



17 April 2025

Dear Councillor,

Your attendance is requested at an Ordinary Council Meeting of the Blayney Shire Council to be held in the Chambers, Blayney Shire Community Centre on Tuesday, 22 April 2025 at 6.00pm for consideration of the following business -

- (1) Livestreaming Video and Audio Check
- (2) Acknowledgement of Country
- (3) Recording of Meeting Statement
- (4) Statement of Ethical Obligations
- (5) Apologies for non-attendance
- (6) Disclosures of Interest
- (7) Public Forum
- (8) Mayoral Minute
- (9) Notices of Motion
- (10) Confirmation of Minutes - Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25.03.25
- (11) Matters arising from Minutes
- (12) Reports of Staff
 - (a) Executive Services
 - (b) Corporate Services
 - (c) Infrastructure Services
 - (d) Planning and Environmental Services
- (13) Delegates Reports
- (14) Closed Meeting

Mark Dicker
General Manager

Meeting Calendar 2025

April

<u>Time</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
10.00am	16 April 2025	Central Tablelands Water Meeting	Grenfell
6.00pm	22 April 2025	Council Meeting	Community Centre
8.30am	23 April 2025	Orange 360 Board Meeting	Orange

May

<u>Time</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
8.30am	9 May 2025	Country Mayors	Sydney
2.00pm	16 May 2025	Central Tablelands Weeds Authority Meeting	Bathurst
9.00am	22 May 2025	Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting	Online
6.00pm	27 May 2025	Council Meeting	Community Centre
10.00am	29 May 2025	Central NSW Joint Organisation Meeting	Orange

June

<u>Time</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
4.00pm	11 June 2025	NSW Rural Fire Service Canobolas Zone Liaison Committee	Canobolas
10.00am	13 June 2025	Traffic Committee Meeting	Community Centre
10.00am	18 June 2025	Central Tablelands Water Meeting	Canowindra
2.00pm	20 June 2025	Central Tablelands Weeds Authority Meeting	Bathurst
6.00pm	23 June 2025	Council Meeting	Community Centre
8.30am	25 June 2025	Orange 360 Board Meeting	Orange

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HELD ON TUESDAY 22 APRIL 2025

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LIVE STREAMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

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

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) 2025 FEDERAL ELECTION MATTERS**Author:** Councillor Reynolds**File No:** GR.FL.1**Recommendation:**

That Council note the identified priorities for the upcoming 2025 Federal Election which will be distributed to candidates in the seat of Calare.

Reason for Report:

For Council to note the following identified priorities to raise and inform candidates of:

- Great Western Highway upgrade funding
- Financial Assistance Grant funding (FAGs) being indexed by 10% per annum for 10 years to bring it up to one percent of Commonwealth revenue.
- Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program retained and or expanded
- Return of small percentage of taxation collected from mining and renewable energy companies back to regional Australia communities who are impacted by these developments.
- Financial support to Councils and communities for the challenges, both financial and social with Wind Farms, solar facilities and powerline projects
- Review of McPhillamy's Gold Mine section 10 declaration process
- A review of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act* 1984 (specifically section 10). It is now 40 years old and not functioning for the consideration of all stakeholders
- Any section 10 declaration needs to consider compensation for communities and Councils impacted by such declarations
- Funding for Main Street upgrading, beautification, greening projects (noting Blayney and Millthorpe have progressed MasterPlans).
- Commonwealth Grant funding for bridges, roads, culverts, sewerage and water projects,
- A no interest loan (or very low interest rate) option from the Commonwealth for Councils for infrastructure such as bridges, roads, culverts, sewerage and water projects over a twenty-year timeframe.
- Doctor Attraction (Change back requirement for doctors entering Australia that they have to work in regional Australia rather than Western Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.)
- Review of eligibility to salary sacrifice part of mortgage under Fringe Benefit Tax exemptions.
It would allow all regional Australia the ability to salary sacrifice \$9,010 mortgage repayment for principal place of residence (not just 'remote' and charity workers).

This would be a cost of living and housing affordability measure and encourage decentralisation out of metropolitan areas and growth in regional Australia.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

02) MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING HELD 25 MARCH 2025**Department:** Executive Services**Author:** General Manager**CSP Link:** 2. Build the Capacity and Capability of Local Governance and Finance**File No:** GO.ME.3**Recommendation:**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 March 2025, being minute numbers 2503/001 to 2503/014 be confirmed.

MINUTES OF THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE CHAMBERS, BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY CENTRE, ON 25 MARCH 2025, COMMENCING AT 6.00PM

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

General Manager (Mr M Dicker), Director Corporate Services (Mr A Franze), Director Infrastructure Services (Mr J Hogan), Director Planning & Environmental Services (Mr A Muir) and 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
Mark Dicker	Non Pecuniary (Significant)	6	35	Minutes of the Financial Assistance Committee Meeting held 13 March 2025	Three daughters play for Blayney and District Netball Association. Wife is a committee member of Blayney and District Netball Association.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING HELD 25 FEBRUARY 2025

2503/001

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 February 2025, being minute numbers 2502/001 to 2502/041 be confirmed.

(Gosewisch/Hutchings)

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillors were advised of a correction to the previous minutes to include Cr Johnston's middle name in the affirmation.

Cr Reynolds asked if the motions had been lodged for the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly. The General Manager confirmed these had been lodged.

Cr Reynolds spoke about the success of both the Blayney Show and the Lyndhurst Country Community Fair, both recipients of Council's Tourism Development Program funding.

EXECUTIVE SERVICES REPORTS

JUNE COUNCIL MEETING DATE

2503/002

RESOLVED:

That Council move the June Council meeting to 6.00pm Monday 23 June 2025.

(Newstead/Gosewisch)

CARRIED

Cr Dorsett requested her name be recorded against this resolution.

TEN4TEN LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE

MOTION:

That Council:

1. Support the request for sponsorship in the amount of \$1,500 for the Ten4Ten Leadership Dialogue from Regional Development Australia Central West and fund it from the Community financial Assistance Program.
2. Include the Ten4Ten Leadership Dialogue program as a recurring annual funding allocation within the Schedule of s.356 contributions of future Operational Plans.

(Newstead/Reynolds)

An **AMENDMENT** was moved by Cr Gosewisch and seconded by Cr Hutchings:

That Council support the request for sponsorship in the amount of \$1,500 for the Ten4Ten Leadership Dialogue from Regional Development Australia Central West and fund it from the Community financial Assistance Program.

(Gosewisch/Hutchings)

The amendment became the substantive motion and was put.

The motion was lost 4 votes to 3.

DRAFT COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2035

2503/003

RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Endorse the Draft Blayney Shire Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035
2. Place the Draft Blayney Shire Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035 on public exhibition for a minimum 28 days.
3. Authorise the General Manager to make minor amendments and changes to the Draft Blayney Shire Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035, prior to exhibition commencing.
4. Receive a report following exhibition of the plan, where submissions and necessary amendments made to the document will be considered, for final adoption.

(Scott/Dorsett)

CARRIED

CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

REPORT OF COUNCIL INVESTMENTS AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2025

2503/004

RESOLVED:

That Council;

1. Note the report indicating Council's investment position as at 28 February 2025.
2. Note the certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer.

(Johnston/Newstead)

CARRIED

The General Manager, Mark Dicker, having declared an interest, left the Chambers.

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD 13 MARCH 2025**

2503/005

RESOLVED:

That Council;

1. Receive the minutes of the meeting held 13 March 2025
2. Adopt the recommendations for 2024/25 – Round 2 of the Community Financial Assistance Program by the Financial Assistance Committee, with the following exclusions:
 - a. defer a decision on the Bucking Bulls Australia application until a report is brought back to Council on the event data and financial performance from the prior year,
 - b. defer a decision on the Flagship Funding under the Community Financial Assistance Program, in the amount of \$15,000 until a business case is put forward by the Sunny Ridge (Mandurama) Golf Club on the future continuing operation of the kitchen/dining room and a report brought back to Council,
 - c. not provide first aid kits to the Blayney & District Netball Association as considered a consumable and hence not eligible,
 - d. not provide any financial assistance to Lifeline as it does not meet the financial assistance grant guidelines.
3. Adopt the recommendation to include Lyndhurst RSL in the recurrent Schedule of Financial Assistance in Council's Operational Plan.
4. Note the current allocated funding, with the above deferrals and exclusions from the Financial Assistance Program, in the amount of \$7,167.

(Reynolds/Gosewisch)

CARRIED

The General Manager, Mark Dicker, returned to the Chambers.

REVIEW OF COUNCIL POLICIES

2503/006

RESOLVED:

That Council;

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

Policy Name
Plaques and Memorials Policy
Procurement Policy

(Gosewisch/Newstead)

CARRIED

YOUTH WEEK 2025**2503/007****RESOLVED:**

That Council;

1. Receive the report on Youth Week 2025; and
2. Adopt the allocations from the 2025 Youth Week Small Grants Program as follows:

Le Danse School	\$ 1,500
Em Dance	\$ 824
Blayney High School*	\$ 2,624
Belgravia Foundation Pty Ltd*	\$ 1,200

**Includes GST*

(Scott/Dorsett)

CARRIED**INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORTS****INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT****2503/008****RESOLVED:**

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

(Gosewisch/Dorsett)

CARRIED**2024/25 ROAD ALLOCATIONS AND CAPITAL WORKS
PRIORITISATION****2503/009****RESOLVED:**

That Council note the update report regarding road allocations, capital works and maintenance programs for 2024/25.

(Gosewisch/Scott)

CARRIED**PROPOSED ROAD NAME - 238 FOREST REEFS ROAD,
MILLTHORPE SUBDIVISION****2503/010****RESOLVED:**

That Council:

1. Note receipt of the request to name the new public road in the subdivision at 238 Forest Reefs Road, Millthorpe "Amesbury Close".
2. Place the request on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days.
3. Following the public exhibition, receive a further report to consider the road naming application.

(Scott/Newstead)

CARRIED

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS

- 2503/011** **KERBSIDE WASTE MANAGEMENT ISSUES**
RESOLVED:
 That Council;
1. Note it has been successful in obtaining grant funding of \$132,775 under the NSW Environment Protection Authority GO FOGO program and the General Manager has executed the funding deed for the program.
 2. Note that a more detailed report will be presented to Council at an upcoming meeting in relation to the joint procurement of kerbside waste, recycling and organics collection services including recycling and organics processing.
- (Scott/Dorsett)
CARRIED

- 2503/012** **DA 2025/0002 SUBDIVISION (BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT)**
LOTS 1 & 2 IN DP 854190, 20-22 PARK STREET,
MILLTHORPE
RESOLVED:
 That Council;
1. Support the Clause 4.6 Exception to development standards; and
 2. Consent to Development Application 2025/0002 for Subdivision (Boundary Adjustment) on Lots 1 & 2 DP 854190, 20-22 Park Street, Millthorpe subject to the recommended conditions of consent, including the following changes to conditions 3 and 4.

EASEMENT FOR SERVICES

3. If required, easements shall be created over any utilities or services that cross boundaries between the allotments.

FENCING

4. The applicant shall submit a plan for the approval of the Director Planning and Environmental Services indicating any fencing and/or landscaping measures to be implemented to sympathetically delineate the newly created boundaries (eastern and southern boundaries of proposed Lot 1). Any landscaping and/or fencing proposed in the approved plan shall be completed prior to the release of the Subdivision Certificate.

(Newstead/Scott)

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

FOR	AGAINST	
Councillor Reynolds		
Councillor Newstead		
Councillor Gosewisch		
Councillor Dorsett		
Councillor Hutchings		
Councillor Scott		
Councillor Johnston		
Total (7)	Total (0)	CARRIED

DELEGATES REPORTS

REPORT OF THE CENTRAL WEST JOINT ORGANISATION BOARD MEETING HELD 27 FEBRUARY 2025

2503/013 RESOLVED:

That Council note the report from the Mayor on the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) Board Meeting held 27 February 2025.

(Scott/Gosewisch)
CARRIED

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

2503/014 RESOLVED:

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

(Newstead/Dorsett)
CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.04pm.

The Minute Numbers 2503/001 to 2503/014 were confirmed on 22 April 2025 and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting held on 25 March 2025.

Cr B Reynolds
CHAIR

03) QUARTERLY OUTSTANDING RESOLUTION REPORT

Department: Executive Services

Author: General Manager

CSP Link: 1. Maintain and Improve Public Infrastructure and Services

File No: GO.ME.1

Recommendation:

That Council note the Outstanding Resolution Report to March 2025.

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 18 resolutions in the report. An update is provided in the comments section from the relevant responsible officer.

It should be noted that:

- Road related land matters, are captured and transferred to a land register, and
- Traffic Committee matters are captured and transferred to a traffic register.

There are currently:

- 22 resolutions outstanding on the land register (which is available on the Councillor portal); and
- 7 resolutions outstanding on the traffic register (which is available on the Councillor portal).

Date of Meeting	Res. No	Resolution	Owner	Comments
16-Apr-24	2404/007	Minutes of the Financial Assistance Committee Meeting held 2 April 2024 RESOLVED That Council: 3. Review the Community Financial Assistance Policy (3I) in relation to its application to financial assistance for: a. the purchase of sporting equipment by Sporting Clubs: b. costs associated with the holding of community events, over and above assistance provided through the waiver of Council fees (as distinct from funding available under the Tourism Development Program): c. renovations and repairs to heritage buildings within the Shire (as distinct from funding available under the Local Heritage Assistance Fund).	DCS	In progress. Finalisation of Community Financial Assistance Program will take place before round 1 in 2025/26. Initial meeting of sub-committee held December 2024. Next meeting proposed before June 2025.
22-Oct-24	2410/016	Blayney Showground User Group RESOLVED That Council: 1. Proceed to create a Blayney Showground User Group Committee. 2. Develop a charter for the Showground User Group. 3. Appoint Councillor Gosewisch as Chair of the Blayney Showground User Group.	GM	Charter to be developed and then EOI seeking committee nominations to be undertaken.
22-Oct-24	2210/018	Blayney Shire Australia Day Committee RESOLVED That Council: 2. Review the structure of the Australia Day Committee following the 2025 Australia Day event.	GM	Review yet to commence.

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.		Mod 15 was approved on 31 January 2025. Condition 13A. stated <i>'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'</i>
26-Nov-24	2411/012	Drainage - Hawke Street, Blayney RESOLVED That Council: 3. Review and update the Active Movement Strategy Works Program 2024/25 to 2033/34 to reflect the reassessed priorities.	MO	Review of AMS to be undertaken in 2025/26. To be removed.

Date of Meeting	Res. No	Resolution	Owner	Comments
25-Feb-25	2502/012	<p>Dungeon Road - Options and Implications of Declaration under Section 10 of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That Council:</p> <p>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'</p> <p>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</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Whether the Declaration has become effective <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment options <input type="checkbox"/> Court Proceedings options <p>5. Note the committed expenditure to date for legal advice on this matter is \$21,500 and approve a supplementary vote of \$31,500</p> <p>6. In noting Court proceedings will likely cost in excess of \$150,000:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	Awaiting to receive opinion from Senior Counsel.

Date of Meeting	Res. No	Resolution	Owner	Comments
25-Feb-25	2502/017	Lease of Graham Lane, Millthorpe RESOLVED That Council grant a 5-year lease to Mr. K and Mrs. A. Jones for part of Graham Lane, from the end of the constructed section of the lane to the eastern most boundary of Lot 40 DP 11125, in the amount of \$320 per annum indexed annually.	DCS	Public notice, per s.156 of Roads Act, of outcome included in Village Voice 20 April 2025. Letter sent with lease copy for execution and to be returned by Lessee duly endorsed.
25-Feb-25	2502/018	Endorsement of Crown Lands Plan of Management RESOLVED That Council: 1. Endorse the draft Plan of Management for Community Land (Crown Reserves) – Open Space, Parks, Sportsgrounds and Community Facilities and place it on public exhibition for at least 42 days for which submissions may be made. 2. Receive a report following exhibition of the plan, where necessary amendments will be made to the document, for final adoption.	DCS	Document placed on public exhibition for statutory period. No submissions received. Report to May Council meeting for adoption.
25-Feb-25	2502/023	Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to the Mayor and Councillors Policy RESOLVED That Council: 1. Place the Payment of Expenses and the Provision of Facilities to the Mayor and Councillors Policy on public exhibition, giving public notice of Council's intention to adopt the policy, for a period of at least 28 days. 2. Receive a report following exhibition of the plan, where submissions and necessary amendments made to the document will be considered, for final adoption.	DCS	Document placed on public exhibition. No submissions received. Report for adoption of policy proposed for April 2025 Council meeting.

Date of Meeting	Res. No	Resolution	Owner	Comments
25-Feb-25	2502/032	Proposed Bridge Naming - Leabeater Street, Lyndhurst RESOLVED That Council: 1. Endorse the proposed naming of the Leabeater Street Bridge over Grubbenbun Creek as the Thomas William Toshack Bridge, and, 2. Place the proposed name on public exhibition for a period of 28 days. 3. Adopt the name as proposed should no submissions be received.	DIS	Placed on public exhibition, no submissions received. Work Order has been issued for manufacture of bridge signage.
25-Feb-25	2502/033	Proposed Bridge Naming - Long Swamp Road, Flyers Creek RESOLVED That Council: 1. Endorse the proposed naming of the Long Swamp Road Bridge over Flyers Creek as the Richard Oswald Rapley Bridge. 2. Place the proposed name on public exhibition for a period of 28 days. 3. Adopt the name as proposed should no submissions be received.	DIS	Placed on public exhibition, no submissions received. Work Order has been issued for manufacture of bridge signage.
25-Feb-25	2502/035	Minutes of the Traffic Committee Meeting held 14 February 2025 RESOLVED That Council: 4. Make application to Transport for NSW for “No Left Turn” and “No Right Turn” (R2-6) signage with supplemental “12.5m and over” (R9-223n) plates be installed on Martha St/Midwestern Hwy, and Orange Rd.	DIS	Quote received from TfNSW, which Council is reviewing. Transferred to Traffic Register. To be removed.
25-Feb-25	2502/037	EOI 3/2016 - Sale of Industrial Land by Council RESOLVED That Council: 1. accept the offer for sale of part Lot 2 DP 1082286 in the amount of \$40,000 including GST; and 2. endorse execution of relevant contracts and associated documentation by the Mayor and General Manager under Council seal if required. 3. provide the purchaser a period of 12 months to exchange contracts for sale.	DCS	Correspondence sent to applicant advising outcome of Council determination, notification of Council legal representative and to clarify next steps.

Date of Meeting	Res. No	Resolution	Owner	Comments
25-Feb-25	2502/038	Contract 12/2024 - Rodd Street Culvert Replacement RESOLVED That Council accept the tender from Connor Earthmoving Orange Pty Ltd for the Rodd Street Culvert Replacement, Contract 12/2024, for the value of \$276,893.10 inclusive GST, subject to variations.	MO	Contract executed, works to commence. To be removed.
25-Mar-25	2503/003	Draft Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035 RESOLVED That Council: 2. Place the Draft Blayney Shire Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035 on public exhibition for a minimum 28 days. 3. Authorise the General Manager to make minor amendments and changes to the Draft Blayney Shire Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035, prior to exhibition commencing. 4. Receive a report following exhibition of the plan, where submissions and necessary amendments made to the document will be considered, for final adoption.	GM	Currently on public exhibition closing 28 April 2025.

Date of Meeting	Res. No	Resolution	Owner	Comments
25-Mar-25	2503/005	<p>Minutes of the Financial Assistance Committee Meeting held 13 March 2025</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That Council:</p> <p>2. Adopt the recommendations for 2024/25 – Round 2 of the Community Financial Assistance Program by the Financial Assistance Committee, with the following exclusions:</p> <p>a. defers a decision on the Bucking Bulls Australia application until a report is brought back to Council on the event data and financial performance from the prior year,</p> <p>b. defers a decision on the Flagship Funding under the Community Financial Assistance Program, in the amount of \$15,000 until a business case is put forward by the Sunny Ridge (Mandurama) Golf Club on the future continuing operation of the kitchen/dining room and a report brought back to Council,</p> <p>c. does not provide first aid kits to the Blayney & District Netball Association as considered a consumable and hence not eligible,</p> <p>d. does not provide any financial assistance to Lifeline as it does not meet the financial assistance grant guidelines.</p> <p>3. Adopt the recommendation to include Lyndhurst RSL in the recurrent Schedule of Financial Assistance in Council's Operational Plan.</p>	DCS	<p>Correspondence sent to all applicants to advise the outcome of Councils decisions.</p> <p>Addition made to the proposed Schedule of Financial Assistance in the draft 2025/26 Operational Plan.</p> <p>To be removed.</p>
25-Mar-25	2503/006	<p>Review of Council Policies</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That Council:</p> <p>1. Endorse the following 2 policies and place them on public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days.</p> <p>2. Provided no submissions are received, adopt the 2 policies and update Council's Policy Register.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plaques and Memorials Policy • Procurement Policy 	DCS	<p>Policies currently on public exhibition closing 28 April 2025.</p>

Date of Meeting	Res. No	Resolution	Owner	Comments
25-Mar-25	2503/010	Proposed Road Name - 238 Forest Reefs Road, Millthorpe Subdivision RESOLVED That Council: 2. Place the request on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days. 3. Following the public exhibition, receive a further report to consider the road naming application.	DIS	Currently on public exhibition closing 28 April 25

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Nil

Budget Implications:

Nil

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

04) REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA - FARM SUCCESSION WORKSHOP

Department: Executive Services

Author: General Manager

CSP Link: 2. Build the Capacity and Capability of Local Governance and Finance

File No: CR.SD.2

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Note Regional Development Australia hosted a Farm Succession Workshop in Blayney on 27 March 2025.
2. Note the post event report provided.
3. Approve \$1,500 from the Blayney Shire Community Financial Assistance Program was provided to Regional Development Australia to assist delivering the workshop in Blayney.

Reason for Report:

To update Council on the Farm Succession Workshop held in Blayney on 27 March 2025.

Report:

The enclosed post event report, prepared by Regional Development Australia is provided for Council's information summarising the workshop held in Blayney on 27 March 2025.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Nil.

Budget Implications:

Regional Development Australia approached Council seeking \$1,500 to deliver this workshop.

Due to timing of the request and fast approaching event date, the General Manager approved the request under delegation, allocating funds from the Blayney Shire Community Financial Assistance Program.

Enclosures (following report)

1 RDA - Blayney Farm Succession Workshop Review 4 Pages

Attachments (separate document)

Nil



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Development
Australia

FARM SUCCESSION WORKSHOP

BLAYNEY COMMUNITY CENTRE
27/03/2025

Farm Succession Workshop in Blayney on 27.3.25

Part of Regional Development Australia Central West's Business Masterclass Program Supported by Newmont Cadia and Blayney Shire Council

Post Event Report

The Farm Succession Planning Workshop held in Blayney on Thursday, March 27th, was a resounding success. Organised by Regional Development Australia – Central West, with the support of Blayney Shire Council and Newmont Cadia, the event attracted 35 attendees.

It featured insightful presentations from Kirsty Evans and Dannielle Ford from Cheney Suthers Lawyers, and Tim Davidson from The Davidson Advisory. These sessions covered vital topics in successful farm succession planning such as evaluating farm financial health, early stakeholder consultation, and legal, tax, and estate planning essentials.

Attendees appreciated the clear, actionable steps provided, with many expressing newfound clarity and readiness to begin their succession planning. The forum met the community's demand for this type of information and emphasised the importance of early planning, offering a comprehensive roadmap for successful farm succession.

RDA Central West Project Manager Kirsten Cunningham is leading a series of local business masterclass-style workshops to support regional development. Feedback from these events will help guide future topics and locations, with strong demand coming from Blayney Shire.

Local Expert Presenters

Kirsty Evans – CFO and Director at Cheney Suthers Lawyers, Specialist in Succession Planning, Commercial, Employment and Property Lawyer, NSW Regional Woman of the Year 2025, Law Society of NSW President's Medal Recipient 2024

Dannielle Ford – CEO and Director at Cheney Suthers Lawyers, Specialist in Succession, Wills and Estates, Family Law and Collaborative Lawyer, Law Society of NSW Rural or Regional Lawyer of the Year 2025

Tim Davidson – CEO and Director of The Davidson Advisory, Agri-business specialist with over 9 years' experience working with NAB as an Agribusiness specialist and Central West Managing Partner

For all enquiries please contact Kirsten Cunningham
kirsten.cunningham@rdacentralwest.org.au - +61 2 6369 1600



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Registrations

Registered: 41 Registrations + 4 presenters + 2 RDA staff = 47 in room

Attended: 35 attendees + 4 presenters + 2 RDA staff = 41 in room

Attendee Locations

Locations that we are aware of from verbally asking attendees:

8 x Carcoar/Blayney

2 x Forest Reefs

3 x Neville

1 x Guyong

1 x Lucknow

2 x Molong

2 x Wellington

Presentation Content

Presentation Slides breakdown:

- Welcome and introduction
- Who we are
- Agriculture in Australia
- Why succession plan
- Preliminary enquiries
- Key professionals
- Dividing the property
- Cheney Suthers 8 Step Action Plan for Farm Succession
- Questions?

Key takeaway subjects:

- Evaluating your farm's financial health and operations
- Consulting early with key stakeholders – family, council, legal, financial
- Key considerations for choosing successors and setting future goals
- On farm and off farm children considerations including equality vs equity
- Setting the next generation up for success not failure
- Legal, tax, and estate planning essentials – who to consult and what is required
- Developing a clear transition timeline with legal and financial planning support
- Importance of timelines – can be years or decades for decision making
- Considering your future needs when handing over the farm
- Where to start and how to finish

TIACS / Trade Mutt

Josh and Kirsten wore bright Trade Mutt TIACS shirts to the event to promote free mental health counselling services to farmers through TIACS. Attendees could take home provided printed material, cattle tags with QR codes with text, website and phone number numbers to access mental health support. More information here – [Homepage – TIACS](#)



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Instagram Reel

Here is an Instagram Reel of Highlights- https://www.instagram.com/reel/DHs3oINzfI4/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==

There have been over 1400 views of the reel and counting indicating post-event engagement and exposure of the event and sponsors is excellent.

Facebook Ads Campaign

Our Facebook ads campaign for the highlighting the event, sponsors and speakers had excellent reach and engagement.

The campaign performed well with over 27,000 views, 10,000 reach, 151 post engagements and 122 link clicks to the ticketing.

Notes

- The importance of speaking to council in early planning stages was mentioned multiple times by all of the presenters
- The quality of the presentation was excellent
- Feedback on the night was also excellent with people staying around to have one on one conversations with the presenters

Comments from conversations RDACW had with people

- I spend all day sitting on the tractor thinking about this, but it has been so overwhelming, and I had no idea where to start. Now I have a clear idea of how to figure it out and what to do. I'm ready to start planning and spend the time on the tractor thinking in a more productive way.
- This stuff is so important. Thankyou for making this available. It gives me a much better idea on where to start and what to do.
- We are the next generation and trying to understand how taking over the farm will work. It is so complicated, but now we understand the process and what we have to do. We are looking forward to starting the conversations with our family.
- We're getting ready to wind down from the farm but haven't worked out how to do it. This workshop has given us a to-do list and a very clear place to start. Thankyou.



An Australian Government Initiative



Left to right: PatD Digital Social Media Expert Prue Tynan-Davey, Blayney Council Deputy Mayor Rebecca Scott, Regional Development Australia Central West Director Josh Gordon, Newmont Cadia Community Relations Officer Nicole Morris, Blayney Council Mayor Bruce Reynolds, Regional Development Australia Central West Project Manager Kirsten Cunningham.

For media inquiries, contact: Kirsten Cunningham - Project Manager - Regional Development Australia Central West
 Phone: (02)6369 1600 or 0435 839 689 - Email: kirsten.cunningham@rdacentralwest.org.au
 Website: www.rdacentralwest.org.au

05) COMMUNITY ENERGY UPGRADE FUNDING APPLICATION**Department:** Executive Services**Author:** General Manager**CSP Link:** 2. Build the Capacity and Capability of Local Governance and Finance**File No:** PM.CT.1

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Note the report.
2. Endorse the 2025 Blayney Shire Renewable Energy Project which has an estimated project cost of \$1 million and proceed to prepare and submit the following grant funding applications:
 - a. Australian Government (Community Energy Upgrade Funding) seeking \$500,000
 - b. Newmont (Cadia Legacy Fund) seeking \$500,000 as the matching 50% co contribution.
3. Approve a supplementary vote of \$15,000 in the 2024/25 Operational Plan to engage a specialist energy consultant to assist with the grant documentation and grant application to be funded from the Property Internal Allocation.
4. Be provided a further report which considers whole of life costs and ongoing budget implications be provided to Council upon finalisation of the estimated project scope and cost and lodgement of the grant applications.

Reason for Report:

For Council to decide if it wishes to apply to the Australian Government for \$500,000 seeking to undertake a \$1,000,000 renewable energy project within the Blayney Shire Local Government Area.

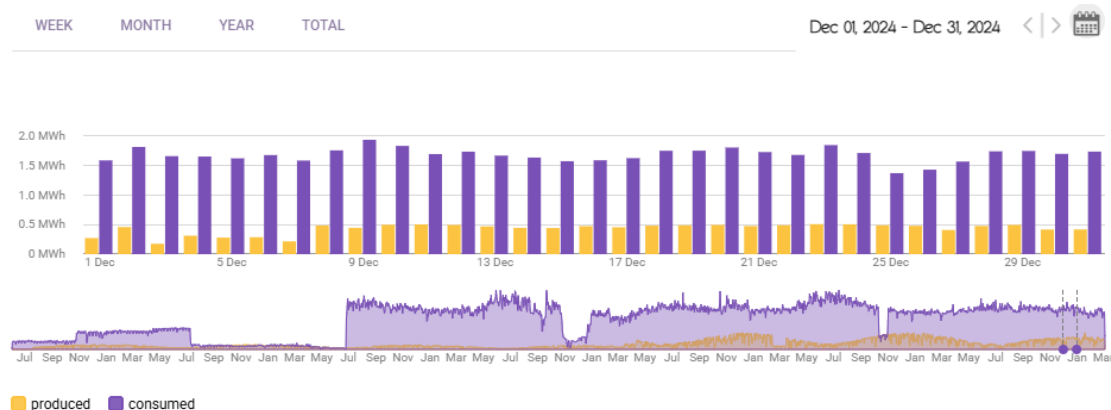
Report:

Round 2 of the Community Energy Upgrade Funding has recently been announced - [Community Energy Upgrades Fund Round 2 | business.gov.au](https://www.business.gov.au/Community-Energy-Upgrades-Fund-Round-2)

Grants between \$25,000 and \$2,500,000 are available, to cover up to 50% of eligible expenditure.

Council has previously been considering a significant renewable energy project (PV solar panels and battery storage project) in the Blayney Industrial Area.

CentrePoint consumes a significant amount of electricity, between 1.5MWh and 2MWh per day (see tables next page).



CentrePoint had a significant electrical substation upgrade as part of the 2020 Aquatic Upgrades, which is a key aspect to the cost benefit of this project. CentrePoint is a single user of this substation.

The proposal for CentrePoint is for a 900kWh / 440kW battery. No additional solar is proposed, with the theory being to charge the battery during the middle of the day from the grid, when the grid is generally over supplied with renewable energy and energy is cheaper.

ChargeWorks, specialist energy consultants with significant experience and working relationships throughout the Central NSW Joint Organisation have provided 2 documents (see enclosure 1 and enclosure 2) which provide an overview of the project and opportunity.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

The project is not considered core business of Council and whilst it does possess a large capital investment, a singular battery project is significantly lower risk than the previous renewable energy project being considered by Council.

Councils risk is additionally reduced if the project can be 100% externally funded. Although even if not fully externally funded, and Council was required to fund 50% (\$500k) the payback at CentrePoint alone is estimated at an excellent 2.2 years based on \$400k (so 2.8 years based on \$500k) having used relatively conservative figures.

Council has sought to mitigate risk, through the initial advice from specialist energy consultants.

Financial risk would be addressed by inclusion of a contingency, likely 15% (\$150k) noting a final estimation of costs for the project is yet to be finalised.

Budget Implications:

ChargeWorks estimate the cost of the CentrePoint battery project to be \$850k (no contingency) with payback forecast within 2.2 years (based on Council having to contribute \$400k, or 2.8 years for a \$500k contribution).

ChargeWorks forecast the expected annual cash saving to Council to be approximately \$180k to \$200k.

It would be recommended to increase the project cost estimate by \$150k (contingency) to a \$1m project (\$500k from federal government, \$500k from The Cadia Legacy Fund (subject to approval). The final project scope and budget estimate is required to be finalised.

A depreciation impact estimated at \$70k - \$100k per annum would be borne by Council for construction (installation) of a new asset along with any ongoing operating and maintenance costs. The batteries have a 10-year warranty and an estimated minimum 15 year life.

A whole of life cost analysis should be considered including any decommissioning and rehabilitation costs at project completion.

Initial communications have been had with Newmont to gauge initial eligibility under the Cadia Legacy Fund, which is a program that provides up to \$250k per annum for projects, see;
<https://www.cadiavalley.com.au/newcrest/cvo/community-programs/community-investment>

Newmont have advised the program can consider a \$500k application (funded as one project over 2 years) on a case-by-case basis and contingent on a successful competitive grant application being approved.

Enclosures (following report)

- | | | |
|----------|--|---------|
| 1 | ChargeWorks - CEUF Grant Technical Assistance -
21 March 2025 | 4 Pages |
| 2 | ChargeWorks - CEUF Centrepont Battery Information
- 15 April 2025 | 6 Pages |

Attachments (separate document)

Nil



21st March 2025

Blayney Shire Council
Community Energy Upgrade Fund
Technical Assistance

Fee Proposal

Prepared by ChargeWorks

ABN: 28 1019 339 57

Introduction

ChargeWorks has been invited by Blayney Shire Council to provide technical assistance to Council in an application for Community Energy Upgrade Funding (CEUF).

Previously, ChargeWorks has identified the following sites as potential sites for Council to submit an application:

#	Site Name	Project Name	Cost Estimate	Council Contribution	Financial Return (p.a)	Simple Payback
1	Centrepont Leisure Centre	VPP trial	\$800,000	\$400,000	\$180,000 p.a	2.2 years
2	Blayney Community Centre	20kW Solar PV	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$4,000 p.a	2.5 years
3	Blayney Library	Solar Battery + with backup	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$6,000 p.a	2.5 years
Total			\$850,000	\$425,000	\$190,000 p.a	2.3 years

A successful application for Community Energy Upgrade Funding would attract a 50% contribution towards energy projects at these sites.

According to the CEUF guidelines, total project value must have at least \$50,000 in eligible expenditure (Up to \$5,000,000) and be aimed at energy efficiency and/or electrification and/or load flexibility upgrades that reduce costs and emissions for local government's facilities or operations using commercially available technologies.

Eligible activities must relate to the project and may include one or more of the following:

- load flexibility/demand management systems, e.g. air-conditioning controls upgrades including demand management capabilities at a civic centre
- electrification upgrades, e.g. the replacement of a gas boiler with a heat pump and heat recovery at an aquatic centre
- electric vehicle charging infrastructure, e.g. smart electric vehicle charging for multiple vehicles at a depot for local government vehicles
- energy efficiency upgrades, e.g. variable speed drives fitted to electric motors at a wastewater treatment plant
- behind the meter renewables generation and storage, e.g. a rooftop solar power system with a virtual power plant enabled energy storage system at a childcare centre.

Integrated projects that bring together several activities and encompass multiple sites are encouraged e.g. an energy upgrade at a community centre including energy efficient building envelope improvements, energy efficient equipment, a solar power and battery storage system and disconnection of the gas supply.

Round 2 of the Community Energy Upgrades Fund Program is due to close on the 13th of June 2025

Scope of Works

ChargeWorks proposes to provide technical assistance to Council throughout the application process including:

- Detailed assessment of each shortlisted project, its estimated cost, and the expected energy savings, cost savings and emissions savings.
- Preparation of technical documentation to be included in the grant application, such as project description & outcomes and responses to assessment criteria questions.
 - ChargeWorks will be the lead author of the grant application however will require Council to prepare non-technical content for the application.

The focus of ChargeWorks' technical assistance will be at the direction of Council.

ChargeWorks' scope of works is to accurately capture, describe and cost the following electrical projects:

Scope Item	ChargeWorks Scope	Estimated Hours
Preparation of CEUF application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In person consultation in Blayney including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Technical site inspection of selected sites (particularly Centrepont) to gather additional technical details for supporting documentation. ◦ In person consultation with Council staff regarding grant funding application requirements/collaboration • Preparation of funding application on business.gov.au online portal including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Section E – Project Information ◦ Section F – Project Budget (in collaboration with Council) ◦ Section G – Assessment Criteria • Preparation of attachments including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ a project plan including a detailed project budget, planning, timeframes, implementation methodology, project risk assessments or reports and risk mitigation (in particular technical risks such as technology selection, installation quality, electrical capacity and connection constraints) ◦ detailed evidence that supports assessment criteria responses (where applicable). This could include energy audits, feasibility studies or other technical documentation as relevant to the proposed activities 	40 hours

Cost for Services

The fees identified in this proposal is **\$10,000 + GST** which is billable based on actual hours up to this maximum fee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this quotation. We welcome any discussion around the scope of works proposed in this document.

Kind Regards,



Evan Darmanin

ChargeWorks Pty Ltd



15th April 2025

Blayney Shire Council
Community Energy Upgrade Fund
Centrepont Battery

Prepared by ChargeWorks

Introduction

ChargeWorks has been invited by Blayney Shire Council to provide technical assistance to Council in an application for Community Energy Upgrade Funding (CEUF).

According to the CEUF guidelines, total project value must have at least \$50,000 in eligible expenditure (up to \$5,000,000) and be aimed at energy efficiency and/or electrification and/or load flexibility upgrades that reduce costs and emissions for local government's facilities or operations using commercially available technologies.

Eligible activities must relate to the project and may include one or more of the following:

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- electrification upgrades, e.g. the replacement of a gas boiler with a heat pump and heat recovery at an aquatic centre
- electric vehicle charging infrastructure, e.g. smart electric vehicle charging for multiple vehicles at a depot for local government vehicles
- energy efficiency upgrades, e.g. variable speed drives fitted to electric motors at a wastewater treatment plant
- behind the meter renewables generation and storage, e.g. a rooftop solar power system with a virtual power plant enabled energy storage system at a childcare centre.

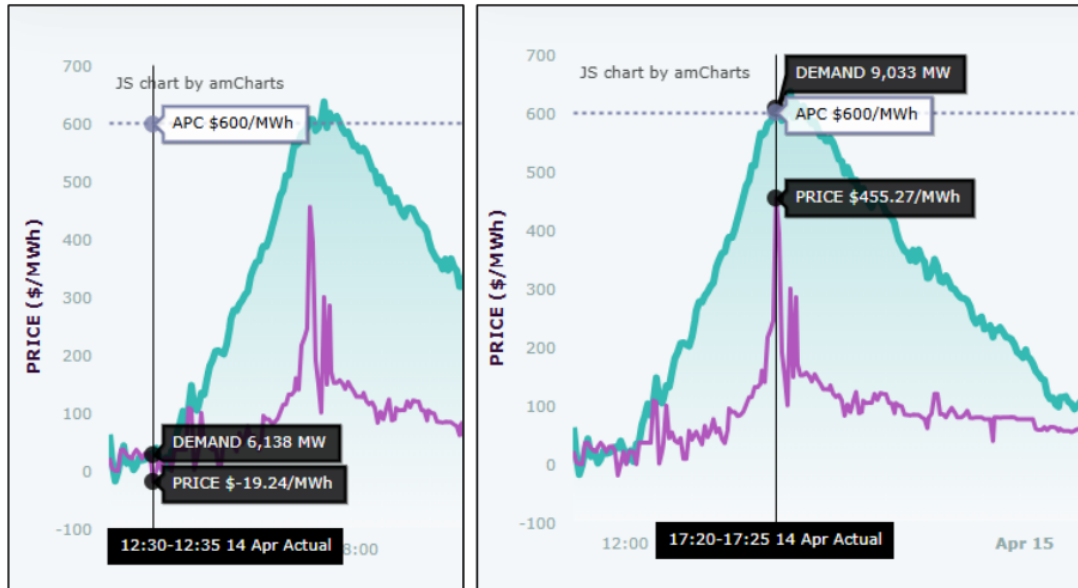
Integrated projects that bring together several activities and encompass multiple sites are encouraged e.g. an energy upgrade at a community centre including energy efficient building envelope improvements, energy efficient equipment, a solar power and battery storage system and disconnection of the gas supply.

Round 2 of the Community Energy Upgrades Fund Program is due to close on the 13th of June 2025

Wholesale Electricity Market

The supply and demand of electricity on the National Electricity Market is becoming more volatile.

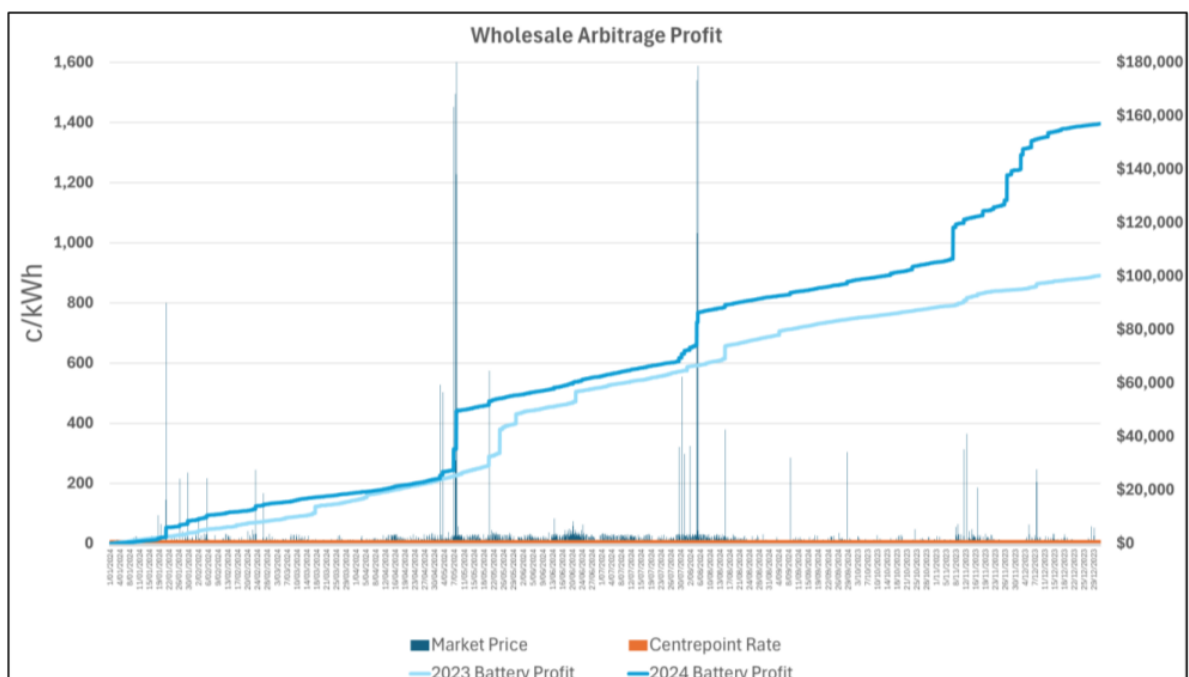
For most of the day, prices are near-zero (or negative), but in periods of peak-demand the price can increase substantially. Take the 14th of April 2025 as an example:



This means that by using storage, to exploit and arbitrage between the highest and lowest point in the day, a profit can be made.

The annual profit for a 900kWh / 440kW battery exploiting this arbitrage was \$100,000 (in 2023) and \$160,000 per annum (in 2024) – mainly from a small number of very high electricity prices.

The cumulative profit in a year is shown below:



Battery Storage

Centrepont has substantial electrical infrastructure and a dedicated transformer to the electricity grid. It can accommodate a battery of this size as shown below.

Further, this site is already contracted to Iberdrola for its electricity supply until 2031. Iberdrola has the ability and appetite to provide its customers with access to the wholesale electricity market and other ancillary markets.

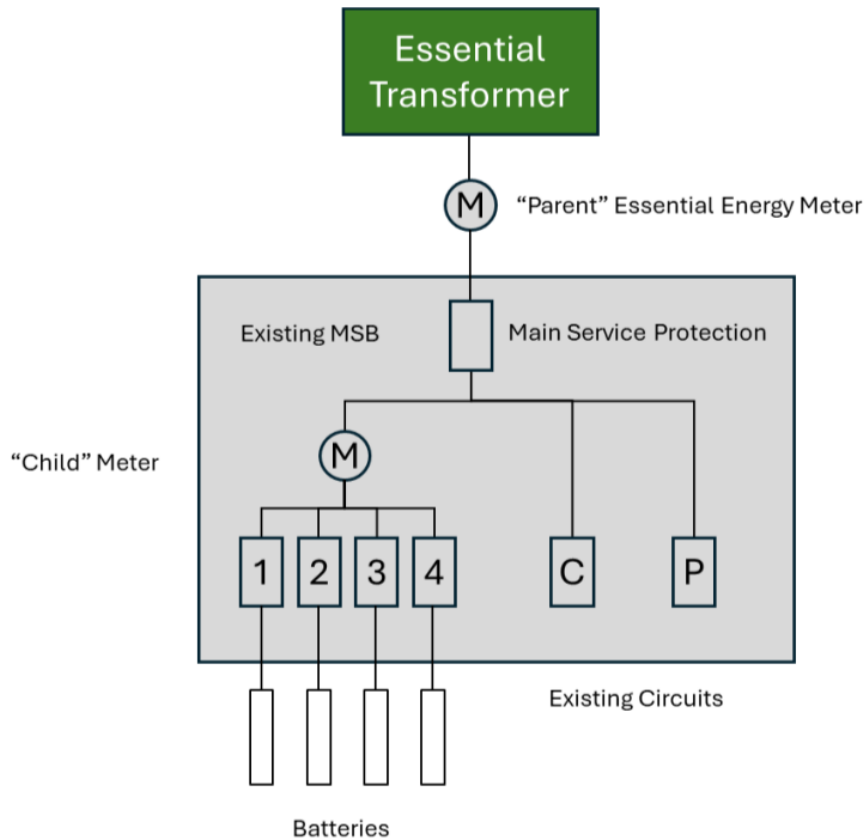


This site is ideal because of its established retail and existing infrastructure.

Metering for Wholesale Exposure

The electrical configuration of a wholesale exposed battery is what is known as an “embedded network”, where the power going into and out of the battery is separately metered.

The retailer of the “parent” meter deducts any usage by the “child” and treats that usage as effectively an independent site. From an electrical standpoint, the batteries are independent from Centrepont altogether.



This allows the batteries to charge and discharge at wholesale prices different to contracted rates of the parent.

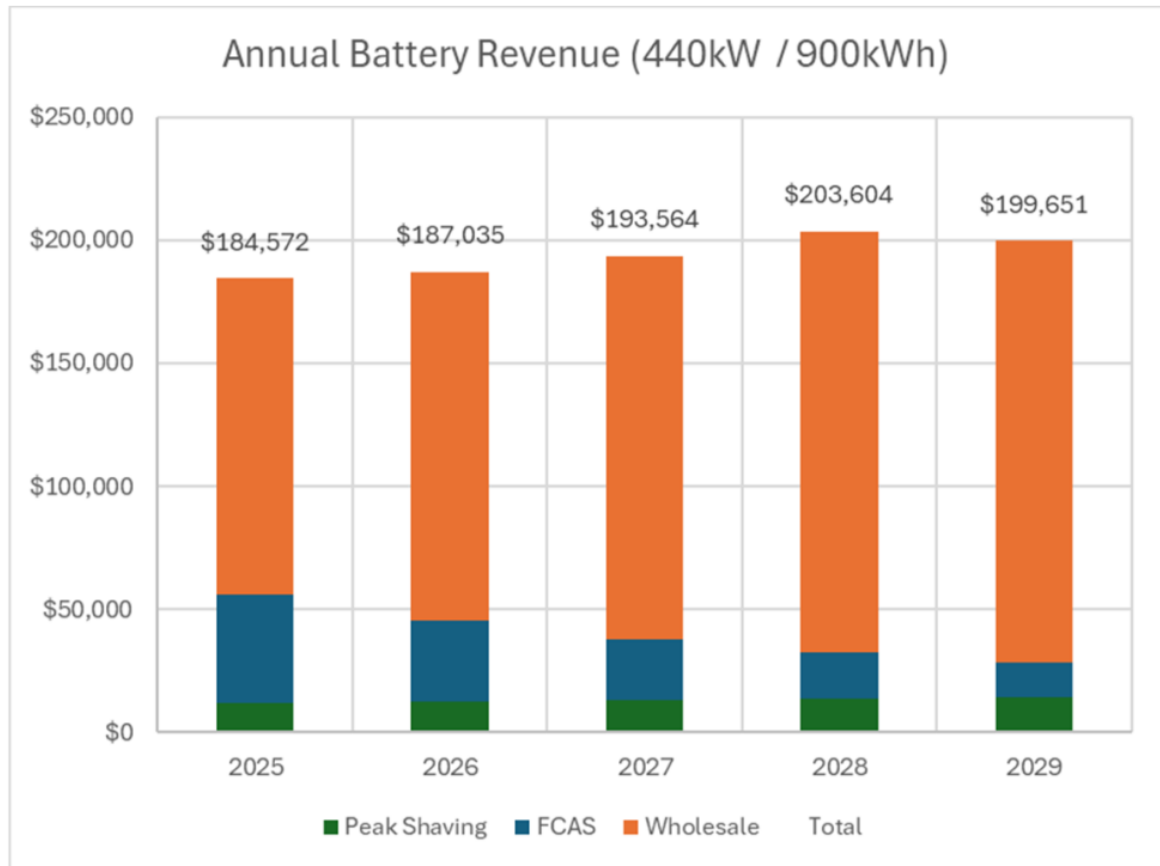
Say for example, if wholesale prices are astronomically high, a battery can discharge power through the child meter and get paid very well for this export. What happens to the power after this is largely irrelevant. If the site soaks up this power, it will just pay for electricity at the normal contracted rates.

Centrepont does, however, pay for network charges to Essential Energy at the parent meter. Any battery export (i.e. reduced demand on Essential's network) in the period could be useful in reducing the assessed network charges. This is a relatively low value cost saving but adds about 10% more savings to the business case.

Savings

The forecasted revenues over the next five years is predominantly wholesale arbitrage, but includes some modest peak shaving savings and another ancillary market known as "FCAS" (frequency response).

Expected savings should total approximately \$180,000 - \$200,000 per year.



The "financially responsible market participant" for the site would be Iberdrola.

Iberdrola could either pay revenue directly to Council or provide a reduced bill.

- The existing annual electricity cost of Centrepont is approximately \$150,000, which would reduce to approximately \$130,000 from reduced network charges.
- The remaining balance of approximately \$160,000 - \$180,000 would be paid direct to Council or credited against its whole bill (noting that Iberdrola also invoices for the Sewage Treatment Plant).

**06) MINUTES OF THE DISABILITY INCLUSION WORKING GROUP
MEETING HELD 3 APRIL 2025****Department:** Corporate Services**Author:** Director Corporate Services**CSP Link:** 2. Build the Capacity and Capability of Local Governance and Finance**File No:** GO.CM.4

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Receive the minutes of the Disability Inclusion Working Group meeting held 3 April 2025.
2. Adopt the Blayney Shire 2022 – 2026 Disability Inclusion Action Plan Status Report for period ending 31 December 2024.
3. Adopt the Disability Inclusion Working Group Charter.
4. Note the 2024 review of the 2018 accessible car parking audit.
5. Consider funding in the 2025/26 Operational Plan line marking works to the audited car spaces of locations ID 2, 5, 6, and 9.
6. Examine whether Millthorpe School (Victoria Street) accessible parking is required in light of new car parking installed with recent school development
7. Consider funding in the 2025/26 Operational Plan for construction of accessible parking locations in Carcoar, Mandurama and Lyndhurst
8. Note the preferred location for construction of a new accessible car park at Mandurama Memorial Park is accessible parking option 2 (adjacent to the amenities).
9. Note the recommendation to investigate locating the new accessible carpark at Lyndhurst to adjoin Capital Park.

Reason for Report:

For Council to approve the minutes of the Disability Inclusion Working Group meeting held 3 April 2025.

Report:

The Disability Inclusion Working Group held its meeting 3 April 2025.

The Disability Inclusion Working Group is responsible for:

- advising and making recommendations to Council on matters relating to access issues, with particular emphasis on issues for people with disabilities as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act.
- monitoring and developing strategies to maintain Council's commitment to improving access for all community members to a range of services implementing the Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

- providing advice and monitoring the implementation of relevant Council programs and policies. Such programs and policies include but are not limited to Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

Of significance from the meeting were the following matters:

- Endorsement of the Disability Inclusion Working Group Charter.
- Consideration of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan Status Report as at 31 December 2024.
- Consideration of accessible parking matters:
 - Review of the 2018 Accessible Carparking audit and recommendation of funding for allocation in 2025/26.
 - Proposed Accessible Parking Locations in Carcoar, Mandurama, and Lyndhurst and recommendation of funding for allocation in 2025/26.

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

The minutes of the meeting held are tabled below:

**MINUTES OF THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL DISABILITY INCLUSION
WORKING GROUP MEETING
HELD IN THE CHAMBERS, BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY
CENTRE, ON 2 APRIL 2025, COMMENCING AT 5:05 PM**

Present: Cr. Rebecca Scott (Council Delegate and Chairperson); Cr. Bruce Reynolds (Councillor); Anton Franze (Director Corporate Services - Secretariat); Mark Dicker (General Manager); Kate Lockwood (Member); Sue Lane (Member); Jenny McMahon (Member); Lyndall Harrison (Member).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

APOLOGIES

Allison Farr (Member):

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 1 AUGUST
2024**

2504/016

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Disability Inclusion Working Group meeting held 1 August 2024 be received.

(McMahon/Harrison)

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Discussion of accessible parking at community events.

REPORTS**COMMITTEE INDUCTION****Recommendation:**

An outline of documents relevant to the operations of the Disability Inclusion Working Group was presented to the committee.

ENDORSEMENT OF DISABILITY INCLUSION WORKING GROUP CHARTER**RESOLVED****2504/017**

That the Disability Inclusion Working Group Charter be endorsed and referred to Council for adoption.

(Harrison/Lockwood)

CARRIED**2022-2026 DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN STATUS REPORT****RESOLVED****2504/018**

That the Disability Inclusion Working Group note the Blayney Shire 2022 – 2026 Disability Inclusion Action Plan Status Report for period ending 31 December 2024.

(McMahon/Harrison)

CARRIED**ACCESSIBLE CARPARKING AUDIT 2024****RESOLVED****2504/019**

That the Disability Inclusion Working Group:

1. Note the 2024 review of the 2018 accessible car parking audit.
2. Recommend the allocation of funding in the 2025/26 Operational Plan to undertake line marking works only to the audited car spaces of locations ID 2, 5, 6, and 9.
3. Examine whether Millthorpe School (Victoria Street) accessible parking is required in light of new car parking installed with recent school development.

(McMahon/Harrison)

CARRIED**PROPOSED ACCESSIBLE PARKING LOCATIONS IN CARCOAR, MANDURAMA AND LYNDBURST****RESOLVED****2504/020**

That the Disability Inclusion Working Group recommend:

1. Consideration of allocation of funds in the 2025/26 Operational Plan for the construction of accessible parking locations in Carcoar, Mandurama and Lyndhurst.
2. That the accessible parking option 2 be selected and constructed at Mandurama Memorial Park, adjacent to the

amenities.

3. That Council investigate options for location of carpark at Lyndhurst to be on same side as amenities block.

(Lane/Lockwood)

CARRIED

COMPLETION OF KGO ACCESSIBLE SEATING PROJECT
RESOLVED

2504/021

That the Disability Inclusion Working Group note the report on Completion of the KGO Accessible Seating project.

(McMahon/Harrison)

CARRIED

UPDATE ON MILLTHORPE CBD PROJECT
RESOLVED

2504/022

That the Disability Inclusion Working Group note the update on the Millthorpe CBD Project.

(Harrison/Lockwood)

CARRIED

MEETING CLOSED: 6.37PM

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

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

- Develop positive community attitudes and behaviours:
- Create liveable communities:
- Support access to meaningful employment; and
- Improve access to mainstream services through better systems and processes.

Budget Implications:

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

Some of the recommendations if approved will require Council to consider allocating capital expenditure at the June 2025 Council meeting for inclusion in the 2025/26 Operational Plan.

Some of the recommendations will also incur an operational expenditure impact for staff to investigate, survey and design solutions and options.

Enclosures (following report)

- | | | |
|---|---|---------|
| 1 | Disability Inclusion Working Group Charter | 2 Pages |
| 2 | Disability Inclusion Action Plan Status Report as at 31 December 2024 | 6 Pages |
| 3 | 2024 review of the 2018 accessible car parking audit report | 7 Pages |
| 4 | Proposed accessible parking locations in Carcoar, Mandurama and Lyndhurst | 3 Pages |

Attachments (separate document)

Nil



CHARTER

BLAYNEY SHIRE DISABILITY INCLUSION WORKING GROUP

Role

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

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

Responsibilities

The Disability Inclusion Working Group is responsible for:

- advising and making recommendations to Council on matters relating to access issues, with particular emphasis on issues for people with disabilities as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act.
- monitoring and developing strategies to maintain Council's commitment to improving access for all community members to a range of services implementing the Disability Inclusion Action Plan.
- providing advice and monitoring the implementation of relevant Council programs and policies. Such programs and policies include but are not limited to Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

Membership, Chairperson and Voting

Membership of the Disability Inclusion Working Group comprises:

- 1 Councillor (Chairperson) with 1 alternate Councillor when required
- 5 Community representatives
- General Manager (or nominee) and Council staff as required. Council staff will be ex-officio members.

Meetings

A minimum of 2 meetings are to be held per annum with any additional meetings on a needs basis to be determined by the working group.

A required quorum of 4 working group members shall be required at each meeting.

All operations of the Working group shall be in accordance with Council's adopted code of meeting practice.

The meeting is open to members of the public.

Appointment of members

Community members seeking appointment to the Disability Inclusion Working Group are to nominate by contacting the General Manager.

Term

The Disability Inclusion Working Group shall dissolve at the General Election of Blayney Shire Council. Council may dissolve the Working Group at any time, and any authority conferred by Council to this Working Group may be withdrawn – either wholly or in part – by resolution of Council.

Communication and Reporting

An agenda will be circulated by post or email to all members of the Disability Inclusion Working Group at least one week prior to the meeting.

Matters to be considered must be included in the Agenda for the meeting and must be provided in writing to the General Manager (or nominee) at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting. The agenda will include an open session for general business where new issues can be raised, and members of the public can speak and be heard.

Formal minutes of the Disability Inclusion Working Group will be produced in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice. The mover and seconder of any recommendation are to be recorded.

The main items of business and recommendations will be reported to the ordinary meeting of Blayney Shire Council. Council may amend any recommendation or any portion thereof or may refer it back to the Working group for further investigation.

Code of Conduct and Other Council Policies

Each Working group member who is not otherwise a Councillor or staff member shall be provided with a copy of:

- Council's Code of Conduct – Standards for Volunteers and Community Representation on a Council Meeting;
- Code of Meeting Practice; and
- Other related policies that may be applicable to the operation of the Working group.

Adopted:	Date: 19/12/2022	Minute: 2212/009
Lastest Reviewed:	Date: 19/12/2022	Minute: 2212/009
Next Reviewed:	Date: 17/02/2025	

DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN 2022 - 2026: STATUS REPORT AS AT 31/12/2024

Community Attitudes and behaviours					
Strategy	Actions	CSP Ref.	Outcome	Timeframe	Status
Improve community attitudes and awareness of access issues and disability inclusion.	Promote access awareness and deliver community education around disability inclusion.	4.1	A minimum of two promotional items are to be circulated annually.	Annually	Project updates on social media included educational information on accessibility. International Day of People with Disability and Global Accessibility Awareness Day information shared. Tourism Website listings include photos promoting disability inclusion and utilisation of Liberty Swing and Belubula River Walk.
	Include features in Council's communications to the community about accessibility in and around the Shire.	4.1	Include accessibility in at least one community newsletter/Council notices page annually.	Annually	E-Newsletter Highlights for International Day of People with Disability and the Access Incentive Scheme
	Funds are allocated for Council's Access Incentive Scheme to improve access to local businesses and community organisation premises.	3.4	Annual funds made available in Council's annual Operational Plan.	Annually	No potential developments were identified during the period that required and/or would benefit from the scheme.
	Promotion and administration of Council's Access Incentive Scheme to improve access to local businesses and community organisation premises with Main Street hospitality outlets prioritised.	3.4	Minimum of 2 external advertisements / promotion of program. Minimum of 2 businesses and / or community facilities upgraded each year subject to receipt of applications that satisfy guidelines.	Annually Annually	Information is contained on Council's website. No specific promotion of the program during the period.
	Raise the profile of the DIWG across the Blayney Shire to provide community another avenue to report back	4.1	A minimum of 2 articles promoting disability inclusion per annum in GM Conversation and Council Newsletter.	Annually	Promotion occurred through the Expression of Interest promotions and communications, seeking nominations for persons to join the DIWG following September 2024 elections.
	Review, update and promote the Missed Business Brochure to local businesses.	4.1	Missed Business Brochure updated and promoted to businesses in the Blayney Shire.	Annually	Working Group agreed that alternate solutions to distribution of a hardcopy brochure and promotion on website. Promotion and awareness being undertaken through use of social media platforms.

Community Attitudes and behaviours					
Strategy	Actions	CSP Ref.	Outcome	Timeframe	Status
Ensure consultation, support and assistance to local groups and organisations that support and / or advocate on behalf people with a disability.	Work with the Disability Inclusion Working Group to advocate for improved access and inclusion for people living with a disability or lived experience of disability.	4.1	The Disability Inclusion Working Group meet at least 2 times per annum. Minutes of Working Group reported to Council meeting.	Ongoing Ongoing	Regular meetings conducted. In new Council term meetings of Disability Inclusion Working Group are proposed. Minutes of August DIWG meeting tabled to August 2024 Council meeting.
	Review of DIAP where legislation around disability inclusion changes	4.1	Document is updated to reflect any legislative change.	Annually	No changes to legislation. No action taken.
	Council supports engagement of service providers and advocates through the Blayney Interagency.	4.1	Council provides access to a meeting facility and a Council officer in attendance.	Annually	Community Centre facility made available however no success with fostering interest from service providers and NSW Health for forum.

Building Liveable Communities					
Strategy	Actions	CSP Ref.	Outcome	Timeframe	Status
Plan for connected and accessible pedestrian networks in each township.	Implementation of Active Movement Strategy that leads to the provision of suitable pathways.	4.1	Active Movement Strategy reviewed and implementation commenced.	Annually	Millthorpe CBD design progressed and finalised at the December 2024 Council meeting.
Increase number of continuous accessible paths of travel in town and village centres and to key destinations per Active Movement Strategy.	Implement projects, that include footpaths, road crossings and kerb ramps, identified in the Active Movement Strategy and apply for Grant funding for any other priority accessibility projects.	4.1	Delivery of scheduled priorities identified in the Active Movement Strategy.	Annually	Delivery of AMS in accordance with Council Delivery plan. 'Plumb Street and Orange Road footpaths works commenced including installation of kerb ramps and median crossing points
Plan and deliver amenities to enable access for all.	Implement a program to improve our accessible public toilets.	4.1	Public toilets meet Access to Premises Standards.	Ongoing	Heritage Park toilets upgrade completed and open to the public.
Plan for infrastructure that is accessible for all.	Encourage universal design in planning of new housing, infrastructure and buildings.	3.4	Facilities and infrastructure meet Access to Premises Standards.	Ongoing	Staff are obliged to consider Access to Premises Standards in the assessment process for relevant applications
	Undertake improvement of accessible parking within Blayney Shire.	1.1	2018 Blayney Shire audit of accessible car parking updated and improvement plan developed. Accessible options investigated including costings for car parks created in or near Gold Street Park Mandurama and within Carcoar.	2023 2025	Audit review is complete and report to be tabled at next Disability Inclusion Working Group. Options report is complete and report to be tabled at next Disability Inclusion Working Group.
Increase access and inclusion to Council services and facilities.	A range of online and hard copy resources are provided at the Blayney Library to meet the diversity of needs in community.	4.4	Inclusive resources including large print books and audio books available for issue.	Ongoing	Resources available through CWL include large print books, audio books and online resources. Online resources also available to members.
	Community Centre is available for accessible activities and events.	4.4	Concessional access provided subject to compliant application with Community Financial Assistance policy.	Ongoing	Community Financial Assistance Program promoted to users seeking concessional access and is utilised by a number of community groups.
	CentrePoint provides access for all.	4.1	Concessional entry NSW Companion Card holders.	Ongoing	Operational Plan adopted with Concessional entry to NSW Companion Card holders in CentrePoint fee structure.
	Consider the particular needs of children living with disability in the design, layout and security of parks and playgrounds.	4.2	Playgrounds are safe and inclusive.	Annually	Disability access considered and incorporated in upgrade works at King George Oval. Designated wheelchair viewing areas incorporated as well as compliant parking and access.

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

Creating Meaningful Employment Opportunities					
Strategy	Actions	CSP Ref.	Outcome	Timeframe	Status
Improve Council employment conditions and opportunities for people living with a disability.	Establish flexible work practices to encourage an inclusive working environment.	2.1	Flexible work practices implemented.	Ongoing	Flexible work practices established and promotion of Council as a flexible workplace undertaken as needed and identified.
	Provide disability awareness training to staff and Councillors.	2.4	Staff and Councillors and have completed training.	Each Council term	To be arranged for this term.
Ensure Council recruitment process is accessible for people living with a disability.	Review and update the recruitment process to ensure it is accessible for people living with a disability.	2.1	Review undertaken and improvements made to promote inclusion.	Annually	Review of recruitment process undertaken.
	Promotion of Council as an Equal Employment Opportunity employer with all vacancies.	2.1	Council positions vacant promote Council as an Equal Employment Opportunity employer.	Ongoing	Council promotion of job vacancies accompanied with statement that Council is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer.
Identify opportunities to procure goods and services from businesses in the region who employ people living with a disability.	Review procurement procedure to identify options to procure goods and services from identified businesses.	2.1	Procedure reviewed and list developed and used within Council.	2023	Procurement Policy amended in 2023 to include reference to investigation and procurement of goods / services from Australian Disability Enterprises where suitable and practicable.

Enhancing Systems and Processes to Improve Access					
Strategy	Actions	CSP Ref.	Outcome	Timeframe	Status
Ensure Council communication and customer service is accessible to all.	Apply access and inclusion principles to Council's communication channels.	2.1	Council communication is accessible.	Ongoing	Council played a key roll in facilitating the commencement and distribution of the Central West Village Voice within the Blayney Shire LGA, following cessation of the weekly printed Blayney Chronicle.
	Information is provided in an easy to read and accessible format.	2.1	Promotional material presented in an accessible format.	Ongoing	The Central West Village Voice has increased access to print media as it is a free, fortnightly printed publication.
	Promote Council's implementation of access and inclusion principles and recognise the rights and contribution of people living with a disability in the community.	4.1	Promotion of Disability Inclusion Action Plan is undertaken.	Ongoing	This occurs on an ongoing basis with relevant projects.
	Ensure website conforms to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines conformance level AA.	4.1	Website to conform to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.	Ongoing	The system is in place and working as intended
	Council meetings are livestreamed to provide an alternative for attendance at meetings in person.	2.4	Council meetings are livestreamed.	Ongoing	Council meetings streamed monthly and accessible from Council's website. Council has implemented a 2nd camera for livestreaming meeting minutes
Ensure a coordinated approach to disability and inclusion is adopted and maintained across all departments of Council.	Staff to be familiar with the Disability Inclusion Action Plan ensuring a coordinated approach to disability inclusion is maintained across the organisation.	2.1	Disability Inclusion Action Plan is promoted on Council Intranet. Disability Inclusion Action Plan is circularised for reinforcement and status updates / outcomes.	Semi-annual	DIAP discussed and promoted amongst MANEX and meetings of Directors / Managers. DIAP promoted on Council Intranet Plan circulated amongst responsible officers to update status and outcomes.
Ensure recognition of the Disability Inclusion Plan in Council's IP&R documentation.	Council's Disability Inclusion Plan is acknowledged in Council's Delivery Program and Annual Operational Plan.	2.1	Council's Delivery Program and Annual Operational Plan includes acknowledgement of Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan.	Annually	Reference to DIAP included in 2024/25 Operational Plan and 2024/25 - 2027/28 Delivery Program, adopted by Council at June 2024 meeting.

Acronyms

CS – Corporate Services

CWL – Central West Libraries

ES – Executive Services

IS – Infrastructure Services

PES – Planning and Environmental Services

05) **ACCESSIBLE CARPARKING AUDIT 2024**

Department: Infrastructure Services

Author: Director Infrastructure Services

CSP Link: 1. Maintain and Improve Public Infrastructure and Services

File No: RD.AD.1

Recommendation:

That the Disability Inclusion Working Group:

1. Note the 2024 review of the 2018 accessible car parking audit.
2. Recommend the allocation of funding in the 2025/26 Operational Plan to undertake upgrade or renewal works to the audited car spaces of locations ID 2, 5, 6, and 9.

Reason for Report:

For the Disability Inclusion Working Group to consider a report on the review of the 2018 audit of accessible carparks undertaken in 2024, as part of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

Report:

In 2018 an audit was undertaken of accessible carparks in the Blayney Shire as recommended to Council by the then Access Advisory Committee and subsequently endorsed.

In 2024 council officers reassessed the accessible car parking spaces for compliance with AS2890.6:2022 and provided comments on further works required to achieve compliance for accessible parking spaces. This assessment was compared to the 2018 assessment.

It is noted also that Council has created additional accessible car spaces at the following locations since 2018:

Facility	Address	Town/Village	Description
Blayney Library	48 Adelaide Lane	Blayney	On street
Railway Station	1 Station Pl	Millthorpe	Carpark
CentrePoint	79 Osman St	Blayney	On street
King George Oval	5-7 Charles St	Blayney	Carpark
Carrington Park	71 Osman St	Blayney	Carpark
Showground	40 Three Brothers Rd	Newbridge	Carpark

Locations:

Accessible car parking spaces (contained with the 2018 audit report) exist at the following locations.

ID	Facility	Address	Town/Village	Description
1	Centrepont	79 Osman St	Blayney	On street
2	Visitor Centre	97 Adelaide St	Blayney	Carpark
3	Public School	Victoria St	Millthorpe	On street
4	Shopping	98 Adelaide St	Blayney	On street
5	Redmond Oval	44 Park St	Millthorpe	Carpark
6	Community Centre	41 Church St	Blayney	Carpark
7	Blayney Shire Civic Centre (Council Office)	91 Adelaide St	Blayney	On street
8	Museum	Church St	Millthorpe	On street
9	Heritage Park	2 Adelaide St	Blayney	Carpark

2024 Assessment

In 2024 Council staff reassessed each of the sites against the requirements of Australian Standard AS2890.6:2022, and the following information is provided, with commentary on issues in regard to compliance.

ID	1 – Centrepont Sport and Leisure Centre		
Dimensions (m)	4.4 x 3.4	Slope/Grade	5
Comments	Has been relocated to a more suitable location.		

ID	2 – Blayney Shire Visitor Information Centre		
Dimensions (m)	7.5 x 2.4	Slope/Grade (%)	<2
Pavement Markings (Parking Area)	Correct line markings Present.		
Pavement Markings (Shared Area)	Diagonal line markings are 300mm which exceeds required limit.		
Bollard Presence	No bollard present in shared area.		
Ramp	Not required.		
Signage	Signs present on Adelaide Street and at the access to the carpark.		
Other comments	Parking space line marking is longer than the shared area line marking but it doesn't obstruct wheelchair ramp unfolding from the car into the shared area when car is parked nose in.		
Further work required	Shared area diagonal markings to be renewed. Bollard to be placed in shared area. Estimated cost: \$2,500		

ID	3 – Millthorpe Public School		
Dimensions (m)	5 x 3.7	Slope/Grade (%)	10 - 11
Pavement Markings (Parking Area)	Symbol of access and line markings are the wrong colours and are faded.		
Pavement Markings (Shared Area)	Shared area is not present.		
Bollard Presence	Bollard not present.		
Ramp	Ramp present outside of parking spaces.		
Signage	Signs present.		
Other comments	2 carparks present. A new carpark was created as part of the upgrades to Millthorpe Public School.		

ID	4 – Shopping Precinct		
Dimensions (m)	5.4 x 5.4	Slope/Grade (%)	3.8
Pavement Markings (Parking Area)	Outside line markings are the wrong colour. Line markings are slightly fading.		
Pavement Markings (Shared Area)	Shared area is not present.		
Bollard Presence	Bollard not present.		
Ramp	Driveway outside parking space used as ramp. The driveway has a lip at kerb line. Also, the driveway doesn't have splays.		
Signage	Signs present.		
Other comments	Parking area is wider than necessary. Grade is slightly higher than the limit required.		
Further work required	Accessible carpark should be designed and assessed for reconstruction through the Blayney CBD Detail design.		

ID	5 – Redmond Oval		
Dimensions (m)	5.4 x 2.4	Slope/Grade (%)	1
Pavement Markings (Parking Area)	Outside line markings are the wrong colour. Line markings are faded.		
Pavement Markings (Shared Area)	Line markings are faded. Correct line markings Present.		
Bollard Presence	Bollard not present.		
Ramp	Not required		
Signage	Signs present.		
Other comments	-		
Further work required	Line marking to be renewed in the correct colours. Bollard to be placed in shared area. Estimated cost: \$2,500		

ID	6 – Blayney Shire Community Centre		
Dimensions (m)	5 x 2.4	Slope/Grade (%)	<2
Pavement Markings (Parking Area)	Line markings are slightly faded. Outside line markings don't go all the way around the parking area.		
Pavement Markings (Shared Area)	Line markings are slightly faded. Length of shared area line marking is shorter than the minimum required limit for shared area space.		
Bollard Presence	Bollard not present.		
Ramp	Not required.		
Signage	Sign present at the carpark access.		
Other comments	2 carparks present. Line marking causes the length of this parking space to be shorter than the minimum required limit.		
Further work required	Line markings to be renewed. Adjustment to line marking could occur to be adjusted to comply with the most recent marking requirements (line thickness and extent). Install bollard in shared space. Estimated cost: \$2,500		

ID	7 – Blayney Shire Civic Centre (Council Office)		
Dimensions (m)	5.6 x 5.6	Slope/Grade (%)	<3
Pavement Markings (Parking Area)	Symbol of access and line markings are the wrong colours and are faded.		
Pavement Markings (Shared Area)	Shared area is not present.		
Bollard Presence	Bollard not present.		
Ramp	Ramp is present but has a grade of 12.5% which is higher than the required limit.		
Signage	Signs present.		
Other comments	Parking area is wider than necessary. This might be useful when adding the shared area.		
Further work required	Accessible carpark should be designed and assessed for reconstruction through the Blayney CBD Detail design.		

ID	8 – Golden Memories Museum		
Dimensions (m)	7.8 x 3.6	Slope/Grade (%)	<3
Pavement Markings (Parking Area)	Outside line markings are the wrong colour. Line markings are faded.		
Pavement Markings (Shared Area)	Not required.		
Bollard Presence	Not required.		
Ramp Presence	Not required		
Signage	Signs not present.		
Other comments	This is a parallel parking space. A 1.6m x 7.8m shared area adjacent to the non-trafficked side of the parallel parking space is required but not present due to a presence of a fence.		
Further work required	Carpark should be assessed for reconstruction and determined whether a compliance can be achieved during the development of Millthorpe CBD detail design.		

ID	9 – Heritage Park		
Dimensions (m)	5.4 x 2.4	Slope/Grade (%)	<2
Pavement Markings (Parking Area)	Line markings are faded.		
Pavement Markings (Shared Area)	Line markings are faded. Diagonal line markings are 300mm which exceeds required limit.		
Bollard Presence	Bollard present, but at the wrong place.		
Ramp Presence	Ramp present.		
Signage	Signs present.		
Other comments	-		
Further work required	Line marking to be scheduled for renewal and diagonal line marking for shared area to be adjusted to the right thickness. Bollard to be placed in shared area. Estimated cost: \$2,500		

Comparing Assessments:

The following are comments comparing the assessments done in 2018 and 2024 and the actions done to improve compliance since the 2018 assessment on each of the accessible parking locations:

ID	1 – Centrepont Sport and Leisure Centre
Comments	Action was taken to relocate this parking space to a more suitable location.

ID	2 – Blayney Shire Visitor Information Centre
Comments	This parking space was stated as suitable in the 2018 assessment, but it still needs some adjustments to make it suitable to most recent standards, according to the 2024 assessment.

ID	3 – Millthorpe Public School
Comments	Action was taken to relocate this parking space to a more suitable location.
ID	4 – Shopping Precinct
Comments	There were additional non-conformances identified during the 2024 assessment, in comparison to the 2018 assessment. No action has been undertaken to improve compliance of this parking space since the 2018 assessment.
ID	5 – Redmond Oval
Comments	There were more issues with compliance to this parking space stated in the 2024 assessment than the 2018 assessment. Signs were installed since the 2018 assessment.
ID	6 – Blayney Shire Community Centre
Comments	These parking spaces was stated as suitable in the 2018 assessment, but it still needs some adjustments to make it suitable according to the 2024 assessment.
ID	7 – Blayney Shire Civic Centre (Council Office)
Comments	There were more issues with compliance to this parking space stated in the 2024 assessment than the 2018 assessment. No action has been done to improve compliance of this parking space since the 2018 assessment.
ID	8 – Golden Memories Museum
Comments	There were more issues with compliance to this parking space stated in the 2024 assessment than the 2018 assessment. No action has been done to improve compliance of this parking space since the 2018 assessment.
ID	9 – Heritage Park
Comments	There were more issues with compliance to this parking space stated in the 2024 assessment than the 2018 assessment. No action has been done to improve compliance of this parking space since the 2018 assessment.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

The 2024 assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the Australian Standard for Parking facilities - Part 6: Off-street parking for people with disabilities (AS 2890.6:2022).

As there has been no development activity in these locations there is no trigger or requirement for Council to upgrade or adjust these accessible carparks.

Budget Implications:

Nil.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

06) PROPOSED ACCESSIBLE PARKING LOCATIONS IN CARCOAR, MANDURAMA AND LYNDHURST

Department: Infrastructure Services

Author: Director Infrastructure Services

CSP Link: 1. Maintain and Improve Public Infrastructure and Services

File No: RD.AD.1

Recommendation:

That the Disability Inclusion Working Group recommend to Council:

1. Consideration of allocation of funds in the 2025/26 Operational Plan for the construction of accessible parking locations in Carcoar, Mandurama and Lyndhurst.
2. That the accessible parking option 2 be selected and constructed at Mandurama Memorial Park, adjacent to the amenities.

Reason for Report:

As part of Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan, council is seeking appropriate accessible parking options for Carcoar, Lyndhurst and Mandurama. This report identifies the suitable locations for accessible parking in Carcoar, Lyndhurst and Mandurama and the estimated cost of construction for each location.

Report:

Carcoar accessible parking location:

Council staff conducted have conducted a site inspection of Carcoar to determine suitable accessible parking locations. The location in figure 1 was identified as a suitable location which will allow access to the CBD in Carcoar.



Figure 1: Carcoar accessible parking location

This accessible parking space will require a concrete area to be constructed as an extension from the Carcoar Rural Fire Brigade access. It will utilise the existing concrete access which is attached to the footpath to allow access to the shopping centre. The estimated cost for this accessible parking is \$6,000. This includes line marking, signage, providing a bollard, and concreting.

Mandurama accessible parking location:

Council staff conducted a site inspection of Mandurama Recreation Ground, identifying two possible locations for accessible parking. These locations are shown in red boxes in Figure 1.



Figure 2: Mandurama accessible parking options

Option 1:

This option is located on-street and would require line marking of the carpark and a ramp design and will require fewer materials than the other option, however it requires the remediation of a non-compliant narrow access in the existing fence, and possibly an accessible path of travel that traverses a basketball court. The narrow access will need to be assessed and addressed in the design which may cause major adjustment to the existing gate and fence. The travel path will need to be checked for grade compliance and other considerations, and adjustments to the travel path will need to happen if it is determined non-compliant, which may significantly increase material requirements for this option as well as delay the duration of the design phase.

Option 2:

This option will require a concrete slab to be poured, and line marked as a carpark. The construction of this accessible parking will be more costly than the previous option. However, as the proposed location is immediately adjacent to the toilet, the creation of significant lengths of compliant path is avoided. As the location of the accessible park is not immediately obvious from the roadway, effective signposting of the location of the parking is required. The driveway access to the parking space needs to be reconstructed to allow for access to the space. Estimated cost for this option

is \$12,000. This includes line marking, signage, providing a bollard, concreting, and upgrading the access.

Given the above opportunities and constraints, from a constructability and usability perspective, it is recommended that the second option is selected.

Lyndhurst accessible parking location:

Council staff conducted have conducted a site inspection of Lyndhurst to determine suitable accessible parking locations. The location in figure 3 was identified as a suitable location allowing access to the toilets at Capital Park.



Figure 3: Lyndhurst accessible parking location

This accessible parking space will be on Mount McDonald Road and will utilise the existing ramp to allow access to the footpath. The estimated cost for this accessible parking is \$2,000. This includes line marking, signage, and providing a bollard.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Council is required to ensure that any public works conform with access standards and legislative requirements.

Budget Implications:

Funding is not currently provided for in Council's Operational Plan and is recommended for consideration.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

07) LGA BOUNDARY ALTERATION - 87B KELLYS ROAD**Department:** Corporate Services**Author:** Director Corporate Services**CSP Link:** 2. Build the Capacity and Capability of Local Governance and Finance**File No:** RD.AD.1

Recommendation:

1. That Council inform Bathurst Regional Council that it has no objections to the transfer of Part Lot 145 DP42906 (87B Kellys Road, Kings Plains) from the Blayney Shire Council LGA to the Bathurst Regional Council LGA.
2. That the adjustment for rates and annual charges take effect from the next year following proclamation.

Reason for Report:

For Council to endorse the transfer of Part Lot 145 DP42906 (A3509821 – 87B Kellys Road, Kings Plains) from the Blayney Shire Council local government area (LGA) to Bathurst Regional Council LGA.

Report:

In March 2025 Blayney Shire Council received a request from the property owner of Lot 145 DP42906 (A3509821 – 87B Kellys Road, Kings Plains) for the local government boundary between Blayney Shire Council and Bathurst Regional Council to be altered so Part Lot 145 DP42906, presently within the Blayney LGA, can be transferred to the Bathurst LGA.

The land was transferred into the Blayney LGA from the Bathurst LGA in 2020 when a cadastral adjustment was made to the local government boundary to align with the boundary declaration. A large portion of the land parcel remains within the Bathurst LGA. Part Lot 1 DP1247053, a total of 6.805 hectares, is within the Blayney Shire Council LGA.

In order to proceed with the request, Council must confirm it has no objection to Bathurst Regional Council prior to their notification to the Office of Local Government and request for the Minister for Local Government to recommend to the Governor the approval to issue a proclamation under section 218B of the Local Government Act, altering the LGA boundaries.

A map identifying the location of the subject parcel to be transferred from Blayney Shire is attached for information.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

In order for Bathurst Regional Council to proceed with this request to the Office of Local Government (OLG) for the Minister for Local Government to recommend to the Governor the approval to issue a proclamation under section 218B of the Local Government Act, altering the council boundaries, Blayney Shire Council must first confirm it has no objection.

Budget Implications:

Council will not derive rate income from this parcel upon proclamation based on the valuation as determined by the Valuer General. This equates to an amount of \$713.11

Enclosures (following report)

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Correspondence from landowner | 1 Page |
| 2 | Detailed map of subject land parcel | 1 Page |

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

Anton Franze

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 March 2025 2:27 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: IC/91290 - Re: Assessment 268648 [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[REDACTED]

Approx. 2 years ago part of lot 145 DP. 42906 was taken out of Bathurst shire and put in Blayney shire
 I am asking Bathurst shire to reverse this.

Thanks
 [REDACTED]

On Tue Mar 04 2025 [REDACTED]

wrote:

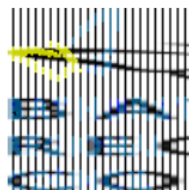
----- Original Message -----

Hi [REDACTED],

[REDACTED] called today to speak to you in regards 87 Kellys Road which part of his farm was put over to Blayney shire Council. I let [REDACTED] know your currently on leave and will be back Monday 7th March if you can please contact him on [REDACTED] to discuss would be appreciated.

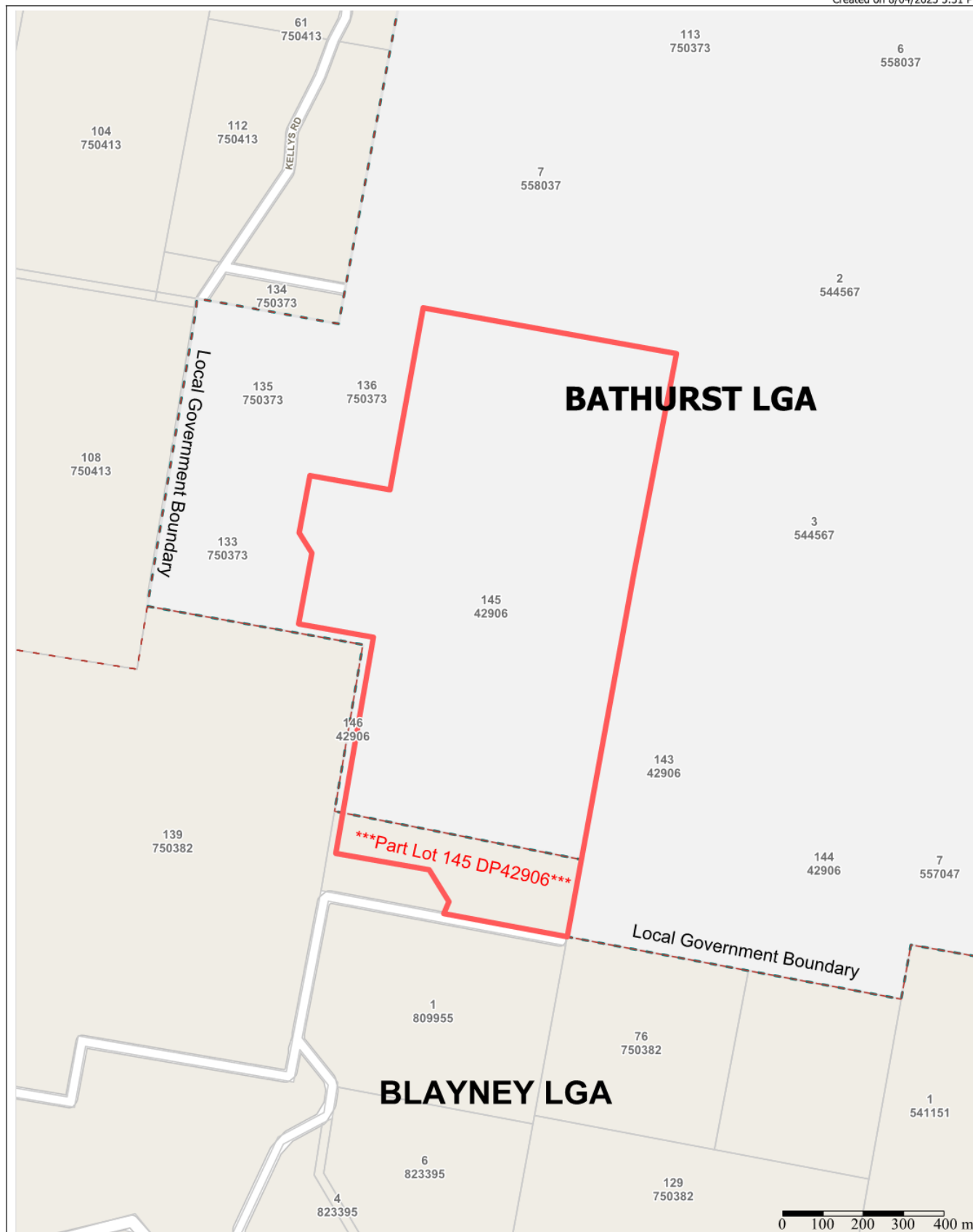
Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]
 Revenue Officer (Part-Time)
 Bathurst Regional Council
 Wiradjuri Country
 158 Russell Street Bathurst 2795
 P: 02 6333 6262
 W: www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au



Bathurst Regional Council acknowledges the Wiradjuri People as the Traditional Custodians of the land in the Bathurst Region. We pay respect to Elders, past, present, and emerging and acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who live, work and play in the Bathurst region.

Created on 8/04/2025 5:31 PM



Blayney Shire Council
PO Box 62
BLAYNEY NSW 2799
Ph: (02) 6368 2104
Web:
www.blayney.nsw.gov.au

The Imagery and Basemap are sourced from Spatial Services, Department of Customer Service 2021



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Projection: # GDA2020 / MGA zone 55

Date: 8/04/2025 5:31 PM

Created By: Anton Franze

08) ADOPTION OF PAYMENT OF EXPENSES AND THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS POLICY

Department: Corporate Services

Author: Director Corporate Services

CSP Link: 2. Build the Capacity and Capability of Local Governance and Finance

File No: GO.PO.1

Recommendation:

That the Payment of Expenses and the Provision of Facilities to the Mayor and Councillors policy be adopted and included in Council's policy register.

Reason for Report:

For Council to adopt the Payment of Expenses and the Provision of Facilities to the Mayor and Councillors policy following its statutory exhibition and review.

Report:

Following the endorsement of the Draft Payment of Expenses and the Provision of Facilities to the Mayor and Councillors Policy at the February 2025 Ordinary Meeting, the policy was placed on public exhibition and the public were invited to make submissions.

The closing date for submissions was 10 April 2025 and at the close of the exhibition period Council had not received any submissions in relation to this.

The policy is within the guidelines outlined in DLG Circular 09-36: *Guidelines for the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities for Mayors and Councillors in NSW* and is consistent with many NSW Councils.

A copy of the Payment of Expenses and the Provision of Facilities to the Mayor and Councillors Policy is provided as an attachment to this business paper.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Pursuant to S.252 Local Government Act 1993 Council must adopt a new policy on the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities to the mayor and councillors within 12 months of the election.

A council must not pay any expenses incurred or to be incurred by, or provide any facilities to, the mayor, the deputy mayor or a councillor otherwise than in accordance with a policy under the above legislation.

Once exhibited and adopted, the policy must be made publicly available on the council website.

Budget Implications:

Amendments to the policy are forecast to result in an increase to expenditure of approximately \$8,000 per annum. Expenses and facilities referenced in the policy are provided for in Council's Operational Plan.

Enclosures (following report)

- | | | |
|---|--|----------|
| 1 | Payment of Expenses and the Provision of Facilities
to the Mayor and Councillors Policy | 16 Pages |
|---|--|----------|

Attachments (separate document)

Nil



**Payment of Expenses and the
provision of Facilities to the Mayor and
Councillors Policy**

Policy	1A
Officer Responsible	Director Corporate Services
Last Review Date	XX/XX/2025

Strategic Policy

1. OBJECTIVE OF POLICY

Section 252 (1) of the Local Government Act 1993 requires Council to adopt a policy concerning the payment of expenses incurred or to be incurred by, and the provision of facilities to, the mayor, the deputy mayor and other councillors (including Administrators) in relation to discharging the functions of civic office.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that councillors receive adequate and reasonable expenses and facilities to enable them to carry out their civic duties and that there is accountability and transparency in the payment of expenses incurred, or to be incurred by Councillors (including Administrators). The overriding principle to be addressed in the development of this policy is that the provisions of the policy meet the expectations of the local community.

This policy does not deal with matters associated with the setting and payment of annual fees to the Mayor and Councillors, which are determined by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.

Any reference hereon in this policy to Councillors will encompass Administrators.

2. STATUS OF THE POLICY

This policy has been prepared in accordance with the “Guidelines for the Payment of Expenses and the Provision of Facilities for Mayors and Councillors in NSW” as issued by the Office of Local Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet dated 7 October 2009 (Circular 09-36).

3. PAYMENT OF EXPENSES

3.1. CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

Requests for attending conferences shall be in writing outlining the benefits for Council. A written report shall be furnished to Council from the Councillor or staff accompanying the Councillor on the aspects of the conference relevant to council business and / or the community. No written report shall be required for the Local Government NSW Annual Conference.

Council will meet the following expenses for Councillors attending conferences and seminars which have been authorised by General Manager or by the Mayor under delegated authority. Councillors shall be entitled to attend 1 conference or seminar per annum.

3.1.1. Registration Fees

- i) Payment of registration fees for attendance at conference / seminar sessions.
- ii) Payment of official conference / seminar lunches and dinners, and associated tours where they are relevant to the business and interests of Council, if not covered by the registration cost.

3.1.2. Accommodation

Payment of accommodation costs on the following basis:

- i) Accommodation selected by the Council or General Manager on the basis of cost and convenience of location to the conference. A Councillor may choose accommodation at a different location, but which is the same cost or less.
- ii) The number of accommodation days provided under this policy shall be limited to:
 - a. Registration day;
 - b. Each day on which official sessions of the conference / seminar are held, as well as the night preceding the conference / seminar where travelling schedules reasonably require such accommodation; and
 - c. Each day on which a Councillor is required to be accommodated enroute to and from the conference / seminar.
- iii) Any additional accommodation costs incurred as a result of the attendance of partners and/or children shall be borne by the Councillor.

3.1.3. Car Parking Fees

Council shall meet the cost of the following car parking fees.

- i) Hotel / Motel parking – additional car parking fees not included in accommodation costs.
- ii) Airport parking – costs incurred in the parking of a Councillor's private vehicle at an airport for the duration of a conference / seminar, subject to the vehicle being parked in the most economical airport car park.

Reimbursement for parking expenses shall be made upon the production of appropriate receipts and tax invoices, and the completion of the required claim form. Claim for such expenses shall be made within two (2) months of the date of return from the conference / seminar.

The driver is personally liable for all traffic infringements and parking fines incurred while travelling in private or Council vehicles. Claims for reimbursement or payment of expenses shall be refused.

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Council shall meet the expenses for Councillors attending training and professional development which have been authorised by Council resolution or by the Mayor under delegated authority, where the training or educational course is directly related to Councillors civic functions and responsibilities.

The specific expense items met by Council are the same as those applicable to “Conferences and Seminars”, as listed at clause 3.1.

3.2. REIMBURSEMENT AND RECONCILIATION OF EXPENSES

Councillors seeking reimbursement of costs and expenses, incurred in accordance with the requirements of this Policy, shall only be approved upon the production of appropriate receipts and tax invoices, and the completion of the required claim form.

Claims for reimbursement of costs and expenses shall be made within two (2) months of the costs and/or expenses being incurred, unless otherwise specified within this policy. Such claims are encouraged to be submitted monthly to enable budget monitoring and timely reimbursement.

To assist proper attribution of costs and finalisation of financial year end, claims for reimbursement shall lodged by no later than 10 July in each financial year.

3.3. CLAIM FORM

Provided as an attachment (Attachment A) to this Policy, is the prescribed Claim Form which shall be completed by any Councillor seeking reimbursement of their costs and expenses. A copy of the form may also be accessed from the Councillor Portal under Guides and Forms.

It is the responsibility of the Councillor to ensure that the Claim Form is submitted accurately and complete, and within the prescribed timeframe as required by this Policy.

Incomplete claim forms may result in costs and expenses not being reimbursed.

3.4. PAYMENTS IN ADVANCE

Councillors may request payment in advance in anticipation of expenses to be incurred in attending conferences, seminars and training away from home. Councillors may also request an advance payment for the cost of any other service or facility covered by this Policy. However, Councillors shall fully reconcile all expenses against the cost of the advance within fourteen (14) days of their return.

Note: No general allowance type payment shall be made under any circumstances.

3.5. PAYMENT OF EXPENSES FOR SPOUSES, PARTNERS AND ACCOMPANYING PERSONS

Where the business of Council includes an invitation to a Councillor's spouse, partner or accompanying person, Council shall meet all reasonable costs associated with the spouse, partner or accompanying person attending that function.

In circumstances where an invitation is not extended to a Councillor's spouse, partner or accompanying person, that spouse, partner or accompanying person may accompany the Councillor on the business of Council, at the expense of the Councillor.

Attendance at the Local Government NSW Annual Conference shall be regarded as business of the Council and, as permitted by the Office of Local Government Guidelines, registration and official conference dinner costs be met by Council.

An accompanying person is a person who has a close personal relationship with the councillor and/or provides carer support to the councillor.

3.6. INCIDENTAL EXPENSES

Claims for reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket or incidental expenses incurred by a Councillor whilst attending conferences, seminars or training courses shall only be approved upon presentation of receipts and the completion of the prescribed claim form. Payments of general expense allowances shall not be permitted under this policy.

Incidental expenses will be paid in accordance with the annual Taxation Determination issued by the Australian Taxation Office titled: *Income tax: what are the reasonable travel and overtime meal allowance expense amounts for the xxxx-xx income year?* Amounts claimed shall not exceed amounts specified in the Taxation Determination.

3.7. INSURANCE

Council shall effect an appropriate level of insurance for Councillors in the following areas:

- i) Public Liability – for matters arising out of a Councillor's performance of their civic duties and/or exercise of their Council functions.
- ii) Professional Indemnity – for matters arising out of a Councillor's performance of their civic duties and/or exercise of their Council functions.
- iii) Personal Accident – coverage of Councillor and/or spouse while on Council business.
- iv) Defamation – excluding Councillor to Councillor, Councillor to Staff and Staff to Councillor.
- v) Travel – for approved travel on Council business.

Council shall meet any excess applicable under a policy for:

- Councillor and Officers – in relation to a Councillor performing their civic duties or Council functions;
- Other Insurances – in specific instances when considered necessary by the General Manager (e.g. travel insurance).

3.8. LEGAL EXPENSES

Council may indemnify or reimburse the reasonable legal expenses of:-

- i) A Councillor defending an action arising from the performance in good faith of a function under the Local Government Act 1993 (refer Section 731), provided that the outcome of the legal proceedings is favourable to the Councillor.
- ii) A Councillor defending an action in defamation, provided that the outcome of the legal proceedings is favourable to the Councillor.
- iii) A Councillor involved in the event of:
 - An inquiry, investigation or hearing into a Councillor's conduct by any of the following:
 - o Independent Commission Against Corruption
 - o Office of the NSW Ombudsman
 - o Office of Local Government
 - o NSW Police Force
 - o Director of Public Prosecutions
 - o Local Government Pecuniary Interest Tribunal
 - o Council's Conduct Review Committee / Reviewer

This is provided that the subject of the inquiry, investigation or hearing arises from the performance in good faith of a councillor's functions under the Local Government Act 1993 and the matter before the investigative or review body has proceeded past any initial assessment phase to a formal investigation or review. In the case of a conduct complaint made against a councillor, legal costs shall only be made available where a matter has been referred by the General Manager to the conduct reviewer/conduct review committee to make formal enquiries into that matter in accordance with the procedures in the Code of Conduct. In the case of a pecuniary interest or misbehaviour matter legal costs shall only be made available where a formal investigation has been commenced by the Office of Local Government.

In addition, legal costs shall only be provided where the investigative or review body makes a finding that is not substantially unfavourable to the councillor. This may include circumstances in which a matter does not proceed to a finding. In relation to a councillor's conduct, a finding by an investigative or review body that an inadvertent minor technical breach had occurred may not necessarily be considered a substantially unfavourable outcome.

Council shall not meet the legal costs of legal proceedings initiated by a Councillor under any circumstance.

Council shall not meet the legal costs of a councillor seeking advice in respect of possible defamation, or in seeking a non-litigious remedy for possible defamation.

Legal costs shall not be met for legal proceedings that do not involve a councillor performing their role as a councillor.

Council may lawfully obtain insurance cover against the risk of having to meet the reasonable legal costs of a councillor, or to reimburse those costs, provided that the costs or reimbursements are ones that it is authorised to meet.

Council may reimburse such Councillor, after the conclusion of the inquiry, investigation, hearing or proceeding, for all legal expenses properly and reasonable incurred, given the nature of the inquiry, investigation, hearing or proceeding, on a solicitor / client basis. Such determination shall be by resolution of Council.

3.9. CARER'S PROVISIONS

3.9.1. Carer's Expenses

Councillors who are the principal carer of a child or other elderly, disabled and/or sick immediate family member shall be entitled to reimbursement of carer's expenses up to a maximum of \$1,000 per annum for attendance at Council and Committee meetings and other official civic functions noted below, plus reasonable travel from their principal place of residence. Childcare expenses may be claimed for children up to and including the age of 16 years. Reimbursement of carer's expenses shall be made after submission of receipts and tax invoices and completion of the prescribed claim form. Claims for such expenses shall be made within one (1) month of the expense being incurred. Official civic functions may include:

- Attendance at Ordinary and Extraordinary meetings of Council.
- Attendance at Council Committee meetings of which the Councillor is a member.
- Attendance at Ordinary, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings of an organisation where the Councillor has, by Council resolution, been duly elected as a Council delegate.
- Attendance at inspections, within or outside the area as authorised by Council resolution or by the Mayor under delegated authority.
- Attendance at official Council functions as authorised as Council business by a resolution of Council.
- Attendance at conferences or seminars approved by Council resolution or by the Mayor under delegated authority.
- Attendance at training or professional development approved by Council resolution or by the Mayor under delegated authority.
- Attendance at functions to which the Mayor has been invited, which are attended at the request of the Mayor.

Councillors shall provide suitable evidence to the General Manager that reimbursement is applicable, such as advice from a medical practitioner in the event of caring for an adult person.

3.9.2. Expenses and Facilities for Councillors with Disabilities

In addition to the provisions of 3.10.1, for any councillor with a disability, Council may resolve to provide reasonable additional facilities and expenses, in order to allow that Councillor to perform their civic duties.

4. CONSIDERATION OF SPECIFIC EXPENSES FOR MAYORS AND COUNCILLORS

4.1. GENERAL TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

All travel by Councillors shall be undertaken by utilising the most direct route and the most practicable and economical mode of transport subject to any personal medical considerations.

Note: The driver is personally responsible for all traffic infringements and parking fines incurred while travelling in private or council vehicles on Council business.

4.2. LOCAL TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS AND EXPENSES

For the purposes of this Policy, Local Travel will include travel conducted within the following Local Government Areas:-

- Blayney
- Cowra
- Bathurst
- Orange
- Cabonne
- Dubbo

For the purposes of this Policy, where Council Delegates attend meetings of the Lachlan Regional Transport Committee Inc, Local Travel will include travel conducted within, and transiting to, the Local Government Areas of the members to this Committee.

Travelling expenses within these Local Government Areas shall be paid to Councillors upon submission of the completed claim form for:

- Attendance at Council or Committee meetings;
- Undertaking approved business of the Council.

Councillors are encouraged to pool vehicles where practicable.

4.3. NON-LOCAL AND OTHER TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS AND EXPENSES

Payment of travelling expenses for all other travel outside of the “local area” as defined above shall be submitted to Council for consideration and shall only be paid if approved.

All non-local and other travel should be advised to the General Manager in advance for coordination of accommodation and travel arrangements (if required). Such advice shall be on a travel authority and submitted in time for approval by Council as attached to this policy. For risk minimisation Councillors are to pool vehicles where practicable. All travel by vehicle shall be by the following priority:

- a. Council vehicle (if available)
- b. Councillor vehicle
- c. Hire vehicle

Claims for expenses incurred shall be submitted on the approved claim form as attached to this Policy, and each claim shall clearly state the purpose of the travel. Such claims shall be in whole numbers and are encouraged to be submitted monthly to enable budget monitoring and timely reimbursement.

To assist proper attribution of costs and finalisation of financial year end, claims for reimbursement shall lodged by no later than 10 July in each financial year.

4.4. TRAVELLING EXPENSES PER KILOMETRE RATE

Approved claims for payment of travelling expenses shall be fixed at the rate per kilometre for vehicles per the cents per kilometre method as determined by the Australian Taxation Office.

4.5. OTHER EXPENSES

Councillor claims for payment of “Other Expenses” not specifically covered by this Policy shall be presented in a report to Council for consideration and shall only be paid if approved.

5. PROVISION OF FACILITIES

5.1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The provision of facilities, equipment and services to the Mayor and Councillors shall be used by the Mayor and Councillors only for the purposes of fulfilling their civic duties and functions. However, Council acknowledges that infrequent and incidental private use of the facilities and equipment may occur.

Council facilities, equipment and services shall not be used to produce and disseminate election material, personalised pamphlets or newsletters (and the like) or material for any other political purpose.

5.2. TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT

5.2.1. Mobile Devices

At the expense of Council, each Councillor shall be provided with Technology equipment, the provision of a mobile device (i.e tablet or laptop). Such equipment will be provided with required applications for Councillors to undertake their duties. Any additional applications at Council expense must be made in writing with substantiation of need.

Council will not be responsible for purchase, update or replacement of applications not purchased through Council in the event of equipment failure.

5.2.2. Data and Telecommunications Allowance

Any devices provided to Councillors shall include a data plan. Councillors shall be eligible to claim a data and communications allowance of up to \$50 per month for 50% reimbursement of service plan charges associated with telephone and home internet. The allowance shall not cover costs associated with purchase of equipment e.g. phone or ancillary services including entertainment.

5.3. APPAREL

At the expense of Council, each Councillor shall be provided with the following apparel each term:

- One (1) tie or scarf;
- One (1) corporate polo shirt or dress shirt; and
- Protective clothing as deemed required by the General Manager.

Councillors shall be entitled to select apparel with a Council logo, from Council's approved clothing supplier up to an amount of \$600 per Council term. Preference is for clothing to be purchased through Council's approved clothing supplier however Councillors may seek approval of the General Manager for reimbursement of the cost for purchase of clothing with council logo embroidery, up to the approved amount, on the basis that clothing purchased is suitable and consistent i.e. style and colour. Any apparel purchased under this section shall carry the Council logo.

5.4. OTHER FACILITIES

Councillors are to receive the benefit of:

- Provision and use of business cards and name badges;
- Postage of official correspondence - all mail is to be directed through the Council's own mailing systems;

- Meals/refreshments at Council, Committee, Sub-Committee Meetings and Working Parties, or at any other time deemed appropriate by the Mayor or General Manager whilst on Council business.

5.5. RETURN OF FACILITIES

Councillors shall return any equipment or other facilities to Council after the completion of their term of office, extended leave of absence or at the cessation of their civic duties.

Where a separate SIM card / telephone had been established, this line shall be disconnected at Council's expense. However, should the Councillor wish to retain the use of this line, then at Council's expense, the line shall be transferred into the name of the Councillor.

Councillors will also have the option of purchasing the equipment previously allocated, at the discretion of the General Manager, for an agreed fair market price determined through a transparent market tested process pursuant to Council's Disposal of Assets Policy.

6. PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES FOR MAYORS

6.1. SECRETARIAL SUPPORT

Secretarial support facilities are available to the mayor during normal office hours, through the General Manager.

6.2. CREDIT CARD

- i) The Mayor will be provided with a Corporate Credit Card to facilitate payment of incidental expenses such as attendance at functions, accommodation, parking and entertainment in conjunction with discharging the functions of the Mayoral Office.
- ii) The credit card will have a limit of \$2,000 personally issued to the Mayor. The application form is to be signed by the Mayor.
- iii) The credit card is to be used for Council-related business expenditure only.
- iv) The credit card must not be used for obtaining cash advances.
- v) Upon completion of the Mayoral term, the credit card is to be returned to the General Manager on or prior to the date the term ceases.
- vi) Ongoing use of the credit card by the Mayor will be in accordance with and subject to any other policy relating to the use of such credit facilities adopted by Council from time to time.

ATTACHMENT A – CLAIM FORMS**COUNCILLOR'S EXPENSES CLAIM FORM**

Council has adopted a Policy for payment of expenses and provision of facilities to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors in relation to discharging the functions of civic office.

Name of Councillor: _____

Date	Expense	Meeting / Committee / Other	Amount \$
Total:			

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

Claims for expenses incurred shall be submitted on the approved claim form and each claim shall clearly state the purpose of the travel. Such claims are encouraged to be submitted monthly to enable budget monitoring and timely reimbursement.

To assist proper attribution of costs and finalisation of financial year end, claims for reimbursement shall lodged by no later than 10 July in the financial year incurred.

Office Use Only

PAYMENT

TOTAL: \$ _____

Payment authorised: _____

Date: _____

COUNCILLOR'S TRAVEL CLAIM FORM (KM ALLOWANCE)

Council has adopted a Policy for payment of expenses and provision of facilities to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors in relation to discharging the functions of civic office.

Name of Councillor: _____

Date	Council Meeting/Committee/Other	Kilometres
	TOTAL:	

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

Claims for shall be submitted on the approved claim form and each claim shall clearly state the purpose of the travel. Such claims are encouraged to be submitted monthly to enable budget monitoring and timely reimbursement.

To assist proper attribution of costs and finalisation of financial year end, claims for reimbursement shall lodged by no later than 10 July in the financial year incurred.

Office Use Only	PAYMENT
TRAVEL (Kilometres) _____ @ \$ _____	_____

Payment authorised: _____

Date: _____

ATTACHMENT B – TRAVEL AUTHORITY

**BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL
COUNCILLOR TRAVEL AUTHORITY
FOR NON-LOCAL AND OTHER TRAVEL**

Pursuant to the Payment of Expenses and the Provision of Facilities to the Mayor and Councillors Policy the following application is submitted:

Name of Councillor: _____

Purpose of Travel: _____

Date(s): _____ Time from / to: _____

Location: _____

Venue: _____

Mode of Transport: (please circle)

Air Council Vehicle Councillor Vehicle Hire Vehicle

Accommodation (if required):

Single Room: _____ Double Room: _____ Other: _____

Motel preference: _____

Please provide other relevant details (e.g. special requirements):

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

(Authority should be lodged with sufficient time for Council report for approval to be submitted.)

Office Use Only

Council meeting date: _____ Minute No.: _____

Transport: _____ Order No.: _____

Motel: _____ Order No.: _____

BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL COUNCILLOR DATA ALLOWANCE CLAIM FORM

Council has adopted a Policy for payment of expenses and provision of facilities to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors in relation to reimbursement of internet (data) charges associated with home internet and telephone.

A new data allowance claim is required to be lodged each Council term or where an internet (data) plan or provider is changed.

Name of Councillor: _____

Date	Data provider	Internet Plan value per month \$	Claim per month \$

Maximum claimable is amount determined and approved by Council.

Please attach copy of invoice to substantiate plan value.

Please note: A new claim must be submitted where the plan value changes.

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

Office Use Only

TOTAL CLAIM

TOTAL

\$

=====

Payment authorised: _____

Date: _____

	Date	Minute No.
First Adopted:	20/9/1999	592
Last Reviewed:	13/08/2001	388
	12/02/2007	7
	14/05/2007	07/094
	12/05/2008	08/105
	29/09/2008	08/231
	08/02/2010	1002/010
	09/05/2011	1105/007
	12/09/2011	1109/022
	10/12/2012	1212/005
	09/09/2013	1309/009
	16/09/2014	1409/010
	14/09/2015	1509/006
	19/09/2016	1609/009
	16/04/2018	1804/009
	15/08/2022	2208/009
	XX/XX/2025	
Next Review:	28/08/2029	

09) DRAFT 2025/26 - 2028/29 DELIVERY PROGRAM AND 2025/26 OPERATIONAL PLAN**Department:** Corporate Services**Author:** Director Corporate Services**CSP Link:** 2. Build the Capacity and Capability of Local Governance and Finance**File No:** CM.PL.4

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Endorse the draft 2025/26 – 2028/29 Delivery Program and 2025/26 Operational Plan.
2. Place the draft 2025/26 - 2028/29 Delivery Program and 2025/26 Operational Plan on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.
3. Endorse the draft 2025/26 – 2034/35 Long Term Financial Plan.
4. Place the draft 2025/26 – 2034/35 Long Term Financial Plan on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.
5. Note that the 2025/26 Draft Operational Plan forecasts:
 - a) A Net Operating Result before Capital Items of (\$978k) deficit,
 - b) (\$1.21m) deficit for General Fund,
 - c) \$233k surplus for Sewer Fund,
 - d) Operational deficits in 2026/27 improving thereafter.
6. Note that should the planned assumptions around income forecasts in the Base Case of the 2025/26 – 2034/35 Long Term Financial Plan, mainly new mine rate income, not eventuate then without the presence of an alternate income source Council will be required to undertake remedial action to address funding shortfalls shown in the Reduced Mining & Grant Funding Scenario.

Reason for Report:

For Council to consider and endorse the draft 2025/26 – 2028/29 Delivery Program and 2025/26 Operational Plan for public exhibition, pursuant to s.405 of the Local Government Act.

Report:

All councils in NSW are required to develop long term, medium term and short-term plans as part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework legislated under the Local Government Act.

The Delivery Program details the principal activities it will undertake to achieve the objectives established in the Community Strategic Plan, within the resources available under the Resourcing Strategy. Council must prepare a new Delivery Program after each ordinary election of councillors to cover the principal activities of the council for a 4-year period and roll it over on an annual basis to maintain this timeframe.

The Operational Plan spells out the individual projects and activities that will be undertaken in the forthcoming year to achieve the commitments made in the Delivery Program. Council must adopt its annual Operational Plan before the beginning of each financial year, outlining the activities to be undertaken that year, as part of the Delivery Program.

The Operational Plan must also include a detailed annual budget and include the Statement of Council's Revenue Policy which includes the proposed rates, fees and charges.

The Operational Plan has been reviewed and updated to reflect service delivery for the 2025/26 year. The Operational Plan and the four-year Delivery Program are presented to Council in two documents:

1. 2025-26 – 2028/29 Delivery Program & 2025/26 Operational Plan
2. Appendix – Revenue Policy & Fees and Charges

Following any amendments by Council, the draft 2025/26 – 2028/29 Delivery Program and 2025/26 Operational Plan will be placed on public exhibition for a minimum 28 days. Council must consider any comments and public submissions prior to adoption at the 23 June 2025 Council meeting.

Rates Structure

The following table represents Year 2 of the approved Special Variation to rate income approved by IPART. An increase to rates of 10% has been applied for the 2025/26 year.

Rating Structure for the 2025/26 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 Rate	1,199	\$ 445	0.00137159	\$ 409,673,510	\$ 1,095,459	48.71%
Blayney & Carcoar	1,468	\$ 445	0.00279802	\$ 247,739,200	\$ 1,346,439	48.52%
Millthorpe	354	\$ 445	0.00133669	\$ 120,796,200	\$ 318,997	49.38%
Business						
Ordinary Rate	151	\$ 575	0.00421661	\$ 33,113,060	\$ 226,450	38.34%
Blayney	173	\$ 575	0.00733342	\$ 25,109,000	\$ 283,610	35.07%
Business Millthorpe & Carcoar	57	\$ 575	0.00375020	\$ 15,093,700	\$ 89,379	36.67%
Farmland						
Ordinary Rate	709	\$ 725	0.00154409	\$1,508,440,930	\$ 2,843,194	18.08%
Mining						
Ordinary Rate	1	\$1,450	0.04478690	\$ 564,000	\$ 26,710	5.43%
Gold		\$1,450	0.05273169			
Gold / Copper Combined	1	\$1,450	0.05059476	\$ 116,500,000	\$ 5,895,740	0.02%
Total Yield	4,113			\$ 2,477,029,600	\$ 12,125,978	

The special variation proposed has increased Council's overall total rate yield by \$1.1m. This increase to rate revenue has been applied to the base rate and ad valorem amounts within each rate category to ensure this increase is apportioned evenly across all assessments.

As part of Council's ongoing strategy to deliver equity the following actions to rate categories are proposed:

Farmland

- An increase of the base rate amount by \$65 to \$725 has been applied. The average rate has increased from \$3,664.54 in 2024/25 to \$4,010.15.

Business

- An increase of the base rate amount by \$52 to \$575 has been applied. The average rates for the Business sub-categories range from \$1,499.67 to \$1,639.36. For reference the averages for the 2024/25 year ranged from \$1,421.29 to \$1,493.45.

Residential

- An increase to the base rate amount by \$40 to \$445 has been applied. The average rates for the Residential sub-categories range from \$901.12 to \$917.19. For reference the averages for the 2024/25 year ranged from \$818.41 to \$831.06.

Waste Management Annual Charges

The proposed increases to Waste Management charges are significant and result from increased compliance related activities on Council for management of waste. An overview of increases to charges proposed is provided as follows:

- Waste Management Levy from \$62 to \$80 per year. This charge is for all properties in the Blayney Shire to create an equitable contribution by all residents towards the operation of the Blayney Waste Facility, in particular management and processing of recycling and green waste.
- Domestic Waste Management Availability Charge from \$70 to \$80.
- Domestic Waste Management service charge by \$38 to \$428.
- Non-Domestic Waste Management service charge by \$50 to \$554.
- Not for profit Non-Domestic Waste Management service charge by \$14 to \$152.
- Extra waste bin by \$36 to \$394 and extra recycle bin by \$14 to \$160.

The following waste management service charges for 2025/26 are proposed:

Charge Category and Description	Annual Charge	No. of Properties
Waste Management Levy		
<i>Levy is applied to all properties funding waste disposal services for the Blayney Shire.</i>	\$80	4,221
Domestic Waste Management		
<i>Charge is applied to properties that have a residence within the waste collection area.</i>	\$428	2,734
Domestic Waste Management Availability Charge <i>Charge is applied to properties within the waste collection area that do not have a service but it is available i.e. vacant land.</i>	\$80	357
Commercial (Non-Domestic) Waste Management		
Non-Domestic Waste Management Service Charge <i>Charge is applied to non-domestic properties within the waste collection area.</i>	\$554	334
Non-Domestic Waste Management Availability Charge <i>Charge is applied to properties within the waste collection area that do not have a service, but it is available i.e. vacant land.</i>	\$80	89
Non-Domestic Waste Service Management Charge for Charity and Not for Profit Organisations <i>Charge is applied to the above properties for non-domestic properties within the waste collection area.</i>	\$152	16
Extra Services		
Additional Garbage Charge – per red bin	\$394	98
Additional Recycling Charge – per yellow bin	\$160	36
TOTAL YIELD	\$1,775,352	

Sewer Charges

Sewer Charges have been indexed by 3.5%. The following wastewater (sewerage) service charges for 2025/26 are proposed:

Non-Residential					
	Annual Charge (Prior to SDF Factor)	No of Properties	Quarterly Charge before SDF applied	Min. quarterly amount charged	TOTAL YIELD*
20mm Water Service	\$720	162	\$ 180	\$216	
25mm Water Service	\$1,096	21	\$ 274	\$216	
32mm Water Service	\$1,788	18	\$ 447	\$216	
40mm Water Service	\$2,800	11	\$ 700	\$216	
50mm Water Service	\$4,368	24	\$1,092	\$216	
80mm Water Service	\$11,172	1	\$2,793		
100mm Water Service	\$17,516	6	\$4,379		
150mm Water Service	\$39,416	2	\$9,854		
Vacant/Unmetered	\$444	56			
Usage Charge (per kl)	\$1.83				
Estimated Total Yield					

*Estimated yield is based on SDF factor and usage by each service.

Residential			
	Access Charge	No of Properties	Total Yield
Connected	\$864	1,588	\$1,372,032
Vacant (Unconnected)	\$444	172	\$76,368
Estimated Total Yield	\$1,448,400		

The Future Sewerage Infrastructure Subsidy Charge, introduced in 2020/21, remains fixed at \$55 per assessment. This charge was based on the Sewerage Development Servicing Plan (DSP) which informs Sewerage Developer Charges to be applied to new development. In the plan Council elected to levy Developer Charges lower than the calculated Developer Charges for the 2 service areas, Blayney and Millthorpe. The Developer Charges have been set in consideration of financial, social and environmental factors to determine a Developer Charge which is balanced, fair and meets Council's objectives.

The cross-subsidy, resulting from capping of Developer Charges, must be disclosed in Council's DSP, annual Operational Plan and Annual Report.

The amount determined per Typical Residential Bill (TRB) is disclosed below and will apply to all assessments within the service areas:

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

Other information

The interest rate charged on overdue rates and charges for 2025/26, determined by the Office of Local Government, is proposed at 10% being the maximum rate.

Included in the 2025/26 Operational Plan is the Schedule of Financial Assistance outlining allocation of proposed funding under the Community Financial Assistance Policy. This schedule has been included to expedite the funding process for recurrent recipients of financial assistance and for greater transparency to the community.

Updated 2025/26 – 2034/35 Long Term Financial Plan

The Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) models 3 scenarios covering a Base Case, Optimistic and Conservative outcome, with the Base Case being used as the basis for the development of the Draft Operational Plan 2025/26 and the associated Budget.

During the development of the Budget, income and expenditure assumptions were refined to reflect more current predictions and observed trends. A broad table of assumptions are listed on page 7 – 8 of the attached LTFP.

The updated Long Term Financial Plan, Base Case (SV Model) scenario results in an operating deficit initially but improving to an operating surplus by year 3. The Plan also assumes that the current rate income base is retained throughout the plan and includes forecast income from a new mining development forecast in 2027/28.

The 3 scenarios modelled are detailed below:

a. Base Case (SV Model)

- Continuation of SV model – 10% for 2025/26 & 2026/27
- Additional mining rates scheduled from 2027/28
- No change to the proposed renewal and maintenance expenditure forecast to address Council's infrastructure backlog and maintenance of assets.

b. Increased Rate Peg

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

c. Reduced Mining Income & Grant Funding

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

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

Scenario	Year 1 2025/26 \$000	Year 2 2026/27 \$000	Year 3 2027/28 \$000	Year 4 2028/29 \$000	Year 10 2034/35 \$000
a. Base Case (SV Model)					
Consolidated	(978)	(116)	411	291	968
General	(1,211)	(291)	129	215	669
Sewer	233	175	282	76	299
b. Increased Rate Peg					
Consolidated	(965)	(82)	668	785	3,240
General	(1,211)	(291)	330	629	2,678
Sewer	246	209	338	156	562
c. Reduced Mining & Grant Funding					
Consolidated	(978)	(116)	(43)	(1,048)	(2,114)
General	(1,211)	(291)	(324)	(824)	(1,759)
Sewer	233	175	281	(224)	(355)

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

Scenario (Consolidated)	Year 1 2025/26 \$000	Year 2 2026/27 \$000	Year 3 2027/28 \$000	Year 4 2028/29 \$000	Year 10 2034/35 \$000
<i>a. Base Case (SV Model)</i>	23,368	24,047	27,912	26,851	39,172
<i>External Restriction</i>	11,786	12,828	15,318	14,075	24,924
<i>Internal Restriction</i>	6,735	6,780	6,440	6,330	7,004
<i>Unrestricted*</i>	4,847	4,439	6,154	6,446	7,244
<i>b. Increased Rate Peg</i>	23,380	24,092	28,213	27,643	48,754
<i>External Restriction</i>	11,799	12,874	15,420	14,256	26,189
<i>Internal Restriction</i>	6,735	6,780	6,440	6,330	7,004
<i>Unrestricted*</i>	4,846	4,438	6,353	7,057	15,561
<i>c. Reduced Mining & Grant Funding</i>	23,368	24,047	26,351	18,097	15,631
<i>External Restriction</i>	11,786	12,828	14,184	6,794	14,177
<i>Internal Restriction</i>	6,735	6,780	6,440	6,330	7,004
<i>Unrestricted*</i>	4,847	4,439	5,727	4,973	(5,550)

**Unrestricted cash represents General Fund with total Sewerage Funds included in external restriction. Therefore, Consolidated balances are shown rather than specific funds.*

Capital expenditure included in the Plan reflects works planned over the next ten years. As Council continues to improve its asset management planning processes and data, it will continue to refine the works program in the outer years to ensure the Long-Term Financial Plan can continue to support the required investment in asset renewal and new assets to support growth in the region.

The capital expenditure program remains consistent across the 3 scenarios as it reflects the level of expenditure required to improve the infrastructure backlog and maintain assets to a satisfactory condition.

In the Base Case (SV Model) scenario the Plan maintains positive unrestricted cash in the General Fund throughout the period of the Plan.

The consolidated Long-Term Financial Plan includes the impact of the Domestic Waste Service, a standalone business unit, and Sewer Fund.

Council's Long-Term Plan will continue to be updated on an ongoing basis to ensure it remains current. Each year the Plan will be reviewed as part of developing the annual Budget and will be exhibited as part of the public exhibition of the annual Operational Plan.

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

In the short term, Council may be required to scale back the capital expenditure program to the level that maintains a positive unrestricted cash position, however this will not be sustainable longer term. Further remedial action required would entail review of Council services / service levels and exploring other revenue sources including the option of a further special variation to rate income.

The 2025/26 – 2034/35 Long Term Financial Plan is provided as an attachment.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Legislative obligations are disclosed in this report.

Budget Implications:

The financial implications of this report are detailed in the 2025/26 Operational Plan and an overview are provided as follows:

Council's 2025/26 Draft Operational Plan budget proposes an operational deficit forecast of (\$978k) before capital grants and contributions. This consists of a forecast deficit from the General Fund of (\$1.21m) and a surplus from the Sewer Fund of \$233k.

The major contributing factors, of note, in the draft budget for the 2025/26 financial year include the following:

Operational Income

For 2025/26 IPART has released the rate peg index at 3.80%, down from 5.70% in the previous financial year. However, Council is currently in year 2 of 3 of the special variation and therefore 10% has been levied on rates.

Sewerage annual charges have been conservatively forecast to increase by 3.50% in 2025/26. Finalisation of the Sewer Strategic Business Plan will help to inform future annual charges which will likely see increases above the current forecasts.

The waste facility is forecast to incur significant expenditure increases to undertake compliance work directed by the Environmental Planning Authority (EPA). As a result, Domestic Waste and Commercial Waste (Non-Domestic) annual charges are proposed to increase by 10% in 2025/26. Full cost recovery of the waste service will be too significant to achieve in one year and therefore Council will seek to recoup income via smaller increases over the next two years.

Grants & Contributions

Council has applied for funding and is awaiting determination for the following projects which are currently included in the draft DP/OP:

- Get Active NSW – Blake St Footpath \$320k
- Disaster Ready Fund – Coombing St Crossing \$975k
- Landfill Consolidation & Improvement Fund:
 - Solid Waste Facility leachate treatment \$250k
 - Waste Management Strategy \$20k
 - Concept design for expansion of the eastern landfill \$25k

Council has additionally applied for funding and is awaiting determination for the following projects which are currently not included in the draft DP/OP:

- Regional Housing Strategic Planning Fund – South Blayney \$229k (plus \$75k Council contribution)
- Open Streets Grant – Blayney Twilight Shopping (3 years) \$170k

Council will finalise projects funded under the Regional & Local Roads Repair Fund in 2025/26 completing pavement renewal and heavy patching works on Tallwood & Garland Roads.

Operational Expenditure

Council's operational expenditure for the 2025/26 financial year includes provision of a 4.0% increase to wages, inclusive of the 3.0% State Award increase and an additional 1.0% progression-based increase on Award entitlement where applicable. A further 0.5% compulsory superannuation guarantee increase has been allowed for in 2025/26. Superannuation contributions have been incrementally increasing since 2021 and will cap out at 12% in 2025/26.

Council is in the process of finalising the transportation asset class revaluation in 2024/25. Depreciation expense constitutes 32% of Council's total operational expenditure and the transportation asset class makes up 70% of Council's total depreciation expense.

Across all NSW councils, Blayney Shire Council is amongst the highest for depreciation expense as a percentage of operating expenditure, which can be impacted by a number of factors including length of the total road network and the makeup of the hierarchy of roads and their function across the Shire.

Part of the asset revaluation process involves validating the assumptions used to arrive at the revised asset cost and validating those assumptions using industry best practice and actual costs for similar recent construction projects. Council has engaged 2 specialists to assist Council staff undertake this work. The final result is likely to see a significant decrease in ongoing depreciation expense of roughly \$600k annually.

Whilst the revaluation is still subject to external peer review and final sign off by the NSW Audit Office, during finalisation of the 2024/25 financial statement audit, the LTFFP has been prepared on the assumption that the revised assumptions will be endorsed. Should this not be approved, Council's forecast operating result could be further impacted.

Capital Expenditure

Budgeted works on Council's buildings and sporting facilities totalling \$1.29m is forecast including \$594k on renewal of some of Council's condition 4 & 5 buildings following allocation of funding levied under the Special Variation.

An additional \$453k for compliance related activities has been provided for including a leachate collection facility and other environmental improvement work directed by the EPA.

The Major and Minor Plant renewal program continues with gross replacements of \$4.01m including a grader, patching truck, streetsweeper, 4 x trucks and trailers, 1 x watercarts and 4 x tractors & mowers and scheduled light vehicle replacements. Replacements are partially funded by proceeds from sale of replaced assets.

Road rehabilitation on local roads works of \$3.12m has been provided for including Forest Reefs Rd, Tallwood Road and Garland Road.

Structural upgrade of the Barry Road Bridge has also been provided for and is subject to successful grant funding application.

An amount of \$2.48m has been included to fund routine heavy patching, gravel re-sheeting, reseal and footpath renewal works throughout the shire.

Renewal of network assets at the sewerage treatment plant totalling \$796k including electrical replacements and relining of the sewer mains has also been provided for.

CERTIFICATION – RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER

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

- The draft 2025/26 – 2028/29 DP/OP and 2025/26 – 2034/35 LTFP attached has been prepared in accordance with the following:
 - having considered the recommendations as detailed in the Financial Sustainability Review and further Independent Financial Assessment during preparation of the application to IPART for a Special Variation,
 - the current resource capabilities of Council and the impact of significant funding received by Council to deliver valuable services to the community,
 - Using the most up to date forecasts and assumptions at the time of preparation including assumptions for factors that are outside Council's control,
- To the best of my knowledge and belief, this draft 2025/26 – 2028/29 DP/OP and 2025/26 – 2034/35 LTFP:
 - present fairly the Council's operating result and financial forecast for the year,
 - present fairly the operating result and financial forecast for each of Council's declared business activities for the year,
 - That the detailed schedule of capital works reflects projects identified and prioritised in Council's current asset management plans and roads strategy.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

- | | | |
|----------|---|----------|
| 1 | Draft 2025/26 - 2034/35 Long Term Financial Plan | 67 Pages |
| 2 | Draft 2025/26-2028/29 Delivery Program and 2025/26 Operational Plan | 62 Pages |
| 3 | Draft 2025/26-2028/29 Delivery Program and 2025/26 Operational Plan Appendix: Revenue Policy and Fees and Charges | 47 Pages |

10) REPORT OF COUNCIL INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 MARCH 2025
FINAL

Department: Corporate Services

Author: Chief Financial Officer

CSP Link: 2. Build the Capacity and Capability of Local Governance and Finance

File No: FM.AU.1

Recommendation:

That Council:

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

Reason for Report:

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

Report:

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

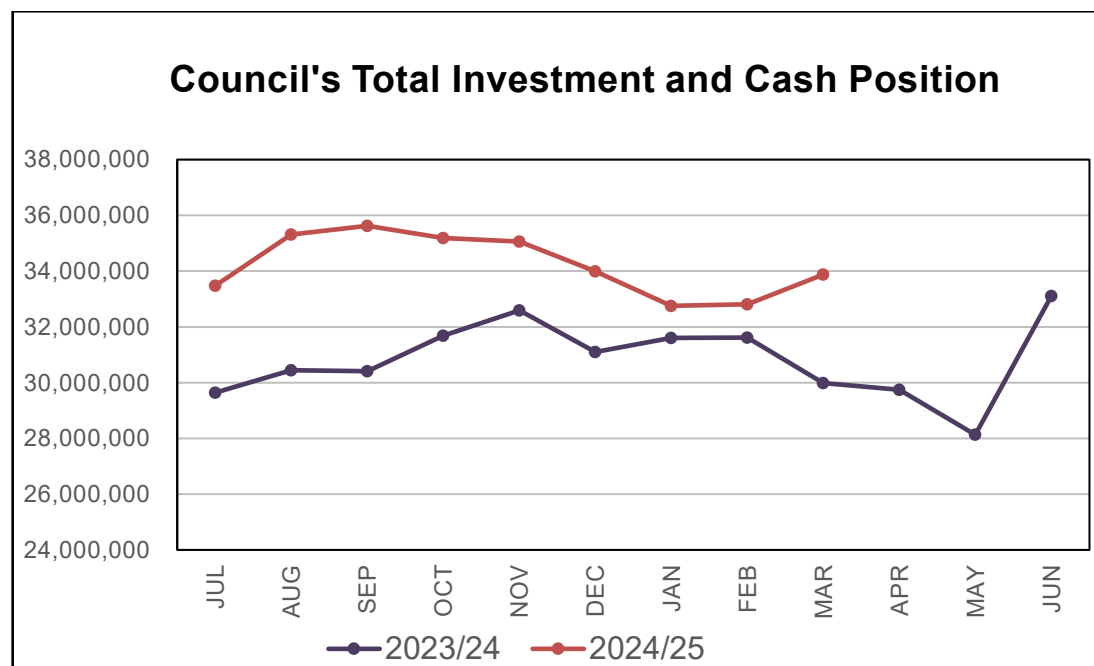
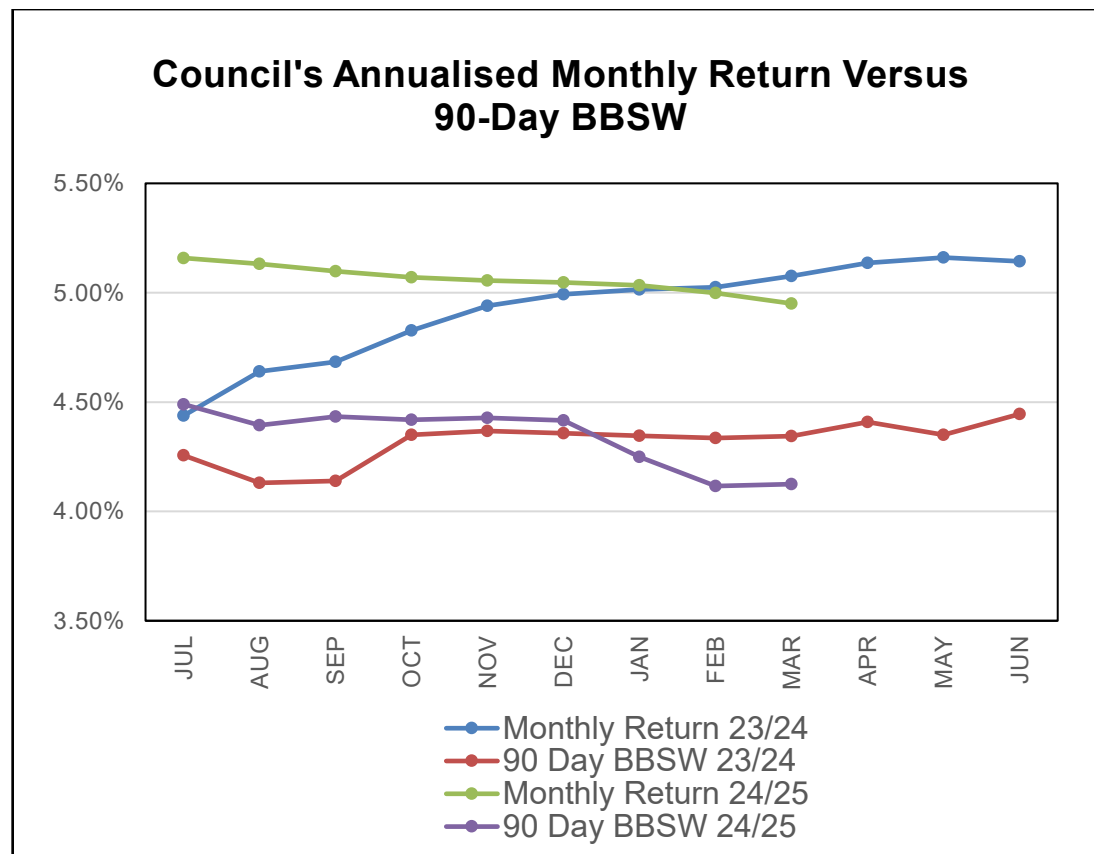
Council's total investment and cash position as of 31 March 2025 is \$33,883,440

Interest on cash and investments accrued for the month of March was \$135,601. YTD interest accrued on cash and investments is \$1,255,140.

Council's monthly net return on Term Deposits (annualised) for March was 4.96% which outperformed the 90-day Bank Bill Swap Rate of 4.125%.

There were no significant cash inflows from grant funded programs for the month of March.

3rd instalment rates receipts paid early in the month has helped to boost cashflow through the month of March.



Register Of Investments and Cash as of 31 March 2025					
Institution	Method	Rating	Maturity	Amount \$	Interest Rate
IMB Bank Ltd	Direct	A2/BBB+	01/04/2025	500,000	4.900%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	01/04/2025	500,000	5.040%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	08/04/2025	500,000	5.220%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	15/04/2025	500,000	4.840%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	15/04/2025	500,000	5.100%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	22/04/2025	500,000	4.850%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	22/04/2025	500,000	5.170%
MyState Bank Ltd	Curve	A2/BBB+	29/04/2025	500,000	4.950%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	29/04/2025	500,000	5.320%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	06/05/2025	500,000	5.000%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	06/05/2025	500,000	5.300%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	13/05/2025	500,000	5.300%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	20/05/2025	500,000	4.810%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	20/05/2025	500,000	5.300%
Bank of Queensland	Curve	A2/BBB+	27/05/2025	500,000	4.900%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	27/05/2025	500,000	5.300%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	03/06/2025	500,000	5.300%
ING Bank	IAM	A1/A	10/06/2025	500,000	4.900%
Auswide Bank Ltd	IAM	A2/BBB+	10/06/2025	500,000	5.300%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	17/06/2025	500,000	5.310%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	24/06/2025	500,000	4.840%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	24/06/2025	500,000	5.310%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	01/07/2025	500,000	4.800%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	01/07/2025	500,000	4.660%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	08/07/2025	500,000	4.740%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	08/07/2025	500,000	5.000%
IMB Bank Ltd	Direct	A2/BBB+	15/07/2025	500,000	4.850%
ING Bank	Curve	A1/A	15/07/2025	500,000	5.290%
B & A Bank	Curve	A2/BBB+	22/07/2025	500,000	4.950%
ING Bank	Curve	A1/A	22/07/2025	500,000	5.220%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	29/07/2025	500,000	5.270%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	05/08/2025	500,000	4.710%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	12/08/2025	500,000	4.770%
B & A Bank	IAM	A2/BBB+	19/08/2025	500,000	5.000%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	26/08/2025	500,000	4.750%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	02/09/2025	500,000	4.650%
Defence Bank Ltd	Curve	A2/BBB	02/09/2025	500,000	5.100%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	09/09/2025	500,000	4.630%
ING Bank	Curve	A1/A	09/09/2025	500,000	4.900%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	16/09/2025	500,000	4.610%
Reliance Bank	Direct	Unrated	16/09/2025	500,000	5.100%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	23/09/2025	500,000	4.750%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	23/09/2025	500,000	5.050%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	30/09/2025	500,000	5.050%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	07/10/2025	500,000	5.010%
CBA	Direct	A1+/AA-	14/10/2025	500,000	4.680%
ING Bank	Curve	A1/A	21/10/2025	500,000	4.970%

NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	28/10/2025	500,000	4.800%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	04/11/2025	500,000	4.800%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	11/11/2025	500,000	5.150%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	18/11/2025	500,000	4.690%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	25/11/2025	500,000	4.620%
MyState Bank Ltd	Curve	A2/BBB+	02/12/2025	500,000	5.100%
Auswide Bank Ltd	IAM	A2/BBB+	09/12/2025	500,000	5.110%
Bank of Queensland	Curve	A2/BBB+	16/12/2025	500,000	4.650%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	06/01/2026	500,000	4.580%
NAB	Direct	A1+/AA-	27/01/2026	500,000	4.900%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	17/02/2026	500,000	4.770%
Westpac	Direct	A1+/AA-	24/02/2026	500,000	4.740%
Reliance Bank	Direct	Unrated	03/03/2026	500,000	4.650%
ING Bank	IAM	A1/A	10/03/2026	500,000	4.650%
Total Investments				30,500,000	4.950%
Commonwealth Bank - At Call Account ⁽¹⁾				1,085,370	4.000%
Commonwealth Bank Balance - General ⁽¹⁾				2,236,736	3.950%
Reliance Bank ⁽¹⁾				61,334	0.000%
Total Cash and Investments				33,883,440	
Benchmarks:		BBSW 90 Day Index ⁽¹⁾			4.125%
		RBA Cash Rate ⁽¹⁾			4.100%

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

Summary of Investment (Cash) Movements - March 2025		
Financial Institution	Amount \$	Commentary
Westpac	(514,038)	Term deposit matured 04/03/2025
Westpac	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 04/03/2025
Reliance Bank	(524,897)	Term deposit matured 04/03/2025
Reliance Bank	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 04/03/2025
ING Bank	(525,559)	Term deposit matured 11/03/2025
ING Bank	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 11/03/2025
Westpac	(512,323)	Term deposit matured 11/03/2025
Westpac	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 11/03/2025
NAB	(521,235)	Term deposit matured 18/03/2025
NAB	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 18/03/2025
Westpac	(512,799)	Term deposit matured 18/03/2025
Westpac	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 18/03/2025
Bank of Queensland	(513,022)	Term deposit matured 25/03/2025
Bank of Queensland	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 25/03/2025
Westpac	(520,459)	Term deposit matured 25/03/2025
Westpac	500,000	Term deposit reinvested 25/03/2025

Long Term Credit Rating (or Moody's, Fitch, S&P or Equivalent)	Policy Maximum %	Current Holding %	Current Holding \$
TCorp IM Funds	100%	0%	-
AAA – AA Category	100%	69%	21,000,000
A- Category	40%	10%	3,000,000
BBB+ Category	25%	16%	5,000,000
BBB Category	5%	2%	500,000
BBB- Category and below: Local ⁽¹⁾ ADI's	10%	3%	1,000,000
BBB+ / BBB / BBB- & below categories combined	25%	21%	
1. ADI's located within the Local Government Area			30,500,000

Individual Institution Limit	Rating	Policy Maximum \$	Current Holding \$
Auswide Bank	A2/BBB+	1,000,000	1,000,000
Bank of Queensland	A2/BBB+	1,000,000	1,000,000
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank	A2/BBB+	1,000,000	1,000,000
CBA	A1+/AA-	8,000,000	5,000,000
Defence Bank Ltd	A2/BBB	500,000	500,000
IMB Bank Ltd	A2/BBB+	1,000,000	1,000,000
ING Bank	A1/A	3,000,000	3,000,000
Macquarie Bank	A1/A+	3,000,000	-
MyState Bank Ltd	A2/BBB+	1,000,000	1,000,000
NAB	A1+/AA-	8,000,000	8,000,000
Reliance Bank	Unrated	1,000,000	1,000,000
Westpac	A1+/AA-	8,000,000	8,000,000
Total Investments			30,500,000

Summary of Restricted, Allocated and Unrestricted Cash & Investments			
	Actual 30/06/2024 \$ 000's	Actual 31/03/2025 \$ 000's	Forecast ⁽¹⁾ 30/06/2025 \$ 000's
External Cash Restrictions	18,340	16,855	10,602
Internal Cash Allocations	10,608	7,745	6,361
Total Restricted, Allocated Cash & Investments	28,948	24,600	16,963
Unrestricted Cash	4,094	9,283	5,914
Total Restricted, Allocated and Unrestricted Cash & Investments	33,042	33,883	22,877

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

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

11) INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT**Department:** Infrastructure Services**Author:** Director Infrastructure Services**CSP Link:** 1. Maintain and Improve Public Infrastructure and Services**File No:** RD.AD.1

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Note the Infrastructure Services Monthly Report for April 2025.
2. Approve a supplementary vote of \$60,000 in the 2024/25 Operational Plan funded from Developer Contributions for the Millthorpe CBD Project.

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 Department.

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

Report:Maintenance works

Since the previous monthly update, no pothole patching has been undertaken. The previously reported maintenance on the bitumen emulsion tank has been completed. Patching has not yet re-commenced due to resource shifting to the Millthorpe CBD project.

Maintenance grading and resheeting works have been undertaken on the following roads: Caloola Road, Bundaleer Road, St Brigids Lane, Old Lachlan Road.

Roadside mowing has been undertaken on Spring Terrace Road, Clover Ridge Road, Spring Hill Road, Carcoar Road, Kinghams Lane, Browns Creek Road, Gap Road, Carbine Road, Errowanbang Road, Cadia Road, Tallwood Road, and Panuara Road

Open Spaces and Facilities

Sporting field conversions have been completed for most fields, with the Parks and Gardens team investigating artificial turf options to cover the wicket at Redmond Oval. Sites have been prepared for community events and upcoming ANZAC day services. Detention basins have been attended to in this reporting period.

The request for stakeholder input into the power and lighting upgrade plan for Redmond Oval was circulated, with a single response received so far. The response from the Village Committee includes electrical and other non-electrical requests. All responses will be reviewed once the submission deadline has passed. A response was indicated to be forthcoming from the Millthorpe Markets committee, following their review of their April event.

Ongoing failures of the underground irrigation lines at KGO are preventing its use over the entire grounds. Works are underway to renew a section of the lines under Field 2.

The conversion of the Carrington Park toilets to Smarthub access control is progressing, with completion on track for ANZAC day services. The scope was changed to a full conversion (i.e. all doors, rather than just the disabled toilet and service door) due to increased efficiency in installation. A new underground power line will also be required to replace degraded lines between the Rotunda and the amenities block. This will happen after ANZAC day.

Council's public bore in Blayney has been closed temporarily, as a collaborative measure requested by the EPA.

Sewer Treatment Plant (STP)

Programmed Works

The faults to aerator number 2 at the STP continue to fluctuate without clear causation. Further specialists have been engaged to assess the equipment and provide advice. The Sewer team are concurrently investigating the option of replacing key components, to attempt to resolve the cause of the faults. These replacements, if made, would be of elements with existing long service lives where replacement is expected in the coming years. They would also have high potential to be the cause of the faults.

Investigations into the sludge pump found it was not cost effective to repair. A new pump has been ordered. We are also investigating a more effective method to move the pontoon between sludge ponds, as it currently requires contractor's lifting equipment to move the pump. This improvement should offer cost savings in direct ongoing expenses when pumping sludge, but also indirectly through better facilitating maintenance works and thereby prolonging equipment life.

The EPA notified the STP team of the result of their recent risk assessment, indicating no change to the Blayney STP risk rating. The anticipated administrative updates to the license have not yet been issued by the EPA.

Major Projects

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

Four Mile Creek Road Bridge Replacement – Fixing Country Bridges					
Due Date	Revised Budget YTD	Expenditure this month	Total Expenditure YTD	Committed Expenditure YTD	Estimated Total Project Costs
30/06/2025	1,578,481	6,167	1,530,944	591 ^[1]	1,531,535
Commentary					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project completion report lodged with funding body. 					
Forecast (1-3 months)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acceptance of PCR and final payment pending. ^[1] LRS fees still outstanding. 					

Orange Road / Palmer Street path – SCCF5					
Due Date	Revised Budget YTD	Expenditure this Month	Total Expenditure YTD	Committed Expenditure YTD	Estimated Total Project Costs
30/06/2025	311,490	6,932	283,983	0	283,983
Commentary					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All works now complete with contingency funds not being required. The unused \$17,478 will be returned to the Developer Contributions – General external cash restriction 					
Forecast (1-3 months)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil 					

Browns Creek Road Heavy Patching – R4R9					
Due Date	Revised Budget YTD	Expenditure this Month	Total Expenditure YTD	Committed Expenditure YTD	Estimated Total Project Costs
30/06/2025	668,897	0	496,800	14,140	522,340
Commentary					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progression of concept design is underway for future grant funding applications. A final post-completion inspection has revealed a drainage pit that requires safety upgrades. 					
Forecast (1-3 months)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receipt of design expected before May 2025. Project completion report to be lodged with an overall budget underspend. Variation to be lodged seeking reallocation of any underspend funds to other R4R9 project(s). Quotation for handrail works to be obtained and completed this FY. 					

Hobbys Yards Road Rehabilitation – R4R9					
Due Date	Revised Budget YTD	Expenditure this Month	Total Expenditure YTD	Committed Expenditure YTD	Estimated Total Project Costs
30/06/2025	2,277,761	404,720	1,132,792	374,179	1,715,435
Commentary					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stabilising completed successfully, with great mix results. Base course overlay underway, expected to be completed prior to Easter. 					
Forecast (1-3 months)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sealing forecast for May 2025. 					

Richards Lane – R4R9					
Due Date	Revised Budget YTD	Expenditure this Month	Total Expenditure YTD	Committed Expenditure YTD	Estimated Total Project Costs
Dec. 2025	1,258,521	22,613	62,495	50,809	TBD
Commentary ,					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project completion will occur in 2025/26 financial year. Application for project extension, seeking an extension of time to 31 December 2025 has recently been approved by the funding body. Feedback from the independent Project Verifier has been received and the design modified to deal with any issues raised. This has been submitted back to the Project Verifier for further review. Following acceptance of the detail design by the independent Project Verifier, the design will be sent to TfNSW for review and approval. Delivery of remaining stages 2 & 3 will be via open tender (noting concurrence from TfNSW is required endorsing Council's preferred tenderer). The total project cost will need to be re estimated once the design for stage 2 (intersection) is approved by TfNSW. Any underspend on other R4R9 projects, would be proposed to be reallocated to this project (needs agreement of funding body). 					
Forecast (1-3 months)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalisation of detailed estimate for stage 2 (draft still underway) Finalisation of detailed estimate for stage 3. Project verifier review and subsequent actions. Detail design approval from TfNSW. Tender document preparation underway by consultant. 					

Rodd Street Culvert Repairs – Natural Disaster AGRN1034					
Due Date	Revised Budget YTD	Expenditure this Month	Total Expenditure YTD	Committed Expenditure YTD	Estimated Total Project Costs
June 2026	420,273	0	12,425	278,995 ^[1]	330,420
Commentary					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract documents have been received by the contractor and the instrument of agreement has been executed. Preparation of management documents underway including final construction program. ^[1] Includes pending purchase order for Contract 12-2024 					
Forecast (1-3 months)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction program and other management documents to be issued prior to commencement. Temporary water-main works to be completed. 					

Millthorpe CBD – SCCF5, Council					
Due Date	Revised Budget YTD	Expenditure this Month	Total Expenditure YTD	Committed Expenditure YTD	Estimated Total Project Costs
30/06/2025	618,800	76,189 ^[1]	211,692	217,691	671,642 ^[2]
Commentary					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage works on Montgomery Street up to Pilcher Street are complete. Roadworks are predominantly complete, with pavement complete up to the base overlay. Base course is also mostly complete on Montgomery Street, and currently underway on Pilcher Street. Design review is continually being undertaken following site constraints and community feedback. In this regard: levels of the pedestrian footpath works at the corner of Montgomery and Victoria, due to shallow tree roots is being reviewed and the length of the blister, in Pym Street (Eastern side, outside of Tonic) has been able to be reduced. The new pram ramp on the western side of Montgomery Street is complete and new footpath crossing at: Pilcher St completed. All kerb and gutter works are complete on Montgomery Street. Unscheduled renewal on Victoria Street stormwater infrastructure is currently underway. The existing pipes were discovered as damaged upon excavation of the road, and as such it was determined that opportunistic renewal would be prudent whilst the road was closed and exposed. Note: Legal proceedings have commenced in relation to part of this project (see separate confidential report to Council). 					

- ^[1] Note, as this is the first inclusion of this project in the IS monthly report, this is the current April expenditure and not the expenditure since last report as per the other projects in this report.
- ^[2] Current estimates are indicating the project will be approximately an additional \$60,000 inclusive of contingencies at project completion. This is predominantly due to poor site conditions, additional engineering and heritage consulting expertise, and unforeseen service conflicts with water and telecom assets. As such a recommendation for a supplementary vote of funds is for Council determination as part of this report.

Forecast (1-3 months)

- Opportunistic renewal work on the stormwater is completed – end of April.
- Footpath works on Montgomery/Victoria St east – April.
- Base pavement completed – end of April.
- Sealing – May.
- Pedestrian blisters on Pym Street and Victoria Street – May.
- Signage – May.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Nil.

Budget Implications:

At the December ordinary meeting a supplementary vote \$17,478 was made as contingency funds for the Palmer Street/Plumb Street Blayney footpath works. These funds will be returned to Developer Contributions as they were not required.

A supplementary vote of \$60,000 is being recommended in this report for the Millthorpe CBD project. The funds are being requested from Developer Contributions.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

12) GRANT APPLICATION - DISASTER READY FUND (ROUND 3)

Department: Infrastructure Services

Author: Director Infrastructure Services

CSP Link: 1. Maintain and Improve Public Infrastructure and Services

File No: RD.AD.1

Recommendation:

That Council note the grant application submitted under the Disaster Ready Fund (Round 3) for reconstruction of the Coombing Street Bridge over Belubula River, Carcoar.

Reason for Report:

To provide update to Council for grant application lodged under Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) Round 3.

Report:

Carcoar, located in Central West NSW, is bisected by the Belubula River. During the November 2022 floods (AGRN1034), the Coombing Street crossing sustained catastrophic damage, with displaced culverts and a washed-away topping slab, rendering it beyond repair.

Due to preexisting structural deterioration, the crossing was deemed ineligible for full replacement funding under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) Essential Public Asset Reconstruction program. As a result, it has remained closed, significantly impacting the local community.

Council has allocated funds under the OLG Flood Recovery Grant for survey, preliminary investigations and design of the new bridge. This detail design is currently underway and on track for completion by 30 June 2025.

An application for grant funding of the replacement structure and associated works was submitted by Council officers on 4 April 2025. A summary of the grant application is attached to this report.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Council will be required to abide by the terms of the funding deed, if successful.

Budget Implications:

This project is currently proposed in Council's Delivery Program for 2026/27 subject to successfully obtaining grant funding.

The project cost estimate is \$1,300,000 with the grant application submitted for 75% of the total cost of \$975,000. A 25% co-contribution of \$325,000 is required which will be funded from Council's Roads to Recovery allocation.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

1 Grant Application Summary - DRF3

24 Pages

13) WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES - JOINT PROCUREMENT PROJECT

Department: Planning and Environmental Services

Author: Director Planning and Environmental Services

CSP Link: 1. Maintain and Improve Public Infrastructure and Services

File No: WM.LI.2

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Note the Waste Management Services Procurement Planning Summary Report.
2. Endorse the extension of the current waste collection and recycling processing services contracts with J R & E G Richards Pty Ltd until midnight 19 March 2028, in accordance with the contract.
3. Delegate authority to the General Manager to execute the Netwaste Procurement Group Agreement with the 'Orange Group of Councils' including any required alterations to the final agreement. In regard to this agreement:
 - a. agrees to establish the Project Control Group to facilitate the achievement of the objectives contemplated by the draft Agreement;
 - b. to give the Project Control Group the decision-making powers contemplated by clause 4.1 of the draft Agreement and the authority to conduct the tender processes contemplated by the draft Agreement (in both cases subject to any minor amendments negotiated by the Councils);
 - c. make any required application to the Office of Local Government for approval under section 358 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) in relation to the Joint Procurement Group; and
 - d. finalise and submit the application to the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC) in relation to the Joint Procurement Group.
4. Undertake community consultation regarding the proposed waste management services and a report of such consultation be provided to Council at the earliest opportunity.
5. Determine the suite of services to be procured in the new waste collection contract after receiving a report on the community consultation.

Reason for Report:

To advise Council of the current status of the joint procurement project for waste services and move forward with appropriate resolutions. This report provides context for planning and the decision making that is required.

Report:

As Council is aware, officers have been involved in a Project Working Group (PWG) with a number of other Netwaste Councils preparing for the next waste and recycling contract. The other councils involved are Bathurst, Blayney, Cabonne, Forbes, Orange and Parkes and are referred to as 'the Orange Group' for the purposes of the project. The current contract is a joint regional contract that includes each of these councils who all have varied service and collection arrangements and frequencies.

The participating councils have also formed a Project Control Group (PCG) which includes executive staff from each council, to oversee the upcoming procurement process and to provide a reference group to report to their elected Councils. The PCG representatives for Blayney are members of MANEX with the intention of calling upon the Chief Financial Officer and/or Manager of Tourism and Communications if their specific expertise is required.

Whilst it is intended that the PCG will have authority to make decisions throughout the process it will not have the authority of the elected Council. For example, it cannot determine the suite of services to be provided or the frequency of collection as these are matters for the elected Council.

With the assistance of a specialist consultant, detailed preparation and strategic planning has been undertaken and the content for decision making can be reviewed in the Waste Management Services Procurement Planning Summary Report attached to the business paper.

The expiry dates for the current kerbside waste and recycling collection contract with JR Richards is April 2026, with the option of extensions up to 2 years to April 2028.

The Waste Management Services Procurement Planning Report has concluded that an extension of the current contractual arrangements to 2028 would be appropriate given the complexities involved. Due to the Easter Break and School Holidays in 2028, an expiry date of 19 March 2028 has been identified. It also concludes that most beneficial configuration of services to be tendered at the appropriate time would consist of (for 10-year service terms):

A. Waste Collection Services for:

- 240 litre fortnightly general waste
- 240 litre fortnightly recycling material
- 240 litre weekly organic material

B. Recycling Processing Services

C. Organics Processing Services

Prior to determining the final suite of services and kerbside collection frequencies for the Blayney Shire it will be necessary to carry out community consultation particularly in relation to the introduction fortnightly waste collection and the introduction of a Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) service. A consultation plan is being developed which will provide information on the proposed new services; issues to be considered; and potential options for customers who have concerns about the reduced frequency of red bin collection.

There is a significant lead time in the tender process. The current program envisages a process to occur between September and December 2025. Evaluation, negotiation and contract implementation could take another 12 months. Blayney Shire representatives have made it clear that proper community consultation with Blayney Shire residents is necessary, particularly if there is any likelihood in moving to reduced red bin collection frequencies. Should this require more than one option to be included in tender documentation then this has been flagged. This would ensure Council's consultation process is not rushed.

Other matters

Tendering for new kerbside services and processing of waste, recyclables and organics is complicated, and a long lead time is required. There are also specific complexities surrounding a joint procurement process involving a number of councils. These include:

ACCC Determination - Part IV of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth) in s. 45, prohibits contracts, arrangements or understandings that have the effect or likely effect of substantially lessening competition. The Working Group sought advice which recommended that the participating councils to seek authorisation from the ACCC to undertake the joint procurement activity. An application for authorisation is being prepared for this purpose. This authorisation would eliminate any risk of breaching relevant provisions of Part IV of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth).

Section 358 Local Government Act - Section 358 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) prohibits Council from participating in the formation of a corporation or other entity except with the consent of the Minister for Local Government. 'Entity' is defined very broadly to include "any partnership, trust, joint venture, syndicate or other body (whether or not incorporated)". The Working Group sought legal advice which concluded that having regard to the other words included in section 358 and the understanding of the intent of section 358, section 358 does not apply to the joint procurement participating councils and no approval is required. Nevertheless, the advice recommended that the Project Control Group liaise with the Office of Local Government (OLG) to confirm with OLG whether they consider that approval is required. Communications with OLG regarding the participating councils planned joint procurement process is being prepared.

Management of Industrial Matters - The Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 was amended in 2023 with a range of impacts for waste management services procurement processes. In particular, the Regulation seeks to secure offers of employment for the current workers. The Working Group and Project Control Group have been briefed regarding the management of the industrial matters that arise from the amendments to the Regulation. Preliminary correspondence with the incumbent contractors is being prepared to assist managing in this task.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Section 55 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* requires that Council must tender for the proposed waste management service contracts.

Budget Implications:

Nil at this stage of the process. However, future considerations will include:

- Additional cost of providing a FOGO service, offset by funding obtained under the GO FOGO program.
- Additional collection costs to residents for the FOGO service.
- Reduced costs to Council in the reduction of waste collections by half and whether these savings should be passed on to residents or perhaps offset the FOGO service cost.

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

- 1 Procurement Planning & Strategy Summary Report 19 Pages
This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) (c) of the Local Government Act, as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.
- 2 NETWASTE Procurement Group Agreement 40 Pages
This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) (c) of the Local Government Act, as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

14) DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT REPORT**Department:** Planning and Environmental Services**Author:** Director Planning and Environmental Services**CSP Link:** 2. Build the Capacity and Capability of Local Governance and Finance**File No:** GO.ME.1

Recommendation:

That the Development Assessment Report be received and noted.

Reason for Report:

To update Council on development applications and complying development certificates determined during the period 1 January 2025 to 31 March 2025.

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 were no applications refused under delegated authority during the period.

There are several applications 'currently under assessment' that have been in the system for a significant amount of time. Some of the matters have been the subject of discussions with Council staff and are moving toward a resolution. There are others where the applicants have been advised to withdraw the applications or there will be no choice but to determine by way of refusal.

Determination days are now under scrutiny through what is known as the Minister for Plannings 'Statement of Expectations. For Blayney Council the Ministers expectation for 2024/2025 is for an average determination time of 115 days. Council's current average is 102 days. This time is the total days an application is lodged and is not reduced by requests for information, notification periods, referrals to external authorities, lodgement of revised plans etc.

The focus has shifted to only accepting quality applications, with all necessary documentation being supplied upfront. For regional councils, there has also traditionally been a focus on guiding applicants through the process as this is good customer service and leads to better outcomes. However, with time pressures this becomes more challenging.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Nil

Budget Implications:

Nil

Enclosures (following report)

- | | | |
|---|--|---------|
| 1 | Quarterly DA Approvals Report - January to March
2025 | 4 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
2021/0108/1	24/01/2025	Kathryn Stammers	Subdivision & Erection of a Dwelling	24 Adelaide Lane Blayney	27/02/2025	160,000.00
2024/0004	16/01/2024	Suzanne McGregor	Five (5) Lot Subdivision	78 Clover Ridge Rd Millthorpe	27/02/2025	350,000.00
2024/0055/1	24/01/2025	TK Worboys Drafting And Design	Construction of a Single Storey Dwelling	19 Burrell Lane Forest Reefs	12/02/2025	220,000.00
2024/0078	25/10/2024	Peter Basha Planning & Development	Demolition and Erection of a Dwelling	4 Montgomery St Millthorpe	25/02/2025	622,028.00
2024/0082	11/11/2024	Brett Moulds Design & Drafting	Single Storey Dual Occupancy	40 Martha St Blayney	20/02/2025	597,000.00
2024/0084	19/11/2024	Cavalier Homes Central West NSW	Construction of a Single Storey Dwelling and Retaining Walls	2 Starr Place Blayney	20/02/2025	498,727.00
2024/0085	18/11/2024	Bassman Drafting Services	Erection of a Dwelling	14 Knox Place Millthorpe	03/02/2025	637,260.00
2024/0090	05/12/2024	Bassman Drafting Services	Erection of a Dwelling	16 Knox Place Millthorpe	11/02/2025	608,000.00
2025/0001	19/12/2024	Evan Lee Pty Ltd	Alterations and Additions	15 Lane St Blayney	22/01/2025	18,579.00
2025/0003	15/01/2025	David Wayne Bouffler	Erection of a Dwelling	21 Hoynes Cct Blayney	29/01/2025	350,000.00

2025/0004	22/01/2025	Cavalier Homes Central West NSW	Erection of a Dwelling	1298 Carcoar Rd Browns Creek	26/02/2025	530,300.00
2025/0005	23/01/2025	Bassman Drafting Services	Erection of a Dwelling	17 Knox Place Millthorpe	21/03/2025	596,700.00
2025/0006	24/01/2025	Currajong Pty Ltd	Change of Use - Function Centre	91 Hilton Lane Mandurama	24/03/2025	-
2025/0010	13/02/2025	Andrew Edwin Platt	Erection of a Shed	43 Caloola St Newbridge	25/02/2025	17,000.00
2025/0011	17/02/2025	Bradley Peter Sharp	Erection of a Shed	6609 Mid Western Hwy Lyndhurst	11/03/2025	60,140.00
2025/0012	14/02/2025	Architecture Etcetera Pty Ltd	Erection of a Shed with Stables.	1050 Garland Rd Garland	26/02/2025	550,000.00
2025/0013	21/02/2025	Janet Lillian Sutherland	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling	1455 Hobbys Yards Rd Hobbys Yards	12/03/2025	48,500.00
2025/0016	27/02/2025	Brett Moulds Design & Drafting	Alterations and Additions to an Existing Dwelling	27 Binstead St Blayney	11/03/2025	170,000.00
					Total	\$6,034,234.00

2. Applications currently under assessment

DA NUMBER	APPLICATION DATE	APPLICANTS NAME	APPLICATION DESCRIPTION OF WORK	PROPERTY ADDRESS	VALUE
2025/0021	25/03/2025	GJ Gardner Homes	Erection of a Dwelling	9 Rodd St Carcoar	453,302.00
2025/0022	25/03/2025	Anthony Michael Clarke	Erection of a Secondary Dwelling	1 Palmer St Blayney	146,000.00
2025/0020	19/03/2025	Peter Basha Planning & Development	Erection of Two Commercial Sheds	59 Marshalls Lane Blayney	166,100.00
2025/0018	12/03/2025	Bassman Drafting Services	Erection of a Dwelling	19 Knox Place Millthorpe	836,000.00
2025/0014	20/02/2025	Future Build Construction Property Development	Installation of Manufactured Home	115 Richards Lane Millthorpe	555,890.00
2025/0009	11/02/2025	Cadia Holding Pty Ltd	Geotechnical Investigations - Drilling and Test Pitting	94 Panuara Rd Errowanbang	5,000,000.00
2025/0008	04/02/2025	Barnson Pty Ltd	Subdivision and Childcare Centre	99 Forest Reefs Rd Millthorpe	1,760,000.00
2025/0007	24/01/2025	Evan Lee Pty Ltd	Alternations and Additions to hotel	29 Park St Millthorpe	451,502.15
2024/0063	03/09/2024	Morgan Family Property Holdings Py Ltd	Detached Dual Occupancy & Two (2) Lot Torren Title Subdivision	24 Knox Place Millthorpe	1,025,000.00
2024/0026	02/04/2024	Interbrands Pty Ltd	Construction of self storage units, hire yard, business office and the related site works and signages	7 Radburn St Blayney 2799	3,165,911.00
2024/0018	01/03/2024	Matthew Richard James Hardman	Erection of a Dwelling	9 Nyes Gates Rd Millthorpe	5,000.00
2023/0125	23/10/2023	Mark Whitney	Farm Stay Accommodation	3399 Mid Western Hwy Kings Plains	309,000.00
2023/0106	06/09/2023	Lyndall Hadlow	Erection Of A Dwelling And Garage	4072 Mid Western Hwy Blayney	650,000.00
2023/0061	18/05/2023	Rockleigh Properties Pty Ltd	Change of Use - Dwelling to Medical Centre	3 Victoria St Millthorpe	150,000.00

2023/0033	10/03/2023	David Somervaille	Boundary Adjustment	17 Henry St Blayney	-
2023/0028	06/03/2023	Bathurst Sheds	Erection of a shed	2 Bourke St Newbridge	26,647.00
2022/0122	28/09/2022	David James Woods	Erection of a Dwelling and Shed	6436 Mid Western Hwy Lyndhurst	350,000.00
2021/0094	28/07/2021	Jameel Qureshi	Office Premise	99 Adelaide St Blayney	300,000.00
2019/0047	27/05/2019	Rockleigh Properties Pty Ltd	Two (2) Lot Subdivision	50 Victoria St Millthorpe	5,000.00
Total					\$15,355,352.15

15) DA 2025/0009 - GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS, CADIA VALLEY OPERATIONS**Department:** Planning and Environmental Services**Author:** Manager Development Assessment**CSP Link:** 5. Protect Our Natural Environment**File No:** DB.AB.2166**Recommendation:**

That Council approve Development Application 2025/0009 submitted by Cadia Holdings Pty Ltd subject to the proposed conditions of development consent attached to enclosure 5 of the business paper.

REPORT

Applicant:	Cadia Holdings Pty Ltd
Owner:	Cadia Holdings Pty Ltd & Blayney Shire Council
Application No:	DA 2025/0009
Zone:	RI1 Primary Production
Date Received:	24/01/2025
Proposed Development:	DA 2025/0009 - Geotechnical Investigations, Cadia Valley Operations

Proposed Development

The development seeks consent to undertake a program of geotechnical investigations (Proposed Works) involving geotechnical drilling and test pit excavations on land owned by Cadia Holding Pty Ltd (CHPL) or by Blayney Council in relation to the Panuara Road reserve. Refer to Figure 1. The land included with the development includes:

Lot 3 DP 871066, Lot 32 DP 1217542, Lot 43 DP 750362, Lot 32 DP 1217542, Lot 55 DP 42902, Lots 97, 100, 101 & 103 DP 1002665, Lot 43 DP 750362, Lot 1422 DP 1168271, Lot 7 DP 1285056, Lot A DP 376370, Lot 201 DP 1037198, Lot 50 DP 1132784, Lot 6 DP 47552, Lot 25 DP 750362, Lot 1 DP 731180, Lot 2 DP 750362, Lot 3 DP 731180, Lot 3 DP 750362 and Lot 5 DP 750362.

The purpose of the Geotechnical investigations is to further characterise and expand CHPL's knowledge of the geotechnical features within the lands surrounding Cadia's existing mining operations.

The areas subject to the Proposed Works include areas that may be subject to infrastructure being proposed as part of the separate Cadia Continued Operations Project (CCOP). The information ascertained through the Proposed Works will help inform the detailed technical design of this infrastructure. While the CCOP is described throughout this report to provide context of the location of the Proposed Works, the CCOP is subject to a separate State Significant Development (SSD) application and therefore the construction and operation of CCOP does not form part of this application.

Legend

- ▭ Project Area
- Indicative Drilling Locations
- Indicative Test Pit Locations
- Creek/River
- Road
- State Forest

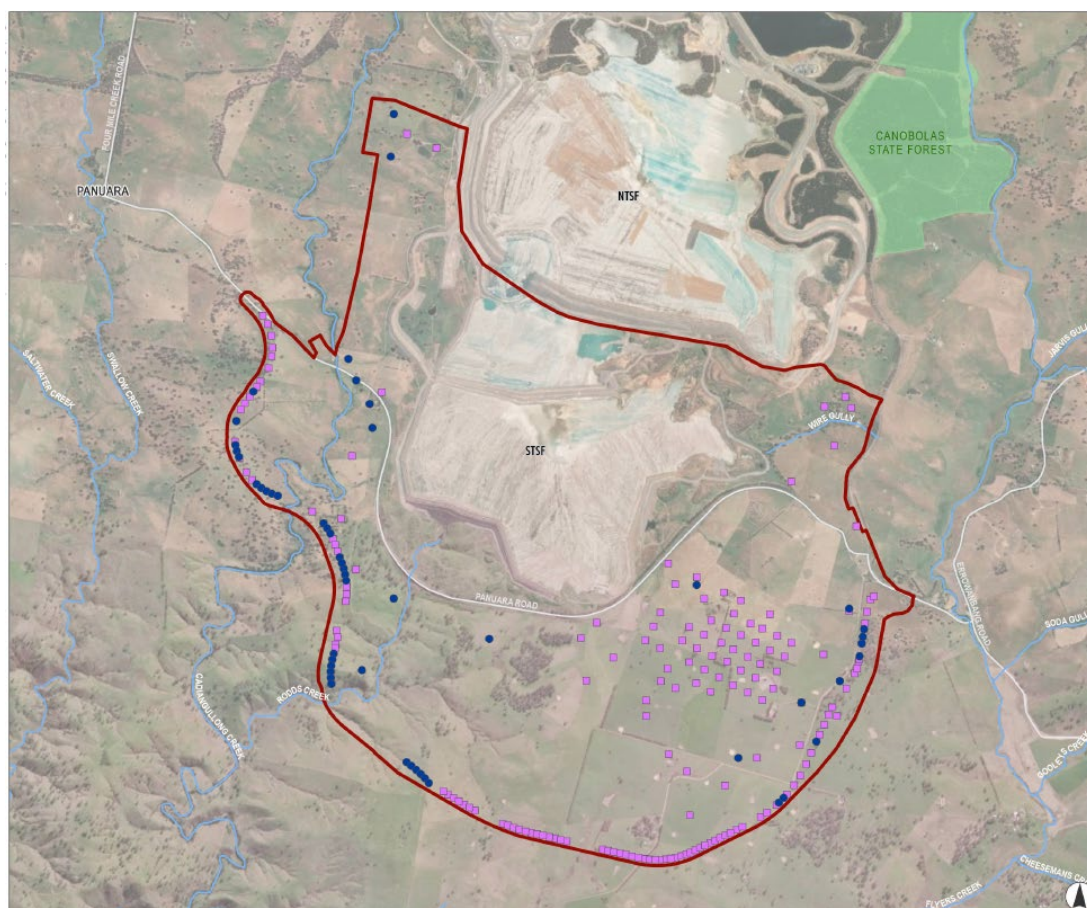


Figure 1: Location of the Development Site

In particular, the Proposed Works will further investigate and confirm the geotechnical conditions present at each location. This information is critical to ensuring appropriate design for a range of proposed infrastructure works associated with the separate CCOP, including:

- the detailed design and construction requirements for a proposed realignment of Panuara Road (Council infrastructure asset),
- the detailed design, foundation conditions and construction of the STSFX, and
- a range of ancillary, supporting and environmental management infrastructure proposed under CCOP.

The location of the sites is defined as the 'Proposed Works Area' which is a nominal 20 m by 20 m pad surrounding each test pit or drillhole. The direct disturbance area associated with each site is significantly smaller with a nominal 1 m by 1 m direct disturbance footprint associated with boreholes and 1 m by 4 m direct disturbance footprint associated with test pits.

The drilling activities proposed as a part of these geotechnical investigations does not involve the extraction of any groundwater and does not involve hydraulic fracturing or well stimulation.

Background

Blayney Shire Council approved a Development Application (2024/0014) for initial geotechnical investigation works for a similar program of works. This program of geotechnical investigations has commenced and has been used to determine information gaps for design requirements of infrastructure associated with the CCOP SSD. This application is supplementary to the previously approved program and aims to better define the design requirements of infrastructure for the CCOP.

Section 1.7 – Application of Part 7 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and Part 7A of the Fisheries Management Act 1994

Section 1.7 of the EP&A Act 1979 identifies that Part 7 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and Part 7A of the Fisheries Management Act 1994 have effect in connection with terrestrial and aquatic environments.

Having regard to the relevant provisions and based on an inspection of the subject property, it is considered that the proposed development is not likely to have a significant effect any threatened species, population or ecological communities or their habitats.

As such a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report is not required, and no further approvals are required.

Section 4.15 Evaluation

Matters for Consideration – General

In determining a development application, a consent authority is to take into consideration such of the following matters as are of relevance to the development the subject of the development application:

Section 4.15(1)(A)(I) The provisions of any Environmental Planning Instrument Blayney Local Environmental Plan 2012

Part 1 – PreliminaryClause 1.2 Aims of Plan

The proposed development is considered to be consistent with the broad aims of the BLEP 2012. Relevant issues are addressed in the body of this report.

Clause 1.7 Maps

Land zoning:	RU1 Primary Production
Lot size:	100 ha
Heritage:	Nil
Terrestrial biodiversity:	Is affected by terrestrial biodiversity
Groundwater vulnerability:	Nil
Drinking water catchment:	Nil
Watercourse:	Nil
Flood:	Nil

Clause 1.9A – Suspension of Covenants, Agreements and Instruments

Clause 1.9A provides that covenants, agreements and other instruments which seek to restrict the carrying out of development do not apply with the following exceptions:

- a covenant imposed by the Council or that the Council requires to be imposed, or
- any prescribed instrument within the meaning of section 183A of the Crown Lands Act 1989, or
- any conservation agreement within the meaning of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, or
- any Trust agreement within the meaning of the Nature Conservation Trust Act 2001, or
- any property vegetation plan within the meaning of the Native Vegetation Act 2003, or
- any biobanking agreement within the meaning of Part 7A of the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995, or
- any planning agreement within the meaning of Division 6 of Part 4 of the Act.

This clause does not affect the rights or interest of any public authority under any registered instruments. A search of Council's records indicates that the subject property is not affected by any of the foregoing covenants, instruments, agreements or plans.

Part 2 – Permitted or prohibited developmentClause 2.3 Zone objectives and Land Use Table

Clause 2.3(2) of BLEP provides that the Council shall have regard to the objectives for development in a zone when determining a development application in respect of land within the zone. The objectives of the RU1 Primary Production zone are:

- To encourage sustainable primary industry production by maintaining and enhancing the natural resource base.
- To encourage diversity in primary industry enterprises and systems appropriate for the area.
- To minimise the fragmentation and alienation of resource lands.
- To minimise conflict between land uses within this zone and land uses within adjoining zones.
- To enable function centres, restaurants and appropriate forms of tourist and visitor accommodation to be developed in conjunction with agricultural uses.

The proposed development is consistent with the objectives of the zone and encourages diversity in primary industry and minimises conflict between land uses within the prescribed zone and adjoining properties. The subject land supports Cadia Holdings operations which is an existing and approved land use.

Part 4 – Principal development standards

There are no principal development standards that apply.

Part 5 - Miscellaneous provisions

Section 5.10 – Heritage Conservation

As only part of the land is mapped as heritage and the actual listings for the heritage items are removed from the areas where the geotechnical investigation works will take place, it is assessed that there will be no long-term impacts resulting from the proposed works and no additional approvals are required under the Heritage Act 1977.

The Proposed Works are not seeking approval to directly impact any heritage sites/items. Eight (8) test pits and three (3) bore holes sites are located within the area mapped as heritage but remain removed from the curtilage of the Errowanbang Woolshed which is listed as a heritage item on the State Heritage Register (SHR).

Whilst short term activities will occur within the area mapped as heritage, the geotechnical investigation works are far removed and will not affect the heritage fabric or landscape settings of woolshed. The test pits and bore holes are to be rehabilitated in accordance with the mitigation and management measured at the conclusion of the works.

There will be no long-term impacts resulting from the proposed works.

Part 6 – Additional local provisions

Clause 6.3 Terrestrial biodiversity

Clause 6.3 seeks to protect native fauna and flora, ecological processes necessary for their continued existence, and encouraging the conservation and recovery of native fauna and flora and their habitats.

While the subject properties contain a number of areas identified on the Natural Resource – Biodiversity Map, it is noted that the areas in which each drill hole/test pit is devoid of trees or shrubs. It is possible that some native grasses would be disturbed by the geological testing.

Notwithstanding, given the limited extent of the area which would be disturbed for each drill hole, it is considered that:

- The proposed development will not have any adverse impact on the condition, ecological value or significance of flora and fauna:
- The proposed development would not have any adverse impact on the importance of vegetation on the land to the habitat and survival of native fauna:
- The proposed development will not fragment, disturb or diminish the biodiversity structure, function or composition of the land:
- The proposed development will not have any adverse impact on the habitat elements providing connectivity on the land.

The supporting documentation submitted with the application outlines management and mitigation methods to ensure the proposed development limits impacts on the biodiversity.

The following management and mitigation measures are proposed in order to limit impacts on native flora:

- Vegetation disturbance will be managed in accordance with Cadia's existing Land and Biodiversity Management Plan.
- All trees and shrubs will be avoided wherever possible.
- Minor pruning or disturbance to shrubs and trees may be required if works locations cannot be relocated.
- No tree branches with a diameter of greater than 10 cm will be removed.
- No boreholes or test pits will be located within the drip-line of trees to protect tree roots.
- Work will be undertaken to limit the ground disturbance impacts to the minimum footprint required.
- Vehicle access will adhere to designated access tracks where available.
- Any non-Cadia earthmoving or light vehicles will be pressure cleaned in an off-site location prior to commencing work to ensure all soil or clay material from previous work sites is removed prior to entering the site.
- The A and O soil horizons will be returned to the surface of borehole and test pit locations following investigations in as best condition as possible to aid in surface vegetation recovery.
- When re-seeding investigation sites, native grass seed and species characteristic of the existing vegetation will be used where possible.

Further, it is considered that the proposed development has been designed, sited and will be managed to avoid any significant adverse environmental impact.

Clause 6.8 Essential services

Clause 6.8 requires that development consent must not be granted to development unless the consent authority is satisfied that any of the services that are essential for the development are available or that adequate arrangements have been made to make them available when required.

No essential services are required for the proposed development.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021

State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021 requires that a consent authority must not consent to the carrying out of development of land unless it has considered whether the land is contaminated; is satisfied that the land is suitable in its contaminated state for the development that is proposed, and if the land requires remediation to be made suitable for the proposed development it is satisfied that the land will be remediated before the land is used for that purpose.

Furthermore, the SEPP requires before determining an application to carry out development that would involve a change of use of land, the consent authority must consider a preliminary investigation of the land concerned.

Given the subject land has primarily been used for extensive agriculture, it is considered unlikely that they would be contaminated.

No potential current or historical potentially contaminating activities were identified.

Consequently, having regard to all available information it is safe to conclude that there is no evidence of previous contaminating land uses that would require further investigation.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation)**Chapter 3 – Koala Habitat Protection 2020**

This policy aims to encourage the proper conservation of natural vegetation that provides habitat for Koalas to ensure their population and range of accessibility is preserved. The Policy meets its objectives by:

- a) Requiring the preparation of plans of management before development consent can be granted in relation to area of core Koala habitat.
- b) Encouraging the identification of areas of core koala habitat; and
- c) Encouraging the inclusion of areas of core koala habitat in environmental protection zones.

The proposed development does not require the removal (clearing) of any native vegetation or further intrusion of timbered areas. Council can be satisfied that the development will not have an impact on koalas or Koala habitat.

Section 4.15(1)(a)(ii) Any proposed instrument that is or has been the subject of public consultation under the Act and has been notified to the consent authority

Not applicable.

Section 4.15(1)(a)(iii) Any Development Control Plan

Blayney Shire Development Control Plan 2018

Blayney Shire Council Development Control Plan (DCP) 2018 applies to the land. *Part E: Other Land Uses, E.10, Extractive Industries & Mining* applies to this development and the relevant parts are summarised below.

Clause DCP	Comment	Compliance
Blayney DCP Objectives E.10.	<p>1. <i>To ensure that development does not adversely impact on areas of landscaping and conservation value.</i></p> <p>2. <i>To ensure that development is designed to minimise risks associated with geotechnical hazards.</i></p> <p>3. <i>To provide an effective barrier between quarrying and mining operations and other sensitive land uses.</i></p> <p>4. <i>To maintain the character and amenity of existing rural land uses.</i></p> <p>5. <i>To facilitate mining and extractive industries in suitable locations that facilitate employment and</i></p> <p>6. <i>To ensure development accords with best-practice operations and management.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Comment: The proposed development has been designed to minimise impacts on the environment and to minimise risks associated with geotechnical hazards.</p>
Blayney DCP Controls (E.10.2)	<p>2. <i>The preparation of a traffic impact assessment report (i.e. prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced traffic engineer) will be required and must address the following (but is not limited to):</i></p> <p>a. <i>Estimated average and maximum hourly, daily and weekly truck movements, based upon the truck type and size proposed for the operation:</i></p> <p>b. <i>Proposed truck routes (for both laden and unladen trucks) and possible alternative routes or other alternative transport modes such a rail transport:</i></p> <p>c. <i>The physical condition of existing roads and / or bridges on the proposed truck routes to / from the site and any proposals to upgrade public or private roads to reduce dust and other impacts:</i></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Comment: The proposed development will require some works within Council's Road reserve to inform the geotechnical design for the realignment of Panuara Road. The re-alignment of Panuara Road is the subject of a separate application and does not form a part of this application. Conditions apply.</p>

	<p><i>d. The traffic generation impact of both laden and unladen truck movements along the proposed truck routes to / from the site:</i></p> <p><i>e. Potential road safety impacts upon other road users arising from the additional truck movements occurring along the proposed truck routes to / from the site; and</i></p> <p><i>f. Assessment of sight distances for trucks entering / exiting the site and at other key intersections along the proposed truck routes to / from the site.</i></p>	
	<p><i>3. Applications for mining or extractive industry activities must address the following matters and identify proposed mitigation measures where adverse impacts are identified:</i></p> <p><i>a. Efficient and safe movement of the extractive material from the source of supply to the end user:</i></p> <p><i>b. Noise, dust and vibration abatement measures including any blasting or explosive use:</i></p> <p><i>c. Visual impact assessment with particular reference to major roads, tourist routes / interest points and surrounding properties / structures:</i></p> <p><i>d. Drainage implications including surface and groundwater impacts:</i></p> <p><i>e. Rehabilitation of the site including materials, staging, source materials, re-contouring, replacement of topsoil, screen planting and vegetation:</i></p> <p><i>f. Management techniques to address potential conflict with surrounding land uses and protection of environmental attributes:</i></p> <p><i>Any other assessment Council may require including heritage assessments, contaminated land assessments, ecological assessments and acid sulphate soil assessments.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Comment: The proposed development has been designed to minimise impacts on the environment and to minimise risks associated geotechnical hazards.</p> <p>Mitigation measures have been recommended, and conditions apply for rehabilitation, dust, naturally occurring asbestos and unexpected finds protocol for heritage and aboriginal archaeology.</p>

Section 4.15(1)(a)(iv) The Regulations

In the case of a development application for the demolition of a building, the provisions of AS 2601

Not applicable to this application.

In the case of a development application for the carrying out of development on land that is subject to a subdivision order made under Schedule 7 to the Act, the provisions of that order and of any development plan prepared for the land by a relevant authority under that Schedule

Not applicable to this application.

Fire safety and other considerations (Clause 93)

Not applicable to this application.

Buildings to be Upgraded (Clause 94)

Not applicable to this application.

BASIX Commitments

Not applicable.

Section 4.15(1)(b) The likely impacts of the development, including environmental impacts both the natural and built environments, and social and economic impacts in the locality

Context and Setting

The land use to the north forms a part of the existing Cadia mine with land use in this area characterised by mining operations for in excess of 25 years. Land to the east, south and west comprise agricultural land (freehold) of varying sizes used predominantly for grazing and cropping purposes.

Land Use Conflict

The locations of the proposed geotechnical works have been intentionally selected to avoid constraints and minimise harm to local environmental factors. An assessment of potential constraints associated with the proposed geotechnical works was undertaken in the planning and design phase to ensure each location avoided potential interaction with environmental factors. Constraints mapping was informed by environmental assessments, fieldwork, a review of existing databases and desk to analysis.

Access and Traffic

The proposed geotechnical investigation sites have been selected taking into consideration the availability of appropriate access that minimises ground disturbance and avoids impacts to known archaeological sites.

The proposed development will involve specialist equipment and support vehicles such as backhoe, attachments (auger, coring, drill rods), truck mounted drill rig, rig caravan, support vehicles, above ground drilling fluid tanks, water cart and flexi drive pumps with minimal traffic and transport impacts expected from the proposed geotechnical investigation works.

Access to the proposed work locations would mainly be via existing access tracks. Some areas may require access across paddocks however, no track construction (involving earthworks) would be required as these tracks would be formed by driving over grassland, with slashing taking place (if necessary). Any cross-paddock access will be selected to link sites with existing access tracks ensuring the most direct route is used that minimises environmental impacts.

Public Domain

The proposed development will have minimal impact on the public domain within the surrounding area, as it is considered to be consistent with the character of the primary production area.

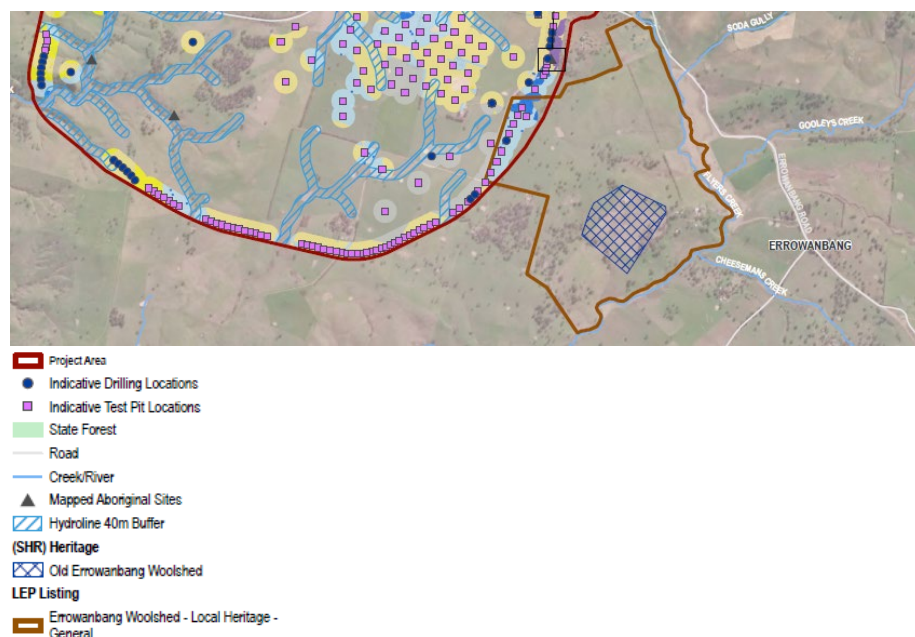
Utilities

No adverse impacts are assessed.

Heritage

The subject site is not located in a heritage conservation area.

Part of the subject land for geotechnical investigations is identified on LEP mapping as being a heritage item i.e. Lot 32 DP 1217542. This item is identified as I178 and known as Old Errowanbang Homestead and Woolshed. It is noted that further investigations have revealed whilst Lot 32 is mapped as a heritage item, the original rural holding that comprised the Old Errowanbang Homestead and Woolshed was subdivided (and subsequently registered) in 2016 as separate holdings and was formerly known as Lot 51 DP 39600. It appears that the heritage listing has not been amended to update the property title on which the heritage items are situated. The nearest of the identified items to the geotechnical investigations is located in excess of 1000m away and does not adversely impact any aspect of the heritage item.



The Proposed Works are not seeking approval to directly impact any heritage sites/items. Eight (8) test pits and three (3) bore holes sites are located within the area mapped as heritage but remain removed from the curtilage of the Errowanbang Woolshed which is listed as a heritage item on the State Heritage Register (SHR).

Whilst short term activities will occur within the area mapped as heritage, the geotechnical investigation works are far removed and will not affect the heritage fabric or landscape settings of the woolshed. The test pits and bore holes are to be rehabilitated in accordance with the mitigation and management measured at the conclusion of the works.

There will be no long-term impacts resulting from the proposed works.

As such no Section 140 or Section 160 excavation permits are required under the Heritage Act (1977 as amended) for the Proposed Works.

Aboriginal heritage

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment has been included with the submitted application providing a review of the environmental and archaeological context of the Proposed Works Area and environs. The review identified that there are no Aboriginal sites located within the footprint of the Proposed Works and that the area itself generally retains low archaeological potential. This assessment has concluded that the Proposed Works will have negligible impact to known and/or potential Aboriginal sites and as such, works may proceed without any further archaeological assessment, approvals or associated constraints.

A condition of consent has been included to address any potential unexpected find.

Other land resources

The proposed development will not have a detrimental effect on productive agricultural land, mineral and extractive resources or water supply catchments.

All areas of the land disturbed by the proposed works will be rehabilitated to be safe, stable and of a standard consistent with pre-disturbance land uses and surrounding vegetation and landforms.

A condition has been imposed to ensure rehabilitation takes place.

No adverse impacts are assessed.

Bushfire

The subject land is not identified on the Bushfire Prone Land. No adverse impacts are assessed.

Surface Water and Groundwater

The proposal involves minor earthworks. No adverse impacts are assessed.

Soils

The development will require minor earthworks. No adverse impacts are assessed.

Air & Microclimate

The potential for air quality impacts is considered minor due to the distance of the proposed activities relative to the closest private residences, the low impact nature of the works and general topography of the local area. The proposed activities will require some ground disturbance which has the potential to generate localised dust. The proposed development is minor in nature, involves minimal site disturbance and will be undertaken over a limited period of time three (3) months.

Noise and Vibration

A condition has been imposed regarding construction hours limiting works to take place between 7.00 am and 6.00 pm on Monday to Friday, and 8am to 5pm on Saturdays.

Flora and Fauna

A Biodiversity Assessment for the proposed development was completed by Umwelt and is summarised further within this report. Umwelt has undertaken a biodiversity assessment for the subject area (Proposed Works) and the surrounding areas. All biodiversity survey work has been undertaken in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Methods (BAM DPIE 2020). The supporting documentation submitted with the application outlines management and mitigation methods to ensure the proposed development limits impacts on the biodiversity.

The following management and mitigation measures are proposed in order to limit impacts on native flora:

- Vegetation disturbance will be managed in accordance with Cadia's existing Land and Biodiversity Management Plan.
- All trees and shrubs will be avoided wherever possible.
- Minor pruning or disturbance to shrubs and trees may be required if works locations cannot be relocated.
- No tree branches with a diameter of greater than 10 cm will be removed.
- No boreholes or test pits will be located within the dripline of trees to protect tree roots.
- Work will be undertaken to limit the ground disturbance impacts to the minimum footprint required.
- Vehicle access will adhere to designated access tracks where available.
- Any non-Cadia earthmoving or light vehicles will be pressure cleaned in an off-site location prior to commencing work to ensure all soil or clay material from previous work sites is removed prior to entering the site.
- The A and O soil horizons will be returned to the surface of borehole and test pit locations following investigations in as best condition as possible to aid in surface vegetation recovery.
- When re-seeding investigation sites, native grass seed and species characteristic of the existing vegetation will be used where possible.

No adverse impacts are assessed.

Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation measures are recommended at the cessation of the works including:

- All areas of land disturbed by the Proposed Works will be rehabilitated to be safe, stable and of a standard that is generally consistent with the pre-disturbance land uses and surrounding vegetation and landforms.
- At the completion of drilling, each drill hole will either be grouted with a low permeability material, such as a cement-bentonite mixture, from the base of the hole to a height of approximately 30 centimetres (cm) below the surface to minimise the potential for groundwater migration, or alternatively would be established as a standpipe to allow for ongoing monitoring and assessment of groundwater conditions.
- All bore holes will be grouted (i.e. sealed) and capped in accordance with the requirements of EL 2378, ML 1405 and ML 1690. Decommissioning works for each drill hole site would involve the complete removal of equipment and any temporary fencing associated with the Proposed Works.
- All soil test pits will be back filled as part of the investigation program, in order to return the soil profile as close as practicable to the pre-disturbance soil profile and compaction levels.

- Should revegetation/seeding be required, CHPL would utilise species characteristic of the surrounding vegetation. A suitable fertiliser may also be used to assist regeneration success.
- Erosion and sediment controls would remain in place at all sites until rehabilitation efforts have successfully reduced the risk of erosion to comparable levels of the pre-disturbance and/or surrounding environment. Follow-up inspections of drill and test pit sites will be undertaken following completion to confirm regeneration and/or revegetation performance, determine whether any supplementary measures (e.g. seeding) is required and confirm there are no ongoing erosion and weed risks as a result of the Proposed Works. Monitoring would initially involve three-monthly visual inspections, with the monitoring frequency to be adjusted in response to the progress of regeneration, revegetation and/or erosion risks.

Conditions have been applied to ensure the recommended management and mitigation measures are undertaken once the geotechnical investigations have been completed.

Waste

Any waste generated during the geotechnical works will be removed off site to an approved waste facility.

Natural Hazards

The subject land is not Flood Prone or identified as Bushfire Prone Land. No adverse impacts assessed.

Technological Hazards

There are no known previous land uses that would indicate the subject land is affected by land contamination. No adverse impacts assessed.

Safety Security and Crime Prevention

The proposal does not pose a safety security or crime prevention risk.

Social Impact in the Locality

Due to the type and scale of the proposed development, the social impacts of the development are not significant. No adverse impacts are assessed.

Economic Impact in the Locality

Due to the type and scale of the proposed development, the economic impacts of the development are not significant. No adverse impacts are assessed.

Site Design and Internal Design

The proposal is consistent with the BLEP and DCP as discussed above. The development on the site will not detrimentally affect adjoining land and has been designed with regard to the existing site conditions.

Cumulative Impacts

The proposal is consistent with the BLEP and DCP. The proposal is surrounded by residential properties of a varying sizes, shape and density. It is assessed that the cumulative impacts of the proposed development are not such that the application should warrant refusal.

Section 4.15(1)(c) The suitability of the site for the development

The locations of the proposed geotechnical works have been intentionally selected to avoid constraints and minimise harm to local environmental factors. An assessment of potential constraints associated with the proposed geotechnical works was undertaken in the planning and design phase to ensure each location avoided potential interaction with environmental factors. Constraints mapping was informed by environmental assessments, fieldwork, a review of existing databases and desk to analysis.

Section 4.15(1)(d) Any submissions made in accordance with this Act or the regulations

In accordance with B2.1 of the Blayney Development Control Plan 2018 the application was notified between 5 March 2025 to 19 March 2025 with three (3) submissions being received.

The main matters raised in the submissions are referred to in the below table:

Submission	Matter Raised	Comment
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drilling is already taking place on Meribah Object to the tailings dam being constructed on Meribah, and further object to the any drilling for the CCOP. Increased noise from existing drilling taking place Any drilling poses a risk to contamination of underground sources especially if a fault line is contacted which poses risk to native flora and fauna 	<p>A previous application for drilling was approved via DA 2024/14 for initial Geotechnical drilling. These works are currently taking place.</p> <p>This application does not include the construction of the tailings dam. It will be the subject of a separate application and community engagement process.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>The drilling activities proposed as a part of this application does not include the extraction of any groundwater and does not involve any hydraulic fracturing or well stimulation.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already suffered effects of dust pollution and health effects due to the wall failure of NTSF in 2019 • Evacuation of STSF over stability concerns • Based on previous tailings dam failures concern is raised with the same type of wall closer to natural water sources where the impact downstream from Flyers Creek to Belubula River and the Lachlan River would be catastrophic • Object to moving Panuara Road further south which will increase noise pollution to existing residents, be detrimental to heritage buildings • Length of time to receive notification letter from Council 	<p>This application is for geotechnical drilling works only. This application cannot assess health impacts resulting from the operation of the mine.</p> <p>The existing STSF does not form a part of this application. This is not a relevant planning matter for the current application.</p> <p>This application does not include the construction of a tailings dam. This will be undertaken as a separate application process.</p> <p>This application does not include the relocation of Panuara Road. This will be the subject of a separate application process.</p> <p>This is acknowledged and all who raised concern about the lack of time frame was provided with an extension to submit a submission. Council does not control Australia Posts delivery process or times for delivery.</p>
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2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Object to the tailings dam being constructed on Meribah, and further object to the any drilling for the CCOP. • The collapse of the Northern Tailings Dam and the dust effects resulting from this • The Southern Tailings Storage Dam is unstable and if the wall collapses the impacts would include large quantities of dust, water contamination and health impacts. • The process of neighbour notification is in adequate. Irrespective of the extension period provided, the length of time provided to prepare a submission is inadequate. • Drilling has already been taking place on this site with clear observations of drilling rigs. 	<p>This application does not include the construction of the tailings dam. It will be the subject of a separate application and community engagement process.</p> <p>The submitted application is for geotechnical investigations only. The collapse of the dam wall and subsequent effects resulting from this are not a part of the submitted application.</p> <p>Refer to the above points.</p> <p>Those who raised concern about the lack of time frame upon receipt of the notification letter was provided with an extension to submit a submission. Council does not control Australia Posts delivery process or times. Council's notification process is outlined within the DCP and is consistently applied.</p> <p>A previous application for drilling was approved via DA 2024/14 for initial Geotechnical drilling. These works are currently taking place.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation of dust and noise from unauthorised drill rigs which is unacceptable to for adjoining properties • Contamination from the drill holes • Should the drill holes intersect the fault lines, the contamination impact upon Flyers Creek, the Belubula and downstream locations will cause damage to aquatic life, bird life, stock and household use of water • Construction of the proposed tailings dam and its proximity to heritage buildings and adverse impacts to these structures. • The construction of a tailings dam on the subject site will result in permanent destruction of flora and fauna over the sit. The destruction of pristine grazing country. 	<p>Refer to the above point. Until the receipt of submissions for this application, Council have not received any specific complaints regarding unacceptable dust and noise from drill rigs on the subject site. Council will make contact with the Landowner and remind them of their obligations to ensure compliance with their conditions of consent.</p> <p>There will be no contamination from the drill holes.</p> <p>The drilling activities proposed as a part of this application does not include the extraction of any groundwater and does not involve any hydraulic fracturing or well stimulation.</p> <p>This application does not include the construction of the tailings dam. It will be the subject of a separate application and community engagement process.</p> <p>This application does not include the construction of the tailings dam. It will be the subject of a separate application and community engagement process.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The construction of the tailings dam will result in a significant increase in traffic movements resulting in noise impacts. • Concern if the new tailings dam has stability issues and collapse then the alignment of Panuara Road would be destroyed including homes, and grazing country • The influence of this company on Council decisions over community concerns 	<p>As previously mentioned, this application is not seeking consent for the construction of a tailings dam. This will form part of a separate application where environmental impacts including construction and ongoing impacts will be examined as part of the assessment process.</p> <p>As per above.</p> <p>Council follows the legislative requirements for all development applications.</p>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The notification letter for this development was late in being delivered. • Drilling has been undertaken on this site for some time. 	<p>As advised in the previous submission those who raised concern about the lack of time frame upon receipt of the notification letter was provided with an extension to submit a submission. Council does not control Australia Posts delivery process or times. Council's notification process is outlined within the DCP and is consistently applied.</p> <p>A previous application for drilling was approved via DA 2024/14 for initial Geotechnical drilling. These works are currently taking place.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing issues with dust and noise with dust affecting water supplies in tanks, creeks and rivers. • High levels of contaminants are showing up in our drinking water impacting health. • By allowing this application will increase these issues previously identified. • Drilling poses risk/harm to destroy flora and fauna habitat on the land. 	<p>Ongoing issues with dust and noise should be considered as a part on the mines ongoing operation management. If the dust and noise specifically relate to the previous drilling application, then this needs to be provided to Council in writing for further investigation.</p> <p>This application is restricted to geotechnical test pits and drill holes for future design work the subject of a separate application.</p> <p>Applications are to be assessed on their merits based on what consent is being sought. The application cannot assess the merits of a future application to which Council will not be the consent authority.</p> <p>Based on the extent of the proposed works, the mitigation measures and rehabilitation measures, there is minimal risk to flora and fauna as supported by the documentation presented with this application.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk in soil stability and a danger to heritage buildings. • Contamination where the drilling is to occur if a fault line is intersected may cause an environmental disaster. • Object to the construction of a tailings dam on this land. • History shows what has taken place with the Northern Tailings Dam in 2019. Landowners do not wish to see a repeat event in this location. 	<p>The nearest of the identified items to the geotechnical investigations is located in excess of 1000m away and does not adversely impact any aspect of the heritage item. The Proposed Works are not seeking approval to directly impact any heritage sites/items. Eight (8) test pits and three (3) bore holes sites are located within the area mapped as heritage but remain removed from the curtilage of the Errowanbang Woolshed which is listed as a heritage item on the State Heritage Register (SHR).</p> <p>Whilst short term activities will occur within the area mapped as heritage, the geotechnical investigation works are far removed and will not affect the heritage fabric or landscape settings of woolshed.</p> <p>The drilling activities proposed as a part of this application does not include the extraction of any groundwater and does not involve any hydraulic fracturing or well stimulation.</p> <p>The submitted application is for geotechnical investigations only. Any new works or construction of tailings dams would be subject to a separate application.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This drilling is a risk and threat to the entire community, landholders, farmland, creeks, rivers, livestock, flora and fauna.	<p>The submitted application is for geotechnical investigations only. The collapse of the NTD dam wall and subsequent effects resulting from this collapse do not form a part of the submitted application.</p> <p>This application addresses the specifics of the consent being sought i.e. geotechnical investigations only. The submission addresses the potential environmental and community impacts associated with the proposed geotechnical investigations and has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 4.2(1) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.</p> <p>Any new works such as the realignment of Panuara Road, a tailings dam or other works relating to the mine site will be the subject of a separate application and community engagement process.</p>
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Section 4.15(1)(e) The public interest

Due to the sensitive nature of mining in the locality, the application was neighbour notified. The Applicant also advised that as a part of their wider community engagement protocols, details regarding the application have been placed on their website.

The proposed development is considered to be of minor interest to the wider public due to the localised nature of potential impacts. The proposed development is not inconsistent with any relevant policy statements, planning studies, guidelines etc. that have not been directly considered in this assessment.

Conclusion

The proposal is permissible with consent of Council. The proposed development complies with the relevant aims, objectives and provisions of the BLEP 2012 and BDCP2018. A Section 4.15 assessment of the development indicates that the development is acceptable in this instance.

Attached are draft conditions of consent considered appropriate to ensure that the development proceeds in an acceptable manner.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

A Section 4.15 assessment of the development indicates that the development is acceptable in this instance subject to conditions.

Should Council approve the application, the applicant has rights of appeal to the Land and Environment Court if they are dissatisfied with any conditions imposed. Similarly, should the application be refused, the applicant may appeal to the Land and Environment Court.

Any party may commence proceedings in the Land and Environment Court seeking Judicial Review should they be of the view there has been a breach of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.

Budget Implications:

Nil.

Enclosures (following report)

1	2025.0009 Submission - 1	2 Pages
2	2025.0009 Submission - 2	1 Page
3	2025.0009 Submission - 3	1 Page
4	DA 20250009 Site Plan	1 Page
5	DA 2025-0009 - Conditions of Consent	5 Pages

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to formally submit my submission with regards to

RE:- DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL APPLICATION

DA20250009

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

It seems pointless that council is seeking submissions from neighbouring properties to an application to drill on the property 'Meribah' when there has been drilling taking place in these locations for months now.

[REDACTED] already experienced increased noise from this taking place.

I strongly object to a tailing dam being built on the property 'Meribah' which means I also strongly object to any drilling for the CCOP project.

Any drilling on 'Meribah' is a huge risk for contamination of underground water sources especially if a fault line is contacted putting at risk a lot of native flora and fauna which rely on water from Flyers creek and the Belubula river as well as natural springs for their survival.

[REDACTED] suffered increased affects of dust pollution from Cadia since the wall failure of the NTSF in 2019 which has polluted our drinking water and stock water as well as increased health issues with neighbouring resident this problem remains unresolved on what to do with the wall.

In more recent times the STSF has been evacuated over stability concerns.

Newcrest built tailings dam walls have a 100% failure rate and Newmont want to build the same type of wall closer to natural water sources where failure will be catastrophic to everything downstream from Flyers creek to the Belubula river to the Lachlan river into the Murray Darling Basin.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Our lives and childrens lives could be directly impacted.

To this date Newmont will not show us their Risk Assessment if this was to ever happen, we have requested this document on many occasions now.

I would also like to strongly object to moving the Panuara Road further south which will increase noise pollution to existing neighbouring residents.

The proposal to turn pristine rural country that is 'Meribah' into a contaminated waste land of tailings dam is absolutely disgusting and should not even be considered as an option.

Moving the Panuara Road will also be hugely detrimental to a number of heritage buildings in the area that neighbours have spent years as well as tens of thousands of their own money in an effort to preserve for generations to come.

The fact that Blayney Shire Council sent out a DA dated 05/03/25 which wasn't received by mail until the 12/03/25 and was to close for submissions on the 14/03/25 is just not good enough and need to do better.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RE:- DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL APPLICATION DA20250009

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

I formally submit my submission with regards to the above.

There should **NOT** be a tailings dam built on the property “Meribah” which is owned by Newmont Mining which in turn means **NO** drilling at all for the CCOP project for the following reasons:-

1. In 2019 the Northern Tailings Dam wall collapsed and to date it has not been repaired for use again. The entire southern, western, northern and eastern districts around the mine have been living with dust events ever since. The dust fallouts have been affecting residents, stock and water which in turn has definitely impacted hugely in the health of near neighbours, within the Red and outside the Red line!
2. The Southern Tailings Storage Dam. The STSD is currently seriously unstable with alarms indicating there is once again a problem with a Newcrest built tailings dam. A large workforce has been stood down from the Southern Tailings dam area permanently after several evacuations of all personnel. If this doesn't scream totally UNSAFE...nothing does! If this wall collapses, then one would expect that the entire Cadia Valley Operations would be shut down. Impact would once again include copious amount of dust, water contamination and health impacts.
3. DA sent by Blayney shire Council dated 05 March and received in the mail on Wednesday 12th March. Calls were made to Blayney Shire Council office to complain about the closure date of the submission which was the 14th (the following day after receipt of the letter). An extension was given till the 25th March. This entire process is not good enough! The extension of time is inadequate to fully prepare an appropriate submission
4. The submission regarding the proposed drilling appears to be moot given that there have been drilling rigs observed on the property “Meribah” for months, drilling test holes.
5. There is observation of dust and noise emanating from the unauthorised drill rigs which is unacceptable to the adjoining properties.
6. The Contamination that is likely to result from the drill holes, especially of the drill holes intersect the fault lines that are known to exit through the property, will have an unacceptable environmental impacts..
7. Should the drill holes intersect the fault lines, the contamination will effect the flows through Flyers Creek, the Belubula River and downstream locations, causing significant damage to the aquatic life, bird life, stock and the people using the water for household and garden use.
8. The construction of the proposed tailings dam and its proximity to existing structures, include historic heritage buildings, also poses a potential risk to those structures.
9. The construction of the tailings dam on the “Meribah” property will result in the permanent destruction of the habitat for fauna and flora over the whole property forever. This includes the destruction of pristine grazing country.
10. The construction of the tailings dam will result in a significant increase in traffic movements resulting in a significant increase in noise.
11. The proposed tailings dam requires a proposed new Panuara Road, which will be the third Panuara road adjustment. If the proposed new tailings dam has the same problems with stability that leads to collapse, then the proposed third alignment of the Panuara road would be destroyed, along with existing homes, lifestyles, amazing grazing country. There would be nothing left of the Errowanbang and Burnt Yards areas.
12. The potential for the financial might of a large company to continue to influence the decisions of council over the concerns of the local residents who have generations of commitment to the country around the district is a concern for the community as a whole.

[REDACTED]

The General Manager,
Blayney Shire Council,
P.O. Box 62,
Blayney. NSW. 2799.

Dear Sir/Madam

In reference to your letter dated 5.3.25
re Development Approval/Application No. DA20250009
Applicant: Cadia Holdings Pty Ltd.

Herewith my submission & objection to the
above application.

Firstly, this document seems to be very late in
being sent out to neighbouring landholders. It appears
there have already been drilling rigs on the "Meribah"
property doing test holes for quite some time now.

have
been putting up with dust & noise issues for years
now. The dust fallouts have been affecting our
water supplies in tanks, creek & river. High levels of
contaminants are showing up in our drinking water
impacting our health & well-being. Allowing this new
application will undoubtedly increase these issues.

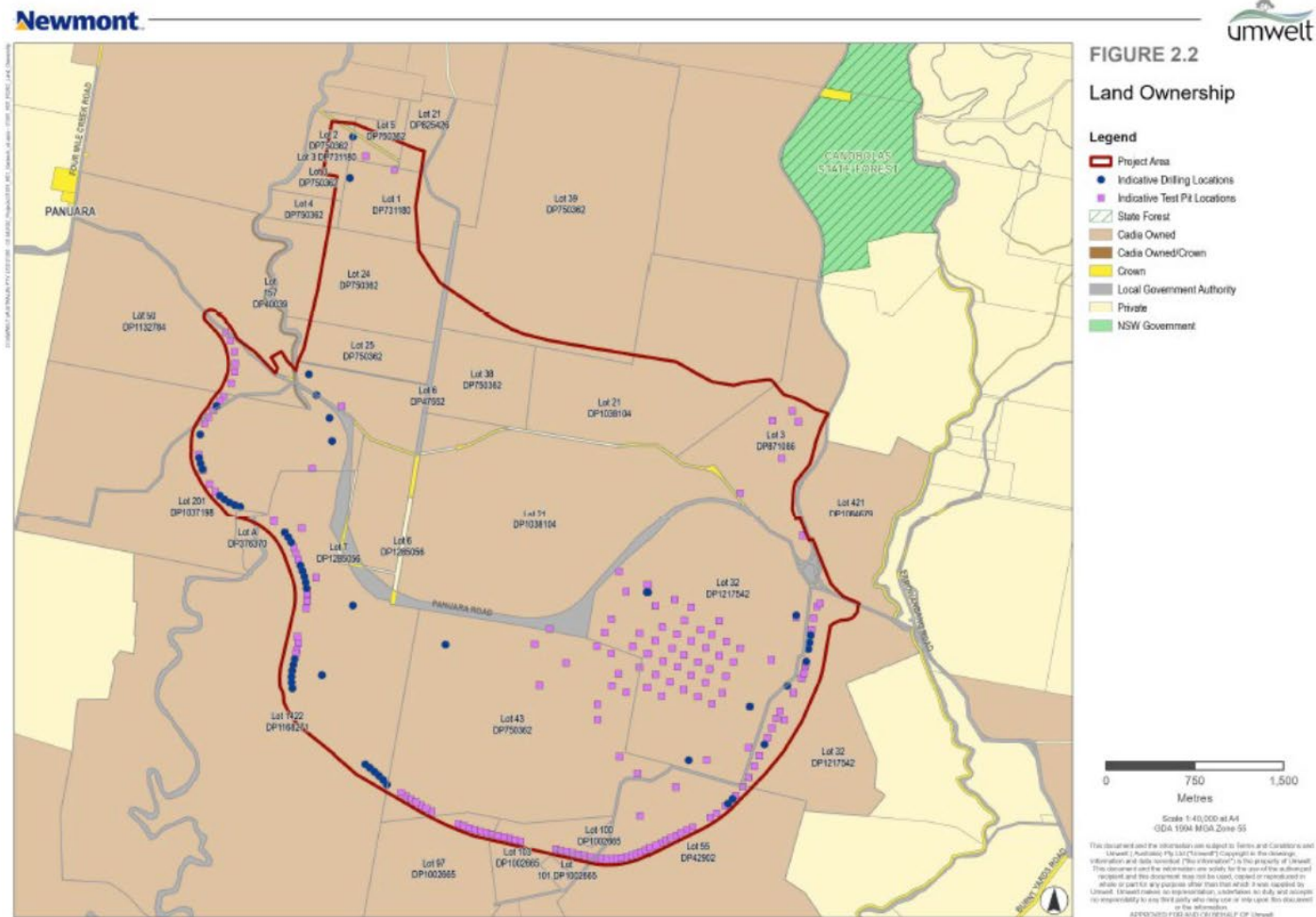
The drilling will potentially harm/destroy flora &
fauna habitat on "Meribah".

Risk in soil stability - danger to Heritage buildings.

Contamination by drilling could possibly occur.
If drilling hits the fault lines running through the
property, around the proposed drill sites, this may
potentially cause an environmental disaster -
eventually flowing through to Flyers Creek, Belubula
River & onwards. Our aquatic & bird life would be
seriously affected. Our livestock. Our livelihoods.

I object strongly to the proposed tailings dam
to be built on "Meribah". History has shown the
collapse of the Northern Tailings Dam wall in 2019 &
now the Southern Tailings Storage Dam is seriously
unstable. Evacuations of Personnel taking place
surely alarm bells are ringing! Cadia Holdings need
to stand up & seriously take notice of what is really
going on around them.

This proposed drilling is a risk & threat to all
people - to our families, next generations, miners,
farmers, landholders, community. To our beautiful
farming land. To our creek, river & water supplies.
To our animals - livestock & fauna. To our flora.
To our future.



DA 2025/0009 – CONDITIONS OF CONSENT

APPROVED PLANS**DEVELOPMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPROVED PLANS AND DOCUMENTATION.**

1. The development is to take place in accordance with the documentation submitted with the application indicated in the table below and subject to the following conditions.

Plan/Doc No	Plan/Doc Title	Prepared by	Issue	Date
Report No. 730-23179-EN-REP-2107	Statement of Environmental Effects	Umwelt Environmental & Social Consultants	-	January 2025

NOTE: Any modifications to the proposal shall be the subject of an application under Section 4.55 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979.

PRESCRIBED CONDITIONS

Nil

PRIOR TO ISSUE OF A CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATE

Nil

PRIOR TO WORKS COMMENCING**SECTION 138 ROADS ACT APPROVAL**

2. Prior to the commencement of works, a s138 Roads Act approval is to be applied for on the NSW Planning Portal.

ENGINEERING PLANS

3. The applicant is to submit engineering plans, specifications and calculations in relation to works in council's road reserve in an appropriate digital format. Further, the works are to comply with *WBC Guidelines for Engineering Works*.

TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN MANAGEMENT PLAN

4. The applicant is to prepare and implement a Traffic Management Plan that provides necessary direction to traffic or pedestrian movement through or past the work site. The Traffic Management Plan is to be prepared by a suitably qualified person in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Australian Standards and is to be submitted to Council for approval PRIOR to its implementation.

SOIL AND WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

5. The developer is to submit a soil and water management plan for the site in accordance with *WBC Guidelines for Engineering Work*. No building, engineering, or excavation work, or topsoil stripping or vegetation removal, is to be carried out in relation to this development until such time as a Compliance Certificate pursuant to Section 109C of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, as amended, **or inspection report** has been issued by Council or an accredited certifying authority, certifying that the plan is in accordance with Council's *WBC*

Guidelines for Engineering Works. Upon certification, the measures in the Soil and Water Management Plan are to be implemented during the course of the development.

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

6. Prior to the commencement of any works on Council or Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) controlled land including a public road, the applicant is to affect Public Liability Insurance to the minimum amount of \$20 million. This insurance is to note Council's interest and is to remain current for at least the period from the issue of the Construction Certificate until the issue of a Compliance Certificate or final inspection report for the works. Documentary evidence of the currency of the cover is to be provided to Council prior to the commencement of works within the road reserve.

TOILET FACILITIES

7. Toilet facilities must be available or provided at the work site before works begin and must be maintained until the works are completed at a ratio of one toilet, plus one additional toilet for every 20 persons employed at the site.

Each toilet must:

- i. be a standard flushing toilet connected to a public sewer, or
- ii. have an on-site effluent disposal system approved under the *Local Government Act 1993*, or
- iii. be a temporary chemical closet approved under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL

8. Erosion and sediment control measures are to be established prior to commencement of construction and maintained to prevent silt and sediment escaping the site or producing erosion. This work must be carried out and maintained in accordance with Council's *WBC Guidelines for Engineering Works* (see Council's website), and the Dept Housing – *Soil and Water Management for Urban Development (The Blue Book)*.

DURING CONSTRUCTION

ENGINEERING INSPECTIONS

9. The applicant is to arrange an inspection of the development/subdivision works by Council's Engineering Department, at the following stages of the development. This condition applies notwithstanding any private certification of the engineering works.

	COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2
I	Road Openings	* Upon completion of works.

RELOCATE UTILITY SERVICES

10. The developer is to relocate any utility services if required, at the developer's cost.

NATURALLY OCCURRING ASBESTOS

11. If Naturally Occurring Asbestos is identified, and it is likely to be affected by the proposed works, then Clause 432 of the *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2017* (as amended) requires

that a site-specific Asbestos Management Plan is prepared in accordance with the regulations and the *Model Asbestos Policy for NSW Councils (2015)* (as amended).

UNEXPECTED FINDS

12. If Aboriginal objects, relics or other historical items or the like are located during development works, all works in the area of the identified object, relic or item shall cease and the NSW Office of Environmental Heritage (OEH), and representatives from the Local Aboriginal Land Council shall be notified. Where required, further archaeological investigation shall be undertaken. Development works in the area of the find(s) may recommence if and when outlined by the management strategy, developed in consultation with and approved by OEH.

HOURS FOR CONSTRUCTION OR DEMOLITION

13. Construction or demolition only be carried out between 7.00 am and 6.00 pm on Monday to Friday, and 8am to 5pm on Saturdays. No construction or demolition is to be carried out at any time on a Sunday or a public holiday.

Note: The principal contractor shall be responsible to instruct and control their sub-contractors regarding the hours of work.

RUBBISH AND DEBRIS

14. All rubbish and debris associated with the development, including that which can be windblown, must be contained on site in a suitable container at all times. The container shall be erected on the development site prior to work commencing.

Materials, sheds or machinery to be used in association with the development must be stored and stacked wholly within the worksite unless otherwise approved by Council.

Note 1: No rubbish or debris associated with the development will be placed or permitted to be placed on any adjoining public reserve, footway or road.

Note 2: Offenders are liable for prosecution without further warning.

REMEDIATION

15. All disturbed surfaces must be stabilised and remediated within seven days of a drill hole being excavated. Remediation involves re-establishing that natural landform and re-seeding where grasses species are removed,

Where grasses have been removed and bare soil surfaces are exposed, sediment fences must be installed until such time as grass cover is re-established.

DUST SUPPRESSION

16. The applicant will ensure that all machinery and traffic movement areas are continually watered when in use in order to prevent raised dust from becoming a nuisance to neighbouring properties.

PRIOR TO ISSUE OF OCCUPATION CERTIFICATE

Nil

ONGOING

Nil

ADVISORY NOTES**Notice of Commencement**

AN1. *Notice of commencement of subdivision works – The attached form needs to be completed and emailed, faxed or mailed to Council at least 2 days before any work commences on the site.*

TELSTRA CORPORATION LIMITED

AN2. *Dial Before You Dig. Underground assets may exist in the area that is subject to your application. In the interests of health and safety and in order to prevent damage to third party assets please contact Dial Before You Dig at www.1100.com.au or telephone on 1100 before excavating or erecting structures. (This is the law in NSW). If alterations are required to the configuration, size, form or design of the development consent (or a new development application) may be necessary. Individuals owe asset owners a duty of care that must be observed when working in the vicinity of plant or assets. It is the individual's responsibility to anticipate and request the nominal location of plant or assets on the relevant property via contacting the Dial Before You Dig service in advance of any construction or panning activities.*

Telecommunications Act 1997 (Commonwealth)

AN3. *Telstra (and its authorised contractors) are the only companies that are permitted to conduct works on Telstra's network and assets. Any person interfering with a facility or installation owned by Telstra is committing an offence under the Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth) and is liable for prosecution. Furthermore, damage to Telstra's infrastructure may result in interruption to the provision of essential services and significant costs. If you are aware of any works or proposed works which may affect or impact on Telstra's assets in any way, you are required to contact: Telstra's Network Integrity Team on Phone Number 1800 810 443.*

Earthworks

AN4 *Any earthworks undertaken should be in accordance with the exempt development provisions set out at Subdivision 15 Earthworks, retaining walls and structural support of State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008. Separate development consent is required for any earthworks not in accordance with the forgoing provisions.*

Essential Energy

AN5 *Should any electricity infrastructure be located within the property any activities within this location must be undertaken in accordance with the latest industry guideline currently known as ISSC 20 Guideline for the Management of Activities within Electricity Easements and Close to Infrastructure.*

Prior to carrying out any works, a “Dial Before You Dig” enquiry should be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Part 5E (Protection of Underground Electricity Power Lines) of the Electricity Supply Act 1995 (NSW).

Given there is electricity infrastructure in the area, it is the responsibility of the person/s completing any works around powerlines to understand their safety responsibilities. SafeWork NSW (www.safework.nsw.gov.au) has publications that provide guidance when working close to electricity infrastructure. These include the Code of Practice – Work near Overhead Power Lines and Code of Practice – Work near Underground Assets.

16) COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION MEETING

Department: Executive Services

Author: Councillor Reynolds

CSP Link: 2. Build the Capacity and Capability of Local Governance and Finance

File No: GO.ME.1

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the delegates report for the Country Mayors Association Meeting held 28 March 2025.

Reason for Report:

To update Council on the recent Country Mayors Association (CMA) meeting on 28 March 2025.

Report:

The enclosed communique, prepared by the Country Mayors Association of NSW is provided for Council's information summarising the General Meeting on 28 March 2025.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Nil.

Budget Implications:

Minimal. Allocations are included in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan for: travel, accommodation and meals for the Mayor and General Manager to attend.

Enclosures (following report)

1	CMA - Communique - General Meeting 28 March 2025	15 Pages
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Attachments (separate document)

Nil



THE COUNTRY MAYORS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC

"What we want is nothing more than equity"

COMMUNIQUÉ

Country Mayors Association of NSW – General Meeting 28 March 2025

The Country Mayors Association of NSW held our General Meeting in the Theatrette in NSW Parliament House, Sydney on Friday 28 March 2025. We had 150 representatives of Country NSW Councils and associated organisations coming together to focus on the Financial Sustainability theme. We were joined by a variety of Parliamentarians.

For dinner, the night before, our Associate Member, the NRMA hosted a special cocktail-style function in the Tattersalls Club, across from Hyde Park, Sydney. We were grateful for this networking and fellowship opportunity. There were over 120 attendees and three special guest speakers.

NSW Local Government Minister the Hon. Ron Hoenig MP had some attention-grabbing statements, including that all NSW Councils will be mandated to live-stream their Council and Committee meetings. Local Government NSW President and CMA Executive Board member, Mayor Phyllis Miller (Forbes Shire) OAM explained the origin of her passion for Local Government and the NRMA's Chief Membership Officer Victoria Doidge reaffirmed their commitment to work with Country Mayors towards better, safer roads.

CMA Chairman, Temora Shire Mayor Rick Firman OAM said the chance for country Mayors to get together was greatly valued and we are thankful to the NRMA. "There was a real warmth in the room. Never underestimate the value of fellowship."





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"What we want is nothing more than equity"

COMMUNIQUÉ

The meeting

CMA Chairman Mayor Rick Firman OAM of Temora Shire Council issued a warm welcome and introduced the new Chair of the NSW Grants Commission, Ms. Linda Scott.

Ms Scott advised that she had not yet been inducted and it is too soon for her to say much. She emphasised that submissions need to go to the NSW Grants Commission email address: grantscommission@olg.nsw.gov.au. Ms Scott also urged CMA members to work with their CFOs regarding the forward payments of FAGs and the implications of that.



CMA Executive Board Member and President of LGNSW – Mayor Phyllis Miller OAM and Mayor Firman paid tribute to Forbes Shire GM Mr. Steve Loane OAM, who has served the Local Government sector for decades.

Mayor Miller announced that a new cost-shifting survey is about to be conducted by LGNSW.

"I don't expect a return to 1% overnight but we need to get it back up there, bit by bit."

Mayor Miller drew attention to the new Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) recycling legislation, intended to reduce food waste and stop food waste going to landfill.

The NSW Parliament has passed legislation to mandate FOGO collection services for households by July 2030, and for businesses and institutions in stages from July 2026. Click [here](#) for more detail. Mayor Miller added that the Regional Summit in the State Library promises to be a great event.





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COMMUNIQUÉ

The Hon. Emily Suvaal, BN MLC. Was welcomed to the lectern as Chair of the NSW Government Inquiry into the "Ability of local governments to fund infrastructure and services"

Mrs Suvaal said the Inquiry was important to her personally and professionally. There were 128 submissions, over 50 organisations gave evidence. We are still awaiting the State Government response to the Inquiry and the recommendations. We handed it down on 29 November and the Minister has told me that he is going to take the time to get it right. We can appreciate that changes to the accounting codes and the like take work.

It was a very important Inquiry and I know the challenges you face are still there and may have gotten worse.

CMA Chairman Rick Firman OAM presented a thank-you gift to Mrs Suvaal.



The entire TCorp Local Government Services Team then came onto the stage because it was important for members have faces for the names they deal with.

Snr Analyst, Mr. Tom Threlkeld gave the presentation, supported by his colleagues:

- Mr. Rob Kenna – General Manager, Financial Markets
- Mr. Brett Perry – Senior Manager, Credit Review
- Ms. Danielle Aspery – Senior Manager
- Mr. Craig Selvage – Senior Analyst
- Ms. Alina Tee – Analyst



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COMMUNIQUE

Mr. Threlkeld said that prior to 2015, banks and finance companies were *the* option. Since then, Tcorp has offered competitive rates for councils.

"We have a cost recovery focus, making us 0.5 to 1% cheaper than banks. Large loans can be spread over generations of rate payers. Please reach out to our Local Government Services team if you need to discuss flexibility.

Q. Mayor Phyllis Miller asked about the suitability of saleyards for financing.

Q. Mayor Sarah Ndiaye from Byron Shire: Thank you for our sustainability loans

Q. Bega Valley Shire CEO Anthony McMahon: Could you explain your process for assessing Councils' capacity to repay loans.

A. Enough unrestricted cash for two months of operations required.

We are more intrusive than a bank. But we partner with Councils, so we will not behave like a bank.

One member asked about upper limits and Mr Threlkeld said we don't really have one.

Another member asked when did you change to allow commercial elements.

Mr Threlkeld said July last year.



CMA Deputy Chairman Mayor Russell Fitzpatrick and Executive Board Member Mayor Sharon Cadwallader thanks the TCorp team.





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COMMUNIQUE

Auditor-General for NSW, Mr. Bola Oyetunji

Mr Oyetunji said I learn a lot from you.

"When you talk about depreciation, we can improve things there. Financial Sustainability of Local Government is something we need to work on together."

A revenue imbalance graph highlighted the need for the return to 1%.

Costs or valuation, I cannot answer. But I want to work with the sector on it.

We like to think when we do an audit, we are making a difference.

Imagine a world without auditors – though there were chuckles, the value of audits was clear in members' minds.

Mr Oyetunji gave an example of the pool in Clarence Valley, which was done 7% under budget but everybody has heard of the North Sydney Pool. I am going to promote the top 10 and bottom 10 Councils, in terms of financial sustainability against OLG benchmarks, with the purpose of encouraging improvement. We need a deep understanding of how councils work. The desired outcome of audits is to improve performance.

Mr Oyetunji's presentation and update from Audit Office were distributed to the CMA Membership.

Steve Loane: Cost shifting \$1.6billion – what is your view? Should we invoice the State Government?

Uralla Shire Mayor Cr. Robert Bell: The Auditor General is used as an excuse for declining funding.

A: I am happy to work with you on any examples you have.

Q: If you have a top 10 and a bottom 10, perhaps the top can assist the bottom 10.

Q. Mayor Bronwyn Petrie of Tenterfield Shire Council: Thank you for your refreshing attitude.

Mayor Phyllis Miller OAM presented the thank-you gift.





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"What we want is nothing more than equity"

COMMUNIQUÉ

Excelling CMA Members Segment

Bega Valley Shire Council was the 2024 Bluett Award Winner and CEO, Anthony McMahon detailed some of the work that his Council is proud of.

Mr. McMahon ran a slideshow of Bega Valley Shire's innovative projects and detailed how they applied for the Bluett Award.

The LGA was the most devastated by the worst bushfire season in history and innovative approaches to temporary housing and recovery in general have been critical.

He said they are proud to have home grown staff – locals who have been recruited and trained/upskilled.

Byron Shire Mayor Sarah Ndiaye asked about the portable housing project. This was one important area where CMA members could learn from example. An example of the innovative housing in the Bega Valley: <https://chl.org.au/about-us/our-developments/bega/>

Mr. McMahon said "we sold to a community housing provider, with caveats, including that they use funds to re-invest in more local housing. One was 100 Lots."

Richmond Valley Mayor Cr. Robert Mustow: Asked about the circular economy

Mr. McMahon: That's a presentation in itself and I suggest CMA gets the CEO of Bega Cheese in on that.





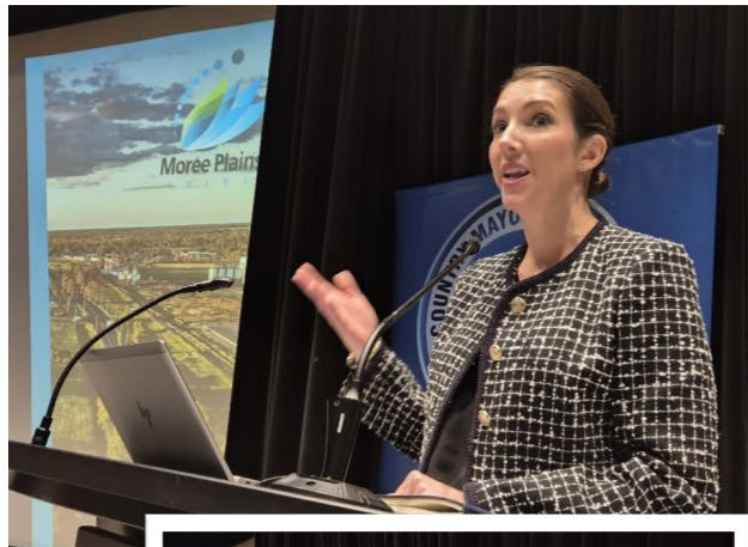
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"What we want is nothing more than equity"

COMMUNIQUE

Moree Plains Shire Council presentation. 2024 Bluett Award Runner-up

Moree Plains Shire Council Mayor Susannah Pearse also ran a slideshow, with which she illustrated how the Council had been forced to act to clean-up neighbourhoods marred by burnt out homes. The charred remains of houses have lingered for years and detract from more than aesthetics. Mayor Pearse described how her Council incentivised the cleaning up of these sites, with the waiving of waste fees (up to \$10,000). The project has dramatically improved a lower socio-economic neighbourhood.



Mayor Pearse became Mayor in September 2024.

The 2024 CMA Scholarship was presented to Moree Plains Shire Council's Jazmine Howarth.

The inspiring young Local Government GIS professional gave an articulate talk on what her work entails, how important it is to Council and how the \$5,000 CMA scholarship will help her to advance her knowledge and skills with a degree.





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"What we want is nothing more than equity"

COMMUNIQUE

There was then a brief presentation from the Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage

We are working with land holders, I'll be heading out to visit REZs.
The costs of Biodiversity offsets is a concern but I think we can bring them down.
We built flexibility into the new system.
There is funding for landowners who can provide for the offsets scheme.
They could be funded for what they are already doing.

The Minister also talked about waste: FOGO and the levy review – "I know you want more from it" (the levy).

Mayor Russell Webb presented a thank-you gift.





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COMMUNIQUÉ

A quick morning tea was enjoyed by all.

Before the Country Mayors Association of NSW Executive Board members got their hands on a scone, sausage roll or brownie, they posed for a photo. Pictured left to right: Secretary (and Temora Shire General Manager) Melissa Boxall, Local Government NSW President and Forbes Shire Mayor Phillys Miller OAM, Ballina Shire Mayor Sharon Cadwallader, Singleton Council Mayor Sue Moore, Tamworth Regional Council Mayor Russell Webb, Chairman and Temora Shire Mayor Rick Firman OAM, Lachlan Shire Mayor John Medcalf OAM, Deputy Chairman and Bega Valley Shire Mayor Russell Fitzpatrick and Dubbo Regional Council Mayor Josh Black. with Mayor Sam Coupland of Armidale Regional Council absent from the photo.





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COMMUNIQUÉ

NSW Nationals Leader the Hon. Dougald Saunders MP gave an update on the Crime Bill and the Bail Act.

Mr. Saunders said we need consequences, we need the stick and we will keep the CMA updated about the Bill. The NSW Nationals are pushing for strong and immediate legislative reform to stop repeat serious youth offenders from carrying out crime sprees across regional NSW.

The Crimes Legislation Amendment (Youth Crime) Bill 2025 will offer stronger measures than Labor's changes to the Bail Act that were passed last week, by:

- Expanding the definition of repeat offences beyond serious break and enter and motor vehicle theft, to include all serious indictable offences like murder or sexual assault.
- Introducing electronic monitoring and a mandatory curfew as conditions of bail.
- Revoking bail if there is a breach of the bail conditions, if another charge is laid while on bail, or if there is any interference with the electronic monitoring device.
- Elevating the voice of victims in the court through the use of victim impact statements.





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COMMUNIQUÉ

NSW Electoral Commissioner Mrs. Rachel McCallum

The Electoral Commissioner congratulated the attending mayors on their election in September 2024. Ms McCallum was appointed in Dec. 2024 and was previously the Information Commissioner. I am keen to learn more about what you do. Your September 2024 election was the biggest in the country that year, with well over 5mil. voters. The NSW Electoral Commission is both a statutory authority regulating and managing election propriety and a service provider. We issue penalty notice for not voting and approve campaign material, for example. The time taken to invoice Councils for their elections is due to the cost-recovery basis of election costs, meaning invoices must be received by the Commission before they issue theirs.

Surveys have shown that a quick and easy process is most valued by voters.

We do work to identify cost-saving opportunities and efficiencies, without compromising or risking public confidence. We are open to feedback.

Q. Mayor Firman, can we simplify the declarations process?

A. We do have an online system for updating.

Q. Cr. Bruce Reynolds Mayor of Blayney Shire:

The postal votes time frame – waiting two weeks for the count was frustrating.

A. Voters are allowed up to 13 days to get their vote in, which is policy nationally as well. The postal system has changed a lot also.

Mayor John Medcalf OAM presented the thank-you gift.





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COMMUNIQUE

Chair of IPART, Ms. Carmel Donnelly PSM

Ms Donnelly graciously allowed for her presentation to be distributed to members.

IPART acknowledged when the rate peg was lower than the rise in inflation. We are proud of the new rate pegging methodology. The rate peg is now unique for each 128 council in NSW.

IPART is involved in pricing increases of interest to CMA Members, other than those relating to Council rates. The Valuer-General is currently seeking to increase charges to Councils. Ms Donnelly encouraged submissions.



Mayor Sue Moore presented the thank-you gift.





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COMMUNIQUÉ

Members voted that Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, Balranald Shire Council, Lake Macquarie City Council and Nambucca Valley Council be endorsed as new members of the CMA. Further, that the Central NSW JO be endorsed as an Associate Member.

The following motions were unanimously supported by the CMA Membership:

- a) **Executive Board Recommendation:** That the CMA Membership support the Executive Board's endorsement of the 17 recommendations from the *"NSW Inquiry into the ability of local governments to fund infrastructure and services"*. Further, that the CMA advocate for their expeditious implementation.
- b) **Executive Board Recommendation:** That the Constitution be amended to enable the Executive to accept new member applications, with member endorsement at the next general meeting.
- c) **Executive Board Recommendation:** That the Membership endorse the Executive Board's determination that the CMA submission to 2024 Local Government Financial Sustainability Inquiry be considered the CMA's position regarding FAGs and the return to 1%. Further, that the CMA supports ALGA's campaign: ["Put Our Communities First"](#).
Note: The CMA Executive Board resolved at their most recent meeting to write to all Federal political parties, asking for their position on FAGs and outlining CMA's. This has already been done by the Policy Advisor and Secretariat.
- d) **Executive Board Recommendation:** That the Membership endorse the Board's appointment of a trial Policy Advisor (Submissions etc), for 7.5 hours per week until 30 November, 2025. And Further, that the Board revise the roles of Secretariat and Policy Advisor and report back to Members in due course.
NB: The 7.5 Hours were initially allocated to extend the Secretariat role. Therefore, the role is at no extra cost to Members.
- e) **Executive Board Recommendation:** That the membership endorse the Executive Board's decision to support the existing Orana DAMA (Designated Area Migration Agreement) under the operation of RDAs. Further that, as per the request from RDA Riverina, the CMA writes to both the NSW Minister for Skills, The Hon Steve Whan, MP and Federal Assistant Minister for Immigration, The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP, requesting that they keep the Orana DAMA as an inland DAMA in NSW under RDA operation, and support the geographical expansion to include Far West and Northern Inland RDAs.



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COMMUNIQUÉ

- f) **Member Recommendation:** That the CMA write urgently to the NSW Government and the NSW Grants Commission to immediately review and overhaul the current methodology for the distribution of the Financial Assistance Grants from the Federal Government, as required under the legislation – Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995 (Commonwealth), to ensure the principles of Horizontal Fiscal Equalization as highlighted in the Act, are correctly applied in NSW and that the funds are distributed to those Councils that need it the most. (from Dungog Shire Council)
- g) **Member Recommendation:** That the CMA support and advocate to the NSW Government for the expansion of a pig bounty trial. (from Lachlan Shire).



The next meeting is scheduled for 9 May 2025 in the Theatrette, NSW Parliament House, Sydney. It will have a Health theme.

The NSW Regional Health Minister, the Hon Ryan Park is confirmed as a guest speaker.

17) MCPHILLAMYS GOLD PROJECT COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Department: Executive Services

Author: Councillor Reynolds

CSP Link: 5. Protect Our Natural Environment

File No: GR.LR.1

Recommendation:

That Council note the delegates report on the McPhillamys Gold Project Community Consultative Committee meeting held 24 March 2025.

Reason for Report:

To update Council on the recent Community Consultative Committee on 24 March 2025 for the proposed McPhillamys Gold Project.

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

This proposed development has received NSW State Government planning approval but the project area has recently been impacted by a section 10 declaration made by the Federal Minister for the Environment, which could stop the project from proceeding.

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

This report is provided to update Councillors and the community on the current status of the project and what pathways forward the company developing the mine, Regis Resources, is proposing.

Report:

Court Proceedings update

The meeting was informed Regis has been considering its legal options since the Declaration was made. The Judicial Review, challenging the Minister's decision, has now commenced in the Federal Court. The next case management hearing is 29 April 2025. Regis will provide updates when news comes to hand.

General Project Update

Regis has also been working through alternative infrastructure solutions including new tailings storage options. A lot of work is yet to be done as Regis actively works through this.

Meanwhile, discussions have been taking place with the NSW Government regarding approval pathways going forward for the project. There has also been ongoing:

- Maintenance activities on Regis-owned homes;
- Activities to address legacy issues on Regis-owned properties. These activities include a program of works to deal with old mine shafts; and site specific works related to asbestos management.

Despite project uncertainty, there has still been some community funding provided by Regis e.g. swimming lessons to Blayney Public School students. It was also noted that future exploration around the proposed mine site is under consideration.

A discussion amongst members then took place focusing on the options for the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF). There are numerous options and each takes time to assess with respect to feasibility. It was stated there is an array of issues to be considered including but not limited to: infrastructure, heritage, roads, and topography.

Regis was asked if they were thinking of buying more land. They responded that obviously, due to the Declaration, Regis will need to consider all options, particularly as a best alternate site for the TSF may not hypothetically be available on Regis' current lands.

Ongoing Environmental Monitoring

Regis informed members that groundwater monitoring, surface water monitoring, depositional dust monitoring, air quality (PM 10) and noise monitoring, testing for metals in dust, weather monitoring and streamflow monitoring continues.

The streamflow monitoring data is not live yet. Only weather station data are available from the website now. A question was asked if Regis is selling any properties at the moment? Regis has recently sold some neighbouring land to the proposed biodiversity offset location but that is all. This land was not required for biodiversity offsets.

General Business

Blayney Mayor observed that Blayney Council was dealing with some challenges because of the s10 Declaration. Firstly, he noted, the Declaration has provided no clarity with respect to the management of Dungeon Road.

Consequently, Blayney Council has had no choice but to seek legal advice in order to obtain understanding as to what will be legally acceptable. Legal guidance continues.

The Mayor also noted that Council's budget forecasts had factored in revenue, in the form of future rates, from Regis. This is anticipated to have wider financial implications to Council from July 2025 unless the Declaration is resolved shortly. A discussion was had about the futures options to Council.

The project's water supply and the pipeline were also discussed. Regis was asked that if a change of Government resulted in a change of water source requirements in Lithgow i.e. a nuclear power plant, does this create a risk on your water source? Regis responded by saying that they were not certain where negotiations were at, they understood that negotiations had progressed substantially and therefore, water availability would not be affected by a change in government.

Discussion then changed to focus on the implications, broadly, of a change in government. For example, what this may mean to the s10 Declaration? The response was essentially, there are several options available but no clarity, presently.

Community members then discussed the health impacts on the community because of the Declaration. It (the Declaration) has left many people in a "limbo", unable to make decisions about their livelihoods or the sale of their properties. There are a lot of people in Kings Plains greatly affected by this decision who are wanting answers; no one can make decisions.

There was a final issue raised about a wind farm planned in the area at the top of Fitzgeralds Mount and whether Regis had heard about it? Regis stated it is aware but knows very little about this.

Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations:

Nil

Budget Implications:

Nil

Enclosures (following report)

Nil

Attachments (separate document)

Nil

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.

18) LEGAL MATTER

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) (g) of the Local Government Act, as it deals with advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege.