the community
- ☐ A provider of services to people with disability
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

6. Do you currently use support services? .

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

7. In your opinion what are the **three most important** ways we could help other people understand what it is like to live with disability? *

- ☐ Include people with disability in promotions
- ☐ Promote the achievements of people with disability
- ☐ Hold public events that are accessible
- ☐ Use positive images of people with disability
- ☐ Communicate with the person with disability (rather than just communicate with the carer)
- ☐ Provide training to staff on access, inclusion and communication
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

8. In your opinion what are the **three most important** ways that employment opportunities for people with disability could improve? .

- ☐ Provide flexible working times and places
- ☐ Use inclusive employment processes
- ☐ Provide accessible workplaces
- ☐ Educate other staff and the community
- ☐ Look at existing roles to see how these can be made more inclusive
- ☐ Paid appropriately
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

9. In your opinion what are the **three most important** ways our communications can be improved? .

- ☐ Provide information in different formats
- ☐ Provide hearing loops, touch screens and translation services
- ☐ Provide accessible feedback and complaint processes
- ☐ Promote opportunities to provide feedback
- ☐ Provide accessible communication options in the workplace
- ☐ Keep the communication simple and clear
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

10. What worries you when accessing local shops? .

☐ Steps with no ramp

☐ Understanding signs

☐ Toilets/change rooms

☐ If there will be staff that can help me

☐ Accessible parking

☐ Stairs with no lift available

☐ Understanding information

☐ No cover near disabled parking in poor weather

☐ Uneven footpaths

☐ Other (please specify) _____

11. What are the **top 3** ways access can be made easier? .

- ☐ Provide accessible toilets in all public buildings
- ☐ Provide changing areas and equipment
- ☐ Provide wider footpaths
- ☐ Promote accessible-for-all design
- ☐ Make community programs and events accessible
- ☐ Improve accessible transport to access services
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

12. Does your Council have a Disability Inclusion Working Group or another way for you to give feedback on local accessibility problems? .

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

13. Finish this statement. .

Accessibility in my community is...

☐ Excellent

☐ Good

☐ Average

☐ Poor

☐ Very poor

14. What things in your village / town make you happy? .

15. What things in your village / town are hard for someone living with a disability to do? .

16. Do you think more can be done to improve access in the Blayney Shire? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please outline how:

17. **Optional:** If you would like to be contacted for further community consultations e.g. reference group or projects on accessibility, please enter your contact details below.

07) INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT**Department:** Infrastructure Services**Author:** Director Infrastructure Services**CSP Link:** 3. Infrastructure is resilient, fit for purpose and maintained to support our community**File No:** GO.ME.1

Recommendation:

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

Reason for Report:

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

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

Report:Maintenance works

Since the previous report, patching has been completed on Spring Terrace Road, Charles Booth Way, Carcoar Road, Garland Road, Browns Creek Road, Tallwood Road, Errowanbang Road, Panuara Roads, Forest Reefs Road, Carcoar Dam Road, and Hobbys Yards Road. Patching has also been completed in Mandurama township.

Maintenance grading works have been undertaken on the following roads: Gap Road, Halls Road, Dunstaffnage Road, Westons Lane, Curralea Lane, Nixons Lane, Ripleys Lane, Meribah Road, Convent Lane, Old Errowanbang Road, Boondaroo Road.

No roadside mowing has been undertaken since the previous report, with this program anticipated to recommence early October.

Open Spaces and Facilities

Regular maintenance activities have taken place this month. A number of vacant roles have been interviewed for with experienced new starters expected next month. This will greatly assist with the upcoming mowing season.

New shadesails are currently being manufactured for Heritage Park to replace the missing sections.

Sewer Treatment Plant (STP)

The Sewer Treatment Plant team appear to have resolved the ongoing issue of one aerator cutting out intermittently, the issue being an electrical fault.

Unrelated to this fault, the decanter gearbox has subsequently failed, meaning the team are manually operating the decanter whilst a new solution is designed (the original equipment is no longer available).

Council and Public Works have confirmed the validity of inflow recordings, which were noted to be higher than expected. Public Works have been engaged to conduct a desktop investigation of potential water ingress throughout the network.

Major Projects

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

| Rodd Street Culvert Repairs – Natural Disaster AGRN1034 | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Due Date | Revised Budget YTD \$ | Expenditure this Month \$ | Total Expenditure YTD \$ | Committed Expenditure YTD \$ | Estimated Total Project Costs \$ |
| June 2026 | 408,270 | 92,678 | 101,329 | 288,269 | 330,420 |
| Commentary | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council resolved to enter into contract at the February 2025 meeting. • Contract finalisation and execution was completed on 26 May 2025. Project completion required within 52 weeks of this date. • Management plans and construction program have been approved with construction commencing on 14 July 2025. • Completion of works is now anticipated in October 2025 due to wet weather delays. | | | | | |
| Forecast (1-3 months) | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of in-situ pour headwall on upstream invert. • Reinstatement of mass block wall system on upstream end. • Reinstatement of road pavement. • Removal of bypass track. | | | | | |

| Richards Lane – R4R9 | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Due Date | Revised Budget YTD \$ | Expenditure this Month \$ | Total Expenditure YTD \$ | Committed Expenditure YTD \$ | Estimated Total Project Costs \$ |
| Dec. 2025 | 2,587,673 | 18,269 | 31,766 | 2,321,541 | 2,371,576 |
| Commentary , | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TfNSW has accepted Council's detail design, with formal approval forthcoming. Council has awarded construction of this project. Pre-construction documentation and approvals are currently being prepared for TfNSW and the Project Verifier. Establishment of the intersection can only occur once these are accepted. Approximately 120 letters were delivered on 12 September 2025, notifying nearby residents of the upcoming works which will likely take 3-5 months to complete. | | | | | |
| Forecast (1-3 months) | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Establishment. Construction commencement. | | | | | |

| Hobbys Yards Road | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Due Date | Revised Budget YTD \$ | Expenditure this Month \$ | Total Expenditure YTD \$ | Committed Expenditure YTD \$ | Estimated Total Project Costs \$ |
| June 2026 | 1,009,755 | 3,109 | 3,211 | 124,000 | 957,616 |
| Commentary | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council installed pipes and conducted drainage works last financial year. Council is anticipating commencement early October, pending weather conditions, with completion projected toward the early December. | | | | | |
| Forecast (1-3 months) | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish machine guidance and survey controls. Source quotes via LGP Contract and engage a Contractor for Part-Service stabilisation. Road pavement construction. | | | | | |

| Garland Road - RERRF | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Due Date | Revised Budget YTD \$ | Expenditure this Month \$ | Total Expenditure YTD \$ | Committed Expenditure YTD \$ | Estimated Total Project Costs \$ |
| June 2026 | 761,197 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 755,934 |
| Commentary | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority areas have been scoped for heavy patching on Garland Road. • Final areas will be dependent on rates received for contracted stabilisation works. • Council is anticipating commencement late November, pending weather conditions, with completion forecast in February 2026. | | | | | |
| Forecast (1-3 months) | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise scoping documents. • Source quotes and engage a Contractor for Part-Service stabilisation. | | | | | |

| Tallwood Road – RERRF* | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Due Date | Revised Budget YTD \$ | Expenditure this Month \$ | Total Expenditure YTD \$ | Committed Expenditure YTD \$ | Estimated Total Project Costs \$ |
| June 2026 | 1,574,097 | 14,631 | 16,046 | 23,083 | 1,529,423 |
| <i>*RERRF funding accounts for only \$761,197 of the total budget, the remaining budget is funded from Council's general revenue.</i> | | | | | |
| Commentary | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council is currently scoping and designing the section of Tallwood Road from the most recent heavy patch to Warburtons Lane. • The heavy patch area completed this year will be a portion of this segment. • Council officers are currently designing a 2.5km section of road (CH1825 to CH4315). • It is anticipated that the current budget will enable construction of approximately 60% of this length due to drainage and geotechnical findings. | | | | | |
| Forecast (1-3 months) | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise scoping and design documents. | | | | | |

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:

All works detailed are undertaken within existing budget allocations.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

08) MINUTES OF THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM HELD 12 SEPTEMBER 2025

Department: Infrastructure Services

Author: Director Infrastructure Services

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

File No: TT.ME.1

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Receive and note the minutes of the Blayney Shire Council Local Transport Forum, held Friday, 12 September 2025.
2. Endorse the Traffic Guidance Scheme for the Blayney Twilight Shopping Event, to be held on Friday, 28 November 2025 on Church Street Blayney, as a Class 2 event, subject to the conditions enclosed in this report.
3. Endorse the Millthorpe Market events, to be staged on 7 December 2025 & 29 March 2026 on Redmond Oval as a Class 2 event, subject to the conditions enclosed in this report.
4. Endorse the Traffic Guidance Scheme for the Orange Running Festival, to be held on 15 March 2026 on roads in the vicinity of Forest Reefs and Spring Terrace, in the Orange City LGA, as a Class 2 event, and subject to the conditions enclosed in this report.
5. Endorse installation of “No Stopping” signage either side of the entrance of the Lyndhurst Rural Fire Shed located at 6511 Mid Western Highway, Lyndhurst.

Reason for Report:

For Council to endorse the minutes of the Blayney Shire Council Traffic Committee meeting held 12 September 2025.

MINUTES OF THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM MEETING HELD IN THE CHAMBERS, BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY CENTRE, ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2025, COMMENCING AT 10:05 AM

PRESENT

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

Present: Jacob Hogan (Director Infrastructure Services), Evatt Bourne (Design & Development Engineer), Nikki Smith & Kimmy Palmer (Administration Officers).

APOLOGIES

Reg Rendall (State Member for Bathurst Representative).

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil.

Confirmation of Minutes**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING BLAYNEY SHIRE
COUNCIL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 13 JUNE
2025**

20250912:01

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Blayney Shire Council Traffic Committee Meeting held on 13 June 2025, be confirmed to be a true and accurate record of that meeting.

(Barry/Newstead)

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**Adelaide Street (North)**

Follow up on TfNSW Safe Systems Assessment (SSA). Council advised that TfNSW have provided the SSA. Council and TfNSW to meet to discuss the assessment then provide further information to the next BSC Local Transport Forum to be held in December 2025.

Reports**LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE - NEW DELEGATION
INSTRUMENT****Resolution 2608/022 – From Council Ordinary Meeting
26/08/2025:**

That Council:

1. Note the 2025 Authorisation and Delegation Instrument by Transport for NSW, which replaces the former Local Traffic Committee (LTC) with the Local Transport Forum (LTF).
2. Update meeting practices, procedures and documentation to align the new prescribed naming conventions and functions of the LTF.
3. Convene meetings of the Local Transport Forum on a regular cycle, consistent with the former Local Traffic Committee.
4. Endorse the continuation of the current Councillor appointments: Cr John Newstead (Chairperson) and Cr Karl Hutchings (Alternate Chairperson) of the Local Transport Forum for the balance of their nominated term.

STREET EVENT - BLAYNEY TWILIGHT SHOPPING - 28 NOVEMBER 2025

20250912:02

Recommendation:

That Council endorse the Traffic Guidance Scheme for the Blayney Twilight Shopping Event, to be held on Friday, 28 November 2025 on Church Street Blayney, as a Class 2 event, subject to the conditions detailed in the Director Infrastructure Services' Report with the amendment to include a condition to provide a Road Occupancy Licence (ROL).

(Chaplin/Barry)

STREET EVENT - MILLTHORPE MARKET - 7 DECEMBER 2025 & 29 MARCH 2026 (IAPP/94555)

20250912:03

Recommendation:

That Council endorse the Millthorpe Market events, to be staged on 7 December 2025 & 29 March 2026 on Redmond Oval as a Class 2 event, subject to the conditions detailed in the Director Infrastructure Services' Report.

(Newstead/Barry)

STREET EVENT - ORANGE RUNNING FESTIVAL - 15 MARCH 2026

20250912:04

Recommendation:

That Council endorse the Traffic Guidance Scheme for the Orange Running Festival, to be held on 15 March 2026 on roads in the vicinity of Forest Reefs and Spring Terrace, in the Orange City LGA, as a Class 2 event, and subject to the conditions detailed in the Director Infrastructure Services' Report.

(Chaplin/Newstead)

SIGNAGE - LYNDHURST FIRE SHED - MID WESTERN HIGHWAY - "NO STOPPING"

20250912:05

Recommendation:

That Council install "No Stopping" signage either side of the entrance of the Lyndhurst Rural Fire Shed located at 6511 Mid Western Highway, Lyndhurst.

(Newstead/Chaplin)

Traffic Register**TRAFFIC REGISTER**

Nil.

General Business

REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMEMORATION SERVICE - 11 NOVEMBER 2025

Actions: For noting.

MILLTHORPE GARDEN RAMBLE - 1 AND 2 NOVEMBER 2025

Actions: For noting.

SPRING INTO ART - NEWBRIDGE NSW - 17-19 OCTOBER 2025

Actions: For noting.

MILLFEST - 7 FEBRUARY 2025 (IAPP/89128)

Actions: For noting.

INFORMAL MATTERS

Nil.

FUTURE MEETING DATES - 2025

5 December 2025

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 10:23.

Enclosures (following report)

| | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Conditions - Twilight Shopping | 1 Page |
| 2 | TGS - Twilight Shopping | 1 Page |
| 3 | Conditions - Millthorpe Markets | 1 Page |
| 4 | TGS - Millthorpe Markets | 1 Page |
| 5 | Conditions - Orange Running Festival | 1 Page |
| 6 | TGS - Orange Running Festival | 1 Page |

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

Street Event - Blayney Twilight Shopping - 28 November 2025

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 Traffic Committee 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 "Guide to Traffic and Transport Management for Special Events" (version 3.5) dated 1 July 2018, 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.
- q. The Event Organiser to provide a TfNSW Road Occupancy Licence (ROL).

TWILIGHT SHOPPING EVENT BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL 28.11.2025

| ITEM | YES | NO | N/A |
|--|-----|----|-----|
| Ganger has TCP on hand | | | |
| Spacing of signs as per TCP | | | |
| Traffic Controller has escape route | | | |
| On site variations noted on plan | | | |
| All signs and Traffic Controller clearly visible | | | |
| Pedestrian safety addressed | | | |
| Public vehicle movement addressed | | | |

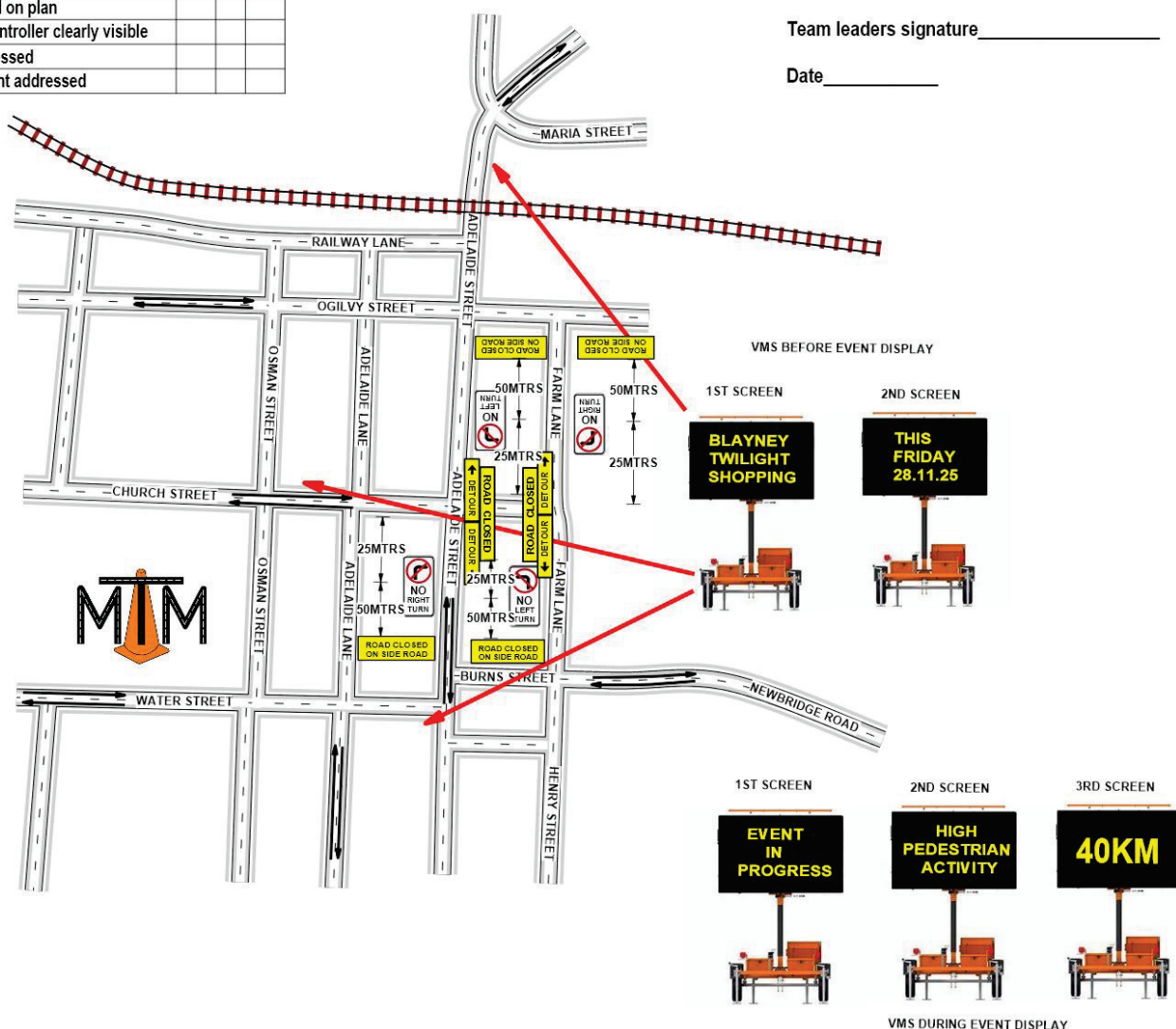
Time on _____ Time off _____

Signs checked _____ am _____ am

_____ pm _____ pm

Team leaders signature _____

Date _____



Date: 30.7.2025 Author: Amanda Baker Project: Blayney Shire Council - Twilight Shopping Event - Adelaide Street - Blayney

Comments:

T.G.S # 031020246C

A Twilight Shopping Event is to take place in Adelaide Street / Mid Western Highway - Blayney.

The Event is to start from 3pm and continue through to 8pm on Friday 28th November 2025.

Existing Shops on Adelaide Street are to have market stalls, music and run promotions during the event.

3 x VMS Units are to be setup to notify the public of event from Tuesday 25th November 2025 in the following locations -

1 - Adelaide Street just South of Maria Street at the Rail Crossing

2 - Adelaide Street just North of Water Street

3 - Church Street just West of Adelaide Lane

Adelaide Street / Mid Western Highway is a permanent posted speed limit of 40km/hr.

Church Street is to be closed to motorists for the duration of the event between Mid Western Highway and Henry Street.

Signage to be setup as per T.G.S

If site conditions are not suitable signs can be extended 25% and lessened

10%. T.G.S Modifications must only be made by a person that holds a current Prepare a Workzone Ticket and must document any changes made due to unsuitable conditions on T.G.S



MIDWEST TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Street Event - Millthorpe Market - 7 December 2025 & 29 March 2026

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

- a. The Event Organiser shall obtain approval from NSW Police, with submission of a Notice of Intention to Hold a Public Assembly (via chifleyrms@police.nsw.gov.au), in accordance with the Summary Offences Act 1988, and a copy provided to Blayney Shire Council, prior to the event.
- b. The Event Organiser shall obtain a Road Occupancy Licence, in accordance with the Roads Act 1993 (s144) from Transport for NSW, with a copy provided to Blayney Shire Council, prior to the event.
- c. Council shall be provided with an up-to-date copy of a 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 3.5) dated 1 July 2018, 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.

MILLTHORPE MARKETS 6TH APRIL 2025 EVENT

| ITEM | YES | NO | N/A |
|--|-----|----|-----|
| Ganger has TCP on hand | | | |
| Spacing of signs as per TCP | | | |
| Traffic Controller has escape route | | | |
| On site variations noted on plan | | | |
| All signs and Traffic Controller clearly visible | | | |
| Pedestrian safety addressed | | | |
| Public vehicle movement addressed | | | |

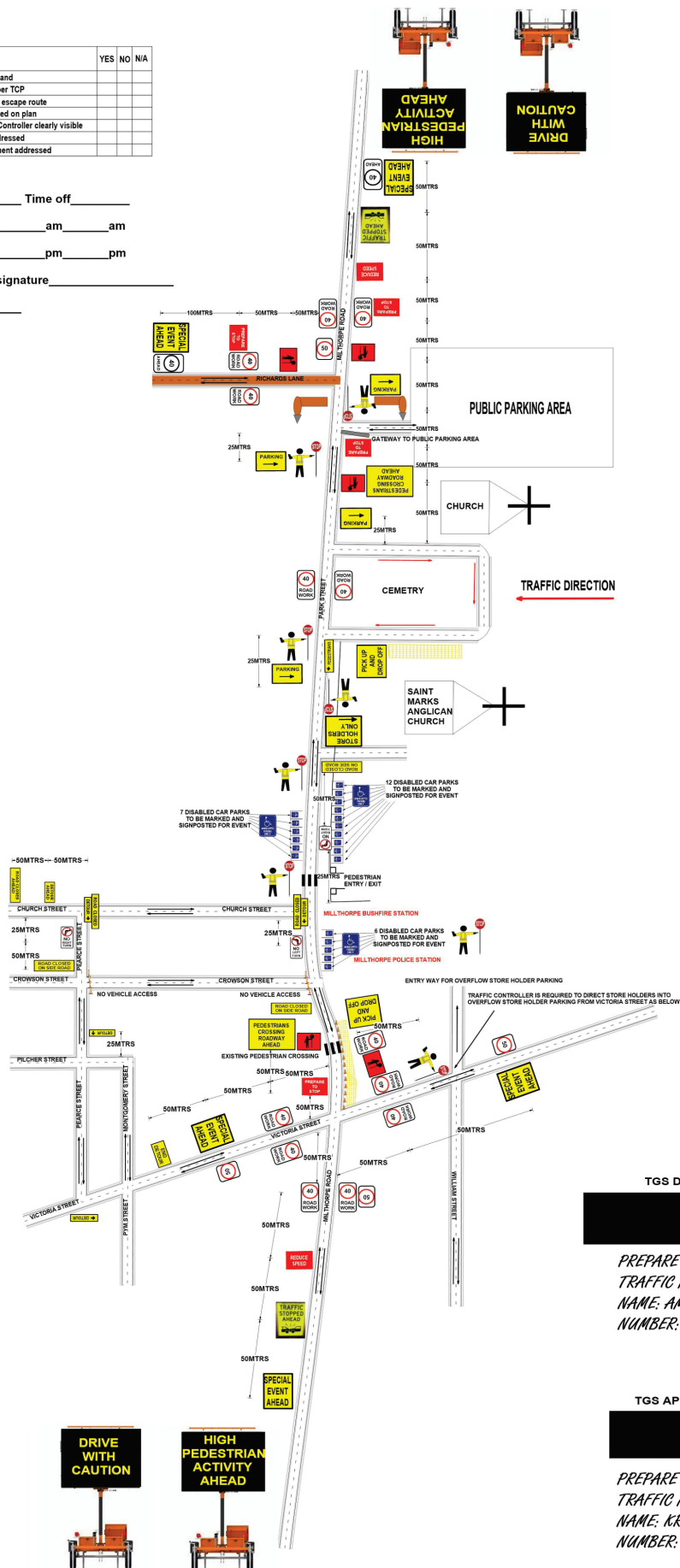
Time on _____ Time off _____

Signs checked _____ am _____ am

_____ pm _____ pm

Team leaders signature _____

Date _____



TGS DESIGNER

PREPARE A WORKZONE
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN
NAME: AMANDA BAKER
NUMBER: TGT0003579

TGS APPROVER

PREPARE A WORKZONE
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN
NAME: KRISTY MORGAN
NUMBER: TGT0041442



Date: 5.12.2024 Author: Amanda Baker Project: Millthorpe Markets - Special Event - Park Street - Millthorpe

Comments:

T.G.S. 051220241A - 6.4.2025

Parking Area's for General Public are to be sign posted and controlled via Traffic Controllers on Park Road.

There are to be 3 designated Disabled Parking area's as pictured above and spaces are to be managed.

Church Street is to be closed for East Bound Traffic with a Detour in place.

A designated Pedestrian Crossing area is to be established North of Church Street and is to be controlled with the use of a Traffic Controller.

There are to be 2 designated and sign posted Drop Off / Pick Up zones.

A Traffic Controller is to be utilised in Victoria Street across from William Street to direct and control Overflow Store Holders entering event area from roadway.

The speed limit is to be reduced to 40km/hr through the whole event area as shown above.

2 x VMS Units are to be on display on Park Street with 2 messages notifying all traffic to drive with caution and high pedestrian activity ahead.

The Site is to be setup as per TGS.

Please Note - All signs are to be setup in accordance with the TCAWM V6.

All corotatory speed signage must be covered.

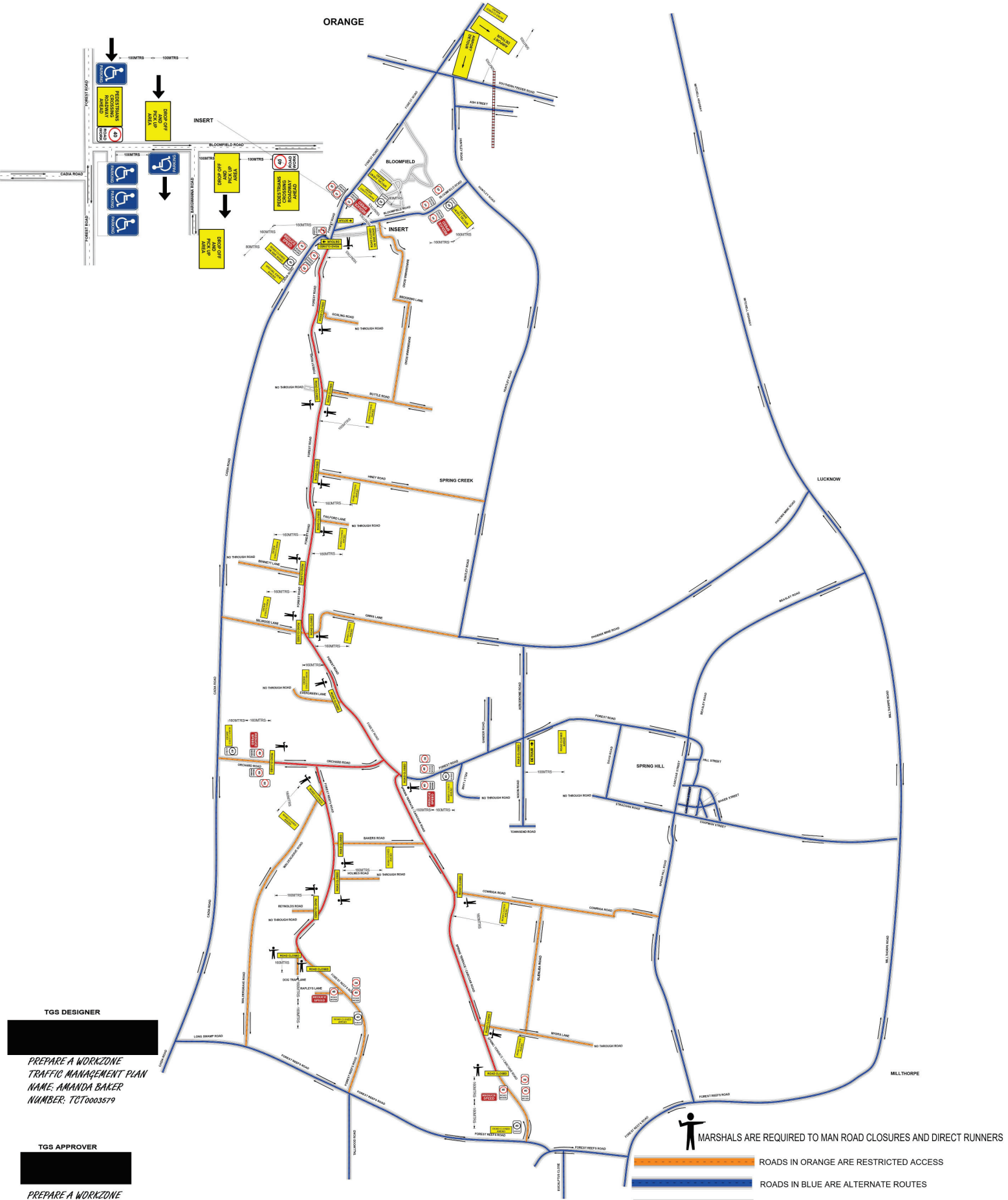
If changes need to be made on site a qualified PWZ - Prepare Work Zone Staff member must record them on TGS

MIDWEST TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Street Event - Orange Running Festival - 15 March 2026

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

- a. The Event Organiser shall obtain approval from NSW Police, with submission of a Notice of Intention to Hold a Public Assembly (via chifleyrms@police.nsw.gov.au), in accordance with the Summary Offences Act 1988, and a copy provided to Blayney Shire Council, prior to the event.
- b. 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 events.
- 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 Traffic Committee for approval prior to the event.
- d. All Traffic Guidance Scheme (TGS) must be implemented by appropriately qualified persons. Arrangements and marshalling points are to be in terms of the plan submitted.
- e. All personnel carrying out traffic control duties must hold a Transport for NSW authorised traffic controller's ticket.
- f. Council shall be provided with a Risk Assessment and a Risk Management Plan prior to the event commencing.
- g. Event Marshals, Traffic Controllers and participants must be consulted and advised of the risk management and contingency arrangements in case of an emergency.
- h. The Event Organiser must inform all relevant persons involved in the organisation of the event of the Conditions of Approval.
- i. The Event Organiser is to notify all Emergency Services of the event and associated road closures, including Orange Base Hospital.
- j. The Event Organiser shall conduct a letter drop to affected residents and businesses advising of the event for all affected roads and advising the contact details of the Event Organiser to obtain an escort vehicle a minimum 7 days prior to the event.
- k. The Event Organisers shall provide access for road users along Spring Terrace Road, and Forest Reefs Road up to the Road Closure points.
- l. Marshalls/volunteers shall not restrict access to road users seeking to access residences or businesses along Spring Terrace Road, Forest Reefs Road, and Rapleys Lane up to the Road Closure point.
- m. 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 Village Voice.
- n. The Event Organiser is to comply with the requirements of the "Guide to Traffic and Transport Management for Special Events" (version 4) dated 1 July 2024, for a Class 2 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.



TGS DESIGNER

PREPARE A WORKZONE
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN
NAME: AMANDA BAKER
NUMBER: TCT0003579

TGS APPROVER

PREPARE A WORKZONE
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN
NAME: KRISTY MORGAN
NUMBER: TCT0004142

- MARSHALS ARE REQUIRED TO MAN ROAD CLOSURES AND DIRECT RUNNERS
- ROADS IN ORANGE ARE RESTRICTED ACCESS
- ROADS IN BLUE ARE ALTERNATE ROUTES
- ROADS IN RED ARE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC
- AN ESCORT VEHICLE IS TO BE ON SITE TO ESCORT LOCAL RESIDENTS THROUGH CLOSED ROADS SAFELY WITHOUT DANGER TO RUNNERS.
- TWO FLASHING BEACON LIGHTS AND A ESCORT VEHICLE SIGN SHALL BE FITTED TO ESCORT VEHICLE AND SHALL BE IN USE WHEN ESCORTING

Date: 4.6.2025 Author: Amanda Baker Project: Orange Running Festival 2026

Comments:
T.G.S # 250720241A
The Orange Running Festival event is to be held on 14th and 15th March 2026.
Road Closures are to be in place on selected roads throughout Orange City Council and Cabonne Council areas to accommodate for the festival.
The Roads marked in Red are the roads planned for closure.
Four distances are to be carried out during the day at different stages in the morning (please see course maps)
Marshalls are required to man main road closures and are to advise motorists of closed roads and alternate routes available or are to contact the Escort Vehicle to escort motorists safely through the site.
All Marshalls are required to have a hand held two radio to allow them to speak with other Marshalls around the course to keep updated of participants progress / position on the course and to speak with escort vehicle.
All affected Residents have been notified of Escort Vehicle procedure - Residents have been notified to wait at their property gates until escort vehicle arrives to safely escort them through closed roads.
Site is to be packed down at the end of the event and the closed roads are to be re-opened to the general public.
Airport Detour Signage must be displayed on approach to the Forest Rd/SFR Intersections and the Intersection of Huntley Rd and SFR.
Site is to be setup as per T.G.S.

09) DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PERFORMANCE 2024/25**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 2024/25 be received and noted.

Reason for Report:

This report provides an overview and analysis of Council's development assessment performance for the 2024/25 year as measured by the NSW Government's Planning League Table.

Report:

The Minister for Planning and Public Spaces issued a Ministerial Order of Expectations in July 2024 requiring that all NSW Councils meet certain development assessment targets.

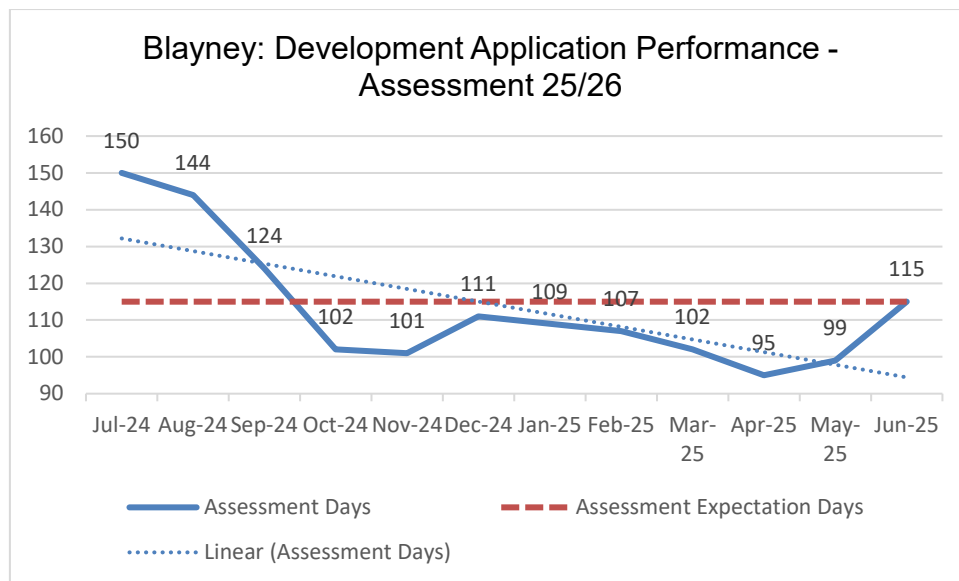
For Blayney Shire Council, this included an expectation that development applications be determined, on average, within 115 days. The Order sequentially reduces this target as follows:

- 105 days from 1 July 2025;
- 95 days from 1 July 2026; and
- 85 days from 1 July 2027.

To support the Ministerial Expectations Order, the Department of Planning introduced **League Tables** showing how each council performance against the benchmark targets. This report details Council's performance for the 2024/25 year.

Table 1: Blayney Development Application Performance - *Assessment*

| Expectation Days | Average Assessment Days | Number of applications assessed | Number of applications meeting expectation | % of applications meeting expectation |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 115 | 115 | 85 | 68 | 80% |



Graph 1

Blayney met the 115 expectation days target for the 2024/25 year on average. With 80% of individual applications assessed, meeting the 115 expectation days target.

Graph 1 shows, Council started the year off above the 115 expectation days target, but then worked for the majority of the year below the 115 days target and finished the year right on the 115 days target.

The upward trend over May 25 and June 25 is attributed to the campaign to complete 'historic' and 'long term' applications. This upward spike has continued into the first months of 2025/26 and will reflect in next year's report.

Given a number of older and lingering applications have now been dealt with, reduced days are anticipated. The recent review of delegations should also allow some reduction in assessment days.

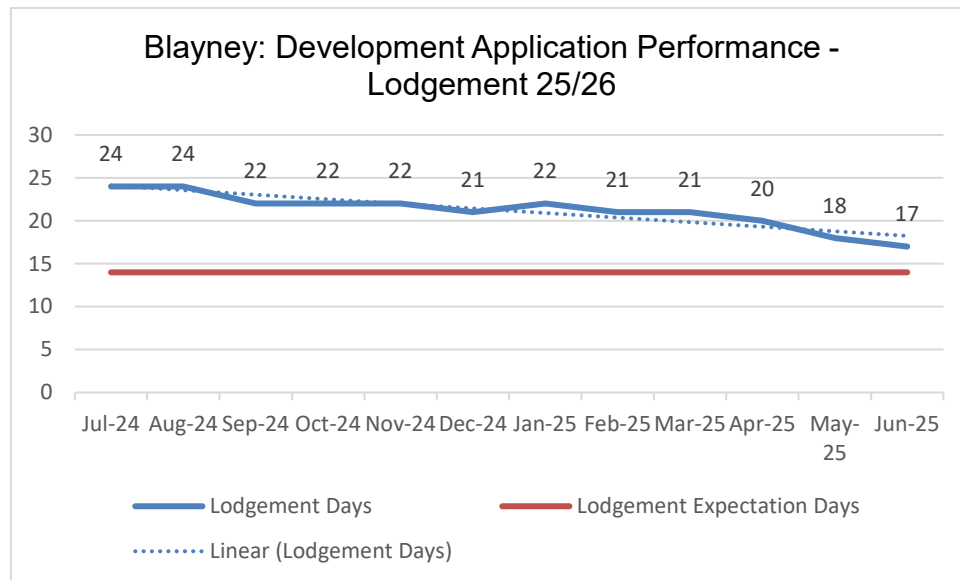
The Ministers Order also includes an expectation in relation to lodgement days. This refers to the date from the initial submission of an application for 'adequacy assessment' on the NSW Planning Portal to when the application is accepted as being formally lodged.

The expected days are:

- From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025: 14 days from submission
- From 1 July 2025 onwards: 7 days from submission.

Table 2: Blayney Development Application Performance – Lodgement 2024/2025

| Expectation Days | Average lodgement Days | Number of applications lodged | Number of applications meeting expectation | % of applications meeting expectation |
|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 14 | 17 | 74 | 42 | 57% |



Lodgement days have not been the subject of focus from Council staff to date. The greater focus has tended to be getting an application that is of a standard that can be assessed.

It has been necessary reject some applications, where the preference has historically been a tendency to accept those applications, which assisted applicants but hindered Council. In the 2025/26 year the target days will reduce to 7 which may be a challenge.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

The provisions of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 govern the assessment and determination processes for DAs.

Budget Implications:

Nil

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

10) REPORT OF THE CENTRAL NSW JOINT ORGANISATION BOARD MEETING HELD 31 JULY 2025

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.3

Recommendation:

That Council note the report from the Mayor on the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) Board Meeting held 31 July 2025.

Reason for Report:

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

Report:

Please find enclosed report from the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting held 31 July 2025 in Parkes.

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

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Nil

Budget Implications:

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

Enclosures (following report)

1 CNSWJO report and minutes 31 July 2025

13 Pages

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

Report from the Mayor attending the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting on 31 July 2025 in Parkes

Please find following, advice from the recent meeting of the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board held in Parkes on 31 July 2025.

Delegates were welcomed to Parkes by Parkes Shire Council Mayor, Cr Neil Westcott. Speakers to the Board meeting were Mr Simon Bourke, General Manager – Advocacy and New Zealand Australasian Railway Association, Ms Julia Andrews – Director of Regional Government Relations, Charles Sturt University, and Ms Kate Barker – Interim Executive Officer, CNSWJO who provided a presentation on the draft Strategic Plan and Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities 2025-2029.

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



Image: The CNSWJO Board and regional peak agencies at the meeting in Parkes on 31 July 2025

Advocacy

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

Mayors have advised that they would like the CNSWJO to develop a Regional Community Benefit Sharing Framework to support member councils to have informed and timely discussions with developers on renewable developments. A number of councils in the Central NSW region have been identified for future renewable energy developments including Bathurst, Lithgow, Oberon, Orange and Cabonne which have State forests earmarked for significant wind farm developments. As such, the Board approved CNSWJO to develop a regional framework.

In light of the recent postponement of the Federal Parliament visit, input was sought from the Board on alternate and additional options for engaging with Ministers.

Submissions seeking endorsement were:

- [Net Zero Commission – 2025 Consultation](#),
- [NSW Health – Draft MPS Strategy](#),
- [AEMO – Proposed Type 9 Metering Approach Under Flexible Trading Arrangements 2025](#),
- [IPART – Draft WAMC Pricing](#), and
- [Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety - Inquiry into the interventions to reduce road trauma in regional NSW caused by speeding, fatigue, drink and drug driving](#).

Media releases issued in the past quarter were:

- [Media Release – MoU with Skillset](#)
- [JONZA Round 3 funding – media release](#)
- [CNSWJO urges member councils to encourage community feedback on Transport Plan](#)
- [No relief in sight from the Federal Budget for cash strapped councils](#)
- [Federal Government’s aspirations for regional communities needs to just add water](#)
- [Nuclear or not nuclear is the wrong question](#)
- [Central NSW Councils take action on disaster preparedness with \\$743k in funding](#)
- [Collaborating for a better workforce](#)
- [Central NSW receives Grant to support councils working together towards Net Zero](#)

Strategic Plan and Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP) 2025-2029 Report

Delegates to the Board meeting were provided an update on the progress of the development of the [Strategic Plan and Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities \(SSRP\) 2025-2029](#). Under the Local Government Act, Joint Organisations are required to renew their SSRP with each new term of the Board.

Over the past 10 months, the review of the Strategic Plan and SSRP has been underway with various opportunities for engagement with members and key stakeholders. This engagement has led to the refinement of the 7 key priorities of the Board, including:

- Priority One: Leveraging our reputation and strength in collaboration
- Priority Two: Regional Prosperity through better connected infrastructure and services
- Priority Three: Improved and fit-for-purpose infrastructure and services in health and ageing
- Priority Four: Telecommunications
- Priority Five: Regional Transport Planning and Infrastructure Prioritisation
- Priority Six: Regional Water Security and Productive Water
- Priority Seven: Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

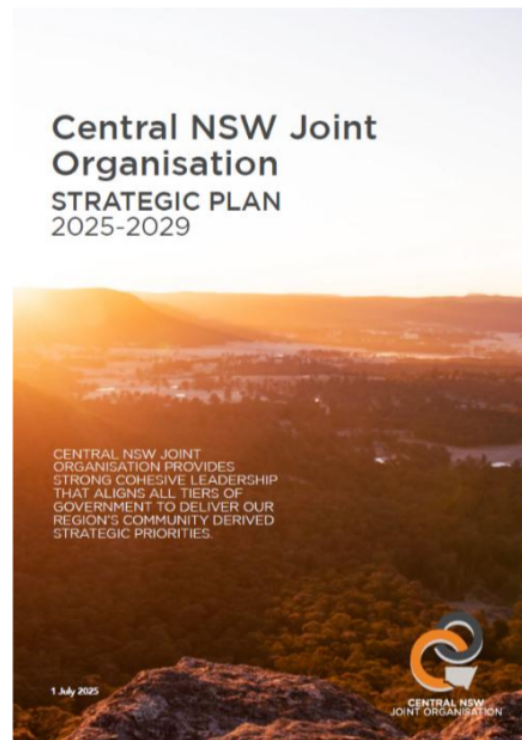
Under each of these priorities is a series of sub-priorities which then inform the Action Plan.

The Strategic Plan and SSRP are informed by the 11 member councils' Community Strategic Plans (CSPs), the Local Strategic Planning Statements (LSPSs) and the CNSWJO Social and Environmental Scan.

The Board agreed to place the [Draft Strategic Plan and SSRP 2025-2029](#) on exhibition for 30 days. Feedback is sought until **Friday 5 September 2025**, and details can be found on the CNSWJO website.

A further requirement of the SSRP review process is to adopt an organisational structure in line with the SSRP. A report will be provided to the November meeting with organisational structure advice.

CNSWJO staff have also conducted a [Community Strategic Plan Environmental Scan](#) which pulls together the priorities from all member councils to identify commonalities and ensure all major aspects are incorporated into the SSRP.



Operational support for councils- highlights

CNSWJO provides a substantial program of operational support to members through 18 regional operational teams of council staff. The CNSWJO continues to deliver a significant return on investment each year.

Regional Procurement and Contract Management

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

Regional Resilience Program Report

An update was provided on:

- the commencement of the Regional Resilience Group including governance arrangement,
- an update on the Integrated Preparedness project funded through Disaster Ready Fund Round 2, and
- NSW Reconstruction Authority (NSWRA) Community Consequences of Infrastructure Assessment pilot and Regional Disaster Adaptation Plan update.

The Regional Resilience Group has been established and has met twice. It includes representatives from all 11 member councils and NSWRA and also functions as the Project Control Group for the Integrated Preparedness Project funded through the Disaster Ready Fund Round 2.

NSWRA has also advised that the DAP Guidelines have been approved by the Minister, and have been released since the meeting of the Board. It is expected that the Regional DAP development for Central West will begin later this year.

Regional Prosperity

Delegates to the Board meeting were provided an update on activity in the areas of:

- Skills shortages
- Housing shortages
- Tourism marketing
- Planning
- Collaborations with Skillset, Regional Development Australia – Central West and the Regional Australia Institute
- Future Jobs and Investment Authority.

A review of tourism marketing is underway by the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) Tourism Marketing Sub-committee and a report on this will be provided in due course.

Collaboration with Skillset

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Skillset was signed on 11 June. A follow up meeting was held between CNSWJO staff and the Executive of Skillset on 4 July to discuss opportunities to work together to grow the regions' workforce, address critical skills shortages and to support essential workers who have recently moved to the area with navigating housing, schooling and other services.



Chair of the CNSWJO and Mayor of Cabonne, Cr Kevin Beatty and the Chair of Skillset, Mr David Cooke

Transport

Updates were provided to the Board on the following:

- CNSWJO Transport Technical Committee, including the Regional Freight Strategy project plan,
- IPWEA Local Roads Congress held in early June at NSW Parliament House, and
- Master Access Deed negotiations.

The CNSWJO Transport Technical Committee (TTC) has continued to progress priority projects identified earlier this year, with the Regional Freight Strategy confirmed as the priority.

Water

Delegates to the Board meeting were provided an update on:

- Regional Water Loss Management and Efficiency Hub Project
- University of Sydney Major Industry Project Placement Scheme
- Water Quality- Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)
- Transitioning Local Water Utility Strategic Planning to Integrated Planning and Reporting
- Regional Water Strategies – Macquarie-Castlereagh progress on actions
- 2025-2026 NSW State Budget for secure water.

Of note is the granting by NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) of an additional \$400k for the CNSWJO's work in water loss management (WLM) and water efficiency. This is a variation to funding of \$500k previously provided to implement the WLM program co-designed in phase 1 within member councils operations and to extend the program into the Western Councils and the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) regions. This variation extends the grant funded program until 30 June 2027. In total the region has been successful in securing \$1.8M for this program since 2022.

A Regional Water Loss Management Group meets monthly to support the implementation of the Local Steps to Success and Regional Support Program recommended in the Final Report from phase 1. Supporting the embedment of WLM practices within business-as-usual operations, this group is also working on water efficiency initiatives in partnership with member councils and the DCCEEW Water

Efficiency team utilising tools developed for state-wide application. The CNSWJO Water Utilities Alliance is leading the state in this work with growing interest from other Local Water Utilities in the approach being taken.

Good news for the region in the 2025-26 NSW State Budget was commitment of \$27M for repair and restoration of water and sewer infrastructure for Parkes, Lachlan, Cabonne and Central Tablelands Water damaged by severe weather and flooding in 2022.

The \$7.8M noted in the 2025-2026 Budget for the Belubula Water Security project is the existing funding committed for the business case due to be completed in 2026. Aside from these investments funding for water infrastructure is constrained in the state budget.

Energy

CNSWJO has been successful in receiving \$243k in funding under JONZA Round 3 and an additional \$200k as a variation to JONZA Round 3, funded by the NSW EPA. Both are 18-month programs until December 2026.

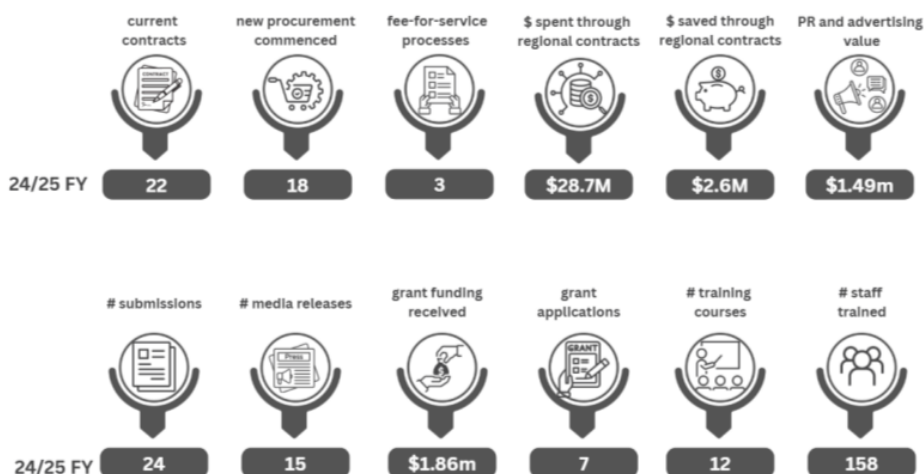
JONZA Round 3 will focus on:

- Distributed Energy Resources (on site solar and battery)
- Energy security, capacity and affordability
- Emissions reduction, particularly around landfill
- Fleet transition
- Data and cost savings
- Collaboration
- Advocacy

Member councils participating in the aggregated procurement process for the supply of electricity for small market sites have recently signed a 4.75 year contract with AGL. This contract was procured when there was a dip in the volatile electricity market, and sees Councils save 15.6% when compared to the alternate contract that they would have otherwise been purchasing from. This will save councils an estimated \$204k in FY26.

Value to Council

Value is consistently measured and reported to the Board. The following graphic shows the value across 12 quantitative metrics:



80% of CNSWJO resources are dedicated to providing its operational support program. For the 2023/2024 year this program delivered an average return on investments of 9.3:1 for every dollar members spent on JO membership fees. The indicative ROI for 2024/2025 is 6.38:1. This value is made up of grant income, monies saved through the CNSWJO procurement program and public relations value from its tourism marketing. The main reason for the reduction in ROI from 2023/2024 to 2024/2025 is that the comparative large sites electricity contract concluded on 31 December 2024 and therefore savings for the latter 6 months of the financial year could not be calculated.

The work that CNSWJO does in writing submissions, media, supporting projects and project teams, developing collateral and providing opportunities for members in various forums to represent their views, is not included in the above ROI figure. However, this value is reported quarterly to the Board. Please go to the CNSWJO website to review past [Board agendas](#) or to review last year's [Annual Statement](#).

Attachments

1. Draft Minutes of the CNSWJO Board meeting 31 July 2025

Draft Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting on 31 July held in Parkes**Voting delegates**

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Cr R Taylor | Bathurst Regional Council | Cr S Ring | Lithgow City Council |
| Cr B Reynolds | Blayney Shire Council | Cr K Graham | Oberon Council |
| Cr K Beatty | Cabonne Council | Cr T Mileto | Orange City Council |
| Cr P Smith | Cowra Shire Council | Cr Neil 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 | Cr B Fry | CTWA |
| Mr B Byrnes | Cabonne Council | Mr M Jones | CTWA |
| Mr P Devery | Cowra Shire Council | Ms R Fagan | RDACW |
| Cr Chris Roylance | Forbes Shire Council | Mr J Gordon | RDACW |
| Mr G Tory | Lachlan Shire Council | Ms K Annis-Brown | NSW OLG |
| Mr R Gurney | Lithgow City Council | Ms G Collins | NSW Premier's Dept |
| Mr G Wallace | Oberon Council | Ms K Barker | CNSWJO |
| Mr D Waddell | Orange City Council | Ms M Macpherson | CNSWJO |
| Mr K Boyd PSM | Parkes Shire Council | Ms J Webber | CNSWJO |
| Mr L Sheehan | Weddin Shire Council | Ms C Griffin | CNSWJO |
| | | | |

*Acting General Manager

*Voting members in **bold**

1. Meeting opened at 10.00 am, Chaired by Cr K Beatty
2. **Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome to Parkes from Cr Neil Westcott**
3. **Apologies**
Cr C Coleman, Cr A McKibbin, Mr S Loane, Mr R Jane, Mr C Harris

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 3

Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller

Seconded: Cr Steve Ring

That the apologies for the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting 31 July 2025 listed above be accepted.

CARRIED

4. Conflicts of Interest**RESOLUTION 25/07 – 4**

Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds

Seconded: Cr Steve Ring

No conflicts of interest were declared.

CARRIED

5. Speakers

- **Mr Simon Bourke, General Manager – Advocacy and New Zealand Australasian Railway Association**
General overview of the ARA and strategic priorities and key activities
- **Ms Julia Andrews, Director of Regional Government Relations**
CSU Update and challenging disparities facing regional universities
- **Ms Kate Barker – Interim Executive Officer, CNSWJO**
Presentation on the draft Strategic Plan and Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities 2025-2029.
The Board provided verbal feedback in relation to the draft SSRP.

The Board resolved to move item 8c forward.

Moved: Cr Tony Mileto

Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

8c Strategic Plan and Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP) 2025-2029 Report

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8c

Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller

Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Strategic Plan and Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP) Report and

1. adopt the draft Strategic Plan and Statement of Strategic Regional Priorities (SSRP) and place on exhibition for a period of 30 days,
2. provide a copy of the draft Strategic Plan and SSRP to all Councillors and key stakeholders seeking feedback during the exhibition period,
3. note the opportunities for engagement to date and in the future in relation to the development of the SSRP,
4. adopt the CNSWJO Communications and Engagement Plan,
5. adopt the CNSWJO Community Strategic Plan (CSP) Environmental Scan,
6. receive a report to the November meeting regarding the JO organisational structure in line with the SSRP,
7. note the substantive and interim organisational structures,
8. note the review and update of the individual and regional 'Placemats' will take place over the coming months through the IP&R Group and other key stakeholders,
9. include a new action in the Action Plan within the SSRP before it is placed on exhibition for 7.2.1 c) being 'Advocate to recognise snow and drought as a primary hazard in the State Disaster Mitigation Plan (SDMP) and funding frameworks', and
10. GMAC review the risk matrix and provide a report to the next Board meeting.

CARRIED

6. Minutes

6a Confirmation of the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting dated 29 May 2025 held in Orange

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 6a

Moved: Cr John Medcalf

Seconded: Cr Steve Ring

That the Minutes of the CNSWJO Board Meeting held 29 May 2025 held in Orange were accepted.

CARRIED

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

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 6b

Moved: Cr John Medcalf
Seconded: Cr Steve Ring

With the July meeting of GMAC being held on the same day that the Board agenda and business papers are due to be provided to the Board, the minutes from the July GMAC meeting will be provided to the Board for noting at the November Board meeting, along with the October GMAC meeting minutes.

CARRIED

7. Business Arising from the Minutes- Matters in Progress

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 7

Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller
Seconded: Cr Paul Best

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

CARRIED

Cr Miller noted that she is a Board member of LGP.

8a Financial Report

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8a

Moved: Cr John Medcalf
Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Financial Report and updated budget for 2025/2026.

CARRIED

8b Advocacy Report

RESOLUTION 25/05 – 8b

Moved: Cr John Medcalf
Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Advocacy Report and

1. endorse the future structure of the Opt-In Advocacy Mayors Subcommittee to be:
 - a. the Subcommittee remains opt-in,
 - b. meetings to be informal with no formal reporting or decision making,
 - c. notes will be provided rather than minutes,
 - d. Mayors can raise emerging issues and provide input into the reports to the next Board meeting,
 - e. the Opt-In Advocacy Mayors Subcommittee should meet once per quarter between meetings of the Board (i.e. 6 weeks either side) rather than monthly, and
 - f. Chairs of Central Tablelands Water and Central Tablelands Weeds Authority be invited,
2. confirm the role of the Portfolio Mayor Groups is to support CNSWJO staff to review advocacy plans and provide ad hoc advice and guidance around submissions and other emerging issues as needed, to be reviewed once a new Executive Officer is appointed,
3. endorse Cr Tony Mileto as a Portfolio Mayor for the regional water priority,
4. provide advice on alternate and additional ways to engage with Ministers at both the State and Federal level,
5. write to Mr Phil Donato MP and Mr Roy Butler MP requesting them to host the upcoming State Parliament House visit on 13 November 2025,
6. note the final report from the Select Committee on Remote, Rural and Regional Health – The implementation of recommendations relating to cross-jurisdictional health reform and government consultation with remote, rural and regional communities and that the Portfolio

Mayors work with CNSWJO staff to update the Health Advocacy Plan to incorporate the Select Committee's relevant findings and recommendations,

7. endorse the following modifications to wording in the Water Advocacy Plan in relation to the Belubula Water Security Project:
 - a. 3. A multi-source approach that considers Triple Bottom Line (TBL) principles is needed to better manage critical town water for business as usual and in an emergency. This includes:
 - 3.1 Finalisation of the business case for the Belubula Water Security Project, including raising the Lake Rowlands Dam wall and **supported by** a 10-kilometre bi-directional pipeline between Lake Rowlands and Carcoar Dam, and
 - b. Leverage the region's water security work to develop regional **town** water supply **infrastructure** in partnership with the NSW and Federal Governments,
8. approve the development of a Regional Community Benefit Sharing Framework for member councils, including leveraging the JO Chairs' Forum where possible for this work,
9. endorse the following submissions:
 - a. Net Zero Commission – 2025 Consultation,
 - b. NSW Health – Draft MPS Strategy,
 - c. AEMO – Proposed Type 9 Metering Approach Under Flexible Trading Arrangements 2025,
 - d. IPART – Draft WAMC Pricing, and
 - e. Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety - Inquiry into the interventions to reduce road trauma in regional NSW caused by speeding, fatigue, drink and drug driving.

CARRIED

8d Procurement Report

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8d

Moved: Cr Paul Best

Seconded: Cr Phyllis Miller

That the Board note the Regional Procurement and Contracts Report and

1. approve the updates to the procurement plan, and
2. approve the Modern Slavery Annual Report for the CNSWJO.

CARRIED

8e Regional Resilience Program Report

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8e

Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds

Seconded: Cr Tony Mileto

That the Board note the Regional Resilience Program Report and

1. endorse the Regional Resilience Group Terms of Reference and Plan on a Page, and
2. include risk #62 into the risk management plan: third-party handling of sensitive infrastructure data in externally led projects.

CARRIED

8f Regional Prosperity Report

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8f

Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds

Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Regional Prosperity Report and that a report will be provided on tourism marketing to GMAC and the Board in due course.

CARRIED

8g Regional Transport Report

RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8g

Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller

Seconded: Cr Paul Smith

That the Board note the Regional Transport Report and endorse the Regional Freight Strategy Project Plan.

CARRIED

8h Regional Water Report**RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8h**

Moved: Cr Phyllis Miller

Seconded: Cr Paul Smith

That the Board note the Regional Water Report and

1. note that NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment-Water has granted \$400K (ex GST) for a variation to phase two of the Regional Water Loss Management and Water Efficiency Hub project; and
2. note the agreement executed with the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation for the rollout of the Regional Water Loss Management and Water Efficiency Hub project in their region in line with the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment-Water approved project plan.

CARRIED

8i Regional Energy Report**RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8i**

Moved: Cr Bruce Reynolds

Seconded: Cr John Medcalf

That the Board note the Regional Energy Report and

1. endorse the JONZA Round 2 End of Term Report,
2. note the successful JONZA Round 3 application, providing \$253k over an 18-month program to December 2026 funded through the NSW DCCEEW,
3. note the successful JONZA Round 3 variation application, providing \$200k over an 18-month program to December 2026 to provide landfill emissions abatement support to member councils and the JONZA network broadly, funded through the EPA,
4. note the 15.6% savings on energy prices achieved through the aggregated electricity procurement process, equating to approx. \$204k for FY26 across member councils,
5. note the average increase of 6.97% on Essential Energy's network charges across member councils based on FY25 consumption, equating to an estimated additional cost of \$415k in FY26, and
6. endorse a regional application under the DCCEEW Grid Enhancing Technologies grant.

CARRIED

8k Quarterly Review of the Central NSW JO Strategic Plan and Statement of Regional Strategic Priority 2022-2025**RESOLUTION 25/07 – 8k**

Moved: Cr Robert Taylor

Seconded: Cr Steve Ring

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

CARRIED

9a RDA Central West Update

The Board noted the RDA Central West Update Report.

9b NSW Premier's Department Update

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

9c OLG Update Report

The Board noted the OLG Update Report.

10 Resolve into Confidential Committee of the Whole

RESOLUTION 25/05 – 10

Moved: Cr John Medcalf

Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board

1. resolve into closed session to consider business identified,
2. pursuant to section 10A (2)(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, and
3. correspondence and reports relevant to the subject business be withheld from access.

CARRIED

10a Regional Cyber Security Program Report- Confidential

RESOLUTION 25/05 – 10a

Moved: Cr Steve Ring

Seconded: Cr Robert Taylor

That the Board note the Regional Cyber Security Program Report and:

1. note that a presentation on the regional cyber security strategy and implementation of the regional cyber security program will be delivered by the regional CISO at the July GMAC, and
2. that the Board will receive a presentation from the Regional CISO on the regional cyber security program, including brief cyber security training, at the November Board meeting.

CARRIED

11. Late Reports

Nil.

12. General Business

- **Lithgow** – sought advice from members as to whether there is interest in lodging a joint motion to the LGNSW annual conference regarding extending the timeframe for consultation on Environmental Impact Statements. Anyone interested is suggested to contact Cr Steve Ring.
- **Weddin** – sought support from the Board in writing to The Hon Dr Jim Chalmers in relation to bank closures, noting that smaller banks are closing in addition to the larger ones.
- Cr Reynolds raised a matter arising from the decision in relation to the ARIC as reported in the Finance Report to the May Board meeting. Ms Kate Barker advised that there is a meeting on 6 August in Sydney with Hunter JO to discuss the next steps in the shared ARIC arrangement and once more details are known, a report would be provided to the Board.
- The Chair thanked Mr David Waddell and Mr Greg Tory for their input and wished them well into the future.

13. Speakers to the next meeting

Future meetings

- Ms Kate Lorimer Ward – Local Land Services
- Mr Ian Smith – NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Mr Ashley Albury- EnergyCo
- Ms Kristanne Anderson – NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water re regional water strategies
- Ms Kate McMullen – Homes NSW
- Western Region Academy of Sport (WRAS)
- Biosecurity Commissioner
- Regional Australia Institute

14. Dates for the next meeting

- GMAC - 30 October 2025 in Orange
- Board – 12 + 13 November in Sydney- visit to State Parliament

Meeting closed at 1.07 pm

Page 7 is the last page of the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board meeting minutes of meeting of 31 July 2025 held in Parkes.

11) COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION MEETING

Department: Executive Services

Author: Councillor Reynolds

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

File No: GO.ME.1

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the minutes for the Country Mayors Association Meeting held 8 August 2025.

Reason for Report:

To update Council on the recent Country Mayors Association (CMA) meeting held Friday 8 August 2025.

Report:

The draft minutes of the CMA meeting held 8 August 2025 in Sydney are enclosed for Council's information.

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

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Nil

Budget Implications:

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

Enclosures (following report)

1 Country Mayors Association Meeting Minutes - 8 August 2025 9 Pages

Attachments (separate document)

Nil



The Country Mayors Association of NEW SOUTH WALES Inc

Chairman: Mayor Rick Firman OAM

C/- Temora Shire Council,

PO Box 262, Temora NSW 2666

Contact: 0429 204 060

Email: admin@nswcountrymayors.com.au

ABN: 92 803 490 533

MINUTES

A General Meeting of the Country Mayors Association of NSW Inc, was held on **Friday 8 August 2025**, in the Theatre, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, SYDNEY commencing from 8:20am.

THEME: Crime, Law and Order

A warm welcome from CMA Chairman and Temora Shire Mayor Rick Firman OAM;

- **Mayor Firman reflected on an exclusive workshop with NSW Environment Minister the Hon Penny Sharpe MP and her advisors, plus over 100 CMA members took place in the Theatre NSW Parliament House, 2-5pm Thursday 7 August, 2025.** The topics of Biodiversity Conservation Offsets and Waste were broken up by a CMA catered afternoon tea, which was much needed, due to the intensity of the workshop. Biodiversity offsets as barriers to housing developments and FOGO costs were key concerns discussed. Mayor Firman thanked Deputy Chairman (Mayor Russell Fitzpatrick – Bega Valley Shire) for serving as MC for the session.
- **Mayor Firman reflected on the evening of Thursday 7 August 2025, a dinner with Former PM, the Hon Tony Abbott AC which saw 85 Board, Members and MPs enjoy a first-class venue, cuisine, service and camaraderie.** The CMA catered a special dessert and shouted a drink. Mr Abbott donated his time for the CMA and it was a topical, engaging talk, warmly received by those in attendance.

1. Presentation – NSW Police Minister, the Hon. Mrs Yasmin Catley MP

- Reducing Community Crime is about partnership - State and Local Government working together in partnership with First Nations people and the broader community to improve safety in the community and address local challenges.
- The best way to reduce crime is to make sure it is not committed in the first place
- There has been a Youth Command developed - they work with PCYC to support young people.
- The Community Safety Report will be addressed by November 2025.
- 'Operation Soteria' is making significant impacts to date. This strategic initiative by NSW Police focusing on aggravated break, enter and steal offences, stealing motor vehicles and 'post and boast' offences where social media has been used to gain notoriety. It also involves a focus on improving police response to victims of sexual assault.
- Positive results so far - 189 charged and 137 of those charged were juveniles.

- There is an emphasis on diversion to keep young people out of the justice system - Youth Engagement Officers work in this space - hold Youth Action Meetings in key locations.
- The Minister said she is aware that they need more officers on the ground - Recruitment strategy has been successful with 4600 recruit applications over last 18 months. Improved workforce benefits include a once in a generation pay rise, and the move to flexible working hours (FTE model) and opportunity to job share.
- New Initiative "Be a cop in your hometown" is seeing positive results
- Members questions, brought up changes in Bail legislation, AV bail hearings seem to be missing the regional context, and additional police needed in holiday hot spots.

A token of appreciation was presented to Minister Catley MP by Mayor Firman.

2. Presentation – Acting Deputy Commissioner Brett Greentree, acting as Deputy Commissioner - NSWPF Regional NSW Field Operations.

- The 'perception' of crime, is sometimes as difficult to address as the actual crime.
- Sees Community safety as a joint venture - everyone knows who the criminals are in regional areas.
- Operation Soteria - is working across North and Western NSW.
 - So far they have addressed 340 break and enters
 - 137 juveniles were charged with 34% of them already charged or on bail at the time.
 - 'Boast and Post' - 92 have been charged
- Trends in regional crime - Robbery is down by 8%, Steal from Motor vehicle down 11%, Break and enter is down 4%, Sexual assault and drug related crime is stable, with increase in MV theft up 3.3%, DV related crime up 4%, breach of bail up 12.3% (result of targeted operations).
- Thanked Local Government for the work that they do in the Emergency management space in partnership.
- Re: Crime perception - it is important to communicate with community to instil confidence - there is a big role for the media - everyone needs to spread the good word and highly publicise positive outcomes.
- Members noted concerns about little to no police presence in some regional areas. Advised to report into the district office - more reports highlight the need and allows them to access other resources to ensure that coverage will come from other areas.
- Hoping that the 'Doli Incapax' review will bring about change and some tangible outcomes

A token of appreciation was presented to Acting Deputy Commissioner Brett Greentree by Mayor Firman.

3. Presentation – Chief Magistrate of NSW, His Honour Judge Michael Allen

- A compelling presentation allowing a glimpse into the career and work of the Chief magistrate of NSW, who has an extensive background living and working in regional NSW.
- He stated that NSW is unique - we have an independent judiciary which makes us very lucky.
- Expressed the fact that the Courts do not make the Law, that Parliament makes the Law and the Courts enforce the Laws.
- Local Court has 48 magistrates servicing 109 courts across NSW - Country service policy to be implemented - no more FIFO - suggested that magistrates need to have a min. 2 years in the bush to urge that they feel and understand these communities.

- Dealing with 45000 bail applications annually.
- DV is the scourge of the nation that needs to be dealt with - there are 80000 matters annually. The voice that HASNT been heard is that of the complainant/ victim. There is a pilot program
- Bail is a concern for a lot of people - Magistrates don't make decisions up - they rely on information from Police. If there is concern that a mistake has been made - there is an inbuilt appeal system available. Less than 0.5% are appealed by the Police.

A token of appreciation was presented to Chief Magistrate of NSW, His Honour Judge Michael Allen by Mayor Sharon Cadwallader.

4. Acknowledgements by Mayor Rick Firman OAM, CMA NSW Chairman

- Acknowledgement and Congratulations to Mayor Abb McAlister and his team for the successful de-merger announcement. Mayor McAlister thanked all Mayors in CMA for their support over this time.
- The CMA Chairman (Mayor Firman) acknowledged Mr. George Cowan, General Manager Leeton Shire Council for 50 years of service to Local Government. Mr. Cowan will retire in September 2025.

5. Excelling CMA Members Segment – Crime, Law and Order Theme

Mr Nick Mamouzelos, Warrumbungle Shire Council Investigator

Detailed presentation on the recent investigation into Illegal Tobacco trade in Warrumbungle Shire, something that is affecting most LGAs.

Mr Greg McDonald, General Manager – Upper Hunter Shire Council

Excellent initiative being delivered to new young drivers involving police, emergency services, heavy vehicle providers and numerous support services to provide a practical educational opportunity for new drivers to understand the reality of being on the road and the brutal reality of accidents and why they can occur.

A token of appreciation was presented to Mr Mamouzelos and Mr McDonald by Mayor Josh Black.

Morning Tea was attended by a broad cross-section of Parliamentarians, from Government, Opposition (including Leader, the Hon Mark Speakman MP), Greens and Independents.

6. Presentation - The Hon. Paul Toole MP - NSW Shadow Police Minister

- Stated there are less Police 'boots on the ground' from when they were in Government
- 86% of stations are closed at nighttime, and some haven't opened in 12 months.
- Stated that there is a reduction in attested classes - dropped from 5 to 4.
- Re the parliamentary enquiry for youth crime - there has been an interim report provided with 19 recommendations - this has been driven by the CMA.
- Where has the funding gone to support Youth programs? E.g. Regional Youth Funding, SCCF
- Bail Laws are being debated in Parliament this week - Many police are frustrated
- Looking to introduce a Bill for 14-18 year olds
 - They want to introduce a curfew
 - Electronic Monitoring
 - Introduce Victim impact statements

A token of appreciation was presented to Shadow Police Minister the Hon Paul Toole MP by Mayor Sue Moore.

7. Presentation -The Hon. Daniel Mookhey MLC – NSW Treasurer

- Re: Disaster Affected Communities - issues with under insurance / no insurance. Natural Disaster funding is driving up premiums.
- Treasurer will seek input / feedback from councils to find a better way to fund emergency services.
- The Treasurer has met with Auditor General about the Red Fleet - he will have a position soon and advised that there will be cause for optimism for the CMA members.
- Workers Compensation - the scheme is NOT sustainable. There will be a minimum 36% increase in premiums in the absence of a reform.
- Members asked questions about:
 - Equitable remuneration for Councillors,
 - The need for NSW Government to support the restoration of FAGS to 1% of GDP from Federal Government,
 - The Southern NSW drought - desperate need for reclassification of drought as disaster - immediate need for freight and fodder assistance - it has been stated by Regional agriculture professionals that this is the worst drought ever experienced.
 - Councils dealing with an extraordinary amount of renewable energy impacts (in a non-REZ zone) What can be done to support councils with dealing with this?
 - What is the appetite of the Government for a combined Emergency Services sector - bringing all under one Department?
- The Treasurer advised that he was the current Chair of the Board of Treasurer's, who are meeting this week.
- GST - needs change, NSW is being short changed, in a significant way

A token of appreciation was presented to Treasurer Mookhey MLC by Mayor Phyllis Miller.

8. Mr. Barry Irvin AM - Chairman of Bega Cheese

Presentation about the growth and development of Bega Cheese Company - and their ability to 'buy back' some Aussie brands e.g. Vegemite, Dare Iced Coffee, Farners Union Yoghurt
Their involvement in a significant whole of Community approach to developing a full Circular Economy in Bega Valley.

The Bega Circular Valley video:

[Australia's National Centre for Circular Discovery - Bega Circular Valley](#)

And the website: [Home - Bega Circular Valley](#)

A token of appreciation was presented to Mr Irvin by Deputy CMA Chairman Mayor Russell Fitzpatrick.

General Business;**9. Attendance**

| | | |
|------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Cr. Claire Pontin | Mayor | MidCoast Council |
| Cr. R Firman OAM | CMA Chairman / Mayor | Temora Shire Council |
| Melissa Boxall | CMA Secretary / GM | Temora Shire Council |
| Cr. Greg Whiteley | Mayor | Warren Shire Council |
| Gary Woodman | GM | Warren Shire Council |
| Cr. Kevin Beatty | Mayor | Cabonne Shire Council |
| Brad Byrnes | GM | Cabonne Shire Council |
| Cr. Kinne Ring | Mayor | Kempsey Shire Council |
| Andrew Meddle | CEO | Kempsey Shire Council |
| John Scarce | GM | Murrumbidgee Council |
| Cr R McRae OAM | Mayor | Murrumbidgee Council |
| Cr. Susannah Pearse | Mayor | Moree Plains Shire Council |
| Natalia Cowley | GM | Moree Plains Shire Council |
| Cr. Bronwyn Petrie | Mayor | Tenterfield Shire Council |
| Cr. Sharon Cadwallader | Mayor | Ballina Shire Council |
| Cr. Margot Davis | Mayor | Glen Innes Severn Council |
| Bernard Smith | GM | Glen Innes Severn Council |
| Cr. Colleen Fuller | Mayor | Gunnedah Shire Council |
| Eric Groth | GM | Gunnedah Shire Council |
| Cr. Sarah Ndiaye | Mayor | Byron Shire Council |
| Mark Arnold | GM | Byron Shire Council |
| Cr. Daniel Linklater | Mayor | Wentworth Shire Council |
| Ken Ross | GM | Wentworth Shire Council |
| Cr. John Harvie | Mayor | Murray River Council |
| Stacy Williams | CEO | Murray River Council |
| Cr. Kenrick Winchester | Mayor | Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council |
| Ruth Ormella | Acting GM | Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council |
| Cr. Steve Krieg | Mayor | Lismore City Council |
| Eber Butron | Acting GM | Lismore City Council |
| Cr. Bruce Reynolds | Mayor | Blayney Shire Council |
| Mark Dicker | GM | Blayney Shire Council |
| Toni Averay | GM | Uralla Shire Council |
| Kathryn Rindfleish | Mayor | Warrumbungle Shire Council |
| Lindsay Mason | GM | Warrumbungle Shire Council |
| Cr. Brian Ingram | Mayor | Hilltops Council |
| Anthony O'Reilly | GM | Hilltops Council |
| Cr. Sally Davis | Deputy Mayor | Bourke Shire Council |
| Leonie Brown | GM | Bourke Shire Council |
| Cr. Ewen Jones | Mayor | Narromine Shire Council |
| Jane Redden | GM | Narromine Shire Council |
| Phil Johnston | Director Community and Economic Development | Narromine Shire Council |
| Cr. Craig Davies | Councillor | Narromine Shire Council |
| Cr. Nikki Williams | Mayor | Coffs Harbour City Council |

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|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Cr. John Burley | Deputy Mayor | Kyogle Council |
| Cr. Danielle Mulholland | Mayor | Kyogle Council |
| Cr. Josh Black | Mayor | Dubbo Regional Council |
| Laura Black | GM | Clarence Valley Council |
| Cr. Ray Smith | Mayor | Clarence Valley Council |
| Cr. Tiffany Galvin | Mayor | Gwydir Shire Council |
| Leeah Daley | Acting GM | Gwydir Shire Council |
| Cr. Patricia White | Mayor | Shoalhaven City Council |
| Cr. Andrew McKibbin | Mayor | Oberon Council |
| Gary Wallace | GM | Oberon Council |
| Paul Bennett | GM | Tamworth Regional Council |
| Cr. Kevin Mack | Mayor | Albury City Council |
| Cr. Doug Batten | Mayor | Gilgandra Shire Council |
| David Neeves | GM | Gilgandra Shire Council |
| Cr. Ash Walker | Deputy Mayor | Gilgandra Shire Council |
| Adam Shultz | Mayor | Lake Macquarie City Council |
| Lisa Miscamble | Mayor | Wingecarribee Shire Council |
| Cr. Jesse Fitzpatrick | Mayor | Wingecarribee Shire Council |
| Greg Tory | GM | Lachlan Shire Council |
| Cr. Maurice Collison | Mayor | Upper Hunter Shire Council |
| Greg McDonald | GM | Upper Hunter Shire Council |
| Cr. D McCann OAM | Mayor | Coolamon Shire Council |
| T Donoghue PSM | GM | Coolamon Shire Council |
| Cr. James Angel | Acting Mayor | Nambucca Valley Council |
| Bede Spannagle | GM | Nambucca Valley Council |
| Cr. Nina Dillon | Mayor | Goulburn Mulwaree Council |
| Marina Hollands | Acting Chief Executive Officer | Goulburn Mulwaree Council |
| Cr. Michael Kidd | Deputy Mayor | Leeton Shire Council |
| Megan Mulrooney | CEO | REROC |
| Shaun Elwood | Director of People and Places | Lithgow City Council |
| Cr. Cassandra Coleman | Mayor | Lithgow City Council |
| Paul Smith | Mayor | Cowra Council |
| Paul Devery | GM | Cowra Council |
| Cr. Kellie Crossley | Acting Mayor | Edward River Council |
| Jack Bond | CEO | Edward River Council |
| Cr. Neil Westcott | Mayor | Parkes Shire Council |
| Cr. Abb McAlister | Mayor | Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council |
| Roger Bailey | Interim GM | Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council |
| Cr. Sue Moore | Mayor | Singleton Council |
| Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr | GM | Singleton Council |
| Cr. Tony Mileto | Mayor | Orange City Council |
| Barry Omundson | Interim CEO | Orange City Council |
| Cr. Jasmine Jones | Mayor | Yass Valley Council |
| Gayleen Burley | CEO | Yass Valley Council |
| Cr. Glen Neill | Mayor | Bogan Shire Council |
| Derek Francis | GM | Bogan Shire Council |

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|-------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Cr. Ken Cudmore | Mayor | Liverpool Plains Shire Council |
| Cian Middleton | GM | Liverpool Plains Shire Council |
| Cr. Eric Noakes | Mayor | Walcha Council |
| Cr. Tommy Stanton | Mayor | Brewarrina Shire Council |
| David Kirby | GM | Brewarrina Shire Council |
| Jane Stroud | CEO | Kiama Municipal Council |
| Cr. Melinda Lawton | Councillor | Kiama Municipal Council |
| Cameron Templeton | Council Engagement Manager Riverina & Far South West | OLG |
| Katrina Annis-Brown | Council Engagement Manager Central West and Far West | OLG |
| Cr. Jim Hickey | Deputy Mayor | Broken Hill City Council |
| Jay Nankivell | GM | Broken Hill City Council |
| | Councillor/LGNSW Board | |
| Cr. Penny Pedersen | member | City of Ryde Council |
| Cr. Leah Anderson | Mayor | Port Stephens Council |
| Cr. Daniel Keady | Mayor | Coonamble Shire Council |
| | Director Infrastructure Kerrie | |
| Kerrie Murphy | Murphy | Coonamble Shire Council |
| Nick Mamouzelos | Investigator | Warrumbungle Shire Council |
| Cr. Paul Culhane | Mayor | Upper Lachlan Shire Council |
| Ms Alex Waldron | CEO | Upper Lachlan Shire Council |
| Cr. Paul Best | Mayor | Weddin Shire Council |
| Luke Sheehan | GM | Weddin Shire Council |
| Cr. Darrell Tiemens | Mayor | Narrabri Shire Council |
| George Cowan | GM | Narrandera Shire Council |
| Cr. Sam Coupland | Mayor | Armidale Regional Council |
| Cr. P Miller OAM | Mayor | Forbes Shire Council |
| Richard Jane | Acting GM | Forbes Shire Council |
| Cr. Matt Gould | Mayor | Wollondilly Shire Council |
| | Manager Shire Planning and | |
| Stephen Gardiner | Head of Advocacy | Wollondilly Shire Council |
| Cr. Robert Taylor | Mayor | Bathurst Regional Council |
| Cr. Russell Fitzpatrick | Mayor | Bega Valley Shire Council |
| Anthony McMahon | CEO | Bega Valley Shire Council |
| Cr. Steve Allan | Mayor | Bellingen Shire Council |
| Mark Griffioen | GM | Bellingen Shire Council |
| Cr. Cheryl Cook | Mayor | Federation Council |
| Brett McInnes | GM | Inverell Shire Council |
| Cr. Peter Sharp | Mayor | Lockhart Shire Council |
| Gavin Rhodes | GM | Lockhart Shire Council |
| Cr. Adam Roberts | Mayor | Port Macquarie Hastings Council |
| Jonathan Malota | | NRMA |
| Ms Linda Scott | Chairman | NSW Grants Commission |

12. Apologies

| | | |
|------------------|-----|------------------------|
| Mr Adrian Butler | GM | Federation Council |
| Mr Murray Wood | CEO | Dubbo Regional Council |

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cr. Doug Curran | Mayor | Griffith City Council |
| Mr Brett Stonestreet | GM | Griffith City Council |
| Mr Frank Zaknich | GM | Albury City Council |
| Cr. George Weston | Mayor | Leeton Shire Council |
| Ms Jackie Kruger | GM | Leeton Shire Council |
| | | Wagga Wagga City Council |
| Cr. Dallas Tout | Mayor | Bland Shire Council |
| Cr. Brian Monaghan | Mayor | Bland Shire Council |
| Mr Grant Baker | GM | Narrandera Shire Council |
| Cr. N Kschenka OAM | Mayor | Greater Hume Council |
| Cr. Lea Parker | Mayor | Greater Hume Council |
| Mr Colin Kane | Acting GM | Uralla Shire Council |
| Cr. Robert Bell | Mayor | Inverell Shire Council |
| Cr. Kate Dight | Mayor | Inverell Shire Council |
| Cr. Greg Kachel | Councillor | Lachlan Shire Council |
| Cr. John Medcalf OAM | Mayor | Tamworth Regional Council |
| Cr. Russell Webb | Mayor | CMA |
| Mrs Julie Briggs | Policy Advisor | CMA |
| Mr. Gary Fry | Secretariat | Armidale Regional Council |
| Cr. Sam Coupland | Mayor | NSW Government |
| The Hon Jenny Aitchison MP | Roads and Transport Minister | |

Mayor Fitzpatrick (Bega Valley Shire Council) moved that the apologies be accepted. Mayor Cadwallader (Ballina Shire Council) seconded. CARRIED. Unanimous.

13. Adoption of Minutes from 9 May 2025.

Mayor Allen (Bellingen Shire Council) moved. Mayor Ring (Kempsey Shire) seconded. CARRIED. Unanimous.

14. Nil

15. Correspondence

Mayor Ingram (Hilltop Council) moved. Mayor Roberts (Port Macquarie Hastings) seconded. CARRIED. Unanimous.

16. Media releases

Mayor Cadwallader (Ballina Shire) moved. Mayor Winchester (Queanbeyan–Palerang Regional Council) seconded. CARRIED. Unanimous.

17. Reports

ALGA - Mayor Miller (LGNSW President/Forbes Shire) moved. Mayor Allen (Bellingen Shire) seconded. CARRIED. Unanimous.

LGNSW - Mayor Miller (LGNSW President/Forbes Shire) moved. Mayor Ndiaye (Byron Shire) seconded. CARRIED. Unanimous.

CMA Chairman - Mayor Coleman (Lithgow City Council) moved. Mayor Miller (LGNSW President/Forbes Shire) seconded. CARRIED. Unanimous.

Policy Advisor Report - Received & noted and adopt recommendations - Mayor Allen

(Bellingen Shire) moved. Mayor Whitely (Warren Shire) seconded. CARRIED. Unanimous.
CMA Financial report - Mayor Jones (Yass Valley) moved. Mayor Cadwallader (Ballina Shire) seconded. CARRIED. Unanimous.

18. Business with Notice - CMA Survey

- Mayor Fitzpatrick (Bega Valley Shire) moved. Mayor Miller (LGNSW President / Forbes Shire) seconded that the CMA consider the survey results at its November meeting. CARRIED. Unanimous.

19. Urgent Business - The CMA Chairman asked Members if the Board should consider having the business meeting of CMA on Thursday afternoon, and the Friday morning for Guest speakers. Members agreed overwhelmingly for the Board to consider this action, to spend more time on policy setting/advocacy and lobbying.

The Chairman thanked all for attending and with no further business, declared the meeting closed at 12:48pm.

The next meeting will be held in the Theatrette, NSW Parliament House on 14 November 2025, followed by the AGM.

12) MCPHILLAMYS GOLD PROJECT COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Department: Executive Services

Author: Councillor Reynolds

CSP Link: 5. Protecting our assets for future generations

File No: GR.LR.1

Recommendation:

That Council note the delegates report on the McPhillamys Gold Project Community Consultative Committee meeting held 11 August 2025.

Reason for Report:

To update Council on the recent Community Consultative Committee held on 11 August 2025 for the proposed McPhillamys Gold Project.

A State Significant development, being the McPhillamys Gold Project is proposed within Blayney Shire.

This proposed development has received NSW State Government planning approval but the project area was impacted by a Section 10 Declaration made by the Federal Minister for the Environment, which has currently stopped the project from proceeding.

Stopping of the project will have a significant impact on Blayney Shire Council's financial situation with income projections from rates and a voluntary planning agreement for its 10-year financial plan.

This report is provided to update Councillors and the community on the current status of the project and what pathways forward Regis Resources is examining for the development of the mine. This includes a Federal Court hearing in December 2025.

Report:

Update of Project

Regis commenced the presentation by updating members on what has happened since the Section 10 Declaration was made in August 2024. They advised that the judicial review continues, with a hearing date set down for 10-12 December 2025.

General Project Update

Regis has continued to investigate alternate development concepts, commenced exploration drilling program and continued discussions with the NSW Government regarding pathways forward for the Project.

Maintenance activities on RRL (Regis Resources Ltd) owned rural properties to address legacy issues continues, using local suppliers and contractors.

Exploration Drilling Update

Drilling has been taking place outside of the Section 10 Declaration area. The drilling program, which commenced in July 2025, was approved by NSW Resource Regulator within Exploration Licences on Regis owned land. Drilling is ongoing.

Land/Property Management

Regis outlined maintenance activities being undertaken by the company. They reported that some of the houses have not had maintenance works completed. However, \$160,000 had been spent with nine contractors to undertake the work. Seven homes currently tenanted.

Regis has engaged Bullseye Agricultural to review and report on all of Regis properties to assess property conditions.

There were no questions from members.

Community

The sponsorships that Regis has made since the last CCC meeting were outlined as well as where it has been involved in mining industry events.

It was noted that since the Section 10 Declaration, Regis has continued to provide sponsorships to community groups and activities. However, the company has chosen to take a more focused approach. It was emphasised that Regis is open to having discussions with community groups about whether Regis could assist.

A question was asked about the water pipeline, connected with the project. Regis stated that it is an issue that is still being explored, including an alternative route.

General Business

There was limited general business to discussed.

Bathurst and Blayney Council members provided an update to the committee on the challenges faced in their local government area in relation to the Section 9 and Section 10 Declarations. The Blayney Shire Mayor informed the members that Blayney Shire Council has arranged a meeting with the Federal Minister Murray Watt to take place shortly.

There was a question asked of Regis that if there were changes to the tailing storage facility to comply with the Section 10 Declaration. Is Regis expecting to submit the changes via a whole new application, or a modification to the existing approval?

The response from Regis was that this will depend upon the scale of changes to the scope.

Regis was also asked if any timeline has been established with respect to conceptual plans or any progress with alternatives?

Regis response was Regis is reviewing a long list of options, which will also be informed by the judicial review.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Nil

Budget Implications:

Nil

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

13) ASSOCIATION OF MINING AND ENERGY RELATED COUNCILS

Department: Executive Services

Author: Councillor Reynolds

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

File No: GO.ME.1

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the draft minutes of the Association of Mining and Energy Related Councils Meeting held 11 September 2025.

Reason for Report:

To update Council on the recent Association of Mining and Energy Related Councils (MERC) meeting held Thursday 11 September 2025.

Report:

The draft minutes of the Association of Mining and Energy Related Councils are enclosed for Council's information.

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

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Nil

Budget Implications:

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

Enclosures (following report)

- | | | |
|---|--|----------|
| 1 | Association of Mining and Energy Related Councils Meeting Draft Minutes - 11 September 2025 | 18 Pages |
|---|--|----------|

Attachments (separate document)

Nil



DRAFT

ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2025
9.45AM

IN PERSON - PRESTON STANLEY ROOM
NSW PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY

ONLINE - MICROSOFT TEAMS

ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCILS

Contact Executive Officer Jess Jennings: info@miningrelatedcouncils.asn.au

Note 1: Delegates are reminded that the provisions of the NSW Local Government Model Code of Conduct and Model Code of Meeting Practice apply to meetings of the Association of Mining & Energy Related Councils (NSW) Inc.

Note 2: The Association's constitution requires the Executive Committee to meet at least four times a year (Clause 7.4) and to have at least one Ordinary General Meeting per year (Clause 11.1), which is at least the Annual General meeting.

DRAFT

MERC ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING - MINUTES

11SEPT25

Attendance:

Cr Kevin Duffy – Orange City Council
 Cr Tony Lord – Bland Shire Council
 Cr Bruce Reynolds – Blayney Shire Council
 Mark Dicker – GM, Blayney Shire Council
 Cr Heather Nicolls – Cabonne Shire Council
 Cr Chris Roylance – Forbes Shire Council
 Dr Jess Jennings – MERC Executive Officer

Online:

Cr Jim Hickey – Broken Hill City Council
 Barry Omundson – Interim GM, Orange City Council
 Cr Jarrod Marsden – Cobar Shire Council
 Peter Vlatko – GM, Cobar Shire Council
 Cr Des Kennedy - Mid-Western Regional Council
 Cr Diedre Stuart – Wollongong City Council
 Cr Thomas Quinn – Wollongong City Council
 Ron Zwicker – Wollongong City Council
 Cr Emma Henderson – Bland Shire Council
 Cr Greg Whitely – Warren Shire Council
 Cr Bob McKay – Warren Shire Council
 Gary Woodman – GM, Warren Shire Council
 Patrick Ruettjes – Council Director, Lachlan Shire Council
 Cr Peter Batten – Cabonne Shire Council
 Cr Tony Mileto – Orange City Council
 Cr Colleen Fuller – Gunnedah Shire Council
 Andrew Johns – Council Director, Gunnedah Shire Council
 Eric Growth – GM, Gunnedah Shire Council

Martin Rush – MERC Policy Officer
 Jono Wheaton – Consultant Akarui Mirai – presenter
 John Clements – Advisor, Roy Butler Office – observer

- 1. Welcome by Chair to Board Members:** The Chair Cr Kevin Duffy welcomed members and opened the meeting at 9.47am.
- 2. Acknowledgement of Country:** The Chair acknowledged the traditional custodians of the lands that we meet on and paid respects to Elders past, present & emerging.
- 3. Apologies:** Cr Dennis Brady, Cr Phyliss Miller, Cr Maurice Collison, Brad Cam, Grant Baker.

Resolved (Cr Lord / Cr Nicolls) that: the apologies be accepted.

4. Disclosures of Interest.

Nil

5. Adoption of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held 4th June 2025

Resolved (Cr Hickey/ Cr Lord) that: the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on 4JUN25 be adopted.

6. Business Arising from Ordinary General Meeting held on 4JUN25

NIL

7. Receive and note Minutes of Executive Committee held on 4JUN25.

Resolved (Cr Duffy / Cr Hickey) that: the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 4JUN25 be received and noted.

8. Business Arising from Executive Committee held on 4JUN25.

NIL

9. Executive Officer Report

Resolved (Cr Stuart / Cr Hendersen) that: the report from the Executive Officer, including financial report be accepted.

Resolved (Cr Lord / Cr Hickey) that: standing orders be suspended at 9.50am until Martin Rush returns online.

Resolved (Cr Lord / Cr Hickey) that: the meeting resume at 10.01am.

10. Policy Director Report

Resolved (Cr Nicolls / Cr Lord) that: the Policy Officer's report be accepted and any actions noted, namely detailed policy development and collaboration with Jono Wheaton is to occur and be presented to next meeting.

Resolved (Cr Lord / Cr Hickey) that: standing orders be suspended at 10.10am until Jono Wheaton joins online at 11am.

Resolved (Cr Lord / Cr Hickey) that: the meeting resume at 10.55am.

11. Presentation: Mr Jono Wheaton, Akarui Mirai (11am dial-in)

Resolved (Cr Reynolds / Cr Lord) that: Jono Wheaton is thanked for his presentation with Q&A, and noted future policy developments will emerge from both Jono Wheaton's work and MERC Policy Officer Martin Rush's work by the next MERC meeting on 20NOV25.

12. General Business

Nil

13. Invited speaker: The Hon Roy Butler, Member for Barwon (12.05pm)

Resolved (Cr Reynolds / Cr Lord) that: The Hon. Roy Butler is thanked for his support of MERC and noted relevant discussion around different Government funding opportunities, eg REZ, Royalties for Rejuvenation etc and their suitability for future MERC policy proposals. MERC will continue to liaise with Mr Butler on policy and relevant business.

Resolved (Cr Reynolds / Cr Lord) that: standing orders be suspended to break for lunch at 12.30pm and return 1pm.

14. Invited speaker: Mr Craig Milton, Policy Advisor, Minister Kamper Office (1pm)

Resolved (Cr Reynolds / Cr Lord) that: Mr Milton and Minister Kamper's Office is thanked for his visit and discussion, particularly concerning lands and property.

15. Next Meeting – the next MERC meeting to be held on 20NOV25, details TBA.

16. Close.

ATTACHMENTS:

A – MINUTES ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING 4JUN25

B – MINUTES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 4JUN25

C – EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

D – POLICY DIRECTOR REPORT

E – FINANCE REPORTS

ATTACHMENT A – MINUTES ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING 4JUN25

**MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCILS (NSW)
INCORPORATED, ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 4 JUNE 2025, PRESTON
STANLEY ROOM, NSW PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY.**

Present

Cr Kevin Duffy (Chair)
Cr Tony Lord
Cr Jim Hickey
Cr Emma Henderson
Grant Baker
Cr Deidre Stuart
Cr Maurice Collison
Greg McDonald

Dr Jess Jennings
FTG – Director Policy
Ingrid Moores (as Minute Taker)
Andrew Callow

Microsoft TEAMS

Cr Bruce Reynolds
Mark Dicker
Cr Peter Batten
Cr Jarrod Marsden
Cr Josh Black
Gary Woodman
Cr Greg Whitely
Cr Thomas Quinn
Ron Zwicker
Cr Chris Roylance
Cr Dennis Brady (Deputy Chair)
Patrick Ruettjes
Brad Cam
Cr Tony Mileto
Kent Boyd PSM

Observer

Ian Greenham

Orange City Council
Bland Shire Council
Broken Hill City Council
Bland Shire Council
Bland Shire Council
Wollongong City Council
Upper Hunter Shire Council
Upper Hunter Shire Council

MERC – Executive Officer

FTG – Project Officer
FTG – Intern

Blayney Shire Council
Blayney Shire Council
Cabonne Shire Council
Cobar Shire Council
Dubbo Regional Council
Warren Shire Council
Warren Shire Council
Wollongong City Council
Wollongong City Council
Forbes Shire Council
Lachlan Shire Council
Lachlan Shire Council
Mid-Western Regional Council
Orange City Council
Parkes Shire Council

Orange City Council

1. Welcome

The Chair, Councillor Kevin Duffy welcomed delegates, FTG staff officers and opened the meeting at 12:05pm

2. Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair acknowledged the traditional owners of the land that the meeting was held on and paid his respects to the Elders past, present & emerging.

3. Apologies

OM 9/2025 Resolved (Cr Hickey /Cr Lord) That the apologies of Cr Miller, Mr Jane, Cr Mckay, Mr Loane, Mr Waddell and Mr Wood be received and noted.

**MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCILS (NSW)
INCORPORATED, ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 4 JUNE 2025, PRESTON
STANLEY ROOM, NSW PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY.**

4. Disclosure of Interests

No Disclosure of Interest

5. Speakers

The speakers of The Honourable Roy Butler, MP and The Honourable Paul Scully, Minister for Planning and Public Places were postponed to 1:30pm and 3pm respectfully to align to the Ministers schedules and availability.

6&7 Adoption of the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held 27 March 2025

OM 10/2025 Resolved (Cr Brady, Cr Lord) That the minutes of the Ordinary General meeting held on 27 March 2025 be received and noted and there was no business arising.

8&9 Adoption Minutes of Executive Committee held on 4 June 2024.

It was highlighted that Upper Hunter had requested to rejoin with MERC and that was approved by the Executive Committee.
A question was asked as to why the free membership was proposed and proceeded.
It was noted that a suite of Constitutional changes was approved at the 2024 AGM one of which was to delegate to the Executive the ability to waive fees for the ensuing 12 months following a new Council's application to encourage greater membership.

OM 11/2025 Resolved (Cr Lord, Cr Hickey) That the minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 4 June 2025 be received and noted and that there was no further business arising.

10. Executive Officer Report

The meeting welcomed Dr Jess Jennings as the new Executive Officer for MERC. Dr Jennings is an economist with specialist expertise in resource economics – particularly primary production. He has worked with both the NSW and Commonwealth governments – including for the Australian Bureau of Agricultural Resource Economics and Science. He is presently employed as a NSW Government policy officer and as part of a multi-disciplinary economic transitions team in the Central West. He is the former Mayor of Bathurst with significant experience in local government and in issues impacting regional NSW.

The Meeting also acknowledged the work of Greg Lamont in recommencing the role of Executive Officer on an interim basis for the last six or so months and expressed its appreciation. It was noted that a letter be written via the chair to showing the Association's appreciation of Greg's work.

A financial update was provided, including:

- Revenue and expenditure statements
- Detailed balance sheet

Upcoming speaker schedule discussed, with Roy and Paul Scully noted as upcoming presenters.

We are working with ministers' offices to have The Honourable Penny Sharpe MLC Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage.

**MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCILS (NSW)
INCORPORATED, ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 4 JUNE 2025, PRESTON
STANLEY ROOM, NSW PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY.**

As well as The Honourable Stephen Kamper Minister for Multiculturalism, Jobs and Tourism, Lands and Property, and Sports for the September meeting.

Consideration is being given to inviting The Honourable Courtney Houssos, MLC Minister for Finance, Minister for Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement and Minister for Natural Resources. As well as The Honourable Daniel Mookhey MLC Treasurer to the November meeting.

OM 12/2025 Resolved (Cr Lord /Cr Hickey) that the Executive Officer Report be received and noted.

11. Policy Officer Report

FTG staff officers provided a policy update. It was noted that it appeared the recent visits to non-member councils had been very positive and several councils working on providing reports to their respective councillors about rejoining MERC. It was also noted to organise a meeting with Forbes Shire Council with Cr Chris Roylance and Acting GM Richard Jane.

Noting concerns leading up to the Meeting as to whether the proposed Campaign included those Local Government Areas not hosting mining activity directly, FTG staff officers confirmed that the Campaign proposed to include those councils together with energy councils.

There was also assurance that the scope of the campaign will address the impacts of renewable energy developments.

The NSW Government is continuing to draft legislation for its proposed Future Jobs and Investment Authorities.

Concerns were again raised regarding the scope of a combined campaign and its budgetary implications for councils. Responses were provided by FTG staff officers.

12. Sample new Energy Rating Sub-categories

FTG staff officers provided sample new energy rating sub-categories for member consideration and discussion.

OM 13/2025 Resolved (Cr Hickey/Cr Lord) that the Policy Officer Report including the Sample New Energy Rating Sub-categories be received and noted.

13. General Business

Participants noted upcoming meetings and ongoing communications with external stakeholders.

The importance of continuing to engage and inform member councils was reinforced.

The meeting was suspended at 1:10pm with a short break before reconvening for the scheduled session with The Honourable Roy Butler MP at 1:30 PM.

**MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCILS (NSW)
INCORPORATED, ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 4 JUNE 2025, PRESTON
STANLEY ROOM, NSW PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY.**

Speaker 1 The Honourable Roy Butler MP addressed the meeting at 2pm

- Significant mining projects were discussed across Narrabri, Bobabri, and Cobar, alongside emerging renewable energy developments in the Far West.
- Mr Butler highlighted the economic and historical contributions of Broken Hill and raised the challenges of managing renewable projects on vast rural lands.
- The Regional Development Trust Fund has been increased by an additional \$50 million, bringing the total to \$450 million.
- Mr Butler noted that the first round of \$50 million has been allocated, with continued contributions anticipated.
- There was strong consensus that a replacement program is needed for the discontinued *Resources for Regions* initiative to support mining-affected councils.
- Local government input was emphasized as critical in the development of this new program.
- Mr Butler's electorate is the largest in NSW, spanning 356,000 sq km and 150 communities.
- Mr Butler's team consists of 12 staff across Broken Hill, Cobar, and Narrabri, offering policy, media, and community support to councils both inside and outside the electorate.
- Cr. Mark Dicker raised the need for a new government-supported funding model co-designed by local councils.
- Cr. Reynolds emphasized the cumulative impacts of mining, including dust, traffic, and water, and the additional strain from logging in forestry-impacted areas.
- Councillors urged a campaign and advocacy effort to highlight these issues to the state government.
- Cr. Roy raised concerns about the oversubscription of the Regional Economic Development Fund and the need to requote projects due to rising costs.
- Cr. Batten advocated for more support for low rate-base councils like Buchan Shire.
- Councils detailed the impacts of mining on road infrastructure and community facilities, calling for targeted funding.
- Mr Butler suggested a quiet, strategic approach to lobbying for a new *Resources for Regions*-style program.
- Mr Butler supported developing a grassroots proposal in collaboration with local government stakeholders.
- Emphasized involving the Department of Local Government and relevant ministers in the proposal process.

Delegates expressed appreciation for the discussion and Mr Butler's time.

The meeting was suspended at 2:30pm with a short break before reconvening for the scheduled session with Paul Scully Minister for Planning and Public Spaces at 3:00 PM.

MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCILS (NSW) INCORPORATED, ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 4 JUNE 2025, PRESTON STANLEY ROOM, NSW PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY.

Speaker 2 – The Honourable Paul Scully Minister for Planning and Public Spaces addressed the meeting at 3pm with his team

- Minister Scully discussed the reuse of post-mining land for future employment opportunities was emphasized over reverting to pre-settlement conditions.
- Infrastructure needs including roads, rail, and electricity were identified as key enablers.
- Global interest in reusing old mine shafts for energy generation was discussed, with examples from Texas and Poland.
- The Federal Labor Party has committed funding for pilot sites to trial such initiatives.
- Acknowledgement of the significant workforce in the resources sector, both direct and indirect.
- Emphasis on providing choice and employment opportunities in regions facing mine closures.
- The need for streamlined processes to support reuse of land for employment was highlighted.
- NSW government is working to improve the planning system for critical minerals to meet global and domestic demand (especially copper).
- Planning reforms aim to facilitate responsible extraction while integrating miners into local communities.
- Clarification that renewable energy zones (REZs) are not exclusive and may intersect with other land uses.
- New renewable energy guidelines were discussed, with a focus on:
 - Community engagement
 - Cumulative impacts
 - Visual amenity
 - Social impact assessments
- The process must be scientific, transparent, and community-informed.
- Members raised concerns over loss of social license for solar farms in the Dubbo region due to poor visual outcomes.
- Updated solar farm guidelines were discussed:
 - Include visual impact assessment methodologies
 - Encourage early engagement and suitable site selection
 - Emphasize community benefits
- Discussion on balancing infrastructure delivery with adequate planning staff capacity, particularly in rural and regional councils.
- Recent government announcements include:
 - Financial support for hiring planners and trainees
 - Online para-planning courses through TAFE to assist councils with administrative planning tasks
- Workforce shortages in planning were acknowledged as a persistent challenge.
- Improvements to the planning portal are underway to reduce complexity:
 - Goal to reduce development application questions to around 200
 - Greater system flexibility and responsiveness is planned
- Need for a more efficient digital system to manage diverse application types was emphasized.

4

MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCILS (NSW) INCORPORATED, ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 4 JUNE 2025, PRESTON STANLEY ROOM, NSW PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY.

Delegates expressed appreciation for the discussion and Minister Scully's time.

The Chair then thanked all participants.

15. Close – the meeting closed at 3:35pm.

The minutes were confirmed at the Ordinary General Meeting held on 11 September 2025 and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the Ordinary meeting held on 4 June 2025.

.....
Cr Kevin Duffy,
Chairperson

ATTACHMENT B – MINUTES EXECUTIVE MEETING 4JUN25**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCIL'S (NSW) INCORPORATED, HELD ON 4th JUNE 2025. ONLINE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS & IN PERSON.****Present**

Cr Kevin Duffy (Chair)
Cr Tony Lord
Cr Jim Hickey

Orange City Council
Bland Shire Council
Broken Hill City Council

By Video Link

Cr Dennis Brady (Dep Chair)
Richard Jane

Lachlan Shire Council
Forbes Shire Council

Jess Jennings
Martin Rush
Ingrid Moores (as Minute Taker)
Andrew Callow

MERC - Executive Officer
FTG – Director Policy
FTG – Policy Officer
FTG - Intern

1. Welcome

The Chair, Councillor Kevin Duffy welcomed Executive Committee members, Executive Officer, Jess Jennings, Martin and Ingrid and opened the meeting at 9.10am

2. Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair acknowledged the traditional owners of the land that the meeting was held on and paid his respects to the Elders past, present & emerging.

3. Apologies

Cr Phyllis Miller
Steve Loane

EM 6/2025 Resolved (Cr Lord/Cr Brady) That the apologies of Cr Miller and Steve Loane be received and noted.

4. Disclosure of Interests

Nil

5. Executive Officer Report

Martin Rush, Interim Executive Officer, spoke to the Report noting particularly the appointment of Dr Jess Jennings as Executive Officer.

Cr Duffy welcomed Dr Jess Jennings into the role of Executive Officer.

Minister Speakers arranged for September and several others for November. There was a consensus that the Hon. Daniel Mookhey MLC, Treasurer of NSW, should be invited to the November Ordinary Meeting.

A letter to be drafted acknowledging the work of Greg Lamont.

EM 7/2025 Resolved (Cr Hickey / Cr Lord) that:

1. The Executive Committee note the Report.
2. The Executive Committee endorse the Income and Expenditure Statement and Detailed Balance Sheet to 31 March 2025.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINING & ENERGY RELATED COUNCIL'S (NSW) INCORPORATED, HELD ON 4th JUNE 2025. ONLINE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS & IN PERSON.

3. The Executive Committee thank Greg Lamont for stepping in as the Interim Executive Officer during the first six months of 2025.
4. The Executive Committee welcome Dr Jess Jennings into the role of Executive Officer.

6. Policy Officer Report

Martin Rush, Policy Director FTG provided an update on policy initiatives –

Visitation Program is to still visit Forbes, Wollongong, Wollondilly, Upper Lachlan and Broken Hill together with Lower Hunter Councils.

A good response from the recent program and optimism about future programs.

Clarification around the campaign to resolve the issues raised by Forbes Shire Council.

EM 8/2025 Resolved (Cr Lord/Cr Brady) that the Policy Officer Report be received and noted.

7. Admission of Upper Hunter Shire Council to Membership of the Association

Upper Hunter Shire Council have applied for Membership of the Association on the basis of fee-free Membership to 30 June 2026.

EM 9/2025 Resolved (Cr Hickey/Cr Brady) that:

(i) in pursuance of clause 3.1 of the Association's Constitution, Upper Hunter Shire Council to admitted to Membership of the Association.

(ii) in pursuance of clause 16.3(b) of the Association's Constitution the payment of fees by Upper Hunter Shire Council be waived for the period to 30 June 2026.

8. General Business

Dr Jennings noted that a fee-free waiver is likely to be helpful to attract membership from councils confronting immediate financial issues.

Cr Duffy requested short media talking points about the achievements of MERC as a result of recent media about what MERC's work and campaign.

10. Close – the meeting closed at 9:30am.

The minutes were confirmed at the Ordinary General Meeting held on 4th June 2025 and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the Executive Committee meeting held earlier on 4th June 2025.

.....
Cr Kevin Duffy,
Chairperson

ATTACHMENT C – EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

Dr Jess Jennings has successfully submitted the appropriate forms to Dept of Fair Trading to become the new MERC Executive Officer (includes Public Officer role), taking over from Mr Greg Lamont.

Jess has engaged with MERC accountant and is working with previous account holders to finalise all aspects of the MERC account management, noting that member councils have now been invoiced and paid their member fee for 2025-26.

Jess compiled and distributed the recent MERC Quarterly Newsletter, July 2025 Edition.

Jess, Chair Duffy and Mark Dicker met in Orange on 3JUL25 to discuss the best way to progress MERC’s policy development approach, and a subsequent meeting (online 21JUL25) with Brad Cam, Mark Dicker, Kent Boyd, Jess Jennings, Jono Wheaton and Martin Rush that resolved for Martin Rush and Jono Wheaton to collaborate on the development of MERC’s policy pitch to NSW Government, which is now underway and anticipated to culminate mid-NOV25 in time for the next MERC Member Meeting (scheduled 14NOV25).

Items for consideration 11SEPT25:

1. NSW Premier’s ***Rural Remote & Regional Advisory Council*** (PRRRAC) will meet twice annually with the Premier and Minister Moriarty.
2. **NSW Joint Organisation Chairs Forum** resolved write to all joint organisations, regional organisations of councils and other regional groups of councils to recommend and seek their support for and participation in a collaborative approach to:
 - understanding and applying the NSW Government's benefit-sharing guideline for large-scale energy developments;
 - developing council policies and procedures for negotiating community benefits-sharing arrangements; and
 - advocating for clear planning processes, additional guidelines and retrospective arrangements to ensure net community benefit for regional host communities for all energy developments.

Recommendation

The Report be noted.

ATTACHMENT D – POLICY DIRECTORS REPORT**Summary**

The Report provides an overview of policy development and initiatives undertaken by Mining and Energy Related Councils.

Resources and Energy Communities Campaign

The Association, at its General Meeting on the 14th of November 2024, canvassed the possibility of running a substantial campaign on the issue of benefit sharing for mining and energy related communities in NSW. In pursuit of that direction, staff officers provided a campaign strategy document, prepared by Astrolabe Group and Horton Advisory, to the membership which was subsequently endorsed by both the Executive Committee and the General Membership in March 2025. The proposal includes a voluntary contribution in a suggested sum of \$10,000 from each member and several non-member councils.

As members are aware, however, staff officers were provided with an email from Blayney Shire Council which disclosed a material policy division within the MERC membership concerning the strategy around the former Resources for Regions Program. Whilst staff officers had some awareness of the development of a parallel campaign, staff members were not aware of its substance. Essentially, there were at least some members who did not see strategic value in extending the campaign beyond the previous recipients of the former Resources for Regions Program. In addition to therefore excluding councils like Forbes Shire and Warren Shire, the parallel campaign would have excluded councils impacted by Major Projects related to renewable energy. Staff officers had thought that the reason for the commentary from Forbes Shire Council at the June MERC Ordinary Meeting related to a misunderstanding about its inclusion in the proposed Astrolabe campaign. It is now thought that the concern raised by Forbes Shire Council related to confusion about the parallel campaign being facilitated by Blayney Shire Council – the terms of which campaign would have excluded Forbes Shire.

Staff officer advice

In the view of staff officers, the NSW Government is very unlikely to bring back Resources for Regions with only minor edits relating to its naming – as suggested by the Member for Barwon. The NSW Government was very critical of the methodology developed around the program as to "who was in and who was out". The methodology developed was no more complex than identifying where the mining workforce lived as a proxy for "impactedness". That metric was a poor proxy for the largest head of impact facing regional councils which relates to the consumption of a Council's road asset. The NSW Government, in Opposition, criticised the methodology and the governance around the expenditure and noted that the weakness in that methodology exposed it to the criticism of being an exercise in pork-barrelling.

Moreover, the NSW Government has now reviewed the Regional Development Act, 2004 and the Guidelines associated with its Regional Development Trust Fund, making statutory changes to align

funding with, amongst other things, impacts associated with developments of both resources and energy projects. Staff officers cannot see the NSW Government rolling back that policy direction.

The view of staff officers is that the Association's best chance of success is to lock in behind that policy direction by expanding the existing stream related to regional resources and energy impacts. It is also the view of staff officers that enfranchising rather than disenfranchising councils and communities gives our efforts the highest chance of success.

Subsequent meeting with the facilitators of the parallel campaign

Staff officers met with Blayney Shire Council's General Manager and other interested councils associated with the parallel campaign together with Jonathon Wheaton from Akarui Mirai Advisory in August in an attempt to reach alignment on the proposed campaigns.

Jonathon Wheaton supported the staff officer contention that the NSW Government was very unlikely to bring back Resources for Regions (whether with a name change or otherwise) and agreed that a program for both resources and energy developed under the framing of the amended Regional Development Act, 2004 was the best way forward. There was broad agreement from the other general managers present on that point.

On that basis, the following was agreed.

- Jonathon Wheaton would, at the cost of his contributing councils, draft a policy for the consideration of his contributing councils and MERC members.
- Staff officers would assist if requested.
- The policy would be available by October 2025 for the MERC November Ordinary Meeting.

Since that time, staff officers have provided to Jonathon Wheaton a copy of MERC's policy framing document and contact details for key stakeholders.

Jonathon Wheaton is due to provide MERC members with an update at its meeting on the 11th September. A copy of the Akarui proposal is attached. It is also noted that several Joint Organisations are in the very early stages of also developing a campaign around benefit sharing.

Member meetings

Membership meetings for the southwest are yet to take place and will be scheduled for October and November.

Recommendation

The Report be noted.

ATTACHMENT E – FINANCE REPORTS

Income Expenditure Statement 01/07/2024 to 30/06/2025

Association of Mining Related Councils Inc
ABN 70 657 154 560
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2025

| | 2025 \$ | 2024 \$ |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|
| Income | | |
| Membership Fees | 132,000.00 | 128,235.58 |
| Interest received | 0.01 | 449.58 |
| Total income | <u>132,000.01</u> | <u>128,685.16</u> |
| Expenses | | |
| Bank fees & charges | 48.00 | 18.17 |
| Computer Expenses | | 109.00 |
| Contract Payments - Executive Officers | 121,356.16 | 164,648.20 |
| Depreciation - Other | 195.00 | 195.00 |
| Fees & charges | | 322.04 |
| M/V car - Fuel & oil | | 145.06 |
| Printing & stationery | 183.64 | 38.97 |
| Subscriptions | | 209.90 |
| Travel, accommodation & conference | 1,354.01 | 6,594.35 |
| Total expenses | <u>123,136.81</u> | <u>172,280.69</u> |
| Net profit attributable to the association | <u>8,863.20</u> | <u>(43,595.53)</u> |
| Total changes in equity of the association | <u>8,863.20</u> | <u>(43,595.53)</u> |
| Opening retained profits | 48,651.17 | 92,246.70 |
| Net profit attributable to the association | 8,863.20 | (43,595.53) |
| Closing retained profits | <u>57,514.37</u> | <u>48,651.17</u> |

These financial statements are unaudited. They must be read in conjunction with the attached Accountant's Compilation Report and Notes which form part of these financial statements.

Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2025

Association of Mining Related Councils Inc
ABN 70 657 154 560
 Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2025

| | Note | 2025 \$ | 2024 \$ |
|--------------------------------------|------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Current Assets | | | |
| Cash Assets | | | |
| Cash At Bank - Business CBA | | 57,862.08 | 41,809.65 |
| Cash At Bank - Business Account | | | 1,345.79 |
| Cash At Bank - Beyond Bank | | 10.17 | 10.16 |
| | | <u>57,872.25</u> | <u>43,165.60</u> |
| Total Current Assets | | <u>57,872.25</u> | <u>43,165.60</u> |
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| Property, Plant and Equipment | | | |
| Office equipment | | 976.00 | 976.00 |
| Less: Accumulated amortisation | | (390.00) | (195.00) |
| | | <u>586.00</u> | <u>781.00</u> |
| Total Non-Current Assets | | <u>586.00</u> | <u>781.00</u> |
| Total Assets | | <u>58,458.25</u> | <u>43,946.60</u> |

These financial statements are unaudited. They must be read in conjunction with the attached Accountant's Compilation Report and Notes which form part of these financial statements.

Matters to be dealt with in closed committee

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

14) GENERAL MANAGER'S ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) (a) of the Local Government Act, as it deals with personnel matters concerning particular individuals.