



MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting Thursday 20 March 2025

Date: Thursday 20 March 2025

Time: 5:00pm

**Location: Council Chambers
73 Camp Street
GRENFELL NSW 2810**

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1	OPENING.....	4
2	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY.....	4
3	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SERVICE.....	4
4	ATTENDANCE AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE.....	4
5	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	5
6	DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST.....	6
7	PUBLIC FORUM.....	6
8	MAYORAL REPORTS/MINUTES.....	6
8.1	MAYORAL MINUTE - CENTRAL NSW JOINT ORGANISATION BOARD MEETING 27 FEBRUARY 2025	6
9	MOTIONS/QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE	17
10	GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS	17
10.1	INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING DRAFT COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN, DRAFT DELIVERY PROGRAM AND DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN	17
10.2	INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING RESOURCING STRATEGY	24
10.3	RESOLUTION REGISTER	31
10.4	APPOINTMENT OF AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - INDEPENDENT CHAIR	32
11	CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS	34
11.1	STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES AND BANKING FACILITIES REPORT.....	34
11.2	RATES AND CHARGES COLLECTION - FEBRUARY 2025	38
11.3	ALTER RESOLUTION 215/24 FOR AUSTRALIA DAY GRANT AND DONATIONS	41
12	INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORTS.....	44
12.1	INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORT - FEBRUARY 2025	44
13	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS.....	56
13.1	UPDATE ON RURAL WASTE FACILITIES.....	56
13.2	DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS, CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATES AND COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES.....	67
14	DELEGATE(S) REPORTS.....	69
14.1	DELEGATE REPORT WEDDIN LANDCARE GENERAL MEETING 4 MARCH 2025.....	69
14.2	DELEGATE REPORT WEDDIN HEALTH COUNCIL MEETING 9 DECEMBER 2024	70
15	MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS	71

15.1	MINUTES OF THE AUSTRALIA DAY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 18 FEBRUARY 2025	71
16	CLOSED COUNCIL	72
17	RETURN TO OPEN COUNCIL	73
18	REPORT ON CLOSED COUNCIL	73
16.1	TENDER FOR THE REPAIR OF HAIL DAMAGED BUILDINGS (SCOPE OF WORKS 02)	73
16.2	NETWASTE TENDER FOR THE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING OF USED MOTOR OIL.....	74
19	CLOSURE.....	74

**MINUTES OF WEDDIN SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 73 CAMP STREET, GRENFELL NSW 2810
ON THURSDAY 20 MARCH 2025 AT 5:00PM**

1 OPENING

In accordance with the WSC Code of Meeting Practice, this meeting will be recorded for the purposes of audio-visual livestreaming via Council's website and YouTube Channel. Those in attendance are asked to refrain from making any defamatory statements and comply with all relevant WSC codes, policies and procedures at all times.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Weddin Shire Council would like to acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land.

Weddin Shire Council would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present of the Wiradjuri Nation and extend that respect to other Aboriginal Australians who are present.

3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SERVICE

We honour our service personnel who have sacrificed their lives in the defence of our freedom, peace and prosperity.

We acknowledge all of our frontline workers and volunteers who each day provide our essential and non-essential services, especially those within our Weddin Shire Local Government Area.

4 ATTENDANCE AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:

Mayor Paul Best, Cr John Niven, Cr Simon Rolls, Cr Michael Neill, Cr Wezley Makin, Cr Chad White

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms Noreen Vu (General Manager), Mr Luke Sheehan (Director Environmental Services), Mr Anthony Prpic (A/g Director Infrastructure Services), Mrs Auburn Carr (Economic Development Officer)

APOLOGIES

- Deputy Mayor Colleen Gorman
- Councillor Jeanne Montgomery
- Councillor Jan Parlett

LEAVE OF ABSENCE APPLICATION

RECOMMENDATION

That the apology received from Cr Colleen Gorman be accepted and leave of absence granted.

RESOLUTION 039/25

Moved: Cr Makin

Seconded: Cr Neill

That the apology received from Cr Colleen Gorman be accepted and leave of absence granted.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

RECOMMENDATION

That the apology received from Cr Jeanne Montgomery be accepted and leave of absence granted.

RESOLUTION 040/25

Moved: Cr Makin

Seconded: Cr Neill

That the apology received from Cr Jeanne Montgomery be accepted and leave of absence granted.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

RECOMMENDATION

That the apology received from Cr Jan Parlett be accepted and leave of absence granted.

RESOLUTION 041/25

Moved: Cr Makin

Seconded: Cr Neill

That the apology received from Cr Jan Parlett be accepted and leave of absence granted.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION 042/25

Moved: Cr White

Seconded: Cr Makin

That Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 20 February 2025 be taken as read and CONFIRMED.

**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED
AGAINST: CR NIVEN**

6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**NIL****7 PUBLIC FORUM****NIL****8 MAYORAL REPORTS/MINUTES****8.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - CENTRAL NSW JOINT ORGANISATION BOARD MEETING | 27 FEBRUARY 2025****File Number: C2.2.7**

Attachments:

- 1. ATT 1 | DRAFT CNSWJO BOARD MEETING MINUTES | 27 FEBRUARY 2025**
- 2. ATT 2 - DRAFT CNSWJO STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND BUDGET_2025_2026**

CSP Objective: Collaborative wealth building (strong, diverse and resilient local economy)

Budget: NIL

RECOMMENDATION

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

Resolution 043/25

Moved: Mayor Best

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

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

On 27 February 2025, I travelled to Oberon to attend the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board Meeting. Please find following, advice from the recent meeting of the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board held in Oberon on 27 February 2025. The Minutes from the meeting are attached, as is the Draft Statement of Budget and Revenue. Delegates were welcomed to Oberon by its Mayor, Cr Andrew McKibbin.

Speakers to the meeting were Local Government NSW President, Cr Phyllis Miller, and Chief Executive Mr David Reynolds. The Board then had a strategic session around the priorities into the federal election and for this term of Council. Updates were provided from the NSW Office of Local Government, Regional Development Australia Central West and the NSW Premier's Department.

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



Image: The CNSWJO Board meeting at the Oberon Library and Community

Forward Budget

The Board adopted a draft Statement of Budget and Revenue and has put it on public exhibition. It can be found on the [CNSWJO website](#). While the website calls for feedback in 30 days, giving consideration to member Council meeting timeframes, please provide feedback by 30 April 2025 so this can be considered by the Board.

Considerations for the 2025/2026 budget include:

- taking up the rate peg increase of 3.8% for fees where this figure is the lowest rate increase in this region (Blayney);
- noting the decision by the Board to realise \$150K from internally restricted reserves to support the cyber security project;
- noting the Statement of Strategic Regional Priority (SSRP) will be finalised in November of this calendar year and changes to priorities will be funded in the budget;
- based on the pilot with Forbes Shire Council, growth in the service offering for the procurement function to include a “fee-for-service” procurement management service at a reasonable cost to members showing a conservative income stream of \$20K;
- inclusion of \$12,500 to support matching funding for energy projects;
- inclusion of grant funded projects for:
 - Disaster Readiness;
 - Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration Program; and
 - Water Loss Management.

Advocacy Plans

Every February the Board reviews its Advocacy Plans. These plans are used to inform submission, media, correspondence, ministerial briefings and other collateral.

Developed with the direction of the Portfolio Mayors, the following were adopted by the Board:



Picture 1 Example of advocacy collateral developed in 2022

- [The Transport Advocacy Plan](#)
- [The Health and Ageing Advocacy Plan](#)
- [The Water Advocacy Plan](#)
- [The Regional Prosperity Advocacy Plan](#)
- [The Energy Advocacy Plan](#)

Other key outputs adopted by the Board

Output	Description
Statement of Strategic Regional Priority Risk Management Plan	Undertaken internally, risks to the JO, region and Council are identified. All JO activities must give consideration to these risks and advice is provided to the Board in their quarterly meeting.
CNSWJO Social and Environmental Scan	Using an external provider, this report provides a snapshot of the region's data, opportunities and challenges. This advice informs forward strategy.
High level Destination Marketing Plan	Commissioned by the previous Board and undertaken externally this work informs the destination marketing being undertaken through the CNSWJO.
Leading Practice in Regional Development	At the request of the previous Board this work has been undertaken collaboratively between Central West Regional Development Australia (CWRDA) and the JO. RDA will take the lead in its implementation.
Draft MoU with SkillSet	CNSWJO has a growing number of MoUs and other instruments to facilitate collaboration. The most recent is with Skillset. Importantly, these MoUs identify initiatives to be undertaken collaboratively in the interest of Councils and communities in the CNSWJO region.
CNSWJO Regional Electric Vehicle Strategy - final	A support document for Councils and the JO in transitioning fleet to meet net zero carbon emissions targets.
EV Drive Day Event Report	A wrap-up report from the Electric Vehicle (EV) Drive Day held in Bathurst in December 2024.
New Councillor Event Final Report	<p>The Welcome Councillor event was held 28 November 2024. A report from the meeting made the following recommendations which will now be progressed as they have been adopted by the Board.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. provide advice back to peak agencies included in this report; 2. develop a CNSWJO induction report for incoming Councillors with advice drawn from the event; 3. receive advice on resourcing of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. an informal network of Councillors; and b. specific support for Deputy Mayors; and

Output	Description
	4. include advice from this report in its deliberations on forward programming for the Statement of Strategic Regional Priority and advocacy.

Advocacy Priorities leading into the federal election

The Board identified the following as priorities leading into the federal election.

1. Increase Financial Assistance Grants to at least 1% of Commonwealth tax revenue and add a one-time \$3 billion payment to address past underfunding.
2. Recognise Local Government in the Constitution.
3. Recognise Central NSW's strengths in agriculture, mining, renewable energy, and proximity to cities and ports with the "Made in Central NSW" initiative.
4. Provide support and compensation for regional communities during the energy and mining transition.
5. Empower regional communities to become more energy independent and resilient.
6. Ensure energy security for regional communities during the transition to renewable energy.
7. Improve road funding with a focus on betterment and resilience.
8. Develop a safe, reliable, and efficient transport network linking Central NSW to Sydney and beyond for both passengers and freight.
9. Create a strong multi-modal freight network.
10. Address health workforce shortages, exacerbated by housing shortages, with better collaboration between state and federal services.
11. Despite the various interventions and inquiries over decades, local government is still battling health and aged care workforce shortages, the more remote the greater the challenge.
12. Improve health services, as 94% of our communities prioritises this.
13. Leverage the region's water security work to develop a regional water supply pipeline grid in partnership with the NSW and Federal Governments.
14. Include Water Supply and Sewer Assets in State and Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding.
15. Ensure the Murray Darling Basin Plan considers the social and economic impacts on communities while meeting environmental targets, especially during droughts and natural disasters.
16. Review the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act Section 10 process.

At the time of writing an event is being coordinated for 11 March 2025 which will include a session on federal priorities and meeting with candidates leading into the election. All Councillors in the region have been invited and the event is free to attend.

Further advocacy will be at the direction of the Mayors of the region under the leadership of the Chair, Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor of Cabonne.

Priorities for the Joint Organisation for this term of Council

Similar to the Community Strategic Plan for Council, Joint Organisations must develop a Statement of Strategic Regional Priority. Under the auspices of the Mayors of the region, workshops have been held with new Councillors (28 November 2024), Executive Leadership Teams (31 October 2024) and the Board provided high level advice on priorities at the meeting in Oberon as follows. Staff will now pull together a program of work in support of this direction. Again, all feedback is welcomed.

80% of the JOs resources go to delivering operational support to Councils in helping with the financial sustainability challenge.



Picture 2 Feedback from a stakeholder session on Council operational challenges for members

Priority One: Leveraging our reputation and strength in collaboration

- 1.1 Drive efficiencies and effectiveness saving Councils money
- 1.2 Build capacity and networks across our Councils and the Joint Organisation network
- 1.3 Work well with other peak agencies
- 1.4 Engage with State and Federal Governments to get better advocacy outcomes for the region.

Priority Two: Regional prosperity through better connected infrastructure and services

- 2.1 Initiatives for sustainable growth population-in the context of locational preference factors
- 2.2 Optimise land use and regional development planning and implementation
- 2.3 Advocacy and initiatives on skills and housing shortages
- 2.4 Infrastructure prioritisation through the CNSWJO Matrix
- 2.5 Leveraging the region's endowments and opportunities
 - a. Activation precincts including Parkes SAP
 - b. Pattern of settlement; livability, proximity to capital cities and ports – this region is a solution for growth outside Sydney
 - c. Agriculture focusing on value-add
 - d. Renewable energy generation
 - e. Mining
 - f. Visitor economy

2.6 Biosecurity

Priority Three: Better infrastructure and services in health and ageing

- 3.1 addressing the need for more palliative care in region
- 3.2 addressing the mental health challenge
- 3.3 identifying pathways through the challenging health frameworks to deliver better outcomes for regional communities

Priority Four: Telecommunications

Priority Five: Regional Transport Improvements

- 5.1 Multi-modal transport connectivity planning and implementation including road, rail and air passenger and freight
- 5.2 Optimal road funding framework including for natural disasters
- 5.3 High quality, efficient and safer road and rail networks

Priority Six: Regional Water Security and Productive Water

- 6.1 Regional water network planning and implementation including best practice skills development
- 6.2 Productive water
- 6.3 Leveraging the region's leadership in water utilities
- 6.4 Human critical need particularly urban water

Priority Seven: Climate change adaptation and mitigation

- 7.1 Transition to a sustainable, secure, just and affordable energy future
 - a. Energy efficiency and emissions reduction
 - b. Distributed energy resources
 - c. Circular economy and waste
 - d. Environment and biodiversity
- 7.2 Adapting to a warming climate
 - a. Disaster risk reduction, response and recovery
 - b. Betterment and prioritisation of resilient infrastructure
 - c. Leading practice in region and across NSW



AWARDS

Central NSW Joint Organisation proudly took home awards in 4 categories for Division D (for JO, ROCs and collaborations). These included:

- Water Management for the Regional Water Loss Management Hub Project
- Towards Net Zero Emissions for the 52 Shades of Green: CNSWJO Net Zero Accelerator Program
- Climate Change Adaptation for the Regional Resilience Program for Disaster Risk Reduction, and
- Innovation in Planning, Policies and Decision Making for Transitioning Local Water Utility Strategy Planning into the IP&R Framework.



Image: Meredith Macpherson and Brendan Gulney from NSW Water Directorate

Image: Kate Barker and Gillian Hinchcliffe from NSW DCCREW

CNSWJO was also the overall winner in the Water Management and the Towards Net Zero Emissions categories.



The UN Youth Summit

In line with direction from the Opt-in Advocacy Mayors, councils were asked to sponsor local school students to attend a United Nations (UN) Youth Summit in Bathurst on 26 March 2025. This sponsorship has different forms in different LGAs and council staff have been working closely with the Executive Officer in this regard. Promotion of this event was also recommended through a media release. A proforma report and media release were provided to members and are available on request.

UN Youth Australia is a youth-led organisation that brings young people, community and global leaders together to equip the next generation of young leaders with the skills and inspiration to create meaningful change. All activities are designed to prepare students to be informed, responsible, and engaged participants in their local and global communities.

They run a broad range of peer-to-peer interactive education programs that give young people a deep understanding of the social and political issues the world faces today. From Model United Nations debates, Workshops, and our Interactive Problem-Solving simulations, the programs foster ideas and innovation to support young people in solving global problems. For more information please go to [About Us – UN Youth Australia](#)

Charles Sturt University is hosting the Regional Youth Summit on Wednesday 26 March 2025 in Bathurst and the CNSWJO has committed up to \$5K to support catering and other costs.

Charles Sturt University Scholarship Program

Charles Sturt University has provided the 2024 report to CNSWJO on the progress and success of the medical scholarship program. The CNSWJO committed \$75,000 in the form of three \$25,000 scholarships paid to the students in instalments over the course of their study.

Feedback from the students has been very positive. This funding concludes at the end of this financial year and the Board will receive a report on the program's value in due course for consideration for inclusion in the SSRP.

"Coming into medicine, I was working full-time, and I've got two kids at home, so the financial responsibilities have been a lot. With this scholarship, I don't have to think about finances, and I don't have to work as much. I can split my time between my kids and my study. I am just so grateful."
– Ms Sarudzai (Saru) Mukonowatsauka

"Like many students, I have two part-time jobs and this scholarship means I can get rid of one of those and focus on doing well in my degree. I also have my own shorthorn cattle stud and it's taken me so long to build up a sizeable herd. This scholarship means I can hold onto my best females and I don't have to get rid of them because I am strapped for cash." – Miranda Eyb

"Having a scholarship gives you that boost of confidence, motivation and accountability to keep achieving within the course." – Heidi Annand

Submissions

The following submissions have been lodged over the past quarter. All have been at the request of members and/or as part of supporting the advocacy policy of the Board. All previous submissions can be viewed on the CNSWJO website at [Submissions](#)

1. [Central West Orana Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan – February 2025](#)
2. [Submission to the National Electricity Market \(NEM\) Review – Initial Consultation – February 2025](#)
3. [Submission to the Inquiry into the Impact of Renewable Energy Zones on Rural and Regional Communities in NSW – January 2025](#)
4. [Submission to the Discussion Paper on Review of Alternative Funding Models for Local Water Utilities – December 2024](#)
5. [Submission to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal review of prices for the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation and WaterNSW – December 2024](#)
6. [Submission to the Inquiry into PFAS contamination in waterways and drinking water supplies – November 2024](#)
7. [Submission on the Councillor Conduct Framework Review – November 2024](#)

NSW Regional Consultation Guidelines

In September 2024 the [Regional Communities \(Consultation Standards\) Bill 2024](#) was passed. The object of this Bill is to provide that the consultation of regional communities by government bodies and agencies must be carried out in a proper and effective manner. The Bill calls for Guidelines to be developed. The Guidelines are based on advice from the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) and have been informed by a Premier's Dept listening tour.

The draft Guide was provided for comment on 12 February with feedback sought until Monday 17 March via this web link: [Consultation with Regional Communities Guide](#).

CNSWJO will provide a response within existing policy calling for a fit-for-purpose approach and an accountability framework.

Value to Council

80% of CNSWJO resources are dedicated to providing its operational support program. For the 2023/2024 year this program delivered a return on investments of 9.3:1 for every dollar Council spends on its membership fees. This value is made up of grant income, monies saved through the CNSWJO procurement program and public relations value from its tourism marketing.


Noteworthy from this meeting is that the Board has created an Enduring Council Financial Sustainability Subcommittee to give consideration to forward programming of the JO build on the work currently undertaken.

The work the region does in writing submissions, media, supporting projects and project teams, developing collateral and providing opportunities for members in various forums to represent their views is not included in the above figure of 8.3:1 ROI. However, this value is reported quarterly to the Board. Please go to the CNSWJO website to review past [Board agendas](#) or to review last year's [Annual Statement](#).


This value is delivered primarily by the various operational teams across the region including the CNSWJO:

- General Managers' Advisory Committee
- Water Utilities' Alliance
- Transport Technical Committee
- Tourism Managers Group
- Planners' Group
- Human Resources Managers Group
- WHS/Risk Management Group
- Training, Learning and Development Group
- Net Zero Group
- Regional IT Group
- Building Surveyors Skills Shortages Working Group
- Disaster Risk Reduction Steering Committee
- Fleet Managers Group (new!)
- Integrated Planning and Reporting Group (new!)


Please find following some highlights from the various operational support programs taken from a recent newsletter. For the full newsletter please go to [CNSWJO Quarterly Newsletter - Edition 2 - February 2025](#)




The new Regional Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), Mr Jordan Weldenlley commenced with the CNSWJO on 10 February. Jordan will work with member councils on their strategic approach to cyber|security.



The NSW Reconstruction Authority is leading the development of the regional Disaster Adaptation Plans (DAPs) for Central NSW, with CNSWJO supporting council consultations through DRF R2 funding




Modern Slavery is a focus for the JO's procurement team who is working with member councils to provide resources and support for annual reporting requirements and to ensure the products and services procured by councils are not the product of modern slavery.




CNSWJO has trialled a new fee-for-service procurement offering. A report will be provided to the Board at their February meeting seeking approval for the expansion of CNSWJO's procurement service to support member councils.


A Regional Procurement Working Group has also been established.



CNSWJO has recently taken on a student from the University of Sydney's Major Industry Project Placement Scheme (MIPPS) project. Austin Caie will ground-truth the DCCEEW Water Conservation Cost-Benefit Guidelines CBA model in the inland regional NSW context with the aim to come up with a more robust analysis of the value of a megalitre of town water




Councils currently have access to a tool called Planwisely which provides access to a wealth of spatial data from TfNSW and other state government agencies. Please reach out to Jen Webber for more info.




Did you know that the electricity that keeps the lights and aircon on in councils is procured collectively by CNSWJO across all member councils?

A new procurement process is underway for small market sites.




CNSWJO is closely monitoring the status of the PFAS situation and how it affects councils.

A submission was lodged to the *Inquiry into per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination in waterways and drinking water supplies*




The EV Drive Day held in Bathurst on 4-5 December was a huge success. Click on the following link to read the [Event Report](#).



Tourism highlight!

'The Golden Touch, a bank conversion in regional NSW deserves credit where its due' is a 1-page review of Sona Molong featured in 'Travel & Luxury', The Weekend Australian. The article also touched on other things to see, do and taste locally while on a stay at this new accommodation.

The Weekend Australian is a national newspaper insert with a reach of 677,000.



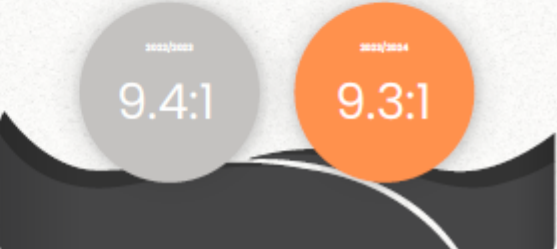
A New Councillor Welcome Event was hosted by CNSWJO in Orange in November 2024.

The purpose of the day was to welcome Councillors recently elected to the region by:

- providing demographic advice on the vital statistics of the region;
- introducing key regional peak agencies and their role especially in relation to councils;
- providing advice on the Joint Organisation; and
- seeking advice back from Councillors on what the Joint Organisation and peak agencies can do for them.

The event was attended by around 30 Councillors from across the region.

Return on Investment



Period	Return on Investment
2023/2023	9.4:1
2023/2024	9.3:1

9 MOTIONS/QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**NIL****10 GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS****10.1 INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING | DRAFT COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN, DRAFT DELIVERY PROGRAM AND DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN****File Number:****Author:** Executive Assistant to the General Manager**Authoriser:** General Manager**Attachments:**
1. ATT 1 | DRAFT COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN & ATT 2 DRAFT DELIVERY PROGRAM
2. ATT 3 | DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN 2025/2026**CSP Objective:** Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently**Precis:** To present the Draft Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan**Budget:** Budget for public consultation – Micromex Survey**Recommendation****That Council:**

1. Notes the draft 2024-34 Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and accompanying:
 - a) Delivery Program (DP) 2024-2028 and
 - b) Operational Plan (OP) 2025-2026.
2. Places the draft Community Strategic Plan, draft Delivery Program and draft Operational Plan, as attached to the report, on public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days for the purpose of inviting submissions from the community.
3. Requests the General Manager to present a further report, together with all submissions received, to Council at the conclusion of the public exhibition period for Council's further consideration and adoption of the Community Strategic Plan, the Delivery Program and the Operational Plan (with or without changes) at its June 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting.
4. Authorises the draft Operational Plan 2025-2026, and hereby makes, fixes, and levies the expenditure amounts set out in the Draft 2025-2026 Operational Plan and Budget for public exhibition in accordance with the provisions of Section 405 of the *Local Government Act 1993* for 28 days, with a submission closing date of 21 April 2025.
5. Advertises the draft Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan in the Grenfell Record and, on its website and Facebook pages and displays the relevant documents on Council's Website, as well as making hard copies available to members of the public who request same.

6. In accordance with the provisions of Section 535 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council makes, fixes, and levies the Rates and Charges for the 2025-2026 financial year, and authorises same for public exhibition as part of the Council's Draft 2025-2026 Operational Plan and Budget, in accordance with the provisions of Section 405 of the *Local Government Act 1993* for 28 days with a submission closing date of 21 April 2025.

RESOLUTION 044/25

Moved: Cr Neill

Seconded: Cr Rolls

That Council:

1. Notes the draft 2024-34 Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and accompanying:
 - a) Delivery Program (DP) 2024-2028 and
 - b) Operational Plan (OP) 2025-2026.
2. Places the draft Community Strategic Plan, draft Delivery Program and draft Operational Plan, as attached to the report, on public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days for the purpose of inviting submissions from the community.
3. Requests the General Manager to present a further report, together with all submissions received, to Council at the conclusion of the public exhibition period for Council's further consideration and adoption of the Community Strategic Plan, the Delivery Program and the Operational Plan (with or without changes) at its June 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting.
4. Authorises the draft Operational Plan 2025-2026, and hereby makes, fixes, and levies the expenditure amounts set out in the Draft 2025-2026 Operational Plan and Budget for public exhibition in accordance with the provisions of Section 405 of the *Local Government Act 1993* for 28 days, with a submission closing date of 21 April 2025.
5. Advertises the draft Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan in the Grenfell Record and, on its website and Facebook pages and displays the relevant documents on Council's Website, as well as making hard copies available to members of the public who request same.
6. In accordance with the provisions of Section 535 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council makes, fixes, and levies the Rates and Charges for the 2025-2026 financial year, and authorises same for public exhibition as part of the Council's Draft 2025-2026 Operational Plan and Budget, in accordance with the provisions of Section 405 of the *Local Government Act 1993* for 28 days with a submission closing date of 21 April 2025.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Council on the development of the new Community Strategic Plan, which needs to be finalised by 30 June 2025 and provides Council a summary of the latest updates surrounding its development, including recommending the draft Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

BACKGROUND

NSW Councils are required to have a Community Strategic Plan (CSP) as part of their Integrated Planning and Reporting Requirement (IP&R). The purpose of the CSP is to identify the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future and to plan strategies for achieving these goals.

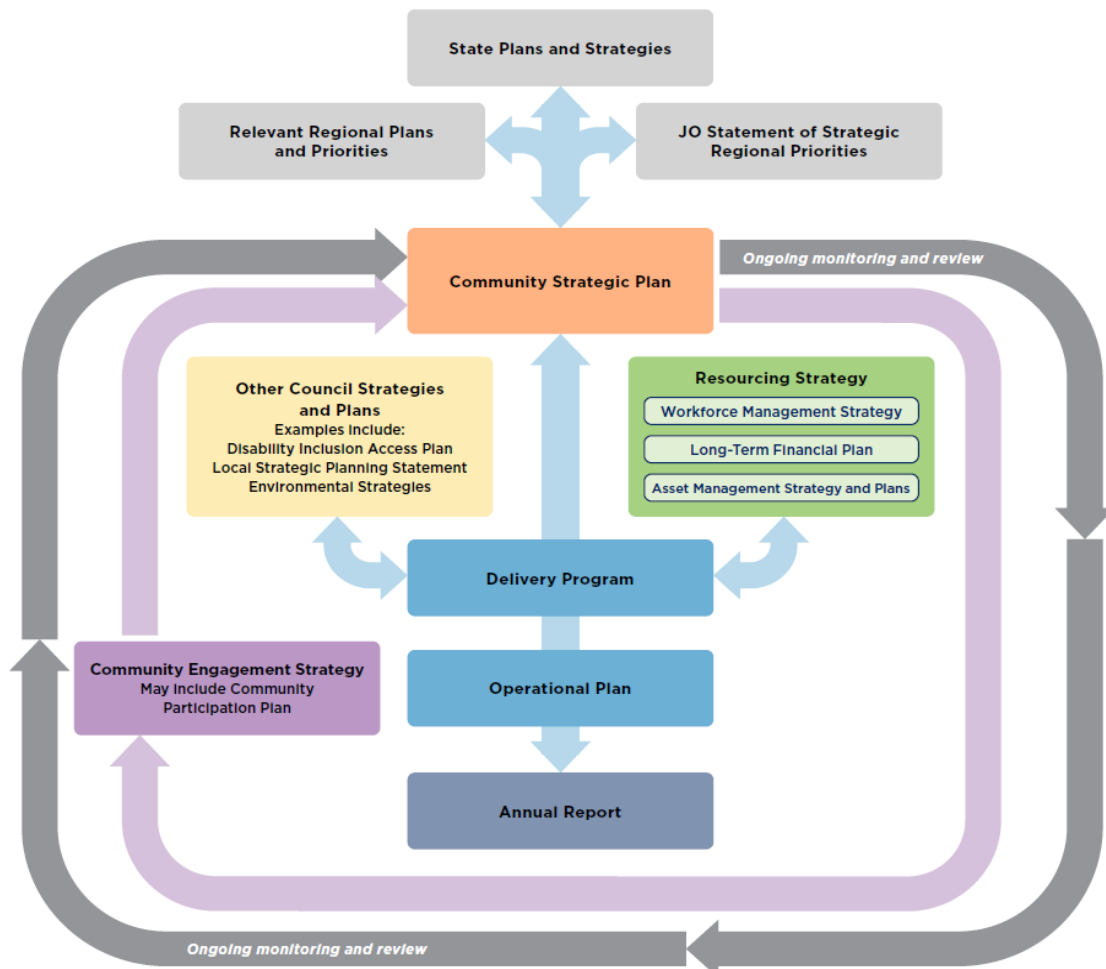


Figure 1: IP&R Framework

Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

The Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework recognises that most communities broadly share similar aspirations: a safe, healthy and vibrant place to live, a sustainable environment, a caring and engaged community, opportunities for employment, reliable infrastructure, etc. The main difference lies in how each community responds to these needs. The IP&R Framework allows NSW Councils to draw their various plans together, to understand how they interact and inform each another, and to get the maximum benefit from their efforts by planning holistically for the future. The main components include the following:

- Community Strategic Plan – Weddin 2035
- Delivery Program (2024-2028)

- Operational Plan 2025-2026 (statement of revenue policy, annual actions and annual budget).

The information contained in this report is focused on developing the new Community Strategic Plan which will also lead to the development of the Delivery Program and ensuing Operational Plans. This report recommends the public exhibition of the draft Community Strategic Plan, Draft Delivery Program and Draft Operational Plan.

ISSUES AND COMMENTS

Community Strategic Plan

The vision of the Weddin 2035 is a “a vibrant, growing and welcoming community, rich in history, embracing its natural environment”. Weddin 2035 involves five themes of:

- Weddin’s people
- Weddin’s Economy
- Weddin’s Infrastructure
- Weddin’s Environment
- Weddin’s leadership.

After extensive pre-consultation, there are nine functions supported by 14 goals.

WEDDIN: 2035 DRAFT

WEDDIN: 2035 IN ACTION

A vibrant, growing and welcoming community, rich in history, embracing its natural environment

WEDDIN'S PEOPLE	WEDDIN'S ECONOMY	WEDDIN'S INFRASTRUCTURE	WEDDIN'S ENVIRONMENT	WEDDIN'S CIVIC LEADERSHIP
COMMUNITY SERVICES, HEALTH AND WELLBEING <i>By 2035 Weddin will be:</i> Goal 1: Connected, Cohesive and Vibrant Community Goal 2: Healthier Community Goal 3: Safer, Secure and Supported Community RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE <i>By 2035 Weddin will be:</i> Goal 4: A Sport Loving Community	ARTS, CULTURE & TOURISM <i>By 2035 Weddin will be:</i> Goal 5: Stronger Connection to Culture LOCAL ECONOMY <i>By 2035 Weddin will be:</i> Goal 6: Economy will be Sustainable and Diversified	ROADS, INFRASTRUCTURE & ASSETS <i>By 2035 Weddin will be:</i> Goal 7: Our Infrastructure Achieves Betterment Goal 8: Water, Sewerage and Urban Drainage is Properly Managed Now and for the Future Goal 9: Essential Assets and Infrastructure will Support Community and Economy to Prosper	PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT <i>By 2035 Weddin will be:</i> Goal 10: Community Confidence in Strategic Land Use & Planning SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT <i>By 2035 Weddin will be:</i> Goal 11: Sustainable Environment Contributing to an Efficient Community SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT <i>By 2035 Weddin will be:</i> Goal 12: Efficient Waste Manager	LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY COLLABORATION AND GOVERNANCE <i>By 2035 Weddin will be:</i> Goal 13: Empowering Community Leadership Goal 14: Leverage of Quality Communication to Ensure Exceptional Governance Outcomes

Delivery Program

The Delivery Program is a four year plan which details the principal activities to be undertaken by the Council to perform its duties including any implementing strategies set out in the Community Strategic Plan.

Operational Plan

The Operational Plan details the activities to be engaged in by the Council during the year as part of the delivery program covering that year. It provides the statement of revenue policy, annual actions and annual budget.

Budget 2025-2026

The Draft 2025-2026 Budget was attached as an amendment to this paper prior to the Council meeting.

Statement of Revenue Policy – Fees and Charges

The Council's Fees and charges are attached to the Operational Plan. A number of statutory fees are unknown and will be confirmed by the relevant state agency closer to the end of the financial year. Council's fees and charges are set out by:

- (1) Fee is set to recover the costs of providing the goods or service
- (2) Fee is Statutory and set at maximum amount
- (3) Fee is set with a margin for oncosts and overheads
- (4) Fee is set less than the cost of providing the service

Roads and Capital Program

The grant income and breakdown of expenditure is provided in the Roads and Capital Program. Compared to previous financial years, grant income has significantly decreased, and this raises a major financial concern for Council, given its heavy reliance on grants.

Grants like Local Roads and Community Infrastructure, Fixing Local Roads, Stronger Country Communities Fund, Bridges Renewal Program and Drought Communities Programme have ceased in the last 12 to 24 months with no replacements by the current governments. The NSW Repair Program is on pause until 2027.

Council's ordered works through TfNSW for the State Highways has decreased when compared to the current and previous financial year.

Grant applications for new grants are a competitive process with other councils and sometimes industry.

POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The requirements of section 402 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) regarding the Community Strategic Plan states that:

- Each local government area is to have a Community Strategic Plan that has been developed and endorsed by the council on behalf of its community
- The Community Strategic Plan is to identify the main priorities and aspirations for the future of the local government area
- The Community Strategic Plan must cover a minimum timeframe of 10 years
- The Community Strategic Plan must establish strategic objectives together with strategies to achieve those objectives

- The council must review the Community Strategic Plan before 30 June in the year following an ordinary election of council. The council may endorse the existing plan, or develop and endorse a new Community Strategic Plan, as appropriate, to ensure that the area has a Community Strategic Plan covering at least the next 10 years.

Section 404 and s. 405 outlines the requirements for Council to develop the Delivery Program and Operational Plan. The draft documents have been prepared in accordance with these provisions.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The public consultation process will involve a telephone survey which has been budgeted for under Council's IP&R Budget.

The Annual Budget was attached as an amendment to this paper prior to the Council meeting.

The Roads and Capital Program shows a drastic decrease in grant allocations when compared to previous financial years. With no announcements for replacement grant programs with the current government, it is likely that this will see a downward trend in the Long Term Financial Plan.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

As part of the IP&R Framework, Council will undertake public consultation for 28 days of the draft CSP to welcome submissions and feedback from the community on the draft documents.

Consultation Update

Council has recently completed a series of pre-engagement community consultation workshops during February in Greenethorpe, Quandialla, Caragabal and a daytime and evening session in Grenfell which were facilitated by an independent consultant, Steph Colman.

A summary report for the consultation and engagement during this process will be provided with the final Community Strategic Plan work. The following provides a summary to date on the consultation and engagement that has occurred to date and what is on the agenda during public consultation.

Date	Type of Consultation/Engagement
10-18 February 2025	2034 Community Workshops in Greenethorpe, Quandialla, Caragabal and Grenfell
March - April 2025	150 Micromex phone surveys will be completed.
March - April 2025	Access to online survey.
Until 21 April 2025	Public exhibition of draft CSP, DP and OP - Open for public comment. Drop in chats at Greenethorpe, Quandialla and Caragabal. This includes informal face to face discussions with the broader community at Grenfell.
21 April 2025	Draft CSP, DP and OP presented to Council, and endorsement by Council for public exhibition of draft CSP.
19 June 2025	Council meeting day – adoption by Council of CSP, DP and OP.

The online survey and Micromex survey is a consultation tool, which will guide Council's strategies and plans that must be developed by Council with and on behalf of the community and forms part of the Community Engagement Strategy.

Stakeholders

The CSP also outlines the number of stakeholders in delivering the goals and strategies of the CSP. It lists the key stakeholders and their role including:

Type	Explanation
Partner	Delivers services or projects in partnership with other organisations
Service Provider	Takes full responsibility for delivery services
Regulator	Has statutory responsibilities to ensure compliant service delivery
Funder	Funds other organisations to deliver services through grants or contracts
Advocator	Promotes the interests of the community to other decision-making organisations such as the State Government
Facilitator	Brings stakeholders together to help them understand their common objectives and assists them to plan and achieve them

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the draft Community Strategic Plan, draft Delivery Program and draft Operational Plan is placed on public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days.

10.2 INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING | RESOURCING STRATEGY

File Number:

Author: Executive Assistant to the General Manager

Authoriser: General Manager

Attachments:

1. Att 2 | Draft Strategic Asset Management Strategy and Plan 2024-2028
2. Att 3 | Draft Workforce Management Strategy 2028
3. Att 1 | Draft Long-Term Financial Plan

CSP Objective: Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently

Precis: To provide Council the Draft LTFP, AMS and WMS

Budget:

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the draft Resourcing Strategy documents:
 - a) Long-term Financial Plan (LTFP) (2025-2035)
 - b) Strategic Asset Management Strategy (SAMS) (2028) and
 - c) Workforce Management Strategy (WMS) (2028)
2. Places the draft Resourcing Strategy documents the LTFP, SAMS and WMS, as attached to the report, on public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days for the purpose of inviting submissions from the community.
3. Request the General Manager to present a further report, together with all submissions received, to Council at the conclusion of the public exhibition period for Council's further consideration and adoption of the draft Resourcing Strategy documents the LTFP, SAMS and WMS at its June 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting.
4. Authorises the draft Resourcing Strategy documents the LTFP, SAMS and WMS, for public exhibition in accordance with the provisions of Section 405 of the *Local Government Act 1993* for 28 days, with a submission closing date of 21 April 2025.
5. Advertises the draft Resourcing Strategy documents the LTFP, SAMS and WMS in the Grenfell Record on its website and Facebook pages and displays the relevant documents on Council's Website, as well as making hard copies available to members of the public who request same.
6. Authorise for public exhibition as part of the Council's draft Resourcing Strategy documents the LTFP, SAMS and WMS in accordance with the provisions of Section 403 of the *Local Government Act 1993* for 28 days, with a submission closing date of 21 April 2025.

RESOLUTION 045/25

Moved: Cr Rolls

Seconded: Cr White

That Council:

1. Notes the draft Resourcing Strategy documents:
 - a) Long-term Financial Plan (LTFP) (2025-2035)
 - b) Strategic Asset Management Strategy (SAMS) (2028) and
 - c) Workforce Management Strategy (WMS) (2028)
2. Places the draft Resourcing Strategy documents the LTFP, SAMS and WMS, as attached to the report, on public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days for the purpose of inviting submissions from the community.
3. Request the General Manager to present a further report, together with all submissions received, to Council at the conclusion of the public exhibition period for Council's further consideration and adoption of the draft Resourcing Strategy documents the LTFP, SAMS and WMS at its June 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting.
4. Authorises the draft Resourcing Strategy documents the LTFP, SAMS and WMS, for public exhibition in accordance with the provisions of Section 405 of the *Local Government Act 1993* for 28 days, with a submission closing date of 21 April 2025.
5. Advertises the draft Resourcing Strategy documents the LTFP, SAMS and WMS in the Grenfell Record on its website and Facebook pages and displays the relevant documents on Council's Website, as well as making hard copies available to members of the public who request same.
6. Authorise for public exhibition as part of the Council's draft Resourcing Strategy documents the LTFP, SAMS and WMS in accordance with the provisions of Section 403 of the *Local Government Act 1993* for 28 days, with a submission closing date of 21 April 2025.

.THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Council on the development of the Resourcing Strategy which has three documents the Draft Long-Term Financial Plan; Asset Management Strategy; and Workforce Management Strategy, which needs to be finalised by 30 June 2025. It provides Council a summary of the latest updates surrounding its planning and reporting activities, ensuring it is integrated and provides streamlined services to the Weddin community through the optimal use of resources and economies of scale throughout their operations.

BACKGROUND

All NSW councils use the Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework (IP&R) to guide their planning and reporting activities. The requirements for IP&R are set out in the *Local Government Act 1993* and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021. Council must post a copy of the Resourcing Strategy on its website.

Council must have a long-term Resourcing Strategy for the provision of the resources required to perform its functions. Some strategies in the Community Strategic Plan will clearly be the responsibility of the Council, some will be the responsibility of other levels of government, and some will rely on input from business and community groups.

The Resourcing Strategy consists of 3 components:

1. Long-Term Financial Plan (2025-2035)

2. Strategic Asset Management Strategy (2028)

3. Workforce Management Strategy (2028)

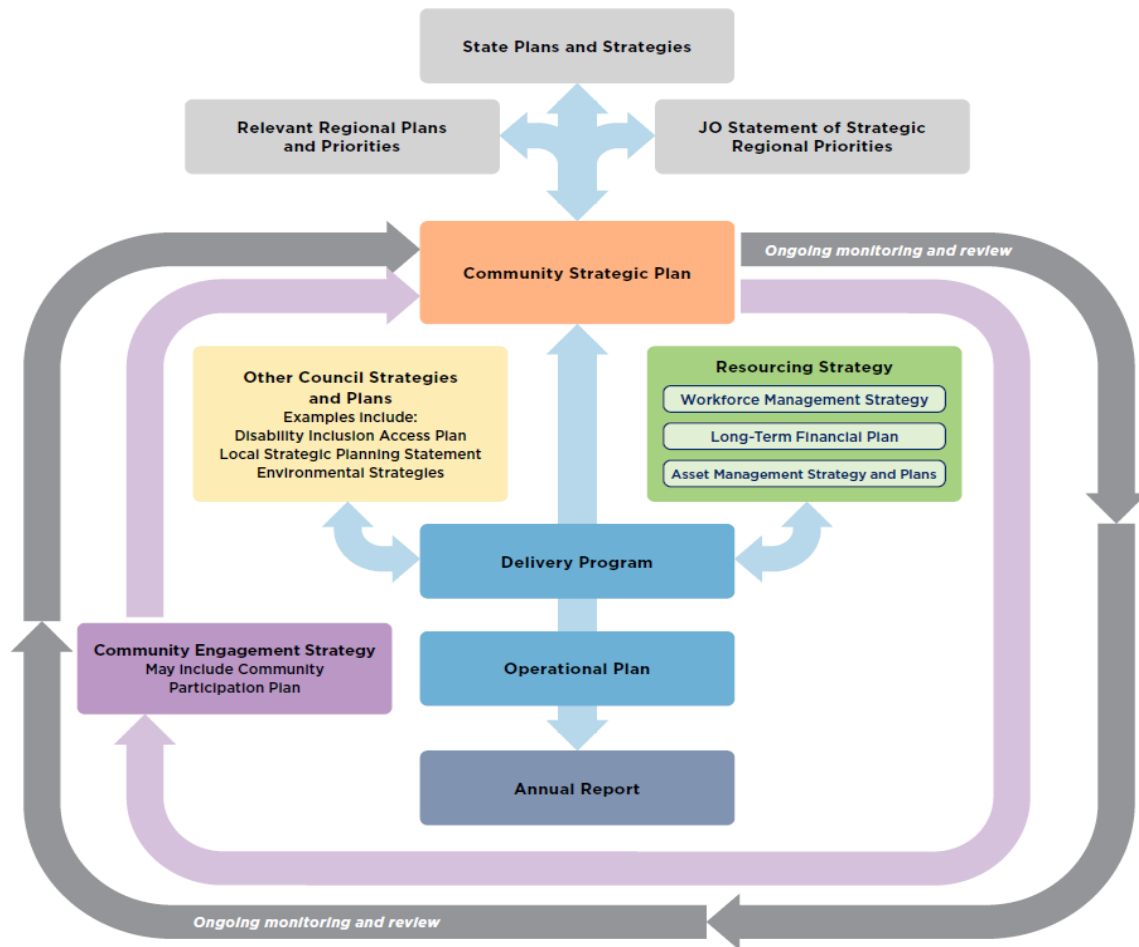


Figure 1: IP&R Framework

ISSUES AND COMMENTS

Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) (2025-2035)

The Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) is a 10-year rolling financial plan that informs decision making and demonstrates how the objectives of the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and the commitments of the Delivery Program (DP) and the Operations Plan (OP) will be resourced and funded.

The LTFP captures what financial resources are required in connection with asset management and workforce planning. It is a tool to aid decision making, priority setting and problem solving. It is a guide for future action and is reviewed and updated annually.

Council's LTFP addresses the following key points:

- How council will survive future financial pressures
- Opportunities for future income and economic growth
- Whether council can afford what the community requests
- How council can achieve outcomes agreed with the community
- Projected income and expenditure, balance sheet and cash flow statement
- Planning assumptions
- Sensitivity analysis, highlighting factors and assumptions most likely to impact the LTFP.
- Financial modelling for different scenarios
- Methods of monitoring financial performance
- Major capital and operational expenditure implications.

The Draft LTFP was attached as an amendment to this paper prior to the Council meeting; noting that a working draft Consolidated P&L as presented to Councillors on 24 February 2025 workshop.

Strategic Asset Management Strategy (SAMS) (2028)

Council delivers a variety of services to the community and in doing so, must ensure that the assets supporting these services are managed sustainably.

Asset management is a "whole of life" approach that includes planning, purchase, construction, operation, maintenance and renewal/disposal of assets. Asset management supports Council's achievement of organisational objectives which include economic, environmental and social goals, while meeting governance requirements and community expectations. Council's infrastructure assets include:

- Buildings
- Roads (sealed and unsealed roads, bridges, footpaths, cycleways, kerbs, bulk earthworks, car parks and other roads and street infrastructure and assets)
- Sewerage
- Stormwater drainage
- Recreation, swimming pools and open space.

The Strategy has been developed in accordance with the Integrated Planning and Reporting and the Institute of Public Works & Engineering Australia (IPWEA) frameworks and guidelines and provides the basis for consistent and effective asset management across our infrastructure asset classes.

Council's asset management planning is supported by these three key documents:

- Asset Management Policy – endorsed by Council
- Strategic Asset Management Strategy – identifies assets that are critical to the council's operations and outlines risk management strategies for these assets
- Asset Management Plans – for all assets under council's control, which identify asset service standards and contain long term (at least 10 years) projections of asset maintenance, rehabilitation and replacement costs. These costs should then be reflected in the LTFP.

The Strategy enables council to show the link between the CSP and the day-to-day management of our assets.

The AMS along with the LTFP should be revised annually. The AMS provides a base framework that will continue to grow with more asset information and adequate staffing resources. Effective asset management is a regime of maintenance, renewal, construction of new, and disposal of redundant assets over their lifetime. It is for this reason that the revision of the Strategic Asset Management Strategy is part of a continuous improvement program vital to understanding the current "state of play" and condition of council's assets. It is council's challenge to identify ways and to provide adequate funding to improve our assets over their asset life and council is continually reviewing our service levels and processes to facilitate improvements.

As a small rural Council and in accordance with the IP&R Framework, Council has combined the AM Strategy mandatory requirements into a SAMS version which includes the AM Plans for each class of asset as one comprehensive document. In other words, it incorporates requirements for the Asset Management Strategy and the Asset Management Plans in line with essential elements of IP&R Handbook.

Future reiterations of the AMS and plans will ensure that Council's asset renewal and plant replacement program will be provided.

Workforce Management Strategy (WMS) (2025-2029)

The Workforce Management Strategy (WMS) is a four-year document that shapes the capacity and capability of council's workforce to ensure Council's strategic goals and objectives are achieved. The WMS assists council to plan and address for future workforce needs. It does by considering council's current workforce needs and capabilities, whilst also ensuring it has a diverse workforce and strategies in place to deal with change, skills shortages, an ageing workforce and succession planning. The future planning enables greater flexibility and responsiveness and place council in a stronger and more stable position for a sustainable future.

Council has an experienced workforce with 28% of employees who have served more than five years with Council, and this serves as a strength in our business continuity. Council's workforce is further supported with new employees who will be employed under the Office of Local Government's Fresh Start program which will inject new personnel into our workforce whilst ensuring that skills are passed onto other employees.

Council's weaknesses and challenges are not unique to our Council and other industries, this includes:

Council does experience a number of weaknesses and challenges that are not unique to our council and other industries, this includes:

- Our financial constraints and our heavy reliance on grant funding to undertake 'business as usual' activities such as asset management of our roads, parks and gardens and other assets.
- Our financial uplift during the last reporting period that will likely impact on our employment numbers as those grant funds are ceased and our casual employment numbers are reduced.
- Our skills shortages in a number of areas across our business.
- Our ageing workforce including those who are likely to retire over the next five years.
- Lack of business continuity for certain positions that do not have a sustainable mid to long term back up plan.
- Our ability to compete with other sectors for wages that are in line with market standards.
- Our lack of ability to uplift wages above and beyond the Award increases due to a number of reasons including lack of funding.
- Cost shifting/Service shifting on to local government which may lead to our organisation unable to keep up.

The WMS provides five workforce strategies including:

1. Build leadership capabilities across all levels of our council including aspiring and emerging leaders.
2. Invest in our talent and ensure clear pathways for career success.
3. Create a proactive safety and wellbeing culture where managing risks is at the forefront of our day-to-day activities.
4. Attract and retain our employees.
5. Develop and implement strategies and plans to support our team to embrace a values-based culture.

POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The requirements of section 403 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) regarding Resourcing Strategy states that:

- A council must have a long-term resourcing strategy to achieve the objectives established by the Community Strategic Plan, for which the council is responsible.
- The strategy must include provision for long-term financial planning, workforce management planning and asset management planning.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial considerations with the proposed public exhibition of documents, however noting that elements of the community survey will touch on these strategies.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

The concepts outlined in the resourcing strategy documents have had pre-consultation engagement with the community. Internal consultation has occurred across the relevant work groups. External consultation now will involve a public exhibition period allow for comment until 21 April 2025.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the draft Resource Plan, comprising the draft Long-term Financial Plan, draft Strategic Asset Management Strategy and draft Workforce Management Strategy is placed on public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days closing on 21 April 2025.

10.3 RESOLUTION REGISTER

File Number: C2.3.3
Author: Executive Assistant to the General Manager
Authoriser: General Manager
Attachments: 1. ATT 1 | Resolution Register as at 13 March 2025
CSP Objective: Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently
Precis: To provide Council with an update on the current outstanding actions.
Budget: NIL

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the attached Resolution Register as at 13 March 2025.

RESOLUTION 046/25

Moved: Cr White

Seconded: Cr Neill

That Council note the attached Resolution Register as at 13 March 2025.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PURPOSE

To provide Council with an update on the current outstanding actions on the Resolution Register as at 13 March 2025.

10.4 APPOINTMENT OF AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - INDEPENDENT CHAIR**File Number:****Author:** Executive Assistant to the General Manager**Authoriser:** General Manager**Attachments:** Nil**CSP Objective:** Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently**Precis:** To provide Council with an update on the appointment of the ARIC Independent Chair**Budget:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council note the report.

RESOLUTION 047/25

Moved: Cr Makin

Seconded: Cr Neill

That Council note the report.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

A report was tabled to Closed Council at the 21 November 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting regarding the Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee (ARIC) Chair Appointment (Resolution 256/24):

16.3 AUDIT, RISK & IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (ARIC) INDEPENDENT CHAIR APPOINTMENT**RESOLUTION 256/24**

Moved: Cr Makin

Seconded: Cr Gorman

That Council:

1. Note the information contained in this report.
2. Appoint the Chair of Council's Audit Risk and Improvement Committee at the remuneration stated within this report to commence on 1 January 2025 for a period of three (3) years.
3. Endorses that in the event that the appointed Chair is unable to take the role that Council appoints the next preferred applicant as Chair from the Merit list.
4. Endorses that the Merit list is in place for a period of 12 months from commencement of the appointment.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

This report is provided to Council to note that clause 3 of the Resolution 256/24 has been enacted, with Mr Stephen Coates being appointed to the position of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Independent Chair noting Mr Coates was the preferred applicant on the Merit List. Mr Coates joins Independent Members Michael Jones and Kylie McRae.

11 CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS**11.1 STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES AND BANKING FACILITIES REPORT****File Number:****Author:** Rates Clerk**Authoriser:** Management Accountant/CFO**Attachments:** Nil**CSP Objective:** Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently**Precis:** Statement of Bank Balances as at 28/02/2025, restricted cash and banking facilities**Budget:** NIL**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council note the information contained in the Statement of Bank Balances and Banking Facilities Report.

RESOLUTION 048/25

Moved: Cr Makin

Seconded: Cr Rolls

That Council note the information contained in the Statement of Bank Balances and Banking Facilities Report.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BANK BALANCES AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2025.

Below is a list of all of the current bank balances for each account, as at 28 February 2025.

Table 1 below provides a summary of the current bank balances for each account, as at 28 February 2025.

Bank Account	\$
Westpac – Operating account	\$1,127,474.89
Westpac – Business Cash Reserve	\$827,108.44
Westpac - Short Term Deposits	\$0.00
CBA Term Deposits (Table 2)	\$11,000,000.00
Total	\$12,954,583.33

Table 1: Current Bank Balances as at 28 February 2025

Commonwealth Bank Investments

Table 2 below provides a summary of Commonwealth Bank Term Deposits as at 28 February 2025 showing interest earned and interest rates of current investments.

	Invested Date	Maturity Date	Rate %	Invested Amount \$	Interest Earned \$
Commonwealth Bank	05/12/2024	05/03/2025	4.88	\$ 500,000	
Commonwealth Bank	18/12/2024	18/03/2025	4.92	\$ 500,000	
Commonwealth Bank	18/12/2024	18/03/2025	4.92	\$ 500,000	
Commonwealth Bank	18/12/2024	18/03/2025	4.92	\$ 500,000	
Commonwealth Bank	18/12/2024	18/03/2025	4.92	\$1,000,000	
Commonwealth Bank	23/12/2024	24/03/2025	4.91	\$1,000,000	
Commonwealth Bank	06/01/2025	07/04/2025	4.84	\$1,000,000	
Commonwealth Bank	20/01/2025	22/04/2025	4.79	\$ 500,000	
Commonwealth Bank	22/01/2025	22/04/2025	4.79	\$ 500,000	
Commonwealth Bank	22/01/2025	22/04/2025	4.79	\$1,000,000	
Commonwealth Bank	22/01/2025	22/04/2025	4.79	\$1,000,000	
Commonwealth Bank	20/02/2025	20/05/2025	4.60	\$1,000,000	
Commonwealth Bank	27/02/2025	27/05/2025	4.57	\$1,000,000	
Commonwealth Bank	28/02/2025	28/05/2025	4.57	\$1,000,000	
Total Interest – Year to Date				\$11,000,000	\$300,952.49

Table 2: Commonwealth Bank Investments

Westpac Investments

Table 3 below provides a summary of Westpac Banking Corporation Term Deposits as at 28 February 2025 were NIL (as \$3,000,000 was redeemed during the month of January 2025) showing interest earned and interest rates of current investments.

	Invested Date	Maturity Date	Rate%	Invested Amount \$	Interest earned \$
Westpac Bank				\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Interest – Year to Date				\$0.00	\$119,498.64

Table 3: Westpac Investments

TOTAL CASH (BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD FROM TABLE 1) \$12,954,583.33

LESS: EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED BALANCES AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2025

Restricted cash balance specific purpose

Unexpended grants	\$ 8,916,125
Domestic Waste management	\$ 250,000
Developer Contributions – Sewer Fund	\$ 128,000
Sewer Fund	<u>\$ 353,000</u>

Total Restricted cash \$ 9,647,125

LESS: LIABILITIES AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2025

Current Liabilities

Employee Leave Entitlement	\$ 1,060,083
Borrowings	<u>\$ 142,686</u>

Non-Current Liabilities

Employee Leave Entitlement	\$ 127,845
Borrowings	<u>\$ 3,252,173</u>

Total liabilities \$ 4,582,787

ADD: ACQUITTED GRANTS/FUNDING (Unrestricted Cash)

Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Phase 2 & 3	\$ 687,188
Fixing Local Roads	\$ 882,640
Roads to Recovery	\$ 337,640
Financial Assistance Grant 4 th Quarterly Payment	<u>\$ 157,059</u>

Total Grants/Funding **\$ 2,064,527**

TOTAL CASH available NOT EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED/LIABILITY **\$ 789,198.33**

INTERNAL ALLOCATIONS AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2025

Plant Income	\$ 431,052.67
Hogbin Trust	\$ 80,201.96
Cemetery Prepaid fees	<u>\$ 108,941.55</u>
Total Internal Allocations	\$ 620,196.20

OVERDRAFT FACILITY

Council currently has in place an overdraft facility approved to \$1,000,000. To date Council has not needed to draw on this facility.

CONCLUSION

Council is in a solid cash position and continually balances cash flow and funds to maximum yields and also to provide cash flow liquidity for its operations.

11.2 RATES AND CHARGES COLLECTION - FEBRUARY 2025**File Number:****Author:** Rates Clerk**Authoriser:** Management Accountant/CFO**Attachments:** Nil**CSP Objective:** Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently**Precis:** February 2025, monthly report on the rates and charges**Budget:** NIL**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council note the information in this report, update on rates and charges collection for the month of February 2025.

RESOLUTION 049/25

Moved: Cr White

Seconded: Cr Makin

That Council note the information in this report, update on rates and charges collection for the month of February 2025.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to be updated with the most recent information pertaining to its rates and charges collections – as applicable to the month of February 2025

BACKGROUND

The monthly report provides Council information on the rates and charges collection.

Refer to the Financial/Resource Implications for the more recent commentary background with respect to collections for the current period to date.

ISSUES AND COMMENTS

The annual rate charges are set out within Council's 2024/25 Operational Plan.

The following provides a summary as at 28 February 2025.

Rates Collected to the month of:

	Period to 28 February 2025	Period to 29 February 2024

Rates and Charges Collected (C)	\$ 3,528,852.32	\$3,023,172.78
Total	\$ 3,528,852.32	\$3,023,172.78

	2025	2024
Net Rates/Charges in arrears (A)	\$ 474,339.62	\$ 387,037.04
2025 Gross Rates/Charges	\$ 4,818,150.14	\$ 4,524,387.46
Less Pension Concession	(\$ 132,046.67)	(\$ 138,418.78)
Net Amount Levied (B)	\$ 4,686,103.47	\$ 4,385,968.68
Total amount rates incl. arrears (A + B)	\$ 5,160,443.09	\$ 4,773,005.72
Less: Total amount collected (current and arrears) (C)	\$ 3,528,852.32	\$ 3,023,172.78
Add: Rate Accounts in Credit (income in advance)	\$ 78,197.49	\$ 51,542.32
Total rates outstanding	\$ 1,709,788.26	\$ 1,801,375.26

Total rates outstanding has reduced by \$627,949.08 to the end of February 2025.

POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Council staff comply with the directions provided by Council's suite of policies that govern this function of Council. The collection of rates does have an economic and social impact on the community. Recognising this, Council is always willing to negotiate payment terms with outstanding debtors due to hardship. Rate payers are afforded several opportunities and encouraged to contact Council and make suitable arrangements regarding outstanding amounts.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Uncollected rates are recognised as cash flow that is not available to Council to use for normal operational matters and use. Rate collection is a necessary function for council operation.

It needs to be acknowledged that post Covid-19 along with the additional increase in the cost of living has impacted on Council's ability to collect rates and charges.

Council now has additional staff resources available to enable it to increase its focus on recovery of these debts. As well Council continues to engage with a Debt Recovery Agency which is currently monitoring 47 active files. These agency costs unfortunately come at a

considerable collection cost to Council both in terms of time and in monetary terms so our preference is always to manage collection of debt internally by our Rates Officers.

Council Officers sent out 1,583 printed Annual Rates Notices as well as 234 emailed notices for the 2024/25 financial year third instalment notice.

Council **outstanding rates and annual charges** (includes interest charged as at February 2025 was \$382,824.26 plus the rates paid in advance of \$78,197.49 = **\$461,031.75**. As a comparison, Rates and annual charges receivable was **\$592,000** in the 2024 Financial statements (C1-3). As a percentage, this is approximately **9.84% in arrears** (the OLG benchmark of <10% of rates charged) and a reduction of 2.31% compared to 30 June 2024 of 12.15%.

Council finance staff continue to review this regularly and are now in a position to actively work with our ratepayers to collect outstanding debts with a potential Sale of Land in Financial Year 2026, as well as proactively engage with external debt collectors.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

This report is a monthly report to Council.

CONCLUSION

Council is focused on the collection of outstanding rates in a timely fashion but that this will always be undertaken in a sensitive manner.

11.3 ALTER RESOLUTION 215/24 FOR AUSTRALIA DAY GRANT AND DONATIONS

File Number: C1.5.2
Author: Arts, Tourism & Events Coordinator
Authoriser: Director Corporate Services
Attachments: Nil
CSP Objective: Culturally rich, vibrant and inclusive community
Precis: Council donations to the villages in Weddin Shire towards Australia Day celebrations.
Budget: Australia Day Budget from Community - Events budget

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Note the information tabled in this report.
2. Alter part of Council resolution 215/24 of 3(b) from the October 2024 Ordinary Meeting of Council and delete *"noting that if staff are successful with their Australia Day Community Events Grant program application this will not be required"*.
3. Approve to process the council donation of \$250 to each village of Greenethorpe, Quandialla and Caragabal for their Australia Day events meaning each village will have received a total of \$500 (\$250 from the National Australia Day Council and \$250 from Weddin Shire Council).
4. Approve for the Bimbi Progress Association council donation of \$250 to be utilised for other purposes in Bimbi, as they were they were unable to hold an Australia Day event in 2025.

RESOLUTION 050/25

Moved: Cr Rolls

Seconded: Cr Neill

That Council

1. Note the information tabled in this report.
2. Alter part of Council resolution 215/24 of 3(b) from the October 2024 Ordinary Meeting of Council and delete *"noting that if staff are successful with their Australia Day Community Events Grant program application this will not be required"*.
3. Approve to process the council donation of \$250 to each village of Greenethorpe, Quandialla and Caragabal for their Australia Day events meaning each village will have received a total of \$500 (\$250 from the National Australia Day Council and \$250 from Weddin Shire Council).
4. Approve for the Bimbi Progress Association council donation of \$250 to be utilised for other purposes in Bimbi, as they were they were unable to hold an Australia Day event in 2025.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PURPOSE

To seek Council's permission to alter the resolution 215/24 of 3(b) and delete "*noting that if staff are successful with their Australia Day Community Events Grant program application this will not be required*" to allow for a donation of \$500 in total to the villages of the villages of Quandialla, Caragabal, Greenethorpe and Bimbi.

BACKGROUND

Each Australia Day, Council provides a donation of \$250 to each village. In the last three years, Council has applied to the National Australia Day Council and their Australia Day Community Events Grant Program for contributions for Australia Day. In the last three years, Council has been successful and this has allowed Council to increase the contribution to a total of \$500, with \$250 provided by Weddin Shire Council and \$250 by the National Australia Day Council.

At the October 2024 Council meeting a report was tabled asking council to endorse a permanent Australia Day vote to avoid the administration burden of seeking an annual contribution from Council for all the events and donations to the villages. In the report, it is acknowledged that Council will apply for a grant application each year and if successful, major costs like the Pre Awards Dinner will be offset by the National Australia Day Council grant. However, the village donations will not be offset but provided additional funds.

In drafting the Resolution, it appears that that there was an administration error relating to the Grant and Council's contribution whereby the cost recovery was applied to the village donation at point 3(b). See below of the resolution and the proposed updates.

That Council note:

1. The information contained in this report.
2. Winners be selected by the nomination assessment panel, comprising of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and General Manager.
3. Resolution 268/22 (Mayoral Minute), point 2: *Council endorse a permanent Australia Day vote to also include Pre Australia Day activities with the amount to be determined each financial year* and note that the budget for this years pre Australia Day and Australia Day events is \$6,500, with the:
 - a. Pre Australia Day activities budget be \$4,000, noting that if staff are successful with their Australia Day Community Events Grant Program application this will not be required.
 - b. Contribute \$250 to each Hall/Progress Committee as a contribution towards Australia Day celebrations in the villages of Greenethorpe, Quandialla, Caragabal and Bimbi. ~~Noting that if staff are successful with their Australia Day Community Events Grant Program application this will not be required.~~
 - c. \$1,500 for Grenfell Australia Day activities. Being that the Australia Day Community Events Grant Program application for the Australia Day activities must have a financial commitment from the Council equalling, but no less than, the year before.

Council will always support the villages with a donation towards their Australia Day activities, whether successful with the Australia Day Community events Grant program or not. Therefore the resolution needs to be altered, given that a budget has already been allocated for this purpose.

ISSUES AND COMMENTS

Once approved, the villages will be provided a further \$250 each to ensure that the contribution is \$500. The annual contribution of up to \$500 will be dependent on whether or not Council is successful with future grants through the National Australia Day Council, however Council should maintain its \$250 donation for each village.

Unfortunately, Bimbi was unable to hold their Australia Day event this year. The Bimbi Progress Association have requested whether they could utilise their Council allocation elsewhere else. Bimbi is unable to receive the donation from the National Australia Day Council as they did not hold an event.

Being that Council has already budgeted for the villages to each receive the \$250 from Council, it is requested that they still receive their \$250 which can be utilised by the Progress Association elsewhere in Bimbi.

It should be noted that if Council are unsuccessful with the Australia Day Community Events Grant Program that villages will only receive the \$250 from Council.

POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct policy or legal implications relating to this report.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial or resource implications relating to this report as the budget for the village donations has already been committed to by Council. The Bimbi Progress Association was unable to hold an event, however a donation of \$250 for them to utilise for other purposes should be supported.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

We thank Quandialla Progress Association for bringing the administration error to our attention and Bimbi Progress Association for requesting an alternative arrangement for their donation. Following the resolution, letters will be provided to the villages to explain the joint contributions and the further funds provided.

CONCLUSION

That Council endorse the recommendation to alter “*noting that if staff are successful with their Australia Day Community Events Grant program application this will not be required*” from resolution 215/24 in part 3(b) and make donations to the villages of \$250 as budgeted.

12 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORTS

12.1 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORT - FEBRUARY 2025

File Number:**Author:** Executive Assistant - Infrastructure Services**Authoriser:** Acting Director of Infrastructure**Attachments:** Nil**CSP Objective:** Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently**Precis:** INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS REPORT**Budget:** Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the information provided on infrastructure works completed in February 2025 and planned works for March 2025.

RESOLUTION 051/25

Moved: Cr White

Seconded: Cr Makin

That Council receive and note the information provided on infrastructure works completed in February 2025 and planned works for March 2025.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following information is to update the Council and community on matters associated with construction and maintenance from the Infrastructure Division (Roads, Parks and Gardens, Sewerage and Plant for works, Urban Services and Weeds) undertaken in February 2025 planned works for March 2025.

NATURAL DISASTERS

The Weddin Local Government Area has been impacted by a number of wet weather events and Natural Disaster declared events. When a Natural Disaster event is declared for Local Government areas, this means emergency repairs (to make safe only) are required to be completed within three (3) months of the declaration date or in our circumstances extended by the NSW Government. However, noting that the extension granted has expired.

Subsequent reconstruction works are a further claim that Council must apply to the NSW Government for approval and funding. In addition to this, a number of construction and maintenance projects scheduled have been impacted by weather, resourcing of staff, contractors and supplies.

Summary of events and progress of work is provided in the following table.

Information of the packages and their approval status are now publicly available on Council's website with information of where road crews are operating for the natural disaster packages are now uploaded. Scope of works for the financial year has been developed with minor changes pending.

Last correspondence refers to dates that Council last formally heard from TfNSW, noting that Council Officers have submitted multiple follow ups.

AGRN Event	Phase - Package	\$ Value (Subject to Change)	Status
1034 - 14 September 2022 onwards	EPA-RW - P2 General Works	\$1,150,511.64	<p>Heavy Patching on Sealed Roads Submitted scope of works to TfNSW approved (last correspondence February 2025) Package 2 Scope includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Unsealed roads (non-priority) o Tree & vegetation clearing <p>Roads included are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abbots Lane • Adams Lane - Greenethorpe • Adams Lane North – Gooloogong (partial) • Adelargo Road • Andersons Road • Arramagong Road • Back Piney Range Road • Bald Hills Road (partial) • Beazleys Lane • Bembricks Lane • Berendebba Lane • Bewleys Road • Bimbi St (Caragabal-Quandialla Road) • Bobelar Lane • Campbells Lane • Clay Pit Road (started) • Dixons Lane • Dunkleys Lane • Eualdrie Road • Eves Lane • Gerrybang Road-I • Gerrybang Road-II • Gibraltar Rocks Road (completed) • Goodes Lane (completed) • Grants Lane • Grimms Lane • Hancock-Flinns Road • Hancock-Williams Road (partial) • Hazells Road • Healys Road • Heathcotes Lane

AGRN Event	Phase - Package	\$ Value (Subject to Change)	Status
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Camp Road • Kangaroo Road • Major West Road (partial) • McCanns Lane • McDonalds Lane • Melyra Street • Napiers Road • O'Loughlins Lane • Peaks Creek Road (completed) • Piney Range Hall Road • Pinnacle Road • Reeves Lane • Sandy Creek Road • South Street • Taylors Road (completed) • West Street • Yambira Road (completed)
1034 - 14 September 2022 onwards	EPA-RW - P3 Priority Patches	\$7,211,868.03	<p>Heavy Patching on Sealed Roads \$7,211,868.03 upper limit is approved by TfNSW for Package 3.</p> <p>Submitted scope of works to TfNSW for approval</p> <p>95% complete</p> <p>Overall Scope includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Line marking work on Henry Lawson (completed) • Driftway Road (completed) • Deaths Lane (completed) • Henry Lawson Way - Forbes • Morangarell Road (completed) • Quandialla Caragabal Road (completed)
1034 - 14 September onwards	EPA-RW - P4 - North Patching	\$2,776,635.48	<p>Heavy Patching on Sealed Roads</p> <p>Tender for stabilisation and resealing has been awarded and will start in March 2025.</p> <p>Roads included in Package 4 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adelargo Road (started) • Bald Hills Road - East West • Ballendene Road • Bewleys Road • Goodes Lane • Gooloogong Road (MR237) • Hunters Road • Keiths Lane • Mortray Road • Muncks Lane • Piney Range Hall Road • Sandy Creek Road

AGRN Event -	Phase - Package	\$ Value (Subject to Change)	Status
1034 - 14 September 2022 onwards	EPA-RW - P5 - South Patching	\$8,136,453.67	<p>Heavy Patching on Sealed Roads Submitted scope of works to TfNSW for Package 5 approval (last correspondence February 2025) Scope of works include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back Piney Range Road • Berrys Road • Bimbi-Quandialla Road • Bimbi-Thuddungra Road • Bland Road • Edward Square, Greenethorpe • Eualdrie Road • Gambarra Road • Gerrybang Road • Gooloogong Road (R096/MR237) • Greenethorpe-Bumbaldry Road • Greenethorpe-Koorawatha Road • Grenfell Street • Holy Camp Road • Iandra Road • James Street • Martins Lane • Melyra Street • Murrays Lane • Newton Street • Nowlans Road • Old Forbes Road • Sale Street • Second Street • South Street • Talbot Street • Third Street • Tyagong Creek Road • Wirega-Greenethorpe Road
1034 - 14 September 2022 onwards	EPA-RW - P6 - Priority Unsealed	\$1,103,072.01	<p>Scope for Package 6 includes medium and heavy formation grading of unsealed roads. 90% of work completed (last correspondence February 2025) Roads included are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arramagong Road (completed) • Bald Hills Road (started) • Barkers Road East (completed) • Barkers Road North (completed) • Gannons Lane (completed) • Lynchs Road (completed) • Maddens Lane (completed) • McCanns Lane (completed) • Napiers Road (completed)

AGRN Event	Phase - Package	\$ Value (Subject to Change)	Status
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nealons Lane (completed) • Reeves Lane (completed)
1034 - 14 September 2022 onwards	EPA-RW - P7 - Sinking Culverts & Drain Cleaning	\$1,550,000.00	Awaiting approval (last correspondence February 2025) Sinking Culverts budget to be confirmed.

STATE ROADS

- This is a bi-monthly report and will be detailed in this Council Meeting as a separate report.

MAJOR WORKS

Pullabooka Road Drainage and Resurfacing

- Council is waiting to commence table-drain drainage work on Pullabooka Road in March 2025 which is funded through the Regional Local Roads Repair Program (RLRRP).

Greenethorpe-Koorawatha Road Rehabilitation

- Signs to be completed by end March 2025.

Nowlans Road Upgrade

- Works have commenced, and now expected to be completed at the end of May 2025.

Arramagong Road Culvert Replacement

- Council is planning to start construction works late March 2025.

Caragabal Shared Pathway

- Council work is complete and waiting for ARTC to join to path as part of their package. Date of completion end of financial year.

Bogolong Dam Restoration Project

- Public Works Department is compiling a report for Council that will provide information necessary for determining the safety and stability of the dam.
- Once received, a final consideration by the Bogolong Dam Committee will be made and presented to Council.

FOOTPATH /KERB AND GUTTER WORKS

Third Street, Quandialla

- Procurement process is ongoing to select a suitable construction contractor for kerb and gutter replacement. Sufficient quantity of kerb and gutter work needs to be generated to make this work viable. Delivery of this work is planned for end of the financial year.

ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS

- Road maintenance works including pothole patching, vegetation management, gravel road maintenance and signage works have been undertaken in the past few months.

GRAVEL RESHEETING

- Council is intending to undertake a gravel resheeting program as per Council's strategic planning. The gravel resheeting program will be funded under the Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund (RERRF). Council's plan is to complete the program within the next three (3) years depending on the availability of Council resources.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The Parks and Gardens team are carrying out routine maintenance such as mowing, whipper snipping, tree trimming within sporting fields and the open space network.

Park Maintenance

- Mowing, weeding and whipper snipped in parks and garden areas
- Mowed and whipper snipped the Cemetery grounds
- Mowed, weeded and whipper snipped Taylor Park
- Mowed and whipper snipped Vaughn Park
- Mowed and whipper snipped Proctor Park
- Mowed, weeded and whipper snipped Memorial Park
- Mowed and whipper snipped Rotary Park
- Mowed and whipper snipped Goodsell Park
- Mowed and whipper snipped SH6 Rest Stop
- Mowed, weeded and whipper snipped Rygate Square
- Mowed and whipper snipped Council Chambers
- Mowed and whipper snipped O'Briens Hill and Lookout
- Mowed, weeded and whipper snipped Endemic Garden
- Mowed, weeded and whipper snipped Dagmar Street
- Mowed and whipper snipped Lawson Oval Top and Bottom
- Mowed, weeded and whipper snipped Henry Lawson's Birthplace
- Mowed and whipper snipped Railway Crossing on the Young Road
- Mowed and whipper snipped Dalton Street
- Mowed and whipper snipped Railway Free Camp (West Street)
- Mowed and whipper snipped Henry Lawson Way

- Mowed, weeded and whipper snipped Forbes Road Rest Stop
- Mowed and whipper snipped Camp Street
- Mowed and whipper snipped Melyra Street
- Mowed and whipper snipped Brundah Street

Town Maintenance

- Whipper snipped around all islands on the road within the Grenfell town area
- Whipper snipped around guard railings
- Started tree lifting, whipper snipping and mowing in laneways

Village Maintenance

- Standard village maintenance of mowing in Greenethorpe, Caragabal and Quandialla
- Clearance of debris at Caragabal, Greenethorpe and Bimbi

PLANT REPORT

<u>Plant Report for February 2025</u>			
4095	John Deer	Rebuild shafts, repair PTO	Shafts rebuilt and PTO repaired
5202	Howard Slasher	Gear box	Gear box replaced
5288	Howard	PTO shaft	PTO shaft replaced
5196	Box Trailer	Springs need replacing	Springs replaced
4122	Backhoe	Front and rear tyres need replacing	Tyres replaced
4123	Kubota tractor	Safety light needs replacing	Safety light replaced
4117	Toro mower	Due for service and blades need replacing	Serviced and blades replaced
4116	Toro mower	Due for service and blades need replacing	Serviced and blades replaced
4110	Toro mower	Due for service and blades need replacing	Serviced and blades replaced
4127	Husqvarna mower	Due for service and blades needed replacing	Serviced and blades replaced
3959	Prime mover	Windscreen needs replacing, steering rack arm needs replacing	Windscreen replaced, steering rack arm replaced

Plant Report for February 2025			
3959	Prime Mover	Air dryer needs replacing	Air dryer replaced
3957	Western Star	Fuel tank needs replacing	Fuel tank replaced
4105	Grader	Due for service	Full service
4121	Grader	Due for service, arctic switch	Full service and arctic switch replaced
4120	Volvo Loader	Wiring to weigh station needs to be repaired	Wiring repaired
2101	Hilux	Fit electric break unit	Electric break unit fitted
1134	Hilux	Windscreen needs replacing	Windscreen replaced
3962	IZUZU	Due for service	Full serviced
3965	Garbage Truck	Replace springs, bushes, plates, screws	All parts replaced
3956	Low Loader	Tyres need replacing	All tyres replaced
5237	Rapid Spray Rig	Replace chain drive	Chain drive replaced
3960	Tri Axle Trailer	Replace air bags	Air bags replaced

Council is using a JetPatcher under a rental agreement.

Waste Water Treatment Plant

Bypass Due to Heavy Rainfall Event and EPA Recommendation

The Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) experienced a bypass of raw sewage during a heavy rainfall event that, per EPA license conditions, must be reported (R3 reporting) to the EPA within 7 days of the incident.

Recently, the Council reported a bypass/overflow event on February 8, 2025. Following the submission of the R3 report, the EPA requested a copy of the Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) program report for 2023–2024, along with the following recommendations:

1. **Enhanced Monitoring:** Continue to monitor rainfall data and inflow rates closely to better predict and manage potential bypass events.
2. **Infrastructure Improvements:** Prioritise repairs and upgrades to the sewer system, especially in areas identified as high-risk by the Inflow Infiltration (I&I) program.
3. **Community Engagement:** Maintain efforts to educate the community about the impact of stormwater on the sewer system and encourage practices that reduce stormwater ingress.

4. Preventative Measures: Implement additional measures to manage high inflows during heavy rainfall, such as increasing the capacity of retention basins and improving stormwater management systems.

Council provide a detail report of I&I that with the below information-

“During FY 2023-24, Council undertook sewer smoke testing to identify and investigate non-compliance stormwater connections for one-third of the properties (310 properties) in the Grenfell area. This is an ongoing process and remains subject to budget availability.

The objective of this project is to identify storm water connections and ingress to the wastewater network that are contributing to wet weather overflows, capacity limitations or maintenance events. This will be undertaken through smoke/dye testing and visual inspection to identify defects in both Weddin Shire Council sewer mains and Customer sanitary drainage lines (house service lines).

The wastewater catchments within Weddin Shire Council area of operations experiences inflow and infiltration (I/I) during wet weather events. During these events, stormwater enters the wastewater system through defective assets. The I/I can contribute to increasing the flow to the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) causing overflows and bypass events. Smoke testing and visual property inspections are a key means to identify defects within customer assets and Weddin Shire Council’s wastewater system, and can result in significant reductions in I/I. Weddin Shire Council have identified areas for smoke testing to identify and rectify potential locations where stormwater is entering the wastewater network, thus reducing wet weather impact on the WWTP and potential overflows along the sewer network.

The town of Grenfell was built between 1866 and 1900 during the gold rush period. Most of the houses are now over 70 years old. As a result, 75% of the 310 properties tested failed the smoke testing due to faulty stormwater drainage systems.”

BIOSECURITY

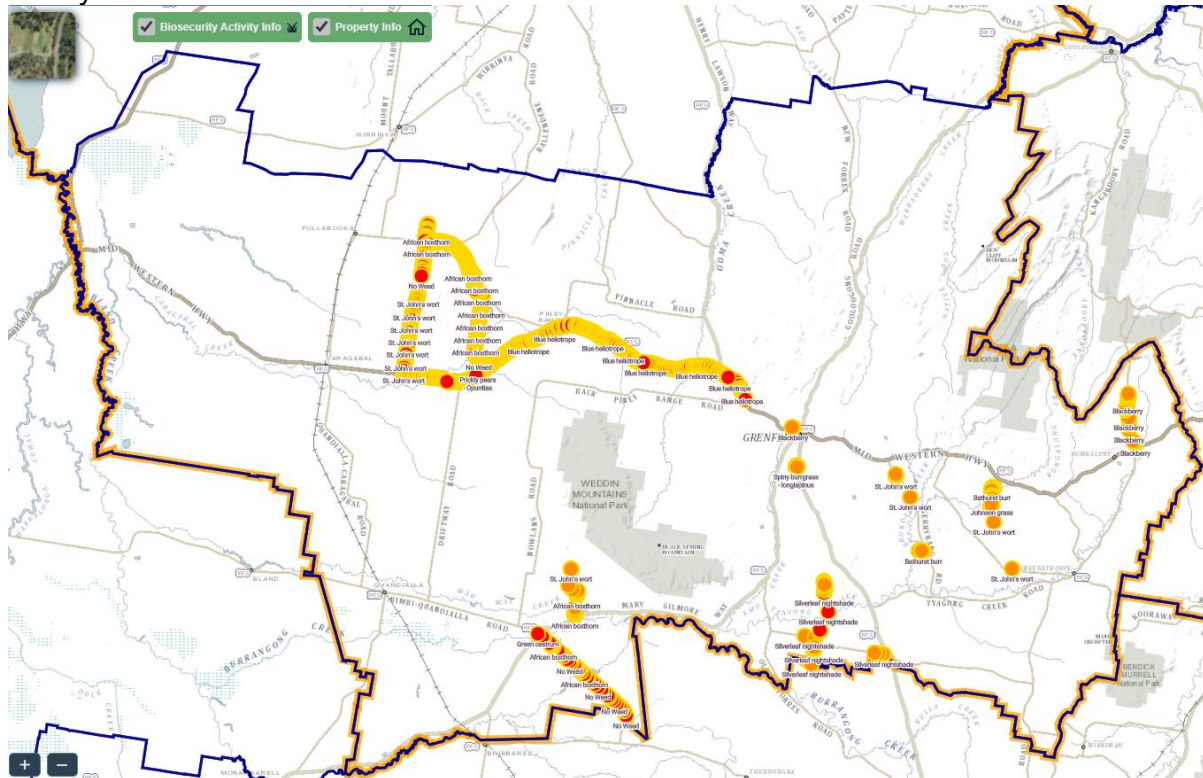
Two vehicles and quiksprays were at times in the workshop but available for inspections and spraying in February 2025.

Information on Biosecurity weeds – Central West Priority Weeds List is available on the Weedwise App or webpage <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/WeedBiosecurities?Areald=2>

ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly report, mapping, BIS uploads, inspections and weeds loaded on Chartis Weeds App, email correspondence, review weed spraying program and plan of action, review relevant budget totals, review/reply Service Requests when received Jaime Elms – Junior Vice Chairman – researching grants, fulfilling duties we are obligated under our WAP agreement
Public Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handing out merchandise to raise weed awareness Social media campaign Spot and Report signs waiting installation - looking into available grants to have signs installed

ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed information mapped, synced and uploaded to DPI • Working on inputting data when a drone is used
Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Infrastructure Works Meeting – when available • Awaiting on news of delegates for Local weed committee and dates for meetings
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continual drone training/practise • EMtrain online modules • Local weed identification
Private Property Inspections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal inspections using drone for training • Information packages for landholders to receive during inspections or on request • Inspections organisation in progress
Roadside Inspections and On-ground Control, if Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous roadside inspections • Limited control when environmental conditions allow • Priority weeds mapped during inspection for future control
Council Owned Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council owned /managed vacant land, Grenfell and village areas • Weeds staff been assisting in other areas such as Parks & Gardens spraying, Cemetery spraying, SH17
Travelling Stock Route (TSR) Inspections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspections were not conducted in February
Other High Risk Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cemetery, silos, camping areas, rest areas
Sucker Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sucker control carried out when conditions suit and sighted
Biological Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing research in Biocontrol for additional tools for use in Priority Weed Control • African boxthorn rust was released with State Forest in June 2024, will monitor throughout coming months
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentoring staff members in Biosecurity

February 2025



RESOLUTION 070/24

Seconded: Cr McKellar

Seconded: Cr Diprose

For discussion as separate items:

1. That Council Officers provide a report on the finalisation of signage and marking of the Main Street including for disabled parking.
2. That Council Officers provide a report on the CCTV in the Main Street.
3. That Staff provide updates through the Infrastructure Works Report until it is finished.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Disabled parking will be marked in front IGA and will comply with all Australian Standards once a pedestrian ramp is constructed and approved by the Weddin Local Traffic Committee and Council.

Taxi Stand

A Taxi Stand will be marked in front IGA and will comply with all Australian Standards once a pedestrian ramp is constructed and approved by the Weddin Local Traffic Committee and Council.

CCTV

Council Officers are in the process of organising finalisation and the acquittal of the grant funding.

13 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS

13.1 UPDATE ON RURAL WASTE FACILITIES

File Number: E3.3.4 & E3.3.5
Author: Director Environmental Services
Authoriser: General Manager
Attachments: Nil
CSP Objective: Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently
Precis: Update on remediation actions taken at Quandialla and Caragabal Waste Facilities and proposed future waste services.
Budget: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Note the report on the two (2) rural waste facilities and the proposed options for future waste services.
2. Delegates the Director of Environment Services to begin consultation with the community regarding a proposed rural domestic waste and recycling collection service, to replace the bank of general waste bins at Caragabal and Quandialla.
3. Delegates the Director of Environment Services to begin consultation with community regarding the option of transitioning the Caragabal and Quandialla Waste facilities to waste transfer stations.
4. Request that the Director Environmental Services prepare a further report to Council upon the completion of the community consultation process, including any feedback provided.

RESOLUTION 052/25

Moved: Cr Makin

Seconded: Cr Neill

That Council:

1. Note the report on the two (2) rural waste facilities and the proposed options for future waste services.
2. Delegates the Director of Environment Services to begin consultation with the community regarding a proposed rural domestic waste and recycling collection service, to replace the bank of general waste bins at Caragabal and Quandialla.
3. Delegates the Director of Environment Services to begin consultation with community regarding the option of transitioning the Caragabal and Quandialla Waste facilities to waste transfer stations.
4. Request that the Director Environmental Services prepare a further report to Council upon the completion of the community consultation process, including any feedback provided.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Council and the community on actions taken to date relating to the Quandialla and Caragabal waste facilities, along with potential options for waste management into the future.

BACKGROUND

Council has three (3) waste facilities located within the Shire being Grenfell Waste Facility, Caragabal Waste Facility, and Quandialla Waste Facility. Each of the facilities are unlicensed by the EPA.

Council received a formal letter from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) on 5 October 2023 raising a number of concerns regarding the operation of Council waste facilities, including potential asbestos containing material (ACM) being identified at the Quandialla waste facility, as a result of an investigation of a complaint made by a member of the public. The letter required Council to undertake a number of actions to ensure the facilities were being operated to appropriate standards.

In accordance with the requirements of the EPA an Occupational Hygienist was engaged to inspect both the Quandialla and Caragabal facilities. Based on the recommendations of the Occupational Hygienist, the Quandialla and Caragabal waste facilities were closed to the public on 11 October 2023 due to the presence of asbestos contamination on the sites.

To comply with the requirements of the EPA, Council engaged Impact Environmental to prepare closure reports for each Council waste facility along with the preparation of a report investigating the actions required to bring Councils three (3) waste facilities up to EPA minimum environmental standards. In addition, Impact Environmental were also requested to prepare rehabilitation estimates for each waste facility as required by the Audit Office of NSW.

It is important to note that the preparation of a closure plan for a facility provides a framework to assist Council in the management of any potential impacts of the landfill site by providing environmental management and monitoring measures during both the pre and post closure stages. It does not necessarily indicate that a facility will be permanently closed. Closure plans are also needed in order to justify waste reserve budgets to the Audit Office of NSW.

On 2 May 2024 a Class A Asbestos Removal Contractor commenced the clean-up of the Caragabal Facility by removing visible asbestos fragments from the internal roadway within the facility, in order to provide safe access to the DrumMuster site to enable a contractor to remove stockpiled drums.

On the 8 May 2024 Council received a draft Prevention Notice from the EPA regarding the operation of the Quandialla Waste Facility. The draft Prevention Notice outlined a number of actions which the EPA intended to require Council to undertake in regard to the facility. A response was provided to the EPA on 17 May 2024 outlining the reason why the Prevention Notice should not be issued.

In June 2024 work was completed to remove stockpiled scrap steel from the Quandialla Waste Facility. This work involved an Asbestos Removal Contractor and Occupational

Hygienist checking and clearing the steel of asbestos contamination, before it was removed and transported to the Grenfell Waste Facility, where it was recycled. During the removal of the steel, required air monitoring was undertaken. Analysis of the air samples confirmed that no asbestos was detected in the area surrounding the facility, during the removal works.

An Occupational Hygienist inspected the Caragabal Waste Facility on 11 June 2024 in order to assess if safe access could be provided to the DrumMuster site. A clearance certificate was issued by the Occupational Hygienist to allow access to the DrumMuster site.

On 18 June 2024, a DrumMuster contractor attended the Caragabal facility and removed the majority of stockpiled used chemical drums which were suitable for recycling via the DrumMuster program. The Caragabal P & C currently receive the income received from the recycled drums.

Council was previously successful in obtaining an EPA grant for new fencing and updated cameras at both the Caragabal and Quandialla Waste Facilities. The works associated with the grant have been delayed due to the asbestos contamination at both sites.

ISSUES AND COMMENTS

Continued Discussions with EPA

Council's General Manager and Director of Environmental Services continue to hold regular meetings with the EPA regarding the remediation of the Caragabal and Quandialla sites. To date the EPA have been satisfied with the actions and progress that Council has undertaken and have not issued a Prevention Notice.

Further to the actions mentioned above, during September 2024, Council staff removed 22.98 tonnes of tyres from the Quandialla and Caragabal facilities and transported to an EPA licensed facility for disposal. The large proportion of the tyres were removed from the Caragabal facility.

On 20 February 2025, a Class A Asbestos Removal Contractor removed approximately 100kg of asbestos fragments from the perimeter boundary area of both Caragabal and Quandialla sites. This work was undertaken to enable new fencing to be installed under the EPA grant mentioned above.

An Occupation Hygienist has been engaged to inspect both sites to obtain a Clearance Certificate for the applicable areas. Once the clearance certificate has been obtained, work will commence on the construction of new fencing at both sites and the installation of new updated cameras to provide better security at the facilities.

Council is currently liaising with a company to remove the remaining chemical and oil drums which are located at both sites. It is anticipated that the removal of the drums will occur in the coming weeks.

As previously reported to Council, the EPA initially advised that all asbestos, including potentially asbestos contaminated soils would need to be removed from the sites and disposed of to a licensed waste facility. Impact Environmental estimated that this could be in the vicinity of 2,000 – 3,000 m³ at each site. A formal quotation from a Class A Asbestos Removal Contractor was obtained to remove 2500m³ of ACM. The quotation received was for the value of \$1,722,500 per site.

Council has continued to put forward the case to the EPA that the above costs are not financially viable and that a more cost-effective solution would be to remove all visible piles of friable and bonded asbestos before encapsulating all potentially asbestos containing soil onsite. To further consider this approach, the EPA requested a detailed proposal. Council requested a scope of works from a consultancy company to undertake the required comprehensive soil testing, engineering design of containment cells, and validation of soil remediation. A copy of the scope was referred to the EPA for review.

A response was received from the EPA on 3 March 2025, advising that they supported the proposed comprehensive soil testing and engineering design work to determine if encapsulation of contaminated soils on the sites would be permitted. Council has engaged the consultancy company to undertake this work, which is expected to begin shortly.

Council also has been stockpiling a large amount of clean soil from several roadworks jobs in the Caragabal and Quandialla area. This soil will ultimately be used as cover at both rural facilities as part of the remediation works. Some soil has already been carted to the Quandialla Waste Facility and stored on Council land located to the north of the existing facility.

Review of Operation of Rural Waste Facilities

Council engaged Impact Environmental to undertake an operational review of the two rural waste facilities. The review identified that continuing to operate a landfill cell at each site was the most financially viable option. It was also identified that moving to a waste transfer station at each site would be cost prohibitive due to the reliance on contractors as Council does not have a suitable vehicle and skip bins to operate the service.

However, the review was based on what was considered at the time to be a suitable landfill cell for a rural unlicensed site. Since the review the EPA have advised that any future landfill cell would likely need to be appropriately designed and lined, similar to what is required with an EPA licenced facility. It has been estimated that the lining of each cell at a small waste facility would be in the vicinity of \$20,000 per cell, depending on soil conditions.

There would also be a range of ongoing environmental management implications as a landfill site which Council would have to address to comply with the requirements of the Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2015 (Regulation). These would further increase operational costs at each facility. Future remediation costs for the sites would also be higher if a landfill site was continued.

Council is obligated to manage its unlicensed waste facilities in accordance with the minimum standards outlined in the Regulation. Clause 111 of the Regulation as detailed below, stipulates the requirements which must be complied with to have a defence to the offence of polluting land at an unlicensed landfill site:

111 Defence to offence of polluting land at unlicensed landfill site

- (1) The defence provided for in section 142E of the Act (relating to the introduction of a substance into or onto land that is an unlicensed landfill site) is only available to the occupier of an unlicensed landfill site if, when the substance was introduced—
 - (a) particulars of the location of the landfill site, and of the name and address of the occupier, had been notified to the EPA, and

- (b) there was lawful authority to use the land as a landfill site, and
- (c) the landfill site was being operated in accordance with the operating requirements, and
- (d) the landfill site was located outside the regulated area, and
- (e) the landfill site was owned and operated by or on behalf of a local council, and
- (f) the landfill site was in existence immediately before 28 April 2008.

(2) The **operating requirements**, in relation to a landfill site, are as follows—

- (a) all reasonable steps are to be taken to minimise the emission of any offensive odour or offensive noise beyond the boundaries of a landfill site,
- (b) all reasonable steps are to be taken to avoid discharges from the landfill site causing water pollution,
- (c) all reasonable steps are to be taken to ensure that any plant at the landfill site that is used for the purposes of disposing of, or moving or covering, waste is properly maintained so as to avoid land pollution,
- (d) all reasonable steps are to be taken to ensure that any plant at the landfill site that is designed to control or prevent land pollution at the site (including any gas collection system and any leachate collection system) is maintained in an efficient condition,
- (e) all reasonable steps are to be taken to secure the site against uncontrolled public access (for example, by the provision of fencing and other security measures),
- (f) all reasonable steps are to be taken to minimise the emission of dust beyond the boundaries of the landfill site,
- (g) all reasonable steps are to be taken to minimise the tracking of dust or mud from the site on to any public road providing access to the site,
- (h) all reasonable steps are to be taken to minimise the risk of fire at the landfill site,
- (i) if the substance is asbestos waste—the requirements of clause 80 relating to covering that waste are to be complied with,
- (j) if the substance is clinical or related waste—the requirements of clause 113 relating to the disposal of that waste at a landfill site are to be complied with.

Based on Council's obligations under the Regulation outlined above, along with Council's discussions with the EPA, it is not possible for the Caragabal and Quandialla Waste Facilities to continue at their previous capacity as un-supervised landfill sites. There have been deliberately lit fires, illegal dumping of unauthorised waste including asbestos and tyres, along with vandalism at each site. Not only does an un-supervised facility not comply with clause 111 of the Regulation, but it also creates several potential liability risks for Council should a person be injured on the sites.

Potential Future Rural Waste Options

At the time of closing the two rural waste facilities to the public, Council established a bank of bins within Caragabal and Quandialla, to provide a waste disposal option to those rural residents which did not have access to the village kerbside collection service. This was intended to be a short-term solution, however Council was not fully aware at the time of the remediation requirements that the EPA would ultimately impose.

The communities of Caragabal and Quandialla have raised concerns with both the location and operation of the bank of bins. Due to the scale and costs of the remediation works required at both rural waste facilities, it is likely that the sites will remain closed for some time. It is therefore time to consider alternative longer term waste options for rural residents in the Caragabal and Quandialla areas.

Skip Bins

Members of the public have previously requested skip bins to be placed in accessible locations for access by residents and to replace the bank of 240L bins. This option poses several challenges including cost. To provide two (2) 3M skip bins at each of the villages with a weekly collection would cost approximately \$20,000 per year as a contractor would need to be engaged to offer the service, as Councils garbage truck cannot collect skip bins.

Locating the bins in an unsecure and unsupervised location will also create a potential for misuse, which has been experienced in other local government areas. The dumping of unapproved materials such as asbestos and tyres, would increase the cost of waste disposal and therefore the cost of the service.

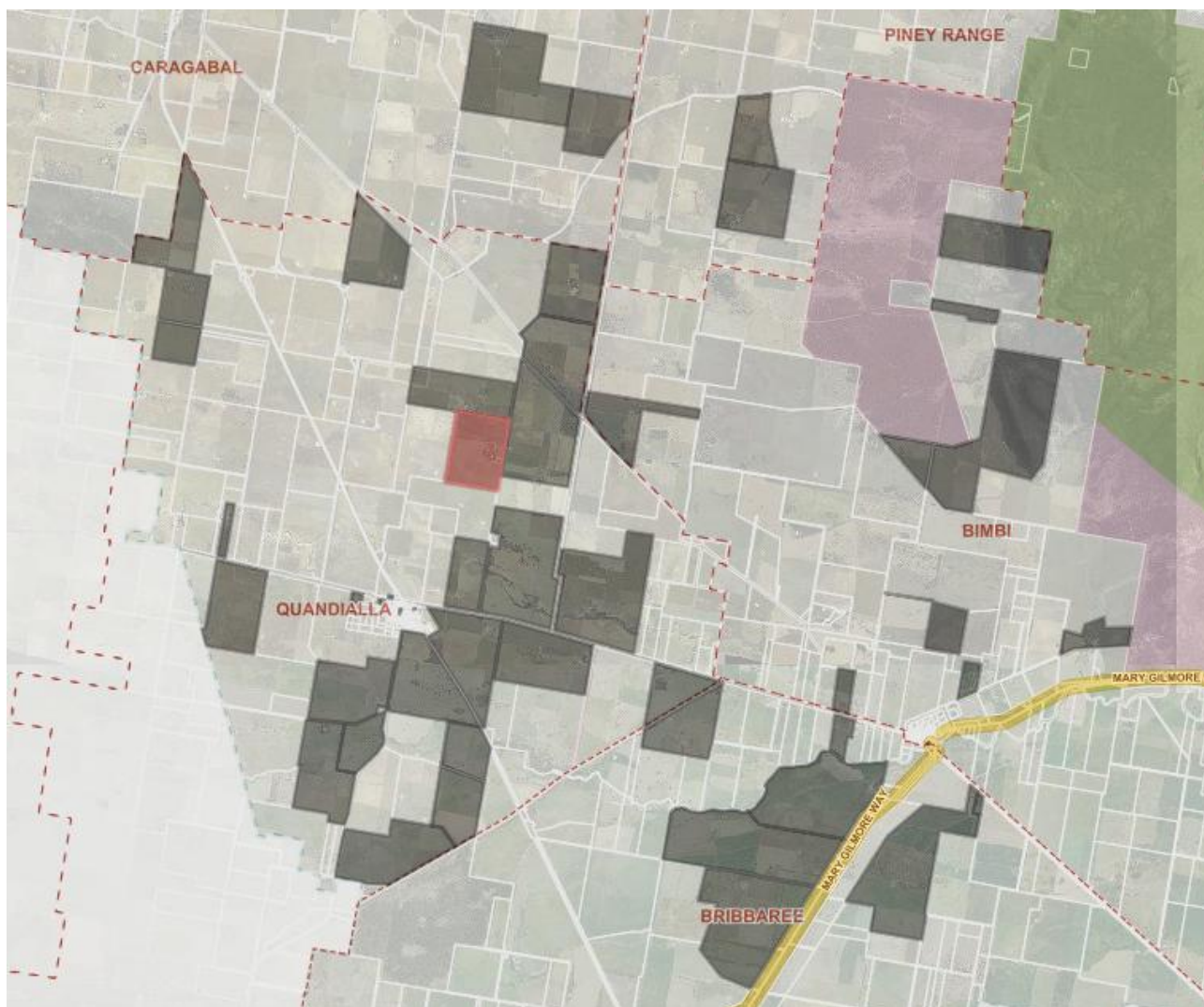
Rural Domestic Waste and Recycling Collection Service

An alternative option to the bank of bins at Caragabal and Quandialla would be for Council to provide a rural domestic waste and recycling collection service for rural residents. **Map 1** below identifies the location of rural dwellings within the Caragabal area which previously had fob access to the Caragabal Waste Facility, and do not currently have a kerbside collection service. A total of 71 rural dwelling locations have been identified.

Map 2 identifies the location of rural dwellings within the Quandialla and Bimbi area which previously had fob access to the Quandialla Waste Facility, and do not currently have a kerbside collection service. A total of 48 rural dwelling locations have been identified.



Map 1. Rural dwelling locations within Caragabal area



Map 2. Rural dwelling locations within Quandialla and Bimbi areas.

As can be seen from **Map 1** and **Map 2** above, the spread of dwelling locations would prevent Council from offering a collection service at each property. However, Council could consult with the local communities to identify suitable strategic locations throughout these areas where residents could drop off their domestic waste bins for pickup. It would need to be ensured that the chosen drop-off locations provide safe and suitable access for the garbage truck and for residents to drop of their bins.

This proposal would be based on a fee for service, with the cost being calculated in accordance with clause 504 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, which requires the charges to be calculated so as to not exceed the reasonable cost to Council of providing the service.

It is anticipated that the likely annual fee would be similar to the village kerbside collection service which is currently \$373 per year for an alternating weekly general waste and recycling service, meaning general waste pick-up one week and a recycling pick up the following week. The service would only be viable if sufficient numbers of residents opted into the service. The fee would be based on a single general waste bin and single recycling bin service, with options available for residents to pay for additional services.

It should be noted that the service would only be suitable to allow for the disposal of normal domestic waste and recycling which can fit within a provided 240L bin. Larger items, E-Waste, tyres and building waste would need to be disposed of to the Grenfell Waste Facility.

If the service was adopted, the bank general waste bins at Caragabal and Quandialla could be removed.

As Council only has one garbage truck it would not be possible to offer the service to all parts of the shire. However, there is a potential that this service could also be offered to residents located along designated routes in the eastern parts of the shire surrounding Greenethorpe.

As part of this option, Council will need to consider the new Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) mandates. Recent legislation which was passed in NSW Parliament requires NSW Councils to offer all households who receive a residual waste collection service with a FOGO service by 1 July 2023. It is unclear at this stage if this would apply to a rural domestic waste collection service as proposed. Exemptions to the mandatory FOGO service requirement have not yet been developed.

Transition of Landfill Sites to Waste Transfer Stations

Transfer stations can play an important role in a community's total waste management system, serving as a link between a community's solid waste collection program and a final waste disposal facility.

In its simplest form, a transfer station is a facility with a designated receiving area such as skip bins where the public can drop off their domestic waste. The waste is then loaded onto a truck and transported to a landfill site, which would be the Grenfell Waste Facility. The waste can then be managed at a single site in accordance with the Regulation. The waste transfer stations would be established within the secured area of each facility, once remediation works have been completed and the site deemed safe.

The specific design of the transfer stations can be tailored to be the most cost effective for the circumstances. Restrictions on the type of waste permitted to be dropped off to the transfer station would need to be put in place. Large items, builders waste, E waste and chemicals would not be permitted, as the system is designed for normal domestic waste. Non suitable items would need to be disposed of directly to the Grenfell Waste Facility is permitted.

There are a range of Work Health and Safety compliance issues with transfer stations which need to be considered, particularly around risk of people falling into skip bins. There are several options available to reduce risks such as having waste drop off structures located at ground level.

To operate a transfer station, the site must be supervised. Council has obtained an initial cost estimate from a contractor to supervise and operate the Caragabal and Quandialla for a period of 3 hours at each facility on the same day. This cost was approximately \$1600 per day. This would equate to \$83,000 if the service was offered weekly, \$41,600 for fortnightly and \$19,200 for monthly. These costs are inclusive of supervising the sites, provision of a truck, loader and skip bin, and the transportation of the waste to the Grenfell Waste Facility.

In the current 2024/25 financial year, Council has budgeted for a total income of approximately \$70,000 from waste charge from rural assessments throughout the whole shire. It is important to note that funds from the rural waste charges not only fund operational costs but also contribute to ongoing maintenance costs and the long-term remediation reserves required for all Council waste facilities. Therefore, if waste transfer stations were

operational more often than monthly, it is likely that rural waste charges would need to significantly increase. Consideration would need to be given as how any increases would be charged, given that rural residents in the eastern parts of the Shire would not be utilising the service.

An advantage of waste transfer stations is a significant reduction in the required long-term remediation costs when compared to a landfill site, as all waste received is transferred to a larger site for disposal. This is a significant consideration given the amount of work and costs which Council is allocating to remediate the sites currently.

Closure of Facilities

Another option Council would be to formally close the two (2) rural waste facilities and rely solely on other waste services such as those mentioned above for residents in the affected areas. Given the close proximity of the two facilities (32km by road), Council could also consider the closure of one (1) of the facilities and re-open the alternative facility in a suitable form.

Since the closure the temporary closure of the facilities, Councillor and staff have received feedback from members of the affected communities that their preference would be for both facilities to be re-opened.

Recommended rural waste options

It is considered that offering a rural domestic waste and recycling collection service for rural residents in the Caragabal, Quandialla and Bimbi areas, and potentially the Greenethorpe area, would be the most viable option moving forward. If Council was to offer this service, it would be recommended that community consultation be undertaken with residents to determine the interest in the service and the most appropriate pick-up locations, noting that residents will need to deliver their bins to those location for collection.

If this service was accepted by the community, Council would still be obligated to continue to undertake the necessary remediation works required at the Caragabal and Quandialla Waste Facilities. Once the remediation works were complete and the sites deemed safe, Council could then transition these sites to waste transfer stations if deemed suitable. These sites could then be open on a monthly basis in order to supplement the proposed rural domestic waste and recycling collection service. The Grenfell Waste Facility would also be available for all residents to dispose of large items, E waste, builders waste and other suitable waste streams.

POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Council is obligated to manage its unlicensed waste facilities in accordance with the minimum standards outlined in the Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2015 (Regulation). Where Council does not meet these standards, it can be found guilty of an offence under s142A of the Act, which attracts a maximum penalty of \$2,000,000 (if the offence involved asbestos waste) or \$250,000, and in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$60,000 for each day the offence continues.

In order to undertake a rural domestic waste and recycling collection service and to transition the two (2) rural waste facilities to transfer stations, there are a number of legal obligations

under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 that will need to be complied with. These requirements will be considered as part of the design and implantation phase.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

To date, a total of \$53,287.74 has been spent on the works directly related to the remediation of the Caragabal and Quandialla Waste Facilities.

The implementation of a rural domestic waste and recycling collection service will have financial and resource implications. As mentioned previously, the service would only be viable if sufficient number of residents opted into the service. If implemented, the cost to residents would be calculated in accordance with clause 504 of the Local Government Act 1993, which requires the charges to be calculated so as to not exceed the reasonable cost to Council of providing the service.

Council has one (1) garbage truck which is required to undertake all kerbside general waste and recycling collections throughout the shire. It has been identified that the proposed rural domestic waste and recycling collection service could be undertaken in conjunction with the existing weekly village services. This will increase the time taken to complete the run, therefore some minor changes to other services within Grenfell may need to occur to allow for this. An initial assessment has identified that the garbage truck driver could undertake the expanded services within permitted driving hours and work hours.

In the event the Council opts to transition the two (2) rural waste facilities to waste transfer stations, there will be financial implications. As mentioned above, a preliminary quotation for a contractor to supervise the sites for 3 hours each on the same day and collect waste and transport to Grenfell Waste Facility was \$1600 per day. If Council was to adopt this option, it is likely a Request for Tender process would need to be undertaken, and therefore the final costs would not be known until this process is complete.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Council staff have continued to consult with the EPA to identify financially viable options to remediate both rural waste facilities. It is anticipated that the planned soil testing and encapsulation design will provide a more realistic and cost-effective solution to deal with potentially asbestos contaminated soils on each site.

Council has continued to liaise with a number of external contractors and consultants regarding the remediation works at each site, and the potential options for the facilities in the long term.

The next steps will be to consult with the relevant stakeholders on the options outlined in the recommendations.

CONCLUSION

The Quandialla and Caragabal waste facilities were closed to the public on 11 October 2023 due to the presence of asbestos contamination on the sites.

A number of remediation works have been undertaken at each site. In addition, Council has been regularly liaising with the EPA regarding a cost-effective solution to deal with asbestos contamination at each facility to make them safe for access. The EPA have recently advised

that they support a proposal put forward by Council to undertake comprehensive soil testing and engineering design work to determine if encapsulation of contaminated soils on the sites would be permitted. Council has engaged a consultancy company to undertake this work, which is expected to begin shortly.

The local communities of Caragabal and Quandialla have raised concerns with the bank of bins which were installed in each village as a temporary measure due to the closure of the waste facilities. A number of potential options are discussed in this report including the potential to offer a rural domestic waste and recycling collection service and the transition to the rural waste facilities to transfer stations.

13.2 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS, CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATES AND COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES

File Number: T5
Author: Executive Assistant to the Director Environmental Services
Authoriser: Director Environmental Services
Attachments: Nil
CSP Objective: Sustainable natural, agricultural and built environments
Precis: Details of development applications, construction certificates and complying development applications determined during the period 1 February to 28 February 2025.
Budget: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the report on development applications, construction certificates and complying development applications determined during the period 1 February to 28 February 2025.

RESOLUTION 053/25

Moved: Cr Makin
Seconded: Cr White

That Council note the report on development applications, construction certificates and complying development applications determined during the period 1 February to 28 February 2025.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Background

Under s. 4.16 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, under delegated authority Council Officers can exercise the power to determine development applications and post consent certificates such as construction certificates and complying development certificates. The following provides a list of the development applications, complying development applications and construction certificate applications determined within the Weddin Shire during the month of February 2025.

Development Applications Determined by Council

The following applications were determined subject to specified conditions, by the Director Environmental Services under delegated authority:

DA NO.	Applicant	Construction	Value (\$)	Address
38/2024	Mr GC Brenner	Construction of Shed and rainwater tank	\$105,000	Lot 801 DP 754578 Brundah Parish

DA NO.	Applicant	Construction	Value (\$)	Address
				GRENFELL NSW 2810
39/2024	Mr EK Cramp	New Single Dwelling to create a Dual Occupancy (Detached)	\$275,000	Lot 5 DP 598767 32 South Street GRENFELL NSW 2810
40/2024	Central West Enterprises Pty Ltd	Change of Use – Business Premises (Funeral Home)	\$0	Lot 1 DP 970660 107 Main Street GRENFELL NSW 2810
41/2024	Mrs KL North	Demolish existing fence and replace with steel picket fence	\$22,000	Lot 53 DP 829604 42 Warraderry Street GRENFELL NSW 2810
1/2025	Approved Services Pty Ltd	New Dwelling & Shed	\$451,854	Lot 242 DP 754578 Manganese Road GRENFELL NSW 2810
2/2025	Mr PR Hedley	Demolish existing dwelling and construction of replacement dwelling	\$723,514	Lot 2 DP 133807 508 Hunters Road GRENFELL NSW 2810
4/2025	Mr DB Harris	Construction of carport	\$5,271	Lot 241 DP 754578 Manganese Road GRENFELL NSW 2810

Complying Development Applications

The complying development certificate applications approved within the Shire in February 2025 by Council or any other Principal Certifiers.

CDC NO.	Applicant	Construction	Value (\$)	Address
CD 1/2025	Ms S McLelland	Alteration and Additions to Dwelling	\$136,500	Lot 1 DP 1308955 47 Forbes Street GRENFELL NSW 2810

Construction Certificates

The following applications were determined by the Director Environmental Services under delegated authority:

CC NO.	Applicant	Construction	Address
30/2024	Mr DJ Freebody	Erection of 1.8m high colorbond fence along part of the Eastern and Western property boundary	Lot 1 Sec 8 DP 758473 1 Middle Street GRENFELL NSW 2810
41/2024	Mrs KL North	Demolish existing fence and replace with steel picket fence	Lot 53 DP 829604 42 Warraderry Street GRENFELL NSW 2810

14 DELEGATE(S) REPORTS**14.1 DELEGATE REPORT | WEDDIN LANDCARE GENERAL MEETING | 4 MARCH 2025****File Number:** E2.3.7**Author:** Councillor John Niven

Attachments:

1. ATT 1 | WEDDIN LANDCARE MEETING SUMMARY | 4 MARCH 2025
2. ATT 2 | WEDDIN LANDCARE ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024
3. ATT 3 | WEDDIN LANDCARE STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027

CSP Objective: Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently**Precis:** To provide Council with relevant information from the Weddin Landcare General Meeting**Budget:** NIL

In my capacity as the Councillor Representative on the Weddin Landcare Committee, I attended the General Meeting on 4 March 2025 and was welcomed by the Chair.

Attached are the Meeting Summary, the Weddin Landcare Annual Report 2023 – 2024 and the Weddin Landcare 2023 – 2027 Strategic Plan for Councillors information.

Moved: Cr Niven

Seconded: Cr Makin

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

14.2 DELEGATE REPORT | WEDDIN HEALTH COUNCIL MEETING | 9 DECEMBER 2024**File Number:** H1.7.7**Author:** Councillor Chad White

Attachments:

1. ATT 1 | WEDDIN HEALTH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTE | 14 OCTOBER 2024
2. ATT 2 | WEDDIN HEALTH COUNCIL - KEY WORKER ACCOMMODATION WALGETT
3. ATT 3 | WEDDIN HEALTH COUNCIL | GRENFELL MPS NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2024

CSP Objective: Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently**Precis:** To provide Council with relevant information from the Weddin Health Council Meeting of 9 December 2024.**Budget:** Nil

In my capacity as the Councillor Representative on the Weddin Health Council, I attended the Weddin Health Council Meeting on 9 December 2024. The Minutes from the 14 October 2024 meeting are attached for Council's perusal. There was one key theme that I felt relevant to bring to Council and that is regarding the Grenfell MPS Development.

I commend the Weddin Health Council on continuing to lobby for Health Services in the Weddin Shire.

Extract of Minutes:

MPS REDEVELOPMENT:

(Action) Peter contacted Mark Spittal again and received the following information:

Grenfell MPS remains a priority for LHD based on our Clinical Services Plan. This was submitted as a Capital Investment Proposal (CIP) last year in the NSW Health's annual asset process Grenfell MPS redevelopment is included in the LHD's list for consideration. Hoping to hear earlier 2025. Peter S, Peter M and Mayor met with Assistant Minister Emma McBride Minister McCormack on 22/08/2024 in Canberra.

(outcome) Email from Mark Spittal – Funding is not determined by LHD, decisions are taken at State level and is reliant on Commonwealth and State agreements.

Funding opportunity links emailed from Ministers offices to Peter M for consideration, Mark Spittal attended January meeting to announce licensing for the additional 9 beds which will help with seeking grants 50% each from commonwealth and state government. upgrade of the community health building over a 4yr plan. Peter M to report back to members next meeting, Peter M seeking recommendations on composing a letter to Steph Cooke.

Dr Hollands willing to attend and meet health council regarding MPS upgrade. Cootamundra Health summit this conversation origin. Health Council to write letter to Dr Holland invite his attendance to next meeting.

Moved: Cr White

Seconded: Cr Rolls

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

15 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**15.1 MINUTES OF THE AUSTRALIA DAY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 18 FEBRUARY 2025**

File Number: F2.6.26

Author: Arts, Tourism & Events Coordinator

Authoriser: Director Corporate Services

Attachments: 1. Minutes from the Australia Day Executive Committee Meeting held 18 February 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

Except where otherwise dealt with, the Minutes of the Australia Day Executive Committee Meeting held 18 February 2025 be noted as presented.

RESOLUTION 054/25

Moved: Cr Rolls

Seconded: Cr Makin

Except where otherwise dealt with, the Minutes of the Australia Day Executive Committee Meeting held 18 February 2025 be noted as presented.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

INFORMATION

The Australia Day Executive Committee Meeting was held on 18 February 2025. The Minutes from this meeting are attached for Council to note and adopt as presented.

16 CLOSED COUNCIL**RECOMMENDATION**

The meeting now be closed to the public under Section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993* to consider the items following because of their confidential nature:

16.1 TENDER FOR THE REPAIR OF HAIL DAMAGED BUILDINGS (SCOPE OF WORKS 02)

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - d(i) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, and Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

PURPOSE: *To obtain a Council Resolution on Request for Tender 43/2024 – Repair of Hail Damaged Weddin Shire Council Buildings – Scope of Works 02.*

16.2 NETWASTE TENDER FOR THE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING OF USED MOTOR OIL

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - d(i) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, and Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

PURPOSE: *To present to Council the evaluation of the NetWaste tender for the collection and recycling of used motor oil and seek a resolution from Council to be a participating Council in the contract.*

RESOLUTION 055/25

Moved: Cr Neill

Seconded: Cr Makin

The meeting now be closed to the public under Section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993* to consider the items following because of their confidential nature:

1 TENDER FOR THE REPAIR OF HAIL DAMAGED BUILDINGS (SCOPE OF WORKS 02)

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - d(i) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, and Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

PURPOSE: *To obtain a Council Resolution on Request for Tender 43/2024 – Repair of Hail Damaged Weddin Shire Council Buildings – Scope of Works 02.*

16.2 NETWASTE TENDER FOR THE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING OF USED MOTOR OIL

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - d(i) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, and Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

PURPOSE: *To present to Council the evaluation of the NetWaste tender for the collection and recycling of used motor oil and seek a resolution from Council to be a participating Council in the contract.*

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Meeting moved to Closed Council at 6:48pm.

17 RETURN TO OPEN COUNCIL

RESOLUTION 058/25

Moved: Cr Rolls

Seconded: Cr Makin

The meeting return to Open Council.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Meeting returned to Open Council at 7:03pm

18 REPORT ON CLOSED COUNCIL

16.1 TENDER FOR THE REPAIR OF HAIL DAMAGED BUILDINGS (SCOPE OF WORKS 02)

RESOLUTION 056/25

Moved: Cr Makin

Seconded: Cr Neill

That Council:

1. Note the report on the evaluation of Tender submissions for the repair of hail damaged Weddin Shire Council buildings – Scope of Works 02.
2. Endorse Tender 43/2024 for the repair of hail damaged Weddin Shire Council buildings – Scope of Works 02, being awarded to Murphy's Remedial Builders Pty Ltd, for the tendered price of \$1,821,815.99.
3. Delegate the General Manager be authorised to execute the contract and apply the Council Seal on the relevant documentation.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16.2 NETWASTE TENDER FOR THE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING OF USED MOTOR OIL
--

RESOLUTION 057/25

Moved: Cr Neill

Seconded: Cr White

That Council:

1. Note the report on the evaluation of tender submissions for the collection and recycling of used motor oil.
2. Endorse NetWaste Tender F4287 for the Collection and Recycling of Used Motor Oil, being awarded to Sam's Waste Management for the pricing structure as set out in this report for the initial two (2) year term with the option of two (2) x 12-month available extensions.
3. Note that as the existing contract expiry date in 2024 has surpassed, a new contract start date for the two (2) year term will be advised by NetWaste upon endorsement from the NetWaste Steering Committee, and then accepted by the host Orange City Council via a Council meeting.
4. Delegate the General Manager be authorised to execute the contract and apply the Council Seal on the relevant documentation for the Collection and Recycling of Used Motor Oil.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

19 CLOSURE

Moved: Cr Rolls

Seconded: Cr Neill

The Meeting closed at 7.07PM.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17 April 2025.

.....
CHAIRPERSON