



19 March 2026

Dear Councillor,

Your attendance is requested at an Ordinary Council Meeting of the Blayney Shire Council to be held in the Chambers, Blayney Shire Community Centre on Tuesday, 24 March 2026 at 6.00pm for consideration of the following business -

- (1) Livestreaming Video and Audio Check
- (2) Acknowledgement of Country
- (3) Recording of Meeting Statement
- (4) Statement of Ethical Obligations
- (5) Apologies for non-attendance
- (6) Disclosures of Interest
- (7) Mayoral Minute
- (8) Confirmation of Minutes - Ordinary Council Meeting held on 24.02.26
- (9) Matters arising from Minutes
- (10) Reports of Staff
 - (a) Planning and Environmental Services
 - (b) Executive Services
 - (c) Corporate Services
 - (d) Infrastructure Services
- (11) Delegates Reports
- (12) Closed Meeting

Mark Dicker
General Manager

Meeting Calendar 2026

March

6.00pm	24 March 2026	Council Meeting	Community Centre
8.30am	27 March 2026	Country Mayors Meeting	Sydney

April

10.00am	15 April 2026	Central Tablelands Water Meeting	Canowindra
8.30am	22 April 2026	Orange360 Board Meeting	Orange
6.00pm	28 April 2026	Council Meeting	Community Centre

May

9.00am	6 May 2026	Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting	Community Centre
8.30am	8 May 2026	Country Mayors	Sydney
2.30pm	13 May 2026	Bush Fire Management Committee Meeting	Orange
10.00am	20 May 2026	Central Tablelands Water Meeting	Blayney
6.00pm	25 May 2026	McPhillamy's CCC Meeting	Community Centre
6.00pm	26 May 2026	Council Meeting	Community Centre
10.00am	27 May 2026	Central NSW JO Board Meeting	Sydney

INDEX OF REPORTS OF THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2026

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	5
01) Minutes of the Previous Council Meeting held 24 February 2026	5
EXECUTIVE SERVICES	15
02) Application for Leave of Absence	15
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	15
03) Holiday Break Autumn/Winter 2026 Grant.....	16
EXECUTIVE SERVICES	15
04) Great Western Highway Update	18
05) Village Priorities,Ideas and Action Register.....	26
06) Lease for Electric Vehicle Public Charging Station in the Blayney Shire Community Centre Carpark.....	28
07) Tourism Development Program Applications	31
CORPORATE SERVICES	39
08) Report of Council Investments as at 28 February 2026.....	39
09) Youth Week 2026	45
10) Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held 25 February 2026	48
11) Minutes of the Financial Assistance Committee Meeting held 5 March 2026	54
INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES	60
12) Infrastructure Services: Key Activities Report.....	60
13) Richards Lane and Intersection Upgrade Project.....	68
14) Roadside Spraying Program	74
15) Minutes of the Blayney Shire Council Local Transport Forum held 6 March 2026	77
DELEGATES REPORTS	81
16) McPhillamys Gold Project Community Consultative Committee.....	81
17) Canobolas Zone NSW Rural Fire Service Bush Fire Liaison Committee Delegate Report	87

LIVE STREAMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

STATEMENT OF ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS

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

01) MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING HELD 24 FEBRUARY 2026**Department:** Executive Services**Author:** General Manager**CSP Link:** 1. Prioritise transparency, financial sustainability and strong partnerships with and for our community**File No:** GO.ME.3**Recommendation:**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 24 February 2026, being minute numbers 2602/001 to 2602/027 be confirmed.

MINUTES OF THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE CHAMBERS, BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY CENTRE, ON 24 FEBRUARY 2026, COMMENCING AT 6.00PM**Present:** Crs B Reynolds (Mayor), R Scott (Deputy Mayor), I Dorsett, C Gosewisch, K Hutchings, S Johnston and J Newstead

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

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

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

Councillor /Staff	Interest	Item	Pg	Report	Reason
Cr Johnston	Non Pecuniary (Significant)	4	20	Mayoral Minute - Meals on Wheels Future in Blayney Shire	Cr Johnston is a Board member
Cr Gosewisch	Pecuniary	7	36	Quarterly Outstanding Resolution Report – Item on Panuara Road	Employee of Newmont
Cr Gosewisch	Pecuniary	10	51	Class Action Against Cadia Holdings Pty Ltd	Employee of Newmont
Mark Dicker	Non Pecuniary (Less Than Significant)	19	98	Resources for Regions Round 9 – Program Status	Previously declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Richards Lane, Millthorpe project. This is an updating report, reallocating grant monies within the existing grant

					funded projects (otherwise the money will be returned).
Mark Dicker	Non Pecuniary (Less Than Significant)	20	101	Richards Lane and Intersection Upgrade Project	Previously declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Richards Lane, Millthorpe project. This is a monthly updating report.
Cr Dorsett	Non Pecuniary (Less Than Significant)	28	159	PP-2025-1739 Planning Proposal 34 Charles Street, Blayney – LEP Amendment to Include Zoning Changes (RU2 to R2) and Minimum Lot Size (100ha to 2000m2)	Son owns an adjoining property.

MAYORAL MINUTE

MAYORAL MINUTE - MINUTE'S SILENCE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE PASSING OF JIM NEWMAN

Councillors held a minute’s silence acknowledging the passing of former Councillor Jim Newman. Jim served the community as a Councillor from 1995 to 2004.

MAYORAL MINUTE - 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW CONFERENCE DELEGATE REPORT ON SUBMITTED MOTIONS FROM BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL

2602/001

RESOLVED:

That Council note the outcomes of the four motions that were submitted by Blayney Shire Council to the 2025 Local Government NSW conference.

(Reynolds)
CARRIED

MAYORAL MINUTE - BLAYNEY SHIRE AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS CEREMONY 2026

2602/002

RESOLVED:

Council note the recipients of the 2026 Blayney Shire Australia Day awards and their positive contribution to the Blayney Shire community.

(Reynolds)
CARRIED

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

MAYORAL MINUTE - MEALS ON WHEELS FUTURE IN BLAYNEY SHIRE

2602/003

RESOLVED:

That Council write to the Minister for Aged Care and Seniors and highlight the risks the proposed funding model poses to our community. The letter request a review of the proposed change for the Blayney Shire and guarantee our community members

won't be disadvantaged by any change to the funding model.

(Reynolds)

CARRIED

Cr Johnston returned to the Chambers.

**MAYORAL MINUTE - RECOGNITION OF THE OPENING OF
BLAYNEY HOSPITAL MULTI-PURPOSE SERVICE (MPS) -
STAGE 1**

2602/004 RESOLVED:

That Council note the opening of Stage 1 of the Blayney Hospital Multi-Purpose Service.

(Reynolds)

CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING HELD 16
DECEMBER 2025**

2602/005 RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 16 December 2025, being minute numbers 2512/001 to 2512/028 be confirmed.

(Newstead/Scott)

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cr Gosewisch asked if there was an update regarding the order to demolish the dwelling at 2 Queen Street, Blayney.

Director Planning and Environmental Services confirmed that the order has been served and there has been discussion with the owner.

Cr Reynolds asked if the Expression of Interest for Whites Quarry had gone out to the public. General Manager confirmed EOI is currently live with closing date of 20 March 2026.

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT REPORT

2602/006 RESOLVED:

That the Development Assessment Report be received and noted for the period 1 October 2025 to 31 December 2025.

(Gosewisch/Scott)

CARRIED

DA 2025/0007 ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO HOTEL AT 29 PARK STREET MILLTHORPE (COMMERCIAL HOTEL)

2602/007

RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Note the two submissions received in relation to Development Application 2025/0007; and
2. Consent to Development Application 2025/0007 for Alterations and Additions to Existing Hotel on Lot 92 DP 122851, 29 Park Street, Millthorpe subject to draft conditions of consent.

(Gosewisch/Reynolds)

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

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Reynolds	Councillor Hutchings
Councillor Newstead	Councillor Scott
Councillor Gosewisch	
Councillor Dorsett	
Councillor Johnston	
Total (5)	Total (2)

CARRIED

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

PP-2025-1739 PLANNING PROPOSAL 34 CHARLES STREET, BLAYNEY - LEP AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE ZONING CHANGES (RU2 TO R2) AND MINIMUM LOTS SIZE (100HA TO 2000M2)

2602/008

RESOLVED:

1. That Council Submit the Planning Proposal to the Minister of Planning in accordance with Section 3.34(1) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, requesting Gateway Determination, pursuant to Section 3.34(2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
2. Request delegation to finalise and make the draft Local Environmental Plan pursuant to Section 3.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment act 1979.
3. Exhibit the draft site specific Chapter of Council’s Development Control Plan concurrently with the Planning Proposal and delegate authority to the General Manager to make any necessary refinements to the version attached to the business paper.

(Gosewisch/Newstead)

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

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Reynolds	

Councillor Newstead
 Councillor Gosewisch
 Councillor Hutchings
 Councillor Scott
 Councillor Johnston

Total (6)

Total (0)

CARRIED

Cr Dorsett returned to the Chambers.

EXECUTIVE SERVICES REPORTS

Cr Gosewisch, having declared an interest, being an employee of Newmont, left the Chambers for a question regarding Cadia and Panuara Road and returned thereafter.

QUARTERLY OUTSTANDING RESOLUTION REPORT

2602/009

RESOLVED:

That Council note the Outstanding Resolution Report to December 2025.

(Scott/Newstead)

CARRIED

ALGA NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CANBERRA - JUNE 2026

2602/010

RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Approve the registration and attendance of the Mayor and to the 2026 ALGA National General Assembly of Local Government in Canberra in June 2026.
2. Approve the registration and attendance of Cr Gosewisch to the 2026 ALGA National General Assembly of Local Government in Canberra in June 2026.

(Newstead/Gosewisch)

CARRIED

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM APPLICATION

2602/011

RESOLVED:

1. That Council approve \$2,000 of funding to Newbridge Progress Association for the Newbridge Winter Solstice event.
2. That the program remain open for the 2025/26 financial year and applications be reported to Council as they are received.

(Gosewisch/Hutchings)

CARRIED

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

- 2602/012** **CLASS ACTION AGAINST CADIA HOLDINGS PTY LTD**
RESOLVED:
That Council:
1. Note the class action against Cadia Holdings Pty Ltd has been filed in the Supreme Court of New South Wales.
 2. Note independent advice has been obtained by Council from Pendlebury Workplace Law, specifically regarding conflict of interest/s and is enclosed to this report.
 3. Note that it owns land (road reserves and open spaces) in the identified area and may at a future meeting need to resolve whether it wishes to participate in the proceedings or opt out once the court publishes the opt out notice.
 4. Note further reports will be brought back to Council on the matter.
- (Newstead/Reynolds)
CARRIED

Cr Gosewisch returned to the Chambers.

CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

- 2602/013** **REPORT OF COUNCIL INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025**
RESOLVED:
That Council:
1. Note the report indicating Council's investment position as of 31 December 2025.
 2. Note the certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer.
- (Hutchings/Newstead)
CARRIED

- 2602/014** **REPORT OF COUNCIL INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 JANUARY 2026**
RESOLVED:
That Council:
1. Note the report indicating Council's investment position as of 31 January 2026.
 2. Note the certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer.
- (Scott/Gosewisch)
CARRIED

- 2602/015** **QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT - DECEMBER 2025**
RESOLVED:
That Council:
1. Receive the report on the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the quarter ending 31 December 2025.
 2. Adopt the supplementary votes of (\$81k) nett proposed in the

Quarterly Budget Review Statement, resulting in a decrease to capital expenditure of (\$22k), an increase to operating expenditure of \$161k and an increase in income of \$139k.

3. Note the certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer that the Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) for the quarter ended 31 December 2025, based on the current projections of income, expenditure, and both restricted and unrestricted cash levels, Council’s projected financial position as at 30 June 2026 is considered satisfactory.

(Gosewisch/Hutchings)

CARRIED

REVIEW OF COUNCIL POLICIES

2602/016

RESOLVED:

That Council;

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

Policy Name
Enforcement Policy
Waste Collection Policy
Media Policy
Investment Policy

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

(Scott/Newstead)

CARRIED

COMPLIANCE AND REPORTING ACTIVITIES

2602/017

RESOLVED:

That the report on Compliance and Reporting Activities for the six month period to 31 December 2025 be received.

(Dorsett/Gosewisch)

CARRIED

SIX MONTHLY DELIVERY PROGRAM REVIEW - DECEMBER 2025

2602/018

RESOLVED:

That the six-monthly progress report of Council’s 2025/26 – 2028/29 Delivery Program be received.

(Dorsett/Gosewisch)

CARRIED

PRODUCTIVITY SAVINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS

2602/019

RESOLVED:

That Council note the report on productivity savings and improvements.

(Reynolds/Newstead)

CARRIED

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORTS**2025/26 ROAD ALLOCATIONS AND CAPITAL WORKS UPDATE**

2602/020

RESOLVED:

That Council note the update report regarding Transport Infrastructure renewal / capital programs for 2025/26.

(Newstead/Scott)

CARRIED**RESOURCES FOR REGIONS ROUND 9 - PROGRAM STATUS**

2602/021

RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Note the update of the Resources for Regions Round 9 Program.
2. Approve a supplementary vote of all remaining R4R9 grant funds (estimated at \$443,000) to be allocated as contingency to the final R4R9 project – Richards Lane.

(Gosewisch/Scott)

CARRIED**RICHARDS LANE AND INTERSECTION UPGRADE PROJECT**

2602/022

RESOLVED:

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

(Gosewisch/Scott)

CARRIED**INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES: KEY ACTIVITIES REPORT**

2602/023

RESOLVED:

That Council;

1. Note the Infrastructure Services Key Activities Report for February 2026.
2. Approve a supplementary vote of \$60,000 in the 2025/26 Operational Plan to undertake preliminary investigation and design works for Newbridge Road over Liscombes Creek Bridge, funded from Developer Contributions.
3. Approve a supplementary vote of \$50,000 in the 2025/26 Operational Plan to undertake repairs to the KGO main irrigation line, funded from the SRV Building Renewal fund.
4. Approve a supplementary vote of \$63,014 in the 2025/26 Operational Plan to undertake repairs and renewal of Carcoar Boat Ramp with \$47,014 funded from NSW Boat Infrastructure Grant and \$16,000 funded from Village Enhancement Program.
5. Be provided with a separate, dedicated monthly Council report on the Richards Lane Project until completion.

(Scott/Gosewisch)

CARRIED

ACTIVE MOVEMENT STRATEGY: 2026 REVIEW AND UPDATE**2602/024****RESOLVED:**

That Council:

1. Note a review of the Blayney Shire Active Movement Strategy has been undertaken.
2. Endorse the revised and updated Active Movement Strategy 2026 for public exhibition.
3. Place the revised Active Movement Strategy on Public Exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days.
4. Should no submissions be received during the public exhibition period, adopt the Active Movement Strategy.

(Scott/Gosewisch)

CARRIED**CONTRACT S2 2025 SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF COLDMIX ASPHALT****2602/025****RESOLVED:**

That Council:

1. Enter into contract with the following organisations for the Supply and Delivery of Coldmix Asphalt:
 - Downer EDI Works Pty Ltd – for 10mm and 7mm
 - Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd – for 10mm and 7mm
 - Civil Independence Industries Pty Ltd – for 10mm only
 - Bitupave Ltd – for 5mm only.
2. Advise the Central NSW Joint Organisation of its decision.
3. Delegate to the General Manager authority to execute the contracts and any other document necessary for the contracts.

(Newstead/Hutchings)

CARRIED**CONTRACT S3 2025: SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF CONCRETE STORMWATER DRAINAGE PIPES****2602/026****RESOLVED:**

That Council:

1. Enter into contract with Holcim (Australia) Pty Ltd for the Supply and Delivery of Concrete Drainage Pipes
2. Advise the Central NSW Joint Organisation of its decision.
3. Delegate to the General Manager authority to execute the contract and any other document necessary for the contract.

(Gosewisch/Newstead)

CARRIED

**FLYERS CREEK WIND FARM - TV TOWER -
RETRANSMISSION LICENSING**

2602/027

RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Approves acting as the apparatus licence holder for the Flyers Creek Wind Farm retransmission tower as the self-help provider.
2. Require all costs, risks and obligations associated with the design, construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the facility would remain entirely with Iberdrola Australia or its contractors.
3. Delegates Authority to the Mayor and General Manager to affix Council Seal and execute agreement with Flyers Creek Wind Farm on behalf of Council.
4. Delegates Authority to the General Manager to execute any other documents necessary to give effect to Council acting as the apparatus licence holder of the facility.

(Newstead/Scott)
CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.34pm.

The Minute Numbers 2602/001 to 2602/027 were confirmed on 24 March 2026 and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting held on 24 February 2026.

Cr B Reynolds
CHAIR

02) APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Department: Executive Services

Author: General Manager

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

File No: GO.CO.1

Recommendation:

That Council approve the Leave of Absence application submitted by Councillor Johnston for the March 2026 Council Meeting.

Reason for Report:

Councillor Johnston is seeking Council approval for a Leave of Absence, for the March 2026 Council meeting.

Report:

Councillor Johnston will be an apology for the March 2026 Council meeting and has submitted an application for this Leave of Absence.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

This request is in accordance with section 5 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice and s234(1)(d) of the Local Government Act (1993), whereby Council may grant leave prior to or at any of the meetings concerned.

Budget Implications:

Nil

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

03) HOLIDAY BREAK AUTUMN/WINTER 2026 GRANT

Department: Executive Services

Author: Director Planning and Environmental Services

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

File No: PM.CT.1

Recommendation:

That Council note the report on a successful grant application under the NSW Government Office of Youth Holiday Break Program.

Reason for Report:

To advise Council of a successful grant application, jointly prepared by Belgravia Leisure and Council, for funding under the NSW Government Office of Youth Holiday Break Program

Report:

The NSW Government Holiday Break Autumn / Winter 2026 Program aims to provide young people in NSW opportunities to connect, socialise, learn new skills, and have fun during the school holidays. It supports the delivery of free activities, including sport and recreation camps, creative, artistic and scientific activities.

Funding of up to \$10,000 was available under the program. Belgravia Leisure and Council combined resources to apply under the program. The application was successful with the following activities funded at CentrePoint for the Autumn and Winter School Holidays.

The autumn school holidays will see a Teen Gym and Boot Camp program. Teen Gym will offer strength training and structured programs that build fitness skills, confidence, and social connection in a safe, supportive gym environment for young people. Boot Camp will involve high energy workouts combining strength, cardio, and teamwork to build fitness, confidence, and fun.

In the winter school holidays the “FutureSwim” Skills Program will take place. This program is designed to deliver ability-based swimming lessons aimed to ensure every young person develops essential water-safety and swimming skills at a suitable pace. It will be led by qualified instructors in a safe, supervised environment aiming to build confidence, competence, and a lifelong skill to help young people stay safe in and around water.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Risk assessment of activities is part of the delivery of activities by Belgravia Leisure at Centrepoint.

Budget Implications:

A total of \$4,510 in funding will be provided. The programs were designed by Belgravia Leisure who are also responsible for their delivery. Council will receive the grant funding and pay Belgravia to carry out the programs.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

04) GREAT WESTERN HIGHWAY UPDATE**Department:** Executive Services**Author:** General Manager**CSP Link:** 2. A connected, healthy and inclusive community**File No:** TT.LI.1**Recommendation:**

That Council note the update report on the Great Western Highway.

Reason for Report:

To update Council on the Great Western Highway (GWH), which has been closed in both directions at Victoria Pass since Monday 9 March 2026 (noting it was closed to East bound traffic on Friday 6 March 2026) after defects were discovered in the causeway known as 'The Convict Bridge'.

Report:

6 March 2026: defect discovered in 'The Convict Bridge', traffic control implemented and eastbound side of road closed to traffic.

9 March 2026: Great Western Highway closed in both directions at 'The Convict Bridge' until further notice.

See Transport for NSW website for media releases and further information:

<https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/current-projects/great-western-highway-road-closure-at-victoria-pass>

See Transport for NSW website for Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

[Frequently Asked Questions about the Great Western Highway road closure at Victoria Pass | Transport for NSW](#)

Lithgow City Council have advised the sudden closure of the Great Western Highway has resulted in an additional 11,000 cars and trucks being redirected through Lithgow Town Centre. Additionally, the Darling Causeway (between Mt Victoria and Bell) is not a highway and will also bear the brunt of the additional traffic.

Whilst the impacts of the closure of the Great Western Highway will be significant for the Central West and wider Western Region, particularly in terms of freight and logistics (during a fuel crisis).

With confirmation that the GWH will be closed for at least 12 weeks, a number of organisations have been mobilising in relation to the GWH closure and seeking to develop communications centred around ensuring visitors are aware that the region is still open.

The Mayor provided Bathurst Regional Council with a letter of support for a Bathurst/Blayney/Oberon campaign or a larger and more regional campaign (see enclosure). On Wednesday 18 March 2026, the Mayor was in Sydney at NSW Parliament spoke to a number of elected NSW parliamentarians regarding the Great Western Highway closure.

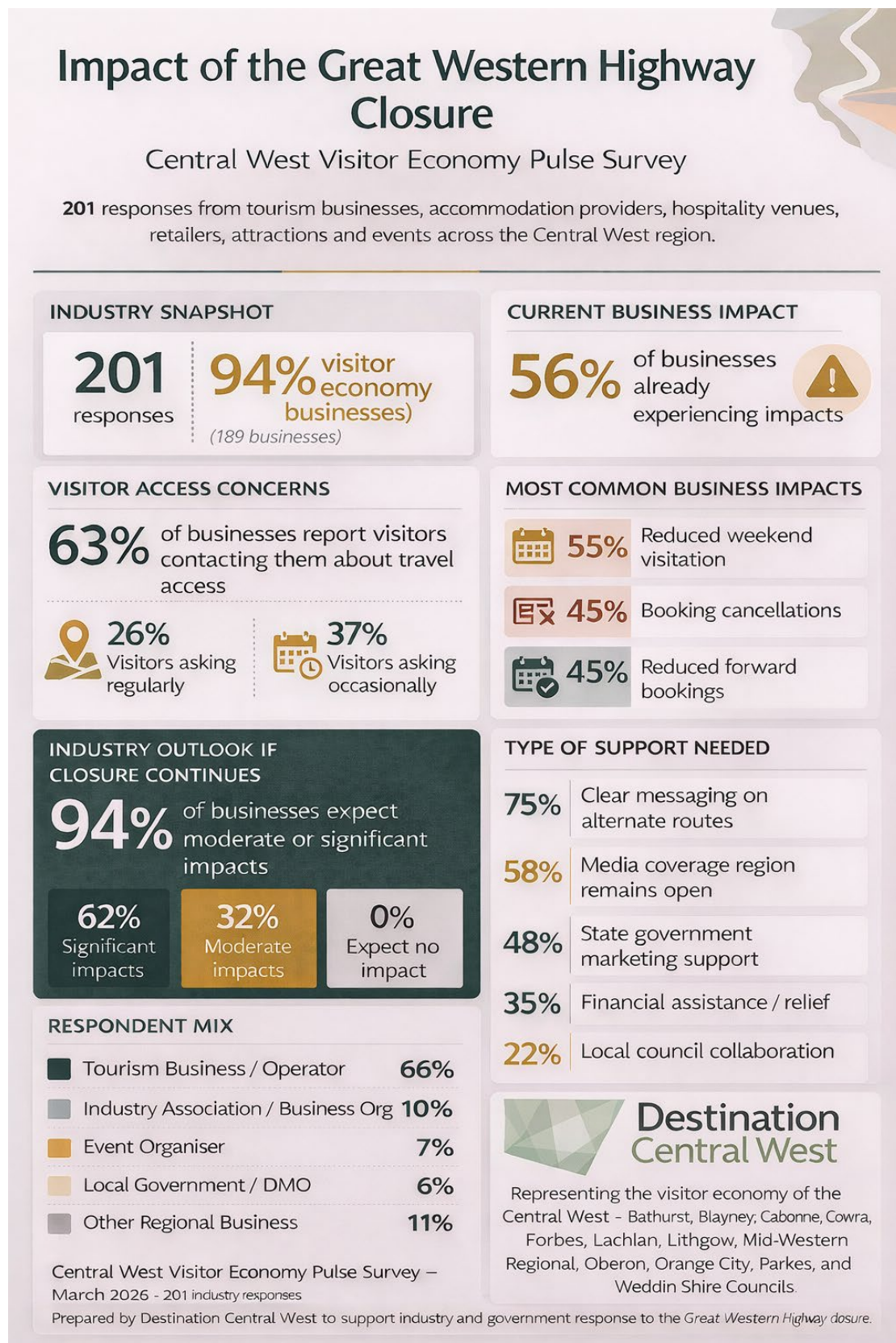
NSW Department of Primary Industries and regional Development, Destination Central West, Business NSW, Transport for NSW and Central NSW Joint Organisation have commences collaboratively working together, and this collaboration has intensified since Transport for NSW confirmed the GWH will be closed for a minimum 12 weeks.

The following update was provided by, Kate Barker, Interim Executive Officer, Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) on Tuesday 17 March 2026:

A quick summary from yesterday's meeting is as follows:

- *A meeting is being held on Thursday for councils across Western NSW*
- *There has been an uplift in public transport, and TfNSW will continue to refine this as necessary*
- *TfNSW agreed to convene a meeting ASAP with any business in Western NSW able to attend to receive an update on the situation. DPIRD is coordinating this.*
- *TfNSW are talk to other departments who also have a role, including those of Ministers Saffin and Minister Kamper*
- *A meeting was held yesterday afternoon for the forestry and wood production industries.*
- *A weekly meeting is being held for freight operators.*
- *A roundtable was held yesterday in relation to the fuel supply challenges, and I understand David Reynolds from LGNSW reached out to councils over the weekend for feedback.*
- *A new landing page is up and running to keep everyone updated as things change - [Great Western Highway Road Closure at Victoria Pass | Transport for NSW](#)*
- *Destination Network Central West ran a survey late last week, with responses received to date highlighting:*
 - *56% of businesses report they are experiencing impacts*
 - *55% report reduced weekend visitation*
 - *45% report booking cancellations*
 - *45% report reduced forward bookings*
 - *63% of businesses report visitors contacting them about travel access.*

An overview of the survey findings is provided in the infographic below.



INDUSTRY OUTLOOK IF CLOSURE CONTINUES

94%

of businesses expect moderate or significant impacts

62%
Significant impacts

32%
Moderate impacts

0%
Expect no impact

TYPE OF SUPPORT NEEDED

75% Clear messaging on alternate routes

58% Media coverage region remains open

48% State government marketing support

35% Financial assistance / relief

22% Local council collaboration

RESPONDENT MIX

	Tourism Business / Operator	66%
	Industry Association / Business Org	10%
	Event Organiser	7%
	Local Government / DMO	6%
	Other Regional Business	11%

Central West Visitor Economy Pulse Survey – March 2026 - 201 industry responses
Prepared by Destination Central West to support industry and government response to the Great Western Highway closure.

Destination Central West

Representing the visitor economy of the Central West - Bathurst, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Lachlan, Lithgow, Mid-Western Regional, Oberon, Orange City, Parkes, and Weddin Shire Councils.

- *Business NSW has also been working on a survey, which is now being refined with input from other stakeholders to be released shortly. This survey will replace the DNCW one which will soon be disabled to ensure there is no confusion about multiple surveys for businesses and tourism operators.*
- *4 extra traffic cameras have been installed in the Lithgow/Bells areas, one of which is a [live](#) feed.*
- *Concerns around schools and winter road conditions were discussed. TfNSW advised that they have a dedicated TfNSW staff member working closely with the schools, and are looking at infrastructure modifications on the lanes going up Scenic Hill.*
- *There is an increased police presence in the detour area following reports of dangerous driving.*

There is a strong focus in this stakeholder group to ensure clear and consistent messaging. After a number of requests from member councils and other stakeholders to run a targeted campaign around alternate routes into the region, we have been working with Gabrielle Brewer who is the JO's marketing and PR contractor.

*Gabrielle is developing the '**Other Ways to the West**' campaign, which has been run by a stakeholder group consisting of DNCW, RDA Central West, Business NSW, NSW DPIRD, TfNSW, and the Chair of the Central NSW Tourism Group.*

The key objectives of the campaign are:

- 1. Counter mixed and negative messaging in the community with a clear, proactive and positive campaign that highlights there are other ways to travel to the Central West.*
- 2. Create a campaign idea and key message that can be adopted by all Central West stakeholders, LGAs and beyond, in a unified approach. This includes Joint Organisation LGAs and any other regions further west.*
- 3. Help maintain as much visitation as possible during the detour period.*
- 4. Reassure travellers who have already booked that the Central West remains accessible.*
- 5. Encourage prospective visitors to commit to travel by making it clear that multiple routes into the region exist and are open.*
- 6. Reframe the detour as a potential positive for some travellers, positioning alternative routes (particularly Bells Line of Road) as scenic road trip experiences worth taking in their own right.*

The Chair has approved \$25k from the tourism budget for this first stage focusing on alternate routes, and some councils has expressed interest in contributing to the campaign - there has also been requests to include Mid-Western, Dubbo and other areas to the far west).

DNCW will shortly be seeking support from Destination NSW for funding support from the NSW Government for a longer-term campaign, which can be led by the JO. We note there are other challenges at the moment including fuel supply and road congestion so any and all campaigns will be managed with this in mind.

The following explains the campaign stages being proposed.

Campaign horizons



The following update was provided by, Kate Barker, Interim Executive Officer, Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) on Wednesday 18 March 2026:

- *The stakeholder group is working on a business briefing session to hopefully be held later this week. It will be a moderated online session with questions requested in advance, facilitated by DPIRD/TfNSW etc .*
- *Business NSW has a survey out which has over 150 responses since it was released yesterday. Feel free to share this with your business communities etc. - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BNPN6H5>*
- *CNSWJO has invited Matt Fuller, Damien Pfeiffer and Kristy Hartwig from TfNSW to the Board meeting on 27 May in Sydney. This is progressing though not confirmed at this point.*
- *Gabrielle Brewer has finalised the marketing campaign "Other Ways to the West". Please find attached. We are hoping this will go live by the end of the week. We are pulling together the assets for the campaign toolkit as we speak. It will available for councils, businesses, tourism operators etc to all use.*
- *At this morning's stakeholder group meeting it was agreed that RDACW, Business NSW and CNSWJO write to Ministers Aitchison and Graham in relation to the road challenges, and to Ministers Moriarty, Saffin and Kamper in relation to business support and for funding for phases 2 and 3 of the marketing campaign. I will work with the Chair on progressing these letters.*
- *Specifically regarding around Lithgow, TfNSW advised in the stakeholder meeting this morning:*
 - *The impacts being seen in Lithgow are vast, with TfNSW working on alleviating safety and traffic concerns.*
 - *Impact on school buses - leading to significant time on buses*

- *Focus on maintenance on the detour*
- *Receiving good feedback regarding signage and traffic management.*

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Various.

Budget Implications:

The Chair of the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) has approved \$25k from the tourism budget for this first stage focusing on alternate routes, and some councils has expressed interest in contributing to the campaign - there has also been requests to include Mid-Western, Dubbo and other areas to the far west).

The Central NSW Tourism Subgroup (staff subgroup) have asked member Councils if they have any additional capacity to contribute to the campaign. Council staff have initially advised we have \$2,000 within our current tourism operational budget that it can contributed.

Enclosures (following report)

1 Letter of Support

2 Pages

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

**Blayney Shire Council**

Council Office 91 Adelaide Street, Blayney Postal Address PO Box 62, Blayney NSW 2799

Telephone (02) 6368 2104 Email council@blayney.nsw.gov.auWeb www.blayney.nsw.gov.au

ABN 47619651511

11 March 2026

The Hon. Jennifer Aitchison MP
Minister for Roads and Minister for Regional Transport

Dear Minister Aitchison,

I am writing to express strong support for an immediate financial assistance package as proposed by Bathurst Regional Council to help promote that our region remains open for business despite the current closure of the Great Western Highway. The highway shutdown has created significant uncertainty for visitors, customers, and suppliers, and without clear, proactive communication, many businesses are already experiencing a downturn that could have long-lasting consequences.

Although the Great Western Highway is temporarily inaccessible, the region is still fully reachable via **Bells Line of Road**, which continues to provide a reliable and scenic alternative route. Unfortunately, public awareness of this alternative is limited, and many potential visitors assume the area is effectively cut off. This misconception is directly impacting local tourism, hospitality, retail, and service industries—sectors that are vital to the economic stability of our community.

To address this, we are seeking targeted financial support from the NSW Government to fund a coordinated promotional campaign. This campaign would focus on communicating that the region remains open and accessible, highlighting Bells Line of Road as a safe and viable travel route, supporting local businesses in maintaining visibility during the disruption and encouraging continued visitation and economic activity for those who were intending to come to our region.

Such assistance would not only help mitigate the immediate economic impact but also reinforce confidence in the region's resilience and long-term viability. Local businesses have shown remarkable adaptability, but without government-backed promotion, the current situation risks causing avoidable financial hardship.

We respectfully request that the NSW Government consider allocating urgent funding to support this initiative. Your assistance would make a meaningful difference to the livelihoods of residents and the sustainability of the local economy during this challenging period.

Thank you for your consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further and provide any additional information that may assist.

Yours faithfully,



Bruce Reynolds
Mayor

05) VILLAGE PRIORITIES, IDEAS AND ACTION REGISTER

Department: Executive Services

Author: General Manager

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

File No: CR.PL.1

Recommendation:

That Council endorse the Village Priorities and Ideas Register that has been prepared for Blayney and each village, including: Carcoar, Lyndhurst, Mandurama, Millthorpe, Neville and Newbridge from the feedback received during the community engagement undertaken for the Blayney Shire Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035.

Reason for Report:

The current Delivery Program and Operational Plan has the following action for 2025/26:

***Town / Village plans:** Each town / village identifies projects and opportunities needed by the community*

Report:

Council previously had 'community plans for each village. They are still on Council's website (under Town and Village Community Plans):

<https://www.blayney.nsw.gov.au/council/council-information/plans-and-strategies>

The documents are now dated and were previously prepared by active village groups. A fresh approach was undertaken seeking to simplify the intent of the old village plans, whilst critically capturing feedback heard during community engagement undertaken for the Blayney Shire Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035.

In particular it is noted that the community were invited to eight (8) 'drop-in sessions' across Blayney Shire in April 2025. Ninety-two (92) people attended and engaged with Council during the drop-in session, driving the content of the 'Village Priorities and Ideas Register'.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Wider community benefit for each item has also been hard to quantify; by having a register, Council can then use it when considering the DP/OP each year, additionally community groups and Council can use it for grant funding opportunities (of which there are not many at the moment).

What was heard has been sought to be captured during CSP community engagement, and essentially create a priority and ideas register, seeking to empower communities to progress their villages with Council assistance (like Redmond Oval lighting and power upgrades project).

Given the register has been correlated off CSP community engagement, it is proposed to put the register to Council for endorsement but not undertake further consultation.

Budget Implications:

It is not proposed to regularly update the register, due to additional administration burden.

Any new assets or significant upgrade of Council owned assets would need to consider whole of life costs and long-term financial impact. In this regard just because a project is listed in the register does not mean the project is formally endorsed by Council.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1 | Village Priorities, Ideas and Action Register 2025-2029 | 18 Pages |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------|----------|

06) LEASE FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE PUBLIC CHARGING STATION IN THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COMMUNITY CENTRE CARPARK

Department: Executive Services

Author: General Manager

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

File No: PN.DC.2

Recommendation:

That Council;

1. Note the report on the Electric Vehicle public charging station for the Blayney Shire Community Centre car park.
2. Delegate to the General Manager authority to finalise terms of a 10 year (with 5-year option) lease agreement for two (2) car park spaces (and any ancillary area required for electrical charging infrastructure) within the Blayney Shire Community Centre carpark, at, part Lot 24, Section 14, DP 758121, Blayney to EVE Assets Pty Ltd.
3. Endorse the Mayor and General Manager to execute the lease agreement and any other associated document for this item.

Reason for Report:

To seek Council approval to delegate to the General Manger finalisation of a lease agreement within the Blayney Shire Community Centre carpark, part Lot 24, Section 14, DP 758121, Blayney to EVE Assets Pty Ltd.

Report:

At its Ordinary Meeting on 17 December 2024, Council resolved (**resolution 2412/005**):

ELECTRIC VEHICLE DESTINATION CHARGING GRANTS

*That Council endorse submission of an Expression of Interest to host an electric vehicle charging station in the Blayney Shire Community Centre carpark.
(Scott/Gosewisch)*

Subsequently EVE Assets Pty Ltd (trading as EVSE Australia) has received official funding approval from NSW Government to install an Electric Vehicle (EV) fast charger at the Blayney Shire Community Centre carpark.

The draft Site Host Agreement is provided as a confidential attachment. Enclosed.

It is noted, the land is Crown land, which Council is the Crown Land Manager. Crown have advised there is a template for such occasions and advised Council can:

- Either proceed with the proposed Site Host Agreement (Council will need to have the agreement checked against Crown Land template **or**

- The standard Crown Land Manager lease document (transfer the info from your host agreement into the Crown Land template).

Given this is an emerging technology, the General Manager has gone back and forth seeking to ensure Council was obtaining the best terms for use of the Blayney Shire Community Centre Carpark.

The terms offered are considered fair and consistent with other offers in regional NSW, there are matters that need finalisation and clarification, hence the recommendation to delegate to the General Manager to finalise details and authorise the Mayor and General Manager to execute.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Council has engaged Crown Land and council is continuing to engage with EVE Assets Pty Ltd regrading minor clarifications.

The matter needs to move forward so the project can progress design and commence obtaining approvals and subsequent installation. If this matter does not progress the funding for the charging station may be lost.

Two car spaces in the Blayney Shire Community Centre carpark would be marked and dedicated and reserved for EV charging only.

Budget Implications:

The installation costs of the EV charging station are covered by the Charge Point Operator (through a NSW Government grant (capped at \$200,000)).

In relation to ownership and maintenance, EVE have advised the General Manager in writing:

This is with EVE to manage the uptime guarantees on our end, no involvement needed from council as a part of contract above. EVSE will supply, install, operate and maintain the assets at no cost to council.

The lease will provide income for Council totalling \$1,000 per annum (\$500 per space per annum) excl. GST indexed annually by CPI.

Council has sought a response from EVE on the following (a response is yet to be received):

- Clarification all \$ are ex GST?
- CPI increases: Will need updating to be All Groups Sydney (not Victoria)
- The lease will trigger a rates notice, Council would expect EVE to pay for this. This would likely be approximately \$800 annually.
- Council suggests a singular annual invoice, raised by Council each August for the upcoming 12 months (the \$ amount will be increased by CPI June Quarter (All Groups Sydney) 12 months figure). If CPI is negative the \$ figure remains the same.

Note if the charging station is installed after August 2026, there will be no charge until August 2027 when first invoice is raised.

- Clarification, Council will not bear nor be liable for removal and/or demolition costs.
- Clarification that painting / line marking of EV spaces will be at Charge Point Operator (CPO) expense.

At the time of issuing the Business Paper a response had not been received from EVE to the above questions.

Council was additionally able to negotiate that it would receive a discounted charging rate for any Council owned vehicle/s charged at this site.

Given Council has no EVs currently within its fleet, should Council purchase an EV the exact charge rates would be negotiated at that point in time.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

- 1 Site Host Agreement for Electric Vehicle Public Charging 33 Pages

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

07) TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS**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 of funding to Millthorpe Village Committee for the 2026 Millthorpe Fire Fair
2. Approve \$2,000 of funding to the Carcoar Community Association for the Carcoar Heritage and Visitor Experience App
3. Approve \$2,000 of funding for the Neville Show Society for the 2026 Neville Show and Bullride from the 2026/27 Tourism Development Program Allocation

Reason for Report:

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

Report:

The applications received were:

1. Millthorpe Village Committee – Millthorpe Fire Fair: \$2,000 (Event)

Millthorpe Fire Fair is held on the first Friday of August each year and is the opening event of the broader Orange Region Fire Festival. The event celebrates winter in the village of Millthorpe with local businesses opening late, entertainment throughout the town and a range of family-friendly activities

The organising committee has been exploring new attractions and experiences to ensure the ongoing sustainability and appeal of the event. For 2026, the committee has reached an in-principle agreement to introduce a new attraction, the Millthorpe Fire Train.

This heritage train experience would operate between Orange and Millthorpe, with the possibility of including Blayney, providing return trips on the evening of the Fire Fair. The train would be operated by the Lachlan Valley Railway in collaboration with the event organisers and the Millthorpe Village Committee.

The introduction of the Fire Train aims to provide a unique and memorable attraction, offer an alternative transport option for visitors travelling from Orange and surrounding areas, and increase accessibility and overall patronage of the event. By providing a transport option, the initiative will also encourage visitors to stay longer in the region, support local accommodation

providers and participate in additional Fire Festival events across the Orange Region.

The target audience for the event includes local and domestic visitors from Orange and surrounding communities, including young families, friend groups and older visitors travelling together. The train experience also provides a unique attraction for visitors from Sydney and regional NSW centres who may already be visiting the Orange Region during the Fire Festival period.

During the event, Millthorpe businesses remain open with extended trading hours, and local organisations are actively involved in programming. Club Millthorpe, a volunteer-run organisation, operates youth entertainment through the “KidZone”, and the inclusion of Lachlan Valley Railway will involve another volunteer not-for-profit organisation in delivering the event experience.

Funding requested will contribute to the cost of operating the heritage train service and associated event promotion. If funding is not successful, ticket prices would need to increase to cover operational costs and the event’s marketing budget may need to be reduced, limiting the ability to promote both the Fire Fair and the Fire Train experience.

Increased ticket prices will likely result in a much lower uptake and impact the success of the Train. The Fire Train is proposed as a trial initiative for 2026; however the cost implications may present a financial risk to the event without additional support.

Any profits from the event either go back into the event for the following year, contribute to ongoing marketing and promotion of Millthorpe, village projects and support Millfest, the summer community event, which runs at a loss.

This event received \$1,100 of funding through this program in 2022/23. The Community Financial Assistance Program (CFAP) generally provides \$1,040 for reimbursement of Council fees and charges for the event.

Assessment Summary:

The proposed Fire Train represents a valuable addition to the event, enhancing the overall visitor experience while improving accessibility from Orange. As a relevant and complementary expansion, the initiative has strong potential to increase visitor spending and further strengthen the event’s contribution to the local economy and the broader Fire Festival program. This value-add is unlikely to achieve its full potential without Council support.

2. Carcoar Community Association – Carcoar Heritage & Visitor Experience App: \$2,000 (Project)

The Carcoar Heritage & Visitor Experience App is a proposed project led by the Carcoar Community Association to enhance the experience of visitors to the historic village of Carcoar.

It is a customised digital platform developed using the STQRY platform, the app will provide location-based storytelling, walking tours and audio guides that bring the history, people and landscape of Carcoar to life while reducing reliance on local volunteers to interpret and share the town's stories.

Visitors will be able to follow a self-guided walking tour of approximately 40 minutes that highlights the major heritage sites throughout the village. The app will also include a children's version of the tour featuring interactive puzzles and activities designed to engage families and make the heritage experience accessible for all ages. The content will incorporate historic photographs, interpretive material and recorded stories from long-time residents to help preserve and share Carcoar's history.

Carcoar already receives a steady flow of visitors due to its historic significance and reputation as one of regional NSW's most important heritage villages. The app will help provide a structured visitor experience that encourages people to spend more time in the village and discover what Carcoar has to offer 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

It represents an innovative approach to heritage interpretation and will position Blayney Shire as an early adopter of tourism technology within the Central West and can run as a case study for other heritage villages in our Shire and the region.

The technology will operate through geo-located triggers and QR codes placed at significant sites throughout the village, allowing visitors to easily access stories and information as they move through town. Supporting printed material will also be available to explain how the app works, and visitors will be able to access the platform using mobile data or by downloading it via free public Wi-Fi available in the village.

Once developed, the platform can be expanded with additional stories, walking tours and business listings, ensuring ongoing value for the region's tourism economy. Alternatively, the app can continue to operate in its existing form without requiring further development costs beyond the initial set-up.

Without the support of Council, the project will not be able to proceed.

Assessment Summary:

This is a strong project that directly addresses a gap in the current visitor experience by encouraging longer stays and increased engagement within the village. The initiative aligns well with tourism outcomes by supporting local businesses, enhancing heritage interpretation and providing a structured,

year-round visitor offering. It presents an opportunity as a pilot that could be adapted for use in other villages across the region and is likely to deliver measurable benefits with Council support.

3. Neville Show Society – Neville Show and Bullride: \$2,000 (Event)

The Neville Show and Bullride is an annual community event held in the village of Neville and organised by the Neville Show Society. The event combines a traditional small country show with an evening bull ride, creating a family-friendly celebration of rural life and community spirit.

The Neville Show has been running annually since 2010 and has grown steadily with increasing community participation and support. In recent years the addition of the bull ride has significantly increased interest in the event, contributing to a 30% increase in ticket sales and attracting a broader audience from across the region.

The event provides measurable economic, social and cultural benefits to the village of Neville and surrounding communities. Local schools and cultural groups perform on the day, showcasing the strength of small rural schools and community life, while local stallholders and vendors highlight the produce, products and services available throughout the region.

In 2026, the Neville Show Society is seeking funding support to expand promotion of the event through a regional radio advertising campaign. In previous years promotion has relied primarily on print materials such as programs and posters, social media channels and the support of local community radio stations.

The proposed campaign will utilise advertising through Central West Broadcasters, including Triple M and Hit 105.9 Central West. This will significantly expand the event's reach, with coverage extending north to Wellington, west to Parkes, Forbes and Cowra, and across the regional centres of Bathurst and Orange. The campaign will run for four weeks leading up to the show and is expected to reach an average regional audience of approximately 56,600 listeners per week.

Visitor data collected at the 2025 event indicates that 62% of attendees travelled from within the Blayney Shire, with 10% from Orange, 3% from Bathurst, 17% from other areas of regional NSW, 2% interstate and 6% from the Sydney metropolitan area. By expanding marketing across the broader Central West, the event aims to increase visitation from outside the Blayney Shire and attract new audiences to the village of Neville.

Funding will contribute to expanding the reach of this marketing campaign and help attract visitors from across the Central West. If funding is not successful, the show will still proceed, however promotion will be limited to existing channels and the event may not reach a broader regional audience. Reduced visitor numbers may impact both the success of the 2026 event and the long-term sustainability of the show.

Profits from the 2026 event will contribute to the ongoing sustainability of the Neville Show and Bullride and support future events for the local community. The committee continues to grow alongside increasing community support, and with the support of Crown Lands the Neville Show Society is preparing to take on the role of Crown Land Manager for the Neville Showground. Future plans include upgrades to permanent infrastructure to support the long-term success of the event and the continued use of the showground by the community.

This event has not been funded previously through the Tourism Development Program. The Community Financial Assistance Program (CFAP) generally provides \$1,830 for mowing services for the Show

Assessment Summary:

The addition of the bull ride has increased participation and ticket sales, and the event generates measurable economic, social and cultural benefits across the Blayney Shire. Funding will support expanded advertising to increase visitation from beyond the local area. Marketing is multi-channel, including radio, print, social media and online promotion, targeting both local and regional audiences.

It is recommended that funding be approved in advance for 2026/27, as the organisation has demonstrated proactive event planning, which is particularly important from a marketing perspective. While waiting until Round 1 for 2026/27 is possible (outcomes expected August 2026) given the strength of the application and that this is the organisation's first submission to this program, it is likely to be ranked highly in a future funding round.

4. Blayney Shire Horse Sports & Southern Cross Cutting Club – Southern Cross Cutting Club Easter Show

The Southern Cross Cutting Show is a national cutting horse event held in Blayney and organised by the Blayney Horse Sports Club and Southern Cross Cutting Club. The event forms part of a four-show series held across Australia and attracts competitors and support crews involved in the sport of cutting.

In 2026, the event will run across four days over the Easter weekend. The event has grown steadily since its introduction, expanding from a two-day program in 2024 to three days in 2025 and four days in 2026 to accommodate increasing competitor numbers and additional classes.

The event attracts about 300 competitors travelling from across New South Wales, Victoria and southern Queensland. Participants generally stay in the area for several days while competing and may spend locally on fuel, groceries, food and agricultural supplies such as hay and fencing materials.

The event is primarily participant-focused, with the majority of attendance made up of competitors, families and support crews associated with the sport. Marketing for the event to date has primarily been undertaken through social

media channels associated with the Blayney Horse Sports Club and Southern Cross Cutting.

Funding requested would contribute to operational costs associated with staging the event, including the purchase and preparation of additional arena sand, the hire of a water truck across the four days and the transport of cattle using local trucking providers.

The event provides some opportunities for local business participation, with food vendors operating throughout the four-day program and retail vendors invited to set up stalls around the arena, however in the application no specific business/es have been detailed. Competitors are also provided with information on local food outlets and grocery stores to support their stay during the event.

Income for the event is largely generated through competitor entry fees, supported by limited sponsorship. We have sought confirmation that any profits generated are retained by the Blayney Horse Sports Club and reinvested into maintaining and improving the local facility used for equestrian and livestock-related events as it is not clear in the application.

If funding is not successful, the event is expected to proceed as planned using existing resources and income generated through entries and sponsorship.

Assessment Summary:

While the Southern Cross Cutting Show has demonstrated growth within the cutting horse community and appears largely self-sustaining, its marketing has been primarily participant-focused and does not target a broader visitor or spectator audience, limiting the potential tourism impact. The funding request is largely directed toward operational costs rather than promotional activity that could expand regional visitation or components with direct economic impact. While it attracts a dedicated niche audience within the cutting horse community, given its specialist focus and early April timing, the potential return on investment from Councils contribution is likely to be limited.

To date, the event has not been listed on the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse, which is a criterion of the Tourism Development Program.

For 2026, the event can still be supported by Council through local promotion and assistance in facilitating industry connections to strengthen local business involvement and visitor expenditure. The organisers will also be encouraged to collect more detailed data on attendee expenditure and visitation to better demonstrate economic impact and support potential future funding applications.

**Lyndhurst Village Committee – Lyndhurst Country Community Fair:
\$2,000 (Event)**

It is noted an application was received from Lyndhurst Village Committee on Tuesday 24 February for the Lyndhurst Country Community Fair, the day of the February Council Meeting and after the 4 February 2026 deadline for Round 2 applications.

As the event is scheduled for 22 March 2026, the committee were immediately notified the next Council meeting wouldn't be until after the event and as outlined in the program guidelines, funding will not be retrospectively applied, and staff would be unable to recommend support the funding application to Council.

The application had a limited likelihood of attraction visitors from outside the shire with no clear marketing allocation. Additionally, with their Tourism Development Application in 2025, it was flagged in the Council report and to the committee that: *The capacity for the event ongoing is limited with the entry being free, this doesn't set the event up for long term success and should be considered for future events.* To date the 2026 event has been advertised as free entry through social media and posters.

The application stated the event would still go ahead without funding and more input from the Village Committee maybe be required or some entertainment cancelled.

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.

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

Event funding applications need to meet the following criteria of the Tourism Development Program:

- Demonstrate sound organisational planning, that has a clear event plan, event structure, operational processes, insurance and risk management.
- Event held on Council land must be conducted in accordance with Council's Events Management Policy.
- Event must be in Blayney Shire Council Local Government Area.
- Event planning must recognise peak tourism periods for the Orange Region and how the event fits into the annual event calendar.
- Deliver quality event marketing.
- Appeal to target markets as outlined in the Orange Region Destination Management Plan.

- Likely to promote visitation and expenditure in the region and increase overnight visitation.
- Have the capacity to be an ongoing event or is a significant one-off event resulting in increased brand awareness for the region.
- Ensure the event is listed on the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) and Blayney Shire Council websites.

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

Budget Implications:

This program has an allocation of \$10,000 for 2025/26, with \$4,000 currently remaining in this program for 2025/26.

Previous successful applications for 2025/26 include:

- Spring into Art Newbridge 2025 (Approved November 2024)
- Blayney Show 2026 (Approved September 2025)
- Newbridge Winter Solstice 2026 (Approved February 2026)

Approval of all three applications will result in all funds expended from 2025/26 allocation and \$2,000 being forward expenditure from the 2026/27 allocation.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

08) REPORT OF COUNCIL INVESTMENTS AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2026

Department: Corporate Services

Author: Chief Financial Officer

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

File No: FM.AU.1

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Note the report indicating Council’s investment position as of 28 February 2026.
2. Note the certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer.

Reason for Report:

For Council to endorse the Report of Council Investments as at 28 February 2026.

Report:

This report provides details of Council’s Investment Portfolio as at 28 February 2026.

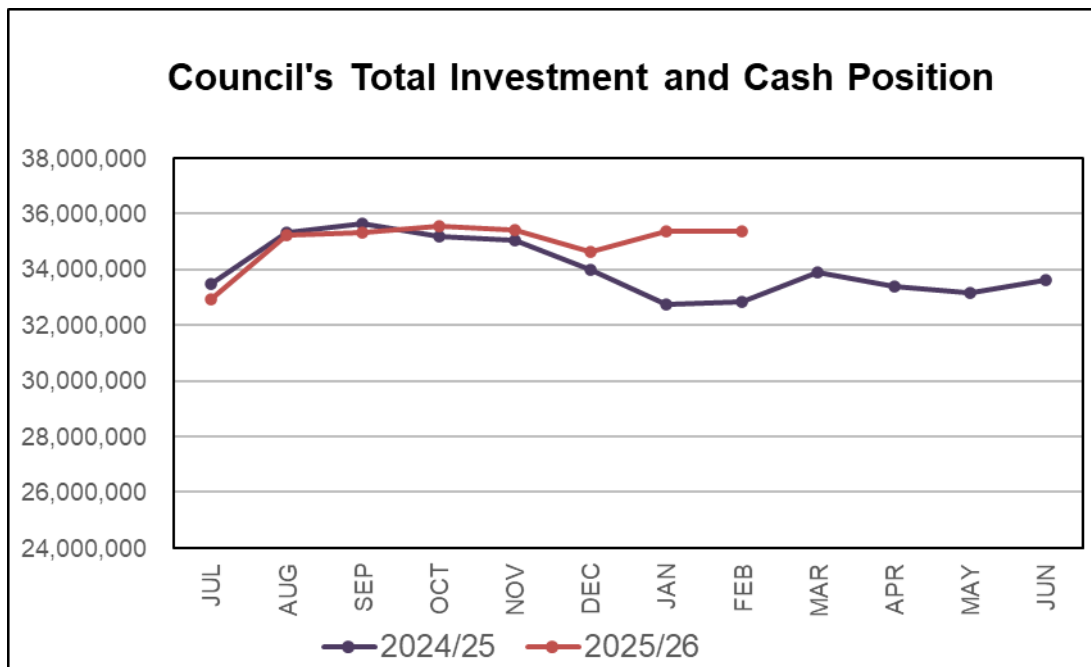
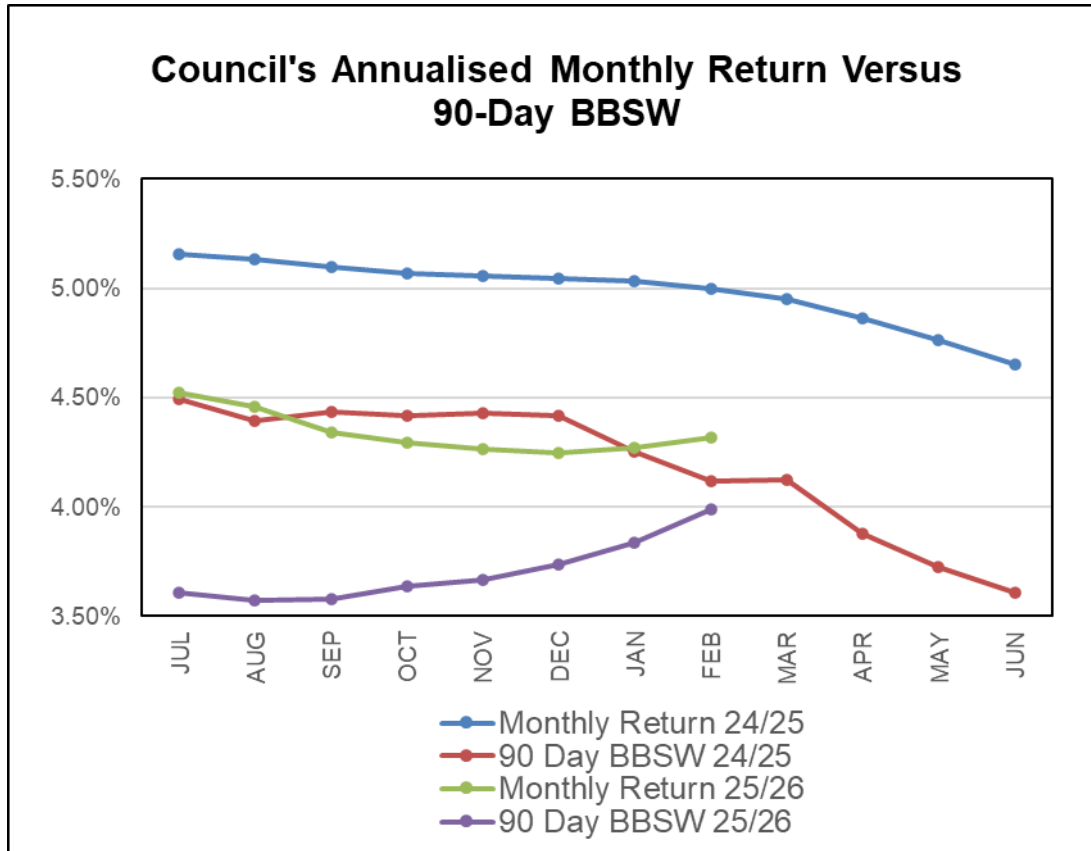
Council’s total investment and cash position as of 28 February 2026 is \$35,353,782.

Interest on cash and investments accrued for the month of February was \$113,995. Year to date the total interest accrued on cash and investments is \$978,701.

Council’s monthly net return on Term Deposits (annualised) for February was 4.32% which outperformed the 90-day Bank Bill Swap Rate of 3.99%.

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

Funding Program	\$
OLG Financial Assistance Grant Q3 25/26	483,719



Register Of Investments and Cash as of 28 February 2026					
Institution	Method	Rating	Maturity	Amount \$	Interest Rate
Defence Bank Ltd	Curve	A2/BBB+	03/03/2026	500,000	4.100%
Reliance Bank	Direct	Unrated	03/03/2026	500,000	4.650%
ING Bank	IAM	A1/A	10/03/2026	500,000	4.650%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	17/03/2026	500,000	4.200%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	17/03/2026	500,000	4.220%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	24/03/2026	500,000	3.990%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	24/03/2026	500,000	4.150%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	31/03/2026	500,000	4.000%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	31/03/2026	500,000	4.570%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	07/04/2026	500,000	4.180%
IMB Bank Ltd	Direct	A2/BBB+	14/04/2026	500,000	4.050%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	14/04/2026	500,000	4.160%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	21/04/2026	500,000	4.080%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	28/04/2026	500,000	4.170%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	05/05/2026	500,000	4.020%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	12/05/2026	500,000	4.120%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	19/05/2026	500,000	4.140%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	26/05/2026	500,000	4.200%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	02/06/2026	500,000	4.200%
ING Bank	IAM	A1/A	09/06/2026	500,000	4.050%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	16/06/2026	500,000	3.990%
Bank of Queensland	Curve	A2/A-	23/06/2026	500,000	4.300%
MyState Bank Ltd	Curve	A2/BBB+	30/06/2026	500,000	4.200%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	07/07/2026	500,000	4.050%
B & A Bank	Curve	A2/A-	14/07/2026	500,000	4.400%
ING Bank	Curve	A1/A	14/07/2026	500,000	4.130%
ING Bank	Curve	A1/A	21/07/2026	500,000	4.150%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	28/07/2026	500,000	4.200%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	04/08/2026	500,000	4.120%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	11/08/2026	500,000	4.250%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	18/08/2026	500,000	4.160%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	25/08/2026	500,000	4.090%
Bank of Queensland	Curve	A2/A-	01/09/2026	500,000	4.450%
ING Bank	Curve	A1/A	08/09/2026	500,000	3.960%
Reliance Bank	Direct	Unrated	15/09/2026	500,000	4.200%
IMB Bank Ltd	Direct	A2/BBB+	22/09/2026	500,000	4.300%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	29/09/2026	500,000	4.130%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	06/10/2026	500,000	4.230%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	13/10/2026	500,000	4.130%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	20/10/2026	500,000	4.350%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	27/10/2026	500,000	4.150%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	03/11/2026	500,000	4.340%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	04/11/2026	500,000	4.250%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	10/11/2026	500,000	4.360%
B & A Bank	IAM	A2/A-	17/11/2026	500,000	4.550%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	17/11/2026	500,000	4.250%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	24/11/2026	500,000	4.510%

Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	08/12/2026	500,000	4.830%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	08/12/2026	500,000	4.520%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	15/12/2026	500,000	4.570%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	15/12/2026	500,000	4.560%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	12/01/2027	500,000	4.600%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	19/01/2027	500,000	4.600%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	19/01/2027	500,000	4.650%
Bank of Queensland	Curve	A2/A-	27/01/2027	500,000	4.550%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	02/02/2027	500,000	4.730%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	02/02/2027	500,000	4.690%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	09/02/2027	500,000	4.800%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	09/02/2027	500,000	4.730%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	16/02/2027	500,000	4.850%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	23/02/2027	500,000	4.800%
Total Investments				31,000,000	4.319%
Commonwealth Bank - At Call Account ⁽¹⁾				613,083	3.500%
Commonwealth Bank Balance - General ⁽¹⁾				3,591,763	3.450%
Reliance Bank ⁽¹⁾				148,936	0.000%
Total Cash and Investments⁽²⁾				35,353,782	
Benchmarks:		BBSW 90 Day Index ⁽¹⁾			3.986%
		RBA Cash Rate ⁽¹⁾			3.850%

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 - February 2026		
Financial Institution	Amount \$	Commentary
CBA	(510,247)	Term deposit matured 03/02/2026
CBA	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 03/02/2026
NAB	(515,669)	Term deposit matured 03/02/2026
NAB	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 03/02/2026
NAB	(515,669)	Term deposit matured 10/02/2026
NAB	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 10/02/2026
Westpac	(523,785)	Term deposit matured 17/02/2026
Westpac	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 17/02/2026
B&A Bank	(510,222)	Term deposit matured 17/02/2026
B&A Bank	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 17/02/2026
NAB	(515,707)	Term deposit matured 24/02/2026
NAB	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 24/02/2026
Westpac	(523,635)	Term deposit matured 24/02/2026
Westpac	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 24/02/2026

Long Term Credit Rating (or Moody's, Fitch, S&P or Equivalent)	Policy Maximum %	Current Holding %	Current Holding \$
TCorp IM Funds	100%	0%	-
AAA – AA Category	100%	73%	22,500,000
A- Category	40%	16%	5,000,000
BBB+ Category	25%	8%	2,500,000
BBB Category	5%	0%	-
BBB- Category and below: Local ^(a) ADI's	10%	3%	1,000,000
BBB+ / BBB / BBB- & below categories combined	25%	11%	
a. ADI's located within the Local Government Area			31,000,000

Individual Institution Limit	Rating	Policy Maximum \$	Current Holding \$
Bank of Queensland	A2/A-	3,000,000	1,500,000
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank	A2/A-	3,000,000	1,000,000
CBA	A1+/AA-	8,000,000	6,500,000
Defence Bank Ltd	A2/BBB+	1,000,000	500,000
IMB Bank Ltd	A2/BBB+	1,000,000	1,000,000
ING Bank	A1/A	3,000,000	2,500,000
MyState Bank Ltd	A2/BBB+	1,000,000	1,000,000
NAB	A1+/AA-	8,000,000	8,000,000
Reliance Bank	Unrated	1,000,000	1,000,000
Westpac	A1+/AA-	8,000,000	8,000,000
Total Investments			31,000,000

Summary of Restricted, Allocated and Unrestricted Cash & Investments			
	Actual ⁽²⁾ 30/06/2025 \$ 000's	Actual 28/02/2026 \$ 000's	Forecast ⁽¹⁾ 30/06/2026 \$ 000's
External Cash Restrictions	14,619	14,690	11,991
Internal Cash Allocations	16,064	13,897	6,557
Total Restricted, Allocated Cash & Investments	30,683	28,587	18,548
Unrestricted Cash	2,852	6,767	4,582
Total Restricted, Allocated and Unrestricted Cash & Investments	33,535	35,354	23,130

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

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

CERTIFICATION – RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER

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

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

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

Budget Implications:

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

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

09) YOUTH WEEK 2026**Department:** Corporate Services**Author:** Director Corporate Services**CSP Link:** 2. A connected, healthy and inclusive community**File No:** GS.LI.1**Recommendation:**

That Council;

1. Receive the report on Youth Week 2026; and
2. Adopt the allocations from the 2026 Youth Week Small Grants Program as follows:

Le Danse School	\$ 1,500
Blayney High School	\$ 1,750
Belgravia Foundation Pty Ltd*	\$ 1,925
Life Youth, Abundant Life Church*	\$ 990

Includes GST*Reason for Report:**

To inform Council on the proposed Youth Week activities proposed for the Blayney Shire.

Report:

Youth Week 2026 is scheduled for 16 to 26 April 2026 with the theme '*Dream. Dare. Do.*' and is aimed at youth aged 12 – 24 years.

As in recent years, Council has engaged with the community to seek expressions of interest for holding events as part of the Youth Week Small Grants Program. The events conducted are free to all youth. In the past, this has been a successful means to hold a number of Youth Week events in the Shire.

The program was promoted through print media, website, social media and by email distribution to the schools, sporting groups, and village contacts.

Council has received applications for 3 events proposed to be held in Blayney and 1 proposed to be held in Lyndhurst. Of the applicants listed 2 are registered for GST and amounts included in above recommendation to Council include GST where applicable. For budget comparison purposes amounts the enclosed table are shown as GST exclusive.

Applications and proposed allocations are detailed in the attachment.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Council is required to expend grant funds allocated and the matching contribution from Council on Youth Week activities.

Budget Implications:

The NSW Youth Week Grants Program requires Council to match the \$2,588 funding allocated. Youth Week funding from Department of Communities and Justice also paid an additional \$850 rural / regional subsidy not required to be matched.

Council detailed and exhibited the Youth Week Grants Program in the 2025/26 Operational Plan. The total budget for the program is \$6,026. The above allocation as proposed will commit \$5,900 against this budget with any residual funds not allocated applied to advertising / promotion costs.

Enclosures (following report)

- 1 Summary of Youth Week applications and allocations 1 Page

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

YOUTH WEEK 2026

Theme: 'Dare. Dream. Do'

No.	Applicant	Project Name	Activities	Dates	Reg. GST	Total cost	Other contrib.	Grant sought	Grant recommended	Grant (GST incl.)
1	Le Danse School	Not advised	Free classes; Plan / teach and assist sessions; Free Disco.	20 - 24 April	No	\$ 2,550	\$ 1,050	\$ 1,500	1,500	
2	Blayney High School	Dream Dare Do	Youth connection through pancake breakfast, pasta lunch, decoration and distribution of kindness rocks throughout Blayney & Millthorpe, chalk pavement art around Blayney and dream mural art at BH	23/24 April - 1st week term 2	No	\$ 1,750	\$ -	\$ 1,750	1,750	
3	Belgravia	Youth Movie Night & Wet Inflatable Splash Sessions	1. Youth Movie Night 2. Wet Inflatable Splash Session 3. Soccer clinic in conjunction with Premier Football Academy	TBA	Yes	\$ 2,225	\$ 475	\$ 1,750	1,750	\$ 1,925
4	Life Youth, Abundant Life Church	Karaoke Party	Host a karaoke party with dinner, party snacks and prizes	24th April	Yes	\$ 1,500	\$ 600	\$ 900	900	\$ 990
						\$ 8,025	\$ 2,125	\$ 5,900	5,900	

10) MINUTES OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 25 FEBRUARY 2026

Department: Corporate Services

Author: Director Corporate Services

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

File No: CM.ME.17

Recommendation:

That Council receive the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held 25 February 2026.

Reason for Report:

For Council to endorse the minutes of the Blayney Shire Audit, Risk and Improvement committee meeting held 25 February 2026.

Report:

The Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) held its meeting 25 February 2026.

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

- The management letter on the final phase of the 2024/25 Financial Statement External Audit noting 3 new issues requiring the attention of Management which have been included in the schedule of outstanding recommendations. Of the 3 items, 2 have since been addressed.
- A report outlining Council's Review of the Policy and Procedure Framework.
- An update on the Fraud Risk Health Assessment internal audit.
- A report on the Update of Major Developments and the committees request for distribution of the Report on Richards Lane.

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

MINUTES OF THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL AUDIT, RISK & IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE CHAMBERS, BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY CENTRE, ON 25 FEBRUARY 2026, COMMENCING AT 9:00 AM

Present:

Ron Gillard	Independent - Chairperson
Stephen Coates	Independent member
Liz Jeremy	Independent member
Cr. John Newstead	Councillor - non-voting
Anton Franze	Director Corporate Services – Secretariat
Tiffany Irlam*	Chief Financial Officer – SME
Vicki Walker*	WHS & Risk Coordinator – SME
Min Ellis	NSW Audit Office
Katy Henry	Intentus (External Audit Service Provider for NSW Audit Office) – SME
Mark Dicker	General Manager - non-voting observer
Cr. Bruce Reynolds	Mayor - non-voting observer

*SME – subject matter expert.

APOLOGIES

NIL.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

The Director Corporate Services reported the following Disclosure of Interest forms had been submitted:

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

Minutes are adopted by consensus unless stated otherwise.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**2602/001 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 13 NOVEMBER 2025****Recommendation:**

That the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held 13 November 2025 be received.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

NIL.

REPORTS**2602/002 MANAGEMENT LETTER ON FINAL PHASE OF 2024/25 EXTERNAL AUDIT****Recommendation:**

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee;

1. Receive the Management Letter on the Final Phase of the Audit for the year ended 30 June 2025 from the NSW Audit Office; and
2. Note the 3 new matters requiring the attention of management and 6 matters raised in prior year management letters that have been addressed.

2602/003 AUDIT ENGAGEMENT PLAN 2025/26 AUDIT**Recommendation:**

That the report on the Audit Engagement Plan for the year ended 30 June 2026 from the NSW Audit Office be noted.

Katy Henry (Intentus) and Min Ellis (NSW Audit Office) left meeting at 9.23am.

2602/004 FINANCE ACTIVITIES REPORT: DECEMBER 2025 - FEBRUARY 2026**Recommendation:**

That That the Finance Activities report for the period December 2025 – February 2026 be received.

2602/005 REVIEW OF INTERNAL CONTROL FRAMEWORK**Recommendation:**

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee:

1. Note the report on Review of Internal Control Framework.
2. Note recommendations from the review.

2602/006 CORPORATE CREDIT CARD COMPLIANCE REVIEW JULY - DECEMBER 2025**Recommendation:**

That the report on Corporate Credit Card compliance activities for the period July 2025 – December 2025 be received.

2602/007 **WHS AND RISK REPORT****Recommendation:**

That the WHS and Risk Coordinators report be received.

2602/008 **REVIEW OF AUDIT RISK, AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE****Recommendation:**

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee;

1. Receive the report of the Review of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.
2. Note the amendment, by Council, to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Terms of Reference – Clause 9.2 Dispute Resolution as follows:
 - a. Deletion of:
“In the event of a disagreement between the committee and the General Manager or other senior managers, the dispute is to be resolved by the governing body.”
 - b. Add:
“In the event of a disagreement between the committee and the General Manager, the dispute is to be resolved by the governing body.
 1. *In the event of a disagreement between the committee and Council staff, excluding the General Manager, the dispute is to be resolved by the General Manager”.*
3. Note that outcomes of the Review of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee were discussed by the Mayor and Independent Chair of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

2602/009 **AUDIT OFFICE OF NSW - REPORT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2025****Recommendation:**

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee receive the report on Audit Office of NSW - Report on Local Government 2025.

2602/010 **INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE****Recommendation:**

That the Audit, Risk and Audit Committee note:

1. The report on the Internal Audit Update.
2. The status of the Fraud Risk Health Assessment currently in progress.

2602/011 REVIEW OF POLICY AND PROCEDURE FRAMEWORK**Recommendation:**

That the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee:

1. Note the report on the Review of Policy and Procedure Framework.
2. Note that Council has in place relevant policies and procedures and that these are periodically reviewed and updated.

2602/012 SCHEDULE OF OUTSTANDING AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS**Recommendation:**

That the Schedule of Outstanding Audit Recommendations report be received.

2602/013 PRESCRIBED FUNCTIONS ACTIVITY REPORT**Recommendation:**

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

2602/014 UPDATE ON MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS**Recommendation:**

1. That the Update on Major Developments report be received.
2. That the reports on Richards Lane be distributed to ARIC members.

Next meeting: Wednesday 6 May 2026

Meeting closed: 10.46am

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

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

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

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

Budget Implications:

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

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

11) MINUTES OF THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 5 MARCH 2026**Department:** Corporate Services**Author:** Director Corporate Services**CSP Link:** 1. Prioritise transparency, financial sustainability and strong partnerships with and for our community**File No:** CR.SD.2**Recommendation:**

That Council;

1. Receive the minutes of the Financial Assistance Committee meeting held 5 March 2026.
2. Note the approval of fee waivers under delegation by the General Manager, in the amount of \$784.
3. Approve the recommendations for 2025/26 – Round 2 of the Community Financial Assistance Program by the Financial Assistance Program Committee, in the amount of \$15,047 being:

No.	Applicant	\$
1	Millthorpe & District Historical Society	1,000
3	Blayney & District Netball	4,047
6	Tallwood Hall Public Trust	10,000

4. Approve the recommendations for 2025/26 – Flagship funding by the Financial Assistance Program Committee, in the amount of \$26,198 being:

No.	Applicant	\$
F1	Carcoar Dam Sailing Club	11,000
F3	Newbridge Progress Association	15,198

Reason for Report:

For Council to endorse the minutes of the Financial Assistance committee meeting held 5 March 2026 and associated allocations of funding under the Community Financial Assistance Program.

Report:

The Financial Assistance Committee at its meeting held 5 March 2026 considered applications for Round 2 of the Community Financial Assistance Program for 2025/26.

An amount of \$25,000 was available for Flagship project funding for the 2025/26 year. An amount of \$17,728 was also available for distribution in Round 2 (\$46,000 for full year), approved in the 2025/26 Operational Plan.

Council received 6 applications for the Round 2 of 2025/26 Program seeking \$27,448 in financial assistance. The committee has recommended \$15,047 be allocated to projects for round 2.

Council received 3 Flagship applications seeking \$46,198 in financial assistance. The Financial Assistance Committee has recommended \$26,198 be allocated to projects. The additional funding of \$1,198 for the Flagship funding will be funded by shortfall in the Community Financial Assistance Program Round 2 funding.

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE HELD 5 MARCH 2026 AT BLAYNEY SHIRE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The meeting commenced at 5.00pm.

1. PRESENT

Councillor Rebecca Scott (Chair); Councillor Karl Hutchings; Miles Hedge; David Kingham; Jordan Butler; Melissa O’Brien (Cadia); Anton Franze (Director Corporate Services – Secretariat).

2. APOLOGIES

Tamara Miller; Josh Fitzgerald (Iberdrola).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Name	Item	Nature	Interest		
			Pecuniary		Non-Pecuniary
			S	S	LTS
M.Hedge	6 – App. 5	Member of Blayney Rotary			X
Cr. R.Scott	5 - GM1	Treasurer of Blayney Senior Football Club		X	

S: significant

LTS: Less than significant

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING – 14 October 2025

Recommendation:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 October 2025 be noted.

Miles Hedge / Jordan Butler

4. BUSINESS ARISING

Nil.

Cr. Scott left the Chamber at 5.17pm and Cr. Hutchings took the role of Chair.

5. REQUESTS APPROVED BY GENERAL MANAGER UNDER DELEGATION

Recommendation:

That the approval of fee waivers and sporting related financial assistance, under delegation by the General Manager, in the amount of \$784 be noted.

Miles Hedge / Jordan Butler

Cr. Scott returned to the Chamber at 5.19pm

6. CONSIDERATION OF ROUND 2 2025/26 COMMUNITY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

SUMMARY OF AVAILABLE FUNDS:	
Annual budget 2025/26	\$ 145,000
Less: Flagship funding	-\$ 25,000
Less: 2025/26 Operational Plan Approved Donations (Rates, insurance and events)	-\$ 70,000
Less Funding allocated – Round 1	-\$ 28,272
Less Funding allocated from 23 September 2025 Council meeting to Youth Event	-\$ 4,000
Total Available for Distribution 2025/26 – Round 2	\$ 17,728

SUMMARY OF FLAGSHIP FUNDING AVAILABLE:	
Annual budget 2025/26	\$ 25,000
Total Available for Distribution:	\$ 25,000

Recommendation:

1. That an amount of \$15,047 from the Community Financial Assistance Program be recommended for approval by Council as per the attached schedule for Round 2.
2. That Flagship funding of \$26,198 be approved, subject to conditions outlined and that the shortfall over the \$25,000 be allocated from Round 2 funding not allocated.

Cr. Scott / Cr. Hutchings

7. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting proposed for early September 2026. Date to be confirmed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.41pm.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS: 2025/2026 ROUND 2

No	Applicant	Project	Grant sought	Grant recommended	Comments and feedback
1	Millthorpe & District Historical Society	Air conditioner for heating and cooling front desk office	\$1,000	\$1,000	Funding subject to DA lodgement, if required, and compliance with Heritage requirements.
2	Australian Women in Agriculture	Direct event costs, including Venue hire fees and catering, speaker costs, local supplier and service cost	\$2,000	\$ -	Application is for funding of direct event expenses and is outside scope of FAP policy.
3	Blayney & District Netball	Improvements on Clubhouse	\$4,612	\$4,047	Signage not approved as it provides no broader community benefit and could set a precedent for other sporting groups to request similar signage at sporting facilities. The water fountain is approved, subject to the submission of a second quotation, as required under the policy, to ensure best value up to the approved amount
4	Blayney & District Netball	Reimbursement CentrePoint Fees & Charges	\$1,536	\$ -	Request is outside scope of policy and approval would set precedence for all sporting groups in the Blayney Shire.

5	Blayney Rotary Club	Domestic Violence Escape Bags for Blayney Community	\$8,300	\$ -	The concept is commendable; however, there are existing organisations in the area that already provide the proposed service. Further information is requested regarding a strategic plan outlining how the program will be rolled out and how it will collaborate with current service providers in the region. The applicant is strongly encouraged to engage with organisations that have responsibility and expertise in this area. It is also recommended that distribution occur through the NSW Police and local hospital.
6	Tallwood Hall Public Trust	Supply and installation of bistro blinds along front of existing undercover verandah at Tallwood Hall.	\$10,000	\$10,000	Fits within policy guidelines.
TOTAL:			\$27,448	\$15,047	

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS: FLAGSHIP FUNDING

No	Applicant	Project	Grant sought	Grant recommended	Comments and feedback
F1	Carcoar Dam Sailing Club	Upgrades to Carcoar Dam Storage Shed (Resubmission of Round 1 application)	\$11,000	\$11,000	Fits within policy guidelines.
F2	Regional Counselling Ltd	Enhance BHS as a community wellbeing facility by delivering the Tackling Tough Conversations program	\$20,000	\$ -	Outside scope of Flagship requirements of FAP policy.
F3	Newbridge Progress Association	Newbridge Showground Memorial Garden	\$15,198	\$15,198	Approval subject to: 1. Outcome of Australian War Memorial Grant application. Amount approved to be reduced accordingly if successful, and 2. Council requirements with project delivery and Community Infrastructure Policy.
TOTAL:			\$46,198	\$26,198	

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

The recommendations for funding are as recommended by the Financial Assistance Committee and are assessed against the Community Financial Assistance Program guidelines.

Budget Implications:

Council has an amount of \$145,000, encompassing \$25,000 Flagship project funding, allocated in the 2025/26 Operational Plan for this purpose. This also includes an amount of \$70,000 approved in advance for financial assistance to groups, schools and organisations.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

12) INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES: KEY ACTIVITIES REPORT

Department: Infrastructure Services

Author: Director Infrastructure Services

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

File No: GO.ME.1

Recommendation:

That Council;

1. Note the Infrastructure Services: Key Activities Report for March 2026.
2. Approve a supplementary vote of \$50,000 in in the 2025/26 Operational Plan to undertake crushing within a Council-operated quarry funded by a reduction in 2026/27 operating expenditure for quarries by the same amount.

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:**Topical Matter – Fuel supply and cost**

Councillors would be aware that fuel and other petroleum products have recently incurred sharp price rises across NSW in recent weeks given global supply chains are being affected by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

Whilst reserves of diesel and unleaded petrol products are still available in NSW, particularly given the release of reserves, Council has not gone unaffected by temporary supply issues and additionally compounded with the closure of the Great Western Highway at Mount Victoria.

Whilst our fuel is secured through a bulk fuel supply contract managed through the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO), we have seen a 66% increase in fuel (diesel) costs over the last month, in line with the rest of NSW.

Staff have worked diligently with CNSWJO and suppliers, both on and off the JO contract, to ensure we have ample supply to undertake core works and in particular meet grant funding obligations.

Despite our security of supply for the time being, there is a real and present risk cost overruns will be incurred for current grant funded projects due to increased cost of diesel to both Council and contractors used by Council.

It should be noted Local Government is especially exposed given our dependence on diesel for operations and bitumen for road construction.

Council staff are proactively managing the situation, on a weekly basis by maintaining higher operational fuel reserves (procured at higher cost), prioritising essential works/core council services (we have temporarily stood down our patching truck and street sweeper (being two of our largest diesel consumers)), and keeping up with updates from the sector and from suppliers/contractors to ensure adaptations are being made to maintain business continuity.

Quarry materials

With the conclusion of Council's quarry materials supply contract in this 2026 financial year coinciding with the current fuel shortages, staff are pre-empting a hike in excess of 30% in gravel costs in the new financial year. As these contracts are typically set at two or three year terms to reduce administrative workload in tendering, Council is at risk of enduring elevated gravel prices for a considerable period of time.

Staff will work diligently to ensure the tenders when released are made to be competitive as possible and will possibly look at application of temporary levies in the contract or implement a shorter term to assist this. However, to ensure that no further strain on maintenance and capital works budgets is incurred, staff have looked at current gravel reserves in our quarries.

This investigation has highlighted a lack of available gravel for maintenance and capital works in the 2026/27 program. As such, staff have sought quotes to crush 12,000 tonnes of won material in the Council-owned quarry in Blayney. To undertake this crushing now would require an additional \$50,000 in the current 2025/26 budget.

Completing this work now would mean that no crushing works or other major contracted quarry works would be required in 2026/27 financial year given there would be ample supply of material and other consultant fees are not expected since all rehabilitation and working plans have been received.

As such, it is recommended in this report to vote \$50,000 into this financial year's budget and make a reduction in the subsequent year to result in no additional costs over the next two years.

Maintenance works

Patching was undertaken on Burnt Yards Road, Mandurama Road, Hobbys Yards Road, and Forest Reefs Road since the last report. Patching was also undertaken in the local streets of Millthorpe.

Council is still procuring cationic bitumen emulsion from Orange City Council. There is no update to the delivery status of the ordered emulsion tank, or an alternate supplier, the tank is still forecasted for delivery near the end of the financial year.

Maintenance grading works have been undertaken on Pitlochry Road, Dungeon Road (excluding Section 10 area), Pounds Lane, Neville-Trunkey Road, and Kellys Road.

Since the last report, gravel resheeting has been completed on Spring Hill Road. Remaining funds will be kept as contingency going into the cooler months and given the unknown cost implications in relation to diesel generally to Council.

Roadside mowing has been completed in Carcoar, Mandurama, and Lyndhurst.

Works on the Panuara Road pavement failure have been completed.

Newbridge Road Bridge over Liscombes Creek

The previously reported implementation of precautionary lane closure and load limitation over the Liscombes Creek bridge has been completed with permanent signage.

A load limit of 20t based on axle-weight groups has been placed on the bridge, with signposted detouring established via Kurangia Road. No other repairs have been conducted yet. A contractor has been engaged to undertake preliminary geotechnical investigations for the bridge replacement.

Coombing Street bridge over the Belubula River, Carcoar

The existing major culvert was damaged beyond repair during Natural Disaster Events of 2022, however due to the pre-disaster condition, Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) was unable to fund its full repair.

Council through grant funding has completed a design, including betterment to construct a single span, single lane bridge with a pedestrian walkway. Betterment to this bridge was identified as it provides a critical alternate route to the Heritage Timber Bridge, ensuring network resilience to the Carcoar Community.

The estimated cost for this project is \$1,300,000 and Council has submitted at least 2 grant applications seeking this funding, of which Council has been unsuccessful on both occasions.

There is a new grant opportunity available, of which applications are to be lodged by 30 April 2026. Given: the limited number of grant applications currently available, subsequent rise in competition for grant applications that are available, Council has been unsuccessful on at least 2 previous occasions, the General Manager approved the engagement of consulting firm 'Projence' to: undertake a review of the existing grant applications, technical review of existing project information and assist Council with lodgement of the final grant application.

Council on 14 March 2026 has also received a petition from Carcoar locals requesting the rebuilding of a low level bridge of Coombing Street low level bridge. 156 people have signed the petition.

Open Spaces and Facilities

The lights ordered for the Blayney Tennis courts have now been received by the contractor, installation completed on 18th March and now fully operational. During installation the existing lights were relocated so that court 2 is fully serviced by the new lights. The intention is that any future failures are restricted to outer courts and court2 would retain 100% of its design lighting.

A countersigned copy of the NSW Boating Infrastructure Grant was received by council on 13th March. Procurement activities can now commence in line with our proposal. The water level at Carcoar dam is currently at 88% which provides better access to the boat ramp and sides. We will seek to expedite these works to make use of the greater access.

The cost estimates and quotations for the latest KGO irrigation repairs are being reviewed. Due to the impending start of winter sports, staff are investigating the best approach and timing to complete the works. Whilst the damaged section requires immediate repairs, there may not be time to complete all remaining sections and allow the field to recover before games. They may however be opportunities to complete the remaining works separately at a time when usage is reduced. It is preferential to complete the repairs in a planned manner rather than be forced to repair immediately due to another failure.

Sewer Treatment Plant (STP)

Council's Strategic Sewer Business Plan has progressed with the inclusion of the South Blayney residential area and future capacity assessments of the treatment plant itself. This area was considered as its own catchment, directly feeding to the treatment plant, so there was no impact to the existing reticulation network. Public Works have been developing their options paper for unsewered villages, and investigated dry weather flows. Anomalies were identified for further investigation, but no major causes of the higher than expected flows were found. Future deliverables are programmed as follows:

Deliverable	Status	Target Date
Options Study for unsewered villages	Underway	16/04/2026
Recommendations to ensure system capacity for the next 30 years	Remaining	03/07/2026
Financial Plan to achieve any augmentation and maintenance over the next 30 years including update to the Development Servicing Plan	Remaining	14/08/2026
Final Report Plan	Remaining	25/09/2026

On the 3rd March 2026, Council received section 60 approval from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for the Recycled Water treatment Plant to begin operating. This approval allows for

the irrigation of Napier and King George Ovals. Construction uses and potential sales will be addressed as a secondary submission at a later stage. Staff are currently arranging baseline data sampling at the ovals and replacement sensors, consumables etc required due to the time spent offline.

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	0	335,076	0	335,076
Commentary					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All works are now complete. 					
Forecast (1-3 months)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor for defects. 					

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

Hobbys Yards Road					
Due Date	Revised Budget YTD \$	Expenditure this Month \$	Total Expenditure YTD \$	Committed Expenditure YTD \$	Estimated Total Project Costs \$
June 2026	1,009,755	7,281	845,603	14,219	859,822
Commentary					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quotations were received for the electricity pole raising works. Enacon, a local Level 1 ASP provider has been engaged to undertake the electricity pole works. 					
Forecast (1-3 months)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electricity pole works are expected to be completed within the next 6 months. Monitor for defects. 					

Garland Road – RERRF					
Due Date	Revised Budget YTD \$	Expenditure this Month \$	Total Expenditure YTD \$	Committed Expenditure YTD \$	Estimated Total Project Costs \$
June 2026	761,197	148,776	377,026	185,959	562,985
Commentary					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All works are now completed. 					
Forecast (1-3 months)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding invoices are still coming in for processing. It is still expected that the project will be underspent by approximately ~180-190k. It is still proposed that once the project is finalised, these funds are reallocated to the Tallwood Road RERRF project (same grant program) to supplement the Council funds voted into the project previously. 					

Tallwood Road – RERRF^[1]					
Due Date	Revised Budget YTD \$	Expenditure this Month \$	Total Expenditure YTD \$	Committed Expenditure YTD \$	Estimated Total Project Costs \$
June 2026	1,574,097	66,314	110,536	232,908	1,683,497 ^[2]
Commentary					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ^[1] RERRF funding accounts for only \$761,197 of the total budget, the remaining budget is funded from Council's general revenue. The original design utilised the existing visual inspections undertaken as part of the Transportation asset class revaluation. As a result, it was assumed that an extension of the Lumpy Swamp Creek and Slatteries Creek culverts by one length would sufficient in lieu of replacement. Upon further inspection and non-destructive testing, it was determined that the base slabs and culverts were beyond any remaining useful live to attain value for money in undertaking the extensions. If the extensions were completed alongside additional repairs on the culverts, the service life would still be less than the rehabilitated road pavement life. As such, it was decided that full replacement of these culverts will be completed instead; cost implications are highlighted in the below forecast. Further short-term road closures will be required on Tallwood Road to enable construction of both culverts. Notifications to agencies and local businesses will be issued in shortly once dates are firmed up. 					
Forecast (1-3 months)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ^[2] The cost to complete, including contingency allowances, is now projected to be greater than the current revised budget due to the additional required culvert replacements. It has been previously reported to Council to recommend voting of the remaining funds on Garland Road to Tallwood Road as these are both under the same funding program. Once the Garland 					

Road costs are finalised this will be formally recommended to Council, however based on no additional works being required on Garland Road and the sum of outstanding orders, it is expected that the underspend on Garland Road will sufficiently cover any potential overspend on Tallwood Road.

- Drainage component of works commenced late February, expected to be completed early-mid April whilst earthworks are underway. Boxing out has commenced and is 50% completed as of this report.
- Projected sealing date is now late May. As such, the initial seal is likely to be a primerseal. This will require a reseal in the 2026/27 financial year to bring the wearing course to a full double coat seal under the existing budget allocation.

Newbridge Road Culvert – FRG					
Due Date	Revised Budget YTD \$	Expenditure this Month \$	Total Expenditure YTD \$	Committed Expenditure YTD \$	Estimated Total Project Costs \$
June 2026	275,541	0	223,509	0	223,509
Commentary					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All works are now complete. • OLG have agreed in January 2026 for any underspends on projects within the OLG Flood recovery grant program to be transferred to <i>'Town of Blayney Flood Study and Update'</i> and <i>'Stormwater investigation and design for the Blayney Industrial Area'</i> funded under the same grant program this will be addressed in the March QBRS. 					
Forecast (1-3 months)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor for defects. 					

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

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

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

Budget Implications:

Budget commentary is included in the project reporting above.

A supplementary vote of \$50,000 is proposed in this report (reducing the 2026/27 quarries budget allocation by the same amount) to allow Council to undertake crushing work. Bringing this cost forward into the current year to undertake the work now should assist in avoiding future premiums applied to quarry material due to suppliers applying levies as a result of exorbitant fuel costs. As such, it is recommended that Council endorse this supplementary vote and the reduction in the 2026/27 budget by the same amount.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

13) RICHARDS LANE AND INTERSECTION UPGRADE PROJECT**Department:** Infrastructure Services**Author:** Director Infrastructure Services**CSP Link:** 3. Infrastructure is resilient, fit for purpose and maintained to support our community**File No:** RD.AD.1**Recommendation:**

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

Reason for Report:

Given the significance of the Richards Lane project, including community interest and heightened level of risk the project poses to Council, this project has been removed from the Infrastructure Services: Key Activities Report and will be reported separately each month until project completion.

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

Report:Project Summary

The current project financial summary is shown in Table 1 below.

Richards Lane – R4R9					
Completion Date	Revised Budget YTD \$	Expenditure this Month \$	Total Expenditure YTD \$	Committed Expenditure YTD \$	Estimated Total Project Costs \$
30 Apr. 2026	3,030,673	247,594	554,419	1,388,992	2,633,197

Table 1

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

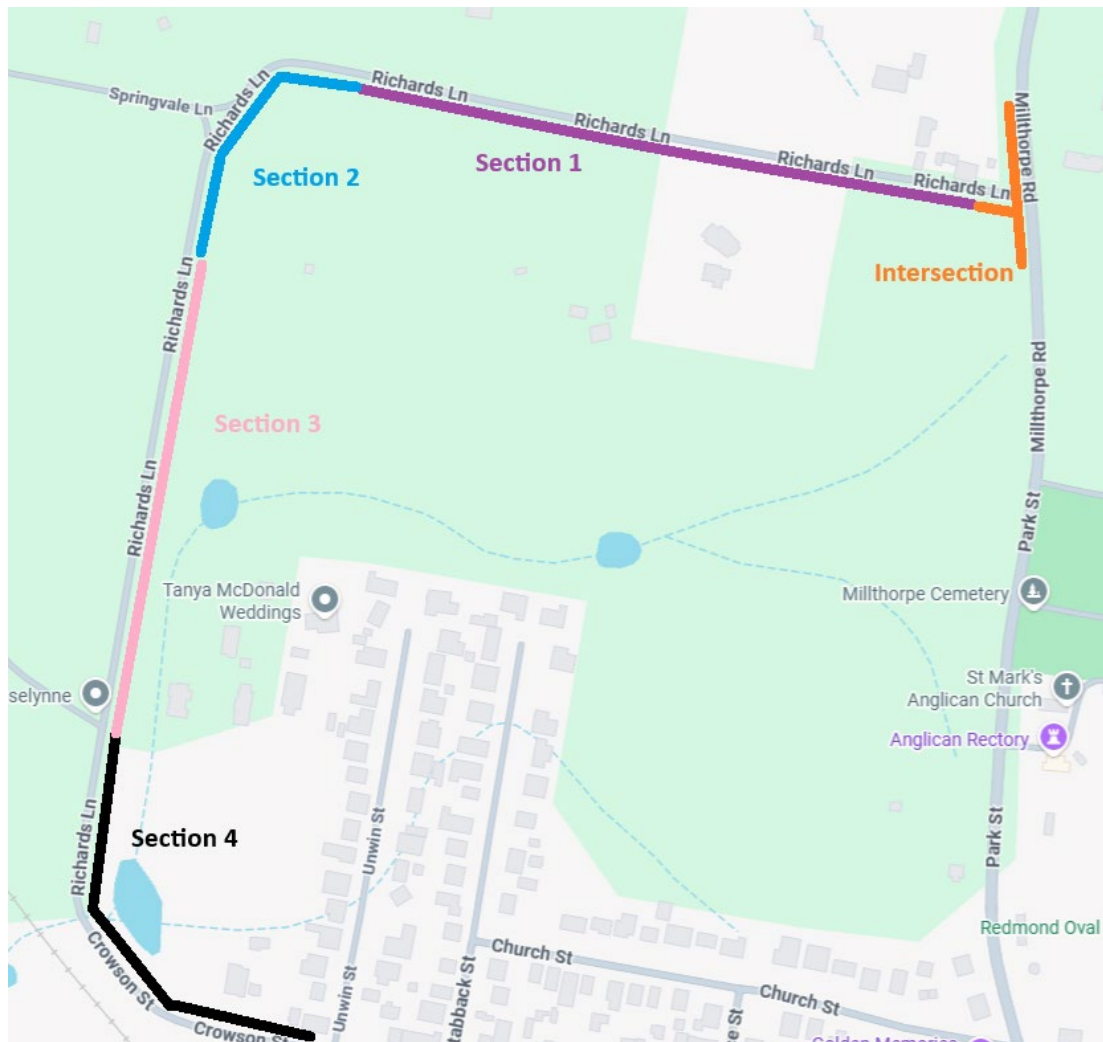


Figure 1

Local Road Portion of Works:

Residential access is still being maintained via Crowson Street.

Section 2 works are well underway, with subgrade rectification currently being completed on soft spots around Springvale Lane intersection. As highlighted in the February report, the subgrade strength of lot 2 had shown itself to be much weaker than assumed in the design documentation.

The contractor has requested two additional extensions of time due to inclement weather. One has been assessed, with an additional two days granted at no additional cost, however the latest EOT request is still under consideration.

Based on the contractor's current program it is expected Section 2 will be completed by mid-March, however it is more likely that late March will be a more realistic completion timeframe given the increased chance of additional inclement weather by the end of the month.

The formal variation for the subgrade rectification has been received for Section 2 and is currently under review by staff. Based on this submitted variation and costs incurred as a result of the rectification (Council's quarry material costs used for rectification and Council labour for loading of material), the cost for subgrade rectification in Section 2 is in alignment with the \$64,000 estimate provided in February. This is indicated in Table 2 below with the Section 2 outstanding variation costs.

The contractor has been requested to strip the grass to subgrade level in test areas within Section 3 along the existing drain. This is to allow for early testing of the subgrade prior to works commencing in Section 3. It is expected that the subgrade within the existing drain on the western side of the existing road will provide a representative sample of the poorest soil conditions likely to be encountered, as the widening works from Springvale Lane to Crowson Street are only required on the western side.

Undertaking this work early should allow confirmation of the suitability of the subgrade to accept gravel pavement, and hence more accurately establish any subgrade rectification costs that would be required. Once this work is completed, the initial estimate of \$94,000 in additional cost for subgrade rectification can be revised, however it is important to note that staff are still expecting some rectification to be required at a minimum based on the soils encountered thus far.

A summary of variation works outstanding are tabulated below.

Amount	Cost Type	Section	Description
\$ 7,000	Estimated	1	Additional batter grading to enable easier maintenance along Section 1 that was not included in original extent of survey & design.
\$ 56,300	Estimated + contractor variation proposal	2	Latent conditions in subgrade requiring rectification. (Previously reported as \$64,000 estimated)
\$ 5,000	Estimated	2	Installation of subsoil drainage line from soft subgrade adjacent to Springvale Lane.
\$ 98,400	Estimated	3	Expected latent conditions in subgrade.

Table 2

The contractor has verbally informed Council staff that the material quantities of works to date have been approaching or exceeded the original tendered quantities.

The contractor has been requested to provide copies of material dockets as evidence of their claim. Staff are conducting a comprehensive review of the original design based on each section of works in conjunction with the original

consultant designer to determine whether the claimed quantities are representative of works delivered to date.

Intersection Portion of Works

All preconstruction documentation has been submitted and approved by TfNSW, marking completion of the pre-construction requirements of the WAD. On Monday 9th of March 2026, TfNSW issued the official letter confirming the Approval to Commence Construction had been granted.

Preliminary subgrade testing works on the state road have partially been completed, with samples taken on the 12th of March 2026. This work was completed under a separate approval to the WAD as permitted by TfNSW for time-saving purposes.

This testing constitutes part of a hold point in the construction program later in the project, however undertaking this work early should give confidence to the subgrade conditions and discern whether TfNSW would require treatment of the subgrade prior to proceeding to pavement works. If the lab results return favourable values, this could potentially result in a slight time saving if the subgrade is found to be uniform once excavated to.

During the three weeks prior to TfNSW issuing the approval to commence, Council officers were informed that usage of water-filled barriers on the state road would not be permitted. This was despite previous documentation containing the usage of these barriers already being reviewed multiple times, and in contradiction to TfNSW usage of these barriers on their own internal construction projects.

Council officers met with representatives from TfNSW to clarify their final requirements at the start of March, and it was ultimately stipulated that concrete barriers would be required for traffic management on the state road despite it being within a 50 km/h zone. Unfortunately, this will result in a variation claim from the contractor, as the original tender assumptions only included water-filled barriers.

Additionally, the cost difference between the two types of barriers is quite substantial given the closest source of the particular permitted barrier is in Sydney, and installation of the barriers requires a crane. Staff are currently reviewing this variation and are looking to negotiate costs prior to approval, as the contractor was already required to install water-filled barriers under the initial scope of works.

The contractor has scheduled whole establishment of traffic control, barrier installation, and preliminary works including service locating and survey for the 23rd of March 2026. This will instate a lane closure from the 23rd of March on the northbound lane whilst the intersection is being constructed. Unfortunately, this week commencing coincides with the Millthorpe Markets occurring on Sunday 29th of March.

Discussions around additional traffic control requirements for the event as a result of the lane closure are being facilitated with the contractor, project verifier, and TfNSW. However, given the event generates such an immense volume of traffic during the peak period of the event, it is expected that the works will have an overall inconsequential effect on the overall congestion along Park Street given the traffic is already stopped or slowed to allow for manoeuvring into the Millthorpe Cemetery and adjacent land for event parking.

Contractor Performance to date:

The contractor has stipulated to Council officers that additional plant/resources with another crew will be established at the commencement of the state road portion of works to fast track the intersection construction works. Staff will endeavour to review performance on an ongoing basis.

Given the administrative workload required in obtaining the approval to commence the state road portion of works, Council staff have been collaborating with the contractor to reduce bottle necks during the review and approval process with TfNSW.

Despite this, given both the administrative workload for the state road works for both Council officers and the contractor's is substantial, there is still a consistent issue with ensuring documentation is being maintained in a timely fashion. To attempt to alleviate some of this strain leading into the construction phase of the WAD works, a pre-start meeting was held between the contractor's management team, Council officers, and the independent project verifier to clarify what the clear expectations are with respect to documentation required for quality assurance purposes going forward.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

There is a present risk that, given the current program for construction marks handover around the month of April, that works will not be completed by the noted April completion date in Table 1 of this report. It is the expectation that the grant funded portion of works would satisfactorily be completed prior to this date in accordance with the varied funding deed. Council officers are working diligently towards ensuring Council's funding obligations are met as timely as possible.

Given there is a potential for construction bottlenecks in the state road portion of works due to the hold point requirements in the contract specifications, there is a risk that works are delayed if the hold points are not released in a timely fashion. The contractor has been requested to assess early hold points that can be released prior to commencing on the 23rd of March to alleviate some of the administration once works are underway. Council officers are working closely with the independent project verifier to assess the critical path for hold points in construction with the understanding that a collaborate approach will be undertaken to ensure construction continues without delay impacts.

Budget Implications:

In the February Ordinary Council Meeting, by **Resolution 2602/021**, Council voted remaining funds from the completed R4R9 projects to the Richards Lane project, to the tune of approximately \$443,000.

This additional amount has been included in the revised budget in Table 1 for consideration.

Based on the current projected cost to complete (see Table 1), at this stage it is anticipated the project will be completed within the current budget allocation which includes \$397,476 as contingency funds yet to be drawn upon.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

14) ROADSIDE SPRAYING PROGRAM**Department:** Infrastructure Services**Author:** Director Infrastructure Services**CSP Link:** 3. Infrastructure is resilient, fit for purpose and maintained to support our community**File No:** RD.AD.1

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Note the update report on the 2025/26 Roadside Spraying Program, specifically that it has been completed approximately \$5,000 under budget.
2. For the 2026/27 roadside weed spraying program within Blayney Shire, Council note:
 - a. The underspend from 2025/26 will remain with CTWA and be drawn upon in 2026/27.
 - b. Central Tablelands Weeds Authority have \$20,000 in reserve for Blayney Shire Council which will be drawn upon in 2026/27.
3. Allocate for consideration in the draft 2026/27 Operational Plan and 2027/28 to 2028/29 Delivery Program, \$15,000 from the Flyers Creek Voluntary Planning Agreement as a matching contribution to Newmont's \$15,000 commitment for roadside spraying in the Cadia District.

Reason for Report:

To update Councillors on the 2025/26 Roadside Spraying Program and 2026/27 budget.

Report:

Upper Macquarie County Council (trading as Central Tablelands Weeds Authority - CTWA) is a separate statutory authority that manages weed control under the Biosecurity Act 2015 for Blayney Shire Council, Bathurst Regional Council, Lithgow City Council and Oberon Council (constituent Councils).

CTWA undertake a roadside spraying program that is a 3-year rotation programme, whereby it will undertake spraying of all Council controlled road reserves in the Blayney Shire over a 3-year period.

Sector 1 commenced in 2023/24 and was a successful year for Blayney, with the delivery of the entire Sector 1 program and 22km of Sector 2.

Councillors would recall that funds were brought forward from 2025/26 to 2024/25 to address an identified shortfall in budget allocations to complete Sector 2 (**Resolution 2410/030**).

Sector 2 commenced in 2024/25 with 242km completed. Councillors would recall that additional funds were voted into the budget due to shortfalls **(Resolution 2502/034)**.

Sector 3 commenced in 2025/26 with 300km completed. This has been completed under budget with an approximate \$5,000 underspend.

It is recommended that Council divert this underspend to next financial year's program as the scope of all Council roads in the first 3-year rotation has been completed.

The completion of this 3-year program (that is, all roads in the LGA sprayed in a 3-year period) is an excellent achievement for the Blayney Shire Council local government area and is anticipated to have long term impacts to weed control within the shire.

Cadia District

For the past three years Council and Newmont have undertaken a joint roadside spraying program in the Cadia District. The program saw each party contributing \$10,000 (Council's \$10,000 was funded from Flyers Creek VPA). Funding of the program concludes at the end of the current 2025/26 financial year.

The focus of the program has been on Sticky Nightshade control but has also targeted the other main priority weeds infesting the roadsides for around 120 kilometres surrounding Cadia Mine.

Newmont have recently confirmed a desire to continue the Cadia District roadside weed spraying program for 3 years, including increasing the amount to \$15,000 per annum. The increase from \$10,000 is due to increased costs (chemical, labour, and machinery).

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Central Tablelands Weeds Authority derives powers from the Biosecurity Act 2015 and conducts these functions within Blayney Shire Council.

Budget Implications:

Council (to assist with CTWA cashflow) has paid upfront its \$85,000 roadside spraying allocation to CTWA.

CTWA have advised Council, this year's program has been completed approximately \$5,000 under budget. It is proposed for CTWA to hold these funds and reduce Council's 2026/27 program payment to CTWA by the 2025/26 underspend. Note* the exact underspend is still to be confirmed.

It is not recommended to increase the scope of the 2025/26 program to spray additional roads in the current financial year as there is no program scoped and could risk an overspend.

Central Tablelands Weeds Authority currently hold \$20,000 in reserve for Blayney Shire Council, and this will be drawn upon in 2026/27.

It is recommended Council continue to partner with Newmont and allocate \$15,000 per annum for 3 years (2026/27 to 2028/29) from the Flyers Creek Voluntary Planning Agreement as a matching contribution to Newmont's \$15,000 allocation for roadside spraying in the Cadia District.

A summary of expected costs

Council Expenditure	2026/27
Blayney Council Contribution	45,000
Blayney Council (Cadia District) via Flyers Creek VPA contribution	15,000
Approximate 2025/26 underspend (held by CTWA)*	(5,000)
2026/27 Invoice to Blayney Council*	55,000
*final amounts subject to confirmation	
Other/External funds	2026/27
Reserve Contribution Blayney held by CTWA	20,000
Newmont (Cadia District)	15,000

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

15) MINUTES OF THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM HELD 6 MARCH 2026

Department: Infrastructure Services

Author: Director Infrastructure Services

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

File No: TT.ME.1

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Receive and note the minutes of the Blayney Shire Council Local Transport Forum, held Friday 6 March 2026.
2. Endorse the closure of Trunkey St Newbridge for the Newbridge Winter Solstice Festival, to be staged on 20 June 2026 on Trunkey Street Newbridge as a Class 2 event, subject to the conditions detailed in the Director Infrastructure Services' Report.
3. Endorse the Traffic Management Plan for the Blayney Anzac Day Service as a Class 3 event, subject to the conditions detailed in the Director Infrastructure Services' Report.
4. Endorse the Traffic Management Plan for the Villages ANZAC (Millthorpe, Neville and Mandurama) Day Service as a Class 3 event, subject to the conditions detailed in the Director Infrastructure Services' Report.
5. Endorse the Traffic Guidance Scheme for the Carcoar Cup Running Festival, to be held 8 November 2026 on roads in the Villages of Carcoar and Neville, and roads in-between as a Class 2 event, subject to the conditions detailed in the Director Infrastructure Services' Report.

Reason for Report:

For Council to endorse the minutes of the Blayney Shire Council Traffic Committee meeting held 6 March 2026.

MINUTES OF THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE CHAMBERS, BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY CENTRE, ON 6 MARCH 2026, COMMENCING AT 10:00 AM

PRESENT

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

Present: Jacob Hogan (Director Infrastructure Services), Nikki Smith (Administration Officer), Lilly Simons (Trainee Administration Officer), Cr Bruce Regnolds (Mayor, Observer)

APOLOGIES

Steve Chaplin (NSW Police).

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The following Declaration of Interest was noted.

Number	Member/Officer	Interest	Report	Reason
03	Reg Rendall	Pecuniary	Street Event – ANZAC Day (Blayney) – April 2026	ANZAC

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM HELD 5 DECEMBER 2025****Recommendation:**

That the Minutes of the Blayney Shire Council Traffic Committee Meeting held on 5 December 2025, be confirmed to be a true and accurate record of that meeting.

REPORTS**STREET EVENT - NEWBRIDGE WINTER SOLSTICE 2026****Recommendation:**

That Council endorse the closure of Trunkey St Newbridge for the Newbridge Winter Solstice Festival, to be staged on 20 June 2026 on Trunkey Street Newbridge as a Class 2 event, subject to the conditions detailed in the Director Infrastructure Services' Report.

STREET EVENT - ANZAC DAY (BLAYNEY) - APRIL 2026**Recommendation:**

That Council endorse the Traffic Management Plan for the Blayney Anzac Day Service as a Class 3 event, subject to the conditions detailed in the Director Infrastructure Services' Report.

STREET EVENT - ANZAC DAY SERVICES (VILLAGES) - APRIL 2026**Recommendation:**

That Council endorse the Traffic Management Plan for the Villages ANZAC (Millthorpe, Neville and Mandurama) Day Service as a Class 3 event, subject to the conditions detailed in the Director Infrastructure Services' Report.
Council will provide TfNSW an updated TGS for Mandurama.

**STREET EVENT - CARCOAR CUP RUNNING FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2026****Recommendation:**

That Council endorse the Traffic Guidance Scheme for the Carcoar Cup Running Festival, to be held 8 November 2026 on roads in the Villages of Carcoar and Neville, and roads in-between as a Class 2 event, subject to the conditions detailed in the Director Infrastructure Services' Report.

Action: Council to liaise with Carcoar Cup representative in relation to access to Uralba during the event.

**CARCOAR STREET - TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES
(IC/96846)****Recommendation:**

NSW Police will monitor Carcoar Street for 3-6 months and provide a report to a future Transport Forum Meeting.

Action: Council to provide NSW Police with a breakdown of speed statistics (quantities).

TRAFFIC REGISTER**TRAFFIC REGISTER**

NIL

GENERAL BUSINESS**SPEED ZONE REVIEW - MID WESTERN HIGHWAY
LYNDHURST****Actions**

TfNSW advised they will assess this request through their comprehensive review program in the future. They will liaise direct with proponent.

**EVENT - LYNDHURST COMMUNITY COUNTRY FAIR -
SUNDAY, 22 MARCH 2026**

Noted.

**FEEDBACK/COMPLAINT REGARD SAFETY OF THE EVENT -
THE AMEND PROJECT - WALK FOR CONNECTION EVENT -
SATURDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2026**

Council will review any future applications in relation to safety.

**INTERSECTION ADELAIDE STREET NORTH / MID WESTERN
HIGHWAY (ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL)**

TfNSW are in the process of reviewing the SSA and will correspond directly with Director Infrastructure Services.

**TFNSW AND NHVR APPROVAL - MID WESTERN HIGHWAY /
GOLD STREET INTERSECTION, MANDURAMA**

Council resolved the NHVR approval issue prior to the meeting.

**ADELAIDE LANE, BLAYNEY - ONE WAY (OGILVY AND
CHURCH STREETS)**

Update provided: Council is working with JR Richards in relation to garbage pick up route.

General Business:

Reinstatement of the 40km painted markings in Adelaide Street Blayney where the resealing recently took place. TfNSW will follow this up.

Reg Randell will be an apology for the 5 June 2026 meeting.

FUTURE MEETING DATES - 2026

Friday, 5 June 2026

Friday, 4 September 2026

Friday, 4 December 2026

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 10:39am

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

16) 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 23 February 2026.

Reason for Report:

To update Council on the recent Community Consultative Committee meeting held on 23 February 2026 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.

The project has been given State Significant Infrastructure status, and the company is now developing a new Environmental Impact Statement which will be discussed in the report.

This report is provided to update Councillors and the community on the status of the project and what pathways forward Regis Resources is examining for the development of the mine.

Report:**Update of Project****ATSIPH Act-Section 10 and Judicial Review**

Now that the court hearing has been held – in December 2025 – Regis now awaits judgement to be made at an unknown future date.

Approvals

Regis has lodged three separate scoping reports; namely, for the IWL (Integrated Waste Program), ETL (Electricity Transmission Line) and WSP (Water Supply Pipeline) elements of the Project in November 2025.

The SEARs were issued shortly thereafter, outlining the requirements of the EIS Assessment and the scoping of the specialist studies.

With respect to Commonwealth approvals, Regis have now also lodged three separate EPBC (Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act) referral applications. Subsequently, Regis are now waiting for a decision at a Federal level as to whether these are a controlled matter. Based on the documentation, the Federal Government will consider the impacts on special elements such as biodiversity. A decision is anticipated in March this year.

While the documents are listed on the EPBC web site, they are not advertised.

A question was asked if commencement of the three EIS' needs to be delayed while waiting for the Federal decision to be made? The response was Regis has pre-empted that the Federal Government will decide on a controlled action and therefore, the timeline has not been affected. The EIS' do not need to wait.

Overview of New EIS

A series of maps were provided on the three areas of the new EIS.

The mayor asked if a preferred route has been determined with respect to the pipeline?

Regis confirmed the preferred route and that there have been some changes when compared to the approved route. Changes were required to accommodate landholders and other agencies such as Transport for NSW. A change has also been necessary to a portion in Sunny Corner State Forest after NSW Forestry instigated a deal with a renewable company for a proposed windfarm development there.

The mayor continued, asking about the southern option for the powerline. Would Regis need to upgrade the 66 kV line? This facilitated a discussion about how Regis' proposal could impact upon energy supply to Blayney.

Regis noted that some form of upgrade would be required from Essential Energy. Importantly, it would not impact upon supply to Blayney.

Key Studies for the New EIS

Regis has commenced preparation of the environmental assessments, including the undertaking of key studies. Several field surveys are underway, including (but not limited to):

- Biodiversity
- Aboriginal Cultural heritage
- Historic Heritage
- Bushfire
- Land contamination

Modelling is underway for larger key studies including (but not limited to) air, noise, ground water and surface water. Extensive engagement is occurring with DPHI (Department Planning, Housing and Infrastructure) and other regulators. Regis committed to undertaking a broader community consultation program over the next few months before finalisation of documentation.

A question was asked whether the social impact assessment (SIA) would need to be revised?

Regis is completing another SIA, to complement the existing SIA. Square peg is the specialist organisation that is tasked with this.

The mayor observed that the IWL is getting very close to the highway at Kings Plains. Concerns about noise, dust etc. A Kings Plains resident added to this, expressing her deep anger about what is proposed and observing that it will create more of an impact for Kings Plains residents.

Regis responded that they understand this and will bring the results of the detailed modelled assessment – air, noise, visual - to future meetings. Regis also stated that collecting baseline data over time, the company will be able to notice any change quickly and then rectify it.

A member of the CCC asked if Regis is drawing water from bores at the moment? Will they have an impact on ground water?

Regis currently has a drill rig installing monitoring bores, which don't extract groundwater and confirmed that no water would be drawn from the bores. They also outlined the environmental monitoring slide, informing committee members that Regis is installing 18 monitoring bores, which will be used to collect groundwater samples and provide additional baseline data for the project.

Members asked questions regarding the maps presented; namely, did the map show contour lines and was the map to scale?

Regis advised that the map is still conceptual and there is a bit of work to do on it.

A member observed that the distance on the map from the pit to his house is different to what he believed it to be.

Regis offered to remeasure the distance.

Exploration Update

Regis stated that the 2025 exploration drilling program has been extended into January-February 2026 to permit the completion of a few deeper drill holes. WT added that further work may be required, depending on the data recorded.

Rehabilitation is also underway with 11 cut-fill drip pads reshaped and re-seeded. This will involve the use of hydro mulching in to accelerate re-growth.

Gravity geophysical survey completed and data interpretation underway.

Members were advised that drilling is also underway on the Kings Plains property “Jirri Jirri”, and consultation has commenced. This drilling program will be commencing in early March and will operate Mondays to Fridays, only during day shift hours. No drilling is to take place on weekends or at night. If anyone like to have a chat with Regis, they are happy to do so.

General Business

The Mayor shared with members that Blayney Shire Council had a good meeting with Federal Environment Minister Watts in late 2025. Items discussed included Council’s inability to undertake work on Dungeon Road and bridge works. The Mayor stated he hoped the court decision would be handed down soon before deciding what to do next.

A member asked is there anything new about the existing proposal? Regis replied it is up to the court if the Section 10 is upheld.

A member stated that the proposed IWL is getting close to Kings Plains residents and they are very anxious about this. They observed how difficult it is continuing not to know what the future holds.

There was then much discussion about the proposed IWL. Members observed that the formation would be very visible and wanted to know how high it would be.

Regis replied that it would be higher than the currently proposed formation. They committed to bringing information on the modelled height of the IWL to the next meeting.

In response to a question from the Mayor about planned rehabilitation at the site, Regis replied it is part of the EIS requirements. There would be a requirement from the Resources Regulator for a detailed Rehabilitation Strategy and associated plans to be developed and approved well before completion of the IWL. Monitoring against the documentation would then take place.

The Mayor asked if Regis could bring examples, preferably videos, to a future meeting of what IWLs look like in practice. He believed that there are examples from across Australia.

The chair then moved the discussion on to consider the year ahead, confirming with Regis that 2026 will be different for the committee when compared to 2025. Meetings would revert to being held quarterly with much anticipated to happen towards the back end of the year as the three EIS’ near submission to government.

A member then asked a series of questions. Does Regis have any other avenues for appeal if required? Regis responded that, yes, these include appeals with the Federal and High Courts. There are several ways that this could go, including the Federal Government even appealing. The initial way forward will be dependent on the rationale of the upcoming judgment.

The member then continued, asking if the s10 declaration is overturned, will Regis cease the development of the EIS'? Regis noted that, with respect to the IWL, there would be no change until a clear pathway is established. Nevertheless, Regis would still need to complete the EIS' for the pipeline and ETL. Regis reminded members at this point that Regis would still need to go through a redetermination.

With respect to the type of assessment being undertaken, a member asked why are the three EIS proposals been identified as being State Significant Infrastructure?

Regis informed that the NSW Planning Minister made this decision with the reasons laid out on the Major Projects website.

A member then asked about how the powerline EIS would consider both options?

Regis said that both options would currently need to be assessed. However, if the assessment from the specialist consultants identified a preferred option while the environmental assessment was underway, then the EIS could revert to one option only.

Regarding the pit, a member asked if there would be rehabilitation well into the future?

Regis advised that Regis has no intention to fill in the pit after proposed operations cease. A final void is what is proposed. There was a followed up, asking if people could be consulted on the location of the final landform – what it looks like, its shape?

Regis replied that they are always happy for feedback from people and can provide that back to consultants.

A member then asked if baseline monitoring will be made public? Regis informed members that this will be summarised in the EIS'. Furthermore, they told the committee that the EPA is now requiring mines to provide real time monitoring data to be made available publicly when it comes time to start the project.

A member asked about the water model and how many years of data would be collected, thereby factoring in really wet or dry years.

Regis confirmed that an extensive dataset would be required, calling on 130 years plus of data.

A member added to this, asking if the water modelling would consider trends in, say, whether there are historic data changes over thirty years? Or long term?

The response was Regis will certainly look at this. The consultants will look into variations.

Meeting Review

At this point in the meeting, the chair split members into two groups for approximately 15 minutes to discuss what have been the key takeaways for members out of tonight's discussion. After reconvening, members shared that some of their key takeaways from the discussion included:

- the concerns of residents in Kings Plains that have been raised with respect to dust, noise, rehabilitation. Residents are keen to ensure that this is considered in the EIS';
- groundwater impacts and the need for more information;
- the visual impacts arising from the proposed IWL;
- mental health issues over the last couple of years and whether Regis can consider revising compensation levels as well as the provision of an EAP support program for residents.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Nil

Budget Implications:

Nil

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

17) CANOBOLAS ZONE NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE BUSH FIRE LIAISON COMMITTEE DELEGATE REPORT

Department: Executive Services

Author: Councillor Reynolds

CSP Link: 5. Protecting our assets for future generations

File No: ES.ME.2

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the Canobolas Zone NSW Rural Fire Service Liaison Committee delegate report.

Reason for Report:

To provide Councillors with an update on the Canobolas Zone NSW Rural Fire Service Liaison Committee.

Report:

The following is information tabled by the Canobolas Zone of the NSW Rural Fire Service at the Liaison Committee meeting held in Blayney on Wednesday 11th March.

Item 1 – Maintenance and Repairs Financial Report for Canobolas Zone

The Canobolas tracking register on 5 March shows an expenditure in the order of \$420,640 from a set budget of \$650,000, with funds available at \$229,359 the M&R Grant will then be provided to Orange Council in the RFFF allocation. The total Allocation Amount the financial year is \$666.681.53. The servicing of vehicles for this year will commence in April, which will see a depletion of funds before the end of the Financial Year.

Item 2 - Asset Update

Below is an updated Fire Station build forecast on the Stations currently under construction or planning.

Work is currently taking place on three stations in the Canobolas Zone. These are at Eugowra, Woodstock and a training facility at Spring Creek Dam in Orange. There are currently no new or upgraded buildings being constructed in Blayney Shire. The Zone is still waiting on the allocations for this financial year, but they don't expect to see any further infrastructure for this year.

Item 3 – Parliamentary Accounts Committee

The details and findings of the recent Parliamentary enquiry into the funding of the RFS and the involvement of Local Government Councils has been completed.

Whilst the report provides recommendations to Government there are expectations that the “vested assets” will be migrated to the ownership of the RFS therefore relieving the financial burden imposed on Councils who have been accounting for these items through depreciation.

Additional recommendations will potentially require alterations to the Rural Fires Act and this is a decision for Government of the scope and timeframe for action.

At this stage, the RFS are undertaking an independent fleet audit, which is required before there will be any transfer of the current fleet.

Item 4 - Fleet and Equipment Report

The district has received the following replacement resources for our District Brigades.

Milburn Creek - New Single Cab Cat 1 replacing an FTS 750, this unit will go to another brigade, and an old Cat 2 tanker will be disposed. No other fleet allocations this year. There was some concern expressed that only one truck was being replaced this financial year, with a number of trucks across the Canobolas Zone older than 25 years. There is a hope that next financial year there will be more new trucks entering the Canobolas Zone fleet.

Item 5 - Operational Services Report

Since 1 July 2025 Canobolas Brigades have attended a total of 404 incidents (correct 5 March 2026), made up of 168 Bush and Grass and 89 MVA's. This is up approximately 25% on figures from this time last year. The average turnout time (1 June 2025 to 5 March 2026) for response is 4.6 minutes with an average travel time of 9.1 minutes. Whilst the average incident duration 70 mins.

Item 6 - Membership Services Report

Overview

Canobolas District has commenced a project to improve the accuracy and usefulness of the District membership register. The current register lists 2,950 members, but the existing classifications do not reliably reflect the actual operational capacity available across Brigades. Ensuring accurate data is essential for planning, recruitment, and resource allocation.

Why the Project Is Needed

Several recent activities have highlighted inconsistencies and gaps in member data:

- Bulk USI email distribution exposed significant inaccuracies in SAP records, indicating the need for systematic data cleansing.
- Member details are often corrected only when individuals contact the District Office, meaning updates are reactive rather than proactive.
- The Operational Brief now directs members to update their details via the Jotform on the Canobolas Zone Portal, but uptake varies across Brigades.

- These issues collectively reduce the reliability of the membership register as a planning tool.

Project Aim

The project aims to:

- Work with Brigades to reclassify ordinary membership categories so they accurately reflect members' operational status and availability.
- Provide a clearer picture of active human resources across the District.
- Enable targeted recruitment strategies tailored to each Brigade's needs.
- Support future resource planning, including training, capability development, and succession planning.

Expected Benefits

Improved membership data will:

- Strengthen operational readiness by identifying actual active numbers.
- Help Brigades understand their capability gaps.
- Support District-wide planning for training, equipment, and surge capacity.
- Reduce administrative inefficiencies caused by outdated or incomplete records

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil