23 July 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, 28 July 2026 at 6.00pm for consideration of the following business -

(1) Livestreaming Video and Audio Check
(2) Acknowledgement of Country
(3) Recording of Meeting Statement
(4) Statement of Ethical Obligations
(5) Apologies for non-attendance
(6) Disclosures of Interest
(7) Public Forum
(8) Mayoral Minute
(9) Confirmation of Minutes
    (a) Ordinary Council Meeting held on 16.06.26
    (b) Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 30.06.26
(10) Matters arising from Minutes
(11) Reports of Staff
    (a) Executive Services
    (b) Corporate Services
    (c) Infrastructure Services
    (d) Planning and Environmental Services
(12) Delegates Reports
(13) Closed Meeting

Mark Dicker
General Manager

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
91 ADELAIDE STREET,
BLAYNEY NSW 2799

TELEPHONE (02) 6368 2104

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

Email: council@blayney.nsw.gov.au

Meeting Calendar 2026

July

6.00pm	27 July 2026	McPhillamy's CCC Meeting	Community Centre
6.00pm	28 July 2026	Council Meeting	Community Centre

August

5.00pm	4 August 2026	Disability Inclusion Working Group Meeting	Community Centre
9.00am	6 August 2026	Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting	Community Centre
10.00am	12-13 August 2026	Central NSW JO Board Meeting and Parliament Visit	Canberra
10.00am	19 August 2026	Central Tablelands Water Meeting	Canowindra
2.00pm	21 August 2026	Central Tablelands Weeds Authority Meeting	Kelso
6.00pm	25 August 2026	Council Meeting	Community Centre
8.30am	26 August 2026	Orange 360 Board Meeting	Orange
8.20am	28 August 2026	Country Mayors Association	Sydney

September

10.00am	4 September 2026	Local Transport Forum	Community Centre
2.30pm	9 September 2026	Bush Fire Management Committee Meeting	Orange
6.00pm	22 September 2026	Council Meeting	Community Centre

October

10.00am	21 October 2026	Central Tablelands Water Meeting	Blayney
2.00pm	23 October 2026	Central Tablelands Weeds Authority Meeting	Kelso
6.00pm	27 October 2026	Council Meeting	Community Centre
8.30am	28 October 2026	Orange 360 Board Meeting	Orange

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LIVE STREAMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

STATEMENT OF ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS

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

01) MAYORAL MINUTE - HEALTH AND AGED CARE SERVICES IN THE BLAYNEY SHIRE

Author: Councillor Reynolds

File No: GR.LR.2

Recommendation:
That Council:
1. Note the correspondence from the Western NSW Local Health District Board chair,
2. Advocate for more Federal Government Assistance in providing additional aged care beds in the Blayney MPS and with private operators,
3. Advocate for the provision of additional allied health services in Blayney Shire.

Item:
On Wednesday 6 May 2026 the Mayor and General Manager were invited to meet with the Western NSW Local Health District Board (who were meeting in Blayney).

There were a number of issues discussed during the hour meeting. These included the opening of stage 1 of the MPS in Blayney and the transition of patients to the new facility. It was outlined how impressive the new aged care and outpatient facilities were and the hope the next stage of the MPS would be completed as soon as practical.

There was also a long discussion about aged care beds in Blayney Shire. Questions were asked if the new aged care facility at the hospital could be expanded. It was stated that the Federal Government saw to current size as optimal for the Shires needs. It was highlighted that there is a large waiting list of people wishing to gain access to the facility.

The Local Health District stated it was beyond their control for any expansion of the current facility. They also highlighted aged care was an issue right across the state and Council could take a greater responsibility in providing more aged care in Blayney Shire. It was however highlighted that aged care is not a primary role of Council and this position was supported by the NSW Health Minister, Ryan Park who in a discussion held with the Mayor and General Manager at NSW parliament stated it was not the responsibility of local government to provide these services and the Commonwealth Government should be providing more beds.

There was also some discussion about the potential extension of allied health services through the MPS in Blayney Shire. It was highlighted there are already a number of these services provided but they could look at the provision of more serviced if the need arose.

Councillors are being asked to consider advocating for more aged care beds in Blayney Shire and if there is considered a need for more allied services that Council advocates for these services.

The response from the Western NSW Local Health District Board chair is enclosed.

Enclosures (following report)

1 Letter from Western NSW Local Health District Board 1 Page

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

Western NSW Local Health District

Ref: WD26/6705
15 June 2026

Clr Bruce Reynolds
Mayor
Blayney Shire Council

Mark Dicker
General Manager
Blayney Shire Council
Email: [redacted]

Re: Western NSW Local Health District Board Meeting

Dear Bruce and Mark,

On behalf of the Western NSW Local Health District Board and Executive, thank you for taking the time to come and meet with us during our meeting in Blayney and for the use of your meeting room space.

We appreciate the complexity that a redevelopment such as the one underway in Blayney brings to a local community. Inevitably staff and patients experience an unsettled period as they navigate their way through the temporary changes and disruptions. The Board and Executive reflected on the positive way both our staff and the wider community are working through the disruption.

The Local Health District recognise the importance of the issues that were discussed on the day including the access to aged care support and Primary Care provision.

Aged care beds in Western NSW continue to be an ongoing focus for the LHD along with several initiatives to support residents to age well in their own homes. The District continues to enhance our Aged Care Outreach Service and Transitional Aged Care Programme. Our aim is to enhance the person-centred multidisciplinary care that is available for older people.

Thank you again for taking the time to make yourselves available. We look forward to continuing to work with you and the team to support health care delivery in the local community.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Matthew Irvine
Board Chair

[redacted]

Mark Spittal
Chief Executive

7 Commercial Avenue, Dubbo, NSW, 2830
PO Box 4061, Dubbo, NSW, 2830
ABN 50 639 556 404

02 6809 8600
wnswlhd.health.nsw.gov.au

02) MAYORAL MINUTE - BELUBULA WATER SECURITY PROJECT OPTIONS REPORT

Author: Councillor Reynolds

File No: EM.MO.1

Recommendation:
That Council:
1. Note the report on the Belubula Water Security study including the three remaining options,
2. Continue to advocate for greater water security for Blayney Shire with state and federal governments.

Item:
The proposed Belubula Water Security Project aims to improve water availability and increased drought resilience for residents, businesses and the environment across the Belubula Valley.

A number of Councillors took part in the consultation held in Blayney in October 2025 together with a number of community members. The Mayor and General Manager have also had discussions with The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

Blayney Shire and in particular the township and Blayney and village of Millthorpe continue to grow. According to the Office of Local Government, Blayney Shire grew at 3.6% over the last five years. This growth is seeing increases in demand for water resources as a number of new houses are being built and new industries are opening up across the Shire.

The Belubula Water Security Project is investigating a range of solutions to improve water availability and drought resilience in the region.

Four infrastructure options were initially identified. Following stakeholder consultation and further analysis, three of these options have been shortlisted for detailed investigation:

- Option 1: a new pipeline between Lake Rowlands Dam and Carcoar Dam to transfer up to 2 gigalitres of water per year, capturing spills and boosting supply
- Option 2: raising the Lake Rowlands Dam wall to increase storage from 4.5 gigalitres to 8 gigalitres,
- And a combination of Options 1 and 2: a new connecting pipeline between Lake Rowlands Dam and Carcoar Dam and raising Lake Rowlands Dam wall.

The attached report summarises feedback received during engagement between September 2025 and May 2026 on the shortlisted options.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

1	Belubula Water Secuity Report	19 Pages

03) MAYORAL MINUTE - DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING PROPOSED CHANGES

Author: Councillor Reynolds

File No: GS.AP.2

Recommendation:
That Council:
1. Note the correspondence from Kristy McBain, the Minister for Emergency Management Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories,
2. Make representation through State and Federal Members to the Prime Minister, NSW Premier and the relevant Federal and State Ministers, and to LGNSW, to ensure that any proposed changes to the Federal and State Government formulas for disaster management funding, do not result in further cost shifting that results in the dilution of funds available to local government, or the transfer of unfunded costs and / or responsibilities to local government.

Item:
The Federal Government is proposing to replace the current Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) with a new Disaster Recovery Funding Framework.

Kristy McBain, the Minister for Emergency Management Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories has now written to Councils outlining the proposed changes. This correspondence is enclosed.

While there are some positive proposed outcomes, including driving national consistency, removing duplication and streamlining administrative processes, there is also some potential downside.

One of the major changes with regards to the incoming framework is transitioning disaster recovery into a standardized 50/50 shared partnership between the Federal and State /Territory Governments, down from the previous arrangements where the Federal Government contributed from 64% to 75% of costs.

There are also concerns about the proposal to increase the minimum eligible State expenditure required to trigger Commonwealth disaster support from $240,000 to $2.7 million. This has the potential to have a significant impact on Blayney Shire's ability to claim for Natural Disaster events as many events that have occurred in the past would now no longer trigger Natural Disaster Assistance.

LGNSW CEO David Reynolds has informed the Mayor at the recent Country Mayors event at Ballina that LG NSW and the Insurance Council have started looking into what the proposed changes might mean for Council premiums.

This proposal could see a significant increase in costs for Blayney Shire Council, but as yet the cost is unknown.

There are concerns these changes will result in State Governments passing on their increased share of the funding costs to local councils, who will not be able to provide the necessary funding to undertake the recovery works.

It is important that councils act promptly to ensure that any changes do not adversely impact on our ability to delivery services to the community.

This Mayoral Minute seeks Council endorsement to make representations to the Federal and State Governments, and LGNSW, to ensure that we do all we can to avoid extra, and unfunded responsibilities, being placed on local councils.

Enclosures (following report)

1 Letter from the Hon Kristy McBain MP 2 Pages

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

The Hon Kristy McBain MP

Minister for Emergency Management
Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories
Member for Eden-Monaro

Dear Mayor

I write to share some important information about the Australian Government's proposed reforms to Australia's disaster management system.

On 5 June 2026, I briefed State and Territory Governments on the proposed reforms and sought their engagement to inform them about the detailed design work and implementation of these reforms. I also welcomed the engagement with numerous Councils during the recent National General Assembly of Local Government in Canberra.

The Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding (the Colvin Review) identified the complexity of Australia's disaster management system and noted it has not kept pace with the evolving nature of disasters. It also found Australia is increasingly reliant on local government for the delivery of recovery works.

The new Disaster Recovery Funding Framework is designed to better target recovery assistance, drive national consistency, remove duplication, streamline administrative processes and reduce disaster risk.

Importantly, these reforms do not change the arrangements for Councils – they simply mean that the Commonwealth and the State Government will equally share the costs of recovery on an event-by-event basis. The current system does not ask Councils to provide money into the system and nor does the new framework.

Key elements of a proposed new Disaster Recovery Funding Framework

The Australian Government proposes the following key elements of the Disaster Recovery Funding Framework for engagement and further development with States and Territories:

- *Embed an equal partnership between the Australian Government, and State and Territory Governments through a 50:50 cost-sharing funding model*, reflecting the primary role of the States and Territories in disaster management under the Constitution.

- Introduce a *simpler threshold for accessing cost-shared financial support* which allows smaller States to claim their reimbursements sooner. The Australian Government will contribute 50 per cent towards eligible costs that are in excess of an event-based financial trigger point for the costs of the entire event in that impacted State or Territory (not costs per impacted Local Government Area).

Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 Tel: 02 6277 7060 | Email: minister.mcbain@mo.regional.gov.au
Electorate Offices: PO Box 214, Queanbeyan NSW 2620 Tel: 02 6284 2442 | PO Box 1233, Bega NSW 2550 Tel: 02 6492 0542

- *New assistance categories and standardised packages* designed to deliver national consistency for disaster impacted communities and ensure recovery assistance can be easily understood and communicated. Further work will be undertaken to develop the specific forms of assistance under each category.

- *A Resilient Infrastructure Scheme* that will provide cost-shared funding to support timely reconstruction of damaged essential public assets and, where specific criteria are met, funding of up to 15 per cent cost-shared to rebuild the asset to a more resilient standard.

- *Tailored support for First Nations communities* to ensure the unique needs of disaster-affected First Nations communities are appropriately met in line with commitments under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

- *Flexibility to provide non-standard assistance in response to more severe or catastrophic disasters* when requirements for support genuinely exceed the standardised measures (e.g. in 'exceptional circumstances'). The support requested must be linked directly to the severity of the event's impact and include a detailed impact assessment.

Building on investment in disaster resilience and preparedness

Through the Australian Government's Disaster Ready Fund, we are investing up to $1 billion over five years to 2028 to build critical projects that reduce disaster risk and strengthen community resilience. There has not been a reduction in the Government's investment in disaster resilience. Across the first three rounds, approximately $600 million was invested in 450 projects, and Round Four opened on 29 May 2026. This investment is significantly enhanced through co-contributions, including by state and local government.

The Australian Government is also investing in core national capabilities to strengthen disaster preparedness and response, including through the National Aerial Firefighting Centre, the National Bushfire Intelligence Capability, the Northern Australia Fire Information service and the AusAlert emergency warning system.

The Australian Government values the critical role local government plays in disaster recovery and risk reduction, and I welcome engagement on how to ensure local government has the capability and resourcing to deliver these important functions. Any feedback can be sent to disastermanagementreform@nema.gov.au by 31 July 2026.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Kristy McBain MP
1/7/ 2026

04) MAYORAL MINUTE - GRANTS COMMISSION REVIEW OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Author: Councillor Reynolds

File No: GS.LI.1

Recommendation:
That Council:
1. Note the update from the Local Government Grants Commission regarding the review of Financial Assistance Grants,
2. Prepare a submission from Blayney Shire Council highlighting the lower payments made to our Council compared to our equivalent counterparts and highlight the need for greater assistance to provide services to our community.

Item:
The NSW Grants Commission is starting a review of the methodology used to allocate Financial Assistance Grants for the 2027–28 financial year and subsequent years.

The primary function of the Local Government Grants Commission is to make recommendations to the Minister for Local Government on the allocation of general purpose grants to local governing bodies in New South Wales under the provisions of the Commonwealth Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995.

The commission consists of 4 members appointed for terms of up to 5 years. Three members (including the Chair) are nominated by the Minister for Local Government, and the Deputy Chairperson is an employee of the Office of Local Government.

The current membership of the commission is:
- Linda Scott – Chair
- Brett Whitworth PSM – Deputy Chair
- Leanne Barnes PSM OAM – Commissioner
- Jason Hamling – Commissioner

The review aims to ensure that distribution aligns with the National Principles under the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*. The NSW Commission is assessing a range of variables, including relative disadvantage, service population sizes, and transitioning funding caps and floors (collars) to smooth out year-to-year cash flow variations for councils.

The Commission has invited principle-based written submissions from councils to refine the allocation methodology, which will take effect for the 2027–28 financial year and later this year will have both online and face to face consultation, as outlined in the attachment.

The Mayor and General Manager will seek to attend the Dubbo Face to Face Meeting on 15 September 2026 to highlight how the Blayney Shire is disadvantaged under the current distribution methodology.

The Caps and Collars for this funding have historically been set between +5% and -5%.

During the multi-year transition, a 0% lower limit (collar) was put in place to give councils time to prepare. However, because this 0% floor has inadvertently caused funds to shift from highly disadvantaged areas to wealthier councils, the Commission has started to phase out the 0% collar from the 2025–26 period. It plans to fully reinstate the historical +6% upper cap and -4% lower collar. It is unsure how this will impact on Blayney Shire Council's funding allocation.

For Blayney Shire Council, the Financial Assistance grant for 2026-27 is expected to be just over $4 million, with Council receiving a lower amount than equivalent size Councils, per head of population.

The preferred option is for the Australian Government to return annual allocation to 1% of federal taxation revenue (currently 0.49%) which would double the financial assistance grants. This position has been a long-standing policy position for; Local Government NSW, Australian Local Government Association and Country Mayors Association of NSW. Disappointingly, this return appears unlikely to occur, within the near future. The only alternative option for Councillors is to seek a more equitable distribution of funds to Blayney Shire from within the current allocation.

Enclosures (following report)

1 Grants Commission Review 1 Page

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

Local Government Grants Commission

Reference: A1010415

Clr Bruce Reynolds
Mayor
Blayney Shire Council

15 July 2026

Via email: bruce.reynolds@blayney.nsw.gov.au

Dear Clr Reynolds

I write to you with a short update on the work of the Grants Commission and its review of the methodology used to allocate Financial Assistance Grants for the 2027–28 financial year and subsequent years.

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

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

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

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

Please note that all sessions will present the same information.

The Commission welcomes principle-based written submissions from councils regarding the proposed allocation methodology. Submissions may be sent to grantscommission@olg.nsw.gov.au by 25 September 2026.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Brett Whitworth
Deputy Chair
Local Government Grants Commission

T 02 4428 4100 TTY 02 4428 4209 E grantscommission@olg.nsw.gov.au
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541
www.olg.nsw.gov.au

05) MAYORAL MINUTE - NSW PLANNING REFORMS UPDATE

Author: Councillor Reynolds

File No: LP.RP.2

Recommendation:
That Council note the update on planning reforms from NSW Planning Minister, Paul Scully.

Item:
The Mayor has received correspondence from the NSW Planning Minister, Paul Scully on reforms to the planning approval process.

The updated Ministerial Statement of Expectations Order (Attachment A) dated 1 July 2026 includes revised targets for development applications (DAs) together with additional expectations around DA modifications, complying development certificate variation statements, local infrastructure contributions and strategic planning.

The changes aim to support continued improvement across the planning system and help unlock more homes and jobs in NSW including initiatives to streamline assessments and reduce timeframes for certain types of development.

The Ministers letter and associated attachment are provided.

Enclosures (following report)

1	Correspondence from the Office of the Hon Paul Scully MP	3 Pages
2	Attachment A Minister's Statement of Expectations Order 2026	7 Pages

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

The Hon Paul Scully MP
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

Ref: IRF26/4038

Clr Bruce Reynolds
Mayor
Blayney Shire Council
PO Box 62
BLAYNEY NSW 2799
bruce.reynolds@blayney.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mayor

Thank you for your ongoing work to improve development assessment processes and help enable more homes for your local community.

Since the introduction of the Council League Table in July 2024, councils across NSW have collectively reduced their average development assessment times by 31 days to a statewide average of 84 days as of 31 May 2026. This is a strong result and reflects your commitment to improving planning outcomes, which the NSW Government and I appreciate.

I am writing to update Council on changes to the Ministerial Statement of Expectations Order, performance criteria, the Council League Table and supporting programs.

Statement of Expectations Order

The updated Ministerial Statement of Expectations Order (Attachment A) dated 1 July 2026 includes revised targets for development applications (DAs) together with additional expectations around DA modifications, complying development certificate variation statements, local infrastructure contributions and strategic planning.

The changes aim to support continued improvement across the planning system and help unlock more homes and jobs in NSW.

These updates build on strong progress NSW councils have already made to improve assessment systems and processes. They also complement wider planning reforms,

including initiatives to streamline assessments and reduce timeframes for certain types of development.

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure performance criteria

From 1 July 2026 a new average end to end DA target of 90 days will apply, alongside updated criteria to identify where additional support from the Department may be needed to improve performance.

The revised criteria are:

1. **Councils' current DA Assessment Performance**: Councils with gross end-to-end timeframes of 90 days or greater.
2. **Councils' percentage of applications assessed:** Councils with 60 per cent or less of their applications meeting the 90-day end to end expectation. This recognises the importance of assessing most applications within the 90-day timeframe while noting that larger or more complex applications will sometimes take longer to determine.
3. **Housing target/implied dwelling demand**: Councils with a housing target, or an implied dwelling demand of more than 500 homes to be completed during the Housing Accord period.

Local Contributions

Councils play an important role in providing supporting infrastructure for its residents, particularly in those areas experiencing high growth.

I expect councils to maintain an up-to-date contributions framework to make sure they are making the most of contributions collected from new development to deliver infrastructure. Councils that are not rural or a large rural council should also spend at least 20 per cent of their available infrastructure contribution funds annually, averaged over the preceding 5-year period.

Council League Table

In response to feedback from councils across NSW, I have approved updates to the methodology used to calculate council performance for the Council League Table. This update will now count deferred commencements as a determination. This will take effect from the July 2026 data release (published in August) and apply to both current and previously reported data.

Expert Planner Program

The Department will work with councils that need additional support, including through expert planners or engineers. The Accelerated Development Application pathway tool may also be used to assist councils to improve performance.

Planning System Reforms

The Department is currently implementing various Planning System Reforms. The Reforms include complying development certificate variations and targeted assessment, which will simplify and streamline the planning system. Importantly, by reducing the need for a full DA for simple variations to standards it will free up resources to allow councils to focus on those more complex DAs.

Together, these measures will help councils continue improving assessment timeframes and support delivery of new homes under the National Housing Accord.

I appreciate your leadership and ongoing support for this critical work and the shared role we play in delivering more homes across NSW.

Should you have any questions, Daniel Thompson, Executive Director, Local Planning and Council Support, at the Department can be contacted on 02 4221 6912 or daniel.thompson@dphi.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Paul Scully MP
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
Encl. Updated Ministerial Statement of Expectations Order

Environmental Planning and Assessment (Statement of Expectations) Order 2026

I, Paul Scully, the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, make this Order under section 9.6(9) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.*



The Hon. Paul Scully MP
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

Dated: 1 July 2026

Explanatory note

The object of this Order is to set expectations for councils in relation to their performance of a range of planning and development functions under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. If a council is found not to be meeting these expectations, the Minister can take these matters into consideration as part of determining if it is appropriate to appoint a planning administrator to exercise a council's functions. It is made under section 9.6(9) of the Act.

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1 Name of Order
2 Commencement
3 Definitions

Part 2 Planning and development matters

4 Heads of consideration
5 Minister's expectations

Environmental Planning and Assessment (Statement of Expectations) Order 2026

under the

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

Part 1 Preliminary

1 Name of Order

This Order is the *Environmental Planning and Assessment (Statement of Expectations) Order 2026*.

2 Commencement

This updated Order commences on 1 July 2026

3 Definitions

(1) In this Order—

the Act means the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

Department means the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Gateway determination means a determination made by the Minister (or delegate) under section 3.34 of the Act.

LEP means a local environmental plan.

LSPS means a local strategic planning statement.

Minister means the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.

Minister's expectations means the expectations of the Minister in relation to the performance of a council in dealing with planning and development matters, as set out in clause 5 of this Order.

Note. The Act and the *Interpretation Act 1987* contain definitions and other provisions that affect the interpretation and application of this Order.

(2) Words used in this Order have the same meaning as words used in the Act.

(3) Notes included in this Order do not form part of this Order.

Part 2 Planning and development matters

4 Heads of consideration

The matters to be taken into consideration in exercising the power under s.9.6(1)(b) of the Act are:

(a) Whether or not the council has failed to meet the Minister's expectations in relation to council performance and the degree to which the council has performed or failed to perform.

(b) Whether or not an appointment under s.9.6(1)(b) should be made in relation to one or more of a particular class of planning and development matter, or all planning and development matters dealt with by the council.

(c) The effect of any caretaker period preventing the council's performance in dealing with the planning and development matters (or any particular class of such matters) as set out in clause 5.

(d) The individual circumstances of each council, for example whether external events like natural disasters have impacted the council, or council has received an unexpectedly high volume of DAs compared to their current staffing levels.

(e) Whether or not other available interventions or support have failed to result in improvements to council performance in relation to the Minister's expectations.

(f) The public interest.

5 Minister's Expectations

(1) **Development application assessment**

A council should:

a) Lodge development applications for which it is the consent authority as soon as practical and within an average of 7 days from submission using the following key performance indicators:
- within 4 days of submission complete a review of the adequacy of the development application,
- within 4 days of submission issue an invoice providing the applicant 3 business days to make payment.

b) Complete internal referrals within 21 days of the application being lodged.

c) Determine development applications for which it is the consent authority (including development applications determined by a local planning panel) as soon as practical and whichever is the lesser of council's previous financial year average, or an average of:
- From 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027: 90 days from lodgement.
- From 1 July 2027 to 30 June 2028: 80 days from lodgement.
- From 1 July 2028 onwards: 65 days from lodgement.

d) Comply with the procedural and reporting requirements prescribed in the *Guide to Varying Development Standards* (2023), for development applications that involve variations to development standards.

A Local Planning Panel should:

e) Determine Regionally Significant Development applications for which it is the consent authority as soon as practicable, or an average of 20 days after council has finalised their assessment report.

(2) **Modification application assessment**

A council should:

a) Lodge modification applications for which it is the consent authority within an average of 7 days of submission.

b) Determine modification applications lodged under section 4.55(1) of the Act within 14 days of lodgement. If not determined within this period, the application cannot be refused.

c) Determine modification applications for which it is the consent authority as soon as practicable, and whichever is the lesser of council's previous financial year average, or an average of:
- From 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027:
  - 65 days from lodgement for modification applications lodged under section 4.55(1A) of the Act.
  - 85 days from lodgement for modification applications lodged under section 4.55(2) of the Act,
- From 1 July 2027 to 30 June 2028:
  - 55 days from lodgement for modification applications lodged under section 4.55(1A) of the Act.

- 75 days from lodgement for modification applications lodged under section 4.55(2) of the Act,

- From 1 July 2028 onwards:
  - 40 days from lodgement for modification applications lodged under section 4.55(1A) of the Act.
  - 70 days from lodgement for modification applications lodged under section 4.55(2) of the Act,

(3) **Complying Development Variation Statements**

Refusals of Complying Development Variation Certificates should be limited to only circumstances where the variation is assessed as having significant additional adverse impacts.

(4) **Local infrastructure contributions**

A council should:

(a) Review its infrastructure contributions plans no later than every 5 years, ensuring the plan's works schedule, delivery timeframes, growth and development assumptions are up to date.

(b) In the case of councils that are not rural or large rural councils, spend at least 20% of its available infrastructure contribution funds annually, averaged over the preceding 5-year period.

(5) **Planning proposals**

A council should:

(a) Decide whether to support a proponent-initiated planning proposal and submit it for gateway determination within the "planning proposal" stage benchmark timeframes in the LEP Making Guideline.

(b) Use the concurrent Planning Proposal and Development Application process where applicable.

(c) Where possible delegate the plan making steps to the General Manager of the council.

(d) As the Planning Proposal Authority, ensure planning proposals give effect or align with any draft or finalised NSW Government regional strategic plan as set out in the LEP Making Guideline.

(e) As the Planning Proposal Authority, publicly exhibit a planning proposal, respond to submissions, and either resolve to use Local Plan Making Authority delegations or request the Department to make the plan within the "public exhibition and assessment" stage benchmark timeframes set out in the LEP Making Guideline.

(f) As Local Plan Making Authority, make a LEP which has been delegated to council within the "finalisation" stage benchmark timeframes set out in the LEP Making Guideline.

(6) **Strategic planning**

A council should:

a) Be satisfied that its local strategic planning statement (LSPS) aligns with any draft or finalised NSW Government strategic plans, priorities and policies and reflects progress made in local planning and development delivery.

b) Review or prepare relevant supporting evidence to inform any updates to LSPS and local strategies to ensure the actions identified in the relevant draft or final regional strategic plan (including any housing targets) and local strategic planning statements are delivered in accordance with the standards and timeframes identified by the Department.

c) Ensure its LEP has enough feasible housing capacity to deliver its housing target.

d) Plan and update planning controls for any locally significant industrial land identified in a regional strategic plan.

e) Consider State Environmental Planning Policies or other strategies and policies of the Government, the Minister or the Department concerning planning and development matters when preparing an LSPS, local planning strategy or other plan provided for under the Act.

f) Review all relevant Development Control Plans for clarity and structure, objectives and deemed to comply performance standards.

06) MAYORAL MINUTE - DRAFT MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COUNCILLORS

Author: Councillor Reynolds

File No: GO.CO.12

Recommendation:
That Council note the Model Code of Conduct for Councillors is currently being reviewed and a draft is now out for public comment.

Item:
The NSW Government has now released a draft new Model Code of Conduct for councillors which is currently open for public consultation.

The Mayor, Cr Gosewisch and Director Infrastructure Services recently attended an online information forum to outline some of the changes in the new draft Model Code of Conduct.

The proposed Code forms part of a broader program of local government governance reforms designed to strengthen accountability, improve standards of conduct and support public confidence in local government.

Local councils make decisions that affect communities every day. Councillors are entitled to robust debate and differing views, but the community is entitled to expect decisions to be made transparently, respectfully and in the public interest.

The draft Code updates conduct standards to reflect contemporary issues facing councils, including the use of social media, while providing greater clarity around the obligations expected of councillors and council officials.

This work sits alongside other reforms being pursued by the Government to improve governance across the local government sector.

As part of the development of the new Councillor Conduct Framework, the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW is being split into 2 separate codes: one that applies specifically to councillors and another that will apply to council staff, delegates, and committee members.

This will allow the prescription of ethical and behavioural standards for councillors on the one hand and council staff and others on the other, to better reflect the different nature of their roles.

The new Model Code of Conduct for Councillors has been designed to:

- better reflect the political nature of councillors' role
- operate in a way that is consistent with the implied freedom of political communication under the Australian Constitution

- remove administrative requirements that are more relevant to council staff and that unduly constrain councillors' ability to exercise their functions as elected officials
- simplify the conflict-of-interest provisions to make them easier to understand and apply, as well as remove any confusion about the circumstances in which a councillor has a conflict of interest
- remove or redraft provisions that can be 'weaponised' against councillors.

Breaches of the new Model Code of Conduct for Councillors will be dealt with under the new Councillor Conduct Framework.

The draft Code of Conduct is provided as an attachment.

Councillors and the community can have a say until 5pm Friday 7 August. Submissions may be made using the email olg@olg.nsw.gov.au

More details on the draft code can be found here: https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/programs-and-initiatives/councillor-conduct-framework-reform

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

1	The Model Code of Conduct for Councillors	51 Pages

07) MAYORAL MINUTE - LOW LEVEL OF OUTSTANDING RATES IN BLAYNEY SHIRE

Author: Councillor Reynolds

File No: RV.RP.4

Recommendation:
That Council note:
1. The low level (1.1%) of outstanding rates within Blayney Shire,
2. Blayney Shire has the lowest level of outstanding rates in NSW,
3. Blayney Shire sits in 9th place with outstanding rates at a national level.

Item:
The National General Assembly of Local Government had a focus on the Financial sustainability of Local Government.

One area that was focused upon was the level of outstanding rates. Analysis was undertaken by Payble on the level of outstanding rates in Australia.

The Executive Summary for the report states:

Australia enters 2026 with local government finances under the heaviest strain in more than a decade. Across the nation, unpaid council rates have reached $2.4 billion, an increase of roughly $210 million, or 9.6% growth in a single year. On the current trajectory, national arrears will approach the vicinity of $2.6 billion within twelve months.

Over the same year, rates councils charged grew by just 6.2%, meaning arrears are now rising materially faster than the revenue base itself. The problem is not simply that councils are billing more. A growing share of what is billed is going unpaid, and nationally that share now sits at average arrears rate of 8.3% of all rates levied.

The burden is heavily concentrated. Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland together account for 85% of the national total. Victoria alone carries $918 million, some 38% of the country's arrears, and more than Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory combined. It is both the largest pool of unpaid rates and the fastest-deteriorating, with arrears growing nearly three times faster than the rates it charges.

Blayney Shire Council had the lowest level of outstanding rates in NSW.

NSW Rank Council Arrears Rate 2024/25

1	**Blayney Shire**	1.10%
2	**Sydney**	2.13%
3	**Randwick**	2.15%
4	**Eurobodalla Shire**	2.19%
5	**Hornsby Shire**	2.50%

Blayney Shire Council also came 9th out of 507 Councils nationwide with the lowest outstanding rates.

National Ranking of Councils Arrears Rate 2024/25

1	**Shire of Peppermint Grove**	WA	0.42%
2	**Walkerville**	SA	0.43%
3	**Port Adelaide Enfield**	SA	0.45%
4	**Shire of Williams**	WA	0.83%
5	**Shire of Wiluna**	WA	0.84%
6	**Shire of Lake Grace**	WA	0.94%
7	**Shire of Chittering**	WA	1.00%
8	**Shire of Corrigin**	WA	1.00%
9	**Blayney Shire**	NSW	1.10%
10	**Shire of Dalwallinu**	WA	1.16%

Council staff work closely with our ratepayers to provide payment plans for outstanding rate. Working with our ratepayers improves cashflow for Council and also reduces interest payments made by rate payers for outstand rates.

This is a positive outcome for both Council and our rate paying community. It should be noted Council staff contact rate payers and Council does not engage an organisation such as Payble.

The full report is provided as an attachment.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

1	A National Study of Council Arrears	51 Pages

08) MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING HELD 16 JUNE 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 16 June 2026, being minute numbers 2606/001 to 2606/023 be confirmed.

MINUTES OF THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE CHAMBERS, BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY CENTRE, ON 16 JUNE 2026, COMMENCING AT 6:00 PM

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

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

RECORDING OF MEETING STATEMENT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

Councillor /Staff	Interest	Item	Pg	Report	Reason
Cr Scott	Non Pecuniary (Less than Significant)	18	105	Adelaide Lane, Blayney – One Way (Ogilvy and Church Streets)	Cr Scott's residence and one access borders on Adelaide Lane. The changing of the street to one way will not have any financial impact or significant day to day impact.
Cr Gosewisch	Non Pecuniary (Less than Significant)	12	58	Adoption of 2026/27 – 2029/30 Delivery Program and 2026/27 Operational Plan	Cr Gosewisch is a life member of the Blayney Rugby Club.

EXECUTIVES SERVICES REPORTS

CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

2606/001 RESOLVED:

That Council:

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

(Scott/Gosewisch)
CARRIED

MAYORAL MINUTE

MAYORAL MINUTE - PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL RECIPIENT

2606/002 RESOLVED:

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

(Reynolds/Newstead)
CARRIED

MAYORAL MINUTE - NSW TOP TOURISM TOWN AWARDS

2606/003 RESOLVED:

That Council note at the recent 2026 NSW Top Tourism Town Awards, Millthorpe received 2 awards:

1. Silver: Tiny Tourism Town (population below 1,500)
2. People's Choice: Tiny Tourism Town (population below 1,500)

(Reynolds/Scott)
CARRIED

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

2606/004 RESOLVED:

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

(Reynolds/Gosewisch)
CARRIED

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

2606/005 RESOLVED:

That Council**:**

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

(Reynolds/Gosewisch)
CARRIED

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

2606/006 RESOLVED:

That Council make a submission with the Legislative Assembly Select Committee on Emergency Services Funding Reform which:

1. Nominates option D as the preferred option.
2. Outlines a preference for Revenue NSW to collect the ESL.
3. Outlines the issues and concerns Council is expected to encounter if we were required to collect the levy.

(Reynolds/Newstead)
CARRIED

MAYORAL MINUTE - TRANSFER OF RURAL FIRE SERVICE TRUCKS, SUPPORT VEHICLES AND MOBILE EQUIPMENT

2606/007 RESOLVED:

That Council acknowledge the decision of the NSW Government to assume direct ownership and responsibility for NSW Rural Fire Service trucks, support vehicles, and major mobile equipment, removing them from Blayney Shire Council's asset register.

(Reynolds/Newstead)

CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING HELD 26 MAY 2026

2606/008 RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 May 2026, being minute numbers 2605/001 to 2605/021 be confirmed.

(Scott/Gosewisch)

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cr Reynolds provided an update on the Great Western Highway Taskforce meeting held today.

EXECUTIVE SERVICES REPORTS

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

2606/009 RESOLVED:

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

1. Strong objection to the proposed transfer of management of Crown Reserve 1031268 to Blayney Shire Council.
2. Crown Lands at a minimum hold any proposed transition until at least 1 July 2027, as;
   a. Crown Lands has not provided sufficient substantive information to enable Council to properly evaluate associated the liability and financial implications associated with the proposed transfer of management,
   b. Crown Lands have not provided a comprehensive list of assets at Crown Reserve 1031268 (that Council would become responsible for) to enable Council to assess if the proposed transfer of management proceeds,
   c. From a procedural fairness perspective, 41 days is insufficient notice for Council to;
      i) Obtain legal advice, and
      ii) Adequately consider: associated risk and liability, site assets and financial implications if the transfer

of management proceeds.

3. That Council write to the NSW Minister for Lands and Property, the Hon Stephen Kamper;
   a. Outlining Council's strong objection to the proposed transfer and
   b. Seek an assurance that no transfer will take place until the information sought in 2 above is provided and Council is provided with a fair and reasonable time period to assess, consider and respond to that information.

(Scott/Hutchings)
CARRIED

ORANGE360 DRAFT KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

2606/010 RESOLVED:
That Council note the agreed Key Performance Indicators for Orange360 to 30 June 2027.

(Gosewisch/Newstead)
CARRIED

NEWBRIDGE ART SHOW - INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST

2606/011 RESOLVED:
That Council defer this item until the next Council meeting.

(Newstead/Scott)
CARRIED

CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

REPORT OF COUNCIL INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 MAY 2026

2606/012 RESOLVED:
That Council:
1. Note the report indicating Council's investment position as of 31 May 2026.
2. Note the certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer.

(Gosewisch/Scott)
CARRIED

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

2606/013 RESOLVED:
That Council:
1. Pursuant to the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993, adopt the 2026/27 – 2029/30 Delivery Program and 2026/27 Operational Plan.
2. Note the 1 community submission received during the public exhibition period (summarised and attached to this report) and alter the 2026/27 fees and charges as follows:
   a. Remove the line 'Unsorted Waste (per m^3) – Including Skip Bins - $104'
   b. Add 2 new lines;
      i. 'Unsorted Waste (per m^3) – $100 per m^3'

ii. 'Skip Bin Sorted Waste (per m^3) – $70 per m^3'

3. Adopt the Revenue Policy for 2026/27, as outlined in the 2026/27 – 2029/30 Delivery Program and 2026/27 Operational Plan.
4. Adopt the Statement of Rating Structure, inclusive of year 3 of the approved special variation, and their respective short names as contained in the 2026/27 – 2029/30 Delivery Program and 2026/27 Operational Plan and make the Ordinary Rate and charges, including sewer charges and domestic waste management charges, pursuant to s.494 and s.496 of the Local Government Act 1993 and Waste Management Levy pursuant to s.501 of the Local Government Act 1993 detailed below:

Rating Structure for the 2026/27 Rating Year – Base Case SV Model 10% Increase						
Name of Category/ Subcategory	**No. of Assessments**	**Base Rate**	**Ad Valorem**	**Land Value**	**Total Yield**	**% Yield from Base Amount**
Residential						
Ordinary	1,204	$ 490	0.00144810	$ 428,357,920	$ 1,210,266	48.75%
Blayney & Carcoar	1,469	$ 490	0.00250158	$ 304,662,100	$ 1,481,947	48.57%
Millthorpe	354	$ 490	0.00124940	$ 144,420,000	$ 353,899	49.01%
Business						
Ordinary	149	$ 630	0.00430895	$ 37,239,750	$ 254,334	36.91%
Blayney	172	$ 630	0.00624723	$ 32,490,850	$ 311,338	34.80%
Business Millthorpe & Carcoar	58	$ 630	0.00311804	$ 18,479,800	$ 94,161	38.81%
Farmland						
Ordinary	707	$ 800	0.00167196	$1,530,637,090	$ 3,124,769	18.10%
Mining						
Ordinary	1	$1,600	0.04524558	$ 614,000	$ 29,381	5.43%
Gold		$1,600	0.05800485			
Gold / Copper Combined	1	$1,600	0.03209753	$ 202,000,000	$ 6,485,301	0.02%
Estimated Total Yield	**4,115**			**$2,646,901,510**	**$13,345,396**	

2026/27 Waste Charges

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

2026/27 Non-Residential and Residential Sewer Charges

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

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

Future Sewerage Infrastructure Subsidy Charge

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

2026/27 Trade Waste Charges

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

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

(Reynolds/Gosewisch)
CARRIED

DRAFT LIQUID TRADE WASTE GUIDELINES POLICY

2606/014 RESOLVED:

That Council;

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

(Newstead/Gosewisch)

CARRIED

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

2606/015 RESOLVED:

That Council;

1. Receive the minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held 6 May 2026
2. Adopt the Internal Audit Charter as amended.

(Gosewisch/Newstead)

CARRIED

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORTS

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES: KEY ACTIVITIES REPORT

2606/016 RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Note the Infrastructure Services: Key Activities Report for June 2026.
2. Approve a supplementary vote of $264k (grant funding), under Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund (RERRF) from Garland Road to Tallwood Road.
3. Approve a supplementary vote of $60,000 for the Sewer Treatment Discharge Impact Assessment from the Sewer Fund (Restricted).

(Reynolds/Newstead)

CARRIED

RICHARDS LANE AND INTERSECTION UPGRADE PROJECT

2606/017 RESOLVED:

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

(Gosewisch/Hutchings)

CARRIED

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

2606/018 RESOLVED:

That Council:

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

(Newstead/Gosewisch)

CARRIED

Cr Scott left the Chambers.

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

2606/019 RESOLVED:

That Council:

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

(Newstead/Gosewisch)
CARRIED

2026 LOCAL ROADS CONGRESS

2606/020 RESOLVED:

That Council note the report on the 2026 Local Roads Congress.

(Reynolds/Newstead)
CARRIED

DELEGATES REPORTS

COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD 8 MAY 2026

2606/021 RESOLVED:

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

(Reynolds/Gosewisch)
CARRIED

Cr Scott returned to the Chambers.

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

2606/022 RESOLVED:

That Council note the report from the Mayor on the recent Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) Board Meeting held 27 May 2026.

(Reynolds/Newstead)
CARRIED

LATE REPORTS

APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2606/023 RESOLVED:

That Council approve the Leave of Absence application submitted by Councillor Dorsett for the July 2026 Council Meeting.

(Scott/Hutchings)
CARRIED

CONFIDENTIAL MEETING REPORTS

SALE OF INDUSTRIAL LAND (EOI 2/2026)
Report has been withdrawn.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.22pm

The Minute Numbers 2606/001 to 2606/023 were confirmed on 28 July 2026 and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16 June 2026.

_____
Cr B Reynolds
CHAIR

09) MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 30 JUNE 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 30 June 2026, being minute numbers 2606/E001 to 2606/E003 be confirmed.

MINUTES OF THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
HELD IN THE CHAMBERS, BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY CENTRE, ON 30 JUNE 2026, COMMENCING AT 9:40 AM

Present: Crs B Reynolds (Mayor), I Dorsett, C Gosewisch, K Hutchings 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

APOLOGIES

2606/E001 RESOLVED:
That the apology, tendered on behalf of Cr Johnston and Cr Scott, be accepted.

(Gosewisch/Dorsett)
CARRIED

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST
Nil

RECORDING OF MEETING

2606/E002 RESOLVED:
That Council authorise WIN News to record at this meeting.

(Newstead/Gosewisch)
CARRIED

PUBLIC FORM

Kathryn Woods – Item 1 – DA2025/0061 – Electricity Generating Facility Solar Farm and Minor Boundary Adjustment – 180 Greghamstown Road, Blayney

Cheryl McAlister – Item 1 – DA2025/0061 – Electricity Generating Facility Solar Farm and Minor Boundary Adjustment – 180 Greghamstown Road, Blayney

Megan Fardon – Item 1 – DA2025/0061 – Electricity Generating Facility Solar Farm and Minor Boundary Adjustment – 180 Greghamstown Road, Blayney

Chevaun Fenton - Item 1 – DA2025/0061 – Electricity Generating Facility Solar Farm and Minor Boundary Adjustment – 180 Greghamstown Road, Blayney

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS

DA2025/0061 - ELECTRICITY GENERATING FACILITY SOLAR FARM (TWO 4.99MW SOLAR FARM AND BATTERY STORAGE ENERGY SYSTEM (BESS) & MINOR BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT - LOT 74 DP 750390 & LOT 83 DP 750390 - 180 GREGHAMSTOWN ROAD, BLAYNEY

2606/E003 RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Note the Planning Assessment report prepared for the Western Regional Planning Panel on DA2025/0061 - Electricity Generating Facility Solar Farm (two 4.99MW solar farm and battery storage energy system (BESS) & minor Boundary Adjustment.
2. Makes a submission to the Western Regional Planning Panel on DA2025/0061 - Electricity Generating Facility Solar Farm (two 4.99MW solar farm and battery storage energy system (BESS) & minor Boundary Adjustment;
    a. Advising that Blayney Shire Council does not support the proposed development,
    b. Requesting that the Western Regional Planning Panel refuses development consent for DA2025/0061- Electricity Generating Facility Solar Farm (two 4.99MW solar farm and battery storage energy system (BESS) & minor Boundary Adjustment for the following reasons:
        i. That the development application avoids the State Significant Development approval pathway scrutiny by project splitting and should be considered under these rules, considering its size,
        ii. Not providing costing details of the project to avoid the State Significant Development

approval pathway,

iii. Insufficient information in the application about the batteries, size and ongoing risk,
iv. The unacceptable visual impact on the Blayney township and surrounds,
v. The unacceptable impact on the neighbouring residents,
vi. The development is inconsistent with the RU2 Rural Landscape Zone objectives,
vii. The development is against the community interest when considering: potential future expansion of the Blayney Township and/or potential further deposits of valuable natural resource deposits,
viii. There will be likely a battery modification application at a later date for more batteries, expanding the project further and bypassing the State Significant Development approval pathway.

3. Authorise the Mayor to present Blayney Shire Council's position to the Western Regional Planning Panel public determination meeting.
4. Request if the Western Regional Planning Panel approves the development that they consider the modified conditions of consent for the project recommended by Blayney Shire Council.

(Dorsett/Gosewisch)

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

FOR	**AGAINST**
Councillor Reynolds	
Councillor Newstead	
Councillor Gosewisch	
Councillor Dorsett	
Councillor Hutchings	
Total (5)	**Total (0)**

CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 10.27am.

The Minute Numbers 2606/E001 to 2606/E003 were confirmed on 28 July 2026 and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 30 June 2026.

_____

Cr B Reynolds
CHAIR

10) QUARTERLY OUTSTANDING RESOLUTION REPORT

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.1

Recommendation:
That Council note the Outstanding Resolution Report to June 2026.

Reason for Report:
The General Manager is responsible for ensuring that Council's policies, decisions and priorities are implemented in a timely and efficient manner, consistent with the goals and objectives of Council.

After a Council meeting, each resolution is allocated to the responsible officer to action in accordance with the intent of the Council decision.

Council have requested an Outstanding Resolution Report on a quarterly basis.

Report:
This Council Outstanding Resolution Report includes Council Resolutions up to and including the previous Council Meeting.

There are 21 resolutions in the report. An update is provided in the comments section from the relevant responsible officer.

There are currently:

- 21 resolutions outstanding on the outstanding land matters register (attached as a confidential attachment); and
- 4 resolutions outstanding on the traffic register (see enclosed).

Date of Meeting	Res. No	Resolution	Owner	Comments
26-Nov-24	2411/005	**Cadia Valley Operations - Modification 15 and Panuara Road, Panuara** RESOLVED That Council: 4. Delegate Authority to the Mayor and General Manager to negotiate the terms of any agreement for the transfer of a closed portion of Panuara Road, Panuara to the proponent.	GM	Mod 15 was approved on 31 January 2025. Condition 13A. stated *'The applicant must execute a planning agreement with Blayney Shire Council prior too commencing construction of the Panuara Road realignment as detailed in Modification 15'* It is appearing more likely this matter will form and be integrated into CCOP. MANEX met with Newmont Executives on 7 April 2026 to continue discussions regarding CCOP and BSC matters.

Date of Meeting	Res. No	Resolution	Owner	Comments
25-Feb-25	2502/012	**Dungeon Road - Options and Implications of Declaration under Section 10 of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984** RESOLVED That Council: 2. Reaffirm its preference to resolve and clarify, that Dungeon Road is excluded from the 13 August 2024 Declaration is by way of a minor amendment to the Declaration through insertion of 3 words 'excluding Dungeon Road' 3. Write to; the Minister for Environment and Water, Prime Minister, Shadow Minister for Environment and Opposition Leader seeking a minor amendment to the 13 August 2024 Declaration 4. In noting a request for a minor amendment to the 13 August 2024 Declaration has already been made and subsequently refused by the Minister for Environment and Water, that Council continue preparations for likely court proceedings by obtaining a preliminary opinion from Senior Counsel, regarding but not limited to; • Whether the Declaration has become effective • Amendment options • Court Proceedings options 5. Note the committed expenditure to date for legal advice on this matter is $21,500 and approve a supplementary vote of $31,500 6. In noting Court proceedings will likely cost in excess of $150,000; a. Apply to Local Government NSW for financial assistance under their Legal Assistance Policy, and b. Request a further report be brought back for Council to determine whether to commence Court proceedings	GM	In progress with no further update. On 16 September 2025, GM, Mayor and Hon Andrew Gee met online with Minister for the Environment and Water, Hon Murray Watt to discuss the Dungeon Road issues. GM has since provided further information via email to staff at DCCEEW. Judicial review proceedings were heard in the Federal Court 10 and 11 December 2025 and no judgement has yet been made.

Date of Meeting	Res. No	Resolution	Owner	Comments
22-Jul-25	2507/017	**Kerbside Waste Services** RESOLVED That Council: 2. Include in the tender process for kerbside services the following service options, including but not limited to: a. Weekly collection of the general waste (red lid) bin. b. Fortnightly collection of the general waste (red lid) bin. c. Fortnightly collection of the general waste (red lid) bin with a specific contract clause allowing Council to review this after 12 months and, if desired, re-instate weekly collection with 12 months' notice to the contractor. 3. Receive a further report following the tender process to determine the preferred collection model to be implemented with the new waste services contract. 4. Write to the New South Wales Environment Protection Authority providing the results of Council's survey in relation to views expressed by rural and outlying residents regarding potential exemptions from the FOGO service.	DPES	Tender closed 16 June 2026 and are currently being assessed. Application seeking an exemption from FOGO collection mandate (for all areas of the shire outside Blayney and Millthorpe) has been made to the EPA. Preliminary response is that it will be accepted. Follow up requests seeking an update on formalisation have been made.
18-Nov-25	2511/009	**Draft Development Control Plan 2026** RESOLVED That Council: 4. Note that a future addendum will be produced in respect of the lands on the corner of Park Street and Richards Lane, Millthorpe.	DPES	Future action. Not yet commenced.

Date of Meeting	Res. No	Resolution	Owner	Comments
16-Dec-25	2512/027	**Notice of Intention to Demolish Dwelling** RESOLVED 1. Council note the intention to serve an order to demolish a dwelling at 2 Queen Street Blayney as outlined in the report. 2. The General Manager be delegated authority to expend up to $100,000 to facilitate the demolition (inc associated costs) provided a legally enforceable mechanism is put in place to ensure recovery of all costs expended.	DPES	Order has been served. Owner has formerly requested Council to arrange demolition and Council will be reimbursed upon sale. Deed has been prepared and forwarded to landowners Solicitor for execution.
24-Feb-26	2602/008	**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)** 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.	MDA	DPHI required the PP to be updated to address the introduction of a new land use zone; being R2 Low Density Residential to the Blayney LEP 2012. See report to this Council Meeting. To be removed.

Date of Meeting	Res. No	Resolution	Owner	Comments
24-Feb-26	2602/025	**Contract S2_2025 Supply and Delivery of Coldmix Asphalt** 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.	DIS	One contract execution outstanding.
24-Feb-26	2602/026	**Contract S3_2025: Supply and Delivery of Concrete Stormwater Drainage Pipes** 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.	DIS	Some contract amendments required, now with both parties for execution.

Date of Meeting	Res. No	Resolution	Owner	Comments
24-Mar-26	2603/006	**Lease for Electric Vehicle Public Charging Station in the Blayney Shire Community Centre Carpark** RESOLVED That Council; 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.	GM	The Charge Point Operator is reviewing the installation site due to limitations found within the existing Low Voltage Network within the Blayney township. Council is awaiting a response from the Charge Point Operator.
28-Apr-26	2604/009	**Orange360 Funding Agreement** RESOLVED That Council: 1. Note the Orange 360 Key Performance Indicators Scorecard. 2. Enter into a one-year agreement with TDO Ltd trading as Orange360, with an option in the agreement for a three (3) year extension, to the value of $81,000 (plus GST), with a CPI annual increase. 3. Authorise the General Manager to finalise updated Key Performance Indicators for Orange360 which will be reported back to Council before 30 June 2026. 4. Receive a report back to Council, before 1 June 2027 to consider the three (3) year option extension. 5. Establish a working group for Visitor Economy businesses from within Blayney Shire.	MTC	Funding Agreement executed. To be removed.
28-Apr-26	2604/010	**Additional Destination Marketing Partnership Proposals** RESOLVED That Council: 1. Defer a decision on the Bathurst Regional Council 'Central Tablelands' proposal to a future council meeting. 2. Decline the request to create a destination marketing and development partnership with Elevate.	MTC	Further information being sought prior to the report being presented to Council.

Date of Meeting	Res. No	Resolution	Owner	Comments
28-Apr-26	2604/020	**Floodplain Risk Management Committee Meeting Minutes - 1 April 2026** RESOLVED That Council: 2. Endorse the 2026 Blayney Local Flood Study be placed on public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days. 3. Receive a further report following review of public submissions by the Flood Risk Management Committee.	DIS	One submission received during public exhibition, currently being reviewed by the Consultant.
28-Apr-26	2604/023	**Sale of Industrial Land (EOI 2/2026)** RESOLVED That Council: 3. Decline the four offers as received to purchase the following lots: • 8 Tollbar Street, Blayney • 126 Marshalls Lane, Blayney • 31 Gerty Street, Blayney • 33 Gerty Street, Blayney 4. Endorse the sale of Lot 1 / DP842577 for $420,000 ex GST 5. Endorse the sale of Lot 202 / DP1196179 for $505,000 ex GST 6. That Council endorse execution of relevant contracts and associated documentation by the Mayor and General Manager under Council seal if required.	GM	Further report presented to this Council. To be removed.

Date of Meeting	Res. No	Resolution	Owner	Comments
26-May-26	2605/004	**Association of Mining & Energy Related Councils** RESOLVED That Council; 1. Renew membership with the Association of Mining & Energy Related Councils NSW until 30 June 2027. 2. Holds payment of the 2026/27 membership fee until the Association of Mining & Energy Related Councils NSW pays Councils outstanding invoice for $10,925.64 ex GST. 3. Write to the Association of Mining & Energy Related Councils NSW, advising in accordance with clause 22 of the constitution, Council is providing advance notice of its intention to potentially resign its membership effective 30 June 2027. 4. Receive a further report in or before June 2027 to resolve whether to renew membership with the Association of Mining & Energy Related Councils NSW for 2027/28. 5. Write to the Association of Mining & Energy Related Councils NSW, seeking that the Association of Mining & Energy Related Councils NSW, return to a singular mining focused association.	GM	Letter sent 20/07/2026. To be removed.
26-May-26	2605/006	**Visitor Economy Working Group** RESOLVED That Council; 1. Endorse the Visitor Economy Working Group Charter as attached, including any subsequent amendments. 2. Appoint Orange 360 Board Delegate, Councillor Gosewisch, as a member and chair of the Visitor Economy Working Group. 3. Appoint alternate Orange 360 Board Delegate, Councillor Johnston, as alternate chair and member of the Visitor Economy Working Group. 4. Proceed to undertake a public Expression of Interest process seeking nominations for industry representatives interested in being appointed by Council to the Working Group.	MTC	Visitor Economy Working Group Charter endorsed, public EOI completed. To be removed.

Date of Meeting	Res. No	Resolution	Owner	Comments
26-May-26	2605/011	**Cabonne After School Care Program** RESOLVED That Council; 2. Note the sub reserve balance for the After School Care Program in Blayney as at 30 June 2025, 3. Provide within Council's Long Term Financial Plan, continued contribution towards the program (indexed annually), with a review of the Program by Council for the 2029/30 budget.	DCS	Review of program scheduled for 2029. To be removed.
26-May-26	2605/020	**EOI 1/2026 – Further Development, Improvement or Use of Whites Quarry** RESOLVED That Council; 2. Accept the conforming Expressions of Interest received from; • Bonus Quarrying Resources Pty Ltd • Oberon Earthmoving Pty Ltd • Ulan Quarry Products Pty Ltd • WSP Australia Pty Ltd 3. Note that the submission from Saba Civil Management and Consultancy Pty Ltd was assessed as non-conforming due to failure to submit mandatory tender schedules. 4. Proceed to a Selective Tender process with Bonus Quarrying Resources Pty Ltd, being the respondent assessed as providing the most aligned proposal and strongest value-for-money outcome for Council following the public EOI process; and 5. Receive a further report following the closure of the Selective Tender process detailing the outcome of the submission and any proposed commercial arrangements for Council's consideration.	DIS	EOI Finalised. Selective Tender documents to be prepared.

Date of Meeting	Res. No	Resolution	Owner	Comments
16-Jun-16	2606/005	**Mayoral Minute - Advocate for Extended Passenger Rail Services to Blayney and Millthorpe, including a Morning 'Reverse XPT' Service and Extension of at Least One Bathurst Bullet Train to Blayney** RESOLVED That Council**:** 1. Supports the Orange Rail Action Group (ORAG) dual-priority rail proposal to deliver equitable, accessible morning day-return passenger train options to Sydney for Blayney Shire residents. 2. Advocates for a morning "reverse" rail service departing Dubbo and travelling to Sydney via Orange, Millthorpe, and Blayney, timed to run in the opposite direction to the current NSW TrainLink XPT. 3. Calls on the NSW Government to extend at least one morning Bathurst Bullet service to originate in Orange, providing a direct, early-morning commuter rail link from Millthorpe and Blayney to Sydney Central without requiring a coach transfer. 4. Writes to the NSW Minister for Transport, NSW Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, the Member for Orange, the Member for Bathurst and the Member for Dubbo to request these extensions be prioritised under the state's regional transit planning. 5. Collaborate with neighbouring councils through the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) and Dubbo Regional Council to leverage regional unity during Transport for NSW's ongoing network investigations.	Mayor	Letters drafted, to be sent this week. To be removed.

Date of Meeting	Res. No	Resolution	Owner	Comments
16-Jun-16	2606/009	**Proposed Transfer of Management: Bakers Shaft and Junction Reefs from Crown Lands to Blayney Shire Council** RESOLVED That Council respond to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure – Crown Lands 22 May 2026 letter advising; 1. Strong objection to the proposed transfer of management of Crown Reserve 1031268 to Blayney Shire Council. 2. Crown Lands at a minimum hold any proposed transition until at least 1 July 2027, as; a. Crown Lands has not provided sufficient substantive information to enable Council to properly evaluate associated the liability and financial implications associated with the proposed transfer of management, b. Crown Lands have not provided a comprehensive list of assets at Crown Reserve 1031268 (that Council would become responsible for) to enable Council to assess if the proposed transfer of management proceeds, c. From a procedural fairness perspective, 41 days is insufficient notice for Council to; i) Obtain legal advice, and ii) Adequately consider: associated risk and liability, site assets and financial implications if the transfer of management proceeds. 3. That Council write to the NSW Minister for Lands and Property, the Hon Stephen Kamper; a. Outlining Council's strong objection to the proposed transfer and b. Seek an assurance that no transfer will take place until the information sought in 2 above is provided and Council is provided with a fair and reasonable time period to assess, consider and respond to that information.	GM	Reply sent to Crown Lands 25/06/2026 Letter sent to NSW Minister for Lands and Property 25/06/2026. Initial response from Crown Lands received 1 July 2026.

Date of Meeting	Res. No	Resolution	Owner	Comments
16-Jun-26	2606/014	**Draft Liquid Trade Waste Guidelines Policy** RESOLVED That Council; 1. Endorse the Liquid Trade Waste Guidelines Policy and place them on public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days. 2. Provided no submissions are received, adopt the Liquid Trade Waste Guidelines policy and update Council's Policy Register.	DCS	Exhibition completed, no submissions received. Policy Register and website updated. To be removed.
16-Jun-26	2606/019	**Adelaide Lane, Blayney - One Way (Oglivy & Church Streets)** RESOLVED That Council: 1. Approve the implementation of one-way for the northern section of Adelaide Lane. 2. Ensure all landowners adjoining the proposal are directly informed of the implementation date and any associated operational changes to access, servicing or waste collection arrangements arising from the proposal.	DIS	Program review underway to determine a firm installation date.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Nil

Budget Implications:
Nil

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

1 Traffic Register as at 07 July 2026 1 Page

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

2 Outstanding Land Matters Register - July 2026

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

Blayney Shire Council Traffic Register

Register No.	Title	Locality	Details	Notes - (Green is Updated from previous Traffic Meeting)
20250613:02	Adelaide Lane, Blayney - One Way (Oglivy & Church Streets)	Blayney	Endorse the proposal to implement one-way for Adelaide Lane between Ogilvy & Church Streets, to permit traffic to travel in a southerly direction only. Undertake public exhibition of the proposal for not less than 28 days. Have a further report to Traffic Committee and Council to consider and make a decision on the proposal	03.07.2025 - Letters delivered 03.07.2025 - Public Exhibition until 7 August 2025. 04.09.2025 - Under assessment 18.02.2026 - Reported to the BSC Local Transport Forum 6 March 2026 07.07.2026 - Update letter emailed/mailed, letter box dropped advising residents, business owners, JR Richards, LEMC of implementation date 6 August 2026 for One Way Change
20260605	Signage - Bus Zone - Lindsay Steet Blayney	Blayney	Review the existing parking arrangements on Lindsay Street between Church Street and Ogilvy Street. Receive a further report as to the outcome of the review with any reccomendation to changes to signage or linemarking.	26.06.2025 - Design and Development Engineer working on, initial investigation have been done by Design and Development Engineer and report being prepared for next Transport Forum
20260605	Regulatory Signage - Eulamore Street Carcoar	Carcoar	That council install R%-40 "No Parking At Any Time" signage along the southern side of Eulamore St, between Naylor Street and the access to 3 Eulamore Street.	25.06.2026 - Works order emailed to Manager Operations and Supervisor Works 07.07.2026 - Posts installed awaiting arrival of signage for installation
20260605	Adelaide Street North / St Joseph's School	Blayney	That Council endorse the plan for changes proposed to Adelaide Street North. That Council note that reopening access from the Mid-Western Highway into Adelaide Street North is not recommended. That Council approve the 28 day public exhibition of the proposal to relocate the existing bus zone, reconfigure the priority of Hill St / Adelaide St N to a children's crossing during school zone operating hours. That Council receive a further report to consider any public submissions and detailing estimated project costs, proposed staging and potential funding sources for the proposed works.	25.06.2026 - Public exhibition until 27 July 2026. Report to be prepared for a future Council Meeting.

11) COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Department: Executive Services

Author: General Manager

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

File No: GO.ME.2

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

- 27 October 2026
- 17 November 2026
- 15 December 2026
- 23 February 2027
- 23 March 2027
- 27 April 2027
- 25 May 2027
- 22 June 2027
- 27 July 2027
- 24 August 2027
- 28 September 2027

Reason for Report:
For Council to review and adopt a meeting schedule for the Ordinary Meetings of Council for the next 12 months.

Section 3.1 of Blayney Shire Council Code of Meeting Practice states Council shall adopt an annual schedule of dates for Council meetings at the September meeting.

This report is provided to Council in July to enable inclusion in Councillor and staff diaries and to facilitate reservation of the Blayney Shire Community Centre.

Report:
Council has traditionally convened 11 Ordinary Meetings each year (no January meeting), held in the Council Chambers of the Blayney Shire Community Centre commencing at 6.00pm, generally on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

The proposed Council meeting dates are:

Council Meetings
27 October 2026
17 November 2026 (3rd week of month because of LGNSW annual conference)
15 December 2026 (3rd week of the month because of Christmas)
23 February 2027
23 March 2027
27 April 2027
25 May 2027
22 June 2027 (Note* pending date of 2027 NGA Canberra)
27 July 2027
24 August 2027
28 September 2027

Some of the proposed dates are the 3rd week of the month due to a pre identified clash.

Note: calling of an Extraordinary Meeting can be undertaken when the necessity arises for a particular issue, at the request of Two (2) Councillors.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
The Local Government Act (1993) s365 stipulates the requirement for Council to meet at least 10 times per annum, each time in a different month.

This schedule does not include various Committee meetings, extraordinary Council meetings, workshops or training, civic functions and other commitments of Councillors. Council Committees will continue for the remaining term of Council, along their adopted meeting schedule.

Budget Implications:
Council meetings are a normal part of the operation of the organisation and budgeted for in the 2026/27 Operational Plan. This includes travel reimbursement costs of Councillors and catering for meals.

Enclosures (following report)
Nil

Attachments (separate document)
Nil

12) LGNSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

Department: Executive Services

Author: General Manager

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

File No: GR.ME.2

Recommendation:
That Council:
1. Nominate the Mayor as voting delegate to the 2026 LGNSW Annual Conference;
2. Approve the registration and attendance of the following as Blayney Shire Council Delegates to the 2026 LGNSW Conference:
   a. Mayor
   b. Cr X
   c. Cr X

Reason for Report:
To appoint the voting delegate for Blayney Shire Council for the Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Annual Conference 2026.

To identify interest from Councillors who would like to attend the 2026 LGNSW Annual Conference to enable registration.

To seek Council approval for the registration and payment of expenses as per Council Policy for Council Delegates attending the LGNSW Annual Conference.

Report:
The LGNSW Annual Conference is being held at the WIN Sports and Entertainment Centres in Wollongong from Sunday 22 November to Tuesday 24 November 2026.

Councils must register the names of their delegates for voting during formal business sessions by 27 September 2026. Blayney Shire Council is entitled to 1 voting delegate, which historically has been the Mayor.

Motions are required to be submitted online by 30 September 2026 to allow printing and distribution of the Business Paper. The latest date motions can be accepted for inclusion in the Conference Business Paper is Sunday 25 October 2026.

In this regard, Councillors are asked to advise the General Manager (within the next month and prior to the 22 September 2026 Council meeting) of any topic/s or proposed motion/s for the 2026 LGNSW conference, to enable a Council report to be prepared for Council to resolve on.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Motions should be strategic, affect members statewide and introduce new or emerging policy issues and actions. The LGNSW Board will accept motions for inclusion in the Business Paper for the Conference only where they are consistent with the objects of the Association and relate to Local Government in NSW and/or across Australia.

The issue must concern or is likely to concern Local Government as a sector, seek to advance the Local Government policy agenda or the Association and/or improve governance of the association.

They must have a lawful purpose, be clearly worded and unambiguous in nature and cannot express preference for one or several members over one or several other members.

Should Councillors propose a motion it will require a title, adequate wording and background information with support evidence by a Council Resolution.

Budget Implications:
The 2026/27 Operational Plan includes allocation for 4 persons (including General Manager) to attend the 2026 LGNSW Annual Conference, noting additional attendance may be limited by accommodation availability.

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

Any additional accommodation costs incurred as a result of the attendance of partners shall be borne by the Councillor or Delegate. Should a delegate be unable to attend once registered, a substitute delegate may attend in their place at no additional charge.

Enclosures (following report)
Nil

Attachments (separate document)
Nil

13) NEWBRIDGE ART SHOW - INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST

Department: Executive Services

Author: General Manager

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

File No: GS.AP.1

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

Reason for Report:
This report is presented to Council following the resolution of 16 June 2026 (**Resolution No. 2606/011**); *'That Council defer this item until the next Council meeting.'*

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

Initially an application under Council's Financial Assistance Program had been made for this reimbursement. Newbridge Art Show Inc. is a newly incorporated entity. Previously, the Spring into Art event had been coordinated (including insurance) under the Newbridge Progress Association.

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

A recent meeting was held where the Newbridge Art Show advised they had already purchased this insurance. General Manager advised the request appears to sit outside all staff delegation and suggested a letter so Council can consider the matter
Council was neither engaged on funding matters, nor was its opinion sought regarding the proposal for Newbridge Art Show Inc to splinter from the Newbridge Progress Association and independently deliver the event.

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

Council in 2025/26 supported Newbridge as follows;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 Newbridge Art Show Request 1 Page

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

Nil

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

May 30, 2026

Mark Dicker
General Manager
Blayney Shire Council

By email to [redacted]

Dear Mark

Inaugural year – insurance cover

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kind regards

[redacted]

Sarah Hunter
Vice President

14) REPORT OF COUNCIL INVESTMENTS AS AT 30 JUNE 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 30 June 2026.
2. Note the certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer.

Reason for Report:
For Council to endorse the Report of Council Investments as at 30 June 2026.

Report:
This report provides details of Council's Investment Portfolio as at 30 June 2026.

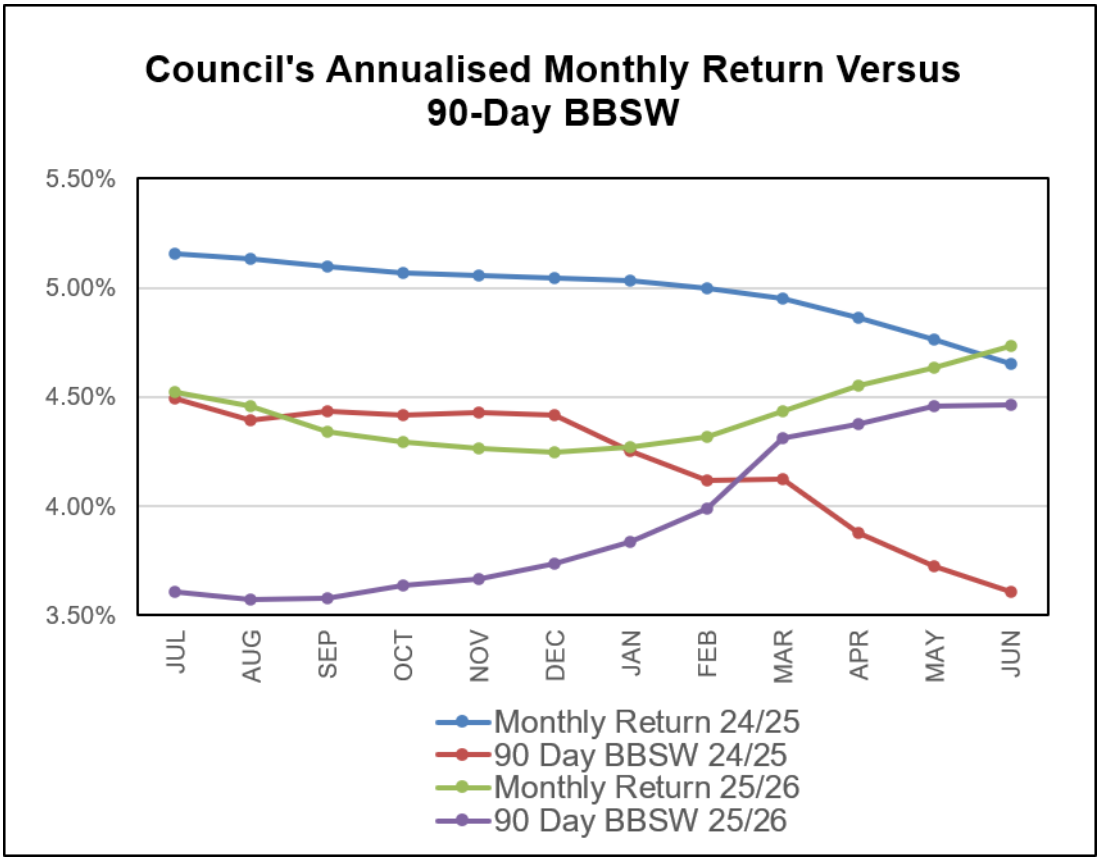
Council's total investment and cash position as of 30 June 2026 is $36,929,318.

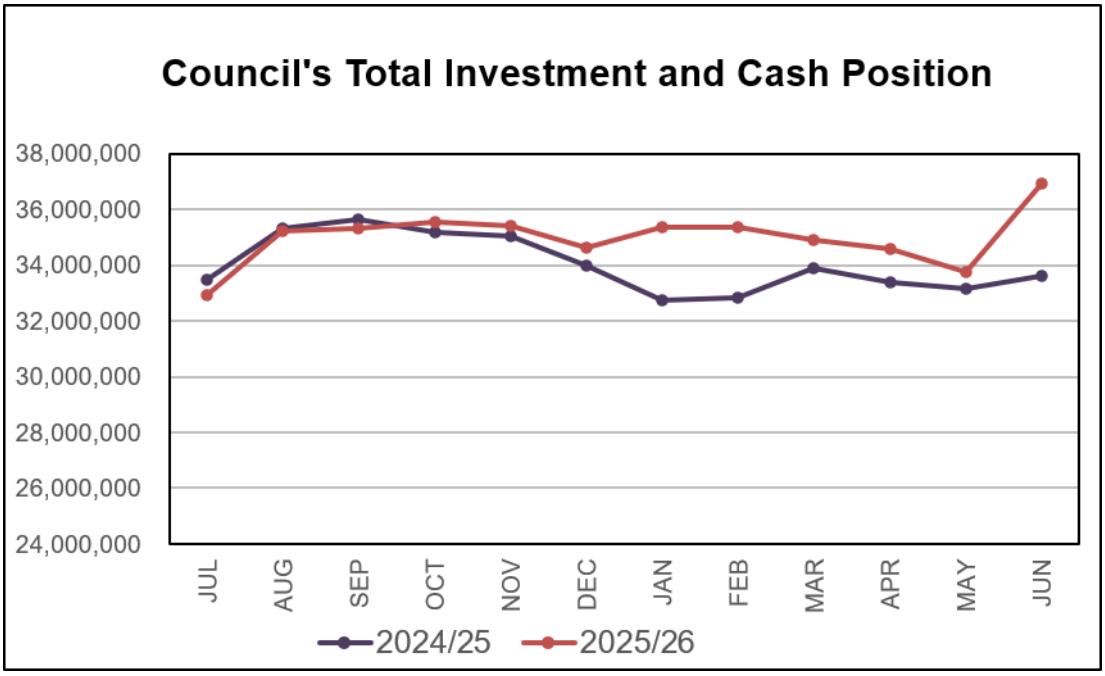
Interest on cash and investments accrued for the month of June was $130,285. The total interest accrued on cash and investments at year end is $1,496,179.

Council's monthly net return on Term Deposits (annualised) for June was 4.74% which outperformed the 90-day Bank Bill Swap Rate of 4.46%.

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

Funding Program	**$**
OLG Financial Assistance Grant Advance Payment 26/27	3,260,006
TfNSW Resources for Regions 9	1,633,231
TfNSW AGRN1034 Storm Grant	438,040


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


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

Register Of Investments and Cash as of 30 June 2026					
Institution	**Method**	**Rating**	**Maturity**	**Amount $**	**Interest Rate**
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	07/07/2026	500,000	4.050%
B & A Bank	Curve	A2/A-	14/07/2026	500,000	4.400%
ING Bank	Curve	A1/A	14/07/2026	500,000	4.130%
ING Bank	Curve	A1/A	21/07/2026	500,000	4.150%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	28/07/2026	500,000	4.200%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	04/08/2026	500,000	4.120%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	11/08/2026	500,000	4.250%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	18/08/2026	500,000	4.160%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	25/08/2026	500,000	4.090%
Bank of Queensland	Curve	A2/A-	01/09/2026	500,000	4.450%
ING Bank	Curve	A1/A	08/09/2026	500,000	3.960%
Reliance Bank	Direct	Unrated	15/09/2026	500,000	4.200%
IMB Bank Ltd	Direct	A2/BBB+	22/09/2026	500,000	4.300%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	29/09/2026	500,000	4.130%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	06/10/2026	500,000	4.230%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	13/10/2026	500,000	4.130%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	20/10/2026	500,000	4.350%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	27/10/2026	500,000	4.150%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	03/11/2026	500,000	4.340%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	04/11/2026	500,000	4.250%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	10/11/2026	500,000	4.360%
B & A Bank	IAM	A2/A-	17/11/2026	500,000	4.550%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	17/11/2026	500,000	4.250%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	24/11/2026	500,000	4.510%
MyState Bank Ltd	Curve	A2/BBB+	01/12/2026	500,000	4.200%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	08/12/2026	500,000	4.830%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	08/12/2026	500,000	4.520%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	15/12/2026	500,000	4.570%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	15/12/2026	500,000	4.560%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	12/01/2027	500,000	4.600%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	19/01/2027	500,000	4.600%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	19/01/2027	500,000	4.650%
Bank of Queensland	Curve	A2/A-	27/01/2027	500,000	4.550%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	02/02/2027	500,000	4.730%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	02/02/2027	500,000	4.690%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	09/02/2027	500,000	4.800%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	09/02/2027	500,000	4.730%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	16/02/2027	500,000	4.850%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	23/02/2027	500,000	4.800%
Defence Bank Ltd	Curve	A2/BBB+	02/03/2027	500,000	4.950%
Reliance Bank	Direct	Unrated	02/03/2027	500,000	4.900%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	09/03/2027	500,000	5.150%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	16/03/2027	500,000	5.290%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	16/03/2027	500,000	5.120%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	23/03/2027	500,000	5.280%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	23/03/2027	500,000	5.350%
Defence Bank Ltd	Curve	A2/BBB+	30/03/2027	500,000	5.550%

NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	06/04/2027	500,000	5.300%
IMB Bank Ltd	Direct	A2/BBB+	13/04/2027	500,000	5.300%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	13/04/2027	500,000	5.340%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	20/04/2027	500,000	5.230%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	27/04/2027	500,000	5.420%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	04/05/2027	500,000	5.330%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	11/05/2027	500,000	5.450%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	18/05/2027	500,000	5.460%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	25/05/2027	500,000	5.180%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	25/05/2027	500,000	5.350%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	01/06/2027	500,000	5.350%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	08/06/2027	500,000	5.190%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	15/06/2027	500,000	5.210%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	15/06/2027	500,000	5.190%
Bank of Queensland	Curve	A2/A-	22/06/2027	500,000	5.150%
MyState Bank Ltd	Curve	A2/BBB+	29/06/2027	500,000	5.300%
Total Investments				**32,000,000**	**4.735%**
Commonwealth Bank - At Call Account (1)				2,000,000	4.250%
Commonwealth Bank Balance - General (1)				2,796,517	4.200%
Reliance Bank (1)				132,801	0.000%
Total Cash and Investments(2)				**36,929,318**	
Benchmarks:		BBSW 90 Day Index (1)			4.462%
		RBA Cash Rate (1)			4.350%

1. % Interest rates as at end of reporting period.
2. Total cash reported as per bank statements at the reporting date.

Summary of Investment (Cash) Movements - June 2026		
Financial Institution	**Amount $**	**Commentary**
NAB	(514,499)	Term deposit matured 02/06/2026
NAB	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 02/06/2026
ING	(520,195)	Term deposit withdrawn 09/06/2026
CBA	(514,922)	Term deposit matured 16/06/2026
CBA	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 16/06/2026
ING	(512,370)	Term deposit matured 23/06/2026
ING	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 23/06/2026
CBA	500,000	New term deposit 23/06/2026
CBA	500,000	New term deposit 23/06/2026
CBA	500,000	New term deposit 23/06/2026
MyState Bank	(523,635)	Term deposit matured 30/06/2026
MyState Bank	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 30/06/2026

Long Term Credit Rating (or Moody's, Fitch, S&P or Equivalent)	Policy Maximum %	Current Holding %	Current Holding $
TCorp IM Funds	100%	0%	-
AAA – AA Category	100%	75%	24,000,000
A- Category	40%	13%	4,000,000
BBB+ Category	25%	9%	3,000,000
BBB Category	5%	0%	-
BBB- Category and below: Local [a] ADI's	10%	3%	1,000,000
BBB+ / BBB / BBB- & below categories combined	25%	12%	
a. ADI's located within the Local Government Area			**32,000,000**

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	8,000,000
Defence Bank Ltd	A2/BBB+	1,000,000	1,000,000
IMB Bank Ltd	A2/BBB+	1,000,000	1,000,000
ING Bank	A1/A	3,000,000	1,500,000
MyState Bank Ltd	A2/BBB+	1,000,000	1,000,000
NAB	A1+/AA-	8,000,000	8,000,000
Reliance Bank	Unrated	1,000,000	1,000,000
Westpac	A1+/AA-	8,000,000	8,000,000
Total Investments			**32,000,000**

Summary of Restricted, Allocated and Unrestricted Cash & Investments			
	Actual[2] 30/06/2025 $ 000's	Actual[3] 30/06/2026 $ 000's	Forecast[1] 30/06/2026 $ 000's
External Cash Restrictions	14,619	14,821	11,991
Internal Cash Allocations	16,064	16,873	6,557
Total Restricted, Allocated Cash & Investments	**30,683**	**31,694**	**18,548**
Unrestricted Cash	2,852	5,235	4,582
Total Restricted, Allocated and Unrestricted Cash & Investments	**33,535**	**36,929**	**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.
3. Balances are indicative and represent best available information as at 30/06/2026. Further adjustments are still anticipated throughout finalisation of the 2025/26 Financial Statements and the final unrestricted cash figure is likely to vary.

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

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

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

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

15) FINANCIAL YEAR END WRITE-OFF REPORT

Department: Corporate Services

Author: Chief Financial Officer

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

File No: PS.SR.7

Recommendation:
That Council;
1. Approve the write-off of $2,376.99 following the Bi-Annual stocktake conducted on 23 June 2026.
2. Note the write-off of $209.46 approved under General Manager delegation for the six month period.
3. Approve an increase to the General Manager delegation of authority to write off stores and materials to a value not exceeding $5,000, following a Bi-Annual stocktake.

Reason for Report:
For Council to approve the write-off of;
- Variations to stores and materials (inventory) identified via the Bi-Annual stocktake conducted on 23 June 2026.
- Bad debts <$2,000 for the six month period

Report:
The report details amounts to be written off for the period to 30 June 2026.

Inventory
Council undertakes a Bi-Annual stocktake of stores and materials in June and December each year. A report to Council seeking approval of write-off for variances <$2,000 is required.

The stocktake undertaken on 23 June 2026 identified an unfavourable variance of $2,376.99 mainly relating to diesel fuel.

Council does not hold a large quantity of items in stock, with the value of all inventory held totalling $231,932.

Construction materials are typically ordered as required and allocated directly to works to be undertaken.

Council maintains a robust control framework around the management and issue of fuel. Fuel dispensing is controlled through an automated fuel management system, with access to the bowsers restricted by programmable tokens. Each item of plant is allocated a unique token that authorises access only to the appropriate fuel type.

Fuel usage data is downloaded weekly and automatically allocated to individual plant cost centres within Council's business management software. It is noted that, upon import, the fuel management system rounds fuel quantities to one decimal place. This rounding is estimated to result in an annual variance of approximately 300–400 litres.

Preventative maintenance and calibration of the fuel management system are carried out every six months. In addition, fuel tanks are manually dipped immediately before and after each fuel delivery, which typically occurs every three to four weeks. As tank dipping is a manual measurement process, minor variances are expected and considered normal.

Last financial year Council purchased 277,153 litres of diesel and 4,070 litres of unleaded petrol. The variance in quantity (1,604 litres) appears sizeable, however overall equates to 0.57% of overall consumption. Compounding the issue, and therefore the obligation to report to Council, is the fact that the average diesel price is approximately $0.50 per litre higher than at the same time last year, significantly increasing the overall expenditure.

One of the key challenges affecting the accuracy of fuel stocktake results is the subjective nature of fuel level readings. Current measurement methods rely heavily on manual observations and operator judgement, making them susceptible to inconsistencies and human error. Additionally, there is no consistently reliable or independent means of verifying both fuel deliveries, fuel issues and recorded tank readings. This lack of objective validation can lead to discrepancies between expected and actual fuel volumes, reducing confidence in stocktake outcomes and making it more difficult to identify losses, delivery variances, or measurement inaccuracies.

Diesel fuel storage is also subject to minor losses from evaporation and is difficult to quantify. There can be several contributing factors including temperature, tank breathing, tank fill levels and fuel formulation.

The licence for Council's fuel management system is currently due for renewal. Council staff have submitted a request for review of the system to address some of the reporting anomalies, to ensure that it is functioning as efficiently as possible, and reduce the occurrence of minor discrepancies going forward.

The store area is monitored by CCTV cameras, including surrounding operational areas, fuel storage facilities, and access points to restricted storage areas. Access to these restricted areas must be authorised by the relevant manager. Entry to and exit from restricted operational areas is always controlled by swipe card access.

There have been no suspected or reported instances of theft of store items for the period.

Bad debts <$2,000

A report on amounts written off below the delegated General Manager approval (<$2,000) threshold is required to be reported to Council half yearly.

The table below summarises the debt written off during the financial period. Council exhausted all reasonable avenues to recover the outstanding amount. However, as the debt was unsecured and the value outstanding was relatively low, pursuit of further debt recovery action was neither practical nor cost-effective.

Ref.	Name	Description	Write - off Date	$
D.92004	Harrison Racing Team	Lease of Industrial Land (Lots 6 and 7) for Agistment Purposes – residual amount (Notice period).	23/02/2026	209.46

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Under Section 377(1) of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) the Council sets a limit upon which the General Manager may exercise discretion with writing off amounts as follows:

- Stores and materials: Council has delegated to the General Manager the authority to write off stores and materials following a Bi-Annual stocktake up to a limit of $2,000 per stocktake.
- Write off debts (other than rates): Council has delegated to the General Manager the authority to write off monies due to Council up to a limit of $2,000 per debtor. Amounts written off below this threshold are to be reported to Council half yearly.

To improve operational efficiency, Council approval is sought to increase the General Manager's delegation to write off stores and materials to a value not exceeding $5,000 (from $2,000). This is proposed on the following grounds:

- Streamline administration: Increasing the delegation reduces the need for routine, low-value write-offs to be referred to Council.
- Contemporary monetary threshold: The current $2,000 limit is no longer suited. A $5,000 threshold better aligns with current operations.
- Focus on strategic governance: Council's role is to provide strategic direction and oversight rather than approve operational matters.
- Timely financial management: Prompt write-off ensures inventory registers reflect actual stock holdings.
- Appropriate risk level: A $5,000 threshold represents a relatively low financial risk within the context of Council's overall operating budget and asset base, while still maintaining appropriate controls.
- Existing internal controls remain: The delegation would continue to operate within Council's procurement, financial management and internal control frameworks and audit oversight.
- Improved operational responsiveness: Operational managers can address inventory issues without unnecessary delays.
- No reduction in accountability: Only the approval threshold is proposed for change, not the requirement for write-offs to be justified, documented and undertaken in accordance with legislation, Council policies and sound financial management practices.

Budget Implications:

Inventory
Council's annual budget for the purchase of fuel and oils is $450,000 for the 2025/26 Financial Year. No additional budget is provided for stock losses. The write off of stock is borne against the relevant overhead for recovery (i.e. fuel against fleet overhead).

Bad debts <$2,000
Council has included in the Operational Plan a provision for doubtful debts. The amount to be written off falls within this provision.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

16) COMPLIANCE AND REPORTING ACTIVITIES

Department: Corporate Services

Author: Director Corporate Services

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

File No: IM.CO.3

Recommendation:
That Council note the report on Compliance and Reporting Activities for the six month period to June 2026.

Reason for Report:
For Council to be updated on compliance and reporting activities for the six month period to June 2026.

Report:
The Office of Local Government (OLG) issues all councils with a calendar of compliance and reporting activities annually. These activities are statutory obligations required under various pieces of Local Government (LG) legislation.

This report outlines compliance and reporting activities undertaken for the six month period to June 2026:

Activity	Legislation	Due Date	Completion Date
Issue 3rd Rates Instalment notices	LG. Act s.562	30/01/2026	13/01/2026
Ledgers prepared for 6 monthly inspection by Auditors	LG. Reg. cl.228	31/01/2026	31/01/2026
Submission of Quarterly Budget Review Statement to Council (2nd Quarter)	LG. Reg. cl.203(1)	28/02/2026	24/02/2026
Delivery Program progress report to Council	LG. Act s.404(5)	Six monthly	24/02/2026
ARIC to have met in the quarter	LG Reg cl. 216	31/03/2026	25/02/2026
Issue 4th Rates Instalment notices	LG. Act s.562	30/04/2026	08/04/2026
Submission of Quarterly Budget Review Statement to Council (3rd Quarter)	LG. Reg. cl.203(1)	31/05/2026	26/05/2026
Adoption of 2026/27-2029/30 Delivery Program and 2026/27 Operational Plan and updating Long Term Financial Plan	LG. Act s.404 and s.405	30/06/2026	16/06/2026
ARIC to have met in the quarter	LG Reg cl. 216	30/06/2026	06/05/2026

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Nil

Budget Implications:
Nil

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

17) REVIEW OF AGENCY INFORMATION GUIDE

Department: Corporate Services

Author: Director Corporate Services

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

File No: IM.CO.3

Recommendation:
That Council adopt the Agency Information Guide and Proactive Release Program for the ensuing 12 months and make it available through the Council website.

Reason for Report:
For Council to review and adopt Council's Agency Information Guide.

Report:
Council is required to review and adopt its Agency Information Guide at intervals of not more than 12 months.

An Agency Information Guide serves the purpose to assist members of the public to find Council information that they seek and is as a document that:

a) describes the structure and functions of the Council, and
b) describes the ways in which the functions (including, in particular, the decision-making functions) of the Council affect members of the public, and
c) specifies any arrangements that exist to enable members of the public to participate in the formulation of the Council's policy and the exercise of the Council's functions, and
d) identifies the various kinds of government information held by the Council, and
e) identifies the kinds of government information held by the Council that the Council makes (or will make) publicly available, and
f) specifies the manner in which the Council makes (or will make) government information publicly available, and
g) identifies the kinds of information that are (or will be) made publicly available free of charge and those kinds for which a charge is (or will be) imposed.

Council last adopted this guide at its July 2025 meeting.

Council must make government information publicly available as provided by its Agency Information Guide. This is done via Council's website where practical.

A review of Council's current document was undertaken with minor amendments and updates effected.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Council must review and adopt an Agency Information Guide on an annual basis pursuant to s.21 of the Government Information (Public Access) Act.

Budget Implications:
Nil.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

1	Agency Information Guide (revised)	16 Pages

18) REVIEW OF COUNCIL POLICIES

Department: Corporate Services

Author: Director Corporate Services

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

File No: GO.PO.1

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

Policy Name
Restricted and Unrestricted Cash Policy
Borrowings Policy

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

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

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

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

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

Policy	Objective	Comment
Restricted and Unrestricted Cash Policy	To provide a framework for the establishment and management of restricted and unrestricted cash.	Minor amendments made.
Borrowings Policy	To provide a framework for Council to borrow funds while ensuring the ongoing viability of the Council by not permitting overall borrowings to extend Council beyond its ability to meet future repayments and budgetary obligations.	Minor amendments made.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Nil

Budget Implications:
Nil

Enclosures (following report)

1	Draft Restricted and Unrestricted Cash Policy 3K	9 Pages
2	Draft Borrowings Policy 4E	6 Pages

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

SHIRE COUNCIL
Blayney

Restricted and Unrestricted Cash Policy

Policy	3K
Officer Responsible	Chief Financial Officer
Last Review Date	XX/XX/2026

Strategic Policy

Objectives

To provide a framework for the establishment and management of restricted and unrestricted cash.

1. BACKGROUND

Council has significant restricted cash set aside for future purposes. They appear in Council's ~~balance sheet~~statement of financial position under "Cash, cash equivalents and investments". The funds are invested in accordance with Council's Investment Policy.

Over the term of the Long Term Financial Plan these restrictions are used to smooth out funding requirements for Council's programs outside the scope of normal operational activities. This allows for the equitable spread of the costs burden in establishing and maintaining Council's assets and services.

2. CLASSIFICATION OF RESTRICTED CASH

Restricted cash are funds set aside by Council for a specific purpose to meet future expenses. They are included in the annual budget which ~~are~~ is voted annually as part of the adoption of the Operational Plan.

Restricted Cash falls into three categories based on their use:

(a) External cash restrictions

These are funds received by Council where there is a legal obligation to use the funds for the purpose for which they were paid to Council. Under section 409(3) of the Local Government Act 1993 they are of three categories:

(i) money received as a result of levying a special rate or charge for a particular purpose (e.g. proceeds of a special rate variation);
(ii) money that is required by legislation to be set aside for a specific purpose (e.g. developer contributions); and
(iii) money received from the government for a specific purpose (e.g. tied grants).

(b) Internal cash allocations

These are funds set aside by resolution of Council for a particular purpose, where there is no legal or legislative requirement governing their use. If the purpose for which the cash restriction was established does not eventuate or Council changes its priorities, these funds may be reapplied for a different purpose by resolution of Council.

(c) Unrestricted cash

These are funds which are available to be used to cover unexpected or emergency expenses not provided for in the annual budget and not covered by an available internal ~~restriction~~allocation. They are also available for:

(i) boosting Council's financial liquidity in paying suppliers, providing services and retaining staff;
(ii) meeting short term cash flow requirements to fund capital works projects;
(iii) meeting Council's operational efficiency by covering unbudgeted discretionary expenditure; and
(iv) support Council's long-term financial sustainability
(v) bringing forward projects identified in the Long Term Financial Plan.

Any application of funds to be drawn from unrestricted cash for capital projects, where required, would need to comply with the Capital Expenditure Guidelines of the NSW Office of Local Government.

3. ESTABLISHMENT OF CASH ALLOCATIONS

(a) Current External Restrictions / Internal Allocations

The purpose of each internal cash allocation is articulated in Schedule 1.

Audited externally restricted and internally allocated cash balances can be found in the Annual Financial Statements, Note C1-3, included in the Annual Report available on Council's website https://www.blayney.nsw.gov.au/council/council-information/plans-and-strategies~~http://www.blayney.nsw.gov.au/your-council/council-publications/annual-reports/annual-reports~~.

(b) Future External Restrictions / Internal Allocations

Additional internally allocations of cash may be created by resolution of Council. The resolution must set out:

(i) the name and purpose of the internal allocation, which must be specific and relate to the then current Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan of Council; and
(ii) the basis of calculating any transfer of funds to internal allocations.

4. INTEREST ON RESTRICTED CASH

Interest must be applied to external cash restrictions where required by legislation or otherwise, such as s7.11 developer charges. Interest is added to the balance in the relevant cash restriction. The rate of interest is equal to the average return on investments for the financial year.

If interest is paid on internal cash allocations, the interest is paid into the general fund.

5. BORROWINGS FROM RESTRICTED CASH

Council may borrow from internally allocated cash, [but not from externally restricted cash without consent from the Minister of Local Government]. Any such borrowing must be authorised by resolution of Council and the full impact of the borrowing disclosed. Interest must be paid on any such borrowings.

6. TRANSFERS TO AND FROM RESTRICTED CASH

Funds may only be transferred into or transferred out of a cash restriction, by resolution of Council. The authority for such transfers may be given:

(a) by specific resolution in the case of a particular project the subject of a Council resolution;

(b) in the Quarterly Budget Review Statement, by virtue of the adoption of that statement by Council; or

(c) by the adoption of the annual financial statements containing a schedule of restricted cash showing transfers in and out.

A transfer contained in a Quarterly Budget Review Statement must show the restricted cash item audited opening balance, the amount transferred in or out and the estimated closing balance.

7. REPORTING ON RESTRICTED CASH

The level of restricted cash shall be reported on in the Quarterly Budget Review Statement and annually in the Financial Statements.

Council must assess at least annually the adequacy of each internal cash restriction during the preparation of the Long-Term Financial Plan and Operational Plan.

8. DETERMINATION OF UNRESTRICTED CASH LEVELS

The level of unrestricted cash shall be reported on in the monthly Investments Report, Quarterly Budget Review Statement and annually in the Financial Statements.

The targeted level of unrestricted cash shall be the greater of $2m or 50% of current liabilities (net of those current liabilities funded by cash restrictions or allocations).

Council must assess at least annually the adequacy of each internal cash restriction during the preparation of the Long Term Financial Plan and Operational Plan.

Another measure of Council's liquidity is the Unrestricted Current Ratio. This ratio measures the adequacy of working capital and its ability to satisfy obligations in the short term for the unrestricted activities of Council. Immediate action will only be required to address Council's unrestricted funds should the Unrestricted Current Ratio (General Fund) fall below the industry benchmark of 1.5:1.

Schedule 1: Name and Purpose of Internal Cash Allocations held

NAME	PURPOSE	COMMENT
Asset ~~Replacement~~Renewals	To fund expenditure on asset renewals.	
Bonds and Deposits	To have funds available to return amounts held as Bonds/Deposits	Includes following allocations: • Bonds – development applications • Security & key deposits – facility hire • Bore key deposits • Contract retentions & tender deposits • Miscellaneous deposits
Carryover works	To fund unexpended non recurrent capital works in progress at the end of the financial year for completion in a future year.	
Centrepoint	To help fund future large expenditure e.g. building renewals and upgrades.	
Election reserve	To set aside funds for council elections every 4 years. Based on an annual transfer of 25% of anticipated election cost.	
Emergency Works / Natural Disaster	To access natural disaster funding, Council is usually required to contribute an initial contribution towards each natural disaster event.	
Environmental Projects	Funds then set aside in 2001/02 for development of an alternative recreation location on the river.	
Financial Assistance Grant	To restrict advance payments of future financial assistance grants to the financial year in which they are allocated.	
Future Financial Sustainability	To quarantine future mining income in the event that the planned assumptions do not eventuate.	
I.T. Reserve	To help fund future large I.T. expenditure e.g. new software system or hardware replacement as part of long term I.T. Strategy.	

<table>
<tr><th>NAME</th><th>PURPOSE</th><th>COMMENT</th></tr>
<tr><td>~~King George Oval~~</td><td>~~To fund asset renewals and upgrades at King George Oval.~~</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Employee leave entitlement</td><td>To fund leave payments in excess of salary provided for in operational plan – e.g. Employment Termination / Retirement with Council. Based on a formula calculated by reference to average age brackets of employees and total Employee Leave Entitlements.</td><td>Funding level is guided by industry accepted practice and determined by calculation of ELE reserves subject to an age profile.

Council manages and funds its ELE Reserve based upon a structured funding policy that assesses the age & anticipated payout date for each employee.

At the end of each year an analysis is undertaken for each Leave Liability and the value of Leave Entitlements that fall within various age bands.

Council's "ELE Funding Policy" is to fund the various age bands to a certain level as at Year End (with higher levels of funding for those employees getting closer to retirement). Funding of Gross ELE thresholds are as follows:
<table>
<tr><th>Age</th><th>Funding % of Gross ELE</th></tr>
<tr><td>~~65+ yrs~~</td><td>~~100%~~</td></tr>
<tr><td>~~55~~60+ ~~– 60~~ yrs</td><td>~~6~~100%</td></tr>
<tr><td>50~~5~~ – ~~55~~60 yrs</td><td>~~4~~80%</td></tr>
<tr><td>~~4550~~ – 505 yrs</td><td>~~6~~20%</td></tr>
<tr><td>45-50 yrs</td><td>30%</td></tr>
<tr><td><45 yrs</td><td>150%</td></tr>
</table>
Allowance is also made for employees with a vested liability who are anticipated to leave within the next 12 months.

If Council has a number of staff members, with high ELE liabilities, who are anticipated to be leaving in the next 12 months an allowance is also made.</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th>NAME</th><th>PURPOSE</th><th>COMMENT</th></tr>
<tr><td>Plant & Vehicle Replacement</td><td>To internally fund replacement of plant and vehicles at the optimal time. Based on internal hire income and actual operating expenditure, taking into consideration depreciation plus proceeds of sales less asset purchases.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Property Account</td><td>To fund works for real estate development Council's income producing properties plus buying and selling, maintenance and development. Based on net proceeds of sale of industrial and residential land.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Property Account – Borrowings</td><td>Council borrowed funds under the Low Costs Loan Initiative (LCLI) for completion of a residential subdivision in Streatfeild Close. Funds from the proceeds of sale of the lots were restricted to repay the principal and interest repayments.</td><td>Under the LCLI program Council qualified for a 50% interest subsidy.

The balance of sale proceeds were allocated to the Property Account.

The loan is scheduled to be finalised by June 2029.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Quarry</td><td>To have funds available to remediate land following closure of Council quarries after exhaustion of gravel reserves.</td><td>The balance should reflect the estimated cost of remediation for each quarry by a percentage based on the number of years until remediation works are required
<table>
<tr><th>Years to remediation</th><th>Funding % of total provision</th></tr>
<tr><td>1 - 5 years</td><td>100%</td></tr>
<tr><td>5-10 years</td><td>80%</td></tr>
<tr><td>10 - 15 years</td><td>60%</td></tr>
<tr><td>15 - 20 years</td><td>40%</td></tr>
<tr><td>> 20 years</td><td>20%</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Village Enhancement Program</td><td>To fund works in Villages as outlined in Village Enhancement Plan.</td><td>Remaining allocation from each financial year to be carried over to undertake works in future years.</td></tr>
</table>

End of Policy

Adopted:	**18/03/2016**	**Minute: 1603/006**
Last Reviewed:	**18/03/2016**	**1603/006**
	19/03/2018	**1803/014**
	16/04/2024	**2404/006**
	xx/xx/2026	
Next Review:	**19/03/2030**	

SHIRE COUNCIL
Blayney

Borrowings Policy

Policy	4E
Officer Responsible	Chief Financial Officer
Last Review Date	XX/XX/2026

Strategic Policy

1. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this policy is to ensure that the use and management of Council borrowings (including overdraft facilities):

- Complies with the Ministerial Revised Borrowing Order dated 13 May 2009;
- Is undertaken with due regard for Council's role as a custodian of public funds;
- Is undertaken with the care, diligence and skill that a prudent person would exercise in managing the affairs of other persons; and
- Complies with Council's overall risk management strategy.

Council's power to borrow funds arises from section 621 of the Local Government Act 1993. As a custodian of public funds, Council must exercise the reasonable care and diligence that a prudent person would exercise when borrowing funds.

This policy provides a framework for Council to borrow funds while ensuring the ongoing viability of the Council by not permitting overall borrowings to extend Council beyond its ability to meet future repayments and budgetary obligations.

Section 377(1)(f) of the Local Government Act 1993 stipulates that Council cannot delegate the borrowing of money. It is expected that Councillors will have a full understanding of the terms and conditions of borrowing arrangements before entering into any contract.

2. DEFINITIONS

Variable rate loan - a loan that attracts an interest rate linked to a variable benchmark. In Australia variable rate loans are normally priced at a fixed margin over the Ausbond Bank Bill ~~Rate~~ Index which is the market benchmark three month interbank rate.

Fixed rate loan - a loan that attracts a fixed pre-determined interest rate throughout the term of the loan.

Amortising loan - a loan that is repaid over the term of the loan, normally by equal instalments due quarterly or semi-annually. Interest payments and capital repayments are normally combined and paid on the instalment date.

3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

All borrowings must comply with the following:

- Local Government Act 1993;
- Local Government (General) Regulation ~~2005~~2021;
- Ministerial Revised Borrowing Order;
- Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting;
- Australian Accounting Standards; and
- Office of Local Government Circulars.

4. POLICY

Delegation of Authority

Authority for the implementation of this policy is delegated by Council to the General Manager in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993. The General Manager may, in turn, delegate the day-to-day management of Council's borrowings to the Responsible Officer or other appropriately qualified senior staff (subject to regular reviews).

Guiding Principles

Guiding principles for Council borrowings:

- Borrowings may only be used to fund capital expenditure and not operating expenditure (which should be funded from revenue).
- Minimum working capital requirement are to be identified and maintained in a readily available form such that there is no need to call on borrowings to fund any shortfall in reasonably anticipated operating requirements.
- It is appropriate to fund significant capital works via borrowings such that the full cost of infrastructure is not only borne by present day ratepayers, but also by future ratepayers who will benefit from use of the funded infrastructure.
- It may be appropriate to fund certain capital projects with user charges, in which case user charges should reflect the project's costs, including loan payments.
- The impact on Council's budget of any movement in interest rates must be actively managed.
- Borrowings to fund income producing capital projects shall be repaid principally from the income generated by the project.

Structure of Borrowings

Overdraft

The Council may maintain a modest overdraft facility for unexpected changes to operating cash flow requirements. As there are costs involved in accessing the facility, it is not to be used for expected operating cashflow and it is not to be used for long-term financing.

Long-Term Borrowings

Considerations

To assist with making the decision on whether to undertake long-term borrowings, Council should consider:

- The financial impact of the proposed borrowing on Council's Long Term Financial Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan including:
  a) Scenario analysis in the case of changes to market interest rates; and
  b) Any positive impact of the capital works funded by the proposed borrowing;

Requirements
Council can borrow finds under section 621 of the Local Government Act 1993. All borrowings must be approved by Council resolution and included in Council's annual draft Operational Plan.

Councils must also apply to the Office of Local Government, completing a proposed loan borrowing return each year.

The General Manager under ~~section~~ clause 230 of the Local Government (General) Regulation ~~2005~~ 2021 must notify the Secretary within seven days after borrowing money under a loan contract.

If, during the year, Council is required to increase its proposed borrowings or change the purpose of the initial request, a council resolution must be passed prior to drawing down of any funds.

If there is an increase, Council must also notify the Office of Local Government by re-submitting the electronic loan borrowing request form including the updated amounts.

Process
To minimise the cost of borrowing, the policy will require Council to seek competitive borrowing terms by inviting expressions of interest with both fixed and variable terms.

Whilst not specified, Council's preference is to enter into a loan agreement with a fixed rate which provides certainty of cash flow obligations over the life of the loan and limits the risk of price shock in an environment of fluctuating interest rates.

Restrictions
Council is restricted, by the Ministerial Revised Borrowing Order dated 13 May 2009, to source the borrowings from Australia and in Australian currency.

Borrowing Parameters
The Council's borrowing program must remain within the following parameters:

- Maximum term of borrowings is the shorter of 20 years or the expected economic life of the capital works funded.
- Within benchmark for relevant performance indicators including the debt service cover ratio

Security for borrowings
The Council acknowledges that under ~~Reg~~ clause 229 of the Local Government (General) Regulation ~~2005~~ 2021 the repayment of money borrowed by a council (whether by way of overdraft or otherwise), and the payment of any interest on that money, is a charge on the income of the Council.

Internal Loans
An internal loan consists of surplus investment funds that are restricted to a particular purpose being borrowed for another purpose of Council. This process would involve a formal internal loan whereby borrowed funds would be repaid with interest to the reserve that has lent the funds.

Where the surplus funds have been derived from general revenue streams this decision can be made by resolution of Council.

Where the surplus funds have been derived from externally restricted revenue or from a special rate or charge, such loans require Ministerial approval prior to being entered into, in accordance with ~~Section~~ section 410 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Internal loans and internally restricted funds are not required to be included in the proposed loan borrowing return submitted to the Office of Local Government.

Lease Liabilities
The introduction of AASB 16 has removed the distinction between operating and finance leases and requires recognition of a right-of-use (ROU) asset and lease liability on the balance sheet for most leasing arrangements with the exception of:

- Short term leases < 12 months
- Low value leases < $10,000

Leases carry very similar characteristics to borrowings and whilst Council endorsement is not required to enter into a lease arrangement, consideration around Council's procurement policy and appropriate delegation levels should be exercised taking into account the full value of the lease arrangement not just the regular instalments.

5. MONITORING AND REPORTING

A summary of current loans details is tabled with the Quarterly Budget Review Statement.

Any proposed borrowings modelled in the Long Term Financial Plan are tabled annually in the Operational Plan and reported to the Office of Local Government through the Proposed Borrowings Return.

Any breach of this policy is to be reported to the General Manager and Responsible Accounting Officer immediately upon becoming aware of such breach. A written statement of the facts relating to the breach is to be prepared within two business days, including the remedial action taken or proposed to be taken. The breach should be reported to Council at the next meeting.

6. RELATED LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

Other related legislation and policies not named above:

- Procedure 5H Capital Expenditure Guidelines

End of Policy

	Date	Minute No.
Adopted:	**16/04/2024**	**2404/006**
Last Reviewed:	**XX/XX/2026**	
Next Review:	**23/07/2030**	

19) 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 note the Infrastructure Services: Key Activities Report for July 2026.

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 matters – Cationic emulsion tank
A detailed delivery status update has been provided by the supplier of the bitumen emulsion tank that was ordered in September 2025 (given the immense delay since placing the order). The supplier has encountered a number of unforeseen staff vacancies, combined with issues of supply during April and May for some parts (due to world events) which has resulted in a large backlog of orders.

This led to delays such that the commencement of manufacturing of Council's tank has only just occurred at the end of June. To-date, the tank vessel has been fabricated and is currently being sand-blasted in preparation for finishing. A number of other components have also been progressed with the supplier indicating delivery in September 2026.

Maintenance works
Since the last report, inclement weather has led to a large number of pothole defects appearing simultaneously across the LGA. Crews have been continuously patching since the last report.

Pothole patching has been completed on Barry Road, Browns Creek Road, Cadia Road, Carcoar Road, Forest Reefs Road, Four Mile Creek Road, Garland Road, Glenorie Road, Guyong road, Hills Lane, Hillside Lane, Hobbys Yards Road, Mandurama Road, Neville Road, Newbridge Road, Nyes Gates Road, Panuara Road, Spring Terrace Road, Tallwood Road, Three Brothers Road, Vittoria Road, Wimbledon Road. The town and villages of

Blayney, Carcoar, Mandurama, and Millthorpe have also been patched. Incidental patching at Carcoar Dam has also been undertaken.

Maintenance grading has also been a key focus the last two months for operations staff, with 2-3 maintenance grading crews concurrently working with some usage of dry hire machinery operating in separate areas of the shire to reclaim the condition of Council's gravel roads.

As a result of these efforts, approximately 70km of gravel roads have been graded since the last report. These roads include Fullers Lane, Dunstaffnage Road, Wombiana Lane, Burtons Lane, Fiddicks Lane, Carcoar Road, Springvale Lane, Ewins Lane, Westons Lane, Beneree Road, Nyes Gates Road, Glenelg Road, Mount Macquarie Road, Dicksons Lane, Peppermint Lane, Eves Lane, Sherlocks Lane, Gallymont Road, and Bradene Road. Some incidental gravel road repairs, via minor resheeting, has also been undertaken at the same time as grading, including on Carcoar Dam Road, Fullers Lane, Greghamstown Road, Beneree Road, Gallymont Road, Lindsay Lane, Snake Creek Road, and Mount Macquarie Road. On Yangoora Road, some gravel has been spread on failed areas with no gravel using the backhoe in preparation of maintenance grading in the coming weeks.

Open Spaces and Facilities
Napier Oval's main field has remained closed for training and games despite improved weather. The junior fields and all other fields have reopened. The Parks and Recreation team continue to service the field to dry it out, with limited success. They have also reinstated the main field at the showground. Currently all soccer training is being undertaken at the showground, with the club also trialling temporary light towers to enable evening training sessions.

Carcoar Dam boat ramp works were successfully undertaken and the ramp is back in use. Minor further works are required to complete the grant project.

Removal of 5 deteriorated trees on Victoria St in Millthorpe was completed without incident during the school holidays. Replacement trees will be selected and planted soon. Council staff are also investigating a recent event where a number of mature trees on council's verge were cleared in Carcoar by a third party.

Sewer Treatment Plant (STP)
No major faults at the plant or pump stations during the last month. The STP team in conjunction with DCCEEW are investigating options to improve the performance of phosphorus removal, as this is a contaminant which will benefit from improved performance.

The Strategic Sewer plan is progressing with options identified for future works. Public Works have confirmed the scale of capacity upgrades that will be required. Multiple scenarios with staged deliveries are being considered including a standalone plant for Millthorpe.

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

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	14,219	859,822	0	859,822
Commentary					
• Enacon have completed the power pole replacement, meaning all works on this project are complete. As such, this will be the last reporting of this project.					

Tallwood Road – RERRF[1]					
Due Date	**Revised Budget YTD $**	**Expenditure this Month $**	**Total Expenditure YTD $**	**Committed Expenditure YTD $**	**Estimated Total Project Costs $**
June 2026	1,838,324	212,164	1,277,365	191,005	1,783,271
Commentary					
• All culvert construction works are now complete. • All pavement works are complete excluding base course trimming and minor filling over the new culverts. • Minor batter dressing will be completed by end of July pending inclement weather. • Due to the time of year, staff have made the decision to defer sealing (until warmer), as the road has sustained minimal damage while unsealed and open to traffic and deferral will result in a small financial saving for Council. Given winter is now well upon us and conditions have been relatively dry and warm, the risk of delaying sealing for several weeks is considered low, as significant deterioration of the base layer is not expected. The sealing contractor has been tentatively rescheduled for mid-September, with the aim of placing a two-coat seal. This will require base trimming in early September, improved temporary traffic control around the culverts, and may require rework of sections if severe weather or traffic impacts occur. At this stage, significant rework is not expected, however temporary traffic control and aftercare measures remain important, particularly around culverts, as the seal wearing course is required prior to guardrail installation.					
Forecast (1-3 months)					
• Minor base pavement works over the culverts and final batter shaping are expected to be completed by the end of July, subject to weather conditions. • Final traffic control requirements will be confirmed, and any additional temporary measures required to manage the deferred sealing timeframe will be implemented.					

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.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

20) 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:
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 $**
September 2026	3,070,673	389,162	1,752,672	1,073,793	2,930,991

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.

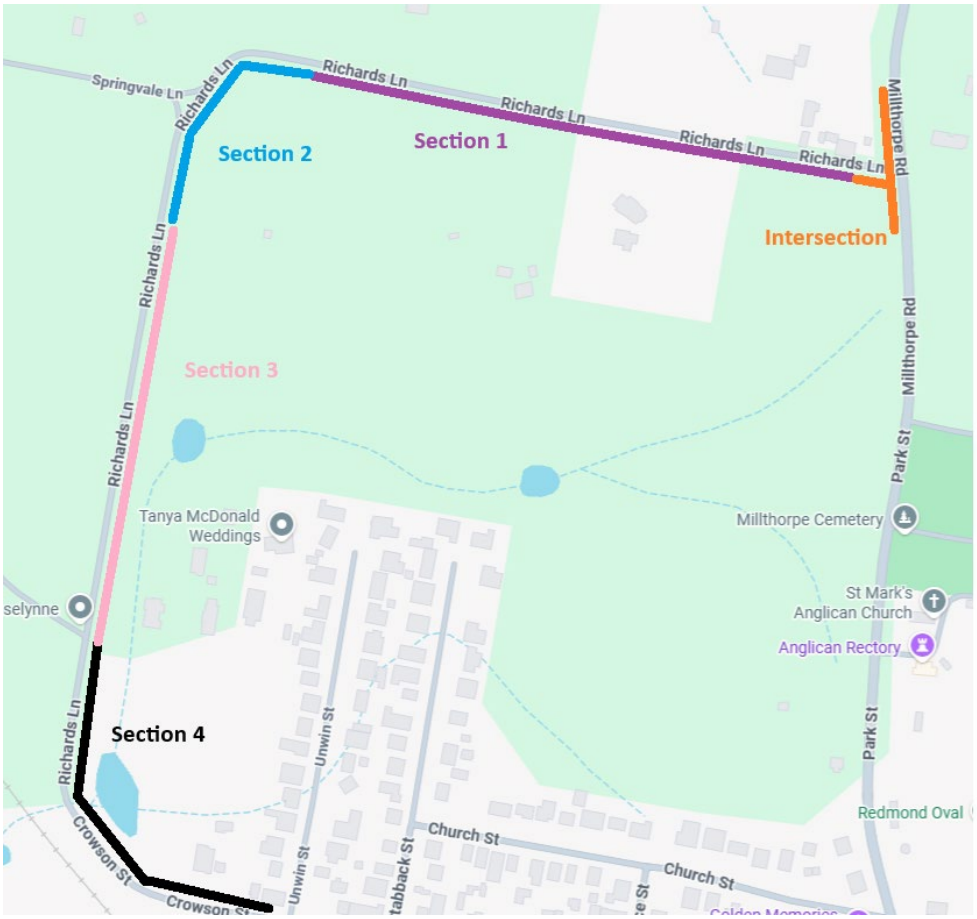


Figure 1

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

Section 3 works are nearing completion, with all rectifications complete and base course constructed. A section of the existing road's subgrade (that the new road was built on top of) failed due to significant ingress of water. This has now been rectified.

All sections will then be cut (trimmed) at the same time (immediately prior to sealing) to minimise defects arising in the base course immediately before a seal is applied.

Section 4 will be re-worked the week commencing 27th July (pending weather), which once complete and all final punch-out items are finalised (QA, minor drainage items, erosion/sedimentation control measures, etc), the local road (sections 1 to 4) will be sealed.

Sealing is tentatively booked for the week commencing 3rd of August. After sealing, minor outstanding works including delineation and road furniture installation (guideposts, signs, etc.) remain to be completed.

A reseal will be required later in the financial year which has been budgeted for in the cost to complete figure (estimated $139k).

Intersection Portion of Works
Working on western side intersection, in and around inclement weather, the contractor has finished construction of the subbase granular pavement layer, utility capping slabs, and subsoil drainage.

A low-cutter seal has also been applied to this subbase course in preparation for placement of base-layer asphaltic cement. A number of outstanding quality management and hold point requirements are yet to be satisfied that are currently preventing the commencement of the asphalt works. Additionally, the specialist asphalt subcontractor is currently engaged to undertake priority works in the Lithgow LGA for roads impacted by the closure of Mt Victoria Pass which has led to the deferral of the asphalt works at the intersection until early August.

The contractor has been pushed to rethink and integrate inclement weather and all hold points into their program for the remainder of the works. The portion of works on the eastern side of Millthorpe Road are all still outstanding and likely to be completed around mid-September.

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

Post completion report of the grant funding will be finalised at the end of this month.

Budget Implications:
Based on the current projected cost to complete (shown in table 1), at this stage it is anticipated the project will be completed within the current budget allocation which includes ~$139k as contingency funds yet to be drawn upon.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

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

Department: Infrastructure Services

Author: Director Infrastructure Services

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

File No: GS.RP.3

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

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

Report:
Council may recall the outstanding land matters associated with the realignment of Errowanbang Road, undertaken as part of the Southern Access Route project funded through Council's Cadia Special Rate Variation in 2015.

As part of the project, Lots 11, 12 and 14 in DP1216561 were to be transferred to the affected landowners as compensation for land acquired. While Council has remained the registered owner of these lots, they were held under Old System Title. Consequently, Council was required to undertake a compulsory acquisition process (from itself) to convert the land to Torrens Title under the Real Property Act 1900 before the lots could be transferred.

A report to the September 2023 Council meeting (Resolution No. 2309/17) sought and obtained Council's approval to commence the compulsory acquisition process. The acquisition was subsequently completed, with the acquisition gazetted on 17 July 2024.

Following gazettal, the process progressed as follows:
- November 2024: Acquisition documents lodged with NSW Land Registry Services (NSWLRS).
- January 2025: NSWLRS issued a requisition arising from a misunderstanding regarding the acquisition.
- March 2025: Council responded to the requisition and provided the requested information.
- December 2025: Torrens Titles were issued for the lots.

During the recent process of commencing the transfer of lots to the respective landowners, it was identified that NSWLRS had issued the titles with a Public Road notation. As a result, the lots cannot be transferred until that notation is removed.

To remove the Public Road notation, Council must undertake a road closure process in accordance with the Roads Act 1993.

It is therefore recommended that Council endorse the commencement of the road closure process.

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

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
This land meets the requirements of Section 38A of the Roads Act 1993 and falls under Council's jurisdiction to close.

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

Enclosures (following report)
Nil

Attachments (separate document)
Nil

22) TENDER 7-2023: SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND PLACEMENT OF SPRAYED BITUMINOUS SURFACING - EXTENSION

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.TN.68

Recommendation:
That Council approve the 12-month extension of contract with Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd for the quality assured, schedule of rates contract for the Supply, Delivery and Placement of Sprayed Bituminous Surfacing.

Reason for Report:
For Council to consider a 12-month extension of contract 7-2023.

Report:
Council at the Extraordinary Council Meeting held 29 August 2023, following a formal tender process, resolved the following:

TENDER 7-2023: SUPPLY, DELIVERY, AND PLACEMENT OF SPRAYED BITUMINOUS SURFACING

2308/E006 **RESOLVED:**
That Council accept the tender from Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd for the quality assured, schedule of rates contract for the Supply, Delivery, and Placement of Sprayed Bituminous Surfacing.

(Newstead/Somervaille)
CARRIED

Performance by the contractor has been excellent in meeting Council's bituminous surfacing requirements as part of the capital works program, with works consistently delivered to a high standard.

The tender and contract provide for a 12-month extension option, which Fulton Hogan has confirmed they are willing to exercise. Given the competitive pricing structure, including the absence of low productivity surcharges, together with the contractor's high level of service and demonstrated performance, it is recommended that Council approve the 12-month contract extension.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
The original contract was entered into following a formal tender process in accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021. The provision for an optional extension of contract is consistent with the advertised contract and contract documents.

Following the completion of the extension period these services would need to follow the public tendering process to select the next service provider for Council.

Budget Implications:
In accordance with the contract conditions, the contractor has proposed revised rates for the extension period for the non-bitumen items in the schedule of rates. Bitumen (binder) rates are subject to rise and fall under the contract already subject to the Sydney bitumen spot price.

The other increases are due to aggregate and traffic control costs rises exhibited in the market (including by Council from other contractors/suppliers). Fulton Hogan's additive and aggregate rates have increased in alignment with the expected market increase since the tender period, however their traffic control day-rate has increased by significantly more because of increases in their own service contract. Despite these increases, Fulton Hogan is still expected to provide the best value-for-money service at this point in time in the market.

The proposed schedule of rates for the contract extension has been provided by Fulton Hogan as a confidential attachment to this report.

All works are to be undertaken in accordance with approved budget allocations.

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

Nil

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

1 Contract 7-2023 Extension Schedule of Rates 2 Pages

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) (di) of the Local Government Act, as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

23) BLAYNEY SHOWGROUND CATTLE YARDS

Department: Infrastructure Services

Author: Manager Waste Water and Urban Services

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

File No: PR.PL.3

Recommendation:
That Council endorse the proposal from Blayney Shire Horse Sports for the installation of permanent cattle yards at the Blayney Showground.

Reason for Report:
To inform and seek Council endorsement of the “Blayney Showground Cattle Yards” project.

Report:
Blayney Shire Horse Sports as a licensed regular user group at the Blayney Showground has submitted a proposal to install permanent cattle yards at the showground. The proposal includes a loading ramp and yards that connect the existing sheds to the indoor arena. Plans are provided in enclosure 1.

Blayney Shire Horse Sports have engaged with Council staff and other user groups to develop the proposal which will benefit a number of groups. It was discussed at the most recent Blayney Showground User Group Meeting with no concerns raised. Council staff support the proposal, recognising its functional benefits for many regular users as well as supporting major events.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Blayney Shire Horse Sports have complied with the Community Initiated Infrastructure Projects Policy and are able to deliver this simple project as it only requires a single contractor to deliver the works. Council staff will remain involved and review contractor WHS documentation and issue an approval to commence once satisfied. Council staff will communicate works with other user groups as appropriate.

The proposal aligns with Council’s endorsed Strategic Masterplan for the showground, including the locations for the loading ramp and permanent yards in dedicated areas, being away from pedestrian zones, see enclosure 2 for reference.

Budget Implications:
Multiple quotes have been sourced by Blayney Shire Horse Sports with an estimated cost of $50,000 required for the project.

Funding of $25,000 is being sought from Council under the Financial Assistance Program (yet to be assessed) and a further $25,000 is being sought by Blayney Shire Horse Sports from the NSW Government under Crown Lands Improvement Fund. Should Blayney Shire Horse Sports be unsuccessful, they will seek to deliver the project through provision of their own internal funds.

The expected lifespan of these capital works is somewhat dependant on usage however broadly is between 30-50 years. This would represent circa $1,000-$1,500 depreciation impact to Council each year.

Ongoing maintenance will be minimal, primarily consisting of a slight extension of condition inspections. As the fencing wears over the years, minor repairs will be required. These works will typically be welding and the application of cold galvinising, or replacement of hinges. There are no other moving parts to deteriorate through wear and tear.

Council will be able to recover much of the depreciation costs through Fees and Charges for major annual events, as the infrastructure is essential for some major events and will even attract further booking and use of the facility.

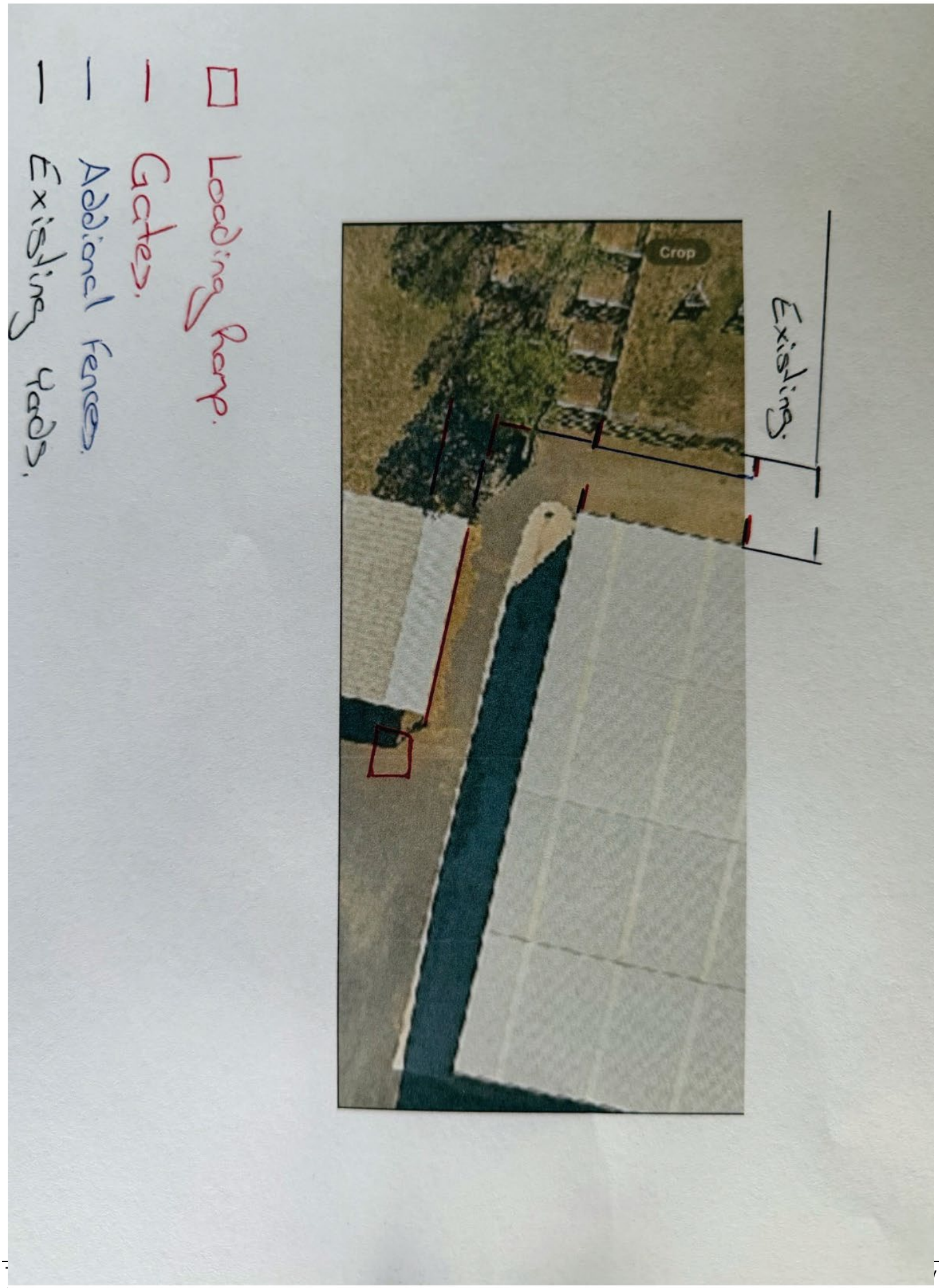
Currently temporary yards are hired and set up for specific events at a cost to the organiser so installation of these yards will be a significant value add (and lessen volunteer workload) for events at the facility.

Enclosures (following report)

1	Cattle Yards Layout and Location	2 Pages
2	Blayney Shire Strategic Masterplan	1 Page

Attachments (separate document)

Nil


Loading Ramp.
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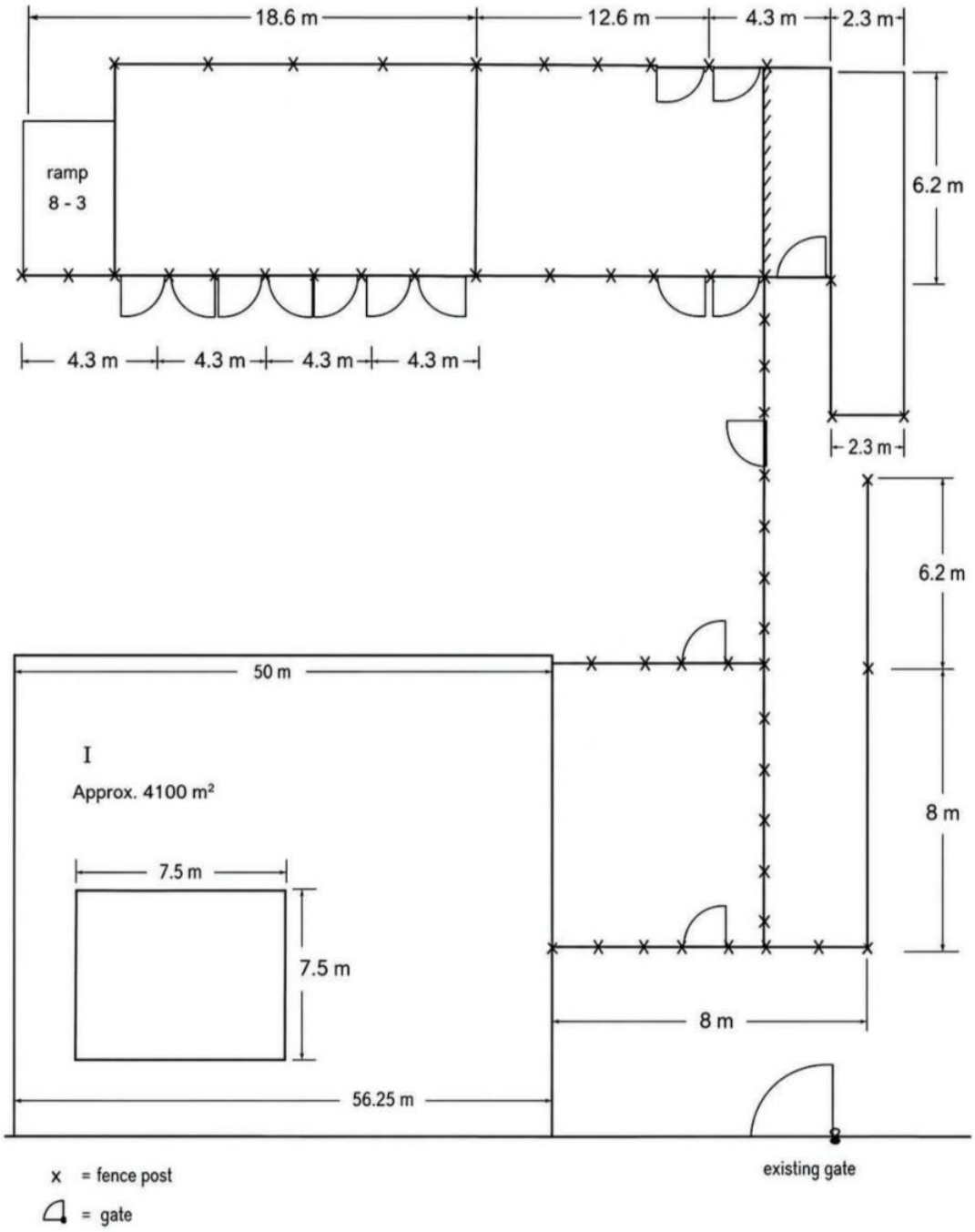
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Approx. 4100 m²
7.5 m
7.5 m
8 m
8 m
56.25 m
existing gate
x = fence post
= gate



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public domain . urban design . landscape architecture
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Blayney Showground Strategic Masterplan

31.07.24

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24) DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Department: Planning and Environmental Services

Author: Director Planning and Environmental Services

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

File No: GO.ME.1

Recommendation:
That the Development Assessment Report be received and noted for the period 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026.

Reason for Report:
To update Council on development applications and complying development certificates determined during the period 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026.

To advise Council with a list of applications currently under assessment.

Report:
The following enclosures are provided for Council's information:

1. Applications approved under delegated authority during the period,
2. Applications currently under assessment

There are a number of modification applications approved or under assessment which are noted in the enclosure.

There were no applications refused under delegated authority during the period.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Nil

Budget Implications:
Nil

Enclosures (following report)

1 Quarterly DA Approvals Report - April to June 2026 5 Pages

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

1. Applications approved under delegated authority during the period

DA NUMBER	APPLICATION DATE	APPLICANTS NAME	APPLICATION DESCRIPTION OF WORK	PROPERTY ADDRESS	DATE APPROVED	VALUE
2026/0055	17/06/2026	David Nigel Berrington	Erection of Shed	20 Mt Errol St Blayney	22/06/2026	11,000.00
2026/0052	03/06/2026	Joshua Justin Clark	Erection of a Dwelling	66 Eucalyptus Close Forest Reefs	10/06/2026	695,000.00
2026/0049	28/05/2026	Christopher Priest	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling	8 Tumulla Pl Blayney	18/06/2026	165,000.00
2026/0046	22/05/2026	Designs At M	Erection of a Dwelling	11 Burke St Lyndhurst	25/06/2026	675,755.00
2026/0045	20/05/2026	Paramount Contractors	Erection of a shed	51 Crowson St Millthorpe	24/06/2026	110,990.00
2026/0043	19/05/2026	Geoff Wills	Erection of an Outbuilding	15 Collins St Carcoar	29/06/2026	110,000.00
2026/0044	19/05/2026	Southwell Design And Drafting	Erection of a Shed	924 Mount Macquarie Rd Neville	29/06/2026	29,700.00
2026/0040	15/05/2026	Marco PASQUALI	Erection of a Dwelling	18 Holland Close Forest Reefs	25/06/2026	1,078,000.00
2026/0007/1	04/05/2026	Tegan Alison McCarthy	Erection of a Shed *Modification – Additon of Window*	40 Coombing Lane Barry	19/05/2026	*Modification*
2026/0038	01/05/2026	Christopher Michael Cummins	Erection of Shed	1 Starr Place Blayney	10/06/2026	9,000.00
2026/0037	30/04/2026	Western Rural Centre	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling	7048 Mid Western Hwy Lyndhurst	29/06/2026	40,323.00
2021/0108/2	29/04/2026	Kathryn Stammers	Subdivision & Erection of a Dwelling *Modification – Change to roofline of alfresco, Landscaping plans and window.*	24 Adelaide Lane Blayney 2799	13/05/2026	*Modification*
2026/0035	29/04/2026	Kenneth Mckechnie	Erection of Carport	26 Ogilvy St Blayney	24/06/2026	7,856.20

2026/0036	29/04/2026	Bassman Drafting Services	Erection of Garage	66 Eucalyptus Close Forest Reefs	18/05/2026	70,690.00
2026/0034	23/04/2026	Brendan John Cooper	Erection of Garage	17 Crowson St Millthorpe	12/06/2026	40,000.00
2026/0030	22/04/2026	Aaron Schumacher Drafting	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling	547 Belubula Way Mandurama	04/06/2026	600,000.00
2026/0031	22/04/2026	Rodney MOFFITT	Change of Use - Dog Grooming & Dog Wash Facility	125 Adelaide St Blayney	25/05/2026	70,000.00
2026/0028	13/04/2026	Fernleigh Drafting	Erection of a Carport	12 Somers Pl Blayney	07/05/2026	18,700.00
2026/0026	10/04/2026	GJ Gardner Homes	Erection of a Dwelling	4 Knox Place Millthorpe	12/06/2026	539,672.00
2026/0025	07/04/2026	Tait Agriculture Pty Limited	Erection of a Slab	411 Garland Rd Lyndhurst	04/06/2026	100,000.00
2026/0024	27/03/2026	LFB Resources Nl	Geotechnical Drilling	44 Fleetwood Lane Kings Plains	07/05/2026	30,207.10
2025/0037/1	26/03/2026	Mark Richard Michael Eastwood	Erection of a Dual Occupancy	639 Tallwood Rd Forest Reefs	01/04/2026	850,000.00
2026/0023	26/03/2026	Southwell Design And Drafting	Erection of a Shed	101 Richards Lane Millthorpe	18/05/2026	49,500.00
2026/0022	24/03/2026	Currajong Pty Lty	Erection of a Dwelling	8 Hawke St Millthorpe	26/05/2026	250,000.00
2024/0057/1	20/03/2026	Shed World	Erection of a Shed (Earthworks) *Modification – Change to roller doors*	40 Burrell Lane Forest Reefs	07/04/2026	*Modification*
2026/0020	20/03/2026	Calare Civil Pty Ltd	Erection of a Dwelling	26a Adelaide St Blayney	29/04/2026	467,700.00
2026/0021	20/03/2026	LFB Resources Nl	Geotechnical Drilling	294 Dungeon Rd Kings Plains	08/04/2026	172,040.00
2026/0019	19/03/2026	Jason Wesley Taylor	Erection of Shed	651 Forest Reefs Rd Forest Reefs	15/05/2026	38,050.00

2026/0018	12/03/2026	MRP Health Services Pty Ltd	Health Services Facility (Medical Centre)	29 Adelaide St Blayney	26/05/2026	250,000.00
2026/0015	10/03/2026	BT Homes	Erection of a Dwelling	134 &136 Long Swamp Rd Forest Reefs	07/04/2026	717,910.00
2026/0014	09/03/2026	Jaylene Amelia Coughlan	Recreation Facility (Indoor)	180 Marshalls Lane Blayney	30/04/2026	90,000.00
2026/0013	03/03/2026	Currajong Pty Lty	Erection of a Dwelling	43-45 Pascoe St Neville	30/04/2026	536,982.99
2026/0011	24/02/2026	Calare Civil Pty Ltd	Erection of a Dwelling	136 Greghamstown Rd Blayney	24/04/2026	350,000.00
2026/0008	10/02/2026	Currajong Pty Lty	Erection of a Dwelling	1 Burke St Lyndhurst	13/04/2026	528,448.00
2017/0129/2	19/11/2025	Blazley Leesa	Erection of a Dwelling	28 Wirraway Lane Carcoar	07/04/2026	270,000.00
2025/0089	11/11/2025	Richard Mark Southwell	Erection of a Dwelling and Detached Garage	53 Crowson St Millthorpe	08/05/2026	879,917.00
2025/0071	11/09/2025	Anthony Daintith Town Planning	Ten (10) Lot Subdivision	4070 Mid Western Hwy Blayney	24/06/2026	*Subdivision*
					Total	**$9,852,441.29**

2. Applications currently under assessment

DA NUMBER	APPLICATION DATE	APPLICANTS NAME	APPLICATION DESCRIPTION OF WORK	PROPERTY ADDRESS	VALUE
2026/0059	29/06/2026	Currajong Pty Lty	Home Industry Vehicle Repair Station	10 Thomas St Lyndhurst	-
2026/0056	19/06/2026	Michael Peter Hogan	Demolition Of Existing Dwelling and Erection of a Dwelling.	19 Acacia Lane Kings Plains	521,350.00
2026/0053	17/06/2026	GJ Gardner Homes	Erection of Dwelling	101 Kentucky Rd Neville	667,687.00
2026/0054	17/06/2026	BT Homes	Erection of Dwelling	38 Hillside Lane Forest Reefs	687,123.80
2026/0050	29/05/2026	Currajong Pty Lty	Two (2) Lot Subdivision	1 Burke St Lyndhurst	*Subdivision*
2026/0051	29/05/2026	Arkhei Studio Pty Ltd	Erection of a Two Storey Dwelling with an Attached Garage, Detached Secondary Dwelling and Detached Shed	41 Burrell Lane Forest Reefs	1,200,000.00
2026/0048	28/05/2026	Hybrid Property Investments Pty Ltd	Service Station, Signage, Takeaway Food And Drive-Through Facility	11 Radburn St Blayney	1,995,000.00
2026/0042	19/05/2026	Southwell Design and Drafting	Erection of a Dwelling	12 Park St Millthorpe	494,615.00
2026/0041	18/05/2026	Blake Andrew Hoadley	Retrospective Approval (Dwelling Alterations and Carport)	15 Mt Errol St Blayney	25,000.00
2026/0039	04/05/2026	Commins Planview Pty Ltd	Subdivision, Erection of Carport And Installation of a Relocatable Dwelling.	19 Ogilvy St Blayney	79,805.00
2026/0029	15/04/2026	Commins Planview Pty Ltd	Erection of a Dwelling, Detached Garage and Swimming Pool	13 William St Millthorpe	770,000.00
2026/0027	10/04/2026	Blayney Shire Council	Battery Energy Storage System	79 Osman St Blayney	1,000,000.00
2024/0007/1	05/01/2026	Green Gold Energy Pty Ltd T/A Green Gold Solar	Installation 5MW Solar Farm Including Solar Array, Inverter Station, Security Fencing, Temporary Construction Facilities And New Powerline Connection To Adjacent Essential Energy Infrastructure. Modification - To Include Battery Storage.	269 Marshalls Lane Blayney	*Modification*

2025/0061	31/07/2025	Edpr Australia Pty Ltd	Solar Farm	180 Greghamstown Road Blayney	17,930,694.00
				Total	**25,371,274.80**

25) PLANNING PROPOSAL: PP-2026-1505 FOR 34 CHARLES STREET, BLAYNEY TO INTRODUCE A NEW LAND USE ZONE TO THE BLEP 2012; BEING R2 LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL, REZONE THE LAND FROM RU2 TO R2 AND AMEND THE MINIMUM LOT SIZE REQUIREMENTS FROM 100 HECTARES TO 2000SQM

Department: Planning and Environmental Services

Author: Manager Development Assessment

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

File No: LP.ZN.7

Recommendation:
That Council:
1. Note in addition to Council resolution 2602/008, the Planning Proposal has been amended to include the introduction of the R2 Low Density Residential zone into the Blayney Local Environmental Plan.
2. Endorse the introduction of the R2 Low Density Residential zone and land use table adopting the Standard Instrument requirements into the Blayney Local Environmental Plan.
3. Submit the amended Planning Proposal to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces in accordance with Section 3.3491) 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.
4. Request delegation to finalise and make the draft Local Environmental Plan pursuant to Section 3.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
5. Proceed to 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.

Reason for Report:
To advise Council of the receipt of a Planning Proposal seeking zoning and minimum lot size changes to Council's Local Environmental Plan as it relates to land in Charles Street, Blayney. Further, the Planning Proposal seeks to introduce a new land use zone; being R2 Low Density Residential to the Blayney LEP 2012 as the measure to how the land will be rezoned and what uses will be permitted and prohibited.

Report:
A Planning Proposal has been submitted by a Planning Consultant seeking Council support to rezone land located at 34 Charles Street, Blayney (legally identified Lots 11-18 Section 8 DP 758121 and Lot 2 DP 1214094) from RU2 Rural Landscape to R2 Low Density Residential and amend the minimum lot size from 100 hectares to 2000m² under the BLEP 2012.



Figure 1: Existing Zoning Layer for 34 Charles Street, Blayney

As a consequence from this Planning Proposal is the need to introduce a new land use and land use zone table into the Blayney LEP 2012 as the R2 Low Density Residential zone does not currently exist in Council's LEP. Resulting from discussions between Council and the Regional Office (Southern, Western and Macarthur team Local Planning and Council Support) for Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, a new land use table will be included in the BLEP as a part of this process.

The new land use zone and table which permits and prohibits certain development has been adopted from the Departments Standard Instrument. Due to site constraints for this land, no additional land uses have been included other than the mandatory uses under the standard instrument.

The R2 zone is to have the following objectives, uses permitted without consent, uses permitted with consent and prohibited uses.

Zone R2 Low Density Residential

1 Objectives of zone
- To provide for the housing needs of the community within a low density residential environment.
- To enable other land uses that provide facilities or services to meet the day to day needs of residents.

2 Permitted without consent
Home occupations, roads

3 Permitted with consent
Centre-based child care facilities; Dwelling houses; Group homes; Oyster aquaculture; Pond-based aquaculture; Respite day care centres; Tank-based aquaculture

4 Prohibited
Any development not specified in item 2 or 3

The Planning Proposal is initiated with specific land. The subject land comprises nine (9) allotments being Lots 11-18 Section 8 DP 758121 and Lot 2 DP 1214094. The land is vacant and rectangular in shape. The land is bounded by Charles Street to the north, Lower Farm Street to the east, with residential land to the south and west. Refer to Figure 2.



Figure 2: Aerial View of 34 Charles Street, Blayney (Bounded Red)

The subject land is zoned RU2 Rural Landscape under the provisions of the BLEP 2012. The PP seeks to rezone the land from RU2 Rural Landscape to R2 Low Density Residential and to subsequently amend the minimum lot size from 100 hectares to 2000m² under the BLEP 2012. The purpose of the rezoning is for the land to be developed for residential purposes.

The PP was prepared by Planning Consultant Anthony Daintith Town Planning on behalf of the landowner, detailing the proposed amendments to the BLEP 2012 which is provided in the submitted attachments. Figures 3 & 4 provided mapping imagery of the proposed changes to both land use zoning and the minimum lot size.

The PP is the result of ongoing discussions with the Landowner, Planning Consultant, Council staff and the Department of Planning in the context of the endorsed Blayney Shire Settlement Strategy 2021 (Strategy 2021). The Strategy 2021 clearly identifies the subject land as having development potential for future residential purposes, subject to a Planning Proposal.

The PP seeks to rezone the subject land to R2 Low Density Residential zone having a minimum lot size of 2000m². The zoning and minimum lot size is consistent with development potential identified in the Strategy 2021.

The Strategy further identifies that additional investigation be undertaken for the provisions of services and managing flood risk. These matters were required to be resolved prior to the lodgement of any PP. A draft concept plan has been submitted with the PP along with a Flood Impact and Risk Assessment prepared by Lyall & Associates. The concept layout and flood impact assessment has been reviewed by Infrastructure Services and is acceptable for the purposes of the PP.

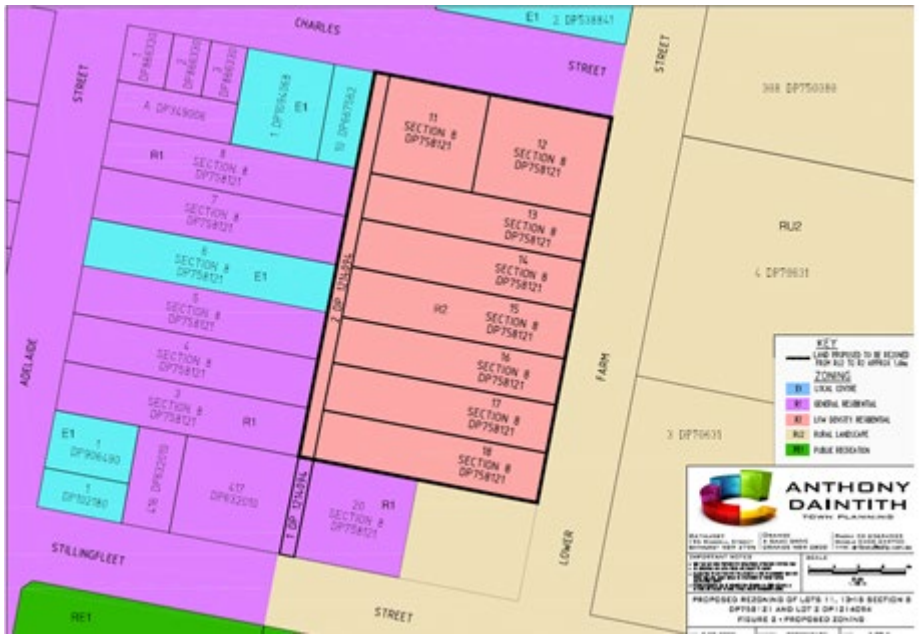

Figure 3: Proposed Zoning for 34 Charles Street, Blayney

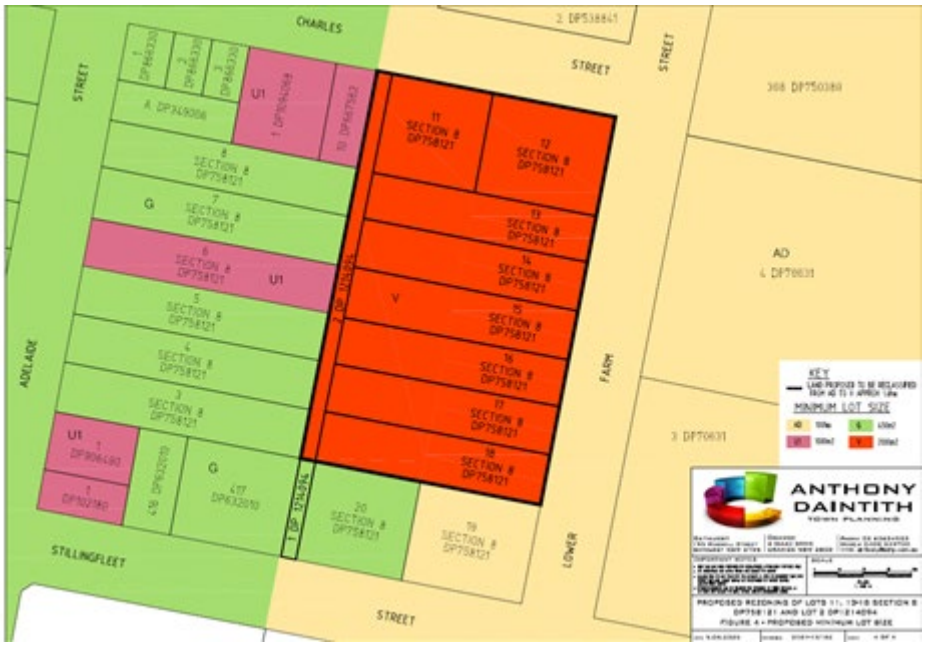

Figure 4: Proposed Minimum Lot Size for 34 Charles Street, Blayney

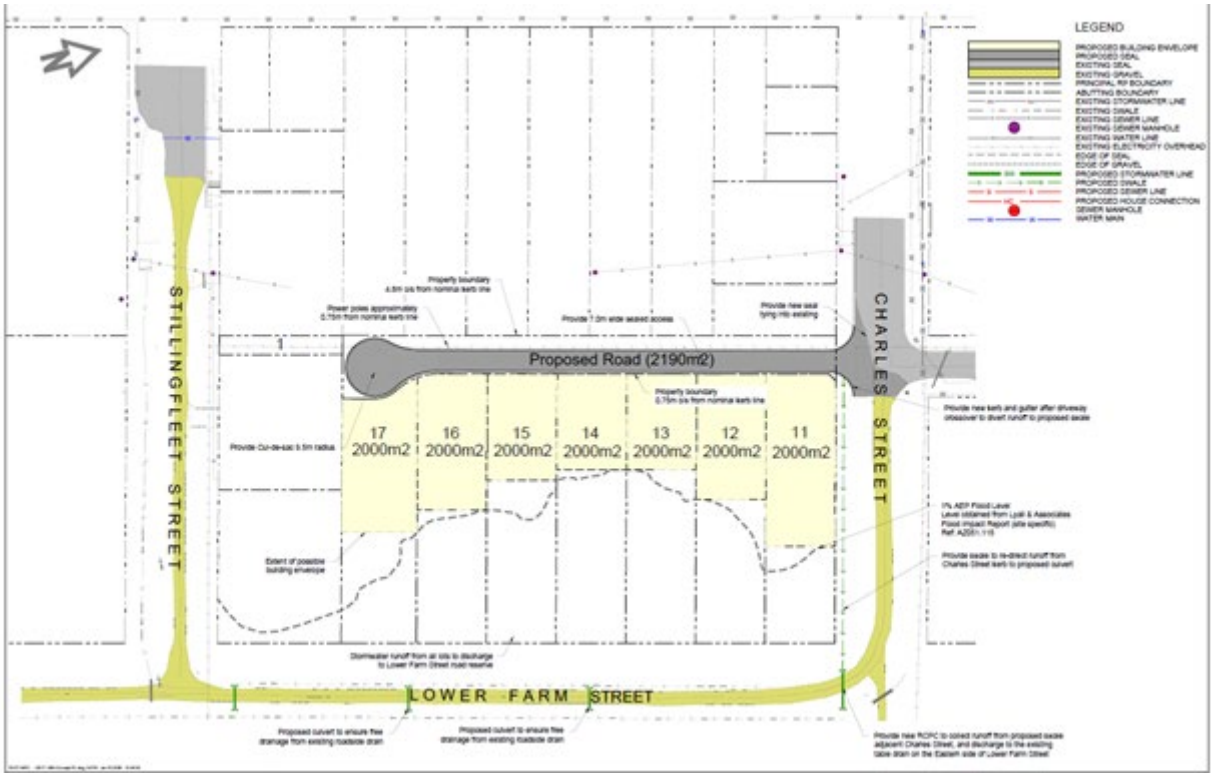

Figure 5: Proposed indicative Layout with services (subject to future DA)

Background History

A PP for this site was originally submitted to Council and was considered at the December Ordinary Council Meeting of 19 December 2022.

The resolution at this meeting stated that Council:

1. *Submit the Planning Proposal to the Minister for 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. *Prepare and exhibit an amendment to the Blayney Shire Development Control Plan 2018 to include development controls relating to the subject property in accordance with Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.*
4. *Require, prior to submitting the Planning Proposal for Gateway Determination, that the landowner be advised and agree to paying all reasonable costs involved for Council to amend the Blayney Shire Development Control Plan 2018.*

Gateway Determination was not granted by the Department of Planning (and Environment) due to concerns raised regarding flood risk of the site.

The Applicant was advised to withdraw the PP and to re-submit the PP once the flood impact assessment had been completed. The proponent did, however, agree to pay all reasonable costs.

The PP was re-submitted on the NSW Planning Portal on 30th September 2025. The submitted flood assessment and concept plans were reviewed by Council Technical Staff which required further alterations to address future residential development infrastructure requirements. A revised concept plan was received by Council on the 23rd January 2026 which now addresses previous concerns raised. Whilst the PP does not approve the layout specifically, Council and the Department require the concept plan to demonstrate that future development can take place with certainty and without adverse impact on Council infrastructure.

The PP was reconsidered at Council's February 2026 Ordinary Meeting due to the length of time in between the two proposals and a change in elected Councillors. The resolution at this February 2026 meeting stated that Council:

1.That Council submit the Planning Proposal to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces 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.

The PP was then referred to the Department for Gateway assessment and decision. The documentation prepared by the Applicant was not sufficient or satisfactory to meet the Departments requirements at the time and subsequently requested Council to withdraw the application. Council assisted the Applicant through direct discussions with the Department and through written feedback on the necessary changes to be incorporated by the Applicant. The amended and updated submission has subsequently been re-lodged on the NSW Planning Portal and is now referred to as PP-2026-1505 (submitted on 3rd July 2026).

The Department also requested the PP be referred back to Council for endorsement clearly acknowledging that as a part of the PP, the introduction of a new land use zone and land use table is required to the BLEP.

Conclusion
The PP has strategic merit and is considered to be consistent with Strategy 2021. No impediment can be identified that would preclude it from being submitted for gateway determination to the Department of Planning to amend the Blayney Local Environmental Plan 2012 (BLEP 2012).

Pursuant to Council's previous resolution, a draft site specific chapter for insertion in Council's DCP was to be prepared. Due to completion of the 2026 DCP review which included insertion of a flooding chapter, this site specific DCP may require further refinement to be exhibited concurrently with the Planning Proposal. A copy of the draft DCP Chapter is attached for Council's information.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Nil

Budget Implications:
Nil

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

1	Planning Proposal	42 Pages
2	Concept Layout Plan	1 Page
3	Existing Zoning	4 Pages
4	Flood Impact and Risk Assessment	19 Pages
5	Draft DCP - 34 Charles Street, Blayney	9 Pages

26) LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW DESTINATION AND VISITOR ECONOMY CONFERENCE

Department: Executive Services

Author: Councillor Johnston

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

File No: GR.ME.2

Recommendation:
That Council note the report from Councillor Johnston on the 2026 Destination and Visitor Economy Conference.

Reason for Report:
The 2026 Destination and Visitor Economy Conference was held at Maitland on 27 to 29 May and was attended by Councillor Stephen Johnston and Councils Manager Tourism and Communications.

Report:
The 3 day event held at Maitland Town Hall was attended by hundreds of delegates from across the State. As Part of this event, the NSW Tourism Association awards were made.

Awards
There were Tourism Town awards based on population size and a corresponding Peoples Choice award.

Millthorpe was awarded silver in the Tiny Towns Category (less than 1500 residents). The NRMA Peoples Choice award for the same category was won by Millthorpe.

Accepting the awards on behalf of Blayney Council, I paid tribute to the hard work by the community of Millthorpe and it's role in promoting the wider Blayney Council community.



Below is a very good summary of what the awards mean for Blayney area as written by Councils Manager Tourism & Communications:

NSW TOP TOURISM TOWN WINNERS FOR 2026 – BLAYNEY SHIRE SHINES AS MILLTHORPE WINS BIG
Blayney Shire is celebrating a standout result in the 2026 NSW Top Tourism Town Awards, with Millthorpe once again earning state-wide recognition and reinforcing its place as one of regional NSW's most compelling visitor destinations.

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

For Blayney Shire, the honour is a fitting tribute to Millthorpe's enduring appeal. With its beautifully preserved heritage streetscape, acclaimed food and wine experiences, boutique shopping and warm country welcome, the village continues to captivate visitors seeking authenticity, character and a slower pace. It is also a proud reflection of the wider visitor experience across Blayney Shire, where historic villages, scenic country drives and genuine local hospitality invite travellers to linger longer.

<u>Program & Events</u>
After the formal welcoming addresses including the Honorable Stuart Ayres MP the attendees divided into three streams :-

- Advancing Aboriginal Cultural Tourism
- Tips and strategies to build a resilient visitor

- Driving Growth: Unlocking the Power of Road Trips

On the second day the focus was on:

- Tourism Marketing - From Insight to Impact: Tourism Marketing Strategies That Convert and Short Term Rental Discussion.

Site visits were arranged in the afternoon:

- Cultivating connections: Agritourism in action at Tocal
- Creative footsteps: Arts, culture and placemaking in Central Maitland
- Morpeth uncovered: Heritage, hospitality and handcrafted experiences

On the third day the topics were:

- Accelerating Tourism – Funding Pathways and Plug-and-Play Innovation
- Taking Off: How NSW's New Airports Will Boost Tourism
- Unlocking Local Potential: Transforming Council Assets into Visitor Experiences

Conference Reflections

My first time at this event allowed me to network and liaise with other Councillors and staff from various Council's across NSW. It provided me with "the big picture" of tourism and the direction of Destination NSW and how Local Governments, tourism industry and other organisations can play a role.

Tourism is a $68 billon activity and a point demonstrated was that for every $1 spent an additional $1.53 is generated in a local economy. Turning day trips into accommodated night(s) was a big focus by providing expanded activities and / or places of interest for a variety of clientele.

I thank the Council for providing me with the opportunity to represent them and accept the two awards on their behalf.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Nil

Budget Implications:
Allocations are included in the Operational Plan for delegates to attend this conference.

Enclosures (following report)
Nil

Attachments (separate document)
Nil

27) COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION OF NSW - ROADS, TRANSPORT AND DISASTER RECOVERY FORUM - BALLINA 1-2 JULY 2026

Department: Executive Services

Author: Councillor Reynolds

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

File No: GO.ME.1

Recommendation:
That Council note the report from the Mayor on the recent Country Mayors Association meeting held 1-2 July 2026.

Reason for Report:
To update Council on the recent Country Mayors Association (CMA) meeting held 1-2 July 2026.

Report:
The Mayor attended Country Mayors Association meeting on 1 and 2 July 2026 in Ballina.

The Mayor lobbied on behalf of the Central NSW Joint Organisation of Councils for some funding for the other ways to the west campaign, with the closure of the Great Western Highway. While the two ministers both agreed it was a great campaign, there was no commitment that the state government would provide any funding to invest in this campaign.



The Mayor also spoke with the Roads and Regional Transport Minister Jenny Aitchison about grant funding for bridges, particularly composite bridges. While there is currently not a funding round available, the minister did ask for Blayney Shire Council to write to her office with an indication of where there is a need for bridge funding.

The Mayor also had discussions with Essential Energy about ensuring adequate supplies of electricity for Blayney Shire. This discussion has now established a good connection between Essential Energy and the Council examining future energy needs for the Shire.

These three discussions highlight the value of attending Country Mayors events.

The Communique to come from this event is enclosed.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Nil

Budget Implications:
Allocations are included in the Operational Plan for delegates to attend this meeting.

Enclosures (following report)

1	Country Mayors Association Communique	9 Pages

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

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COMMUNIQUÉ

Country Mayors Association of NSW
Roads, Transport and Disaster Recovery forum
Ballina 1-2 July, 2026

The Country Mayors Association of NSW (CMA) held a Roads, Transport and Disaster Recovery conference from Wednesday 1st to Thursday 2nd July in Ballina. Ballina Shire provided warm hospitality and professional event management.

About 65 CMA Members from across rural, remote and regional NSW attended.



Welcome drinks on the Wednesday evening took place at the lavishly restored Shaws Bay Hotel. We were treated to a spellbinding performance by local barbershop choral group "The Headliners".



Host Mayor and CMA Board Member Sharon Cadwallader and Acting CMA Chairman Mayor Russell Webb addressed the function.

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COMMUNIQUÉ

The Ramada Hotel and Suites on the Richmond River was an ideal venue.



The first speaker on the Thursday morning was **NSW Minister for Roads and Regional Transport, the Hon. Jenny Aitchison MP**, whose passionate and earnest approach was well received.



Minister Aitchison said a $5.5 billion damage bill for roads impacted by disasters led to a tri-partite agreement and an improvement in delivery efficiency. She promoted the road infrastructure spending from her Government outside of Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.
The Minister announced the awarding of Great Western Highway contract and expressed her frustration with some of the criticisms, particularly the false statements that the Highway is closed – there is a 20-25min diversion. The Minister said she and her team have worked as hard and as fast as possible to resolve this complex infrastructure issue.

Minister Aitchison also described the complexity of a permanent fix for the Waterfall Way but said the $20-30mil detour upgrade funding was delivered.

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COMMUNIQUÉ

NSW Minister for Recovery, the Hon. Janelle Saffin MP



Minister Saffin began by highlighting the disaster recovery roles of Councils and that there should not be politics in recovery and reconstruction.

In August 2023, the Reconstruction Authority was established and tackled record breaking disasters. They need to improve how they tell their story.
Reactive to adaptative is a process we need to focus on for years to come. Betterment or building back smarter now exists.

The Colvin Review has a preliminary response from the Federal Government, regarding disaster funding with 65% from the Federal Government and 35% from NSW, so there is concern about the Federal Government's recent proposal for a funding change to 50-50.

Minister Saffin said that mitigation, resilience and prevention measures are a core focus, statewide.

Members sought support for Central West communities impacted by the Great Western Highway. Members also offered to assist with the lobbying to retain the 65-35 Federal-State disaster funding arrangement in NSW. Strong advocacy to the Federal Minister was requested by Minister Saffin.

Members expressed grave concerns about the proposal to increase the minimum eligible State expenditure required to trigger Commonwealth disaster support from $240,000 to $2.7 million, as part of the Albanese Government's overhaul of the Disaster Recovery Funding Framework.

LGNSW CEO Mr David Reynolds said that he and the Insurance Council have started looking into what the proposed changes might mean for Council premiums.

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COMMUNIQUÉ

NSW Nationals Leader Mr Gurmesh Singh MP was next on the agenda.



Mr Singh recalled that when they were in Government, they rolled out disaster funding for things that Councils normally do themselves, like sporting fields.
He described the recent approach of not funding for betterment as stupid.
Mr Singh said the proposed change to the 50-50 funding split is a huge concern

Mr Singh commented that Byron Bay felt the housing crisis first, the people who work there cannot afford to live there but that is becoming the case for much of coastal NSW. He said you're lucky to find a family home for under around a million dollars on the coast and this will be one of the biggest challenges for the current and coming generations.

The NSW Coalition's 25% regional infrastructure funding guarantee – that's a minimum but the break up has not been determined yet.

Retention basins in Coffs were put in over a decade ago and they have made a difference. Governments should do that kind of work. The mitigation in the CSIRO report should be worked on.

Asked what are we going to do to get the population out of Sydney but into less disaster-prone locations, Mr Singh said Australia does not have large populations outside of the capitals, like other countries (with a few exceptions). We need to nurture and promote opportunities in regional centres.

The final three presentations have been distributed to the CMA Membership.

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Essential Energy's Head of Operations – North, Mr. Robert Ridley gave a data-rich presentation. Mr Ridley assured Lachlan Shire Mayor and CMA Board Member John Medcalf OAM that there are no depot closures on the horizon. Blayney Shire Mayor Reynolds voiced concerns about reaching capacity and was advised that network planning is occurring. Essential Energy had their disaster response vehicle on show for CMA members. Getting the power back on is a priority but powering up devices provides practical and immediate support.





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COMMUNIQUÉ

NRMA Policy Advisor – Transport & Data, Mr Jonathan Malota, and Mr. Michael Kwok from Compass IoT announced exciting new data technology soon to be at the fingertips of CMA members. There were some concerns about 'big brother' data collection but members were assured that the data is aggregated ensuring individual data is anonymous and secure.



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COMMUNIQUÉ

Reconstruction Authority CEO Ms. Kate Fitzgerald said that the Reconstruction Authority has come a long way in a few short but gruelling years. Disaster recovery funding processes have become more efficient.

In regards to the Federal Government's proposed new Disaster Recovery Funding Framework, Ms Fitzgerald said the Queensland Government has made their objections known. Victoria is neutral to support but the NSW Government is still investigating the implications and financial figures before putting forward its position and the case for it.



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COMMUNIQUÉ

The CMA Roads, Transport and Disaster Recovery event concluded (appropriately) with a bus tour.



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"What we want is nothing more than equity"

COMMUNIQUÉ





28) MCPHILLAMYS GOLD PROJECT: MAY 2026 COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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 25 May 2026.

Reason for Report:
To update Council on the Community Consultative Committee meeting held on 25 May 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 would 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 for tailings management, the water pipeline and electricity 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:
Merger Announced with Vault Minerals
Regis Resources and Vault Minerals have agreed on a merger. Nevertheless, it was observed that Regis would continue to operate as usual, with no executive changes currently proposed. He said the merger of equals would increase operational scale and experience, particularly on the west coast, and that McPhillamys would be a significant growth asset in the combined entity.

The question was asked whether the merger would have any impact on the wider community. Regis confirmed that there would be no impact, whatsoever.

Section 10 Declaration and Judicial Review
While the court hearing was held in December 2025, Regis is still waiting on the outcome of the section 10 judicial review.

MGIP – Overview
Members were shown the yellow areas highlighted on the map which showed the study area for potential additional footprint for the integrated waste landform (IWL), which is proposed as an alternative to the original tailings dam. The map also showed two options for electricity transmission lines connecting to the mine from the north or south.

Regis reminded members that they were seeking approval for a revised water pipeline alignment due to several minor changes to the original route involving landowners, roads and related constraints.

Regis advised that separate Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) processes would be required for the alternative option, as approvals would shift from the State Significant Development (SSD) pathway to the State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) pathway and require approval by the Minister for Planning. Regis agreed to provide CCC members with clearer maps showing the additional footprint at future meetings. Some members observed that, if the IWL alternative proceeds, the significant landform feature would affect Kings Plains.

A resident said the proposal represented a substantial change from the original tailings dam option and considered it to be a new project. Regis acknowledged the scale of the change and that it did represent a new version of the Project and advised that further community engagement with Kings Plains' residents and the wider community was planned.

Regis also shared the proposed study areas around the mine site. CCC members expressed concern that the alternative proposal was significantly different from the original proposal and should not be treated as a minor modification. Regis confirmed this was not a modification but rather a new project. A resident of Kings Plains raised concern about the effect of the proposed alternative on the locality, including the Mid-Western Highway, and its impact on residents' lifestyle and liveability. Concern was also expressed about the effect on the local community and the role of government in the approval process.

Regis noted that modelling and studies for the EISs were underway and that the findings would be shared with the CCC when available. They said that, while the alternative was not Regis' preference, it was considered necessary to enable the project to proceed.

Another resident outlined the impact of the uncertainty on his family and property, stating that his family had moved to Kings Plains to establish their home and future there. He said the effect of the mine proposal on that future remained uncertain and that they felt they were living in limbo until the development plans were determined. They said no alternatives had been

offered and that the property would have a direct line of sight to the proposed landforms.

A triple C member asked whether a better visual representation of the proposed landforms and buffer zones could be provided. Regis advised that an improved visual representation would be shared when available.

The Mayor asked to see the proposed visual and noise buffer zones and asked whether they would form part of the EIS. McPhillamys advised that buffer zones were applicable to the north and west of the development, but that options to the south were limited by the highway boundary. A Kings Plains resident noted that residents were located to the south of the mine and asked what other options McPhillamys was considering.

Approvals
Regis observed that the three EIS' are currently being drafted with many specialist studies currently underway. Regis is still seeking to have the documents completed by the end of the year but this may move into early 2027.

Regis noted that, if the section 10 determination was overturned, redetermination by the new Minister would still be required and the process would likely remain lengthy.

The Mayor noted two weeks prior he met Minister Murray Watt and the Minister is keeping briefed about the project.

Regis is currently undertaking archaeological test excavations over the following three weeks. The sites included both new and existing locations to be included for the EIS submissions.

Regis then shared an extensive list of the studies required for the three EIS'. She noted that the purpose of the studies was to gather extensive baseline data for the project. Then they observed that she would be interested to hear from CCC members which of the studies members would be interested in hearing more about in the future. Members were also advised that, as part of environmental monitoring, an additional stream-flow gauge had been deployed to monitor water and identify any impact from the integrated waste landform.

Community Update
It was noted that Regis had continued supporting local community groups through drop-in sessions and face-to-face meetings with local businesses. They said that the project was mainly focused on providing support to local health, education, sporting and youth initiatives. Regis advised that Regis was working through internal audit report findings regarding rural landholdings to determine where improvements can be made. Ongoing rural lease options were also being considered for vacant landholdings.

Regis also noted that current communication methods may need to be adjusted to improve effectiveness. They provided an overview of the recently completed McPhillamys Gold Project Community Sentiment Research 2026 report. The report results suggest broad community support for McPhillamys continues, reflecting similar patterns from previous surveys. There is still stable community sentiment in relation to the proposed mine. The report considered the perspectives of residents across the Bathurst, Blayney, Cabonne, and Orange LGAs. Findings attached.

General Business
In relation to the slide presenting the wide array of specialist studies that need to be undertaken, the chair split committee members into two groups for discussion. In particular, members were asked to discuss amongst themselves what they identified as being the studies that they believed were critical and therefore, could be discussed in greater detail as upcoming meetings through 2026.

After discussing the matter for 20 minutes in groups, the wider committee reconvened. CCC members noted interest in discussing in future meetings the findings of the following issues and EIS assessments:

- Noise
- Air quality / dust
- Human health risk assessment / Mental health
- Visual impact
- Social impact
- IWL technical summary
- Surface water / ground water quality

Members had no other general business to discuss.

Next Meeting
The chair and Regis we asked to provide a general timeframe with respect to when members could anticipate that the specialist studies would be available for discussion. Regis advised that this remained fluid, given the interrelationship between the studies and the influence that the results of one assessment may have on another. However, the results of some studies could be available for discussion in the next few months.

The CCC agreed to hold additional meetings to consider the findings of the nominated studies. Members agreed that a frequency of approximately six to eight weeks would be appropriate, depending on the progress and timing of the studies. Regis offered to explore whether the social impact consultant could present to the CCC during their visit at the end of August. Proposed next meeting dates were 27 July or, alternatively, 17 August. The chair thanked members for their time and advised that the aim then was to hold the next meeting on Monday 27 July 2026.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Nil

Budget Implications:
Nil

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

1	McPhillamys CCC Presentation	17 Pages

29) CANOBOLAS ZONE NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE BUSH FIRE LIAISON COMMITTTEE 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 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 10 June 2026.

Maintenance and Repairs Financial Report for Canobolas Zone
The Canobolas RFS expenditure for the FY 2025/26 detailing the expenditure up to 5th June 2026. The Canobolas tracking register shows an expenditure in the order of $562,235 from a set budget of $650,000, with further funds available of $87,764. The total Allocation Amount the financial year is $666.681. Servicing and station repairs are ongoing, and we expect that will take up the remainder of the budget.

Asset Update
There are only three stations/training facilities being developed. Below is an updated Fire Station build forecast on the Stations currently under construction or planning:

- Eugowra 4A 10% completed. DA Approved, Tender now out.
- Woodstock 2A 100% 20K Rectification works under way due for completion June 2026
- Spring Creek HFTF 99% 10K DGR Funding portion – Gas Props installed, finalising signage, training for users completed, Final touches, nearly ready to open.

They were still waiting on the allocations for the next financial year, 26-27 but were not expecting to see any further infrastructure for this year in the Canobolas Zone.

Rural Fire Service Fleet Update
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. At this stage, the RFS has undertaken an independent fleet audit. No Change at this stage.
Note: This has now progressed since this meeting with the NSW Government announcing a handback of the fleet on 1 July 2027.

New Fleet and Equipment Report
The district has received the following replacement resources for our District Brigades in the 2025/26 Financial Year:
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 of

There were no other fleet allocations in the 25/26 financial year. It is hoped there will be addition vehicles allocated to the Canobolas Zone in 2026-27 Financial year, given the age of the current fleet.

Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) Concerns
Following the identification of issues among some Cat 9 vehicles, we have now broadened the assessment program to include all RFS firefighting vehicle categories. Early findings indicate potential GVM issues with some Cat 2 dual cabs, Cat 7 dual cabs, and Cat 1s with mid mounted pump configurations. In some cases, the issue is total vehicle weight. In others, it is axle specific compliance, often on the front axle. Some exceedances have resulted from additional equipment or modifications made after handover.

To support continued operations during this period, the Fleet team is working closely with Area Commands, Districts and Brigades to implement safe, temporary measures where required. These temporary measures may include adjustments to crew sizes or to onboard equipment to enable vehicles to remain operational.
Category 1 single cab variants with mid-mounted pumps
- Maximum total crew weight: 200kg • Maximum crew number: 2

Category 2 dual cab variants
- Maximum total crew weight: 300kg • Maximum crew number: 3

Category 7 – Mitsubishi Canter dual cab variants
- Maximum total crew weight: 400kg • Maximum crew number: 4

Category 7 – Isuzu NPS300 dual cab variants
- Maximum total crew weight: 400kg • Maximum crew number: 4

Category 9 – Selected appliances (appliances that do not yet have axle weights recorded) • Maximum total crew weight: 180kg • Maximum crew number: 2

While we have 4 Cat 9 vehicles temporarily offline, all other vehicles remain operational, with interim measures in place where necessary.

This currently has minimal impact on response and community safety while we work through solutions.

Operational Services Report
Since 1 July 2025 Canobolas Brigades have attend a total of 624 incidents (correct 03 June 26), made up of 228 Bush & Grass and 100 MVA's. This is up approximately 5% on figures from this time last year.

The average turnout time (01 July 25 to 03 June 2026) for response is 6.6 minutes with an average travel time of 7.0 minutes. Whilst the average incident duration 70 mins.

Training
Training for 2026 is currently underway as we build capacity for the upcoming fire session. Currently the RFS is developing a new training pathways package for our volunteers to able to access training modules easier and make the training more relevant. Also, a new training management system is development which will ease the workload on staff and volunteers.

Enclosures (following report)
Nil

Attachments (separate document)
Nil

30) AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (ALGA) CONFERENCE, REGIONAL FORUM AND NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Department: Executive Services

Author: Councillor Reynolds and Councillor Gosewisch

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

File No: GR.LR.1

Recommendation:
That Council note the delegates report from the Mayor and Cr Gosewisch on the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Conference, Regional Forum and National General Assembly of Local Government.

Reason for Report:
To update Council on the recent Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Conference, Regional Forum and National General Assembly of Local Government.

Report:
More than 1,100 Local Government members from across Australia gathered in Canberra from 23–25 June 2026 for the 32nd National General Assembly (NGA) of Local Government, convened by the Australian Local Government Association.

Prior to the General Assembly, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Conference was held on 22 June 2026 in Parliament House. This was an opportunity for Councillors and senior staff to discuss matters with a number of Federal Politicians in the Great Hall of Parliament House.

The following is a summary of each minister comments in order of appearance.

Claire O'Neil - Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Cities.
She stated the Australia Government has three Policy Positions in her portfolio area. These are building more homes, getting renters a better deal and increased home ownership.

Ms O'Neil stated she wanted to know how we can partner with local government. She also discussed the local infrastructure fund. It will fund essential infrastructure, and it must be shovel ready to get grant funding. The fund covers water/electricity/sewerage. It only covers housing and not things like libraries. The Government is currently finalizing the guidelines at present. Applications will open in September, and it will run over four years. Rural and

Regional Councils across Australia have been allocated $500 million of the 2 billion over the four years.

Senator Murray Watt - Minister for the Environment and Water
Discussed the updated Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) (EPBC).

Currently not working for everyone. Trying to balance environmental outcomes with development across Australia. Trying to find a middle ground with the act. Trying to develop Bilateral agreements with the states to reduce approval duplication.

Working to empower state governments to look at state environmental issues but also whether it meets the EPBC act. This will remove the double handling of environmental reviews.

The minister stated that if a project has High environmental values, that project will be stopped. On the other side if a project has low environmental values, the project will be allowed to proceed. It also creates a new pathway where proponents have done their homework before submission.

The overall aim is to simplify the requirements at both levels of government.

There will also be a new EPA at a Commonwealth level. It will accredit state processes to meet the federal government requirements.

Katy Gallagher - Minister for Women, Minister for Government Services, Minister for Finance, Minister for the Public Service
The level of demand is increasing on every level of government across Australia. She acknowledged this included local government.

The Minister acknowledged Councils request for untied funding. She however stated it is very hard to deliver with state constitution requirements. The Minister said a lot of funding has to go indirectly to Councils via State Government. The states take a cut out of any grant funding.

She also acknowledged the Federal inquiry into local government and looked forward to its final report.

Catherine King - Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
The minister stated the Financial Assistance grant funding had increased from $2.6 to $3.6 billion since Labor came into government. This has seen a 35% increase in amount of money available to Councils.

She discussed the Local Government inquiry that is currently underway. Government looking forward to the findings of the inquiry.

The Roads to Recovery grant funding was also discussed. The Minister highlighted the substantial increase in funding under this program. $1 Billion a year in the forward estimates has been allocated for this program.

She also stated the Local Infrastructure fund will soon be open for applications.

The Minister discussed the focus on housing at a federal government level. She stated they are trying to get more town planners.

Infrastructure resilience was needed to reduce the impact of natural disasters.

The Minister also suggested the State Governments should adequately fund local government.

There was also some discussion on inland Rail. Rail spend should focus on improving current infrastructure and not on inland rail. She said Inland Rail may be viable in 20 or 30 years.

Kristy McBain - Minister for Emergency Management, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories
The Minister discussed Betterment of infrastructure after Natural Disasters. There was also discussion on the fuel crisis. More stocks on hand than any time since fuel stocks were created.

She acknowledged that Disaster Management funding hasn't kept pace. Also the current process is really burdensome. The Minister stated that fairness and equity required across the states with no two disasters the same.

There was a discussion about the upcoming Ausalert test. Everyone who is covered by mobile phones will get an alert, even if from another carrier on 27 July.

There was a question on FAG Indexation and some discussion on changes to FAG formula. Pointed out that for someone to gain extra benefit, another Council will lose out as the amount of money each year is fixed.

There was also a discussion on cost shifting onto local government. The Commonwealth Government said the states should support local councils more.

Day 2: Regional Forum held at the National Convention Centre
The Regional Forum explored the conditions required to support thriving regional communities, including infrastructure, workforce availability, housing, emergency management and service delivery.

These discussions reinforced the importance of national policy settings that recognise local context, and the need for flexible approaches that reflect the diversity of communities across Australia.

The Highlight was a presentation from Demographer Simon Kuestenmacher who's talk was titled State of the Regions:

Some of his key points:

- The population at the end of World War 2 was seven million people. Now we have 28 million. It is expected to double over the next 50 to 100 years to be around 60 million people.
- 66% of population live in 5 cities
- Gold Coast is the only new city since WW2
- Age Care sector will need to double by 2040 to cope with need

For regional cities, towns and shires to grow he believes you need to have at least 1 out of each of the following groups.

- Jobs: Range, Availability, Longevity
- Housing: Availability, Affordability, Variety
- Services: Health, education, retail
- Connectivity: Remoteness, Transport, access to digital
- Amenity: Climate, location, nature
- Risk: Exposure, insurability, adaptation

There were several politicians who also presented at the Forum. Most had the same message as was stated the day before at the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Conference. The report does not repeat what was said the previous day.

Other topics discussed included:

- Disaster Management Fatigue. It was highlighted a lot of Local Government areas had been impacted by Natural Disasters. Some on many occasions in the past few years. There were examples of how to manage fatigue.
- National Productivity and Local Roads, where there was a focus on large vehicle like A and B triples.
- Opportunities and Challenges - Renewable Transition. There was a lot of discussion on the challenges encountered by Local Government. There were some opportunities outlined but these appeared limited outside of Planning Agreements.
- Regional Health, where there was a large focus on Mental Health in Rural and Regional areas.

Day 3 and Day 4: National General Assembly of Local Government

The Conference provided an opportunity for delegates to engage in preliminary discussions on national priorities for the local government sector, hear from key stakeholders, and contribute to shaping the advocacy agenda that was further developed during the NGA. It also enabled early engagement and networking across Councils, strengthening collaboration ahead of the formal Assembly program.

The Assembly commenced with a Welcome to Country delivered by Paul Girrawah House and Selina Walker, representatives of the Ngambri and Ngunnawal peoples.

Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia, formally opened the Assembly.

A key focus of this year's NGA was the sector's coordinated advocacy for fairer Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs). Delegates supported an emergency motion and correspondence to the Speaker of the House of Representatives calling on the Australian Parliament to restore FAGs to 1 per cent of federal taxation revenue annually. This advocacy position was supported by unions representing local government employees across the country, reflecting broad sector alignment on this issue. Delegates reinforced that sustainable, untied federal funding is essential for councils to continue delivering critical local infrastructure, services and community outcomes. Attached is a letter from ALGA that was sent to the Speaker of the House of Representatives dated 24 June 2026, following this conference held in Canberra.



The Assembly provided an opportunity to hear directly from a range of federal, territory and parliamentary leaders, including representatives from both major parties and crossbenchers.

The 2026 Assembly was held under the theme Stronger Together: Resilient. Productive. United., highlighting the sector's shared commitment to collaboration across all levels of government to achieve improved outcomes for communities.

The program included both the long-running Regional Forum and the inaugural Urban Forum, recognising the differing opportunities and challenges across regional and metropolitan Australia.

Across the Assembly, delegates engaged in discussions on key pressures facing Councils, including financial sustainability, roads and enabling infrastructure, emergency management, workforce and skills shortages, climate resilience, disability inclusion and community cohesion.

Councils also shared case studies demonstrating local innovation, service delivery challenges and community-led solutions. The program included practical workshops, including a session focused on improving decision-making and implementation outcomes.

The Assembly concluded with sessions providing practical tools and insights in areas such as rate management, grant funding, asbestos management and respectful online engagement.

The Assembly also launched several important resources to support councils' advocacy, planning and service delivery, including:

- The 2026 National State of the Assets Report, providing an evidence-based assessment of local government infrastructure condition and renewal needs; The report can be found here: https://alga.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/ALGA0001-NSOA26-Summary-Report-v3.pdf
- The 2025 Australian Local Government Workforce Skills and Capability Survey, offering insights into workforce challenges and future capability requirements; The NSW report can be found here: https://psa-directus-prod.azurewebsites.net/assets/bfbdaa41-bd2b-4e30-9cd9-da4d0988d87e.pdf
- A Disability Inclusion Guide for Councils, developed with Australian Government support, to assist councils in embedding inclusion across planning, infrastructure, services and community engagement. The guide can be found here: https://lgdisabilityinclusion.au/

Motions:
A total of 243 motions were submitted by councils across Australia, forming a central component of the Assembly. These motions will be referred to relevant Ministers and will inform the Australian Local Government Association's national advocacy priorities over the coming year.

Blayney Shire Council did not submit any motions to this years conference.

A couple of motions highlighted by Cr Craig Gosewisch were:
Motion Number 150 Brisbane City Council QLD
This called on the Australian Government to create a centralised national regulated dog database that records ownership, registration and relevant behavioural or compliance history

Key arguments
Currently in QLD each council has a separate data base so no consistency if dog move between local government areas or interstate meaning doubling up of resources per council (in NSW it is done by OLG)

The motion was carried.

Motion Number 234 Maribyrnong City Council VIC
NGA calls on the Australian Government to work with states and territories to establish national guidance and incentives for safer default speed limits including

- Mandatory 30 km/h limit around all school and childcare centres
- 30 km/h on local roads within major activity centres/pedestrian areas
- Commonwealth funding

Key argument
Lower speeds significantly reduce deaths and serious injuries while also improving neighbourhood amenity and safety.

This motion got vigorously debated with some of the arguments against stating every road is different and having the same limit for a road that may have 1000's of vehicles a hour compared to on that has 10 a hour.

It was eventually voted down.

Conclusion: Overall, the 2026 NGA highlighted the critical role of Local Government in supporting Australia's resilience, productivity and social cohesion. The Assembly reinforced the importance of strong intergovernmental partnerships, sustainable funding arrangements and continued advocacy to ensure local communities are well supported into the future. The Communique from the conference is attached.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:
Nil

Budget Implications:
Allocations are included in the Operational Plan for delegates to attend this conference.

Enclosures (following report)

1	ALGA Letter for Speaker	1 Page
2	National General Assembly of Local Government Communique	4 Pages

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

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Wednesday 24 June 2026

The Hon Milton Dick MP
Member for Oxley
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Speaker,

Fairer Funding now to avert a crisis for Local Councils

On behalf of the 538 local councils serving communities across Australia, we have taken the extraordinary step of collectively writing to you, and the whole Parliament, to warn of a financial crisis affecting Local Government in this country.

We come from all corners of the continent and represent every community in Australia, but we are speaking with one voice to say that the lack of fair untied funding for Local Government - as a percentage of national taxation - is threatening the viability of councils across the country.

This crisis is particularly acute in rural, regional and remote areas of Australia where communities are the most isolated and councils face the biggest financial challenges. Our cities and urban councils are also facing rapid growth that puts pressure on their ability to meet the needs of their communities.

Councils provide vital services and infrastructure that our national economy and productivity rely upon. The success of our Australian system of government depends upon our councils succeeding at a grassroots level.

But this system is in jeopardy. Long term planning and delivery requires long term financial security and certainty. Councils have limited options to raise revenue and in many cases are highly reliant on untied Financial Assistance Grants from the Commonwealth.

Over time the value of these grants has steadily decreased, creating an uncertain and unfair funding situation for councils. This lack of long-term, secure, untied and adequate funding prevents councils and communities from determining their own priorities and making investments in the infrastructure and services needed across Australia.

For these reasons, councils of all sizes across every state and territory are calling on the Australian Parliament to act and deliver fairer funding of an immediate increase of $3.5 billion, restoring Financial Assistance Grants to 1% of federal taxation revenue annually.

We are tabling a copy of this letter to all Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate in the hope of a multi-partisan approach to address this crisis. The very future of Local Government and the communities we serve depends upon it.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Mayor Matt Burnett
ALGA President & LGAQ President

[redacted]

Mayor Darcy Byrne
LGNSW President

[redacted]

Cr Peter Pangquee BM
LGANT President

[redacted]

Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross
LGA SA President

[redacted]

Mayor Mick Tucker
LGAT President

[redacted]

Cr Jennifer Anderson
MAV President

[redacted]

Mayor Mark Irwin AM
WALGA President

ALGA
Australian Local Government Association

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Posted on 25 Jun, 2026

2026 National General Assembly of Local Government communique



More than 1,100 local government leaders from across Australia gathered in Canberra from 23–25 June for the 32nd National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA), convened by the Australian Local Government Association.

Paul Girrawah House and Selina Walker, representatives of the Ngambri and Ngunnawal peoples delivered the Welcome to Country. Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia, formally opened the Assembly.

A key focus of this year's NGA was the sector's united advocacy for fairer Financial Assistance Grants, including support for an emergency motion and letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives calling on the Australian Parliament to restore Financial Assistance Grants to 1 per cent of federal taxation revenue annually. This strong call was supported by the Australian Services Union and United Services Union – who represent the many of local government employees across the country.

Delegates reinforced that sustainable, untied federal funding is essential if councils are to continue delivering the infrastructure, services and local solutions their communities need.

We heard from a range of federal, territory and parliamentary leaders across the Assembly, including the Honourable Catherine King MP, the Honourable Kristy McBain MP, the Honourable Claire O'Neil MP, the Honourable Julian Hill MP, Mr Jamie Chaffey MP, Senator Andrew Bragg, Senator the Honourable Matt Canavan, and ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr MLA.

This year's Assembly was held under the theme **Stronger Together: Resilient. Productive. United**, reflecting the sector's shared commitment to working with all levels of government to deliver better outcomes for local communities.

The 2026 program featured both the long-running Regional Forum and the inaugural Urban Forum, recognising the distinct opportunities and challenges facing regional and metropolitan Australia.

The Regional Forum focused on the conditions needed for thriving regional communities, including infrastructure, workforce, housing, emergency management and service delivery.

The inaugural Urban Forum highlighted the scale and complexity of challenges facing Australia's cities, including population growth, liveability, productivity, transport, housing and community infrastructure.

Together, these discussions reinforced that effective national policy must reflect local context, and that no single approach will meet the needs of every community.

Across the Assembly, delegates engaged in a program focused on the major pressures shaping councils and communities. Key themes included local government financial sustainability, roads and enabling infrastructure, emergency management, workforce and skills, climate resilience, disability inclusion and a focus on community cohesion.

Councils from across Australia also shared practical case studies and on-the-ground experience, highlighting the local innovation, service delivery pressures and community-led solutions that are shaping policy and practice across the sector.

Jason Clarke's Listen and Action workshop challenged delegates to move from discussion to delivery, offering practical tools to sharpen ideas, build consensus and turn community insight into tangible action.

The Assembly was rounded out with a final session providing delegates with useful tools and insights, including how to manage rate payments, secure grants, strengthen the management of asbestos, and support respectful engagement in an increasingly online world.

The Assembly also launched three important sector resources to support councils' advocacy, planning and delivery. ALGA's 2026 National State of the Assets Report provided an evidence-based picture of the condition, performance and renewal challenge of local government infrastructure. The 2025 Australian Local Government Workforce Skills and Capability Survey offered valuable insights into the sector's workforce and future capability needs, while ALGA's new Disability Inclusion Guide for Councils, developed with support from the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, was launched as a practical online resource to help councils embed inclusion across planning, infrastructure, services, employment and community engagement.

Motions and Assembly Outcomes

As in previous years, motions from councils across Australia formed a central part of the Assembly with 243 motions put forward this year, demonstrating the strength of councils' grassroots advocacy and the importance of bringing local priorities directly to Canberra.

Motions passed by the NGA will be referred to relevant Ministers for response and will help inform ALGA's national advocacy and policy priorities in the year ahead.

The 2026 NGA confirmed that local government remains essential to Australia's resilience, productivity and social cohesion. Stronger together, local governments will continue to advocate for sustainable funding, stronger policy partnerships and the recognition needed to build stronger communities across Australia.

Building Communities.



Contact

Subscribe

About us

Privacy Policy



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ALGA acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work, the Ngunnawal and Ngambri Peoples, and pays respect to their Elders past and present. As a federated body, ALGA's member associations are based and work across the country, and ALGA acknowledges Australia's First Nations Peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waters on which we all work and live.

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

31) SALE OF INDUSTRIAL LAND (EOI 2/2026)
This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) (di) of the Local Government Act, as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.