



# **MINUTES**

## **Ordinary Council Meeting Thursday 15 May 2025**

**Date: Thursday 15 May 2025**

**Time: 5:00pm**

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

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**MINUTES OF WEDDIN SHIRE COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING  
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 73 CAMP STREET, GRENFELL NSW 2810  
ON THURSDAY 15 MAY 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, Deputy Mayor Colleen Gorman, Cr John Niven, Cr Jeanne Montgomery, Cr Simon Rolls, Cr Michael Neill, Cr Wezley Makin, Cr Chad White, Cr Jan Parlett

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms Noreen Vu (General Manager), Mr Luke Sheehan (Director Environmental Services), Mr Anthony Prpic (Acting Director Infrastructure Services), Mrs Auburn Carr (Acting Director Corporate Services), Mrs Da'na Hojlund (Acting Chief Financial Officer)

**APOLOGIES**

Nil

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE APPLICATION**

Nil

## 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

### RESOLUTION 083/25

Moved: Deputy Mayor Gorman

Seconded: Cr Makin

That Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 17 April 2025 be taken as read and CONFIRMED.

**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil

## 7 PUBLIC FORUM

Nil

## 8 MAYORAL REPORTS/MINUTES

<b>8.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF JENNY BENNETT, EXECUTIVE OFFICER AT THE CENTRAL NSW JOINT ORGANISATION</b>
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**File Number:** C2.2.7

**Attachment:** Nil

**CSP Objective:** Democratic and engaged community supported by efficient internal systems

**Budget:** Nil

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1) Note the Mayoral Minute.
- 2) Thank Ms Jenny Bennett for her significant contribution to the Central West including CENTROC and CNSWJO
- 3) Endorse a letter to Ms Jenny Bennett signed by all Councillors to thank her and wishing her well in her retirement.

### RESOLUTION 084/25

Moved: Mayor Best

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Gorman

That Council:

- 1) Note the Mayoral Minute.

- 
- 2) Thank Ms Jenny Bennett for her significant contribution to the Central West including CENTROC and CNSWJO
  - 3) Endorse a letter to Ms Jenny Bennett signed by all Councillors to thank her and wishing her well in her retirement.

**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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I wanted to take the time on behalf of Weddin Shire Council, to acknowledge Ms Jenny Bennett, the Executive Officer of the Central NSW Joint Organisation. Ms Bennett has indicated she will be retiring in the next couple of months and has been a dear friend to Weddin Shire Council.

Ms Jennifer Bennett ('Jenny'), Executive Officer of the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) has devoted 20 years to leading, supporting and motivating staff and councillors across 11 Central NSW councils, including Weddin Shire Council to develop strategies, policies, services and activities that deliver outcomes for the region and the state.

After serving as a councillor on Mudgee Shire Council (1999 to 2004), Jenny then successfully led the Central NSW Regional Organisation of Councils (Centroc) as its Executive Officer from 2006, taking on her current position as Executive Officer of the Central NSW Joint Organisation in 2018.

The CNSWJO, like its predecessor Centroc, has a strong reputation as a leader in the state influencing policy and delivering outcomes across a broad range of complex portfolios including water, health, transport, infrastructure, energy, planning and disaster resilience to name a few.

Leading the State's network of Joint Organisations, Jenny's influence extends beyond the Central NSW region to deliver outcomes for the whole of regional NSW. She is often the first port of call for councils, other Joint Organisations and state agencies for advice and input on strategy, policy and programming to meet the needs of regional NSW.

Through two droughts, increasing challenges from climate variability and pressures from the current political, social and economic environment, Jenny has tirelessly advocated for the needs of the Central NSW region with policy makers, legislators, decision makers, investors and anyone who can advance the interests of the region.

Jenny is an asset to local government. Her qualifications include a Bachelor of Arts, project management and she is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD). She is also a member of the International Association for Public Participation which has informed her collaborative approach and appreciation for the value of collective action to deliver outcomes.

As the Executive Officer of the Central NSW Joint Organisation, Jenny has grown the organisation from four staff to a team of four staff to a team of ten staff.

Our CNSWJO is the best within the State, and this is down to Jenny's dedication. Jenny has developed a regional team model which has grown to support council staff in training, water, transport, net zero, disaster resilience, corporate services, fleet, IP&R, HR, IT & Cyber security, tourism, building surveying and planning.

The governance model ensures that staff and regional projects have buy-in and support from the top. The regional team model includes sponsoring general managers and portfolio mayors for each of the JO's strategic priorities.

Jenny has led and facilitated Central NSW councils' collaborations with key stakeholders influencing plans and strategies for the region including:

- 2009 Centroc Water Security Study – winning an Australian Engineering Excellence award
- 2015 Regional Infrastructure Review and Assessment: Decision Making Matrix
- 2016 Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2036
- 2017 Draft Future Transport 2056 Strategy
- 2021 Macquarie, Lachlan Regional Water Strategies
- 2021 Town Water Risk Reduction Program
- 2023 Business Case on the Nexus Between Energy Security and Emissions Reduction.

Weddin Shire Council has benefited in many of the projects and programs that Jenny has instigated and lead including but not limited to:

- The memorandum of understanding between the CNSWJO and the Rural Doctors Network. Then MoU called for closer collaboration on advocacy in all health matters and a Ministry of Health project to be progressed. Weddin Shire participated in the various workshops and data gathering for a State of Play document.
- The PlaceMat project allows every member Council with a visual comparison with 48 datasets.
- Development of the Weddin Shire Council: Renewable Energy Action Plan which included several actions like installation of solar panels on council assets.
- Councillor induction program which Jenny has delivered twice to our Council.

Council has successfully participated in the exhaustive list of aggregated procurements that the CNSWJO has run for its members councils to ensure value for money and increased buying power. The CNSWJO procurement program alone has delivered close to \$1.9m in cost saving for the 2024/25 YTD through regional contracts.

On behalf of Weddin Shire Council, I would like to sincerely thank Jenny for her fearless leadership and her significant contribution to the central west. I will be attending her farewell event on 28 May 2025 and would very much like to provide a letter endorsed by Council, signed by all Councillors to provide our sincere gratitude to Jenny and wish her well in her retirement.

**8.2 MAYORAL MINUTE - MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE****File Number: C2.2.7****Attachment: Nil****CSP Objective: Sustainable natural, agricultural and built environments****Budget: Nil****RECOMMENDATION****That Council note the report.****RESOLUTION 085/25****Moved: Mayor Best****That Council note the report.****THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

On Tuesday 15 April 2025, Weddin Shire Council hosted a Ministerial Roundtable Meeting. The Hon Jenny Aitchison, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads spent the day in our region and I would like to thank the Minister for taking the time to enable us the opportunity to have a roundtable discussion.

I would like to thank Minister Aitchison, Ms Steph Cooke (Member for Cootamundra), Ms Holly Davis (Director Regional Community Partner – Transport for NSW), Councillors and Executive Management staff for attending the meeting.

Many topics of discussion were covered during the meeting, which included:

- Council's continued concerns on the administration delays of the natural disaster funding. It was suggested that Tripartite funding, forms part of future agreements. How road data could be better collected.
- Advocacy that future grants allow for a greater amount of project administration and management of around 10% rather than 2%
- How Councils can work better to deliver our regional road block grant funding and how the state government could introduce incentives for efficiencies gained across Councils.

It is important that we continue to raise issues that affect rural townships; in particular the need for increased funding for our road network. I would like to thank Minister Aitchison for visiting our region and taking on board our comments and feedback and I would also like to thank Ms Cooke for her continued advocacy for our region. It was great to have Ms Davis attend from Transport for NSW and be able to provide direct feedback regarding the hurdles Councils face with funding.

The Natural Disaster AGRN Tripartite Agreement means less financial pressure on Councils by receiving advanced payments to fund the natural disaster events, faster repairs for communities after natural disasters and better collaboration between state and local government agencies funding the Natural disaster event. Weddin Shire Council initially



received \$5,600,099.87 (20%) advanced payment on the 28 June 2024, this was raised with the Minister at the Roundtable on 15 April 2025. Further we have requested future tripartite agreements allow for funds to be available upfront rather than the delayed process experienced by Council. It was raised with the Minister that the timing of the funds came in end of June 2024 which the winter conditions did not allow for optimum road constructions works. Regardless the funding release was also prior to the approvals being received which also meant council could not utilise the funds. Council has previously written to the Minister on this matter which she acknowledged our plight.

**9 MOTIONS/QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE****9.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - SCENARIO OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION PRIOR TO SPECIAL RATE VARIATION (SRV)****File Number:** C2.8.1**Mover:** Cr Jan Parlett**Attachments:** 1. ATT 1 | Notice of Motion - Scenario Options for Consideration Prior to Special Rate Variation (SRV)**CSP Objective:** Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently**Budget:** NIL**MOTION**

That Council investigates other Scenario options to solve long term sustainability prior to any consideration when applying for any Special Rate Variation (SRV).

**RESOLUTION 088/25****Moved:** Cr Parlett**Seconded:** Cr Niven

That Council investigates other Scenario options to solve long term sustainability prior to any consideration when applying for any Special Rate Variation (SRV).

**THE MOTION WAS DEFEATED****FOR:** Cr Parlett, Cr Niven, Cr Rolls, Cr Neill**AGAINST:** Cr Gorman, Cr Makin, Cr Montgomery, Cr White, Cr Best**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE****RESOLUTION 086/25****Moved:** Cr Parlett**Seconded:** Cr Niven

Council move into a Committee of the Whole to Consider the matter.

**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED****RESOLUTION 087/25****Moved:** Cr Makin**Seconded:** Cr Parlett

Council move out of Committee of the Whole.

**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED**

## SUPPORTING COMMENTS

### FUNDING SOURCE

I would envisage that as Council is in the process of working towards the consideration of a SRV, that additional options could possibly come out of this work.

### Unrestricted Funds

- This will demonstrate to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) that we have attempted to consider all avenues to ensure sustainability.
- My understanding is that it is normal practise to look at least at three Scenarios when applying for a SRV. The current Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2025/2026 to 2034/2035 has one Scenario along with Business as usual.

I would like to see additional Scenarios that potentially look further at:-

- Fees and charges
- Productivity
- Cost savings
- Options to increase grants
- Reducing services

-to achieve long term sustainability without a SRV 15% rate increase over three years.

- There is a huge concern that our community does not have the capacity to pay the suggested-

Scenario one – Enhanced Asset Management that recommends the introduction of a rate increase of 15% for three consecutive years from 2026/2027. This has been mentioned as a 45% increase, but essentially is compounding over the three years and will be closer to 50% +?

- Given we have indicated in our draft Operational Plan- Weddin Shire Socio Economic Profile – that \$1046 is the median weekly household income compared to \$1,829 in NSW, and that the most recent Census shows we have an aging population, any significant increase in rates will impact our community.
- Under section 508A of the Local Government Act 1993, Council can apply for a Special Rate Variation (SRV), only if both the Council and the community approval a program of works to be funded by the SRV. From the presented Financials in the draft LTFP (Long Term Financial Plan) it appears that any SRV would be to finance the increasing salary expenditure and for plant for road works. Our community consultation clearly needs to demonstrate support for Councils sustainability; however, I am unsure that we have as yet ensured our community has grasped a clarity of understanding of the program of works the SRV will cover.

## STAFF COMMENTS

Councillors received a comprehensive briefing on the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) and its scenarios during the full-day Integrated Planning and Reporting Workshop held on 24 February 2025. In addition, standalone workshops were offered on the Budget (5 April 2025) and the LTFP (14 April 2025). These workshops provided important opportunities for Councillors to ask questions regarding the long-term financial sustainability of Council. However, not all Councillors attended these sessions and this question was discussed in the workshops.

In accordance with the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework requires a modelling of different scenarios, that is **planned**, **conservative** and **optimistic**. For Weddin Shire Council planned and conservative are the same approach. And this was explained in detail in the workshop in terms of the modelling of grant income and expenditure. This was also stated in the recording at the Council Meeting of 17 April 2025.

A Special Rate Variation (SRV) has been included in the “Enhanced Asset Management” scenario of the LTFP. The current LTFP which is due to be superseded with this version also included SRV scenarios.

It is a legislative requirement that the LTFP contain multiple financial scenarios for consideration. An additional optimistic scenario will be developed to include in the LTFP that will be presented to Council for adoption at the June 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting. This new scenario could model a 15%+ increase in annual Waste and Sewer charges over three years, as an alternative to the Enhanced Asset Management scenario. However it is noted that the purposes of enhanced asset management will be unable to be achieved through the increase of annual charges because they are externally restricted for a purpose.

The inclusion of an SRV scenario does not mean an SRV will be implemented. If Council decides to proceed with an SRV application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) to increase rates revenue above the rate peg, it will require a formal resolution of Council. The preparation of an SRV application is a significant undertaking that would involve several months of work, including:

- Comprehensive community consultation
- The development of specialist reports
- Compilation of detailed application documentation

While a Notice of Motion has proposed the development of five scenarios for modelling, it is important to recognise that Weddin is a small rural council with limited resources. Any such request must be assessed against the additional workload it imposes on staff, particularly given the ongoing demands of core operations.

It is noted that the LTFP had not been regularly reviewed for close to ten years. Now that Council has built a baseline, it will allow for further scenarios to be modelled at its annual review. As alluded to above, Council may not opt for a SRV process as this is a completely different exercise through IPART.

It is incorrect that the option relates to increase in wages. It is further noted that at the workshop that not all Councillors were in attendance, it was explained there and in the LTFP that staffing numbers were modelled as maintaining status quo by FTE and then drops off with the Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund and Roads To Recovery cessation. It

applied the industry standard of 3% Award increases, superannuation increases, oncosts and insurance. Wages are funded through grants and not the Optimistic scenario and this is an incorrect interpretation.

Additionally, several of the proposed scenarios involve strategic decisions—such as staff redundancies, asset sales, charging market rents for specific properties, and reducing specific services—which staff cannot determine. These are strategic decisions that must be identified by councillors. Staff will need to be advised by Councillors of granular detail on these five themes, to enable accurate financial modelling. Other options can include rates harmonisation but this would require external consultancy to model this option and process separately to the LTFFP.

Other options however can be built into future reiterations of the LTFFP following annual review. It is more important to get the baseline correct, noting that Council has not revisited its LTFFP for many years.

**Comment from the General Manager**

Under Clause 3.6(b) of the Model Code of Conduct, Councillors do not have to disclose an interest as a rate payer or person liable to pay a charge.

Clause 4.2 states that non-pecuniary interests where a reasonable informed person would perceive that one could be influenced by a private interest.

Councillors are encouraged to put in notices of motion that avoids any perception of conflicts of interest around unpaid and overdue rates.

Councillors are encouraged to attend the workshops to understand these documents to ensure their effective understanding of the work that the staff should be applauded for carrying out.

It is recommended that:

- The Council includes an option optimistic modelling of increasing the annual charges.
- That Council builds on the LTFFP in its annual reviews as it understands its financial sustainability with other scenarios.
- That Council note that any future proposed special rate variation requires an extensive consultation process that is separate to the long term financial plan and must follow the Office of Local Government's Assessment Criteria.

## 10 GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

### 10.1 DRAFT LOCAL PREFERENCE POLICY - 01.24.03

**File Number:** 01.24.03  
**Author:** Executive Assistant to the General Manager  
**Authoriser:** General Manager  
**Attachments:** 1. ATT 1 | Draft Local Preference Policy - 01.24.03  
**CSP Objective:** Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently  
**Precis:** To update Council's Local Preference Policy, ensuring it achieves the best value for money in its procurement of goods and services, where possible giving preference to local suppliers.  
**Budget:** NIL

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Note the information contained in this report.
2. Place the draft Local Preference Policy (01.24.03) on public exhibition for a period of 28 with the purpose of inviting submissions from the public and staff.
3. Request the General Manager to present a further report to Council with all the submissions received at the conclusion of the public exhibition period for Council's further consideration and adoption of the policy, or if no submissions are received during the exhibition period, Council formally adopt the Policy, without any changes, as a Policy.

### RESOLUTION 089/25

Moved: Cr Makin  
 Seconded: Cr Neill

That Council:

1. Note the information contained in this report.
2. Place the draft Local Preference Policy (01.24.03) on public exhibition for a period of 28 with the purpose of inviting submissions from the public and staff.
3. Request the General Manager to present a further report to Council with all the submissions received at the conclusion of the public exhibition period for Council's further consideration and adoption of the policy, or if no submissions are received during the exhibition period, Council formally adopt the Policy, without any changes, as a Policy

**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED**

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the draft Local Preference Policy (1.24.03) is for Council to achieve the best value for money in its procurement of goods and services, where possible giving preference

to local suppliers, and non-local suppliers using local content, to support the Weddin Shire economic development.

## **BACKGROUND**

Councils often have a significant role in local and regional economic development. This may include consideration of local supply issues and focused employment participation policies.

The implementation of local preference policies is not necessarily inconsistent with the principles of National Competition Policy. However, the use of local preference in the evaluation of tenders and awarding of contracts possesses inherent risks in terms of anti-competitiveness and the maintenance of defensibility, accountability and probity.

Council previously adopted its Local Preference Policy in March 2017. This document must be read in conjunction with Council's Procurement Policy.

## **ISSUES AND COMMENTS**

Council is committed to the principle of the development of competitive local business and industry when entering Contracts for the supply of goods or services and/or contracts for carrying out of works. It recognises that overall value for money is about the broader economic benefits to the Shire, and not just the lowest price.

This approach seeks to maximise overall community benefit for the Shire. For this purpose, Council will either use a Pricing Preference Concession or Pricing Preference Assessments based on the estimated cost of the Procurement Request.

Updates to the policy which will go out for public exhibition includes further information in on the implementation of the formulas when undertaking procurement evaluations.

## **POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The key features of Council's Procurement framework, which includes LPF are made up of probity (conflicts of interest and confidentiality), periodic risk assessments, periodic training, procurement strategies, internal control systems, designated responsibilities and review arrangements. The information in the attached draft policy provides a brief overview of the holistic framework that is implemented across the different areas of Council to minimise risks associated with best value procurement.

## **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial or resource implications arising from this report.

## **INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION**

The proposal is for the draft Policy to be publicly exhibited for a period of 28 days.

## **CONCLUSION**

The draft Policy acknowledges that economic benefits flow to all local businesses where Council maximises opportunities for local suppliers to compete for Council's business. This supports the growth and prosperity of Council and its ratepayers. Council aims to encourage and support local suppliers, and support economic activity within the Shire, where it is efficient to do so, while achieving the Council's overall value for money objectives.

**10.2 DRAFT STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY**

**File Number:**

**Author:** General Manager

**Authoriser:** General Manager

**Attachments:** 1. ATT 1 | 01.19.01 - Draft Strategic Risk Management Policy

**CSP Objective:** Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently

**Precis:** To provide Council a new Strategic Risk Management Policy

**Budget:** NIL

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council

1. Note the information contained in this report.
2. Place the draft Strategic Risk Management Policy public exhibition for a period of 28 days with the purpose of inviting submissions from the public and staff.
3. Request the General Manager to present a further report to Council with all the submissions received at the conclusion of the public exhibition period for Council's further consideration and adoption of the policy, or if no submissions are received during the exhibition period, Council formally adopt the Policy, without and changes, as a Policy.

**RESOLUTION 090/25**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Gorman

Seconded: Cr Rolls

That Council

1. Note the information contained in this report.
2. Place the draft Strategic Risk Management Policy public exhibition for a period of 28 days with the purpose of inviting submissions from the public and staff.
3. Request the General Manager to present a further report to Council with all the submissions received at the conclusion of the public exhibition period for Council's further consideration and adoption of the policy, or if no submissions are received during the exhibition period, Council formally adopt the Policy, without and changes, as a Policy.

**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED**

**AGAINST:** Cr Niven



## PURPOSE

The Draft Strategic Risk Management Policy is a new policy for Council and provides comprehensive and integrated approach to risk management that aligns with AS/NZS ISO 31000:2018 Risk Management Guidelines and relevant legislation.

## BACKGROUND

The Draft Strategic Risk Management Policy ('Draft Policy') incorporates modern best practices to ensure risks are effectively identified, assessed, managed, and monitored. The Draft Policy considers alignment with Council's strategic objectives, operational needs, and emerging risks such as climate change resulting in natural disaster events and cybersecurity. Under s. 216S of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, Council must adopt and implement a system for managing risk. The Draft Policy links closely with Council's *Risk Management and Internal Audit Policy* which provides our Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee a framework for managing risks. The Draft Policy provides an overarching policy in relation to risk management.

## ISSUES AND COMMENTS

The Draft Strategic Risk Management Policy's ('the Draft Policy') purpose is to ensure that Weddin Shire Council effectively identifies, assesses, manages, and mitigates risks that may impact its ability to achieve strategic and operational goals. The Draft policy supports the development of a risk-aware culture and integrates risk management into decision-making processes across the Council.

The Draft Policy provides an overarching approach to strategic risk management builds a systematic approach to risk management linking in with other policies and plans that assist council in managing risks. Risk management plays a key role in ensuring Council achieves its objectives. Council understands the internal and external risks that may impact how we achieve these objectives. By having systematic processes in place to identify, mitigate, manage and monitor those risks to ensure the best outcome for Council, Staff and the community.

Council's risk environment is dynamic and should always be under review to ensure that all relevant risks are identified, considered and managed. The Policy helps guide council in developing the appropriate tools to provide a systematic approach to risk.

## Self Initiated Improvement Management Plan

Council's self-initiated improvement management plan identified that Council lacked strategic frameworks to help guide our governance and improvement processes. One of the outstanding items include the development of a Strategic Risk Management Framework (this

policy). Council's enterprise risk register has been developed with Council's executive team and provided to our Auditors.

### **POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Policy relates to the

- Local Government Act 1993
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- Risk Management and Internal Audit Policy

### **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial or resource implications arising from this draft policy.

### **INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION**

The Working Draft Strategic Risk Management Policy was tabled to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee and updates have been undertaken in accordance to the advice provided by our ARIC. The public exhibition period allows for further internal consultation as well as external consultation.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Draft Strategic Risk Management Policy is a new policy for Council and provides comprehensive and integrated approach to risk management that aligns with AS/NZS ISO 31000:2018 Risk Management Guidelines and relevant legislation.

The Council support that the new Draft Strategic Risk Management Policy is placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

**10.3 DRAFT WORK, HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY | 16.08.04**

**File Number:** 16.08.04

**Author:** General Manager

**Authoriser:** General Manager

**Attachments:** 1. ATT 1 | DRAFT - WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY - 16.08.04

**CSP Objective:** Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently

**Precis:** To provide Council the updated Draft Work, Health and Safety Policy to include additions as advised by a review of the policy from the WHS Advisor

**Budget:** NIL

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council

1. Note the information contained in this report.
2. Place the draft Work, Health and Safety Policy on public exhibition for a period of 28 days with the purpose of inviting submissions from the public and staff.
3. Request the General Manager to present a further report to Council with all the submissions received at the conclusion of the public exhibition period for Council's further consideration and adoption of the policy, or if no submissions are received during the exhibition period, Council formally adopt the Policy, without and changes, as a Policy.

**RESOLUTION 091/25**

Moved: Cr Makin

Seconded: Cr Rolls

That Council

1. Note the information contained in this report.
2. Place the draft Work, Health and Safety Policy on public exhibition for a period of 28 days with the purpose of inviting submissions from the public and staff.
3. Request the General Manager to present a further report to Council with all the submissions received at the conclusion of the public exhibition period for Council's further consideration and adoption of the policy, or if no submissions are received during the exhibition period, Council formally adopt the Policy, without and changes, as a Policy.

**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED**

**AGAINST:** Cr Parlett, Cr Montgomery

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the Draft Work, Health and Safety Policy (16.08.04) is to provide a framework for the management of the health, safety and wellbeing of Weddin Shire Council Councillors, workers, contractors, volunteers and visitors to Council workplaces. It provides an updated version following a review by Council's WHS Advisor.

## BACKGROUND

This Policy supports the Weddin Shire Council Work, Health and Safety Management System (2023). Work, health and safety apply to all work activities undertaken by workers, contractors, volunteers and visitors to Council workplaces.

## ISSUES AND COMMENTS

Council's Work, Health and Safety Policy was implemented and adopted in May of 2024. At the time the policy was incorporated into *16.8.2 Work, Health and Safety Management Plan* and dated 20 December 2012. As a result a standalone policy was created to support the Council's Work, Health and Safety Management System (2023).

The Draft WHS Policy is a succinct policy in an easy-to-read format with guiding principles. The Draft WHS Policy outlines the roles and responsibilities of personnel in work, health and safety. It is noted the increase psychosocial hazards being reported in the workplace when compared to the more traditional physical injuries such as sprains and twists.

Identifying and eliminating physical and psychosocial health and safety hazards and minimising risks with the aim of preventing work related injury and illness.

A recent review was undertaken of the WHS Policy (version 16.8.3) and further inclusions to the new Draft Policy include:

- Clearly listing Councillors as person to whom the policy benefit and applies.
- Addition of the Commitment statement to apply to all mentioned in the policy.
- Further explanation in roles and responsibilities in accordance with s. 4.1 of the *Work, Health and Safety Act 2011*.
- Reference to the List of Codes of Practice by SafeWork NSW which provides detailed information on how workers can achieve the standards required under the *Work,*

*Health and Safety Act 2011* and providing a link to the library as it currently contains 29 codes.

## **POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Draft Policy relates to the following legislation:

- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*
- Work Health & Safety Regulation 2017
- *Local Government Act 1993*
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
- SafeWork NSW Codes of Practice

## **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial or resource implications arising from this draft policy.

## **INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION**

The proposal is for the draft Policy to be publicly exhibited for a period of 28 days. The draft Policy update will be presented to staff at a Safety Talk during the public exhibition period.

## **CONCLUSION**

The draft WHS Policy sets out the WHS objectives of Council and guides all Councillors, workers, subcontractors, visitors and others listed under the WHS legislation on the WHS expectations required under the policy. This policy also sets out responsibilities and accountabilities in relation to the management of WHS.

The Council support that the new Draft WHS Policy is placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

**10.4 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 8 MAY 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 Resolution Register as at 8 May 2025.

**RESOLUTION 092/25**

Moved: Cr Makin

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Gorman

That Council note the Resolution Register as at 8 May 2025.

**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**PURPOSE**

To provide Council with an update on the current outstanding actions on the Resolution Register as at 8 May 2025.

## 11 CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

### 11.1 COMMUNITY SUPPORT APPLICATION | GRENFELL SOCCER CLUB

**File Number:****Author:** EDO/TPO/ Acting Director Corporate Services**Authoriser:** General Manager**Attachments:** 1. ATT 1 | Community Support Application - Grenfell Soccer Club**CSP Objective:** Innovation in service delivery (healthy, safe and educated community)**Precis:** Grenfell Soccer Club have submitted a Community Support Application**Budget:** \$354.25 or encourage Grenfell Soccer Club to apply for donations in accordance with Council's Donations and In-Kind Policy.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Note the information contained in this report.
2. Approve a donation of 25% to the requested amount or alternatively request the Grenfell Soccer Club to apply for a donation or in-kind support in accordance with Council's Donation and In-Kind Policy.

---

#### RESOLUTION 093/25

Moved: Cr Montgomery

Seconded: Cr White

That Council

1. Note the information contained in this report.
2. Approve a donation of 25% to the requested amount or alternatively request the Grenfell Soccer Club to apply for a donation or in-kind support in accordance with Council's Donation and In-Kind Policy.

**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED****AGAINST:** Cr Neill, Cr Rolls, Cr Makin

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#### PURPOSE

To report to Council on a Community Support Application from the Grenfell Soccer Club for reimbursement of the \$1417.50 annual charge (full amount) to hire Lawson Oval from April to October 2025 for the senior soccer season.

## BACKGROUND

The Grenfell Soccer Club has been part of the Weddin Shire community for over 40 years, offering an annual winter team sport for local residents. Players train during the week and participate in weekend games held in Grenfell and across the region.

The Senior Soccer Club is committed to promoting both participation and development in soccer, with an emphasis on community involvement and mentorship. While the club's primary focus is senior sport, it plays a vital role in supporting junior soccer. Senior players actively volunteer their time for coaching, refereeing, and mentoring.

Weekly training begins in April and runs until October. These structured activities contribute to participants' physical and social wellbeing, while fostering community connection across age groups. Regular training improves fitness, coordination, and discipline, and participation in team sports builds confidence, social skills, and a sense of belonging.

There is an ongoing need within the Weddin Shire community for activities that promote physical health, social inclusion, and intergenerational engagement. Senior sport provides a vital outlet for adults to stay active, connected, and involved in community life.

The use of Lawson Oval is essential for the Club's training sessions, weekend matches, and associated community engagement activities. Access to this facility provides a safe environment for:

- Senior and junior training and weekly competition
- Junior coaching and referee development sessions
- Hosting regional teams from Cowra, Young, Forbes, and surrounding areas

The Club has a proud history of producing high-achieving players, including several who have competed internationally, which is testament to the quality local facilities and dedicated volunteers.

Each fortnight during the winter season, visiting teams travel to Grenfell for Saturday games, providing a welcome boost to the local economy.

While Council currently waives the annual oval usage fee for junior sports clubs, senior clubs are charged. Memberships fees are not sufficient to cover the expenses of the Soccer Club, as such it undertakes various fundraising activities to support its long-term sustainability.

## ISSUES AND COMMENTS

The Grenfell Soccer Club is seeking reimbursement of the annual hire charge for Henry Lawson Oval, of \$1417.50, which is comprised of \$1032.00 for matches and \$385.50 for training.

Council waives the annual usage charges for junior sports clubs; however it does charge senior sports clubs. If Council reimburses the hire charge for Grenfell Soccer Club it will set



a precedent, and the Senior Rugby League and Senior Cricket Club will be likely to also request reimbursement of their hire charges in the future.

In 2024/2025 the Senior Rugby League Club were charged a usage fee of \$1977.00 (\$1591.50 for matches and \$385.50 for training) and Senior Cricket were charged \$1111.00 (\$725.50 for matches and \$385.50 for training).

A donation equivalent to 25% aligns with what other community organisations receive for their rates under Council's Donations and In-Kind Policy. The same approach should be applied. Alternatively the Grenfell Soccer Club can request another type of donation or in-kind support through the Council's Donations and In-Kind Policy.

## POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The request complies with Council's Donations and In-Kind Policy.

## FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The remaining budget for Community Support Applications for 2024/2025, including committed funds, is \$4,797.35.

NEW Donations & In-Kind Support 2025 FINANCIAL YEAR					Hire/In-Kind	Monetary Donation
Weddin Health Care	Community Defib	November/December	Monetary Donation for replacement of battery and pads	239/24	N/A	\$665.00
Cargo 2 Grenfell fundraiser walk	C2G Walk	March	1x Portaloos	277/24	\$347.00	\$500.00
Quandialla Swimming Club	Swimming Carnival	January	Coolroom Hire - Single Axle	001/25	\$648.00	N/A
REDACTED	REDACTED	January	REDACTED	006/25	\$608.00	N/A
The Salvation Army	Weddin Services Day	March	Hire of Conference Room and Spare Office in Community Hub	020/25	\$168.00	N/A
Grenfell Hospital Auxilliary	Central West Hospital Auxiliary Forum	March	Donation of Weddin Mountains Region souvenirs (pens and keyrings)	021/25	\$600.00	N/A
BreastScreen NSW	BreastScreen Van 2025 visit	April	Transport of van with Councils prime mover and set up of traffic cones.	022/25	\$500.00	N/A
Koori Kids	NAIDOC Week initiatives for school students	July	Donation to cover cost of printing and posting materials to local schools.	068/25		\$450.00
Grenfell Soccer Club	Reimburse Charge for use of Lawson Oval for soccer season	May	25% of Annual Charge for use of Lawson Oval for soccer season			\$354.25
			<b>Total New Donations &amp; In-Kind</b>		<b>\$2,871.00</b>	<b>\$1,969.25</b>
			<b>TOTAL Budget remaining for NEW applications</b>		<b>\$4,797.35</b>	
			<b>Budget</b>		<b>\$30,000.00</b>	

## INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Members of the Grenfell Soccer Club, and Councils finance department been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## CONCLUSION

Council should support the Soccer Clubs Community Support Application for donation of up to 25% (\$354.25).

**11.2 GRENFELL PUBLIC LIBRARY OPERATIONS****File Number:****Author:** EDO**Authoriser:** General Manager**Attachments:** Nil**CSP Objective:** Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently**Precis:** To advise Council on the recent transition to Central West Libraries management.**Budget:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council

1. Note the information contained in this report.
2. Formally acknowledge the contribution of Weddin Shire Council staff and volunteers who have worked at the Grenfell Library.

**RESOLUTION 094/25**

Moved: Cr White

Seconded: Cr Makin

That Council

1. Note the information contained in this report.
2. Formally acknowledge the contribution of Weddin Shire Council staff and volunteers who have worked at the Grenfell Library.

**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY****PURPOSE**

To provide the Council with an update on the Grenfell Public Library after the transition to Central West Libraries regional library service on 1 May 2025.

**BACKGROUND**

At the Weddin Shire Ordinary Council Meeting on 19 December 2024, Council resolved to commence the transition of management of Grenfell Public Library to Central West Libraries

and to accept the advice of Central West Libraries in relation to appropriate staffing levels and opening hours.

Central West Libraries is a regional library service comprising the Cowra, Forbes, Manildra, Molong, Blayney and Orange libraries. Under a regional library service, councils enter a formal service agreement for the provision of professional library services under the *Library Act 1939 (NSW)*.

Central West Libraries had previously advised that Grenfell Public Library opening hours and staffing levels were 'generous' and that it was rare for a library to open 5 days a week in a community with under 10,000 people. Central West Libraries suggested the revision of opening hours to 22 hours a week, (5 hours per day 4 days per week and 2 hours on Saturday mornings), which would bring Grenfell Library opening hours into line with Blayney Library, a service in a community of 7497 people (2021 ABS Census).

## ISSUES AND COMMENTS

Weddin Shire Council has entered a Service Level Agreement with for the provisions of regional library services from 1 May 2025 until 30 June 2028. Central West Libraries staff have been in Grenfell regularly during April 2025 for a handover, to familiarise themselves with the facility and meet the local community.

The Service Level Agreement outlines the minimum level of service across Library Management, Strategic Community Focus, Staffing, Collections and Content, Information Technology, Information and Reference Services, Programs, Marketing and Public Relations and Facility Management.

The minimum level of programming that will now be delivered in the library are:

A minimum of three Library wide programs per year:

- Summer Reading Club
- Legal Information Access
- Drug Info

A minimum of four Library wide celebrations per year:

- Australian Library and Information Week- 28 July-3 August 2025
- National Simultaneous Storytime- 21 May 2025
- Children's Book Week- 16 August-23 August 2025
- Family History Week- 6 September-14 September 2025

Development and delivery of one major event each year:

- One Library One Book –junior and adult programs

Ad hoc events including author visits, book launches and children's programs as well as existing local programs of Brain Games, Story Time, Homebound and Knit and Natter will also be offered.

During the 2025 Community Survey undertaken by Micromex Research, community satisfaction with the library was 83%, down from 93% in 2022 when the survey was previously undertaken.

State Library of NSW have confirmed that as a member of a regional library, Weddin Shire Council will continue to receive State Library subsidy payments in accordance with the Library Act 1939 and remains eligible to apply for Public Library Infrastructure Grants.

### **Opening Hours**

The library's opening hours are 22 hours per week consisting of:

Monday- Closed

Tuesday- 10am-12.30pm & 1.30pm – 4pm (5 hours)

Wednesday- 10am-12.30pm & 1.30pm – 4pm (5 hours)

Thursday- 10am-12.30pm & 1.30pm – 4pm (5 hours)

Friday- 10am-12.30pm & 1.30pm – 4pm (5 hours)

Saturday- 10am-12.00pm (2 hours)

Sunday- Closed

The Service Level Agreement allows for an additional two hours for administration each week, necessary for the delivery of Home Bound, and local collection of newspapers and magazines.

The library operating hours may increase or decrease at the request of Council to Central West Libraries.

The Grenfell Public Library's opening hours have varied in recent years:

January 2025- April 2025- 24.5 hours per week Tuesday to Saturday.

August 2023 - January 2025- 30 hours per week Monday to Saturday.

Pre August 2023- 23 hours per week Tuesday to Saturday.

As such, it should be understood that library operations are returning to levels of service that have historically met the needs of our community.

### **Staffing**

Orange City Council the organisation that auspices Central West Libraries, advertised three separate roles at the Grenfell Library. The positions were advertised between 3 April and 16 April 2025. These three roles were a Branch Library Officer to work Tuesday to Friday, a Library Assistant to work on Saturday mornings and a Casual Library Assistant to work as necessary. At the time of writing, the recruitment process was ongoing, and appointments were yet to be made. As such Central West Libraries are using their existing casual pool to staff the Grenfell Public Library until permanent appointments are made and these new staff are onboarded.

### **Procurement**

Council has committed to the ongoing local procurement of magazines, while procurement of other resources will remain via the Central West Libraries network.

### **POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no policy implications from this report.

**FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The annual fee to Central West Libraries is calculated pro rata and is \$188,045 in the 2025/2026 financial year. The annual fee is invoiced quarterly. Had Council remained independent and continued to operate it was, the estimated operating expenses for the 2024/2025 financial year was \$284,000. This would be similar to future years of operation at the way Council was previously managing the library. The transition allows for a cost saving and quality library and education access for our community.

A one-off expense of approximately \$15,000, may apply in the first year to transition Weddin's collection from the Libero Library Management System to Spydus software used by Central West Libraries. Central West Libraries IT staff are investigating the option of managing this data migration internally which will reduce this one off cost.

Weddin Shire Council would remain responsible for all expenses relating to the library Building, cleaning, maintenance, and the IT equipment and public access computers.

Weddin Shire Council will continue to receive the annual State Government Library Subsidy and remain eligible for the State Library Capital Grants.

**INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION**

Central West Libraries and State Library of NSW has been involved in the development of this report. During the 2025 Community Survey undertaken by Micromex Research, community satisfaction with the library was 83%, down from 93% in 2022 when the survey was previously undertaken. During community consultation for our Community Strategic Plan, many participants referenced the need for quality local education. The transition will allow for this to be realised under new management.

**CONCLUSION**

Council is asked to note the information presented. Transitioning the management of Grenfell Public Library to Central West Libraries regional library service and adopting their recommended staffing levels and opening hours, will allow Weddin Shire to comply with the State Library of NSW requirements, offer enhanced library services and programs to our community and will deliver financial savings to council.

**11.3 ARTS, TOURISM AND EVENTS ACTIVITIES FOR FEBRUARY TO APRIL 2025**

**File Number:** C2.6.43  
**Author:** Arts, Tourism & Events Coordinator  
**Authoriser:** EDO  
**Attachments:** 1. Holiday Break Program - Summer24.Winter25 Post Event Report  
**CSP Objective:** Culturally rich, vibrant and inclusive community  
**Precis:** Arts, Tourism and Events Activities – February to April 2025  
**Budget:** Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council note the report.

**RESOLUTION 095/25**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Gorman

Seconded: Cr Makin

That Council note the report.

**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council the Arts, Tourism & Events information for the period of 1 February to 30 April 2025.

**Statistics**

Month	No. of visitors	Sales	Gallery Sales
February	333	<b>Merchandise:</b> \$914.25 <b>Services*:</b> \$376	Grenfell Artists Inc – \$2,687.50
March	342	<b>Merchandise:</b> \$524 <b>Services*:</b> \$227.20	Extraordinary Ordinary - \$6,781.50
April	487	<b>Merchandise:</b> \$1,097.95 <b>Services*:</b> \$97.50	

Services\* include Hub Hire, Caravan Park, Gallery Donations, Printing/Photocopying

**Meetings/Workshops attended**

- ABC – Talk of the Town
- Australia Day Committee Meetings
- Taylor Park progress meetings
- Destination Network Central West – stakeholder event and quarterly board meeting
- CNSWJO Marketing Subcommittee Meeting and Tourism Manager Meetings
- LG Events Network – May meeting

- Henry Lawson Festival and WSC meeting
- Finance and procurement meetings

### Weddin Mountains Region Events

- Glow in the Dark Silent Disco
- Creative Chaos
- Brick Envy (assist)
- Grenfell Art Gallery Exhibition Installations/Opening
  - Extraordinary Ordinary by Phil Rogerson, Heather Vallance and Rebecca Dowling
  - A Backpack Full of Glassware – Five Years Moving Forward by Linda Chant

### Projects and Grants

Grant	Project	Status
LRCI phase 4	Festoon lighting	Project management: Final project tasks to be completed and signed off by Council.
SCCF-r4 – 0650	Village Streetscapes	Project management: Final consultation held with villages. Variation submitted.
SCCF-r4 - 0782	Grenfell Rugby Union Grounds Irrigation	Grant management: Project finished and ready to be acquitted.
SCCF-r5	Taylor Park Redevelopment and Inclusive Play space – Stage 1	Project management: Work started.
	Strengthen villages by enhancing sports / showground facilities and providing freedom camping areas (Caragabal, Quandialla and Greenethorpe)	Project management: Procurement has begun.
LSCA	Public EV Destination Charger	Project management: Quotes received
	Remediation of softfall in playgrounds	Successful. To be done in conjunction with Taylor Park to save on costs, such as freight.
Creative Capital	Grenfell Art Gallery Upgrades	Project management: Successful with variation for extended completion date. Hail damage repair work to be completed first.
Transport for NSW Open Streets Program	Light Up the Night 2024/2025 Event	Acquittal complete.
Department of Regional Youth Summer & Autumn Holiday	Summer and Autumn school holiday events	Events successfully held.

Grant	Project	Status
Break Program 2024/25		
Transport for NSW Open Streets Program	Light Up the Night events for FY 2026, 2027, 2028	Application submitted. Awaiting outcome.
NSW Social Cohesion Grants for Local Government Round 4 - Bolstering the Local Government Response to Hate in NSW	Hands of Weddin	Application submitted. Awaiting outcome.

#### visitweddin.com.au Google Analytics

	February	March	April
<b>E-commerce</b>	\$394.25	\$90	\$113.45
<b>Users</b>	849	1,403	1,204
<b>Events</b> (user interactions on the website or app)	5,793	16,204	8,086
<b>Top 5 pages</b>	Home Accommodation Grenfell Motel Visitor Guide Events	Home Accommodation Grenfell Motel Visitor Guide Bed and Breakfast self contained	Home Events -Weddin Shire 2025 ANZAC Day details Accommodation Grenfell Motel Events - Grenfell Picnic Races



**11.4 STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES AND BANKING FACILITY 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 30/04/2025, 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 096/25**

Moved: Cr Neill

Seconded: Cr Montgomery

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 30 APRIL 2025.**

Below is a list of all of the current bank balances for each account, as at 30 April 2025.

Table 1 below provides a summary of the current bank balances for each account, as at 30 April 2025.

<b>Bank Account</b>	<b>\$</b>
Westpac – Operating account	\$3,248,991.19
Westpac – Business Cash Reserve	\$828,620.48
Westpac - Short Term Deposits	\$0.00
CBA Term Deposits (Table 2)	\$10,000,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,077,611.67</b>

Table 1: Bank Balances as at 30 April 2025

### Commonwealth Bank Investments

Table 2 below provides a summary of Commonwealth Bank Term Deposits as at 31 March 2025 showing interest earned and interest rates of current investments.

	Invested Date	Maturity Date	Rate %	Invested Amount \$	Interest Earned \$
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	
Commonwealth Bank	06/03/2025	04/06/2025	4.61	\$ 500,000	
Commonwealth Bank	07/03/2025	05/06/2025	4.61	\$1,000,000	
Commonwealth Bank	18/03/2025	16/06/2025	4.61	\$ 500,000	
Commonwealth Bank	18/03/2025	16/06/2025	4.61	\$ 500,000	
Commonwealth Bank	18/03/2025	16/06/2025	4.61	\$1,000,000	
Commonwealth Bank	25/03/2025	23/06/2025	4.61	\$ 500,000	
Commonwealth Bank	7/04/2025	7/06/2025	4.46	\$1,000,000	
Commonwealth Bank	23/04/2025	23/06/2025	4.36	\$ 500,000	
Commonwealth Bank	23/04/2025	23/06/2025	4.36	\$ 500,000	
Commonwealth Bank	23/04/2025	23/06/2025	4.36	\$1,000,000	
<b>Total Interest – Year to Date</b>				<b>\$10,000,000</b>	<b>\$269,352.89</b>

Table 2: Commonwealth Bank Investments as at 30 April 2025

### Westpac Investments

Table 3 below provides a summary of Westpac Banking Corporation Term Deposits as at 30 April 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
<b>Total Interest – Year to Date</b>				<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$119,498.64</b>

Table 3: Westpac Bank Investments as at 30 April 2025

**TOTAL CASH (BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD FROM TABLE 1)      \$14,077,611.67**

### **LESS: EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED BALANCES AS AT**

#### **30 APRIL 2025**

Restricted cash balance specific purpose

Unexpended grants      \$ 7,199,764

Domestic Waste management      \$ 250,000

Developer Contributions – Sewer Fund      \$ 128,000

Sewer Fund      \$ 353,000

**Total Restricted cash      \$ 7,930,764**

### **LESS: LIABILITIES AS AT 30 APRIL 2025**

#### Current Liabilities

Employee Leave Entitlement      \$ 759,761

Borrowings      \$ 115,975

#### Non-Current Liabilities

Employee Leave Entitlement      \$ 150,029

Borrowings      \$ 3,210,455

**Total liabilities** **\$ 4,236,220**

**ADD: ACQUITTED GRANTS/FUNDING (Unrestricted Cash)**

Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Phase 2	\$	51,853
Weeds Action Plan	\$	66,250
Fixing Local Roads Round 3	\$	882,640
Financial Assistance Grant 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarterly Payment	\$	<u>157,059</u>

**Total Grants/Funding** **\$ 1,157,802**

**TOTAL CASH available NOT EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED/LIABILITY** **\$ 3,068,430**

**INTERNAL ALLOCATIONS AS AT 30 APRIL 2025**

Plant Income		\$ 318,570.29
Hogbin Trust		\$ 80,201.96
Cemetery Prepaid fees		\$ 113,752.55
Gravel Pits		\$ 278,103.98
Galvins Pit	\$ 86,086.80	
Matthews Pit	<u>\$192,017.18</u>	

**Total Internal Allocations** **\$ 790,628.78**

**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.

**11.5 RATES AND CHARGES COLLECTION - APRIL 2025**

**File Number:** R1.4  
**Author:** Rates Clerk  
**Authoriser:** Management Accountant/CFO  
**Attachments:** 1. ATT 1 | WSC Newsletter Issue 3 - April 2025  
**CSP Objective:** Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently  
**Precis:** To provide Council a summary of the rates and charges collection for April 2025.  
**Budget:**

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council note the information update on rates and charges collection for the month of April 2025

**RESOLUTION 097/25**

Moved: Cr Neill  
Seconded: Cr Rolls

That Council note the information update on rates and charges collection for the month of April 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 April 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 30 April 2025.

**Rates Collected to the month of:**

	Period to 30 April 2025	Period to 30 April 2024
Rates and Charges Collected (C)	\$ 3,847,392.45	\$3,586,701.47
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,847,392.45</b>	<b>\$3,586,701.46</b>

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	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)
<b>Net Amount Levied (B)</b>	<b>\$ 4,686,103.47</b>	<b>\$ 4,385,968.68</b>
<b>Total amount rates incl. arrears (A + B)</b>	<b>\$ 5,160,443.09</b>	<b>\$ 4,773,005.72</b>
Less: Total amount collected (current and arrears) (C)	\$ 3,847,392.45	\$ 3,586,701.47
Add: Rate Accounts in Credit (income in advance)	<b>\$ 101,527.23</b>	<b>\$ 74,668.35</b>
<b>Total rates outstanding</b>	<b>\$ 1,414,577.87</b>	<b>\$ 1,260,972.60</b>

## 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 1595 printed Instalment 4 Rates Notices as well as 271 emailed notices for the 2024/25 financial year. The rates newsletter is attached for reference.

Council **outstanding rates and annual charges** (includes interest charged as at April 2025 was \$349,937.82 plus the rates paid in advance of \$101,527.23 = **\$451,465.05**. As a comparison, Rates and annual changes receivable was **\$592,000** in the 2024 Financial

statements (C1-3). As a percentage, this is approximately **9.63% in arrears** (the OLG benchmark of <10% of rates charged) and a reduction of 2.52% 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.

**11.6 QUARTERLY BUSINESS REVIEW STATEMENT (QBR) AS AT 31 MARCH 2025**

**File Number:** A3.4.2  
**Author:** Executive Assistant to the General Manager  
**Authoriser:** General Manager  
**Attachments:** 1. ATT 1 | QBR Q3 for Period Ending 31 March 2025  
**CSP Objective:** Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently  
**Precis:** Statutory Report – QBR Q3 Report to Council  
**Budget:** \$ NIL

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council

1. Note and receive the FY 2025 Quarterly Business Review Statement (QBR) Quarter 3.
2. That Council Revote \$43,908 from 5. Governance (Licences, conferences, memberships) and apply to 5. Corporate Admin Services (Revaluation Costs).

**RESOLUTION 098/25**

Moved: Cr Rolls

Seconded: Cr Gorman

That Council

1. Note and receive the FY 2025 Quarterly Business Review Statement (QBR) Quarter 3.
2. That Council Revote \$43,908 from 5. Governance (Licences, conferences, memberships) and apply to 5. Corporate Admin Services (Revaluation Costs).
3. That Council Revote Capital Program Roads to Recovery and Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund and the Natural Disaster AGRN 1034 as outlined in the attachment.

**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**AMENDMENT**

Moved: Cr Rolls

Seconded: Cr Gorman

That Council

1. Note and receive the FY 2025 Quarterly Business Review Statement (QBR) Quarter 3.
2. That Council Revote \$43,908 from 5. Governance (Licences, conferences, memberships) and apply to 5. Corporate Admin Services (Revaluation Costs).



3. That Council Revote Capital Program Roads to Recovery and Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund and the Natural Disaster AGRN 1034 as outlined in the attachment.

**THE MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED  
THE AMENDMENT BECOMES THE MOTION**

## **PURPOSE**

The Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) is a financial reporting system that presents a summary of Council's financial position at the end of each quarter of the financial year.

## **BACKGROUND**

The QBRs consists of a Responsible Accounting Officers (RAO) statement, Operational Income and Expenditure Budget Review, Contracts Awarded, Consultant Expenses, Legal Expenses, and Capital Program.

The QBRs is designed to facilitate progress reporting against the original and revised budgets at the end of each quarter, provide explanations for major variations, and enable the RAO to indicate to Council how it is performing at as Quarter 3 2025 and will be in a satisfactory financial position at the end of the 2025 financial year.

## **ISSUES AND COMMENTS**

The QBRs Quarter 3 (Q3) Report is attached for Council's consideration and includes information on:

- 2025 Budgeted Profit and Loss by Program
- Profit and Loss as at 31 March 2025 by Fund
- Statement of Financial Position by Fund as at 31 March 2025
- Contracts, Consultants and Legal Budget Review Statement
- Capital Program

The Capital Program provides an update of projects in alignment to the information provided in the revised 2025 Operational Plan endorsed by Council at its 20 February 2025 meeting (Resolution 14/25).

The following provides the Council a summary of information provided in the QBRs Q3 FY 2025 of observations:

## **1. GENERAL, SEWER & WASTE FUNDS**

### **General Fund Budget**

#### **Revenue**

- Rates & Annual Charges and Rental income are in line with our forecasted amounts in our 2025 Operational Plan.
- User Charges and Fees are above expectations by 251% due to the revenue for the Road Maintenance Council Contract (RMCC) works was not forecasted in 2025 Operational Plan as TfNSW had not approved the work at the time Council approved the 2025 Operational Plan.

- Other Revenues have increased by 468% on the forecasted 2025 Operational Plan due to Council crushing their own gravel (limit at 30,000 tonnes) and on charging to the respected grant road works instead of purchasing through contractors. The additional revenue will be used for quarry restoration works.
- Council has strategically changed the investment processes seeking maximum returns on our funds by placing more funds into interest bearing accounts at higher interest rates when the 2025 Operational Plan was approved. This change has resulted in improvements to Q3 where we have earned \$418,744.09 which represents 196% of our annual interest and investment revenue budget.
- Grant funding is 29% of anticipated budget due to the huge reduction in approved Natural Disaster AGN1034 works. Council has not received any Natural Disaster AGN1034 funding this year despite Natural Disaster Tripartite Agreement.

### Expenses

- Employee costs remain a significant area of focus for Council, and were reported in the 2024 audited financial statements at \$7.0 million (including all on-costs). Council consciously decided to replace outsourcing as much as possible with local casual employees to perform road works like traffic control and general labouring activities. The benefit of this is that this money is retained in the local economy and community. The financial impact is that contractor costs are lower, however wages are higher.
- As at Q3, actual employee costs were \$5.687 million or 82% of budget. When annualised, this represents approximately 7% above budget, however the impact of Christmas/New Year leave will likely counteract that back towards the annual budget.
- Materials & Contracts costs are still low as at Q3 with only 24% of the budget being spent. This is in large part due to seasonal factors with road works not taking place until the warmer months in Q2 and Q3, however this also continues to be exacerbated by delays in approval/commencement of disaster recovery road works.
- Depreciation has not been included in Q3 operational costs, however it is anticipated that we will have this capability shortly.

### Sewer Fund Budget

#### Revenue

- Revenue through rates collection and charges are as anticipated through Q3.

#### Expenses

- Employee costs for Q3 are 89% of budget. When annualised, this represents approximately 14% above budget, however one employee wages will be split across road projects reducing Q4 wages.
- Materials and contract costs represent 57% of budget, however the timing of orders is subject to requirements.

## **Waste Management Budget**

Council resolved to create an external restriction for waste management and immediately internally allocate \$100,000 to domestic waste management. We will then transfer a further amount of \$150,000 in the 2025 year which was voted on in the June 2024 Council Meeting as part of our 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan.

This will build a reserve for future restoration and rehabilitation costs. The intention is that all annual operating surpluses will then transfer to this fund to increase it over time and restricted for water purposes. An operational surplus of \$198,000 has been forecast in the 2025 budget, current surplus Q3 is \$325k and it is anticipated that this operating surplus will then appropriate to the reserve at the end of the financial year.

The Waste Management Fund commenced on the 1/07/2024.

### **Revenue**

- Revenue through rates collection and charges are as anticipated through Q3.

### **Expenses**

- Employee costs for Q3 are 79% of budget. When annualised, this represents approximately 4% above budget
- Materials and contracts are at 66% of budget, however the timing of orders are subject to requirement and so there are no concerns at this stage.

## **2. OTHER MATTERS**

### **Environmental Services**

- The temporary closures of the Quandialla and Caragabal tips continues to be a significant area of concern.
- The costs to clean up the site in accordance with the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) requirements and longer term ability to set up a waste management fund to deal with the future rehabilitation which remains unknown and a significant concern.
- Temporary measures such as the bank of bins at both Quandialla and Caragabal tips will require a change in management approach if the closure continues into an extended period. This may impact on the resourcing in this area.

### **Infrastructure Services**

- As previously advised, Council's sewer fund will be a concern into the future as the costs to operate and maintain the new plant have proven to be higher than anticipated. Council is continuing its review of operating costs for the Sewer Treatment Plant, particularly in the areas of chemicals and labour. However, the structure within the Wastewater Treatment Plant team may result in a reduction in wages will have an offset as the Traineeship is funded by the Office of Local Government for a period of two years.
- Council was recently awarded a number of traineeships and apprenticeship positions through the Fresh Start Program. This will allow for the workforce to increase as we employ a number of positions. Employees have commenced from

Round 1, with future grant income to be reflected once received. However, noting that the oncosts will be funded by Council.

- An alternative or additional option would be to review User Charges and Fees to recoup some of these higher operational costs.
- Council has submitted 7 (seven) Natural Disaster AGRN1034 Packages for reconstruction works with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) and have received approval for all packages.
- As part of the Natural Disaster Tripartite Agreement, Council's advance payment of \$5,600,099.87 was based on 20% on the approved or strategic estimated Natural Disaster packages. Note, advance payment included Natural Disaster Package 1 90% progress payment of \$1,007,229.71 received on the 31 Jan 2024.
- In the March 2024 QBRS we reported that the Natural Disaster AGRN1034 Packages - Package 3 and Package 6 respectively had their 'upper limit' approved. Note, Package 1 was approved and completed. Package 3 was reduced by \$838,750.99 (43%) and Package 6 was reduced by \$1,616,409.97 (18%).
- As at QBRS 2 2025, TfNSW approved Natural Disaster Package 2 and Package 4, however the 'upper limit' on these packages were reduced with Package 2 reduced by \$586,196.70 (34%) and Package 4 reduced by \$2,776,635.48 (55%).
- As at QBRS Q3 2025, TfNSW recently approved Natural Disaster Package 5 and Package 7, however the 'upper limit' on these packages were reduced with Package 5 reduced by \$6,208,198.75 (58%) and Package 7 reduced by \$1,170,269.01 (75.5%).
- Now that all Natural Disaster packages have been approved by TfNSW, as part of the Natural Disaster Tripartite Agreement, Council requested an advanced payment of \$3,524,057.13 (30%). This on top of the previous 20% Council has already received.
- As at QBRS Q3 2025, Package 3 is 90% completed with progress payment submitted to Transport for NSW for \$2,836,972.93.
- As at Q3 2025, Package 6 is 75% completed with a progress payment to be submitted to TfNSW of \$472,211.94.
- Council has outsourced the revaluation of Council's road, bridges, pathways, culverts and stormwater assets as per audit requirements and future Asset Management Strategy.
- Council has traditionally never set a tree removal/arborist budget within its operations. Tree trimming on regional and state roads are covered by the various grants. With the weather events and growth seasons of the last couple of years, Council has been inundated with tree removal requests/tree trimming requests. A small budget was set for this financial year of \$20,000. The increasing levels of service that Council is expected to maintain does not align with Council's income and revenue. Council will soon be finalising its budget for the 2025/2026 financial year and consideration of these levels of service and the community's expectation as well as safety will need to be appropriately factored in.

- Council is currently organising financial arrangements for the jet patcher. Council's ageing plant continues to be a concern as they are nearing the end of life, however Council has not had a plant replacement reserve to access. At present the jet patcher dry hire costs are being offset by the RERRF funding, however comes at an unnecessary cost, had Council been able to establish a proactive plant replacement reserve. Other plant (all three grader and two rollers) has broken down in recent months which has impacted not only on road service delivery but added to maintenance costs to render them operational. Council's tipper trucks are at its end of life. In addition, Council will need to look at the purchasing of trailers to transport a number of our plant and equipment to comply with WHS regulations.
- RMAP expenditure is slightly behind where we had planned to be due primarily to competing priorities with the increased focus on Natural Disaster State Roads, but also driven by a significantly increased budget by TfNSW. Council will endeavour to utilise as much of the approved funding as possible.

### Corporate Services

- Council is progressing well with its four-stage upgrade of a major IT upgrade to CIVICA Authority 7.1 and server upgrades. Stage 1 (Enterprise Resource Management module) and Stage 2 (e-Services) are completed, and work has commenced on Stage 3 (Content Management). The final fourth stage of the upgrade, Asset Management, is expected to commence toward the end of calendar 2025 or early 2026.
- As part of the upgrade, a Customer Response Management (or CRM) system will be implemented and will allow for customers to be notified when jobs are completed.
- Council will continue to provide details on the strengthening of IT and Cyber Security throughout the year.
- Council has also rolled out IT and Cyber Security Awareness training for staff and has been extended to cover our new employees that have commenced in recent months. Maintaining and refreshing this level of awareness will continue to strengthen Council against a potential cyber-attack.
- Additional servers that were proposed/budgeted for 2025 are currently being investigated with firming up of costs and project plan currently being undertaken.
- Further to previous communications regarding the advised breach of s.409 of the *Local Government Act 1993* in respect of the Henry Lawson Festival's (a s.355 committee of council) operation of a bank account, this matter continues to be unresolved as of writing. Discussions continue between stakeholders to ensure all are aware of and understand the imposition of this breach on council, and to enable productive discussions and actions that will result in an efficient, effective, and transparent resolution for all that will return council to a legislative compliant position as soon as practicably possible.
- Council has recently been awarded a number of traineeships and apprenticeship positions through the Fresh Start Program with Round 1 traineeships and apprenticeships already commenced with Council and Round 2 currently been assessed by Local Government for approval. This will allow for the workforce to

increase as we employ a number of positions. However, noting that the oncosts will be funded by Council.

- Council is undertaking its annual insurance renewal program. Based on experience across the industry, there is an expectation of a greater than normal percentage increase in insurance premiums across all categories of cover.

Council's Executive Team have been consulted on the issues raised in this QBRS.

## **POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct policy or legal implications.

Under section 203 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 of the Council is required to table and endorse a budget review statement no later than 2 months after the end of each quarter. The Responsible Accounting Officer must prepare and submit to the Council the QBRS that shows by reference to the estimate of income and expenditure set out in the statement of the council's revenue policy included in the operational plan for the relevant year, a revised estimate of the income and expenditure for that year.

## **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The following is a summary of financial and resourcing implications for Council.

## **Q3 PROPOSED BUDGET VARIATIONS**

### **General Budget**

That Council Revote \$43,908 from 5. Governance (Licences, conferences, memberships) and apply to 5. Corporate Admin Services (Revaluation Costs).

## **INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION**

Council's Executive Team have been consulted on the issues raised in this QBRS.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Quarterly Budget Review Statement for Q3 is attached.

## 12 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORTS

### 12.1 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORT - APRIL 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 SERVICES REPORT – APRIL 2025**Budget:** Nil

### RECOMMENDATION

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

### RESOLUTION 099/25

Moved: Cr Montgomery

Seconded: Cr Makin

That Council receive and note the information provided on infrastructure works completed in April 2025 and planned works for May 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 April 2025 planned works for May 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 Unsealed Roads Submitted scope of works to TfNSW approved (last correspondence February 2025) Package 2 Scope includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Unsealed roads (non-priority)</li> <li>o Tree &amp; vegetation clearing</li> </ul> <p>Roads included are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abbots Lane</li> <li>• Adams Lane – Greenethorpe (receiving quotes from Contractors)</li> <li>• <b>Adams Lane North – Gooloogong (completed)</b></li> <li>• <b>Adelargo Road (completed)</b></li> <li>• Andersons Road</li> <li>• Arramagong Road</li> <li>• <b>Back Piney Range Road (completed)</b></li> <li>• <b>Bald Hills Road (complete)</b></li> <li>• Beazleys Lane</li> <li>• <b>Bembricks Lane (completed)</b></li> <li>• Berendebba Lane</li> <li>• Bimbi St (Caragabal-Quandialla Road)</li> <li>• Bobelar Lane</li> <li>• Campbells Lane</li> <li>• Clay Pit Road (partial)</li> <li>• Dixons Lane</li> <li>• Dunkleys Lane</li> <li>• Eualdrie Road</li> <li>• <b>Eves Lane (completed)</b></li> <li>• Gerrybang Road-I</li> <li>• Gerrybang Road-II</li> <li>• <b>Gibraltar Rocks Road (completed)</b></li> <li>• <b>Goodes Lane (completed)</b></li> <li>• Grants Lane</li> <li>• Grimms Lane (started)</li> <li>• Hancock-Flinns Road (started)</li> </ul>



AGRN Event	Phase - Package	\$ Value (Subject to Change)	Status
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hancock-Williams Road (completed)</b></li> <li>• Hazells Road</li> <li>• Healys Road</li> <li>• Heathcotes Lane</li> <li>• Holy Camp Road</li> <li>• <b>Kangaroooby Road (completed)</b></li> <li>• Major West Road (partial)</li> <li>• McCanns Lane</li> <li>• <b>McDonalds Lane (completed)</b></li> <li>• Melyra Street</li> <li>• Napiers Road</li> <li>• <b>O'Loughlins Lane (completed)</b></li> <li>• <b>Peaks Creek Road (completed)</b></li> <li>• Piney Range Hall Road</li> <li>• Pinnacle Road</li> <li>• Reeves Lane</li> <li>• <b>Sandy Creek Road (completed)</b></li> <li>• South Street</li> <li>• <b>Taylors Road (completed)</b></li> <li>• West Street</li> <li>• <b>Yambira Road (completed)</b></li> </ul>
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"> <li>• <b>Line marking work on Henry Lawson (completed)</b></li> <li>• <b>Driftway Road (completed)</b></li> <li>• <b>Deaths Lane (completed)</b></li> <li>• Henry Lawson Way – Forbes – planned to start mid May 2025</li> <li>• <b>Morangarell Road (completed)</b></li> <li>• <b>Quandialla Caragabal Road (completed)</b></li> </ul>
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"> <li>• <b>Adelargo Road (completed)</b></li> <li>• <b>Bald Hills Road - East West (completed)</b></li> <li>• <b>Ballendene Road (completed)</b></li> <li>• Bewleys Road (started)</li> <li>• Goodes Lane</li> </ul>

AGRN Event	Phase - Package	\$ Value (Subject to Change)	Status
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gooloogong Road (MR237) (line marking required)</li> <li>• <b>Hunters Road (completed)</b></li> <li>• <b>Keiths Lane (completed)</b></li> <li>• <b>Mortray Road (completed)</b></li> <li>• <b>Muncks Lane (completed)</b></li> <li>• <b>Piney Range Hall Road (completed)</b></li> <li>• <b>Sandy Creek Road (completed)</b></li> </ul>
1034 - 14 September 2022 onwards	EPA-RW - P5 - South Patching	\$5,438,043.61	<p>Heavy Patching on Sealed Roads Submitted scope of works to TfNSW for Package 5 approval (last correspondence April 2025). Request for tender planned for July/August 2025, with work due to commence October/November 2025. Scope of works include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back Piney Range Road</li> <li>• <del>Berrys Road (removed by TfNSW)</del></li> <li>• Bimbi-Quandialla Road</li> <li>• <del>Bimbi-Thuddungra Road (removed by TfNSW)</del></li> <li>• Bland Road</li> <li>• Bradley Street (new)</li> <li>• Edward Square, Greenethorpe</li> <li>• Eualdrie Road</li> <li>• Gambarra Road</li> <li>• Gerrybang Road</li> <li>• <del>Gooloogong Road (R096/MR237) (removed by TfNSW)</del></li> <li>• Greenethorpe-Bumbaldry Road</li> <li>• Greenethorpe-Koorawatha Road</li> <li>• Grenfell Street</li> <li>• Holy Camp Road</li> <li>• landra Road</li> <li>• Margaret Street (new)</li> <li>• <del>James Street (removed by TfNSW)</del></li> <li>• Martins Lane</li> <li>• Melyra Street</li> <li>• Murrays Lane</li> <li>• Newton Street</li> <li>• Nowlans Road</li> <li>• Old Forbes Road</li> <li>• Sale Street</li> <li>• <del>Second Street (removed by TfNSW)</del></li> <li>• <del>South Street (removed by TfNSW)</del></li> <li>• <del>Talbot Street (removed by TfNSW)</del></li> <li>• <del>Third Street (removed by TfNSW)</del></li> </ul>

<b>AGRN Event</b>	<b>Phase - Package</b>	<b>\$ Value (Subject to Change)</b>	<b>Status</b>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tyagong Creek Road</li> <li>• Wirega-Greenethorpe Road</li> </ul>
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.</p> <p>90% of work completed (last correspondence February 2025)</p> <p>Roads included are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Arramagong Road (completed)</b></li> <li>• <b>Bald Hills Road (completed)</b></li> <li>• <b>Barkers Road East (completed)</b></li> <li>• <b>Barkers Road North (completed)</b></li> <li>• <b>Gannons Lane (completed)</b></li> <li>• <b>Lynchs Road (completed)</b></li> <li>• <b>Maddens Lane (completed)</b></li> <li>• <b>McCanns Lane (completed)</b></li> <li>• <b>Napiers Road (completed)</b></li> <li>• <b>Nealons Lane (completed)</b></li> <li>• <b>Reeves Lane (completed)</b></li> </ul>
1034 - 14 September 2022 onwards	EPA-RW - P7 - Sinking Culverts & Drain Cleaning	\$730,944.41	<p>Approval received (last correspondence April 2025)</p> <p>Request for tender planned for July/August 2025, with work due to commence October/November 2025.</p> <p>Culvert list being planned.</p>

## **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 June 2025 which is funded through the Regional Local Roads Repair Program (RLRRP). Waiting for EPA approval to move spoil to local tip.

### **Nowlans Road Upgrade**

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

### **Arramagong Road Culvert Replacement**

- Council started construction works in late March 2025 and expected to be finished by June 2025.

### **Caragabal Shared Pathway Stage 1**

- Council work is complete and ARTC has joined path and waiting for ARTC to upgrade upgrade level crossing (due March 2026).
- **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**

Plant Report for April 2025			
2097	Nissan	Due for service	Full service
4105	Grader	Exhaust, steps, mirrors and due for service	Serviced and repaired
3963	Izuzu	Crane to be replaced	Replaced crane
3965	Garbage truck	Fuel Filters to be replaced	Replaced fuel filters
4121	Grader	Air filters to be replaced	Replaced air filters
4108	Grader	Due for service and filters	Serviced and filters replaced
4120	Loader	Air filters to be replaced	Replaced air filters
5149	Spray Rig	Pump hose replacement	Replaced pump hose
5233	Rapid spray	Broken pump drive	Replaced broken pump drive

Plant Report for April 2025			
5202	Howard Slasher	Blades damaged	Replaced blades
5288	Howard slasher	Drive shaft to be replaced	Replaced drive shaft
2083	Nissan	Intercooler needs replacing	Replaced intercooler
3229	Delta Truck	Battery needs replacing	Replaced battery
2105	Toyota	Due for service	Full service
1132	Toyota Hilux	Battery needs replacing	Replaced battery
1134	Toyota Hilux	Battery needs replacing	Replaced battery
3957	Western star	Drive tyres need replacing	Tyres replaced
3960	Trailer	Locking system needed repairs	Repaired locking system
3959	Trailer	Brake boosters needed replacing	Replaced brake boosters
4116	Toro Mower	Blades needed replacing	Blades replaced
4117	Toro Mower	Blades needed replacing	Blades replaced
4129	Skid Steer	Air filters needed replacing	Replaced air filters
4095	John Deer	Due for service	Serviced
4118	Caravan trailer	Wheels bearings need replacing	Replaced wheel bearings
4119	Caravan Trailer	Wheels and bearings	Replaced wheel bearings
5103	Dean Trailer	Tyres, lights and wheel bearings	Replaced tyres, lights and wheel bearings

Council is using a JetPatcher under a rental agreement.

## **BIOSECURITY**

Three (3) staff members were available in April 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
<b>Administration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly report, mapping, BIS uploads, inspections and weeds loaded on Chartis Weeds App, email correspondence, review weed spraying program and plan</li> </ul>

ACTIVITY	LOCATION
	<p>of action, review relevant budget totals, review/reply Service Requests when received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WAP activities aligned with WO &amp; tasks</li> <li>• Jaime Elms – Junior Vice Chairman MLVWC – researching grants, fulfilling duties we are obligated under our WAP agreement, public awareness campaign through MLVWC Facebook page</li> <li>• Regional inspection plan update in process</li> <li>• Chemical issues through Authority</li> <li>• Service request reviews</li> <li>• Toolbox, risk assessments, plant sheets, TMP's &amp; timesheets</li> </ul>
<b>Public Awareness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handing out merchandise to raise weed awareness</li> <li>• Social media campaign</li> <li>• Spot and Report signs waiting installation - looking into available grants to have signs installed</li> <li>• Red guide post reinstalled (Coolatai Grass)</li> </ul>
<b>Mapping</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weed information mapped, synced and uploaded to DPI</li> <li>• New components of Chartis being utilised and/or trialled</li> </ul>
<b>Meetings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awaiting on news of delegates for Local weed committee and dates for meetings</li> </ul>
<b>Training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continual drone training/practise</li> <li>• EMtrain online modules</li> <li>• Local weed identification</li> <li>• Compliance &amp; regulatory training rescheduled for May (2 staff)</li> </ul>
<b>Private Property Inspections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information packages collated for landholders to receive during planned inspections (or as requested)</li> <li>• WAP target agreement for private property inspections completed</li> </ul>
<b>Roadside Inspections and On-ground Control, if Required</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuous roadside inspections</li> <li>• Limited control when environmental conditions allow</li> <li>• Priority weeds mapped during inspection for future control</li> </ul>
<b>Council Owned Land</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council owned /managed vacant land, Grenfell and village areas</li> <li>• Bio staff been assisting in other areas such as Parks &amp; Gardens spraying, Cemetery spraying</li> </ul>
<b>Travelling Stock Route (TSR) Inspections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continually inspected during high risk pathway inspections</li> </ul>
<b>Other High Risk Sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cemetery, silos, camping areas, rest areas</li> </ul>
<b>Sucker Control</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sucker control carried out when conditions suit and sighted focusing on regional roads</li> </ul>



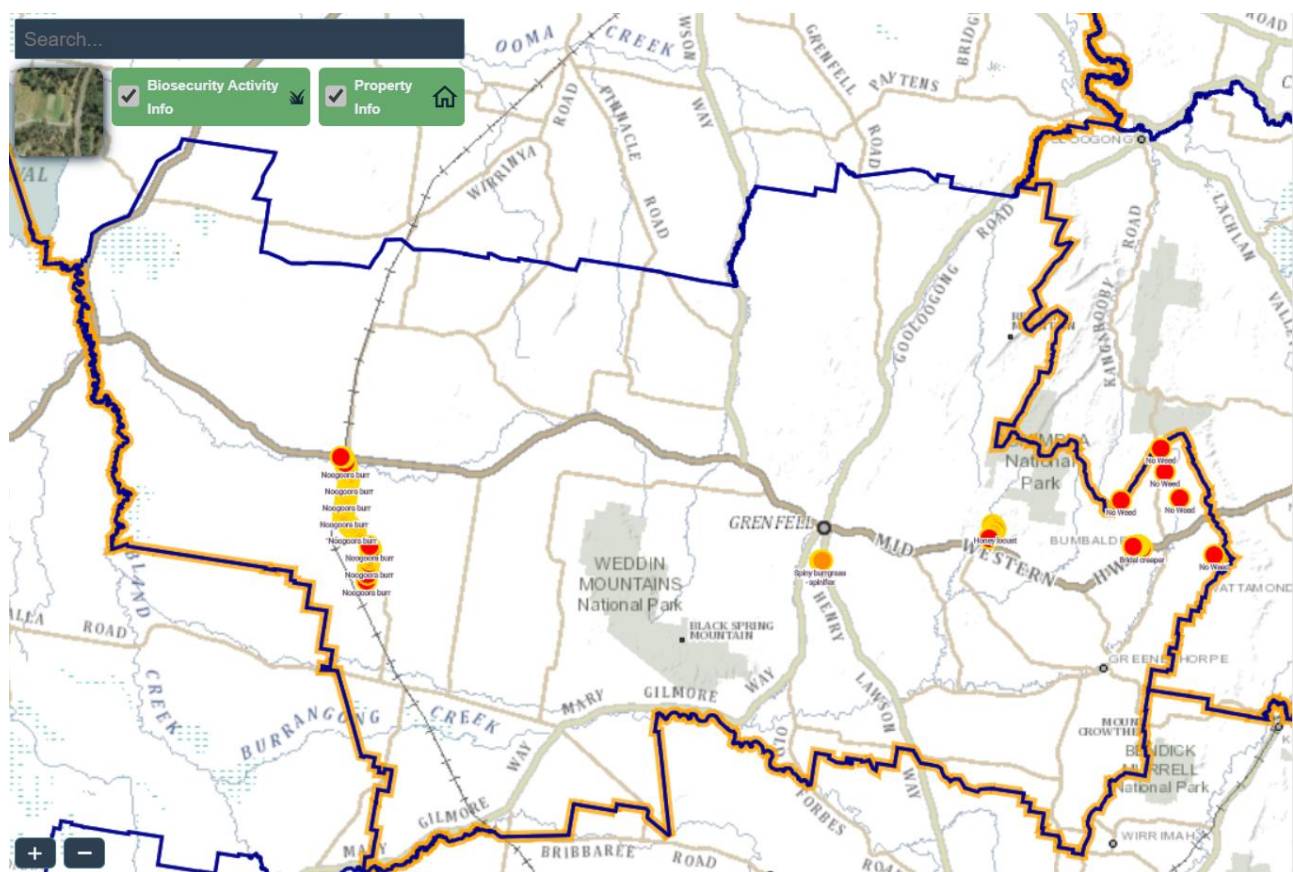
ACTIVITY	LOCATION
<b>Biological Control</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing research in Biocontrol for additional tools for use in Priority Weed Control</li> <li>• African boxthorn rust was released with State Forest in June 2024, will monitor throughout coming months. Another release planned in the near future</li> </ul>
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mentoring staff members in Biosecurity</li> </ul>

### Chemicals Used

Glyphosate	30 litres
Grazon	30 litres

96 Control measures were conducted over the Weddin Shire Council in April 2025. The maps below shows an overview of the locations treated. NOTE – Cooler weather results in lower Priority weed occurrence, focus on sucker control, training & inspections during winter.

April 2025



### MAIN STREET UPDATE



**RESOLUTION 070/24**

Moved: Cr Frame

Seconded: Cr McKellar

Moved: Cr Frame

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 in Main Street**

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 WEDDIN SHIRE FINAL DRAFT BUSH FIRE PRONE LAND MAP**

**File Number:** T2.1.16  
**Author:** Director Environmental Services  
**Authoriser:** Director Environmental Services  
**Attachments:** 1. Weddin Shire Current Bush Fire Prone Land Map  
2. Weddin Shire Final Draft Bush Fire Prone Land Map  
**CSP Objective:** Sustainable natural, agricultural and built environments  
**Precis:** The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 includes provisions aimed at protecting people and property from bush fires. Council is required to regularly review its Bush Fire Prone Land map. A new final draft Bushfire Prone Land Map has been development in conjunction with the NSW Rural Fire Service.  
**Budget:** Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Council note the information within the report and final draft Bush Fire Prone Land Map for the Weddin Shire.
2. Council place the final draft Bush Fire Prone Land Map on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, inviting feedback from members of the community, and in the event that submissions are received a further report be prepared to Council with details of any submissions, alternatively, if no submissions are received, Council endorse the final draft map and refer to the NSW Rural Fire Service for the certification process.

**RESOLUTION 100/25**

Moved: Cr Neill

Seconded: Cr Makin

1. That Council note the information within the report and final draft Bush Fire Prone Land Map for the Weddin Shire.
2. Council place the final draft Bush Fire Prone Land Map on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, inviting feedback from members of the community, and in the event that submissions are received a further report be prepared to Council with details of any submissions, alternatively, if no submissions are received, Council endorse the final draft map and refer to the NSW Rural Fire Service for the certification process.

**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to inform Councillors and the public of a final draft Bush Fire Prone Land Map for the Weddin Shire, which has been prepared by the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) in conjunction with Council.

The draft map has been prepared in accordance with the new NSW RFS Bush Fire Prone Land Mapping Guidelines, and if endorsed by Council, will be referred to the NSW RFS for certification.

## BACKGROUND

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (the Act) includes provisions aimed at protecting people and property from bush fires.

Clause 10.3 of the Act requires Council to request the Commissioner of the NSW RFS to designate land (if any) within the area that the Commissioner considers, having regard to the bush fire risk management plan, to be bush fire prone land, and record any land so designated on a map.

A bushfire prone land map is used under the Act to determine which development applications require assessment under the NSW RFS Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019. It is important to note that this doesn't automatically mean that bush fire protection measures will apply. The specifics of the development including its location, topography, vegetation category and development type, will determine the actual measures needed.

The current bushfire prone land map, which is shown in **Attachment 1**, was generated as part of the preparation of the Weddin LEP 2011, and currently remains in force. It is now overdue for Council to request the Commissioner of the NSW RFS to re-designate land within the Shire to be bush fire prone land and prepare a new bushfire prone land map.

## ISSUES AND COMMENTS

Changes to the landscape may occur from time to time and therefore bush fire prone land maps are required to be regularly reviewed and updated.

Council was contacted by the NSW RFS in November 2024 in order to review the current Weddin Shire bush fire land map, and has since been working in conjunction with them to prepare a final draft Bush Fire Prone Land Map in accordance with the NSW RFS Bush Fire Prone Land Mapping Guidelines and requirements of the Act. A copy of the final draft map is included in **Attachment 2**.

As part of the preparation of a bushfire prone land map, vegetation categories are identified and determined for all land within the Shire, including both private and public land. **Table 1** below provides details of the bushfire prone land vegetation categories:

Category	Description	Vegetation formation (Keith, 2004)
Vegetation class 1	This vegetation category has the highest combustibility and likelihood of forming fully developed fires including heavy ember attack and spot fires.  Includes 100 metre (m) buffer.	Dry Sclerophyll Forests
		Wet Sclerophyll Forests
		Grassy Woodlands
		Forested Wetlands
		Heathlands
Vegetation class 2	This vegetation category has lower combustibility and/or limited potential fire size due to the vegetation area shape, size, topography, and management practices. This includes lower risk vegetation like remnant vegetation (see definition in Glossary) or other parcels of land that present a bush fire hazard and are neither Category 1 or 3 and are not excluded (see Section 7.3)  Include 30 m buffer.	Rainforest  (lower risk remnants could comprise any formations)
Vegetation class 3	This vegetation category is considered medium bush fire risk vegetation. Details of inclusions and exclusions of grasslands are provided in the Glossary.  Include 30 m buffer.	Grassland
		Freshwater Wetlands
		Arid Shrublands (Acacia and Chenopod)
		Semi-Arid Woodlands (shrubby and grassy sub-formations)
		Alpine Complex

**Table 1.** Bushfire prone land vegetation categories.

Since the preparation of the current bushfire prone land map, vegetation class 3 including grassland, has been adopted as a vegetation category that must be considered in the preparation of a new bushfire prone land map. As a result, a larger proportion of the Shire has been identified as being bushfire prone in the draft map as provided in **Attachment 2**.

The RFS Bush Fire Prone Land Mapping Guidelines provides several exclusions to bushfire-prone land mapping, including:

- Single areas of vegetation less than one hectare in area and greater than 100 metres separation from other areas of Category 1, 2 or 3 vegetation.
- Multiple areas of vegetation less than 0.25 hectares in area and not within 20 metres of each other.
- Strips of vegetation less than 20 metres in width, regardless of length and not within 20 metres of other areas of Category 1, 2 or 3 vegetation.
- Areas of “managed grassland” including grassland on, but not limited to, recreational areas, commercial/industrial land, residential land, airports/airstrips, maintained public reserves and parklands, commercial nurseries.
- Areas of managed gardens and lawns within curtilage of buildings.
- Non-vegetated areas, including waterways, exposed beaches, roads, footpaths, buildings and rocky outcrops.

- Managed botanical gardens.
- Land used for orchards, vineyards, market gardens, nurseries.
- Saline wetlands including mangroves unless dominated by sedges or other flammable vegetation.
- Other areas that, due to their size, shape and overall risk, are not considered Category 1, 2 or 3 vegetation.

In the event that the final draft Bush Fire Prone Land Map is endorsed by Council and certified by the NSW RFS, it will replace the current map, and the NSW RFS will update the state-wide bush fire prone land mapping layer, 10/50 boundary clearing tool and bush fire prone land mapping tool. All relevant NSW agencies will also be notified, and updates made to the NSW Planning Portal along with the Weddin LEP.

It is recommended that the draft bushfire prone lands map be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, inviting feedback from members of the community. In the event that submissions are received a further report will be provided to Council with details of the submissions. Alternatively, if no submissions are received, Council it is recommended that Council endorse the draft map and refer to the NSW RFS for the certification process.

## **POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Council is required to comply with the requirements of the Act in regards to bushfire prone land and associated mapping, in particular Section 10.3. The final draft Bush Fire Prone Land Map has been developed as required by the Act and in conjunction with the RFS, using the RFS Bush Fire Prone Land Mapping Guidelines.

## **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

There is not expected to be any significant financial implications for Council to complete the review of the bushfire prone land map and seek NSW RFS certification. Council staff have aided with the preparation of the final draft map within normal operations.

## **INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION**

NSW Rural Fire Service has been working in conjunction with Council to prepare a final draft bush fire prone land map. It is recommended that the draft bushfire prone lands map be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, inviting feedback from members of the community.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Act requires Council to regularly review bushfire prone land mapping. The NSW RFS in conjunction with Council has developed a final Draft Bush Fire Prone Land Map, which has been developed in accordance with the NSW RFS Bush Fire Prone Land Mapping Guidelines. Due to changes in vegetation categories including the introduction of grasslands as being bush fire prone land, a larger proportion of the Shire is proposed to be mapped as bush fire prone.

It is recommended that the final draft bushfire prone land map be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days inviting feedback from members of the community. If submissions are received a further report will be provided to Council. In the absence of any submissions

being received, it is recommended that the draft map be referred to the NSW RFS for certification.

## 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:** List of development application, construction certificate and complying development application determined during the period 1 April 2025 to 30 April 2025.

**Budget:** Nil

### 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 April 2025.

### Development Applications Determined by Council

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

DA NO.	Applicant	Construction	Value (\$)	Address
5/2025	Mr NJ O'Brien	Storage Shed with Carport	\$19,950	Lot 286 DP 754578 39 Brundah Street GRENFELL NSW 2810
6/2025	Mr JM Dawes	Carport	\$12,565	Lot 1 DP 724965 72 West Street GRENFELL NSW 2810

### Complying Development Applications

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

CDC NO.	Applicant	Construction	Value (\$)	Address
NIL				

**Construction Certificates**

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

<b>CC NO.</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Construction</b>	<b>Address</b>
39/2024	Mr EK Cramp	New Single Dwelling to create a Dual Occupancy (Detached)	Lot 5 DP 596767 32 South Street GRENFELL NSW 2810
1/2025	Ms L Langford	New Dwelling and Shed	Lot 242 DP 754578 Manganese Road GRENFELL NSW 2810
4/2025	Mr DB Harris	Construction of carport	Lot 241 DP 754578 Manganese Road GRENFELL NSW 2810
5/2025	Mr NJ O'Brien	Storage Shed with Carport	Lot 286 DP 754578 39 Brundah Street GRENFELL NSW 2810
6/2025	Mrs JM Dawes	Carport	Lot 1 DP 724965 72 West Street GRENFELL NSW 2810



**13.3 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO PLANNING PROPOSAL - RECLASSIFICATION OF COMMUNITY LAND TO OPERATIONAL LAND**

**File Number:** T2.2.15

**Author:** Director Environmental Services

**Authoriser:** General Manager

**Attachments:** Nil

**CSP Objective:** Shire assets and services delivered effectively and efficiently

**Precis:** It is proposed to amend the Planning Proposal for the reclassification of various Council owned allotments from community land to operational land, to remove Site 7 being Lot 133 DP 1081488 Stan McCabe Drive Grenfell, and lodge a separate Planning Proposal for this site.

**Budget:** Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Note the information contained in this report.
2. Endorse the removal of Site 7 being Lot 133 DP 1081488 Stan McCabe Drive Grenfell, from the current Planning Proposal lodged with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure;
3. Endorse a separate Planning Proposal being lodged with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for the reclassification of Lot 133 DP 1081488 Stan McCabe Drive Grenfell, from community land to operational land including the removal of its public reserve status.

**RESOLUTION 102/25**

Moved: Cr White

Seconded: Cr Rolls

That Council:

1. Note the information contained in this report.
2. Endorse the removal of Site 7 being Lot 133 DP 1081488 Stan McCabe Drive Grenfell, from the current Planning Proposal lodged with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure;
3. Endorse a separate Planning Proposal being lodged with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for the reclassification of Lot 133 DP 1081488 Stan McCabe Drive Grenfell, from community land to operational land including the removal of its public reserve status.

**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MOTION**

**RESOLUTION 101/25**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Gorman

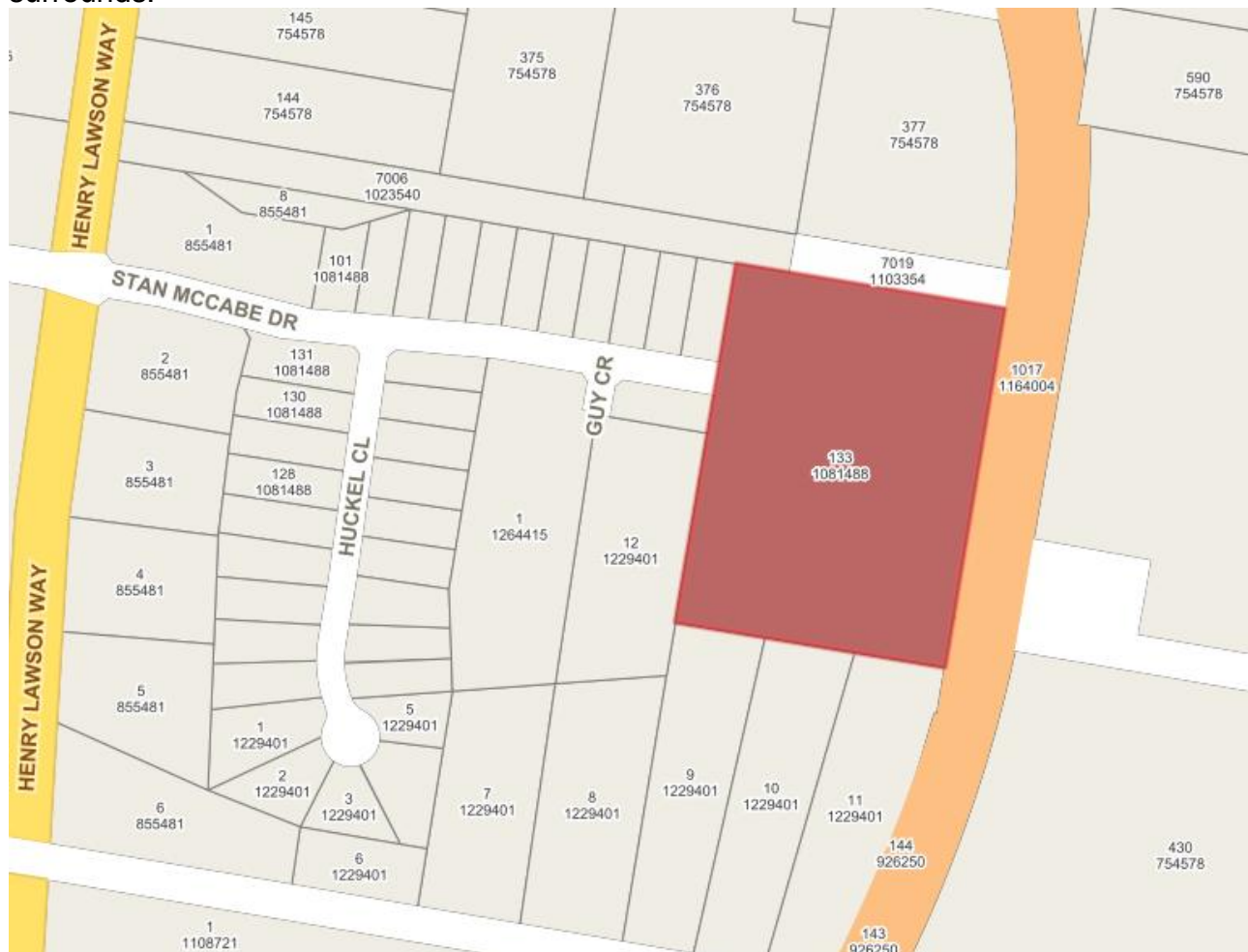
Seconded: Cr Montgomery

That Council accept the late report 13.3.

**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY****PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement to remove Site 7, being Lot 133 DP 1081488 Stan McCabe Drive Grenfell, from the Planning Proposal which is currently lodged with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (the Department) for the reclassification of selected Council owned allotments from Community Land to Operational Land, and for the lodgement of a separate individual Planning Proposal for the site.

**Map 1** below indicates the location of Site 7 (Lot 133 DP 1081488) in relation to its surrounds.



**Map 1.** Locality plan showing Site 7.

## **BACKGROUND**

Council at its meeting held on 19 December 2024 resolved to endorse the lodgement of a Planning Proposal to the Department for the reclassification of 16 Council owned allotments from Community Land to Operational Land.

The Planning Proposal was submitted to the Department via the NSW Planning Portal on 22 January 2025, with a request for additional information being received on 4 February 2025. The information requested by the Department was uploaded to the portal on 5 February 2025. The Planning Proposal is currently under assessment by the Department.

## **ISSUES AND COMMENTS**

On 8 May 2025 Council was contacted by the Department to advise that due to Site 7 currently being a public reserve and the Planning Proposal including the removal of the public reserve status, this would require the Governor's approval. It was further advised that this would likely add a minimum of 6 months to the assessment timeframe of the Planning Proposal.

It was recommended that Council consider removing Site 7 from the current Planning Proposal and pursue the reclassification of this site and subsequent removal of the public reserve status, via a separate Planning Proposal.

For the potential reclassification of the remaining 15 sites to progress in a timely manner, it is recommended that Site 7 be removed from the current Planning Proposal, and a separate Planning Proposal be lodged for this site. A separate Planning Proposal for Site 7 would include the same information regarding the site which is contained in the current proposal.

## **POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The proposed removal of Site 7 from the current Planning Proposal and the lodgement of a separate Planning Proposal for the site, does not create any additional policy or legal implications.

## **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

There are not direct financial implications associated with the recommendation in this report. However, if Council resolves to separate Lot 7 into an individual Planning Proposal, there will be some additional costs incurred during the required community consultation process. In addition to separate advertising costs, two Public Hearings would also need to be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of clause 29 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and clause 3.34 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, which may increase costs. It is anticipated that these costs can be covered within existing budgets.

There will be some resource implications as staff will need to modify the current Planning Proposal document and generate an additional Planning Proposal document specifically for Site 7. This work can be undertaken within normal operations.

## **INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION**

If a gateway determination is received from the Department, it is proposed to undertake community consultation on the Planning Proposal in accordance with the strategy outlined in the Proposal. This will include advertising throughout the local community and referrals to any relevant State and Commonwealth public authorities. A Public Hearing is also proposed to be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of clause 29 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and clause 3.34 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Should Council endorse a separate Planning Proposal being submitted for Site 7, the same public consultation process is proposed to be undertaken.

## CONCLUSION

A Planning Proposal for the reclassification of 16 Council owned allotments from Community Land to Operational Land was lodged with the Department. As Site 7 is currently a public reserve and the proposal includes the removal of the public reserve status, it has been advised that this will add a minimum of 6 months to the assessment timeframe.

For the potential reclassification of the remaining 15 sites to progress in a timely manner, it is now recommended that Site 7 be removed from the current Planning Proposal, and a separate Planning Proposal be lodged for this site.

## 14 DELEGATE(S) REPORTS

Nil

## 15 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

<b>15.1 MINUTES OF THE AUSTRALIA DAY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 29 APRIL 2025</b>
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**File Number: F2.6.26**

**Author: Arts, Tourism & Events Coordinator**

**Authoriser: EDO**

**Attachments: 1. 1. Minutes from the Australia Day Executive Committee Meeting held 29 April 2025.**

## RECOMMENDATION

Except where otherwise dealt with, the Minutes of the Australia Day Executive Committee Meeting held 29 April 2025 be noted as presented.

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## RESOLUTION 103/25

Moved: Cr Rolls

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Seconded: Cr Parlett

Except where otherwise dealt with, the Minutes of the Australia Day Executive Committee Meeting held 29 April 2025 be noted as presented.

**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED**

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The Australia Day Executive Committee Meeting was held on 29 April 2025. The Minutes from this meeting are attached for Council to note and adopt as presented.

<b>15.2 COMMITTEE REPORT   RECEIVE AND NOTE   DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 5 MARCH 2025</b>
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**File Number:**

**Author:** Executive Assistant to the General Manager

**Authoriser:** General Manager

**Attachments:** 1. ATT 1 | Draft ARIC Minutes - 5 March 2025

**RECOMMENDATION**

Except where otherwise dealt with, the Draft Minutes of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held 5 March 2025 be noted as presented.

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**RESOLUTION 104/25**

Moved: Cr Montgomery

Seconded: Cr White

Except where otherwise dealt with, the Draft Minutes of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held 5 March 2025 be noted as presented.

**THE MOTION WAS CARRIED**

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**INFORMATION**

The Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting was held on 5 March 2025, the draft Minutes from the meeting are attached for Council to note.

**16 CLOSED COUNCIL**

Nil

**17 RETURN TO OPEN COUNCIL**

Nil

**18 REPORT ON CLOSED COUNCIL**

Nil

**19 CLOSURE**

Moved: Cr Rolls

Seconded: Cr Neill

The Meeting closed at 7:19pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 19 June 2025.

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**CHAIRPERSON**